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Going Around in Circles Again 1/25/21 Caucus & Council Meetings

By: Carolyn Maxwell

PERTH AMBOY – Both 1/25/21 Caucus and Council Meetings were held in the City Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom. The caucus started at 4:38 p.m.

The first person who came up to speak was BID Executive Director Noelia Colon. She spoke about R-45-1/21 – Adopting the 2021 Perth Amboy Business Improvement District Budget for January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. She stated, “On December 11, 2020, the BID approved their budget of \$247,650. An audit and annual report of the BID budget was given to the council previously.”

Council President Petrick then questioned, “Have the BID considered reducing the amount of payment the BID Members had to pay because of Covid?”

Colon mentioned that they haven’t. “We have \$300,000 in surplus funds and \$144,000 was allocated in the supplemental budget.”

Petrick continued, “Why hasn’t the lighting in the BID district been updated with LED lights?”

Colon responded, “Looking at the budget, we did receive information on new bulbs, but this is a part of the city’s budget.”

Petrick continued, “Only the external lights have to be replaced and not the existing fixtures. It is a one-time purchase and I think the BID has money to replace the bulbs. We also need to have benches with dividers on it so people can’t sleep on them. It’s easy for the BID to purchase them and the city can install them for you. This all can be done in one season. An electronic billboard on Rte. 35 could have been done years ago. All we get are delays and excuses. The BID was created to accentuate our businesses. This is not being done.”

BID Chair Barry Rosengarten came up, “All comments that were made by the Council President are valid. As far as the electronic sign, we are waiting for the state to go ahead. They have not sent the agreement, yet.”

Petrick suggested the BID engage the council and Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez. “This new council is motivated to get this done.”

Rosengarten continued, “The state is also holding up other property that the BID is interested in. Director of Human Resources and the Department of Recreation Ken Ortiz is meeting with the state. We hope to have more information at the next meeting. PSE&G owns

the streetlights, and we pay for them whether they work or not. The cost of the fixtures is high, but not the lights. The benches are under study and they will be ordered in the next week or so.”

Business Administrator Edward Remsen spoke up, “I and Councilman Joel Pabon went up and down the streets (Smith Street and New Brunswick Avenue) and counted 50 lights that were out. Frank Lucchesi Supervisor at PSE&G and I talked about this. We need to have a list of every light that was out citywide. Most needed just the lightbulb replaced.”

Rosengarten spoke, “I thank all for the recommendations. We are always looking to improve the business district.”

Petrick then stated, “We have to see what property the city owns and what property the state owns.”

Colon spoke again, “We did follow up with the state with the land that they owned, but we didn’t get many answers. Our budget can be used for sustainable projects.”

After Noelia Colon spoke, Councilman Joel Pabon had a question regarding one of the reports that CFO/Comptroller Jill Goldy submitted regarding the taxes and the water/wastewater utility. “I need to know that at the end of the year, where



**Councilman
Joel Pabon**



**Council President
William Petrick**

do we stand on the taxes and the water?”

Petrick addressed this, “This information was emailed to the council and what was recovered by the taxes received.”

Pabon continued, “The public should know this information.”

Petrick continued the conversation, “The December status report should have that information.”

Fire Chief Ed Mullen who participated online answered the question regarding R-48-1/21 – An agreement with Municibid for the sale of surplus non-needed fire equipment no longer needed for public use on an online auction website.

“There was a truck that we sold last month to a fire company in Massachusetts. There will be another vehicle to be worked on next week to be sold.”

Pabon continued, “Some of the contracts that were tabled at the last meeting left ourselves vulnerable and some systems were in question.”

Petrick responded, “Some of the contracts that were tabled were contractors that have been used long-term and they were renewable.”

Department of Public Works Supervisor Frank Hoffman who

**Continued on Page 7*

Minutes of December 19, 2018 Meeting Discussed 1/20/21 Council Meeting via Teleconferencing

By: Katherine Massopust

SOUTH AMBOY – After passing the consent agenda, the release of the 12/16/20 Council Meeting, the bill list, and a resolution authorizing emergency repair at the Raritan Street Pumping Services, Inc., there was a lengthy discussion about the recording and minutes of the December 19, 2018 Council Meeting.

The December 19, 2018 meeting was significant that is when the Manhattan Beach Project was approved by the council by a vote of 3-2.

“Council President Mickey Gross along with Councilwomen Zusette Dato and Christine Noble voted in favor of the project, which will bring 501 residential units to South Amboy

by 2025 and could potentially grow to 1,750 units over the next 25 years. Councilmen Brian McLaughlin and Tom Reilly, who have voiced their concerns about the project over the last few months, voted no.” (from: South Amboy Council Approves Manhattan Beach Project by Joseph L. Kuchie 1/9/19 issue of the Amboy Guardian p.3.)

There was a large amount of South Amboy residents who attended from the public. The acting city clerk at the time took the minutes of the meeting, but the recording device failed. The minutes are not posted on the City of South Amboy website. The audio of the meeting was sent to a professional service to be cleaned up.

Councilwoman Zusette Dato asked if the minutes that were being voted upon meet statutory guidelines. Law Director Francis Womack answered the question. “Considering the approval of minutes that are required are a summary of actions taken that night. These minutes certainly meet requirements set by the county.”

Councilman Thomas Reilly asked what the requirements are.

Womack answered, “A record of nature of the ordinance and vote taken.”

Reilly insisted that the minutes should include the remarks he made that night and the sentiments of the public who spoke. “Many items are not included. The audio was useless.”

Womack stated, “The best practice is to record the meeting. The fact that the recording device failed does not invalidate the meeting.”

Reilly said, “I ask we table it.”

Councilwoman Dato said, “I hear what my fellow colleagues are saying. I do not want to rewrite history. In my heart that the then acting city clerk – it was not intentional. We all remember that night. We know that vote. I respect my colleague to table.”

Council Vice President Christine Noble said, “I am in agreement in what Zusette Dato said. How do we open this up if someone has this on audio? I don’t remember what I said other than I voted on the project and I would again tomorrow.”

Councilman Brian McLaughlin was in agreement with Councilwoman Noble.

Council President Mickey Gross asked Law Director Francis Womack, “Do you recommend we table this?”

Law Director Womack answered, “It is up to the council.”

Councilman Brian McLaughlin made a motion to table Resolution 21-061 (Approval and Release of the Minutes of the December 19, 2018 Council Meeting).

Councilwoman Zusette Dato said, “I respect Tom Reilly’s concerns. He may propose amendments. We cannot rewrite history and I can understand his

**Continued on Page 2*

Updates on Coronavirus Outbreak: www.perthamboynj.org & www.southamboynj.gov & www.amboyguardian.com

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Minutes of December 19, 2018 Meeting Discussed 1/20/21 Council Meeting via Teleconferencing

**Continued from Page 1*

point. We have to be really careful. We cannot twist and turn and rewrite history. We have to be very cautious.

Law Director Womack said, "The City Clerk is in charge to make minutes."

Councilman Reilly stated, "Were they reviewed by the acting city clerk?"

Law Director Womack said, "They were not as detailed as she could have made. The machine failed to record properly."

Councilwoman Dato said, "A clerk always makes a note that night she relied on audio. She thought she could later listen to it and fill in. She made notes and later provided them to the city attorney and B.A. If we table, there will be an opportunity to do that."

Law Director Womack said, "You will review and decide what you are comfortable on voting on. It does not change what happened that night. You do have the ability to amend minutes for adoption."

Council President Mickey Gross said, "This can go on forever. At the end of it, the vote was still 3-2. At some point, we have to put closure to this. Any member of this council has comments. We are here as a group. We need to put closure to this thing. At some point enough is enough."

Council Vice President Noble said, "I don't have a problem to table."

Councilman Reilly said, "I want my comments added. I have notes from that meeting."

The council unanimously voted to table Resolution 21-061. Council Comments:

Councilwoman Zusette Dato said, "Today is Inauguration Day is historic in so many ways. I wish President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris our first female Vice President success. It's a big first for this country. As a female, women have a different point of view. We see things differently. All the best to the Biden Administration."

Council Vice President Christine Noble said, "I agree 100% with Zusette Dato. Congratulations to President Biden and Vice President Harris." Noble then offered condolences to the Masterson family due to the passing of Bob Masterson.

Councilman Brian McLaughlin said, "I hope everyone stays safe during this pandemic." McLaughlin then asked about a blighted property.

Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski stated, "A summons was issued. It's a matter of finances. The pending demolition is waiting to recover the losses. We are waiting. I've had discussions with the county to move forward with renovations. The county releases matching funds. It's closer to opening day."

McLaughlin then asked Law Director Womack about serving as a representative on the Planning Board. Womack answered, "It's not possible on a

formal basis. Informally (if we can work it out) there are some forms of government that requires a member of the governing body (to be on the board). It is clear that the mayor and administration is responsible. It would violate our township code, council amongst itself."

McLaughlin said, "Change the form of government. Would that have to be a citywide referendum? Which towns have liaisons to be a council member?"

