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# AMBOY GUARDIAN

• VOL. 10 NO. 9 • 732-896-4446 • P.O. BOX 127 • PERTH AMBOY • NJ • 08862 • WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2020 •

## Mayor Appoints New Business Administrator Council President Petrick Voices Concerns (See Page 4)



**Business Administrator Frederick Carr Abruptly Dismissed by Mayor Diaz**



**Business Administrator Patricia Perkins Appointed by Mayor Diaz**

PERTH AMBOY - Mayor Wilda Diaz came under fire for unexpectedly terminating Business Administrator Frederick Carr.

Frederick Carr was appointed Business Administrator January 22, 2019 who has over 20 years experience in municipal management. He served as Business Administrator in South River, Bloomfield Township, Matawan, and Carney, Kansas. He also was the Senior Manager of Cranford. During his military career, he served in the Gulf War and held command and staff positions in the US Army which included Infantry and Rifle Platoon Leader. He received the Bronze Star in Operation Desert Shield/Storm. He has a bachelor's degree from West Point in General Engineering

and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University. He has many years of leadership experience in the state and has provided effective management in operational budget preparation and execution which includes long term planning, facilities management and administrative oversight. (Source: press release from Mayor Diaz's office dated 1/25/19)

Mayor Diaz temporarily appointed Lissette Martinez as Interim Business Administrator for a short period of time before deciding to appoint Patricia Perkins for a 90-day period as Interim Business Administrator effective August 3, 2020. Perkins has over 28 years of experience in government.

## Statement from U.S. District Judge Esther Salas

As Reported from Multiple News Agencies

NEW BRUNSWICK/PERTH AMBOY - Two weeks ago, my life as I knew it changed in an instant, and my family will never be the same. A madman, who I believe was targeting me because of my position as a federal judge, came to my house.

Our family had just finished a weekend celebration in honor of our son Daniel Mark's 20th birthday. Daniel always wanted to spend his birthdays with his dad and me, so he asked we host a party for a few of his Catholic University of America friends. Because of the pandemic, his father, Mark, and I had some concerns; however, we thought we could adhere to safety guide-



**Judge Esther Salas**

lines and we agreed to allow his friends to come spend the

*\*Continued on Page 8*

## Distribution of Food - Perth Amboy YMCA 7/21/20 \*Photos by Paul W. Wang

Press Release  
PERTH AMBOY - For years the Y along with trusted partners have been focused on creating long-term, equitable change in Perth Amboy. Our coalition, called Healthier Perth Amboy (HPA), has examined policies, procedures, and environmental concerns that could be altered or changed to benefit our community. We are a network of nonprofits, healthcare centers, school-based representatives, city officials, and faith-based groups with the mission of providing the resources and tools necessary for every resident to reach their desired level of health.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has devastated our city. We are second highest in both illness and death, closely behind a neighboring town with roughly twice our population. We realize that we cannot only focus on long term change if our residents are now jobless and struggling to put food on the table. Therefore, we have expanded our focus to also provide direct needs, particularly access to quality food.

Each week we have two food distributions here at the Y in Perth Amboy. Fresh produce is delivered in boxes from the Seashore Fruit & Produce Company in partnership with the NJ YMCA State Alliance, The Common Market in partnership with Hackensack Meridian Health and Sodexo, as well as the New Jersey Community Food Bank. Our partners from God's Army Ministries as well as YMCA staff and volunteers help distribute boxes, serving over 800 families a week. Healthier Perth Amboy partners such as the City of Perth Amboy, PARTNER, JRF, Cathedral International, and PRAHD often pick up boxes to distribute directly to families that lack transportation. The Perth Amboy Board of Education, a member of HPA, distributes meals, at several sites daily. Our partners also work in concert with local food pantries. Overall, we are continuously working on improving this system to ensure that no family is left behind.

According to Darrin Anderson, Darrin Anderson, Sr., PhD, MS, Executive Director/CEO, NEW JERSEY YMCA STATE ALLIANCE, "New Jersey YMCAs are doing their part to support families and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through

partnerships with The Community Food Bank of NJ & Seashore Produce Dist. Co., YMCAs have distributed almost 30,000 boxes of fresh produce and 12,000 boxes of shelf-stable foods to families in need. Addressing food insecurity is part of our mission, and we aim to leave no family hungry."

Food distribution is provided in conjunction with services for our homeless residents, of which we have opened our doors to provide showers and a hot meal twice a week since the shelter in place order. As the Y opens up we will continue to provide these services at the Center for Support, a Y-funded program focused on ensuring a path to self-sufficiency and behavioral health services for the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.

Healthier Perth Amboy will continue to provide direct services to our community and lead our road back. We are proud of our work so far but know we could not have this much success without the support and collaboration of Healthier Perth Amboy partners.

At A Glance: Number of Distribution Dates: 16; Number of cases of produce distributed: 4800; Value of produce: \$144,000; Number of people served: 19,000+



Asw. Yvonne Lopez, NJ First Lady Tammy Murphy, YMCA CEO & President Steve Jobin



NJ First Lady Tammy Murphy, Mayor Wilda Diaz & Councilman Helmin Caba distribute food



Updates on Coronavirus Outbreak: [www.perthamboynj.org](http://www.perthamboynj.org) & [www.southamboynj.gov](http://www.southamboynj.gov) & [www.amboyguardian.com](http://www.amboyguardian.com)



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Revisiting PBA Grievance, Vaping, Bamboo &  
Other Topics for Discussion

7/15/20 Business & Council Meeting via phone conferencing

By: Katherine Massopust  
SOUTH AMBOY – The 7/15/20 South Amboy Business and Council Meetings were merged into one meeting. The first order of business was to discuss the grievance that the PBA filed against the Business Administrator. Council Vice President Christine Noble recused herself from the discussion and vote but remained on the line to listen with approval from the council.

PBA Representative Brian Noble brought the PBA Attorney: Mike Bukowski, who spoke for the PBA. “We have a grievance filed in a schedule change with the COVID-19 crisis. This type of grievance has become common. Other towns had grievances. They sat down with the town and worked out the new schedule. I sent the town (South Amboy) letters and got no response from anybody. I’m not sure who made the decision and if it was ultimately made. As a result, a lot of unfortunate things occurred. When we went to 12 hours (shift), a lot of issues occurred. Some people were working nights, the wrong people were put in supervisory positions. We have a contract. If the town wants to put 12 hours shifts, the officers get overtime. Instead of working 15 days a month, say they work 12 hours a day with no overtime. South Amboy is the only town that didn’t do that. That is not what the contract says. We put in a grievance and got no response. Now this is all done. We have to comply with the contract. The contract calls for extra pay. The contract is very clear. Emergencies happen all the time. People have kids, spouses, obligations.”

Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski made his statement, “I have 2 issues: first addressed is the initial grievance. The second is with the council. The council upheld the grievance. There was a provision in the contract with schedule change. As far as overtime pay, I did not see that in the contract. Article 10; Section 2 on all overtime on over 40 hours/week. Overtime is calculated on a 40-hour work week. We took normal action. Overtime is calculated at 4.1 hours a week. We paid retroactive of the payroll. I’m willing to look at the contract.”

Council President Mickey Gross then requested that after the meeting, the two parties (B.A. Skarzynski and the PBA) sit down and make a phone call offline to work out this out. Both parties agreed to do this. Gross noted that South Amboy has the best police department around.

There was a discussion regarding the proposed vaping ordinance. Law Director Francis Womack explained the proposed ordinance. “The model came out in Piscataway. It takes into account our zoning and takes into account the areas where there is exposure to vaping. We allow vaping sales to occur in the business district and the

Rte. 35 business district (within a certain distance). There is a 500-meter circumference in the types of places (to prohibit sales) such as: schools, firehouses, churches, etc.” Womack went on to explain the distances on Broadway and on Bordentown Avenue and on Rte. 35. “We can’t control this 100%. We never know what the future will hold. We allow vaping within limited areas and certain distances in a 500-meter radius.”

Councilman Thomas Reilly thanked Law Director Womack for getting this done. “We all know how dangerous this is.” Reilly reminded everyone that 500 meters is approximately 1640 feet (the length of 5½ football fields).

