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AMBOY GUARDIAN

• VOL. 10 NO. 19 • 732-896-4446 • P.O. BOX 127 • PERTH AMBOY • NJ • 08862 • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021 •

Helmin Caba Elected Mayor in Runoff Election Rose Morales, Bienvenido "B.J." Torres Elected to City Council

2020 Perth Amboy Runoff Election Results as of 12/15/20 Mayor Official

Helmin J. Caba - 4,935 Votes
Wilda Diaz - 4,288 Votes
Write-In - 44 Votes

Results as of 12/15/20 Council Official

Rose B. Morales - 4,910 Votes
Bienvenido "BJ" Torres, Jr. - 4,702 Votes
Bernadette Falcon-Lopez - 4065 Votes
Junior A. Iglesia - 4,139 Votes
Write-In - 50 Votes



Mayor Helmin J. Caba



Councilwoman
Rose Morales



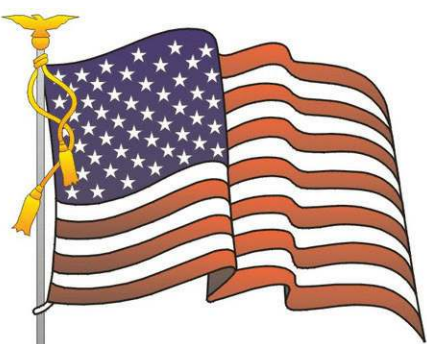
Councilman
Bienvenido "B.J."
Torres Jr.

2020 Perth Amboy Board of Education Election Results as of 12/29/20 Official

Ronald L. Anderson - 4,377 Votes - 11.85%
Stacey Peralta - 4,168 Votes - 11.28%
Marisol M. Gonzalez - 4,126 Votes - 11.17%
Lisette Lebron - 4,113 Votes - 11.13%
Dianne Roman - 4,065 Votes - 11.00%
Willie DeJesus - 3,999 Votes - 10.82%
Maria E. Rodriguez - 3,156 Votes - 8.54%
Sharron D. Hubberman - 2,579 Votes - 6.98%
Keryn Morales - 2,312 Votes - 6.26%
Justin Ross - 1,417 Votes - 3.83%
Manuel Antonio Fernandez - 1,372 Votes - 3.71%
Romina Roman - 1,162 Votes - 3.14%
Write-In - 105 Votes - 0.28%

2020 Perth Amboy Board of Education Unexpired Term Official

Michael George - 4,709 - 38.29%
Marlenis Rosa - 4,183 Votes - 34.01%
Hattie Harrell - 2,304 Votes - 18.73%
Arberto Juneor Corcino - 1,070 Votes - 8.70%
Write-in - 32 - 0.26%



Mayor Wilda Diaz Bids Farewell After 12 Years of Dedicated Service

Press Release 12/31/20
PERTH AMBOY, NJ - The City of Perth Amboy's first responders and city staff gathered to celebrate Mayor Wilda Diaz and her 12 years of service to the community earlier today in front of Perth Amboy's historic City Hall.

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your Mayor. May God continue to guide and protect this community and bless all of you. God bless the great City of Perth Amboy," said Mayor Wilda Diaz.

Wilda Diaz served the City of Perth Amboy for four-year terms. She was first sworn-in on July 1, 2008, becoming the first female to hold that office and is currently the only elected Latina mayor of Puerto Rican descent in the State of New Jersey.

Diaz remained at the forefront of issues such as, expanding programs for our children, youth and families, maintaining an open and honest government, business expansion, economic development, job creation and preserving the City's history.

Diaz has proven her commitment and ability to rebuild from storms that have ravaged the Perth Amboy community, such as Superstorm Sandy in 2012 to the Coronavirus pandemic. Throughout these past several



PERTH AMBOY - Mayor Wilda Diaz (L) Bids farewell.
Husband Greg Diaz (R) *Photo Submitted

months the Diaz administration has kept the community's safety and recovery a priority by forging strategic community partnerships, utilizing local resources and executing an emergency response plan that has resulted in one of the strongest local responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in the State of New Jersey.

Diaz, most notably had taken an unwavering stance to stabilize the City's financial condition. She continued to com-

bat inherited debt and she's achieved and maintained an A+ bond rating in her tenure. Her administration's Capital Improvement Program and several other cost cutting strategies, reduced the overall debt by over \$65 million and saved a community from near bankruptcy within the first five years of being in office.

She has championed plans for

*Continued on Page 2

Gustav J. Novak

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Mayor Wilda Diaz Bids Farewell After 12 Years of Dedicated Service

**Continued from Page 1*

the development and preservation of arts, history and culture by creating a city-wide arts plan, inclusive of mural projects and economic development features that advance the City's strategic plan. Additionally, by establishing a Historic Preservation Commission and Green Initiatives, the city has seen vast improvements and attention towards both treasured structure and antiquated infrastructure. This includes her efforts placed towards two of the City's most utilized historic structures, the Perth Amboy Free Public (Carnegie) Library and preservation of the Perth Amboy Train Station, while in her last term securing nearly \$50 million in NJ Transit funds, as they finalize plans for future construction.

Mayor Diaz's aggressive outreach and promotion of business advocacy has welcomed major corporations to Perth Amboy, such as Buckeye Partners, Home Depot, Gourmet Nut, The RealReal and Target, the first distribution center of its kind in the State of New Jersey. Her administration has attracted over half a billion dollars in corporate investments in the past six years, while creating hundreds of local jobs and beautifying and remediating over several hundred acres of industrial property that had been vacant for decades.

In December 2017, Mayor Diaz completed her 4-year term as the first Latina to serve as president and chair of the New Jersey Urban Mayors Association (NJUMA). Through

her term, she was dedicated to working with state and federal lawmakers and officials to develop appropriate and effective public policy measures that impacts all New Jersey urban communities. She also has served on the League Management Reform Committee for the New Jersey League of Municipalities and currently serves as the Chairwoman for the Perth Amboy Redevelopment Agency (PARA).

Prior to taking office, Mayor Diaz spent 20 years in the banking industry where she started as a teller at a local bank after graduating from Perth Amboy High School in 1983. She quickly rose through the ranks and was an assistant vice-president with Banco Popular when she won the mayoral seat in May 2008 and as a result, resigned from that position.

A dedicated community activist, Mayor Diaz chaired the Board of Trustees for the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center, a nonprofit group that provides health care to underserved communities.

She was a driving force behind the Puerto Rican Patriotic Cultural Committee (Comité Cultural Patriótico Puertorriqueño de Perth Amboy), which sponsors the annual Hall Avenue Puerto Rican festival. Additionally, she served as a member of the Perth Amboy Merchants Association (PAMA) and has been honored by local organizations such as the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development (PRAHD) and the Jewish Renaissance Foundation (JFR) for her involvement in the community.

