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# AMBOY GUARDIAN

• VOL. 9 NO. 20 • 732-896-4446 • P.O. BOX 127 • PERTH AMBOY • NJ • 08862 • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020 •

## Administration Pay Increases Bothersome 1/8/20 Council Meeting

By: Carolyn Maxwell

PERTH AMBOY – During the first public portion, on agenda items only, Resident Ken Balut came up to speak first. He wanted more information about R-16-1/20 – Authorizing a contract with Eighteen Glass Company for removal of 2 existing glazing and replacement with level 2 bullet resistant glass at the Public Safety Complex in an amount not to exceed \$24,600.

Balut asked, “Was this due to something that occurred?”

Council President Bill Petrick responded, “That was something that already had occurred.”

Business Administrator Frederick Carr explained that one of the laminated glasses cracked.

Balut then responded, “It was because the building was put on a stream.”

After the first public portion, the Council voted on the resolutions. For the consent agenda, R-2-1/20 thru R-8-1/20 thru R-25-1/20 was moved by Councilman Fernando Irizarry and seconded by Councilman Joel Pabon.

Councilman Joel Pabon re-



**Councilman  
Fernando Irizarry**

quested that R-7-1/20 – Authorizing temporary budget appropriations for calendar year 2020 Municipal Budget be pulled because it needed a further explanation.

Pabon stated that he saw changes from Monday’s agenda. “This doesn’t add up with the wages in the Mayor’s Office. There are significant increases.”

Business Administrator Frederick Carr responded, “The



**Council President  
William Petrick**

Mayor’s Aide (Jeanette Rios) who had been moved to my office (as an Executive Assistant) was now moved back to the Mayor’s Office. There was also a retirement in my office. A clerk was added in my office on January 1, 2020.”

Pabon then questioned, “Was a person moved because they were not needed? And where

*\*Continued on Page 3*

## Mickey Gross Remains South Amboy Council President Christine Noble Remains Council Vice President in Reorganization Meeting

By: Joseph L. Kuchie

SOUTH AMBOY - Council President Mickey Gross and Council Vice President Christine Noble kept their respective titles following Thursday’s city reorganization meeting.

Councilwoman Noble became temporary council president to begin the vote, and the council voted unanimously to keep Gross as Council President.

“I’m going to make mistakes, I’ll tell you right now because we all do, but nobody is going to try harder,” Gross said. “I certainly want you to know how much I respect each and every one of you. Thank you, I’ll do my best.”

“The beginning of the new year is a time to reflect, to express gratitude and these people here with me at a table are very capable people, professionals, elected officials,” Councilwoman Zusette Dato said. “We often disagree but even in that disagreement comes enlight-

enment and research and consideration. I look forward and continue to be hopeful about what we can do to make the city continue to prosper and thrive. These are really great people here.”

“I want to congratulate Mickey and Chrissy...It is a very, very good council that we have in South Amboy,” Mayor Fred Henry said. “The citizens should be proud of what they do and what we’ve accomplished this past year.

Mayor Henry and the rest of the council also congratulated all the new fire chiefs that were sworn in on New Year’s Day, and Councilwoman Noble thanked all the volunteers in town for the work they do throughout the year.

All council members were in attendance for the reorganization meeting. The next city council meeting will be held on January 29th at 7:00 p.m.

## A Game of Chess: The Budget Report and Library Renovations 1/6/20 Caucus

By: Carolyn Maxwell

PERTH AMBOY – Councilman Fernando Irizarry questioned how the subtotals came about regarding the budget status reports as of November 2019 involving their revenue appropriations for the current funds (water/wastewater, the Parking Utility, and Harborside Marina).

Business Administrator Frederick Carr stated, “Some of the totals were items that were settled during litigation.”

CFO Comptroller Jill Goldy then came up and stated that in 2013 some items were fully funded with funds from previous grants and the council had made revisions from previous amendments.

Irizarry still questioned the subtotals. He stated that when he added up the figures, he came up with a different total. He also questioned Ordinance No. 1 regarding the renovations to the library in an amount of \$3,496,115.98. “When can we

anticipate the work to start?”

B.A. Carr responded, “You (the council) will be approving the architects and after that, you will be in charge of approving the contractors.”

Goldy then added, “You’ll be voting on this ordinance at the next meeting. The money that is submitted on the ordinance now will not change.”

The discussion then moved on to Resolution R-5-1/20 Appointments to the Perth Amboy Planning Board for a 1-year term to expire on 12/31/2020 and R-6-1/20 – Appointments as the Commissioner of the Perth Amboy Housing Authority for a term ending 12/31/2024.

Council President William Petrick said he would like to be reappointed to the Planning Board.

There was also a question regarding R-15-1/20 – An agreement with Center State Engineering for a project cost for design engineering speci-

fications, bid documents, and construction inspection for the 2019 DOT Road Paving projects for State Street/Market Street to Sadowski Parkway/Lewis Street in an amount not to exceed \$38,000.

Irizarry asked, “Will Lewis Street be paved in its entirety?”

DPW Director Frank Hoffman came forward, “If after all the other streets are done first, if there is money left over, then Lewis Street will be done in its entirety.”

Irizarry then questioned R-18-1/20 – For the city officials to enter into a CFC-HCFC Subsidy Agreement with the County of Middlesex addressing environmental issues such as the depletion of the ozone layer.

He questioned, “How will they be recovered?”

B.A. Carr explained, “It is an interlocking agreement with the county and the city can’t do it on our own.”

Council President Petrick

spoke up, “This will be done on site with the Department of Public Works.”

Carr went into a little more detail and explained, “There has to be drainage from one storage tank to another.”

Irizarry felt that the resolutions should have been retitled.

Petrick then asked, “Would this be under Geri Barcheski’s department because this involves recycling?”

Carr responded, “No.”

Irizarry then questioned R-20-1/20 Authorizing a contract with Pride Landscape Supply for material and equipment for youth primarily in the Parks Department in an amount not to exceed \$19,003.20.

“What kind of equipment and material are we looking at?”

DPW Director Hoffman explained, “This would be regular Parks material. That includes dry materials, saws, snow removal equipment, and salters. The Police Department will also

use this equipment.”

Irizarry then questioned R-21-1/20 – Authorizing the submission of a grant application to Middlesex County through the Department of Community Services for funding of the Census 2020 Campaign in the Amount of \$15,000.

Irizarry asked, “What will the money be used for?”

B.A. Carr explained, “It will be for public information meetings, handing out materials, and to offset our expenses and to help pay for salaries.”

Public Portion:

Resident Ken Balut came up to speak. He asked the council if they had received the check from Rector Street regarding paving the road. “It’s been 11 years for the library (incomplete renovations).” He then talked about the Y, “It’s been 14 years for their contract, and yet they are buying houses.” He then

*\*Continued on Page 8*



# A Potpourri of Topics Discussed 1/8/20 Business Meeting

By: Katherine Massopust  
SOUTH AMBOY – A potpourri of topics were discussed at the 1/8/20 Business Meeting. Councilman Thomas Reilly asked for clarification for certifying eligibility for a firefighter. He questioned if this individual was a new firefighter who just graduated from the academy or if he just became eligible for death benefits.

Council President Mickey Gross stated that the Council will find out more details before making a decision.

There was a discussion on Ordinance No. 01-2020 – An ordinance to exceed the municipal budget appropriation limits and to establish a cap bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14).

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated that this ordinance gives the city flexibility if need be. “The cap is just in case there is a need for an increase, then the council can hear it.”

Councilman Reilly was concerned if the budget cap is exceeded.

B.A. Skarzynski assured Reilly that this ordinance gives the council the flexibility to exceed the cap, but only with council approval.

Reilly asked if this was necessary to have this done now (at this meeting).

City Clerk Debra Brooks stated, “You don’t have to sign it. We’ll introduce it tonight.”

The resolution was introduced on first reading, moved by Vice-President Christine Noble and seconded by Councilman Thomas Reilly. All approved.

Council Comments:  
Vice-President Christine Noble had no comments.

Councilman Thomas Reilly was appreciative to B.A. Glenn Skarzynski for putting up the hometown heroes banners, stating that one resident called and said that he had some WWII mementos from his Grandfather who was on one of the banners which will be on display in the city.

Reilly then spoke about Government Week, “In April, I want to do government week again.” Reilly wanted to make improvements on what was done last year. “During the April Council Meeting I would like to recognize 3 people for Government Week.” Reilly then addressed City Clerk Brooks, “I have the names of the people and will give them over to you.”

Brooks stated she would prepare the honorees proclamations.

Both Councilman Reilly and Mayor Fred Henry commented that meeting commuters in the train station in the morning was not working. It was suggested by Mayor Fred Henry it might be more practical to meet people at the train station during the weekend (during Government Week). Reilly suggested that Mayor Henry should also visit schools to teach students about government.

There was a brief discussion about the Student “Mock Council Meeting.” It was decided that it would be done at 6 p.m. before the 7 p.m. May Council

Meeting to give ample time for the teacher to prepare the students. There was also a brief discussion about having an event at the Senior Center to be open to the public such as a Friday pizza night for seniors.

Councilman Reilly then proposed two ordinances. The first ordinance was pertaining to vaping. “I think it is in the best interest in South Amboy to not have it.”

Council President Mickey Gross stated, “This is something that we need to do yesterday.”

Law Director Francis Womack stated, “There’s a limit use.” He suggested that there be a 500-meter limit near schools, funeral homes, assisted living, churches, etc. “We’re going to take a good look at our town.”

Councilwoman Zusette Dato asked, “Can’t we restrict vaping?”

Mayor Fred Henry stated, “It’s something you’re going to get both sides on it. We have to see what we can do.”

Law Director Womack stated, “We can license it and make it unattractive.”

Councilwoman Dato said, “Children are the targets of these products. These children end up on respirators. This is something cigarette smoking doesn’t do in 3 months.”

Reilly asked, “Is the council in agreement on as many restrictions as possible?” They answered “Yes.”

Reilly’s second proposed ordinance was regarding sand being brought into town. “There should be permits on sand coming into the city and where it’s from.”

Council President Gross stated, “We had issues years ago. It was very difficult to regulate this.”

B.A. Skarzynski stated, “Right now, the government regulates fill. There are other municipalities that are regulated into an ordinance - where it comes from.”

Gross asked, “Are we going to tie our hands where things can’t get done?”

Law Director Womack stated, “We will indicate another lawyer that the DEP has approved.”

Skarzynski stated, “We can adopt DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) standards. It’s based on cubic yards.”

Womack stated it has to be consistent with the DEP.

Gross explained that a license professional (LSRP - Licensed Site Remediation Professional) looks at remediated sites. “The LSRP signs off on anything that is done. We must be consistent.”

Reilly then turned his attention to the topic of the Fire Department absorbing the First Aid Squad.

B.A. Skarzynski stated, “I’ve discussed it with the Fire Department and the importance of getting it accomplished. There was a general membership meeting. They want to put it off. I met with Chief O’Connor to move this forward.”

