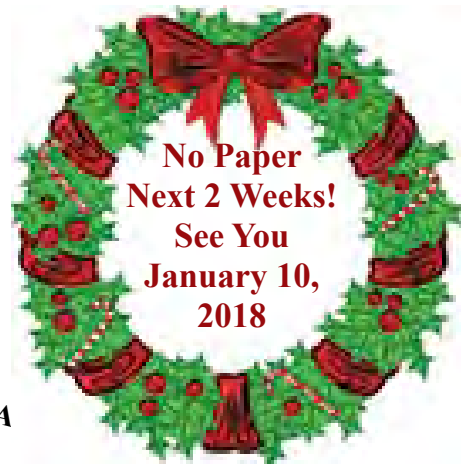


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New School Naming Committee

PERTH AMBOY – Want to be involved in naming the New Seaman Avenue Elementary School? Accepting applications and letters of interest. Go to paps.net for an application.



PERTH AMBOY - The Members of the Woman's Club of Perth Amboy donated gifts (shown above) which were distributed to patients at area nursing homes.
**Photo by Katherine Massopust*



Ask the Rabbi

PERTH AMBOY/EDISON - On December 20th, January 10th and January 24th, Rabbi Sara Metz of Congregation Beth Mordecai of Perth Amboy will be at Menlo Park Mall food court (near Panera) from noon to 1 p.m. She will speak on various topics of interest and answer any and all questions as it relates to Judaism. She will also discuss the topics of the day.



PERTH AMBOY - Some of the Guests posing in front of the Christmas Tree at the Annual Kearny Cottage Tea
**Photo by Paul W. Wang*

75th Anniversary of Troop 53, BSA

FORDS - Troop 53, BSA, Our Lady of Peace Church, Fords, NJ is Celebrating their 75th Anniversary on April 14th, 2018. All Troop alumni is asked to join us in celebrating 75 years of service and rededicate to the future. For more information contact troop53fordsnj@gmail.com



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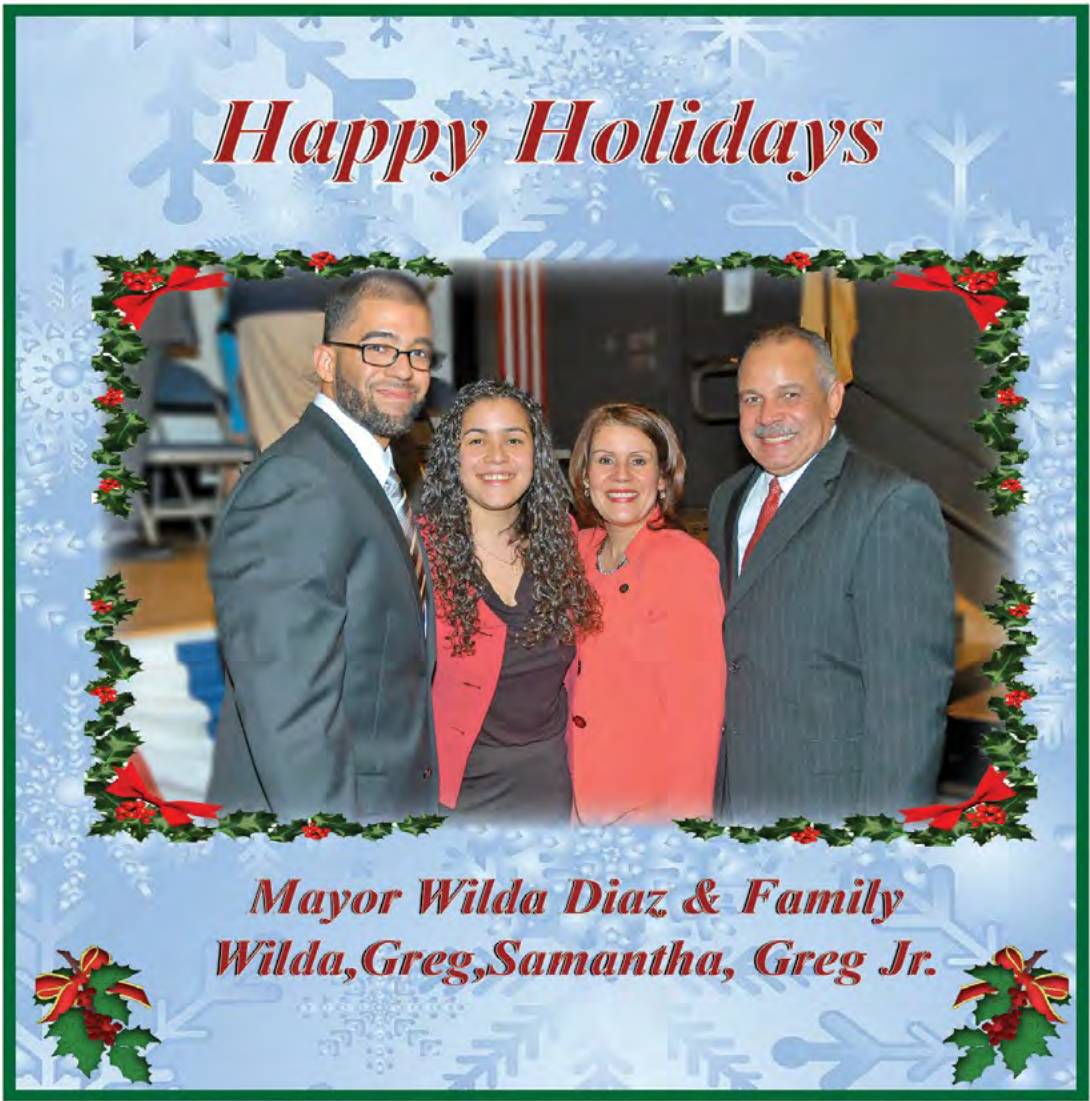



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Dr. Daryl Mitruska (C) with her staff march in the Perth Amboy Christmas Parade held on 12/2/17. **Photo by Carolyn Maxwell*

SEASON'S GREETINGS






CITY OF PERTH AMBOY
THE HONORABLE MAYOR WILDA DIAZ

Celebration of Chanukah


*Come share the richness of the Jewish culture
as the Menorah candles are lit and
the story of Chanukah is told.*



Tuesday, December 19th
City Hall Council Chambers
260 High Street
6:00 p.m.

~ALL ARE WELCOME~

For more information,
contact the Office of the Mayor at (732) 826-7121.



CITY OF PERTH AMBOY
THE HONORABLE MAYOR WILDA DIAZ

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

I want to thank every resident in the City of Perth Amboy for making this another wonderful year. The greatest gift we could exchange this season is to serve one another and as a community, I am so proud to see that in action, time and time again. I wish everyone a holiday season full of love, laughter and giving, with your family, friends and neighbors. I look forward to what we will achieve together in 2018 for our great, historic city. On behalf of the City of Perth Amboy, have a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Hon. Wilda Diaz, Mayor
Council President William Petrick

Council Members
Helmin Caba
Fernando Gonzalez
Fernando Irizarry
Joel Pabon

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

A Tough Year for Many, But We've Always Managed to Come Through

To say it's been an extremely unusual year would be a huge understatement, and it's not even over yet. Who would have thought in a million years that Donald Trump, who has constantly throughout the year stated he was going to run for President, but then backed off. Well, this time he didn't back off and look what happened.

I was just listening to the radio this morning (12/18/17) and they listed all of these disasters that Trump had to deal with so far. There was 3 major hurricanes: Harvey, Irma and Maria, California Wildfires which are still ongoing, several mass shootings with a great loss of life, investigations of Russia tampering in United States elections, and a score of sexual harassment allegations in the political arena. We still have wars going on and constant unrest in the Middle East and let's not forget Kim Jong-un and his nuclear missiles.

Like Trump or hate him, (which is both sides of the political spectrum) as President of the United States, he must deal with all of this.

You know what they say, whatever you do, you can't please everyone.

At the last Perth Amboy Council Meeting, I have to totally agree with Councilman Joel Pabon who thanked all the volunteers who are unappreciated. Also, like he said, it's usually the same individuals who are volunteering all the time.

First of all, we want to thank our First Responders who are always there, running into dangerous situations, even as their own homes are being destroyed or in danger of being destroyed.

If you notice at award dinners, there may be the same people who are being honored many times. No matter what you think about some of these people, it's because of their contributions to the community. You have to remember that

developers are also in it to make a profit. The most important thing is that they treat the residents of the municipality and those who buy their investment and live in those projects get due respect.

Our wish for 2018 is just to have a better year than 2017. We know has been a very rough road for those who suffered through all of these tragedies. They still have a rough time ahead of them and we hope that they are able to garner strength each and every day into the new year and beyond.

Many get through by having great faith and it's important, that if someone doesn't have immediate family, that friends are there to help them in their time in need.

Ironically, sometimes it's hardships that bring strangers together and they end up being the best of friends. Sometimes fate has a strange way of working things out.

If you are fortunate enough to make it through this year with little worries, maybe you can help someone who is having a rough time. It's not always a monetary gift that is needed. A hug, a smile, a thank you, an acknowledgement can go a long way.

I may have told this story in the past, but it bears repeating. Children seem to sense when something is wrong. I had broken up with a boyfriend of mine years ago, and was feeling down and didn't think I was showing it. I remember at the time, one of my nephews who was 8 years old said to me, "Did someone break your heart, Aunt Carolyn?" I responded, "Yes." He came over and gave me a big hug and said, "I will always love you." That was all I needed. I hope the same for you.

