

• VOL. 6 NO. 39 • 732-896-4446 • P.O. BOX 127 • PERTH AMBOY • NJ • 08862 • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2017 •

Diaz Begins Third Term

Irizarry Starts Second Term
Newcomer Caba Begins First Term as Councilman
1/3/17 Inaugural Ceremony

By: Katherine Massopust PERTH AMBOY - Master of Ceremonies Lissette Martinez welcomed everyone to the 1/3/17 Inaugural Ceremony held at the Auditorium in the Perth Amboy YMCA. Martinez thanked the Clergy including the Police Chaplains, the Fire Department, Police De-Administration, partment, Staff and everyone who attended the ceremony. The Perth Amboy Police Department and Fire Department Honor Guard gave the presentation of colors and the Pledge of Allegiance. Firefighter Javier Cruz sang the National Anthem. Pastor Bernadette Falcon-Lopez of the Perth Amboy Police & Fire Chaplain Corps and God's Army Ministries of New Jersey gave the invocation. City Clerk Elaine Jasko certified the 11/8/16 election results.

Jelmin Caba was sworn in as Councilman first. He gave his thanks to God and to everyone for their support. "It has been a very humbling and exciting experience. We need to demonstrate in deeds and not to engage in nasty politics. To the Citizens of Perth Amboy, I am every bit optimistic about the future of Perth Amboy."

Fernando Irizarry was sworn in next. Irizarry opened up his remarks by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. He too, thanked God for his blessings and his family and church and the Stronger Together Team. "I serve as a Councilman because I believe it is part of my destiny." Irizarry continued, "The City is bound for glory. We will overcome. We shall focus on the bigger picture and the greater good for our community - not our differences. Let's work together instead of working as individuals. I renew my one and only promise - to do what's in the best inter-



Wilda Diaz is sworn in for a third term as Mayor of Perth Amboy as her family stands by her. *Photos by Paul W. Wang



Jelmin Caba is sworn in as Councilman



Fernando Irizarry is sworn in as Councilman

est for the wonderful City of Perth Amboy."

Lissette Martinez welcomed keynote speaker Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski of the 19th Legislative District. Wisniewski began his remarks, "It is always a thrill to be in Perth Amboy, the city of my birth. It is one of the most historic cities in New Jersey. I am proud to call it my original home, and one that I am proud to represent. When she (Diaz) first

*Continued on Page 6

South Amboy Reorganization Meeting



Councilman Thomas Reilly is sworn in for his first full 4 year term. He was first chosen to finish out the term of former Councilman Joseph Connors. He is representing Ward 2



Brian McLaughlin is sworn in for his first full 4 year 4 term as a Councilman representing Ward 1. *Photos by Carolyn Maxwell

SOUTH AMBOY - After the swearing in of Councilmen Riley and McLaughlin, Mickey Gross was voted to retain his title as Council President and Christine Noble retained her title as Council Vice-President.

Also on the Agenda was Resolution R-1-2017 Authorizing temporary budget appropriations for the 2017 Calendar Year. Councilman Reilly made a motion which was seconded by Council Vice-President Noble to adopt the resolution.

On Consent Agendas R-2-2017 - R-19-2017 Council Vice-President Christine Noble made a motion to move the items with a change on item R-9-2017 (Appointment of Alternate Commissioner to Central Jersey Joint Insurance Fund from Mayor Fred Henry to Brian McLaughlin). Councilman Reilly seconded the motion.

Councilman Mickey Gross asked if any of his fellow Council Members or if any of the Administrators wish to make any comments.

All comments began by wishing all a Happy New Year.

Council Vice-President Chris-

*Continued on Page 2

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MIDDLESEX COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that the County of Middlesex, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:36-12 of the Green Acres Regulations, seeks to file an application for a grant with the State of New Jersey, Green Acres Program, for the development of recreational facilities at Perth Amboy Waterfront Park, located at High Street and Washington Street in the City of Perth Amboy. The grant will allow for the construction of recreation facilities at the Park, including a multi-use field, baseball field and related amenities

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:36-12.2(b), a public hearing to obtain comments on this Green Acres application will be held as follows:

February 16, 2017 at 7pm Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders Meeting Room 1st Floor – County Administration Building John F. Kennedy Square

All information submitted by the County of Middlesex to the Green Acres Program in support of this application is available for public inspection at the County of Middlesex Office of Parks and Recreation, 1030 River Road, Piscataway, New Jersey 08854, during regular business hours.

The public may speak at the public hearing, or submit written comments to the County, at any time through the close of the public hearing. Address any written comments to: Mr. Rick Lear, County of Middlesex Office of Parks and Recreation, PO Box 661, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 08903-9968. Verbal comments may be given at the public hearing. Each Speaker will have the right to comment once for a period not to exceed five (5) minutes.

South Amboy

New Brunswick, NJ 08901

*Continued from Page 1

tine Noble welcomed the two Councilmen who were just sworn in.

Thomas Reilly congratulated and welcomed McLaughlin.

McLaughlin thanked everyone who supported him and looked forward to working with the Council.

City Attorney John Lanza welcomed new Councilman McLaughlin and he wished the Council continued success.

City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz and Council President Mickey Gross looked forward to working with the Council. "We work hard," stated Gross. He also thanked the great job that all City Employees do in all departments. He also commented, "South Amboy is the best little city in the world."

Mayor Henry wished everyone a Happy New Year. "I am looking forward to working with all of the Council Members." He also mentioned Brian McLaughlin's wife, Amy who was in attendance. Amy McLaughlin was sworn as a new Member of the Board of Education earlier that day. Henry also congratulated those who were sworn in as members of the Fire Department and gave special thanks to the South Amboy Redevelopment Agency Executive Director Eric Chubanka for all of their work. "I wish everyone well."

During the public portion, Resident Nancy McLaughlin came up to speak. She first congratulated her son, Brian who was sworn in as a new Councilman. She had a question about R-3-2017 Designating Official Depositories. She noted there are eleven banks listed and thought that was a high amount.

B.A. Camile Tooker said, "This is the amount that we always have listed."

The Meeting was then adjourned. Councilwoman Zussette Dato was not present.





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Perth Amboy Volunteer Fire Department Parade Committee

will be holding their 7th Annual

Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, January 14, 2017 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cafeteria of St. Stephen's Church Mechanic Street Entrance, Perth Amboy Adults \$10 Children under 5 - Free Tickets are Available at Door

ALCOHOL IS NOT PERMITTED!

Come out and support your local heroes!

William Petrick Elected Council President

Perth Amboy Reorganization Meeting 1/3/17

By: Katherine Massopust PERTH AMBOY – After the Inaugural Ceremony, a City Council Reorganization Meeting held at the auditorium at the Perth Amboy YMCA. It was called to order at 7:38 p.m.

Fernando Gonzalez nominated Joel Pabon as Council President. No second was made. Fernando Irizarry nominated William Petrick as President. The motion was seconded by Jelmin Caba.

City Clerk Elaine Jasko stated no second is needed to be nominated as City Council President. First the vote on the table was for Joel Pabon. Joel Pabon and Fernando Gonzalez voted "yes." Jelmin Caba, William Petrick and Fernando Irizarry voted "no." The vote for William Petrick was then placed on the table. Everyone then voted "yes," and William Petrick was elected Council President.

No one spoke during the first public portion on agenda items only. All four resolutions passed unanimously.

During the second public portion, Woodbridge Resident Karen Varela came up to speak. She stated that she has been active in many organizations in



William Petrick is sworn in by City Clerk Elaine Jasko as City Council President *Photo by Paul W. Wang

Perth Amboy and questioned why the people who frequent Council Meetings do not contribute in a positive manner to Perth Amboy and always are criticizing the administration and the Council.

Perth Amboy Resident and former Councilman Ken Balut came up to speak about the Acting Law Director Louis Rainone who was not present. Ronald Gordon of the DeCotiis Law Firm was substituting for him. "Is it a 90 day appointment or a year appointment?" Balut asked.

B.A. Adam Cruz stated, "The appointment was submitted to

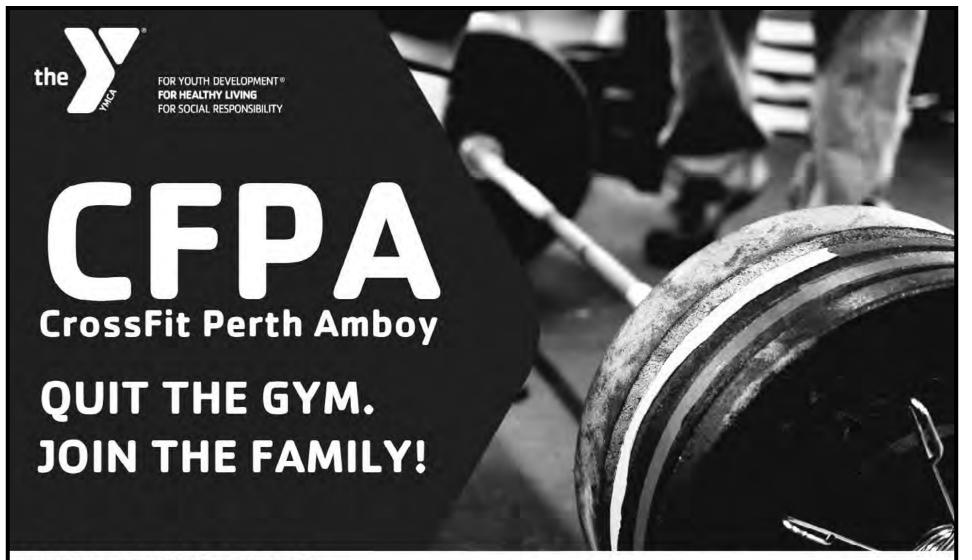
the clerk earlier today (1/3/17). It's a 90 day appointment."

