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# AMBOY GUARDIAN

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## Council Feels Left Out: 2019 Calendar Year Budget 3/11/19 Caucus

PERTH AMBOY – Before the Council had to decide on R-130-3/19 (Introduction of CY 2019 Budget), Former Business Administrator Greg Fehrenbach wanted to give an overview of what the Administration came up with the numbers that resulted in a tax increase. He informed the Council Members that the staff (of the different departments) made suggestions for the Budget. Fehrenbach went on to explain that the Mayor said operations staff was already reduced, and a tax increase was needed. "The City has \$7.3 million in a structural debt deficit which includes employee insurance, pension expectations, and prior years bills. There is a shortfall of \$2.2 million in revenue." Fehrenbach explained that the Administration was able to get to that number was through reducing

expenditures and employee's revenues. "Some Department Heads had asked for increases in their budgets which we didn't consider. Employee insurance increased. Under former Mayor Vas's Administration, a \$6 million debt was incurred."

There were three meetings to discuss the Budget. CFO Jill Goldy, B.A. Frederick Carr, Former B.A. Greg Fehrenbach, and Mayor Wilda Diaz met to discuss the CY 2019 Budget. Councilwoman Milady Tejada attended all three meetings. Councilman Joel Pabon attended the first two meetings and Councilman Fernando Irizarry attended the third. Mayor Diaz attended the first two.

Councilman Fernando Irizarry then questioned one of the items in R-130-3/19. He said that it seems as if it doesn't include money for Code Enforcement.

We (the Council) will have to come with money for a new Code Enforcement Director if we don't choose the Mayor's pick (Lozada). I think I was set up at this meeting. Last year, after we introduced the Budget, changes were made. We were then told it was now the Council's Budget, and we can make changes."

Irizarry continued, "Do not increase taxes. The Council will have to do the heavy lifting now and make tough decisions. This budget will increase a regular household taxes by \$223.00 (a year). I know the Administration is at the Mayor's calling, but they also work for the Council and Residents."

Councilwoman Milady Tejada spoke up next. "The Mayor wasn't at the last (third) Meeting where the Council suggested ways keep down the Budget.



Greg Fehrenbach



Councilwoman  
Milady Tejada

Our input was not taken seriously."

Fehrenbach replied, "Myself, B.A. Frederick Carr, CFO Jill Goldy, were not aware that the Mayor would not be at that Meeting (third Meeting). We

knew it was vital for her to be there. She told us that she was ill that day." He then stated, "We hope there is money for employee insurance. The State

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## Discussion Continues on Budget Background Check 3/13/19 Council Meeting

PERTH AMBOY – Resident Alan Silber came up to speak about Ordinance No. 1 – To submit the proposition to the voters at the November 5, 2019 General Election that the City of Perth Amboy adopt the holding of runoff elections as permitted by the Uniform Non-Partisan Elections Law.

"I encourage the Council to vote for this. In the last 2 elections, the top vote getter only got 36%-45% of the vote."

Former Councilwoman Lisa Nanton came forward to ask the Council to rescind the ordinance on background checks. "It's an abomination for those who are working for free to hand over such personal information. You should investigate other communities to see what their qualifications are (for members of municipal boards)."

Law Director Peter King responded, "The form does not request financial information. I'm not the Clerk or Administration. Other municipalities can be asked about their ordinances regarding volunteer boards."

Councilman Fernando Irizarry spoke up stating that the affidavit is not what the Council had in mind. "We are not looking for

any financial records. The affidavit should be suspended."

Councilman Helmin Caba spoke next and asked how expunged records would be handled.

King responded that the ordinance does not require them to divulge that information. "Just tell the Clerk what you want (in the ordinance)."

Former Member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment Roisin Dowling said, "It's a very important fact that the Board of Adjustment are making improvements to Perth Amboy, but I still have concerns. I have concerns about you putting the ordinance (regarding background checks) on hold. I don't like bullies. Don't let them affect our City. I'm flabbergasted at Ms. Nanton's objecting to background checks."

Resident Renee Skelton came up next. She thought that the form that some municipal board members had to fill out were overly wrought. She stated that it's a privacy issue and some people will not want to volunteer and it's too broad.

Resident Linda Cruz came up next. "Every Board Member has to fill out a Financial Disclosure

form. Citizens are entitled to know. Some people are refusing to sign the form because of the background check on it. You volunteer because you care about the citizens. You're entitled to have honorable people serve."

A PARA Member came forth to speak, "People should be prepared to answer any questions on forms (given to applicants for municipal boards)." He urged the Council to go forward with the background checks.

Resident Robert Meazy came up next, "I agree with Lisa Nanton. People who volunteer for those boards should not have to go through all of those background checks."

Resident Sharon Hubberman asked, "Why were there not copies of the budget at the Meeting? They have workshops in other towns. In previous administrations, there would be copies of the budgets at the meetings for the residents to look at." She went on to talk about the importance of needing a criminal background check. "Look at what's happening in the news. Fingerprints are not evasive. I haven't seen the waiver forms. A lot of other towns do back-

ground checks and financial disclosures are required."

Resident Caroline Pozzycki-Torres came up to speak, "I've never been subjected to a background check. Often, they contain erroneous information." She said those that have this erroneous information aren't being allowed to defend themselves. "It seems unjust to put it in our community and we should not deter them. They should be judged on their actions."

Resident Alan Silber came up, "Do we do a background check on our neighbors. Do City Employees get a background check? This is crazy stuff. I was in the service for three years. After I got out, I applied for a job at Standard Oil and they asked if I was a member of the Communist Party. I didn't answer and I didn't get the job. This background check is overkill."

Resident and Businessman Adele Tawfik came up, "As a concerned citizen and taxpayer, I need to know more about the budget. The Master Plan is over 20 years old. Public Safety is being cut (personnel and equipment). Government Management (Fehrenbach) is being paid over \$26,000. This is a yearly

salary for an officer. Officers on duty at night often have to walk in the cold weather. You need to cutoff the contract with Government Management. We are paying someone to baby-sit Mr. Carr, who is very qualified. You guys will have to answer to the public."

Former Councilman Fernando Gonzalez came up next and then asked what the tax increase will be.

Council President Bill Petrick responded, "It will be \$223 per normal household a year."

Fernando Gonzalez then explained, "In my case it would translate to a \$1000 increase. We need to protect our people. Get rid of some of these people on this floor who don't do much. We need to find out what our surplus is. The citizens can't afford an increase. We are going crazy hiring people. Fehrenbach, stopped this."

Council President Bill Petrick had a question regarding the introduction of CY 2019 Budget. "Why are there no salaries listed?"

Business Administrator Carr explained, "This is because of

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## Discussion Continues on Budget Background Check 3/13/19 Council Meeting

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ongoing contract negotiations.”

Petrick then asked about why individual employee’s salaries were not listed as they were in the past.

Carr explained, “This will be done after the contract negotiations are set.”

Petrick continued, “The Budget does not reflect the cuts or cost. We had another Business Administrator who said there is no reason that past salaries were not on the budget.” Petrick then requested that the past salaries be provided to the Council.

Carr responded, “This is a poker game and we’re not showing our cards. I can give you the salaries of the previous two years.”

Petrick then requested that information be put in the books.

Carr said that he could do that, and he will also post that information for the public.

Fehrenbach spoke again, “There was a 17-page budget message which will go on the website. The \$7.3 million deficit reflected an increase in employee group insurance which rose 20%. The salary increases steps were already received. There was a \$600,000 increase in the Police Department. There was a \$730,000 increase in the pensions for the Police and Fire Departments. \$205,000 appropriations were made in the DPW and Fire Departments. We have a \$2.2 million revenue shortfall. There were reductions in the Police Department. When people left, they were not replaced. There’s also overtime cuts and cuts in part-time employees. There’s a \$7.3 million problem. Department requests were ignored. The \$3 million debt caused a tax increase. 2014 was the last tax increase in the City. There was increased cost, but not increased revenue. The surplus will be depleted in 2020. The Budget doesn’t have a cushion. You have to provide for assumptions such as overtime. Costs cannot exceed the excess. The Mayor’s budget shows a reduction. The Mayor determined that attrition of 23 positions which would be employee based. There will be a 9.3 cent increase (based on how they appraise your house). The Council introduces their budget after getting the Mayor’s budget. You need 4 members of the Council to increase the budget. This is a statutory rule and should be introduced at this meeting. You can wait until the end of the month, but it will not be enough time to make amendments. In doing this tonight (be voting on R-130-3/19 Introduction to CY-2019 Budget) a special meeting is not required. On April 10, 2019, amendments can be made at Public Budget Meetings.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda spoke and stated, “There were a lot of unnecessary hiring’s since Fehrenbach left in 2014.”

Fehrenbach spoke up, “When I left 5 years ago, the City was in better shape, but was still fragile. We are not East Brunswick. We have 382 employees. By the end of 2019, there should be 372

through attrition. The Council is in control of the hiring purse strings. If you resolve by using surplus, in 2020 you will delete the surplus. The projection is based on new information. Expenditures are not spent to build surplus. There was significant cost in 2018. Cuts in this budget will make the 2020 surplus nil.”

Councilman Irizarry wanted to make sure he heard correctly and stated, “If we use the surplus (now), we will not have a surplus in 2020?”

Fehrenbach then went on to explain, “State Aid and tax anticipation needs money and current funds.”

B.A. Carr spoke up next, “It’s like a payday loan.” He then talked about Buckeye which the City assessed at \$170 million. “Buckeye is appealing and believes that their assessment should be \$60 to \$110 million. They (Buckeye) said they are liquid, but the City disagrees.”

Fehrenbach spoke up, “Buckeye’s income doesn’t come up with \$110 million.”

Council President Bill Petrick spoke up and said, “If they (Buckeye) prevail, then we (the City) will owe them money.”

Fehrenbach responded, “Yes, but we’re not going there.”

Councilman Joel Pabon then asked (regarding the letter about Perth Amboy water) if contaminants are coming from the same area.

USA-PA Director of Operations Luis Perez Jimenez answered that it’s organic matter (such as leaves, animals, trees) – not a chemical.

Pabon then stated, “That should have been added to the letter. The City has an obligation to clear this up for the average family to understand. What is the true condition of our well? Our water (bill) keeps going up. We took a trip to Runyon, but we need to take a trip to the Water Shed in Old Bridge”

Perez Jimenez responded that we have been flushing the hydrants.

Council President Bill Petrick read a letter which talked about the owners of the Duane Marine Property that had contaminants. He stated that no one ever went after them. Petrick then mentioned that Comcast provides \$190,000 to the City for equipment upgrades but I don’t know where the money is going. “The Mayor sent letters appointing people to Boards that she’s not permitted to do. We have to send notices to the PARA (Perth Amboy Redevelopment Agency) Members to let them know they were not appointed appropriately. We are looking to abolish (PARA) and maybe they want to expedite some projects they are working on. Regarding the appointment of Irving Lozada, it’s already been 90 days.”

Councilman Irizarry then spoke up, “You are discussing something that is private.”

Law Director Peter King then advised the Council, “If you went to court, the judge will not rule in your favor.”

Petrick responded, “I read the case (that you (Peter King)) forwarded to us regarding appointments, and I believe the Mayor

did not do appointments appropriately.”

For the ordinance regarding the Background Checks, Disqualifications - Deleted, Law Director King asked the Council if they wanted to have that pulled. Irizarry moved to table and Caba seconded it.

For the Consent Agenda, R-122 thru R-129 and R-131 thru R-152 and R-154 & R-156 were moved by Councilman Fernando Irizarry and Seconded by Councilman Joel Pabon.

For R-130 - Introduction of CY 2019 Budget, Irizarry asked for that to be pulled to be voted on separately. It was moved by Helmin Caba, seconded by Irizarry. When it came time to vote individually, Council Members Helmin Caba, Joel Pabon, and Milady Tejeda voted "yes". Council President William Petrick and Councilman Fernando Irizarry voted "no". Motion passes.

