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Coronavirus Causes Disagreement Regarding City Events

3/30/20 Caucus & Council Meeting via Phone Conference

By: Carolyn Maxwell and Katherine Massopust
PERTH AMBOY – The Caucus and Council Meetings originally scheduled for March 23rd and 25th were rescheduled to March 30th due to technical difficulties. The issues were worked out and both meetings were held back-to-back. They could be viewed and/or heard through the Zoom App or through regular telephone.

One of the longest discussions involved Resolutions: R-129-3/20 – Special Permit for the Committee Patriotic Cultural Puertorriqueno of Perth Amboy to be held June 12th, 13th, and 14th 2020 at Rudyk Park. R-130-3/20 – Special Permit for the United Dominicans of Perth Amboy for the Dominican Festival to be held August 14th, 15th, and 16th 2020 at the Robert Wilentz Field on First Street and Sadowski Parkway.

Councilman Joel Pabon stated, “It would be irresponsible to have any festivals due to what’s happening (coronavirus pandemic).”

Council President William Petrick suggested that these two resolutions be removed from the agenda.

Councilman Helmin Caba questioned, “Will the two festival committees need to reapply for permits? What kind of timeframe will they have to apply? Let’s not get ahead of ourselves.”

Pabon spoke up again, “It only benefits both sides. The committees (of the two festivals) need to tell their sponsors. We should just cancel this year’s festivals. I bet New York will not have any parades.”

Councilman Fernando Irizarry agreed with Councilman Helmin Caba, “We should table the two resolutions in case things change.”

Irizarry’s other concern was the name of the fire official on the application should be changed because that person is no longer in the fire department.

Petrick responded, “At the time the application was made, that person was the fire official.” Petrick then stated, “It’s up to the city (regarding whether or not these festivals will take place).”

Caba then stated, “The orga-

nizations will have to decide whether or not they will postpone the festivals.”

Petrick said, “Since it’s only four of us here to vote (Councilwoman Milady Tejeda was not available in person or via teleconferencing due to work related obligations), then it’s a 2-2 tie. This will cause the postponing of a decision and the resolutions have to be tabled.”

Irizarry had a question regarding Resolution R-131-3/20 – Authorizing settlement of Cande Land, LLC vs. The City of Perth Amboy and Perth Amboy City Council by way of a consent order for final judgement. “Will this set a precedent with this order from the courts?”

Law Director Peter King responded, “How you (the council) will act has nothing to do with the precedent. This is a writ order to drop the rent. It’s the lesser of two evils to go before a judge for a rent increase. We can fix the ordinance.”

B.A. Frederick Carr had asked that they table Ordinance No. 2 – An ordinance to amend an ordinance fixing and establishing a schedule of salary and salary ranges in increments for officers and employees for the city of Perth Amboy re: Teamsters – January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2022. “The Teamsters need to ratify.”

Irizarry questioned Ordinance No. 3 – Establishing a schedule of salary and salary ranges in increments for officers and employees of the city of Perth Amboy regarding AFSCME (The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees) - January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2022. He questioned the titles of an Assistant Aide and a Senior Legal Aide.

Carr responded, “An Assistant Aide would help out in the Tax Accessor’s Office and a Senior Legal Aide will help out in the Legal Department. We would have also a Legal Stenographer to help out in the court system.”

Irizarry then questioned Ordinance No. 4 – An ordinance to amend an ordinance fixing and establishing a schedule of salary and salary ranges regarding OPEIU (Office and Professional Employees International Union). January 1, 2018 – De-

cember 31, 2022. “What is the cost to the city?”

Carr responded, “\$3,157.08 It’s \$300,000 total and there are steps in salary ranges across the board.” He also went back to let the council know for Ordinance No. 3 the increase should be \$97,000.”

Councilman Irizarry concluded by thanking Mr. Carr and his team for a good job to settle this (Ordinance No. 4).

The caucus was then opened up to the public.

The first speaker was Resident Jeremy Baratta via telephone. “I see that the door to city hall is locked. Is the public allowed access to the building?”

Council President Petrick responded, “No.”

Baratta then questioned, “How can people participate if they don’t have any means?”

B.A. Carr spoke up, “Any phone can be used: cell or land-line.”

Baratta continued, “What about the homeless or others without phones? It’s not open to the public and where is the agenda packet?”

Carr answered, “The agenda is on the city’s website along with the backup material.”

The next person who spoke via telephone was Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe. “I want to thank the council and the administration for allowing this to be an option (teleconferencing and phone participation). It’s not preferable, but it’s better than nothing.”

The caucus portion of the meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

The regular meeting started around 5:35 p.m. It was agreed to by the council that each speaker during the public portion will be given a 3-minute time limit.

Resident Jeremy Baratta was the first person to speak. He referenced R-131. “The city council is named as the defendant.”

Council President Bill Petrick explained the lawsuit. “A man purchased a building and he wanted to increase the rent for one or more tenants. We do not have a Rent Leveling Board, so the man’s lawyer told him to go to court.”

**Continued on Page 2*

Appreciation for our Healthcare Workers, Perth Amboy 4/9/20 *Photos by Paul W. Wang



Showing appreciation for our healthcare workers at Hackensack Meridian, Perth Amboy

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Coronavirus Causes Disagreement Regarding City Events

3/30/20 Caucus & Council Meeting via Phone Conference

**Continued from Page 1*

Baratta stated, "The Rent Leveling Board has not been appointed by the mayor. Rent cannot be increased above 5%."

Petrick said, "The (previous) landlord did not make any improvements for over 30 years. A new landlord bought the property and made improvements."

Baratta said, "This should have not been turned over to a judge. The man did not have to buy this building. I didn't see anything in the papers about any improvements. He wants to increase the rent from 200%-300%. The lowest is 40%. There is nothing stating about any improvements."

Petrick stated, "We will vote on this by consent agenda."

Joel Rosa from Kearny Avenue thanked the council for their effort of coming together. I use Zoom in conference arena. I couldn't find the agenda. There's a chat area. You should submit the agenda on the chat area in the Zoom App."

B.A. Fredrick Carr instructed Rosa on how to find the agenda on the city's website.

When it came to vote, Ordinance No. 2 (re: Teamsters) was tabled during the caucus. For the consent agenda, R-124 thru R-127 and R-131 thru R-142 was moved by Councilman Irizarry and seconded by Councilman Caba. R-128 (agreement between the City of Perth Amboy and Perth Amboy Blue Collar Union the National Brotherhood of Teamsters Local #97) was tabled. R-129 – (Puerto Rican Festival) & R-130 (Dominican Festival) were all tabled.

For the regular public portion, Resident Jeremy Baratta spoke first. He questioned why was R-131 voted on.

Petrick answered, "The landlord came here several times to discuss this."

Baratta stated, "The court rendered nothing. Why is the city not doing anything, so this doesn't happen again? The council should change the ordinance, so you appoint the rent leveling members. You need to protect the citizens from arbitrary rent increases. I would look further into this and also to why the mayor is not doing her job."