Womack said he would let him know.

Councilman Thomas Reilly thanked the food pantry workers, the first responders and dedicated volunteers who keep South Amboy fed and safe. "Is there relief for late tax and sewer payments?"

Law Director Womack answered, "Yes, there is a way we can do this. The most we can do is wave interest on those things."

Reilly said, "What about the palate operation, Venetian, and illegal housing?"

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski answered Reilly, "As far as the palate operation, no change. Venetian – that is still up to the courts. The illegal housing – Code Enforcement is working diligently."

Law Director Womack said, "Venetian – at the next meeting, we will have a brief closed session. We are still in the discovery phase. We can go into more detail in a closed session."

Reilly then said, "On the passing of Bob Masterson, he gave a ton of his time to charity events. He was a good man." Reilly then spoke again about the minutes of the November 19, 2018 meeting. "It's not about the votes. I think as a governing body we reflect back as for true assessment not only as a city council, but as a servant of the public. We gave a huge tax credit. It's a shame we didn't have (recorded) public comments. We lost it to get a true accurate assessment. I wish anyone who came to that meeting (was recorded) on how they felt."

Councilman McLaughlin asked, "Have we ever lost minutes before?"

Council President Gross answered, "Not to my knowledge."

City Clerk Deborah Brooks said, "I struggled with the system when I first came here. It is definitely not unusual."

Council President Mickey Gross said, "My sorrows to the Masterson family. Miss you, my friend, Bob." Gross then turned his attention to the pandemic.

"How do I get vaccinated? There are different phases. All registrations for vaccinations are going through the state system of Middlesex County, NJ Covid-19 link. You are automatically sent to the state system. They will email you back and give you a code to put in. It will prompt you. One of the things (thank the Freeholders) is that not everyone can operate a computer. You can call 732-745-3100. There will be people

to answer your call. There will be opportunity for the county and state to have a hotline to go on. Whether you are 65 or 25, go and sign up. They will email you. I can't emphasize enough – sign up for the shot! We want to get back to normal! We need to vaccinate!"

Mayor Fred Henry said, "My condolences to the Masterson family and the Ust family. I know both families. South Amboy received a \$120,000 grant for the transit village area signage to update LED signs for Main Street, Bordentown Avenue, Ferry Road. Pedestrian signs that blink will be put on Broadway." Mayor Henry then spoke about the inauguration, "No matter what side you are on, we have to celebrate America. I wish President Biden well, so America does well. Thank the food pantries. Don't let your guard down."

Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski said, "I want to than the response of the local Rotary Club. It began with 5 members – now there is over a dozen members. Reach out to the Rotary Club."

City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz congratulated President Biden and Vice President Harris.

Public Portion:

Brandon Russell spoke first. "I want to thank the council for their decision. The 10/2/18 minutes are still missing. I am a little discouraged. I cannot force you to be transparent. I think we can do this together."

A resident with the first name Greg spoke next. "The audio at the 12/19/18 meeting?"

City Clerk Brooks answered, "We sent it to be fixed. It was not particularly high quality."

Greg asked, "Can it be posted?"

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated he could post the audio the next day, but there was no guarantee on its quality. He explained that the audio was given to a professional who was supposed to fix it, but the audio is still poor quality.

Law Director Francis Womack said, "When it was brought to the council, it was expressed that some skepticism. There is no obligation to do that, and no legal reason to post it or not to post it."

Councilwoman Dato suggested that if a person wishes to have a copy of the audio, they should OPRA it."

Greg asked, "If it was salvageable, would it be posted?"


City Clerk Brooks answered, "I haven't posted it yet."

Law Director Womack stated, "Councilwoman Dato is right. It is an OPRAable document. We could post this. No one can make any sense of the audio. It does not have to be OPRA'd. You can make it available."

The council decided not to post the audio.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m. All councilmembers were present.

Happy Valentine's Day



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Hackensack Meridian’s John Theurer Cancer Center (JTCC) Observational Study Suggests Role for Hydroxychloroquine as Outpatient Treatment for COVID-19 Infection

Paper published in BMC Infectious Diseases documents association between hydroxychloroquine exposure and reduced hospitalization rates in mildly symptomatic outpatients with COVID-19

Press Release 1/19/21
HACKENSACK, NJ – Researchers from Hackensack Meridian Health John Theurer Cancer Center (JTCC), a member of the Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center consortium, have published results from a multi-center, retrospective, observational study suggesting a possible role for the use of hydroxychloroquine, an antimalarial agent with antiviral and anti-inflammatory properties, as an outpatient treatment for COVID-19.

In a paper published in the current issue of BMC Infectious Diseases, the JTCC researchers report that hydroxychloroquine use in the outpatient setting was associated with a reduction in hospitalization rates in mildly symptomatic individuals with COVID-19, compared to those not given to hydroxychloroquine. They called for additional exploration of hydroxychloroquine to clarify its role in the outpatient treatment of COVID-19.

“We were very pleased to see a statistically significant reduction in the risk of subsequent hospitalization in mildly symptomatic outpatients treated with

hydroxychloroquine,” said lead investigator Andrew Ip, MD, MS, Director of the Division of Outcomes and Value Research at JTCC, and an attending physician in the Division of Lymphoma and Division of Myeloma at JTCC. “The results are especially encouraging in light of previous observational studies in which hydroxychloroquine did not appear to reduce the risk of death in hospitalized patients with COVID-19. We hope our findings lead to further investigation of this drug as a potentially viable oral outpatient therapy for early-stage COVID-19.” Ip is an associate member of Georgetown Lombardi.

Dr. Ip and colleagues collected and evaluated data from 1,274 outpatients identified through electronic health records as having documented COVID-19 infection, of whom 97 (7.6%) were prescribed hydroxychloroquine prior to any COVID-19-related hospitalization. They also constructed a propensity-matched sample of 1,067 patients, consisting of 97 who were exposed to hydroxychloroquine in the outpatient setting and 970 without such exposure.

A total of 326 (30.6%) patients in the propensity-matched cohort subsequently required hospitalization, including 21 (21.6%) treated with hydroxychloroquine and 305 (31.4%) patients not exposed to the drug. In the primary multivariable logistic regression analysis with propensity matching, exposure to hydroxychloroquine was associated with a reduced rate of hospitalization related to progressive COVID-19 illness (odds ratio 0.53; 95% confidence interval, 0.29, 0.95). Sensitivity analyses revealed similar associations.

“The odds ratio of 0.53 means that outpatients treated with hydroxychloroquine had about half the odds of subsequent hospitalization compared to those who didn’t receive the drug, and this finding was statistically significant,” Dr. Ip explained. “At a time of surging rates of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, keeping patients out of the hospital becomes a public health imperative.”

Safety events in the study were minimal, with 2% of patients experiencing asymptomatic

**Continued on Page 4*



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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

The Keystone Pipeline & Fracking

Listening to the John Catsimatidis Radio Program on WABC & 970 - The Answer always has remarkably interesting informative guests. He has segments where he talks about local politics, national, and worldwide. Recently John Catsimatidis was interviewed on the Alex Salvi Show where they discussed how shutting down the Keystone Pipeline eliminated 60,000 union jobs between Canada and the United States. This will also increase the cost of gasoline and consumer goods across the board. As we all know, increasing the price of consumer goods is what will make the lower economic class suffer even more. Those in the middle class who pay the bulk of taxes anyway can spiral down to a lower economic situation.

Green energy products were promised in the past and failed miserably. According to an op-ed article in The Boston Herald by Stephen Moore, “Obama’s Green New Deal was a Billion Dollar Bust,” The article states: *The Solyndra company’s solar energy project who received over \$500 million in taxpayer’s money went bankrupt. Obama and George W. Bush before him gave billions to green companies for wind and solar power and electric cars and for weatherizing home and buildings. There was a lack of oversight on these programs and the quality of work performed was poor. The Green Deal was supposed to train over 100,000 people for these jobs. Only 42% of these people were trained and only 10% of the people got jobs. The clean energy source that the government ignored is natural gas exploded from 25% of electricity production to almost 40%.*

You have to look at the Green Deal very closely. Before you hand out a good chunk of taxpayer dollars to these green companies, they need to be thoroughly investigated and look at other projects that they have done in the past had how well they have turned out. You always have to have alternative means of energy. Sometimes if it’s not broke – don’t fix it.

Trump was on the way to make sure we became oil independent from other countries, especially the ones who were not friendly to us.

