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Budget Hearing, Bicycles, New Positions, Illegal Housing 4/26/21 Caucus



**Council President
William Petrick**



**Councilman
Joel Pabon**



**Councilwoman
Milady Tejada**



**Councilwoman
Rose Morales**



**Councilman
B.J. Torres**

By: Carolyn Maxwell
PERTH AMBOY – DPW Director Frank Hoffman gave a synopsis of his budget for the year of 2021. He stated, “There has been more trash due to the pandemic and people staying home more. We used to make money on recycling. Now, we owe money. We had to take money from other line items to pay for disposables. There was an increase in our line items for uniforms, especially for boots.” He then talked about the marina. “Frank Wilde and Judy who worked in the Marina Office did a good job with managing the money for their operating cost.”

Wilde then came up to give more information in regards to how the marina operates. “We have 137 boat slips for rental and out of those only 9 spots are left open.”

Council President Petrick asked if they were able to expand the amount of slips for more boats.

Wilde responded, “It will cost more money and we would love to have more slips because it would mean more money coming into the marina. We have 6 moorings, and we are adding 2 more. We also have spaces for jet skis. Repair work is being done at the marina. That should be done within 2 weeks after they start.”

Councilman Joel Pabon asked Hoffman, “Why is the line item for education and training increased?”

Hoffman explained that it had been put in the budget in the past. “It was always voted

down. Calcium Chloride went up and we had to have more on hand for emergencies.”

Pabon continued, “Sometimes people will call up DPW and not have very good experiences when they talk to someone in that department. I hope more of your people get more training to be more courteous. By the way, the skateboard parks look awesome.”

Hoffman responded giving credit to the Buildings and Grounds who did that work.

Councilwoman Milady Tejada wanted to commend Hoffman and his department for all that they do which is beneficial to the town.

Hoffman explained, “All the training that our department receives has been beneficial and I am glad you recognize that.”

Code Enforcement Director Irving Lozada came up and gave a report on what the department has been doing for the last 2 years since the beginning of 2019. “We have 15 employees which includes people in the construction, fire, plumbing, and the elevator divisions. There are currently 4 Code Enforcement Officers, and we need to add 2 more. We are asking it to be a Zoning Officer and an Assistant Zoning Officer. The operational budget is the same as last year. The council had approved our department getting 3 new cars which we have not received yet. The salaries in our department are low compared to other towns.”

Petrick responded, “We need to see the productivity of the

existing employees instead of comparing your salaries to other towns.”

Lozada continued, “Our current Building Inspector is underpaid and under title for the license that he has.”

Business Administrator Remsen wanted to clarify Lozada’s statement. “The Building Inspector is doing work that is above his current title.”

Lozada then explained that he is not a city employee and he requesting to get paid what Building Inspectors normally would get.

Petrick then asked Lozada, “All the money you generate in your department can only be spent for your department. Where is your balance sheet?”

Lozada responded, “I have it here, but I can make a copy for you.”

Lozada continued, “\$1.7 million was collected for permit fees and the state gets part of that money. After paying the state, we made \$1.5 million in 2019. That year, we spent a little over \$800,000.”

Councilman Pabon spoke next, “You (Code Enforcement) are a lot like the Fire Department. You can only use the money for your department.”

Lozada continued, “The UCC (Uniform Construction Code) states we need to spend all the money in our budget.”

Petrick then stated, “If your department was using all of your money, it should not impact the city’s budget.”

Lozada continued, “We made money because of warehouses

such as Home Depot coming in. We should have money saved to use to pay expenses for the next few years.”

Pabon asked, “What are your plans for the two additional employees you are requesting?”

Lozada stated, “We will need them in the fields. We had two fires in one week last week and one was a disaster.”

Pabon then suggested that they need a team just to do inspections. “We have too much illegal housing and it keeps happening over and over again. When you see a 2-family house with a lot of satellite dishes, it’s a giveaway (for illegal housing).”

Lozada answered, “That’s why we need more manpower. We do the best with what we have. It is going to take a while.”

Pabon continued, “On Thursday, I took a ride with some of the fire officials and the inspections are way behind.”

Lozada then stated, “We need to educate our businesses and homeowners. We also have to work with the community to address safety concerns and correct them. Certain council members will text me about problems (for illegal housing issues).”

Pabon then laughed lightly, “Out of the 312 complaints forwarded to Code Enforcement, I probably made half of those complaints.”

Councilman B.J. Torres asked, “What is illegal housing?”

Lozada answered, “The Fire Department determines that. When we went to one of the

fires that happened recently, there were a total of 12 beds in 2 bedrooms.”

Pabon stated he had received 96 complaints regarding illegal housing.

Torres then asked, “What’s done to homeowners of illegal housing?”

Lozada responded, “They are issued fines, but because of Covid, the courts are backed up.”

Torres then stated, “In Jersey City, the city will seize any illegal housing.”

Lozada then stated, “We have to get a right of entry if the homeowner refuses to let us in. The Zoning Officers look at the fire reports. The 2 additional Code Enforcement Officers that we are requesting must have required licensing to do inspections. When it comes to training, they will send instructors to come to us.”

The next topic for discussion was the review of Chapter 158 – Bicycles.

Councilman Torres thought that this ordinance was archaic, and licenses should be voluntary instead of mandatory. “We encourage outsiders to visit our beautiful city and waterfront.”

Petrick spoke up and said, “This (licenses) is focused on city residents and we should have our Law Director review it.”

Councilman Joel Pabon spoke up, “I remember when I got my first bike. The first thing that was done was we went to the police department to get a li-

**Continued on Page 6*

Gustav J. Novak

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Perth Amboy Mourns Loss of Police Officer Arcadio Rivera, Jr.

Press Release 4/29/21
PERTH AMBOY, NJ - The City of Perth Amboy Police Department and the entire Perth Amboy community is mourning the loss of one of our beloved Senior Police Officers, Arcadio Rivera Jr.

Officer Rivera is a 26-year veteran of the police force serving in the patrol division. Officer Rivera at approximately 7:30PM, on April 28, 2021, while off duty and at the time operating his personal vehicle, appeared to experience a medical emergency which caused him to lose control of his vehicle and collide with parked vehicles in the Harbortown section of the City. The medical emergency has yet to be confirmed by appropriate authorities. Fellow Officers responded

to the crash scene along with the Perth Amboy Fire Department and EMS units from Hackensack Meridian Hospital to immediately began life saving measures on Officer Rivera who was found to be breathless and subsequently suffered from cardiac arrest once removed from the vehicle. Unfortunately, all the valiant work by all his colleagues and the staff at the Raritan Bay Medical Center were unsuccessful in their attempts to resuscitate Officer Rivera. Officer Rivera was also a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps. Officer Rivera was 54 years old and lived in the City that he protected for more than a quarter century. He leaves behind three sons; Arcadio Rivera III, Luis Armando Rivera, and Angel Isaiah Rivera.



Police Officer
Arcadio Rivera, Jr.

Please join us in thoughts and prayers at this difficult time for the Rivera family as well as the entire Community.

Viewing and Funeral Arrangements for Arcadio River, Jr.

We begin to leave at 9:15 am Thursday, May 6, 2021 from the Gustav J. Novak Funeral Home 419 Barclay Street. Perth Amboy for a Funeral Mass at Holy Trinity RC Church at 10:00am. Burial will be at Alpine Cemetery. Visiting is on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Paper Shredding

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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.

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Saturday, May 8
Sayreville Senior Center Parking Lot, 423 Main Street, 08872
Saturday, May 22
Carteret Community Center, 100 Cooke Avenue, 07008

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
Papaiani 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.

Corrections

PERTH AMBOY – In the4/21/21 issue of the Amboy Guardian Councilman BJ Torres was quoted incorrectly. It was stated in the Amboy Guardian that Councilman Torres stated: "Holland legalized cannabis and the usage stopped." This is not what Councilman Torres said. Councilman BJ Torres actually stated, "I'm aware that countries such as Holland, that decriminalized cannabis decades ago, that youth usage has dropped significantly. (asking Ed DeVoux) Is there any data in the United States, in states like Colorado that legalized usage, has the youth usage dropped?" The Guardian stated: "Torres then asked if a person grows marijuana in their field would they be classified as an agricultural worker." Councilman BJ Torres actually asked: "With the cultivation, does that fall under agriculture and will these workers still receive the same protections as other workers, because I know agricultural workers don't receive the same protections some times." The Amboy Guardian regrets these errors.



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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Go Fishing in Another Lake
We Are Not Taking Your Bait!

So, Perth Amboy made national news due to a YouTuber trying to get some hits on his channel. In order to get sponsors and advertisers, he is using our kids as part of his ploy. A blind person should be able to see this. Maybe if he makes it big (bringing in cash), he will remember those who participated in those videos and give them a piece of the action. So many people got up in arms both ways: pro and con. Taken when many bicyclists intentionally and carelessly put themselves, pedestrians, and motorists in dangerous situations.

There are many media news sources where you can download the video of the Perth Amboy Police interacting with the bicyclists. We are not going to be one of those media outlets.

One of the police officers involved in pulling over the bicyclists talked to them in a very polite manner and told them that they were putting themselves and others at risk and if they could please just obey the law.

Another officer then appeared on the scene and she had remembered earlier in the day she had asked the bicyclists to pull over and she was ignored. She got into a discussion with one of the bicyclists that she saw earlier that day and he acknowledged that he didn't pull over when she first requested. He also started to disrespect her. She cautioned him on the dangers of how they were acting before. He decided to act up and she proceeded to have him put in handcuffs and placed in back of the police vehicle. The police then confiscated at least 4 bikes.

Later at police headquarters, she reiterated to that youth about how frustrating it was for her because of in spite of earlier

warnings, they still proceeded to behave irresponsibly. She also stated that she wants them to ride their bikes, but just to follow the rules and they don't want to be taking their bikes away from them and they have other priorities that have to be taken care of.

The parents were called and all of the bicyclists that were underage were picked up by their parents, and their bikes were returned. The 18-year-old was able to get his bike right away.

In my opinion, I don't see how the NAACP looked at this as a racial issue. When I was growing up, and I know some of the members of the NAACP when they were growing up, if they behave the way those bicyclists did, I think they would prefer that the police lock them up than face the ire of their parents. In my opinion, that police sergeant showed tough love and if you look at the whole 17-minute video and listen very carefully how those kids talked to the police officers who were very polite to them, it was shameful. Bad behavior should not be rewarded and some of the people who spoke at the last Perth Amboy meetings about this bicyclist situation were way off base and made a mountain out of a molehill.

It was embarrassing, especially when they were throwing around the race card and social injustice. I guess my idea of social injustice is way off base. I don't care if you are brown, black, white, or blue in the face. If you can't appreciate someone giving you a break, and you then disrespect them and they give you another break, then something is wrong, and it is not with the police. *C.M.*

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Welcome to
Disorder!

Well folks, I see Perth Amboy made the social media attack about kids being harassed by the police for riding their bikes. Well, if those people that were complaining and so-

called bashing the police for doing their job, all they had to do was open their eyes. We all know what was really going on with some of those wild and crazy bike riders "BREAKING the LAW". When you ride a bike, you OBEY the law plain and simple. Also, there is other

breaking the law with their vehicles by making "Illegal turns, illegal U-turns, illegal parking, and the best one loud music". So welcome to Perth Amboy: The City of Disorder".

Orlando "Wildman" Perez

Policing

To offer a certain segment of public employees a subsidy for housing is as Stanley Sierakowski suggests is tantamount to bribery! A look into the history of law enforcement will find it rife with corruption including taking bribes to "look the other way" regarding organized crime to accepting money and favors to "protect" businesses and a whole litany of other infractions. In the news on a daily basis are various items where so-called law enforcement of-

ficers breaking the laws they've sworn to uphold. Even something like the issuing of courtesy cards (which should be abolished) has a taste of corruption about it as if being a relative or a friend of an officer entitles one to special treatment if that individual commits an infraction. And while I'm at it, is there something in PBA Contracts that precludes someone from waking a beat like in the "God Old Days"? It would certainly cut down on pollution and the expense of gas and vehicle repairs. If one chooses a career

(different from "a job") one should not complain about the choice they made. If you don't like it, don't choose it! Putting a blue costume on someone doesn't make him or her a better person. Folks, don't be taken in by the violin music, the pot of gold awaits a mere twenty years down the road and they'll be playing the fiddle while you're still working. Thank you!

The Honorable
Michael Rusznak

Common Sense

What is "common sense"? If you try to look up a definition for it, all you get are generalizations that could mean many different things to a lot of different people. It is left to the individual what is or isn't common sense.

To me "common sense" would be something like, coming in out of the rain, or not putting your hand under a running lawnmower.

Evidently, not all people are endowed with "common sense" because I remember, some years ago, a woman was arrested for being outside in the rain naked. Her reasoning was that she wanted to bathe in Gods' tears. I guess I can accept that, to a point. But the latter is different. If all people had common sense there would not have to be a sign on lawnmowers today telling you, and I'm paraphrasing, not to put your hand under a running lawnmower.

