



THE AMBOY GUARDIAN

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Presentation of Proposed Kushner Sea Gate Apartment Complex 4/12/16 PARA Meeting

PERTH AMBOY - A video presentation was shown at the Perth Amboy Redevelopment Agency Meeting about the newly proposed Sea Gate Apartment Complex at the Waterfront. These are rentals.

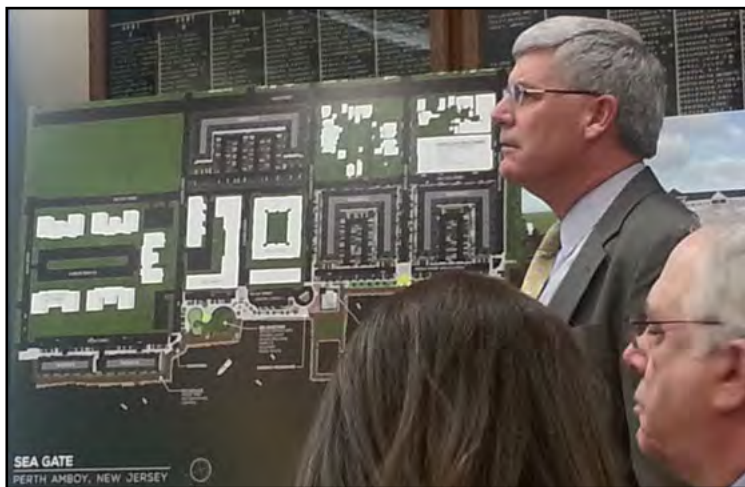
This is another Kushner Project.

There were many Residents from the Landings who came to voice their displeasure about this new proposed complex. They stressed that Kushner is not to be trusted. After the video presentation was over, those in attendance were able to review it again. They had the option of having the video stopped at any point if they had a specific question as to what was shown on the screen.

Shore Point Architect Stephen J. Carlidge, AIA President gave an overview of what this complex would entail: "It will consist of 5 buildings with a total of 690 rentals. 3 buildings will have 5 stories and 2 buildings will have 4 stories. There will be a mixture of 1 and 2 bedroom units. There will be parking underneath the 2 four story buildings. There will be a clubhouse and a rooftop pool. Some of the streets that people will access the complex includes: Smith Street, Fayette Street, Commerce Street and Washington Street. 2 piers will be included in the plan. Other amenities include: a dog park, pavilions and an area where food trucks can be placed. This area will be open to the public. There will be parking for a total of 650 cars. Of that total 54 spaces will be for underground parking. Dining cafes, a multi-purpose section and public rest rooms will be available. This complex will be 100% residential with no commercial entities. We're talking about a half mile of Waterfront improvements."

Questions were presented by 2 PARA Board Members. Member Geri Bolanowski questioned if the one and two bedrooms would be an adult oriented complex. She was told that if the market demands, it could possibly be changed.

Board Member Elaine Jasko



Stephen J. Carlidge, AIA, President (Shore Point, Architecture, PA) Gave presentation about Sea Gate, a proposed Kushner Project
*Photos by Carolyn Maxwell



Artist Rendering of Proposed Sea Gate Apartment Complex



Landings Residents were not pleased with the proposed Sea Gate Project by Kushner Enterprises

questioned the 609 units. "I don't know if our infrastructure can handle this."

Carlidge answered, "We can balance the overall density."

When it came time for the public to ask questions, the first one to come to the podium was Bruck Avenue Resident Ken Balut. "You should look at the original video that showed the original plans for the Landings. Kushner defaulted on that proj-

ect. Hold Kushner responsible for the original projects before letting him build another project. Let Trump's grandchildren live in the original Landings Buildings. (Donald Trump's daughter, Ivanka is married to Developer Charles Kushner's son, Jared.) Where are the kids going to go? As soon as the new high school is built, it's going

*Continued on Page 2

Council Concerns Addressed 4/11/16 Caucus

PERTH AMBOY - An Ordinance to amend an ordinance entitled "An ordinance designating restricted parking space for use by handicapped persons. (Ordinance No. 380-85 and Amendments) adopted July 2, 1985. Also known as Chapter 255A ET SEQ of the Code of the City of Perth Amboy. RE: Additions and Deletions.

There have been discussions in the past as to how to determine the qualifications of an applicant who applied for a handicapped parking space. It was determined that a committee should be formed to do so.

City Clerk Elaine Jasko said, "There will be a posting on the City's Website for 30 days for anyone wishing to apply to be on this committee."

R-172-4/16 - Authorizing the refunds of 15 handicapped parking space application fees due to denial by the Police Department in the total amount of \$1,500.00.

Jasko explained, "These 15 individuals who never received their refunds. Some of this dated back to the year 2013. This is to clean up the books."

R-174-4/16 Authorizing a contract with Magic Touch Construction for the replacement of a 300 gallon electric water heater located at the Jankowski Community Center in accordance with the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey, formerly known as Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission in an amount not to exceed the sum of \$21,678.96.

DPW Director Frank Hoffman came up to answer the concerns about what Council considered a large sum of money. "The savings on this will be on the back end. It was done by co-op and was purchased through them. This will save energy in the long run."

R-179-4/16 - Authorizing the proper City Officials to enter into a five year interlocal service agreement with the County of Middlesex to provide

vide emergency repair service for twenty traffic signals on an as-needed basis commencing January 1, 2016 and terminating December 31, 2020.

Councilman Bill Petrick wanted to know, "Will they use cameras to adjust with the traffic cameras?"

DPW Director Hoffman came up to explain, "These are for emergency purposes in case we can't get in touch with our technicians. If anyone sees if the lights are out, call our department and we can see if the City is responsible for that specific light. We will be changing the pedestrian crossing lights

R-187-4/16 - Authorizing the Submission of a grant application for the USDOT FY 2016 - Tiger Grant Program for the removal and replacement of the Fayette Street Bridge in the amount of \$6,250,000.00

City Engineer Jeff Rauch said, "You have 3 or 4 years to accept the grant. It will take between 2 to 3 years from start to finish to replace the bridge.

Business Administrator Cruz said, "The amount is actually \$5 million for the grant and the City will be responsible for the remainder of the cost."

Rauch came back and made a final comment, "We are hoping to get funds from Conrail and Middlesex County. We're just hoping we can get the grant."

Communication No. 4 - Residents of Madison Avenue, Lewis Street, First Street and Sadowski Parkway submitted a petition requesting that the Dominican Festival be moved to a place where it could be celebrated without disturbing the peace of the Residents.

Councilman Fernando Irizarry said, "The Council should have a town meeting with these residents to see if an agreement can be worked out. The festival season is coming up shortly and this is short notice."

Council President Lisa Nanton said, "The City Business Administrator Cruz will reach out to these citizens."

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Proposed Sea Gate Project

*Continued from Page 1

to be exploding with more kids. There's a difference between rentals and home ownership. Look at this company's (Kushner's) reputation. Kushner owes us (the City) \$4 million plus interest." Balut urged the PARA Members to do a serious consideration about this proposal. Looking at the artist rendering, Balut noticed that the 2 original buildings (the Landings) are whited out. "I don't trust them," Balut said.

The next speaker who came up was Planning Board Chair Maria Garcia. She remembered that in 2000 PARA approved plans regarding the Landings.

PARA Member Annie Hindenlang responded, "That's when they came back to amend the original Landings Plans. The Executive Director and Business Administrator at that time did not approve the amendments." Garcia responded, "We need to look at the prior contract. This new project is too big."

Hindenlang responded, "This is just a first step. We are looking at a proposed plan. Other things and information have come up that changed the original plans." Garcia ended her comments by remarking, "You should consider the people who purchased the Landings Units."

Carlidge addressed the density concerns, "This plan calls for 61 units per acre. The City says that you can have 85 units per acre. We are under that."

After this, several Landings Residents came up to speak. The following are some of their remarks:

"We paid for luxury apartments (the Landings) and they were supposed to be ownership only. As owners, we were given the opportunity to rent out our units. We paid a lot without getting the luxuries and then Kushner downgraded our units. With this proposed complex we are looking at a lot of outside parking for cars. We don't want any rentals or outside parking. Why are we giving Kushner another project here? He has settled suits for shoddy buildings. Kushner isn't going to build this (Sea Gate). We put our hard earned money down. Kushner showed he's unable to build here. Don't give him another chance."

Another Landings' Resident went up to speak: "This project is a lot of smoke and mirrors. A lot of us are trying to get out of Perth Amboy. Kushner has hindered our Condo Association. You're talking about more adults in small apartments. Rentals are not beneficial to the City. The Waterfront is a Gem in the Rough. It was all supposed to be ownership. There is a crime being committed here."

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez came up to speak. "You guys (PARA Members) have a big decision. You should put out requests for proposals for new developers. Look at South Amboy - they're doing beautiful projects. We haven't collected any taxes for 8 years on the properties on High and Fayette Streets. What other projects can be developed on the Waterfront? It's going down in value. You guys have the power. The future lies in your hands."

