**Community Needs Discussed**

**Contract Negotiations Stalled**

*2/26/20 Council Meeting*

By: Carolyn Maxwell

**PERTH AMBOY** – At the beginning of the 2/26/20 Council Meeting, Jonathan Jerez of Amboy Checker Taxi was given a hearing to discuss increasing the number of taxi licenses. Jerez, represented Amboy Checker Taxi and requested more licenses for his company.

Jerez stated, “One person left and took 7 licenses with them. We need to provide more services to the community. From 1995 to the present, the city’s population has grown a lot. Owners of other taxi companies will come here to say you will not need more taxis because it will take away from them. They have their own clientele.”

After Jerez spoke, the meeting was open to anyone who wanted to discuss Ordinance No. 1 – Fixing and establishing a schedule of salaries and salary ranges and increments for officers and employees of the city of Perth Amboy to reflect the addition of titles RE: FOP.

**Active Discussions Involving Ordinances Regarding PARA and the Library Board of Trustees**

*2/24/20 Caucus*

By: Carolyn Maxwell

**PERTH AMBOY** – Ordinance No. 2 regarding dissolving the Perth Amboy Redevelopment Agency and designating the City Council as a redevelopment entity for the City of Perth Amboy and enacting previously approved redevelopment projects identified in this ordinance, pending review and further action by the city council.

Councilman Fernando Irizarry wanted to know what will be the consequences if the council takes over the responsibility of PARA.

Law Director Peter King cautioned the council that they would probably face litigations due to changing the orders of an active agency. “Companies already approved for projects may have objections. You are stopping projects until you review them. I think there is possible litigation.”

Irizarry then questioned Ordinance No. 3 – An ordinance to amend an ordinance entitled Library Board of Trustees Membership. Irizarry questioned, “Is this only a membership change?”

Council President William Petrick said, “It is to make the ordinance in accordance to the state statute.”

There was a discussion among Irizarry, King, and Petrick going back and forth to determine when they have to travel out of town on other duties. They should file charges.

Resident Stanley Sierakowski came up. He urged the council to table and investigate to see who benefits with this pay increase and title change. See if they are going to be on a political slat. Investigations can go up higher. Ask the person involved in this ordinance to file charges.

*Continued on Page 7*

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**Beach Hours and Firehouse Consolidation Discussed**

*2/19/20 Council Meeting*

By: Joseph L. Kuchie

**SOUTH AMBOY** - The recent proposal to add open and closed hours to South Amboy’s beaches, as well as the potential consolidation of fire departments in South Amboy, were both heavily discussed at last week’s city council meeting.

Despite the large crowd in attendance, Council President Mickey Gross began the meeting by saying that the council would be taking the resolution regarding beach hours, explaining that the council needed more time to make a decision. However, multiple council members including Councilman Tom Reilly addressed the situation in their opening comments before the public had a chance to speak.

“We should allow people to have access to that beach after 10, 11 o’clock at night,” Councilman Reilly said. “There’s no driftwood down there that’s going to cause any fire, people from South Amboy are using that beach to fish.”

Henry explained that there have been discussions to move certain fire departments into one building, which involved moving Progressive in with Snorkel.

“For at least 18 months but closer to two years, there’s been ongoing discussions with the Fire Chiefs about what the best movement forward is to better equip and better house the fire department.” Skarzynski said.

“After a lot of discussions there was consensus that starting to consolidate into less firehouses would be good on a number of levels… It would allow us to use our budget dollars more wisely to provide better facilities for the firemen, better housing for the apparatus, and to

*Continued on Page 10*
Pallone, in Discussion With Media, Promises to ‘Look Into’ Perth Amboy Rail Station Project

By Ron Miskoff

Edison - Transportation remains a key concern for Rep. Frank Pallone, especially since he was appointed chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee in 2018.

Pallone met with members of the local media — newspapers and websites — on Feb. 21 at the Menlo Park Diner in Edison to discuss recent legislative goals and accomplishments. Pallone represents the sixth district of New Jersey, which includes Perth Amboy and South Amboy.

Pallone discussed the upgrade of the Perth Amboy train station, which, according to a report in December, received an unanimous New Jersey Transit Board of Directors approval of nearly $7 million in funding to provide final engineering design services and construction. Although construction has not begun, Mayor Wilda Diaz has declared the station upgrade to be a "mission" of hers since she was elected in 2008.

The project would upgrade the station in the coming weeks, and including the installation of elevators to augment the steep staircases that passengers now have to descend or climb to reach the low-level platform or the street, respectively. The station is 91 years old.

Pallone said he planned to "look into" the rail station project in the coming weeks, and right on the spot, he assigned a member of his staff — District Director Matthew Montekio — to be a liaison to the media on the subject. The project has been stalled for years, and NJ Transit, various federal agencies, and the mayor's office have only moved the project ahead at glacial speeds in the past.

"Funding has been cleared up," Pallone noted, re-emphasizing the members of the media that there is a federal mandate to complete the project.

Aside from Pallone's interest in upgrading the station, he discussed myriad goals he has as chairman of his committee and in upgrading the station, he discussed myriad goals he has as chairman of his committee and in upgrading the station, he discussed myriad goals he has as chairman of his committee and in upgrading the station, he discussed myriad goals he has as chairman of his committee and in upgrading the station, he discussed myriad goals he has as chairman of his committee and in upgrading the station, he discussed myriad goals he has as chairman of his committee and in upgrading the station, he discussed myriad goals he has as chairman of his committee and in upgrading the station, he discussed myriad goals he has as chairman of his committee and in upgrading the station, he discussed myriad goals he has as chairman of his committee and in upgrading the station, he discussed myriad goals he has as chairman of his committee and in upgrading the station, he discussed myriad 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WOMEN’S HEALTH INITIATIVE OF NEW JERSEY PROUDLY HONORS WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

MAGNANIMITY AWARD
Middlesex County Sheriff MILDRED SCOTT

LEADERSHIP AWARD
JRMC Chief Medical Officer DR. AMARJIT SAINI, MD

SERVICE AWARD
Perth Amboy Mayor’s Aide JEANETTE RIOS

Join the JRMC on March 19, 6:00PM for our Rio Carnival Fundraiser to celebrate women and to support women’s health.

GRAND MARQUIS - US 9 SOUTH - OLD BRIDGE, NJ

For tickets and sponsorship information: Contact Lisa Lucia at 732.376.6610 or llucia@jrmc.us

WOMEN’S HEALTH INITIATIVE SERVICES AT JRMC
275 HOBART STREET, PERTH AMBOY 732-376-9333

- OB/GYN
- Well Women Visits
- Pregnancy Tests
- Pap Smears
- Breast Cancer Screenings
- Centering Program for Pregnancy
- Family Planning and Counseling
- Prenatal and Postpartum Care
- Ultrasounds
- Contraceptive Counseling
- Nutrition

womenshealthnj.org
LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

The Caregivers Should Have First Priority

In the last couple of months, members of the police department have come to the council meeting to air their frustrations at not having their contract ratified. During those meetings, they’ve had to hear about raising giving to certain employees in the city of Perth Amboy. I can understand the frustrations of those police officers, especially when they have to go out everyday with the chance of being insulted, spat upon, and other things that I cannot mention.

