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Budget, Contracts, and CDBG Among Topics Discussed

3/22/20 Caucus & Council Meeting Via Phone Conference

By: Carolyn Maxwell

PERTH AMBOY – During the 3/22/20 Caucus, Councilman Joel Pabon questioned all the different union contracts, “Where are we going with these? If we (the city) go into bankruptcy, are we (the city) held accountable?”

Business Administrator Frederick Carr responded, “These contracts are in the budget. There are some minor changes. We have an obligation to pay those contracts in the budget as it was introduced 2 months ago. There are also \$460,000 of COVID-19 related expenses on the agenda. Do we not want to pay or not have people come to work? A referendum of agreement was made. I’ve been in contact with other CFO’s in the state.”

Pabon continued, “I’m asking about contracts going forward. I know we have money already allocated for the present contract. I don’t want to put us in a bind going into the future.”

Carr then explained, “There’s money for 2020 in the budget. 2021 and 2022 are questionable. Don’t vote on it if you are not comfortable. I don’t have an answer right now going into the future.”

Pabon was still concerned, “I’ve been listening to discussions with other mayors and the governor. We are not thinking ahead. We need to be prepared. We have to see how we fall into this.”

Council President Bill Petrick then spoke up, “Our main concern is how much money we will have to operate with.” Petrick also stated that the Teamsters Ordinance (No. 2 - First Reading – No public discussion) will be pulled.

There was a question concerning Ordinance No. 3 – No public discussion RE: An Ordinance amending an ordinance entitled: Wreckers. Law Director Peter King stated he was not at the March Meeting when that ordinance was being discussed.

Petrick stated, “I sent out a summery and CC’D you (King) and Law Director Carr on changes that the council made.”

Councilman Fernando Irizarry then asked King about Resolutions R-144 – A Worker’s

Compensation Settlement entitled Joseph Sassine vs. City of Perth Amboy in the amount of \$35,919 and R-145 – Settlement of the Workers Compensation Litigation entitled: Angel Velez vs. the City of Perth Amboy in the amount of \$138,510.

Irizarry asked, “What departments did they work in?”

King responded “R-144 was in the police department (2018). The officer was injured while making an arrest. R-145 was an employee in the department of public works who was injured during snow removal (2016).”

Carr explained further, “The DPW worker was injured in 3 places.”

Irizarry then questioned, “What kind of training do they have in the DPW?”

There was no response.

Carr then explained R-146 – Authorizing submission of an application to the US Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance for the FY: 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program. He explained, “This was a \$70,751 grant which for reimbursement for money that we spent on overtime, supplies, and managing our workforce.”

Irizarry made a comment regarding R-147 – Accepting a grant for the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for the Green Infrastructure 2020 Grant in the amount of \$250,000. He thanked Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez for helping with this. Irizarry then added up the money from the CDBG grants which included R-148 - and R-149. R-148 – The grant monies were \$574,360 + \$360,120 + \$388,023 (the Coronavirus Funds) and R-149 – the grant monies were \$659,638 + \$420,621. (Total \$2,402,762).

Carr responded regarding R-148. “We have already received some of the funds and some were added. Regarding R-149, this is new money of \$1.1 million for year 2021. This shows the importance of the census. There is \$2.5 million allocated for HUD through the CDBG, and what is earmarked for COVID-19.”

Irizarry asked, “How are we going to prepare on handling

the COVID-19? Do we have any details or an action plans?”

Carr responded, “We will have a report in May.”

Assistant Housing Manager Tashi Vazquez spoke up during the video conferencing. “There will be a public meeting next week (Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2 p.m.) The topic will be funding to help keep people employed. For those who are not able to participate, it will be online on Friday, May 1, 2020.”

B.A. Frederick Carr then responded to a question regarding R-152 – Authorizing a contract for emergency Wet Cleaning and Disinfection of City Hall and the Perth Amboy Municipal Court to Insurance Restoration Specialists Inc. in accordance with the New Jersey State approved co-op in an amount not to exceed \$15,600. “This cleaning has already been done.”

R-154 was removed (Teamsters contract).

Irizarry had a question regarding R-156 – Authorizing Preparation and Issuance of estimated third quarter tax bills. “Is our tax rate 3%?”

Carr responded, “There is a 0.00% increase for the municipality and school. There’s a 3% increase for the library and county which will be adjusted for the fourth quarter. The school, county and municipality will be factored in.”

During the public portion, Resident Jeremy Baratta was the only person to speak, “Councilman Pabon was right. The budget, and regarding future payments and regarding the state - it looks like a possibility of going bankrupt. We have to make hard choices. I want to thank Bill Petrick for getting the whole agenda online.” He then remarked about the two resolutions (R-144, R-145) workers compensation that Irizarry talked about, “We are overpaying on these cases and they should be taken to trial. The awards are ridiculous.”

After the close of the public portion, Council President Petrick requested that the Council not make any comments at close of the caucus. Petrick

**Continued on Page 2*

Fire at 235 & 237 Madison Ave., Perth Amboy
*Photos by Paul W. Wang, Katherine Massopust, Orlando Perez, Carolyn Maxwell



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Budget, Contracts, and CDBG

Among Topics Discussed

3/22/20 Caucus & Council Meeting Via Phone Conference

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then continued, "I was asked by Bill Schultz (the Riverkeeper) to mention that today is Earth Day."

The caucus concluded at 5:15 p.m. As per council vote, the regular meeting followed two minutes after the caucus ended.

At the beginning of the regular council meeting, Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe spoke during the phone conference regarding Ordinance No.1 designating restricted parking spaces for use by a handicapped person regarding additions. "Who is making these decisions?"

Councilman Fernando Irizarry, who is on the Handicapped Parking Committee along with Márquez-Villafañe, asked the city clerk to respond.

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch stated, "This was already approved by the Handicapped Parking Committee. The March 25th and 30th meetings already had these applications on their agenda."

Council President William Petrick answered a question from Resident Jeremy Baratta regarding accepting a contract from January 1, 2018. Baratta questioned, "Can the city afford the backpayment awarded on this contract?"

Petrick answered, "The money was already allocated (for this)."

B.A. Frederick Carr added, "2018 came and went. In 2019, money was transferred to pay members under union contracts. I don't have the numbers right now."

Baratta stated, "I can't believe the council doesn't have the numbers."

Councilman Irizarry said, "The council was sent an email stating the cost."

Carr said, "The 2018 and 2019 sheets were provided to the council in March. The council already passed a memorandum of agreement for one of the union contracts. If the council chooses not to pass the resolution, we have to go back to the union, and it can lead to unfair labor practices."

Law Director King spoke up, "We can go back to the union, but I can't tell you what they will do."

CFO/Comptroller Jill Goldy joined the conversation, "Between 2018 and 2019, \$92,000 was budgeted into the 2019 contract for the OPIE Union."

Baratta then questioned, "Who is in the OPIE?"

Carr explained, "It's the blue and white collar supervisors in various departments. The overall cost it \$20,000. There's a 1% increase built in."

After the close of public comments for the ordinances, the Citizen's Campaign came up to make a presentation. Caesar Romero spoke briefly about the Citizen's Campaign and their objectives. Founder of the Citizen's Campaign Harry Pozycki came up to speak. "22% of the COVID-19 cases in the county are in Perth Amboy, yet we are

only 6% of the county." Pozycki wanted to present a resolution to the council for the Citizen's Campaign, "We'll be having a Corona Task Force implemented in Perth Amboy."

Council President Bill Petrick said, "We can't pass a resolution we don't have."

Pozycki continued, "The Citizen's has implemented a Task Force and we have talked to several agencies in the city such as the Director of Housing, the Superintendent of Schools, and the hospital regarding COVID-19 tracing. I have even spoken to Barry Rosengarten regarding donations of food supplies and also supplying masks. We already have people who are agreed to do so. When I talk to OEM (Office of Emergency Management), they said they can only supply training through Zoom (an App. for phone conferencing)."

Council President Petrick asked who will be supplying gloves (when will your task-force goes out in the field)?"

Pozycki said, "I hadn't thought about that, but it's a good idea. We have teams going out in the field, but citizens have to be a part of it."

Petrick then questioned the high number of COVID-19 cases in Perth Amboy. "Are they all residents?"

Pozycki answered, "Perth Amboy has very dense housing."

Petrick wanted to know, "Where is the data coming from regarding the percentage of the cases in Perth Amboy?"

Pozycki said, "The figures are coming from the county, and passed down to the police department."

Councilman Joel Pabon spoke up, "It's a great idea that the Citizen's Campaign are having trackers. We have to start doing things now. We can use all the help that we can get. We are not getting the true numbers. I think the trackers being here will have a huge success. Where are most of the cases coming from in the city?"

Pozycki said, "The idea is to be ready."

Councilman Irizarry spoke up next. He thanked Pozycki and his committee. He then asked, "Will they be looking at what kind of access to healthcare the residents have when it comes to the Coronavirus? Will you be looking into this? I never

thought about gloves and having a facemask. The demand is exceeding the supply and the money to get these items is high. Besides the expense and being hard to get, even when you order these supplies online, it takes time to get them."

Pozycki responded, "Individualized Shirt Company (in Perth Amboy) is making masks."

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda wanted to commend the Citizen's Campaign, "To do tracking, you need information from people who tested positive. The whole country is short on testing supplies."

Pozycki continued, "The State Health Registry gets people's names, and the community and that gets sent to the police department so that person can get isolated."

Council President Bill Petrick then asked, "Will that be a violation of HIPPA Laws?"

Pozycki responded, "We will be working under the existing (local, state, and county) laws. HIPPA will be complied with."