Daniel Pietro, who is on the Landings Condo Homeowners Association suggested that the developer's proposal be posted on the City Website. "About 150 people will be displaced. We have struggled and rebuilt after Sandy. We are involved with 3 litigations against the Kushner Company. There are construction defects with the Landings Buildings and Kushner's lawyers agreed with that. We are waiting on settlements. You should protect us from the rich and powerful. We're also charging Kushner with fraud. We are making some headway. You need to look how it (the proposed project) will affect all of Perth Amboy. Work with us. I'm waiting before I pass any judgement."

After Pietro sat down, another Landings' Resident came up to speak, "Kushner would have finished his project if his family had decided not to sell 90%-95% of his property in this state and invest in New York instead."

Planning Board Member Christine Dispenziere said, "Kushner is not reliable. He's a known builder and we got shoddy work. He blames it on the economy. A lot of renters are not invested in the City like we, the owners are. Our buildings (the Landings) are falling apart. Is he ever going to fix our buildings? Why invest time, energy and hope on someone who is not reliable?" Dispenziere urged PARA to look at other developers.

PARA Member Annie Hindenlang addressed some of these concerns, "I have been in and out of different roles. We have spent a year in litigation trying to make the last plan work. We are trying to do a compromise. They (Kushner) wanted to present a new concept because they own this property. It can be difficult to take property away from a developer. They have a right and privilege to be heard. They are trying to make the whole community better. I'm a renter and I am very vested in this City. Renters are not the worst to have in this City. The (old) Fire and Police Station are in this project."

After Hindenlang spoke, one of Kushner's attorney's, Charles B. Liebling came forward to speak, "This project makes sense for what the market demands. Both parties decided that this new project is the best proposal and to work through past issues."

PARA Member Joel Rosa had concerns that if there is a change in the economy that this will not change the proposed new plans."

Liebling responded, "There's similar plans that are being successfully built in other towns."

During the second public por-

tion Christine Dispenziere came up to speak again. She was rather annoyed because at one point during the presentation someone asked how would the Landings Residents benefit from this new development? The answer was that the Landings would basically be neighbors. Her concern was, "We're going to be neighbors, but not able to use the Sea Gate's amenities."

Ken Balut came up to speak again, too. "The Landings owners will not be treated to the amenities (Sea Gate). We are being treated as second class citizens. We are paying \$100,000 in interest on the old buildings that Kushner has. We went from having restaurants to food trucks in this proposed project. Will the children play in the dog park? \$1.8 million went back to Kushner projects. Our Code Enforcement did not do their jobs. Kushner has been involved in other projects such as the Pier Village and Mall in Eatontown." Looking at the artist rendering, Balut wondered, "Where is the parking going to be? Are cars going to be ticketed like what was done in Harbortown because of a lack of residential parking?"

PARA Member Joel Pabon who was the Acting Chair at the Meeting said, "I know there's a lot of heat going on, but we have to respect each other."

Daniel Pietro came back up to speak: "The Kushner Representative gave a presentation in 2011 and this project looks better. The Kushners are in transient. Kusher holds all the cards. There may be a trial in court involving Kushner about fraud at the same time that you may be approving this project."

Another Landings Resident came up to speak again. "They (Kushner) are in default. The City should have taken the land back a long time ago. This is fraud! If you approve this plan, you are helping to fraud the City and you'll be liable! This is not a new project. It's just a new name. All renters are not the same. 15%-20% are good renters. The rest wreck the apartments. When it snowed, our area was not plowed. Kushner depended on the City to clear his properties. We don't owe him. He's in default. He owe's us."

Planning Board Chair Maria Garcia came back up to speak and asked PARA if they did an analysis of what the market demands when it comes to housing units being built.

Annie Hindenlang responded, "We hired a firm to do a market analysis. What was analyzed was the City, County and Tri-State area. 60% of those looking are for rentals."

One Landings Resident cautioned the new members of PARA not to be blind to the deficiencies of this developer. "Renters may or may not be part of this community."

Annie Hindenlang reminded those in attendance, "This is just a presentation and there are no decisions being made here."

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PERTH AMBOY - RBMC Foundation's Annual Art Show will be on Thursday, April 21 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at RBMC Perth Amboy, 530 New Brunswick Ave. A preview of the artwork will be held from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Includes open bar and entertainment. Tickets are \$50 pp. Cash raffle tickets are available for \$20 each. To purchase tickets, contact the Foundation at 732-324-5374.

Women's Day 2016

PERTH AMBOY - St. James AME Zion Church, 68 Commerce St., Perth Amboy Presents Women's Day 2016, Wednesday Night Worship, 7:00 p.m. Theme: Celebrating a New Season, A New Day, A Fresh Anointing to Exhort, Edify and Embrace. Scripture: Ephesians 4:12 For the protecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Sis. Cynthia Olive, April 20th, Sis. Sheerene Brown

A.C. Bus Trip San Salvador Seniors

PERTH AMBOY - The San Salvador Seniors are sponsoring a bus trip to Caesar's Casino in AC on Thursday, May 5th. Bus leaves 12 Noon from the Perth Amboy Knights of Columbus, High Street, Perth Amboy. Cost 30 pp. Receive \$30 back in slot dollars. For more info call Joe at 732-826-0819. 2/10

A.C. Bus Trip St. George Catholic Club

PERTH AMBOY - The Saint George Catholic Club is running a bus trip to the Taj Mahal casino on Sunday April 24th. Bus leaves at 9:30 a.m. from the club at 415 Eagle Ave. Cost \$30 per person. Receive \$25 slot cash from the casino. Continental breakfast will be available from 8:30 a.m. Call Tony at 723 324-0338 for reservation.

A.C. Bus Trip St. John Paul II Seniors

PERTH AMBOY - St. John Paul II Seniors are holding a bus trip on Wed., April 27th to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City. The cost is \$30. The Casino reimburses each visitor with \$25 slot money. The bus leaves at 9:45 a.m. from the parking lot, Mechanic Street, behind the church. The bus returns at approximately 7:30 p.m. For more information and/or reservations please call Bobbi at 732-636-2867.

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

The Ball was Dropped!

There was a very heated discussion at the Wednesday, April 13, 2016 Perth Amboy Council Meeting. Many residents who live in the Waterfront area where the Dominican Festival is held came up to speak. They complained about the three extravaganza which has been held at the Waterfront for the past three years.

Some of the complaints were: excessive noise, clogged streets, and lack of parking for the residents. Sometimes cars were parked in their driveways or blocking their driveways hindering them from parking on their own property. Strangers will ring doorbells asking for water and/or to use their bathroom facilities and excessive crowds for the size of the event in comparison to the venue. The spokesperson for them showed an aerial photo of the large gathering. You can see their concerns. (See Page 11 for more information)

Some of the organizers of this festival came up to address these issues. They were disappointed that these residents didn't come to them in the first place to discuss these matters.

During the Council Comments, Councilman Joel Pabon said that the administration had received a letter from these Waterfront Residents back in October 2015. The Residents wanted the Dominican Festival moved to another venue.

The problem is not that these performers were booked. The City should have jumped on this as soon as this communication was received in October. The Dominican Festival was already approved for the Wilentz School area for 2016.

We don't know what the contract calls for as far as a change of venue in such a short notice. Now that these problems that the residents are complaining about are well known, it will give the Council plenty of time to make decisions for going forward.

One of the organizers spoke about how they work for a long time booking entertainers to perform. The organizers also said that the Waterfront is the

Gem of the City and it shows off the Waterfront.

We all know how important our Waterfront is and how pleasing it is to have festivals in that area. But people are going to attend regardless of where it's held because of the top musical acts that are booked.

When I was growing up, the West Indian Festival was popular and was held at Water Stadium. I remember the Puerto Rican Festival always being held on Hall Avenue, which was a big headache for the bus drivers on that route. When that festival became too big to be held on City Streets, it was moved to Rudyk Park. Contrary to what was said at the meeting, there is plenty of parking at the Rudyk Park area. Plus, there are buses that go near that area. It's within walking distance for many residents there. The Puerto Rican Festival has top entertainers come as well along with a ton of rides for all age groups.

One of the Dominican Festival Organizers made a statement, "If the Dominican Festival is forced to move to a larger area, than all the festivals should be moved there, also."

I personally try to attend as many festivals as possible in the City because I like them. There are some festivals besides carnivals that are fortunate to have grounds where they don't have to use the City's Streets. Some of them are: the Greek Festival (June 3rd -5th); the Ukrainian Festival (June 25th) St. Stephen's Carnival to name a few. Perhaps the Council should pass an ordinance that limits the size of a venue that could be held on Sadowski Parkway.

The Dominican Festival has surpassed the number of people who attend the Puerto Rican Festival. I don't know how that decision was made to move the Puerto Rican Festival to Rudyk Park, but in my opinion, it was a wise decision.

There were concerns that

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THE COMMUNITY VOICE

To Trump or Not to Trump, That is NOT the Question

To say that the 2016 presidential race is interesting would be a gross understatement. The muck raking, insults, and rhetoric have been more than I've seen in a presidential campaign in my lifetime. Xenophobia?? I had to look that one up. And that's just on the Republican side. It's like watching children arguing in a sandbox.

