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Who Has the Authority? 11/23/20 Caucus & Council Meetings



Ken Ortiz
Director
Department of Recreation



Irving Lozada
Acting Director
Code Enforcement



Frank Hoffman
Director Department of
Public Works



Tashi Vazquez
Assistant Director of the
Office of Economic &
Community Development



Ed Mullen
Fire Chief

By: Carolyn Maxwell
PERTH AMBOY – There was an intense discussion involving Ordinance No. 2 (first reading) – Re: Special Events Permits. Councilman Fernando Irizarry asked, “What were the changes?”

Council President Bill Petrick responded, “This is needed to provide better administration and fairness. The calendar of events will be displayed in the City Clerk’s Office.”

Law Director Peter King reminded the council, “Under the Faulkner Act, the Mayor’s Office controls any event held on city properties. If the council has the final say on event permits, you are going to be putting a burden on the clerk’s office which would be a violation of the Faulkner Act. You would also be taking away work that is normally done by the Department of Recreation and DPW. I’m giving you research information and what’s the law.”

Petrick then questioned the timeframe needed for someone who wants a flag raising versus having a bigger event such as a parade.

Irizarry spoke again, “A time limit should also be imposed (asking how much time you should put in your request before the date of your event. Not less than 60 days prior to your event.”

Petrick then added, “Maybe not more than 2 weeks regarding flag raisings and for parades – 60 days prior to the event for them to get back approval.”

Irizarry’s final comments were: “As long as we comply with the Faulkner Act, I agree

with the 60 days prior to the day of events regarding parades and 2 weeks prior for flag raisings.”

King’s final thoughts were: “It should be 120 days prior to an event for you to submit the date of your event, in order to ensure a response within 60 days prior to your event.”

Bill Petrick then asked Law Director King if he could get the budget to the council earlier than late March. “Ask the CFO (Jill Goldy) if we can get it by February.”

King responded, “The CFO told me it’s always done by the end of January.”

Irizarry then had a question regarding R-477 – 11/20 – authorizing a FitLot Partnership Agreement to receive an AARP sponsored outdoor fitness park at Dalton Park.

Irizarry was not comfortable with the fact that the city has to maintain the equipment and an AARP canopy must be maintained by the city for 10 years. “Fitness classes have to be led by a professional trainer and do we have to provide and pay for that trainer? This will be additional work for the Recreational Department. The city will be using Facebook for promoting, advertising, and maintaining a Facebook Page for AARP.”

Petrick then inquired, “If the council approves the resolution, we might have to fence off Dalton Park because of Covid.”

Director of Department of Recreation and Human Resources Ken Ortiz provided more information. “AARP National selected us (Perth Amboy). They are celebrating their 50th Anniversary. We are the

only city in New Jersey to receive this. Any information regarding this will be part of our regular Facebook Page. AARP will provide 3 years of funding for this park and will pay for the fitness instructor. It will be a cloth canopy that AARP will provide for 3 years. I’ll get back to AARP regarding replacement canopies. The construction should be completed by the end of July 2021.”

Irizarry continued, “The contract states the canopy is for 10 years.”

Ortiz answered, “We should be proud that AARP selected us. At this time of year, I don’t think many people will be out in the park. I believe we can use all the parks in the warmer months.”

Acting Code Enforcement Director Irving Lozada came up to talk about R-484 – 11/20 – The purchase of 3 2021 Colorado 4-wt crew cab to Mall Chevrolet in an amount not to exceed \$88,111.50.

Lozada said, “I came to the council a month ago to explain why we need more durable vehicles when going out to construction sites. This was the cheapest truck we saw in the state contract.”

Code Enforcement Sub-Code Construction Supervisor Scott Melski gave more information. “This vehicle is way better than the cars we are driving now which can get stuck in the mud. Sometimes we have to ask workers on a construction site to push our (present) cars to get us out of muddy conditions.”

DPW Director Frank Hoffman came up to talk about R-485

and R-486.

R-485 - Contract with Rubber Cycle for repair or replacement of various sections of playground safety surface at 6 city parks in an amount not to exceed \$13,435.

Hoffman said, “The life expectancy of the resurfacing is expected to be 10 years. Some of the damage was caused by trees falling and fires.”

R-486 – A contract for electrical supplies and equipment to Samson Electrical Supply in an amount not to exceed \$25,524.57.

“This resolution is for electrical supplies and not electrical repairs.”

Tashi Vazquez from the Office of Economic and Community Development came up to talk about R-487 – Accepting the proposal of and awarding a contract to Key Marketing for NPP-CRF: restaurant website design in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.

She explained, “An RFP was put out for website design for the NPP District Page to help with the menu and QR Codes which will be used on the Perth Amboy Page website. Translations will be listed for different restaurants. They will create pages and included will be a 1-year of update of the website. After one year is up, we can see if we want to renew the contract with them. The BID might take over the cost and expand it to businesses outside the BID district. The person who is doing this job has one month to get it done in order to get paid.”

Luis Perez Jimenez - Director of Operations at the USA-

PA (Utility Service Associates Perth Amboy) Middlesex Water Company) came up to speak about Resolutions R-488, R-489, R-490 and R-491.

R-488 – A contract with CDM Smith Consulting Engineers for the completion of a Treatability Study in the Long-Range Plan for the Perth Amboy Water System in the amount of \$669,300.

“This is for the well water distribution and storage according to the LCL Guidelines. Every year, there are different contaminants to be tested. There are certain contaminants maximum levels that we cannot exceed. This is through state and federal standards. Perth Amboy’s water is not contaminated. I have been doing work with the water system for 33 years and 30 years as a licensed operator. There are natural contaminants, and you cannot get rid of 100% of the contaminants. There is no such thing as pure water in the United States. We test our water every 15 minutes and private labs test 17 water samples every month. These labs also work with different towns.”

Law Director King then spoke up and indicated, “Mr. Jimenez is very thorough because his license is on the line.”

Jimenez continued, “There is .3% or .4% chloride that we add to clean contaminants and we are the only town to use fluoride. We have main lines that are in Old Bridge and South Amboy.”

Councilman Helmin Caba then spoke up indicating, “We need to do more research on flu-

**Continued on Page 8*

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Pallone Announces Rutgers University will Receive \$3.8 Million to Improve COVID-19 Testing in Underserved Communities

Press Release 11/24/20
LONG BRANCH, NJ – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) announced today that Rutgers University will receive \$3.8 million to improve COVID-19 testing in underserved communities. The award is made possible by the National Institutes of Health’s initiative to enhance COVID-19 testing of populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19, including African Americans, American Indians/Alaskan Natives, Latinos/Latinas, Native Hawaiians, older adults, pregnant women and those who are homeless or incarcerated. In New Jersey, Black and Latinx residents are three times more likely to contract COVID-19 and are twice as likely to die as a result of the virus.

“While we have made progress to close racial and ethnic health disparities in recent years, people of color in Amer-

ica continue to experience disparities in care and worse health outcomes compared to white Americans. Unfortunately, we have clear evidence that communities of color have suffered disproportionately during the coronavirus pandemic,” Pallone said. “As new cases rise each day, it’s important that everyone – regardless of where you live – has access to a COVID-19 test if they need one. We know that extensive testing is critical if we want to crush this pandemic and get people back to work and school safely. This funding will help us ensure that testing is distributed equitably across our state and is another step in making sure that we keep all Americans healthy and safe during this public health crisis.

“With a RADx-UP award, Rutgers and NJ ACTS will lead the way to improve COVID-19 testing in under-represented populations,” said Reynold Pa-

nettieri, Vice Chancellor for Translational Medicine and Science at Rutgers University. “This will assist in removing barriers to care for all New Jerseyans during this devastating pandemic.”

“As an academic institution committed to serve the New Jersey community and to make an impact in health care, this award will go a long way in fostering that goal and will bring help to the communities that need it the most,” said Brian L. Strom, Chancellor of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences and the Executive Vice President for Health Affairs at Rutgers University.

In June, Pallone’s Energy and Commerce Committee held a hearing on racial and ethnic health disparities in COVID-19 pandemic and the health care system.

Status of Firehouse, Fire Department/First Aid Squad Merger, Food Pantries Discussed 11/23/20 South Amboy Council Meeting via Teleconference

By: Katherine Massopust
SOUTH AMBOY – Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski answered a question on Resolution No. 23-318 (approvement of bill list) stating that the last of the old decrepit furniture will be replaced in city hall.

It was noted by Councilwoman Zusette Dato that she was in favor or the extra payment that was given to the parttime grant writer (Resolution No. 20-328) who was able to receive grant money above expectation. B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated, “We threw a lot out at him,” and it was noted he was worth every penny.

Council Comments:

Councilwoman Zusette Dato stated, “I saw in the Home News Tribune Readers Choice Awards for 2020 that our little city of less than 2 square miles there were so many winners,” this was including the Dowdell Library and Blue Moon Night Club. “It’s a lot to say about South Amboy.” Dato mentioned that a lot of people came out last week to the First Aid Squad Building. “People rallied around for in two weeks and brought food. I thank Kim Seaver, the First Aid Squad and the Raritan Bay Wreckers and all who donated food to the pantry.” She said the South Amboy YMCA had vendor food trucks and live music. “It is free for families. Our Y is open for business in a safe way. Thursday is Thanksgiving. We are all blessed. We need to be kind to each other. Happy Thanksgiving.”

Council Vice-President Christine Noble wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, “Be safe.”

Councilman Thomas Reilly thanked the food pantries for doing great work. “I want to thank the Lucas Family for their donation of 200 turkey dinners and Meet the Need who donated 38 turkeys.” Reilly then asked about the illegal pallet operation and illegal housing in South Amboy.

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski answered, “They (owners of the

pallet operation) have not yet been heard in court.” Reilly then asked about the Assistant Fire Chief’s vehicle which is badly needed.

B.A. Skarzynski answered, “Once they (Fire Department) find a vehicle, the city will transfer the funds.”

Councilman Reilly asked for clarity on the move of making the First Aid Squad a division of the Fire Department and whether or not to build a new fire house or modify the existing one. “The membership has backed the effort to stay where they are. Is this move being considered?”

B.A. Skarzynski said, “This project which has still not come to fruition to see our firefighters are up to 21st Century firefighting. After many, many years, the firehouses are out of date. We can put hundreds of thousands of dollars into an old building or do you want a brand-new building? One way or another it’s a million-dollar project – a necessary project that needs the council’s consideration.”

Councilman Reilly stated, “The firefighters have a lot of legacy there. We can acknowledge all their years of service.”

Councilman Brian McLaughlin thanked Kim Seaver for her efforts at her pantry. He then directed his attention to the situation with the fire department, “Do we have a plan, yet? Can we make a second fire house?”

B.A. Skarzynski answered, “The administration would be more than happy to fund this. We have been talking about this for 2 decades. Do we leave our firefighters with substandard firehouses or do we address it? We are waiting for the council to approve the Fire Department merger with the First Aid Squad. We have 3 or 4 steps to complete the merger over the next few months.”

Council President Mickey Gross thanked Kim Seaver for her dedication to the food pantry. He then spoke about the firehouse situation, “Keep the

gas pedal on the Deputy Chief’s (vehicle). It’s a home (the firehouse) for these guys. We’ve got guys that have given 35 years or better. It’s their home. We can make all foreseeable - it’s their home. These guys get up in the middle of the night just to put fires out.”

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski reminded everyone there will be a blood drive at St. Mary’s and one in January by the Rotary Club.” “Please support these organizations.”

Public Portion:

The first person to speak was Assistant Fire Chief Andrew Bielak, “Thank you for your efforts to get a vehicle.”

The next person to speak was Edward Zarkowski, “We (the Fire Department) did request some work to be done. Our building (the fire house) was built in 1929. We love our place. We didn’t want to leave it. We hate to leave it to go to a cinder-block building.”

Council President Mickey Gross said, “Thank you for your service. We will do everything to help you guys.”

Councilman Thomas Reilly added, “There’s a long legacy. There’s something for years of service and helping people. We have to help you keep that firehouse where it is. Bring it up to code.”

Gross added, “Thank you, sir for your service.”

Larry Parsons was the next person to speak. “Is there a council person who is a liaison to the Fire Department? With all this being said, it’s about time there should be a council member between the council and the mayor.”

Council President Gross said, “Maybe it’s something to consider.”

The council went into executive session at 8:26 p.m. All council members were present.



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Anton J. Massopust Honored at the 11/23/20 Council Meeting, YMCA, Perth Amboy *Photos by Paul W. Wang



PERTH AMBOY - Resolution R-475-11/20 proclaiming: In recognition of Anton J. Massopust, the lives he touched, all the good works he performed in and for our community we name this day, November 23rd, on the occasion of his birth, "Anton J. Massopust Day in Perth Amboy" and let it forever be known as such from this day forward. This proclamation was presented to the Massopust family at the 11/23/20 Council Meeting. Photo #1 - Mrs. Marcella Massopust is presented with a proclamation by Council President William Petrick. (L-R) (Councilman Fernando Irizarry, Councilwoman Milady Tejeda, Joan Zaleski, Anton Massopust III, Katherine Massopust, Mrs. Marcella Massopust, Council President William Petrick, Councilman Helmin Caba. Photo#2 - Mrs. Marcella Massopust thanks the Council for the proclamation.