Councilman Helmin Caba spoke up. He also congratulated Harry Pozycki and his committee. "Caesar Romero is an upcoming star. We need to plan ahead with the pandemic and be ahead of the curve." Harry Pozycki concluded, "We are always looking for the most up to date procedures."

The next person who spoke via teleconferencing was Deputy Police Chief and OEM Coordinator Larry Cattano. He addressed Harry Pozycki. "We have an OEM plan that has been in place for 20 years and it is reviewed by the state annually. A pharmaceutical distribution plan also has been in place for years. We have the people in place. We are only one of 4 cities that get federal funding. Regarding protective equipment, people have to learn the proper use of gloves. Someone mentioned that people are not using masks in public. New Jersey does not require that. In food establishments – yes, and in other public buildings, you are required to wear them. As far as the hospitals, they have to report the cases to the state. We would get the locations and addresses sent to us. The county numbers are accurate. We have to vet all the addresses given

**Continued on Page 6*

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Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy Receives 'A' for Patient Safety

Press Release 5/1/20

PERTH AMBOY – Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center is pleased to announce it was awarded an 'A' from The Leapfrog Group's spring 2020 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Guide. This designation recognizes hospitals for efforts to protect patients from harm and provide safer health care.

"We are pleased to once again achieve an 'A' grade," said Thomas Shanahan, chief hospital executive, Raritan Bay Medical Center. "Our commitment to serving our community is a true testament to the incred-

ible work our team members put in each and every day."

The Leapfrog Group, a Washington, D.C.-based national nonprofit organization, is committed to improving health care quality and safety for consumers and purchasers. Developed under the guidance of an Expert Panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses 28 measures of publicly available hospital safety data twice per year.

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2020 Budget Passed 4/15/20 Council Meeting via Phone Conference

By: Katherine Massopust

SOUTH AMBOY – The South Amboy Council Meeting took place via phone conference.

When it came time to discuss the 2020 budget, Councilman Brian McLaughlin wanted verification that the budget provided for a new ambulance and two firetrucks as well as city employment program. B.A. Glenn Skarzynski assured him it was in the budget. The Budget was passed.

Councilwoman Zusette Dato asked about repairing a sewer main at the South Amboy YMCA. She asked if the funds to pay for this come out of the YMCA's budget. City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz stated that he did not believe the funds will come from their budget.

Council Comments:

Vice President Christine Noble stated that everyone should stay safe and be well. "These are hard times."

Councilwoman Zusette Dato stated, "During these times, we need to think of others. I thank everybody who works in emergency management. I want to give a callout to Amy McLaughlin Photography (Councilman Brian McLaughlin's wife). Her Porch Project raised a huge sum of money for Friends of South Amboy."

Councilman Tom Reilly stated, "The meeting notice was not posted on the South Amboy Facebook Page or on the sign of City Hall. We should be more transparent about meetings." Reilly then added, "Amy McLaughlin raised over \$10,000 along with her daughter. The money is going back into the community. Hat's off to Amy McLaughlin." Reilly then cited Jay Kennedy, owner of Printed Pixels in South Amboy. "Friends of South Amboy benefits from his efforts. They continue to donate to the food pantry."

Council President Mickey Gross exclaimed, "Hats off to Brian and your family!"

Councilman Brian McLaughlin thanked the Police, Fire, First Aid. "Are we going to help the squad out?" he asked.

Law Director Francis Womack stated, "There are some townships and municipalities that does this. It has to be done as a referendum. The way we are proposing this will not impede the validity of the First Aid Squad."

Mayor Fred Henry agreed that more research was necessary.

Councilman McLaughlin asked that punch cards be eliminated due to the crisis. Council President Mickey Gross agreed with him.

Councilman McLaughlin wanted to know, "People ask me why we don't have a laundrymat. We need an ordinance." McLaughlin commented he would not want it to be open 24 hours.

Mayor Fred Henry stated, "A change in the ordinance may have to go through SARA (South Amboy Redevelopment Association)."

Law Director Francis Womack stated, "Right now, it can be initiated, then go to the Planning Board with stipulations."

Council President Mickey Gross agreed that this should be discussed at the next business meeting (May 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.). He felt the public would like to give their input.

Mayor Fred Henry thanked the Council for passing the budget. "Continue to stay safe. Stay at home."

During the public portion, a man named Larry asked how much the taxes will be increased. It was stated that for a home with the value of \$250,000, there will be a \$46 increase for the year.

Council President Mickey Gross stated as of today (4/15/20) there are 66 cases of infections with COVID-19 in South Amboy.

Larry asked if anyone was removed from the list.

Gross emphasized to go to the CDC website for any information on COVID-19. "We are requiring everyone to follow CDC guidelines. The CDC is where the best information is."

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m. All Council Members were present.

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Remembering Those Who Passed Away and Their Contributions to Perth Amboy



Bob Ned (L) accepts the Senior of the Year Award at the 2015 Shield Awards from the Knights of Columbus. Dianne Roman (R) who worked with the Senior Citizens at Olive Street Community Center nominated Ned for the award.
*File Photo taken 3/12/16 by Paul W. Wang



Barbara Stack (Standing Far Right) and David Bennett (Seated Second Right) at the 12/15/19 Kearny Cottage Christmas Tea. Both Barbara Stack and Dave Bennett were long time Board Members of the Kearny Cottage Historical Association.
*File Photo taken 12/15/19 by Angel Robledo

The first time I encountered Bob Ned was when I was assigned to take pictures at the Valentine's Day Event at the Olive Street Community Center for the Amboy Beacon. I did not know who Bob Ned was at the time, but I remember that he was dancing with a woman dressed in a beautiful red suit. I thought to myself: they could be dance instructors. I later learned that Bob Ned often took pictures (especially of all the activities at Olive Street since he was there almost every day) for the Amboy Beacon and submit them for publication.

After starting the Amboy Guardian, Bob Ned was one of the handful of people who was at our first initiation meeting.

Bob loved taking pictures at sports events, and any activities involving families such as Family Day at the Waterfront or National Night Out. He loved taking pictures of families enjoying themselves.

Another event he loved to photograph was annual Fishing Derby. Whenever I asked Bob to take photos, he gladly accepted the assignment.

When his last companion, Madeleine Bishop, (who was the woman in the red suit he

was dancing with) passed away, I remember Bob telling me that was his third ladyfriend he had whom he had survived.

He had a very hard time getting over the loss of Madeleine and would often park his car in a lot on Front Street to look at the view of the Waterfront.

Bob told me he enjoyed going to the dog park in Sewaren to watch people walking and exercise with their dogs.

There were so many outstanding photos that Bob Ned took and it's so very hard to pick out any individual ones. All you have to do is go into the Amboy Guardian website and do a search on his name to see for yourself.

Bob appeared in a Looking Back Photo on May 16, 2012 when he was on the Perth Amboy High School track team. He was also the manager of the Amboy Harmony Club in 1957 which was a boys little league baseball team.

Bob provided articles and photos for the book Stories From Perth Amboy of the 1968 Perth Amboy High School Championship Basketball Team (by Katherine Massopust from Arcadia Publishing).

RIP. I know he and Madeleine

are dancing up a storm in heaven together.

Last week, we lost two long-time members of the Kearny Cottage Historical Association Board: Dave Bennett and Barbara Stack. They both participated in the many events and activities of the organization over the years. Reading Barbara's obituary, we were surprised to see all the charitable works she did almost up until her last days on earth. David Bennett was devoted to his mother, Claire and was so proud when he spoke of her artwork and of the many awards she received for her paintings. Some of those paintings have been on display at the cottage. We were just as impressed as he was.

There were numerous tributes to both Barbara and David in the Flynn and Son Funeral Home website. Godspeed to Bob, Barbara, and David. Your lives while living were well spent and an inspiration to others as we saw in the written testimonies. *C.M.*



THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Happy Birthday Shout Out

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic with stay home orders and social distancing. I want to say Happy Birthday to friends

also born on May 19th, my birthday and to remember Malcom X born May 19th, 1925. Gone but not forgotten.

Jerome Billings

Health Passport?

Ok, we all know about this COVID-19 virus how much damage it has already done economically and socially. But what is in it for us in the future? I think it will change our way of life and we might be needing a "Health Passport" to travel or get a new job. The plan is in place by the FAA (Federal Aviation

Administration) for passengers to take a blood test before boarding the airline. China already is doing this. The Chinese people have on their smart phone a "Health Passport" to go anywhere. Also, when will there be a vaccine? Or is there one already we ask. Will this be the new way of controlling American citizens?

Orlando "Wildman" Perez

Board of Education Meeting to be held on May 7, 2020 at 5:30 P.M. via Conference Bridge

PERTH AMBOY - Due to the state of emergency declared by the Governments of the State of New Jersey and the United States regarding COVID19, the next regularly scheduled meeting for the Board of Education will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 5:30PM via remote conference in order for the Board of Education to conduct its business and to hold a public hearing on the proposed 2020-2021 budget. The meeting, including public comment will be held remotely through the use of electronic equipment. Compliance is required with P.L. 1975, c. 231, with regard to the posting and publication of meeting notices, which was amended by (A3850/S2294) and approved by the Governor on March 20, 2020, permitting that during a period declared as a state of emergency a public body shall be permitted to perform any of the following by means of communication or other electronic equipment: conduct a meeting and any public business to be conducted thereat, cause a meeting to be open to the public, vote, or receive public comment without being deemed to have violated the provision of P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-6 et seq.) in performing such functions by means of communication or other electronic equipment. Members of the public who wish to provide comment at this meeting may do so through Conference Bridge, a remote conferencing system. The Conference Bridge phone number to dial into the board meeting will be listed on the District's website on Monday, May 4, 2020. Members of the public will be able to use this phone number to call into the board meeting. Upon joining the meeting, members of the public will be muted to ensure that there is no disruption to the business being conducted by the Board of Education. Individuals will be welcomed to provide comment during the public portion of the meeting. Members of the public will be recognized to speak when name or identifier is announced. Individuals will be invited to speak in the order the requests are received. The Board will hear public comment through Conference Bridge. Formal action will be taken. The Board reserves the right to retire into Closed Session, and to exclude the public from such portions of the meetings in accordance with the P.L. 1975, c.231, upon adoption of a conforming Board Resolution for Executive Session.