On the Democrat side it's the same thing only much more subdued. Bernie says that Hillary is backed by big business and that she is unqualified to be president, but, if she gets the nod he'll back her. Huh????

All of that is neither here nor there. These people are all trying to do one thing, get the votes of "We the People," or as the rich and political elite like to refer to us as "The Unwashed Masses," among other things. After all the United States of America is a free and democratic society run by the people, right! Maybe, maybe not.

In the first Republican debate a question was posed to all the candidates. They were asked for a show of hands from anyone who refused to pledge not to run as an independent against the eventual Republican nominee. Trump was the only one to raise his hand. He was criticized by the other debaters and booed by some in the audience. That's when

they thought he was just a sideshow. Now that the "Powers That Be" see that "We the People" might actually vote for him the shoe seems to be on the other foot. They won't run as an independent, they just won't give him the nomination.

The same is true on the other side. Hillary was seen as a "Shoo In", but now that Bernie is gaining momentum there is talk of a brokered Democratic convention.

A brokered convention, what the heck is that??? To me it means that WE, the unwashed masses, do not have a say as to who runs OUR country and have been duped into believing that we do.

Politicians on both sides of the aisle seem to serve themselves and the big businesses that keep them in power more than they do the people they supposedly represent. If Trump or Sanders get in it will definitely upset their apple cart.

Now, to be fair, politicians are human beings too. Imagine this; you run for, and get elected to, a political office. You are full of ambition and eager to represent the people who elected you. Then you're sitting in your office waiting for the letters, phone calls, and emails to come pouring from your constituents giving you their opinions on some issues that you need to make a decision on. And what do you get, "stugats", nothing. Nobody calls, nobody cares. So you tell one of your senior colleagues about it. He or she tells you; "you'll get used to it, by the way we need your sup-

port on this bill we're trying to pass, come to dinner tonight and I'll introduce you to some people". And thus the vicious cycle continues.

It seems as though "We the People" are more interested in voting for American Idol or some other nonsense than voting for people who will run our lives.

I remember voting in this last senatorial election. I usually vote early in the morning but that day I didn't make it till around 7:30 PM. I was amazed to see that, from my district, I was number 10. NUMBER TEN, how pathetic is that?

I truly believe that politicians count on our apathy to maintain the status quo. The brokered convention thing is kept in place incase "We the People" ever awake out our stupor.

We as Americans are supposed to have the power to control our destinies with the vote. The most important right we have. The rich and powerful hate that because the person who drives a fancy car and lives in a big house has the same amount of votes as the ditch digger, one. Yet most don't seem to care enough to take the time out of their busy lives to exercise this important right. In some nations voting is required by law. I think that is definitely something to consider in this country.

All I can say is that the people of this country had better wake up and smell the coffee before it's too late. And be sure to watch this election very carefully.

Joe Bayona

Seeking Quality of Life from Our Council

Thanks to the organizers of the Dominican festival it has grown and has become very successful. The problem is that it has grown to unmanageable numbers where for 3 days the people who live in the waterfront must live as prisoners. For 3 days our quality of life is gone, we must endure loud music past 11pm, we have to deal with no parking where if we leave our house after certain hour we can't return home till past midnight. We have suffered massive traffic jams that has put our safety


and health at risk. We have had to witness how our properties are tramples upon, garbage thrown on our gardens, curbs, streets and people urinating in them. We have had people jumping on top of the hoods of our cars. We have had our alley which leads to our garages blocked as well as driveways and when we call the police there is no response. We have had altercations with people who live in the neighborhoods and concert attendees sue to their lack of respect for us and our neighborhoods.

I know that the organizers are good people who care for the city and they are trying to do something good for the city but, they need to understand that what once was a small festival now it is too big for

this area and today they need to take into account how their festival is affecting the wellbeing, safety and quality of life of all the residents of the waterfront.

We need to re-think if the waterfront is the place for this festival and after these past 3 festivals I can assure you it is not. I have attended many festivals down the shore in NJ, NYC and other states and one thing that I have notice is that where the festivals are held all the streets that lead to it are blocked by a police car and only residents are allow to drive through by showing their drivers licenses. These cities control the traffic by sending

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DUNKIN DONUTS 587 FAYETTE ST.
EASTSIDE DRY CLEANERS 87 SMITH ST.
ELIZABETH CORNER 175 HALL AVE.
FAMILY FOOT CARE 252 SMITH ST.
FU LIN 79 SMITH ST.
HY TAVERN 386 HIGH 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.
LAW OFFICES 708 CARSON AVE.
LEE'S MARKET 77 SMITH ST.
LUDWIG'S PHARMACY 75 BRACE AVE.
MITRUSKA CHIROPRACTIC 788 CONVERY BLVD.
PETRA BEST REALTY..... 329 SMITH ST.
PETRICK'S FLOWERS 710 PFEIFFER BLVD.
POLICE HEADQUARTERS 365 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
PORTUGUESE MANOR 310 ELM ST.
PROVIDENT BANK 339 STATE ST.
PUBLIC LIBRARY 196 JEFFERSON ST.
PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATION 100 FIRST ST.
QUICK CHEK 853 CONVERY BLVD.
QUICK STOP DELI 814 AMBOY AVE.
QUISQUEYA MARKET 249 MADISON AVE.
QUISQUEYA LUNCHEONETTE 259 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.
TOWN DRUGS & SURGICAL 238 SMITH ST.
WELLS FARGO 214 SMITH ST.
ZPA 281 GRACE ST.

IN SAYREVILLE:

BOROUGH HALL 167 MAIN ST.
SENIOR CENTER 423 MAIN ST.
SUNNYSIDE RESTAURANT 111 MAIN ST.

IN SEWAREN:

PUBLIC LIBRARY 546 WEST AVE.
SEWAREN CORNER DELI 514 WEST AVE.

IN SOUTH AMBOY:

AMBOY NATIONAL BANK 100 N. BROADWAY
BROADWAY BAGELS 105 S. BROADWAY
BROADWAY DINER 126 N. BROADWAY
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.
WELLS FARGO BANK 116 N. BROADWAY

IN WOODBRIDGE:

CITY HALL 1 MAIN ST.
MAIN ST. FARM 107 MAIN ST.
NEWS & TREATS 99 MAIN ST.
REO DINER 392 AMBOY AVE.
ST. JOSEPH'S SENIORS RESIDENCE 1 ST. JOSEPH'S TERR.

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.

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.

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

Proprietary House Open

PERTH AMBOY - The Proprietary House, the last official Royal Governor's residence still standing in the original 13 colonies, is open every Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., for tea and tours. Tea is served in our atmospheric candle-lit wine cellar, and includes our delicious homemade desserts and assorted teas. A \$10 donation, \$5 for children under 12, covers both the tea and a mansion.

Although the house is still in the process of being restored, some rooms have been newly decorated. Go back in time and learn about William Franklin and other residents of the house. It's a perfect way to spend a pleasant afternoon. The gift shop is also open.

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 E-mail: info@proprietaryhouse.org. Follow us on our website, www.theproprietaryhouse.org and or/Facebook.

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

MON. Apr. 25 City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
WED. Apr. 27 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
THURS. Apr. 28 Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.

South Amboy

WED. Apr. 20 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway
MON. Apr. 25 Board of Education, 6 p.m.
Middle/High School Cafeteria
200 Governor Hoffman Plaza

Attend Public Meetings Have Your Voice Heard!

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.thebarge.com

Business Meet 'N Greet: Networking at the Barge Wednesday, April 20, 2016

*With Continuous Meetings Every Other Month
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at The Barge Restaurant
201 Front St., Perth Amboy - \$15 Net Per Person*

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Getting Ahead in Business,
The Barge Restaurant &
The Amboy Guardian
RSVP Call Milton @ 732-306-0040*

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.

Perth Amboy Celebrates Earth Week

Press Release 4/15/16
PERTHAMBOY - Mayor Wilda Diaz invites the community to participate in a week-long celebration of Earth Week full of activities for families-- for sustainable living, environmentally friendly practices and community beautification. Earth Week begins Monday, April 18th – Sunday, April 24th at various times and locations listed below.

Monday, April 18th at 3:00 p.m. - Build a Rain Barrel Workshop at the Five Corners Plaza, 313 State Street
Opportunity to teach residents about CSO issues and encourage stormwater management practices. Tuesday, April 19th at 3:00 p.m.- Green Infrastructure/Community Garden Ribbon Cutting Brighton Avenue Community Center, 56 Brighton Ave.

This event will feature our first major green infrastructure installation. Assistant Commissioner Kennedy will speak

on the importance of green infrastructure as a means of addressing combined sewer issues.

This event will be a showcase for all sustainability initiatives happening within the City. Learn more about local green initiatives and how to get involved, adopted a park or volunteer. Deputy Commissioner David Glass will speak on the value of engaging with communities like Perth Amboy for these projects and NJDEP initiatives.

Friday, April 22nd - 4:00 -9:00 p.m. - Movie Night Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Avenue - Movie screenings on environmental and green initiative and round-table discussion for families.