The topic of watermain came up. B.A. Skarzynski stated, “We’ve had a meeting with Middlesex Water to replace wa-



Councilman Thomas Reilly

termains. All affected residents will be contacted repeatedly.”

Mayor Henry stated, “They’re putting millions of dollars into South Amboy.”

Councilman Reilly asked, “While the water is being looked at, will they look at the sewer lines?”

B.A. Skarzynski stated, “The excavation for the water is on the other side of the street. So, no. They (the sewer lines) are at a greater depth.”

It was noted that there was a 15% increase in water and sewer costs in South Amboy which was already implemented.

It was also noted that Phase II of the Manhattan Beach Project has been completed. 501 units have been built. B.A. Skarzynski stated it would give a 10% increase in revenue to the city. Council President Gross noted that the city needs to have more people in Code Enforcement. Skarzynski suggested to share services with Woodbridge or another city. “I don’t want to hire excess full time staff.”

Henry agreed stating, “We are exploring different avenues to get this accomplished.”

Gross noted there are retired professionals that might want to work part time.

B.A. Skarzynski then turned his attention to issues at the Waterfront. He noted that lack of ample lighting was causing a safety hazard. “Our proposal is the Waterfront Parking Area be open from sunrise to sunset. The beach itself should be sunrise to sunset. We are having ongoing discussions with the police.”

Dato agreed, “The lights are out again on the walkway,” citing repeated vandalism. She added, “A man spoke to me and says he’s uneasy at night when he is walking his dogs.”

Skarzynski stated, “We want to change the walkway to make it vandalism resistant.” Skarzynski stated that smart lighting will be put there which has sensors. “We want to keep people off the beach when it’s dark.”

Reilly stated, “The fishermen are one of our valued resources.”

Dato said, “This will allow for people to come to South Amboy.”

Skarzynski concluded the discussion, “We have a large beach. The general rule is sunrise to sunset.”

The next topic met with much

*\*Continued on Page 6*

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## Administration Pay Increases Bothersome 1/8/20 Council Meeting

*\*Continued from Page 1*

were they moved to?"

Carr then continued, "I lost a couple of people from my office. An employee left to take a job in another city and then there were also pregnancy leaves."

Pabon spoke again, "There is a director who left their post to help in your office and that director is covering 2 positions (the office that they were in and in the Business Administrator's Office)."

Council President William Petrick then spoke up, "They said that she was so important (referring to the person who is a director in Olive Street and now she is also helping out in the B.A.'s office)."

Carr spoke up again, "Yes, that's true. The Mayor also had to have someone to cover additional duties and that person who came back as Mayor's Aide was given an additional \$6,000 per year."

Substitute Law Director Roman B. Himiak said, "The legislative branch of the government (the Council) is questioning the executive branch (Mayor's office)."

Petrick spoke up again, "Now, how do we monitor salary increases? We are supposed to watch over the money."

Pabon also questioned, "It looks like the raise was hidden. Rios is going back as the Mayor's Aide and getting a raise."

Petrick spoke up again, "This is important (because it involves labor and their contracts)."

Pabon then wanted to thank Business Administrator Frederick Carr and Public Works for fixing the fractured glass in the Public Safety Complex.

Petrick then insisted that they adjust the amount that was stated in R-7-1/20 to what it was on the January 6, 2020 Caucus Agenda.

Carr spoke up to further explain what happened, "There was change in personnel in my office, but the amount of money was not changed."

Petrick then made a correction, "Just change the amount of money that was in the Mayor's budget that was on the agenda on Monday."

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch said, "The amount for R-7 will be adjusted back to \$37,007."

Council President Bill Petrick asked there to be a motion to change the Resolution R-7 back to what it was at the January 6, 2020 meeting.

Councilman Fernando Irizarry made the motion and Pabon seconded it.

At the end Carr said, "There are 2 people down in my department."

Petrick then asked, "I know in the past a person has left a job in the city for a job someplace else – another town and then came back to that prior position in the city."

Carr explained, "They come back to that position if it is still open, but there will be a break in their service."

At the last public portion,

Resident Ken Balut came back up to speak. He showed his displeasure with the \$6,000 raise given to one employee. "This is sick. They (the administration) are playing games by saying there is no money. The incompetency of this administration is sad. There are buses parked illegally. In 2012, there was supposed to be an audit of the city of Perth Amboy. That should have been done. An audit was requested of Code Enforcement, the YMCA, and the Police Department. None of this investigation was done. Somewhere along the line, the investigation was cut. The First Time Homebuyers was investigated. The person who got the raise also got a First Time Homebuyers grant. What about the PILOT's (payment in lieu of taxes) cost? Cops are leaving after they get trained and you only gave them a 2.5% raise instead of a \$6,000 raise."

The next person who came up to speak was Resident Dorothy Carty-Daniel. She wanted to thank the council for reappointing her to the Housing Authority. "I sit on a national board and I am proud that we are looked at as an example on how a Housing Authority should be run." She also wanted to know if we still have a Chamber of Commerce. "I was driving on Smith Street on Christmas day and it bothered me to see how many stores were open. Everyone deserves to have a day off no matter what religion they are."

Council Comments:

Councilman Fernando Irizarry spoke first. "I want to thank PRAHD, the Recreation Department and other organizations involved for their Three Kings Celebration this weekend. Both events were filled to capacity. I heard they had to stop people who were coming into the Rose Lopez School for the Three Kings Presentation because it was too crowded." He also questioned the barriers on Rte. 35 (From Sayre Avenue to Fayette Street). "What's going on? It's a major inconvenience and I see no work being done. I only saw a piece of rail that was removed that was under the bridge. I thought the state was interested in getting the work done right away. We should also look into the pro's and con's of having a plastic bag ban." Irizarry then complained about the streetlights that are still out on the corner of Barclay and Amboy Avenue. "People like the new store that opened, but the lighting issue still persists."

Councilman Joel Pabon spoke next and echoed Irizarry's complaints about the streetlights in that intersection. Pabon thanked Geri Barcheski and DPW Director Frank Hoffman for getting the recycling grant. He also requested that the pedestrian

crosswalk sign should be placed on both sides of the street. "I also have an issue at the Ceres School on State Street. Parents let the kids out on the wrong side of the street, and they double-park. One of the crossing guards talked to parents about that problem. Maybe we should send a letter to parents and then monitor the situation. The parents and the school blame each other. I didn't know that crossing guards had privileges to park their cars at the corner where there's yellow lines. It's a problem because the bus stops where the yellow lines are and there are also cars parked there. Something needs to be done. I want to thank all that were involved in the Three Kings Celebration held at PRAHD and at the Rose Lopez School."

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda spoke next. She also echoed the sentiments of Irizarry and Pabon. She thanked all those involved with the Three Kings Celebration, "Kudos to them!" Tejeda was not happy when she stated, "It's sad we can't trust what is put in front of us. (referring to the temporary budget that was changed from Monday to Wednesday). It's disrespectful to us. Raises were given that we were not aware of. Be more respectful for us because we have to represent the community. I wish for a better communication and relationship with the administration."

Pabon added additional comments, "The Board of Adjustments had many applications for the vacancies. We need to interview those people. If we are the appointing authority, then let's do it!"

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch said, "January 3, 2020 was the deadline to apply for any board vacancies. If you want to interview the applicants, it's up to you how you want this set up."

Councilman Irizarry suggested, "Perhaps 2 or 3 applicants can be present at each agenda meeting."

Kupsch said, "Let me know so I can notify the applicants (when they are to appear before the council)."

Irizarry asked the clerk if she had submitted the requirements for each board.

Kupsch responded, "When the applicants fill out the forms, the requirements are in there."

Council President Petrick wondered if the PARA Board Members need to live in the city. "I see on the Board of Adjustments there are vacancies for 2 alternate positions." He concluded his remarks by wishing all a Blessed and Happy New Year. "I look forward to it and the possibility for improvement. If you see any city lights out, please report it. There are numbers on each pole."

Councilman Helmin Caba was absent.

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Scams are Getting More Bold Each Year



Scams are nothing new. How many times have you gotten e-mails from a person you know that states they are in a foreign country, their wallet was stolen, and they need emergency funds? Or someone claiming to be from the IRS calls stating if you don't pay a fee right away, someone will come arrest you? The IRS WILL NEVER CALL YOU UNLESS YOU CALLED THEM DIRECTLY AND REQUEST THEY CALL YOU BACK! THE IRS ALWAYS CONTACTS YOU BY WRITTEN MAIL.

Sometimes you have to be careful. There are times you can get mailings that appear very much like they are from the IRS and they are not. It will have a number for you to call. Do not under any circumstances do so. Go to IRS.gov for more information. Call the official IRS phone number to report any scams 1-877-477-9135 to verify any suspicious mail you receive.

How many robo-calls do you get a day extending your vehicle's warranty or help you with student loans and you have neither?

Around the holidays, you would get inundated from calls from "charitable organizations" asking for donations. One of the lowest scams would be people calling claiming to raise funds for victims of natural disasters.

You have to be careful who you donate to, especially if it's a startup.

Another old scam is called "The Good Faith Scam". You are approached by someone who has a "winning lottery ticket" but cannot cash it because they are in the country illegally. They ask you to go to the bank and withdraw 80% of what they

claim the ticket is worth and give it to them "In Good Faith," then you can claim the full amount of that "winning ticket" which turns out to be worthless.

There are plenty of other scams out there. You might say what person in their right mind would do something so stupid? But, unfortunately it has happened many times.

You should always be careful, especially when signing legal documents or checks that people can backdate.

For example, instead of dating any legal document such as a check 1/12/20, that could be changed to 1/12/2000 or 1/12/2001 all the way to 1/12/2019. Every ten years, when the decade turns, it's important to make that change.

It has been reported that people have doctored legal documents due to not having the full 4-digit year written out.

You still have to be careful using ATM machines. There was just another bust where several ATM machines were compromised in New Jersey. The people who rigged those machines were able to get, passwords, pin numbers, and account information.

Even if your bank has anti-hacking software, it's important that you look at your banking everyday.

How many times have there been data breaches not only in banks, but in other corporations such as Facebook, WAWA, Target, Marriot, Ebay, and many other companies.

How many times are you notified of the breach sometimes weeks or months after it has occurred.