Merry Christmas and may the new New Year(s) be healthy, happy and prosperous in the way that means the most to you. *C.M. & K.M.*

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

"Let Go! Let God! Give Patience and Peace a Try!"

T'is the season to "Let Go! Let God! Give patience and peace a try. The years have brought about many conflicts in our

lives which never seem to fade away. The old grudges, family feuds and misunderstandings stay with us because we don't take the time or are afraid to talk about the unresolved hurts from the past. Now is the time to set about righting the old hard feelings. I assure you all parties will become away stronger, happier and with a better

understanding of what really matters in life. Reach out. You will be amazed to learn that the other party has wanted to forgive and forget but was afraid to make the first move. Let Go! Let God. He will show you the way.

Respectfully: Robert A. Brown

My First Christmas: by the Late Thomas Francis Clark

Note: Thomas Francis Clark was one of our frequent letter-writers. He would always send this traditional letter for the Christmas Season.

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

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

Three things that I have always loved were Christmas, little kids and journalism. Around this time of the year, I always think of the Editor and Veteran Newsman. He wrote for a newspaper in New York

called the Sun. His name was Francis Pharellus Church. In 1897 he received a letter from eight year old Virginia O'Hanlon. She said, "Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus." Church answered that letter. He said, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus." His response to that question has become history's most reprinted newspaper article appearing in dozens of languages, in books, movies and other editorials all over the world.

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

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

During my life, I have spent many of my years with younger

kids. Most of them are believers, but sometimes older kids or adults try to alter their way of thinking. These people are the non-believers and have no faith in anything. They have to see and want proof. In 1973, The New York Mets pulled off a miracle and won the National League Title. A pitcher on that team was Tug McGraw.

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

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

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

Merry Christmas! Thomas Francis Clark



A Christmas Gift

During this season of giving

Each one of us can give a Christmas Gift to our fellow man With giving respect and kindness you may be giving a person that is down on his luck a reason to keep on living

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

By giving the gift of reverence of every human being

You will be receiving a Christmas Gift

A gift that was given to us over two thousand years ago

The gift of being selfless

The gift of love

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

You will be giving and receiving "A Christmas Gift"

By: "The Poet" Dioris Luis Arlequin

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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HOFFMAN'S DELI	5 LAURENCE PKWY.
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ELIZABETH CORNER	175 HALL AVE.
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Historic Surveyor

General's Office

PERTH AMBOY - The Historic Surveyor General's Office, which is adjacent to Perth Amboy City Hall, is now open for tours. At one time, this structure was the meeting place of the East Jersey Board of Proprietors & housed their records. Presently the Surveyor General's Office is displaying artifacts from the John Watson (1685-1768) archaeological site along with other items from Perth Amboy's rich history. Perth Amboy history DVDs are also available.

Free tours are available Tuesdays & Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Clubs, classrooms & groups are welcome. Come & view this newly restored building!

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

South Amboy

WED. Dec. 20 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway


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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

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.

Mayor Diaz Congratulates Perth Amboy Fire Firefighters on Completion of EMT Training **Photo Submitted*



PERTH AMBOY/SAYREVILLE - On Monday December 18, 2017, 18 Perth Amboy Firefighters graduated from their basic Emergency Medical Technician class at the Sayreville First Aid Squad. The EMT class was run by Instructors from the Raritan Bay Medical Center's EMS Training Center from November 3, 2017 till December 18, 2017. The class had a total of 21 students. Tuition and textbooks for the city's firefighters were paid for by a 2017 FEMA Assistance to Firefighter's Grant that was awarded in July. Approximately one-third of the Perth Amboy Fire Department's responses are to serious life threatening medical emergency calls, where this training is exceptionally useful. Mayor Wilda Diaz and Chief Edward Mullen would like to thank all those involved in running a successful training program.

Former B.A. Fehrenbach Returns to Discuss Water/Wastewater Contract *12/11/17 Caucus*

PERTH AMBOY – Former Business Administrator Greg Fehrenbach came to the 12/11/17 Caucus to shed some light on the Middlesex Water Company Contract. “The contract ends at the end of 2018. There are two borrowings through the MCIA (Middlesex County Improvement Authority) through the year 2034. The US-PA Service Agency expires the end of 2018 or early 2019. I was asked to be one of the advisors to be on a committee that included the C.F.O. and B.A. We went to 4 different law firms for a quote. The one that we thought was the best, was McManimon, Scotland & Baumann. Their fee is \$245/hr. with a cost not to exceed \$30,000 which we can manage. The range of the quotes that we received from the 4 firms included a range from \$30,000 to \$75,000. McManimon, Scotland & Baumann are familiar

with the City and we control their time and cost. The law prohibits a municipality to extend a contract. There are two different kinds of partnerships concerning the water/wastewater. It will take 8 to 10 months to complete. There are competitive contracts with a maximum of 10 years. We need to have this completed by spring or early summer of next year. There needs to be a transition from a current to a new contractor. This will involve a billing and collection process. The City would take over, but they would need time to implement it into the system. Competitive contracting is most favorable. In 1998, there was third agency for financing. Costs were postponed to the year of 2007 which caused the City to borrow money. Since 2007, the City had to finance capital projects and improvements. It's the simplest way under the law. The process



Former Business Administrator Greg Fehrenbach

will save \$150,000. These utilities are vital to the success of the City. Prior administrations used them as a cash-cow. Any savings should go to capital improvements. It's up to responsible people in their positions to the right thing.”

Two Different Points of View in Discussing New Kushner Proposals on the Waterfront *12/11/17 Caucus & Council Meetings*

PERTH AMBOY – During the 12/11/17 Caucus, Councilman Fernando Gonzalez discussed meeting with residents from the Landings. “They wanted something done as long as the environment improves. I empathize with them on behalf of this Council. We need more discussions on projects that would not only benefit the Landings residents, but also the City residents.” This discussion continued over onto the 7 p.m. Council Meeting. A woman who said she was a secretary for the Board of the Bayview Landings Building stated, “We would like to see the project (Seagate) move forward. We settled our lawsuit. I’m talking on behalf of the Admiral, too. This has been delayed quite a bit. Kushner wants to put stakes in the ground as soon as possible. Our building (Bayview) is completely ownership. The market based rentals (on the Seagate Project) may push up our values. If they have to scale back the amount of rentals from 600 to 400, that’s okay. Kushner has started taking care of the repairs of our units.” After the Bayview owner finished speaking, another Landings Resident from the Admiral came forward with a different point of view. He started out by saying, “This man (Kushner) never kept a promise to us. He

will build whatever he can get a profit out of. We have Board Members who say they support new Kushner projects. They are the same who made complaints. Ask them what they have been promised for their support. Kushner might have made promises. Our Board Members are being deceitful to us. Ask the question and see the answers you’ll get. The Admiral Board is not representing me. The settlements were for 20 owners. The Admiral and Bayview Boards want the project, but not all of the owners. We were not told about meetings with Kushner or the Council.” Councilman Fernando Gonzalez then spoke up, “I met with 3 or 4 members each of the Admiral or Bayview. We don’t have to cave into Kushner.” Gonzalez then repeated what he said during the Caucus, “We need a project that benefits the Landings and the City. We can’t continue to be foolish.” Resident Alan Silber came up to speak about this matter, “I read something where the person who complained about the Landings for 10 years is now praising the project. I was talking to this woman and we were walking around the Landings and she couldn’t believe the conditions. Do we really want to get involved in this? You (the Council) are what stands between the chaos in the City.”

Fire Department Receives Funds for New Apparatus from Buckeye Partners L.P. **Photo Submitted*



PERTH AMBOY - The City of Perth Amboy received \$190K Monday morning in-part for the purchase of a new and only foam truck for fire protection on-site at Buckeye Perth Amboy Terminal and to serve in response fire locally and surrounding areas. The new foam tender is expected to be completed by 2019. In Photo: (L-R) Fire Chief Edward Mullen; Adam Cruz, Business Administrator; Rachelle Smith, Buckeye Partners; Brian Wojton, Buckeye Partners; and Irving Lozada, Mayor's Aide.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
2017 HOLIDAY EXCLUSION DATES

NO GARBAGE COLLECTION ON THE HOLIDAYS

HOLIDAY EXCLUSIONS	HOLIDAY
MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 TH	CHRISTMAS DAY
MONDAY, JANUARY 1 ST	NEW YEAR'S DAY
MONDAY, JANUARY 15 TH	MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

NOTE: If a holiday falls on your garbage collection day, your garbage will be picked up on your next regular scheduled garbage collection pick-up.

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Search "Recycle Coach"

Attend Public Meetings
Have Your Voice Heard!

Questions asked about the Y, Landings Issues, and City Upcoming Projects

12/11/17 Council Meeting

PERTH AMBOY – Former Councilman and City Resident Ken Balut again had questions in regards to the Y expenses. He asked, “If they are buying houses, why aren’t they paying the City? This has to be taken care of. Have the State do the contract. We are in the 10th year of this contract.”

Law Director Peter King responded, “It was originally a 20-year contract. We are in years 11 through 20. The City gets a share of the Y’s profits. The City can do a forensic audit. The Y said they are losing money. The previous administration made a horrible contract with the Y.”

This prompted Councilman Fernando Gonzalez to state, “We should be doing an audit and renegotiate with the Y.”

There was two later-starter Resolution. R-513 - Authorizing a contract with McManimon, Scotland & Baumann to assist the City to seek proposals for the management and operations of the Water and Wastewater Utility following the expiration of the Public Private Partnership.