Saturday, April 23rd Neighborhood Cleanups
Community will gather to clean-up six different neighborhoods

Area 1: FSG Lighting, Washington Street at 9:30 a.m.

Area 2: Waterfront Area, Sadowski Parkway and High Street at 10:00 a.m.

Area 3: Gateway Area, Sheridan & Patterson Street at 11:00 a.m.

Area 4: Downtown, Madison Ave. & Smith Street, 11:30 a.m.

Area 5: Bethel Christian Church Lot, Hall Ave., 12:00 p.m. noon

Area 6: Greater Budapest, Francis Street Park, 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 24th – Sustainable Living: Getting Active
Perth Amboy Waterfront from Sadowski Parkway & Second Street. Offering opportunities for attendees to participate in various recreational activities such as volleyball, and exercise courses in partnership with the County’s Health Week

For additional information about the City of Perth Amboy, please visit: www.ci.perthamboy.nj.us.

Send Your Events to:
AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

THE CITY OF PERTH AMBOY
INVITES YOU TO

clean GreenUP

**Saturday
April 23, 2016**

Free Tree Sampling
Giveaways too!

Registration times and meeting locations listed below.
Call to register at 732-826-3110x629 or (732) 826-0290 Ext 4048
Register online at www.partnernj.org

Area 1
FSG Lighting
Washington Street
9:30 am



Area 2
Waterfront Area
Sadowski and High Street
10 am



Area 4
Downtown
Madison & Smith St
11:30 am



Area 3
Gateway Area
Sheridan & Patterson St
11 am



Area 5
Bethel Christian Church lot
Hall Ave
12 pm



Area 6
Greater Budapest
Francis St Park
1 pm



Show your love for the City of Perth Amboy and help keep it beautiful and clean!
All trash bags, gloves, water, and light refreshments will be provided.



With Gratitude



I wish to offer my heartfelt thanks to Raritan Bay Medical Center (Perth Amboy Division) and Gustav J. Novak Funeral Home. Their compassion and kindness during the illness and passing of my beloved brother, Ronald Z. Hutnick will never be forgotten.

- Eleanor F. Kataryniak -

Gustav J. Novak Funeral Home

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Phone: 908-351-0957; Fax: 908-351-0959

Public Comments

4/11/16 Caucus

PERTH AMBOY - R-184-4/16 Authorizing change to order no. 1 to the contract with Black Rock Enterprises, LLC for the replacement of 4 inch diameter water mains with 8 inch diameter water mains in an amount not to exceed \$105,106.65 for work at the Charter School, 613 Amboy Ave.

Resident Stanley Sierakowski said, "The City entered into a contract with the Charter School a couple of months ago. Is there anything in writing stating that the Charter School will reimburse the City?" He wanted to know: "If so, what is the time frame of the payments and the estimated cost?" Sierakowski was also concerned that Planning Board hasn't had a quorum in a very long time. "Who's in charge. They're always cancelling meetings."

Resident Ken Balut came up to speak. He asked the Council, "Did we find skeletal remains at the Waterfront? Were 2 people arrested for impersonating Police Officers? There are a lot of drugs going on in town. Why aren't the Landings Residents here complaining? Problems are going to PARA and Kushner's Representatives will be appearing at their Meeting tomorrow night (4/12/16 see Page 1)."

Balut then spoke about the YMCA. "They're getting \$1500 a week from the Charter School. Why are they paying to use the Y facilities? Why doesn't the City take over the Y Building? The Y also rents out the auditorium for \$90 an hour. I put in an OPRA request for the operating expenses of the Y, but got very little information. The Y is making money and the City is losing money. The buildings at the Landings still leak."

City Law Director Arlene Quinones said, "The Council should speak to the PARA Attorney about the Landings."

Before leaving the podium Balut took a parting shot, "The Landings (Kushner) has renege on a lot of their original amenities."

Annie Hindenlang, who is on the Perth Amboy Redevelopment Board said, "The Developer is amending changes to the old plan and the Meeting scheduled for 4/12/16 is open to the public. The Planning Board and PARA has to work together."

Resident Susan Batista came up to speak, "I see that I'm on the closed session for the litigation against the City. Is this to discuss the old suit or the new suit I just filed?"

Law Director Quinones said, "It is for your old Federal Case. The tort claim you just filed has been turned down because it was done on an incor-



Alan Silber

rect form."

Batista said, "I filed the claim on April 6 and used the form that I was told to use."

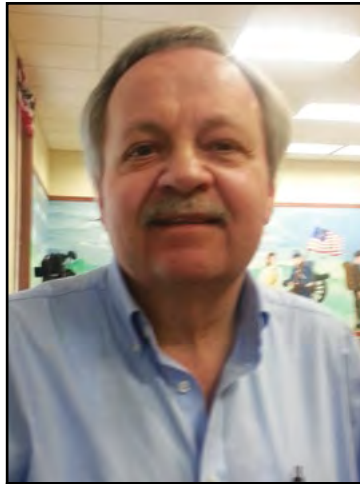
Next, Resident L. Cruz from Kearny Avenue came up to speak. Cruz is a member of The United Dominican's Group which puts on the Dominican Festival each year. He is also part of the Committee. "We put in a petition for the event in November 2015. It takes a year to raise funds to get entertainment for this festival. We want to hear the concerns of these residents and a lot of Dominicans pay taxes here. We don't want to divide the community. We want to come up with a solution."

Resident David Caba came up to speak next. Caba talked about Law Director Arlene Quinones, who admitted making a mistake. Then addressing Councilman Joel Pabon, Caba said, "How many times can we allow an Attorney to make a mistake. We are not getting opportunities in Perth Amboy."

Resident Alan Silber came up next, "Was it a mistake to disregard making the B.A. a permanent Business Administrator. What about changing his title and having him do the same duties? There were a number of mistakes made continuously. When the previous B.A.'s title was changed, it required that he be a resident. The Attorney is supposed to be here (as her title suggests) and not to be a part of the speaking public. Will Pabon and the rest of the Council continue to disregard the City's Charter? The Lawyer is wearing all of these hats except as City Attorney. When she wants to help to reelect the Mayor, that's fine, but not on the taxpayers money."

Pabon answered back to Silber's remarks, "I'm standing by what I said and my principles when I voted for her (Quinones-Perez). I've been here five years and I'm standing by my decisions. She's not supporting us. To Mr. Caba: are we not supporting Duarte? It's up to the people to come here to apply for positions."

Luis Perez Jimenez - Director of Operations at the at



Stanley Sierakowski

the USA-PA (Utility Service Associates Perth Amboy) Middlesex Water Company) answered Sierakowski's question about the Charter School. Jimenez said, "There was low pressure at the Charter School location and they needed to extend their line from Amboy Avenue to the City's Main Water Line."

Business Administrator Adam Cruz also commented, "The Charter School has paid \$33,000 so far. (See R-184 (Page 1))

Councilman Irizarry said, "We've voted on a Resolution for \$85,000 payment for the Charter School."

B.A. Cruz interjected, "It was \$66,000."

Council President Lisa Nanton said, "The \$85,000 would be the difference between the \$105,106.65 that's on our R-184 and the \$66,000 payment that the B.A. mentioned."

Law Director Arlene Quinones cautioned the Council, "This should be discussed in closed session."

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez talked about the Kushner problems at the Landings. "In 2000, Kushner was supposed to take the Courthouse, Police Station and the Fire House. Now we have a \$4 million contract that we (the City) are paying interest on. We have lost 8 years with no taxes being collected on those properties. Now Kushner is coming before PARA with another project. Kushner should be paying interest on these properties. We need to know how to increase the City's tax base."

Councilman Bill Petrick said, "We have to remove oil tanks off of these properties."

Council President Nanton requested, "How much tax money have we lost while the properties sat there?"

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Have Your Voice
Heard!**

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848-203-3742

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APRIL 21, 2016
6 PM - 8 PM**

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May 10th - Sept. 27th

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Weather Permitting

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Memorial Day Parade

SAYREVILLE - The Veterans of Foreign Wars #4699, Sayreville, NJ is sponsoring the Memorial Day Parade on May 30, 2016 at 10 a.m. Anyone who is interested in marching in this parade Please Contact Frank Straczynski at 609-651-1991 or 732-141-2448 or the post home at 732-254-4789 for more information call Frank Straczynski or the Post Home.

Leaf Foundation 4th Annual Red Carpet Gala

PERTH AMBOY - Saturday, April 30, 2016 at 6 p.m. at the Cornucopia River Queen, Stationary Boat, 401 Riverview Dr., Perth Amboy. The Learning Empowerment Achievement Foundation's (LEAF'S) mission is to support and offer scholarships and resources for the student population enrolled in the Perth Amboy School System serving all Middlesex County Communities. A diverse student population, participating in various High School Diploma programs in a non-traditional educational setting will be provided with a variety of opportunities to further their educational goals. For more info call (732) 896-0395.