In spite of their low pay, because of their love of their job and the city, they continue doing their work. Often when an emergency occurs such as a fire, the police will respond before the fire department shows up. If they see smoke coming out of an occupied building, and they are able to go in, they will do so to help any occupants out.

Let’s not forget what was said at some of the meetings of those who overdo and they have to administer Narcon. The police are often involved in community events such as when they go to visit various schools and often partake in community basketball games or the “Cop vs. Pops” pop tournament at the Olive Street Community Center. Sometimes these police officers have to take minors into protective custody when they respond to a domestic violence situation.

Police officers are human, like anybody else, but even when they are off duty, they are on duty. When they see someone in trouble, instinctively their training kicks in to try to help. Sometimes a resident will come up and say why we are getting more than your money’s worth.

Unfortunately, sometimes their hands are tied, especially with the new bail bonds reform, which has dangerous and repeat offenders released. They have families like anyone else, and I know it’s a hard decision for many of them when they are forced to leave the city they grew up in and wanted to serve in.

We know that a lot of people have left Perth Amboy because of taxes going up, but sometimes that is not the only factor. I’ve seen plenty of residents come up at council meetings to complain about the quality of life in Perth Amboy. Some of these complaints are overcrowding, loud music (sometimes with profanity ridden songs), litter, the conditions of roads, and dark streets at night.

All we know are that all these closed sessions, negotiations, arbitrations, litigations, and mediations seem to be going nowhere fast. In the meantime, Perth Amboy is losing its police officers to other towns.

I know the council is trying to do their best and have a look at entire city as a whole. Now, the council (when they take over the responsibility of PAKA) will have additional responsibilities on their plate. They will have to look at developers whose plans and contracts were already approved.

We also believe that all of these lawsuits between the mayor and the council need to stop. It’s not doing anything to help the city. It’s just wasting the taxpayers’ money.

The police officers want their contract signed and the council should concentrate on coming to an agreement with the PBA.

We need to get Perth Amboy back on track and focus what’s on what’s important. Stop looking at Facebook posts from 2 years ago and let bygones be bygones.

Remember the Police not only help the residents in Perth Amboy, but also our surrounding towns. They participate in the Police Unity Tour that ends in Washington D.C. It raises awareness of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty and to raise funds for the national fallen officers memorial.

They volunteered to go to Puerto Rico to help the victims of recent hurricanes and earthquakes. There are so many events they participate in, sometimes on their own time. Too many to list.

The bottom line is give the police the money and respect they deserve. I’m sure a lot of the taxpayers would agree that this would be money well spent.

C.M. & K.M.

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

The Market Street Bridge

October 23, 2018
Middlesex County Freeholder Director Executive Director of Perth Amboy Wilda Diaz
Dear Representatives:

Kindly accept our letter of needed repairs to the sidewalk at the Market Street Bridge crossing near Elm Street in Perth Amboy, NJ.

‘If you see something, say something’ are terms used for safety purposes for all travelers along transportation network. I am part of scores of local residents and commuters who are faced with a unsafe conditions on the Market Street Bridge.

We collected 42 pints of blood which can help over 100 patients. We are greatly appreciated!

Best regards,

Vincent Mackiel

Keep those Letters Coming! We Love to Hear From You! E-mail letters to the editor to amboyguardian@gmail.com or write to the editor at Letters to the Editor, The Amboy Guardian, P.O. Box 0127, Perth Amboy, NJ 08862-0127. Letters must include your full name, address and daytime telephone number or cell phone number for verification. First time letter-writers must be called for verification or your letter will not be published. If you are a public official, please include your title. All letters are subject to editing or rejection. All submissions may be published or distributed by us in print, electronic or other forms. Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the writers and do not represent or reflect the views of the Amboy Guardian.
The Arturo Schomburg Award

Kim Ruiz (L) & Carol Dortch-Wright (R)

Reverend Esteban Santana III

Listening to the speakers

Mercedes

Jeanette Wilson Perry with her husband

Posing with Mayor Diaz

Honoree Jeanette Wilson Perry

Congressman Frank Pallone

At the podium

Presentation of a Proclamation from Anna Daily and Kim Nesbitt Good

Accepting the Award

PRAHD Auturo Schomburg Award, Cathedral International, Madison Ave., Perth Amboy 2/21/20 Sponsored by JJ Elek

*Photos by Katherine Massopust

By Carolyn Maxwell

ERTH AMBOY - PRAHD (Puerto Rican Association for Human Development) held their 7th Annual Arturo Alfonso Schomburg Award Luncheon at the Cathedral International Fellowship Hall on February 21, 2020. The honorees this year were Jeanette Wilson Perry from Perth Amboy and Former New York Knicks Basketball Player John Wallace.

Those in attendance included Freeholder Director Ron Rios, Asw. Yvonne Lopez (19th Dist. & Former Director of PRAHD), Asm. Craig Coughlin (19th Dist.), Congressman Frank Pallone, Councilman Joel Pabon, Board of Education Member and Associate Pastor of Cathedral International Dr. Danielle Brown, Pastor Amos of Dickinson Pennsylvania, St. James AME Zion Church, Cary, North Carolina. Samuel Delgado, Husband of Yvonne Lopez was introduced as the child of recognizing Schomburg as a bridge between the Latin and the African American Community. Pastor Esteban Santana III remarked during the part of the opening prayer how important it is to partner with the Perth Amboy Community.

When Executive Director of PRAHD Kim Ruiz came up to speak, she thanked the Cathedral International for welcoming them into their home. “We don’t recognize our African roots, music, food, dance, and culture.”

Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz came up to speak and recognized the work that PRAHD and the Cathedral International does in the community. She recognized how Jeanette Wilson Perry parents all live in the community and must be very proud of her. “Many people in this room along with the two honorees have helped the community. The two honorees have brought many blessings into the community and I pay my respects to both of them. I’m glad that Kim (Ruiz) touched on the roots between the Puerto Rican and African American Commnuity. It’s wonderful to see my peers celebrating with you.”

Asw. Yvonne Lopez was happy to see a room full of leaders, family, and friends from the community. “In the past, PRAHD had a lot of Latino events. Sam (Lopez’s husband) and I discussed incorporating an African American event and he is the one who researched and discovered Arturo Schomburg. Jeanette is a trailblazer and an accomplished woman. John Wallace is a trailblazer as well. On February 29th, Syracuse University is retiring his jersey.”