According to vox.com, “What is fracking — and why is it so controversial? By Brad Plumer, July 30, 2015: *"Fracking" is short for "hydraulic fracturing" — it's a process by which water, sand, and chemicals are injected underground at very high pressures to crack open rock layers and release the oil or gas trapped inside. Technically, fracking isn't new: Companies have been using this technique for decades to extract oil and gas from hard-to-exploit rock formations. Halliburton first used hydraulic fracturing back in 1949 as a way of increasing the flow of gas from wells in Kansas. In recent years, however, fracking has become much more widespread. In the mid-2000s, US companies figured out how to combine fracking with methods like horizontal drilling to extract oil and gas from vast underground shale rock formations at a reasonable price. There's a lot of oil and gas in shale, so this breakthrough led to a drilling boom in states like North Dakota, Texas, and Pennsylvania. The "fracking boom" has reshaped the American energy landscape. Domestic production of oil and natural gas has risen sharply, leading to cheaper energy and a reduced reliance on imports. Advocates often argue that fracking is creating jobs, boosting manufacturing, and helping to tackle global warming by reducing the amount of coal we use. Opponents often argue that the industry is poorly regulated, the global warming benefits are overhyped, and that fracking has led to increased air and water pollution around the country.*

Any person who is sworn into office is supposed to serve and protect their constituents and the Constitution of the United States of America. This is first and foremost. You serve the people – not your personal interests or the pockets of your buddies or to give jobs through cronyism. **C.M. & K.M.**

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

A Far Greater Health Problem

Joe Bayona's article about COVID-19 Testing was well

received. His research exactly supports my experience and my opinion. A far greater health problem than the virus is the sick, disabled mentality which

has been created in the public by the mass media and "the powers that be".

John Stern

Blazing Saddles 1974

Well folks, there you have it! You wanted it - you got it! Our new CEO for America: Mr. Joe Biden. Yes, four years of "Blazing Saddles". You'll have front row seats! Bring popcorn and soda and enjoy the show. Now,

don't complain if you don't like the show - just wear the mask, stay home and shut up. Let's hope those protesters or radicals from the far left or far right don't destroy America. As for "Censorship" on Facebook or YouTube to prevent the truth from being exposed, it's already happening. And you know the

"Puppet Control" news media will hide the truth. Don't be surprised if someone said: I told you so!" As for Mr. Trump it will be "Blue Trails of Sorrow".

Orlando "Wildman" Perez

Securing Funds for South Amboy

On January 19, 2021, the Federal Transit Administration published Federal Notice of Available Funding for Federal Fiscal Year 2021. Under Table 15 Prior Year Unobligated 5739(b) Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Allocation, is listed FY 2020 NJJD2020-PFGP-010 City of South Amboy - Radford Ferry project - \$5,300,000.

Why has the City of South Amboy been unsuccessful in securing these funds under an approved obligated FTA grant? Did the City of South Amboy enter a formal grant in FTA's Transit Award Management System (known as "TrAMS") used to award and manage federal grants? If so, are there still any outstanding FTA's concerns

and issues that need to be resolved as part of any ongoing grant review? Without a formal grant obligation, these funds will eventually lapse and be lost.

NJ Transit and the Port Authority of NJ & NJ are in intense competition against transit agencies from other cities and states around the nation. It hurts both NJ Transit and Port Authority when the City of South Amboy leaves these discretionary dollars on the table year after year. The NJ Congressional delegation loses credibility when lobbying for more transit dollars.

There is no incentive for Washington to approve additional discretionary transit dollars. As each year goes by, the project cost also tends to increase. The dollar value of the earmark does not. In the end, taxpayers, commuters and trans-

it employees are the losers. NJ Transit and Port Authority both face short and long term multi billion dollar capital and operating funding shortfalls. Every dollar counts. When will the City of South Amboy make this a priority and secure these funds under an approved FTA grant?

Sincerely,

Larry Penner

(Larry Penner is a transportation advocate, historian and writer who previously worked for the Federal Transit Administration Region 2 NY Office. This included the development, review and approval of billions in grants to NJ Transit and NY MTA which funded capital bus, subway and commuter rail improvement projects and programs along with 30 other transit agencies in NY & NJ.)

Hackensack Meridian’s John Theurer Cancer Center (JTCC) Observational Study Suggests Role for Hydroxychloroquine as Outpatient Treatment for COVID-19 Infection

*Continued from Page 3

QTc prolongation (a measure of delayed ventricular repolarization, indicating that the heart muscle takes longer than normal to recharge between beats) and none experiencing arrhythmia.

The 30.6% subsequent hospitalization rate in the observational cohort is higher than current state and national hospitalization rates, the researchers noted. “We conducted this study early in the course of the pandemic in the United States, during a timeframe when testing for COVID-19 was largely limited to symptomatic individuals,” noted Dr. Ip. “We therefore suspect that the observational cohort was biased toward individuals with more advanced disease and a higher likelihood of hospitalization than the general population of those infected

with the virus that causes COVID-19.”

Additional limitations to the study included the relatively small sample size, the lack of confirmation of prescription filling or of full adherence to the complete course of hydroxychloroquine therapy, and the inability to account for hospitalization outside the Hackensack Meridian Health network. The researchers further caution that results from an observational study cannot be used to assert a causal relationship, and that the findings need to be validated in a randomized controlled clinical trial.

“I am very proud of all the efforts by our JTCC team, in particular initiating a registry of COVID patients during the early days of the pandemic. With it, we can now inform on potential treatment benefits for subsets of patients,” commented

Andre Goy, MD, MS, Chairman and Director of JTCC, and a co-author of the BMC Infectious Diseases paper. “There has been a lot of debate around hydroxychloroquine with mixed results. Part of the reason was due to using it at different phases of the infection and/or in different patient populations. Efforts to mitigate the course of disease and reduce hospitalization are obviously critical in COVID19 to improve patient outcomes while presumably easing the strain on overburdened health systems.”

For more information about the JTCC observational study and the BMC Infectious Diseases publication, visit: <https://rdcu.be/cdAX0>.

To book an interview with Dr. Andrew Ip or obtain additional information, please contact PR Manager, Mary McGeever at mary.mcgeever@hmhn.org or 551-795-1675.

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PUBLIC LIBRARY.....	211 FORD AVE.
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KRAUSZER'S.....	683 FLORIDA GROVE RD.
IN LAURENCE HARBOR:	
HOFFMAN'S DELI	5 LAURENCE PKWY.
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1 ST CONSTITUTION BANK	145 FAYETTE ST.
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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.

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

2021 Amboy Guardian Publication Dates

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

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

THURS. Feb. 4 Board of Education, 5:30 p.m.
PAHS, Eagle Ave.
MON. Feb. 8 City Council, Caucus 5:30 p.m.
City Hall, High St. & Zoom
WED Feb. 10 City Council, Regular,
City Hall, High St. & Zoom

South Amboy

WED. Feb. 3 City Council, Business, 6 p.m.
City Hall High St.
WED Feb. 17 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.

*All meetings are subject to change. Check the City Website or www.amboyguardian.com to see if the meeting will take place via phone or video conference or for updates on meeting times, places, and details how to participate.

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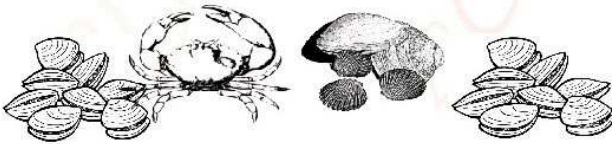


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Safety Announcement

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
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Deadline for Print Ads:

7 p.m. Thursday

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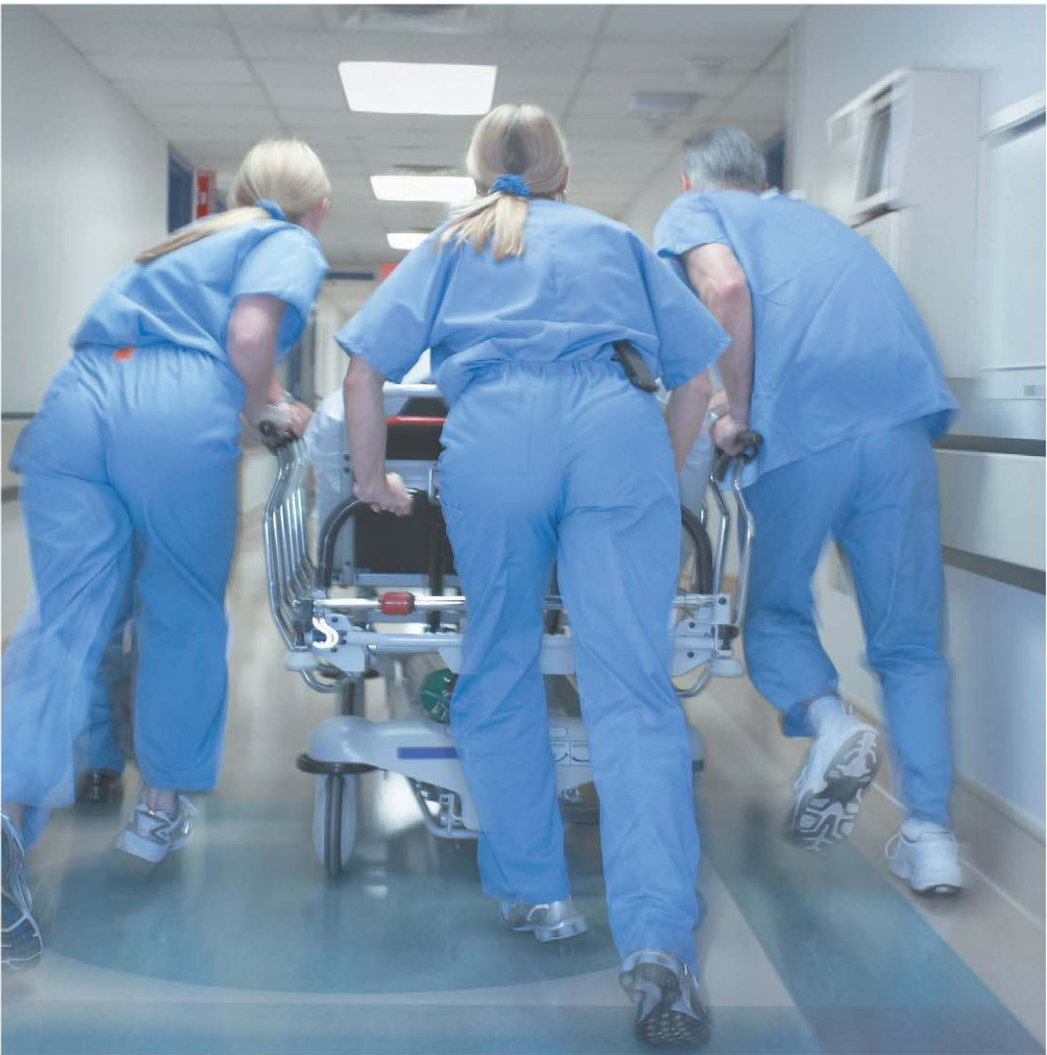
Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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