Council Recognizes Jeremy Baratta at the 11/23/20 Council Meeting, YMCA, Perth Amboy *Photos by Paul W. Wang



PERTH AMBOY - Business Owner and Veteran Jeremy Baratta was commended by the council for being a recipient of the 2020 Hire Vets Medallion Platinum Award (L to R) Councilwoman Milady Tejeda, Council President William Petrick, Jeremy Baratta, Councilman Helmin Caba.



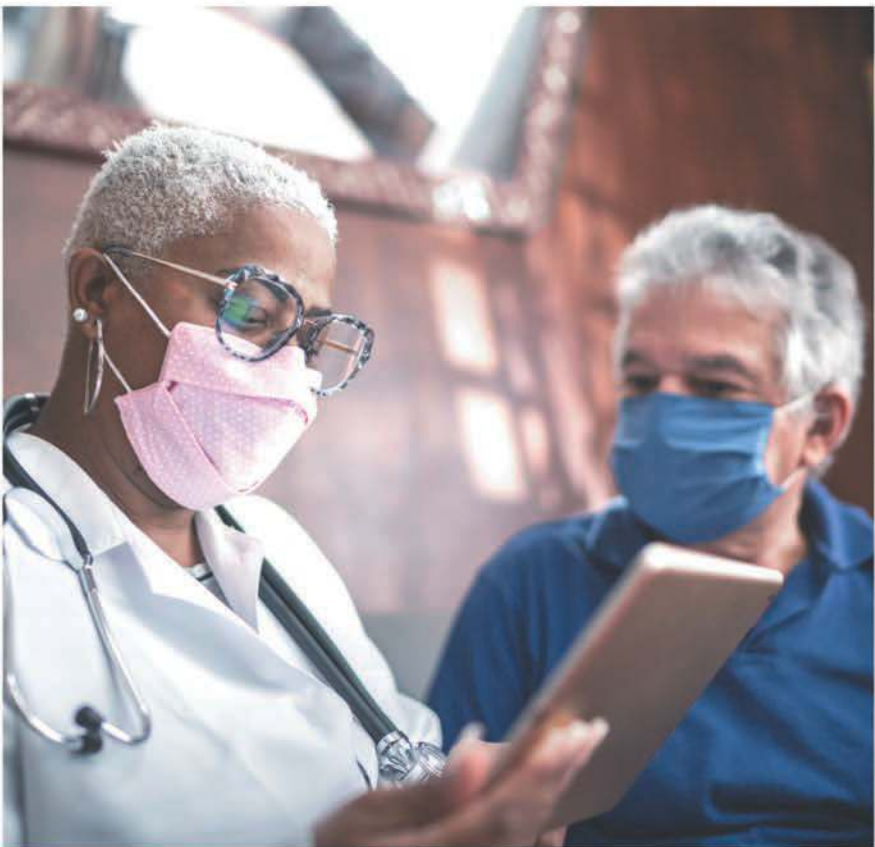
Remarks by Mrs. Marcella Massopust 11/23/20 Council Meeting

PERTH AMBOY - Thank you for honoring Tony on his birthday. It was always a special day for us. We became engaged on that day over 56 years ago - the day after President Kennedy's assassination. Those were turbulent times, as they are now. The storms did pass, and Tony began to teach. He shared his knowledge and abilities to all. He loved Perth Amboy, its children, students, and community and they loved him back. Our deepest thank you to the City Council for this resolution and wish you and your families a blessed and safe Thanksgiving.



Anton J. Massopust

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EDITORIAL

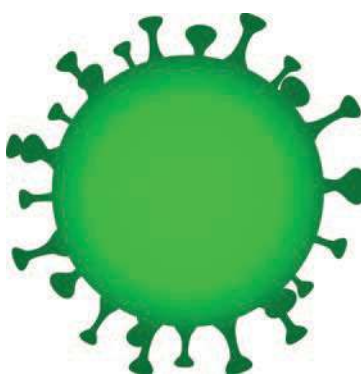
2020: The Great Time Out
There is a Silver Lining

I saw a T-Shirt in a store. It said, “The First Rule of 2021 – Do Not Mention 2020!”

At the end of 2019, we could not wait for 2020 to roll around because 2019 had ended on such sad notes with unexpected losses. Little did we know that right around the corner was Covid-19.

2020 began with Australia’s forests burning down, riots, looting, murder hornets, and the topper: the coronavirus pandemic. Schools became virtual, as did meetings. Many began working from home. Most festivals, parades, and other events were either virtual or cancelled. You cannot go to the movies, plays, attend sports events (even ones held outdoors in warm temperature), concerts (although only some municipalities cancelled their outdoor concerts), dine in indoor restaurants, etc. Parties and all mass gatherings are banned. For a while, you could not even get a haircut or go to church. This is the first year that the St. Patrick’s Day Parade was cancelled in New York City – something not even the 1918 Spanish Flu could do. Fun is cancelled for 2020.

Every day the mayors, governors, etc. give Covid-19 briefings, citing the number of cases and deaths from the coronavirus. Many know at least one person who were afflicted



with Covid-19.

The pandemic also brought out the best in people. Look at how many organizations donated food and necessary items to the pantries. Many people made protective masks and PPEs that they donated at no cost to hospital workers and first responders. While many people became unemployed, they decided to make personalized masks to sell. It spurred a new industry.

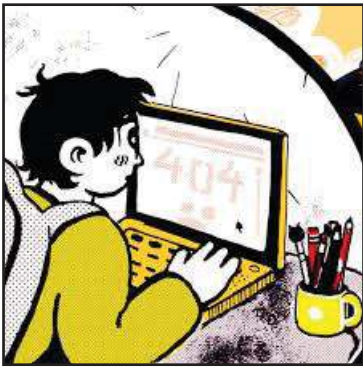
After a while, kids became so disconnected while learning at home online, they missed the companionship of their fellow students and long to be back in school. It is just not the same.

Those same kids who did nothing but play video games and watch YouTube on the internet while texting their friends rather than speak to them cannot wait to have that personal interaction again. These same kids want real board games, puzzles, and other toys of old instead of video games. *They want off the computer.*

I was listening to a talk show recently and the host said that a lot of stores reported that their nativity set sales were flying off the shelves. A lot of people are buying live Christmas trees instead of putting up artificial ones. More and more families are putting Christmas lights and other festive decorations up.

In a middle of a pandemic, what items are important? Lysol, Clorox wipes, toilet paper, paper towels and other cleaning products. Supermarkets, big box stores are having a booming business.

One bright spot is that restaurants for the first time were allowed to have outdoor dining and that actually increased their patronage. One woman who owned a restaurant said that when she couldn’t have indoor dining, the demand for takeout increased so much that she had to hire additional help.



Some people began working on projects they had put aside for months or even years. During the spring and summer months, many people began gardening once more. People are finding pleasure in simpler things. Many are learning to cook meals and bake on their own. Items such as yeast that was easily available before Covid-19 are in short supply.

With fewer people traveling and certain industries at a slow crawl, nature is beginning to heal itself. Some species of animals are repopulating, and the air is a little cleaner. You hear the birds chirping a little louder. The night sky is brighter with the moon and stars shining. We all have learned to slow down again.

With the money that President Trump and his administration allocated: Operation Warp Speed, there are three companies that have vaccines coming out. The distribution plans are being finalized. The states will decide who will get the first dosages.

Christmas will be different this year for many. Some will be separated from people they normally celebrate with because of Covid restrictions. Just remember the little things in life – the happy things – whether it be your dog chasing its tale or your cats just being cats. Smile and remember that you survived The Great Time Out.

K.M. & C.M.

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

New Jersey
Reproductive
Freedom Act

The New Jersey Reproductive Freedom Act (S3030/A4848), currently before the state legislature, is the most dangerous and radical abortion bill ever proposed in our state. It will invalidate New Jersey’s conscience clause which has been in effect since 1974 which protects the rights of individuals to refuse to perform or assist in abortion procedures. All abortions will be allowed throughout the entire nine months of pregnancy, putting women at risk in late-term abortions, and risking women’s lives in abortions performed by non-physicians.

It enshrines in law that living babies in the womb capable of feeling pain have no rights at any stage of pregnancy, even if they are viable and at full term. The bill says, “a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus shall not have independent rights under the laws of this state.” It will gut the New Jersey Safe Haven Infant Protection Act which saved the lives of 77 newborns since its enactment. It is our duty as citizens to protect the most vulnerable members of our society, such as the unborn who have no voice. I urge you to contact your three state legislators and ask them to Vote No on (S3030/A4848), the New Jersey Reproductive Freedom Act.

Marianne Zanko Komek

Drawing of Ballot Positions for Runoff Election,
11/21/20 - Perth Amboy *Photo by Paul W. Wang



PERTH AMBOY - The ballot positions were drawn for the runoff election of the 2 mayoral candidates and 4 council candidates. Helmin Caba drew Column A and Wilda Diaz drew Column B. The election date is December 15, 2020. Residents should have received their mail-in ballots by December 5, 2020. You are encouraged to contact the Municipal Board of Elections at if you did not receive your ballot by that date. For more information, go to <http://www.middlesexcountynj.gov/>

Middlesex County College and The
Citizens Campaign to Unveil Partnership
Establishing the First Citizen Leadership
Center in the State of New Jersey

Press Release 11/30/20
MIDDLESEX COUNTY - Middlesex County College and The Citizens Campaign to announce the establishment of a Citizen Leadership Center designed to train students in pragmatic problem-solving skills of community issues and provide opportunities for them to put their training to use as “citizen leaders” working to better their communities and our Country. Middlesex County College is the first of 10 community colleges around the nation where model Citizen Leadership Centers will be launched in partnership with The Citizens Campaign in the coming year. These pioneering Citizen Leadership Centers are designed to pave the way for putting our nation’s 1,100 or so community colleges at the center of a new

national public service generating pragmatic and principled citizen leaders.

Mark McCormick, President, Middlesex County College; Harry Pozyski, Founder and Chair, The Citizens Campaign; Bart Oates, President NFL Alumni Association and 3 time Super Bowl Champion on Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 11:00 a.m. at the Parkview Room, West Hall, corner of Parkside Drive and College Drive East, Middlesex County College, Edison Campus (Park in Lot 1) or can be viewed by clicking on the link below. It will be sent out via Facebook Live by both MCC and The Citizens Campaign. Middlesex County College & The Citizens Campaign Partner: First Citizen Leadership Center in NJ

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RARITAN BAY MEDICAL CENTER530 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
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SANTIBANA TRAVEL 362 STATE ST.
SCIORTINO’S RESTAURANT473 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
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SIPOS BAKERY 365 SMITH ST.
SUPERIOR DINER.....464 SMITH ST.
SUPREMO SUPERMARKET270 KING ST.
TORRES MINI MARKET403 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 LIBRARY546 WEST AVE.
SEWAREN CORNER DELI514 WEST AVE.

IN SOUTH AMBOY:

AMBOY NATIONAL BANK100 N. BROADWAY
BROADWAY BAGELS105 S. BROADWAY
BROADWAY DINER126 N. BROADWAY
CITY HALL140 N. BROADWAY
COMMUNITY CENTER 200 O’LEARY BLVD.
KRAUSZER’S200 N. BROADWAY
KRAUSZER’S717 BORDENTOWN AVE.
PUBLIC LIBRARY100 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 HALL1 MAIN ST.
MAIN ST. FARM107 MAIN ST.
NEWS & TREATS 99 MAIN ST.
ST. JOSEPH’S SENIORS RESIDENCE1 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.

Attention Businesses Open During Pandemic Crisis:

Let customers know your services are helping to serve the community. Consider Advertising in the Amboy Guardian. Our rates are reasonable for both print and/or online advertising. Are you hiring? Get the word out!

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Katherine:
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Email the Amboy Guardian:
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Attention!

Our Newspaper is available at Shop-Rite, Perth Amboy at the Courtesy Counter!

2020 Amboy Guardian Publication Dates

January 15
February 5
February 19
March 4
March 18
April 1
April 15
May 6
May 20
June 3
June 17
July 1
July 15
August 5
August 19
September 2
September 16
October 7
October 21
November 4
November 18
December 2
December 16

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

MON. Dec. 7 City Council, Caucus 4:30 p.m.
YMCA, New Brunswick Ave.
WED Dec. 9 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
YMCA, New Brunswick Ave.
THURS. Jan. 7 Board of Education, 5:30 p.m.
PAHS, Eagle Ave.

South Amboy

WED. Dec. 16 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 or at another location and for details how to participate

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



Please Submit Community Events
2 Weeks in Advance!
Email: AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

The Barge
On The Waterfront in Historic Perth Amboy
Open for Lunch and Dinner
Lunch- 11:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Dinner- 3:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
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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.