For R-153 - A proposal awarding a contract to Kyle & McManus Assoc. for professional engineering services related to the housing study for the Dept. of Human Services in an amount not to exceed \$52,500. Council President Bill Petrick asked for a separate vote. It was moved by Joel Pabon, seconded by Helmin Caba. Caba, Pabon, Irizarry voted "yes." Petrick and Tejeda voted "no". Motion passes.

During the last public portion, Resident Robert Meazy came up to the podium. He stood silently while holding the American flag while displaying the bible. After a minute, someone from the audience shouted, “A person is supposed to speak during the public portion.”

Council President Bill Petrick turned to Law Director King for a ruling on this.

King responded, “This is the portion where the public are supposed to speak.”

Petrick then questioned, “What if the person is a deaf-mute?”

King had no response. After Meazy’s five minutes of silence were up, Meazy removed the tape off his mouth and asked for another five minutes, but was denied by Council President Petrick.

Businesswoman and Resident Sharon Hubberman came up next and asked for clarification on the water situation. She continued, “We get water from Runyon. There was an article about the Runyon Water Shed and chemical pollutants in 1984. There should be an independent testing of our water. They are doing presentations in Old Bridge, and they’ve done independent water testing.”

Petrick responded that a company had a contaminant spill and CMD is doing the cleanup.”

Hubberman emphasized, “We need to be certain our water is clean.” She then spoke about the Redevelopment Agency. “Having the Mayor (on that Board) is a conflict of interest.” She then talked about the budget, “The appraisal for Buckeye should be reevaluated. Consider the tax rate. Is it comparable to residential homes? Buckeye owns

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# Council Feels Left Out: 2019 Calendar Year Budget 3/11/19 Caucus

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eliminated the employee salary guide. There is a \$600,000 increase in steps for union contracts. This will be a \$55 a quarter tax increase. The Police Department, Fire Department, Health and Human Services were all increased. 22 positions were lost in 2018 and more may come in 2019. Personnel are essential. When it comes to an increase or decrease for a line item on a budget, you need 3 Council Members to do a decrease. You must have public hearings. The introduction of the Budget must be in by the March 27, 2019 Meeting. You have to have a public hearing on any amendments. You can hold public hearings on April 10, 2019. A timely adoption will be on the Best Practices Checklist. If we (the City) don't have this done by then, we (the City) will lose 3 points which will cost the City to lose money."

Irizarry then questioned, "If we (the Council) introduce the CY 2019 Introductory Budget, it will then become the Council's Budget. The taxpayers can't afford a \$223 a year increase."

Fehrenbach then suggested it could be reduced by a very small amount and it had already been reduced by \$1 million (off the total). "You'll have to layoff more people. When \$700,000 was used in last year's surplus, it impacted this year's budget. Surplus money encompasses many items. You have to look at it over a series of years. Lapse Reserves in 2021 will be even smaller. All you do is kick the can down the road or dig a deeper hole. The \$7.3 million structural deficit is hard to overcome. We filled needed vacancies. The Police Department went from 137 members to 120.

I thought it should have been 112 - maximum. When I left (the first time)."

Irizarry spoke again and said that we might have to look at another tax increase after this year. "The Board of Ed is increasing taxes."

Council President Bill Petrick spoke next. He commented that we are a poor community. "A lot of residents are on a fixed income. A lot of Seniors stay here in their own homes. It doesn't reflect on either of you (Fehrenbach and Carr) when the extra hiring's took place."

Fehrenbach then continued. "Reduction in services or staff will have to be made for lowering the tax increase."

Tejeda spoke up again, "At one of the (earlier administrative) meetings we had (to discuss the budget), there were alternative discussions to have the increase to come below \$200." She then explained at a follow up meeting, there was no possibility of this.

Business Administrator Frederick Carr responded, "It's a combination of math. We recommended layoffs. We went back to the staff (in different departments) for cuts again."

Fehrenbach then added, "During the last administrative meeting, Jill Goldy left to see the numbers (to try to bring the Budget increase below \$200)." He stated that at the last meeting that was held, it was possible to go to a \$210 increase for the year.

Tejeda then reiterated, "We (the Council) had options before to get the (tax) increase under \$200. But now, those options were taken off."

Irizarry wanted to thank Greg Fehrenbach, B.A. Carr, and CFO Jill Goldy for helping out with this budget.

# Letter to Residents Addressing City Water Tops Discussion Along with Other Concerns 3/11/19 Caucus

PERTH AMBOY - Luis Perez Jimenez, Director of Operations from USA-PA (Utility Service Associates Perth Amboy) Middlesex Water Company) came before the Council to answer questions about a letter mailed to city residents from USA-PA (See 3/6/19 Amboy Guardian p.4).

Perez Jimenez explained, "The DEP said there was a Tier 1 Violation which may have an effect on humans." He said that he forgot to do a test for the pH level. "Which is the first time I forgot to do this. The level should be between 6.5 and 8.5. For Tier 2, we exceeded the maximum level according to the DEP. We sample water from 4 locations. We had 30 days to notify the public to alert them about any contaminants. We sent the letter to the Department of Environmental Protection with the results. They had to approve any communications before they can be sent out to the public. Right now, the pH levels are below 8.0. Anytime the levels go above 8.0, we'll have to send letters out again. Depending on the THM's Levels, it can cause cancer."

*(Trihalomethanes: (THM) are a group of four chemicals that are formed along with other disinfection by products when chlorine or other disinfectants used to control microbial contaminants in drinking water react with naturally occurring organic and inorganic matter in water. The trihalomethanes are chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform. EPA has published the Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-products Rule to regulate total trihalomethanes (TTHM) at a maximum allowable annual average level of 80 parts per billion. (source: www.water-research.net/trihalomethanes.htm)).*

He further explained that our wells are 65 feet to 80 feet deep and we are using Recharged Reservoirs. The Rainy Well small pump is back in service. If we use a large well with organic material, we will flush it first. We can use carbon filters with chlorination to get rid of organic materials. The MCL (Maximum Contaminated Levels) can be treated and you still will be able to drink the water.

During the public portion, Resident Dorothy Carty-Daniel came up to speak. She stated that her grandmother lived to be 97 and she always drank the water in Perth Amboy. She then talked about the resolutions appointing members to the Green Team (Committee Members who are devoted to making the City environmentally sustainable). "Maybe the Green Team can incorporate the Scouts to learn about the environment." Daniel was also concerned about an auto repair business located at the corner of Chamberlain Avenue and Convery Boulevard. She stated that this business continuously has cars parked near that corner which makes it hard to make a

left hand turn from Chamberlain onto Convery Boulevard. "It's a life-threatening situation. I'm speaking for my neighbors and the school buses. Maybe you (the Council) should fine the company so that he follows the rules before somebody gets killed. Send them a letter or have the Police Department send that business a letter so they will comply to the boundaries (where they're supposed to park the cars waiting to be serviced)."

Former Councilwoman Lisa Nanton came up next. She was upset about a form that people who volunteer for municipal boards have to fill out. "Volunteers work for free. This form is asking for too much confidential information. I wasn't asked to give this much information when I sat on the Council. Why doesn't the administration have to give out this much information? This goes above and beyond (what is necessary) and is un-American. All these people appointed by the Mayor did not have to do an advise-consent such as the members of the Historic Preservation Commission. You need to rescind the ordinance (regarding background checks). It's an invasion (of privacy). Everyone has to suffer because of the administration's reckless spending. Before you ask people who are working for free, you should have people who are pulling three-figure salary jobs to supply all this information. Why are there different expiration of term dates for different groups (of members of municipal boards)?"

Law Director Peter King responded, "The ordinance determines which boards have to have an advise-consent by the Council."

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch then responded that she will inform the HPC that they will have to fill out (the longer forms).

Petrick then stated that he would like to rescind the background check ordinance.

Resident Vince Mackiel came up next. He talked about the Council accepted bids submitted by C.D.M. Smith in August 2018 for a new pump. "The Council should look at the Spill Fund to rectify the water system for a better treatment."

King responded, "There's a private corporation who was the owner of the property where a spill occurred."

Luis Perez Jimenez came up to add more details, "The one spill was created by a private company. What we had (in the water) was a new contaminant. The DEP said we could not apply for a Spill Fund. BASF is working on a pilot. They have been using a plume to pump the water. BASF is paying \$500,000 and they will reimburse the City for any of the money the City puts out. The pump had a lot of defects. CDM. Smith are experts and are reviewing BASF's work. They are also doing design work for us."

Resident Alan Silber came up next. "Middlesex Water has

been paying (their stockholders) dividends since 1912, and they are very profitable. How many New Jersey towns received that letter? The Mayor is so busy, you can never find her. Why was Bryan Walensky and others who worked on her (Diaz) campaign were getting hired? Some of them are suing the City. Even after he (Walensky) got a City job, she (the Mayor) was working with his company." Silber then said there is a lot of nepotism and cronyism. "There was a \$500,000 settlement that never appeared in the paper. Now, we're raising taxes. Between 2018 and 2019, there were 18 full-time and 20 part-time employees (in the City). Come election time, the Mayor will be taking responsibility for everything that Fehrenbach did."

Resident Robert Meazy came up to speak. He complained about all the noise on Alpine Street. He also wanted to thank the Council for watching out for the money.

Luis Perez Jimenez came back up to speak. He explained that Rainy Wells have the best water. "Highland Park just went through the same problem. Things can also happen in the distribution center."

Councilmen Joel Pabon and Helmin Caba were not present with an excused absence.

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

The Invisible Chains

With the Senate passing of NJ S-2861-3081: Requires health curriculum for public school students in grades kindergarten through 12 to include instruction on mental health. (Corrado, Kristin M. as Primary Sponsor, Codey, Richard J. as Primary Sponsor, Vitale, Joseph F. as Primary Sponsor, Ruiz, M. Teresa as Co-Sponsor, Gopal, Vin as Co-Sponsor)

This bill will provide education to students to help recognize mental illness and help spread awareness and try to fight the stigma attached. No one likes to look at “That crazy homeless man” or “that beggar on the street” or “that nutty woman who stands there talking to herself”.

In the United States alone, 1 out of 5 people suffer from some sort of mental illness. (source: <https://www.nami.org/>) Many suffer in silence. What causes it? Some scientists and physicians believe that many of these conditions (such as bipolar, schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorders, etc.) are genetic.

Many of those who are afflicted often do not seek help because of the stigma attached to it. They do not want to be labeled as “Crazy” or “Nuts” or “Demented” or the many other labels given to those afflicted. That person could be you or a loved one. It’s difficult to see the warning signs and be aware if something is wrong. Such organizations as NAMI (The National Alliance on Mental Illness: <https://www.nami.org/>) offer information on what resources are available. (INA CRISIS? CALL THE NAMI HELPLINE: 800-950-6264 OR TEXT NAMI TO 741741)

Then there is the flipside of the coin. Many family members try to get help for their loved ones, but it is unavailable. One of the most provocative books I ever read on mental illness is by New York Times Best Seller List Author and 2007 Pulitzer Prize finalist Pete Earley: Crazy: A Father’s Search Through America’s Mental Health Madness. The book recounts the experience of Earley’s son who suffers from a mental illness, and how the entire mental health system in America is flawed. Earley writes about how the mentally ill are criminalized and treated as such by the justice system in the United States. He now is an advocate for strong mental health reform on the public

stage. He also is a highly sought out inspirational speaker.

People with mental illness are often cast aside. Even if a family member wants to help their loved one, it’s often difficult. Many times, there are only so many beds available in treatment centers and hospitals are overwhelmed.