Now to get to the point. Every time there is a nut case with a gun who shoots more than 4 people there is an outcry by politicians for "Common Sense" gun control. What exactly is that anyway? If you talk to some, it is making sure that guns do not get into the hands of people who would use them in such a manner. I'll go for that, but it is already illegal to kill someone. That to me would be "Common Sense". Did it stop them from killing someone? No, it did not.

According to our illustrious governor, he is going to enact some "Common Sense" gun laws to make us safer. I say enforce the laws you already have on the books and you will ac-

complish much more.

By his own admission, NJ has some of the toughest gun laws on the books and makes us second only to California. Also, by his own admission, half of the gun homicides in our state happen in only five of our cities. OK, again how are your "Common Sense" gun laws going to rectify that situation? Laws like making people renew their purchaser cards, proof of taking a safety course before you can purchase a gun and last but not least, raising the age to purchase a long gun from 18 to 21. Were there a lot of crimes committed by 18-year-olds with a long gun that I am not aware of?

To say these laws are "Common Sense" laws is ridiculous. They only target legitimate gun owners and do nothing to reduce gun violence committed by non-law abiding citizens. These laws have nothing to do with Common Sense" and everything to do with making it more difficult to own a gun by "We the People".

Common sense would tell me that not only enforcing the laws already on the books but making them tougher might be the way to go. You can get 20 years for dealing drugs but only 5 years for selling an illegal gun. What's wrong with this picture? If you commit a violent crime with a gun or traffic in illegal guns, which has been illegal since I can remember, all though it's federal law, make it life without parole. That would certainly put a dent in gun crime. But noooo, lets attack the legitimate gun owner who will abide by your "Common Sense" gun laws and let the criminals have free reign. Heck, they

don't pay attention to the law anyway.

While we're on the subject, there's something else I read about this so called "Common Sense" gun bill. It seems that schools across the state have had active shooter drills, but they are uncoordinated. Our "Powers That Be" want to coordinate them. Not a bad idea I think, but then I read one of the things in the new curriculum is not rewarding kids for defending themselves. How did they put it? "Prohibiting rewarding children for fighting off potential gunmen during a drill", What??? You should be teaching them otherwise I would think. It seems, to me anyway, that the "Powers That Be" want to train "We the People" from a very early age to be victims. Even a very strong man would have a problem if ten kids jumped on his back at the same time, just saying.

When I was a kid, things were a whole lot different. In my neighborhood almost every house had firearms in them, yet I was not afraid to go outside and play and our parents only worried about us getting hit by a car because we would have stupid attacks when we rode our bikes. They did not worry about us returning home from school, alive. School shootings were unheard of. And yet the guns were there and freely available. Yes, I agree, something has to be done. But it's not the guns that are the problem. Let's use some "Common Sense".

Joe Bayona

We Value Your Opinion!
Please Send Us A Response!



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Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

THURS. May 6 Board of Education, 5:30 p.m.
PAHS, Eagle Ave. & Zoom
MON. May 10 City Council, Caucus 5:30 p.m.
City Hall, High St. & Zoom
WED May 12 City Council, Regular,
City Hall, High St. & Zoom

South Amboy

WED. May 5 City Council, Business, 6 p.m.
City Hall N. Broadway.
WED May 19 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway

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

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Email: ecabrera52@hotmail.com

Safety Announcement

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

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!!

Report Suspicious Activity - Be Vigilant - STAY ALERT!

Do not think that any call or report is too small

Don't allow the actions of a few dictate your quality of life

FOR ALL EMERGENCIES, DIAL: 9-1-1

FOR ALL NON-EMERGENCIES, DIAL: 732-442-4400

Please Submit Community Events 2 Weeks in Advance!

Email: AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

SOUTH AMBOY

MAYOR & COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 6 p.m.

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Budget Hearing, Bicycles, New Positions, Illegal Housing

4/26/21 Caucus

**Continued from Page 1*

cense and registration for your bike. A lot of bikes were stolen back then, and that is why they did this. The person who was in charge at the time to register the bikes was a person of color. Everybody knew the police officers back then. It was all about safety. When I was growing up, we could not do what was done today (dangerous stunts that were performed by several bicyclists circulating on social media). I would rather have an officer pull me over for unsafe riding instead of a child be run over.”

Torres responded, “The ordinance doesn’t address safety. Some of this is motor vehicle regulations. Parents don’t know it is going to be a mark on their auto insurance.”

Pabon countered, “Safety is already addressed in this ordinance.”

Torres disagreed and said, “The state law supersedes the Department of Motor Vehicles in this ordinance.”

Assistant Housing Manager Tashi Vazquez referred to a report entitled: “Circulation Element” which addressed Chapter 158 eliminating some of the provisions in it. The address adding: “Bike paths” and other ways to make the city more conducive to being more walkable were added.

Torres asked, “This report that you are talking about was done in 2016 and was it accepted by the council?”

Vazquez stated, “It was up to them to accept the report or not.”

Council President Petrick then asked Law Director Northgrave to look at Chapter 158 – Bicycles in detail.”

The next topic for discussion was the proposed Salary Ordinance/Management and Non-union.

Petrick started the conversation, “Can some titles be combined into one?”

Mayor Helmin Caba came up to talk about this. “We need a Director of Economic Development and a City Planner and we need a Grant Writer.”

B.A. Remsen said, “A Planner will need to have a master’s degree and 5 years of professional municipal planning credentials. We are looking to restructure that department.”

Councilman Pabon then suggested, “Our master plan has been stalled, so we need a grant writer and go to the state and county for the money because they have it.”

Mayor Caba continued, “We are getting \$50,000 from PARA to update the Master Plan.”

Councilwoman Tejeda stated, “We need a flow chart regarding all these different titles.”

Remsen stated, “The Professional Planner executes the master plan.”

Petrick then asked about the position of Director of Public Safety.”

Caba explained, “You (the council) will appoint the Police Director.”

Petrick then stated, “A civil

service title is not needed for the Police Director position.”

Mayor Caba proceeded, “I can appoint anyone as a Police Director.”

Petrick then said, “The title exists, but it is not funded. In the past, the Police Director was paid.”

Councilman Pabon then joined the conversation, “The Fire Department is doing a great job. The Police Director and the Police Chief duties can be combined with no additional money.”

Mayor Caba said, “There are a lot of departments that do not have backups for their directors.”

Petrick asked, “Are we looking to hire people from the outside to be backups for our Department Directors instead of having people who are already in those departments to be backups?”

Councilwoman Tejeda suggested, “We need to train existing personnel in each department to take over as directors of those departments.”

B.A. Remsen responded, “We need to have people that have the expertise now.”

Mayor Caba then suggested, “It is good to promote those from within.”

Remsen continued, “We need to look at existing employees for training to be moved up in their department, but right now we are just working on titles (to be added, changed, or deleted).”

Petrick then remembered, “We have eliminated titles before.”

Remsen continued, “We have existing titles that are not filled, so they are not costing you anything right now.”

Mayor Caba continued, “Some of the titles I’m proposing will be while I am in office such as a Confidential Aide which I have now and a Confidential Assistant – no one is assigned to that position, yet.”

Sonia Neira from the Mayor’s Office came in on Zoom, “Both of these titles just mentioned are unclassified and they have no civil service rights.

Councilman Torres then asked, “When was the Mayor’s Aide title eliminated?”

Petrick then said, “I don’t think we had a Mayor’s Aide title.”

Pabon corrected Petrick and said, “The Mayor’s Aide title was eliminated.”

Tejeda then said, “The last person to hold that title was Jeanette Rios.”

Pabon joined the conversation and said, “I don’t want all these titles to create what the school system has now. They have assistants to assistants to assistants. I’d rather someone ask for more money in their department than train people who are in their existing departments to move up and possibly take over that department. Every single position should be on our website.”

Petrick then stated, “I want to see the new titles and any titles that are to be eliminated should be crossed out.”

Mayor Caba then said, “We are committed to not raise taxes and to be conservative.”

Bill Petrick then asked about a

title called, “Student Assistant.”

Director of Human Resources and Recreation Ken Ortiz joined via Zoom, “I am the one who suggested that we have students who can work as interns in the city and maybe through their experiences we can retain them to work in future positions. The Student Assistant title has civil service as part of the title, but they have no rights or protection to retain the position where they were interning. A lot of these students come from low-income families. With the money they get while they are interning can supplement their household income. These positions are paid through grants and are not paid through the city budget.”

Councilman Pabon had a question on R-218-4/21 – Appointing the following members to the Perth Amboy Arts Council. “How did we pick these people?”

Petrick said, “Myself and you picked some of them. I like to see a tally of the applicants and if there was a close count how they were chosen.”

Public Portion (People present in the council chambers spoke first):

Resident and Former Councilman Ken Balut spoke first. He mentioned the House of Prostitution on Prospect Street and that someone died on Smith Street. “One of my neighbors told me there were a bunch of bike riders that came down her street.” He then mentioned the salaries of some of the people working in the mayor’s office. “Lissette Lebron is making \$80,000 which is more than Rose Morales’s husband who has been on the police force for more than 20 years. We have clerks who have worked more hours and more time on their jobs, and they are always here. Why did 2 council members ask to have those clerk’s reappointments tabled? Joel Rosa who also has a position in the Mayor’s Office gets a salary of \$80,000 and he worked in a restaurant. We are having problems with the bike riders. No one had any answers for the civil liberties when they called. We are a laughingstock over this bike issue. It was even on NJ 101.5. There was someone shot at McDonald’s. And what about when there was an armed robbery at the Dollar Tree store? What happened to transparency? There was nothing reported in the papers about the fires at the illegal housing apartments.”

Resident Vince Mackiel spoke next. He thought that the current council would be more active regarding the Market Street Bridge. “We have a lot of non-profit organizations in town, and they should be here making comments about the train station, especially for their clients that have disabilities. There should be a meeting about these issues, and it should be advertised. Our former and current mayors should participate in these discussions. I am asking that the bridge be part of this discussion. What part of the bike ordinance will be changed? There should be spot registra-



PERTH AMBOY - Bicyclists outside City Hall at the 4/26/21 Caucus Meeting *Photo by Carolyn Maxwell

tion when it comes to bikes and not police action for just having a bike.”

Resident Iris Rodriguez came up next. “I want to thank the council president for putting on the agenda to name the Second Street Park after the Borinqueneers. A group has been working 50 years to recognize them. I am part of the committee. I also know Councilman Pabon approves of naming the park after this group. We want to recognize those who gave so much to this country.”

Lawyer Daniel Gonzalez came up next. He talked about the new position and title proposed by Mayor Caba, “There is a new administration with new ideas to get things done. Having student interns is great and grant writers and city planners are important. These are intelligent decisions. Not making changes can impede progress. Chief Mullen has done a wonderful job with the Fire Department. Job descriptions are needed. Some people have been employed for a long time in the city but have not done much. Lissette Lebron is worth more than \$80,000. Joel Rosa is not just a former restaurant worker. He is brilliant. Tashi Vazquez has been doing grants and is multi-talented. Perth Amboy is getting better and better.”

Fire Chief Ed Mullen came up. “In 2017, a Fire Chief took his life and morale was low. I just found out about the Public Safety Director title just now. Larry Cattano is very capable of being put in a higher position. I also want to invite the council to a program to honor the firemen who were killed in line of duty in 1921. I will send information to you and the Amboy Guardian.” Mullen then mentioned the recent fires in illegal housing units. Landlords are not always aware that their tenants are subletting their apartments. Apartment buildings should be registered and inspected. The Fire Division Inspection Unit is doing a great job. As an owner of the building, you want to sleep well at night. I put the safety of the city before my family.”

Deputy Police Chief and OEM Director Larry Cattano came up to speak. “Inspections have increased, and it is a credit to the Fire Department. We have very talented people and I want to see them move up. I don’t see how outsiders can help the city

and we are always open to suggestions.”

Petrick spoke up and said, “People are calling to complain about motor vehicle noises.”

Cattano responded, “We haven’t had any uptake in those calls. Last year, we could only send 5 candidates in our auxiliary department to go for training last year instead of our normal amount which would have been 15.”

The meeting was open to people on Zoom.

Resident and Former Councilwoman Lisa Nanton spoke, “The sound system in the council chamber sucks (for those participating via Zoom). Is the \$16 million that we are going to get going into our general fund? It’s refreshing to hear the debate between the council members and the administration.”

B.A. Remsen answered her question regarding the \$16 million. “We are not sure how it can be spent at this time.”

CFO Jill Goldy joined the conversation via Zoom, “The payment will be coming in 2 installments. The first one by the end of May 2021 and the second by the end of 2022. All of it cannot be used in one year. It must be spread over a 5-year period. We don’t know how the money can be deposited until the federal government sets their rules and the states review them.”

Remsen spoke up again, “We cannot make assumptions. We can only use money we currently have.”

Petrick then added, “The current budget has a tax increase.”

Remsen then cautioned, “There are options since you have reserve funds.”

