



THE

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# AMBOY GUARDIAN

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## Presentation on Redevelopment Projects Illegal Parking of Commercial Vehicles Among Topics Discussed

3/7/22 Caucus

By: Carolyn Maxwell

PERTH AMBOY – Developer Eduardo Trujillo appeared along with his architect, Mark Donovan to talk about his two redevelopment projects. The first one to be located at 585 Sayre Avenue, Urban Renewal, LLC. The second project is Victory Center, Urban Renewal, LLC.

Donavan spoke first, “The property at 585 Sayre Avenue is in poor condition and an eyesore. We followed PARA guidelines and there is residential housing across the street from this property. We are looking to erect a 4-story building with 117 units with parking underneath the building. There will also be townhomes that will be fronting that site if plans are approved.

Trujillo then said, “Donavan helped me with the project that I built on 475 Smith Street. With our new buildings, we are trying to attract a younger crowd who earn at least \$100,000+ a year.”

Donavan added, “The new materials used for the units to be constructed are more durable than vinyl.”

Council President Bill Petrick suggested that Trujillo and Donovan pressure the county to make a Rails-to-the-Trail to go through the development.

Eddie Trujillo answered, “The new buildings, we are going to have bike racks inside and electric charging stations outside.”

Donavan said, “Eddie always has quality properties.”

Trujillo continued, “Each apartment will have central air and a washer and dryer. They are very upscale apartments. I’ve been here for 50 years. My kids are going to take over, and they already own property here. We will always be here. All of my buildings are rented immediately. I maintain my apartments as if they are my own house. Even my rents that are \$2000/month can go higher (if they were in other towns). We do our own garbage removal and have security all around our buildings (inside and outside). We already did a traffic study, and an additional traffic light is not needed.”

Councilman Joel Pabon spoke up, “Remember, there is a school close by.”

Trujillo responded, “Because of the way Sayre Avenue is split up, the traffic flow will not be affected.”

With Project #2 (Riverview Drive), Donovan spoke first, “This is close to the river part of the redevelopment plan, and we will be opening up two side streets where the old Cheeseborough Ponds was located.”

Trujillo added, “This will be a 3-story building. The site has been dormant for 25 years and people used to dump garbage there, but when I acquired that property, that dumping stopped. We also did a traffic study. Most people use Riverview Drive, and these streets were opened up at my cost.”

Donavan spoke briefly, “That site had to be cleaned up and capped so that we could have parking on the first floor.”

Trujillo spoke again, “Parking will be underneath the building and people will access that using swipe cards and we will also have electric charging stations. We remove our own garbage, and we will have bike racks. We hope that the street that we open up will connect to a bike path if the city decides to build one. We want to build over the roads.”

Donavan then took over, “We have a mixture of materials that are contemporary and state of the art facilities.”

Trujillo added, “We will have a gym and lounge area and water views.”

Donavan stated, “We will be building a park with a basketball court.”

Trujillo then added, “The park will look like our artist’s renderings, but we won’t have enough space for a full (basketball) court. Before we built 475 Smith Street, we went to other cities to see what they built to attract younger people and I wanted to do better than that. It’s not just to bring younger people, but to bring anyone making \$100,000+ a year. I looked at Red Bank and similar towns. People have to bring in proof of income. Affordable units will be available along

with the market rate units.”

Donavan then said, “This follows the redevelopment plan.”

Councilman Joel Pabon then questioned, “How will the water pressure be for these new buildings?”

Trujillo mentioned that there will be an 8-inch waterline connected to the Sayre Avenue property. “And we will be putting in a pump. They will be sharing the 24-inch line with sprinklers that attaches into the hospital (on the same line). There is a 36-inch line where there is no easement that will cost us a half million dollars. Woodbridge Township has 14 projects that have built or are building in the last 4 years and South Amboy has also been building projects. This project is \$30 million and that is why a PILOT is needed. We do our own cleanups, garbage removal, and snow removal.”

Donavan then spoke up, “Eddie is here for the long haul.”

Trujillo said, “We take care of any problems with our buildings immediately. I have invested 90% of my money in the city. People don’t realize what it takes to build properties. I always pay my taxes on time, and I have never sold any of my properties. The building on the Five-Corners (State Street, New Brunswick Avenue, and Smith Street) is 100% occupied. There is not much land left (in Perth Amboy), but you need to fix the train station and we need to move forward together.”

Councilman B.J. Torres asked, “What is the percentage of union workers that will be hired to work on this project?”

Trujillo responded, “Some of my buildings use union and non-union laborers. Using union workers can increase the cost of a project by 30%. Sometimes state funding can be available to offset the cost. I currently have between 300-400 units that are affordable.”

Donavan said, “The cost of construction materials has risen.”

Trujillo then mentioned, “In Jersey City, a 20-story building was built that were bonded.

\*Continued on Page 2

## Donations to South Amboy Parade Committee & Fireworks Committee Ferry Project Progressing 3/2/22 Council Meeting



SOUTH AMBOY - URSB (United Roosevelt Savings Bank) Executive Vice President David Van Steyn and Senior Vice President of Lending Gary McEldowney of a \$6,000 check to the South Amboy Parade Committee for the St. Patrick’s Day Parade scheduled for March 20, 2022, and a \$6,000 check to the Fireworks Committee for the fireworks scheduled for July 2, 2022 for a total donation of \$12,000 \*Photo by Katherine Massopust

By: Katherine Massopust

SOUTH AMBOY – There was a moment of silence for the people of Ukraine at the beginning of the meeting.

There was a presentation by URSB (United Roosevelt Savings Bank) Executive Vice President David Van Steyn and Senior Vice President of Lending Gary McEldowney of a \$6,000 check to the South Amboy Parade Committee for the St. Patrick’s Day Parade scheduled for March 20, 2022, and a \$6,000 check for Celebrate our Stars and Stripes for the fireworks scheduled for July 2, 2022. Representatives from the Parade Committee and Fire Works Committee were

present. This was a total of a \$12,000 donation from United Roosevelt Savings Bank.

There was also a donation of \$500 for the people of Ukraine from the South Amboy Parade Committee.

Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski explained that there was a \$1.8 million bill to the State of New Jersey to cover dredging, but the city will receive \$1 million back for the ferry slip. He stated that the city is funding out of the money they received to offset the dredging.

B.A. Skarzynski stated that when a developer in town decided not to plow the snow

\*Continued on Page 9



# Gustav J. Novak

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# Presentation on Redevelopment Projects & Illegal Parking of Commercial Vehicles

## Among Topics Discussed

### 3/7/22 Caucus

*\*Continued from Page 1*

This particular project will not be using union workers.”

The meeting was opened to the public to speak about these projects.

Sharon Hubberman spoke via Zoom, “I thought that the presentation was very thorough. I thought the 2008 project was to help the businesses and help in the stabilization of rent. We need to have ownership instead of building high-rises. I live in the hospital section, and I don’t think they should be using the hospital lines to help with their water pressure. It is going to cost the hardworking taxpayer, and we are going to discriminate based on a person’s income.”