“1,300,000 persons with SMI (serious mental illness) languish in prison - often in solitary confinement. 350,000 persons with SMI rot on our urban streets. Many are shot by police. Most die 20 years sooner than expected. And their families must stand by helplessly and watch this happen.” (source: *Shattered Families: Collapse of our Mental Health System*, Stephen Seager MD, *Psychology Today* 9/13/15)

There are many types of medication available from licensed health care providers which can help someone who is suffering. Unfortunately, many of these medications have side-effects and many who suffer refuse to take them even though the medication can help them. Many of these medications are also expensive. If one’s insurance does not pay for them, many pharmaceutical companies offer programs that offer these medications for a reduced fee or for free if one qualifies.

In Perth Amboy, we are fortunate to have the Bay Behavioral Health at Hackensack Meridian and the George J. Otlowkski, Sr. Center for Mental Health Care on Lee Street.

By the Senate passing of NJ S-2861-3081, the first step in a long journey to helping the mentally ill will begin. It’s a difficult subject that many people do not want to even think about. It’s easy to look the other way. It pains me to see so many individuals who are suffering that so many would rather forget.

It is my hope that one day there will be a permanent cure for all categories of mental illness. I implore all lawmakers to provide funding for research to develop a permanent cure of these disorders (not just medication management). It is my opinion that many of these types of mental illnesses are diseases of the brain and should be treated as such (as a physical illness).

Imagine a world without mental illness. So many who suffer in silence would be free of their invisible chains. **K.M.**

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

The Junk Science of Gun Control

“Gun Control” is presented as a cure-all for problems arising from economics and emotions. The validity of any solution is demonstrated by its results. In 1968 Congress passed a Gun Control Act that promised to reduce violence. After 25 years the number of violent firearm deaths increased from 15,000 to 30,000. It continues

to rise to 40,000 but dropped after some states liberalized their gun control laws. Given these figures you may be able to reduce the number of violent firearm deaths by abolishing the 1968 Gun Control Act. If it saved hundreds of lives a year wouldn’t it be worth it?

There were few mass shootings before SSRI drugs like Prozac and Chantix were prescribed. Maybe the FDA needs to re-evaluate SSRI drugs given the bad results from their use by patients who turned violent?

The House recently passed a Background Check Law designed to prevent sales at weekend Gun Shows by extending the time duration. If they can’t sell on a weekend they will be put out of business. The required registration of all guns legally sold seems to be an infringement of people’s rights. Will this save lives and reduce violent deaths?

Ronald A. Sobieraj

It Takes One to Know One

Since I find almost all politicians to be distasteful, I am neither pro-Republican nor pro-Democrat. I do find it highly

ironic that the vast majority of Republicans are chastising most of the Democrats for believing Mr. Cohen whom they (the Republicans) call a liar. Now, one would assume that since Mr. Cohen worked for Mr. Trump that he (Mr. Cohen) would be

a Republican so in calling one of their own a liar... Well, draw your own conclusion!

We all know of the old adage, “It takes one to know one.”

Sincerely,  
Michael J. Rusznak

We Value Your Opinion Send Us A Response!

Total Joint Replacement Education Session

OLD BRIDGE - The Human Motion Institute at Hackensack Meridian Health Raritan Bay Medical Center-Old Bridge is sponsoring a free Total Joint Replacement Education session Tuesday, April 2, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., in the Patient Education Center, 1st Floor, Medical and Surgical Pavilion, 2 Hospital Plaza, Old Bridge, NJ. The class will educate attendee on what to expect, before, during and after surgery. Registration required, call 1-800-560-9990.

Acupressure and Breath Work Event

PERTH AMBOY - Hackensack Meridian Health Raritan Bay Medical Center-Perth Amboy’s Integrative Health & Medicine Services is holding an Acupressure and Breath Work event Wednesday, April 3, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Raritan Room D, Raritan Bay Medical Center, 530 New Brunswick Ave. Learn simple and effective techniques for self-care. Registration required, call 1-800-560-9990

Total Joint Replacement Education Session

PERTH AMBOY - The Human Motion Institute at Hackensack Meridian Health Raritan Bay Medical Center-Perth Amboy, is sponsoring a free Total Joint Replacement Education session Friday, April 5, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., in the Human Motion Institute office, concourse level, 530 New Brunswick Ave, Perth Amboy, NJ. The class will educate attendees on what to expect before, during, and after surgery. Registration required, call 1-800-560-9990.

Aromatherapy Education

PERTH AMBOY - Hackensack Meridian Health Raritan Medical Center-Perth Amboy’s Integrative Health & Medicine Services is holding an Aromatherapy education session Tuesday, April 16, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Centennial Hall A, Raritan Bay Medical Center, 530 New Brunswick Ave. This program explains what Aromatherapy is and how it can benefit your overall well-being. It will provide some simple tips for use at home. Registration required. For more information and to register, call 732-324-5257 or email [integrativehealth@hackensackmeridian.org](mailto:integrativehealth@hackensackmeridian.org).

“Weight Loss Surgery: The Facts”

WOODBIDGE - The Center for Bariatric Surgery at Hackensack Meridian Health Raritan Bay Medical Center-Perth Amboy is holding a free seminar “Weight Loss Surgery: The Facts” Tuesday, April 9, 6:00 p.m. at the Medical Pavilion in Woodbridge, 740 US Highway 1, Iselin, NJ. Center for Bariatric Surgery Medical Director Karl Strom, M.D., will discuss the benefits of weight loss surgery. Registration required, call 1-800-560-9990.

“Is Weight Loss Surgery Right for Me?”

OLD BRIDGE - The Institute of Weight Loss at Hackensack Meridian Health Raritan Bay Medical Center-Old Bridge, is sponsoring an “Is Weight Loss Surgery Right for Me?” seminar Monday, April 8, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The informative event will focus on weight loss surgery including discussion on Roux-En-Y Gastric Bypass, Adjustable Gastric Banding, and Gastric Sleeve and concerns surrounding weight loss surgery as well as its successes. Family and friends are welcome. The meeting will be held in Suite 404, Medical Arts Building, 3 Hospital Plaza, Old Bridge, NJ. Registration required, call 1-855-TIME-4-ME (1.855.846.3463).

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## Discussion Continues on Budget Background Check 3/13/19 Council Meeting

*\*Continued from Page 2*

property in Linden. Look to add more revenue.” She then added that the assessment should be based on the type of industry.

Resident Renee Skelton came up next. She mentioned that there is a Superfund Site next to our well. *(The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980 (42 U.S.C.s/ 9601 et seq) provides a federal "Superfund" to clean up uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites as well as accidents, spills and other emergency releases of pollutants and contaminants into the environment. The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) reauthorized CERCLA to continue cleanup activities around the country. (source: NJ.gov)*

There is an interim cleanup and they are doing a presentation in Old Bridge. She stated that the Council should have the people who are doing the presentation in Old Bridge do the same presentation in Perth Amboy.

A Resident from Cornell Street came up to speak regarding being denied permits for a small addition in front of his house. “I came here to get an ordinance to try to get this done.”

Petrick told the Resident that he could present his case to the Zoning Board. “We (the Council) are not empowered to do anything. You can go to the Zoning Board and they can hear your concerns. You can appeal your case to them. Ask for a variance.”

Law Director King spoke up and suggested, “It might be a violation of a lot coverage.”

Petrick spoke again and told the Resident, “You can still ask for a variance.”

Businessman Franklin Diaz came up next. He was concerned about the tax increase. “We can’t handle any more. If taxes keep increasing, it will be worse than Camden. Perth Amboy will be a ghost town. Look at the past years and the homes boarded up. Control the taxes because we will all suffer. I have interests in this community. I was born and raised here. My family has been here for 45 years. I talked to a lot of businessmen and they said Irving Lozada is doing a good job. We spend a lot on building permits that kept getting delayed. This town is also a business. You should think about his (Lozada’s) appointment because a lot of the business owners are happy with Lozada’s enthusiasm. He’s also a businessman, and you should work with him. We keep arguing, but nothing gets done. Let’s work for the community and together. That’s why we voted for you.”

Businessman Adele Tawfik spoke about how the budget will affect 57,000 residents and himself. “Look at all the legal actions against the City. The City is buying a tow truck. You need less spending on sub-contracting. Officers are getting salary cuts, and this is putting people’s lives in jeopardy. Redo the Master Plan.”

Petrick responded to Tawfik, telling him that everything he mentioned will increase taxes. “The Master Plan alone will cost \$500,000. The \$223 per year tax increase is for the average household. If you have a business, it will be more.”

Councilman Helmin Caba talked next stating, “The Administration chose to do unnecessary hiring. Now we (the Council) will have to make difficult decisions going forward. With State Aid and Grants, we should not have to pay this much money in taxes.”

Tawfik then continued, “I see on the agenda where a lot of unnecessary money is spent, such as paying for two B.A.’s and hiring more lawyers for litigation.”

Resident Alan Silber came up next, “The City got rid of 40 employees, some full-time, some part-time. Many of the part-time positions we have now are crossing guards. Has there been any difference when those employees left? Did the City shut down? We had too many people. Fehrenbach’s job is to negotiate. We need a professional Police Department. Look at all of those settlements.” Silber then stated that two of our Police Officers are going to be honored by the 200 Club (an organization that honors First Responders). “Why weren’t their names mentioned in the communications? Too many people were hired who were cronies or had relatives (who were City employees). The Mayor took two weeks off to campaign for her candidates (who ran in the last election). There should be a record of where the Mayor is when she’s off. You give warehouses PILOTS.”

Former Councilman Fernando Gonzalez came up to speak. He pleaded with the Council to keep the taxes where they are. “We don’t need three judges. We pay the Y \$20,000 a month because of the contract made with the previous Mayor. Hopefully you’ll find money when you look in their books. The Y doesn’t pay utilities and they bought a lot of property with our money. Get rid of some of the hires from the last ten years. We have bought too many new vehicles.” Gonzalez then advised the residents if they see any waste, report it.

Former Councilwoman Lisa Nanton objected to how the ordinance regarding background checks was stated, “It’s too ambiguous, too broad, and thoughtless. Throw it out! Why do you have an advise-consent (of the Council) for the Green Team and not the Library Board or Historic Preservation Commission?”

Law Director King responded, “The State Statute states it’s the Mayor’s appointments. It would not be legal to add: advise-consent.”

Nanton continued, “When I was on the Council, there was an illegal appointment made by the Mayor. The Council challenged this and hired an attorney. Now, the Mayor did another illegal appointment again. This City Council needs a financial budget

and should hire an independent lawyer to find the truth. Cut the hell out of this budget to stop the Mayor from illegal appointments. The attorney can hire a lawyer to litigate.”

Resident Wilfredo Soto requested that the Council not cut any personnel from the Police, Fire, or EMT’s. “Sometimes you have to negotiate. I know you are in a difficult situation. You have to look at people who are on SSI. A lot of businesses are closing. I keep Perth Amboy in my prayers. My father moved to Florida because of the high taxes here. God bless you all.”

Council Comments were next:

Councilman Helmin Caba questioned Law Director King about dissolving the PARA Board.

King responded, “The DCA (Department of Community Affairs) has to review the request to dissolve the agency.”

Councilman Fernando Irizarry spoke next, “When I attended a meeting along with Councilman Helmin Caba, Greg Fehrenbach, Frederick Carr, and the Mayor, we had a compromise regarding the budget. Now, there’s no compromise. What happened? Councilman Pabon wanted to wait on recommendations.” Irizarry continued, “Regarding the dissolving of PARA, no City employee or the Mayor could be the Chair. There was supposed to be 2 Council Members appointed with staggered expiration terms.”

Councilman Joel Pabon then spoke next, “The Meeting that dealt with the budget that I could not attend and Councilman Fernando Irizarry came in my place - I don’t know what happened after I left.”

B.A. Carr asked the Council how they wanted to move forward regarding the Redevelopment Agency.