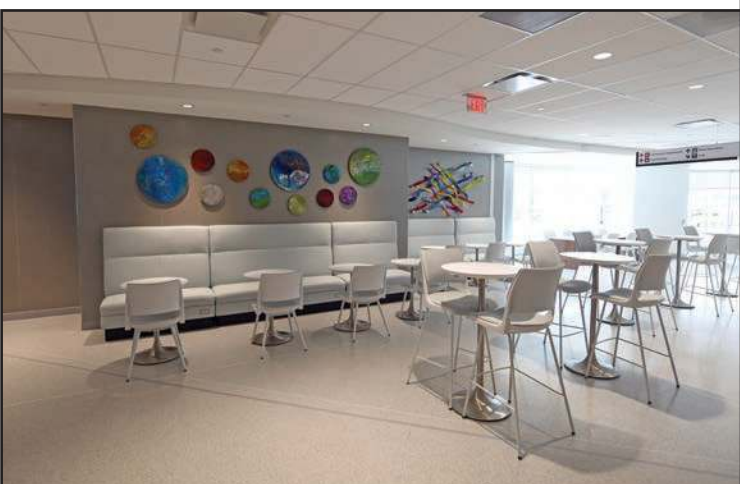
Petrick responded, “I and some of the other council members talked to the finance board.”

Lisa Nanton made the last comment of the evening, “The money that we get is taxpayer’s money and it should not be used for new hires.”

After the public portion closed, the meeting ended at 8:58 p.m. All council members were present in person.

Attend
Public Meetings
Have Your
Voice Heard!

New Concourse, Café and Parking Lot Now Open at Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center Old Bridge
**Photos Submitted*



Press Release 4/21/21
OLD BRIDGE, N.J. — Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center Old Bridge has opened its new concourse, café and front patient/visitor parking lot. This update is part of a major revitalization with a \$39 million investment expanding its Emergency Department. The new concourse, cafe and parking lot is part of that transformation.

“We are excited about opening our new concourse, which will provide easier access to our facilities,” said Thomas G. Shanahan, chief hospital executive, Raritan Bay Medical Center. “We are looking forward to opening more areas as the construction is completed over the next several months.”

The concourse is lined with floor to ceiling windows, capitalizing on an abundance of natural light to help patients and visitors to their destinations. One of the highlights of the new concourse is that it will unite the three main buildings of the Old Bridge campus into one seamless façade. As of today, the concourse connects 1 Hospital Plaza (main hospital) and 3 Hospital Plaza (Medical Arts Building). By the middle of May, 2 Hospital Plaza (Medical Office Building), will be connected. In addition, the new Starbucks affiliated café, is located in the concourse and open from 7a.m. – 4 p.m.

“We are really starting to see the vision of this state-of-the-art facility come to life, said William DiStanislao, vice president, Operations and executive site director, Raritan Bay Medical Center Old Bridge. “The full project is expected to open to the public in February 2022.”

The project team for the expansion includes Stantec Consulting (Project Management), Francis Cauffman Architects and Turner Construction.

Deadline for Print Ads:
7 p.m. Thursday
Office Hours:
Mon. - Wed. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

News From Asw. Yvonne Lopez

Vitale, Coughlin & Lopez on Launch of NJ Smart Emergency Rental Assistance Program in Middlesex County

Press Release
TRENTON – Senator Joseph F. Vitale, Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin and Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez (all D-Middlesex) released the following joint statement on the announcement that statewide nonprofit NJSHARES will be launching the “NJ SMART” Emergency Rental Assistance Program in the 19th District:

“Families and residents of the 19th District have suffered tremendous economic loss and prolonged unemployment due to the pandemic. For many, these losses have impacted their ability to afford their rent

or mortgage payments. While there is a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures, we must continue to work diligently to maximize every resource possible to help residents get through these difficult times.

“The NJ SHARES “NJ SMART” rental assistance program is specifically designed for individuals who lost their household income because of the pandemic. We applaud the organization’s delivery of this pilot program in our district. This program will undoubtedly make a positive impact on the lives of so many families in need.”

Eligible applicants must reside in the 19th Legislative District (Carteret, Perth Amboy, Sayreville, South Amboy and Woodbridge) and must document a loss of income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and evidence of imminent eviction or foreclosure due to arrears. Applicants will be eligible for assistance with rent, mortgage and property tax payments in arrears.

To apply to the NJ SMART program, please call (866) 657-4273 or email njsmart@njshares.org with the subject line NJ SMART 19th District application.

Lopez Statement on Resignation of Corrections Ombudsman Following Edna Mahan Hearing

Press Release
TRENTON – Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez (D-Middlesex) released the following statement in response to the resignation of Corrections Ombudsman Dan DiBenedetti, which comes a day after the joint hearing of the Assembly Judiciary and Assembly Women and Children Committees regarding recent incidents and treatment of women incarcerated at Edna Mahan Correctional Facility:

“The passage of the Dignity Act granted New Jersey the ability to create the strongest corrections oversight entity in the nation. Yesterday’s hearing

cemented the reality that the office was not living up to the expectations or authority with which it has been vested.

“The Office of the Corrections Ombudsman, buttressed by the Dignity Act, is a body designed to specifically act as an impartial ally for the prisoner community at large. It is granted with the powers to investigate and resolve all manners of complaints. Based on yesterday’s hearing, it’s clear the issues of abuse are historic, systemic and urgent, warranting our immediate attention to ensure prisoners are protected and guaranteed a rehabilitative prison experience.

“I look forward to working with new leadership to realize the full potential of the Office of the Corrections Ombudsman. I stand with prisoners, advocates, survivors and the formerly incarcerated in seeing the opportunity a renewed office can bring to enact transformative change.

“Our work is still not done, but with new leadership and perspective in the Office of the Corrections Ombudsman, we are one step closer to changing the culture of abuse and ensuring our prisoners are treated with dignity and respect.”

Vitale, Coughlin & Lopez Applaud Launch of Perth Amboy’s Vaccination Program

Press Release
TRENTON – In response to the launch of the City of Perth Amboy’s community wide vaccination program, Legislative District 19 lawmakers Senator Joe Vitale, Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin and Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez (all D-Middlesex) released the following joint statement:

“Over the past four months, we have worked diligently in partnership with Perth Amboy Mayor Helmin Caba, Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios and Hackensack Meridian Health Raritan Bay Medical Center to build a community vaccination model specifically for Perth Amboy residents.

“Beginning with the senior population, this model has achieved tremendous success

and we look forward to increasing our momentum to ensure Perth Amboy’s vaccination totals remain on an upward trend.

“As one of the hardest hit municipalities by COVID-19 in Middlesex County, Perth Amboy must remain a focus area for vaccination efforts. The success of the program is a result of the combined efforts of all partners involved. We look forward to seeing more Perth Amboy residents getting vaccinated and helping our community recover from this crisis.”

Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios released the following statement:

“Middlesex County has been proud to support Mayor Caba and the City of Perth Amboy in this initiative and work collaboratively with our county

partner Hackensack Meridian Health and our elected officials in the 19th legislative district. We will continue that collaboration to work to expand our partnership so that every resident of Perth Amboy who wants a vaccine has access to one. And as we continue to battle the pandemic throughout every corner of our county, we will build upon the positive momentum created thorough this program in Perth Amboy to continue to find ways to vaccinate residents and fight COVID-19 in all municipalities.”

Perth Amboy residents can register for a vaccination by calling 732-324-3521 Monday – Friday from 8:30am – 4:30pm or by visiting https://www.perthamboynj.org/community/vaccine_registration.

Chanelle Scott McCullum Sworn in as Newest Commissioner on the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners

Piscataway Township Councilwoman Fills Seat Left Vacant by Sudden Passing of Deputy Director Kenneth Armwood

Press Release 4/21/21
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ – Chanelle Scott McCullum was sworn into a seat on the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners on April 21, 2021. County Commissioner McCullum fills the seat left vacant after the sudden passing of Deputy Director Kenneth Armwood on March 29, 2021. The remaining year of former Deputy Director Armwood’s term will be on the ballot for the November 2, 2021 General Election.

A resident of Piscataway for more than 40 years, County Commissioner McCullum has served on the Piscataway Township Council since April 2013, when she was appointed to fill then Councilman Armwood’s seat when he left to join the Board of County Commissioners. She was elected to the Township Council in November 2013 and re-elected to four-year terms in 2016 and 2020. During her time on the Piscataway Township Council, County Commissioner McCullum served two terms as council president and championed issues pertaining to wellness and healthy living, including founding a free annual “Walk for Your Health” event in Piscataway’s Johnson Park.

“On behalf of the entire Board of County Commissioners, I am pleased to welcome County Commissioner McCullum to the Board,” said Middlesex County

Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios. “The loss of Deputy Director Armwood, a dedicated public servant and wonderful human, is a tragedy for all of us – both personally and professionally. Deputy Director Armwood left big shoes to fill, but I am certain that County Commissioner McCullum is up to the task. She joins the Board of County Commissioners with her own impressive record of public service, and I look forward to working together on behalf of the people of Middlesex County.”

“I am proud to join the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners,” said County Commissioner Chanelle McCullum. “I am especially honored to have the opportunity to carry on the work of Ken Armwood, a dear friend and colleague. He left a legacy of kindness that was elevated by his hard work and commitment to the people of our great County. I will continue that legacy even as I work to establish my own path as a County Commissioner dedicated to improving the lives of every Middlesex County resident.”

In addition to serving on the Piscataway Township Council for the past eight years, County Commissioner McCullum is a member of the Piscataway Municipal Alliance, a role in which she works closely with members of the community to educate citizens regarding the

dangers of drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse and misuse. She also serves on the Board of Trustees for Sterling Village, Piscataway Township’s independent apartment complex for senior citizens.

A licensed registered pharmacist since 1991, County Commissioner McCullum began her pharmacy career as a staff pharmacist at Pathmark Pharmacy in the City of Newark. She has worked for Merck for more than 25 years.

County Commissioner McCullum was educated in Piscataway’s public and private schools before earning her bachelor’s degree in pharmacy, magna cum laude, from Howard University in Washington, D.C., and her doctorate in pharmacy from Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia.

She is the daughter of Retired Lt. Richard Scott of the Middlesex County Prosecutors Office and Middlesex County Sheriff Mildred S. Scott, the first female sheriff in Middlesex County and the first African American sheriff in the State of New Jersey. County Commissioner McCullum is only the second African American female to serve on the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners. The first was her mother, who left the Board to serve as Middlesex County Sheriff and was replaced as County Commissioner by Kenneth Armwood.

County Commissioner Mc-



Commissioner Mccullum with family, sworn in by County Clerk Nancy Pinkin *Photos Submitted



Commissioner Mccullum sworn in by County Clerk Nancy Pinkin

Cullum and her husband, Dr. Larry McCullum, Sr., are the proud parents of two children, Alexis and Larry McCullum, Jr.

Budget Hearing for Parking Utility and Municipal Court and Fire Inspection Program Update

4/28/21 Council Meeting

By Carolyn Maxwell
PERTH AMBOY – Business Manager for the Parking Utility Jeanette Rios came up first. She stated that the budget was not prepared by her. “We have four employees in the office and a supervisor clerk. We are in charge of the residential, commuter, and monthly parking permits. We have eight municipal parking lots and between 500-600 meters. We are working on different regulations of the parking deck and will be starting renovations soon. We’ll be starting the renovations on the first level of the Jefferson Street Parking deck, but I don’t have all the details, yet. Our budget is \$4000 less than last year. We would like to see some conversion of the single meters to double meters. Every year, we have to dip into the general fund. Our clerk handles any complaints. I oversee the employees and meet with the Business Administrator to move projects along. Any citizen of Perth Amboy who takes the train to work can park at the train station parking lot for free.”

Councilman Joel Pabon asked, “Who put the budget together?”

Business Administrator Remsen said that he did.

Pabon continued, “Look-

ing at the 2020 budget, it was \$648,690.00 and the proposed budget shows \$534,781.22.”

Remsen explained, “The volume of use and other expenses were reduced. Our employees will oversee the renovations.”

Pabon then asked if there was an overestimate of the budget.

Remsen replied, “There was a reduction of visitors due to the pandemic. We are still losing revenue, but not as much.”

Next up for review was the Municipal Court. Judge Kenneth Gonzalez came up and introduced the Court Administrator, Soleny Pena. Gonzalez stated he was there to support Ms. Pena who prepared the budget.

Pena stated that all sessions are virtual. “People can come in to make payments. The budget is mostly the same except for a small increase for professional services which is for an interpreter which is needed for all the virtual sessions which takes longer. We also need a Deputy Court Administrator. We have over 12,000 active cases. We need a Title Clerk 1 because of a vacancy that is not filled. Our interpreter comes from a contractor who has an office in Perth Amboy. We have someone inhouse who is qualified

for that position, but the Assignment Judge has to approve the person for the Deputy Court Administrator position.”

Judge Gonzalez then spoke up and stated, “That position has to be advertised and open to the public. Once the Deputy Court Administrator is picked, then we will need to get another Clerk 1. The prior administration did not fill the Clerk 1 position.”

B.A. Remsen spoke up. “We are in the process to get another public defender who can speak dual languages. The person who is the public defender now we may not renew the contract. We asked if anybody local would be interested in this position and we will also use our regular advertising.”