Council President Bill Petrick stated, "It's not on the agenda and it's not a violation."

City Clerk Elaine Jasko stated, "It's not on the agenda and it's a 90 day appointment." She stated she needs time to put it on the agenda and it was not submitted until earlier in the day.

Substitute Law Director Ronald Gordon stated, "The (old) Attorney serves until a replacement is approved and voted upon."

*Continued on Page 7



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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Strong, Capable & Qualified Hidden Figures, John Glenn, Dr. Martin Luther King, Debbie Reynolds, Carrie Fisher,



Katherine Johnson



Mary Jackson



Dorothy Vaughan



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



John Glenn

2016 did not end on the happiest of notes with the death of well known public figures. Sadly today as we write this editorial, two Police Officers in Florida lost their lives.

Our condolences to their families, friends and colleagues.

January is also the month that we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday.

A couple weeks ago as I was watching YouTube Videos, a related video came up with a trailer for a movie called, "Hidden Figures." I haven't been to a movie theater in over 6 years, but I definitely want to see this movie.

The crux of the movie deals with a NASA program for minority applicants who show an aptitude for science. The film spotlights three African-American women (a.k.a. "human computers) who helped to provide the correct calculations that successfully put an astronaut (John Glenn) in orbit around the earth.

Katherine Johnson was the leader of the group whose calculations were used. The film also spotlighted were two of co-workers: Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson.

These three qualified brilliant women, along with others were able to break that glass ceiling that was mostly dominated by white males.

Astronaut John Glenn insisted that Katherine Johnson be part of the team for his successful launch into space.

Glenn fought against oppression and went out of his way to acknowledge the pool of black mathematicians. It was said that he trusted these women with his life.

On 12/8/16, John Glenn who led a very distinguished public and private life passed away at the age of 95.

I can see Dr. King and John Glenn in conversation and King thanking Glenn for rec-



Debbie Reynolds and Carrie Fisher *Photos Courtesy AP

ognizing the character, skills and qualifications of these women instead their color.

To quote Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

John Glenn knew it was the right thing to do.

Now we want to talk about other women of strength. Actress Carrie Fisher passed away on 12/27/16 and one day later, her mother Actress Debbie Reynolds passed.

Ironically, they both first rocketed into stardom at the age of 19.

Ms. Reynolds in the classic film, "Singing in the Rain," and Carrie Fisher as the formidable Princess Leia in the Star Wars

What they accomplished in their private lives showed a lot of strength. Reynolds, even though married three times had to publicly endure a very humiliating divorce from her first husband, Eddie Fisher. Unfortunately, With her two subsequent marriages, her two other husbands not only ruined her financially, but she had to inturn pay off their debts that

tired Police and Firemen's Association Inc. swore in its officers for 2017. Mike Burns was sworn in as president. Pete Kenny, Vice-president,

NEW JERSEY - On Wednes-

day January 4th 2017 Local #9 of New Jersey State Re-

Press Release

required functions including:

• Deliver notices to residents.

Len Mundy, Treasurer and Alternate Delegate, Dave Jakubczak, Financial Secretary, Chuck Kelly, Recording Secretary, Edward Rappleyea, Delegate, Thomas Noble, Sgt.-at-Arms, Thadeus

Zajack, James York, Anthony Tabaszewski, Robert Keating and Robert Yackel as Trust-

they had accumulated unbeknownst to her. She didn't moan and groan about it and just continued to work until those debts were paid off.

She and Carrie at one time had a very shaky relationship because of Carrie's foray into drugs and then eventually Carrie was faced with the demons of mental illness. At one point, they did not speak to each other

Thankfully they found their way back and formed an even closer bond. They both empowered themselves by exposing their blemishes which in turn strengthened them and helped others. This enabled others to come out of the shadow and not be ashamed of the same problems.

They did this through interviews and writing books. One

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Local 9 Retired Police & Fire

Announces 2017 Officers

New Jersey State Retired Police and Firemen's Association is the only association in the State of New Jersey which represents retired police and firefighters in Trenton protecting their pensions and benefits. If you are retired or plan to retire this year from a department in Middlesex or Monmouth counties and are interested in joining or learning more about Local # 9 contact John Yuhas at john.yuhas@comcast.net or 732-826-1790 for an application or mission statement.

book written by Carrie (Postcards from the Edge) was based on their relationship.

A lot of young women said that the character of Princess Leia gave them a sense of empowerment and they wanted to be just like her.

It was said, "You can't get any more empowered than slaying a really BAD, BAD, BAD GUY while wearing a metal bikini."

Both Debbie and Carrie were great when being interviewed individually and even more entertaining when being interviewed together. I encourage everyone to look on YouTube for those appearances.

I think it even might be therapeutic if you are looking to reconcile with someone who was once close to you and to watch it with them together. C.M.

CUARDIAN

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Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
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ST. JOSEPH'S SENIORS RESIDENCE

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.

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. Jan. 9 City Counc

MON. Jan. 9 City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
TUES. Jan. 10 Special BID Meeting, 4 p.m.
City Hall, High St.

• Board of Education, 6 p.m.
PAHS, Eagle Ave.
WED. Jan. 11 City Council, Regular,7 p.m.

City Hall, High St.

South Amboy

WED. Jan. 11

City Council, Business, 6 p.m.

City Hall, High St.

WED. Jan. 19

City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.

City Hall, High St.

Attend Public Meetings Have Your Voice Heard!



Attention! Our Newspaper is available at Shop-Rite, Perth Amboy at the Courtesy Counter!

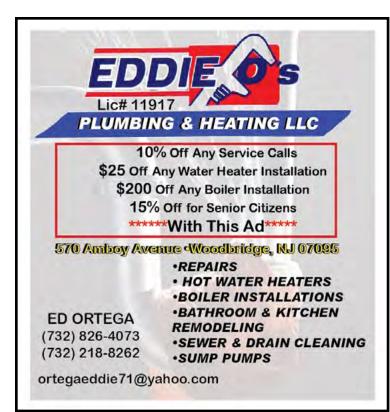
Safety Announcement From Mayor Wilda Diaz Regarding the Recent Incidents in NYC and NJ

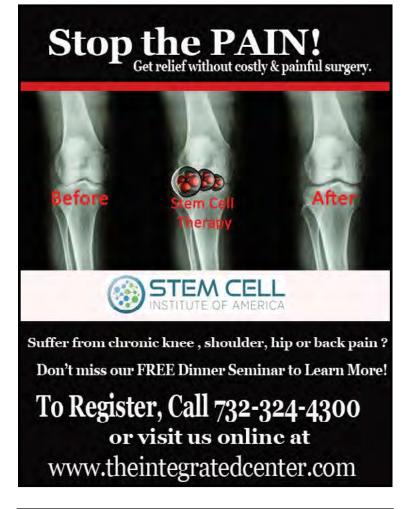
We understand that some may be concerned by the recent incidents/ threats in New York, Seaside, NJ and Elizabeth, NJ. At this time, it has been reported that a suspect was taken into custody in Linden, NJ. We are taking safety precautions in the City of Perth Amboy, and I want to emphasize that it is important that IF YOU SEE

SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!!
Report Suspicious Activity - Be Vigilant - STAY ALERT
Do not think that any call or report is too small

Don't allow the actions of a few dictate your quality of life FOR ALL EMERGENCIES, DIAL: 9-1-1 FOR ALL NON-EMERGENCIES, DIAL: 732-442-4400







Music at Saint Mary's SOUTH AMBOY - Choral Art Society!! A Music at Saint

Mary's first! Choral Art Society of New Jersey originated as The Suburban Symphony Chorus in September of 1962, and 1964 the chorus formed an independent organization under its present name, growing in membership, and earning the accolades of the public and critics since its beginning. The chorus is a group of singers dedicated to the study and performance of the great choral masterpieces which span many centuries and styles. The group's diverse performances have included Orff's Carmina Burana, Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb, Gershwin's Porgy and Bess, Handel's Solomon, and most recently, one of the first U.S performances of Bob Chilcott's Requiem. Don't miss South Amboy's first opportunity to experience this marvelous chorus here in our hometown. Sunday, January 15, 2017; 4:00 p.m. at Saint Mary Church, 256 Augusta Street, South Amboy NJ, 08879. Free admission (\$15 donation appreciated). For questions call MASM @ 732-857-0202.