We Value Your Opinion! Please Send Us A Response!



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THE BARGE	201 FRONT ST.
BAY CITY LAUNDRYMAT.....	738 STATE ST.
C-TOWN	272 MAPLE ST.
CEDENO'S PHARMACY	400 STATE ST.
CITY HALL	260 HIGH ST.
COPA DE ORO	306 SMITH ST.
DUNKIN DONUTS	587 FAYETTE ST.
EASTSIDE DRY CLEANERS	87 SMITH ST.
ELIZABETH CORNER	175 HALL AVE.
FAMILY FOOT CARE	252 SMITH ST.
FU LIN	79 SMITH ST.
HY TAVERN	386 HIGH ST.
INVESTOR'S BANK	598 STATE ST.
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.
SANTANDER BANK	365 CONVERY BLVD.
SANTIBANA TRAVEL	362 STATE ST.
SCIORTINO'S RESTAURANT	473 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SHOP-RITE	365 CONVERY BLVD.
SIPOS BAKERY	365 SMITH ST.
SUPERIOR DINER.....	464 SMITH ST.
SUPREMO SUPERMARKET	270 KING ST.
TORRES MINI MARKET	403 BRUCK AVE.
TOWN DRUGS & SURGICAL	238 SMITH ST.
WELLS FARGO	214 SMITH ST.
ZPA	281 GRACE ST.
IN SAYREVILLE:	
BOROUGH HALL	167 MAIN ST.
SENIOR CENTER	423 MAIN ST.
SUNNYSIDE RESTAURANT	111 MAIN ST.
IN SEWAREN:	
PUBLIC LIBRARY	546 WEST AVE.
SEWAREN CORNER DELI	514 WEST AVE.
IN SOUTH AMBOY:	
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
SCIORTINO'S HARBOR LIGHTS	132 S. BROADWAY
SOUTH AMBOY MEDICAL CENTER.....	540 BORDENTOWN AVE.
WELLS FARGO BANK.....	116 N. BROADWAY
IN WOODBRIDGE:	
CITY HALL	1 MAIN ST.
MAIN ST. FARM	107 MAIN ST.
NEWS & TREATS	99 MAIN ST.
ST. JOSEPH'S SENIORS RESIDENCE	1 ST. JOSEPH'S TERR.

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.

South Amboy City Council Business Meeting
SOUTH AMBOY - Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

THIS MEETING IS BEING HELD ELECTRONICALLY. TO JOIN FROM YOUR COMPUTER, TABLET OR SMARTPHONE
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/537353349>
OR CALL 1-786-535-3211 AND ENTER ACCESS CODE 537353349 FOLLOWED BY THE # KEY

Our Memorial Day Issue is Coming Up on May 20, 2020 We Have Special Advertising Rates Call Carolyn: 732-896-4446 or Katherine: 732-261-2610

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

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
WED. May 13 City Council, Caucus, 4:15 p.m.
via Zoom App
• City Council, Regular, (after Caucus) via Zoom App.
South Amboy
WED. May 6 City Council, Business, 6 p.m.
via Electronic App.
WED. May 20 City Council, Regular, 7 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

Please Submit Your Events to AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Perth Amboy City Council Caucus & Council Meeting
PERTH AMBOY - Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, this is to advise you that due to the limits on public gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the May 10, 2020 Caucus Meeting will be held on May 13, 2020 at 4:30 pm. The Council Meeting scheduled for that day will immediately follow the Caucus Meeting and (Closed Session if needed). The public is invited to participate VIA A ZOOM ON-LINE CONFERENCE AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:

Topic: 5/13 Caucus & Council Meeting
Time: May 13, 2020 04:15 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/99622175206>
Meeting ID: 996 2217 5206
One tap mobile
+16465588656,99622175206# US (New York)
Dial by your location
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Cancellations & Postponements
The Following Events have been cancelled or postponed:
•Perth Amboy Friends of the Library Meetings are cancelled until further notice
•All Casino Trips are cancelled until further notice
•The Friends of the Library Book Sales at Brighten Avenue are cancelled until further notice
•The Women of Distinction Award Dinner has been rescheduled for September
•The Women of the Moose Chapter 1247 Perth Amboy Designer Bag Bingo & Tricky Tray has been postponed to May 30th.
•The South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade on May 16 has been cancelled and will not take place this year
•Perth Amboy Artworks has cancelled their Live at the Ferry Slip Music Series and instead is planning to host two online live streamed music festivals during the summer.
•The Perth Amboy Puerto Rican Festival scheduled for June 12-14 has been cancelled
•The Perth Amboy Dominican Festival has been cancelled
•The Perth Amboy Waterfront Arts Festival over Memorial Day weekend has been cancelled.
•The Annual Fireworks Extravaganza scheduled for July 2 on Raritan Bay has been cancelled.
Please go to www.amboyguardian.com for the latest information. For any event you are interested in attending, please confirm with the organizer if the event will still take place.

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

Deadline for Print Ads: 7 p.m. Thursday
Office Hours: Mon. - Wed. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Budget, Contracts, and CDBG Among Topics Discussed 3/22/20 Caucus & Council Meeting Via Phone Conference

**Continued from Page 2*

to us. Contact Tracing is out of hand. You have to get an anti-body test. As far as HIPPA laws, there is a special state dispensation. We cannot share information. That is handled through the state department. Regarding masks, and the type of material, cloth masks have minimal face covering.” Cattano indicated that cloth masks are better than nothing.

Pozyski responded to Cattano’s comments. He complimented Cattano and the city. He continued, “The Citizen’s Campaign is looking at different masks to make sure they get the best and the proper use of gloves. It’s not a New Jersey mandate for masks, but eventually masks will be mandatory. I’m glad the council recognizes the importance to be prepared.”

Council President Bill Petrick then mentioned how important it is having gloves, especially when it comes to small cuts on your hands. He then mentioned Anton Massopust (EMT, Fire, First Aid Instructor) who always emphasized this when teaching his classes, “If you think having a small cut on your hand is not important, try putting peroxide or rubbing alcohol on that small cut and see how it affects you.”

Petrick suggested that the Citizen's Campaign put something together (an Ordinance or Resolution) to be presented to the public.

No one spoke at the public comments on agenda items only.

Ordinance No. 1 – Re: Renewal documentation for handicapped parking – was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Caba. Ordinance No. 2 Re: Teamsters – January 1, 2018 thru December 31, 2022 was pulled. Ordinance No. 3 – Wreckers – was removed.

The public was then invited to make comments on R-122-3/20 – Public Hearing on the introduced CY:2020 Municipal Budget.

The first person to speak on the conferencing was Resident Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe. She asked, “What kind of cuts were there?”

Council President Bill Petrick responded, “There were no cuts per say, and no tax increases.”

Márquez-Villafañe was surprised and questioned the reason there was no increase.

Petrick stated, “We are using surplus money.”

B.A. Frederick Carr spoke up and said, “It’s the council’s budget for 2020: \$4,886,000 of surplus money was used.”

Márquez-Villafañe questioned, “How much money will be left?”

B.A. Carr answered, “I am not sure, but maybe between three to five million dollars.”

CFO/Comptroller joined the discussion, “\$5 million will be left in the surplus.”

Resident Jeremy Baratta spoke next. He questioned the \$790,000 in additional spending. “What are the three top increases?”

Goldy explained that the big-

gest increase was in salaries. She stated there was also an increase in pension contributions and the city had an offset from a \$2 million reimbursement in its insurance plan. The city also has a reduction in some of their required debt services and utility costs.”

Comments were then closed on R-122.

The council proceeded to vote on the consent agenda. R-143 thru R-150 and R-152, R-153, R-155 and R-156 were moved by Councilman Fernando Irizarry and seconded by Councilman Joel Pabon. R-154 was tabled. Councilwoman Milady Tejada asked for R-151 – (Authorizing the refund of restoration bond to United Dominicans of Perth Amboy in the amount of \$6,000 due to the cancellation of the 2020 festival.) to be pulled and voted on separately. R-151 was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Caba. When it came to vote, all voted “yes”, and Councilwoman Tejada abstained on R-151.

Last Public Portion:

Resident Jeremy Baratta then again questioned since the meetings have been held remotely, “Is City Hall open, and can the public attend the meeting?”

Again, the council answered in unison, “No.”

Baratta again asked if there were any provisions for the homeless or others that do not have phones, computers, or other devices (to participate in the meeting). “Did the city set something up?”

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

Baratta then questioned a previous speaker who talked about an upcoming meeting (regarding how to help businesses). “How was this meeting advertised? I have two businesses and I didn’t get anything from the BID about available money (to help businesses).” He then said that he heard there was supposed to be funding of around \$370,000. “Can this meeting be put out by the BID?”

Petrick responded, “I believe it was advertised like other meetings.”

Baratta continued, “I saw a listing of the check register. There was an item for a garage door repair and that repair is spelled incorrectly. I also saw an amount of \$12,000 for an email service. This company called AVAYA Inc. received a government contract for \$3,012.70 for support services for the Perth Amboy Parking Utility, the Library, and SIP Trunking Software. What kind of vetting did they go through? I didn’t see that this company was registered as an LLC.”

