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Unsafe Properties and Marijuana Laws Amongst Topics Discussed 3/22/21 Caucus

By: Carolyn Maxwell

PERTH AMBOY - The meeting was held at the City Council Chambers and via Zoom. All Council Members were present except for Councilman B.J. Torres who was present via Zoom.

Councilman Joel Pabon started off the meeting by asking for an update regarding Ordinance No. 3 – Acquisition of the property located at the corner of Amboy Avenue and Inslee Street known as 984 Amboy Avenue by exercise of the power of eminent domain.

William Opel who was substituting for Law Director William Northgrave said, “The other property on that street located at 990 Amboy Ave. will have a new closing on Friday. The property on 994 Amboy Ave. – we are putting in an initial offer.”

Fire Chief Ed Mullen then came up to add additional comments, “Currently, there is no need for an emergency demolition. Both properties will be fenced off. Right now, we are just working on the specifications that were needed for these buildings. The specs are being worked on.”

Pabon continued, “I can’t believe these buildings can’t be demolished now.”

Mullen responded, “Right now, it is not an emergency, but I will promise you that fencing will be available.”

Opel then added, “The other property in question has not any remediation done yet.”

Mullen then stated, “The property at 994 Amboy Ave. will have contaminants (due to what kind of business was operated there).”

Opel then concluded, “Remediation has to be done on those properties before any demolition can take place.”

Business Administrator Ed Remsen then explained why there was a big discrepancy on the contract for repairs on a cement dock at Harborside Marina Utility. “One company who applied had a cost of \$26,647 with additional work of \$2,836 (Bryco Inc.). The other company (J.E. Hannon Inc. t/a Bird Construction) that bid on this

work numbers were \$92,000 and an additional \$174,900.”

Business Administrator William Remsen explained, “With the Bryco Company, they have everything (all the tools) needed to do for this work. With J.E. Hannon, which has a much higher cost for their work is because they would subcontract some of the work out to other companies.”

Councilwoman Rose Morales said, “I feel that I will not be able to make a decision on this because there is no backup material.”

Remsen then promised he could get backup material for all the council members.

Joel Pabon then asked a question about this repair work, “Dock 4 and Replace walers at the Harborside Marina Utility. – For those who are unfamiliar what walers are. Can someone from the Marina explain what walers are.”

Frank Wilder from the Marina came on via Zoom, “With the Dock 4 repairs, we have to cut out the broken pieces of cement and put in hydraulic cement. Walers have to be removed, and parts placed on them before they are replaced. Work will take possibly up to 2 weeks to be completed.”

Walers are structural beams mounted flush to the deck of the unifloat concrete floating dock (source: Pilebuck Magazine 4/15/15).

Council President Petrick wanted to make sure that the work will be properly supervised.

Wilder responded, “I will check everything, and you should know that by now.”

Councilman Joel Pabon then had comments about Ordinance No. 1 – No public discussion – An ordinance to amend an ordinance entitled Zoning and Land Development re: Marijuana Regulations.

He stated, “We need to put something on paper. I don’t know where we are at (on this issue), but this is a start and people have a chance to look at it. Let the residents make the decision and notify us. I want to know where they stand on this

very important item.”

Council President William Petrick said, “Before Law Director Peter King left, we started working on an ordinance. It was stated that the sales of marijuana should not be sold at all. I sent out an email asking City Engineer Ernest Feist regarding land use when it comes to marijuana.”

City Engineer Feist spoke up via Zoom, “I did not get an email.”

Deputy Police Chief and OEM Director Larry Cattano spoke up and said, “There are different zones in the city regarding drug free zones.”

Petrick responded, “We need a map of all the city zones, especially drug free zones and I am asking the City Engineer Feist if he could do this. Each zone should be in different colors.”

Cattano responded, “Besides the schools, city parks are also included in drug free zones.”

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch then added, “You will have to amend the ordinance regarding drug free zones.”

Council President William Petrick then had a question regarding R-168-3/21 – amending R-440-1/21/20 – An interlocal service contract with the County of Middlesex for Health Department Services beginning January 1, 2021 and terminating December 31, 2021 amending the source of funding.

Petrick asked, “Are we getting the level of service that we need?”

B.A. Remsen responded, “We may need to look at this again. We should have a taskforce to see if this is worth renewing.”

Petrick then stated, “We were supposed to have a higher level of service.”

Councilman B.J. Torres responded, “We should have our own local health department. It may cost more, but it will be money well spent.”

Petrick then agreed with Remsen, “We need to look more closely at the contract.”

City Engineer Feist then told Councilman Petrick that Resolution R-169-3/21 – Release

**Continued on Page 8*

Fire Ravages 3 Perth Amboy Businesses on 3/30/21

**Photos by PAFD & Paul W. Wang*



From PAFD Facebook

PERTH AMBOY - On 3/30/21 at 0414, the Department was dispatched to 244 Smith St for a reported fire. Units quickly arrived to find a well-advanced fire involving 240, 242 & 244 Smith St with exposures to the right. The fire quickly escalated to 4 alarms as heavy fire spread throughout the businesses and roof. The fire took 3 hours to fully extinguish utilizing 3 elevated master streams and numerous handlines. There was one minor firefighter injury and no civilian injuries. The cause of the fire is under investigation by the PAFD and Middlesex County Fire Marshal’s Office. City units that responded were E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4, E-5, R-1, T-3, C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, C-5 & C-9. Mutual aid that assisted on scene were Hopelawn R-8, Keasbey 4-2-4, Sayreville E-3 & T-1, South Amboy E-6, Avenel Engine 5-1 & Woodbridge Engine 1-1.

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Councilwoman Dato Gives Strong Response to Target Attacks Against Asians, Ongoing Illegal Palate Operation Still a Problem, Proposed Project on Roosevelt Street Questioned

3/17/21 Council Meeting

By: Katherine Massopust
SOUTH AMBOY – The council approved the consent agenda. Council Comments: Vice-President Christine Noble and Councilman Brian McLaughlin wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Councilman Tom Reilly wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day. He thanked the food pantries and first responders. He then directed his attention to the illegal palate operation. "It is getting worse. I was there tonight. It is not going anywhere."

Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski stated that the palate operation was issued summonses and was in court.

Reilly insisted, "The pallets are sky high!" Reilly then asked about the status of the crack-down on illegal housing.

B.A. Skarzynski stated that there was no update, but he feels that great progress has been made.

Councilman Reilly then asked about the planned project on Roosevelt Street. "It's my ward."

B.A. Skarzynski answered Reilly, "The proposal is for a rental project. It is going through SARA (South Amboy Redevelopment Agency).

Reilly asked Councilwoman Zusette Dato for more information, "As far as I know, there has been no presentation to the Redevelopment Agency," stated Dato.

Reilly continued, "The people of that area are impacted have not been notified at all. My concern is about a PILOT."

Dato answered Reilly, "I found out from some people in Lighthouse (in the Second Ward) were advised. I was not the point person."

Reilly then asked, "Why can't we advertise to the entire town?"

Council President Mickey Gross then ended the conversation, "We are way ahead of ourselves. No one said anything about any PILOT! No one said anything!"

Reilly answered, "I want to know about it ahead of time."

Reilly then asked about the possibility of helping seniors with late water/sewer payment fees.

Law Director Francis Womack stated he would draft something up to be put before the council.

Councilwoman Zusette Dato

gave a strong statement against the targeting of Asian people. The Amboy Guardian reached out to Councilwoman Dato who provided her comments:

"As we have all heard recently there have been numerous vicious attacks against Asian people. Some of these attacks have resulted in serious injury and even death. National Public Radio reported a few days ago of an accomplished NY musician who was so severely attacked that he may never play again. Why was he the subject of the attack? Because his attackers thought he was Chinese. In fact, he is of Japanese origin. Another NY woman reported that as she walked down the street someone began to mutter "Covid, covid, covid" and then began to spit at her. Her 8-year-old son asked if they were going to be stabbed. Last night in Georgia a young man targeted Asian woman working in spas and five of them are now dead. Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, who is married to a Korean American woman, reports that his family has felt the sting of discrimination during the corona virus pandemic. This is horrible.

This spike in hate crimes aimed at our Asian population seems to have spiked shortly after references to the "China virus" and "kung fu flu" and other incendiary comments began to be heard. While COVID19 may have started in Wuhan, China the entire Asian population should not be blamed for the pandemic.

On Broadway here in South Amboy we have two Asian restaurants. During the dark days of COVID, I noticed that Hibachi Express was not open at all, not even take out. I think they were afraid to open, fearful perhaps that they would be targeted. To this day, I believe they are only offering take-out and delivery. I don't think they have reopened in person dining.

I find this very troubling. We are a city of inclusion and we do have a diverse population. On a positive note, we have an Asian police officer on our police force and in my opinion, this is a good thing as the Police Dept. should reflect the diversity of the community. As the daughter of a Puerto Rican mother and Ukrainian father, I applaud diversity and think America is great because we are a melting



Councilwoman
Zusette Dato

pot.
I bring this to your attention to ask that we all consider the importance of inclusion and protect all ethnicities so we can live together in harmony and peace.

That concludes my comments Council President."

Council President Mickey Gross wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day. "Get vaccinated!"

Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski stated, "I want to thank Asw. Lopez for her donation to our food pantry of 300 meals. Next week, the Lucas Family will supply 300 meals to the pantry. I would like to thank them, too." Skarzynski then stated, "There is a new program for rental assistance in the area. Happy St. Patrick's Day. Saturday is the first day of spring."

Law Director Francis Womack said, "I want to thank Councilwoman Dato. Our hearts go out to all of the victims." He then offered his condolences to the victims of the recent attack by two pitbulls in Carteret resulting in the death of a child.

Councilman Brian McLaughlin noted that the Lucas Brothers went to St. Mary's High School. "As a contractor who came over and did one or two jobs, they came out and donated. I was in Carteret today. They put money into their waterfront." McLaughlin stated that South Amboy should look into getting more money for the waterfront.

No one spoke at the public portion. The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m. All council members were present. Mayor Fred Henry was not in attendance due to a conflict.

Correction

PERTH AMBOY – In the 3/17/21 issue of the Amboy Guardian, on the Thomas Mundy Peterson Ad on Page 3, it incorrectly stated that Thomas Mundy Peterson was born in Perth Amboy. That is incorrect. Thomas Mundy Peterson was born in Metuchen. The Amboy Guardian regrets this error.





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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

The Strength in Faith



We hope that those who recently celebrated Easter and Passover were able to have an in-person visit with their families, friends and anyone close to them. I was watching several YouTube videos where people held very happy reunions with their loved ones due to the fact they felt more comfortable after being fully vaccinated. Even if you didn’t have a chance to get vaccinated, we hope by practicing precaution, you were able to have an in-person visit. Whether you are a religious person or not, it is soothing to your soul, at least in my case to have a hug instead having to wave to someone and blow kisses via Zoom. Zoom can never take place of a personal touch. Even when attending virtual events, it is not the same as being there. Remember why we celebrate Easter and Passover. There are people who suffer unimaginable hardships but still manage to see light at the end of the tunnel and persevere and fight to

overcome adversity. Yes, we all have our different coping mechanisms, and we can’t lump everyone into one box, but I know there are people far worse off than me and do not resort to a pity me attitude. I see the children in the St. Jude’s Hospital commercial who are suffering from cancer. They have gone through more at a young age than some people do in a lifetime. Some are shown comforting their parents and I refer to them as little warriors. Some people who you would think to be weak turn out to be the strongest. You never know what can happen until your back is against the wall. Whatever struggles you face, I hope that you find your own strength, or you have someone there to help you through your difficulties. That is our wish for each and every one of us. I am blessed that I have a strong support system, and I hope I am also to help others. C.M.