Council Comments:

Councilman Caba said, "We definitely live in strange and challenging times." He pleaded to all residents in surrounding towns to stay home and save lives. "Take this seriously and put this into action. Talk to friends and family and stay at a safe difference. Use social media to keep your sanity." Caba then quoted Charles Darwin, "It's not the strongest, nor the most intelligent that survive. It's the one that is most adaptable to change."

Caba then added, "Let the police and essential workers do their job." He then thanked all the city employees and first responders on the job. "God bless everyone."

Councilman Fernando Irizarry thanked the administration and the Mayor, OEM Manager Larry Cattano and all who work to make the city safe. "Some people are not taking the COVID-19 virus seriously. It may take something life threatening to them to realize the seriousness. Stay healthy and safe."

Councilman Joel Pabon said, "I want to thank everyone who is working on the citizen's behalf. There is so many doing so much. Go out only when necessary. Be smart. You don't know what you're bringing in.

Take care of yourself. Enjoy your backyard and the fresh air. I want to thank Frederick Carr for putting the information regarding the coronavirus. You are putting numbers out on the number of cases because not everyone has the mayor's Facebook page. Thanks to the tech department and to the city clerk for putting the meeting together."

Council President Bill Petrick asked the council members if they would agree to put the towing ordinance on the agenda for the next meeting. They all agreed. "It's a brand-new world and I'm glad it worked out this time (the phone conferencing)." Petrick noted that everyone should not litter the streets with used masks and gloves. "If you are wearing them, dispose of them properly. Don't throw them on the ground. Throw them in a garbage can. It's not up to the city workers to clean up the community – it's up to everyone." He mentioned the emergency services and also the DPW. "Having the one-armed bandit trucks lessons exposure to our DPW workers. I want to thank the IT and every city, private employees, medical workers and unpaid volunteers. They sacrifice and their families sacrifice, too."

Councilman Fernando Irizarry asked, "What is the role of the council and what should we be doing in this crisis?"

B.A. Carr answered, "Do what your doing now. We are essential."

Council President Bill Petrick adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m. Councilwoman Milady Tejeda was not able to participate in either meeting because of work obligations.

Budget Still Not Passed

4/1/20 Business Meeting via Phone Conference

By: Katherine Massopust

SOUTH AMBOY – Resolution No. 20-109 thru 20-111 passed. For Discussion items a & b B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated that these items were memorializing certifying the LOSAP for the First Aid and Fire Departments. Councilman Thomas Reilly thanked all the volunteers who are committed to this town. There was no discussion on item c which was a letter from DEP regarding stormwater permit program notifications.

Item d was the 2020 budget which initiated an intense discussion. Mayor Fred Henry emphasized that South Amboy was now running on a temporary budget. Henry stated that is necessary to run the city right now and there will be no additional personnel added to the payroll.

Councilman Thomas Reilly stated, "We don't know how long this pandemic will take place." Reilly advised the council of the now large unemployment rate due to the coronavirus. "It's getting worse with the economy what's going on."

Gross stated that the council that there was an emergency budget in place. Mayor Fred

Henry stated the city could run into problems by operating on a temporary budget. "We obviously need to run the city."

Law Director Francis Womack advised the council of the circumstances that the budget needing a new hearing and that the council can vote on the budget now.

Director of Revenue and Finance and CFO Daniel Balka reminded the council that they have to mail out tax bills for the bank while the temporary budget is out.

The council stated that no one had sent out any material on the budget; they also admitted they didn't reach out to anyone to get the material. Council President Mickey Gross pleaded with the council. He stated, "Although it's a crazy time, the council needs to sit down, put aside their differences and agree on a budget and work together for the good of the city."

Councilwoman Zusette Dato stated, "I understand the crisis we're in now. Our CFO is right. We need to move this along."

Councilman Brian McLaughlin wanted to know how much the new ambulance cost.

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated, "The ambulance which costs between \$250,000 to \$300,000 which the NCIA will finance. We have to put 5% down. We have the money to put it down."

McLaughlin then asked about the summer co-op program for students. Skarzynski stated that the plan is to have this program. The discussion is on the jobs for this program is funded.

Reilly stated that some of the larger raises in the budget were unacceptable to him. "I haven't answers to my satisfaction."

B.A. Skarzynski stated that the raises were authorized by the council last year therefore the city is obligated to pay these individuals the salaries as presented in the budget. "The salary guide was approved by the council and dictates what the range is."

Reilly stated that a part-time Code Enforcement Personnel should not be making more than fulltime DPW workers."

Council President Gross explained that these are part-time workers and they do not receive any benefits. B.A. Skarzynski

**Continued on Page 3*

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Budget Still Not Passed 4/1/20 Business Meeting via Phone Conference

**Continued from Page 2*

emphasized that each fulltime position costs the city \$30,000 per person in benefits.

Gross stated each part-time employee were only allowed to work 24 hours per week. (3 8-hour shifts). Skarzynski stated the salary rates are compatible with surrounding municipalities and that the fulltime DPW workers receive benefits. He also stated the part-time Code Enforcement personnel have a flexible schedule which is necessary. "The gross rate is \$25/hour for inspectors."

Reilly requested a list of employees with their salary increases that were being put in place in the budget.

Again, Gross pleaded with the council to get the budget approval done.

Dato stated, "We cannot spend any extra money. No raises or overtime in the near future. Get all the facts out and I can live with the budget."

B.A. Skarzynski stated he would email all the material asked to the entire council. He assured the council that all unnecessary expenses are gone, and the First Responders are fully stocked with protective gear and so are the police.

After another brief discussion, all of the council agreed to review the budget over the next two weeks and make their decision at the Wednesday, April 15, 2020 meeting.

Council Comments:

Councilwoman Zusette Dato reminded everyone to fill out the 2020 Census. "So much depends on that complete count. You can do it online, by phone, or on paper. Your count is so important. It's important to think of others. Reach out to someone who is homebound. Any little bit. Keep our businesses in mind. Many restaurants have takeout and are using measures to keep people apart. Help them. Help all of us. We will get through this together."

Vice President Christine No-

ble thanked the first responders.

Councilwoman Thomas Reilly thanked the food pantries in town. "Brian McLaughlin's wife, Amy chose pictures on the porch for the charity Friends of South Amboy. She raised money for the food pantries. They are picking up that need to assist the food pantries in town."

Council President Mickey Gross stated there are 20 cases of coronavirus presently (4/1/20) in South Amboy. "I want to compliment the emergency personnel everywhere. If anyone has a question on the coronavirus, call 732-745-3100. We're going to be testing for at least a month. We're going to get through this."

Mayor Fred Henry stated, "I want to thank the professionals. It's good to have all that cooperation."

Skarzynski stated, "Dan (CFO Balka) and I are here every day. Please reach out by phone or email."