The next person to speak was Bill Schultz via Zoom, “I applaud the developer. How many apartments are at the 475 Smith Street Building?”

Trujillo responded, “26.”

Schultz also asked, “Will the apartments you intend to build be close to the sidewalk?”

Trujillo assured him that the apartments will be set back from the sidewalk.

Schultz then asked if there is any way the public can view the plans.

Trujillo said, “We can download them so the city can put them on their website.”

Fire Chief Ed Mullen came up to explain that the 24-inch main that Trujillo’s project will share with the hospital will not be a problem and hydrants will also be placed there.”

Resident Ken Balut spoke in person, “Who negotiated the contracts?”

Patrick responded, “The Redevelopment Agency and Northgrave (former Law Director) did so for the PILOT.”

William Northgrave who was there in place of Law Director Opel spoke up to make a correction on Patrick’s statement. “This development was predicated before I was employed by the city. However, I did represent developers who did PILOTS in Woodbridge.”

Balut continued, “We need to give money to our schools. I know Eddie for a while, and I like him. The problem is that we have had some developers who don’t deliver on their promises. These pictures (showing the plans) should be uploaded so people can look back (after these projects are completed) and say, “Yes he delivered as promised.” I don’t think that the Woodbridge projects look so good. What about those solar panel farms (that went bust)? Good luck, Eddie!”

Trujillo responded, “I don’t want to comment on other city’s projects. There was a Sayreville project where there was a \$2.5 million investment. Right now, you have a good team of people working in Code Enforcement and King Plaza got a PILOT. Woodbridge Township had 14 projects that received PILOTS and South Amboy had several

projects that received PILOTS. I disagree with the caller who said we are taxing the people. It helps people pay their taxes.”

On the agenda was a topic for discussion regarding oversized vehicle parking on streets and lots initiated by Councilman Joel Pabon.

The council then spoke about several problems in the city. Pabon mentioned, “I roam the streets of Perth Amboy and we have school buses, tractors, and all kinds of vehicles parking illegally. We have ordinances that we are not enforcing. They also park illegally on Second Street. They are ticketed, then after a while they start to come back and park illegally again. The ZPA, La Asuncion Church, and other businesses that have private parking are allowing all these vehicles to park there illegally. People call to complain about this all the time, especially about the trucks parking there illegally. We need answers to why this is continually happening.”

Council President Bill Patrick agreed with Pabon.

Pabon said, “When Eddie does his projects, I go to see all of them. And then I go to the ZPA and see all those commercial vehicles parked illegally.”

Patrick said, “We need to take action, especially to those parked on Second Street, and we need a place to take these illegally parked vehicles (when they are towed).”

Pabon then mentioned, “Someone sent me a video of views while traveling by train from town to town. You can’t tell how beautiful Perth Amboy’s is when you view the scenery traveling by train.”

Acting Police Chief Larry Cattano came up to address these issues. “I know with all of these vehicles parked on these private lots; it is a Code Enforcement issue. I drive by Second Street every day – day and night and I only saw one school bus that was parked illegally. The railroad tracks had a recent clean-up, and we are trying to get assistance for the homeless. New Jersey Transit does not do much cleaning up. There were over 50 summonses issued by the Parking Enforcement on overweight vehicles parking illegally. Some truckers risk getting tickets because it is cheaper for them in the long run.”

Councilman B.J. Torres suggested that for repeat offenders, maybe the fines should be increased for each subsequent ticket being issued.

Pabon stated that the vehicles should be issued multiple tickets at once if they abuse the parking. “There are a lot of illegal things going on Second Street. Graffiti is also a problem. There are a lot of tires back there. And whose fault is it that NJ Transit is not cleaning? The bottom line is that we have to hold people accountable. I volunteer to look at these businesses to see if they hold illegal activity.”

Patrick agreed that Second

Street is a problem, “There are a lot of homeless people living there.”

Cattano then mentioned that the homeless population living there has gone down.

Patrick asked, “Didn’t we have kids that used to do graffiti cleanups?”

Cattano responded, “They can’t touch private properties and we ticket oversized vehicles in residential properties.”

Patrick suggested that tickets should go higher for repeat offenders.

Pabon then spoke about the trucks that park on a particular business on High Street. “I don’t know why they have to double park when they can use the loading bays.”

Cattano then mentioned they also towed vehicles that were parked illegally on Elm Street.

Pabon then told Cattano, “Whatever you need, just ask us. Whenever Department heads come here, they never tell us what they need to make their jobs easier.”

Business Administrator Michael Green spoke up, “Under Joel Rosa, we have cleaned graffiti around the town. We can give you the number of tickets that have been handed out on illegally parked vehicles.”

Pabon then stated graffiti should be taken care of year-round. Home Depot has a lot of graffiti drawn on their property.

Cattano said, “We will keep you up on the fines that have been issued.”

Patrick then stated that the double parking in town is out of control.

Director of Code Enforcement Irving Lozada then spoke up via Zoom, “I’ll provide B.A. Mike Green all the violations that were issued for illegal parking by La Asuncion Church. I will also check with our Assistant Zoning Officers about the documentation they have about oversized vehicles parking illegally.”

Pabon also mentioned, “People that have yards also have illegal vehicles parking as well as the Cornucopia. People blame the pandemic when it is to their advantage. Those private property owners are probably getting money to have people parking in their lots.”

Lozada stated, “I will give you information on all those private lots that you talked about.”

Pabon then said, “One of those lots had no lights on, and I wondered what is going on. I want solutions.”

Patrick said, “Some of these businesses have no indoor plumbing. This is a health problem. School buses are parking on residential streets.”

Lozada responded, “Our office hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and school buses can park until 6 p.m.”

Patrick suggested that maybe he could rotate the schedule of the people who work in Code Enforcement.