Just a few tips to help keep your information safe.  
**CM. & K.M.**

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

**Curing Corruption**  
A recent letter mentioned corruption in New Jersey and made

the unproven claim that consolidation will eliminate corruption but failed to explain how this would happen.  
Do big cities like Chicago or

New York city lack corruption? Or do they have higher taxes than smaller cities? Look before you leap!  
Ronald A. Sobieraj

**The Fog of War**  
I see the year 2020 started with a sneak attack and killing Iran Military Commander Qassem Soleimani. What a way to start the New Year! By the way, a newspaper called Trends Journal back in June of 2017 warned us that the Middle East will be heating up. Now is this

the start of World War III. You guess! We still don't understand the real reason for this attack. Wars are planned by those elites that control our society and the economy. Former 34th President Dwight D. Eisenhower warned JFK about the "Military Industrial Complex". I see it as the "Fog of War". NO ONE

wants a nuclear war and it was said "When you have a convivial war, it destroys a population - a nuclear war will destroy a nation". So, let's hope for peace on earth for 2020.  
Orlando "Wildman" Perez

**Dog and Pony Show**  
A few months before President Trump announced his candidacy, I was thinking about the upcoming Presidential election.

crust type people. Much more enlightened than we the "unwashed masses". These people and their "dog and pony show" remind me of professional wrestlers in a professional wrestling match.

dency. The Republican Party knew that if they did not back him they would lose the presidency.

I remember talking to people about the previous elections. How it was more about voting for the lesser of two evils than for the candidate that was going to best represent "we the people" and do the best for our country.

Two wrestlers get into the ring and allegedly try to kill each other, in a predetermined time with a predetermined winner, because they hate each other. Two hours after the "show", these two are sharing dinner and some drinks talking about their next match in some other city.

Now do I think that the US will ever be more than a two-party country? Not in my lifetime, but the door is open for the independent thinker, and that's a start.

Every election we hear the same things over and over and over again. Lower taxes, more jobs, immigration reform, yadda, yadda, yadda. What happened? What always happens. Taxes went up, jobs went overseas, and no immigration reform. As far as immigration reform; the Republicans want the cheap labor and the Democrats want the votes. You have to ask yourself, why would either want reform?

As I said before, it is a two-party system and the Democrats and Republicans want to keep it that way. That's why the "dog and pony show". They want to keep our focus on them and nowhere else.

I can't tell you how many times I have heard someone come up with a good idea and then heard someone else say; "Oh, that's so Republican". On the other hand, I'd hear someone come up with a good idea and then heard someone say; "Now you sound like a Democrat". A good idea is a good idea, let's at least discuss it, no matter where it originated.

It is the same old story. Go out and shake a few hands, kiss a few babies, and you are in. To heck with the people, just vote for me then go home and veg out. We will even legalize pot to help you do that. Hell, you can stay home and vote by mail, (and soon online if some have their way), because, God forbid, it might rain or something.

Trump opened the door wider for the independent candidate. As it stands now people on both sides are transfixed on the political posturing that is going on today between the Democrats and the Republicans. Moreover, the Dems And Reps want to keep it that way. These people do not want "we the people" to start looking toward independent candidates that have "we the people" at heart.

It is time to think for ourselves and stop the party line concept. It is time to take a hard look at our incumbent politicians and see what they have actually done for us. Do they actually belong in office, some for over twenty years, or is it time for fresh blood?

That is why I say all of this political "hoo-ha" is nothing but a "dog and pony show" put on for "we the people".

In 1992, Ross Perot garnered 19% of the popular vote as an independent candidate. This was unheard of since Teddy Roosevelt ran as an independent in 1912 and won 27%. Neither candidate won the presidency, but it showed the other two parties that it was possible to lose. As it stands now, independents are nothing more than "spoilers" that draw votes away from one of the other candidates. However, it will not be that way for long. Trump proved that. He went Republican because he knew he could not win as an independent candidate. He had to go Republican to win the presi-

In regards to that, I remember telling one person that it was time to get rid of all incumbent politicians. The reply I received was; But they have the experience. My reply; "but they are idiots". His reply; "yes, but they are experienced idiots". Great, now I know why we are in the mess we are in.

As long as "we the people" keep falling for the same political tricks and voting the same people in, nothing will change. If you think it is not "your guy or gal" that's the problem, ask yourself if you are still paying high taxes. If you are, then quite possibly, they are, at the very least, part of the problem.

Joe Bayona

What do you think? *Send us a response!*

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

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

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

Kearny  
Cottage Open

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

Historic Surveyor  
General's Office

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

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

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

WED. Jan. 22 City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m.  
City Hall, High St.  
• City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.  
City Hall, High St.  
THURS. Jan. 23 Historic Preservation Commission, 5 p.m.  
City Hall, High St.  
THURS. Feb. 6 Board of Education, 5:30 p.m.  
PAHS, Eagle Ave.

South Amboy

WED. Jan. 29 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.  
City Hall, N. Broadway  
WED. Feb. 5 City Council, Business, 6 p.m.  
City Hall, N. Broadway

\*Check our website [www.amboyguardian.com](http://www.amboyguardian.com) for updates on meeting times and places

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# Vasquez Elected President; Iglesia Vice-President

## Contract with the Perth Amboy Federation Still Not Resolved

### 1/6/20 Board of Education Meeting

By: Katherine Massopust  
PERTH AMBOY – Board Secretary Derek Jess read the results of the November 5, 2019 election. The newly elected Board of Education Members are Tashi Vasquez, Junior Iglesia, and Dr. Danielle Brown were re-elected for a 3-year term. Maria E. Rodriguez who ran unopposed was elected to the 1-year unexpired term. Maria Rodriguez was sworn in by Hon. Retired Judge Roger Daley. Vasquez, Iglesia, and Brown were sworn in by Board Secretary Derek Jess.

The election of officers went as follows: Anton J. Massopust was nominated for President by Board Member Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe and seconded by Maria Rodriguez. Tashi Vasquez was nominated by Junior Iglesia and seconded by Dr. Danielle Brown. The voting was as follows: For Anton J. Massopust as President: Board Members Maria Rodriguez, Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe, Anton J. Massopust, and Ken Puccio voted “Yes”. Board Members Lissette Lebron, Junior Iglesia, Dr. Danielle Brown, and Tashi Vasquez voted “No”. The votes are tied: 4 Yes – 4 No. For Tashi Vasquez as President: Board Members Maria Rodriguez, Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe, Anton J. Massopust voted “No”. Lissette Lebron, Junior Iglesia, Dr. Danielle Brown, Tashi Vasquez and Ken Puccio voted “Yes.” 5 Yes to 3 No. Vasquez is elected President.

Junior Iglesia was nominated for Vice-President by Anton J. Massopust and seconded by Dr.

Danielle Brown. Dr. Danielle Brown was nominated by Maria Rodriguez. Brown declined the nomination. The votes were: Maria Rodriguez and Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe voted “No.” Anton J. Massopust, Lissette Lebron, Junior Iglesia, Dr. Danielle Brown, Ken Puccio, and Tashi Vasquez voted “Yes”. 6 Yes – 2 No. Iglesia was elected Vice-President.

During the first public portion Perth Amboy Federation President Pat Paradiso stated that there were still no pay raises to deserving teachers and staff. She pleaded with the Board to resolve any contract disputes.

Union Representative Donna Tartza stated that the contract expired June 30, 2018 and the Perth Amboy Federation would like any incremental salary increases resolved.

The executive session began at 5:56 p.m. and the Board returned at 6:46 p.m.

Tashi Vasquez thanked her fellow Board Members who elected her as President. “We work together. To have the title of President is to lead this group. I thank those who voted for me. I do it because I care.

Superintendent Dr. David Roman congratulated all the elected officials.

The newly elected Board Member and re-elected Members each gave a short speech.

Maria Rodriguez thanked everyone, stating “With God, all things are possible.”

Dr. Danielle Brown thanked the City of Perth Amboy for the opportunity to serve another three years. “I look forward to 3 more years of progress in our

district.”

Junior Iglesia thanked his wife who drove his 3 daughters to soccer practice and games, giving him time to devote to the campaign. “This is a victory to the students. It symbolizes our community.” Iglesia noted that the graduation rate has improved to 81% over the past years and cited the progress of the construction of the new \$283 million high school funded the SDA which is due to break ground spring 2020 and scheduled to be completed June 2024. “I promise to be your voice to the best of my ability and capacity.”

Tashi Vasquez took the opportunity to thank Ken Puccio “for serving as capacity as our president for the last 3 years. He was my DARE Officer in the 6th Grade. I’ve learned so much from him. He made it so easy. He has so much to contribute. Thanks for trusting me to follow in your footsteps.”

Board Attorney Isabel Machado read a statement regarding the contract between the Board of Education and the Perth Amboy Federation. There are still discrepancies regarding the contract regarding the existing guide for salary increases.

During the public portion, a disgusted President Pat Paradiso came up to speak. “People that were here 10 to 12 years are waiting for the salary they deserve. Those people will not get the money they’re entitled to. That’s not fair. Kid yourself all you want – it’s despicable.”

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. Board Member Jesus Martinez was not present.



Junior Iglesia is sworn in by Board Secretary Derek Jess  
\*Photos by Katherine Massopust



Maria E. Rodriguez is sworn in by Hon. Retired Judge Roger Daley



Tashi Vasquez is sworn in by Board Secretary Derek Jess



Dr. Danielle Brown is sworn in by Board Secretary Derek Jess

## A Potpourri of Topics Discussed

### 1/8/20 Business Meeting

*\*Continued from Page 2*

happiness to the council when Skarzynski announced the infamous “Pigeon Palace” was scheduled for demolition on January 15<sup>th</sup>. “The owners have been fully informed. Once the property is demolished, we will put a lean on their property (for any city costs).”

It was noted that there will be a small \$20 per year fee for out-of-town seniors to come to use the South Amboy Senior Center services.

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated that one of the traffic safety signs is being repaired and will be ready soon and be placed by Shoregate.

Councilwoman Zusette Dato stated, “It’s right next to our schools. People are zipping by. That sign has to be there.”

Skarzynski stated that the sign does not collect data.

Dato stated, “I asked the Superintendent to put it by the school. Look out for our students, our kids.”

Mayor Fred Henry stated, “There will be a Hall of Fame

Committee to honor people for what they’ve done.”

During the Public Portion, Resident Brian Murphy spoke, “I love the hometown heroes and all the holiday events: the tree lighting, the trolley tour. My kids absolutely loved it.” Murphy then turned attention to the baseball fields, “The baseball fields at the Waterfront Park – you want people to come to them. No one is ever on those fields. My son plays on those fields. I know it’s through the county.”

Council President Gross answered, “If you have a problem, you can always call.”

Councilman Reilly then added, “There’s a field behind the school. It isn’t in as good condition.”

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski explained, “There is 3-phase renovation project. The fields will be renovated. We are in the process of designing a state-of-the-art facility. All fields will have lights.”

Councilwoman Zusette Dato was late. Councilman Brian McLaughlin was not present.

## Election Challenged

### Lawsuit Filed

SAYREVILLE - Arthur J. Rittenhouse Jr. the Republican Candidate for Mayor of Sayreville in the Nov. 5, 2019 General Election has contested the election in papers filed in Superior Court on Dec. 13, 2019.

Rittenhouse feels there were too many irregularities in the election process that his lose by 6 votes should be challenged. Some of the irregularities are 41 Provisional Ballots that have not been counted, the Sayreville BA Dan Frankel is a Board of Elections Commissioner and failed to recuse himself and made decisions effecting Sayreville votes. There were problems with the machines counting the VBM and Provisional ballots.