We Value Your Opinion!
Please Send Us A Response!



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THE COMMUNITY VOICE

I Need to See
Your Papers

Well get load of this! The CDC (Centers for Disease Control) gave us permission to travel across the United States if you got the Certificate of Vaccine papers. Last time you need-

Immigrants

Most folks who emigrate are very hard-working people who became a pleasant addition to our country yet there are always those who come there for the sole purpose of taking advantage of our system. Seems to

Prohibition
Laws

Over a century ago America passed a Prohibition Law to ban the sale and consumption of alcohol and eliminate the evils of drink. But this assumption proved faulty, and this law was abolished.

Decades ago, America passed the 1968 Gun Control Law. There were about 15,000 vio-

ed “Real ID” from your driver license or a passport. What a way to control you now. You need permission to go here and there in a free country. Sounds like this happened before when Hitler's people ruled Germany. Why don't they just brand you like they do to cattle before they

me we’ve a plethora of home-grown types of those already. I propose that every able-bodied male and female immigrant between the ages of 18 and 35 be made to serve in the military for two years as a way of proving themselves. Illegal immigrants should be sent back from

lent firearm deaths that year (suicides and murders). Over the next 25 years this number doubled. What was learned from this?

The October 2019 issue of ‘Discover’ magazine had a chart showing firearm death numbers. It did not link the figures to the economy or the politics of the times. If a law is passed to create a better society, but doesn’t work as promised, shouldn’t

The Political
Smoke and
Mirrors Behind
Recreational
Marijuana

Let’s set the record straight on recreational Cannabis. In November 2020, New Jersey and Perth Amboy voters alike, voted overwhelmingly to *de-criminalize* cannabis and allow for its recreational use. The bill, which was co-sponsored by our Honorable Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez, was largely sold to the voters as a mechanism to correct the archaic classification of the drug that has been shown to have medical benefits, and whose prosecution has had a disparate and discriminatory impact on minorities, people of color and those living in urban areas. In that vein, the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act released those held on marijuana related charges and set up an “automatic expungement” process to wipe records clean for those with marijuana records.

For many, including the law’s co-sponsor Assemblywoman Lopez, the social justice argument seems to have been a means or façade to her own greater personal ends. In exchange for her sponsorship of the bill, Lopez’s husband and longtime Verizon lobbyist Sam Delgado was appointed to the prestigious NJ’s Cannabis Regulatory Commission without

any expertise or qualifications for his appointment – this appointment pays the Assemblywoman’s husband a whopping \$125,000.00 a year!! Besides being a conflict of interest for our legislator, it confirms the backroom dealings amongst party political insiders using a governmental Regulatory Commission which is tasked with shaping the culture of our community without considering their own personal agenda.

Interestingly, here in Perth Amboy, the party backed Mayor, his administration, and their political gadflies have twisted the conversation on recreational cannabis at recent council meetings by arguing for its medical benefits, ability to generate revenue for the community, and that allowing dispensaries will somehow correct the disparate impact marijuana prosecutions have had on residents in our community. These arguments are smoke and mirrors for their own political ends.

At this point, the medical benefits of marijuana are clearly established hence the passage of the Medical Marijuana Law and the subsequent expansion of conditions which it can treat. Those whom have been diagnosed and prescribed marijuana would not need these local dispensaries in order to get marijuana. They would have the same access to the marijuana that they had prior to the passage of the new law so this argument is moot.

Second, the ability for municipalities to generate revenue from dispensaries is pure spec-

are getting slaughtered. Also, I am not a sports fan, but it is a shame when MLB, NFL and NBA put their nose into politics when they should stay out of politics. Let the fans enjoy watching their team play ball.

Orlando “Wildman” Perez

whence they came as they’ve already shown a disregard for the laws of the United States. We’ve enough moochers, thank you!

The Honorable
Michael Rusznak

it be abolished? There was no mention of the link between SSRI Drugs and mass shootings.

More people are killed each year by motor vehicles than by firearms; what is being done about this? Speed limits could be reduced but would this be cost-effective?

Ronald A. Sobieraj

ulation. There is no empirical data on how much would be generated from dispensaries but we know that the state would limit what portion of the revenue that would return to the municipality to 1% in the first year - hardly enough to justify the impact on the community or the cost to train police officers and regulate the day to day sale. Moreover, the state regulation on training and overseeing dispensaries has not even been codified to know what is involved. It seems to me that uncertainty of revenue and the socioeconomic impact outweighs the potential revenue from dispensaries.

Again let’s not forget that the intent of the law was social justice, not profiteering. Those who want marijuana could just grow it. The law allows for any person over the age of 21 to grow up to four plants at a time alleviating the need for local dispensaries until the kinks are worked out. Wasn’t the legislative intent behind the law social justice- not revenue for municipalities? How does potential revenue for a municipality equate to social justice?

In the same way, our Assemblywoman hid her intents to profit from the law. The party backed Caba Administration and their cronies are hiding their intentions to profit through dispensaries. It’s time to let them know that we are not ready for dispensaries before Perth Amboy is “Up in Smoke.”

Abel Paulino A.K.A
A.D. Pauro

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July 21
August 4
August 18
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October 20
November 3
November 17
December 1
December 15

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

WED. Apr. 7 Planning Board, 7 p.m. Zoom
THURS. Apr. 8 Zoning Board, 7 p.m., Zoom
MON. Apr. 12 City Council, Caucus 5:30 p.m.
City Hall, High St. & Zoom
WED Apr. 14 City Council, Regular,
City Hall, High St. & Zoom
THURS. Apr. 15 Board of Education, 5:30 p.m.
PAHS, Eagle Ave.
THURS. Apr. 22 Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.

South Amboy

WED. Apr. 7 City Council, Business, 6 p.m.
City Hall N. Broadway.
WED Apr. 21 City Council, Regular, 7 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.*

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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, emphasize that it is important:

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!!
Report Suspicious Activity - Be Vigilant - STAY ALERT!
Do not think that any call or report is too small
Don't allow the actions of a few dictate your quality of life
FOR ALL EMERGENCIES, DIAL: 9-1-1
FOR ALL NON-EMERGENCIES, DIAL: 732-442-4400

Please Submit Community Events 2 Weeks in Advance!

Email: AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

SOUTH AMBOY MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 6 p.m.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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Happy 10th Anniversary to the Amboy Guardian!!!



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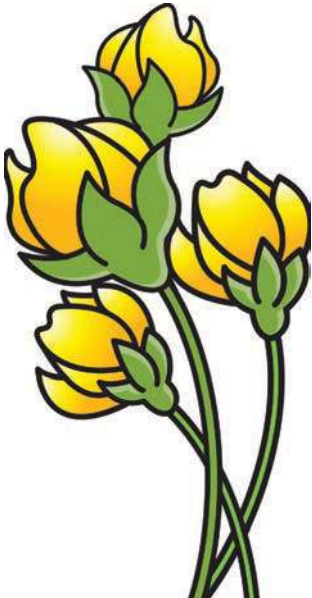
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**Happy 10th Anniversary
to The Amboy Guardian**

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**The Kearny Cottage Historical Society
Congratulates the Amboy Guardian
on their 10th Anniversary**

The Kearny Cottage



Historical Society

63 Catalpa Ave.
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

www.kearnycottage.org
kearnycottage@gmail.com

The Barge
On The Waterfront in Historic Perth Amboy

**Happy 10th Anniversary
To The Amboy Guardian**

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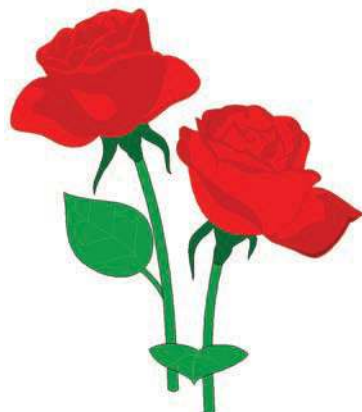
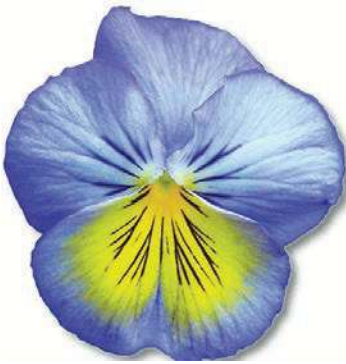
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Dinner- 3:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.


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the YMCA

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**Congratulations to
The Amboy Guardian
in celebration of your
10 Year Anniversary!**



RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA
357 New Brunswick Avenue
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
(P) 732.442.3632 www.rbayymca.org



Perth Amboy Business Improvement District
Annual Meeting

Please be advised that the Perth Amboy Business Improvement District’s Annual Meeting will be held at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA at 357 New Brunswick Avenue, Perth Amboy on **Tuesday, April, 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, Nancy Pietrobon, Fernando Gonzalez, Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe and Tashi Vazquez
- ii. Business/Property Owner Nominations: Patel Padmesh, Elizabeth Sanchez, Melvin Rodriguez, Samuel Quezada, Asim Malik, Antonio Abreu and Reyes Ortega

CITY OF PERTH AMBOY, NJ
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
and
HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (HOME)

2021 PROGRAM YEAR

City of Perth Amboy is planning for FY 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Home Investment Partnership (HOME) programs funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to assist persons who have low-to-moderate incomes, remove slums and blight, and/or address urgent needs in the City of Perth Amboy. The City’s allocations for fiscal year 2021 (June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022) are in the amount of \$641,353.00.00 for the CDBG program and \$407,777.00 for the HOME program.

A public hearing is being scheduled in the initial stages of the 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 2021 Annual Action Plan. 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 public hearing. Information will be made available to citizens regarding application procedures, timing, eligible activities, and other regulations related to the CDBG and HOME Programs. As contained in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan the housing and community development priorities of the City are as follow: provide a suitable living environment; provide decent affordable housing and create or expand economic opportunities. These priorities will be reviewed and the public is encouraged to comment.

The draft 2021 Annual Action Plan will be prepared following the closing of the committee review and a public hearing is set to be held on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 3:00 P.M. via a telephone and ZOOM meeting.

Username: oecdzoom@perthamboynj.org
Password: r6jWRSnFdDbz

In addition, this document will be available for a 30 days public review in the City’s website www.perthamboynj.org or at the Office of Economic and Community Development from Monday, March 17 to Friday, April 17, 2021 in order to meet the timing submission requirements established by HUD on Monday, April 19, 2021.

Comments can be sent via email to Maritza Rodriguez, Economic Development Representative microdriguez@perthamboynj.org or through mail at 260 High Street, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861.

Pallone Announces New Jersey will Receive
Over \$267 Million to Expand
COVID-19 Testing in Schools
Funding Made Possible from Provision Pallone
Authored in the American Rescue Plan

Press Release 3/17/21
LONG BRANCH, NJ – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) today announced that New Jersey will receive \$267,527,208 to support COVID-19 screening testing for teachers, staff, and students so that schools can safely re-open for in-person instruction. The funding is part of the American Rescue Plan that Pallone authored in the U.S. House of Representatives and President Biden signed into law last week. State and certain local health departments should expect to receive the funding by

early April.
“I’m glad to see funds from the American Rescue Plan are making their way to New Jersey to support our state’s ongoing COVID-19 testing operations,” Congressman Pallone said. “Testing is key to reducing the spread of COVID-19, getting our kids back to school, revitalizing our economy, and safely returning to normal patterns of life. This funding will help students, teachers, and staff return to the classroom with confidence knowing that our state has the resources it needs to reduce the transmission of the

virus. It’s important that we get students back in the classroom when it’s safe so that they receive the education they need.”
The funding will be distributed through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CDC will also work with state and local health departments to provide technical assistance in setting up COVID-19 testing programs. CDC guidelines have noted that COVID-19 screening is a tool schools can utilize to help re-open safely as part of a comprehensive COVID-19 mitigation approach.