The meeting went into closed session at 7:02 p.m.

Coronavirus Pandemic, Perth Amboy, Woodbridge **Photos by Paul W. Wang, Katherine Massopust*



The DPW puts fencing up on the playgrounds



The marina piers are fenced off



Long lines to get into Wegmans Supermarket



Empty playground



Empty Streets at night

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Easter and Passover 2020 & Beyond



In light of the COVID-19, this is one year that will be jarred into everyone's memories to tell generations from now, as for a lot of people who were around in 2001. JFK getting assassinated, the space shuttle Challenger explosion are some events that everyone remembers where they were when these tragedies occurred. The gas crisis in 1973 comes to mind.

This virus has affected people worldwide. Many are comparing COVID-19 to the Flu Epidemic in 1917-1918.

COVID-19 has shut down events that have occurred for hundreds of years, even when other viruses have existed. For instance, the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade which has occurred every year in New York since the 1700's was cancelled.. Presently, Schools, Churches, all sport events, theaters, and all venues of large crowds have been suspended or cancelled altogether.

Memorial Day is the unofficial start of summertime, honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice, will probably be cancelled if things progress as they are. The Fourth of July is another event that may not be celebrated.

During this year's Easter (April 12) and Passover (April 8 - April 16) crossed over, and all churches in the tristate area no matter what denomination were forced to have virtual services online (if they were able to). There were some churches in more sparsely populated towns in other states there were allowed to have services.

Pope Francis held a socially distant Easter Mass in St. Peter Basilica with one person in each pew.

Everyday there are updates from New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, New York Mayor Bill DeBlasio, Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz, and

South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry. Mayor McCormic of Woodbridge also gives daily updates. Recently, Congressman Frank Pallone held a public phone conference to answer questions about the Coronavirus.

The updates change daily. Please submit updated information to amboyguardian@gmail.com. It will be posted on our website www.amboyguardian.com. For answers to frequently asked questions, and for important links, go to www.perthamboy-nj.org.

When we look at the Coronavirus, we tend to look at it only through the eyes of our own surroundings and how it affects us. So, to us, the whole country is feeling the effects of COVID-19 the way we are. On April 10, Missouri became the last state mandating closure of all schools. Hopefully schools will be able to open for Fall 2020 classes.

There are some positive things from all of this. People are working feverishly on developing a vaccine and effective treatments for COVID-19. News reports state there are some positive results pending experimental trials. There are many companies producing respirators and private individuals sewing masks for those who need them most.

On a personal level, people are home. Some people are learning to cook, while others are reading books long sitting on their shelf. Pollution is down. Some people are spending more time with their families.

The pandemic is something we would never expect to occur. But in the end, we believe that we can tell future generations how we recovered, stronger, better, and smarter. We always do.

Send us your stories on how you celebrated Easter and Passover in 2020. *C.M. & K.M.*

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Obituary: Catherine S. Onuska

Catherine S. Onuska (nee Micari) a long-time resident of Perth Amboy, NJ, passed peacefully on March 30, 2020. She was 98 years old and lived in Perth Amboy for 74 of those years. Catherine was born in Bellport, New York and raised in Southampton, New York where she met her husband Michael J. Onuska while he was serving in the U.S. Coast Guard. They married in 1943 and moved to Perth Amboy four and a half years later in 1946, where they raised their family of seven children.

She was a founding member of the League of Women Voters in Perth Amboy and became more active in community politics during the 1970's and was appointed to the Board of Education by Mayor Jankowski in 1976. She later played a critical role in converting the Board of Education from being appointed by the mayor to an elected Board of Education, reflecting the needs of a changing community. She was a member of the Board for 17 years, serving as vice president. She was further active in the community serving with the Housing Development and other appointed boards, remaining active in local politics until her later years. She was employed by Chevron, Inc., Perth Amboy as a telephone operator, bookkeeper, and administrative assistant for 40 years, until she retired in 1982. She was a parishioner and member of the Rosarians of Holy Trinity Church which later became The Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish at Holy Trinity Church.

She is preceded in death by her devoted husband Michael J. Onuska, Sr.; son Michael J. Jr. She was the daughter of Frank P. and Frances (nee Trimboli) Micari; and sister of James & Steven Micari.

She is survived by her beloved children Frances and her husband Thomas Smith, Mary Anne and her husband Jack Pace, Catherine Pisarchik, Theresa and her husband John Cosmas, Rosemarie and her husband Ken Berman and Barbara Ann Orfini; dear sister Sara Cunliffe; grandmother of 18 and great-grandmother of 33; many nieces, nephews and cousins.

My mother, Catherine Onuska of Keene St. in Perth Amboy passed away on March 28th at the age of 98 years. She was a community activist beginning in the 70's, at a time when it was quite unusual for women to take an active role in local Perth Amboy politics. As one of her seven children, I can speak as to how challenging it was for a woman to be taken seriously during those years. As you can see by the write-up, she was on

the Perth Amboy Board of Education for 17 years, as well as participated in numerous city review boards.



Catherine S. Onuska
October 5, 1921- March 28, 2020

the Perth Amboy Board of Education for 17 years, as well as participated in numerous city review boards.

She was an avid reader of the Amboy Guardian and kept up on all the local news and happenings. When she was no longer able to leave the home, she would have one of us bring it to her as soon as it became available. The photo was taken in 1984 when she was on the Board of Education and heavily involved in community work.

Thank you,
Rosemarie O. Berman, Ph.D., RN
Associate Professor of Nursing (Retired)

Stay Home

This is a time for everyone to STAY HOME except for essential business. It is heartbreaking to see so many in New Jersey and New York as well as the rest of the country getting sick and dying because of the spread of the coronavirus. We can all make a difference and "flatten

the curve" by not going out. When going out is unavoidable, practice social distancing by staying at least six feet apart from others. You can have the COVID-19 illness and not have any symptoms, and thereby unknowingly infect others.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Director of Infectious Disease at the National Institutes of Health,

says that the next month is critical in combating this illness. If we each listen to him, the life you save may be your own, that of someone you love, or the loved ones of others, including courageous health care workers and first responders.

Marianne Zanko Komek

COVID-19 is Here

Well folks, COVID-19 came to America as we expected it to, and infecting many with severe health issues and death. Many people have recovered from it.

The CDC recommends social distance and wearing a mask in food stores. The State Government issues: "Stay at Home" or "Lockdown" with many nonfood businesses closed for 30 days. Now, it's too early to count the dead from this virus. We'll leave it at that. As for the

economic fallout from this, we will know very soon how many people will survive from it. I'm concerned about the economic recovery from this crisis and the effect it will have. So, for now, don't panic whatever you do.

Orlando "Wildman" Perez.