Wilda Diaz Leadership. When we need it most.



Pandemic Relief - Coronavirus

Mayor Diaz responded decisively to provide relief for those Perth Amboy residents directly impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Mayor Diaz, in partnership with non-profits and the business community, have organized over 250,000 meal, fruit and produce deliveries to locations across the city.

**Keeping
Us
Healthy!**



**Keeping
Us
Safe!**

Keeping Us Informed!

Mayor Diaz keeps us up to date by press conference and social media.

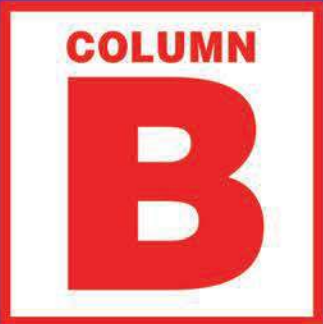
Watch for your Vote by Mail ballot and vote!

**TEAM WILDA
DIAZ
2020**
STRONGER TOGETHER



**Wilda Diaz for Mayor
Bernadette Falcon Lopez &
Junior Iglesia for City Council**

Paid by Team Wilda Diaz 2020 - Stronger Together, 437 Ashley Street, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861



Season's Greetings

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Senior Director
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Drive Thru the Christmas Story

OLD BRIDGE - Welcome to our 35th Annual Drive Thru the Christmas Story! Sayre Woods Bible Church, 2290, US Highway 9 South, Old Bridge, NJ. 2020 may look a little different this year, but the story remains the same! So, bring your family to celebrate with our family as we revisit the life of Jesus, from the Nativity thru the Resurrection.

In an effort to remain socially distant, there will be no inside activities...however, our bathrooms will be available.


Fri., Dec. 4th – 6 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 5th – 6 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 6th – 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.
**parking lot opens 30 minutes before start times*

We will be accepting unexpired non-perishable food donations for our Bread of Life Food Bin ministry, which serves dozens of families monthly.

For more information, call 732-679-5989 or email info@sayre-woods.org or go to www.sayre-woods.org We look forward to celebrating this Christmas with you!

GEORGE J. OTLOWSKI, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

Happy Holidays



717 CONVERY
BOULEVARD (ROUTE 35)
PERTH AMBOY NEW JERSEY 08861
TEL: 732-826-5555. FAX: 732-826-4653



Deck the House Merry & Bright House Decorating Contest

SOUTH AMBOY - Let's light up South Amboy this holiday season and spread some joy! Contestants wanting to participate in the "Deck the House: Merry & Bright" holiday home decorating contest can email picture(s) of their decorated home including address to kellyj@southamboynj.gov starting November 30th, 2020 until December 18th, 2020.

Photos will be posted for judging and will also be featured in our Virtual Holiday Trolley Tour video that will be posted later in December on our Facebook and website page.

Cookie Walk

PERTH AMBOY - St. John's Annual Cookie Walk at 404 Division Street, Perth Amboy, NJ will be Held on Saturday December 19 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. please come and pick out some homemade baked goods.



Cake Sale

PERTH AMBOY - St. John's Orthodox Church Winter Cake Sale. Orders may be called in on December 7 & 8 for: Walnut, Poppyseed, Prune (Levar), Apricot, Raspberry Cakes are \$13.00 to (732) 826-7067 between 9 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Call early before we sell out. Cake orders may be picked on December 16 or 17 between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. at 404 Division Street.



Season's Greetings



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Who Has the Authority?

11/23/20 Caucus & Council Meetings

**Continued from Page 1*

oride. Why do we have fluoride added to our water while other towns do not? Residents said they don't want fluoride."

King responded, "You may have to file papers with the DEP if you want to remove the fluoride from the water."

Jimenez then talked about R-489 – A contract with Center State Engineering in relation to the sewer separation project increasing the contract in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.

He explained, "Some utilities were not marked. The elevation levels had to be redesigned and this is also a closeout of some of the finished projects."

R-490 – A contract with Electronic Drives and Controls for the repairs to the frequency drives throughout the water and service utilities in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

Jimenez explained, "The drives do not break that often, but there are very old ones at the Runyon Facility. The ones at the Second Street Pump Station overheated, but we put in an air conditioner to solve the problem."

R-491 – A change order to the contract with EN-TECH increasing the contract for the cleaning and lining of the sewer main on Gordon Street from Water Street to High Street in an amount not to exceed \$761.25.

Jimenez said, "This is to pay the off-duty Auxiliary Police which will bring the amount up to \$1,155.01"

King then added, "This is subject to certified funds."

R-4925 – Authorizing the 2020-2021 renewal of plenary retail consumption license held in the name of Seabra's Armory, 200 Front St. effective November 24, 2020.

Law Director King explained, "This will give the Armory back their license so we can impose fines on them."

Fire Chief Ed Mullen came up to speak about R-494 – Authorizing the city of Perth Amboy to enter into a contract to acquire 990 Amboy Ave., Lots 1&2 and execute documents related to closing title.

He explained, "There was \$750,000 in the Capital Improvement Ordinance for this." He also wanted to thank the City Council for recognized Anton Massopust Day on his birthday (November 23rd) on behalf of the Fire Department.

Mullen then continued, "This is not a massive building (new firehouse). We started talking about this project about 6 years ago. The owner of this property paid 6 quarters of his taxes. We are asking that you move on the first property tonight. We have \$250,000 in place for architectural work. We expect to have the project to be completed in 2024. We recently had a fire, and we were able to get there in 4 minutes. We hope to have a concrete and steel building for this firehouse. We intend to name it: The Memorial Fire Station to remember the past members and it will include singular dorms. The expected completion date is 2024."

Council President Bill Petrick made a comment regarding R-496 – Rejecting the bids for

A/V Systems Upgrades to the council chambers and authorizing the advertisement for the bid. He stated, "The element of the rebid was not complete."

The meeting was then opened up to the public. The first person to speak was Jeremy Baratta. He questioned the legitimacy of the business (Key Marketing Company) who was contracted to the QR Codes for the businesses. "I went to the State Business records and only found two records: one from 1985 and one from 1995. There were no tax filings. This could be a fictitious name. Who are these people? If they are not registered, they cannot get the contract. I've looked at the updated state files."

Law Director King then spoke up, "I advise you (the council) not to pass this resolution (awarding Key Marketing the contract). If you do award this contract, there is a screening process."

Tashi Vazquez Assistant Director of the Office of Economic and Community Development told the council, "You have their (Key Marketing) proposal, W9, insurance, and certification."

King then spoke up, "Based upon that, you can award them the contract."

Samantha Castro from Frontline Youth spoke next regarding the Citizen's Advisory Group. "The point of our protest is to advocate for human rights and the de-escalation of tensions between the police and public. This will help to protect and n empower the residents. It's based on compassion and safety. We work with the YMCA, the NAACP and the Citizen's Campaign."

The next person to come up to speak was resident Betty Crews who is also a member of the Citizen's Campaign. "I came up here to speak for Donna Stewart, who is the President of the local Perth Amboy Chapter of the NAACP. Perth Amboy can be an example of how the police and civilians can work together." She asked that the ordinance be adopted by the council and is approved by the NAACP and it could change the course of history that we can be proud of."

Resident Bob McCoy came up next, "I am on the Board of Trustees at the YMCA. This ordinance addresses systemic racism and social justice. There is a need for police reform. I am part of the JEDI Group (Justice, Equality, Diversity, Inclusion)." He then mentioned the names of several black people who were killed by police in the last six years that made national news. While praising the Perth Amboy Police, he also urged the council to adopt this ordinance for our city. "We need a policy regarding the use of force. Our group includes police chaplains, the NAACP, educators, clergy, and members of the Citizen's Campaign."

Law Director King then stated, "The ordinance can't contradict the police chief's policies."

Citizen's Campaign founder Harry Pozyski came up to speak next. He reminded the council he came here over a little about a month ago to say that this ordinance would be consistent with state laws. "The PBA (Po-

lice Benefit Association) and FOP (Fraternal Order of Police) met with us. Revisions were proposed and the PBA partnered with us to improve public safety. Through the policies implement use of force lawsuits went down. Complaints go down, and there is a reduction of injuries. There is also a decline of police deaths and injuries. I asked that this ordinance be put on the December 7th, 2020 meeting for first reading. You have the revised ordinance."

Councilman Helmin Caba spoke up, "I think this is great for Perth Amboy, but I don't see anyone here from the PBA."

Pozyski then stated, "The person who is supposed to be here from the PBA is in self-isolation because they were in contact who tested positive for Covid."

Council President Petrick spoke up, "We should review the revisions, then we can consider introducing this at our next regular council meeting."

King made a final comment regarding this ordinance, "Since it was not on the agenda, it cannot be put on the agenda tonight because people could not talk about it."

Resident Ken Balut came up next. He was concerned about the voter fraud, and a ranking police officer who was suspended. "An employee in Code Enforcement was talking about it. A Board of Education Member is involved, and this issue is a month old. There is a recount in the Board of Education because of 10 votes. Were votes destroyed? Or counted or not counted?" Balut then referred to a video that has been circulating widely on the internet. "We can see people take ballots out of mailboxes. The chief is silent. I want transparency. Does the Code Enforcement Director have a badge? I've been getting phone calls from people I haven't from in years. This is voter fraud. Were votes stolen and not mailed?"

Council President Petrick asked King, "What is our assurance that this will be investigated?"

King responded, "Investigations can't be discussed."

Petrick then questioned, "Are there ramifications on employees talking about this on Facebook?"

King answered, "With sensitive or classified information, it can't be done by a city employee on their personal or the city's Facebook page."

Councilman Irizarry then asked, "Would we be informed?"

King responded, "Investigations can be touched up by those we don't know about. You have authority as the Council, but not under the Prosecutor's or Attorney General's Office. You cannot investigate any criminal attorney."

The caucus meeting ended at 6:53 p.m. The council meeting started at 7:05 p.m.

The meeting was opened up to the public for anyone to speak on Ordinance No. 2 RE: The addition of a loading zone at 576 New Brunswick Ave.

Jeremy Baratta came up, "The owner of this business has a driveway and a parking lot. The trucks deliver at night. A

lot of houses in that area don't have driveways and the streets are always lined with cars. I'm concerned about the resident's parking. Why is there an eighteen-wheel truck delivering to such a small store? The parking lot can accommodate an eighteen-wheel truck."

Petrick spoke up, "They were parking on New Brunswick Avenue before. The loading zone will be on Lawrie Street. The time will be from 5 p.m. to 12 a.m. Monday through Sunday. It's wall-to-wall cars sometimes."

Baratta then thought, "From 5 p.m. to 12 a.m. – 7 days a week is too much. Change the delivery schedule or change the times of the delivery."

People were then asked to address any agenda items.

Baratta went back up to the mic to address R-487 – Accepting the proposal of and awarding a contract to Key Marketing for NPP-CRF: Restaurant Website Design in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.

Baratta stated, "That is not Key Marketing. Could it be their trade name? Tashi Vazquez (Assistant Director of the Office of Economic and Community Development) showed me the documents on this company, but the addresses don't match. They do not show enough professionalism and are not maintaining their records. How will their work be done?" He then discussed an article, "There is an article in The New Jersey Globe which was about a video showing people taking ballots out of mailboxes (in Perth Amboy). There was also a police officer suspended. This should have been in the personnel report. You should have been officially notified." He then spoke about Ordinance No. 2 RE: Special Event permits. Baratta suggested to the council that they look at legal briefs citing the stature on having events such as festivals on city properties and city beaches – not just a general explanation. "This should not be subject to interpretation."

Ken Balut came up to speak about R-487. "Was this bidden out? You could probably get a kid to do QR codes. I gave you photos of former Police Chief Ruiz doing election work while in uniform. This city has to file charges and you never did. King said he would have filed charges. The upper echelon of the police department and the police director are at fault. Intimidation by Code Enforcement is still going on."

Councilman Irizarry then addressed Balut's last statement, "You were told that it was a mistake when Code Enforcement went to your house regarding your hedges." Irizarry then asked, "How much did the GIF (General Insurance Fund) go up?"

Balut answered, "\$400,000."

Irizarry then finished the conversation, "We can't file charges if there is an investigation going on."

Hearing of Citizens: Jeremy Baratta, Managing Member of J. Baratta Industries came up to speak about the proposed 2021 Business Improvement Budget. He started by saying, "At the last BID meeting, BID Chair Barry Rosengarten said that the

council agreed to pass the BID budget."

Petrick responded, "We didn't."

Baratta continued, "On November 17th, Noelia Colon (BID Coordinator) said it was too soon to pass the budget. "The administration does things last minute so you can't make changes. It's the same old scam. 6 out of 16 Board Members attended the last BID Meeting. There was no agenda. The salary for Noelia Colon is \$105,000 which would be 3 to 4 times the AGI (Average Gross Income) of our citizens. There is supposed to be revamping the façade program. They are giving grants to nontaxpayers. Some businesses got a \$5,000 check. The businesses are shutting down, so there is no need to spend money on sprucing them up. \$7,500 was spent for paperclips and \$2,500 for a phone bill. \$23,000 for professional services; \$250/hour for a BID Attorney. \$15,000 on various projects. The BID Budget is \$247,650 and \$144,000 in supplemental money. Under marketing, they have a Green Team which they have at an additional cost. The contractors for the planters are \$2,500 a month, but they are not public contractors. The BID has \$400,000 in cash and supplemental money and they should operate on a flat tax."

