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Reading of the Declaration of Independence and Liberty Bell Ringing Ceremony



New Jersey Fifes & Drums, LLC
& Sons of the American Revolution



City Historian
John K. Dyke



Tony Sattilaro



Samuel Davis (L)
Anton Massopust III (R)



Fr. Martin Vavrak
PA Police Chaplain Corps



Javier Cruz PAFD



Mayor Helmin Caba



Asm. Speaker
Craig Coughlin



Asw. Yvonne Lopez



Congressman
Frank Pallone



County Commissioner
Deputy Dir. Shanti Narra



Cindy Gadek



Anna Daily



Renee Skelton



Katherine Massopust



Lisa Nanton



Kathleen DePow



Charlie Morgan



Dorothy Carty-Daniel



Dave Szilagyi



Brandon Baker



Former Mayor Wilda Diaz



Fr. Krystian Burdzy
PA Police Chaplain Corps



*Photos by Paul W. Wang

Gustav J. Novak

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What Else is New?

6/21/21 Caucus

By: Carolyn Maxwell
PERTH AMBOY – There was a discussion on Ordinance No.1 entitled: Zoning and Land Development regarding Marijuana Regulations.

Council President Bill Petrick stated, “We unintentionally placed the wrong ordinance regarding marijuana. The one on this agenda only deals with sales of marijuana.”

Law Director William Northgrave then spoke up. “I know there was an ordinance drafted by former Law Director Peter King. The new one that I have drawn up will deal with additional items which will include cultivation, manufacturing, and distribution of marijuana.”

Petrick then asked, “How do we move forward?”

Northgrave responded, “You (the council) will reintroduce a new ordinance on Wednesday to address the marijuana issue. This will have additional additions.”

Council President Petrick then addressed Ordinance No.2 entitled: A Municipal Code requiring construction project labor agreement on certain public instruction projects and certain redevelopment area financing project in the city of Perth Amboy.

Petrick said, “This is very vague. Are we (the council) relinquishing any rights or decision-making abilities by passing this ordinance?”

Law Director Northgrave then explained, “Financing of Projects and PILOTS have to come to you. This ordinance does not shift your oversight to anyone else.”

Councilman B.J. Torres wanted to make a quick comment regarding Ordinance No.1 (No Public Discussion) Entitled: Bicycles adopted December 20, 1939, regarding licensing.

Torres said, “According to the ordinance from 1939, it gave the police the right to confiscate bicycles and incarcerate the bicyclist. That is why I asked that this ordinance be amended.”

The next topic discussed was Ordinance No.2 (First Reading) entitled: Approving a Donor Agreement with Kinder Morgan Liquids Terminal and Accepting a donation of approximately 2.0544 acres of property.

B.A. Remsen explained that this will complete the project.

The next Ordinance discussed was Ordinance No.3 (First Reading) entitled: Police Department Special Police Officer Class I.

Councilman Joel Pabon said he was not in favor of hiring retired outsiders for this position.

Business Administrator Edward Remsen explained, “Candidates are shrinking for these positions. The hiring pool is low.”

Pabon continued, “We always had a lot of auxiliary police officers on the force, and I want to make sure we take care of our own first.”

Remsen continued, “There are differences between the different classes of officers. I need to have someone from the Police Department to answer this.”

Councilman B.J. Torres said,

“I think it’s to hire those who reflect the community.”

Remsen responded, “We need to increase the pool of our auxiliary.”

Miguel Morales from the Traffic Division came up briefly to explain that Deputy Police Chief Larry Cattano is on his way.

CFO Jill Goldy came on via Zoom to speak about Resolution R-306-6/21 – Insertion of revenue in the CY:2021 budget for the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Grant in amount of \$454.40.

“This is a budgetary item awarded to the city each year from the courts. It includes educational materials for people who had different traffic violations.”

She also explained R-309-6/21 – Authorizing the insertion of revenue in the CY:2021 Budget for the NJDOT 2021 Youth Corps Urban Gateway Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$32,000.

“This was approved by the council at the last meeting. Six youths were hired for the summer to make enhancements around the city (landscaping, etc.).”

City Engineer Ernest Feist came on Zoom to explain R-311-6/21 – Authorizing the submission of a grant application and grant acceptance of the NJDOT for NJDOT Safe Streets to Transit for the 2022 application at Smith Street for pedestrian safety improvement.

“This is for the sidewalk infrastructure by the train station.”

Business Administrator Remsen explained R-323 and R-324. R-323-6/21 – Health Benefits Continuation.

“This is for the children of deceased employees.”

Remsen asked that R-324 be pulled. R-324-6/21 – Amending R-287-5/21 and awarding a contract to Cintas Corporation 2 for uniform rental purchasing and cleaning services for several city departments. This is in accordance with Omnia Partners. Contract# R-BB-19002 retroactive to January 1, 2021, and terminating December 31, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$58,357.63.

B.A. Remsen explained, “You will have to split this into two related but separate resolutions.”

Council President Bill Petrick then questioned if R-326-6/21 – Authorizing a refund in the amount of \$450.00 to Urayoan Torres for denial of a 2021 fixed peddler application.

“Can we discuss this here or in closed session?”

Remsen answered, “The original application was rejected. There were separate problems such as sales, location, and on-site inspections. We are unhappy with the placement, but they are operating under our building codes.”

Petrick continued, “This is getting out of control with the size of the flags and the size of their food carts.”

Deputy Police Chief Larry Cattano who arrived in the council chambers explained, “The original location of the

cart was on the sidewalk. We don’t govern the size of the signs. It is a code enforcement problem, and I will talk to the code enforcement director about this.”

Councilman B.J. Torres added some comments. “In 50 years of having vendors in that area, we never had any of them take up 2 parking spots. We already have spots (for food vendors) on Front Street. The neighbors are not happy (with where this vendor is). We have concerts going on and there is also a spiritual center in that area. If there are two events going on at the same time, parking will be a problem.”

Cattano responded, “They meet the criteria and were given a location. The marina parking lot is where we will get involved. The spots where they park on the roads is when we have a problem. The city engineers may get involved.”

The next person who spoke via Zoom was Code Enforcement Director Irving Lozada, “Noelia Colon from the BID and Deputy Police Chief Cattano reached out to me, and I called the Zoning Office regarding this vendor.”

Cattano then spoke up again, “Code Enforcement can reach out to the police department if they need to.”

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch spoke up to clarify the difference between having a spot in the marina parking lot versus having other spots near the waterfront. She explained that any vendor (with a food truck) has to go through a bidding process a the marina parking lot. “There were two spots available and only one person applied. BID Chair Barry Rosengarten said he knows of someone who may be interested in taking the second marina spot.” Kupsch also said, “It is not as easy as it seems to get a spot in the marina. You just can’t have someone (put a food cart there).”

Councilman Torres spoke again. “There is a neighborhood association group (of waterfront area residents) that are located near the spot where the vendor is, and you should reach out and work with them.”

Council President Petrick spoke up, “In Washington Park there was a complaint about a vendor with a loud generator.”

Cattano said, “I will call Lozada about that. With the vendors at the marina parking lot, we supply the electricity.”

Someone asked about the food vendors that are on Sadowski Parkway.

Victoria Kupsch then said, “There are no electric hookups at Sadowski Parkway for food trucks.”

Petrick then suggested, “We need to revise the ordinance regarding food vendors to adjust it for next year.”

Law Director Northgrave said, “The police department and code enforcement will need to look at a new ordinance. If the council knows specifically what they would want in that ordinance, the police department

Laurie Berkner
Max Weinberg's Jukebox
Barenaked Ladies
Styx

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Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy Announces Class of 2021 Medical Residents

Press Release 6/16/21
PERTH AMBOY, NJ – June 16, 2021) – Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy is proud to announce the graduates of its 2021 internal medicine program. The graduating residents include: Behzad Amoozgar, MD; Sayed Mahdi Ayat, MD; Zaigham Baloch, MD; Nabonita Barua, MD; Karim Bayanzay, MD; Pavan Garala, MD; Varun Kaushal, MD and Ruwaidah Majeed, MD.

“I am pleased to honor this year's graduates,” says William DiStanislao, interim president, chief hospital executive; vice president, Operations, Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy. “Their work and dedication has been extraordinary. As they each embrace their bright futures, we wish this talented group the very best.”

The internal medicine residency program has eight graduates per year. The intimate experience allows for easy communication between program administration, hospital leadership and each other. Residents train at Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy, which is a state-designated primary stroke



Graduating medical residents gather outside Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy. (Pictured back row L-R, Zaigham Baloch, MD; Varun Kaushal, MD; Behzad Amoozgar, MD; Karim Bayanzay, MD. Front row L-R, Pavan Garala, MD; Nabonita Barua, MD; Ruwaidah Majeed, MD; Sayed Mahdi Ayat, MD.) Mission: Lifeline® EMS Gold Plus Performance Achievement Award recognizing high-quality care of patients experiencing a severe heart attack.

**Photo Submitted*

center, a regional primary PCI center with two fully equipped cardiac catheterization labs and a 20-bed ICU/CCU unit. A medical staff of more than 600 provides residents exposure to a wide variety of disciplines as they work on a number of interdisciplinary care teams.

“With a continuum of care within the network, our program

is ahead of the curve in providing the best educational and patient experience possible,” says Mayer Ezer, MD, FACP, Internal Medicine Program Director, Raritan Bay Medical Center.

The eight graduates now join more than 300 cumulative graduates since the internal medicine residency program’s inception in 1980.

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News From Asw. Yvonne Lopez

Now Law: Vitale, Lopez, Benson & Johnson Bill Enhancing Outreach Initiatives & Eliminating Premiums, Waiting Periods For NJ FamilyCare

Press Release

NEW JERSEY: In an effort to encourage and make it easier for more residents to enroll in NJ FamilyCare, a bill sponsored by Senator Joe Vitale and Assembly Democrats Yvonne Lopez, Daniel Benson and Gordon Johnson to eliminate premiums and waiting periods, as well as enhance outreach efforts for the program, was signed into law Tuesday.

NJ FamilyCare is New Jersey’s publicly funded health insurance program that helps residents of all ages access affordable health insurance if they do not have coverage through their employer.

Under the law (formerly bill A-5805/S-3798), enrollees will not have to pay premiums as a condition of their participation in the program, except in the case of enrollees who exceed income limits but choose to enroll their children in the Advantage program.

The law will also eliminate waiting periods for any eligible person who applies for NJ FamilyCare coverage. No eligible child who applies for coverage can be denied immediate enrollment for any reason.

Existing outreach initiatives to increase public awareness about the availability and benefits of enrolling in NJ FamilyCare will also be enhanced under the law, through increased coordination of these efforts.

\$20 million will be appropriated to the Department of Human Services each year in order to implement the provisions of this act.

Upon the bill becoming law, Senator Vitale (D-Middlesex) and Assembly Democrats Lopez (D-Middlesex), Benson (D-Mercer, Middlesex) and Johnson (D-Bergen) issued the following joint statement:

“Without health insurance coverage, it can be difficult to receive proper medical care – and we have seen just how important access to health care is over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We must keep working towards our goal of providing New Jersey families with quality, affordable health insurance if we want as many residents as possible to receive the care they both need and deserve. Eliminating wait times and premiums while further promoting this important program will help us achieve this goal.”



LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Service and Honor



Ever since Benjamin Franklin established the first Fire Brigade in Philadelphia, we have seen the importance of fire fighters serving the community. In our town of Perth Amboy, we remember the tragic accident and death of nine firefighters (the Eagle 9) one hundred years ago. *(See pages 10-11)*

On June 15, 2021, a majestic service was held near the location on Elm Street where the incident occurred. We also recognized the line of duty deaths in the past.

During this past year and half of the pandemic, we’ve witnessed the courage and devotion of our firefighters, EMS, and first responders in protecting and serving the citizens of Perth Amboy.

Thank you for your service. You are our heroes.

Marcella Massopust

Juneteenth

Another celebration in Perth Amboy was to mark the new federal holiday recently signed into law by President Joe Biden was Juneteenth (June 19th). Jeanette Wilson Perry who put together an impressive panel of speakers. The one that was outstanding was a young man by the name of Endasi Lukoma who is a Perth Amboy Chapter New Jersey Orator who gave a speech about the symbolism and history behind the Juneteenth flag.

He spoke with the authority of someone three times his age. He commanded everyone's attention. All the speakers came from a different variety of backgrounds. Lt. Governor Shelia Oliver shared a similar background of myself. We both grew up in a neighborhood with a lot of diversity with people of many different backgrounds, but there is something we all had in common: respectful disagreements and have love and respect for one another and love of country.

In Endasi Lukoma's speech, he emphasized that we are all proud Americans and all deserve respect because we are all part of America's history.

Some of the most patriotic stories are from people who came to this country, work hard, and had to wait years and study to become naturalized citizens. The stories that they told escaping the cruelties of their native countries to live the American Dream are something that can bring tears to your eyes.

Recently, when I was looking at YouTube, one of the feeds was a YouTube video of a 91 year old man who was a Holocaust survivor. He emphatically stated, "Anybody who disrespects America will have to fight me." He lived through atrocities of the Holocaust and was able to survive when he was freed by the American troops. *Carolyn Maxwell*

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Speed Bumps

Some have proposed “speed bumps: on streets to reduce speeding by producing a jolt to any automobile going fast. This

will also produce a jolt to any automobile at regular speed. This creates wear and tear on all automobiles. Do people want this?

Are there any scientific studies

that justify this method?

Ronald A. Sobieraj

Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964

July, 2021 marks the 57th Anniversary of federal government support for public transportation. The success of public transportation can be traced back to one of the late President Lyndon Johnson's greatest accomplishments which continues benefiting many Americans today. On July 9th, 1964 he signed the "Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964" into law. Subsequently this has resulted in the investment over time of several hundred billion dollars into public transportation.

Millions of Americans including many residing in New Jersey today on a daily basis utilize

various public transportation alternatives. They include local and express bus, ferry, jitney, light rail, subway and commuter rail services. All of these systems use less fuel and move far more people than conventional single occupancy vehicles. Most of these systems are funded with your tax dollars thanks to President Johnson.

Depending upon where you live, consider the public transportation alternative. Metropolitan Transportation Authority, New Jersey Transit and PATH provide many of these services. Try riding a local or express bus, commuter van, ferry, light rail, commuter rail or subway.

The ability to travel from home to workplace, school, shopping, entertainment, medical, library etc. is a factor when

moving to a new neighborhood. Economically successful communities are not 100% dependent on automobiles as the sole means of mobility. Seniors, students, low and middle income people need these transportation alternatives. Investment in public transportation today contributes to economic growth, employment and a stronger economy. Dollar for dollar, it is one of the best investments we can make.

Sincerely,
Larry Penner

Larry Penner is a transportation advocate, historian and writer who previously worked for the Federal Transit Administration Region 2 NY Office

Juneteenth



Endasi Lukoma gave a speech about the symbolism behind the Juneteenth Flag which was created in 1997 by Ben Faith and Lisa Jeanne Graf. This flag commemorates the end of slavery in the United States.

The red, white, and blue represent the American Flag. This is a reminder that the slaves and all their descendants are all Americans.

The Star and the Arc represent the fact that all African-Americans have freedom in all 50 states. The Emancipation Proclamation was first to read and acknowledged in Galveston, Texas. Alongside the star, the outlined burst and arc represent the new horizon and new opportunities that are to come for African-Americans. *(source: <https://parade.com/June 18, 2021>)*

The white star in the center represents Texas. In Galveston, where Union Soldiers informed the country's last remaining slaves that the Civil War was over and they were free. *(source: [wfaa.com Nationworld June 18, 2021](https://wfaa.com/Nationworld June 18, 2021))*

**Photo above Juneteenth Celebration in City Hall circle by Chris Dyke; Photo (Upper Left - Crowd by Carolyn Maxwell; Photo (Upper Right) Endasi Lukoma by Carolyn Maxwell*



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Safety Announcement

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2021 Amboy Guardian Publication Dates

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

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

MON. Jul. 12 City Council, Caucus 5:30 p.m.
City Hall, High St. & Zoom
WED. Jul. 14 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St. & Zoom
THURS. Jul. 22 Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.

South Amboy

WED. Jul. 14 City Council, Business/Regular, 6 p.m.
City Hall N. Broadway via GotoMeeting

**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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What Else is New?

6/21/21 Caucus

**Continued from Page 2*

and code enforcement do not have to get involved.”

Deputy Police Chief Cattano addressed a question that was asked earlier in the meeting regarding Special I police officers. "We exhausted our pool of qualified auxiliary officers. Covid shut down the class size for auxiliary officer training." Special I Officers can perform traffic detail and spectator control. They can issue summonses for disorderly persons offenses and violations of municipal ordinances. Firearms shall be strictly prohibited and the officers of this class should not be assigned any duties that may require the carrying of or the use of a firearm.