Please Submit Community Events
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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

Going Around in Circles Again

1/25/21 Caucus & Council Meetings

**Continued from Page 1*

also was online said, “Some of the contracts had miscalculations. We had hoped to have a special meeting in late December 2020 to have the corrections made. A meeting was not held, and those contracts had to be done by the end of December 2020.”

Councilman Pabon then questioned R-57-1/21 – Increasing the contract with Fraytak Veisz Hopkins Duthie PC, for architectural services in connection with the general construction work at the public library in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.

Pabon asked, “Did they start demolition work?”

DPW Director Frank Hoffman explained, “The last Interim Business Administrator Perkins met with the contractor. This is for the rebidding of the new contractor. The old wall has been demolished and there had been water damage. Drainage is being done. There is another change order coming up for \$25,000. I have been keeping an eye on all who are involved with the work being done on the library. All the work should be done by May 2021.”

Luis Perez Jimenez Director of Operations at the USA-PA (Utility Service Associates Perth Amboy) Middlesex Water Company) had a remark regarding R-62-1/21 – Extending the contract with Sonnenfeld and Trocchia for value architectural and construction inspection services in connection with the construction of the Smith Street Waterworks shop in an additional amount not to exceed \$305,000.

Jimenez explained, “Once this resolution is approved, we can give the go ahead for the work to be done.”

Councilwoman Rose Morales questioned, “Was this to tear down your current building?”

Perez explained, “It is to demolish the building next to our current building, then there will be a new building built.”

Council President Bill Petrick then explained R-63-1/21 – Requesting an alternative long term combined sewer overflow (CSO) control plan on behalf of Perth Amboy and corresponding meeting.

Petrick explained, “This is to go over plans to make a change that will not affect our residents.”

Councilwoman Morales then asked if R-52-1/21 – Authorizing settlement of workers compensation litigation entitled Idania Vasquez vs. The City of Perth Amboy in the amount of \$31,692 can be discussed in public.

Law Director William Northgrave said, “Let’s do a closed session on this.”

Councilman Joel Pabon said, “I still am waiting on a response on a communication I sent suggesting that the city have a hotline for tips and suspicious activities. People should have a number to call regarding illegal activity. People have told me that some businesses force their workers to come in when they

are sick. A hotline would help the police department and the city. NJ Transit vehicles have a number for a tip line. Not everybody goes into Nixle or is connected to Nixle.”

Police Chief Roman McKeon joined in the conversation via Zoom, “We promote calling police and Pabon is looking for a citywide number for a lot of complaints. We have a city complaint board and we used to have a tip line years ago for in the narcotics division. They can utilize that number.”

Pabon then suggested, “A emergency phone number can be publicized on Channel 34 or other media outlets.”

McKeon then said, “We can put all info on the police Facebook page and our other social media outlets.”

The public portion was open to those residents who attended the meeting in person first.

Resident Stanley Sierakowski spoke first, “When I worked for the county, a lot of problems could be solved if you called up your district and county representative instead of trying to handle things on your own. I remember when Dave Crabel (A well-known Middlesex County Powerhouse Democratic Politician) would call our office and things would be done immediately. Call Atlantic City and see how they acquired divided benches easily or they may have been retrofitted.”

Resident Maria Torres came up next. Councilwoman Milady Tejada translated. “She wants to congratulate the new council members and said she belongs to a Dominican organization and wants to have a flag raising on February 27, 2021.”

Council President Petrick explained, “We have a policy in place regarding events taking place on city property. If a date is open, you may be able to have a flag raising.”

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch spoke up, “Someone already had submitted a date for that same exact flag raising that Maria wanted and Maria has been calling our office about it. I believe that date is open.”

Maria Torres then continued, “I’m worried about people who work and come to businesses wearing no masks. Two people who work in one business died of an illness.”

Petrick explained, “A complaint can go to the health department because they regulate the beauty salons and bodegas.”

A tower spoke next, “I have been issued over 30 tickets from a police officer who said that I have been making illegal tows. I have been towing for 6-7 years. I recently won a towing contract over another tower named Carlito Towing. The officer explained to me that some of the tickets had to do with some of our business signs.”

Council President Petrick said, “Towing signs have to meet the criteria of the ordinance.”

The Tower then explained, “The police officer who is in charge of the towers is the one who keeps issuing me tickets. No one was allowed to tow

when stores had to be closed down at 7 p.m. due to Covid. The officer said I was overcharging for services and I know that other towers were charging more than me. The officer said he would dismiss the tickets, then he changed his mind. I have all my receipts of what I charge for my services.”

Councilman Joel Pabon then spoke up, “I told this gentleman to come here to see what is going on.”

Law Director Northgrave said, “I will look into this problem and report back to the council and this gentleman.”

Petrick then spoke up, “If you meet the standards of the ordinance, then the officer needs to explain what the problem is.”

The tower then explained that Carlito called him and wanted him to come to Carlito’s place of business, “I refused.”

Resident Jeremy Baratta came up next. His concern was that the BID requested an approval of a budget of \$247,000 and they had \$350,000 in reserves. “At one point, they said they had \$400,000 in reserves. What happened to the \$50,000? Since there were hardly any activities (in 2020). 45% of the budget is for Noelia’s salary. The UEZ has a slush fund of \$1 million. A lot of times the BID meetings are not taking place and the council should table this resolution (R-45). They had two meetings where only two people voted which was an invalid meeting. At some meetings, the public was not allowed to speak. They gave improper notices to newspapers that did not meet the criteria of sunshine laws. There are no court dates as of yet for my lawsuit against the BID.”

Law Director Northgrave spoke up, “I don’t know the impact if the BID budget is not approved. You can’t keep kicking the BID budget down the road. I would say approve the BID budget because lawsuits are always ongoing.”

Participants on Zoom then spoke. Former Councilwoman Lisa Nanton was first. She suggested the council postpone voting on the BID budget. “One of the line items called for \$35,000 for façade and downtown beautification. At one time the BID published a restaurant guide which was very small. They allocated \$12,000 for marketing. Dissolve the BID and hire a marketing company instead.” Nanton then asked about R-30-1/21 – Exercising option 1 for second year of a 3-year contract with Custom Care Services for maintenance of city parks and properties from April 1, 2021 and terminating on November 5, 2021 an amount not to exceed \$77,850. “What is this for?”

Petrick stated, “It’s to cut the grass.”

DPW Director Hoffman elaborated, “It’s for grass cutting, maintenance around the shrubs, mulching, vegetation control, and from 8-9 years ago, the cost has not gone up that much. We also have someone who monitors their work.”

Petrick then stated that Nanton

had problems with the downtown planters.

Hoffman explained, “The DPW has nothing to do with those planters.”

Nanton then finished her call, “I like Councilman Pabon’s idea of having a hotline, but you need a phone number with easy numbers to remember.”

Deputy Chief and OEM Coordinator Larry Cattano said, “There is a law that was put in place years ago where you can’t put the department numbers on police cars.”

Former Councilman Fernando Gonzalez spoke next, “What has the BID done? They’ve had problems with people getting on the BID. They are doing nothing constructive and not fulfilling their commitments. We (the council) created it. Let two council members look at the BID. Have the people who are taxed come to the next meeting. Members are too close-knit and all they do is collect taxes.”

Resident Sharon Hubberman spoke next, “Will the preliminary budget be online? A hotline would do good because people can be anonymous. Sometimes when you call different departments about problems, they want your name, address, and other pertinent information that can open up you to being harassed. I would like to know the percentage of revenue collected in 2020. What bills were paid per executive order?”