Bingo

PERTH AMBOY - Saturday, April 30 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Perth Amboy Catholic Primary Gym, Brace & Carlock Avenues, Perth Amboy. Doors open 6 p.m. and kitchen will be open. Tickets \$25 with advanced sale \$30 at the door. Each includes 20 games and complementary coffee and cake. Raffle Baskets and 50/50 drawings will be held. Over \$3000 in prizes. Proceeds for Perth Amboy Catholic School. For more info go to www.pacatholicschool.org or call 732826-1598.

Walk to End Domestic Violence

COLONIA - Walk to End Domestic Violence, Saturday, April 23 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at Merrill Park, Grove#2 Colonia, NJ. Registration and Breakfast start at 8 a.m. Opening Ceremonies start 9 a.m. We're walking rain or shine! DJ, Balloon Animals, Fun Games for Kids, Photo Booth. Bring your friends, family and children! Have fun and help raise money to provide services to those in our community affected by domestic violence. All proceeds go towards helping victims. For more info or to make a donation call 732-634-4500 ext. 2802 or visit www.woodbridgedvrt.org

Editorial

**Continued from Page 4*

having too many festivals at Rudyk Park would damage the grass and the fields. We're only talking about two festivals (six days total for both) and they're not being held back-to-back. One is in June and the other in August. If the Festival was held in the sky, people would still attend it if they could find a way to get up there. They want to enjoy the music, atmosphere, the rides food and have a good time with their families. The compromise is to make sure there is enough space for everyone to enjoy and move around and have a good time.

We've attended the Barbecue Showdown in South Amboy for the last two years, which is held at their Waterfront. South Amboy provides free shuttle services via school buses from designated parking areas to the Festival.

So this has nothing to do with any particular group. It has to do with the amount of people that the Festival attracts. In this case, size does matter – very much so. *C.M.*

The Community Voice

**Continued from Page 4*

all to a specific area where the attendees can park and then they supplied shuttles to the festival or you can walk to it. We do not have enough police force to deal with something like this neither we have the money to pay for shuttles.

I am asking the council to do what they were elected to do which is to protect, provide safety and quality of life for the residents of Perth Amboy. Yes, you can argue that the organizers have the right to have their festival but, their rights can't trample over ours neither and they aren't guarantee that they can choose whatever place they want in the city to held the festival, the council decides that.

In conclusion we are not saying that they shouldn't be allowed to have the festival we are saying that the festival should be moved to a better location. We do have other festivals in the waterfront like the Greek festival, family and the arts festival yet, none of these festivals creates the noise, garbage, safety and quality of life concerns that the Dominican festival has created and the reason is obvious this festival has overgrown this area and we can't handle it anymore.

Maria Garcia

South Amboy High School Senior Jayson Olivares Named News 12 NJ Scholar Athlete **Photo Submitted*

SOUTH AMBOY - Jayson Olivares, a senior at South Amboy High School, was recently named a News 12 New Jersey Scholar Athlete. An academic and athletic all-star, Jayson is ranked fourth in his class and plays both soccer and baseball. This two-sport athlete's passion is baseball and has been since he was four years old. He is the team captain and has been on Varsity for all four years. Jayson values playing pitcher and short stop and also enjoys bonding with his teammates by taking part in "Crew Cuts for a Cause." Over the past few years, Jayson and his



Jayson Olivares

teammates have raised approximately \$6,000 to help kids battling cancer.

Happy Easter! **Photo Submitted*



PERTH AMBOY/SOUTH AMBOY - On Sunday, March 27, 2016 during the 11:00 a.m. Easter mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Perth Amboy, Gabriella Roman and Madison Lopez passed out Easter eggs to the children attending the service. These young ladies are members of the Dynamic Catholic Club at Sacred Heart Elementary School in South Amboy

Go to www.amboyguardian.com for the Latest Breaking News



SWIMMING SAFETY COURSE

This 5-week program is designed to ensure all kids have the knowledge they need to be safe and have fun around water.

MAKE A SPLASH!

Splish splash into safety and assess your water skills on the Wibit!

Saturday, April 30th
9:00am-11:00am

Member Fee: \$30
Community Member Fee: \$45

REGISTER NOW!

GET A FREE PAIR OF GOGGLES ON YOUR FIRST DAY!

Start Date: May 3rd or May 4th

Age Group: 3-5 years

Time: 5:00pm-5:45pm

Day of Choice: Tuesday or Wednesday

Age Group: 6-11 years

Time: 5:45pm-6:30pm

Day of Choice: Tuesday or Wednesday



Raritan Bay Area YMCA . 357 New Brunswick Ave . Perth Amboy, NJ, 08861 . 732.442.3632 ext. 6516

sburd@rbaymca.org . www.rbaymca.org

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**Vendors
Wanted**

SAYREVILLE - We are looking for vendors for the annual Flea Market at the First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville. Our Flea Market will be held on June 4th, 2016. The time is 8am to 2pm. We are located at 172 Main Street, Sayreville-directly across from the Borough Hall. Spaces are available for \$15.00 for one space, \$25.00 for two. For information please leave a message on the church answering machine at 732-257-6353 or e-mail us at churchoffice172@optimum.net.

**3rd Annual
Mother/Son
Spring Fling**

SOUTH AMBOY - Moms, Grandmother's, Aunts, or Any Special Lady please join us with your son/nephew/grandson on April 30, 2016 @ 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the South Amboy Knights of Columbus, 308 4th St., South Amboy. Tickets are \$45 per couple (includes dinner and dessert). Tickets can be purchased by mail Mother/Son Dance 377 Main St., Sayreville 08872. Ticket Deadline is April 10, 2016. Cash/Paypal/Checks made payable to Julie Veloz....Photos packages will be available for purchase with Amy McLaughlin Photography. 50/50, Giveaways and Contests, Facepainting by Just Jules. 100% of all Proceeds will be donated to Sayreville Association of Brain Injured Children (B.I.C.) please email: danceticketmom@gmail.com or call 732-343-1896 for any questions etc!

**Edison AARP
Ch. 3446**

EDISON - Edison AARP Chapter 3446 will meet on Monday, April 18, 2016 at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at Our Lady of Peace Parish Center, Franklin Avenue, Fords section of Edison, NJ. This month's meeting will feature Harry Bernstein and his "Watering Can Band." A few subscriptions are available for the Paper Mill Playhouse 2016-2017 season. Call Doris at 732-603-8788 for reservations. June 20-24: New Hampshire-Indian Head Inn-Tour & More: Call Bob at 732-885-1789 for more information. All trips are open to the public. Eyeglasses for the Lions Club, as well as canned food and miscellaneous items for veterans, hospitals, and nursing homes will be collected at the meeting. For additional information on the chapter or upcoming events, visit our website at www.edisonaarp.org.

**Friends of
the Library
Meeting**

PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library Meeting will be Wednesday, April 20 at 7 p.m. at the Kearny Cottage, 63 Catalpa Ave., Perth Amboy. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more info call 732-261-2610.

**Adult
Scrabble Club**

SOUTH AMBOY - Finger Plays, Sadie Pope Dowdell Library - Adjacent To High School, South Amboy. K E Y B O A R D K O N T E S T J U N E 8 3- 5 Every Monday 12 Pm -2 Pm You Don't Need To Be A Word Whiz To Enjoy A Good Game Of Scrabble! Come And Play A Game And Make New Friends! For more info call 732-721-6060 or email: Comments@Dowdell.Org Website: www.Dowdell.Org

Digital Café

SOUTH AMBOY - Drop in assistance with downloadable materials such as eBooks, eAudio, eMagazines or Movies. Mondays 12 noon to 2 p.m. Thursdays 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Dowdell Library, adjacent to South Amboy High School. For more info call: 732-721-6060 or email: comments@dowdell.org website: www.dowdell.org

**Walking For
Fitness**

PERTH AMBOY - Hosted by Mayor Wilda Diaz as part of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign. Starts Monday, April 11th. Monday - Thursday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Ages 18 and up. Starts at the Brighton Avenue Community Center, 56 Brighton Ave. T-Shirt Included. Free of Charge. Enjoy a fitness walk with Mayor Wilda Diaz as she promotes healthy living.

Zumba

PERTH AMBOY - Starts Monday, April 4th. Monday - Thursdays 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Ages 18 & up, South Campus, 351 Mechanic St. Free of Charge.

**Casino
Bus Trip**

HOPELAWN - Casino Bus Trip To The Sands In Bethlehem PA on Thursday, June 23, 2016. Cost: \$30 pp - (\$20 Back in Play Plus \$5 Food Voucher). Bus Leaves Holy Rosary Parking Lot at 10:00 a.m. For more info Please Call Ronnie at 732-442-5252.

Open Mic


SOUTH AMBOY - South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 will hold their next Open Mic Friday April 29 at 308 Fourth St. South Amboy beginning at 8 p.m. If you play an instrument or like to sing you are invited. Snacks and refreshments are available. For more information call 732-721-2025.

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.

