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AMBOY GUARDIAN

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Waterfront Concerns at the Forefront

4/23/18 Caucus & 4/25/18 Council Meeting

PERTH AMBOY – Council President Bill Petrick made a remark concerning Communication No. 9 – A petition containing 25 signatures opposing the redevelopment of 41-47 Wisteria St.

Petrick said, “I along with Councilman Fernando Gonzalez and Obi Gonzalez went to a Meeting that St. Demetrios had in their Church basement regarding their plans for the Church property.”

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez spoke up next and asked City Attorney Peter King, “Can we give the names of the people who signed the petition (opposing St. Demetrios's plans) to the church, so they can invite those people to attend the next meeting?”

King responded, “The names are public record and we can inform the public about any more meetings to discuss this property plans.”

Gonzalez continued, “The

units will be prefab.”

Petrick then added, “In the plan presented, the first floor will consist of common areas, a chapel, and an office for the priest. The units above will be prefabrication.”

Gonzalez then said, “They’re looking to put in 27 units.”

There was another discussion regarding R-174-4/18 – Extending the completion time of the contract with Helios Construction for professional construction management services for the Waterfront Improvement Project for 150 days to August 31, 2018.

Business Administrator Adam Cruz said, “The extension was due to weather related issues and change orders. These changes involved the bathroom (trailer) and the tennis courts. The location of the bathrooms was changed to be closer to the Brighton Ave./Sadowski Pkwy. location because it is closer to the water and sewer lines.”

At the 4/25/18 Council Meeting, Fernando Gonzalez asked, “What work is still outstanding regarding R-174?”

B.A. Cruz mentioned the Tennis Courts and the bathroom installation took longer. “I can get you the specifications for the proposed bathrooms.”

Director the Department of Recreation Kenny Ortiz came up to give more details, “The bathroom is temporary and not year-round. The trailer is 32ft. x 11ft. There are three stalls for the females and two stalls for the males and one urinal. This is all funded by grant money. The trailer is movable.” He mentioned some of the events that this can be used for such as for Family Day. “Last year (2017), we had over 3000 people who attended. For a Halloween event (Trunk or Treat), we registered over 2000 children and that does not include the adults that came with them.”

The BID, PILOT & Hiring Practices

4/25/18 Council Meeting

PERTH AMBOY – During the first public portion, Ken Balut came up to speak about R-160 – 4/18 which is a public hearing and adoption of the 2018 Business Improvement District (BID) budget. He asked that the BID be removed. “After \$2.2 million being spent, what on Smith Street is better? We made a couple of millionaires, but what do the citizens get? Some flowers, flags, and a booklet? Rios, Cruz, and Hudanish were involved in selling a house. The BID used a salary of \$8000. What did that person do in ten years? Some property owners get the benefit. Remove the BID.”

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez responded to Balut’s remarks. He started out by thanking the BID for presenting their budget. “They are trying to generate business for the City, but I would like to see if their events have increased business. If some events aren’t working, we need to see if they can have other programs.”

Council President Bill Petrick then asked if the BID could do a survey to see if businesses have

increased.

Resident Jeremy Baratta came up and asked, “When will we know about the amendments that were made to the City’s 2018 budget? Will they be on the City’s website?”

B.A. Cruz responded, “When the budget is passed, it will be on the website.”

Balut came back up to speak about R-119 – a public hearing on the approved CY 2018 Municipal Budget. “Rumor has it that you’re approving the budget with no tax increase. This is the best news I’ve heard. Who is negotiating the PILOT (E-Port BRIDGE)? There is no more money for the school system. We are increasing the school population. You can’t have density and bring in more people which will increase taxes. Was the title bidded out for the position that is being done by the new person in the parking utility at a salary of \$70,000? The PILOT was dumped on you. Where are all these contracts coming from that are given to people in North Jersey? Where are the checks and balances? You should be informed of law-

suits as soon as they happen and not after they are settled.”

Resident and Businessman David Caba came up next, “You (the Council) were not given all the proper information. Someone with a Master’s Degree was given a job that he had no experience in. He was an outsider and a job was created for him. He even helped get a mayor elected who served jail time. I know there’s probably a lot of people in town that could have done this job.”

The public had a chance to speak about the budget. Balut came up to speak first. “The Mayor stuck up for Kushner and he owes us \$4 million. The citizens had to fight Kushner and the Mayor’s lawyers. It’s time to cut the ties with Kushner who wants to build more units. I agree with Councilman Caba. The \$600,000 that we should have gotten from Bridgeport should have been used for tax relief. The Mayor should be off the Redevelopment Agency. Look at all the DeCotiis calls made to Kushner. Mr. Blunda

**Continued on Page 2*

Paving Market Street 3/30/18 - 4/24/18

**Photos by Paul W. Wang & Katherine Massopust*



Market Street Before Paving - 3/30/18



Milling Market Street - 4/17/18



Paving Market Street 4/23/18



A Paved Market Street - 4/28/18

South Amboy City Council Business Meeting 5/1/18 - 6 p.m.

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The BID, PILOT & Hiring Practices
4/25/18 Council Meeting

**Continued From Page 1*

(former Law Director) stopped the bleeding and lawsuits.”

Balut then asked, “Are we a Sanctuary City?”

No one answered.

Balut continued, “We have a discrimination lawsuit, and nobody knows anything.”

Resident and Businessman Gary Rumpf, who is on the BID Board came up to speak. He said, “I’m also the chair of the façade program. Everyone on the BID is a volunteer. We have talked to Adam Cruz and Danny Cleaver about the streetlights. We don’t own the streetlights. We’ve talked about programs that are not working and cancelled them because we don’t want to waste money. Currently there are seven applications for businesses that want façades. Over 100 people registered for an upcoming event. We’re having a boat parade the day of the fireworks and we have approval for 50 boats. We have meetings the second Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m. People who apply for the façade also have to fill out forms when they go to the Tax Department. We have to make sure their taxes are paid up to date. They also have to go to Code Enforcement. If everything is okay, they have to get three estimates for the work to be done. The façade program includes signage or awnings. We want people to keep coming back to town. This program is open to anyone in the BID district. Our maximum contribution is \$5000. We pay half of what you are doing up to \$5000 max.”

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez had some comments after Rumpf spoke, “I’m personally dissatisfied with the BID. The BID is a close-knit group. The membership is selective. I know the politics of it, but every member has good intentions.”

After Gonzalez made those remarks, Rumpf then said, “Paramount has a big project that they are doing at the corner of Hobart and Smith Streets.”

At this point, Businessman, Developer, and BID Chair Barry Rosengarten came up to speak, “Everyone is invited to attend BID Meetings. Businesses in the BID district pay more taxes than other businesses that are not in the BID district. We are proud of the fact that money was not spent frivolously. Several BID Members serve in public capacity. We advertise for people who want to serve. The applicants come before the Board and there is no political agenda.”

Jeremy Baratta came up to speak. He held up a postcard that he received from the Department of Veterans Affairs. “On this postcard, the directions the Veteran’s hospital is not clear. Which Orange is it? East Orange? West Orange? And what street is it on? Treatment Street or Avenue? The Veteran’s Health Administration should be dismantled.”

Silber came up to speak about the Nepotism policy. “How many people were inappropri-

ately hired. We should see how many people were hired after the Nepotism Policy changed. The Council needs a list of the new hires, how they were hired, and any positions created for them. When they (the Council) asked Walensky (at the Budget Hearing for the Parking Utility) what his qualifications were for the job that he’s doing, the person (Former Parking Director Rios) sitting next to him answered for him. There are qualified Perth Amboy people that could do that job.”

David Caba came up and talked about recreation in Perth Amboy. He made a comparison between Perth Amboy and Westfield. He continued, “Westfield had vacant properties and converted them into two soccer fields. I was the biggest critic of Vas, and I don’t owe anybody anything. We have been seeing vacant property at the Waterfront for 12 years. A soccer field and single-family homes would be great at that location and it’s overlooking the water.”

During the Council Comments, Helmin Caba spoke first, “We need more parks. I thank the Mayor and Kenny Ortiz for phenomenal programs (recreational and others). We have the same amount of parks as 30 years ago even though our population has doubled. We are 30 playgrounds short. We are 12 short of baseball and tennis and 2 short for soccer. Look at artificial turf so more sports can be played on one field. We need to update the Master Plan and to take care of our infrastructure.”

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez had no comments.

Councilman Irizarry spoke next. “I attended two league opening days. I want to thank the volunteers. We have a healthy Little League and 14 Dominican Leagues. I attended a play called “Broadway Bound” at the YMCA and I want to give kudos to Anita Dowd and those performers. They have a very healthy Community Theater and they need a bigger venue than the Y auditorium. They get money from the Freeholders and we should invite the Freeholders to see a show, so they can contribute more money. The Aladdin costumes were very creative. I would like to see the information on the discrimination lawsuit in the Police Department.”