R-514 - Authorizing use of competitive contracting to seek proposals for the management and operations of the Water and Wastewater Utility following the expiration of the Public Pri-

vate Partnership on the 31st of December 2018.

Resident Alan Silber stated, “Sometimes you can have a bad experience (with someone you’ve dealt with before). They were involved with the City election and did free legal work for the candidates. They are a partisan firm. How can they represent us fairly? Think about this.”

The Council then voted on the Consent Agenda. R-463 through R-512 was moved by Councilman Fernando Irizarry and Seconded by Councilman Helmin Caba. On R-513, the Resolution was moved by Councilman Irizarry and seconded by Councilman Joel Pabon. Councilman Fernando Gonzalez voted “no.” R-514 was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Joel Pabon.

During the second public portion, Ken Balut had comments about the Landings, “Some of the Residents said they had leaks in their apartments. There were no firestops. *(A firestop is a fire protection system which is made from various fireproof components and sealed openings in a fire-resistant rated wall or floor.)* A Code Enforcement Employee told the tenant she would get fined if firestops were not installed. Arlene Quinones (former Law Director)

said she’s representing the City.”

Council President Bill Petrick spoke up, “Whoever in Code Enforcement who signed off on that order (about the firestops) should be questioned.”

Balut then said, “The Mayor claimed she would do nothing until the Landings is fixed. How can people who live in the Landings that are on PARA be objective? You can’t read an OPRA from your B.A.”

Resident Alan Silber told the Council how the City of Orange got money for legal representation. “There was a \$350,000 settlement for a whistle-blower. Some people don’t want to admit they’ve made a grave error. That’s what’s costing money.”

Mayor Wilda Diaz came forward to speak. She told the Council, “I look forward to working with you in 2018. There are a lot of new projects coming up besides Kushner’s. Every time people who try to disparage the work of our administration, they should see the progress such as E-Port. 75% of the people that Target hired are Perth Amboy Residents. The gentleman who came here to talk about his family owned property on Market Street just wants it to be re-developed to do something bet-

ter. He sees how other properties are doing better. People are coming here to invest, and we are in a lot of discussions. We have many families here from Puerto Rico (due to the hurricanes) and many more may be coming. I’m also asking you to please support David’s Touch (a charity who is now collecting toys to distribute to children for the Christmas season) and also to Pastor Berny We Care Coalition. I am staying focused on what needs to be done in Perth Amboy, presently and in the future. I’m glad to have Fehrenbach on board. Many blessings to you and your family.”

When it came to Council Comments, Helmin Caba wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year. Fernando Gonzalez had the same sentiments and also said, “I will try to help improve the Water-

front.” Fernando Irizarry had the same sentiments as Helmin Caba.

Councilman Joel Pabon wanted to thank the people who volunteer all year round who don’t get enough attention and praise. “Remember a child can learn so much from just a few moments of your time. It’s usually the same person who tends to help 30 kids. Keep up the good work. The Mayor is right and there are a lot of projects coming up. I hope to see all the warehouses full. You get to appreciate the beauty of the Waterfront. No matter what, we have fought hard for the Landings Residents. Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! And Spread the Wealth!”

Council President Bill Petrick wished all, “Happy Holidays! Be Safe and enjoy a Healthy New Year! Remember all of those serving overseas.”

Tom's Tax Tips

BUSINESS YEAR-END TAX MOVES

Give Your Business Some Holiday Cheer

Courtesy of Tom Ploskanka C.P.A.

Even though the end of 2017 is near, it is not too late to get your business into the best possible tax position for the new year. Here are some year-end tax moves to consider:

- **Consider vehicle purchases.** There are several tax deductions available if you own a vehicle for business use. General expenses can be tax-deductible, including fuel, oil changes, general repairs and even new tires. Depreciation, insurance and interest on a business car loan are also tax-deductible expenses. While there are special limits to the amount that can be depreciated for most vehicles each year, the benefits can often outweigh the costs.
- **Update the office.** A fresh coat of paint and new office furnishings not only make your place of business more comfortable, they also provide another tax deduction. How you handle deducting these expenses will vary depending upon whether you own or lease your office space, so reach out for assistance if you have questions.
- **Reward your staff.** If you have sufficient cash flow, giving your staff a year-end bonus is a great way to let them know you appreciate them. It's also tax-deductible.
- **Treat a client.** If there are clients you haven't contacted in a while, it's a good time of the year to take them out for a nice (not lavish) breakfast or dinner and deduct 50 percent of the meal. Who knows, you may be able to generate some new business while you collect a tax benefit.
- **Update your skills.** Attend a workshop or conference to improve your professional skills. While there are some limitations, many travel, lodging and out-of-pocket expenses related to professional training are tax-deductible.
- **Plan for the future.** If you don't already have some type of retirement plan for yourself and your employees in place, now may be a good time to set one up. There are tax credits and other incentives available to employers who start a retirement plan. Employer contributions to the plan are usually tax-deductible.
- **Be nimble.** Recent discussions in Congress could mean a dramatic change in taxes on business profits beginning in 2018. Stay abreast of these developments in case you need to make last-minute moves to shift profits from one year to the next to reduce your tax rate.

There are a lot of nuances in the tax code affecting each of these end-of-year moves. Don't hesitate to get in touch if you need advice.

Perth Amboy Parking Utility Notices

SHOP & DINE IN OUR HISTORIC CITY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!!
2-HOUR ON STREET FREE PARKING
Small Business Holiday Shopping with 3.5% sales tax at participating locations.

This holiday season, Mayor Wilda Diaz announces 2-hour free on-street parking beginning Friday, November 24th – Monday, January 1st on Smith Street and State Street. The 2-hour limit will be enforced. For more information, please call the Parking Utility at: (732)-826-9223.

Monthly Permit Holder Information

Attention Monthly Permit Holders: Please be advised effective Monday, December 18, 2017, the RDH Parking Lot (Madison Avenue Lot) will be closed due to repairs that are being made until further notice. The parking lot will be paved, which will not allow patrons to park within the lot. As an alternative you may park your vehicle at the **Perth Amboy Train Station located at 259 Smith Street.**

CITY OF PERTH AMBOY 2018 RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMIT PERTH AMBOY PARKING UTILITY (PAPU)

As a courtesy reminder to all residents within the permit zones, please be advised that your present residential permit will expire on **December 31, 2017.**

The 2018 permits are available in our office Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Your 2018 permit must be renewed and visibly placed on vehicle by January 1st.

Per City ordinance, we require a valid NJ driver's license and valid vehicle registration card. Both documents MUST have the same address within the requesting permit zone.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact our office or for additional information about our parking permits visit, www.ci.perthamboy.nj.us. Thank you in advance for your prompt cooperation with this matter.

CONTACT INFO:
151 JEFFERSON STREET
PERTH AMBOY, NJ 08861
PHONE: 732-826-9223

A Mixed Bag 12/11/17 Caucus

PERTH AMBOY – At the beginning of the Caucus portion of the 12/11/17 Meetings, Councilman Fernando Irizarry gave an update on the handicapped parking committee that he’s part of. “We were able to get a good portion of the applications looked at, but there is still a lot of work to do. We’re being a lot more aggressive and my term is up. I think it’s time that someone else took over.”

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez had a question for Irizarry, “What would be the status of people who have a handicapped spot, but they go out of state for a few months. What happens with that spot?”

Irizarry responded, “I’m not sure, but I will report back to you. Just give me the name of the person and their address.”

There was a question on two resolutions dealing with R-478 - a contract with Core Mechanical Inc. for HVC repairs and installation at the Public Safety Complex in an amount not to exceed \$75,000. The other resolution was R-483 – a contract with Ramas Climate & Refrigeration LLC for HVAC preventive performance for the Public Safety Complex from 1/1/2018 to 12/31/2018 in an amount not to exceed \$18,800.

DPW Director Frank Hoffman came forward, “These two contracts are for better pricing for the City. One is to check the system and the other does the repairs. It is cost savings and not a duplication of services. Each one is working on different parts of the pools.”

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez had a question about Resolution R-479 – a contract with Accses New Jersey Inc. – CNA Services for custodial services at various City Buildings for a one-year period starting 1/1/2018 and terminating on 12/31/2018 in an amount not to exceed \$107,234.74.

Gonzalez asked, “Where was this advertised?”

Hoffman explained, “It’s a State Contract.”

Gonzalez reminded Hoffman, “We had discussions that we should advertise contracts locally so contractors in the area have a chance to bid.”

Hoffman responded, “On some contracts, we do local advertising. It depends. There may have been one or two local companies that may have responded. I have to get the exact number if any did.”

There was also a discussion of whether or not the person handling these custodial services has to be a handicapped employee of CNS Services.

Hoffman later explained, “Although this company has handicapped employees, it is not stipulated that this job has to be done by a handicapped individ-

ual. Also, there are 4 Perth Amboy Residents who will be employed.”

On Resolution R-485 – a contract to Power Place Inc. purchase of a John Deere 1025R with Snow Blower and Blade Attachments in an amount not to exceed \$21,734.61.

Hoffman explained, “This equipment can assist the Parking Utility because it includes Snowplow attachments. It also has other attachments that can help cut grass and to use for water irrigation.”

There was a question in regard to R-488 – a letter of intent to KaBoom to proceed with an application for funding and assistance to install a community playground on City Property located at Seaman Street Park.

Department of Recreation Director Kenny Ortiz came forward, “KaBoom looked for another 501c3 partner for this project. They have worked with the Y before. The Board of Education has been building fenced off playgrounds with no access for the public. Our park will be open space for use by the school children, too.”

