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Not Letting It Go 1/10/22 Caucus

By: Carolyn Maxwell
PERTH AMBOY – Council President Bill Petrick and Councilman Joel Pabon again butted heads when it came to appointing people to municipal boards. Councilman Joel Pabon was adamant when he stated that people whose terms were up should not automatically be reappointed and also, if they wanted to be reappointed, they should come before the council to be interviewed as to why they should remain on the board. Council President Petrick's reasoning is that the people who have been on boards for many years have had the advantage of going through all the required classes needed and that should be considered when people are being reappointed. Pabon reasoned that even if that is true, there are people that may be appointed and have a fresh perspective on what should be done. Petrick also said there are vacancies on a board, any member of a board who is an alternate whose term has not expired should have the opportunity to be moved up. There were also concerns about the attendance records of board members and suggested there should be a sign-up sheet. There

was also a discussion that some members of boards whose terms were about to expire sent emails or letters explaining why they wanted to remain on the boards. There is four members of the Zoning Board whose term were about to expire. Of four members, three members sent emails or letters detailing why they wanted to remain on the board. The fourth member just sent a brief email stating she wanted to remain on the board.

Both Petrick and Pabon decided it would be in the best interest if anybody whose terms were about to expire should come before the council to explain why they would like to be reappointed.

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda stated that she could see both sides of the argument. "You have people on these boards who have experience, but we should give others the opportunity to serve."

City Attorney Opel spoke up and said that the ordinance does not show the process of reappointment. "The only person on the Zoning Board who hasn't submitted anything yet is Wilma Matey."

Councilwoman Rose Morales agreed that all applicants should be interviewed: the new ones and the ones whose terms were up.

Councilman B.J. Torres who participated in the meeting via Zoom said he wanted to make a motion to appoint Council President William Petrick to the Perth Amboy Planning Board as a Class III Member for a one-year term to expire December 31, 2022.

Councilman Joel Pabon spoke up and stated that he is also interested to be put on that position instead of Petrick.

Petrick asked if he could be appointed.

Councilwoman Tejeda requested that the council discuss this matter later.

Pabon and Petrick also had a lengthy discussion regarding R-35-1/22- (Duke Realty and the reimbursement of cash bonds in the amount not to exceed \$375,449.13 regarding the amphitheater portion for 215-230 Riverview Drive).

Petrick said, "I requested since last year the rendering of the original drawings. They have let us down on a lot of items



Council President
William Petrick



Councilman
Joel Pabon

that we requested. Some buildings, such as the administration building was knocked down and a parking lot was put in its place which is mostly empty anyway. Their first project before this is where they put up warehouses and after they did that, they asked for PILOTS. They did not keep their promises and they don't deserve this money back."

Pabon then spoke up, "I looked at emails that were sent out to us from February 14, 2020, where there were approvals that was done by the city engineer. Those

emails said that building (administration building) was not included in the original artist's rendering. I would have loved to have saved that building. The guy that was here from Duke Realty said there was no money for what the council asked for. Now, they are doing other projects for the city."

Petrick spoke up again, "I thought the administration building was not to be knocked down, and I need to see the

**Continued on Page 2*

Municipal Appointments, Passing Legislation at Business Meetings, Re-Warding Discussed

1/5/22 Reorganization/Business Meeting

By: Katherine Massopust
SOUTH AMBOY – Due to the rise in Covid, the meeting was held virtually. Mickey Gross was re-elected President and Christine Noble was re-elected Vice-President.

Added to the consent agenda was to nominate Councilwoman Zusette Dato to SARA and Councilman Brian McLaughlin appointed to OEM (Office of Emergency Management).

There was a question by Councilman Tom Reilly about Resolution 22-047 – the Library Board Appointments. Since the Superintendent of schools was appointed to the Library Board, Reilly asked if the Superintendent leaves, who will fill this appointment.

City Clerk Brooks explained that this appointment is always the Superintendent of Schools, and if such a case happens, the

new appointee would be the new Superintendent.

There were some questions on the consent agenda about the language in changing the power of the city council to take legal action, if necessary, at a Business Meeting (so it will no longer be called a business meeting). This was included in the ordinance of the future dates of council meetings in 2022. City Clerk Deborah Brooks stated that the change was advised because the council may need to take legal actions at a business meeting and that the council no longer meets in the conference room. The business meetings are held in the regular meeting room so that it can be recorded properly. "Historically at a business meeting, no action was taken. Presently, if there is only one meeting a month for any reason, legal action can be

taken."

Councilman Tom Reilly stated he was not comfortable with this and that he did not wish to rush any legislation without the public having ample time to be informed.

City Clerk Brooks explained that this gives the council options if the legislation has a time deadline and does not interfere with putting things off without discussing it.

Councilman Reilly stated he wanted this pulled off the agenda.

Brooks suggested that a straw poll be taken and that the council pass the date list of the future council meetings portion of the ordinance.

Councilwoman Zusette Dato suggested, "We can have a discussion. It is important for the public to hear on the agenda. If we need to take action, approve

the dates now, before we take action (on the ability to pass legislation during a business meeting).

Law Director Francis Womack stated, "We need to publicize the dates of meetings by the 10th. We don't need to specify what type of meeting it is (called).

City Clerk Brooks stated, "Anything that is not required, you can choose to carry (over to a regular meeting). I don't want to get stuck. You (the council) are not supposed to take action at a business meeting. If it falls on a 30-day deadline for instance, we have that option."

Council President Mickey Gross stated that he had no wish to push anything through.

Law Director Francis Womack stated that anything that needs to take action on always can be voted on.

The council decided to publish the dates, but to pull the portion of the ordinance to discuss the ability to pass legislation at a business meeting to be discussed in the future, but passed the list of meeting dates.

There were some questions on Resolution 22-052- A Resolution extending the Resolution 20-094 contract award for the supply of gasoline for municipal vehicles to Kira-Dhar, Inc. Exxon of Sayreville.

Councilman Brian McLaughlin asked if the city was getting its own pumping station.

Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski answered "Yes, at the end of the year. It will have all the bells and whistles with diesel and gas. It will be above ground."

Council Comments:

Council Vice-President Chris-

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Not Letting It Go 1/10/22 Caucus

**Continued from Page 1*

original artist's rendering for the amphitheater. Now, they wish to build larger warehouses. We didn't agree to what they showed us, and they didn't have a conversion as to what we wanted."

At this point City Engineer Ernest Feist came up to the podium, "I did a lot of research. Council President Petrick is correct. What they (Duke Realty) promised was not done. At the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020, Duke Realty approached the then Business Administrator Frederick Carr about the changing the artist rendering's plans. Carr then indicated to Duke Realty that he accepted the changes. The only thing is that he didn't go through all the different boards that were needed to approve these changes. Even I was left off the email threads of the changes that were going on."

Petrick said, "It looks like Duke Realty bypassed the Planning Board and the Council and was going behind our backs."

Pabon then spoke up, "We didn't know the Planning Board was passed over (regarding any changes that Duke Realty made from the original artist rendering)."

Feist continued, "They knew that I had to look at any changes that I was not made aware of. Duke Realty asked if they had to give their change of plans to any other groups and Frederick Carr indicated, "No". Only Carr gave approvals."

Petrick then stated, "Just as they did with E-Port I, Duke Realty has not honored their agreement."

Feist concluded, "They (Duke Realty) have only received preliminary approvals."

There was a brief discussion regarding Ordinances (First Reading): Ordinance No. 1 Re: Personnel Policies – to prohibit payment to elected officials for accumulated and unused sick, vacation, and personnel days.

Petrick said, "That is changing the title to "elected officials" and not "part-time officials"."

Regarding Ordinance No. 2 – A lease agreement between the city of Perth Amboy and Omni Point Communications fort the lease of space for the installation, operation, and maintenance of a wireless communications facility.

Petrick said, "This is to add additional cell power."

Joel Pabon had a question regarding Ordinance No. 3. – A new Chapter entitled, Newsracks, to regulate the purpose and placement of existing and future newsracks in, near, and upon public streets, sidewalks, and outdoor spaces.

Pabon questioned, "What are we going to do. Who is going to keep an eye on this?"

Business Administrator Michael Green responded, "We need to make sure these newsracks have insurance on them and stop the proliferation of these newsracks all over. They will have to come and pay fees, maintain them, and also have insurance on them."

Pabon asked, "How many of them are registered now?"

Green concluded, "We will contact the owners and they will have to comply with the law that we are putting in place. If not, we can remove those newsracks."

There was also a discussion regarding R-43-1/22 Supporting the Redevelopment at Second Street Park. Business Administrator Michael Green said that there will be \$201,000 which will help in the mitigation of that spot.

Deputy Chief Cattano also came up to make remarks regarding the same resolution. "There was something located on the NJ Transit Side of that park regarding the discovery of ammunition (dead)."

Director of Human Resources and Recreation Ken Ortiz came up to speak. "There is also a formality that the City of Perth Amboy supports this project."

Petrick asked about Resolution 5-1 – Appointment of Diane Roman as the Acting Director of Human Services for a period of 90 days. "Will she be appointed fulltime?"

Green responded, "Yes."

Pabon mentioned R-6-1 – A demolition bond for an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for 240-244 Smith Street. "Someone needs to level that street."

Green said, "I will look into it."

Pabon then commented about R-10 – Public Safety Gate improvement for 365-385 New Brunswick Avenue in an amount not to exceed \$6,652.

"They knew that the original asking price for this job was too much money."

Council President Petrick and B.A. Green had a brief discussion regarding R-15 – Authorizing initiation of competitive contracts for professional consulting services for the creation of a master plan and the master plan reexamination report. Green said, "This master document is for the Planning Board to act upon. The master plan has 13 parts."

Petrick thought that this might be premature. "They were already sent in a working document."

Green responded, "You need to see how the vendors will respond to the RFP's for all parts of the master plan."

Fire Chief Ed Mullen came up to speak about R-16 – A 3-Year contract with Cummins Sales & Service for maintenance and repair on engines and equipment on Marine 5 and Marine 3 in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.

"There are grants already in place and part of those grants are from 2020 Port Security Grants which authorizes the spending of the money that was already approved."

Council President Petrick questioned R-19 – Authorizing the Perth Amboy Police Department to request and acquire access department of defense equipment. "Will there be a limit on the spending?"

Green responded, "We will make sure that all the equipment that they were requesting can be utilized."

