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2017 Perth Amboy State of the City Address



Judge Marina Corodemus JSC (Ret.) President St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church



Mayor Wilda Diaz



Mayor Wilda Diaz delivers the 2017 State of the City Address
*Photos by Paul W. Wang

By: Katherine Massopust
PERTH AMBOY – The 2017 State of the City was held on Thursday, 3/30/17 at the Perth Amboy YMCA Auditorium. Lissette Martinez, Dep. Dir. of Human Services, Office on Aging was Master of Ceremonies. The Presentation of Colors & Pledge of Allegiance was performed by the PAPD & PAFD. The National Anthem was performed by Perth Amboy Fire-fighter Javier Cruz. The Invocation was given by Pastor Lance D. Nelson, New Beginnings Church Perth Amboy Police & Fire Chaplain Corps.

Lissette Martinez welcomed everyone and introduced the Guest Speaker; Judge Marina Corodemus JSC (Retired) President of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church.

Corodemus what an honor it is to introduce Mayor Wilda Diaz at this year's State of the City. "I am honored because our Mayor could have chosen someone of her own religion

and ethnicity, but our Mayor looks beyond that. The person I have come to know, by values diversity and the many roles of women in the past, present and future. She is truly a woman of faith. She lives a life – raised two children to adulthood, brings those values to work every day."

"Faith and existence of many houses of worship throughout the City is an example of this. Honoring diversity is not a political inconvenience, but a way of life. This Mayor; Our Mayor is also a working woman, understands hard work, responsibility and knows firsthand the need for self-respect and dignity."

"When public service called, This Mayor; Our Mayor was elected to office. She aggressively promotes business and investment. When Superstorm Sandy hit, This Mayor: Our Mayor faced the destruction of

*Continued on Page 6

The Domino Effect De-Funding of CDBG 3/27/17 Press Conference



Senator Robert Menendez



Superintendent of Recreation Ken Ortiz, Senator Bob Menendez and Mayor Wilda Diaz field questions *Photos by Katherine Massopust

PERTH AMBOY - Mayor Wilda Diaz thanked Senator Robert Menendez for coming to Perth Amboy to let the citizens know that he intends to do everything possible to keep the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds intact.

Diaz stated, "I am thankful that Senator Menendez responds to everything that Washington is doing, whether it be immigration reform or

budget cuts. There are a lot of organizations that are here today who are recipients of CDBG funds. The construction of this building (the Brighton Avenue Community Center) was partially funded by CDBG funds. Some of the funds are used for job training for our youth who give back to the community. Thank you, Senator Menendez who knows how crucial funding is to our community."

Senator Menendez came up to speak. He thanked the Mayor and Council for being here and praised Mayor Diaz by telling her: "Your efforts are inspiring. Job training is important, especially for people of color. Seed money for businesses is important. The budget presented in Washington is very skinny and slight on details. The President forgoes

*Continued on Page 6

Mayor Reacts to Judge's Ruling on the Council's Violation of the Faulkner Act

Press Release 3/30/17

PERTH AMBOY - Mayor Wilda Diaz responds to the decision that was declared by Superior Court Judge Francis, yesterday evening for the court case named: "MAYOR WILDA DIAZ VS. THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PERTH AMBOY." The court ruled in Mayor Diaz's favor.

The lawsuit is based upon the act of the city council exceeding the boundary of their legal authority, both under state statute and case law.

"After a long two years of an uncooperative council who has blocked our public policy initiatives for political reasons, the courts sided with the

Mayor's office affirming that the council was in violation of the Faulkner Act by attempting to run a shadow government."

"The Judge ruled, that if injunctive relief was not granted, the council would continue to create a parallel government, undermining the office to the Mayor and deliberately undermining the public interest and the functions of the type government selected by the citizens of Perth Amboy." said Mayor Wilda Diaz.

"I am thankful with Judge Francis' decision in favor of Perth Amboy. Although the 'city council' was named in the lawsuit, the exception is Councilman Jelmin Caba, who vot-

ed against their illegal actions. My intention is to move past this and continue governing our City with integrity, as a united community. I encourage the Council to do the same."

The Faulkner Act is the body of state statutes under which the government of the City of Perth Amboy is organized and operates. It sets forth the powers of the Mayor, the Executive Branch, and the bounds of the authority of the council, the Legislative branch.

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

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Lenten Fish
Dinners

SOUTH AMBOY - South Amboy Elks #784, will be holding their Annual Lenten Fish Dinners at the Elks Lodge - 601 Washington Ave. South Amboy. Dinners will be held on the following Fridays from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.: March 24th, April 7th, April 14th. The Banquet Hall will be open for sit down dining. Take-out dinners will be also available by calling 732-727-7170 or just stop by the Lodge during dinner. All proceeds will benefit the Elks Charities.



Mets Trip

WOODBIDGE - Come and join the Woodbridge Township Recreation Department on a trip to Citi Field for the New York Mets vs. The Chicago Cubs on Tuesday, June 13, 2017. Bus leaves the Woodbridge Community Center, 600 Main St., Woodbridge at 4 p.m. Game starts at 7 p.m. Fee: \$65 – includes bus and Hall of Famer Mookie Wilson Replica road jersey. There are no refunds given once payment is received. Space is limited and is on a first come, first serve basis. To register for trip, stop by the WCC. For further information call 732-596-4048. If the game is rained out there will not be another bus trip. Your tickets will become rain vouchers.



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Middlesex Water Company Announces
Transmission Main Replacement Project in
The Borough of Sayreville, NJ

Press Release 3/31/17
ISELIN - Middlesex Water Company (NASDAQ: MSEX) today announced crews will begin mobilizing to replace sections of a large diameter 95-year old water transmission main in the Borough of Sayreville, New Jersey beginning on April 3, 2017. The \$1.8 million project is necessary to replace aging water infrastructure in the area and ensure continued reliability and service quality to customers in eastern and southern Middlesex County and a portion of Monmouth County. Approximately 1,500 feet of water main is being replaced in the project, expected to be completed by mid-May. The project will also include the re-

placement of air valves and upgrades to emergency interconnections. Complete restoration of areas disturbed by construction is expected by the fall.

The Company's contractor, Northeast Remsco, will be working in the area of Washington Road (from Sherwood Road to Latham Circle.) The project will involve sizable excavations on Sherwood Road, Burlington Road and Washington Road where some water mains are being relocated. Periodic road closures are also expected along Sherwood Road, Surrey Lane, Cambridge Drive, Camden Street, Burlington Road, Latham Circle, Warwick Road as well as Washington Road. Middlesex

Water is working with Sayreville Borough officials to minimize inconvenience to customers during this project. Residents that will be significantly affected by this project are receiving individual notification with project details.

Middlesex Water's main replacement program is based on asset and risk management assessment and consequence of failure analyses. The Company regularly invests in its water distribution infrastructure to ensure a safe, reliable and plentiful water supply both now and in the future. To learn more about the main replacement project in the Borough of Sayreville, visit www.middlesexwater.com or call 800-549-3802.

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[www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org](http://www.stdemetriosperthamboy.org)

**Acts of the  
Apostles**

**Bible Study**

PERTH AMBOY - Monday, April 10 at 7 p.m. or Wednesday, April 12 at 10 a.m., St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 183 Rector Street, Perth Amboy. More information call 732-826-1594. Free Event.

**Mother's  
Guild**

**Tricky Tray**

PERTH AMBOY - -Sunday, April 23 doors open at 3 p.m. auction starts at 5 p.m. admission \$5 per person, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 183 Rector Street, Perth Amboy.

**Mah Jongg**

PERTH AMBOY - Looking for something fun to do? The Friends of the Sayreville Public Library invite you to come play Mah Jongg in the Young Adult Room on Sunday, March 26, 2016, 1:00 - 3:00 PM. New and experienced members are welcome. This event is FREE and Mah Jongg sets and cards will be available for use by all players. 1050 Washington Road, Parlin. For more information, please call Elaine (732) 727-0192.

**We Keep You  
Moving**

PERTH AMBOY - The Human Motion Institute at Raritan Bay Medical Center, a member of the Hackensack Meridian Health family, is sponsoring a free "We Keep You Moving" Total Joint Replacement Education session Friday, April 7, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., at the medical center's Perth Amboy location, 530 New Brunswick Ave. The session is intended for patients who have been scheduled for joint replacement surgery or for those who would like to learn more about joint replacement. Registration required, call Nurse Navigator Clare Schuld, R.N., at 732-535-4746

**Chili Church**

PERTH AMBOY -Thursday, May 4, 6:30 p.m. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 183 Rector Street, Perth Amboy. More information call 732-826-1594. Free Event.

