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AMBOY GUARDIAN

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Butting Heads

2/12/20 Council Meeting

By: Carolyn Maxwell

PERTH AMBOY – Resident Stanley Sierakowski had a question involving Ordinance No. 7 (First Reading) An Ordinance of the city of Perth Amboy, county of Middlesex, New Jersey approving the PILOT Program of PHILOTIMO Housing Development Urban Renewal Corporation and determining various other matters in connection therewith.

Sierakowski wanted to know why this is a 15-year PILOT. Council President William Petrick said, “The units involved will be for sale and each unit will be sold individually. It’s the developer who is applying for the PILOT. The PILOT is for an overall project and doesn’t cover the land value. To some extent, the homeowners will benefit.”

Sierakowski then stated, “I know individual homeowners can get PILOTS, but they are only 5 years. The Mayor herself

got a PILOT for 5 years.”

Petrick then continued, “Other senior housing projects have gotten PILOTS.”

Sierakowski wasn't persuaded, “By law, you have to get a chart of what part of the money a city gets from a PILOT. You (the council) should know the terms and percentage of the money you will get.”

Petrick went on to state, “The city will get some of the money if the Board of Education doesn’t.”

Sierakowski then suggested that the council table this ordinance. “We don’t know the numbers. Ask your attorney if they (the developers of the project) are violating the law by asking for a PILOT for this project.”

Law Director Peter King responded to Sierakowski, “The units being developed are residential, but we are giving PILOTS to the corporation. If it was a single-person unit, then it

would be a violation. Since we are giving a PILOT to the corporation, they are entitled to a 15-year PILOT.”

Jeremy Baratta came up next. He asked for an explanation of Ordinances (First Reading) No. 1-6. The first three involved salary and salary ranges. (No. 1 – FOP; No. 2 – Non-union and Management; No. 3 – PBA; No. 4 – Dissolving PARA and designating the City Council as a Redevelopment Entity for the city of Perth Amboy; No. 5 – Membership for the Library Board of Trustees; No. 6 – Membership for the Redevelopment Agency)

Baratta explained that Ordinances No. 1-6 had a detailed explanation behind them. “Ordinance No. 7 should have more of an explanation. We don’t have any money for cops, but you can give PILOTS to private developers.”

Law Director King responded, “Right now, I don’t have the full ordinance in front of me.”

Petrick then spoke up, “The two (PBA Contract negotiations and the PILOT (PHILOTIMO Housing Development)) have nothing to do with each other.”

King then cautioned the council and said, “If there is no PILOT, then there is no money.”

Baratta continued, “If they (the corporation for this project) don’t get a tax break, then maybe someone else will come in with a better deal.”

King then mentioned, “At the Caucus (2/10/20), the attorney for this project James Ferrar was present to give a more detailed explanation of this project.”

Ken Balut came up to speak. He piggybacked off the discussion of the PILOTS. “Giving PILOTS to senior citizens is better than giving it to developers. The money is there to pay the cops. Those officers negotiated a contract in good faith. Your attorney dictated the terms to an arbitrator. You signed two

bad PILOTS. I guess the school system (Balut acknowledged some of the teachers present at the meeting) wants their raises. Look at resolutions that you can veto to get money from. Did you know that some employees had bicycles under their desks so they could work out? Show cops the appreciation they deserve and pay them their money.”

Brian Ferry came up to discuss the PBA settlement again. “I guess you have to move the ordinance to go to a second reading. The right thing to do is to move it forward to the next meeting. I hope you discussed the calculations of the costs. It’s not a lot of money to finance the police, fire, and EMTs.”

Resident Junior Iglesia came up next. “I came up here as a concerned taxpayer. It’s of best interest to the people of the community and the government

**Continued on Page 11*

South Amboy Considers Adding Beach Hours

2/5/20 Business Meeting

By: Joseph L. Kuchie

SOUTH AMBOY - The city of South Amboy is considering adding open and closing times to their beaches after the council received several complaints from residents about issues after hours.

According to the council, residents have brought to their attention that people have been using the beach late at night for bonfires, drinking, and late-night fishing. The Fisherman’s Lot near the beach closes at sunset, which has led to people parking on local streets and taking up additional residential parking spaces.

“Frankly the way the ordinance is currently written there’s a lack of controls down there for the police to reliably go down there and do enforcement,” Business Administrator Glen Skarzynski said. “After collectively talking with the people from the neighborhood and the police, it’s to basically make the beach open from sunrise to sunset, which is kind of

what it’s designed for. It’s not lit at night, there’s no way for us to reliably get police in there regularly to patrol.”

Skarzynski mentioned that a complication rises with the waterfront walkway, which cuts through the beach area and is used early in the morning by residents to exercise. He said that the city is proposing to set the walkway hours to match the city’s parks hours and keep the beach separate.

“From May to September the walkway would be sunrise to 11 PM, and from September to May it would be sunrise to 10 PM, which mirrors exactly what we have in the ordinance governing the parks,” he added.

“My concern is for the guy that’s working second shift, the fish are running the tide is running right, he gets out at 11 o’clock and wants to go out in fish, and now he’s not able to do that,” Councilman Tom Reilly said. “There’s guys that fit that criteria in town.”

“I understand where Tom is

coming from, [but] I do think the gates should be opened and closed at some point,” Councilwoman Christine Noble said. “I see the mess that’s there, it’s not the guys fishing there, it’s unfortunate, I think we need to put a time frame on there.”

“I can’t begin tell you enough how many complaints we’ve been getting, and it’s not been one or two people, it’s been multiple people and it’s persistent, it’s been going on for months,” Skarzynski said. We’ve been trying to come up with the best solution we can, and this is what we came up with.”

If the proposal is approved, signage will be posted near the beach entry points with the new beach hours, and a police phone number to report suspicious activity.

Brian McLaughlin was the only council meeting that was unable to attend the business meeting. The next city council meeting will be held on February 19th at 7:00 p.m.

FOB Lodge 80 Donates to Puerto Rico Relief

**Photo by Paul W. Wang*



Press Release

PERTH AMBOY - (L to R) Sgt. Emma Cabrera, Sgt. Robert Estrada, FOB Lodge 80 VP Miguel Pellot, FOB Delegate Lt. Andy Montalvo, Chairman NJ for Puerto Rico Relief - Sam Delgado, Assemblywoman 19th Legislative District – Yvonne Lopez, Miriam Lopez

Today Feb. 11, 2020, The Perth Amboy Fraternal Order Of Police Lodge 80 presented a donation of \$500 to New Jersey for Puerto Rico Relief to support earthquake recovery on the island.

“Founded in 2017, New Jersey for Puerto Rico Relief (NJ4PR) is a Perth Amboy NJ Non-Profit Corporation 501c3 dedicated to supporting disaster recovery in Puerto Rico. NJ4PR’s philosophy is not to reinvent the wheel. We enter into Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) to raise funds and support those organizations like the American Red Cross of Puerto Rico, Boys and Girls Clubs of Puerto Rico, the Salvation Army of Puerto Rico and local churches that already have established logistic chains and human capital on the ground involved in disaster recovery to direct fund recovery activities. NJ4PR understands that this is the most efficient and cost-effective way to help the island; instead of collecting supplies locally in NJ, raising shipping funds and then transporting supplies to the island that may take weeks and months to reach the affected areas. Or as the news media has recently reported, never!”

Please visit our website at www.nj4pr.com and donate.

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Jonathan Applewhite has been a volunteer at the RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA since summer of 2018. Jonathan has earned the 2019 Youth Volunteer Award by the New Jersey YMCA State Alliance.

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Tempers Flare; Council & Administration Still Fractured

2/12/20 Caucus

By: Carolyn Maxwell
PERTH AMBOY – During the 2/10/20 Caucus Meeting, there was a question regarding Ordinance First Reading No. 1 (no public discussion) – To amend an ordinance entitled Ordinance fixing and establishing a schedule of salaries and salary ranges and increments and employees of the city of Perth Amboy (Ordinance No. 218-79 as amended). Re: FOP (Fraternal Order of Police).

Business Administrator Frederick Carr simply said, “This is adding a title of Acting Captain.”

Ordinance No. 2 Re: Non-union and management started off a lengthy discussion. Carr explained, “This will be adding a new title which would be Director of Community Development. This is a transfer of personnel from the Housing Department into the Community Development Office in City Hall. It would be a civil service title.” (Tashi Vasquez will be transferred to the new title). There was also a stipend budgeted for a firefighter who will be taking over additional duties for an employee who is retiring from the Fire Prevention Department.

Councilman Helmin Caba said he was concerned because the numbers he was looking at were not adding up. “Do we have the money to pay for all of this?”

Carr responded, “It will be your (the council’s) call.”

Council President Petrick then commented, “We need a projection (of expected costs).”

Caba still wasn’t satisfied, “The Mayor had requested a 2.5% increase in the budget, but we are still in negotiations with the PBA, the Fire Department, and the DPW. Will there be bigger tax increase next year?”

Carr stated, “I can’t speculate about that now.” Caba continued, “Raises were given to nonunion members while we are negotiating with the unions. The council is being left in the dark.”

Carr responded, “We have to give you the budget by February 26th.”

Law Director Peter King stated, “There’s a salary for a prosecutor and assistant prosecutor in the budget and presently the people in those 2 positions will not be getting any city benefits. “In the past, there was an assistant prosecutor who sued the city and was able to get a pension.”

Councilman Joel Pabon asked, “What is the lowest salary for police officers?”

Carr responded, “\$33,500.”

Pabon then said, “We can do pay increases between \$3,000 to \$6,000 for other employees, but officers who protect us only get a 2.5% raise and they risk their lives every single day. Those employees that are getting those larger raises are pencil pushers and I will not give them raises.”

Councilman Caba agreed, “That’s why I brought this up. We need the numbers to look at before voting, especially with these projected raises.”

CFO/Comptroller Jill Goldy came up to clarify some of the issues, “There are numerous items that you can or cannot af-

ford to do.”

Caba still wasn’t convinced, “If we approve all of these raises and only give the unions anywhere from 1.2% to 2.5% raises, can we afford this (giving all of these other employees thousands of dollars in raises)?”

King stated, “This is just a guideline.”

Goldy then explained, “We only work with the salary ordinances regarding the unions.”

Carr then added, “Each union has their only salary ordinance.”

Goldy then said, “There is no specific resolutions reflecting salaries.”

Carr then explained, “We’ll be meeting with the white-collar union on Wednesday.”

Petrick then questioned, “Are we getting ahead of ourselves by just voting on these few titles?”

Goldy then explained, “The auditors have to make sure that the titles are within the ordinance. You (the council) have to decide how you will pay for the items.”

Councilman Fernando Irizarry asked, “Did the mayor know if the city could afford this (salary increases)?”

Goldy responded, “I had no conversations with the Mayor about this.”

Carr spoke up, “The Mayor

knows about the budget. We then will discuss the items with the council.”

Pabon then insisted, “The 2.5% increase for the PBA contract is set. There should be no further discussions about it.”

Irizarry still wasn’t satisfied and asked, “Are you telling us things are not set (with the PBA contract)? We don’t have the information that we need.”

Petrick agreed, “There are too many variables that are going on.”

Goldy then stated, “I personally did not talk to the Mayor about any contracts.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejada spoke up, “This is just for the year 2019. Can we cover just these items? We are still in limbo.”


Goldy responded, “In my opinion, yes these items can be covered.”

B.A. Carr then told the council that there has been a decrease in the number of police officers. “Overall there has been a 12.5% total increase in the salaries for the last 5 years.”

Goldy also reminded the council that there is also a retroactive pay increase for those officers who retired last year.

**Continued on Page 8*

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Celebrating Tuskegee Airman and Brigadier General Charles McGee

Celebrating Black History month, I want to highlight Brigadier General Charles McGee. During President Donald J. Trump’s state of the union address, one of the highlights was when he introduced Iain Lanphier who was in attendance along with his great-grandfather, one of the last surviving Tuskegee Airman Charles McGee. Lanphier has been inspired by his great-grandfather and his dream is to attend the Airforce Academy. As Trump said in his speech, “Ian wants to see the earth from above.”

Earlier in the day, President Trump promoted Charles McGee to Brigadier General. Charles McGee is an inspiration to all, and he recently celebrated his 100th birthday on December 7, 2019. McGee was also honored at NASA’s headquarters in Washington D.C.

The Tuskegee Airmen were a prestigious group of an all African American military pilots (fighter and bomber) who fought in World War II. They formed the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group of the United States Army Air Forces. The name also applies to the navigators, bombardiers, mechanics, instructors, crew chiefs, nurses, cooks and other support personnel. (source https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuskegee_Airmen)

McGee spoke about the racism that the Tuskegee Airmen experienced, but they did not use it as an excuse. They were determined to go further. Reading briefly McGee’s biography, the Tuskegee Airmen had a mission and their only concerns were to complete that assignment. When it came to racism vs. the Tuskegee Airmen, there was no contest – the Tuskegee Airmen always come out on top.

