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# AMBOY GUARDIAN

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## Appointments Questioned 1/22/20 Caucus

By: Carolyn Maxwell

**PERTH AMBOY** – At the beginning of the 1/22/20 Caucus Meeting, Rebecca Robles came up to be interviewed by the Council for the position of Assistant Prosecutor. She gave a brief overview of her professional and personal experience. She stated she had been in business for 15 years and has a vast experience in accounting. She is the mother of 3 children, graduated from Perth Amboy High School, and had lived in Perth Amboy for over 18 years. “As an attorney, I have been interning in the Prosecutor’s Office as an observer for 4 months. I recently passed the BAR in October 2019. I specialize in Immigration Law and have been practicing law for 2 months.”

Robles responded to a question as to whether or not she would be moving back into town. “I’m in the process of moving. If all goes well, I should be here in a couple of months.”

Council President Bill Petrick spoke up, “I’m glad we’re hiring someone who lives in town.”

Councilman Fernando Irizarry questioned, “How does immi-

gration law prepare you with other parts of the law such as dealing with violations, summonses and DWI’s?”

Robles responded, “A lot of times, immigration overlaps with other aspects of the law. I may have to those accused of certain violations what is their immigration status. In some cases, they may have to go back to the person who is handling their case to make sure they have the correct consultation.” Robles concluded with, “I felt that I have never left Perth Amboy. Education is very important. I’m trained to do the job and ask questions. People have been very helpful to me.”

Council Members Helmin Caba, Fernando Irizarry, and Milady Tejada applauded Robles for having her own business and being a mother of 3. The Council was pleased to have someone come back to serve the community.

Councilman Helmin Caba questioned if we should have waivers of the residency requirement for certain positions for people who live out of town. “I want people who are successful

to come back. Collectively, we are on the same page and appreciate you coming here.”

The council decided to have the public portion after Robles’s interview. The first person who came up to speak was Jeremy Baratta. He questioned why Prosecutor Billy Delgado is getting paid \$66,000 for 20 hours of work a month, yet the assistant, who will be full time will only be getting paid \$40,000. “So, Delgado gets more for 25% of the work. If Delgado can’t handle it, then we should get someone else.” Baratta then questioned Robles’s qualifications, “Nothing against her, but you have to know what you are doing and not have to call to ask questions. This person has not even been a lawyer for 90 days. Immigration is worlds apart from other aspects of law. This person failed the BAR exam the first time. We need a first-string player – not a rookie who knows what they are doing. They are not qualified.”

Ken Balut came up next and asked if the person applying for the Assistant Prosecutor Job had any kind of relationship with anyone in the court sys-

tem. “It’s illegal to ask someone’s legal status.” Balut also wanted to know if the City got \$30,000 from Kushner (to pave part of Rector Street). He then mentioned the Police Contract, which was handwritten. “Your lawyers wrote it up and he (Law Director King) signed it. You can’t give the police \$6,000 towards their raises? The cops can file an illegal labor practice (suit) against the city. I’m still waiting for the OPRA results on 2 cases. Stop trying to stop the Mayor from testifying. Government money was spent on stopping her from testifying in the Kushner trial. There are 3 cases (lawsuits) that so far have been given to a law firm for political contributions.”

Law Director King responded to the statement made by Jeremy Baratta, “As a prosecutor, DWI’s can trigger an investigation. The person accused may have to go back to their immigration lawyer. The police cannot question the (immigration) status of a person.” King then addressed Balut’s question regarding how much money was spent on the lawsuits. “I don’t know what



**Stephanie  
Márquez-Villafañe**

fees are involved in 2 of the cases. I know they already went to the insurance companies.”

Business Administrator Frederick Carr then addressed Balut’s statements concerning the PBA Contract, “It was written by the mediator. We (the B.A.’s Office) were instructed by the Mayor to sign off on it. The labor attorney and the mediator were there, but

*\*Continued on Page 12*

## Hot Topics Discussed; Library Director Appointment Tabled 1/22/20 Council Meeting

By: Carolyn Maxwell

**PERTH AMBOY** – During the first public portion on agenda items only, resident Ken Balut came up and asked a question on Ordinance No. 1 – Amending Ordinance No. 1870-2017-for renovations to the library in and by the city of Perth Amboy in the county of Middlesex, New Jersey for a total appropriation of \$3,496,115.98.

He asked, “How old is this ordinance?”

Council President Petrick replied, “2010.”

In disgust, Balut stated, “I was on the council. This is incompetency,” (indicating how long this problem has been going on).

The next speaker was Brian Ferry who is a representative for PBA (Police Benevolent Association). “In December (2019), I spoke about the contract negotiations. The document is now signed, but why has it not been voted on?”

Council President Bill Petrick responded, “I can’t answer that question.”

Ferry shot back, “Why not?”

Petrick said, “You have to talk to your consul and the Business Administrator.”

Ferry continued, “Have you seen this?” He held some documents in his hand. “If you haven’t seen the document then are you going to vote? The B.A. is not even looking at me, so he must be feeling guilty.”

B.A. Carr responded, “Unlike you, I am taking notes.”

Ferry concluded, “You (the council) should have been told about bargaining in good faith. The Fire Department contract is also being negotiated.”

Resident Ken Balut came up to talk about the same issue, “Your (the council’s) arbitration is holding it up and Jill Goldy (CFO/Comptroller) got a huge raise. You bargain in good faith and it has to be ratified.” Balut also told the council to ask for Delgado’s timesheet. Balut then turned his attention to the reappointment of Kenneth Gonzalez as a judge. “We have pictures of him in handicapped spots. In the past, he has misused a

handicapped sign. The bosses get away with everything. He erroneously misfiled a first-time homebuyer’s contract.” Balut then spoke about the library. “It has taken more than 10-15 years with the library renovations. It’s been 12 years with the YMCA contract. That money could have been used for the police department. It’s incompetency of the Mayor and the people she hires. I’m sure Mr. King (Law Director) dictates his paperwork. I also saw a billboard that in the city that had a picture of someone related to a city employee who got a raise.”

Jeremy Baratta came up next. “There’s no money for cops because she (Mayor Diaz) gives it to people in her administration. Delgado makes more money part-time and says he needs an assistant. The Police Department gets more calls than other towns do. The Mayor’s people have grossly inflated jobs. There’s never money for people who don’t work on her campaign. We pay Delgado \$66,000 and he cries about it and says

he works 40-60 hours. It’s more like 20 hours. The police have more dangerous jobs and only get \$30,000. Then we’re going to have an Assistant Prosecutor with little experience.”

Danny Gonzalez, a Police Officer came up next and questioned, “If we (the police) sign an agreement and if we renege on that agreement, what would you think? We (the police) agreed to a 2.5% raise and nothing more. We just hired 12 officers and there are 4 more in the academy. We agreed and signed the agreement. Chick-fil-A pays better and has better benefits.” Gonzalez then held up paperwork in his hand and said, “There was no insurance adjustment in the contract.” At that point, Councilman Helmin Caba got up and took the paperwork from Gonzalez. Gonzalez continued, “Ratify (the contract) so we can move on. What is the delay?”

B.A. Carr spoke up and stated, “I signed it and the council has to ratify it.”

Gonzalez continued, “The

negotiations ended the day we signed it. The lawyer agreed to a 2.5% raise.”

Carr reiterated, “Nothing can be done until the council signs it.”

Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe came up to speak regarding Resolution R-31-1/20 – Hiring a new Library Director. “We need a better library system. I urge you not to hire this person as our new Library Director. Every year, she is in a new library system. It’s a waste of money to hire her. I prefer you hire the person from Edison. We have granted waivers before.” Márquez-Villafañe then turned her attention to an article that stated that Perth Amboy was the 5<sup>th</sup> least educated city in the state. “We don’t have a thriving library system. The person considered for director has zero experience and has worked in private library systems. She also applied in Metuchen and they were not impressed. She

*\*Continued on Page 7*



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE



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**CONGRATULATIONS JESSICA!**

# Liquor Store Questioned Water/Sewer Bill Concerns

## 1/29/20 Council Meeting

By: Katherine Massopust  
SOUTH AMBOY – The only item questioned on the Consent Agenda was No. 20-060 Authorizing an award of a contract for grant writer – Mazaukas. Councilman Brian McLaughlin questioned if any grants were received by the city. B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated that the city received quite of few grants thanks to the grant writer.

The consent agenda passed unanimously.  
Council Comments:

Council Vice President Christine Noble had no comments.

Councilwoman Zusette Dato gave a few quick comments about the 2020 Census, “In the middle of March, you will receive a survey and will be asked to cooperate. It’s very important. Billions of dollars are allotted for federal funding. It’s up to every person to cooperate. You can do it online, by telephone, or mail. It’s secure and confidential. You will be asked your gender, address, ethnicity, etc.”

Councilman Thomas Reilly gave his condolences to two families that recently suffered loses. He questioned if the Planning and Zoning Board Members that are listed on the City of South Amboy website are up to date.

B.A. Skarzynski stated he wasn’t sure.

Reilly also stated he wanted to have a tax calculator to be put on the City of South Amboy’s website. “It will tell you how your tax dollars are being utilized. It will promote more transparency. Right now, it only shows school and municipal taxes.”

B.A. Skarzynski stated he wasn’t sure he could put it on the website, but he could give a breakdown of where expenses go. He stated of the tax calculator, “If we can, it can be done.”

Council President Mickey Gross stated that this matter should be discussed at a business meeting so other council members would like to give their input.

Councilman Brian McLaughlin stated that the city recently received an audit.

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated, “Over several years, we have been doing the normal part of our audit process. It’s another one of the checks and balances of tax dollars.”

McLaughlin then asked about summer hirings for high school students and the status of the ferry.

B.A. Skarzynski answered, “We are waiting for the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) on the Waterfront Development permits. We had them, then they expired. We have to do them again.”

McLaughlin asked about hiring local residents for the construction of the Manhattan Beach Project. Skarzynski answered that as soon as the permit goes through, there will be a job fair.

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated, “We received a grant for \$8,000 for the census.”

Council President Mickey Gross mentioned the firefighters in attendance. He stated, “The St. Patrick’s Day Parade will be on March 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be 25 bands. On Friday, there will be a Irish concert. On March 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a breakfast and flag raising. It will be a family friendly parade.”

Mayor Fred Henry was pleased to announce that the city received a \$1 million grant from the state. “Thanks to Governor Murphy and Assembly Speaker Coughlin. It’s because we are a transit village. We will use the money to put new lights on Broadway and cameras. It will improve pedestrian crossing.”

During the public portion, resident Sean Horan came up to speak about the liquor store which will be opening on Bordentown Avenue. “It’s next door to my house. I’ve been a school-teacher for 10 years. I cannot leave my front door without seeing a liquor store. There are many liquor stores within a short distance to my house. This liquor store will be in an area where it is designated as an Art’s District. It’s yet another place that sells cigarettes, vapes, and alcohol. Vaping is seriously affecting our students. The person who the liquor license is being transferred to is the owner of Roosevelt Market. That has been closed since Sandy. What happened to the FEMA money he received?” Horan then complained about garbage cans not being secured at establishments which can cause health issues. He then cited statistics to reinforce his argument against the liquor store opening. “I don’t see how this business is consistent to move in the direction this city needs. I have letters from residents. People are not happy about it.”

Resident Brian Murphy came up to speak next. He was pleased that the City Council



Resident Sean Horan speaks before the Council  
\*Photo by Paul W. Wang

was helpful in addressing his concerns about the Waterfront Park and baseball fields that he brought up at the 1/8/20 Business Meeting.

Council President Mickey Gross stated, “If there is a problem, call me.”

Murphy then thanked Councilman Tom Reilly who had taken care of another issue he had brought up at the business meeting immediately.

Resident Susan Riley came up to speak next. She complained about a \$20 increase in her water bill. “I got my sewage bill with the letter of explanation. Why will the water bill be going up?” She stated she is on a fixed income and this is an added burden.

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski answered her concerns, “It was ultimately passed by the council. Anytime we have a utility, we want it to be self-sustaining. We had to do increases to cover the costs over the years and the repairs now being made.” He then explained that multiple-family homes will be getting an increase as well as everyone in the city.