**Annual**

**Easter Egg Hunt**

PERTH AMBOY - Saturday, April 15, 2017 at 1 p.m. at Water's Stadium near Perth Amboy High School, Eagle Ave

**Bariatric**

**Weight Loss**

**Support Group**

OLD BRIDGE - The Institute of Weight Loss at Raritan Bay Medical Center, a member of the Hackensack Meridian Health family is sponsoring a Bariatric Weight Loss Support Group Meeting Wednesday, April 26, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at its Old Bridge location. For individuals who have had surgery or contemplating weight loss surgery or are trying to maintain a healthy weight. Family and friends are welcome. The meeting will be held in Auxiliary Hall B, One Hospital Plaza, Old Bridge, NJ. Registration required, call 1-855-TIME-4-ME (1.855.846.3463).

**Perth Amboy**

**Student Show-  
case Art Show**

PERTH AMBOY - Wednesday, April 5, 2017 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Arts Gallery, 299 Reade St.

**Healthcare  
Provider CPR  
Class**

PERTH AMBOY- Raritan Bay Medical Center, a member of the Hackensack Meridian Health family, is providing an American Heart Association Healthcare Provider CPR class Wednesday, April 5, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ. Participants will receive certification in CPR for adults, infants and children and learn about ventilation devices, automated external defibrillators and how to clear an obstructed airway in responsive and unresponsive patients. Cost is \$80 per person. Make checks payable to Raritan Bay Medical Center. Registration required, call 1 - 8 0 0 - D O C T O R S (1.800.362.8677).

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Activities From Ages 2 to 92

I was quite puzzled and so was Councilman Joel Pabon (whom I knew would be) when a resident came to a Council Meeting to talk about the lack of activities for Senior Citizens.

Fortunately, Perth Amboy has a ton of activities for ages 2 to 92. As a matter of fact, if I had a child, I would probably be exhausted taking them to all the activities that the City offers, many of whom are free for a nominal fee.

Some people and some Council Members have complained about the maintenance cost associated with the YMCA.

According to YMCA CEO and President Steve Jobin, the Y provides free memberships for 7<sup>th</sup> Graders, free swimming lessons for 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders, discounted memberships for all Perth Amboy Residents. Free Teen night for high school students. This is in conjunction with the Office of Recreation and is open to any high school student in the City - public or private. For Seniors, there is Silver Sneakers Program which is an insurance based health and wellness program. There are also programs for people that have physical disabilities or limitations. This year there will be \$75,000 worth of scholarships for people who can't afford memberships and go through the Y-Cares Program. All city employees have a significantly reduced Y membership and a free membership for police.

There are a ton of other programs associated with the Y and we suggest you go to their website or drop by to see which ones are of interest to you or your family.

The Department of Recreation under the guidance of Ken Ortiz not only does a wonderful job keeping our youth occupied with various activities, but they also run various trips in the summertime which is open to all age groups. We particularly looking forward their trips to the Bronx Zoo.

As an aside, when we pick up flyers from other towns, they made have trips listed to the theater or baseball games which cost from \$50 and up per person and once pay your money, it is nonrefundable.

On the other hand, I have seen on Perth Amboy Council Agen-

das where people have been refunded for trips they couldn't go to.

We also have the Boys and Girls Club which services the youth.

Deputy Director of Human Services, Office of Aging, Lisette Martinez was invited by the Council to talk about the services her office provides. They are too numerous to list here and we suggest you contact them in person. The Senior Services start at the age of 60+. Why they call it Senior Services is beyond me because some of those activities that those Seniors do could exhaust some people of younger age.

Last year at a Council Meeting, Dianne Roman of the same department was there along with a representative from the Bergen PAC (Performing Arts Center) who was there to talk about free tickets for performances for the Perth Amboy Seniors. There are so many organizations intertwined that provide services for all age groups and a lot of these agencies work together.

We suggest you also contact the JRF and PRAHD for services for all ages and income brackets.

The Gallery on the corner of Reade and Fayette Streets is an outlet for artists to exhibit their works plus classes are offered for the public.

RBMC offers many health and wellness programs either free or at a minimal fee.

There are organizations hold health fairs throughout the year with local businesses participating.

Everyone looks forward to Family Day, car shows and the many festivals held throughout the City.

There are a ton of musical performances at the Waterfront through various organizations in the late spring to early fall. The City prints a 4 page newsletter periodically to showcase seasonal events throughout the City. Besides being printed in our publication, the newsletter is available on the City Website, posted throughout the City on bulletin boards, in City Hall and sometimes on business windows and billboards.

It's up to you to take advantage of the many programs offered or sit at home. *C.M. & K.M.*

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Can Consolidation Cure High Property Taxes?

There is an old saying “if it sounds too good to be true, it isn’t”. That’s because the proposal does not list its disadvantages, and most policies have trade-offs. The claim that consolidation of municipalities would result in “lower property taxes and improved services” sounds false, like a character in the novel “It Can’t Happen Here”. Consolidation can only work if one city has an excess capacity of some

quality and the other city is lacking in this quality. Or there must be a downsizing to reduce costs, and this can be done without consolidation.

The 565 municipalities for 21 counties and 8 million people was not a problem with the 1844 state constitution. The high property taxes in NJ are the result of two facts: the high population density, and, the lack of democracy. In other places the bigger the city the higher its property taxes. In 1968 the state of New York raised its sales tax from 4% to 6% but split it equally between the state and each county. Why can’t NJ allow each municipality to get the first 1% of the

sales tax and the first 1% of the income tax?

One person’s vote in a city of 30,000 has more effect than a vote in a city of 300,000. The working definition of democracy is “local control”. The reason a township could split into multiple municipalities is to allow each city to set its own priorities.

Has anyone calculated the advantages of consolidation with Pennsylvania to eliminate the high costs of NJ state government? Would that result in “lower property taxes and improved services”?

Ronald A. Sobieraj

Cancer Control Intervention, Prevention and Early Detection

A grant from Amerigroup Foundation to the American Cancer Society’s CHANGE Grant program has had a positive impact on underserved communities in Perth Amboy. Through this grant funding opportunity, ACS partnered with Jewish Renaissance Medical Center to address the unequal burden of breast cancer among by providing education on the importance of early detection and screening among Latino and African American women.

Since 2011, the American Cancer Society has awarded 524 CHANGE (Community Health Advocates implementing Nationwide Grants for Empowerment and Equity) grants equaling \$23.7 million to community health system partners to reach communities experiencing a higher burden of cancer by providing outreach, education, screening navigation and access to no- or low-cost cancer screening exams. Through the grant-funded work, grant recipients have

collectively provided more than 2.4 million outreach and education interventions, and contributed to more than 795,000 breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screenings provided at low or no cost.

New Jersey has one of the highest cancer rates in the country, with breast cancer being one of the main culprits. The focus of the grant was to educate, screen, and, if needed, navigate patients to mammogram appointments and breast surgical consultations. This work would not have been possible without the generosity of Amerigroup Foundation.

One success story resulting from the partnership is that of a 55-year-old African American woman, initially seen in 2014 for a new gynecological visit. The clinic referred her for a mammogram, but the patient didn’t get screened. She returned in February 2015 and once again, a mammogram was ordered. This time, she got one and it came back abnormal. The patient said she had no intention of following up due to fear. The patient navigator continued to educate the patient and worked through this barrier. The patient is now

undergoing treatment and her most recent biopsy has not detected cancer cells. If the patient navigator had not followed up with the woman and convinced her of the importance of follow up and treatment, this story could have had a very different outcome.

The American Cancer Society is committed to addressing the unequal burden of cancer by reaching individuals in underserved communities in collaboration with community partners like Amerigroup Foundation. Together, we strive to promote health equity and ensure equal access to cancer education and screenings for all individuals.

Thanks to the generous funding of the Amerigroup Foundation, we, along with Jewish Renaissance Medical Center, were able to address the unequal burden of cancer by reaching individuals in underserved communities.

Dr. Durado Brooks, Managing Director, Cancer Control Intervention, Prevention and Early Detection for the American Cancer Society

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

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| SUNNYSIDE RESTAURANT .....              | 111 MAIN ST.           |
| <b>IN SEWAREN:</b>                      |                        |
| PUBLIC LIBRARY .....                    | 546 WEST AVE.          |
| SEWAREN CORNER DELI .....               | 514 WEST AVE.          |
| <b>IN SOUTH AMBOY:</b>                  |                        |
| 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        |
| <b>IN WOODBRIDGE:</b>                   |                        |
| 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.   |

Deadline for Print Ads:  
7 p.m. Thursday  
Office Hours:  
Mon. - Wed. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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

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

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](http://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](mailto:info@proprietaryhouse.org). Follow us on our website, [www.theproprietaryhouse.org](http://www.theproprietaryhouse.org) and or Facebook.