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JANKOWSKI COMMUNITY CENTER	1 OLIVE ST.
JEWISH RENAISSANCE MEDICAL CENTER	272A HOBART ST.
KIM'S DRY CLEANERS	73 SMITH ST.
LAW OFFICES	708 CARSON AVE.
LEE'S MARKET	77 SMITH ST.
LUDWIG'S PHARMACY	75 BRACE AVE.
MITRUSKA CHIROPRACTIC	788 CONVERY BLVD.
PETRA BEST REALTY.....	329 SMITH ST.
PETRICK'S FLOWERS	710 PFEIFFER BLVD.
POLICE HEADQUARTERS	365 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
PORTUGUESE MANOR	310 ELM ST.
PROVIDENT BANK	339 STATE ST.
PUBLIC LIBRARY	196 JEFFERSON ST.
PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATION	100 FIRST ST.
QUICK CHEK	853 CONVERY BLVD.
QUICK STOP DELI	814 AMBOY AVE.
QUISQUEYA MARKET	249 MADISON AVE.
QUISQUEYA LUNCHEONETTE	259 MADISON AVE.
RARITAN BAY AREA Y.M.C.A.	365 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
RARITAN BAY MEDICAL CENTER	530 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
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SANTIBANA TRAVEL	362 STATE ST.
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SHOP-RITE	365 CONVERY BLVD.
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SUPREMO SUPERMARKET	270 KING ST.
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TOWN DRUGS & SURGICAL	238 SMITH ST.
WELLS FARGO	214 SMITH ST.
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SENIOR CENTER	423 MAIN ST.
SUNNYSIDE RESTAURANT	111 MAIN ST.
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PUBLIC LIBRARY	546 WEST AVE.
SEWAREN CORNER DELI	514 WEST AVE.
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AMBOY NATIONAL BANK	100 N. BROADWAY
BROADWAY BAGELS	105 S. BROADWAY
BROADWAY DINER	126 N. BROADWAY
CITY HALL	140 N. BROADWAY
COMMUNITY CENTER	200 O'LEARY BLVD.
KRAUSZER'S	200 N. BROADWAY
KRAUSZER'S	717 BORDENTOWN AVE.
PUBLIC LIBRARY	100 HOFFMAN PLAZA
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SOUTH AMBOY MEDICAL CENTER.....	540 BORDENTOWN AVE.
WELLS FARGO BANK.....	116 N. BROADWAY
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CITY HALL	1 MAIN ST.
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ST. JOSEPH'S SENIORS RESIDENCE	1 ST. JOSEPH'S TERR.

Legal Notice
Take Notice, that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:10A-8 et seq., application has been made to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, to receive title papers authorizing the sale of 1996 Dodge Pickup 3B7HC13Z-5TG103053 on 5/5/20 at 12:00 p.m. by means of a public/private sale. This described motor vehicle which came into possession of Cream Ridge Transmission through abandonment or failure of owners to claim it may be examined at 410 Rt. 539 Cream Ridge, NJ 08514. Objections to this sale, if any should be made immediately in writing to the following address: State of New Jersey, Motor Vehicle Commission, Special Titles Unit, 225 East State Street, P.O. Box 017, Trenton, NJ 08666.

Important!
Always call ahead of time to make sure any event you intend to attend will take place.
The Amboy Guardian will only put a cancellation notice in if we receive notice from the organizer of the event.

Our Mother's Day Issue is Coming Up May 6, 2020 We Have Special Advertising Rates Call Carolyn: 732-896-4446 or Katherine: 732-261-2610

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

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy	
MON. Apr. 20	City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m. City Hall, High St.
WED. Apr. 22	City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, High St.
South Amboy	
WED. Apr. 15	City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, N. Broadway
WED. May 6	City Council, Business, 6 p.m. City Hall, N. Broadway

Check the City Website to see if the meeting will take place via phone conference and for details how to participate

*Check our website www.amboyguardian.com for updates on meeting times and places

The Barge Restaurant wishes everyone to stay healthy. We look forward to serving you in the future.

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*Deadline for Print Ads:
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Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

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:
IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!!
Report Suspicious Activity - Be Vigilant - **STAY ALERT!**
Do not think that any call or report is too small
Don't allow the actions of a few dictate your quality of life
FOR ALL EMERGENCIES, DIAL: 9-1-1
FOR ALL NON-EMERGENCIES, DIAL: 732-442-4400

A still from the movie 'The Thin Red Line' showing two soldiers in World War I uniforms. One soldier is standing and looking down at a rifle, while the other is crouching and looking towards the camera.

1917 is a recent movie that was nominated for Best Picture in 2020. 1917 tells the story of two World War I British soldiers who are tasked with a mission to go across enemy lines to deliver a message to a colonel not to attack because military intelligence found out they were walking straight into an ambush. The enemies were waiting for them. One of the young men finds out his brother is in the troops slated for the attack, so the mission is double fold. The other soldier regrets going but ends up being the only man that can stop this attack from going through. The two soldiers' journey through a hellish landscape including traps, trenches, craters, mud, rats, enemy soldiers,

Like the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, the story of 1917 is a war story about the hero's journey. He desperately tries to reach his goal to save lives.

This entire movie was shot in one shot. In other words, no quick cuts, the cameras just kept rolling as the two actors had to stay in character for the shooting of the entire film. It is though you're traveling with them. 1917 has the same feel as *Saving Private Ryan*, it's a first person view of every battle and every encounter that the soldiers go through. You experience what the soldiers are going through. There's gorgeous cinematography and beautiful costumes. The writing is perfect. The soldiers talk the way soldiers talk. The use of sound editing gives you a feel like you're

There is also a small cameo by one of the best actors in England, Benedict Cumberbatch. 1917 is a great history lesson to teach kids about what combat was like during World War I and what sacrifice is all about. Many brave men and women had to go through all of this just to survive.

Is this movie better than Parasite (Best Picture Winner 2020)? That's like comparing apples to oranges, but I think that it should have won best picture. It's the struggle of the common man. It's not just an average war picture, but definitely worth your time, both propelling and riveting. Give it a watch. It's available on DVD, Blue-Ray and On Demand right now.



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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 Red Army's "Vienna Offensive" ends in a Soviet victory on April 13; Vienna is taken by Soviet and Bulgarian troops. U.S. Marines occupy the island of Minna Shima (Minnajima) off Okinawa. Gen. Eisenhower makes his first visit to a liberated Nazi slave-labor camp, Ohrdruf Nord, near Gotha, in east central Germany. Appalled by what he sees, he sends communications to Washington and London strongly urging that reporters, photographers and government members be sent to visit the camps and make a record "in case there ever grew up at home the belief or assumption that the stories of Nazi brutality were just propaganda." In Washington, D.C., President Truman learns of the Manhattan Project from Secretary of War Henry Stimson, who tells him only that the Allies have a new, highly destructive weapon.