Councilman Joel Pabon spoke



Gary Rumpf

next. He responded to a comment made by a resident who talked about him being politically motivated. “I’ve had two successful careers. I’ve screamed about Rudyk Park for years. Things don’t get done immediately. There is a lot of land by Rudyk Park and I have been talking about Lucey Center and swapping land with the Board of Education. The Flynn School and Washington Park were improved. I talked about the Waterfront basketball courts and it’s been done.” He then talked about Westfield, “They can do this (converting vacant lots) but they have the money. What will be the consequences if we took the \$600,000 that we used to prevent tax increases to build fields? I’m just glad kids can play softball even if they have to use out-of-town fields. There is even a Softball Church League. Second Street Park – finally something was done after 30 years. After Rutgers did their study, they found out that property was not that contaminated.”

Council President Bill Petrick spoke next, “I hope we can see more movement on the Second Street Park.”

Business Administrator Adam Cruz commented about the recent City-Wide Cleanup. “There were over 100 volunteers which also included the Girl’s High School Softball teams. I also thank the volunteers who helped out at the Little League games.”


Petrick then piggy-backed off of Cruz’s comments, “I also want to mention the people who helped out at the Little League games. Some of those people had kids who used to play in those leagues (and outgrew them) but still volunteered to help.

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5/9

Housing Expo, Richardson School, Perth Amboy 4/21/18
**Photos by Katherine Massopust*








Healthy Kids Day, Perth Amboy YMCA 4/21/18
**Photos by Paul W. Wang*






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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Supporting Literacy & Much More



The old (Pat Gandy 2nd From Right) and new (Eleni Glykis (Center)) Library Directors in 2015 when the newly renovated Public Library was reopened in Perth Amboy. *File photo



Friends of the Library Banner



In 1989 First Lady Barbara Bush formed the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy which encourages parents to read to their children *AP

During the Budget Hearings, Library Director Eleni Glykis told the Council about the different programs the library is now offering. My interest was peaked when she talked about the free museum passes available to those holding a library card in good standing. Those passes were sponsored by The Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library.

Glykis also talked about the Pop-up libraries where they can bring books to neighborhoods.

What also was interesting is modern technology. People can

access information through the Middlesex Library Consortium 24/7. There is so much more than the library offers and the Friends of the Library have brought many authors and had presentations on different topics including the Lizard Guys who taught about certain reptiles and other creatures. Former Library Director Pat Gandy had a long and successful career. We wish the same for Eleni. Our library may be small, but it offers much more than its appearance. Visit the library's Facebook Page. *C.M. & K.M.*

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Affordable Rent?

As we all know, rent has gone up big time in New Jersey, and Perth Amboy made the list in a New Jersey newspaper article. The article said people in Perth Amboy are paying the highest rent in New Jersey, just like those other 23 towns that rent. At one time, rent was very affordable in town because the City had those industries that

kept the taxes low and provided for many jobs. Yes, property taxes are high because of carelessness and waste from City government and an overcrowded school system. I was told Perth Amboy is 65% Section 8 so-called affordable housing. Where is this money coming from to pay this rent for Section 8? We know some people on Section 8 rent their bedrooms. This illegal housing is still going on. Look what's going on in California, like Los Ange-

les, and San Diego. Many are living on the streets and they have very good jobs like teachers, nurses, and so on. This is all because of high rent. See it for yourself, and that's why they are leaving real fast. Very soon New Jersey will be next. TRUST ME on this! We see it coming and many will be moving out to Texas.

Orlando "Wildman" Perez

We Value Your Opinion Send Us a Response!

Questions Still Abound: Public Comments

4/23/18 & 4/25/18

PERTH AMBOY – Resident Ken Balut came up and said, "The sound at the last meeting was terrible." He then had a bone to pick with the BID, "The people on the BID seem to benefit the most." He then named Chair Barry Rosengarten and members Jorge Cruz, Jeannette Rios, Tommy Hudanish, and lawyer Kenny Gonzalez who signed off on a lease. He said, "They spent \$40,000 on flyers and a program book." He asked if Kenny Gonzalez got a sign for his new office. "Sipos could use a new sign. The Business Administrator Adam Cruz said that grant money was used to help purchase that house instead of CDBG funds. Is the Jewish Renaissance in the business of getting rich? There's no park, yet. In East Brunswick, they're getting a park with 7 acres for \$1.5 million."

Resident Alan Silber then came up to speak. He told the Council, "You must assess the credibility of people giving you information. Bryan Walensky (Parking Utility Supervisor) was supposed to be an interim appointment. The position was supposed to be for six months. He was told he could get benefits. Now, it's supposed to be a provisional manager. Can we get the money back from the health insurance payments he got? Nobody I talked to knows what he does. He was supposed to do the City's website. I see no changes. He was paid \$70,000 and got health benefits. Isn't this illegal if he (Walensky) is an interim? He got paid

\$100,000 while working on the last political campaign. He's a political operative."

Law Director Peter King responded, "I will look into this matter."

Business Administrator Adam Cruz responded to Silber's remarks, "The initial appointment (Walensky) is six months. After ten months, we can approve for a permanent position."

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez spoke up, "I wish I heard about this ten months ago. Pellissier (Former B.A.) was the last interim appointment. Can I see for the last two years who were interim appointments and are interim and provisional interchangeable?"

King answered, "I'll see if there's a difference between if someone being called interim or provisional?"

Gonzalez then also wanted to know, "Was this position created for him (Walensky)?"

Cruz then responded about the website. "With the new website, we are starting from scratch."

Council President Bill Petrick then questioned Cruz's answer. "This person (Walensky) has been working on the City Website for eight months. I think other companies could have had it up and running already."

Resident Jeremy Baratta came up next. He remarked about the website, "Please at least update the Board Members. The position (Bryan Walensky) is not civil service."

It was also noted during the meeting which was held at Olive Street because the City Hall

elevator is not working, that there was a missing tile at the ceiling on Olive Street. DPW Director Frank Hoffman said, "We're putting in a new AC unit."

B.A. Adam Cruz also told the Council, "The Fire Department's rating was increased, and the Police Department is fully accredited thanks to the efforts of Acting Police Chief Roman McKeon and Deputy Police Chief Larry Cattano. I want to congratulate both departments for a job well done."

There was a brief discussion regarding Resolutions R-167, R-168, and R-169. This was involving different firms to handle tax appeals and counterclaims on behalf of the City. The City's Tax Assessor William FitzPatrick came up to explain these three resolutions. "For R-167-4/18 the contract for Hoagland, Longo, Moran, Dunst, and Doukas would handle the regular tax appeals. For R-168-4/18, the Firm of Boggia and Boggia are working on ongoing appeals on the UAW Building on High Street and the hospital. This company started last year with these appeals. For R-169-4/18 Authorizing the Tax Assessor to settle tax appeals up to \$5000 and to institute counterclaims on behalf of the City for 2018. Our attorney said we need to do this more frequently. For counterclaims, we petition the courts to increase the assessment. Settlements can be settled throughout the year."

"If more people could read, write, and comprehend, we could be much closer to solving so many of the other problems our country faces today."
– First Lady Barbara Bush -

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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

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 Mondays & Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Clubs, classrooms & groups are welcome. Come & view this newly restored building! For more information call William Kurzenberger: 732-826-0290 ext. 4862

Proprietary
House Open

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

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

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

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

MON. May 7 City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m.
Jankowski Center, Olive St.
• Board of Education, 5:30 p.m.
PAHS, Eagle Ave.
TUES. May 8 BID, 4 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
Library Board of Trustees, 5 p.m.
Library, Jefferson St.
WED. May 9 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
Jankowski Center, Olive St.

South Amboy

TUES. May 1 City Council, Business, 6 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway
WED. May 16 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway

*Check our website www.amboyguardian.com for updates on meeting times and places

Please Submit Your Events
to AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

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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**

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Don’t allow the actions of a few dictate your quality of life

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7 p.m. Thursday

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Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

National Day of Remembrance: City of Perth Amboy 4/18/18

Testimony by Bernard and Henry Schanzer: Twin Brothers Who Survived the Holocaust *Photos by Paul W. Wang & Carolyn Maxwell



PERTH AMBOY – The City of Perth Amboy held their 7th Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony on Wednesday, April 18, 2018. This year, Israel also celebrates its 70th Anniversary of independence.

The Israeli Flag was raised at Circle before the ceremony continued inside the Council Chambers.

At the beginning of the inside ceremony, Master of Ceremony Herschel Chomsky remarked, “This ceremony has been taken place in Perth Amboy since 2012.”