Community Calendar

|                    |                                                             |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Perth Amboy</b> |                                                             |
| WED. Apr. 5        | Special Budget Hearing, 4:30 p.m.<br>City Hall, High St.    |
| THURS. Apr. 6      | UEZ, 12 Noon<br>City Hall, High St.                         |
| •                  | Board of Education, 5:30 p.m.<br>PAHS, Eagle Ave.           |
| MON. Apr. 10       | City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m.<br>City Hall, High St.      |
| TUES. Apr. 11      | BID, 4 p.m.<br>City Hall, High St.                          |
| •                  | Library Board of Trustees, 5 p.m.<br>Library, Jefferson St. |
| WED. Apr. 12       | City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.<br>City Hall, High St.        |
| <b>South Amboy</b> |                                                             |
| WED. Apr. 5        | City Council, Business, 6 p.m.<br>City Hall, North Broadway |
| WED. Apr. 19       | City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.<br>City Hall, N. Broadway     |

Attend Public Meetings  
Have Your Voice Heard!

**GEORGE J. OTLOWSKI, JR.**  
**ATTORNEY AT LAW**

*Happy Easter!*

708 Carson Ave.  
PERTH AMBOY NEW JERSEY 08861  
TEL: 732-826-5555 · FAX: 732-826-4653

Perth Amboy High School  
HALL of FAME 2017

PERTH AMBOY - The Perth Amboy High School Hall of Fame honors outstanding graduates from Perth Amboy High School who have excelled in community achievement and service. The honorees serve as an inspiration to the students of Perth Amboy High School and act as an incentive for them to set goals necessary for success.

- Candidate Eligibility:**
1. Must be a graduate of Perth Amboy High School
  2. Must have distinguished themselves in their chosen fields
  3. Must have excelled in community service activities either in Perth Amboy or in their community of residence

If you know of someone who is deserving of this high honor, please contact: Karla Flores Garcia or Magda Hernandez at the high school: 732-376-6030 or [karlflores@paps.net](mailto:karlflores@paps.net) or [magdhernandez@paps.net](mailto:magdhernandez@paps.net)

Applications can be picked-up in the high school’s main office. All applications must be received by Monday, April 10th, 2017

Guitarist James Zamouzakis  
Performs at Dowdell Library

Press Release 3/27/17  
SOUTH AMBOY - On Wednesday, April 5, from 3-4:30 pm, music at Dowdell presents musician James Zamouzakis. This special performance and demonstration will feature James as he plays some hot tunes on the electric guitar. Afterwards, James will open the floor for questions and a demonstration on how to play the electric guitar. All ages welcome! To learn about other free programs, sign up for the library’s monthly eNewsletter at <http://dowdell.org/newslettersignup.html>  
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](http://www.dowdell.org), or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or [comments@dowdell.org](mailto:comments@dowdell.org).



# 2017 Perth Amboy State of The City Address

*\*Continued From Page 1*

our Waterfront and businesses destroyed or damaged.”

Corodemus then explained how Mayor Diaz saw that the Waterfront was rebuilt.

Corodemus cited Diaz’s honors and distinctions including being elected to the Perth Amboy Hall of Fame, the Latina Service Award and being featured as: “The Accidental Politician.”

“I understand what it is to be a woman in public service. We know famous and infamous male mayors. Diaz is the first woman mayor of Perth Amboy. She is the first woman elected Chair of the Urban Mayor Association.”

Corodemus ended her introduction with a quote from Pericles. “What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.”

With that, Mayor Wilda Diaz came up to the podium, “It’s good solid change and I’m happy to see it through. We are stronger, have quality of life, investors and progressing and going to get better. The Strategic Task Force – many of our ideas were brought to the table. They assisted in formulating a 4 year guide for the City’s future. Their work is a blueprint for success.”

Diaz continued, “When I first came into office, the City unemployment rate was 16%; now it is cut in half. As we continue redevelopment, I believe it (unemployment rate) is coming down – not promises – not dreams – but tangible results. The new owners of Ameristeel, North Wide Capital Partnership will remediate 92 acres of land. The company plans to restore two historic structures in a \$125 million Development. We are in Phase 1 of the E-Port Building on lower State Street. The work of Code Enforcement with Developers helped to benefit the community. The general public has an opportunity to work here.”

Diaz continued, “Perth Amboy was named one of the youngest cities in New Jersey. (age of average citizen is under 25) Jobs with a good living wage is the bedrock of our City. The workforce develops key upcoming employment opportunities. A multi-agency partnership of half million dollars in grant funds will provide 300 hours of education at no charge to the City.”

“Through the diligence of the City, we will be able to make a positive outcome. This upcoming May, there will be an expungement program. I believe everyone deserves a second chance. We’re beautifying vacant areas and refining a strategic economy. It’s the third year



(L to R) Congressman Frank Pallone, Mayor Wilda Diaz, Greg Diaz, Judge Marina Corodemus JSC, Business Administrator Adam Cruz, Councilman Jelmin Caba



The Audience listens to the State of the City

increase in ratable base and the fourth consecutive year we’ve introduced a budget with no tax increase. Perth Amboy made a great comeback. We’re taking the City to new heights. As an urban city, we are close-knit with a dense population in a small area and addressing demand for affordable housing. We’ve made additional investments with public housing at Willow Pond. We’re planning additional projects at 500 High Street.

“I have been advocating for ADA Compliance at the Train Station since 2008. \$50 million in improvements to our train station to ensure the safety for all our residents which will be done by early 2019.”

“We plan to enhance the shopping district. In 2015, 13 new small businesses opened up. The Parking Utility generated \$400,000 in a surplus. The UEZ continues to be a tool. Small business has been the backbone of the local community. It is the developer’s guide to reach a goal. Public access to the Waterfront is the key component to economic revival. Fireworks will be back Monday, 7/3/17. A special thank you to South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry and Barry Rosengarten.”

“We took a devastated Waterfront with \$10 million in damage and renovated it with the capability to resist another superstorm.”

“We’re planning to open up our beaches and our goal is to make them swimmable. Middlesex County will make the first county park in Perth Amboy. We plan to expand Rudyk Park for festivals.”

“We’ve taken a role in partnership with the YMCA, JRMC

and PRAHD – to improve health. In 2016, the schools gave over 60,000 lunches to kids every summer. The DPW was awarded for the education of their youth. They have an APP to aid in recycling. The emphasis on children of our City has been the central theme of my administration. I would like thank each Board of Education Member for putting the children first with the beginnings of building a new high school. The AUL Charter School is opening its doors to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders soon.”

“The Fire Department faced over 2000 incidents in the past year. Here, 13 additional firefighters were hired with 63 firefighters on staff. We have mutual respect for all members of our community. The success of our Police Department reflects diversity. The PAPD is working on accreditation and we want to meet Best Practices. There is a 6% decrease in crime.”

“Last March, we were first to launch a City ID Program. In my opinion, serving our constituents, we will remain vigilant. The CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds are not entitlements. People with disabilities, veterans, seniors, the Office on Aging meets many of these needs.”

Diaz mentioned the loss of two statesmen: Austin Gumbs and Peter Book. She thanked the whole community. “I am proud to live here in Perth Amboy. Let us all be proud to live in Perth Amboy.”

Pastor Orlando Sanchez, Pentecostal Church of God MI, Perth Amboy Police and Fire Chaplain Corps gave the Benediction.

## The Domino Effect



3/27/17 Press Conference

what he said about helping the low income. He wants to eliminate the CDBG funds, not just reduce them. It’s an insult on our communities and we are not going to stand for it. Local programs are needed to spur the economy and it’s important for our infrastructure. For every dollar of CDBG funds, it brings in \$4.00 of private funding. Communities in the State will be going from \$81.3 million in funds to zero. Job training, helping juvenile defendants, health care programs, infrastructure, rehabilitating dilapidated homes and Meals on Wheels which helps to keep people independent all rely on part of CDBG funds. We are all here collectively for the collective values of all of America. That’s what the national budget should be. We are here in Perth Amboy to dramatize how these cuts will affect all communities who depend on CDBG funds. I’m on the Senate Finance Budget Committee. Trump’s budget proposal of a \$54 billion increase in defense spending is not needed. We spend more on defense than the 7 biggest other countries combined: (China, Saudi Arabia, Russia, United Kingdom, India, France & Japan) with a budget of \$596 billion.”

The audience members then asked a few questions. Mayor Diaz responded to one of them. “The City received \$610,000 in CDBG funds and in 2014 the City was recognized (by the Housing and Development Department) for using these funds very wisely. Some After School programs use CDBG funds. Losing this funding could be the difference between someone getting an education to dropping out, or being employed to being unemployed, or from home ownership to homelessness. Financial Institution funds are needed to help those from going into foreclosure. It encourages non-profits to contribute to help those who need to get housing.”