Speaker of the Assembly Craig Coughlin (19th Dist.) spoke next and congratulated both honoraries to their commitment and dedication to the community. “John Wallace, whose commitment to helping the victims of 9-11-01 and Hurricane Katrina and Jeanette Perry has always helped those most in need. I want to applaud John Wallace.”

Kim Ruiz came up to speak again to explain the absence of Dean Schomburg (Great-Grandson of Arturo Schomburg) and John Wallace. “Unfortunately, they both had prior engagements. Schomburg sent wishes to both honorees and Wallace expressed his thanks for being honored.”

Ruiz continued, “Jeanette Wilson Perry is the one who connected us to John Wallace through the Three Brothers Summer Basketball Program which takes place in Perth Amboy. John Wallace came to our summer basketball series. Unfortunately, he had a conflict because he had to attend one of his son’s activities today. The legacy of this event will continue with a scholarship named after Schomburg. It will be awarded to a Perth Amboy High School Student with a GPA of at least 3.5 of African American ancestry and dedication to the Perth Amboy Community.”

Each person at the table had an envelope to make a donation if they wish. The donation will go directly to the scholarship of the chosen student for the year. Honoree Jeanette Perry came up to speak and told everyone to take a look at everyone seated to their left and right. “Every one here has served.” She then thanked PRAHD and was very excited and humbled to be honored. She also thanked all of her family who was in attendance, which included her husband, mother, father, and stepmother, her brother, and Anna Daily (a previous recipient of the award), and the Three Brothers Basketball organization. Perry then spoke about the value of serving others, especially the younger generation. “We are a village of people, and I have been so blessed.”

Congressman Frank Pallone who arrived a little late, was recognized and was asked to come up to speak. He talked about PRAHD honoring not only the Puerto Rican and African American Heritage, but also the American Indian Heritage, too. “There have been more cultural events in museums that have been added (throughout the state).” He also mentioned that we have many different African cultures. “The first hu-
Community Needs Discussed; Contract Negotiations Stalled
2/26/20 Council Meeting

*Continued from Page 1

come and answer questions un-
der oath.”

The next Ordinance for pub-
lic discussion was introduced by
Tom Heffernan. He stated, “The
next ordinance for public dis-

*Continued from Page 6

March 4, 2020 * The Amboy Guardian  .7

Community Needs Discussed; Contract Negotiations Stalled
2/26/20 Council Meeting

*Continued from Page 1

Arturo Schomburg Award

*Continued from Page 6

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Kevin Balut came up and asked, “What does enjoin-
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Law Director King re-
sponded, “Stopping.”

Council President Petrick added, “It’s putting on hold and that term is going back several years.”

East Brunswick Residents have been asking about PILOTS.”

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Active Discussions Involving Ordinances Regarding PARA and the Library Board of Trustees

3/24/20 Caucus

*Continued from Page 1

Council President William King then questioned, "Should they be hiring or dismissing a library director (and any renovations to the library)?" King answered, "Yes, they should have." Petrick then stated, "The administration hired the contractor (for making renovations) and now with the litigation with the contractor, the administration should not have been involved." Petrick then questioned, "Should the administration never have been involved and are the library employees under the city?" King answered, "Library employees are under civil service." Petrick then asked, "Who picks the library director?" King responded, "In other towns, they hire and fire employees (who work in the library). The CFO has the state spokeperson of Schools and the mayor are automatically appointed by the council. The mayor points someone to take her place if she cannot attend. All their meetings are held at the city hall." Petrick thought that the Library Board of Trustee's should have a secretary to record the meetings. The minutes should also be recorded to be put on public TV." King responded, "Do you have that in your ordinance?" Petrick responded, "I don't know, but it should be recorded and taped - just as our meetings are." "There was a discussion regarding Resolutions R-90 and R-91 regarding equipment purchased by the police depart- ment. In that case, regular resolution involves the first reading – public discussion in Ordinance No. 2 entitled Garbage, Rubbish, and Refuse. Bulk waste for rental properties was deleted. DPW Director Frank Hoffman explained that there are problems with private owners of multiple properties. Someone will make six appointments more than purchasing a flatbed. Deputy Police Chief Larry Cattano came up to respond for PARA. He pointed out this equipment can't be used to- wards salaries. These purchases were already approved in the Capital Improvement Budget. The front loader will last 7-10 years and the trucks will have a longer lifespan." Cattano then asked, "Are we scheduled to buy more police vehicles next year?" Cattano responded, "We had a meeting, and we'll need more police cars." Petrick then questioned, "Will the money always be there, and do we need to spend this money right now?" Petrick reminded Cattano that this money was already allocated for the purchase of a flatbed. Cattano also said, "This equipment can be used by other depart- ments."

Former Perth Amboy Resident Reinaldo Aviles came up to speak. He talked about the PARA. "In a 30-year period, the starting salary for po- lice only went up $13,000, yet the mayor gives huge raises in a 1-year period. Who decided the starting rate of pay in the police contract? I still need to get the cost for pending cases. We have a judge who has been suspend- ed, and a judge who is hearing cases on handicapped parking violations which I expected. I also complained about tickets to Popeye's and Wal- greens, they will have to clean their lots." Irizarry then complained that some of the streetcleaners are not picking up the middle of the streets to clean. Joel Pabon spoke up next, "When you see violations, it's the same people and same districts doing the same things all the time. The police should be checked on a regular basis." Pabon also stated that two streets: Francis and Cortlandt. "Those streets look very bad." DPW Director said, "Cort- landt is being done." Pabon said, "I'm happy some of the lights on Amboy Avenue have been fixed and I have seen a lot more PSEG trucks, but there are still a lot of dark places." Petrick suggested, "If we send bills to Popeye's and Wal- greens, they will have to clean their lots." Irizarry then complained that some of the streetcleaners are not picking up the middle of the streets to clean. Joel Pabon spoke up next, "When you see violations, it's the same people and same districts doing the same things all the time. The police should be checked on a regular basis." Pabon also stated that two streets: Francis and Cortlandt. "Those streets look very bad." DPW Director said, "Cort- landt is being done." Pabon said, "I'm happy some of the lights on Amboy Avenue have been fixed and I have seen a lot more PSEG trucks, but there are still a lot of dark places." Petrick suggested, "If we send bills to Popeye's and Wal- greens, they will have to clean their lots." Irizarry then complained that some of the streetcleaners are not picking up the middle of the streets to clean. Joel Pabon spoke up next, "When you see violations, it's the same people and same districts doing the same things all the time. The police should be checked on a regular basis." Pabon also stated that two streets: Francis and Cortlandt. "Those streets look very bad." DPW Director said, "Cort- landt is being done." Pabon said, "I'm happy some of the lights on Amboy Avenue have been fixed and I have seen a lot more PSEG trucks, but there are still a lot of dark places." Petrick suggested, "If we send bills to Popeye's and Wal- greens, they will have to clean their lots." Irizarry then complained that some of the streetcleaners are not picking up the middle of the streets to clean. Joel Pabon spoke up next, "When you see violations, it's the same people and same districts doing the same things all the time. The police should be checked on a regular basis." Pabon also stated that two streets: Francis and Cortlandt. "Those streets look very bad."
Community Needs Discussed; Contract Negotiations Stalled
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"Continued from Page 7

Council Comments:
Helmín Caba responded, “Yes.”
Carr assured Petrick, “We can bring the surplus all the time.”
Petrick then asked, “Can we introduce the budget at the next meeting?”
Carr responded, “You can hold discussions in closed session, but we may not have two special meetings to discuss the budget.”