On Ordinance No. 1 – 1-year lease with Easter Seals of New Jersey for office space in the Jankowski Community Center for non-monetary consideration to be used for public purpose commencing January 1st, 2021 thru December 31st, 2021 was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Tejeda.

Ordinance No. 2 – RE: Addition of Loading Zone to 576 New Brunswick Ave. was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Tejeda.

Ordinance No. 1 (first reading) – designating restricted parking spaces for use by a handicapped person regarding addition was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Caba.

Ordinance No. 2 (first reading) – RE: Special Event permits was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Tejeda.

Ordinance No. 3 (first reading) – Administration of Government regarding budget and fiscal procedures was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Tejeda.

For the consent agenda, R-467 thru R-473, R-476, R-478 thru R-494, R-496 were moved by Irizarry and seconded by Tejeda. R-477 was asked to be pulled to be voted separately by Petrick. Irizarry asked that R-495 be pulled to be voted on separately. The consent agenda was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Tejeda.

R-477 – Authorizing a Fit Lot partnership agreement to AARP sponsored outdoor fitness park at Dalton Park. It was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Tejeda. All voted "Yes."

R-495 – Professional services with Thomas Calcagni, Esq. of the firm of Calcagni-Kanefski for legal representation of the council of the city of Perth Amboy in conjunction with liti-

**Continued on Page 9*

Who Has the Authority? 11/23/20 Caucus & Council Meetings

**Continued from Page 8*

gation regarding city officials violation of law related to reappointment of the business administrator in an amount not to exceed \$25,000. It was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Tejeda. Irizarry voted, “No.”

Earlier in the meeting, the council decided to move two resolutions: R-474-11/20 – Commending Jeremy Barrata, owner of J. Baratta Industries on being a recipient of the 2020 Higher Vet Medallion Platinum Award. It was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Tejeda. When it came to vote on the resolution separately, Irizarry voted, “No.”

R-475-11/20 – Proclaiming

November 23rd as “Anton J. Massopust Day in Perth Amboy” in acknowledgement and celebration of all his contributions to the city, was approved by all during the approval consent agenda during the meeting. Public Portion:

The first person to come to the podium was Ken Balut who was annoyed because New Jersey libraries were awarded \$870,000. “We lost out on this grant money because we don’t have the proper library staff. We had a good library director.”

Petrick then spoke up, “Wilda (Mayor Diaz) fired her for no cause.”

Balut continued, “The council should have a budget of \$50,000 for legal representation. I don’t know if we had a legal election.

It is your job to look at the video (showing alleged ballot tampering). It’s serious when a police sergeant was suspended. It is about checks and balances. Joe Vas (former mayor) also used Code Enforcement to go after people. The current Code Enforcement Director is not qualified. You (the council), and the business administrator, should investigate. I always come up here with proof.”

Businessowner Jeremy Baratta came up next to speak, “You have a right to start investigations. You may get a letter to stop if you go beyond your duties, but that’s it. I’m not a city employee and I can speak freely. I was going to share some text messages between myself and Councilman Fernando Irizarry,

but the people have spoken.”

Council Comments:

Helmin Caba said, “I thank everyone for coming. Everyone have a Blessed Thanksgiving.”

Fernando Irizarry wished all a Happy, Safe, and Blessed Thanksgiving.”

Milady Tejeda thanked everyone for coming. She then said, “Mr. Massopust was an icon. It was my pleasure to serve with him on the Board of Education. I’m wishing him a happy birthday in heaven. Have a Blessed Thanksgiving.”

William Petrick asked the council members that were present if they would be interested in changing the start time of the Caucus to 5:00 p.m.

Law Director King spoke up, “You would have to change the

ordinance.”

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch then added, “You would have to change it next year before the 2021 meeting schedule comes out.”

Petrick then mentioned that the purchasing department said the council might have to have special meeting at the end of December. He thanked all for coming, wished everyone a Blessed Thanksgiving at to be safe.

The meeting ended at 8:10 p.m. Councilman Joel Pabon was absent from both meetings due to illness.

In-Home Learning and Safety Concerns 11/19/20 Board of Education Meeting

By: Carolyn Maxwell

PERTH AMBOY –Superintendent Dr. David Roman introduced Assistant Superintendent Dr. Vivian Rodriguez to present her report on the anti-bullying policy. Rodriguez started out by stating, “The Anti-Bullying Report has to be presented twice a year according to the law. The presentation can also be viewed on the Board of Education’s website. This report was from the school year beginning from 2019-2020. The first report deals with self-assessment of the school and harassment prevention. There are 26 questions. Our district has met or exceeded the expectations. We have to score between 52-78 points. We all have met or exceeded this. The second part of the report involves the student data and harassment incidents, what kind of training we have in place and programs dealing with violence and vandalism. This also includes any student that had to be removed or suspended. The final report must be submitted by December 31, 2020.”

Board Vice President Junior Iglesia asked if there was any data from last year to compare to.

Rodriguez responded, “I can get it for you, but it was given to you already. There was less bullying because of remote learning. This includes violent vandalism, weapons, and other incidents. In the past, there were also suspensions of students who did not obey the code of conduct.”

Board President Tashi Vazquez asked if they had any incidents of violence or vandalism since we’ve had remote learning.

Dr. Roman then explained, “There have been some incidents that have been sexual in nature. We have observed students doing something. Sometimes parents or teachers will report cyber-bullying. We have been on top of it with security and other departments involved.”

After the presentation and comments made referring to the report, the Board of Education went into executive session at 5:49 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:07 p.m. Again, there was only one public portion in which anything could be discussed.

Parent Mr. Ortiz was the first speaker. He was concerned because the Board of Education Members and Superintendent are not communicating enough with the parents when it comes to remote learning. “Other towns have Zoom Meetings to teach parents better ways to use technology for more of a in-school learning environment.”

Mr. Ortiz then introduced his son, who stated, “At home, you have too many distractions.”

Mr. Ortiz then stated, “There is not enough communications with the superintendent. Why are schools closed? The virus is not spreading that much in the schools.”

Perth Amboy Federation President Pat Paradiso and District Representative of the Perth Amboy Federation Lynn Audet each read a statement. (See column right p.9 & p.10)

Board President Tashi Vazquez thanked all for their opinions. She told the speakers they can email the Board of Education Members and administrators about their concerns. “We hear you,”

Vazquez then addressed some of the remarks by the AFT Members regarding the safety of teachers and staff. “We are learning as we go along regarding our food workers and staff. We have masks to give to anyone who needs them. Our Number #1 priority is making sure our students have what they need to communicate. There is a natural shortage of some equipment.” She then addressed the complaint about the AFT representatives concerns about the last contract that was signed. “The salary guide requirements were met in accordance with the contract negotiation with the AFT. The Board of Education stands by their decision.”

Superintendent Dr. Roman then addressed the father and son who spoke earlier and urged them to email your principal about your concern. “We have weekly meetings regarding the pandemic situation which all can participate in them. We are doing one-on-one engagement with the students. Other towns may have different criteria when it comes with when dealing with the pandemic. We follow the appropriate recommendations when handing out food. Thanksgiving is not going to be

easy this year. One of our Board Members: Jesus Martinez is leaving, and we want to recognize his contributions, dedication, and his involvement as a Board Member. We also want to thank Board Member Maria Rodriguez for her service and how she could see firsthand how the Board of Education works.”

Board Member Ken Puccio said, “A lot of students have more engagement in the community and want some of the clubs to be reactivated after the pandemic is over. We hear your concerns.”

Board Member Lissette Lebron then spoke up, “There is an organization that has a donation of over 400 winter coats.”

Board Member Dianne Roman then said, “We need an assessment on how they will be distributed. We may have to meet with the Building and Grounds personnel regarding this matter.”

Superintendent Dr. Roman thanked the Maintenance and Custodial Staff for keeping our buildings clean.

Board President Tashi Vazquez then spoke up, “The Remote Learning and Childcare Contract with the YMCA is being reviewed before renewing the contract.”

Board Member Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe stated that it is National Adoption Month. “You can be a mentor or foster parent. There are 122,000 youth waiting for adoption and some of them are at-risk.

After she spoke, Board Member Lissette Lebron wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and thanked all the churches who participated by providing food for people this Thanksgiving.

Board Member Dianne Roman asked all to be cautious when dealing with the Covid, “Our numbers are going up. There were over 600 new cases in the last 17 days (in Perth Amboy). The numbers speak for themselves. I was grateful to serve with all the Board Members.”

Board Member Ken Puccio wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m. Board Members Dr. Danielle Brown and Jesus Martinez were not present.

Pat Paradiso Board Meeting Statement at the 11/19/20 Board of Education Meeting

PERTH AMBOY - The current remote schedules for middle school and high school students and staff are unsustainable. If you were able to go into their Google classrooms you would see the strain and exhaustion of the faces of our students and staff. On top of the full day of teaching, teachers spend hours completing paperwork and preparing and digitizing their remote lessons. There is also the expectation that teachers must show up after their contractual day to retrieve materials. This is unacceptable.

Adding to this pressure, grading windows for report cards and progress reports have been reduced to an unreasonably short amount of time. Teachers have complained about this, and the union has complained about this. The response from the district is the teachers should be inputting grades all along. That ignores the fact that teachers are allowing their students to make up missing work. We understand that this is all difficult for our students, too. And truthfully, what possible harm is there in keeping the grading window open longer. Teachers should not have to spend hours after school trying to complete a task that teachers from other districts can do in a leisurely manner.

After the rush to get report cards done, high school teachers must then go through a maze of documentation to show that they did everything possible to help their students pass the class. This process can take hours. This task also has an unreasonable deadline. Almost every teacher task in this district

comes with an unreasonable deadline.

Middle and High School teachers are also losing their preps to cover classes. In most cases, it has not been voluntary. Yes, they are being paid for a missed prep, but teachers desperately need their prep periods to prepare and upload quality remote lessons, contact parents, grade assignments, upload grades, do report cards, return emails, speak with other colleagues, attend IEP meetings, attend PLCs, and to digitize their current resources. We are petitioning for more planning time for our Middle and High School teachers. The amount of work our teachers are tasked is enormous.

We requested from central that teachers and paraprofessional be given time on a rotating schedule during their contractual workday to pick up supplies that they need from their classrooms to be used for instruction for our students for the second marking period. No one in central answered our request.

We also have paraprofessionals who need laptops because the ones they got from the district in the spring no longer work. Our students need their paraprofessionals, and our paraprofessional need laptops.

On a related note, you can see that we are losing more great teachers on this agenda... through retirement and resignation. This should concern all of us. Pat Paradiso President Perth Amboy Federation



Statement by Lynn Audet at the November 19, 2020 Board of Education Meeting

PERTH AMBOY - Lynn Audet, Perth Amboy resident, 30-year teacher, taxpayer, and voter. I am also the District Representative for the Perth Amboy Federation.

I have been asked to speak this evening on behalf of many different component groups on many different topics, so please bear with me as I attempt to express to you everyone's concerns. Please know that Pat Paradiso and I have reached out to supervisors and/or central administrators about these concerns, and there was no communication back to us, so I am led to believe that these problems are still happening.

On behalf of our CST workers who are currently testing students in some of the buildings: We were told that there are parents showing up at sites with no masks. There have been children with no masks coming into very close contact, and in some cases climbing on the CST member testing them, no disinfecting after parents or students are using the bathroom, some testing being done in rooms with no open windows, and there is a building that is using a shower curtain not plexiglass as a divider. There is also testing happening in a building where the YMCA is housed, where we are being told children are not always wearing their masks or practicing social distancing. These practices are putting our CST members at risk.

On behalf of our Food Service workers: There are still sites where it is being reported that parents are showing up without masks to pick up lunches, and there are still sites with no plexiglass dividers. It has been reported to me that there are sites where parents are coming inside the building to pick up lunches. Also, I understand that food service workers sometimes need to cover other schools if there are entire teams in quarantine or they are short-handed. There have been times, however, that food service workers from a school are on their "remote day" and then another food service worker from another school is sent to cover that school. This seems unnecessary. Traveling from building to building increases the chance of exposure to Covid 19 for our Food Service workers. I ask that Food Service workers only be sent to other buildings in absolute emergencies.

I am also requesting that you have our Food Service workers go back to reporting on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday like we did in the Spring and to stagger their work day to minimize exposure. They can give out multiple breakfasts and lunches on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Parents have been requesting at the schools more than one breakfast/lunch when they come to pick up, so they don't have to come back every day. This is bound to increase as the weather begins to get colder. I would hate to see a parent not come out to get food for their child(ren) because the weather is too cold for them to walk to school.