**Annual
Pocketbook
Bingo**

SOUTH AMBOY - Sacred Heart School is hosting its Annual Designer Pocketbook Bingo on Saturday April 23, 2016 located at Sacred Heart/St. Mary's school cafeteria 301 Second Street, South Amboy...BYOB and Snacks....also soda and snacks will be sold that night! 50/50 and Basket Raffles...tickets are \$35 each which includes (12 Bingo sheets)....to purchase tickets please contact Paty Velez via email hsasacredheartsa.com or call Mr. Prichard @ 732-721-0834... Proceeds to Benefit Sacred Heart School



DIocese of METUCHEN

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
MSGR. MICHAEL J. CORONA, PA, KCHS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TEL: 732.562.2441
FAX: 732.562.1016

April 15, 2016

Dear Parents,

Today, we write to tell you of a difficult decision that has been made regarding Sacred Heart Elementary School, South Amboy.

Since this time last year, enrollment has decreased by forty students and the subsidy required to sustain the school's operation has risen to over a half-million dollars annually; therefore, the Diocese is left with no other option but to close the school on June 30, 2016.

Please know we are grateful to members of the administration, faculty and staff who have worked very hard on behalf of the school community and we appreciate the involvement of many school parents and families. Your combined energy, drive and spirit have made a positive, lasting impact on the students and have enhanced their overall academic experience.


Our sincere thanks is extended to all of you who chose Sacred Heart School for your children because you saw the intrinsic value of a faith-based education that nourishes students academically, spiritually and emotionally.

If you desire to continue in the tradition of a Christ-centered education, we encourage you to visit one of our nearby Catholic schools, where you may choose to enroll for the 2016-17 school year. The area Catholic schools will be notified so they can provide you with dates of open houses and information on their schools. Attached you will find a list of those schools and their contact information.

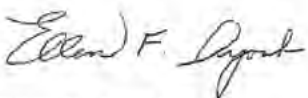
The remainder of the school year will continue as scheduled at Sacred Heart Elementary School. During the next several months, the focus will remain on continuing to provide a challenging and rewarding academic and spiritual experience for your children.

Your families remain in our prayers during this difficult time. Be assured that the Office of Schools will do all it can to assist you during the time of transition ahead.

Sincerely,



Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Corona, PA
Executive Director, Department of Education



Ellen F. Ayoub
Superintendent, Office of Schools

The St. John Neumann Pastoral Center • P.O. Box 191 • Metuchen, New Jersey 08840-0191 • (732) 562-1990

Greek Independence Day - 3/31/16

**Photos by Bob Ned*



Perth Amboy Celebrates Greek Independence with Flag-Raising Ceremony and Proclamation

Submitted by Nick Vosinas

PERTH AMBOY - Multiple members of the Greek and Perth Amboy community gathered at the Perth Amboy City Hall Circle to celebrate Hellenism and Greek Independence. During this event sponsored by the AHEPA Raritan Chapter #288, Mayor Wilda Diaz and multiple City Council Members were in attendance to commemorate such an important time in Greek history. Mayor Diaz and the AHEPA Chapter #288's President Nickolas Vosinas had the honor to raise the Greek flag while the Greek National Anthem was playing. This holiday has dual significance for the Greeks, both religious and national. It is a day of national uplifting and pride for the Greeks, as well as a time to respect and revere the Virgin Mary. This year, the Greeks celebrated their 195th years of independence from the Ottoman Empire. Greeks and Philhellenes commemorate all of the 1821 freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for independence and liberty. The actions of these brave men altered the progression of Modern Greek history, and spread the fearless saying, "freedom or death" throughout the world. The AHEPA and the Greek community of New Jersey continues this dream by ensuring that Hellenism flourished in New Jersey.

A Difference of Opinion: A Clash Over the Dominican Festival Site

4/13/16 Council Meeting

PERTH AMBOY - Discussions of the upcoming 2016 Dominican Festival took up a good part of the 4/13/16 Council Meeting.

Residents from Madison Avenue, Lewis Street, First Street and Sadowski Parkway were in full force to let the Council know that they wanted this Festival moved from that area of the Waterfront.

On the Agenda under Communications was a petition from these residents asking for the Dominican Festival to be moved to a place where it can be celebrated without disturbing the peace of the citizens.

The first person who came up to speak who acted as a spokesperson was Maria Viera from Madison Avenue. Viera listed major issues about this Festival. "Garbage that is accumulated on the Waterfront and the sand from Friday - Sunday. We need to protect our species and environment. There's no respect and there's loud music which rattles our windows. There is an overload of vehicles. People sit on our porches and ring our doorbells asking for water and use our bathrooms. There is urinating on our property. Porta-potties were not emptied and started to leak." She held a an aerial shot of the crowd taken during a performance by one of the musical acts. She remarked, "This is not a festival - it's a concert! The City is building up. Why doesn't the City build a complex like the PNC Arts Center (in Homdel) for concerts or venues like this? We're just asking that the Festival be moved and not shut down."

Resident Maria Garcia from Kearny Avenue said, "I sent a communication to the Festival Organizers congratulating them on our success with the Festival, but it's grown too big. People are jumping on cars. We are prisoners and can't get into our own driveways. We complain and the Police do not come when we call. I'm asking the Council to do what they're elected to do. I've been to other festivals and some that were held in New York. They have shuttle service to their festivals. No other festivals have the same problems caused by the Dominican Festival."

Another Resident from the area came to speak. "By allowing this to continue, it shows that you don't care about us."

Another Waterfront Resident, Larry Copland said, "Don't take our word for it. I invite you to my place for a few hours while the Festival is going on to see how loud it is. One year, my wife and I decided to go to Atlantic City during the weekend of the Festival to escape the noise. That was a big mistake. When we got home, some of our outside ornaments were destroyed. We're just asking the Council for a compromise. IT'S THREE DAYS OF HELL!"

The next speaker who lives on Madison Avenue stated, "We're not asking to cancel the Festival - just to relocate it. This Festival has been moved to 3 different locations. If there is an emergency, vehicles will have a hard time getting down the street."

Local Entertainer and William Franklin Re-enactor Kurt Epps said, "La-Playata (the Water-

front) is beautiful and a good spot for festivals, but not for this one. This Festival is a victim of its own success. When someone has to vacate their house because of a Festival - that is not right."

A resident from Market Street came up to speak, "It's a very simple solution - just move the Festival."

Another Madison Avenue Resident said, "It's a 3 day festival and sometimes there's music until midnight. Sometimes people sit on our porches, making phone calls and are disrespectful to us when we ask them to leave. One time there was a fight in front of our home. The Police came and just flashed their lights and left. People park in our driveways and we have to have them towed."

Another Resident complained, "This was never like this before. The festival is getting bigger and there's more problems. Even the dogs do their business on our property. They sell alcohol and maybe that's a problem."

Resident Stanley Sierakowski added his thoughts, "I wonder why the Mayor is not here to comment. Is it because her former running mate is on the Festival Committee? This is a fundraiser."

Resident Dorothy Daniel came up to speak, "This is advertised as a festival and as a family event. Alcohol should be eliminated. I sympathize with these residents."

Dominican Festival Committee Members came up to speak. The first representative stated, "I thought this was a very diverse community. That's (where our Festival is being held) a designated area for the Festival. I live on Convery Boulevard close to the Police Department Shooting Range. The Fire Department, Police Department and Public Works said we leave the area cleaner than before the Festival started. I don't think it's right to jeopardize the Festival. I'm asking the Council to abide by the agreement."

Louis Cruz said, "I'm a life long Member and United Dominican Organizer. I understand where these citizens are coming from. Some of the comments made by these Residents had merits and some don't. We are not all a bunch of crazy animals. We own a lot of businesses and pay taxes. Going to school here, we had a lot of diversity. The City does not spend any money for the off-duty Police. Maybe we need more Police. I'm on the security detail for the Festival. I will try to resolve any issues. A lot of people who complain attend our Festival. If we have to move, then all festivals should move."

Resident David Caba came up to speak, "Let's come together and find solutions. At the Puerto Rican Festival, someone was killed on the street. This room is packed. It affects people."

Milady Tejada, who is also on the Dominican Festival Committee came up to speak, "Things were said here that were not true. The toilets are serviced every day. People should have talked to us beforehand about the parking issues. A person came to talk to us about the (loud)speakers (used during the concerts) and we came

to a solution about that problem."

Another Dominican Festival Representative came up to speak. Mr. Pena who is the treasurer of the United Dominicans said, "We are a non-profit. The Festival starts at 6 p.m. on Friday. Alcohol is not allowed. Crowds come a few hours after Festival start times. There's no parking at Rudyk Park. I wish the Puerto Rican Festival was at the Waterfront. We are trying to showcase the best part of the City. We clean up everyday after the Festival. I don't see the residents doing that. The residents should have come to us first."

Another Resident came up to defend the Festival being held at the Waterfront. "These problems exist at other festivals. Plus people exhibit bad behavior year round. If you don't like what's going on during the festivals, why don't you just sell your house and move?"

Resident Sharon Hubberman said, "This Festival draws 50,000 to a town of 65,000 people. The Council has to reevaluate ordinances dealing with safety, quality of life and trespassing. You must act as a mediator for viable solutions to the problems. You may need to get outside law enforcement to help. I understand that this organization wants to share their culture. That's my solution for keeping the peace at both ends."