Council Petrick suggested that Hubberman call Nancy Martin from the tax department.

Pabon spoke up stating, “People want to know the answers to the questions that Sharon (Hubberman) just asked.”

CFO Jill Goldy spoke up (from Zoom): “100% was collected. We had accelerated tax sales that helped a lot. Some items were uncollected. We have to make provisions for a 3-year revenue collection. Covid has affected the budget for the year. 97% of revenue was collected on rentals. The governor prevented the city for putting delinquent accounts up for tax sales, but these taxes will be collected when the governor lifts the executive orders. The Parking Utility has a small outstanding debt. The marina has no debt.”

After the public spoke on Zoom, Councilman Joel Pabon spoke up and said, “The new mayor (Caba) had looked at the downtown situation when he was a councilman. Let’s approve the BID budget and put a council member on the Board to monitor their activities. So many things can be done right away. Just give them (the BID) a year.”

Council President Petrick asked, “Can the BID ordinance be amended?”

Law Director Northgrave said, “I will look into it.”

The Council went into closed session at 6:23 p.m. They returned at 6:31 p.m. and closed the Caucus. The Council Meeting started at 6:35 p.m.

Public comments on agenda items only:

Resident Stanley Sierakowski

came up. “There are autonomous agencies, and it is stated in ordinances that the council can approve the minutes of those agencies. If an agency cannot explain the items on their minutes, then you cannot approve those minutes. There are some things in the BID that are questionable.” Sierakowski also said, “I approve the change of the start time of the caucus meetings to 5:30 p.m. That way a lot more people will be able to attend.”

Resident Jeremy Baratta came up next. He complained, “No one questions the BID and none of the BID’s public contractors are qualified. I am the only business owner who goes to the meetings. It is a remnant of the 12 years that has been rejected. You can’t change their by-laws. It’s the last vestige of Wilda’s reign is the BID.”

He questioned Ordinance No. 1 – Change of the start time of the caucus meeting. “I hear a lot of different times it is supposed to start. Is it supposed to be 5 p.m. or 5:30 p.m.?”

Petrick responded, “5:30 p.m.”

Former Councilwoman Lisa Nanton spoke next via Zoom, “I support eliminating the Handicapped Parking Committee.”

There was next a public hearing on R-45-1/21 – Adopting the 2021 Business Improvement Budget for 2021.

Stanley Sierakowski spoke first, “They had a surplus over \$200,000. They should do improvements on Amboy Avenue and as well as State Street. Use the surplus to spend on all businesses in the city – not only just the ones in the BID district. There is no critical thinking on the BID.”

Jeremy Baratta came up next, “Postponing the budget will not have an effect. Alternate programs were held, and businesses are closing. The BID should not have charged taxes on the businesses this year. They have enough surplus money to sustain themselves. They pay their lawyer \$250 an hour. The façade grant goes to the same people and it is a patronage pit and there is nothing to show for it.”

Lisa Nanton spoke next, “In the interest of the taxpayers, postpone voting on the BID budget until the next meeting.”

The comments were closed on R-45. The council voted on the ordinances. Ordinance No. 1 was moved by Tejada seconded by Morales. Pabon said, “The only reason I’m voting yes is so Stanley can get here on time and be here for the whole meeting.” Everyone voted “yes”.

Ordinance No. 2 – Eliminating the Handicapped Committee was moved by Pabon and seconded by Tejada. When it came to vote individually, everyone voted “yes” except for Pabon who vote “no”.

When it came time to vote on the consent agenda, R-51 was pulled to be voted on separately: R-51 – Workers com-

**Continued on Page 8*

Going Around in Circles Again

1/25/21 Caucus & Council Meetings

**Continued from Page 7*

pensation litigation for Miguel Morales vs. The City of Perth Amboy. For the consent agenda R-46 thru R-50; R-52 thru R-63 was moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejeda. When it came to vote for R-51, it was moved by Pabon and seconded by Tejeda. Councilwoman Rose Morales was the only one who abstained. Everyone else voted “yes”.
Public Portion:

Stanley Sierakowski asked, “What is the status of the Armory and the money they owe the city of over \$450,000? They reneged on their contract and they are multimillionaires.” He then turned his attention to Anchor Marine, “They were told not to pay taxes, and nobody wanted to find out who were the partners of this property. Did the tax assessor reevaluate the property after the density was changed?”

Jeremy Baratta came up next. He talked about two different BID Meetings: one on video tape and one held via Zoom. “There was not sufficient notice for these meetings to be publicized by any of the newspapers. I copy you guys (the council members) on emails I send (regarding the BID). Contracts are handwritten and none of their public contractors are registered.”

Sharon Hubberman was the first person to come on via Zoom. She appreciated CFO Goldy answering questions regarding the budget. “There are a lot more people participating on Zoom.” She then voiced her displeasure with Council President William Petrick stating he is rude and condescending to some people. “It is unbecoming and shows a strong biased towards certain individuals. There

should be censures by other council members.” She finished her remarks by again thanking CFO Jill Goldy.

BID Coordinator Noelia Colon came up to address some of the remarks made by the public, “The BID has been around for 25 years. It was created to improve the economic and capital improvements in the business district and the surplus has been accumulated over a 15-year timeframe. \$30,000 of some of the surplus money was given to business owners. We also needed money to defend ourselves. Money was spent on communications to the members for testing and funding for the owners during Covid. Our annual meeting is in March and the Board decides which contractors are used. There’s a lot of criticism, but not much in recommendations. We put our annual reports online and help in rental assistance. There is an investment from our board members, and we are doing everything in our power to assist our businesses.

We are a supplement to our business community.”
Council Comments:

Councilman Joel Pabon said, “I want to thank Business Administrator Edward Remsen for going with me around the city to check out all the lights that are out. Who will keep an eye on this? The Auxiliary Police counted 180 lights that were out. Changing a bulb can make a big difference and the lights should be checked at least once a month. PSEG said that they need to be called whenever someone sees a light that is out. We also need to see if it is the same lights going out all the time. We get billed for the lights whether they are working or not.” He then mentioned former Councilman Irizarry who always questioned why there has been no work on the Rte.35 Bridge in a while. “I talked to City Engineer Jeff Rauch who said that when they start working on the road, they discovered a pipeline that they knew nothing about. That stopped

the work. It may be another 3-4 months before they can start up again. Second Street is a dump. There are also 2 houses where a lot of commercial vehicles park and people who live in those houses are complaining. Buckingham Avenue has trailers parked that shouldn’t be there and those residents are complaining. Parts of that street is caved in. It’s a disaster. I also found an ordinance on committees (boards) that when your term is up, you have to reapply and the positions have to be posted.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda said, “We are listening to our residents and when they have problems, it is important that they report it to a person who can help them. I thank all who participated tonight. Protect yourselves and your family.”

Councilman B.J. Torres said, “The sewer overflow plan is a 30-year project. We have very good organizations that are helping with green deals. New businesses opening up will help

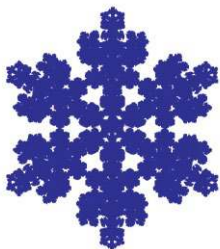
us with our taxes. There are a lot of commercial vehicles that are left idling, and we need to address this issue.”

Law Director Northgrave addressed the idling vehicles, “The DEP is already investigating this.”

Business Administrator Edward Remsen spoke up, “I was on the planning board in another city. The most important thing is the enforcement of laws. If that doesn’t happen, the problem is that regulations will be ignored.”

Council President Bill Petrick thanked all who participated via Zoom or in person. “I hope you found all the information presented informative. Make sure you practice safe Covid practices.”

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m. All council members were present in person at city hall, but Councilwoman Rose Morales left shortly after the consent agenda was voted upon so she was not present for the council comments.



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.
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PERTH AMBOY - Blue Jay *Photo by Toney Lee. If you would like to contact Toney Lee, e-mail: Tgq.665@gmail.com, TNT Productions.

NAACP Executive Committee 2021-2022

*Photos by Paul W. Wang

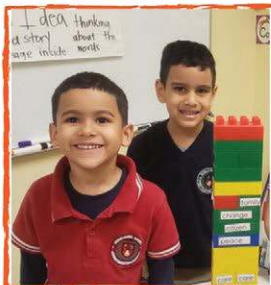


PERTH AMBOY - The NAACP Executive Committee 2021-2022 was sworn in at Bayview Park on Sunday, January 24, 2021: President - Rev. Donna Stewart; First Vice President - Kelly Atkinson; Secretary - Jorge Diaz; Assistant Secretary - Ursula Pitts; Treasurer - Brenda Hutchins; Assistant Treasurer - Rev. Mary H. Giles. Congratulations Officers!