The Mayor then invited Superintendent of Recreation Ken Ortiz to speak. Ortiz emphasized the needs of CDBG

funds. “It provides services for youth employment which trains them for needed skills and job readiness. Many older adults are taking jobs usually held by our youth. The funds have provided youth programs for over 20,000. First time home buyers are provided with money through CDBG funds along with rehab programs that provide safe housing. Other programs which have been partially funded include Concerts by the Bay, Senior services and some programs provided by PRAHD. Funding was used for tenant based home assistant programs. The Jewish Renaissance uses some of the CDBG funds to assist in providing low rental units. \$450,000 of CDBG funds was used in improving our Tennis Courts, building a community garden and on this building. We are a City that has a lot of young families with many children. Because of this, recreation and after school programs are very important. A lot of these young families don’t have the extra income for this. When you work one-on-one with our youth, you know how much you are impacting them. If the CDBG funds are eliminated over 150 youth will be eliminated from the after school programs at the YMCA (according to YMCA President and CEO Steve Jobin). We are organizing with the US Conference of Mayors. I think the President would be more open after the defeat of the healthcare program.”

Mayor Diaz made closing statements. “We would have to eliminate programs which will affect our most vulnerable. CDBG funds are not handouts. I’m hoping the President will learn his lesson.”

After Diaz spoke, Senator Menendez spoke again and said that many cities are facing the same problems (as Perth Amboy). “Cutting services will have an economic effect. Ratables will go down. Private sectors need to raise their voices to say that budget cuts don’t make sense. It will hurt small businesses who need the funding and capital provided by these CDBG funds.”



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Certified Public Accountant

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Correction

PERTH AMBOY - In an article you reported that I represent National Alliance for Black School Educators. What I actually stated is that I represent the "New Jersey Association of Black Educators (NJABE)."

Mel Knight

Perth Amboy Artworks Hosts  
Paint and Sip Event

Press Release

PERTH AMBOY - On Thursday April 6, 2017 from 7-10pm Perth Amboy Artworks will host its first Paint and Sip, where you can enjoy an evening painting nautical sunset scenes (Paint and Sip nautical sunset image by lead artist Rachel Wintemberg). A \$35 ticket includes soda, delicious appetizers and desserts, a canvas, paint supplies & art instruction. You can bring your own (BYO) favorite drink to sip. Artist Rachel Wintemberg will be leading the Paint and Sip. Rachel has taught art in the Perth Amboy School District for 28 years. She is 2017 Shull School's Teacher of the Year. Rachel holds a BFA from Pratt Institute and an MA in studio art from Montclair State University. She has taught art and exhibited extensively throughout the New York Metro-



\*Paint and Sip nautical sunset image by lead artist Rachel Wintemberg

politan area and has also published many articles on the subject of art education. You must be 21 or over to attend and seating is limited so please reserve your spot in advance. Please purchase tickets for the Paint and Sip online at [www.perthamboy-artworks.org](http://www.perthamboy-artworks.org). The Perth Amboy Artworks Paint and Sip event location is at 289 High St in Perth Amboy. All proceeds will benefit Perth Amboy Artworks 2017 projects including a new mural downtown, live music at the Ferry Slip and a seasonal art bazaar. Perth Amboy Artworks is dedicated to revitalizing Perth Amboy through the Arts! Come out and enjoy a great evening getting creative.

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# Amboy Bank to Open New Branch in Matawan’s Cheesequake Area

News Release  
MATAWAN - On Monday, April 3, 2017, Amboy Bank will be opening its new Cheesequake Branch located at 95 Matawan Road in Matawan. As a result of the new branch opening, Amboy Bank will be closing its Laurence Harbor branch located at Laurence Parkway and Shoreland Circle on Friday, March 31, 2017.

The new Cheesequake Branch will have a grand opening celebration on Saturday, April 8th from 9am to 1:30pm.

According to Gregory Scharpf, Senior Vice President and Chief Retail Officer, the celebration will include free coffee and pastries from 9am to 11am, and free hot dogs, soda, ice cream and popcorn from 11am to 1:30pm. There will be free face painting for kids of all ages. In addition, the first 100 adult visitors will be given a free dollar coin... who said banks don’t give away free samples?

One of the highlights of the celebration at Amboy Bank is the “Instant Rewards Game.” Each of the first 300 adult visitors will be able to pick a disk from the game board. All disks are winners of either a cash prize from \$1 to \$500 or a local store gift certificate. The new branch will also have a month long sweepstakes to win a 55” smart television, Beats Solo3 Wireless headphones or an Amazon Echo & Dot. Entry blanks are available at the branch.

“After 52 years in Laurence Harbor, we are pleased to be moving to a modern new branch and bring our innovative products and quality service to the people in the Matawan area,” said Scharpf. “As part of our month-long promotion, we’re offering Bonus Rate CDs, a new Direct Checking product and our Advantage Banking package of enhanced products, preferred rates and complimentary services.”

Founded in 1888, Amboy Bank, a full-service commercial bank with 22 offices in central New Jersey, prides itself on quality service and responsiveness. They have been voted “Best Bank in Central Jersey” for the past 19 years in a row.

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that the City of Perth Amboy has filed an application with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Green Acres Program, proposing to divert approximately 0.08 acres of lands known as part of Block 228.05, Lot 3; Block 228.06, Lot 3.01, and Block 228.04, Lot 3.02, Perth Amboy, Middlesex County, located beneath the City’s bicycle and pedestrian trail located between Pulaski Avenue and Hall Avenue owned by the City for the installation and operation of an underground 16-inch petroleum pipeline by Buckeye Perth Terminal, LLC. As compensation for the proposed diversion, Buckeye Perth Terminal, LLC will restore and enhance the park, which will reopen after installation of the pipeline, and provide financial compensation to the City of Perth Amboy in the amount of \$855,000 for use by the City for the purchase of property adjacent to Rudyk Park for park and/or recreation use.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:36-26.11(e) a public hearing to obtain public comment on this proposed conveyance will be held at the Portuguese Sports Club, 782 State Street, Perth Amboy, New Jersey, on May 3, 2017 at 7 p.m.

All information submitted by the City and Buckeye Partners L.P. to the Green Acres Program in support of this requested diversion of parkland is available for public inspection at the office of the City’s Business Administrator, 260 High Street, Perth Amboy, the Perth Amboy Free Public Library, 196 Jefferson Street, Perth Amboy, and the NJDEP Green Acres Program office, 501 East State Street, Trenton, New Jersey.

Written comments on the proposed diversion may be directed to Mr. Adam Cruz, Business Administrator, 260 High Street, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861. Please submit a copy of any comments submitted to the NJDEP, Green Acres Program, Bureau of Legal Services and Stewardship, Mail Code 501-01, 501 East State St., P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420. Public comment on this parkland transfer request will be accepted during the public hearing or in writing until May 17, 2017.  
4838-6022-8166, v. 1

## NOTICIA DE AUDIENCIA PUBLICA

PRESTE atención, la Ciudad de Perth Amboy ha presentado una aplicacion con el Departamento de Protección del medio ambiente del Estado de Nueva Jersey, Green Acres Program, proponiendo desviar aproximadamente 0.08 acres de terreno, conocida como parte de bloque 228.05, lote 3; bloque 228.06, lote 3.01 y bloque 228.04, lote 3.02, Perth Amboy, Condado de Middlesex, localizado debajo de la pista de pedestre y bicicleta localizado entre Pulaski Avenue y Hall Avenue, propiedad de la Ciudad para la instalación y operación de la tubería subterránea de 16 pulgadas por Buckeye Perth Terminal, LLC. Como compensación por la desviación propuesta, Buckeye Perth Terminal, LLC restaurará y mejorará el parque, que volverá abrir después de la instalación de tubería, y adicionalmente, proporcionará compensación financiería a la Ciudad de Perth Amboy en la cantidad de \$855,000 para la compra de la propiedad próximo a la Rudyk Park para uso de la Ciudad para parque y recreación.

Conforme a N.J.A.C. 7:36-26.11(e)), una Audiencia Pública con la intención de obtener comentario público sobre esta propuesta explicación de propiedad, se llevará a cabo en Portuguese Sports Club, 782 State Street, Perth Amboy, New Jersey el 3 de Mayo, 2017 a las 7:00 pm.

Toda información sumitada a Green Acres Program por la Ciudad y Buckeye Partners L.P en soporte de la diversion requierda acerca de el pasaije modelado, estará disponible para inspección al publico en la oficina de City’s Business Administrator, 260 High Street, Perth Amboy; Perth Amboy Free Public Library, 196 Jefferson Street, Perth Amboy; y NJDEP Green Acres Program office, 501 East State Street, Trenton, New Jersey.