After WWII, McGee also served in Korea and Vietnam.

There are some individuals who make their money by exploiting the miseries of others. Whereas the Honorable Brigadier General is a prime example on how to overcome adversity through determination. He is the inspirational speaker that schools of all levels of education should invite to their commencement. C.M.



Tuskegee Airman and Brigadier General Charles McGee with his great-grandson Iain Lanphiera during the 2020 State of the Union
*Photo by Patrick Semansky AP



McGee honored at the 2020 State of the Union Address
*Photo by Brendan Smialowski AFP via Getty Images



Tuskegee Airman Colonel Charles McGee *Photo Public Domain

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

The Title “Honorable”

The dictionary defines an oxymoron as a combination of contradictory words. In these times of political correctness, I believe the title of "HONORABLE" should never be used in front of the name of either a politician nor a politically ap-

pointed glorified barrister. They preside over two of the most overtly corrupt systems we have. And somehow, someway they all screw the taxpayers out of their money both while in office and afterward.

Sincerely,
The More or Less Honorable
Michael J. Rusznak

China's Cover Up

The COVID-19 Virus that started in Wuhan, China early December of 2019 was unknown until Doctor Liang Wudong who was working on the frontline with patients when the deadly virus. He went on China's social media (WeChat) to inform fellow healthcare workers of the virus. Later, the doctor and those healthcare workers were punished, but the doctor died from the virus. The virus started spreading very fast in China and at the same time people were leaving China infected with the virus spreading it across the globe. China's government knows more about this virus than we do.

Here's my concern: why didn't Chinese health officials notify WHO (World Health Organization)? Instead they tried to cover it up. Now, it's too late and the DAMAGE is already done. Thousands are infected and how many more will die from this uncontrollable virus? Now, China has a problem how to control it or stop it before its own economy crashes and produces a domino effect around the world. Is America ready for this virus and the economic effects it will have? YOU guess.

We know Chinese Leaders have a bad habit of hiding their own mistakes and use censorship on social media. I hope America will never be like China.

Orlando “Wildman” Perez

What do you think?
Send us a response!



Tuskegee Airmen circa May 1, 1942 - Aug 1943
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Pallone Hosts Roundtable to Discuss Bold Infrastructure Plan
Last month, Pallone announced a \$760 billion infrastructure plan that would improve roads, rail and transit systems, invest in clean energy and modernize 9-1-1 networks

Press Release 2/4/20
WOODBIDGE – Today, Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. held a roundtable to discuss his framework that would make transformative infrastructure investments in the U.S. He was joined by first responders, labor leaders, and environmental advocates.

Last month, Pallone announced a \$760 billion investment plan with other House Democratic leaders that would address some of the country’s most urgent infrastructure needs, including investments in surface transportation, rail and transit systems, airports, ports and harbors, wastewater and drinking water infrastructure, brownfields, clean energy and broadband. It will also modernize 9-1-1 public safety networks, making sure that first responders have access to real

time information and ensuring that their response is efficient and effective.

“New Jerseyans know just how important good and reliable roads, bridges, and trains are for safe and timely commutes to school and work. There is no better way to strengthen our economy for the future than to modernize our badly aging infrastructure. This bold framework not only helps us rebuild our nation, it also combats climate change by reducing carbon emissions and moving us toward a clean energy future,” Congressman Pallone said. “It will create good paying jobs, ensure that no community is left behind in the digital economy and help protect Americans’ drinking water. These are investments that we must make for the American people, and I look forward to moving this

proposal forward in Congress.”

The infrastructure plan would invest in improvements that:

Bring existing infrastructure into a state of good repair and enables the completion of critical projects through long-term, sustainable funding.

- Modernize 9-1-1 public safety networks.
- Set a path toward zero carbon pollution from the transportation sector, creating jobs, protecting our natural resources, promoting environmental justice, and increasing resiliency to climate change.
- Ensure a transportation system that is green, affordable, reliable, efficient and provides access to jobs.
- Provide safe, clean, and affordable water and wastewater services.
- Prioritize the safety of the traveling public.



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“Woodbridge Township

**Continued on Page 18*

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EDUC8

Teachers Demand Contract; Board Responds

2/6/20 Board of Education Meeting

By: Katherine Massopust
PERTH AMBOY – After the student representative spoke, The Board went into a closed session at 5:40 p.m. and returned at 8:48 p.m. (3 hours; 8 minutes).

During the first public portion on agenda items only, many Perth Amboy Federation members read aloud anonymous statements which represented the sentiment and feelings of teachers, staff who are suffering financially because of the lack of resolution to their contract. The teachers and staff also stated they felt like they were being held hostage during the 3 hours; 8 minutes closed session. PA-AFT President Pat Paradiso spoke first. She was followed by many passionate teachers and staff who have not received a raise in 2 years and feel disrespected. In these anonymous statements, many teachers and staff stated they have to take a second job to compensate financially. Others can't afford to pay basic bills including their mortgage, and in some cases even can't afford necessary medicine. They put in countless hours, sometimes spending their own money for school supplies. Most of all, they feel disrespected. They also stated while this goes on, many supervisors (the Superintendent received merit pay bonuses) received raises on their already large salary.

Marie Barnes, Food Service Worker and Perth Amboy Resident stated passionately, "Please look deeply into our hearts. When you lift us up, we will lift you up, too."

On the agenda was the announcement of retirees, including Wilentz School Principal R.L. Anderson. R.L. Anderson's daughter, Shana spoke during the public portion and thanked everyone, including her father's peers, colleagues, and all the teachers.

During the business portion of the meeting, Board Member Junior Iglesia congratulated all the retirees including R.L. Anderson.

Superintendent Dr. David Roman stated, "It's a testimony when people matriculate in Perth Amboy Public Schools. Congratulations to Mr. R.L. Anderson for many years of service."

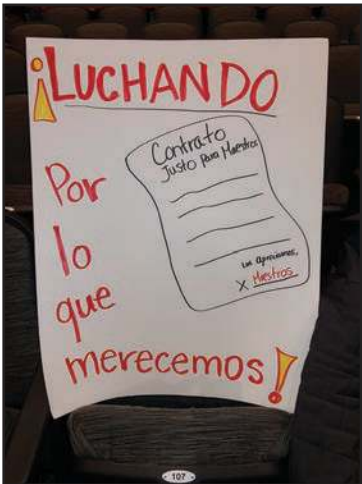
Board Member Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe stated, "I've worked with Mr. Anderson in a multitude of scenarios. This is truly an amazing person. This is a great man. Thank you for all your years of service."

Further along during the meeting, there was a brief discussion on finance. Dr. David Roman said, "I want to assure our finances have been validated by our auditors with qualitative, quantitative and empirical results."

The month of March 2020 is U.S. Census month. Dr. Vivian Rodriguez read a letter on Census 2020 encouraging the school community to be counted. Board Member Lissette Lebron stated, "It is very important to include in this resolution. In 2020, it's important.



Two of the signs displayed at the BOE Meeting expressing the sentiments of the PA-AFT contract negotiations
*Photos by Katherine Massopust



Marie Barnes, Food Service Worker & Perth Amboy Resident



Board Member Maria E. Rodriguez



Board VP Junior Iglesia, Board President Tashi Vasquez, and Superintendent Dr. David Roman listen to the PA-AFT's statements



Board Member Dr. Danielle Brown

The results of the 2020 Census will determine financially the next decade. It's important that everyone complete the survey. Let's shape the community together."

Superintendent Dr. David Roman stated, "I value this city. It has a voice in this nation."

Board Member Junior Iglesia brought up the topic of the coronavirus. "The World Health Organization declared an emergency. I want to state that it is the staff's number one priority."

Dr. David Roman addressed Iglesia's concerns, "It's important to address this. I want to assure the community that hygiene is implemented in classrooms. We are taking extreme measures to keep everything clean."

During the second public portion, a man whose first name is Mike whose wife is a teacher gave some remarks, "It's hard as a husband to know my wife spends long hours. We have children, too. Waiting 3 hours here was disrespectful. It's hard to hear these inflated salaries when people are fighting for scraps. They feel disrespected. It should be for you. They do it without question. We've raised money for clothing and jackets for the kids. Not only do these kids receive it – my wife is an elementary teacher, and these are college students now that come back (to visit). I hope you do them right. It's been two years."

Resident Sharon Hubberman came up to the podium and stated, "It's very top-heavy (salary wise). There needs to be some sort of incentive to promote you to keep your job. You should honor the contract which is in place until you get a new contract."

After the second public portion was over, Dr. Danielle Brown

gave a PowerPoint presentation on the updates on the negotiations for the new contract with the PA-AFT. Dr. Brown stressed that Board Members are volunteers and do not get paid. She stated the budget the BOE has

a \$279.5 million budget. Most importantly, it was stated in the presentation that any staff members will receive retroactive salary increases in backpay from July 2018 and on March 9, 2020 mediation will take place. "We

hear you; we see you."

The Board Meeting adjourned at 11:24 p.m. Board Members Anton Massopust (excused) and Jesus Martinez were absent. Board Member Ken Puccio (excused) was late.

McKeon, Freiman & Vainieri Huttie Bill

Promoting Healthcare Savings for Consumers Passes Committee

Legislation Would Require Insurance Companies to Pass Along Prescription Drug Price Savings to Consumers

Press Release 2/13/20

TRENTON – With soaring healthcare costs affecting millions of Americans – from exorbitant drug pricing to high premiums – Assembly Democrats have sponsored a bill aimed at making medical care more affordable. The Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee advanced legislation on Thursday that would require drug savings to be passed along directly to consumers.

Health insurance companies use an intermediary referred to as a pharmaceutical benefits manager (PBM) to negotiate drug pricing with pharmaceutical manufacturers on their behalf. Through bulk purchasing and other methods, PBMs are often able to negotiate lower prices with manufacturers that result in some sort of direct or indirect financial compensation, such as rebates and discounts.

The bill (A-2222) would require PBMs to pass along the entirety of those savings to insurance companies, who would then be required to pass the savings along to their consumers.

"Far too often, the financial advantages of reduced drug prices negotiated by PBMs only benefit insurance companies or PBMs themselves," said As-

semblyman John F. McKeon (D-Essex, Morris). "With more and more Americans struggling to pay for the coverage and care they need, it is simply unacceptable for any savings to be kept from consumers."

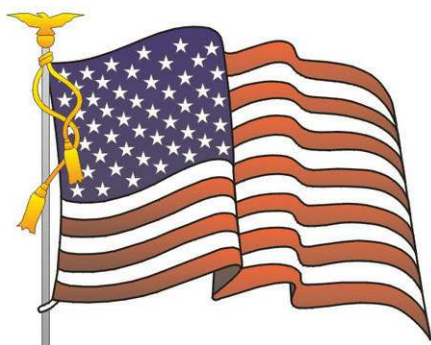
By mandating that savings be passed directly to consumers, New Jersey residents would benefit from lower monthly costs for their insurance plans.

"The current system in place makes life-saving medicine unaffordable for many Americans," said Assemblyman Roy Freiman (D-Somerset, Mercer, Middlesex, Hunterdon). "The focus cannot be on increasing the profit margins of PBMs – it must be on finding ways to make healthcare more accessible to our residents by reducing

consumer costs. This legislation will help by lowering monthly premiums and leaving consumers with more money to spend on the medications they need."

"It feels like we are constantly reading stories of Americans suffering significant health complications because they cannot afford health insurance or medical care," said Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttie (D-Bergen). "We must find more ways to protect our residents and ensure that they have equitable access to treatment and care. Requiring PBMs and insurance companies to pass along savings to consumers is one way that we can help to offset rising healthcare costs."

The bill will now head to the Assembly Speaker for further consideration.



Tempers Flare; Council & Administration Still Fractured

2/12/20 Caucus

**Continued from Page 2*

Carr then told the council, “There are two things you can do: what you would like to do or what you can afford to do. There’s a fine line as to what you can do until we have a conversation about this.”

Pabon concluded the discussion by stating, “We keep spending money we don’t have, but I keep seeing \$3000+ raises for certain people.”

Discussions were then opened up to the public. Ken Balut was the first to speak, “Cops do more public service than one individual whose starting salary will be going up to \$55,000 on February 1st. We’ve given millions of dollars for PILOTS. When I was a union representative for the Police Department, I did around 7 or 8 PBA contracts. Give the police their money. There are 4 of the Mayor’s people whose raises are totaling \$12,000. It’s easier to do a calculation to see what a 2.5% pay increase will be.”

He then talked about two ongoing lawsuits. “The attorney fees have to be approaching \$400,000. There is something wrong with the GIF (General Insurance Fund). The Y owes us over \$2 million. Have we gotten any payments, yet? When is this going to stop?”

Petrick then asked Carr, “Why aren’t we getting any money

from the Y?”

Carr explained, “There is a contract renegotiation. We are meeting with our auditors and requesting additional information from the Y that they will be providing us.”

Petrick stated, “I talked with people from Woodbridge who said they could take over our YMCA.”