Council President Petrick stated, “PARA is working on smaller projects right now.”

Councilman Caba then added, “PARA only has two large developments left, then there’s no more land.”

Petrick spoke again, “The City didn’t always have PARA. It was created by a previous administration. Before PARA, the Council made those decisions. It seems like some members of the Council are not confident in taking over PARA’s duties.”

Pabon answered, “I’m confident.”

Petrick continued, “We established to abolish PARA.”

Councilman Irizarry disagreed, “We were supposed to compromise on PARA. Now, it’s to dissolve it?” He then thanked, B.A. Carr, Greg Fehrenbach, and CFO Jill Goldy for their work on the budget. “Don’t take on how I vote personally. How many Directors do we have? I’d like to see the qualifications for each Director’s duties. What qualifications do the current Directors have now? Can we amend the qualifications?”

King responded, “It depends on the department.”

B.A. Carr then commented, “Many qualifications are set in code.”

Councilman Joel Pabon spoke about the numerous complaints from residents that many streetlights are out on New Brunswick Avenue and Hall Avenue. He then added “There are 15 streetlights out on Smith Street. It’s ridiculous. I talked to Danny Cleaver (DPW Supervisor) who said he would reach out to

PSEG.”

Pabon then asked, “What is the time frame for Amboy Avenue to be fixed, “It’s (the street) is a disgrace. A little sweeper rarely comes by. If we can’t help existing businesses, then they will leave. Handicapped applicants are coming to my house. Are we putting the Handicapped Committee back (in service)?”

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch responded, “We have two coming back, but we are still short of members.”

Pabon said once again, “The lights being out are the biggest issue.”

Kupsch also responded to the handicapped parking issues. “Sometimes people let us know that they are moving. If people who come to that residence, and they don’t need the sign, the sign has to be removed. We have several handicapped signs which will be removed.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda said, “Brace Avenue also has a lot of lights that are out. Also, too many people are speeding by the high school, especially on Grove Street.”

Council President Petrick stated, “We may need speed bumps.”

Tejeda then asked, “What are the plans for the train station?”

Carr explained, “Currently, the plans are in Washington D.C.”

Council President Bill Petrick spoke last, “We need to get the station fixed. Residents who live in Harbortown are taken by shuttle bus to the Woodbridge Train Station.” He then thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and watching on TV.

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## The Renee J. Bradley Foundation for Domestic Violence 2019 Scholarship Luncheon

Press Release

PERTH AMBOY - The Renee J. Bradley Foundation for Domestic Violence 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scholarship Luncheon will take place on Sunday, April 7, 2019. The Scholarship Luncheon will be from 3-6pm and hosted at the Cathedral International Family Life Center Banquet Hall in Perth Amboy, NJ.

This year’s luncheon will be hosted by the Reverend Dr. Danielle L. Brown, Pastor of Church Life, Cathedral International. The keynote speaker will be Phyllis Adams, MA, MSW the Chief Executive Officer of Women Aware. Honored Guest will include Bishop Donald Hilliard Jr. Senior Pastor, Cathedral International, Reverend Dr. Deniece Reid, Campus Pastor, Cathedral International and Minister Carole Dortch-Wright the Communications Director of the Cathedral International.

This event is created to raise awareness to domestic violence and to award Perth Amboy, NJ High School Seniors attending a 4-year university Scholarship opportunities. The foundation

successfully launched a year ago and strives to work with the local community leaders, churches and organizations to help bring an end to domestic violence. The foundation believes that strength, compassion, love and education are four major unlocking relationship-changing, life-saving keys. \*Proceeds will go towards the Renee J. Bradley Foundation Scholarship Fund; Ticket Donation will include lunch and raffle ticket entry for door prize.

The mission of the Renee J. Bradley Foundation is to teach, mentor and educate young adults in general and specifically youth adults of color about the importance of healthy relationships and the signs of domestic violence. Our vision is “To Stop Domestic Violence through Strength, Compassion, Love & Education.”

Foundation Goals:

- To mentor and coach young adults about the dynamics and realities of healthy relationships.
- To educate young adults about the unhealthy impact of many

societal socialization norms regarding various gender roles and expectations.

- To educate young adults of color about the cultural dynamics and realities of domestic violence and healthy relationships.
- To increase prevention and awareness of domestic violence in the lives of youth adults through preventive education, seminars and resources.
- To help support children of domestic violence victims by establishing a scholarship fund.
- To provide a safe place for young adults to dialogue and receive trained peer or professional counseling for abuse/domestic violence.

Foundation Pillars:

- Prevention
- Education
- Awareness
- Solution

For more information please visit [www.reneejbradleyfoundation.org](http://www.reneejbradleyfoundation.org) or Eventbrite to purchase tickets/donate to this event. The foundation can also be reached at [renejbradleyfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:renejbradleyfoundation@gmail.com)



## Raritan Bay Medical Center Receives \$250K Donation for Emergency Service in Old Bridge

### TeamHealth's Gift Earmarked for Raritan Bay-Old Bridge's Nearly \$40 Million Emergency Department Expansion and Facility Renovation Project

Press Release 3/6/19

OLD BRIDGE - Hackensack Meridian Health Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation recently received a \$250,000 gift from TeamHealth towards the planned facility renovation and expansion of the emergency department at Raritan Bay Medical Center-Old Bridge. The project is set to begin construction this spring.

Raritan Bay-Old Bridge's emergency department has served Central New Jersey for 40 years. "When the emergency department was built it was sized appropriately to accommodate the patient volume," said Thomas Shanahan, CPA, chief operating officer, Raritan Bay Medical Center. "But now the population in Old Bridge Township and the surrounding communities has grown exponentially, beyond the intended capacity of the department. This project will more than double the size of our emergency department and provide patients and guests with a more comfortable, easier, and faster experience."

The construction project represents a significant investment in Middlesex County for Hackensack Meridian Health, with construction costs approaching \$40 million. "It will create room for nearly twice as many emergency beds, increase treatment space and privacy, allow for imaging services to be located within the department, and add pediatric-friendly rooms," said William DiStanislao, MPA, vice president, Operations and Raritan Bay-Old Bridge site executive. "A new hospital concourse, main entrance, and lobby will be constructed to modernize the facility and link all buildings." The medical center will also be more accessible with increased available parking, better wayfinding, and



A digital artist rendering of the new entrance and concourse coming to Raritan Bay Old Bridge. \*Submitted by Hackensack Meridian

additional ambulance bays for easier and quicker access for first responders.

"TeamHealth's generous donation is greatly appreciated," said Linda Hill, PharmD, executive director, Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation. "Continued philanthropic support allows us to fulfill our mission to provide exceptional health care for the communities we serve."

TeamHealth is a physician-managed, patient-focused, and leading physician practice in the United States. The company provides physician staffing and management in Raritan Bay's emergency departments in Old Bridge and Perth Amboy. "TeamHealth is excited to support this important project," said David Istvan, M.D., president, TeamHealth Emergency Medicine Northeast Group. "When completed, this expansion and modernization will allow TeamHealth and Raritan Bay Medical Center to continue achieving our shared goal of providing high-quality emergency care to patients and families in the community."

Since becoming part of the Hackensack Meridian Health family in 2016, Raritan Bay

Medical Center with philanthropic support from the community has made significant advancements. Most recently, Raritan Bay transitioned to Epic, an electronic medical record system that is enhancing patient care processes and improving patients' access to their medical records and hospital services. Raritan Bay-Old Bridge also added the da Vinci Xi, the most advanced robotic-assisted surgical system available, to its surgical services in 2017.

The fundraising effort for Raritan Bay-Old Bridge's emergency department is part of Hackensack Meridian Health-Meridian Health Foundation's regional comprehensive campaign, Giving Heals. The campaign focuses on strengthening oncology services, improving clinical outcomes, enhancing patient experience, and broadening clinical research and academic programs at eight hospitals in Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties.

For information on how to support Raritan Bay Medical Center contact Linda Hill at 732-324-5374 or email [linda.hill@hackensackmeridian.org](mailto:linda.hill@hackensackmeridian.org).

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Race the Wave Fundraiser

*Tsunami Swim Team to Race Perth Amboy's Finest for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year in a Row!*

Press Release 3/15/19

PERTH AMBOY – The RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA Tsunami Swim team is challenging Perth Amboy's finest to a swimming competition in order to help raise funds for their community. Perth Amboy Police Officers and Fire Fighters, along with Raritan Bay Area's two other swim teams, The RBAY Masters and the Perth Amboy Piranhas Special Olympics Swim Team will race to the finish line on Sunday, March 31st at 10:30am. Swimmers from the community are also encouraged to join in!

The day will start with registration at 10:30am, warm up laps at 11:00am and the event commences at 11:30 a.m.

Adults and kids alike will race to help fund the swim team while bringing the community closer than ever. Anyone interested in viewing the event is also welcome to attend and enjoy from the Y's viewing gallery. Events are \$10 per swimmer for up to 3 events and spectators are welcome to watch for \$5.00, \$3.00 for children under 12 and seniors.

Not only is this event for a good cause, but it is a great way to continue building a relationship with all members of the community!

Anyone wishing to register or donate should reach out to Coach Darian at the YMCA, [Drussell@rbaymca.org](mailto:Drussell@rbaymca.org).

## 11 Directors Elected to Serve on the Perth Amboy BID's Board



PERTH AMBOY - Mayor Wilda Diaz (center) recently welcomed the newly-elected directors who will serve on Business Improvement District's (BID) board. The BID added 11 directors who are charged with assisting Perth Amboy businesses, maintaining the downtown shopping area and promoting more economic activity in the city. On far left side is Daniel R. Guadalupe, the BID's legal counsel, and the organization's Interim Executive Manager Randy Convery is on the far right.

\*Photo by Bob Rinklin for the Perth Amboy Business Improvement District (BID)

Press Release 3/15/19

PERTH AMBOY – The Perth Amboy Business Improvement District (BID) recently held an election to fill 11 positions on its Board of Directors. The BID's directors voted on slate of 19 nominees. Seven directors retained their seats on the board and four individuals are joining the BID's leadership for the first time.

Three BID directors, who joined the board in 2018, will be up for election in the future. Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz also serves on the BID board. The following directors who were re-elected:

- Sergio Diaz
  - Fausto Diaz
  - Wilma R. Matey
  - Reyes Ortega
  - Barry Rosengarten
  - James Snyder
  - Jeffrey Steuber
- The BID's four new directors are:
- Lisette Lebron
  - Samuel Quezada
  - Melvin Rodriguez
  - Elizabeth Sanchez

Daniel R. Guadalupe, the BID's legal counsel, administered the oath of office to the newly elected directors.

In welcoming to the BID Board members, Mayor Wilda Diaz said, "We are grateful that each of you is generously vol-

unteering your time, energy and wisdom to serve as directors. Joining together as a team, our BID board takes positive action to keep the local economy growing and thriving."

Following the election of directors, the board selected the BID's executive committee. Barry Rosengarten was re-elected to serve as chairman. The directors also elected Sergio Diaz, vice chairman; Antonio Abreu, secretary; and Reyes Ortega, treasurer.

The election was coordinated by the BID's Interim Executive Director, Randy Convery, in accordance with the BID's by-laws. Mr. Guadalupe collected the directors' ballots, counted the votes and reported the results.

Mr. Rosengarten said, "Our BID focuses meeting the needs of local companies and their employees as well as the community's residents. We are continuing to enhance the image of Perth Amboy, which is known as the Gateway to the Jersey Shore, a year-round destination for visitors."

**Attend Pubic Meetings  
Have Your  
Voice Heard!**

## Run the Hook

*Race and Charity Event May 12, 2019*

SANDY HOOK - Run the Hook 5K/10K returns to one of the Jersey Shore's most historic locations for a race to keep our oceans wild and pollution free. The race will take place on Sunday, May 12, 2019 at Sandy Hook National Park and will once again be 100% free of single-use plastics in keeping with their mission to increase awareness of reducing single-use plastic consumption.