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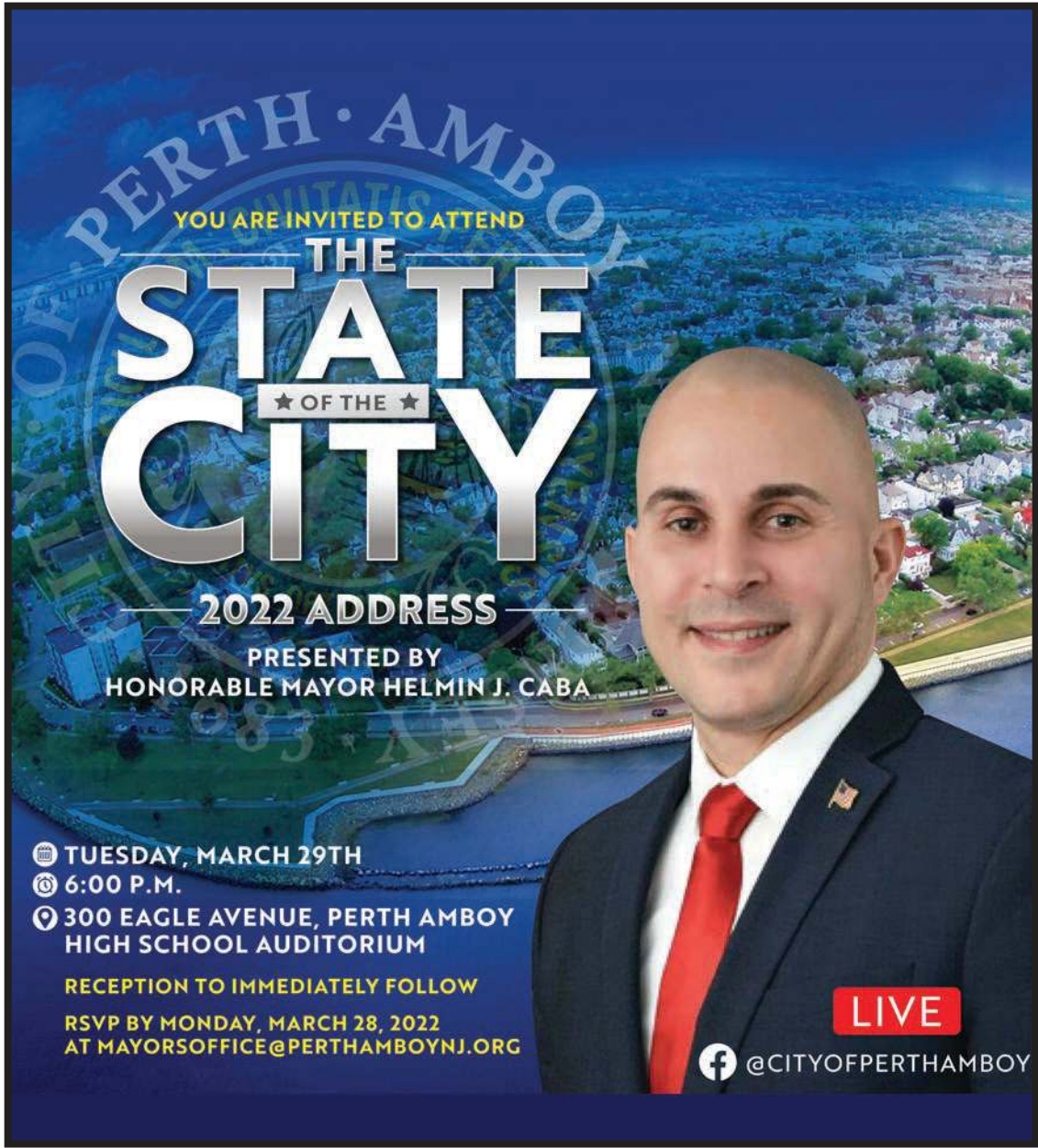
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### Prayer Vigil for Ukraine

**PERTH AMBOY** - Prayer vigil for Ukraine. The vigil is organized by the City of Perth Amboy and Assumption Catholic School. It will be held at 260 High St. (City Hall Circle), Perth Amboy, NJ on Tuesday, March 15 at 6:00 p.m. All are invited. For more information, contact 732-826-8721.

## Presentation on Redevelopment Projects & Illegal Parking of Commercial Vehicles Among Topics Discussed

### 3/7/22 Caucus

*\*Continued from Page 2*

Lozada responded, “We’ll make it happen.”

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch spoke up regarding Ordinance No. 1 – Adopting amendments to the Focus 2020 Redevelopment Plan for Area #1.

“We don’t have a Planning Board report, yet.”

Petrack suggested that the council table this ordinance.

Kupsch continued, “Jamie Rios said we can’t act on this ordinance until April.”

Northgrave said, “Their scope right now is very limited.”

Councilman B.J. Torres spoke up, “We’ve had amendments since 1997. We shouldn’t be doing any developments until we have an updated plan. We’ve had the same developers for years. There are no comprehensive plans on how it would affect our CFO’s. You need to stall some developments.”

B.A. Green responded, “PARA and the Planning Board are looking out for us. It takes 5-6 months to revamp the Master Plan.”

Petrack said, “It’s longer than that. When I was in the Planning Board, it took us years to revamp some of the plans.”

Northgrave said, “You want to make redevelopments to be updated via this ordinance. The Master Plan was supposed to be amended as you go along.”

Torres continued, “I was looking at how additional exhaust would affect us, especially on our youth.”

Petrack said, “Remember, the last Master Plan was under Vas and some of those components were passed. The Redevelopment Plan must be close to what

was proposed.”

Northgrave said that the PARA Executive Director would be the best one to answer these questions.

Ordinances and Resolutions that were discussed included:

Report from Michael E. Green B.A. – Fayette Street Bridge Update: “The initial cost was \$6.5 million and that was 4 years ago. We are trying to get additional grants. The initial grant we received has no expiration date.”

City Engineer Jeff Rauch spoke via Zoom, “The grant guidelines were followed. We are looking at a possible pre-fab bridge which is still in our design. New Jersey Transit is building a temporary utility bridge. Council President Petrack then recommended that we need to meet with all parties.”

Pabon then added, “We need to get all our local and state level politicians involved.”

Green said he would reach out to them.

Pabon had a brief comment regarding R-135 – Increasing the contract with Core Mechanical, Inc. Regarding replacement parts at the Public Safety Complex for an additional \$120,000 to an amount not to exceed \$195,000.

Pabon remarked, “None of these things are cheap and are being used daily.”

Green then added, “The mayor asked for this in the capital improvement plan.”

Dianne Roman from the Department of Human Services spoke via Zoom on R-136 – An agreement with the Jewish Renaissance Foundation Ameri-corps Program in an amount not to exceed \$4,419.54 per year.

“This is for Perth Amboy Residents and a city resident will be working there.”

B.A. Green made a remark about R-137 – Contracts for towing services for the year 2022. “There is a list of 10 towing companies which will be on a rotating list, and this was advertised.

Councilman B.J. Torres asked Green what specific services will they be doing?

Green answered it was in the backup material.

Acting Police Chief Larry Cattano spoke in-person and gave specifics on R-139 – A grant from the State of New Jersey Attorney General’s Office bolstering Police Youth Trust Program in an amount of \$16,500. “This is for 4 different bicycle events.” He also talked about R-140 – A grant from the Highway Traffic Safety Division for the Distracted Driving Statewide Crackdown Grant in amount of \$12,500. “This is a part of You Text – You Pay Program”.

Tashi Vazquez from the Office of Economic and Community Development spoke via Zoom, “The officers involved get \$70 per hour.”

The next resolution discussed was R-141 - A grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for the open space 2022 Grant in the amount of \$1 million.

Vazquez said, “This will be for the youth complex and combined with another grant it will be just under \$2 million.

Vazquez then spoke about R-142 – Authorizing a grant application for the New Jersey Historic Trust Preserve New Jersey Historic Preservation

Funding. “The cost is \$529.”