Law Director King then spoke up. “The YMCA gives the city their financial reports every year.”

The next person to speak was Mark Abramson who stated he had represented the PBA for 40 years. “I’ve never had to come before the council before. I have negotiated about 8 or 9 contracts. You (the city) were represented by a labor council. On 11/26/19 a deal was struck. Your labor council dictated the terms and the Business Administrator Frederick Carr signed off on the PBA contract. We submitted documents. I can’t understand why costs were not presented to you (the council). The settlement is fair, and the PBA even withdrew some other proposals. I am asking you to live up to those terms. He (Carr) should not have signed off on the contract if he did not understand the terms. There were some impartial discussions. The mayor and mediator were also there at the contract signoff. I was not there at the vote for the contract. The PBA supported the agreement.

At no time was it addressed to me that we couldn’t afford the deal. We even decided to wait for another time to discuss the other proposals.”

Irizarry then requested, “How much time was spent? And what were the attorney fees for the labor negotiations?”

Abramson responded, “We also have to factor in the cost for Greg Fehrenbach’s time.”

Chief Roman McKeon came up to speak briefly, “Two more officers just recently just left the department to go work in the Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office. That’s a total of four officers. One of the officers who left said she had doubled her salary. Whatever you can do to help us, I would appreciate.”

Resident Vince Mackiel came up. “I saw a notice in the Home News Tribune which had the salaries for the city employees, consultants, and contractors. There is a rising cost for insurance, healthcare, and infrastructure. There has been nothing resolved on the bridge that is closed off on Market Street. We need to move forward with this with NJ Transit. People use that area to come to Smith Street and to the council meetings.”

Adele Tawfik, who has a towing company came up to speak next, “We need to take a look at the tow rates. They have not had a raise for 25 years. Our expenses have gone up and we have been trying to change the

ordinance. Even my lawyer has come up to speak about this.” Council Comments:

Helmin Caba said, “The PBA deserves a raise. We have the money only if we possibly raise taxes. We have been left in the dark and have been set up. The mayor overrules the experts and there is a lot of politics in play which should not be happening. The police should be the priority. Don’t give ridiculous raises for political gains. Hopefully by Wednesday, we will have the information to make a wise decision for all the residents. Most live and invest here. A lot of people move because the taxes and rents are high.”

Fernando Irizarry said, “My goal is to be fair to the taxpayers and the police department. I’m hopeful that this will happen. I’m not playing any political games and I’m looking out for everyone involved.” He then asked Frederick Carr if there are any updates on the Rte. 35 bridge.

Carr responded, “The DOT is not taking down the bridge, yet, but the work will be starting soon. I suggested taking down the barriers until the actual work starts.”

Joel Pabon addressed the members of the police department who were at the meeting, “I don’t know who told you to come here on Monday, but I’m glad you did so you could here the discussions (regarding your

contract).” He then talked about PSEG’s slow response to getting lights fixed. “The only way the Rte. 35 bridge work started on is if something happens.” Pabon continued, “When talking about contracts, PILOTS should be part of the conversations and where the money is coming from.”

Milady Tejada said, “It’s unreasonable to give increases without having all of the information. We are making promises on things we can’t afford. I understand your position, but we have to look at each employee and the community. We have to balance everything. The police deserve a raise, but I can’t promise anything.”

William Petrick said, “The mayor and administration can’t give us answers we need until the end of the month. The city attorney who is doing the negotiations said he never experienced issues that came up in the final stages. He said he was in shock in what he saw. We have to certify the contract and are getting mixed messages. Home ownership in the city is only 28% and the rest are rentals to poor people. We (the council) all have emails and the employees can tell us how much their raises have been.”

The Raritan Bay Area YMCA Launches Counseling Services to Outreach Youth in the Community

An Interview with Lauren Capaci, Vice President of Social Responsibility

PERTH AMBOY – The Raritan Bay Area YMCA has recently initiated 3 programs to improve mental health services in the area. Heading these programs is Lauren Capaci, Vice President of Social Responsibility at the YMCA.

Raritan Bay Area YMCA President and CEO Steve Jobin stated the programs are a new direction of behavioral health and social/emotional learning. Jobin states the program stems from the Y’s Board of Directors to identify behavioral health issues and to provide resources to prevent local suicides. “The Y started to look into grants on how to build internal capacity with a team concept,” stated Jobin.

Capaci has 20 years of experience in mental health, children support care and family support. She was Vice President and Chief Operations Officer of the Mental Health Association in Morris County and the Executive Director of the Family Assistance Organization, a partner with the Children’s System of Care. “I love the Y. I fell in love with the culture. It’s inline with my personal values,” states Capaci.

The first program is the Families Fit Together initiative. It is grant funded through Middlesex County. The program helps families who have children dealing with problems which are identified by teachers (e.g. high absenteeism, problems in school, in-home conflict, etc.) and others. We get referrals from teachers and sometimes self-referrals. It is early intervention

program with a secondary preventative model and looks at the family unit. Younger children are provided with care at the Y in a safe environment. This helps to reduce barriers for participation. “We work in a holistic manner, serving the family unit as a whole,” states Capaci. The age group for this program is 11 years -16 years. “The program begins with a meal with the entire family, then we break up into groups. The program finishes up by bringing the parents and children back together to practice the newly introduced skills they have learned during that class”, Capaci explained. We look at what it means to be an effective parent. We teach, show, and then practice new skills. The facilitators model the new behavior/skill each week. Parents get homework that they are expected to implement at home. For participants who successfully complete the entire 14 weeks of the program, the Y provides a free family membership for 1 year. The program uses the evidenced based Strengthening Families curriculum and has contracted with Ms. Zeneida Council, LCSW, to provide clinical support to the facilitators. In addition, participants who need additional supports are connected to other local resources.

The second program is an evidenced based training called Youth Mental Health First Aid. It works with the National Council on Behavioral Health. This program was initiated because of the high rate of student suicides. “It’s an 8-hour

intensive training program on how to spot signs of mental health problems and developing behavioral health crises. You learn how to intervene and what questions to ask. It gives you the training necessary to be confident in knowing what to do and say in these situations. You learn what the warning signs of potential mental health issues are, while building overall capacity to address these issues in the community at large. We get calls from many segments of the community including the police and school personnel. These are the members of the population what have extensive interaction with our Youth and they want to get training to spot signs of troubled teens, Capaci explained.

The third initiative the Y is implementing is designed to address individual needs of children with mental health/behavioral health issues. “We are partnering with the State’s Children System of Care and have become approved providers of Intensive In-home Counseling (IIC) and Behavioral Assistant (BA) services. Families needing a high level of care can contact Perform Care, the State’s utilization management system and request assistance. Once evaluated and approved for these type of interventions, The Middlesex County Care Management agency can assign the YMCA to work with these families in these capacities. A licensed counselor helps the youth reach certain goals that have been agreed upon by their Family Team.



Capaci stresses that the Y is seeking to not only help with physical health but to incorporate good mental health as well. The typical age of onset for a psychiatric issue is 18 years-21years, however the ages between 14years-16years can be tumultuous as rapid change is taking place and is sometimes a traumatic period in the life of a youth. Capaci stated, “It’s important to break the stigma that persists around these issues which has been shown to be a barrier for seeking /accepting help. Recognizing that brain growth is as important as physical growth is a message they want to spread. Recent focus groups revealed that Teens are experiencing so much stress that they are turning to vaping as a way to deal with it. They need healthier options and outlets for discussion on how they are feeling says Capaci. The

Y is hoping their new efforts around mental health services will create a healthier Perth Amboy in general. She says this is only the beginning of the Ys efforts and they are looking to expand service options.

In addition, there is a list of related resources on the Y’s website and they are currently in the process of creating a fully interactive Behavioral Health resource page that users can go to for assistance in finding help and as well as staying up to date on issues affecting them.

The YMCA’s mission is to focus on the areas of healthy living, youth development, and social responsibility. By bringing these additional services to the community the Y is continuing its long tradition of providing a healthy, culturally competent (information and services are available in Spanish) place for all to turn to.

Women’s Health Initiative Gala Honors Area Women

Thursday, March 19, 2020, 6PM at Grand Marquis, 1550 Route 9 South, Old Bridge, NJ

Press Release 2/13/20
PERTH AMBOY - On March 24, 2020, the Women’s Health Initiative, a program of the JRMC, along with Aetna Better Health, will honor three Central New Jersey women for their commitment to community, and women’s health and wellness initiatives. The “Brazilian Carnival” themed Gala will be held at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge, NJ at 6:00pm.

The honorees at this year’s Gala are Middlesex County Sheriff, Mildred Scott of Piscataway for the Magnanimity Award; Perth Amboy Mayor’s Aide, Jeanette Rios of Perth Amboy for the Service Award; and JRMC Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Amit Saini of Edison for the Leadership Award.

The Women’s Health Initiative is a comprehensive health and wellness program that provides medical and behavioral health services to women who are primarily from underserved communities, and who may lack sufficient, if any health insurance. The Women’s Health Initiative was created in response to a desperate need for healthcare services within Central Jersey, especially breast cancer screenings through mammography.

The Gala is the 2nd annual fundraiser, with proceeds going toward the purchase of a 3-D mammogram machine; available to a population of women who would otherwise not have access to advanced screening for breast cancer. Early detection saves lives and the Women’s Health Initiative is dedicated to providing resources for all women, regardless of their ability to pay.

Tickets and Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Please contact Lisa Lucia at 732.376.6610 or Email to: llucia@jrmc.us

Bio: Jeanette Rios

Jeanette currently serves as the First Latina Mayor’s Aide to serve the Mayor of the City of Perth Amboy. In her role as the Mayor’s Aide, Jeanette has created a unity between the community and government. She uses her ability and expertise in problem solving and decision making to be creative and has expanded programing within the Mayor’s Office.

She was also the first Latina to serve as the Director of the Perth Amboy Parking Utility for 8 years.

Her passion for helping and educating children carried her fourth to achieving her dreams. Jeanette was accepted to the University of Puerto Rico where she specialized her studies on education, grades K-6 Language Arts and Pedagogy.

In 2000 Jeanette returned to her hometown of Perth Amboy to follow her dream of helping people and teaching children. She began working at the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development. There she held numerous positions including Program Coordinator to the “Escalar after School Program.”

With many sacrifices in 2010 Jeanette opened her first busi-

ness “All Stars Academy” A before and after school program that services children from the ages of 5-13. Quickly “All Stars Academy” gained a respectful reputation of expertise and professionalism. And with the help of her dedicated employees, all who reside in Perth Amboy, Jeanette was able to expand her center to three locations in Perth Amboy.

Throughout the years Jeanette has volunteered in many capacities. She served as a former Auxiliary Police Lieutenant for the Perth Amboy Police Department and as the former Vice-Chair of the Democratic Organization. Currently she serves as a Board Member of the Business Improvement District and a member of Pepino Social Club and Perth Amboy Jeep Club.

Jeanette has received many awards and recognitions throughout her career, including the 2009 Auxiliary Officer of the year and Chief Award, 2012 Community Service Award by the Knights of Columbus , 2016 Puertorriqueña Illustre Award , Entrepreneur Award by P.A.M.A and 2018 Vale la Pena award by the Boys Scouts of America.

Jeanette was born in the City of Perth Amboy, New Jersey. She is the middle child among her two sisters Ivette and Lizandra. At the age of five her parents Claudio and Olga Rios decided to move to San Sebastian Puerto Rico.

One of Jeanette’s biggest blessings is being a Mom to her two amazing sons, Jeremy and Devyn and a loving wife to Luis “Ricky” Vega

Jeanette is very spiritual and gives God all the Glory for her blessings and success throughout the years.

Bio: Mildred Scott

On January 1, 2011, Mildred S. Scott was sworn in as the Sheriff of Middlesex County. She is the first female Sheriff for the county of Middlesex and the first African American Sheriff in the state of New Jersey. In 1968, she started off as one of the first females to graduate the county Police Academy to then be sworn in as Sheriff’s Officer, then becoming Sergeant, Lieutenant and Chief Warrant Officer until she was made Chief Sheriff Officer in 1991, the first female to serve as the highest law enforcement officer in Middlesex County. During her long career at the Sheriff’s Department she supervised all Sheriff’s Officers, oversaw all courthouse security, instituted fingerprinting programs in schools, established a senior citizen home security program and coordinated prisoner transport services with twenty-five municipalities within Middlesex County.

Mildred retired from the Middlesex County Sheriff’s Department in 1995. She was elected as Piscataway’s Councilwoman in 1996 and served until 2008. In 2008 elected Middlesex County Freeholder, serving as the Chair of the Committee of Law and Public Safety from

2009-2010, until she assumed her current position as Sheriff. She was re-elected as Sheriff of Middlesex County for her 4th term in November of 2019.