With an expected attendance of 2,000 participants, the race challenges runners and walkers of all abilities to complete a 5K or 10K course in support of local charity, Clean Ocean Action, a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to restoring, improving, and protecting the water quality of New Jersey's oceans. A portion of the proceeds from the race will go directly to the charity to support their work in the local community. The race also has several merchandise items for sale including hats, socks, and reusable water bottles that keep

drinks cold for 24 hours so you can go plastic-free and stay hydrated on the go.

Registration is now open with Early Bird tickets on sale now for a limited time only. Tickets for the race are expected to sell out in advance as they have done since the event's inception in 2016. All runners will receive a t-shirt, commemorative finisher's glass, closed scenic course in Sandy Hook National Park, chip timed results, and access to the after party with their registration. Runners also have the opportunity to raise additional funds through friends and family using CrowdRise, with 100% of these donations going directly to Clean Ocean Action.

Speaking about the event, race organizer Joey Garofalo of Shrewsbury noted, "Clean Ocean Action has made incredible progress on several fronts in the last year including fighting off oil drilling in the Atlantic, pushing for single-use plastic ordinances in local towns,

and continuing to improve the water quality of the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers. I'm so happy to continue supporting their work with this race while increasing awareness for all of the work that still needs to be done at the local level. We hope families from all over the area come out for the 4th annual race to kick off the summer with us."

Cindy Zipf, Executive Director of Clean Ocean Action added, "Run the Hook has quickly become the healthy tradition for celebrating Mother's Day and Mother Ocean. It's a festive morning of family fun organized by the best professional events team, which also implements environmentally sustainable practices. Clean Ocean Action is so honored to be the beneficiary of this remarkable event and so grateful to the team. The support of Run the Hook's participants helps us in the race to save the ocean."





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- Professional development



**Creative Art Contest for Sayreville Students**

SAYREVILLE – There will be a Creative Art Contest for Sayreville Students on May 3, 2019 Hosted by the Sayreville Shade Tree Commission held at: Sayreville Senior Center from 6 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

We are looking for students of all ages (including adults) to express what a tree means and represents to them. Whether a favorite tree, a memory involving a tree, the beauty of a tree, whatever the passion we want you to show us through art. We hope that this challenge inspires our youth to get involved and show just how amazing Sayreville really is.

Categories: Elementary (Grades K-5); Middle School (Grades 6-8); High School (Grades 9-12); Three Dimensional; Adult Only (18 and over); Group Project. Prizes will be awarded in each category at the event. Please notify the Shade Tree Commission by April 22nd. If you will participate or you need additional information at: Phone: 732-814-9964; Email: [heather.sayrevilleshadetree@gmail.com](mailto:heather.sayrevilleshadetree@gmail.com); Facebook: [@sayrevilleshadetree](https://www.facebook.com/sayrevilleshadetree)



**CITY OF PERTH AMBOY**  
THE HONORABLE MAYOR WILDA DIAZ



Partnership for Economic Development  
Partnership for Economic Development

**HOUSING EXPO**  
Turning Your Homeownership Dream into Reality

Saturday  
**MARCH 23, 2019**  
9am - 1pm

318 Stockton Street, Perth Amboy, NJ  
Dr. Herbert N. Richardson  
21st Century Elementary School

**WHAT IS A HOUSING EXPO?**

This FREE event will have exhibits and workshops providing all the information needed to rent an apartment or purchase a home, including government rental assistance programs, mortgage lenders, insurance companies, title companies, credit counseling, and much, much more!

OPEN to all Perth Amboy Residents!

**Our Workshops**

- ✓ FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER in English and Spanish
- ✓ CREDIT COUNSELING
- ✓ CODE ENFORCEMENT
- ✓ ENERGY ASSISTANCE
- ✓ TENANT/LANDLORD RIGHTS
- ✓ KIDZONE for all ages while you are in the workshop

**WHY ATTEND?**

- ✓ Gain knowledge and exposure to new trends, products and resources available
- ✓ Participate in educational workshops
- ✓ Get answers right away from dozens of industry experts
- ✓ Give-aways and fun for kids

Saturday, March 23, 2019, 9am  
318 Stockton Street, Perth Amboy, NJ  
Register Here: [www.partnernj.org](http://www.partnernj.org)





**CITY OF PERTH AMBOY**  
THE HONORABLE MAYOR WILDA DIAZ



Partnership for Economic Development  
Partnership for Economic Development

**EXPO de VIVIENDA**  
Convirtiendo el sueño de su propia casa en realidad

Sabado  
**23 de marzo de 2019**  
9am - 1pm

318 Stockton Street, Perth Amboy, NJ  
Dr. Herbert N. Richardson  
21st Century Elementary School

**¿QUÉ ES UNA EXPO DE VIVIENDA?**

Es un evento GRATIS que tendrá exhibiciones y talleres que brindarán toda la información necesaria para alquilar un apartamento o comprar una casa, incluyendo programas gubernamentales de asistencia para el alquiler, prestamistas hipotecarios, compañías de seguros, compañías de títulos, asesoría crediticia y mucho, mucho más.

¡ABIERTO a todos los residentes de Perth Amboy!

**¿POR QUÉ ASISTIR ?**

- ✓ Obtenga conocimiento y exposición a nuevas tendencias, productos y recursos disponibles
- ✓ Participar en talleres educativos
- ✓ Obtenga respuestas directamente de expertos
- ✓ Regalos y diversión para los niños.

**Temas de Talleres**

- ✓ PRIMERA VEZ HOMEBUYER en inglés y español
- ✓ ASESORAMIENTO CREDITICIO
- ✓ CÓDIGO DE APLICACIÓN
- ✓ ASISTENCIA ENERGÉTICA
- ✓ DERECHOS DE INQUILINOS / DUEÑOS
- ✓ KIDZONE- actividades para todas las edades mientras estás en el taller

Sabado, 23 de marzo a las 9am  
318 Stockton Street, Perth Amboy, NJ  
Registrase aquí: [www.partnernj.org](http://www.partnernj.org)







**APPLY ONLINE**  
[www.middlesexcharter.org](http://www.middlesexcharter.org)

**MCSCS OFFERS:**

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- Individualized computers for every student
- High-technology classroom environment
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- Extended after-school care
- Bus transportation
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*Growing future engineers, doctors, scientists...*

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**S T E M**


**MIDDLESEX COUNTY STEM CHARTER SCHOOL**

**TUITION FREE**  
**TUICIÓN GRATIS**

**OPEN HOUSE:**

- Tuesday, February 26 at 6 pm
- **Friday, March 15 at 6 pm - Join us for a Family Night with Dinner and Open House**
- Saturday, March 16 at 3 pm

**Address / Dirección:**  
430 Market St, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861  
**Email:** [info@middlesexcharter.org](mailto:info@middlesexcharter.org)  
**Phone:** 848-242-1818



Now accepting applications for Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grades for the 2019-20 school year.

No Foolin’: April Events at the Dowdell Library

Press Release  
SOUTH AMBOY - After a long, cold, windy winter, spring is finally here! It's the perfect time to turn over a new leaf and, down at the Dowdell Library, business is blooming. Just take a look at what's sprouting anew!

The Dowdell Library is looking forward to celebrating Chinese culture at its Celebrate! The Year of the Pig program on Sunday, April 7, starting at 1:30pm. Program attendees will be entertained by a Lion Dance outside the library at the start of the event. Art stations will highlight interesting and delightful Asian arts, while musical ensembles, a fashion show, K-pop, and traditional dance will round out the afternoon. Attendees with tickets will be treated to a taste of China and door prizes will be available at the conclusion of the program.

Looking to destress (and get a leg up on your professional life)? Sign up for the Dowdell's new Yoga for Success series! The first session will run from

6:30pm to 7:30pm on Tuesday, April 9. Registration is required!

On the hunt for the ultimate sedentary workout? The Dowdell's Yoga for Health series is waiting for you! The first session of this chair yoga program will run from 2:30pm to 3:30pm on Saturday, April 20. Registration is required!

Celebrity Storytime is back by popular demand! On Thursday, April 11 at 3:30pm, join South Amboy's very own Mayor Henry and the South Amboy Police Department and get lost in the world of children's literature!

Whether you're starting a summer slimdown or just looking for a simple way to improve your lifestyle, you ought to attend the Dowdell's Healthy Eating Tips seminar! Presented by registered dietician Laura Vetter of St. Peter's University Hospital, this event will start at 11am on Thursday, April 18. Enjoy light refreshments while learning more about the value of a well-balanced diet!

Tax season is nearing its conclusion, and the Dowdell is happy to offer its services to those who welcome a hand while preparing their returns. Individuals earning less than \$64,000 annually are eligible to sign up for the free VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program. Drop-off assistance is available on Monday, April 8 and Thursday, April 11 from 10am to 12pm. Registration is required; contact the library for additional information about this valuable service!

Need help troubleshooting or learning to use your computer, phone, tablet, e-reader, or other device? Stop by the library! Our ongoing Digital Café program offers tech assistance three times weekly: Mondays and Wednesdays from 12pm to 2pm, and Thursdays from 6:30pm to 8pm.

Have an abiding interest in the latest technology? Every Thursday between 6:30pm and 7:30pm, stop in at the Dowdell's Adult Tech Corner, where you'll

discover a new topic every week! No devices are necessary for participation.


Parents, grandparents, and caregivers: give yourself the gift of some much-needed R&R by bringing your little ones to the Dowdell's thrice-weekly toddler programs! Rock Along Toddler Time with Robbie the Robot runs Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 1pm to 2pm. Your little musician can join Robbie the Robot to have fun with magnetic shapes, practice shape, number, and color skills, and listen to delightful stories.

Though school's out for spring break the week of April 22, things are in full swing at the Dowdell! On Monday, participate in a Lend a Seed Earth Day planting program; on Tuesday, take to the skies with Paper Airplane Pandemonium; on Wednesday, celebrate our planet with 3-D printed models of the Earth; on Thursday, snack on MIY quesadillas, draw 3-D objects with 3-D pens, and config-

ure your own snap circuit grid; and on Friday, lose yourself in a full day of Nintendo Switch gaming! With the exception of Friday's Switch gaming, all these events will run from 2:30pm to 4:30pm.

Curious what else is going on at your local library? (We can never fit everything here!) Stop by in-person or visit our website to sign up for our newsletter and view adult and children's activity calendars, which are updated on a monthly basis.

Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit [www.dowdell.org](http://www.dowdell.org), or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or [comments@dowdell.org](mailto:comments@dowdell.org). The library is located off John O'Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School. Fall hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 10am to 8pm; Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 5pm; and Saturdays from 12pm to 4pm.




**THE CITY OF PERTH AMBOY**

**2019 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

**THE HONORABLE WILDA DIAZ**  
Mayor of the City of Perth Amboy

**CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M.**



**PUBLIC SAFETY MUNICIPAL COMPLEX AUDITORIUM**  
**RARITAN BAY YMCA ENTRANCE**  
**357 NEW BRUNSWICK AVENUE**  
**PERTH AMBOY, NEW JERSEY**

**Attend Public Meetings**  
*Have Your Voice Heard!*

**CERT Training**  
PERTH AMBOY – There are openings available for CERT training Wednesday, March 20 @ 6:30 PM! Come learn how you can make a difference in an emergency! Sign Up NOW for FREE training!