The next person who came up to speak was Fire Chief Ed Mullen. “In 2019, our department took over the fire prevention duties from Code Enforcement. The people who are working in Fire Prevention are working close to 60 hours a week. We are fully self-sufficient.” He then talked about the cause of most fires. “Discarding smoking materials improperly, overloading of power strips on outlets, plugging appliances into fire strips they should not be plugged

into. Any air-conditioning units should be plugged into an outlet and not unto power strips. People cooking on a stove and forgetting about it. Marijuana smoking might cause you to be impaired while cooking. If you call the Fire Department, and you need smoke/carbon monoxide detectors let us know. We will install them for free. I am in charge of the Fire Prevention Bureau and by state law we are required to inspect some buildings annually.”

Mullen then introduced Kevin Metz who runs the Violations Bureau. “It is important that exit signs, emergency lighting, door exits, sprinklers, general lighting, and suppression systems are working properly. We also check for any violations and safety measures are in place (such as extension cords, smoke detectors, and carbon monoxide detectors.) It is important that we have basement access. Any fuel burning appliances has to be properly ventilated. Some buildings or businesses require lockboxes so we can access the inside. Prior to 1984, people had windowless basements. In 1984, there was a unified fire code requiring that basements have windows.”

Mullen then took over the pre-

sentation again. “4500 – 5000 inspections are to be done annually. Some things that were supposed to be enforced fell through the cracks. During one fire at an apartment building, there were 7 people on the second floor of that building who didn’t know there was a fire in the basement below them. Isias Rodriguez was able to safely get those 7 people out of the building. Windowless basement fires can only be fought from the inside. Some of the buildings going up today require a quicker response due the new construction materials. With the popularity of electric vehicles comes a problem because of the lithium batteries they use. It takes 30,000 gallons of water to extinguish those fires.”

B.A. Remsen stated, “Many people who have violations didn’t have the funds to make improvements. Income eligible landlords were given grants to offset some of those improvement costs.” Remsen gave credit to Tashi Vazquez from the Office of Economic Development who was able to help these landlords get grant money through the NPP (Neighborhood Preservation Program).”

Why the Interest?????

4/28/21 Council Meeting

By: Carolyn Maxwell
PERTH AMBOY - After the 3 presentations, the regular meeting started, and people were able to make comments on the ordinances.

Ordinance No. 1 – An ordinance to amend fixing and establishing a schedule of salaries and salary ranges regarding the P.B.A.

The first person to speak was Brian Donahue who spoke on Zoom from California. “The city employee salaries, a lot of them are low quality public servants. There was an officer who was unprofessional, rude, and anti-ethical to the city’s codes. Mayor Helmin Caba and a Councilwoman refused to return my calls (regarding this matter).”

Council President Petrick told the caller, “This is a salary ordinance.”

Donahue continued, “So I can’t mention a person’s name? This person is overpaid, and you have no mechanism that you can’t voice a complaint.”

Resident Ken Balut who was present in the council chambers spoke next, “Our cops are greatly underpaid. We are not training some of our officers properly. They deserve the raise because a lot of people don’t see what they do.”

Resident Stanley Sierakowski came up next. He agreed with Balut that Perth Amboy police are the lowest paid in the county and they have been underpaid for years.

Another caller on Zoom who lives in Rockaway Township, New Jersey questioned what this ordinance is about.

Petrick explained it is a salary range for all police officers. “You can get the backup material that’s online.”

The woman from Rockaway continued and suggested the council table this ordinance to make sure that it serves the community.

The next ordinance that was opened up for discussion was Ordinance No. 2 – Police Department Amendments re: employment of off-duty police officers.

Brian Donahue was the first speaker via Zoom. He said, “I thought we (the public) can comment on this ordinance before you voted on it.”

Petrick responded, “We haven’t voted on it yet.”

Donahue suggested that off-duty officers should not be hired. He stated that you (Perth Amboy) have bad value officers and their salary is on-par with other towns. “You are putting good money on bad officers which is further emboldening the police who have bad values.”

Perth Amboy Resident Maria Vera spoke on Zoom, “You need to table this ordinance.”

Ordinance No. 3 – An ordinance entitled Sewers and Water regarding rates and fees was next for discussion.

Resident Ken Balut came up first. “There is money coming in and with what is going on, why are we having a rate increase? It is about time we stop this. You can’t use the money (from the

federal government) to lower taxes. Everything is going up and now we are adding on to it. We have high ranking politicians that can help us.”

Petrick responded, “We don’t have the money, yet and we don’t have the formulation from the federal government, yet.”

Resident Junior Iglesia came up next. “The rates are going up and I recommend we reach out to Senators Booker and Menendez to see if it is possible to resolve the water issues.”

Reinaldo Aviles from New Brunswick Today came up to speak, “This rate increase was discussed at the first caucus meeting (in April) where CFO Jill Goldy said this is due to a moratorium. The moratorium might be lifted in July and residents might ask to have payment plans set up.”

Bill Petrick spoke up, “It’s the administration that is asking for the increase. The local finance board makes the decisions.”

Aviles continued, “Increasing the price will not help the residents pay the water bills.”

Petrick continued, “We don’t know if we can use the surplus money coming in to not reduce the water rates.”

B.A. Remsen finished the discussion. “The Water Utility must be self-sustained.”

Ordinance No. 4 – Amending Chapter 384, Stormwater Management to supersede all applicable sections of the revised general ordinances of the city of Perth Amboy.

Perth Amboy Resident Maria Vera asked for an explanation of this.

B.A. Remsen answered, “It is to update our ordinance to the state requirement and there are no financial increases.”

The council voted on the ordinances. Ordinance No. 1 thru Ordinance No. 4 were moved by Pabon and seconded by Tejeda. When it came to vote on the ordinances, each ordinance was voted on separately. For Ordinance No. 3 all the council members voted “No.”

For Ordinance No. 1 (No Public Discussion) – Designating restricted parking spaces for use by handicapped persons regarding additions. It was moved by Pabon and seconded by Tejeda.

For Ordinance No. 2 (No Public Discussion) – Creating a Perth Amboy Citizens Public Safety Advisory Board. It was moved by Pabon and seconded by Tejeda.

When it came time to vote on the consent agenda R-235 (Pabon) and R-238 (Tejeda) were asked to be pulled for separate vote. For Resolutions R-218 thru R-234 and R-236 & R-237 were moved Pabon and seconded by Tejeda. R-239 thru R-241 were late-starters.

For R-235-4/21 – Naming the future Second Street Park to be the Borinqueneer Park along with setting aside a portion of the park for artwork or statue memorializing their sacrifices.

R-235 was moved by Pabon and seconded by Tejeda. All voted “yes”. Pabon said he wanted to thank the Criollis Club for taking this on. “It was a noble thing to do.”

Councilman B.J. Torres also complemented. “They (the Borinquenners) fought valiantly in the Korean War.”

For R-238 – 4/21 – Authorizing compensation for 280 hours of unused vacation time to former Mayor Wilda Diaz in the amount of \$14,859.60. It was moved by Pabon and seconded by Tejeda.

Before voting, Council President Bill Petrick had a few questions about Former Mayor Wilda Diaz’s compensation request. “Who is signing off on these orders? It has initials P.P. Is that former Interim Business Administrator Patricia Perkins who is signing off on vacation for Mayor Diaz from the year 2007 to the present day? Diaz was not in office in 2007. The council said that Perkins was incompetent for the B.A. position. We may be committing fraud by signing off on this.

Remsen answered, “The mayor is a city employee.”

Petrick continued, “How is their time documented? And why wait 5 months after leaving office?”

Councilman Pabon said, “I’m asking that we can talk about this more before it is tabled.”

Petrick replied, “I want these documents sent to the attorney general’s office.”

Substitute Lawyer William Opel (from Northgrave’s firm) said, “You can vote for this resolution in its current form.”

Pabon then argued, “There are a number of people who carry 2000 hours of overtime or vacation time and people are using city time instead of using their own time. This may not be right. I’m sure there will be a lawsuit by the former mayor. We paid a lawyer over \$10,000 of taxpayer’s dollars to represent the council in a lawsuit and we didn’t even use them. It’s best to just pay this money then to pay more in lawsuit which will be our taxpayer’s money.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda said, “Council President William Petrick had additional information about this resolution that I didn’t know about. Now I am questioning this.”

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch said, “All the council members have the information in their packet that Council President Petrick talked about.”

Tejeda looked through her folder. “I overlooked it and I rescind my second on R-238. I would like to close the door on the past administration, but I want to do it the right way.”

Tejeda made a motion to remove R-238 and all voted “yes” to remove it.

Late-starter R-239-4/21 – Recognizing May 2- May 8 as Municipal Clerk’s Week.

Late-starter R-240-4/21 – Consenting to the extension of the appointment of Edward A. Remsen as Interim Business Administrator for the city of Perth Amboy for a period no longer than 60 days starting from May 7, 2021.

Late Starter R-241-4/21 – Determining the form and other details of not extending \$375,000 bond of the City of Perth Amboy and providing for

their sale to the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank and further authorizing the execution of various agreement pursuant to the state fiscal year 2021 New Jersey Water Bank.

R-238 was moved by Tejeda and seconded by Morales to be put on the agenda as late-stater. All voted “yes” for R-239. For R-240 it was moved by Tejeda and seconded by Torres. All voted “yes”. For R-241, it was moved by Tejeda and seconded by Torres. All voted “yes”.

Communication 8 was a request for progress on the search for a new business administrator requested by Council President Bill Petrick.

Communication 9 – Remsen replied that the search is in progress, but he is not involved.

Communication 10 – Council President Petrick advised Interim B.A. Remsen that the council needs to be updated at the next regular meeting (4/28/21).

All these communications were dated 4/17/21.

Council President Bill Petrick stated, “What is going on with this group? We want substance, who they interviewed, and their qualifications and is there a short list of candidates for the B.A. position? Before one of our former Business Administrator Greg Fehrenbach left, he provided us all the information on all the candidates who applied for business administrator position. We were able to interview them. We may have engaged the wrong company to do a business administrator search. We are responsible for funding them and we can rescind their contract and keep you (Remsen) as the permanent business administrator.”

Lawyer Opel said, “I can review the contract.”

Petrick continued, “This group said they would rather interview the council members instead.”

When it came to vote on late-starter R-239, it was moved by Tejeda and seconded by Morales.

Public Comments on Agenda Items Only:

Resident Stanley Sierakowski asked, “When did the policy of free parking at the train station for those residents who take the train to work come into effect? And who are they subsidizing? Business Manager Rios should have all the answers on why there is a difference in the parking utility budget.” Sierakowski then questioned why some of the laws involving certain types of business or residential building structures were not being enforced. “I live in an apartment building that is 100 years old. It has windows in the basement. Why are these laws being enforced now? Which I find is great. No one knew about the free parking at the train station. Give the names of the people who commuted by train to get to work and benefited from this free parking.”

Resident Ken Balut came up and referenced R-238. He asked, “Where is the paperwork? Have someone look at this. It was use it or lose it (vacation time). Table this until you have time to investigate it.”

Balut said, “Can this group tell us if a person is qualified to be a Code Enforcement Director? We are paying our taxpayers dollars in order to find a new B.A. It’s been over 100 days and there has been no update on the search. Will you be appointing Interim B.A. Remsen as a permanent B.A.?”

Remsen answered, “So far, this company is one-third into their contract.”

Balut then asked that the company that is being hired to find a permanent B.A. come here in person to give an update.

Resident Alan Silber came up to also speak about R-238. “How many weeks of vacation does the mayor get?”

Remsen replied, “I believe it’s 4 weeks.”

Silber continued, “If there is no written policy, how can we pay her? I don’t remember any other mayor that asked for this.” Silber continued referencing Former B.A. Greg Fehrenbach was here. “He told employees to use or lose your vacation.”

Reinaldo Aviles came up to speak. “She (Former Mayor Wilda Diaz) will sue if she doesn’t get what she wants. You need to see if there is a policy for vacation or sick days for mayor. Going forward, make a policy that is clear. Some department heads were not prepared to answer basic questions, and this needs to be looked at. I was on the Parking Authority in the 1990’s.” Aviles explained because it was an “Authority” it didn’t cost the taxpayers anything. “And we paid ourselves through the fees collected. You should think about reestablishing a Parking Authority to save taxpayers money.”

Donahue from California on Zoom questioned R-234-4/21 – Authorizing the Perth Amboy Police Department to submit an application to the Office of Attorney General for the body/worn camera grant program. He questioned why they don’t have body/worn cameras.

Council President Petrick replied, “This is for replacements.”

Public Portion:

Resident Ken Balut spoke first. He talked about a weak resume of someone who is getting a salary of \$80,000 who is working in the Mayor’s office. He continued to speak about Judge Gonzalez who was disciplined for dismissing a case and also because it was a civil rights violation. “Another judge should have heard that case. I am asking Law Director Northgrave to investigate the judge. How do you dismiss a charge without possible cause?”

Lawyer Opel said, “I will need information about this case. I don’t like dealing with hypothetical questions.”

