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AMBOY GUARDIAN

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Recent Tragedies Discussed 2/8/18 Board of Education Meeting

By: Katherine Massopust
PERTH AMBOY – Newly elected Board Member Jesus Martinez was sworn in at the beginning of the 2/8/18 Board Meeting. Martinez wasn't present at the last BOE Meeting due to attending Out of State Military Training.

Ken Puccio had been appointed President and Milady Tejada was appointed Vice-President.

During the Meeting, the Machado Law Group was approved to be the Board of Education's Attorney.

During the Board President's Report, Ken Puccio welcomed newcomers Jesus Martinez and Lissett Lebron. He asked for a moment of silence for everyone affected by the recent tragedies in Perth Amboy.

During the Superintendent's Report, Dr. David Roman put on the screen a photo of Perth Amboy School Children. "Sometimes it's important to put a face to the tragedy. We saw teachers consoling students and students consoling other children. We invited Ken Puccio, Mayor Wilda Diaz, Fire Chief Mullen and Police Chief McKeon to speak to the children. These are the faces of the children. That's what we're



Newly elected Board of Education Member Jesus Martinez is sworn in at the 2/8/18 Board Meeting *Photo by Katherine Massopust

losing in our community." Roman then asked for another moment of silence.

During the regular portion of the Meeting, Board Member Tashi Vasquez made some comments, "I share the sentiment for all of us in Perth Amboy for the loss of life. The City of Perth Amboy has instituted a Fire & Safety Initiative. The phone# you can call if you need a smoke/carbon monoxide detector is: 732-376-5419. The City, Red Cross and everyone are working together."

Board Member and Volunteer Firefighter Anton J. Massopust stated, "Some of these tragedies take place because people

take the batteries out of the smoke/carbon monoxide detectors. Don't do that."

Board President Ken Puccio then stated, "Along with the people that suffer the loss are the First Responders: The Firefighters, the Police, or EMT's. It's pretty devastating to those classroom teachers who lose a student in the room."

Dr. David Roman stated that there was to be two assemblies on Friday, February 9, 2018: one because of recent tragedies in Perth Amboy and one for Black History Month.

All Board Members were in attendance. The Meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Councilwoman Dato Looks to Cleanup Flyer Litter in South Amboy 2/7/18 Business Meeting

By: Joseph L. Kuchie
SOUTH AMBOY - Councilwoman Zusette Dato recently questioned the distribution of the free bagged flyers that are thrown on resident's driveways in South Amboy.

Dato has noticed an increase of the bagged flyers being thrown beyond properties in South Amboy. She asked City Attorney John Lanza if an ordinance could be made to help clean up the city's streets.

"I'm okay with the flyers because the truth is I'm looking for my flyer from the supermarket, however they should be required to put it at the door or on the door knob," Dato said. "It shouldn't be in the street, it shouldn't be on your lawn, it shouldn't be on the sewer cover, and that's where they wind up. It looks terrible."

"I'm okay with them distributing them but not the way they are doing it," she added. "If they deliver to the door I'm fine with it and I support it."

Councilwoman Dato referenced other town ordinances that require these flyer distributors to be licensed so the city knows who and what is being distributed.

"It requires that the vendor be licensed, that means we know who they are we can tell them what they can and can't do... they can't claim violation of freedom of the press," Dato said. "If we license them it's income for the city."

Mayor Fred Henry gave an update on the ongoing search for a new city Business Administrator.

"We're bringing back two of the candidates for a second interview on Friday and also a new interviewee on Friday," Mayor Henry said. "We'll see whether or not we want to pick one of those people or keep looking."

Mayor Henry has been han-



Councilwoman
Zusette Dato

dling the duties of Business Administrator since the beginning of 2018. He reflected on his time filling in at City Hall and praised the individuals who typically fill the role.

"To say the least it's been an eye-opener on a lot of different issues, I have a lot more respect for people who do this job, it's been interesting," Mayor Henry said.

"I don't think we should rush into this decision," Councilwoman Dato said. "Not that we're going to find the perfect candidate but if the candidates that present themselves don't have the kind of experience we need especially with the projects we have that are looming, I think we wait it out or go to the league of municipalities source or something and keep at it. Don't rush into this, it's a big one."

Councilman Brian McLoughlin was not in attendance for the business meeting. The next city council meeting will be held on February 21 at 7:00 p.m.

**Valentine's Day
Greetings
Inside!**

Perth Amboy Resident Celebrates 101st Birthday 2/8/18

*Photo by Katherine Massopust

SOUTH AMBOY/PERTH AMBOY – The Amboy Guardian recently had the pleasure of attending the 101st Birthday Celebration for Perth Amboy Resident Helen Stachowski who now is a resident at Venetian Care and Rehabilitation Center in South Amboy. Helen was featured on the front page of the February 2018 Venetian Voice Newsletter.

Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz attended the celebration with some City Officials. Mayor Diaz presented Helen with a citation honoring her long life and milestone birthday.

*Continued on Page 8



(L to R) Kristin Billich, Great Granddaughter, Tom Billich, Grandson, Arlene Ballak, Daughter, Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz, Kim Billich, Great Granddaughter. (Front) Helen Stachowski

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Raritan Bay Medical Center, MCVTS
Collaboration Puts Students to Work

Press Release 1/29/18
PERTH AMBOY - A partnership between the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools (MCVTS) and Hackensack Meridian Health Raritan Bay Medical Center-Perth Amboy has resulted in culinary students working in the hospital kitchen and others volunteering at the hospital.

“It’s a great partnership,” Perth Amboy Tech Principal Robert Fuller said. “Any time we can help out in the community and build these bonds, we will help out any way we can.”

Chef Stephen Moir, the school’s culinary instructor, said the collaboration began with an offer from Raritan Bay-Perth Amboy to donate excess produce from their “Learning Garden” to the culinary program at the school. The garden is part of a community nutrition program initiated by the hospital’s Integrative Health & Medicine program, and is funded by Raritan Bay’s medical staff. Since that initial overture, three culinary students have gone to work in the hospital kitchen and other students have begun volunteering.

“It’s a nice way to work together,” Moir said. “It’s a good start. We also spoke about getting our kids’ hands dirty and doing some planting next season. Part of the criteria for our certification as a 3-star green restaurant is utilizing locally grown, organic produce, making our partnership with the Learning Garden ideal.” The Green Restaurant Association granted the certification, which recognizes restaurants that are environmentally sustainable in energy, water, waste, food, chemicals, disposables and construction.

Perth Amboy Tech’s carpentry program, led by instructor Edward White, will build above-ground containers for the spring planting at the medical center. Nina Regevik, M.D., ABIHM, medical director of the medical center’s Integrative Health & Medicine program, said Master Gardener Connie Elek, from Rutgers University’s Cooperative Extension Program, has assisted the gardening effort since its launch in 2015, providing her expertise, and educational gardening sessions for the public, which has produced kale, beans, tomatoes, eggplant, tomatillos, peppers, broccoli, potatoes and collards, as well as marjoram and other herbs.

“We launched the integrative health program at Raritan Bay in 2004 and have been expanding ever since,” Dr. Regevik said. “Our goal is to empower our community with a healthy balance of mind, body, and spirit, through integrative



The collaboration was celebrated Nov. 30 as hospital personnel joined MCVTS administrators and faculty during a luncheon at the Perth Amboy Campus, prepared by culinary students. The menu included sesame seared tuna, sous vide free-range chicken breast and seared black sea bass. Culinary students posed for a photo at the luncheon.
**Photos Submitted*



Students pose for a photo with a delivery of produce.



At the luncheon a culinary student serves diners the salad course.

health initiatives, wellness education, and services. The Learning Garden is a perfect example of Hackensack Meridian Health Integrative Health & Medicine’s Five Pillars of Health and Wellness; including the physical activity of gardening which provides a sense of purpose and stress reduction, and results in nutritious, organic produce.”

Sustainability is also a priority for Hackensack Meridian Health, as the system works to reduce waste, minimize the use of hazardous materials, limit patient and team member exposure to dangerous toxins, prevent pollution, serve healthier foods, and more.

“It’s been a wonderful learning opportunity for our students,” said MCVTS Superintendent of Schools Dianne D. Veilleux. MCVTS administrators said they hope to expand the partnership to include the East Brunswick and Piscataway campuses and Raritan Bay Medical Center-Old Bridge.

away campuses and Raritan Bay Medical Center-Old Bridge.

“We also want to develop avenues to include our health care programs,” said Sean McDonald, MCVTS director of career and technical education. “That’s the next place to grow.” Students from MCVTS’ Project Employ have also worked in the hospital’s garden the past two summers.

Volunteers are needed to help expand and maintain The Learning Garden, for more information call Raritan Bay’s Integrative Health & Medicine program at 732-324-5257.

The Middlesex County Vocational and Technical School District, the first full-time county vocational school district in the nation, has seven schools on five campuses, in East Brunswick, Edison, Piscataway, Perth Amboy and Woodbridge. More information is available at www.mcvts.net.

