



THE

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AMBOY GUARDIAN

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Sparring Over Public Entertainment Ordinance Takes Center Stage 2/7/22 Caucus

By: Carolyn Maxwell
PERTH AMBOY – There was a lengthy conversation regarding Ordinance No. 1 (First Reading) – To amend an ordinance entitled, “Public Entertainment” regarding public entertainment limited to certain locations.

Councilman Joel Pabon asked if the Department of Recreation Director Kenny Ortiz was online to answer questions regarding this ordinance. Pabon talked about the ordinance which would have large festivals taking place in Rudyk Park. “Part of the entrance could be accessed on High Street, but because Rudyk Park is near a lot of small streets, it will be a burden on the neighborhood. There already is a big festival that takes place there. Are we going to be dropping the work that is being done on the soccer field? The field is being destroyed because of festivals. Last year, during the baseball season we had issues, and there is no money to fix it. So, what are we doing here?”

Director of the Department of Recreation Kenny Ortiz appeared via Zoom. We are looking to expand Rudyk Park. We are getting property on the High Street side, and we are working

with Green Acres to obtain property from multiple owners (Conrail, Duke Realty, and Kindermorgan). We’ll also need to do environmental testing. Originally, Rudyk Park was built to be an entertainment site. We have invested money for improvements for the baseball field which will include fencing and what would be the best option for a backstop. We also need improvements for the basketball courts for the summer.”

Pabon said, “That will be ideal (after these improvements are made).”

Ortiz continued, “Part of the Kindermorgan property was obtained and we are still working with Duke Realty to obtain some of their property. Conrail is our biggest holdout, and we are reaching out to Senator Cory Booker to help us out. Conrail said part of the property that we want is still an active rail line which we know is not true because tree branches and bushes are growing on the rail lines.”

Pabon spoke up, “If these plans come through, whoever will be on the council in the future, this will be set up for them because Rudyk Park will be a perfect location for festivals.”

Ortiz continued, “The Port Authority was surprised because they didn’t know about the parking spaces underneath the Outerbridge.”

Pabon suggested that they (the council) reach out to Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez to help out with the situation involving Conrail.”

Ortiz agreed. “This is not unique to our city what’s going on when dealing with Conrail.” He indicated that Conrail has done this to other cities that have tried to acquire their property.

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda spoke up. “This is a huge change that will affect a lot of residents in different communities. I am asking you to table this ordinance so everyone can be informed of the changes.”

Council President Bill Petrick spoke up, “I am the one who put this up on the agenda for discussion.” He also asked, “Who is on the Federal Transportation Committee and how is the drainage in Rudyk Park?”

Ortiz responded, “There is a drainage issue in Rudyk Park, especially pertaining to the lowest part of the baseball field. There is a lot of saturation during rainfalls. To put in AstroTurf,

you need a permit. We also have mesh to help with the baseball field.”

Councilwoman Rose Morales spoke up, “I agree with Councilwoman Tejeda to table this ordinance.”

Petrick had other comments to make regarding this ordinance, “The neighborhoods around Rudyk Park will not be greatly affected if you corner off certain streets during the festivals. Rudyk Park is accessible to get to from Rte. 440 and Rte. 287. The parking and traffic situation is better. Rudyk Park is near an industrial area and there will be less noise. You have many warehouses on High Street. Maybe they can provide parking for the festivals. There are only two festivals that have big crowds: The Dominican Festival and the Puerto Rican Festival.”

Morales spoke up, “What about the Fourth of July Fireworks?”

Petrick replied, “It’s one night. It’s contained and funded by two cities. At one time, it was funded by three different cities.”

Tejeda spoke up, “The Puerto Rican Festival is chaotic. And why was Caledonia Park eliminated (as part of the ordinance)?



William Opel was named Law Director at the 2/9/22 Council Meeting

They had a Peruvian Festival at Caledonia Park that had 200 people in it and it was chaotic.”

Petrick responded, “You can reach out to the people who planned that festival to see the number of people that attended.”

Councilwoman Morales then mentioned, “National Night Out at Washington Park had over 200 people.”

Petrick answered, “It was one night.”

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Renewable Energy Presentation and Revisiting Existing Problems 2/2/22 Council Meeting

By Carolyn Maxwell
SOUTH AMBOY – The meeting was held electronically due to Covid. There was a presentation made by Clint Plummer CEO from the Rise Light Power Company. He talked about the project proposal for the JPC&L Site. Mr. Plummer stated, “This will be an Offshore Wind Project using major infrastructure. This is renewable energy, and it is to repurpose old fossil fuel energy. There are wind farms in New York and New Jersey. This is about bringing power to the shore that is responsible and a cost-effective way to bring offshore energy to New Jersey. This is a transformation for clean energy through wind power and building converter stations for that purpose. There will be minimal traffic on the entire site. We will still have public access to the waterfront. New Jersey has a law in place for offshore wind power. We will be using two converter stations on

the existing substation facilities which we would modernize. The converter stations will be the only item above ground. There is a lot of infrastructure already on site. There will be no power cables underground at the beaches. Neptune has regional transmission similar to what we propose. There will be a lot of steps involved. We might ask for a PILOT agreement. You will also be creating a lot of jobs (local suppliers, contractors) and working with your local youth for job training for this renewable energy. We will be converting an old coal plant. This will be a long development project. It is in the early planning stages. An application to the Public Utility will be submitted along with BPU approval and EPA permits. If we get all the necessary approvals (from each agency), then we can start work in 2024.”

Councilman Brian McLaughlin remembered when he first

was contacted in 2020 about this project. “You have my full support as well as all the trades that will be involved.”

Plummer said, “We are a union shop.”

McLaughlin said, “It has been 8 long years that we have been waiting for something like this.”

Council President Mickey Gross asked, “Will there be more discussions about this?”

Plummer responded, “We can supply any additional information you may need.”

Gross then asked, “This will be renewable energy?”

Plummer replied, “Yes”.

Gross then ended the discussion, “Hopefully we can help you on this road.”

City Clerk Deborah Brooks spoke about the two liquor licenses on the agenda that were up for renewal. “These two licenses are currently inactive because they did not file Form

**Continued on Page 2*

Fatal Shooting Under Investigation

Press Release

PERTH AMBOY - Middlesex County Prosecutor Yolanda Ciccone and Acting Chief Larry Cattano of the Perth Amboy Police Department announced today that a fatal shooting is under investigation.

On Friday, February 11, 2022, at approximately 5:24 P.M., authorities responded to the area of the train tracks near New Brunswick Avenue following the report of a shooting. Upon their arrival, officers located Jonathan Molina, 22, of Perth Amboy who sustained a gunshot wound. Molina was transported to a nearby hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

Anyone with information or surveillance footage of the area is asked to call Detective Frank Cristiano of the Perth Amboy Police Department at (732)324-3856 or Detective Paul Kelley of the Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office at (732)745-3330.

Mayor Caba's Statement in Response

"We mourn the loss of life that took place in our city from this incident.

We ask residents to contact the police department with any information to help bring justice to the family.

We are also contacting the private company that owns the land to make this area completely inaccessible by putting additional measures for anyone being able to cross.

Our condolences and prayers to the family."

Gustav J. Novak

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Renewable Energy Presentation and Revisiting Existing Problems 2/2/22 Council Meeting

**Continued from Page 1*

1239 on time. They have to apply to the ABC to continue to hold their inactive licenses. A special petition has to be applied and approved. They will be on the next meeting agenda."

For Resolutions R-61 thru R-68, there was a motion by Councilman Reilly to approve, and seconded by Gross.

Reilly then spoke up stating that he could not hear the presentation. "I also have questions on the two liquor licenses on the agenda. People could not vote on items because of us being muted and the City Clerk should have stopped the meeting."

City Clerk Deborah Brooks replied, "It is not up to me."

Reilly continued and addressed Council President Gross, "Mr. Gross, you have to take control." Reilly then asked, "Did anybody reach out to the American Legion regarding not getting the liquor license renewed on time?"

Gross responded, "I reached out to the American Legion yesterday."

Responding to Reilly's remarks, Councilwoman Zusette Dato stated, "I was able hear the whole meeting."

McLaughlin had a question about one of the items on the bill list. "Are there any penalties for Middlesex County Utilities doing a horrible job?"

Council President Gross responded, "It was because of Covid."

Councilwoman agreed, "This company was shorthanded due to Covid."

McLaughlin disagreed, "They were horrible, even before Covid started."

Gross agreed with McLaughlin's last statement.

Reilly then questioned the item on the bill list were JCP&L gave aid to the ambulance services.

Law Director Francis Womack said that they (JCP&L) paid the electric bill.

McLaughlin moved the bill list, Gross seconded it.

Council Comments:

Councilman Tom Reilly said, "Moving forward, stop the meeting if people can't respond and if they are dropped off."

Gross responded, "That is why we need to have live meetings."

Reilly stated, "What if Covid happens again? We need to resolve this issue. I want to thank the first responders and the food pantry volunteers." He then asked about the blighted building on First Street.

Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski responded, "The Health Department and the Code Inspector have inspected this building. There have been no liens and no evidence of animal activity at this site."

Reilly then asked, "There is a new nonprofit agency that has been doing a lot of good work in town and I would like to have them added to our website."

Councilman Brian McLaughlin spoke next. He commended the DPW for doing a good job of snow removal from the storm. "Recently, a mixed-use building

was bought which is good for the town." He urged all to donate the food pantry."

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski reported that there are no changes to the procedures about the First Aid Department. "Command Boxes are slated to be installed in the city. The First Aid Members get paid for standby work. Their bills go through the normal bill list and there is a budget line (for their expenses).

McLaughlin said, "\$35,000 are not enough funds for the Fire Department."

Councilwoman Zusette Dato spoke next. "Public Works did a good job removing the snow, but some businesses on Broadway did not do a good job removing snow from their sidewalks. The homeowners living by McCarthy Towers also did not do a good job of snow removal. I happened to see a mailman while he was delivering by a snow clogged street and I told him that he is doing a good job in spite of the difficulty (having to navigate poor road conditions). It was upsetting when he said, "This is South Amboy. This par for the course." A lot of homeowners are not clearing their properties after snowstorms."

Council Vice President Christine Noble spoke next. "Kudos to the Department of Public Works, but some side streets were not cleared."

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski said, "The sidewalks are the responsibility of the home and business owners."

Dato said, "I think that the sidewalks and the crosswalks by the post office should be done by the DPW."

Law Director Womack said, "The city code states that homeowners and businessowners are responsible for clearing their sidewalks after 12 hours of daylight (after the snow has stopped). There used to be a volunteer program for city youth to help out seniors to clear their sidewalks."

Dato spoke up again, "I saw a resident that was shooting snow into the street."

Noble agreed, "I lot of people do that."

Womack said, "There is a law on the books prohibiting that."

Council President Mickey Gross spoke, "DPW did a good

job, as well as our first responders. With the council's approval, I am looking to go back to have live meetings in-person starting in March. It is not easy running the meetings. There are also going to be two presentations in March. We will have the Fireworks and the Arts Festival coming up this year. The March 20th St. Patrick's Day Parade may be the last one because there is more work involved and less people to help. I am 64 years old and two of our longtime committee members passed away."