Petrick ended the meeting by thanking everyone for their patience.
Councilwoman Milady Tejeda had to leave before the council comments were made.

Accident on Outerbridge Crossing, 2/26/20

Press Release
PERTH AMBOY - Wednesday, February 26, 2020, Perth Amboy, NJ: A tractor trailer, traveling on Route 440 East, crossed onto the west-bound lanes striking numerous vehicles and sending two people to the hospital. The crash, involving seven vehicles, closed the Outerbridge Crossing causing traffic delays on the New York and New Jersey sides of the bridge. The area of the crash is multi-jurisdictional with the PAPD Staten Island Bridges Command having primary responsibility. The PAPD’s partner first responders, the New Jersey State Police along with the Perth Amboy Police and Fire Departments, provided critical mutual aid assisting the PAPD clear the pileup. Great job by all!

#PAPDPROTECTSNYNJ #NJSP #PERTHAMBOYPD #PERTHAMBOYFD #PERTHAMBOY

Attend Public Meetings
Have Your Voice Heard!

Lecture on Women’s Suffrage
WOODBRIDGE - The Historical Association of Woodbridge Township invites you to celebrate Women's History Month and the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote. Brian Armstrong, an independent historian, researcher and author-will present "US Women's Suffrage Movement" on March 23 at First Presbyterian Church. Mr. Armstrong is the Vice President, Central Region, for the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey and past President of the South River Historical & Preservation Society. His lecture will be supplemented with a power point presentation, photographs and other images. This is Mr. Armstrong's second visit to speak at a monthly HAWT meeting; he was featured for the "1918 Influenza Epidemic" in 2018. Light refreshments will follow. For further information contact Brenda Velasco, Township Historian. Text 732.428.2403. The lecture will be on Monday March 23, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at Fellowship Hall, First Presbyterian Church, 600 Railway Ave., Woodbridge.
Beach Hours and Firehouse Consolidation Discussed
2/19/20 Council Meeting

*Continued from Page 1

in the view of at least some of the chiefs to position apparatus more efficiently in and around the city.”

“We went a week ago and had a discussion with the first two involved companies,” he continued. “There was concern expressed by some members, particularly those of them with a great deal of seniority, but the dilemma was explained to the membership and we left the meeting with a very good feeling that while it wasn’t a welcome change, it was an inevitable change.”

“I want to be very clear that the Mayor gave explicit instructions... We are not reducing the amount of fire companies, we are not reducing the amount of fire personnel, we are not reducing the amount of fire apparatus,” he said. “In fact, you’ll see in the budget document that there’s revisions in the capital to buy two fire engines for the department this year.”

“The discussions are still on going, nothing has been formalized yet but at this point based on the discussions with the two companies and fire department leadership that looks like the direction we’ll be going,” he concluded.

“We are not dissolving any of the companies, we’re just putting them in the same house,” Mayor Henry said. “These are things we’ve been talking about for a number of years... I would never do anything without the support of the fire department. We’re doing what we consider to be in the best interest of the city and the residents of the city.”

All council members were in attendance for the city council meeting. The next city business meeting will be held on March 4, and the next city council meeting will be held on March 18.
CITY OF PERTH AMBOY, NJ
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
and
HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (HOME)

2020/2021 PROGRAM YEAR

They City of Perth Amboy is planning for FY 2020/2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Home Investment Partnership (HOME) programs funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to assist persons who have low-to-moderate incomes, remove slums and blight, and/or address urgent needs in the City of Perth Amboy. The City’s allocations for fiscal year 2020/2021 are in the amount of $659,638.00 for the CDBG program and $420,621.00 for the HOME program.

A public hearing is being scheduled in the initial stages of the Annual Action Plan. The information received from interested individuals at the hearing will assist the City and the Development Advisory Committee in the preparation of the 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan. The hearing is designed to obtain resident’s views and to respond to questions. Residents are invited to provide written or verbal comments at or prior to the hearing. Information will be made available to citizens regarding application procedures, timing, eligible activities, and other regulations related to the CDBG and HOME Programs. As contained in the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan the housing and community development priorities of the City are as follow: provide a suitable living environment; provide decent affordable housing and create or expand economic opportunities. These priorities will be reviewed and the public is encouraged to comment.

The draft 2020/2021 Annual Action Plan will be prepared following the closing of the committee review and a public hearing is set to be held on Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 5:30 P.M. at the Council Chambers of Perth Amboy City Hall, 260 High Street, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861. In addition, this document will be available for public review in the Office of Economic and Community Development from Monday, March 4, 2020 to Friday, April 3, 2020 in order to meet the timing submission requirements established by HUD on Friday, April 10, 2020.

Comments can be sent via email to Frederick Carr, Business Administrator fcarr@perthamboynj.org or through mail at 260 High Street, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861.

Wilda Diaz, Mayor
City of Perth Amboy

Frederick Carr, Business Administrator

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Phone: 908-351-0957; Fax: 908-351-0959
Email: ecabrera52@yahoo.com
HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

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)432-2672.

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HAPPY ST. PATRICK’S DAY!

Woodbridge American Irish Association
St. Patrick's Day Parade
📍 1:30 PM March 8th.
📍 Main St. Woodbridge

Our Easter Issues are Coming Up
March 18, 2020 & April 1, 2020
We Have Special Advertising Rates
Call Carolyn: 732-896-4446
or Katherine: 732-261-2610

The 43rd Annual
South Amboy
St. Patrick’s Day Parade
will take place on
Sunday, March 15, 2020 2 pm
Additional parade information is available

Free Choral Concert
Friday, March 13th  7pm
Traditional Irish Music
St. Mary's RC Church
256 Augusta St  So Amboy
Please bring a non-perishable food item for donation to local food banks

2020 HONOREES
GRAND MARSHALS
TIM AND KAREN WALCZAK, Volunteer EMT's for the City of South Amboy
DEPUTY GRAND MARSHAL
LARRY PARSONS, Volunteer, Protection Engine Company #1, South Amboy
HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL
DENNIS KELLY, APG Securities/Philanthropist
SPECIAL HONORED GUESTS
KAREN ROBSON—Director of Operations, South Amboy YMCA
MARY SZARO—President, Historical Society of South Amboy

Spectators are encouraged to bring non-perishable canned or boxed food items to donate to the less fortunate.
Donation bins will be located at City Hall and near the Grandstand
Always Caring. Always Here.
PERTH AMBOY - The Jewish Renaissance Medical Center provides primary health and preventive services to you and your family. We have been an active participant in the Perth Amboy Community and offer care for infants, children, teens, adults, and seniors. We strive to provide the best services for you and your family and to make sure that every service provided is to your satisfaction. As a JRMC medical patient, if you're feeling sick or have an urgent (non-life threatening) medical problem, we're here to help. Make your appointment today at (732) 376-9333 or visit us at 275 Ho-Bart Street.