On behalf of our Food Service workers and our SLEOs: We have heard that there have been food service workers and SLEOs that are being sent emails after hours that they will have a remote day the following day, but then they are showing up to work because the email was sent after hours. Staff members are not required to check their emails at home during non-contractual hours.

On behalf of our custodians: I was informed yesterday that custodians were given face-masks that require disposable filters, and they were told to purchase coffee filters, in lieu of being provided with replacement filters. I am also concerned that our custodians are tasked with cleaning the building after the children leave from the YMCA program. This concerns me since I am hearing that not all protocols have been followed in the YMCA program.

On behalf of the entire staff of the PAPS: People want to know in writing what the protocol is if a worker tests positive for Covid 19.

In conclusion, as I said at last month's Board of Education meeting, I am asking for you to please include the AFT in the decision-making process, and communicate back to us when we address concerns. We are not your enemy. We want to work collaboratively to help move this district forward, and to keep our members safe. We are the people working in the trenches. AFT leadership should not have to file grievances to be heard. We shouldn't have to have to fight for safety, fairness, and respect for our dedicated, amazing staff members. But you know we will.

Rutgers Leading Coronavirus Therapeutic Clinical Trial

Researchers are investigating a potential treatment for people recently diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2 who have no or mild symptoms

Press Release
NEW JERSEY - Rutgers is leading a clinical trial assessing the combination of nitazoxanide, ribavirin and hydroxychloroquine to treat people 21 or older who are infected with SARS-CoV-2 and are asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic. The trial is being conducted with Synavir Corporation, a global health company that works with academia, industry and government to develop combination treatments for new viral infections.

The trial — called Triple Combination Antiviral Coronavirus Therapy (TriACT) — seeks to determine whether treating people who test positive for coronavirus but who do not have symptoms or have mild symptoms with this combination will reduce the amount of virus and their chances of getting sick.

There are no proven treatments for COVID-19, but there is some evidence that medications used to treat other infections might also work against COVID-19, especially if they are used in combination. This three-drug combination has been shown in experimental studies to be highly effective in suppressing viral replication. Participants will be given the drug combination or a placebo.

"Medications for outpatients with COVID-19 that shorten

the duration of the illness, prevent the need for hospitalization and, perhaps most importantly, prevent spread of the disease to others are a critical need that are currently missing in therapeutics," said principal investigator Jeffrey Carson, MD, a Provost at Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences and a Distinguished Professor of Medicine at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

The trial will assess the rate of decline in viral load in 70 people over 10 days and compare the proportion of participants who are asymptomatic and symptomatic at 10 days versus the time of onset; the frequency of the development of fever and other symptoms of COVID-19 in those who were asymptomatic at enrollment; the progression in severity of COVID-19 symptoms, including hospitalization and length of stay, admission to an intensive care unit and the number of days in the unit, and death of any cause; the severity of disease in participants who develop symptoms of COVID-19; and the side effects of the therapy compared to a placebo. It also seeks to determine whether the baseline viral load predicts response to therapy and new COVID-19 infection in household members.

The trial was designed to al-

low the study participants to largely participate safely from home. They will visit the clinic only three times. They will receive a TriACT Study Kit, which includes the study medicine, swabbing kits and all other materials needed to complete the investigation, within 10 days, and will return to the clinic at days 14 and 28 for a status check.

"To successfully treat life-threatening RNA viruses such as SARS-CoV-2, we believe that antiviral medicines must act on multiple, sequential points in the viral replication life cycle," says Gregory T. Went, co-founder at Synavir. "We are pleased to collaborate with Dr. Carson's team to investigate this approach to treatment of COVID-19 and potentially help improve outcomes for newly diagnosed patients."

The researchers are seeking referrals from physicians of outpatients with a SARS-CoV-2 positive test within seven days. To be eligible, patients must have been diagnosed within the previous six days, preferably within the last two days. For more information, call 833-874-2281 (1-833-TRIACT1), email triact1@rwjms.rutgers.edu or visit www.triact1.com.

Stop & Shop's Christmas & New Year's Hours

NEW JERSEY - On Christmas Eve, New Jersey stores will close at 6 p.m., but the Pharmacy will close at 5 p.m. Online shopping will close at 5 p.m. On Christmas Day, all stores will be closed. On New Year's Eve, New Jersey stores will close at 9 p.m., but the Pharmacy will close at 5 p.m. Online shopping will close at 8 p.m. On New Year's Day, stores will follow regular hours.



L2B> Library to Business

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/>

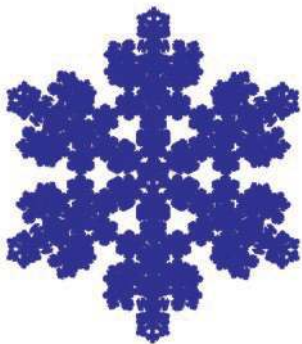
For more information contact the Sadie Pope Dowdell Library: email: comments@dowdell.org or go to www.dowdell.org

Foster Adoption Challenge

MIDDLESEX COUNTY - Every child and every young person deserves to have a family who will love and support them, forever. The Administration for Children and Families ALL-IN Foster Adoption Challenge is a national effort led by Assistant Secretary Lynn Johnson with the goal of finding loving, permanent homes for the 122,000 children and youth who are currently waiting for adoption in the foster care system.

Partners are needed in every state, including governors, public figures, agencies, courts, faith-based and community organizations, businesses, and the public. Join us and be #ALLIN-FORWAITINGKIDS! Find out how YOU can be ALL IN at <https://bit.ly/34Ym4V1>

Everyone can do their part to be ALL IN! Take the next step toward becoming a forever family for a waiting child/youth. Be a support for foster/adoptive families in your community. Become a mentor for a youth in foster care. Volunteer with a local agency that supports children and youth in foster care.



Free Family Winter Wonderland

SOUTH AMBOY- Join us for some FREE Family holiday cheer and fun at the South Amboy YMCA's Winter Wonderland on Sunday, December 6, 2020 and located at 200 John T. O'Leary Blvd. from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will have an outdoor Zumba class, vendors, food trucks, live music, photo booth, hot cocoa bar and more!

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, December 3, 2020. Cost: \$30 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.

Our Gift Guide/Season's Greetings Issue are
Coming Up on & December 16, 2020
Deadline: December 11, 2020
We Have Special Advertising Rates
Call Carolyn: 732-896-4446
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As COVID Cases Rise, Essential Laundry Workers in Perth Amboy Strike Over Employer’s Illegal Threats to Fire Them

During Contract Negotiations, Unitex Corporation Has Threatened to Fire These Unionized Workers if They Exercised Their Right to Strike

Press Release 11/18/20
PERTH AMBOY, NJ – Today, essential laundry workers employed by Unitex corporation began a two-day unfair labor practices strike at 35 Washington Street in Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

Their co-workers in Mount Vernon, New York, where Unitex operates two facilities, also walked off the job to honor the primary picket line, and New York State Senator Jamaal Bailey joined them in solidarity.

These essential laundry workers clean linens for many hospitals in New Jersey and New York City operating on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The workers in Perth Amboy are striking to protest illegal threats of termination currently under investigation by Region 22 of the National Labor Relations Board.

Their strike comes amid a dramatic spike in new COVID-19 cases in both New Jersey and New York. Unitex’s illegal threat of firing these unionized workers appeared aimed at intimidating them into accepting an unreasonable and unfair new contract.

The company has also refused to commit to basic protections against COVID-19, such as providing employees with two facemasks daily and maintain-



PERTH AMBOY - Perth Amboy Unitex Workers Strike *Photos Submitted

ing six feet of social distance between them. And it has refused to disclose exactly how many employees of its Perth Amboy facility have contracted COVID-19.

During the current pandemic, these overwhelmingly low-wage, Latina workers have cleaned patient bed-linens, gowns and other linens for hospitals and nursing homes that were often contaminated with COVID-19. They are represented by the Laundry, Distribution, and Food Service Joint Board (LDFS Union), Workers United/SEIU.

Unitex is a financially successful and growing company that reported more than \$150 million in annual revenue as of 2014.

“Our members have stepped up during the COVID-19 pandemic and faced significant health risks to keep many New York City hospitals and nursing homes safe. They wanted to avoid a strike, but will not accept intimidation or illegal threats from Unitex. That’s why they were outside on the picket line today protesting unfair labor practices by Unitex,” said Alberto Arroyo, Co-Manager of the Laundry, Distribution, and Food Service Joint Board, Workers United/SEIU, and a top union official negotiating on behalf of the Perth Amboy Unitex employees.

“I have dedicated years of my life to this job. It’s very hard work cleaning and processing gowns, sheets, and other lin-

ens for hospitals and nursing homes in New Jersey and New York. But I am proud to help keep these healthcare facilities clean and safe every day, especially during the COVID-19 crisis. My co-workers and I have helped Unitex become a very wealthy and successful company. Unitex forced us to strike today after they illegally threatened us and tried to intimidate us into accepting an unfair contract. We are essential workers, and we deserve better from our employer,” said Brigida Vidal, a Unitex employee.

Once the unfair labor practice strike ends, the workers at Perth Amboy will continue bargaining for a fair contract with Unitex.

New York State Senator Ja-

maal Bailey, who represents a district where two Unitex shops are located, expressed strong support today for the health and safety proposals the workers have made.

“The essential industrial laundry workers deserve to be provided with COVID-19 safety measures, and proper equipment. It is the duty of corporations like Unitex to protect their employees, especially after they have risked their lives and their families during the spike of the pandemic earlier this year. Especially in light of rising cases locally in the City of Mount Vernon, I urge Unitex to reconsider the proposals made by their employees and implore them to enact those proposals,” said Bailey.

MCFOODS Distributes 1,500 Turkeys Thanks to Stop & Shop’s Turkey Express Program’s Donation to Community FoodBank of New Jersey

Thanksgiving Turkeys Go to Two Dozen Partner Agencies in Middlesex County



MIDDLESEX COUNTY - New York Giants players load food for Freeholder Tomaro's pantry, Hands of Hope *Photos Submitted

Press Release 11/19/20
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ – The Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services (MCFOODS) today received a donation of 1,500 Thanksgiving turkeys which were distributed to two dozen partner agencies throughout the County, helping feed families throughout Middlesex County this Thanksgiving. The turkeys were delivered to MCFOODS’ distribution center on Kennedy Boulevard in East Brunswick this morning by the Community FoodBank of New Jersey, who received the turkeys via Stop & Shop’s Turkey Express program.

“In a year when food insecurity has increased sharply throughout the State and the rate of food insecurity among children has nearly doubled in Middlesex County, we are in-

credibly grateful for this donation,” said Freeholder Director Ronald G. Rios. “Because of Stop & Shop’s Turkey Express program, thousands of Middlesex County residents can celebrate one of our country’s most beloved traditions: a turkey dinner on Thanksgiving. On behalf of the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, I thank Stop & Shop for their donation, Community FoodBank of New Jersey for their coordination in this effort, and former New York Giants players Joe Morris, David Tyree, and Jonathan Casillas for their assistance in off-loading these turkeys at the MCFOODS Distribution Center this morning.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a sharp increase in food insecurity in Middlesex County and nationwide. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, MC-

FOODS has organized food distribution events and food collection events, all contact-free and socially distanced, to combat the severe need in the County. To date, MCFOODS has received and distributed over 3.9 million pounds of food in 2020 as compared with 2.2 million pounds in all of 2019

“Stop & Shop is proud to make this donation and help so many Middlesex County residents in need,” said Stefanie Shuman, Community Relations Manager for Stop & Shop. “We’re thankful for partners like Community FoodBank of New Jersey and MCFOODS who share in and support our commitment to eradicate hunger in the communities we serve.”

This holiday season, Stop & Shop’s Turkey Express program will deliver more than 21,000 turkeys to hunger relief orga-

nizations in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. This decades-old donation campaign is larger this year as a result of the increased need due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“More of our New Jersey neighbors than ever before may not have access to holiday meals this year,” said Carlos Rodriguez, President & CEO of the Community FoodBank of New Jersey. “I’m grateful to the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders for their partnership throughout the pandemic, Stop & Shop for their turkey donation and ongoing support, and former New York Giants Players Joe Morris, David Tyree, and Jonathan Casillas for their help at this morning’s distribution. Together, we are ensuring special Thanksgiving meals for those who need it

most.”

Feeding America reports a dramatic increase in hunger in New Jersey since the start of the pandemic in March:

- 56% increase in food insecurity throughout New Jersey as a result of COVID-19--an additional 432,000 residents.
- This rate is higher than the national average of 46% and greater than any of New Jersey’s neighboring states.
- The projected food insecurity rate has risen from 8.2% to 12.9%.
- The increase in child hunger in New Jersey is particularly startling--the rate has risen 75% due to COVID-19 (up to 1 in 5 children from 1 in 9).
- In Middlesex County, the child food insecurity rate has nearly doubled - 18.4% from a pre-pandemic level of 10.2%.

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.