Catholic Charities Diocese of
Metuchen Joins Communities
Across the Globe in Highlight-
ing Social-Emotional Learning
in Child Care

Press Release 3/22/21
METUCHEN - On March 26, 2021, Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen child care programs in Somerset, Warren and Morris Counties will join communities across the globe to celebrate the importance of social-emotional learning (SEL) on the second annual International SEL Day centered on Building Bonds, Reimagining Community.

“It is only natural for us to participate in celebrating the second annual international SEL day,” said Child Care Service Area Director Krista Glynn. “Afterschool programs are a place for children to participate in social emotional opportunities through hands on activities, healthy connections with peers, and gain the necessary life skills for the future. During this difficult time, afterschool programs have never been more crucial for children to have a place where they feel safe and supported in out of school time. We

continue to build on our incorporation of SEL into everything we do in our programs.” said Glynn.

To celebrate the day, activities will be highlighted that specifically address the social emotional needs of children’s development and build on the children’s self-awareness, decision making, and relationship skills. For example, children will have opportunities to participate in a “take what you need bulletin board”, create a “coping box”, set goals, and incorporate respect, kindness and empathy in their daily activities.

Overall, 1,438 children were enrolled in Catholic Charities’ child care programs in fiscal year 2020 including children enrolled in early learning centers, school age child care, and summer camp programs. Last year Catholic Charities served more than 56,000 people in the Diocese of Metuchen. For more information, please visit www.ccdom.org.



YMCA Partners to Support
Vaccination of The Homeless

Press Release
PERTH AMBOY - The RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA, in Perth Amboy, NJ, is once again bringing partners together to assist the City’s most vulnerable population, the homeless. Middlesex County Health Department, City of Perth Amboy, Cathedral International, and the YMCA provided one shot vaccinations to 150 homeless and or housing transient individuals. Targeted outreach, education, and the elimination of barriers were part of the plan to safeguard those in need.

“The first step to recovery is widespread vaccinations, prioritizing the most vulnerable populations,” stated Mayor Helmin Caba, City of Perth Amboy. “We need to ensure the vaccine is distributed to these populations and working with our community partners and Middlesex County is key for us. Thank you to the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, the Cathedral International, and Middlesex County Health Department, for working with us to provide such life-saving services to our residents.”

“The homeless are a community within the community, however they don’t have the luxury to wash their hands, so-

cial distance, or afford masks. During the winter, we often encounter small groups huddled for warmth and protection. This combined with poor nutrition, hygiene, and no medical care is a recipe for disaster” stated Steve Jobin, CEO of the Raritan Bay Area YMCA.

Mr. Lou Seminski, Chairman of the YMCA Board of Directors, outlined “that our partners all worked very hard to eliminate barriers to getting the vaccine. Things that most people take for granted, such as technology to pre-register, transportation to and from the distribution site, language barriers, having an email address or cell number or mailing address or even an ID. The YMCA and Cathedral International are trusted voices within our community and we are using our relationships to engage and educate people as to the importance of being vaccinated.”

Middlesex County Health Department will administer the vaccine distribution in coordination with the City of Perth Amboy Emergency Management Services and the Department of Human Services.

For more information, please contact Steve Jobin at sjobin@rbaymca.org

Unsafe Properties and Marijuana Laws Amongst Topics Discussed

3/22/21 Caucus

**Continued from Page 1*

of a performance guarantee in the amount of \$330,264.84 in a cash bond in an amount of \$36,696.09 to DENJ for Chamberlain and State for the cul-de-sac off Chamberlain Avenue.

Joel Pabon then questioned R-170-3/21- Rejecting bids for the NJDOT Road Rehabilitation and Improvement, State Street and Lewis Street and advertising for requests for bids.

Pabon said, “We were supposed to have these paved last year.”

B.A. Remsen explained, “This was rejected because it exceeded the money that were advertised for this job and we are going to rebid this as quickly as possible.”

Remsen also explained R-172-3/21 – Authorizing a contract to Truegreen for vegetation control, fertilization, and seeding services of various city areas in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

Remsen said, “This company is recurring.”

Council President Petrick asked why the contract for R-174-3/21 – Appointment of and approving a contract with Ernest W. Feist and City State Engineering in an amount not to exceed \$36,000.

Petrick asked, “Why is this more money this time?”

Feist spoke up via Zoom, “The city set the fees, and this is the same amount of money as the last couple of years.”

CFO Jill Goldy then spoke up via Zoom, “This contract will be paid from 2 different sources.”

There then was a lengthy discussion on R-183-3/21 - Accepting the bid and awarding a contract to In Line Services for the replacement of water meter sizes 5/8 inches thru 8 inches and the testing of existing meters in an amount not to exceed \$289,125.

Luis Perez Jimenez Director of Operations at the USA-PA (Utility Service Associates Perth Amboy Middlesex Water Company) came up to speak, “We have to test over 3,000 meters that we took out and can’t be reused. We have to make sure they are accurate.

Councilman Petrick asked, “Would you be able to notify each owner of the meters to see if any were overcharged?”

Jimenez explained, “All those meters will be scrapped.”

Petrick then wondered, “If they are no good, then why test them?”

Jimenez explained, “To benefit the customers and we can get \$15,000 for the old meters.”

Petrick then questioned, “How many guys are in the meter shop? And can they test the meters instead of hiring a company to do this for this amount of money?”

Jimenez explained, “The testing is free. The money in the resolution is for the new meters that we put in place.”

Petrick then moved on to the topic of bills of former Law Director Peter King resubmitted

for payment. He asked if CFO Jill Goldy was on Zoom and if she was, did she get a chance to review King’s bill list to see if he was entitled to this pay.

Goldy responded via Zoom, “The current law department and Mr. King would have to review this list. It’s hard for my office to do this on our own. We can try to go back, but typically those items – we can’t tell if they were billed previously.”

B.A. Remsen spoke up, “I will ask the current Law Director (William Northgrave) to review King’s bills. I don’t think any of these bills that King requested for payment have been paid. We will review them again.”

Public Portion:

Resident and former councilman Ken Balut was first to speak, “An employee from the Middlesex County Health Department has been charged with sexual harassment. Who picked up the garbage from 395 Rector Street? Was it the city or the owner of the property? Everybody knows about Governor Cuomo’s case involving sexual harassment charges, but in our city, a judge dismissed a case for sexual harassment without hearing from the accuser. That complaint should have been reviewed outside of the city and the woman never got her day in court. The prosecutor’s office doesn’t do anything about our sexual harassment cases, even with complaints filed. We still haven’t solved cases dealing with first time homebuyer programs, illegal occupancy of a house, Code Enforcement losing certifications. You should ask the Law Director, the Business Administrator, and the Mayor to meet about the problems I just discussed.”

Petrick then asked Balut, “Are you asking as the woman’s (the one who filed sexual harassment charges that was ignored) advocate?”

Balut responded, “I am asking as a concerned citizen.”

Resident Stanley Sierakowski came up next. He suggested the council contact the DCA (Department of Community Affairs) about the cases that Balut talked about. “Especially when it comes to sexual harassment. It’s all internal. This woman who lost her job in the court department got a large increase in pay before losing her job. Let the Attorney General handle this and investigate. If you (the council) don’t know what to do, then you should resign.” Sierakowski then turned his attention to the Middlesex County Department of Health. “Everything they do in the city should be documented. If it isn’t, then table the resolution (R-168) and get your money back. You can hire bilingual city employees to do the job that the Middlesex County Department of Health would have done and on Wednesday, I’ll give you documents on the back taxes that Anchor Marine owes you, and I’ll do any additional work that’s needed for \$500 an hour.”

Resident and Board of Education Member Junior Iglesia came up next. “I come up to

speak as a taxpayer and concerned parent. How many millions of dollars will be needed for the year 2022? There is going to be a change of 6.7% of the market value. There is going to be 242+ millions of dollars of property tax. How much for the average homeowner would the tax increase be?” He then turned his attention to the harmful effects of marijuana. “At the age of 25 is when full brain development is done. The biggest part of brain development is between the ages of 7 to 22. With marijuana use is the beginning of short-term memory loss and loss of IQ. Marijuana is a gateway drug. Speaking as a parent, there is nothing to compensate for the loss of a human being. There has been an increase of 300% of marijuana use in students in the twelfth grade.”

Petrick asked Iglesia, “What are you doing about this matter as a member of the BOE?”

Iglesia responded, “We are having discussions and are limited as to what we can do, but you have the power to put an ordinance in place. We can only put in policies.”

Petrick continued, “As a BOE Member, you can be an advocate for not having marijuana. Prior to me being on the council, marijuana law was not brought up.”

Pabon then joined the conversation, “The citizens have only 5 council members and the Board of Education has 9 members. Some of the members should be here when marijuana is on the agenda. Your representatives should be here to let us know what your discussions about marijuana are.”

Iglesia suggested, “We need to have a public meeting on this issue alone.”

Petrick stated, “We will.”

Resident Maria Peralta came up to speak next. She spoke in Spanish. Comments were translated by Council Members Pabon and Tejeda. “I want to first apologize to the council president for not addressing him at the last meeting. People are asking that marijuana be produced and distributed here. I want to hear everyone’s opinion and I am asking our mayor to address this issue. I’m asking the churches, the assembly, and the governor to address this. Reach out to the governor and ask him not to have a marijuana law here. I respect marijuana users, but we need to ask the community to get together to ask the council and the mayor to reject the marijuana law. I want the council to state their individual decision.”

Council President Petrick responded, “The police can arrest anyone misusing the drugs.”

Tashi Vazquez, who is Vice-President of the Board of Education came up to speak. “The council can ask us about our policies and procedures (regarding marijuana). We can coordinate meetings with the council. At a recent Board of Education Meeting, we had positive results (regarding marijuana discussions).”

Resident Vince Mackiel came

up next and asked, “Was there any updates on the Market Street Bridge repair work?”

B.A. Edward Remsen responded, “I wrote to you. New Jersey Transit takes care of the infrastructure, and the county does the roadwork. Transit said they are in the design phase now. The county is stymied until Transit finishes their design phase.”

Mackiel finished and asked, “How will the \$2 million be allocated involving the infrastructure? I would appreciate a follow-up.”

Former Councilman Fernando Irizarry came up next. He thanked the council for their service and their time here, “I am glad the marijuana issue is on an ordinance, but we need more items included. I understand the council had threats made to them regarding the marijuana issue. When threats were made to me, they did not intimidate me. It did just the opposite. Listen to all those who speak. That will be mostly a win-win for the majority of the people. Do it with respect and civility. Does the ordinance address all classes of marijuana?”

Petrick responded, “The ordinance said not to have marijuana anywhere in the city.”

Irizarry questioned, “Does it prohibit manufacturing and sales?”

Petrick responded, “It covers everything.”

Irizarry stated, “Thanks for listening to us. There are only 105 days to work this out. The floodgates will open if we don’t get this done (in that timeframe) and we don’t want to wait 5 years (to address this issue again). There will be no turning back.”

Petrick then stated, “You can’t prevent other towns who have a marijuana service to deliver to residents here.”

Irizarry concluded, “According to the marijuana law, the police can’t arrest a person using it, even if it is a minor.”

Petrick then asked if we can get an expert to talk about this.

Deputy Police Chief Cattano came up, “An officer can be charged with a civil rights violation and the officer can’t notify the parents if a minor has possession. Liquor will have the same laws as the marijuana law. It prohibits the cops from doing their job of protecting minors.”

B.A. Remsen asked to speak in front of the council regarding the budget. “We were given a lot of money from the federal government, and now the budget is in the council’s hands. They can amend the budget based on the money we will be getting. We are giving our recommendations to the council.”

