• VOL. 11 NO. 4 • 732-896-4446 • P.O. BOX 127 • PERTH AMBOY • NJ • 08862 • WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021 •

What is the Strategy? Searching for a B.A. One of Many Topics Discussed

5/10/21 Caucus

By: Carolyn Maxwell PERTH AMBOY – The first topic discussed after the two presentations included had to do with bids. The first topic was the Public Safety Complex Gate Improvement. The company who was recommended the bid was Giacorp Contract-

Fire Chief Ed Mullen came up to explain for the 27% increase. "The price of wood has increased by a lot."

ing Inc. for \$237,333.

The second bid for outdoor benches for a cost not to exceed \$50,000. It was recommended that the bid be awarded to Boston Bench for the furnishing assembly and installation of the benches downtown.

Tashi Vazquez from the Office of Economic and Community Development said that 24 benches will be installed at this current price. "The old benches that were removed will be placed elsewhere in the city."

The next topic for discussion was R-252-5/21 – Rescinding R-8-1/21 – A contract for professional services of Interim Business Administrator and oversight services to Government Strategy Group in an amount not to exceed \$95,000 for a period of 6 months commencing on January 1, 2021 and expiring June 30, 2021.

Councilman Joel Pabon was not happy with this. "This contract is almost over, and I predicted that you would get candidates soon, but let the process finish out. I'm hearing that they have two candidates for the permanent position for business administrator."

Council President Bill Petrick responded, "I want substantial information that they do have candidates. We need to let this group know (Government Strategy Group) that we are serious, and they need to come to one of our closed session meetings to give us facts on their search for a new business administrator. They could just give us the resumes of the qualified candidates."

Joel Pabon concluded the discussion, "Take a good look at this contract and give them an

ultimatum."

The next topic for discussion was R-255-5/21 – A contract for a pre-gate renovation and tree replacement where needed to Garden State Sealing in an amount not to exceed \$53,000.

DPW Director Frank Hoffman explained through Zoom, "The kind of grate will be a small wire around the trunk of the trees with bricks as reenforcement around it."

Tashi Vazquez also came up and said, "NPP funds will be used for this and there is a deadline for these funds to be used."

Hoffman then explained R-256-5/21 – A contract Seacoast Construction for the 2020 CDBG Road Improvement – Commerce Street, Johnstone Street, and Hall Avenue intersection and to add Huntington and 661 Charles Street as an additional location to the contract.

He explained why it was specifically 661 Charles St. "We have to level part of the ground so that the rainwater flows into the grate."

The next topic was R-262-5/21 – Endorsing the Housing Plan Element and Fair Share Plan and authorizing and directing submission of the plan to the Superior Court.

Council President Bill Petrick questioned if items can be changed in this plan.

Tashi Vazquez came back up to answer. "This plan was adopted by the Planning Board. If you (the council) make changes to it, it will have to go back to the planning board. It is a living document."

Petrick then asked, "Will this tie us for up to 10 years?"

Vazquez stated, "Between 5-10 years, you can always go back to update or make changes. The current administration supports this plan fully. We can't deviate from the Housing. It is part of our obligation."

The next topic discussed was R-270-5/21 – Outdoor benches.

Councilwoman Rose Morales asked, "Before approving this, can we see if we can repurpose the old benches? The new ones look like they are 8-foot benches.

Vazquez explained, "They are only 6-feet in length and people will not be able to lie down on them."

DPW Director Hoffman came on Zoom again. "Most of the old benches that were salvageable were refurbished by DPW Supervisor Danny Cleaver. The ones from downtown were placed along Sadowski Parkway."

Morales then asked, "Can we put the budget back on the agenda to be voted on?"

Council President Petrick explained, "It's just a starting point of our agenda. We need to see if we need to make changes. We can have individual discussions on the budget."

Public Portion: Resident Ken Balut came up to speak. "Why isn't the doubledipping lawyer here tonight? When King was the Law Director, he would be here. Northgrave is in Edison tonight, even though he may be a good lawyer. This is a joke paying this group (Government Strategy Group) to find a permanent business administrator. McCabe (Middlesex County Democratic Chair) and Harry Pozycki (Founder of the Citizen's Campaign) are running this town. Remsen (Interim Business Administrator) is a nice guy, but he was a mayor at another town for only one year. We hire people who just take our money. The county is drooling over our money and we don't get a say in anything." He then asked, "How much of the \$96,000 mentioned in R-252 has been spent? What have they done? Where is their report? When one of our former business administrators (Greg Fehrenbach) was here, he al-

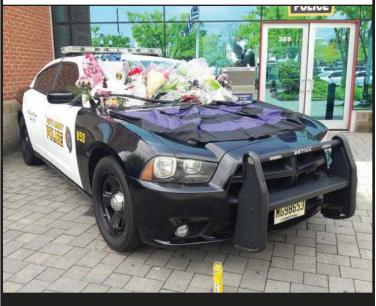
ways had answers."

The next person who came up to speak was Reinaldo Aviles from New Brunswick Today. He appreciated when the department directors are prepared and were able to answer all questions. "You can be a nice person, but not know what you are doing. When are the bud-

*Continued on Page 14

















2021 Municipal Budget, Invasive Species, Fire Alarms

5/5/21 Business Meeting

By: Katherine Massopust SOUTH AMBOY – City Auditor Gary Higgins gave a report and highlights of the 2021 Municipal Budget. Higgins was happy to announce that there is a \$973,000 increase of the surplus and there are no changes in the rating.

Council President Mickey Gross asked if the two much needed fire vehicles and a first aid vehicle and equipment for the Fire Department were included in the budget.

Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski answered, "Yes."

City Auditor Higgins stated, "It appears to fully fund what is needed. The city is in great condition."

Council President Gross asked if the money from the Covid Relief was available yet.

B.A. Skarzynski answered that the city has not received those monies as of yet.

Higgins continued, "At the current time, the rescue money from the Federal Government has specific guidelines. When the guidelines are provided, you can add (that funding) to the budget."

When it came time to vote on the budget, Councilwoman Zusette Dato had some concerns and voted, "No," as did Councilman Tom Reilly who felt more transparency was needed. Council Vice President Christine Noble, Councilman Brian McLaughlin, and Council President Mickey Gross voted, "Yes". The budget passed 3 "Yes" to 2 "No" votes.

There was a brief exchange of words between Councilman Tom Reilly, Mayor Fred Henry, and B.A. Glenn Skarzynski over a proposed meeting with the Chief of Police. Reilly felt offended that he or members of the council were not privy to the meeting. Law Director Francis Womack explained that the meeting falls under the administration. Mayor Henry assured Reilly that no meeting took place although he and the Business Administrator were approached to have one. Council President Gross stated he tried to reach Reilly but was unable to do so.

Law Director Francis Womack and Mayor Fred Henry thanked City Auditor Gary Higgins for the work he did.

There was a discussion on a proposed ordinance on invasive species. This was spawned by a resident (Mr. DeMasi) who complained about his neighbor's yard which had bamboo all over it which was encroaching on his property. Councilman Reilly wished to help Mr. De-Masi by introducing an invasive species ordinance. The controversy with the ordinance dealt with who had the responsibility of removing the invasive species. The ordinance stated that the property owner (who put the invasive species there) is responsible for removing the invasive species off of the infringed property.

Councilman Reilly said, "In the past, the homeowner was re-

sponsible for his own property. This will give responsibility to the individual who planted the invasive species and makes them responsible for any adjacent homes that the invasive species came from. The responsibility is back on the individual who created the issue.

Councilwoman Dato agreed with this proposal.

Council President Gross did not agree. "It's a tough line."

City Clerk Deborah Brooks added, "How will you determine the origin of the invasive species? You can't put that on a Health Officer."

Gross continued his argument, "How do you put a Health Inspector on it to expect someone to clean someone else's yard? To put a Health Inspector in that position is ridiculous."

Law Director Womack stated, "An innocent party – everyone has an equal responsibility to clean it up, even if we can't determine where it came from."

City Clerk Brooks stated that the introduction of this ordinance will be at the next meeting and it will be on the agenda.

For Resolution No. 21-110 – A Resolution authorizing an application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Urban Parks Initiative Grant 2021.

City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz stated that there is a cleanup on Broadway in southern area up to O'Leary Boulevard. He explained that the grant writer would be submitting a grant application to the NJ DEP Urban Parks Initiative Grant Program for funds of a new playground. The plan is to demolish the former Disabled American Veteran's Post.

Councilman Reilly asked if the members of the Disabled American Veterans were able to find a new home.

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski said that the mother chapter relocated its members to other chapters. "We dealt with the state," explained Skarzynski. He added that the old building is in very poor condition and the roof had collapsed.

For Resolution No. 21-111 – A Resolution authorizing an application to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Local Recreation Improvement Grant 2021.

B.A. Skarzynski stated that the Allie Clark Athletic Complex was to be improved. "The grant-writer identified a funding source that has a 20% match obligation. We do not believe the grant will be awarded until spring next year.

For Ordinance No. 2021-08

– An Ordinance of the city of South Amboy, county of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, amending chapter 53-98a, entitled "Restrictions on Growth and Sale of Marijuana" to change the title to "Cannabis Businesses Prohibited," and add a new section, prohibiting the operation of any class of cannabis businesses within the city of South Amboy.

The ordinance was introduced

as a first reading and advertised for a second reading which is scheduled for the June 2, 2021 meeting. The ordinance was moved by Mickey Gross and seconded by Zussette Dato. Everyone voted "Yes" on the ordinance.

Council Comments:

Councilman Tom Reilly thanked the first responders. He asked about the ordinance he had requested to waive late fees for water/sewer costs for seniors and disabled individuals.

Law Director Francis Womack stated that he had the ordinance, but he did not give it to the city clerk to get on the agenda on time.

Reilly then asked when the council can once again meet in person.

B.A. Skarzynski stated that decision is with the council.

Reilly stated he would like to go on record that he wants an in-person meeting.

Councilman McLaughlin concurred but wanted the option to continue with teleconferencing.

City Clerk Brooks was not sure how to do this.

B.A. Skarzynski stated, "We need to make a substantial technical upgrade to do that. What we need technologically – I have no way of knowing it."

Council President Gross asked the council to aim for an in-person meeting for July 2021. The council agreed.

Law Director Womack stated he didn't see any legal impediment of solely live or a mix of live/teleconferencing.

Reilly asked if the inspection of lower main street was completed. B.A. Skarzynski answered, "Yes".

Reilly then asked about the status of Venetian, the illegal palate operation, and illegal housing.

Law Director Francis Womack answered, "Venetian had additional demands. We are proceeding on mediation of that case."

B.A. Skarzynski answered, "As for the palate operation, I was on a meeting with the county business administrators on Zoom. They reordered the bench orders to force them to appear (in court)."

Reilly gave a statement of his sentiments about PILOTS and how he felt that they are detrimental to the city.

B.A. Skarzynski disagreed with Reilly stating that PILOTS can be beneficial. He stated that often the developers requesting PILOTS clean up property that would cost the city a tremendous amount of money if doing it ourselves. "The YMCA could not have been built if it weren't for a PILOT."

Reilly stated, "Woodmont did not remediate that property. That was done by someone else."

Councilman Brian McLaughlin thanked the Fire Department, Police Department, First Aid, Healthcare workers. He

*Continued on Page 17





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

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

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

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

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

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Remembering Two Special People

Lydia Trinidad was a former Executive Director of PRAHD in Perth Amboy who passed away recently. All the experiences I had with her, she was always fun-loving gracious person who always had huge smile.

PRAHD had hired a professional photographer by the name of Jim Shea who was also a photojournalist who would take photos of most of their events. One year, for the Roberto Clemente Gala Jim was not able to attend because he and his wife were being treated to a cruise by his kids for their wedding anniversary. Jim asked me if I can do the event for him, and I was extremely nervous because Jim's photos were always perfection. I reluctantly agreed to do the assignment. I am so glad I did because I had so much fun at the event and it wasn't a chore at all.

At the time, I was working for the Amboy Beacon. Of course, Bill George was there. It was a Mardi gras theme. It was so much fun watching the people with their different masks. When it came to the part of the evening when they were recognizing the honorees that night, Ms. Trinidad had so much fun introducing them, and it was so much fun taking candid shots instead of a lot of staged shots. It was so much fun catching people off-guard, just laughing, being themselves, and enjoying themselves. As a matter of fact, the pictures I took were so candid and so different, that when I gave a set of the photos to Ms. Trinidad, she said several people asked if she could get copies of the photos. I spent that evening joking with her and other officers on the board of PRAHD. The food was delicious, the atmosphere was very relaxing and fun, and it never felt like I was on assignment. That was an evening I'll never

When I was reading her obituary, I was impressed with all that she accomplished. Now, she has a well-deserved rest, and she is looking down and remembering all the people that she worked with, and how she was so grateful to be a part of



Lydia TrinidadJuly 17, 1941 April 30, 2021 (age 79)

their lives and to see their accomplishments. I was very happy to be a part of that evening (The Roberto Clemente Gala) and how gracious and fun-loving she was to me. I will never forget that day or her.

The next person I want to remember is my second cousin, Melissa Whitehead Brown who passed away suddenly on May 7, 2021 at the age of 55. She was an inspiration because she would share her past which she was not very proud of when she was much younger. She said, "At that point, I would consider myself a bad girl." She was known as Missy.

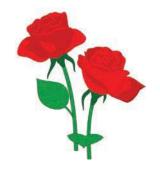
There was also an article in the Home News Tribune about her. The Home News Tribune showed her standing at Delaney Homes Apartment Complex at the building where she used to live when she was in that "Bad Girl Stage" of her life, and she was reminiscing because at the time, Delaney Homes was going to be torn down. Even though her past was part of her life, it was not going to determine her future. She turned her life over to God, and once she did that, everything else was put into place. She was able to get a good steady job and become a counselor to people who struggled with the same situation that she had been in her past. She was also able to purchase a house in Woodbridge, something she thought she would never be able to do. With the help and guidance of her mother, she successfully was able



Melissa Whitehead-Brown September 28, 1965 -May 7, 2021 (age 55)

to raise four children. Not only that, she became a grandmother herself. She married the love of her life, but unfortunately, she lost her husband in 2018.

Melissa's smile was so bright, she could have easily landed a contract with a toothpaste company. We used to have family reunions every two years and we would have fundraisers to help defray some of the costs associated with the reunions. We would often meet at Melissa's mother's house or Melissa's house for these fundraisers. She was always a bright spot. She loved life. She loved to laugh and was always a straight shooter, never minced words. She said what was on her mind whether you liked what she said or not. She was loving to her children and grandchildren, but if she had to put them in their place, she never held back. That is something to be admired. That is why it was such a shock when I heard she passed away, because the last time someone talked about her, she would be vacationing someplace or going out with family or friends. She would be one of the last persons that we would think would pass away so early in her life. When she went up to heaven into the open arms of our Father, she was also embraced by so many relatives that left before her. Although she is not here physically, she is well and through the tears of those she left bening, she wants you to know not to grieve that long because she will come to you when you least expect it. She is living through all of you and that is the greatest gift she left behind. C.M.



THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Freedom of the Press

Why does some public officials don't like the community newspaper? Here is why. It tells news those other puppet-controlled newspapers won't print what happens at a City Council Meeting. Many concerned voters and taxpayers want to know about how their City Government is doing. I remember when the News Tribune was a Perth Amboy newspaper "The News Fit the Print," from city council meetings to crime and many

city politicians hated it. They would ask, "Why did the News Tribune have to print that?" Well, the same goes for the Amboy Guardian, "Why did The Amboy Guardian have to print that?" But when a city politician needs the Amboy Guardian for a reason like: "I was framed!" or "I'm running for re-election," they need the paper they complain about. RIGHT. So, enjoy the FREEDOM of The Press for now, and don't complain.