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House Democrats Unveil A Better Deal to Rebuild America

Press Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, House Democrats announced a bold, new, comprehensive infrastructure plan – A Better Deal to Rebuild America. This historic \$1 trillion federal investment to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure is five times larger than President Trump’s rumored plan and will create more than 16 million jobs.

A Better Deal to Rebuild America will boost local economies and generate billions of dollars in new economic activity without adding to the deficit. The infrastructure plan will invest in American iron and steel and new American-made green infrastructure materials to support good-paying jobs, and ensure opportunities for small business owners. The plan will ensure projects advance quickly, while maintaining key environmental protections and labor standards.

“A Better Deal to Rebuild America means bold ideas, bipartisan agreement and historic investment to rebuild and revive our crumbling infrastructure,” said Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi. “While Trump boasts about his paltry plan, Democrats are committed to lowering costs, increasing safety and convenience and unlock the economic potential of every community.”

“Our infrastructure was once the envy of the world. It propelled our economy, created

good jobs, and expanded opportunity for working people. But today, our infrastructure ranks behind countries like Singapore and the United Arab Emirates. It’s time for A Better Deal to Rebuild America,” said Democratic Policy & Communications Committee Co-Chair Rep. David Cicilline. “This is a serious, realistic plan to deliver results for the American people by investing real federal resources to fix roads, modernize schools, enhance aviation and rail, lower energy costs, protect drinking water, and expand broadband access.”

“If the Administration wants bipartisan support they must offer an infrastructure plan that strengthens the Federal commitment to our national transportation network by providing sustainable, long-term funding, and filling the crater in the Highway Trust Fund,” said Transportation and Infrastructure Ranking Member Peter DeFazio. “President Trump cannot pretend to solve our infrastructure woes by slashing real investments to States and local governments, pushing the responsibility off Federal balance sheets, cutting existing transportation programs to pay for Wall Street and foreign investors to toll our roads, and gutting bedrock environmental protections. Democrats have offered common sense proposals that would invest \$1 tril-

lion in the Nation’s crumbling roads, bridges, transit systems, ports, harbors, and airports and put millions of people to work. I urge President Trump to work with Democrats to find sustainable solutions, rather than sell off our valuable infrastructure to the lowest bidder.”

“Our A Better Deal to Rebuild America invests in America’s future – a future that will increasingly rely on high-speed internet,” Energy and Commerce Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr. said. “High-speed broadband means stronger small businesses, more jobs and a powerful economy. It’s time to connect the rural and urban areas that have been left behind.”

“Democrats believe that any comprehensive infrastructure plan must support needed improvements in school facilities. No child should learn, and no teacher should teach, in an unsafe or dilapidated learning environment,” said Education and Workforce Ranking Member Bobby Scott. “We know that poor school facility conditions impact teaching and learning and disproportionately plague schools that serve low-income and minority students. The Rebuild America’s Schools Act is a better deal for America’s students and workers because it will advance educational equity, create almost two million construction jobs protected by fed-

eral prevailing wage standards, and boost domestic manufacturing under Buy America mandates.”

“It’s no secret that America’s infrastructure is falling apart and falling behind, with funding shortfalls totaling trillions of dollars,” said Rep. Earl Blumenauer. “This crisis demands that we strengthen the federal partnership and invest in our communities to rebuild and renew America. It’s not that hard if we work with the vast array of stakeholders that are willing to step up to do their part in the federal government’s investment.”

“I’m pleased to stand with my colleagues for a better infrastructure for our country,” Rep. Elizabeth Esty said. “We are a country that does great things, yet lately we’ve seen too many examples – from pipes bursting at JFK International Airport to congestion on I-84 in my home state of Connecticut – of aging, ailing infrastructure hindering our potential for growth. We should be able to work together to get something done to improve our roads, rails, bridges, water, airports, and our ‘infrastructure’ like broadband to strengthen America’s future.”

More details on A Better Deal can be found at: www.dems.gov/abetterdeal

Edison AARP Ch. 3446

EDISON - Edison AARP Chapter 3446 will meet on Monday, January 15, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at Our Lady of Peace Parish Center, Franklin Ave, Fords, NJ.

Events:

March 16: The Brownstone - St. Patrick’s Day Lunch Show - For information call Mary Ann at 732-287-3659

March 23 & May 18: AARP Driver Education Course - For information call Bob at 732-885-1789

For information on the Knitting and Crocheting club, contact Kay at 732-548-1976.

Canned goods & miscellaneous Items for hospitals and nursing homes will be collected at the meeting.

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



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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Valentine's Day
Memories & A Little Bit of a Twist



After three heavy duty editorials, we decided to lighten up a bit.

Growing up, Valentine's Day used to be a fun time in school. Back in the 1960's & 1970's, school children would exchange Valentine's cards. You would buy a box for the whole class, or in public school, your home room and each kid would get a Valentine. Teachers would give out little candy hearts or some sort of Valentine's Day treats. Sometimes cupcakes were passed out to the students.

It was always a happy day. I remember that every student made a Valentine Card that they traced on construction paper that you were able to color and trim and put on the window which decorated the classroom.

I remember my father would buy all the girls in the family a small box of candies with little sayings on them. As we got older, the girls got small boxes of chocolates and my mom would get a larger box and bouquet of flowers. Of course, mom would share her chocolates with everyone. We would

also give our parents Valentine's Day Cards. (Carolyn)

Sometimes I would make homemade cards out of foil paper and would give them to other students, teachers and my family. (Katherine)

So, for Valentine's Day, we think of sending cards to those we love or think fondly of. Recently I learned about an old tradition of sending someone a Vinegar Valentine Card which trust me, you wouldn't want to be the recipient of.

Vinegar Valentines were cards with caricatures on them with distasteful messages to those that had viewpoints you disagreed with or with people you particularly didn't like. Most of the time those cards were not signed. No matter what profession you were in, you could be a target. These cards cost much less than traditional romantic cards. In the 19th Century they made up of half of the United States Valentine's Day card sales. (Source: www.slate.com)

We hope your Valentine's Day is Sweet. *C.M. & K.M.*

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Should the
Electoral
College Be
Abolished?

The US Constitution was adopted as a compromise between the big states and the small states. Each state would have two Senators, the Representatives would be in proportion to the population; but each state

would have one Representative. This system has worked well for over two centuries. If the number of Electoral votes was increased for California, then the number of Electoral votes would have to be increased for the other big states as well. Would a House with nearly 2,000 members be an improvement?

Most states give all their electoral votes to the candidate who wins the most votes. But a

candidate can win with a majority in most states yet not receive an overall majority, assuming an honest count and no third parties. This is like a state election where one political party wins the governorship but does not have a majority in the legislature. Those who attack the Electoral College may not know enough to justify their criticism.

Ronald A. Sobieraj

What or Who is
Spying on Us?

The memo released about FISA (Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act) was nothing, but there's abuse of surveillance on President Trump and his advisors. How nice of the Democratic National Commit-

tee for doing this. Those big shots from the FBI and Department of Justice were abusing the so-called spy warrant for political reasons to stop Mr. Trump from being the next President. Also, this fake dossier is being used, too. I always said politics is a dirty game - more than ever. and this makes Watergate looks like a spitball

contest. This goes to show us what's being done behind our backs. What else was done over the years? I think this is the end of our freedom. What or who is spying on us? We hope more will come out and those rats will be running to the wall.

Orlando "Wildman" Perez

New
Perth Amboy
History
Documentary

PERTH AMBOY - "F. Luis Mora, An American Master in Perth Amboy" is set to premier on local Comcast TV Channel 34, and on Fios Channel 67/68. This documentary was created & produced by local historian & businessman John Kerry Dyke.

Who is F. Luis Mora? His full name is Francis Luis Mora, although he preferred to just be called Luis. Today, many art experts & galleries refer to him as "America's First Great Hispanic Artist", and his paintings are on display across the country including in The White House. His family roots go back to Uruguay, Spain, Cuba, Puerto Rico & France.

The Mora Family immigrated to Perth Amboy by 1881, bring-



ing a very young F. Luis. His father, Domingo Mora, was employed by the Perth Amboy Terra Cotta Company as its Chief Design Director. Domingo's sculptures, designs & influence grace the facades of many Perth Amboy buildings, as well as important structures throughout the United States. And Domingo's great artistic ability was inherited by his son, F. Luis.

This documentary focuses on

F.Luis Mora's relationship with Perth Amboy and many of his great works that were created here. And of course, period images of Perth Amboy (including those from rare glass negatives) are including in this film.

Check the Comcast Channel 34 or Fios 67/68 schedule for viewing times.

John K. Dyke

What Do You Think? Send Us a Response!