U.S. bombers conduct a large-scale fire-bombing of Tokyo on April 14, in which the Imperial Palace sustains significant damage. In Europe, the Canadian First Army assumes military control of the Netherlands, where German forces are now trapped in the Atlantic Wall fortifications along the coastline. In Germany, the U.S. Seventh Army captures Nuremberg and Stuttgart. *Reichsführer*-SS Heinrich Himmler orders that no prisoners at the Dachau concentration camp — about 10 miles northwest of Munich — "shall be allowed to fall into the hands of the enemy alive."

The Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, near Bergen, in northern Germany, is liberated by British troops on April 15. They find 60,000 sick and emaciated prisoners in the camp, and 13,000 corpses scattered about the grounds. The body of Franklin D. Roosevelt is interred in the rose garden of his estate, Springwood, in Hyde Park, New York.

On April 16, Hitler issues his Order of the Day to German troops on the Eastern Front: "He who gives orders to retreat . . . is to be shot on the spot." The Red Army starts its final offensive against Berlin from a line along the Oder and Neisse Rivers. Attacking: over 2,000,000 Soviets with 6,000 tanks and self-propelled guns, some 6,000 aircraft and around 64,000 artillery pieces. Defending: 1,000,000 Germans in strong, well-prepared positions, but lacking in armor, aircraft and artillery. Off Poland's Hel Peninsula in the Baltic, the German freighter-turned-troopship MV GOYA is torpedoed by Soviet submarine L-3; only 183 survive of the between 6,500 and 7,000 civilian refugees and wounded soldiers aboard. (Exact numbers are unknown because of the chaotic boarding conditions when the ship was taking on passengers.)

The British on April 17 take Taungup, in southwest Burma, depriving the Japanese of their last coastal supply base. In Italy, Brazilian troops liberate the town of Montese, near Bologna, after three days of fighting. In Germany, *Wehrmacht* units in the Ruhr are surrendering in large numbers. In the United Kingdom's House of Commons, Winston Churchill pays tribute to Franklin D. Roosevelt: " . . . the greatest American friend we have ever known, and the greatest champion of freedom who has ever brought help and comfort from the new world to the old."

Ernie Pyle, beloved American war correspondent, is killed by machine-gun fire from a Japanese sniper on the island of Ie Shima, near Okinawa, on April 18. Pyle had covered the war in North Africa, Europe and the Pacific for the Scripps-Howard newspaper syndicate. Says President Truman: "No man in this war has so well told the story of the American fighting man as American fighting men wanted it told." In Germany, Allied troops take the cities of Magdeburg and Leipzig. The last German forces in the Ruhr surrender, with 325,000 German Army Group B prisoners taken.

The Red Army reaches the suburbs of Berlin on April 19. Nazi Reich Minister for Propaganda Joseph Goebbels takes to the radio and exhorts the nation and predicts that, in spite of all misfortunes, Germany will yet prevail, that the "perverse coalition between Bolshevism and Plutocracy" is about to break up, and that it is Adolf Hitler ("our Hitler!") who will "still turn back the tide and save Europe, as he has thus far, from falling into the clutches of the Kremlin."

Red Army artillery shells begin to fall in Berlin at 11 a.m. on April 20, 1945. Adolf Hitler celebrates his 56th birthday in his *Führerbunker* in Berlin. Reports say he is in an unhealthy state, nervous and depressed. The U.S. Seventh Army captures Nuremberg, once the locale of Hitler's massive pre-war Nazi rallies. The British Home Secretary says that 60,585 British civilians have died and 86,175 have been seriously injured in air attacks during the war.

The Battle of Berlin opens on April 21 as Soviet forces launch offensives in and around the city. The Red Army overruns the headquarters of the German High Command, at Zossen, about 22 miles south of Berlin. Hitler orders an all-out counterattack by German troops in Berlin, to be led by *Obergruppenführer* Felix Steiner, a commander in the *Waffen*-SS, the combat branch of the SS. Der Führer expects every remaining soldier, tank and aircraft to be used in this action. In the Ruhr, German Field Marshal Walter Model, commanding Army Group B and generally acknowledged as one of the *Wehrmacht*'s best defensive tacticians, commits suicide after surrendering his troops to the Allies.

The Polish II Corps takes Bologna, Italy, on April 22. French troops capture Stuttgart and drive to the Swiss border. In the *Führerbunker* in Berlin, when Hitler finds out that Steiner of the *Waffen*-SS did not initiate the counter-attack he had ordered the previous day, der Führer launches into a bitter tirade against the treachery and incompetence of his military commanders in front of several high-ranking members of the German High Command. (Steiner had reported to his superiors that the order could not be obeyed because of a lack of resources and personnel.) Despite the pleas of his entourage for Hitler to head for the safety of the Bavarian mountains, *der Führer* vows to remain in Berlin to the end and to himself head up the defense of the city. Hermann Göring and Heinrich Himmler leave the *Führerbunker* for the last time.

Dessau, in northeastern Germany, is reported to be cleared of German troops on April 23. The British Second Army reaches Harburg, Germany, across the River Elbe from Hamburg. German radio reports that Hitler is in the "main fighting line" in Berlin, and "will remain there despite all rumors." Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring, commander-in-chief of the *Luftwaffe* — now in Berchtesgaden, Germany, escorting Nazi treasures being removed from Berlin — sends a telegram to Hitler. In it, Göring says that if he does not hear back by 10 p.m., he will take command of the Third Reich as Hitler's Deputy, on the assumption that Hitler has been incapacitated.irate at Göring's audacity and interpreting it as treason, *der Führer* responds that, in return for his life, Göring must immediately resign all his posts. Later that day, Martin Bormann, Hitler's secretary and Nazi Party Chancellery Head, orders Göring's arrest. In the meantime, Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler — without authorization — approaches Count Folke Bernadotte, head of the Swedish Red Cross, and asks him to transmit an offer to begin negotiations for a separate peace with the Western Allies. Himmler stipulates that the neither the Red Army nor the Soviet Union is to be involved.

In San Francisco, California, delegates from 50 countries meet on April 24 to discuss formation of an international organization to be called the United Nations. April 25 is Elbe Day: The first contact between American troops (First Army's 69th Infantry Division) coming from the west and Soviet troops (58th Guards Rifle Division of the 5th Guards Army) coming from the east occurs at about 4 p.m. at the Elbe River, near Torgau, Germany, about 81 miles southwest of Berlin. The RAF attacks "The Eagle's Nest," Hitler's chalet, and the SS barracks in Berchtesgaden, Germany, in the Bavarian Alps. The last German troops withdraw from Finland into Norway. Berlin is surrounded by eight Soviet armies. In the southwest Pacific, the Allies conduct an air raid on Surabaya, Java. The New Zealand 2nd Infantry Division crosses the Po River during the Allies' "Operation Grapeshot," an offensive into the Lombardy Plain in northeastern Italy. In Washington, D.C., President Truman is brought up to date on the full details of the Manhattan Project.