Petrick then stated, “There are stipulations on the federal money.”

Remsen then stated, “There is a time limit on how the money is to be spent. It is supposed to help replace some of our lost revenue.”

Mayor Helmin Caba came up to speak, “Some of the questions asked about this federal money should be addressed to

the county.”

The meeting was opened up to Zoom participants.

The first person to speak via Zoom was Sharon Hubberman, “The marijuana ordinance only addresses zoning and does not address production and distribution. Time is running out on putting in place our thoughts regarding marijuana laws. We need a special meeting for this to be addressed.

The public portion was closed.

Petrick spoke up, “I want to see former Law Director Peter King’s bills that he resubmitted to be looked at again.”

Council Comments:

Councilwoman Rose Morales said, “We’re here to listen to the public’s comments. Be respectful and nonthreatening. Posing threats does not work. We want to work together.” She then addressed Councilman Pabon about some comments he made regarding the lights being out in the city. “It has been going on for a long time. PSEG is shorthanded. They said they are working on fixing the lights and hoping that it will be done by April.” She also wanted to thank Meridian Hospital for giving vaccines to senior citizens.

Deputy Police Chief and OEM Coordinator Larry Cattano gave out a vaccine hotline for seniors to call to setup appointments: 732-324-3521. “400 senior citizens are to be vaccinated this week.”

Morales then commended Cattano, Meridian, and the Department of Human Resources Director Ken Ortiz for getting this done.

Cattano then said, “PRAHD and the Housing Authority also helped in getting the vaccines out.”

Councilman Joel Pabon spoke up, “I want to correct some facts. I walk the city every day and only a third of the lights have been fixed. The lights by the parking authority were fixed and only a handful after that. After the last meeting, I mentioned how dark it was in the parking lot and the road leading to Riverview Drive. Did anybody go down there? I’ve been talking about the lights with the prior administration. I walk the city every single day. After 6 months, a resident on Amboy Avenue said the streetlight by his house were finally fixed. The lights are taken care of, but then the work falls behind. Prior to me, former Councilman Fernando Gonzalez complained about the lights. I did not decide to go after the new administration. I went to the hospital to see the people get vaccinated. The county opened up new places to get vaccines. When you go to places that have the vaccines, there is always a line. The day they were handing out shots in the Vocational School, I decided to register for a vaccine. I am still waiting for a callback. ShopRite, CVS, Rite Aid, and Walgreens are all offering vaccines, but you go online to register, and they are all

**Continued on Page 9*

Unsafe Properties and Marijuana Laws Amongst Topics Discussed

3/22/21 Caucus

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booked up. Jersey City, which has a smaller city that we have, and less teachers, are not sure if they will be able to get their teachers shots. Get the shot to Perth Amboy residents. Woodbridge vaccines are only for their residents. We were told by the Jewish Renaissance, that they will be going to different senior citizen buildings to give out vaccines. Yes, I posted live videos and I stand by my statement regarding the lights being out and the (lack of) vaccines for our residents. I want to wish our City Clerk Victoria Kupsch a Happy Birthday! I see no one else has wished her a happy birthday. She has been here a long time.”

Kupsch responded that she has been a city employee for 37 years.

People in attendance applauded her.

Pabon then turned his attention to the backstreet of some homes on Kearny Avenue, Harrison Street, and Patterson Street known as “Sunshine Alley”. “There are a lot of rocks there and have the City Engineer look to possibly have those streets asphalted on it. Those residents are taxpayers. There are a lot of trucks coming off of Rte. 440 going to Target and other warehouses. There are no signs to direct them to these warehouses and they are using Pulaski Avenue which is a very small street. Those residents are getting a petition together to stop truck traffic.”

Deputy Police Chief and OEM Director Larry Cattano came up to address Pabon’s concerns about the Covid vaccine. “We are trying to get more vaccines and people who work in the schools who are interested in getting shots, 488 are signed up to get vaccinated.”

Council President Petrick then

asked Cattano, “Can they get signed up directing trucks how to get to the warehouses without going on Pulaski Avenue?”

Cattano said, “The State may have to get involved. This may have to be advertised.” He also addressed the concerns about these barriers that were put up on the boardwalk of Sadowski Parkway. “They were temporary storm barriers that I asked Public Works to put up. I wasn’t aware they were still in place and I will ask Public Works to remove them.”

Mayor Helmin Caba came up to speak, “I want to clarify something regarding the vaccinations given out at the Vo Tech School. That was not from the county - and it is complicated. I’m not sure if it was the county or the state that set up that site. We are working with the governor’s office to get vaccines for our residents. We will continue to advocate for Perth Amboy. This is a problem nationwide

and the people are asking for vaccines.”

Pabon then spoke up and said he has a problem. “People come here from out of the city to get their vaccinations, and they are exposing our people to Covid. I wake up each morning and check my email from concerned residents and share them with all the council members. You (Mayor Caba) should sit here with us.”

Mayor Caba responded, “There is a language barrier which hinders registrations for the vaccine. We should have bilingual registration.”

Pabon then stated that he heard through the grapevine that the city received a stack of vaccines. “We should know about this.”

Councilwoman Tejeda said, “I am looking forward to working with the Board of Education to take care of our residents. I work with Our Lady of Fatima Church, and I registered 150

people to sign up for the vaccine. A lot of young people also want the vaccine even though they are in a low-risk group. We need to send the data to high authorities to get more vaccines sent to us. I only registered my mother with the county because the other sites are full.”

Councilman B.J. Torres said, “New Jersey has double the national average of Covid cases. We in Perth Amboy have the highest rate of Covid cases and the highest number of deaths. Having public meetings are spreaders and we need Zoom Meetings. Zoom Meetings are safer. Our council chambers are poorly ventilated, and it opens up risks to those in attendance.”

The meeting went into closed session at 7:39 p.m. All council members were present, but Councilman B.J. Torres participated via Zoom.

Hackensack Meridian Health’s Center for Discovery and Innovation Develops Advanced Test to Track and Diagnose COVID-19 Variants

New Rapid High-Throughput Test Detects E484K COVID-19 Mutation in Hospital and Care Settings Across New Jersey

Press Release 4/1/21

NUTLEY, NJ – Experts at the Hackensack Meridian Center for Discovery and Innovation (CDI) have developed a high-throughput test that can detect multiple variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in two-and-a-half hours, a major advance in tracking the virus and in treating patients.

The test can detect the known UK, Brazil, and South African variants, as well as others containing the key E484K mutation, which are gaining prominence as the virus evolves. The global health community is in a race to vaccinate as many people as possible as variants threaten to create new surges. The study, which was co-authored with scientists from the New York Genome Center, was published online in medRxiv.

“The Center for Discovery and Innovation is again leading the way in creating breakthroughs that will help defeat this pandemic,” said Robert C. Garrett, FACHE, the chief executive officer of Hackensack Meridian Health. “The CDI was created for this purpose – to deliver effective solutions in real-time that will benefit patients, our communities and well beyond.”

The results likely indicate that variants are increasing in prevalence in hospitals and communities across New Jersey – and that mass vaccination is more important than ever, since the vaccines remain effective against all forms of SARS-CoV-2 to date.

“Certain virus variants are concerning because they are resistant or less responsive to current first-line treatments involving monoclonal antibody cocktails,” said David Perlin,

PhD., the chief scientific officer and senior vice president of the CDI. “Our rapid through-put test allows doctors to treat those with COVID-19 who have specific variants with more effective therapies.”

The CDI’s test, which assessed samples from New Jersey patients from December 2020 through February 2021, found the virus variants increasing in prominence. Among 435 nasal swab samples at eight hospitals and other care sites across the Hackensack Meridian Health network, the E484K variant was found at a rate of 12 percent of all samples in February 2021. The N501Y variant followed in prevalence in 2021 with 11 percent.

These findings are from a variety of care settings within Hackensack Meridian Health and located throughout New Jersey. Since the variants were detected in multiple locations, it’s highly likely that the variants are going undetected in other parts of the state.

These “immune-escape” variants carrying the E484K mutation are also concerning because they have been linked in other countries with re-infection.

While the E484K mutation appears to make the virus resistant to certain treatments, like particular monoclonal antibodies, the major COVID-19 vaccines are still broadly effective against preventing severe disease. Vaccination is still key to beating COVID-19, according to Perlin.

A real-time understanding of viral evolution and the landscape of virus variants in our region is part of an overall strategy, along with testing and vaccination, to help our community and patients overcome

COVID-19.

The CDI has sequenced more than 2,500 viruses and is working with the State of New Jersey to develop the most complete picture of the viral landscape yet assembled. This new high-throughput tool allows resources for whole genome sequencing to be directed against the most concerning viruses.

The other tools developed by Hackensack Meridian Health over the last year of pandemic response which have helped to turn the tide include:

- The first rapid commercial COVID-19 test, reducing the wait time for results from days to hours (also the work of the CDI).
- A convalescent plasma treatment utilizing antibodies from people with high concentrations of antibodies – “superdonors” – to treat hospitalized patients
- Participation in national clinical trials to develop COVID-19 vaccines, including the Moderna and J&J trials.
- Vaccination mega-site launched at the former Meadowlands Racetrack in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Health, State Police and National Guard, which is vaccinating 4,000 patients daily.
- To date, the entire network has administered more than 300,000 vaccines.
- Developed Keeping America Safe: Hackensack Meridian Health’s Assist Program which helps business owners and schools create a safe environment.

Attend Public Meetings

Have Your Voice Heard!

Pallone Applauds President Biden’s American Jobs Plan

Biden’s Plan Ensures Polluters Once Again Pay for Superfund Cleanup, Which Pallone Has Advocated for Decades

Press Release 4/1/21

LONG BRANCH, NJ – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) issued the following statement on President Biden’s transformational American Jobs Plan:

“There is no better way to rebuild our economy for the future than to modernize our badly aging infrastructure, and President Biden’s American Jobs Plan is exactly what our nation needs right now to revitalize our communities. The President’s bold proposal will also combat the climate crisis by reducing carbon pollution and moving us towards a clean energy future.

“The President’s plan aligns with the LIFT America Act, which I introduced earlier this month with all Energy and Commerce Committee Democrats. Our legislation invests in clean and efficient energy, safe drinking water, expanded access to broadband, Brownfield cleanups, and improving our nation’s health care infrastructure.

“Superfund sites threaten public and environmental health in New Jersey and across the country, and those sites could be cleaned up faster with adequate funding. I’m thrilled to see the President supports reinstating the ‘polluter pays’ taxes so that

the very industries most responsible for polluting our land and water are held responsible for cleaning them up. For years, I have introduced the Superfund Polluter Pays Act, which would reauthorize the original Superfund fees and make polluters, not taxpayers, pay for the costs of these cleanups. The President’s plan, like my legislation, would reduce pressures on the federal budget and lead to faster cleanup of these toxic sites.

“I commend the President for including a national Clean Electricity Standard in his plan that meets the same aggressive targets of the CLEAN Future Act and the investments necessary to make it a reality. The rest of the world is already embarking on a major transition to clean technology, and this plan positions us to not only compete but to lead the pack.

“Over the last year our nation has suffered tremendous loss from both the pandemic and the severe economic downturn. I’m hopeful that Congress can come together quickly to pass transformational infrastructure legislation that will fulfill President Biden’s commitment to Build Back Better so we can create millions of new jobs, combat the climate crisis, and ensure no community is left behind.”

Legalization of Marijuana Still a Hot Topic

3/24/21 Council Meeting

By: Carolyn Maxwell
PERTH AMBOY – During the first public portion on the ordinances, Resident Ken Balut came up to speak about Ordinance No. 3 – The acquisition of property for public use known as 984 Amboy Ave. by exercise of the power of eminent domain. Balut stated that he heard that there had been a cash deal to buy this property by September. “Can you trace this money? A city employee knew the guy who bought this property. I want to make sure the taxpayers don’t overpay. Was it one person or others who did a cash deal? It’s very suspicious.”

