



THE

Biweekly Newspaper

COMPLIMENTARY
UP TO 10 COPIES/\$1 EACH ADDITIONAL

AMBOY GUARDIAN

• VOL. 11 NO. 2 • 732-896-4446 • P.O. BOX 127 • PERTH AMBOY • NJ • 08862 • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021 •

Marijuana Presentation Raises More Questions

4/12/21 Caucus

By: Carolyn Maxwell

PERTH AMBOY – One of the topics for discussion was the city's options regarding marijuana. Business Administrator Edward Remsen said we need to have a series of conversations involving this. He then introduced Mr. Edmund DeVoux, President of the New Jersey Cannabis Association who was present at the meeting in order to answer questions by the Council and the public.

Mr. DeVoux said, "Some of these questions may have to be taken up by the state or federal government. Currently there are 16 marijuana dispensaries throughout the state. Many people grew up in neighborhoods with heavy drug use. At one time, alcohol wasn't considered a drug. For 90 years, cannabis was unlawful and criminalized. During the 1960's-1970's there was a war on drugs. It was during the anti-war protests, and people preferred smoking marijuana. Marijuana is not addictive or a gateway drug. It has some medical benefits. Most adults approve of it for adults 21+. The marijuana commission met and said it could be processed, sold and distributed and doctors can recommend it as a prescription. We don't know what the regulations are and cities are opting out of something not in place yet. There are people from different occupations on our commission. We have medical committees, license holders of marijuana, architects, lawyers, janitorial services. Not everyone connected to the marijuana industry has to touch the plant."

Council President Petrick questioned, "Is there a timeline for us to do the regulations?"

DeVoux responded, "You don't have to do anything now. Mid-August (around August 21st) regulation must be put in place."

Petrick then stated, "We don't know what the state board regulations are."

DeVoux continued, "The commission has until August 21st to set the regulations for the state."

You can opt in or do nothing. The state cannot dictate your ordinance or regulation. The state has not taken up home-grown use. As of now, the old marijuana laws are still being enforced. The old memo states that the cannabis laws should not be enforced as vigorously as in the past. As of now, it's illegal to grow marijuana at home."

Councilman Joel Pabon spoke up next, "It's important that the age for use is 21+ to use marijuana. In the past, officers were told to stay away from minors if they had 6 ounces or less of marijuana."

DeVoux then stated, "On February 22nd, bills were amended regarding adult use and underage use. A minor's parent can be contacted, but no arrest made. Police can confiscate the marijuana. We are trying to engage our youth and community policing."

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda spoke up and said, "Some residents have spoke at meetings to say that medical research has said that marijuana is affecting lungs."

DeVoux answered, "Right now, there are 106,000+ registered patients for medical cannabis (in New Jersey). Nicotine, alcohol, and sugar are addictive, but not cannabis. Marijuana has been used in treatment of Alzheimer's and Lou Gering's Disease (ALS). Patients have responded to cannabis. We advocate for adult use – not for minors. I don't advocate for its use. Regular cannabis is free from additives. It's regulated for safety and security."

Councilman B.J. Torres spoke next, "Holland legalized cannabis and the usage stopped."

DeVoux responded, "Teenage use has dropped in states where it's regulated. With the tax rate, 90% of the revenue will go to neighborhoods which have been disenfranchised. You can levy an additional 2% tax if you opt in."

Torres asked, "Who would be in charge of regulating marijuana?"

DeVoux answered, "It will be

the state."

Torres then asked if a person grows marijuana in their field would they be classified as an agricultural worker.

DeVoux answered, "It may not prohibit your workers, but we do have some people who work with cannabis who were represented by the Union (UFCW)."

Tejeda then asked, "Would the records be expunged of persons who had charges for possessions of lower levels of marijuana?"

DeVoux answered, "They would have the opportunity to have their record expunged."

Petrick then asked, "What about those driving under the influence?"

DeVoux stated, "There is no test for marijuana. Traces can remain in a person's system for as long as 90 days after they use it. They can't detect if you have marijuana in your system if you are stopped while driving."

Councilwoman Morales then asked, "Are there stats on motor vehicle accidents with states where marijuana has been legalized?"

DeVoux answered, "The numbers are not reliable because of population growth for some states where marijuana was legalized awhile ago."

B.A. Remsen then spoke up, "We have been grappling with the situation. There is an implication of adopting resolutions before all the facts come in."

DeVoux then said, "There is no regulated industry in New Jersey today. You have the opportunity to control your destiny today. If you opt out, you can't reapply for 5 years. Work with the Cannabis Commission. Public policy in government affairs is my specialty. You can share what you want (in your ordinance) with many organizations such as the League of Municipalities, other towns, and the Cannabis Commission."

Councilman Petrick concluded the discussion, "We are gathering experts pro and con and we're inviting you to speak again."

The Wait

4/14/21 Council Meeting



PERTH AMBOY - Police Officers, Members of the PBA, and Mayor Helmin Caba are shown after the 4/14/21 Council Meeting. The long delayed contract between the City of Perth Amboy and the PBA was finally approved. Press Release page 6 *Photo by Carolyn Maxwell

By: Carolyn Maxwell

PERTH AMBOY – At the beginning of the Perth Amboy Council Meeting, Business Administrator Edward Remsen gave a brief summation of the upcoming increase in water rate. "There is a little bit over \$540,000 deficit in the water/wastewater utility."

CFO Jill Goldy then joined the discussion via Zoom. She said, "According to the city code, the water utility can adjust their rates to keep it operational. 46% of funds go to debt services and 52% for statutory or contractual obligations. Some components are not involved in the increase. The Water Utility had a rough year (2020) and was not collecting the anticipated revenue. There was a moratorium put in place by Governor Murphy. Delinquent accounts could not be put in the tax bill. The operating cost of \$224,000 had to be raised in 2021. There was over \$100 million in deficit. After

the moratorium is lifted, some people might ask to make payment arrangements. The moratorium was extended to be continued until July. The drinking water and wastewater is a \$24 million a year entity. Over \$150 million is the debt for the Water Utility. There is a refunding opportunity to reduce the principal amount. There is a 6-year plan of over \$120 million for the Water Utility. A 10% surplus must be maintained. \$9.2 million is owed to Woodbridge for the use of their receptor line. Emergency repair money is needed to keep on hand to monitor for contaminants and to notify residents of any contaminants. There is more bad news. One of our cellphone companies that pays us \$12,000 or more to use our water towers to put their cellular antennas will not be renewing their contract with us. Currently, there is a low col-

*Continued on Page 12

Vaccination Hotline & Registration

PERTH AMBOY - Effective April 14, 2021, the City of Perth Amboy has launched a dedicated phone number and online registration for city residents only, ages 19 and older, to register for a COVID-19 vaccination appointment.

PROTECT YOURSELF. GET VACCINATED. Register today! **CALL** or go **ONLINE** to the City of Perth Amboy's Vaccine Appointment Center (732) 324-3521 from 8:30AM-4:30PM or online www.perthamboynj.org/community/vaccine_registration

Gustav J. Novak

Funeral Home

Services of Remembrance Since 1932

During Your Time of Need

We are Here for You!

- Traditional Funerals •Cremation Services
- Pre-Planned Funeral Services •Public Assistance Accepted
- Shipment to Foreign Locations

Family Owned and Operated

Available 24 Hours / Se Habla Español

419 Barclay St.

Perth Amboy NJ, 08861

732-826-4525

Joseph P. Diaz

Manager

NJLIC No 3841

Gary Earl Rumpf

Director

NJ LIC No. 3353





LAW OFFICES OF

Kenneth L. Gonzalez & Associates, LLC

Oficina de Abogados

Call Us For a Consultation Today!

AUTO INJURY CASES / FALL DOWNS

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

WORKERS COMPENSATION /

BANKRUPTCY CASES/Bilingual Staff

Serving the Middlesex County & Surrounding Areas

klg.office@lawyergonzalez.com



Phone: 732-442-2500

Fax: 732-442-0114

283 High Street

Perth Amboy NJ 08861

Family Foot Care

DR. ELAINE MARIOLIS, DPM

732-826-5400

- BUNIONS
- CORNS & CALLUSES
- DIABETIC FOOT CARE
- FRACTURES
- FUNGUS NAILS
- HAMMERTOES
- HEEL PAIN
- INGROWN TOENAILS
- ULCERS/FOOT WOUNDS
- WARTS

COME RELAX IN OUR WHIRLPOOL!

Se Habla Espanol

252 SMITH ST., PERTH AMBOY



Attn: Walgreens Customers:

We Are Now Accepting Express Script Ins. Plans



Fernando Oliveira

Proprietor

LUDWIG'S PHARMACY

FREE Rx Pickup & Delivery

WE ACCEPT ALL PLANS

Including Medicare Part "D"



475 Brace Ave., Perth Amboy

Tel: 732-442-6442 • Fax: 732-442-5784

M-F 9:30am-6:30pm • Sat 9:30am-1:00pm • Sun Closed



Fizer Plumbing & Heating

Peter R. Fizer

NJ Master Plumber Lic. # 11141

Backflow Prevention Lic. #10157

Water Heaters, Boilers,

Sump Pumps,

Sewer & Drain Cleaning,

Fully Insured & Bonded

\$75 OFF Water Heater Replacement

\$50 OFF Service Call

Call Today 732-738-8989



Obituary: Edward Devish

December 20, 1919 - April 5, 2021 (age 101)

PERTH AMBOY - Edward A. Devish, 101, of Perth Amboy, N.J., passed away peacefully on Monday, April 5, 2021, with family by his side.

Edward was born in Perth Amboy, where he resided his entire life. He was a WWII veteran and was employed by Ford Motor Company for 35 years before his retirement. He was a member of Holy Trinity RC Church, Past President of the Holy Name and Slovak American Citizens, Life Member of the Perth Amboy Volunteer Fireman's, NJ Exempt Fireman's Association, Perth Amboy Volunteer First Aid Squad, WWII Veteran and Purple Heart Association, VFW Perth Amboy, and a director's assistant at Gustav J. Novak Funeral Home after his retirement.

He is preceded in death by parents, Felix Devish and Anna

(nee Mochol), sisters Pauline and her husband Albert Parks, Margaret and her husband Arthur Brown, and brothers Joseph and his wife Grace Devish, and John Devish.

Edward is survived by his loving wife of 73 years, Anna (nee Piosko), son, Kenneth and his wife Tina, daughter, Annie and her husband Stephen Trzcinski, son, Robert and his wife Michele, granddaughters Noelle Riccio, Nicolette and Victoria Devish, Olivia and Emma Trzcinski, cherished grandson R.J. Devish, great-grandson Carson Riccio, brother-in-law and sister-in-law, John and Marie Piosko of Edison, and many nieces and nephews.

A gathering of friends and family was held at Gustav J. Novak Funeral Home of Perth Amboy, 419 Barclays St., on Thursday, April 8, 2021. On



Edward Devish
12/20/19 - 4/5/21

Friday, April 9, 2021, a funeral mass was held at Holy Trinity RC Church. Burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, at a later date.

South Amboy Police Department Promotion

Press Release

SOUTH AMBOY - On April 1st Mayor Fred Henry administered the oath of office to Sergeant An Wang as his family and friends looked on.

Wang, who has served as a Detective for the Department is a South Amboy resident and joined the South Amboy Police Department in July 2014 and completed his Basic Recruit Training at the Monmouth County Police Academy.

"One of the greatest pleasures I have as Mayor are events like this. An has been a hard working and dedicated member of our Police Department serving as both a patrol officer and detective. In addition to his normal assignments, he has been in integral part in special projects as assigned by Chief Lavigne." Said Mayor Henry.

In addition to his police duties Wang has served on active-duty status in the US Navy and cur-



SOUTH AMBOY - Mayor Fred Henry (L) swears in Police Sergeant An Wang

rently holds the rank of Chief Petty Officer in the US Navy Reserves. His promotion will fill the void created by the retirement of Sergeant Richard "Chip" Wojaczyk who retired earlier this year.

"As Mayor I am committed to providing the highest caliber of

personnel and equipment to our police department to continue their good work in our community. As we continue to grow, I will ensure that so too shall our police roster and that those Officers I appoint will reflect the diversity of our community".

Details of Refunding Bonds

4/12/21 Caucus

By: Carolyn Maxwell
PERTH AMBOY – CFO Jill Goldy spoke first via Zoom. She stated, "We have 3 options: Option 1 is callable bonds which deals with our water and wastewater. It was first refunded in 2012. We have a chance to refund it again for a better interest rate. Another option is the refunds for the Public Safety Complex which is under the MCIA (Middlesex County Improvement Authority). There are 3 options that are callable in the year 2020." She then said that Neil Grossman (from GB Associates LLC) will talk next to give more details.

Grossman did the reports on bids received for general ob-

ligation bonds that was on tonight's agenda This included general obligation bonds, water/wastewater utility bonds, and parking utility bonds to fund the 2020 capital ordinances. Grossman said, "There are 3 options. Number 1 would be taxable, refundable bonds with higher interest rates. Your savings would be from \$1 - \$1.5 million. Option number 2 would be tax exempt bonds which would be a lower rate and higher savings. The gross would be \$2 million over 10 years remaining on bonds that are 30% higher than taxable bonds. The city has an option to wait until November of this year for 15% higher in more revenue, but then you

take a chance of what the rates would be. You can lock in savings today instead of taking a chance on what the interest rates would be in November."

Council President Petrick asked, "What has been the trend in the last few months (regarding interest rates)?"

Grossman responded, "The rates increased, and the savings can be anywhere between \$800,000 to \$2.5 million depending on the interest rates. If we wait, we will lose a premium of 2.5%."

Goldy ended the conversation, "We can price the bond now and lock in the rate. We recommend option number 2."

Our Mother's Day Issue is Coming Up on May 5, 2021
Call: Carolyn 732-896-4446 or Katherine 732-261-2610
For Our Special Advertising Rates
Deadline: April 30, 2021



Get the facts about the COVID-19 vaccine. AARP has the latest information.

AARP is working to protect Americans 50+ by making sure you have the latest information you need about the COVID-19 vaccines and the distribution plans in **New Jersey**.

Find out who's eligible for the vaccine, when and where vaccines will be available and what you need to discuss with your doctor before you decide.

Just visit our website to get the most up-to-date information available about your vaccine options.

Learn more about COVID-19 vaccine availability and distribution at aarp.org/NJVaccine or call New Jersey's hotline at 855-568-0545.

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Love, Loyalty, Lasting Nonpolitical



Queen Elizabeth & Prince Philip's Wedding
*Public Domain



Queen Elizabeth & Prince Philip in one of their last photos together.
*Max Mumby/Indigo/Getty Images



Willie and Janie Gray in photos from shortly after their wedding in Oct. 1950 and from 2019 (Source: The Gray family Channel 12 News Alabama, Story by John Shryock and WSAF Staff)



John and Charlotte Henderson in 1946, left, and 2019, right. As of 2019, they have been married 80 years. (Longhorn Village)
(Story by Gillian Brockell from the Washington Post)

I look at YouTube videos a lot and sometimes I will get a feed on something that I was not specifically looking for. A video popped up about a month ago that was a short bio on Price Philip's mother. She led a very extraordinary which affected him very much so. It was

by chance that Philip became connected the future Queen of England and the circumstances that she became Queen was through her uncle (Edward) who abdicated the throne to marry the love of his life (Wal-

*Continued on Page 9

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Pay to Play

Well folks, money talks. Looks like CVS pharmacy gave a nice political donation to some Democratic Governors like Governor Newsom (California), Northam (Virginia) and Cuomo (New York) to distrib-

ute COVID-19 vaccines. YES! You are not seeing things! CVS donated \$170,000 to the New York Democratic Party and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (NY Democrat) and got \$10,000 Dollars for his Political Action Committee. How nice! Now here's the real kicker:

CVS employees donated a staggering \$450,595 dollars to Mr. Joe Biden! YES, NO BULL! The joke is on you! So, get your "Certificate of Vaccination" at CVS.

Orlando "Wildman" Perez

Naming Edifices

I've always believed that we should never name any recreational facility or any type of edifice (well perhaps outhouses if they were still in vogue) after any political leader. I recall reading in James McGreevy's autobiography, "The Confes-

sion" that the late Edward Paten said of our city, "Perth Amboy is the A_____E of the world," and we honor this man by naming a park after him? Or what about down near the Waterfront where a place of prominence is given to and a park named after someone who did NOTHING for Perth Amboy, NOTHING for the State of New

Jersey and NOTHING for the United States. For every person who thinks another belongs on a pedestal, there's a someone who knows something about that someone that can give a reason why he or she does not! Thank you!

The Honorable Michael Rusznak

Freedom of Speech

On April 10, our illustrious mayor will be celebrating the first 100 days in office. The foundation of his campaign was changed; a break away from the status quo. Yet here we are almost 100 days later, and no one could foresee the true change that would be ushered in.

One of the major changes we are seeing helmed by Mr. Caba and his administration led by Council President, the infamous Bill Petrick, is to limit free speech and public participation at city council meetings.

It's so very convenient really, during Mr. Caba's campaign, he had all the time in the world to address and hear the voice of his town, but now, he cannot afford his constituents a paltry full five minutes to partake in their civic right and participate in council meetings. It is a travesty that council members such as BJ Torres, who just recently became a member of council, denied on two occasions the right of two citizens to exercise their God given right to free speech. Two brave members of our community were prohibited from completing their thoughts and carrying out their civic rights. It is shameful that, Mr. Torres father-in-law and predecessor was dedicated in the pursuit of public opinion on various local government issues. It is shameful, a shame to his legacy.

COVID seems to be the convenient scapegoat for every underhanded tactic our elected officials can think up. What can be seen as a miserable at-

tempt to be fiscally responsible and minimize "zoom" cost. The powers that be have reduced the time the public can address the council from 5 minutes to 3, choosing to screen speakers, and determine after their first 3 minutes if their input is worthy of the additional 2 minutes. It is especially interesting that the meetings were held via zoom for the first year of COVID, with no time restriction. The newly elected officials, arbitrarily and capriciously changed the time the public could speak at council meetings once Mr. Caba took office. The council, being usurped by the Council President, restricted public speech from 5mins to 3 mins. Thanks to the people and their public outcry and perhaps fear of political damage, quickly changed their minds. The fickle Council quickly reinstated the full to 5mins at the last meeting. One can only wonder, was the initial imposed restraint an attempt to maneuver the budget decisions and other political appointments?

Interestingly enough, this is the same administration; more notably Mr. Caba and Mr. Petrick who were crying bloody murder when they accused the council of stifling their input and restricting their participation when council meetings were moved to the YMCA and no longer televised. All this after the questionable discharge of the city's business administrator, the golden boy, Peter King. I find it equally interesting that these antics also took place during the times of COVID, however, the public's right to address council and par-

ticipate in council meetings was never reduced or limited; it was untouched. Must be an administration thing.

It is popular belief and even the premise of government that elected officials are the voice of their constituents. To be the voice you must first know the will of the people. How can our elected officials begin to understand the peoples voice if they are so quick to stifle it? Is our local government saying that the select few know better and that they do not care about the opinion of its constituents, the very people that put them in the office they now hold? Are they saying that they can arbitrarily limit public participation on important matters such as budgeting and spending and can monopolize ideas? Such an approach provides further credibility to the smoke and mirrors of this administrations dedication to change and its fait accompli on local matters that excludes Perth Amboy's citizens from what should be "their democracy.

Mr. Caba, Mr. Torres, and council supporters like Mr. Bill Petrick ran their campaign on the very pretty premise of change, however the exclusion of public input was not the promise of "change" they sold Perth Amboy.

Instead of Implementing the promised changed, they have maintained the status quo with department heads, over the top spending, one-time budget fills and shamefully ignoring the basic issues to improve the quality of life of its residents.