German troops at Bremen, Germany, surrender to British and Canadian forces on April 26. Allied troops now line the Swiss border from Basle to Lake Constance. The U.S. Third Army takes Regensburg on the Danube. Hermann Göring's fall from grace is announced publicly in Germany; Field Marshal Robert Ritter von Greim replaces Göring as commander-in-chief of the Luftwaffe. The Battle of Bautzen, East Saxony, in far eastern Germany, concludes, with remnants of the German 4th Panzer and 17th Armies retaking the city from the 2nd Polish and Soviet 52nd Armies after days of pitched street fighting. The Germans' attack is their last successful one of the war. Italian partisans take Genoa and stage a revolt in Milan.

The Red Army completes its encirclement of German troops in Berlin on April 27. Soviet troops reach the Alexanderplatz, a large square and transportation hub in the center of the city; Spandau, the westernmost of Berlin's 12 boroughs, is also taken. Tempelhof Airport, in the south-central portion of the German capital, is under Red Army control. German *Reichsführer*-SS Heinrich Himmler's offer of surrender to the Western Allies is rejected as an attempt to split their alliance with the Soviet Union. (The Allies had early on agreed on no individual peace negotiations.) When Hitler gets word of what Himmler has attempted, he strips Himmler of all offices and authority, expels him from the Nazi Party and orders his arrest. In France, Marshal Henri Philippe Pétain, leader of the collaborationist Vichy government, is arrested when he crosses into France from Switzerland. The government announces that total casualties in Britain from German V-2 missile attacks are 2,754 killed and 6,523 seriously injured.

On April 28, Soviet troops in Berlin are fighting in the Wilhelmstrasse, Berlin's government center, and reach the Anhalter Bahnhof, one of Berlin's most important train stations, just a half mile from the Führerbunker. The U.S. Fifth Army takes Brescia, Italy, 30 miles east of Milan. The British Eighth Army reaches Venice. New Zealand troops capture Padua. Italian partisans capture Italian Social Republic Head of State Benito Mussolini (heavily disguised as an Italian soldier), his mistress Clara Petacci, and 12 of his cabinet members in a German convoy trying to reach Switzerland. All are shot dead in a nearby village.

The bodies of Benito Mussolini, Clara Petacci and the other fascists executed the previous day are brought to Milan on April 29 and hung upside down from lampposts in the square where 15 partisans had been executed a year earlier. The bodies are shot at and spat upon. Dachau concentration camp is liberated by troops of the U.S. Seventh Army, freeing 31,600 inmates. Some soldiers and inmates summarily kill between 30 and 50 German POWs in what becomes known as the "Dachau liberation reprisals." No soldiers ever face charges. In Berlin, Adolf Hitler marries his longtime mistress, Eva Braun, in the Führerbunker. Hitler also dictates his "Political Testament," in which he justifies the political and military actions of his 12-year-rule, blaming the war on international Jewry and exhorting the German people even after defeat to adhere to the principles of National Socialism, especially its racial laws. Allied Convoy RA-66 sailing from the Kola Peninsula of northern Russia to Loch Ewe in Scotland is attacked by at least two U-boats north of Kola. The British frigate HMS GOODALL, escorting the convoy, is torpedoed and sunk, killing 95 of her complement of 156. This is the last Allied convoy to come under attack in the war. At Caserta, Italy, SS Lt.-Gen. Karl Wolff, representing Col.-Gen. Heinrich von Vietinghoff, supreme commander of German forces in Italy, signs an agreement ending the fighting in Italy. Hostilities will cease at noon on May 2.

With the Red Army only a few hundred yards away, Adolf Hitler and his wife of one day commit suicide in the *Führerbunker* at 3:30 p.m. on April 30. Their bodies are immediately taken outside and incinerated with gasoline by their SS bodyguards. In his political testament dictated the previous day, Hitler has appointed Joseph Goebbels as Reich Chancellor and Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz (in Flensburg, Germany, near the Danish border) as Reich President. Dönitz accepts the office, but Goebbels declines. The Red Army continues its advance into the German capital. Fires burn, buildings are shattered by bombs and artillery, and the city is largely in ruins. The "thousand-year Reich" that Hitler proclaimed a dozen years earlier is at an end, and the promise that Hitler made in 1933 — "Give me ten years' time and you will not recognize Germany anymore" — has come true with a bitter and ironic twist. The U.S. Fifth Army, in northwest Italy, links up with French troops on the French-Italian border.

Radio Hamburg on May 1, 1945, announces that Adolf Hitler has died in battle, "fighting to his last breath against Bolshevism." *Großadmiral* Karl Dönitz, now Reich President, orders the utmost German resistance in the east, where tens of thousands of German civilians are still trying to escape from the Red Army. In Berlin, Joseph Goebbels performs his only act as Reich Chancellor (a position he has refused to accept): He sends a letter under a flag of truce to the commander of Soviet forces in central Berlin, informing him of Hitler's death and requesting a cease fire. The request is rejected. Later that evening, Goebbels and his wife murder their six children, aged 4 through 12, then commit suicide. Yugoslav Partisan leader Josip Broz Tito and his forces capture Trieste, in northeastern Italy, assisted by New Zealand troops. The Allies announce the cessation of hostilities and the surrender of all German forces in Italy. This is as a result of unauthorized and secret negotiations with the Allies by the German commander-in-chief in Italy, Col.-Gen. Heinrich von Vietinghoff, and SS-Lt.-Gen. Karl Wolff. In Burma, Indian paratroopers land to the south of Rangoon. The Australian I Corps, led by Lt. Gen. Leslie Morshead, begins a series of amphibious landings on Borneo, in the East Indies, in order to liberate and secure British Borneo and Dutch Borneo for their critical natural resources: crude oil and rubber.

The Battle of Berlin ends on May 2 when General der Artillerie Helmuth Weidling, district commandant for the defense of Berlin, unconditionally surrenders the city to the Red Army. Soviet soldiers hoist the Red flag over the Reich Chancellery. During the two-week battle for the German capital, the Soviets suffer more than 360,000 casualties. It is estimated that German casualties number over 340,000, with 480,000 German prisoners taken. The New Zealand 2nd Infantry Division enters the seaport of Trieste, in northeastern Italy, as the German Army in Italy surrenders to the Allies, with hostilities ceasing at 12 noon GMT (Greenwich Mean Time). RAF Bomber Command launches a major sortie against Kiel, Germany.

Rangoon, Burma, is liberated on May 3. In Europe, German envoys sent by Reich President Dönitz meet with British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery at his headquarters on Lüneburg Heath, south of Hamburg, to discuss peace. The envoys return to Dönitz and recommend the unconditional surrender of all forces facing the Allied 21st Army Group, commanded by Montgomery. The German defenses in northeastern Germany are now in chaos as troops and civilian refugees pour westward to escape the Red Army's advance. *Luftwaffe* Maj. Gen. Alwin Wolz declares Hamburg an open city and surrenders it to the British Second Army. The U.S. Ninth Army makes contact with Soviet troops in the Wismar area on the Baltic coast in northern Germany. The U.S. Third Army crosses the River Inn, while the U.S. Seventh Army captures Innsbruck, Austria, and reaches the Brenner Pass, which connects Austria with Italy. German rocket scientist Wernher von Braun and 120 of his team surrender to U.S. forces.