Mayor Fred Henry said, "I want to thank Mr. Plummer for the presentation. It is a great opportunity for South Amboy." He then mentioned, "The city is getting \$180,000 grant from the DOT and there are other grants coming in."

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski urged people to check out social media outlets. "There will also be a presentation tomorrow at the Redevelopment Meeting on what was done tonight with the renewable energy."

Law Director Womack said, "The Venetian trial will start on March 28, and the "Pigeon Palace" trial will begin this month."

Coordinator of Emergency Management Mark Herdman said, "Everything is looking good."

Public Portion:

Bill deMasi from John Street spoke first. He mentioned the work going on at Roosevelt Street. "Since that started, our water has been very cloudy."

B.A. Skarzynski said, "I will call Middlesex Water."

Resident Greg Babolack spoke next. He asked if the presentation tonight on renewable energy will be given again.

Gross said, "There will be additional public hearings for the residents to attend."

Babolack asked, "Will they be looking for a PILOT and How many people will be running for office this year?"

Gross responded, "The renewable energy company might ask for a PILOT and this meeting is not a political forum."

Gross concluded the meeting by apologizing for any problems with tonight's meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m. All council members called in.

St. John's Orthodox Church

Winter/Spring Pierogi & Cake Sale Schedule

PERTH AMBOY - Orders for Potato/Cheese and Jalapeno Cheddar Pierogi at \$10.00 a dozen may be called in on March 7, 8, & 9 to 732-826-7067 between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM. Orders may be picked up on March 15 or 16, 2022 after 2:00 PM at 404 Division Street, Perth Amboy. NJ

Orders for Cakes (Walnut, Poppyseed, Prune (Lekvar), and Apricot) at \$14.00 each by calling in March 28, 29, & 30, 2022 to 732-826-7067 between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM. Orders may be picked up on April 6 or 7, 2022 after 2:00 PM at 404 Division Street, Perth Amboy NJ

Orders for Potato/Cheese and Jalapeno Cheddar Pierogi at \$10.00 a dozen may be called in on May 9, 10 & 11, to 732-826-7067 between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM. Orders may be picked up on May 17 or 18, 2022 after 2:00 PM at 404 Division Street, Perth Amboy. NJ

Please be sure to call early before we meet our quota.

Public Entertainment and Appointments of Municipal Board Members Discussed

2/9/22 Council Meeting

By: Carolyn Maxwell
PERTH AMBOY – At the beginning of the council meeting, there were supposed to be presentations to one resident and four members of the police department to recognize them for their services to the community. The only one who was present was Auxiliary Police Officer Roberto Rodriguez.

After the presentation was over, people were invited to come up to talk on any of the resolutions that had a public hearing. No one spoke in-person or via Zoom. People were then invited from the public and on Zoom to speak on agenda items. No one spoke on any of the agenda items.

The council voted on the ordinances. Ordinance No. 1 – Refunding Bonds and Refinancing of Bonds was moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejeda.

On Ordinance No. 1 (No public discussion) – Entitled Designating Restricted Parking Spaces regarding deletions. Victoria Kupsch stated, “It is to eliminate some of the spaces from the city code because of having so many

handicapped parking spaces.”

The ordinance was moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejeda.

The council then voted on the consent agenda. R-81, R-82, R-85 thru R-107 was moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejeda. R-83 and R-84 were voided on the caucus and regular council meetings. The entertainment ordinance that was on the Caucus Agenda was pulled so it did not appear on the regular council meeting agenda to be back on the agenda on a later date.

Public Portion (in-person only):

Linda Ferreira who resides on Bruck Avenue said, “People are needed for Board positions. Who okays who is appointed to the board? I applied for the Rent Leveling Board. There were three openings. I was sent a letter stating that I wasn’t appointed. Now, when I look there are still two openings left. I deserve an explanation. Maybe I was missing some requirements I appreciated being interviewed. I’ve been a renter and now, I am a homeowner.”

Council President Bill Petrick spoke up, “I thought we should



PERTH AMBOY - (L) The City Council gives a proclamation recognizing Auxiliary Police Officer Roberto Rodriguez at the 2/9/22 Council Meeting. (LtoR) Councilwoman Milady Tejeda, Council President Bill Petrick, Auxiliary Police Officer Roberto Rodriguez, Councilwoman Rose Morales, Councilman Joel Pabon. (R) Council President Bill Petrick congratulates Officer Rodriguez.

**Photos by Paul W. Wang*

have a mixture of people on that board.”

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch said, “I understand one person resigned from that board.”

Ferreira continued, “People come who are interested in being on that board and are not given a position.”

Petrick suggested that the may-

or get in touch with the mayor’s office and that the mayor’s aide was in the council chambers and pointed that person out to Linda.

Ferreira concluded, “Everyone advocated for me, and I even came in to be interviewed.”

Attorney Daniel Gonzalez came up next. “I want to congratulate William Opel as his

appointment as new Law Director. Good things are happening in the city. Potholes are being fixed. Covid is decreasing and people don’t have to wear masks as before. We should have tabled the decision on festivals for a couple of months. There are a

**Continued on Page 9*

South Amboy’s 45th St. Patrick’s Day Parade

Sunday, March 20, 2022 2pm

Grand Marshal—Tom Dempsey

This family friendly event includes 23 bands, fire apparatus, civic organizations, music and more. For updated parade information please visit www.southamboyparade.com

Save the Date
Second Annual Irish Festival
Sunday, October 1, 2022

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The Willie Lynch Band
Fireworks Display

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Thoughts on Black History Month

February is Black History Month and every so often I hear people complain that it is celebrated in the shortest month of the year. Let’s highlight one part of that sentence. It is a month-long celebration and there is only one other ethnic group that has a month-long celebration which is Hispanic Heritage Month. As a matter of fact, Hispanic Heritage Month encompasses two months (Sept. 15 thru Oct. 15).

Let’s compare this to other ethnic celebrations. The Italians have a big celebration on Columbus Day which the powers that be want to rename Indigenous People’s Day. The Irish celebrate their heritage on St. Patrick’s Day. Let’s face it, everyone is honorary Irish on St. Patrick’s Day. It is a fun holiday where people dress up in green and enjoy the Leprechauns and corned beef and cabbage. The Puerto Rican Day Parade normally takes place in June.

The reason that Black History Month falls in February is because of Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday (February 12th) and Fredrick Douglas’s Birthday (February 14th), so it makes sense that February is an excellent month to celebrate Black History.

Now, to mention something that will make some people uncomfortable, but has to be said. We need to address the problems in our communities which has been going on for a very long time and you cannot blame white supremacists: Black on Black crime. I would love to see our prominent black leaders in all different spectrums. I address this issue not only through lip service. Where are the marches to these communities in distress where the gangs and drug lord’s rule? How can you comfort the families who have lost their children to gang violence? Some of these songs that are coming out who glorify violence and thug life (certain rap culture) are doing nothing but making money off of those who could least afford it. Yet, I have to give kudos to some artists, even though I despise their music such as Cardi B

who gave money to the families who lost their lives in the recent New York fire as well as another artist by the name of Megan Thee Stallion who also donated money to victims of fire. If you ask me to name a song from either one of them, I could not. I would love to see some of these entertainers actually go into drug and gang infested neighborhoods and arrange a meeting with the residents. I’m sure they have more than enough money to provide their own security.

A lot of people who live in these distressed neighborhoods only want to make sure that they are safe and that their children can be safe in their neighborhoods as they walk to school and get a good education. There are times when a mother would say, “My kid was smart and all of a sudden I hear a scream and my child is dead on the street.”

This has got to stop and needs to be addressed. You had protests worldwide when George Floyd was murdered as well as other cases when other people were victimized. What bothers me is that a large amount of these protests were not peaceful and there were a lot of victims who suffered collateral damage and are still suffering. Their communities and businesses were destroyed and what kind of help have they received? A majority of these communities and businesses were in minority neighborhoods.

So, these are just some of the things that I think about this, I know that George Floyd’s family received a multimillion-dollar settlement from the city of Minneapolis and the GoFundMe Page was one of the highest fundraising goals ever reached. When George Floyd was buried, his entire funeral was covered by celebrities, and he was even buried in a gold casket. Wouldn’t it be great if some of that money was put into these distressed communities to uplift people and help wipeout gang and drug activity? In my opinion, this would be a start in the right direction.

As always, I value your opinion. *Carolyn M.*

No Need to Fear

There’s an old saying, "When everything else fails we go to war". Well, here it comes. Some politicians and those on the left said that we failed on COVID but made billions on

it. America went upside down on WOKE and on leftist ideas, but we know it's going to fail. Those brave Canadians have realized the Prime Minister Mr. Trudeau is a control freak and will fail. As for the Ukraine vs. Russia, this became a “Missile Crisis," but don't panic yet un-

til the puppet controlled mainstream media said so. China is enjoying this and is ready to invade Taiwan. No need to fear Mr. Biden is here and yes, “Eat, Sleep and be Worried”.

Orlando “Wildman” Perez

Statement by Wilma R. Matey at the 1/26/22 Council Meeting

After serving the City for many years, I just gave up ... I see all our volunteer’s efforts that go unnoticed in this town. As per

your Congregation you stated we need fresh blood---Well, let me tell you, you have some very experienced people that you want taken off some boards, as per 1 LOW LIFE that tries to rule everything in this Town. I cannot believe you would even consider his suggestions.

I will not name this UNDESIRABLE MAN, but you all

know who he is. If you allow this to happen, I want you all to know, I will lose all respect for all of you, you will no longer be considered leaders of this town, you are sheep, and I will be so embarrassed to say I know you.

Wilma R. Matey

Is The \$33 Billion Gateway Tunnel Ready to Proceed?

There is more to the recent Amtrak Inspector General’s report which was critical on the lack of adequate planning for the \$33 billion Gateway Tunnel project. Ninety days after a contract is awarded, it is common for the contractor submitting a detailed construction schedule that includes the critical path for completion of the project. This is reviewed and approved by the transit agency. The critical path documents what any future delays could trigger other delays to the overall project schedule. For example, take \$1.6 billion Portal Bridge. It integrates the scheduling of work to be performed by the prime contractor, Skanska, with all 15 subcontractors. If the work of one falls behind their portion of the project, it could delay the start of

work by another subcontractor or Skanska. This, in turn would delay the overall project. The more subcontractors you have, the greater the risk something could go wrong. How many subcontractors will be hired for the \$12 billion first phase (two new tunnels and repairs to the two original 110-year-old tunnels) and \$33 billion full scope Gateway project?

Any successful transit project, especially those over \$100 million and/or in receipt of a Federal Transit Administration Full Funding Grant Agreement should not only have an approved Project Management Plan, but also a Quality Assurance and Quality Control Plan (this is used to insure that the contractor builds to the design and engineering specifications, Fleet Management Plan, Annual Force Account (in house employees who work with and provide support to third party contractors) and Annual Track Outage Plan.