Contact Information  
Arthur J Rittenhouse Jr.  
Chair, Sayreville Republican  
Municipal Committee  
Candidate for Mayor  
P.O. Box 1078  
Sayreville, NJ 08871  
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Email: ecabrera52@hotmail.com



# Presentation on BID Budget & Temporary Budget for Municipal Debt Services

## 12/16/19 Special Council Meeting

By: Carolyn Maxwell  
PERTH AMBOY – Resolution R-584-12/19 – A public hearing and adoption of the 2020 Perth Amboy Business Improvement District budget for January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

BID/UEZ Coordinator Noelia Colon came forward to make a presentation and field any questions.

Councilman Joel Pabon questioned if the BID had outside help to promote the city, or to help with graffiti cleanup.

She answered, “There wasn’t anything in the budget that was set aside specifically for outside help. The owners of the Celotex property have brought in outside people to help us promote businesses.”

Pabon then mentioned a business owner who wanted to open up a delicatessen, but Code Enforcement prohibited the parking that this business owner needed. Pabon insisted, “It’s the businesses that are taking a risk. We have to look into this. We need to reach out to outside consultants.”

Councilman Helmin Caba spoke up next and questioned too many of similar businesses often in the same block (such as barber shops and beauty salons).

Colon continued, “250 people responded to a survey about what type of businesses are needed in the city. We also discussed the saturation of certain types of businesses. We are looking into the type of business permits that should be given out.

Maybe the council needs to be present at our business meetings.”

Council President Bill Petrick addressed the need of benches that should be placed in the business district, but where people can sit down - not lay down on.

Colon explained that, “It was looked into during some of our meetings.”

Petrick also suggested that a new landscaper may be needed in the downtown district to maintain the planters.

Colon said, “We are reevaluating the current landscaper.”

Petrick then asked about the status of the electronic billboard on the corner of Convery Boulevard and Smith Street.

Colon replied, “We are currently looking into possibly acquiring that property.”

Petrick answered, “The council will be happy to help you with this.”

Councilman Fernando Irizarry then asked if the display banners on the lampposts were discussed.

Colon explained, “They (the banners) were budgeted at \$15,000 last year. We are looking to replace them.”

Irizarry then questioned the façade program.

Colon explained that they want to change the criteria for the façade grant. “The businesses that applied and were approved will be reimbursed 50% of the cost for the lowest bid (up to a certain limit) for signage. The window treatments and façade upgrades

have not been finalized yet (the criteria). We have banners and printouts to market seasonal programs. We pay for the DPW workers who drive the mini-vacs throughout the BID District. We’re trying to tackle cleaning up the areas after 12 p.m. and we may have to hire seasonal workers to do that.”

Irizarry then questioned the line-item in the BID budget pertaining to contract and service agreements. “Is that for landscapers, also.”

Colon answered, “Yes.”

Irizarry then asked about any outreach goals.

Colon explained, “\$50,000 was put aside for marketing. Bids for marketing agencies were put out. We can dip into funds that were approved, but not used.”

Irizarry then voiced concerns about the \$50,000 in funds that were not used for marketing for a whole year. “What happened? The 2019 budget was late. There were too many lost opportunities. I hope we don’t hear about this at the end of next year.”

Council President Petrick then spoke up. “There were a lot of transfers of personnel (in the BID) which may have led to unexpended funds.”

Irizarry then questioned businesses who placed large flags on the sidewalks (outside their establishments).

Colon explained that should be under Code Enforcement.

Irizarry continued, “I saw a very old flag that was displayed outside of a business that was

bending over and blocking the sidewalk.”

At this point, BID Board Member, Jeffery Steuber came up to speak. He stated, “I own property in Perth Amboy, but we can’t control what businesses come in. Sometimes a property is vacant sue to economics. We need to work with Code Enforcement. It’s been a terrible transitional period with people leaving and a lot of members changing. We had 3-4 vendors that came in to speak about marketing the city. We are looking to use 2 vendors. We need to slow the process down (until to get more settled).”

The next resolution to be discussed was R-585-12/19 – Rescinding R-535-12/19 – and reauthorizing the temporary budget for municipal debt service for CY 2020 in the amount of \$22,842,796.16.

CFO Comptroller Jill Goldy came up to discuss this. She told the council, “Because of a combined caucus/council meeting (12/9/19) that was held, we had a bond sale that was scheduled for Wednesday. Due to that change, we had to do an estimated bond sale and we decided to do it online. There were 8 bidders who bid below 2% and there 32 different bids from them which was excellent. The bidding was very competitive. 3 firms bid below 2%. The bonds were 11-years to pay down the debt faster. The estimated interest was 2%-4% per year. We got the interest down to 1.973830% per year. We were

very pleased.”

Resolution R-584 and R-585 was moved by Councilman Irizarry and seconded by Councilman Pabon.

No one spoke during the public portion.

Council Comments:

Councilman Helmin Caba wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Councilman Fernando Irizarry thanked the BID and Ms. Goldy for their presentations. “I wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.”

Councilman Joel Pabon talked about the corner of Amboy Avenue and Washington Street which is a very dark area. “The lighting is not very good, and we should bring in PSEG to question them about this. Look how well Main Street in Woodbridge is lit up. Everybody should eat and be Merry this Christmas Season and have a Prosperous New Year.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejada thanked all who came to the meeting. She thanked Noelia Colon, her whole team (the BID) and CFO Jill Goldy and the whole Finance Office for what they do. “This city deserves to be beautiful. Have a Happy and Healthy New Year.”

Council President Bill Petrick wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Kwanza and a Happy New Year. The police should also report if they see if any lights that are out.”



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Must be 21. Drivers license, passport or military ID required. Offer is complimentary and is issued one (1) per person. Slot FREE Play is valid on date of issuance only; will expire at the end of the day at 5:59am. Offers are non-transferable. Offer and schedules are subject to change without notice. Anyone either voluntarily or involuntarily prohibited from gaming by the PGCB is ineligible for this offer. Must arrive via line run bus to receive offer.



AG

# Lopez Statement on Earthquakes in Puerto Rico

Press Release 1/7/20  
TRENTON – In response to two earthquakes and multiple aftershocks that hit Puerto Rico on Monday and Tuesday, which caused severe damage to homes and businesses and cut power to a majority of the island, Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez (D-Middlesex) released the following statement:  
“With Hurricane Maria so close in our memory, it’s devastating to witness another tragic natural disaster inflicted upon the people of Puerto Rico. In a matter of hours, homes crumbled to the ground; electricity and water systems were cut

off; and countless people were injured. We know at least one person has lost their life, and unfortunately, more may follow.  
“My thoughts and prayers are with all those impacted, but Puerto Rico will need much more than well wishes to recover from this crisis. It’s my hope that the federal government will act quickly to get food, water, shelter and other resources to those in need.  
“New Jersey stands with our American brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico. We will do all we can to assist in recovery efforts.”



## Book Sale

PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library have a book sale every other Saturday from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. at the Brighton Avenue Community Center at the corner of Brighton Avenue and Sadowski Parkway in Perth Amboy. The schedule for the fall is as follows: Saturday, January 25th, February 8th & 22nd. Paper-backs are \$.50, hardcovers are \$1, \$5 for a bag full, no limit to size of bag except no lawn or garbage bags. We have best sellers by popular authors that are like new. The money we raise goes to support the library with providing programs, promoting literacy or to provide funds to the library with their needs beyond their budget. For more information email us at [friendsofperthamboylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofperthamboylibrary@gmail.com), or call us at 201-381-1903 and like us on Facebook. Dealers are welcome.

## Thomas Mundy Peterson

WOODBIDGE - In commemoration of Martin Luther King Day, the Historical Association of Woodbridge Township presents: "A Token on the Freedman's Coat: The Story Behind Thomas Mundy Peterson's 1884 Voting Medal " at its monthly January meeting. Gordon Bond, noted historian and author, will discuss the role of Thomas Mundy Peterson in promoting and extending suffrage. It was Thomas Mundy Peterson who cast the first African American vote under the Fifteenth Amendment in 1870. Though Mr. Peterson was born in the Metuchen section of Woodbridge, his first vote was cast in Perth Amboy.  
For further information contact: Brenda Velasco, Township Historian TEXT 732.428.2403 Monday, January 27, 2020 at 7 p.m. at Fellowship Hall, First Presbyterian Church, 600 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge, New Jersey.

## Souper Sale at St. John’s Lutheran Church

PERTH AMBOY - Purchase a quart of homemade soup for your Super Bowl Party! St. John’s Evg. Lutheran Church is having a Souper Sale on Feb. 2nd. The soup choices will be Chicken Noodle, Beef Vegetable Bean (Gluten free) & Lentil (Vegetarian). The cost is \$8.00 a quart or 3 Quarts for \$20.00 Orders will be taken from Jan 15th until Feb. 2nd.  
Contact Lorraine at 732-996-8860 or [kookie.mc@verizon.net](mailto:kookie.mc@verizon.net) to place your order. Pick up will be on Sunday Feb. 2nd from 11:15 AM to 1:00 PM. at the Church, 664 Amboy Ave (use the side door on Meredith St.)

## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Service at Cathedral International

Press Release  
PERTH AMBOY – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s life, legacy and dream continues to be celebrated at Cathedral International. On Monday, January 20, 2020, 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Day service takes place in the Cathedral Sanctuary, 277 Madison Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ. Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr., is the guest speaker.  
Dr. King was known for his ability to give people a sense of hope during times of uncertainty. When negativity and fear were rampant, he would persuasively speak hope and optimism: “Somehow, I still believe we’re going to get there,” Dr. King would say. “Shall we say the odds are too great? Shall we tell them the struggle is too hard? Or will there be another message of longing, of hope, of commitment?” The service at Cathedral will commemorate his life, philosophy and continue Dr. King’s message of hope, optimism and commitment.  
Everyone is invited to attend the service. More information is available by calling (732) 826-5295 and visiting [www.cathedralinternational.org](http://www.cathedralinternational.org).

# A Game of Chess: The Budget Report and Library Renovations 1/6/20 Caucus

*\*Continued from Page 1*

talked about 2 lawsuits, one involving a city employee, the other involving a resident. “So far, there are over \$300,000 in legal fees. No one is managing anything. There is a billboard on New Street. Is anybody getting a commission for it? Was it someone related to a Code Enforcement officer? School buses are parked illegally in the Budapest area. We always complain about not having enough money. I hear there is a lot of bickering and fighting going on in Code Enforcement. Have the Comptroller’s Office do an audit of Code Enforcement. There was a signed memorandum agreement by the Business Ad-

ministrator and Mayor with the police union. The police raises are slow and low. We have no money for police and why is there no movement on this memorandum agreement. You should be ashamed we don’t give the police the raise.”  
Councilman Joel Pabon spoke up and asked if the school buses that are parking in the Budapest section were on someone’s property.  
Councilman Irizarry answered, “The owner of those buses had a truck put gravel put down on his private hedged property. He then parks his bus in his driveway. I called Code Enforcement about this and I was told the bus owner had been given a grace period to find a place to park his buses.”