Mr. Guzman who is a Committee Member of the United Dominicans came up to speak again during the public portion. "When I first came to the United States, it wasn't the Statue of Liberty that impressed me. It was when I came into the City of Perth Amboy and saw the Waterfront and the diversity. I shop and buy property in Perth Amboy. I pay 25% more to live here. As the elected body, you should not just sit with one side. Our organization donated 5 trucks and other emergency vehicles and wheelchairs to poor towns in the Dominican Republic. We also run arts and crafts programs and a lot of other non-profit things. None of us makes a penny from this Festival. We're not here for politics. Let's get all departments together. We love and respect the City. We want solutions."

Councilman Fernando Irizarry was glad that he heard about what was said about this festival. "We need to find a common ground. Let's have a meeting with all sides. I want to be a part of these meetings. Let's look at Municipal Parking lots for shuttle services to festivals."

"Councilman Joel Pabon was glad to hear both sides what people had to say about the Festival. "The Police, Administration and Fire Departments should get together to see about possible solutions. We should have been on top of this since October when the residents first submitted the letter"

Council President Lisa Nanton said, "We should be compassionate and have some sort of a compromise to reach a solution for the Dominican Festival."

This Week in World War II 75 Years Ago

By: Phil Kohn. *Dedicated to the memory of his father, GM3 Walter Kohn, U.S. Navy Armed Guard, USNR, and all men and women who have answered the country's call in time of need. Phil can be contacted at ww2remembered@yahoo.com.*

As German troops approach Athens on April 18, 1941, Greek prime minister Alexandros Koryzis commits suicide; the city is placed under martial law. Still fighting, the Greek, British Australian and New Zealand soldiers that make up the rearguard for Allied forces retreating from the Yugoslavian border are harried by the Luftwaffe as they fall back from positions near Mt. Olympus toward Thermopylae. In Ontario, Canada, 80 inmates of the Angler POW Prison Camp, on the north shore of Lake Ontario, attempt an escape via a tunnel they've dug. Most are re-captured quickly (two are shot to death). Two others, however, make it all the way to Medicine Hat, Alberta, by train before being apprehended there by Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

On April 19, Gen. Archibald Wavell, the Allied Middle East commander — hastily arriving in Athens — meets with the British and Australian commanders on the scene to assess the situation. They decide they will likely have to evacuate their forces, but promise the Greeks that they will keep fighting as long as the Greeks do. In Iraq, troops of the 20th Indian Brigade come ashore at Basra, the country's main port. A small contingent of British troops have already been sent by air to protect the nearby airbase at Shaibah. According to a treaty signed in 1930, the British are entitled to send troops through Iraq on their way to and from Palestine. Lacking any prospect of immediate German assistance, Rashid Ali's new anti-British Iraqi government is unable to oppose the landings. In Ethiopia, the 1st South African Brigade, heading north from Addis Ababa, runs into Italian positions south of the town of Dessie; a battle ensues.

In Greece, Allied forces that are still viable have all passed through Thermopylae by April 20. Greek forces in the region of Epirus, on the Greek-Albanian border, however, are overwhelmed and surrender to troops of the Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler Brigade.

Greece capitulates on April 21. The commander-in-chief of the Greek Army, Lt. Gen. Alexandros Papagos, recommends that the Allies leave the Greek mainland. Permission for the withdrawal is granted by London. Commonwealth troops and some elements of the Greek Army begin evacuating to the island of Crete. Off North Africa, three battleships from the Royal Navy's Mediterranean Fleet shell Tripoli, Libya, on their return from escorting a Malta convoy. They damage an Italian torpedo boat and six freighters. Over England, the Luftwaffe begins three nights of bombing Plymouth — a blitz that leaves 30,000 people homeless.

On April 22, Italian troops in defensive positions around Dessie, Ethiopia, fall back after four days of battling the 1st South African Brigade. In Greece, German forces begin arriving at Thermopylae, but do not mount a large attack. In England, a direct hit on a communal bomb shelter during the Plymouth Blitz kills 72 people.

Greece's King George II and his government are evacuated to Crete from Athens on April 23. In New York City, the America First Committee — a non-interventionist anti-war group — holds its first large rally. The keynote speaker is aviator Charles Lindbergh. The AFC was founded in 1940 by students at Yale Law School, among whom number future U.S. Supreme Court justice Potter Stewart, future Peace Corps director Sargent Shriver, and future U.S. president Gerald Ford. Future U.S. president John F. Kennedy donates \$100 to the group.

In Greece, German forces on April 24 mount an attack on the Allied rearguard at Thermopylae, but are held off. Allied defenders pull farther back, leaving a rearguard at Thebes. In Washington, President Roosevelt orders U.S. naval vessels to report all movements of German warships west of Iceland. Information gained will be passed on to the British.

Have You Volunteered Lately?

PERTH AMBOY - The first and biggest benefit AmeriCorps VISTA members get is the satisfaction of incorporating service into their lives and making a difference in their community and country. The intangible benefits alone, such as pride, satisfaction and accomplishment are worthwhile reasons to serve. There are other benefits as well including awards, job and education certifications, professional development, and more. For more info call the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center, 275 Hobart Street, Perth Amboy.

Game Night/Pajama Party

PERTH AMBOY - Game Night /Pajama Party at St. James AME Zion Church, 68 Commerce St., Perth Amboy on Friday, April 22, 2016. Rev Mary Giles – Chair; Rev. Donna Stewart Co-Chair.

Golf Outing

SOUTH AMBOY - South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 hold their annual golf outing Thursday May 12 at Cruz Farms Golf Course in Farmingdale. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with tee-off at 9 a.m. Cost of \$100 includes 18 holes, golf cart, lunch, dinner, and many prizes. For more information call Ray at 732-721-2025 or Wayne at 732-406-2340.

Mets Trip

SOUTH AMBOY - South Amboy Knights of Columbus sponsor an outing to beautiful Citi Field to see the National League champion Mets battle division rival Washington Nationals with Daniel Murphy in a July 9 at 7:15 p.m. game. Cost of \$100 includes round trip motor coach transportation, sandwich, snacks, water, and soft drinks. Motor coach leaves the parking lot at 308 Fourth St., South Amboy at 3 p.m. For reservations call Steve at 732-727-1707

Citizen Peterson

PERTH AMBOY - “Citizen Peterson: How Thomas Mundy Peterson Made the Most of His Historic Vote.” If you have heard the name Thomas Mundy Peterson, it is likely because he was the first African-American to vote under the Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1870. But he didn't just cast his ballot and disappear into history. Peterson used his status to fully-embrace the role of citizen in the face of those who questioned a black man as a sociopolitical equal. New Jersey historian and author, Gordon Bond, has discovered how Peterson ran for local office, switched from the Republican to Prohibition Party, and calls into question some of the often repeated aspects of his post-vote roles in his latest presentation.

The lecture will be at the Kearny Cottage, 63 Catalpa Ave., on Sunday, April 24th at 2 p.m. Donations welcome. Light refreshments available.

Pet of the Week



This is Brady. He is a rescue and we couldn't love him more than we do. His tongue is always out. Slurps it in to moisten. He is a 6 year old ShihTzu. JoAnn

Have a Special Pet?

Email us your Pet Photos to AmboyGuardian@gmail.com with Pet of the Week in the Subject line and explain why your pet is special. Please include Name and Phone# for verification.

Live Music

PERTH AMBOY - Live Music every Saturday Night at 8 p.m. at Al Cibelli's Night Club, 1096 Convery Blvd., Perth Amboy. Music in the downstairs lounge. Must be 21 to enter and drink. Extra parking across the street.

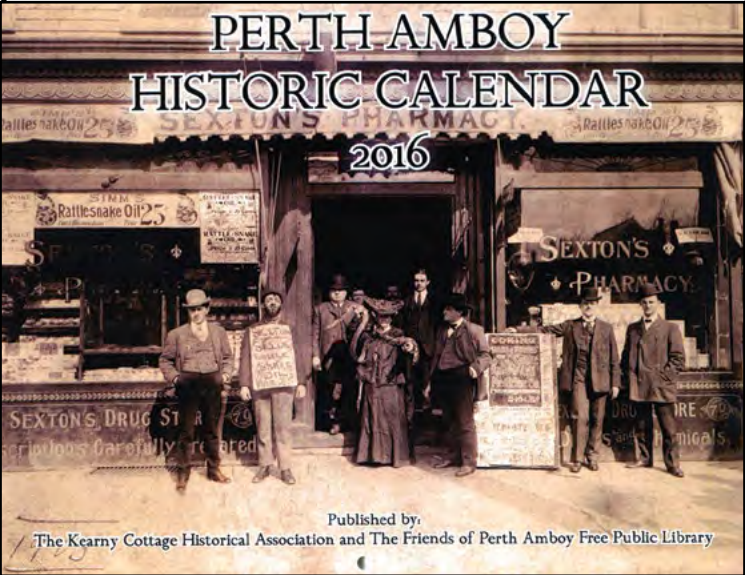
Sewing Clinic

SOUTH AMBOY - Sewing Clinic - Thursday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Dowdell Library, adjacent to South Amboy High School. For more info call: 732-721-6060 or email: comments@dowdell.org website: www.dowdell.org Learn how to SEW!