This is needed to ensure that the Gateway Development Corporation complete such a signif-

icant federal transit investment on time, within budget, built to the design and engineering specifications so that it will remain in beneficial use for the promised intended useful life.

Larry Penner
Retired
Former Director
Federal Transit Administration
NY Region
Office of Operations and
Program Management

(Larry Penner -- transportation advocate, historian and writer who previously worked for the Federal Transit Administration Region 2 New York Office. This included the development, review, approval and oversight for billions in capital projects and programs for NJ Transit, New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority, NYC Transit bus, subway and Staten Island Railway, Long Island and Metro North Rail Roads, MTA Bus, NYCDOT Staten Island Ferry along with 30 other transit agencies in NY & NJ.)



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 February 26th & March 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.

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P. O. Box 127 • Perth Amboy • New Jersey 08862
Carolyn Maxwell - (732) 896-4446
Katherine Massopust - (732) 261-2610
AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

Carolyn Maxwell
Publisher & Advertising Manager

Katherine Massopust
Layout & Asst. Writer

Paul W. Wang
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Lori Miskoff
Website Manager

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AMBOY CHECK X-CHANGE321 MAPLE ST.
ANDERL & OAKLEY PC 309 MAPLE ST.
THE BARGE201 FRONT ST.
BAY CITY LAUNDRYMAT.....738 STATE ST.
C-TOWN272 MAPLE ST.
CEDENO'S PHARMACY 400 STATE ST.
CITY HALL260 HIGH ST.
EASTSIDE DRY CLEANERS 87 SMITH ST.
FAMILY FOOT CARE252 SMITH ST.
FU LIN 79 SMITH ST.
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 PHARMACY75 BRACE AVE.
NEW ELIZABETH CORNER RESTAURANT175 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 LIBRARY196 JEFFERSON ST.
PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATION100 FIRST ST.
QUICK CHEK853 CONVERY BLVD.
QUICK STOP DELI814 AMBOY AVE.
QUISQUEYA MARKET249 MADISON AVE.
QUISQUEYA LUNCHEONETTE 259 MADISON AVE.
RARITAN BAY AREA Y.M.C.A.365 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
RARITAN BAY MEDICAL CENTER530 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SANTANDER BANK 365 CONVERY BLVD.
SANTIBANA TRAVEL 362 STATE ST.
SCIORTINO'S RESTAURANT473 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SHOP-RITE365 CONVERY BLVD.
SIPOS BAKERY 365 SMITH ST.
SUPERIOR DINER.....464 SMITH ST.
SUPREMO SUPERMARKET270 KING ST.
TORRES MINI MARKET403 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 LIBRARY546 WEST AVE.
SEWAREN CORNER DELI514 WEST AVE.

IN SOUTH AMBOY:

AMBOY BANK100 N. BROADWAY
BROADWAY BAGELS105 S. BROADWAY
BROADWAY DINER126 N. BROADWAY
CITY HALL140 N. BROADWAY
COMMUNITY CENTER 200 O'LEARY BLVD.
KRAUSZER'S200 N. BROADWAY
KRAUSZER'S717 BORDENTOWN AVE.
PUBLIC LIBRARY100 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 HALL1 MAIN ST.
MAIN ST. FARM107 MAIN ST.
NEWS & TREATS 99 MAIN ST.
ST. JOSEPH'S SENIORS RESIDENCE1 ST. JOSEPH'S TERR.

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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.

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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

THURS. Feb. 17 Arts Council, 6 p.m.
via Zoom
WED. Feb. 23 City Council, Caucus, 5:30 p.m.
City Hall, High St. & Zoom
• City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St. & Zoom
THURS. Feb. 24 Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.

South Amboy

WED. Feb. 16 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
via GotoMeeting
WED. Mar. 2 City Council, Business, 6 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway

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

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Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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

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Email: ecabrera52@hotmail.com

Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center Begins Construction on Behavioral Health Expansion

Press Release 2/10/22
PERTH AMBOY, NJ – Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center has begun construction on its multimillion dollar Behavioral Health expansion, with a new modern, warm and more natural light design.
“We are excited that the construction on our new state-of-the-art Behavioral Health unit has begun,” said Robert C. Garrett, chief executive officer, Hackensack Meridian Health. “We look forward to opening the first phase of the Behavioral Health expansion later this summer.”

“Now more than ever it is important that we invest in the behavioral health infrastructure of our community,” said Senator Vitale, Speaker Coughlin and Assemblywoman Lopez. As the impact of the pandemic continues to create a sharp increase in the demand for mental health services, especially among our children, Hackensack Meridian Health’s investment to expand inpatient Behavioral Health services at Raritan Bay Medical Center meets a critical and urgent need. We applaud the hospital for this project and look forward to construction and ultimately addressing the needs of the Middlesex County community by making Raritan Bay Medical Center a center for excellence in Behavioral Health.”

“The Raritan Bay Medical Center Behavioral Health unit will become a specialized inpatient center for excellence that will serve adults, providing both Geriatric Psychiatric care and Dual Diagnosis (psychiatry/addiction) services. In addition, other specialty care programs will be added to the unit that will allow for patients and the community to receive comprehensive Behavioral Health services within a seamless continuum of care, close to home,” according to Don Parker the President of Behavioral Health Care Transformation Services for Hackensack Meridian.

“Preventing, treating, and supporting recovery from behavioral health problems is essential for communities to be healthy, safe, and successful,” stated Mayor Helmin J. Caba, City of Perth Amboy. “I greatly appreciate Hackensack Meridian for their commitment to ensure everyone has the best chance to succeed by addressing the behavioral health needs of our residents.”

The full completion of the project is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2023.



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Sparring Over Public Entertainment Ordinance Takes Center Stage

2/7/22 Caucus

**Continued from Page 1*

Tejeda spoke up again, “In the ordinance, you are only mentioning two festivals to be located at Rudyk Park: the Puerto Rican and Dominican – and they are two big ones. It is not fair to put them both in Rudyk Park which is not ready to hold two big festivals.”

Petrick responded, “There is more residential and other problems in the neighborhood when the festivals are held at the Waterfront. Pabon and I talked about the condition of the parks. The event organizers would be responsible for any wear and tear of the parks after the festivals. You have to look at the impact of the community, especially when you have multi-day festivals. People complain about the noise, garbage, traffic, and people urinating in their driveways.”

Pabon said, “This could happen at Rudyk Park. There are no big festivals this year, so we still have time for discussions. The warehouses (located on High Street) are huge and we can talk to them about parking for the festivals (held at Rudyk Park). We just need to have everyone involved in talks, including the administration.”

Petrick suggested that the festival organizers can talk to the warehouse owners about using their properties and we don’t have to get involved – only Code Enforcement, Public Works, and the Police Department.

Pabon agreed, “If it is private property, let’s do it. Will we need more police? I live near the waterfront. I see the impact (of the big festivals).”

Petrick continued, “There are no festivals this year. So, let’s start to implement this plan so the organizers know where they stand. We can modify and alleviate all issues.”

When it came time to see who wanted the table the ordinance, the only ones who voted no were Petrick and B.J. Torres.

Petrick said, “We need to revisit this issue in a month.”

Pabon then suggested that the council sit down with the administration and police to talk about this ordinance. “Let’s put the ordinance back on the agenda for the first meeting in April.”

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch said she would do so.

CFO Jill Goldy spoke briefly in regards to Ordinance No. 1 – A Bond Ordinance providing for the refunding of several general improvement bonds and appropriating \$27,200,000 and authorizing the issuance by the city of General Improvement Refunding Bond in the principal amount not exceeding \$27,200,000.

She stated, “This is a Refund Debt from 2020 and \$20,000,000 to be used for the Public Safety Complex.”

Goldy then explained R-93-2/22 – Accepting the proposal of and awarding a contract to Millennium Strategies LLC for grant writing services in an amount not to exceed \$48,000. “This is just an extension of their contract.”

OEM Coordinator and Acting Police Chief came up to explain R-95-2/22- A memorandum of understanding with the County of Middlesex for the use of specialized equipment. “This is

technology that will help us with our investigations.”

There was a brief discussion regarding R-96-2/22 – A contract with Graybar Electric Company for the Public Safety Building Emergency Wiring Repair in an amount not to exceed \$50,584.12.

Goldy explained, “This was due to the damage from the Storm Ida. Part of the cost will be covered by our insurance and FEMA.”

Councilman Pabon said, “We are always getting updated wiring, but nothing ever for the Council Chambers.”

The IT Technician on duty said, “There seems to be a supply chain problem.”

There was a brief discussion regarding R-97-2/22- A change order to the contract with Maser Consulting now doing business as Colliers Engineering & Design for the Raritan Riverfront Park-Green Acres Project in an amount not to exceed \$8,100.

Kenny Ortiz explained that a portion of the property is owned by the DEP and a line of demarcation will be drawn up by the engineer who will be presenting plans to the state for approval. “We want to make this more of a recreational area.”

Pabon said, “The cost is almost doubled.”

Ortiz continued, “It is not doubled. The cost to the city will be \$2.5 million with a \$2.5 million matching grant. There have been delays from the DOT due to environmental issues.”

There was a brief discussion on R-102-2/22 – Appointing additional Green Team Members.

Acting Law Director William Opel said, “This is to appoint six additional members.”

City Director Joel Rosa spoke up via Zoom, “We will be conducting educational and community events focusing on our environmental needs. For people interested in becoming a Green Team Member, they need to attend three Green Team Events and at least attend one Green Team Meeting before they become a member. We have advertised some of our events through word of mouth and through the schools. On March 22nd is World Water Day and we will have thirty students from the Charter School who are interested in the environment invited to attend one of the water/wastewater facilities. They will also have a light lunch. We are hoping we can have sponsors donate food.”

Councilwoman Tejeda thought this was a good opportunity for our students. “I myself have toured a water/wastewater facility.”

Ken Ortiz then explained R-104-2/22 – A contract with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin for professional services for an environmental remedial investigation on property located at the Second Street Park in an amount of \$195,218.43. Ortiz stated, “This goes back to 2019. The council approved the grant for this, and PARA also contributed. The DEP and the city provided funding.”

Ortiz then explained R-105-2/22 – A contract with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin for professional services for an environment remedial investigation on property located at Second Street Park

for an amount of \$201,294.60. Ortiz said, “It is 100% covered by grants and we’ll be having a drone scan done on the property.”

Councilman B.J. Torres questioned, “Are there going to be any additional cleanups?”

Ortiz answered, “There are white phosphorus, and the DEP has been notified and the EPA will be doing evaluations at no cost to the city.”

Torres then said, “Maybe the Green Team can educate the residents about white phosphorus.”

Council President Petrick said, “It is very dangerous.” He also remembered a couple of years ago, there was a couple of people came who were interested in building a train museum in Perth Amboy. Maybe we could reach out to them for possible funding.

Bill Petrick asked to go back and discuss some of the resolutions on the agenda.