He then introduced Reverend Gregory Pabon from the Perth Amboy Police and Fire Chaplain Corps who gave the invocation.

Pabon said, “It is an honor and a privilege to do the invocation and celebrate this day.” He vowed to never let this happen again. “Let us pray for the survivors and their families. Remember the 6 million who died and never forget after all these years what happened.” He asked God, “Keep your covenant with Isaac, Jacob, and Abraham. Listen to what our speakers say today.”

Chomsky then introduced Mayor Wilda Diaz. But before doing so, he made a couple of comments. “I want to thank all that are here, but unfortunately there are things that are still happening today.” He then mentioned 3 places: New York, Washington D.C., and Perth Amboy. “In D.C. a Councilman blamed the bad weather on the Jews. In New York, a Councilwoman also blamed the Jewish for something that was a misfortune. In Perth Amboy, someone said something bad about Jewish people, but the Council

spoke out against that person and I thank them.” He then mentioned Pro Wrestler Bruno Sammartino who passed away that day. “He was a survivor and he was from Italy.”

Mayor Diaz then came up and thanked all that were here and the speakers. “This is our 7th year (holding this ceremony). Each year, local governments and schools hold observances. This is a testimony to the survivors. We listen to sad and tragic stories. The two brothers here are blessed to make it to this day and we are happy to have them here. When we see injustice, we need to speak up for it can happen to us. It’s important for schools to teach this. I’m grateful for the educators for bringing the students here.” Then addressing the two brothers she said, “Don’t be surprised if you’re called to speak at assemblies.”

After the Mayor spoke, she called up Bernard and read what was on a Proclamation to be presented to both brothers. After reading this, she called up Henry to present him with the same Proclamation.

There was a candle lighting ceremony and a musical interlude by Mark Lieberman. Lieberman stated, “People still sang songs of hope, even when they were being transported in cattle cars.”

Both brothers then came up to speak, taking turns to tell about their story as young children. Bernard spoke first, “We’ve told our story to our children and our grandchildren. Now, we are telling it to you, our family. This started when we were 7 years old. We saw many crimes to humanity. My father was caught in August of 1942. 1116 people

were caught in France. Of that number of people, only 30 survived. We could have been on that convoy. We survived because of the kindness through Gentiles and our mother.”

Henry then spoke, “Our mother was from Poland, and our dad from Czechoslovakia. Our mother’s mother raised 6 children. My father’s father was killed in World War I. My parents married in 1932. On May 10, 1940, 15 members of our extended family fled. We jumped out of vans. We saw people bombed, but between 1940 and 1942, we were able to take family vacations. Our father hired someone to teach us Hebrew. We didn’t like our teacher. We did bad things to him and our father wasn’t very happy. The French Government participated in aiding the Nazis. Our father could not believe the Germans could act this way, but my mother thought differently.”

Bernard spoke again, “In mid-August 1942, when we were 7 years old, our father took us to a bus depot where he was sending us to live with a doctor. Our father told us to behave like big boys and he was sobbing as he helped us onto the bus. That is the last time we saw our father. Our mom came to visit us, and the police were checking people’s papers after she was going back to the bus depot after visiting us. The police told her that she was wanted. When she got back home, the apartment she was living at was seized. Our father’s other relatives were not there. Some were deported and murdered. The doctor who was taking care of us said someone demanded more money from him for our care. We thought we were going home, but we

were abandoned and betrayed. The police asked us about our mother and friends, but we didn’t know because we were very young. We didn’t know they were going to hold us hostage. We were sent to a Catholic orphanage for 3 months and across the street there was a church. We were taken there every day and twice on Sunday. We were told by 2 men that one day we would see our mother. Those men were sent by my mother and they worked for a Jewish Organization who rescued children. We went to live with a farmer who mistreated us. We developed worms and were malnourished and then sent to another orphanage.”

Henry then spoke, “My mother ran into someone that she knew who helped her. This person disregarded her own personal safety by doing this. This woman was able to get my mother a new identity. My mother then worked for a wealthy French Marquis. The Marquis then sent for my sister and another relative who came to work for him. The woman told everyone we were Protestants.”

Bernard then took over, “We lived with a woman named La Meme. We would always say Jewish prayers. La Meme told us to teach her the prayer, “and I will say it with you.” She took us in as if we were her own. Whatever she had, she shared with us.”

Henry then continued the story, “In August 1943, we went to the castle where my mother was working. We hugged our mother and sister when we saw them. We had to relocate after the police came to arrest the Marquis. We went back to the farm after that one-day visit. La

Meme also took in our cousins. My mom then went to work in a nursing home and one day was confronted by an officer who noticed her accent. He questioned her about false documents but did not expose her. One day, we had to camp out in the woods with La Meme, so the Gestapo could not find us. We were reunited with our mother 2 years later. Our grandmother was in the ghetto. She said the last time she had any kind of post (communication) from our father was in March 1945. We were reunited with our mom in 1945. In 1946 we came to the USA. We led a normal life and went to City College in New York.”

Bernard then continued, “In 1968, I served in the service and got a Medical Degree. We were contacted by a man named Siegfried to see if we were related and he cried when we told him, “Yes.” We found out we were related through his deceased sister’s grandchildren.”

Henry who became a lawyer said, “We are grateful to live in this country with justice for all and we are grateful for this reception.”

There was a Q&A Session, and someone asked how they were able to get into the United States.

Bernard answered, “It was our mother’s brother who sponsored us. It is our mission to make sure this doesn’t happen again. Israel is the land of God. We keep you and Israel alive. We could not be here without Israel.”

Chomsky concluded with the words, “This was a very touching night. There’s always something new to learn.”

Perth Amboy to Host a Fabu- lous *Cinco de Mayo* Celebra- tion Featuring Mexican Cui- sine, Music, Dancing, and *Luchadores* Wrestling



Press Release 4/27/18
PERTH AMBOY – On Cinco de Mayo, Perth Amboy is creating a fun and joyous Mexican-American celebration. Simply stroll along New Brunswick Avenue, between Smith and Jefferson streets, to sample the freshest and tastiest tacos, view Sol Azteca dancers in amazing customs and listen to lively music played by Mariachis. Guests can enjoy cool refreshing beverages while shopping for Mexican artworks, crafts and clothes.

Admission to the Cinco de Mayo celebration is free and the activities begin at noon and continue to 6 PM.

The exciting highlight of Perth Amboy’s Cinco de Mayo event will be a series of high-flying, professional wrestling presentations featuring masked Luchadores. An open-air wrestling ring will be placed on the avenue so everyone can enjoy wrestling extravaganza.

Perth Amboy, the City’s Business Improvement District (BID) and the Office of Economic and Community Development have joined forces to present an exceptional Cinco de Mayo experience for everyone. Special activities for children include face painting as well as arts and crafts projects.

Each person who comes to the Cinco de Mayo celebration can enjoy a variety of Mexican cuisine, beverages and refreshments. The participating restaurants, Taqueria and other food purveyors include the following:

- Cazadores Mexican Restaurants, 236 New Brunswick Ave.
- De Lo Mio Mexican and Dominican Restaurant, 216 Hall Ave.
- Hollywood Mexican Restaurant, 108 Smith Street

- Maria and Diego Taqueria, (Owners of Paella Party, LLC)
- Tropical Cheese, 450 Fayette Street
- Maria Piragua Cart, Corner of Madison and Jefferson Streets
- Rico Taco Mexican Restaurant, 321 Madison Ave.
- Tierra Azteca Mexican Restaurant, 134 Smith Street

As the celebration continues, emcee David Luna will fill the downtown environment with the rhythms and sounds of live, Mexican music. The expectation is that people will be dancing in the street.

Local merchants, Mexican craft dealers, and healthcare advisors are supporting the celebration, and people are encouraged to stop by their tables. Here are some of the participants:

1. Daisy’s Florist & Bouquet, 337 Madison Ave.
2. Medicare Advisors, 205 Smith Street
3. Mexico Lindo Sport Store (Mexican Clothes, T-Shirts and Mexican Craft)
4. New York Party Masters (Cotton Candy, Balloons, Popcorn, Photo Booth)
5. Paparazzi Jewelry Booth
6. Walter Torres Mexican Craft, 216 Hall Ave.

Residents and visitors will find plenty of off-street parking in the City’s Jefferson Street deck.

For more information, by Cinco de Mayo celebration, contact the Perth Amboy BID office at (732) 826-0290, ext. 4050.

The rain date for the Cinco de Mayo festival is Sunday, May 6 from noon to 6 PM.

4/11/18 Budget Hearings *Code Enforcement & Fire Department*

PERTH AMBOY – Code Enforcement Director Jamie Rios came up to present his budget. “This budget will include vehicle maintenance and we’re not requesting any more money. There’s no Master Plan requested money for the Code Enforcement allocation.”