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Volunteer
Firefighters
Needed

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

Kearny
Cottage Open

PERTH AMBOY - Come visit the historic home of Commodore Lawrence Kearny. The Cottage is located at 63 Catalpa Ave, Perth Amboy, and is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. and the last Sunday of the month from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. by appointment. The Kearny Cottage needs your help. Anyone interested in joining the Kearny Cottage Historical Society please contact 732-293-1090. We are on the web! www.KearnyCottage.org



Proprietary
House Open

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

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

Groups are welcome, although reservations are required for groups over six people. The Proprietary House is located at 149 Kearny Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ. Tel. 732-826-5527 E-mail: info@proprietaryhouse.org. Follow us on our website, www.theproprietaryhouse.org and or/Facebook.

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy	
TUES. Feb. 13	Library Board of Trustees, 5 p.m. Library, Jefferson St.
WED. Feb. 14	City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, High St.
MON. Feb. 26	City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m. City Hall, High St.
South Amboy	
WED. Feb. 21	City Council, Regular 7 p.m. City Hall, N. Broadway

Please Submit Your Events
to AmboyGuardian@gmail.com



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We Keep You Moving

PERTH AMBOY - The Human Motion Institute at Hackensack Meridian Health Raritan Bay Medical Center-Perth Amboy, is sponsoring a free "We Keep You Moving" Total Joint Replacement Education session Friday, February 16, 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 1-800-DOCTORS (1-800-362-8677).

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

We are taking safety precautions in the City of Perth Amboy, emphasize that it is important:

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.

Amboy Bank Announces Minimum Wage Increase to \$15

News Release 2/2018

OLD BRIDGE - Stanley J. Koreyva Jr., President and COO, has announced a staff compensation enhancement program increasing the minimum wage for all full-time employees to \$15 an hour.

Commenting on the change, Koreyva stated, "We want to recognize our staff members that serve our clients face to face on a daily basis and reward the skills required to provide our outstanding service. We are proud that Amboy has been Voted Best Bank for 20 years in a row and understand this is due to our outstanding employees and an expectation we will never compromise our high standards." As a special thank you Amboy Bank is ensuring all non-executive employees receive a year-end minimum bonus of \$1,000.

Many employees have served the bank for many years with over 49% having more than ten years of service. Koreyva added, "Banking is changing. Twenty years ago 90% of client activity was transactional in nature. Now we need to focus on educating clients on electronic banking, real estate taxes and fraud plus make sure we are proactively meeting their needs. To be successful we need to ensure we maintain the best people and we look forward to attracting new employees that will offer nothing but the best for our clients."

Founded in 1888, Amboy Bank is a full service commercial bank with assets of \$2.5 billion and 24 offices in central New Jersey. Amboy has been voted Best Bank in Central Jersey for 20 years in row.

Arturo Alfonso Schomburg An Afro Puerto Rican Contribution to African American History Month Puerto Rican Association for Human Development, Inc. (PRAHD) Sheriff Mildred A. Scott to be Honored 2/23/18

Press Release 2/1/18

PERTH AMBOY - This month the country celebrates the history and achievements of African Americans. We celebrate the contributions, large and small, made by the descendants of Africans; contributions that have made our country great. It is important to note that the primary center for African American History is named after Arturo Alfonso Schomburg, a Puerto Rican of African and German descent. The renowned Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, located in the New York Public Library's 135th St. branch in Harlem, has at its core Schomburg's collection of over 10,000 books, manuscripts, prints, photos, letters and any other evidence he could find documenting African contribution to history.

Schomburg was born and raised in Santurce, Puerto Rico. He was intensely involved in both the Puerto Rican and Cuban independence movements from Spain during the 1890s before the Spanish American

War.

Stung by the remarks of a teacher in Puerto Rico who told him "Negroes have no history", he dedicated his life to proving that teacher wrong. Schomburg understand that knowledge of history was the route to racial dignity. In his 1925 essay, The Negro Digs up His Past, he wrote: "History must restore what slavery took away, for it is the social damage of slavery that the present generations must repair and offset".

In honor of African American History Month on Friday, February 23, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.; The Puerto Rican Association for Human Development, Inc. (PRAHD) will present the organization's Fifth Annual Arturo Alfonso Schomburg African American History Month Award to Sheriff Mildred A. Scott, an individual who exemplifies excellence. Attending this event will be special guest Dean Schomburg—grandson of Arturo Alfonso Schomburg.

Thank you Jaffe Communications for sponsoring this year's event!

Perth Amboy's BID Hosts Sales Coach Who Shares Five Steps to "Jump Start" a Company's Growth New Business Expert Recommends Focusing on Factors That Set Companies Apart from its Competitors



Press Release 2/9/18

PERTH AMBOY – Sales coaching expert Rocky Romeo shared five, easy steps for turning a company around during the Perth Amboy Business Improvement District's recent networking event. Engaging the crowd at La Terrazza Latina Restaurant, Mr. Romeo encouraged executives and entrepreneurs to focus on "finding the factors that make their businesses unique." The first step, Mr. Romeo said, is that companies need to vigorously promote what is different about their products, customer service, delivery, or guarantees.

He said, "Clients will remember what's different about your business and what gives you a greater edge over competitors and can help you build a powerful brand."

As the event began, Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz welcomed the group of business professionals who braved the stormy, wintry weather to hear the presentation. Mayor Diaz said, "The City actively supports the business community that is the backbone of our local economy. When companies thrive here, it provides many advantages to the City, its residents and visitors."

During the evening, Mr. Romeo recommended four more how-to steps to grow a small business:

- Get to know clients by engaging them each day – go beyond just saying hello. Instead, start a small conversation when meeting in-person or on the phone. For people with too many clients, select a few and start talking.
- Embrace the latest technologies. Technology can save businesses money, boost productivity and open new ways to effectively connect with clients.
- Ask this one question each day, and answers will come: What can be done now to attract new customers, encourage exiting clients to make another purchase or request more services?
- Keep up with the trends in the



*Photos by Bob Ranklin

company's field by joining and participating in association that represents the industry.

Mr. Romeo also advised people about how to get real value when attending networking events. First, he sets a goal for each networking session of securing four to six appointments. Next, he decides on a unique response to the question: "What is your business?"

He, for example, offered a very different response to the question: "I met an accountant, who said that he will keep the IRS's hand out of your pocket or purse." Few people will for-

get that reply.

Mr. Romeo also shared a valuable lesson about giving out and gathering business cards at networking events. Wait until a person asks for a business card before handing it out. Second, separate the cards you gather – ones to keep and those to discard. He places the keepers in right pocket and tosses away the cards in the left pocket.

Mr. Romeo concluded the presentation by saying he is likely to return to Perth Amboy when the BID schedules its next networking evening.

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Praising Former Law Director Mark Blunda

1/24/18 Council Meeting

PERTH AMBOY – Re: Communication No. 4 – Mark J. Blunda of Appruzzese, McDermott, Mastor & Murphy submitted a copy of an Order of the Supreme Court of NJ dismissing the Petitions for Certification filed by Safeco Insurance Company, TAK Construction and Interstate Industrial following the Appellate Division’s affirmation of the trial court judgement of June 30, 2014.

Resident Ken Balut wanted to express what a wonderful job that Mark Blunda did when he worked here. “I watched him in action. He was a gentleman and

took on the big companies. He handled bigger cases for less money.” He stated that Firms that came after him were disrespectful. “The ethics is really bad, now. Write a letter to Blunda thanking him. He saved us millions.”

Resident Alan Silber came up. He talked briefly about the Law Director who was here prior to Blunda (Frank Capece). “That Law Director made sure he put a resolution on the agenda to have him get paid his money. How much was that? Mr. Blunda by himself versus 5 people (other lawyers) on the

other side successfully won a case. Blunda went into closed session and was told he was being replaced.”

Council President Bill Petrick agreed with the praises that Balut and Silber heaped upon Blunda. He stated, “We (the Council) should send a letter thanking Mr. Blunda.”

Councilman Fernando Irizarry then added, “We should have the Mayor draft a resolution about this.”

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez said, “Regardless, we should just do it.”

Coughlin, Mosquera & Sumter: Time to Increase Heat-and-Eat Assistance to Families

Bill Would Provide Utility & Nutrition Help to Families & Boost N.J. Economy

Speaker Says Energy/Nutrition Assistance Bill Must be Part of Discussion of Clean Energy/Nuclear Future

Press Release 2/8/18

TRENTON – Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin on Thursday announced the Assembly will be advancing legislation to increase heat-and-eat assistance payments as part of his effort to help New Jersey families facing hunger and other struggles.

Coughlin (D-Middlesex) said the legislation must be part of the discussion as lawmakers consider the future of New Jersey’s clean energy and nuclear programs.

“We cannot discuss New Jersey’s clean energy future without considering the families who pay the bills,” Coughlin said. “Too many families are struggling to make ends meet. It’s important that we strengthen New Jersey’s clean energy programs, but it’s also important that we remember the families who struggle each day to make ends meet. We must provide all the help we can - and with this simple step we can help thousands upon thousands of our residents.”

Coughlin has made combating hunger a top priority, and said he expects the heat-and-eat bill to be heard Monday by the Assembly Women and Children Committee chaired by Assemblywoman Gabriela Mosquera.

receive more nutrition assistance.