Sincerely, Manuel Fernandez

*Letters to the Editor Continued on Page 9



Keep those Letters Coming! We Love to Hear From You! E-mail letters to the editor to amboyguardian@gmail.com or write to the paper at Letters to the Editor, The Amboy Guardian, P.O. Box 0127, Perth Amboy, NJ 08862-0127. Letters must include your full name, address and daytime telephone number or cell phone number for verification. First time letter-writers must be called for verification or your letter will not be published. If you are a public official, please include your title. All letters are subject to editing or rejection. All submissions may be published or distributed by us in print, electronic or other forms. Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the writers and do not represent or reflect the views of the Amboy Guardian.



Published by Amboy Guardian LLC
P. O. Box 127 • Perth Amboy • New Jersey 08862
Carolyn Maxwell - (732) 896-4446
Katherine Massopust - (732) 261-2610
AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

Carolyn Maxwell
Publisher & Advertising Manager
Katherine Massopust
Layout & Asst. Writer
Paul W. Wang
Staff Photographer
Lori Miskoff
Website Manager

The Amboy Guardian will not be liable for advertising errors beyond the cost of the space of the copy. Notification must be made of errors in ads within one week of publication. Pictures may be claimed up to 3 weeks after publication, or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope with submission.

Printed on 100% recycled paper



Where to Find Us . . .

IN FORDS:	
COLONIAL RESTAURANT.....	366 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
PUBLIC LIBRARY.....	211 FORD AVE.
ROOSEVELT'S DELI	684 KING GEORGE'S RD.
SUPER DUPER DELI III	650 KING GEORGE'S RD.
IN HOPELAWN:	
KRAUSZER'S.....	683 FLORIDA GROVE RD.
IN LAURENCE HARBOR:	
HOFFMAN'S DELI	5 LAURENCE PKWY.
IN MORGAN:	
SOUTHPINE LIQUORS	467 S. PINE AVE.
IN PARLIN:	
DAD'S ROYAL BAKERY.....	3290 WASHINGTON RD.
IN PERTH AMBOY:	
1 ST CONSTITUTION BANK	145 FAYETTE ST.
ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTER	178 BARRACKS ST.
ALAMEDA CENTER	303 ELM ST.
AMBOY CHECK X-CHANGE	321 MAPLE ST.
ANDERL & OAKLEY PC	309 MAPLE ST.
THE BARGE	201 FRONT ST.
BAY CITY LAUNDRYMAT.....	738 STATE ST.
C-TOWN	272 MAPLE ST.
CEDENO'S PHARMACY	400 STATE ST.
CITY HALL	260 HIGH ST.
DUNKIN DONUTS	587 FAYETTE ST.
EASTSIDE DRY CLEANERS	87 SMITH ST.
FAMILY FOOT CARE	252 SMITH ST.
FU LIN	79 SMITH ST.
HY TAVERN	386 HIGH ST.
INVESTOR'S BANK	598 STATE ST.
JANKOWSKI COMMUNITY CENTER	1 OLIVE ST.
JEWISH RENAISSANCE MEDICAL CENTER	272A HOBART ST.
KIM'S DRY CLEANERS	73 SMITH ST.
LAW OFFICES	708 CARSON AVE.
LEE'S MARKET	77 SMITH ST.
LUDWIG'S PHARMACY	75 BRACE AVE.
PETRA BEST REALTY.....	329 SMITH ST.
PETRICK'S FLOWERS	710 PFEIFFER BLVD.
POLICE HEADQUARTERS	365 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
PORTUGUESE MANOR	310 ELM ST.
PROVIDENT BANK	339 STATE ST.
PUBLIC LIBRARY	196 JEFFERSON ST.
PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATION	100 FIRST ST.
QUICK CHEK	853 CONVERY BLVD.
QUICK STOP DELI	814 AMBOY AVE.
QUISQUEYA MARKET	249 MADISON AVE.
QUISQUEYA LUNCHEONETTE	259 MADISON AVE.
RARITAN BAY AREA Y.M.C.A.	365 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
RARITAN BAY MEDICAL CENTER	530 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SANTANDER BANK	365 CONVERY BLVD.
SANTIBANA TRAVEL	362 STATE ST.
SCIORTINO'S RESTAURANT	473 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SHOP-RITE	365 CONVERY BLVD.
SIPOS BAKERY	365 SMITH ST.
SUPERIOR DINER.....	464 SMITH ST.
SUPREMO SUPERMARKET	270 KING ST.
TORRES MINI MARKET	403 BRUCK AVE.
TOWN DRUGS & SURGICAL	238 SMITH ST.
WELLS FARGO	214 SMITH ST.
IN SAYREVILLE:	
BOROUGH HALL	167 MAIN ST.
SENIOR CENTER	423 MAIN ST.
SUNNYSIDE RESTAURANT	111 MAIN ST.
IN SEWAREN:	
PUBLIC LIBRARY	546 WEST AVE.
SEWAREN CORNER DELI	514 WEST AVE.
IN SOUTH AMBOY:	
AMBOY BANK	100 N. BROADWAY
BROADWAY BAGELS	105 S. BROADWAY
BROADWAY DINER	126 N. BROADWAY
CITY HALL	140 N. BROADWAY
COMMUNITY CENTER	200 O'LEARY BLVD.
KRAUSZER'S	200 N. BROADWAY
KRAUSZER'S	717 BORDENTOWN AVE.
PUBLIC LIBRARY	100 HOFFMAN PLAZA
SCIORTINO'S HARBOR LIGHTS	132 S. BROADWAY
SOUTH AMBOY MEDICAL CENTER.....	540 BORDENTOWN AVE.
WELLS FARGO BANK.....	116 N. BROADWAY
IN WOODBRIDGE:	
CITY HALL	1 MAIN ST.
MAIN ST. FARM	107 MAIN ST.
NEWS & TREATS	99 MAIN ST.
ST. JOSEPH'S SENIORS RESIDENCE	1 ST. JOSEPH'S TERR.

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

**SOUTH AMBOY
MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 7 p.m.**
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or
smartphone.
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/946806885
You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (571) 317-3122
Access Code: 946-806-885
New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready
when your first meeting starts: [https://global.gotomeet-
ing.com/install/946806885](https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/946806885)

Important!
Always call ahead of time
to make sure any event you
intend to attend will take
place.
The Amboy Guardian
will only put a cancellation
notice in if we receive notice
from the organizer of the
event.

**Attention
Businesses
Open During
Pandemic
Crisis:**
Let customers know
your services are
helping to serve the
community. Con-
sider Advertising in
the Amboy Guard-
ian. Our rates are
reasonable for both
print and/or online
advertising. Are
you hiring? Get the
word out!
**Call Carolyn:
732-896-4446 or
Katherine:
732-261-2610**
**Email the Amboy
Guardian:
AmboyGuard-
ian@gmail.com**

Attention!
**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. Apr. 22	Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m. City Hall, High St.
MON. Apr. 26	City Council, Caucus 5:30 p.m. City Hall, High St. & Zoom
WED Apr. 28	City Council, Regular, City Hall, High St. & Zoom
THURS. May 6	Board of Education, 5:30 p.m. PAHS, Eagle Ave. & Zoom
South Amboy	
WED Apr. 21	City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, N. Broadway
WED. May 5	City Council, Business, 6 p.m. City Hall N. Broadway.

**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.*

**The Barge Restaurant
is looking for Servers
For More Information
Contact Alex: 732-442-3000**



The Barge
On The Waterfront in Historic Perth Amboy

Open 7 Days a Week
For Inside Dining Only or Orders to go
11:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Limited Seating - Reservations Suggested

**Come have your favorite Sangria
& Seafood Dishes**
Check our website for menu
The Barge
732-442-3000 / 201 Front Street, Perth Amboy
VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.thebarge.com

**Law Office of
ERALIDES E. CABRERA**
Abogado
Specializing In
• Immigration



We are bilingual and have offices at:
708 Carson Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Phone: 732 - 826-5020; Fax: 732-826-4653
1201 E. Grand St., Unit 3A, Elizabeth, NJ 07201
Phone: 908-351-0957; Fax: 908-351-0959
Email: ecabrera52@hotmail.com

Safety Announcement

We are taking safety precautions in the City of Perth Amboy, em-
phasize that it is important:
IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!!
Report Suspicious Activity - Be Vigilant - **STAY ALERT!**
Do not think that any call or report is too small
Don't allow the actions of a few dictate your quality of life
FOR ALL EMERGENCIES, DIAL: 9-1-1
FOR ALL NON-EMERGENCIES, DIAL: 732-442-4400

A Question of PILOTS and Designating Independence Fire Company Firehouse for Historic Preservation

4/7/21 Business Meeting

By: Katherine Massopust
SOUTH AMBOY – The Resolution up for discussion designating the Independence Fire Company Firehouse for historic preservation was pulled at the request of Mayor Fred Henry.

Resolution 21-087 - Resolution to Waive Reading in Full of The Budget for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2021 was passed unanimously. Resolution No. 21- 088 Resolution to Introduce the Budget for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2021 also passed unanimously. The rest of the consent agenda passed unanimously except for Resolution 21-091 - A Resolution Authorizing the Submission of an Application to the Middlesex County 2021 Recycling Enhancement Grant Program. Council President Mickey Gross abstained because his office was administering the grant.

Council Comments:

Councilman Brian McLaughlin thanked the emergency services who continues to serve during the pandemic. “Please donate to the food pantry.” McLaughlin then expressed his displeasure because he was not notified about food donations of the Lucas family.

Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski stated that Public Works has been instructed to complete everything on the list.

Councilman McLaughlin inquired on the status of the much-needed Fire Chief’s vehicles, “Can we order them?”

B.A. Skarzynski stated once the budget is approved that this can be done.

McLaughlin then complained that he was not informed about a meeting that took place discussing the plans for a new development in South Amboy. “I found out about it on Facebook. We are catering to a developer.” McLaughlin stated that illegal immigrants are often hired for these types of projects and if one gets hurt, the city pays.

B.A. Skarzynski answered McLaughlin, “That was not a city sponsored meeting. It was not a city event. It was made by the developer.”

McLaughlin was not happy about it, “I want to see something that is resident friendly – not developer friendly.”

Councilman Thomas Reilly thanked the food pantries and first responders for what they do at this difficult time. He then asked about the ordinance he requested be put on the agenda waiving late payment fees for water and sewer bills for seniors.

Law Director Francis Womack stated, “If you and I can touch base, there is something we can do.”

Reilly expressed his condolences to the O’Leary family on the passing of John O’Leary, father to former Mayor of South Amboy Jack O’Leary.

Reilly then asked about the status of the infamous Pigeon Palace. “When will it be torn down?”

Law Director Womack stated that the city is waiting on a court order.

Reilly then asked about the lawsuit with Venetian.

Womack answered that if what the city sends Venetian is acceptable, then the city will send a disposition.

Reilly then asked about the ongoing illegal palate operation.

Council President Mickey Gross answered Reilly, “I called the Code Enforcement Office. There are multiple summonses against the owner. Court is being held county wide on Zoom and a lot of people do not know how to use Zoom.

Law Director Womack also stated that many people do not know how to use Zoom.

Councilman Reilly said, “I hope so. This operation has been going on for years. I hope something is done soon. The developer who had a meeting on the Roosevelt Street is supposed to have 485 units. They are going to ask for a PILOT for all 3 buildings. It will block the view! They are asking for a PILOT. All the apartments are rentals. This is an impact on schools and first responders. I’d be really, really careful.”

Reilly then explained that he would be unable to attend the closed session scheduled for after the Business Meeting.

Councilman McLaughlin asked, “Have we reached out to other municipalities and ask them if they are in favor of PI-

LOTS?”

B.A. Skarzynski answered, “Yes, throughout the state, PILOTS have been given out. In Woodbridge (for example). Two schools were renovated in Carteret – all involving PILOTS.”

Councilman McLaughlin asked, “How far away is this town from paid emergency services? That is going to be a burden.”

Councilman Reilly said, “Reach out to the Mayor of Jersey City and he will confirm how PILOTS hurt their city. After 20 years from now, the town will be like Jersey City – a tax burden on the residents. Reach out to Jersey City. It’s a perfect example.”

Councilman McLaughlin added, “I have a relationship with Mayor Steven M. Fulop. It works. There is a building on MLK Boulevard in Jersey City.”

Council Vice President Christine Noble gave her condolences to the O’Leary family. She then asked about the Division of Transit project on Main Street.

City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz stated it will be paved this summer.

Council Vice President Christine Noble then asked about emergencies in areas such as the county park.

B.A. Skarzynski answered, “For a 911 Call, it will be routed to Sayreville. All units will come there.”

Council President Mickey Gross gave his condolences to

the O’Leary family.

Gross then spoke about the Covid vaccines, “We are going to put the latest information on the city’s website. Our seniors need to get shots, especially if those 65 years or older. Make sure seniors are aware of it. The sooner – we can get back to normal, the better.”

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski apologized to Historical Society of South Amboy. “The Independent Fire Company Firehouse is a landmark. Adding it to the historic preservation to the master plan (is important). Be aware of the complete depth of commitments it will be. One more bite to the apple will be when the council votes to get the status.”

Council President Gross stated, “We are en-route to make this a historic landmark. You have my support.”

Mary Szaro, who is President of the South Amboy Historic Preservation Commission stated, “This is thought to be our first designation of historic significance. It meets all the criteria.”

The Council went into closed session at 6:44 p.m. Councilwoman Zusette Dato was not present.



PBA Contract Signed Within 100 Days of New Administration

Joint Press Statement by the Perth Amboy Police Benevolent Association and Mayor Caba

Press Release 4/15/21
PERTH AMBOY, NJ - Mayor Helmin J. Caba and the Perth Amboy Police Benevolent Association (PBA) are proud to announce their signed agreement presented to the Perth Amboy City Council on April 15, 2021. Wednesday's agenda included a resolution that authorized the execution of an agreement between the PBA and City of Perth Amboy that passed unanimously by city council members (5-0). The agreement, approved by the PBA union membership, includes patrol officers and detectives.

Key terms of the agreement:

- Increased Community Training Hours
- Competitive Salaries

"PBA Local No.13 and its members would like to thank Mayor Caba for his understanding, his willingness to make himself available, and his resolve to assist the City and the PBA in reaching a fair and equitable settlement, said Danny Gonzalez, PBA State Delegate. "This contractual dispute was a burden not only to the PBA, but also to the City and taxpayers. We would also like to thank City Council members for supporting Mayor Caba and his decision to finally bring this contract dispute to an amicable conclusion. It was always the PBA's understanding that both the City and

the PBA maintained mutual respect during these contractual negotiations. The PBA looks forward to working with Mayor Caba and the City Council to make our city a safer and better place to live and work."

The PBA also acknowledged Police Chief Roman McKeon, Deputy Chief Larry Cattano, Labor Relations Consultants Marc Abramson and Brian Furry, and all of the men and women who supported the PBA during these past two and a half years. PBA President, John Marcinko, PBA Vice President, Daniel Mendes, and PBA Secretary Thomas Fazio congratulated Mayor Caba for his hard work, patience, and professionalism during these trying times.

"I want to thank the PBA for their level of professionalism and commitment to this process," said Mayor Caba. "This contract was one of my top administrative priorities since taking office in January. This contract represents the guiding principle of change in policing and its culture. Developing and maintaining clearly articulated and widely circulated organizational expectations, in the truest sense, is leading the way for the future of policing. Congratulations to the PBA on the contract and the city council members for their support."

Middlesex County Residents Urged to Act Against Child Abuse

Press Release
MIDDLESEX COUNTY - April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and CASA of Middlesex County is raising awareness of the need for more dedicated members of the community to step up and become CASA volunteers, and support abused and neglected children and their families.

CASA volunteers, or Court Appointed Special Advocates, are everyday people from all walks of life who are recruited and specially trained to advocate for children in foster care and provide a consistent, reliable adult presence for them during a difficult time in their life.

Last fiscal year, CASA of Middlesex County served 157 children, which equates to 45% of the 352 children in Middlesex County who were in foster care during that time. This represents a 25% increase from the number of children served during the year prior. “We still have work to do,” said Stephanie Brown, Executive Director. “We need your help to ensure that no child has to navigate the foster care system alone.” In particular, CASA is in great need of more male and bilingual Spanish-speaking volunteers.

Our CASA volunteers are trained, committed community volunteers who advocate on

behalf of abused and neglected children in Middlesex County. CASA volunteers are assigned to one child or sibling group to advocate for their best interests in court, in school and at home. They get to know the child and everyone involved in their life, such as their parents and other family members, foster parents, therapists, caseworkers and teachers, in order to develop a realistic picture of the child’s unique situation. They engage those important to the child and family in order to build a network of support around them, so that the family has access to support and resources after the case ends. They make recommendations to the judge overseeing the child’s case, with the goal of ensuring that the child is safe and the family has the resources, support and healthy relationships needed to heal.

“CASA volunteers are a constant for the child in a time of chaos,” said Stephanie Brown, Executive Director. “A child may have multiple social workers, attorneys, therapists and foster placements throughout the life of the case but we make every effort to ensure they have only one CASA volunteer, which can make all the difference for the child’s future.” Recently, just two days after a 7-year-old child moved to a new foster placement, in a new

town, with a new school, the CASA volunteer visited and the child ran to the volunteer shouting ‘you found me’ with excitement over seeing a familiar, caring face.

Throughout the month of April, in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month, CASA of Middlesex County is calling on members of the community to help our program serve more of Middlesex County’s most vulnerable children. A child in foster care may have faced physical, psychological and/or emotional trauma only to endure long periods of uncertainty in the system as they wait to go home or be adopted. All this chaos and inconsistency has long-term effects. But having a caring, consistent adult who listens, checks in and puts the child’s best interests first can change this story. Children with a CASA on average receive more services while in care, do better in school, spend less time in foster care, are more likely to be adopted, and are less likely to be bounced from home to home.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or making a donation, visit casaofmiddlesexcounty.org, call us at (732) 246-4449, or email us at info@casaofmiddlesexcounty.org.

Perth Amboy Business Improvement District Annual Meeting

Please be advised that the Perth Amboy Business Improvement District’s Annual Meeting has been rescheduled and will be held at Raritan Bay Area YMCA at 357 New Brunswick Avenue, Perth Amboy on **Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 5:00 pm** for the following:

- I. Election of Board of Directors (nominations below)
- II. Swearing-in of Newly Elected Directors
- III. Appointment of Officers
- IV. Re-organization Meeting

Nominations are for two (1) year terms for “At Large” (community member) positions; total of eight positions (2-3 yr. terms) for general board member seats, as business/property owners.

- i. Community Member Nominations (At-Large): Anthony Burdier, Emilio J. Jimenez, Lisa Rosario, Joel Pabon, Fernando Gonzalez, Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe and Tashi Vazquez
- ii. Business/Property Owner Nominations: Elizabeth Sanchez, Melvin Rodriguez, Samuel Quezada, Asim Malik, Antonio Abreu and Reyes Ortega



AMENDING THE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING DATED 3/30/21

CITY OF PERTH AMBOY, NJ NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM and HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (HOME) FY 2020 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN AMENDMENT

The City of Perth Amboy is planning for FY 2020 Annual Action Plan Amendment to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Home Investment Partnership (HOME) programs funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), upon the City’s Council recommendations considering City needs to remove the Business Improvement District (BID) grant and include the Morris Habitat for Humanity which is a CHDO agency and the Fire/CODE Enforcement Rehabilitation Program. The City’s allocations for fiscal year 2020 are in the amount of \$659,503.00 for the CDBG program and \$420,534.00 for the HOME program.

A public hearing is being scheduled to review the substantial amendment to the 2020 Annual Action Plan. The information received from interested individuals at the hearing will assist the City and the Development Advisory Committee in the preparation of the 2020 Amendment. The hearing is designed to obtain resident’s views and to respond to questions. Residents are invited to provide written or verbal comments at or prior to the hearing. The public comment period is for 30 days starting March 30, 2021 to April 30, 2021.

The draft 2020 Annual Action Plan Amendment will be finalized following the closing of the committee review and a public hearing which is set to be held virtually on:

Friday, April 30, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. virtually at Join Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85064363368?pwd=SWtVb1EvOSTXdCtte2Q3dnZtRlNiUT09>

Meeting ID: 850 6436 3368
Passcode: 503247
One tap mobile
+16465588656,,85064363368#,,,,*503247# US (New York)
+13017158592,,85064363368#,,,,*503247# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 850 6436 3368
Passcode: 503247
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcjmVUpByD>

The virtual hearing is scheduled in lieu of an in-person public hearing because of national/local health authorities’ recommendation for social distancing and limiting public gatherings for public health reasons.