Orlando "Wildman" Perez

Freedom Park

Attorney Gonzalez seems to be chomping at the bit to name a new park. Hopefully he and others are not thinking of bestowing that honor to some pickpocket politician or some high-ranking public (a.k.a. self) servant who was (or is) collecting a hefty salary as who was (or is) getting a nice fat pension. Why are some folks so hellbent on heaping praise to individuals who are merely doing what they are paid to do which is what everyone else does? Might I suggest Freedom Park or some such moniker. Thank you!

The Honorable Michael Rusznak

Public Notices

NEW JERSEY TRANSIT CORPORATION FISCAL YEAR 2021 REQUEST FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	
The New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT), under Fixing America's Surface Transportation(FAST) Act, and under pro-	risions of Moving Ahead for Progress
in the 21° Century (MAP-21), gives notice of its intent to apply for federal Riscal Year 2021 federal financial assistance. Fever 2019, Federal Fiscal Year 2019 and Federal Fiscal Year 2019 can defeared Fiscal Year 2019 can develope though some services of the property	derał Fiscal Year 2020, Federal Fisca nillion under 49 H.S.C. Section 5307
for operating and capital assistance; \$248.00 million under Section 5309 for Capital Investment Grant Program; \$206.1	7 million under Section 5337 State
of Good Repair; \$8.89 million under Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities; \$11.98 million under 49 U.S.C.; Sections 531 Individuals with Disabilities and Section 5311 Rural Transportation Program; \$89.75 million of Federal Highway Authority;	0 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and and \$39.61 million of Discretionan
funding for a total of \$1.03 billion.	
Federal operating funds will be matched as required with funds provided by the State of New Jersey and local recipien State guidelines. NJ TRANSTI intends to provide the non-Federal share of capital projects through credit for toll revenues. program is described below.	ts in conformance with Federal and The Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Federa
FISCAL YEAR 2021 FEDERAL PROGRAM	
Proposed Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program (in Millions of Dollars) PROJECT	FEDERAL
Capital Lease Payments	85.37
Cumberland County Bus Program	1.02
Dual Power Locomotives Elizabeth Intermodal Station Reconstruction	70.43 25.08
HRLRT Weehawken Tunnel Renairs	4.83
Lyndhurst Station Reconstruction	11.58
Perth Amboy Intermodal ADA Improvements	10.69 9.30
PL42 Locomotives Preventive Maintenance - Bus	113.93
Preventive Maintenance - Rail	88.05
SANDY Dmg 06NLR 4 NPS Storm Protection	0.48
SANDY Rsl 08MAS 4 ROC Unit Substations Total	6.42 \$427.18
Proposed Section 5309 Capital Investment Grant Program (in Millions of Dollars)
PROJECT .	FEDERAL
Portal North Bridge FFGA	\$248.00
Total:	\$248.00
Proposed Section 5337 State of Good Repair (in Millions of Dollars)	
PROJECT	FEDERAL 41.38
PL42 Locomotives Preventive Maintenance - Bus	41.38
Preventive Maintenance - Rail	160.26
Total:	\$206.17
Propused Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities (in Millions of Dollars)	
PROJECT	FEDERAL
Bus Operations Control Center Howell Garage CNG Compressor Replacement	6.26 1.08
Wayne Bus Garage Modernization	1.55
Total:	\$8.89
Proposed Section 5310,5311 (in Millions of Dollars)	
PROJECT	FEDERAL
Local- Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Ind. w/Disabilities Local- Rural Transit Program Contracts	7.47 4.51
Total:	\$11.98
Proposed Federal Highway Authority (FHWA) (in Millions of Dollars)	
PROJECT	FEDERAL
CMAQ/5307 Local Initiatives DVRPC	1.01
CMAQ/5310 Local Initiatives DVRPC	0.99 8.00
HBLR Route 440 Extension Mutti-Level III Rail Car Purchase	75.00
Newark Intermodal	0.50
Underwater Hoboken Ferry Funds	4.25
Total:	\$89.75
Proposed Discretionary Funding (in Millions of Dellars' PROJECT	FEDERAL.
Articulated Buses	17.27
Electric Bus Acquisition for Route #25 at Hilton Garage	7.07
Public Transportation Covid-19 Research Demonstration Grant Program	0.60 14.67
Wayne Buş Garage Modernization Total:	\$39.61
A control of the cont	(ROZION)
A. <u>Property Acquisition/Environmental, Economic, and Social Aspects</u> Any property acquisition or relocation that may be required will be conducted in accordance with the appropriate p	rovisions of the law and regulators
requirements as appropriate the social economic environmental and relocation generis of the projects will be inves-	digated If required under applicable
laws and regulations, interim findings may be presented at a future public hearing and further public comment will be	solicited. Prior to the implementation
or any of the projects and to the extent requires, NO TRANST may prepare an conviction that assessment or conviction federal regulations. The availability of this document will be made known by publication in the same manner as this in Federal statutes and regulations affecting structures or properties eligible for or on the National Register of Historic PI.	notice.' NJ TRANSIT will adhere to al
	aces.
B. Comprehensive Planning	1202 120 130 200 20 100
NJ TRANSIT projects are developed in coordination with the following planning organizations: The North Jersey Transp the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPC) forthe Northeest New Jersey urbanized area; the Belaware V which is the designated MPO for Camden, Merces Burnilagon, and Glousoster counties; and the South Jersey Transport the designated MPO for Cumberland, Salem, Alfantic, and Cape May counties. The MPOs are the forums for local decisi	ortation Planning Authority, which is alley Regional Planning Commission
which is the designated MPO for Camden, Mercer, Burlington, and Gloucester counties; and the South Jersey Transport	ation Planning Organization, which is
the designated MPO for Cumberland, Salem, Atlantic, and Cape May counties. The MPOs are the forums for local decisi projects. The projects are developed in consultation with local elected officials, interested citizens, and providers of projects.	on-making concerning the proposed ivate bus services.
C. Private Enterprise Participation	
C. Private Emergrise Participation Through the comprehensive planning process administered by the MPOs and ongoing communication with NJ TRANSI	I's Office of Private Carrier Affairs N
TRANSIT continues to discuss with private carriers their participation in the capital program. In addition, NJ TRANSIT possible, the participation of the private sector in the development and implementation of public transportation in the	encourages, to the maximum exten
D. Senior Citizens and Individuals with Disabilities	K ,
Services to be provided will be consistent with NJ TRANSIT's program of reduced interstate and intrastate rail as individuals with disabilities. Every reasonable effort will be made to plan and design program elements involving facil with careful consideration of the special needs of senior citizens and individuals with disabilities.	nd bus fares for senior citizens and ities generally available to the public
E. Public Input	
N.I.TOANCIT ignitive public commants on the show projects and its performance. Reguest for additional information of	n NJ TRANSIT's program of projects
written comments and/or requests for a public hearing should be sent to Joyce J. Zuczek, Board Secretary, Office of the One Penn Plaza East, Newark, New Jersey 07105-2246 by May 28, 2021.	Secretary to the Board, NJ TRANSI
	difu the above program before fin-
Based on comments received in response to this notice and information made available, NJ TRANSIT may mo	whether a public hearing is in orde
Based on comments received in response to this notice and information made available, NJ TRANSIT may mo submission to the Federia Tirasit Administration (TR) and will make a determination, pursuant to TFI regulations, as to The above list of proposed prejicts will become the final list of projects unless notifications provided in the same mann	er as this public notice.
Based on comments received in response to this notice and information made available, NJ TRANSTI may mo submission to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and will make a determination, pursuant to FTA regulations, as to The above list of proposed projects will become the final list of projects unless notification is provided in the same mann Kenin S. One President & P	er as this public notice. bett

*Submitted by Vince Mackiel

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CUARDIAN

Where to Find Us...

IN FORDS:	
COLONIAL RESTAURANT	. 366 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
PUBLIC LIBRARY	211 FORD AVE.
ROOSEVELT'S DELI	684 KING GEORGE'S RD.
SUPER DUPER DELI III	650 KING GEORGE'S RD.
IN HOPELAWN:	
KRAUSZER'S	683 FLORIDA GROVE RD.
IN LAURENCE HARBOR:	oos i Bertabii eite (Bita)
HOFFMAN'S DELI	5 I ALIRENCE PKWV
	3 LAUKENCE I KW I.
IN MORGAN:	ACT C DINIE AVE
SOUTHPINE LIQUORS	46 / S. PINE AVE.
IN PARLIN:	
DAD'S ROYAL BAKERY	3290 WASHINGTON RD.
IN PERTH AMBOY:	
1ST CONSTITUTION BANK	145 FAYETTE ST.
ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTER	178 BARRACKS ST.
ALAMEDA CENTER	303 ELM ST.
AMBOY CHECK X-CHANGE	321 MAPLE ST.
ANDERL & OAKLEY PC	309 MAPLE ST.
THE BARGE	
BAY CITY LAUNDRYMAT	
C-TOWN	
CEDENO'S PHARMACY	
CITY HALL	
DUNKIN DONUTS	
EASTSIDE DRY CLEANERS	
FAMILY FOOT CARE	
FU LIN	
HY TAVERN	
INVESTOR'S BANK	
JANKOWSKI COMMUNITY CENTER	
JEWISH RENAISSANCE MEDICAL CENTER	272A HOBART ST.
KIM'S DRY CLEANERS	73 SMITH ST.
LAW OFFICES	708 CARSON AVE.
LEE'S MARKET	77 SMITH ST.
LUDWIG'S PHARMACY	75 BRACE AVE.
PETRA BEST REALTY	
PETRICK'S FLOWERS	
POLICE HEADQUARTERS	
PORTUGUESE MANOR	
PROVIDENT BANK	
PUBLIC LIBRARY	
PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATION	
QUICK CHEK	
QUICK STOP DELI	814 AMBUY AVE.
QUISQUEYA MARKET	
QUISQUEYA LUNCHEONETTE	
RARITAN BAY AREA Y.M.C.A	
RARITAN BAY MEDICAL CENTER	
SANTANDER BANK	
SANTIBANA TRAVEL	
SCIORTINO'S RESTAURANT	473 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SHOP-RITE	365 CONVERY BLVD.
SIPOS BAKERY	365 SMITH ST.
SUPERIOR DINER	464 SMITH ST.
SUPREMO SUPERMARKET	270 KING ST.
TORRES MINI MARKET	
TOWN DRUGS & SURGICAL	
WELLS FARGO	
IN SAYREVILLE:	
BOROUGH HALL	167 MAINI CT
SENIOR CENTER	
SUNNYSIDE RESTAURANT	111 MAIN ST.
IN SEWAREN:	
PUBLIC LIBRARY	
SEWAREN CORNER DELI	514 WEST AVE.
IN SOUTH AMBOY:	
AMBOY BANK	100 N. BROADWAY
BROADWAY BAGELS	105 S. BROADWAY
BROADWAY DINER	
CITY HALL	
COMMUNITY CENTER	
KRAUSZER'S	
KRAUSZER'S	
PUBLIC LIBRARY	
SCIORTINO'S HARBOR LIGHTS	
SOUTH AMBOY MEDICAL CENTER	
WELLS FARGO BANK	116 N. BKOADWAY
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2021 Amboy Guardian Publication Dates

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

October 20

November 3

November 17

December 1

December 15

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

MON. May 24 City Council, Caucus 5:30 p.m.
City Hall, High St. & Zoom

WED May 26 City Council, Regular,

City Hall, High St. & Zoom THURS. May 27 Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m. City Hall, High St.

THURS. Jun. 17 Board of Education, 5:30 p.m. PAHS, Eagle Ave. & Zoom

South Amboy

WED May 19 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway
WED. June 2 City Council, Business, 6 p.m.
City Hall N. Broadway.

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

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Safety Announcement

We are taking safety precautions in the City of Perth Amboy, emphasize that it is important:

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!!

Report Suspicious Activity - Be Vigilant - **STAY ALERT!** Do not think that any call or report is too small

Don't allow the actions of a few dictate your quality of life **FOR ALL EMERGENCIES, DIAL: 9-1-1**

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Budget Hearing, Recreation & Water/Sewer Rates

5/10/21 Caucus

By: Carolyn Maxwell PERTH AMBOY - Director of Recreation and Human Services Ken Ortiz was the first speaker from the departments he oversees. He preceded to ask the council if they wanted a report on the Recreation Department, Human Services or both depart-

They requested both.

Ortiz started out, "The Vital Statistics staffing level is the same. The only increases in salary are the ones who are entitled to them (via steps in the union contracts). At the beginning of Covid, people could download forms on the internet, fill them out, and then put them in the mailboxes located outside of the building on Olive Street. Now, some people can come in person by appointment only. The office space in Vital Statistics is very small for four people. We need to get fireproof and waterproof cabinets as some the documents go back to 1858. With the Office of Aging, some of the staff were reassigned because Olive Street was closed (and still is to the seniors). We are still delivering meals to senior citizens."

Council President Bill Petrick asked, "Are the drivers who are delivering the meals to senior's homes tested for Covid? And how often?"

Ortiz explained, "The drivers have no contact with the seniors. The meals are put in a bag or some kind of carrier and put on their doorsteps if they live in a house. If they live a building, someone receives the packages for them. We had to borrow one driver from the Department of Public Works because one of our regular drivers retired in 2019. DPW said they need that driver back, so we are going to need a driver to replace the one that we borrowed. NJ Transit will be giving us a small bus. In late June or early July, we will be letting the seniors back at Olive Street with several safety guidelines in place. We have a fitness workout system which was donated by AARP and will be located in Dalton Field which is close to a lot of the senior population. We've had a Covid Outreach Program for our seniors and between 800-1000 seniors have been contacted. For our Housing and Social Services Department, we have an additional offset for salaries of the amount of \$42,000. We have programs and funds for first time home buyers and home improvements. We have operating expenses and relocation funds, because sometimes we have to put people in temporary lodgings for loss of their apartments. Sometimes we can't find the owners of some of these apartments, or we can't reach the owners right away. The city has to find lodging for people who can no longer occupy their apartments. We also have rental assistance programs. So far, we've had 75 Code Blue Shelter calls. It costs \$1,000 a night when we have to put people into buildings. \$89,000 of funds

came in from the county. There

is a lot involved with running

Code Blue Shelters. We have to have linens, purchasing of food, and cleaning materials.'

Councilman B.J. Torres said, "All municipalities should have Code Blue facilities, so everything doesn't fall on us and New Brunswick."

Ortiz explained, "The criteria is that a town must have 10 homeless people registered in order to have a Code Blue Shelter. We've had 90 people sign up and register as homeless who said they were Perth Amboy residents. (He insinuated that he knew that other towns are sending their homeless here and they claim they are from Perth Amboy). In the past, before Covid hit, the homeless that were here (due to Code Blue or Code Red) had to leave our facilities by 7 a.m. the next morning. We would have to clean up our facilities because of our regular seniors would come in at 8 a.m. When the homeless were here at night, we need to provide security. The security we use is from a private company and charges \$40/hour in comparison to \$80/ hour if we use local officers. We have some people who are part-time staffers, but they are limited to work only 30 hours/ week. The YMCA Staff has been very helpful. There is a lot of food insecurity in our urban municipalities. We need to have an outreach program. We need a fulltime staff to do this. Currently in our city, there is 16,852 people receiving SNAP benefits. Of that number, 9,000 are children and this is why food pantries are so important."

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda asked Ortiz if he reached out to the churches (to get the word out). "Our Lady of Fatima Church is having an event coming up and a speaker from an outreach program to come to this event would be good."