Former Republican Gov. Chris Christie vetoed several efforts by Democrats to boost the energy assistance payment in recent years. Because of the vetoes, New Jersey families lost \$90 per month of their nutrition assistance.

“Fortunately, the landscape has changed,” said Mosquera (D-Gloucester/Camden). “We’ve tried so hard to ensure families get this much-needed assistance, but under Speaker Coughlin’s leadership and with a new governor, we will get this done. We are making families a priority. This is significant and timely help for many, many of our families – and the right thing to do for our state.”

“These benefits are known to have a large positive impact on the economy, since families are likely to spend the money immediately, so it’s smart in many ways,” said Assembly Majority Conference Leader Shavonda Sumter (D-Passaic/Bergen). “We must focus on the needs of families, and this is a compassionate and responsible approach. Helping families struggling to make ends meet is progressive, shared value, and I look forward to it becoming reality.”

Under the heat-and-eat bill (A-3010), every household in the state eligible to receive benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) would receive a minimum annual energy assistance payment of \$21 to qualify for a heating and cooling standard utility allowance - which in turn qualifies them for more nutritional assistance.

The bill could help about 160,000 families get increased assistance.

It’s been estimated that maintaining heat-and-eat benefits would yield up to \$170 million in federal SNAP funds in New Jersey. Also, the state could likely use federal funds from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to pay for the increase in energy assistance.

New Jersey Policy Perspective has estimated that keeping up to \$170 million in federal SNAP dollars in New Jersey could result in an economic boost of up to \$300 million.

“This is meaningful help to many, many families,” Coughlin said.

Before July 2014, the state made annual energy assistance payments of \$1 to SNAP recipient households to qualify them for the heating and cooling standard utility allowance.

But under the federal Agricultural Act of 2014, households must receive more than \$20 in annual energy assistance payments to maintain the household’s eligibility. The bill therefore ensures that eligible households that are not currently enrolled can receive the heating and cooling standards utility allowance, allowing them to

“My commitment to make New Jersey more affordable will not waver,” Coughlin said. “Ensuring New Jersey has a strong job-creating clean energy industry is a must, and we’re working on that, but so is helping families with energy and nutritional assistance payments. It’s the right approach socially and fiscally. I look forward to accomplishing both goals.”

Attend Public Meetings
Have Your Voice Heard!

Vitale Bill to Permit Gestational Carrier Agreements Advances

‘New Jersey Gestational Carrier Agreement Act’ Would Provide Guidelines for Contracts Between Carriers and Intended Parents

Press Release 2/6/18

TRENTON – Legislation sponsored by Senate Health Chairman Joseph F. Vitale that would permit gestational carrier agreements – where a woman agrees to carry and give birth to a child using another woman’s egg so that the child is not genetically-related to the carrier – cleared the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee yesterday.

“For men and women who are looking to start or expand their families but have struggled to do so through traditional means, gestational carrier agreements offer an alternative path to having children,” said Senator Vitale (D-Middlesex). “Gestational carrier agreements are imperative to protect the interests of all parties involved, including the carrier, the intended parents, and the child.”

The “New Jersey Gestational Carrier Act,” S-482, would determine specific guidelines that the gestational carrier and the intended parents must follow when writing up gestational carrier agreements.

Under the legislation, the gestational carrier must be at least 21 years old, have already given birth to at least one child and

have completed both medical and psychological evaluations. The intended parents would be required to have completed a psychological evaluation to determine their suitability to enter an agreement and to have retained an attorney to advise them about the terms and potential legal consequences of entering into an agreement.

It would be required that the agreement clearly states that the gestational carrier would agree to undergo pre-embryo transfer, to attempt to carry and give birth to the child, and to surrender custody of the child to the intended parent immediately upon the birth of the child. The agreement would allow for the gestational carrier to choose her own medical care for the pregnancy, labor, delivery and postpartum care. The agreement would not be considered an adoption, a surrender of custody, or a termination of parental rights; therefore it would not be in conflict with New Jersey’s adoption laws.

Additionally, the agreement would state that the intended parent agrees to become the legal parent of the child immediately upon his or her birth. The child’s birth certificate would

name the intended parent as the sole legal parent of the child.

The bill would allow for the intended parent to reimburse the gestational carrier’s reasonable expenses in connection with carrying the child. This would include reimbursement for medical, hospital, counseling and attorney fees and living expenses during the pregnancy and post-partum recovery. This portion of the bill is similar to guidelines in New Jersey’s existing adoption statute.

“Some couples spend years trying IVF and other fertility treatments, and it takes its toll physically and emotionally,” said Senator Vitale. “This bill will provide the legal framework for gestational carrier agreements and allow couples to celebrate the birth of a child after their long journey.”

Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Nevada, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington State and Wisconsin’s laws allow for gestational surrogacy in some fashion. The District of Columbia legalized compensated gestational carrier agreements in April 2017.

The bill next heads to the full Senate for consideration.

Meet the Author: Debbie Doctofsky-Solomon

Press Release

PERTH AMBOY – The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library are happy to host Debbie Doctofsky-Solomon on Saturday, March 3rd at 11 a.m. in the Children’s Room of the Perth Amboy Library located at 196 Jefferson St.

Debbie’s books include Hidden in the Himalayas, Journey to the River of Perfumes and her most recent release Pedro’s Decision. Her books promote understanding about other cultures with settings in Nepal, Vietnam and Nicaragua. She will read and talk about her books leading everyone on “an expedition in learning” with fantastic experiences and beautiful illustrations by Silvia Dotti. These books are geared toward kindergarten age through 4th grade. Books will be available for purchase.

For more information on Debbie, visit her website at <http://debbiesolomon.com/>

This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For information, contact the Friends at (201) 381-1903, e-mail at friendsofperthamboylibrary@gmail.com, visit our webpage at www.folperthamboy.com or find us on Facebook.

The Friends encourage the love of reading and independent learning, play a role in community involvement, sponsor special programs, raise funds for special projects, equipment and materials in excess of the general Library budget.

Happy 101st Birthday Helen Stachowski! 2/8/18

*Photo by Katherine Massopust & Carolyn Maxwell



**Continued from Page 1*

In the newsletter, it stated that Helen was one of seven children and the first-born girl. When she turned 14, she had to quit school and get a job to help out at home. Some of the jobs she worked at were at a shirt factory and a brassiere factory which she did not stay long at. She delighted in telling us how she met her husband while she and her best friend were sitting at a place downtown. A car drove by with two young men who waved at them. One was tall and handsome and the other was short and handsome. Helen turned to her friend and said, "I'm taking the tall one."

She became mischievous recalling that she could be a bad girl when she was growing up. She smiled talking about how she climbed up on the roof of her mother's house to play to her mother's dismay. She recalled that one time when she

was sledding, she went underneath a truck just missing the tires. She recalled that her parents came over from Hungary on the same boat but didn't know each other at that time. Growing up, one of her fondest memories was going to the Waterfront and taking the Ferry which went from Perth Amboy to Staten Island. Other remembrances were going to the market with her mother. She laughed recalling her mother walking home with a chicken under her arm. Helen has traveled to Spain, Italy, and Ireland. In Ireland she remembers running to see the ducks going upstream. When asked if she kissed the Blarney Stone, she said, "No, way! You have to climb up those stairs and lean backwards to kiss it! No way!" Helen would take her daughter to Manhattan to see a movie and then a live show which

they both enjoyed very much. Helen's daughter, Arlene Ballak talked about how her mother made beautiful crocheted items. Helen said she also made afghans which she would sell for \$5.00 at the market. Ballak added that her mother made her own clothes which were beautiful and hand embroidered handkerchiefs of which all her family still have. We asked Helen about some of her favorite foods. She answered that she loves stuffed cabbage. She also loves szalonna, which is pork and bacon on a stick which drips on to rye bread. She also likes chicken, especially chicken paprikash. Scrambled eggs are an every day favorite. When she was home, the family would come on Sundays for a pot roast meal with rice. We asked her what she attributes her long life to, and she simply answered, "Greasy food."

We want to acknowledge Helen's devoted family for their warm welcome. We can see the mutual love and respect they show each other. Friend Debbie Foley bought a birthday cake which was shared with staff and other residents. The celebration continued in the Venetian Community Room. Helen's family and friends were seated at a large table which were filled with balloons and flowers. Also in attendance were the residents

and staff of Venetian to make this event special. Helen was serenaded by lounge singer Anthony Didino who entertained during the party. He sang to her: "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." We want to thank Helen and her family and Debbie Foley who called us, so we could be part of this special celebration. Happy Birthday Helen and enjoy many more!

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

GEORGE J. OTLOWSKI, JR.
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A Delightful Valentine's Tea

PERTH AMBOY – The Proprietary House, (the Royal Governor's Mansion), invites you to "A Delightful Valentine's Tea," from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14th.