CFO Goldy answered that question, “This company is providing a filter for all the city’s email. They are dealing with issues regarding our email spam and they do have an LLC. Not all companies are required to have a business registration number.”

Resident Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe spoke next. She questioned a census contest that the

mayor has on her Facebook Page where every two weeks the mayor’s office is giving out \$50. “The ages to participate are 12 thru 18. During one of her Wilda Live Facebook broadcasts, there was a mention that the Law Department is looking at some of the Coronavirus cases. Why are they doing that and not the OEM? There is also a decrease of staffing at City Hall. What is the role of the Code Enforcement Director? The mayor also went to two houses to say, “Happy Birthday.” How many officers went with her and how were they paid? What is the city doing for all of the immune compromised citizens?”

B.A. Carr responded, “Director of Human Resources Ken Ortiz talks about this issue (reaching out to all citizens) every day and also talks about all of the outreach programs available.”

Márquez-Villafañe continued, “I reached out to the Human Resources Office and I’m still waiting for a callback.”

Council President William Petrick spoke up, “Our Human Resources Office is stretched to the max. Reach out to the owners of the supermarkets to make accommodations.”

Márquez-Villafañe continued, “I did reach out to them, and they said they are following the Mayor’s directions.”

Petrick then suggested, “Maybe the Mayor can be made aware of this so all citizens can be accommodated. The Mayor is telling people to post comments if they completed their census forms.”

B.A. Frederick Carr then responded to some of Márquez-Villafañe’s questions. “Regarding the contest open to youth from ages 12-18 regarding the census. It is an opportunity to show people that they complied with the census and they encourage others to do so. The Mayor is paying the \$50 out of her own pocket and we are not violating the census rules. Code Enforcement Director Irving Lozada is changing his title. Sometimes people have to do things that are normally not in their job title. For instance, I am doing things in the mailroom because of the present circumstances. The Mayor is reaching out to our youth. People have been homebound for months.”

Law Director Peter King spoke up, “I’m helping out and reviewing some of the COVID-19 cases.”

Council Comments:

Councilman Helmin Caba thanked OEM Director and Deputy Police Chief Larry Cattano about the information he provided regarding the rules and regulations during the Coronavirus Crisis. He extended his congratulations to the entire OEM team. He then expressed thanks to Mr. Carr and Council President Petrick talking about the importance of doing the census. “So far, only 42% of the people who were sent out the information have responded. It can be done online, by phone, or mail. Please do this so we can do our proper funding. I want to thank all who work and give to

the community. Kenny Ortiz is doing an excellent job. Please practice social distancing and my condolences to all who have lost a loved one.”

Councilman Fernando Irizarry wanted to thank all who meet the needs of others. He mentioned those who worked for the food pantries, the Board of Education, the Jewish Renaissance, the OEM, and Kenny Ortiz. “The COVID-19 cases are increasing in Perth Amboy and the curve is not flattening. Please take the restrictions seriously.”

Councilman Joel Pabon also thanked OEM Director and Police Chief Larry Cattano. “He is always working behind the scenes and for also correcting me regarding wearing a mask in public. It was scary to see a negative trend of COVID-19 cases in Perth Amboy. We are right behind Woodbridge in cases which is much bigger population than we do. Kenny Ortiz and his staff (some whom we never see) work long hours. Thank you a million times. I have called Kenny Ortiz a number of times for people who need help. We as a community have to come together to do our part. God bless everybody and stay safe.”

Councilman Helmin Caba then spoke up again and stated, “We are now number one surpassing Woodbridge Township in COVID-19 cases (as of 4/22/20).”

OEM Director Larry Cattano also spoke up to make additional comments. He wanted to clarify how COVID-19 cases are counted. “People are being retested. The tests are counted – not the people. The Jewish Renaissance is doing 150 tests a day. People should wear masks or other face coverings, even if it is not required when walking outside. We will be getting a test center on State Street soon.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejada spoke next, “Who can go through the drive-in testing centers?”

Cattano answered, “Only peo-

ple with symptoms those who are asymptomatic can be tested by appointment only.”

Council President Petrick questioned, “What kind of tests are being administered?”

Cattano responded, “Oral swabs.”

Councilman Irizarry asked the numbers of deaths. Cattano answered as of 4/22/20 it was 53.

Law Director King spoke up to let everyone know why he was reviewing some of the COVID-19 cases. “We wanted to make sure there was no spike in certain areas in the city.”

Tejada continued speaking. She thanked Police Chief Cattano, Kenny Ortiz and his staff, and the citizens who stay home. “This is very serious. Make sure the elders are taken care of and do shopping for them. I want to commend our community leaders who look out for their friends and neighbors.” She also wanted to thank one of the High School teachers who is also a businessowner who is helping the community. “Make calls to your friends to make sure they do the census and help them if they need your guidance. Call people to make sure they are okay, and let them know you care. Thanks to all who work to keep the city going.”

Council President Bill Petrick thanked everyone including Chief Cattano and all the unsung heroes, the DPW workers, emergency services, Kenny Ortiz, Irving Lozada, B.A. Carr, City Clerk Victoria Kupsch, DPW Director Frank Hoffman, and all who participated in the meeting. “Be safe and wear protective equipment.”

Councilwoman Tejada spoke up again, “I want to wish everyone a happy Laboratory Week. We are here for the community.”

Petrick responded, “Lab technicians are handling dangerous samples. I hear it’s also Administrative Assistants Day. Good night and everyone stay safe.”

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

**Please Submit Community Events
2 Weeks in Advance!**

Amboy Bank Launches New Website

Press Release
OLD BRIDGE - Amboy Bank is pleased to announce the launch of their new website, after months of hard work and dedication from both their team and the team at Wakefly, their website developer.

The primary goal during the redesign process was to create a more solution-focused, responsive and uniform experience for users. Specifically, Amboy Bank wanted the website to be a valuable tool to help users find a solution to their financial needs. “We’ve been hard at work creating a new site from the ground up, utilizing the lat-

est design trends,” said Greg Scharpf, Amboy Bank President and CEO. “Not only is our website optimized for a unified experience from all of your devices, but we’ve centered it around our clients’ needs as well.”

Please check the Why Amboy section on AmboyBank.com for the most up-to-date news and information.

Founded in 1888, Amboy Bank, a full-service commercial bank with 23 offices in central New Jersey, prides itself on quality service and responsiveness. They have been voted “Best Bank in Central Jersey” for the past 22 years in a row.

JRMC Expands Testing with Drive-Up for First Responders and Essential Personnel

City of Perth Amboy Provides Site for JRMC COVID-19 Testing

Press Release

PERTH AMBOY, New Jersey (April 25, 2020) - Furthering its commitment to provide greater access to COVID-19 testing and medical resources to all residents, the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center, JRMC, a federally qualified health center, is expanding the test to first responders and essential personnel with drive through testing locations. With the support of city officials and offices of emergency management, the drive through testing is part of the JRMC's COVID-19 Action Plan in response to the growing number of COVID-19 cases. The locations are determined and planned ahead to be able to test up to 400 per testing drive through.

The testing locations are determined in partnership with city officials to test first responders and essential personnel. Each testing is set up with the pre-registration of first responders and essential personnel. A JRMC medical practitioner contacts patients with their results and telemedicine following the test. The cities included in the first drive through testing are Carteret, Perth Amboy, and South Amboy. Yesterday's testing took place at the Perth Amboy Har-

borside Marina's parking lot located on 260 Front Street. It was set up for all Perth Amboy first responders and essential personnel with the collaboration of Mayor Wilda Diaz, the Office of Emergency Management, and the Perth Amboy Police Department.

"The JRMCs remains committed to meet the needs of testing during this pandemic," said John T. O'Leary. "We're continuing to do everything we can, both with our own resources and also by with city officials and health industry partners, to serve as a local access point for COVID-19 testing. Opening our first drive-through testing last week has allowed us to quickly learn and develop an efficient and scalable process. We are pleased to be working with the City of Perth Amboy and LabCorp to help accelerate our efforts, and enable quick results for those being tested."

"I'm grateful to the staff and leadership at JRMC for their unwavering commitment to our community," said Mayor Wilda Diaz. "The new testing site is critical to the operation of our city as essential workers continue to provide services to our residents despite the risks. The City of Perth Amboy will

continue to work with JRMC through this public health emergency to further identify additional sites so we can meet the demand for testing in Perth Amboy."

The JRMC with city officials will identify the locations and dates for the drive through tests that are outside of JRMC's main building located on 275 Hobart Street. The JRMC will oversee the administration of the COVID-19 testing. All first responders or essential personnel in need of a COVID-19 test email the JRMC at ctest@jrmc.us or call us at (732) 376-6632.

The JRMC will confirm the date, time, and location for the drive through locations directly with patients. The JRMC continues to administer COVID-19 testing at 275 Hobart Street. Anyone who exhibits symptoms or who has been in contact with someone who tested positive should contact JRMC to determine if a test is necessary. Testing is available at no out of pocket expense and patients need to pre-register in advance for a scheduled appointment by emailing ctest@jrmc.us by calling (732) 376-6632. For more up-to-date information, go to www.jrmc.us.

Donation to be Distributed to Families Impacted by Job Loss

Press Release

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Mary McKenzie Hayes

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Coronavirus Powerful Community-Wide Response Plan

Press Release

NEW JERSEY - Protecting our residents for the extended length of time coronavirus (Covid-19) is predicted to be a threat to our health and giving us the opportunity to safely open up our cities for business requires a sustained and enhanced community response. This plan strengthens and adapts the existing emergency management structure already in place in cities, better equipping them for a robust long-term response to Covid-19 and proposes using the lessons learned to update and expand emergency management plans and training to be better prepared for future pandemics.