Ortiz continued, "Tashi Vazquez from the Office of Economic and Community Development has found money for funding (for outreach programs). Our city is the third lowest in Middlesex County for vaccinations. We are looking at obtaining grant dollars (also to contribute to the outreach program)."

Councilman Torres asked, are all the departments (that you are in charge of) full? And if they are, maybe you can put some of those people in places where they are needed, especially if they were in a department with programs not in operation."

Ortiz answered, "We have a lot of rental assistance money out there that people don't know about or may not be qualified for. We are adamant about our county to get vaccines. We are working with the food pantries to see how we can assist each other. I've talked to our police chaplains and people in our sports leagues who can help us and just to go out and concentrate on going out to talk to people about getting vaccinations, especially to the younger people." Ortiz then talked about the Recreation Department. "The staff has been totally reassigned to help out with food distribution and we have been using our youth alliance team who has been working with the police and we have been using a Mental Health and Wellness Program. We need more funding (With Covid, many people are isolated, lonely, and stressed out). Our parks are open, and we are on our way to get our athletic programs started again. With the County Park, there should be a soft opening in July. We are hoping for a grand opening in September. With the Raritan River Park, they are applying for state funds and we would like to make a picnic area there. We also need to upgrade the lighting. It was decided not to make it a dog park."

Petrick then stated, "They may need cameras placed there for security."

Ortiz thought that was a great idea. "It's something to look into, but it is also Green Acres Encumbered. We hope to break ground this year. We are trying to identify what pieces of that property that the Department of Transportation owns."

Petrick then remarked, "It's at the foot of the (Victory) bridge on Smith and Convery. The owner said they might sell it for a dollar. Can we get that property?"

Ortiz explained, "They (the owners) want the exact measurements of what piece of the property the city wants and then they can give us a price. It can be a dollar or less." Ortiz then went on to talk about the Second Street Park. "The designs were changed. In a few months, we hope to break ground for the remediation. We are hoping the completion of that park will be done no later than 18 months after the remediation. With Washington Park, we are going to name it after Brian Taylor and the 1968 Championship Basketball Team this coming September. We already contacted Brian Taylor and he is very excited and honored. We are looking to expand Rudyk Park. We are trying to obtain some of the land from KinderMorgan, Duke Realty, and Conrail. With Waters Stadium, we are getting a grant from Kaboom to replace the park. There are many issues to be addressed at the youth complex, especially with the new high school being built there. The school can't have the only access because it is part of state property. A lot of traffic and accidents have happened near there. We need to find a happy medium with the Board of Education. We also would like to have a mural in Washington Park to honor the 1968 Perth Amboy Championship Basketball Team."

Councilman Joel Pabon praised the unsung heroes of the Recreation Department, "They never complain about any assignment or hours they have to work. They are calm and always polite. During Code Blue, they will take care of any problems and they are some of the lowest paid employees."

Ortiz then stated, "40% of our city's population is under the age of 24. I thank the administration and you (the council) for your support."

Councilwoman Tejeda also thanked Kenny Ortiz and his staff for all they do.

Council President Petrick closed the discussion by thanking Ortiz for his thorough presentation, "And for answering all of our questions." He also stated that Kindermorgan has always been a good partner with the city.

CFO/Comptroller Jill Goldy and Acela David (Chief Accountant in the Finance Department) came up to speak on this topic.

Goldy stated that this was part of the introductory budget that was given to the council originally which asked for a 6.5% increase in water rates. "And you voted "No". We revisited the budget to make the water and sewer systems to be selfsupporting and we tried to get the rate increase down."

Arcela David came up to speak next. "I've been in the Water Department for 33 years and keep mind, no one wants a rate increase. I have to pay for an increase, too. I have done 8 draft budgets before coming here tonight. I'm presenting you \$613,000 less than last year. With short term loans \$318,000 more was cut. The increase now is just over 3.5%. There was a position in our department that was cut and hasn't been filled. Due to Covid, we are only at 73% of what we should have collected. We can pray that they lift the moratorium so people can start paying their water bills. In some instances (after the moratorium), we may have to shut off some people's water. Some people can ask for a payment plan, but you can't expect to do a \$50/month payment plan for a \$5,000 accumulated water

Councilwoman Tejeda then asked, "Can we do a 3.4% increase instead and hope the money we get after the moratorium is lifted can reduce or even eliminate having a water rate increase."

Ms. David then explained, "It supposed to be for lost revenue. They (the federal government) do not consider this a loss. There are a lot of repercussions when it comes to having debt. It is doing good for minor capital funds.'

Councilman Torres suggested, "We should look at our reserve

Goldy came back up and explained, "You can't go into reserve funds without hurting any future funds. The water utility budget stands alone and have their own fund balance (surplus fund). We've used a good portion of those funds. We have to keep a certain amount of surplus to compensate for any spikes. When it comes to the water/ wastewater funds, we have statutory or contractual obligations. This includes testing and notifications of contaminants which is costly. The federal government issued guidelines. With the water, it is not lost revenue, it is deferred. We could not collect all the money. After the moratorium, we will be able to collect fees and interest on the water bills. The people still had use of their water. We are only at 70% of collected revenue based on what would normally be over 90%."

Council President Petrick then asked, "Can we remove fluoride to save money? After our supply of fluoride that we have on hand, just don't buy anymore."

Councilwoman Rose Morales then spoke up. "This would be a disservice to the residents. I am in the dental field. I know how important fluoride is."

Petrick continued, "I just heard it is only helpful for children in their developmental stages for their teeth."

Morales said, "I can get an expert in here (to talk about fluoride)."

Business Administrator Edward Remsen joined the conversation via Zoom, "For getting the water rate increase down to 3.4% (originally 6.5% increase) I would take the fluoride out of the water myself. We are trying to get this down to zero. Right now, we have to work with the 3.4% increase to make you whole on the operating side."

Goldy then explained, "The amended budget is based on 3.4% increase for the water."

Councilman Pabon said, "Ms. David said she would try to get it down to a 3.0% increase if she

Goldy ended the presentation, "I will try to do my best to get it down to 3.0%, but other parts of the budget may have to be adjusted. I will get you the amended budget later on tonight."



Raritan Bay Cruisers Car Show

Tuesdays May 11th thru Oct. 5th 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Pizza Hut, Rte. 9, Woodbridge

(Wal-Mart Parking Lot) Weather permitting Rock & Roll Music, Trophies, Kids Games Just Family Fun

For more info call 1-732-407-2396

Retired Police & Fire Local #9 of Middlesex & Monmouth County Swear in their 2021 Officers

Press Release

NEW JERSEY - The New Jersey Retired Police and Fire Association Local # 9 swore in its 2021 officers on April 7th. Swore-in were retired Federal firefighter John Leo Fedorka as president, Joe Brittion vicepresident, Len Mundy treasurer, Dave Jakubczak financial secretary, Ken Krasowski state delegate, Thomas J. Noble sergeant at arms. Swore-in as trustees were John Meleski, John Haag, Anthony Tabaszewski, Jamie Norek and Robert Yackel.

New Jersey Retired Police and Firefighter Association was founded in 1987 to promote and develop a friendly spirit among its members. Its main mission is

to, on all levels of government, protect and improve the pension, health benefits and general welfare of retired police and firefighters as well as their survivors. Local #9 serves Middlesex and Monmouth Counties. All retired law enforcement officers and retired firefighters are welcome to join as full members. Their friends and volunteer firefighters are welcome to join as Associate members. Lunch meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month. Applications can be found at our website.

John Yuhas Public Information Officer for Local 9

Statement of Harry Pozycki, **Perth Amboy Civic Trustee and** Founder of The Citizens Campaign, Upon Passage of The Citizens Public Safety Advisory Board

Press Release PERTH AMBOY - "I commend Council President Petrick and the members of the City Council for adopting the ordinance establishing The Citizens Public Safety Advisory Board. This evidence-based solution, developed by the Perth Amboy Civic Trust in partnership with city officials and the leadership of the

Front-Line Youth will enhance relations among the police, our youth and the community at large. Moreover, it will insure a continuing commitment to improving the Police Department's de-escalation policies and practices and put Perth Amboy's Department at the forefront of modern policing."

PERTH AMBOY CAUCUS MEETING Monday, May 24, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, take notice that the Caucus Meeting of May 24, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. will be held In the Council Chambers, 260 High Street, .Perth Amboy. Due to the limits on public gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting will also be held VIA A ZOOM ON-LINE CONFERENCE AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84788539587?pwd-WklSNzFS-VWtWM1ZEdnRVO mZtNIA5Zz09 Meeting ID: 847 8853 9587 Passcode: 163669 Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) All members of the public are invited to participate.

PERTH AMBOY COUNCIL MEETING Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, take notice that the Council Meeting of May 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. will be held in the Council Chambers, 260 High Street, Perth Amboy. Due to the limits on public gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting will also be held VIA A ZOOM ON-LINE CONFERENCE AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/i/85908595799?pwd=ZUhLM01F Yi9PekcrUVO4RFF0UV Njdz09 Meeting ID: 859 0859 5799 Passcode: 434353 Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) All members of the public are invited to participate.

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THE CITY OF PERTH AMBOY

ANTI - RABIES VACCINE CLINICS MAY 22, 2021 AND SEPTEMBER 25, 2021 **CITY GARAGE - 599 FAYETTE STREET** 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON

GATES CLOSE AT 12:00 NOON

PROTECT YOUR PETS AND YOUR FAMILY AGAINST THE DEADLY THREAT OF THE RABIES VIRUS NOW!

Cats and Dogs that were inoculated in 2019 are due for re-inoculation in 2021. Due to the continuing rabies threat, we are strongly recommending that all animals inoculated in 2019 be re-inoculated at this time to insure no lapse in immunity.

All Dogs must be leashed and accompanied by an adult. All Cats must be in carriers or leashed. 2021 LICENSES MAY BE PURCHASED AT THE CLINIC. LICENSE FEES:

> Spayed or Neutered Dogs or Cats \$7.00 (Bring Veterinarian's Certificate) \$10.00 Not Spayed or Neutered

CITY OF PERTH AMBOY CAT/DOG LICENSE APPLICATION

2021	
Owner Information Name: Address: City/State/Zip:	_
Pet Information Cat/Dog Name:	Breed:
Cat/Dog Name:	epartment regulations rabies
City Clerk's Office – City Hall 260 High Street Perth Amboy, NJ 08861 (732) 826-0290 Exts. 4019 or 4042 Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 F	Р.М.

Perth Amboy Civic Trust and Frontline Youth Tout the Passage of the Citizen's Public Safety **Advisory Board**

Press Release 5/13/21 PERTH AMBOY - The Perth Amboy Civic Trust and the Frontline Youth today touted the unanimous passage of the Citizen's Public Safety Advisory Board by the Perth Amboy City Council. It passed at last night's City Council meeting.

The Citizen's Public Safety Advisory Board is designed to build mutual respect between the police and the community by ensuring de-escalation training and other de-escalation policies are brought to the attention of the City's leadership. Evidence shows that its establishment will help to reduce avoidable incidents and injuries for Perth Amboy residents and police officers alike. It was developed by the Perth Amboy Civic Trust and the Frontline Youth, working in partnership with the Perth Amboy Police Department and the City Council, and with assistance from The Citizens Campaign Law and Policy Task Force.

This new Advisory Board will recommend to the Mayor, City Administrator and Police Director evidence-based policies that

have been proven to be successful in similar cities that improve new recruit screening, training, reporting and any other actions or practices that enhance de-escalation and the continuing improvement of the Department's "guardian" culture; conduct public hearings to receive evidence-based, best practice input from individuals, including police officers; and review an annual de-escalation performance audit that shall be provided by the Perth Amboy Police Department to report progress on any policies or practices adopted, or actions taken to improve the de-escalation capabilities and performance of the Department. The 7-member Advisory Board

will be appointed by the city council. It will include 3 youth members (2 that are twenty-one to thirty years old and 1 that is sixteen to twenty years old) and 2 police officers recommended by the police chief who will exofficio.

"I commend Council President Petrick and the members of the City Council for adopting the ordinance establishing The Citizens Public Safety Advisory

Board," said Harry Pozycki, Perth Amboy Civic Trustee and Founder of The Citizens Campaign. This evidence-based solution, developed by the Perth Amboy Civic Trust in partnership with city officials and the leadership of the Front-Line Youth will enhance relations among the police, our youth and the community at large. Moreover, it will ensure a continuing commitment to improving the Police Department's de-escalation policies and practices and put Perth Amboy's Department at the forefront of modern polic-

"This ordinance will directly improve and impact the lives of all Perth Amboy residents by allowing youth leaders, along with veteran leaders, to actively engage in the fostering of a relationship of mutual respect between the Perth Amboy Police and the community," said Samantha Castro, Leader of the Frontline, which organized a peaceful protest of over 1,000 Perth Amboy residents. "It allows all Perth Amboy citizens to be heard, understood, and above all be safe."

Every Subject Except the Kitchen Sink!

5/12/21 Council Meeting

By: Carolyn Maxwell

PERTH AMBOY – All council members were present in the council chambers. The first order of business was for anyone from the public to speak on any ordinances that had a public hearing.

Resident Stanley Sierakowski questioned Ordinance No. 2 – Creating a Perth Amboy Citizens Public Safety Advisory Board. He asked for a brief overview of this.

Council President Bill Petrick answered, "A Citizen's Advisory Board would include the mayor, two police officers which will be appointed by the police chief, city council, and members of the community. The ages are 16+. The total number of members will be 7."

Sierakowski asked, "Will the Attorney General have oversight of this advisory board?"

Petrick says, "I believe so."

Resident Ken Balut came up to speak next. He suggested, "Not only should they offer advice and observation on incidents involving the police, but they should also be able to look at oversight and give suggestions involving judges, code enforcement, attorneys, and the mayor. This is going to create a nightmare. Our lawyer doesn't want to hear about this. There was not a peep from Harry Pozycki when the democrats had all this prior corruption going on. Nobody was here to answer questions about the bicycle incidents. The police are not the only ones who make mistakes. We are paying a lawyer to sit here and text.'

Petrick responded, "We can bring these matters up later."

Resident Junior Iglesia wanted to know what were the qualifications to be on this advisory board.

Petrick explained again, "It will consist of students, the community, two police officers recommended by the chief. The ordinance has all the information you need."

Zoom participants spoke next. Resident Maria Garcia spoke first. "Will members on this board have any training about any laws on the books and how to implement them?"

Petrick responded, "There will be online training from Rutgers University and the police officers that are on this advisory board will give them insight on how they do their jobs."

Garcia summed up her remarks, "The police are following the rules put in place by the politicians. If the members of this advisory board don't understand the police training, then you are wasting your time."

Petrick ended the conversation, "We'll see how it operates and see if it is beneficial for our city. We can make changes if necessary."

Public Comments on Agenda Items Only:

The first person to speak was Ken Balut. He questioned R-252 (payment to Government Strategy Group). He wanted to know how much money was spent so far. On

R-256 – (Change Order for Street Improvements throughout the city). "How much did the change order cost?"

B.A. Remsen answered the question regarding R-252. "This company (Government Strategy Group) has charged about \$8,000 in reimbursements so far. They bill for their services on a quarterly or monthly basis."

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch answered the question about R-256. "There will be no additional cost for the change order."

Balut pressed on about questioning the Government Strategy Group. "When our council president asked them to show up, then they should show up. They show no respect. When Greg Fehrenbach (one of the former business administrators) was here, he got answers to our questions and he was transparent. I know why the water department is in debt (because of the Vas administration). One of our other business administrators had relations with someone in the court department. He got another job. What happened to her?" Irving (Lozada) was not qualified to be the mayor's aid and not qualified for the code enforcement job. He is getting over \$90,000. Another person was just employed now and is in the mayor's office is getting \$80,000. They were both in the restaurant business."