Fire Chief Ed Mullen came up to respond, “The appraisal for this property was less than expected and the council will have to approve any funding. I will make sure that I do my due diligence.”

The public was then allowed to comment on agenda items only.

The first person to come up to speak was Resident Stanley Sierakowski. He referenced R-168-3/21 – The interlocal service contract with the County of Middlesex Health Department Services.

“Is there any oversight since the county employees are paid by our taxpayers? When I worked for the county, people had to electronically sign in and out. You need to know exactly what these people do when they come here. When I worked for the county, a person was fired for not doing any work. This is a political patronage job. When Peter King (Former Law Director) was our attorney, he changed the nepotism law without notifying the council. The mayor’s sister was hired by the city.”

Council President William Petrick then spoke up and corrected Sierakowski stating, “It was the Assistant Mayor’s sister.”

Sierakowski continued, “There was a lawsuit involving this person. I wouldn’t pay it. Peter King was less than forthcoming.”

Petrick spoke up and said that some of the bills submitted by Peter King for payment, “I had them redacted.”

Sierakowski suggested that the council go to the county and have them investigate Peter King.

Ken Balut came up to speak about R-168. “Stanley (Sierakowski) is right. People donated (to political campaigns) and get jobs. When I called up about replacing my water meter, the person was in Alabama. Our former B.A. (Adam) Cruz did everything the mayor asked for. A sexual harassment suit was covered up in the court. I will continue to bring up sexual harassment cases. Women are not being treated fairly in this town. King knew about all of this and did nothing. I heard that homeowners are supposed to be getting a \$500 rebate on their taxes. I hope this rumor is true.”

Resident and BOE Member Junior Iglesia came up to speak, “I’m coming here as a concerned taxpayer and parent.” He referenced Communication No. 3 –Middlesex County Board of Taxation submitted a copy of a

resolution adopted on March 11, 2021 establishing the percentage of one hundred percent (100%) as the ratio of assessed to true of real property to be used for the purpose of assessing the taxable values to be used levying taxes for CY 2022.

Iglesia read from a written statement, “In 2012, the real value of property to levy taxes went from 96% to 100%. How much will the tax bill be increased? We are paying close to \$8,000 in property taxes which is higher than Woodbridge. Are we going to continue to have tax increases? We need to have the most accurate information (when putting resolutions on the agenda).” Iglesia then played a tape recording of a psychologist who spoke about the harmful effects of marijuana, especially on the brains of developing youth. The tape went over the allotted time, and the council did not grant any additional time for Iglesia to finish playing the tape.

Resident Maria Peralta came up next and spoke in Spanish. Councilman Joel Pabon translated for her with a little bit of help from Councilwoman Milady Tejada. She said, “All State and Federal Agencies have a translator. I respect Councilwoman Morales and I don’t understand when she felt threatened or offended when I spoke about marijuana at one of the other meetings. Somebody ran a campaign promoting marijuana. You dodged a question that I asked you to talk about regarding marijuana as casually as if it was ordering a pizza. Marijuana brings in gangs and crime. I’m asking the council to vote “No” to marijuana and put our kids first. Two council members seem to be for it (having marijuana in the city).”

Council President Petrick spoke up, “You are being misleading and going off topic with some of your statements.”

Attorney Daniel Gonzalez came up next, “Regarding marijuana, it’s already had its negative impact. Police prosecuted people (that had small amounts in their possession) which cause people to lose their jobs or not be able to get jobs. We can make money with marijuana. Marijuana will be regulated, and this could be profitable to the city. This is a way to prevent tax increases. Marijuana has been proved to prevent paranoia. Other towns will benefit from marijuana sales and be able to build up their cities. Marijuana has always been sold illegally. It’s not about religion or good or bad. I pay almost \$15,000 in property taxes.”

Resident and Former Councilman Fernando Irizarry came up next, “When it comes to marijuana, I don’t deny there has been social injustice to minorities, but don’t deny the effects it has on the community. I have never injected my faith into these discussions. 53% of the people that approved of legalizing marijuana did not want it in their cities. We’ve heard in the past how some industries will bring jobs into the city, but nothing came of it. Raritan River Steel only provided a few jobs. This (marijuana) is supposed to

benefit our city? We don’t want to be the poster child for selling marijuana. Will residents be allowed to grow their own marijuana?”

Petrick responded, “It’s no across the board for marijuana to be sold in the city.”

Irizarry continued, “It’s not fair to limit people who need a translator to only speak for 5 minutes.”

Petrick then made a lengthy comment regarding marijuana, “I am not for or against marijuana, and I want to hear all arguments. I am a child of the ‘60’s and ‘70’s. Many people were incarcerated who got caught up in the usage. The Drug Enforcement Agency has linked marijuana as a gateway drug. Alcohol abuse is a concern. Our community will decide what to do and we will educate ourselves. We (the council) will have an expert to guide us on marijuana usage. We have a zoning map to see if there is a possibility of where to have distribution centers. We are not going backwards.”

The meeting was then opened up to Zoom participants.

Resident and Businesswoman Sharon Hubberman spoke first. She urged the council to read the entire law regarding marijuana and the pending bill. “We don’t exceed the 150,000-population threshold. The city is only 4.5 square miles and we should not have any marijuana dispensaries here. We have too much traffic, now. Our infrastructure is old and the federal money that we receive can help. We have 150 days to address the marijuana issue. I appreciate the feedback of the history of marijuana. Look at the cost in revenues generated. The cap on the profit for marijuana is only 3%. Will it help our city? Have presentations from all law enforcement agencies.”

When it came time to vote on the consent agenda, R-168 thru R-184 was moved by Pabon and seconded by Morales. Ordinance No. 1 – Establishing a cap bank for the municipal budget was moved by Pabon and seconded by Tejada. Ordinance No. 2 – Addition of handicapped parking places was moved by Pabon and seconded by Tejada. Ordinance No. 3 (see above) was moved by Pabon and seconded by Tejada.

Public Portion:

Resident Ken Balut spoke first, “Who picked up the garbage located at 395 Rector St.?” He then mentioned that New Jersey has sports betting and the lottery which is supposed to lower property taxes. “Marijuana will not lower the taxes. I once was in Vancouver, and kids would smoke marijuana openly while waiting for the school bus to pick them up. Now kids can smoke it even if they are minors, and the cops can’t even tell their parents. When I was a cop, if we picked up someone who had hard drugs, it would be pleaded down to possession of marijuana. When we had legalized sports betting, Governor Murphy was the first one to make a sports bet. Did we get any breaks from the sports betting? They card you if you need

to purchase alcohol. These politicians are clueless. They always say it is for the children when it hurts them. . . And 395 (Rector Street) is Kushner’s property. Did Kushner pick it up or did the city?”

Resident Stanley Sierakowski came up next. “Business Administrator Ed Remsen was opposed to give me the title search information on the Anchor Marine property. What Remsen gave me was 21 years old. The title search only showed who was the president of Anchor Marine and the secretary’s name, but not the other owners. Developer Rosengarten put a lien on the property which he withdrew to get \$5 million for it. It was assessed at \$1 million when he bought it 30 years ago. It was rezoned from commercial to residential which should have caused the assessment to go up.”

Business Administrator Remsen came on Zoom to address 395 Rector St. “There is a reinspection planned for that property for Friday (3/26/21) and if the garbage is not removed, we will put a lien on it.”

Junior Iglesia came up next, “I agree with bringing experts to talk about marijuana, but we need a public forum to ask questions of those experts.”

Attorney Daniel Gonzalez came up next, “It’s good to have experts come to speak (about this issue) and to get different opinions.” He then stated that he went on a tour to look at the new amphitheater that was built in Perth Amboy. “There are wonderful things coming to Perth Amboy, and the former administration did good things such as a new park. Sometimes the council members were at odds with Wilda. It should not be about egos or politics. Work with each other and this new administration. Results don’t happen overnight, and the Zoom operator does a good job. We need a Spanish interpreter. The amphitheater is good for musical events and maybe we should hold our festivals there. River-view Drive will be a good access to the theater.”

Petrick spoke about Gonzalez’s remarks about the amphitheater, “I’m surprised the seating was removed. There are no bathrooms and no dressing rooms.”

Gonzalez concluded his remarks, “I’ll take another look at it. I find it very calming (the amphitheater and its location).”

The meeting was opened to people on Zoom. No one spoke up.

Council Comments:

Councilwoman Rose Morales addressed Resident Maria Peralta’s remarks. “I wasn’t offended. At a previous meeting, you gave us an ultimatum that if we vote, “Yes” for marijuana, you will bring in protestors. I am trying to be fair, and the marijuana issue is going to be challenging. The bottom line is we can’t give 100% of what people want. We have to educate ourselves. I understand both arguments and I need to be fair. I’m going to be a devil’s advocate. Cigarettes are killing people as much as alcohol. I will try to make the best decision, stay neutral, and educate myself. Have a Happy and

Safe Easter.

Councilman Joel Pabon said, “We had a number of speakers who talked about the marijuana issue and I respect the opinions of others. We don’t meet every week. There are 5 of us (on the council) and we will base our opinions on what we hear from the public. Send your opinion and to the Board of Education. This is about wanting this in your backyard. This is a hot topic, and it will be so until a decision is made. I’m happy to report that April 1st parks will be open, and I can’t wait to see this happen. Recently on one beautiful day, one park was packed with people playing basketball. Bring your own wipes when using the bathroom. Please keep practicing good hygiene.” He then talked about the alleyway in the back of people’s houses on First Street. “Most residents have garages back there. The county never paid for the boardwalk on Sadowski Parkway. People are asking for more lighting and showers on those boardwalks. And for some reason, showers were put up, but they were put in the middle of the boardwalk. I speak Spanish, but I’m not good at translating, especially if a person speaks fast. We need a translator, and we need to get the community involved, especially when it comes to the marijuana issue. I wish everyone a Happy Easter.