It centers around expanding, training and employing Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) or their equivalents that are already in place in most cities and towns to provide needed 'boots on the ground' for a more effective Covid-19 response.

The plan components outlined below will be tailored to each individual city.

Plan Components:

- **Employing CERT members as contact tracers:** Coordinating with local health departments charged with contact tracing, interested CERT members will be enlisted in performing this essential function. Tracking down all close contacts that were exposed to someone who tests positive for Covid-19 and ensuring that they are notified and isolated is an evidence-based public health strategy that experts, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and the Center for Health Security at Johns Hopkins University, consider fundamental to slowing the spread of the virus once we stop sheltering in place. There is a shortage in most communities through-out the nation--a shortage that can be alleviated by enlisting CERT members. This work is mainly done over the phone and the training is accessible remotely.

- **Distributing masks to areas in need:** CERT members will be used to distribute masks, prioritizing the parts of the community where the highest percentage of people have the highest exposure. Bandanas of suitable material that can be easily re-used with the city logo or a city sports team logo on it to build community spirit and solidarity will be provided.

- **Food delivery for quarantined, older, and low-income residents:** CERT members will assist in food delivery for quarantined, older and low-income residents, plugging in to existing community food delivery initiatives wherever possible.

- **Expanding CERTs:** A community-wide effort will be launched to recruit new CERT members. High school seniors will be provided the opportunity to become Jr. CERT members.

- **Form a Corona Control Task Force:** To ensure consistent and saturation level communication with residents and businesses, a Corona Control Task Force will be established comprised of the mayor, council president, school superintendent, hospital CEO, Director of the Housing Authority (or their designees) and the Director of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Leaders from the faith-based and non-profit community may also be added by the OEM. The Task Force will be responsible for ensuring that all communications concerning standardized health protocols and CERTs recruitment going out to the community are continually reinforced with sufficient repetition that they are driven home.

- **Set standardized community health protocols for individuals and businesses:** Coordinating with the mayor and council, emergency management officials together with the CERT team will set standard health protocols for individuals and businesses to ensure that a consistent and amply reinforced message about best practices is sent to better ensure adherence. (See below for examples of personal health care protocols).

- **Establish a Coronavirus Relief Fund:** In order to pay for any of the marginal costs associated with this plan, including masks, communication materials and CERTs support, cities and towns will establish a relief fund. Crowd-funding can be used to raise the necessary dollars.

- **Update community emergency management plans to prepare for future pandemics:** Employing the lessons learned during the coronavirus pandemic, communities will update their emergency management plans to be better prepared for future epidemics.

Examples Attachment:

1. To avoid getting the virus, follow these simple steps:
 - Wear a mask when going to the supermarket or on any errand outside the home
 - Practice social distancing when you leave your house
 - Stay home if you are feeling sick except to seek medical attention
2. Keeping safe at home, practice the following:
 - Clean frequently touched items and surfaces daily with soap and water
 - Cover your mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and then discard the tissue

Check out our website: WWW.AMBOYGUARDIAN.COM for the latest breaking news!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Gustav J. Novak
Funeral Home
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732-826-4525

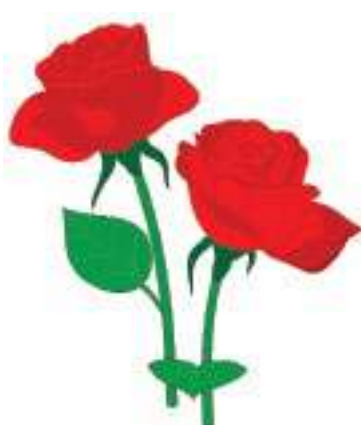
Happy Mother's Day

During Your Time of Need We are Here for You!

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- Cremation Services
- Pre-Planned Funeral Services
- Relocation to Foreign Locations
- Public Assistance Accepted
- Family Owned and Operated
- Available 24 Hours / No Hidden Expenses

Joseph P. Diaz
Manager
NJLIC No 3841

Gary Earl Rumpf
Director
NJ LIC No. 3353



LAW OFFICES OF
Kenneth L. Gonzalez
& Associates, LLC

Oficina de Abogados

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Happy Mother's Day

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FAMILY MATTERS / DIVORCES / CHILD
CUSTODY / SUPPORT
WORKERS COMPENSATION /
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Fire at 235 & 237 Madison Ave., Perth Amboy

*Photos by Paul W. Wang, Katherine Massopust, Orlando Perez, Carolyn Maxwell



From PAFD Facebook: At 13:08 on 5/2/20, the Department was dispatched to a reported fire at 235 Madison Ave called in by a PD unit. Arriving units found both 235 & 237 Madison Ave. heavily involved in fire in the rear with B side exposure problems. Primary searches began and multiple hoselines went into operation due to reported occupants trapped. Firefighters located one occupant in the first floor and removed him. Once all occupants were accounted, two tower ladders and exterior lines operated to knock down the heavy fire throughout both buildings. Crews then reentered to extinguish all remaining fire. At least 30 residents were displaced by the fire & no injuries were reported. City units on scene were E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4, T-2, R-1, C-1, C-2, C-3, C-5 & C-9. Mutual aid on scene were Hopelawn R-8, Keasbey 4-2-4, Melrose E-3, Morgan T-2, Fords 7-1, South Amboy E-10 & Iselin Air 9-3-4. Reserve T-3 & E-4 covered the city during the incident. The fire is under investigation by the PAFD & Middlesex County Fire Marshal's Office.

MOVIE REVIEW: BAD EDUCATION

By: Anton Massopust III
"It's only a puff piece, but only if you make it a puff piece,"
Frank Tassone

HBO's new original TV Movie that tells the true story of the largest embezzlement scheme ever to target an American school district, which found students in Roslyn, New York (Long Island) robbed of over \$10 million in funds. (Source: Esquire – April 25, 2020) The film stars Hugh Jackman, Allison Janney, and Ray Romano.

Hugh Jackman plays Frank Tassone, a man obsessed with himself. Tassone is the Superintendent of schools in a Long Island District. He cares about the kids, but he is keeping secrets from everyone, including himself. The Assistant Superintendent Pam Gluckin (Alison Janney) and her family use the school's credit card for their own personal use which included work done on their house, and anything else they wanted or needed. Gluckin got caught, and the Administration then stated that she is "ill" and forced her to resign immediately. They took away her Administrator's license.

The Scandal goes deeper when student, Rachel Bhargava (Geraldine Viswanathan) who is with the school newspaper was assigned to do a story on the new Skywalk, a program which is described as a means to get from High School to the Future. Rachel interviews Tassone about the Skywalk Program that



the school is going to start. Rachel views this article as a puff piece and wonders why the administration is spending money on this program but not spending it on fixing the school and other necessities.

Rachel decides to find out more information. She went to the basement of the high school to find out more about the inconsistencies of contracts and digs through all the paperwork. She furthers her own investigation which included speaking with contractors and other people involved.

This leads to a larger scandal that goes right to the top to the Superintendent himself. Rachel must eventually make a decision of a moral dilemma of whether or not to expose school system or let this lie standing.

Based on a true story, "Bad Education" is a good drama that

will keep you on the edge of your seat.

There's a wonderful performance by Hugh Jackman. He is a major talent who can sing, dance, and act. You begin to like this guy at first, but then find out what a liar he is, and you don't like him at all by the end of the movie. Academy Award Winner (I, Tonya) Allison Janney is terrific as the arrogant Gluckin who feels she is so smart that she can get away with anything. Ray Romano plays Big Bob Spicer, who is a real estate agent and President of the Roslyn Board of Education.

I really love the performance by Geraldine Viswanathan who plays the school reporter and the ethical questions she must ask herself. Bad Education is available now On Demand on HBO. It has great performances, and definitely worth your time.

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.

On May 4, 1945, German Adm. Hans-Georg von Friedeburg, commander-in-chief of the *Kriegsmarine*, arrives at British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery's headquarters at Lüneburg Heath with German plenipotentiaries. A few hours later, Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces, announces that "Field Marshal Montgomery has reported to the Supreme Allied Command that all enemy forces in Holland, northwest Germany and Denmark, have surrendered." The U.S. Seventh Army takes Innsbruck and Salzburg, in Austria, and nearby Berchtesgaden, in Germany, which is still smoking after the RAF raid of a few days earlier. In the Pacific, Japanese *kamikaze* planes hit 14 Allied ships off Okinawa, sinking four.