Each person for this position shall be from the current auxiliary police force. If there is no candidates exist within the auxiliary police force, other candidates may be considered with the following qualifications: resident of the city of Perth Amboy. If no qualified residents exist within the city of Perth Amboy, then residents outside of the city may be considered. They should have 3 years of continued active service in the Perth Amboy Police in good standing.

Councilman Torres asked, "If officers who may have had minor drug offenses, if their records are expunged, then can it open up an opportunity to join the force?" He also asked Cattano about the bicycle ordinance. He questioned if bicycles should be licensed and if voluntary registration would be the best way.

Cattano responded, "Safety should be first. The state statute can oversee our ordinance. Maybe a judge can get through to the violators better than we can."

Torres thanked Cattano for his help and input regarding the bicycle ordinance.

Law Director Northgrave then spoke up. "There are a lot of laws that have very archaic parts in it."

Cattano spoke up again, "Something that is dangerous regarding bicycles can result in confiscating a bike, just as we do with drivers who operate their vehicles dangerously."

Torres then brought up the fact that in the recent bicycle incident, that only one bike was confiscated. "This may lead us open to liability."

Cattano responded, "If we only give them warnings, we can't call their parents or ask for their names."

Torres suggested, "We should work with these teenagers and children instead of taking their bikes."

Petrick spoke up, "Those bicyclists who were riding recklessly were from out of town."

Cattano then said, "There were bicyclists hitching onto vehicles and doing other dangerous acts."

Northgrave then commented, "The police can enforce the state statute and can evoke Title 39."

B.A. Remsen then spoke up to give an update on the new gate at the Public Safety Complex. "There was only one bidder and now the bid has expired. The original bidder reapplied, but now wants \$50,000 more. If we can give them upfront money for supplies, they can reduce the price and get the job done by September. If the new gate is not installed with all the needed components, it is going to be a problem. I'm asking you to reconsider the original vendor's request. I would like to see this on the agenda for Wednesday's Meeting."

Councilman Joel Pabon spoke up, "This is only a gate, and it seems a lot of money they are asking for. If this gate was going to be placed anywhere else, I would say no."

Remsen replied, "The electronics for this gate are very complex or we would have gotten more than one bid."

Fire Chief Edward Mullen came up to address this issue, "When this gate is completed, employees will have swipe cards to go through the gate."

The wiring and engineering of this gate are very involved. In case of an electrical failure, this gate will still operate."

Petrick ended the conversation, "A school was built in the wrong location."

Councilman Joel Pabon then said he would like to introduce another late-starter resolution regarding former Mayor Wilda Diaz's vacation pay.

Petrick responded, "I would like to add this to the closed session. Having former Interim Business Administrator Patricia Perkins sign off on this was very troubling. I called one of our former B.A.'s Fehrenbach, and he said that it is unusual for a former mayor to go back that far for back vacation pay. I don't know of anyone who had the gall to do this, this long after leaving office. I don't want to be a part of this. This is now the third or fourth time that this would be on the agenda. I want the labor department advice before taking action on this."

Law Director Northgrave spoke up, "The council can vote yes or no regardless of if it was done in the past. It can set a precedent. There is a statute of limitations. Under your code, elected officials have rights as regular employees. Diaz presented certification of what she is entitled to. There can be litigation if you reject her request. There is a cap that you can't exceed."

Pabon spoke up again, "Who is going to sign off on work done by a former B.A. when a new B.A. comes in? It's the right thing to do if she (Perkins) signs off on paperwork."

Councilman Torres said he would second the motion to put the Diaz resolution on Wednesday's meeting.

Petrick continued, "The documentation smells like old fish. Mr. Fehrenbach said there is no way Diaz should get paid for this. Can we recover attorney fees if we win a lawsuit that she may file against us?"

Northgrave replied, "No, you can't."

Pabon said, "I respect Fehren-

bach, but he got canned just like a lot of the former B.A.'s."

Petrick then stated, "This is problematic and troublesome."

Councilwoman Milady Tejada spoke up, "I don't like to give the money, but we have to close this chapter. Northgrave will benefit (for legal fees) and we will lose money."

Northgrave assured the council, "I wouldn't take the case. You make the policy, but you will wind up spending more than \$15,000. Your bills will be twice the money that Diaz is asking for."

Interim B.A. Edward Remsen spoke up and asked Jill Goldy if she can go into more details about R-323 (Health Benefits continuation).

CFO Goldy said, "This is for our labor attorney, and it is a proposed heading. Spouses and qualified children will get benefits of employees who dies while they were still actively employed by the city."

Public Portion:

Resident and former councilman Fernando Irizarry spoke first. He spoke about the recent Marijuana Forum. "The biggest takeaway that I got was that if you do nothing, it leaves us at the mercy of the state. You need to do something to be ready by the deadline in August."

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch said, "There will be something in place to be voted upon before the August 21, 2021 deadline."

Irizarry continued, "It would be irresponsible to leave the city at the mercy of state regulations. I want to thank you for all that you do. The mayor has not been clear on what he wants. We also pave roads and then it looks like crap shortly afterwards. High Street is looking bad after a recent repaving. What happened to the ordinance that says that the streets have to be put back to what they look like before the paving began?"

Resident Alan Silber came up next. He asked if Wilda would have a conflict of interest if she was involved in a city contract. "What year is she asking for backpay?"

Northgrave responded, "\$15,000 is the cap for backpay."

Silber then asked, "What year is she asking for?"

Petrick responded, "2008."

Silber continued, "One of our former B.A.'s Adam Cruz threatened us if he didn't get paid. We didn't pay him, and he didn't sue. Our Mayor Caba can also do this if he decides that he is due backpay (after leaving office). I see bicycles going 25mph at the Waterfront. Somebody came up here who worked the polls who said they were disappointed by lack of voters."

The meeting was then opened up for Zoom.

Former Councilwoman Lisa Nanton spoke first. She mentioned the hot dog stand vendor controversy. "Bayview Park is still a part of Front Street." She then talked about the marijuana issue. "I attended St. Mary's High School and after partying, those kids would go to Staten Island to drink. Woodbridge would be selling marijuana. Students in town are already doing marijuana and drinking. We find condoms when we are cleaning up the gardens. This is a health and safety issue. If you want to stop something, bring it out in the light. Businesses thrive in the town (when they open up marijuana businesses). I think you should all look at every single episode of Boardwalk Empire (The HBO Series about Atlantic City and Bootlegging during Prohibition). The only people who will win are the illegal drug dealers if we don't do this."

Resident Luis Catreoes spoke next, "I am a marijuana smoker and I agree with what the last speaker said." He invited the council to the LGBT Flag raising ceremony (6/28/21). "

Petrick then asked, "Why only LGBT? Are you missing some letters?"

Catreoes continued, "We can come out of the shadows. Most people know they are included."

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m. All council members were present in person.

Upcoming New Development Meeting Discussed

6/16/21 Council Meeting

By: Katherine Massopust
SOUTH AMBOY – The consent agenda was approved by the council.

There was a discussion regarding Ordinance No. 2010-10 – An ordinance supplementing chapter 41 of the code of the city of South Amboy, county of Middlesex, state of New Jersey, to more specifically require that growth of bamboo be controlled by property owners and to further clarify that the owner of the property from which bamboo growth emanates is responsible for abatement, and for all costs associated with abatement, regardless of whether the bamboo is on private or public property.

Councilman Tom Reilly stated that as he brought this topic up in the last council meeting (6/2/21) and he wanted the ordinance to state that any bamboo planted must be in a planter to

avoid the spread of the invasive species. Reilly emphasized that he does not want any bamboo allowed in-ground (only in a container).

Council President Mickey Gross suggested that the ordinance be pulled for the night so that Law Director Francis Womack can make the necessary changes. The council agreed to pull the ordinance.

It was noted that on Wednesday, June 23, 2021, there would be a closed session meeting with developers. This meeting would include a presentation and allow the council the opportunity to ask any questions about any concerns the council had with the proposed development. After the closed session concludes, the public would have the opportunity to ask questions (via teleconferencing).

There was a discussion re-

garding the transparency regarding this meeting. Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski stated, "I fully embrace the desire to present to the public, but it is the matter of contract negotiations. There is more than ample time for the public to ask questions."

Both Councilmen Tom Reilly and Brian McLaughlin argued that the public wanted to be privy to this presentation that was scheduled for the closed session. Council President Mickey Gross argued that there could be a presentation at the July 14, 2021, Business/Council Meeting. Gross felt that the council was being very transparent with the public and that the public will have full opportunity to answer any questions they may have.

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated that it was best that the council

hears what the developers have to say, then the council would be informed and able to answer any concerns to the public. He also argued that no one was making any rash decisions and there will be a 30-day period after the presentation on July 14, 2021, (First Reading).

It was noted by the council that they are being transparent as possible with the public.

Council Comments:

Councilman Tom Reilly thanked the First Responders and volunteers and donors at the food pantry. He congratulated the South Amboy High School Class of 2021. "Best of Luck!" He wished everyone a happy Fourth of July and encouraged everyone to celebrate responsibly.

Councilwoman Zusette Dato thanked all the fathers for Father's Day (June 20th). "Being a

parent is the most important role anyone can have. They mold the future. Happy Father's Day!"

Council Vice President Christine Noble wished a "Happy Father's Day to my four brothers – Congratulations to the 2021 Graduates!"

Councilman Brian McLaughlin asked about two blighted properties.

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski answered that the owner was fined substantially (for one property). He indicated that the owner of the one on Catherine Street that summonses are being drawn and he would get back to him for an update.

Councilman McLaughlin asked that everyone keep donating to the food pantries. He thanked the healthcare workers.

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A Lot of Topics on the Table

6/23/21 Council Meeting

By: Carolyn Maxwell
PERTH AMBOY – The public had the opportunity to address several ordinances that had public hearings.

The first ordinance that was up for discussion was Ordinance No. 1 – Establishing a new chapter to the municipal code requiring construction project labor agreement on certain public construction projects and certain redevelopment area financing projects in the city.

Resident Ken Balut came up first. “You introduced this late and with little information.”

Business Administrator Edward Remsen replied, “The city has to abide by certain labor agreements.”

Law Director William Northgrave then spoke up to give a little more details, “This will only involve projects which cost \$15 million and up. They have to meet certain criteria which include PILOTS, city contributions, RADs (Rental Assistant Demonstrations). It benefits organized labor unions.”

Balut continued, “This could be like it’s run by the mob. A lot of projects that were supposed to have union workers have very little union workers. We have two new people (in the mayor’s office) that are nonunion. Our governor was supposed to get union jobs for the sports betting properties. Somebody may come in with a project that would be just under \$15 million to circumvent hiring union workers.”

Remsen spoke up again, “Several municipalities adopted this ordinance with \$15 million being the amount for the projects to be under this union agreement.”

Northgrave then added, “It would be a project labor agreement.”

Resident Stanley Sierakowski came up next. He asked, “Was this ordinance based on state or federal laws?”

Northgrave replied, “No.”

Sierakowski then asked, “Did the supreme court get involved? Why is it \$15 million?”

Northgrave stated, “You have to have a threshold amount.”

Sierakowski countered, “No, you don’t. It has to be based on the prevailing union wage. Just be upfront and say it is prevailing union labor wages. Lower the threshold. Think about it and be transparent.”

East Brunswick Resident Reinaldo Aviles came up next. “The new ordinance says it has to be based on three things – not just the amount of \$15 million.”

Northgrave concluded, “If you set the amount too low, then it is going to hurt small contractors and they would not want to bring their projects here or invest here.”

The meeting was then opened up to the public for Agenda Items Only.

Resident Stanley Sierakowski came up to speak first. He had comments on R-332 (Vacation pay for former Mayor Wilda Diaz). “Have you all seen the itemized dates and hours?”

Council President William Petrick responded, “The information was provided. I don’t know how accurate it is, but we do have a calendar of it.”

Sierakowski continued, “Is there a breakdown? If the days she is claiming are okay, are there contract or personnel policies?”

Petrick responded, “I don’t know if the policy pertained to the mayor.”

Sierakowski continued, “Only certain days can be carried over. When I retired (from my county job) there was a formal document telling you what you can carry over to get paid prior to my retirement. Some sick days they had down as vacation days for me. Go to the Attorney General’s Office who can investigate this for you for free. This is garbage.”

Balut also came up to speak about R-332. Balut recommended that this should be done independently and not have Law Director Northgrave involved. “Go to the Controller’s Office and ask for former B.A. Greg Fehrenbach’s advice. Perkins

(the previous B.A.) was here for only a short period of time. The city has paid over \$300,000 on just two lawsuits. You pay out huge amounts on lawsuits that could have been settled for much less. The mayor can’t vote on this. She (Former Mayor Diaz) is treating lawsuits and has to get permission to get payments to get vacation pay. When she was out of the office, she put other people in charge. Go to the Controller’s Office to investigate this.”

Council President Petrick then asked Northgrave if the council can go to the Controller’s Office or the League of Municipalities regarding this issue. He then requested that Northgrave see if this could be done.

Northgrave replied that he could.

Balut continued, “I have done this. Just make a phone call or write a letter to the Controller’s Office.”

Petrick then asked the other council members for their opinion.

Councilman B.J. Torres spoke up. “This should have been done months ago.”

Northgrave then suggested that he could do a joint letter sending it to the Controller, the Department of Community of Affairs, and the League of Municipalities.

Councilman Joel Pabon spoke up next. “Just vote it down. The paperwork was submitted by Diaz and sent to the attorney. We sent out information regarding Perkins (employment) and we paid out \$10,000 to her.”

Petrick responded to Pabon, “You assume Diaz would not get reelected. We had reappointments of interim business administrators. We didn’t know the results of the 2020 election and if she (Diaz) won, she would have appointed Perkins as the permanent B.A.”

Northgrave suggested that the council vote to table.

The next person to speak was Resident Alan Silber. “Some of you have been on the council a long time. This (resolution)

came from a council member. Not a lawyer or business administrator. This is being based on emotions. The police can carry over vacation days with permission. Who gave Mayor Diaz permission (to carry over vacation days)? Diaz hired Fehrenbach three different times. I don’t trust this lawyer. Northgrave overturned a 2014 election, and now is giving opinions on Wilda Diaz’s request. Ken Balut got monthly reports about two lawsuits that got close to almost \$400,000 in fees. Stop basing opinions on emotions and just be done with this. Submit the information that you got from Fehrenbach.”

The meeting was open to people on Zoom:

Resident Maria Garcia spoke first. “Is there a set time appropriated for sick pay or vacation pay for a mayor?”

Petrick responded, “No.”

Garcia continued, “Then she can choose what she wants.”

Northgrave spoke up, “She (Diaz) would be under a non-union employee contract.”

Garcia continued, and asked, “What is the minimum and maximum she (Diaz) would be entitled to? We need to see her schedule of sick and vacation days.”

Petrick spoke up, “Diaz was not keeping logs.”

Garcia then said, “We need to find out why she went to Puerto Rico (during the time she was in office).”

Northgrave replied, “Diaz had down 280 hours, but not all the sick and vacations days were asked to be paid for. 20 vacation days is what she is asking for payment. Neither I nor Remsen were here at the time.”

Garcia then asked, “What years is Diaz asking to be paid for?”

Northgrave replied, “She is only putting down what she is entitled to.”

Garcia concluded, “She (Diaz) can’t claim anything because she has no records.”

After the public portion closed on agenda items, Councilwomen

an Rose Morales had a quick question regarding the bicycle ordinance and licensing. “What happens with repeat offenders? We need to have something in place.”

Acting Police Chief Cattano came up to speak, “The traffic bureau can impound bikes, but this may trigger towing and towing fees. Right now, it is up in the air.”

Councilman B.J. Torres asked if state laws would be in effect.

Cattano responded, “This can impact someone getting a driver’s license later when they impound a bike. They will have to pay storage and tow fees.”

Morales then requested clarification regarding the marijuana ordinance.

Northgrave answered, “As this ordinance states now, it prohibits any type of cannabis business in the city, and it is not falling under the state laws, and you can change and amend this ordinance along the way.”