Councilman B.J. Torres commented about R-21 – A contract with Atlantic Salt for the purchase of rock salt at \$47.90 per ton in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

He questioned, "Can we suspend street sweeping when we are salting the streets?"

Petrick said that he agreed with that.

Green also explained R-31 – A contract with Edmunds Gov Tech for 2022 software maintenance in amount not to exceed \$56,000.

"The Council and the mayor asked us to see what we could do to be put online. This required another charge for an additional modular."

Public Portion:

Resident Ken Balut talked about incompetency of the lawyers and business administrators when it came to dealing with Duke Realty and Kushner. "There are so many change orders on every project. We've had three studies on illegal housing. We have someone who is the head of Code Enforcement who is not qualified. Friends and relatives get jobs. Does the Acting Director of the DPW have all the qualifications? When I sat on the council, we always got reports on illegal housing. Are there civil liberty suits against the library?"

Green responded, "Yes."

Balut continued, "What happened to awards that were given to the police in the past? We need to know where the \$6 million was part of funding that the city received was spent."

Petrick responded to Balut's last comment. "\$1.8 million was for the water meters, but I can't account for the remaining money."

Petrick also said that the last contractor that was working at installing the handicapped lift at the library regarding has stopped the work.

Green stated he would get information on a time frame needed to complete that particular project.

Resident Vince Mackiel came up next. He mentioned the press conference they had at Bayview Park about the city water. "Various groups were there. They talked about the lead that was in the city's pipes. What are the future expenditures in the Build Back Better program? Toms River spent \$300 million to clean up their water. Specify our needs to get the best water for Perth Amboy now and in the future. We can start with the watershed in Old Bridge."

Green responded, "Money has been allocated on how that money will be distributed to the city. We need to update our antiquated equipment."

Petrick then spoke up, "We need to go to the older parts of town to see where the lead bins are."

Councilman Pabon then suggested, "We need to put together as list on how to make the water better."

Green responded, "That list is already done, and we will forward it to our state agencies."

Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools Names Jorge Diaz as New Superintendent of Schools

Diaz will Take Over as Superintendent of Schools on April 1

Press Release
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ – The Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools (MCVTS) Board of Education has selected Jorge E. Diaz as the new superintendent of schools. Diaz is scheduled to take over the superintendent position on April 1, 2022.

An educator for more than two decades, Diaz has served as the superintendent of schools for the South Amboy School District for the past five years.

“Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools was the first full-time county vocational school system in the country, and over the years, it has developed a reputation for providing an excellent education to high school, adult, and special needs students,” said Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners Director Ronald G. Rios. “Leading

a public school district that serves such a diverse population and offers the broad range of educational opportunities available at MCVTS is no small task, but I believe Jorge E. Diaz is up to the challenge. We, in Middlesex County, are proud of the many assets our county has at our disposal, and Mr. Diaz is a reflection of that. On behalf of the entire Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners, I offer my sincere congratulations to Mr. Diaz and commend the MCVTS Board of Education on a successful superintendent search. We look forward to continuing to work together on behalf of MCVTS students.”

“A solid education is the foundation for future success in any endeavor, and we are committed to supporting Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools in their mission to

provide a stellar education to county residents,” said Middlesex County Commissioner Chanelle Scott McCullum, chair of the community advisory committee which assisted the Board of Education in the search process. “The selection of Jorge E. Diaz as superintendent of schools for MCVTS will ensure the district has a strong and compassionate leader at the helm who is prepared to handle the myriad challenges of 21st century education.”

“We are pleased to announce that Jorge E. Diaz has accepted the role of superintendent of schools for MCVTS,” said Keith Jones II, President of the MCVTS Board of Education. “Finding the right person to lead this unique school district and to execute on the Board’s vision for the future was not easy, but Mr. Diaz’s unique skills and extensive background in educa-

tional administration and teaching makes him the right leader for our students, parents, and entire school community.”

“I am honored to accept the position of Superintendent of Schools for MCVTS,” said Jorge E. Diaz. “I look forward to applying the experience and expertise acquired throughout my more than 20 years in education – as a superintendent, an administrator, and a classroom teacher – to this new role. More importantly, I’m excited for the opportunity to work with leaders throughout the county, higher education, and the private sector to enact my vision of rebranding the MCVTS and its curriculum to better prepare students for the evolving workforce. Thank you to Middlesex County and the MCVTS Board of Education for entrusting me with this responsibility.”

Diaz began his career in edu-

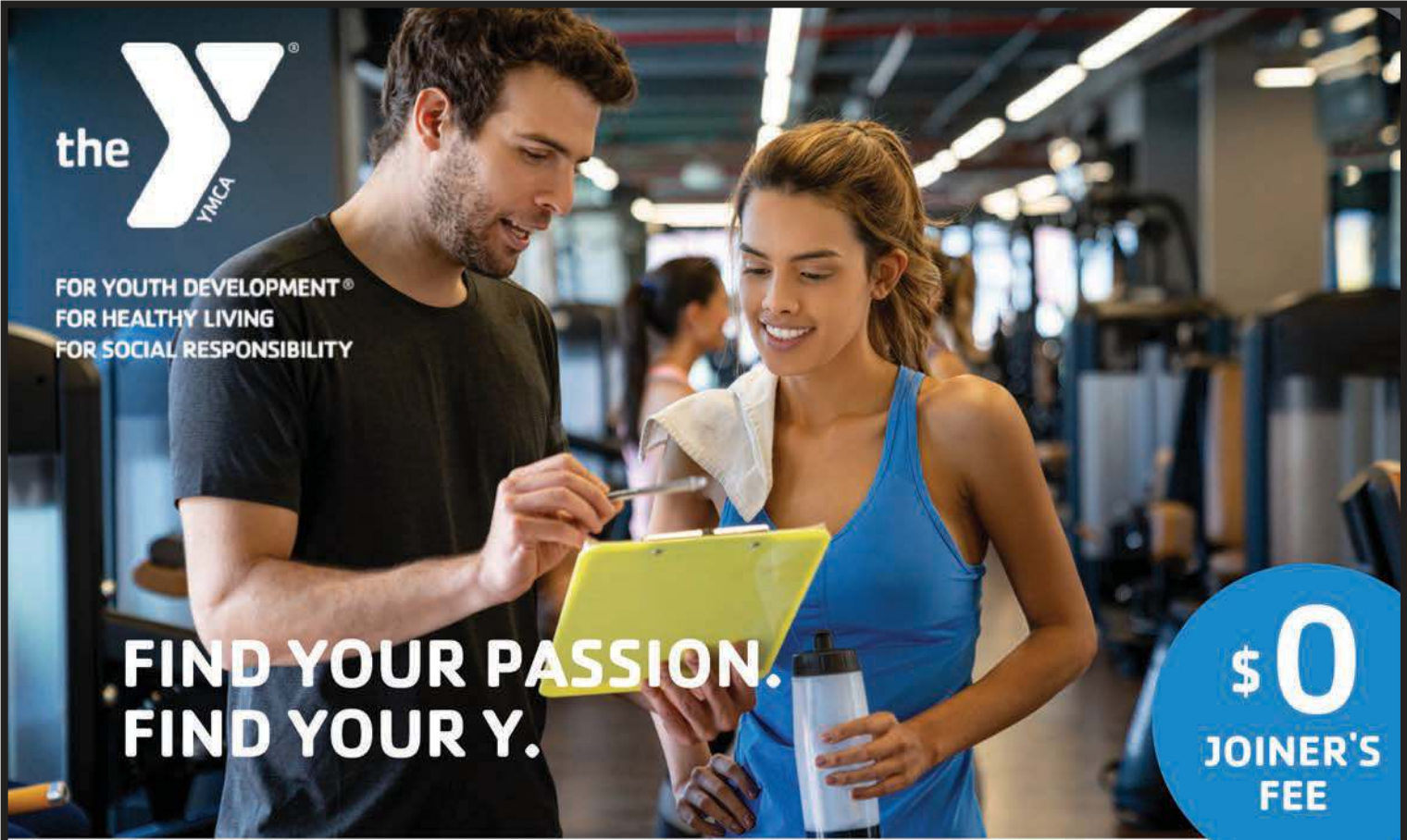
cation in 1999 as a technology specialist and teacher for the Union City Board of Education in Union City, New Jersey. During his eight years with the Union City School District, Diaz taught sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students; was a member of the School Technology Task Force and Budget Task Force; served as an advisor for afterschool programs; and coached the high school varsity wrestling team. He then spent 10 years as a high school and elementary school principal in New Brunswick before accepting the role of superintendent of schools for South Amboy Public Schools in January 2017.

As superintendent in South Amboy, Diaz created new special education programs, providing in-house services so that students would not need to travel out of the district to receive special education programming. Diaz also spearheaded a 1:1 Chromebook initiative, obtaining pilot funding from the City of South Amboy to provide Chromebooks for every student in the district.

Diaz earned a Master of Arts degree in Educational Leadership from Kean University in 2006 and a Bachelor of Science degree from Rutgers University in 1995. A resident of Carteret, Diaz has been a member of the Carteret Borough Council since January 2004, where he serves as Chair of Finance and Administration. Diaz is also involved in his local community, serving on the Executive Committee of the Perth Amboy Area Branch of the NAACP, and as Vice President of the Board of Trustees for the Carteret Library.

The MCVTS Board of Education appointed Robert P. Mooney as interim superintendent of schools in August 2021. With six schools located on five campuses throughout Middlesex County, MCVTS serves approximately 2,200 high school students and roughly 400 adult students annually. The district has an annual operating budget of more than \$50 million.

For more information about Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools, please visit <https://www.mcvts.net/>.



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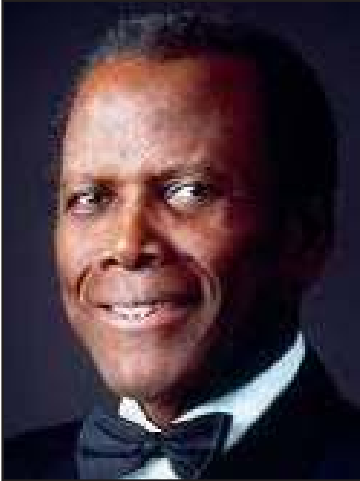
LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Judging by the Content of Their Character- Not the Color of Their Skin



Martin Luther King, Jr.