Green spoke about R-143 – Authorizing the Youth of Second Generation UEZ Funds in the amount of \$183,660 to fund the 2022-2023 UEZ Administration Budget.” Green explained that this would be to register businesses in the cost of office supplies and for one clerk in-house and 3 field clerks.

Councilman B.J. Torres said that he wanted to make a comment regarding R-141. “Schools should contribute to this.”

Kenny Ortiz from the Department of Recreation spoke via Zoom, “The schools don’t always have use of the city’s property. We sometimes use their facilities and vice versa.” Public Portion (in-person first):

Resident Ken Balut said, “You are supposed to say what you will discuss in closed session. Go after the Y for money and not the schools. Why are we not negotiating with the Y? We have a recreation department and not everyone uses the Y. They probably still have leaks. I forwarded the Attorney General pictures I took at the Y. There are illegal commercial vehicles parked all over town and it is up to Code Enforcement to handle illegal parking on private property. UEZ funds were misused in the past and we gave money to people who never lived in this town.”

B.A. Green spoke up to apologize for a statement that he made to Balut at the last council meeting, “An agency did come into town to investigate a group that may have done something wrong. I apologize for a statement I made to you.”

Resident Sharon Hubberman spoke via Zoom, “When devel-

opers are given a PILOT, they do not pay the same tax rate as residents.” She also said that there is an ordinance (No. 4-22) stating that the mayor has to appoint someone as an acting mayor in their absence. She addressed this comment to Mike Green who earlier said that it is not a requirement that the mayor appoint someone in their absence. She also mentioned that in the past, there was a talk about having a municipal towing lot in town.”

Petrack said, “We need to explore having a municipal towing lot with proper security in place.”

Resident Lisa Nanton spoke next on Zoom. She asked if she could get the total of what is the city’s current debt and if she could get that answer by Wednesday’s meeting. “I want to thank the council for asking all of those questions. I agree with Councilman Torres that we need an updated Master Plan. The last one I have is from 2003. Hubberman is right on target with her statements. Taxpayers should not shoulder the burden of development projects. I gave Elizabethtown Gas the addresses of homeowners that are having problems, and I have not received any communications back from them. I’m glad to see Mr. Northgrave. I almost forgot what he looked like.”

Northgrave replied, “I am no longer the Law Director. I am sitting in for William Opel tonight.”

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m. Councilwoman Milady Tejeda was absent because of work.



LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

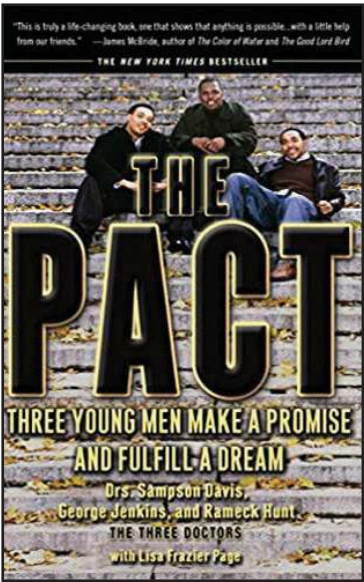
Be Specific

Whenever I hear people use the phrase: “People of Color” – especially when it is used in a sentence when someone is being targeted or victimized, I cringe. I need you to be more specific as to who you consider people of color. You can go to different people, and they may name a specific ethnic group or different variety of ethnic groups. Maybe their origin of birth, but I need to know specifically who you consider “People of Color”.

As I was growing up, I never heard that phrase, now it is being tossed around when it is politically advantageous. I know in the past, there were a lot of people of color (Blacks, African-American, Colored...) were treated unfairly, especially when it came to have longer prison terms for minor infractions compared to other groups.

My concerns right now are the continuation of victimizing people of color as if they have no say. I have a hard time with this, especially when it comes to people saying that showing an ID to vote is being discriminatory. In that case, they should not ask for an ID when you open up a bank account, purchase liquor or cigarettes. Even in some banks to make a deposit of cash, I need to show an ID. When I went to buy a new cell phone, I was asked to show ID. No one has a problem showing an ID in these instances. But for me, when it comes to voting, you need to show ID. I want to show that no one is voting in my place. If ID’s were not required, what would stop someone from going to a polling place, and vote under someone else’s name?”

A long time ago, sometimes I would work the polls in South Plainfield, and I was not familiar with the voters, so I would not be able to identify them anyway. As a matter of fact, there was a poll of people across the board of voting age and 57.3% of the people said they have no problem showing an ID at the polls. (Out of 600 New Yorkers - December 18,



2021, from Politifact.com). When I was growing up, I don’t remember any of my elders talking about being oppressed when they were trying to vote in New Jersey. Something else that bothers me are when people say because of the color of your skin, you have a strike against you automatically. I want to recommend a book which I recommend be on the reading list across the board. “The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream by Drs. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Remick Hunt (2002).

Another book I recommend is Klan-destined Relationships: A Black Man’s Odyssey in the Ku Klux Klan by Daryl Davis (2005). One of Daryl Davis’s quotes is, “How can you hate me if don’t even know me?” During the years, Davis was able to convince over 300 Klansmen denounce and leave the organization. He would do this by engaging them in conversation and through music. You could read more about Davis through Wikipedia and at the website www.ted.com where there are various speakers talk on different subjects.

I am inspired by people of all different ages and backgrounds because sometimes you may have more in common with others who you may view as different from you. *C.M.*

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Statement by Councilwoman Milady Tejada at the 2/23/22 Council Meeting

I would like to take a moment to address a very delicate yet

extremely crucial point regarding responsibility and transparency. At the last caucus meeting I mentioned that parking at the Puerto Rican festival was chaotic, NOT that the festival itself was chaotic. My statement was MISQUOTED by a particular newspaper. The quote was misconstrued in what I can only believe it influences the division

of our communities. I urge all media sources to please be careful, be considerate and most importantly project a deeper sense of integrity. Lastly, I encourage you to listen to the recording from the last caucus meeting if any doubts remain.

Milady Tejada

Our Perth Amboy Residents

Our Perth Amboy Residents have always found the tenacity and strength to keep them moving forward despite the many challenges and obstacles of the era: “Luchando para seguir adelante.”

In the midst of a global pandemic, an inflation crisis with rising food and gasoline costs, in addition to the war we are witnessing in Ukraine, we have expectations that our City Council, who were elected by the people, would always heed the concerns of the people of our town, in addition to answering any inquiries a resident may pose to them. Unfortunately, at the recent council meeting held on Wednesday, March 9th, 2022, most of the City Council with the exception of one council member, voted Yes to the proposed P.I.L.O.Ts (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) being requested on two properties by a developer who wishes to construct “Luxury Apartments” on Sayre Avenue and in an area near the Cornucopia. The exception was Councilman Torres who voted No.