City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz stated, “The aging sewer system – we are trying to get repairs done before it becomes an emergency situation.”

B.A. Skarzynski then stated that seniors and the disabled can get a discount on their bill and to contact the Service Department.

Councilwoman Zusette Dato addressed Sean Horan’s concerns about the liquor store. “The liquor license transfer – what you found out is accurate. And I agree, I don’t think it’s a good fit. We can require they cover their trash cans.”

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m. All council members were present.



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## Freiman, Benson Bill to Prevent Overcharging Customers at E-Z Pass Toll Clears Assembly Panel

Press Release 2/3/20

TRENTON – Thousands of commuters travel through E-ZPass toll booths daily. Aiming to ensure residents are notified expeditiously of an overcharge on their account, Democratic Assembly members Roy Freiman and Daniel Benson sponsored legislation to immediately notify customers of a toll fee. The measure was approved Monday by the Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee.

“It is a reasonable expectation that when a consumer is charged with something, they immediately receive a receipt,” said Freiman (D-Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Somerset).

“This already happens with all other transactions; why not include our electronic toll system?”

Specifically, the bill (A-1153) would require the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and the South Jersey Transportation Authority to install and operate, in each lane of every toll plaza that uses E-ZPass, a device that transmits immediate notification to a customer with a system account when passing through the toll plaza, to alert the customer that the system has registered the customer's account.

“An E-ZPass customer should know immediately if their account is being charged,” said Benson (D-Mercer, Middlesex).

“They should be notified or able to check in real-time to prevent an excessive bill at the end of the month.”

The notification may occur by electronic mail, a text message sent directly to a customer's mobile device, or through a mobile application. The bill would require the installation and operation of devices at toll plazas on the State's three toll roads, the New Jersey Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway, and the Atlantic City Expressway.

This act shall take effect immediately, but shall not infringe upon any contract that is currently in place.

## Quijano Reintroduces Legislation to Make New Jersey Nonprofit Security Grant Pilot Program Permanent

**Program Provides Vulnerable Entities Funding for Security Measures**

Press Release 2/3/20

TRENTON – Helping more New Jersey nonprofit organizations determined to be at an elevated risk for attacks increase their security, Assemblywoman Annette Quijano (D-Union) reintroduced a bill, the “New Jersey Nonprofit Security Grant Program” to codify the law creating a pilot program, which was signed into law in 2017.

The original bill was developed through meetings with various nonprofit organizations, including synagogues and mosques that are concerned for the security of their members, Assemblywoman Quijano noted.

“Times have not gotten any better since the pilot program

was introduced. We've all seen the news reports. Many religious based non-profits remain at risk and the need for security has heightened,” said Quijano. “Nonprofits, religious based organizations and members of these communities have a legitimate concern regarding their safety. Through the pilot program, we were able to see the need for funding. Now it's time to make that support a permanent priority.”

Under the bill, the security grant program is directed to provide grants out of any annually appropriated funds to eligible nonprofit organizations to hire certain permanent or temporary security personnel, and for acquisition of certain target

hardening equipment.

The legislation would provide award grants of up to \$10,000 for nonprofit organizations to hire permanent or temporary security personnel for the purpose of preparing against threats, attacks, or other violent acts. Security personnel under the bill include federal, State, county, and municipal law enforcement officers, special law enforcement officers, and licensed security officers. In addition, the bill awards grants of up to \$50,000 for nonprofit organizations to acquire target-hardening equipment.

The grants would be open to all 21 counties.



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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Will 2020 Will Be A Game-Changer?

2019 did not end on the best of notes, worldwide, nationally, and locally. To top it off, 2020 continued with many loses and hardship.

But we must believe, like the change of the 4 seasons, that hope will spring eternally. As I have constantly said in the past, that is why I love experiencing the 4 seasons and how nature naturally replenishes itself.

We, as humans are complicated beings. As individuals, sometimes we think that everyone else should feel as intense as we are when it comes to certain subjects, especially when it comes to dealing with local issues.

I remember at one of the Perth Amboy Council Meetings, one resident said that people will fill up the city council chambers only when a matter that affects them will be discussed. But, there are very few residents who even acknowledge when something is important to the city as a whole.

I remember when the residents of Harbortown crowded city hall chambers and protested outside before the meeting began. That was quite a while ago (Peter Jimenez was the Council President).

Today in 2020, there are some issues affecting public safety.

As a person who walks a lot, I'm always concerned at crosswalks when cars will not stop. One of my biggest pet peeves is the intersection of Jefferson Street and Madison Avenue. Sometimes I feel like carrying my own homemade sign saying: "Must stop for pedestrian at crosswalk!" I also have a fear of falling at sidewalks that have loose bricks or the bricks that have been upended. Take a look by Smith and Madison Avenue where Fink Park is. Then we have the divots in the roads which are very unsafe. Another hazard are the large delivery trucks which double park and block the crosswalks while unloading. We have seen this on Madison Avenue and many side streets. After 5 p.m., when cars can make a right-hand turn on some streets, they may not take into consideration that somebody might be crossing the street. Trust me, I've had a couple of close calls. There are also cars that turn right on a red light either before 5 p.m. or even a sign says it can't.

People are still living on the

streets. The homeless problem is getting worse, and we need state officials to be more proactive. Local charities feed and provide resources, but are overwhelmed. They can only do so much.

The 2010 Census showed the Perth Amboy's population to be 50,814. Census 2020 is here. We need to make sure our population is not grossly underestimated.

Local issues also include the abundance of garbage, overcrowding, illegal housing, lack of parking, etc.

There have been positive transformations in Perth Amboy, too. Over the past years, outer State Street is undergoing a major renovation. What was once an eyesore, is now becoming a major technological center.

The train station finally got the go for renovation. The new high school will has a projected opening date of 2024. A new park is being constructed on State Street. New companies have come to the city such as Target, The RealReal, Home Depot, and others. We are hoping to get that amphitheater up and running. It would be a huge asset to the city.

In March 2014, there was a study by the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers, the State University. It was called "Perth Amboy Strategic Vision". It is a 62 page report with 7 objectives, addressing the needs of Perth Amboy which included housing, public safety, infrastructure, water/wastewater, businesses.

It was a very extensive report. Some of the improvements have taken place, but there is still a lot more to be done.

Let 2020 continue the process of positive transformations in Perth Amboy. It can be done if people put their differences aside. If people want to take the time to volunteer to serve on boards and committees (and they qualify), let them serve. We need fresh faces and it doesn't hurt to have another point of view.

In the November 2019 Election, a public question was passed. The candidate for office has to win 50%+1 of the votes. So far, we have 3 candidates running for mayor and perhaps a possibility of more.

Just a few thoughts.

C.M. & K.M.

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste

As we all know Perth Amboy made the list of least educated cities in New Jersey accord-

ing to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2018. The Census Bureau reported Perth Amboy lacks access for higher education. It also said Perth Amboy was rated number #5 on the list and has a 14.2% with Bachelor or higher and 4.1% with a Graduate or Professional Degree.

Now, those School Board Members know this - "TRUST ME" and I'll bet those School Board Members will tell us "We're working on this problem!" I always said, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."

Orlando "Wildman" Perez

Abolish the Electoral College

In 1992 William Clinton was elected President with 43% of the popular vote. Who complained then?

In parliamentary systems voters elect a representative, and the representatives elect a

Premier. It is possible to elect someone whose total popular vote for representatives was not a majority. But it would be anti-democratic to override the votes of the representatives. With multiple candidates it is likely the winner will not have majority of popular votes. This system limits the harm done by any voting irregularities to one district. Article II Section 1 has the original intent.

Those who want a different system can petition for a change, but this will need a super majority of the states to agree. Is this feasible?

What is needed is an amendment to ban anyone over age 65 from becoming President; this will prevent senility and its poor judgment.

Ronald A. Sobieraj

Teachers and School Employees; Call On School Board To End Pay Freeze, Stop "Holding Schools Hostage"



Perth Amboy Teachers and Staff protest in front of City Hall 1/28/20 \*Photo by Paul W. Wang

Press Release 1/24/20

PERTH AMBOY - More than a year of negotiations has culminated in a stand-off over the Perth Amboy Board of Education's scheme to fund higher salaries for new teachers by drastically cutting step increases for those with more than 10 years' experience. Now teachers and school employees say they will take their demand to end the virtual pay freeze directly to the Board, with a rally at City Hall Circle at 4 p.m. on January 28.

"The Board is playing a 'divide and conquer' game over our contract, and holding our schools hostage," said Patricia Paradiso, president of the Perth Amboy Federation of Teachers (PAF-AFT), which represents the district's 1600 teachers and school staff. "The truth is, competitive salaries for new teachers don't have to come at the expense of experienced teachers. That's a false choice. This Board is trying to pit teacher against teacher. The people who will suffer are our students."

"Our union is willing to look at the salary guide and problem-

solve with the Board," Paradiso said, noting that the Perth Amboy district, unlike many in New Jersey, saw an increase in state funding in 2020. "The money is there. But just look at what the Board has been spending it on. A \$30,000 bonus for the superintendent, more than many of our custodians make per year. Six-figure salaries for his assistants. A pricey renovation of the superintendent's office suite. Supt. Roman has a generous car allowance while school staff are struggling to make car payments because the Board has frozen their salaries. The Board's fiscal decisions reek of the wrong priorities."

The district lost 91 teachers last year, including the high school teacher of the year, and Paradiso reports that many teaching positions remain unfilled. "This pay stalemate is just another example of the deep disrespect that district leaders constantly show teachers and school employees. No wonder teachers are fleeing this district. I've had teachers tell me they don't want to make a career in a school district that treats us this

way," she said.

"As a former Perth Amboy teacher and a Perth Amboy taxpayer, I am outraged by the teacher belittling and bashing in Perth Amboy," said Donna M. Chiera, president of the New Jersey AFT, the state affiliate of the PAF-AFT. "In February 2019, the district's Assistant Superintendent of Administration called Pat Paradiso 'Henny Penny' at a televised public meeting for daring to raise concerns that students were shivering in classrooms where temperatures were below 50 degrees. Last June, nearly 2,000 Perth Amboy students petitioned the Board for better treatment of teachers and an end to high turnover. What a wake-up call. The Board should listen to our students. They should respect the voice of and work in collaboration with those who work with our children on a daily basis, rather than spending resources to work against them."

The Perth Amboy AFT

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

Proprietary  
House Open

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

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

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

Kearny  
Cottage Open

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

Historic Surveyor  
General's Office

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

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

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

THURS. Feb. 6	Board of Education, 5:30 p.m. PAHS, Eagle Ave.
WED. Feb. 10	City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m. City Hall, High St.
WED Feb. 12	City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, High St.
THURS. Feb. 27	Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m. City Hall, High St.

South Amboy

WED. Feb. 5	City Council, Business, 6 p.m. City Hall, N. Broadway
WED. Feb. 19	City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, N. Broadway

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

Please Submit Your Events  
to AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

Museum Pass Program

PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library have generously provided FREE passes to some of the area's most popular museums! Museum passes offer a great way for family and friends to experience educational and cultural fun. **Picking Up and Returning Passes:** Passes can be picked up at the Circulation Desk. Patron must present the library card under whose name the pass was reserved. Only Adult patrons whose cards are in good standing will be able to check out Museum Passes. Passes are good for a total of three days and are **NOT** renewable. Passes can be returned at the Circulation Desk or at the Book Drop after hours. **Late, Lost or Unreturned Passes:** There will be a \$5 amount late fee each day the pass is past due. The maximum fine will not exceed \$25.00. Passes not returned within 14 days after the due date, will be presumed lost and borrowers charged the full replacement cost.

**Replacement costs for items are as follows: Lost museum pass:** Full cost of the pass. Replacement costs vary according to the museum and listed on the catalog record for each museum. **Pass Case:** \$1

**Museum Passes available:** •**American Museum of Natural History**, New York, NY | free admission and 1 free exhibit or show •**Grounds for Sculpture**, Hamilton NJ | pass admits 4 people •**Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum**, New York, NY | pass admits 6 people

Sponsored by the Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library. [www.folperthamboy.com](http://www.folperthamboy.com) For more information, please call the Perth Amboy Free Public Library: 732-826-2600.