Sidney Poitier



Arthur Duncan - 1954



Betty White - 1954



Betty White & Arthur Duncan on the Steve Harvey Show - 2017
*Photos AP

They lived these words. In 1954, Betty White had a variety show where she featured a young, talented dancer by the name of Arthur Duncan. She was in her mid-thirties and Duncan was in his early twenties. She was threatened that if she did not eliminate Duncan from her show, some of the stations, especially in the south would cancel her. She refused to be intimidated and boldly stated, “Deal with it!” Many, many years later in 2017, Betty White and Arthur Duncan would be reunited.

Actor Sidney Poitier always made sure all the roles he took reflected images of a strong, black role model. So, as we celebrate and continue to do so the month of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday celebration, we reflect on these individuals who brought honor and dignity and positive role models that everyone could look up to regardless of their race, creed, or color. *C.M.*

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Whom Do We Trust?

Here we go again! More fake hysteria by the puppet controlled mainstream media on COVID and Dr. Strange-Mind Fauci keeps telling us different

stories on COVID. Also, how many are still getting COVID that were vaccinated? And those booster shots - does it work? Remember, the vaccine is experimental drug use on humans - not on rats. If you oppose or ask real questions about COVID those in power will “De-

stroy You” or they’ll make you a “Domestic Terrorist” for the fun of it. Plus, Facebook is using censorship if you comment on the truth. And last keep your eyes on Russia and the Ukraine - “The Fog of War”.

Orlando “Wildman” Perez

Well-Regulated

A recent writer was mistaken in his definition of "well-regulated" for the meaning in the 18th and 19th century of "proper working condition". He cannot name any regulation that

was in effect then. More people are killed by motor vehicles, what is their solution? Recently many states liberalized their laws to allow people to "keep and bear arms". The

1968 Federal gun control law was followed by an escalation in firearm deaths. Most firearm deaths are suicides. Why do some people ignore history?

R.A. Sobieraj

Financial Mismanagement

President Biden, House Speaker Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Schumer remind me of the Three Stooges, Moe, Larry, and Curley. Except they made us all laugh. Biden, Pelosi and Schumer make us want to cry. All three claim that the \$1.85 trillion Build Back America Bill is fully paid for. Only fellow Democrat West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin has the courage to challenge this charade.

The result will end up increasing our national debt by hundreds of billions. There is

no guarantee that many of the anticipated spending offsets and future revenue sources will actually come to fruition. Any spending provisions that sunset after several years versus the full authorization period seldom occur. Once recipients count on these new entitlements, Congress always seems to find funding to extend them. Have you even read of any elected official proudly announcing that his pet program will end? The Congressional Budget Office conducted an honest review for the cost of this legislation. They added up the costs for such programs as expansion of Obama care, childcare subsidies, uni-

versal pre-kindergarten and others that would only be funded for the first few years rather than becoming permanent. The real cost for this bill assuming Congress extends funding several years down the road for the full ten years would add an additional \$3 trillion in long term debt. So much for truth in advertising. If you or I managed our finances like Biden, Pelosi and Schumer, we would have been audited by the IRS and sentenced to serve hard time in prison...

Sincerely,
Larry Penner

We Value Your Opinion! Please Send Us A Response!

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month

Press Release
HACKENSACK, NJ - When Denise Giancaspro experienced some unexpected bleeding at 58, it was cause for alarm.

“I immediately made an appointment with the doctor who found what appeared to be a tumor,” explained Denise.

A biopsy confirmed that Denise had cervical cancer.

“I was shocked, I’ve never had any problems and no family history.”

Denise is one of the more than 14,000 women in the United States diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer each year. But thanks to innovative changes in the prevention and treatment of the disease, the mortality rate associated with cervical cancer has declined by nearly 50%.

“I never questioned my physicians, who were incredibly positive, I just did exactly what they recommended,” said Denise, who underwent a robotic hysterectomy, followed by treatments of low dose radiation and chemotherapy at the John Theurer Cancer Center at Hackensack University Medi-

cal Center. “The robotic surgery was much less invasive and I was home the next day.”

Cervical Health Awareness Month is marked every year, at this time, to encourage women to be more aware of the signs of cervical cancer, like unexplained bleeding, and to get screened right away. A new study found 26% of women surveyed did not schedule a cervical screening during the pandemic and nearly a quarter nearly a quarter of women (24%) ages 40 to 60 say it’s been more than 36 months since their last appointment with their OB/GYN. “Don’t delay your screenings, early detection is so incredibly important,” said Denise.

Three years after her diagnosis, Denise found out her cervical cancer had spread to her lungs. “While this is not uncommon, I was pretty shaken up but my doctors recommended I participate in a clinical trial for a new drug to treat it and I’m so happy that I did,” she said. Today, Denise gets a CT scan every 9 weeks and is cancer free.



Denise Giancaspro with her husband. *Photo Submitted

She travels as much as she can with her husband and living life to the fullest. “I want others to know that there are innovative treatments available that allow you to go on with your life.”

For more information or to book an interview with one of Hackensack University Medical Center’s physicians or patients, contact Mary McGeever at 551-795-1675 or mary.mcgeever@hmhn.org.



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| HY TAVERN | 386 HIGH ST. |
| INVESTOR'S BANK | 598 STATE ST. |
| JANKOWSKI COMMUNITY CENTER | 1 OLIVE ST. |
| JEWISH RENAISSANCE MEDICAL CENTER | 272A HOBART ST. |
| KIM'S DRY CLEANERS | 73 SMITH ST. |
| LAW OFFICES | 708 CARSON AVE. |
| LEE'S MARKET | 77 SMITH ST. |
| LUDWIG'S PHARMACY | 75 BRACE AVE. |
| NEW ELIZABETH CORNER RESTAURANT | 175 HALL AVE. |
| PETRA BEST REALTY..... | 329 SMITH ST. |
| PETRICK'S FLOWERS | 710 PFEIFFER BLVD. |
| POLICE HEADQUARTERS | 365 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE. |
| PORTUGUESE MANOR | 310 ELM ST. |
| PROVIDENT BANK | 339 STATE ST. |
| PUBLIC LIBRARY | 196 JEFFERSON ST. |
| PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATION | 100 FIRST ST. |
| QUICK CHEK | 853 CONVERY BLVD. |
| QUICK STOP DELI | 814 AMBOY AVE. |
| QUISQUEYA MARKET | 249 MADISON AVE. |
| QUISQUEYA LUNCHEONETTE | 259 MADISON AVE. |
| RARITAN BAY AREA Y.M.C.A. | 365 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE. |
| RARITAN BAY MEDICAL CENTER | 530 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE. |
| SANTANDER BANK | 365 CONVERY BLVD. |
| SANTIBANA TRAVEL | 362 STATE ST. |
| SCIORTINO'S RESTAURANT | 473 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE. |
| SHOP-RITE | 365 CONVERY BLVD. |
| SIPOS BAKERY | 365 SMITH ST. |
| SUPERIOR DINER..... | 464 SMITH ST. |
| SUPREMO SUPERMARKET | 270 KING ST. |
| TORRES MINI MARKET | 403 BRUCK AVE. |
| TOWN DRUGS & SURGICAL | 164 SMITH ST. |
| WELLS FARGO | 214 SMITH ST. |
| IN SAYREVILLE: | |
| BOROUGH HALL | 167 MAIN ST. |
| SENIOR CENTER | 423 MAIN ST. |
| IN SEWAREN: | |
| PUBLIC LIBRARY | 546 WEST AVE. |
| SEWAREN CORNER DELI | 514 WEST AVE. |
| IN SOUTH AMBOY: | |
| AMBOY BANK | 100 N. BROADWAY |
| BROADWAY BAGELS | 105 S. BROADWAY |
| BROADWAY DINER | 126 N. BROADWAY |
| CITY HALL | 140 N. BROADWAY |
| COMMUNITY CENTER | 200 O'LEARY BLVD. |
| KRAUSZER'S | 200 N. BROADWAY |
| KRAUSZER'S | 717 BORDENTOWN AVE. |
| PUBLIC LIBRARY | 100 HOFFMAN PLAZA |
| SCIORTINO'S HARBOR LIGHTS | 132 S. BROADWAY |
| SOUTH AMBOY MEDICAL CENTER..... | 540 BORDENTOWN AVE. |
| WELLS FARGO BANK..... | 116 N. BROADWAY |
| IN WOODBRIDGE: | |
| CITY HALL | 1 MAIN ST. |
| MAIN ST. FARM | 107 MAIN ST. |
| NEWS & TREATS | 99 MAIN ST. |
| ST. JOSEPH'S SENIORS RESIDENCE | 1 ST. JOSEPH'S TERR. |

Important!

Always call ahead of time to make sure any event you intend to attend will take place.

The Amboy Guardian will only put a cancellation notice in if we receive notice from the organizer of the event.

Attention Businesses Open During Pandemic Crisis:

Let customers know your services are helping to serve the community. Consider Advertising in the Amboy Guardian. Our rates are reasonable for both print and/or online advertising. Are you hiring? Get the word out!

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Attention!

Our Newspaper is available at Shop-Rite, Perth Amboy at the Courtesy Counter!

2022 Amboy Guardian Publication Dates

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

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

MON. Jan. 24 City Council, Caucus, 5:30 p.m.
City Hall, High St. & Zoom
WED. Jan. 26 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St. & Zoom
Thurs. Jan. 27 Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m.
City Hall High St.

South Amboy

WED. Jan. 19 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. (via Go-To-Meeting)
City Hall, N. Broadway
WED. Feb. 2 City Council, Business, 6 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway

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

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



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Our Valentine's Day Issue is Coming up on February 2, 2022
Deadline: January 28, 2022
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7 p.m. Thursday

Office Hours:
Mon. - Wed. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Safety Announcement

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

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!!
Report Suspicious Activity - Be Vigilant - **STAY ALERT!**
Do not think that any call or report is too small
Don't allow the actions of a few dictate your quality of life
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Email: ecabrera52@hotmail.com

Not Letting It Go 1/10/22 Caucus

**Continued from Page 2*

The new meters don't improve the water but will improve our revenue. The list will give our needs and if it warrants a rate increase."

Fire Chief Ed Mullen came up to the mike. "I want to extend the Fire Department's sympathies to those who lost their lives in the New York and Philadelphia fires. Last year, there were 4,500 fire inspections done in the city and I want to thank all who did those inspections. We also received grant money to install carbon monoxide alarms throughout many city homes. A lot of firefighters worked on their days off to do so."