Councilman Fernando Irizarry commented, “Maybe we should reach out to the Board of Education for funds.”

Ortiz continued and stated, “This is only a letter of intent and there will be very little monies coming out of our pockets.”

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez commented, “Maybe we should talk to the Board of Education about all of their fenced off playgrounds. I heard that maybe the High Street Park might be closed off, too.”

Ortiz addressed these concerns, “We talked to the County. The Vocational School has first priority. We can request time to access the playground. I haven’t heard about the Ceres School and the Patten School being fenced off. It may be a public safety matter. As far as the Seaman Park, we are looking for restoration, renovations, and alternative funding.”

Council President Bill Petrick stated, “I think it’s a great project.”

Ortiz continued, “We use a lot of the school’s indoor spaces. In 2012, we saw a definite need for more playgrounds.”

On Resolution R-489 – Authorizing the P.A.P.D. to sign up with Carfax to assist in making our crash reports available online to the public on a 24/7 basis.

Acting Police Chief Roman McKeon said, “We get funding and charge for the reports. It’s no cost to us. A report requested by Carfax from us. They pay for it and that money comes back to us.”

Councilman Fernando Gon-

zalez had a question on Resolution R-497 – Authorizing the Planning Board to investigate whether the properties commonly known as Block 74, Lots 10-14 on the tax map be designated as an area in need of redevelopment.

Annie Hindenlang from the Redevelopment Agency came forward, “This property owner came to us as one of two options.”

The owner of the property, D. LaCruz came up to speak, “We are a family owned business in the middle of the City. There a lot of school kids and traffic. We want to make the property nicer and cleaner. We need to make it profitable for me and safer for the City. Maybe make it apartments.”

Annie Hindenlang finished remarking, “We have to look at the current conditions and we’re supposed to be objective.”

Next, there was a question on R-499 – Amending the Premier Flex Plan to include Bariatric Surgery.

A representative from Fairview (the City's Insurance Broker) came up to speak, “Most

other communities have this in their health plans. It’s only in life threatening conditions and not for cosmetic surgery. The doctor determines if a person qualifies. It has to be medically determined by a doctor and opinions by two bariatric surgeons, plus a mental health expert and a dietician.”

There were several resolutions regarding funding for the library. R-506 thru R-510 dealt with awarding grants for the Perth Amboy Free Public Library. Library Director Eleni Glykis stated, “Some involve getting graphic novels for children and adults. Right now, we have 74 of these types of novels and they have been checked out over 300 times. The English language books attract a lot of the teenage boys. Some of these grants will also allow popup libraries at some of the local businesses.”

During the public portion, Resident Ken Balut again asked about the E-Port PILOT and changes that were made. Balut addressed Councilman Helmin Caba, asking him if he could tell the difference between the PILOT regarding the schools

and the City’s taxes. “You guys look bad because you can’t give me an answer.”

Caba responded, “You get no funding for the schools, but the City is getting more. We have to make up the difference in the School funding.”

Balut wasn’t satisfied, “This property has already been flipped. The B.A. is making you look like fools.”

Balut then wanted to know, “Does Fairview (the insurance broker) have an interest in the company that’s the insurer for the bariatric surgery?”

Business Administrator Adam Cruz responded, “Our insurance broker did not approach us about the bariatric surgery issue. It was per a family member request.”

Two Union Representatives, one who was Danny Gonzalez came up later to let the Council know that they support this resolution on bariatric surgery.

The last person to come up to speak from the audience was resident Vince Mackiel. He wanted to let anyone to know who is a Veteran that they are entitled to a tax reduction.

Mayor Diaz Visits Puerto Rico with Governor Elect Phil Murphy

Press Release 12/24/17
PERTH AMBOY – Mayor Wilda Diaz will be departing to the Island of Puerto Rico with Governor Phil Murphy and a group of delegates on Friday, December 15, 2017.

“As our state’s only Puerto Rican female mayor, it has been our city’s goal to assist and provide essential goods to the people of Puerto Rico. I am grateful to be joining Governor-Elect Phil Murphy and the group of delegates on this mission to experience and see firsthand the Island post-Hurricane Maria, to assess its current condition, and to continue advocating and addressing the dire needs of our fellow Americans,” said Wilda Diaz, Mayor of the City of Perth Amboy.

Last week, Mayor Diaz welcomed the Honorable Javier Jimenez Perez, Mayor of San Sebastián, Puerto Rico and Honorable Felix Lassalle Toro, Puerto Rico’s 16th District Representative to the City of Perth Amboy. The officials from Puerto Rico addressed the damage of Hurricane Maria, post-Hurricane recovery efforts, the needs of the families and the assistance provided by the City of Perth Amboy.

Hurricane Maria struck the island of Puerto Rico almost three months ago and the island continues its recovery process,

with many still lacking electricity and water. This public conference is part of the continuous efforts of Mayor Wilda Diaz to assist the victims of those affected by Hurricane Maria.

In mid-October, Mayor Wilda Diaz announced the efforts that the City of Perth Amboy and community partners had made in the previous month to provide relief to Puerto Rico at a press conference. These efforts included the deployment of local police officers to Puerto Rico, a collection drive, relocation assistance for families, and fundraising efforts.

The Perth Amboy Police Officers awaiting deployment were sent off to the island on October 21st. Perth Amboy Police Officers visited the island to assist with relief efforts in the aftermath of the hurricane as part of the greater state effort to assist in the recovery of the island. In late September, Governor Chris Christie signed an executive order designating municipal and county law enforcement personnel, as well as emergency responders, as state emergency forces. The State of New Jersey planned to send one thousand responders, of which 150 to 200 would be local police officers.

Through the Celebrate Perth Amboy- San Sebastian Relief

Fund, over 45 thousand dollars were raised and an arrangement to send a shipment of 8 full containers through Sea Freight Logistics was made. Of these 8 containers, 6 were shipped to San Sebastian, Puerto Rico where the Honorable Mayor, Javier Jimenez and his staff distributed the goods to over 400 families. The City of Perth Amboy shipped over 200 pallets of goods, meaning over 300 thousand pounds of essential supplies, including, first-aid kits, batteries, flash lights, hygiene products and most importantly, canned goods and water. In addition, the City of Perth Amboy has since welcomed over 100 families from Puerto Rico seeking relocation. Through the work of Perth Amboy staff and community partners, families have settled into the community seeking housing, employment, education, and health-care.

Fundraising efforts launched by New Jersey for Puerto Rico, spearheaded by the Puerto Rican Congress of New Jersey and state-wide leaders, have fundraised tens of thousands of dollars for Puerto Rico. Any donation can continue to be made to www.nj4pr.org.

SEASON'S GREETINGS



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ATTORNEY AT LAW

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We wish you a Happy Holiday!

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252 SMITH ST., PERTH AMBOY



English as a 2nd Language Classes

Press Release 12/15/17
WOODBIDGE TOWNSHIP - English as a Second Language (ESL) conversation group and beginning instruction will be offered at all Woodbridge Township Libraries January - June, 2018. Instruction and ESL Conversation Group leaders will be provided in partnership with Literacy NJ, a statewide literacy services provider.

In-person registration is required, and will be held from 5:00 – 7:30 pm, Wednesday, January 3rd @ the Woodbridge Main Library, for a fifteen-week series of Conversation Group classes that will be held at our Iselin Branch and at the Main Library. Also available to English language learners in each location will be Beginning ESL group instruction, one-on-one Beginning ESL instruction, an ESL Book Club, and an ESL Reading Group, and a drop in class for digital ESL instruction

Instruction and ESL Conversation Group leaders will be provided in partnership with Literacy NJ, a statewide literacy services provider. For more information about ESL classes at Woodbridge Public Libraries, Literacy NJ or classes offered in the area, please contact Melissa Bernstein of Literacy NJ, 732-906-5456, mbernstein@literacy-nj.org.



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SEASON'S GREETINGS

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Celebration of Chanukah

PERTH AMBOY - Come share the richness of the Jewish culture as the Menorah candles are lit and the story of Chanukah is told. Tuesday, December 19, 2018 at City Hall Council Chambers, 260 High St. at 6 p.m. All are welcome. For more information, contact the Office of the Mayor at 732-826-7121.

Ana Maria Zevallos/Skrocki
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DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION
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On behalf of PADO Chair Helmin J. Caba, Vice Chair Iris Rodriguez and the entire organization, we hope you have a safe Christmas and happy new year, filled with love, blessings, family and friends.

Happy Holidays!

PERTH AMBOY DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION

the **Y**
YMCA

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2. **ACTIVATE IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE-** Our state of the art facility opens at 5am everyday and we offer 40+ free weekly LesMills Group Fitness classes to help you achieve your personal fitness goals.
3. **EMPOWER MORE THAN YOURSELF-** As a family organization with a focus on helping everyone learn, grow and thrive. We offer programs for everyone from your toddler to the active older adults. The Y is flexible and affordable for everyone.
4. **STRONG SWIMMERS -** The Y's Aquatic Center opens at 5:30am.
5. **HAVE YOU HEARD?-** The Y offers something for the whole family, stop by to find out more!

RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA
357 New Brunswick Avenue
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
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PERTH AMBOY - Children of Ukrainian Assumption Church annual St. Nicholas Celebration sponsored by the Holy Name Society
*Photo by Anton Massopust III



**Amboy Bank
Seeking
Clothing
Donations**

News Release
MONMOUTH/MIDDLESEX
COUNTIES - Throughout
January, all 23 offices of Am-
boy Bank will collect clothing
donations on behalf of Catholic
Charities. Residents of Mon-
mouth and Middlesex Counties
are encouraged to drop off gen-
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children’s clothing and acces-
sories to their nearest Amboy
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serving our community. Many
people do not have the financial
resources to buy all of their ba-
sic necessities and are forced to
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Stanley J. Koreyva, Amboy
Bank President. “We are happy
to help ease the burden on these
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them with clean, warm cloth-
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our clients and neighbors for
their generous donations and
making this clothing drive a
success.”

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ASSEMBLYMAN CRAIG J. COUGHLIN

ASSEMBLYWOMAN-ELECT YVONNE LOPEZ

Jointly paid for and authorized by the Election Funds of
Joseph F. Vitale, Craig J. Coughlin & Yvonne Lopez

SEASON'S GREETINGS



Happy Holidays

306 Smith ST. Perth Amboy, NJ Tel.(732) 442-5059

Knights of Columbus Events

SOUTH AMBOY –
NJ Devils Outing - December 29th. For all of you hockey fans, Saint Mary’s Church and the South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 are sponsoring an outing to see the New Jersey Devils battle the Buffalo Sabres Friday, December 29th at 7 p.m. at the Prudential Center. Cost of \$60 includes lower level reserved ticket to the game and \$10 worth of food and beverages. If you're interested, deadline to purchase tickets is November 22. For more information, call Chris at 732-735-1737 or Steve at 732-727-1707.
Comedy Night Fundraiser - January 6 - South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 host a special comedy night Saturday January 6 to benefit the victims of the recent hurricanes. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show begins at 8 p.m. Comedians Donna Vaicels, Tim Hayes, and Sean Morton will entertain. Dinner and show tickets at \$35 in advance, \$45 at the door. For ticket reservations call 201-240-2091.
Spaghetti Benefit Dinner - January 26th - South Amboy Columbiettes and Knights of Columbus host a spaghetti dinner to benefit the Cheer Dream Scoliosis Foundation on Friday January 26 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the k of C on 308 Fourth St. South Amboy. Cost is \$10 Adults and \$7 Children. RSVP to Daniela by January 19th at 732-721-2025.

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SEASON’S GREETING

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Happy Holiday Season



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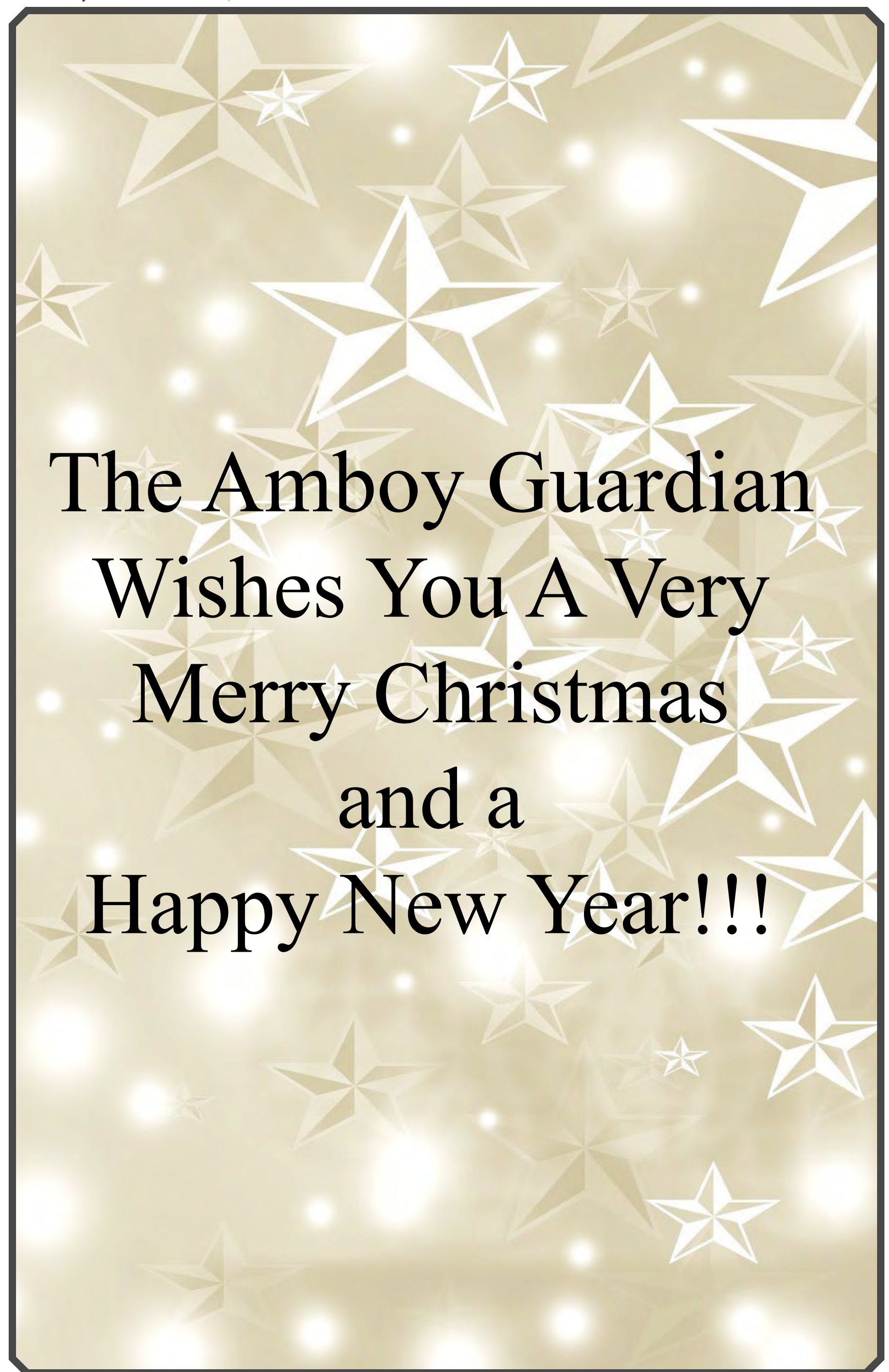


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Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!!!

Coughlin, Benson & Vainieri Huttle Bill to Help Fight NJ’s Opioid Crisis Clears Assembly Panel

Opioid Crisis Has Killed More Than 7,000 People In New Jersey Since 2012

Press Release 12/18/17

TRENTON – An Assembly panel on Monday approved a measure sponsored by Speaker-elect Craig Coughlin, Assemblyman Dan Benson and Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttle to help fight the state’s opioid epidemic.

The opioid crisis has killed more than 7,000 people in New Jersey since 2012, according to a report by NJ Advance Media. Last year, at least 1,901 people died from opioid overdoses.

“This crisis is killing thousands of New Jerseyans every year and it is only getting worse,” said Speaker-elect Coughlin (D-Middlesex). “We must balance both the needs of patients who rely on these drugs for pain management, and the need to address the opioid misuse and abuse that continues to take a toll on so many families and communities throughout the state.”

“The unfortunate truth is that for many people these drugs are the only option to relieve severe or chronic pain,” said Benson (D-Mercer/Middlesex). “These measures can help reduce the potential for abuse and help prevent the tragic consequences that come with opioid addiction.”

“There is no one solution to this problem. Tackling this epidemic is going to take a long-term, multifaceted approach,” said Vainieri Huttle (D-Bergen). “Taking steps like enhancing monitoring of prescriptions and expanding opioid education to health care professionals who don’t prescribe, but work with these patients can help lessen the risk for abuse, which too often ends in tragedy.”

These steps, couple with other efforts, can help lessen the risk for abuse and prevent the tragic end that comes with an overdose.

The bill (A-5242/5300) would make various revisions to the law to address the opioid crisis.

First, the bill would revise P.L.2017, c.28 to provide that a practitioner must enter into a pain management agreement with a patient prior to the commencement of an ongoing course of treatment for chronic pain with a Schedule II controlled dangerous substance or any opioid, instead of upon issuing the third prescription. The bill would also add a definition of “chronic pain,” which means pain that persists for three or more consecutive months and after reasonable medical efforts have been made to relieve the pain or its causes, it continues, either continuously or episodically.

The bill would also clarify, for the purposes of that law, that

when determining whether a patient was previously issued a prescription for opioids; that determination must also include whether the patient also used or was administered a drug or its pharmaceutical equivalent.

Current law requires certain health care professionals to receive training on topics related to prescription opioid drugs. Health care professionals who have the authority to prescribe opioid medications are required to complete one continuing education credit on topics that include responsible prescribing practices, alternatives to opioids for managing and treating pain, and the risks and signs of opioid abuse, addiction, and diversion. This bill would add a similar continuing education requirement for veterinarians.

Health care professionals who do not have prescribing authority but who frequently interact with patients who may be prescribed opioids, including pharmacists, professional nurses, and practical nurses, are also required by existing law to complete one continuing education credit on topics that include alternatives to opioids for managing and treating pain and the risks and signs of opioid abuse, addiction, and diversion. This bill would add a similar education or training requirements for marriage and family therapists, psychologists, athletic trainers, homemaker-home health aides, professionals licensed or certified by the State Board of Social Work Examiners, and professional counselors. The credits required under the bill would be part of a professional’s regular continuing education credits and would not increase the total number of continuing education credits required.

The bill would also revise various statutory provisions related to the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP), which was established in the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety. The PMP is an electronic system for monitoring controlled dangerous substances dispensed in or into the state in outpatient settings.

