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AMBOY GUARDIAN

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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.

Resident Ken Balut came up and asked, “Who negotiated this? Since the PBA Contract was knocked down, and this is



Police Officers walk out of the City Council Chambers after the contract was voted down. *Photo by Carolyn Maxwell

\$12,000 for one person.”

Council President Petrick responded, “I believe it was through the Mayor.”

Balut continued, “You settled the other contract through a mediator. It went through proper channels, but it hasn’t been moved yet. This was an unfair labor practice and your own paperwork will kill you. You have no respect for those on the street saving people and stepping in during domestic violence. Officers should put in for overtime

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 slate. Investigations can go up higher. Ask the person involved in this ordinance to

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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 enjoining those 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

if the Library Board of Trustees is an advisory board or are they autonomous? Irizarry stated that since he has been on the council, the members of the Library Board of Trustees always thought they were an advisory board, not an autonomous board. “Will they or the council make decisions regarding appointments? When were the Library Board of Trustees told they were autonomous, and when will they make their own decisions?”

Law Director King tried to clarify the trustee’s duties by stating they would discuss day to day operations of the library.

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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 close 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 tabling the resolution regarding beach hours, explaining that the council needed more time to make a decision. However, multiple councilmembers 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 not driftwood down there that’s going to cause any fire, people from South Amboy are using that beach to fish.”

“It’s been fished on for as long as I can remember,” he continued. “I did my homework on this and spoke to the proper people, there’s no more issues down there then there is for the rest of the town. I’m going to have it on the record right now that I am in full agreement that the beach should be open to fisherman whenever they want to use it.”

“It’s one of the few free resources in this town that somebody that comes off second shift that wants to go down and fish, and we’re going to put a stop to that? That’s wrong. That’s my stance,” he added.

Residents from Lighthouse Bay were not happy that other residents were implying on Facebook that the Lighthouse Bay Association formally issued a complaint to the city about

the fisherman using the beaches after hours. Councilwoman Zusette Dato confirmed that that rumor was not true.

“I agree that is the purpose for the beach or one of the main purposes, that was always the vision when the community was built, but if anyone read or heard that this was at the bequest of the Lighthouse Bay Association, understand that is totally not true,” Councilwoman Zusette Dato said. “In talking to people in that vicinity I can tell you that they say the fisherman are not a problem, so I agree with Councilman Reilly in that respect.”

Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski went on the record saying that the Lighthouse Bay Association did not file an official complaint, and rather he had received one-off complaints from residents individually.




Councilman Reilly also asked the Mayor and Business Administrator about the recent rumors that some of the fire departments would be consolidating in South Amboy. Skarzynski and Mayor 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*



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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 unanimous New Jersey Transit Board of Directors approval of nearly \$7 million in funding to provide final engineering design services and construction assistance. 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 station accessibility, 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 as he reminded 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 as a member of Congress.

His committee concerns itself with many issues, according to his website, including health care; health insurance; biomedical research and development; food safety; clean air and climate change; safe drinking water; national energy policy; nuclear facilities; electronic communications and the internet; privacy, cybersecurity and data security; consumer protection and product safety; travel, tourism and sports; and interstate and foreign commerce.

It’s a wide-ranging number of areas, and Pallone noted on his site that his committee is the oldest continuous standing panel in the U.S. House of Representatives. It was established in 1795 to regulate interstate and foreign commerce.

Right now, Pallone has also concerned his committee with

offshore oil and gas exploration and improving the national infrastructure; that is, roads, bridges, and other substantial federal building projects.

In discussing his latest efforts to attract more public attention to his work and that of the federal government in general, he noted the lack of media coverage of federal legislation. For example, although his committee has jurisdiction over the Federal Communications Commission, the committee has not been able to bring up issues concerning better news coverage by broadcasters. Meanwhile, he noted, President Donald Trump has relaxed rules on broadcasting.

“There is a need to promote local media,” he told the local news representatives.

He even toyed with the idea of holding hearings on how to improve local media coverage.

“It’s not a bad idea,” he said.

He said he planned to look into the possibility of a hearing on the lack of local news.

Pallone also pointed out that the national and regional media, in its recent coverage of the executive and legislative branches, has been emphasizing the conflict between parties over getting legislation passed. But, he went on, there is, in fact, a lot of cooperation between the parties and frequent cross-aisle agreement.

His most frustrating problem, he said, is the passage of bills in the Democratic-controlled House that are stymied when they land on Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s desk. McConnell is regarded as a tool of Trump’s in the Senate.

Still, Pallone, said, “There’s bi-partisan efforts and efforts to reach out to the (Trump) administration.”

He discussed the Portal Bridge, a railroad bridge that runs from Kearny to Secaucus and crosses the Hackensack River. The bridge routinely opens to allow boats to pass underneath. That causes delays on NJ Transit and Amtrak lines. The bridge has been in disrepair for years and causes many delays, including ones that are felt by passengers traveling to and from central New Jersey.

Pallone thought the Portal Bridge should be “much further down the road” on federal preferences, far behind the Gateway Tunnels, which are supposed to improve the flow of rail traffic into and out of Manhattan.

“They want the state and the Port Authority to contribute more, and the feds to contribute



Congressman Frank Pallone

less,” said Pallone.

But he said he disagrees with the federal government’s analysis.

“If the tunnel closes or collapses,” he said, “it would be a disaster. The Trump administration is playing games. Another storm like Sandy could cause the tunnel to collapse or become unusable.”

Pallone said Trump proposed \$2 trillion over 10 years for the Gateway project but then “backed off.” Pallone said he would move money out of the defense budget and move it into infrastructure (including transportation) if he were in charge of Congressional priorities.

“We’re just woefully falling apart,” Pallone said.

He also talked about many other issues. One was the presence of PFAS, a pollutant in drinking water. Pallone said a bill “is now on McConnell’s desk,” but not moving forward.

He specifically mentioned the “Clean Futures Act,” proposed legislation that would make the U.S. carbon-neutral by 2050. He said he is trying to pass “pieces” of the bill since there is substantial opposition in the White House.

In discussing health care, Pallone is working on bills to lower prescription drugs by having the federal government negotiate drug prices with manufacturers. Pallone also talked about the current trend of consolidation and mergers in medical care that move health care further away from individual patients and toward regional medical centers.

“I’m not a fan of all that,” he said. “The individual gets lost.”

He said the trend has put New Jersey in a competitive contest with medical facilities in New York.

“We’re always in the squeeze,” Pallone said. “New York hospitals are always trying to grab patients.”



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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

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 raises 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 overdose 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 "Cops vs. Pops" pool 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 steps in to try to help.

Sometimes a resident will come up and say why we are paying for certain services when we are not getting anything in return? With the police, you 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



Police Officers participating in the Torch Run in 2017 in Perth Amboy *File Photo by Carolyn Maxwell

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 best and have to look at entire city as a whole. Now, the council (when they take over the responsibility of PARA) 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 needs 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



Police at Career Day at Wilentz School May 2017 *File Photo by Carolyn Maxwell

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
New Jersey Transit Mayor of
Perth Amboy Wilda Diaz

Dear Representatives:

Kindly accept this 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 out transportation network. I am part of scores of local residents and commuters who are faced with a unsafe condition shown by the provided photos(2) where dividers provide for passage to down-

town stores, schools, homes and the train station itself.

While the Market Street road was re-paved in 2018, it had left a concern about the road conditions for those who seek to walk around drivers in that area. Winter weather only increases the danger with snow and water surfaces making the dividers unsafe themselves.

Please allow for repairs or a temporary ramp so members of the public-like myself-can use the sidewalk again. I appreciate your instructing the construction crews or public works department of a solution to this urgent City of Perth Amboy issue.