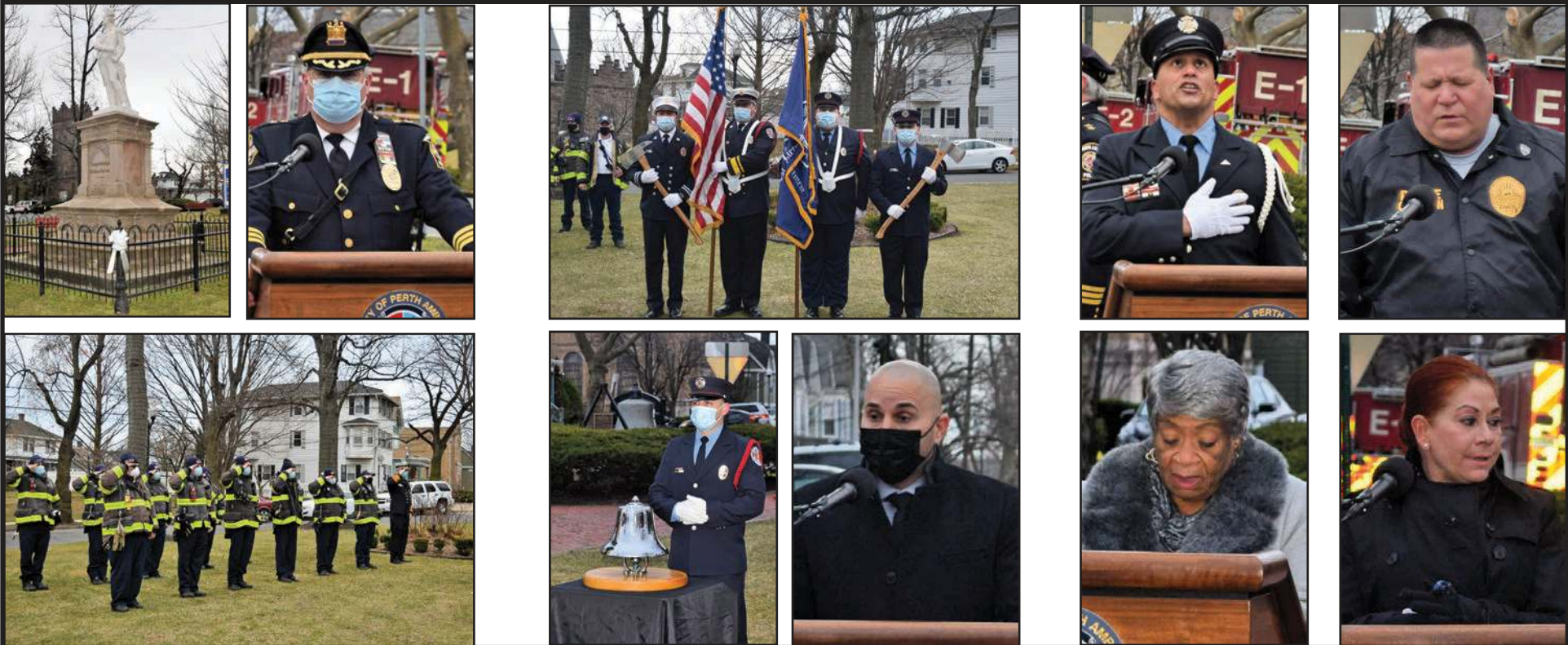
Councilwoman Milady Tejada said, “I’ve been here since 1974 and I remember when I would take buses and people would be smoking marijuana while riding on the buses. Regarding marijuana: I am going to vote by what is good for our community. I’m glad that we (the council) will have an expert on marijuana to talk to us. The public also needs to hear this. We have an open door. Please help any of your senior citizen relatives to get registered for the vaccine. My mom is finally getting hers. Have a Happy Easter and remember why we are celebrating this holiday.”

Councilman B.J. Torres was the only council member to participate through Zoom. He had explained earlier when they did the rollcall that because of Covid cases going up again, he felt it was necessary to have meetings through Zoom.

Council President Bill Petrick said, “The council will have an expert who will speak to us regarding marijuana, but we can see if that same expert can speak to the public. We will wait until we hear from the expert and the public.” Petrick then requested that Law Director Northgrave draw up a resolution to urge the Senate and Assembly to reconsider to have parents notified if their minor children have possession of marijuana. “Maybe other cities can piggyback off of this resolution to notify their representatives of what is in this ordinance.”

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. All council members were present (Torres was present via Zoom). B.A. Remsen was also present via Zoom.

One Year Later from COVID-19; A Reflection of the Pandemic's Toll on Perth Amboy 3/17/21 *Photos by Paul W. Wang



Press Release 3/17/21
PERTH AMBOY, NJ - Mayor Helmin J. Caba, alongside Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez of Legislative District 19, City Departments, Community Partners, First Responders, and residents gathered together on Tuesday, March 16th, to remember loved ones lost to COVID-19 in the City of Perth Amboy at City Hall Circle.

"March 16th marks the day our city had the first COVID-19 case, stated Larry Cattano, Deputy Chief of Police and Coordinator for the Office of Emergency Management. "The loss and disruption we experienced in our city has been immeasurable sorrow for us all. To manage this emergency takes tremendous resources and commitment not only of our local emergency responders, but of the entire workforce of the City of Perth Amboy. Without this dedication and commitment, this disaster could have been much worse."

"The events of 2020 have provided powerful lessons and reminders for us all," stated Mayor Helmin J. Caba. "This pandemic also triggered one other thing; hope. When our businesses closed and lines for food increased, acts of generosity, large and small, did as well. I want to thank everyone for their commitment during these troubled times."

The program was guided by Deputy Chief Cattano, that included the presentation of colors by the Perth Amboy Fire Department Color Guard, the singing of our National Anthem by Firefighter Javier Cruz, and an invocation by Pastor Paul Sears of the Perth Amboy Police and Fire Chaplin Corps. There was an extended moment of silence to the 186 lives lost to COVID-19 since March 16th, and a salute to our community healthcare workers and first responders who stayed relentlessly by the city's side. "Equity is the key for us now. The vaccines offer great hope to turn the tide of the pandemic. We need to ensure that all residents get vaccinated to disrupt this pandemic and mitigate any potential deep and longstanding social and economic scars."

The event concluded with the singing of 'Amazing Grace', by Dorothy Carty-Daniel, Community Leader, and an invitation to submit the name of city residents, who lost their lives to COVID-19, to be read publicly in upcoming memorial events.

To submit your loved ones name lost to COVID-19, contact (732) 826-0249 or by email at COVID19Dedication@perthamboynj.org.



Clergy from the Cathedral International give out Easter goodies
*Photo by Paul W. Wang



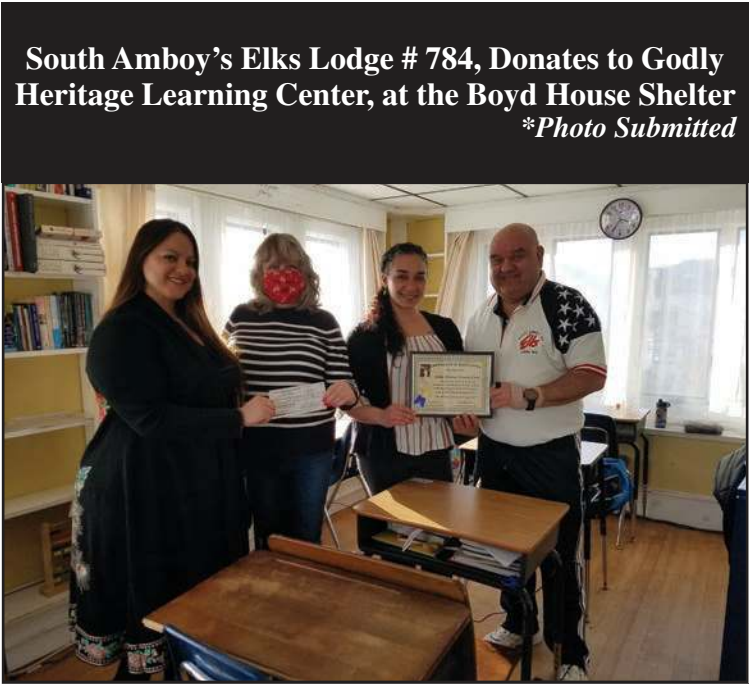
Easter 2021
Perth Amboy



Fr. Ivan Turyk form Ukrainian Assumption Church blesses food for Easter
*Photo by Katherine Massopust

Irish Flag Raising, City Hall Circle, Perth Amboy 3/17/21 *Photos by Paul W. Wang





South Amboy’s Elks Lodge # 784, Donates to Godly Heritage Learning Center, at the Boyd House Shelter
**Photo Submitted*

Press Release
SOUTH AMBOY - South Amboy Elks Lodge # 784 awarded its Beacon grant to the Godly Heritage Learning Center. a Shelter Hearts endeavor. This Learning center has been created to having children in their facility. The success in its mission where priority is safety and proper care, with reliable learning, and most importantly a safe environment. The grant monies will allow them to hire a part-time aide, with the function of cooking, cleaning, and caring for the children as they go on break and lunch.
Photo: (L to R) - CEO and owner of the Boyd House shelter Marybeth Olive, South Amboy Exalted Ruler Ginger Olszewski, Executive Administrator of Shealter Hearts Taina Rosario, and South Amboy Elks Lodge Chairman of Elks National Foundation Valentine Tarr.
Let the GREAT HEART of ELKDOM SWELL and THROB

WWW.AMBOYGUARDIAN.COM

Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine Has First ‘Match Day’

The First Expected Graduates from The Inaugural Class Find Their Residencies, In Time-Honored Tradition, But A First for The Medical School

Press Release 3/19/21
NUTLEY, NJ – The envelopes are open, and the first students from the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine have discovered where they will have their residencies to start their medical careers. These first members of the 2018 cohort are on track to complete their three-year medical education at the School, with the first-ever commencement planned for June 3.

The students from the inaugural class are among an estimated 44,000 who found out today where they will “match” through the National Resident Matching Program® (NRMP).

In the COVID-19 era, they were unable to gather in person, due to social-distancing recommendations.

Instead, the students today celebrated Match Day® by tearing open their envelopes – then toasting one another from afar, via video conferencing, with champagne flutes sent to them by the School.

“Match Day is cause for great excitement every year as the graduating class discovers where they will begin training in their chosen medical specialty,” said Bonita Stanton, M.D., the School’s founding dean. “But words cannot adequately describe the excitement of a medical school’s first Match Day and a Match Day for those students graduating after completing a three-year curriculum rather than the traditional four-year curriculum. Every graduating class is special – but this class feels especially special –

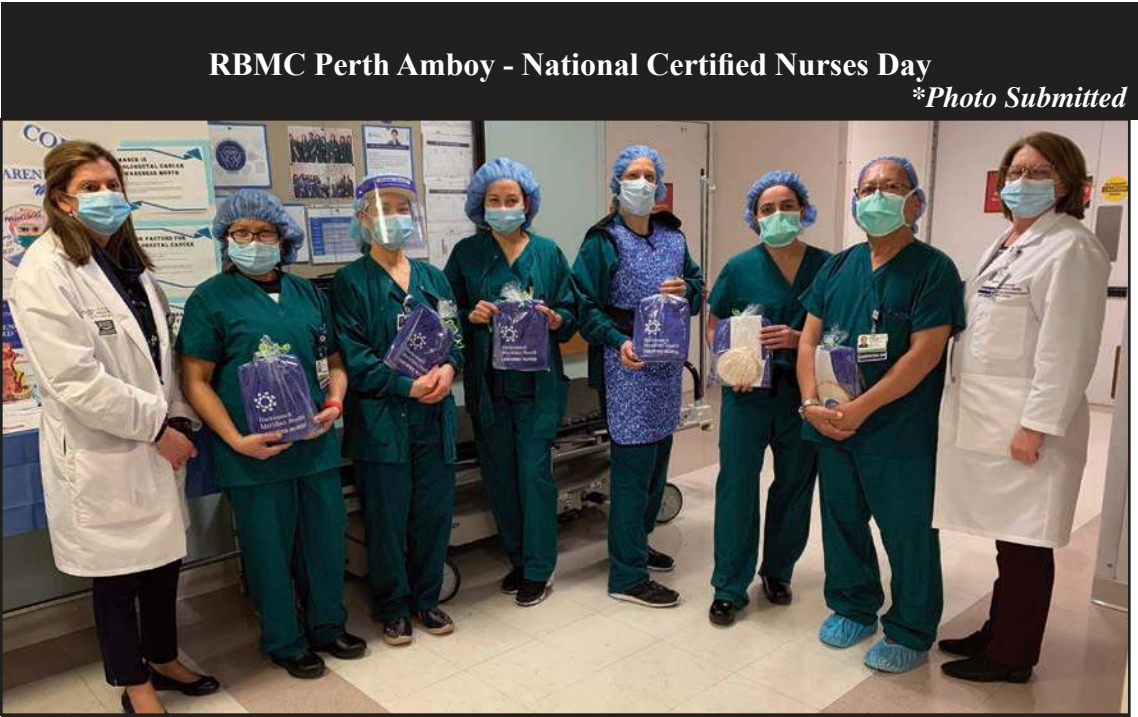
although I am pretty sure that next year’s class will also feel ‘especially special’ as well!”