As Sheriff, Mildred has made significant improvements to the management of the Sheriff’s Office including undertaking the first accreditation process in the history of the Middlesex County Sheriff’s Office. This review is a rigorous analysis of the organization’s policies and procedures which leads to the prestigious New Jersey Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Accreditation. Only 10 other Sheriff’s Offices in New Jersey have achieved this prestigious designation

During her term, Sheriff Scott has made substantial changes to the personnel structure of the Sheriff’s Office and has implemented major improvements in technology. Other significant achievements include: major advances in the security of the courthouses and satellite offices including upgrades to and installation of additional security cameras; establishment of the Joint Fugitive Task Force in partnership with the Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office; addition and training of a narcotics dog; increased training for sworn personnel and administrative staff; and implementation of the first ever Sheriff’s Civilian Academy. In 2017 The Explorer’s Program and The D.A.R.E. Program have been implemented. In addition, to those programs Sheriff Scott announced the first ever D.A.R.E./ Jr. Academy on July 2018.

She is a Gold Life Member of the Policeman’s Benevolent Association, who has received the following awards: Perth Amboy Hall of Fame in 2008, NAACP Award for Outstanding Service, and has served on the Executive Board of the Constitutional Officers Association of New Jersey. In 2013, Sheriff Scott was selected as the Middlesex County 200 Club Honoree. In 2017, Sheriff Scott received the Law Enforcement Humanitarian Award from The American Conference on Diversity. On June 14, 2018, she was elected Chairperson of the Middlesex County Democratic Organization Black Caucus. The Supreme Court has reappointed Sheriff Scott to the 2018-2020 Supreme Court Committee on Court Security.

Mildred and her husband Richard have three children and seven grandchildren.

Bio: Amit Saini MD

- Have been with JRMC for 13 years
- Working as CMO since 6/2018
- Experience and previously held positions
- Born and raised in India
- Went to Medical School in India
- Got married and moved to Pittsburgh, PA | Now living in Edison with her husband
- Post graduate training in internal medical at RBMC (now Hackensack Meridian)



Mayor's Aide
Jeanette Rios



Sheriff Mildred Scott

- Started private practice
- Along practice held many other positions
 - o Medical Director "SSS Unit" (Acute Inpatient Alcohol Detox Unit) at RBMC
 - o Medical Director "Bay Harbor" (Inpatient Drug Rehab Unit) at RBMC
 - o Employee health physician RBMC 10+ years
 - o Preceptor teaching Internal Medicine Residents at RBMC 10+ years
 - o "Attending of the Year" Award by RBMC Internal Medicine

Residents Class of 2007

- o Medical Director "Homeside Hospice" 12 years

Very passionate about Medicine and Patient Care

- Admitting privileges at RBMC, JFK and Old Bridge Hospital

*"Absolutely love working at this Medical Center"*Married with 2 children; one boy, one girlHobbies

- Interior Decorating
- Gardening
- Shopping

Demolition of the Copper Works Site

**Photos by John K. Dyke*



The demolition of the historic Copper Works Office. This structure dated to the Victorian era.

Palm Cross Sale

SOUTH AMBOY - Sacred Heart Rosary Society will be selling Palm Crosses on the weekends of March 21st-22nd and 28th-29th in front of Memorial Hall across from Sacred Heart Church, 531 Washington Ave., South Amboy before and after all masses. The price is \$8.00 for one and \$15.00 for two.

A.C. Bus Trip San Salvador Seniors

PERTH AMBOY - The San Salvador Seniors are sponsoring a bus trip to Caesar's Casino in AC on Thursday, Mar. 5, 2020. Bus leaves 12 Noon. Bus will depart from behind St. Stephens Church parking lot on Mechanic Street, Perth Amboy. Cost 30 pp. Receive \$30 back in slot play. For more info call Joe at 732-826-0819.

A.C. Bus Trip Holy Rosary Seniors

HOPELAWN - The Holy Rosary Seniors sponsoring a bus trip to Golden Nugget Thursday morning 3/12/2020. Cost is \$30 with \$25 back in play and \$5 food voucher. Bus leaves Church parking lot at 10:00 am. Any questions please call Ronnie at 732-442-5252.

Fish & Chicken Fry

SAYREVILLE - The First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville, 172 Main St., Sayreville will be having a Fish and Chicken Fry on Friday, March 13, 2020. Tickets are \$15.00 in advance and there are limited tickets available at the door. Chicken is available by advance order only. Take-outs will begin at 5:00 and dining room seating will be from 5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. For tickets please call 732-257-6353 or e-mail us at churchoffice172@optimum.net.

George Washington Visits New Jersey

WOODBIDGE - The Historical Association of Woodbridge Township Presents: George Washington Visits New Jersey on Monday, February 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall First Presbyterian Church, 600 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge.

David Emerson of History on the Hoof portrays George Washington emphasizing his leadership and activities at the New Jersey battles and encampments during the American Revolution. Mr. Emerson has appeared as George Washington in the 225th and 235th Anniversary events of the American Revolution including the "The Retreat Across the New Jerseys," the battles of Trenton and Princeton, "The Road to Monmouth" and the encampments at Morristown and Middle Brook.

For further information contact Brenda Velasco, Township Historian: Text 732-428-2403.



All Seasons Chamber Players

WOODBIDGE - All Seasons Chamber Players, Friday, February 21, 2020. Start time is 8 p.m. Now in their 31st year at the Barron Arts Center, ASCP will perform with their Flemish harpsichord in combination with flutes and strings for a program of music from the 18th century to present. Always a full house! Make your reservations now! For more info call (732)634-0413. Barron Arts Center, 582 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge, NJ 07095. FREE with suggested donation of \$5.00.



Mardi Gras Celebration

SOUTH AMBOY - The South Amboy Elks 784, 601 Washington Ave., invite all to join us for a Mardi Gras Celebration featuring the Noisy Neighbor Band, Saturday February 29, 2020 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. \$25 donation per person. Your ticket includes food and select beverages. Ask about our cooler raffle. For more information, call 732-727-7170.



St. Patrick's Day Dinner

SAYREVILLE - There will be a St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner at Sayreville United Methodist Church, 406 Main Street, NJ on Saturday, March 14, 2020, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The cost is Adults: \$12.00, Seniors/Students/Children 6-12: \$8.00, Children 5 and under - Free dinner of Spaghetti & Meatballs.

Dinner includes: Corned Beef or Spaghetti & Meatballs, Boiled Cabbage & Carrots, Boiled Potatoes, Rye Bread or Roll, Beverage and Dessert.

Take out available.

For questions or reservations, please contact Winsome Melvin (732)432-9072.



Spaghetti Dinner & Tricky Tray

WOODBIDGE - The Historical Association of Woodbridge Township is hosting their annual Spaghetti Dinner & Tricky Tray on Friday, February 21, at the Woodbridge Elks from 5-7pm. The Woodbridge Elks is located at 665 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge. Adults: \$15. Children: \$10. Contact: HAWT-WTP@GMAIL.COM or visit the website to purchase dinner tickets online WWW.WOODBRIDGETOWNSHIPHISTORY.ORG Tickets also will be available at the door.

Veteran's Dinner & Tricky Tray

SOUTH AMBOY - The South Amboy Elks Veterans Dinner & Tricky Tray will be on Sunday, February 23rd from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The menu consists of: Roast Pork Loin, Mashed Potato, Vegetable, Cranberry Sauce, Dessert, Coffee, and Tea. Tickets Available in Advance for \$15.00. For more information, call 732-727-7170.

Tricky Tray/ Gift Auction

PERTH AMBOY - Hey Y'all... Come on down and see us at this year's "SPRINGTIME IN THE SOUTH" Gift Auction sponsored by the St. Ann Society of Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church on Sunday March 8, 2020. The auction will be held in the Assumption Catholic School Auditorium, 370 Meredith St, Perth Amboy, NJ. Doors open at 12:00 pm and the Auction starts at 2:00 PM. Admission is \$10. There will be 4 levels of wonderful prizes as well as other special raffles including a Designer Bag Raffle, Gift Card Extravaganza, It's Your Lucky Day, \$500 Visa Gift Card, Money Raffle and a GRAND PRIZE of a Caribbean vacation for 2. Complimentary cake and coffee to all. The Kitchen, sponsored by the men of the Holy Name Society, will be open for lunch, serving delicious foods like, cabbage and noodles, kielbasa and kraut, southern specialties and much more.... Please Note... No Outside Food or Beverage is to be brought in. Tickets are available in advance from any St Ann's member or at the door the day of the auction. Children are welcome but may not participate in items with money or alcohol and must purchase an admission ticket. For more information you can call the rectory at 732-826-0767. Looking forward to seeing Y.all!

Lecture: Musicals for Lovers

WOODBIDGE - The Dr. Stephen Kaplan "A Taste of the Arts" Lecture Series: Musical for Lovers on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020. Start time is at 7:30 p.m. When words are not enough to express the deepest emotions of love, there is song, and when love still cannot be contained, there is bursting out with dance. Fall in love with the likes of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rodgers, Nelson Eddy and Jeanette McDonald, and Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney. This is a lecture for anyone who has been in love or anyone in love with musicals. Presented by Film Historians Sam & Candy Caponegro Reservations Essential. Call (732)634-0413. Barron Arts Center, 582 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge, NJ 07095. FREE with suggested donation.

Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library Meeting

PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library are having a meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 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.



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 winter is as follows: Saturday, February 22, March 14 and 28. Paperbacks are \$.50, hardcovers are \$1, \$5 for a bag full, no limit to size of bag except no lawn or garbage bags. If you make a purchase or a donation, Friends resident artist Luis Rosario will draw you a caricature as a sign of appreciation for your support. 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, or call us at 201-381-1903 and like us on Facebook. Dealers are welcome. You can also check out our website, www.folperthamboy.com as we have added a donor button.

Pirohi Sale

PERTH AMBOY - St. John The Baptist Orthodox Church will be holding their Pirohi Sale. Please call your order in from March 9th thru 11th, 2020 to 732-826-7067 between 9 a.m. and 12 noon. Please call early so that you will not be closed out. Orders may be picked up on March 17th & 18th, 2020, at 404 Division Street, Perth Amboy, NJ after 2:30 p.m.

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. 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

South Amboy Community Blood Drive

SOUTH AMBOY - It's National Heart Month and it's a reminder that blood donors are needed to help these patients. Patients undergoing heart surgery or who have heart attacks or other heart problems often receive blood transfusions. Please help us make sure that patients can get the needed blood. Help us get the word out about this upcoming community blood drive and support local patients! - Sun. Feb. 16 from 8:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. at St. Mary's Church cafeteria, 310 Augusta St. (Stevens & Augusta Streets), So. Amboy.

To schedule an appointment: call 800-933-2566. You can also call Sue at 732-433-5962. Homemade goodies for donors!

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

Butting Heads

2/12/20 Council Meeting

**Continued from Page 1*

body to be transparent. The next time you have a resolution regarding the budget, such as R-47-2/20 – (Authorizing emergency temporary appropriations to extend the CY 2020 temporary budget in the amount of \$26,165), that more information be provided.

When it came time to vote, on the Ordinances (first reading) No. 1 (FOP) – Moved by Irizarry, seconded by Pabon. Irizarry and Tejeda voted “No.” Everyone else voted “Yes” Motion passed.

No. 2. (Non-union and management) – moved by Irizarry, seconded by Tejeda. Pabon, Tejeda, and Petrick voted “No”. Motion failed to pass.

No. 3 – (PBA) moved by Irizarry, seconded by Pabon. Caba, Irizarry, Tejeda, Petrick vote “No”. Pabon voted “Yes” motion failed to pass.

After that vote, many members of the public, including a large amount of police officers and some teachers left the meeting and many shouted out, “We won’t forget this,” in disapproval.

Councilman Helmin Caba then tried to explain the reason for his “No” vote, but many officers didn’t want to hear it and continued voicing their disapproval. Caba said, “It’s not fair to the PBA, Fire Department, DPW, city council and the taxpayers. The mayor needs to justify the titles, the raises, and promotions that she gave. This is very important, and she is using you (the unions) as pawns.” No. 4 (Dissolving PARA) – moved by Irizarry, seconded by Tejeda. Irizarry voted “No”. Everyone else voted “Yes”. Motion passed.

No.5, No. 6, No.7 all passed unanimously.

For the consent agenda, R-46-2/20 thru R-58-2/20 and R-61-2/20 thru R-67-2/20 was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Pabon. R-47 was pulled to be voted on separately. R-47 was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Caba. Tejeda, Petrick, Pabon, and Irizarry voted “No”. Caba voted “Yes”.

Earlier Business Administrator Carr explained what the \$26,165 emergency money was budgeted for. “\$10,000 for human services for code blue; \$3,000 for the registrar (vital statistics); \$8,500 for office of aging activities. We calculate 25% of the last budget for certain up-front payments.”

Public Portion:

PA-AFT President Pat Paradiso read a statement explaining that the teachers have not have their contract renewed and are still working under the 2017 contract. Due to the circumstances, a large number of teachers and staff have left the district or retired early. “More are leaving in the next few weeks.” She also explained that teachers and staff go beyond their expected duties. “Many are working extra jobs to make ends meet.”