CERT is about Community Readiness and Citizens helping Citizens! CERT trains residents for emergency and disaster situations where their actions can make a difference! Through training, residents can organize themselves and other volunteers to work with trained First Responders. Register at <https://perthamboyoem.eventbrite.com> (for future dates) or <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/18597833878> (for Wednesday, March 20)

Our next class is Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the Fire Department! Contact Information: CERT, Office of Emergency Management, 732-376-5403 or email: [cert@perthamboynjpd.org](mailto:cert@perthamboynjpd.org)



## Tom's Tax Tips

### Businesses: File on Time Or Pay the Price!

*Courtesy of Tom Ploskanka C.P.A. 1-800-801-1099*

March 15 is the tax-filing due date for calendar year S-corporations and partnerships. While this filing deadline does not require making a tax payment, missing the due date could cost you a hefty penalty.

#### The penalty

The penalty is calculated based on each partial month the tax return is late multiplied by each shareholder or partner. So a tax return filed 17 days late with no tax due could cost a married couple who jointly own a small S-corporation \$800 in penalties!\*

#### Take action

Here are some ideas to help you avoid penalties:

- **File on time.** If you are a partner or shareholder of an S-corporation or partnership, file your company's tax return on or before March 15. In addition to the penalties, filing late shortens the time you have to file your individual tax return and pay the taxes due by April 15.

- **Consider an extension.** If you cannot file the tax return in time, file an extension on or before March 15. An extension gives you six months to file and you do not owe the tax until your Form 1040 tax return due date of April 15.

- **Your personal tax return may be delayed.** Do not file your Form 1040 tax return until you receive all your K-1s from each of your S-corporation and partnership business activities. Be prepared - If the business files an extension, it's possible you may need to extend your personal tax return while you wait for the K-1. This does not extend the due date for paying taxes owed.

- **Challenge the penalty.** While you may not be successful, it doesn't hurt to try to abate the penalty. This is especially true if you file and pay your personal taxes on time. Kindly remind the US Treasury it is still receiving the taxes owed to them in a timely manner.

If you haven't filed your S-corporation or partnership return for 2018, there's still time to get it done or file an extension. Please call if you need assistance.

*\*The penalty calculation for 2018 S-corporations is \$200 (\$210 for partnerships) per calendar month late, multiplied by the number of shareholders. So a S-corporation or partnership return filed on April 1 is considered two months late!*

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Pasta Night & Tricky Tray

PERTHAMBOY – The JEMMS Foundation Inc. is holding a Pasta Night and Tricky Tray on Friday, May 10, 2019. Dinner: 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Followed by Auction at 8 p.m. at the Hungarian Reformed Church Hall, 347 Kirkland Place, Perth Amboy. Dinner Cost: \$10 Adults; \$6 Children under 12. Tricky Tray tickets sold separately. There will be Door Prizes and 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 a local food pantry.

## Designer Bag Bingo & Tricky Tray

PERTHAMBOY – There will be a Designer Bag Bingo, Tricky Tray, 50/50, and Louis Vuitton Bag Raffle (Ticket \$20.00) on Friday, April 12, 2019 at Saint John Paul II Parish, St. Stephen's School, 500 State St., Perth Amboy. Designer Bags include Kate Spade, Coach, Guess, ECCO, Michael Kors, DKNY and Calvin Klein. Doors open at 6 p.m. Game Starts at 7:30 p.m. Kitchen will be open. \$30.00 admission fee includes: one set of 12 bingo cards, includes a special game/each 3 bingo boards, and a ticket for a door prize, coffee, and cake. Reservations @732-826-1395 / 732-485-9367

*\*No one under the age of 18 will be allowed to play. No refund of any kind. If more than one player is found to be the winner on the call of the same number in the same game, the designated prize will be divided as equally as possible and when division is not possible, substitute prizes, whose aggregate value will not exceed that of the designated prize, will be awarded, but such substitute prize will be of equal value to each other. ID No. 387-1-39661; BL-1046; RL-4193; RL-4194; RL-4915*

## Fish Fry

SOUTH AMBOY – The South Amboy Elks are having a Fish Fry Every Friday during Lent--Starts on March 8 to April 19 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 601 Washington Ave. ALL FRESH FISH! We will be offering--Fish Platter, Shrimp Platter, Scallop Platter, Combo Platter, Fish Sandwich, Shrimp Cocktail, Steamed Clams and more. Your Choice: Fried or Broiled. All Dinners Include--French Fries, Coleslaw, Soup, Desert, Coffee and Tea. Take out Available. Look For our Weekly Menu on Facebook & Public TV. For more info call: 732-727-7170

## Fish & Chicken Fry

HOPELAWN – Fish & Chicken Fry on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at Good Shepherd Parish, Msg. Gambino Hall at Most Holy Rosary Church, 625 Florida Grove Rd., Hopelawn. Tickets sold at Parish Office or call Carol Mik at 732-826-2153. Take out 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Dinner served 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Adults: \$16; \$18 at the door (limited # of tickets). Children under 10: \$8. Sponsored by the Good Shepherd Rosary Altar Society. All proceeds will benefit Good Shepherd Parish.

## Fish & Chicken Dinner

SAYREVILLE - Lenten Fish and Chicken Dinner. The Sayreville First Presbyterian Church will be having their semi-annual Fish and Chicken Dinner on Friday March 22, 2019. the cost is \$15.00 for cash or check and \$15.50 for credit cards. Take-outs will begin at 5:00 p.m. and eat in seating will be from 5:30 p.m. - 6:45 pm. We are located at 172 Main Street, Sayreville, across from the Borough Hall. For tickets or information please call 732-257-6353. There will be a limited number of tickets available at the door. Chicken dinners are available by advance order only.

## Tricky Tray

EAST BRUNSWICK – The School of the Arts PTO will be having a Tricky Tray on Friday, April 5, 2019 at East Brunswick Vo-Tech, 112 Rues Ln. East Brunswick. Doors open at 5 p.m. First Basket called at 7 p.m. Let's have baskets of fun as we reap the benefits of wonderful Prize Baskets, CASH 50/50, Birthday Board, Lottery Basket and More! Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Your admission includes: two sheets of Level One Tickets, Door Prize Entry, Coffee, Tea, and Dessert. Presale Ticket Bundles - \$20 (\$30 worth of prize ticket, admission not included). No one under the age of 18 permitted. Feel free to bring additional snacks (No Alcohol. Please due to school regulations)!!!! Questions? Email ebtechartspto@gmail.com

## April 2019 at the Libraries of Woodbridge Township

WOODBIDGE -

- **March 30 - April 6 Money Smart Week** Money Smart Week® is a public awareness campaign designed to help consumers better manage their personal finances. This is achieved through the collaboration and coordinated effort of thousands of organizations across the country including businesses, financial institutions, schools, libraries, not-for-profits, government agencies and the media. These groups come together once a year to stress the importance of financial literacy, inform consumers about where they can get help and provide free educational seminars and activities throughout the week. Programming is offered to all demographics and income levels and covers all facets of personal finance from establishing a budget to first time home buying to estate planning.

- **April 1 7 PM at the Woodbridge Main Library - Income Tax** - Woodbridge native, Andy Panko, will provide an overview of the income tax system
- **April 2 7PM at the Iselin Branch Library - Are You Ready to Buy a Home?** - Real Estate Agents Elena Hung-Shum & Woodbridge Township resident, Dan D'Alessandro of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services and ISLES Asset Building Coordinator will work with you to generate and follow a plan that takes the guess work out of making the home buying decision!

- **April 3 1PM - 3PM at the Woodbridge Main Library - Investment Fraud.** Learn about the FREE tools The New Jersey Bureau of Securities provides to protect your family's assets
- **April 4 7PM at the Fords Branch Library - Maximizing Social Security Benefits** - Woodbridge native, Andy Panko, will provide an overview of the history of the Social Security program
- **April 4 1:30PM-2:30PM at the Woodbridge Main Library - Managing Your**

**Medications.** - Learn simple strategies to help manage your medications to prevent missed or double doses, side effects, and drug interactions. Please bring your medications for a one-on-one consult with pharmacists from Hackensack Meridian Health – Raritan Bay after the presentation.

- **April 11 6PM at the Woodbridge Main Library - Yoga for Beginners** - Representatives from the Isha Foundation will provide an introduction to yoga and its benefits.

- **April 15 7PM at the Woodbridge Main Library - Successful Gardening in Small Spaces**

Presented by This workshop will explore square foot gardening, a type of gardening that concentrates on a small, clearly defined area and incorporates the use of compost. Container gardening will also be discussed. Presented by a representative of Master Gardeners of Middlesex County

- **April 18 7PM at the Iselin Branch Library - Meet the Author: Sarada Chiruvolu** - Home at Last is an autobiographical account of Sarada Chiruvolu's spiritual quest for self-realization in the midst of a successful pharmaceutical career. Copies of her book will be available for purchase at the event!

- **April 25 7PM at the Iselin Branch Library - TEDx-WoodbridgePublicLibrary Growing A Culture of Lifelong Learning** - The independently organized event, licensed by TED, will feature local voices and TED Talks videos under the theme of Growing A Culture of Lifelong Learning

- **April 30 7PM at the Woodbridge Main Library - Accounting Basics for Small Businesses** - Mentors from Central Jersey SCORE will help you understand the basic must haves for your business' financial health, including how to avoid the dreaded cash flow trap.

## Cake Sale

PERTHAMBOY - St. John's Orthodox Church will be holding their Cake Sale at \$13.00 Each. Cakes: Walnut, Poppyseed, Prune(Lekvar), Apricot, or Raspberry. Orders may be called in from April 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 to 732-826-7067 between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon. Please call early to be sure your order gets in. Orders may be picked up on April 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> at 404 Division Street, Perth Amboy, NJ. Orders can be picked up after 2:30 p.m.

**Ads Sell!**  
**Call Carolyn**  
**732-896-4446**



## MOVIE REVIEW: CAPTAIN MARVEL

By: Anton Massopust III  
“I have nothing to prove to you.”

The Kree are an alien race that are trying to expand their Empire that spans part of the galaxy. A young girl Carol Danvers (Brie Larson) thinks that she is a Kree Warrior. She goes on a dangerous mission to stop a group of shape-shifting aliens called The Skrulls. When the Kree’s mission is compromised, Danvers is captured by the Skrulls and experiences flashback memories. Danvers escapes and finds herself on Earth in the 1990’s. She runs into a young Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) who is an Agent of Shield. They team up in order to find out what the Skrulls are planning and along the way she finds out who she really is. Everything she has been told is a lie. Even the Skrulls are not as they seem.

The Captain Marvel Movie is fun and not just for comic book fans but for anyone who likes

a little bit of spy versus spy or alien intrigue. Young girls will like this and even boys will, because there's plenty of superhero action and it moves very fast. Captain Marvel doesn't let up. I can't tell you too much more about the plot because then it'll spoil it all.

The he actors are great. Larson who plays Captain Marvel is terrific as this new superhero who is joined the roster of Captain America, Thor, and the rest of the Avengers, so stick around for the ending credits to see more about what next is in store for this superhero. In the beginning of the film during the opening credits you see all of Marvel Creator Stan Lee’s cameos. The graphics and special effects are first grade and you can take everyone to it because they'll all have a good time. If you get ready for Avengers: Endgame definitely check out Captain Marvel.



## South Amboy K of C Events Easter Bunny Brunch

SOUTH AMBOY – The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 hold their Easter Bunny Brunch Sunday, April 14th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will be held at the K of C at 308 Fourth St. South Amby. Bring your camera to get pictures of the Easter Bunny with your children. Cost is \$10 Adults, \$3 for children aged 2 to 12. Under 2 are free. For more information call 732-721-2025.

### Mets Trip

SOUTH AMBOY - For all of you baseball fans, the South Amboy Knights of Columbus hold their annual trip to Citi Field to see the Mets battle the St. Louis Cardinals on Saturday, June 15th. Game time is 7:10 p.m. Coach leaves the K of C parking lot at 3 p.m. Cost of \$135 includes round trip motor coach transportation, reserved ticket to the game, \$24 worth of Mets Money that can be used anywhere in the ballpark. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. For more information call Steve at 732-727-1707.