Vincent Mackiel

Results from Sunday's Community Blood Drive

Thanks for your help promoting Sunday's community blood drive at St. Mary's Church. We collected 42 pints of blood

which can help over 100 patients.

Your help is greatly appreciated!
Best regards,

Lynne Ross
Account Manager
NJ Blood Services
Div. NY Blood Center

Danger and Immigration

With all the news about the Corona Virus we need to contemplate how easy it would be if an illegal immigrant were to come into this country carrying some dread disease or virus. It should give one cause to think and pause and think. Before you scoff at my notion think of all the damage invasive insects, plants and animals have done to various ecosystems in our coun-

try and others. Trees destroyed because of insects coming over on ships, seeds of plants taking over other plants and animals introduced to foreign soil which kill native animals. This added to the fact that our country really doesn't need any more people in it, illegal or otherwise. Iceland probably has plenty of room for people to settle! Thank you.

The Honorable Michael J. Rusznak

What do you think?
Send us a response!

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JEWISH RENAISSANCE MEDICAL CENTER	272A HOBART ST.
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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

WED. Mar. 9 City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
WED Mar. 11 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
THURS. Mar. 12 Board of Education, 5:30 p.m.
PAHS, Eagle Ave.

South Amboy

WED. Mar. 4 City Council, Business, 6 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway
WED. Mar. 18 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway

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



The Arturo Schomburg Award



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



Reverend Esteban Santana III



Listening to the speakers



Mayor Wilda Diaz



Asm. Craig Coughlin & Asw. Yvonne Lopez



Bob Durso



Honoree Jeanette Wilson Perry



Accepting the Award



Congressman Frank Pallone



At the podium



Presentation of a Proclamation from Anna Daily and Kim Nesbitt Good



Presentation from PRAHD Kindergarten



Mercedes



Jeanette Wilson Perry with her husband



Posing with Mayor Diaz



Group Photo

By Carolyn Maxwell
PERTH 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 Dickerson of St. James AME Zion Church, and Associate Pastor Patricio Wilson of Christ Family Church, Cary, North Carolina. Samuel Delgado, Husband of Yvonne Lopez was introduced as the brainchild of recognizing Schomburg as a bridge between the Latin and the Afri-

can 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 Community. 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 honorees 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. “Un-

fortunately, 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-

*Continued on Page 7

Community Needs Discussed; Contract Negotiations Stalled

2/26/20 Council Meeting

**Continued from Page 1*

come and answer questions under oath.”

The next Ordinance for public discussion was Ordinance No. 2 – Dissolving the Perth Amboy Redevelopment Agency and designating the city council as redevelopment entity for the city of Perth Amboy and enjoining those previously approved redevelopment projects identified in this ordinance pending review and further action by the city council.

Stanley Sierakowski came up and asked, “What does enjoining mean?”

Law Director Peter King responded, “Stopping.”

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

Sierakowski then cited Jersey City where they had audits on 19 PILOTS that failed for compliances. He urged the council to see who is responsible (on negotiating for PILOTS). “Make sure developers are in compliance with the contract.”

Ken Balut came up and brought the PILOT for Bridgeport and Target. “The mayor recently participated in a protest with the workers at Target because of poor working conditions. The school board raised taxes because there was no money (from PILOTS). Taxes are going up despite PILOTS. There’s a conflict with the Kushner negotiations and they the city over \$35,000 for road repairs. The PILOTS are disgusting. You didn’t know how much money was given away. Probably \$100 million in a 17-20-year time frame. The problem is when one hand doesn’t know what the other hand is doing, and things are dropped in your laps. The man who came here and our CFO do not know anything about PILOTS.”

East Brunswick Resident Reinaldo Aviles who formerly lived in Perth Amboy came up to say he’s in favor of the council taking over PARA. “I agreed

with King when he talked about the enjoining sentence. Developers might sue you. Maybe you should remove that section for practical senses.”

Council President Petrick challenged Aviles stating, “Your views are speculative.”

Aviles retorted, “I’d rather err on the side of caution.”

Petrick the questioned why Aviles is concerned since he is now living in East Brunswick.

Aviles challenged Petrick and stated, “I can still speak here. It’s your personal fight with the mayor. This could create legal action against the city.”

The next ordinance for public discussion was regarding membership on the redevelopment agency. Ken Balut came up to the podium and asked for an explanation of this ordinance.

Petrick responded, “There’s a need to have people who live in Perth Amboy on that board.”

Law Director King added, “It does not affect the current PARA Board Members.”

Balut continued, “Some of the current Board Members had a conflict of interest, especially when it came to dealing with the Kushner project. The past and present Kushner deals are garbage. I don’t care if Kushner protests. There are enough people against him.”

Balut returned to the podium to speak about the PILOT Program of the PHILOTIMO Housing Development Urban Renewal Corporation. He questioned, “How many years is this PILOT for?”

Petrick responded, “15 years.”

Balut asked, “And the cost to the taxpayers?”

Petrick responded, “I can’t project that.”

Balut then gave a rough calculation how it is easy to project the cost. “You are giving money to the rich.”

B.A. Frederick Carr then responded, “It’s a 15-year PILOT. 2% tax rate, \$76,202, but the city will not collect money without the project. The units are age restricted. He then answered Balut’s question regarding the Target warehouse. “We

didn’t do those projections for Target.”

Balut concluded, “At least the taxpayers will benefit (from this project).”

The consent agenda R-69 thru R-89 was moved by Councilman Helmin Caba and seconded by Councilman Joel Pabon. R-90 and R-91 which dealt with vehicles requested by the police department was pulled to be voted on separately. It was moved by Councilman Joel Pabon and seconded by Councilwoman Milady Tejada. Pabon felt the money spent to purchase additional equipment for these two items could be used for something more important. When the council voted separately, Caba, Tejada, and Petrick voted “Yes,” and Pabon voted “No”. Motion passed.

Public Portion on Agenda Items only:

Sierakowski asked about R-71 – Cancellation of unexpended Capital Fund Improvement Authorization in the amount of \$808,142.99. He questioned if there is still money there.

Petrick responded, “Yes.”

Sierakowski then questioned R-84 – A professional service contract with Lanza and Lanza LLP for legal representation of the mayor of the city of Perth Amboy in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.

He wanted to know, “Who is suing whom?”

Petrick responded, “It’s an old lawsuit where the mayor was suing the council and we agreed to pay for each other’s attorneys.”

The next person who came up to speak was Franklin Diaz, who is from the Taxicab Federation. He told the council, “This is not time for the city to add more licenses because of outside competitors such as Uber.” He then mentioned the other taxi company who spoke earlier in the meeting who stated that my company has 7 cars without drivers. This is because some of the drivers are leaving to go elsewhere. The ordinance that was established is good until 2027.”

The next person who came up was Jonathan Jarez from Amboy Taxi who spoke at the Hearing for Citizens earlier in the meeting. “Diaz (from the Taxicab Federation) has 17 cars. Why does he need more? He (Diaz) has no drivers. Our cars are working. If more taxis are needed, we should let the citizens decide.”

Balut came up to speak about R-84. He was concerned because the mayor puts a lawyer that is not on the city’s attorney list to represent her.

Law Director King responded, “You can’t be an attorney on the city’s list and sue the city.”

Balut continued, “It’s a quid pro quo. This could be a scam and what’s going on with those legal bills? Lawyers should be held to our hourly rate.”

King answered, “There’s a cap. It’s \$150 per hour, and there is also a cap on the total cost to be paid out.”

Balut then told the council they should watch the movie, “The Firm.”

Reinaldo Aviles came back up to talk about R-83 – Guidelines for the engraving of names on the War Veteran’s Memorial. “Councilman Pabon made a statement about the War Memorial and not removing any names.”

Pabon then stated, “It’s supposed to be for only those who fought in wars.”