The council then went to vote on the ordinances. For Ordinance No. 1 (Construction Labor Agreement), it was moved by Tejeda, seconded by Torres. Ordinance No. 1 (first reading – bicycle licensing) was moved by Tejeda, seconded by Pabon. Ordinance No. 2 (first reading – donation of property from Kindermorgan) was moved by Tejeda, seconded by Morales. Ordinance No. 3 (first reading – re: Special Police Officer Class I) was moved by Tejeda, seconded by Morales. The only person to move vote No. on Ordinance No. 3 was B.J. Torres. Ordinance No. 4 (first reading – Zoning and Land Development – prohibiting the operation of any class of cannabis business in the city) was moved by Tejeda, seconded by Pabon. B.J. Torres voted, “No”.

When it came time to vote on the consent agenda, Council President Petrick asked that R-328 – (2021-2022 renewal of Club License held in the name of St. George Catholic Club at

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Upcoming New Development Meeting Discussed

6/16/21 Council Meeting

received 15,000 hits.

Mayor Fred Henry wished everyone a Happy Father’s Day. He then spoke about the Ferry. “After many years, we will be taking one more positive step to get the Ferry completed. It is finally happening.”

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski, City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz, and Law Director Francis Womack had no comments.

Council President Mickey Gross thanked City Clerk Deborah Brooks for putting together all the meetings.

Public Portion:

The first caller asked about the Wednesday, 6/23/21 meeting.

Law Director Francis Womack answered, “There will be a public portion after the closed session.”

The caller then asked who was negotiating.

Law Director Womack answered, “All property owners

that are affiliated or under contract for that project, developers, and potential landowners. You have to give the council time to hear what is going on by having contract negotiations in a closed session.”

Council President Gross interjected, “There are things such as line of sight (view of the water).”

Womack added, “And the monies involved.”

The caller then asked if the public would have time to put input into negotiations.”

Law Director Womack answered, “Yes, the governing body determines what happens. Each council member puts in their two cents. Since the council members put input, then the council will be prepared to answer questions from the public.”

Resident Brandon Russell asked if the terms of these de-

velopers can change.

Law Director Womack answered, “Yes, the council always have the opportunity to change the terms.”

Russell reminded everyone about the Manhattan Beach Project in 2018. “Why don’t you shift the strategy?”

Womack answered, “I won’t hear that we don’t do things by the book and why were you not transparent?”

Council President Gross stated, “I disagree. We were very transparent!”

Russell then said, “We need to know who is advocating for us.”

Gross then became irritated, “I don’t think you know what you are talking about.” He then asked if Russell knew what an LSRP was.

Russell answered, “Licensed Site Remediation Professional.”

Gross stated, “In most cases,

they are licensed engineers.”

After arguing back and forth, Gross then stated, “The council wants to be transparent and the public to be heard. We are in no hurry to pass this. We will make sure everyone is in on this. I met the owner for one minute. I was introduced, we shook hands and he left. We are going to take time and do it right.”

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m. All council members were present.

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He then added, “I went to the flag retirement at the American Legion. It was a nice ceremony. McLaughlin then spoke about PILOTS. “Carteret utilizes PILOTS for warehouses. We give PILOTS out and we’ve got to get a warehouse PILOT.” He then congratulated the Class of 2021 and wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July.

Council President Mickey Gross emphasized the importance of getting vaccinated for Covid. “South Amboy is not at 70% yet. We still need people to get vaccinated.” Gross then gave a save the date for September 25, 2021, for the Irish Festival. “It will be huge!” Gross then congratulated the Class of 2021.

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated that the South Amboy Website

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A Lot of Topics on the Table

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409-419 Eagle Avenue effective July 1, 2021) and on R-332 – (Authorizing compensation of unused vacation time to former Mayor Wilda Diaz) be pulled to be voted on separately.

For the consent agenda, R-305 thru R-323; R-325 thru R-327; R-329 thru R-331 was moved by Tejeda and seconded by Morales. R-328 was moved by Tejeda, seconded by Torres. Petrick was the only one how abstained. R-332 was moved to be tabled by Tejeda. Pabon and Torres voted “No.”

Public Portion:

The first person to speak was Stanley Sierakowski. He asked about R-330-6/21 – Awarding a contract for stop loss insurance for one year to Berkley Life & Health Insurance Company. “Was this contract bidded out and have you ever dealt with them before? There are a lot of insurance scams, especially if they have political connections. There are nationwide insurance companies being hooked up locally. Who are the principal owners of this company?”

B.A. Remsen replied, “They were recommended by the Finance Office.”

Council President Petrick spoke up, “This is the company who presented us with a \$2 million check that they were able to save us on a claim from a couple of years ago.”

Sierakowski concluded, “I just want to make sure it’s not a fraud.” He then asked, “When will the new B.A. start?”

Petrick responded, “Monday.”

Sierakowski then made one additional comment, “I want to make sure the new business administrator knows about all the corruption both past and present.”

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch then said that the company Berkley has been with us since 2019.

The next person to speak was Ken Balut. He talked about Gartland (who was involved in scamming the City of Perth of Perth Amboy and the Board of Education out of money) and Former Mayor of Woodbridge and Governor James McGreevey. The book The Confession by James E. McGreevey published in 2007 mentions Kevin McCabe and Charles Kushner a lot. “We are cleaning Kushner’s properties. Is McCabe holding us up? I’m sure some of you have been approached by some of these people (in his book). The whole building (Landings) is terrible. McCabe was McGreevey’s right hand man. McGreevey was involved in Harbortown. The Kushner properties owe us over \$4 million. Kushner was running around with Torricelli. Was there a backroom deal going on? When are we going to get back Kushner’s property so we can get another developer? Kushner and McCabe are running the show.”

Petrick then spoke up and asked Northgrave, “What is going on with the us getting paid by Kushner for paving part of

Rector Street (where his properties are located)?

Northgrave replied, “The attorney is getting in touch with Kushner.”

City Engineer Ernest Feist was on Zoom to answer the question. “My engineering company did not get any emails regarding Rector Street (part of Kushner’s property).”

Petrick stated, “I don’t think you were included in any of the correspondence.”

Northgrave said he would forward all information on Rector Street to Feist’s Office.

Petrick said, “I also talked to other business administrators about this problem.”

Resident David Caba came up next. “I’ve been a licensed realtor since 1997. I did a comparison on Kushner projects in other cities compared to his projects here. It only took me about 5 minutes to come up with a comparison. In recent years, we have not had one of Kushner’s units sold for over \$400,000 here, and those units are near the water.” Caba then said that originally a lot of these units were sold for over \$400,000. He rattled off units that were sold for much lower than what their respective owners originally paid for them. “It is shameful and sad. I remember former Councilman Fernando Irizarry and myself fighting over this. I don’t live on Rector Street, but I care about this. Get this guy (Kushner) out of here!”

Petrick replied, “I see that Atlantic City is looking to get Kushner out of there.”

Resident Alan Silber came up next, “It’s bad when people who live across the water see Kushner’s building in disarray. This is more important than paying Wilda. New Brunswick changed their marijuana laws. I hear there is a bill to extend the deadline to decide if a town wants marijuana. Has anybody done any research on zoning for a marijuana business?”

Petrick responded, “Yes.”

Silber then talked about a brand-new building on Smith Street which is residential and has a liquor store underneath it. “I recently saw that on Rte. 78 at one Weigh Station there was a truck pulled over and they found \$850,000 in marijuana in it. This is real people making fortunes off of marijuana and they are not regulated.”

Resident Lisa Nanton spoke next. “Everyone should speak into the mic so they are heard clearly. She then questioned the marijuana issue. Can you vote “yes” to the marijuana ordinance and change it later?”

Petrick responded, “It can be amended to say what we want in our ordinance.”

Nanton then asked, “Will that include all the licenses associated with marijuana?”

Petrick responded, “Yes.”

Nanton also wanted to thank Remsen who also help spearhead an attack against Elizabethtown Gas who spit on our community. “I am pleased how Remsen handled the meeting with Elizabethtown Gas. I want to meet with you (Remsen), and

our new Business Administrator Green about Elizabethtown Gas to bring him up to date (on our issues with them).

Resident Fernando Irizarry came up to speak next. “Who do I call with concerns about the marijuana issue?”

Remsen replied the business administrator’s office.

Irizarry continued, “I organized a marijuana forum a few years ago. I understand a majority of people voted for marijuana, but not to have it here. I’m asking for the same. Let’s get real. No law is going to stop illegal marijuana activity. I never made this a religious matter. My faith, character, and decision are shaped by my faith. I’m not kowtowing. Now, I’m being labeled a zealot. I will wear that badge if it is good for the city. I want to thank B.A. Remsen for his service and wish him well.

The meeting was opened up to Zoom.

The first person to talk was Maria Garcia. “Regarding the noise ordinance, what do officers do if they have to respond a second time the same address? When I called the police to make a noise complaint about loud music, the dispatcher told me if I don’t like the music, then just move out of town. What are they doing with the new amphitheater? Will they be using it for concerts? And when will they take care of Sunshine Alley?”

Remsen addressed her last statement. “Councilman Pabon, the City Engineer, Public Works, and myself walked some of the streets of Sunshine Alley. We are looking to preserve some of the cobblestone and take care of some of the water runoff. In the capital budget, we will take care of two of the streets. We’ve invited the Historic Preservation Commission to come to the table.”

Cattano came up to answer Garcia’s questions about the noise ordinance. “The officers use discretion when they issue summons. We will investigate the dispatcher’s remarks. When calls come in, there is a date and time stamp. You could also ask to speak to a supervisor if one is on duty.”

Council President Petrick asked, “What about people making loud noises after 1 a.m.?”

Cattano said, “There are parties breaking up at that time or people are leaving bars. We try to hurry them up. If it is continuous, we will give them a warning. Six summonses were issued this past weekend.”

Remsen then told Garcia that the amphitheater has to be turned over to the city, then the recreation department can schedule events.”

Caroline Pozycki-Torres spoke next. “If we opt out of marijuana, will we also be out of getting the social justice funds? The BID had no input on this. The forum was very pro-marijuana. They said by opting in, we would get social justice funds. Things go very slowly when you don’t anything.”

Law Director Northgrave replied, “The advantage of can-

nabis sales is the tax collected.”

Pozycki concluded, “The state tax of 2% would be given to towns impacted by the war on drugs. There is a lot of disappointments and there is a timeline involved.”

Council Comments:

Councilwoman Rose Morales thanked everyone who made comments. “They are very much appreciated. I wish all fathers a Happy Belated Father’s Day. I hear the Juneteenth Flag Raising had a great ceremony. I couldn’t make it because I had other obligation that day. I heard that our youth soccer league advanced and will be going to Ohio to compete. As far as the marijuana issue, I have a wait and see attitude and right now, I’m neutral. I heard that Mr. Irizarry said I was going to vote “Yes” for marijuana. Right now, I am neutral. I wish everyone a Happy Fourth of July. I want to thank Mr. Remsen for his service. He did a phenomenal job.”

Councilman Joel Pabon said, “We had a lot of good events going on lately. The Second Street Park was named after the Borinqueneers. Irving Machado (A Borinqueneer Veteran) said he was honored and glad he was alive to see the park and that he received a lot of emails about this. 90% of the Borinqueneers are gone. I’m hoping this park gets done soon. Juneteenth was awesome and Jeanette Perry-Wilson did a great job. She really stepped up. The Pepino Club reopened. They used to sponsor a softball team and they had some really awesome pitchers. The American Legion had an event and PRAHD had a 5K Walk. I want to thank Remsen, and I can’t call you after Tuesday, but whenever I did call you in the past, you would react, and you would always meet with me. I wish you the best. But, before you leave, I will hit you with one last request. There are 18 lights out on New Brunswick Avenue. This is a quality of life and safety issue. When you are in office, you can accumulate a lot of time. All you have to do is request an OPRA. Have a Happy Fourth and enjoy the Waterfront!”

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda said, “I thank all who partici-

pated in person and on Zoom. I was grateful to be able to attend the Juneteenth Celebration. It was a beautiful event.” She also mentioned the LGBT Flag Raising. “They are a suffering community. They are abused and sometimes commit suicide. I hope they have a nice event. Because of work obligations, I will be unable to attend. I want to thank Larry Cattano and the administration, who were able to have a vaccination clinic at Our Lady of Fatima Church. I want to acknowledge Mr. Remsen, and I wish I were able to get to know you better. We will miss you.”

Councilman B.J. Torres said, “I thank Mr. Remsen for being a gentleman, a professional, and keeping the ship afloat.” He also mentioned the LGBT Flag Raising (6/28/21) and that June is Pride Month. “We (the residents) voted for the sale of retail marijuana. We should converse with the Business Improvement District and other stakeholders to move this forward with a responsible plan.”

Council President Bill Petrick said, “The high school is graduating on 6/24/21.” He told Mr. Remsen that it has been a pleasure working with him. “And with the new titles that were implemented, you still may be an employee.”

B.A. Remsen responded, “It was an honor to serve (the city) and I am not that afraid of Jill Goldy any longer. I’ve served on your side of the table. It is my job to be held accountable. You have a great talent and pool of employees and department heads. Kenny Ortiz has done a great job and he has a great future in leadership. The department heads always had my back. I will not have people bash those that are underneath me.”

Petrick responded, “You are very unique because you have served on a council.”

Remsen kiddingly replied, “If you give me 90 days of vacation pay, I might consider staying.

Stanley Sierakowski shouted out from the audience, “You should stay. You were good!”

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. All council members were present in person.



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, August 5, 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.

Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners Names New County Park in Honor of Thomas Mundy Peterson, First African American to Vote in U.S. After Adoption of 15th Amendment

Thomas Mundy Peterson Park is Located in Perth Amboy, where Peterson Resided When He Voted in Local Election on March 31,1870

Press Release 6/23/21
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ – The Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners has named its newest County park in honor of Thomas Mundy Peterson, a resident of the City of Perth Amboy and the first African American to vote in the United States after the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted African American men the right to vote.

Located along the waterfront in Perth Amboy, Thomas Mundy Peterson Park is scheduled to open in early summer 2021. The 19th park in Middlesex County’s park system, it will include a synthetic turf multi-use field that can host soccer or football; a synthetic turf field that is adjustable for softball and baseball because it includes a portable mound; a waterfront walkway with views of the Arthur Kill; and park benches. The park will also offer a convenient parking lot and comfort stations for visitors.

“It is with great pleasure that I announce, on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, the naming of our newest County park in honor of Thomas Mundy Peterson,” said County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios. “In doing his civic duty on that day in 1870, Thomas Mundy Peterson personified the right to vote granted to African American men under the 15th Amendment to the Constitution. Naming this beautiful waterfront park in his honor is a fitting tribute to a Perth Amboy resident and American citizen whose simple act of casting a ballot marked a turning point in the history of our nation. I am grateful for the generous support of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and for the dedicated efforts of the leadership of the City of Perth Amboy, in helping to create this new

County park.”
“Named in honor of the legacy of a Perth Amboy resident and his significant place in American history, Thomas Mundy Peterson Park is truly an excellent addition to our County park system,” said County Commissioner Charles E. Tomaro, chair of the County’s infrastructure management committee. “Through its location along the Arthur Kill in Perth Amboy, Thomas Mundy Peterson Park will provide wonderful outdoor space for County residents to enjoy. This project was made possible thanks to the substantial financial and logistical support of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, which helped fund the cleanup of the land and construction of the park’s amenities and helped ensure its successful completion. It is also the result of a collaboration with the City of Perth Amboy, whose support and efforts on behalf of this project cannot be overstated.”

“On behalf of the residents of the City of Perth Amboy, I thank the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners for selecting this site as the location for the newest County park,” said Perth Amboy Mayor Helmin J. Caba. “The new Thomas Mundy Peterson Park will showcase our city’s beautiful waterfront and serve as a location for our community to gather and enjoy the outdoors. It is especially significant that the park will be named in honor of a Perth Amboy citizen who played such an important role in the history of our city – and of America. I look forward to seeing residents of Perth Amboy, of Middlesex County – and of all of New Jersey – enjoying Thomas Mundy Peterson Park.”

ABOUT THOMAS MUNDY PETERSON

Thomas Mundy Peterson, a Perth Amboy resident whose

mother was a former slave, was born on October 6, 1824 in what is now Metuchen, New Jersey. His father, also Thomas, was a freedman who worked and lived on the farm of Ezra Mundy and both father and son would sometimes adopt the Mundy last name. The Peterson family moved to Perth Amboy in 1828. Records indicate that Peterson worked several jobs throughout his lifetime, including as a janitor at Perth Amboy’s School No. 1. That school is now named the Thomas Peterson Elementary School in his honor.

On March 31, 1870, Peterson voted in a local Perth Amboy election which asked if the citizens of Perth Amboy would accept or reject revisions that had been made to their city’s charter. Peterson voted in favor of the revisions, which were accepted by a vote of 230 to 63. When additional minor changes were required in January of 1871, Peterson was among the seven men appointed to the committee to make those changes. By dropping his ballot into the box, Peterson made history as the first African American man in the nation to cast a vote under the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which had been certified as law the previous day.