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Attention! Our Newspaper is available at  
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Safety Announcement From Mayor Wilda Diaz  
Regarding the Recent Incidents in NYC and NJ

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

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**George Wash-  
ington 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.

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# Hot Topics Discussed; Library Director Appointment Tabled

## 1/22/20 Council Meeting

*\*Continued from Page 1*

(Maria Manigbas) talked about starting the Dial-A-Book Program, which has been in place for awhile. The Library Board of Trustees hasn't had any meetings in months. They should be the ones making recommendations."

When it came to vote, Resolutions R-27 thru R-30 and R-32 thru R-44, were moved by Councilman Irizarry and seconded by Councilman Caba. For R-31, the council decided to table the Resolution. Councilman Helmin Caba moved to table. It was seconded by Councilwoman Milady Tejada.

Council President Bill Petrick made a comment regarding Communication No. 5 - Mayor Wilda Diaz appointing Jacqueline Littlejohn to the Library Board of Trustees for a 5-year term to expire on December 31, 2024. Petrick stated, "We should be appointing people who live in town."

During the last public portion, Ken Balut came up. "At the next meeting, the PBA Contract should be put on the agenda or the council may be looking at an unfair labor contract issue. Balut continued, "On August 28, 2019, buses were supposed to cease parking on the streets in the Budapest section. They were given a 30-day waiver." He then addressed the overcrowding conditions in the city.

"There are more people living in the city than there is housing stock. People are living in places with no permits to change the house. When a person dies in illegal housing, it will be a big problem for you. The Code Enforcement Director can't do anything. You just reappointed a judge who misplaced paperwork. A Director's wife was on a billboard. Why didn't taxes go up on a building that was appraised higher? If you don't want to give a 2.5% raise to the police, then just don't do it."

Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe, who was recently appointed to the Handicapped Parking Committee questioned some of the procedures that the committee has to take into consideration. "A patient has to get a doctor's note and a handicapped ID. A registration has to be submitted. A generic letter was handed to us and some doctors are charging the patients to fill out these forms. Handicapped licenses have to be reviewed every few years. We shouldn't be forcing applicants to submit certain paperwork. Accepting the handicapped placard and ID should be enough."

Petrick responded, "The Handicapped Parking Committee was supposed to root out abusers."

Councilman Fernando Irizarry, who is also on the Handicapped Parking Committee stated, "Certain handicapped disabilities must be addressed,

for instance, how far they can walk. The handicapped placard doesn't have much information on it."

Márquez-Villafañe disagreed, "It's nobody's business. It's a HIPPA right. The applicant has the needed information. The court mandates what is required. There is no need for constituents to put this on the placard. We are not doctors."

Irizarry countered, "We are following the criteria of the ordinance. We are not looking at medical records."

Council President Petrick suggested, "We can amend the ordinance. Is there a checkbox that states the distance a patient can walk to receive a handicapped placard? Can we expand the checkbox conditions?"

Irizarry answered, "I never asked to see a letter I get from an applicant."

At this point, City Clerk Victoria Kupsch stated, "In the past, there were extensive medical conditions that were added. It was ridiculous."

Márquez-Villafañe continued, "The application is a city form and has the city seal. The form seems very redundant."

Law Director Peter King suggested to have the committee make recommendations to the council.

Irizarry spoke again, "The decision will be based on having a placard and a doctor's letter. Sometimes a doctor's letter has more information about the

condition."

Márquez-Villafañe stated, "There's no space on the application for doctor's comments."

Kupsch then stated, "We can add a section for physician's comments on the application."

Irizarry stated, "Maybe the doctor doesn't want to do that."

King in his frustration stated, "Just bring the recommendations to the council or you may take suggestions from the council."

Petrick then stated, "Pass the ordinance for us to work with."

Irizarry said, "At our handicapped meetings, we told Stephanie this is per the council's ordinance."

Petrick then suggested, "We have to get some kind of consensus."

King said, "We need to have written comments from the Handicapped Committee. If you have a more beneficial form, have the committee review it."

Council Comments:

Helmin Caba thanked all who came, especially the Police Department, "My contract is also up. We can't say much at this point."

Irizarry was next. "I thank the police for being here. We appreciate what you do." He then asked B.A. Carr if he had any updated information about the Rte. 35 Bridge improvement."

Carr replied, "We've contacted the DOT (Division of Transit), but we have not received a response, yet."

Irizarry also thanked Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez for getting a grant to make Washington Park safer. He had a question about the new sewer liners being placed.

Petrick responded, "The liners are being put in place to prevent the sewers from collapsing."

Irizarry finished his comments by thanking everyone who helped getting some of the city lights fixed.

Councilwoman Milady Tejada wanted to thank the police who came out tonight. "We can't comment right now (the police contract). It is important to get this settled." She also thanked Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez for getting the grant for Washington Park. She concluded by thanking everyone who came to bring their issues forward.

Council President Petrick asked for a copy of the crime stats for 2019 and a list of employees that are not using timeclocks. He suggested the Prosecutor and Assistant Prosecutor should use timeclocks to check their hours. He concluded by wishing everyone in TV-Land, and those who came in person. "Have a healthy, happy new year. I'm, looking forward to making progress."

Councilman Joel Pabon was absent from both meetings due to a family emergency.



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AG



## Chocolate by Candlelight at the Proprietary House



Press Release  
PERTH AMBOY - Celebrate Valentine’s Day in colonial style at the Royal Governor’s Mansion! All are invited to enjoy “Chocolate by Candlelight” from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, February 14th. Scrumptious chocolate desserts & other treats, sparkling beverages, assorted teas and coffee will be served by candlelight in the atmospheric colonial wine cellar.  
\$15 per Person. Space is limited. Reservations Required. (Funds raised benefit restoration and operation of Proprietary House’s Museum. Museum & Wine Cellar are accessible for people with disabilities)  
For tickets & information contact Proprietary House Association.  
VISIT THE WEBSITE: [www.theproprietaryhouse.org](http://www.theproprietaryhouse.org). SEND E-MAIL TO: [info@theproprietaryhouse.org](mailto:info@theproprietaryhouse.org). PHONE: (732) 826-5527. PURCHASE BY CHECK: Make payable to Proprietary House Association - include your Name, # of Tickets, Phone Number & Address - Mail by Feb. 8th to: Proprietary House Association, 149 Kearny Avenue, Perth Amboy, NJ, 08861  
*\*Photo Submitted*

## Woodbridge Public Library Chosen for Founding Era Public Programming Grant

Press Release 1/16/20  
WOODBIDGE - We are pleased to announce that Woodbridge Public Library has been awarded a Revisiting the Founding Era Grant to implement public programming and community conversations that explore America’s founding and its enduring themes.  
As part of the grant, Woodbridge Public Library will receive 10 copies of a reader containing scholarly essays on selected historical documents from the lauded Gilder Lehrman Collection, \$1,000 to help implement programs, and additional digital resources, training, and support from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and the American Library Association.  
These resources will allow Woodbridge Public Library to launch a program series on the Founding Era. This includes the following programs all to be held at the Woodbridge Main Library:  
• Tuesday, February 4 @ 7 PM

– Founding Fathers Discussion with Dr. Jonathan Mercantini, Dean, Department of History - Kean University (open to all)  
• Friday, March 13 @ 3:45 PM – Teen Discussion Club: Founding Fathers Edition (open to young adults in grades 8-12 only)  
• Monday, March 23 @ 7 PM – Founding Era Readings Presented by Dragonfly Multicultural Arts Center (open to all)  
*Revisiting the Founding Era ([www.foundingera.org](http://www.foundingera.org)) is a three-year national initiative of The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, presented in partnership with the American Library Association and the National Constitution Center, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The grant provides 100 public libraries across the country the opportunity to use historical documents to spark public conversations about the Founding Era’s enduring ideas and themes and how they continue to influence our lives today.*

### A.C. Bus Trip

#### San Salvador Seniors

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

### 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.

### 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 Buddy Dog Olaf at Dowdell Library

SOUTH AMBOY —Join us at Dowdell Library as we read stories with our Book Buddy Dog – Olaf. On Wednesday, February 5 from 3:30-4:30 p.m., hear stories and read to the gentle and friendly dog named Olaf! Family fun for all ages! Don’t miss out on this exciting program.  
Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit [www.dowdell.org](http://www.dowdell.org), or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or [comments@dowdell.org](mailto:comments@dowdell.org). The library is located off John O’Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School.



### Book Sale

PARLIN – Book Sale on Saturday & Sunday, February 15th & 16th, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. ONLY \$10 for a bag of books or \$15 for a box of books. Location: Sayreville Free Public Library, 1050 Washington Road, Parlin, NJ 08859. For More Information, call 732-727-0212.

### 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 8, 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](mailto: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](http://www.folperthamboy.com) as we have added a donor button.

## Lopez Appointed to Latino Voting and Election Taskforce

Press Release  
TRENTON - Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez (D-Middlesex) has been selected by the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL) to serve as vice-chair of the Latino Voting and Elections Task Force for the 2020-2021 term.  
“I am thrilled to have been appointed to this Task Force,” said Lopez. “The Task Force’s work to ensure an accurate and complete 2020 Census as well as fair elections produce benefits for not only the State of New Jersey but the nation as a whole. As the Latino vote continues to grow in strength and with the upcoming 2020 election, my role on this Task Force will be to ensure that the 32 million Latinos registered to vote feel empowered to speak up for their communities at the polls.”  
Lopez will work with Arizona State Senator Tony Navarrete, chair of the task force, to develop policy to support comprehensive Census efforts as well as contending with any attempts to disenfranchise or



Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez

suppress voters and working to expand voting accessibility and resources.  
“So many people believe their vote does not matter and this feeling of disconnection is harmful to our democracy,” said Lopez. “Our goal is to inform voters and energize them to become engaged in the political process and to cast their ballot with confidence.”

## 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.



## 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](mailto:HAWT-WTP@GMAIL.COM) or visit the website to purchase dinner tickets online [WWW.WOODBRIDGETOWNSHIPHISTORY.ORG](http://WWW.WOODBRIDGETOWNSHIPHISTORY.ORG) Tickets also will be available at the door.



## Tax Preparation at the Dowdell Library

SOUTH AMBOY - Need help preparing your taxes? Tax Returns Prepared - Free! Sign up NOW to make an appointment. VITA free tax preparation. Registration recommended Individuals earning< \$64,000 are eligible. Tuesday, February 11, 2020 - Appointments 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Thursday, March 5, 2020. Appointments 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 7 - Drop off service only - 10 a.m. -1 p.m. Returns may be picked up Thursday, April 9, 2020.  
Register to reserve a spot! Call 732-721-6060 or email [comments@dowdell.org](mailto:comments@dowdell.org)  
The Dowdell Library is located at 100 Governor Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy, NJ 08879

## 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



# Hackensack Meridian Health Raritan Bay Medical Center Appoints Louis Brusco, Jr., M.D., FCCM, CPE As Chief Medical Officer

Press Release 1/29/20  
PERTH AMBOY – Hackensack Meridian Health Raritan Bay Medical Center is pleased to announce the addition of Louis Brusco, Jr., M.D., FCCM, CPE as chief medical officer for both Raritan Bay Medical Center - Old Bridge and Raritan Bay Medical Center - Perth Amboy.

“I’m excited to welcome a highly-respected physician leader to our hospital,” said Thomas Shanahan, chief hospital executive, Raritan Bay Medical Center. “I look forward to having Dr. Brusco continue to advance the clinical performance and enhance patient care in our community.”

Prior to joining Raritan Bay Medical Center, Dr. Brusco served as chief medical officer at Atlantic Health System’s Morristown Medical Center, where he created quality programs, strengthened resource management and improved pa-

tient safety. In addition, while Dr. Brusco was at Morristown Medical Center it was the recipient of Vizent’s 2018 Bernard A. Birnbaum MD Quality Leadership Award. In 2015, Dr. Brusco led the effort to lift the Leapfrog safety grade of the hospital to an “A” and elevate the Healthgrades ratings from top 100 hospitals to top 50 hospitals. Prior to his role at Morristown Medical Center, Dr. Brusco spent 22 years at Mount Sinai St. Luke’s and Mount Sinai Roosevelt hospitals in various physician leadership roles.