Resident Alan Silber came next. He talked about people who were allowed to park for free at the train station. “People have been coming over from Staten Island to park at our train station because it is cheaper for them.” He then asked if the Ar-

**Continued on Page 11*



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A portrait of a woman with blonde hair styled in a bun, wearing a black sweater over a white collared shirt. She is resting her chin on her hand.

A portrait of a man with short brown hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark grey suit jacket, a light blue dress shirt, and a red tie with a subtle pattern. The background is a bright, out-of-focus interior space with large windows and structural elements.

The Citizens Campaign is a national community of citizen problem-solvers dedicated to adding a citizen driven dimension to our Country's leadership capacity and to restoring service, civility and pragmatism to America's political culture. For more information, visit: <https://thecitizenscampaign.org/>

Why the Interest????

4/28/21 Council Meeting

**Continued from Page 9*

mory parking lot is open to the public. “Are we responsible for that lot?” He then talked about the controversial bicycle video that had 5 million hits. “Some of these bicyclists were even going right into Home Depot.” He then talked about going to the League of Municipalities. “A lot of towns have a lot of different titles for employees in their cities.” He then talked again about bicyclists and their reckless behavior. “People only watched part of the video. These are not kids. There used to be a time when there were no bicycles allowed down by the waterfront. My wife and I were walking down by the waterfront. It is a good thing the way we were facing we were able to see the bicycles coming. What they are doing is dangerous. Don’t be intimidated by them.”

Stanley Sierakowski came up next, “Regarding the bike video. I saw the edited version instead of the full 17 minutes. It was dangerous and unsafe. They went straight towards cars and swerved at the last minute. It’s stupidity – not racism and they are playing games to score points.” Sierakowski then turned his attention to the school crossing guards. “The city will not save money by privatizing them. In other towns, the lower income crossing guards lost out moneywise. Talk to the schools about paying for the guards. There are still political patronage jobs being handed out.”

Junior Iglesia came up next. “You only have 180 days to adopt the cannabis ordinance. We have data on the detrimental effects of marijuana. There is no way to enforce or stop a person under the influence. Our property will be devalued. Do we have a timeline to bring in a professional or have a forum to talk about this before the 180 days ends? Speak up on this issue and let the community speak. On March 17th, we got a communication about a tax increase. This will be a huge implication for us in 2022.”

Petrick responded, “We are looking for a place to have a marijuana forum and maybe you can reach out to the Board of Education.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda responded, “All you have to do is get an application to fill out for use of a school facility.”

Iglesia said he will speak to them.

Reinaldo Aviles came up next and repeated what Tejeda said. “Anyone can fill out a form to use a school facility. I agree with Councilman B.J. Torres regarding the bike issue. The cops escalated the situation. That’s what created the problem and in the other videos shown. I don’t have any implications that you have in mentioning city employees. You have mentioned city employees by name several times in the past. Do you have an HR person? How are they certified? I liked the Mayor’s presentation regarding several city titles (see 4/26/21 Caucus). Are employees evaluated?”

Interim Business Administrator Remsen replied, “Yes.” Aviles finished with the closing remarks, “Look at the fiscal responsibility of marijuana and if there is money to be made. Not many towns are opting in and those who do will benefit.”

Lawyer Daniel Gonzalez came up to speak, “The streets that have been fixed look nice. During one of the Earth Day events, there was a lot of trash picked up. It was a good celebration, and the way it was organized was a positive thing.” Gonzalez then focused on the bike riding video, “For every negative experience, we can make progress. It’s how we fix them. I got calls from all over about the bike incident. An African American was targeted. We need to have a dialogue and a community effort. I looked at the video, and I sent you information about one case.”

President of the Perth Amboy Division of the NAACP Donna Stewart spoke next, “I am my brother’s keeper, and we’ll talk about the injustice of brown people and the injustice of a black young man. I speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. It is not about the bicycling. It is about over-policing and police brutality.”

A young man came up to speak next who was a Black Lives Matter supporter. He said he doesn’t understand why it’s happening. We (African Americans) have to struggle to get ahead. With black teenagers, things can be quickly escalated. We are going through hell just to survive every day.” He then turned his attention to Council President William Petrick. “I think you should resign. We have your racist comments (from Facebook in 2018 that was brought out just before the 2018 election). I will make sure to come back to every meeting until you resign.”

Bill Stranton who is a teacher in Perth Amboy said, “I also saw the racist comments and we are having anti-racism training in the schools. We have a racist system and there is white supremacy. In the bicycle video, one officer was cordial, and the other officer escalated the situation. I love my students and white students get away with more. I talked about Petrick’s racist and vile posts. It’s attack, attack, attack. There is a new awareness of what is going on. Our children are watching. Black Lives Matter.”

The meeting was opened up to Zoom.

A woman who is part of the National Youth Council on Police Policy said she saw the video. “Some kids were riding recklessly. How do we respond? Black boys are being murdered by the police. We are a nationwide organization. We need to confront issues. If you want trouble, keep doing what you are doing. Let’s decide to fix the problem.”

The next person on Zoom was Stuart Grady from the NAACP in Edison, “I want to thank all those who spoke tonight: the NAACP and the BLM. I would like to put together a video on

bias for the Perth Amboy City Council. It is put together with a doctor for Hackensack Meridian.”

Petrick suggested that Mr. Grady contact the City Clerk’s Office.

The woman from Rockaway spoke next. She stated that she agreed with all who talked about the kid who was arrested and made national headlines. People are also finding out about Council President Petrick’s Facebook postings.

Petrick responded, “That was years ago.”

The speaker continued, “It gives people ammunition looking at your posts. Children belong to many communities. The world is watching about the arrest of this child. The way the female officer spoke to the child was unacceptable. You must take action. Your statements are very disheartening, and you should apologize. None of you are young. You need to reprimand the police chief and you need to do better. It’s a national lynching.”

Resident Maria Vera spoke next. She requested that the council not laugh at her when she had a question about an ordinance. “It’s wasting taxpayer’s dollars on department heads who cannot answer basic questions about their budget. Why are you paying Irving Lozada \$90,000 (as Director of Code Enforcement)? He cannot answer basic questions.” Addressing the Council President, she said, “Don’t play with me, Patrick! You all are just looking at each other and this is not politics. How can you give out such high salaries? Where are we getting the money? You need to fire the Business Administrator who can’t give you numbers that you request. When it comes time to vote again, I am getting tired of all of this B.S.”

Carolyn Maxwell came up to the podium to address the council. "I speak as a lifelong resident of Perth Amboy and my experience growing up with

a very diverse neighborhood. My father, who died at the age of 95 was a very successful businessman. He owned a taxi business which employed people who were Cuban, Puerto Rican, White, and I believe the first female taxi driver in Perth Amboy. I imagine at that time when he had to apply for loans for buying a house, or funding for his business, I'm sure those he had to deal with were white. If prejudice existed back then against black people, wouldn't he have been denied funding? Besides my parents being homeowners, several other of our relatives owned homes and were landlords. The bottom line is that back then, jobs were plentiful and a father's or father-figure's presence were prevalent in households across the board. I am proud to say growing up that I live in a town and neighborhood with people of all different economic and ethnic backgrounds. We never addressed them by their ethnicity. We may have had our disagreements, but we all respected one another and that is one big difference that I don't see going on today. People are also talking about the white man holding us back or holding us down and I am sick of it. Sometimes people have to take responsibility for their own actions. And my grandparents who lived in the South also owned property."

As an aside, I (Carolyn) think a lot of problems would be solved if people were given good paying jobs with good benefits so they can support themselves and their families and build equity. Personal finances should be taught as part of a school curriculum.

Council Comments:

Councilwoman Rose Morales said, “This is a lot to take in and it’s exhausting. I am looking at my I-Pad and listening to all the speakers. It’s breaking my heart. I wish we can all get along. Let’s work together for progress and change. We have



Mayor Helmin Caba

to hold one person accountable for their actions and not put down the whole group. I’m trying to do the best for everyone.”

Councilman Joel Pabon thanked all who came to speak. “Every person had a good point. I’m hoping the administration gets together with the NAACP in Edison. We need to have a committee meeting regarding the marijuana issue. A housing study should be put in the forefront. We need to have a clock in the council chambers changed with the correct time. Everyone be safe going home.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda said, “It’s not in our hands to speak about the bike issue, and we understand the frustration. It brought some of us together. The changes will benefit our schools and residents. The Mayor has been having conversations with all of us. People should be sincere when talking with the Mayor. It takes a lot of effort, but we have to be respectful to all.”

B.J. Torres read a statement. At the end, he said, “Black Lives Matter.”

Petrick wanted to thank all in attendance and to keep in prayer the family of the Officer that we lost tonight.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m. All council members were present in person.

Songs to Save Them All

Press Release

LOS ANGELES, CA - Numerous musicians are set to appear in “Songs to Save Them All: A Benefit Concert for Homeless Pets,” a three-hour benefit concert for Best Friends Animal Society streaming on May 6, 8 PM ET/5 PM PT.

Recording artists expected to perform include country music legend Emmylou Harris, as well as Aunty Social, Baker Grace, Brandon Jenner, Canyon City, Chappell Roan, Davis John Patton, Dylan Dunlap, Geographer, Joshua Radin, Laura Jean Anderson, Munn, Pryor & Lee, Sammy Rae, SYML, The Joy Formidable, Tim Atlas, Two Feet, Victoria Anthony, WILD, Wild Rivers, WOLF and Wrabel.

In addition to the musical talent, celebrities including Lauren Ash, Mayim Bialik, author W. Bruce Cameron, TikTok influencer Caitlyn Cohen, Abbie Cornish, Kat Dennings, Josh Gad, Tricia Helfer, Thomas Lennon, Zosia Mamet, Natalie Morales, Kevin Nealon, Alison Pill, Dennis Quaid, Norman Reedus, Katee Sackhoff, Reid Scott, Amanda Seyfried, Brittany Snow, Katie Stevens, Cecily Strong, Holly Taylor, Ashley Williams, Bellamy Young, and others are also expected to make appearances to support the cause.

“Music is a universal language and brings so much joy to the world,” said Julie Castle, chief executive officer at Best Friends Animal Society. “This concert will celebrate how music and our love of animals unite us and show how we can all come together to support each other, our communities and homeless pets.”

The free event will livestream on Tiltify, Twitch, YouTube and Facebook, as well as at bestfriends.org/concert. Viewers will have the opportunity to donate to Best Friends Animal Society via Tiltify to support making America no-kill by 2025.

All proceeds will support Best Friends’ work across the country, including lifesaving collaboration with thousands of shelters and animal welfare groups. There will also be a spotlight on the organization’s recent No-Kill Los Angeles initiative achievement, which reached a 90.49% save rate in the City of Los Angeles for 2020.

“Everyone at Best Friends sends our gratitude to the musicians, singers, and songwriters who are sharing their time and talent for this awesome event,” Castle said. “We hope animal lovers everywhere will tune in, enjoy the music, and learn more about how everyone can make a difference for homeless pets.”

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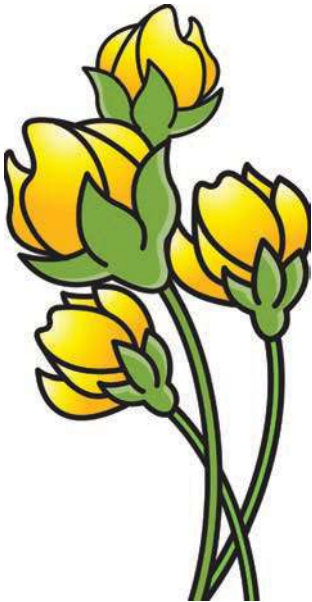
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AARP is working to protect Americans 50+ by making sure you have the latest information you need about the COVID-19 vaccines and the distribution plans in **New Jersey**.

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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.

Middlesex County Emergency Rental Assistance Program Opens Online Application Portal Today, Monday, May 3

Renters Struggling Financially Due to COVID-19 May Apply for Financial Assistance with Rent and Utilities

Press Release 5/3/21
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ – Middlesex County’s Emergency Rental Assistance Program (MCERAP) will begin accepting applications for financial aid from renter households that are behind on rent and/or utility payments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Renter households in need of assistance may submit their application and required documentation via the MCERAP online application portal beginning today, Monday, May 3, 2021. More information and a link to the application portal can be found here: middlesexcountynj.gov/rentalassistance.
The MCERAP is funded by a \$24.6 million grant from the federal government. Funding will be distributed on a priority basis, directly to landlords and utility companies. Assistance cannot be provided for rental and/or utility arrears prior to March 2020.
“Many families and individuals have been struggling financially due to the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, including those right here in Middlesex County,” said County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios. “The pandemic has highlighted how important it is to pull together as a community during times of crisis. Sometimes that means offering help and sometimes that means accepting help. I encourage renter households who are behind on rent or utilities due to the pandemic, and who meet the eligibility guidelines, to apply for this program today.”
“The COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing economic crisis have been devastating for so many Middlesex County residents,” said County Commissioner Claribel A. Azcona-Barber. “The Middlesex County Emergency Rental Assistance Program will help ensure eligible renter households have a roof over their head and continued access to essential utilities during these challenging times. The County has worked hard to create this program to assist County residents, and we strongly urge all eligible residents to apply for financial assistance today.”