PA-AFT District Rep Donna

Tartza came up to speak for the employees, many of who were afraid to speak out, “The magazine that the district publishes makes it look like everything is okay. We’ve had a salary freeze for two years, yet the Board of Education extended the Superintendent’s contract and gave raises to the office staff. We are asking the residents and taxpayers to reach out in our support.”

Joel Pabon spoke up regarding R-59 - Requesting \$66,073.06 for a police vehicle, and R-60 – which is purchasing a Chevron 10 Series Roll Back Loader for the police department in the amount of \$29,761.90.

“I’d rather see them spend it on other police equipment.”

B.A. Carr explained, “This money is from the 2019 Capital Budget approved by the council. This is not from salaries and the council can change the resolution to be spent on some other expenses.”

A resident from Smith Street came up to support the police. “I am a businessman and I pay a lot of taxes. We need to see where the money goes. I only see the police presence and the city is dirty.”

PBA President Daniel Gonzalez came up next. He thanked Councilman Joel Pabon for having a backbone. “Mr. Irizarry voted for one union and not another.” He then addressed the other council members, “You have no backbone. Our police have second and third jobs. Landlords ask for a 4% increase on their rents. We (the police) take home less than the average person and we try to help everybody out. We get less than the cost of living raises. We have to retrain officers. We get spit on and have to apply Narcan to those who overdose. The administration doesn’t care. All of you guys are ridiculous. A 2.5% increase is pathetic.”

Ken Balut came up to speak. “You voted for a person getting a \$12,000 raise. There were 3 people in the administration who got raises: Jill Goldy, Jeanette Rios, and Irving Lozada.”

King cautioned Balut, “You are creating problems that are uncalled for.”

Balut continued, “\$160,000 is not going to cost that much. These guys (the police) negotiated in good faith. It’s going to cost you more in legal fees.” He then brought up two cases that are costing the city almost \$400,000 in attorney fees. “You don’t want the mayor to testify in sexual harassment cases. You don’t get a list how many times the police save a life. The bosses get all the raises. The FOP got the contract, but not the PBA.”

Resident Alan Silber came up next. “I don’t see an endgame. I don’t hear anybody say it’s a good or lousy contract.”

Council President William Petrick responded, “The arbitrator will have to settle the contract.”

Silber then questioned, “Maybe the council is being setup?”

Petrick stated, “Maybe.”

Silber then requested rescinding waivers. “We haven’t had a

library director for over a year. Some of the council members have their been in their seats for 10 years.”

Petrick stated he’s been on the council for 10 years and Pabon stated he has been a councilman 8 years.

Silber stated, “I don’t think you (the two councilmen) ever voted “No” on a residency requirement. Our we ADA accessible? How much money has been spent on library renovations? You have to be doing stuff. The Board of Education Member that came to speak out also spoke at he Board of Education Meetings.” Silber then made a reference to those who spoke at prior meetings regarding the hiring of a new library director and their qualifications. “You can’t OPRA a resume until they get the job. Until then, it’s a private matter.”

PBA President Daniel Gonzalez came up. “The mayor didn’t split us. You guys (the council) did. 4 out of 5 (council members) don’t care about the first responders. Renters are not paying property taxes. We are spat on and called obscenities. After I receive my pay, and pay my monthly expenses, I am left with \$1,000. Can you survive on that? You voted (on resolutions) for tow trucks that are not needed. That money can be spent on buying rifles. Thank you Councilman Pabon (for standing up for us). I hope the rest of you lose your seats.”

Luis Cruz came up next. “In 2004, I relocated to South Carolina. Things are done differently, there. Everything (in Perth Amboy) is being patched up. Educators and cops are neglected. We have no clue what we’re doing. Most of my family members are educators. My wife is an educator and works 3 jobs because of costs going up. She also has a double Masters, and can be working on Wall Street, but she loves the kids. After the election, maybe we can find a way to come together (to support the police, educators, and other first responders). Take care of each other and come together.”

Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe came up. “I called the ADA about suing the library, but because they have a delivery service, it saved them.” She asked if she could have an update on the library renovations and a search for a new library director. “I’m talking as a private citizen, and I care for the firefighters and police officers. My niece’s father works for the police department and it’s hard for him to work there. My dad worked there, and the police helped him personally. I support the police. What measures will be put in place to make sure this never happens again (their signed contract not accepted)?”

Stanley Sierakowski came up next. “Who sponsored Ordinance No. 1 for the FOP and Ordinance No. 3 for the PBA?”

Councilman Bill Petrick answered, “I asked for them to be put on because I wanted to move the process forward.”

Sierakowski then mentioned

the 3 lawsuits: R-63, R-64, and R-65 involving the Mayor against the council.

Law Director King stated, “These are old negotiations.”

Sierakowski then brought up again the PILOT for PHILOTIMO Housing Development Urban Renewal Corporation. He compared it to a PILOT for a residential property. “If I own a condo in that development, I will pay taxes on it and not the association. It’s required by law. PILOT vs. No PILOT. How is it benefiting and not benefiting the council? The mayor got a 5-year PILOT on her home. The first 2 PILOTS that the city negotiated were for 25-30 years. How much was it that they got?”

The next speaker was the PBA Secretary. He reported that so far there have been 3 shootings in town. “Recently, we lost officers either through leaving for positions in other towns, retirement, and one who is suffering with PTSD. In 2006, the starting salary for an officer was \$27,000 and now, it’s \$33,000 in 2020. So far, there’s two more officers that left and there’s four more pending.”

Jeremy Baratta came up. He named the salaries of four employees: CFO/Comptroller Jill Goldy - \$130,000; Mayor Wilda Diaz - \$100,000; Law Director Peter King - \$200,000; Mayor’s Aide Jeanette Rios - \$88,000. “You’re looking at \$550,000 which includes benefits. Does anyone know what would be 2.5% of that total?” The council, Law Director, or B.A. did not respond. Barrata continued, “It’s hidden somewhere in Wilda’s budget. The Business Administrator, Law Director, nor the council have any clue what the numbers should be.”

Council Comments:

Helmin Caba stated, “As a union member, our firefighters settle for 1.5%. Our DPW will get under 1.5%. The CFO and the B.A. did not give us the answers we were looking for. “I’m disappointed at Councilman Pabon. We (the council) had agreed about this beforehand (Ordinance No. 3). You (Pabon) were pandering to the PBA. You have to represent the whole community. I went to school and with many members from the PBA and some of my family and friends are members. We would have had to increase the taxes by 5%. You (the police) deserve the 2.5% increase. All of the outrageous spending means you will not get raises. A lot of politics is being played. The fire department and DPW will also ask for a 2.5% increase. Raises were given by the mayor to non-union members. I am asking property owners and renters how we can afford everything that the administration wants to give out.”

Fernando Irizarry explained why he voted “Yes” on Ordinance No. 2 (re: non-union and management).

“There were only two changes: on the title and salary guide. There were no increases, and only a stipend for a firefighter. Comments made about me will not define me. I followed my conscience and did what was right for the city.”

Joel Pabon said, “I have been the most outspoken and I sleep well at night. I’m glad people were here to see our discussions. We were told the money was there to pay the increases. The money has to be there. The same person who said the money wasn’t there then said the money was there. How can you vote (to give increases for supervisors) and not for the others?” He then asked for an update for a start date to work begin on the Second Street Park.

B.A. Carr responded, “I’ll have to get back to you.”

Pabon continued, “The tow truck contract needs to be looked at so it could be done.” Pabon then asked Carr if the Veteran’s Memorial Resolution been drafted.

Carr explained that the guidelines are on his desk.

Pabon then questioned about bikes that are under some employee’s desks.

Carr explained that it was the little pedal bikes and two were free.

Pabon finished by commenting, “We have been going through this bad blood (between the mayor and the council) but it wasn’t within the council, but now there is.”

Milady Tejeda said, “When I got elected, I took those who elected me very seriously. There was no money for this contract. Everything is a fight (no decisions made before the contract). I can’t vote for something I can’t see. \$33,000 starting pay for a beginner (police officer) is ridiculous. It’s not only for the police, but for all. I go home and sleep well.”

Bill Petrick thanked everyone who came and voiced their opinion. “There has been different opinions and information given out. In closed session, we were told that there wasn’t any money for the contract as written. The CFO told us there was money because of attrition in the police department (retirements). We have to look at all contracts and how it will affect all residents. People have taken the easy way out which has made our city unsafe. We have to live within our means. The contract was voted down tonight and the PBA and city’s lawyers will have to go back to the arbitrator. The arbitrator will make a decision for us to vote on. There were two different outlooks: one that was discussed in closed session and the other one discussed in the open public session.”

Attend Public Meetings
Have Your Voice Heard!

Grand Marshal A.K.A. Leprechaun, Mrs. Claus, Queen Isabella

American Irish Recognize Their Community Servants

Press Release: By Ken Gardner, Publicity Chair, Woodbridge American Irish Assn.

WOODBIDGE - Claire Curran-Miloscia is this year's Grand Marshal. While you will clearly recognize her leading the parade this year with family & friends of Irish Heritage – You might have needed a second look to spot her at previous parades and public events. Claire has worn many hats (& costumes) to help Woodbridge Township celebrate events all year long.

In our parade you may have seen her as a Leprechaun. On Columbus Day as Queen Isabella & in the Holiday Parade & activities as Mrs. Claus..... & she doesn't stop there. She was the Queen of her Port Reading Red Hatter's, President of the Woodbridge High School Band Parents Association & a Charter Member and Past President of Don Bosco Columbiettes in Port Reading where she is currently serving as Financial Secretary. She is also a Eucharistic Minister at St. Anthony of Padua Church. Claire served as President & Director of the Woodbridge American Irish Association and leads the Justin McCarthy Scholastic Award Committee. As a member of the Sewaren Senior Citizens she's traveled to Casinos and the Irish Weekends in Wildwood.

Claire joined the working class right out of High School, as a Secretary for Marine Transport Lines in New York City. She retired in June 2017 from Fords Middle School. Her parents were Joseph and Lauretta (Donovan) Michels. Her 1st husband Barney Curran passed away. His father was born and raised in County Cavin. In 1989 Claire had the opportunity and pleasure to visit Barney's family in Ireland. Claire and Barney raised four children, Brian, Colleen (Barcellona), Kevin and Susan. She is now frequently seen in costume with her husband & partner Larry Miloscia. She gained three stepchildren, Frank, Larry Jr and Rosann Miloscia. She is proud to have seven grandchildren, Amy Barcellona, Karen Peregrine, Michael Barcellona, Jennifer, James, Sean and Maura Curran, and four step grand-children, Beth, Jennifer, LJ and Frank Miloscia. She is especially proud to be a great-grandmother of Mackenzie & Payton Wendel, Vienna Barcellona, Kaila & Kara Buirke, Isabella & Gabriella Peregrine, Declan & Tyler Curran. It should be obvious Claire is a very active lady - wherever there's a party - she's there!

Barbara Lasek is this year's Irish Woman of the Year. Barbara has served as President & Director of our Assn. She has been involved in almost every endeavor the club has. She Chairs the Boscov's Charity Night & developed our relationship with Wreaths Across America where wreaths are placed on Veterans graves at Christmas. Barbara is also on the Scholastic Award Committee and represented

our association by speaking in a video accepting the Frank G Pelzman Community Service Award.

Barbara is a member of Don Bosco Columbiettes for 39 years. She has served the Columbiettes on every level and currently holds the Office of President of her Auxiliary; she also served as South East Chapter President & was elected twice as New Jersey State President. She also served the Supreme Council Columbiettes as a Supreme Director for 6 years & currently serves as a District Deputy for New Jersey State Council as well as a Territorial Deputy to Wisconsin for the Supreme Council. She is a Eucharist Minister & serves the homebound for St. Anthony of Padua Church. She is married to William, has a son William, a Daughter –in –law Jennifer and one beautiful and energetic granddaughter Lilyanna. Barbara graduated from Woodbridge High School in 1973 and Middlesex County College in 1978 with an Associate's Degree in Business Management.

Terence Patrick Sharkey, our Irish Man of the Year, resides in Colonia and is a life long resident of Woodbridge Township. As a member of our Association Terry has been active in Coin Collecting, Tooling Around Town, Charlie Shaughnessy Park Clean-up, Veteran activities, and organizing road marshals for the Parade.

Terry is Chairman of the Mayor's Advisory Committee since 1998 & is a long-time member of the Township Planning Board (Vice Chair). He was the recipient of the Woodbridge Township 350th Sesquicentennial Anniversary "Key to the Township Award" that recognized Woodbridge Township citizens who embody the best qualities of leadership, public service, and civic involvement. Terry was named Citizen-Of- the-Year by the Woodbridge Elks Lodge #2116 and the Elks District Americanism Committee for Community Involvement and Service & was Grand Marshal of the 2015 Woodbridge Christmas Parade. He and his wife Peggy have been married 47 years. They have two married sons, Brian and Kevin; daughters-in-law Shannon and Nicole; and 5 grandchildren, Jack, Maeve, Owen, Clementine, and Daisy. Terry has an undergraduate degree from Montclair State College and a graduate degree from St. John's University. He retired after 41 years with the U.S. Dept. of HHS, Office of Inspector General.