Aviles said, “It could be litigious if it should be changed to veterans. Then it will fly in the face of future veterans. Both groups should be honored.”

Public Portion:

Resident Ken Balut came up and mentioned a billboard posted on the side of a building on 200 New Brunswick Ave. “It was supposed to have cost \$150. When I asked for a receipt from Code Enforcement, it said \$125. The person on the billboard is the wife of the Code Enforcement Director. When I did an OPRA regarding this billboard, the answer came back, there were no permits. Files were also lost. Have the FBI investigate. Look at the graffiti in town. There’s a judge who is still parking in handicapped spots. A judge misused handicapped parking and he also erroneously misfiled a First-Time Homebuyers application. They tried to defraud the government. A judge had been suspended. What’s going on with the court system? A judge is violating the handicapped ordinances and hearing cases involving handicapped violations. A judge was reprimanded 3 times and now there’s talk about censuring him. Ticket fixing was going on in court. It’s up to you to investigate what’s going on with the court judge. A court case involving an illegal lottery was sent to an out-of-town court. There was a case involving sexual harassment between two city employees that was thrown out of court.” Balut then stated that the prosecutor present at a council meeting made an obscene gesture at him.

Petrick responded to some of Balut’s statements, “Some

of these offenses can be fraud. Online (referring to the lottery case) is wire fraud. Online is wire fraud and is a federal offense.”

King added, “I can’t prosecute a judge.”

Stanley Sierakowski came up and mentioned an article on NJ.com tilted, “The Culture of Wrongdoing”. In the article, NJ State Senator Nicholas Scutari (D) (22nd Legislative District) who also works as a prosecutor in Linden part-time earning over \$84,000. “50% of the time he was a no-show. He is suing the city after he was fired. In the court system, there should be set up for the prosecutors a sign-in sheet so they can account for their time. You should put that in an ordinance. In lawsuits, they went after other people. Contracts should be investigated. We know what’s been going on. In some towns, it’s been going on for 50-75 years. People are arrogant and greedy.”

Resident and Businesswoman Sharon Hubberman came up next. She stated, “I’ve advocated for the community. We are undergoing a safety and security crisis. There has been an extreme disservice (to the police) referencing some high paying positions. There are two kind of agreements: union and a non-union collective bargaining. A memorandum of an agreement has to be reached. The mayor and the business administrator made an agreement with the employees.” She threw out figures on what monies were budgeted for the school, operations of the city which included the fire department, the PBA, and the DPW. “I can go through details on how to handle this. You have the opportunity to go through a salary guide and get this (the PBA contract) back on the agenda. We need to authorize where the funds are really needed.”

Brian Ferry, Representative of the PBA Local #13 came up to speak next, “You found money for the firefighters. We heard from Police Chief McKeon who talked about officers getting better pay elsewhere. Balut finds hundreds of dollars, but you can’t find money to pay a modest increase to the police. 4 out of 5 council members are against the police officers.”

Council President Petrick responded, “I object because I have family members who are officers. Would you agree to a 1.5% increase like the firefighters?”

Ferry responded, “We are in remediation.”

Petrick then suggested, “Go back to them (the mediators).”

PBA Local#13 President Officer Daniel Gonzalez came up to speak, “Some of the council are ignorant about the arbitration process.” He then explained the different steps of the salary guides between the police and fire departments. He based it at the 1.5% increase the fire department will be getting. “The first step for the po-

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Arturo Schomburg Award

**Continued from Page 6*

mans came from Africa. The American Museum of Natural History in New York has been honoring those in the past and present. We have to remember Thomas Mundy Peterson, too, and we have to be vigilant. I want to thank you for having me be part of this event.”

Associate Pastor of the Cathedral International (and past honoree) Carole Dortch-Wright read a letter from Bishop Donald Hilliard congratulating Jeanette Perry who has served over 40 years in the community.” He stated, “She has served those in the youth, the senior programs, and is a gift from God. She has increased the quality of life to others.”

The next person who came up to speak was Anna Daily and Kim Nesbitt Good, who presented a proclamation from

Kimerly Cornish who is an ancestor of Harriet Tubman to Jeanette Wilson for her achievements.

Jeanette Wilson Perry came back up to speak to acknowledge a very special young woman named Mercedes. Jeanette said that Mercedes was from... then handed the mic to Mercedes who proclaimed she was from Honduras.

Jeanette continued, “Mercedes volunteers at the Lakeview School in Edison, where I’m employed. She has helped me with my Facebook Page and has taught me and others how to do PowerPoint. Mercedes is also very proud to become a new citizen and will be voting for the first time this year.”

PRAHD Board Member and JJ Elek Realtor Robert Durso. He spoke about how this experience has changed him for the better. He told Jeanette how much she has inspired him.

“PRAHD serves the entire community and I want to congratulate Jeanette for her commitment to her community and her church. I’m in the room with greatness and I also honor the past honorees.”

Carole Dortch-Wright came up and acknowledged PRAHD Employee Lillian Martinez and the other PRAHD employees who worked to make this program a success.

Lillian Martinez came out with a large sign from the children who attend PRAHD’s Kindergarten class. The sign was congratulating Jeanette Perry. On the table were other proclamations and a plaques and acknowledgements that were displayed that were to given to the honorees.

PRAHD and The Cathedral International wanted to recognize JJ Elek Realtor in Woodbridge for sponsoring the event.

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

2/24/20 Caucus

**Continued from Page 1*

Council President William Petrick 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 (to make library renovations) and now with the litigation with the contractor, the administration should not have been involved." Petrick then questioned, "Should the administration never 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 statute."

Councilman Joel Pabon spoke up, "The library board of trustees have no clue what their duties are and they do not want to come here because they are nervous."

King said, "They have their own attorney."

Petrick questioned if they even advertise when they have their meeting.

Irizarry said, "They have been told different ways to do things and we have to sit down with them and give them training."

King said, "They get training."

Business Administrator Frederick Carr joined the discussion, "The board of trustees is not a stand-alone and we need to ease them into their responsibilities."

ities. We have a library director expected to be here on Tuesday. We need to teach the board of trustees how to operate autonomously."

Pabon then spoke up, "We (the council) need to go to a library board of trustee meeting, but you might get a mass exodus (of the members) leaving."

King then explained, "It's a 5-year position and I'm sure the mayor has talked to them."

Carr said, "The members were all appointed by the mayor with the advise/consent of the council."

King spoke up and made a clarification, "The Superintendent of Schools and the mayor are automatically appointed by state statute. The mayor can appoint someone to take her place if she cannot attend. All their meetings are held at the library."

Petrick thought that the Library Board of Trustees should have a secretary to record the minutes. "The meeting should also be recorded to be put on public TV."

King asked, "Do you have that in your ordinance?"

Petrick responded, "I don't know, but those meetings should be recorded and taped – just as our meetings are."

There then was a discussion regarding Resolutions R-90 and R-91 regarding equipment purchased by the police department.

Councilman Joel Pabon was surprised that these two items were on this agenda, "Those two resolutions were turned back at the last meeting. The equipment involved (purchase of a diesel regular cab and a rollback loader). Budget wise, the money used for these two resolutions should be used for

more than purchasing a flat-bed."

Deputy Police Chief Larry Cattano came up to respond to Pabon, "The money for this equipment can't be used towards 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."

Pabon 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."

Pabon then questioned, "Will the money always be there, and do we need to spend this money right now?"

Petrick reminded Pabon that this money was already allocated for this equipment."

Cattano also said, "This equipment can be used by other departments."

Councilman Helmin Caba wanted to know if having this front loader equipment will affect our local towing companies.

Cattano explained the towers will be doing the same work they are doing now. A lot of our vehicles are under warranty and some of our warranties are about to expire. "We will be training some of our own employees to operate the vehicles."