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES
Households eligible for financial assistance through the MCERAP are renter households in which at least one individual meets the following criteria:
•Qualifies for unemployment or has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19
•Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability, mainly documented by having an outstanding rental balance and/or eviction filing
•Has a household income at or below 80 percent of the area median income* (Please note: Eligible households that include an individual who has been unemployed for the 90 days prior to application for assistance, and households with income at or below 50 percent of the area median, will be prioritized for assistance.)
*Area median income guidelines can be found on the County website at middlesexcountynj.gov/rentalassistance.
APPLYING FOR ASSISTANCE
Applications for financial assistance from the MCERAP may be submitted by an adult member of an eligible household or by a landlord on behalf of that eligible household. All required information and documentation must be submitted before an application will be considered for funding. Required documentation may include a copy of the rental agreement, tax returns, pay stubs, etc.
Rental assistance provided on behalf of an eligible household should not duplicate any other federally funded rental assistance provided to that household. For households in voucher subsidized units like Section 8, or in Public Housing, assistance may be available for the tenant’s portion of the rent or to pay an outstanding utility balance.
Rental assistance may be provided on behalf of individuals who had a rental unit prior to the pandemic commencing in March 2020, lost the rental unit due to the pandemic, and executed a lease for a new rental unit but are having difficulty paying the first few months of the new lease.
If an eligible household is behind on rent payments, also known as being in arrears, assistance must be provided to reduce or pay off the back rent before that household may be eligible for assistance with future rent payments.
Individuals seeking additional information regarding MCERAP, and those interested in applying for financial assistance, should visit middlesexcountynj.gov/rentalassistance.

PERTH AMBOY CAUCUS MEETING Monday, May 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, take notice that the Caucus Meeting of **May 10, 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:

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All members of the public are invited to participate.

PERTH AMBOY COUNCIL MEETING Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, take notice that the Council Meeting of May 12, 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/j/88215268880?pwd=ZIBNWmtiUzZ0TkpJeURTRkNSdWFTdz09>
Meeting ID: **882 1526 8880**
Passcode: **444817** Dial by your location
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
All members of the public are invited to participate.

PERTH AMBOY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

The May Board of Education Meeting will take place on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 5:30pm at the PAHS Auditorium and via Remote Conference.
Remote Conference Info:
When: May 6, 2021 05:30 PM Eastern Time
Topic: BOE Meeting 5-6-21 @ 5:30PM
Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81467112598?pwd=NWhRT1dmZG8zVDAzWFN5Zk1VWmpTZz09>
Passcode: 485443
Or Telephone:
Dial: US: +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or 877 853 5247 (Toll Free) or 888 788 0099 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0276 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0282 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 814 6711 2598

All members of the public are invited to participate.

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 5 @ 4 pm** – In celebration of History Month, join the Civic League of Greater New Brunswick in a reading of *Bees: A Honeyed History* written and illustrated by Wojciech Grajkowski and Piotr Socha. After learning all about these powerful pollinators, create your own bee collage with scraps you have on hand.
- May 12 @ 4 pm** – Discover our County’s unique history by sifting through the soil alongside the Raritan River with a pair of young archaeologists in a reading of *Rediscovering Raritan Landing: Buried Treasure of Raritan Landing* written and illustrated by Christee Curran. After our reading, explore some of the real life objects that were unearthed during the dig with our County’s own historian, Mark Nonestied and document your observations in sketches!
- May 15 @ 10 am** – Celebrate History Day virtually on Saturday, May 15. Join us for a day of livestreamed baseball games, lectures, and a MCFOODS Food Drive. To continue to aid families in need, MCFOODS is partnering with Piscataway Township to host an in-person History Day Food Drive on Saturday, May 15 from 10 am to 4 pm at the East Jersey Old Town Village, Johnson Park or send a virtual donation to help stock the shelves. Visit <http://www.middlesexcountynj.gov/HistoryMonth> for more info.
- 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.



Happy Mother's Day



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Ana M. Zevallos
Senior Director
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FAX (732) 324-8908

20 NASSAU STREET
PRINCETON, NJ 08542
TEL (609) 921-1755
FAX (609) 921-8907

Yard Sale

SAYREVILLE – The First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville will be having a Yard Sale in our parking lot at 172 Main Street, Sayreville (across from Borough Hall) on Saturday, May 15, 2021 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. We have great bargains on everything from clothes to housewares and anything in between. Hope to see you there.

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 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.

Chicken Dinner Fundraiser

SOUTH AMBOY – The South Amboy Elks will be having a drive through fried chicken breast dinner on Friday May 14 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Dinner includes fried chicken, mashed potato with gravy, coleslaw, corn bread & dessert. Cost \$15. Kindly call 732-727-7170 by Wednesday 5/12 to place your order. Children's menu of chicken fingers with F.F. is available for \$6. Thank you in advance for your support.

Food Drive for Local Families

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



Audrey Maxwell (holding the cake) and Family 2016,Children, Grandchildren and other Family members. Happy Mother's Day from your sister, Carolyn *Photo by Carolyn Maxwell



Marcella Massopust - Happy Mother's Day, Mom!
From Katherine and Anton!
*Photo by Katherine Massopust

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Murphy, Benson & Vainieri Huttle Bill Prohibiting Discrimination by Insurers Against Living Organ Donors Now Law

Press Release 4/30/21
TRENTON) – As part of ongoing efforts to support and encourage organ donation, a bill sponsored by Assembly Democrats Carol Murphy, Daniel Benson and Valerie Vainieri Huttle to prohibit insurance discrimination against living organ donors was signed into law Friday.

Although many organ donations take place after someone has died, living donors are also an important source of healthy organs. A living donation takes place when someone chooses to give all or part of an organ, such as their kidney, lung or liver, to someone in need of a transplant.

Under the law (formerly bill A-3199), life, health and long-term care insurance providers will not be permitted to discriminate against people who are planning to become or already are living organ donors.

The law prohibits insurers from declining coverage or otherwise discriminating against anyone in terms of coverage or pricing based solely on their status as a living organ donor. It also prohibits providers from terminating a person’s coverage if they choose to become a living organ donor.

A number of other states have passed legislation benefitting and protecting living donors. New Jersey already allows tax deductions, paid leave and job protections for certain living organ donors.

Upon the bill becoming law, Assembly sponsors Murphy (D-Burlington), Benson (D-Mercer, Middlesex) and Vainieri Huttle (D-Bergen) issued the following joint statement:

“With more than 109,000 Americans waiting on a life-saving organ transplant, it’s crucial we find ways to encourage more people to become donors and support those who choose to do so. This law will ensure that donors receive fair treatment and do not have to risk losing their insurance because of their donor status. Living donors should be thanked for sacrificing a part of themselves to save someone else, not unfairly punished for their decision. Providing these protections is a way we can help donors while honoring their selflessness.”

Pallone on Biden’s First Joint Address to Congress

Press Release 4/28/21
Washington, D.C. – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) issued the following statement tonight on President Biden's first Joint Address to Congress:

“During his first 100 days in office President Biden has accomplished a tremendous amount to crush COVID-19 and provide relief to struggling families, including the largest expansion of health care coverage in more than a decade. Thanks to President Biden’s determined and steadfast leadership, the nation surpassed 200 million vaccines last week, which is a major achievement that will help us soon return to normal patterns of life.

“Tonight, the President made clear that there is a lot of work left to do. He outlined ambitious plans – many of which he had unveiled over the last month – and asked for Congress’ support in making them law.

“I look forward to working with the President to make health care and prescription drugs more affordable. President Biden plans to build on the Affordable Care Act by making monthly health care premium reductions permanent, which will lower health care costs for millions of Americans. He also committed to giving the federal government the ability to negotiate lower prescription drug costs, a key provision in the drug pricing legislation that I and other Democratic Health leaders introduced last week.

“Every American has a right to safe drinking water. I strongly support President Biden’s plan to replace 100% of the nation’s lead pipes and service lines. In my home state of New Jersey, Newark is proof that we can get the lead out quickly when we make money available.

“President Biden is also positioning our nation to not only compete on the global stage but to lead the pack when it comes to acting on the climate crisis and modernizing our infrastructure. His plans align with both the Energy and Commerce Committee Democrat’s LIFT America Act and CLEAN Future Act, which will rebuild our economy, create millions of new good-paying American jobs, and combat the climate crisis by reducing carbon pollution and moving us towards a clean energy future. We must act on climate and put millions of Americans back to work, and that’s exactly what these proposals do.”

COVID-19 Vaccines Now Available at All Rite Aid Locations

Appointments Can Be Made Online and Walk-In Appointments Available

Press Release 4/30/21
CAMP HILL, Pa - Rite Aid (NYSE: RAD) today announced it is now administering the COVID-19 vaccine at all locations, spanning more than 2,500 stores in 17 states. Following the latest guidance from the Biden Administration, all those aged 16 years or older are now eligible for vaccination, and Rite Aid encourages everyone to schedule an appointment as soon as possible.

While scheduling appointments in advance is recommended to reduce wait time and guarantee availability of the vaccine, Rite Aid is now also accommodating walk-in vaccines on a limited basis in every store. Enabling walk-in appointments supports customers that may not have access to internet while also meeting the need for flexibility for customers. People interested in a walk-in appointment are encouraged to visit their local Rite Aid to confirm availability.

"The availability of vaccines in every Rite Aid location is a major milestone in our ongoing effort to fight COVID-19. We've been on the front lines since the beginning of the pandemic, working across our store footprint to bring testing and vaccines directly to local communities," said Jim Peters, chief operating officer, Rite Aid. "Vaccine availability is improving every day, and our pharmacists are ready to administer vaccines safely and efficiently, providing the benefits of pharmacist-administered vaccines in a safe and sterile environment right in your neighborhood. Also, in addition to the grassroots efforts we've undertaken with our community partners, the availability of these walk-in appointments provides another way for those with limited or no technology access to more easily obtain COVID vaccines. We encourage everyone to make an appointment, or walk-in, today."

Through its participation in the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program and as an Official COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider, Rite Aid has accelerated its COVID-19 immunization efforts as allocation has expanded. Rite Aid's certified immunizing pharmacists are administering the Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech and Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccines.

Individuals ages 18 and over can schedule appointments using the Rite Aid scheduling tool found at www.RiteAid.com/covid-19. Those ages 16 and 17 can schedule an appointment with guardian consent at any store administering the Pfizer vaccine by contacting the store's pharmacy directly. Those stores can be found here.

For more information about Rite Aid's COVID-19 vaccine efforts, please visit www.RiteAid.com/covid-19.

K of C 9199

Friday Gives Back Fundraiser

FORDS/ISELIN - Our Lady of Peace Knights of Columbus, Council #9199 of Fords is sponsoring a fundraiser called, “Fridays Gives Back”. TGI Fridays of Iselin is partnering with the K of C Council #9199, a valuable organization in our community on Thursday, May 6th, from 3:00 to 11:00 p.m., at TGI Fridays, 401 Gill’s Lane Woodbridge, NJ.

How does it work? Dine in, Order to Go, Pick Up, or Delivery from TGI Fridays at www.fridays.com/menu during the event between (3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.). Mention the fundraiser and 20% of all sales will be donated to (Knights of Columbus, Council #9199) which helps provide Scholarships for Graduating Seniors for College! Join us and TGI Fridays to Give Back and Impact our Community!



Vaccination Hotline & Registration

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

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

Covid-19 Vaccines

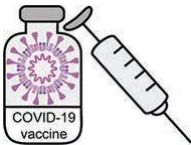
Visit a Megasite for Walk-In Appointments

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 Race-track 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

Walk-in Covid 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.



Perth Amboy YMCA offering Covid Vaccines

PERTH AMBOY - Partnering with the VNA of Central New Jersey, the Raritan Area YMCA will be providing Covid-19 Vaccines (Janssen Covid-19 (single dose)) on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Register at: tinyurl.com/RBACovid19Vaccine. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jennifer Roache at jroache@rbaymca.org.

Walk-in Covid-19 Vaccines

PERTH AMBOY/OLD BRIDGE/MONROE - The Raritan Bay Medical Center will begin offering COVID vaccinations for people 18 and older on a walk in/no appointment necessary basis. The vaccine is available at the following sites at the days and times below.

- Raritan Bay Perth Amboy** - Open to walk-ins as of Monday (5/3) M-F 8:30-3:45
- Raritan Bay Old Bridge** - Open to walk-ins as of Wednesday (5/5) M-F 8:30-3:45
- Monroe Senior Center** - Open to walk-ins Tuesday (5/4) and Friday (5/7) 10am - 2pm

Also, the County super sites are well supplied and can service your COVID vaccine needs.