Dr. Brusco received his Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry and Doctor of Medicine from Columbia University. He completed his residency in internal medicine from St. Luke’s Hospital, New York. Additionally, he completed his residency in anesthesiology and fellowship in critical care medicine at Columbia Presbyterian Medical



Louis Brusco, Jr., M.D., FCCM, CPE appointed as Chief Medical Officer at Hackensack Meridian Health Raritan Bay Medical Center

Center.  
For more information about Raritan Bay Medical Center, please visit [www.rbmc.org](http://www.rbmc.org).

# Newark Liberty Airport Undergoing Major Restroom Upgrades, Part of Broader Port Authority Commitment to Facility Improvements That Elevate The Customer Experience

## United Airlines spending \$25 million for new and enhanced Terminal C restrooms; Port Authority is investing \$19 million during 2020 in new Terminal B bathrooms

*At a time the Port Authority is investing billions in new facilities, the agency also continues to prioritize customer service with world-class upgrades at all of its existing facilities. Real-time monitoring of Port Authority restrooms for cleanliness, customer satisfaction are a key element of the Project Clean initiative*

Press Release 1/23/20  
NEWARK - As part of a larger effort across all Port Authority facilities to improve the customer experience, the agency is teaming with United Airlines to bring new and modernized restroom facilities to Terminal C at Newark Liberty International Airport, and is investing \$19 million in restroom upgrades at the airport’s Terminal B.

The rollout of brand-new restrooms, redesign of existing restrooms and more rigorous cleaning schedules at Port Authority terminals, including Newark Liberty, is part of a broad array of specific initiatives the agency has introduced to improve the customer experience across all of its facilities.

At the same time the Port Authority is investing billions to build new world-class facilities, the agency continues to prioritize improved services that include free Wi-Fi at the airports, real-time information for air, rail and ground travelers, and a broad array of other passenger-focused initiatives, in addition to the restrooms initiative. The Newark Liberty Terminal B and C upgrades are part of a nearly \$80 million investment overall in restroom facilities at Port Authority airports.

“Customer satisfaction surveys have consistently shown that restrooms rate among the top issues for travelers using Port Authority transportation facilities,” said Port Authority Chairman Kevin O’Toole. “Our investments in the new Newark Liberty Airport are raising the quality of service for all of our customers.”

“Improving the customer experience for everyone using Port Authority facilities is one of our highest priorities,” said Port Authority Executive Director Rick Cotton. “The restroom enhancements we are making at Newark Liberty, and across all of our facilities, are an important part of that effort.”

The overall investment at Terminal C by United Airlines is approximately \$25 million for additional restroom locations, as well as newly renovated restrooms. By the end of 2020, United will have increased the number of facilities in Terminal C by 57 percent since 2018. The work is being done in two phases. The first phase has meant the opening of four new bathrooms, while phase two will add one new restroom and the redesign of two additional locations. New features include a variety of customer-friendly amenities such as a private nursing room, a separate family restroom, and larger stalls with room for luggage.

“Achieving a higher standard of service and cleanliness for our customers is an integral part of the experience we’re creating in United’s Terminal C at Newark Liberty International Airport,” said Jill Kaplan, United’s President of New York and New Jersey. “This includes the

completion of phase one of our \$25 million restrooms project to upgrade existing restrooms and creating entirely new locations, which will more than double our restroom capacity in Terminal C by the end of the year. We look forward to continuing to work on the Port Authority’s Project Clean initiative to insure a world-class experience for travelers throughout United’s Terminal C.”

The Port Authority launched Project Clean in 2018, implementing the agency’s first-ever set of restroom standards for airport terminals. These new standards are based on industry research, best-in-class class practices and changing demographics designed to exceed customer expectations.

Real-time feedback buttons have been added to all airport restrooms to track cleanliness and customer satisfaction. This information is reported back to the operators who can deploy custodial staff accordingly. To date, the Port Authority travelers have provided some 10 million ratings. Overall satisfaction, as measured by the results from the feedback buttons, stands at 85 percent. Additionally, random inspections are made to ensure cleanliness and functionality.

The Port Authority’s \$19 million planned investment in Newark Liberty’s Terminal B will add restroom capacity to the terminal while updating existing restrooms, prioritized by utilizing public feedback scores, through the end of 2020. Terminal A has undergone a nearly \$2 million renovation of its 10 restrooms and the addition of 10 fully functional temporary restrooms.

The 36 restrooms in LaGuardia Airport’s new Terminal B eastern concourse, which opened in December 2018, feature modern technology, a series of new hands-free fixtures, and wider, ADA-compliant stalls. Nursing rooms complete with a comfortable lounge chair are also available, in addition to family-friendly facilities.

As part of a \$110 million quality-of-commute program at the Port Authority Bus Terminal, renovations with additional lighting and mirrors were completed earlier this year in the terminals’ 14 bathrooms were completed earlier this year. Attendants were also added at most of the bus terminal’s restrooms.

In addition, the Port Authority opened new, thoroughly modern restrooms at the Jamaica AirTrain station in the fall of 2019, and restroom upgrades as part of Project Clean at JFK terminals have produced sharp increases in customer satisfaction rates. JFK Terminal 4 leads the agency’s overall airport restroom satisfaction report with a ranking of more than 90 percent, thanks to remodeled facilities, new aesthetic designs and other amenities.

# Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern New Jersey to Host National Mentoring Month Award Ceremony

Press Release  
NEW BRUNSWICK - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern New Jersey (BBBSCNNJ) will host their National Mentoring Month Appreciation Event and Award Ceremony on Tuesday, January 28, 2020.

Six BBBSCNNJ mentors will be recognized for their outstanding contributions to the Big Brothers Big Sisters program during their annual Mentoring Month Appreciation event from 6:30 p.m.- 8 p.m. at The Heldrich Hotel & Conference Center, 10 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, N.J., 08901. The event is free and open to the public.

“These Bigs have volunteered countless hours and gone above and beyond for their Littles,” declared William Salcedo, Executive Director of BBBSCNNJ. “The Bigs act as mentors, guides, and friends to the Littles, while promoting

educational success, better relationships, and overall wellbeing. They play a crucial role in helping the Littles achieve their maximum potential and that is why we celebrate them every day, and honor them each year.”

Award recipients were selected from five program areas: Community Based, Workplace, School Based, College and Bigs in Blue (law enforcement).

## The 2019 BBBSCNNJ Bigs of the Year:

### Community Based Big Sister and Little of the Year

Karen Bottari, Hair Stylist & Little Sister Tyquayshia (Monmouth County)

### Community Based Big Brother and Little of the Year

Andrew Mahnken of Wells Fargo & Little Brother Ethan (Monmouth County)

### Workplace Big of the Year

Jacqueline Berlengi (BMW of North America, LLC Program, Bergen County)

### School Based Big of the Year

Kate Saldivar (Perth Amboy High School/Shull Middle School Program, Middlesex County)

### College Big of the Year

Christine Sae (Ramapo College Program/Paterson Elementary School #5, Passaic County)

### Bigs in Blue Big of the Year

Nichelle Ponder (Bergen County Sheriff’s Office, Bergen County)

*About Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern New Jersey BBBSCNNJ provides one-to-one mentoring for youth ages 6-18 through our Community Based, School Based, Workplace, College, Bigs in Blue, Kids Club, and Back on Track Programs. By placing children in a quality mentoring relationship, we are able to provide them with the tools they need to become competent, confident, and caring members of their community. To learn more, visit [mentornj.org](http://mentornj.org).*

# Quinones Earns Play Therapy Credential

Press Release  
CLOVIS, CA/PERTH AMBOY - Brian Quinones, EdD, LPC, of Perth Amboy, NJ, earned the prestigious Registered Play Therapist (RPT) credential conferred by the Association for Play Therapy (APT), according to its CEO Kathryn Lebbey.

Quinones is a Licensed Professional Counselor.

To become a Registered Play Therapist, applicants must have earned a traditional master’s or higher mental health degree from an institution of higher education, 150 clock hours of play therapy training, two years and 2,000 hours of clinical experience, 500 hours of supervised play therapy experience, and be licensed or certified by their state boards of practice.

Play therapy continues to gain popularity as an effective mo-

dalities by which licensed mental health professionals, school counselors, and school psychologists use play therapy theories and techniques in developmentally appropriate ways to better communicate with and help clients, especially children.

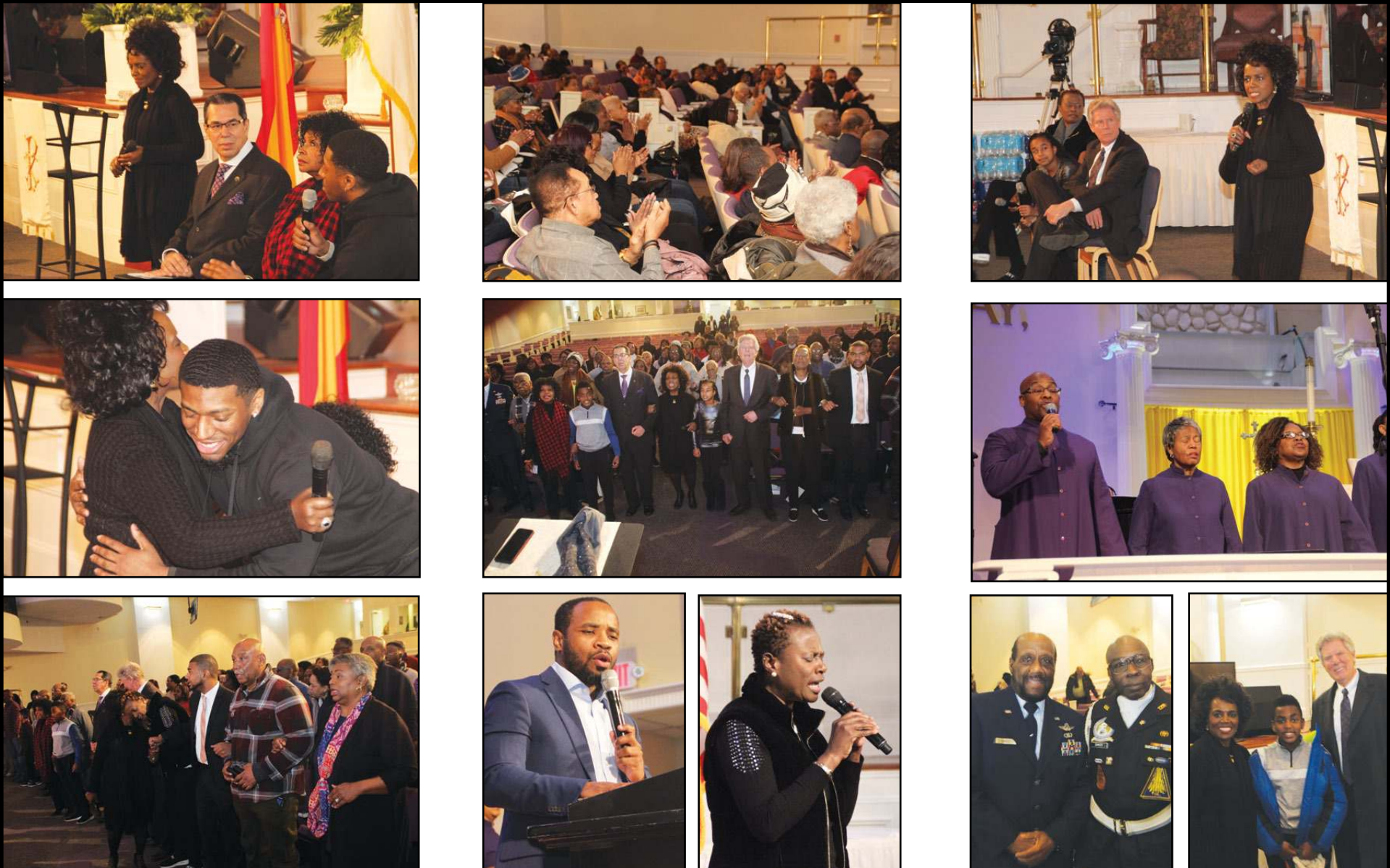
APT is a national professional society formed in 1982 to advance the field of play therapy. It sponsors research, training, and credentialing programs to assist the professional development of its nearly 6,000 member psychologists, social workers, counselors, and marriage and family therapists in more than 25 nations. Additional information is available at [www.a4pt.org](http://www.a4pt.org).