Pabon then stated, “We need to look into this. Money is being pocketed. They were supposed to have someone find a spot to park those buses. I remember that parking lot near McDonald’s (on New Brunswick Avenue). There were buses parked there for a long time. In Keasbey, some drivers park their buses under the bridge, but we allow buses to park in their driveways.” He then questioned if there is any money for the PBA. “We seem to be the only ones unaware of this.”  
B.A. Carr then reminded the Council that they talked about the PBA contract in a closed session at the special 12/16/19 council meeting.

# Pallone Applauds House Passage of PFAS Action Act

Press Release 1/10/20  
WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) applauded House passage of the PFAS Action Act of 2019, which passed the full House of Representatives by a vote of 247-159. Pallone spearheaded passage of the bill that regulates PFAS chemicals, cleans up contamination, and protects public health. According to a report, there are 517 water systems in New Jersey that are contaminated with PFAS.  
“New Jersey has some of the highest levels of PFAS contamination in the country. While the state is doing everything it can to address this public health threat by adopting protective state drinking water standards and pursuing natural resource damage cases, it, like so many other states, is facing strong opposition from federal agencies under the Trump Administration. That is why, today, we took decisive federal action to protect the communities we represent from the rising tide of PFAS contamination,” Congressman Pallone said.  
“These toxic ‘forever chemicals’ present an urgent threat to Americans’ health – and due to EPA inaction, PFAS contamination has spread throughout our environment. While the Trump Administration appears comfortable dragging its feet, I am not,” Pallone continued. “I strongly urge the Senate to con-

sider this legislation immediately so we can deliver concrete solutions to this pressing public health crisis.”  
The bill would require EPA to use tools under several different environmental statutes to:  
• Limit human exposure to PFAS by requiring a drinking water standard for PFAS that protects public health, including the health of vulnerable subpopulations like pregnant women, infants and children, and holding polluters accountable. The legislation also provides grants to impacted water systems, creates a voluntary label for cookware that is PFAS free, and provides guidance for first responders to limit their exposures;  
• Stem the flow of PFAS contamination into the environment by requiring cleanup of sites contaminated with PFOA and PFOS, setting air emission limits, prohibiting unsafe incineration of PFAS, and limiting the introduction of new PFAS chemicals into commerce;  
• Identify health risks by requiring comprehensive health testing for all PFAS, reporting of PFAS releases, and monitoring for PFAS in drinking water.  
Pallone spoke on the House Floor about the importance of the legislation. Video of his remarks are available at [www.amboyguardian.com](http://www.amboyguardian.com)



## Coffee with CASA Information Sessions in January

EDISON/JAMESBURG – Please join us to learn more about CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children of Middlesex County) and the role of the volunteer advocate! This no-commitment event is a casual opportunity to meet CASA staff and get your questions answered. And your beverage is on us!  
• **The Coffee House:** 931 Amboy Ave., Edison, NJ 08837, Wednesday, January 15, 2020 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  
• **The Coffee House:** 931 Amboy Ave., Edison, NJ 08837, Wednesday, January 22, 2020 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
• **Fiddleheads New American Bistro:** 27 East Railroad Avenue (Rte. 522), Jamesburg, NJ 08831, Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
RSVP to [nora@casafmiddlesexcounty.org](mailto:nora@casafmiddlesexcounty.org) CASA for Children of Middlesex County, 77 Church St., New Brunswick, NJ 08901

# Museum Pass Program

PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library have generously provided FREE passes to some of the area’s most popular museums! Museum passes offer a great way for family and friends to experience educational and cultural fun. **Picking Up and Returning Passes:** Passes can be picked up at the Circulation Desk. Patron must present the library card under whose name the pass was reserved. Only Adult patrons whose cards are in good standing will be able to check out Museum Passes. Passes are good for a total of three days and are **NOT** renewable. Passes can be returned at the Circulation Desk or at the Book Drop after hours. **Late, Lost or Unreturned Passes:** There will be a \$5 amount late fee each day the pass is past due. The maximum fine will not exceed \$25.00. Passes not returned within 14 days after the due date, will be presumed lost and borrowers charged the full replacement cost. **Replacement costs for items are as follows: Lost museum pass:** Full cost of the pass. Replacement costs vary according to the museum and listed on the catalog record for each museum. **Pass Case:** \$1  
**Museum Passes available:** •**American Museum of Natural History**, New York, NY | free admission and 1 free exhibit or show •**Grounds for Sculpture**, Hamilton NJ | pass admits 4 people •**Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum**, New York, NY | pass admits 6 people  
Sponsored by the Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library. [www.folperthamboy.com](http://www.folperthamboy.com) For more information, please call the Perth Amboy Free Public Library: 732-826-2600.



## Academy for Urban Leadership (AUL) Charter School



Achievement  
Unity and  
Leadership

**AUL is Currently Accepting  
Lottery Applications for  
the 2020-2021 School Year  
for Grades 7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>**



**The Next Lottery will be**

**Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. at the Main Campus**

**AUL Main Campus is Located  
at 612 Amboy Avenue, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861  
848-203-3742 (xt. 104) or (xt. 176)**

*AUL strives to provide students with the skills to become successful leaders and prepares students for post-secondary education and the workforce. Come join AUL to be a part of these great learning opportunities and plan your success for the future!*

**For More Information, Please Visit our Website at: [www.aulcs.org](http://www.aulcs.org)**

*We are a free public school, we accept students with special needs or English language learners*

## Academy for Urban Leadership (AUL) Charter School



Achievement  
Unity and  
Leadership

**AUL está aceptando actualmente  
Aplicaciones de Lotería para  
el año escolar 2020-2021**



**para los grados 7 - 11**

**La próxima lotería será**

**Jueves 23 de enero de 2020 a las 5:00 p.m. en el campus principal**

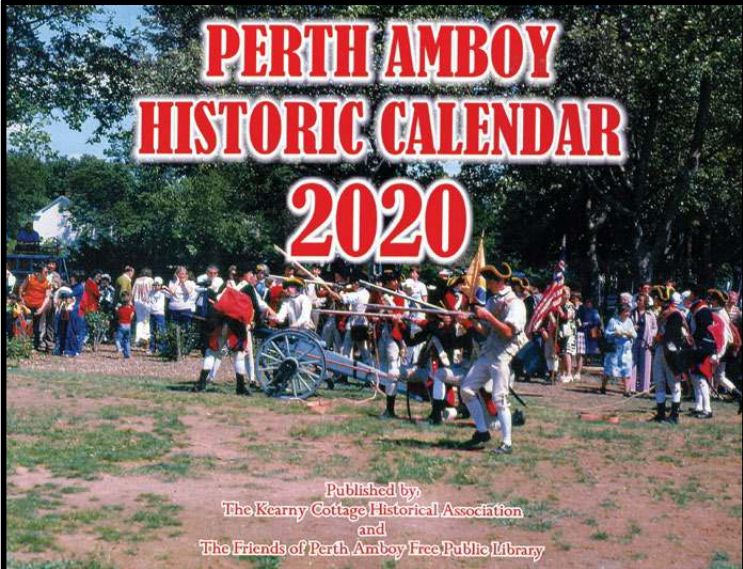
**El campus principal de AUL se encuentra  
en 612 Amboy Avenue, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861  
848-203-3742 (xt. 104) or (xt. 176)**

*AUL se esfuerza por proporcionar a los estudiantes las habilidades para convertirse en líderes exitosos y preparar a los estudiantes para la educación postsecundaria y la fuerza de trabajo. ¡Únete a AUL para ser parte de estas excelentes oportunidades de aprendizaje y planificar tu éxito para el futuro!*

**Para obtener más información, visite nuestro sitio web en: [www.aulcs.org](http://www.aulcs.org)**

*Somos una escuela pública gratuita. Aceptamos estudiantes con necesidades especiales que necesitan aprender Ingles*

## 2020 Historic Perth Amboy Calendars



**2020 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, and Perth Amboy City Hall. For more information: 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.**

## 2020 Amboy Guardian Publication Dates

**January 15**  
February 5  
February 19  
March 4  
March 18  
April 1  
April 15  
May 6  
May 20  
June 3  
June 17  
July 1  
July 15  
August 5  
August 19  
September 2  
September 16  
October 7  
October 21  
November 4  
November 18  
December 2  
December 16

## Pet of the Week

PERTH AMBOY, NJ - ADOPT Jenny - I seriously can't believe there is not ONE application for Jenny! Just look at her adorable babyface, her tortie markings and cuteness, yet there's no interest in her. She has patiently waited for a forever home of her own while seeing her brother go. Jenny was born outside, and a city resident fed her and her family. I vetted her and didn't have the heart to put her back out. I gave her weeks to adjust to humans. She prefers cats and is learning to trust humans. She is up to date on her vaccines, spayed, dewormed, flea treated, and FIV/FELV negative. She is fully vetted, and just needs a home of her own



now! Could it be you? Please.

To adopt: Email [Vmoralessps@yahoo.com](mailto:Vmoralessps@yahoo.com) or text 1.732.486.6382 for an adoption application. Donation fee applies.

ADOPT. SPAY. NEUTER. LOVE. [AllforthePaws.org](http://AllforthePaws.org) Virginia Morales, [Vmoralessps@yahoo.com](mailto:Vmoralessps@yahoo.com)

## Have a Special Pet?

**E-mail us your Pet Photos to [AmboyGuardian@gmail.com](mailto:AmboyGuardian@gmail.com) with Pet of the Week in the Subject line and explain why your pet is special. Please include Name and Phone# for verification.**

## Tom's Tax Tips

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

### Time For A Yearly Credit Report

One way to head off fraud during tax season is to get your free annual credit report now. Credit reports often have errors in them; this quick checkup can be the first indication that some form of identity theft has taken place on your account.

The good news is that each of the major consumer credit reporting agencies is required by law to provide you with a free report once a year. Here's contact information to help you get your free credit report:

#### Annual Credit Report.com

Telephone: 1-877-322-8228

Website: [www.AnnualCreditReport.com](http://www.AnnualCreditReport.com)

Via mail: (fill out the online form and mail it to the following address)

Annual Credit Report Request Service

P.O. Box 105281

Atlanta, GA 30348-5281

Listed here are the three major credit agencies and how to contact them directly.

#### TransUnion

Telephone: 833-395-6938

Web site: [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

Via mail: 2 Baldwin Place

P.O. Box 2000

Chester, PA 19022

#### Equifax

Telephone: 1-800-685-1111

Web site: [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)

Via mail: Equifax Credit Information Service

P.O. Box 740241

Atlanta, GA 30374-0241

#### Experian

Telephone: 1.888.EXPERIAN (397-3742)

Web site: [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)

Via mail: P.O. Box 9701

Allen, TX 75013

*Reminder:* Each agency may try to upsell you into additional paid services. If you find problems on your credit report, work through the credit bureau's process to correct the error. Also place fraud alerts on your credit agency account if you experience any kind of identity fraud.