To the surprise of community leaders who attended the Council Meeting, the proposed Ordinance for the P.I.L.O.T.s was

introduced as a Late Starter. Simply stated, a P.I.L.O.T is a request by a corporate developer to have a significant break in the property taxes over a certain period of time, which often spans from 10 to 30 years, in order to develop a property. **How can our City afford such a proposal, when our Home Owners and Business Owners pay one of the highest property tax rates (an average of 3.0% on the assessment value) in Middlesex County?** Tenants also share the costs of property taxes.

If you were to make an improvement on your property, such as a new porch or new siding, the tax assessor immediately reassesses your property to capture the increase in assessment value which would produce a higher property tax bill. Yet, if a developer improves a property, the new assessment value is not a factor of calculation if the developer received a P.I.L.O.T. On average, similar P.I.L.O.Ts in Perth Amboy have yielded less than a 1% tax rate (an approximation) in real estate property taxes over the term of the P.I.L.O.T.

Moving the City forward is addressing the quality of life issues our City Residents experience on a daily basis, such as noise and air pollution, water

quality, an over stressed water/sewer infrastructure, daily traffic congestion, unavailable parking, illegal housing, and overburdened streets which are impacted by new heavy transports. Our City is only 4.7 square miles, and it has become more highly dense. Is it prudent to put a bigger strain on our City’s resources, without capturing the appropriate and fair property taxes on a development?

The hope I share in moving our City forward is to have the fortitude to say NO when the cost benefit analysis does not weigh in favor of our Community. In the case of the recently proposed P.I.L.O.Ts, the burden of a big tax break and the strain on our existing resources comes at a much higher cost, than its benefits to the City’s Residents given our current situation. I encourage members of our Community to Voice their Concerns at both the next Caucus meeting on **March 28th, 2022 at 5:30pm** and the next Council Meeting on **March 30th, 2022 at 7:30pm** via Zoom and City Hall Council Chambers y **Vamos A Luchar para seguir Adelante**

Sharon D. Hubberman, Perth Amboy Community Advocate

Lisa Nanton’s Complete Comments on ZOOM March 9th Council Meeting DEBT

The current Perth Amboy debt of \$170 million dollars which has dragged on now to a 4th administration.

**CSO’S**  
We are under a federal, mandate to separate our sewer and storm water system which will cost the taxpayers several million dollars. Streets have been collapsing as a result of deteriorating 150 years old brick sewers. The taxpayer will shoulder the burden of the expense of the repairs.

**WATER**  
Perth Amboy used to have 3 water lines from Runyan Wa-

tershed in Old Bridge under the river to Perth Amboy. Now there is one, that no only is antiquated, but with the constant pounding of footings for the new train bridge, the constant pounding makes me very concerned about the condition of the last water line. When that fails, the cost will be on the shoulder of the taxpayers to finance new water lines. If the city doesn’t do something soon, we may wake up one day with no water.

**TRAFFIC**  
Our streets are clogged with traffic and have been for some time. You can sit at a light on Market Street, and have it change three times before traffic moves because someone is making a left turn and a car is parked on the right so you can’t go around them. This needs to be resolved ASAP  
Apartment buildings complain

now of low water pressure. These items need to be dealt with before anymore construction; especially high-density residential projects begin. The city water, sewers and streets cannot take any more stress until these problems are dealt with. And we definitely cannot afford to be subsidizing any projects with PILOTS, when the taxpayers are suffocating under debt and the looming cost of more millions for repairs to our streets, water and sewer systems, let alone poor air quality from traffic.

It’s like Daddy Warbucks asking Little Orphan Annie to supply his meals

This is not just a financial issue, but also a moral and ethical issue.

Lisa Nanton

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

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## Attention!

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

## 2022

## Amboy Guardian Publication Dates

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

## Community Calendar

### Perth Amboy

THURS. Mar. 24 Board of Education, 5:30 p.m.  
PAHS, Eagle Ave.  
• Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m.  
City Hall, High St.  
MON. Mar. 28 City Council, Caucus, 5:30 p.m.  
City Hall, High St. & Zoom  
WED Mar. 30 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.  
City Hall, High St. & Zoom

### South Amboy

WED. Mar. 16 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.  
City Hall, N. Broadway  
WED. Apr. 6 City Council, Business, 6 p.m.  
City Hall, N. Broadway

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

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## Safety Announcement

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

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!!**

Report Suspicious Activity - Be Vigilant - **STAY ALERT!**

Do not think that any call or report is too small

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

**FOR ALL EMERGENCIES, DIAL: 9-1-1**

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## United in Prayer, Metuchen Diocese ‘Storming Heaven for Peace in Ukraine’



Assumption Catholic School – Bishop Checchio: In his remarks, Bishop James F. Checchio of Metuchen encourages those gathered for the March 3 Divine Liturgy, saying “We are united in prayer and we are storming heaven for peace in Ukraine.” (Credit: Gerald Wutkowski Jr./Diocese of Metuchen)



Assumption Catholic School – Liturgy: Ukrainian Servant of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará Sister Maria (left) and Sister Veronica (right) participate in the March 3 Divine Liturgy together with students from Assumption Catholic School and Perth Amboy Catholic School to pray for peace in Ukraine. (Credit: Gerald Wutkowski Jr./Diocese of Metuchen)



Assumption Catholic School – Students: Students from Assumption Catholic School, a Ukrainian Catholic school, and Perth Amboy Catholic School, a Roman Catholic school, gathered together in a prayerful response to the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Ukraine. (Credit: Gerald Wutkowski Jr./Diocese of Metuchen)

Press Release 3/4/22  
PERTH AMBOY – Unified only by their prayers and faith, their city, and the blue and yellow ribbons on their school uniforms, proudly displaying the colors of the Ukrainian flag, the students and faculty members from Assumption Catholic School, a Ukrainian Catholic school, and Perth Amboy Catholic School, a Roman Catholic school, gathered together in a prayerful response to the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Ukraine.

With Bishop James F. Checchio of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Metuchen present and Father Ivan Turyk, pastor of Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, presiding, the students stood side by side at the March 3 Divine Liturgy held at Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption and prayed for peace in Ukraine.

“We have certainly been through a tough period,” Bishop Checchio said, addressing the students from beneath the shimmering gold dome of the church. “First, the pandemic turned everything upside down and caused great suffering and



Fr. Ivan Turyk with students



Praying for Ukraine

loss. Now, on top of that, we have this aggression in Ukraine. It is heartbreaking to watch the news and to see what is happening there, as we watch mothers and children fleeing and becoming refugees, and as we watch young men and even older men taking up arms to protect their family and their homeland.”

Solemnly acknowledging the struggles caused by the pandemic and the challenges now being faced in Ukraine, Bishop Checchio reminded the students that one thing never changes, even amidst the difficulties in life: our friendship with Jesus Christ.

“The Holy Spirit was sent to be present with us until the end of time, and the presence of Je-

sus in the Eucharist nourishes us, strengthens us, and fortifies us for the challenges that we do face, so do not ever take it for granted. Remind yourself each day of the presence of our loving God with us,” said the bishop. “No matter what we are facing, we have Someone who loves us always and who is with us always and protects us.”