In addition, this document will be available for public review in on the City’s website at <http://www.perthamboynj.org> or in City Hall, 260 High Street, Perth Amboy, NJ, until the hearing date.

Comments can be sent via email to Tashilee Vazquez, Office of Economic & Community Development Assistant Director, tvazquez@perthamboynj.org.

Helmin J. Caba,
Mayor
City of Perth Amboy

Park Improvement Safeguard Children at Play, Washington Park, Perth Amboy 4/13/21 *Photos by Paul W. Wang



Mayor Helmin Caba (2nd from Left) offers a few remarks. (L to R) Councilwoman Rose Morales, Mayor Helmin Caba, Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Councilman Joel Pabon



The Ribbon Cutting for the new fencing



Kids enjoy the swings at Washington Park

Press Release 4/13/21
PERTH AMBOY, NJ - Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Assemblywoman Lopez, and Mayor Caba join residents for ribbon cutting ceremony at Washington Park for new perimeter fence.
In response to residents' concerns about the safety of children running after balls or ice cream vendors, the City of Perth Amboy, with the support of Senator Joe Vitale, Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin, and Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez secured state funding for perimeter fencing for one of the more active playgrounds, located in Washington Park.
“Our children need safe places to play outdoors with friends and family. Washington Park is a treasure in our community where families can build memories that will last a lifetime,” said Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin (D-Middlesex). “The Park’s new protective fence is the result of years of advocacy and collaboration between local and State partners. Infrastructure projects enhance our communities, and in this case, make them safer for our children. Congratulations to the City of Perth Amboy.”
“First and foremost, I want to offer my sincerest congratulations to Mayor Caba and his administration for completing the fencing of Washington Park," said Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez (D-Middlesex). "Projects like the brand new fence at Washington Park demonstrate the power of collaboration between the city and its Legislative partners. I look forward to continue advocating for my hometown and am grateful to have played a role in this meaningful project. I know our children and families will enjoy this park with enhanced safety for years to come.”
"We understand the need for public parks and their benefit to our families. We also understand how playgrounds can get expensive," said Mayor Caba. "Working with these inspiring partners is what makes the difference to help keep our parks safer. This funding not only represents the safety measures taken for our children, but also the spirit of community in working together. "

Lengthy Discussion on Many Topics

4/12/21 Caucus

By: Carolyn Maxwell

PERTH AMBOY – Councilwoman Rose Morales had a question regarding Ordinance No. 1 (First Reading) – Vehicles and Traffic RE: Loading Zone at 35 Washington Street (Med Apparel/Unitex Textile Rental)

She explained, “I went to this site and this is county property.”

Deputy Police Chief Larry Cattano came up and said, “This location is east of Rector Street. I don’t know if a truck would fit into that loading zone that they are requesting.”

Council President Petrick spoke up, “It is super dangerous, and trucks are halfway in the street.”

Both Petrick and Morales agreed when the new park opens up it would be dangerous, and the location has been dangerous for years.

Petrick then continued, “The previous administration allowed this to happen.”

Councilman Joel Pabon spoke up and said, “I was surprised that the neighbors never complained (about trucks blocking half the street when they unload at that location). We need to give the company more options (for the trucks to unload).”

Petrick then added, “This company employs a lot of city residents who walk to work.”

Jeanette Rios, Director of the Parking Utility came up to speak, “We handle the loading zones, and this company submitted this request last year and it was approved by the police department.”

A representative from those company came up to speak and backed up Rios’s statement, “We applied last year for this loading zone and it was approved.”

Petrick replied, “I don’t know who approved this and the ones that did are not here at the meeting.”

The representative said, “We can see about other options for unloading our trucks.”

Councilman B.J. Torres concluded this discussion by stating, “We should protect the residents and those who work for this company.”

Councilman Joel Pabon had a small statement regarding Ordinance No. 2 entitled: Fixing and Establishing a Schedule of Salary and Salary Ranges and Increments for officers and employees for the city of Perth Amboy regarding the PBA.

“This has been a long time coming.” He thanked everyone who worked on this contract.

The next discussion involved Ordinance No. 4 entitled: Sewers – regarding rates and fees.

Pabon stated, “We need someone here to discuss this.”

Nancy Martin from the Department of Water & Taxes spoke through Zoom, “We need to add a final water meter fee because sometimes you can’t access the meters. People have 30 days to pay their bill before interest sets in. More than half of the meters in the city don’t have meters that can be read from the outside. Meter Readers do more to make sure the meters are functioning.”

B.A. Remsen spoke up and said, “There is 6% increase being asked.”

Council President Petrick then spoke up and said, “They have to make sure that meters are not tampered with.”

Councilman Joel Pabon then spoke about R-143-3/21 – Public Hearing on the introduced CY: 2021 Municipal Budget.

“We need to bring in the Department Directors to see how this process works.”

City Engineer Ernest Feist came on through Zoom to talk about Ordinance No. 5 – An Ordinance regarding stormwater management.

He explained that there are new rules that have to be followed that are mandated by the NJDEP (New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection) which deals with green infrastructure and groundwater discharge. “This is required by state mandates and also involves the cleaning of water before its discharged.”

Councilman Joel Pabon then spoke about R-187-4/21 – Appointing Joel Pabon Sr. as Commissioner of the Perth Amboy Housing Authority to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2023.

“I’m asking that you appoint Gregory Pabon (no relation) to take my place. There are some people already on the commission such as Gregory Pabon. He is the only one who reapplied.”

Councilwoman Rose Morales asked that R-188-4/21 – Confirming the reappointment of Victoria Ann Kupsch as City Clerk. be tabled. It was seconded by B.J. Torres. When the vote was taken to be tabled, Petrick, Pabon, Tejeda voted “No”. Torres and Morales voted “Yes” so they were overruled.

Business Administrator Remsen talked about R-193-4/21 – United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission enforcement guidance on the consideration of arrest and conviction record employment under the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

“If the federal guidelines change, we have to comply.”

City Engineer Feist talked about R-198-4/21 – Release of Performance Guarantees and Cash Bonds to Duke Realty for Site Plans on certain blocks and lots on Riverview Drive.

He stated, “This includes Riverview Drive and Elm Street. Roadwork and work on the amphitheater are included.”

Council President Petrick said, “We may have to revisit this to see what was originally discussed.”

Fire Chief Ed Mullen talked about R-200-4/21 – A contract with NJ Fire Equipment for the purchase of firefighter breathing air equipment for an amount not to exceed \$28,544.40.

“This is not a grant and is part of our capital improvement money.”

Law Director Northgrave talked about R-201-4/21 – Professional Legal Services with the firm of Pashman, Stein, Walder & Hayden in connection with the renovations at the Perth Amboy Public Library.

He explained, “This is the same attorney as before. They just moved to a different law firm.”

B.A. Remsen explained R-208-4/21 – Amending R-183-3/21 – Replacement of water meter sizes 5/8” to 3” and testing existing meters.

“There is only a slight change in the dollar amount.”

Council President Bill Petrick

then asked for R-216-4/21 - Adopting information Technology Cyber Security Policy for the city of Perth Amboy revised as of February 19, 2021 to be tabled. Petrick’s reasoning was, “We the (council) need to have the ability to stop IT to stop investigations of council members by other political bodies.”

Pabon talked next, “People have the right to check our emails because we are no better than anyone else.”

Petrick countered, “We are not city employees and the email policy for us should be removed.”

Law Director Northgrave spoke up, “You can do what you want, but it needs to be geared to our IT manager.”

Pabon agreed that R-216 should be tabled.

Perth Amboy IT Tech John Alleman spoke up, “We can’t split the domain, but we can have separate domain names, but we still will have access to it.”

Northgrave then said, “You (the council) will have a lot of issues.”

Pabon thanked John Alleman for providing information on this policy and for being available for any questions regarding this issue.

Public Comments:

Resident Stanley Sierakowski came up to comment on the discussion on emails. “It was a phishing expedition. Diaz (former mayor) went after those whom she thought might double-cross her. Have a judge investigate someone who may have questionable activities. A lot of people on municipal boards may not have critical thinking.” Sierakowski stated there was a Fair Housing consultant here who recommended 300 rehabs but wasn’t sure who had the priority – the developers or low-income residents. “The Planning Board and PARA are giving up their oversight. People who have knowledge will get money and not the people who really need the money. It’s just like the people who always get money to fix their own awning every year.”

Resident Maria Peralta came up to speak in Spanish. Dianne Roman translated. She asked, “Who extended the invite to the person who spoke earlier about marijuana.”

Council President Petrick responded, “The administration wanted someone who is part of the NJ Marijuana Commission.”

Peralta continued, “We don’t want marijuana. Business owners and churches should be coming here and not the state. You need people who live and work here to talk. We know what causes damage to our city. It hurts our city. We are asking to say “No” to marijuana factories. We voted for you.”

Resident Junior Iglesia came up to speak, “You (the council) should be open and transparent to the public. It’s in the public interest to be acted upon. The marijuana presentation was supposed to be for the council, but I’m glad that they spoke in public. A lot of research that the speaker said was true regarding medical marijuana, but there are also detrimental effects of marijuana.” Igelsia as he did in the past played a statement on his cell phone by a doctor who

talked about the detrimental effects of marijuana which includes short term memory loss. Iglesia continued after playing the tape, “Marijuana has a detrimental effect on development of the brain. It’s not a question of profit, but how to protect our youth. The man who spoke earlier talked about righting the legislation.”

Petrick then responded, “We need to have people speak about the pros and cons.”

The next person who came up was a resident whose husband is a sanitation worker. The woman stated that a sanitation truck ran over her husband and he got a letter of dismissal from the city. “I’ve sent letters to workers comp, and he has a permanent disability. He was told he has to use his sick time. The city has moved multiple employees in the past due to their medical conditions.”

Business Administrator Edward Remsen spoke up and said, “We can only discuss this matter in closed session, and we have had discussions on this case already.”

Law Director Northgrave spoke up next, “This is a former employee who is saying that he is an employee, so it can only be discussed in closed session. If you do it in open discussion, you can get in trouble. This is a workers compensation situation, and I have no information on this case.”

Resident Vince Mackiel came up next. He said, “There are infrastructure needs for Elm Street and Market Street in the budget. Business and communities use the bridge on Market Street. I have been getting the same response for 2 years on the bridge. Has that Market Street bridge been condemned? It should be and the people using that bridge should be protected. This is a small bridge and shouldn’t take 2 years to be resolved. Businesses are being affected. I have been coming here for 6-7 years. Move forward on this bridge and have NJ Transit condemn it.”

Petrick responded, “There are no plans to condemn that bridge.”

Mackiel concluded, “You should focus on this bridge that has been neglected for 3 years.”

Former Councilman Fernando Gonzalez came up next and simply requested that they have someone come to the meeting who can discuss why the water rates are going up.

Resident Dot Daniel came up next. She had 3 problems. “Number 1 on Rte.35 bridge near ShopRite - they have put barriers up and walked away. Number 2 – there are too many potholes in the city, and we need money in the budget to fix them. Number 3 – When is the budget coming out?”

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch answered, “The budget is up on the website.”

Daniel also said, “I hope there are decent raises for the police and fire department. We are the lowest on the pay scale in Middlesex County.” She also mentioned she had many medical problems, “Not one of my physicians told me to use marijuana. Marijuana is a gateway drug.”

The meeting was opened up on Zoom. Resident Katherine Mas-

sopust spoke, “There are a lot of kids riding around town with bicycles. Can anything be done about it?”

Councilman Pabon spoke up. “I got many calls about this. In one instance there were 25 people on bikes riding on the middle of Smith Street.”

Deputy Police Chief Cattano came up, “The traffic division is looking at this problem and take bikes away. We put additional people on this. If a bike is not registered or licensed, it is confiscated. We can put the process of this on our website. Report any of this activity to the police.”

Councilwoman Tejeda asked Cattano since he was still at the mic, “How many people have been vaccinated in the city?”

Cattano answered, “Presently, there are over 2,000 doses available and there is information online and on the bulletin board. A good portion of our senior citizens, school staff, and teachers have been vaccinated. Now vaccinations are open up to all from the ages 19+. At the votech school, anyone can be vaccinated. At the hospital it is only for city residents. The phone number to register for vaccinations in the city is: 732-324-3521. The county and hospital are working to get homebound people vaccinated. They are put on a separate list. The hotline vaccination number I gave right now is through the Office of Recreation, but will be expanded to other departments.”

Resident Sharon Hubberman spoke thru Zoom. She was concerned about the reports of dead fish on the waterfront. “The NJDEP issued a statement about bacteria affecting fish, and this concerns me. A 6½% rate increase on the water is high. We received federal aid. I appreciate the person who spoke from the Cannabis Commission. The American Lung Association and the Heart Association cautioned people who are pregnant and have mental issues to be cautious of secondhand smoke – even marijuana. One minute of marijuana smoke can do harm. The recovery rate from marijuana is slower. You need to install smoke-free environment signs.”

Former Councilman Fernando Irizarry spoke next thru Zoom. “I have concerns about the marijuana presentation and the administration’s attempt on not banning marijuana. We don’t know if a forum will be held or if that speaker will come back to speak at the forum. We only talked about the losses if we ban it. Once that business comes in, you can’t get rid of it. The speaker said that those who benefit will be the ones affected by the war on drugs. He led me to believe that state and federal laws will not be enforced if people home-grow it. The national institute of drugs states most people do not use marijuana as a gateway drug.”

Petrick told Irizarry, “We will talk about getting a forum together.”

Irizarry stated, “I appreciate that.”

The Public Portion was closed, and the council went into closed session at 8:43 p.m. with no further action taken. All Council Members were present in person in the council chambers.

Letters to the Editor *Continued from Page 4

The Future of Breast Cancer Care:

A Need for Transparency for Out-of-Network Providers

I am a mother of a daughter and an aunt of 4 nieces. I am also a healthcare attorney who represents plastic and reconstructive surgeons every day. Many of my clients are out-of-network surgeons who treat breast cancer patients and reconstruct their breasts after the horrible physical disfigurement of a mastectomy and who help them through the emotional trauma that accompanies their surgery.

To me, these are not ordinary surgeons. They are talented and immensely skilled board-certified plastic and reconstructive surgeons who are an integral part of a woman's personal journey. They are surgeons who put the patient's health first and operate after receiving authorization from an insurance company, often with no idea how much they will be compensated by an insurance payor, if at all. Despite the unknown, they continue to treat. These surgeons are part of what the insurance companies, and their lobbyists, blame as the problem with healthcare today.

Over the last couple of years, I have discussed with these surgeons, the political climate towards changing health insurance. I observed, for the first time, a sweeping movement of doctors giving up and leaving their craft behind, only to perform self-pay cosmetic surgery. In addition to the frustration of these providers, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges, the United States will see a shortage of up to nearly 122,000 physicians by 2032. This, in my mind, is the beginning of the end of access to skilled surgeons in all disciplines of medicine.

plines of medicine.

I heard from a physician that he is worried that when he grows older there will be no highly trained physicians to take care of him. Sadly, I walked away with fear for myself, my family, my friends, women, and this country. Thankfully, I don't have breast cancer, but I am afraid that one day when I or someone I know needs to turn to a specialized doctor, there will be nowhere to turn to.

For nearly a decade, I have been in the trenches with insurance payors, fighting on behalf of providers (and patients) to get fair reimbursement. I have personally witnessed the business practices and patterns of insurance payors nationwide, and with each year that passes, they make the practice of medicine virtually impossible, unaffordable, and unbearable by constantly creating barriers for physicians to get paid fairly and timely and for patients to have 'medical security'. Oftentimes, I have seen this process overwhelm resources and take upwards of two years before a claim is paid fairly. Yet, insurance companies continue to report revenues and income in the billions of dollars with top executives receiving annual compensation in the millions.

Admittedly, at times, I have had to manage the expectations of some clients in what they deemed fair reimbursement against their outlier billed charges. But overwhelmingly, I have been appalled by the diluted benefits that the insurance companies sell as health insurance, especially "out-of-network" benefits, and what ultimately the consumer believes is their passage to peace of mind for serious illnesses, only to face, in times of need, unimaginable financial liability due to the low reimbursement rates ("allowed charges") made by the insurance payors.

The 'No Surprise Act' is due to go into effect January 2022, with the federal government



Leslie Howard

expected to publish regulations clarifying and expanding upon the provisions over the summer. The Act, which is designed to protect patients from surprise medical bills, is considered a major development in resolving billing and coverage disputes between insurers and providers. The impact of this legislation on the future of medical care in the United States remains to be seen. Only time will tell if a fair balance can be created between the insurance companies and the medical profession in the reimbursement of services for medical care in this country such that the predicted shortage in care will begin to swing in the other direction.

Leslie Howard

About the Author: *Leslie Howard, Esq. is the Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Cohen Howard, LLP, a NJ based healthcare reimbursement solutions law firm devoted to representing providers in reimbursement matters throughout the United States. She is also the Founder and CEO of Howard Healthcare Group an Advisory and Management Services Organization providing practice management and administrative support services to physicians, hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers nationwide.*

Seafood Delivery Driver (Staten Island)

Route Delivery Driver Needed for Wholesale Seafood Distribution Company in Staten Island

Applicants must have experience driving a box truck
We distribute throughout

New Jersey, New York (all 5 boros) and Long Island
Applicant must have a clean drivers license and record

RESUME MUST BE INCLUDED WHEN APPLYING

Email address to send resumes to is [hiring@simpleseafood.com](mailto: hiring@simpleseafood.com)

Middlesex County's Parks and Recreation Department to Roll Out New Electronic Picnic Grove Reservation System

New Online Reservation System to Go Live Tomorrow, Thursday, April 15, Offers Convenient Way for Those Wishing to Enjoy Our Parks to Reserve a Space

Press Release 4/14/21

MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ – Beginning tomorrow, Thursday, April 15, Middlesex County's Parks and Recreation Department will be accepting reservations for picnic groves at nine County Parks via a new online reservation system, with the first reservations available on Saturday, April 24. These picnic groves offer visitors a socially distanced way to host picnics and small gatherings in an outdoor setting.

The parks included in this new reservation system include: Alvin Williams Park in Woodbridge Township; Donaldson Park in Highland Park; Fords Park in Woodbridge Township; Johnson Park in Piscataway Township; Joseph Medwick Park in Carteret; Merrill Park in Woodbridge Township; Roosevelt Park in Edison Township; Thompson Park in Monroe Township; Warren Park in Woodbridge Township. Fees vary for each location and are

contingent on the Executive Order in place at the time of event.

"This new electronic reservation system will not just provide a safe and convenient way for the public to reserve picnic groves, but improve visitor experience overall," said Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios. "With the health and well-being of our employees and community remaining paramount, we encourage residents and visitors to enjoy our public parks while continuing to exercise precautions to keep from contracting or spreading COVID-19."

To reserve a picnic grove online and view a list of accommodations provided at each grove such as electrical outlets, charcoal grills, shelter, etc., visit <http://www.middlesexcountynj.gov/About/ParksRecreation/Pages/PR/Reservations.aspx>. A list of rules and regulations for the use of picnic areas will be listed on that page.

EDITORIAL

Love, Loyalty, Lasting Nonpolitical

*Continued from Page 4

lis Simpson). Edward became King after his father's death, but he gave up his crown months later when he decided to marry Wallis Simpson, an American divorcee.

Because of that, his brother the Duke of York succeeded to the throne as George VI. Elizabeth, who was the eldest daughter became heir to the throne when her father died.

So, Elizabeth first met Philip when she was 13 and he was 18. They started communicating, eventually fell in love and they married when she was 21 and he was 26. At that point, Philip had a very successful naval career, and he was royal on both of his parent's sides. His naval career was on the fast track, and Elizabeth was following him until her father, George VI died suddenly, and she ascended to the throne. Philip gave up his career. He pledged his loyalty

to the Queen first, and England. His loyalty to her, his family, and country became his first priority.