CFO Jill Goldy spoke up and said, “\$138,000 was allocated last year to the Planning Board for the Master Plan. This was planned for the Capital Program.”

Business Administrator Adam Cruz then added, “This is the operating budget.”

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez spoke up and said, “I don’t remember this passing through our hands.”

Cruz responded, “I will forward you what was adopted in 2014. This is the 2018 budget.”

Gonzalez then stated, “This budget does not stand alone.”

Council President Bill Petrick then spoke up. “What is the \$800,000 line item for books and publication for the Zoning and Planning Boards?”

Rios responded, “All Members of these two boards get books when they go for their training which is mandated by law. This amount includes the books and training.”

Gonzalez spoke again and suggested when members of these boards finish their training, they should sign off on this. “I still have my books.”

Petrick then suggested to Gonzalez, “Maybe you should return those training books.”

Rios continued, “Those board members get state law books and principals of the boards they are on. They get the state law books at the training sessions.”

Petrick then stated, “Members of these boards requested funds for other training classes such as at the League of Municipalities.”

Rios responded, “This is the first I’ve heard of this and I don’t know what the cost will be (to send board members for additional training).”

Petrick replied, “Maybe a line-item can be added for additional training.”

Gonzalez then suggested, “We should encourage the people who chair the Planning and Zoning Boards to go for additional training at the League of Municipalities.”

Petrick added, “We shouldn’t exclude other members. We can put additional funds in and if all those funds aren’t used, they can be returned to the general fund.”

Gonzalez then questioned the line-item for legal advertisements. He wanted to know why the cost was \$900 for the Planning Board and \$350 for the Zoning Board.”

Rios responded, “By law, the Planning Board has to do more advertising because of litigation sometimes taking place.”

Petrick then asked questions about personnel about a Clerk 1 Title, Code Enforcement Training and sub-codes.

B.A. Cruz responded, “There is a new Code Enforcement

Trainee. We post internally first for these positions and if then if there’s no new applicants, it’s advertised to the general public.”

Gonzalez then requested the name of the last 10 hires, when they were hired, and the salary when they were hired.

Councilman Fernando Irizarry said, “I noticed a reduction of third-party fees.”

Fernando Gonzalez then asked, “What do you make for the City as far as fees that were collected?”

Rios responded, “In 2017, there were 2062 building permits with \$841,000 in fees collected. In 2016, 1700 permits were issued and there were over \$1 million in fees collected.”

Gonzalez responded, “I know there are code changes coming.”

Rios said, “That’s right and the DCA (Department of Community Affairs) is doing a lot of those changes. Residential Housing Laws were changed. If something is not attached to a structure, a construction permit is not needed. We are not required to do inspections on these structures because of these changes. Write letters to your legislatures about your concerns. This is for new construction and rehabs.”

CFO Jill Goldy had additional comments, “The Code Enforcement Fees are to cover the cost of the operation. Over the last two years, there were less permits, but those were large amounts.”

Irizarry questioned the \$2000 for third-party inspections.

Rios said he had requested \$20,000.

Irizarry wanted to know about the printing and binding cost and \$800 for a TV.

Rios responded, “The building permit process takes too long. The state has a video in English and Spanish. This would be for City business and to help educate the public.”

Petrick then questioned, “Why does it take longer to get permits here than in other cities? In other cities, it takes a day. In Perth Amboy, it takes weeks or sometimes months.”

Rios said, “There are 2000 permits now, and it takes 20 days to do a permit.”

Petrick wanted to know why the applicants have to make out two different checks.

Rios responded, “That’s standard. One is for the City fees. One is for the State fees. We need to see those individual permits to see why some take longer than others.”

Councilman Gonzalez said, “We always take the longest to get anything through. Nothing has changed in the last 30 years. Most realtors say Perth Amboy is impossible to deal with and it reflects on me as a Councilman.”

Petrick spoke up and asked, “If it’s working in a nearby community, why can’t it work here?”

Rios responded, “I disagree with Councilman Gonzalez. Most take 3 days. Woodbridge only does fire inspections. We

do two more inspections than Woodbridge and South Amboy.”

Councilman Fernando Irizarry questioned the vehicle maintenance item, “If we have aging vehicles, we should be more proactive in replacing them.”

Rios responded, “We have a maintenance program and work with the Police Department to make the vehicle last longer.”

Irizarry then said, “There is one new full time hiree for the fire prevention inspection.”

Rios said, “We’re not hiring this year.”

Perth Amboy Fire Department Acting Chief Ed Mullen came up to answer questions regarding the Fire Department Budget.

Councilman Irizarry said, “I saw no new hires and no money budgeted in 2017.”

Mullen responded, “We have no new hires and we are requesting \$290 more than 2017. We have 67 members now and made cuts in outside training because of funding. We’ve had funding for CPR training and grant money for the Dive and Rescue Team. The Division of Fire Training offers free classes and the OSHA Training is no cost to the City. \$10,000 is allocated to the Marine Boat Maintenance and the Port Security Funds is \$30,000.”

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez complemented the Fire Department for the job they did at the recent Senior Building Fire. “You brought pride to the City.”

Mullen responded, “That’s due to our personnel. At 4 p.m., there was a fire alarm at that Senior Apartment Building (Corner of Goodwin and Fayette). There was a water flow from the 11th Floor. There was a fire in Apartment 11G and the cause is still undetermined, and the fire was contained to that one apartment. The resident was not home at the time. The fire caused other apartments and the ceiling on the ground floor to leak. We, along with EMT’s had to carry residents down and up the stairs. The Housing Department did a great job and the elevators were affected.” Mullen then gave an update when the Fire Boat had an accident. “There was a tear in the Fire Boat when it hit something. The boat was salvaged. It’s been in for repairs for the last two weeks. The \$5000 in repairs was recovered by the insurance deductible.”

Council President Petrick was happy, “There were no injuries, which is good.”

The public portion then took place. Resident Jeremy Baratta who is also a member of the Zoning Board came up to speak. He talked about the training that the Board Members received. As he spoke, he held up a book that he said he purchased. “The training that is provided is a 5-hour class and this State Book is thin. They are not giving away an \$135 book. The entire Planning Board should go to the League (of Municipalities Training Courses). I went. I was told it was \$1500 to send

**Continued on Page 11*



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Downtown Clean-up, Perth Amboy Train Station 4/21/18

**Photo by Perth Amboy BID*



PERTH AMBOY - Over 80 enthusiastic and energetic volunteers recently picked up debris and trash around Perth Amboy's train station as part of the Earth Day activities. As the annual *Downtown Clean-up* was winding a large group of children, teens and adults stopped by 7-Eleven convenience store near the train depot. The owner of the 7-Eleven store is Asim Malik, who serves a director on the City's Business Improvement District (BID). He provided all the volunteers with a free Slurpee® as a thank you for helping out. Volunteers who participated include players from Perth Amboy softball teams, ROTC, youth groups from the JPI Parish, and community-based not-for-profits. BID also recognizes the community officers from Perth Amboy Police Department, Geri Barcheski of the City's Clean Communities Coordinator, and the Department of Public Works for their assistance.

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4/23/18 Budget Hearings

Office of the Mayor, Council, Library, Parking Utility, Marina, Court

PERTH AMBOY – The Mayor’s Office budget was discussed first.

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez questioned the line item of \$90,000 in 2017. “Now it’s reduced to \$74,000 for the attorney. I thought that we (the Council) passed a resolution for a full-time attorney for a position higher than \$74,000. We specifically set up a salary (for a full-time attorney) and agonized over the amount.”

CFO Jill Goldy said, “This salary is within the guidelines.”

Council President Petrick responded, “If the attorney agreed to \$74,000, we’ve got a deal.”

Business Administrator Cruz responded as to whether the attorney works full time, “He works during the week and Saturday and Sunday.”

Gonzalez said, “Most of our staff works 7 days a week.”

Cruz responded, “You can check with the attorney’s assistant when he will be here. You asked for 35 hours a week.”

Gonzalez responded, “If you guys didn’t want a full-time attorney, tell us. We had a full-time attorney before who we could talk to all the time. This attorney (we have now) may call us two days after we call him. \$25,000 for legal fees are no longer there. There’s monies missing. Other lawyer’s salaries come out of legal fees funds. When we disagree with the City, we have a right to hire an outside attorney.”

Cruz responded, “The Council can have a line item for legal

fees. Last year, we did have a line item for this.”

Councilman Irizarry questioned, “Suppose we don’t want to approve the budget for the tax increase?”

Cruz responded “This is now your budget. You must place in writing to me what changes you want made. The Mayor’s budget is fiscally responsible. Amendments were made based on the last budget hearings.”