While Ortiz was on Zoom, he talked about getting signage for a portion of the property by the Victory Bridge. Council President Petrick said that he would like to be involved in those discussions.

Other resolutions discussed:

Petrick spoke about R-98-2/22- A contract with CME Associates for basketball court improvements at Patten Center Park and Stanley Rudyk Park in an amount not to exceed \$16,546. “We should talk to the Port Authority about getting more basketball courts.”

Pabon then questioned, “What is going on?”

Ortiz explained, “We need to fill in cracks, get a total reconstruction of the basketball courts with a 25-year warranty and to add an additional court at the Truxton Street Court. I asked CFO Jill Goldy to see if we can do this.”

Luis Perez Jimenez - Director of Operations at the USA-PA (Utility Service Associates Perth Amboy) Middlesex Water Company) explained R-99-2/22- A contract with Pumping Service Inc. for the rental of a bypass pump for the Second Street Pump Station in an amount not to exceed \$30,635.60. “We have three pumps. Two are out of service to be repaired. We expect to get the needed parts my mid-February. We get ten hours of service out of one tank.”

R-100-2/22- A contract with CDM Smith for professional services for completion of a water & sewer rate study to determine an appropriate and adequate rate structure in an amount not to exceed \$89,200.

Petrick responded, “This is to legitimize the rate increase.”

Perez Jimenez explained, “There is a lot of work and projects that will take place. We have one aging pipeline.”

B.J. Torres spoke up, “Will it take into account our CSO’s (combined sewer overflow).”

Perez Jimenez said, “Yes, it will. We are running our lines to Middlesex Sewage and this is going to be a 5-year project.”

Petrick said, “There are trees at the top of the reservoir, and I have concerns about this.”

Perez Jimenez explained, “We have rocks and joints to take care of that problem so there is no root intrusion.”

**Continued on Page 8*

Obituary: Manuel Rafael Pacheco, Age 61

Submitted by Virginia Morales & Suzanne Popadin
PERTH AMBOY - Manuel Rafael Pacheco of Perth Amboy, whose life revolved around his family, his music and his church, died Feb. 9 at Raritan Bay Medical Center surrounded by loved ones. He was 61.

Manny was born in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, and came to Perth Amboy as a young teenager. A story from those years summarizes Manny’s life.

“I wanted my youth group at St. Stephen’s to perform some of the Christian songs they were learning,” wrote a childhood friend. “I asked Manny to help us with the music and play guitar while the kids sang. He showed up with a six-piece band. He had already rehearsed some of the songs.”

Manny always did more than was asked of him. He went above and beyond. It was a hallmark of his life.

He is remembered as a beautiful soul and an inspiration, always full of positive energy.

“His joy was infectious,” said his niece, Virginia Morales. “He was the light of our family’s life.”

Manny “will forever be a part of our hearts,” his niece said. “His legacy is the many people’s lives he touched in the city of Perth Amboy. He was a very important part of the Perth Amboy community. We can only hope to continue to honor him and keep his memory and music alive.”

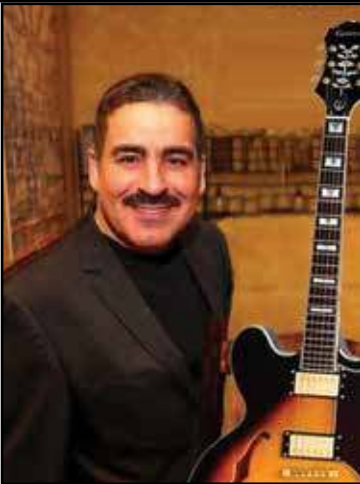
Manny attended McGinnis Middle School, Perth Amboy High School and Perth Amboy Technical School.

He worked for more than a decade at Newark Airport, at Eastern and Continental airlines, starting at an entry-level ticketing position and worked his way up to writing training manuals. He was head of security at the Hess Refinery in Port Reading and was a supervisor at Dr. Leonard’s Healthcare Corp. in Edison. After teaching himself computer programming and other IT skills, Manny did freelance work for many companies. He also worked at Home Depot and was even part of a band there.

“Manny came from nothing and taught himself everything — from electronics to computers to painting,” Morales said. “As a young boy, he had taught himself to play the guitar, piano, drums and other instruments. As an adult, he wrote songs, recorded his own music, booked his own gigs. He was a trendsetter, ahead of his time and all self-taught.”

Manny shared his musical gift, serving as the Perth Amboy Recreation Department music director at the Gallery Center for the Arts since April 2016, teaching city residents to play those instruments at the Patten Center.

He was passionate about sing-



Manuel R. Pacheco
Oct. 13, 1960 - Feb. 9, 2022

ing and performing and had a recording studio in his home. He helped others achieve their dreams by opening up his home studio so they could record. Manny recorded several albums of his own and appeared on Spanish radio and television programs. He was known for performing Salsa music in English, and he recorded albums with well-known Salsa artists such as Felipe Muniz, singer Marc Anthony’s father. He played at weddings, Sweet Sixteen parties and other celebrations, and he even wrote and performed a jingle for an environmental campaign to keep Perth Amboy clean.

In recent years, Manny spent most of his time sharing his God-given talent by performing at church services. Through the years, Manny was a member of Mount Carmel Church, L’Asuncion Catholic Church and Our Lady of Fatima R.C. Church, all in Perth Amboy.

Intensely proud of his Puerto Rican heritage, he received the prestigious Betances Award, which celebrates Latin culture and community, at the Puerto Rican Day Parade in New York City in 1995.

“My uncle devoted himself to music, his family, his church and his community,” Morales said. “No one handed him anything. He worked tirelessly to be the best version of himself for his family and the city of Perth Amboy. We are very proud of him and his many accomplishments.”

Manny is survived by his wife of 35 years, the former Maryann Roman; a son, Manny Brandon Pacheco; his mother, Alicia Gonzalez; three sisters, Margarita Pacheco, Braulia “Lissy” Rios and Linda Rios; and several nephews and nieces, including Virginia Morales, Manuel D. Morales Jr., Roberto Rios, Shana Rios, Romany Rios and Priscilla Roman. He always said Priscilla was “the daughter he never had.”

Viewing will be Tuesday, Feb. 15, from 5 to 9 p.m. at Gustav J. Novak Funeral Home in Perth Amboy, with a funeral service at Our Lady of Fatima R.C. Church on Wednesday, Feb. 16.



Raritan Bay Medical Center Earns National Award for Promoting Organ and Tissue Donation

Press Release 2/4/22
PERTH AMBOY, NJ - Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center has been honored with the 2021 Workplace Partnership for Life Platinum Award for its organ and tissue donation awareness program from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Platinum Award is the highest accolade granted by HRSA to hospitals who promote organ and tissue donation among their community and hospital.

The recognition is part of HRSA’s Workplace Partnership for Life initiative, launched in August 2014, which connects organ and tissue donation organizations with hospitals to create ongoing awareness and registry campaigns to educate team members, patients, visitors and community members. Raritan Bay Medical Center coordinates its outreach efforts with NJ Sharing Network, the nonprofit organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue in the Garden State.

“We are proud to be recognized by HRSA for our ongoing partnership with NJ Sharing Network to save and enhance lives through organ donation and transplantation,” said William

DiStanislao, interim president, chief hospital executive, Raritan Bay Medical Center. “There are nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents currently waiting for a life-saving transplant. We must continue to raise awareness of this critically important issue, and remind our community that registering as an organ and tissue donor can help bring the gift of life to others.”

Throughout the past year, Raritan Bay Medical Center conducted multiple awareness and registry activities to encourage new donor registrations. Activities included both in-person and online campaigns to reach internal and external audiences.

“Raritan Bay Medical Center and our hospital partners are vital to our life-saving mission,” said Alyssa D’Addio, director, Hospital and Community Services, NJ Sharing Network. “We have been fortunate to work with Raritan Bay’s dedicated team members. They are truly great advocates and have shown great passion and energy in educating others about the power of donation and transplantation.”

One organ donor can save eight lives, and one tissue donor can enhance the lives of over 75 people. To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit www.NJSharingNetwork.org.

Sparring Over Public Entertainment Ordinance Takes Center Stage

2/7/22 *Caucus*

**Continued from Page 7*

Petrick said that he still feels the trees should come down.

Perez Jimenez responded, “I’ll look into it.”

R-101-2/22- Change Order No. 1 to the contract with AC Schultes for the repairs and maintenance of pumps, motors, shafts, and columns for the water and wastewater utilities in an amount not to exceed \$7,876.97.

Perez Jimenez explained, “Pump#3 at Runyon needs to be repaired. We are short on funds, and this is what we need. We pump water from the sand, and it is treated before it comes over to us. We have four wells that we use.”

Petrick spoke up and updated everyone as to what was going on regarding the Patio Bar on Fayette Street. “The State ABC did an intervention and are still investigating. Former Law Director Peter King suggested we wait until to see what the ABC does. We can schedule a public hearing for April.”

Councilman Joel Pabon was not happy, “They already gave this bar too much time.” He added that Acting Police Chief Cattano stated that last night there was a disturbance at the place and one police officer was jumped on and they had to close the bar early that night. “Reports will be sent out to the clerk.”

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch said, “There has to be a time-frame to give the bar a notice

from when there will be a public hearing.”

Public Portion (in-person first):

Resident Maria Garcia spoke first, “I have a problem with the Public Entertainment Ordinance. When I was on the Board of Education, there was a conflict of interest I had to recuse myself. Councilwoman Milady Tejeda should have recused herself from voting on this ordinance. There is more of a problem than having an event at the waterfront because it is mostly residential. The music decibels are over the limit for that area and the streets are blocked which is hard when it comes to emergencies. I can hear the music from my address on Kearny Avenue. We love festivals, but we have to be considerate.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda responded, “The ordinance is not about the Dominican Festival which is a nonprofit and our city attorney said there is no conflict of interest for me.”

The next person to speak was Maria Vera who lives on Madison Avenue. “Milady does have a conflict. We have 10,000 people at that festival (Dominican). I have pictures of the festival. I’m speaking for the community. We have bike and gun problems. My answer is “No!”

No one from Zoom spoke. The council went into closed session at 7:20 p.m. All council members were present in person except for B.J. Torres who attended via Zoom.

Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine Names Dr. Jeffrey Boscamp Interim Dean

Medical Leader Who Helped Shape Beginnings of Medical School to Take Top Role in Wake of the Passing of Dr. Bonita Stanton

Press Release 2/1/22
NUTLEY, NJ – Jeffrey Boscamp, M.D., will assume the role of interim dean of the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine into the fall, it was announced today.

Dr. Boscamp takes the top leadership role in the wake of the sudden loss of founding dean Dr. Bonita Stanton, who passed away on Jan. 19. Boscamp had previously been vice dean of the school.

“Dr. Boscamp is a true leader who has been an integral part of the medical school since its inception,” said Robert C. Garrett, FACHE, chief executive officer, Hackensack Meridian Health. “We know that his guidance for the institution will continue the mission and vision laid out by Dr. Stanton.”