There was another discussion regarding resident permit parking at the Fisherman’s parking lot. Law Director Womack stated that under South Amboy’s current city codes, it does not let the fisherman’s parking lot become a South Amboy resident parking lot.

There was a brief discussion regarding No. 07-2020 – establishing standards for electronic meetings. Councilman Thomas Reilly asked how it will be determined if the public is able to participate.

City Clerk Debra Brooks replied that the council uses the same system that the public is using.

There was a question from the public from Resident Bill DeMasi who asked if a link to the meeting and could be copied the calendar so you could click on it and add it to your Google Calendar. It was noted by City Clerk Brooks that if the council can get on to the meeting then so can the public because they are on the same system.

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated that putting the link of the meeting on Google Calendar could be done.

Council Comments:

Councilman Thomas Reilly mentioned the illegal palate business that needs to be addressed. He also mentioned the issue involving senior parking behind city hall.

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated he didn’t get to the senior parking yet because there are still other issues that have to take priority.

Reilly asked about the progress between the Progressive and Enterprise Firehouses.

Skarzynski stated that the fire companies are not being merged and there is an ongoing discussion with the Fire Department leadership regarding moving the firehouse.

Councilman Reilly then asked about a resident who complained about a bamboo issue in his backyard.

B.A. Skarzynski stated that the resident who has the bamboo (and it is growing on the neighbor’s property) has been sent a summons.

Reilly then asked about the 4-hour parking signs on First and Second Street and request-

ed that this issue be put on the next agenda.

Reilly then added there is a fundraiser for Mike Coman who is having health issues. The fundraiser is on Sunday, August 23, 2020 at the Enterprise Firehouse. He noted that more information is on the South Amboy website. (See Page 10 of the Amboy Guardian) “It’s \$100 per pair of people to participate. Mike has given so much to this town.”

Reilly then mentioned about PILOTS. “When taxes get raised, their taxes are locked in.”

Councilwoman Zuzette Dato reminded everyone to support local businesses. She also reminded everyone to fill out their 2020 Census forms. “South Amboy is at 66.4% on participation (in the census). Over 30% have not yet participated. You can do it online. It’s confidential. Billions in funds of dollars rely on the census.”

Council Vice President Christine Noble reminded everyone to slow down when driving and be careful.

Councilman Brian McLaughlin thanked all the healthcare providers, the police and fire departments. He then asked about Cambridge.

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated, “We had progress. Our Code Enforcement is on that. They have been informed in what they need to do.” He stated that their trucks keep on idling.

Board President Mickey Gross thanked City Clerk Debra Brooks and B.A. Glenn Skarzynski for putting this meeting together. He then spoke about the pandemic. “COVID-19 is still going on. This is not the time to let our guard down and our mask down. It is real! I thank the first responders, the fire department, the police department and everyone involved in the health department.”

Mayor Fred Henry thanked City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz for overseeing the streets being paved including Steven’s Avenue and O’Leary Boulevard and there are more roads to be paved.”

Public Portion:

John Street Resident William DeMasi made some comments, “I am the resident with the bamboo issue in my yard. Are they (the resident who has the bamboo growing everywhere including on his property) required to move the bamboo? It is not clear to the resident that they need to remove the bamboo.”

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated, “Code Enforcement will make it clear to the owner that the bamboo needs to be removed.”

All council members were present. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

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## Dr. Harold McKenna Inspires the Community

Press Release  
PERTH AMBOY - Alameda’s frontline workers were inspired and galvanized at a celebratory event dedicated to recognizing their courage and fortitude during the pandemic. Dr. Harold McKenna, the Medical Director of Alameda Care Center, was especially laudatory in his remarks, as he reflected on his affiliation with Alameda, and particularly the staff’s overall sincere commitment and devotion to Alameda’s residents.

“When the crisis developed I was in contact with both the nursing staff and the administration on a regular basis,” said Dr. McKenna, “and they handled the crisis admirably.”

Dr. McKenna noted Alameda’s strict adherence to guidelines that keep the facility COVID-free, with monitoring of patients’ temperature and weekly testing, and twice-weekly testing of all employees. Moreover, every patient admitted to Alameda from a hospital is administered a COVID test prior to admission to verify their COVID-free status. All patients have private rooms which, obviously, limits any type of contagion as well.

“Alameda has always been known for their compassion,” said Dr. McKenna, as he praised the nursing staff who were



Dr. Harold McKenna

available seven days a week, 24/7, caring for the patients. He spoke with deep respect of their performance during the crisis, which he personally observed. “I was often here on the weekends and saw their hands-on clinical expertise as they put their own lives at risk to care for Alameda’s residents,” he said.

“I think going forward anyone would be proud and satisfied to have a loved one or a family member in this facility,” Dr. McKenna concluded. For more information on Alameda Care and Rehab please call Marilou Villacis @ +1 (732) 864-6684



## EDITORIAL

Propolice Protesters march across the Brooklyn Bridge on 7/15/20.  
\*Photo Jake Offenhartz / Gothamist



I don't know if you saw the video between Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot who had a very contentious exchange during a telephone conversation with one of the City's Councilman. I cannot repeat some of the language she used towards him, but she started, and he came right back at her. He was very concerned because rioters were coming to his constituent's neighborhood and causing destruction. Lightfoot was not sympathetic to what he was saying. She got a

As I have stated before, there is not one profession that is untouched by bad apples, and you cannot paint a broad picture. So, take what I have written for what it's worth and don't always assume you know what someone else is thinking. It's best just to go and ask the people who will be affected by this action (defunding the police). **C.M.**


## THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Here's something to be concerned about: it's called the "Liberal Far Left " and who are they? They're a group of people that think far left and trying to

Where is the leadership under our present city government in this, our beautiful community? In the last 12 years, Wilda Diaz has cut the ribbons at many business openings—businesses

Diaz has cut out the city council from receiving any communication from the administration. We were getting daily Covid-19 updates from the BA. Updates on police and fire activities were a matter of course.

William Petrick  
President,  
Perth Amboy City Council



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August 19  
September 2  
September 16  
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October 21  
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November 18  
December 2  
December 16

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

MON. Aug. 10 City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m.  
YMCA, New Brunswick Ave. 4:30 p.m.  
WED. Aug. 12 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.  
YMCA, New Brunswick Ave. 7 p.m.  
THURS. Aug. 27 Board of Education, 5:30 p.m.  
Admin. Building, Barracks St.

South Amboy

WED. Aug. 19 City Council, Business & Regular 6 p.m.  
City Hall, N. Broadway

All meetings are subject to change. 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](http://www.amboyguardian.com) for updates on meeting times and places

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Safety Announcement From Mayor Wilda Diaz Regarding the Recent Incidents in NYC and NJ

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

**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.

# KEEP GETTING EMERGENCY CARE



**STAYING HEALTHY IS PART OF STAYING SAFE.**

We’ve all spent the past few months taking extra precautions in order to stay safe. But right now, staying healthy is just as important.

If you or a loved one is experiencing severe symptoms such as chest pain, difficulty breathing, vision or balance problems or severe abdominal pain, go to the closest emergency room or call 911.



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Raritan Bay Medical Center  
KEEP GETTING BETTER



# Vitale Bill to Shore-up NJ Health Insurance Market Passes Committee

Press Release 7/23/20  
TRENTON – In the face of a federal government determined to undermined the Affordable Care Act of 2010, Senator Joe Vitale sponsored another bill that would help shore-up the New Jersey’s health insurance market by instating a state-level health insurance assessment (HIA) fee.

The New Jersey fee would not be a new charge but would replace the current HIA which is a federal fee on health insurance companies that was established to help fund the ACA. The state-level HIA, which would replace the existing fee, set to expire January 1, 2021, would generate revenue to improve health care access and affordability through a variety of mechanisms. Revenues would be used to fund subsidies, re-insurance, tax policies, outreach and enrollment efforts, and other endeavors to extend coverage to and improve affordability of health insurance for low- and moderate-income families and the uninsured.