In Austria, the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division is deactivated on November 30, 1945. In California, the U.S. Naval Drydocks, Roosevelt Base, near Los Angeles, is re-named Terminal Island Naval Shipyard. The Chinese Communists enter Shantung Province, in the country's northeast, that was formerly held by the Japanese.

In Germany, British security troops on December 1 sweep the Ruhr and the Rhineland and arrest 76 German industrialists who aided the Nazi war effort. Allied troops withdraw from Czechoslovakia. In Philadelphia, 100,000 fans, including President Truman, watch the Army-Navy football game. Both teams, undefeated, are ranked one and two in the nation. Army beats Navy 32-13 in the contest, which is televised for the first time.

In Japan, Allied occupation authorities arrest 59 Japanese on December 2 on suspicion of having committed war crimes. In Albania's parliamentary elections, the communist-led Democratic Front wins all 82 seats.

Communist demonstrations in Athens on December 3 presage the Greek Civil War. Meeting in Cairo, Egypt, the Arab League votes to boycott all products from Jewish Palestine.

The U.S. Senate on December 4 votes 65-7 to allow the U.S. to join the United Nations and to permit the UN to use American forces to preserve peace and security around the world.

On December 5, a group of five U.S. Navy and Marine Corps Grumman Avenger torpedo bombers, known as Flight 19, disappears while on a training mission off the coast of Florida over a section of ocean later dubbed "The Bermuda Triangle." A U.S. Navy PBM Mariner flying boat, sent out to search for the missing planes, also disappears. All told, 27 personnel are lost: 14 in the five Avengers and 13 aboard the rescue plane. Investigators believe the PBM may have exploded in mid-air from accumulated gasoline vapors in its bilges (a known problem in this type of aircraft). However, there is no definitive explanation for Flight 19's disappearance.

In an effort to revitalize the precarious British economy, the U.S. government on December 6 grants a loan of \$3.75 billion to the United Kingdom. The Canadian government subsequently also provides a loan, of \$1.25 billion, to the British as well. In Tokyo, Gen. of the Army Douglas MacArthur orders the arrest of former Japanese Prime Minister Fumimaro Konoe and eight others as war criminals. At an inquiry into the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in December 1941, Gen. of the Army George C. Marshall, former Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, testifies that he did not anticipate the attack, but that an "alert" defense would have limited the damage done.

In Manila, the Philippines, Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita on December 7 is found guilty of war crimes committed by his troops during the Japanese defense of the Philippines and is sentenced to death. (Afterward, the legitimacy of Yamashita's conviction is called into question because there was no proof offered at trial that Yamashita approved of the atrocities or even knew about them. In fact, many of the atrocities were committed by troops that were not even under Yamashita's command. The case is appealed all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which declines to hear arguments. The finding against Yamashita — that a commanding officer can be held accountable for crimes committed by his troops even though he did not order them, did not stand by and allow them, possibly did not even know about them, and be unable to stop them if he did know of them — has been incorporated into the so-called Yamashita Standard or Standard of Command Responsibility. This doctrine of command accountability has been integrated into the Geneva Convention on Warfare, and has been adopted by the International Criminal Court, established in 2002.) A U.S. patent is granted to the Raytheon Mfg. Co. for the process of cooking food in an electronic (later called "microwave") oven.

In Tokyo, Gen. of the Army Douglas MacArthur on December 8 orders Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma and four other Japanese commanders to be put on trial for their roles in the Bataan Death March of April 1942. On the island of Guam, three U.S. Marines are ambushed and killed by Japanese soldiers who had fled into the jungle at the island's capitulation in August 1944. (The last of the Japanese holdouts on Guam is discovered on January 24, 1972.) The prototype Bell Model 47 helicopter makes its maiden flight. In 1946, the aircraft type will receive the first commercial helicopter certification in the U.S. In Buenos Aires, Argentina, armed Peronistas fire into a rally of their opponents — the Democratic Union — killing four people and wounding 40.

Gen. George S. Patton's car collides at low speed with a U.S. Army truck near Mannheim, Germany, on December 9. While others in the vehicle suffer minor injuries, Patton, a passenger in the back seat, is thrown forward and hits his head, breaking his neck and injuring his spinal cord. Paralyzed from the neck down, he is rushed to a hospital in Heidelberg. In the Netherlands East Indies, Indonesian nationalists attack a British military truck convoy at Cibadak, about 58 miles south of Batavia.

In the Dutch East Indies, a sortie by the RAF causes major damage to the town of Cibadak. The raid is in retaliation for the attack on a British Army convoy the previous day. U.S. entrepreneur Preston Tucker on December 10 announces plans to manufacture the "Torpedo," an automobile with a hydraulic drive that will be capable of reaching a speed of 150 miles per hour. (The first "Torpedo" produced — called the Tucker 48 — debuts in 1948. It can reach speeds of 114 miles per hour, but only 50 vehicles are made before the company goes out of business.)

On December 11, Beatrice Patton, the wife of Gen. Patton, paralyzed after his automobile accident, arrives at the hospital in Heidelberg, Germany, where he is being treated. In the U.S., the members of the United Steelworkers union vote to begin a nationwide strike on January 14. Some 700,000 steelworkers plan to walk off the job to support demands for a wage increase of two dollars per day.

Soviet forces on December 12 establish an Azerbaijan People's Government in Iranian territory that they occupy and from which they refuse to withdraw.

Under a tripartite agreement with the Syrian government, the British and French governments on December 13 agree to evacuate their military forces from that Middle Eastern nation. The evacuation is to be completed by April 15, 1946. Josef Kramer, commandant of the Auschwitz-Birkenau and Bergen-Belsen concentration camps — and 10 others on his staffs — are hanged at Hamelin, Germany, for crimes against humanity. In the Netherlands East Indies, British troops burn the town of Bekasi — 10 miles east of Batavia — in retaliation for the massacre by Indonesians of British and Indian survivors of an RAF Dakota (Douglas DC-3) transport plane that had crashed nearby three weeks earlier.

Middlesex County Surrogate
Kevin J. Hoagland Announces
Retirement Following 28 Years of
Service to County

Press Release 11/25/20
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ – After 28 years of service, Middlesex County Surrogate Kevin J. Hoagland will retire effective December 1, 2020.

Hoagland was first elected as Surrogate in 1992, making him the longest serving surrogate in Middlesex County history. During his tenure, he established 11 satellite offices that have served more than 33,000 people throughout Middlesex County. Hoagland also extended office hours to better accommodate the public and supervised the digital recording of all probate records in Middlesex County dating back to 1790.

"It is with both pride and gratitude that I announce my retirement as Surrogate," says Hoagland. "I am deeply proud of all that my colleagues and I have accomplished over the course of nearly three decades and am grateful to the people of Middlesex County who trusted me to work on their behalf. As a lifelong County resident, it has been a true privilege to serve my community as Surrogate."

Hoagland's long list of accomplishments as Surrogate also includes initiatives designed to better inform people on legal matters involving wills, trusts, and estates. He has published booklets on these topics and founded a speaking program on wills and estates that is available to any senior, civic, or religious group in Middlesex County.

In 2007, Hoagland established Middlesex County's National Adoption Day. Held each November, the event promotes and celebrates adoptions throughout Middlesex County.

"On behalf of the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, I offer our sincerest congratulations to Surrogate Hoagland on his retirement and thank him for this decades-long service to the residents of Middlesex County," says Freeholder Director Ronald G. Rios. "The dedication he has had to his work is unmatched, and the commitment he makes to the greater community, including serving as the founder of Central Jersey Spinal Cord Association, is an inspiration to us all."

Extending his community service beyond his position at Middlesex County, Hoagland is the founder and president of the Central Jersey Spinal Cord Association. He has served on the New Jersey Commission on Spinal Cord Research, and as Chairman of the Mayor's Committee for A Barrier Free New Brunswick and on the



Kevin J. Hoagland
Middlesex County Surrogate

New Brunswick Human Relations Commission. Hoagland is a Fourth-Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus and Past Grand Knight of New Brunswick Council #257. He is also a member of B.P.O. Elks #324 in New Brunswick.

Hoagland was appointed to the Judiciary-Surrogate Liaison Committee by Chief Justice Deborah Poritz in 2005. He is a member of the Constitutional Officers Association of New Jersey (COANJ) for which he served as treasurer from 2005 to 2011 and as conference chairman from 2005 to 2008. He is a recipient of the Gil C. Job Award from COANJ in 2007 for outstanding service to the organization and the NJAC Service Award in 1997.

In 2017, Hoagland was inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame when he received the Unsung Hero Award, and in 2014, he received the Jefferson Award for Outstanding Public Service. Additionally, he has been honored by: the Middlesex County AFL-CIO with the Hubert H. Humphrey Award in 1997, the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce with the 2001 Community Leaders of Distinction, the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick of Central Jersey with the "Irishman of the Year" in 2000, and the North Brunswick Emerald Society "Man of the Year" award in 1995.

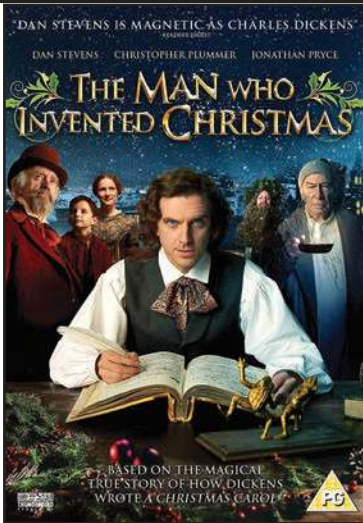
Prior to being elected Surrogate, Hoagland spent four years as the Director of Home Care Services for the Middlesex County Department of Human Services and was a Patient Accounts Representative at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.

Hoagland is the proud father of Kevin, Jr., a Health & Physical Education teacher for the New Brunswick P-Tech High School and Morgan, a Registered Nurse at Saint Peter's University Hospital.

Attn: If Your Club changes its Schedule Due to the Holidays
Or if you have Community Events to Submit Please Give Us
Two Weeks Advanced Notice!
732-896-4446 or 732-261-2610
or email: AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

Ads Sell! Call Carolyn!
732-896-4446

Review: Some of the Many Versions of “A Christmas Carol”



By: Anton Massopust III

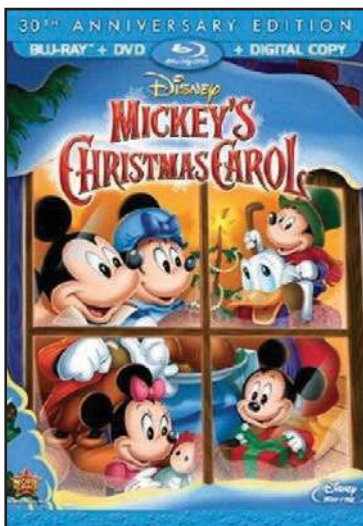
One of the greatest Christmas stories that has ever been written is of course, “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens. We all know the story about a miser named Scrooge who is redeemed by a visit of 4 different spirits including his dead partner, Jacob Marley. The past, present, and future ghosts lead him down his path of redemption.

So right here I will give you the I'll breakdown of the many different versions of the story. You can check them out on DVD or streaming in your collection. In the end, there is a little bit of different takes on this wonderful story.

First, let's talk about the animated versions that are really good. You can't go wrong with Jim Henson's Muppets, and this is the musical version wonderful songs sung by Kermit the Frog as Bob Cratchit and Kermit's nephew Robin plays Tiny Tim. Miss Piggy is Mrs. Cratchit, his wife add course the great Michael Caine portrays Scrooge. The inspiration is one of the Henson's last movies Jim Henson which he worked on with his son, Brian Henson. It's a fun romp with excellent music.

Next, the Great Jim Backus plays Scrooge in the classic animated movie Mr. Magoo's Christmas Carol, which was originally done as a television special. We see the bungling Mr. Magoo's part, but most of it is played straight. The special has wonderful voice actors from countless other animated TV shows and Broadway caliber songs such as “When Winter Was Warm” and “A Hand for Each Hand” and “We're No Good”.

Mickey Mouse's Christmas Carol features the first on screen appearance of Scrooge McDuck (Alan Young). We also get many



other Disney characters including Donald Duck and Jiminy Cricket, Willie the Giant, and Pete and the three ghosts including Goofy as Jacob Marley.

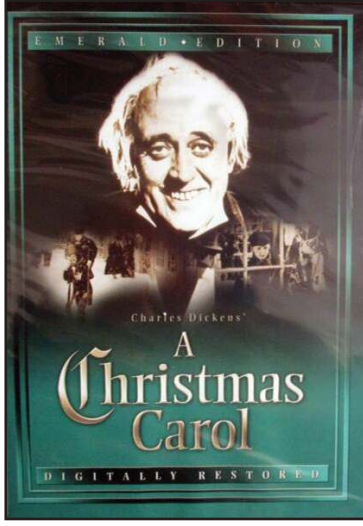
For live-action versions, Alastair Sim portrays Scrooge in the 1951 British Version of “A Christmas Carol”. This classic version is something to see. You really get the sense that Sim's Scrooge is truly redeemed.