### Golf Outing

SOUTH AMBOY - South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 hold their 10th annual Golf Outing Thursday May 23rd at Cruz Farms in Farmingdale. Cost of \$100 includes 18 holes of golf, dinner, lunch, and a riding cart. Prizes will be raffled off at the K of C at 308 Fourth St. South Amboy. Registration is at 8:30 and tee-off is at 9 a.m. Hole sponsorships are also available. For more information call Ray at 732-721-2025 or 732-406-2340.

### Golf Outing

SOUTH AMBOY - For all of you car owners, the South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 hold their annual Spring Car Show Friday night June 7th from 6 to 9 p.m. The car show will be at the parking lot of the K of C at 308 Fourth St. South Amboy. Awards will be presented to the best contestants. Please bring a non-perishable food item for local food pantries. For more information call 732-721-2025.

## Children's Author Artie Bennett Visits Perth Amboy Free Public Library 3/2/19

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



Children's Author Artie Bennett with his many books



(L to R) Barbara Sottilaro, Katherine Massopust, Norine Gall, Artie Bennett, Toni Gianfrancesco, Alice George, Tiffany Diaz



Author Artie Bennett reads Peter Panda Melts Down!



Author Artie Bennett with Barbara Sottilaro and young readers

## New Documentary: Perth Amboy's Historic Town Clock

Press Release

PERTH AMBOY - Did you know that the City of Perth Amboy has an official Town Clock? A new film documentary entitled "Perth Amboy's Historic Town Clock" reveals all details on such.

Producer & historian John Dyke explains "In 1869 the Mayor, City Council and Aldermen purchased a large Town Clock. At that time the tallest structure in the community was the Simpson Methodist Church tower. And there, at 85 feet above High Street, the four-sided clock was installed and maintained by the City. In fact, this year is the 150th Anniversary of our Historic Town Clock!"

Here, this documentary explores the interior & exterior of the tower, as well as the workings of the clock itself. Rare historic images are mixed with live footage resulting in an exciting adventure. So, if you're interested in seeing an 1869 era Perth Amboy, tune into local Comcast Channel 34 and check out the schedule for this unique film.

## Volunteers Needed

MIDDLESEX COUNTY - CASA of Middlesex County is seeking volunteers to advocate for children who have been abused or neglected. When a child is in foster care, having a CASA means they are more likely to find a permanent home, spend less time in foster care, and perform better in school. Champion one of these children from your community and safeguard a child’s well-being through advocacy in the court today.

Join our next information session on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m.-11 a.m. and learn what it takes to be an advocate and change a child’s life forever.

RSVP to Nora Siklosi Szabo, at [nora@casaofmiddlesexcounty.org](mailto:nora@casaofmiddlesexcounty.org)

The event takes place at CASA of Middlesex County office, 77 Church Street, New Brunswick on Saturday, April 6th from 10 a.m.-11 a.m. For more information, go to: <http://www.casaofmiddlesexcounty.org/volunteer>

[WWW.AMBOYGUARDIAN.COM](http://WWW.AMBOYGUARDIAN.COM)

## Always Caring. Always Here.

PERTH AMBOY - The Jewish Renaissance Medical Center provides primary health and preventive services to you and your family. We have been an active participant in the Perth Amboy Community and offer care for infants, children, teens, adults, and seniors. We strive to provide the best services for you and your family and to make sure that every service provided is to your satisfaction. As a JRMC medical patient, if you're feeling sick or have an urgent (non-life threatening) medical problem, we're here to help. Make your appt today at (732) 376-9333 or visit us at 275 Hobart Street.



# 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](mailto:ww2remembered@yahoo.com).

The Allies begin a heavy aerial bombing campaign over Vienna, Austria, on March 17. In Ribnița, Romania, the Nazis execute 400 people: prisoners of war, Soviet citizens and anti-fascist Romanians.

On March 18, the Red Army approaches the Romanian border. In Germany, Adm. Miklós Horthy, Regent of Hungary (an Axis ally), having been summoned to meet with Hitler, is arrested. In Italy, Mt. Vesuvius — about five-and-a-half miles east of Naples — erupts for the first time since 1929, killing 26 people and causing thousands to flee from their homes. The eruption also causes the removal of several Allied airfields located near the volcano's base.

The RAF on March 19 launches "Operation Strangle," aimed at cutting German communications in Italy. In Germany, Hungary's Horthy is forced by Hitler to agree to new terms regarding their "alliance." Hitler orders the occupation of Hungary by German troops to prevent it from dropping out of the war and to keep open a line of retreat for German forces to the east. Eleven German divisions cross the Hungarian border from Austria, encountering minimal resistance. Deportation to Auschwitz of the first of Hungary's 750,000 Jews begins immediately.

The Red Army enters Romania on March 20. On the return from a Berlin bombing run, RAF Flight Sgt. Nicholas Alkemade's Avro Lancaster heavy bomber is hit by flak over Schmallenberg, Germany, and bursts into flames. Rather than burn to death, Alkemade opts to die by jumping from the burning plane from an altitude of 18,000 feet without his parachute (it had caught fire and burned). However, his fall is broken by pine-tree branches, and he lands in deep snow with only a sprained leg. Subsequently captured, he is interrogated by the *Gestapo* who are skeptical of his claim until the wreckage of his plane is found and examined. The Germans are so impressed that he bailed out without a parachute and lived, that they issue him a certificate testifying to the feat. (Flight Sgt. Alkemade is freed and repatriated in May 1945.) In the Soviet Union, express train service resumes between Moscow and Leningrad.

On March 21, the British 20<sup>th</sup> Indian Division — called back to India to help defend against a Japanese invasion ("Operation U-Go") — completes its fighting withdrawal from northern Burma. The division now holds a line on the Shenan Hills between Pael and Wangjing, both in Manipur State, about 23 miles southeast of Imphal. The 17<sup>th</sup> Indian Division — also recalled from Burma — continues fighting through roadblocks held by the Japanese 33<sup>rd</sup> Division, in its effort to pull back towards Imphal.

Frankfurt am Main, Germany, is bombed by the Allies on March 22. In Berlin, the formation of a new Hungarian government is announced. It will be led by the Hungarian ambassador to Germany, Döme Sztójay, as prime minister.

The Japanese Fifteenth Army enters India from Burma on March 23 and moves toward Imphal. The goal of Japanese commander Lt. Gen. Renya Mutaguchi's self-proclaimed "March on Delhi" is to take Imphal as well as Kohima, a supply-distribution center 86 miles to the north, before moving on to the even-larger British supply base at Dimapur, west of Kohima. (The bases are supplying Allied troops in Burma and — by air — in China.) The Japanese 33<sup>rd</sup> Division is tasked with attacking Imphal from the south, supplemented by two divisions of *Azad Hind Fauj* (National Indian Army) troops; the 31st Division is to attack from the north, with elements sent northward towards Kohima; and the 15th Division is to attack Imphal from the east, cutting the Imphal-Kohima road. Imphal is being defended by the 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Divisions of Lt. Gen. Slim's British Fourteenth Army. In Italy, 16 Italian Partisans ambush a column of German SS police marching down a street in central Rome, killing 35 with a bomb they had planted. All the Partisans escape.

**Friends of  
Perth Amboy  
Free Public  
Library Meeting**  
PERTH AMBOY – The Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library are having a meeting on Tuesday, Mar. 19, 2019 at 6 p.m. at the Perth Amboy Free Public Library (Children's Library), 196 Jefferson St. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more info, call 732-261-2610.

**Bus Trip  
Hunterdon Hills  
Playhouse  
Holy Rosary Seniors**  
HOPELAWN - Holy Rosary Seniors is sponsoring a bus trip just to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to see "I Do, I Do" Wednesday, 8/14th. Cost \$98. Deposit of \$50 required. Includes bus, luncheon, and show tickets. Bus leaves Church parking lot at 10:00 am. Any questions please call Ronnie at 732-442-5252.

**A.C. Bus Trip  
San Salvador Seniors**  
PERTH AMBOY - The San Salvador Seniors are sponsoring a bus trip to Caesar's Casino in AC on Thursday, Apr. 4, 2019. Bus leaves 12 Noon from the Perth Amboy Knights of Columbus, High Street, Perth Amboy. Cost 30 pp. Receive \$30 back in slot dollars. For more info call Joe at 732-826-0819.



**A.C. Bus Trip  
St. John Paul II  
Seniors**  
PERTH AMBOY – A trip to the Golden Nugget Casino in Atlantic City will be held on. Wed. Mar. 27, 2019. Cost \$35 pp.; \$25 back in slot play and \$5 food voucher. Bus will depart from behind St. Stephens Church parking lot on Mechanic Street at 9:30 a.m. Call Bobbi to reserve a seat: 732-636-2867.

**Vendors &  
Crafters Wanted**  
SAYREVILLE - The First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville is looking for vendors and crafters for our annual Flea Market/Craft Fair. Spaces are one for \$15.00 or two for \$25.00. There are a limited number of tables available for an additional \$5.00. The date is June 1, 2019, with a rain date of June 8, 2019. The hours are 8 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information please call 732-257-6353 or email to [churchoffice172@optimum.net](mailto:churchoffice172@optimum.net)

**Palm Cross  
Sale**  
SAYREVILLE - St. Stanislaus Kostka Rosary Altar Society, 225 MacArthur Ave., Sayreville, NJ 08872 will be selling Palm Crosses 24" for \$7.00 in the church lobby on Saturday's 4 pm - 6 pm & Sunday's 8 am - 1 p.m. March 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> and April 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. Final pick up Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. You can also place orders by calling Pat 732-257-3963 or Yvonne 732-257-4634. Thank you for your support.

**Palm Cross  
Sale**  
SOUTH AMBOY – The Sacred Heart Altar Rosary Society will offer beautiful palm crosses for purchase during the weekends of March 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> and April 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. Sales on Saturday will be from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of Memorial Hall, 529 Washington Ave., across from Sacred Heart Church. The cost is \$8 for one cross or \$15 for two. Remember your departed loved ones during the Easter season with decorative cemetery crosses. Call Virginia for more information: 732-721-1521.

## Pets of the Week

### Have a Special Pet?

E-mail us your Pet Photos to [Amboy-Guardian@gmail.com](mailto: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.



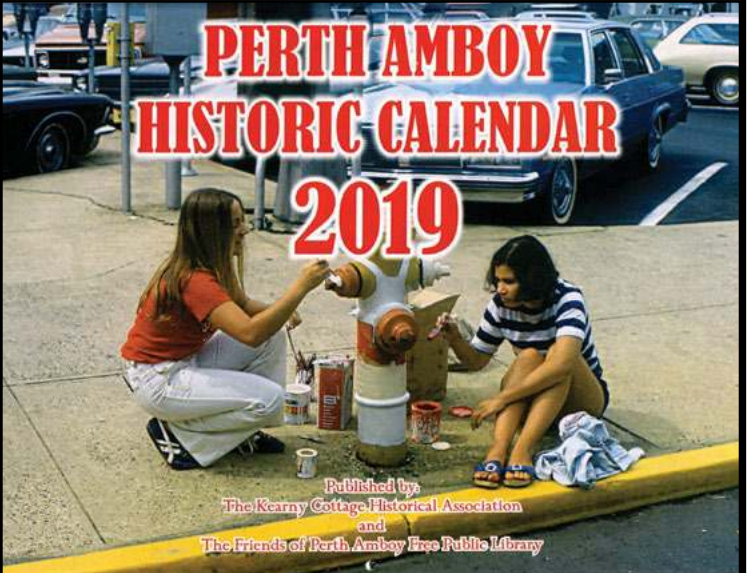
OG is a ham he loves to dress up. He is ready for St. Patrick's Day! Love Clif and Ron

**Coffee Talk with  
Rabbi Metz**  
PERTH AMBOY/EDISON - Wednesdays in March at 9:30 a.m. Discussions/informal class in a relaxed environment. NEW LOCATION! Panera Bread, 1551 Route 1, Edison, (North of Menlo Park Mall, on the south-bound side of Route 1.)