Comentarios escritos acerca de la solicitud propuesta pueden ser dirigidos a: Adam Cruz, Business Administrator, 260 High Street, Perth Amboy, New Jersey, 08861. Por favor, sometan una copia de cualquier comentario escrito a: NJDEP, Green Acres Program, Bureau of Legal Services and Stewardship, Mail Code: 501-01, 501 East State Street, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420. Comentario publico sobre esta solicitud de transferencia será aceptada durante la audiencia publica o, en escrito hasta el 17 de Mayo, 2017.  
4834-8306-8230, v. 1

## A Gospel Extravaganza

PERTH AMBOY - Perth Amboy Local Branch NAACP Presents: “A Gospel Concert,” on Saturday, May 20, 2017 at 12:00 Noon at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave, Perth Amboy. Admission: \$20 (Under the Age of 12 Free). For Additional Information, Contact Janice Clark: 732-277-1051

Ads Sell!  
Call Carolyn  
732-896-4446

## Celebrate National Library Week @ Dowdell Library

*Soup Contest, El Dia de los Ninos (Children’s Day/Book Day) and Celebrity Storytime*

Press Release 3/27/17

SOUTH AMBOY - Celebrate National Library Week in April with these fun events! On Tuesday, April 4, the Dowdell Library will be holding a soup contest! Homemade soup entries may be dropped off between 10 am – 5:30 pm. At 6 pm, soups will be judged and prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for kids, teens and adults. From 6:30-8 pm, drop in and sample all the submitted entries. Attendees may win one of many door prizes!

On Wednesday, April 12 from

3-4:30 pm, join us for fun stories and activities as we celebrate El Dia de los Ninos (Children’s Day/Book Day). This day emphasizes the importance of literacy for Spanish speaking children, recognizes diverse cultures, heritage and language while strengthening families and communities.

Don’t miss the Celebrity Storytime on Wednesday, April 19 from 3-4:30 pm. Hear stories, and enjoy a delicious snack with Council President, Mickey Gross. Who knows, maybe his favorite story is yours as

well!

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

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](http://www.dowdell.org), or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or [comments@dowdell.org](mailto:comments@dowdell.org).



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## Perth Amboy BID Announces Independence Day Celebration and Full Calendar of Programs and Special Events During 2017

### New Jersey’s Premier Fireworks Display Is the Centerpiece of The City By The Bay’s Business, Cultural and Community Events

Press Release 3/24/17  
PERTH AMBOY – Spectacular sights and sounds will fill the evening sky over Perth Amboy’s waterfront as the “City by the Bay” is going to present New Jersey’s most extraordinary fireworks display during its 2017 Independence Day celebration. The fireworks display is one of the many special events, cultural activities and programs for business that Perth Amboy Business Improvement District (BID) is presenting this year.

Perth Amboy and South Amboy are jointly staging the fireworks, which are renowned for their size, scope and sound, on Monday, July 3rd. The theme is “Americana,” and the event includes a slate of pre-show family activities, as well as a magnificent musical program that is simulcast by WMAQ-FM during the fireworks.

The fireworks extravaganza and preliminary events are free and open to the community and their guests. Visitors are invited and there is room for all. The program’s expenses are paid with funds raised from generous individual contributions and sponsorships from corporations, and small businesses as well as nonprofits. Companies and individual can make a donation to the fireworks at Celebrate Our Stars & Stripes, which raises funds, plans and helps present the event. Celebrate Our Stars & Stripes, which is a local nonprofit, joins with the Perth Amboy BID to organize many parts of the fireworks spectacular. For example, the two groups bring together the key municipal, civic



\*Photo Submitted

and volunteer resources in Perth Amboy and South Amboy that make the huge activity run smoothly.

One of the most ardent supporters of the fireworks display is Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz. The Mayor said, “We all look forward to celebrating the nation’s birthday and our country’s heritage as the land of liberty that welcomes all people. Our Independence Day fireworks brings families and friends together, and we attract thousands of visitors to our beautiful waterfront. Here is a super opportunity for our City to host the many guests, who

come to dine, shop, explore and see the fireworks!”

The Independence Day event is the centerpiece of a year filled with exciting business programs and community activities as well as special events that are organized by the BID. Many groups and individuals volunteer their time to help the BID make these programs and events a worthwhile. Generous support is provided by Perth Amboy’s municipal departments and local schools and such key groups as PARTNER, Horizon, Jewish Renaissance Foundation and NJSHCC.

## United Messengers of Peace to Host Walk in Support of Lung Cancer Awareness

Press Release  
PERTH AMBOY – Nonprofit organization and charity, United Messengers of Peace invites community members to sign up for their first Lung Cancer Awareness Walk on Saturday May 13, 2017 beginning at the Perth Amboy Train Station and ending at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church (183 Rector St). Participants can register online at UMoPLCA.eventbrite.com. Volunteers are needed for the event. Volunteer information will be provided upon request. The UMoP Lung Cancer Awareness Walk, supported by the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, Renovation House, Abundant Life Worship Center, Thrift World Outlet, and God’s Army

Ministries, will aim to bring awareness of lung cancer to the community. Registration for this event is free.

The walk starts at 11:00 AM, with participant and sponsor registration running from 9 AM-10:15AM. Open registration will also occur during this time frame. This will occur at the Train Station.

“This is our first season hosting this walk and every year we notice how the need for lung cancer awareness rises,” said Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe, Founder and President. “With the help of our supporters and community members, we anticipate the spread of lung cancer awareness will increase tremendously this year.”

Following the event, participants are invited to refreshments and information provided by various community businesses and organizations! For more information or to register online, please visit [UMoPLCA.eventbrite.com](http://UMoPLCA.eventbrite.com) or [unitedmessengers08.wix.com/umop/lca-walk-registration](http://unitedmessengers08.wix.com/umop/lca-walk-registration). A Quick Note: United Messengers of Peace is a registered nonprofit organization and NJ charity. Donations for the event will be accepted at any time and are tax-deductible.

Media Contact:  
Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe  
[unitedmessengers08861@gmail.com](mailto:unitedmessengers08861@gmail.com)



## Thomas Mundy Peterson Tree Planting

\*Photo by Matthew Telliho



### Press Release

PERTH AMBOY - On the 147th Anniversary of the historic votes by Thomas Mundy Peterson & Marcus Curless, the community of Perth Amboy came together to celebrate. At an event sponsored by the 1683 Society and the City Of Perth Amboy, the 1st and 2nd African American voters under the 15th Amendment were honored. A tree was planted at City Hall Circle & a cast bronze plaque will be installed.

"This was a great event!" stated 1683 Society Trustee John Kerry Dyke. "It is always wonderful to bring our great community together and our young students made this all a very special ceremony." Students from the Academy for Urban Leadership Charter School and from the McGinnis/Thomas Mundy Peterson schools attended & participated.

St.James AME Zion Church Pastor Amos Dickerson & the Second Baptist Cathedral Rev. Carol Dortch-Wright led the packed Council Chambers in remembering the struggles of those that came before us. Local NAACP VP Keneshia Pryce inspired the audience with her own personal story. Dorothy Daniel read a poem by Maya Angelou and a verse by Frederick Douglass. 1683 Society President Norman Vazquez introduced the event & Mayor Wilda Diaz welcomed the crowds.

Students from the Academy Charter School along with the McGinnis School students ended the program by singing "The Battle of the Republic".

The 1683 Society is a Perth Amboy nonprofit organization working to improve the quality of life.

*Go to [www.amboyguardian.com](http://www.amboyguardian.com)  
for the Latest Breaking News*

## Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation Hosts 33rd Annual Harbor Lights Ball

*Honoring Gregorio Guillen, M.D., with the Excellence in Medicine Award;*

*The Liberty Group with the Business of the Year Award, Ali Rada with the Executive of the Year Award, and Joan Harewood, DNP, R.N., NEA-BC, with the Distinguished Service Award*

### Press Release 3/29/17

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation's premier fundraising event the 33rd Annual Harbor Lights Ball will be held Friday, May 12, 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge, N.J. The Harbor Lights Ball is now the signature fundraising event for Raritan Bay Medical Center with the Foundation's decision to focus exclusively on the ball after discontinuing the annual Art Show and Golf Classic fundraisers in 2016. The ball is chaired by Jessica and George Smith, M.D., and honors members of the community who have been valued partners of the hospital. Proceeds from the ball will be used to support the hospital's new Center for Robotic Surgery at Raritan Bay in Old Bridge. The medical center is committed to providing the community with exceptional surgical services, utilizing advanced surgical equipment and care from Magnet recognized nurses and expert surgeons.