Police Officer Angel Padilla Honored 12/20/16 BOE Meeting, Perth Amboy *Photo by Katherine Massopust



PERTH AMBOY - Police Officer Angel Padilla (Center holding plaque) was honored at the 12/20/16 Special Board of Education Meeting held at Perth Amboy High School. Linden Police Officers Angel Padilla and Peter Hammer were wounded arresting Seaside Park and Manhattan bombing suspect Ahmad Khan Rahami. Officer Angel Padilla was shot in the torso, but his bulletproof vest prevented a more serious injury. Angel Padilla is brother to Perth Amboy Police Officer Lt. Eddie Padilla. Angel and Eddie Padilla grew up in Perth Amboy and Angel Padilla served 10 years as a Member of the Perth Amboy Auxiliary Police before joining the Linden Police Force.

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Diaz, Irizarry, Caba Sworn In

*Continued From Page 1

took her oath of office in 2008, she was the first woman to lead Perth Amboy. Presently she is the only elected Latina Mayor in New Jersey. Mayor Diaz is a leader. She has been at the forefront of many issues. Wilda Diaz has expanded many programs fighting fake news, Twitter posts and Facebook postings. Wilda Diaz has been open and honest. In order to do this, cities need revenue and to create jobs. Under Mayor Diaz there has been job creation. Mayor Diaz has worked hard to preserve history by renovating the Public Library and pushed for new designs of the train station (handicapped compliancy in the near future). When Superstorm Sandy hit, Diaz oversaw over \$17 million making Perth Amboy's infrastructure able to withstand future storms. In Perth Amboy, Mayor Diaz welcomed Veridian and Buckeye. There is being built a \$180 million E-Port Logistics Center. She is a Latina Trailblazer who understands the importance of standing up for what is right.

Asm. Wisniewski then welcomed Wilda Diaz. Wilda Diaz was then sworn in for her third term in the Office of

Mayor of Perth Amboy. Diaz offered her remarks, "I'm humbled by the tremendous outpouring of residents. My incumbents - I owe this to God and to you. To my Husband Greg for being my rock, my son, Gregory Jr. is on his second tour overseas, and my daughter, Samantha, to my five sisters and to my parents' blessings who are in Puerto Rico. My parents taught me to stand up for what is right. It is by that I advocate that this City has survived centuries -One of hope and belief in our City. Each mayor faced highs and lows. No place is perfect. It is an honor to serve the City for a third term. Together we have created a better quality of life. Today Perth Amboy has a better rating than the State of New Jersey. Our home has over \$600 million invested by private developers. By the end of 2018 all our brownfields will be developed." Diaz continued to speak,

"We are stronger together. We took a devastated Waterfront with over \$10 million in damages and fixed the shoreline. Our community is always on the move. That is the nature of our community. Later this month will see the redevelopment of a 6 acre Second Street

Project. For New Jersey Transit and the Perth Amboy Train Station, I have been advocating for ADA compliance since 2008. We will enhance the downtown area in early 2019. Together we will continue our goals. I am determined to see it through. A Public Meeting will be held when we will work together, we are stronger together. We will stay focused on redevelopment. We took our first steps are securing a new Perth Amboy High School. I hope to continue lead with Fernando Irizarry and Jelmin Caba. We are a strong, determined team. I want to recognize Former Council President Lisa Nanton and to continue to work with Councilman Fernando Gonzalez, Joel Pabon and William Petrick. We will work for what is best. I will remain vigilant how to move forward. We have worked together through difficult times. There's a time for everything."

Diaz concluded by asking the audience to say aloud, "We are stronger together."

Pastor Bernadette Falcon-Lopez gave the Benediction.

Life and Death of a Movie Theater WOODBRIDGE - Do you recall the free dinnerware and double feature when you attended the

WOODBRIDGE - Do you recall the free dinnerware and double feature when you attended the movies long ago? Irv Hyatt, Woodbridge resident and author, will discuss his book, Life and Death of a Movie Theater, at the next Historical Association meeting on January 23. I. Joseph Hyatt is an entertainment archeologist and author of 26 book covering film and theater. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Union County Performing Arts Center of New Jersey, a fully restored 1928 movie/vaudeville theater.

In this presentation, Mr. Hyatt will tell the story of the State Theater of Woodbridge which was the place to go for over 40 years. He also will include the stories of the five competing Woodbridge theaters and three drive- ins to put the State's story into perspective. The State 's rise and fall reflects the history of many theaters across the United States and around the world during the depression, WWII years, television years and beyond.

Come join the Historical Association of Woodbridge Township and share the memoires on Monday, January 23, at 7pm in the Downstairs Meeting Room at the Woodbridge Public Library, corner of George Frederick Plaza and Amboy Avenue.

Light refreshments will follow.

Thanking Applegate for His Service to the City and Giving Kudos to Reilly

12/21/16 Council Meeting

SOUTH AMBOY - Council President Mickey Gross wanted to thank Councilman Donald Applegate for his service. He also addressed Councilman Tom Reilly by saying, "You're my hero. You did a great job raising money for different charitable organizations. The best decision I made was moving to South Amboy thirty years ago."

City Attorney John Lanza congratulated Applegate for his years of service. "I value the comments that you have made. I wish you well and your contributions in this job helped me. I want to thank the Council and I wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year."

Council Vice-President Christine Noble and Councilwoman Zusette Dato both thanked Donny for his service. Dato said, "Maybe we'll see you on the other side."

When Councilman Tom Reilly spoke, he also thanked Applegate for his service. He also wanted to thank the Residents, the Police, Firemen and those who volunteered to help raise \$18,000 for the charity event for Brianna."

Reilly was also concerned about the lack of attendance at a Meeting held by Rutgers University who did a study on South Amboy. "We should look at the tax abatement programs to rehab homes. It will be an improvement to the City. I also want to thank Code En-

forcement for enforcing the codes on Broadway and following up on issues."

B.A. Camille Tooker took the opportunity to thank Applegate for his service to the City, especially to the Recreation Department and his involvement with the City before he was on the Council. "I also want to thank the Friends of South Amboy and Thomas Reilly for all they've done for the City. I want to thank my colleagues for all their help in making the City progress."

Mayor Fred Henry wanted to thank those who helped with the budget. "No emergency appropriations were needed." Henry thanked B.A. Camille Tooker and C.F.O. Angel Albanese. "I also want to thank those who ran the Trolley Tour during the holidays and the Director of the South Amboy Historical Society who organized the tour which showcased the City and our History. There was a Holiday Festival event that helped another family. I want to thank the Council. Serving on it is a thankless job. Donny Applegate is passionate about all the Residents. He worked with local baseball teams and getting the baseball field near the American Legion back in shape. I wish him the best in the future. I wish everyone Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. I want to thank our Fire Department, Police Department, all the City Employees and the Military



Councilman Donald Applegate poses with the South Amboy City Council for his last Meeting. Applegate decided not to seek reelection.

*Photo by Carolyn Maxwell

from the bottom of my heart."

During the Public Portion, Perth Amboy Resident Robert Meszy wanted to thank the South Amboy Responders for help rescuing a deer.

A Resident from Augusta Street was upset about his house that had been in violation for 90 days. "I want to discuss my problem but no one wants to listen to me."

Councilman Tom Reilly said, "I disagree with that statement"

The Resident responded, "The Police did not have to be present when I met with you (Reilly)."

Reilly answered back, "I was going to discuss with you about the garbage in the yard."

The Resident's time was up before any further discussions could be made.

Perth Amboy Reorganization Meeting

*Continued From Page 3

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez stated, "Rainone should be here. We don't have an attorney officially. Do we have to appoint retroactively?"

Gordon answered the question, "We are not breaking the law. Until you appoint a replacement, the old attorney holds the right to serve as Law Director. I am acting as a substitute."

Balut stated, "It should be on the agenda."

Elaine Jasko then answered Balut's concerns, "We couldn't add this because it's a special meeting. I need 48 hours' notice to put it on the agenda."

"You didn't have 48 hours' notice. The Mayor waits to the last minute to make an appointment."

Resident David Caba spoke next. "I would like to congratulate my cousin, Jelmin, the first Dominican Councilman and Mr. Petrick for being elected Council President. I've been fighting City Hall since 1992. I'm not going to be in photo ops. I don't do things for recognition. She (Varela) offended a lot of us. There's nothing perfect – Our Mayor said it! You have to give credit to the people that come up here. It's because they really care. Not everything is perfect. It's about making the City of Perth Amboy better. My heart is here."

Resident Alan Silber spoke next. "I go to most City Council Meetings. As far as I know, after 90 days, she (the Mayor) has another 45 days to nominate an Attorney. Today we have an alternate. Council President Petrick, I hope we all get along. Vote your conscience. Be part of the legislative body."