Historical Reflections of Anguillian Offspring in Perth Amboy, NJ

By Eric Hughes. I am the proud offspring of Anguillian immigrants who migrated to Perth Amboy, NJ and I am sharing our story for posterity. Eric Hughes can be reached at richughes3741@gmail.com

And now I proudly present the outstanding and historical stories, careers and talent of these pioneering young men, spear-headed by their dedicated Anguillian immigrant parents.

PART II

Austin E. Gumbs — President, Junior Class of 1949; and President, Senior Class of 1950. Austin E. Gumbs was born and raised in Perth Amboy and was the third son of William Alexander and Edith Gertrude (Richardson) Gumbs of Crocus Bay and The Valley, Anguilla, who migrated to the US around 1910. Austin wholeheartedly agreed that his Anguillian background played a major role in helping him reach his goals and objectives. For example, he mentioned to me several years ago in an interview that “a very strong independent thinking atmosphere pervaded our home. We were forever reminded to respect ourselves as well as others. Our parents worked hard to support us, and I know this was because of their traditional Anguillian upbringing. We were expected to strive to better ourselves and not to depend on others. Education was stressed with no other option permitted.”

Austin excelled in high school by getting excellent grades and participating in numerous school activities that demonstrated his leadership and artistic skills. He was a poet, playwright and theatrical director who wrote his junior and senior class plays, “Through the Years,” and “Home Again Kathleen.” At a later date, he also wrote several other plays and original songs, including a comedy play entitled, “Young Summer,” that was produced by the Perth Amboy Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Later on, he wrote several original songs including “Anguilla My Island, Anguilla My Home.”

Austin was a member of the school chorus, track team and sports editor of the school. As a result of his outstanding multiplicity of academic, artistic and athletic skills, Austin’s class members elected him both Junior Class President of 1949 and Senior Class President of 1950, to lead them to reach their goals and objectives.

He completed his undergraduate education from Bowie State University in Maryland, was awarded an MA from Seton Hall University in New Jersey, and he also pursued advanced studies at the universities of New York, Rutgers, Kean State, in addition to gner College.

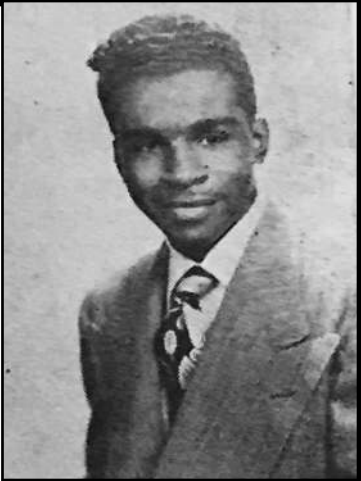
Austin had an illustrious career in the field of education. He started in 1954 as a 6th and 7th grade teacher at Perth Amboy School No. 5; 1959-1969 as a teacher, and Poet, Playwright and Theatrical Director at Perth Amboy High School; and during 1967 served as Vice Principal of Perth Amboy School No. 10 (currently the Dr. HRichardson School); as Principal of Perth Amboy School No. 2 in 1969 (currently Ceres School). The City of New Brunswick in 1970 hired Austin as Principal of Redshaw Junior High School.

Austin was known for a number of “firsts” in the educational arena. He was the first African American high school teacher in Perth Amboy when he taught English from 1959-1969, he was hired in 1972 as the first African American Principal in Highland Park High School, NJ. His tenure in Highland Park was followed by the appointment in 1976 as the first African American Superintendent of schools in Highland Park and Middlesex County. In 1980, he was appointed the first African American Superintendent of schools in Willingboro, NJ.

He also became in 1972 the first and only African American official elected to the City Council in Perth Amboy. Moreover, Austin served a number of years as President of the Perth Amboy Board of Education.

He was inducted into the Perth Amboy High School Hall of Fame (NJ) in 1989, as one of its distinguished graduates and was also named Distinguished Alumnus of Bowie State University that same year.

I recall one of Austin’s proudest international moments occurred in 1967, when as President of the Anguilla Improvement Association, he accompanied, the legendary late Jeremiah (Jerry) Gumbs, an Anguillian also from Perth Amboy, and the late first Chief Minister Hon. Ronald Webster of the Government of Anguilla to the United Nations in Manhattan, NYC. The purpose of the visit was to discuss Anguilla’s plight in the dispute with the former colony of (St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla). They were also received at the Pan American Union in Washington, DC and subsequently flew to San Francisco to meet with individuals interested in assisting Anguilla during their struggle to secede from the former colony of Saint Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla.



Austin E. Gumbs

Pets of the Week

PERTH AMBOY, NJ - Why won't anyone give JJ a chance? People are not adopting JJ because of his cloudy eye :- (WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADOPT JJ? He's a sweet, playful, loving kitty that has been waiting patiently for his forever home. Don't judge him because he looks different. He has the thickest coat and cutest short, chubby tail. JJ loves to lay on you and give headbutts. Please give him a chance. Fixed, vaccinated, negative for fiv and leukemia



and fully vetted. Adoption application and donation fee apply. Email Vmoralespps@ya-

hoo.com for application or text 1.732.486.6382 for more info. Allforthepaws.org

Have a Special Pet?

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

Tom's Tax Tips

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

You NEED These Documents to File Your Taxes!

It's easy to get inundated with documents during tax season. You can receive documents from many different organizations, including employers, financial institutions and others. Many documents are now also being sent via e-mail, which increases the likelihood it could get lost in your inbox.

As tax season is quickly approaching, here are some of the documents to be on the lookout for:

• W-2s

While W-2s are the most widespread and well-known tax form, it can be easy to lose track of W-2s if you or your spouse have multiple jobs. Keep track of each employer to ensure you receive the forms in time.

• 1099-INTs and 1099-DIVs

Most of us receive small interest or dividend payments throughout the year. These payments are reported on a Form 1099 and must be included on your Form 1040. Depending on the type of investments, there could be numerous 1099s to report this interest and dividend income. Make a list from last year's tax return to help keep track of these 1099s as they arrive via mail or e-mail.

• 1099-Rs

Form 1099-R is used when a distribution is made from a pension or retirement account. You could receive a 1099-R if your employer was part of a recent merger, and the company which was acquired rolled its retirement funds into the new company's plan. You could also receive a 1099-R if you get a new job and you roll your existing retirement funds into your new company's plan.

• Form 1095

Different versions of Form 1095 are sent to you recapping your health insurance. While the penalty for not having proper health insurance is suspended for 2019, the form may still be important. So look for it and retain it with your other records.