"We remain focused on providing our community with the best possible care. The addition of the new Center for

Robotic Surgery and minimally invasive robotic-assisted surgical system enables our surgeons to provide patients with advanced treatment options, close to home," said Michael R. D'Agnes, FACHE, president of Raritan Bay Medical Center. "The Harbor Lights Ball and continued philanthropic support makes it possible for us to add new technology and launch new programs to fulfill our mission of delivering exceptional health care."

Four awards will be presented during the evening. Honorees were selected based on their dedication and philanthropic commitment to Raritan Bay and the surrounding community. Honorees include:

•**Excellence in Medicine Award:** Gregorio Guillen, M.D. Dr. Guillen's practice has faithfully served the Perth Amboy community for many years. As President of the Medical Staff at Raritan Bay Medical Center Dr. Guillen has worked steadfastly to improve the quality of care delivered to patients.

•**Business of the Year Award:** The Liberty Group. Opened for business in 1920 as Liberty

Transportation & Storage. Since then, they have grown from a small moving business with one truck and a passion to serve their clients, to a global moving, maintenance, and shredding company. Today, their clients benefit from the stability of a third generation, family owned and operated business that has adapted and grown to serve their clients.

•**Executive of the Year Award:** Ali Rada. Cuban born Ali Rada came to Perth Amboy as a little boy with his parents in 1970. After graduation from high school he started running Ali's Liquor Store and Tavern on Smith Street in 1981. He expanded his portfolio in the late 80's by opening his first check cashing business. In the early 90's he purchased investment properties and gained experience in management and rehabilitation, which led to the construction of two new buildings in a redevelopment area in 2000. Today he continues investing, developing, and operating multiple real estate properties in the Perth Amboy and Woodbridge area. He resides, with his wife and three children, in Holmdel, NJ.

•**Distinguished Service Award:** Joan Harewood, DNP, R.N., NEA-BC. Joan is a champion of nursing, leading with integrity, professionalism and fairness. Before retiring at the end of 2016, Joan served as Senior Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer at Raritan Bay Medical Center. Joan successfully led Raritan Bay to a third Magnet re-designation, recognizing nursing excellence, in 2014.

The Ball will feature a cocktail hour, followed by dinner and dancing, a silent auction and a 50/50 cash raffle. There are many opportunities for individuals, organizations and corporations to sponsor the event and place ads in the program. For more information on how to support the Harbor Lights Ball, or to receive a formal invitation, contact Executive Director of Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation Linda Hill, PharmD, at 732.324.5374 or email [linda.hill@hackensackmeridian.org](mailto:linda.hill@hackensackmeridian.org). Online registration is also available at [www.MeridianHealth.com/RBMCBall](http://www.MeridianHealth.com/RBMCBall).

## Our Lady of Martyrs

PERTH AMBOY – St. John Paul II Parish Celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Martyrs. Our Lady of the Rosary Fatima Church, 188 Wayne St., Perth Amboy.

**Saturday, April 22, 2017:**

**12 Noon:** Commencement of Feast with food, beverage, and musical presentations.

**7 p.m.:** Musical presentation of "NRG Band" of South River, NJ for dancing

**8 p.m.:** Presentation of Folklore group "Barcuense" of Newark

**10 p.m.:** Continuation of the Dance

**12 a.m.:** End of the Feast celebration outdoors. Continuation of feast celebration in church hall until 1 a.m.

**Sunday, April 23, 2017**

**11 a.m.:** Mass

**12 Noon:** Procession accompanied by "Filarmonic Band" of Our Lady of Fatima Church of Newark. Feast commencement immediately following with food and beverages.

**4 p.m.:** Musical Presentation of the group "Duo Rotaco" of Newark

**5 p.m.:** Presentation of Folklore group "Raizes de Portugal" of South River

**8 p.m.:** Ceremony of Passing of the Feast Banner of 2018

**8:30 p.m.:** Continuation of the Dance until 10 p.m.

The Perth Amboy Community invites everyone to attend this Grand Celebration. Don't miss the homemade traditional desserts, traditional Portuguese foods, games, raffle, etc. Banquet tent protects the festival site to guarantee better climate conditions for the festivities.

Hope to see you there! Bring a Friend! Thank you for your patronage!



## 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: Saturdays April 8 and 22. 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](mailto:friendsofperthamboylibrary@gmail.com) Book Dealers are welcome. !!!!

*Send Your Events to: [AmboyGuardian@gmail.com](mailto:AmboyGuardian@gmail.com)*



***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.*

The Japanese begin an all-out assault on American and Filipino forces on Bataan on April 3, 1942. In Burma, the Japanese conduct sustained aerial attacks with incendiary bombs on Burma's capital, Mandalay; the resulting firestorm kills over 2,000 civilians. As part of "Operation C," a Japanese fleet accompanying five aircraft carriers heads for the island of Ceylon off the southeast coast of India.

On April 4, ships from the British naval force protecting the Indian Ocean — five battleships and three aircraft carriers — sail from Ceylon to intercept the Japanese "Operation C" force heading their way. The fleets never find each other. The Luftwaffe launches a strong raid against Kronstadt Harbor in Russia, 19 miles west of Leningrad, with the objective of destroying the Soviet fleet there. Seventy German bombers, along with 62 Stuka dive-bombers and 50 Messerschmitt Bf-109 fighters attack and damage 13 Soviet warships. However, the facility is fiercely defended by anti-aircraft guns and none of the Soviet vessels are sunk. The British cargo ship *Empire Arnold*, part of a convoy sailing from New York to Alexandria, Egypt, via Cape Town and the Suez Canal, is sunk off French Guiana by German sub U-155. Among her 10,000 tons of cargo are airplanes and tanks for the British Eighth Army in North Africa.

On Bataan, in the Philippines, the Japanese capture Mt. Samat, a key point in the Allied defense line, on April 5. Carrier-launched airplanes of the Imperial Japanese Navy attack Colombo, Ceylon, sinking the British Royal Navy cruisers *HMS Cornwall* and *HMS Dorsetshire* southwest of the island. The destroyer *HMS Tenedos* is also sunk. In Germany, Hitler issues "Führer Directive 41," which outlines his plans for a summer offensive in Russia, code-named "Case Blue." The primary goal is to capture the oil fields in the Caucasus; the secondary goal is to capture Stalingrad. In the Pacific, the Japanese complete their invasion of Buka and Bougainville islands.

On April 6, Japanese naval vessels put several hundred troops of the 8th Special Base Force ashore at Manus Island in the Bismarck Archipelago. The Australian defenders withdraw into the jungle. The Indian naval sloop *HMIS Indus* is bombed by Japanese Mitsubishi G3M bombers off Akyab, Burma. The vessel suffers three direct hits and sinks in 35 minutes. Ten sailors are injured, but no lives are lost.

In Bombay, the Indian National Congress's Working Committee on April 7 rejects British government envoy Stafford Cripps's proposal for post-war independence for India in return for loyalty during the war. Instead, the Committee's leadership demands immediate self-government in return for continued war support. Mohandas Gandhi says that Cripps's proposal of Dominion status after the war is a "post-dated cheque drawn on a crashing bank." The Luftwaffe bombs the Maltese capital of Valletta, causing much damage. The city's architecturally renowned opera house takes a direct hit and is reduced to rubble. In Lübeck, Germany, Lutheran pastor Karl Friedrich Stellbrink is arrested for criticizing Nazi rule. Within two and a half months, three Catholic priests — Johannes Prassek, Eduard Müller and Hermann Lange — are also rounded up on the same charges. Tried in June 1943, the "Lübeck Martyrs," as the four come to be known, are executed by beheading in November 1943.

Hamburg, Germany, on April 8 is bombed heavily by the RAF. The U.S. Navy's floating drydock, *USS Dewey*, at Mariveles, on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines, is scuttled to prevent its capture and use by the Japanese. In Canada, the government creates the Park Steamship Co. to build Canadian-flagged, steam-powered merchant vessels that are the equivalent of American Liberty ships. In the U.S., the War Production Board bans all non-essential construction to conserve building materials. It also restricts the use of wool, rayon, cotton, and other materials in garments, and publishes maximum allowable lengths for jackets, coats, and skirts.

The Imperial Japanese Navy launches an air raid on Trincomalee, Ceylon, on April 9. The Allies lose three ships off the east coast of the island in the attack: the British aircraft carrier *HMS Hermes*, the British corvette *HMS Hollyhock*, and the Australian destroyer *HMAS Vampire*. In the Philippines, Bataan falls to the Japanese. The "Bataan Death March" begins as between 60,000 and 80,000 captive Filipino and American POWs in weakened physical condition are forced to march 97 miles north to Camp O'Donnell, a detention center that had been a Philippines Army post. As many as 650 Americans and between 5,000 and 18,000 Filipinos die before reaching their destination. With Bataan conquered, the final point of Allied resistance on Luzon becomes the island of Corregidor, in the middle of Manila Bay.