George C. Scott plays Scrooge in the Hallmark Hall of Fame version (1984) shot exclusively in England with an all British cast. It's an Emmy Award Winner, and probably one of the scarier versions of the story. It's has a good production value and well done, and very close to the novel.

Patrick Stewart who did it as a one-man show on Broadway starred in a full TNT version (1999) which is very good. There's a great performance by Stewart.

Albert Finney stars in a musical version (1970) originally from the play, “The Stingiest Man in Town,” with huge musical numbers.

How did Charles Dickens come up with such a wonderful story? In the Man Who Invented Christmas,” we learn how



Dickens came up with a story when he thought he had writer's block and he would never write again. Throughout this movie, we also find out about where many Christmas traditions come from.

Lastly, we will talk about a different “A Christmas Carol” with Bill Murray who plays a greedy TV executive forcing his employees to work on Christmas Eve when he is haunted by 4 very different spirits in this dark and funny version.

Don't forget the Doctor Who Matt Smith take on the classic. While trying to convince a man turn off the force-field, a space cruise liner is about to crash into the forcefield. Companions Rory and Amy try to help the crew on the ship while the Doctor goes and uses is TARDIS and goes to the man's past present and future in order to change his fate and save the ship.

There are many ways to tell a story and that was one of them. So, whichever version you love, whether it be animated or live action, there are many ways to tell a wonderful story. As Ebenezer Scrooge said, “Heaven and the Christmas time be praised and a Happy New Year to the World!”

Perth Amboy's Cathedral International Celebrates 37 Years of its First Family, Bishop Donald and Pastor Phyllis Hilliard

Bishop T.D. Jakes and Gospel Singer Donnie McClurkin to Headline Hilliard's 25th Episcopal Anniversary Celebration

Press Release 11/17/20
PERTH AMBOY – This weekend marks 37 years that Bishop Donald and Pastor Phyllis Hilliard have served Cathedral International – The Historic Second Baptist Church in Perth Amboy. Even more to celebrate, it is also the 25th episcopal anniversary of Bishop Donald Hilliard being consecrated in the Lord's Church as a bishop. This weekend, November 20-22, the Cathedral International family will celebrate with virtual events for all including an opening celebration featuring renowned guest speaker Bishop T.D. Jakes and a performance by Grammy Award-winning gospel singer Pastor Donnie McClurkin. Bishop Jakes preached at Hilliard's Episcopal Consecration 25 years ago.

Since 1983, under the dynamic leadership of Hilliard, Cathedral International has experienced unprecedented growth, expanding to three locations: Perth Amboy, Asbury Park and Plainfield. Other accomplishments of Cathedral International under Bishop Hilliard's leadership include the establishment of a fully licensed, state-certified grades K4 through 6 learning center; the Cathedral Community Development Corporation, designed to economically empower the church and its community; and, the acquisition and renovation of additional properties, including the Cathedral Family Life Center, Cathedral Cafe, Timothy House and the Donald Hilliard, Jr. Community Affairs Complex.

“I thank God for guiding me

and giving me the vision, tools and community to lead Cathedral for these last 37 years,” Bishop Hilliard stated. “I would have never imagined we would have grown to the church we are today but I am so thankful for a supportive congregation, spiritual growth, educational excellence and community development.”

To kick off the momentous celebration weekend, on Friday, November 20, Hilliard is hosting a Sons and Daughters roundtable discussion and an evening of worship featuring Bishop T.D. Jakes and Pastor Donnie McClurkin. As Hilliard has a laser focus on the next generation of ministry and mentorship, a feature event of the weekend, 40 Leading Faithfully Under 40, will bring together young leaders, pastors, entrepreneurs and influencers under the age of 40 for dialogue about life, leadership and legacy. To conclude the celebratory virtual events, Cathedral will host Sunday worship online.

“It's been in my heart for a while to host a 40 under 40 discussion for young leaders,” Hilliard said. “I want to pour into these young lives and discuss ways to take your life and ministry to the next level. I pray that these young leaders will leave equipped to do the unimaginable and unthinkable with their innovation and influence.”

For more information and to register for these free events, please visit donaldhilliardjr.org or cathedralinternational.org, or call (732) 826-5293.



Leading Political Environmental Organization Celebrates Senate Passage of Clean Energy Equity Act

Press Release 11/18/20
TRENTON – The following is a statement from Lee Clark, Environmental Justice Policy Manager, New Jersey League of Conservation Voters, supporting Senate passage of legislation that would establish an Office of Clean Energy Equity within the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and drive investments in clean energy and energy efficiency in low and moderate-income communities.

“We applaud the Senate for their passage of this needed legislation (S-2484) to make sure everyone, not only the privileged few, have access to clean

energy and the good local jobs that will be created from this effort,” said Lee Clark, Environmental Justice Policy Manager, New Jersey LCV. “Overburdened communities of color in New Jersey bear the brunt of pollution and are often left out of workforce development programs that train New Jerseyans for the new economy. Post-COVID, we must build a more sustainable and fairer New Jersey. We thank our partners at Vote Solar for their tireless advocacy, and urge quick passage by the Assembly and Governor Murphy's signature for it to become law.”

Dowdell Library Events

SOUTH AMBOY - The Holidays are here, and the Dowdell Library is busy decking the halls and being jolly! Join us for a Holiday Celebration on Thursday, December 17, at 630 pm. Collegium Musicum presents the Veritas Youth Orchestra- under the direction of Dr. Mira Kang, Artistic Director (via Zoom). The Zoom performance will be streaming live in the library. Patrons can watch the performance and enjoy a cup of Hot Cocoa to go! You may also view the performance from the comfort of your own home. Zoom login information will be available soon on the Dowdell Website!

Holiday Ornament Fundraiser! Stop-in anytime to help us decorate the holiday tree and raise money! We wanted to do something fun and different this year for our holiday fundraiser. We will have wooden ornaments to be personalized and hung on the tree. Donations are only \$1.00 per ornament.

If you need help carrying all your library books home (or even those holiday packages), you can buy a Dowdell Library Tote bag! Tote bags will feature the library logo and will go on sale shortly!

If you find yourself stressed out after all the holiday planning, decorating, or shopping, we recommend you check out the free virtual Health Programs offered through the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and RWJBarnabas Health. Three courses will be available in December. Nadine Roberts, a stress management practitioner, will offer A Virtual Guided Imagery Relaxation Session on December 8 and 22. Stretch It, a Stretching and Flexibility Workshop guided by RWJ Outpatient Physical Therapy Specialist John Lancaster, will be available on December 3 and 17. Keeping You Healthy: Finding the Best Nutrients for Your Body with Annie Truss, MD, will be hosted on December 15. All classes start at 1:00 pm, and you must be pre-registered. For more information or to pre-register, please email susan.capolongo@rwjbh.org or kathleen.johnson@rwjbh.org. Additional information will be available at Dowdell.org and in our December Newsletter.

Test Kitchen is back with an all-new video in December! Dennis and Maryanne are cooking up a holiday special! Learn how to make simple yet delicious appetizers for your next holiday feast!

New Virtual Exhibition. Maryanne will be interviewing painter Dennis Yanoski in a new YouTube Virtual Exhibition video. Mr. Yanoski will showcase his oil paintings as well provide a brief demonstration on his techniques. The video will debut in December on our YouTube channel.

The Dowdell Library will feature a new Celebrity Storytime in December with special guest Councilwoman Christine Noble. Councilwoman Noble will read a Holiday story that is guaranteed to put a smile on anyone's face. Ms. Maryanne will also share a holiday book this month in a new Storytime YouTube video.

It doesn't matter if you've been naughty or nice, swing by the Dowdell Library, and pick up a free Take-home Holiday Craft Kit. Stop in from December 7-18 to pick up a goodie bag to create your own gingerbread man ornament!

Teen 3D Printer Contest. Tinkercad is a free, online 3D modeling program where you can create objects that can be 3D printed at the Dowdell Library. Watch and learn while Ms. Laura explains how to use Tinkercad and print her creation in the latest installment of Sadie's Studio. Then, use all your new knowledge and create your very own 3D model using Tinkercad at home or on one of the library's computers. Please submit your name and a picture of your 3D item to comments@dowdell.org to enter our drawing! The winner will be chosen at the end of December.

Want to be "in the know?" Sign up for the monthly newsletter at dowdell.org

Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit www.dowdell.org, or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org. The library is located off John O'Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School.

The Dowdell Library is still operating on a modified schedule, as well as providing staff-assisted services. These changes have helped us ensure the safety of our patrons and staff. Walk-in service is available Monday-Friday 12-5 p.m. and Thursday 12-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. We offer a Grab-and-Go Curbside service Monday morning from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Holiday Cheer at the Dowdell Library

SOUTH AMBOY - Come in from the cold when you're finished shopping and share some holiday cheer! Join the Dowdell Library for a holiday celebration on Thursday, December 17 at 6:30 pm. Enjoy a virtual zoom concert presented by Collegium Musicum featuring the Veritas Youth Orchestra- under the direction of Dr. Mira Kang, Artistic Director (via Zoom). The Zoom performance will be streaming live in the library. While you're here, make a donation and decorate a holiday ornament to hang on the tree or purchase a new Dowdell Library tote bag! Don't forget to let us know what services you'd like at Dowdell in 2021! Before you head out, make sure to pick up a free gingerbread ornament take-home craft and grab a cup of Hot Cocoa to go! Staff will serve hot drinks in disposable cups and use social distancing.

Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit www.dowdell.org, or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org. The library is located off John O'Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School. Walk-in service is available Monday-Friday 12-5 pm and Thursday 12-5 pm and 6-8 pm. We offer a Grab-and-Go Curbside service Monday morning from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.



Toy Drive

Press Release 11/28/20
SAYREVILLE, NJ – The Sayreville Republican Municipal Committee will be presenting a check and new unwrapped toys to the Sayreville Recreation Departments Annual Toy Drive to support local families during the Holiday Period.

Chair Art Rittenhouse and Councilwoman Donna Roberts along with other members of the Republican Party will be present at the Sayreville Recreation Department 167 Main Street, Sayreville, NJ at the Mickey Sedlak Recreation Center on Monday November 30, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

The Sayreville GOP recognizes the needs of families during this difficult time of year. Especially 2020 with the Pandemic and people out of work. The Sayreville Recreation Department will be collecting new unwrapped toys until December 4, 2020. If you have any questions call Jeff Schnitzer at 732-390-7096.



Friends of the Perth Amboy Library Book Sale

PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library are once again having a book sale on Saturday December 12th, from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. at the Brighton Avenue Community Center at the corner of Brighton Avenue and Sadowski Parkway in Perth Amboy. We are delighted to be back after being sidelined by the pandemic for 7 months. I know many people have been starving for reading material for these long months we were at home. We will be wearing masks and providing hand sanitizer and bags if needed. We also insist that anyone coming to peruse our collection also wear a mask as mandated by the State of NJ. Paperbacks are \$.50, hardcovers are \$1, \$5 for a bag full, no limit to size of bag except no lawn or garbage bags. We have best sellers by popular authors that are like new. The money we raise goes to support the library with providing programs, promoting literacy or to provide funds to the library with their needs beyond their budget. We look forward to your visit.

For more information email us at friendsofperthamboylibrary@gmail.com, or call us at 201-381-1903 and like us on Facebook. Dealers are welcome.

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North Brunswick Joins MCIA Recycling Program, Shared Service Saves Tax Dollars

Press Release 11/16/20
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ – North Brunswick Township has recently become the 17th municipality to join the Middlesex County Improvement Authority's (MCIA) curbside recycling program. Confronted with a challenging and complex recycling marketplace, the township was facing recycling costs potentially doubling or more as has happened in many municipalities around the state. "Recycling is our environmental and social responsibility to ensure that we are safeguarding our future on this planet," said Freeholder Director, Ronald G. Rios. "Scaling our current recycling program provides not only the most seamless process but also crucial tax savings for our residents while helping to become a more sustainable County – this is a win on all fronts."

North Brunswick Township, Mayor Francis Womack expressed his gratitude to the County stating, "shared services are vital to municipalities as we

try to deliver quality services while protecting our taxpayers. North Brunswick is thankful to have the opportunity to join with the Middlesex County Improvement Authority in its efficient and cost-effective curbside recycling program."

Middlesex County is consistently rated the best for recycling in the State of New Jersey largely due to the MCIA's shared recycling program. Ongoing education and awareness campaigns have been the driver for the program's success. Clearly identifying items that can and cannot be recycled has enabled the MCIA to receive the benefit of a stable and lower cost of disposal, which many municipalities cannot obtain on their own.

"During this uncertain recycling market, we are proud to offer our towns fiscal stability while making sure residents continue to recycle wisely," stated MCIA Executive Director, H. James Polos.