“This bill will help to ensure that people are able to af-

ford health insurance during this critical time when a global disease is not only threatening their health, but their financial security in unimaginable ways,” said Senator Joe Vitale (D-Middlesex), Chair of the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee. “Of the many fissures exposed by COVID-19, the deficiencies in a system that relies on employer-based coverage is one that can’t be ignored. These subsidies could not come at a more critical time, in the midst of a pandemic, when health insurance is more vital than ever.”

The HIA proposed in this bill is projected to bring in over \$300 million in revenue for New Jersey in calendar year 2021. However, since it is continuing the structure of fees already in place, New Jersey should not see an overall increase in premiums due to the assessment.

The bill passed the Senate Commerce Committee today by a vote of 3-2 today and next heads to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee for further review.

# City of Perth Amboy Expands Internet Capabilities for Students

Press Release 7/21/20  
PERTH AMBOY – The City of Perth Amboy will be expanding Wi-Fi and hotspot capabilities in an effort to aid families who don’t have access to internet services. View the link to the video announcement from Mayor Wilda Diaz here.

Wi-Fi is already available inside certain buildings; however, places such as the Perth Amboy Public Library and the Brighton Avenue Community Center will also be providing Wi-Fi access around the exterior areas of the buildings. Providing this exterior internet access is critical due to social distancing guidelines that are in place as a result of COVID-19. The city is in the process of renewing Wi-Fi service throughout Washington Park, which would be available in the next few weeks. The City of Perth Amboy is also considering other areas to provide internet capabilities, such as the exterior areas of buildings within the business district.

Adding to the city’s efforts, the Perth Amboy School District has ensured every child in the City of Perth Amboy has received a tablet so that they are able to complete schoolwork. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. David Roman, has also in-

formed the mayor that they are currently working on upgrades to those tablets. The district is also seeking to provide enough hotspots for families who do not already have internet access.

When speaking of the partnership with Perth Amboy Public Schools, Mayor Wilda Diaz commented, “It truly has been a great partnership working with the schools because with the help of the Board of Education we have been able to provide 250,000 meals to students during the pandemic.” Diaz continued, “It’s all about partnership and collaboration.”

Many families have been concerned about protecting their children as they return to school in the fall amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Phil Murphy has announced that the New Jersey Department of Education will be releasing guidance which will allow parents to choose all-remote learning for students. The DOE measure, in conjunction with Perth Amboy expanding internet capabilities, will aid in keeping students and faculty safe.

If you have questions regarding your child’s school sessions or homework access, you are encouraged to contact your child’s principal for clarity.

# Perth Amboy-Based Tropical Cheese Ind. Supplying Tons of Groceries To Thousands of Local Families Facing Severe Food Shortages

*Tropical Cheese Founder Rafael Mendez, His Family and the Company Helping to Restock City’s Inventory of Groceries that Aids Households, Food Pantries and Feeding Programs*

Press Release 7/22/20  
PERTH AMBOY – The City of Perth Amboy has received bountiful donations of groceries and dairy products from Tropical Cheese Industries. Rafael Mendez, who founded the company that is based in Perth Amboy, and his family have donated tons of groceries to stock and then re-stock the city’s food distribution center, which is helping thousands of families feed their households. Each time the inventory of food was running low, Tropical Cheese provided more resources.

Recently, Mr. Mendez, his family and Tropical Cheese pledged to donate an additional \$100,000 worth of company products and all types of groceries to the community’s food relief efforts. The first shipment of 14 pallets of food has already been delivered to Perth Amboy’s food distribution center on Olive Street and more deliveries are on the way. The cases of food contain beans, cooking oils, eggs, canned goods, fresh fruits, onions, plantains, potatoes, rice and vegetables. Tropical Cheese is donating many of its brand name cheeses, deserts, beverages and more.

Tropical Cheese Industries started to contribute its branded products and cases of basic groceries when the COVID-19 pandemic shut down much of the city and state in early March. The company quietly emerged as a reliable resource for food after Irving Lozada, the city’s acting director of Code Enforcement, shared details with Mr. Mendez about how the city was responding to the food shortages.

Mr. Lozada, who was gathering food donations from local bodegas, explained to Rafael that too many families in Perth Amboy were unable to feed their households. Mr. Mendez responded immediately and began sending shipments of Tropical’s cheese and dairy products, plus basic groceries, to the city’s food distribution center.

Speaking for the company, his family and employees, Mr. Mendez said, “I’ve been involved in the Perth Amboy community for the past 50 years. It brings me tremendous satisfaction to help people because I see a need triggered by the pandemic. We are grateful to have the resources to help our neighbors who are suffering and are trying to feed their families.”

Each day, teams from the city’s Department of Human Services and the Office of Recreation sort the grocery items and prepare more than 30 cartons of food for local families. Volunteer drivers load the boxes in their vehicles and then make food deliveries. Department Director Kenneth Ortiz, who has organized and coordinated the grocery distributions, said, “With the contributions from Tropical Cheese, local companies and generous people, we have delivered groceries to more than 5,500 families.”

Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz said, “We’re incredibly grateful that Tropical Cheese, which is a local, family-run business and one of the city’s largest private employers, is donating huge amounts of its award-winning products and



PERTH AMBOY - Rafael Mendez (center), the founder of Tropical Cheese Industries in Perth Amboy, his family and the company have generously pledged to donate more than \$100,000 worth of groceries to the community’s food relief efforts. Mr. Mendez stepped forward in early March and began contributing branded dairy and cheese products plus groceries to the local food distribution center managed by Perth Amboy’s Department of Human Services (DHS). Standing in front of the company’s headquarters and processing plant, from left, are: Perth Amboy’s Acting Director of Code Enforcement Irving Lozada, Tropical Cheese Ind.’s Sr. Vice President Luis Mendez, Mr. Mendez and Chief Marketing Officer Vanessa Mendez-Gamez as well as city DHS Supervisor Isamar Payano, Barry Rosengarten, chairman of Perth Amboy COVID Help; and DHS Director Kenneth Ortiz.

*\*Photo by Bob Rinklin and James Erwin for Perth Amboy COVID Help*

truckloads of groceries to feed so many families. While the number of households requesting food deliveries is slightly declining, we expect that our families may face food insecurity issues for months to come.”

The grocery donations from the Mendez family and Tropical Cheese will help restock the city’s inventory of food, according to Mr. Ortiz. Also, the not-for-profit Perth Amboy COVID Help organization – a joint effort by the city and the nonprofit Celebrate Our Stars & Stripes committee – continues to gather donations from corporations, local companies and other donors.

The organization’s chairman Barry Rosengarten said, “The significant donations by Ralph Mendez and Tropical Cheese have restored the hope for households struggling to feed their families. Our team is humbled and grateful for all the contributions we have received, and this generosity shows how our community joins together to help one another. The reality is that our work goes forward because we are still recovering from the coronavirus crisis, which has disrupted many of our businesses and families and the entire city.”

More donations are needed. The fastest way to contribute is by visiting the nonprofit’s website: <http://www.perthamboycovidhelp.org>. Or send donations to Perth Amboy COVID Help, P.O. Box 999, Perth Amboy, N.J. 08862. Please make checks payable to: CPA COVID-19 HELP.

Deep Roots in the Community

Mr. Mendez arrived in Perth Amboy after leaving Cuba in the early 1960s. As a young man, he wanted to go into business for himself, but, like many entrepreneurs with a vision, he had little money and even less access to credit. With a well-used, \$500 truck, he started a business delivering milk door-to-door to local households.

Within a few years, he owned 50

trucks that were making wholesale milk deliveries. The company was soon doing more than \$1.5 million a week in sales in a highly competitive business.

At this time, Mr. Mendez noticed that only one company was producing the Queso Blanco cheese for the Hispanic market. The company began to shift its focus from milk to cheese production. Tropical Cheese was soon producing its own award-winning Queso Blanco and many exceptional cheeses and Latino-targeted dairy products. Tropical sold its milk business in 2004.