The Battle for Castle Itter, about 38 miles northeast of Innsbruck, Austria, takes place on May 5. The "strangest battle" of the war, as it comes to be called, is the only action where American and German soldiers fight as allies. They are aided by high-level, French political prisoners being held at the castle. The motley force — 16 American troops (tankers and infantrymen, including two officers), a *Waffen-SS* officer (whom the prisoners had befriended), 11 *Wehrmacht* POWs (an infantry officer and 10 artillerymen) and 14 prisoners — holds off an assault by two artillery-supported companies of *Waffen-SS* troops ordered to take the castle and kill the prisoners and any other occupants. The seven-hour battle ends with the arrival of the U.S. 142nd Infantry Regiment, with tanks in support. A number of the SS soldiers are killed, around 100 are captured and the rest are scattered into the surrounding forest. The castle's defenders suffer one dead (the *Wehrmacht* officer) and four wounded. Denmark is liberated by the Allies. Col.-Gen. Johannes Blaskowitz, the German commander-in-chief in Holland, surrenders at a ceremony in the small Dutch town of Wageningen in the presence of Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. The first British victory salvo of the war is fired at 3 p.m. at Field Marshal Montgomery's headquarters. Amsterdam is liberated. Gen. Eisenhower announces the capitulation of German Army Group C, which was covering the front from Linz, Austria, to the Swiss frontier. The U.S. Third Army takes Karlsbad, Germany, and Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, and prepares to drive towards Prague. In Prague, a civilian uprising begins, aided by defecting units of the German-allied, anti-Bolshevik Army of former Soviet general Andrey Vlasov. The U.S. freighter *SS Black Point* — the last Allied vessel attacked by a U-boat — is sunk within sight of land off Point Judith, Rhode Island; 12 crewmembers die, 35 others are rescued. One of some 9,000 balloon-borne bombs launched from Japan starting in November 1944 lands in Oregon and kills five children and an adult woman on a picnic near Lakeview, in the central southern part of the state. Theirs are the only known deaths from enemy attack on the mainland of the U.S. during the war.

On May 6, German *Waffen-SS* soldiers fire on a crowd celebrating the liberation of the Netherlands in Amsterdam, killing 22 people. From Berlin, Axis Sally — Mildred Gillars, an American engaged to a German citizen — delivers the last episode of her "Home Sweet Home Hour" propaganda broadcast to Allied troops.

German Chief-of-Staff of the Armed Forces High Command, Gen. Alfred Jodl, representing Reich president Grand Adm. Karl Dönitz, signs Germany's unconditional surrender to the Western Allies and the Soviet Union at 2:41 a.m. on May 7, at Gen. Eisenhower's headquarters in Reims, France. All military operations are to cease at 12:01 a.m. (GMT) on the 8th of May.

A cease-fire takes place at one minute past midnight on May 8. It is V-E Day, as the Allies celebrate Victory in Europe. After radio appeals to the Allies early in the day for protection against heavy German shelling, the Prague Resistance reaches an agreement with the Germans for the capitulation of the city. The U.S. 4th Armored Division, approaching from the west, stands fast in light of the announced cease-fire. Soviet troops, approaching from the east, continue to battle German forces in an around the Czechoslovakian capital. In North Africa, nationalists and French forces clash in Algeria. Between 15,000 and 20,000 Algerian Muslims and over 100 French citizens die in violent confrontations over the next 20 days. From Washington, D.C., President Truman warns Americans that the war is only half won.

Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, Chief of the Armed Forces High Command, repeats the German unconditional surrender signing on May 9, this time at Field Marshal Georgy Zhukov's Red Army headquarters in Berlin. In Moscow, Stalin announces the end of the war against Germany. A British naval squadron arrives in the harbor of Copenhagen to receive the surrender of the remains of the German fleet. Off France, in the English Channel, the German garrison in the Channel Islands agrees to surrender to British troops after five years of occupation. The surrender terms are signed aboard the destroyer *HMS Bulldog*, which is moored off St. Helier, Jersey. In the Aegean, German forces in the Greek islands surrender. In Syria, tensions between French troops and locals explode into open fighting.

The first German U-boat to surrender, *U-239*, puts in at the Royal Navy base at Isle of Portland, England, on May 10. Soviet forces are now in control of Prague after five days of fierce street battles between the Germans and Red Army troops and Czech partisans comes to an end. Over 5,000 civilians have been killed in the fighting. Seven years after he was forced to flee, Czechoslovakian President Edvard Beneš re-establishes his government in Prague, with the first order of business being the arrest, trial and execution of those convicted of collaboration with the Nazis.

On May 11, the Soviet Prague Offensive comes to an official end with the liberation of Czechoslovakia's capital city, the last major European city to be freed, although the war is already over. In Croatia, German troops continue to resist against Yugoslavian forces.

The war in New Guinea continues, with Australian troops attacking Wewak on May 12. In Czechoslovakia, Lt. Gen. Andrey Vlasov, a highly decorated Soviet commander who defected to the Nazis to form the anti-Bolshevik Russian Liberation Army, is captured by the Red Army about 25 miles southeast of Pilsen. (Vlasov will be brought to the Soviet Union, tried, convicted and executed for treason on 1 August 1946.) The U.S. government orders a suspension of Lend-Lease supplies to the U.S.S.R.

Rear Adm. Erich Brüning, commander of the *Kriegsmarine's Schnellboot* ("fast boat") forces, arrives at Felixstowe, England, on May 13 to sign the unconditional surrender of all vessels under his command. In Norway, Crown Prince Olav, some members of the exiled government, and the head of the Allied mission, Gen. Sir Andrew Thorne, arrive in Oslo.

U.S. Army Air Forces B-29s firebomb Nagoya on May 14, the heaviest raid on the Japanese homeland so far, with 3,500 tons of bombs being dropped. The raid destroys the Mitsubishi Works. In Europe, Radio Vienna announces the re-establishment of the Austrian Republic — the Anschluss (annexation of Austria into Nazi Germany) is declared null and void. In Scandinavia, the Norwegian resistance movement (Milorg) is officially disbanded. In the U.S., horse racing resumes after being banned in January because of wartime concerns over the amount of manpower and resources being used by the racing industry. On this day, 30,000 people turn out at Narragansett Park in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, to watch the races.

On May 15, after considerable confusion on the part of the Allies as to what should be done with them, Axis-allied Croatian forces that escaped Yugoslavia and surrendered to British troops in Austria are handed over to Tito's Partisans who, without delay, proceed to massacre them and any who were deemed to collaborate with them. In all, a minimum of 70,000 persons, and possibly as many as 250,000 people, including women and children, are killed. In Burma, nationalist leader Aung San joins the Allied drive against the Japanese, his former allies.

German submarine *U-234* surrenders at the U.S. Naval Base at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on May 16. One month earlier — on April 16 — she had departed Norway and was *en route* to Japan with an extremely important cargo, which included technical drawings, an Me-262 jet fighter in crates, 550 kg of U-238 uranium ore for atomic-bomb development, several high-ranking German officers and technological experts, and two Japanese officers. When *Kptlt.* Johann-Heinrich Fehler received the cease-fire orders on May 4, he decided to surrender to the Americans, rather than to the Canadians, being in a relatively equal position to do either. Still at war with the U.S., the two Japanese officers commit *hara-kiri* (ritual suicide) rather than surrender. British forces liberate Alderney, Channel Islands.

Two U.S. Republic P-47 Thunderbolt fighter-bombers bomb Kyushu, the third-largest of Japan's five main islands, on May 17. In the Philippines, the U.S. Army's 43rd Division captures Ipo Dam and its reservoir that is Manila's main water source. French troops land in Beirut, Lebanon, to reassert colonial control.

Appreciation for our Healthcare Workers, Alameda, Perth Amboy 4/22/20

*Photos by Paul W. Wang



Showing appreciation for our healthcare workers at Alameda,Perth Amboy



Perth Amboy’s Dachau Priest

By: John M. Grondelski
PERTH AMBOY - April 29 marks the 75th anniversary of U.S. forces liberating the Dachau concentration camp. Less than two weeks before Germany’s surrender, the 45th Infantry Division of the U.S. Seventh Army freed the camp, just outside Munich. Upon liberation, they found more than three dozen box cars with corpses outside the camp and barracks inside the camp equally stuffed with the dead and the dying.

Dachau was the first Nazi concentration camp, opened in 1933. Long into the postwar period, it epitomized “concentration camp” for most Americans, perhaps because—unlike Auschwitz, liberated by the Soviets—it was American forces that freed the camp and American journalists that displayed its horrors for Americans to see.

Dachau was a particular hell for clergy: over 2,700 of them, most of them Catholic, many of them Polish, were held in the camp. Nazism was an enemy of religion, particularly Christianity. Catholic priests in countries under German occupation were brutalized. Polish Catholic clergy were decimated during the War, for they had to contend with two atheist totalitarianisms intent on strangling the spiritual in their country: Hitler’s Nazis and Stalin’s Communists, both of whom invaded Poland in 1939.

Polish religious orders, includ-

ing the Franciscan Capuchins, suffered heavy losses. By 1940, many were in concentration camps. Dachau was the most common destination, so much so that a clandestine, underground seminary that produced new priests even operated in its barracks.

When the War ended, some of those Capuchins decided to remain in the West rather than return to a Poland over which an Iron Curtain was falling. One of them eventually made his way to Perth Amboy. But not first without a detour to Oklahoma.

Władysław Lechański was born in August 28, 1908 in Zuzki, in central Poland. He entered the Capuchins in 1926, taking the name in religion “Alexis.” Fr. Alexis studied philosophy in Holland then returned to Poland for his seminary studies in theology. He was ordained a priest on June 14, 1934. He earned the equivalent of master’s degrees in moral theology and Church law at the Catholic University of Lublin, and had a promising career ahead of him as a teacher of canon law. He lived at the Capuchin monastery in Lublin, Poland, a beautiful university town about 110 miles south of Warsaw, when World War II broke out.

He was arrested by the Gestapo on January 25, 1940, along with 25 other Capuchins then living in the Lublin monastery. At first, he was detained in the notorious Gestapo prison located in the Lublin Castle then,

in June, was transferred to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp near Berlin. His final move was in December 1940, when he was sent to Dachau. He was a prisoner of Dachau for four years and four months. He became Number 22639.