The March 3 Divine Liturgy was the latest in a series of diocesan efforts to support Ukrainians, both those in the war-torn country and those around the world, including those in our local communities who are left to worry about their loved ones and their home country from afar. The day before, on Ash Wednesday, heeding the call by

Pope Francis to participate in a day of prayer and fasting for peace in Ukraine, all parishes and schools in the Diocese of Metuchen were asked to pray the rosary. In solidarity with the Ukrainian people, students and faculty of Assumption Catholic School prayed the rosary in English and Ukrainian and a recording of their prayer was shared with all parishes and Catholic schools in the diocese for the universal day of prayer and fasting.

Bishop James F. Checchio also asked parishes in the diocese to participate in a special Collection to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, which will allow the faithful to provide assistance to the victims of

war in Ukraine and many other projects the Collection supports in the region, especially with refugees entering Poland and other countries. Anyone wishing to support to the collection is invited to donate online by visiting: [diometuchen.org/Ukraine](http://diometuchen.org/Ukraine).

“On behalf of the Diocese of Metuchen, we are united with you at this time and with the people of Ukraine,” Bishop James F. Checchio said, speaking to Father Turyk, the religious sisters, and the many students and faculty members who have family and friends still in Ukraine. “We are united in prayer and we are storming heaven for peace in Ukraine.”

## Pallone Statement on President Biden’s State of the Union Address

Press Release 3/1/22  
WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) issued the following statement on President Biden’s first State of the Union Address: “Tonight, President Biden showed the American people that we are building a better America for everyone. By confronting the COVID-19 pandemic head on, rebuilding our economy, and investing in our nation’s infrastructure, the President is working with Congress to ensure our best days are yet to come.

“President Biden also made it clear that democracies will not back down in the face of authoritarian aggression. The President has rallied our allies against Putin’s unprovoked and murderous invasion of Ukraine’s sovereign democ-

racy. We cannot and will not let Russia’s presidential pariah get away with premeditated war without serious consequences for the Russian economy and Putin’s cronies. We will continue to stand with Ukraine.

“Thanks to President Biden’s leadership, we’ve made significant progress combating the COVID-19 pandemic. The Administration successfully implemented a plan that ensured Americans had access to critical vaccines and therapies at no cost. These actions saved lives and are allowing us to return to a new sense of normalcy. We also worked together to expand access to affordable health coverage by lowering monthly premiums for millions of Americans and expanding coverage to millions more who were uninsured.

“We are finally modernizing our crumbling infrastructure through historic investments that will also help revitalize our economy and confront the worsening climate crisis. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law expands renewable energy, makes our electric grid more resilient, removes toxic lead service drinking water lines, and ensures Americans have access to reliable and affordable high-speed internet.

“Now we must build on this progress, and tonight President Biden outlined a path forward – providing additional relief to struggling American families, addressing affordability, and strengthening our supply chains to ensure more critical goods are made right here in the United States.





## Carryover From Caucus Meeting 3/9/22 Council Meeting

By Carolyn Maxwell:

PERTH AMBOY – The first order of business at the Council Meeting was a presentation by the Executive Director of PARA Leigh Ann Hindenlang who presented the annual report for 2021. She talked about Focus 2020 and that PARA is a public agency created by a city ordinance in 1997. PARA Members are appointed by the city council. We have an attorney, a planner, an engineer, and consultants and appraisers when needed. Before we were \$10,000 below our projected surplus, but now we have a small surplus of \$250,000. The projects we have will come with rateables and jobs. We have 16 projects in negotiations or development. Some of these projects had to be sent back to developers to be revamped. The properties are only in the redevelopment areas. Each project has to project how many city residents they will employ. There are 125 acres to be remediated with 15,000 jobs projected. Gateway Area #1 would include Convery Boulevard and Smith Street. Area #2 would be the Waterfront where Kushner originally was. They are proposing 20 acres for the Seagate Project. We also have the northern areas which would be industrial area and will include Amboy Avenue where we have US Foods, Best-Buy, E-Port 1 & 2 and a storage facility. 100 acres still remain for development. The Seagate Project plans will be presented in April. The Focus 2020 Plan from August 2018 was updated. The self-storage facility which is located near Rte.440 is on our tax rolls. We are having a Code Enforcement Issue with King High Garage which is located on State Street.”

Councilman Pabon mentioned that King High Garage is in the redevelopment area.

Hindenlang said, “Yes, they are, but they are not interested in selling their property. The properties on Elm Street added improvement and it was completed in 2021. There are presently 120 jobs filled there now, and they project a total of 600 jobs to be added in that area. For the E-port 2, there is 1 million square feet of warehousing. Some of the property there is under remediation and waiting for EPA approval. There are distribution and office buildings that will build sidewalks to Water Street and to Rudyk Park for an additional cost. The area by Convery Boulevard (where the old Dunkin Donuts was by ShopRite) was supposed to have an Urgent Care Center. They decided not to pursue that location. With the Second Street Park, as they were digging, they found unexploded objects and napalm was also found. The project on Sayre Avenue - remediation has started and they are considering asking for a PILOT.”

Hindenlang then started talking about 500 High Street. “They are updating their plans. They are meeting with Code Enforcement. They intend to have 21 units of luxury apartments. The car wash that is located

by the intersection of Convery Boulevard and Smith Street will relocate and they intend to build a Wawa there. For the Riverwalk Crossing Project, remediation is going on and it was one of the most contaminated sites in the city. They are also looking to ask for a PILOT for that project. There is a proposal for a 14-unit commercial building located near the animal shelter on Morris Street. 99 Pearl Place we are looking to build low-income housing which will be a Habitat for Humanity Project for Veterans.”

Councilman B.J. Torres asked, “Will this affect our CSO (Combined Sewer Overflow)? We should look at using vacant housing for pocket parks like they do in other towns.”

Hindenlang responded, “It is PARA property, and we weren’t able to maintain that property because of lack of funds and that is why we are selling a lot of our property.”

Council President Petrick asked, “Maybe that land be used for basketball courts?”

Hindenlang said, “The last project would be single family homes. There is a lot just before you enter Harbortown on High Street.”

Councilman Torres responded, “There were a lot of projects that were going under the Master Plan from 1997 and there is a lot of analysis being done off of that plan which has a lot of amendments, and our population has grown a lot since 1997.”

Hindenlang responded, “The Master Plan and PARA have different plans. We are going off the 2018 plan that we had in place. We used more recent information. The Master Plan and the PARA Plan are separate documents.”

Torres continued, “We’ve had an increase in exhaust and asthma rates in our city.”

Hindenlang explained, “E-Port is industrial, and all of our projects go through reviews. If the EPA is called, they can investigate further. Traffic studies were done. The EPA and DPEA can do further testing upon request.”

Council President Petrick said, “I am curious to see if those two departments would have the same results.”