The meeting was then opened to Zoom:

Resident Lisa Nanton spoke first. She stated, "Have PARA go through their procedures and all the changes on all of their projects. Duke Realty told me that the amphitheater could not be done as shown in the first rendition. I don't want the council to pay for the sins of the past and blame the last administration."

The council then went into closed session at 7:35 p.m. They returned at 8:28 p.m. to resume the meeting.

They discussed the reappointment of Bill Petrick to the Perth Amboy Planning Board as a Class 3 Member. When it came time to discuss that reappointment, Pabon's name was also mentioned, since he requested to be put in that position also.

Councilwoman Morales moved for Pabon to be appointed. It was seconded by Tejeda. Pabon ended the meeting by saying, "We have until Wednesday to decide what to do about that appointment."

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.



SAPD Police Promotions 1/7/22, City Hall, South Amboy *Photo Submitted

Press Release 1/10/22
SOUTH AMBOY - On Friday, January 7th in the presence of family and friends Mayor Fred Henry administered the oath of office to four members of the South Amboy Police Department who were promoted to new ranks. Sergeants Patricia Kanecke and Daniel Holovacko were promoted to Lieutenant and Officers Steven Clark and James Charmello Jr. were promoted to Sergeant.

Lieutenant Kanecke first served the City of South Amboy as a Special Officer II in 1997 and became a full time Officer in 2001. Lieutenant Kanecke was the first female Officer in South Amboy. She was promoted to Lieutenant in 2012 and has served as a Patrol Sergeant, continues to serve as the Supervisor in charge of support services, and along with Lieutenant Holovacko served as the co-Accreditation Manager for the Department.

Lieutenant Holovacko joined

the South Amboy Police Department in 2002. His assignments have included the Patrol Division where in 2014 he was promoted to Sergeant. He has also served as the Internal Affairs Officer, DARE Officer, TAC Officer and most recently in the Investigations Division. His new assignment will be as a Detective Lieutenant.

A United States Marine Veteran Sergeant Clark joined the South Amboy PD in 2012 and has had assignments in the Patrol Division and Traffic Safety. He will serve as the Traffic Safety Sergeant.

Sergeant Charmello joined the South Amboy PD in 2003 where he served in the Uniform Division with distinction. He serves as a Field Training Officer for the Department and will serve as a Patrol Supervisor.

"As the City grows it is my commitment that we will continue to grow our Police Department so all residents can continue to enjoy top caliber public safety services"



said Mayor Fred Henry. "These promotions, along with our current process in hiring and training new Officers will ensure our police have the tools and personnel they need to achieve their mission".

Photo: (L to R) Sgt. James Charmello Jr., Lieutenant Daniel Holovacko, Chief Darren LaVigne, Lieutenant Patricia Kanecke, Sgt. Steven Clark, Mayor Fred Henry

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Stating Their Case

1/12/22 Council Meeting

By: Carolyn Maxwell
PERTH AMBOY - The meeting was open to the public to discuss agenda items only. The first person from the public to speak was Resident Maria Garcia whose term as a Zoning Board Member will be expiring soon. She stated, “I have been on the Zoning Board for 8 years and 7 years as the chair and also on the Planning Board. I’ve always done the best job for the city and the residents. Some of the projects that came before us included Willow Pond, the complex for our senior citizens, and Harbortown just to name a few. I didn’t serve for political gain. I live here and my husband’s family have businesses in the city. I worked on the Master Plan with the City Engineer. I always take into consideration what would be best for the residents and the people (applicants) who come before us. I have attended the League of Municipalities for years and I have been recognized by them. I was the one who told the Zoning Board Members to go to the League of Municipalities to get certified. I am here for you.”

Resident and Zoning Board Member John C. Anagnostis came up to support Ms. Garcia. “She always kept the Board Members updated and she filed her application (for reappointment) in a timely manner. She should be on the top of your list.”

Resident Vince Mackiel came up next. He talked about his time as a member of the Rent Leveling Board. “We interviewed many department heads and had rent moratoriums. I attended all of the meetings. You need to be aware of all of the participants. I am also an active member of the community.”

The meeting was then opened up to Zoom.

Former Councilman Fernando Gonzalez spoke first. “We need new faces with new ideas on our boards. Interview all the candidates who applied for the Zoning and Planning Boards. We should encourage new blood to get involved.”

The council then voted on the Ordinances. For Ordinances 1 thru 4, was moved by Pabon and seconded by Tejeda. There was a discussion regarding Ordinance No. 5 – Parking Meter Zones RE: Parking Meter Times.

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda was concerned about the cost. “Recently a lot of money was spent updating these machines.”

Council President Petrick said, “A lot of times some of these cellular program meters can be programmed in the office.”

Acting Police Chief Larry Cattano came up next, “There is hundreds of signs that will have to be changed. There are 600 meterheads that will need to have software updates. Some parking lot meters must be changed manually. The enforcement in the hospital zone will be stopped at 6 p.m. Parking lots enforcement will stop at 9 p.m.”

Tejeda continued, “We need a breakdown of the complete cost. I ask that we table this.”

City Attorney William Opel said, “You can do that at the next meeting.”

Councilman Pabon questioned when the changing of times for the meters will take place.

Cattano answered, “We will

have to physically change some of the meters. I will have staff working on the cost and the benefits analysis.”

Petrick asked, “Why can’t they simply change the streets to be effective?”

Cattano then mentioned, “The lot times were changed at the train station for the benefit of the commuters.”

Councilwoman Tejeda suggested, “We should just vote on this tonight because it is the first reading.”

Ordinance No. 5 was moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejeda.

When it was time to vote on the consent agenda, several resolutions were pulled to be voted on separately. These were: R-17-1/22 – A contract with IPS Group for the purchase of 4 pay stations for New Brunswick Avenue from Smith Street to Fayette Street in an amount not to exceed \$25,382.17.

Petrick said, “This should be removed. There is no money allocated for this item according to the CFO.”

William Opel said, “All approvals were made.”

R-17 was moved to be tabled by Pabon and seconded by Tejeda.

For R-29-1/22 – Appointing Joel Pabon, Sr. to the Perth Amboy Planning Board as a Class III member for a 1-year term to expire December 31, 2022.

It was asked to be tabled by Councilman B.J. Torres and seconded by Council President Petrick. When it came time to vote, the only two who voted no were Torres and Petrick.

For R-35 (Bond Release to Duke Realty), the only person who voted “no” was Councilman Joel Pabon.

Opel made a few comments after the vote was taken, “I forwarded emails and statutes pertaining to the bonds and engineer’s letters recommending releasing the bonds to Duke Realty. If you don’t vote, they can take the city to court.”

Council President Petrick flatly stated, “Duke Realty’s letters were erroneous.”

For R-38 thru R-41 collectively reappointing the following to the Zoning Board: R-38 - Maria Garcia; R-39 - Stephanie Marquez-Villafane; R-40 – Marilyn Grullon; R-41 – Heidi Burke. Those four were tabled.

Councilwoman Morales asked that the motion be tabled; it was seconded by Tejeda in order for all the applicants to be interviewed either in person or via Zoom. The only one who voted “no” was Council President Petrick.

Petrick said, “I am concerned because the new members will not be certified, and this can cause a lawsuit. If we don’t reappoint people that are certified, then we can’t have a full board. When applicants come in for a hearing, they expect to be heard from a full certified board.”

Councilman Pabon spoke up, “The interview process is important and all boards no matter what they are when their terms are up should be interviewed. I don’t care what board it is.”

Petrick continued, “They may have to cancel the Zoning Board which is tomorrow (1/13/22) because they do not have enough qualified people to attend.”

Councilwoman Morales insisted that the council table these

four resolutions.

Tejeda then said, “We continue to do the same mistakes and errors. Let all applicants be heard. Remember not all members came in being certified.”

Joel Pabon then insisted, “This is a mistake by the council. If their meeting (Zoning Board) has to be cancelled, so be it. The Housing Authority and the Rent Leveling Board has applications, also.”

Petrick was frustrated, “It will take a couple of meetings to interview all of the applicants. What about all the appointments on the agenda?”

Councilman B.J. Torres who participated via Zoom said, “Applicants can be interviewed via Zoom.”

All the council members agreed. Torres also suggested that council members only serve on boards if the positions are not completely filled.

Zoning Board Attorney Lichstein joined the meeting via Zoom. “A full Zoning Board will consist of 7 regular members and 2 alternates. There are 5 members and 2 alternates right now. If one of those 5 members didn’t show up for the meeting, the meeting cannot go on.”

The council then voted on whether or not they can add a late-starter (R-45) – reappointing Dave Benyola as a commissioner of the Housing Authority for a 5-year term. The only person who voted “yes” was Council President Bill Petrick.

When it came time to vote on the consent agenda, R-2 thru R-16; R-18 thru R-34; R-36, R-37; R-42 thru R-44 was moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejeda.

Public Portion:

Maria Garcia came up first, “I just want to be sure that all the resolutions for all the board appointments were being tabled. Will you contact all of the applicants?”

The council said, “yes”.

Garcia concluded, “You know my number and I will be available to answer all your questions.”

The meeting was then opened up to Zoom.

Marilyn Grullon who is on the agenda to be reappointed to the Zoning Board spoke, “Back in July, I was up for reappointment, and I was interviewed. There were applicants who never even bothered to show up for an interview, and yet they were appointed. I went through the training. I appreciated the opportunity given to me first as an alternate. My family and children are all living in Perth Amboy, and I’ve only served for six months.”

Council President Bill Petrick agreed that it was unfair for her not to be automatically reappointed.

Councilwoman Tejeda said, “I think the person who wasn’t interviewed served only as an alternate. We are not eliminating you.”

Fernando Gonzalez spoke next, “I want to bring it to Council President Petrick’s attention as a point of order, when I was on the council for 8 years, it had to be a unanimous vote to add a late-starter to the agenda.”

Petrick countered, “A lot of changes took place since you left.”

Gonzalez didn’t back down. “I

served with you. You know the rules. A late-starter has to be all “yesses” and no “no’s”. And just because you table appointments does not eliminate a board. It just delays it. Have a great new year!”

Petrick responded, “This is a new council with new rules, and we are not always going to be in agreement. I consulted with the city attorney.”

Dave Benyola was at the meeting and the resolution appointing him was tabled said, “I was privileged to serve on the Housing Board. I look forward to being interviewed.”