**Book Sale**  
PERTH AMBOY - Pick up a book or two (\$.50 for paperbacks/\$1 for hard cover) or select a "bag of books" for a price of only \$5. Presently, we are not 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: Saturday: March 23<sup>rd</sup>. April 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. We will be there from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (weather permitting). If available, Artist Luis Rosario will be drawing complimentary caricatures. For more info, e-mail us at [friendsofperthamboylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofperthamboylibrary@gmail.com) Check us out on the web: [www.FOLPerthAmboy.com](http://www.FOLPerthAmboy.com) Book Dealers are welcome!!!!

## 2019 Historic Perth Amboy Calendars



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

2019 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.*



K of C “All You Can Eat” Lenten Linguini Dinners

FORDS - Our Lady of Peace Knights of Columbus Council #9199 of Fords is sponsoring their annual “All You Can Eat” Lenten Linguini Dinners every Friday in Lent, except Good Friday. The dinners will now be served from 5:30PM-7:30PM in the cafeteria below the Church.

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

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

Annual Cabbage & Noodle Sale

PERTH AMBOY - St. John's Evg. Lutheran Church is having a cabbage & noodle sale. Orders taken March 11th through March 30<sup>th</sup>. Pick up will be at 664 Amboy Ave (use the side door on Meredith St.) on Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Contact Lorraine at 732-996-8860 or kookie.mc@verizon.net to place your order. Cost: \$6.00 for 1 pound or buy 3 lbs or more, save \$1.00 per pound!

Edison AARP Ch#3446

EDISON - The next meeting of the Edison AARP Chapter #3446 will be held on Monday, March 18 at 1:00 p.m. (weather permitting) at: The Elks #2487, 375 Old Post Road, Edison.

Subsequent meetings will be held the 3rd Monday of each month (excluding July and August) at 1:00 p.m. We currently have 195 members and always welcome more. Our meetings are lively and interesting and include an informative guest speaker.

Our March meeting will include a presentation by a representative of Investors Bank focusing on scams. We have two exciting trips coming up this year.

In April we have an overnight trip to the Amish country and in October a week's trip to Memphis and Nashville. For more information about this and our other programs, please visit our website at WWW.EDISONAARP.ORG.

We are an proactive chapter focusing on programs for seniors including health care, legislation, community service, theater, day trips, tours and so much more.

Senior Scene Happenings

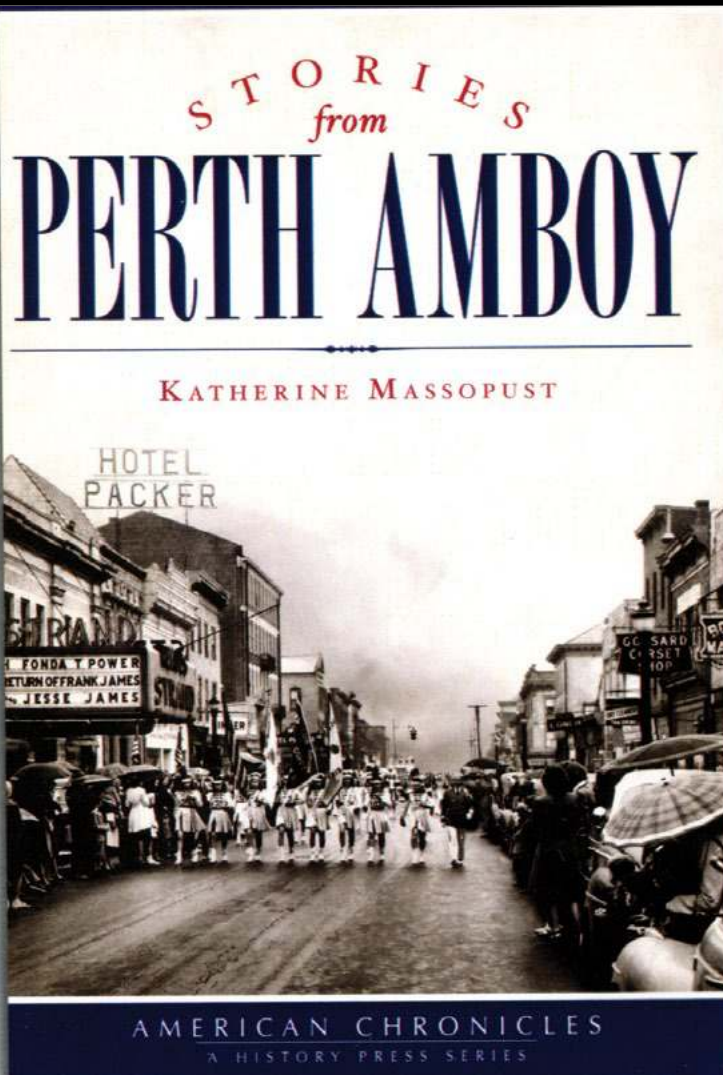
Perth Amboy

- TUES. Mar. 19 Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.
- Good Shepherd Tuesday Seniors (HS) 12:30 p.m. Msgr. Gambino Hall, Florida Grove Rd.
- WED. Mar. 20 Good Shepherd Wednesday Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Msgr. Gambino Hall, Florida Grove Rd.
- St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.
  - Holy Trinity Seniors, 1 p.m., Church Hall, Lawrie & Johnstone St.
- THURS. Mar. 21 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
- MON. Mar. 25 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
- TUES. Mar. 26 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. Mar. 27 Good Shepherd Wednesday Seniors, 12:30 p.m. Msgr. Gambino Hall, Florida Grove Rd.
- St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.
- THURS. Mar. 28 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.

South Amboy

- MON. Mar. 25 Sacred Heart Seniors, 12 Noon Memorial Hall, Wash Ave.
- WED. Apr. 8 South Amboy Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
- MON. Apr. 10 St. Mary's Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.

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

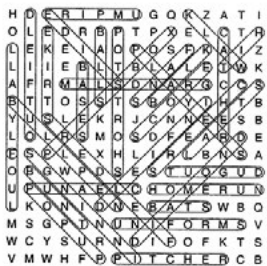


Stories From Perth Amboy

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

Remember to Say Your Novenas!

Answers From Puzzle On Page 15



LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - May 19, 1979 Middlesex County Track & Field Meet at South Plainfield: Girl's Long Jump. Althea Rogers, Perth Amboy.

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

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



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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.  
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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

Please Include Prices of Items on Classified's or They will not be Published

For Sale: Sports Memorabilia	For Sale	For Sale
Mets, Yankees, Giants, Jets, Devils, Rangers, NASCAR - 908-514-2857 3/20	Advertising Fence Enclosure - Heavy Duty 10 ft. \$25 - 732-442-1093	New never used Mirror 27"/41" Brown Frame was \$120 - Now \$75 - 732-721-7186
For Sale: Bed Frame	Sayreville Bomber Charm 14 KT Gold \$75 Boxed South Amboy: Call "Kitch" - 732-525-2405	Tires - Firestone M&S LT275170R 18 Two \$10 Each 732-727-1772
Extra-long twin adjustable bed frame with beauty rest mattress. Like new \$400 - 732-442-0151 3/27	Brand New Electric Heater Radiator. Was \$65 Now \$20 New Never Used. 732-547-7406	Royal Blue Electric Passenger Train Set includes original box \$65 - 732-727-8417
For Sale: Burial Spaces	Solid Oak Coffee Table \$75; Oak End Table \$50 732-570-9732	Dining Hutch - Wood - Good Condition \$50 - Self Pick-up 732-826-6324
6 Burial Spaces located at Alpine Cemetery, Perth Amboy, NJ. Located in Section J. Will sell in lots of 2. 1 lot - 2 plots: \$3,000.00; 2 lots - 4 plots: \$5,800.00; 3 lots - 6 plots: \$8,400.00. Purchaser Responsible for transfer fee. Call Stan at 732-207-6761. If no answer, leave message will call back. 3/27	Thomas & Friends Lionel Train Set. Electronic G-Scale - Like new \$75 - 732-583-2305	Christmas Tree Lights - 7 feet \$25; 2 bikes: Girl - 23 inches; Man - 23 inches 732-887-2235
For Sale	Safe Combination 21" High 13 1/2" wide on wheels \$75 732-634-1851	Moving - tables, lamps, dresses, dishes, tools grandfather clock \$5-\$75 - 732-925-6542
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How to Publish a Novena

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

A Petition to  
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Dear St. Joseph, head of the most perfect household, foster father of Jesus and guardian of His mother Mary, I confidently place myself and all my concerns under your care and protection. I ask that, through your powerful intercession with God, you obtain for me all the help and graces that I need for my spiritual and temporal welfare and in particular, the special favor I now ask there mention or think of your home sale or any other petition, especially family needs. Good St. Joseph, I know with confidence, that your prayers on my behalf will be heard by God and that He will grant my request, if it be for His glory and my greater good. Thank you St. Joseph, for having responded to my call. Amen. **G.T.A.**

Prayer To St. Clare

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St. Jude Novena

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For Employment

Prayer To Holy Spirit

Thanksgiving Novena

Pray The Rosary

A Petition to  
St. Jude

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

Prayer To St. Jude

Novena To St. Anthony

Novena To St. Joseph

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**PERTH AMBOY** - Fairly new home renovated since built in 2006. Granite stainless steel appliance package. Dream back yard!!! **\$299,900**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Welcome to your investment, 4 Apartments in one large building, the two 2nd floor apartments for 4 bedrooms each, the two 1st floor apartments are three bedrooms each, also 4+ parking spaces in the back of the building. Current monthly rental income \$5,895. The other apartments are below market rate, monthly rental income will increase with new leases. This is cash producing property. Also, has 4 parking space in the rear of the property that are currently not being used. The building also has two basements. Owner currently pays for Water approx. \$700 a quarter. Insurance approx. \$2000 a year. The rear of the property has a porch on the 2nd floor. All apartments have a front and rear entrance. The property has two basements that are split from each other and both have their own rear entrance. **\$799,900**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Tenant has access to basement for storage. **\$3,800 Mo/Rent**



**EAST BRUNSWICK** - Great investment property very rare in East Brunswick, lots of potential, separate utilities close to Route 18 and South River. Buyer is responsible for C/O, Smoke Cert. and all repairs. Being sold in "AS IS" condition. **\$345,000**



**HOPELAWN** - This single family has a great location, huge private yard, many upgrades needs some TLC. a must see. **\$259,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Brick Center Hall Colonial on a large corner property. The home is listed as a 2 bedroom but it actually has a bonus room attached to the Master Bedroom, used as a nursery. Also 2 large rooms in the finished basement w/ private full bathroom. Attic fully finished and easily accessible from the 2nd floor hallway. **\$329,900**



**PERTH AMBOY** - WOW AMAZING HOME TUDOR/ VICTORIAN STYLE HOME!!! FULL BRICK, 3 BED, 2 BATHS!!! HARDWOOD FLOORS THROUGHOUT 1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOORS. NEEDS A LITTLE TLC. COMMUTERS DREAM, CLOSE TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION & MANY MAJOR HWYS. HOME IS BEING OFFERED IN AS IS CONDITION, BUYER RESPONSIBLE FOR C/O. Delayed showing until 2/23/19. **\$265,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Great condition two family, all separated utilities including water, garage, 2 and 4 bedrooms each apartment. High School section. **\$344,900**



**PERTH AMBOY** - STUDIO APT. NICE UNIT W/15FT. CEILINGS. CUSTOM BUILT LIBRARY STYLE WOOD WALL UNIT WITH ROLLING LADDER. TONS OF STORAGE(ATTIC) WITH A FEW CLOSETS. **\$89,900**