Pallone Leads New Jersey House Delegation in Request to Grant Financial Relief for Families Still Recovering from Sandy

“All I want is to put closure on the storm. We shouldn’t be held accountable for mistakes we didn’t make.” -Sandy Survivor Chuck Griffin

Press Release 4/30/21
WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) today led an appropriations request letter to provide relief for families currently required to pay back disaster relief funds they received after Superstorm Sandy. Many homeowners were encouraged to take benefits only to be told later they were required to repay some or all the funds. The letter was signed by the entire New Jersey delegation in the House of Representatives.
“Superstorm Sandy hit our shores over eight years ago, causing major destruction up and down the East Coast of the United States. Many of the families and municipalities impacted by the storm are still struggling to rebuild, a matter that has only been exacerbated by the unprecedented economic and public health crisis our country is currently facing,”

the lawmakers wrote. “During this difficult time of economic uncertainty and record unemployment, federal agencies are unfairly asking for repayment on tens of millions of dollars in loans and grants from Sandy.”
“In August of 2016, I received a letter demanding that I pay back over \$35,000 by August 2019. When I opened that letter, I was at a loss for words. How could this be? I followed the rules and did I was instructed to do. I have received a notice every month since then. I am on a fixed income, so I don’t have \$35,000 laying around to give back to the federal government,” said Fran Baronowitz from Ventnor City.
“During the recovery from Superstorm Sandy, we complied with everything that was required of us to receive funding to rebuild our home. Then we were blamed for errors in the paperwork that were not

our fault and asked us to return \$7,000,” said Chuck Griffin from Little Egg Harbor Township. “All I want is to put closure on the storm. We shouldn’t be held accountable for mistakes we didn’t make.”
The lawmakers requested that appropriators grant the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development the authority to waive the recoupment of federal funds owed by New Jersey homeowners in the aftermath Superstorm Sandy through no fault of their own. Last year, the New Jersey delegation secured a one-year reprieve in those recoupment efforts for debt owed to the federal government. The lawmakers also requested cancellation of unforgiven Community Disaster Loans (CDLs) made to municipalities throughout New Jersey to help them recover from the storm.

Pallone Statement on the Trial of Derek Chauvin

Press Release 4/20/21
WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) issued the following statement on the guilty verdict in the trial of Derek Chauvin:
“Today’s verdict in the trial of Derek Chauvin is a reminder that no one – not even law enforcement – is above the law. While a guilty verdict cannot bring George Floyd back to his family and friends, I hope they find some solace knowing that our justice system held Derek Chauvin accountable for his despicable crime. As a country, we can and must use this moment as an opportunity to act.

We must make sure that the systemic racism in our criminal justice system becomes a relic of the past.
“George Floyd’s murder shows a broken system in this country that needs repair, and we need to do everything in our power to make these changes happen. In Congress, I’ll continue to support legislation at the federal level to end police brutality, stop profiling, and hold police accountable for their actions. We must continue to stand up for justice for all and find resolve in fighting for a more just society for every American.”

Perth Amboy Awards CASA a Community Development Block Grant

Press Release
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ - CASA of Middlesex County is a proud new recipient of \$15,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG funding) for fiscal year 2021. CASA will use the funding primarily to support the salaries of staff who provide training and coaching to the volunteers. Last year, 13% of children served

by CASA of Middlesex County were from Perth Amboy, more than any other municipality. We appreciate the acknowledgment of the hard work our advocates and staff are doing to ensure that kids from Perth Amboy and across Middlesex County have an advocate in their corner. Many thanks to the City of Perth Amboy for the award!

Khalid Anjum, Department Head of Business Innovations, Education & Opportunity at Middlesex County, Appointed to the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority

Press Release 4/26/21
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ – Khalid Anjum, Department Head of Business Innovations, Education & Opportunity at Middlesex County, has been appointed to the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority (TTFA) by Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin.
“During his decades of service to the County, Khalid has proven himself as a innovative leader whose contributions have been invaluable to the planning and development of public infrastructure. My fellow County

Commissioners and I are proud that Speaker Coughlin has chosen one of our own to serve at the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority,” said Ronald G. Rios, Director of the Board of County Commissioners. “The appointment of a key Middlesex County leader to the TTFA is a testament to the deep and diverse bench of talented visionaries we have at the County and is a reflection of our continued commitment to transportation and public works projects.”
Utilizing the skills garnered

during his tenure at Middlesex County in positions including his current role as Department Head of Business Innovations, Education & Opportunity and former Department Head of Infrastructure Management, Anjum will join the TTFA to advance its purpose of financing the critical capital projects of the New Jersey Department of Transportation and NJ TRANSIT. Learn more about this independent agency of state government here: <https://www.state.nj.us/ttfa/about/>

Pallone, Murphy Call for Investment in Coastal Resiliency Projects to Combat Climate Change and Create Jobs

Press Release 4/30/21
WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) and Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) wrote to President Biden today requesting support for living shoreline coastal resiliency projects that will help coastal communities combat climate change and rebuild the economy. President Biden’s American Jobs Planspecifically calls for investment in nature-based infrastructure to maximize coastal resilience and protect the environment.

“We commend your administration’s acknowledgment in the American Jobs Plan that rebuilding America’s infrastructure is an opportunity to meet and respond to the climate crises while creating jobs. Shovel-ready living shoreline projects are one of the most economic ways to achieve these objectives. We urge you to support increased funding for living shorelines in budget documents and as you work with Congress to craft legislation to enact the American Jobs Plan,” Pallone and Murphy wrote. “Federal funding is needed to help communities along the ocean and Great Lakes invest in coastal resiliency projects to protect against increased flooding, erosion, and stronger storms.”

Living shoreline projects use natural materials and systems, including dunes, wetlands, and oyster reefs, to support the natural flood resilience of healthy shoreline ecosystems. Natural infrastructure is cost-effective and adaptable to changing environmental conditions. It also enhances ecosystem functions which can improve water quality and wildlife habitat protection. Coastal recreation, tourism, and fishing industries depend on a healthy environment to thrive. Additionally, certain types of living shorelines can also support carbon mitigation. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)estimates that on average 15 jobs are created for every \$1 million invested in coastal restoration projects.

Pallone has been a longtime advocate for living shorelines projects. Pallone’s Living Shorelines Actpassed the U.S. House of Representatives in December 2019. The bill would create a federal grant program through NOAA to assist states, localities, tribes, territories and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in constructing living shorelines. In August 2019,he highlighted a living shorelines project in Keyport, New Jersey that helps the town mitigate the effects of climate change and major flooding events.

Lecture Series: Covid-19& Mental Health

NEW BRUNSWICK – This 5-week series for older adults will cover topics related to maintaining good mental health while adhering to CDC guidelines and social distancing. Tools and techniques will be discussed with handouts provided to all attendees. Lectures will be recorded.
Week 1: April 16 – Wellness During Covid-19; Week 2: April 23 – Common Experiences: Anxiety and Depression; Week 3: April 30 - Common Experiences: Grief & Bereavement; Week 4: May 7 – Coping Skills & Self-Care Tips; Week 5: May 14 – Staying Connected with Family and Friends.
All lectures start at 12 Noon. Register at: go.rutgers.edu/tdjcuf

The Woodbridge Township Annual Senior Citizen Art Exhibition 2021 Virtual Exhibit

WOODBIDGE - Visit Our Exhibit in Person April 30-May 11, 2021 Gallery Hours: Mon-Fri 11am-4pm; Sat & Sun 2-4pm Due to the ongoing health crisis, there will be no artist reception for this exhibit and gallery visits during open hours will be monitored as not to exceed CDC & state guidelines for social distancing. Face masks will be mandatory at all times. Category Winners Announced on the Barron Arts Facebook Page. All award certificates will be mailed to the winners.

The Leonard Sendelsky 11th Annual Golf Outing

PISCATAWAY/PERTH AMBOY/SOUTH AMBOY – Team up & Tee off to help the Raritan Bay Area YMCA (rbayymca.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

Dowdell Library Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Woodbridge Public Library Events

Free Virtual Events - All are Welcome to Attend

May 4 | 7PM
Top TV Shows: '60's through the 80's
Take a nostalgic trip down memory lane with a look at the TV shows that delighted generations. Presented by Donald Buzney. Registration Required - https://bit.ly/3ehahEj

May 5 | 12PM
Grow with Google: Sell More with an Engaging Email Marketing Strategy
In this partner digital series workshop hosted by Google and Constant Contact, you'll learn how to engage customers with well-designed emails, segment your customer base to deliver tailored messages, and track performance to refine your strategy. Registration Required.

May 6 | 7PM
Zoom on Zoom
Get some instruction on how to participate in and run a Zoom meeting. Registration Required.

May 11 | 1PM
Diabetes Awareness
Learn treatment options to help you manage your diabetes. Presented by Tracy Coyle, RDN, CDCES. Registration Required - https://bit.ly/3vdLQ1f

May 12 | 7PM
Medicare Workshop
This workshop presented by Michael Salum of Medicare Planning Services will give you the 2021 Medicare information you need, Registration Required - https://bit.ly/3gw7IRz

May 17 | 7PM
Natural and Organic Gardening
Learn how to manage your flower bed, shrubs, trees, lawn, and vegetable gardens with minimal, if any, use of synthetic chemical additives. Presented by Rutgers Master Gardener Pat Donahue. Registration Required - https://bit.ly/3x47EOy

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.org

May 21 | 3PM
Mystery/Thriller Book Club
Join us virtually for a discussion of The Guest List by Lucy Foley. Registration Required - https://bit.ly/3sKDmwO

May 25 | 7PM
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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For more information, call 732-634-4450 ext. 7120 www.woodbridgelibrary.org

First Baptist Church Announces New Pastor
*Photo Submitted



Press Release
Pastor Jose A. Santos was called to become the 42nd Pastor of the First Baptist Church in a unanimous vote by the church membership on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021. His appointment officially began on May 2, 2021.

Pastor Santos fills the vacancy left when the previous minister, Pastor William A. Gerak, Sr., passed away suddenly on February 1, 2021. In the absence of a leader, Pastor Santos from Christ Centered Baptist Church in Plainfield, NJ and Pastor Kevin DeAngelo from Zion Independent Baptist Church in Hazlet, NJ filled the pulpit on Sundays and Wednesdays for the past three months. “I am overwhelmed by the grace of God,” Santos says. “I began this journey to First Baptist as a man with a lot of addictions and now I start a new chapter as the church’s Pastor.”

Pastor Santos is a longtime native of Perth Amboy. He came to Perth Amboy from Puerto Rico when he was 15 years old. Lacking spiritual direction in his life, he began hanging out with the wrong type of friends, dropped out of high school, and started dealing drugs on the streets of Perth Amboy. “I put my mother through a lot of heartache,” Santos recalls. “I am so thankful that my mother got to see my life transformed by the power of Christ.”

His spiritual awakening began in 1994 after hearing a sermon on television regarding the power of Jesus Christ to bring forgiveness and salvation. This sermon led him to the First Baptist Church in Perth Amboy, NJ under the direction of Pastor William A. Gerak, Sr.

Under Pastor Gerak’s guidance, Pastor Santos attended Hyles-Anderson College in 1998 enrolling in their “Five Year Program” which allowed students without a high school diploma to obtain their diploma and college degree through the fulfillment of 160 semester hours. With three children, a wife, and a full-time job, Pastor Santos graduated from Hyles-Anderson College in 2004 with an earned Bachelor of Science degree, with honors, in Pastoral Theology.

Pastor Santos is no stranger to First Baptist having served as an Assistant Pastor for five years before transitioning over as a Spanish Pastor in Somerset, NJ and then becoming the founding Pastor of Christ Centered Baptist Church in Plainfield, NJ in 2015.

Pastor Santos joins First Baptist Church with his wife, Marisol. They have three children and three grandchildren.

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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.

The International Military Tribunal for the Far East convenes in Tokyo on May 3, 1946, to begin the trials of 28 Japanese defendants accused of committing war crimes. Radhabinod Pal, from India, one of three Asians named to the tribunal, is the only judge with a background in international law and the only jurist to find all the defendants innocent on all counts. Pal calls into question the Tribunal's legitimacy, stating that the underlying criterion for passing judgment seems to be retribution and not impartial justice.

In Tokyo, Allied occupation authorities on May 4 void the results of elections held on April 10. Ichirō Hatoyama, leader of the party that won the elections, is barred from becoming prime minister. (The authorities are concerned about Hatoyama's cooperation with Japan's authoritarian government in the 1930s and the 1940s.) Instead, the occupation authorities name Shigeru Yoshida — a pro-American and pro-British diplomat and politician — to become the next prime minister of Japan, succeeding Kijūrō Shidehara.

On May 5, the government of China is officially moved to Nanking, in the eastern part of the country. A national referendum in France narrowly rejects the proposed constitution for the Fourth Republic. (The draft constitution proposes a unicameral legislature, which most of the populace does not favor.)

Zuni and Navajo veterans of World War II on May 6 are denied in their attempts to register to vote in the 1946 general elections in New Mexico. The county clerk of McKinley County rejects their applications, citing a provision in the state constitution that denies the right of suffrage to "Indians not taxed," referring to Native Americans who live on federal reservations. (The applicants challenge the provision, and on August 3, 1948, a federal court rules that the New Mexico constitutional provision violates the United States Constitution. The 1948 general election marks the first time that residents of New Mexico's Indian reservations may vote.)