There was a question involving the first reading – no public discussion in Ordinance No. 2 entitled Garbage, Rubbish, and Refuse. Bulk waste for rental properties was deleted.

DPW Director Frank Hoffman came up to explain that there are problems with private owners of multiple properties. "Someone will make six appointments

at once. Multiple property owners will send multiple people to make appointments. When we go to the address, there will be a lot more bulk than what was stated on the request."

Geri Barcheski, who also works in the DPW in the recycling department stated, "We even have people coming from Staten Island or from out of town asking if they were bulk pick-ups being made."

Law Director King suggested that the City have two bulk pickups a year, then it's done."

The council decided to table this ordinance to a future meeting.

Councilman Joel Pabon was concerned about all the workmen's compensation cases that have been on the agenda. He requested to know how much the city has spent on compensation cases in the last three years.

Business Administrator Frederick Carr stated, "There are regular safety meetings to talk about these cases (and if any additional training is needed)."

Council President William Petrick stated, "In the fire department, we do a run after a settlement is made to see what we did right or wrong."

The next discussion involved Resolution R-83 which is establishing guidelines for the engraving of names on the War Veteran's Memorial. Councilman Pabon stated that he and B.A. Carr sat down to go over the guidelines as to whose names should be on that wall. "The application speaks for itself." Pabon stated that even though he is a Veteran, he did not want his name to be put on the wall.

Petrick put people's minds at ease, "Whoever has their names on the wall right now, will remain there."

During the public portion, Resident Ken Balut came up to speak. He talked about the PBA contract. "In a 30-year period, the starting salary for police only went up \$13,000, yet the mayor gives huge raises in a 1-year period. Who changed the starting rate of pay in the police contract? I still need to get the cost for pending cases: Batista and Burgos. I still need to get the costs (for 2 cases I OPRA'd). The mayor and judge have been asking for a protective order, so they don't have to testify in certain cases. We have a judge who has been suspended, and a judge who is hearing cases on handicapped parking violations which he has abused. I also complained about tickets being fixed."

Former Perth Amboy Resident Reinaldo Aviles came up to speak about the library issue. "About a year ago, the former library director who was pushed out of her position came here to speak before the council. She mentioned that the proper procedures were not in place. She was right to speak out. If the Library Board of Trustees are autonomous, then the library employees are no longer city

employees. In that case, regular city employees should not be transferred to the library. If the library is independent, then the employees of the library can't be under the city's personnel. Interviews for a new library director were not conducted by the governing bodies (Library Board of Trustees). When will they become a governing entity?"

Law Director King responded, "The Board of Trustees were acting as an advisory and the Library employees will be city employees. There had to be a 30-day notice (to the Library Director) when they were being removed."

Council Comments:

Helmin Caba wanted to apologize for some of the comments made at the last council meeting, "I misspoke."

Fernando Irizarry had a question about some of the lots of some of the business owners in the city and questioned if they have to clean those lots.

Law Director King responded, "Yes."

Irizarry then mentioned, "A lot of residents on Sayre Avenue complained about the Popeye's parking lot."

King responded, "That is a complaint to be taken to the Board of Health."

Irizarry continued, "When the 7-11 was there, they left because the owner of the property didn't clean it. Both Ms. Tejeda and I complained about the conditions of the Walgreens property and no changes have been made."

King responded, "Code Enforcement will have to be contacted."

Council President William Petrick suggested, "If we send bills to Popeye's and Walgreens, they will have to clean their lots."

Irizarry then complained that some of the streetcleaners just go down the middle of the streets to clean.

Joel Pabon spoke up next, "When you see violations, it's the same people and same addresses doing the same things all the time. Popeye's should be checked on a regular basis." Pabon also stated that two streets: Francis and Cortlandt. "Those streets look very bad."

DPW Director said, "Cortlandt 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 9-10 lights on Amboy Avenue that stay on all day."

Milady Tejeda thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Petrick concluded the meeting, "The council saw the reports and suggestions from the handicapped parking committee, and I thank everyone for being here tonight."



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.

Keep it Moving!

Press Release

PERTH AMBOY - We were made to MOVE! Most of us know how important exercise is for physical health. We know we look better and feel better when we exercise. We know it is critical for our cardiovascular health, it keeps our muscles limber, keeps our core strong. But did you know, when we develop healthy muscles and a strong core it makes it so much easier and safer to do our everyday tasks around the house, everything from putting the laundry in, going up and down the stairs, cleaning, taking out the recycling! When our body is used to moving on a daily basis, we also don't tend to mind a little yard work or snow shoveling because our muscles are ready, and our heart is ready to take on the extra work. Of course, we each have to measure what we can and cannot do physically and work closely with our health care providers to know our limits. But we also know

that if we keep active throughout our lives, we can be more active with our friends and family, too!

We all like the way we look when we stay lean, and looking good is a great goal if it works, then work it! But whatever you do, it is so important, especially for those of us who may sit or stand in one place for many hours a day that we make sure we move/exercise at least 20 to 30 minutes per day.

As we begin our new year, if you have started to fall short of your goals and resolutions, do not despair! Set a small achievable goal, just for today and focus on keeping just that goal!

Stay tuned, next issue, I will give you 3 easy ways to reach those fitness goals! And remember, you can always come over the Y for a free guest pass (just mention this article) and we would love to meet with you to help you Keep it Moving and become a healthier YOU!

Community Needs Discussed; Contract Negotiations Stalled

2/26/20 Council Meeting

**Continued from Page 7*

lice - \$34,338; fire department - \$41,489. You are not looking at the salary guide. For the second step, police - \$42,000; fire department - \$47,000. For the third step, police \$47,150; fire department - \$53,000. You are going to cause a divide between the police and the PBA. The top tier - police - \$103,110. Fire department - \$101,800, but the fire department gets longevity. At the end, this will end up in arbitration. Some police officers are leaving for cities that pay better and better benefits with less work.”

B.A. Carr spoke up, “Under the Faulkner Act, the mayor has a right to negotiate the contract without me being there. You have not filed for mediation.”

Council President Petrick then interjected, “This process didn’t end.”

Gonzalez said, “We just asked for a 2.5% raise.”

Petrick then explained, “We can only make our decisions based on the attorney’s advice. When I was sitting on the school board, we did not discuss negotiations in public. What is the next step?”

People started shouting from the audience, “You (the council) can reintroduce!”

Gonzalez continued, “I sug-

gest you ratify. What’s being said in closed session? Go with the numbers that we said tonight.”

Another police officer came to speak and told the council, “You don’t give care anything about the police! You guys don’t want to work together. I went on the record with our salary. Why don’t you guys walk the street at night? I’m requesting a moment of silence.”

After around 2 minutes, Council President William Petrick said the public portion could continue. Resident Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe came up. She mentioned that she is a college student studying to be a researcher on Caribbean and Labor Studies. “I was born and raised here. The library is not handicapped accessible and although there are a lot of resources online (for my research), there’s a lot of critical research information (which I would need to get inside the library to have access to).”

Petrick responded, “The Board of Trustees would be involved in the construction, hiring, and firing of employees. We don’t have a solution. We went to court against the contractor (who were doing the renovations on the library) and won that case.”

Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe continued, “The Board of Trust-

ees don’t know that they are in charge.”

Petrick suggested, “You can write a letter to the board.”

Carr added, “The process can start, but she wants to go to the library’s basement and there’s no way she can get down there.”

Petrick suggested, “Can the Board of Trustees hold their meeting in an ADA building? We don’t have the authority to do anything.”

Councilman Joel Pabon suggested, “Maybe we can have someone from the library come here to answer questions.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda wanted to address some of the concerns of the police officers, “There are certain items in negotiations that can’t be spoken here. I have to defend the city’s finances. We wanted to increase the starting salary for the police. It’s not political, but I want to thank you for being here.”