In 2019, Diaz was the recipient of NJ Clean Communities,

Vison Award and the Small Business Champion Award from Latinos in Business Inc. In 2018, she was inducted in the New Jersey League of Municipalities' Hall of Fame for serving as Mayor of her community for 10 years and she was awarded the Evangelina Menendez Trailblazer Award from US Senator Robert Menendez. She also received the "Community Leaders of Distinction" award by the Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce. At the end of 2015, NBC Latino and NBC Nightly News released a feature story Diaz, as the "First Woman Mayor of a Changing New Jersey Town." Additionally, Mayor Diaz received the 2015 Latino Justice "Latina Trailblazers" award for public service. In 2014, she was honored as "Community Leader" by the Hispanic American Law Enforcement Association and "Humanitarian of the Year" by The Coalition of Hispanic Physicians. Diaz was earlier recognized by El Diario La Prensa as "Mujeres Destacadas 2012" (Outstanding Women of 2012) and was featured in Real Simple Magazine as, "The Accidental Politician" among only four female mayors nationwide. In 2012, Diaz was also inducted into the Perth Amboy High School Hall of Fame and several months later received the NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police "Professional Law Enforcement Leadership Award."

Mayor Wilda Diaz is a lifelong resident of Perth Amboy and a graduate of Perth Amboy High School. She and her husband Greg have two adult children, Gregory and Samantha.

Project Approved on Main Street 12/16/20 Business & Council Meeting

By: Katherine Massopust
SOUTH AMBOY – After a presentation by Kevin McManion on a PILOT for a warehouse property on lower Main Street, there was a brief discussion.

Councilman Thomas Reilly had a few comments: "The Woodmont project sold at \$43 million. We gave them a 30-year PILOT. We are bringing in 50-70 jobs. I'm glad it is not residential. We need a traffic light down there. I think there is a lot of good things to this."

Councilwoman Zusette Dato added her thoughts on the project, "Currently the project is providing \$99,000 in taxes. I think we will get over \$200,000. We are revitalizing blighted property. With a PILOT, all the money is not going to the Board of Education. If the Board of Education needs funding, there is a way to give it to them. It's a very good project."

Councilman Reilly added, "\$200,000 is a nice gesture. We also are giving a favorable PILOT to the developer."

Mayor Fred Henry said, "It is 100% a great project. It will have no impact on the school population. There will be 100%

union labor. I think this is a win all the way around."

The council voted unanimously to approve the project. Council Comments:

Zusette Dato said, "We have to remember we are blessed. Be kind and generous. Be thankful. It is wonderful to be generous to the food pantry. There is so many in need now. Support the local businesses. Happy Holidays!"

Council Vice-President Christine Noble said, "Be safe out there. Merry Christmas and have a Happy, Healthy New Year!"

Councilman Brian McLaughlin said, "Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas! I want to recognize the Friends of South Amboy. Be aware of the Second Wave of Corona. Thank the First Responders." He then asked about the status of the fire chief's vehicle.

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski answered, "We are obligated to adhere to state rules. Based on information we have available; we are compelled to go out to a sealed bid. The best way is to include in the budget two vehicles."

Councilman Reilly thanked the Whaller family for donating the tree (in the train station plaza). "I want to thank the first responders. We are in the second wave of the pandemic."

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski gave a status report on the audio of the December 2018 meeting, "The audio engineer has completed her work. It is being sent overnight. I will be putting it over to a transcriber (with approval)."

Councilman Reilly asked, "When the pandemic is in the second wave and the food pantries are supplying many, we should ease up late fees." Reilly then added, "We need to revamp the bamboo ordinance."

Council President Mickey Gross stated, "We need to discuss this as a council."

Reilly then asked for an update on Venetian.

Law Director Francis Womack answered, "The last documents were considered. We have a ruling on Friday."

Reilly said, "We need this thing resolved."

Council President Mickey

**Continued on Page 7*

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American Family Care Urgent Care Celebrates Grand Opening

Perth Amboy Welcomes New Business

Press Release 12/31/20
PERTH AMBOY, NJ – Mayor Wilda Diaz, the City of Perth Amboy and the Urban Enterprise Zone welcomes the new American Family Care Urgent Care as they open their doors to the public. The center celebrated its Grand Opening on Tuesday, December 29th at its new location on 1107 Convery Blvd.
“We worked with the owner and partners for the past three years to establish this location, as the first urgent care facility in Perth Amboy. I want to personally congratulate them for diligently working to open their doors in our community when it was most needed. Thank you to for your investment in our City and for joining a team frontline workers in the City of Perth Amboy who have really pushed the limits in their everyday work to save lives,” said Mayor Wilda Diaz.

The Urgent Care is now open for both telemedicine and in-person appointments and has extended hours of 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00

p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Services include urgent medical care, digital X-rays and lab testing on-site, vaccinations and physicals. DOT physicals are also available, along with other occupational health services.
“We are here to fill the health-care needs of the community with a state of the art facility in a warm and caring environment,” said Dr. Amrish Patel, owner.
Walk-ins are available for non-life-threatening illnesses or injuries, including the cold and flu, and minor cuts, burns, or infections. AFC Urgent Care accepts most major health insurance plans and offers low-cost treatment for self-pay patients.
Patients may also request rapid COVID-19 testing. Those with COVID-19 symptoms are strongly encouraged to schedule a telemedicine visit and curbside testing may be provided if necessary.
To book an appointment, please call 732-896-9962 or visit www.afcurgentcareperthamboy.com.

AFC Urgent Care Grand Opening, 1107 Convery Blvd., Perth Amboy 12/29/20

**Photos by Katherine Massopust & Submitted by BID*



LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

They Were Determined

Many people were upset when Mayor Wilda Diaz backtracked on her promise to only serve for 2 terms. Despite many people who showed dissatisfaction when she sought a third term, she was still able to succeed in getting reelected. There were many people who came in on her coattails. Those who ran for council seats before and couldn't get elected were successful when they teamed up with her when she ran for reelection for mayor.

If her team approached you or you approached her about running on her ticket, the bottom line is that you all agreed to run together and got in. In 2010, only two of the three candidates Diaz backed got in for a council seat. Then in 2012 she backed three candidates who ran against her for mayor to get seats as freeholders. None got in. In 2014, a special election had to be held between two candidates for a council seat and the candidate she had backed lost. The biggest lost of candidates she backed was in 2018 when all three of her Board of Education candidates lost and all three of her council candidates lost as well. In 2018 there was a special question on the ballot specifically for Perth Amboy stating that candidates running for mayor and council must receive 50%+1 of the votes to be declared a winner. If not, a runoff election between the two top candidates must be held. Because no candidate of the 5 running for mayor and the 8 candidates for council received required percentage of votes, there had to be a runoff.

Because of the determination of those who did not want to see Mayor Diaz reelected, it paid off just because of this new ruling or she would have had a fourth term. The General Election held November 4, 2020 had Diaz and her team winning when all the votes were counted. But here is the irony. A lot of the candidates who ran against her for mayor, especially one who constantly attacked her, did not actually say in words they supported her, but said they could not support the candidate running against her in the runoff (actually telling people to vote for her). Al-

though they will probably disagree with my assessment, they could have told people to write in the somebody's name. We have an acquaintance who used to live in town, but now lives out-of-state who actually told us that Helmin Caba will be victorious. That person also stated whom Helmin Caba would pick for certain important positions in the city. Let's see if that former resident hits the Trifecta!