Press Release 2/28/20
WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) applauded House passage of his legislation to address the youth vaping epidemic. The Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act would prohibit all flavored tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, ban most non-face-to-face sales for tobacco products, and protect kids from the predatory marketing of tobacco products.

According to reports, the sharp increase in tobacco use in recent years could reverse years of progress in the fight against youth nicotine use. An estimated 62 million American middle and high school students used some type of tobacco product last year. One in every three high school students has used a tobacco product in the last 30 days.

The Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2020 would:

• prohibit the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol,
• prohibit non-face-to-face sales of most tobacco products, including e-cigarettes,
• extend advertising restrictions that currently apply to cigarettes and smokeless tobacco to all tobacco products including e-cigarettes,
• prohibit marketing of e-cigarettes to youth, and
• provide additional resources to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to implement and enforce the Tobacco Control Act.

"Today, the House stood up and said we will not allow Big Tobacco to prey upon our children with slick new products, purposefully designed to get kids addicted to nicotine. Unfortunately, these products have proliferated in use in recent years as manufacturers peddle enticing flavors like bubble-gum, cotton candy and mango to our children with glossy advertisements. These campaigns have been so successful that Big Tobacco has rapidly reversed years of progress to bring down teen smoking rates. In just one year alone, between 2017 and 2018, e-cigarette use by high school students increased by an alarming 87 percent. That’s why we came together to pass a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach to tackle the youth tobacco epidemic underway in America today," said Congressman Pallone.

"I thank the more than one hundred organizations that supported this lifesaving legislation including the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the American Lung Association, the American Heart Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the NAACP and the National Medical Association. Together, we have sent a clear message to Big Tobacco: We will not stand by while you attempt to lure our children with slick new products, including menthol, into a lifetime of nicotine addiction, while you attempt to lure yet another generation into a lifetime of nicotine addiction, tobacco-related disease and death," Pallone concluded.

"By approving the Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act, the House has delivered a historic victory for kids over the tobacco industry. This legislation is exactly what’s needed to reverse the youth e-cigarette epidemic and end the tobacco industry’s long and lethal history of targeting kids and other vulnerable groups with flavored products. We applaud Chairman Pallone for his leadership in introducing this legislation and guiding it to passage today," said Matthew L. Myers, President of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

"The Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act is a win-win for lung health," said Harold P. Wimmer, President and CEO of the American Lung Association. "It will help stem the epidemic by preventing youth tobacco use and making sure smokers – especially those in minority communities – have the help they need to quit smoking for good. It will also help make asthma medications more affordable. Now it is up to the U.S. Senate to continue to move this legislation forward into law."

"The New Jersey Prevention Network (NJPN) would like to thank Congressman Pallone for his continued efforts toward keeping our youth safe and healthy and express our support for H.R. 2339 – the Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2020," said Diane Litterer, CEO and Executive Director of New Jersey Prevention Network. "The explosion of e-cigarettes use among our youth has been undermining our efforts to reduce tobacco use and putting a new generation of kids at risk of nicotine addiction and the serious health harms that result from tobacco use. NJPN commends Congressman Pallone for his leadership on this life saving bill."

"Parents Against Vaping E-cigarettes is thrilled by the House passage of the Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019. As a national grassroots parents group, we have seen firsthand the enormous toll that the youth vaping epidemic has taken on so many American families. We also know that not only flavored e-cigarettes but all flavored tobacco products hook kids across the country, leading to nicotine addiction that harms developing brains and lungs," said Meredith Berkman and Dorian Fuehrman, Co-Founders of Parents Against Vaping E-cigarettes. "We are profoundly grateful to Chairman Frank Pallone for his leadership and unshakeable commitment to fighting for legislation that protects young people in all communities from the predatory behavior of Big Tobacco, an industry that is using flavors to create a new generation of customers for its dangerous products."

In September, Pallone’s Committee held an oversight hearing on the public health risks of e-cigarettes with officials from the Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control, and state health officials. The Committee is also conducting an investigation into electronic cigarette manufacturers, and earlier this month held an oversight hearing with executives from the top five e-cigarette manufacturers.

Pallone spoke on the House Floor in favor of the legislation. Video of his remarks is available here.
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Check out our website: WWW.AMBOYGUARDIAN.COM for the latest breaking news!
**Hungarian Homemade Nut Rolls Sale**

WOODBRIDGE – The Lionnify Women’s Guild of the Calvin Hungarian Reformed Church, Woodbridge, NJ, is having a Nut Roll Sale. Each individually hulled and made from the best ingredients. Each Weighing 1lb 8oz. Available Friday, March 6th and Saturday, March 7th, 2020 from 9 AM to 1 PM at 404 Division Street, Perth Amboy. Order available for pick-up on Friday, April 3rd, 2020 between 12 noon and 2 PM at the Fellowship Hall. Please use Ross Street Entrance. All orders must be paid in full upon ordering. Please call: Florette Pastor @ 732-636-2868.

**Annual Cabbage & Noodle Sale**

PERTH AMBOY - St. John’s Lutheran Church is having a cabbage & noodle sale. Orders taken March 1st through March 28th. Pick up will be at 601 Washington Avenue, (use door on Martin Luther St.) on Sunday, March 29th from 11 AM to 3 PM. Contact 732-996-8860 or kookie.mcm@gmail.com to place your order. Cost: The price from any produce or buy 3 lbs. or more $1.00 per pound.

**Pirohi Sale**

PERTH AMBOY - St. John The Baptist Catholic Church will be holding their Pirohi Sale. Please call your order in from March 9th until March 31, 2020 to 732-826-1076 between 9 AM and 12 noon. Please call early so that you will not be closed out. Orders may be picked up on March 17th & 18th, 2020 at 404 Division Street, Perth Amboy, NJ after 2:30 PM.