Today, Tropical Cheese, which has distribution centers in Florida, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, generates more than \$200 million in annual sales. The business employs 400 people, including hundreds of workers at its Perth Amboy headquarters and modern processing plant. Mr. Mendez’s adult children, Vanessa Mendez-Gamez, Chief Marketing Officer, and Luis Mendez, Senior Vice President, are now helping to manage the rapidly growing business. They and their dedicated employees will continue the Mendez family legacy by producing the highest quality dairy products, serving their customers nationwide and assisting the local community when help is needed.

**About Perth Amboy COVID Help**

*Perth Amboy COVID Help is not-for-profit organization that is guided by a committee of individuals that includes local leaders from the City of Perth Amboy, business owners, pastors and residents as well as board members from the city’s Business Improvement District (BID). Its mission is to rapidly gather contributions, purchase food and distribute the goods to needy families in Perth Amboy. CPA COVID-19-HELP is a 501(c) (3) entity. Each contribution is 100% tax deductible*

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Have Your Voice Heard!**



## Pallone Announces More than \$1 Million in Grant Funding for Perth Amboy Fire Department and Port Security

Press Release 7/14/20  
PERTH AMBOY, NJ – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) today announced that Perth Amboy will receive more than \$1 million in grant funding to strengthen emergency response and keep New Jerseyans safe. A \$900,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Port Security Grant Program will replace the fire department’s Marine 5, a 15-year-old dive boat used for the southern part of the Port of New Jersey and New York. Another grant of \$45,000 will help maintain the city’s police boats, Marine 2, Marine 3, Marine 6, and Marine 7. Perth Amboy also received over \$75,000 from the Department of Homeland Security’s Assistance to Firefighters Grant – COVID-19 Supplemental Program (AFG-S) through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

“This funding will better equip our first responders to handle emergency situations that regularly occur along the port, including fire and rescue protection services. The replacement vessel for Marine 5 is necessary for critical search and rescue missions in the

region,” said Congressman Pallone. “As the coronavirus pandemic threatens our state and local budgets, it is critical that we continue to fully fund our public services. Supplemental funding provided by the CARES Act along with FEMA grant funding will go a long way to help the Perth Amboy Fire Department protect the community.”

In March, Pallone sent a letter to FEMA in support of this critical grant funding. The new Marine 5 will have greater capacity to fight fires, pumping more than 8,750 gallons per minute of water to protect Perth Amboy’s waterfront. The Perth Amboy Fire Department routinely utilizes the vessel in coordination with the United States Coast Guard and the New Jersey Regional Fire Boat Task Force.

The fire department will use the supplemental AFG funding to purchase personal protective equipment and related supplies to protect our first responders during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pallone helped include \$100 million in supplemental funds for the AFG-S program in the CARES Act, a \$2 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by Congress and signed into law in March.

## Sacred Heart R.C. Church to Offer Spanish Masses

Press Release 7/23/20  
SOUTH AMBOY - Bishop James Checchio of the Dioceses of Metuchen has requested that Sacred Heart Church (SHC) begin exploring the needs for a Spanish Ministry.

Pastor Stanley Gromadzki has assembled an exploratory committee in an attempt to minister to the Hispanic Communities of South Amboy, Sayreville, Old Bridge and surrounding communities. Fr. Stanley said, “We will begin offering Spanish Masses once a month on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and gradually assess the spiritual pulse of the Spanish Pa-

rishioner.”

In compliance with the Governor’s Executive orders, all masses offer a socially distant environment, hand sanitizers and masks must be worn at all times by all, except when receiving holy communion after completion of the mass.

August 2 and August 30 at 2 p.m. will be the, “First of hopefully many,” Fr. Stanley said. The Parish will also attempt to celebrate other religious Spanish holidays that are normally celebrated.

For more information, please visit [sacredheartsa.org](http://sacredheartsa.org).

## South Amboy Receives \$5.3 Million Dollar Federal Grant

Press Release  
SOUTH AMBOY - The City of South Amboy has been awarded 5.3 million dollars from the Federal Transit Administration 2020 Passenger Ferry Grant Program. Mayor Fred Henry was notified of the award by Congressman Frank Pallone (DNJ-06).

“South Amboy has been working to establish regular passenger ferry service between the City and New York for almost two decades. This major funding opportunity would not have been possible without the strong support of Congressman Pallone” said Mayor Henry.

Henry continued, “This ambitious project has not been without complications. However, we are finally able to move forward with construction of this major transportation improvement that will benefit our residents, and the residents of Middlesex County.

The City of South Amboy has been at the nexus of commercial and residential redevelopment in New Jersey. The Manhattan Beach development is currently under construction and is adjacent to the Ferry Terminal site. Using a design conceived by French and Parello Engineering and USA Architects, the ferry facility will offer a state-of-the-art terminal building, over 700 hundred parking spaces, and convenient dock facilities to provide safe and easy boarding.

“Working closely with our team of professionals, our partners at the New Jersey State Department of Transportation, The Department of Environmental Protection, and the State Historic Preservation Office, the facility will feature historical artifacts recovered from the site of



the Amboy & Camden Railroad which operated from the waterfront location in the 1800s.” Mayor Henry said, “While we always have to look to accommodate our needs for the future, we don’t want to neglect the role the City has played as a transportation hub in the past.”

As one of the four original State designated Transit Vil-

lages South Amboy will be the only site in New Jersey to offer rail and ferry services within walking distance of each other. Over the next few months, the Mayor’s staff will be finalizing some remaining governmental approvals and expects to be able to advertise for bids before the end of 2020.

[WWW.AMBOYGUARDIAN.COM](http://WWW.AMBOYGUARDIAN.COM)

## Statement from U.S. District Judge Esther Salas

*\*Continued from Page 1*

weekend. The weekend was a glorious one. It was filled with love, laughter, and smiles. As Daniel’s last friend departed on Sunday, we decided to give Daniel a pass on his usher duties. When Mark and I returned from church, Daniel was upstairs sleeping, and we decided to give him a little rest. (1:20) As the afternoon progressed, it was time to clean up from the weekend festivities; Daniel and I went downstairs to the basement and we were chatting, as we always do. And Daniel said “Mom, let’s keep talking, I love talking to you, Mom”. It was at that exact moment that the doorbell rang, and Daniel looked at me and said, “Who is that?”

And before I could say a word, he sprinted upstairs. Within seconds, I heard the sound of bullets and someone screaming, “No!”

I later learned that this monster, who had a FedEx package in his hand, opened fire, but

Daniel being Daniel, protected his father and he took the shooter’s first bullet directly to the chest. The monster then turned his attention to my husband and began to shoot at my husband, one shot after another. Mark was shot three times: one bullet entered his right chest, the other his left abdomen, and the last one in the right forearm. (3:05) While my husband is still in the hospital recovering from multiple surgeries, we are living every parent’s worst nightmare — making preparations to bury our only child, Daniel.

My family has experienced a pain that no one should ever have to endure. And I am here asking everyone to help me ensure that no one ever has to experience this kind of pain. We may not be able to stop something like this from happening again, but we can make it hard for those who target us to track us down.

As a federal judge, I took an oath to administer justice without respect to a person’s race, gender, or economic status. As I speak to you today, I can hon-

estly say that I have worked tirelessly to uphold that pledge. As federal judges, we understand that our decisions will be scrutinized, and some may disagree strongly with our rulings. We know that our job requires us to make tough calls, and sometimes those calls can leave people angry and upset.

That comes with the territory and we accept that.

But what we cannot accept is when we are forced to live in fear for our lives because personal information, like our home addresses, can be easily obtained by anyone seeking to do us or our families harm.

Unfortunately, for my family, the threat was real and the free flow of information from the Internet allowed this sick and depraved human being to find all our personal information and target us.

(5:28) Currently, federal judges’ addresses and other information is readily available on the Internet. In addition, there are companies that will sell your personal details that can be leveraged for nefarious purposes.

In my case, this monster knew where I lived and what church we attended and had a complete dossier on me and my family. At the moment there is nothing we can do to stop it, and that is unacceptable.

My son’s death cannot be in vain, which is why I am begging those in power to do something to help my brothers and sisters on the bench.