Grace Fischer is our Miss American Irish. She is a senior at Roselle Catholic HS with a career GPA of 3.7 in her honors / AP classes. Grace is a member of Student Council, the National Honor Society, Glee Club, Drama Club, Peer Leadership Program, Retreat Team and Campus Ministry as well as manager of the boys' volleyball team. Grace is also a 4 yr member of RC's girls' volleyball



(L to R) President Deborah Hutchinson, Parade Vice Chair Jim McFadden, Parade Chairwoman Maureen Kelly-Jurgens, Grand Marshal Claire Miloscia, Irish Lady of the Year Barbara Lasek, Irishman of the Year Terry Sharkey, Miss American Irish Grace Fischer & Lady in Waiting Erin Sinatra.

**Photo Submitted*

team & she recently earned the 1,000th dig of her Varsity career and received the honor of being named RC's 2-time MVP for girls' volleyball, as well as making the first team all-division and third team all-county for the second straight year. Grace remains devoted to helping her church and community. She is a lector at St James the Apostle Church & volunteers nightly at the annual parish festival and helps sort food drives for the hungry as well as prepare / serve meals to the homeless. Grace is reviewing acceptances from several universities & will major in business.

Erin Sinatra is a senior at JFK Memorial HS. Activities include the National Honor Society, Key Club, American Cancer Society, Heroes & Cool Kids & has participated in production of Peter Pan. She is a 4-year starting Varsity softball pitcher, MVP & has stuck out over 2 hundred batters. She volunteered to train the Iselin MS

softball team & in her Junior year was the starting right-back for the Varsity soccer team. Erin is an Altar Server at Saint Andrew's, helps make centerpieces for their Thanksgiving Dinner, bakes cakes for Bingo Night & collects food for St James Food Pantry. Erin also has made blankets for the animal shelter, Walks for Breast Cancer, Op Christmas Child, Breakfast with Santa, making cards for Vets & JFK's Project Graduation Gift Auction. For our Assn she is a Parade Marshal & worked at the Joe Ward Pancake Breakfast.

The Woodbridge American Irish Association addresses the social concerns of the community while keeping its Irish heritage alive. We meet monthly, help our neighbors in need, sponsor the Justin McCarthy Scholastic Award, maintain the Charlie Shaughnessy Park, visit our Menlo Park Veterans Home, tool around town etc.

We are most known for organizing the St. Patrick's Day Pa-

rade. Our Parade Chairwoman is Maureen Kelly-Jurgens. Maureen & her husband Daniel have 2 children Danielle & Casey, a son-in-law Denis Lipari & two grandchildren Violet & Milo who are the light of Maureen's life. "I hope everyone comes out to celebrate with us along the parade route. Remember everyone is Irish at the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Wishin' you a pot o' gold ... And all the joy your heart can hold", said the Chairwoman.

The parade is funded with ads from local businesses & donations. To support the parade by donating or to participate please go to Amerirish.com. Like us on Facebook at American Irish Association of Woodbridge.

This year's parade is March 8th at 1:30 p.m. It steps off at Woodbridge High School. Proceeds down Freeman St. to Linden Ave to Green St to Amboy Ave to Main St & ends at Town Hall.

Woodbridge Township, NJ Woodbridge Main Library to Host Free Workshops Using Resources from Grow with Google

WOODBIDGE - The Woodbridge Public Library is partnering with Grow with Google to help our small business community with a series of workshops in March 2020:

- **Get Your Business Online** - March 16, 2020, Main Library, 1 George Frederick Plaza, Woodbridge, NJ 07095. 7:00 p.m to 8:30 p.m. Learn about Google My Business, a free tool for local businesses who want to connect with customers on Google Search and Maps. Get hands-on help creating or updating your business profile or a simple website. Register online at <https://bit.ly/38ea8NG>
- **Reach Customers Online with Google** - March 17, 2020, Iselin Branch Library, 1081 Green St., Iselin, NJ 08830. 7:00 p.m to 8:30 p.m. Learn how customers find your business online and how to

promote your business using Search Engine Optimization (SEO) and Smart Campaigns in Google Ads.

Register online at <https://bit.ly/38hczY>

- **Using Data to Drive Business Growth** - Henry Inman Branch Library, 607 Inman Ave., Colonia, NJ 07067. 7:00 p.m to 8:30 p.m.

Learn best practices and analyze trends about how customers engage with your business online, then turn these insights into well-informed, actionable decisions. Register online at <https://bit.ly/2SyrLkx>

- **Use YouTube to Grow Your Business** - Fords Branch Library, 211 Ford Ave., Fords, NJ 08863. 7:00 p.m to 8:30 p.m.

Get best practices for creating a YouTube Channel and compelling video content that promotes your products and services and drives engagement with your brand. Register online at <https://>

bit.ly/2OG6PXS

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South Amboy Saint Patrick’s Day Parade Committee Announces 2020 Parade Honorees

Press Release 2/10/20
SOUTH AMBOY - 2020 marks the 44th annual South Amboy Saint Patrick’s Day Parade set to begin at 2 pm on Sunday, March 15. It is one of the biggest events in in the city of South Amboy and has become one of the largest parades in the State of New Jersey featuring more than 23 bands and over 2,000 marchers. Marchers will begin line-up at 1 pm on South Pine Avenue.

Due to road construction on Main Street, the parade route has been changed and marchers will move down Second Street to avoid the construction area. Residents are advised that roads may be closed as early as 11am on parade day.

This year’s parade is dedicated to South Amboy native, Ron Sturgis, one of the original Co-Chairman of the Parade Committee. Sadly, we lost Ron in January of this year. Ron was a friend to all and through his leadership, hard work and enthusiasm the South Amboy St. Patrick’s Day Parade continues to become bigger and better. Ron will be greatly missed by all but we take comfort in knowing that he will be smiling down upon the City on parade day.

The parade will provide spec-

tators with a multi-cultural array of entertainment including various pipe and drum bands, the sounds of Salsa music, a traditional Chinese folklore Waist Drum Team, and the Uptown String Band bringing the color, excitement and grandeur of the Philadelphia Mummers to our city.

Spectators are encouraged to bring non-perishable canned or boxed food items to donate to the less fortunate. Donation bins will be located at City Hall and near the Grandstand on Parade Day.

Parade honorees are all individuals who have a history of volunteerism and service to the city and residents of South Amboy.

Serving as Grand Marshals of the 2020 parade will be Tim and Karen Woziak, lifelong resident of South Amboy have a 20 plus year history of volunteering for various organizations throughout the city. Mr. Woziak, in addition to his position as a volunteer fire fighter with the South Amboy Fire Department, he also serves as a member of the South Amboy First Aid Squad. Mrs. Woziak, is also a member of the South Amboy First Aid Squad and along with her husband has been active in South Amboy’s youth baseball,

softball, football and basketball programs.

Dennis Kelly, President of APG Security, has been named Honorary Grand Marshal and joins his brother Brian, mother and father as individuals recognized and honored by the South Amboy Saint Patrick’s Day Parade Committee. Dennis has a 30 years history of contributions and philanthropy to various local, county and state civic groups.

Hoffman High School graduate and South Amboy resident Larry Parsons will serve as Deputy Grand Marshall. A member of the Protection Engine Company #1 since 1973, Larry is also a retired member of the South Amboy First Aid Squad and active in many civic organizations that benefit the residents of South Amboy.

In addition, Karen Robson, Director of Operations, South Amboy YMCA Branch and Mary Szaro, President of the South Amboy Historical Society will be recognized as Special Honored Guests for their contributions to the City of South Amboy on parade day.

For detail information on all St. Patrick’s Day events and additional parade details please visit our web site at www.south-amboyparade.com.

Pet of the Week



Tank, for Joe, Love Krissy & Hector

Have a Special Pet?
E-mail us your Pet Photos to Amboy-Guardian@gmail.com with Pet of the Week in the Subject line and explain why your pet is special. Please include Name and Phone# for verification.

Vendors Wanted

SAYREVILLE - We are looking for vendors for the annual Flea Market at the First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville. Our Flea Market will be held on June 6, 2020. The time is 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. We are located at 172 Main Street, Sayreville-directly across from the Borough Hall. Spaces are available for \$15.00 for one space, \$25.00 for two. There are a limited number of tables to rent for an additional \$5.00. No food vendors please. For information please leave a message on the church answering machine at 732-257-6353 or e-mail us at churchoffice172@optimum.net.

Coffee with CASA

Information Sessions in January

MILLTOWN/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 Bar:** 350 Ryders Lane, Milltown, NJ 08850, Wednesday, February 19th from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
•**Fiddleheads New American Bistro:** 27 East Railroad Avenue (Rte. 522) Jamesburg, NJ 08831, Saturday, February 22nd - 10.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.
RSVP to Nora Siklosi Szabo, at nora@casaoftmiddlesexcounty.org For more information: <http://www.casaoftmiddlesexcounty.org/events>

Tom's Tax Tips

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

Do You Need A Safe Deposit Box?

Though you may have thought bank safe deposit boxes no longer existed, these secure containers are still around, and can be useful for storing difficult to replace items, such as deeds, contracts, and your home inventory. Should you have one? Here's what to consider.
Peace of mind. Knowing that key original documents are in a secure offsite location can be worth the nominal fee of box rental. As an added benefit, the fees associated with renting a safe deposit box at a bank qualify as an itemized deduction if the items stored in the box generate taxable income, such as bonds and stocks. If you only store jewelry or personal items, you generally can't deduct the fee for taxes. However, since box leases typically range from \$15-75 per year, being unable able to claim a deduction may not affect your decision.

What to store. Birth certificates, vehicle titles, property deeds, and divorce papers are good candidates for safe deposit box storage. Other items typically stored in safe deposit boxes include family heirlooms, digital images, computer backups, and jewelry.

Limited access. You will only have access to the contents of your box during bank hours. Anything you might need to retrieve quickly, such as your passport or a power of attorney, is best stored elsewhere. In addition, after your death, your heirs may not be able to get into your box immediately without court approval.

Physical damage. Although boxes are safe, bank vaults are no more immune to fire, flood, or natural disasters than your own home. Theft is also a consideration.

Insurance. Items stored in your safe deposit box are generally not insured for loss or damage, though you can purchase your own insurance. That's true even if you store cash in the box. The federal deposit insurance that protects your bank accounts does not extend to the contents of safe deposit boxes.

Contact us for more information.

IRS Circular 230 Disclaimer: To ensure compliance with IRS Circular 230, any U.S. federal tax advice provided in this communication is not intended or written to be used, and it cannot be used by the recipient or any other taxpayer (i) for the purpose of avoiding tax penalties that may be imposed on the recipient or any other taxpayer, or (ii) in promoting, marketing or recommending to another party a partnership or other entity, investment plan, arrangement or other transaction addressed herein.



Movie Review: Frozen II

By: Anton Massopust III

Elsa (Idina Menzal), Anna (Kristen Bell), and the gang are back again, continuing their adventures in this new musical adventure. Elsa is called by a mysterious voice that only she can hear. She remembers a story that here parents told her when she was a child about an unknown frozen river far away to the north. Her father told her a story about how the northern people tried to make peace with them, but the elements turned on them and cut them off from the rest of the world. The grandfather built a dam as a symbol of peace. Elsa, Anna, Kristoff (Jonathan Groff), Sven, and Olaf (Josh Gad) all journey to an enchanted forest which has been isolated by an impenetrable mist. They vow not to get separated, but unfortunately due to a number of circumstances, they all do get separated. Each of the characters goes on this journey and learns a little bit something about themselves. They find that the soldiers and the Northern people can't get out of the Mist. Elsa must find the source of this balance to nature and magic to save every-



body.

Is Frozen II as good as the original? No, because you can't top that, but the film does stand alone as its own unique movie. There are some really awesome songs, though. Probably two of the best are, "Into the Unknown," (which was nominated for an Academy Award for best song) and "Lost in the Woods," which is like an 80's power ballad. It's wonderful, powerful, and sad.

The animation is first-rate. There is a little bit too much comic relief here in there. I do like the little lizard. He's very

cute. I'm sure that you can buy him as a plush toy at a Disney Store near you.

Everything about this movie is about girl power and how they can stand up to just about anything. They're not some princesses waiting in a tower for some Prince to rescue them. They're doing this on their own. It's wonderful. Frozen II is a great companion piece to Frozen and could easily be used as a double feature. If you haven't already seen it or if you missed it in theaters, I say definitely check it out.

World War II - 75 Years Ago

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

American paratroopers and Philippines Commonwealth troops land on Corregidor Island, in Manila Bay, the Philippines, on February 16. The first large-scale air attack made from a U.S. Navy carrier fleet targets Tokyo and Yokohama, Japan, resulting in the destruction of over 500 Japanese aircraft. Venezuela declares war on Germany.