**Palm Cross Sale**

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

**Tricky Tray Gift Auction**

PERTH AMBOY - Hey Y’all… Come on down and see us at the Sawyer House on APRIL 21st, 2020 for THE SOUTH”S Gift Auction sponsored by the St. Ann Society of Assumption Catholic Church on Sunday, March 8, 2020. The auction will be held in the Assumption School Auditorium, 370 Meredith St, Perth Amboy, NJ. Doors open at 12:00 pm and the Auction starts at 2:00 pm. Admission is $10. There will be 4 levels of wonderful prizes as well as other special raffles included in a Designing A Bag Raffle, Gift Card Extravaganza. It’s Your Lucky Day, $500 Visa Gift Card, Money Rain Dance and a GRAND PRIZE of a Caribbean vacation for 2. Complimentary Siberian Meatball & Chicken in the Kitchen, sponsored by the men of the Holy Name Society, will be open for lunch, serving delicious foods like big bagels and noodles, kielbasa and kraut, southern specialties and much more. No Ticket Sale. No Outside Food or Beverage to be brought in. Tickets are available in advance from any St. Ann member or at the door of the day of the auction. Children are welcome but may not participate. No Outside Food or alcohol and must purchase an admission ticket. For more information you can call the office at 732-826-0767. Please forward looking to see Y’all!

**Gift Auction**

PERTH AMBOY - Saint James AME Zion Church is having a gift auction on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at 10:00 AM at the Senior Center, 1 Olive St., Perth Amboy. Doors open at 12 noon.

**Designer Bag Bingo & Tricky Tray**

PERTH AMBOY - The Women of the Moose Chapter 1247 in Perth Amboy are hosting a Designer Bag Bingo & Tricky Tray Event on Saturday, March 21st at the lodge located at 987 Convory Blvd in Perth Amboy. The doors open at 1:00pm and the auction starts at 2:30 pm. Tickets are $25.00 and includes 1 Bingo set, 3 bags per game, coffee & cake. For tickets call Gwen @ 732-694-0746. The kitchen will be open, no outside food please.

**A.C. Bus Trip**


**A.C. Bus Trip**

Holy Rosary Seniors HOPELAWN - The Holy Rosary Seniors are sponsoring a bus trip to the Playhouse in Atlantic City. The trip will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2020. The bus will depart from behind St. Stephens Church parking lot at 10:00 am. Any questions please call Ronni at 732-442-5252.

**A.C. Bus Trip**

St. John Paul II Seniors PERTH AMBOY – A trip to the Resorts Casino in Atlantic City will be held on Wed. Mar. 25, 2019 Cost $35.00 $25 back in slot play. Bus will depart from behind St. Stephens Church (St. John Paul II parking lot on Mechanic St. at 9:30 a.m. Call Bobbi to reserve a seat: 732-826-2860. This is our last AC Trip for 2019.

**Spring Music Festival**

SOUTH AMBOY – The Coliseum Museum 2020 Concert Series presents the Veritas Barbershop Quartet, March 31, 2020 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Sadie Pope Dowdwell Library, 100 Governor Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, Perth Amboy, New Jersey. Refreshments will be served. The Dowdwell Library is located off of John T. O’Leary Blvd. adjacent to the South Amboy Middle/High School. For more info, call (732) 721-6060.

**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 Sa- dowski Boulevard, Perth Amboy. The schedule for winter is as follows: Saturday, March 28 and 29. Bookbags are around $5.00, hardcovers are $1, $5 for a full bag, 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 sell- ers by popular authors that are like new.

The money we raise goes to support the library with programs, providing literacy or to provide funds to the library with their needs beyond their budget. For more information, please check out folperthamboylibrary@gmail. com, or call us at 201-381-1903 for any other events. We will post updates on folperthamboy.com as we have added a donor button.

**Singer/ Guitarist Performs at Hungarian Reformed Church Service**

PERTH AMBOY - Carol Roll- elli, Singer/Guitarist, will perform two songs at the Sunday, March 8th, 9 a.m. worship service at the Magyar (Hungari- an) Reformed Church, 331 Kirkland Place, Perth Amboy. She will sing the rousing “Put Your Hand in the Hand” and “Open the Door”. The An- dras Szasz will preach a sermon based on Isaiah 53, “The Suffering Servant”. Richard Russell, Organist, will play. Refreshments available downstairs after the service. All are welcome to attend. For more info, call 732-261-2610.

**Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library Meeting**

PERTH AMBOY – The Friends of Perth Amboy Free Li- brary are having a meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 6 p.m. at the Perth Amboy Public Library (Children’s Li- brary). Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, call 732-442-7799.

**FRESH Hungarian Kolach Sale**

WOODBRIDGE – Made by the members of the Calvin Hun- garian Reformed Church of Wood- bridge on Friday, April 3, 2020. Place orders with Michelle Marciniak, @ 732-494-1431. Price: $6.00 per lb. Deadline for orders by Monday, March 23rd. Orders available for pick-up on Friday, April 3, 2020 between 12 noon and 2 PM at Ross Street entrance. All orders must be paid in full upon ordering. Please call: Florette Pastor @ 732-636-2868.

**Fish & Chicken Fry**

SAYREVILLE – The First Pres- byterian Church of Sayreville, 172 Main St., Sayreville will be having a Fish and Chicken Fry on Friday, March 13, 2020. Tickets are $15.00 in advance and there are limited tickets available at the door. Chicken available by advance order only. Take-outs will begin at 5:00 pm and must be picked up by 5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. For tickets please call 732-257-6353 or (732) 826-7067 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. 

**BEL***
Unionization Campaign Launches at Target’s Warehouse Facility in Perth Amboy, New Jersey Amid Growing Concern Over Prison-Like Conditions that Harm Workers

Recent Target employees will go public with details of their mistreatment. They will join Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz and labor leaders to support a worker-led unionization drive. *Photos by Eric Salvary

Press Release
PERTH AMBOY - At a 12 p.m. news conference on Thursday, February 20, recent Target warehouse employees in Perth Amboy, New Jersey will go public with details of their mistreatment on the job. They will describe the prison-like conditions they worked under, and offer support for a unionization campaign led by current employees at Target’s Perth Amboy warehouse who want to improve their jobs and workplace conditions.

Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz will join this news conference to discuss Target’s failure to live up to a local Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILOT) agreement in which the company is supposed to maintain harmonious labor relations and create good jobs for Perth Amboy residents. Additionally, leaders and members of the Laundry, Distribution and Food Service Joint Board, Workers United/SEIU will condemn Target’s mistreatment of workers at its warehouse facility in Perth Amboy, and discuss the positive benefits of unionization for warehouse workers and their families.

This is the first Target warehouse in the United States to face a public union organizing campaign. If successful, the unionization effort would set an immediate national precedent for e-commerce warehouse workers that other major companies, retailers, and brands would be pressured to follow.

Recent employees from Target’s Perth Amboy, New Jersey warehouse facility; Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz; members and leaders of Warehouse Workers Stand Up; members and leaders of the Laundry, Distribution, and Food Service Joint Board, Workers United/SEIU, a labor union that organizes and represents warehouse workers in New Jersey.

In 2017, Target opened this Perth Amboy facility as a “flow center” – a new kind of warehouse Target designed specifically to provide smaller, more frequent shipments of products to the company’s growing number of small-format stores in New York City and e-commerce customers in the greater New York metro area.

This Target worker unionization campaign in Perth Amboy comes as New Jersey is widely seen as “the warehouse state”- a desirable location for major national retailers and corporations, including Amazon, because of its warehouse facilities that can support large e-commerce operations and fast shipments to retail stores.