(6:18) Now, more than ever, we need to identify a solution that keeps the lives of federal judges private. I know this is a complicated issue, and I don’t pretend to know or have all answers, but together we can find a way. Let’s commence a national dialogue, let’s work collaboratively to find a solution that will safeguard the privacy of federal judges.

Let me be clear and tell you firsthand—this is a matter of life and death. And we can’t just sit back and wait for another tragedy to strike.

Finally, I would be remiss if I failed to thank the people who have done their part to try and relieve a little bit of this unfathomable pain that we are experi-

encing. Mark and I want to express our heartfelt appreciation to all the first responders, to the doctors, including, but not limited to Drs. Choron, Flippin, Gupta, and Littlejohn, the countless nurses, too many to name but you know we love you, staff and leadership at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital who have helped to treat Mark and me over the last two weeks. Thank you to all law enforcement agencies – federal, local, and state. I know I spoke with many of you last week and you prefer to remain nameless, but I need you to know that you’re in our hearts and we can’t thank you enough for all that you do. (8:22) And to everyone who reached out, and to everyone who said a prayer, and to everyone who is keeping my family in your thoughts – thank you. The outpouring of love has been overwhelming and I can tell you it has lifted us during our darkest hours.

I just want to say thank you to you all and I love you.



# Danielsen, Mazzeo & Pintor Marin Bill To Hold First Responders, Campus Police Harmless For Damages During Forced Entry Emergencies Clears Assembly

Press Release 7/31/20  
TRENTON - Exempting first responders and campus police from liability for damages caused in forced entry during an emergency, legislation sponsored by Assembly Democrats Joe Danielsen, Vince Mazzeo and Eliana Pintor Marin was approved by the full Assembly, 73-1.

The bill (A-306) would provide immunity from civil liability to compensated and volunteer public and private first responders – including emergency medical services personnel, law enforcement officers, and firefighters – as well as police officers of independent higher education institutions for any damages from forcible entry into a home, business, or other structure where an emergency is reported.

“Ultimately, this bill is designed to ensure that no one in need of emergency assistance goes without care because they cannot physically or verbally grant entry into their property,” said Danielsen (D-Middlesex, Somerset).

“If someone’s life is on the line and a first responder or campus police officer has to break down a door to get in, it’s counter-intuitive to subject them to liability when their actions could mean the difference between life and death,” said Mazzeo (D-Atlantic).

This immunity would only apply when the decision to force entry is based upon a good faith belief that it is necessary to provide emergency medical care or to prevent imminent bodily harm when no occupant of the property responds to the first responder’s requests for entry within a reasonable period.

“First responders are trained with one goal in mind – saving lives,” said Pintor Marin (D-Essex). “If they believe forced entry is the only way to save a life, they’re going to move heaven and earth to do it. We should have their backs and protect them from liability. The same goes for officers on our college campuses.”

# Pallone Announces Nonprofit Faith Organizations In New Jersey will Receive Over \$9.5 Million for Security Enhancements

Press Release 6/21/20  
LONG BRANCH, NJ – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) today announced that more than 100 nonprofit faith organizations in New Jersey will receive \$9,594,806 for security enhancements. The funding is provided through the Nonprofit Security Grant Program that supports physical security enhancements and coordination activities for nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack. Nonprofits in New Jersey’s 6th Congressional District will receive \$1,136,000.

“These grants will help houses of worship throughout the state protect their members and will give our local communities the resources they need for security coordination,” Congressman Pallone said. “The United States was founded on the principals of freedom and equality for all, which is why we must protect our constituents from religious violence and other acts of terrorism whether they are at home, work, or in their community.”

# Free Counseling and Guidance for New Jersey Businesses

Press Release 7/28/20  
ROSELAND - Many New Jersey businesses have been negatively impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. And those that are open, or preparing to reopen, have many issues to consider and rules to comply with. Fortunately the New Jersey Business Action Center (NJBAC) – a business advocacy team within the New Jersey Department of State – can help with the answers. In the latest episode of the IssuesWatch Podcast, Melanie Willoughby, the executive director of the NJBAC, tells us about the free services they provide and how you can talk or chat live with their representatives.

The IssuesWatch Podcast is a bi-weekly program published by the NJCPA and hosted by Jeff Kaszerman, NJCPA vice president of government relations. It covers the latest New Jersey policy and political issues – because you need to know both. The focus is on business and economic issues impacting the business community and all New Jerseyans.

Other recent episodes include:

- New Jersey Fiscal and Economic Outlook
- The State of the Economy

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# NJ Department of Agriculture Unsolicited Seeds

## Alert from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture has been receiving reports of people receiving seeds in the mail from China that they did not order. Sometimes the seeds are sent in packages stating that the contents are jewelry. Unsolicited seeds could be invasive, introduce diseases to local plants, or be harmful to livestock.

Here’s what to do if you receive unsolicited seeds from another country:

- 1)DO NOT plant them and if they are in sealed packaging don’t open the sealed package.
- 2)Take a photo of the package and seeds and send the photos to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture Joseph.zoltowski@ag.nj.gov and USDA SITC at SITC.Mail@aphis.usda.gov

If you still have the seed packets and shipping/package materials, please do the following:

- \* Do NOT open the seed packets;
- \* Do NOT plant the seed packets;
- \* Do NOT compost the seeds;
- \* Do NOT throw the seeds in the trash, flush them down the drain, or expose them to the environment in any way; and
- \* Put all packaging materials and seeds into a Ziploc bag.”

This is known as agricultural smuggling. Report it to the USDA! Please hold onto the seeds and packaging, including the mailing label, until someone from your State department of agriculture or APHIS contacts you with further instructions. Do not plant seeds from unknown origins.

If individuals are aware of the potential smuggling of prohibited exotic fruits, vegetables, or meat products into or through the USA, they can help APHIS by contacting the confidential Anti-smuggling Hotline number at **800-877-3835** or by sending an Email to **SITC.Mail@aphis.usda.gov**. USDA will make every attempt to protect the confidentiality of any information sources during an investigation within the extent of the law.

# Students Tour St. Peter's Episcopal Church 7/27/20, Perth Amboy

*\*Photos submitted by John K. Dyke*



PERTH AMBOY - The newly appointed City Historian John Kerry Dyke conducts a tour within St. Peter's Church Cemetery. Assisted by Anton Massopust III and Christina Dyke, the tour included students from Perth Amboy's Success Bound Summer Program. Here Mr. Dyke is lecturing on the colonial history of Perth Amboy, as well as the historic 1870 vote by Thomas Mundy Peterson.

# NJ4PR Donation to the American Red Cross 7/1/20

*\*Photo Courtesy of NJ4PR*



NJ4PR Chairman Samuel Delgado (C) presents a check for \$10,000 to representatives of the American Red Cross to help in their continued efforts to help Puerto Rico recover from recent natural disasters. (L) Rosie Taravella, NJ Regional CEO (R) Ana Montero, Puerto Rico Recovery were on hand to accept the donation.

# Outside Dining at The Colonial Restaurant 7/14/20

*\*Photo by Tobin Maxwell*



FORDS - Patrons take advantage of outside dining at the Colonial Restaurant, 366 New Brunswick Ave., Fords. The Colonial Restaurant is one of many restaurants that now offer outside dining. Front Table: (L to R) Grant, Bill, Sue, Ray; Back Table: Mary and Tom Balint from Sewaren, NJ.



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](mailto:ww2remembered@yahoo.com).

The U.S. Navy announces on August 3 that a complete blockade of the Japanese homeland has now been achieved. Japanese resistance effectively ends in Burma. In Czechoslovakia, the government passes laws that deprive all ethnic Germans and Hungarians of their Czechoslovak citizenship.

American bombers attack Japanese positions in Surabaya, on Java, on August 4. In Singapore, Japanese guards execute seven captured American airmen.

The Chinese Thirteenth Army on August 5 captures the town of Tanchuk, in southeastern China, while the Chinese 58th Division liberates Hsinning, some 1,800 miles to the northeast, north of Korea. Planes of the U.S. Twentieth Air Force fly over 12 Japanese cities and drop 720,000 leaflets warning their populations to surrender or face devastation.