We wish the best for Wilda Diaz and Helmin Caba. Each person that comes into office brand new should learn from their predecessors: the good and the bad. Any project that your predecessor had that was good for the town, when that project is completed, you should make sure that you invite them back to take credit for it. I remember during Mayor Diaz's first term, there was the grand opening for Best Buy/Geek Squad. Because Joe Vas was mayor and he was the one who brought those two companies in, they invited Vas to the ribbon cutting ceremony, but unfortunately, he could not make it. Under Diaz, the administration brought in the companies that are under the Duke Realty companies, although some people are not happy because of the PILOTS that came in under those projects. Home Depot recently opened up a warehouse, and three more warehouses are opening up in 2021. Yes, Mayor Diaz has flaws as did her predecessors – some more grave than others. Sometimes people can be their own worst enemies and maybe not follow the best advice. As was said in previous editorials, the people who sometimes are your best advisors are the ones who give you constructive criticism and not expect anything in return.

I came across a copy of the transition teams in 2008. You'd be surprised what people were on these committees. Some of these people never received any kind of political favors or given any city jobs. They just wanted to help Diaz and the citizens of the city as a whole to get from under a heavy financial burden. We congratulate Helmin Caba

*Continued on Page 5

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Presidential Eligibility

Recent events suggest these changes to the US Constitution. 1) Add an age limit so no one

over age 65 can be elected President. This will avoid the problems of old age, such as dementia. 2) Prevent the son, daughter, brother, sister, spouse (or ex-

spouse) of a President from becoming President. We are not an aristocracy.

Ronald A. Sobieraj

Politics as Usual

First, Congratulations to Mr. Helmin J. Caba as our new Mayor for Perth Amboy, N.J. - the best of luck as Mayor. Let's give him a chance to see how much will be accomplished.

Yes, he will make mistakes or miss judge others for their advice. The only people that have to worry are the city employee's - "ALL of Them," and who will get a promotion? Or harass for political reasons? This is normal in politics. It would not surprise me if a group of people

are planning a "RECALL" on the new Mayor. I always said, "Politics is a dirty game." Once again, Congratulations and the Best of luck as our new Mayor!

Orlando "Wildman" Perez

Building a Watertight Dike Against a Tsunami of Evictions

Two bills currently before the Legislature help relieve both tenants and landlords from the burden of unpaid rent imposed by the pandemic Struggles with health. Staggering unemployment. Fallout from structural racism. Mounting fears of eviction. The coronavirus upending lives and livelihoods. Many friends and family have died. Many are sick. And many are on the brink of homelessness. But right now, help is around the corner for landlords and tenants alike.

The "People's Bill" (S-2340), which has passed the Assembly and is currently stalled in the Senate, is championed by Assemblywoman Britnee Timberlake (D-Essex). It is meant to forestall a tsunami of evictions caused by the pandemic. It would establish standard repayment terms that are fair to both landlords and to tenants. While landlords will be able to recoup any lost rent, struggling families will be able to spread those payments out over time so that families aren't forced between paying for groceries or medicines and keeping a roof over their heads.

Working at the intersection of public health and community development for a nonprofit affordable housing developer and property manager, Region Nine Housing Corp., I stand in solidarity with my organization's mission and vision. We do not evict. Eviction hurts our tenants and our economy. We put people first. We offer residents safe, secure and stable housing. For more than 50 years, Region Nine has been upending the problem of housing discrimination faced by people with disabilities and people of color. Each of our communities is 100% affordable. We know that landlords need not pursue discriminatory housing policies

to be successful. We successfully operate hundreds of units across New Jersey, including in Middlesex, Essex and Hudson counties by prioritizing our residents, employing service coordinators to serve them and being steadfast in property management.

Region Nine unequivocally supports the People's Bill and stands in staunch opposition to the New Jersey Apartment Association (NJAA) for the good of all New Jerseyans. Unfortunately, the NJAA, which is doing the bidding of large, corporate landlords, is marshalling intense opposition to the People's Bill — even after a series of amendments was adopted last month to address many of their concerns.

At the same time, the NJAA is trying to gut the New Jersey Fair Chance in Housing Act (A-1919), which would curb discrimination on the basis of prior criminal backgrounds. They want wealthy landlords to be able to discriminate against Black and brown residents who have had contact with the justice system, just like they want to be able to kick out low-income tenants who have lost their jobs because of the pandemic.

At Region Nine, we are committed to working with all of our tenants to prevent displacement due to COVID-19, and to reform our tenant-application process to conform with the New Jersey Fair Chance in Housing Act. Preventing mass evictions is also best for the state of New Jersey, our social safety nets and our communities. A recent report compiled by the National Council of State Housing Agencies estimates that between 330,000 and 480,000 New Jersey households are unable to pay rent and are at risk of eviction with a combined rent shortfall in excess of \$1 billion. And while landlord-tenant court is currently suspended in New Jersey, landlords are still permitted to file eviction complaints against tenants. There were more than 40,000 evic-



Jane Sarwin

tion filings statewide between March and September.

Another recent report found that residents living in nonprofit-managed affordable homes have lower incidents of COVID-19-related impacts. Now, more than ever, people need to work together toward a common goal of building health, which means ensuring people have a place to call home without the threat of eviction.

If the People's Bill passes, it will make New Jersey a leader in providing stable housing security for homeowners and renters. It will afford strong protections for all stakeholders, including landlords like us. Alternatively, if it continues to be held up, the immediate threat of mass evictions and homelessness during the worst months of COVID-19 is likely. We can change this story. We can create meaningful transformation by showing generosity and helping those affected by COVID-19 keep a roof over their heads. We urge the New Jersey Senate to act before the holidays and give New Jerseyans the gift of housing stability, regardless of race and socio-economic status. A place to call home is the foundation of good health and economic survival for all.

Jane Sarwin
Jane Sarwin, MPH, is the director of community development at Region Nine Housing Corp. and a founding member of the Housing & Community Development Action Fund.



Published by Amboy Guardian LLC
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The Amboy Guardian will only put a cancellation notice in if we receive notice from the organizer of the event.

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Attention!

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

Editorial

*Continued from Page 4

for overcoming the hurdle of becoming a mayor when there were others on the council almost three times as long as he was and couldn’t grasp that brass ring. Because of the short period of time, you have to make a transition to mayor, you will be given extra honeymoon time.

You know what challenges you have ahead, and the citizens will take you to task as they have taken every administration and they don’t hold back. As they say: “The buck stops here.” Now, you have a whole city to answer to and as they say: “You can’t satisfy everyone.” But we are all in this together. C.M.

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

THURS. Jan. 7 Board of Education, 5:30 p.m.
PAHS, Eagle Ave.
MON. Jan. 11 City Council, Caucus 4:30 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
WED Jan. 13 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.

South Amboy

WED. Jan. 6 City Council, Reorganization, 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

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Sacred Heart Church Commences Regular Spanish Masses

SOUTH AMBOY - Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church at 531 Washington Street South Amboy is happy to announce **regularly Scheduled Masses in Spanish at 2:00 p.m.** Bishop Checchio saw the need to meet the diverse needs of the Spanish speaking religious community in the surrounding communities and this Mass will address those needs.

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

For more information, please visit sacredheartsa.org

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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
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Deadline for Print Ads:

7 p.m. Thursday

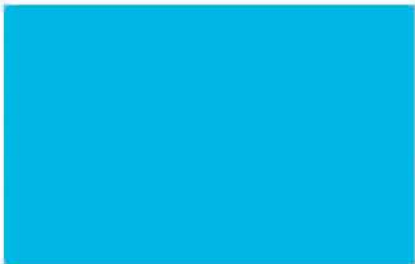
Office Hours:

Mon. - Wed. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

KEEP GETTING EMERGENCY CARE



STAYING HEALTHY IS PART OF STAYING SAFE.