Celebrate Valentine's Day at the Royal Governor's Mansion. Assorted teas, sparkling beverages, scrumptious desserts, chocolates and other treats will be served by candlelight in the mansion's atmospheric colonial brick and stone wine cellar. Enjoy a museum tour and shop in the Museum Gift Shop. (Museum is accessible for people with disabilities.)

\$13 per Person / \$25 per Couple. Space is limited. Reservations required. Funds raised will benefit restoration and operation of Proprietary House's Museum.

For reservations and information, contact Proprietary House Association - Phone: (732) 826-5527; E-mail: info@the-proprietaryhouse.org; Address: 149 Kearny Avenue, Perth Amboy, NJ, 08861.



A Military Timeline

PERTH AMBOY – The Proprietary House, the Royal Governor's Mansion, will host "A Military Timeline" on Sunday, February 18th, 2018, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Military Timeline will feature uniformed re-enactors depicting the Revolutionary War thru conflicts of the 20th century. Arms, soldiers' kit & equipment from the various eras will be on display. Admission is free, with donations gladly accepted to help offset costs of restoring and operating Proprietary House's Museum.

Also, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 18th, free museum tours will be available, and the Museum Gift Shop will be open. The Tea Room will serve assorted teas and desserts in the colonial wine cellar (\$10/Adult; \$5/Child). (The Museum is accessible for people with disabilities.)

For info contact Proprietary House Association - PHONE: (732) 826-5527; E-MAIL: info@the-proprietaryhouse.org; ADDRESS: 149 Kearny Avenue, Perth Amboy, NJ, 08861.



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Happy Valentine's Day!

Why Didn't I Learn This Before? *Unlearning Myths of Race and Racism*

Press Release 1/22/18
WOODBIDGE TOWNSHIP
- In this presentation, being held at the Woodbridge Main Library on Thursday, February 15 at 7:00 PM, Dr. Karen Gaffney will share a few key concepts from her new book, *Dismantling the Racism Machine: A Manual and Toolbox*. Her goal is to raise awareness about the false beliefs that perpetuate racism, especially the myths often taught to white people that need to be unlearned. There will also be plenty of time for discussion.

Dr. Karen Gaffney is Professor of English at Raritan Valley Community College, where she

teaches *Race in American Literature and Popular Culture*. As a white anti-racist educator, she presents her work at conferences and in community workshops, as well as in her blog with resources *Divided No Longer* (available at www.dividednolonger.com). Her book, *Dismantling the Racism Machine: A Manual and Toolbox*, is an accessible and interdisciplinary introduction to race and racism with tools for action.

This program is free and open to all. The Woodbridge Main Library is located at 1 George Frederick Plaza, Woodbridge, NJ. Please visit us at <http://woodbridgelibrary.org/>

Fish & Chicken Fry

SAYREVILLE - The First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville will be having a Fish and Chicken Fry on Friday, March 16, 2018. Tickets are \$15.00 in advance and there are limited tickets available at the door. Chicken is available by advance order only. Take-outs will begin at 5:00 p.m. and dining room seating will be from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. For tickets please call 732-257-6353 or e-mail us at churchoffice172@optimum.net.

Fish Fry

PERTH AMBOY – St. John Paul II Parish is sponsoring a Fish Fry Fundraiser on Friday, February 16, 2018 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. It will be held at Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima Church at 188 Wayne Street. Take-out is also available. The menu is either fried or broiled fish or pierogis, salad, coleslaw, French fries and Spanish rice. Other menu choices include macaroni and cheese and spaghetti with clam sauce. Bottled water and cake and coffee or tea are also included. Soda will be available for purchase. The price is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children (7-12 years-old). For tickets call 732-826-1395. The deadline for ticket sales is February 13, 2018.

Spring Breakfast Buffet

PERTH AMBOY – The Ukrainian Assumption Parish Holy Name Society is having an all you can eat Spring Breakfast Buffet on Sunday, March 18, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Ukrainian Assumption School Cafeteria (Meredith & Jacques Streets, Perth Amboy). The Brunch Menu includes: scrambled eggs, egg soufflé, omelets (made to order), hash browns, pancakes, fruits, bacon, sausage, coffee, tea, juice and more... Donation: \$10 Adults; \$5 ages 6-12; children under 6 – free. Tickets are available in advance after each Mass or by calling Charlie at 732-254-3966.

Depression During the Golden Years

OLD BRIDGE - Hackensack Meridian Health Raritan Bay Medical Center-Old Bridge is sponsoring a free Depression during the Golden Years education session Wednesday, February 21, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Old Bridge Public Library, One Old Bridge Plaza, Old Bridge, NJ. Learn signs and symptoms of depression, common problems that cause or mimic depression, and ways to assist elderly who may be depressed. Registration required, call 1-800-560-9990.

Tom's Tax Tips

Reduce Your Property Taxes

Courtesy of Tom Ploskanka C.P.A.

With the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, deductions of state, local and property taxes are not worth as much as they used to be. Beginning in 2018, taxpayers are limited to a total of \$10,000 in combined state income, sales and property taxes as an itemized deduction.

One way you can try to adapt is by lowering your property tax bill. Believe it or not, there is a way.

Why you may need a property tax reassessment

Property taxes are the revenue lifeblood of cities, counties, school districts and states, and they fluctuate along with house prices. Because local governments are eager to collect more tax revenue, they are quick to get property values assessed higher when times are good. But they aren't as quick to get values lowered again when the economy falters. As a result, over time your property value tends to creep up without downward corrections. When added to increased property tax rates, your bill today can be much higher than in the past.

What you can do about it
If you dread the annual letter informing you that your property tax is going to go up again, one thing you can try is to approach your local assessor and ask for a property revaluation. Here are some ideas to successfully reduce your home's appraised value:

- Understand process and due dates. Do some homework to understand the approved process to get your property revalued. It is typically outlined on your property tax statement. Understand the deadlines and adhere to them.
- Assess your property. Do some homework before you call your assessor. Talk to neighbors and honestly assess the amount of disrepair your property may be in versus other comparable properties in your neighborhood.

- Call a few real estate professionals. Tell them you would like a market review of your property. Try to choose a professional that will not overstate the value of your home hoping to get a listing, but will show you comparable sales for your area.

- Check the classification. Look at your property classification in the detailed description of your home. Oftentimes errors in this code can overstate the value of your home. For instance, if you live in a condo that was converted from an apartment, the property value could still be based on a non-owner occupied rental basis.

- Understand first, then clarify your position. Armed with the information you've collected, approach the assessor seeking first to understand the basis of their appraisal. Then position your request for a review based on the facts. Do not fall into the trap of defending your review request without first having all the information on your property.

- Estimate a reasonable value. Suggest a reasonable valuation to the assessor. Assessors are so used to irrational arguments, that they may readily accept a reasonable approach.

- Get an appraisal, if necessary. If all else fails and you still believe your home is overvalued, consider spending the money for an independent appraisal. This option could be expensive, but can provide a fairly decent defense of your position. You should be able to recoup the cost of the appraisal with many years of lower property taxes.

While going through this process, remember to be aware of the pressure that these local tax authorities are under to raise revenue. This understanding can help temper your position and hopefully put you in a better position to have your case heard.

Lent Fish Fry

SAYREVILLE – The St. Stanislaus Kostka Holy Name Society is having a First Friday of Lent Fish Fry on Friday, February 16, 2018 from 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at St. Stan's School, 221 MacArthur Ave., Sayreville, NJ 08872. The menu includes: Fried or Broiled Flounder Platters, Fried Shrimp Platters, and Combination Platters. Includes: French Fries, Salad Bar, Coffee/Tea/Soda and Dessert. Adults – \$15.00, Children (under 12) – \$8.00. Please purchase your ticket in advance in the CHURCH LOBBY Or at the OFFICE. For more info call: 732-254-0212.

Tricky Tray/ Gift Auction

PERTH AMBOY - The St Ann Society of Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption is sponsoring a “OVER THE RAINBOW” Tricky Tray/Gift Auction on March 4, 2018 to be held in the Assumption Catholic School Auditorium, 380 Meredith St, Perth Amboy, NJ. Doors open at 12:00 pm and the Auction starts at 2:00 PM. Admission is \$10. There will be 4 levels of wonderful prizes as well as other special raffles including a LG 49” LED Ultra HD 4K Smart TV with HDR, a Designer Bag raffle, Gift Card Extravaganza, Its Your Lucky Day and Money Raffle. Complimentary cake and coffee to all. The Kitchen, sponsored by the men of the Holy Name Society, will be open for lunch, serving delicious foods like, cabbage and noodles, kielbasa and kraut and much more.... Please No Outside Food or Beverage to be brought in. Tickets are available in advance from any St Ann's member or at the door the day of the auction. For more information you can call the rectory at 732-826-0767. Looking forward to seeing you “Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

VITA (United Way) Tax Assistance @ Dowdell Library

Press Release 2/5/18

SOUTH AMBOY - Need help preparing your taxes? Sign up NOW to reserve one of the limited spaces provided by VITA (United Way). VITA free tax preparation assistance for individuals earning less than \$64,000 per year is available on the following dates. To register: 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org
Tuesday, February 20 from 10 am-2:30 pm,
Wednesday, March 21 from 10 am-2:30 pm
Monday, March 26 from 4-8 pm
Monday, April 9 - Drop off service only 10 am– 12 noon. Pick up return on Wednesday April 11.