The bill would provide that the Division of Consumer Affairs may make prescription monitoring information available on electronic systems that collect and display health information, such as an electronic system that connects hospital emergency departments for the purpose of transmitting and obtaining patient health data from multiple sources, or an electronic system that notifies practitioners of information pertaining to the treatment of

overdoses, provided that the division determines the system has appropriate security protections in place. An electronic system that is approved by the division to integrate prescription monitoring information may be used by prescribers in hospital emergency departments who are required to access prescription monitoring information under the bill, as well as by other practitioners who are required to check prescription monitoring information when issuing certain prescriptions. The system may further be used to provide certifications that prescription monitoring information is being accessed for an authorized purpose.

Additionally, the bill would add to the circumstances under which a practitioner or other authorized person is required to access prescription monitoring information. In addition to the first time the practitioner or other person prescribes a Schedule II controlled dangerous substance to a new patient for acute or chronic pain, it would be required to check prescription monitoring information:

- the first time a practitioner or other person prescribes a benzodiazepine drug that is a Schedule III or Schedule IV

controlled dangerous substance;

- the first time the practitioner or other person prescribes a non-opioid drug other than a benzodiazepine drug that is a Schedule III or IV controlled dangerous substance, but only if the practitioner or other person has a reasonable belief that the person may be seeking a controlled dangerous substance, in whole or in part, for any purpose other than the treatment of an existing medical condition, such as for purposes of misuse, abuse, or diversion; and

- on or after the date that the division first makes prescription monitoring information available on an electronic system that collects and displays health information, any time a practitioner or other person prescribes a Schedule II controlled dangerous substance to a patient receiving care or treatment in the emergency department of a general hospital.

Current law provides certain exemptions from PMP monitoring requirements. The bill would add an exemption for a practitioner who is prescribing a controlled dangerous substance to a patient immediately after the patient has undergone an operation in a general hospital or a licensed ambulatory

care facility or treatment for acute trauma in a general hospital or a licensed ambulatory care facility, so long as that operation or treatment was not part of care or treatment in the emergency department of a general hospital, no more than a five-day supply is prescribed.

The bill would also clarify that the director may adopt a regulation to expand the program to require pharmacies to include information about each prescription dispensed for a prescription drug that is not a controlled dangerous substance.

Finally, the bill would allow a physician assistant or an advanced practice nurse to, under certain circumstances, dispense narcotic drugs for maintenance treatment or detoxification treatment. The bill would also provide that a physician assistant or advanced practice nurse, under certain circumstances, may make the determination as to the medical necessity for services for the treatment of substance use disorder, as provided in P.L.2017, c.28 (C.17:48-6nn et al.), and may prescribe such services.

The bill was released by the Assembly Health & Senior Services Committee.

Berkeley College Alumni Host Toy Drive to Benefit Children In Need During Holiday Season *Photos Submitted

Press Release
WOODLAND PARK - Berkeley College alumni continue to give back to their communities during the holiday season. Alumni collected more than 50 toys at a holiday reception held at Berkeley College in Woodland Park, NJ, on December 13, 2017. The toys will be donated to the Children’s Hospital at Saint Peter’s University Hospital in New Brunswick, NJ, for children in need, just in time for the holidays.

The toy drive was organized by the Berkeley College Alumni Leadership Council and the Office of Alumni Relations and Career Services, whose mission is to engage and connect a network of more than 50,000 alumni worldwide.

Pictured above with the donated toys, from left to right, are Edison Jaquez of Perth Amboy, NJ, the 2016 Berkeley College Alumnus of the Year; La-Toya Gomez, Career Counselor, Career Services,



Berkeley College; Montina Hardesty of Paterson, NJ, Treasurer of the Alumni Leadership Council; Adriana Delgado of Lake Hiawatha, NJ, Secretary of the Alumni Leadership Council; Michael Iris, Assistant Vice President, Alumni Relations and Career Services, Berkeley College; Ana Yee, Director, Alumni Career Services, Berkeley College; and Arjune M. Sharma, Director, Center for Academic Success, Berkeley College, and President of the Alumni Leadership Council. Pictured below, Berkeley College alumni and officials gather to celebrate the holidays and collect toy donations for children in need.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
183 Rector Street, Perth Amboy
Christmas Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 24—Christmas Eve
9:00 am: Holy Eucharist, Rite II
4:00 pm: Family Service and Pageant
10:00 pm: Carol Sing
10:30 pm: Festive Candlelight Service
Monday, December 25—Christmas Day
10:00 am: Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Sunday, December 31
8:00 am: Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 am: Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Sunday, January 7—Epiphany
8:00 am: Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 am: Holy Eucharist, Rite II

St. John's Lutheran Church
664, Amboy Ave. Perth Amboy
Advent, Christmas & New Year's Services

PERTH AMBOY - The members of St. John's Lutheran Church at 664 Amboy Ave, Perth Amboy NJ would like to invite everybody to our Advent and Christmas Eve services. Advent services will be conducted every Sunday at 10 a.m. A Christmas Eve Candlelight Carols service with Holy Communion will be held at 6 p.m. on December 24th. Also, we will be conducting a New Year's Eve service December 31st at 10 a.m. with carols and a New Year's Day service with carols at 10 a.m. on January 1st. We invite the public to join us in our worship services.

South Amboy Saint Patrick's Day
Parade to Honor Grand Marshal's
at Annual Dinner

Press Release 12/11/17

SOUTH AMBOY - The Saint Patrick's Day Committee welcomes you to join them as they honor this year's Saint Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal's on Friday, January 20, 2018 at 7pm at the Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall, 271 Second Street, South Amboy.

Tickets are \$40 per person and includes dinner, beer, wine and soda. Tickets must be purchased in advance at any of the following locations: Main Liquors (533 Main St. So. Amboy, The Ancient Order of Hibernian Hall and the South Amboy YMCA (200 John O'Leary Blvd. So. Amboy).

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

Spaghetti Dinner

PERTH AMBOY - The Perth Amboy Volunteer Fire Department Parade Committee will be holding their 8th Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, January 20, 2018 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at St. Stephen's Church Hall, 490 State St., Perth Amboy. \$10 pp. Children under 5 are free. ALCOHOL IS NOT PERMITTED. Dinner includes salad, spaghetti and meatballs, bread with butter, soda/water, dessert, and coffee/tea! Come have dinner with our local heroes! Enter through the rear of the school from Mechanic Street parking lot. Tickets available at the door.

No Paper 2 Next Weeks!
See You January 10, 2018

Charity
Fundraiser
Hurricane Maria

FORDS - Our Lady of Peace Knights of Columbus Council #9199, of Fords is sponsoring a special fundraiser to benefit the victims of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. ALL proceeds will go to benefit Hurricane Maria victims. We will have a Spaghetti & Meatball dinner on Friday, January 5, 2018, from 5:30PM to 8PM. The dinner will be held in the OLP Parish Center (no stairs!) on Franklin Ave, Edison. Franklin Ave is off of Amboy Ave, Edison, about one block from the Church. The Parish Center sits back off the road. Plenty of parking!

The menu includes: Spaghetti with Marinara sauce, meatballs, salad, bread, desserts, coffee and tea. Cans of soda, iced tea and bottled water will be available. BYOB (beer & wine only). The cost is \$10/ adults, \$5 for children under 12 and a special family price of \$20. (A family consists of 2 adults and any children under 12). Take out is also available.

We will also accept cash donations. Make the check out to: K of C 9199 and mail it to our mailing address of: K of C 9199, PO Box 333, Fords, NJ 08863. For more info, call Tony at 732-233-4473 or email of Bigt9199@yahoo.com

Holiday Fun @
Dowdell Library

Press Release 11/3/17

SOUTH AMBOY - Celebrate the holiday season with a winter wonderland of events including, Cooking Workshop, Taco Tuesday & PS4, and the Eve of New Year's Eve Party at the Dowdell Library.

Adults 18 years and older! Stop by for a night of tacos and gaming on Tuesday, December 12 from 6:30-8 pm. We'll have a taco station and play a few rounds of different games on the new PS4 gaming system!

Kids! Can't stay up late enough to see the ball drop? Celebrate the Eve of New Year's Eve Party on Friday, December 29 from 12 to 1:30 pm! We'll read a story, share our 2018 resolutions, create festive party hats and have our very own balloon ball drop. Don't miss out on this end of year celebration!

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

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



Christmas
Carol
Sing-Along

SOUTH AMBOY – There's no better way to warm your soul and cheer your heart than with Christmas Cookies and Hot Chocolate. Join Chris Deibert and the Saint Mary Choir for a fun night of Christmas nostalgia and a carol Sing-Along. The concert will benefit the choir's pilgrimage trip to the Vatican in 2019. Concert is Friday, Dec. 22, 2017 at 7 p.m. Saint Mary Church, 256 Augusta Street, South Amboy NJ, 08879. Free admission (donation appreciated).



Santa Fly-In
Help & Contribute

Press Release

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

The tradition will continue this year on Sunday, December 24th, when the Nierenberg family owners of the airport, will open the hangar doors to children awaiting Santa's arrival. Santa is planned to arrive at 11:00 A.M. Parents are advised to bring the children prior to then, as the Princeton Airport Flying Tigers will be serving cocoa and cookies, and local folk singer Pat McKinley, starting at 10:30, will be leading the audience in holiday songs during the wait for Santa.