World War II - 75 Years Ago

**By Phil Kohn. Dedicated to the memory of his futher, 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.**

On January 12, 1945, with the Japanese having been cleared out of the area, the first Allied convoy moves over the Stillwell Road in Burma, which links India with China. In Europe, the Red Army, as promised by Stalin, begins an offensive in East Prussia from the Baltic to the Carpathians. The Germans there are outnumbered by 4 or 5 to 1 in numbers and in all classes of equipment and find themselves incapable of halting the Soviet advance. Carrier-based U.S. Navy planes attack installations and shipping at the Japanese naval base at Cam Ranh Bay, French Indochina, sinking 40 vessels there, and causing damage at other ports as well. In Burma, Indian troops establish bridgeheads across the Irawaddy River at Kyaukmyaung and Thabeikkyin, north of Mandalay.

German forces of Army Group E complete their withdrawal from Greece and Albania on January 13. In Norway, the Jørstad River railway bridge at Snåsa is blown up by the Norwegian Resistance. Six hours later, a military troop train arrives — unaware of the missing bridge — and plunges into the river, killing 70-80 people and injuring over 100 more. Farther east, Marshal Georgy Zhukov’s 1st Belorussian Front begins an offensive toward East Prussia, against which there is stiff resistance from the 3rd Panzer Army.

The British 19th Indian Division on January 14 crosses the Irawaddy River, north of Mandalay, in Burma. Adolf Hitler finally gives Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt permission to withdraw from the Ardennes. The Germans will abandon Houffalize and Bastogne. The Red Army captures Lučenec, Czechoslovakia, 120 miles east of Bratislava.

In France on January 15, American forces encounter heavy resistance in attacks toward St. Vith, an important road and railway junction in the Flemish (Germanic-speaking) part of Belgium. U.S. First Army troops reach Houffalize, Belgium, cutting off German forces remaining to the west in the Ardennes salient. Houffalize lies roughly halfway between Bastogne and St. Vith. Der Führer meets with Field Marshals Gerd von Rundstedt and Walter Model near Bad Nauheim, in western Germany, and tells them to hold the Allies up for as long as possible. Hitler then heads by train for Berlin and his *Führerbunker*.

On January 16, the U.S. First and Third Armies link up in the Ardennes. Meanwhile, in Eastern Europe, the Red Army lays siege to Budapest, Hungary. The Soviet 1st Belorussian Front captures Radom, Poland, about 62 miles south of Warsaw. Chinese troops capture Namkham, Burma, 160 miles northeast of Mandalay.

Soviet troops advance 100 miles on a 160-mile front, forcing the Germans to evacuate Warsaw, which falls to the Red Army on January 17. A government aligned with the communists is installed in the Polish capital. The German defenders encircled at Budapest withdraw to the city of Buda, on the western bank of the Danube. The Soviets liberate 94,000 Jews that were left in two ghettos in Pest, on the eastern bank of the Danube. The Red Army captures Częstochowa, Poland. In Belgium, the Allies officially announce that “The Battle of the Bulge” has been successfully fought and is over. Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, credited with saving tens of thousands of Jews from the Nazis, is arrested in Budapest, Hungary, by the Soviet secret police on suspicion of espionage. He is sent to Moscow and imprisoned. (Wallenberg is reported to have died in Moscow in July 1947 while in custody of the KGB secret police. The motives behind his arrest and imprisonment by the Soviets, and the details of his death, yet remain a mystery.)

American troops drive on Manila, the Philippines, on January 18. German troops evacuate Kraków, Poland. The SS evacuates 58,000 inmates from Auschwitz; some are moved by rail, while others are forced to march in freezing temperatures. In Hungary, a German offensive begins from Lake Balaton, with the aim of lifting the Red Army’s siege of Budapest. Over Japan, the first raid on Tokyo Bay by U.S. carrier-based planes occurs. In London, casualty statistics for British Empire forces are published: casualties total 1,043,554 of all ranks, including 282,000 dead and 80,000 missing.

U.S. Army Air Forces B-29 bombers on January 19, 1945, destroy the Kawasaki aircraft works, near Kobe, Japan. Soviet forces capture Kraków and Łódź, in Poland, and enter East Prussia from the south. With the Germans mostly driven from Poland, Leopold Okulicki, commander of *Armia Krajowa*, orders the disbanding of the Polish Home Army. He makes the move out of concern that a Western-allied force in what is now Soviet-occupied Poland would only trigger the arrest and murder of more people by the NKVD (the Soviet secret police). Okulicki says, “ . . . in comparison with the NKVD, the *Gestapo* methods are child’s play.”

On January 20, Franklin D. Roosevelt is sworn in for his fourth term as President of the United States. Harry S. Truman takes the oath of office as Vice President. Chinese troops capture Muse, Burma, on the Sino-Burmese border.

British forces enter Monywa, Burma, 60 miles west of Mandalay, on January 21. The Soviet 1st Belorussian Front reaches Konin, Poland, within 200 miles of Berlin, along the road connecting Warsaw with the German capital. Hungary declares war on Germany. Hitler orders every commanding officer at division level or higher to inform him of any planned movements so he may countermand or veto the plan if he sees fit. In Tokyo, the government adopts drastic manpower-mobilization powers. From this point forward, all citizens can be conscripted for war work at any time.

The Burma Road — the main land route from India to China through Burma — is declared free of Japanese troops on January 22 and open once again to vehicle convoys. In the Netherlands, four squadrons of RAF Supermarine Spitfire fighters destroy a factory at Alblisserdam that is manufacturing liquid oxygen for use in German rockets.

The Red Army’s 1st Ukrainian Front reaches the Oder River near Oppeln and Steinau in Silesia, in western Poland, on January 23. The *Kriegsmarine* (German navy) begins evacuating civilian refugees by sea from East Prussia and from the Danzig area, the Red Army having cut all land communications with the rest of Germany. (The operation continues through the end of the war and is generally considered the greatest evacuation in history, with between 1.5 million and 2 million people removed.) The U.S. First Army captures St. Vith, Belgium, the last German stronghold in the Ardennes “bulge.” In Asia, the British 20th Indian Division takes Myinmu, on the Irawaddy River in central Burma.

On January 24, U.S. troops recapture Clark Field, which had become the main Japanese airbase on Luzon, the Philippines. They also take Calapan, essentially ending Japanese opposition on the island of Mindoro, the Philippines. In the Dutch East Indies, British planes destroy Japanese oil refineries at Palembang, on the island of Sumatra. In Europe, German forces begin evacuating Slovakia. In Austria, at the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp, near Linz, Associated Press war correspondent Joseph “Joe” Morton, an American, is summarily executed by the SS along with 13 Allied officers under Hitler’s “Commando Order,” which states that captured Allied commandos, even if in full uniform, should be killed immediately without trial. The group had been captured in December 1944 during an OSS operation in Slovakia. Morton, who had a non-combatant, war correspondent’s ID, was along to report on the raid. Morton is the only Allied war correspondent executed by any of the Axis governments during the war.

The U.S. Navy begins bombarding Iwo Jima on January 25 in preparation for landings on the island. The British Army’s 82nd West African Division occupies Myohaung, Burma. In Europe, the Germans — ahead of advancing Soviet troops — blow up and abandon “Wolf’s Lair,” Hitler’s former Eastern Front headquarters, located about 5 miles east of Rastenburg, East Prussia. In the U.S., Dan Topping, Del Webb and Larry McPhail purchase the New York Yankees baseball club from the estate of politician and brewer Jacob Ruppert for \$2.8 million.

*SS Reichsführer* Heinrich Himmler is placed in command of Army Group Vistula by Hitler on January 26, 1945, despite Himmler having no experience (he served one year in the Bavarian Army, 1917-1918, but saw no combat) nor having demonstrated any aptitude for operational command. His appointment is widely viewed by the military and many civilians as an insult to the German Army and, especially, the General Staff. The Soviets isolate three German armies in East Prussia. The Red Army captures Katowice, in Upper Silesia, in Poland. Auschwitz concentration camp, in Oświęcim, Poland, is reached by the Soviets, but they find fewer than 7,000 barely alive survivors there, as the SS has moved most of the remaining prisoners to camps inside Germany. Near Holtzwihr, in northeastern France, 2nd Lt. Audie Murphy of the U.S. 3rd Infantry Division saves his company from encirclement by an advancing German unit. He climbs aboard a burning U.S. M-10 tank destroyer and, firing the vehicle’s .50-caliber machine gun until its ammunition is exhausted, kills or wounds 50 German soldiers. Then, despite being wounded in the leg in the firefight, Murphy makes it back to his company where he organizes a counterattack that forces the Germans to retreat. For his actions, Murphy is awarded the Medal of Honor. He goes on to become one of the most-decorated combat soldiers of the war, receiving every combat-valor award available.

The Ledo Road, linking India with China, is officially cleared of Japanese as two Chinese forces — one from China, one from Burma — link up on January 27 at Mong-Yu, Burma, at the junction of the Ledo and Burma Roads near the Burma-China border. Lead elements of the Red Army are about 100 miles from Berlin. Soviet troops examining the Auschwitz concentration and extermination camp estimate that two million people, including 1.5 million Jews, have been murdered there. (Postwar estimates place the number who died at Auschwitz at between 1.2 million and 1.5 million people, 90% of whom were Jews. Among others murdered there: non-Jewish Poles, Soviet prisoners of war, Romani (gypsies), Jehovah’s witnesses, and homosexual men. Some studies indicate that of the more than six million Jews who died in the Holocaust, roughly one in six were murdered at Auschwitz.)

The Red Army completes its liberation of Lithuania on January 28. The first vehicle convoy in three years reaches China from India over the Stilwell and Burma Roads, newly reopened by the Allies.

The Allied thrust into Rhineland — a section of western Germany along the middle section of the Rhine River — continues with the capture on January 29 of Oberhausen, 8 miles west of Essen and 25 miles north of Düsseldorf. Vidkun Quisling, Minister-President of the collaborationist Norwegian Nazi government, meets with Hitler in Berlin. It will be the last meeting between the two.

In the Philippines, 121 American soldiers (of the 6th Ranger Battalion and the U.S. Sixth Army Alamo Scouts) and 800 Filipino guerrillas kill 225 Japanese guards and free 813 American POWs from the Japanese-held prison camp at Cabanatuan City, Luzon, on January 30. On the twelfth anniversary of his coming to power, Adolf Hitler in a radio address calls for fanatical resistance by soldiers and civilians and predicts that “. . . in this struggle for survival it will not be inner Asia that will conquer, but the people that has [sic] defended Europe for centuries against the onslaughts from the East, the German nation . . .” In the Baltic Sea, Soviet submarine S-13 fires three torpedoes at the German liner *SS Wilhelm Gustloff*, which is carrying 10,600 civilian refugees and wounded soldiers from Gotenhafen (the German name for Gdynia), Poland. Gustloff sinks within 50 minutes, drowning 9,343, including some 5,000 children, making it the largest loss of life in a single ship-sinking in history. In the Mediterranean, President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill meet at Malta to hold preparatory talks for the upcoming Yalta Conference with Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin.