Peterson’s vote in 1870 was the start of a lifetime of civic engagement. He voted in every election he could for the rest of his life. After serving on the committee to revise the City of Perth Amboy charter, he served as a delegate at the Middlesex County Republican Convention, likely in 1880. Records show that by 1886, Peterson had left the Republican Party to be a delegate in the New Jersey gubernatorial convention of the Prohibition Party. According to historians, Peterson felt that the Republican Party had not adequately addressed the prob-

lems of alcoholism that he saw as damaging to his race. Peterson also served as a Middlesex County juror, and evidence suggests that he ran, albeit unsuccessfully, for elected office several times.

In 1884, a bi-partisan committee confirmed that the March 31, 1870 Perth Amboy ballot was the first election held in the nation after the ratification and adoption of the 15th Amendment, making Peterson the first African American man to cast a vote in the country under the new law. Peterson was presented with a gold medal recognizing this achievement on May 30, 1884 – then known as Decoration Day but now officially known as Memorial Day.

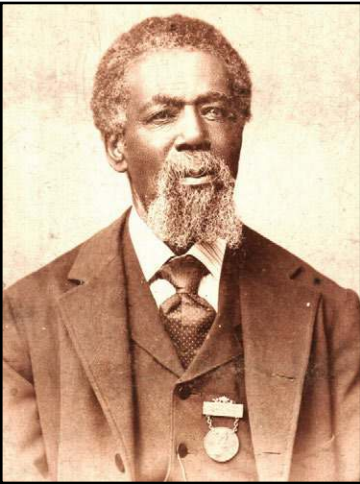
Peterson reportedly wore his medal proudly each week to services at Perth Amboy’s St. Peter’s Episcopal Church. He died in Perth Amboy on February 4, 1904 at the age of 79.

On April 3, 1998, the New Jersey Legislature passed a resolution that March 31 be known throughout the state as Thomas Mundy Peterson Day.

ABOUT THE PARK

Thomas Mundy Peterson Park was created with funding provided via a grant from the Middlesex County Open Space Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, which covered the acquisition of the land and construction of the park, and with substantial support from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).

Funding from the NJDEP included \$2.5 million from the Green Acres Program toward recreational improvements such as the baseball fields, walkways, and comfort stations, and \$1.35 million from the Office of Natural Resource Restoration (ONRR) to improve public access to the Newark Bay/Arthur Kill Complex. Sig-



Thomas Mundy Peterson

nificant funding, support, and coordination were also provided by the NJDEP Office of Brownfield and Community of Revitalization (OBCR) through their Community Collaborative Initiative because Thomas Mundy Peterson Park is located in a designated brownfield area that has been identified as an area in need of development. Funding included grants in the amount of \$4.1 million and \$2.7 million awarded through the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund (HDSRF) and administered by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority. An additional \$1.3 million is pending. To date, more than \$8 million has been invested in the project by the OBCR through the HDSRF.

Thomas Mundy Peterson Park is a collaborative effort between Middlesex County and the City of Perth Amboy. The County will provide management and maintenance of the park, while the City of Perth Amboy will handle matters related to enforcement and public safety.

An official ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication will be announced at a later date this year.

Vitale & Lopez Bill Expanding Eligibility, Eliminating Premiums, & Enhancing Outreach for NJ FamilyCare Advances in Legislature

Press Release 6/10/21
TRENTON – In an effort to encourage and make it easier for more residents to enroll in NJ FamilyCare, Senator Joe Vitale and Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez have sponsored a bill to expand eligibility, eliminate premiums and enhance outreach efforts for the program.

NJ FamilyCare is New Jersey’s publicly funded health insurance program that helps residents of all ages access affordable health insurance if they do not have coverage through their employer.

Under the bill (A-5805/S-3798), enrollees would not have to pay premiums as a condition of their participation in the program, except in the case of enrollees who exceed income limits but choose to enroll their children in the Advantage program.

The measure would also eliminate waiting periods for any eligible person who applies for NJ FamilyCare coverage. The bill stipulates that no eligible child who applies for coverage can be denied immediate enrollment for any reason.

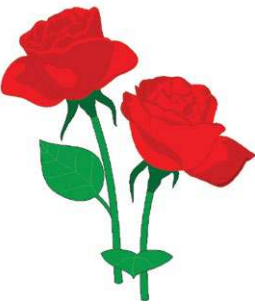
Existing outreach initiatives to increase public awareness about the availability and benefits of enrolling in NJ FamilyCare would also be enhanced via increased funding as well as improved coordination and participation in those efforts. Regular reporting to the Legislature and Governor, as mandated by the legislation, would inform them of the State’s progress in making quality, affordable health-care coverage available to all New Jersey children.

Upon the measure passing the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

Thursday after recently passing the Assembly Health Committee, Senator Vitale and Assemblywoman Lopez (both D-Middlesex) issued the following joint statement:

“Without health insurance coverage, it can be difficult to receive proper medical care – and we have seen just how important access to health care is over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We must keep working towards our goal of providing New Jersey families with quality, affordable health insurance if we want as many residents as possible to receive the care they both need and deserve. Eliminating wait times and premiums while further promoting this important program will help us achieve this goal.”



21st Annual Car Show

SOUTH AMBOY - Join us for the 21st Annual Car Show, hosted by the Independence Engine & Hose Co. #1, on Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 140 North Broadway from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is FREE for the General Public.

Vehicle Registration and Lineup on Broadway by the Firehouse

Advanced Entry Fee \$5 per Vehicle/ Day of Show Entry \$15. Pre-Registration Deadline: July 31, 2021.



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.

Dedication of Eagle 9 Plaque, Elm Street, Perth Amboy, 6/15/21

*Photos by Katherine Massopust



Perth Amboy Fire Truck



Councilman B.J. Torres, Councilwoman Rose Morales, Mayor Helmin Caba, Chief Edward Mullen



PAFD Chief Ed Mullen



Javier Cruz



Paul Barutto



John Leo Fedorka



Perth Amboy Fire Department Honor Guard



Eagle 9 Plaque



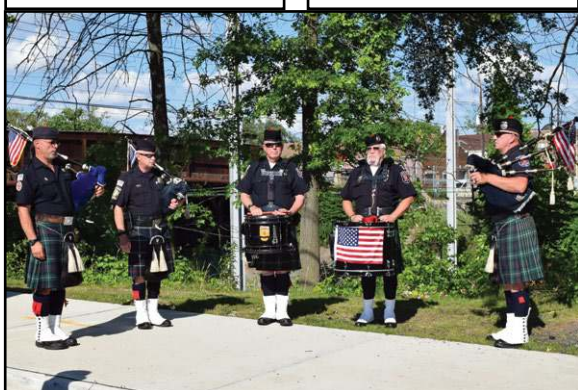
Police & Fire Chaplain



Pres. William Petrick
Perth Amboy Exempts



Descendent of an Eagle 9 Firefighter



Pipers



Mayor Helmin Caba



Asw. Yvonne Lopez



Unveiling the Plaque of the Eagle 9



Middlesex County
Commissioner Director
Ronald G. Rios



Police & Fire Chaplain



Eagle 9's Final Call

Committee Members
Fire Chief Edward Mullen
Deputy Police Chief Larry Cattano
Battalion Chief Michael Zylka
John Leo Fedorka
Pedro (Pete) Martinez
Kurt Gregory
Tony Balawitz
John Yuhas
Anton J. Massopust
(Original Chairman)



Edward Mullen,
John Yuhas



Mrs. Anton Massopust

History of the Eagle 9 by Fire Department Historian John Leo Fedorka

PERTH AMBOY - The Perth Amboy Fire Department has a long, rich and storied history which dates back to its start in 1881. Initially, the first company operated out of City Hall until the original firehouse was built on State Street in 1882. That firehouse was in the area where the sundial was back in the sixties and seventies. For the first nine years, the fire department was solely comprised of volunteer members until January 1890, when the first career firefighters were hired. These first professional firefighters were mostly hired to tend to the horses and the firehouse, as well as drive the apparatus to fire calls in those early days. The fire department grew rapidly as well as the city, and by 1920, there were six firehouses spread around the city.

THE EVENT

On Wednesday June 15, 1921, the Fire Alarm box 2-7 (Madison Ave. and Patterson St.) rang out at the Eagle Hose & Chemical Company #4 fire station on Davidson Ave. This was the fourth consecutive call from this box since Sunday, all for fires at the P.A. Iron and Metal Company, owned by the Ruderman Brothers. The paid driver, John Torgeson, and several members of the fire company started to respond but they encountered a minor mechanical problem, common at that time, called vapor lock. Relatively quickly that was overcome, and the engine responded down to Market Street. On Market Street the fire engine picked up a few more members bringing the total on the small fire engine to 14 men. The gate tender's instructions were if the fire bell in the gate house rings, the gate is to be left up and the gate tender was to use the red flag to stop the train. On this occasion, the fire bell and the train indication happened at almost the same time.

The gate tender also indicated that there was a large number of cars and people trying to cross the tracks and he did not lower the gate. The Central Railroad of NJ's south bound Barnegat Express train was coming through Perth Amboy from Woodbridge at about 40 MPH. The railroad tracks at that time were street level and as said the gate tender had not lowered the gate. He was out in the road waving a red flag on the west side of the crossing, the side the

fire engine was coming from. The driver of the engine did not see him or hear the train over the roar of the fire engine motor. There were a few cars stopped at the rail crossing, but the fire engine driver drove around them and then he saw the train. He attempted to stop the fire engine, but it was too late. The fire engine crashed into the side of the train and 6 firefighters were killed instantly.

Just before the impact, Andrew Kafton saw the train and shouted, "Jump for our lives!". Kafton and four others; Edward V. Johnson, Ralph Paulsen, Joseph Finan, and John E. Murphy jumped off the fire engine at the last second. They were injured but they lived to tell the story. None of them saw the flagman, but jumping off the fire engine saved their lives. At that time, the trains were not supposed to speed through the city. At 40 MPH even if the gate tender tried to stop the train, it would not have mattered as the train would not have been able to stop in time.

In all, nine men were taken to Perth Amboy General Hospital by those that had vehicles and were in the area. Later that night one more died and two died the following day.

The five remaining firefighters and the Gate Tender, Andrew Thomas, who sustained a broken leg, were treated at the hospital and eventually recovered. That night the Engineer, Theodore Brown, and the Conductor, William Ridgeway, were arrested and charged with manslaughter and a \$3000 bond was posted for their release by Wight, Wight and Golenbock, a local law firm hired by the Central Railroad of NJ to represent the railroad and the two employees. The next day, Thursday morning at 8:30 AM, Brown and Ridgeway waived a hearing and bail was continued. Andrew Wight, ESQ stated that Anton Massopust would furnish the necessary \$3000 bond for the two men. He was the father of the co-chair of this committee who recently passed away Ex Chief Anton Massopust. A Prayer service was held at the Eagle Fire House Thursday evening and a relief fund was established for the families of those killed. During the first day \$1,288.00 was donated to the Relief Fund.

On the Wednesday evening after the accident, the Mayor

called an emergency meeting of the Board of Aldermen and they adopted a resolution limiting the speed of trains coming through Perth Amboy to 10 MPH and Police officers were assigned to city grade crossings at Market Street and Washington Street to enforce this speed limit.

On Friday, the city prepared for the funeral service for all nine men. A committee was formed and tasked with meeting with the families and coordinating the time of all the services so the Members of the fire department could attend. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen had an emergency meeting that night. A long discussion was held with representatives of the Central Railroad and P. A. Iron and Metal as the railroad owned the property and the buildings where P.A. Iron and Metal operated. It was agreed that the Junk yard could remain, as long as all flammable materials were removed from the property. By vote, the Fourth of July fireworks were cancelled, and the city deposited the \$500 that was to be used for the fireworks in the Relief Fund set up for the families; also, by vote box 2-7 was eliminated. Another request that was a result of Thursday's meeting was that all businesses close and all industrial whistles be silenced during the hours of the funerals from 10 to 11AM and again from 1:30 to 3PM Saturday. R. Ruderman, one of the owners of the junk yard, was arrested earlier on Friday as a result of another fire on the property on Thursday.

On Saturday at 10 AM, a funeral Mass was offered for two of the men at St. Mary's Church; and services were held throughout the early afternoon for the others at their homes. Rev. Schlotter of Grace Lutheran Church conducted services for five of the men and Rev. H.E. Hatchman of First Baptist Church and Rev. Dr. Ganss of St. Paul's Evangelical Church each conducted one service at the residences of the others, as was customary at that time. Mayor William C. Wilson and all seven members of the Board of Aldermen went to the funeral at St. Mary's Church and then to homes of the other men to pay their respects to the widows and families of each member.

At 3:30PM, a huge funeral procession was assembled at this intersection the site of the accident. The funeral proces-

sion wound its way through the city past the Eagle Fire House and up to New Brunswick Avenue and then onto Amboy Avenue to Alpine Cemetery and St. Mary's Cemetery; where these nine brave heroes were laid to rest, seven in Alpine Cemetery and two in St Mary's Cemetery.

The following Thursday, June 23rd, the sitting Grand Jury visited the city to view the site of the accident and hear statements from the witnesses. The speed limit for trains coming through the city was reduced to 15 MPH by order of the State Public Utility Commission. The relief fund had swelled to \$9,287 dollars. On The following Thursday, June 30th, The Central RR of NJ paid the City of Perth Amboy \$5000 to replace the fire Engine and it was announced that the relief fund would be closed on Saturday, July 2nd, (at the time of the announced closing \$15,243.65 had been collected and more contributions were expected to come in.) In today's dollars, that would amount to \$225,570. Eventually, the total amount swelled to about \$18,000. = \$270K

The findings of the Grand Jury were reported on July 22. As a permanent solution, it was suggested that the rail tracks were to be raised up over the road or that the roadway should be lowered under the rail track crossing. The second recommendation was a temporary solution, which was that two competent, capable men would be hired and assigned to all rail crossings. At the time of this accident, the railroad was using older men or employees that had been previously injured while working for the railroad as gate tenders.

On January 10, 1922, the Central RR of NJ went on trial for gross negligence and for hiring incompetent gate tenders. On January 12, 1922, after only 30 minutes of deliberation, the jury reached a verdict, and the Railroad was acquitted and absolved of all responsibility.

Research has not been able to determine what happened to the charges filed against the Engineer and the Conductor on the night of the accident; however, other charges were filed against the Track Foreman, John Stonaker, and the Gate Tender, Andrew Thomas. Those charges were "nolle prossed", the legal term for dropped.

As a result of this accident, all of the passenger rail tracks were

lowered and the roadways were raised over them. A brand-new train station was built; it was completed in 1928 and is about to be renovated. There are two plaques that are being unveiled today and the plan is to place the second one in the main lobby of the train station after renovations are completed.

As a result of this accident about fifteen children lost their father, Several ? from the Donegan family, three Kutcher children and the six children of the Larson brothers. Morgan F. Larson who was a NJ State Senator from 1922 to 1928. He was Senate President from 1926 to 1928 and on Nov 6, 1928, he was elected Governor and served as Governor from 1928 to 1932. He took in his brother's widows and the 6 children. He died on March 21, 1961.

Credit City Historian John K. Dyke.

Roll Call of those killed according to the funeral line up

HANS CHRISTIAN HOLT age 27*
EX Chief GEORGE T. LARSON age 42
PETER LARSON age 36
VICTOR JANDERUP age 32
Sgt. JAMES A. ANDERSON age 32 *
JOSEPH TORGESON age 28
JOHN MOWREY age 45
JOHN E. DONEGAN age 35
JOSEPH "Schulack" KUTCHER age 39
***Denotes World War I Military Service.**

Perth Amboy Fire Department Line of Duty Deaths

1914 William O'Hara
1921 Joseph Kutcher
1921 Peter Larson
1921 James Anderson
1921 John Donegan
1921 John Torgesen
1921 George Larson
1921 Hans Holt
1921 Victor Janderup
1921 Jack Mowery
1931 Matthew Egan
1934 Roland Jensen
1934 Burt Palo
1941 Joseph Brown
1949 Laurence Danback
1949 Howard Adams
1962 Andrew Schantz
1987 Francis Tiewski
2017 Richard Leonard
2018 Douglas Ambrozewicz

Remarks by Mayor Helmin Caba at the Eagle 9 Dedication 6/15/21

PERTH AMBOY - Good Evening Everyone and thank you for being with us today.