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1 de enero - 1 de marzo

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Sábado, 30/1/2021 - 10 a.m. ● Martes, 9/2/2021 - 6 p.m. Domingo,

21/2/2021 - 1 p.m. ● Jueves, 25/2/2021 - 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

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South Amboy
Receives Transit
Village Grant

Press Release

The City of South Amboy has been awarded funding from the New Jersey Department of Transportation's Fiscal Year 2021 Transit Village Program for Pedestrians to Transit: Safety and Messaging in the amount of \$120,000. Funding provided will be used to enhance pedestrian safety in the areas surrounding the NJ Transit train station and will provide for the acquisition and installation of three LED signs that will provide up to date transit information.

South Amboy is one of the first four Transit Villages designated by the New Jersey Department of Transportation and works continually to advocate for and provide safe and reliable mass transit opportunities for commuters. "This funding will allow us to enhance the safety of patrons of our NJ Transit Rail Station as well as those who plan to use our upcoming Passenger Ferry Terminal" said Mayor Fred Henry. "With the support of NJDOT and in partnership with NJ Transit we will continue to improve our status as a Transit Village to provide the best possible environment for New Jersey commuters".

South Amboy remains on track to break ground on their much anticipated Passenger Ferry terminal this year. The addition of this facility will make South Amboy unique in that it will offer convenient rail and ferry transportation in close proximity in the same community.

"We are grateful for the continued support from Governor Murphy, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, and Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti that allows us to make regular improvements to our capabilities as a New Jersey Transit Village", said Mayor Henry.

World War II - 75 Years Ago

By Phil Kohn. Dedicated to the memory of his father, GM3 Walter Kohn, U.S. Navy Armed Guard, USNR, and all men and women who have answered the country’s call in time of need. Phil can be contacted at ww2remembered@yahoo.com.

The constituent assembly in Hungary proclaims the establishment of the Republic of Hungary on February 1, 1946, and names Zoltán Tildy as its president. Trygve Lie, a Norwegian socialist, becomes the first Secretary-General of the United Nations. Syria and the U.S.S.R. secretly sign an agreement for Soviet military advisors to come to Syria. In Philadelphia, a press conference is held at the University of Pennsylvania to announce the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Calculator (ENIAC), considered to be the first electronic, digital computer. The machine occupies an entire 30- x 60-foot room, weighs 30 tons and uses more than 18,000 vacuum tubes to perform functions such as counting to 5,000 in one second. Costing \$450,000, ENIAC was designed by the U.S. Army during World War II to make artillery calculations. ENIAC’s development paves the way for modern computer technology.

Southern Sakhalin Island and the Kuril Islands are incorporated into the U.S.S.R. on February 2; they had formerly belonged to Japan. In the Middle East, a one-day strike ordered by the Arab Higher Committee to protest Jewish immigration paralyzes Palestine.

In Riga, Latvia, on February 3, former *General der Waffen-SS und Polizei* Friedrich Jeckeln and five of his staff officers are hung in public. Jeckeln had been the SS commander of the Nazi occupation of the Soviet Union. At his war-crimes trial he took responsibility for overseeing the deaths of over 250,000 people, mostly Jewish. The U.S.S.R. and Lebanon sign a pact allowing Soviet military advisors to come into that Middle Eastern nation.

Ferenc Nagy becomes prime minister of Hungary on February 4, succeeding Zoltán Tildy, who was elected president on February 1. The United States and the United Kingdom say they will recognize the Romanian government of Petru Groza provided it holds free elections. National weather forecasts return to newspapers in the U.S. after an absence of four years. The printing of weather maps was discontinued on December 15, 1941, after the attack on Pearl Harbor to avoid helping any planned enemy attacks.

On February 5, the British government announces a nationwide return to dark bread due to a shortage of wheat for making white bread. Allowable rations of cooking fat will be cut, but the milk ration will be raised. The Yugoslav government announces that Field Marshal Milan Nedić, the nation’s prime minister from August 1941 to October 1944 during the German occupation, has killed himself by jumping out a window of the Belgrade prison where he was being held on charges of treason. Suspicions are that he was probably killed there yesterday by Yugoslav authorities.

The British government announces on February 6 that Sir Charles Vyner Brooke, the white ruler of Sarawak (on Borneo) and known as “the White Rajah,” will cede his state to the United Kingdom as a British Crown Colony. Sarawak has been under British protection since 1842. Established as an independent state from a series of land concessions acquired by Brooke’s grandfather from the Sultan of Brunei, Sarawak was recognized as an independent entity by the U.S. in 1850, and by the U.K. in 1864.

The U.S. and the U.S.S.R. on February 7 agree to transportation, mail and radio communication between their two occupation zones in Korea. French military forces conduct a large-scale assault to recover Bén Tre Province in France’s Indochina colony. The province, in the Mekong River Delta in the south, has been held by the Viet Minh since August 1945. The French quickly regain control of the province, but guerrilla activity continues.

On February 8, the United Nations establishes its Commission on Human Rights. In Portugal, Premier António de Oliveira Salazar bans opposition parties. Kim Il-Sung, leader of the northern branch of the Korean Communist Party, is elected chairman of the Interim People’s Committee in the Soviet-occupied portion of Korea.

In Moscow, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin on February 9 announces the new five-year plan for the U.S.S.R., calling for production boosts of 50 percent. In the same address, he states that another war is “inevitable” because of the “capitalist development of the world economy,” and that the Soviet Union would need to concentrate on national defense in advance of a war with the Western nations. Some historians believe that Stalin’s statement marks the beginning of the “Cold War” between capitalism and communism.

Hubertus van Mook, Acting Governor-General of the Netherlands East Indies, on February 10 proposes to Indonesian leaders in Batavia (Jakarta) a plan that offers the choice of either independence or remaining within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, with Dutch citizenship, commonwealth status and internal autonomy. In Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh state, in northern India, 100,000 people protest a 50% cut in wheat rations. U.S. Navy Commodore Ben Wyatt, military governor of the Marshall Islands, meets with a delegation representing the 167 residents of Bikini Atoll and asks if they will agree to be relocated temporarily (with Navy help), so that atomic bomb testing can take place there “for the good of mankind and to end all wars.” The Bikinians convene, and after some discussion, their leader tells Wyatt that they will leave their homes in the belief that “everything is in the hands of God.”

In Manila, the Philippines, Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma on February 11 is convicted of ordering the Bataan Death March in 1942. He is sentenced to death. In India, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, leader of the All-India Muslim League, promises revolution if the country is not divided. The Yalta Agreement — dealing primarily with the post-war reorganization of Germany and Europe — is released simultaneously in Washington, D.C., London and Moscow one year to the day after its signing by Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin.

The DuMont Television Network on February 12 makes the first network telecast, transmitting Lincoln’s Birthday celebrations from WTTG, its station in Washington, D.C., to WABD, its New York affiliate. In advance of presidential elections in Argentina, the U.S. State Department publishes a 121-page “blue book” that provides evidence that Argentina — and presidential candidate Juan Perón — gave aid to Nazi Germany during the war.

On February 13, Harold Ickes, U.S. Secretary of the Interior since 1933, resigns in protest when President Truman says that Ickes could have been “wrong” in testimony before a U.S. Senate committee about Truman’s nominee for Undersecretary of the Navy, Edwin W. Pauley, Sr. Ickes had testified that Pauley, a wealthy oil executive and influential Democrat, while treasurer of the Democratic National Committee had suggested to Ickes that \$300,000 in campaign donations could be raised if the Interior Department withdrew from its conflict with the state of California for oil-rich offshore land. Ickes writes to Truman: “I cannot stay on when you, in effect, have expressed a lack of confidence in me.” The resignation winds up scuttling Pauley’s appointment.

In the U.K., Royal Assent is granted on February 14 for the nationalization of the Bank of England. Former Albanian prime minister Maliq Bushati and regents Anton Harapi and Lef Nosi are executed in Tirana as war criminals.

Please Submit Your Events to AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

Dowdell Library Events

Press Release
SOUTH AMBOY — There are no winter blues around here! The Dowdell Library is still celebrating! Join us while we ring in the Chinese New Year through new virtual programs. Celebrate while Dennis and Maryanne cook up a tasty stir fry in the latest Test Kitchen episode. Then watch Ms. Maryanne read a story and create a Chinese Fan in a special two-part Storytime. Don’t forget to stop in the library starting on February 8th to pick up the take home fan craft so you can get crafty with Ms. Maryanne too!

The Library is launching into the remainder of the month with more new virtual programs! On February 18, 2021, The Mars Rover Perseverance will land on the surface of Mars. Stop by the library the week of the 16th to pick up a rocket take home craft. Then tune into Sadie’s Studio on YouTube with Ms. Laura to learn more about the Rover and make the rocket together! After making the craft, listen to an out-of-this-world tale during Storytime with Ms. Maryanne on YouTube! Follow us on social media and check out Dowdell.org to access all the fun activities and crafts for the month!

Don’t miss the new Teen Social Media challenge! You can choose from one of five categories, including a South Amboy category, and participate in our social media challenge! Those who complete the South Amboy 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.