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

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



Hackensack Meridian
Raritan Bay Medical Center
KEEP GETTING BETTER

Middlesex Family Donates Thousands in Gift Cards to CASA

Press Release
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ - This holiday season the Ong family of Old Bridge donated a \$50 gift card to every youth aged 12 and up who has a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)--a total value of over \$2,500--so kids who have faced abuse or neglect can have a happier season.

CASA advocates for children and youth who have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. Many of these youth feel like they have no control over their lives; they rarely get to make choices for themselves about what they want and need. For these youth, a \$50 gift card is more than just a fun holiday gift; it is a way for them to take back some of their own agency by deciding what they want and need.

Isabella and Nicholas Ong, youth themselves, know how meaningful this can be. The Ong family had contributed to Toys for Tots each year since the two were in preschool. "It was fun for them of course, going to the toy store and picking out a bunch of toys. I would let my son pick out toys for boys for all ages...under 3, 5, 7, 9, 12, and my daughter would do the same for girls," said Greg Ong, father of Isabella and Nicholas.

"As they grew older", continued Greg, "they recognized that Toys for Tots was for young children, and they wondered who bought gifts for older kids...teenagers who needed holiday gifts. Knowing how well-established Toys for Tots is, Isabella asked if we could buy for teenagers, so I did a little searching online, came across CASA, and found out that there was an unmet need. With guidance from CASA, we landed on gift cards since it seemed like it was very important for teenagers to have choice (understandably!) rather than just receiving something random that they did not want or need."

The Ong family has been donating gift cards to CASA youth for the past three years, ever since young Isabella recognized the unmet need. "I am thankful that my daughter, a pre-teen at



Greg Ong Delivering over \$2,500 in Gift Cards to the CASA of Middlesex County Office

the time, asked me to go with the underserved teen population, and I am thankful to my son who contributed with his own money last year and tripled his contribution this year." In addition to the gift cards, the Ong family is helping to fulfill a wish list for the CASA children. "My wife, Nicole, asked what else we could do, having heard how so many of these kids in CASA's system lack some of the basics...and recognizing how difficult times are especially this year, we are glad that we were able to help fill out the wish list as well. We know that so many kids have so little, and that what may seem small to us (a gift card, a sweat shirt, arts and crafts, etc.), can mean so much to kids who have been subjected to very bad circumstances at a young age."

On any given day in New Jersey, around 45,000 child victims of abuse or neglect are receiving help from the child welfare system. About 4,500 of these children have been removed from their homes to become

part of an overburdened family court system. Last year, CASA had resources to serve 157 of the several hundred children in need in Middlesex County.

Unfortunately, many children in foster care have little stability in their lives. They may experience changes with family connections, homes, schools, friends, and even caseworkers. A CASA volunteer may be their only constant while in foster care. Many children without CASAs are left trying to navigate their way through the system as one of thousands, only having their basic needs met, until they are permanently placed in a home or age out of the foster care system.

Help give the gift of advocacy to a child in need this holiday season by donating to CASA of Middlesex County at casafmiddlesexcounty.org/donate.

With your help we can train more advocates and speak up for more children.

Project Approved 12/16/20 Business & Council Meeting

**Continued from Page 6*

Gross said, "I want to thank all the first responders, the DPW employees and the County Health Department. They are at a test site tonight making sure the tents don't collapse." Gross continued, "We went through hell and high water with these last 9 months. Don't get me wrong These fools say they don't need to be vaccinated -We as leaders in the city need to go and need to go and get vaccinated. I really mean it!"

Mayor Fred Henry said, "Sign me up! I also want to thank the first responders. Merry Christmas! I want to thank the public

workers who set up the tree and Mark Whaller and family for donating the tree."

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated, "I want to express my gratitude to those who donate to the food pantry and thank those who donated gift cards. Thank all of you and Happy Holidays to everyone!"

Law Director Francis Womack said, "From a legal perspective, I'm with Tom Reilly. It was an impressive year from South Amboy's perspective. The PILOT you approved today is good. The fire department - there are not many municipalities that could have pulled this off like you did. For me, very impressive."

Public Portion:
Dave Zankowski, Second Assistant Fire Chief had some remarks, "I hope this issue which has been going on for 4 years has a conclusion. Happy Holidays!"

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. All council members were present.

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Woodbridge Public Library Events

Free Virtual Events
All are Welcome to Attend

January 6 | 7PM
Meet the Artist : Frida Kahlo
Join us as we examine, discover, and discuss the life of the fearless, iconic Mexican painter Frida Kahlo. Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/3ot6SFR>

January 12 | 7PM
How To Get Great Photos With Your New Camera
Got a new camera this holiday season? Join local photographer and multimedia artist Kris Khunachak as he guides you through unlocking that camera's potential and take better pictures. Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/33PeACo>

January 13 | 10AM
Community Yoga
Join us virtually for a relaxing hour of yoga led by yoga instructor, Holly Onorato. All abilities and levels welcomed. Please wear comfortable clothing and use a yoga mat or towel. Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/3gmgPly>

January 20 | 6:30PM
Beginners Astrology Workshop
Vikki Anderson will guides us through the world of Astrology! Understand astrology vs. horoscope dates, sun signs, planets, qualities, and elements of each sign. Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/33SbSvG>

January 27 | 7PM
The World of Tea
January is National Hot Tea Month! Get an introduction to the world of loose-leaf tea; from tea plant to teacup with tea enthusiast Nina Androski. Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/2JXgI3V>

January 29 | 3PM
Mystery/Thriller Book Club
Join us virtually for a discussion of The Nanny by Gilly Macmillan. Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/33ZGueO>

Thank you for your support!
For more information, call 732-634-4450 ext. 7120

Passing the Torch & Helmin Caba's Path to Mayor of Perth Amboy



Helmin (Jelmin) J. Caba first foray into running for political office as a Councilman in 2014 (L to R) Daniel Gonzalez, Jelmin Caba, Victor Coronado, and running mates Ana Mascenik, Fernando Gonzalez *File Photo by Carolyn Maxwell



Supporters have a fundraiser at the Barge 10/19/14 *File Photo by Carolyn Maxwell

By Carolyn Maxwell
PERTH AMBOY – When Wilda Diaz came into office in 2008, she had no experience in government, but she had a strong backing of the working class and two very strong runningmates (Ken Balut who was a retired police officer and union representative and Fernando Gonzalez, who had government experience and was well known in Perth Amboy. Gonzalez also considered running for mayor at some point). At the time, the three made a commitment to bring stability back into the city so the state would not take over the city's finances due to the hardship left from the previous administration.

As time went by, those who ran with Mayor Diaz would sever ties with her for different reasons. The exception to this was Councilman Fernando Irizarry who stuck with her from 2012 thru 2020 until he decided to run against her for mayor in 2020. Councilman Helmin Caba had a strong run in 2014 for a council seat, although he was not successful. In 2016, Caba along with Fernando Irizarry teamed up with Mayor Wilda Diaz instead of challenging her for the mayoral seat. It turned out to be a wise decision because he had 4 years of experience as a councilman to draw off of. This way he was able to experience both sides of government: administrative and legislative. Caba was also fortunate that this was the year of the 50%+1 or Mayor Diaz would have been elected for a fourth term.