When we think of firefighters, we have the iconic image of them responding to fires, automobile accidents and medical emergencies. Even when we were young, there was always one of our friends who wanted to be a firefighter when they grew up.

It takes a special kind of person to become a firefighter. Being a firefighter means more than just battling blazes. They save lives. Today we honor Eagle 9 and all the firefighters lost in the line of duty in the City of Perth Amboy through our gathering by keeping their memories alive with this memorial.

I want to thank Chief Mullen in leading the initiative for this memorial service to remember the lives of the 9 firefighters tragically killed 100 years ago.

Thank you to the relatives of the Eagle 9 that were able to join us. To the men and women of our Perth Amboy Fire Department who risk their lives to protect ours and the properties of our residents and businesses. You are among the best in the State. To all who put this event together; Perth Amboy's Fire Department, Firefighter's Exempt Association and Uniformed Firefighters Historical Association. Thank you.

To the Department Historian John Leo Fedorka for giving us the complete history of the tragic events of June 15, 1921. We also remember Anton Massopust, who, before his passing, worked in telling the story of Eagle 9.

To our Middlesex County Commissioners, we are grateful for the memorial plaque that will be permanently installed at the intersection of Market & Elm Street. And to all who made it possible to fund the second memorial plaque to be installed in the Perth Amboy train station upon completion of its renovation.

Thank you to all.

Second Street Park Ground Breaking, Perth Amboy, Perth Amboy, 6/11/21

*Photos by Paul W. Wang



Borinqueneer Park



Joel Rosa
PARA Chair



Javier Cruz PAFD sings
the National Anthem



Wilentz School Children recite the Pledge of Alle-
giance



Abel Lopez gives the
Invocation



Leigh Anne Hindenlang
Principal & COO,
Topology



Shawn LaTourette
NJ DEP Commissioner



Asw. Yvonne Lopez
19th District



Mayor Helmin Caba



Ervin Machado,
Korean War Veteran PFC,
65th Infantry Borinqueneer



Plaque Presentation



La Borinquena sung by
Amanda Leon



Ron Rios Middlesex
County Commissioner
Director



Kenneth Ortiz
Director of Human
Services



(L to R) Director Ron Rios, Borinqueneer Ervin
Machado, Mayor Helmin Caba, Asw. Yvonne Lopez,
NJ DEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette



Former Mayor Wilda
Diaz, husband Greg Diaz



(L to R) Former Mayor Wilda Diaz, Borinqueneer
Ervin Machado, daughter, Mayor Helmin Caba



Groundbreaking of new park

Official Groundbreaking and Park Name Dedication for the Future Second Street Park

State, County, and City officials Celebrate Beginning the Work on the Future Site of 2nd Street to be Named After 65th Infantry Regiment, "Borinqueneers Park"

Press Release 6/8/21

PERTH AMBOY – State, County, and City government officials alongside residents will help break ground on the 2nd Street site in Perth Amboy. This six-acre former brownfield will be remediated into a world class ‘smart’ waterfront park. In addition, the event will host the official park naming dedication after the after 65th Infantry Regiment, "Borinqueneers," who was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2014.

The Perth Amboy Second Street site is located across from the Robert N. Wilentz Elementary School between Patterson Street and the Raritan River waterfront, A former scrap metal facility, the site is located at the western end of the Perth Amboy riverfront promenade which connects to numerous city open space and recreational areas. This new park will create opportunities for programming and activities for the entire community and restore part of the City's natural coastline. The strong growth, attractiveness and demand for the City of Perth Amboy's open space will be enhanced with cutting-edge technology to help promote the health and safety of all users. The Middlesex County Improvement Authority (MCIA) received a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to advise on environmental issues, perform additional site testing and engage in public outreach. Rutgers University's Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability and Bloustein School of Urban Planning ran an 8-month process that results in a concept plan directed by over 300 local students. In the past 5 years, with assistance from the NJDEP’s Community Collaborative Initiative (CCI) Program, the City and the Perth Amboy Redevelopment Agency acquired over \$7 Million in funding for final design, remediation and construction of the park from NJDEP. Park programming is organized into three main zones: a play-mountain with a skate park, a flexible recreational park, and a restored coastal landscape. These features pay tribute to the riverfront legacy of Perth Amboy, utilize modern green infrastructure practices to continue proper stewardship of the Raritan River all while encouraging creative play.

On April 28th, the Perth Amboy City Council passed a resolution to name the site “Borinqueneer Park.” The Borinqueneers were formally known as the 65th Infantry Regiment: the last and longest-standing segregated military unit in U.S. history that fought and commanded exclusively by Puerto Ricans. In 2014, the U.S Congressional Gold Medal was awarded to Puerto Rico's 65th Infantry Regiment under President Barack Obama to recognize the little-known, impressive and valiant role the Borinqueneer's played throughout the County's entire militaristic history. When finished, the Borinqueneer Park will offer a rare opportunity to strengthen neighborhoods and make drastic improvements in pedestrian and transit infrastructure through the new open space.

For more information, contact Mayor's Office | (732) 826-0290 x4005 | mayorsoffice@perthamboynj.org

Juneteenth, City Hall Circle, Perth Amboy, 6/19/21

*Photos by Carolyn Maxwell & Chris Dyke



Jacqueline Perry
National Anthem



Rev. Donna Stewart
Pres. NAACP
Opening Prayer



Bishop Donald Hilliard
Cathedral International
Moment of Silence



Anna Daily
Perth Amboy
Community Leader



John K. Dyke
City Historian
Juneteenth & Perth Amboy



Endasi Lukoma
New Jersey Orator
Perth Amboy Chapter



Shelia Oliver
Lt. Governor



Congressman
Frank Pallone



Dr. Danielle Brown (L)
Tahesha Way (R)
NJ Secretary of State



Craig Coughlin
Asm. Speaker



Asw. Yvonne Lopez



Ron Rios
Middlesex County
Commissioner Director



Middlesex County Sheriff
Mildred Scott, Middlesex
County Commissioner.
Channele Scott McCullum



Mayor Helmin Caba
Presents a Proclamation to
Jeanette Wilson Perry, Event
Chair, Friends of PA Legacy



Rev. Amos Dickerson
St. James AME Zion
Church - Closing Prayer



Raising the Flag



Mary Gordon
103 Years Young and Friends Enjoying the Day

Remarks by City Historian John K. Dyke at the 6/19/21 Juneteenth Flag Raising

PERTH AMBOY - Thank you to Anna Daily, Jeanette Wilson & all of the organizers & friends. Today we are all very excited as this is Perth Amboy's first official celebration of Juneteenth. Some may ask, what has Juneteenth to do with New Jersey or with the City of Perth Amboy? Well, this is a celebration that affects us all as a nation. It's a day that asks us all to look back, together, and see our connections, to recognize our responsibilities in the present, and to strive toward building that "more perfect Union" our Constitution calls for.

As you know we, as a country, are experiencing an important reckoning regarding social justice. There are many conversations about discrimination, mistreatment, and police brutality. We have all heard and perhaps even participated in these discussions of how civil rights have been delayed and at times, ignored & even denied. Historically, dating back to 1865, Juneteenth is a day of celebration & reflection.....celebration & reflection. The celebration is of African-American emancipation, via the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution. The reflection is upon our past, that is our history. That history being both national & local. Today, I have been asked to talk about our local history.....Perth Amboy history.

To many people, the subject of American Slavery evokes thoughts of antebellum Southern plantations. Some think of States such as South Carolina, Virginia or Georgia. However, throughout the 17th, 18th, and 19th Centuries, slavery remained widespread throughout the North. Situated at the junction of the Arthur Kill & Raritan River, with easy access to the Atlantic Ocean via the Raritan Bay, Perth Amboy served as a main port and Capital City for the 18th Century Colony of New Jersey. Initially from the islands of Barbados & Montserrat, the first enslaved persons were brought into Perth Amboy. A short period of time afterward, slave ships arrived here directly from the Coast of West Africa. As a center of government, commerce & shipping, Perth Amboy –sadly---became a major port for the importation of enslaved persons.

During the 18th Century, Perth Amboy's City Dock was located on the site of the present-day Ferry Slip and was the location where many disembarked smaller slave ships. The larger ships docked in the Raritan Bay and sent long boats to bring enslaved people to the City Dock. The captives were then forced up Smith Street to the corner of Water Street. Barracks were built near this intersection in order to accommodate the slave trade. From these Barracks, the enslaved people were claimed by their new so-called "owners."

You may ask how this all came about. During the 18th Century, the Colonies of New York & Pennsylvania collected tariffs on imported enslaved people. However, for a period of 48 years, the New Jersey Colony did not charge this tax. Between 1721 and 1769, New Jersey allowed the duty-free importation of enslaved people. In order to maximize profits, slave ship captains selected Perth Amboy as a port of entry, while New York City and Philadelphia were typically bypassed. In many cases, enslaved people, designated for other Colonies, were sent by wagons from Perth Amboy to other regions. From 1726 to 1790, New Jersey's Black population grew 500% (2,581 to 14,198). New Jersey's enslaved work force made a tremendous contribution to the Colony's economic development. Within the Colony, much of the physical labor was completed by enslaved people.

At one time, almost every household in Perth Amboy owned enslaved people.

History isn't always pretty; and we need to tell the ugly side of it. I've mentioned some of the tragic parts, but there is also a bright side to Perth Amboy's past. Perth Amboy became a major station of the Underground Railroad Movement. Often, people who escaped from slavery were brought to Philadelphia by URR guides, such as Harriet Tubman. Further transport was arranged by URR Station Operator William Still. In many cases William's brother, Dr. James Still brought these same people through the State of New Jersey and into the Eagleswood section of Perth Amboy. On the Western border of Perth Amboy, the Eagleswood Community transported "passengers" of the URR via the Raritan River and by wagon. At Eagleswood in Perth Amboy, they found safe harbor. Here they were fed, cared for & their wounds medically treated.

And so, in some ways, the City Of Perth Amboy had come full circle, that is, from a Port Of Slavery to a Port Of Freedom. And, in time, Perth Amboy set a national precedent. Here, the first & second African-American Voters under the 15th Amendment cast their votes in Perth Amboy City Hall. Those men are Thomas Mundy Peterson & Marcus Curless. Their bravery & courage, as well as all of those who came before them, serve to inspire us.

On this day, let us reflect upon, remember and celebrate Perth Amboy's first official Juneteenth Holiday and all the aspects of our local history. These legacies are an important part of our personal stories, of our City's history, and.....without a doubt..... an important part of our Nation's identity.



Juneteenth Flag



Artist Solange Pena Displays
her Portrait of
Frederick Douglass



Former B.A. Patricia Perkins
& Former Mayor Wilda Diaz

Middlesex County Utilities Authority Completes Permanent Restoration of the Sayreville Pump Station

Station Damaged During Superstorm Sandy in 2012
Received FEMA Funding for Improvements

Press Release
SAYREVILLE, NJ – The Sayreville Pump Station, a regional wastewater facility located along Canal Road in Sayreville, was officially re-opened today with a ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by officials from the Middlesex County Utilities Authority (MCUA) and Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners. The facility, which was damaged in Superstorm Sandy in 2012, is the largest wastewater pumping station in the State, serving approximately 800,000 people from 30 municipalities across Middlesex, Somerset, and Union Counties and pumping nearly 80 million gallons of water per day.

The pump station suffered significant damage during Superstorm Sandy, requiring the MCUA to complete a series of fixes to various parts of the station. Receiving approximately \$75 million in FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) funding, the station received improvements that offers it the needed protection to sustain the impact of a storm well beyond what was experienced with Superstorm Sandy. Improvements to the station include: a 1,630-foot flood wall constructed with concrete on two sides and exposed steel on two sides; a 10-megawatt power facility with three diesel and one natural gas generators; and a 25-foot-wide flood gate at the main entrance to protect the pump during major flood events.

“The Board of County Commissioners thanks the MCUA and its leadership team for continuing their mission of preserving and protecting central New Jersey’s environmental resources through the restoration of this station,” said Director of the Board of County Commissioners Ronald G. Rios. “The Sayreville Pump Station is a crucial piece of our infrastructure, and while improvements have been made over the years to mitigate issues, this full restoration will create a better functioning system.”



Middlesex County Commissioner Charles Tomaro; Director of the Middlesex County Commissioners Ronald G. Rios; MCUA Executive Director Joseph P. Cryan; New Jersey Assemblyman Robert Karabinchak; and Executive Director of NJ Infrastructure Bank David Zimmer.



Director of the Middlesex County Commissioners Ronald G. Rios cuts the ribbon at the Sayreville Pump Station alongside County, MCUA, and NJ Infrastructure Bank officials.

“Since the station’s damage in 2012 by Superstorm Sandy, the MCUA was steadfast in ensuring the station continued to operate. Thanks to the funding from FEMA, we were able to bring this station back to full capacity, with a restoration that not only addressed the issues brought on my Sandy but prepares the station to withstand stronger storms and weather events that impact the region in the future,” said County Commissioner Charles Tomaro, chair of the Infrastructure Management which oversees the MCUA.

“These past nine years have made MCUA resilient,” said MCUA Executive Director Jo-

seph Cryan. “We would not be where we are today without the assistance and support of MCUA Commissioners, Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners, FEMA, NJDEP, NJ I-Bank, and our partners to fully restore the Sayreville Pump Station to its full capabilities as one of the largest wastewater pumping stations in the state of New Jersey. This \$92 million project protects critical infrastructure and equipment from flooding and prevent disruption during future weather events.”

The Middlesex County Utilities Authority (MCUA) has preserved and protected central New Jersey’s environmental resources through responsible waste management and stewardship of the environment around the Raritan River and Raritan Bay since its creation in 1950.

The Authority, a public entity, was established by the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners to manage the County’s wastewater and solid waste services. The MCUA is committed to promoting public health, protecting environmental resources, and sustaining the development and growth of Middlesex County through efficient and responsible operations of our Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Middlesex County Landfill, which have a direct impact on the quality of life of over 800,000 residents and businesses in central New Jersey.

Statement from Perth Amboy Federation District Representative Lynn Audet at the 6/17/21 BOE Meeting

PERTH AMBOY - On May 6, 2021, I addressed the Perth Amboy Board of Education about the issues with ventilation in our schools that are not serviced by an HVAC system. As the District Representative for the Perth Amboy Federation/AFT, I am extremely passionate about the safety of the staff of the Perth Amboy Public Schools. Unions were formed to protect workers’ right, and to fight for worker safety. I take my job as the District Representative for the staff very seriously and want to do whatever I can to ensure their safety.

I wanted to know what the plan was over the summer to prepare for the upcoming school year as far as improving the ventilation for the schools in our district that do not have an HVAC system. The Federation has formally and publicly requesting to have PEOSHA come to assess the ventilation systems in: School 7, Peterson School, DLS, East Campus, South Campus, and PLP. We have requested a PEOSHA assessment of these schools several times to Central Administration but have yet to receive a response. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent addressed my concerns by explaining what has already been done in many of the schools such as adding air purifiers but they did not address the schools without an HVAC system. Those are the schools where I have the greatest concerns, especially since as we approach the Fall and Winter, windows will be closed.

Now on a different note... I have been an employed as a teacher in the Perth Amboy Public Schools for over 30 years. I have seen a lot over the course of 30 years... There have been times over the past 30 years that have been challenging, exhausting, and frustrating to say the least. The 2020-2021 school year for very obvious reasons, has been by far the most difficult school year in my over 30 year career.

I wanted to take this time to thank and extend my appreciation to the staff of the Perth Amboy Public Schools for everything that they have done this year, and that they continue to do every day.

Our essential workers have been coming into the buildings since day one of this pandemic. They have been an absolute blessing to this district. You made sure our children were fed, our schools remained safe, and that buildings were clean and sanitized. You made sure that our district remained operational during this unprecedented school year. Every one of our essential workers has made a positive impact on keeping this district up and running this year. Thank you for all that you do!

Next, to our staff members who worked remotely and hybrid this year: It was quite a challenge to say the least! I have seen the most amazing things this year from my colleagues, and by colleagues, I mean all component groups, and all positions within those component groups! Everyone, our entire staff, banned together and went above and beyond making sure our students got every possible thing that we could give to them to help them have a successful year despite various obstacles, and during an extremely stressful time.

Many staff member’s lives were directly impacted by Covid-19, and yet they continued to provide for our students. As District Representative, this school year has been an emotional roller coaster for me... I have seen so many things that have made me so proud of our staff and have made me smile from ear to ear. Unfortunately, I have also heard so many stories from our staff that have brought me to tears...

Our students, parents, and community are extremely lucky to have the staff of the Perth Amboy Public Schools! On behalf of the Perth Amboy Federation, thank you, staff! You are loved and appreciated!