You have to remember that Queen Elizabeth and Philip have 4 children and 3 of the 4 children had first marriages that did not survive. To think that Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip had 73 of marriage together when there are couples who wed who could not even survive 73 days of marriage.

Loyalty and respect do not depend on your status in life or your wealth or how big or small your wedding is, how many gifts you have or if you got married by the Justice of the Peace, Vegas, Judge, or Clergy. I don't care about politics or status in life. I admire people no matter what country you are from. So, in essence I admire Philip and Queen Elizabeth's dedication to one another for 73 years. They understood what it means "In sickness and in health, til death do us part". *Carolyn M.*

The Need for Plant Based Products

March 18th is Global Recycling Day, a day dedicated to recognizing the role recycling plays in promoting a more circular economy that reduces our reliance on finite natural resources. As we celebrate the benefits of recycling, we should also consider other steps that can be taken to securing our planet's future, including the use of more renewable plant-based materials.

Many of the products we use every day, from packaging to plastic car parts to yoga pants,

are often made from petroleum, a finite resource that comes from the extraction of carbon embedded deep in the Earth. While recycling can play a role in helping to extend the life of some of these materials, some may still end up as pollution, and some may end up as new carbon dioxide in the atmosphere if recycling is no longer an option. As an alternative, many of these products can be made from renewable, plant-based materials, like hemp, corn, soy, algae, and agricultural waste. These plants actually take carbon out of the atmosphere as they grow. Further, like their petroleum-based counterparts, many plant-based products are recyclable or commercially compostable. These factors combine to help drive a circular economy – one where sustainable products are in use longer, waste is reduced and fewer finite resources are utilized.

The Plant Based Products Council works every day to support the transition to a circular economy that includes adoption of more renewable materials. Global Recycling Day reminds us to keep advocating for solutions that help ensure a more sustainable future.

Jessica Bowman
Executive Director,
Plant Based Products Council
Washington, D.C.

We Value Your Opinion! Please Send Us A Response!

WWW.AMBOYGUARDIAN.COM



NOW HIRING

MARKET DELIVERY CENTER (PERTH AMBOY, NJ)

Join our growing team! We're hiring for warehouse positions in our new Market Delivery Center (MDC)! MDCs enable same-day and next-day delivery to DIY customers and Pros in our top U.S. markets by stocking product and fulfilling orders. The Home Depot is committed to Perth Amboy. Opening a second location in the community will bring more essential job opportunities.

OVERVIEW

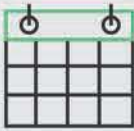
Market Delivery Centers (MDC) focus on stocking our top selling items, which range from big and bulky appliances to small parcel goods. MDCs are unique in that they fulfill a customer's order, while other local Home Depot warehouses and parcel carriers deliver the order. By working together, using our hub and spoke model to deliver customer orders, Home Depot is continuing to work towards our goal of providing the fastest, most efficient, and reliable delivery in home improvement.

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

- **General Warehouse Associates (GWA)**
GWAs are responsible for receiving and putting away inventory, as well as picking, packing, staging, and loading trucks with customer orders.
- **General Office Associates (GOA)**
GOAs provide support to the warehouse operations by coordinating deliveries, scheduling pickups, and helping with other office tasks.

BENEFITS

Set Schedule



Performance
Bonuses and Merit
Increases



Competitive Pay



On-the-Job Training



Career
Advancement



Text **WAREHOUSE** to 52270 to apply or visit careers.homedepot.com/supplychain



CAREERS

The Home Depot is an Equal Opportunity M/F/Vet/Disabled Employer. You will receive an automated text in response to your Home Depot® Careers request. Message & data rates may apply. Text STOP to 52270 to stop (conf. text will be sent). Text HELP to 52270 for help. Visit http://www.homedepot.com/c/Privacy_Security for Privacy Policy.

©2005-2021 Home Depot Product Authority, LLC. All rights reserved. • PID-157



The City of
PERTH AMBOY
Helmin J. Caba, Honorable Mayor
& City Council Members

Concerns with Covid Protocols and Hybrid Learning

4/15/21 Board of Education Meeting

By: Katherine Massopust
PERTH AMBOY – The 4/15/21 BOE Meeting was called to order at 5:41 p.m. The meeting took place in-person at Perth Amboy High School, Eagle Avenue and through teleconferencing on Zoom. All the Board Members were present in-person except for Board Member Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe who participated via Zoom and Assistant Board Secretary/Business Administrator Michael Lo-Brace who also participated via Zoom.

Before going into executive session, Superintendent Dr. David Roman noticed there was a woman with two small children present in the auditorium who wished to address the Board. Dr. Roman requested that she be allowed to speak now due to the fact that the closed session was estimated to take around 90 minutes and it would be unfair to the children to make the woman wait to speak. The Board agreed to allow the woman to speak.

The woman spoke in Spanish. Board Member Stacey Peralta translated. “I am worried about the children in the community. The state approved marijuana. I am here today tonight because children are mattering less than everyone else. I want everyone here who doesn’t know if the Board of Education is aware that there have been many meetings. Many Pentecostal Churches are getting signatures. Get parents and educators to sign with them. I believe that to go before the council and achieve that goal. Congress is not worried about students. They only care about the money. The apparent situation that if this passes, what happens to our students? I am a single mother with a 16-year-old. I am adopting two more children who are with me here. That is the reason I am adopting – because of what is passing. A lot of students are lonely working by themselves. These drugs are being given now and sold. There is going to be a march and I want educators and parents to join. If we join forces, we will show how these students are more important than money. Perth Amboy is not in good condition.”

Superintendent Dr. David Roman answered the woman. “We are going to be referring to the statute legally on this summit. The Board of Education has a responsibility as a public entity. How we will implement the marijuana as required by statute. We are transparent. We hear you. We understand your perspective.”

Board Member Junior Iglesia stated, “Thank you, Dr. Roman for this clarification. Legally marijuana is classified as a drug schedule 1. All institutions must follow federal law. Certainly there is a lot of concern. We move together on this. The number one priority is to make sure the students are safe.”

The Board then went into executive session at 6 p.m. They returned around 8 p.m.

Public Portion:

Only two people spoke during

the public portion: Perth Amboy Federation President Pat Paradiso and District Representative for the Perth Amboy Federation Lynn Audet. There statements are below:

Pat Paradiso:

I am speaking on behalf of my staff members. I would like to remind this Board of Education that you cannot love your students if you do not love your teachers and staff. It has never been clearer than now, that you do not love your teachers and staff. We are the second-class citizens who are expected to stand at a podium teaching with a mask on for five hours straight without as much as a bathroom break. We are the second-class citizens who are expected to supervise the dismissal of students on our own long-awaited lunch breaks. We are the second-class citizens who are expected to cover classes without extra compensation, so the district does not have to pay for subs. We are the second-class citizens who ask questions of our administrators only to be lied to, yelled at, or told, “I don’t know”. Does that sound like love?

This district has had a year to prepare for bringing students back into the buildings. A year. The report on district ventilation was done in March 2021. We had to beg to see it. We still have issues with the report, and they are not being addressed. The Federation has an obligation to our members, and our members have an obligation to their students.

Middle school teachers were told this week by their principal that students will have three chances to be non-compliant about wearing masks in the classrooms before it will be addressed by administrators. Do our parents know that? You need to wear a mask to go to Walmart, but our students get three chances to get their classmates sick? We hope that this is re-evaluated.

Middle school teachers were told this week by an administrator that their union approved their ridiculous schedule. That is a bold face lie and your staff members know it. No one has the right to speak on behalf of the Federation except the Federation.

Elementary school teachers asked an administrator if the windows in the building were fixed and were told that if they opened last year, they probably open this year. The district has had a year to fix the windows in the building.

Staff members were told this week that students will not be expected to do the health screening before they come into schools. All year, staff members had to fill out that form to go into the buildings. Lynn and I had to fill one out for every building we surveyed this year. Now that we are going to have more people in the buildings, health screenings no longer need to be filled out. Do our parents agree with that? All other districts are doing that. You act like our parents are less

capable than the parents in other districts. I would find that insulting if I had students in this district. We hope that this is re-evaluated.

Staff members are as excited to see their students as the students are to see them. But the lack of consideration, communication, and transparency make everyone apprehensive. This district continues to be dismissive of all our concerns, and different principals are telling staff members different things. We need a central message that applies to all buildings, and we need it in writing.

I know at some point tonight someone is going to imply that I am a liar and that you all really do love our teachers and staff. But I can assure you in advance, that not one of us believes you. As one teacher told me today, “Prisoners have more rights that we have in this district.”

Junior Iglesia used to express concern at every Board meeting that the district was losing teachers month after month. He was the only one. Now no one seems concerned. When you treat staff members unfairly, or badly, they leave. That is why we are so short-staffed this year. One final note, I would like to thank the secretaries in Human Resources for their work getting our staff vaccinated. Reports are that you were always kind, and always helpful. We greatly appreciate that.

Lynn Audet:

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

Tonight, I would like to discuss the opening of schools for the hybrid model, and some situations that I would like to make the Board aware of.

I am requesting that the parents of our students be informed of the protocols about what to do if their child or someone in their family tests positive for Covid or becomes ill from Covid. I realize that parent expectations were sent out several months ago, however, I am requesting that this information to go out to the parents again so that children are not sent to school having been exposed to Covid. Also, if a student goes to a program for their remote days, and that student’s cohort is quarantined because of a Covid outbreak, parents need to understand that their child cannot come to school either until the quarantine period is over.

It has been brought to the Federation’s attention that parents are not required to fill out a daily health screening for their child, to confirm that their child is symptom free and has not been exposed to Covid 19. A temperature check is simply not enough. I am asking that the Board will reconsider, and have parents fill out daily health screenings for their children.

I wanted to make the Board aware that teachers at the Middle Schools have been told that they may be covering classes on their PLCs due to lack of sub-

stitutes, so teachers who are covering will not be able to use the bathroom during their PLC period, and despite what some people may think, teachers are not paid extra for covering a class during a PLC period. The district set the schedule up this way, so they would not have to pay teachers to cover those periods. Teacher prep periods are at the end of the day when the students are gone for the day. That would have been the time teachers would be paid a class coverage rate if they covered a class.

I must also point out there will be cross contamination of classes when you have teachers covering classes on their PLCs. I am also concerned that if a substitute cannot be found for a teacher for the day, that classes will be split up and students will be placed into other classes. That would further cross contaminate the classes.

Teachers at the middle schools have also been told they can use the rest room during 5- minute transition times which is not practical because it may leave students unattended and could result in several teachers all needing to use the same bathroom at the same time, with only 5 minutes for them all to use it, which is not a safe practice due to Covid 19.

Also, the elementary teacher’s schedule has the students being dismissed at 12:45, and the teacher’s lunch beginning at 12:45. If there is even one parent late picking up their child, that teacher has now lost time from their lunch period. There is somewhat of a plan to solve this issue, however, the Federation is requesting a written schedule that ensures our teachers will have a 45-minute uninterrupted lunch that they are entitled to receive.

Additionally, I just wanted to make you aware that at lunchtime when students are dismissed you are going to have all teachers in the middle schools running to use the bathroom at the same time because they have been standing at a podium for 4-5 straight hours without a break.

What is also very disturbing about the schedules, is that we have gotten multiple reports from some schools that staff was told the AFT Leadership approved the schedules, or they would not have been put out to the staff. I am going on record right now to say that statement is completely untrue, and a deliberate attempt to try to make Union Leadership look weak to our membership. The truth is the Federation would never have approved for our people to go 4 or 5 straight hours without a break. We would never have approved our teachers losing time from their lunch breaks. We would never have approved entire buildings full of teachers to all have to rush to use the bathroom at the same time when students are dismissed. Please understand that some buildings have over 180 staff members. The truth is we found out the schedule at the same time as everyone else, in an email.

I must note that all of these scheduling issues could have been avoided if Central Administration had collaborated with AFT Leadership in the first place. We wish to be part of the decision-making process. We want a proactive open line of communication, not just a line of communication when problems arise.

My next concern is about staffing and for staff who have asked for accommodations. We are still being contacted all day every day by staff who have requested accommodations or requested a leave of absence. I want to point out that most of these staff members put in requests months ago for when we return in person. Many were extremely upset about how the entire process went with getting a meeting to discuss their accommodation. Many had to send multiple requests for meetings. Many were given last minute meeting appointments and had to make decisions very quickly which caused a tremendous amount of stress for some of our staff members.

I must again point out that there are currently classes being covered by paras, teachers covering two classes simultaneously, and multiple teachers teaching out of their certification. I must ask, are we truly going to have enough staff to reopen safely? Will there be enough nurses to man the schools for both a regular nurse’s office and an isolation room? Are we going to be able to handle covering absences once we are hybrid when a staff member is ill or takes a personal day?

Lastly, I see that the calendar for next school year is on tonight’s agenda. I wanted to make you aware that the first two days of school are Rosh Hashanah, and there will be many staff members taking off the first two days of school, and that is not good for our students.

After the public portion was closed, Board Vice President Tashi Vazquez said, “On Monday, we will be opening the door for our students. We have worked hard to welcome you to a safe building. Not only did we meet CDC Guidelines, but we exceeded them. We partnered with Hackensack Meridian to give our staff vaccines. We want to keep everybody safe and help shape our future during these difficult times. We met with OEM (Office of Emergency Management) and thank them for their efforts.”

Dr. David Roman said, “I keep hearing what others are doing. It’s disheartening. The leaders of this district care.”

Board Member Junior Iglesia asked, “Who played a significant role when establishing the Student Code of Conduct?”

Dr. Roman answered, “It was created over the last couple of years.”

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Vivian Rodriguez said, “Staff, students.”

Dr. Roman said, “Children

**Continued on Page 13*

The Wait

4/14/21 Council Meeting

**Continued from Page 1*

lection of fees for the first few months of this year. We’re still not sure when the moratorium will be lifted and how normal our collections will be. We have to put incoming monies with our trustees to pay different debt services.”

Council President William Petrick asked, “Are there any restrictions on the \$16 million we are getting from the federal government?”

Goldy responded, “There is supposed to be 2 allotments. The first that will be coming in late May. The state will not provide any rules or regulations until the federal government puts their rules and regulations in place. It’s a 5-year spending plan. The state will not approve our budget or any municipality’s budget until the federal government sets the rules. The fund should be considered for future use, and they can’t be used to reduce taxes or for the pensions. The budget extension will be for your first meeting in May.”

Councilman Joel Pabon said, “I can’t understand because funds were given because of the pandemic, so why can’t it be used to offset costs caused by the pandemic? \$16 million was sent for the pandemic, but it is just sitting there. It makes no sense. Elizabeth used some of the money that they were given to save police jobs.”

Goldy responded to Pabon, “I couldn’t agree with you more. The state made it clear that the funds will not be certified by the city’s budget until the federal government sets their deadline.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda spoke next, “Maybe Elizabeth anticipated getting the money, but hadn’t received it, yet. A lot of people already paid their water bills.”

Councilman B.J. Torres asked, “Can we eliminate the use of fluoride in our water to save money?”

Petrick stated that when Luis Perez Jimenez (Director of Operations at the USA-PA (Utility Service Associates Perth Amboy) Middlesex Water Company) was at the previous meeting, he said that the savings would be between \$10,000-\$12,000 a year if they eliminated fluoride in the water.

The next item on the agenda was the budget hearing for the Police and Fire Departments. Deputy Chief Larry Cattano came up to give the presentation for the Police Department. “There was a small increase due to the purchasing of vehicles and additional police officers and training associated with those new officers.”

Petrick then asked if the Board of Education shares in the expense of the crossing guard’s salaries.

Cattano answered, “No, because it is offsite. At one time, they did.”

Remsen then spoke up, “When the crossing guards were laid off when the schools were closed, we saved a half million dollars. They collected unemployment.

We can save \$300,000 by outsourcing the hiring of guards to another company without laying off our existing crossing guards. The rate of pay for these guards is between \$12 - \$22 an hour. An outside management company will save us money because they will be scheduling crossing guards, replacing any of them, and hiring crossing guards. Local residents will always be employed as crossing guards.”

Cattano continued with his presentation, “By having a management company handle the crossing guards, this will relieve our officers from doing school crossings duty.” Cattano then answered the questions regarding how many boats the police department has. “There are 4. 3 are kept in the water and 1 is kept in storage. One is always located by the Cornucopia. All the maintenance of the boats is done by a co-op. We received grants, and we get a match of \$5,000.”

Petrick then asked about the \$120,222.19 for operating services.

Cattano said, “That is an agreement with Woodbridge. The handling of our radio systems includes maintenance.”

The next person to come up to speak was Fire Chief Ed Mullen, Jr. “2 years ago, we took over the inspections from Code Enforcement. So far, we have done 1,100 inspections this year. We also run fire prevention programs. There has been no increase. We will be back here on April 26th to go into more details. We had 3 replacement hirees, and each shift has 17 men, which is the minimum you can have. There is no increase in the fire prevention part of the budget. We have a \$13,000 increase in maintenance and a new Marine 5 Replacement Boat. There is a \$14,000 increase for training. A lot of this training is done in-house. We had to hire fire safety uniforms which were sacrificed in the past, plus \$3,000 for replacement of parts due to wear and tear. \$250,000 is needed for use to operate to keep our residents safe and for the use of the Fire Academy which cost us to use the facility for fire burns. We can ask the insurance company if there is money to help pay for fire investigation. We’re trying to make fire prevention a priority by having people install detectors and other safety measures. We participate of a lot of water and dive rescues. We go above and beyond duty and it is something to be proud of. We have 1 boat in the marina. We can jump on the boat operated by the Police Department if necessary.”

After Mullen’s presentation, the meeting was opened up to the public on agenda items only.

Resident Stanley Sierakowski came up first. He questioned R-204-4/21 – A settlement of \$153,229.50 in the matter of Ayda Abreu vs. the City of Perth Amboy parking utility.

Sierakowski asked what the details were.

William Opel, who substituted for Law Director Northgrave

stated, “It was a personal injury of a civilian.”

Resident Junior Iglesia came up to speak, “I am coming up here speaking as a taxpayer. Communication is very important, and the explanation for rate increase for the water was very good. \$16 million was received for relief. What is the use of it if it can’t be used for water relief? Write a communication to Senators Booker and Menendez why we can’t use the money for this relief.”

The next person to speak was Mayor Helmin Caba. He wanted to clarify the \$16 million. “The state is not holding the money and no town has received the money, yet. It doesn’t mean we can’t use it this year. They need to hear from the federal government first. We are working with the federal government. Let’s not jump to conclusions. We are in touch with our representatives and once the money is released, it will come directly to the city.”

The next person to come up was former Councilman and Resident Fernando Gonzalez. “Every year I was on the council, I was against the rate increase for the water. Privatizing our water put us in debt. How much debt services are negotiated with the Water Department?”

CFO Goldy responded on Zoom, “I don’t have that figure, now. But \$70 million of principle – I don’t know which part was from the original funding.” Gonzalez continued, “We used to make millions of dollars a year on the water before it was privatized. Covid affected us, but it was a past administration who put us in debt. I want to compliment Jill Goldy and her department for the work they do in reducing the debt. It is costing us \$25,000 a month to maintain the building on New Brunswick Avenue.”

Resident Alan Silber came up next. He talked about the rate increase for water. “I can’t raise any money, but the companies make sure their CFO’s and shareholders get their money. What have they sacrificed? The people on the bottom get hurt. Research Middlesex Water Company and you can see how much their CFO’s, shareholders, and staff have gained.”

The public portion was opened up to people on Zoom.

Resident Sharon Hubberman was the first person to speak. She asked about the water increase, “Are they having a refund of the bonds because the bonds are now due? Are they tied to other aspects? Maybe we can postpone the decision on the rate increase until we see how we can use the Covid funding. There is a lack of oversight of regulations in the Water Utility. The private side is lucrative.”