Stop by the library in February on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 pm for Family Lego Maze. Build the craziest and wackiest maze out of Legos and guide your marble through to the end. We'll supply the Legos, you supply the maze outline!

Take part in Dowdell's Winter Olympics Palooza! Join us for live streaming of the games, Winter Olympics Wii U Contest, Marshmallow Stacking, Making your own Flag and other activities throughout February! No registration is required.

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.

Community YMCA Yard Sale

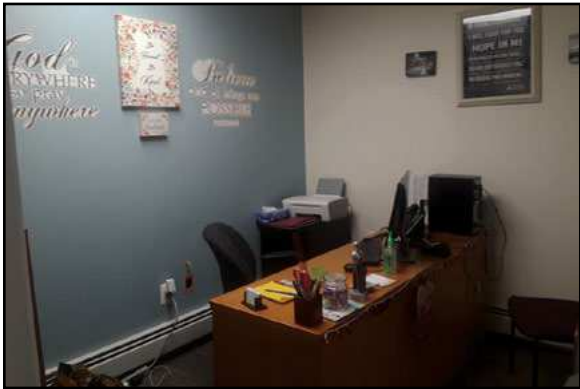
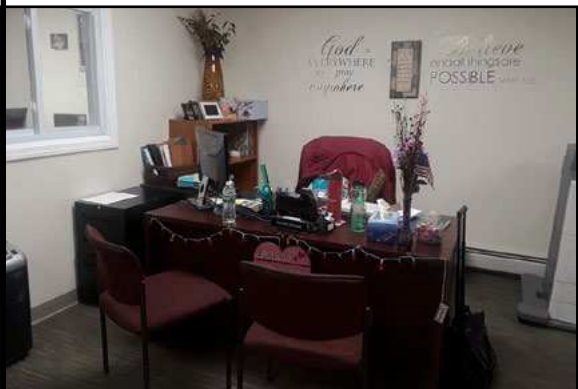
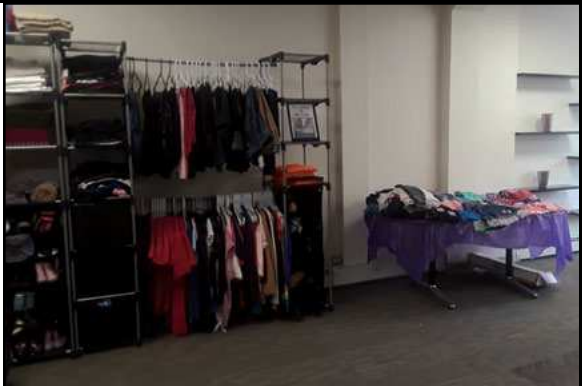
PERTH AMBOY – The YMCA is having a community Yard Sale on February 24, 2018 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Y, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy. Donation: \$20 per table The donation will benefit the Y's Annual Campaign. The Y. For a better us.

Ask the Rabbi

PERTH AMBOY/EDISON - On February 14th & 28th 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.

Grand Opening of Care Management Center for the Homeless, Perth Amboy 2/8/18

*Photos Submitted by Pastor Bernadette Falcon-Lopez



PERTH AMBOY - The Center provides care management services for homeless and in danger of being homeless. We have clothing distribution at the storefront it has racks and shelves to make the homeless feel like they are shopping. We also have cubby holes where they keep their towels and hygiene products. We have shower facilities, a kitchenette, flat screen tv's, games and a computer station for resume writing, job search, apartment search and on-line program applications. We also have a children's section at the care management area so that parents applying for programs will feel safe that the children have a safe place to play. We also have shelves that were built by Home Depot who have partnered with the center. The shelves will be to display art work received from homeless artists.

We had a great turn out at the open house it was a blessing to see so many within the community supporting the center. The mayor even mentioned that we should expand to the building next to us. Toshiba donated computers, tv's and the printer.

Our homeless friends were at the open house and when I was speaking I cried remembering the loss of some of our friends especially Pragnesh (Sammy) Panchel who was the first of our friends to die. He was the victim of the Miller Street fire back in February of 2014. Some of them cried along with me as they remembered their friends on the memorial wall. Honestly, I feel that the memorial wall is by far my favorite area at the center. The homeless named every area in the center themselves. They call the storefront "The Gallery at the Foyer", the children's section "The Fun Zone", the kitchen is "The Kozy Kitchen", the computer area "The Station" and the area with the tables and TV's the "The Living Room" and finally where the art will be displayed will be "The Art Center".

Pastor Berny

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

Codey-Vitale Introduce Resolution Urging Reopening of Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital

Press Release 2/7/18

TRENTON – Senator Richard J. Codey and Senator Joseph F. Vitale this week introduced a Senate Concurrent Resolution that urges the governor to re-open Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital so that the state can provide appropriate treatment and support to its older residents with mental illness who require hospitalization, and in the process, potentially help to relieve the dangerous overcrowding of some of the state's other psychiatric hospitals.

Senator Codey has been a life-long advocate for individuals with mental illness. In August, he called on Governor Christie to start the process of reopening Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital to alleviate the overcrowding at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital. His call followed a published report on NJ.com describing overcrowded and unsafe conditions at the Greystone facility. Senator Codey vowed to continue

the effort under the Murphy Administration.

"The closure of Hagedorn came after Governor Christie put together a panel of bipartisan legislators, a cabinet member, and the public, the majority of which he selected, that urged him strongly not to close it. He went against the advice of his own commission and shuttered the facility. As a result, many of the geriatric patients were transferred to Greystone, to live in overcrowded and unsafe conditions, where residents have suffered violence," said Senator Codey (D-Essex/Morris). "Reopening Hagedorn is the right thing to do to address the crisis we now face."

According to mental health advocates, Hagedorn was one of the most highly functioning and well-staffed hospitals in the state, and its smaller size and specialization in geriatric mental health filled a niche that other state psychiatric hospitals did not, the resolution (SCR96)

states. Leading up to its closure, its 255 patients were moved into nursing homes, community placements or relocated to other state hospitals and advocates express concern that because of their advanced age or frailty, those former patients may not be able to advocate for themselves to change their situation if their new placements are not providing the necessary levels of care and support.

Located in Glen Gardner, Hunterdon County, the Senator Garrett W. Hagedorn Geropsychiatric Hospital was closed in July 2012, and the reasons given for the closure of the hospital by former Governor Chris Christie included cost savings and an effort to provide treatment for individuals with mental illness in the least restrictive setting possible.

Populations of other state psychiatric hospitals have increased, in part, due to their absorption of some of the former

Hagedorn patients, resulting in the untenable overcrowding and dangerous conditions at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital – which was built to house 450 people in the main building but which as of March 2017 housed 560 patients. The facility experienced a marked increase in patient-on-patient and patient-on-staff violence during 2017, one of the dangerous consequences of overcrowding and insufficient staffing, the resolution states.

"It is important that people living with mental illness are treated in the least restrictive setting possible, but we know there will always be individuals who require more supportive and specialized care. We must make sure we have the resources available for these residents, and unfortunately the closure of facilities in the state has led to systemic issues with regard to capacity that are putting the safety of patients at risk," said Senator Vitale (D-Middlesex).

"We believe reopening Hagedorn is an appropriate way to provide treatment to our older patients, but also to address the overcrowding that has resulted in dangerous living conditions for residents who require care in a state facility and an unsafe working environment for staff."

Ashes to Go

On Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018, Christ Episcopal Church, South Amboy and St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Perth Amboy, will once again be offering "Ashes to Go," which brings a centuries-old Christian tradition outside the church walls at both the Perth Amboy (6:15 am to 8:30 am) and South Amboy (6:00 am to 8:00 am) Train Stations as well as the Park and Ride bus stop on Rte. 9 (6:00 am to 8:30 am).

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.*

Erwin Rommel's and Hans-Jürgen von Arnim's Axis forces launch a counterattack against the American II Corps in central Tunisia on February 12, 1943, forcing it back in some disarray. In the Caucasus, the Soviets capture Krasnodar, held by the Germans since August 1942. During a radio broadcast to share with the public details of the recently concluded Casablanca Conference, President Roosevelt makes the statement: "the Axis propagandists are trying all of their old tricks in order . . . to create the idea that if we win this war, Russia, England, China, and the United States are going to get into a cat-and-dog fight." In Thessaloniki, Greece, the Germans mandate that Jews must wear yellow Star-of-David badges. Two ghettos are established for them near railroad tracks.