Another police officer came up to speak. He asked Tejeda, “Do you know where the money for the fire department came from?”

She answered, “Yes.”

Petrick spoke up, “I can’t elaborate on remarks that were said behind closed sessions.”

The police officer then asked, “Knowing this new information, would you have voted the same way?”

Councilman Helmin Caba re-

sponded, “Yes.”

Council Comments:

Helmin Caba was disturbed and said, “It was disrespectful of those accusing us of not respecting the police. I have to make decisions affecting all of the residents. Throwing us under the bus is unfair. The new police officers will get \$33,500, but they are still underpaid.”

One of the PBA Representatives shouted out, “We deal with disrespectful people every day!”

Joel Pabon spoke next. He addressed the situation with the two cab companies which talked about the number of licenses in the city, “The taxis now have to deal with competitors such as Uber and Lyft. Years ago, the taxicabs complained that they were not making enough money.” He then addressed the fire department’s pay increase of 1.5% which was already set, “I am not changing my mind. We had all the information about the fire department. I defended my own vote (voting to approve the PBA contract).”

B.A. Carr had important information for the council. “You have in front of you details of the budget and it’s a secret for all of you only and not to be given out to anybody else. They’ll be no tax increase. It’s a \$714,000 increase over last year’s but there was a \$1.9 mil-

lion debt reduction because of an insurance refund that received. The insurance costs came down, even though there was an increase. Reserves were replenished. There are 97 school bus drivers, and we have our crossing guards. \$4,970,000 was used for surplus. We need to reintroduce the budget by March 25th and the adoption by April 22nd. We need to look at our fees for review. With our credit rating, we have callable bonds for debt payment. We have construction fees (uniform construction only).”

Petrick stated, “The local finance board told us we can’t dip into the surplus all the time.”

Carr assured Petrick, “We can dip into the surplus to add to certain budget lines.”

Petrick then asked, “Can we introduce the budget at the next meeting?”

Carr responded, “You can hold discussions in closed session, but we may need to have two special meetings to discuss the budget.”

Petrick ended the meeting by thanking everyone for their patience.

Councilman Fernando Irizarry was absent with an excuse. 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

**Photos & Caption Courtesy of the Port Authority Police Benefit Association, Inc. & Photo by Paul W. Wang*

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

Lecture on Women’s Suffrage

WOODBIDGE - 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 discussed “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 7p.m. at Fellowship Hall, First Presbyterian Church, 600 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge.



STATE OF THE CITY

THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH, 2020 / 6:00 P.M.

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357 NEW BRUNSWICK AVENUE
PERTH AMBOY, NEW JERSEY



**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.

OPEN HOUSE



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**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

Gustav J. Novak
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Gary Earl Rumpf
Director
NJ LIC No. 3353

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Manager
NJLIC No 3841

Gary Earl Rumpf
Director
NJ LIC No. 3353



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.

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The 43rd Annual
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St. Patrick's Day Parade
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Sunday, March 15, 2020 2 pm
Additional parade information is available



Free Choral Concert
Friday, March 13th 7pm
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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
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Donation bins will be located at City Hall and near the Grandstand


Black History Month Celebration - Jankowski Community Center, Perth Amboy 2/25/20 *Photos by Paul W. Wang





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Pallone’s Legislation to End Youth Vaping Epidemic Passes House

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 6.2 million American middle and high school students used some type of tobacco product last year. One in every three high school students have 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 bubblegum, 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 78 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 sent a clear message to Big Tobacco today: we will not stand by 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 Act is a win-win for lung health,” said Harold P. Wimmer, National 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-cigarette 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 Pal-

lone 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 Fuhrman, 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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THE HONORABLE MAYOR WILDA DIAZ

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Dr. Herbert N. Richardson Elementary School

■ ¿QUÉ ES UNA EXPO DE VIVIENDA?

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Regístrese en tinyurl.com/HousingExpo2020

Hungarian Homemade Nut Rolls Sale

WOODBIDGE – The Loranffy Women’s Guild of the Calvin Hungarian Reformed Church, Woodbridge, NJ is having a Nut Roll Sale. Each individually hand rolled and made from the best ingredients. Each Weighing 1lb 8oz. Available in English Walnut, Poppy Seed, Prune-Lekvar, Apricot, Raspberry. Price: \$17.00 each. Deadline for orders by Monday, March 23, 2020. Orders will be available for pick-up on Friday, April 3, 2020 between 12 noon and 4 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall of the Church. Please use Ross Street Entrance. All orders must be paid in full upon ordering. Please call: Florette Pastor @ 732-636-2868.

Fresh Hungarian Kolbasz Sale

WOODBIDGE – Made by the members of the Calvin Hungarian Reformed Church of Woodbridge on Friday, April 3, 2020. Place your orders with Audrey Marciniak @ 732-494-1431. Price: \$6.00 per lb. Deadline for order – Monday, March 23, 2020. Order may be picked-up on the day of the sale between 12 noon and 4 p.m. Use Ross Street entrance.

If you are ordering Nut Rolls, you can also place your order for Kolbasz at the same time.

Fish & Chicken Fry

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

Fish on Fridays

SOUTH AMBOY – The South Amboy Elks, 601 Washington Ave., invite you to Fish on Fridays during Lent. Starting Feb. 28, 2020 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Menu: 1 doz. Steamed Clams - \$8.00; Fish Sandwich w/Fries & Cole-slaw - \$10.00; Fish Dinner Platter - \$14.00; Shrimp Dinner Platter - \$14.00; Scallop Dinner Platter - \$16.00; Combo Platter w/4 Shrimp, 3 Scallops, & Fish Fillet - \$18.00.

All Platters are served with French Fries, Coleslaw, Soup or Salad, Dessert, Coffee & Tea. For the Kids: 3 Chicken Fingers & Fries - \$5.00

Please be patient...All Menu Items are made to order. Your selection can be broiled or fried. Take Out Available and Weekly Specials. Please understand that your order cannot be changed once placed. Take your time while ordering. For more information call: 732-727-7170.

Annual Cabbage & Noodle Sale

PERTH AMBOY - St. John’s Evg. Lutheran Church is having a cabbage & noodle sale. Orders taken March 1st through March 28th. Pick up will be at 664 Amboy Ave (use the side door on Meredith St.) on Sunday March 29th from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Contact Lorraine at 732-996-8860 or kookie.mc@gmail.com to place your order. Cost: \$6.00 for 1 pound or buy 3 lbs. or more save \$1.00 per pound!

Pirohi Sale

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

Palm Cross Sale

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

Tricky Tray/ Gift Auction

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

Gift Auction

PERTH AMBOY - Saint James AME Zion Church is having a gift auction on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at the Jankowski 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 Perth Amboy are hosting a Designer Bag Bingo & Tricky Tray Event on Saturday March 21st. 2020 at the lodge located at 989 Convery Blvd in Perth Amboy. The doors open at 1:00pm and the first game is called at 2:30. Tickets are \$25.00 and includes 1 Bingo set, 3 boards per game, coffee & cake. For tickets call Gwen @ 732-694-0746. The kitchen will be open, no outside food please.

A.C. Bus Trip San Salvador Seniors

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



A.C. Bus Trip Holy Rosary Seniors

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

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 pp.; \$25 back in slot play. Bus will depart from behind St. Stephens Church (St. John Paul II) parking lot on Mechanic Street at 9:30 a.m. Call Bobbi to reserve a seat: 732-636-2867. This is our last AC Trip for 2019.

Bus Trip to Playhouse Holy Rosary Seniors

HOPELAWN – The Holy Rosary Seniors are sponsoring a bus trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse Wednesday April 29th. Cost is \$100 which includes Bus, lunch and a “Sherlock Holmes Mystery” show. Bus leaves Church parking lot at 10:00 am. Any questions please call Ronnie at 732-442-5252.