Goldy then said that if the budget as introduced is approved, then the budget is due in two days. “If amended as introduced, the deadline will be extended to May based on if it’s approved on 4/25/18.”

Irizarry was frustrated as he talked about not getting the budget until mid-April. “We now have marathon budget hearings. The budget should have been submitted in early February. We have to go through all this information in two weeks. It’s not fair.”

Councilman Helmin Caba spoke next, “It’s increasing our taxes. If the State stops school funding, we’ll have to declare bankruptcy.”

Cruz responded, “The State gave us the same amount of money as last year.”

Councilman Gonzalez responded, “If you assumed that the State will give us the same money as last year, you could have put it in the budget. Then if the State money had changed, then you could have put it in as an amendment. In the future, any Council would appreciate

more consideration.”

Cruz responded, “Pension reforms affected municipalities. We anticipated money for Code Enforcement that didn’t happen. We have been crunching numbers. We can’t make assumptions.”

Noelia Colon gave the budget for the Mayor’s Office which was for \$12,575. “There’s 6 accounts for vehicles, conference meetings, travel, and miscellaneous. There was \$8000 used out of the budget.”

Fernando Irizarry then asked about a salary increase of \$11,688. This was a salary that went from \$64,312 to \$76,000.

Colon responded, “I cannot answer that question. I can only answer questions about operational costs.”

B.A. Cruz responded to Irizarry, “This increase in salary was due to a promotion.”

Goldy added more details, “The promotion was due to a title change. The salary increased through the two-year incremental amount of 2% across the board. There was no line item before for police vehicles. There has been a \$1000 insurance for each vehicle in each department.”

The Council did their budget next. Fernando Gonzalez spoke first, “We can use money to hire an outside attorney.”

Irizarry wanted to know about the money that is allocated for plaques.

Assistant City Clerk Victoria Kupsch said, “That’s if you decide to give one.”

Goldy then added, “There is a line item for an audio system in the Council chambers.”

Library Director Eleni Glykis came up to speak, “We’ve added books and publications. We’ve increased the number of databases per use which people can use to access the library 7 days a week. The \$51,000 is for participation in the Libraries of Middlesex Consortium. We pay \$48,000 to them to offset the number of cost. There were building repairs and there’s a history room for researchers to come from all over the country. We get a majority of our books from Baker & Taylor. The Home News Tribune is put on microfiche. The microfilm lasts 500 years. We have 3 readers. They are newer and better-quality machines that we got from another library. The Friends of the Library donated Museum Passes that allows 2-6 people free entrance to museums. We also have kindles that you can borrow. We use Comcast Internet and Verizon telephone service. We use T-Mobile for our hot-spots. We get 20 hot-spots for the price of 10.”

B.A. Cruz said, “We base it (communication prices) on who has the best price.”

Former Parking Utility Director Jeannette Rios and newly appointed Parking Utility Manager Bryan Walensky came up next. “We had a decrease in the contractual services. The new machines can take bills, coins, and credit cards.”

Bryan Walensky was asked if he’s had any prior experience in Parking Utilities. He said,

“No, but I’ve taken the Parking Authority one day training session which involved parking enforcement. I feel we increase the revenue by \$100,000. We are rotating more people (around the town).”

Rios spoke again, “We collected \$65,000 more than the previous years.”

Councilman Gonzalez mentioned, “Woodbridge has no meters.”

Rios explained, “You can’t compare Perth Amboy to Woodbridge.”

Gonzalez continued, “In the 1970’s if we parked our cars overtime, they would mark our cars.”

Rios then explained, “There’s a 2-hour limit on the meters.”

Councilman Caba explained, “The 2-hour limit is not enough especially if you are going to see a physician.”

One business owner suggested a 15-minute limit. “Customers are getting tickets and not coming back.”

Rios then reminded the Council, “There are lots you can park up to 12 hours.”

Caba said, “We need to educate the public about this.”

Rios explained, “We have used social media in English and in Spanish.”

Council President Petrick said, “We need to be creative in attracting people to shop and dine and not get socked with a \$30 and a \$60 ticket.”

Representatives from the Marina came up next. DPW Director Frank Hoffman and Marina Harbormaster Frank Wild. Hoffman said, “There were 137 boat slips and it slipped to 62 slips after Superstorm Sandy. Now, it’s back up to 130. The revenues have increased from \$268,000 in 2015 to \$314,000 in 2018. There’s a 20-foot dock area for jet-skis. We are using Air BNB to find rental spaces for short term leases.”

Frank Wild then spoke. He was asked about low tides. “Near the Armory there’s a 2-feet low tide. We use 4 seasonal workers and their salary is \$12 hour. They work anywhere from 12 to 20 hours a week including weekends and they’re there 24 hours (during the summer).”

CFO Goldy then added that the cost of \$15,000 would be the total that is spread over those 4 workers.”

Petrick then questioned, “What is involved in the \$16,898 line item marked miscellaneous?”

Goldy responded, “It’s for licenses, titles, back payment over several years, and initial purchase of flotation items for jet-skis.”

Harbormaster Wild then told the Council, “Of 130 slips, 102 are already rented.”

Irizarry told Wild, “Other places rent canoes and now boats.”

Wild said, “They’re canoes out here already.”

The Court System was the last to review their budget. Court Administrator Laura Meade came up. She introduced her assistant, Ms. Martinez. “We have 2 funds: DWI and POA.

We have to mail out failure to appear notices. There’s 5 court sessions per week and two interpreters that come into each session. We have people who interpret sign languages and other languages. We now accept American Express and Discover Cards. The fees are higher with these cards, but we’re getting more revenue. The cost for \$5500 with shipping and handling should be under postage. We have to mail court mailers and we process tickets for Code Enforcement, Animal Control, and the Parking Utility and we supply their ticket books. There’s a huge archive room for records. There’s old docket books as far back as the 1950’s. Everything has to be maintained forever. More police and more tickets are being issued. The State Troopers supply their own ticket books. We operated in the red last year. We increased everything by 20%. The credit card fee – we needed the extra money.”

Caba questioned the increase of \$11,000 for one employee.

Goldy explained that we had replacement hires and some were promoted due to a change in staff. “Some people were given additional responsibilities.”

Meade went on to explain, “We expect to have revenue go up from \$1.5 million to \$1.8 million which is \$800,000 more projected. I have 10 staff members. Our expenses are \$130,000 - \$150,000 and we’re waiting for approval to get 2 more part-time employees. We turn over \$2 million to the City. The State gets 8% cut. A lot of the tickets have been issued for loud radios and it’s mandatory they appear in court. The fees are \$250 and up. Tickets have also been issued for not wearing seat belts and talking on cell phones. We’re saving on contractual services involving office machines and annual maintenance. Everything is done through video conference.”

Pabon was impressed with Meade’s presentation, “You’ve educated us. And it’s good to know about the cell phone tickets.”

The Council argued about having a tax rate increase and was going through the budget through the different departments to see what could be reduced. Councilman Helmin Caba suggested since the City had a little over a \$3 million surplus, to use part of that money to avoid a tax increase. After the Council went through the various department budgets, CFO Godly reminded that any department that Council wanted to make adjustments to would have to be called back to say why that money is needed. “This would push back presenting the budget to the State.”

After 45 minutes and falling very short of the almost \$700,000 they would need to prevent a tax increase, the Council decided to use the surplus money.

Goldy told the Council that the amount they would need would be a little under \$700,000.

Pasta Night & Tricky Tray

PERTH AMBOY - The JEMMS Foundation Inc. is having their 9th Annual Pasta Night & Tricky Tray on Friday, May 11, 2018 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. followed by an Auction at 8 p.m. at the Hungarian Reformed Church Hall, 347 Kirkland Place, Perth Amboy. Dinner Cost: \$10 adult; \$6 Children under 12. (Tricky Tray tickets sold separately). Door Prizes & 50/50 Raffle. Tickets available by email – metzgerl@ymail.com or call 732-850-4156. Bring ONE non-perishable food item and receive ONE FREE raffle ticket. To be donated to local food pantry.

The JEMMS Foundation Inc. was established in 2010 in loving memory of Jennifer Elizabeth Metzger who was a 16-year-old sophomore at Colonia High School. Jennifer was killed in an accident on May 14, 2009. We have established this scholarship to help out the community of high school students in the Greater Middlesex Conference who participate in all sports to help students further their education and to keep the memory and spirit of Jennifer alive. Jennifer was an avid bowler and her dream was to become a pro-bowler. Jennifer was also a member of the cheerleading squad and loved being on the track team in junior high school. We award two (2) scholarships in the amount of \$1000.00 each. We require the students to write an essay



Jennifer Elizabeth Metzger

on “safe driving” in order to be considered for our scholarship. We have also branched out to the community to help out those in need.