St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Perth Amboy, brings Ash Wednesday to the Perth Amboy train station and the Raritan Bay YMCA in Perth Amboy 2/25/20 *Photos by Paul W. Wang

Press Release
PERTH AMBOY - On Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020, St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Perth Amboy, will once again be offering “Ashes to Go,” which brings a centuries-old Christian tradition outside the church walls at both the Perth Amboy train station (7:00 am to 8:30 am) and the Raritan Bay YMCA in Perth Amboy at 357 New Brunswick Ave in Perth Amboy (8 am to 10 am). “Ashes to Go” is an effort that has clergy and lay people visiting transit stops, street corners, coffee shops, and college campuses to mark the foreheads of interested passers-by with ashes. “Ashes to Go” is about bringing spirit, belief, and belonging out from behind church doors, and into the places where we go every day. It’s a simple event with deep meaning, drawing on centuries of tradition and worship to provide a contemporary moment of grace. The street corner, the coffee shop, or some other ordinary place is suddenly a place where God has come to meet you. It’s Ash Wednesday, and you’re invited to wear your ashes, to claim repentance, grace and deep relationship with God for the challenges of your daily life.
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 w2zmembre@yahoocom.

The Battle of Meiktila, Burma, comes to an end on March 3, with British Lt. Gen. William Slim's 14th Army making a stand against the Japanese. The Allied Eighth Army around Rabaul, on the eastern end of the island, German troops from the Channel Islands (a group of islands in the British Channel Sea, in what is the last night-intrusion raid of the war. The Allies beat the Germans to the bridge and were able to capture it before it could be destroyed.) In Hungary, the German counteroffensive gains ground. Romania declares war on Japan.

A German V-2 rocket on March 8 hits Farringdon Market, on the western edge of the City of London, killing 110 and injuring 123. Secret negotiations begin in Bern, Switzerland, between Adl. Dulles, director of the U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS) branch in Switzerland, and SS Lt.-Gen. Karl Wolff, supreme commander of SS troops in Italy. The topic: an early surrender of the German military in Italy before communist forces can reach Trieste, in northeastern Italy on the Adriatic Sea near the Yugoslavian (Slovenian) border.

On March 9, 334 U.S. B-29 Superfortresses from the Marianas Islands firebomb Tokyo with 2,000 tons of napalm and incendiaries. Hurricane-force winds create as the temperature within the resulting firestorm reaches 1,800°F. Some 16-1/2 acres of the downtown residential area are burned out and over 130,000 civilians are killed. Raids against Tokyo continue for 10 more nights before the war ends.

On March 10 is replaced as Commander-in-Chief of German forces in the East by Luftwaffe Field Marshal Albert Kesselring. German troops evacuate Wezel on Germany’s lower Rhine, their last foothold on the west bank of the river. The U.S. Third Army captures Bonn, Germany.

There is heavy fighting at Remagen, Germany, on March 12 as the German Seventh Army counterattacks the Allied bridgehead at the Ludendorff Bridge. In Italy, the Communist Party calls for an armed uprising. The Soviet Union returns Transylvania to Romania. In Hungary, the German counteroffensive gains ground. Romania declares war on Japan.

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Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center
Old Bridge Intensive Care Unit Receives the Critical Care Nurses Silver Beacon Award for Excellence
Raritan Bay Medical Center Old Bridge is the first hospital in the central and southern market to achieve this award, while Hackensack University Medical Center’s Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit was awarded for the northern market

Press Release 2/24/20
OLD BRIDGE – Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center Old Bridge Intensive Care Unit (ICU) is pleased to announce it has been awarded the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) Silver Beacon Award for Excellence.

“We are honored to achieve this recognition from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses,” said Jane O’Rourke, chief nursing officer, Raritan Bay Medical Center. “This award is a true testament to the dedication and hard work our nurses put in every day.”

The Beacon Award for Excellence — a significant milestone on the path to exceptional patient care and healthy work environments—recognizes unit caregivers who successfully improve patient outcomes and align practices with AACN’s six Healthy Work Environment Standards. The ICU that achieved this three-year, three-level award with a gold, silver or bronze designation meet national criteria consistent with Magnet® Recognition, the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award and the National Quality Healthcare Award.

The silver-level Beacon Award for Excellence earned by ICU at Raritan Bay Medical Center-Old Bridge Division signifies an effective approach to policies, procedures and processes that includes engagement of staff and key stakeholders. The unit has evaluation and improvement strategies in place and good performance measures when compared to relevant benchmarks.

For more information about Raritan Bay Medical Center, please visit www.rbmc.org.

*Photo Submitted

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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 time, helps voters cast their ballots, and stays until the polls close. After the election day, pays 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 time. 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.

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Have a Special Pet?

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

Pet of the Week

Goodie

Tom’s Tax Tips

New W-4 Creates Questions for Human Resources

With the major Form W-4 overhaul for 2020, you may field questions from your employees. While it’s not your responsibility to provide tax advice to your employees, it’s good to be prepared to help answer common questions about the new IRS Form. Here is a summary of the W-4 changes and answers to some common questions you might encounter:

The Change

Form W-4 was changed by the IRS in an attempt to make payroll withholdings more accurate and easier for employees to understand. The following changes follow the implementation of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The new Form W-4 eliminates the sometimes confusing allowance system, replacing it with targeted questions, worksheets and fields for dependents, other income and anticipated deductions.

Gone are days of simply increasing or decreasing allowances to get the proper withholding – major change now requires some tax forecasting.

5 common questions about the new Form W-4

1. Do I have to submit a new form?

No. The allowances an employee has on a previous Form W-4 will continue to calculate appropriately in 2020. If changing jobs or an employee wishes to address withholdings, completing the new W-4 is required.

2. Are ALL steps on the new W-4 required to be filled?

No. Step 1 (personal information) and step 5 (your signature) are the only required sections to complete. If your employee only completes steps 1 and 5, a withholding will be calculated under the assumption that he or she is only owed a standard deduction. If your employee has dependents or wishes to make other withholding adjustments they will need to fill out other steps in the form.

3. Can employees have to create all the worksheets?

No. However the worksheets are intended to provide a more accurate withholding amount. If an employee has multiple jobs or itemsized deductions, the worksheets will help the payroll department withhold the proper amount from a paycheck while accounting for those other factors.

4. Will completing the new W-4 affect refunds?

If an employee has the exact same tax situation (income, deductions and credits) in 2020 as they did in 2019, the tax calculation should have minimal impact on the tax refund or owed. If there is a need to adjust withholdings at any time during 2020, however, the anticipated refund might look a lot different if an employee does not take the time to carefully complete the new Form W-4.