“We have so many talented students coming through our School,” said Jeffrey Boscamp, M.D., vice dean of the medical school and a professor of pediatrics. “We cannot wait to see what their careers will do for our health network – and the medical world at large.”

According to the NRMP, the Program is a private, non-profit organization established in 1952 at the request of medical students to provide an orderly and fair mechanism for matching the preferences of applicants for U.S. residency positions with the preferences of residency program directors. Each year “the Match” encompasses more than 44,000 registrants and 37,000 positions through its Main Residency Match, along with Fellowship Matches for more than 65 subspecialties through its Specialties Matching Service (SMS).

The Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine students still have to graduate. But their “matches” are across a variety of specialties including Anesthesiology and Internal Medicine, among others, where they are expected to spend their residencies to finish their medical training.

The new residents are a subset of the inaugural class who will graduate as part of the three-year option available through the School. The other students in the class have opted for a four-year track to their studies.



RBMC Perth Amboy - National Certified Nurses Day
**Photo Submitted*

Press Release
PERTH AMBOY - Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy recently celebrated National Certified Nurses Day. This day honors and recognizes certified nurses significant achievements. Pictured left to right is Jane O'Rourke, chief nursing officer, along with some certified Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy nurses.

Middlesex College in Partnership with Middlesex County Elucidates New Branding Direction and Vision for College

College Logo and Its Expressions Officially Unveiled to the Public

Press Release 3/23/21
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ – Middlesex College, in partnership with Middlesex County, today, officially unveiled the rebranding effort of Middlesex College in a virtual press conference, including a new logo for the institution, formerly known as Middlesex County College. College officials and County leadership spoke to the long-term vision of this new brand identity, first announced by the College in January, outlining its significance within the college community and within the region’s economic growth plans and alignment with the County’s own distinctive brand strategy. A video of the press conference can be found here.

Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios and Deputy Director Kenneth Armwood joined Middlesex College leadership, President Mark McCormick; Chairman of the Middlesex College Board of Trustees Dorothy K. Power; and Middlesex College Trustee and Middlesex County Interim Executive Superintendent Kyle Anderson in expounding on the College’s plans to further implement branding changes across campus and throughout the College’s identity.

“Despite such amazing out-

comes for our students, there are many in our community who remain unaware of what Middlesex College has to offer,” said President Mark McCormick. “With our new name and rebranding, we aim to spread the word about all that Middlesex College stands for and to help dispel the stigma around attending a two-year institution.”

The development of Middlesex College’s new brand identity followed a similar path to Middlesex County’s brand journey. The County, through a strategic marketing strategy, has been working for the past several years to attract new talent and opportunities to the County, making it a premier destination for individuals to live, work, and play. The College’s own rebranding efforts are directly aligned with such efforts, positioning it to become a leading choice among students in the region.

“The new Middlesex College brand identity perfectly reflects the College’s unwavering dedication to its mission,” said County Commissioner Director Rios. “And every element – from the new name to the new logo and even the new mascot – reinforces the message that Middlesex College is a worthy first choice for prospective students. Just as Middlesex County is a top destination for residents and businesses.”

“Middlesex County shares the College’s commitment to ensuring that an excellent, affordable education is accessible to all, and we recognize Middlesex College as a key pipeline for the talent that will fuel local businesses and help us achieve

our strategic, long-term economic development goals,” said County Commissioner Deputy Director Armwood.

“For over 50 years, Middlesex College has provided a high-quality education to hundreds of thousands of Middlesex residents. Our partner in this project has been Middlesex County and its commissioners. And as we transition from Middlesex County College to Middlesex College, we are very fortunate to have the support of the Middlesex County Commissioners,” said Board of Trustees Chairman Power.

“As a former athlete, football coach, and Middlesex College student, I can tell you that the new Middlesex College brand is extremely important in creating school spirit and a sense of pride and camaraderie that propels student life and an athletic program forward. Having a new, exciting brand is something that will bring pride to our campus,” said Trustee Anderson.

In addition to the new logo unveiled today, Middlesex College announced that a naming of the new physical mascot, the Colt, will be chosen following an online poll of the student body in the coming months. The mascot will be used in athletic and campus events, as well as in recruitment and outreach efforts.

Ads Sell!
Call Carolyn!
732-896-4446

Dowdell Library Events

Press Release

SOUTH AMBOY — Spring into reading this month at the Dowdell Library. Our April schedule is blooming with fresh new programs and services.

The month kicks off with National Library Week! Show off your creative side and design a bookmark. Stop by the library and pick up your blank bookmark starting April 5. Return it anytime during the month to have it displayed and judged! Winners from different age categories will be announced May 3.

Test Kitchen is back in April with an all-new recipe. Tune in to watch Dennis and Maryanne make Haluski, Polish cabbage and noodles. This delicious and easy recipe is a spring favorite. You can find the video on our webpage Dowdell.org or watch it on YouTube. Do you have an easy recipe you would love Dennis and Maryanne to make on Test Kitchen? Please email it to comments@dowdell.org or drop it off at the library during business hours. We would love to hear from you!

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, in collaboration with RWJBarnabas Health, is offering new virtual medical programs. Attend Stretch It!!! Hosted by John Lancaster. This class will help you improve your mobility and flexibility. Classes are held on April 1, 8, 15, and 29. Nadine Roberts, a stress management practitioner, will present A Virtual Guided Imagery Relaxation Session on April 13 & 27. Join us for a virtual relaxation session of guided imagery and creative visualization. Each one-hour session will begin at 1 pm. You must be registered to attend any class. To register, email Kathleen.johnson@rwjbh.org

April 22 is Earth Day! Water pollution causes a serious threat to our local wildlife and our well-being! Our very own Director Elaine Gaber has put together a fun virtual program even the youngest viewers can enjoy. This program will bring awareness to the impact water pollution has right here in our town. Don't miss this engaging program!

Take-home crafts are going green this month too! Stop in April 19-30 to grab a recycled art craft kit. You never know what you'll get because we are handing out a little bit of everything. Get creative and see what you can make!

The Library will be presenting a unique and engaging Virtual Exhibit in April. Joined by Suzanne Ryan, a small business owner and Victorian era expert, the Virtual Exhibit will dive into a lesser-known history subject. Suzanne will be displaying her extensive mourning jewelry collection and explaining the history behind the different pieces. Watch virtually on YouTube but then stop into the library to see the collection in person! The in-house exhibit will run through April.

Watch this program along with our many other fun and informative virtual programs on the Dowdell Library YouTube channel. You can find a link to the most current videos at Dowdell.org or search the Sadie Pope Dowdell Library on YouTube.

Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit www.dowdell.org, or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org. The library is located off John O'Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School. Due to all services being staff-assisted, walk-in service is available Monday-Friday 12-5pm and Thursday 12-5pm and 6-8pm. Grab & Go Service by Appointment-Monday morning 9:30-10:30am.

Woodbridge Public Library Events

Free Virtual Events - All are Welcome to Attend

April 8 | 11AM

Living with Arthritis

Learn treatment options to help you manage your arthritis. Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/38qV8On>

April 12 and April 14 | 1 PM

NJ Sales Tax & Use Tax Workshop

This workshop is aimed toward helping small businesses understand the New Jersey Sales & Use Tax. Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/3qBPAXv>

April 13 | 6:30PM

Consumer Fraud

A representative from the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs tells us how to AVOID GETTING SCAMMED. Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/3rwVCu4>

April 15 | 7PM

Hiking 101

President/Owner of Northeast Mountain Guiding, Joey Vulpis, will introduce us to the basics of hiking. Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/38LZ3Wc>

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>

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DVD Review: Queen's Gambit



By: Anton Massopust III

One of the best new shows on Netflix is “Queen’s Gambit”. It’s a really interesting story of a young girl, Beth Harmon (Anya Taylor-Joy) and her journey to become a grandmaster chess player in the late 1950s going into the 1960s.

Here are the episodes:

In “Openings,” Beth’s story starts with her in an orphanage where she learns from a janitor how to play chess and her relationship with Jolene (Moses Ingram). In the second episode, “Exchanges,” the story talks about Beth’s life after she is adopted by Alma. Beth slowly learns about high level chess and how to become a grandmaster. Her troubles continue as she slowly gets addicted to alcohol and pills. In episode 3 “Double Pawns,” Beth earns money playing chess, and Alma starts getting her into tournaments. Alma and Beth goes to Las Vegas to the 1966 US Open for Chess. Episode 4 “Middle Game,” Beth learns Russian to participate in a big tournament in Russia but goes to Mexico City to defend against a 13-year-old Russian prodigy. Beth loses the tournament, and also loses her adopted mother.

In Episode 5, Beth goes back to Kentucky to live in her adopted father’s house. (She buys the house from him). She begins training for the US Open of Chess in Idaho with a former rival named Benny. Episode 6 – “Adjournment,” Beth continues training with Benny in New York. Her addiction to alcohol pills continues. Jolene returns after many years to help Beth who now only wants to drink her troubles away. In Episode 7, “Endgame,” Jolene and Beth journey back to the orphanage to put the wrong things right. Jolene lends her the money to go to the chess tournament in Moscow. Beth makes peace with her past and realizes she doesn’t need all these crutches that trap her in the web of addiction, to become a grandmaster of chess, but also to find herself as a whole person.

“Queens Gambit,” is a great miniseries that can make a subject like chess very interesting. If you notice, every episode’s title is a chess term. It is definitely worth checking out. The late 1960’s feel and costumes are terrific. The acting is terrific. I enjoyed the series, and it is worth adding to your DVD collection. Accept it.

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.

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-shadetre@gmail.com



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.

On April 5, 1946, the last Soviet occupation troops leave Denmark’s Bornholm Island, which reverts to Danish sovereignty. In the U.S., Congress approves raising the federal minimum wage from 40 cents/hour to 65 cents/hour.

Capt. Susumu Hoshijima, Japanese commander of the Sandakan prisoner-of-war camp on Borneo, in Indonesia, is hanged at Rabaul, New Britain Island, Papua-New Guinea, on April 6 for war crimes. Hoshijima had ordered a series of 160-mile death marches for his sick and malnourished prisoners as the war approached its close in 1945. During his administration, over 6,000 prisoners died — over 4,000 Indonesians, 1,381 Australians and 641 Britons. The only survivors of his camp were six Australian servicemen who were able to escape into the jungle. Acting on a tip received in a Tokyo *geisha* house, American authorities in Japan recover platinum, gold and silver worth over two billion dollars that had been buried on the bottom of Tokyo Bay by Japanese military officers just prior to Japan’s surrender.

Hungary agrees on April 7 to pay \$300 million in war reparations to Czechoslovakia, the U.S.S.R., and Yugoslavia. Syria, with French troops withdrawing, becomes officially independent of France. The nation will be run by a republican government that had been formed in 1943 during the French mandate. In Milan, the first free local-council elections are held since 1922, when Benito Mussolini installed his Fascist regime.

In Geneva, Switzerland, the League of Nations meets for the last time, on April 8. The agenda: to dissolve the organization.

On April 9, Dutch and Indonesian representatives resume negotiations in the Netherlands to try to resolve the future of the Netherlands East Indies. The Dutch are offering the island group’s residents citizenship, local autonomy and membership in the Dutch Commonwealth. The Indonesians want full independence. The talks will prove fruitless. On the same day, AURI — the Indonesian Air Force (*Angkatan Udara Republik Indonesia*) — is established, incorporating around 50 captured Japanese planes.

The first elections in post-war Japan — and the first multi-party elections since 1932 — are held on April 10. Japanese women are able to vote for the first time. However, the leader of the victorious Liberal Party, Ichirō Hatoyama, will be blocked from becoming prime minister by the Allied occupation authorities because of his prior service in the wartime Japanese government. In the U.S., the Federal Communications Commission approves the first expansion of long-distance telephone service since the war began — AT&T is authorized to add 1,000 long-distance circuits.