• Get Organized

You will also need any documents that confirm and support any deductions you plan to take. For instance, you may need documentation to claim deductions for day care expenses, educational expenses (form 1098-T), mortgage interest documentation (form 1098), proof of medical, dental and vision care, charitable contributions, business records, property taxes, state taxes and much more.

It is best to use last year's tax return PLUS a tax organizer to ensure you have all the proper records needed to accurately prepare your tax return. The organizer is especially helpful as there are a list of questions to help you jog your memory to recall certain events that have taken place over the past year that might have a tax consequence. If in doubt, save the documentation, proof of payment and any receipts!

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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.

Metropolitan-Archbishop Emeritus Stephen Sulyk
Born into life—October 2, 1924 - Born into Eternal Life—April 6, 2020

Press Release
PHILADELPHIA/PERTH AMBOY - On Monday, April 6, Metropolitan-Archbishop Emeritus Stephen Sulyk while a patient at Virtua Voorhees Hospital, Voorhees NJ was called home to the Lord. Archbishop Sulyk, 95, served as Archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia and Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States.

The present Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys Gudziak in a written statement reflected on the life of the late hierarch with these words "With natural sadness but also with Paschal hope the Philadelphia Archeparchy bids farewell to Metropolitan-Emeritus Stephen Sulyk. As a priest and bishop, he was a dedicated minister of the Lord in the Archeparchy for 65 years since his priestly ordination in 1955. We thank God for his life and raise prayers of gratitude for his service."

Archbishop Borys concludes his tribute, "In these days, priests and laypeople from different states and different countries have shared with me their tes-

timonials to Metropolitan Stephen's piety, dedication, sense of responsibility, and pastoral diligence. Bishops have written letters of condolences from many lands recounting beautiful moments shared with the Archbishop and listing various generous gestures made by him. I trust that these reminiscences will be published and will contribute to the lasting legacy of a man who overcame the challenges faced by a village boy whose youth was scarred by a devastating war. Not a stone is left standing in Metropolitan's home village, today found in southwestern Poland. His beloved village is gone. But the legacy of its Son will remain among us."

Archbishop Sulyk was appointed Metropolitan-Archbishop of Philadelphia by St. John Paul II on December 29, 1980 and was consecrated bishop in Rome on March 1, 1981. The principal Consecrator was His Beatitude Josyf Cardinal Slipyj, and the Principal Co-Consecrators were Bishop Basil H. Losten, Bishop of Stamford and Bishop Nilus Nicholas Savaryn, O.S.B.M. Bishop of Edmonton.

Upon reaching the canonical age for retirement, St. John Paul II accepted his resignation on November 29, 2000.

Stephen Sulyk was born to Michael and Mary Denys Sulyk on October 2, 1924 in Balnycia, a village in the Lemko District of the Carpathian mountains in Western Ukraine. In 1944, he graduated from high school in Sambir. After graduation, the events of Word War II forced him to leave his native land and share the experience of a refugee.

He entered the Ukrainian Catholic Seminary of the Holy Spirit in Hirschberg, Germany. In 1948, he migrated to the United States and continued his priestly studies at Saint Josaphat's Seminary and The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

In 1952, he received his S.T.L. degree from the Catholic University of America and was ordained to the priesthood on June 14, 1952 at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Philadelphia.

After ordination, he served as assistant pastor in Omaha, Nebraska; Brooklyn, N.Y; St. Nicholas parish in Minersville,, Pa., and Youngstown, Ohio. He received his first pastoral assignment in 1955 in Phoenixville, Pa. with the additional responsibilities as Chancery Secretary.

From July 1, 1957 until October 5, 1961 he was pastor of St. Michael's Church in Frackville, Pa. During his short tenure of four years, he built, furnished and paid for a new church and parish social hall. Annual gross income rose from \$10,000 in 1957 to \$60,000 in what was considered a financially depressed area.

After a short stay at St. Nicholas parish in Philadelphia, on March 22, 1962, he was appointed pastor of Assumption Church, Perth Amboy, N.J. Within a year, he completed a new elementary school. During his pastorate, he converted the rectory into a convent for nuns, built a new rectory, purchased and landscaped additional parish grounds and renovated the parish church. He also compiled and printed a series of bilingual texts for use in liturgical services. On May 31, 1968, His Holiness Pope Paul VI granted him the dignity of Papal Chaplain with the title of Monsignor.

On December 29, 1980 he was appointed Metropolitan-Archbishop of Philadelphia by Pope John Paul II. He was consecrated bishop in Rome on March 1, 1981.

He supervised the construction of a new chancery center and bishop's residence and cathedral rectory. He renovated the sanctuary of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral and landscaped the adjoining grounds. He established the Seminary Endowment Fund to finance the education of seminarians and to provide income for St. Josaphat's Seminary.

At the request of the Vatican, he was involved in sensitive diplomatic talks with mem-



bers of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine at the time the Soviet Union was collapsing, Ukraine was becoming an independent nation and the Ukrainian Catholic Church was emerging from its existence as a persecuted catacomb church under atheistic communism of the Soviets.

He has served on various committees of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Catholic Church..

June 14, 2002 was the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the Holy Priesthood and his Golden Jubilee was observed with the celebration of a hierarchical Divine Liturgy and a testimonial banquet on June 23, 2002.

October 1, 2019, he was honored by the Archeparchy on the occasion of his 95th birthday.

During his retirement years, he lived in Cherry Hill, N.J.

He was predeceased by his parents and the following siblings: Ivan, Vasyl, Dmytro, Anna Nicholas and Ivan, Jr.

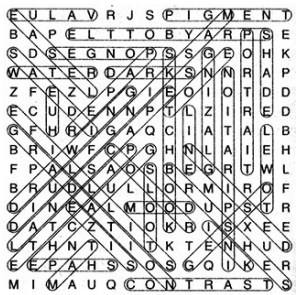
In addition to several nieces and nephews, he is survived by the following cousins: Frank Stec (Christine), Steve Boyduy, Lidia Devonshire, Theresa Nord (Tim), Donna Sauchak (Greg), Stephen Stec (Tonya), Kristin Magar (Steve), Lauren Stec and Jordan Stec.

Due to the coronaovirus pandemic, private funeral services for the late Metroplitan-Archbishop Stephen were conducted on Bright Monday, April 13, 2020 by Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys Gudziak in the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Philadelphia, Pa. He was buried in the cathedral crypt next to +Bishop Soter Ortynsky, +Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky and +Metropolitan Ambrose Senyshyn. There was a very limited number present at the funeral due to the coronavirus epidemic. The funeral was live streamed on the Facebook page of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia at 10 AM.

A public requiem Divine Liturgy for the repose of his soul will be celebrated at a future date still to be determined.

Check out our website:
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for the latest breaking news!

Answers
From Puzzle
On Page 11



LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY – Texeco Gas Station.

*Photo Courtesy of Perth Amboy Free Public Library
This photo was restored under a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission to the Kearny Cottage Historical Association.



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F.M.J.

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