Stanley Sierakowski came up next to talk about R-262 (Housing Plan Element and Fair Share Plan and submitting this plan to superior court. He wanted to know, "How many of you (the council) read this plan?"

The council all said "yes" except for Joel Pabon.

Sierakowski continued, "You can't override this plan, nor can any other department dealing with housing. We are already in compliance with low-income housing in the city. Some of the units proposed in this plan were rezoned. Who are the owners? Who has interest in the properties? Nothing was said about who would get the money – the owner of the property or the tenant? Make sure the units being built are in compliance and make sure you approve the minutes of the municipal boards that have oversight."

Housing Authority Chair Dorothy Daniel came up next about R-266 (Appointing Gregory Pabon as a Commissioner of the Perth Amboy Housing Authority to fill an unexpired term.) "About 20 years ago, the state statute changed the requirements for people who were appointed to the Housing Authority as Commissioners. Those appointed must attend classes and be certified by the state. Some of the members are appointed by the mayor, council, and the governor (the governor has someone from the state office appoint a member from Perth Amboy). Those classes are over an 18-month period and after that, there are additional classes you must attend. If you fail those classes, the state will remove you from the board. We have to pay for the applicant to attend all those classes to take those tests. We once had a person who was up for appointment and attended some of the classes. When they had to attend the follow-up classes, they decided it was too much and quit. I've helped write some of those classes up and I do training around the country to other municipalities to help the members of their housing commissions. As a Commissioner, you have to learn how to behave and make decisions. Gregory Pabon is a valuable member of the board, and he is a positive force."

Tashi Vazquez from Office of Economic and Community Development came online via Zoom. She wanted to clear up some of the facts stated by the public regarding the Housing Element Plan. "There are benefits of adopting this plan. It will keep nonresidential fees in the city, and it will protect us from builders. If this plan is not adopted, then builders can come in and change their plans and have a chance of winning a judgement against us. There are 335 units total that anybody can rent. It is not restricted and has to be advertised. The plans right now are not set in stone. Housing has looked at the plans and I thank the council for looking at the plan. When this plan is taken to the court, they will require how we will distribute the funds once we get it. The administration will look at who they will hire (to distribute these funds) with the council's approval."

Council President Petrick spoke up, "In 2018, we were at 70% of affordable housing in the city. We should concentrate on homeownership instead."

Tashi explained, "There are plans for home ownership. We are trying to address the high rents in town compared to what the rents are in similar towns."

Petrick continued, "This plan is talking about affordable rentals instead of helping people get homes. Have developers help people get funding for homes instead of filling the pockets of developers through rentals. With all these rental properties taking space, there is not going to be any land left for homeowners."

Law Director William Northgrave spoke up, "You are getting a peace of mind if we approve this plan. You will have protection against builders who want to overbuild the units. Builders look at portions of their units they want to build for rentals. You don't want builders to be able to have a remedy lawsuit against the city."

Council President Bill Petrick then argued, "Kushner would have started his new constructions if he could do a Builder's Remedy Lawsuit."

The meeting was open to people on Zoom.

The first person to speak was Maria Garcia, "About the 10% of new housing that has to be set aside for rentals. Why don't you give that money to people

who have illegal housing to make the units legal? You are giving money to outside builders instead of people who already have properties here."

Business Administrator Remsen responded, "People are choosing to have illegal housing. They cannot give money to people who are breaking zoning laws by having people living in basements and attics and have overcrowding illegally."

Councilman Joel Pabon talked about Ordinance No. 3 – An ordinance to amend an ordinance entitled "Sewers" regarding rates and fees.

"Earlier in the meeting, a resident (Caroline Pozycki) said the county has money to help people pay for the water bills. I hope the city and the administration will work to help people who haven't paid the bills. We can help these residents apply for money pay for these bills."

Petrick then commented, "Caroline Pozycki also talked about grants that were available. I don't know why the administration didn't do this (look at grants). We have payment plans for some of the residents that we have already agreed upon."

Remsen responded, "Currently there are 2,155 delinquent accounts. People have to be eligible for this money. It is up to the residents to apply for grants."

Councilman B.J. Torres said, "There is also funding to help people with rent assistance and/ or water bills."

Councilwoman Tejeda then added, "We need to educate our community about any available money."

The council voted on the consent agenda. R-243 thru R-251, R-253 thru R-256, R-258 thru R-261, R-264, R-265, R-267, R-268, R-270. It was moved by Pabon and seconded by Tejeda.

The following Resolutions were voted upon separately:

There was a motion to table R-252 (Contract with Government Strategy Group). It was moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejeda. When it came to vote to table: All voted "No" to table.

There was a discussion on R-252. B.A. Remsen said that this company was hired to search for a new Business Administrator and to have a Management Enhancement Study (to meet with all the different departments to maximize efficiency).

Council President Petrick said, "After 4 months, we should have some kind of information our update from this group on their search for a Business Administrator."

Pabon then added, "The bottom line is that we have to pay them \$95,000 and there is only one month left on their contract. They will present us an invoice of \$85,000 if we don't renew their contract."

The council unanimously voted "No" to renew the contract.

For R-257 – Adopting the Information Technology Cyber Security Policy for the city of Perth Amboy revised as of February 19, 2021.

Before voting on this, Petrick

said, "A person should be notified if their email is being monitored (by the administration).

R-257 was moved by Pabon and seconded by Tejeda. All voted "Yes".

R-262 – Endorsing the Housing Plan Element and Fair Share Plan and authorizing and directing submission of the plan to the Superior Court.

Council President Bill Petrick said, "They need to eliminate the 10% dedicated to rentals. We need to thank former Mayor Vas for getting us the affordable housing unit when we first needed it."

Pabon spoke up, "The rents here are not low income. I would leave the plan the way it is here."

Remsen then stated, "A lot of the units coming in will be market rate and 10% will be low income."

Tashi Vazquez joined the conversation via Zoom, "The 10% set aside for low income is not set in stone. There are 4 levels of low income. It depends on how many people are in the household and what would be a livable wage for the household. Part of the spending plan for this housing element can go toward helping first time homebuyers. The only thing that cannot be changed in the plan is the number of units which now is 362."

Law Director Northgrave said, "The 10% dedicated for low income is binding when you go to present this plan to the court system. The courts are concerned about the affordable housing portion. There is a mathematical equation of what would be affordable depending on the criteria set for each town when it comes to affordable housing."

When it came to vote on R-262, it was moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejeda. The only person to vote "No" was Council President Petrick.

For R-266 – Appointing Gregory Pabon as a Commissioner at the Perth Amboy Housing Authority to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2023.

There was an intense discussion about this when Councilwoman Tejeda suggested the council should table this resolution.

Councilman Pabon quickly spoke up, "Why didn't we table R-243 (Appointing people to the Perth Amboy Arts Council)? We didn't discuss this."

Tejeda then explained, "This was never tabled."

Pabon countered, "But not one person was interviewed for positions (R-243) and none handed in an application. As far as R-266, Gregory Pabon is the only one who was not reappointed, and he was replaced when his term was up."

R-266 was moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejeda. Pabon, Torres, Morales voted, "Yes" and Tejeda and Petrick voted "No". Motion passes 3-2 and Gregory Pabon was approved for the position.

*Continued on Page 9

*Continued from Page 8

R-263 and R-269 were pulled by Remsen.

R-263 – A contract with THA Consulting regarding the Jefferson Street Parking Garage Restoration in an amount not to exceed \$15,800.

Remsen explained, "Even though this company bid below the threshold, we haven't had time to vet this firm."

R-269 – A contract with Giacorp Contracting for the Public Safety Complex Gate at 365-375 New Brunswick Ave.

Remsen said, "There was a procedural problem. The architect forgot to sign off on this. We must have this in place by August 2021.

Public Portion:

Resident Ken Balut came up first. He suggested that they (the council) get a report from the Federal Government that will be given to the cities by mid-May. "Let the citizens read it. With the affordable housing grants, you should look up the name Jeffery Gumbs about people who got money and how it was spent. I don't have faith in how the money is given and only certain people will get money and there is no accountability. Transparency tells you what is going on. There are checks and balances. The Government Strategy Group (the company that is still searching for a B.A.) should have a bill list. They will get their money, then maybe put in for extra money. They are not being held accountable, and what about the people who wrote up the contract with them?"

Resident Stanley Sierakowski came up to speak about R-262 (Housing Plan Element). "I want to know did you read the recommendations from the woman who spoke about this plan at a previous meeting? During her presentation, she stated that we were in compliance with the Fair Share Affordable Housing. Only our density has changed. Who are the property owners? One of our former mayors went to jail for 5 years over real estate. I don't see people asking the right questions. Give to people who have a vested interest in Perth Amboy. The council is being bypassed. It's the blind leading the blind. In the past, the Armory prevented people from parking in their lot."

Petrick responded, "Anybody can park in that lot. At one time, the Armory was charging the Barge Restaurant for use of their lot."

Resident and Chair of Housing Authority Dot Daniel said, "I want to thank those who voted for Gregory Pabon to be a Commissioner on the Housing Authority. It's like a job. I've been on the Board of Education; several Municipal Boards and I've trained Housing Commissioners all over the country. You have to hire a Director, get clients, hire a lawyer and staff. Only Housing Commissioners have to take an oath on a bible. Gregory Pabon is capable, hon-

orable, and does everything he is supposed to do as a Commissioner. It is unfortunate about those who didn't vote for him, and I am grateful for those who voted for him. Our board will be glad to have him back, and so will the clients. To single one person out doesn't make sense."

Gregory Pabon then came up to speak, "I want to thank those who voted for and had confidence in me. It is your privilege to vote "No" and I want to thank Dot for supporting me."

The meeting was then opened up to the public on Zoom.

Resident Maria Garcia was first, "Many people on the council were not here when the bad deal was made with Middlesex Water Company. We have been paying more for water than any other town. Many people are suffering, and we were asked to pay an increase between 3%-6%. Where is the money they have been collecting for the last 30 years? The water is not the best. The infrastructure was supposed to be fixed as part of the deal and it has not been fixed. It's always falling in the laps of the citizens." Garcia then made comments about people who serve on municipal boards. "They have to get an education. Karen Kubulak and myself were taken off the Zoning Board by former Mayor Diaz and we had the education and the training."

Resident Maria Vera who lives on Madison Avenue spoke next. She complained about the trucks that are going through residential areas by homes and schools. "Signs are put up and they should say they are only for delivery and not for parking. We need to be safe and have a clean environment and a good quality of life. There are no trucks allowed on Kearny Avenue. A lot of these streets don't have stop signs and the fumes, and the noise of these trucks are not helping. This is very disrespectful. The poor air quality and pollution are affecting us."

Miguel Morales from the PAPD Traffic Department came up to address Vera's remarks, "Signs are put up by ordinance and some of the restricted parking is 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. I've talked to you several times and I did everything you asked. Some of the intersections on some of the streets are owned by the State. There are some trucks that are not allowed on streets if they are over 4 tons. The state statute and ordinance dictate the type of signs you can put up." Council Comments:

Councilwoman Rose Morales hoped all mothers had a good Mother's Day Weekend. She stated she was also at the Dominican Softball League opening at Washington Park. She was also dismayed that the flag in Washington Park and other city flags are in bad shape. "The water and sewer rates increase are needed. Maybe we can use reserve money and see what funding is available for the residents. With the hiring of a Business Administrator, I would like

to have the administration to

take the time to have someone who is qualified." She wished all a nice evening.

Councilman Joel Pabon was glad they were finally able to get the correct time on the clock in the council chambers. "As far as the Covid-19 vaccine, vou can't force people to take shots and today there was 19 walk-ins at the hospital. Just let people know that the vaccine is available. Kudos to the teachers that came back to school. Some of them are doing in-school and homeschool instruction. The students are excited about going back to school and kudos to the parents (who are not used to being home and they helped their children learn). I want to thank all who came and spoke tonight."

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda said, "My aunt finally got her vaccine at the hospital. I also convinced someone to get a shot. Maybe we can get a colorful painting at Washington Park"

Councilman B.J. Torres who is also part of the Arts Council spoke up and said, "I will talk to Kenny Ortiz about having a mural in Washington Park."

Tejeda then thanked all who came tonight.

Councilman B.J. Torres said,

"We have fallen behind in vaccinations. I've been fully vaccinated and we should look out for everybody."

Council President Bill Petrick asked B.A. Remsen, "What is going on with the marijuana forum?"

Remsen answered, "We are having a hard time finding a location. Maybe we can do Zoom also."

Petrick responded, "We may need just to do Zoom. The high school said the date we presented to the Board of Education were no good. We couldn't have it at the Cathedral International because they are not even open to their own congregation for services."

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch spoke up, "Board Secretary Derek Jess said to fill out the application for the facility and date you want to hold the forum, but the date that we wanted we submitted the application too late."

Councilwoman Tejeda spoke up, "Just give me the dates for June and I'll see what I can do."

Councilwoman Morales stated, "Board Vice President Tashi Vazquez said the dates we submitted were okay."

Board of Education Member Junior Iglesia, who was present in the council chambers said, "There was no issue using the high school for the forum. No board members objected."

B.A. Remsen then started to toss out dates to the council that would be good for the forum to take place. "I suggest that Thursday, June 10, 2021 will be the best date. It will give the council time to get speakers. You want a good mix of people on the forum. You need to get a moderator, have a Q&A segment, have an open mic for comments, and have someone record the forum to help you make a decision regarding the marijuana resolution."

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda suggested, "We need an interpreter, and a social worker should be a part of the forum panel."

Council President Bill Petrick concluded the evening stating, "At the next meeting, we should have the budget amendment on the agenda. I want to thank all who joined us tonight. We had very lively discussions. Our Covid count is still high. Consider getting the vaccine and stay safe."

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m. All council members were present in the council chambers



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MIDDLESEX COUNTY - All times are from 9:00 am - 12 pm, or until shredding truck is filled,

whichever occurs first. Events are held rain or shine. Residents must wear face coverings, keep their vehicle windows closed and stay in their vehicles at all times. You must have your materials in your trunk, cargo area or truck bed, easily accessible to our staff, who will remove it from your vehicle. Important – Help us help you.

Following the rules below will assist us in getting you through the event as quickly as possible. No Plastic Bags. Use a box, crate or other sturdy container – we will give it back to you. Limit of 5 file boxes or 100 pounds per car. Paper must be in a liftable, manageable container. If it is hard for you to bring it to your car, it is too heavy! NOTE: No need to remove paper clips or staples. DO NOT BRING: Plastic binders/sheet protectors, newspapers, magazines, hardcover books, junk mail, photos, x-rays, CDs, shredded paper or garbage.

RESIDENTIAL PERSONAL PAPER ONLY - NO BUSINESS (HOME-BASED OR OTHER)
PAPER. LOADS CONTAINING UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS WILL BE REJECTED

Friday, June 11

Middlesex Boro Municipal Complex, 1200 Mountain Avenue, Middlesex 08846 Saturday, June 12

Woodbridge Department of Public Works, 225 Smith Street, Keasbey 08832 Saturday, June 26

South River Department of Public Works, 9 Ivan Way, 08882

Friday, July 9

New Brunswick High School Parking Lot, 1000 Somerset Street (Rt. 27) 08901 Saturday, July 10

Papaianni Park, 100 Municipal Blvd., Edison 08817

Saturday, July 24

Spotswood High School Parking Lot, 105 Summerhill Road, 08884 Saturday, August 14

Cranbury School, 23 North Main Street, 08512

Friday, August 27

Donaldson Park, South Second Avenue, Highland Park, 08904

Saturday, August 28 South Amboy High/Middle School Parking Lot, 200 Governor Hoffman Plaza, 08879

Friday, September 10

Thompson Park Parking Lot, near Manalapan Lake, Monroe 08831

Due to the new safety measures adopted for these events because of the COVID 19 Emergency, we will not be accepting any MCFOODS program food donations at these events.