*Play Therapy is a mental health modality used by licensed mental health professionals, when developmentally appropriate,*

*to better communicate with and help clients achieve optimal mental health. It is particularly effective with children because, just as adults use words to communicate ideas and feelings, children use play. Visit the Why Play Therapy section of the APT website. The Association for Play Therapy (APT) is a national professional society formed in 1982 to advance the play therapy modality and serve the research, training, and credentialing needs of its member counselors, marriage and family therapists, psychologists, and social workers. Licensed mental health professionals may earn and maintain its Registered Play Therapist (RPT), Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor (RPT-S), and School Based-Registered Play Therapist credentials. Visit the APT website.*



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, The Cathedral International 1/20/20 \*Photos by Eric Salvary



Business Meeting, Alameda Center 1/15/20 \*Photos by Paul W. Wang





## Obituary: Antonio "Tony" Soto Father of Hon. Mayor Wilda Diaz

PERTH AMBOY - Antonio "Tony" Soto, 82 of San Sebastian, Puerto Rico, formally of Perth Amboy, passed away at the comfort of his daughter's residence surrounded by family on Saturday, February 1, 2020. He was well know for his witty, funny and long entertaining stories, which he loved to repeat often to the amusement of his family and friends. His other legacy was helping those in need.

Antonio was born and raised in San Sebastian, Puerto Rico and came to Perth Amboy in the 1950's where he resided for 40 years. He was a former committeeman for the Perth Amboy Democratic Party, a member of the PBA Local 152 and a member of the Pepino Social Club. He retired as a Corrections Officer from the Middlesex County Adult Correctional Facility after 30 years of service. Thereafter, he returned to San Sebastian, Puerto Rico.

He is preceded in death by his



**Correction Officer  
Badge**



**Antonio Soto**  
January 19, 1938 -  
February 1, 2020 (age 82)

loving parents Luis Soto Ramos and Virginia Mendez; and his dear brothers, Pedro Soto Mendez and Angel Manuel Soto.

Antonio is survived by his devoted wife of 56 years Mercedes ( nee Lopez ) Soto; his daughters, Mayor Wilda Diaz and her husband Greg, Ana Delia Soto, Lourdes O'Donnell

and her husband David, Nancy Diaz and her husband Javier, Jeannette Soto and her husband Fabian Lorenzo and Evelyn Anderson and her husband Jeremy; his grandchildren Gregory Diaz, Samantha Diaz, Fabian Lorenzo, David A. O'Donnell, Kristina O'Donnell, Zachary J. Diaz and Jalyn R. Anderson; and great ~ grandchildren, Leilani Lorenzo and Hannah Diaz; dear sisters, Aida Rosa, Maria L. Mendez, Ana de Soto Mendez, brothers, William Soto, Angel L. Soto, Luis Soto, Martin Soto, Angel M. Soto; many nieces, nephews.

We begin to leave on Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 9:15 am from the Gustav J. Novak Funeral Home, 419 Barclay Street, Perth Amboy for a Funeral Mass at 10 am at Our Lady of Fatima Church. Interment will follow at the Cementerio Municipal de San Sebastian, San Sebastian, Puerto Rico. Visiting is on Wednesday 5 ~ 9 p.m. at Novak Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations in the memory of Tony can be made to either the Gastric Cancer Foundation [www.gastriccaner.org](http://www.gastriccaner.org) or to the Cancer Institute of New Jersey at [www.cinj.org](http://www.cinj.org)

### Gift Auction

PERTH AMBOY – Save the Date! The St. Ann's Society of Ukrainian Assumption Church Gift Auction will be held on Sunday, March 8, 2020 at Assumption Catholic School Cafeteria, 380 Meredith St., Perth Amboy. Mark your calendars!

### 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.

## Mount Saint Mary Academy's Participation in Polar Plunge *Yields Over \$15,000; Directress Took the Plunge*



### Press Release

**WATCHUNG** – The frigid waters of the Atlantic Ocean did not pose a challenge to the bravery of the Mount Saint Mary Academy community on Sunday afternoon.

For the second year, the Fathers Club and Mount students participated in the Polar Plunge of the Ancient Order of Hibernians at Sea Bright Public Beach. This year, they were joined by the Academy's Directress, Sister Lisa D. Gambacorto, RSM, Ed.S. (a Sister of Mercy) who took on the challenge of entering the ocean for \$10,000. The school raised \$12,900 for her efforts.

The total raised was brought to over \$15,000 as pledges were supported for the participation of 9 Mount students and 18 parents. Sister Lisa was the only faculty/staff member to join in the fun.

Approximately 10 faculty/staff members cheered on the participants, as well as Sisters of Mercy, alumnae, parents and past parents – approximately 75 people in total.

Last year, the Fathers Club raised \$3,000 at the Plunge with 6 fathers, one student and no faculty/staff members participating. The Mount Saint Mary Academy community truly rallied efforts this year.

Proceeds from this year's Polar Plunge will be used to replace the bleachers in the Mother Mary Patrick Gymnasium on the Mount campus. \*Photos Courtesy of Mount Saint Mary Academy

## Groundhog Day 2/2/20

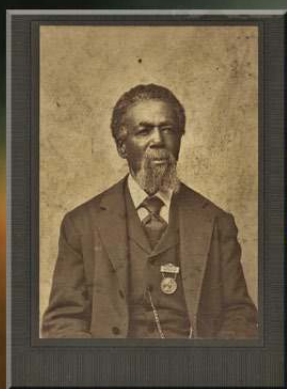


**Chuck and Philly both agree an Early Spring it will be!**

\*Photo (Top) Punxsutawney Phil - *AP Gene J. Puskar*

\*Photo (Bottom) Staten Island Chuck - *AOL Kenneth Gee*

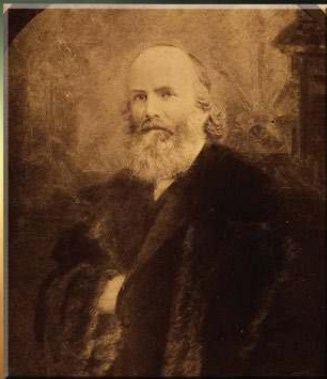
## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Thomas Mundy Peterson's Historic Vote



**On March 31, 1870  
Thomas Mundy Peterson  
became the first  
African-American voter  
under the 15th Amendment  
to the United States  
Constitution**

\*Historic image courtesy of John Kerry Dyke

**Peterson received  
support from many  
Perth Amboy community  
leaders including  
Marcus Spring of  
Eagleswood**



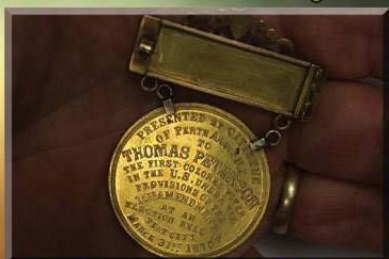
\*Historic image courtesy of John Kerry Dyke

**Peterson cast his historic vote  
in  
Perth Amboy  
City Hall**



\*Image courtesy of John Kerry Dyke

**The Citizens of Perth Amboy  
awarded  
Peterson a  
gold medal**



\*Image courtesy of John Kerry Dyke



# Appointments Questioned

## 1/22/20 Caucus

*\*Continued from Page 1*

not (Law Director) Peter King.” King then spoke up and addressed Councilman Caba’s concerns about residency waivers, “You can’t put any restrictions on that.” Carr then addressed a concern that Councilman Irizarry had regarding banning of plastic bags in the city. “Recyclables are gumming up the machines.” Irizarry then stated he had asked at a previous meeting what are the pros and cons (of banning plastic bags)?

Law Director King added to his comments, “Some towns have exceptions such as sandwich bags which are not banned. It’s more of a ban on grocery store plastic bags.” During the regular public portion, Ken Balut came back up to speak. He mentioned the 2 late-starter resolutions that were added to the agenda: R-43-1/20 – Consenting to the Reappointment of Kenneth L. Gonzalez, as Presiding Judge of the Municipal Court of the City of Perth Amboy for a 3-year term, effective retroactive to January 1, 2020 and terminating December 21, 2022. R-44-1/20 – Consenting to the Reappointment of Michelle Roman as Judge of the Municipal Court of the City of Perth Amboy for a 3-year term effective March 2, 2020 to March 1, 2023.

Balut brought up the fact that Gonzalez had misused handicapped parking plates and also misfiled paperwork (regarding a first-time homebuyer application) which caused a woman’s taxes to be raised. “He was in charge when there was trouble involving Adam Cruz (Former B.A.) and a former court clerk. He is still parking illegally and still doing first-time homebuyer contracts.”

Jeremy Baratta came back up to speak, “The public should be allowed to comment on judge’s appointments.” Baratta then turned his attention to Resolution R-31-1/20 – Consenting to the Appointment of Maria Manigbas to Library Director and waiving the residency requirement.

Baratta stated that the Library Board of Trustees is a separate entity that appoints its own employees and that the Library Board had no meeting regarding this appointment. “There are things on her (Mangibas’s) resume that are not mentioned in the books and you need to look closely at her qualifications. My understanding is the Library Board controls the library.”

There was a discrepancy between Law Director King and Council President Petrick on who has the responsibility of hiring a Library Director. King stated the Library Board is autonomous, and they hire the Director and Petrick stated that the Mayor makes appointments to the Library Board of Trustees. King was surprised, “Usually the Board is autonomous.”

B.A. Carr then spoke up to clarify some of these statements, “The Library Director is a civil service employee and the city pays them under a salary ordinance.”

Baratta who was still standing at the podium stated, “The state statute is the same (The Library Board of Directors is autonomous).”

Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe came up to speak with reservations about the Library Director candidate, “The Board of Trustees has not met in months due to lack of quorum. They had no idea that someone was being considered for hiring. I agree with what Councilman Irizarry said earlier about needing a Library Director. We need to make sure they address our (the community’s) needs. The applicant lied on her resume about creating a specific program. Her resume also has too many inconsistencies. She has moved around from state to state. In 2018, she also ran for Council in Piscataway. You should be questioning this.”

Billy Delgado came up next and wanted to clarify the first-time homebuyer program. “The buyers and sellers have their own documents that are prepared by their own attorneys.” He then talked about 2 late-starter Resolutions. He stated, “I’ve worked with Judge Gonzalez for 2 years. He is flexible, compassionate, and brings people into his chambers if necessary. Michele Roman is an excellent judge. We have nothing but compliments by people from other towns. You (the council) should go to court to observe Judge Gonzalez. He is an excellent assignment judge.”

Delgado then addressed statements concerning his working hours. “I work an average of 40 hours a week. I probably do 60 hours some weeks that I don’t put down in overtime. I have not billed the city for some of my services.”

Council President Bill Petrick then asked Law Director King to see if the council can make appointments to the Library Board of Directors.

The council then convened into closed session.

### 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@casaofmiddlesexcounty.org](mailto:nora@casaofmiddlesexcounty.org) For more information: <http://www.casaofmiddlesexcounty.org/events>

# Movie Review: Parasite

By: Anton Massopust III

This is a South Korean movie directed by Bong Joon-Ho. It is a combination of many different films in one movie. It’s a weird and different kind of movie.

The plot of the film focuses on two different families who live in South Korea. One family live in the poverty in a small basement apartment. There is an old store underneath the basement. They lost their job delivering menus. They decide to form a scheme to work for a wealthy family. The plan is this: one son and his sister (who is good with computers) forges credentials to make the brother certified to teach the daughter of the wealthy family how to pass tests for school. The wealthy family also has a younger son who is obsessed with American Indians and is an artist. The son from the poor family fabricates a story that his sister is an art teacher. They then get



the wealthy family’s limo driver fired so their father can become the limo driver. Then, the poor family get the wealthy family’s housekeeper fired so they hire their mother.

I won’t tell you the ending, because it is not what you expect. Parasite is definitely worth seeing. When people talk to me about movies, they always say, “All the plots are recycled over and over again,” and “There’s

nothing new – nothing different.” But Parasite is nothing like you ever seen before. The movie is in Korean with English subtitles, so you really have to pay attention to what is going on. Parasite gives you the definite feel between the haves and the have-nots.