On August 6, U.S. Army Air Forces B-29 bomber *Enola Gay* (named after the pilot’s mother) drops an atomic bomb, named “Little Boy,” on Hiroshima, Japan, at 8:15 a.m., local time. The weapon, with a uranium-235 warhead, kills an estimated 140,000 people in the first use of a nuclear weapon in warfare and obliterates almost four square miles of the city. Advance elements of the U.S. First Army arrive on Luzon, the Philippines, from Europe to begin preparations for a final assault on Japan.

President Truman on August 7 announces the successful attack on Hiroshima, Japan, with the atomic bomb — “with more power than 20,000 tons of TNT.” The announcement, which makes no mention of radiation effects, is made from the middle of the Atlantic Ocean while Truman is returning from the Potsdam Conference aboard the U.S. Navy heavy cruiser *USS Augusta*. Japanese radio condemns the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and denounces the United States as “the destroyer of mankind and as public enemy number one of social justice.”

The Soviet Union declares war on Japan on August 8. Soviet troops are poised to enter China, Korea and Manchuria (which they do the next day). President Truman makes a public radio broadcast in which he threatens Japan with destruction by atomic bombs. In Tokyo, the Japanese Supreme War Council agrees, late at night, that it should accept the Potsdam Declaration if the monarchy is preserved. Some of the objections from the military are overruled by Emperor Hirohito himself. President Truman signs the United Nations Charter. The “Big Four” powers (the U.S., the U.S.S.R., the U.K. and France) sign the Treaty of London, which is the legal basis for the Nazi War Crimes Trials. The “Big Four” also agree on the future of Austria: it will be confined to its 1937 boundaries, split into four occupation zones and governed by a committee of four military commissioners.

On August 9, U.S. Army Air Forces B-29 bomber *Bockscar* drops “Fat Man” — a second atomic bomb, this time with a plutonium warhead — on Nagasaki, Japan, at 11:02 a.m., local time. Two-thirds of the city of 250,000 inhabitants is destroyed and 113,000 people die. In Tokyo, Japanese Prime Minister Suzuki says that the entry of the U.S.S.R. into the conflict “makes the continuance of the war impossible.” Towards midnight, Emperor Hirohito calls the Supreme Council together and tries to make the military leaders accept a proposed surrender. At about 3 a.m. the next morning, the meeting breaks up with nothing decided.

The government of Japan on August 10 announces that a message has been sent to the Allies accepting the terms of the Potsdam Declaration provided the Declaration “does not comprise any demand that prejudices the prerogatives of the Emperor as sovereign ruler.” Soviet forces have advanced 120 miles into Manchukuo (Manchuria) since war was declared against Japan on August 8.

U.S. Secretary of State James F. Byrnes on August 11 replies to the Japanese offer to surrender with a refusal to make any compromise on the demand for unconditional surrender. His note states that the Allies view an unconditional surrender as one where the emperor will be “subject to” the supreme commander of the Allied powers, and the form of government will be decided “by the will of the Japanese people.” In Manila, Gen. of the Army Douglas MacArthur opines that use of the atomic bomb was “unnecessary,” as the Japanese would have surrendered anyway.

In China, Chinese-American military headquarters on August 12 cancels operations planned against Hong Kong and Canton in light of the possibly imminent capitulation of Japan. Off Okinawa, the battleship USS Pennsylvania is seriously damaged by an attack from a Japanese torpedo bomber that kills 20 crewmen and injures 10 others. Soviet Red Army troops advance onto the Korean peninsula.

On August 13, the Mongolian People’s Republic — closely linked with the Soviet Union — declares a “holy war” against the Japanese. Japan surrender documents, approved by President Truman, are sent from Washington, D.C., to Gen. MacArthur in the Philippines. The Zionist World Congress demands that one million Jews be admitted to British-mandated Palestine, and approaches the British government to discuss the founding of the nation of Israel in a portion of the territory. In the U.S., the Office of Price Administration halts a print order for 187 million new ration books.

Japanese right-wingers and some of the military on August 14 attempt a coup to overthrow the government and prevent the widely expected — and inevitable — surrender by Japan. The coup fails and the Japanese Cabinet decides at a morning meeting in the Imperial Palace to surrender to the Allies. At 8:10 pm, a reply to the Allied ultimatum is handed to the Swiss Foreign Minister by the Japanese Minister in Berne, Switzerland. President Truman calls a press conference to announce the “unconditional surrender” of Japan. In the meantime, USAAF B29s launch the last air raid of the war against the Japanese city of Kumagaya, about 56 miles northwest of Tokyo. In China, Chiang Kai-shek’s representatives sign a treaty of alliance with the Soviets. In Washington, Gen. of the Army Douglas MacArthur is named Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP) and is authorized to accept the Japanese surrender. In the U.S., manpower controls are ended by the War Manpower Commission. In Vietnam, the Viet Minh launch an uprising against French colonial rule. Ho Chi Minh sends several telegrams asking President Truman to make Vietnam an overseas protectorate of the U.S., similar to the status of the Philippines or Puerto Rico, but he receives no reply. (There is no evidence that Truman ever received the messages.)

On August 15, Japanese Emperor Hirohito makes a radio broadcast announcing the surrender of Japan to the Allies. V-J Day is celebrated around the world. In New York City, photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt takes the iconic picture of a sailor spontaneously kissing a white-clad nurse while celebrating V-J Day in Times Square. (The picture was taken on August 14 in New York; because of time difference, August 15 in Japan is August 14 in New York.) The Japanese government resigns, and the war minister commits suicide. As a result of the surrender by Tokyo, Korea gains its independence from Japan. In Paris, Marshal Henri Pétain, former chief of state of Vichy France, is found guilty of treason and sentenced to death. In the U.S., rationing of petroleum products and canned goods is ended, and all restrictions are removed on the production of civilian automobiles. President Truman orders the closure of the U.S. Office of Censorship. In the U.K., the British government reveals the details of one of its biggest secrets of the war: radar.

Japanese Emperor Hirohito on August 16 issues an order for all Japanese forces to cease firing. In London, in the House of Commons, Winston Churchill, now the leader of the opposition, speaks of an “iron curtain” descending across Europe. He expresses particular concern over the forcible expulsion, and fate, of ethnic Germans from territory allotted to Poland in the west to compensate for territory in the east taken by the U.S.S.R. He also notes ominous developments in the newly communist-dominated countries in eastern Europe.

Tossin’ for Mike  
Cornhole Tournament & Fundraiser

SOUTH AMBOY - On Sunday, August 23, 2020, the Independence Engine and Hose Company of the South Amboy Fire Department will be hosting a benefit Cornhole tournament. One of our lifelong and most active members, Michael Corman, was recently diagnosed with metastatic kidney cancer. Mike was a career firefighter for the Lyons VA Medical Center and retired as Deputy Chief. As a lifelong resident of South Amboy, he has volunteered with the fire department for over 37 years. He served throughout the ranks of several companies over that time attaining the position of Chief of the Department in 2003-2004. Mike is a NJ Certified EMT and a Level 2 Fire Instructor at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. He is also a married family man with two sons who have followed in their father’s footsteps and joined the South Amboy Fire Department.

We are asking our community and fellow brothers and sisters to help us with our efforts to support Mike and his family in their time of need. All funds raised from this day will go directly to Mike and his family to help cover their medical costs during his long battle ahead. Anything you can provide to help us make this day possible would be immensely appreciated.

Donations can be made out to: Independence Engine & Hose Co #1 and mailed to: c/o Mike Toth, 14 Haven Terr, Parlin, NJ 08859

If you prefer to provide goods or services please reach out to our president Mike Toth at 908-930-3497 so arrangements can be made for pickup or delivery of your goods, services, gift cards, etc.

If you wish to participate in the tournament, teams of two players are \$100 and include two commemorative t-shirts. If you wish to show up the day of in support of Mike admission is \$20 and kids under 12 are free. Please see the included flyer for more information.

Thank you for your support and generosity in helping us with this great cause and supporting one of our own. Mike has been there for all of us over the years and now is the time for all of us to step up and show him we are there for him too in his time of need.