If parents would like to have a gift waiting for their child, they should bring a wrapped gift with the child's name on it in large print to the Princeton Airport lobby. Gifts should be no larger than 12" to accommodate Santa. If parents have more than one child participating, the gifts should be wrapped in the same paper and tied together to speed up the distribu-

27th Annual
Holiday Model
Train Exhibit

WOODBIDGE - The Barron Arts Center Presents The 27th Annual Holiday Model Train Exhibit On View Nov 25 – Dec 30, 2017 CLOSED DEC 25. Exhibit Hours Mon – Fri. 11am-4pm Sat & Sun 2-4pm Reception & Tree Lighting Ceremony Friday Dec. 1, 2017 ~ 5-7pm In the tradition of family exhibitions for the Holiday Season, In the tradition of family exhibitions for the Holiday Season, the Barron Arts Center in Woodbridge, New Jersey will once again host an exhibition of model trains curated by Colonia resident Michael Gelesky. The exhibition will be free to the public but donations are always greatly appreciated. This event is sponsored by Access Self Storage of Woodbridge located at 135 Amboy Avenue, Woodbridge, J.J. Elek Realty Co. located at 117 Main Street. Middlesex Water Company located at 1500 Ronson Road, Iselin & Wegmans Food Market located at 15 Woodbridge Center Drive, Woodbridge. This year's show is also sponsored by The Mom's Club of Edison.

tion. Also, to have their child participate, parents need to bring a gift for the less fortunate as well. You must also bring an equal number of unwrapped gifts for NEEDY children. This is the most important feature of this event.

These gifts must be new and unwrapped, and will be collected by the Mercer County Board of Social Services. Personal checks made out to the "Food-Bank Network of Somerset County", as well as canned or boxed food will also be collected at the airport. Donations from non-participants are kindly accepted as well.

The collection of the gifts will begin the day after Thanksgiving and will end on Saturday, December 17th in order to enable county workers to arrange the best matches for the needy. The gifts can be deposited in the "chimneys" in the lobby of the airport between 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. Once Santa's plane lands, he will head into the hangar, along with all the participants, to distribute each gift individually. In fairness to all, Santa will distribute the gifts in the order in which they are received at the airport. Children will also have the opportunity to take a picture on Santa's lap. Usually, distribution is completed by 1:00 P.M. and Santa continues his journey. There is no charge for this event.

The Princeton Airport is located in Montgomery Township, 3.5 miles north of Princeton on Route 206. The full address is 41 Airpark Road,

MOVIE REVIEW: STAR WARS - THE LAST JEDI

By: Anton Massopust III
“This is not going to go the way you think!”
Luke Skywalker

Shades of Star Wars’ past are throughout this new film: “The Last Jedi”. We pick up right where we left off in “The Force Awakens.” Rey (Daisy Ridley) tries to convince Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) to come back to the resistance and to help save the galaxy from the tyranny of the First Order. Luke has become a bitter old man because he feels that he has failed his new students and everything. He's given up on himself, so while Rey’s trying to find a way to find out about her past and reaching out to the Force and what is exactly good and bad. Meanwhile, the First Order continues its attack on the Rebels (the Resistance) led by Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher). What's left of the Resistance are slowly retreating onto one ship as their ships are slowly being destroyed by the First Order’s Star Destroyers. The First Order has found a way to use



new technology to track the Resistance, so it's up to Finn (John Boyega), Rose Tico (Kelly Marie Tran) (a new character), Poe and BB-8. They go to find a code cracker to penetrate the Imperial ship and stop them from tracking them into hyperspace. Our two Heroes go to a planet with a huge casino with War Privateers. While they're trying to sort that out, Kylo Ren (Adam

Driver) reaches out to Rey to embrace the dark side. He heads them towards a final confrontation with the battle of good and evil. Towards the end of this movie, it’s worth the price for admission. This is way better than “The Force Awakens.” We finally find out the story behind two main characters, letting them understand who exactly what they come from. Luke

Skywalker (Mark Hamill) returns. It's nice to see the late Carrie Fisher in her last role as Princess Leia. The special effects are wonderful. It’s everything is Star Wars movies to be expected to be, and it has a lot of references to Return of the Jedi. What I love about science fiction is, it doesn't matter who you are: young, old, rich, and poor - if you love a fun time,

you'll love this movie. Star Wars fans will enjoy it more and it won't matter how long it is. That is my only complaint - it's a little too long and it drags here in there. The film could have been a little shorter. May the Force be with you and with all of us! Go see “The Last Jedi!”

MOVIE REVIEW: STAR WARS - THE LAST JEDI

By: Katherine Massopust
Star Wars – The Last Jedi shows the journey of Rey as she finds a cynical Luke Skywalker who was disenchanted with his life and has placed himself on a distant planet living on an island where he keeps mostly to himself. Ex-Stormtrooper Finn and newcomer Rose who attempt to save the Resistance (Rebellion) by going to retrieve a codebreaker on a planet with a large casino and racetrack on it. Pilot Poe Dameron must face his own style of fighting with the commanders of the Resistance. The evil Kylo Ren faces off with Rey in front of Supreme Leader Snoke. Star Wars - The Last Jedi is darker than The Force Awak-

ens. That is to be expected. It is also a better film. There’s some things I liked didn’t like about it.
What I liked:
• Again, like the Force Awakens, the presence of women in the film.
• The special effects, as always are first rate.
• The movie takes risks on the consequences of your actions.
What I didn’t like:
• The Saga is straying from its original concept.
• Some scenes are taken right out of the old films (almost word for word, shot for shot)
• It’s not Lucas. The original 6 films were part of Lucas’s creation. These new characters, although intertwined with the



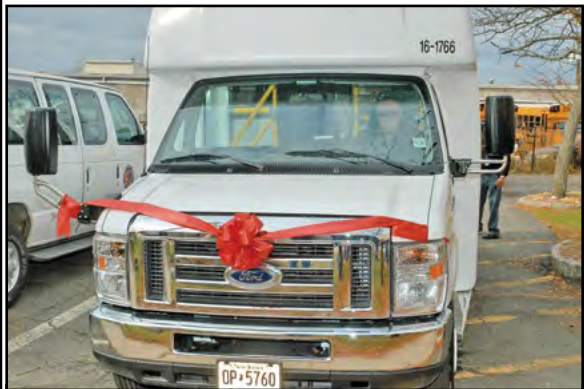
original characters feel like you are reading the novels. Lucas’ soul is not in the new films.

There just is that element missing. Should you go see it? Yes, the

movie is a fun watch (although a bit lengthy). It moves fast and is worth going to see.

Senior Citizens Welcome New Bus, Perth Amboy 12/5/17

**Photos by Paul Wang*



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.*

There is heavy fighting at Buna, Papua-New Guinea, on December 18, 1942, as U.S. and Australian troops face tenacious Japanese resistance. Some 565 miles to the northwest on the north coast of Papua-New Guinea, the Imperial Japanese Army occupies Aitape and Wewak. In North Africa, elements of the *Panzerarmee Afrika* begin withdrawing westward in small units, ending the Battle of El Agheila in a victory for the British Eighth Army.

At Stalingrad, the *Luftwaffe* flies 250 tons of supplies to Field Marshal Friedrich Paulus's surrounded Sixth Army on December 19. The supplies are less than half the minimum needed to simply maintain the force. Even this inadequate level of supply is never again reached.

The Japanese bomb Calcutta, India, for the first time on December 20. An 8,000-ton Japanese merchant ship strikes a mine placed by an American submarine off Cape Inubo, Japan, east of Tokyo. The vessel is the first sunk by U.S. forces in Japanese home waters.

On December 21, British troops cross the Indian border and head southeast toward Akyab, Burma. From Russia, Field Marshal Paulus requests permission to attempt a breakout by his encircled Sixth Army. Hitler refuses, insisting that Stalingrad be held. The question is moot, however, as Paulus lacks the fuel needed to attempt the breakout.

In the U.S., an avalanche in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, on December 22 kills 26 people when two 100-ton boulders fall onto a bus carrying steel-mill employees home from work. In Russia, the Red Army retakes Morozovsk, a town 165 miles northeast of Rostov-on-Don. In Kraków, Poland, six members of the Jewish Combat Organization, a part of the Polish Home Army (*Armia Krajowa*), blow up two cafés popular with members of the SS and the *Gestapo*. Between 20 and 50 patrons of the establishments are killed.

By December 23, the three Panzer divisions of Field Marshal Erich von Manstein's Army Group Don — tasked with "rescuing" the encircled Sixth Army — have advanced to within 30 miles of Stalingrad. The relief force, however, has exhausted its fuel, and must begin to withdraw towards its starting line. The Sixth Army remains trapped at Stalingrad. In North Africa, combat comes to a sudden halt in Tunisia as heavy rains turn the battlefield into an impassable sea of mud.

In Algiers, Algeria, on December 24, Vichy French Adm. Jean Darlan is assassinated by Bonnier de la Chapelle, a 20-year-old former Free-French Resistance member, apparently acting on his own. In Russia, following the suspension of "Operation Winter Tempest" (the relief of the Sixth Army at Stalingrad) by the Germans, the Red Army begins an offensive against Army Group Don, breaking through the lines of the 4th Romanian Army. The Soviets take Tatsinskaya Airfield, near Rostov-on-Don, an important German base for flying supplies into Stalingrad. The *Luftwaffe* evacuates 124 transport planes, but they leave behind 46 aircraft that are either damaged, destroyed or simply abandoned. Inside Stalingrad, the Soviet 62nd Army retakes the Red October metallurgical factory.