The New Year is often filled with the excitement of what's to come. Maybe you have decided to start a new hobby or try that new recipe, or maybe you're just looking forward to leaving 2020 behind. Let's take a moment to reflect on all the small things that brought us joy during such a trying year. Library Director Gaber stated, "After reading Brooks' uplifting Washington Post article on experiences that brought us joy in a tough year, I wanted to share the staff's moments of joy with the community." Check out the Library's February newsletter for creative ideas on beating the winter blues! The Library would also like to hear about what brings you joy! What delights you? Please share! The first ten library cardholders who respond will win a 2021 calendar.

Now through March, the Dowdell Library is happy to offer contactless, drop-off tax preparation assistance. Individuals earning less than \$64,000 annually are eligible to sign up for the free VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program. 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!

Invest more time in yourself this year! The Dowdell Library is excited to offer free virtual classes through the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Two courses will be available in February. Nadine Roberts, a stress management practitioner, will present A Virtual Guided Imagery Relaxation Session on February 9 & 23. On Thursday, February 25, Anita Bhandarkar Au.D., CCC-A, Senior Audiologist, will hold a virtual program discussing Vertigo, its causes, signs and symptoms, and many other vertigo topics. 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.

Is there a new trend or technology you would like to learn about? Do you have an idea for a virtual program? 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. Due to all services being staff-assisted, walk-in service is available Monday-Friday 12-5pm and Thursday 12-5pm and 6-8pm. Grab & Go Service by Appointment- Monday morning 9:30-10:30am

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New York Thruway

Driving with my wife
On those parts of the thruway,
Where sheer outcrops of rock, trees, and shadows,
Pure my innermost parts
Of all that is shallow and false,
I think of all these other things
We can only watch
As one night word after another,
Never comes:
The tender look of glistening sidewalks
Just after the rain, the sudden tremble
Of moonlit pools left behind by the ebbing tide,
That bright, glass -green blade of grass
Upon whose slender, unwavering length
A solitary ladybug is slowly climbing.
Trying not to fall, trying not to remember
Something that should have been forgotten.

.Jerry Shonda

Happy Valentine's Day



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.

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ACROSS

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"

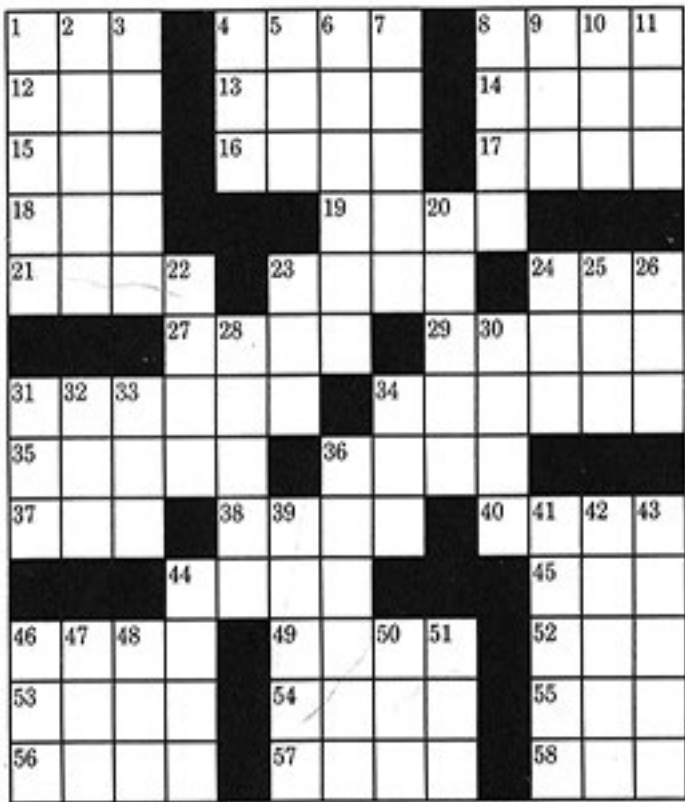
21. Furry sea mammal
23. Serving receptacle
24. Mr. King Cole
27. Very enthusiastic
29. Newport, _____ Island
31. TV dog
34. Got misty-eyed
35. Revises (copy)
36. Typical freshman
37. Uppermost point
38. Remove wrinkles from
40. Be aware of
44. Bit of gossip
45. Rhyming heavy-weight champ

46. Jab
49. Operation reminder
52. Fool (around)
53. Fence bar
54. City vehicle
55. Mate of 8-Across
56. Nothing but
57. Daisy stalk
58. Family room

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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Movie Review: News of the World

By: Anton Massopust III
"I'm taking her home,"
- Captain Kidd

Tom Hanks stars in the new Western, "News of the World." Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd (Tom Hanks) is a former Confederate Infantryman who travels from town to town in the Old West in 1870. During reconstruction after the Civil War Kidd delivers the news of the world. He reads the local and other newspapers from all over the world to people in many different ways as modern newscasters do today. People come to listen to Kidd who are too busy to read newspapers. They pay a dime if they want to sit and listen. In his travels, he runs into a young German girl, Johanna (Helena Zengel) who was captured by the American Indians and was being taken back to an aunt and uncle on a farm. Johanna's escorts were ambushed, and she was all alone. Captain Kidd takes her first to Union authorities in hopes of reuniting her with her family, but the authorities stated either wait for the agent or find her family yourself. Kidd decides that the best thing to do is to take to her



home to her family. Along the way, the two run into outlaws who want to use the girl for prostitution, but Kidd shoots his way out of it. They also run into a greedy Buffalo Baron, dust storms, and hardship. This is an old-fashioned western movie. I love Tom Hanks. Captain Kidd is a very complicated character who has to deal with a lot of conflict. It is very similar to today's strife. The more things change, the more they stay the same, even after the Civil War. There was lots of violence, unrest, disease, and uncertainty. Helena Zengel

is very talented and also has to play a very complicated character. Johanna can only speak the Kiowa language and being shy and awkward she was perfect in the role. The cinematography is beautiful with plains in the backdrop. The chemistry between the Hanks and Zengel is spot-on. I really love that the movie wasn't too long or too complicated - just an old-fashioned story with two lost souls that eventually find each other. Watch on-demand. It is ready to stream right now. Enjoy!

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



Notification of Environmental Investigation and Cleanup
Former Duane Marine (Site)
26 Washington Street, Perth Amboy, New Jersey
(Tax Block 238, Lots 5.01 and 5.02)
NJDEP Preferred Identification #G000003106
February 3, 2021

In accordance with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) regulations for "Notification and Public Outreach", the party conducting the remediation, the Duane Marine Trust (the Trust), is required to provide information relating to environmental conditions and remedial activities at the above referenced site.

Former operations conducted at the Site included dry dock operations, ship maintenance and repairs, cable and wire manufacturing, and waste treatment, storage, and disposal facility. Industrial operations stopped in 1980 due to a fire, and all buildings were either destroyed in the fire or razed afterwards. The upland portion of the Site is currently being redeveloped into a waterfront park. Environmental impacts associated with former Site operations were initially detected in 1980 following the fire. Currently, all soil media have been investigated and remediated in accordance with regulatory requirements. Sediment investigations within the Arthur Kill are currently being completed to determine if remediation may be warranted to mitigate potential risk to the environment. The main chemical constituents identified in sediment include polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), pesticides (i.e., 4,4'-DDE, dieldrin, heptachlor, and heptachlor epoxide,) and metals (i.e., antimony, cobalt, copper, lead, nickel, tin, and zinc). PCBs, lead, nickel, and zinc impacts extend off-site.

The extent of sediment impacts within the Arthur Kill have been delineated, documented, and submitted to NJDEP in a Sediment Remedial Investigation Report dated May 6, 2020. Investigation efforts are currently on-going.

For additional information or to obtain a copy of the complete fact sheet for this Site, please contact the legal representative for the Duane Marine Trust, Richard Ricci, Esq., at 973-597-2462 or Steven Ueland, the LSRP of record at 215-491-6712.

Woodbridge Public Library Events

Free Virtual Events
All are Welcome to Attend

February 1 | Pick Up Available All Week | Inman Library
Teen/Adult Grab and Go Valentine's Day Wreath Craft
Come to the Henry Inman Branch to get your own Grab and Go Valentine's Day Wreath craft kit. In the kit, you'll receive all of the supplies needed to create your own Valentine's Day Wreath. Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/3bY9VCI>

February 8 | Fords Library | Spice Club
The Fords Library invites you to learn more about your favorite spices and discover some new ones as well. Pick up a spice packet and get some cool recipes to shake up your normal routine. Registration Required.