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Report from the June Board Meeting

PERHT AMBOY - The Board meeting opened with a presentation about the District’s Corrective Action Plan. It was quite a surprise to us. There were nine areas cited as needing improvement and the superintendent said that the presentation would be made public after the meeting. We are still waiting for that to happen. At the same meeting, the district hired ten new administrators, five of whom are current employees in the district. The other five were hired from out of district and we do not know their names because they were not

on the agenda. We believe that the public should be allowed to comment on new administrative hires before the Board votes to approve them and we continue to ask for more transparency. It is unclear how the Board operates behind the scenes, but it appears that not all members have equal access to important information before they are expected to vote. Maybe the behind-the-scenes process can be explained at the next Board meeting.

Pat Paradiso
President
Perth Amboy Federation/857

PRAHD 5K Walk, Perth Amboy, 6/19/21

*Photos by Paul W. Wang



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.

Thanksgiving
In July Dinner

SOUTH AMBOY - South Amboy Elks Lodge 784 located at 601 Washington Ave, South Amboy is having Thanksgiving In July Dinner on Thursday July 22, from 5:30-7:30pm. The cost is \$15.00 in advance or \$18.00 at the door. Kids under 8 yrs. are \$6.00. The menu includes Fresh Roasted Turkey Breast, Freshly made Sausage Stuffing, Mashed Potato with Homemade Gravy, Vegetables, Cranberry sauce and dessert.

Call 732-727-7170 from 5-10pm on Fridays for tickets. All other days leave your name and number and your call will be returned. Last day for advance tickets is Friday July 16th. 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.



NEW WEEKLY
COLUMN



From The Desk Of
Dr. Harold McKenna
Medical Director at Alameda Center

Dear Doctor,

I already had COVID and still have antibodies. Why should I take the vaccine?
-M.V.

Dear M.V.,

Everyone should take the vaccine, whether or not they had COVID or have antibodies.

- 1) It adds to the individual's protections and produces a higher antibody response.
- 2) It also increases T-cell stimulation which helps to further protect the person from the different strains and variants that are developing.

-Dr. Harold McKenna



Our Team
Monika, DON
Donna, ADON
Dr. McKenna
Ari, LNHA



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Hackensack Meridian Health Medical Group Welcomes Orthopedic Surgeon Stephen G. Silver, M.D.

HACKENSACK, N.J. – Hackensack Meridian Health Medical Group at Hackensack University Medical Center is proud to welcome board-certified orthopedic surgeon Stephen G. Silver, M.D. Dr. Silver specializes in arthroscopic treatment of sports injuries to the shoulder, elbow and knee.

Dr. Silver has been responsible for a number of innovative advances in rotator cuff repair and posterior cruciate ligament (PCL) reconstruction. Dr. Silver developed innovative techniques to perform minimally invasive biceps tendon/labral tear repairs all-arthroscopically, reducing the need for hospitalization and allowing patients to return to normal activities with dramatically improved recoveries.

Dr. Silver also has expertise in regenerative medicine, offering stem cell injections and platelet rich plasma (PRP) for the treatment of arthritis and tendinitis.

“I always knew that I wanted to be a doctor. From the age of 10, I was passionate about becoming the kind of doctor who could identify a problem, fix it and not only restore, but improve my patient’s quality of life,” said Dr. Silver.

“We are pleased to welcome Dr. Silver to our orthopedic surgery team,” said Mark D. Sparta, FACHE, president and chief hospital executive, Hackensack University Medical Center. “His expertise will help patients in our community stay active, maintain function, and continue to pursue activities they enjoy.”

“Dr. Silver’s expertise in treating conditions of the shoulder, elbow and knee will be a tremendous asset to patients at Hackensack University Medical Center,” said Lisa K. Tank, M.D., FACP, CMD, Chief Medical Officer, Hackensack University Medical Center and professor and chair; Department of Surgery, Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine. “From professional athletes to little league players, Dr. Silver provides personalized care tailored to each patient’s unique needs and goals.”

“There are many outstanding surgeons, but Dr. Silver is also truly a thorough and compassionate individual and that is rare,” said Michael A. Kelly, M.D., chairman, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Hackensack University Medical Center,



Stephen Silva M.D.

who has worked with Dr. Silver for 16 years. “When I needed shoulder surgery, I chose him to do it. That meant trusting him with my right arm, which is essential for my career.”

About Dr. Stephen G. Silver

A board-certified orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Silver is a graduate of the University of Michigan. He completed medical school at New York Medical College, graduating with honors among the top of his class. He completed his orthopedic residency in New York City at NYU Medical Center. Dr. Silver then completed a renowned sports medicine fellowship specializing in shoulder and knee surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, America's first hospital.

Dr. Silver spent 10 seasons as a Team Physician for the New Jersey (now Brooklyn) Nets covering all games and playoffs. He performed the NBA Combine pre-draft physical exams of every college and high school player entering the NBA draft for 10 years.

Dr. Silver has lectured to the community and physicians on the topics of posterior cruciate ligament (PCL) reconstruction, shoulder impingement and tennis elbow (lateral epicondylitis) as well as biceps tenodesis for shoulder labral tears. He also published a research paper on an innovative surgical technique he developed for shoulder biceps tenodesis surgery.

He has been named Top Doctor Orthopedics for seven consecutive years, and has received additional recognitions, including:

- Castle Connolly: Top Doctor NY/NJ, 2016-2021
- 201 Magazine: Top Doctor, 2015-2021
- Bergen Magazine: Top Doctor, 2015-2021

Mapping Technology Now Safeguards At Least Half of New Jersey’s Schools

Press Release 6/21/21

TRENTON – They are known as “Collaborative Response Graphics” (CRG), the backbone of New Jersey’s efforts to create a common language to enable more efficient incident response and save lives.

The New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) has been a leading advocate for the statewide implementation of this battle-proven mapping technique that provides first responders with a tool to enable communication and navigation when responding to schools and other critical buildings.

Following NJSACOP’s steady advocacy for the CRG mapping, the State Police and the state Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness launched the “New Jersey State Mapping Initiative” to encourage school districts to join. Now, there are more public schools in New Jersey than any other state with these standardized maps on file, NJSACOP officials say.

“For the very first time, we

have a common solution that allows state, county, and local first responders to communicate and respond using the same common operating picture,” explained NJSACOP President Lou Bordi. “The capability is now supported in 20 of the 21 counties in the most densely-populated state. It is truly significant; New Jersey is unique across the nation.”

NJSACOP was the pioneer in advocating this mapping technique in 2017, with more than 2,000 buildings in New Jersey mapped and on file. By the end of 2021, it is anticipated that nearly 66% of the state’s public schools will be participating.

The technology was born from lessons learned by the country’s Special Operations forces for mission planning and communicating when operating in unfamiliar locations.

CRGs provides building schematics with site-specific labels on top of high-resolution imagery. These maps identify key features, such as room numbers, hallways, external doors,

stairwells, key utility locations, parking areas, security cameras, defibrillators and other critical information.

The New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, recognizing CRGs as a “Protective Measures Best Practice,” is partnering with the State Police to pursue a statewide mapping initiative, hoping all public schools in New Jersey implement what could be life-saving technology.

“As our communities continue to cumulatively spend millions of dollars to mitigate threats and prepare for the eventuality of an active shooter/critical incident,” Bordi said, “New Jersey, under the leadership of the NJSACOP, has put forth a proven model for creating a universal operating picture that is not theoretical or experimental, but instead has been successfully used thousands of times in the most high-stress and challenging incidents in the world.”

Learn more at njsacop.org

Pallone’s Transportation and Infrastructure Projects for New Jersey’s 6th Congressional District Pass House

Press Release 7/1/21

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) today announced that three transportation and infrastructure projects he requested for New Jersey’s Sixth Congressional District passed the House of Representatives. The projects were included in the INVEST America Act, a transformational infrastructure bill that makes record investments in roads, bridges, and transit.

The three projects include:

- \$5.625 million for a ferry terminal in Carteret that represents the next phase of the town's ongoing work to run a ferry from Central New Jersey to downtown Manhattan that will improve daily commutes for residents of Central New Jersey and encourage economic development.
- \$13 million for the NJ Transit station in Long Branch. The railroad station will be made intermodal by bringing buses, trollies, taxis, and ride sharing services into the station property with an indoor waiting room. The money will also be used to build a new pedestrian bridge west of the station platform to reconnect the business and residential community on the west

side of the tracks.

- \$1.25 million for pedestrian improvements in Woodbridge that will provide paved sidewalks and new or replacement street curbs on Magnolia Road where hundreds of pedestrians walk every day to access NJ Transit and Amtrak service at Metropark.

“Each of these projects are important investments in our transportation system’s safety, efficiency, and reliability for the region’s residents and tourists. Members of Congress know our districts better than anyone else and can ensure that federal dollars actually reach the areas that need them,” Congressman Pallone said. “The INVEST America act makes long overdue investments in our country’s infrastructure and fulfills the promise President Biden made to build back better. I look forward to seeing this bill advance through the Senate so we can get it to the President’s desk.”

“The residents of Carteret and commuters in Central New Jersey appreciate Congressman Pallone’s efforts to secure much needed federal funding under this surface transportation bill to help develop this intermodal transportation building,” said

Carteret Mayor Daniel Reiman. “For far too long New Jersey has received far less than what it sends to Washington, DC., and this project represents direct congressional action and appropriations of federal dollars, so that elected Members of Congress can identify and fund much needed transportation projects as opposed to bureaucrats sitting in desks hundreds or thousands of miles away around the country.”

“The Long Branch intermodal station will give NJ Transit the resources it needs to increase interoperability between different modes of transportation that will greatly enhance commuter safety and accessibility for Long Branch residents and tourists,” Long Branch Mayor John Pallone said.

“Congressman Pallone has always helped us identify all of the federal funding opportunities and this result just validates all of his efforts,” said Woodbridge Mayor John McCormac. “These federal dollars will provide Woodbridge the opportunity to make much needed pedestrian safety improvements around the Metropark area for residents and commuters.”

COVID Vaccine for Persons 12-17 Years Old

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

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

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

Rite Aid Extends COVID-19 Vaccinating Hours Every Friday in June at Select Stores in NJ

NEW JERSEY - Rite Aid is extending COVID-19 vaccinating hours at over 200 stores every Friday for the remainder of June, including several stores in New Jersey. This ‘Night Shots’ initiative is in support of the White House and the National Month of Action to help get 70% of U.S. adults at least one shot by July 4, 2021.

Beginning tomorrow, June 11, and continuing on Friday, June 18, and Friday, June 25, select Rite Aid stores in the area will extend COVID-19 vaccinating hours until midnight to help ensure everyone, especially individuals with less flexible work hours, can get vaccinated. Additionally, on the same dates, 27 Rite Aid stores will administer COVID-19 vaccines for the full 24-hour day. All vaccines during the extended hours are available for walk-ins.

Movie Review: The Father

By: Anton Massopust III

Anthony Hopkins plays a man (Anthony) who slowly begins the doubt everything. He slowly begins to lose his mind because he has dementia.

As you watch this film, you are under the control of an unreliable narrator. You are not exactly sure where you the movie begins and where and when you think you are, whether it be Anthony's flat in his daughter, Anne's (Olivia Colman) flat or where or when the scene takes place. Past, present, and future all seem to blend together. Anne tells her father that she is going to move to Paris. But in in the film, we are seeing Anne's flat along with a young man (Mark Gatiss) who does not want Anthony there (the young man insults Antony). As things progress, a young nurse, Laura (Imogen Poots) comes into this drama who tries to help Anthony with his medication. But Anthony does not recognize her when she arrives. He thinks that she is his youngest daughter who is passed away many years



ago.

Dementia plays tricks on your memory and on what is going on in front of you. You cannot tell the difference between daytime, nighttime, or any time at all. All through this movie I kept saying to myself: what a performance this is, probably why Anthony Hopkins won the Academy Award this year for best actor in "The Father". Hopkins gives such a strong performance; you believe everything he is really going through. We are inside Anthony's mind because the set and cinematography keep changing throughout

the course of the film; one minute we are in his old flat in London, then we see Anthony living with his daughter, and then all the sudden we see Anthony in a nursing home.

"The Father" puts into the cinema what happens when someone slowly loses their mind when going through this terrible crippling disorder. This is not exactly a fun time at the movies but it is a great performance to experience. "The Father" is a worthwhile movie to watch. Bring your tissues.

Hackensack University Medical Center Holds Fifth Annual Graduation Ceremony for Nurses in Blood and Marrow Transplant Fellowship

Press Release

HACKENSACK, N.J. – On Friday, May 7, 2021, Hackensack Meridian Hackensack University Medical Center held its fifth annual graduation ceremony for five nurses enrolled in the Blood and Marrow Transplant (BMT) RN Fellowship program. The ceremony was held at the John Theurer Cancer Center.

The 12-month training program prepares new nursing graduates and nurses with limited or no work experience in a stem cell transplant setting to excel as specialty BMT nurses. The fellowship is offered annually to nurses who apply for positions in the stem cell or BMT units. The program is tailored to meet individual training needs through clinical and classroom education provided by physicians, preceptors and nurse mentors — all BMT nurse fellows who previously graduated from the program.

Class of 2021 fellows include Emily Coiro, BSN, RN; Lindsay Cosgrave, BSN, RN; Ami Patel, BSN, RN; Jesenia Perez, BSN, RN; and Samantha Sagun, BSN, RN. Class of 2021 mentors include Diana Cardona-Munoz, BSN, RN; Ruth Guzman-Peralta, BSN, RN, BMTCN; and Allyson Martell, BSN, RN, BMTCN.

"Our nurses are central to the success of our Bone and Marrow Transplant program, which is one of the leading BMT programs in the nation," said Michele L. Donato, M.D., FACP, CPE, Director, Adult Blood and Marrow Transplant Program, Hackensack University Medical Center. "Our fellows go above and beyond for their patients, and their well-deserved graduation from the BMT RN Fellowship program is further evidence of their dedication."



(Front row, seated L to R) are the 2021 BMT RN Fellowship Graduates - Ami Patel BSN, RN; Jesenia Perez, BSN, RN; Emily Coiro, BSN, RN; Lindsay Cosgrave, BSN, RN; and Samantha Sagun, BSN, RN. (Back Row, L to R) - Judy Miranda, Nursing Director Oncology; Brenda Diaz, Education Specialist; Anne Corbett, Nurse Manager; Maria Feinstein, Clinical Nurse Specialist; Diana Cardona-Munoz, BSN, RN, Mentor; Ruth Guzman-Peralta, BSN, RN, BMTCN, Mentor; April Camiling, Clinical Nurse Specialist; Ramonita Jimenez, Administrator; and Denise Quinn, Education Specialist. *Photo Submitted

"Hackensack University Medical Center was the first hospital in the nation to offer this type of program to provide best-in-class training for nurses in BMT care delivery," said Anne Corbett, MS, BSN, RN, nurse manager, 8PE and 8PW Bone Marrow and Transplant, and BMT RN fellowship coordinator, Hackensack University Medical Center. "Our BMT nurse fellows — as well as our educators — are an inspiration for their commitment to excellence in patient care."

"Graduation from the BMT RN Fellowship program is an important career milestone and professional achievement," said Mark Sparta, FACHE, president and chief hospital executive, Hackensack University Medical Center. "I want to extend my

congratulations to our five newest BMT nurse fellows and my gratitude to the mentors, educators, leaders and colleagues who supported our fellows throughout the program."

"This is such a proud moment for our Blood and Marrow Transplant Fellowship graduate nurses, said Judy Miranda Rankin, DNP, RN, administrative director, Inpatient, Oncology & Magnet Program director. "These nurses are invested in providing exemplary clinical practice and advancing their professional career growth. They are here to lead and inspire their peers to follow the same path."

Congratulations to our outstanding BMT nurse fellows."

Pallone Applauds House Passage of INVEST America Act

Bill Makes Investments in Safe Drinking Water, Lead Service Line Removal, Auto Safety, and Electric Vehicles

Press Release 7/1/21

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) applauded House passage of the INVEST America Act, a \$715 billion transportation bill that invests in surface and water infrastructure and will create jobs, revitalize the economy, improve public health, and increase the safety of automobiles. An additional \$44 billion was added during the legislative process to make even greater investments in infrastructure, including EV charging and passenger rail grant programs, among other additions.