The film is nominated for several Academy Awards including Best Picture. It might win. It’s something different. Go see it.

# Elks Lodge # 784 Launches the Y’s 2020 Annual Support Campaign Fund with a Gift of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars

Press Release

SOUTH AMBOY - With the support of the South Amboy Elks Lodge #784 and other local donors, the Y has already raised over \$8k since January 1st. All funds raised are used to address community health needs and subsidize program fees for community members. The lodge will be officially recognized at the Y’s Annual Support Campaign Kick-Off event on January 15th 5:30-6:30pm. All community members and leaders are encouraged to attend this event held at the south Amboy YMCA Branch to learn about the Y’s cause to strengthen community.

The South Amboy Elks Lodge No. 784 helped launch the South Amboy YMCA’s Annual Support Campaign with a donation of \$2,500. The Lodges National Foundation gift made possible through the efforts of the Elks Care/Elks share community service initiative, will help fund the Y’s Safety Around Water initiative. This initiative, including transportation, engages children in swim safety activities and educates parents about the importance of water safety. The curriculum is offered to all second grade students in the Y’s aquatic center during the school year in partnership with the City of South Amboy School District.

The cost of the program is funded through donations received from the YMCA of Metuchen, Edison, Woodbridge & South Amboy’s Annual Support Campaign. Children learn two basic skills that will reduce the risk of drowning and give participants’ confidence around water: how to get to safety if they fall into a pool, and how to safely swim to safety without tiring.

Val Tarr, Elks Lodge Member, said “The Y is a great place that serves and welcomes everyone. When I was in remis-



(L to R) **Top Row:** Karen M. Robson, South Amboy YMCA Branch Director of Operations; Mary Taylor, YMCA’s Annual Support Campaign Volunteer; Val Tarr, South Amboy Elks Lodge #784; Anthony Conrad, YMCA Annual Support Campaign and Branch Board Chair; Rose Cushing, CEO YMCA of MEWSA  
**Middle Row:** Adonus Curtis, Avry Roque, Jaliel Davis, Adrian Declet, Christian Merino, Daniel Reyes,  
**Bottom Row:** Ximena Rosas, Fredrick Meyer, Antonella Mori, Sebastian Salgado, Annabelle Keremes \*Photo Submitted

sion from cancer several years ago, I participated in the Y’s LiveSTRONG program at no cost. It feels good to support another Y-sponsored initiative that makes an impact on our community.”

“The Y strengthens our community with several outreach programs and activities. We are grateful to the South Amboy Elks Lodge #784 and all major gift donors who support our efforts to make our community healthier and safer,” said Anthony Conrad, 2020 South Amboy YMCA Annual Support Campaign Chair. “The Safety Around Water program helps children, families and adults make sure they learn essential water safety skills, which can open up a world of possibilities

for them to satisfy their curiosity safely.”

The Y offers free community swim times, welcoming all, due to the efforts of the Y’s Annual Support Campaign. All guests are swim-tested by a YMCA-trained lifeguard. A YMCA membership is not required; however, a guest application is required. YMCA scholarships, funded by the Y’s Annual Support Campaign, are available for any membership or program, including swim lessons, child care, camp, youth sports, and special needs activities. Call the South Amboy YMCA at 732.553.9622 or visit [ymcaofmews.org](http://ymcaofmews.org) for more information. Contact Karen. Robson@ymcaofmews.org for sponsorship opportunities.



# Raritan Bay Area YMCA Launches 2020 Annual Campaign to Support Community Needs

Press Release 1/30/20  
PERTH AMBOY - The RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA is launching its annual fundraising campaign February 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 to help ensure everyone in the City of Perth Amboy has access to vital community programs and resources that support youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.  
Every day, the RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA works to support the people and neighborhoods that need it most by addressing community issues, **such as school readiness, drown-proofing programs, ending homelessness, chronic disease prevention, behavior health programs, and mental health case management services.**  
“Throughout the City of Perth Amboy, countless people know and depend on the Y, but we’re so much more than many people

realize,” said Steve Jobin, CEO and President of the RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA. “In addition to being the place children learn to swim or adults go for their daily workout, we’re also constantly responding to the needs of our community. We’re dedicated to nurturing the potential of every child and teen, improving the nation’s health and well-being, and giving back and providing support to our neighbors—all to create a better us.”  
This year, the RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA hopes to raise \$100k which will support the various programs and services we provide such as YCARES Financial Assistance, Ending Homelessness prevention program, Camp for Kids and after-school support.  
Last year, charitable gifts from YMCA generous donors and supporters made it possible

for our YCARES Financial Assistance program assist parents who enrolled their children in our After-School Program, summer camp, membership, swim lessons and sports programs. Allowing kids to have a safe place to learn and build confidence after school; for families to reconnect and grow together; and people access to education and training to reach their full potential.  
**The Annual Community SUPPORT CAMPAIGN kick-off events will take place between FEBRUARY 1<sup>st</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020!**  
For more information about the Y’s cause and to donate, contact Jennifer Roche, Director of Development and Housing at 732.442.3632 ext. 6513; jroche@rbaymca.org or visit www.rbaymca.org/main/donate to make a donation today.

## Grants and Partnerships Help YMCA Serve Local Residents....

PERTH AMBOY - The YMCA has a long history of serving local residents. This tradition continues today through many grant programs and partnerships. Currently, the YMCA has 8 grant-funded services that are provided for FREE to the residents of Perth Amboy.  
Families Fit Together – The YMCA provides Family Counseling to “at-risk” Middle School aged students and their parents/guardians. Using the Strengthening Families, an evidence-based curriculum, 24 families will engage in discussion groups and wholesome family activities that strengthen communication and foster healthy family relationships.  
Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) – The YMCA provides 330 students, grades 5th through 9th, afterschool enrichment and academic support services from 3pm – 6pm. The afterschool hours are statistically the time of the day most prevalent to juvenile delinquency and negative behaviors. This program provides students a safe, structured, fun, afterschool program that promotes positive social activities and non-traditional academic support.  
Teen Center – In partnership with the City of Perth Amboy, the Y opens its doors FREE of CHARGE on Saturday Nights to provide social and physical activities for Teens. The Y is honored to serve and protect our youth and are committed giving young people all of the opportunities to fulfill their potential.  
Census 2020 – The YMCA provides Census education workshops throughout the Community. Working in partnership with the CITY OF PERTH AMBOY, PRAHD, PARTNER, the CHAPLAINS CORP., and JRF, will utilize TRUSTED VOICES to amplify the need for EVERYONE TO BE COUNTED!!!  
New Jersey Health Initiative (Healthier Perth Amboy) – This capacity building grant has helped cultivate stronger relationships with organizations and develop a Blueprint for Ac-

tion to help combat the biggest health challenges in our City. Using a collective impact model, the HEALTHIER PERTH AMBOY consortium works to advocate for healthy policies, reduce health disparities, increase health equity, and promote access to healthy activities and health care.  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – Upstream Action Acceleration – The YMCA provided more than \$30,000 in grant funding to the City of Perth Amboy to update the Housing Element of the City’s Master Plan. We believe unhealthy, unsafe housing is a critical “quality of life” issue in our City and needs to be addressed through comprehensive policy review and reform. Through this grant, the YMCA has also contracted Rutgers Bloustein School of Public Policy to review current practices and policies and provide best practice recommendations for the Mayor and City Council’s consideration.  
NJ Healthy Community Network – Throughout the next 2 years, in the Gateway section of town, the YMCA will help collect local data that can guide new housing policy. The YMCA and PARTNER will provide door to door tenant/landlord education and host community forums. The education will provide residents a detailed outline of the new policies and their rights and impact under these new laws.  
Supportive Housing - In partnership with God’s Army Ministries of NJ, the YMCA offers Supportive Day Services for those who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. Through fellowship, learning, support, case management, resources, prevention services, health services both physical and mental, education, job placement, etc. we work to provide a place for creativity and connection. The YMCA offers Safe and Supportive Emergency Housing, particularly; our concern is for women and children. Each night, homeless families, adults and children, expose

themselves to danger either by sleeping on the streets or by subjecting themselves to unsafe situations. Through grants and generous donations, we have the ability to provide a safe, supportive environment conducive to helping them feel the care of the community and see the hope and possibilities for their future through active case management. The YMCA receives grants from Coming Home of Middlesex County and the NJ Department of Community Affairs to purchase and rehabilitate houses to secure Permanent Housing and Support Services that are statistically proven to help stabilize families and reduce homelessness. Supportive services may include referrals for abuse prevention, job training and readiness, for mental and physical health services, for addressing immigration issues, learning English, life skills, parenting skills, and making stronger connections to the community through activities and volunteerism.  
Code Blue – When the weather becomes dangerously cold, the County calls a Code Blue to initiate the opening of a warming center to protect the Homeless in such conditions. In partnership with the City of Perth Amboy, the YMCA provides “chaperone” services for the City’s warming center. An Off-Duty Police Officer and YMCA staff supervise the overnight shelter services at the Alexander Jankowski Center at 1 Olive Street.  
The YMCA’s PROMISE continues to do this every day: We PROMISE, the YMCA will aggressively seek resources that help improve the lives of the residents of Perth Amboy. We PROMISE, the YMCA will wisely seek financial resources to help find solutions to complex problems.  
We PROMISE, the YMCA will continue to proudly serve the residents of Perth Amboy and help make Perth Amboy a great place to Live, Learn, Work and Play!!!!

## Pet of the Week

PERTH AMBOY - Dimarie was rescued as a kitten from the streets of Perth Amboy. We fixed her parents and siblings. They were/are happy and healthy in their TNR colony & cared by me. Her sister was adopted by a friend, but Dimarie was overlooked time and time again because she is shy. Her mom Rambunctious went missing this year, but her aunt Bambi is alive and well. I've had Dimarie many years. She was adopted shortly after



my house fire on Jan. 2016, but returned a year later. I've had her over 5 years although she still looks like a kitten since she is tiny. 3 years passed since she was returned. I love her. She deserves a better home than our rescue can give. She is so sweet, despite being timid. She's silky soft and loves being petted. Will you give her the love and attention she deserves? She's spayed, vaccinated, negative for fiv & leukemia and fully vetted. Email Vmoralespps@yahoo.com for adoption application. Donation fee applies. Allforthepaws.org 1.732.486.6382

### Have a Special Pet?

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

## 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.

## Tom's Tax Tips

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

### Make Your Cash Worth More Banking Tips to Help You Cash In

Your cash is parked. Do you know if it's making or losing you money? For instance, letting it sit in a non-interest-bearing account is a waste of earnings potential. It's actually losing money if you factor in inflation! Here are some ideas to help you make the most of your banked cash:  
**1. Understand your bank accounts.** Not all bank accounts are created equal. Interest rates, monthly fees, minimum balances, direct deposit requirements, access to ATMs, other fees and customer service all vary from bank to bank and need to be considered. Start by digging into the details of your accounts. There may be some things you've been unnecessarily living with like ATM fees or monthly account charges. Once you have a handle on your current bank, conduct research on what other banks have to offer.  
**2. Know your interest rates.** As a general rule, the more liquid an account, the lower the interest rate. Checking accounts offer the lowest rates, then savings accounts, which yield lower rates than CDs. Maximizing your earnings is as simple as keeping your cash in accounts with higher interest rates. The overall interest rate earned between all your accounts should be higher than the inflation rate, which is generally around 2 percent.  
**3. Make smart moves.** There are a couple of things to take into account when making transfers. First, federal law allows for only six transfers from savings and money market accounts per month. Second, if you invest in longer term investments like CDs or bonds, there are penalties for withdrawing funds before the maturity date. So make sure you can live without the funds for the duration of the term.  
**4. Stay diligent.** Putting together a cash plan is just the start. The key to success is to be persistent. Besides losing out on potential earnings, mismanaging your cash can result in hefty overdraft fees. The more attention you devote, the more your money will grow.