U.S. troops on February 17 are regaining control of the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines. In Germany, Canadian troops reach the west bank of the Rhine River along a 10-mile front. German scientists evacuate the Peenemünde Army Research Center, on the Baltic Sea in northeastern Germany. They head for the Messerschmitt research and development facilities in Oberammergau, Bavaria, in far southern Germany.

On February 18, A torpedo from a Soviet submarine hits and sinks a German cruise liner departing Danzig for Denmark with 5,000 refugees and 3,800 U-boat personnel on board. Only 1,000 are reported as saved. In Luxembourg, American troops breach the Siegfried Line — Germany’s western defensive barrier — east of Echternach.

Some 30,000 U.S. Marines invade Iwo Jima, in the Volcano Islands group, on February 19. As the island is part of metropolitan Japan, it is fiercely defended, and the Marines suffer 2,420 casualties on the first day. Control of the island is important to the Allies as it is within fighter-plane range of Tokyo. By controlling the three airfields on Iwo Jima, American B-29 bombers from the Mariana Islands (Saipan and Tinian) can be escorted by fighter planes from Iwo. American intelligence officials — not having seen much Japanese troop presence or activity after two weeks of heavy, pre-landing bombardment — are convinced the Japanese garrison has been devastated and confident that the island will fall “within one week.”

The RAF launches the first of 36 consecutive night raids on Berlin on February 20. On Iwo Jima, U.S. Marines make slow progress toward Mt. Suribachi, the highest point on the island, to the south of their landing zone, and toward the first airfield, to the north.

The British 2nd Division on February 21 establishes yet another Irawaddy River bridgehead, while the British 36th Division breaks through Japanese lines at Myitson, in northern Burma. Meanwhile, additional British and Indian troops cross the Irawaddy in the central portion of the country. Off Iwo Jima, the American escort aircraft carrier *USS Bismarck Sea* is attacked by two *kamikazes* and sinks with the loss of 318 of her crew. Other vessels in the area rescue 605 of her other officers and men.

On February 22, Uruguay declares war on Japan. In eastern Switzerland, U.S. Army Air Forces planes bomb the villages of Stein am Rhein, Ruti, Taegerwilen, Ratz and Vals by accident, killing 21 Swiss citizens. (Reparations will be paid by the U.S. government after the war.)

The U.S. flag is raised at the pinnacle of Mt. Suribachi, the highest point on Iwo Jima, on February 23, 1945. A subsequently world-famous photograph taken by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal of a second flag-raising there by five U.S. Marines and a U.S. Navy corpsman freezes the iconic moment in time for posterity. (The second raising was of a larger flag so that it could be seen more easily by marines and sailors below.) The Soviets capture Poznań, Poland, after a one-month siege. Turkey declares war on the Axis countries.

Over 9,000 Allied bombers participate in a massive attack on targets across Germany on February 24. In Berlin, a haggard and aged-looking Adolf Hitler addresses his top-level leaders in the Reich Chancellery for what proves to be the last time. It is the 25th anniversary of the proclamation of the Nazi Party program. Perhaps sensitive to the likelihood of public skepticism and derision, *der Führer* refuses to allow the speech to be broadcast or even reported to the public at large. Syria and Egypt declare war on the Axis. Immediately after his reading of the declaration, Egyptian Prime Minister Ahmed Maher Pasha is assassinated by a member of a rival political party believed to have pro-Axis sympathies.

After 10 days of intense fighting, U.S. and Filipino troops on February 25 recapture Corregidor Island, in Manila Bay, from the Japanese. More than 5,000 Japanese dead are found on the island, with more bodies discovered in collapsed tunnels.

The Germans on February 26 begin evacuations of wounded and refugees from Kołobrzeg (Kolberg, in German), in northwestern Poland, about 137 miles west of Danzig. Other Baltic-coast ports are used as well, and operations continue until the various ports are captured by the Red Army. The first bombing of Osaka, Japan, is carried out. In the U.S., a midnight curfew for bars, nightclubs and other entertainment venues goes into effect nationwide in an effort to save coal.

On February 27, Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) reports that spectacular gains have been made by the U.S. First and Ninth Armies on the Cologne Plain in west-central Germany. The U.S. 8th Air Force launches another heavy attack against Berlin that devastates the center of the city. Under heavy Soviet pressure, the Romanian monarch, King Michael I, reluctantly appoints a pro-Soviet government, to be headed by Petru Groza. Lebanon declares war against Germany and Japan. In Manila, U.S. Gen. of the Army Douglas MacArthur officially turns over the civil administration of the Philippines to Commonwealth President Sergio Osmeña.

The U.S. Sixth Army, along with Philippines Commonwealth troops and aligned guerrilla forces, secures Manila, the Philippines capital, on February 28. In Burma, British forces reach the Japanese communications center of Meiktila, some 280 miles north of Rangoon, and mount an attack in strength. Saudi Arabia declares war on Germany; one month later, the Kingdom declares war against Japan.

Fighting ends in Manila, the Philippines, on March 1. On Iwo Jima, U.S. troops hold two of the island’s three airfields and gain a foothold on the southern end of the third. There is fierce fighting all along the line.

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.

Creative Art Contest for Sayreville Students

Press Release

SAYREVILLE – There will be a Creative Art Contest for Sayreville Students on Friday, March 27, 2020 Hosted by: The Sayreville Shade Tree Commission and Held at: The Sayreville Senior Center from 6 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

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

Categories:

Elementary (Grades K-5)

Middle School (Grades 6-8)

High School (Grades 9-12)

Special Needs

Three Dimensional

Group Project (4 or more students)

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in all categories, except the Group Project. One winner will be selected for the Group Project. Please notify the Shade Tree Commission by March 20th if you will participate or you need additional information at:

Phone: 732-814-9964

Email: heather.sayrevilleshadetree@gmail.com

Facebook: [@sayrevilleshadetree](https://www.facebook.com/sayrevilleshadetree)

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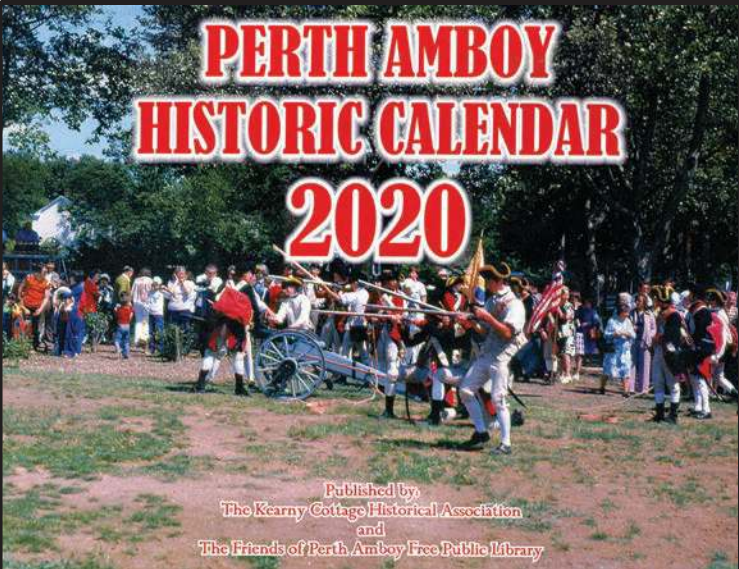
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2020 Historic Perth Amboy Calendars



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.



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Benson on Bill to Require Suicide Prevention Training for Mental Health Practitioners

Measure Approved by Assembly Panel

Press Release 2/3/20
TRENTON – New Jersey would become the tenth state to require suicide prevention training for mental health practitioners like social workers, marriage and family therapists, and alcohol and drug counselors under legislation approved Monday by the Assembly Human Services Committee.

The measure (A-1443), sponsored by Assemblyman Daniel Benson (D-Mercer, Middlesex) would require the training as a condition of licensure and as an ongoing requirement for mental health professionals.

Benson released the following statement:

“Suicide continues to be the second most common cause of death among teenagers and the fourth leading cause of death among adults. Given these heartbreaking statistics, it is crucial that we start treating suicide like the public health crisis it is.

“With suicide prevention training, mental health practitioners who are on the front lines of this crisis will be better equipped to provide up-to-date treatment to at-risk individuals and provide patients with the emergency care they need. If just one life is saved as a result of expanded training, these efforts will have been worth it.”

WWW.AMBOYGUARDIAN.COM

Assembly Committee Clears Karabinchak, Armato & Quijano Bill Requiring Insurers to Cover Insulin, Cap Monthly Out-of-Pocket Cost at \$50

Press Release 2/13/20
TRENTON – To preserve affordability and accessibility of prescription insulin for diabetes patients as prices have skyrocketed, the Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee moved to advance legislation Thursday that would require New Jersey’s health benefits plans to include coverage for insulin and limit copayments or coinsurance for monthly prescriptions to \$50.

The bill (A-954) is sponsored by Assembly Democrats Rob Karabinchak, John Armato and Annette Quijano.

A recent study found that the price of insulin between 2002 and 2013 tripled. Rising from \$4.34 per milliliter to \$12.92 over this 11-year period, the dramatic price hike has left both type 1 and some type 2 diabetics in the United States – who rely on insulin to control their blood sugar levels – unable to afford their prescription.

“Diabetics need insulin like the rest of us need oxygen,” said Karabinchak (D-Middlesex). “It’s not an optional medication, yet people are treating it that way because the cost for many people is totally prohibitive. I find that simply outrageous, no one should be spending \$6,000 a year or more on a medication they need in order to live.”

Under provisions of the bill,

all state insurers providing benefit plans under the New Jersey Individual Health Coverage and Small Employer Health Benefits Programs, the State Health Benefits Program, and the School Employees’ Health Benefits Program would be required to cover insulin and cap prescription costs.

“Rationing, or even foregoing, a prescribed dose of insulin has become the compromise many diabetics are making often and it could cost them their life,” said Armato (D-Atlantic). “That is unacceptable and wrong. With this bill, we would effectively reduce the cost of insulin by nearly 90 percent so no one has to face that kind of choice.”

The legislation would further require annual reporting by insulin manufacturers on the manufacture, pricing, and sale of insulin products to the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance.

“While this bill is a step in the right direction to protect consumers and save lives, we also need to assess what is happening across the entire supply-chain,” said Quijano (D-Union). “Only by identifying the root cause of these massive price hikes can we work toward an equitable, sustainable future for both consumers and insurers.”

The bill now goes to the Speaker for further review.

Assembly Advances Chiaravalloti, Karabinchak & McKnight Bill to Create Task Force to Study Supportive Technology for Disabled Individuals

Press Release 2/5/20
TRENTON – With the goal to help people with disabilities find new ways to ease certain burdens brought on by everyday tasks, legislation to create a Task Force on Supportive Technologies for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities was recently approved by the Assembly Human Services Committee.

The charge of the task force would be to study opportunities to expand the use of supportive technologies through policy initiatives, shared services and other best practices.

Bill sponsors, Assembly Democrats Nicholas Chiaravalloti (D-Hudson), Robert Karabinchak (D-Middlesex) and Angela McKnight (D-Hudson), released the following statements:

Assemblyman Chiaravalloti: “Buttoning a shirt, twisting a doorknob or writing with a pencil may seem like simple tasks to some, but they can be extremely challenging for people with arthritis or other disabilities. Supportive technologies – from glasses and hearing aids to buttonhook devices and door levers – help disabled individuals conquer obstacles they may face every day and improve their quality of life. We must do more to raise awareness for these life-changing technologies and make them readily

available to those in need.”
Assemblyman Karabinchak: “Supportive devices are about so much more than convenience. It’s about giving people with disabilities greater independence, confidence and freedom. Any opportunity we have to promote supportive devices is one we should take.”
Assemblywoman McKnight: “As a caregiver for seniors, I’ve seen firsthand how a disability can impact a person’s day-

to-day life. A wide variety of technology exists to help people with disabilities, but they may not be aware of them. The mission of this task force will be to find ways to connect more people with supportive devices, and discuss how we as a State can take further initiative to expand their use.”

The measure now goes to the Assembly Speaker for further consideration.

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 For more information, please call the Perth Amboy Free Public Library: 732-826-2600.

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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. Clare

For Employment

Prayer To St. Jude

Prayer To Blessed Mother

Prayer To Holy Spirit

Novena To St. Anthony

Prayer To Blessed Virgin

Thanksgiving Novena

Novena To St. Joseph

St. Jude Novena

Pray The Rosary

OTHER _____

Novena to St. Rita

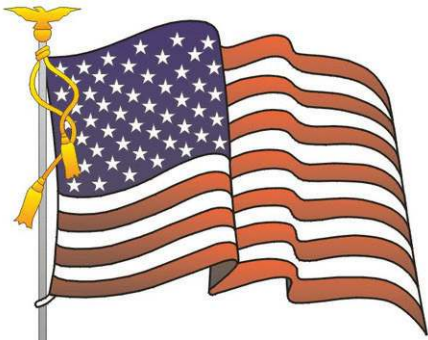
O holy protectress of those who art in greatest need, thou who shineth as a star of hope in the midst of darkness, blessed Saint Rita, bright mirror of God's grace, in patience and fortitude thou art a model of all the states in life. I unite my will with the will of God through the merits of my Savior 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.