We wish all that were elected this year the best of luck and just remember, you have the concerns of all the residents to consider and that will be a challenge that we hope you are all successful in. To Mayor Diaz, you had many challenges that you overcame. You gave many people an opportunity to serve with you having them on your ticket in the past. It has been well documented the struggles between the administration, the council, and the residents. But when times were tough, such as Hurricane Irene, Superstorm Sandy, and Covid-19, you all came together. Looking back on old photos, we saw you and some of the council breaking ground on blighted properties on State Street to bring new life into that area. This is one of your many accomplishments



The Stronger Together Team (L to R) Tony Cruz, supporter of Mayor Diaz and her slate, Gregory Pabon (rear) and Candidates Jelmin Caba, Mayor Wilda Diaz and Councilman Fernando Irizarry submit petitions to City Clerk Elaine Jasko. 9/2/16 *File Photo by .Paul W. Wang



Newcomer Councilmen Jelmin Caba and (elected for second term) Councilman Fernando Irizarry, and Mayor Wilda Diaz (elected for third term) display their official certificate of election results. 1/3/17 *File Photo by Pau W. Wang

to be proud of. We wish you and also Councilman Fernando Irizarry (who also recently retired as a teacher) nothing but the best. We know you both love Perth Amboy as much as we do.

As you pass the torch to the newly elected Mayor Helmin Caba, as you said on your Facebook page, you will do everything possible to make the transition smooth. Good luck to all of you.

We send all our best wishes for prosperity and good health for 2021 and beyond



Iris - The flower of hope.



Jelmin Caba is sworn in as First Time Councilman. 1/3/17 *File Photo by Pau W. Wang



Commercial Development Company Inc. (CDC) announced plans to begin demolition at the former ASARCO site in Perth Amboy, NJ. Existing structures will be razed to clear the way for vertical development and return the site to productive re-use. (above photo) Mayor Wilda Diaz begins the demolition in a wrecker - 4/1/15 *File Photo by Katherine Massopust



Council Meeting 12/9/20 *File Photo by Paul W. Wangt

Mayor Elect Helmin Caba (3rd from Left) with Mayor Wilda Diaz (3rd from Right) with physicians and staff members at the Grand Opening of Urgent Care located on 1107 Convery Boulevard, Perth Amboy 12/29/20. *Photo by Katherine Massopust



Thank you, Mayor Wilda Diaz



**For Your Years of Service
to Our Community,
its Residents, and Businesses**

Bob Rinklin
Essential Public Relations

Hackensack Meridian Health Welcomes Radiation Oncologist with Fellowship Training in Proton Therapy

Press Release

EDISON, NJ – Radiation oncologist Nicholas DeNunzio, M.D., Ph.D., has joined Hackensack Meridian Health. Dr. DeNunzio has deep expertise and training in the use of standard radiation therapies, including proton therapy, which allows for the safe and precise delivery of higher doses of radiation therapy while reducing radiation exposure to surrounding tissues.

Dr. DeNunzio received his medical and doctorate degrees from the Boston University School of Medicine in 2014. He completed his residency in radiation oncology at the University of Rochester Strong Memorial Hospital in 2019. In 2020, he completed a clinical fellowship in pediatric proton therapy at Massachusetts General Hospital (Harvard University) prior to joining the cancer care team at Hackensack Meridian Health.

Hackensack Meridian Health offers proton therapy through a clinical affiliation with ProCure Proton Therapy Center in Somerset, New Jersey. The lower toxicity and highly targeted delivery of proton therapy make it ideal for treating tumors located near critical organs or structures such as the brain, heart or spinal cord. It is also used to treat children with cancer who are still growing

and are more sensitive to radiation damage.

“Our affiliation with ProCure will provide adult and pediatric patients access to a comprehensive armamentarium of radiation therapy technology used in a fight against cancer,” said Dr. Anthony Ingenito, Chairman Dept. of Radiation Oncology, John Theurer Cancer Center at Hackensack Meridian University Medical Center. “Dr. DeNunzio’s specialized knowledge and fellowship training will allow him to maximize our affiliation with ProCure for the benefit of our patients and oversee the full range of leading-edge radiation therapy treatments.”

“We are proud to add Dr. DeNunzio to our team of cancer care experts at John Theurer Cancer Center,” said Mark Sparta, president and chief hospital executive, Hackensack University Medical Center. “Dr. DeNunzio brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our hospital, and we look forward to the innovations he will bring to our radiation oncology program.”

In addition to providing outstanding patient care, for which he was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society and received awards for as a resident, Dr. DeNunzio is committed to advancing the field of radiation



**Radiation Oncologist
Nicholas DeNunzio, M.D. Ph.D.**

oncology through research, mentorship, and education, having published several articles, book chapters, and teaching aids. “I look forward to bringing treatment innovations to my patients to provide them with comprehensive, state-of-the-art radiation therapy care tailored to their unique needs.”

Dr. DeNunzio serves on the American Society for Radiation Oncology’s guidelines committee through which he helps develop standardized clinical practice guidelines for treating cancer with radiation therapy. He co-authored the society’s guideline on treating small cell lung cancer with radiation.

Review:

Doctor Who New Year’s Special: Revolution of the Daleks



By: Anton Massopust III

“You don’t decide when it stops. Either the Doctor leaves you, or you leave her. My advice: enjoy the ride!” – Captain Jack Harkness

The Doctor (Jodie Whittaker) returns to television in this New Year’s Special. After being captured by the Judoons, the Doctor is in a space prison. Just trying to live day to day while the earth is in trouble. Meanwhile, on earth a ruthless businessman Jack Robertson (Chris North) has been given the remains of the Dalek by the British Government. He turns them into powerful drones (without the Kaled Mutant inside them). A scientist clones one of the remains of one of the mutants and it takes control of him. It’s up to the Doctor’s Companions who have seen Daleks before to stop him.

Without the Doctor’s aid, they do not know what to do next. Time Traveler Captain Jack (John Barrowman) rescues the Doctor from the space prison and returns her to the Tardis, but it’s too late, the Kaled Mutants have transported themselves into the drone shells and have now wreaked havoc all over London, exterminating anyone in their sights.

The Doctor finds out the only way to stop them is to contact the real Daleks who hate impurities of their own race. So, now it’s up to the Doctor and her companions from stopping the real Daleks and the Drone Daleks from taking over earth.

There are so many funny lines in this episode, I don’t even know where to start such as, “I didn’t come all this way to get exterminated,” and, “This is a PR nightmare.” Too funny.

This reminds me of the old-fashioned Doctor Who from the ‘70’s and ‘80’s that I remember. My only criticism is that people are always forgetting that the earth has been invaded by the Daleks for the umpteenth time. Despite this, there are really great special effects there’s a really good story. And there is the departure of two companions. I was entertained from the beginning to the end. It didn’t drag at any point.

The sign of a good TV show or movie is: “Would you watch it again?” The answer is, “Yes.” Sadly, however we will not see more Doctor Who until the end of this year (2021) due to problems with Covid. Give it a watch. It’s a lot of fun. It’s available on Demand (BBC America).