“Dr. Stanton left considerably big shoes to fill, but we have a terrific team of professionals at our School, and we will continue to forge a one-of-a-kind institution as part of her legacy,” said Dr. Boscamp.

Dr. Stanton served as the founding dean from 2016 until her passing. She previously served on the faculty of the University of Maryland, West Virginia University, and Wayne State University in Michigan before arriving in New Jersey to help shape the new medical school. Dr. Stanton assembled a remarkable leadership team, partnered in the development of the school’s governance, secured accreditation from five separate institutions, established the school as an independent Institution of higher education, and guided the institution through a pandemic. She welcomed the class that entered in

2018 and oversaw the graduation of the fast-track students in that cohort this past June, who then traveled to residencies across Hackensack Meridian Health.

Dr. Boscamp serves Hackensack Meridian Health as co-chief academic officer and senior vice president of Medical School Development and Integration. As co-CAO, Dr. Boscamp develops, promotes and organizes programs at Hackensack Meridian Health to promote lifelong learning across the continuum of undergraduate medical education, graduate medical education and continuing medical education.

Dr. Boscamp also serves as professor of Pediatrics at the School. A longstanding and highly-regarded leader at Hackensack University Medical Center, he also serves as a member of the Hackensack Meridian Health Board of Trustees Academics Committee.

Prior to these positions, Dr. Boscamp held the Marvin I. Gottlieb, M.D., Ph.D., Endowed Chair of Pediatrics at the Joseph M. Sanzari Children’s Hospital for 14 years. He founded the Section of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and the Steven Badger Immunological Institute at Hackensack University Medical Center, is a frequent continuing medical education speaker and has received numerous teaching awards.

In his positions as Vice Dean, co-CAO and senior vice president of Medical School Development and Integration, Dr. Boscamp serves as a liaison between Hackensack Meridian Health and the School of Medicine to develop and coordinate

undergraduate and graduate medical education programs across Hackensack Meridian Health. Dr. Boscamp partners in the design and development of educational policy and academic programs that create an interdisciplinary approach to teaching to identify, recruit and prepare students and residents as critical thinkers and problem solvers as they progress to the practice of medicine.

Dr. Boscamp graduated from Williams College and New York Medical College. He was a resident in pediatrics at Babies Hospital-Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center and in internal medicine at Greenwich Hospital, Yale University School of Medicine. He completed a fellowship in adult and pediatric infectious diseases at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx.

In addition, Dr. Boscamp was Chairman of the NJ Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, Committee on Infectious Diseases and a member of the executive committee of that organization. He was appointed by the Governor as a member of the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund Commission. He is a fellow of the AAP and the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society and a member of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the Infectious Diseases Society of New Jersey, and the American Society for Microbiology. Dr. Boscamp is board-certified in Pediatric Infectious Diseases, is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, and has received numerous professional awards in recognition of his teaching and clinical skills.

Pallone Applauds House Passage of America COMPETES Act

Bill Will Strengthen Manufacturing, Solar, & Pharmaceutical Supply Chains at Home

Press Release 2/4/22
WASHINGTON, DC – Congresswoman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) today applauded House passage of the America COMPETES Act. The bill will help fix our supply chains, ensure critical products are manufactured here in America, turbocharge American scientific and technological leadership, and strengthen our global competitiveness. Pallone spoke in favor of the bill on the House floor this week.

The America COMPETES Act also includes Pallone’s legislation that provides \$100 million to increase the domestic drug manufacturing base through the establishment of National Centers of Excellence in Advanced and Continuous Manufacturing. This funding would allow the Centers to work with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and industry to further develop and implement advanced and continuous manufacturing technology and would allow FDA to partner with universities across the country with experience in these technologies to improve pharmaceutical production. Rutgers University is already playing a key role in this emerging technology.

“The America COMPETES

Act lays the foundation to guarantee America leads the global economy, invests in American workers and manufacturing, and ensures that critical goods essential to our economy and national security are made right here in the United States. The bill invests in America to strengthen supply chains, bolster domestic semi-conductor manufacturing capacity, and expand the production of the components needed to build solar panels,” Pallone said. “The America COMPETES Act also includes my legislation to foster the development of advanced and continuous manufacturing technology to increase our ability to quickly produce prescription drugs. It also supports efforts to replenish and modernize strategic stockpiles of medical supplies to ensure we’re prepared for future public health emergencies. With passage of this legislation today, we are ensuring that America can outcompete the rest of the world by ending our reliance on other nations for the manufacturing of critical goods. We must now work with the Senate to quickly reconcile our bills into final legislation that can become law.”

As Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Pallone

included provisions to prevent shortages of critical goods and ensure that more of these goods are made right here in the United States, invest in our nation’s solar manufacturing supply chain, and improve our medical product supply chain including:

- \$45 billion for grants, loans, and loan guarantees to support supply chain resilience and manufacturing of critical goods, industrial equipment, and manufacturing technology;
- \$3 billion to fund the establishment of a domestic solar manufacturing supply chain;
- \$375 million to reduce the vulnerability of the electric grid;
- \$1.5 billion to establish a medical supply chain flexibility manufacturing pilot program;
- \$10.5 billion for a new grant program to states to expand or maintain a strategic stockpile of drugs, medical equipment, personal protective equipment, and other products; and
- \$1.5 billion for the Public Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Fund to fund innovative technologies in the U.S. mobile broadband market.

More information on the Energy and Commerce provisions is available here. A full summary is available here.

South Amboy to Receive \$180,000 to Create a “Public Space” at the Train Station

Press Release 2/2/22

SOUTH AMBOY – Imagine a typical summer night in the city.

But when commuters pour off the NJ Transit train to head home, they are given pause. That’s because the area in front of the train station is suddenly alive with an outdoor concert, or an art show or a food festival.

The sky is the limit, as the city has received \$180,000 in state “transit village” funding to create a vibrant public space at the train station, 140 North Broadway.

City officials are planning to construct a fixed canopy, powered with lights and electricity to host a multitude of events when the weather gets warmer. The uses are virtually endless, as the spot could serve as the grandstand for the city’s annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade or serve as a live theater or a place for a communal meal.

City officials say the funding arrived through the support of the 19th District state legislators, Sen. Joe Vitale, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin and Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez.

“Our designation as a Transit Village has allowed us to sustain steady long-term growth,” explained South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry. “The continued support from the state Department of Transportation through grant programs like this have allowed us to continue that success.



South Amboy Train Station 2015 *Photo submitted

“Strong support from Senator Vitale, Assembly Speaker Coughlin and Assemblywoman Lopez has helped make funding like this possible and allows us to continually improve our mass transit facilities,” the mayor added.

City officials are eager to break ground on this project and have it open for residents to enjoy later this year. The canopy will feature six columns and will be designed to blend into the character of the train station as a seamless amenity.

The funding was earmarked through \$3.8 million in fiscal ’22 Transit Village grants, assisting 14 municipalities to advance their transit-oriented development projects.

“We continue to explore ways

in which we can make the South Amboy Train Station more pedestrian-friendly and accessible in creative ways,” Coughlin said. “This state funding is the latest step in our efforts to design a more convenient and walkable community along Broadway.”

The South Amboy station underwent a substantial renovation from November 2006 through January 2010. A new \$4.8 million pedestrian overpass was constructed, allowing safe transfers across the two tracks at the station, followed by a \$29 million overhaul that replaced the two original low-level side platforms with a new ADA-accessible high-level island platform. The work included reconstruction of the station building.

Public Entertainment and Appointments of Municipal Board Members Discussed 2/9/22 Council Meeting

**Continued from Page 3*

lot of activities coming up this weekend. I miss Stanley coming to the meetings and I haven’t seen Alan Silber at a meeting for a while.”

The meeting was opened up to Zoom participants.

Resident Sharon Hubberman spoke first. She talked about the entertainment ordinance that was on the caucus agenda. “We are still in midst of the pandemic which has not ceased. I talk to people in the community who are still suffering covid aftereffects. It is irresponsible to hold super-spreader events. We are 4.4 square miles with 55,000 residents. Look how festivals have grown and our quality of life. It is wise to cancel festivals for the health and welfare of our residents. People can’t work or pay their rent. There is a food supply shortage. The health and welfare of our residents come first. We can agree to disagree.”

Petrick responded, “That ordinance was removed from the agenda to be put back on the agenda for April.

Maria Vera who resides on Madison Avenue spoke next, “Milady has a conflict of interest and she can’t vote on this ordinance because she is on the Dominican Festival Committee.” She then asked Councilman Joel Pabon how many people can fit in Rudyk Park.

Petrick answered, “We have to call the Recreation Department to get that answer.

Vera continued, “When people come in to fill out an application for a festival, they have to fill out how many people they expect to attend. Other people keep their festivals small. If you want to have 10,000 people – hold your festival at Madison Square Garden and we are NOT Madison Square Garden. We need to keep our festivals small. Our departments (Police and Public Works) are overworked. I appreciate Pabon and Petrick because they drive around town. We have too many slumlords that are putting a drain on our town. I hope that the people that are appointed to different boards are taking classes. People who own illegal housing are not paying the correct taxes and it is getting out of control. I want to thank Joel Pabon for talking about our parks.”

Council Comments:

Councilwoman Rose Morales said, “I want to thank all who participated tonight. I want to congratulate our new Law Director Opel and Officer Rodriguez who was recognized tonight.”

Councilman Joel Pabon said, “I want to congratulate Opel. It is about time. And I want to also congratulate Officer Rodriguez on his thirty years as an Auxiliary Police Officer. I was hoping to see Auxiliary Police Officer O’Buck here tonight. My congratulations to the others who were supposed to be recognized tonight but were unable to attend. These people deserve

much more than just certificates. We are not on lockdown. Covid has not stopped me or anyone else. Every week, Kenny Ortiz has activities going on. Sports and other activities are going on in the schools. We want you to live and continue to live. We have no curfews in town. I urge Linda Ferreira to give the mayor’s office a call for an explanation as to why she wasn’t appointed to a municipal board. I want to thank all that came here to tonight’s meeting and all who called in on Zoom.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejada said, “I want to congratulate Auxiliary Police Officer Rodriguez and all who give to the community. I am proud of them. Be safe. Take care of yourself and your families.”

Councilman B.J. Torres had no comments.

Council President Pertrick said, “Don’t let your guard down and get vaxed. Some unvaxed died from Covid. The vaccine is available at Dorothy Court (Off Convery Boulevard behind Wendy’s) and you could also get Covid tests. Comcast sent the city a check and I thought it was supposed to go towards upgrading our system at the Council Chambers instead of going into the general fund. Be safe. Take care of yourselves and your family.”

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m. All council members were present in-person except for B.J. Torres who participated via Zoom.

State Legislators Announce Emergency Mortgage Assistance for the 19th District

Press Release 1/31/22

TRENTON – Throughout the 19th legislative district, many residents have been quietly struggling with mortgage payments as the pandemic drags to the end of its second year.