Hindenlang explained, “Air quality can be checked.”

Torres then stated, “We need oversight by our own health department to determine the impact of the projects on our community. PILOTS should have this built in. There were amenities (in many projects) that were supposed to be put in place originally that never took place. Do we have creative place making? I have sat on the Arts Council since it was created, and we were never consulted on any projects involving creative place making.”

Hindenlang responded, “That’s not true. We’ve had discussions with the Arts Council that took place in New Brunswick, and I can show you the minutes.”

Petrick spoke up, “I would like to see the date and minutes

of the Arts Council Meeting you attended.”

Hindenlang continued, “The Kushner Amendment (regarding Seagate) will be presented to PARA first, and then to the City Council. They are looking to have about 200 units (for the Seagate Project).”

Torres spoke up again, “Governor Murphy said that cannabis will be our largest industry and perhaps PARA could look to incorporate that industry into their plans.”

Hindenlang responded, “It’s not our decision, but we said it is good for rateables for manufacturing – not retail.”

Torres continued, “Cannabis has to be constructed in a certain way and has anybody in the cannabis industry approached you about relocating in the city?”

Hindenlang answered, “Yes. They have been pursuing this in other communities and we can recommend to the administration about having the cannabis business.”

The meeting was then opened to those who wanted to speak on the ordinances that have public hearing.

Ordinance No. 2 – Vehicles and Traffic regarding parking restrictions at the public safety complex parking lot.

Resident and Attorney Daniel Gonzalez spoke first. “Will this parking be restricted when the office is closed and can the public park there after hours? Can residents get residential stickers after the Y is closed? Can businesses across the street use the lot? Can patrons of businesses in that area park there after hours?”

Councilman Bill Petrick spoke up, “This is not what this ordinance is about.” Public Comments (agenda items only):

Resident Ken Balut spoke first. “When can the public see the budget?”

Business Administrator replied, “After tonight, the entire budget will be on the website.”

Public Comments were opened up to Zoom Participants.

Resident Sharon Hubberman spoke first, “Why didn’t we have the budget on time according to our ordinance? We have environmental adjustment laws regarding pollutants and an environmental report is supposed to be given to the city clerk and the council for the impact on our community when it comes to development projects. This should be presented to the public at hearings. Cancer, lead, and asthma rates have increased.”

Resident Lisa Nanton spoke next, “I agree with Hubberman 100%. We are \$170 million in debt. We are under federal mandate to separate sewer and water lines. Our streets are clogged with traffic, and we can’t take any more density. This is a moral and ethical condition. People with all these projects don’t live here. I am against any further developments until our present problems are dealt with.”

Resident Maria Vera spoke next. “They are showing us pictures of parks, but as soon

as those parks are built, where is the traffic going to go? Plus, you have a closed street by the school where one of those parks are. Trucks are causing a lot of traffic and damage to our streets. King High Garage on State Street is a disaster and has vehicles parked all over. There are too many school buses parked all over and it makes our town look ugly. Low-income housing will overburden the city schools and DPW. We are living on top of each other already.”

Councilman Torres spoke about different departments and that Code Enforcement had been flagged.”

For the consent agenda:

Ordinance No. 2 (Parking Restrictions at Public Safety Complex) was moved by Pabon; seconded by Tejeda. Torres voted, “No.”

Ordinance No. 1 (First Reading) – moved by Pabon; seconded by Tejeda.

Ordinance No. 2 (First Reading) – Year 2022 to exceed the municipal budget appropriation limits and to establish a CAP Bank. Moved by Pabon; seconded by Tejeda.

For the Resolutions:

R-127 thru R-131; R-133, R-135 thru R-143 was moved by Pabon; seconded by Tejeda. R-132 & R-134 were both removed at the caucus. There was a vote to place two late-starter resolutions on the agenda. It was later decided that better than being resolutions, they should have been ordinances. (585 Sayre Avenue and the Victory Plaza LLC.)

Public Portion:

Resident Ken Balut spoke first. “Don’t put in late-starters because the public doesn’t have a chance to look at the information. We get a quarter of billion dollars of money from the state. I am sure the developer would have been glad to answer questions. The Y owes us at least \$1 million which we don’t talk about. Our recreation department should run the Y like Woodbridge does. I’ve talked about Code Enforcement’s problems several times and there is always a lot of buses parked on West Side Avenue. Did Code Enforcement follow up to see if firestops were put in place in the Landing’s Building?”

Resident Vince Mackiel came up next, “Buckeye got approval to ship biofuel and crude oil. Code Enforcement was nice enough to let me see the plan. We are trying to build to the waterway as a tourist attraction. We had recent train derailments in Perth Amboy and South Amboy. The city should look at derailments that happen elsewhere which were dangerous. I sent my concerns to local and state representatives. I want to compliment Sharon Hubberman for what she said about environmental concerns.”

The meeting was opened up to Zoom Participants:

Resident Sharon Hubberman spoke first. “PILOTS are a big tax break for developers and make a big impact on our community. We hear from people, but it goes in one ear and out

the other. The only developers that paid their fair share of taxes are the ones who took over empty lots. I agree with Nanton. We can’t overburden our town with additional development of housing projects. I also asked on Monday if you are going to add anything to Wednesday’s agenda.”

Resident Lisa Nanton spoke next. “I agree with Sharon, Balut, and Mackiel. I am very disappointed. It takes just one no-vote to prevent an item from being placed on the agenda. There are some projects that can exempt some items when they go before the Planning Board.”

Developer Eddie Trujillo spoke next in-person. “It’s the same two or three people who don’t want to see the city move forward. The project (that I am presenting) of this size can’t exist without a PILOT. If I pay \$36,000 a year, the city receives \$250,000 a year. If I pay for \$40,000 a year, the city receives \$1 million a year. I have done projects in many cities and states over the years. Your Code Enforcement here has been very thorough, especially with me. I’ve done projects here for the last 25 years. I own about 30 properties here in town, and they never had water pressure problems. I had a generator installed at King Plaza.”

Lawyer Daniel Gonzalez came up in-person, “I am the Vice-Chair of PARA and this is our vision. People like Trujillo should be applauded. His sons are even here. Look at Sayre Avenue now. Before, we had homeless living there. There are too many people that bark back and forth at each other, and it is counterproductive. I know you (the council) are all working for the community as well as people on the municipal boards. I agree with Councilman Torres that what is presently supposed to be an amphitheater is silly. E-Port 2 is contaminated, and there is only so much you can do. We can benefit from marijuana businesses. Let’s try it.”

Council Comments:

Councilwoman Rose Morales thanked Developer Eddie Trujillo and Executive Director of PARA Annie Hindenlang for their presentations and all who participated tonight.

Councilman Joel Pabon said, “A resident reached out to me about the Zoom meetings online and the two late-starter ordinances. I reached out to the city clerk. I always call this resident back 90% of the time and they threw me under the bus today.”

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch nodded and said that Pabon did reach out to her.