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Living Nativity, The Cathedral International, McClellan Street, Perth Amboy 12/24/20 *Photos by Paul W. Wang



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.

U.S. Gen. of the Army Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers during the occupation of Japan, on January 4 begins a purge within the Japanese government to oust “undesirables.” Over the next two and one-half years, over 210,000 people are removed or barred from public office. Thirty items of the treasures of the Holy Roman Empire that had been removed from Austria by the Nazis after the *Anschluss* (the annexation of Austria into Nazi Germany in 1938) are returned to Vienna by U.S. Gen. Mark Clark after members of the U.S. Army discover the missing items.

On January 5, Adolf Eichmann, one of the architects of the Nazis’ “Final Solution” escapes from the American detention camp at Oberdachstettin, Bavaria, Germany. (Assuming a new identity, he successfully eludes capture in the area for four years. Then, in 1950, he makes his way to Austria, then Italy, and, finally, to Argentina, where he makes a new life for himself. In May 1960 he is found and kidnapped by agents of the Mossad [Israel’s intelligence and special-operations agency], who bring him to Israel, where he is tried for war crimes. Convicted, he is executed by hanging in 1962.)

The Polish government on January 6 nationalizes banks, communications companies, mines, factories, and utilities. Vietnam holds its first democratic elections: the Viet Minh Party, led by Hồ Chi Minh, wins 230 of the 300 seats in the National Assembly.

On January 7, a working group of the United Nations meets for the first time, in London. Two captains in the Imperial Japanese Army are sentenced to death at a British military tribunal in Labuan, North Borneo. They are found guilty of causing the deaths of 820 British and Australian prisoners of war. The Allies reinstate Austria as a republic, with the borders it had before its annexation by Germany in 1938 (the *Anschluss*), but they will administer the country in four occupation zones: American, British, French and Soviet. Vienna and its environs are administered jointly by all four powers. In Budapest, three former members of the Hungarian government are sentenced to death for war crimes. By mutual agreement, France resumes its protectorate relationship with Cambodia and will manage all of the Asian nation’s foreign affairs.

British troops attack Indonesian forces in the Semarang area of the Netherlands East Indies on January 8. In Germany, the Allies abolish the German Hereditary Health Court system, which between 1934 and 1945 ordered the surgical sterilization of over 400,000 people having “hereditary defects,” such as mental retardation and epilepsy. In California, the last Japanese prisoners of war held in the U.S. depart by ship to be repatriated. In Washington, D.C., President Truman vows to stand by the Yalta Accord regarding self-determination for the Balkan nations.

Two Japanese army officers are sentenced to death in Manila on January 9 for the torture and death of 105 Filipinos. László Bárdossy, Hungarian prime minister in 1941 and 1942, and who collaborated with the Nazis during the German occupation of the country, is hanged in Budapest for treason.

The first human contact with the moon takes place on January 10. A U.S. Army team led by Lt. Col. John H. Dewitt at Evans Signal Laboratory in Belmar, New Jersey, bounces a radar signal off the lunar surface. The experiment not only enables an exact measurement of the moon’s distance from earth (a mean of 238,857 miles) but also demonstrates that communications can be conducted across the vacuum of space. The General Assembly of the United Nations meets for the first time, in the Central Hall of Westminster, London. Delegates from 51 countries elect Paul-Henri Spaak of Belgium the General Assembly’s first president. In China, the Nationalist forces of Chiang Kai-shek and those of the Communist Party of China stop fighting.

On January 11, 1946, in Nanking, China, 38 delegates representing different groups and interests in China sit down to meet. Within ten days they reach agreement on most military and political issues of contention in the country. The accord will never be implemented. Albania’s communist-dominated assembly ends the nation’s monarchy and establishes the People’s Socialist Republic of Albania. In the Caribbean, Élie Lescot is overthrown as president of Haiti by a coup; he is replaced by Franck Lavaud.

Anwar Sadat, a member of the pro-Axis Iron Guard of Egypt that aimed to overthrow British rule and expel the British from Egypt, is arrested in Cairo on January 12. He is charged with conspiracy in the 1944 assassination of pro-British, former Egyptian finance minister Amin Osman. (After spending 2-1/2 years in jail, Sadat is acquitted at trial. In 1970, he becomes president of Egypt.)

In Belgrade, the Yugoslav War Crimes Commission on January 13 names 15 Germans and 24 Yugoslavs — including Draža Mihailović, leader of Serbian Chetnik guerrillas — as war criminals. In Albania, Omer Nishani, a physician prominent in resisting the Italian occupation during the war, becomes head of state. In China, a ceasefire in the Chinese Civil War — brokered by U.S. special envoy Gen. of the Army George C. Marshall — goes into effect between the Nationalist and Communist forces. In the U.S., cartoonist Chester Gould debuts the “two-way wrist radio” in his comic strip “Dick Tracy.” The device sparks the public’s imagination of a future where people might have their own personal-communication devices.

On January 14, the Soviet Union ratifies a treaty it had signed with its puppet Polish government on August 16, 1945. Most of what was Polish territory in the east of the country becomes part of either the Ukrainian or the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republics.

The Office of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP) in Tokyo on January 15 reveals the extent of the Japanese balloon-bomb program: Between the summer of 1942 and March of 1945, the Japanese launched over 9,000 of the balloon-borne bombs, 225 of which landed in North America. In 1945, one of the latter had killed a pregnant woman and five children on a picnic in Oregon.

On January 16, Charles de Gaulle resigns as the head of the French Provisional Government. Two unions call a strike against the six largest meat-packing companies in the U.S. — 268,000 workers walk off their jobs. The strike is called off after 10 days when the U.S. government seizes the struck plants.

Seven Germans, including Lt. Gen. Herman Winkler, on January 17 are hanged before 65,000 people in Nikolaev, U.S.S.R., for war crimes. Winkler, once the commandant of Nikolaev, was convicted of responsibility for the deaths of 105,000 Soviet citizens. Ba Maw, who headed the government of Burma during the Japanese occupation, is captured by U.S. counterintelligence agents in Japan. At Westminster Central Hall in London, the United Nations Security Council holds its first meeting and establishes its procedures. In the Mediterranean Sea 40 miles off Palestine, the Italian ship *Enzo Sereni*, attempting to smuggle 910 Jews past immigration officials, is intercepted by the Royal Navy destroyer *HMS Talybont* and escorted into the port of Haifa. The passengers are interned while officials decide what to do with them.

Dowdell Library Events

SOUTH AMBOY - 2020 has undoubtedly left a lasting impression on each of us. It was filled with highs and lows. As the New Year approaches, so does the hope for new opportunities and the promise for a new beginning. The Dowdell Library is ringing in the New Year with programs to help you become the best version of yourself!

Invest more time into yourself this year! The Dowdell Library is excited to offer free virtual classes through the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Three courses will be available in January. Nadine Roberts, a stress management practitioner, will present A Virtual Guided Imagery Relaxation Session on January 12 & 27. Stretch It, a Stretching and Flexibility Workshop guided by RWJ Outpatient Physical Therapy Specialist John Lancaster, will be available on January 7 & 21. Lastly, RWJ Community Health Organization, in coordination with Alzheimer's New Jersey, presents Meredith Gemeiner, Director of Programs and Services, in a virtual meeting about Understanding Memory Loss. All classes start at 1:00 pm, and you must be pre-registered. For more information or to pre-register, please email susan.capolon-go@rwjbh.org or kathleen.johnson@rwjbh.org.