In Japan, Masaru Ibuka and Akio Morita on May 7 found the Tokyo Telecommunications Engineering Corporation with 20 employees. (In January 1958, the company's name is changed to Sony Corporation.) In The Hague, the Netherlands, Anton Mussert, founder of the Dutch Nazi Party, is executed by a firing squad after his appeal to Queen Wilhelmina for clemency is refused.

On May 8, the U.S. government orders dim-outs in 22 states due to the strike by bituminous-coal miners that began on April 1. The Ford Motor Company begins a nationwide shutdown because of a lack of coal and 51,000 railroad workers are laid off. Two 14-year-old Estonian schoolgirls — Aili Jürgensen and Ageeda Paavel — use explosives to blow up a Soviet war memorial in Tallinn in retaliation for Soviet occupation forces removing and destroying monuments to Estonian soldiers. Apprehended shortly afterward, the two are tried and convicted as terrorists. Deported to the U.S.S.R., they spend eight years at hard labor in a Gulag work camp.

King Vittorio Emanuele III of Italy on May 9 abdicates his throne in favor of his son, Umberto II, who succeeds him. The abdication is an effort to bolster the monarchist cause and avert a plebiscite to decide whether Italy should remain a monarchy or become a republic (the latter a growing sentiment among the populace). The former monarch immediately sails with his wife into exile at Alexandria, Egypt, where he is welcomed by King Farouk.

Owners of U.S. bituminous-coal mines and the United Mine Workers union agree on May 10, to a two-week truce in the 40-day-old coal strike to get the economy moving. Some 400,000 miners go back to work temporarily. An American-launched V-2 rocket reaches a record-high altitude, soaring 75 miles above the White Sands, New Mexico, proving grounds.

In Milan, Italy, Teatro alla Scala opera house reopens on May 11 for the first time since an American bomb damaged the auditorium on 16 August 1943. The performance is conducted by the theatre's former music director, Arturo Toscanini — the first time he has conducted in Italy in 15 years. The city's Piazza della Scala and Piazza del Duomo and the two-block-long Galleria connecting them are closed to traffic and filled with people listening to the concert on loudspeakers. The program comprises selections from Italian composers Rossini, Verdi, Boito and Puccini. The concert is broadcast throughout Italy and the world via short-wave radio. After the last note, the applause lasts 37 minutes. At Le Havre, France, the first packages — containing 20 pounds of food each — from the U.S.-founded, international, humanitarian relief agency CARE (Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe) arrive for distribution throughout Europe. In Germany, a U.S. military court in Dachau tries 61 SS members who had carried out exterminations at the Mauthausen concentration camp at Dachau. All are convicted of greater or lesser roles in murdering 70,000 people, mostly Jewish. Of the defendants, 49 are executed by hanging at Dachau; the other 12 are sentenced to life in prison.

In China, a truce between Nationalist and Communist forces in coastal Shantung Province is signed in Tsinan, the province's second largest city, on May 12.

On May 13, negotiations between Iranian Prime Minister Ahmad Qavam and the leader of the Soviet-supported, breakaway province of Azerbaijan collapse in Tehran. In Moscow, the Soviet ballistic-missile program is formally created by a top-secret decree signed by Joseph Stalin. Minister of Armaments Dmitriy Ustinov is made overseer of the project. With U.S. bituminous-coal miners temporarily back to work for two weeks, United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis says that the walkout will start anew if negotiations on a new labor contract fail.

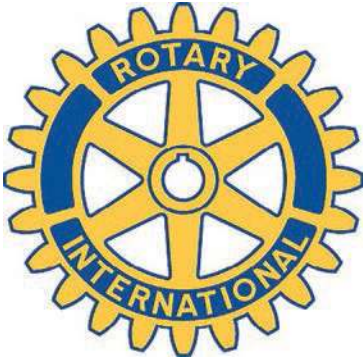
Nueces County, Texas, which includes Corpus Christi, is quarantined on May 14 to prevent the spread of a "polio-like disease" that had broken out in Corpus Christi. (The disease was, in fact, poliomyelitis, or polio.) In addition to the closing of all schools, churches, theaters, and parks, the roads leading into and out of Nueces County are blocked by 300 members of the Texas National Guard, and nobody under 21 years of age is allowed in. Buses and trains are sprayed with DDT — the pesticide being used as a disinfectant.

At New London, Connecticut, the U.S. Coast Guard on May 15 commissions its 295-foot sailing barque Eagle as a training cutter for future USCG officers. Built in 1936 in Germany for the *Kriegsmarine* as the training ship *Horst Wessel*, the vessel is a war prize, won by the U.S. in a lottery with the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom.

In Delhi, the British Cabinet Mission to India on May 16 proposes that, since Hindus and Muslims cannot agree on a unified India, the nation's independence must be enforced on British terms. Rejecting a Muslim League push for an independent Pakistan, the Cabinet Mission recommends a united country made up of Hindu provinces, Muslim provinces and princely states. In Paris, the conference of "Big Four" foreign ministers (U.K., U.S., U.S.S.R. and France) adjourns with little progress. The conference was convened in an attempt to normalize the international relationships of former enemies Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, Italy and Romania. In New York City, the Irving Berlin musical *Annie Get Your Gun*, starring Ethel Merman as Annie Oakley, opens at the Imperial Theatre. The play closes in 1949 after 1,147 performances.

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.



16th Annual Dad-Daughter Date Night

SOUTH AMBOY/SAYREVILLE — Dads, Uncles, Granddads, 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.

Full Pages Ads = \$100 • Half Page Ads = \$50 Your sponsorship enables proceeds from Rotary events to be used to support local and international Rotary Club community service projects and needs including:

- 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



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 8th, and 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.

Poll Workers Wanted

PERTH AMBOY/SAYREVILLE/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.



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Umbrella - Patio, needs cord and iron stand. \$30 - 732-283-0975	Safe Combination 21" High 13 1/2" wide on wheels \$75 732-634-1851	LP's Cassettes, CD's DVD's \$1.00 each; Radio, CD \$20 - 732-887-2235
Dyson Vacuum Cleaner Mint Condition \$45 - 732-290-1551	Gold Carnival Glass Collector Plate (5 th Day of Christmas) \$25 732-673-6305	Girl's Bicycle 24" Panasonic LX Sport Twelve Speed. Light Blue. \$75 or B.O. 908-501-3993
GPS Tom Tom - 3 pcs Stereo System - Dog Bed \$65 ea. 732-293-0151	Portable Sears Sewing Machine - Used Twice \$25; Epson Printer with new ink (never used) - \$40 - 732-679-0086	Sissy Bar and Pad for Harley Sportster - Great Condition \$65 - 908-590-8885
1 Large Christmas Tree \$25; 1 Small \$15; Lounge Chair \$15 - 732-297-4457	Custom Jewelry \$5-\$10; Sled \$25; Sports Memorabilia \$10; Dream Catcher Cane \$15 - 732-713-0536	Power Lift \$75. Wing Chairs, Sofa, End Tables, Lamps, Microwave \$10-\$50 - 908-803-9623
Older New Toy Trucks Sunoco, Exxon, Mobil Hess \$20 Each or B.O. - 732-316-5092	Gold Chandelier - Six Lights - Excellent Condition - \$30 - 732-721-7186	Children's Sports Lamp w/shade. Really cute, BB, FB, Etc. Large \$20 - 917-670-4908
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In Honor of National Donate Life Month,
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**Photo Submitted*




PARK RIDGE - As a member of the Park Ridge, NJ Ambulance Corps, Judy Herman "knew of" Park Ridge Firefighter, Mark Eisen, but she didn't really "get to know" him until she gave him one of her kidneys. The two are now the closest of friends and the perfect example of the importance of living donors. More than 100,000 Americans are waiting for organ transplants in the U.S. - a statistic made worse by the pandemic. The current shortage of donors means 20 people die each day in America waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. Mark is beyond grateful to Judy but Judy is also grateful to Mark because it was through this process that doctors found she had a benign tumor on her spleen that needed to be removed. Mark and Judy may have quite literally saved each others' lives.



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KATHERINE MASSOPUST

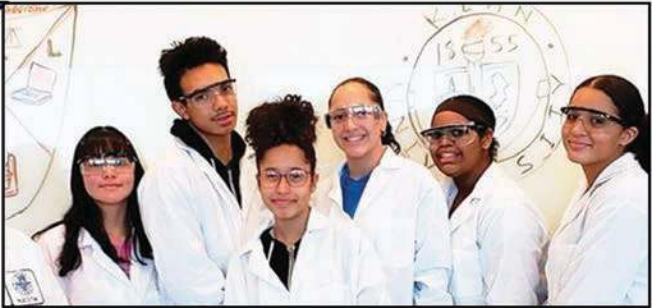



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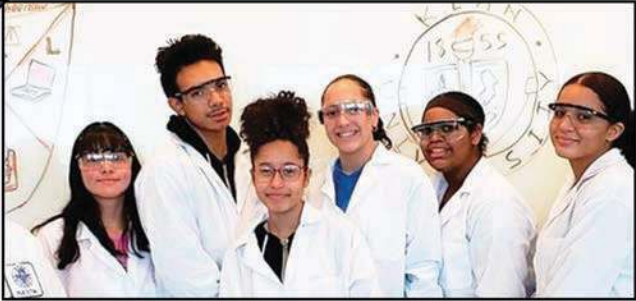
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Perth Amboy Business Improvement District Annual Meeting

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

I. Election of Board of Directors (nominations below)

II. Swearing-in of Newly Elected Directors

III. Appointment of Officers

IV. Re-organization Meeting

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

i. Community Member Nominations (At-Large): Anthony Burdier, Emilio J. Jimenez, Lisa Rosario, Joel Pabon, Fernando Gonzalez, Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe and Tashi Vazquez

ii. Business/Property Owner Nominations: Elizabeth Sanchez, Melvin Rodriguez, Samuel Quezada, Asim Malik, Antonio Abreu and Reyes Ortega

Novena to St. Rita

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

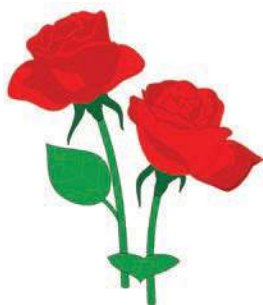
Novena to St. Anthony

(For Any Need)
St. Anthony, you are glorious for your miracles and for the condescension of Jesus Who came as a little child to lie in your arms. Obtain for me from His bounty the grace which I ardently desire. You were so compassionate toward sinners, do not regard my unworthiness. Let the glory of God be magnified by you in connection with the particular request that I earnestly present to you. *(State your request here.)*
As a pledge of my gratitude, I promise to live more faithfully in accordance with the teachings of the Church, and to be devoted to the service of the poor whom you loved and still love so greatly. Bless this resolution of mine that I may be faithful to it until death.
St. Anthony, consoler of all the afflicted, pray for me.
St. Anthony, helper of all who invoke you, pray for me.
St. Anthony, whom the Infant Jesus loved and honored so much, pray for me. Amen.
A.L.S.



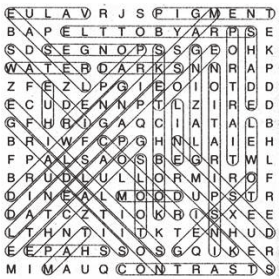
A.C. Bus Trip

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



Remember to
Say Your Novenas!

Answers
From Puzzle
On Page 22



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.

Pets of the Week



PERTH AMBOY - NJ RESCUES - Please open your heart and home to one of these loving kitties. They don't deserve to be put back put onto the dangerous streets. They only need love and someone to give them a chance to learn to trust. They're fixed, vaccinated, dewormed, deflead, and fully vetted. Email: moralespps@yahoo.com for adoption application or visit Allforthepaws.org for adoption application. Donation fee applies. Upon approved application adoption will take place at adopters. Rescue will transport. Text 1.732.486.6382 for questions.

Have a Special Pet?

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

Ads Sell! Call Carolyn!
732-896-4446

Clothing Bin Now Open

SAYREVILLE - The Clothing Recycling Bin located at First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville, 172 Main Street, across from Borough Hall has been reopened for donations. With ART, the recycling company, one may donate in 3 ways:
1.) Usable clothing is donated directly to the needy.
2.) High-quality clothing is given to organizations that sell to those who cannot afford new clothing.
3.) Unusable clothing is washed and sold for industrial use and leftovers are used in the auto industry as seat stuffing for large trucks. They also help charities, schools, police departments, fire departments and non-profit organizations.
If you have clothes, shoes or other fabrics please consider using our recycling bin. Thank You.

LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY – Sewing Class circa 1950's.

**Photo Courtesy of Perth Amboy Free Public Library*

This photo was restored under a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission to the Kearny Cottage Historical Association.



Enrique Hernandez
 Broker/Owner CRB, SFR, CRS



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



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 - 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 - Great two family fully rented, close to downtown and train station and most public transportation and major highways. it needs some TLC. **\$399,000**



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



PERTH AMBOY - Beautifully 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**



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



SOUTH AMBOY - Huge colonial featuring 4 bedrooms 2 full baths in the heart of South Amboy lots of rooms, very spacious very close to NYC Train and business district, needs some TLC. Buyer is responsible for C/O. and repairs. Hurry!!! **\$339,000**



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