Resident Dorothy Daniel spoke next. "Please, all of you learn Faulkner Plan B. If you see some of the people of the governing body, get someone to train you. I'm looking forward to four good years of peace and serenity. I respect all

of you and want the best for all of you. In absence of order there is chaos."

Resident Reinaldo Aviles was the last person to speak. "I had the honor to act as a challenger for Mr. Caba. I noticed a couple of things with poll workers. Poll workers have a lot of issues with names. Some were asking for ID's, mostly to read names. When I was at Patten School, there were representatives from the Attorney General's Office interviewing poll workers. Lots of poll workers don't speak Spanish. I'm convinced that's a problem. The job should be split into two shifts. They have to be there 5:30 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. A lot of poll workers are seniors and a 16 hour day is too long of a time. This needs to be looked

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. The next Caucus is 1/9/17 at 4:30 p.m. and the next regular meeting is 1/11/17 at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Outgoing Board Members Lebreault, Varela and Bermudez Last Meeting Special BOE Meeting 12/20/16



Outgoing BOE Members Lebreault, Varela and Bermudez received plaques from Superintendent Dr. David Roman for their years of service. (L to R) Board Vice-President Israel Varela, Superintendent Dr. David Roman, Board President Sam Lebreault and Board Member Anthony Bermudez.

*Photo by Katherine Massopust

By: Katherine Massopust PERTH AMBOY – Tuesday, December 20, 2016 was the final Board of Education Meeting for President Sam Lebreault, Vice-President Israel Varela and Board Member Anthony Bermudez who lost their bid for reelection.

"It has been an honor to lead this group. We didn't always agree, but we worked things out," Lebreault stated.

Board Vice-President Israel Varela stated, "I thank everyone, every individual here. Even if we didn't agree, we didn't argue. I like that respect that made us move forward. We never had any money for the new High School. We, the Board made it happen. I deeply appreciate that. Thank you to the staff members who at 3:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. are still in the building. You always have my support and I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas."

Board Member Anthony Bermudez said, "I want to thank Sharon Hubberman and the Messengers of Peace and especially the kids in the district."

Some of the Board Members offered their remarks. Obi Gonzalez added, "I am grateful to these three Members of the Board who will be leaving. Anyone who steps forward to take their position — these three members leaving worked very hard. They helped bring a great leader to Perth Amboy. We are really going forward with progress. Our colleagues will be sorely missed. It does take a village."

Board Member Anton J. Massopust stated, "I thank the Board Members who gave a lot of their time and a lot of effort."

Board Member Milady Tejeda added her thoughts, "I thank the three of you to be a part of the team. I'm proud to be a part of that team."

Board Member Jose Rodriguez stated, "I give thanks to Sam Lebreault, Anthony Bermudez and Israel Varela for their service to the children of this district – for everyone."

Board Member Ken Puccio added, "Sam Lebreault, Israel Varela and Anthony Bermudez – It's been an honor to serve with you. We've gone through some hard times. It's been an honor."

Board Vice President Israel Varela stated, "Mr. Jess – It's been an open door policy. It's important to have a rapport with the B.A."

Board President Sam Lebreault thanked everyone, especially the staff. "Dr. Roman – you have been our greatest acquisition. We had the incident in 2011. You know who is good at what they do. Derek Jess is one of the best B.A.'s in the state. He is a very smart individual." Lebreault also thanked Assistant Superintendent Dr. Vivian Rodriguez.

Board Secretary Derek Jess presented Lebreault, Varela and Bermudez with plaques for their dedication and service. (see photo above)

The outgoing Board Members will be replaced by newly elected Board Members Randy Convery, Tashi Vasquez and Junior Iglesia.

The next Board of Education Meeting is Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 7 p.m. at Perth Amboy High School Auditorium.

Attend Public Meetings Have Your Voice Heard!

Red Cross Issues an Emergency Call for Blood and Platelet Donations During Severe Winter Blood Shortage

Blood Donations Needed Now to Prevent Delays in Care for Patients Like Freshman Payton Kannarr

News Release 1/4/17 PHILADELPHIA PA - The American Red Cross has a severe winter blood shortage and is issuing an emergency call for blood and platelet donors to make a donation appointment now and help save pa-

tient lives.

Hectic holiday schedules for many regular blood donors contributed to about 37,000 fewer donations in November and December than what was needed. Snowstorms and severe weather have also impacted donations. Nearly 100 blood drives were forced to cancel in December, resulting in more than 3,100 blood donations going uncollected.

"Blood and platelet donations are critically needed in the coming days so that patients can continue to receive the lifesaving treatments they are counting on," said Nick Gehrig, communications director, Red Cross Blood Services. "We encourage donors to invite a family member or friend to donate with them to help meet patient needs. Right

now, blood and platelet donations are being distributed to hospitals faster than they are coming in."

How to help

Find a blood donation opportunity and schedule an appointment to donate by using the free Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). The Red Cross is extending hours at many donation sites for more donors to give blood or platelets. Overall, the Red Cross has added nearly 200 hours to blood donation centers and community blood drives across the country over the next few weeks. Donation appointments and completion of a RapidPass online health history questionnaire are encouraged to help speed up the donation process.

"In about an hour, you can help save someone's life. This simple act can have a profound impact on another human being," said Gehrig.

Who blood donations help Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. Accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and patients receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or sickle cell disease may all require blood to save their lives.

The treatments high school freshman Payton Kannarr receives to fight leukemia cause her blood counts to drop. She currently receives platelet transfusions weekly and red blood cells about every two weeks.

"We have seen firsthand the incredible need for blood products as we have been on this four-year roller coaster journey," said Amy Kannarr, Payton's mom. "Through the care and compassion of donors, Payton has been able to enjoy life as a teenager."

Upcoming blood donation opportunities:

American Red Cross Blood Donation Center: Central New Jersey Donor Center

707 Alexander Rd.,

Suite 701, Princeton Township

Mondays: 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. (platelet pheresis)
Tuesdays: 12:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (whole blood & platelet pheresis)

Fridays: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. (whole blood & platelet pheresis)

Saturdays: 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. (whole blood)

Hunterdon Flemington

1/4/2017: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., **Hunterdon Central Regional High School, 84 Route 31** 1/20/2017: 2:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., **The Flemington Moose**

p.m., The Flemington Moose Lodge 1829, 81 Barley Sheaf Road

Middlesex

Edison

1/15/2017: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Heritage at Clara Barton, 1015 Amboy Avenue

Monmouth Freehold

1/17/2017: 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.,

Memorial Elementary School, 485 Adelphi Road

Manasquan

1/17/2017: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Manasquan United Methodist Church, 23 Church Street

Tinton Falls

1/4/2017: 3 p.m. - 8 p.m., American Red Cross, 1540 W. Park Avenue

1/19/2017: 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Benedictine Academy, 840 N. Broad Street



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Celebration of Chanukah 12/28/16, Perth Amboy City Hall

















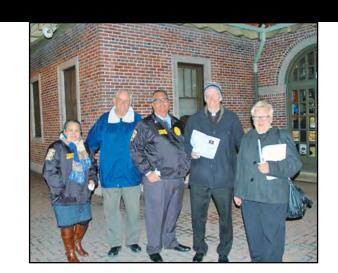




Candlelight Vigil for the Homeless 12/22/16, Perth Amboy Train Station















Edison AARP Ch. 3446

EDISON - Edison AARP Chapter 3446 will meet on Monday, January 16, 2017 at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at Our Lady of Peace Parish Center on Franklin Avenue in the Fords section of Edison. Instrumentalist Bill Herring perform songs from the 50's and 60's as the meetings entertainment.

The Knitting and Crocheting club is in need of donations of wool. For information on the club, contact Kay at 732-548-1976.

We will be collecting children's picture books & ankle length socks (any size) for the NJ Institute for Disabilities at Menlo Park, metal can tabs for Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick, as well as eyeglasses.

Canned food and miscellaneous items for veterans hospitals and nursing homes will also be collected at the meeting.

For additional information on the chapter, visit our website at www.edisonaarp.org.

Art Through Technology City wide 3D Design Contest

Press Release 12/29/16 SOUTH AMBOY-The Dowdell Library of South Amboy will be holding an innovative art competition using 3D printing technology. Using the library's 3D printer or 3D pens, community members of all ages may enter the art competition from January through June 15th. Entries must be entered within one of the following categories: the waterfront, pets and a floral theme. Age categories will range from children through seniors.

Entries will be exhibited at the South Amboy Arts exhibition hall on Broadway during July and August. The community will have the opportunity to vote for the winners in each category. For more information, contact the library at comments@dowdell.org or 732.721.6060.

To learn about free programs, sign up for the library's monthly eNewsletter at http://dowdell.org/newslettersignup.

The Dowdell Library's hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 10 am to 8 pm, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am to 5 pm and Saturdays from 12-4 pm. For more information, please visit www. dowdell.org, or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org.

Holiday Greetings from Our Advertisers



Fizer Plumbing and Family wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season!