The New Year also starts a whole new tax season. The Library is happy to offer contactless, drop-off tax assistance. Individuals earning less than \$64,000 annually are eligible to sign up for the free VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program starting in January. The VITA program has operated for over 50 years, offering free tax help to low- to moderate-income, individuals with disabilities, and non-English speaking taxpayers. Contact the Library for additional information about this valuable service!

If the last year has taught us anything, it is to make the most of the time we have with our loved ones. The Dowdell Library is working hard to add new virtual programs to our YouTube channel that the whole family can enjoy! Please tune in this month to hear South Amboy Councilwoman Christine Noble read a holiday story about a snowman who keeps melting! Stick around and learn how to cook a new recipe during Test Kitchen, or learn a new hobby during our Virtual Exhibit! New content is added each month. Is there a new trend or technology you would like to learn about? Let us know at comments@dowdell.org.

New Year, fun new Teen Social Media challenges! For the winter months of January and February, choose from one of five categories, including a South Amboy category, and participate in our social media challenge! Look for the challenges on our website soon! Those who complete the SA category will be given credit for community service! Please take a picture and send your finished objective to comments@dowdell.org with your name and which category you chose. The Library will share your accomplishment on our Social Media pages! Each month will have a different set of objectives, and each teen will be able to choose more than one category to complete.

You still have time left to enter the 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 on our YouTube Channel. 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 deadline to enter is December 31st!

The Dowdell Library is still operating on a modified schedule, as well as providing staff-assisted services for faxing, notary service, photocopying, as well as assistance choosing books and media. These changes have helped us ensure the safety of our patrons and staff. 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 to-10:30 am. 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.

SkillUp Middlesex

MIDDLESEX COUNTY – County offering over 4,500 Courses Through Free Online Learning Platform. Enhance skills and obtain industry recognized credentials by taking online courses developed by Skillsoft, a training provider used by Fortune-500 companies. Transportation/Logistics, Business Etiquette, QuickBooks, Project Management/Microsoft Office, Adobe, Accounting, Human Resources, Six Sigma, Informational Technology, Sales/Marketing, Custom Service, + 100’s More!

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“We are proud to be part of a practice and place that enables better, safer and faster treatment for patients and their families.”

PHILIP S. LAKRITZ, M.D.
UNIVERSITY RADIOLOGY

PHYSICIANS. PHILANTHROPISTS. VISIONARIES.

Dr. Philip Lakritz, chair of Radiology at Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center, has dedicated his entire career to the Raritan Bay community. Since imaging is central to emergency medicine, he and his team are giving back to fund an improved Emergency Department (ED) waiting area and two ED treatment rooms. The group’s radiologists—Laurence Chaise, M.D.; Laura Grygotis, M.D.; Nancy Prendergast, M.D.; Prapti Shingala, M.D.; and Norman Sorkin, M.D.—are all sub-specialty trained and proud to enhance patient care and help the community with a more patient-friendly experience and facilities. They know that “if every component of the hospital gets better, we all benefit.” Thank you, University Radiology!



Hackensack Meridian
Raritan Bay Medical Center
Foundation

GivingHeals

To learn how you can participate
in Giving Heals, go to:
HackensackMeridianHealth.org/GivingHeals

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For Sale: Dining Room Set		For Sale	For Sale
Dining Room Table - 6 Chairs - Fabric Seats - Asking \$300 - 732-599-2329		3/4 Size Acoustic Guitar. Good for young child - \$50. 732-541-5491	Lawn Mower - Sears - Self Propelled Mulcher - no bag 6.75 HP - \$45 732-727-5056
For Sale		Brand New Electric Heater Radiator. Was \$65 Now \$20 New Never Used. 732- 547-7406	Lionel Electric Train Transformer KW 190 Watts. Excellent Condi- tion \$65 - 732-727-8417
Electric Husky Power Washer 1750psi - Good Condition \$75 - 732-277- 4635		Solid Oak Coffee Table \$75; Oak End Table \$50 732-570-9732	Daybed with pullout sleeps two. Excellent condition. - \$75 - 732- 738-4283
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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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1 Large Christmas Tree \$25; 1 Small \$15; Lounge Chair \$15 - 732-297-4457		Misses Woman's Coat - Im- itation Fur - Like New \$75 732-634-3589	LP's Cassettes, CD's DVD's \$1.00 each; Radio, CD \$20 - 732-887-2235
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
Pancake Air Compressor 3 Gal 100 PSI \$30 - 732-395- 1551 - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.		Portable Sears Sewing Ma- chine - Used Twice \$25; Epson Printer with new ink (never used) - \$40 - 732- 679-0086	Sissy Bar and Pad for Harley Sportster - Great Condition \$65 - 908-590- 8885
Advertising Fence Enclo- sure - Heavy Duty 10 ft. \$25 - 732-442-1093		Custom Jewelry \$5-\$10; Sled \$25; Sports Memora- bilias \$10; Dream Catcher Cane \$15 - 732-713-0536	Power Lift \$75. Wing Chairs, Sofa, End Tables, Lamps, Microwave \$10- \$50 - 908-803-9623
Car Battery 75 Series under 1 year old. \$50 - 732-442- 6057		Gold Chandelier - Six Lights - Excellent Condi- tion - \$30 - 732-721-7186	Children's Sports Lamp w/shade. Really cute, BB, FB, Etc. Large \$20 - 917- 670-4908
Sayreville Bombers 14 KT Charm - \$75 in Box; can add Specialty Sport Charm, etc. - 732-525-2405		Tires - Firestone M&S LT275170R 18 Two \$10 Each 732-727-1772	
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How to Publish a Novena

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

A Petition to St. Joseph

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

Prayer To St. Clare

Cost \$10.
Pre-payment required.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone () _____

Initials at end of prayer_____

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

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

Perth Amboy, NJ 08862

A Petition to St. Jude

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

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

Prayer To Blessed Mother Prayer To Holy Spirit

Prayer To Blessed Virgin Thanksgiving Novena

St. Jude Novena

Pray The Rosary

Novena To St. Anthony

Novena To St. Joseph

OTHER

San Salvador Seniors Atlantic City Trips Notice

PERTH AMBOY - We are temporarily suspending our Bus Trips to Atlantic City. Our next trip to Atlantic City will be on Thursday, April 1, 2021. More details to follow in late March 2021.

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.

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!



Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation Welcomes New Executive Director Distinguished Fundraiser and Leader Joins Hackensack Meridian Health Foundation

Press Release 12/21/20
OLD BRIDGE, NJ – Hackensack Meridian Health is proud to announce that Melissa Magyar has joined as executive director of Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation.

“Melissa brings an impressive fundraising background to her role at Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation,” says Joyce P. Hendricks, chief development officer, network philanthropy, Hackensack Meridian Health. “I am so glad to welcome her to the foundation, and I am confident that she will continue to grow the organization to the benefit of the medical center and community.”