Thank you,  
Michael Toth  
President, Independence Engine & Hose Co #1  
908-930-3497  
[Mtoth1@optonline.net](mailto:Mtoth1@optonline.net)

If attending the Tossin’ for Mike cornhole tournament: Sunday, August 23rd from 10am to 5pm. Rain date is set for Sunday, August 30th. Location will be at Enterprise Truck 8 firehouse, 107 George St in South Amboy. All parking will be behind the firehouse in the school parking lot. First and second place cash prize, food, soda, beer, 50/50, raffles, and a good time for a great cause.

Flea Market

SAYREVILLE - The First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville has rescheduled their June Flea Market to September 12, 2020. The rain date is September 19, 2020. It will be held in the church parking lot at 172 Main Street (across from Borough Hall) from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. There are also still spaces available for vendors. For more information, please contact us at 732-257-6353 or email: [churchoffice172@optimum.net](mailto:churchoffice172@optimum.net). You can also check out our website at [FPCSAYREVILLE.org](http://FPCSAYREVILLE.org).

L2B> Library  
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SOUTH AMBOY – L2B seeks to connect job seekers, businesses, and nonprofits of New Jersey with organizations and experts who are actively engaging in business and workforce development webinars. View the CALENDAR for FREE webinars and online training. Click on eRESOURCES for businesses, nonprofit organizations, and economic information. <https://libs2b.com/>

For more information contact the Sadie Pope Dowdell Library: email: [comments@dowdell.org](mailto:comments@dowdell.org) or go to [www.dowdell.org](http://www.dowdell.org)

A.C. Bus Trip  
San Salvador Seniors

PERTH AMBOY – The San Salvador Seniors are having a bus trip to Caesars Casino, Atlantic City on Thursday, September 3, 2020. Cost: \$35 per person, \$30 back in slot play. Everyone must bring a mask to board the bus. Bus leaves 12 Noon. Bus will depart from behind St. Stephens Church parking lot on Mechanic Street, Perth Amboy. For more info call Joe at 732-826-0819.

Blood Drive

SOUTH AMBOY – There will be a blood drive in honor of local heroes on Friday, August 14, 2020 between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the South Amboy Senior Center, 108 S. Stevens Ave., South Amboy. Online pre-registration: [\\$5 Amazon Dunkin Donuts Cards!](http://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive)

There also is a sock collection drop-off benefitting Knock, Knock, Gove a Sock sponsored by Interact (Rotary Sponsored Club).

Sponsored by: the City of South Amboy & South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary Club. Give Blood – You can make a difference! - The American Red Cross – Helping Our Neighbors!



# Interview: Renaissance Musical Artist Toney Lee

By: Katherine Massopust & Carolyn Maxwell  
PERTH AMBOY – The Amboy Guardian sat down with Renaissance musical artist, songwriter and producer, Toney Lee who recently has taken up residence in Perth Amboy

**Amboy Guardian:** *Where were you born?*

**Toney Lee:** I was born in Brooklyn, NY and now I am, “Celebrating my sixth decade and loving it!”

**AG:** *Where did you grow up?*

**TL:** I grew up in Brooklyn and sang with my family at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church. My first beginnings were being a soloist in the church choir. We are a musical family with many great gifts and talents.

**AG:** *What got you interested in music?*

**TL:** My grandfather had a jazz band called: John English & His Society Orchestra during the 40’s through the 60’s. Mr. English was originally the drummer and the musical conductor. The band had revolving members that totaled between 11-12 members at any time. Members of my grandfather’s band would visit often, which exposed me to music at a young age.

My brother Arnie Love, a recording artist, had a record in the ‘80’s “I’m Out of Your Life.” The song was #1 in London in 1985. He has been an inspiration to me as an artist all my life.

When I was 13, my mom heard me sing. I was singing in my room and her reply was, “You can sing!” That’s all I needed. She gave me confidence!

I went to Thomas Jefferson High School and sang in the choir there. I won the trophy for being the best vocalist in Thomas Jefferson High School’s music program that year. The plaque is currently present in the music room.

**AG:** *Who were your mentors and heroes?*

**TL:** (Heroes) Sam Cook, Marvin Gaye, The O’Jay’s, The Temptations. I’ve seen them all live (except Sam Cook). I loved Soul Train! I watched it every Saturday morning and wanted to be on Soul Train.

(Mentors) Mr. Nance, the manager of the group called Penetration, was my very first manager. His son Aaron, my good friend and band member introduced the group to Mr. Nance. During that time, we were the best a cappella vocal group (5 members) in Brooklyn. We sang hits of the day. It was during this time that I had my first introduction into song writing and recording.

**AG:** *What do you consider was your “big break”?*

**TL:** I was working at American Express and met Nicky Braddy. Nicky Braddy then introduced me to producer Eric Matthew. Eric Matthew was my first producer, together we wrote and recorded “Reach Up” sung by yours truly, Toney Lee. We also wrote and recorded “You Ain’t Really Down,” sung by vocal group Status IV for Radar Records.

**AG:** *How did you discover Sta-*

*tus IV?*

**TL:** It came by way of family. My cousin Derek Wyche was in the group called Status IV and always asked me to come and listen to them. I finally did. I went to Brooklyn. In the room there were four guys with a mural of the most beautiful women in the world. (They said it was their inspiration) They sang 10 songs in a row and I was impressed. I called Eric up and introduced him to the group. Together we wrote “You Ain’t Really Down” that went on to become a classic dance song over the past three decades. So much so, there’s a street named after it in Chicago.

**AG:** *What is your vocal range?*

**TL:** Baritone to Second Tenor Lead

**AG:** *What instruments do you play?*

**TL:** Percussions: drums, bongos, congas.

**AG:** *What companies are you signed with?*

**TL:** TSRI Music Ministry Media LLC which is my own label and music media company. Five years ago through TSRI, and producer Paul Simpson, I met Vincent Simonelli. He is a world renowned DJ. We do management and production projects together. We have the same musical type background. The musical group Toney Lee & Status IV – we merged together for the current project, “Don’t Stop Keep Rising.”

**AG:** *What inspires your music?*

**TL:** Spirituality – to be able to inspire people and their dreams, to help them with life and upward mobility – to inspire people to do great things. Song writing is a gift. It comes in many forms. It comes from melodies in my mind at any time. As a songwriter, ideas come from everywhere.

**AG:** *What contemporary singers or bands do you feel are the most talented?*

**TL:** Bruno Mars. There are a lot of singers. Maroon 5, Anita Baker, Whitney Huston, Karen Carpenter. I’m a big jazz fan. Billy Holiday – They are incredible singers. Great music goes beyond time.

**AG:** *What do you attribute to your success?*

**TL:** My love for what I do. Music is in my DNA. I’m passionate. First, I enjoy it. I’m thankful for the gift God has given me, and the passion to share my musical gifts with the world.

**AG:** *Do any of your children or grandchildren like music?*

**TL:** My grandson Patrick likes rap. My daughters Tanisha and Karina love music.

**AG:** *What do you feel the importance of music is through in this pandemic?*

**TL:** The world needs to be inspired and to have faith. We’ve been dealt a devastating blow. However, we will survive this. For me, music touches the heart and uplifts the heart. We need to hear music that touches on the truth. This is the first time in my life that I’ve seen humanity equalized. This virus has touched every corner of the world. Again, we will not only



Renaissance Musical Artist, Songwriter and Producer, Toney Lee



In November 2019, Jason Phats of Phats & Smalls and Jude Evans, presented Toney Lee with a platinum single for “Turn Around.” It was ranked #5 in 7 different countries.

survive, but we will build a better world because of it.

**AG:** *What are your present and future plans?*

**TL:** Presently I am promoting the new record, “Don’t Stop Keep Rising,” and writing poetry and lyrical stories. Future projects include producing and promoting my concert series called, “Love, Joy and Inspiration III.” This project will include various artist and musical genres from the tri-state area. Don’t Stop – Keep Rising, the new single was number one in England as of January 2020.