*Photo by Paul W. Wang



Dr. Daryl Susan Mitruska, D.C., P.A. and Staff of Mitruska Integrated Wellness Center Extends Happy Wishes and a Healthy 2017 to All! *Photo by Carolyn Maxwell



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3RD. PRIZE - LAP TOP, 15" 8GB, DONATED BY ZEVALLOS/SKROCKI, HOME FOR FUNERALS.

4TH. PRIZE - PORTABLE ELECTRIC GENERATOR, DONATED BY UNITED POLES FEDERAL CREDIT UNION.

5TH. PRIZE - APPLE WATCH, DONATED BY ST. JOHN PAUL II PARISH "SEÑOR DE LOS MILAGROS"

6TH. PRIZE - APPLE IPAD, AIR 2, 9.7 INCH/16GB, donated by, Julio's Auto Repair.

7TH. PRIZE - \$ 300.00 GIFT CARD CERTIFICATE, DONATED BY FLYNN & SONS FUNERAL HOME.

8TH. PRIZE - SNOW REMOVAL, DONATED BY PETRA BEST REALTY.

9TH. PRIZE - CANON DIGITAL CAMERA EF-S 18-55MM F/3.5-5.6 IS, DONATED BY QUISQUEYA RESTAURANT.

10TH. PRIZE - X BOX ONE 500 GB, DONATED BY K&K PROJECT.

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Swearing In Ceremony of Eight Firefighters 12/29/16, Perth Amboy City Hall

*Photos by Katherine Massopust













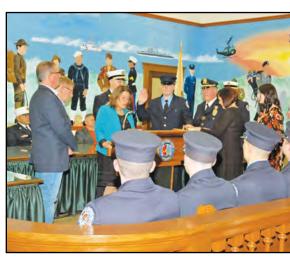
















PERTH AMBOY - On Thursday, December 29, 2016 Eight Firefighters were sworn in. Michael Borrero, Paul Cannamela, Jr., John Fazio, Michael Gregory, Kurt Gregory, Michael Martini, Patrick McGhee, Dylan Zera-Krushinski, Congratulations Firefighters!

Special Public Meeting 12/27/16: 3 Ordinances, 4 Resolutions Considered

PERTH AMBOY - Ordinance No. 1: Amending Section 99-3 of the City Code entitled Redevelopment Agency. RE: Appointing Authority.

This was moved by Councilman Bill Petrick and seconded by Joel Pabon. Everyone voted "yes" except Councilman Fernando Irizarry who abstained.

Resident Alan Silber came up to speak during the Public Portion. "Is this a change? Correcting something that has been done for years and years? Someone who worked on the Mayor's campaign and (who was also is a PARA Board Member) came up to speak about Joel Pabon at a Council Meeting.) There are no checks and balances."

Silber continued, "The PARA Attorney insinuated that no developer will want to build here if they can't make a campaign contribution. This ordinance is long overdue."

Resident Kenneth Balut came up to speak next, "There were two loans that PARA took out dealing with Kushner. Maybe because PolitickerNJ talks nice about her (Mayor Diaz). Where is all this money coming from? You (the Council) should get presentations about all upcoming projects before voting on them. You (the Council) haven't gotten the paperwork on the (aforementioned) loans which is a good reason to get rid of PARA (Perth Amboy Redevelopment Agency)."

Resident Stanley Sierakowski spoke next, "I support the ordinance giving PARA duties to the Council. People were appointed who lacked integrity and didn't ask questions. Assert yourselves and advertise for these positions. People were appointed and resigned later. Appoint people who will do the research and ask questions."

Councilman Fernando Irizarry questioned Acting Law Director Louis Rainone, "What are the consequences if we don't follow your advice?"

Rainone answered, "The Court might have to make the final decision and that could cost between \$20,000 to \$40,000."

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez disagreed with Rainone. Gonzalez stated, "It's our responsibility to make the right decision for the City and residents. I said this eight years ago about redevelopment not being good for the City. There is no plan and we have too many rental units. Our school system can't continue to get more children."

Councilman Joel Pabon stated, "At the end of the day, when your out on the streets, it all comes back to the Council

- even if we didn't start the project. The Council put PARA together and we have the right to remove it."

Councilman Fernando Irizarry took a different path, "No one considered the Council can be influenced by outsiders. The influences aspect may be even greater if the Council takes over."

This prompted Councilman Pabon to say, "I never said people on PARA were being influenced."

Councilman Bill Petrick questioned, "Who is the governing body (when it comes to ordinances)?"

Rainone responded, "It depends. The Faulkner Act said it could be the Council or the Mayor. For this ordinance, the vote for the governing body would be the Council."

Council President Lisa Nanton said, "The Redevelopment Members are not accountable to the voters."

Ordinance No. 2 setting the salary range for the Director of the Law Department. RE: Minimum \$90,000 - Maximum \$120,000.

A motion to move was made by Councilman Petrick and seconded by Joel Pabon.

Ordinance - Override of Veto - to amend an ordinance entitled: "Powers and Duties of the Director of Law."

It was decided to add a resolution to be placed on the agenda at a Special Meeting to be held on 12/30/16 to override the Veto Ordinance.

This was moved by Petrick and seconded by Pabon. It was passed unanimously.

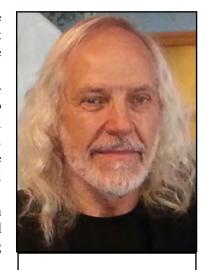
At the beginning of the Meeting during the Public Comments, Resident Kenneth Balut talked about the Veto Ordinance entitled "Powers and Duties of the Director of Law." Balut said, "That's why you (the Council) need your own Attorney. He (Rainone) told you at the last minute what you have to do. He's doing the Mayor's bidding. You always have to vote on things the last minute. You need to get your own Attorney ASAP."

Balut then talked about R-552 Authorizing a settlement agreement and general release in consideration of payment in the amount of \$486,587.70 to the City of Perth Amboy by Seabra's Armory Restaurant. Balut asked, "Is this the full amount that Fehrenbach (former Business Administrator) worked out?"

CFO Jill Goldy came up to answer, "The amount is the full amount of the cost of the bulkhead."

Balut questioned, "No interest?"

Rainone answered, "The money was expended from a



Alan Silber

grant."

Goldy also responded, "We temporarily bonded for a front end funding from a FEMA Grant."

Resident Stanley Sierakowski came up to speak about the same ordinance. "This is a sweetheart contract. It's over a ten year period with no interest. You can't go after the owner. You don't know if you have additional mortgages that may be already be under. You haven't paid interest for ten years."

Councilman Petrick responded, "The owner is a corporation."

Sierakowski countered, "Liens pay 18%. The Armory is paying nothing. There's no lien on the property right now. Get an agreement."

Rainone responded, "No matter how many mortgages, taxes always come first. It's completely secured. Read the contract. I pulled this off the agenda because I wanted to look at it. There's no such thing as personal liability on a tax lien. You (the City) are a secured creditor. A Federal Tax Lien might trump the City. Bankruptcy Court might wipe out the interest."

Jill Goldy reminded the Council that this matter was discussed in closed session and this proposal was made by the Armory."

Rainone continued, "You (the City) can do installment payments. I'm trying to make it as secure as possible."

Resident Jeremy Baratta who was next at the podium stated, "You can make them hold a bond"

Rainone added, "This is a tax lien."

Baratta said, "In the settlement agreement the Armory should have their proper name."

Baratta also brought to the attention of the Council that there were two mistakes made on the agreement: "They have the City of Perth Amboy listed as Monmouth County and the improper spelling of the Mayor's first name."

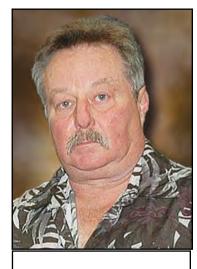
Resident Alan Silber came up and told the Council they



Stanley Sierakowski

should table this resolution because of the errors on the last page. "This Council should not take the word of this Counsel. He told you that you need three days to advertise the override of an ordinance. You can have anyone give you a straight forward answer. Don't vote on it until you can get another opinion. This one is pertaining to override of the Veto Ordinance."

At the last Public Portion. Resident Ken Balut told the Council to ask for copies of loan agreements from PARA. "I'm glad they made corrections on Police Promotions. A BID (Business Improvement District) Book came out. You should ask them questions pertaining to the distribution of the book, what is the bidding process, all the bills related to the book and how it was drawn out after all the paperwork before the budget was passed. This is worse than what Joe (Vas) did. We just had a coup in the Police Department. Burglaries and Accidents are not being reported. What is being



Ken Balut

released to the press? We have nothing. It's dangerous for the Police Chaplains to wear badges. People have been targeting Police."

Balut also told Council President Nanton, "You did a great job."

Stanley Sierakowski came up to talk about the private School Bus parking situation. He still suggested that a property on Sayre Avenue would be a good place to park the school buses or to tow vehicles to. "There's space for 150 vehicles or you can build Veteran's Housing."

Jeremy Baratta wanted to know, "What is the dispute with the PARA appointments if the change is not made? The Mayor makes an appointment and the Council must approve the appointment."