The Red Army crosses the Oder River into Germany from Poland on January 31 and is less than 50 miles from Berlin. U.S. Army Pvt. Edward “Eddie” Slovik is shot by a firing squad at Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines, France. He is the only U.S. Army deserter of World War II to be tried, convicted, sentenced and executed, and the first U.S. Army deserter to be executed since 1864. (In actuality, thousands of U.S. soldiers deserted in the European Theatre of Operations. Most are returned to the lines, either voluntarily or forcibly. Of those captured and court martialed — including those sentenced to die — only Slovik — recalcitrant about deserting — is executed. His sentence is reviewed and approved by Gen. Eisenhower, who vigorously defends both Slovik’s sentence and his approval of it.) U.S. planes destroy the Imperial Japanese Navy’s floating dock at Singapore.

U.S. troops land unopposed southwest of Manila, the Philippines, on February 1, 1944, but advances are slowed by fierce Japanese resistance. In Europe, the *Kriegsmarine* (German navy), since the 20th of January, has evacuated 140,000 civilian refugees and 18,000 wounded soldiers by sea from East Prussia and Danzig. U.S. Army Air Force B-24 and B-29 bombers begin daily raids on Iwo Jima, in the Volcano Islands, in preparation for landings scheduled later in the month. Over the course of 15 days, 6,800 tons of bombs are dropped on the island. In former-Axis-partner Bulgaria, where a communist government is now in place, Prince Kyril, the nation’s prince regent, former prime minister Bogdan Filov and 92 cabinet ministers, royal advisors and members of parliament are executed for treason and war crimes.



# Dr. Naum Polonskiy Opens the First, Full-Service Animal Hospital in Perth Amboy

## Animal Hospital is Offering a 50 Percent Discount on a Pet's Physical Examination Until Feb. 1, 2020

Press Release 1/8/20  
PERTH AMBOY – Dr. Naum Polonskiy D.V.M, a veterinarian and entrepreneur, achieved his version of the “American Dream” by opening the first, state-of-the-art animal hospital in Perth Amboy.

Dr. Polonskiy spent years planning and creating the Animal Hospital of Perth Amboy, which is the only, privately-owned facility of its kind in the city. Equipped with the most advanced veterinary equipment and technology, the 3,700-square-foot animal hospital is located at 276 High Street. The three-story facility was developed to provide a full range of veterinary medicine, as well as dog grooming and pet boarding services.

Recently, the City of Perth Amboy, Mayor Wilda Diaz and the Business Improvement District (BID) welcomed Dr. Polonskiy and the animal hospital's professional staff to the city during a ribbon cutting ceremonies. The celebration was also attended by the veterinarian's clients who live in Staten Island, Brooklyn and Northern New Jersey. A number of local pet owners brought their dogs to the event, which included tours of the animal hospital's exam rooms, boarding area, cat ward, grooming rooms, intensive care and surgery suites.

The Animal Hospital of Perth Amboy, which is open seven days a week, is a full-service facility that provides veterinary care, grooming and boarding pets. The facilities include exam rooms for large, medium-size and small dogs, a cat ward, an intensive care recovery area and a surgical suite. Also, the facility has post-care recovery spaces. For more details about the hours, ranges of services and to schedule an appointment, contact Dr. Polonskiy at 1-888-405-1738.

To celebrate the grand opening, Dr. Polonskiy is offering new patients a 50 percent discount on the cost of a pet's physical exam from now through Feb. 1. Pet owners may schedule an exam for their dog,

cat or exotic animal. The vet may suggest additional veterinary care. If a pet owner decides to go ahead with the suggested treatments, those procedures will be performed at the animal hospital's standard fees.

Following a tour of the facility, Mayor Diaz said, “We are grateful that Dr. Polonskiy selected Perth Amboy as the site for his animal hospital. The doctor and his team have taken great care and invested significant time and funds to provide our community and its pet lovers with an exceptional resource. I encourage you to bring your pets here, tour the space and, if needed, make an appointment with the doctor.”

Prior to opening the new hospital, Dr. Polonskiy started a mobile veterinary clinic called “House Pet Calls.” For over 10 years, he drove to homes and brought his clinic to pet owners, providing checkups, surgeries and night calls.

While speaking about the facility, Dr. Polonskiy said, “Our animal hospital was designed as

a welcoming, friendly and comfortable environment where pet owners may bring their animals for care. My goal was to recreate the nurturing “home visit” treatment concept in an animal hospital that has a professional veterinary team and the best high-technology equipment. We have succeeded, and I invite you and your beloved pets to experience this level of care. Please visit us soon.”



\*Photo Courtesy of the Perth Amboy BID

Dr. Polonskiy, who emigrated to America from Ukraine in 1993, passed his National Veterinary Boards in 2003. He earned his veterinarian degree from Oklahoma State University and began his career by working at a number of animal hospitals in New York.

## Movie Review: Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker

By: Anton Massopust III  
“The First Order has taken too many of us! Now we take the fight to them!” - Finn

In this new Star Wars movie everything comes full circle. Our heroes’ journey to planets all over the Galaxy in order to find a device that can take them to a world of the Sith at the darkest part of the Galaxy. It seems that the Emperor is alive and when the Resistance received this information, they look for a device that will lead them there. Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) has found the Emperor (Ian McDiarmid) and information about Rey's (Daisy Ridley) origins. Kylo Ren wants Rey to turn to the dark side. Rey is struggling against the dark side of the force and has a terrible vision about herself and the Sith throne. Will she turn to the dark side?



The emperor is raising a mighty Fleet of Star Destroyers each equipped with a cannon that can destroy an entire planet. The Resistance must find this fleet in order to stop it before it invades the Galaxy.

Lando Calrissian (Billy Dee Williams) also brings the story to its full circle. Is this movie worth seeing? Yes! - especially on the big screen because there are so many big special effects to see. This includes the Emperor's fleet which he calls the Last Order. The bad guys (the Sith) live this dark and foreboding place with lightning shooting out of everywhere. We also go to Jungle planets, the deserts, and a water planet where huge waves crash near the Endor system (from Return of the Jedi) where the last war ended. Just that alone is worth seeing.

Everyone does a fine acting job and it's always great to see Chewie and Lando, C-3PO, and R2-D2 and all the new characters. Everyone is given their moment to shine. It took Disney three movies to finally get it right. This is the best of the three, so if you're a huge Star Wars fan, you'll love this. If you just love science fiction and a fast-moving action adventure, you'll love The Rise of Skywalker. It moves like lightning

and doesn't give you much time to breathe, except for little bits and spots. My only complaint would be that the Princess Leia segments seem like they're stitched together from bits and pieces, which that's exactly what happened. That's the only part of this movie that doesn't work. The final battle is incredible and a sight to behold. So, May the Force be with you, always! Go see it.

## Raritan Bay Area YMCA Families Fit Together Program

### Encouraging Healthy Family Relationships

Press Release 1/2/20  
PERTH AMBOY – The RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA understand children and parents face stressful situations that can challenge their relationships. Often, children and adolescents do not have the communication skills necessary to let their parents know how they are feeling, or ask for help with tough situations. As a result, they become disengaged at home and school which can lead to at-risk behaviors such as school failure, family conflict, and early substance abuse.

The Y aims to address these issues and restore positive family relationships through behavioral health programming, including our Families Fit Together (FFT) Program.

Families Fit Together utilizes the evidence-based Strengthening Families Program. It is one of the most powerful programs for family change because it involves not just the parents or the children alone, but the whole

family. FFT is a FREE 14-week program provided by the Y that hosts families once a week, provides a family-style dinner, and teaches new strategies to improve communication skills between parent and child. FFT can be delivered in both English and Spanish. Families who participate in this program are eligible for a free annual membership to the RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA.

The Y is seeking Middlesex County families with children between the ages of 11 and 16 to participate in FFT programming, beginning January 27th. Complimentary childcare is available for families with children under the age of 11.

If you feel your family is a good fit, please contact Lauren Capaci, Director of Strategic Initiatives: 732.442.3632 x 6505 lcapaci@rbaymca.org or Rebecca Pauley, Community Health Coordinator: 732.442.3632 x 6616 rpauley@rbaymca.org.

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A Petition to  
St. Joseph

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

Prayer To Blessed Mother

Prayer To Blessed Virgin

St. Jude Novena

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Pre-payment required.

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Initials at end of prayer \_\_\_\_\_

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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

OTHER \_\_\_\_\_



Novena to St. Rita

O holy protectress of those who art in greatest need, thou who shineth as a star of hope in the midst of darkness, blessed Saint Rita, bright mirror of God's grace, in patience and fortitude thou art a model of all the states in life. I unite my will with the will of God through the merits of my Savior Jesus Christ, and in particular through his patient wearing of the crown of thorns, which with tender devotion thou didst daily contemplate. Through the merits of the holy Virgin Mary and thine own graces and virtues, I ask thee to obtain my earnest petition, provided it be for the greater glory of God and my own sanctification. Guide and purify my intention, O holy protectress and advocate, so that I may obtain the pardon of all my sins and the grace to persevere daily, as thou didst in walking with courage, generosity, and fidelity down the path of life. (Mention your request.)

Saint Rita, advocate of the impossible, pray for us.  
Saint Rita, advocate of the helpless, pray for us.  
Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be three times each. **K.M. & C.M.**

Remember to  
Say Your  
Novenas!

Answers  
From Puzzle  
On Page 15



A.C. Bus Trip  
San Salvador Seniors

PERTH AMBOY - The San Salvador Seniors are sponsoring a bus trip to Resorts Casino in AC on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020. Bus leaves 12 Noon. Bus will depart from behind St. Stephens Church parking lot on Mechanic Street, Perth Amboy. Cost 30 pp. Receive \$25 back in slot play. For more info call Joe at 732-826-0819.

Tax Preparation  
at the Dowdell  
Library

SOUTH AMBOY - Need help preparing your taxes? Tax Returns Prepared - Free! Sign up NOW to make an appointment. VITA free tax preparation. Registration recommended. Individuals earning < \$64,000 are eligible. Tuesday, February 11, 2020 - Appointments 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Thursday, March 5, 2020. Appointments 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 7 - Drop off service only - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Returns may be picked up Thursday, April 9, 2020.

Register to reserve a spot! Call 732-721-6060 or email comments@dowdell.org

The Dowdell Library is located at 100 Governor Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy, NJ 08879



Friends of  
Perth Amboy  
Free Public  
Library Meeting

PERTH AMBOY – The Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library are having a meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020 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.