On February 13, Soviet forces capture Novocherkassk, Russia, displacing German troops. In Washington, D.C., the U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve is officially established, with Maj. Ruth Streeter as its first director. The purpose is to replace men at shore stations, freeing them for combat. In the Pacific, the Vought F4U Corsair is first used in combat. The fast, single-engine fighter is flown by Navy and Marine Corps pilots from Henderson Field on Guadalcanal.

In Africa on February 14, the 5th *Panzerarmee*, under Gen. Hans-Jürgen von Arnim, forces the retreat of the U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division, inflicting very heavy losses during the Battle of Faïd Pass, in west central Tunisia. The Germans exploit the Americans' poor command, weak land and air coordination, faulty unit dispositions, and the inexperience of some troops. It is the U.S. Army's first major battle defeat in the war. In Russia, in the Caucasus, the Soviets capture Rostov, on the Don River.

Kharkiv and other cities in the Ukraine are liberated on February 15 as Soviet forces reoccupy territory formerly held by the Germans. Stalin begins to speak of the possibility of total victory in 1943.

Under constant pressure from Germany's Commissar-General for Labor, the government of Vichy France on February 16 introduces Compulsory Labor Service, which requires that men born between 1920 and 1922, except for those in a few excluded categories, go to work in Germany. The initial manpower goals will, in fact, be met — nearly 300,000 workers are sent to Germany. (Others, slated to go, will run away, many joining the French Resistance.) In Munich, Germany, residents awaken to find "Down with Hitler" painted on walls throughout the city. Norwegian commandos — under the auspices of the British Special Operations Executive — parachute into the mountains 40 miles north of the German "heavy water" plant at Telemark, Norway. The commandos meet up with a four-man reconnaissance party that had arrived at the location the previous October. Their objective: damaging the Nazis' atomic-weapons program. In Berlin, Mildred Harnack, a U.S. citizen living in Germany and convicted of espionage against the Third Reich, is executed by guillotine on the personal orders of Adolf Hitler.

The British Eighth Army occupies Medenine, in southern Tunisia, on February 17. The 5th *Panzerarmee's* advance beyond the Kasserine Pass is temporarily halted. Hitler, angered by the constant retreats of his armies on the Eastern Front, flies to Zaporozh'ye, Ukraine, to harangue Gen. Erich von Manstein, commander of Army Group Don, over his failures. Von Manstein in turn convinces *der Führer* that the Germans must again take the offensive, to regain the initiative and avoid encirclement. He lays out a proposal for counterattacks against already over-extended Soviet spearheads. Hitler accepts the plan and returns to Germany. Demonstrations by university students against the Nazi regime take place in Munich, followed by protests at other universities in Germany and Austria. In the U.S., New York Yankees outfielder Joe DiMaggio enlists in the U.S. Army Air Forces, where he spends most of his tour of duty playing baseball in exhibition games with the Seventh Army Air Force team.

German Army Group Don on February 18 launches a counter-offensive in the Ukraine to thwart the Red Army's thrust towards the Dniepr River. Four of Gen. von Manstein's Panzer corps isolate three Soviet armies, inflicting severe losses on them. In the wake of the Stalingrad disaster, Nazi Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels, speaking before an audience of soldiers and civilians in Berlin, announces the implementation of "total war," which, for the first time, mandates the use of German women in the war effort. In Washington, Madame Chiang Kai-shek, the wife of China's president, addresses the U.S. Congress, the first private citizen to do so. President Roosevelt approves extension of the Lend-Lease program to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after being advised that geologists feel the Middle Eastern country has the largest oil fields in the world. Japan accedes to German demands and begins confining Jewish residents to specific areas in its cities and towns.

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, Mar. 1, 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.



Atlantic City Bus Trip Fellowship Circle of the Hungarian Reformed Church

PERTH AMBOY – AC Bus Trip to the Tropicana Casino on Sunday, March 11, 2018. Sponsored by the Fellowship Circle of the Hungarian Reformed Church, 331 Kirkland Place, Perth Amboy, NJ. Bus leaves the church at 12:00 pm - 6 hour stay at Casino from when we arrive in AC. Cost: \$30 pp (\$25 slot play). Bagged lunch provided. To reserve a seat call: 732-261-8726. Payment due ASAP. NO REFUND FOR LAST MINUTE CANCELLATIONS!

Renault Winery/Resorts AC Trip

Holy Rosary Seniors
HOPELAWN - Renault Winery/Resorts Casino A/C Tuesday 4/3/2018. Bus leaves 9:30 Am from church parking lot. Spend 2 hours at winery - Italian Family style lunch and wine tasting. Leave Resorts approximately 6:30 pm. Cost \$75. \$25 back in play. Any question 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. We are now accepting 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: 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. !!!!

Pet of the Week



This is Rocky who used to be feral. Here he is now at Christmas resting under the tree after greeting Santa. Love, Bobby

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.

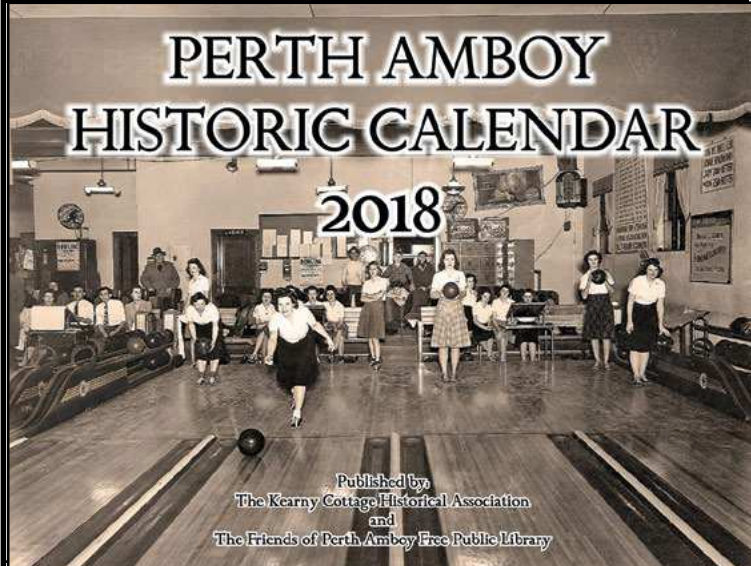
Greek Independence Day Flag Raising Ceremony

PERTH AMBOY – The Perth Amboy AHEPA Raritan Chapter #288 presents the Greek Independence Day Flag Raising Ceremony. Join us, so together we can commemorate and show our pride for 197 years of Independence on Friday, March 23, 2018 at City Hall Circle, 260 High St., Perth Amboy. RSVP: by March 12, 2018 George N. Petrakakis – gpetrakakis@outlook.com – 732-522-3797.

Edison AARP Ch. 3446

FORDS - Edison AARP Chapter 3446 will meet on Monday, February 19, 2018 at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Our Lady of Peace Parish Center, Franklin Ave, Fords, NJ. Florette Applebaum will present the program "Chair Yoga". Events: March 16: The Brownstone - St. Patrick's Day Lunch & Show - For information call Mary Ann at 732-287-3659. Various items for hospitals and nursing homes will be collected at the meeting, as well as canned food for MCFOOD. Be a guest at our meeting or visit our website at www.edisonaarp.org for additional information.

2018 Historic Perth Amboy Calendars



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

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.*

Remember to Say Your Novenas!

Martha, Our First Lady

WOODBIDGE – The Historical Association of Woodbridge Township Presents. . .“Martha, Our First Lady.” Speaker: Irene Parke Custis Pearse at First Presbyterian Church, Rahway Ave., Woodbridge on Monday, Feb. 26, 2018 at 7 p.m. For more info call Brenda Velasco, Township Historian: 732-428-2403.

Pirohi Sale

PERTH AMBOY - St. John's Orthodox Church will be holding their Pirohi Sale at \$8.00 Per Dozen. Orders may be called in from Feb. 5-8, 2018 to 732-826-7067 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Orders may be picked up on Feb. 13 or 14 at 404 Division Street, Perth Amboy, NJ beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast

SOUTH AMBOY – Pancake Breakfast at South Amboy Elks 7&4, 601, Washington Ave., South Amboy on Sunday, Feb. 18, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon. \$9 pp; kids 7 yrs. & under are \$4. The served buffet includes: pancakes, scrambled eggs, breakfast meats, home fries, sweets, breads, juice, coffee, tea & much more! For more info, call 732-727-7170. Bring your sweetheart for breakfast!

Celebrate! The Year of the Dog - Presented by the Edison Chinese School -

Press Release
SOUTH AMBOY — The Dowdell Library of South Amboy and the Edison Chinese School will hold a FREE event at the Dowdell Library on Sunday, April 15th from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Fun activities will be available for the whole family, so mark your calendar!
“This will be an opportunity to experience a unique cultural event,” said Elaine Gaber, Library Director. “Community members of all ages will have the opportunity to enjoy authentic Chinese culture and refreshments.”