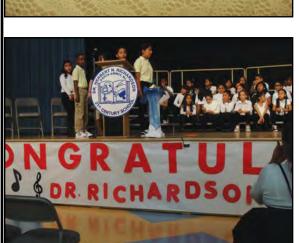
Acting Law Director Rainone read the ordinance pertaining to Municipal Board Appointments. Rainone also commented on the Mayor's Veto Power. He read an ordinance pertaining to the Law Director's duties.

Business Meet 'N Greet: Networking at the Barge Thursday, January 12, 2017 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at The Barge Restaurant 201 Front St., Perth Amboy Event Cost: \$15 Net Per Person Sponsored by: 1st Constitution Bank, Pinky Maniri, Nelvi Transit, Absolute Home Mortgage Corp., BiggerFish Marketing, Funny Mix Games, Direct Ad Network, Alan B. Siegel Attorney at Law, Signs n'Awnings, C.P.A. Tom Ploskonka, The Barge Restaurant & The Amboy Guardian RSVP Call Milton (a) 732-306-0040

Dedication of the Joyce Richardson-Melech Music Room - Richardson School Perth Amboy - 11/29/16

*Photos Submitted



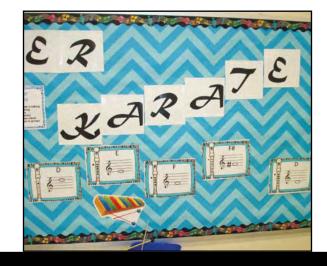




















Special Council Meeting 12/30/16

PERTH AMBOY - At the Special Meeting that was held on 12/27/16, there was an ordinance which was an Override of a Veto.

Ordinance No.1 stated: An Ordinance to amend an Ordinance entitled: "POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF LAW."

It was determined at the 12/27/16 Special Meeting that this Ordinance be countered by an additional Resolution to override the Veto of the Mayor's Ordinance.

The Council agreed to hold a Special Meeting on 12/30/16 where this Ordinance will be presented as a Resolution.

R-553-12/16 Overriding the Mayor's Veto of an Ordinance (See Ordinance above).

During the Public Comments, Ken Balut reiterated, "This is why you (the Council) needs a good Attorney. The Mayor's name was spelled wrong and had a different town. The Law Firm couldn't spell the Mayor's name - and had the wrong town. You guys on the Council - and Mrs. Nanton - thank you for your service. Someone is being paid \$60,000 for public relations but they're not doing their job. No crime is being reported. It took a citizen who read the Ordinance in the book that brought these

mistakes to your attention. Stop hiding crime. You should know about promotions ahead of time."

Resident Susan Batista came up to speak next, "There is too much a conflict of interest with this Law Firm. They are not protecting the City's interests."

Batista then talked about the American Halal Live Poultry on Amboy Avenue and their lawsuit against Code Enforcement. "Ed Scala is one of the people named on a suit and it was after he had retired. I bet the people (in Code Enforcement) didn't even know they were named in the suit."

Resident David Caba came up to speak, "For the past year in a half, I thought Irizarry should have been running for Mayor. Some people stuck to their guns and their principles. Do what's right for the people of Perth Amboy. I thought this would have been a closer election. Mr. Pabon - I commend you. It was power vs. no money. You almost got 5000 votes. I asked my cousin (Councilman-Elect Jelmin Caba) who gave him money. He probably didn't know. You probably were in that same position."

Caba then addressed Council President Nanton, "I may not always agree with you, but you look out for the people. This is



Councilman Fernando Gonzalez displays signs to help support the Police. If you are interested in obtaining one, please contact him

the way you should be - transparent. Even if my cousin is doing wrong, I will let him know. I would like to thank Mrs. Nanton for serving our community. We decided to do what's best for the City and you did a great job. That's integrity."

Resident Robert Meszy, "I love Perth Amboy. I would like to thank Council President Nanton and Ms. Batista for helping me."

Councilman Fernando Irizarry spoke next. "Does the Council have a strategy for a new Law Director after 12/31/16?"

B.A. Adam Cruz stated, "We will appointing a new Law Director."

Councilman Fernando Gonza-

lez said, "I have an old CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) application. I needed an up to date one today because I'm with a group who has shown interest." He also asked about signs supporting the Police that were given to him and where these signs can be placed.

Councilman Joel Pabon thanked outgoing Council President and Member Lisa Nanton. "It has been a pleasure working with you and this goes back to when we were on the School Board together." He mentioned her volunteerism. "Please stay involved and keep us on our toes. I know you will. Have a



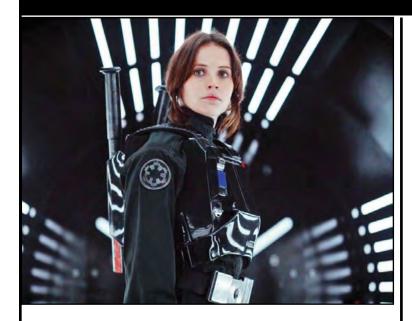
Council President Lisa Nanton with David Caba

Happy and Healthy New Year to All! We need to work together."

Councilman Bill Petrick thanked Nanton for her service. "You are a shining example of intelligence and a beacon. Some of your community service has gone unnoticed. I wish a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year to All!"

Council President Nanton said, "I will miss you all, but not the job. I stuck it out to make sure the right thing was done. Affirmative action came into being so qualified people can get into positions. Decisions had not been based on qualifications. This has got to stop."

Movie Review: Rogue One - Two Views



By: Anton Massopust III "We have hope. Rebellions are built on hope" - Jyn Erso

If you've ever read any of the Star Wars novels growing up, that's exactly what Rogue One feels like. Rather than just being about a rag tag group of rebels (which it is), it tells an emotional tale of a family torn apart by the Empire. Galen Erso is an engineer forced by the Empire to work on the Death Star, the super weapon that the Empire hopes will allow it rule the galaxy and destroy the fledgling Rebellion. In the opening moments, Galen and his daughter Jyn are separated and a decade later, the rebels capture Jyn and convince her to help them to locate her father and verify that the super weapon actually exists. Is he the man she knew as a child? Or is he working on behalf of the Empire?

When they realize that the weapon is real, the Rebellion cannot agree on a course of action, despite Jyn making an impassioned plea to find the plans and steal them. Jyn and the others who have taken the journey so far de-

cide to go that last step to stop the Empire and hopefully rescue her father. Making the journey are Jyn, Casian (the rebel who captured her), his droid K2SO (voiced brilliantly by Alan Tudyk) an Imperial pilot who defected and two members of the Guardians of the Whills, a sect whose goal was to protect the Cyber crystals (which the Empire has now used to power the Death Star).

The movie takes some time to get going but when it does, it has some of the best moments of any Star Wars movie. I genuinely cared about the characters in the movie. The special effects and the different planets that we go to are awesome. You have that feeling that you're flying alongside the x-wings and Tie fighters. A number of familiar faces from Episode 4 appear in this film which is sure to excite the fans. Rogue One is the second Star Wars film to be rated PG-13 so you might wonder if you can take the kids. You absolutely can, but adults would be advised to bring some tissues.



By: Katherine Massopust

In this new prequel to "Star Wars: A New Hope," "Rogue One" tells the tale of Jyn Erso (Felicity Jones), the daughter of Engineer Galen Erso (Mads Mikkelsen) who was forced by Imperial Director Orson Krennic (Ben Mendelsohn) to build the Death Star for the Empire. Galen's daughter, Jyn Erso escapes from the Empire and is raised by Saw Gerrera (Forest Whitaker).

Fast Forward to 20 years later. After leaving Gerrera (at age 15), Jyn was eventually captured by the Empire and now in an Imperial Camp. Jyn is rescued from the Imperial Camp by the Rebel Alliance in order to find out if the Death Star exists and if so, how to stop it.

The plot gets more involved, but I don't want to give away everything. "Rogue One" explains why the Empire would overlook such a weakness as a small exhaust port that would destroy the Death Star instantly if fired upon by proton torpedoes. The film also explains why the original Death Star in Star Wars took

twenty years to build and the one in Return of the Jedi took around four years to build. It also explains how the Death Star Plans were taken by the Alliance and the importance of the lives lost when fighting for a cause.

The characters are memorable such as the droid K-2SO (the anti-C3PO voiced by Alan Tudyk), Chirrut Îmwe (Donnie Yen) and others which include a diverse cast. Jimmy Smits reprises his role as Senator Bail Or-Genevieve gana and O'Reilly reprises her role as Mon Mothma (the leader of the Rebel Alliance). Guy Henry voices a computer generated Governor Tarkin (Originally portrayed in "Star Wars: A New Hope" by Peter Cushing). James Earl Jones reprises his role as the voice of Darth Vader (who does make an appear-

"Rogue One" is gritty and the action is nonstop. The special effects are first rate as expected from any Star Wars Movie. "Rogue One" is an excellent movie, but it is not a traditional Star Wars film. It's about war, the importance of believing in what you are fighting for and the cost of freedom. Director Gareth Edwards wanted to make a special film and he succeeded. You feel for the characters and what they are fighting for. Several scenes in "Rogue One" were reshot and others deleted because Edwards didn't like them. Whatever the reason, "Rogue One" is a special

A couple of side notes that I felt about the movie.