Most recently, Magyar served as director of campaigns at Englewood Health Foundation, the foundation at which she first launched her fundraising career. Although she left in 2017 after a long tenure with increasing responsibilities, Melissa was enticed to return by a “can’t

miss opportunity” to develop the plan, timeline, milestones and goals of the organization’s first comprehensive campaign, a \$100 million undertaking. In this role, she served as liaison to the steering committee, developing solicitation strategies, working with hospital administration, key prospects and trustees, while managing a portfolio of prospects.

In between her two terms at Englewood Health Foundation, Magyar held the position of director of development at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Institute for Health. In addition to her fundraising responsibilities, Magyar led a variety of programs and donor engagement activities, including overseeing the Grateful Patient and Family program, and orchestrating physician, faculty and donor events.

“Melissa’s leadership and fundraising expertise will be a wonderful asset to the foundation team at Raritan Bay Medi-

cal Center Foundation,” says Andrew Citron, chair, Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation Board of Trustees. “The Raritan Bay community has been such dedicated supporters of our foundation, and I look forward to working with Melissa to raise funds that will further benefit our communities, particularly the new Emergency Department currently under construction on the Old Bridge campus.”

Magyar will work closely with Citron, as well as Raritan Bay Medical Center chief hospital executive, Tom Shanahan, and other hospital administrators, to drive fundraising initiatives for key hospital services and projects, including the new Old Bridge Emergency Department.

“Raritan Bay Medical Center has a rich history of providing quality and compassionate care to its surrounding communities in Central New Jersey and I look forward to leading its fundraising efforts,” says Magyar. “I warmly welcome the opportu-

nity to partner with the foundation’s board of trustees, hospital leadership and local community to support the medical center’s programs and initiatives as it continues to provide the exceptional care patients deserve.”

Magyar joins the foundation as Meridian Health Foundation looks to strongly close out its capital fundraising campaign. Called Giving Heals, the campaign focuses on four important initiatives: strengthening oncology services, improving clinical outcomes, enhancing the patient experience and broadening clinical research and academic programs at the following Hackensack Meridian Health hospitals: Bayshore Medical Center, Jersey Shore University Medical Center, K. Hovnanian Children’s Hospital, Ocean Medical Center, Raritan Bay Medical Center in Perth Amboy, Raritan Bay Medical Center in Old Bridge, Riverview Medical Center and Southern Ocean Medical Center.



**RBMC Foundation
New Executive Director
Melissa Magyar**

To learn about how you can make a gift to Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation or to the Giving Heals campaign, please call 732-324-5374 or visit GivingHeals.org.

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.

Petition to St. Jude

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

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.

Pet of the Week

Why won't anyone give Sassy Savannah a chance? :-)
WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADOPT this beauty?
PERTH AMBOY - She's a sweet and loving kitty that has been waiting patiently for her forever home. She was thrown out onto the streets of Perth Amboy. Sassy Savannah needs someone that will not mind her strong personality. She loves being in the window. She's an active, playful 1 year old cat. Please give her a chance. Fixed, vaccinated, negative for FIV and leukemia and fully vetted. Adoption application and donation fee apply. Email



Vmoralespps@yahoo.com for application or text 1.732.486.6382 for more info. Allforthepaws.org

Have a Special Pet?

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

Old Age

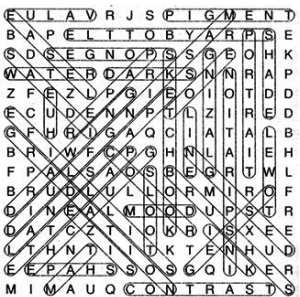
And Suddenly old age,
Suddenly that unmistakable sense,
We are being watched,
As through a schoolyard fence.
By the menacing eye of a stranger
Never before seen, as he waits and waits,
For just the right moment
To snatch us away.

With his nimble hands,
Skilled to darkest perfection,
We can only hope and pray
It will all be painless and swift,
As for one yawning, weary and spent,
Receiving the gift of sleep.

Jerry Shonda

Remember to Say Your Novenas!

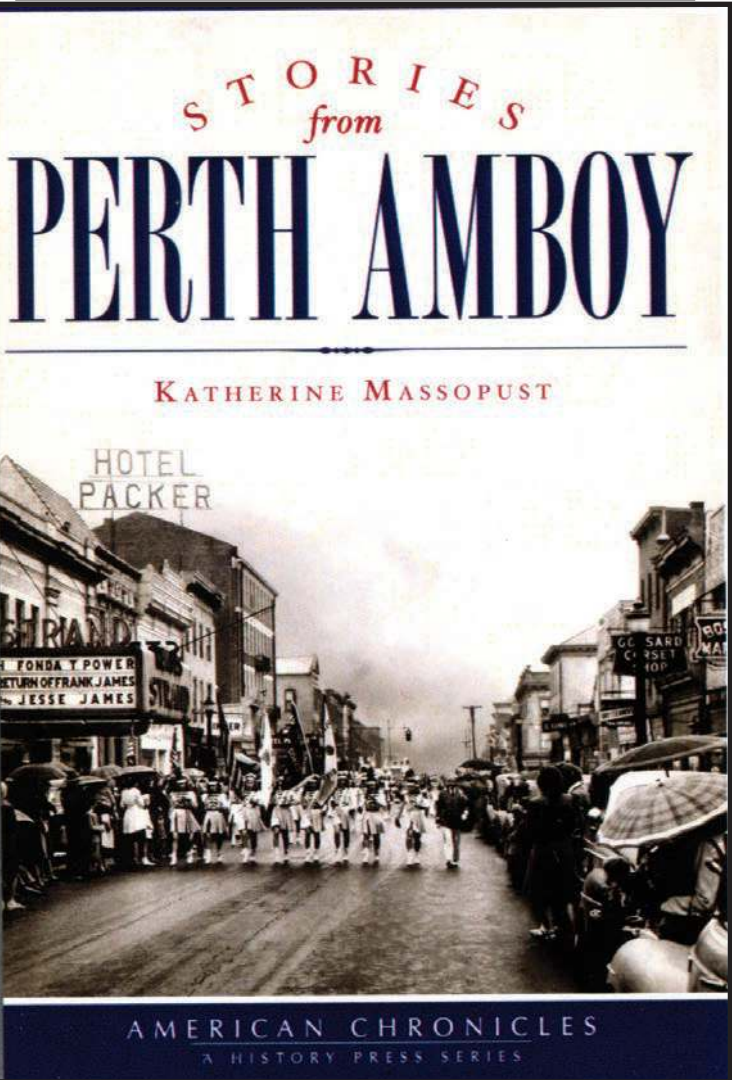
Answers
From Puzzle
On Page 13



LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY – Vincenza (Jean) Sinatra (Aunt of Robert Sottilaro) - Miss Columbus Day 1930.
**Photo Courtesy of Bob and Barbara Sottilaro*
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



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PERTH AMBOY - Great investment property also known as Elizabeth Corner restaurant; this is a well established business for many years. This is a turnkey money maker, don't miss out this great opportunity to be your own Boss. **\$449,000**



PERTH AMBOY - A beautiful 3 family great location, large yard, garage great condition a must see. **Hurry!!!! \$575,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Move-in- condition single family house hospital section, 3 bedrooms, garage, 2 full baths, living room, dining room and much more. **\$319,000**



SAYREVILLE - Great 3 family good income property fully rented all separated utilities, apartment 2 & # are all electric and huge apartment 1 is gas. Lots of off-street parking. **\$459,000**