The INVEST America Act includes provisions from Pallone's Energy and Commerce Committee that ensure access to safe and affordable drinking water, help communities address PFAS contamination, and provide funding to replace lead service lines. The bill also includes legislation to promote automobile safety by modernizing the five-star safety rating for the 21st century and requiring vehicles to be equipped with safety technologies to detect and alert a driver to the presence of a child or occupant in the rear seat after the engine is shut off. The INVEST America Act will fund electric vehicle infrastructure that's critical to combatting the climate crisis and ensuring that communities across the country are ready for the growing demand for electric vehicles. The INVEST America Act also includes funding for three transportation projects that Pallone requested for New Jersey's Sixth Congressional District.

"The INVEST in America Act will revitalize and modernize our infrastructure, create new, good paying jobs, and take a leap forward in fulfilling President Biden's promise to Build Back Better. I'm especially proud that it includes critical drinking water provisions that would meaningfully improve both our drinking water infrastructure and our standard-setting process. Access to safe, affordable water is a basic human right, and this legislation upholds that by funding the complete replacement of lead service lines, helping local water systems clean up PFAS contamination, and ensuring that financial hardship never stands between any family and their access to drinking water," said Pallone. "The INVEST in America Act also includes a bold vision of safety and innovation that will save lives, boost domestic manufacturing, and strengthen our industrial base. The safety reforms will deploy existing, proven technologies that can have an immediate lifesaving effect, such as crash avoidance systems, drunk driving prevention technology, and systems that will put an end to children dying in hot cars. The bill will also supercharge our electric vehicle infrastructure, encouraging domestic manufacturing of EVs and investing in a clean technology accelerator that will launch an exciting new era for clean energy."

The INVEST in America Act includes:

- \$343 billion to deliver better roads and bridges faster by increasing investment by 54 percent with an emphasis on fixing existing infrastructure.
- \$95 billion for development of high-speed rail projects, reducing traffic congestion and rail safety improvement. This includes \$32 billion for Amtrak's intercity passenger rail service on the Northeast Corridor and the National Network to renew and support train service.
- \$32 billion for bridge funding to ensure bridges in communities of all sizes are safer, more reliable, and more resilient.
- \$53 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, the primary source of federal funding for safe drinking water infrastructure.
- \$45 billion to fully replace lead service lines nationwide. As many as 10 million lead service lines are currently in use, including an estimated 400,000 schools and child facilities with lead components.
- \$5 billion for assistance for local water systems to clean up PFAS contamination.
- \$4 billion to reduce and eliminate water utility debts incurred since March 2020.
- \$8 billion for two new permanent federal water assistance programs to help low-income Americans with water bills.

Pallone spoke in favor of the bill on the House floor yesterday about the bill's provisions to ensure access to safe, clean and affordable water and its investment in electric vehicle technology to combat climate change.

Ukrainian Embroidery Exhibit

WOODBIDGE - The Ukrainian National Women's League, Branch 98 is sponsoring an exhibit on the art of Ukrainian embroidery. The exhibit is being held at the Barron Arts Center, 582 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. It will run from July 1 thru August 27, 2021.

On display are beautiful traditional women's and men's clothing; folk costumes; pillows, and other textiles, displaying unique regional motifs and types of stitches. There will also be an illustrative lecture available online via a link on the "Barron Arts" Facebook page. For more information, call 732-634-0413.

Woodbridge Public Library Events

Free Virtual Events - All are Welcome to Attend

Listed below are the free virtual events we have planned for July 2021. All are welcomed to attend!

July 7 | 7PM
Backyard Birding in the Garden State
Join nature writer and photographer Jim Wright for a virtual talk about his favorite avian neighbors--including the birds of summer, as well as year-round residents--and how to attract the. He'll also offer some bird-feeding dos and don't and explain why. Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/2TnA1rP>

July 12 | 7PM
Insurance Enrollment & Health Care Education Seminar
Join us for a virtual seminar that will provide you with important information on how to obtain affordable health insurance through the NJ GETCOVERED marketplace and how to use your health insurance. Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/3pOjPMb>

July 14 | 7PM
The Seafaring Cats of Gotham
Join author and historian Peggy Gavan virtually as she takes you back in time to discover New York's maritime history while sharing some amazing stories of famous (and not-so-famous) seafaring cats of Old New York. Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/3wjZ4KI>

July 21 | 7PM
The Adorable and Absurd History of Presidential Pets
A lot of animals have lived in the White House over the last 235 years. Andrew Hager of The Presidential Pet Museum is dedicated to telling their stories. Hear some of the most amazing anecdotes virtually followed by a Q&A session! Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/3vgecrd>

July 23 | 3PM
Mystery/Thriller Book Club
Join us virtually for a discussion of The Second Mother by Jenny Milchman. Copies of the book are available at select branches and through the MURAL library system. Some copies are available in large print too for those who prefer it. This event is free and open to all. Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/2SEnujE>

July 27 | 7PM
Stories of Travel by Stagecoach & Horse
This virtual program brought to us by the Museum of Early Trades and Crafts looks at various aspects related to horse-powered travel, including primary source document accounts of what it was like to travel by stagecoach. It will also explore the wide range of horse-powered vehicles that were on the road in the 19th century and what it meant to have a horse as your "engine." Registration Required - <https://bit.ly/35dxYZO>

All of July
Adult Book Boxes!
Book Boxes allow you the chance to read a library book you may not have picked yourself. For each month our librarians have selected a theme and will put books across all genres into these boxes that follow our theme. Participants will still need to check out the book like they would any other library materials and loan periods still apply. No registration is required, first come first served. For July we have selected All About Animals! This month's book boxes are all about animals! Some animals are the main character, some are the sidekicks, some help to get the plot going. Check out these books across all genres!

Annual Summer Reading Club!
Our annual summer reading club begins June 21 and runs through August 13. Participants are welcomed to read any book they like. Submit a brief review of the book and be entered to win a weekly prize. All participants of the club will also be entered into a grand prize drawing! You are welcomed to sign up in person at one of our locations or online at tinyurl.com/WPLAdults21.

Library Open
PERTH AMBOY – The Perth Amboy Free Public Library, 196 Jefferson St. has reopened. Hours are: Adult Library: Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Wed & Fri 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Children’s Library: Mon, Tues Thurs: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wed & Fri. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Upon entry, MUST have temperature check, sign in at the front desk, use hand sanitizer, use masks, and observe social distancing. TIME LIMIT: Computer Use: ONE HOUR; Browsing: HALF-HOUR. Study period available by request.
For more information call the library at 732-826-2600.

Barbecue Fundraiser
SAYREVILLE - There will be a fundraising barbecue at Sayreville United Methodist Church, 406 Main St., Sayreville, NJ, on Saturday, August 14, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cost: \$12.00. Lunch Includes: Barbecue Chicken, Potato Fries, Cole Slaw, Roll, Soda or Water. Hot Dog also available for an additional \$2.00. We are accepting pre-orders. Walk-ins are welcome.
Please contact Winsome at 732-432-9072.

Dowdell Library

Tails & Tales

Press Release
SOUTH AMBOY - Summer is here, and so are the Summer Programs at the Dowdell Library! Tails & Tales officially kicks off on July 1. There are programs and activities for all ages.
Read Squared is back this year! Read Squared is a website where you can efficiently track and log your reading. You can find all the details about how to make your account on our website.
Each month we will feature two animal themes. July opens with Bookish Beasts for the first two weeks, and then Under the Sea is Home for Me for the final two. At the beginning of August, we will focus on Endangered Animals and then wrap up the month by taking a walk on the Wild Side. Each week we will have new programs for all age groups!
Children can visit the library and enjoy weekly crafts and activities every Monday and Friday from 2:00-3:00 pm. Stop by the library every Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 - 3:30 for drop-in activities. These activities are self-guided and will include writing prompts, puzzles, chalk, bubbles, and more!
We are also hosting Celebrity Storytime at the Waterfront Gazebo! Zusette Dato will be the celebrity guest on June 22 (rain date June 29), Glenn Skarzynski will host the Storytime on July 13 (rain date July 20), and Suzanne Ryan will join us on August 10 (rain date August 17). This fun event will run from 11-12:30 pm. There will games, music, crafts, and PRIZES! Please bring a beach towel to sit on under the gazebo.
Adults and teens can keep busy all summer with fun activities too! There will be trivia contests, crafts, and smoothie tastings. Participate in Family Tales, where you can discover your genealogy and create your family tree using Heritage Quest.
Have you ever dreamed of owning a sailboat? If so, you won't want to miss the Sail Away on Raritan Bay program. The video will be available on YouTube and will feature Captain Elaine!
Prizes and giveaways will happen all summer long for all ages!
Details and information about each program will be posted at Dowdell.org, and shared on the library’s social media pages. You can also sign up for the monthly newsletter on the library’s website and have all the program information sent directly to your email!
Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit www.dowdell.org, or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org. The library is located off John O’Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School. Due to all services being staff-assisted, walk-in service is available Monday 10am-5pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 12-5pm and Thursday 12-5pm and 6-8pm.

Pallone’s Bill to Help Homeless Veterans with Credit and Financial Counseling Services Passes House

Press Release 6/15/21
WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr.’s (NJ-06) Homeless Veterans Credit Repair, Enhancement, and Debt Improvement for Tomorrow (CREDIT) Act passed the House of Representatives today. The bill will help end veteran homelessness and housing instability by providing credit and financial counseling - a top ten unmet need for homeless veterans. In February, Pallone held a virtual roundtable with veterans in New Jersey to discuss how this bill would help the veteran community.
The bill directs the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to conduct a study of the effectiveness of credit and financial counseling services offered to homeless veterans and veterans facing housing instability. The study will explore these services and the barriers to them, including the COVID-19 pandemic and other health challenges. The study would provide recommendations for improvements to credit counseling services. The bill will also require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide an interim and final report to Congress on the findings of the study.
“Today, the House took action to alleviate veteran homelessness. The Homeless Veterans CREDIT Act will help address veteran homelessness by improving credit and financial counseling services offered to veterans. During this time of economic uncertainty, we must

look out for our most vulnerable communities, including homeless veterans and those at risk of becoming homeless. My bill will give us a better understanding of how to improve the services offered to our veterans,” said Congressman Pallone. “We have a responsibility to help those who served in uniform and stood ready to make the ultimate sacrifice for our country. I want to thank the House Veterans Affairs Committee for making this bill a priority and for their unwavering support for our country’s heroes.”
The Homeless Veterans CREDIT Act received the endorsement of the Wounded Warrior Project, the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University, Department of New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion Department of New Jersey.
“We are pleased that the House of Representatives passed HR 1257. This legislation is another step in getting our returning veterans on track for their futures. We thank Congressman Pallone for seeking out the American Legion Department of New Jersey, in crafting this most important legislation,” said Joseph M. Gugliuzza, Legislative Chairman, the American Legion Department of New Jersey.
“Our research and experience tell us that financial stability and literacy are cornerstones of overall well-being for veterans and their families. Thanks to Congressman Pallone’s leadership on this issue, the Homeless

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 July 10th & 24th 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. At this time, we are not accepting donations of books.

Novena to St. Rita

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

A Petition to St. Jude

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. St. Jude worker of Miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised.

Thank you, St. Jude **M.A.P.**

Novena to St. Anthony

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

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail)
O Most Beautiful Flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity *(make request)*. There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee *(3 times)*. Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands *(3 times)*. *(Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. You must publish it, and it will be granted to you.)* **J.M.P.**

**Novena Rose Prayer
O Little Therese of the Child Jesus**

Please pick for me a rose from the heavenly garden and send it to me as a message of love. O Little Flower of Jesus, ask God to grant the favors I now place with confidence in your hands *(mention your special request here)*. St. Therese, help me to always believe as you did, in God's great love for me, so that I may imitate your "Little Way" each day. Amen. **J.M.P.**

Pet of the Week



PERTH AMBOY, NJ RESCUES - Please open your heart and home to one of these loving kitties. They don't deserve to live on the dangerous streets. They only need love and someone to give them a chance to learn to trust. This kitty or another will be waiting patiently for you. Can't adopt? Then maybe consider a fostering. They're fixed, vaccinated, dewormed, deflead, and fully vetted. Visit Allforthepaws.org for adoption application and email to Vmoralespps@yahoo.com. Donation fee applies. Upon approved application, adoption will take place at adopter's home. 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.

Prayer for St. Ann's Intercession

Hail, O Good St. Ann, who first responded to the needs of Mary, Mother of our Savior and Queen of Angels. Hail to you and to your husband, St. Joachim, who watched over her infancy, presented her to the Lord in the Temple and, according to your promise, consecrated her to the service of Almighty God.

Hail St. Ann, good mother! I rejoice in the marvels you continually perform because they encourage all to seek your heavenly intercession. And so with faith and confidence I now place these needs before you, *(mention your request)*.

Good St. Ann, by the great power God has given you, show yourself my mother, my consoler, my advocate. Implore for me from Divine Providence the guidance and protection I need through life. Console me in my trials. Strengthen me in my struggles. Help me bear all my crosses. Deliver me from danger during times of trouble. Assist me at the hour of death and open to me the gates of Paradise. Amen. **A.L.S.**

Remember to Say Your Novenas!

**Answers
From Puzzle
On Page 21**

DDE		HAHA		LAE
EURO		AMOS		ORA
NOEL		LETS		GEN
	IRON	AROSE		
LOAVES		LYE		
ANNES		DESPISE		
NAT	MAO		STY	
KNEELED		VALUE		
	NEG	SIRENS		
GONGS		TEND		
EVE	THAN		ORES	
RAT	EARS		RILE	
ELS	RIPE		OFT	

**PAHS Class of
1971 Reunion**

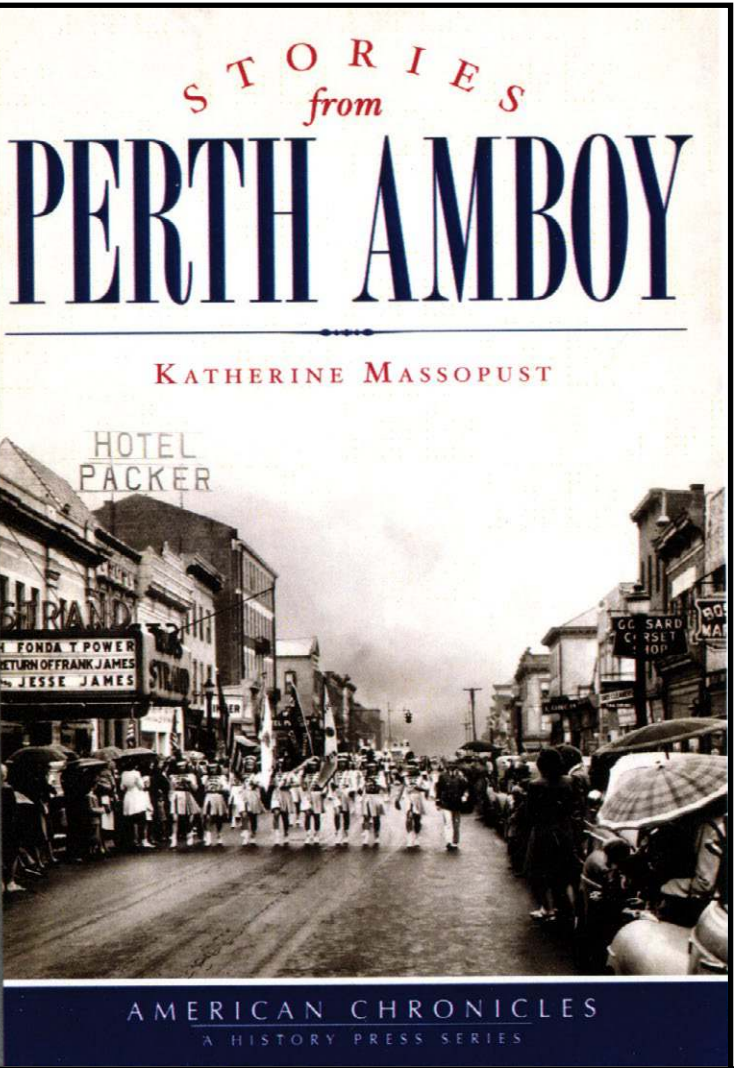
PERTH AMBOY - The Perth Amboy High School Class of 1971 50-Year Reunion will be held on Saturday, September 18th, 2021 at the Armory in Perth Amboy. The cost of \$85.00 per person. Contact Val Tarr's email – voltarr@aol.com

LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY – Demolition of Joe's Pet Shop after a gruesome fire destroyed several businesses on Smith Street - 1967.