Celebrating Memorial Day





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Obituary: Melissa Lucille Whitehead Brown

PERTH AMBOY - Melissa Lucille Whitehead Brown was born on September 28th, 1965 to the late Mary Frances Rudrow Brighton and the late William Stockton in Perth Amboy, NJ. She was a graduate of Perth Amboy High School and attended Trenton State College.

Melissa was a member of the Cathedral International in Perth Amboy, where she served in several ministries and had previously been employed by The Cathedral Community Development Corporation. Additionally, Melissa was employed by Open Door, in New Brunswick, NJ for five years. At the time of her death, she was employed as a Drug and Alcohol counselor for Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen for the past ten years.

Melissa was truly a remarkable child. At an early age she exhibited an acute interest in learning. She would always greet you with a hardy laugh and big smile.

Melissa loved her family and cherished the time spent with them. Her grandchildren meant so much to her, she adored their presence. She loved to laugh, she loved to dance, she loved being at the beach in any season. She often hosted holiday dinners, picnics, and volunteered her time organizing and attending family reunions throughout



Melissa Lucille Whitehead Brown September 28, 1965 -May 7, 2021 (age 55)

the country. Melissa enjoyed eating crab legs. For several years, her love of community prompted her to assist in coordinating a bus trip to Maryland for a seafood festival. Melissa was a kind yet fierce soul that touched the lives of many in her lifetime and will be truly missed.

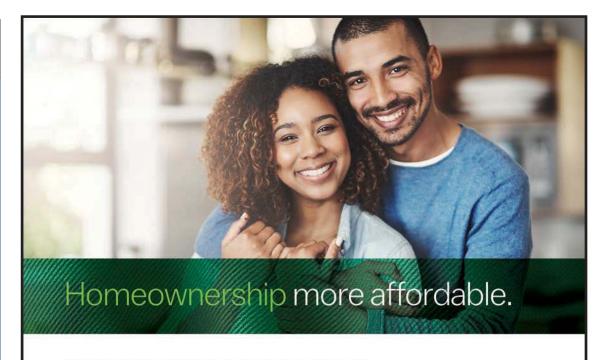
A Viewing will begin 10am Tuesday May 18, 2021 at the Cathedral International 277 Madison Ave Perth Amboy, NJ with a private service to follow at 11am.

Arrangements entrusted to Buckland Funeral Home Somerville, NJ.

From Robert C. Garrett. Chief Executive Officer, Hackensack Meridian Health on the Passing of Thomas Shanahan:

Press Release AMBOY/OLD **PERTH** BRIDGE - "Tom Shanahan, the president and chief hospital executive for Raritan Bay Medical Center - Perth Amboy and Old Bridge was a devoted leader and patient advocate who served the community for the past 20 years. He was an incredible man, dedicated to Raritan Bay and his family. During his tenure, Raritan Bay Medical Center has received a variety of organizational accolades and patient care quality designations, including Magnet recognition for nursing excellence four consecutive times, launched new patient-focused

services, and opened the Medical and Surgical Pavilion at Raritan Bay Old Bridge. Tom was also instrumental in leading the expansion of Raritan Bay Old Bridge's Emergency Department. Once complete, this major transformation will be part of Tom's legacy and will have a lasting impact on the medical center and the surrounding community. To honor Tom and his dedication to Hackensack Meridian Health, flags across the network will fly at half-staff. In addition, the Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy Board Room will be renamed in his memory. '



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Funeral for Police Officer Arcadio Rivera, Jr., Novak Funeral Home/ Holy Trinity Church, Perth Amboy 5/6/21 *Photos by Orlando Perez













2021-2022 Budget Presentation, Preserving Historic Archway in Waters Stadium, Returning to In-School Learning

5/6/21 Board of Education Meeting in Person and Via Zoom

By: Katherine Massopust PERTH AMBOY – There was a presentation by Superintendent Dr. David Roman, Board Secretary Derek Jess, and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Vivian Rodriguez on the 2021-2022 School Budget.

Dr. Roman began the presentation, "Programs and curriculum drive the budget."

Jess continued with the presentation, "All salaries were moved up one step. Salaries make up 49.75% of the budget (\$140,596,414) and 22.75% of the budget (\$64,282,840) going to health benefits. There will be no tax levy increase (on the Board of Education end) for the 2021-2022 budget. There is a required local fair share of \$47,282,840, For 2022, the general funding is: \$26,129,743. That is a difference of \$20,913,691."

Dr. Vivian Rodriguez said, "We are bringing back afterschool programs on climate change, math, academics, games, and things most important to our students."

Dr. David Roman added that the students will have emotional support.

Board Secretary Jess stated, "The source of budget revenue has increased by \$10 million in state aid. For our culinary programs, the room needs to be upgraded." It was noted by Jess that the total budget for the 2021-2022 school year is: \$282,587,662." Jess stated that for the school year, there is a projected \$45 million in surplus

Dr. David Roman added, "Thank you to the teachers – we appreciate you."

After the presentation, Board Member Junior Iglesia said, "This budget takes into consideration the needs of the students. Taking in consideration of the taxpayers, a zero-tax increase (for Perth Amboy public schools). It is a fiscally responsible budget."

The Board went into executive session at 6:19 p.m. They returned at 7:10 p.m. Public Portion:

Both Perth Amboy Federation President Pat Paradiso and Perth Amboy Federation District Representative Lynn Audet NBCT gave statements.

Pat Paradiso: "I would like to comment on an item in new business – the job description for Leveled Literacy Instruction Teacher.

I notice that the first qualification for the job is "Holds a valid New Jersey Certification as Reading Specialist and/or master's degree in Reading or equivalent major. We already have teachers who hold these degrees. They were all moved to different schools, different grade levels and different content areas in August of 2020. They all "took one for the team" during the pandemic and taught wherever our students needed them. These staff members should not have to apply to get their positions back. Please do not tell me that this is about programs and not people, as I have been told in the past. Programs do not teach students, teachers teach students. Tossing people aside in this manner is very unprofessional. Changing the name of a program is no justification for pushing senior staff members aside."

Lynn Audet: "On May 6, 2021, I addressed the Perth Amboy Board of Education about the issues with ventilation in our schools that are not serviced by an HVAC system. I made a formal and public request to have PEOSHA come to assess the ventilation systems in School 7, Peterson School, DLS, East Campus, South Campus, and PLP. The Federation has made requests to Central Administration several times for a PEOSHA assessment of these schools, but we have yet to receive a response.

The ventilation report and HVAC study that was prepared by KSI Consulting Engineers LLC in April gave recommendations for air scrubbers/purifiers to use in classrooms and other areas that do not have HVAC systems. Becht Engineering reviewed the report and recommendations, and they confirmed KSI's findings. I sent both reports to the entire Board of Education via PAPS email on April 23, 2021.

In the report, KSI Consulting Engineers stated: "The order of magnitude cost estimate for all of the equipment recommended in this Study ranges from \$1,418.00 and \$1,659.00 per unit and bidding and/or large volume orders typically will result in reduced costs per unit." They then recommend air scrubbers and purifiers for the areas in question.

The district did not purchase any of the recommended air scrubbers or purifiers, but instead chose to purchase Aera Max 90 air purifiers. They are available at Walmart for \$147.00 each. I researched the Aera Max 90s and discovered that they are intended to be used in rooms that are between 100 and 200 square feet, however, the owner's manual for the product suggests 90 square feet. They are probably acceptable for small offices, but they are NOT intended for classrooms. The classroom sizes of the buildings without an HVAC system according to the KSI Engineers report, ranges from 440 square feet-1,287 square

I get calls daily from staff at these buildings that the lights on the Aera Max 90s are amber or red nearly all day, which according to the owner's manual indicates high levels of pollutants in the air. Aera Max 90s are just not good enough for classrooms that range from 440-1287 square feet, even if there are two in a room. Additionally, many of these classrooms have windows that do not open or do not stay open.

It is unfortunate that the district has chosen to purchase air purifiers that were not recommended by the engineering companies that they hired in the first place. Purchasing these air purifiers is what I can only assume was an attempt to save money, or it was all that they could get since they waited a year to purchase anything.

At the Board meeting, it was stated that the Board has a let-

ter from KSI Engineering confirming that the air purifiers that they purchased were acceptable. Central Administration sent me both the initial KSI report and the Becht Engineering report which lists dozens of issues throughout our schools, but they never sent me this letter saying that the air purifiers that they purchased were acceptable? That is nonsensical. If this letter exists, there would be no need for me to press this issue. Why wouldn't they want me to see this letter? Again, nonsensical...

After my colleague, Pat Paradiso and I speak at every Board of Education meeting, we must endure being berated and being called disingenuous or unprofessional. We are scolded like we are children. It really does not upset either of us because we know that we are doing what we need to do for the staff of the Perth Amboy Public Schools. We as their Union Leadership will continue to bring these and other issues to the attention of the Board of Education, and we will continue to fight for the safety of our staff, our collective bargaining agreement, and for the rights of our members.

The same goes for all the intervention teachers and math specialists who did whatever was asked of them during the pandemic. They should have the option to return to their former positions.

We have been told by the Board that moving staff members into these positions saved jobs. What jobs have they saved? The staff members in question were tenured teachers with seniority. Their jobs were never at risk.

I also know that Leveled Literacy Instruction is a Fountas & Pinnell program. We currently do not use Fountas & Pinnell in Perth Amboy. Is the district purchasing educational materials and a program without any input from teachers? Section 2 Article 6 A of our Collective Bargaining Agreement states:

"Teachers shall be included in the ongoing process of curriculum development, including the selection of educational materials."

If the Board has approved this material, or purchased this material without teacher input, it is a violation of the Agreement.

We are also concerned that implementing a new reading program means that we will no longer be using Orton-Gillingham. We feel that Orton-Gillingham is the best program to help students who really struggle with both decoding and encoding. The district should invest money in our people by having them get trained in Orton-Gillingham instead of spending money on another program."

Former PAHPC Chair and Reporter for New Brunswick Today Reinaldo Aviles spoke next. "I want to talk about an issue from 4 years ago: the arch and retaining wall at Waters Stadium. The retaining wall was built as WPA project in the 1930's. The late City Historian Anton Massopust (who was also a Board Member) invited me to a meeting. Mr. Dyke was there as well. the HPC had an expert

to look at it. Perth Amboy owns the property. The Board of Education maintains it. The Board has a fiduciary duty to maintain that structure. Is there plans to retain the historic edifice?"

City Historian John Dyke spoke next. "I'm here on business. Prior to Covid-19, over 800 students were given tours to educational sites about Perth Amboy History. Years ago, George Schneck and myself set up Channel 34. I get many questions about the stone archway in Waters Stadium. People ask about it. It has great sentimental value. Hundreds of students walked through that archway either for athletic events or for graduation. When are we going to restore it? Can we move on

Superintendent Dr. David Roman answered Dyke, "Clearly the archway needs to be preserved. We will get the archway done. We will all stand with it."

Board President Ken Puccio

said, "It's happening."

Assistant Superintendent Delvis Rodriguez said, "(Board Member) Lissette Lebron and I talked about it. Members of the city council were not keen on it. We will make this happen. We will put in the new high school with historic arches – that will take place. We will blend the old with the new."

Board President Ken Puccio said, "We are totally at a point. It's going beyond the dialogue. It's going in a different direction. It is going to happen and be a reality."

Board Vice President Tashi Vazquez said, "We want to get it done. Have someone who knows how to fix it. It's important to get it done. It is of sentimental value."

Board Member Michael George said, "The façade at Waters Stadium – can it be rebuilt? Get an architect who is local. I think it is important to our town. I would like to serve on that committee."

Dr. Roman said, "The archway at Waters Stadium – we will do both – not tear it down."

The conversation then turned to air purifiers in various buildings. Assistant Superintendent Delvis Rodriguez said, "The air purifiers were appropriate (to the size of the buildings).

Dr. Roman added, "Principals should address anything that is needed in their buildings."

The topic of a Level Literature Instruction Teachers came up. Dr. Roman explained that any teacher in the district is free to apply for the position, but it will also be advertised outside the district. "It is the best possible solution to move this district forward. "We are transparent. We will not entertain the notion that we don't care about our staff."

There was a discussion on the topic of opening the schools. Dr. Roman assured everyone that the Board will have a conversation with the entire community. "On the first day of school, please let me know if there is anything you need. The principals are involved so everyone is safe. The staff have been the stars of the show. Our teachers went to workshops. If we have a problem, please go to

the principals."

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Vivian Rodriguez stated that Teacher Appreciation Day was wonderful.

Board Member R.L. Anderson reminded everyone not to forget to recognize the Governor's Professional Awards in which the deserving staff are listed on the paps website.

Board Member Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe asked if there were any plans to hold back any students from moving on to the next grade.

Dr. Roman stated that the district is waiting on that information and how to address those difficulties.

Dr. Roman stated that the district is hiring more teachers and all of these positions are open to the current teachers.

Dr. Vivian Rodriguez stated, "Afterschool programs will continue in the fall. We will have a very robust summer school program."

Board Member Márquez-Villafañe asked, "Are there any specific programs for special education students?"

Dr. Roman said, "It takes leadership to get things done. Have students evaluated allows us to place them properly."

Dr. Vivian Rodriguez said, "The summer programs are new and improved. There are more Rutgers University programs.

Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe added, "It is teacher appreciation week. This is the first time I am walking without an assisted device. A lot of teachers I appreciate. There are different ways we can show appreciation of a teacher. Where are the teacher's negotiations are?"

Dr. David Roman said, "The chair of negotiations is all on it with the Board Attorney."

Board Attorney Isabel Machado answered, "I did receive from the AFT Attorneys. I will have something for next week. We will present it to the AFT."

Board Vice President Ken Puccio thanked Senator Joe Vitale, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, and Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez for making sure we are vaccinated (against Covid)

Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe added, "It is Nurses Day. I just want to give a shout out to our nurses districtwide to all of our school nurses."

Puccio added that he wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day.

Board Member Junior Iglesia stated, "We have come a long way. By 2033, we will have the first human on Mars. We are destined to make history again and transforming the world and change the world as we know it and make our future something to look forward to."

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Attend
Public Meetings
Have Your
Voice Heard!

Raritan Bay Cruisers Car Show

Car Show
WOODBRIDGE - Tuesdays
May 11th thru Oct. 5th from 6
p.m.-9 p.m. at Pizza Hut, Rte. 9,
Woodbridge (Wal-Mart Parking
Lot). Weather permitting. Rock
& Roll Music, Trophies, Kids
Games - Just Family Fun! For
more info, call 1-732-407-2396.



Hot Meal Distribution

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



Trinity Treasures Thrift Shop SOUTH AMBOY - Trinity

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

Back Yard Part Set Raffle SOUTH AMBOY - The South

Amboy Elks, 601 Washington Ave. is having a raffle with a drawing date of July 1, 2021 at 8 p.m. The backyard party set includes a hand-crafted cooler on wheels, a tin bottle tub filled with goodies, a mini bar with 3 different changeable fronts, and a grill/ fire pit. Estimated value of \$350.00. Come take a chance for only \$5.00. The Lodge is open Thurs-Fri nights stop in and take a chance. License #RL-21-01. Look for our flyers on Face Book.



Friends of the Perth Amboy Library Book Sale Return!

PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library are once again having a book sale on Saturday May 22nd from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. at the Brighton Avenue Community Center at the corner of Brighton Avenue and Sadowski Parkway in Perth Amboy. I know many people have been starving for reading material for these long months we were at home. We will be wearing masks and providing hand sanitizer and bags if needed. We also insist that anyone coming to peruse our collection also wear a mask as mandated by the State of NJ. Paperbacks are \$.50, hardcovers are \$1, \$5 for a bag full, no limit to size of bag except no lawn or garbage bags. We have best sellers by popular authors that are like new. The money we raise goes to support the library with providing programs, promoting literacy or to provide funds to the library with their needs beyond their budget. We look forward to your visit.

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

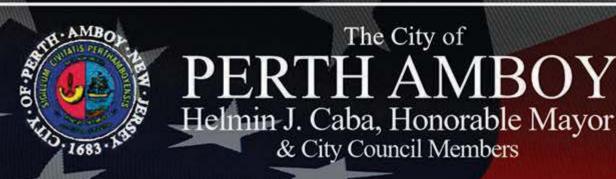


On Memorial Day and everyday, a grateful nation remembers.



Senator Joseph F. Vitale
Speaker Craig J. Coughlin
Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez

Jointly paid for and authorized by the Election Funds of Joseph F. Vitale, Craig J. Coughlin and Yvonne Lopez.



MAY 31, 2021

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

THANK YOU TO THE
BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN
WHO HAVE MADE THE
ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.
LET US REMEMBER THOSE
WHO COURAGEOUSLY
GAVE THEIR LIVES.
JOIN US AS WE REMEMBER
AND HONOR OUR HEROES.

MONDAY | 5/31/2021 | 11AM
VETERANS WAR MEMORIAL
SADOWSKI PKWY
PERTH AMBOY | NJ | 08861

MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIRED

What is the Strategy? Searching for a B.A. One of Many Topics Discussed

5/10/21 Caucus

*Continued from Page 1

get discussions going to take place?"

Council President Petrick responded, "It can be done here, and I also want to motivate the Government Strategy Group to come here in person."

Aviles continued, "The business administrators and directors are appointed by the mayor. Are you in discussion with Fehrenbach? Have you talked to the mayor about this?"

Petrick responded, "I communicate with Fehrenbach and ask him questions and you are being confrontational. I appreciate Fehrenbach's knowledge and expertise. I sometimes use him as a resource to bounce things off of. I get smarter by asking questions."

The meeting was then opened up to people on Zoom.

Resident Carolyn Pozycki Torres spoke first. "I know that Kenny Ortiz's Office delivered 200,000 boxes of food." She then spoke about the nonpayment of water bills. "Can't we get money from the Build Back Better funds to help people pay their water bills or for vaccinations? 25% of the people are not paying their water bills and we know the names of the people who have not paid their bills. Our water quality is disgusting and I had to install a whole water system in my home. How can we not be the recipient of these funds? We are the third most impacted city in the county as far as Covid numbers and other problems related to the pandemic. The application that residents can fill out to get funds is similar to filling out a grant application. Is the water rate increase based on only those who are paying their water bills? Everyone should be held accountable."

Council President Petrick responded, "The administration has a challenge to reach out to the Tax and Water Departments to see what funds are available to help people pay for the water bills"

The last speaker was Maria Garcia. She read the following statement via Zoom:

"I find it amazingly offensive that there are certain people who don't live in this town and come to our council meetings to make inflammatory comments about racism, our rules and our police officers.

Is it ignorance or pure dema-

goguery when someone accuses a council man of being racist just because he liked a meme on Facebook? What exactly is this individual claiming that is racist? Does his believes trampled over Facts? Did he submitted actual proof that what he claims is racist or is it that today it is fashionable to throw around the word racist just because someone disagrees with others? I am sick and tired of these race baiters to come to our town and tried to divide us. This is a town that is very diverse, and we get along pretty well without any outsiders for political reasons trying to enflamed race divi-

Who are these people to tell anyone what others should like in Facebook? Are we all supposed to be sheep and think alike? Just because someone has a different point of view that doesn't make them a racist. If, these people had knowledge of history they would have known that throughout the history of the world all races, creeds and religions have been enslaved or have enslave others. Are we supposed to ignore the facts and only believe their propaganda or else? Since when we are not entitled to think for ourselves?

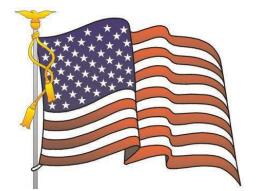
Stop coming to our town with your political BS and propaganda we don't need your lies and the absurdities that you spew to try to gain political points and destroy our elected officials.

As per those who don't live in this city and who think that it was okay for 18-year-old cyclist to ride bicycles on the middle of the road doing stunts and putting themselves, drivers and pedestrians at peril I suggest they come here and drive while this so call "kids" are performing their stunts. I want to see how much joy they will have when these "kids" who aren't kids touch the hood of their car with their bicycle tire or cut in front of their cars. It is quite upsetting for many who live in Perth Amboy that the media and outsiders who failed to investigate the FACTS make assumptions about our city and our police department."

"You have got to clean your own house first before you tell other people that they aren't doing it right."

Dan Webster.

The meeting went into executive session at 7:55 p.m. with no further action to be taken. All council members were present in the council chambers.



South Amboy Receives NJ DOT Grant

Press Release 5/14/21

SOUTH AMBOY – The New Jersey Department of Transportation [NJ DOT] in partnership with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority [NJTPA] announced yesterday that the City of South Amboy has been awarded 1 million dollars from the federally funded Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside program. This program was designed to fund projects to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists without impact to local property taxes.

The project South Amboy

submitted under this program will provide for a new pedestrian/cyclist link between the existing New Jersey Transit Rail Station [NJ Transit] and the soon to be constructed Radford Ferry Terminal. Upon completion this project will also add to the City's existing waterfront walkway allowing more access to the shores of the Raritan Bay.

"As one of the original four designated NJ Transit Villages we are constantly seeking ways to improve access to our transit facilities while maintaining a safe, walkable community" said Mayor Fred Henry. "This funding will provide another critical link in our efforts to reduce vehicle traffic and provide safe and convenient transportation alternatives for our residents and local commuters".

Ultimately the City plans to construct one final section of the waterfront walkway providing over 1 1/2 miles of interconnected pedestrian/cyclist links serving its transit facilities, the downtown, and the bayfront area.

Middlesex County's Outdoor Guide Features Dozens of COVID-19-Friendly Activities Including Trail Maps, Walkable Tours, and Soon, Nature Bingo

New Outdoor Guide Provides Residents and Visitors With Information on The Best Spots for Fishing, Biking, And Hiking

Press Release 5/5/21

MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ — With Spring bringing warmer weather to New Jersey, find new ways to experience the great outdoors with Middlesex County's Outdoor Guide which brings together a wide range of COVID-19-friendly outdoor activities like wooded hiking trails, scenic bike routes, fishing hotspots, the best places to spot seasonal birds, and much more.

Whether you are taking a long walk through your local park or simply enjoying some back-yard time, practice your skills of observation with Middlesex County's free printable Nature Bingo cards coming soon to the Outdoor Guide page. This fun family activity is the perfect way to really observe the seasonal changes when exploring outdoors. To get started, print as

many cards as you need to play with family or friends, and see who can be the first to find all the items in a row, column, or corner to corner.

"Outdoor spaces have been essential throughout the CO-VID-19 pandemic with many finding a new appreciation for parks and open spaces. With over 6,300 acres of parks and conservation areas to safely gather with friends and family, Middlesex County is a great place to celebrate life's special moments, take a pause, heal, connect with essential community services, and so much more," said Board of County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios,. "To keep these places safe and healthy for everyone, we encourage residents and visitors to follow current health guidelines, practice physical social distancing, and the use of masks is strongly encouraged."

With hundreds of acres of green parks, historic towns, and picturesque farmlands, Middlesex County provides residents and visitors a wealth of opportunities for socially distanced fun. Whether you are seeking a picturesque outdoor setting or want to immerse yourself in nature and develop new skills, the County has an adventure waiting for everyone.

For more information about the Outdoor Guide and additional resources visit: https://discovermiddlesex.com/outdoor-guide/. And be sure to follow along and share your outdoor adventure stories on social media using #discoverMiddlesex.

Middlesex County Celebrates History Month and More this May with a Spectrum of Arts and Culture Events

Residents Can Enjoy a Range of Free Exhibitions and Events Virtually Promoted by the Middlesex County Arts Institute

WHAT: The Arts Institute of Middlesex County is presenting, promoting, and supporting a multitude of arts and culture events, exhibitions, and shows throughout the month of May. The month is packed with exciting programming primarily centered around History Month. While the pandemic has affected in-person events, artists all over the County and the Middlesex County Arts Institute have come together to find creative ways of connecting residents through public art, virtual experiences, and safe performances. The County's Arts Institute has helped partners navigate this new environment with engaging and thought-provoking experiences. These events can be accessed virtually every Wednesday at 4 pm and are free to enjoy for all County residents and beyond.

May's event highlights include:

•May 19 @ 4 pm – Join the Civic League of Greater New Brunswick in a reading of Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story written by Kevin Noble Maillard and illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal. After our reading, we will be joined by the Arts Institute's own Sally Van de Water as she leads us in a discussion about the ways we can share our cultural and family histories through food!

•May 26 @ 4 pm – Explore the incredible life and service of local hero Paul Robeson in a reading of Grandpa Stops a War: A Paul Robeson Story written by Susan Robeson and illustrated by Rod Brown. After a reading by the Civic League of Greater New Brunswick President C. Roy Epps., join us as we use paints to create an image to honor your own personal hero.

WHEN: May 2021

WHERE: Virtually throughout Middlesex County, visit **www.middlesexcountynj.gov/Artsculture** for full details on all the events listed above and many more! Registration details and links to live stream events are available.

WHO: To honor History Month, the Arts Institute will present a series of videos and content on **http://www.middlesexcountynj.gov/HistoryMonth.** Please visit throughout the month of May for more exciting programs.

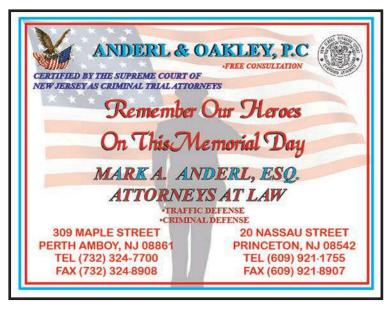






















Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation Raises Nearly \$150,000 at Golf Outing

May 3 Event Raised Funds for the Emergency Department Expansion at Old Bridge

Press Release 5/6/21

OLD BRIDGE, NJ – On May 3, Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation raised nearly \$150,000 at a golf outing that took place at Manasquan River Golf Club in Brielle in support of the Emergency Department expansion project taking place at Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center. Nearly 100 golfers participated in the event, which followed all CDC, state and local safety guidelines.

"We could not have asked for a more perfect day, with a more genuine and dedicated group of golfers," says Melissa Magyar, executive director, Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation. "We recognize that many people are still being impacted by COVID-19, but for this one, glorious day, when we could all safely gather together in support of an immensely important fundraising initiative, it felt wonderful. I am so grateful to everyone who supported the golf outing and who answered our call to help ensure that we are able to provide Old Bridge and the surrounding communities with the best possible emergency care services."

Construction of the new Emergency Department at Rari-



(Left to right) George Smith, M.D., FACS, Hackensack Meridian Health affiliated board certified plastic surgeon; Jessica Smith, member of the Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation Board of Trustees; and Steven R. Priolo, M.D., FACS, Hackensack Meridian Health affiliated board certified general surgeon, take a moment before hitting the links at the Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation Golf Outing, which raised nearly \$150,000 in support of the Emergency Department expansion project taking place on the Old Bridge campus of Raritan Bay Medical Center. *Photo Submitted

tan Bay Medical Center in Old Bridge, part of a \$39 million investment, began in 2019. In April 2021, the medical center opened phase one of the project: a new concourse, café and front patient/visitor parking lot, all part of the transformation. The new Emergency Department is slated to open in February 2022, however the medical center re-

mains open to the public for all emergent and outpatient needs throughout construction.

Although the event has passed, donations can still be made in support of the Emergency Department project by visiting give.hackensackmeridianhealth.org/RBMCGolf, by calling 201-519-2446, or emailing paige.cooper@hmhn.org.

May is Healthy Vision Month

Press Release 5/4/21

PERTH AMBOY - May is Healthy Vision Month!! Taking care of your eyes should be a priority just like eating healthy and physical activity. Healthy vision can help you keep safe every day. To keep your eyes healthy, it is recommended to get a comprehensive dilated eye exam. This exam consists of an eye care professional using drops to widen the pupils to check for common vision problems and eye diseases. It's the best way to find out if you need glasses or contacts, or are in the early stages of any eye-related diseases.

Below are 9 ways you can help protect your vision in accordance to the CDC:

- 1) Regularly get a comprehensive dilated eye exam
- 2) Wear sunglasses that block 99-100% of UVA or UVB radiation
- 3) Know your family's eye heath history
- 4) Practice workplace eye safety
- 5) Quit smoking or never start
- 6) Wear protective eyewear when playing sports or even doing activities around the house such as painting, yard work, or home repairs
- 7) Eat right, especially dark leafy greens such as spinach, or kale and fish (salmon & albacore tuna) that are high in omega-3 fatty acids
- 8) Wash your hands before removing contacts and cleanse contact lenses properly
- 9) Maintain healthy weight

On www.amboyguardian.com please find some additional Cigna recommendations and benefits via flyer format. In addition, there is a Cigna claim form should you or any covered dependents receive services outside of the Cigna Vision network.

Pallone Announces New Jersey will Receive \$6.5 Million for Vaccine Awareness Campaigns and Education

Funding Made Possible from Provision Pallone Authored in the American Rescue Plan

Press Release 5/5/21

Washington, DC – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) today announced that New Jersey will receive \$6.5 million for COVID-19 vaccine awareness campaigns, education, and outreach. The funding will help expand outreach to increase vaccination rates and will be distributed through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"I'm glad to see funds from the American Rescue Plan are making their way to New Jersey to help increase our state's CO-VID-19 vaccination rate," Congressman Pallone said. "CO-VID-19 vaccines are the key to rebuilding our economy, protecting the health of our community, and safely returning to normal patterns of life. It's critical that everyone in New Jersey and across the country know that these vaccines are safe, effective, and widely available. Everyone must do their part and get a vaccine, so we can end this

devastating pandemic."

Pallone's Energy and Commerce Committee authored the provision in the American Rescue Plan that Congress passed and President Biden signed into law in March. The American Rescue Plan established a national vaccination program and provided critical funding and resources to increase CO-VID-19 vaccinations across the country

First Children Vaccinated

*Photo Submitted



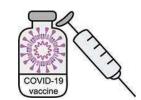
OLD BRIDGE - Ujjwal K. Datta, DPM, FACFAS, podiatrist at Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center's twin daughters were excited to be the first two children, 12-15 to get vaccinated at Raritan Bay Old Bridge on May 13. (Pictured, vaccine team with Dr. Datta's twin daughters in the middle, Debasree Datta and Urboshi Datta.)

COVID Vaccine for Persons 12-17 Years Old

PERTH AMBOY/SOUTH AMBOY - Now that clearance has been given to vaccinate persons between 12-17 years old with the Pfizer vaccine, the Raritan Bay Medical Center is offering walk in appointment for people in this age group. The vaccine is available beginning Monday, May 17, 2021 at:

- 1. **Raritan Bay Perth Amboy** Open to walk-ins as of Monday (5/17) M-F 8:30-3:45
- 2. **Raritan Bay Old Bridge** Open to walk-ins as of Monday (5/17) M-F 8:30-3:45

Children being vaccinated MUST be accompanied by a parent or guardian who can sign the required consent forms.