On behalf of the JEMMS Foundation Inc., we the board members would like to request your organization to help us with our 9th annual fundraiser, to be held Friday, May 11, 2018. If your organization could be so generous to donate an item for our tricky tray auction or make a monetary donation towards the JEMMS Foundation, Inc., your generosity would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Lisa Metzger (President) at 732-850-4156 or Julia Kopko (Vice-President) at 731-261-8726 if you would like to help us out or if you need further information. We the committee thank you.

4/12/18 Budget Hearings Police Department & DPW

PERTH AMBOY – Councilman Fernando Gonzalez questioned the 22% increase in the budget for the Police Department from \$83,000 to \$102,000.

Deputy Police Chief Larry Cattano explained, “These are carbon monoxide units for the firefighters. In the past, Code Enforcement got most of those carbon monoxide units. These units have audio and vibration signals. The individual cost is over \$300. We got a discounted rate of \$155 each. There are 130 units. We have a shared radio system with Woodbridge Township.”

Gonzalez mentioned an increase in dispatcher personnel of 3%.

CFO Jill Goldy explained, “This is per the union contract from July 1st to December 31st, 2018.

Council President Petrick questioned the line item concerning Narcon doses.

Cattano explained, “We went from 6 to 12 kits and we get replacements from the hospital. This is supplemental.”

Gonzalez questioned the number of officers. He was concerned about the future, because of their starting salary of \$39,000. “We’re at our maximum number of police at 134. When they become senior members, what kind of impact will it be for our future budget cost?”

CFO Jill Goldy responded, “We are replacing retiring officers who are at the top of their salary with those who are at a lower salary.”

Gonzalez then cautioned, “In 5 years, those officers who are at the bottom will be at the top salary. Can we afford this? We may have to plan ahead to avoid layoffs. There’s a 7 to 9 year cycle when the economy falls off.”

Cattano responded, “A lot has changed, and a lot of officers are retiring earlier. Layoffs are never good.”

Gonzalez then questioned, “When those guys get to the top salary in 5 years, there will be a problem. Analyze where we are heading. Do an analysis of the Police and Fire Departments.”

Goldy responded, “We don’t have binding arbitration and we have to get parameters.”

Petrick said, “We know that staff is needed. I don’t know how long records can be kept on file for people to OPRA.”

Gonzalez continued, “Bargaining may change.”

Petrick reminded him, “As people retire, we have to replace them.”

Gonzalez, “My taxes doubled in one year because of the Water Deal. Let’s not get caught in this situation again.”

Councilman Helmin Caba commented, “We have to keep in mind the population we have in town.”

Petrick then asked about the \$1500 electrical line item for the marine division.

Cattano answered, “That is to charge the boats from the Marina.”

Gonzalez then said, “The Marina makes money to give to us.”

Cattano then responded to a question about the cleaning supplies. He stated, “There’s one employee that cleans and we also use people who are on a work release program. People come on weekends to help.” He answered the questions about thermal plastic materials for \$7000. “Code Enforcement and the DPW work with those materials for road repairs. The thermoplastic helps with the patchwork. It takes about 4 years to show wear and tear. With rough winters and conditions such as by the hospital which has heavy truck traffic, there is a high cost up-front, but in the long run it saves.” Cattano also said, “We have to increase the school safety guards.”

Petrick responded, “At least they have decent coats now. It’s a positive thing. Also, the Fire Department and the Police Department have better clothing and equipment.”

DPW Director Frank Hoffman came up next. “We’re focusing on training. I have a young man in college who is an intern. We hired one person to a \$118,000 contract for the Public Safety Complex. With the training our people can work on all different types of traffic signals. With the Youth League Complex, the field management and training, we save \$8000 with doing \$1000 worth of training. Our vendors can help with any questions that we have (concerning traffic signals). We have a cabinet on hand to do work inside the box. We spent \$75,000 on 1500 tons of salt. Some of the salt-spreaders do not have an automatic turnoff switch. We use calcium chloride liquid which is mixed with calcium (solid) and makes the calcium work better. The amount of \$150,000 was used for snow material removal. As far as the lighting, we have to decide what we want to do. It’s a large ticket item.”

At this time, B.A. Adam Cruz made a comment, “We looked at the lighting in Garwood. Ours is a little bit better.”

Hoffman then explained, “Garwood LED’s are only on

one side of the panel. It’s a wider light and not yellow. I will sit with Danny (Cleave) about lighting solutions.”

Petrick then mentioned about the vendors at the League of Municipalities that were working with PSEG. “We should get lighting samples from them.”

Hoffman said, “You have to pay for samples.” In closing remarks, Hoffman said, “Our budget is close to what we had last year. In these past few years, we’ve gotten great workers and supervisors and I can’t say enough about them. We’ll be getting a second one arm bandit (for garbage pickups) in either November or December. We may need to change parking on some of our streets. We expect to be fully automated in the next 5 years. We’re trying to get a salter and some of our pickups are starting to show age. We have a 5-year plan to replace equipment.”

Cruz then mentioned some of the tight corners in the Budapest section of town, “We may have to eliminate 5 to 6 parking areas. We may have to strip one side of the street for no-parking. People may have to bring their garbage to one spot. In certain areas, we can pick up garbage at some homes if they have apartments (not exceeding 4 units).”

Hoffman came back to explain, “If we ask those homes to do their own garbage pickups we may have to reimburse them for the cost.”

After DPW finished talking, Jill Goldy stated that the Excel files, there were a handful of the Departments requests did not load into documents. She explained that the departments that were affected were: The Office of Aging, Tax Collector, Recreation, and the Planning Board. There were some documents that did not load into the correct line items and she would give the changes to the Council. She then stated the total adjustments would come out to \$48,448.

Councilman Fernando Irizarry was absent due to illness and Councilman Joel Pabon was stuck in traffic.

4/11/18 Budget Hearings Code Enforcement & PAFD

**Continued From Page 7*

the Board to the meeting. He (Rios) should have stated the exact name of the book that he mentioned the Board Members get in the classes. The League of Municipalities Classes are in depth and all members should go.”

Businesswoman Virginia Lugo came up to speak next. She stated, “This should be a standalone meeting starting at 7 p.m. We need more information than just one sheet of paper that states the time and date (of the Budget Hearings). This is not a forensic budget. How much money was spent and was any surplus monies left from previous years from each department?”

CFO Jill Goldy spoke up, “That information is on the

City’s website.”

Lugo continued, “There is money transferred to new opened bank accounts. We’ve never had a forensic audit on the budget.”

Goldy then spoke up again and told the Council, “This is an adopted budget. You (the Council) are given monthly status reports. We have audits each year as required.”

Resident Ana Mascenik who is on the Zoning Board said, “I saw there is money for the Planning Board and we should have the book that Jeremy Baratta was showing the Council Members.”

Council President Petrick said, “In the budget, money was allocated for the Planning and Zoning Boards.”

Congratulations Meredith!

**Photos Submitted*



Congratulations Meredith on winning 6th place in the 200 m breast-stroke at the Master’s National Championships. 4 personal best times and lots of fun!

Author Visit from Geoffrey Cook Perth Amboy Free Public Library 4/21/18

**Photos by Katherine Massopust*



Author Geoffrey Cook visited the Perth Amboy Free Public Library on Saturday, April 21, 2018. Cook gave a presentation to the children about volcanos. Geoffrey’s book, *Veronica and the Volcano*, is an exciting adventure story. Ten-year old Veronica lives in a high-tech, gadget-filled house on the slope of an active volcano. Eruptions are part of life, as she watches from the protective shields of her home or from her family’s well-equipped Lava Car. When she leaves on a quest to find rare white volcanic pearls, she leads everyone into a series of incredible adventures. Cook donated books to the library and gave a book to everyone present. Visit Geoffrey’s website at www.geoffreycook.com The event was sponsored by the Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library. (L to R) Marianne Komek, Norleen Gall, Author Geoffrey Cook, his daughter, Elyse Cook (Front), Linda Luden, Friends VP Barbara Sottilaro, Toni Gianfrancisco.

This Week in World War II 75 Years Ago

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

The British release a corpse (of a homeless man with no known family), dressed as a Royal Marines officer and carrying phony documents, into the Mediterranean Sea on April 30, 1943, as part of a deception operation to divert German attention from Allied plans to invade Sicily. The corpse is recovered by the Germans, who find the false paperwork containing details of an Allied attack on Greece and Sardinia. Falling for the misinformation, the German High Command orders reinforcements sent to those areas.