The French National Assembly on April 11 passes a resolution outlawing “forced labor” in the nation’s overseas territories. Previously, French colonial governments could require adult males in its territories to work on government projects — without pay — for a set number of days per year. The Bell X-1 experimental jet airplane makes its first powered flight at Muroc Army Air Field (now Edwards Air Force Base) in California’s Mojave Desert.

Prime Minister Achille Van Acker proclaims Belgium’s wage-and-price freeze to be over on April 12. The Soviet government establishes “Arzamas-16” — its secret center for the construction of nuclear weapons —at the Russian town of Sarov, some 324 miles east of Moscow.

On April 13 at the Langwasser internment camp (*Stalag XIII-D*) near Nuremberg, Germany, kitchen workers — Holocaust survivors, some of whom are members of the clandestine Jewish organization known as either *Din* (“Justice”) or *Nakam* (“Revenge”) — paint 3,000 loaves of bread with an arsenic compound. It is an attempt to kill the 12,000-15,000 prisoners — mostly former SS officers or prominent Nazis — temporarily incarcerated there by the U.S. Almost 2,300 of the inmates become sick, with over 200 needing hospitalization. No deaths occur, however, even though later analysis shows enough arsenic in each loaf to provide a fatal dose. Prosecutors decide to not file attempted murder charges against the kitchen workers because of “the special circumstances” of the case.

Chinese Communist leader Chou En-lai on April 14 announces the beginning of a war against the Nationalist government of Chiang Kai-shek. Communist forces attack Changchun, the capital of Jilin Province in northeastern China, on the same day.

The first television network is created on April 15, as the DuMont Television Network links its stations in New York and Washington, D.C., by coaxial cable. A two-hour program featuring speeches, “along with a short play, a quiz show, and a dance routine” are broadcast simultaneously on both outlets. Frozen, concentrated orange juice is first offered for sale, by Florida Foods Corporation, as shipments arrive at local stores from a plant in Plymouth, Florida, under the brand name “Minute Maid.” For the first time since 1933, the Jewish observance of Passover is legally held in Germany. The last British and French troops evacuate Syria.

On April 16, the former NSB mayor of Rotterdam, the Netherlands, Frederik Ernst Müller, is sentenced to 100 years in prison for collaborating with the Nazis. The NSB (in Dutch: *Nationaal-Socialistische Beweging in Nederland*) was a fascist — and later Nazi — political party. During the German occupation of the Netherlands, it was the only legal political party. In Boston, Massachusetts, it is the first opening day for major league baseball since Germany and Japan surrendered. The excitement is palpable among the crowd coming to watch the Boston Braves play the Brooklyn Dodgers. The Braves win, 5-3, but it turns out that not all of Braves Stadium’s newly green-painted seats had dried completely by the time ballpark guests are seated. Braves management winds up paying a cleaning tab of around \$6,000 for the more than 500 fans who submit claims for paint-damaged clothing.

The Republic of Syria on April 17 is officially proclaimed independent of France by its president, Shukri al-Quwatli. Close to 200,000 demonstrators march through the streets of Tokyo to protest the policies of Kijūrō Shidehara, appointed by the U.S. in October 1945 as the nation’s first post-war prime minister. (Ichirō Hatoyama, the winner of the election on April 10 and who would have replaced Shidehara, is blocked from taking office by the Allies because of his prior wartime government service.) U.S. soldiers are called upon to disperse the crowd.

Chinese Communist forces capture Changchun, the capital of Jilin Province, on April 18. The inaugural session of the International Court of Justice takes place at The Hague, the Netherlands. In Geneva, the League of Nations officially dissolves itself and transfers its assets of \$11,700,000 to the United Nations. The United States extends full recognition to the Yugoslav government of Josip Broz Tito. At the War Crimes trials in Nuremberg, Hans Frank, former head of the General Government of Poland during the German occupation, admits he ordered the extermination of Jews, created ghettos and mandated forced labor. He does not blame anyone else for his actions. During the course of his trial, Frank states, “A thousand years will pass, and this guilt of Germany will still not be erased.” Former UCLA star athlete Jackie Robinson makes his professional baseball debut playing second base for the Montreal Royals, the International League team owned by the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Please Submit Your Events to
AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

Pallone Mourns the Passing of
Kenneth Armwood

Press Release 3/29/21
MIDDLESEX COUNTY - “I was deeply shocked and saddened to learn about the sudden passing of Middlesex County Deputy Director Kenneth Armwood. His leadership in our community touched everyone who knew him. He will be sorely missed. I first came to know Kenny when he worked at the

Edison Job Corps. It was clear that he was devoted to civil rights and helping underserved communities, ensuring the next generation could build a better future. My deepest condolences go out to his family and friends during this extremely difficult time. His dedication to our community left an indelible mark on Middlesex County.”

Statement from the Middlesex
County Board of County
Commissioners Regarding the
Passing of Deputy Director
Kenneth Armwood

Press Release 3/29/21
MIDDLESEX COUNTY - “It is with a heavy heart and great sadness that we share the news of the passing of our beloved and highly regarded Deputy Director Kenneth Armwood. As a lifelong resident of Piscataway and a graduate of Rutgers University, Deputy Director Armwood was emblematic of Middlesex County— an advocate for all, and one that we were incredibly proud to call a fellow County Commissioner.



County Commissioner
Ken Armwood

Deputy Director Armwood leaves a legacy of lasting contributions to Middlesex County. Beginning his career in public service at the young age of 19 years old, he was elected to the Piscataway School Board where he created a model for the State to address school violence. He later led the renovation of the most unique and inclusive park, the “All Children’s Playground”, designed for children with or without disabilities.

Since 2013, Armwood joined the Board taking the helm of economic development as the Chair of the Business Innovation, Education and Opportunity Committee. Armwood’s list of achievements were countless including establishing the Annual Business Summit bringing leaders into the County’s economic journey; overseeing the distribution of funding from Middlesex County’s Arts Trust Fund supporting one of his passions, the arts; driving the creation of online programs connecting employers, employ-

ees, residents, and job seekers, which included the launch of SkillUp; and advocating for education for all, developing programs tailored for individuals of all ages and for veterans, labor union apprenticeships, and more. Most recently, true to who he was, he championed the name change of our Board to ensure our title is reflective of the community we serve – an inclusive, diverse peoples who represent the greatness of this County.

His accomplishments were many but what we will remember most of all is Kenneth Armwood’s friendship, kindness, and the inspiration he gave us. He gave his all, always. He will be deeply missed. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family, friends, and the community that loved him during this difficult time.”

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Clothing & Shoe Fund Drive

SOUTH AMBOY - There will be a Clothing and Shoe Fund Drive on April 11, 2021 at the Sacred Heart Church, 531 Washington Rd., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please donate to raise funds for Boy Scout Troop 95 and Church of the Sacred Heart South Amboy.

Needed Items:

- All types of styles of used and wearable clothing (men, women, and kids)
- All used and wearable sneakers

- Purses/Backpacks
- Briefcases
- Belts/Hats/Gloves
- Socks/Scarves/Ties
- Blankets & Sheets
- Pillows & Bedspreads
- Quilts & Comforters
- Towels & Bath Rugs
- Tablecloths
- Drapery & Curtains

No Furniture, toys, books, glass, liquids or bric-a-brac.

If you are unable to drop off your items at these times, please contact: Troop 95 BSA at 732-654-2816 or email: T95B-SANJ@GMAIL.COM
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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.

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Novena to St. Rita

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

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 M.A.P.

Novena to St. Anthony

O Holy St. Anthony, reach down from heaven and take hold of my hand. Assure me that I am not alone. You are known to possess miraculous powers and to be ever ready to speak for those in trouble. Loving and Gentle St. Anthony, reach down from heaven I implore you and assist me in my hour of need. Obtain for me *(mention your request here.)* Dearest St. Anthony, reach down from heaven and guide me with thy strength. Plead for me in my needs. And teach me to be humbly thankful as you were for all the bountiful blessings I am to receive. Amen
M.P.

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 A.L.S.

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, April 8, 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.

Spring Bake Sale

PERTH AMBOY - St. John's Orthodox Church will be holding their Spring Bake Sale orders for the Homemade Walnut, Poppyseed, and Prune (Lekvar) Cakes at \$13.00 a piece. Orders can be made by calling in on April 12, 13, 14 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM to (732) 826-7067. We also have a limited amount of frozen Pirohi for \$9.00 a dozen. Orders may be picked up on April 21 or 22 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at 404 Division Street, Perth Amboy. Please order early before the orders are closed.

Have a Special Pet?

E-mail us your Pet Photos to Amboy-Guardian@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.

Pet of the Week



PERTH AMBOY - Jessabelle is a very special cocker spaniel who loves to walk the Perth Amboy waterfront. She is friendly and loves everyone. Love, Liz

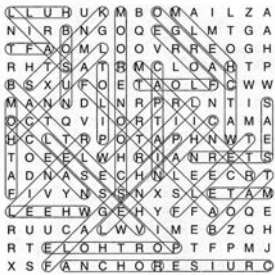


Roast Pork Dinner

SOUTH AMBOY - The Trinity United Methodist Church at 815 Bordentown Avenue in South Amboy is holding their Roast Pork Dinner on Saturday, April 17 from 4 pm – 6:30 pm. The dinner is TAKE OUT only and includes Roast Pork, mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots, green beans, applesauce, and a home-made dessert. Call Lori at 732 763 6232 to place your orders starting April 1. Delivery options. Tickets are \$14.

Remember to Say Your Novenas!

Answers From Puzzle On Page 17



LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY – Baseball game

**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.

STORIES from PERTH AMBOY

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Indira Marine
Realtor/Agent

***Congratulations to
Indira Marine
for being the #1 Agent
for the Month of February***

***Happy 10th Anniversary
to the Amboy Guardian!***



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PORT READING - House needs some work. House is being sold strictly AS IS. Buyer responsible for C/O all inspections and repairs. **\$430,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Beautifully maintained and updated single family home located in quiet, desirable neighborhood of Perth Amboy. Upon entering, is the formal living and dining areas featuring a half bath and craftsman details such as crown molding throughout. Beyond the dining room is the heart of every home, the kitchen, with custom solid wood cabinets and open space floor plan ideal for cooking and entertaining. The second floor features a full bath plus three large bedrooms, including a master with walkout balcony. A fourth bedroom is located in the attic area with a bonus room adjacent for use as an office or additional storage. The basement is fully finished with a second bonus room, full bath and separate laundry area. Outside is the private fenced yard, large storage shed and a picturesque garden area. Ample off-street parking, within close proximity to supermarkets, restaurants and public transportation. **\$364,900**



ELIZABETH - Spacious, well maintained 2 family home. Close to airport, center of town, Transportation & More. 2 car driveway, large garage and backyard! 3 Bedrooms, 2 Bath per floor. Hardwood floors throughout, kitchen/dining area open floor plan. Separate utilities per floor. **\$589,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Great two family with steady rental income in heart of Perth Amboy only few blocks from Train Station and shopping business district 2 bedroom each apartment, large attic storage space, car garage, lots of potential needs some TLC. Buyer is responsible for C/O and all repairs. It is being sold AS IS condition. Very affordable price. Hurry!!!! **\$419,000**



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/O and all repairs. Strictly AS IS condition. **\$339,000**



ELIZABETH - Spacious, well maintained 2 family home. Close to airport, transportation & more. 2 car garage, 4 car driveway, large backyard! 4 Bedrooms, 2 bath per unit. Hardwood floors throughout, kitchen/dining area open floor plan. Separate utilities per unit. Extra living space. **\$749,000**



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/O. and repairs. Hurry!!! **\$359,000**



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 - 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**