Attorney Daniel Gonzalez came up to speak next in person. He agreed with the other council members and with his father, former Councilman Fernando Gonzalez. “We should reexamine to add new blood on our different municipal boards.” He urged the council to give Marilyn Grullon another shot since she only served for six months. He then addressed Council President Bill Petrick, “He (Petrick) seems to have a disconnect with

the other council members. You should know that late-starter resolution has to have an all “yes” vote to be put on the agenda. When other council members express their views, you keep going back and forth with them. You play the board and the public, and you make snide comments. You need to apologize more. I want to end my comments on a positive note. Smith Street looks amazing as well as the celebration of the holidays were amazing. I want to recognize Lissette Lebron for the work she is doing.”

Petrick responded, “I apologize for not apologizing enough.”

Council Comments:

Councilwoman Rose Morales wished everyone a new year and a happy Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. “Stay safe.”

Councilman Joel Pabon thanked Maria Garcia for coming up. “She opened up our eyes to a lot of things. I was very impressed with Marilyn Gullon’s

**Continued on Page 9*

Perth Amboy BOE Members Sworn In 1/6/22 Reorganization Meeting

**Photos Courtesy of Daniel Gonzalez*



PERTH AMBOY - BOE Member Ken Puccio is sworn in.



PERTH AMBOY - BOE Member Michael George is sworn in.



PERTH AMBOY - BOE Member Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe is sworn in.

PERTH AMBOY - Ken Puccio was voted in as President and Tashi Vazquez was voted in as Vice-President of the BOE

Hackensack Meridian Old Bridge Medical Center and Raritan Bay Medical Center’s Antimicrobial Stewardship Program Awarded 2021 Gold Steward Award by the New Jersey Department of Health

Press 1/6/22
OLD BRIDGE, NJ - Hackensack Meridian Old Bridge Medical Center and Raritan Bay Medical Center are pleased to announce its Antimicrobial Stewardship Program was awarded the 2021 Gold Steward by the New Jersey Department of Health. Both hospitals received this recognition for their dedication to antimicrobial stewardship.

“We are proud to achieve this recognition from the New Jersey Department of Health,” said William DiStanislao, interim president, chief hospital executive, Old Bridge Medical Center and Raritan Bay Medical Center. “We are committed to providing the highest quality and safe care to our patients.”

Antimicrobial stewardship refers to a set of The New Jersey Antimicrobial Stewardship Recognition Program recognizes excellence, encourages the development of more stewardship programs and gives much-needed recognition of Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs. Based on the level of difficulty of Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs interventions, hospitals are awarded either the Gold, Silver or Bronze Antimicrobial Stewardship Center of Excellence.

The Antimicrobial Stewardship Program at Old Bridge Medical Center and Raritan Bay Medical Center is a team collaboration between Infectious Disease and Pharmacy. The goal of the program is to optimize antibiotic use, ensuring the right antibiotic is used for the right patient and for an appropriate duration.

The New Jersey Antimicrobial Stewardship Recognition Program was launched by the New Jersey Department of Health’s Communicable Disease Service (CDS) in 2019. The New Jersey Antimicrobial Stewardship Recognition Program acknowledges programs that have met or exceeded the minimum criteria for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Core Elements of Antimicrobial Stewardship. The CDC’s Core Elements of Antimicrobial Stewardship is considered the blueprint for Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs.

South Amboy Saint Patrick’s Day Parade Committee Announces 2021 Grand Marshal

Press Release 1/3/22
SOUTH AMBOY - 2022 marks the 45th annual South Amboy Saint Patrick’s Day Parade set to begin at 2 pm on Sunday, March 20, 2022. Once again, the parade committee is hard at work coordinating this monumental event with the City of South Amboy. As one of the biggest events in the city of South Amboy and one of the largest parades in the State of New Jersey the parade will featuring more than 23 bands and over 2,000 marchers. This year we are adding some new bands to the lineup as well as confirming city favorites such as South Amboy’s own D.B. Kelly Pipes and Drums. Parade participant will begin line-up at 1 pm on South Pine Avenue.

South Amboy resident Tom Dempsey will serve as the Parade’s Grand Marshal.

Mr. Dempsey, or “Demps” to his friends and family, grew up in Jersey City, NJ and is best known for his impressive work history, entrepreneurial spirit,

positive, energetic personality and his “gift of the gab.” A member of the South Amboy Ancient Order of Hibernians for over 23 years, Mr. Dempsey has served as both Treasurer and Financial Secretary for the organization

He and his wife Phyllis were the proud owners of Phyllis’ Sugar Bowl which offered residents homemade chocolates and ice cream for over 28 years at its former location on Broadway in South Amboy.

When given the honor of Grand Marshal, Mr. Dempsey explained that “I have been pretty successful in my life but being named Grand Marshal of the South Amboy Parade is an honor I can’t explain. It has left me humble and speechless and as I look over my 88 years, I can honestly say that this is cherry on the cake.”

For additional parade information or to register your organization as a 2022 parade participant, please visit www.southamboyparade.com.

South Amboy Saint Patrick’s Day Parade Committee Announces Plans for the 2022 Parade

Press Release 1/3/22
SOUTH AMBOY - 2022 marks the 45th annual South Amboy Saint Patrick’s Day Parade set to begin at 2 pm on Sunday, March 20, 2022. Once again, the parade committee is hard at work coordinating this monumental event with the City of South Amboy. As one of the biggest events in the city of South Amboy and one of the largest parades in the State of New Jersey the parade will featuring more than 23 bands and over 2,000 marchers. This year we are adding some new bands to the lineup as well as confirming city favorites such as South Amboy’s own D.B. Kelly Pipes and Drums. Parade participant will begin line-up at 1 pm on South Pine Avenue.

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Once again, the parade will provide spectators with a multi-cultural array of entertainment including various pipe and drum bands, the sounds of Salsa music, a steel drum band and the color, excitement, and grandeur of a Philadelphia Mummers String Band to our city.

For additional parade information or to register your organization as a 2022 parade participant, please visit www.southamboyparade.com.



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Municipal Appointments, Passing Legislation at Business Meetings, Re-Warding Discussed 1/5/22 Reorganization/Business Meeting

**Continued from Page 1*

tine Noble stated, “Have a happy, healthy new year. Thank you for voting me as Vice-Chair.” Councilman Brian McLaughlin stated, “Have a happy new year. Covid came roaring back. Thank you to the new fire chiefs.” McLaughlin then asked about the redistricting that the county was doing in several municipalities, including South Amboy.

City Clerk Deborah Brooks stated, “Five different municipalities are being done at one time. There will be an extra meeting on the 14th at Middlesex County College. There is a 30-day timeline to get down by statute. The state gave it in late. Everybody is scrambling to get data together to get to the meetings.”

Councilman McLaughlin asked, “Do we know what the new wards are going to be?”

Brooks answered, “We will

have new wards on population counting. Our town is very simple because we do not have any large populations to move. We are moving 600 people. That is less than 200 homes. We are working on this and things that are required a lot is predetermined. It has to be continuous. We are shifting (areas). Once I get the numbers and proposals, I will get them back to you. None of the current proposals will include any current council members. In the 2030 (future census), it will be adjusted then.”

Council woman Zusette Dato stated that this process is run by a bipartisan Election Committee consisting of both an even number of Republicans and Democrats.

The Amboy Guardian reached out to Councilwoman Dato who referred us to the City Clerk who gave the following statement: “With the results of the 2020 census back, it has been

determined that there is more than a 10% population difference between our largest and smallest wards. Therefore, per state statute, we must Re-Ward the City. I have attached the public notice that will be going out shortly. There are five municipalities that must Re-Ward. We will be shifting approximately 600 people from Ward three to Wards 1 and 2. None of the current Council Ward members will change wards.”

Councilman Tom Reilly wished everyone to stay safe with Covid coming back. He thanked the new fire chiefs, the volunteers and donors to the food pantries. He then asked about the Historic Preservation Ordinance.”

Law Director Womack stated, “We have an ordinance thanks to Ms. Szarro (SAHPC Chair). The council needs to be clear what is included in this ordinance.” He explained that an ordinance was drafted, but it

needs to be fine-tuned and to be vetted.

Reilly stated, “This ordinance shows pride and growth in the community.”

Councilwoman Zusette Dato wished all the best to everyone. “I want to thank the city employees, the OEM, Fire Department, First Aid Squad and all the people who make the city grow.”

Council President Mickey Gross announced the Covid numbers for Middlesex County: “1,800,” I honestly don’t know of numbers ever being higher. We are going to have testing tomorrow (1/6/22) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at no charge. I want to thank the workers and everyone.”

Mayor Fred Henry stated, “I want to congratulate Mickey Gross and Christine Noble as President and Vice-President.” He announced that the Allie Clark Sports Center is being renovated. He congratulated the

new fire chiefs.

Law Director Francis Womack wished everyone a happy new year.

Public Portion:

Edward Grimes, who was standing outside city hall was the only person to speak from the public. He put on a wrestling mask and began to speak. Council President Gross told Grimes to take the mask off, but Grimes did not and continued to speak, “We want you to support disabled veterans. We just gave you a ramp. Your ban on medicinal cannabis is hurting vets. Even the Taliban gives medicine to its troops. We need medicinal cannabis for vets. We are going to ramp up all the public buildings for the disabled so they have access. We want representation for the taxation.” Grimes spoke in favor of praying and he then read a poem.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m. All council members were present.

Stating Their Case 1/12/22 Council Meeting

**Continued from Page 7*

resume. We’ve been trying to rectify having all the applicants come here for board positions. I am glad the Zoning Board attorney cleared up the problem for having meetings. I remember when Dorothy Daniel’s term was up as a Housing Authority Member. There were no other applicants. I am asking that we get more information on the bar on Fayette Street that is having a lot of problems. Any meetings that are held in the council chambers should be set up so they can be held via Zoom. Annie Hindlenlang was supposed to give her presentation on PARA projects. She could have done the presentation via Zoom because she has been on lockdown. Our Covid numbers are off the hook. We’ve passed 600 cases. It’s up to you if you want to wear masks. The Woodbridge numbers are even much higher. There are still people dying. It is no joke. Please protect yourself and others. A lot of bodegas have close quarters. We are hoping to get more test sites in the city that can accommodate large numbers of people. Happy new year. Things will get better.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda thanked Maria Garcia and Dave Benyola for coming to the meeting and stating why they wanted to be reappointed to the respective boards. “We need all applicants to be interviewed ASAP. We just lost a 20-year-old to Covid. A lot of people get hit hard. The hospitals are full of patients. Take care of yourself and others. Happy new year. Let’s keep working together.”