Poll Workers  
Wanted

Press Release  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY - John Anagnostis Regional Vice Chair of the Middlesex County Republican Organization has announced there are openings for Poll Workers for the 2020 Primary and General Elections to be held on June 2, 2020 and November 3, 2020.

You can be a poll worker if you are 18 years old, a registered voter and live in Middlesex County. The following communities need poll workers: Carteret, Perth Amboy, Woodbridge, Sayreville and South Amboy.

A poll worker attends a training class, reports to the polling places 45 minutes prior to the polls opening on election day, prepares the polling place, verifies voters are registered in the district, assists the voter if there are questions, maintains order at the polls, closes polling places at the designated times. The pay for the election day is \$200.00

This is a chance for residents to participate in our democracy. If you are interested, please contact our office at 732-371-9967 Monday to Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. if no answer, leave a message.

Senior Scene  
Happenings

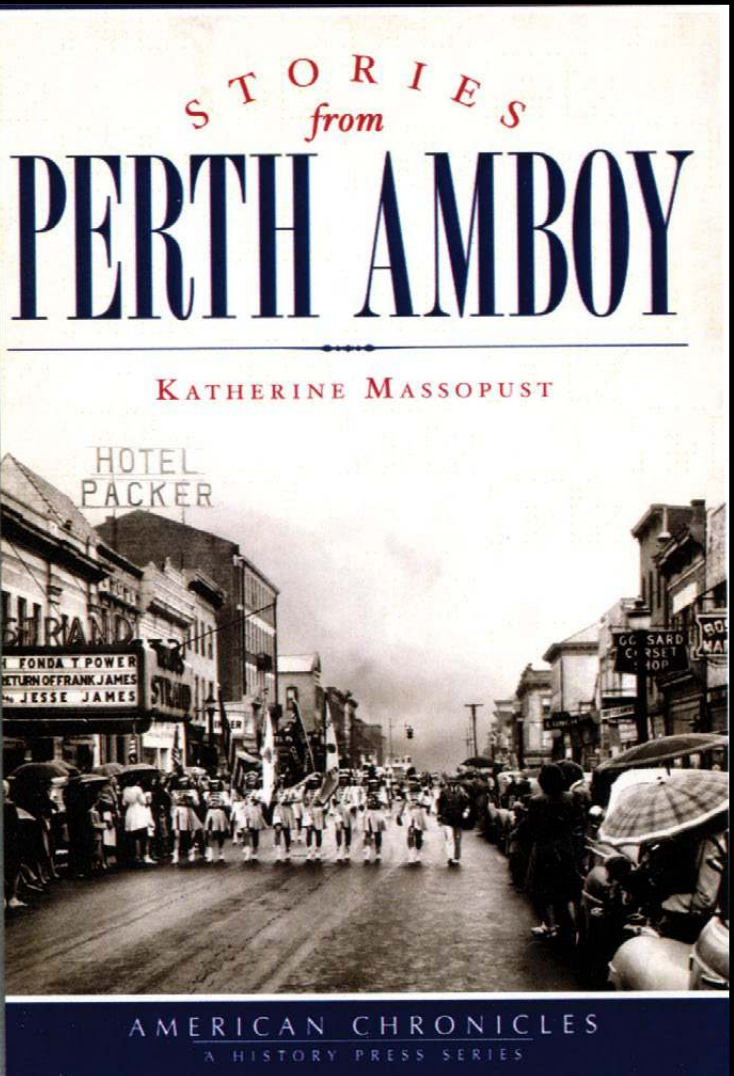
Perth Amboy

- TUES. Jan. 14 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. Jan. 15 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. Jan. 16 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
- MON. Jan. 20 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
- TUES. Jan. 21 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. Jan. 22 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. Jan. 23 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m. Family Life Center, Madison Ave.

South Amboy

- MON. Jan. 27 Sacred Heart Seniors, 12 Noon Memorial Hall, Wash Ave.
- MON. Feb. 3 South Amboy Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
- WED. Feb. 5 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!  
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Stories From Perth Amboy

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

LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY – Weighing Station, New Brunswick Avenue, 1940's.

\*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.

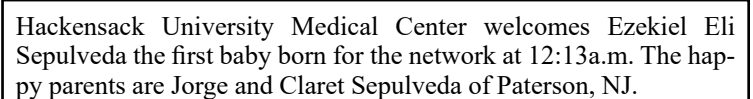


## *Hackensack Meridian Health delivers 31 babies on New Year's Day*

Jersey Shore University Med-

Doug Plaag and Adriana Kelly are the proud parents of the first baby of Ocean County. Baby girl Plaag was delivered at Ocean Medical Center at 1:19 a.m. on January 1, weighing seven pounds nine ounces. In addition, two other babies were

“It is an honor and a privilege to welcome these 31 babies into the world on the first day of the New Year and the new decade,” said Robert C. Garrett, CEO, FACHE, Hackensack Meridian Health. “Having the first baby born in four New Jersey counties is a testament of the exceptional quality of care our team members provide to our parents.”



*\*Photo Submitted*



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## ACROSS

- 18th-century card game
- Fa follower
- Reference
- French islands
- Memorable years
- \_\_\_ about (approximately, 2 wds.)
- Less than one
- Walking like a duck
- Vase
- Written reminder
- Neighbor of Phoenix
- Dueler's memento
- Wish undone
- Eager beaver
- Sound repetition
- Mine products
- "\_\_\_ Loser" (2 wds.)
- College post
- "Oz" dog
- Bird beaks
- Adam's madam
- Hardwood trees
- Desert stops
- Animal lairs
- Opposite of SSE
- Tedious
- "Pequod" captain
- Bald man's lack
- Letters on some tow

## trucks

- Workout spot (abbr.)
- Caribous' kin
- Highest point
- Baseball great Mel

## DOWN

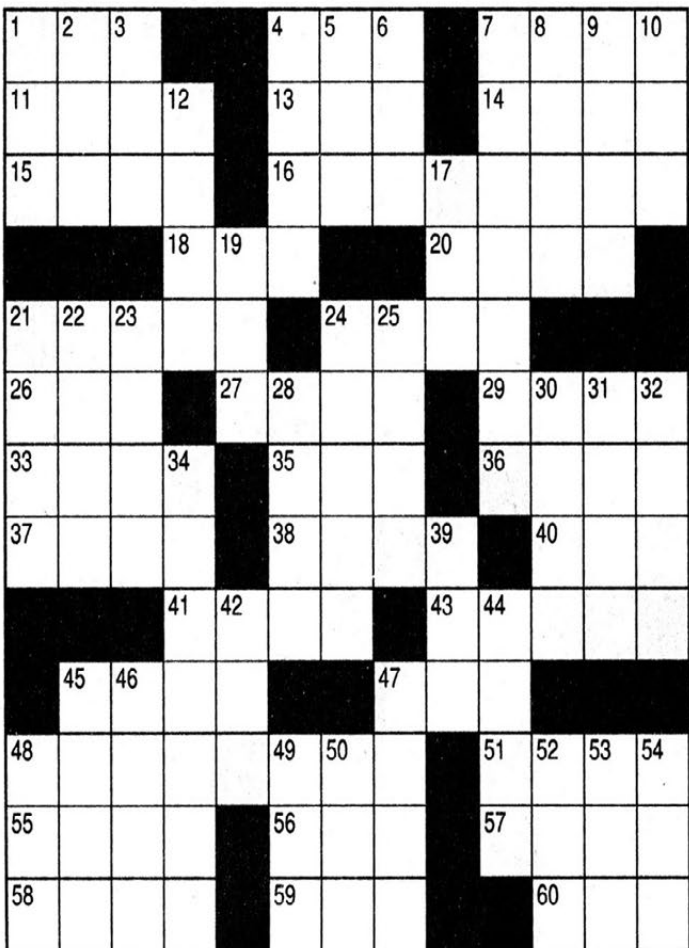
- Actress Taylor's nickname
- Barcelona "rah"
- "\_\_\_ the ramparts..."
- Stitched
- "...man \_\_\_ mouse?" (2 wds.)

## 6 Scottish boy

- Used crayons
- Name's first letter (abbr.)
- Color quality
- Unit of energy
- "Duck \_\_\_"
- Heredity inits.
- Primary color
- Turkey \_\_\_
- Currency unit in Italy
- Get together
- Big rigs
- Grouchy person
- Sty sound
- Fair grades
- "\_\_\_ fun!"
- Smallest bills

## 34 Oklahoma natives

- Junior
- Brayer on the farm
- Gone
- Clock face
- Estrada of "CHiPs"
- Lowest tide
- Common title start
- Granola grain
- \_\_\_ Tse-tung
- "Managed care" inits.
- Perform onstage
- Flutter



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**PERTH AMBOY** - This Amboy model Elevation A is an open floor plan design still time choose your upgrades, 1st Floor features living room, kitchen, dining room. 1/2 bath full basement, A/C, 2nd level 3 bedrooms 2 full baths, garage optional upgrades see attachments, great Spa Spring location. **\$333,140**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Great investment 3 family steady rental income all separated utilities, two car garage, high school section, brick and more. **\$465,000**



**FORDS** - Wonderful 4 family fully rented in a great location, close to all major highways, very clean building 4 car garages rented for \$100 per month each. Expenses are Insurance \$2,700, Heat \$2,000 Water and Sewer \$1,200 and electricity \$120. **\$582,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Spacious well maintained Bi-level, featuring 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, office, recreation room, garage, great location. **\$378,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Brick Center Hall Colonial on a large corner property. The home is listed as a 3 bedroom, but it actually has a bonus room attached to the Master Bedroom, used as a nursery. Also 2 large finished rooms in the finished basement w/ private full bathroom. Attic fully finished and easily accessible from the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor hallway. **\$309,900**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Well-kept investment property 2 apartments 3 Bedrooms each, one apartment is 2 bedrooms and the rear is a large commercial space with many possibilities and use. Must see. **\$465,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Great investment property separated utilities, off street parking, good condition close to downtown and all major highways and public transportation. **\$420,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Absolutely stunning, this dream home features all the elegance, spaciousness, location, functionality and value you would hope for at this price. Gourmet kitchen with state of the art cherry cabinets lots of storage space, granite refaced cabinet doors, double wall oven, 5 burner Thermidor stove top, Bosch D/W, 48 wine cooler, 5 bedrooms including 2 master suites W/ large dressing area, other unique characteristic nice lighted dome on top of circular staircase, 7 zones heating system, center hall closet, elevator, alarm system \$165 Quirly, Strauss Crystal light fixtures and chandelier. Brazilian cherry flooring. Maid's room W/full bathroom. Basement renovations were started but currently incomplete plans are available for GYM, Cigar room, laundry room, full bath W/steam shower and storage. A/C needs work. property is being sold in "AS IS" condition A must see this is a unique opportunity. Hurry!!!!!!!!!!!! **\$492,500**