- 1.) I found it disturbing when the insurgents placed bombs under Imperial tanks.
 2.) I loved Orson Krennic's outfit.
- 3.) The droid K-2SO is so funny. (If you look at Star Wars Artist Ralph McQuarrie's original design for C-3PO it's K-2SO!)
- 4.) It was great to see a strong female leader in Jyn Erso

Don't miss "Rogue One." Enjoy the film as it was meant to be – on the big screen! A must see for any Star Wars fan!

CASA of Middlesex County Volunteers Needed to Advocate for Children in Foster Care

Press Release 12/23/16 NEW BRUNSWICK - Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Middlesex County has current openings for volunteers to advocate for children from Middlesex County who have experienced abuse or neglect.

CASA volunteers are appointed by a judge to speak for a child's best interests. They meet with the child and research the child's circumstances with the goal of securing a safe and permanent home for the child as quickly as possible. CASA volunteers come

from all walks of life, with no special background needed. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age and pass background checks.

The next volunteer training session begins on February 21, 2017. Applications must be received by Friday, February 3. If you are interested in volunteering call (732) 246-4449, email melanie@casaofmiddlesexcounty.org, or visit www. casaofmiddlesexcounty.org/volunteer for more information and a volunteer application.

Herbs 101: Introduction to Herbs

Press Release 1/6/17
On Wednesday January 25
at 7 pm, Woodbridge Main
Library will welcome, educator, author and certified
herbalist Gert Coleman.
Coleman, will look at all aspects of herbs including how
to grow them, cook with
them, use them to ease headaches, colds, and other winter ailments. She will also
discuss some of the historical, cultural and mythical
lore surrounding herbs.

Coleman has recently retired as Associate Professor of English and Nature Writing at Middlesex County College in New Jersey. She

lives in Staten Island where she serves as the vice president of the Staten Island Herb Society, which helps maintain the Colonial Herb Garden at Conference House Park

Currently Coleman is the Co-editor of the IHA (International Herb Association) newsletter and a contributor to nine IHA Herb of the YearTM books (calendula, bay, dill, horseradish, rose, elder, artemisia, savory, and capsicum). She frequently writes about the legends, lore, and poetry of herbs. This year, Coleman is also keeping busy by serving as

the Editor of the 2017 Herb of the Year book on Cilantro/Coriander.

If you would like to learn more about the many uses of herbs please join herbalist Gert Coleman for this hands on program.

This program is free and no registration is required.

The Woodbridge Main Library is located at 1 George Frederick Plaza.

Ads Sell!
Call Carolyn
732-896-4446

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.

Japanese advances on Borneo continue January 9, meeting little resistance. In the Soviet Union, three Red Army Fronts launch a massive attack north and northwest of Moscow. The Germans put up a fierce resistance, but the Soviets make significant progress. In the Philippines, Japanese troops make their first forays into the Bataan Peninsula. They attack the American-Filipino Abucay Line and meet stiff resistance.

Japan declares war on the Netherlands on January 10. Japanese troops land on Tarakan Island in the Dutch East Indies despite Dutch Martin bombers attacking and harassing the landing craft. Tarakan, located off the northeastern coast of Borneo, houses an oil refinery and four petroleum-loading piers, and is one of the five largest petroleum-processing centers in the East Indies. Gen. Archibald Wavell arrives in Java and activates the ABDA (Australian-British-Dutch-American) Command. Heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis reports to Camp Upton, in Yaphank, New York (on Long Island, in Suffolk County), where he volunteers to enlist in the U.S. Army as a private.

The Japanese capture Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, the nation's capital, on January 11. They also launch a full-scale invasion of the Dutch East Indies. In the Pacific, the American aircraft carrier USS Saratoga is torpedoed and severely damaged by Japanese submarine I-6 about 480 miles southwest of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. In the Atlantic, the British cargo ship SS Cyclops is torpedoed and sunk off Nova Scotia by the German sub *U-123*. Of the 181 aboard, 87 die. It is the first attack against Allied shipping in the western Atlantic.

On January 12, Commonwealth troops take Sollum, Egypt, on the Libyan border, after a 56-day siege. The German defenders surrender only because they have run out of ammunition. Farther west, Lt. Gen. Erwin Rommel, who has been re-supplied with tanks during his retreat to El Agheila, plans a surprise counterattack against the Allies. To avoid interference from above, Rommel informs neither the German nor the Italian High Commands of his plans. On the Eastern Front, the Red Army launches an offensive to rid the Caucasus of German troops. In Odessa, Ukraine, the Nazis begin loading Jews onto railroad cattle cars for removal to the Holta concentration camp to the north. Within 11 days, over 19,500 Jews are murdered there.

A Red Army counteroffensive in the Moscow area under Gen. Georgy Zhukov takes Kirov and Medya on January 13. In Germany, Vice Adm. Karl Dönitz, commander of submarines, orders German U-boats to operate in waters off the East Coast of the U.S. When they arrive, German captains are astounded to find lighthouses and buoys still lit, no radio silence imposed, and the positions of ships often given away in open radio communications. The result of this laxity: over 150,000 tons of Allied shipping losses in the first month of German U-boat operations in the area. German submarine crews refer to this period as "the American shooting season." In London, representatives of nine Allied countries sign a declaration stating that, after the war, those guilty of war crimes will be brought to justice.

On January 14, in the North Atlantic, German sub U-43, commanded by Lt. Wolfgang Lüth attacks Allied convoy ON-55 south of Iceland in a severe storm, sinking two ships. Lüth will go on to become the second-most-successful German submarine commander of the war. During his 15 war patrols, U-boats under his command sink 46 Allied merchant ships and one French submarine.

The Japanese invade Burma on January 15. In Malaya, Japanese troops are south of Malacca and clash with Australian forces in heavy fighting at Batu Anam. In Occupied Poland, German authorities begin removing Jews from the ghettoes in Łódź, sending them to the Chełmno extermination camp. The German battleship Tirpitz departs Wilhelmshaven for Norway, where it is to be deployed as a deterrent against an invasion of Norway and from where it can attack Allied convoys to the Soviet Union. In the U.S., President Roosevelt sends a letter to Kenesaw Mountain Landis, the Commissioner of Baseball, requesting that professional baseball games continue to be played during the war. Roosevelt writes: "I honestly feel that it would be best for the country to keep baseball going." In New York Harbor, German sub U-123 surfaces so close to shore that crewmen on deck can see the rides at Coney Island silhouetted against the evening sky that is lit up by the glow of lights from Manhattan and Brooklyn. Spotted by patrol planes, *U-123* quickly dives and makes a successful escape.

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, Feb. 2 2017. 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.

Book Sale

SAYREVILLE - The Friends of Sayreville Public Library are having their January Book Sale at Sayreville Free Public Library, 1050 Washington Road, Parlin on Saturday, January 21, 2017 and Sunday, January 22, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. \$10.00 for bag or \$15.00 for box (Must use bags/boxes provided). Sunday, January 22, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. - Not for Profit and Teacher Appreciation ~Books and Media FREE of charge (Must provide ID).

Bingo

SAYREVILLE - FEELING LUCKY! Get out of the house and off the couch - come enjoy an evening or afternoon playing Bingo. St. Stan's Parish, 225 MacArthur Ave., Sayreville - has Bingo each Thursday evening, with doors opening at 6 p.m. and games beginning at 7:30 p.m. We also have Sunday afternoon Bingo each week, with doors opening at 12 Noon and games beginning at 1:30 p.m. Our kitchen is open for great homemade lunch and dinner specials along with a nice selection of snacks to munch on. Please call our Parish Office at (732) 254-0212 for more info. See you there!

Volunteer Drivers Needed For Meals on Wheels Program

Press Release

HIGHLAND PARK - Jewish Family Services of Middlesex County (JFS) is in need of volunteer drivers to deliver meals to homebound senior adults in the Highland Park area for the Kosher Meals on Wheels Program. The program delivers meals Monday - Friday mornings. A commitment of at least 2 days per month for regular volunteers is required. Also seeking substitute drivers who can fill in as needed throughout Middlesex County. Must have valid driver's license. Please contact the JFS Volunteer Coordinator for more detailed information at 732www. 777-1940 or visit ifsmiddlesex.org under the Volunteer Tab

Have a Special Pet?

E-mail us your Pet Photos to Amboy-Guardian@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.

4th Annual African American History Month Celebration Rescheduled

PERTH AMBOY – PRAHD is thrilled to be honoring Bob McCoy with the Arturo Alfonso Schomburg Award for all the love and care he gives to our community in the City of Perth Amboy. Please join us as we celebrate the many contributions of Bob McCoy during African American History Month. Special Guest ~ Dean Schomburg. Friday, February 24, 2017 - Noon to 2 p.m. PRAHD,100 First Street, Perth Amboy.