***South Amboy  
YMCA Easter  
Egg Hunt***

SOUTH AMBOY – Monday, April 8, 2017 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at 200 John T. O'Leary Blvd., South Amboy. Cost: Free to members, non-member \$5/child or \$10 for two or more children.

***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, Apr. 6, 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.

***Bus Trip  
Holy Rosary  
Seniors***

HOPELAWN - Holy Rosary Seniors sponsoring a bus trip to Mount Airy Casino on Tuesday, June 20 2017. Includes a 3:30 PM show "The Music of Mamma Mia," lunch buffet, \$10 slot play and bus. Cost is \$70 a person. Bus leaves Church parking lot at 10:00 am. For more details please call Ronnie 732-442-5252

***Raffle***

PERTH AMBOY - Saint John Paul II Parish Raffle, 490 State St., Perth Amboy NJ; Tickets \$20 Each.

1<sup>st</sup> Prize – 2017 Honda Civic  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Flat Screen TV 65" – Donated by Toshiba  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Laptop, 15" 8GB – Donated by Zevallos/Skrocki Home for Funerals  
4<sup>th</sup> Prize – Portable Electric Generator – Donated by United Poles Federal Credit Union  
5<sup>th</sup> Prize – Apple Watch – Donated by St. John Paul II Parish "Señor de los Milagros"  
6<sup>th</sup> Prize – Apple iPad, Air 2, 9.7 inch/16GB – Donated by Julio's Auto Repair  
7<sup>th</sup> Prize - \$300.00 Gift Card – Donated by Flynn & Sons Funeral Home  
8<sup>th</sup> Prize – Snow Removal – Donated by Petra Best Realty  
9<sup>th</sup> Prize – Canon Digital Camera EF-S 18-55MM f/3.5-5.6 IS, - Donated by Quisqueya Restaurant  
10<sup>th</sup> Prize – X Box One 500GB – Donated by K&K Project

TO BE DRAWN Saturday, June 17, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at Saint Stephen's School Auditorium.

No substitutions of the offered prizes may be made. No cash will be given in lieu of the prize. Must be 18 YRS. or older to participate. Winner need not be present. Winner is responsible for all federal and state tax. All proceeds will benefit Saint John Paul II Parish.

I.D. No. 387-1-39661;  
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**Pet of the Week**



Prince

***Have a Special Pet?***  
**E-mail 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.**

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

PERTH AMBOY – There is a Trip to the Golden Nugget Casino in Atlantic City. The next trip will be held on Wed. April 26, 2017. Cost \$30 pp.; \$25 back in slot play and a \$5 food coupon. Bus will depart from behind St. Stephens Church parking lot on Mechanic Street at 9:45 a.m. Call Bobbi to reserve a seat: 732-636-2867.

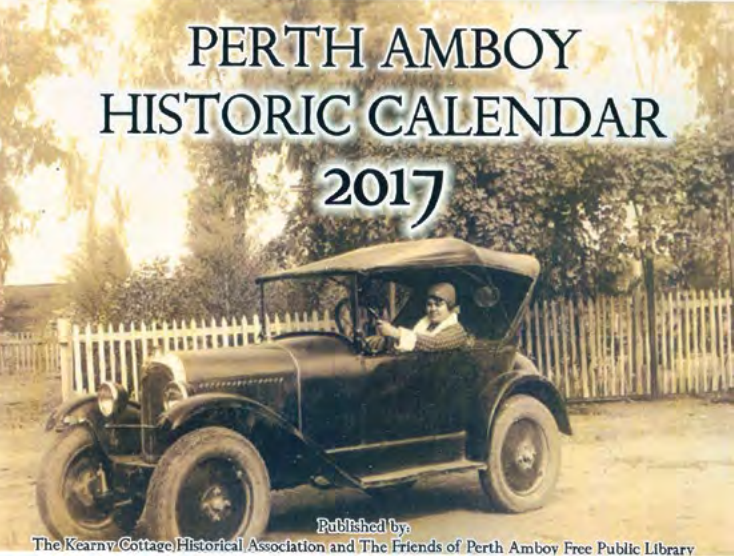
***Broadway  
Bound  
Community Theater***

PERTH AMBOY – Friday, April 28, 2017 & Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 30, 2017 at 2 p.m. at the Perth Amboy YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave.

***Angioscreen  
Event***

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center, a member of the Hackensack Meridian Health family is have an Angioscreen event Monday, April 3, 1:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ. Learn your risk of heart attack and stroke. Includes carotid artery ultrasound, heart rhythm, blood pressure and screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm and peripheral artery disease. Receive a color report of your findings, education materials and consultation with a registered nurse. The cost is \$49.95. Registration required, call 1-800-560-9990.

***2017 Historic Perth Amboy  
Calendars***



Published by:  
The Kearny/Cottage Historical Association and The Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library

**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 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 **G.T.A.**

Murder Mystery Show

EDISON - Our Lady of Peace Knights of Columbus Council 9199 will be hosting a Murder Mystery Night in the OLP Parish Center Gymnasium (No Stairs!) on Saturday, April 22, 2017. The Parish Center is located at 25 Franklin Ave, Edison, NJ 08837. This is a live and interactive comedy show with audience participation. The Knights will provide the food, beer, wine, beverages and dessert. Cost is \$40.00 per person and we have a limited number of seats, so reserve ASAP!! For tickets, call Kevin at (908) 217-0312 or e-mail kofc9199@optonline.net.

Ask the Rabbi

EDISON - Wednesdays, 12 noon -1 p.m. at the Food Court in Menlo Park Mall (between Chik-fil-A and Panera) Have a question? Have a seat! Bring your lunch and ask Rabbi Ari Saks of Congregation Beth Mordecai ANY question you'd like about Judaism, life, spirituality...anything! First person to come will get a FREE drink from the rabbi. For more information please contact Rabbi Saks at ari.saks@gmail.com

K of C "All You Can Eat" Lenten Linguini Dinners

FORDS - Our Lady of Peace Knights of Columbus Council #9199 of Fords is sponsoring their annual "All You Can Eat" Lenten Linguini Dinners every Friday in Lent, except Good Friday. Due to logistical issues, some minor changes had to be made. The dinners will now be served from 5:30 PM-7:30 PM in the cafeteria below the Church.

The menu includes Linguini, with a choice of Red(Marinara) or White clam sauce, salad, garlic bread, coffee and deserts. Bottled water, soda and iced tea are also available for \$1 each.

The cost is \$10 for adults, \$9 for Senior Citizens, \$5 for children under 12 and children under 5 are free. There is a special family price of \$20 (EAT IN ONLY). A family would consist of only 2 adults and any children under 12. No reservations necessary and take-out is available. For more information, call Tony at 732-233-4473.

Senior Scene Happenings

Perth Amboy

- TUES. Apr. 4 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. Apr. 5 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. Apr. 6 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
- MON. Apr. 10 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
- TUES. Apr. 11 Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.
- WED. Apr. 12 St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.
- Holy Trinity Seniors, 1 p.m., Church Hall, Lawrie & Johnstone St.
- THURS. Apr. 13 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.

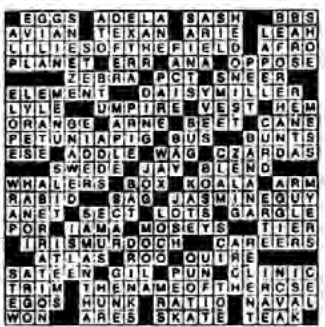
South Amboy

- MON. Apr. 3 St. Mary's Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
- WED. Apr. 5 South Amboy Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
- MON. Apr. 24 Sacred Heart Seniors, 12 Noon Memorial Hall, Wash 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

Remember to Say Your Novenas!