**Photo Courtesy of Jack M. Dudas, Esq.
This photo was restored under a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission to the Kearny Cottage Historical Association.*



Stories From Perth Amboy

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

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***Please Include Prices of Items on Classified's or
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Catholic Parish in Edison needs an Assistant Bookkeeper P/T – Must have knowledge of QB accounting desktop programs and all Microsoft programs. Good computer skills a must. Catholic Church experience and proficiency in Spanish a plus. Must pass fingerprinting and background check. Call 732-738-7940 ext. 10 or send resume with 3 references and salary requirements to ecastillo@olpfords.org 7/21	Advertising Fence Enclosure - Heavy Duty 10 ft. \$25 - 732-442-1093	Tires - Firestone M&S LT275170R 18 Two \$10 Each 732-727-1772
	Sayreville Bombers 14 KT Charm - \$75 in Box; can add Specialty Sport Charm, etc. - 732-525-2405	Lawn Mower - Sears - Self Propelled Mulcher - no bag 6.75 HP - \$45 732-727-5056
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<i>For Sale</i>	Solid Oak Coffee Table \$75; Oak End Table \$50 732-570-9732	Dining Hutch - Wood - Good Condition \$50 - Self Pick-up 732-826-6324
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1 Large Christmas Tree \$25; 1 Small \$15; Lounge Chair \$15 - 732-297-4457		
Older New Toy Trucks Sunoco, Exxon, Mobil Hess \$20 Each or B.O. - 732-316-5092		
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15 Playwright Coward
16 Rents out
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27 Detest
31 Natalie Cole's father
32 Chinese chairman
33 Pig's digs
34 Prepared for prayer
37 Appreciate highly
39 Opposite of pos.
40 Police warnings
41 Chinese bells
44 Serve
45 Abel's mother
46 Comparative word
48 Native minerals

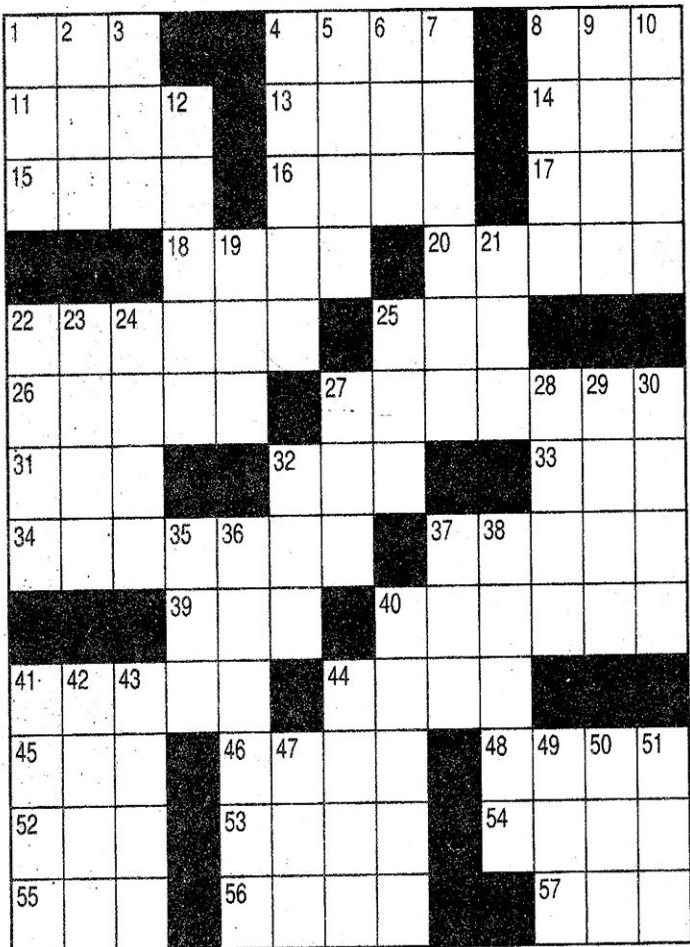
- 52 Mouse's kin
53 Rabbit features
54 Make angry
55 City trains
56 Like mature fruit
57 Frequently, in poems

DOWN

- 1 Lion's home
2 Twosome
3 Poetic "before"
4 Angels' circlets
5 Hymnal word
6 Smoldering
7 Analyzes minerals
8 Company's identifying symbol

- 9 Greek war god
10 Curse
12 Martini garnish
19 Home (abbr.)
21 Dem.'s opponent
22 Skinny and tall
23 "____ Island with You" (2 wds.)
24 Gambling stake
25 Feline zodiac sign
27 Papa
28 Capri, e.g.
29 Flabbergast
30 Tornado middles
32 Actress Foster
35 Liverpool's

- locale (abbr.)
36 ____ Flatt of country music
37 Wine, in Parea
38 Passion
40 Smell or taste
41 Actor Richard of "Sommersby"
42 Speedway shape
43 Hairdo holders
44 Infield cover, for short
47 "Bali ____"
49 River (Sp.)
50 Pointy-eared sprite
51 Ensemble



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Photography Done Right!



Flag Day, South Amboy, 6/14/21
*Photos submitted



SOUTH AMBOY - Officers of the South Amboy Elks along with Members and the Boy Scouts from Troop 91, honored our Flag during the Elks Annual Flag Ceremony.

CONGRATULATIONS!
TO THE PERTH AMBOY SOCCER CLUB
U15 WILDCATS FOR
WINNING THE US YOUTH SOCCER
EASTERN PRESIDENTIAL CUP CHAMPIONSHIP



Next stop...IOWA for the USYS National President's Cup

Congratulations Wildcats!

Press Release
PERTH AMBOY - On May 23rd, the Perth Amboy Soccer Club, Under 15 (U15) Wildcats, won the New Jersey State Cup Championship.
As a result of winning the New Jersey Cup, the team moved on to the United States Youth Soccer Eastern Regional Championship.
Please join me and congratulate our very own U15 Wildcats, Coaches, and President David Federo for winning the United States Youth Soccer Eastern Presidential Cup Champions.
Let's rally in support as they will head to IOWA for the United States Youth Soccer National President's Cup.



Eagle Scout Project, Animal Shelter, Perth Amboy, 6/13/21

*Photos by Paul W. Wang, Christie Minigiello



PERTH AMBOY – William Keene Jr. completed his Eagle Scout Project at the Perth Amboy Animal Shelter. William had reached out to 20 other places and all refused. Perth Amboy Animal Shelter was the only place that was honored to have him do the project for him. Animal Control Officer Christie Minigiello was in contact with Keene Jr. to determine which project would be needed at the shelter. Congratulations to William Keene Jr. and thank you to the Perth Amboy Animal Shelter for accepting his services. (Photos above: before and after the project was completed.)

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 “bikini” bathing suit makes its debut on July 5, 1946, at a Paris fashion show. Created by former civil engineer Louis Réard, the skimpy two-piece outfit is named for the July 1 American atom-bomb test on Bikini Atoll. Réard hopes that his design will have a similarly explosive effect on observers. According to *New York Times* columnist William Safire, the swimsuit causes more debate, concern and condemnation than does the atomic bomb itself. With inflation in Hungary continuing to spiral out of control (prices are doubling roughly every 15 hours), the national bank in Budapest issues a 100-quintillion-*pengő* note. (That's a 1 with 20 zeroes after it.)

On July 6, by agreement of the U.K. and the U.S.S.R., 2,250,000 civilian war refugees cross the lines between the British and Soviet occupation zones of Germany (in both directions) trying to reach their homes. A conference on the future of French Indochina begins at Fontainebleau, near Paris. Hundreds of Italian, Croatian and Slovene demonstrators in Trieste throw rocks and stones at Allied military police in protest of a Four-Power decision to internationalize the city, located where Italy, Croatia and Slovenia converge. (Each segment of the mob wants the city to be allocated to their country.)

The All-India Congress Party, meeting in Bombay, on July 7 approves Viscount Wavell's long-range “Breakdown Plan” for independence. Wavell, the Viceroy of India, proposed the phased withdrawal of the British and the avoidance of partition with the continuance of India as a single geographic entity, accommodating both Hindus and Muslims in government. The Muslim League, however, continues to support its agenda of an entirely separate homeland made up of Muslim-majority Indian provinces. Italian-born, naturalized-American Frances Xavier Cabrini becomes the first U.S. citizen to be canonized as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church. She was the founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, who serve the sick, the poor and children in 67 missionary facilities around the world. In China, the Communist Party of China issues a statement critical of the United States policy toward China. (Three groups had been fighting in China: the Chinese Nationalist Army under Chiang Kai-shek against the Communist forces under Mao Tse-tung, and both of them against the Japanese. When Japan surrendered, there were some 630,000 Japanese and Korean military and civilian personnel in China who needed repatriation. Since the Nationalist government wasn't capable of doing this, President Truman sent 50,000 U.S. Marines to China to accept the Japanese surrender, help repatriate the Japanese and Koreans and assist the Nationalist forces reclaim the territory that had been occupied by the Japanese. The marines are not to take sides between the Chinese factions and are only allowed to engage in combat if fired upon first.)

The Soviet military government in Austria on July 8 begins deporting from its occupation zone some 54,000 Germans who had moved into the country after the *Anschluss* (the annexation of Austria into Nazi Germany in 1938).

Arthur Greiser, former *Gauleiter* (leader of a regional branch of the Nazi Party) of the Province of Warthegau, is tried by the Supreme National Tribunal of Poland and sentenced to death for war crimes. (Warthegau was in the western part of Occupied Poland.) Greiser's defense that he was only following orders does not hold up.

The hyperinflation occurring in Hungary reaches its worst level on July 10, with the inflation rate peaking at 328.46% per day. The cause is a combination of a high demand from the U.S.S.R. for war reparations, the plundering of Hungarian industries by the Soviets and the holding of much of Hungary's gold reserves in the U.S. (U.S. troops had captured a train carrying much of Hungary's gold, treasures and looted items being evacuated to Germany from Budapest in May 1945.)

A military court in Kielce, Poland, on July 11 sentences nine people to death and three to imprisonment for their parts in the anti-Jewish pogrom of July 4 in that city. At the “Big Four” meeting in Paris of the four powers occupying Germany, U.S. Secretary of State James F. Byrnes proposes the economic merger of the occupation zones. (The U.K. and U.S. zones merge on July 27, 1946, as the “United Economic Area.” The French zone joins in 1949 and the three areas become collectively known as “West Germany” later that year.)

On July 12, 1946, the Paris peace conference of “Big Four” foreign ministers adjourns. The National Coal Board (British Coal) is formed to run coal operations in the U.K. when the industry is nationalized on 1 January 1947. Hungary enacts economic reform, retiring its worthless currency, the *pengő*, replacing it with the *forint*, which will become legal tender on August 1. The exchange rate between the currencies will be: 1 *forint* equals 400 octillion (400 plus 29 zeroes) *pengő*.

Seven U.S. Marines are ambushed and taken captive on July 13 by Chinese Communist forces in Hebei Province, on the coast of northern China.

On July 14, the nine people sentenced to death for their roles in the July 4 pogrom in Kielce, Poland, are executed. The child-rearing manual *The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care* by American pediatrician Benjamin Spock is published and becomes an immediate bestseller.

North Borneo becomes a Crown Colony of the United Kingdom on July 15 as the British North Borneo Company transfers its rights to the territory to the British Crown. In Yugoslavia, Chetnik leader Dragoljub “Draža” Mihailović and 23 others are found guilty of treason after a brief trial in Belgrade by the authorities of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia. Ten, including Mihailović, are sentenced to death, the rest are given prison terms of up to 20 years. A five-month investigation by two Canadian Supreme Court justices produces a 700-page report detailing several spy networks operating out of the Soviet embassy in Ottawa, Canada's capital.

In Germany on July 16, a U.S. military court at Dachau sentences 43 members of the *Waffen-SS* to death for the murder of 362 American prisoners of war and 111 Belgian civilians in the vicinity of Malmedy, Belgium, between December 16, 1944, and January 13, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge. The court also convicts 33 others, who receive sentences varying from 10 years to life in prison.

On July 17, Dragoljub Mihailović and nine others are executed by firing squad in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Mihailović, the leader of Serbian royalist guerrilla fighters known as Chetniks, and his associates were convicted of high treason and war crimes, and collaboration with the Nazis. Despite their connection with the Nazis, Mihailović's fighters — in an attempt to curry favor with the Allies — had rescued and sheltered from the Nazis almost 500 Allied airmen shot down over the Balkans. They arranged with the U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS) to have them flown out by the U.S. Fifteenth Air Force in 1944 under the auspices of “Operation Halyard.” (Playing both sides against each other, the Chetniks also returned shot-down German airmen to the *Luftwaffe*.)

The British House of Commons on July 18 votes 305-182 to implement bread rationing in the United Kingdom due to low wheat reserves.

Congratulations Amiya!

**Submitted by Pauline Giaccio*



SOUTH AMBOY - Amiya Chambers. who attends SA Middle School, recently won her first competitive dance title “Miss True Talent 2021”. Congratulations!!

Irish Festival September 25, 2021

Press Release

SOUTH AMBOY - The City of South Amboy in partnership with the South Amboy Parade Committee will host an Irish Festival on Saturday, September 25th at the Raritan Bay Waterfront Park. The festival, which will begin at 2pm, promises to be an exciting and family friendly event and will include music, food and craft vendors, kid friendly activities, and will conclude with a firework display at dusk.

There will be live entertainment throughout the event including appearances by renowned Irish Musicians Willie Lynch and Andy Cooney, step dancers from the Lynn Academy of Irish Dance, as well as our very own Colonel DB Kelly Pipes and Drums.

Parade Co-Chairman Mickey Gross said, “Now that we are finally beginning to emerge from the pandemic, we are excited to hold this event as a preamble to the parade's return in March 2022.”

The City of South Amboy has hosted an annual Saint Patrick's Parade for many years and the event has grown to one of the largest in New Jersey. Mayor Fred A. Henry said, “I promise you that our dedicated Parade volunteers and our City employees will ensure that this is an event to remember.”

South Amboy is conveniently located at the nexus of Route 9 & 35 and is home to a convenient NJ Transit rail station that is only a short walk to the Raritan Bay Waterfront Park. Rain date for the event is September 26th.

Raritan Bay Cruisers Car Show

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

Revelation

It happens all the time.
Hands vigorously sharpening a blade.
Or whittling a stick abruptly stop;
The startled dog half asleep
On the floor, opens its eyes.
Once again another old man,
Lost and found in Memory's overpowering gaze,
Falls upon his knees.
“Lord, Lord,” he begins,
“I did not know it then,
But those were the finest years of my life.”

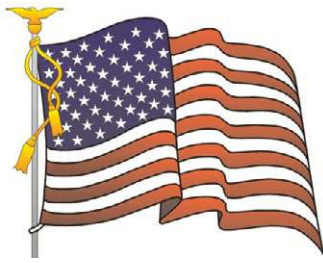
.Jerry Shonda





Enrique Hernandez
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PERTH AMBOY - Great investment property fully rented one block from waterfront all separated utilities 4 oil furnaces above ground oil tanks and one gas furnace. a must see 5 family full of potential. **\$900,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Beautiful large 1/2 duplex High School section, features 4 bedrooms, 1.5 bath, possible off-street parking, it is being sold strictly in AS IS condition buyer is responsible for C/O and all repairs. Inground oil tank being removed by owner. **\$286,000**



PERTH AMBOY - All brick mint condition 1/2 duplex this 2 bedrooms is spotless with shiny natural hard wood floors, nice cozy kitchen with granite, full basement, private yard, off street parking, beautiful bath room. close to all major highways and shopping area. **\$239,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Charming 1 bedroom right by the Bay! Don't miss out on this cozy 1 bedroom 1 bathroom. In unit washer and dryer. **\$1,200 rent**



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



PERTH AMBOY - 3 family property. 1st floor 3 bedrooms, 2nd floor 2 bedrooms plus a Den/family/room/office, 3rd floor 1 bedroom. Each unit is month to month. Driveway and backyard parking available for 8-10+ vehicles. Large full Basement with separate entrance. Property is being sold as is Buyer responsible for obtaining C.O. delayed showings until Wednesday 6/30/21. **\$499,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Beautifully remodeled 3rd floor unit. Don't miss out on this 2-bedroom dream apartment. Brand new counter tops in kitchen along with a fully remodeled bathroom to match. **\$1,500 rent**



PERTH AMBOY - Great investment two family fully rented in the heart of Perth Amboy only 3 blocks from NYC Train station and Business District. this property features 3 bedrooms each apartment, all separated utilities and much more. It is being sold strictly in AS IS condition Buyer is responsible for C/O, termites and all repairs. Hurry this is a unique opportunity!!! **\$405,000**



SOUTH RIVER - Beautifully renovated, updated apartment in the heart of South River. Spacious, nice layout upgraded Quartz countertops along with stainless steel appliances. Nice outdoor space on the back porch. Perfect living space. **\$1,450 rent**