**AG:** *If you were not a musician, what profession would you do?*

**TL:** A men’s stylist. Working with men’s clothing. I design men’s clothing. My father was always a sharp dresser and my mother was a trendy designer. I worked in Bloomingdales, Sym’s, Macy’s, Lord & Taylor and JCPenny’s in the Men’s Department as a suit stylist and display artist. As a personal stylist, I assisted clients in choosing outfits that would show them in their best light. I like to see people look their best.

**AG:** *What advice do you have for budding musicians?*

**TL:** Do the research in the type of music you’re interested in that best suits you. If it’s rap, jazz, pop or whatever suits you, find out where it came from, its beginnings and origins. It will give you the background to where you want to go musically.



Toney Lee & Status IV - (L to R) - Lorenzo Lawrence, Derek Wyche, Toney Lee, Jerry Brooks, Sylvester McCain III.



(L to R) Amboy Guardian Owner/Publisher/Editor Carolyn Maxwell with Renaissance Musical Artist/Songwriter/Producer Toney Lee and Amboy Guardian Asst. Editor/Writer Katherine Massopust  
*\*Photo by Paul W. Wang*



Renaissance Musical Artist Toney Lee  
*\*Photo by Paul W. Wang*

As an artist I’ve researched music from the start. I’ve watched Ken Burn’s, History of Jazz about 10 times. I heard the music of Louis B. Armstrong and many other artists. In my research, Quincy Jones said: “Great movies comes from a great story. Great records come from great songs.”

I’ve been able to collaborate with great people. I love creating – taking nothing and making something out of it and I’m thankful for that.

Toney who moved to Perth

Amboy 3 months ago stated he feels it’s great to be in Perth Amboy. “Being here has been a pleasant experience.” Toney has been to schools to talk to students about their music aspirations. He hopes to share his music with the residents of Perth Amboy when the concert series resumes.

In the future you can go to [www.talkingwithtoney.com](http://www.talkingwithtoney.com) for more information. Please contact Toney Lee for bookings at [TGQ.665@gmail.com](mailto:TGQ.665@gmail.com)









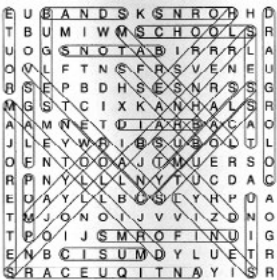
Novena to St. Rita

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



Pet of the Week

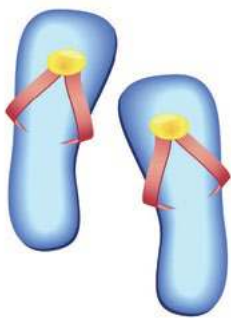
PERTH AMBOY - I can't believe noone has adopted Squeaky! Just look at his adorable face, yet nobody wants to give him a forever home of his own. His world was turned upside down 4 1/2 years ago when his mommy died & then when his caretaker died Oct. 2019 & her fiancé no longer wanted Squeaky & his family he was homeless. It took weeks to adjust to his foster home. He was so scared & confused. He wouldn't eat because he lost the only home he ever knew. Now this big, handsome and long boy is ready for someone to open their heart &



home to him. He needs a loving adopter. He is a cuddler and loves to love, be loved & be held like a baby. Squeaky's a lap cat & enjoys wet food and laying in bed giving massages to anyone that will allow him. He is vaccinated, neutered, dewormed, flea treated, & FIV/FELV negative. He is fully vetted & needs a home of his own! Could it be you? To adopt: Email Vmoralespps@yahoo.com Text 1.732.486.6382 Application & donation fee apply.

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.



LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY –Tennis at the Waterfront- 1970's.

This photo was restored under a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission to the Kearny Cottage Historical Association.

\*Photo Submitted

MOVIE REVIEW: AD ASTRA



By: Anton Massopust III  
"Sins follow the father,"  
- H. Clifford McBride

A father, H. Clifford McBride (Tommy Lee Jones) and son, Roy McBride (Brad Pitt) collide in a realistic science fiction film "Ad Astra". Roy McBride, a young astronaut who is in stationed in a space station nearly dies after a wave of energy hits the solar system and cancels out everyone's power. McBride climbs down to the end of the ladder and parachutes back into the earth's atmosphere to safety.

After Roy McBride is called in by NASA who discovered the source of the energy. It's a ship located past Jupiter that's malfunctioning and commanded by Roy's father, H. Clifford McBride and it is uncertain if H. Clifford is alive or dead. NASA wants Roy to first go to the moon, then go to a base Mars to get to send a written communication prepared for H. Clifford to find out if he is alive. On the way to the moon, Roy meets an old friend of his father, Thomas Pruitt (Donald Sutherland). Roy finds out information that the government did not tell him.

After being attacked by pirates on the moon looking for equipment, Pruitt is wounded, and Roy must make this journey up to Mars with his crew. But what NASA wants, and Roy wants are two different things.

In this film H. Clifford Mc-

Bride is an American Hero who is a commander sent to look for intelligent life and just won't give up. He has gone the farthest out into outerspace than anyone else in this world of the far future.

In the same spirit as the movies, "Gravity" and "2001: A Space Odyssey" and to some extent, movies like "Alien" where there is a similar look with similar technology. It's more of a realistic sort of science fiction and what it would be like if we had colonies on the moon and Mars and what the search be like to look for intelligent life. "Ad Astra" is not really about all of that, although the special effects are wonderful, and you really feel like you are in outerspace. "Ad Astra" is more about the relationship between a father and son and not letting go, and how things sometimes get in the way in relationships, especially between father and sons and understanding how fame and glory can change you.

Performances are tight, but don't expect lots of action. It's more of a drama than anything else. The film about relationships and the realism of outer space. Although there is a little bit of action, if you go to watch the movie expecting a good drama, you will not be disappointed. It's definitely worth a rent. Available now on demand.

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**PERTH AMBOY** - Move in condition. Well-kept single family. Must sign seller's and buyer's hold harmless and release regarding COVID-19. Central air. **\$239,000**



**BURLINGTON TWP** - Potential Short Sale - this 4 bedroom 1-1/2 bath home located on cul-de-sac in a well-manicured neighborhood with loads of potential. Unique floor plan with large open kitchen. home features lots of closets and storage. needs some TLC. Buyer responsible for CO and all repairs and termite cert. Short sale subject to third party approval. 50% commission split subject to lender approval. **\$199,900**



**PISCATAWAY** - Completely remodeled property at the desirable development Maplehurst Farms, close to routes 287,78,22 and only a short drive to train station. New bathroom with designer ceramic, new kitchen with stainless steel appliances, granite counter tops and wood cabinets. a must see! **\$399,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Beautiful House. located in the Holy Spirit Section. just 5 min from NY roof is only 1 year old. huge backyard, brand new fence. paved driveway for 3 to 4 cars and fully enlarged kitchen with space for a 12-seater dining table. Finished Basement. All appliances As Is House is going to be painted outside. **\$339,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Two family, featuring 2-bedroom unit, garage and 2nd unit 1 bedroom with balcony located in the heart of Perth Amboy only few blocks from train station and all major public transportation. **\$359,000**



**BELLEVILLE** - Beautifully renovated home with recently installed backyard patio paver area. Ready to move in. Buyer responsible for Certificate of Occupancy, smoke certificate and any repairs. Property sold as is condition. **\$400,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - House is in good condition ready to be moved in - finished attic. **\$345,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Welcome to this large 3 level Townhouse, with 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths, family/office room, Master bedroom has a full master bath with double sink, tub, and shower stall. This unit also has a private front Paver Patio yard before you enter the Townhouse. Two parking spots in covered garage/parking deck included. The unit has 1 assigned parking spot that comes with Townhouse and owner pays additional fee for 2nd spot which is already included in maintenance fee. **\$259,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Looking to buy a new construction house? You got it! Close proximity to shopping, schools, entertainment and recreation. Minutes from major routes, 2 tory home. Brand new from top to bottom. Central AC, hardwood floor and ceramic, granite, 2 car garage and more. 2 Brand new houses one next to the other one. **\$415,000**