When American troops liberated Dachau, Fr. Alexis remained in the West. He went to Paris, apparently in the hope of continuing his studies in law. (He was said to have taught canon law in the “underground seminary” that the priests of Dachau conducted at night, training vocations to the priesthood that came out of that hell). His Capuchin superiors asked him to go to the United States to try to raise money for the Polish monasteries destroyed during the War, so Fr. Alexis traveled to Ireland to learn English while waiting for his U.S. visa, which finally came in 1947. He arrived in New York July 2, 1947, spending some time leading a retreat for Felician Sisters in Buffalo and residing at the Capuchin parish of St. John’s in Manhattan, just outside Madison Square Garden. That’s where the Oklahoma detour came in.

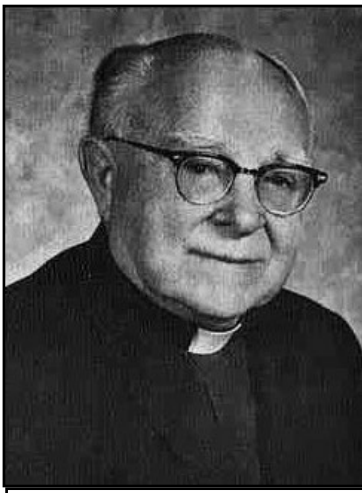
The Catholic bishop of Oklahoma City-Tulsa was in need of priests. He had established a parish in the 1930s, St. Ann’s, in Broken Arrow. The area was a hotbed of Ku Klux Klan activity, where Catholics were unwelcome. The first pastor left to become a World War II chaplain. The bishop needed priests;

Fr. Alexis went to Oklahoma and became St. Ann’s pastor.

Five of the Polish Capuchins’ “Class of Dachau” eventually passed through Broken Arrow: Fathers Alexis Lechański, Hyacinth Dabrowski and his brother Robert, Waclaw Karas, Jan Salwowski, and Rafal Nienaltowski. Capuchins were responsible for that parish until 1996.

But the Sooner State, with few Catholics and fewer priests, also had few Polish Americans, and these priests also wanted to work with their fellow countrymen. Gradually, then, many made their way back east, to staff Polish American Catholic churches in New Jersey and in New York. The “class of Dachau” eventually served in Polish American parishes in Bayonne, Laurence Harbor, Manville, New Brunswick, Passaic, Paterson, Perth Amboy, and Trenton, Father Alexis arrived at St. Stephen’s (now St. John Paul II) Church on State Street ca 1970. He remained there until his departure was forced for health reasons in the mid-1980s. He died in 1988 and is buried in the Capuchin plot at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Manville.

One remaining artifact of the Polish Capuchins who served the Catholic Church in New Jersey is St. Stanislaus Friary in Oak Ridge, in Jefferson Township near Sparta. As members of a religious order, the Capuchins wanted to retain their communal life and the Friary—which had originally been



Rev. Alexis Lechański OFM Cap

constructed by Alfred T. Ringling of circus fame, who lived there until 1919. The last of the Dachau Capuchins died in 2010, but Oak Ridge remains alive under the care of a modern day Polish Capuchin, Brother Jerzy Krzyśków. He can be contacted at jkrzyzkow@yahoo.com or 1-908-922-6396 and would love to hear from those with memories of the priests from Dachau.

I vividly remember Fr. Alexis walking around the backyard of the rectory at now St. John Paul II Church, praying his Rosary in the evening twilight. He was regularly in the confessional at that parish, and served that parish until his health failed. As New Jerseyans recall the anniversary of Dachau’s liberation, let’s not forget: one of its survivors served Catholics in our own city by the bay.

City of Perth Amboy Maintains Credit Rating During Covid-19 Pandemic

Standard & Poors Releases Rating on Refunding Bonds

Press Release 4/29/20
PERTH AMBOY – S&P Global Ratings has just released its rating report for the City of Perth Amboy.

According to the report, S&P Global Ratings assigned its 'A+' long-term rating to Perth Amboy, N.J.'s series 2020A general improvement general obligation (GO) refunding bonds. At the same, time, the American credit agency affirmed its 'A+' rating on the city's existing GO debt. The outlook is stable.

The city's full faith and GO credit pledge secures the bonds. The proceeds from the series 2020A bonds will current refund all or a portion of the city's series 2007 refunded bonds.

Perth Amboy is home to many essential businesses who have continued to operate throughout the pandemic and in turn have continued to support the community. Maintaining this excellent credit rating, similar to credit reports generated for individuals, during the COVID-19 pandemic enables the city to save money, which directly benefits residents. The rating also means that whenever it comes time for the city to refinance their debt, they are afforded the ability to negotiate better rates; the city refinancing at a lower rate ultimately saves the taxpayers money in the long

run. It is fiscally prudent to strive to maintain a strong credit rating in order to stabilize the tax rate.

The rating was derived by taking into account the following information, listed directly from the report:

- Strong management, with good financial policies and practices under its Financial Management Assessment (FMA) methodology;
- Strong budgetary performance, with an operating surplus in the current fund in fiscal 2018 with another surplus estimated for fiscal 2019, as per the 2019 Annual Financial Statement (AFS);
- Strong budgetary flexibility, with an available fund balance in fiscal 2018 of 12.9% of operating expenditures;
- Very strong liquidity, with total government available cash at 40.6% of current fund expenditures and 2.6x governmental debt service, and access to external liquidity that it considers strongly;
- Very weak debt and contingent liability profile, with debt service carrying charges at 15.6% of expenditures and net direct debt that is 127.7% of general fund revenue, and a large pension and OPEB obligation and the lack of a plan to sufficiently address the obligation, but low

overall net debt at less than 3.0% of market value and rapid amortization, with 68.3% of debt scheduled to be retired in 10 years; and

- Strong institutional framework score.

“I am very proud to see Perth Amboy has been assigned an A+ rating for its 2020A general obligation refunding bonds,” said Mayor Wilda Diaz, “This report better helps us conceptualize the current state of the city and where we are succeeding. We will continue to identify cost cutting strategies and prepare for the future impact of COVID-19 to support our community during this defining moment in our city’s history.”

While the City continues to operate under emergency conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, The City of Perth Amboy remains focused on its financial situation and pursuit of long-term stability despite the current challenges.

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you may use this coupon.

A Petition to
St. Joseph

Cost \$10.
Pre-payment required.

A Petition to
St. Jude

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

G.T.A.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone_(____) _____

Initials at end of prayer_____

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

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

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

Thank you, St. Jude
F.M.J.

Prayer To St. Clare

For Employment

Prayer To St. Jude

Prayer To Blessed Mother

Prayer To Holy Spirit

Novena To St. Anthony

Prayer To Blessed Virgin

Thanksgiving Novena

Novena To St. Joseph

St. Jude Novena

Pray The Rosary

OTHER _____

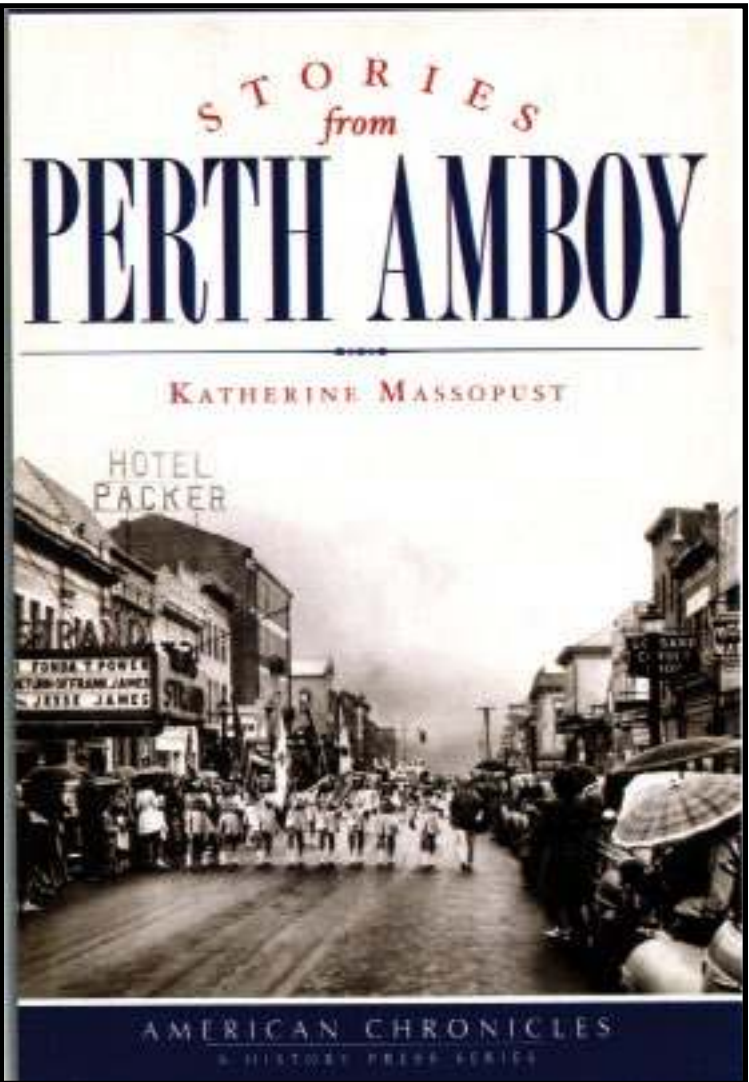
Novena to St. Rita

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.

Remember to
Say Your
Novenas!

Answers
From Puzzle
On Page 15

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



Stories From Perth Amboy
PERTH AMBOY - Stories From Perth Amboy by Katherine Massopust is available from Katherine at 732-261-2610 or on Amazon.com. A Great Gift! Get it now along with Then & Now: Perth Amboy!



LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY – The Archeological Dig took place in certain locations in Perth Amboy including "Calametrius" (between Caledonia Park and St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church) and the Proprietary House. The dig lasted from 1969 - 1976 and was supervised by Anton Massopust.
**Photo Courtesy of Massopust Family*
This photo was restored under a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission to the Kearny Cottage Historical Association.