The “Celebrate the Year of the Dog” event will begin at 1:30 p.m. sharp with a dazzling Lion Dance performed by students from the Edison Chinese School. A delightful traditional dance, fashion show, and orchestral performance will follow. Moreover, art stations featuring Chinese brush painting, calligraphy and origami demonstrations will be showcased with several DIY crafts for children and adults.

Attendees with food tickets will be treated to traditional Chinese refreshments at the conclusion of the program.

The library is adjacent to the South Amboy High School on John T. O’Leary Blvd. Directions: www.dowdell.org Free parking. For more information, please contact the Dowdell Library at 732.721.6060 or comments@dowdell.org.

Senior Scene Happenings

- Perth Amboy**
TUES. Feb. 13 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. Feb. 14 Good Shepherd Wednesday Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Msgr. Gambino Hall , Florida Grove Rd.
THURS. Feb. 15 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
MON. Feb. 19 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
TUES. Feb. 20 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. Feb. 21 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. Feb. 22 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
- South Amboy**
MON. Mar. 5 St. Mary’s Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
WED. Mar. 7 Sacred Heart Seniors, 12 Noon Memorial Hall, Wash Ave.
WED. Feb. 7 South Amboy 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

Answers From Puzzle On Page 15

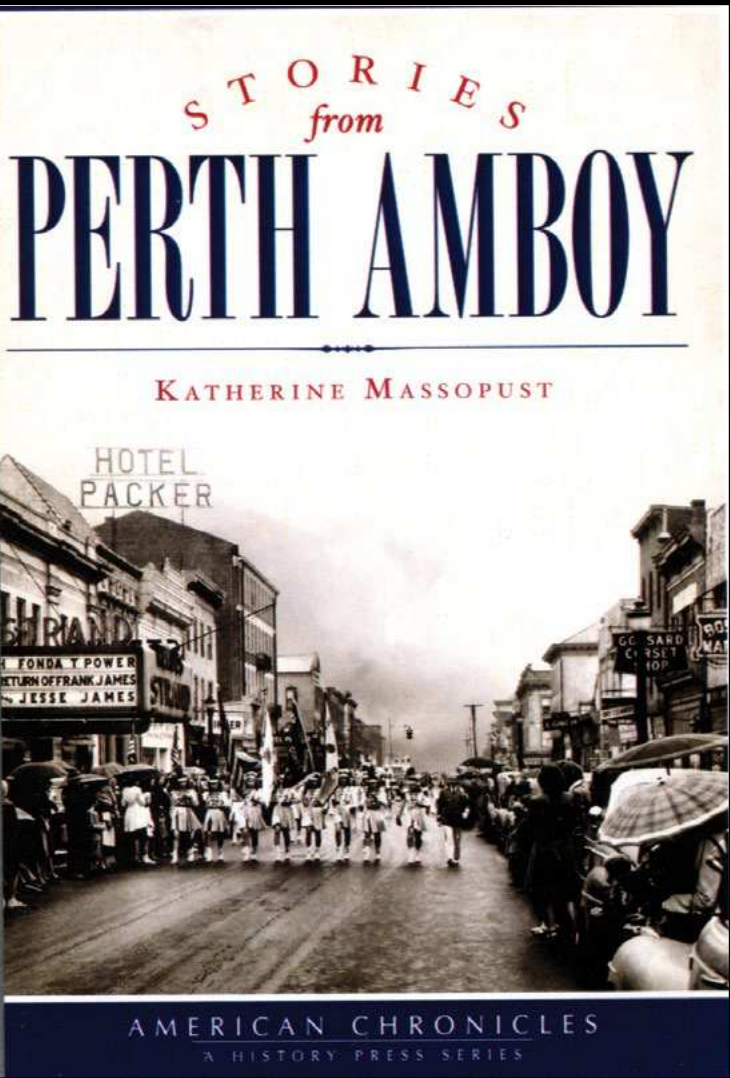
ORAL	TON	CRIB
LODE	RUE	HATE
DYES	ARC	ONCE
	SKY	KNIGHT
AGREES	TAR	
CLINT	FIR	PEA
MAP	CHEER	LAG
EDS	HOE	AROSE
	RUN	STOWED
STRIPE	LET	
HAUL	SPA	ADAM
ELSE	TIN	TILE
DEED	YET	EDEN

LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - Recreation Awards Program for a Tennis Tournament (late 60’s). Ernest M. Muska is on the right who served as Commissioner of Parks & Recreation and Nicholas Sardone who was a Recreation Supervisor for the Recreation Department.

**Photo Courtesy of 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.*



Stories From Perth Amboy
PERTH AMBOY - Stories From Perth Amboy by Katherine Massopust is available at the Barge Restaurant, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy or in Fertig’s Uniform Store, 195 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy For more info call Katherine at 732-261-2610 or call the Barge at 732-442-3000 - or Fertig’s at 732-442-1079 - A Great Gift! Get it now along with Then & Now: Perth Amboy!

SERVICE DIRECTORY
Call Carolyn @ 732-896-4446

New Plans for the Service Directory Effective 1/1/16 Are Now in Effect. If You Offer a Service, the Place to Advertise is Here! Catering, Auto Repair, Heating, Plumbing, Home Health Aides, Landscaping, Snow Removal, Dry Cleaning, Chauffeuring, Exterminators, Hall Rentals, Insurance, Delivering Services, Hair Stylists, Photography, Counseling, WebSite Design, Computer Repair etc.
Call For the Plan Which Will Best Suit Your Needs.
732-896-4446

Classified Ads

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

Please Note: Only One Classified Ad per Phone# will be published per week. If you already have a classified ad in the paper and another is sent, the new one will replace the one that's already published

FREE ITEMS! - Patio Furniture, Microwave, 2 Toilets, Shower Doors(4'x4"x29") Please Call: 732-679-0086

For Sale	For Sale	For Sale
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F.M.J.

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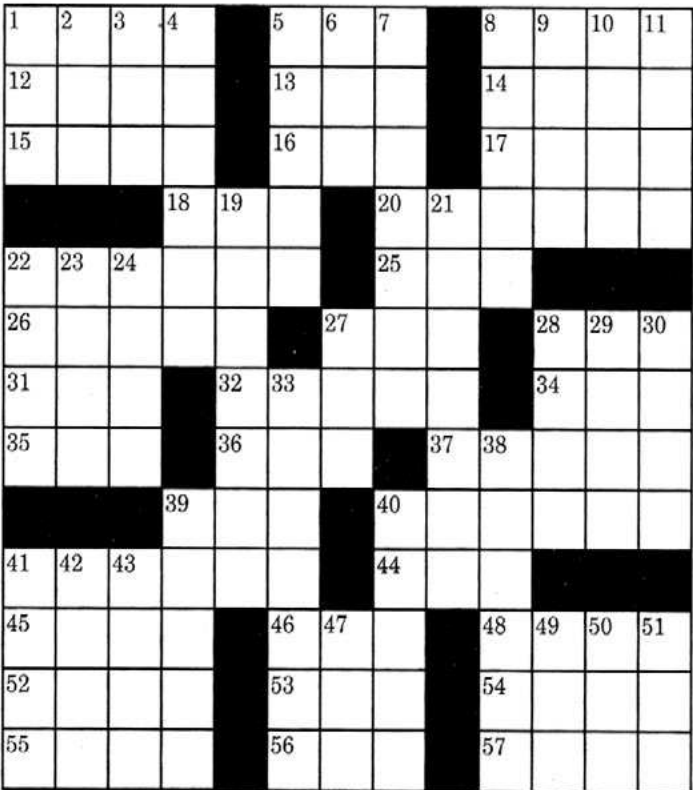
- Like some school reports
- 2,000-pound weight
- Sleep spot for a baby
- Rich source of ore
- Be regretful
- Strong dislike
- Coloring chemicals
- Curving path
- "_____ upon a time ..."
- Big, blue expanse above us
- Dragon slayer
- Consents (to)
- Paving stuff
- Mr. Eastwood
- Christmas-tree choice
- Tiny, green veggie
- Chart for a traveler
- Root for the home team
- Fall behind
- Sullivan and Asner
- Do a garden chore
- Stood up
- Campaign (for office)
- Packed away
- Zebra feature
- Permit

- Transport by truck
- Health spot
- Eve's mate
- "Can you think of anyone _____?"
- Food can
- Mosaic component
- Act of heroism
- However
- Home to 48-Across

DOWN

- Outdated
- Film-cowboy Rogers
- Lemon drink
- Diminish
- Waiters' serving platters
- "_____ Love Is Here to Stay"
- Gift for Dad
- Church singing group
- Sounded, as a bell
- Mosquito-bite feeling
- Borscht ingredient
- Tomato-based condiment
- Tell (a 42-Down)
- Highest peak
- Elated
- Tears to shreds
- Monetary charge
- Create furrows in (a field)

- Relieve (pain)
- Got older
- Truthfulness
- Turn, as the earth
- Stirred (up)
- Slope
- Storage building
- Word after "folk" or "fairy"
- Bit of deception
- Dessert pastry
- Accomplished
- Lager's kin
- Boys, as adults



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