At one minute past midnight on May 1, over 480,000 U.S. coal miners walk off their jobs when the United Mine Workers' union contract with the nation's coal-mining companies expires. With only a three-week supply of coal available for steel mills, and less than 10 days' worth of coal in storage for railroads, President Roosevelt orders UMW president John L. Lewis to end the strike by 10 a.m. When he is ignored, Roosevelt issues an executive order directing the Secretary of the Interior to seize any mines at which work stoppages are occurring. In Sofia, Bulgaria, a massive anti-German rally takes place; over 700 people are arrested.

Japanese bombers and Zero fighters, flying from bases on Papua-New Guinea, bomb Darwin, on the north coast of Australia, on May 2. Little ground damage is incurred. President Roosevelt addresses the need for an end to the coal strike on a national radio broadcast, ending with an appeal to strikers who have sons in the military. The United Mine Workers union announces a two-week freeze of its threatened strike, saying it will try to negotiate an agreement with mine owners.

British forces take Rangoon, Burma, on May 3. In Europe, the U.S. Army's Lt. Gen. Frank Andrews, commander of U.S. forces in the European Theater, is killed in an air crash in Iceland. Lt. Gen. Jacob Devers is named as his replacement. In Croatia, a second sweep is made by SS and Ustase forces to collect Jews that may have been missed in the first roundup. Those captured are sent to Auschwitz.

Hitler on May 4 decides to postpone "Operation Citadel" in order that more Tiger heavy tanks and Panther medium tanks can be deployed for the offensive against the Kursk salient in Russia. The decision is made against the advice of a number of generals, who fear that the Soviet defenses will become too strong if the offensive is delayed.

To the south of Tunis, British forces break through the defenses of the 5th Panzerarmee on May 5. In Russia, the Red Army captures Krymsk, northeast of Novorossiysk, the country's main port on the Black Sea. U.S. Postmaster General Frank C. Walker devises the Postal Zone system to speed delivery of the mails.

In Tunisia, reinforcements sent by the British Eighth Army help the British First Army recapture Djebel Bou Aoukaz. This enables the British 7th Armored Division to advance into open "tank country," allowing General Sir Harold Alexander to exploit the numerical and material superiority of his Allied forces against the Axis troops defending Tunis. The town of Massicault, 19 miles southwest of Tunis, is reached on May 6. In the U.S., Adm. Ernest J. King, Chief of Naval Operations, orders the creation of Combat Underwater Demolition Units. Their primary mission is to reconnoiter and destroy enemy defensive obstacles on beaches prior to amphibious landings.

SkillUp Middlesex

MIDDLESEX COUNTY – County offering over 4,500 Courses Through Free Online Learning Platform. Enhance skills and obtain industry recognized credentials by taking online courses developed by Skillsoft, a training provider used by Fortune-500 companies. Transportation/Logistics, Business Etiquette, QuickBooks, Project Management/Microsoft Office, Adobe, Accounting, Human Resources, Six Sigma, Informational Technology, Sales/Marketing, Custom Service, + 100's More!

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- Pass courses with 80% or higher to earn a completion certification
- Download and print your completion certificates
- Certifications for your resume that provide new interview talking points
- Professional development

A.C. Bus Trip San Salvador Seniors

PERTH AMBOY - The San Salvador Seniors are sponsoring a bus trip to Caesar's Casino in AC on Thursday, May 3, 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 Holy Rosary Seniors

HOPELAWN – The Holy Rosary Seniors are sponsoring a trip to the Golden Nugget Casino A.C. Thursday 6/5/2018. Bus leaves 10 a.m. from church parking lot. Cost \$30. \$25 back in play; \$5 food voucher. Any questions: call Ronnie at 732-442-5252.

Edison AARP Ch. 3446

EDISON – Events - May 4: Hunterdon Hills - "Tapestry" Music of Carol King - Lunch and Show - For information call Rose at 732-738-8013

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.

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: May 12th & May 26th 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. !!!!

Scholarships Available

MIDDLESEX COUNTY - Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Omega Mu Zeta Chapter of Middlesex County is now accepting applications from qualified High School Students living in Middlesex County, for one of five general scholarship awards to be used towards tuition, books, and supplies. Download the application from www.omegamuzeta.com. Requirements are as follows: minimum grade point average of (GPA) of 2.5, and demonstrate leadership through extra-curricular activities and community service. All scholarship winners must attend the Zeta Youth Rocks Awards Ceremony on Saturday, June 18, 2018.

The completed application along with required documents must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, May 1, 2018, to: Scholarship Committee Chairperson c/o Trina Goodwin, 149 George Street, Plainfield, NJ 07062. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Trina Goodwin at goodwintrina@hotmail.com

**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.

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 May 7-10, 2018 at 732-826-7067 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Orders may be picked up on May 15 or 16 at 404 Division Street, Perth Amboy, NJ beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Jersey's Most Famous Road, The Turnpike

PERTH AMBOY - Think back to your last Turnpike experience. For some, it's an occasional ride, for others it's part of the daily grind. Have you considered what it took to create that road? New Jersey was a pioneer in major highway innovation (the Turnpike even predates the interstate highway system). In this interactive discussion, participants will be encouraged to consider its execution, significance in travel, aesthetics, and impact and how it can be seen as an emblem of American ideas and values. Lecture by Angus Kress Gillespie, Ph.D. Professor American Studies and Urban Studies on Sunday, May 6th, 2018 at 2 p.m. at the Kearny Cottage, 63 Catalpa Ave., Perth Amboy.

Pet of the Week

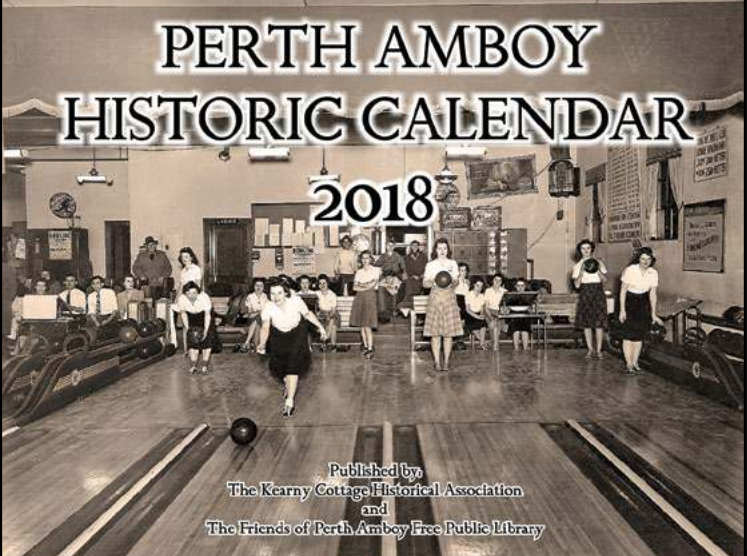


Princess is six years and her mommy has cancer so now she needs a new home. Text 732.486.6382 to adopt. Adoption application and donation fee apply. Allforthepaws.org

Music at St. Mary's

SOUTH AMBOY - MASM is pleased to present the 10th Annual Mozart Festival as our final concert of the season. The Saint Mary Chamber Orchestra, under the baton of Maestro Christopher M. C. Deibert will feature teenage piano sensation Matthew Tricarico in a stunning performance of Mozart's Piano Concerto # 12 in A Major. Additionally, the concert will feature the winds of the orchestra as they perform Mozart's Serenade No. 11 for Winds in Eb Major. The program will conclude with Symphony No. 40 in g minor. Come and help us toast the middle of springtime with this unparalleled music. Sunday, May 20, 2018, 4:00 p.m., at Saint Mary Church, 256 Augusta Street, South Amboy NJ, 08879. Free admission (\$15 donation suggested). A celebratory wine and cheese reception will follow the concert. For questions call MASM @ 732-857-0202

**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!

Answers
From Puzzle
On Page 13



Movies@ Main:
Daddy Issues

Press Release 4/11/18
WOODBIDGE - On May 11 the Woodbridge Main Library will begin a new film series scheduled Friday afternoons at 2 PM that will focus on fathers and fatherhood. The first movie is Beginners, a romantic comedy drama based on the true story of an elderly man's exploration as an openly gay man. Christopher Plummer received the 2011 Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in this film. On May 18, we will screen Place Beyond the Pines, a crime drama with Ryan Gosling, Bradley Cooper, Eva Mendes, Emory Cohen and Dane DeHaan. May 25 will feature Nebraska, a film chronicling a father – son road trip from Montana to Nebraska. Delivery Man, a comedy about a slacker who donates to a fertility clinic, will be shown on June 4, followed by Walking Out, an adventure film about the survival of a father and son stranded in the Montana wilderness. Our series concludes on June 15 with Glass Castle, a biographical drama based on Jeannette Walls' memoir of the same name

Our films are sponsored by the Friends of the Libraries of Woodbridge Township. Light refreshments are provided by the Woodbridge Library Foundation. The Woodbridge Public Library is located at 1 George Frederick Plaza, Woodbridge.