Mikells Plot Performs at Asbury Lanes,
Asbury Park 3/6/20 *Photos by Jeff Crespi



Mikell’s Plot rocked Asbury Lanes in Asbury Park New Jersey. This was their last show before the Coronavirus

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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
David W. Rey – President, Junior Class of 1951

David Wilfred Rey was born and raised in Perth Amboy to parents William B. and Agnes T. Rey, who were immigrants from Anguilla. He was the youngest of three siblings.

David became one of the most popular students in high school. He was a member of the Senior Council, Senior Chorus and participated in many other extracurricular activities. Because of his outgoing personality and comedic but sly disposition, humor and wit unparalleled and fun and friendliness galore, he sought and was elected Junior Class President of 1951, only two years after Austin Gumbs was elected class president.

During David’s early years, he took tap dance lessons and appeared in and won many talent shows in the Perth Amboy area. He portrayed two prominent African American entertainers at school events and other contests: Cab Callaway, a very popular, zoot suited actor/entertainer from the 1930s and 1940s; and Bill “Bojangles” Robinson, an expert tap dancer and respected actor from the 1920s and 1930s. David received rave reviews for his performances.

David was a very good athlete. He played on the baseball team, ran track and later in life became a very good tennis player.

He was a very intelligent person and soon began thinking of college as a junior. Eventually, David attended Saint Paul’s College graduating with a B.Sc degree in 1956. He continued his education at Newark State College and earned an M.A. degree in 1963, and completed eighty-seven credits beyond an M.A. degree at Columbia University in 1968.

Professionally, David was an educator. He was appointed Assistant Principal of School No. 10 in 1969, and taught at William C. McGinnis School in 1976 and the Samuel E. Shull School in 1987 until his retirement from the Perth Amboy School System in 1994.

David was also president of two important organizations in Perth Amboy: The Sons and Daughters of Anguilla whose mission was working towards maintaining the connection to the Motherland (Anguilla) and identifying Anguillians worthy of achievement recognition. He also led the Modern Gents Social Club that promoted social events and sponsored academic scholarships to deserving and needy black students.



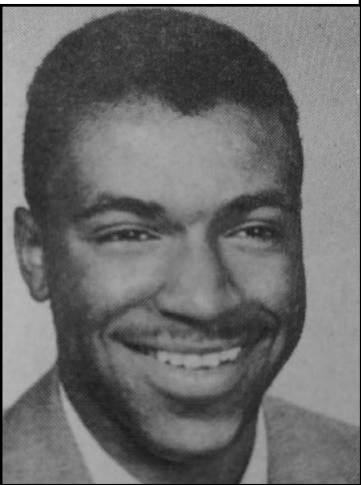
David W. Rey

Franklin R. Gumbs – President, Senior Class of 1954

Franklin Gumbs, younger brother of Austin Gumbs, was born and raised in Perth Amboy and was the fourth and youngest son of William Alexander and Edith Gertrude (Richardson) Gumbs of Crocus Bay and The Valley, Anguilla. He was affectionately called “Frankie” and came from the very popular and successful Gumbs family of Perth Amboy.

“Frankie” was large in heart and personality, with a remarkable natural ability to vocalize the issues affecting the Class of 1954. To be more specific, his assertive personality gave his classmates assurances that they could solve whatever problems they faced. He had a gift of gab, an easy laugh, a mind of his own and was just a happy-go-lucky fellow. Oft-times, just calling his name automatically brought a smile. His classmates loved him and his election to president of his class was expected.

He attended Fisk University, Lycoming College, and Seton Hall University. Professionally, “Frankie” served in the city’s Recreation Department for more than thirty-five years, where he was a Physical Education teacher in most of the parochial schools in Perth Amboy.



Franklin R. Gumbs



Perth Amboy Fire Department Gets New Fire Truck
**Photo Submitted by R.J. Kawka*



PERTH AMBOY - The PAFD took delivery of new rescue 1 pierce arrow on 3/17/20 in service on 4/6/20 that replaced the old First Aid Squad Rescue 95 and Old Ford Rescue 1 and a new foam tender from Ferrara.



Pet of the Week



Cheyenne, Love Don

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

The Best Way to Avoid an Audit: Preparation

Getting audited by the IRS is no fun. Some taxpayers are selected for random audits every year, but the chances of that happening to you are very small. You are much more likely to fall under the IRS's gaze if you make one of several common mistakes. That means your best chance of avoiding an audit is by doing things right before you file your return this year. Here are some suggestions:

Don't leave anything out. Missing or incomplete information on your return will trigger an audit letter automatically, since the IRS gets copies of the same tax forms (such as W-2s and 1099s) that you do.

Double-check your numbers. Bad math will get you audited. People often make calculation errors when they do their returns, especially if they do them without assistance. In 2019, the IRS sent out more than 1.2 million examination letters correcting math errors. The most frequent errors occurred in people's calculation of their amount of tax due, as well as the number of exemptions and deductions they claimed.

Don't stand out. The IRS takes a closer look at business expenses, charitable donations and high-value itemized deductions. IRS computers reference statistical data on which amounts of these items are typical for various professions and income levels. If what you are claiming is significantly different from what is typical, it may be flagged for review.

Have your documentation in order. Keep your records in order by being meticulous about your recordkeeping. Items that will support the tax breaks you take include: cancelled checks, receipts, credit card and investment statements, logs for mileage and business meals, and proof of charitable donations. With proper documentation, a correspondence letter from the IRS inquiring about a particular deduction can be quickly resolved before it turns into a full-blown audit.

Remember, the average person has a less than 1 percent chance of being audited. If you prepare now, you can narrow your audit chances even further and rest easy after you've filed.

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.

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ACROSS

- 1 18th-century card game
- 4 Fa follower
- 7 Reference
- 11 French islands
- 13 Memorable years
- 14 ____ about (approximate-ly, 2 wds.)
- 15 Less than one
- 16 Walking like a duck
- 18 Vase
- 20 Written reminder
- 21 Neighbor of Phoenix
- 24 Dueler's memento
- 26 Wish undone
- 27 Eager beaver
- 29 Sound repetition
- 33 Mine products
- 35 "____ Loser" (2 wds.)
- 36 College post
- 37 "Oz" dog
- 38 Bird beaks
- 40 Adam's madam
- 41 Hardwood trees
- 43 Desert stops
- 45 Animal lairs
- 47 Opposite of SSE
- 48 Tedious
- 51 "Pequod" captain
- 55 Bald man's lack
- 56 Letters on some tow

trucks

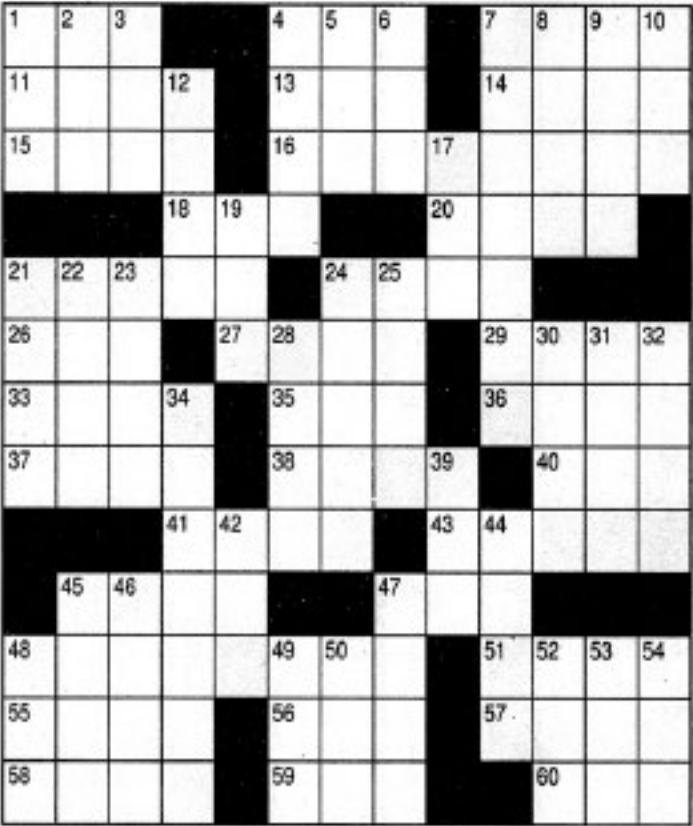
- 57 Workout spot (abbr.)
- 58 Caribous' kin
- 59 Highest point
- 60 Baseball great Mel

DOWN

- 1 Actress Taylor's nickname
- 2 Barcelona "rah"
- 3 "____ the ramparts..."
- 4 Stitched
- 5 "...man ____ mouse?" (2 wds.)

- 6 Scottish boy
- 7 Used crayons
- 8 Name's first letter (abbr.)
- 9 Color quality
- 10 Unit of energy
- 12 "Duck ____"
- 17 Heredity inits.
- 19 Primary color
- 21 Turkey ____
- 22 Currency unit in Italy
- 23 Get together
- 24 Big rigs
- 25 Grouchy person
- 28 Sty sound
- 30 Fair grades
- 31 "____ fun!"
- 32 Smallest bills

- 34 Oklahoma natives
- 39 Junior
- 42 Brayer on the farm
- 44 Gone
- 45 Clock face
- 46 Estrada of "CHiPs"
- 47 Lowest tide
- 48 Common title start
- 49 Granola grain
- 50 ____ Tse-tung
- 52 "Managed care" inits.
- 53 Perform onstage
- 54 Flutter



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