Singer/ Guitarist Performs at Hungarian Reformed Church Service

PERTH AMBOY - Carol Rolleri, Singer/Guitarist, will perform two songs at the Sunday, March 8th, 9 a.m. worship service at the Magyar (Hungarian) Reformed Church, 331 Kirkland Place, Perth Amboy. She will sing the rousing "Put Your Hand in the Hand" and "In Christ Alone". The Rev. Andras 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. For more information, call 732-442-7799.

Spring Music Festival

SOUTH AMBOY - The Collegium Musicum 2020 Concert Series presents the Veritas Chamber Group on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Sadie Pope Dowdell Library, 100 Governor Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy, Refreshments will be served. The Dowdell Library is located off. John T. O'Leary Blvd. adjacent to the. South Amboy Middle/High School. For more info, call (732) 721-6060.



Sumo Wrestling

SOUTH AMBOY – Sumo Wrestling presented by the South Amboy Elks 784 will be on Saturday, March 7th from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the lodge located at 601 Washington Avenue, South Amboy. \$20 donation in advance; \$25 at the door. \$5 additional donation to wrestle. Guest Wresters: Past State President Pete Smith and more???? Ticket includes select beverages and light food. Reservations available for tables of 8. All proceeds benefit the General Fund & the ENF Committee.

Makers Day

SOUTH AMBOY - Join us for Makers Day on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Sadie Pope Dowdell Library. STEAM Games, Finch Robot, MiY Sundaes, Toddler Create with Legos, Hammer Level Editor, 3D Pen Contest, Snap Circuits, Jewelry Kits, Crafting. This event is for ages 0 to 100. The Dowdell Library is located off. John T. O'Leary Blvd. adjacent to the. South Amboy Middle/High School. For more info, call (732) 721-6060.

Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library Meeting

PERTH AMBOY – The Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library are having a meeting on Tuesday, Mar. 24, 2020 at 6 p.m. at the Perth Amboy Free Public Library (Children's Library), 196 Jefferson St. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more info, call 732-261-2610.



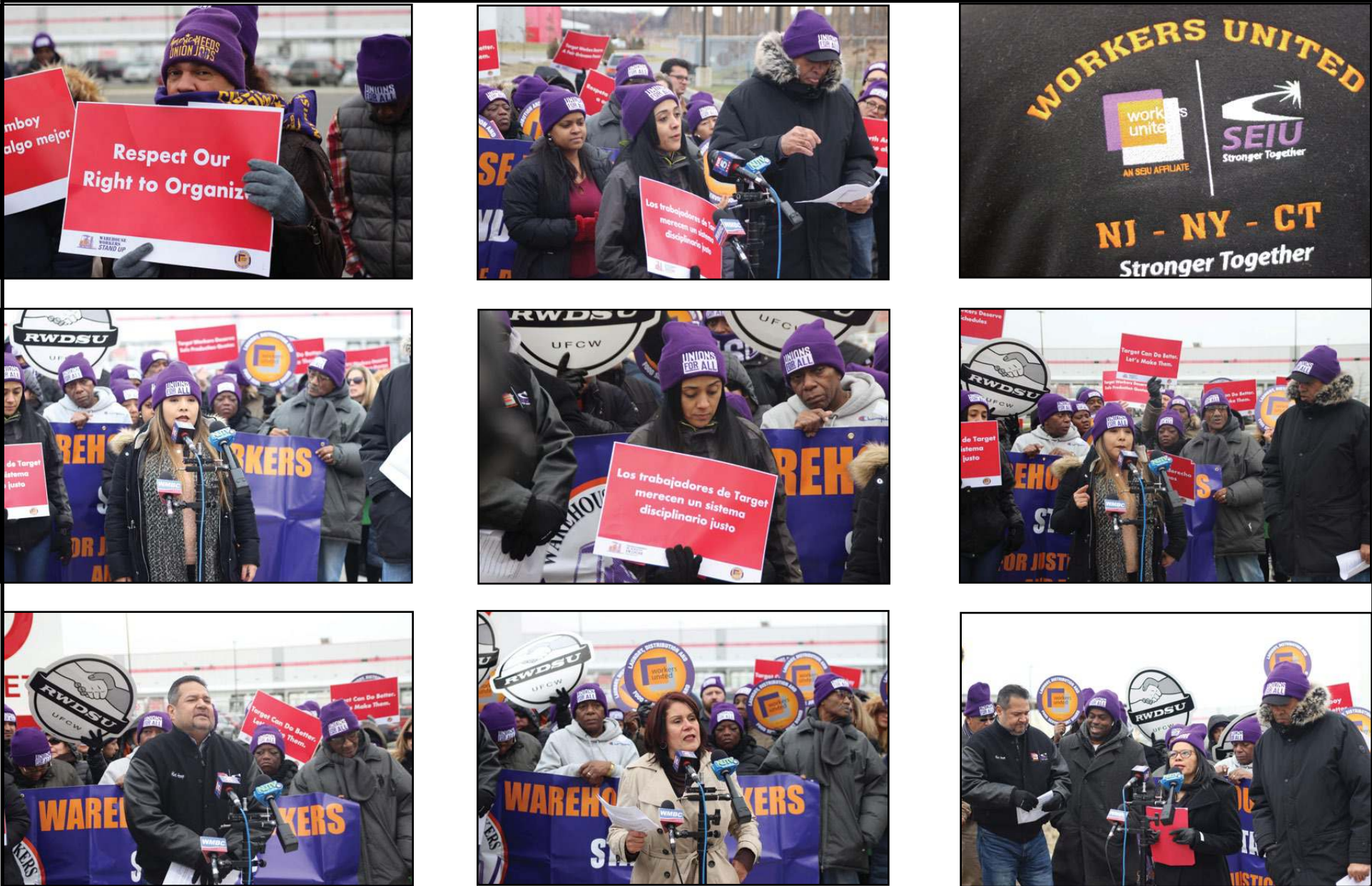
Book Sale

PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library have a book sale every other Saturday from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. at the Brighton Avenue Community Center at the corner of Brighton Avenue and Sadowski Parkway in Perth Amboy. The schedule for winter is as follows: Saturday, March 14 and 28. Paperbacks are \$.50, hardcovers are \$1, \$5 for a bag full, no limit to size of bag except no lawn or garbage bags. If you make a purchase or a donation, Friends resident artist Luis Rosario will draw you a caricature as a sign of appreciation for your support. We have best sellers by popular authors that are like new.

The money we raise goes to support the library with providing programs, promoting literacy or to provide funds to the library with their needs beyond their budget. For more information email us at friendsofperthamboylibrary@gmail.com, or call us at 201-381-1903 and like us on Facebook. Dealers are welcome. You can also check out our website, www.folperthamboy.com as we have added a donor button.

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

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.



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.

The RAF launches a heavy, 300-bomber attack against Mannheim, Germany, on March 2, 1945, causing a devastating firestorm. Units of the U.S. Third Army capture Trier, the oldest city in Germany, while elements of the U.S. Ninth Army reach the Rhine River opposite Düsseldorf.

The Battle of Meiktila, Burma, comes to an end on March 3, with British Lt. Gen. William Slim’s British and Indian troops overwhelming the Japanese. The road to Rangoon is now open. In Europe, the Germans conduct “Operation Gisela:” 100 Luftwaffe Ju-88 night-fighters attack 27 RAF airfields in England, in what is the last night-intrusion raid of the war. Six German planes are downed (16 others crash during combat maneuvers or because they have run out of fuel), but 23 RAF aircraft are destroyed. Finland declares war on Germany.