In response, Sen. Joe Vitale, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin and Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez applaud the governor’s office for creating the Emergency Rescue Mortgage Assistance Program (ERMA), administered by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMF).

Under the plan, residents can receive up to \$35,000 in assistance to cover mortgage arrearages, delinquent property taxes, and other housing cost delinquencies if they have been impacted by the lingering pandemic.

The three state lawmakers, who represent Carteret, Perth Amboy, Sayreville, South Amboy and Woodbridge, are urging residents throughout the district to take advantage of the program.

Vitale said the program taps into \$325.9 million of federal Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) money, and is expected to help thousands of families get back on their feet, stabilizing New Jersey’s most at-risk communities and reducing the threat of residents losing their homes.

“Foreclosures don’t just hurt the family experiencing them,” Vitale said. “They negatively impact the surrounding properties in their neighborhood and hurt their larger community. This assistance offers struggling families a lifeline, and can make other loss mitigation options, such as refinancing, viable.

Coughlin said the program will go a long way toward alleviating pandemic-related housing insecurity for many families in the 19th District, described ERMA as a smart strategy to prevent housing foreclosure.

“Housing continues to be foundational to economic and social opportunity,” the Assembly Speaker said. “Helping lift the burden of owed mortgage and property tax payments due to pandemic-related financial

struggles that no individual family could have foreseen, this assistance will ensure the most vulnerable homeowners among us are able to keep a roof over their families’ heads.”

Coughlin noted the program includes free counseling services to help our fellow residents apply for this program, learn about the many available options, and even work with creditors to achieve the best outcome available, noting the counselors will also be able to work with residents who do not have easy access to the Internet.

Lopez, who chairs the Assembly Housing Committee, said many working families in the 19th District have contacted her legislative office over the past two years, desperate for relief from their mortgages.

“Our constituents have been waiting for a program of this scale,” Lopez said. “It is my hope that news of this program spreads far and wide and that any individual struggling to pay their mortgage or other housing obligations takes full advantage of ERMA funds.”

Take the next step by calling 855-647-7700. Residents will be connected with a housing counselor who can explain the program.

Visit www.njhousing.gov/dca/hmf/covid19/haf to review program eligibility. The ERMA application portal will open for applications at: www.njerma.com on Feb. 8, 2022 at 9 a.m.

To qualify for the ERMA program, homeowners must meet the following requirements:

- Be a New Jersey homeowner with a demonstrated COVID-19-related financial hardship occurring after January 20, 2020;
- Own and occupy an eligible primary residence;
- Have an income below 150% of their Area Median Income (AMI).

The three lawmakers expressed their appreciation to fellow lawmakers, advocates, and federal partners to launch the program, financed through the federal Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Pallone Announces New Jersey Will Receive Over \$8 Million to Support Sport Fish & Wildlife Restoration

Press Release 1/11/22

LONG BRANCH, NJ – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) today announced that New Jersey will receive \$3,996,614 to restore and conserve sport fish populations and \$4,410,062 to restore, conserve, and manage wildlife populations. The funding comes from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) Program. The program supports state and local outdoor recreational opportunities and wildlife and habitat conservation efforts.

“New Jersey’s fish and wildlife habitats are critical to our state’s economy and outdoor recreation,” Pallone said. “The

fishing industry was especially hard hit by the pandemic, so I’m pleased to see New Jersey receive this support from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This funding will go a long way to protecting and sustaining our state’s fishing population and ensuring our state’s natural beauty will continue to attract visitors and residents alike for years to come.”

The WSFR Program is made up of two funding sources: the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, which was reauthorized as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the Wildlife Restoration Program.

Getting Ahead in Business By Milton Paris



Milton Paris



25 Crenshaw Ct.,
Monroe, NJ 08831
Phone: 732-306-0040
Email: miltonjparis@yahoo.com
www.gettingaheadinbusiness.com

Speaking to an Audience

One of the best and cheapest ways of branding your business is to start speaking in front of target audiences, if you have not already done this. Speaking in front of small or large groups, such as chambers, civic groups, business meetings, men’s and women’s organizations, rotary clubs and other professional organizations will bring you recognition. With the economy the way it is today, companies are looking for speakers who can motivate their audience. Some topics that are important today are: How to increase your sales, setting your goals and keeping focused, staying positive, networking and time management. Make sure your speech is in a positive way then be a sour-sounding whiner and complainer.

Many businesspeople would like to speak in front of an audience, but they have a fear of speaking. At meetings I have attended I notice that when businesspeople are called on to give their 60 second elevator speech, they stand there in fear. These people would rather be in the audience than on the stage. You can overcome this by following a few basic rules: When you are asked to give a speech start practicing weeks in advance, do it in front of a mirror, in front of your family and with your friends. When you feel you have practiced enough (do not memorize your speech) practice more.

To help you be a calm, confident and compelling speaker, there are many good speaking coaches, mentors and classes that you can take in school. If you are on a tight budget, I would highly recommend Toastmasters International. They meet weekly at your local library and chamber. Go to their website: www.toastmastersinternational.com

Remember “Nothing is Impossible” to become an excellent speaker.

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 J. Paris, President Getting Ahead in Business, Sales and Marketing Consultant, Management Coach, Motivational Speaker and Radio Host brings a wealth of experience to the table as a result of building businesses for the past 50 years. He has coached/consulted CEO's, Presidents, entrepreneurs, salespeople and start-ups. 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. No company is too small or too large for him to achieve rapid results in their business development. Milton for the past 15 years has been the host of Getting Ahead in Business on Fox Sports New Jersey 93.5/1450am every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. The only business radio talk show in New Jersey. Listen to Milton, but most important make an appointment with him to make 2022 a banner year!

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH MILTON ON BOARD!

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.

**Ads Sell! Call Carolyn!
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This Week in the Civil War

160 Years Ago

February 16, 1862 – March 1, 1862

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

Brig. Gens. John Floyd and Gideon Pillow manage to escape Fort Donelson on the morning of February 16, 1862. Brig. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, left in command, sends a note to Brig. Gen. Ulysses Grant seeking surrender terms. Grant famously replies: “No terms except unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted.” Some 13,000 Confederate troops are captured, as well as 48 artillery pieces and much equipment. The federal victory is devastating for the Confederacy, which loses a third of its troops in Tennessee, as well as control of two strategic rivers, the loss of one of which — the Cumberland — leads to the evacuation of Nashville by Confederate forces.

To reward Brig. Gen. Grant’s victories in Tennessee, President Lincoln on February 17 promotes him to the rank of major general of volunteers.

The First Congress of the Confederate States meets in Richmond, Virginia, for the first time on February 18. Now a bi-cameral body, it succeeds the unicameral “secession convention” that had acted as a provisional Congress. Having set out from Rolla, in the central part of Missouri, Brig. Gen. Samuel Curtis’s 11,000 Union soldiers capture Bentonville, Arkansas, just south of the Missouri state line.

On February 20, Willie Lincoln, the 12-year-old son of President and Mrs. Lincoln, dies of typhoid fever at the White House in Washington, D.C. William and his younger brother Thomas (“Tad”), 9, had been ill for several weeks. Tad recovered. In Tennessee, Governor Isham Harris decrees that the state capital will move to Memphis, as the current capital — Nashville — is in the line of Union advances.

In the West, on Feb. 21, some 3,800 Union troops under Col. Edward Canby venture out of Ft. Craig to prevent Brig. Gen. Henry Sibley’s invasion force from crossing to the western side of the Rio Grande at a ford at Valverde, New Mexico Territory. The Federal troops are defeated by Sibley’s men, who capture six cannons. Most of the Federals manage to retreat to the safety of nearby Ft. Craig. Despite Sibley’s demand, Canby refuses to surrender. As the fort is felt to be too strong for the Confederates to attack, Sibley orders his brigade to keep moving northward toward Albuquerque and Santa Fe, leaving Ft. Craig and its complement of almost 4,000 Union soldiers in his rear.

Jefferson Davis’s presidential inauguration is held in Richmond, Virginia, on February 22. He had previously been the provisional president of the Confederate States. In Washington, D.C., President Lincoln — feeling pressure from the public — agrees to permit prisoner-of-war exchanges. Observers in the Northern capital note that the Army of the Potomac — ordered to action on or before this date by the president — has not moved. Independence, Missouri, is attacked by a band of pro-Confederate guerrillas led by William Quantrill.

Brig. Gen. Samuel Curtis’s Union force occupies Fayetteville, in northwestern Arkansas, on February 23, 1862.

Federal troops, without any bloodshed, take over Nashville, Tennessee, on February 24, forcing Confederate cavalry there, commanded by Lt. Col. Nathan Bedford Forrest, to withdraw. Nashville will remain in Union hands for the remainder of the war.

From Hampton Roads, Virginia, on February 25, transports carrying the first of Brig. Gen. Benjamin Butler’s 15,000 Union troops depart for New Orleans. The U.S. War Department takes control of all telegraph lines, to facilitate military movements.

In Virginia, President Davis on February 27 calls for martial law in Norfolk and Portsmouth, considering them to be cities “under threat.” The Federal iron-clad vessel *USS Monitor* departs from New York under sealed orders.

In the western part of Confederate Arizona, the company of Arizona Rangers sent out by Brig. Gen. Henry Sibley to guard his invasion’s left flank, arrives at and occupies Tucson on February 28.

March Madness at Dowdell

Press Release

SOUTH AMBOY - During our Covid winter, we have many ways of presenting programs and con-SOUTH AMBOY - March Madness, anyone? Stop in and take your shot in the March Madness Basketball Toss! Your slam dunk will earn a chance to win a new basketball! Don't let the cold weather slow you down! Get your game on and borrow sports equipment such as basketballs, footballs, and soccer/volleyballs from the Library! All you need is your Dowdell Library card! Thank you to Councilwoman Dato for kick starting the Game On! program and to the South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary Club for the generous donation.

The Dowdell Library is 108 years old! They also celebrating Read Across America for Dr. Seuss's birthday. Stop by the first week in March to get a free Dr. Seuss hat and take your picture with The Cat in the Hat.

March is all about Makers Day. Makers Day encourages creativity and exploration using your imagination. Every Wednesday in the children's room, there will be a new Maker's challenge. On March 24, from 4:00 - 7:03, bring the whole family for a Makers Day event. There will be science, technology & engineering activities set up throughout the Library.

Is the luck of the Irish with you? Adults (18+) can stop by the Library and enter our Luck of the Irish Trivia Contest during the entire month of March. One lucky person will win an Irish gift basket. The contest runs from March 1- 17.

The 2022 Tax season is here! The Sadie Pope Dowdell Library is pleased to support financial stability in our community. Free, contactless tax return assistance is available for individuals earning less than \$65,000 annually. The VITA program has operated for over 50 years, offering free tax help to low- to moderate-income, individuals with disabilities, and non-English speaking taxpayers. Pick up the tax documents at the Library.

Invest more time in yourself this year! The Dowdell Library offers free virtual classes through the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Classes offered in March include A Virtual Guided Imagery Relaxation Session, a stretching and flexibility workshop, age-related hearing loss, and a course to learn what your nails say about your health. For more information or to pre-register, please email kathleen.johnson@rwjbh.org.