CFO Jill Goldy came on Zoom to answer Hubberman’s questions, “The refunding bonds, which are callable, which is now how we can reduce the interest rate. The utility is supposed to be self-sufficient. There was not enough revenue to meet their costs. The Parking Utility and the Water Utility were not self-liquidating or self-

sufficient. The Parking Utility did not get all their anticipated revenue, but they were not under water. The Water Utility was not so lucky.”

Resident Dot Daniel came up to speak about R-143-3/21 – Introducing CY: 2021 municipal budget. “I’m hoping there are provisions to give raises to the Police and Fire Departments. I am grateful to live in a city to turn to the Police and Fire Department to protect me. It’s embarrassing that they are the lowest paid in the county but do their job admirably.”

Petrick responded, “They have a contract through the union.”

Stanley Sierakowski came up next, “I suggest the council look at the assessment of properties that were rezoned, especially former commercial properties. I was told that about 7-8 years ago that this was done for an individual. Look into this because some of those rezoned properties may owe the city millions of dollars. The previous administration should be embarrassed. With the low pay that the Police and Fire Departments get, by contract they should subsidize their housing if they choose to live in the city. Most of the school crossing guards come from low-income families and they will be hurt the most if they are under a private management company. Go to the Board of Education and tell them to pay for the crossing guards.”

Fernando Gonzalez came up to ask what the tax increase will be.

Business Administrator Edward Remsen replied, “It’s a 1.7% increase, but we intend to bring it down to zero.”

Fernando Gonzalez concluded, “I’m thanking the council and Remsen for keeping the citizens in mind.”

CFO Goldy came back on Zoom to answer the question regarding the Water Utility, “In 1999, the principle was \$55 million and 70% of the debt is in the Water Utility.”

Sharon Hubberman spoke next via Zoom. “The Water Utility debt of a 6% increase will impact all. What is the cost savings of refunding? The debt service should decrease if the cost was decreasing. The debt was \$250 million at one time.”

Council President Bill Petrick proceeded to respond to Hubberman’s inquiry. He explained as if it was a homeowner trying to pay down their debt by refinancing.

Hubberman interrupted him, “You are comparing apples to oranges. You are disrespectful to me and I am not going to put up with it.”

After comments were closed on R-143, the council members voted on the Ordinances. For Ordinance No.1 (no public discussion) RE: the PBA. It was moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejeda. Ordinance No. 2 (Employment of Off-Duty Police Officers) was moved by Pabon and seconded by Tejeda. Ordinance No. 3 (Sewers and Water Rates and Fees) was moved by Tejeda and seconded by Morales. When it came time to vote, Tejeda, Torres, and Mo-

rales voted “Yes”; Pabon and Petrick voted “No”. Ordinance No. 4 (RE: Stormwater Management) was moved by Pabon and seconded by Tejeda.

For Resolution R-187 (Re-appointing Gregory Pabon as a Commissioner of the Perth Amboy Housing Authority to fill an unexpired term ending in December 31, 2023) was asked to be tabled by Morales and seconded by Tejeda. When it came time to vote for tabling it, all voted “Yes” except for Pabon who voted “No”.

Pabon asked for R-188 (Re-appointment of Victoria Ann Kupsch as City Clerk) and R-214 (Ratifying the Contract between the city and PBA Local 13 for the period of January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2024) to be pulled to be voted on separately.

The consent agenda was R-187, R-189 thru R-213, R-215. That consent agenda was moved by Pabon and seconded by Tejeda. When it came time to vote on R-188 all council members voted “Yes” and Joel Pabon congratulated Victoria Ann Kupsch for her service to the city. R-214 was moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejeda. All voted “Yes”. Councilman Pabon congratulated all that were involved in the PBA contract, “It is well-deserved.”

Public Portion:

Police Officer Daniel Gonzalez who is also the PBA Local 13 Delegate said, “It was a long 2½ year negotiation. I want to thank the new Mayor, the PBA Secretary, and the PBA Vice-President and all who backed us up, including the Fire Department.

Lawyer Daniel Gonzalez came up next. He talked about some of the positive things happening in the city such as the Washington Park improvements, and the lights being fixed. He wanted to thank Asw. Yvonne Lopez and all those involved. “I am looking forward to the new park opening up. We should think about who we are going to name that park after.”

Resident Alan Silber came up next, “We still have problems. I head a 26-year veteran of the Police Department shot someone.” He talked about someone who said \$25,000 should be given to police officers who live in the town or move in the town. “We should improve our schools and property. Since November 3, 2020, a person who ran in the last election said they won big in the election I don’t know of any mayor that got 7,000 votes before. Now people are handing out literature about the November 3, 2020 election, instead of doing it beforehand. They are hiding instead of coming out.”

Deputy Municipal Department Head Housing Dianne Roman came up next regarding the vaccination process. “We all work well together and support each other and the public.” She mentioned Deputy Police Chief and OEM Director Larry Cattano and Hackensack Meridian.

**Continued on Page 13*

The Wait

4/14/21 Council Meeting

**Continued from Page 12*

“You can sign up if you are over 19 for the vaccination, which is presently Moderna. The churches, foodbanks, and Hackensack Meridian are all working together.”

Councilman Joel Pabon spoke up, “I spoke with a nurse, and she asked if we are doing anything to vaccinate the homeless.”

Cattano came up to respond, “The YMCA and the county had a one-time event. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine was administered at Olive Street. At that time, 55 homeless were vaccinated at Olive Street.”

Junior Iglesia came up (as a citizen). “In New Jersey, the majority of municipalities had concerns regarding the safety of marijuana use. There is strong evidence that marijuana has detrimental effects on IQ and learning. This is a 12-year clinical research study. At the caucus meeting, the President of the Cannabis Association of New Jersey was here. Have you gotten any marijuana business proposals? If so, tell them we are not for sale and a healthy brain is not for sale. There is a problem for our police officers to enforce the laws and many people are at risk. I agree there have been past injustices, but you have the power. We are a community to help and protect each other. Please consider having a presentation with doctors.”

Dot Daniel came up next. “We are on a sealine ridge and we sometimes lose power in the middle of the night. Can we get on a stronger grid? When you approach High Street from outer State Street, you need to paint the yellow lines again because sometimes people are in the wrong lane. I don’t un-

derstand why you didn’t vote for Gregory Pabon to be reappointed to the Housing Authority. He meets with all of our client’s and their needs, plus he is quite invaluable. I want to thank Councilman Joel Pabon who gave up his spot as a Housing Commissioner so Gregory Pabon can get his spot back. Gregory Pabon does an excellent job.”

A Resident who has lived in Perth Amboy for 25 years came up to speak. He said, “I am against cannabis, and I am speaking from personal experience. I used to live in Washington Heights in New York at a time when drugs were king. It hurt the minorities, and our property values would tank. Do you want to live in a neighborhood with cannabis businesses? The spirit of the law and the letter of the law is different. You would need to sell \$100 million to make \$1 million of profit. What about the impact on our kids? We have budget issues now. I was an IT Director of a very rich person in New York. None of you would like to live in a drug infested neighborhood. You will attract people to the city who would just want to get high.”

Dianne Roman came up to translate for Resident Maria Peralta who spoke in Spanish. She thanked Councilman Pabon, Council President Petrick, and Councilwoman Tejada because they voted to keep Victoria Kupsch as City Clerk (at the caucus meeting). “And also for the council members who voted “Yes” today. Vicky has worked for the city for many years and has never been political. I am asking for the veteran council members to vote “No” for cannabis and we will continue to support you. The 2 new council

members want to vote “Yes” for cannabis. The veteran council members know what is good for the city. Property owners are not in favor of cannabis. You will waste money by hiring more officers to take care of the cannabis problem.”

Council President Bill Petrick responded to one of the comments that Peralta had mentioned regarding landlords who have illegal housing. “If you know of anyone who has illegal housing, and you find the landlords, please give us a list.”

Peralta explained, “The city should legalize basement apartments.”

The meeting was opened to Zoom.

Sharon Hubberman spoke. “I want this to be put on public record that the budget discussion should be more transparent. Monday’s presentation on cannabis was very informative. Each municipality can opt out and you can revisit this further down the road. Other towns are choosing to opt out. To safeguard our citizens, I also encourage you to opt out.”

Council Comments:

Councilwoman Rose Morales said, “It was an honor to be at the Washington Park Ribbon Cutting with the new fence and the great beautification done. Congratulations to the police on their contract. I want to address Ms. Peralta’s remarks regarding the reappointment of Victoria Kupsch as City Clerk. I just needed a couple of questions answered. God bless Vicky.” Still addressing Peralta, Morales stated, “I don’t know where you get the idea I am voting “Yes” on the marijuana issue. I want to hear all sides. I want to hear speakers from the medical side and church leaders on why it is not good. I have my

opinion, but I want to fair about the pros and cons of it and educate myself about this.”

Councilman Joel Pabon spoke next. “This is a total fiasco regarding committees and how people are put on municipal boards, but I like to be consistent. Only one person was not reappointed. This person who wanted to be reappointed was the only one who put in an application. The Ribbon Cutting at Washington Park was a beautiful day. The park was filled with people and kids.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejada said, “I wasn’t the first person who brought up about improving Washington Park. I hope we get money for infrastructure. We are way behind on this and we need to go after this money. The administration should be on top of this to prevent bigger troubles.”

Joel Pabon spoke up again, “If I didn’t bring up the issue of the lights being out, where would we be? Many of them are still out. I went to see Asw. Yvonne Lopez and PSEG during the previous administration. We documented who we spoke to when the lights went out. We got a letter sent from a resident on Water Street who complained about noises and graffiti in the park. I’m glad see that Home Depot is hiring. A lot of the flags at International Park are looking bad. Who is responsible for replacing them? They’re having Animal Enforcement Day at the Animal Shelter. They are looking for people to adopt pets. They are good people working there with good ideas. There are trucks on Market Street that are parking near the end of Grant Street. Police will come check when the trucks are parking there. Those trucks still come back. The

trucks and school buses parking are getting out of control. A lot of the parks looked good on opening day. The city received an additional 2,000 vaccine shots. The people who administer the shots are fast and polite.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejada congratulated the administration for getting the additional vaccines. “People are still getting Covid, and some people are still getting it very badly. My sister got a bad case of it. We all have the opportunity to get shots. I want to thank all for beautifying Washington Park, but it was a resident who told me how dangerous Washington Park was. I want to thank Assembly Speaker Coughlin and Assemblywoman Lopez. I appreciate all that was said tonight, and I am glad that the police got a fair contract.”

Councilman B.J. Torres said, “I am on the Arts Council, and all of our terms expired in December, and as of now we have no Arts Council. I want to wish everyone a Happy Ramadan.”

Council President Bill Petrick said, “This (Arts Council) will be on the next agenda along with appointments for the HPC and the Library Board. I gave names for people whom I believe would be good for the Library Board who will be dedicated and will do research to get grants. I want to thank all who came tonight and there is still work to be done on the budget. We are looking to have a forum to discuss the marijuana issue in May.”

The meeting ended at 9:55 p.m. All members of the council were present in the Council Chambers.

Concerns with Covid Protocols and Hybrid Learning

4/15/21 Board of Education Meeting

**Continued from Page 11*

have areas of infractions modified. If students will not wear their mask, under the Code of Conduct it is critical – it is what is Perth Amboy all about.”

Board Member Junior Iglesia said, “Communication is one of the most important tools to this public body and the staff. This important document should be placed on the website.”

Board President Ken Puccio agreed it was an excellent idea.

Board Member Junior Iglesia recognized all the retirees and how they met the needs of our students.

Board President Ken Puccio stated, “We believe in this community. We believe in this dis-

trict. At the end of the day, we have resolve in what we do.”

The 2021-2022 School Calendar was approved by the Board. Board Member R.L. Anderson was concerned because the first and second day of school fall on Jewish holidays which would start some students off with substitute teachers.

Board Vice President Tashi Vazquez stated that the needs in our district changed because of the pandemic. Vazquez gave out the vaccine hotline for Perth Amboy residents: 732-324-3521.

Board President Ken Puccio complimented Vazquez, “Our Vice-President is a force!”

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center

Perth Amboy, Center for Wound Healing Promotes Foot Health Education During April’s National Foot Health Awareness Month

Press Release 4/14/21

PERTH AMBOY, N.J. - April is National Foot Health Awareness Month and the experts at Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy, Center for Wound Healing are spreading awareness of common foot wounds and treatments with a patient-focused education campaign.

“Right now, nearly 7 million Americans are living with a chronic wound, and more than two million of those are suffering from diabetic foot ulcers. Sadly, if left untreated, non-healing wounds can lead to infection, amputation and even loss of life,” said Michael Sears, DPM, podiatric surgeon, medical director, Raritan Bay Medical Center.

Approximately 80% of lower limb amputations are preceded by a non-healing foot ulceration. Some of the primary risk factors for wounds of the feet include: neuropathy, deformity

of the foot, history of foot ulceration, absent or diminished pulses and prior amputation. The most common types of foot wounds are diabetic foot ulcers, venous stasis ulcers, arterial or ischemic ulcers and pressure ulcers.

There are preventative measures everyone can do to improve foot health. The Center for Wound Healing offers the following foot care tips:

- Check your feet for red spots, cuts, swelling, blisters, sores or other injuries daily.
- Wash your feet every day and dry them with care, especially between the toes.
- Wear properly fitting shoes that do not rub or pinch your feet.
- Always wear socks or stockings with your shoes, and never walk barefoot or while wearing just socks.
- Physical activity can help increase circulation in your feet. Consult your healthcare team to see which physical activity is right for you.

Regular foot inspections are key to prevention. All patients, but especially people living with diabetes, should take off their socks at every check-up to check for any problems with your feet. Proper foot wear, a healthy diet and maintaining healthy glucose levels can also help prevent wounds.

The Center for Wound Healing offers comprehensive wound care and leading-edge treatments including hyperbaric oxygen therapy, negative pressure wound therapy, bio-engineered skin substitutes, biological and biosynthetic dressings and growth factor therapies. For more information on the treatment of diabetic foot ulcers or chronic or infected wounds, call 732-324-4941.



Middlesex County and Municipalities Join Resilient NJ to Initiate Resiliency Plan to Reduce Flood Risk

The Resilient NJ: Raritan River and Bay Communities Initiative Seeks Community Input to Build an Equitable and Impactful Long-Term Climate Adaptation Strategy

Press Release 4/6/21
MIDDLESEX COUNTY – A coalition of local Middlesex County leaders and technical experts today announced the launch of the Resilient NJ: Raritan River and Bay Communities initiative. This joint effort led by NJDEP in partnership with Middlesex County including the municipalities of Carteret, Old Bridge, Perth Amboy, Sayreville, South Amboy, South River, and Woodbridge —and supported by Arcadis – will identify and implement flood risk reduction strategies for the Raritan River and Bay region to improve long-term environmental and economic resiliency.

To ensure an equitable approach to resiliency, the project team is seeking input, information, and recommendations from local residents regarding their own experiences with flooding and storm events. Specifically, the Resilient NJ: Raritan River and Bay Communities initiative will work to address flooding from coastal storms, high tides, heavy precipitation, and overflowing riverbanks. Community engagement is critical to ensure an impactful outcome.

"We are excited to work with municipal and county leaders in the Resilient NJ regions to identify locally-driven regional solutions to current and future flooding" said New Jersey Chief Resilience Officer Dave Rosenblatt. "Strengthening New Jersey against today's climate threats is an important part of our long-term approach to climate resilience and we applaud these leaders for their vision and

initiative."

"While the County has strengthened its flood resilience since Hurricane Sandy, the partnering municipalities are still vulnerable to increased flood risk from increasingly intense storm events, sea-level rise, and climate change," said Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios. "The announcement today is symbolic of the County's continued commitment towards future-forward projects that build a strong foundation for our communities to thrive for generations to come. We're eager to hear from constituents who live and work in the region to participate in this long-term resiliency plan to ensure that it is reflective of their social, economic, and physical priorities."

Community members interested in sharing their perspectives, recommendations and experiences can contact the team through a variety of channels including:

- Downloading the project's app for your smart phone: IRYS
- Visiting the project's website at www.resilient.nj.gov/rrbc
- Engaging on social media at @ResilientRRBC
- Leaving a voicemail at the multilingual project hotline: 732-661-3808
- Participating in future virtual public meetings and focus groups. Additional information is available on the project website.

"The Raritan Bay watershed and surrounding bodies of water, including the Arthur Kill here in Carteret are essential for commerce, recreation, and

transportation. We must protect the health of these vital waterways and each municipality has a responsibility to promote the important role they play in our everyday lives," said Mayor Daniel J. Reiman, Borough of Carteret.

"The Old Bridge Township Mayor and Council offer full support to the HUD-sponsored Resilient NJ – Raritan River and Bay Communities initiative administered by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. We fully endorse Resilient NJ's mission to create a multi-municipal watershed-based plan for flood risk prevention, resiliency, and restoration. Although Old Bridge was fortunate to have minimal impacts during Superstorm Sandy, we recognize that Old Bridge has a responsibility and interest in identifying potential risks associated with flooding and acknowledges the importance of preparing an action plan to effectively address any such future events," said Mayor Owen Henry, Old Bridge Township.

"Being part of Resilient NJ will identify ways our city can mitigate vulnerabilities that will assure our longevity in climate changes. I want to thank NJ DEP, Middlesex County Commissioners, and fellow coalition members in this collective effort that will chart the course to advance our preparedness to evolving environmental conditions," said Mayor Helmin Caba, City of Perth Amboy.

"Sayreville is located along the Raritan River and has a history of regular flooding associ-

ated with storm surges. Hurricane Sandy, for example, caused substantial damage to homes and forced the evacuation and rescue of dozens of residents. As a community that has experienced much loss due to flooding, we are pleased to take part in the Resilient NJ: Raritan River and Bay Communities initiative which will help us ensure long-term environmental and economic resiliency for generations to come," said Mayor Victoria Kilpatrick, Borough of Sayreville.

As a coastal community South Amboy is well familiar with the detrimental impact of flooding and coastal storms. This is a very important initiative and I encourage all of our residents to take an active part in support of this project. Flood resiliency planning is a critical element of our waterfront development projects and will help us to preserve our existing bayfront for generations to come," said Mayor Fred A. Henry, City of South Amboy.

"South River is excited to share in a partnership with Resilient NJ and Middlesex County in this project to help revitalize the downtown of the borough and continue on with the goal to reduce the flooding problems in the borough," said Arthur Londensky, South River Borough Administrator.

"As we have experienced in recent years, strong storms are becoming more frequent and intense, and it does not take a full-scale hurricane to cause serious flooding or damage. There are over 3,000 acres of regula-

tory floodplains within Woodbridge Township and these areas encapsulate both riverine and coastal environments. While these unique geographic locations provide expansive benefits for ecological resources and passive recreational opportunities, they also present heightened risk during storm events that we must plan for now to best ensure safety in the future. Addressing these flood threats must be taken seriously and mitigation will not be effective, sustainable, or equitable without examining hazards across municipal boundaries. We look forward to partnering with the Resilient NJ: Raritan River and Bay Communities project as we embark on a collaborative approach to address flood risk and resilience through a regional initiative," said Mayor John E. McCormac, Woodbridge Township.

"Anyone who lives or works in New Jersey has been, or knows someone who has been, affected by flooding. The people familiar with this area understand its strengths, limitations, and needs and are uniquely capable of helping identify what neighborhoods and streets are most susceptible to flooding. We are eager for input to make sure this plan effectively and impactfully protects these communities," said Carly Foster, project manager for Arcadis.

The Resilient NJ: Raritan River and Bay Communities project is expected to be completed in May of 2022. The project will be conducted in waves to account for public input at every point in its development.

Communities Make Recommendations for Multi-Billion Dollar Plans to Stop Sewage Overflows

Community groups submit recommendations to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection on the combined sewer overflow Long Term Control Plans.

TRENTON, 2021 – The Sewage-Free Streets and Rivers campaign, a coalition of community organizations from towns with combined sewer systems, is advocating for the Long Term Control Plans developed by municipal and utility permit holders to include equitable solutions to combined sewer overflows (CSOs). Twenty-four municipal and utility permit holders submitted combined sewer overflow Long Term Control Plans to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) on October 1, 2020, kicking off a four-month comment period during which many community groups, environmental organizations, and other stakeholders weighed in on the plans, including the Sewage-Free Streets and Rivers campaign and its partners.