Free Programs for
People with Diabetes
Offered in
English and Spanish
in Perth Amboy

PERTH AMBOY - Are you a person with Medicare living with diabetes or know someone who is? Take control of your health through a completely free and fun six-week workshop series. Meet others going through similar challenges and learn about preventing complications, healthy eating, exercise, medication management, dealing with stress and depression, action planning, and much more. The program has helped over 1,000 graduates in New Jersey eat healthier, lose weight, regulate their blood sugar levels, and live a healthier life.

"I have learned more in this workshop than I have in 10 years of fighting this disease," said Marian, a woman with Type 2 diabetes who graduated from a previous workshop. Free diabetes self-management programs will be offered in both English and Spanish at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA on 357 New Brunswick Ave in Perth Amboy, NJ 08861.

The free series in Spanish will be offered on Tuesdays, May 15 to June 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The free series in English will be offered on Thursdays, May 17 to June 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To register for either free program, call Brenda Guilles, Director of Healthy Living at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, at (732) 442-3632 ext. 6530.

Complimentary healthy refreshments and free literature will be provided. All attendees must register by the second workshop session.

The free programs are being offered by Quality Insights as part of the national Everyone with Diabetes Counts (EDC) program, which is funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Learn more at www.qualityinsights-qin.org.

Senior Scene
Happenings

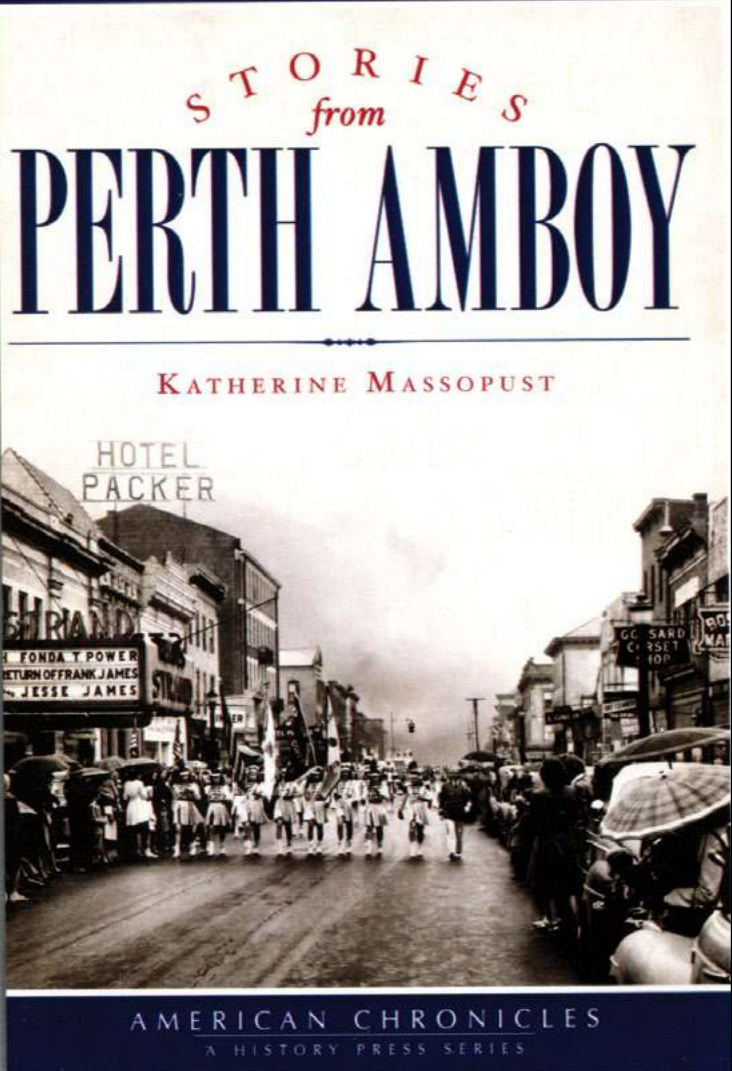
Perth Amboy

- TUES. May 1 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. May 2 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.
 - St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.
- THURS. May 3 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
- MON. May 7 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
- TUES. May 8 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. May 9 Good Shepherd Wednesday Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Msgr. Gambino Hall , Florida Grove Rd.
- THURS. May 10 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
- Ukrainian Assumption Seniors, 12 Noon Church Basement, Alta Vista Pl.

South Amboy

- WED. May 2 South Amboy Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
- MON. May 7 St. Mary's Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
- MON. May 28 Sacred Heart Seniors, 12 Noon Memorial Hall, Wash Ave.

Attn: If Your Club changes its
Schedule due to the Holidays or if you have
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Please give us two weeks advanced notice!
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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!

LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - Robert Hall Clothes. 365 Smith Street 1950's. Currently the site of Sipos Bakery.

**Photo Courtesy of the Kearny Cottage Historical Association*

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

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Prayer To St. Jude

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OTHER

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ACROSS

- 1 Military rank (abbr.)
4 Dusting powder
8 Furtive whisper
12 Turn soil
13 Butter's rival
14 Least bit
15 Long time
16 Cap and ____
17 Wolverine's group, with "The" (hyph.)
18 Ruckus
20 Birds and bees
22 Ship's letters
23 "Oh, sure!" (2 wds.)
24 Firefighter's weapon
27 Letters after a dentist's name
28 Follower of (suffix)
31 Hit makers
32 Strive
33 Cars from Munich
34 Hockey great Bobby
35 Cozy place
36 Some summer babies
37 Sailor's affirmatives
39 ____ Paulo
41 Whirlpools
43 Christmas beverage
47 Guy
48 Shamrock land
50 Departure's

opposite

- (abbr.)
51 "____ keep" (pro-
crastinator's motto)
52 Fancy
53 Skid causer
54 Watched
55 White flakes
56 Order's partner

DOWN

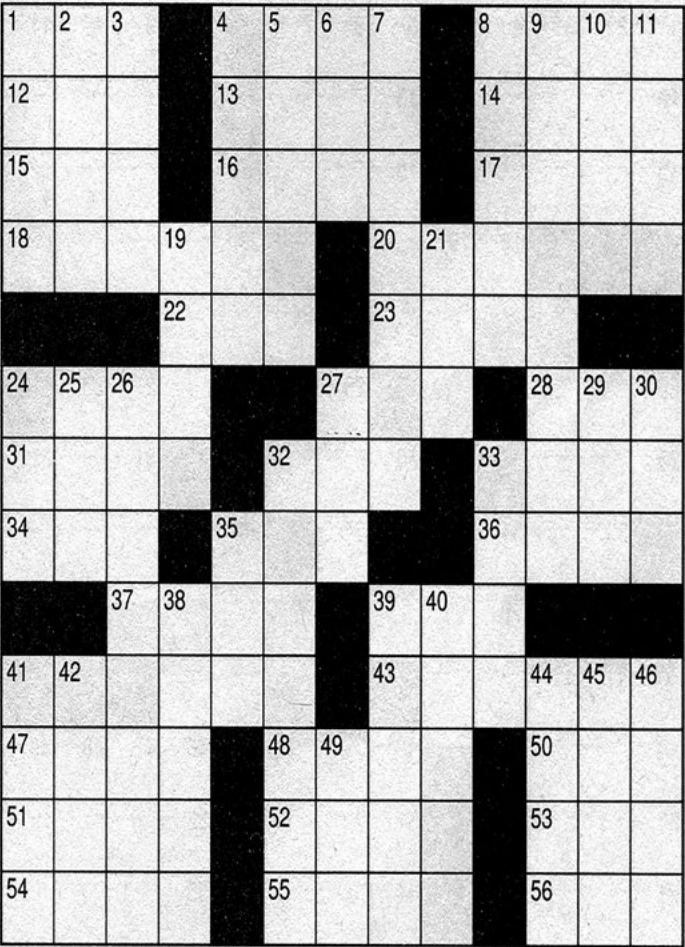
- 1 Professional cook
2 Opposite of wealthy
3 Singer Horne
4 Caesar's

garments

- 5 At ____ (puzzled, 2 wds.)
6 Writer Wallace
7 Entrust secrets
8 Elf's cousin
9 At any date in the future
10 Pun or gang ender
11 Works with leather
19 Hints
21 Pounds (abbr.)
24 "Entourage" channel (abbr.)
25 Dinghy accessory

26 Sit astride

- 27 Tumult
29 Tango need
30 Double curve
32 Ships
33 Internet journal
35 Grade an egghead never gets
38 Give way
39 Watchmaker
40 Politician Spiro
41 Falco or Adams
42 Obligation
44 Finger feature
45 Killer whale
46 Expanded
49 "____ Tin Tin"



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