The Soviet 1st Belorussian Front on March 4 establishes a new bridgehead across the Oder River south of Frankfurt an der Oder, in northeastern Germany. In the United Kingdom, the 18-year-old elder daughter of King George VI, HRH Princess Elizabeth (the future Queen Elizabeth II), enlists in the British Army and is trained as a driver and mechanic. Bombs from a USAAF plane fall on Zürich, Switzerland, killing five people.

Units of VIII Corps of the U.S. First Army enter Cologne, Germany, on March 5. Germany begins conscripting youths as young as 15 into the regular army.

The U.S. Third Army reaches the River Rhine northwest of Koblenz, Germany, on March 6, as Cologne falls to the U.S. First Army. In Hungary, German forces launch a major counteroffensive north of Lake Balaton, with the goal of recapturing the territory between Lake Balaton and the Danube to the east. In Romania, a communist-led government is formed; Petru Groza remains the prime minister. In Burma, the Chinese First Army captures Lashio, the Burmese terminus of the Burma Road. In Poland, Soviet authorities begin to arrest anyone connected with the Armia Krajowa (Polish Home Army) or the Polish government-in-exile in London.

On March 7, American troops begin crossing the Rhine into Germany via the Ludendorff Bridge, at Remagen, the only bridge across the Rhine left standing by the Germans. (The Germans were trying to keep the bridge open long enough for it to be used as an escape route for their 15th Division, which was trapped on the west side of the river. 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 Allan 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 Mariana Islands firebomb Tokyo with 2,000 tons of napalm and incendiaries. Hurricane-force winds are created 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 bombing switches to other Japanese cities, including Nagoya, Osaka and Kobe. U.S. troops invade Mindanao, in the southern Philippines. The Japanese proclaim the “independence” of Indochina, depose the Vichy French government there, disarm Vichy French troops stationed around the country, and establish the Empire of Annam. The Australian 14th/32nd Infantry Battalion comes ashore at Wide Bay, New Britain island, and engages Japanese troops in forward outposts. After six weeks of fighting in continual heavy rains, the Australians are victorious in pushing the forward garrisons back, and isolate and contain the 93,000 troops of the Japanese Eighth Area Army around Rabaul, on the eastern end of the island. German troops from the Channel Islands (a group of islands in the English Channel off the coast of France that include Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and Sark) raid Granville, France, on the Normandy coast. They blow up port installations, damage several ships, free 67 German POWs, capture as many as 30 Allied personnel, and kill 33 U.S. soldiers, sailors and marines before retreating.

As a result of his troops allowing the Allies to capture the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen, Army Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt on March 10 is replaced as Commander-in-Chief of German forces in the West by Luftwaffe Field Marshal Albert Kesselring. German troops evacuate Wesel on Germany’s lower Rhine, their last foothold on the west bank of the river. The U.S. Third Army captures Bonn, Germany.

Nagoya, Japan, is firebombed by several hundred American B-29s on March 11. Over Germany, 1,000 Allied bombers drop 4,662 tons of bombs on Essen, in the Ruhr. Adolf Hitler visits with Ninth Army commander Lt. Gen. Theodor Busse at Bad Freienwalde, on the Oder River near the Polish border. Der Führer pleads with Busse and his officers to hold back the Soviets until his “new weapons are ready.” However, he never elaborates on what these are.

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 (from Hungary). In northern Italy, near Lake Garda, Benito Mussolini narrowly escapes injury when an Allied fighter plane strafes a convoy of automobiles in which he is riding.

A surprise armored thrust by the British in central Burma on March 13 cuts off 30,000 Japanese troops in Mandalay. In Europe, following a 600-bomber raid by the U.S. 8th Air Force, the RAF, with 800 bombers, attacks Swinemünde (Swinoujście, in Polish) on the Baltic Sea in northwestern Poland, a major port of disembarkation for German refugees from eastern Germany. The raid causes heavy damage to the docks and kills between 20,000 and 23,000 civilians. Queen Wilhelmina returns to the Netherlands from her refuge in England, a stay which began in May 1940 when the Germans invaded Holland.

The U.S. Third Army crosses the Moselle River, southwest of Koblenz, Germany, on March 14. In Hungary, German counterattacks to recapture oilfields near Lake Balaton fail and come to an end.

In Germany on March 15, the U.S. Third Army, commanded by Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, and the U.S. Seventh Army, commanded by Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, engage in a joint effort to eliminate German forces from the area bounded by the Saar, Moselle and Rhine Rivers. On Iwo Jima, Japanese forces are confined to a small area in the northwest of the island. In California, the 17th Academy Awards ceremony is broadcast over radio for the first time. The musical comedy-drama “Going My Way” wins seven Oscars, including Best Picture.

Creative Art Contest for Sayreville Students

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

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

- Categories:
Elementary (Grades K-5)
Middle School (Grades 6-8)
High School (Grades 9-12)
Special Needs
Three Dimensional
Group Project (4 or more students)

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

Phone: 732-814-9964
Email: heather.sayrevilleshadetree@gmail.com
Facebook: @sayrevilleshadetree

WWW.AMBOYGUARDIAN.COM

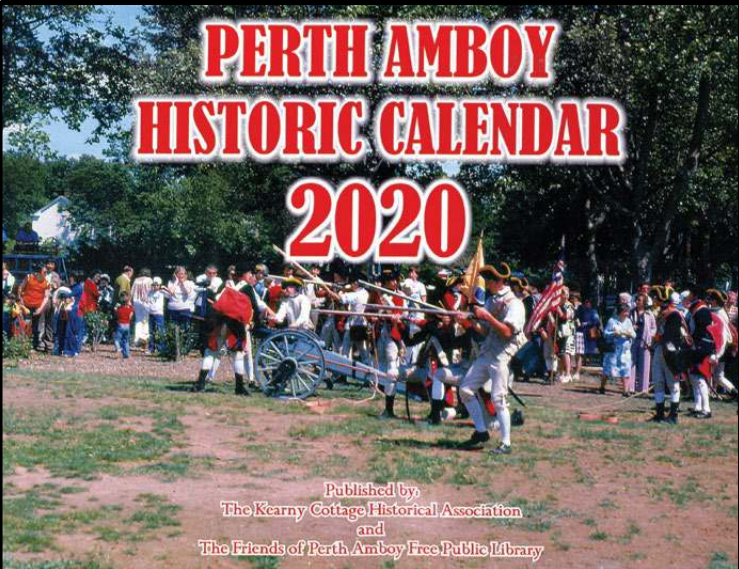
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2020 Historic Perth Amboy Calendars



2020 Historic Perth Amboy Calendars are now available at the Barge Restaurant, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy 732-442-3000 or at Fertigs Uniform Store, 195 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy 732-442-1079, and Perth Amboy City Hall. For more information: call Paul or Katherine at 732-293-1090. Back by popular demand the Calendars feature old photographs from Perth Amboy. Sponsored by the Kearny Cottage Historical Association and the Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library. Calendars are \$10 Each.

Ads Sell! Call Carolyn! 732-896-4446

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. Units that achieve this three-year, three-level award with a gold, silver or



Jane O’Rourke, chief nursing officer, Raritan Bay Medical Center gathers with ICU nurses in celebration of receiving the Silver Beacon Award of Excellence. In addition, it’s the first hospital in the central and southern market to achieve this award.

**Photo Submitted*

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 pro-

cesses 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.

Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center Collaborates with Middlesex County Vocational Technical School

Press Release 2/18/20
PERTH AMBOY – Culinary students from Middlesex County Vocational Technical School Perth Amboy Campus held a luncheon with Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center’s Integrative Medicine department. The students showcased what they’ve learned over the past year in regards to the value of organic produce and preparing nutritional meals.

“It’s great to see how much the high school students have learned from our Learning Garden,” said Thomas Shanahan, chief hospital executive, Raritan Bay Medical Center. “The luncheon created an opportunity for discussions about potential employment and volunteer opportunities for the students in Food & Nutrition as well as other departments within the hospital.”