Pet of the Week



Bella - She would rather brave the cold weather without a coat. She loves her human Mommy, Leslie Dominguez Rodriguez and Leslie loves her back twice as much.

Mother's Guild Tricky Tray

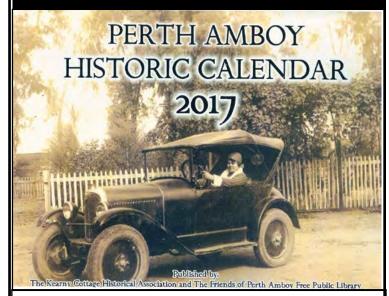
PERTH AMBOY - St. Peter's Episcopal Church 183 Rector Street, Perth Amboy. Sunday, January 15 at 3 p.m. admission is \$5.00. Tickets sold at the door. Food also available for purchase. More information call 732-826-1594.

Do you or someone you know have Old Photographs or Documents?

The Kearny Cottage Historical Society is
Looking for Old Photos and Documents of
Perth Amboy, South Amboy,
Woodbridge, Fords, etc. (Local Area)
For an Archiving Project - Your Photos & Documents
will be scanned into digital format & returned to you.

For more info please call 732-293-1090

2017 Historic Perth Amboy Calendars



2017 Historic Perth Amboy Calendars are now 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, Perth Amboy City Hall 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.

Petition to St. Jude

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. St. Jude worker of Miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for

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 M.P.

Book Sale

PERTH AMBOY - 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. Presently due to lack of shelf space we are NOT accepting any donations of books.

Visit us at the Brighton Ave. Community Center located at the corner of Brighton Ave. and Sadowski Pkwy. in Perth Amboy. The schedule is as follows: Saturday, January 14th and 28th. We will be there from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (weather permitting). For more info, email us at friendsofperthamboylibrary@gmail.com Book Dealers are welcome. !!!!

JCP&L Home **Safety Program** Keeping Safe Around Electricity

Press Release 12/29/16 SOUTH AMBOY - Gerald Ricciardi from JCP&L will present a program on home safety at the Dowdell Library on Tuesday, January 24 from 6:30-8 pm. Learn about electrical safety inside your home, using electric heaters safely, locating overhead and underground wires, and other safety tips. There will be a fun quiz to test your knowledge about JCP&L wires and equipment. No registration is required, so feel free to drop by – and while you're here, take a look around our wonderful library!

To learn about other free programs, sign up for the library's monthly eNewsletter at http:// dowdell.org/newslettersignup.

The Dowdell Library's hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 10 am to 8 pm, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am to 5 pm and Saturdays from 12-4 pm. For more information, please visit www. dowdell.org, or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org.

Remember to Say Your Novenas!

Answers From Puzzle On Page 19



LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - The Dublin Lighthouse in 1903 on the corner of New Brunswick Avenue and Prospect Street. It was used as a home for the men that staffed the Great Beds Lighthouse. The service became automated in the late 1930's and the staff was no longer needed. The home was abandoned and and eventually demolished by the City and a small factory was built. For the last 40 years it has been a *Photo Courtesy of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library body shop for repairing cars.

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

Senior Scene

Happenings

Perth Amboy

TUES. Jan. 10 Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.

St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.

WED. Jan. 11 Holy Trinity Seniors, 1 p.m., Church Hall, Lawrie & Johnstone St.

THURS. Jan. 12 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m.,

Family Life Center, Madison Ave. MON. Jan. 16 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m.,

Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.

TUES. Jan. 17 Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.

> Good Shepherd Tuesday Seniors (HS) 12:30 p.m. Msgr. Gambino Hall, Florida Grove Rd.

WED. Jan. 18 St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St. Good Shepherd Wednesday Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Msgr. Gambino Hall, Florida Grove Rd.

THURS. Jan. 19 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.

South Amboy

MON. Jan. 23 Sacred Heart Seniors, 12 Noon

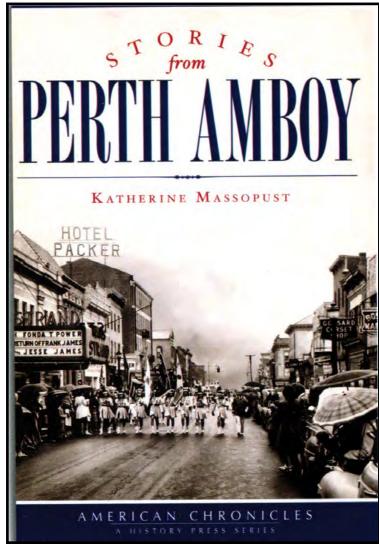
Memorial Hall, Wash Ave.

WED. Feb. 8 St. Mary's Seniors, 12 Noon,

Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.

South Amboy Seniors, 12 Noon, MON. Feb. 13 Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.

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



Stories From Perth Amboy

PERTH AMBOY - Stories From Perth Amboy by Katherine Massopust is available at the Barge Restaurant, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy or in Fertig's 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.

Call For the Plan Which Will Best **Suit Your Needs. Discounted Rates** for Prepaid Plans!

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Check out Our Website for **Breaking News!** www.amboyguardian.com

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Please Notify Us Immediately After Your Item is Sold! Email: AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

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	732-325-5293	8584		
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How to Publish a Novena

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

A Petition to St. Joseph

Dear St. Joseph, head of the most perfect household, foster father of Jesus and guardian of His mother Mary, I confi- Name dently place myself and all my concerns under your care and protection. I ask that, through Phone_(_ your powerful intercession with God, you obtain for me all Initials at end of prayer the help and graces that I need for my spiritual and temporal welfare and in particular, the Please circle one prayer, and return special favor I now ask there form with check or money order to: mention or think of your home sale or any other petition, especially family needs. Good St. Joseph, I know with confidence, that your prayers on my behalf will be heard by God and that He will grant my request, if it be for His glory and my greater good. Thank you St. Joseph, for having responded to my call. Amen.

Cost \$10. Pre-payment required.

Address

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

A Petition to St. Jude

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

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

Prayer To St. Clare	For Employmen
riayer to St. Clare	roi Empioyinci

Prayer To Blessed Mother Prayer To Holy Spirit

Prayer To Blessed Virgin Thanksgiving Novena

Pray The Rosary St. Jude Novena

Prayer To St. Jude

Novena To St. Anthony

Novena To St. Joseph

OTHER

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Send to P.O. Box 127, Perth Amboy, NJ 08862

The Amboy Guardian **Classified Ads Work!**

FREE CLASSIFIED AD *FOR ITEMS \$75 & UNDER*

Use this space for 10 words or less to sell your small household items that are too inexpensive to advertise. The Amboy Guardian will print your classified and help you sell those items. Merchandise must be used and not new items for sale items. Please send one ad per family per week.

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

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- 15 Coincidence (2 wds.)
- 18 "___ It Be"
- (Beatles song)
- 19 Parts of a chain
- 20 It's got Seoul 23 Feds (hyph.)
- 25 Spherical body
- 26 "No problem!" 28 Like a
- Bohemian

12

15

25

32

36

48

54

57

21 22

45 46

- 34 ___ de plume •
- 35 "___ goes
- 37 Twosomes
- 40 On
- 42 TV oldie: "F
- 47 ___ Paulo

13

16

26 27

34

37

49 50

18

33

40 41

55

58

- 32 "JAG" spin-off
- nothing!"
- 36 Rough cut
- 39 None
- whatsoever

- 44 Glove leather
- (Brazilian city)
- 48 Crude thing,
- said in a nice
- 54 Not bright

23 24

- 55 Oodles
- 56 Doe
- 57 Pig's place
- 58 Fountain treat 59 Was in glee
- club
- DOWN
- 1 Finger-to-lips noise
- 2 Pod veggie
- 3 Baseball player's topper
- 4 An __ a day... 23 Collection 5 Small quarrel
- 6 Circle segment 27 Unravel

14

17

28 29

35

56

59

51 52 53

19

42

7 London's

30

- 30 The Kingston
 - 31 Bark shrilly

Old __

10 Soap's spot

11 Hoses down

16 Pro votes

Shore

20 King of the

jungle?

21 Killer whale

successes

(abbr.)

24 Brief note

22 Sluggers'

17 Entertainer

8 Novelist Zola

9 "Where or ___"

33 Elm's offering

29 Divorce town

- 38 Comedian Laurel
- 41 Portable
- shelters 43 Streets
- 44 Soapy water
- 45 Single thing
- 46 TV award
- 47 Baseballer Sammy
- 49 Likewise
- 50 Not Dem. or Rep.
- 51 Actress Benaderet
- 52 Author Deighton
- 53 Measure of work

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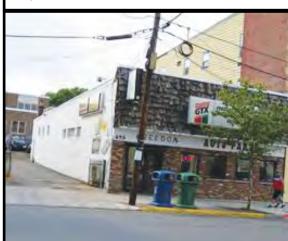
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