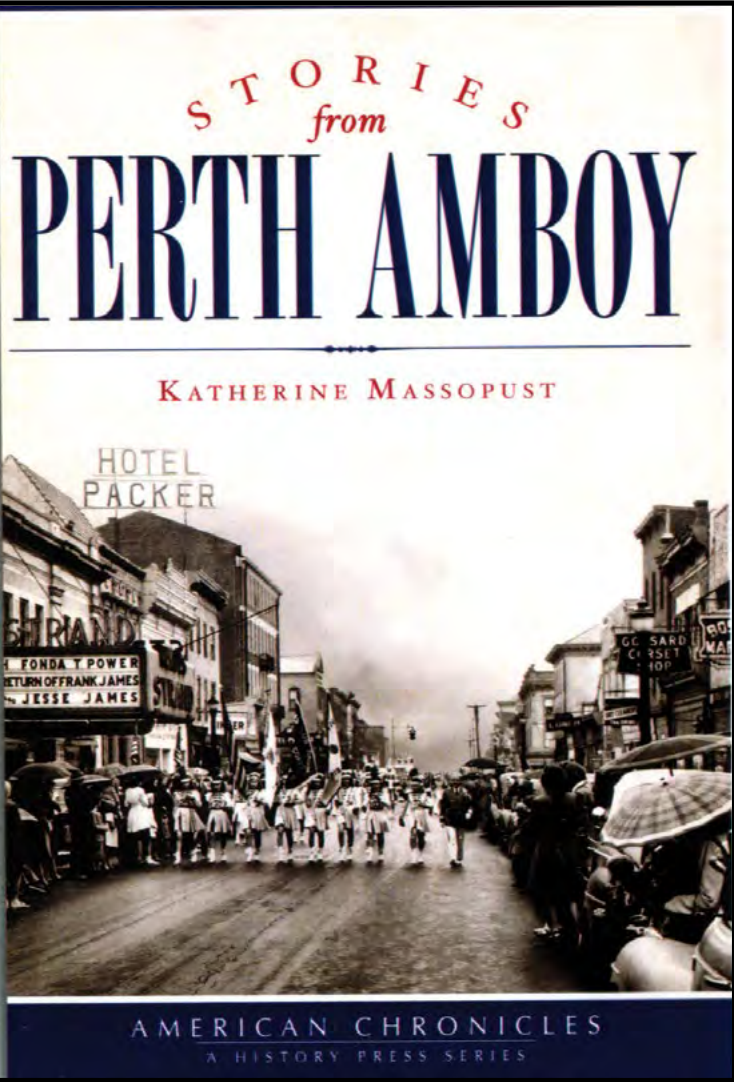
Answers From Puzzle On Page 15



LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - YMHA, Smith Street. Now the site of the Remington Hotel Circa 1920's  
\*Photo Courtesy of the Kearny Cottage Historical Association  
This Photo was restored under a grant for the Kearny Cottage Archiving project by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission



Stories From Perth Amboy  
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F.M.J.

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#### ACROSS

1 Future sharks  
5 Writer Rogers  
10 Beauty-pageant prop  
14 Small shot  
17 For the birds?  
18 Eisenhower or Perot  
19 Racer  
20 Rachel's sister  
21 Sidney Poitier film  
24 Natural hairdo  
25 Telescope sighting  
26 Be off base  
27 Santa —, Calif.  
28 Stand in the way  
30 Endangered African  
32 Pt. of the whole  
33 Villain's look  
34 Fire or water  
36 Henry James work  
41 Lovett or Waggoner  
42 Diamond authority?  
45 Part of a suit  
46 Part of a part of a suit  
48 Sherbet flavor

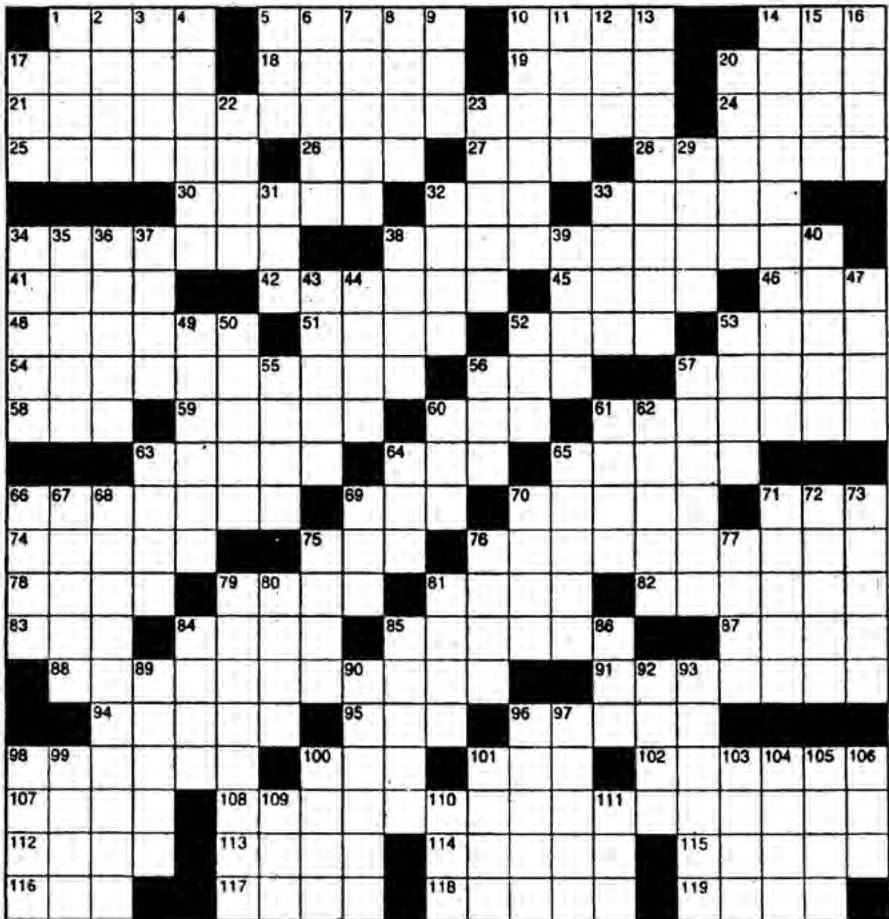
51 British composer  
52 Borscht  
53 "Bat Masterson" prop  
54 Warner Brothers sow  
56 Help a waiter  
57 Hints a grounder  
58 Nationality suffix  
59 Flattie one's cage  
60 Samoyed's smile?  
61 Hungarian dance  
63 Nobel, for one  
64 Actor North  
65 Mixture  
66 Hartford team  
69 Make money hand over fist?  
70 Adorable Australian  
71 It's up your sleeve  
74 Frenzied  
75 Slump  
76 "A Different World" star  
78 Without — (daringly)  
79 Splinter group  
81 Oodles  
82 Use mouth-

wash  
83 "— favor"  
84 "— Camera" ('55 film)  
85 Saunters  
87 Wedding-cake layer  
88 "The Sea, the Sea" author  
91 Long-lasting jobs?  
94 Book of maps  
95 Milne creature  
96 One-twentieth of a room  
98 Glossy cloth—  
100 Actor Gerard  
101 Groan  
102 Healing place  
107 In good shape  
108 Umberto Eco novel  
112 Corporate clashers  
113 Slab  
114 Proportion  
115 Of interest to Homblower  
116 Gained the prize  
117 Ormery Olympian  
118 Use Rollerblades  
119 Furniture wood  
DOWN  
1 Demonic  
2 Mexican "monster"

3 Put on the pounds  
4 Head wind?  
5 From — Z  
6 Put on hold  
7 Newsboy's cry  
8 Bolger/Haley costar  
9 Deauville donkey  
10 New Orleans eleven  
11 Neck of the woods  
12 "— vous plait"  
13 Party animal  
14 In advance  
15 Blocks the way  
16 Sole support?  
17 Mattemhorn, e.g.  
20 Boutonniere location  
22 British Uzi  
23 Prima — (at first sight, in law)  
29 Pound with pebbles  
31 A/C measure  
32 Skin  
33 "Peter Pan" pirate  
34 Rush to the judge  
35 Ancient instruments  
36 Gladden  
37 Vittle statis-

tics?  
38 Scratch the surface  
39 Monsieur Montand  
40 Oscar de la —  
43 Syrup source  
44 — -dieu (kneeler)  
47 Kid's room, usually  
49 Tackled a bone  
50 Duck down  
52 Be a pest  
53 Cottage cheese  
55 Computes  
56 Sound like a hound  
57 Bite for Bonzo  
60 Tussaud's medium  
61 Chowder ingredient  
62 Woody Allen film  
63 Skirt feature  
64 Run for one's life?  
65 Much too encouraging?  
66 Envelop  
67 Asian capital  
68 Eccentricity  
69 Hit a homer  
70 Jackson or Smith  
71 Certain marble  
72 School tool

73 Mike of "Wayne's World"  
75 Trauma aftermath  
76 Rib  
77 "Ziegfeld Follies" designer  
79 Actress Eggar  
80 Flightless birds  
81 Plumb crazy  
84 Presque —, Maine  
85 Dough  
86 Biol. or chem. show  
89 Stuff  
90 Makes a martini disappear  
92 Roguish  
93 Let up  
96 Share  
97 Incompetent  
98 Bouillabaisse or burgoo  
99 Mythical ship  
100 Wilder or Hackman  
101 Summit  
103 "Dies —"  
104 PBS science show  
105 Author Dinesen  
106 "Aladdin" frame  
109 "Ben- —"  
110 "— Doubtfire"  
111 Low digit?



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