The Learning Garden pro-



Thomas Shanahan, chief hospital executive, Raritan Bay Medical Center, William DiStanislao, vice president, Operations, Raritan Bay Medical Center, gather with students from Middlesex County Vocational Technical School. **Photo Submitted*

gram, now in its sixth year, focuses on educating the community and Raritan Bay Medical Center team members about the benefits of organic container gardening and the nutritional and medicinal value of fresh produce. Raritan Bay Medical Center medical staff and select community partners fund the

garden. Nina Regevik, M.D., ABIHM, Sara Quiles of Integrative Medicine, Raritan Bay Medical Center and Master Gardener Connie Elek provide education through Learning Garden programs.

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

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.

Pet of the Week



Goodie

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.

Tom's Tax Tips

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

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 following 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 - making a 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 adjust 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/she is only taking the 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. Do employees have to complete all the worksheets?

No. However the worksheets are intended to provide a more accurate withholding amount. If an employee has multiple jobs or itemizes deductions, the worksheets will help the payroll department withhold the proper amount from a paycheck while accounting for these 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 refunded 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 guessing when it comes to forecasting their April tax bill. A simple tax forecast that factors in last year's tax situation 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 withhold 100% of last years tax bill or 90% of this year's tax bill. This moves to 110% of last year's bill if income is over \$150,000 (\$75,000 if married filing separate). Finally, coach your employees to double check their paycheck after any change, it is never fun to be surprised by a big tax bill because withholdings are too low.

Contact us for more information.

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

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.
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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
	Car Battery 75 Series under 1 year old. \$50 - 732-442-6057	Collector Plates - too many - to list \$5-\$10 each. Interested - Call: 732-727-1306
For Rent	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
For Sale	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
Solar Pool Cover Roller - Easy to use 16 x 32 - \$75 - 732-236-4479	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
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Pancake Air Compressor 3 Gal 100 PSI \$30 - 732-395-1551 - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	New never used Mirror 27"/41" Brown Frame was \$120 - Now \$75 - 732-721-7186	Ads Sell! Call Carolyn! 732-896-4446
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How to Publish a Novena

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

A Petition to
St. Joseph

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

Prayer To St. Clare

Prayer To Blessed Mother

Prayer To Blessed Virgin

St. Jude Novena

Cost \$10.
Pre-payment required.

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

For Employment

Prayer To Holy Spirit

Thanksgiving Novena

Pray The Rosary

A Petition to
St. Jude

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

Prayer To St. Jude

Novena To St. Anthony

Novena To St. Joseph

OTHER _____

Novena to St. Rita

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

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.

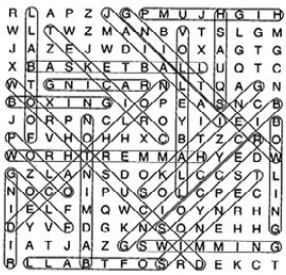
Museum Pass Program

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



Remember to Say Your Novenas!

Answers From Puzzle On Page 19



LOOKING BACK

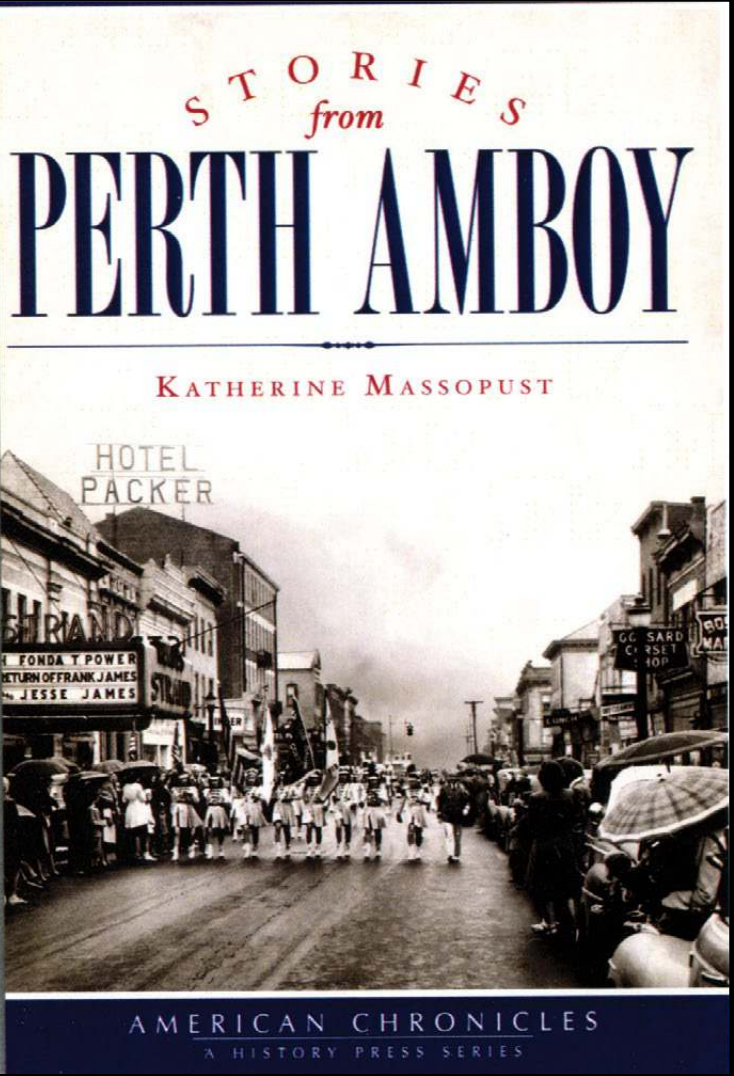


PERTH AMBOY – The Lucky Rollers, one of the many clubs in the America On Wheels Roller Rink from Perth Amboy 1940's.
*Photo Courtesy of Chester Fried
This photo was restored under a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission to the Kearny Cottage Historical Association.

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 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!

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.

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 apportion 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 or <https://nj.gov/state/census>

Shape
your future
START HERE > | United States®
Census
2020



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.

Admission is free, registration is required <https://www.survey-monkey.com/r/ICAC2020>

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

Mikell’s Plot to Perform at Asbury Lanes



ASBURY PARK – Mikell’s Plot along with 92.9 FM Radio is opening up for Zoso - Tribute to Led Zeppelin on Friday, March 6, 2020 at 7 p.m. at Asbury Lanes, 209 4th Ave., Asbury Park NJ. For more information, go to www.mikellspot.com

*Photos submitted by Michael O'Connor

Perth Amboy Redevelopment Team
for Neighborhood Enterprise and Revitalization
&
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**COMMUNITY
OPEN DAY**

**MARCH 28, 2020
1PM-3PM**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT US AT (609) 271-5680 (LISSETT LEBRON)
OR
SIGN UP AT WWW.PARTNERNJ.ORG**

We will be accepting the following items to be dropped off on
March 28th from 1-3pm at 1 Olive Street.
All donated items will go directly to Perth Amboy food pantries,
Perth Amboy Animal Shelter, and care shelters

FOOD ITEMS

Oatmeal
Whole grain, low-sugar cereal
Pancake Mix and Syrup
Pasta Box and Sauce
Shelf Milk
Rice
Dry beans
Honey

ANIMAL SHELTER ITEMS

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Cat Food-Wet or Dry
Cat Litter
Chlorine Bleach
Dawn Dishwashing Detergent
Towels
Paper Towels

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

Tissues
Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Dental Floss
Sunscreen
Deodorant
Cotton swab
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college books

ONLY items that are “before” their expiration **date** will be accepted and
appreciated. Please help spread the word.

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P F V H O H H X C B T Z C R O

W O R H T R E M M A H Y E D W

G Z L A N S D O K L C C S T L

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