Planning ahead in life secures your legacy. On Thursday, March 31, from 6:30 - 7:30 pm, author and speaker Kenneth Vercammen will be at the Library to discuss wills, probate & Estate Planning. Learn about the 2022 Federal Estate tax changes and more! Limited seating.

Please check dowdell.org and the library’s social media pages for the latest up-to-date information on upcoming programming.

Library Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10 am - 8 pm, Wednesday & Friday 10 am - 5 pm, and Saturday 12-4 pm. 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.

WWW.AMBOYGUARDIAN.COM

Covid Protocols, Back to In-Person Learning, Student Safety Issues Discussed

2/3/22 BOE Meeting

By: Katherine Massopust
PERTH AMBOY – The 2/3/22 Board of Education Meeting began at 5:30 p.m. Live instruction had begun the past Monday (1/31/22) after a month of remote learning due to a surge in Covid.

The Board went into closed session at 5:44 p.m. They came back at 8:47 p.m. (3 hrs. 3 min. later).

There were two presentations: one on the 2020-2021 HIB Self-Assessment (HIB scores) and one on the New Jersey Strong Results. Both presentations were given by Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction Dr. Vivian Rodriguez and Director of Guidance and Related Services Mr. Eric Swensen.

For the report on bullying, the Perth Amboy School District either met or exceeded the State Anti-Bullying Requirements in every category. Upon BOE approval, the results will be sent to the New Jersey Department of Education.

For the Start Strong results,

the results were not so good. Much of the 2020-2021 school year was through remote learning. The tests indicated that strong teacher and student support was needed in nearly every subject. Dr. Rodriguez stated, “We are all concerned for our students.”

Public Portion:

Theresa Chism spoke first. “I am a parent advocating for my son. On December 13, 2021, my son was physically assaulted. There were no guards present. There are only 5-7 guards for 1,420 students. Two guards were out sick. The student who attacked my son has yet to be identified. The two security cameras were broken.”

She then stated, “Children are standing outside for long periods of time in the morning before the doors open. The children are out in the rain and the cold.”

Perth Amboy Federation President Pat Paradiso spoke next followed by Perth Amboy Federation Union Representative Lynn Audet.



Parent Stephanie Sanchez spoke next. “The community needs to think outside of the box. Last year our sports season was cancelled. We are adjusting ourselves. I had two Shull School Students – one for wrestling. Recently, there was an event. We were shut down and had parents scrambling around town because transportation was cancelled. Perth Amboy should come up with a better way. Nobody communicates back with us. There has to be a better communication to work together for the kids. We should work together.”

Another mother of a student spoke, “The GMC Tournament – students have lack of transportation.

The GMC Event was still on. It should be better way to get students there. I see what these sports do for our children. My son didn’t have science all year. He attended the Dual Language School – there was no science teacher.”

Superintendent Dr. David Roman gave his report. “We are coming back from remote learning to live instruction. The pandemic is before us. The District and Board took a candid approach, we were one of the last districts to come back to live instruction. This demonstrates a respect for this pandemic. We did it with resilience and with the County Superintendent and the Department of Health. We

met the requirements of the students and completed all that was necessary. For workforce strategies, we need teachers. Many have moved on for various reasons. We understand that parents need to work. The staff handled different situations. The CDC changed its mandates. Also, there are mandates by the governor. There is no one answer. Decisions were made with many esteemed and intelligent individuals to expedite the progress as it relates to the pandemic. I implore all of our community to speak with our principals. I would like the Director of Security to meet with the woman whose son was assaulted. I will speak with you as well. The Security/Staff ratio – I would like two colleagues to speak with you. Please parents understand I cannot legally open up a building without staff there. Perhaps parents need to come in to greet the students. When staff comes in the building, I can open up. The Teacher Retentions Committee is not reflective of the directive of the personnel. It is to reach out with teachers to find out what experiences they want. The committee never was designed as a Teacher Retention Committee. Don’t speak self-care? As teachers came back this week – we gave them time to let them acclimate. I find it hard to believe there are principals are not doing that. The parent’s concerns of the building not being open took place during a state of emergency called in at 3 p.m. We immediately rectified the situation. We do have protocols in place. We provide busses in as many places as we can.”

Dr. Roman then spoke about the archway in Water’s Stadium, “We met with Mr. Dyke (Perth Amboy City Historian), the Mayor, Council, and Board. The decision of the Board is to take the archway down because it is dangerous. We will pay for an archway to go back up. All voices will be heard. For safety reasons, the quality of that stone cannot be used. We will do what we need to do and have a new one up in time for the new PAHS when it opens.”

Dr. Roman stated that there were staff shortages due to protocols which will remain upon whether or not we see the end of this pandemic. “They (other school districts) were not remote – we were. We do what is right for this district. What can be done regarding Covid protocols? We will make the best decision at that moment. I want to thank the Board who helped with the transition from remote to live. We must proceed with everything as required by the State of New Jersey. It is a national issue. We are working dynamically to keep people safe.”

Board Vice President Tashi Vazquez said, “I want to thank

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*Continued on Page 14

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Electric Husky Power Washer 1750psi - Good Condition \$75 - 732-277-4635	Brand New Electric Heater Radiator. Was \$65 Now \$20 New Never Used. 732-547-7406	Baseball & Basketball Complete Sets Mint Condition \$10-\$30 Each Set - 732-727-8417
Umbrella - Patio, needs cord and iron stand. \$30 - 732-283-0975	Solid Oak Coffee Table \$75; Oak End Table \$50 732-570-9732	White wicker settee with cushion \$60 732-735-2179
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GPS Tom Tom - 3 pcs Stereo System - Dog Bed \$65 ea. 732-293-0151	Nice Bard & 2 Stools \$35; "Free" Washer - Works Great; Love Seat \$30 - 732-670-6649	Dining Hutch - Wood - Good Condition \$50 - Self Pick-up 732-826-6324
Older New Toy Trucks Sunoco, Exxon, Mobil Hess \$20 Each or B.O. - 732-316-5092	Three Window AC's 5000BTU, 5000BTU, 8000BTU; \$50; \$75; \$50 732-636-3345	Free Firewood. Must pick up and cart away. 732-826-8024
Good working Washer -Whirlpool - \$75; 2 power-washers \$75; 1 lawn mower with bag \$75 (both just tuned up) 732-335-8837	Gold Carnival Glass Collector Plate (5 th Day of Christmas) \$25 732-673-6305	100% Pure Nice Zealand Wool Rug 122x170 Burgundy Pattern \$60 848-242-2152
Pancake Air Compressor 3 Gal 100 PSI \$30 - 732-395-1551 - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Portable Sears Sewing Machine - Used Twice \$25; Epson Printer with new ink (never used) - \$40 - 732-679-0086	Girl's Bicycle 24" Panasonic LX Sport Twelve Speed. Light Blue. \$75 or B.O. 908-501-3993
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Sayreville Bombers 14 KT Charm - \$75 in Box; can add Specialty Sport Charm, etc. - 732-525-2405	Tires - Firestone M&S LT275170R 18 Two \$10 Each 732-727-1772	Children's Sports Lamp w/shade. Really cute, BB, FB, Etc. Large \$20 - 917-670-4908
Movano Watch SS Museum Style Mint Condition \$75 Firm. 732-540-5351		

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ACROSS

- 1 18th-century card game
- 4 Fa follower
- 7 Reference
- 11 French islands
- 13 Memorable years
- 14 ____ about (approximately, 2 wds.)
- 15 Less than one
- 16 Walking like a duck
- 18 Vase
- 20 Written reminder
- 21 Neighbor of Phoenix
- 24 Dueler's memento
- 26 Wish undone
- 27 Eager beaver
- 29 Sound repetition
- 33 Mine products
- 35 "____ Loser" (2 wds.)
- 36 College post
- 37 "Oz" dog
- 38 Bird beaks
- 40 Adam's madam
- 41 Hardwood trees
- 43 Desert stops
- 45 Animal lairs
- 47 Opposite of SSE
- 48 Tedious
- 51 "Pequod" captain
- 55 Bald man's lack
- 56 Letters on some tow

trucks

- 57 Workout spot (abbr.)
- 58 Caribous' kin
- 59 Highest point
- 60 Baseball great Mel

DOWN

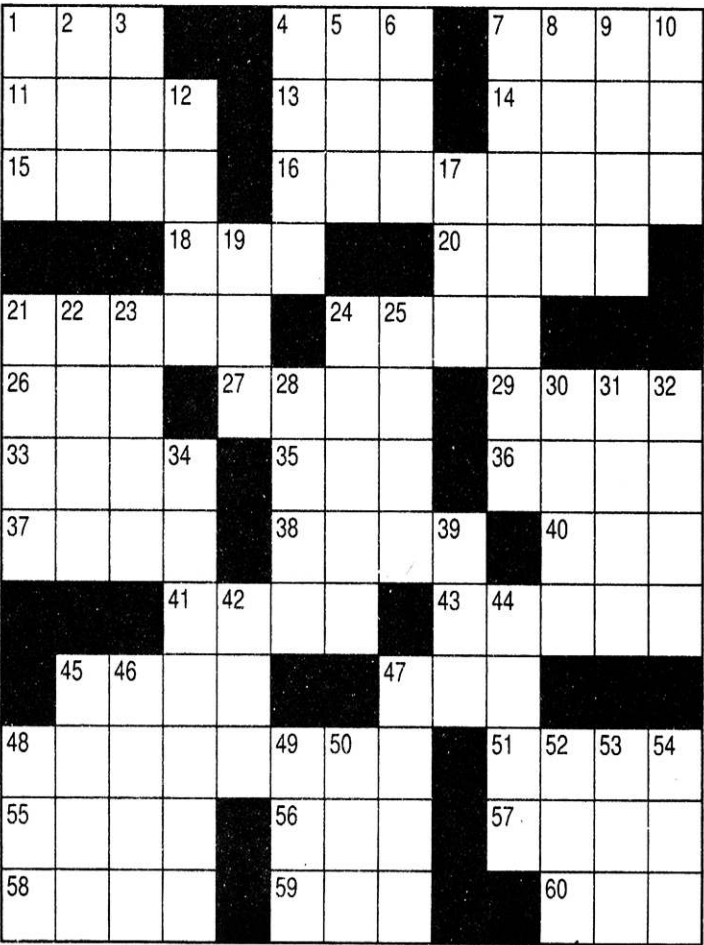
- 1 Actress Taylor's nickname
- 2 Barcelona "rah"
- 3 "____ the ramparts..."
- 4 Stitched
- 5 "...man ____ mouse?" (2 wds.)