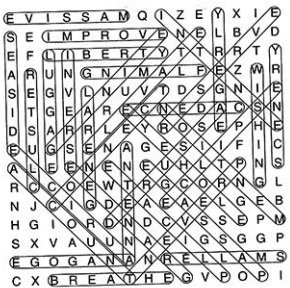
Pinkin on Bill to Require Recycling Bins,Mandate Recycling in State Buildings Measure Cleared by Committee Monday

Press Release 2/3/20
TRENTON – Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee Chair Nancy Pinkin (D-Middlesex) issued the following statement Monday after her bill (A-1514) to require all New Jersey State governmental agencies to source, separate, and recycle any aluminum, corrugated cardboard, glass, paper and plastic waste was advanced out of committee:
“The State House is the people’s house and the people want to recycle. On any given day, hundreds of advocates, activists, citizens, students, staffers and legislators use our state capital to do the people’s work. When they go to recycle the water bottles or cans that they purchased from our vending machines, or the coffee cup they grabbed on their walk over, there are few places to dispose

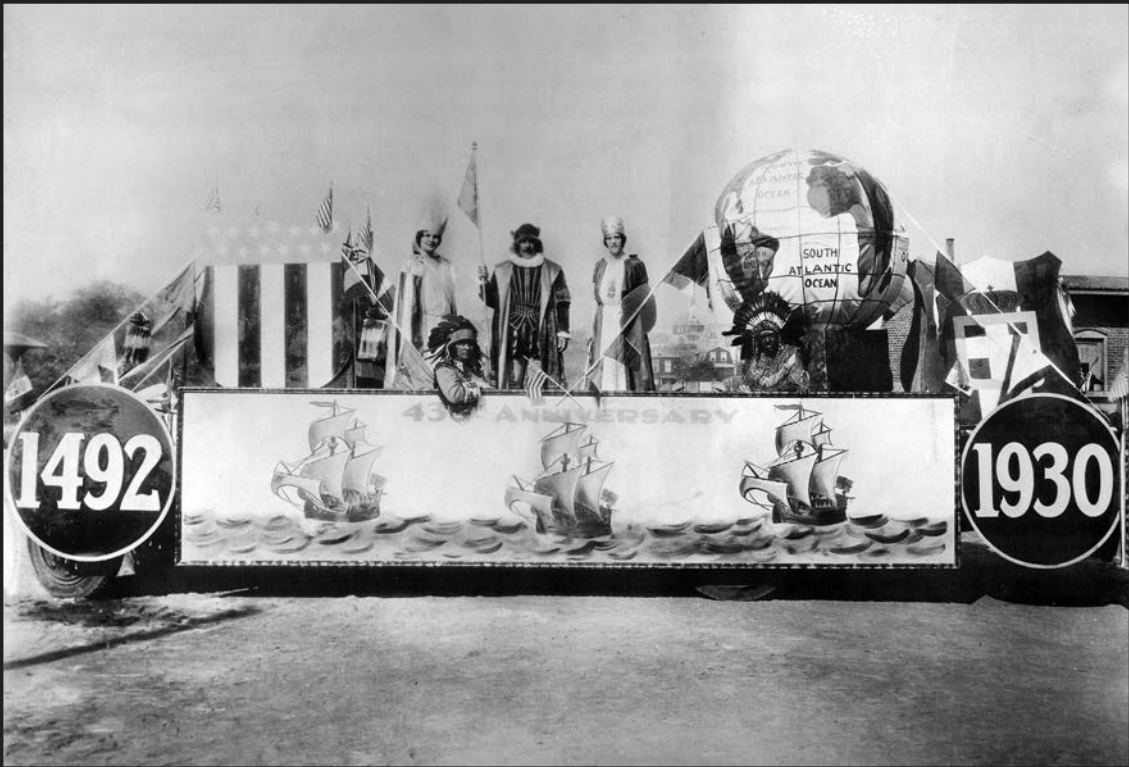
of it properly.
“We are facing a crisis with the amount of trash our country is accumulating. As a society, we have changed our behavior to recycle as an instinct, and when the proper receptacle is not there, it’s counter-intuitive. We need to keep our personal use of plastic at the forefront of our minds and in the choices we make every day. It is scary to imagine the number of single use plastics that have been sent to landfills from our government buildings.”
Adequate receptacles, signage, information, education, and staffing at buildings owned, leased, or operated by State entities would also be requirements under provisions of the bill.
The measure now heads to the Speaker for further review.



Answers From Puzzle On Page 19



LOOKING BACK



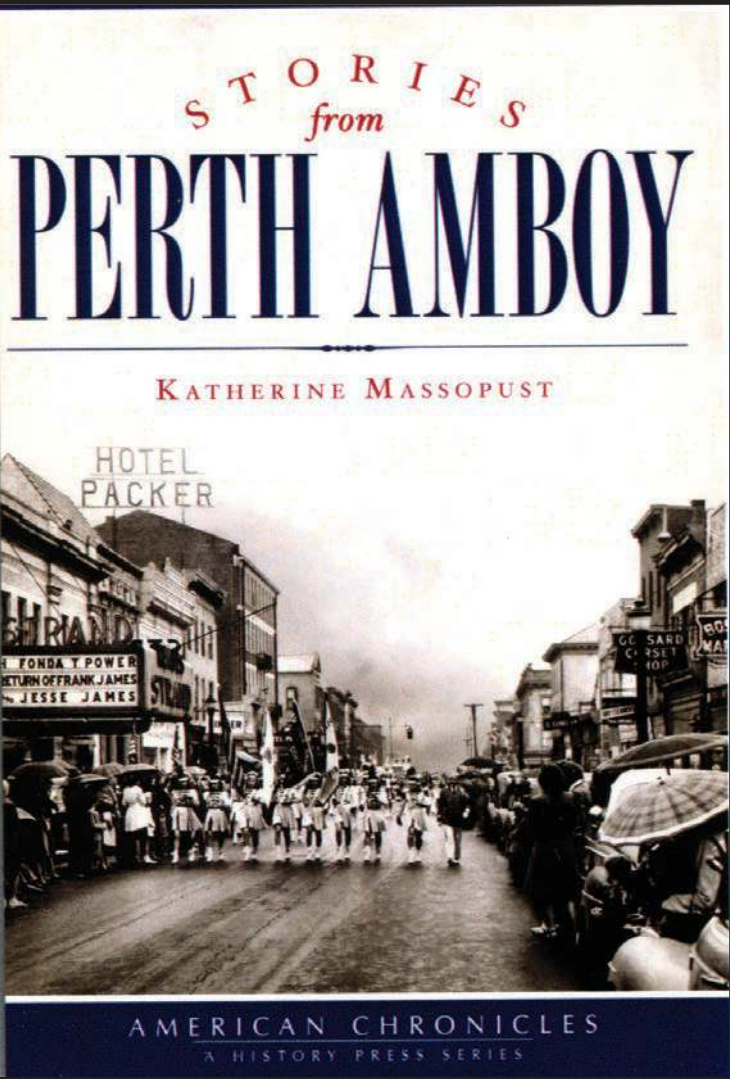
PERTH AMBOY – Vincenza (Jean) Sinatra, Miss Columbus Day, Aunt of Robert Sottilaro
*Photo Courtesy of Bob and Barbara Sottilaro
This photo was restored under a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission to the Kearny Cottage Historical Association.

Senior Scene Happenings

- Perth Amboy**
TUES. Feb. 18 Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.
WED. Feb. 19 Good Shepherd Wednesday Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Msgr. Gambino Hall , Florida Grove Rd.
• Holy Trinity Seniors, 1 p.m., Church Hall, Lawrie & Johnstone St.
THURS. Feb. 20 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
MON. Feb. 24 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
TUES. Feb. 25 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.
THURS. Feb. 27 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
South Amboy
MON. Feb. 24 Sacred Heart Seniors, 12 Noon Memorial Hall, Wash Ave.
MON. Mar. 2 South Amboy Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
WED. Mar. 4 St. Mary’s Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.

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

New Perth Amboy Documentary: Perth Amboy Terra-Cotta Check it out on PA-TV



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!

Alameda Celebrates Grand Opening of New Cardiac Rehab, 303 Elm St., Perth Amboy 2/12/20

*Photos by Paul W. Wang



Press Release
PERTH AMBOY - This Wednesday night Alameda celebrated yet another milestone, the Grand Opening of their Cardiac Rehab. Alameda has been working tirelessly in assembling the top cardiac nurses, specialized therapy, and telemetry monitoring to bring the community cutting edge healthcare solutions.

Dassy Schechter, VP of marketing and BD, commented in her remarks, “Alameda’s goal is to give back to the community, and serve as a center for Cardiac health to all in need. We are happy to be meeting the needs of the ever-growing population “

The event held last night was attended by many healthcare professionals from the tristate area. Dr Puneet Sahgal, the lead cardiologist of the program, was the keynote speaker. He highlighted the additional benefits Alameda offers at their cardiac program which set them apart from all others. He went through the precautionary measures, supervision, and overall wellness program involved at Alameda in making sure each patient receives a customized program to benefit their individual needs.

Guests were treated to a lavish spread of food, wine, custom desserts, and heart healthily SWAG.

The unanimous sentiment from those in attendance was “we are thrilled there is a place that can not only bring our patients back to their original baseline, but go beyond their expectations”.

Alameda keeping our finger on the pulse of the community’s needs!
For more information or to tour please call Marilou; RN, Alameda liaison @ 732-864-6684

Pallone Hosts Roundtable to Discuss Bold Infrastructure Plan
Last month, Pallone announced a \$760 billion infrastructure plan that would improve roads, rail and transit systems, invest in clean energy and modernize 9-1-1 networks

*Continued from Page 3

stands in partnership with Congressman Frank Pallone’s transformative infrastructure investment initiative that will serve to strengthen Next Generation 9-1-1 emergency service communications and regional infrastructure needs,” said Woodbridge Township Mayor John E. McCormac. “We are extremely proud to have served as the host community for the Congressman’s announcement and roundtable discussion which incorporated the participation and expertise of the Woodbridge Township First Response community.”

“The House Democrats’ infrastructure plan offers important funding for New Jersey’s roads and bridges, electric grid, and water infrastructure. The \$12 billion in funding for updating our 9-1-1 systems is especially important for 9-1-1 operators,” said Deborah Spencer, Secretary of Local 195 IFPTE. “This new technology will help save lives by allowing the first re-

sponders I talk to every day to better assess the nature of an emergency and reach people in need.”

“We thank Congressman Pallone for his efforts to repair the nation’s crumbling infrastructure to meet our 21st-century needs,” said Ed Potosnak, Executive Director, New Jersey LCV. “We are especially excited that the proposal will put us on a path toward zero carbon pollution from transportation, provide clean and affordable drinking water, and help combat climate change by creating good-paying clean energy jobs, investing in energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas pollution. We’re proud to stand with our hometown Congressman as he showcases his leadership in addressing the critical issues our country faces.”

“I’m thrilled to see the House put forward a comprehensive framework which would enable the U.S. to address the dire state of our country’s infrastructure, while putting the country on a path towards zero emissions from the transportation sector



and increasing climate resiliency,” said Chuck Feinberg, Executive Director of New Jersey Clean Cities Coalition. “The framework also supports the development and deployment of alternative fuel and electric vehicles and associated infrastruc-

ture by strengthening support for the highly effective locally-based Clean Cities Coalitions and other programs. The leadership on these issues shown by Congressman Frank Pallone has been invaluable and is greatly appreciated.”

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PERTH AMBOY - This beautiful renewed Cape Cod offer 3 bedrooms, living room 1 bath and kitchen with all stainless-steel appliance, 2 extra bedrooms in second floor and recreation room with half bath in the basement, magnificent for first time buyers. **\$279,000**



PERTH AMBOY - This beautiful condo features 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, laundry facility, many upgrades including Hardwood floors, elevators, state of the art fitness center, water view, private garage parking, this is commuters dream close to downtown shopping center and much more. **\$206,500**



PERTH AMBOY - Move right into this beautiful 2-bedroom 2 full bath condo! This gem features an updated kitchen w/breakfast bar, stainless steel appliances, granite counters, dining rm, large living wood flooring. Building is secured w/security on premises, a parking garage & breathtaking courtyard Close to Waterfront, highways, shopping & public transportation. **\$209,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Great investment opportunity this is package deal two Dry Cleaners for the price of one J & A Cleaners and Sunny Cleaners. Net income \$190,000 annually. Buyer is responsible for all due diligence and EPA regulations. Owner will train potential buyer. **\$150,000**



BELLEVILLE - Beautifully renovated home with recently installed backyard patio paver area. Ready to move in. Buyer responsible for Certificate of Occupancy, smoke certificate and any repairs. Property sold as is condition. **\$400,000**