Walk-in Covid Vaccines

Vaccines

PERTH AMBOY - Beginning
Monday, May 3, Hackensack
Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy will be
accepting walk in's for the COVID-19 vaccine between 8:30
a.m.-3:45 p.m., Monday-Friday.
Anyone interested in getting the
COVID-19 vaccine can come to
the front lobby of the hospital.

Vaccination Hotline & Registration

& Registration

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

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

Covid-19 Vaccines Visit a Megasite for Walk-In Appointments

All six vaccine megasites are open for walk-in vaccinations during select times:

- •Atlantic County Megasite (Atlantic City Convention Center, 1 Convention Boulevard, Atlantic City): 9 am to 4 pm
- •Bergen County Megasite (Racetrack at Meadowlands, 1 Racetrack Drive, East Rutherford): 8 am to 12 pm
- •Burlington County Megasite (Moorestown Mall, 400 NJ-38, Moorestown): 9 am to 5 pm
- •Gloucester County Megasite (Rowan College of South Jersey, 1400 Tanyard Road, Sewell): 8 am to 12 pm and 2 pm to 6 pm
- •Middlesex County Megasite (New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center, 97 Sunfield Avenue, Edison): 8 am to 12 pm
 •Morris County Megasite (Rockaway Townsquare, 301 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rockaway): 8 am to 12 pm

New Jersey's Ban on Certain Single-Use Plastic Products Takes Effect in One Year Businesses Urged to Prepare Now for New Requirements, Which Take Effect May 2022

Press Release 5/5/21

TRENTON, N.J. - New Jersey Secretary of State Tahesha Way and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Acting Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette are joining forces today to encourage Garden State business owners to prepare for the launch of New Jersey's ban on single-use carryout bags and polystyrene foam food service products in stores and food service businesses.

On November 4, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy signed into law P.L. 2020, c117, which prohibits the use of single-use plastic carryout bags in all stores and food service businesses statewide. The law also prohibits single-use paper carryout bags in grocery stores that occupy at least 2,500 square feet. The law, which takes effect May 4, 2022, is designed to reduce pollution and protect New Jersey's environment and economy for generations to come.

"With the enactment of the

single-use plastic ban, New Jersey, is again leading in protecting our environment, communities, and economy," said DEP Acting Commissioner La-Tourette. "Resistant to natural degradation, single-use plastics have long littered our communities and harmed our waterways and the wildlife that depend on them. Plastic pollution also has a detrimental effect on character of our communities and damages important industries like tourism and fishing-both major contributors to New Jersey's economy. The steps we take together to reduce plastic pollution will improve quality of life for all New Jersey residents."

"We love New Jersey beaches, forests and waterways, and we want to protect them for current and future resident and visitors to enjoy," Secretary Way said. "We're here to support New Jersey's businesses as they make the transition to reusable bags. We understand that these changes take time. We'll be here to help business owners understand the law and answer any question they may have as we look ahead to May 2022."

Beginning May 4, 2022, New Jersey businesses may not sell or provide single-use plastic carryout bags to their customers. Those businesses that decide to sell or provide reusable carryout bags must ensure that the bags meet the requirements as defined in the law.

The law defines reusable bags as ones that:

1) are made of polypropylene fabric, PET non-woven fabric, nylon, cloth, hemp product, or other washable fabric; and

have stitched handles; and are designed and manufactured for multiple reuses.

To help New Jersey businesses prepare, the New Jersey Business Action Center (NJBAC), part of the New Jersey Department of State, and the DEP have developed online resources. The state's business-focused website Business.NJ.gov and the DEP website https://www. nj.gov/dep/dshw/plastic-banlaw/ feature the latest information on the law.

The business experts on the NJBAC website's Live Chat and at 1-800-Jersey-7 are available 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, for the information businesses need to comply with the new law.

Future resources for businesses on the NJBAC website will include a listing of vendors who sell reusable carryout bags that meet the new requirements. In addition, the NJBAC will be conducting virtual roundtables discussing implementation of the law with Chambers of Commerce and other business organizations around the state.

Under the new law, polystyrene foam food service products and foods sold or provided in polystyrene foam will also be banned as of May 4, 2022, and food service businesses can only provide single-use plastic straws upon request starting November 4, 2021.

However, the following prod-

ucts will be exempt for an additional two years, until May 4, 2024:

•Disposable, long-handled polystyrene foam soda spoons when required and used for thick drinks;

•Portion cups of two ounces or less, if used for hot foods or foods requiring lids;

•Meat and fish trays for raw or butchered meat, including poultry, or fish that is sold from a refrigerator or similar retail appliance;

•Any food product pre-packaged by the manufacturer with a polystyrene foam food service product; and

•Any other polystyrene foam food service product as determined necessary by the DEP.

Additional online resources may be found on the NJ Clean Communities website's www. BagUpNJ.com and www.njclean.org.

Food Drive for Local Families

Program NEW JERSEY - The New Jersey Department of Health has launched a program that can provide in-home COVID-19 vaccine appointments for homebound persons and has begun accepting requests for this important service.

In-Home

Vaccination

If you are unable to leave home to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, or you are the family member or caregiver of someone who is homebound, you may request an in-home vaccination appointment by completing a Request for In-Home Vaccination at https://covid19. nj.gov/homeboundvax

For assistance completing the survey by phone, please call the NJ COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center at 1-855-568-0545.

After you submit the request, the Department of Health will share your information with PISCATAWAY/PERTH AMhealth department, or other vaccination provider, and you will be contacted to schedule an inhome vaccination appointment.

You can visit the webpage https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/ nj-information/testing-and-¬treatment/how-can-i-get-thecovid-19-vaccine-if-im-homebound to learn more about this program.

If you are able to safely attend a medical appointment outside the home, we encourage you to book an appointment at an open vaccination site if such an opportunity occurs before an inhome appointment is available to vou. Visit here to learn more: https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/

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

The Leonard Sendelsky 11th Annual Golf Outing

a home health agency, local BOY/SOUTH AMBOY - Team up & Tee off to help the Raritan Bay Area YMCA (rbaymca. org) at the Raritan Landing Golf Course, 491 Sidney Rd, Piscataway on June 9, 2021 at 1 p.m. EDT. Register today. Strengthening the foundations of community is our cause. Every day, we work side-by-side with our neighbors to make sure everyone, regardless of age, income, or background, has the opportunity to LEARN, GROW, and THRIVE.

Even if you don't play golf, there are sponsorship opportunities at a multitude of levels and an outdoor cocktail reception at Sciortino's Harbor Lights in South Amboy.

For more information contact: Jennifer Roche, Housing Director Raritan Bay Area YMCA: 732-442-3632 ext. 6513

2021 Municipal Budget, Invasive Species, Fire Alarms

5/5/21 Business Meeting

*Continued from Page 2

asked about the mailbox he requested in front of city hall.

B.A. Skarzynski said, "We have the facility to sandblast the mailbox and satisfy the veter-

McLaughlin then stated his opinion on PILOTS, "We almost always cater to the residential (PILOTS).

Skarzynski informed the council that the city has two more projects coming in and to be put in front of the council.

McLaughlin noted that Manhattan Beach made a donation of \$5,000 to the YMCA.

Councilwoman Dato said, "I think it is a good start. It is a way to provide service to the community."

McLaughlin felt that Manhattan Beach should be more community orientated.

Council Vice President Christine Noble stated, "When we are caught up with the parks, we need to work on potholes."

Councilwoman Zusette Dato wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day.

Council President Mickey Gross reminded everyone that South Amboy will be having an Irish Festival on Saturday, September 25, 2021. "There will be fireworks, music, vendors, and a parade. It is a city sponsored event!"

Gross then directed his comments to Mr. DeMasi who has the bamboo problem in his yard. "I hope Mr. DeMasi is not offended. It (the proposed ordinance) is very tough to enforce. I apologize to you."

Gross then emphasized the importance of ordering the two new Fire Chief Vehicles.

Mayor Fred Henry stated, "It is a very good budget. There is only a \$49 increase. I want

to thank Gary Higgins. Other communities are having tough times. We still have a surplus. I think it is a very good budget. In an upcoming meeting, we will have a \$1.5 million to refurbish our sports complex. I want to thank the County Commissioners and Ron Rios. We got \$15 million last year. I want to thank the First Responders, St. Mary's and the First Presbyterian Food Pantries, teachers, all who help better our community.

Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski thanked CFO Dan Balka. "He spends weeks on this budget. I want to thank him publicly for his hard work."

Law Director Francis Womack wanted the public to know, "Some individuals are commenting in Chat. Anything said in chat is not recorded as part of the meeting."

Council President Mickey Gross thanked City Clerk Deborah Brooks for all the hard work she does.

Public Portion:

Resident Bill DeMasi spoke first. He thanked Councilman Reilly for helping him. "Mr. Womack, we looked at the original ordinance, the owner of invasive species determines it. The owner is responsible. We dealt with this problem for years."

The next speaker was a resident who wished not to be identified stating she feared retribution for the comments she was about to make. "I have been in communication with the town council. I am absolutely thankful for our firefighters. It is important to support them any way we can. Since the new alarm was installed in 2020, every day the fire alarm goes off at approximately 85 decibels often for 33 seconds 2.4 times a day. Most of us are working from homes and teaching at home. I left my mic

on so you could hear the alarm going off. I understand the need for setting up an alarm system. The alarm system is antiquated. There is a 6 p.m. test every single day. The alarm goes off all day. Many say that living near a fire house makes you feel safe. The alarm goes off constantly. I cannot express how loud it goes off, and as frequently. When I contacted you before, you lowered the volume. My kid wakes up constantly. I don't want to come off as not supporting the firefighters. I am afraid of retaliation. I don't understand why that alarm goes off this often. Sometimes it goes off 25 to 45 seconds. If we lower it, how will it affect the firefighters? If we lowered it during the day to except for structure fires? My life is being ruined."

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski answered, "We can meet with the Chief and we can work and discuss with the Fire Department leadership to satisfy everybody."

Another woman spoke about the alarms going off as well. "I am opposed to the alarms. I cannot open windows. Can we at least lower the volume?"

B.A. Skarzynski stated, "We were more than happy to accommodate with a meeting with all three fire chiefs."

Councilwoman Zusette Dato said, "I don't think any residents should fear or have any concerns. I've been here (a councilwoman) for 9 years. This is the first time someone was afraid to state their name. These people have a right to be heard."

There were 46 people attending the meeting via teleconferencing. The Council went into executive session at 7:59 p.m. All council members were pres-

Dowdell Library Events

Tails and Tales at the Dowdell Library

Press Release

SOUTH AMBOY — It's that time of year again! The Dowdell Library Summer Reading Program, Tails & Tales, officially kicks off in July! Grab a pen and paper because you won't want to miss a

Read Squared is back this year! Read Squared is where you can efficiently track and log all your reading hours for the summer to win prizes. You can find all the details about how to make your account on our website coming soon.

Each month this summer, we will feature two animal themes. July opens with Bookish Beasts for the first two weeks, and then Under the Sea is Home for Me for the final two. At the beginning of August, we will focus on Endangered Animals and then wrap up the month by taking a walk on the Wild Side. Each week we will have new programs for all age groups!

Children can visit the library and enjoy weekly outdoor crafts and activities every Monday and Friday! We are also hosting Celebrity Storytime at the Waterfront Gazebo! Our first outdoor Storytime will be held on Tuesday, June 22 (rain date June 29) from 11 am to 12:30 pm in the gazebo at the Waterfront Park. South Amboy's very own Zusette Dato, Deputy County Clerk, will be joining Ms. Maryanne for a family fun event! Seating under the pavilion is limited (but don't worry, there is plenty of room on the grass surrounding the gazebo!) We ask that you bring a beach towel to sit on and make social distancing easy! Future Storytime dates: Tuesday, July 13, (rain date July 20) featuring Glenn Skarzynski, South Amboy Business Administrator, and Tuesday, August 10, (rain date August 17) featuring Suzanne Ryan as Mother Goose!

Tweens and teens can enjoy weekly computer time at the library! Every Wednesday, computers will be reserved for the tweens and teens to come in, play E-games, email friends, or work on summer homework. There are also crafts and activities planned throughout the summer!

Adults can participate in virtual trivia contests, create their family tale using Heritage Quest, pick up MIY crafts, and taste various smoothies at the library!

Have you ever dreamed of owning a sailboat? If so, you won't want to miss our Sail Away on the Raritan Bay virtual program. The video will be on YouTube in July.

Prizes and giveaways will happen all summer long for all ages!

Details and information about each program will be posted on our website, Dowdell.org, in June and shared on our social media pages. You can also sign up for our monthly newsletter on our website and have all the program information sent directly to your email!

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

Dowdell Library June Programs

Press Release

SOUTH AMBOY — The school year is quickly coming to a close, which means summer is right around the corner! The summer library programs are planned and will kick off in July! Until then, stay busy with a variety of fun events scheduled for June!

Dennis and Maryanne have filmed a new Test Kitchen Episode where they share easy summer picnic recipes. Dennis shows us how to make a simple and refreshing bean salad while Maryanne whips up a festive no-bake flag cake. Watch the latest video on the Dowdell YouTube channel or find the link at dowdell.org.

Join us this month for Celebrity Storytime down at the Waterfront Park Gazebo! Our first outdoor Storytime will be held on Tuesday, June 22 (rain date June 29) from 11 am to 12:30 pm in the gazebo at the Waterfront Park. South Amboy's very own Zusette Dato, Deputy County Clerk, will be joining Ms. Maryanne for a family fun event! Seating under the pavilion is limited (but don't worry, there is plenty of room on the grass surrounding the gazebo!) We ask that you bring a beach towel to sit on and make social distancing easy! Future Storytime dates: Tuesday, July 13, (rain date July 20) featuring Glenn Skarzynski, South Amboy Business Administrator, and Tuesday, August 10, (rain date August 17) featuring Suzanne Ryan as Mother Goose!

Stop by the library from June 1-11 to pick up a Superhero Father's Day take-home craft! Have your child make a super sweet card for the special Father (figure) in his or her life. The craft is recommended for ages 0-12 while supplies last.

Dowdell Library is excited to share online virtual health programs in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and RWJ Barnabas Health. June will feature sessions on keeping your skin healthy, chair yoga and guided meditation classes. If you are interested in these online events, please register by emailing Kathleen Johnson at kathleen.johnson@rwjbh.org.

Parents celebrate World Oceans Day with your child, and you can have a chance to win a new picture book. Please take a picture of your child helping the environment for World Oceans Day, whether collecting trash at the beach or recycling plastic. Send your photos in for a chance to win! Send your picture to comments@dowdell.or with your name and contact information. The contest will run for the whole month of June, and on July 1, we will pick a winner.

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

Dr. Lori's Antiques Appraisal **Comedy Show**

A Virtual Fundraising Event Hosted by CASA of Middlesex County

Press Release

MIDDLESEX COUNTY Grab your antiques and thrifting finds for this special virtual event featuring celebrity Ph.D. Antiques Appraiser Dr. Lori. Dr. Lori, director of www.DrLoriV. com and star expert appraiser on the History and Discovery channels, will appraise your antiques, thrift store finds and family heirlooms during her popular Antiques Appraisal Comedy Show on May 18th starting at 7pm eastern time.

The event is just around the corner so buy your ticket today!

From the comfort of your home, office or favorite video conferencing location, you may show Dr. Lori your antiques, artwork, or collectibles as you participate in her lively, fun-filled, and one of a kind Antiques Appraisal Comedy Show. Watch and see what others bring for appraisal too! You will laugh and learn as Dr. Lori's appraisal events are always full of surprises. Without seeing any objects beforehand, Dr. Lori reveals which antiques are worth loads of cash and which



Dr. Lori

antiques are destined for the trash. Dr. Lori will share her insider tips on spotting valuable antiques and monetizing unwanted items. Dr. Lori's Antiques Appraisal Comedy Show has been described as "a laugh riot," "edutainment at its comedic best", and "good, smart, fun."