6 Scottish boy

- 7 Used crayons
- 8 Name's first letter (abbr.)
- 9 Color quality
- 10 Unit of energy
- 12 "Duck ____"
- 17 Heredity inits.
- 19 Primary color
- 21 Turkey ____
- 22 Currency unit in Italy
- 23 Get together
- 24 Big rigs
- 25 Grouchy person
- 28 Sty sound
- 30 Fair grades
- 31 "____ fun!"
- 32 Smallest bills

34 Oklahoma natives

- 39 Junior
- 42 Brayer on the farm
- 44 Gone
- 45 Clock face
- 46 Estrada of "CHiPs"
- 47 Lowest tide
- 48 Common title start
- 49 Granola grain
- 50 ____ Tse-tung
- 52 "Managed care" inits.
- 53 Perform onstage
- 54 Flutter



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Anita Costello & Xavier Mauldin - A Perfect Match this Valentine’s Day

Press Release
SECAUCUS - When Anita Costello and Xavier Mauldin of Secaucus, New Jersey got married 27 years ago, it seemed they were a perfect match. It was only recently, though, that the couple learned just how true that really was.

Zavier, who has been suffering from chronic kidney disease, needed a kidney transplant. Although highly unusual, the spouses turned out to be a perfect match, having the exact same blood group.

“We’ve always been a compatible couple,” jokes Anita who donated her kidney to Zavier this past October, saving him from a life of daily dialysis.

Siblings typically have the highest chance - 25% - of being an "exact match" for a living donor so Zavier and Anita were

surprised and thrilled to hear they had matching blood types and antigens.



“We really were meant to be together in more ways than one,” says Zavier who is doing really well and grateful to his bride for the organ donation.

The couple say with each passing day, they’re feeling better together. “While not genetically related, the emotionally-related kidneys from spouses function just as well,” explains Michael J. Goldstein, M.D., FACS, director of Abdominal Organ Transplant at Hackensack University Medical Center’s Division of Organ Transplantation. “Hackensack University Medical Center had the fastest growing living donor program in the US. In 2021. Our comprehensive living donor program offers several benefits. Kidneys from living donors last

longer – almost twice as long – function better, and may take place once the donor and recipient are medically cleared.”

Both retired now, Anita and Zavier spend their days watching their 20-month-old granddaughter, Arica. “So in a sense we’re still working together as day care providers,” quipped Anita, who said her husband will be treating her to a vegan Taylor ham and egg sandwich from one of her favorite vegan restaurants this Valentine’s Day.

Beacon Grant **Photos Submitted*



SOUTH AMBOY/SAYREVILLE - South Amboy Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks #784 Has selected two First responder Squads in our community, to be recipients from our Elks National Foundation Awards committee. The South Amboy First Aid Squad will receive a Grant & certificate for, \$ 1,750.00 to replace supplies used during this Covid-19 pandemic. In photo (L to R): President Rob Sekersk, LT. Kim Seber, Life Member James Ryan, and Elks National Foundation Chairman Valentine Tarr

The Second Grant & Certificate for \$ 1,750.00 will be awarded to Sayreville Emergency Squad for the purchase of a new AED unit (L to R) are: Squad Captain Kevin Ott, South Amboy Elks National Foundation Chairman Valentine Tarr, and Squad President Dexter Thomas

Covid Protocols, Back to In-Person Learning, Student Safety Issues Discussed 2/3/22 BOE Meeting

**Continued from Page 11*

everyone for their hard work.” Vazquez then spoke about retiring security guard Mario Martinez. “He dedicated almost 25 years of his life to being a security guard.” She then said, “We have shortages in staff. The nation is facing a shortage. I asked to fill of all open vacancies. HR is seeking teachers to work on various projects. These projects are geared to recruit and retain our staff. We tried to build people up from within our community. You asked to give our teaching staff the opportunity. Why aren’t we giving people who taught here for 15+ years a chance for promotion? These are opportunities we are giving them. These projects are giving the teachers to opportunity to give them the necessary experience. This Board is committed to see these teachers grow.”

Board President Ken Puccio stated that Mario Martinez will be sorely missed.

Board Member Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe read a list of students who made accomplishments over the past school year. She emphasized the importance of recognizing these achievements. The Board agreed.

Superintendent Dr. David Roman stated that Perth Amboy was one of five districts to request Covid Test Kits. He stated that they are here and under secure lock and key.

Board Vice President Tashi Vazquez stated that there is free Covid testing at the Youth Complex on Convery Boulevard. “It is open and walk-in. There are no requirements.”

Dr. Roman stated that on Saturday, April 9 through Tuesday April 12 there will be a job fair which will be advertised.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 p.m. Board Members Michael George and Dr. Dannielle Brown (sick) were not present at the meeting.

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.

Remember to Say Your Novenas!

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, March 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.



Wind Creek Casino Trip
Good Shepherd Seniors

HOPELAWN - Good Shepherd Seniors is sponsoring a bus trip to Wind Creek Casino, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, Cost is \$40 with \$20 back in play. Bus leaves our parking lot at 10:00 a.m. For more information, please call Connie at 732-442-4978.

Hungarian Homemade Nut Rolls

WOODBIDGE – Sponsored by the Lorantffy Women's Guild of the Calvin Hungarian Reformed Church, Corner of School and N. James Streets, Woodbridge. Each individually hand rolled. Made from the best ingredients. Each weighing 1 lb. 8 oz. Available in: English Walnut, Poppyseed, Prune-Lekvar, Apricot, Raspberry-Seedless, and Pumpkin-Cheese. Price \$18 each. Deadline for orders is Sunday, March 20, 2022. Pick-up date: Saturday, April 9, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall of the Church. Please use the Ross Street Entrance. All orders must be paid in full upon ordering. Please call: Florette Pastor: 732-636-2868 or Audrey Marciniak: 732-494- 1431.

Fresh Hungarian Kolbasz Sale

WOODBIDGE - Made by the members of the Calvin Hungarian Reformed Church, Corner of School and N. James Streets of Woodbridge on Saturday, April 9, 2022. Place your orders with Audrey Marciniak: 732-494-1431 or Florette Pastor: 732-636-2868. Price: \$7 per lb. Deadline for orders: Saturday, March 26, 2022. Orders may be picked up at the Fellowship Hall, Ross Street Entrance on Saturday, April 9, 2022, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. If you are ordering Nut Rolls, you can also place your order for Kolbasz at the same time. Please pay by separate checks.

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 - Please open your heart and home to Leland rescued from the State Street apartments of Perth Amboy. He needs 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, deflead, tested for FIV and leukemia, microchipped 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.



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.

Friends of the Library Meeting

PERTH AMBOY – The Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library are having a meeting at the Children's Library, 196 Jefferson Street, Perth Amboy Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022 at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

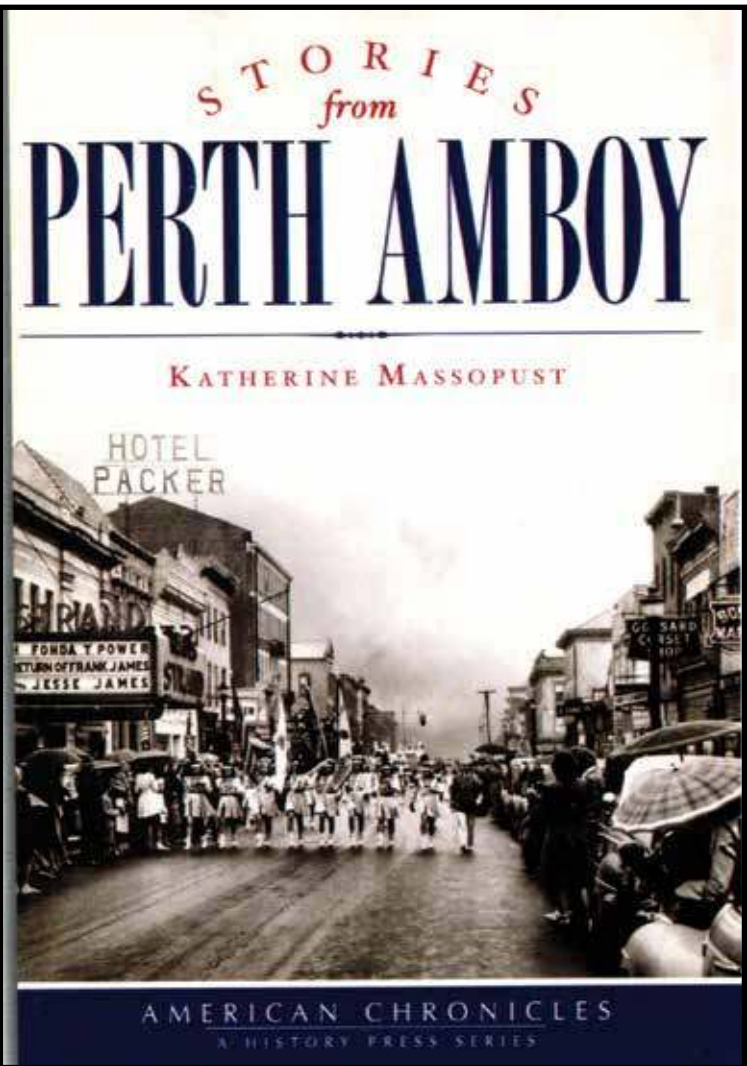
Answers From Puzzle On Page 13



LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY – American Springs Grand Opening W.H.B. Briant & Son's Garage, Sheridan Street circa 1920'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!



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MIDDLETOWN - Garage was converted into a family room, buyer need to do due diligence. **\$439,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Great condition two family. Front house 4brs, 1.5 bath, living-room and kitchen. 2nd house is located in the rear features 1 bedroom, kitchen, bath and living-room. Separated utilities including water. **\$389,000**



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



PERTH AMBOY - Great 2 family investment opportunity in Perth Amboy, good condition, fully rented, separated utilities. **\$375,000**



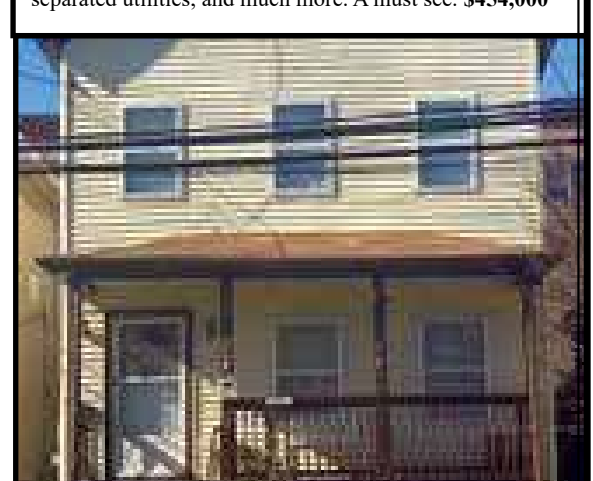
PERTH AMBOY - Well maintained 2 family house, hospital section, and minutes away from NYC. Showings begin 1/17/2022. **\$480,000**



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



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. **\$454,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Sold As is. Buyer is responsible C/O. **\$395,000**



EDISON - Don't miss this opportunity to own this move in ready 1-bedroom mobile home built in 1990. Home sold partially furnished! Monthly land fee of \$917/month includes sewer/water, garbage removal and common area maintenance. Must be approved by Edgewood Properties Management. **\$34,000**