RBMC Perth Amboy 38th Annual Geranium Sale

PERTH AMBOY - \$32 per dozen; \$3.50 per plant. Geraniums available in Pink, White, Red and Fuchsia. Also Available: Hanging Geranium Plants; \$20 each. Pick-up outside the medical center at the Groom Street entrance. Please remember to mark your calendar for the date and pick-up time; Thursday, May 12 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Orders due by May 4. Mail orders to: Joan Volanin, 154 Kearny Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ 08861. Sponsored by the Perth Amboy Auxiliary. Proceeds to benefit projects and programs at Raritan Bay - Perth Amboy.

2016 Historic Perth Amboy Calendars



2016 Historic Perth Amboy Calendars are available at the Barge Restaurant, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy 732-442-3000 or at Fertigs Uniform Store, 195 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy 732-442-1079 or Call Paul or Katherine at 732-293-1090. Back by popular demand the Calendars feature old photographs from Perth Amboy. Sponsored by the Kearny Cottage Historical Association and the Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library. Calendars are \$10 Each.

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.

Old Time Gospel

PERTH AMBOY - Women's Day 2016 Presents Old Time Gospel, Friday April 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the St. James AME Zion Church, 68 Commerce Street, Perth Amboy.

Book Drop/Book Exchange/Book Sale

PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library have established 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 next three months is as follows: Saturdays April 23rd, May 14th, June 11th and 25th. We will be there from 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. (weather permitting). For more info, e-mail us at friendsofperthamboylibrary@gmail.com

Ladies Auxiliary Meeting

SAYREVILLE - The meeting for the Ladies Auxiliary will be on April 26 at 7 p.m. at the post hall on Jernee Mills Road, in Sayreville. All members are invited to come to our meeting. Call 732-264-3041 for any more info.

Dowdell Library Foundation DVD & Recorded Media Drive

SOUTH AMBOY - Your fall cleanout is done and you're wondering what to do with all of those unwanted DVD's, CD's, and video games. How about donating them to South Amboy's Sadie Pope Dowdell Library? Just bring those unwanted items to the library, during regular hours. No VHS please!

This program has been running since 2012 collecting thousands of DVD's and other electronic media for the library. Those generous donations have enabled the library to increase its resources for the benefit of South Amboy residents and the surrounding communities.

All donations are fully tax deductible and the Dowdell Library Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Please call (732)721-6060 for library hours. To schedule a pick-up for larger collections, please contact Grace at 732-721-6592. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Senior Scene Happenings

Perth Amboy

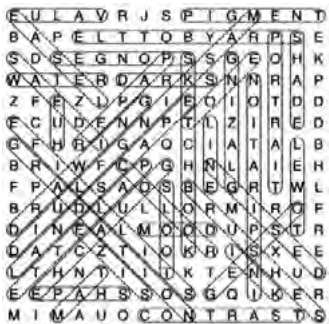
- WED. Apr. 20 Holy Rosary Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Auditorium, Florida Grove Rd.
- St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.
- THURS. Apr. 21 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
- MON. Apr. 25 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
- TUES. Apr. 26 Holy Spirit Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Church Hall, Brace Ave.
- Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.
- WED. Apr. 27 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. 28 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.

South Amboy

- MON. Apr. 25 Sacred Heart Seniors, 12 Noon Memorial Hall, Wash Ave.
- MON. May. 2 St. Mary's Seniors, 12 Noon, Camilla's, Sayreville.
- WED. May. 11 South Amboy Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.

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

Answers From Puzzle On Page 15



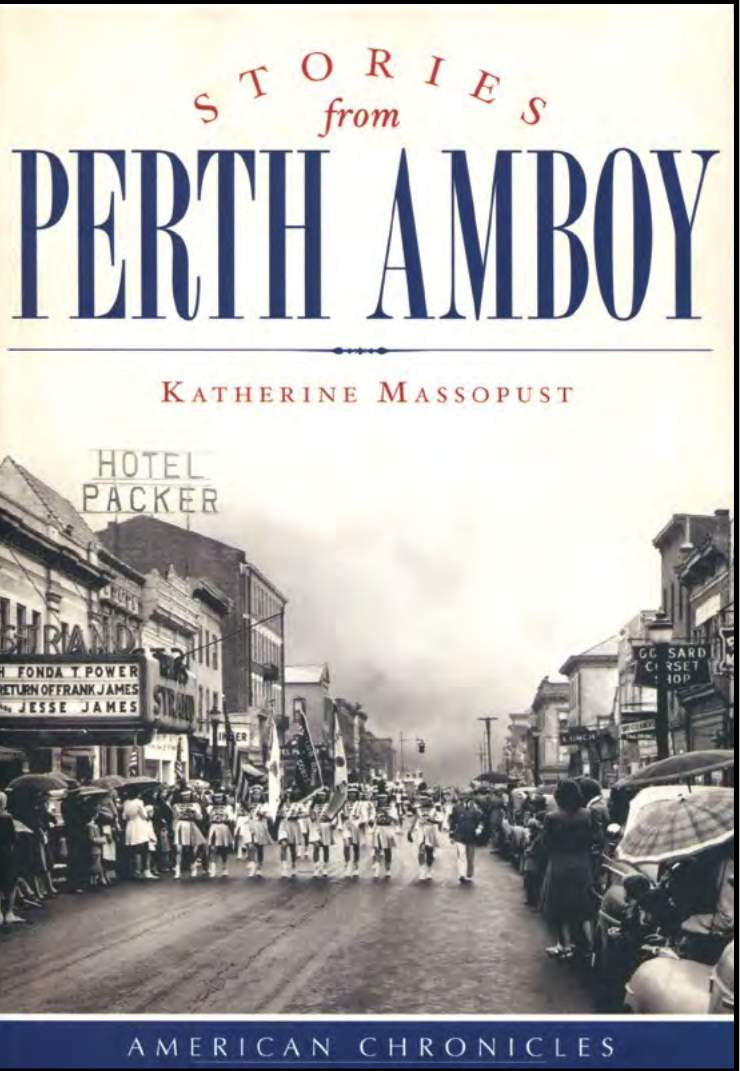
LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - Bulls-eye! circa 1960's. Girls throwing a softball through a bulls-eye.

**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



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 Uniform 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!

SERVICE DIRECTORY
Call Carolyn @ 732-896-4446

New Plans for the Service Directory Effective 1/1/16 Are Now in Effect. If You Offer a Service, the Place to Advertise is Here! Catering, Auto Repair, Heating, Plumbing, Home Health Aides, Landscaping, Snow Removal, Dry Cleaning, Chauffeuring, Exterminators, Hall Rentals, Insurance, Delivering Services, Hair Stylists, Photography, Counseling, WebSite Design, Computer Repair etc.

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Sharpening Make dull stuff sharp "Cheap" - knives, scissors, garden tools - 732-442-3430	2 Tires 195-75-14 Excellent Cond. \$20 Each; \$30 for Both - 732-634-3815	Senior Clearance X-Mas Decore; Large Selection \$25 takes all - 732-826-5865
For Sale	Two Medical Crutches \$50; Two Ice Chests \$10 Ea. 732-676-3313	Dremel 16" Scroll Saw, 2 Speed, Model #1671 with Table - used 2x, \$75 firm. 732-826-8024
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20 Mint CD's for \$8. Various Music. Call Joe - 732-423-0646	Vita Master Dual Action Exercise Bike \$35 732-727-8417	Handyman's complete workshop - Radial Saw \$30, tons more. 732-970-3097.
Speakers Cerwin-Vega MX250 Watts - 250 Max, Sensitivix 107db \$75 Call Jerry - 732-425-1394	Medical Asst. new up Software, textbook & workbook. Both \$40 or B.O. 732-734-7452	Sandra Lee Scrapbook Kit, 8"x8" Album, Storage Box, Approx 4000 embellishments. \$35 firm 917-952-3041
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How to Publish a Novena

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St. Joseph

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A Petition to
St. Jude

Dear St. Joseph, head of the most perfect household, foster father of Jesus and guardian of His mother Mary, I confidently place myself and all my concerns under your care and protection. I ask that, through your powerful intercession with God, you obtain for me all the help and graces that I need for my spiritual and temporal welfare and in particular, the special favor I now ask there mention or think of your home sale or any other petition, especially family needs. Good St. Joseph, I know with confidence, that your prayers on my behalf will be heard by God and that He will grant my request, if it be for His glory and my greater good. Thank you St. Joseph, for having responded to my call. Amen. **G.T.A.**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone_(____)

Initials at end of prayer_____

Please circle one prayer, and return form with check or money order to:

The Amboy Guardian
P.O. Box 127
Perth Amboy, NJ 08862

May the sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of Miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. *Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised.*

Thank you, St. Jude
F.M.J.

Prayer To St. Clare

For Employment

Prayer To St. Jude

Prayer To Blessed Mother

Prayer To Holy Spirit

Novena To St. Anthony

Prayer To Blessed Virgin

Thanksgiving Novena

Novena To St. Joseph

St. Jude Novena

Pray The Rosary

OTHER _____

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