Councilman B.J. Torres had no comments.

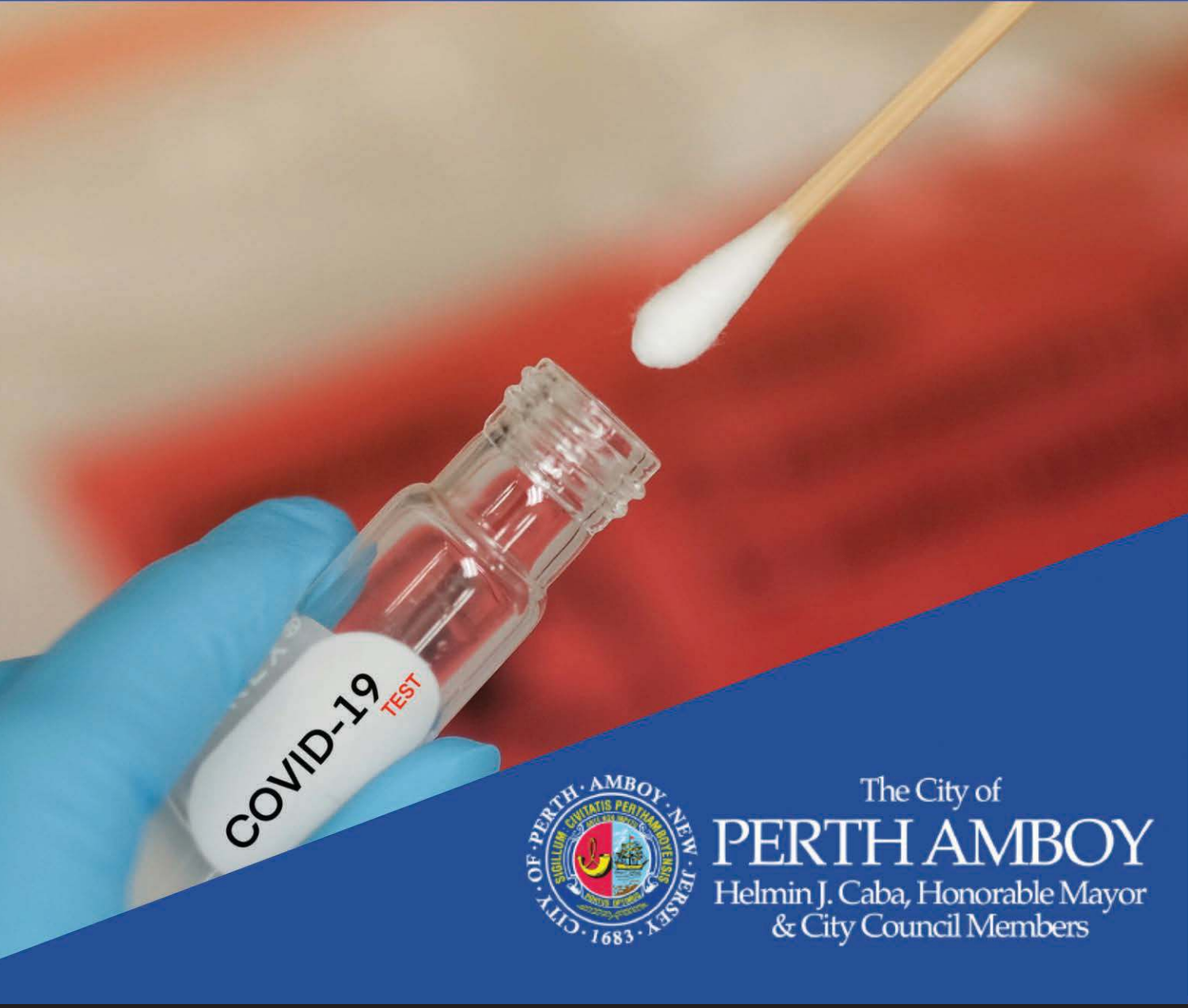
Council President Bill Petrick said, “Stay safe. Be careful and get your vaccine. Hospitals are full. Have a happy new year.”

The meeting was over at 8:44 p.m.


COVID-19 LOCATIONS/UBICACIÓN

For a list of local testing and vaccine locations, go to:
Para obtener un listado de las ubicaciones de prueba y vacunas, visite:

www.perthamboynj.org



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



Getting Ahead in Business By Milton Paris



Milton Paris



If You Do Not Plan You Plan to Fail

Sitting in my office, drinking my coffee, surrounded by photos of family, friends and movie stars, I am thinking about how we envision our goals. Everyone I meet dreams a lot about what they want to accomplish in life—how they want to live better, buy a larger house, drive a better car, and run a successful business. They dream and fantasize about it, but how many sit down and draw up a concrete, detailed, realistic plan to achieve their dreams? Unfortunately, these planning visionaries are few and far between.

Dreams are visions of what we want today and in the near future. When we want something in life, be it material or not, we must plan early, clearly, and with research and introspection. I have said many times in my business columns and at my seminars, "If you don't plan you plan to fail."

Some people are surprised when I tell them that I have met people with inferior ideas than those who became far more successful. "I have met people with lesser dreams than you," I sometimes say, "But it doesn't matter how good your dream is, if you are just sitting home thinking about it, you are never going to be successful." Everyday people with inferior dreams succeed. They succeed because their plan and implementations are better, not the dream itself.

How often do you see a product on a TV infomercial and say, "I can do better than that!" You probably can do better than that. You just don't sit down and research how to do so. I remember one of my clients had told me his dream was to own the company that he was working for. He researched books and laid out a plan to achieve his goal. There were a few bumps in the road, but eventually he became the owner by persevering and planning. Despite the negative reactions he got on his upward path, he kept at his plan and constantly tweaked it at any setbacks.

As we start the beginning of 2022, plan to achieve your goals. Sit down and write out a plan to achieve your goals. Need some motivation and moral support? There are many great books to help inspire and motivate you. I recommend the author Tony Robbins. He has written many books that have helped people overcome the fears and challenges that are interfering with them achieving their goals.

Once you have written out this plan you must work at it every day. Eventually you will accomplish your dream and vision, but don't be discouraged by setbacks or failures. The road to success is very rarely a smooth and easy one. If you want to be the best in your field, be it a salesperson, lawyer, accountant or owner of a restaurant you must plan. Have a detailed plan of your dream and vision, work hard, stay positive, love what you do, have fun and be confident in all your decisions.

Do all this and you will be successful. Remember, nothing is impossible! Contact Milton at 732.306.0040 for more information.

Milton J. Paris, is President of the Monroe based consulting firm Getting Ahead in Business whose motto is "nothing is impossible." www.gettingaheadinbusiness.com

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Milton's insights and philosophy have also helped people and their business results. Milton travels with salespeople to visit potential clients. This is all to be accomplished within an environment that puts a premium on taking personal responsibility for results.

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This Week in the Civil War

160 Years Ago

January 19, 1862 – February 1, 1862

By Phil Kohn Phil Kohn can be reached at USCW160@yahoo.com.

On January 19, 1862, Confederate Brig. Gen. Felix Zollicoffer is killed at the Battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky, a victory for Union troops led by Brig. Gen. George Thomas, a Virginian by birth. The federals capture 10 cannon, 100 wagons and over 1,000 horses. The Confederates are forced to withdraw into Tennessee. Maj. Gen. Crittenden, the overall Confederate commander, is reprimanded for losing control of the positioning of his troops. (Zollicoffer, against Crittenden's orders had moved his troops north of the Cumberland River; the remainder of the Confederate force was on the south bank.) More importantly, the Confederate defeat leaves a gap in the Southerners' Kentucky-Tennessee line of defense.

In South Carolina, the U.S. Navy on January 20 attempts to disrupt blockade running by sinking stone-laden ships in the main channel of Charleston Harbor.

Former Virginia governor Henry Wise on January 22 is named commander of 3,000 Confederate troops on Roanoke Island, North Carolina. Threatening him are the 15,000 Union soldiers under Brig. Gen. Ambrose Burnside near Hatteras Inlet to the south. Wise makes multiple appeals to Richmond for reinforcements, but to no avail.

At Charleston, South Carolina, on January 23, the U.S. Navy sinks more stone-laden ships in the harbor to thwart the passage of Confederate vessels. The efforts are unsuccessful, however, as the ships are either sunk too far apart, allowing vessels to sail between them, or sunk too deeply, permitting ships to sail over them without impediment.

On January 26, Confederate Gen. Pierre Beauregard is transferred from northern Virginia to Kentucky to become second in command to Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston. This leaves Gen. Joseph E. Johnston (no relation to Albert) in full command in Virginia.

In an unusual move triggered by frustration at the inactivity of the Federal armies (and the navy) across all fronts, President Lincoln and Secretary of War Stanton on January 27 issue General War Order #1, which mandates all Union forces to move simultaneously against the enemy, effective February 22, 1862. From Mesilla, Confederate Territory of Arizona, Brig. Gen. Henry Sibley dispatches a company of Arizona Rangers (Co. A), under Capt. Sherod Hunter to occupy Tucson, 275 miles west, to protect the western flank of his invasion of New Mexico. In Paris, France, Emperor Louis Napoleon announces that the American Civil War "has seriously compromised our commercial interests." France, however, will remain neutral for the time being.

In Little Rock, Arkansas, Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn assumes command of the 17,000 Confederate troops in the newly created Trans-Mississippi District on January 29.

The U.S. Navy, on January 30, at Greenport, New York (on the eastern tip of the north fork of Long Island), launches its first ironclad warship: USS Monitor. On the same day, Confederate commissioners Mason and Slidell finally arrive in England.

In England, on January 31, Queen Victoria reaffirms her country's neutrality in the American civil war, disappointing the Confederacy, which hoped for political support from Great Britain (as well as from France, which also remains officially neutral). In Winchester, Virginia, Brig. Gen. Thomas Jackson receives orders directly from President Davis and Secretary of War Judah P. Benjamin to withdraw the troops that he had placed at Romney, in northwestern Virginia, because they feel his positioning of them exposed them to possible isolation by Federal forces. Jackson complies but, angry with the direct interference in his command, resigns his commission and requests that Virginia governor Letcher assign him as superintendent of Virginia Military Institute, in Lexington. Pressured by Governor Letcher and his former commander, Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, Jackson withdraws his resignation. The U.S. War Department establishes the U.S. Military Railroad, with Bvt. Maj. Gen. Daniel McCallum — former superintendent of the Erie Railway — as Military Director and Superintendent of U.S. Railroads. In practice, the organization will deal primarily with Southern railroads captured during the war.

Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant on February 1 readies his troops to move out of Cairo, Illinois, and head for Confederate-held Fort Henry, on the Tennessee River in Tennessee. The overall commander of Federal troops in the West, Maj. Gen. Henry Halleck, in St. Louis, has approved the plan.

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 8 a.m. 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.

www.amboyguardian.com

Friends of the Perth Amboy Library Book Sale Return!

PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library are once again having a book sale on Saturdays January 22nd, February 12th & 26th 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.

St. Demetrios Church - the Epiphany 1/9/22, Waterfront, Perth Amboy *Photos by Paul W. Wang



PERTH AMBOY - St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church celebrated the Epiphany on Sunday, January 9, 2022 by the annual blessing of water. After the priest blesses the water, he throws a cross into the bay and children from the church run into the bay to retrieve it. Whomever retrieves the cross will be blessed with good fortune for the rest of the year. This year, Kali & Luka Simatos, and Gaby Rubis ran in to the bay. Luka caught the cross!!



A New Five Star Rehabilitation Provider comes to Perth Amboy.....

Press Release
PERTH AMBOY - The New Year, 2022; rings in Spring Creek Nursing & Rehabilitation as a top-notch destination and leader in subacute rehabilitation, long-term care.

The address 1 Lindbergh Avenue of Convery Blvd Perth Amboy is an address known to many as the former Amboy Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Allaire Health Services out of Freehold NJ recently acquired the facility. Allaire's CEO, Ben Kurland, LNHA and his team is known for transforming and modernizing the facilities that they operate. As of today, Allaire has transformed facilities in Freehold, Morristown, East Orange, Morris Township, Danville PA and Bennington, VT.

Allaire philosophy pivots on its' commitment to providing the highest level of treatment, compassion, and service to their patients and residents by delivering comprehensive specialty care tailored to each person's individual needs and that of their families.

They strive to continually foster the progress of each person's rehabilitation towards their maximum level of physical, mental, social, and spiritual functioning in a warm, attentive state-of-the-art environment that emphasizes the importance of engaging family members in the recovery and nursing care of their loved ones.


Ben notes that their facilities are committed to be an active (and proactive!) presence in the community, they promote ongoing communication with area doctors and hospitals, ensuring that the local medical community plays an integral role in the development of our specialty programs, and cultivating relationships with Senior Centers, local Boards and Schools that allow us to capitalize on their strengths for the benefit and wellbeing of our patients and residents.

Allaire's Chief Nursing Officer, Chava Goldschmidt BSN, RN, CRRN; is crafting clinical programs tailored on meeting the needs of the community served. Some of the programs include cardiac, peritoneal dialysis, pulmonary, wound care, palliative, intravenous therapy, respite, orthopedic rehabilitation, and others.

In the next few weeks, work will begin on changes to the façade, new signage, new patient rooms, new state of the art gym, to name a few. Plans are in place to launch the much-needed ethnic programs such as its "Latino Program." We must meet the health, spiritual, cultural, and ethnic needs of the community we serve, Ben re-iterated. Spring Creek plans on holding quarterly support group meetings on campus such as bereavement, dementia & Alzheimer's, and others.


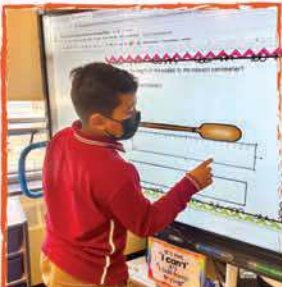
Sam, the facilities administrator; said he was humbled and blessed to have come to beautiful Middlesex County to offer much needed quality service to its residents in a world class facility.

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F.M.J.

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4. Elongated circle
8. Genesis man
12. In the tradition of: 2 wds.
13. Harsh sentence
14. Soda-machine possibility
15. Signal for help
16. Be bold
17. Exam
18. Blasting compound: abbr.
19. Part of "MFA"

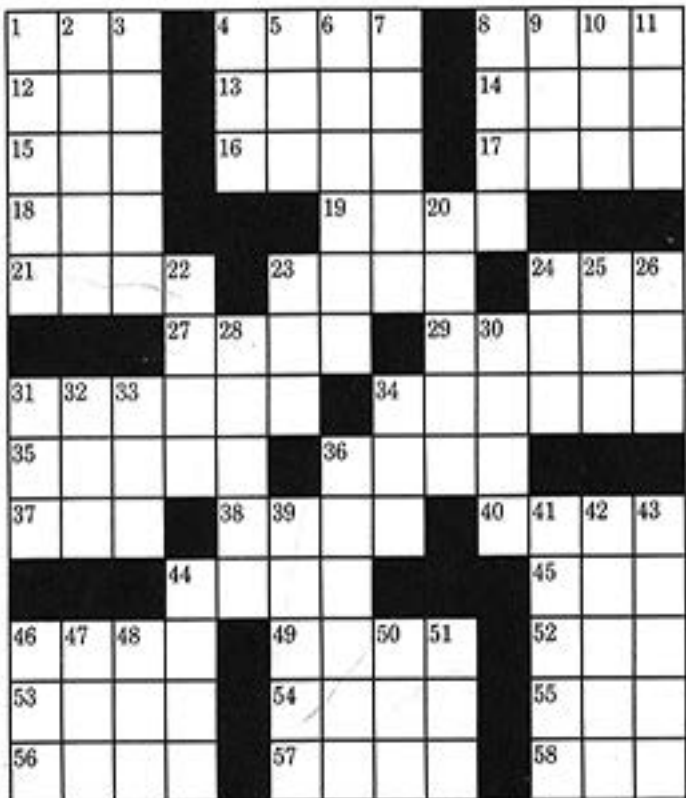
21. Furry sea mammal
23. Serving receptacle
24. Mr. King Cole
27. Very enthusiastic
29. Newport, _____ Island
31. TV dog
34. Got misty-eyed
35. Revises (copy)
36. Typical freshman
37. Uppermost point
38. Remove wrinkles from
40. Be aware of
44. Bit of gossip
45. Rhyming heavy-weight champ

46. Jab
49. Operation reminder
52. Fool (around)
53. Fence bar
54. City vehicle
55. Mate of 8-Across
56. Nothing but
57. Daisy stalk
58. Family room

DOWN

1. Poles on schooners
2. Without any company
3. Fettuccine or ziti
4. Like Father Time
5. By means of
6. Scared
7. Sly glances
8. Plays a role

9. Fawn's mother
10. Gore and Jolson
11. Bathroom rug
20. Age after two
22. Final
23. Expire
24. Word with "neither"
25. Summer citrus drink
26. TV's Koppel
28. Call on
30. Singer Williams
31. "_____ sleeping dogs lie"
32. Fuss
33. Wee swallow
34. The _____ Commandments
36. Male feline
39. Takes five
41. Not wearing any clothes
42. Pimento-filled food
43. Become broader
44. In a nonchalant way
46. Old hand
47. Was a cross-country competitor
48. Petroleum product
50. Lumber-jack's tool
51. Cup edge



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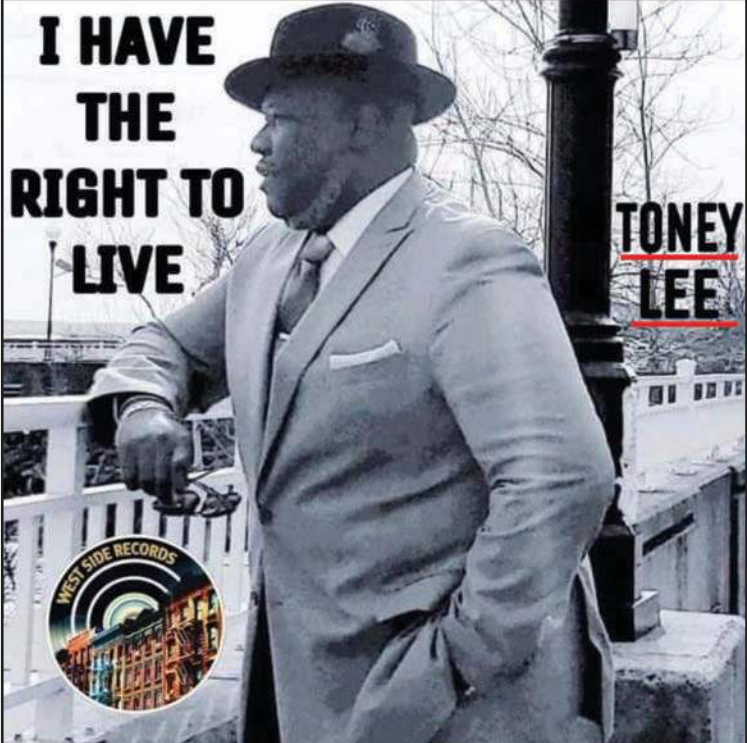
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Clothing Bin Now Open

SAYREVILLE - The Clothing Recycling Bin located at First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville, 172 Main Street, across from Borough Hall has been reopened for donations. With ART, the recycling company, one may donate in 3 ways:

- 1.) Usable clothing is donated directly to the needy.
- 2.) High-quality clothing is given to organizations that sell to those who cannot afford new clothing.
- 3.) Unusable clothing is washed and sold for industrial use and leftovers are used in the auto industry as seat stuffing for large trucks. They also help charities, schools, police departments, fire departments and non-profit organizations.

If you have clothes, shoes or other fabrics please consider using our recycling bin. Thank You.

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.

American Legion Post #45 Certificates of Appreciation to Local Restaurants, Perth Amboy 12/30/21 *Photos Submitted



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Mickey's Luncheonette



Santo Domingo Invita

PERTH AMBOY - On Thursday, December 30th, the American Legion Post# 45 presented Certificates of Appreciation to several city restaurants for their donations to the Legion's Breast Cancer Awareness Month Event. The restaurants included: Santo Domingo Invita, El Gran Valle, Mickey's Luncheonette, Mena International, Bonao

Documentary Review: Kurt Vonnegut: Unstuck in Time

By: Anton Massopust III
"And So, It Goes!" – Kurt Vonnegut in Slaughterhouse Five

A new documentary by Robert B. Weide, "Kurt Vonnegut: Unstuck in Time" it is about the science fiction author, Kurt Vonnegut and his life struggles. Weide was friends with Vonnegut for 25 years. Every time Weide tried to finish the documentary, Weide got involved with other projects. Weide became the producer of the popular show on HBO: "Curb Your Enthusiasm," as well as documentaries on comedians such as the Marx Brothers. Weide always wanted to write a documentary about Kurt Vonnegut who one of his favorite authors. Weide wrote him a letter with no immediate response, but one day there was a response from Vonnegut who stated that he would love to do a documentary. So, he met Kurt Vonnegut and interviewed him, and he spoke with many of Vonnegut's relatives and friends.