This event is sponsored by NBPAC



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Professional development

Woodbridge Public Library Events

Free Virtual Events - All are Welcome to Attend

May 19 | 7PM

Meditation for Health and Wellness

Join Jim Rose, retired executive with Johnson & Johnson for this lively and engaging workshop. Registration Required - https://bit.ly/3gElmlo

May 20 | 7PM

A Talk with Jack Jacobs

The Woodbridge Public Library is honored to host Woodbridge hometown hero and Congressional Medal of Honor winner Jack H. Jacobs for a special Zoom talk. Participants will leave the program with excellent leadership and business advice from someone with extensive experience. Registration Required - https://bit.ly/3xzwBBA for more information on this event please contact Alex Gabler - agabler@woodbridgelibrary.ors*

Mystery/Thriller Book Club

Join us virtually for a discussion of The Guest List by Lucy Foley. Registration Required - https://bit.ly/3sKDmwO

Meet the Editor: All Worlds Wayfarer Literary Magazine

Looking to get your short stories published, but don't know where to start? Join us to hear editor Geri Meyers discuss what goes into making the magazine, what Geri and co-editor Rowan look for in a story, and how they published the magazine's first anthology, Through Other Eyes. Registration Required - https://bit.ly/2PnOn9N

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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.

Ion Antonescu, wartime prime minister of Romania, and twelve of his cabinet ministers are sentenced to death by a Bucharest court on May 17, 1946. Six of the condemned are still at large. In the face of a threatened strike by U.S. railroad engineers, conductors and trainmen, President Truman seizes the country's railroads in an attempt to delay the walkout. A general election is held in the Netherlands for the first time since 1937.

On May 18, just minutes before the scheduled 4:00 p.m. railroad strike across the U.S., President Truman announces that the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers have agreed to postpone the walkout for five days.

In Tokyo, hundreds of thousands of demonstrators protest on May 19 against food shortages and against the government of Japan's incoming prime minister, Shigeru Yoshida, who has been appointed by the Allied occupation authorities.

On May 20, a U.S. Army C-45 twin-engine, Beechcraft transport plane crashes into the 58th floor of the 72-story Bank of Manhattan building on Wall Street in New York City, killing all five persons aboard the aircraft. The accident happens at 8 p.m. in heavy fog, and most of the 5,000 persons who normally would have been in the building have left for the day.

The Soviet Red Army completes its evacuation of Iran on May 21. Almost two months after 400,000 U.S. coal miners go on strike, President Truman issues Executive Order 9278 that mandates the seizure by the federal government of all U.S. bituminous-coal mines whose workers are on strike. At the Los Alamos, New Mexico, nuclear laboratory, Canadian physicist Louis Slotin accidentally triggers a fission reaction that releases a burst of ionizing radiation while he is manually conducting a plutonium-core experiment. Slotin and seven observers in the lab with him are immediately rushed to the hospital to be treated for extremely intense radiation exposure. The accident ends all hands-on nuclear assembly work at Los Alamos.

Shigeru Yoshida on May 22 takes office as prime minister of Japan, replacing Baron Kijuro Shidehara. In Czechoslovakia, Karl Hermann Frank, former chief of police in Bohemia and Moravia, is hanged before 5,000 people in Prague. He had ordered the liquidation of the town of Lidice in retaliation for the assassination in 1942 of Reich Protector of Bohemia and Moravia Reinhard Heydrich. The first U.S. rocket to reach the edge of space (a WAC Corporal, developed in the U.S.) is fired from White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. (An altitude of 50 miles above the earth's surface is the U.S. definition of "the edge of space" at the time.) At 12:01 a.m., the federal government seizes bituminous-coal mines where miners are striking and places them under the supervision of U.S. Secretary of the Interior Julius A. Krug.

Chinese Nationalists retake Changchun from the Communists on May 23. In the U.S., 250,000 railroad workers walk off their jobs over wages and work rules. President Truman mobilizes government resources in an attempt to make up the transportation deficit. In addition to the halting of freight shipments, the strike strands millions of travelers in what has been described as "the most crippling work stoppage the nation ever suffered."

Siam is invaded at dawn on May 24 by 800 soldiers of the French Army, who cross the Mekong River from Laos (at this time part of French Indochina). The French troops are supported by planes and artillery, and clash with local forces while pursuing Communist rebels. Meeting in Jerusalem, the Arab Higher Committee — an organ of the seven-nation Arab League — demands the withdrawal of British troops from Palestine, an end to the British Mandate, an end to Jewish immigration, and the creation of an Arab Palestine. At 9 p.m. Eastern Time, U.S. President Harry S. Truman makes a nationwide radio address regarding the railway strike, and delivers an ultimatum: "If sufficient workers to operate the trains have not returned by 4 p.m. tomorrow, as head of our government, I have no alternative but to operate the trains by using every means within my power. . . . I shall ask our armed forces to furnish protection to every man who heeds the call of his country in this hour of need." Having set a deadline of 19 hours for action, Truman closes by saying that he will address a joint session of Congress the next day at 4 p.m.

Under the Treaty of London, signed on May 25, the British Mandate of Transjordan is ended and the country is declared independent. A constitution is promulgated, and Abdullah ibn Hussein becomes the first monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Transjordan, renamed from the Emirate of Transjordan. (The name will change again, in 1949, to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.) Ibrahim Hashim becomes the new nation's first prime minister. In the U.S., the strike by 250,000 rail workers is settled. With only three minutes left before a deadline of 4 p.m., at which time the Army would seize control of and operate the nation's railroads, the leaders of both striking railway workers' unions sign a settlement at the White House. A verbal agreement is reached at 3:50 p.m., and the written pact is signed at 3:57 p.m.

On May 26, Communists gain a plurality of seats in parliamentary elections held in Romania. In the first democratic elections in Czechoslovakia since the end of World War II, Klement Gottwald becomes the nation's 14th prime minister, the first Communist to hold the post. The U.S. railway workers' strike having been settled, the federal government returns the nation's railroads to their owners.

U.S. miners of bituminous coal on May 27 resume their strike after a two-week truce expires. In Vietnam, the French colonial government creates an administration for the minority Montagnard population — separate from that for the Vietnamese people — with its headquarters at Buôn Ma Thuột in the Central Highlands.

At Landsberg Prison, west of Munich, Germany, 14 former Nazis are hanged on May 28 for their wartime actions at the Dachau concentration camp. Manuel Roxas is inaugurated as (the last) president of the Commonwealth of the Philippines. The U.S. Army Air Forces initiates the Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft (NEPA) program. Fairchild Engine and Airplane Corp. is selected to study the possibility of developing a long-range, strategic bomber powered by a nuclear reactor. Physicists Klaus Fuchs and John Von Neumann — working for the still-ongoing Manhattan Project — file an application for a U.S. patent for a better way of detonating a hydrogen bomb. The first nighttime baseball game at Yankee Stadium, in New York City, is played. The Bronx Bombers lose to the Washington Senators, 2-1.

Chinese Nationalist forces capture Kirin, in northeast China, from the Communists on May 29. In Germany, 14 more former Nazis are hanged at Landsberg Prison, west of Munich, for their activities at the Dachau concentration camp. One week after President Truman seized the coal mines, and two months after their strike began, U.S. bituminous-coal miners reach a settlement with the government. Workers will receive pay increases and retirement benefits. After 45 days, the nationwide walkout of American bituminous-coal miners has ended, with the signing, at the White House, of a new contract by UMWA President John L. Lewis and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Julius A. Krug. Lewis announces that the nation's 400,000 soft-coal miners will be back to work by June 2. Pennsylvanian Eddie Klep becomes the first white baseball player in the Negro Leagues when he pitches seven innings for the Cleveland Buckeyes in an 8-6 win over the Chicago American Giants in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Louis Slotin, the 35-year-old Canadian physicist at Los Alamos who was exposed to a burst of intense ionizing radiation during an experiment on May 21, dies after suffering "an agonizing sequence of radiation-induced traumas." The other seven individuals exposed along with him survive but suffer various ills that may or may not be directly related to their radiation exposure. Slotin is initially commended (including by one of the people in the room with him) for his quick action in ending the fission reaction, thereby reducing the radiation dosage received by the others who were present. One of the other observers who was present, however, claims that Slotin had a low concern for nuclear safety and had used improper and unsafe procedures during the experiment.

Flea Market

LAURENCE HARBOR There will be a flea market sponsored by the St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus Council #10281 at St. Lawrence Church Parking Lot, 109 Laurence Parkway, Laurence Harbor, NJ on Saturday, May 22, 2021 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost \$25 per table or 2 tables for \$40. Kitchen is open and refreshments will be available. For further information and table reservations, contact Grand Knight Carl Agneta at 908-601-1693. Social distancing required with masks.

Poll Workers Wanted

AMBOY/SAYRE-**PERTH** VILLE/SOUTH AMBOY - For people wanting to get involved in helping to have safe and fair elections. John Anagnostis, Regional Vice Chair of the Middlesex County Republican Organization is seeking Poll Workers from Perth Amboy, Sayreville, and South Amboy for the upcoming Primary Election June 8, 2021 and the General Election on November 2, 2021. If interested call 732-371-9967 and leave a message.

PAHS Class of 1971 Reunion

PERTH AMBOY - The Perth Amboy High School Class of 1971 50-Year Reunion will be held on Saturday, September 18th, 2021 at the Armory in Perth Amboy. The cost of \$85.00 per person. Contact Val Tarr's email – voltarr@aol.com

Pirohi Sale

PERTH AMBOY - St. John's Orthodox Church Spring Pirohi Sale. Orders for the Potato/ Cheese and Jalepeno/Cheddar Pirohi at \$9.00 a dozen may be called in on May 10, 11, 12, 2021 to 732-826-7067 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Please call early before we meet the quota. Orders may be picked up on May 18 & 19, 2021, between 1:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m. at 404 Division Street, Perth Amboy, NJ.



16th Annual Dad-Daughter Date Night

SOUTH AMBOY/SAYRE-VILLE – Dads, Uncles, Grand-dads, Step-dads! Have you Spent Quality Time with your Special Little Lady lately? Bring the Special Girl in your life to: the 16th Annual Dad-Daughter Date Night.

Make it a Date! Friday, June 4, 2021 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Sayreville Knights of Columbus, 775 Washington Ave, Parlin, NJ. \$60 per couple; \$25 for each additional special girl includes: DJ Wiz! Dancing & Fun; Dinner, Dessert, and Drinks; Professional Photographs Available for Purchase; Raffles & Giveaways!

It has been a long year for everyone. We hope to see you all at the dance!

Gentlemen should escort their favorite special girls to dinner, dancing and delightful doings. Due to COVID protocols seating is limited. Cash payment registration accepted in advance as space permits.

Contact Greg at 732-721-0400 or greg@customfinancial. org for reservations or with any questions.

Scholarship Fund Proceeds donated to community activities and humanitarian projects. The South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary Club has been "Serving Our Communities Since 1924".

Please support your local Rotary Club by sponsoring our 16th Annual Dad-Daughter Dance. Sponsors are recognized in our ad book for this popular event attending by many local business leaders and their daughters, nieces, granddaughters, etc.

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- Supporting our Adopt-a-Family Program for a family in need with financial assistance.
- Funding our Dictionary Project for all third-graders in South Amboy/Sayreville schools.
- Sponsoring the high school InterAct Club and awarding college scholarships.
- Hosting local blood and food drives benefitting your neighbors

Thank you for considering a sponsorship ad to support your local club and community.

Questions? Contact: Gregory Wyzykowski 732-721-0400. Checks and Artwork or Ad Words should be received by May 14, 2021 to: Rotary Club of South Amboy-Sayreville, P.O. Box 3001, South Amboy, NJ 08879 or email: sasyrotary@gmail.com

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

Prayer To St. Clare For Employment

Prayer To Blessed Mother Prayer To Holy Spirit

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St. Jude Novena

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Pets of the Week

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 *vour 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 G.G.



Saint Mary Food Pantry Distribution

SOUTH AMBOY - The next Saint Mary Food Pantry give out is coming up on Saturday, May 22, 2021 from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at St. Pat's Hall on Church

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, June 3, 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

City-Wide Yard Sale

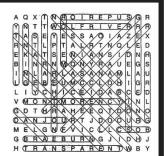
SOUTH AMBOY - The City of South Amboy will hold a City-Wide Yard Sale on Saturday, June 26, and Sunday, June 27, 2021 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. All South Amboy residents can participate at no cost. If interested, sellers can register their address for a list that will be available to prospective shoppers. Registration deadline is June 21, 2021. To register or for more information, please contact Jaclyn at 732-525-5965 or email recreation@southamboynj.gov. Please indicate if you are participating Saturday, Sunday or BOTH days - along with address and phone number. (We strongly encourage all participating to use good judgement and follow the most updated CDC guidelines.)

the bus.

PERTH AMBOY - Adopt Taylor and Monster! Fixed and vaccinated...super sweet. Visit Allforthepaws.org for adoption application or email Vmoralespps@yahoo.com donation fee applies.

Remember to Say Your Novenas!

Answers From Puzzle On Page 21



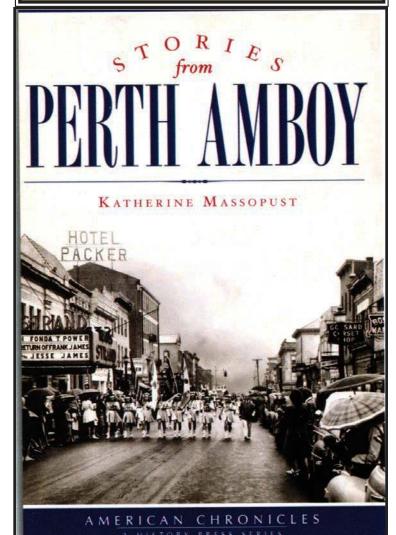
Have a Special Pet? E-mail us your Pet Photos to Amboy Guardian @

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.

LOOKING BACK

PERTH AMBOY – Tennis at the Waterfront circa 1950's.

*Photo Courtesy of Perth Amboy Recreation Department This photo was restored under a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission to the Kearny Cottage Historical Association.

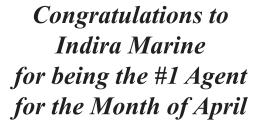


Stories From Perth Amboy

PERTH AMBOY - Stories From Perth Amboy by Katherine Massopust is available from Katherine at 732-261-2610 or at the Barge Restaurant, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy - 732-442-3000 or at: www.amazon.com A Great Gift! Get it now along with Then & Now: Perth Amboy!



Indira Marine Realtor/Agent













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PERTH AMBOY - Beautiful new house too much to list. Must see to appreciate the finishes. \$450,000



PERTH AMBOY - Excellent investment opportunity to o this beautiful two family situated on a prime corner lot, it is fully rented featuring very desirable layout, 1st floor has a very large bedroom, LR, bath and beautiful kitchen,2nd unit large LR, newer Bath, nice kitchen and 3 bedrooms. Huge fenced yard with lots of parking space, all separated utilities close to all major highways, schools and public transportation. and much more Hurry it won't last!!!!! \$415,000



to downtown and train station and most public transportation and major highways. It needs some TLC. \$399,000



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



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. Hur-



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



PERTH AMBOY - Hard-to-find mint condition split level in this Spa spring location very quiet neighborhood, features 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, gleaming hard wood floors, beautiful kitchen with Quartz countertops, stainless steel appliances, family room, exercise room, above ground pool, patio, close to all major highways and Staten island. Won't last!!!! \$459,000



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