"These plans represent billions of public infrastructure dollars," said Nicole Miller, principal, MnM Consulting and co-chair, NewarkDIG. "Our residents and business owners deserve the maximum benefit from each dollar spent. We hope NJDEP will take our concerns into consideration when preparing responses to the permit holders."

"We are hopeful that the NJDEP's commitment to environmental justice will be re-

flected in their review of these plans and that the final Long Term Control Plans will promote equity in affordability and in the implementation of solutions to sewage overflows," said Mo Kinberg, New Jersey Future community outreach manager.

"The Clean Water Act is intended to ensure that our nation's waters no matter where you live, color of your skin, or economic situation are free of sewage and toxins with the ultimate goal of zero pollution discharge over time," stated Amy Goldsmith, NJ state director, Clean Water Action. "Approving, funding, and enforcing the best Long Term Control Plans possible is key to ensuring water justice for all."

The plans detail large wastewater infrastructure projects that will impact communities for decades and will be paid for primarily by taxpayers. Comments by the coalition focus on water quality, environmental justice, green infrastructure, public participation and climate change. "We are elated to see these plans move forward after over five years of community input and discussion," stated Drew Curtis, Ironbound Community Corporation. "We want to see these plans address many of the issues facing environmental justice com-

munities like Newark, such as abating stormwater flooding and increased green infrastructure. And, we want to see the plans paid for in an equitable manner. Newark, as the host community for PVSC, already bears the brunt of the negative impacts from the plant; other, more affluent communities within the PVSC service area should pick up more of the financial costs of these plans."

"There has been an enormous effort by the CSO permit holders and NJDEP over the last five years to get us to this critical point of addressing CSOs through the adoption of the Long Term Control Plans," stated Rosana Da Silva, New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program and technical advisory board member to the campaign. "These plans specifically focus on the reduction of CSOs. Implementation will improve water quality in the Estuary. But this process is also an opportunity for stakeholders, including ratepayers and local government officials, to envision the future of their communities and how they can best benefit from cleaner waterways."

The coalition is asking the NJDEP and permit holders for innovative solutions that put the health and wellbeing of the

residents of these communities first. "It is time to address the impacts of CSOs with a sense of urgency," stated Greg Remaud, NY/NJ Baykeeper. "Our urban communities have suffered the public health and environmental insult of raw sewage flowing freely into their streets and waterways after it rains for far too long. This will require the leadership and cooperation on the local, state and federal level that has yet to emerge."

What more local advocates are saying:

"As a resident of the South Ward of Newark and an environmental justice organizer, it is extremely important that residents have meaningful participation in the Long Term Control Plans and their voices are heard in their communities' plan," stated Kim Gaddy, director, South Ward Environmental Alliance.

"We see what happens during a 'normal' rainfall event in Camden: raw sewage floods the streets and residential homes. Residents should be the first priority. We must develop an equitable public outreach and engagement plan to ensure ALL residents have a voice and are heard."—Shaniqua Biles, Sewage-Free Streets and Rivers Advisory Board member and Camden resident.

"Bayonne's Long Term Control Plan is inherently inequitable in its financing, lacking in public input and nearly devoid of green infrastructure. Bayonne inexplicably failed to consider more equitable means of funding for this project, resulting in an unconscionable economic plan that will exacerbate income inequality and reward polluters."—Jill Pustorino, Morris Park Neighborhood Association

"I find it very disturbing to have to wait until 2040 to address some of the worst flooding in Paterson. The flooding that is coming into our homes and cars has raw sewage in it, which creates health issues."—Martha Arencibia, Paterson Green Team Chair

"There is an urgent opportunity for Jersey City to reduce costs of its Long Term Control Plan by investing in green infrastructure," stated Debra Italiano, founder, Sustainable Jersey City. "Grey infrastructure costs could be brought down by prioritizing green infrastructure first. The City of Jersey City indicated it would consider participation in a Regional Plan if 'adaptive remedies' were available in the agreement, like a green infrastructure first strategy—municipal alignment around this focus is needed."

Donate Life Month at Hackensack Meridian
**Photo Submitted*



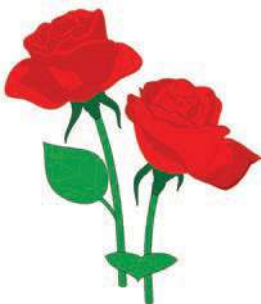
PERTH AMBOY - In honor of April being Donate Life month, Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy nurses and administration raised the NJ Sharing Network flag in memory of those who have given the gift of life through organ and tissue donation.

Celebrate Earth Day! *Photo Submitted



SOUTH AMBOY – Celebrate Earth Day with: "The Adventures of Fred the Fish" Earth Day program presented by Director Elaine Gaber. Our ocean - Our planet - Our future! dowdell.org

Ads Sell! Call Carolyn!
732-896-4446



Trinity Treasures Thrift Shop

SOUTH AMBOY - Trinity United Methodist Church Trinity Treasures Thrift Shop located at: 815 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy is open on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturdays from 9 a.m. through 12 p.m. weather permitting. Household items, clothing, appliances, and much more. Any questions, please call 732-763-6232.

Hot Meal Distribution

PERTH AMBOY - There will be a hot meal distribution starting on Wednesday, April 21st at 4pm at the RBA YMCA parking lot, 357 New Brunswick Ave. This will take place every Wednesday through July 2021 at 4pm. This is made possible through a partnership with the Office of Assemblywoman Lopez, Mayor Caba, and the RBAYMCA.

Free Tree Seedlings 2021

SAYREVILLE – Free Tree seedlings will be given out on Saturday, April 25th from 9 a.m. – 12 noon at the Sayreville Senior Center Parking Lot, Main Street.










Tree Seedlings donated by the New Jersey Tree Recovery Program and NJ Community Forestry Program. The mission is to replace the many trees that have been destroyed or damaged. Planting trees in your yards have numerous benefits to you and the environment.

Hosted by the Sayreville Shade Tree Commission. Seedlings limited to 5 per person. Please stay in your car – we will place seedlings in your trunk/car. Please wear a mask. Please maintain social distancing.

For more information contact Joyce Major at joyce.sayreville-shadetree@gmail.com

Food Drive for Local Families

SOUTH AMBOY - The South Amboy High School Interact Club (Rotary Club) and the City of South Amboy is holding a food drive to benefit local families. If you are able to donate, there will be a collection of non-perishable food, personal hygiene products and paper goods. Donations can be dropped off at the side door of the South Amboy Senior Center on Henry Street, Mondays – Friday's from 8AM to 3p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Jaclyn at (732) 525-5965. You can also contact Cathy at the Nurse's office in the South Amboy Middle/High School at (732) 316-7668 option 3 to arrange curbside drop off.



The City of
PERTH AMBOY
Helmin J. Caba, Honorable Mayor
& City Council Members


EARTH DAY CLEANUP

Shred Truck for business and residential documents on April 17th* and April 22nd*

DATE	TIME	MEET UP LOCATION
April 17th	12PM	Patten Park (339 Reade Street) *Shred Truck
April 22nd	10AM	Brighton Ave Community Center (56 Brighton Ave)
	1:30PM	Willow Pond Park (582 Dorothy Ave)
	3PM	PAAC Community Garden (Corner of Alpine and Westside Ave)*
May 1st	10AM	Brighton Ave Community Center (56 Brighton Ave)
	11AM	Fink Park (Madison and Smith Street)
	12PM	Francis Street Park (966 Francis Street)
	1PM	7-11/Train Station (255 Smith Street)

REGISTER AT
[HTTPS://WWW.PERTHAMBOYNJ.ORG/COMMUNITY/EARTH_DAY_CLEANUP_REGISTRATION](https://www.perthamboynj.org/community/earth_day_cleanup_registration)

There's no better way to contribute to a cleaner and healthier community than by volunteering to help beautify our city. REGISTER TODAY! Refreshments provided. Masks and Social Distancing Required. BRING A BOOK FOR OUR MINI LIBRARIES!



Hackensack University Medical Center Operating Room Administrators to Deliver Webinar on Robotic Surgery Best Practices

*Hackensack University Medical Center
Operating Room Administrators to Deliver
Webinar on Robotic Surgery Best Practices*

Press Release 4/14/21
HACKENSACK, NJ – On April 20, 2021, two Hackensack University Medical Center nurses will deliver a webinar sponsored by the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) on establishing a Center of Excellence for the Quadruple Aim. The Quadruple Aim is a healthcare performance optimization framework that promotes four goals, including improved population health, an enhanced patient experience, reduced costs, and enhanced job satisfaction for providers.

Terri Freguletti, MAS, RN, CNOR, Vice President of Perioperative Services at Hackensack University Medical Center, and Vivian Kufour, RN, BSN, CNOR, Clinical Nurse Coordinator for Robotic Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center, have been invited to deliver the webinar in recognition of the successful implementation of enhancements that promote the Quadruple Aim in Hackensack University Medical Center operating rooms, which offer 24/7 robotic surgery.

Hackensack University Medical Center was the first hospital in the world to provide patients with 24/7 access to robotic surgery across all specialties for both scheduled and acute procedures. Hackensack University Medical Center surgeons have performed more than 31,000 robotic surgery procedures in 21 years, making the hospital’s operating room teams among the most experienced in the world.

Freguletti and Kufour have spoken at various national conferences to discuss nursing best practices for training, scheduling, and continuing education related to 24/7 robotic surgery. These best practices support the Quadruple Aim by promoting community health, enhancing patient outcomes, promoting efficiency and cost effectiveness, and increasing job satisfaction for operating room nurses.

“At most hospitals, surgical robots are only utilized for scheduled surgeries — and when the surgeon and operating room nurses go home, the robot is also done for the day,” said Freguletti. “At Hackensack University Medical Center, if a patient comes into the ER on a holiday, evening, or weekend, all of our operating room nurses are fully trained to use the robot in the operating room.”

“Data show that patients who have robotic surgery have a shorter length of stay, less blood loss, fewer complications, and a faster recovery when compared

to traditional open surgery,” said Kufour. “As part of our commitment to the Quadruple Aim, we wanted to ensure that every patient — including those who need acute surgery — have access to robotic surgery, and that all of our operating room nurses are fully trained and have the opportunity to participate in paid continuing education on robotic surgery.”

Kufour and Freguletti shared a real-life example of how 24/7 robotic surgery benefits Hackensack University Medical Center patients and achieves Quadruple Aim objectives. An 80-year-old patient came to the emergency department (ED) on a Friday night in a lot of pain after having a colonoscopy earlier in the day. The ED team discovered a hole in the patient’s colon, and he underwent robotic surgery to seal the hole. He was discharged from the hospital on Sunday, two days later.

“Without access to robotic surgery, this patient would have had a colostomy and a 10-day hospital stay,” said Freguletti. “Then, he would have had to return in six weeks to have another surgical procedure to reverse his colostomy.”

“Not only did robotic surgery benefit the patient by promoting a faster recovery with less discomfort, but it also provided cost savings due to a shorter length of stay and only one procedure instead of two,” said Kufour.

“Hackensack University Medical Center is a national leader in nursing best practices for robotic surgery,” said Michael D. Stifelman, M.D., Professor and Chairman of Urology, Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine; Chairman of Urology, Hackensack Meridian Hackensack University Medical Center; Director of Urologic Oncology at John Theurer Cancer Center; and Director of Robotic Surgery, Hackensack University Medical Center. “Our entire robotic surgery team works collaboratively to ensure better patient outcomes and a better patient experience, which aligns with the Quadruple Aim.”

“At Hackensack Meridian Health, all operating room team members have a seat at the table and are heard,” said Ihor S. Sawczuk, M.D., Regional President, Northern Market, Hackensack Meridian Health. “The high level of collaboration between administration, surgeons, nurses, and other team members is the reason we have been able to offer 24/7 robotic surgery and achieve the Quadruple Aim.”

Review: Hemingway: A Documentary by Ken Burns

By: Anton Massopust III

There are many great writers such as Edgar Allan Poe and Isaac Asimov just to name a few, but Ernest Hemingway is probably one of the most famous men of literature that most people know. Hemingway changed literature forever by making it seem real and basing his literary characters on real people and real events. In a new mini-series from PBS, Ken Burns who is famous for his documentaries such as “The Civil War”, “Mark Twain”, “The War”, “Baseball” and “The Vietnam War”. Ken Burns gives us the complete man in this wonderfully done mini-series.

Episode 1 “A Writer (1899-1929)”. We go through Hemingway’s childhood and his relationship with his, siblings, mother, and father. His father had a troubled life. He was a doctor and had tremendous grief when he tried to save mothers and babies with C-sections with terrible results.

Burns discusses Hemingway’s adulthood when he joins the Army in the Ambulance Corps in his “World War I” miniseries and what happened to Hemingway including his affair with a married nurse.

Hemingway eventually marries Hadley Richardson (married 1921-1927) and moving to Paris with her and becoming a short story writer. Hemingway would have discussions with literary giants including Gertrude Stein and F. Scott Fitzgerald. Hemingway and his wife eventually go to Spain and Hemingway discovers his long love of bullfighting. He begins to write “The Sun Also Rises,” a story in which he discusses all that happens to him while in Spain. The character he creates reflects his obsession with bullfighting.

Hemingway goes on a trip to Africa to go big game hunting and falls in love with the continent. He takes his second wife Pauline Pfeiffer (married 1927-1940) and his friend from Key West Charles Thompson. The trip inspires his short story, “The Snows of Kilimanjaro”.

By the end of part 1 we also find out that his other literary classic: “A Farewell to Arms,” about a young deserter who

falls in love with a nurse and their troubles.

Episode 2 “The Avatar (1929-1944)” Hemingway leaves his second wife, Pauline Pfeiffer and stays in Key West, Florida in his home there, and enjoys going deep sea fishing. When the Spanish Civil War begins, Hemingway goes to Spain and falls in love with his third wife, Martha Gellhorn (married 1910-1945). He covers all the action going on in Spain. The communists fail to defeat the fascist government. With all this material, this inspires him to write his next book “For Whom the Bell Tolls” a story about an American volunteer who helps the Communists were fighting against the fascists in the Doom Mission in order to blow up a bridge.

Hemingway eventually moves to Cuba and during the times of War he patrols the coastline of Cuba in his boat, “The Pilar” sails back and forth looking for Nazi U-Boats, but he was really just partying with his friends. His third wife wants him to come with her to cover the invasion of Normandy, but Hemingway doesn’t want to do it at all because he feels his luck has run out. She eventually convinces him to do so. She ends up on a steamship which is very dangerous, and he boards a RAF plane and arrives in Great Britain.

Episode 3, “The Blank Page (1944-1961)”. Hemingway suffers several head injuries during this time. Hemingway helps liberate Paris with the French Resistance Fighters and then goes with a group of American soldiers to fight in a forest on the border of Germany. The battles are tough and brutal. Hemingway has enough and returns to his other house in Cuba.

We go towards the ending of Ernest Hemingway’s life. He returns to Africa and he survives two plane crashes with his third wife. He even reads his own obituary.

His mental health deteriorates, and he is depressed because it is difficult for him to write. He goes to the Mayo Clinic where he received electric shock treatment. He was allowed to do pretty much what he wanted to do.



In between living in his house in Cuba and failing mental health, he manages to write the Pulitzer Prize winning novel, “The Old Man and the Sea”.

Fidel Castro’s Revolution against occurs and Hemingway loses his house, all his possessions, and all his notes and much of unfinished work.

after losing his house in Cuba because of Fidel Castro’s Revolution against dictator Fulgencio Batista. Hemingway moves to the mountains of Ketchum, Idaho with his fourth wife, Mary Welsh (married 1946-1961)

Hemingway’s mental health continued to decline, and he ended up in the locked ward of the Mayo Clinic. Once again, he received shock therapy which damaged his brain, and he slowly lost the ability to write. He would stare at the blank page not knowing what to do next. He does write “The Movable Feast,” which was published after his death.

If you know nothing about Hemingway, this will surprise you. It will intrigue you and might make you a little angry in some spots. The documentary also talks about the myth of Hemingway and now that myth is dispelled. The documentary is told through voice overs and authentic photographs and film footage. Burns also talks to experts on literature and contemporary authors who were inspired by Hemingway. It is narrated by Actor Peter Coyote and Hemingway’s writings are brought to life by Actor Jeff Daniels, so you’re in for a wonderful lesson in history. It’s Ken Burns – you can’t go wrong.



Pallone, Pascrell Applaud Affordability Provisions in Draft National Flood Insurance Reauthorization

Press Release 4/9/21
NEW JERSEY - Representatives Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) and Bill Pascrell (NJ-09) today issued the following statement on Chairwoman Maxine Waters’s draft National Flood Insurance Program reauthorization. The proposal adopts the same cap on premium rate increases that Pallone and Pascrell included in their bipartisan flood insurance legislation last Congress.

“When it comes to our nation’s flood insurance policies, no one has worked harder than our friend and colleague Chairwoman Maxine Waters. We

are deeply grateful that she incorporated a major component of our bill to include the nine percent cap on premium rate increases, marking a significant step toward our shared goal of an affordable and stable National Flood Insurance Program. Our constituents in New Jersey know all too well that a fair flood insurance program is critical for rebuilding in the wake of destructive storms. Protecting consumers from disastrous rate increases on the horizon with Risk Rating 2.0 and abuses of the claims process has been a longtime priority of ours. We look forward to continuing to

work with Chairwoman Waters on a long-term, comprehensive reauthorization that makes these important reforms. New Jerseyans deserve a long-term flood insurance program reauthorization that improves the program based on the realities our constituents experienced after major weather events like Superstorm Sandy.”

In March, Pallone and Pascrell wrote to Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas urging the National Flood Insurance Program’s Risk Rating 2.0 implementation be postponed until a lower premium cap is adopted.

Ads Sell! Call Carolyn!
732-896-4446

Dowdell Library Events

Press Release
SOUTH AMBOY — In May the chill in the air has been replaced with warm sunny afternoons, and all those April showers brought us plenty of May flowers. May is a great month to take a deep breath and appreciate the people and places we surround ourselves with, and at the Dowdell Library, we are doing just that.

The library kicks off the month celebrating Children's Book Week, which is the annual celebration of books for young people and inspires the joy of reading. This year the theme is "Reading is a Superpower." Check Dowdell.org and the library’s social media pages for fun activities for young readers as well as book recommendations.

Ms. Maryanne delights us with a new storytime this month all about gardening. Come along and listen and watch while she reads a story about the surprises of growing a garden. She would also love to see how your Mother's Day flower craft from April is growing. Please send in a picture of your flower to comments@dowdell.org. You can find all our virtual programs on YouTube by searching Sadie Pope Dowdell Library or find links on our website, Dowdell.org.

We have new extended hours! Every Monday we will open at 10 am! Feel free to stop in to grab a book, make copies, send a fax, or use one of our computers. While you are here, check out our virtual program schedule or learn about our vast library of online resources! As we steadily move towards more regular hours, safety is still our number one concern. We base our operating decisions on the CDC's and our State guidelines, as well as approval from our Library Board of Directors. To ensure your safety, all our services are staff-assisted. Computers may be used for one hour and are disinfectected after each use. We can't wait to say HI!

Sign up to take a free virtual health workshop through the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. The hospital will offer several classes in May, including Stroke Prevention a three-part mini-series, Stretch it! A mobility workshop, Stress Reduction, Keys to Reducing Chronic Inflammation and Never Ignore Your Feet! The one-hour sessions will start at 1:00 pm, and you must be pre-registered. For more information, visit Dowdell.org or to pre-register, please email kathleen.johnson@rwjrh.org.

Looking ahead to June, the Dowdell Library is presenting a World Ocean Day (June 8) program on our YouTube Channel. “The Adventures of Fred the Fish” is presented by Director Gaber. Just log onto: Dowdell.org. Our ocean – Our planet – Our future!

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 10am-5pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 12-5pm and Thursday 12-5pm and 6-8pm.