**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.



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.*

Japanese naval docks at Singapore are destroyed by Allied B-29 attacks on February 2, 1945. Ecuador declares war on Germany. The Soviet 1st Belorussian Front reaches the Oder River, south of Frankfurt an der Oder, in northeastern Germany. The four-day conference on Malta between President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill ends. They agree to pull troops out of Greece and Italy to reinforce those in northwestern Europe. The two then depart for Yalta to meet with Joseph Stalin. U.S. forces, aided by Filipino troops and guerrilla groups, enter Manila, the Philippines, on February 3. The Allies liberate a POW camp on the way. A vicious urban battle ensues that lasts for several weeks. Japanese troops massacre over 100,000 Filipino citizens and devastate the city. The U.S. 8th Air Force, with 937 bombers and 613 fighters, carries out the heaviest attack to date against Berlin. It levels large areas of the city and kills more than 25,000 civilians. The Soviets capture Landsberg, Germany, 80 miles northeast of Berlin. American and French units capture Colmar, France, 40 miles south of Strasbourg.

The Yalta Conference begins on February 4 at the recently liberated resort town on Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula. Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin discuss post-war spheres of influence. The Soviet Union agrees to enter the war against Japan once hostilities against Germany are concluded. The Allies announce that all German troops have been expelled from Belgium.

Attacks on German positions around Poznań, Poland, by the Red Army make some progress on February 5. In the Philippines, U.S. forces close in tighter around Manila. Ecuador declares war on Japan. As the Yalta Conference proceeds, President Roosevelt’s physical condition alarms some observers, among them Winston Churchill’s physician, Lord Moran, who believes the American president has only a short time to live. He writes: “. . . but men shut their eyes when they do not want to see, and the Americans here cannot bring themselves to believe that he is finished.”

Southeast of Wrocław, Poland, the Red Army on February 6 starts to push across the Oder River, causing hundreds of thousands of panicked civilians to flee westward from Wrocław (Breslau, in German) towards Dresden, Germany. In a controversial incident, French author and journalist Robert Brasillach is executed by a firing squad in Paris. Brasillach was tried and convicted by the French government — not for military or political crimes, but for “intellectual crimes,” because his writings “advocated collaborationism.” A petition— signed by many leading French literary figures, and even some of Brasillach’s political opponents — sent to Charles de Gaulle pleading for the commutation of Brasillach’s sentence is ignored.

On February 7, the Germans blow up floodgates on dams in the industrial Ruhr region of Germany, flooding the area west of Cologne and preventing the use of floating assault bridges by the Allies and slowing their advance. In the Philippines, Gen. Douglas MacArthur returns to Manila. In South America, Paraguay declares war on Germany.

Almost 50,000 British and Canadian troops, with 500 tanks and 1,034 guns, on February 8 launch a new offensive into the Reichswald, to the southeast of Nijmegen, considered to be the oldest city in the Netherlands. The British government reports that U.K. civilian war casualties up to September 1944 are 57,468 killed and 89,178 injured. In Oslo, Generalmajor Karl Marthinsen, the head of the Norwegian State Police, is assassinated in his car by operatives of the Norwegian resistance movement Milorg. The Germans execute 29 Norwegians in retaliation.

In Alsace, France, the “Colmar Pocket” is eliminated on February 9, 1945, by troops of the U.S. Sixth Army Group, commanded by Lt. Gen. Jacob Devers. Held by the German Nineteenth Army since November 1944, the pocket is the last German foothold west of the Rhine River. In Burma, the British 26th Indian Division captures Ramree Island off the Burmese coast in the Arakan area. After roughly three weeks of fighting, troops of the Australian 31st/51st Infantry Battalion defeat the Japanese at the Battle of Tsimba Ridge, on Bougainville Island, Papua-New Guinea. The Australians arrived in November 1944 to relieve the U.S. Army’s XIV Corps, permitting it to be transferred to the Philippines.

Some 16,000 Germans and Hungarians of the remaining defenders of Budapest try to break out of their encirclement by the Red Army on February 10, but most are killed or captured. In the Baltic Sea, the German liner *SS General von Steuben* is sunk by two torpedoes from Soviet submarine S-13; 3,000–4,000 people, mostly wounded German soldiers, die. In the U.S., “Rum and Coca-Cola” by the Andrews Sisters hits #1 on the song-popularity charts.

Stopping in Egypt on his way back from Yalta on February 11, President Roosevelt meets briefly with kings Farouk of Egypt, Haile Selassie of Ethiopia and Abdulaziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia. Among other things, the president is concerned about oil, aware that the U.S. is using up petroleum reserves faster than it is discovering new ones. American oilmen have been allowed in Saudi Arabia since the 1930s, and the Saudi monarch prefers ties to businesses from the U.S. — which seems to have no colonial ambitions in the Middle East — as opposed to those from Great Britain. Roosevelt and Ibn Saud emerge from their meeting favorably impressed with each other, and U.S. and Saudi ties will continue to grow stronger. Walter Ulbricht becomes the leader of German communists in Moscow. In Germany, the nation’s entire gold reserve — about 100 tons — is transferred from Berlin to a salt mine near Eisenach, in the center of the country.

In the Philippines, the U.S. XI Corps on February 12 has closed the neck of the Bataan Peninsula and is advancing southward, clearing Japanese forces ahead of it. In South America, Peru declares war on Germany. San Francisco, California, is selected as the site for the upcoming United Nations Conference on International Organization, a convention of delegates from 50 Allied nations.

In the Philippines, the U.S. Navy begins operations in Manila Bay on February 13, clearing mines and bombarding the Japanese garrison on Corregidor Island. The Battle of Budapest comes to an end, after a 49-day-long, but unsuccessful, defense by Germans and Hungarians. 159,000 soldiers and civilians have perished, and over 100,000 prisoners are taken by the Soviets.

The very early hours of February 14 marks the culmination of three days of alternating raids by 773 RAF and 527 USAAF bombers, that have dropped 3,900 tons of high-explosive and incendiary bombs on Dresden, Germany. The attack generates a firestorm that burns for 8 nights and 7 days and destroys over 90% of the historic city that is packed with civilian refugees from the Eastern Front. The raid is estimated to kill between 23,000 and 25,000 people and turns out to be the most destructive raid of the war in Europe. One eyewitness is U.S. Army POW Kurt Vonnegut, being held in the city, who will vividly describe the destruction in his 1969 novel “Slaughterhouse-Five.” (Vonnegut and other POWs were incarcerated in a Dresden slaughterhouse. When the air-raid sirens sounded on February 14, they took refuge in a meat locker three stories below ground level. Vonnegut wrote: “When we came up, the city was gone . . . .”) In Burma, the British Indian IV Corps begins to cross the Irawaddy River and strike into the Japanese rear. Uruguay declares war on Germany.

Soviet troops on February 15 are covering the approaches to Danzig (Gdańsk, in Polish), a major port on the Baltic Sea. Forces of the Red Army’s 1st Ukrainian Front surround Wrocław, Poland, which straddles the Oder River.

New Perth Amboy  
Documentary:  
Perth Amboy Terra-Cotta



*\*Photos Courtesy of John K. Dyke*

Press Release  
PERTH AMBOY - A new Perth Amboy history documentation has been released and is premiering on Comcast Channel 34. It is entitled "PERTH AMBOY TERRA COTTA".

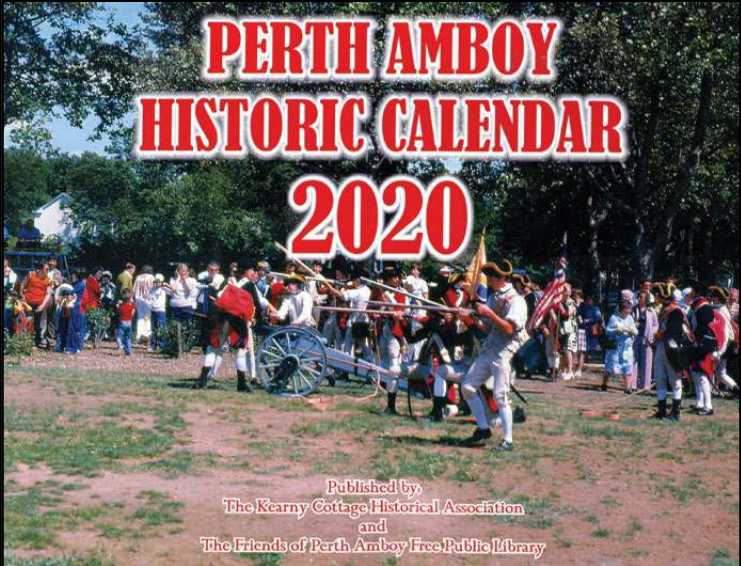
"A few decades ago, we produced a documentary on the same subject," advised John Kerry Dyke, a local historian. "Since then we have received numerous for a rebroadcast, however that film was done in an old-fashioned TV style.

Instead, we wanted to do a brand new one, bringing it up to modern broadcast standards.....and this is it. Over 100 different sources have been researched for this new piece."

Terra cotta manufacturing was a major Perth Amboy industry. Much of lower Manhattan was built with Perth Amboy terra cotta, as well as important buildings all over the country. In addition to exploring the history of these terra cotta works, this documentary introduces many rare photographs from a turn-of-the-century Perth Amboy.

In addition to this work being seen on Comcast Channel 34, "PERTH AMBOY TERRA COTTA" can also be viewed via Blu-Ray quality on You Tube.

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.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

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**Pirohi Sale**  
PERTH AMBOY - St. John The Baptist Orthodox Church will be holding their Pirohi Sale. Please call your order in from March 9<sup>th</sup> thru 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at 404 Division Street, Perth Amboy, NJ after 2:30 p.m.

**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.

*Valentine Dinner Special*

**The Barge**  
*On The Waterfront In*  
**Historical Perth Amboy**  
**EARLY BIRD SPECIALS**  
Mon. thru Sat 3:00pm to 6:00PM  
Sunday 12:00 noon to 4:30PM  
The Barge offers Off-Premises Catering for the Holiday's, parties, Business Meetings & More!!

*Sweetheart Dinner For Two*

**Stuffed Lobster Tail**  
*or*  
**Filet Mignon**  
**\$64.95 + Tax**  
*No Coupon on Specials*  
*INCLUDES Soup, Salad, Potato or Vegetable, Coffee & Dessert. Valid Feb., 14, 15, and 16, 2020*  
*Regular Menu Available*  
**CALL FOR RESERVATIONS!**

**EVERY DAY IN February**  
**NOT VALID ON HOLIDAYS**

**Buy 1 Dinner & Get 2nd Entree 1/2 Price\***  
*\*Equal or less value, with this ad. Discount up to \$10. Cannot be combined with any other offer.*  
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**The Barge**  
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Moving your IRA is easy.  
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Get up to a  
**\$500**  
BONUS

**\$100** with \$25,000 - \$49,999

**\$200** with \$50,000 - \$199,999

**\$500** with \$200,000 or more

Identify your non-Amboy retirement accounts and we'll request the transfer for you. Bonus paid on net increase as of May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**AMBOY Bank** | Stop by any Branch  
877.22.AMBOY

Annual Percentage Yield (APY) adjusts on January 1st and July 1st. Fees may reduce earnings. Ratewatch survey 12/9/2019. 50x higher than avg of NJ's 3 largest banks. Consult your advisor for legal or tax advice. Member FDIC.