February 9 | 7PM | Stories of Slavery in New Jersey
Celebrate Black History Month with author Rick Geffken as he virtually guides us through his new book Stories of Slavery in New Jersey. Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/3nOu68N>

February 11 | 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/2LFuyJv>

February 16 | Pick Up Available All Week | Fords Library
Valentine's Day Door Decor
Registered adult (18+) participants are welcomed to come to the Fords Library to pick up the supplies for this activity. Registration Required

February 16 7PM | Filling Our Hearts With Love Through Meditation
Join long time meditator Arvind Naik, MBA as he offers this engaging workshop on how to use the practice of meditation to transform the heart. Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/3iai8or>

February 18 | 7PM
Movie Trivia Night
Test your movie knowledge! Join us for a virtual trivia night using Zoom and Kahoot!. Registration is limited and required - <https://bit.ly/3qJERed>

February 22 | Pick Up Available All Week | Iselin Library
Adult Cozy Self-Care Kit
Winter blues got you down? Take a moment with this cozy, little kit and renew your spirits! Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/3qHfk5p>

February 23 | 7PM | Financial Wellness : Taking a Rational Approach to Managing Your Wealth
This webinar is designed to help you develop strategies for making objective decisions about money so you can manage your wealth more wisely. Presented by Bradley Baskir, a financial advisor at Morgan Stanley. Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/2XBC7TH>

February 24 | 7PM | Taking Their Freedom: Ona Judge and Harriet Tubman
Continue our celebration of Black History Month with a riveting discussion by Dr. Linda J. Caldwell Epps of the lives of Ona Judge and Harriet Tubman. Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/2Nh36lv>

February 26 | 3PM | Mystery/Thriller Book Club
Join us virtually for a discussion of The Wives by Tarryn Fisher. Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/39Uf7oz>

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

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Phone: 908-351-0957; Fax: 908-351-0959
Email: ecabrera52@hotmail.com

Novena to St. Rita

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

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.

The Miraculous Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favors. This time I ask you for this my special one *(mention favor)*. Take it, Dear Jesus and place it within your own broken heart, where your Father sees it. Then, in his merciful eyes, it will become your favor, not mine. Amen.
Say this prayer for 3 days, promise publication and your favor will be granted. Never known to fail. B.V.



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 8, 2021. More details to follow in late March 2021.

Pets of the Week



PERTH AMBOY, NJ - Please help me find Phoebe a long-haired kitten from Prospect and Oak Sts. and Sage short-haired from Sherman St. a home together! They are being fostered by some great ladies in Brooklyn! Just because they are timid and shy doesn't mean they don't deserve a chance of a loving, forever home. They are not related but are sisters in love. Please email Vmoralesspps@yahoo.com for adoption application. They are spayed, vaccinated, negative for FIV & Leukemia, dewormed, deflea'd & had their nails trimmed and ears cleaned. They are still kittens but have been waiting so long that they are now big kittens. They are still skittish, but getting a TON better. Now every night they are playing so much with their toys - they toss the toys back and forth at each other. Phoebe loves going in her little house too. They groom each other so sweet & when Sage can't find Phoebe, she does the cutest little meow type thing to find her.

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.

WWW.AMBOYGUARDIAN.COM

Remember to Say Your Novenas!

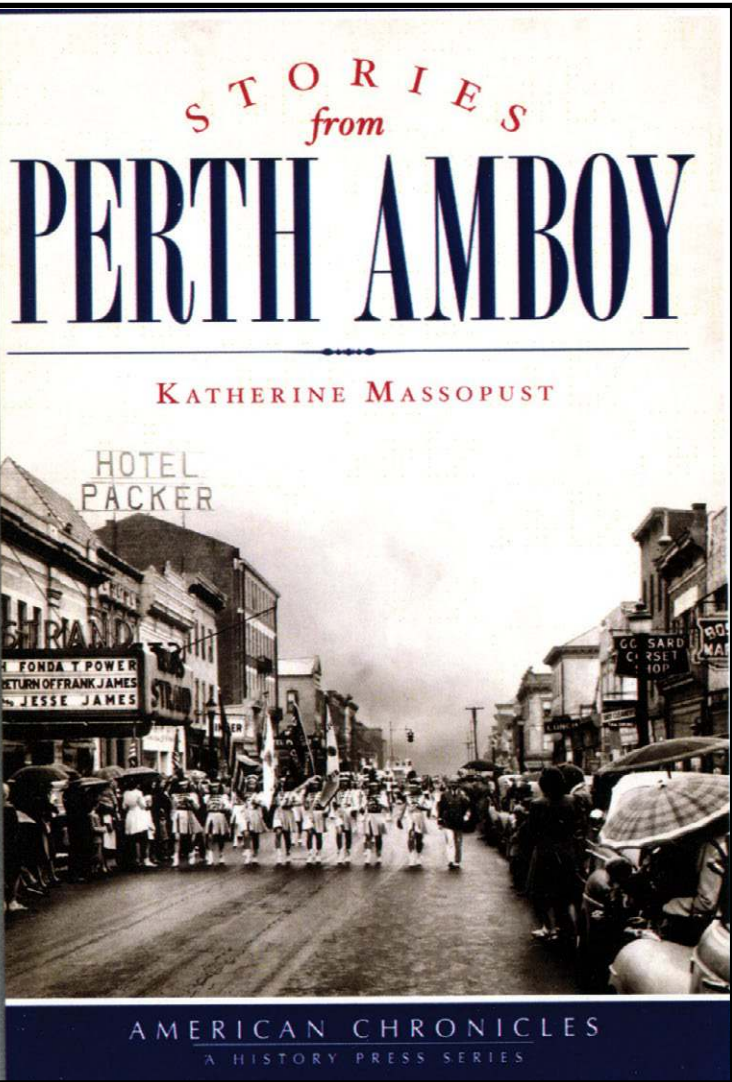
Answers From Puzzle On Page 13

M	A	P	O	V	A	L	A	D	A	M
A	L	A	L	I	F	E	C	O	L	A
S	O	S	D	A	R	E	T	E	S	T
T	N	T	A	R	T	S				
S	E	A	L	D	I	S	H	N	A	T
			A	V	I	D	R	H	O	D
L	A	S	S	I	E	T	E	A	R	E
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R	A	I	L	T	A	X	I	E	V	E
O	N	L	Y	S	T	E	M	D	E	N

LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY – Parker Street kids eating watermelon in the summertime. 1950's
**Photo Courtesy of Rose Lavin-Pennyfeather
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 at the Barge Restaurant, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy - 732-442-3000 or at: www.amazon.com A Great Gift! Get it now along with Then & Now: Perth Amboy!



Javier Herrera
Realtor/Agent

*Congratulations to Javier Herrera
for being the #1 Agent
for the Month of December*



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PERTH AMBOY - Don't miss this opportunity to own this single family in the heart of Perth Amboy, within blocks from train station, Downtown and Business district. currently is being used as 2brs, buyer is responsible for C/O, termite and all repairs. **\$175,000**



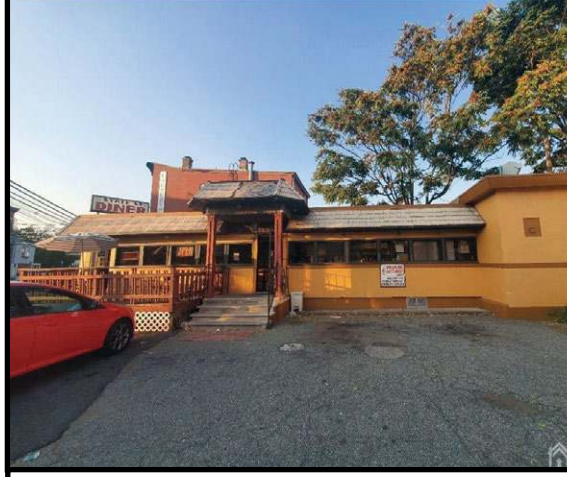
PERTH AMBOY - Nice 4-bedroom Split Level move in ready home in desirable Spa Springs section. Newer roof and Central HVAC system. Nicely Finished basement with laundry room. Wont last, must see. **\$389,000**



SAYREVILLE - Great investment property fully rented immediate income producer Don't miss out. All separated utilities Apartments 2 & 3 are all electric, large apartment 1 is gas. It is being Sold in AS IS condition. Buyer is responsible for C/O, Termite Cert. and all repairs. **\$459,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Perth Amboy waterfront area, 3 family, 3,720 square foot property, 50 x 150 lot with big patio, garage, and driveway. Move on one side and rent the others two. Great investment!!!! Huge attic and basement for entertainment or storage. Property needs TLC, tenants for more than 5 years and wants to stay. Showing date Saturday January 30th from 11 am. to 3 pm. by appointment ONLY, not open house. **\$565,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Great investment opportunity, great location, large parking lot, close to mayor highways. Well established restaurant in business for many years. Has lots of potential, hurry it won't last! **\$340,000**



WOODBIDGE PROPER - Nice 2 family house, 3 bedroom each apartment, big back yard, near to shopping mall. **\$495,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Great condition condo with many upgrades, master bedroom with private bathroom, 2 car garage, close to most public transportation and shopping district and more. **\$2,400 Mo/Rent**



PERTH AMBOY - Newly remodeled apartment. Don't miss out on this opportunity. **\$1,525 Mo/Rent**



PERTH AMBOY - Very charming cozy two family in the hospital section. 1st floor 1 bedroom, 2nd floor 2 bedrooms very clean property, great tenants, separated utilities. A must see. **\$274,900**