Woodbridge Public Library Events

Free Virtual Events - All are Welcome to Attend

April 20 | 7PM
Keeping Houseplants and Their Gardeners Happy
This presentation will discuss the unique needs of houseplants and the best practices for a thriving in-home garden. Registration Required - https://bit.ly/3t8HKpZ

April 23 | 1PM
529 College Savings Plans: Simply the Smart Way to Save for College
This webinar will discuss the challenges that students today are facing when it comes to paying for college while focusing on the features and benefits of one option in particular, the 529 Plan. Registration Required - https://bit.ly/2OE6YP

April 23 | 3PM
Mystery/Thriller Book Club
Join us virtually for a discussion of Lost You by Haylen Beck. Registration Required - https://bit.ly/3s3ROk5

April 27 | 7PM
Criminal Minds: Killer Handwriting
Covering some of the most high-profile cases using handwriting specimens of killers to show their behaviors with some stunning outcomes of the situations that may surprise history buffs. Registration Required - https://bit.ly/2O9yNhH

Try our new app, WPL on the Go! Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!
For more information, call 732-634-4450 ext. 7120 www.woodbridgelibrary.org

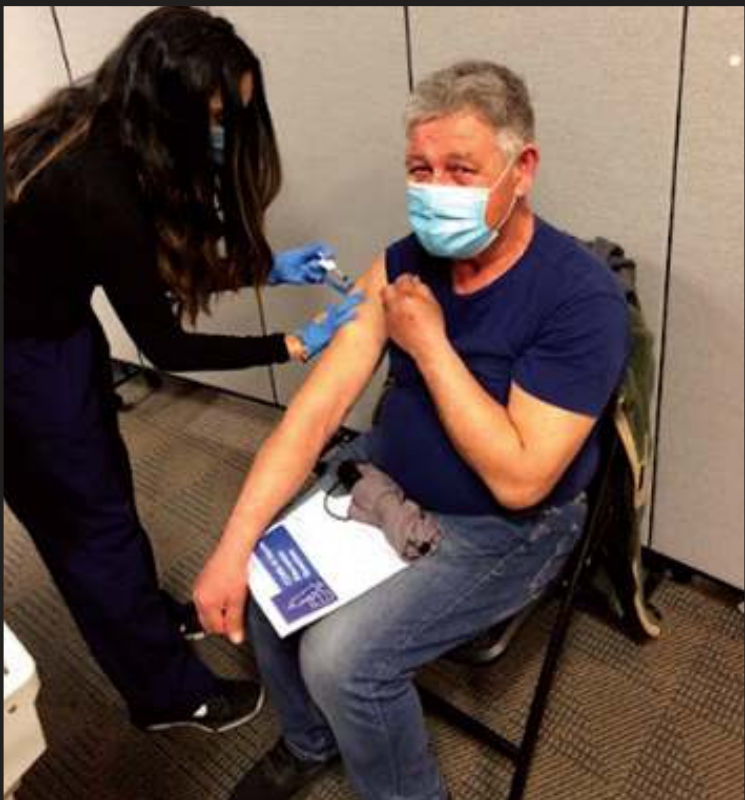
Pallone Applauds President Biden’s Executive Order
Pausing Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing
In a letter to Biden, Pallone Leads Call for Permanent Ban on New Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling

Press Release 4/8/21
WASHINGTON, DC — Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) today led a letter to President Joe Biden, applauding the Executive Order that pauses new leasing for offshore oil and gas drilling on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Representatives Salud Carbajal, Jared Huffman, Alan Lowenthal, Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Donald McEachin also led the letter which was signed by 47 additional Members of Congress. The lawmakers lauded the pause as an important first step toward preventing billions of dollars in damage from climate change and oil spill disasters.

“As you know, our coastal communities depend upon healthy ocean ecosystems. Accordingly, protection of the roughly 3.3 million American jobs and \$250 billion in GDP through activities such as fishing, recreation, and tourism is vital. Dirty and dangerous offshore drilling and its increased emissions are fueling the climate crisis and threaten already vulnerable frontline communities and wildlife,” the lawmakers wrote. “Protecting all unleased areas of the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf is critical to avoiding even worse impacts of climate change. Permanently protecting these regions would prevent over 19 billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions and more than \$720 billion in damage to people, property, and the environment. Simply put, we cannot afford more drilling and unchecked climate pollution. By taking this step and investing in clean energy, we can advance ambitious and durable climate action that protects coastal economies, creates jobs, and benefits all Americans.”

Pallone has been a longtime advocate of an offshore drilling ban. In the early days of the Biden Administration, Pallone called for a permanent offshore drilling ban as the world transitions to a clean energy economy. In January 2019, he introduced the COAST Anti-Drilling Act that would ban offshore drilling in the Atlantic. In April 2019, he wrote to Secretary David Bernhardt at the Department of Interior in the Trump Administration to ask him to permanently abandon plans to conduct offshore oil and gas exploration.

Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy Has Partnered with The City of Perth Amboy to Vaccinate Teachers, City Employees and Seniors



PERTH AMBOY - John Evangelou, from Edward J. Patten Elementary School receives his vaccine from Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy

Press Release 4/7/21
PERTH AMBOY, N.J — Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy has partnered with the City of Perth Amboy to vaccinate all teachers, city employees and seniors.

“Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic we have been committed to serving the Perth Amboy community,” said Thomas G. Shanahan, president, chief hospital executive; Raritan Bay Medical Center. “Partnering with the City of Perth Amboy, we have already vaccinated over 700 teachers, city employees and seniors, and continuing to vaccinate more each day as supply increases.”

“We are working extremely hard to overcome vaccine accessibility through determined advocacy from our legislators and vaccine hesitancy with a city wide campaign to turn the tides of this pandemic,” stated Perth Amboy Mayor Helmin Caba. “I am thankful for the partnership with Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy and Middlesex County legislators working together for our residents.”

Raritan Bay Medical Center began administering COVID-19 vaccines in December 2020, starting with frontline team members who heroically cared for thousands of COVID-19 patients. To pre-register for a vaccine within the Hackensack Meridian Health network, click here.



Journey to the Cross

PERTH AMBOY - YOU'RE INVITED - We invite you to join us for "Journey to the Cross" a meditative guided prayer-walk. We hope the afternoon's event will give you space to reflect on the events of Jesus’ crucifixion, and, in that, you find it unique in a meaningful way.

Saturday, May 1, downstairs in Nanassy Hall 2-4 p.m.
Experience displays invoking:

- 1) The Garden
- 2) Betrayed by Judas
- 3) Condemned by Pilate
- 4) Denied by Peter
- 5) Whipped and Mocked
- 6) Nailed to the Cross
- 7) It is Finished
- 8) Buried in a tomb
- 9) Letting Go
- 10) Communion

Why do we do this? In this rushing world, we would like to give people an opportunity to stop and meditate over the essence of Easter, and the Salvation that Jesus brought. We extend an invitation to those who don't have a church to worship with us in the future.

Magyar Reformed Church, 331 Kirkland Place, Perth Amboy, NJ, 732-442-7799. Free parking in the church parking lot behind the church accessible via Wilson Street.

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 Paris on April 19, 1946, votes 309-249 to adopt a constitution for France’s Fourth Republic. A referendum is scheduled for May 5. In the U.S., President Truman asks Americans to live on a low-calorie, European diet twice a week, saying that “millions will surely die unless we eat less.”

While awaiting his war-crimes trial in Shanghai, China, Gen. Rikichi Andō, the former Japanese governor-general of Taiwan, on April 20 kills himself in his prison cell by ingesting poison. The Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry — a bi-national panel of diplomats, scholars and politicians — issues its report that recommends allowing up to 100,000 Jewish Holocaust survivors from Europe to emigrate into British Mandatory Palestine. The report, however, urges barring the establishment of a Jewish state there.

In the Soviet occupation zone of Germany, some 2,000 representatives of the Communist and Socialist parties vote on April 21 to merge into the Socialist Unity Party. The party’s membership will number over one million, and it will go on to become the governing political party of the German Democratic Republic from its founding in 1949 to the party’s dissolution in 1989. In the U.S., the Columbia Broadcasting System announces that it has successfully tested the transmission of color television over coaxial cables between New York City and Washington, D.C.

Harlan Fiske Stone, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, dies at 73 on April 22. Stone, who became chief justice in 1941, is delivering a dissenting opinion in the Supreme Court when he suffers the onset of a stroke. He dies later that night. In Massachusetts, 28-year-old Navy veteran John F. Kennedy, son of former U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain Joseph P. Kennedy, announces his intention to run for the U.S. House of Representatives.

The French protectorate over Laos is reestablished on April 23. Piaggio & C. SpA files for a patent in Florence, Italy, for an inexpensive, new type of motor scooter. Inventor Enrico Piaggio calls it a Vespa because the high whine of its engine reminds him of the sound of a wasp (the Italian word for which is “*vespa*”). Highly acclaimed musical conductor Arturo Toscanini arrives in Italy from the U.S. (to which he fled to escape Mussolini’s Fascists) to conduct a concert celebrating the re-opening of Teatro alla Scala opera house, in Milan. As a condition of his performance, scheduled for May, he demands that all Jewish musicians who lost their jobs at the opera house in 1938 be reinstated, as well as those who had been fired for opposing fascism. Elsewhere in Milan, admirers of Benito Mussolini steal the remains of the Fascist dictator from an unmarked pauper’s grave in a Milan cemetery. Domenico Leccisi and two accomplices mark the first anniversary of *Il Duce’s* death by digging up his body and passing it to two monks, who re-bury it in a nearby monastery. The theft sparks a nationwide manhunt for the thieves and the corpse. The body is found 16 weeks later and reinterred in a secret location by authorities. (Eleven years later, Mussolini’s remains are dug up yet again, and re-buried at Predappio, Mussolini’s birthplace in northeastern Italy.)

Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, the chief of naval operations, on April 24 orders the establishment of the Blue Angels precision-flying team. Nimitz and other Navy officials say that the super-trained unit and its dazzling displays of flight maneuvers will be invaluable in attracting young and talented recruits into the Navy and Air Force. In the U.S.S.R., the Soviet military unveils two new fighter jets — the MiG-9 and the Yak-15.

The foreign ministers of the “Big Four” countries convene on April 25 in the Luxembourg Palace in Paris to work out peace treaties with the allies of Nazi Germany. In Mandatory Palestine, Jews raid a British military camp near Tel Aviv, killing seven and carrying off arms. The British respond by arresting and detaining 1,200 people over the next several days.

On April 26, 1946, Chinese Communist troops take over the port city of Harbin — the tenth largest in China — without incident as the Soviet Red Army evacuates the city.

Lt. Gen. Shempei Fukuei, tried and found guilty of war crimes at a tribunal in Singapore, is executed on April 27 by an Australian Army firing squad. Fukuei was convicted of inhumanely confining 17,000 Australians and Britons in facilities built for far fewer than those numbers. The sentence is carried out on the exact spot where he had ordered the execution of two Australian and two British POWs caught filling water bottles against rules. Fukuei’s last word is “*banzai!*” In the U.S., the first radar unit is installed aboard a commercial ship, the Great Lakes freighter *John T. Hutchinson*.

On April 28, Kazue Nagai becomes the first Japanese war bride to marry an American serviceman. The paperwork permitting her marriage to U.S. Army Air Forces Sgt. Frederick Katz in Tokyo requires 29 endorsements by U.S. military officials up to and including Gen. of the Army Douglas MacArthur. Nagai and Katz first met in a park in Tokyo.

The International Military Tribunal for the Far East (also known as the Tokyo War Crimes Trial) convenes in Tokyo on April 29. Former Japanese prime ministers Hideki Tojo (1941–44), Kiichirō Hiranuma (1939), Kōki Hirota (1936–37) and Kuniaki Koiso (1944–45) and 24 co-defendants are indicted for war crimes ranging from the murder of thousands of Americans at Pearl Harbor, to conspiracy “to secure military, naval, political and economic domination of the whole world.” All the surviving members of Tojo’s cabinet are included in the 55-count indictment.

In Washington, D.C., Congress — just two months prior to the Philippines becoming independent of the U.S. — on April 30 passes the Bell Trade Act that specifies trade policy between the two countries. The Act mandates: preferential tariffs on U.S. products imported into the Philippines, a fixed exchange rate between the currencies of the two countries, no restrictions on currency transfers from the Philippines to the U.S., and “parity rights” granting U.S. citizens and corporations access to Philippines natural resources equal to that of Philippines citizens.

In the U.K., a prototype National Health Service is approved by a large majority in Parliament on May 1, 1946. Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery is named supreme commander of the British Armed Forces. The Paris Peace Conference concludes that the islands of the Dodecanese should be returned to Greece by Italy.

“The Battle of Alcatraz” begins on May 2 — a three-day siege following an unsuccessful break-out attempt by prisoners at the federal penitentiary in San Francisco Bay. Six inmates, led by bank robber Bernard Coy, initially take nine guards hostage and capture weapons. Upon their failure to escape, one of the plotters — inmate Joe Cretzer — shoots the nine hostages (to prevent them from identifying the perpetrators) but eight survive. Over the next two days, Cretzer, Coy and one other would-be escapee are shot and killed within the cell block, as is another guard among those trying to quell the disturbance. By the time order is restored on May 4, five people are dead. Two inmates are later executed for their part in the plot, and one receives a life sentence.

John Theurer Cancer Center Investigators Celebrate New Personalized Cell Therapy to Give Patients with Advanced Multiple Myeloma Hope

Expands Options for Patients Unsuccessful with Other Treatments

Press Release 4/8/21

HACKENSACK, N.J., April 8, 2021 — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently approved a new CAR-T therapy called idecabtagene vicleucel (ide-cel), or Abecma. It’s the first personalized cell therapy to treat patients with multiple myeloma no longer responsive to all standard previous types of therapy. This new therapy was assessed in the pioneering phase II clinical KarMMA trial, at Hackensack Meridian John Theurer Cancer Center at Hackensack Meridian Hackensack University Medical Center.

Idecabtagene vicleuce is the first approved patient-specific cell therapy, or CAR-T treatment, that targets a protein called B-cell maturation antigen (BCMA) found in malignant plasma cells. It is approved as a one-time infusion, customized using a patient’s own T-cells, which are collected and genetically modified, and infused back into the patient. Once injected back into the patient, the re-engineered immune cells seek and destroy BCMA-containing cells.

Multiple myeloma is a type of blood cancer that affects the plasma cells located in the bone marrow, which play an important role in the body’s immune system. Multiple myeloma can manifest in many different ways, including broken bones, anemia, kidney problems and infections. The number of new cases of myeloma has steadily increased over the last three decades in the US and globally, with only half of this increase attributable to an aging population factor; and there are over 30,000 Americans who develop multiple myeloma cancer in the US every year.

David S. Siegel, MD, PhD, one of the nation’s foremost authorities on multiple myeloma is founding Director of the Multiple Myeloma Institute at John Theurer Cancer Center and

principal investigator at Hackensack Meridian Hackensack University Medical Center for the ide-cel KarMMA trial.

“Patients with multiple myeloma are in critical need of new therapies after attempting traditional treatments unsuccessfully,” explained Siegel. “The approval of idecabtagene vicleucel as the first CAR-T cell therapy in Multiple Myeloma means we can offer hope to patients, many of whom have no other option.”

The results of the study were reported earlier this year in the New England Journal of Medicine, co-authored by Dr. Siegel entitled “Idecabtagene vicleucel in Relapsed and Refractory Multiple Myeloma,” showing that out of 128 patients who received idecabtagene vicleucel, 94 (73%) had a positive response with 42 (33%) of those patients having a complete response.

“This approval opens a new chapter for patients with relapsed or refractory myeloma,” said Andre Goy, M.D., Physician-in-chief of oncology services, Hackensack Meridian Health and Chair of John Theurer Cancer Center, “At JTCC, we are grateful to be at the forefront of novel therapies development such as ide-cel. This not only expands treatment options in a very difficult situation for myeloma patients who have exhausted all other therapies, but we are also looking in ongoing trials at incorporating ide-cel including earlier in the course of the disease. We are very proud that our myeloma program at JTCC, together with the best institutions in the country, has been leading the efforts of all novel therapies approved in myeloma for the last three decades!”

Hackensack Meridian’s John Theurer Cancer Center is part of the NCI-designated George-town Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center.

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!

Explore Career Pathways, Browse the Catalog, Find a Job! Bonus: Visit the Industry Certification page to choose from 130+ Certifications (Exam Fee May Apply)

Register Today at www.middlesexcountynj.gov

- Free of Charge
- Manage your own online training
- Flexible, self-paced learning of essential workplace skills
- Courses to train for industry-recognized certifications
- Pass courses with 80% or higher to earn a completion certification
- Download and print your completion certificates
- Certifications for your resume that provide new interview talking points
- Professional development



Now Law: Democrat-Sponsored Legislation to Improve New Jersey’s Response to Sexual Assault Cases

Bill Package Sponsored by Vainieri Huttle, McKnight, Reynolds-Jackson, Murphy, Jasey, Timberlake, Lopez, Quijano & Speight Signed Into Law

Press Release 4/19/21
TRENTON – Aiming to improve New Jersey’s response to sexual assault cases, a bill package sponsored by several Assembly Democrats to provide support to victims, enhance reporting and communication, increase sexual assault/harassment training for professionals, and more was signed into law Monday.

“We often stress the importance of believing survivors. This package seeks to lay out the framework for not only believing survivors, but supporting and hearing them,” said Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttle (D-Bergen), first prime sponsor of each bill in the package. “These laws will create space for survivors to speak their truth to receive the support and respect they rightfully deserve. This package is about ensuring that our avenues to justice are safe and fair for survivors when they decide to seek recourse and justice.”

The package is comprised of several laws addressing different aspects of the issue. One law (formerly bill A-4884/S-3070)

will establish a ‘Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program’ involving survivors to help restore a sense of control and independence, uphold principles of autonomy and emphasize outcomes essential to the healing process of survivors.

“Sexual violence is unfortunately far too prevalent in our society, affecting at least one in every five women and one in 71 men,” said Assemblywoman Angela McKnight (D-Hudson). “With so many survivors in our state, we must make sure we provide them with the support they need to recover from their experience and take control of their lives.”

Similarly, another law (formerly bill A-4886/S-3072) will require certain information be given to victims of sexual assault, such as details pertaining to their rights, the criminal justice process, available mental health services, and how to get in touch with relevant law enforcement and advocacy contacts.

“It takes a lot of strength to work towards recovering from a traumatizing assault on one’s own body,” said Assembly-

woman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (D-Mercer, Hunterdon). “Having access to state resources and the support of fellow survivors throughout that process can make all the difference.”

“Reporting a sexual assault to the authorities and pursuing a case against the attacker can be a very stressful and complicated process,” said Assemblywoman Carol Murphy (D-Burlington). “Arming survivors with information about how it all works, how to obtain updates on their case and most importantly – how to access mental health and advocacy services – will help make the challenging process a little easier.”

Victims will be allowed to receive notification of the prosecutor’s decision regarding whether or not to file charges against an alleged perpetrator under former bill A-4887/S-3073.

“Victims deserve the right to know whether charges will be brought against an attacker,” said Assemblywoman Mila Jasey (D-Essex, Morris). “If the case will not be tried by the prosecutor, knowing that decision can allow victims to take

steps to avoid their abuser and seek emotional support.”

“Choosing to press charges against one’s rapist is a challenging and very personal decision each survivor must make for themselves,” said Assemblywoman Timberlake (D-Essex, Passaic). “Finding ways to make the process more accommodating for the women and men who have been the victims of this terrible crime can help make that choice easier and hopefully begin to bring more perpetrators to justice.”

Additional laws will require law enforcement to allow victims of sexual assault to review and submit corrections regarding their initial police statement (former bill A-4885/S-3071) and require the Attorney General to audit sexual assault cases and issue an annual report on them (former bill A-4888/S-3074).

“It is critical that sexual assault reporting is thoroughly reviewed and as accurate as possible,” said Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez (D-Middlesex). “Giving victims the opportunity to request corrections of their initial police statement will help

guarantee more factual reporting, while an annual audit and report on sexual assault cases in New Jersey will help give us a clearer picture of sexual violence throughout our state.”