Lecture on Life on the Homefront during WWII , Perth Amboy Free Public Library 11/28/17 **Photo by Katherine Massopust*



PERTH AMBOY - WWII Veteran and critically acclaimed speaker Charles Wiley spoke at the Perth Amboy Free Public Library on 11/28/17.. His lecture of a first hand account of the soldiers defending our nation during WWII and what it was like at home in the United States during the war was met with great interest. Wiley has lectured all over the world.

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, Jan. 4, 2018. 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.

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

PERTH AMBOY – A trip to the Resorts Casino in Atlantic City will be held on Wed. Dec. 27, 2017. Cost \$30 pp.; \$25 back in slot play. Bus will depart from behind St. Stephens Church parking lot on Mechanic Street at 9:30 a.m. Call Bobbi to reserve a seat: 732-636-2867.



Sands Casino Bus Trip Holy Rosary Seniors

HOPELAWN - The Holy Rosary Seniors are sponsoring a bus trip to Sands Casino in Bethlehem Pennsylvania on February 1, 2018. Cost is \$30 and Includes bus, gratuity, \$20 back in play and \$5 food voucher. Bus leaves Church parking lot 10:00 am. For more details please call Ronnie at 732-442-5252.



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: Jan. 13 & 27; Feb. 10 & 24. 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 Book Dealers are welcome. !!!!

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.

Food for Fines

PERTH AMBOY - From November 1st to December 31st bring in canned or dried goods to the Perth Amboy Free Public Library to pay for fines. One can or boxed good is equivalent to \$1 and we will accept goods for up to \$20 in fines. All donations will go to support Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services which distributes nonperishable items at no cost to over 80 local food pantries and soup kitchens throughout the County, as well as an additional 25 agencies including: residential facilities, shelters, social service agencies, programs for women and children, senior citizen housing facilities and other outreach services that are also a part of their network.

No expired food, glass, or damaged cans will be accepted. Only Perth Amboy Library overdue fines will be waived. Thank you for helping us support the community.

Customer Appreciation Bingo

PERTH AMBOY - Join us at 380 Meredith St, Perth Amboy, NJ for our Assumption Church Bingo Customer Appreciation days with complimentary prizes.

Starting on Wednesday, November 22, 2017, we will have TEN DAYS OF PRIZES! Yes, for ten bingo nights in a row, there will be a prize raffled each night. Over \$1,200 worth of prizes will be given out! We are so excited to do this for you because we so deeply appreciate you coming to our bingos all year long.

Here's the prize list:
12/20 - Samsung Galaxy Tablet, A-8.0, 16 G
12/22 - Samsung 24" LED Smart TV

Now, how do you qualify? It is easy. Attend bingo. All paid admissions will receive one free raffle ticket. That's it.

Assumption Bingo is held twice a week on Wednesday and Friday. Doors open at 6 P.M. Food and refreshments are available for purchase. Bingo games start at 7:30 P.M.

Pet of the Week

Furbaby Laya was a gift from my father. Photo taken at the 2017 Christmas Parade, Love Virginia
**Courtesy of Cruz Photos.*



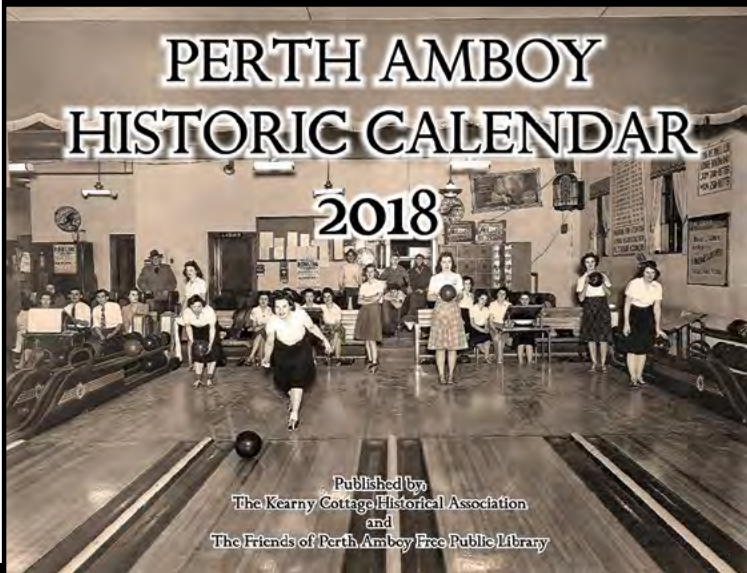
Volunteer Firefighters Needed

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.

Santa Run

SOUTH AMBOY – Parents – do you want to surprise your child with a visit from Santa Claus this Christmas while donating to a good cause? Enterprise Hook & Ladder of the South Amboy Fire Department is having a Santa Claus fundraiser. With a donation to Enterprise Hook & Ladder, members will show up to your house with Santa on the Fire Truck. Santa can even deliver a special gift (you provide the present) For a \$20 Donation Santa and the Fire Truck will visit for 10 minutes; For a \$40 Donation Santa and the Fire Truck will visit for 20 minutes. Santa will make his visits December 19th & 21st from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday December 23rd from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. There are a limited number of slots per night, so call 732-588-6174 or email SAFDTruck8@gmail.com to make your reservation. All gifts must be deliver to Enterprise Hook & Ladder, 107 George St. that night before clearly labeled with your name and address on each gift. Note: ALL dates & times are subject to change due to fire calls & other unforeseen emergencies that we must respond to! Open to South Amboy Residents Only.

2018 Historic Perth Amboy Calendars



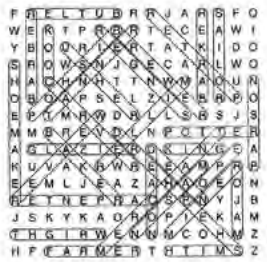
2018 Historic Perth Amboy Calendars are now available at the Barge Restaurant, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy 732-442-3000 or at Fertigs Uniform Store, 195 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy 732-442-1079, Perth Amboy City Hall or Call Paul or Katherine at 732-293-1090. Back by popular demand the Calendars feature 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.

Answers
From Puzzle
On Page 19



LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - 1950s - Santa visits State Street, Perth Amboy for Christmas

**Photo Courtesy of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library*

This photo was restored under a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission to the Kearny Cottage Historical Association.

Senior Scene Happenings

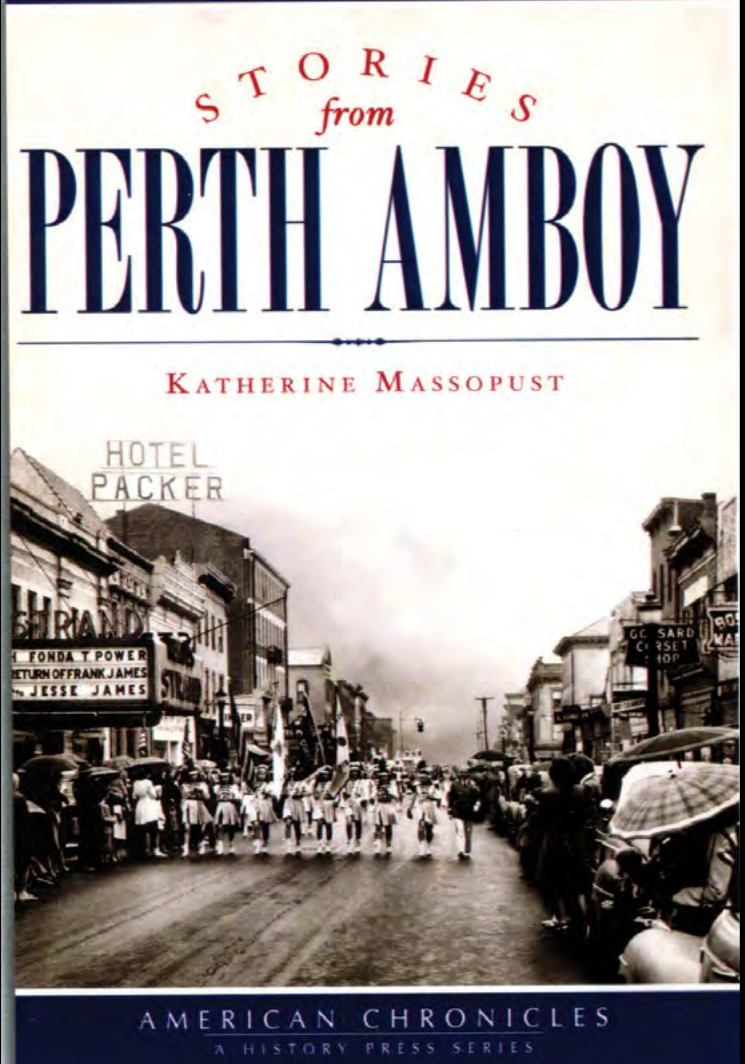
Perth Amboy

- TUES. Dec. 12 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. Dec. 13 Good Shepherd Wednesday Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Msgr. Gambino Hall, Florida Grove Rd.
- THURS. Dec. 14 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
- Ukrainian Assumption Seniors, 12 Noon Reo Diner, Amboy Ave., Woodbridge
- MON. Dec. 18 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
- TUES. Dec. 19 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. Dec. 20 Good Shepherd Wednesday Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Msgr. Gambino Hall, Florida Grove Rd.
- Holy Trinity Seniors, 1 p.m., Church Hall, Lawrie & Johnstone St.
- THURS. Dec. 21 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.

South Amboy

- WED. Dec. 13 South Amboy Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
- MON. Dec. 18 Sacred Heart Seniors, 12 Noon Memorial Hall, Wash Ave.
- TUES. Jan. 2 St. Mary's Seniors, 12 Noon, 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!

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