**EARN**  
**1.62%** APY  
**with \$50**

**IRA Money Market**

Indexed to 3 year constant maturity  
Pays 30x more than 3 largest banks  
Separate FDIC Insurance up to \$250,000



SERVICE DIRECTORY  
Call Carolyn @ 732-896-4446

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

Classified Ads

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

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

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

Ads Sell! Call Carolyn! 732-896-4446	For Sale	For Sale
	Sayreville Bombers 14 KT Charm - \$75 in Box; can add Specialty Sport Charm, etc. - 732-525-2405	Tires - Firestone M&S LT275170R 18 Two \$10 Each 732-727-1772
	Movano Watch SS Museum Style Mint Condition \$75 Firm. 732-540-5351	Lionel Electric Train Transformer KW 190 Watts. Excellent Condition \$65 - 732-727-8417
	3/4 Size Acoustic Guitar. Good for young child - \$50. 732-541-5491	Chairs - Dining- 6; 4 side; 2 arms; good condition, oak - \$75 - 732-738-4283
For Sale	Brand New Electric Heater Radiator. Was \$65 Now \$20 New Never Used. 732-547-7406	Dining Hutch - Wood - Good Condition \$50 - Self Pick-up 732-826-6324
	Solar Pool Cover Roller - Easy to use 16 x 32 - \$75 - 732-236-4479	Free Firewood. Must pick up and cart away. 732-826-8024
	Lighted Three Piece Wall Unit Plenty Storage - Excellent \$75 - 732-238-8439	LP's Cassettes, CD's DVD's \$1.00 each; Radio, CD \$20 - 732-887-2235
	Umbrella - Patio, needs cord and iron stand. \$30 - 732-283-0975	Moving - tables, lamps, dresses, dishes, tools grandfather clock \$5-\$75 - 732-925-6542
	DVD-VCR Sony Player recorder - Mint Condition \$25- 732-290-1551	Girl's Bicycle 24" Panasonic LX Sport Twelve Speed. Light Blue. \$75 or B.O. 908-501-3993
	GPS Tom Tom - 3 pcs Stereo System - Dog Bed \$65 ea. 732-293-0151	Sissy Bar and Pad for Harley Sportster - Great Condition \$65 - 908-590-8885
	1 Large Christmas Tree \$25; 1 Small \$15; Lounge Chair \$15 - 732-297-4457	Power Lift \$75. Wing Chairs, Sofa, End Tables, Lamps, Microwave \$10-\$50 - 908-803-9623
	Older New Toy Trucks Sunoco, Exxon, Mobil Hess \$20 Each or B.O. - 732-316-5092	Ads Sell! Call Carolyn! 732-896-4446
	6x8 Railroad Tie \$20 - 732-396-9537 - leave a message	
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St. Joseph

Cost \$10.  
Pre-payment required.

A Petition to  
St. Jude

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_(\_\_\_\_)

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

Please circle one prayer, and return form with check or money order to:

The Amboy Guardian  
P.O. Box 127  
Perth Amboy, NJ 08862

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 \_\_\_\_\_



Prayer St. Jude

*To be said when problems arise or when one seems to be deprived of all visible help, or for cases almost despaired of.*  
Most holy Apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered our beloved Father into the hands of His enemies has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes you universally, as the patron and invokes you universally, as the patron of hopeless cases, of things almost despaired of. Pray for me, I am so helpless and alone. Make use I implore you, of that particular privilege given to you, to bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolation and help of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations and sufferings, particularly *(Here make your request)* and that I may praise God with you and all the elect forever. I promise, O blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, to always honor you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you. Amen.  
*Thank you, Saint Jude N.S.*

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. A.L.S.*

Prayer St. Jude

*To be said when problems arise or when one seems to be deprived of all visible help, or for cases almost despaired of.*  
Most holy Apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered our beloved Father into the hands of His enemies has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes you universally, as the patron and invokes you universally, as the patron of hopeless cases, of things almost despaired of. Pray for me, I am so helpless and alone. Make use I implore you, of that particular privilege given to you, to bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolation and help of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations and sufferings, particularly *(Here make your request)* and that I may praise God with you and all the elect forever. I promise, O blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, to always honor you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you. Amen.  
*Thank you, Saint Jude A.L.S.*

Remember to Say Your Novenas!

Answers From Puzzle On Page 19

B	A	B	A	S	O	W	A	F	R
O	W	E	S	A	B	A	Q	E	I
P	E	T	E	C	I	R	C	U	S
H	A	T	H	R	O	A	S	T	S
A	M	P	B	A	S	I	L		
P	I	E	R	S	K	O	D	I	A
T	R	I	O	F	U	R	S	T	E
A	L	Y	S	O	N	C	O	K	I
			O	R	K	A	N	I	M
G	I	G	G	L	E	I	N	O	N
M	O	O	N	O	V	E	R	U	S
A	N	N	A	E	V	E	Z	O	O
S	E	T	R	A	D	O	N	I	T

Petition to St. Jude

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

LOOKING BACK

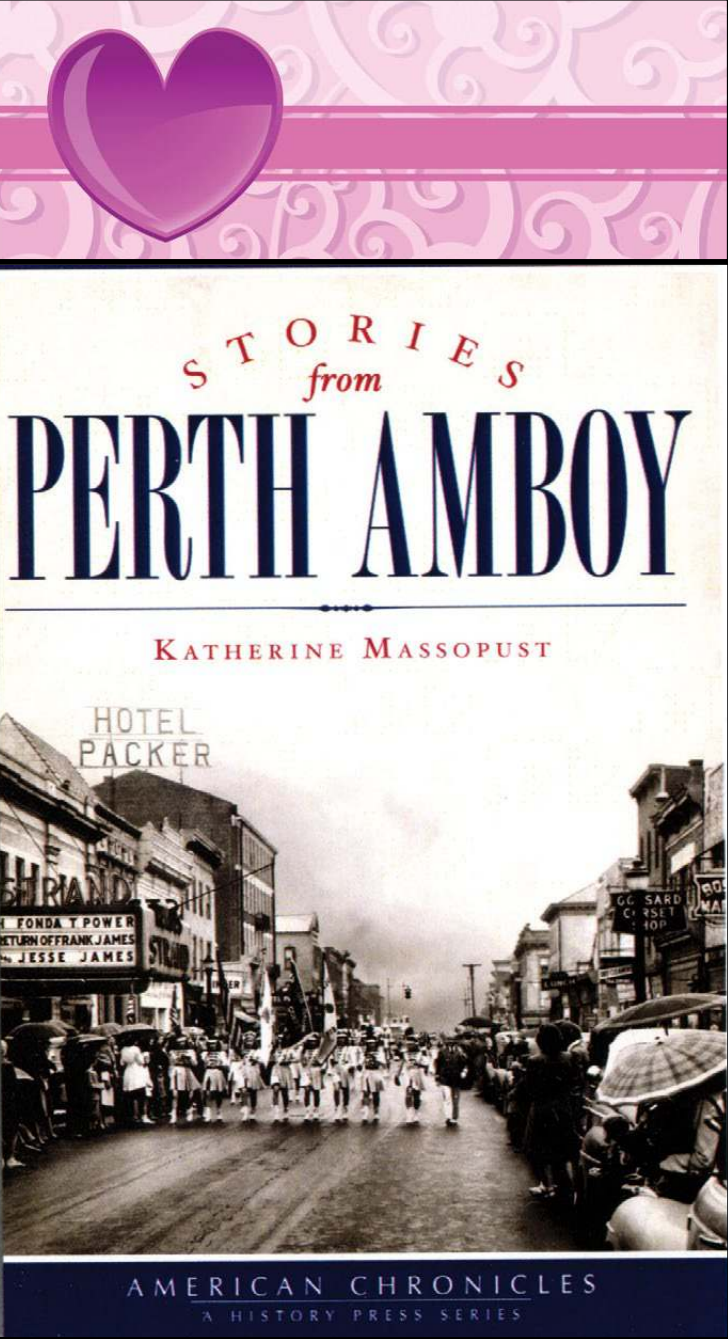


PERTH AMBOY – Royal Theater (after it closed), Smith Street, July 20, 1994.  
*\*Photo Courtesy of the Kearny Cottage Historical Association  
This photo was restored under a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission to the Kearny Cottage Historical Association.*

Senior Scene Happenings

- Perth Amboy**  
TUES. Feb. 4 Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.  
WED. Feb. 5 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. 6 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.  
MON. Feb. 10 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.  
TUES. Feb. 11 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. 13 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.  
**South Amboy**  
WED. Feb. 5 St. Mary's Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.  
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.

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



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



Perth Amboy Author Armand Cannamela, Reads "Poems From the Heart," Perth Amboy Free Public Library 12/19/19

\*Photos by Katherine Massopust



Chanukah Perth Amboy City Hall 12/19/19 \*Photos by Paul W. Wang



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.**



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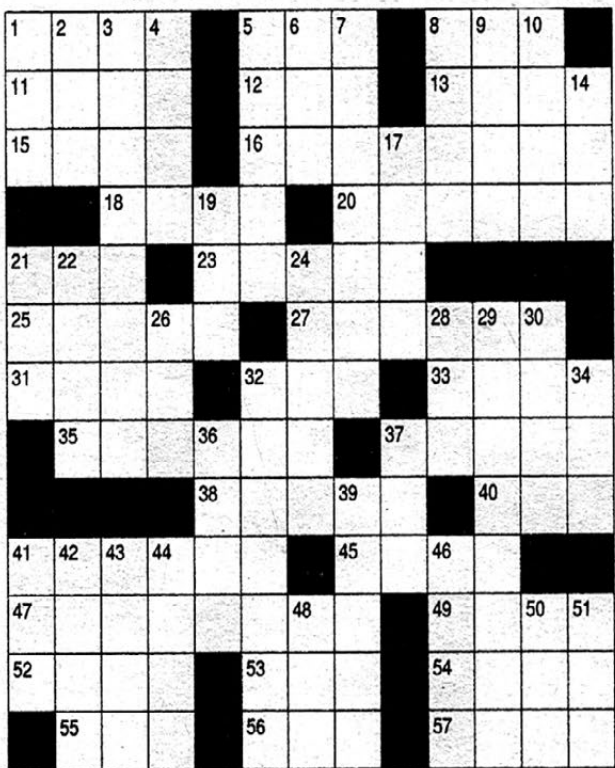
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### Across

1. Ali \_\_\_\_\_
5. Plant seeds
8. Tarzan's cont.
11. Has bills
12. Gp. for Petrocelli
13. Liner letters
15. Benson role for  
Ethan Phillips
16. \_\_\_\_\_ the Stars  
(2 words)
18. "Hell \_\_\_\_\_ no fury..."
20. Features of The  
Dean Martin Show
21. Equipment for  
the Monkees
23. John Cleese's  
Fawlty Towers role
25. America's Got  
Talent judge Morgan
27. Clint Walker  
police drama
31. Alvin and the  
Chipmunks, e.g.
32. Rabbit's coat
33. Pace
35. Free Spirit actress  
Hannigan
37. This Week  
moderator Roberts
38. Mork, for one
40. \_\_\_\_\_ Big Girl Now  
(2 words)
41. Little laugh
45. Sharing a secret  
(2 words)
47. \_\_\_\_\_ Miami  
(2 words)
49. West Point (abbr.)
52. Actress Lee of  
General Hospital
53. Plumb of  
Little Women
54. PBS kids' show of  
the '70s
55. Ready... \_\_\_\_\_ Cook!
56. Walking Tall  
actor Daly
57. HGTV's Sleep \_\_\_\_\_  
(2 words)



### Down

1. Baby \_\_\_\_\_ of Barney  
& Friends
2. Stun
3. Mary \_\_\_\_\_ of  
Dawson's Creek  
(2 words)
4. Aboard the "Pacific  
Princess"
5. Judson Scott's role  
on The Colbys
6. Japanese sash
7. Xena: \_\_\_\_\_ Princess
8. Kiely Williams' role  
on The Cheetah  
Girls 2
9. Actor Parker
10. Cops problem
14. Preconditions
17. \_\_\_\_\_ Case
19. Channel with  
Hunter reruns
21. Seinfeld's home,  
e.g. (abbr.)
22. Moment of Truth  
actress Pawluk
24. Pepe le Pew, for one
26. Bonanza sheriff
28. Start for bar or late
29. Rowan of  
Blackadder
30. The Deputy actress  
Betty Lou
32. \_\_\_\_\_ Fernwood
34. Pod vegetable
36. Fictional Napoleon
37. Moneyline's network
39. Divulged
41. A.M. TV show,  
informally
42. Charged particles
43. "\_\_\_\_\_ with the Wind"
44. Midge
46. Liqueur from Greece
48. A Gabor
50. Pronoun for  
Miss Piggy
51. Quantity (abbr.)

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**WOODBIDGE** - Well-maintained Move-Ready Cape Cod offer 4 good size bedrooms, 2 bath, living room, dining room, drive way and two car garage is just awaiting for personal touch. It's close to major HWY, Woodbridge Center Mall and NY train station. It is selling in As-Is Condition, Oil Tank was removed seller will provide documentations. **\$359,000**



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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**



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**PERTH AMBOY** - Completely Renovated Apartment, near major highways, shopping center and restaurants! **\$1,900 Mo/Rent**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Very large single family in move-in condition freshly painted located in the heart of Downtown area two blocks from train station and shopping center. A "must see". **\$279,900**



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