Prosecutors will be required to complete sexual assault training under former bill A-4890/S-3076 while former bill A-4889/S-3075 will establish a sexual violence liaison officer in state and local police departments.

“Having someone specifically trained in sexual assault cases who can serve as an advisor and point-of-contact for law enforcement will help ensure these cases are handled with the right protocols and sensitivity they require,” said Assemblywoman Annette Quijano (D-Union).

“Sexual assault cases require a thorough understanding of the matter and a careful approach,” said Assemblywoman Shanique Speight (D-Essex). “Creating a liaison officer will help ensure victim’s cases are properly handled.”

Middlesex County’s Otlowski Center for Mental Health Care Adapts to Offer Critical Services During the Pandemic

Center Offers Key Mental Wellness Tips in Light of Mental Health Awareness Month in May

Press Release 4/12/21
MIDDLESEX COUNTY – The George J. Otlowski, Sr. Center for Mental Health Care is one of the last community mental health facilities in the State of New Jersey, and during the COVID-19 pandemic it has continued to operate without disruption, providing critical services to the community. In fact, it expanded its staff of more than 45 licensed mental health professionals to meet the growing needs of Middlesex County residents in this uncertain time. Like many organizations, the Center pivoted to provide seamless services by digitizing its intake forms; offering extensive telehealth services — including therapy sessions, medication management services, psychiatric evaluations, and more; offering a comprehensive list of financial resources; and creating a dedicated COVID-19 support group. With the pandemic still raging on in the country and around the world, the crisis is adversely affecting the mental health of every resident in the community – and the Otlowski Center is available to help.

“Besides the core CDC guidelines for COVID-19 safety, what’s equally important to be mindful of is our mental health during this ongoing pandemic,” said Ronald G. Rios, Director of the Board of County Commissioners. “While we know social distancing and other rules are keeping us safe, it is also impeding on our human need to feel connected, and this lack of connection is starting to impact individuals in a number of

ways. The services offered by the Otlowski Center are crucial during this time. The Board of County Commissioners continues to fund and prioritize mental health care in our County.”

In light of Mental Health Awareness Month in May, the Otlowski Center recommends the following key tips to support mental health:

1. Find time to disconnect from day-to-day life. This includes simply disconnecting digitally, as the pandemic has forced everyone to be digitally tethered. Instead, read an adventurous book, take a walk in the park — preferably one that is different, try a new recipe, start coloring – anything to break your routines.
2. Connect with family and friends any way you can. Distance makes the heart grow fonder, but not during a pandemic. It is important that people find new ways to connect with family and friends – if there’s Zoom fatigue, try writing letters or sending postcards via the U.S. Postal Service. Writing letters is a lost art and the anticipation of receiving letters is exciting.
3. Avoid social media. Social media can be misleading not only because of people posting exaggerated lifestyles, but also because fake news and hearsay are rampant. During this COVID-19 crisis, it is imperative that residents get news and information from credible sources such as major newspapers to stay educated and empowered.
4. Set clear boundaries from work. Working from home has helped keep employees safe but

it has also blurred the lines between work life and home life, making people feel they are “always on.” It is key for workers to set boundaries, making a clear break from work by shutting down work-related technology (if possible) at the end of the workday and beginning their home life.

5. Treat yourself. The pandemic has asked a lot of people. From helping elderly loved ones to homeschooling small children, everyone has been asked to give more of themselves to others. It is key that individuals focus on self-care, which can come in many forms. Whether it is doing something nice for oneself (e.g., a relaxing bubble bath, online shopping, etc.); exercising; just getting some alone time; or taking care of one’s health by visiting doctors for regular check-ups – thinking of oneself should not be confused with being selfish.

“No one is immune to mental health issues, whether you suffer from a serious, chronic illness or are experiencing periodic anxiety from the daily stress of COVID-19,” said Jim Cunningham, Executive Director, George J. Otlowski, Sr. Center for Mental Health Care. “At our Center we are fighting to end the stigma of mental health in New Jersey. We have seen individuals seeking assistance for COVID-19 burnout who had never sought out mental healthcare services prior to the pandemic, it is affecting everyone. And we want the community to know we are here to

provide much-needed hope and guidance to navigate these difficult times.”

“Mental health is crucial to our overall well-being, and the Board of County Commissioners recognizes the importance of providing necessary services to our community to ensure they have a place to go when in personal crisis or in need of psychological consultation,” said Clary Azcona-Barber, County Commissioner and Chair of Community Services Committee. “The County has championed and supported the Otlowski Center since its inception, and we will continue to commit funds and resources to enhance its services.”

The George J. Otlowski, Sr. Center for Mental Health Care is a comprehensive community mental health center sponsored by the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners. The more than 50-year-old Center has an Outpatient Department,

Partial Care Program, and Medical Unit. They offer treatment for a wide range of emotional disorders, including anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, marital and family issues, and other problems related to daily life. The Center serves Middlesex County residents ages 5 and up. The staff consists of experienced mental health and substance abuse professionals, including social workers, psychologists, professional counselors, rehabilitation counselors, psychiatrists, and nurses. In October 2019, the Otlowski Center partnered with Hackensack Meridian Health to enhance its management, provide more coordinated care and robust services as part of the network’s comprehensive strategy to improve behavioral health care throughout New Jersey.

For more information and for mental health services, please call 732-442-1666 ext. 2089.

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.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Call Carolyn @ 732-896-4446

New Plans for the Service Directory Effective 1/1/16 Are Now in Effect. If You Offer a Service, the Place to Advertise is Here! Catering, Auto Repair, Heating, Plumbing, Home Health Aides, Landscaping, Snow Removal, Dry Cleaning, Chauffeuring, Exterminators, Hall Rentals, Insurance, Delivering Services, Hair Stylists, Photography, Counseling, WebSite Design, Computer Repair etc.

Call For the Plan Which Will Best Suit Your Needs.

732-896-4446

Classified Ads

Please Notify Us Immediately After Your Item is Sold!
Email: AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

Please Note: Only One Classified Ad per Phone# will be published per week. If you already have a classified ad in the paper and another is sent, the new one will replace the one that's already published

Please Include Prices of Items on Classified's or They will not be Published

For Sale: Danish Style Table	For Sale	For Sale
Danish Style Table - 2 leafs stored in table - 6 chairs - \$300 - 732-634-3589	Advertising Fence Enclosure - Heavy Duty 10 ft. \$25 - 732-442-1093	Tires - Firestone M&S LT275170R 18 Two \$10 Each 732-727-1772
Help Wanted: Housekeeper / Laundress	Sayreville Bombers 14 KT Charm - \$75 in Box; can add Specialty Sport Charm, etc. - 732-525-2405	Lawn Mower - Sears - Self Propelled Mulcher - no bag 6.75 HP - \$45 732-727-5056
F/T - Catholic Church residence & Parish office in Edison, NJ. Position available immediately. Competitive salary based on experience. Contact: Sharon Salinas 732-738-7940 Ext. 12	Movano Watch SS Museum Style Mint Condition \$75 Firm. 732-540-5351 3/4 Size Acoustic Guitar. Good for young child - \$50. 732-541-5491	Budweiser Collector's Series Clydesdales Steins 7-Different \$70 for all - 732-727-8417
For Sale	Brand New Electric Heater Radiator. Was \$65 Now \$20 New Never Used. 732-547-7406	Powerlift for motorcycle \$75 - must pick up. Please call 732-738-7074
Weslo Tread Mill \$40 - LP's CD's, DVD's, \$10 Each 732-261-4703	Solid Oak Coffee Table \$75; Oak End Table \$50 732-570-9732	Dining Hutch - Wood - Good Condition \$50 - Self Pick-up 732-826-6324
Electric Husky Power Washer 1750psi - Good Condition \$75 - 732-277-4635	Infrared Quartz Heater w/ remote - \$25 - Weslo Exercise Bike \$25 - 732-583-2305	Free Firewood. Must pick up and cart away. 732-826-8024
Umbrella - Patio, needs cord and iron stand. \$30 - 732-283-0975	Safe Combination 21" High 13 1/2" wide on wheels \$75 732-634-1851	LP's Cassettes, CD's DVD's \$1.00 each; Radio, CD \$20 - 732-887-2235
Dyson Vacuum Cleaner Mint Condition \$45 - 732-290-1551	Gold Carnival Glass Collector Plate (5 th Day of Christmas) \$25 732-673-6305	Girl's Bicycle 24" Panasonic LX Sport Twelve Speed. Light Blue. \$75 or B.O. 908-501-3993
GPS Tom Tom - 3 pcs Stereo System - Dog Bed \$65 ea. 732-293-0151	Portable Sears Sewing Machine - 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
1 Large Christmas Tree \$25; 1 Small \$15; Lounge Chair \$15 - 732-297-4457	Custom Jewelry \$5-\$10; Sled \$25; Sports Memorabilia \$10; Dream Catcher Cane \$15 - 732-713-0536	Power Lift \$75. Wing Chairs, Sofa, End Tables, Lamps, Microwave \$10-\$50 - 908-803-9623
Older New Toy Trucks Sunoco, Exxon, Mobil Hess \$20 Each or B.O. - 732-316-5092	Gold Chandelier - Six Lights - Excellent Condition - \$30 - 732-721-7186	Children's Sports Lamp w/shade. Really cute, BB, FB, Etc. Large \$20 - 917-670-4908
Pancake Air Compressor 3 Gal 100 PSI \$30 - 732-395-1551 - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.		

Tell Our Advertisers

YOU SAW IT IN



To Place Your Classified:


First 10 Words \$6.50

5 Weeks for \$30

Each additional word over 10 words 30¢

Tel: _____

Send check or money order (no cash), include your name and telephone, to: THE AMBOY GUARDIAN,
P.O. Box 127 • PERTH AMBOY • NJ 08862



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

Prayer To Blessed Mother

Prayer To Blessed Virgin

St. Jude Novena

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

For Employment

Prayer To Holy Spirit

Thanksgiving Novena

Pray The Rosary

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 St. Jude

Novena To St. Anthony

Novena To St. Joseph

OTHER _____

¡Aplica hoy!
www.aulcs.org



**ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP
CHARTER SCHOOL**

Una escuela pública autónoma/ Matrícula gratuita

¡APLICACIONES 2021-2022 AHORA ABIERTAS! GRADOS: 7-12

LOTERÍA VIRTUAL SE REALIZARÁ EL MIÉRCOLES 19 DE MAYO DE 2021 A LAS 6 P.M.

Ofrecemos educación individualizada enfocada en el estilo de aprendizaje y la inteligencia múltiple de cada alumno



Aceptamos estudiantes de en todo el condado de Middlesex

Contáctenos para una visita escolar:
612 Amboy Avenue
Perth Amboy, Nueva Jersey 08861
T: 848-203-3742 F: 848-203-3948

- Periodos de Asesoramiento para soporte social y emocional
- Clubs basados en inteligencias múltiple
- Introducción y exploración de carreras
- Planes de aprendizaje personalizados
- Tutoría gratis después de la escuela
- Programas de 21ST Century de 4 pm - 6 pm

Ads Sell! *Call Carolyn!*
732-896-4446

Benson Statement on Transportation Budget Hearing

force in our public health and economic recovery.

“While this budget represents an improvement in moving away from NJTRANSIT’s total reliance on its capital budget to pay for operating expenses, it is still clear that a long-term strategy is needed to wean the agency off this practice. NJTRANSIT must identify long-term sustainable funding sources to ensure it can meet the goals outlined in its strategic plans.

“Commuters across New Jersey will be pleased to hear there are no expected fare increases for NJTRANSIT or toll increases on State highways planned in the coming year. This is welcome news for the tens of thousands of residents who use our

transportation infrastructure daily to get to work, school and home.

“Our challenge will be determining how to best manage growing capital needs across transportation agencies while transitioning to clean energy and green infrastructure, particularly the transition to electric vehicles and buses.

“As chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee, I’m committed to ensuring this year’s State Budget emphasizes fiscal responsibility, sensible use of federal aid, and long-term sustainability for our transportation agencies.”



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.

Prayer to St. Jude

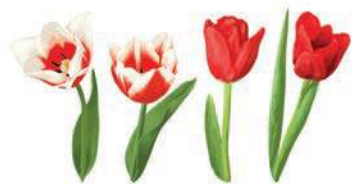
To be said when problems arise or when one seems to be deprived of all visible help, or for cases almost despaired of.
Most holy Apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered our beloved Father into the hands of His enemies has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes you universally, as the patron and invokes you universally, as the patron of hopeless cases, of things almost despaired of. Pray for me, I am so helpless and alone. Make use I implore you, of that particular privilege given to you, to bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolation and help of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations and sufferings, particularly *(Here make your request)* and that I may praise God with you and all the elect forever. I promise, O blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, to always honor you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you. Amen.
Thank you, Saint Jude I.S.

Novena to St. Joseph

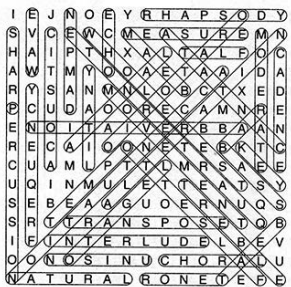
Glorious St. Joseph, foster-father and protector of Jesus Christ! To you do I raise my heart and hands to implore your powerful intercession. Please obtain for me from the kind Heart of Jesus the help and graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare. I ask particularly for the grace of a happy death, and the special favor I now implore *(name it)*. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel animated with confidence that your prayers in my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God.
O glorious St. Joseph, through the love you bear to Jesus Christ, and for the glory of His name.
Hear my prayers and obtain my petitions. *F.H.*

A.C. Bus Trip
San Salvador Seniors
PERTH AMBOY - The San Salvador Seniors are sponsoring a bus trip to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Thursday, May 6, 2021. Bus will depart from behind St. Stephen's Church (St. John Paul II) Parking Lot on Mechanic Street, Perth Amboy at 12 Noon. Cost: \$30 per person; \$20 back in slot play For more information, call Joe at 732-826-0819. Masks are required to be worn on the bus.

Remember to
Say Your
Novenas!



Answers
From Puzzle
On Page 17



LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY – Acme Super Market located on Maple Street. Acme Super Market was referenced many times in Looney Tunes Cartoons as the place to buy everything.
**Photo Courtesy of Perth Amboy Free Public Library*
This photo was restored under a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission to the Kearny Cottage Historical Association.

Pets of the Week

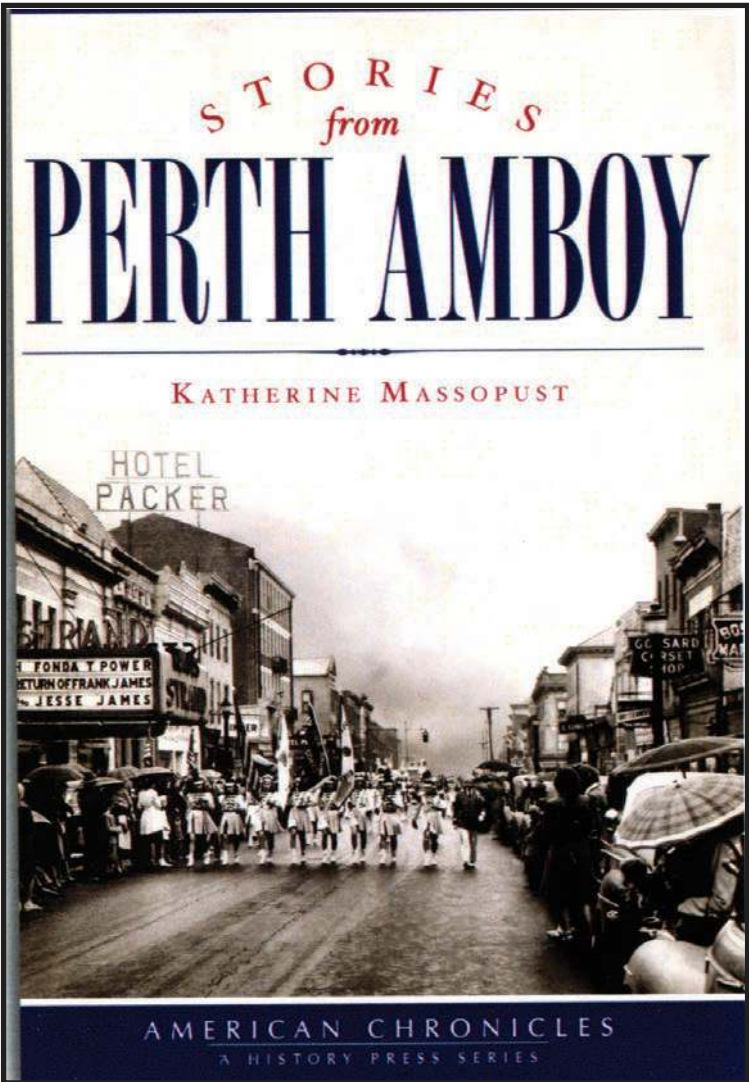


Nash (Black Giant Schnauzer) (L) and Tobias (Parti Minature Schnauzer) (R) are both very special and brighten my day every time I see them. They love to play outdoors and go on hikes. Love, Jack

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.



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.



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!



Mabner Terron
Realtor/Agent



***Congratulations to
Mabner Terron
for being the #1 Agent
for the Month of March***



329 SMITH STREET • PERTH AMBOY
(732) 442-1400 • (732) 442-1480 fax

The Real Estate Team With Dedication, Vision and Results!

**FOR MORE OF OUR FEATURED LISTINGS, PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.PETRABESTREALTY.COM**

**PETRA BEST REALTY WILL GET YOUR HOUSE SOLD FAST!!!
PLEASE CALL FOR FREE MARKET ANALYSIS!**



PERTH AMBOY - Great investment fully rented 4-family brick with nice green tile roof, updated boilers and hot water heaters, separate gas and electric, front and side entrances, side and rear fire escapes, this property is in good condition, but is to be sold strictly 'AS IS' condition. **\$564,900**



SOUTH AMBOY - Huge colonial featuring 4 bedrooms 2 full baths in the heart of South Amboy lots of rooms, very spacious very close to NYC Train and business district. needs some TLC. buyer is responsible for C of O. and repairs. Hurry!!! **\$359,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Desirable Hidden village Townhouse. 2 large bedrooms with access to large bathroom from both bedrooms. Separate Tub and shower stall. 1 & 1/2 bathrooms. 3 Balconies, one on each level. Enjoy maintenance free living. Large oversized 2 car garage. Close to Train Station, Hospital and Perth Amboy Downtown Area. Possibly need a Non- Warrantable Mortgage. Buyer must check with Bank/ Mortgage Company to see if financing is available. **\$237,500**



PORT READING - This home is well maintained and move in ready. Great location, close to major highways and shopping center, house features hardwood floor throughout. Furnace and water heater installed 3 months ago, a must see! Sold as is, Buyer is responsible for C/O and all repairs. Showing start 03/18/2021. **\$345,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Large single-family space won't be a problem in this huge 5-bedroom colonial, 3 baths make mornings very pleasant and easy, lots of off-street parking space, close to public transportation and grocery stores, needs some TLC, buyer is responsible for C of O and all repairs. Strictly AS IS condition. **\$339,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Beautifully updated 3rd floor unit. Bolsters 2bdms 2bthrms with stainless steel appliances. Minutes from Downtown Perth Amboy as well as close to ALL major modes of public transportation and major highways. **\$1,900 Rental**



PORT READING - House needs some workhouse. It's been sold strictly AS IS. Buyer responsible for C/O all inspections and repairs. **\$430,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Package deal 3 properties included in this price as well as 3,000Lb. bridge crane overhead spanning the width of the garage, one family rented for \$1,550.00, huge 2000sqft. warehouse space in the rear, 12ft. overhead doors lots of space, ideal for General contractors, Plumbers and Electricians and vacant land 50x100. this property has many possibilities. **\$569,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Beauty salon in business for more than 15 years, close to downtown waiting for new owner to star making money. **\$55,000**