5. Should an employee adjust their withholdings?

This, of course, is up to the employee. It is best to coach them to speak to their tax advisor. But let them know that it really depends on them. If they want to maximize monthly cash flow or wish to receive a larger refund, then they need to go through the W-4 exercise. While more complicated, per the IRS this new form allows for less forecasting when it comes to forecasting their April tax bill. A simple tax forecast that factors in last year's taxes and accounts for changes in the current year will provide clarity to the amount that needs to be withheld.

Remember, to avoid an underpayment tax penalty an employee must

- In 2020, there are new IRS rules added. However, for 2020, the IRS has relaxed the rules. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us for more information.

IRS Circular 230 Disclaimer: To ensure compliance with IRS Circular 230, any U.S. Federal tax advice provided in this communication is not intended or written to be used, and 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 particular tax, investment, or other transaction addressed herein.
**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
Novena to St. Rita

O holy protectress of those who art in greatest need, thou who shinest 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 intercessor of those in need, pray for us. Saint Rita, advocate of the 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.

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 invoques you universally, as the patron of hope- less cases, of things almost des- paired 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, particular- ly (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.

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 NON-REFUNDABLE. 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 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.

Answers From Puzzle On Page 19

Looking Back

PERTH AMBOY – The Lucky Rollers, one of the many clubs in the America On Wheels Roller Rink from Perth Amboy 1940’s. 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

WED. Mar. 4 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. Mar. 5 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
MON. Mar. 9 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
TUES. Mar. 10 Good Shepherd Tuesday Seniors (HS) 12:30 p.m, Msgr. Gambino Hall, Florida Grove Rd.
THURS. Mar. 12 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
- Ukrainian Assumption Seniors, 12 Noon Church Basement, Alta Vista Pl.

South Amboy

WED. Mar. 4 St. Mary’s Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
MON. Mar. 9 South Amboy Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
MON. Mar. 23 Sacred Heart Seniors, 12 Noon Memorial Hall, Wash 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 information, please call Msgr. Gambino Hall, Florida Grove Rd.
- Holy Trinity Seniors, 1 p.m., Church Hall, Llawrie & Johnstone St.
- Ukrainian Assumption Seniors, 12 Noon Msgr. Gambino Hall, Florida Grove Rd.
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- Ukrainian Assumption Seniors, 12 Noon Msgr. Gambino Hall, Florida Grove Rd.
Lopez On the Importance of the 2020 Census

Press Release

NEW JERSEY - March signals the beginning of official Census Bureau mail being sent to homes throughout New Jersey with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail. All leading up to April 1st, Census Day, where the official Census count begins. Ahead of Census Day, Assemblywoman and New Jersey Complete Count Commissioner Yvonne Lopez (D-Middlesex) released the following statement:

"The State of New Jersey has an enormous opportunity in the upcoming decennial Census to have an accurate count of our population and our sizeable growth over the past decade. Census results portray billions of federal dollars, allocate New Jersey's representation in Congress and have a direct impact on every community in New Jersey.

"Over the past year, the State of New Jersey and Middlesex County specifically have been hard at work supporting 2020 Census outreach efforts and as Census Day rapidly approaches, it is important that every person completes their Census form. The Census form is easy to complete, and all responses are confidential, safely secured and protected by federal law.

"New Jersey has lost congressional seats in the past Census and especially vulnerable populations like children under the age of 5 were drastically undercounted in the 2010 Census. The goal of an accurate and complete Census count is achievable, and we all have a part to play to ensure New Jersey gets its fair share!"

For any questions on the Census, please visit 2020census.gov

22. The Amboy Guardian * March 4, 2020

Assemblyman Danielsen to Host 6th Annual Free Job Fair in Central Jersey

Press Release 3/2/20

Somerset, NJ - On Wednesday, April 15, 2020, Assemblyman Joe Danielsen will host the 6th Annual Free Job Fair in partnership with The Imperia, located at 1714 Easton Avenue, Somerset, NJ 08873.

Recruiters from public and private businesses will be available to meet with job seekers between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. If you have a Resume, please be sure to bring 10-15 copies with you. Classes will be offered for participants from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. on Job Search Techniques, Resume Writing, Interviewing and Dressing for Success.

"I encourage anyone who is looking for their first job, a new job, returning to the job force of New Jersey to join us throughout the day," said Assemblyman Danielsen (D-Middlesex, Somerset). "If you’re looking for assistance to change careers, then participate and meet 75 to 80 diverse vendors who will be available to talk with you. Listen, jobs don’t come to you. It is up to you to seize the opportunity!"

Vendor Space will be available until April 8, 2020 for organizations or employers who would like to participate. We encourage you to register early. Space is limited. Please contact Laura Spector for more information or to request a registration form at (732)-247-3999.

SUCCESS.

"If you're looking for their first job, a new opportunity!"

Interviewing and Dressing for Success, resume writing and a variety of workshops, then participate and meet 75 to 80 diverse vendors who will be available to talk with you. Listen, jobs don’t come to you. It is up to you to seize the opportunity!"

"It is up to you to seize the opportunity!"

"Listen, jobs don’t come to you. It is up to you to seize the opportunity!"

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Parents’ Seminar on Cell Phone Safety

SAYREVILLE - Join us at the Middlesex County Fire Academy, located at 1001 Fire Academy Dr., Sayreville, to learn about the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) campaign on March 11, 2020 at 6 p.m. This campaign aims to educate parents about internet safety and the dangers of certain applications that can be used to exploit and victimize children.

Children will not be allowed as the material being covered is not suited for minors.

For more information please contact Det. Ivis Molina at 732-745-4214.

Tax Preparation at the Dowdell Library

SOUTH AMBOY - Need help preparing your taxes? Tax Returns Prepared - Free! Sign up NOW to make an appointment VITA free tax preparation. Registration recommended Individuals earning $64,000 are eligible. Thursday, March 5, 2020. Appointments 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 7 - Drop off service only - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Returns may be picked up Thursday, April 9, 2020. Register to reserve a spot! Call 732-721-6060 or email comments@dowdell.org

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

We will be accepting the following items to be dropped off on March 28th from 1-3pm at 1 Olive Street, South Amboy.

All donated items will go directly to Perth Amboy Food Pantries, Perth Amboy Animal Shelter, and care shelters

- Tissues
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Dental Floss
- Sunscreen
- Deodorant
- Cotton swab
- Mouthwash
- Toilet paper
- Small bottles of shampoo, conditioner, shower gel
- First-aid items
- Feminine hygiene
- Diapers
- Underwear
- Socks

MINI LIBRARY

New or gently used books for children, law or medical books, mystery novels, science fiction, foreign language and guides, how-to, travel guides, high school and college books

ONLY items that are “before” their expiration date will be accepted and appreciated. Please help spread the word.
**FREE CLASSIFIED AD FOR ITEMS $75 & UNDER**

Use this space for 10 words or less to sell your small household items that are too inexpensive to advertise. The Amboy Guardian will print your classified and help you sell those items. Merchandise must be used and not new items for sale items. Please send one ad per family per week.

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