The second part of the documentary is about Vonnegut and his struggle to write the big novel. He had already written "Breakfast of Champions", "Cat's Cradle", and "The Sirens of Titan".

Weide spoke to Vonnegut's biological and adopted children. Vonnegut had adopted his sister's three sons because their father died in a train accident and Vonnegut's sister died of cancer. Kurt Vonnegut talked about his family home and how his family went bankrupt, and how



he eventually became an author. The most difficult struggle he had was writing the novel he is most remembered for: "Slaughterhouse-Five."

The documentary covers how Vonnegut wrote his novel from word#1 to the ending. He rewrote it again and again until he got it right. The novel is about Billy Pilgrim, a veteran of WWII who was captured by the Germans during the Battle of the Bulge and he was put into the city of Dresden, Germany where he was held as a prisoner of war in a Slaughterhouse which served as their prison. The city was firebombed by the Allies, and he survived just like Kurt Vonnegut did in a similar manner during WWII. The science fiction element of it is that Pilgrim is bouncing around in time and is eventually taken to the Planet of the Tralfamadore, whose inhabitants put him in a zoo along with a woman. Billy Pilgrim relives his entire life

over and over again in this anti-war novel.

Slaughterhouse-Five also gives you the real experiences of Vonnegut. One reason this novel was so popular is because it was published in 1969 during the height of the Vietnam War.

The documentary also speaks about how Vonnegut became famous, and how he abandoned his wife and children to go off with a young photographer. One of the most famous things he ever did, was make a cameo in the famous actor comedian Rodney Dangerfield's 1986 comedy, "Back to School".

Weide also talks about how he goes through his own personal struggle with his wife's illness, and Vonnegut's death in 2007.

This a documentary it is sort of a tribute to both men. I think you might find this really interesting, especially to know what is like for a writer to go through struggles and what inspires them to write.

Novena to St. Rita

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

Saint Rita, advocate of the impossible, pray for us.
Saint Rita, advocate of the helpless, pray for us.
Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be three times each. K.M. & C.M.

Prayer to 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.)

A.L.S.

You're Invited to Sunday Worship

PERTH AMBOY - Please join us on Sunday mornings: 9:00 AM for English Worship and Sunday School; 10:30 AM for Hungarian Worship and Sunday School

Rev. András Szász – Pastor; Organ Prelude - Richard Russell, Organist. We Extend an Open Invitation to All!

Magyar Reformed Church, 331 Kirkland Place, Perth Amboy, NJ - 732-442-7799; www.mrchurchnj.org

Parking behind the church on the Wilson Street side.

A.C. Bus Trip Cost Change for February!

San Salvador Seniors
PERTH AMBOY - The San Salvador Seniors are sponsoring a bus trip to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Thursday, Feb. 3, 2022. Bus will depart from behind St. Stephen's Church (St. John Paul II) Parking Lot on Mechanic Street, Perth Amboy at 11 a.m. Cost: \$35 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.

You Must Reserve Your Seat!

You must pay with exact amount of ticket and before you board the bus. We will not be able to give out change.

A.C. Bus Trip Good Shepherd Seniors

HOPELAWN - Seniors of Good Shepherd Parish is sponsoring a bus trip to Resorts Casino, Atlantic City, Tuesday, 2/8/2022. Cost is \$35 with \$20 back in play. Bus leaves our parking lot at 10:00 AM. For more information, please call Connie at 732-442-4978.

Tricky Tray

SOUTH AMBOY – The South Amboy Elks, 601 Washington Ave., South Amboy are sponsoring a Tricky Tray on January 30, 2022, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. 3 Tiers of Wrapped Prizes. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Lunch Menu available from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Drawings start promptly at 2 p.m. \$10 admission. All Proceeds benefit the General Fund. RL#21-16. For more information, call 732-727-7170.

Pets of the Week



Have a Special Pet?

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



PERTH AMBOY - Adopters needed! Rescue a kitten or cat today! Fixed and fully vetted. Email vmoralespps@yahoo.com for the adoption application or visit Allforthepaws.org Text 1.732.486.6382 for more info. or for photos of our adoptable kitties. We also need fosters. Please open your heart and home to one of these loving kitties rescued from the streets of Perth Amboy. They need love and a chance. This kitty or another will be waiting patiently for you. Can't adopt, then become a foster. Each kitty is fixed, vaccinated to age, dewormed, deflea'd, tested for FIV and leukemia, and fully vetted. Email adoption application 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.

Remember to Say Your Novenas!

Answers From Puzzle On Page 13

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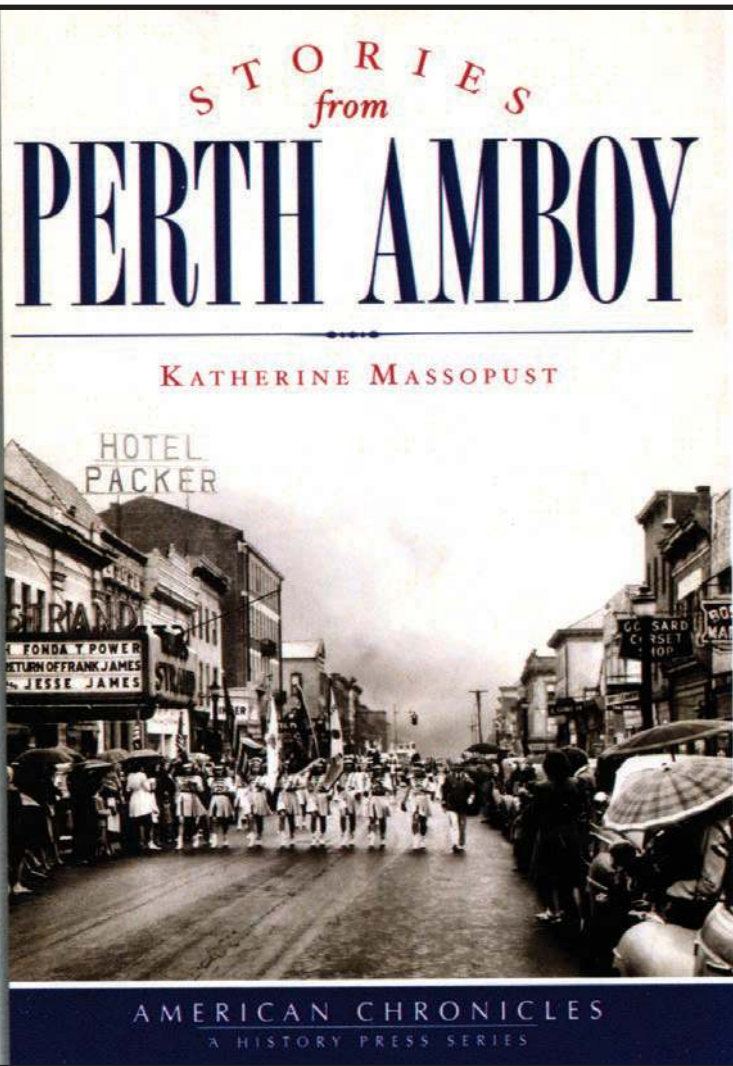
LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY – Seaman's Pharmacy - Smith Street circa 1940's.

**Photo Courtesy the Perth Amboy Free Public Library*

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



Stories From Perth Amboy

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!



Perla Seballos
Realtor/Agent



***Congratulations to
Perla Seballos
for being the #1 Agent
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PLEASE CALL FOR FREE MARKET ANALYSIS!**



WOODBIDGE - Don't miss this opportunity to own this lovely 1 bedroom 1 bathroom move in ready mobile home. Home was built in 1990 and is conveniently located in the heart of Edison, 5 minutes away from train station and rt. 287, 3 minutes from Middlesex Community College, near shopping, bus line, restaurants and much more! **\$35,000**



WOODBIDGE PROPER - This freshly painted Colonial offers generous space for the extended family, including 5 good-sized bedrooms, large living room, formal dining room, and a galley-style kitchen with additional recreational space in the partially finished basement. This home has a full stand-up attic which offers plenty of additional storage space. Attention commuters, this property is very close to train station, buses, and major highways as well as close to shops and restaurants. Home is being sold as-is. Come, see, and make an offer! **\$424,900**



PERTH AMBOY - Very clean two family close to high school and most public transportation off street parking, separated utilities and much more. A must see. **\$485,000**



BURLINGTON TWP - Approved Short sale @\$280,000.00 as per bank - this 4 bedroom 1-1/2 bath home is located on cul-de-sac in a well-manicured neighborhood with loads of potential. Unique floor plan with large open kitchen. home features lots of closets and storage. needs some TLC. Buyer responsible for CO and all repairs and termite cert. Short sale subject to third party approval. 50% commission split subject to lender approval. **\$199,900**



FORDS - Don't miss the Opportunity to Own this newly renovated spacious home in the Lafayette Estates Section of Fords! The main level includes: a shaker style kitchen, with Quartz countertops and new stainless appliances; a spacious open concept living room/dining room which features recessed LED lights and beautifully finished hardwood floors plus three bedrooms and a stunning main bath. The lower level features a spacious family/theater room, office, full bath, and laundry room. The 2nd level offers a large bedroom with additional space that can be used as an office or a sitting area. This home also has a New central air/heating system. Nothing to do but Move In!! **\$459,900**



PERTH AMBOY - Large warehouse space with endless possibilities. Landlord willing to subdivide space to accommodate all needs. **\$10,000**



PERTH AMBOY - A great opportunity to own this cozy house. Single family home with three bedrooms. **\$269,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Beautifully maintained 2-bedroom apartment centrally located minutes from all major highways & public transportation A COMMUTER'S DREAM! Don't hesitate - it won't last. **\$1,950 Mo Rent**



PERTH AMBOY - Great opportunity to become your own boss. located in downtown Business area. All equipment included on sale. Central air. **\$100,000**