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Umbrella - Patio, needs cord and iron stand. \$30 - 732-283-0975	Infrared Quartz Heater w/ remote - \$25 - Weslo Ex- ercise Bike \$25 - 732-583- 2305	Powerlift for motorcycle \$75 - must pick up. Please call 732-738-7074
Dyson Vacuum Cleaner Mint Condition \$45 - 732- 290-1551	Bedroom set - twin bed, dresser with mirror, chest, mattress and spring. \$75 732-618-6985	Dining Hutch - Wood - Good Condition \$50 - Self Pick-up 732-826- 6324
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Older New Toy Trucks Su- noco, Exxon, Mobil Hess \$20 Each or B.O. - 732- 316-5092	Gold Carnival Glass Col- lector Plate (5 th Day of Christmas) \$25 732-673- 6305	Girl's Bicycle 24" Pano- sonic LX Sport Twelve Speed. Light Blue. \$75 or B.O. 908-501-3993
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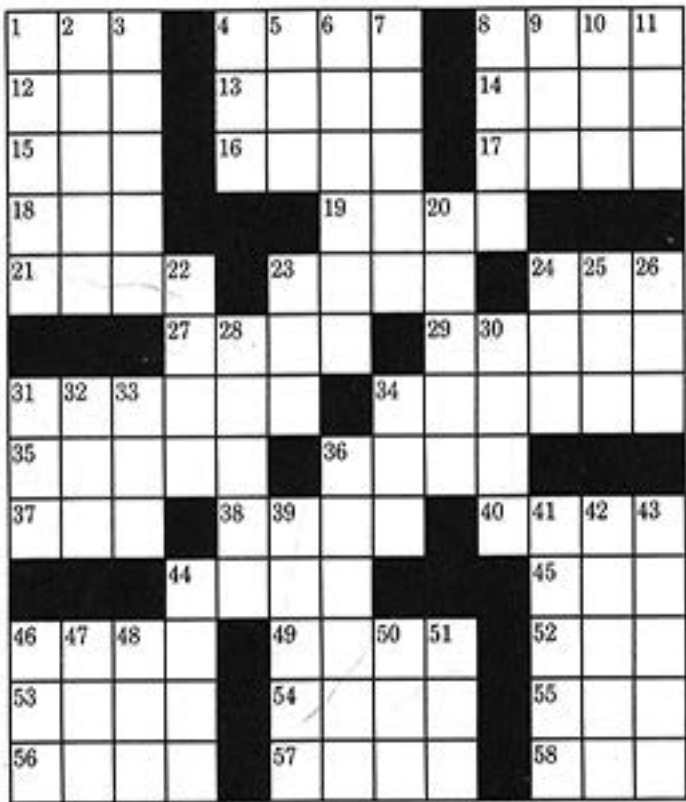
1. Atlas picture
4. Elongated circle
8. Genesis man
12. In the tradition of: 2 wds.
13. Harsh sentence
14. Soda-machine possibility
15. Signal for help
16. Be bold
17. Exam
18. Blasting compound: abbr.
19. Part of "MFA"

21. Furry sea mammal
23. Serving receptacle
24. Mr. King Cole
27. Very enthusiastic
29. Newport, _____ Island
31. TV dog
34. Got misty-eyed
35. Revises (copy)
36. Typical freshman
37. Uppermost point
38. Remove wrinkles from
40. Be aware of
44. Bit of gossip
45. Rhyming heavy-weight champ

DOWN

1. Poles on schooners
2. Without any company
3. Fettuccine or ziti
4. Like Father Time
5. By means of
6. Scared
7. Sly glances
8. Plays a role

9. Fawn's mother
10. Gore and Jolson
11. Bathroom rug
20. Age after two
22. Final
23. Expire
24. Word with "neither"
25. Summer citrus drink
26. TV's Koppel
28. Call on
30. Singer Williams
31. "_____ sleeping dogs lie"
32. Fuss
33. Wee swallow
34. The _____ Commandments
36. Male feline
39. Takes five
41. Not wearing any clothes
42. Pimento-filled food
43. Become broader
44. In a nonchalant way
46. Old hand
47. Was a cross-country competitor
48. Petroleum product
50. Lumber-jack's tool
51. Cup edge



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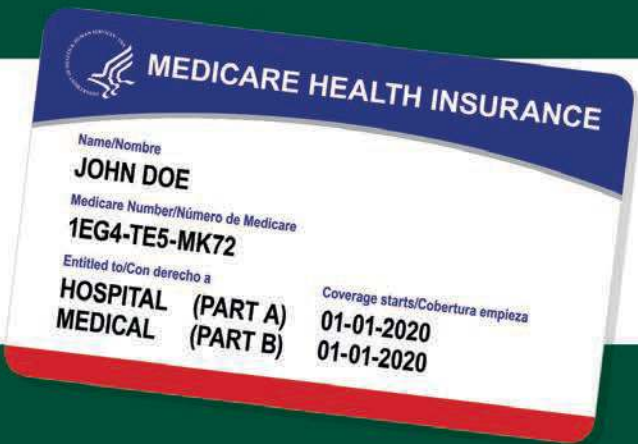
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*From April 1st through September 30th, alternative technologies (for example, voicemail) will be used on the weekends and holidays. Clover Health is a Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) and a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Clover Health depends on contract renewal. Clover Health Choice (PPO) benefits plan H5141-032. Aetna Medicare Explorer Premier Plus (PPO) H5521-278. AARP Medicare Advantage Choice (PPO) H8768-022.

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Novena to St. Rita

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

Miraculous Invocation to St. Therese

O Glorious St. Therese, whom Almighty God has raised up to aid and inspire the human family. I implore your Miraculous Intercession. You are so powerful in obtaining every need of body and spirit from the Heart of God. Holy Mother Church proclaims you “Prodigy of Miracles . . . the Greatest Saint of Modern Times.” Now I fervently beseech you to answer my petition *(mention here)* to carry out your promises of spending Heaven doing good upon earth . . . of letting fall from Heaven a Shower of Roses. Little Flower, give me your childlike faith, to see the Face of God in the people and experiences of my life, and to love God with full confidence. Saint Therese, my Carmelite Sister, I will fulfill your plea “to be made known everywhere” and I will continue to lead others to Jesus through you. Amen. *“I will let fall from Heaven . . . a Shower of Roses” – St. Therese* Say this prayer for nine consecutive days. After the ninth day your prayer request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted. **K.M. & C.M.**

Blood Drive
SOUTH AMBOY/SAYREVILLE - South Amboy Sayreville Rotary Club, South Amboy Senior Center – Hall, 108 S. Stevens Avenue, South Amboy on Monday, January 11, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Rotary Club 5664 to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment. Give something that means something!

Clothing Bin Now Open

SAYREVILLE - The Clothing Recycling Bin located at First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville, 172 Main Street, across from Borough Hall has been reopened for donations. With ART, the recycling company, one may donate in 3 ways: 1.) Usable clothing is donated directly to the needy. 2.) High-quality clothing is given to organizations that sell to those who cannot afford new clothing. 3.) Unusable clothing is washed and sold for industrial use and leftovers are used in the auto industry as seat stuffing for large trucks. They also help charities, schools, police departments, fire departments and non-profit organizations. If you have clothes, shoes or other fabrics please consider using our recycling bin. Thank You.

Pets of the Week

PERTH AMBOY - The day Santana was rescued from Sherman Street in Perth Amboy he had a terrible upper respiratory infection, and I knew he had to be trapped or he would've died. After recovering and getting fixed I found him a home, but he got sick from toxicity. Now he's all better after a major scare and he's waiting for someone to give him a chance to have a forever home with someone that will be patient in allowing him to learn to trust. He's a sweet, shy



boy. If you want to adopt Santana fill out the adoption application at Allforthepaws.org or email Vmoralespps@yahoo.com Santana is fixed, vaccinated, dewormed, defleaded, tested for FIV and leukemia, had his nails trimmed and ears cleaned. Donation fee applies. Upon approved application we transport to your home.

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.

Robe

Like clothes always the wrong size,
Now too small, now too large,
The ill-fitting present I cast aside
And the future, the gamble of clowns,
I firmly decline like gaudy circus attire;
The past is what I wear.

Like some wonderous, linen robe,
Impossible to tear, impossible to stain,
The best of my life is woven there.
Glad moments in every thread.
Incredible memories in every fold,
This, this I put on wherever I go.

Jerry Shonda

Remember to Say Your Novenas!

Answers From Puzzle On Page 17



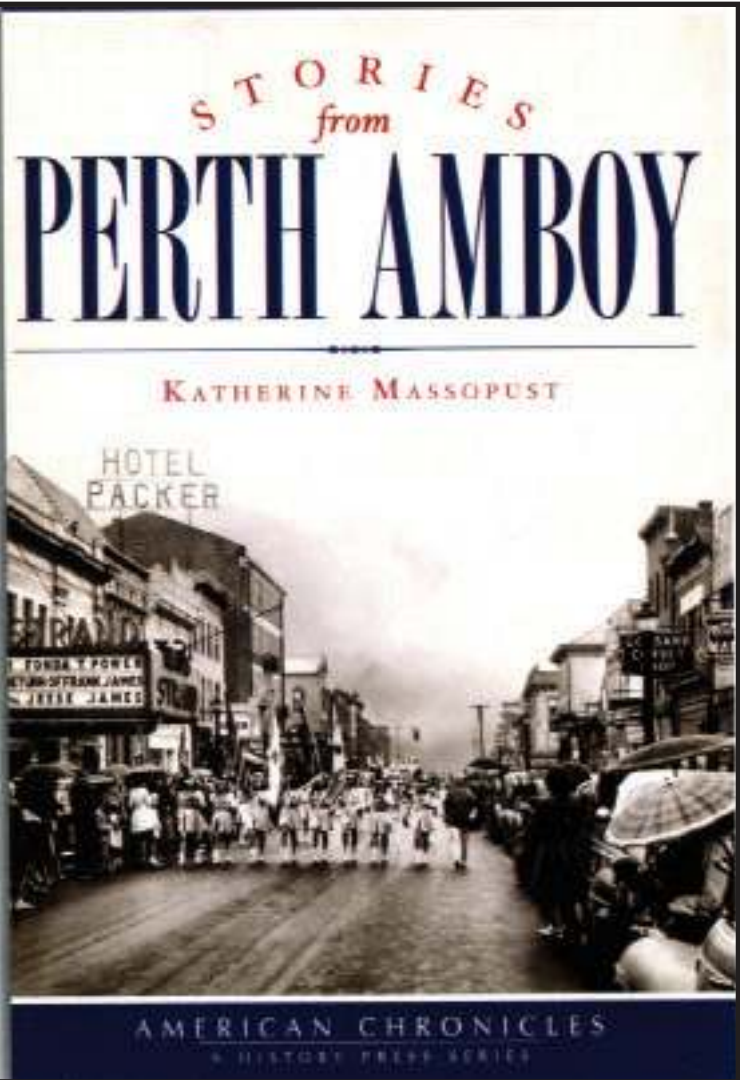
LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY – Music class circa 1950's.

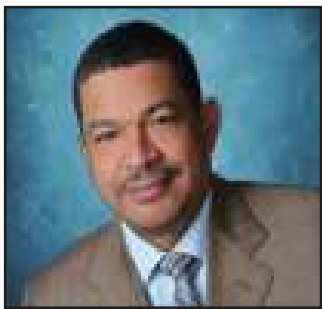
*Photo Courtesy of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library

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



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!



Enrique Hernandez
Broker/Owner CRB, SFR, CRS

*Happy Holidays from
Petra Best Realty*



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PLEASE CALL FOR FREE MARKET ANALYSIS!**



PERTH AMBOY - Why rent when you can own this 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home in a gated community. off street parking, close proximity to shopping, highways and train stations. Priced to sell. **\$199,900**



PERTH AMBOY - Great large single-family house only a block from Perth Amboy business district and McGinnis School few blocks from train station, excellent condition easy access to Parkway, Turnpike, Routes 1,9,35,440 and 287. 3 spacious bedrooms, oversized formal dining room, hardwood floors throughout, nice deck and more. **\$365,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Great investment property Elizabeth Corner Restaurant is a well established business for many years a turnkey money maker. great opportunity to be your own boss. Large 2nd floor apartment. **\$449,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Back on Market! Buyer couldn't get loan. 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. Seller just got a reduction in property taxes via tax appeal! **\$259,000**



SOUTH RIVER - Large three family with lots of potential needs some TLC, apartment A has 2 brs, apartment B has 3 brs and apartment C has 2 brs. Apartments B & C entrance is around the back. large attic space for storage. A must see. **\$409,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Beautiful & spacious 4-bedroom apartment located off of State Street. This updated apartment offers brand new stainless steel appliances, fresh paint and floors. Central A/C and forced heat a plus!! **\$2,300 Mo/Rent**



SAYREVILLE - Move-in condition this property has been manicured from top to bottom. even more impressive is its gleaming kitchen and bathroom. a must see. **\$319,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Great business opportunity, very busy restaurant, great location. Owner offering 5-year lease \$1,800 monthly rent, this is a turn Key operation, be your own Boss. **\$60,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Welcome home to this cozy 1-bedroom apartment in this quiet neighborhood. Employee Verification and Credit Report are a MUST. **\$1,300 Mo/Rent**