Pabon continued, “On Monday, I sent the council a communication regarding a Rent Level Board issue so that we could talk about this. We need a Water Commission, and we need \$200 million for work to be done on our water system since we have only one line coming in. I talked to Kenny Ortiz about opening up First Street. The bathroom located on the corner of Sadowski Parkway and Madison Avenue

*\*Continued on Page 8*



# Pallone Announces Schools and Libraries in New Jersey Will Receive Nearly \$10 Million from the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Rounds of Funding from FCC’s Emergency Connectivity Fund Program

## New Jersey Has Received Over \$122 Million to Date from the Program Pallone Included in the American Rescue Plan

Press Release 3/11/22  
WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) announced today that schools and libraries in New Jersey will receive nearly \$10 million from the 10th and 11th rounds of funding from the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) Emergency Connectivity Fund Program (ECF). To date, schools and libraries in New Jersey’s 6th Congressional District have now received \$11.9 million, and New Jersey has received over \$122 million from the Fund in total. Last month, Pallone announced that New Jersey received over \$6 million from the ninth round of funding from the program.

The ECF provides funding to help students get the tools they need to connect to the internet from home – crucial resources as approximately 16 million children nationwide lack home internet access, hindering their ability to learn and do homework at home. Funding can be used to purchase modems, devices like laptops and tablets,

broadband service, and more. The \$7.17 billion ECF program was spearheaded by Pallone’s Energy and Commerce Committee and authorized as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan into law one year ago today.

“On the anniversary of the American Rescue Plan, I’m glad to announce more essential funding for our schools and libraries in New Jersey that will help ensure every student and teacher can stay connected to their classroom. In creating the Emergency Connectivity Fund with my colleagues, we focused the program on helping to get broadband service and devices into the hands of the students who need them,” Pallone said. “This crucial funding will help students do their homework, conduct research, and complete at-home projects long after the COVID-19 pandemic is over. This funding is a critical investment in the future of young people in our state.”

# Carryover From Caucus Meeting

## 3/9/22 Council Meeting

*\*Continued from Page 7*

needs to be put someplace else. I want to thank the Department of Public Works and especially Supervisor Danny Cleaver who replaced the flags at Patten Center. We need to be vigil when it comes to our parks. I want to thank Assemblywoman Lopez and Juan Carlos from her office who contacted NJ Transit about our problems. There are people willing to do a dig at the Thomas Mundy Peterson Site. I want to thank all who came tonight and who made a presentation on Monday.”

need to have funding to have our own health agency. When I worked for the Rutgers Labor Department, I helped people who were destitute to fill out insurance forms. We should have a say in how the American Rescue Funds should be used. We are looking at more inflation coming up. The PARA Executive Director said that cannabis can be a helpful industry. Have people come in to update us on this.”

Council President Bill Petrick asked B.A. Green if he could look into the cost for our own health department. “This would be to do health inspections on our businesses instead of the county coming in and doing health inspections. The administration should share with us the plans for the \$16 million ahead of our meeting.”

Green responded, “So far, we received \$8 million. Some has been used for the water infrastructure, technology, security, Wi-Fi. There is additional grant money of \$150 million which we will apply for separate from the total of \$16 million that we

will get from the American Rescue Plan.”

Councilwoman Tejeda spoke up and said, “Some families do not have internet at home when they had to do their learning remotely.”

Councilman Torres said, “All this information should be put online. It seems like all the money has already been spent and the community didn’t have much input into the report.”

Green responded, “There are many restraints on how the money is to be used.”

Council President Bill Petrick wrapped up the meeting. “There will be a prayer vigil for the Ukrainian people at City Hall Circle on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Maybe we can see if there are apartments available for some refugees. The Housing Authority should be contacted as well as our representatives to see if this is possible. I thank all who spoke and reach out to any of us with any complaints.”

The meeting was over at 9:28 p.m. All council members were present.



- # U.S. Postal Service Has Delivered More than 270 Million COVID-19 Test Kits to American Households
- *1.2-day average to deliver a test kit package from USPS to a home*
  - *Over 68 million test kit packages (4 tests per kit) shipped to households across all states, Tribes, territories; each package contains four individual COVID-19 test kits*
  - *With the easy-to-use consumer website, covidtests.gov, and operational precision and focus, USPS and federal partners continue moving test kits to Americans who want them quickly and efficiently*
  - *Investments made under Delivering for America plan enabled Postal Service to achieve success with the 2021 peak holiday season and to quickly pivot to delivering millions of test kits for the nation*
  - *48 fulfillment centers, hundreds of processing centers, thousands of post offices, and hundreds of thousands of employees involved in the effort*

Press Release 3/2/22  
WASHINGTON, DC — The United States Postal Service announced today that it has delivered more than 270 million COVID-19 test kits to American households as part of President Biden’s plan to distribute free at-home tests to Americans for free. The Postal Service reported over 68 million test kit packages (with four tests per kit) have been shipped to American households across all states, Tribes and territories; each package contains four individual test kits. On average, it takes just 1.2 days for the Postal Service to deliver a test kit package once it has been received from the manufacturer, kitted and entered into the mailstream. On Tuesday, Feb. 22, the Postal Service delivered over 6 million COVID-19 test kit packages — the highest single day volume delivered since shipping began

at the end of January.

“There are few assignments the Postal Service has received that better exemplify our public service mission than the request of the Biden Administration to deliver America’s COVID-19 test kits,” said Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer Louis DeJoy. “It is a major point of pride throughout our organization to have met our own performance expectations and those of the public. We are grateful for the strong collaboration of our partners across the federal government, including the White House, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Defense. Thank you to our Postal Service employees, our union and management association partners for so effectively and efficiently delivering such strong performance across the board.”

COVID-19 Test Kit Delivery by the Numbers:

- Over 270 million – tests packaged and shipped to American households across the country.
- Over 68 million – packages delivered to households across all states, Tribes and territories to date.
- 1.2 average days to delivery
- Over 6 million – number of test kit packages delivered by the U.S. Postal Service on Tuesday, Feb. 22, the highest single day volume since delivery began end of January.
- Over 68 million orders for free rapid at-home COVID-19 test kits have been placed through the Biden Administration’s covidtests.gov, an easy-to-use consumer website established and managed by USPS in partnership with the United States Digital Service, since the website was launched on Dec. 21, 2021.

The Postal Service immediately pivoted from a successful 2021 peak holiday season to focus on the delivery of America’s COVID-19 test kits. Quick negotiations with the postal unions enabled the retention of many of the seasonal staff who were reassigned from their holiday roles, and new annex facilities acquired in the year prior were rapidly reconfigured to ensure workspace and storage capacity could handle the immediate influx of millions of test kits daily.

Strong interagency collaboration between the Postal Service, White House, Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Defense has been a key factor in the success of this mission. Coordinated efforts included test kit inventory flow management from manufacturers to USPS Surface Transportation Centers, and then onto 48 Postal processing

facilities to pack, label and ship.

Test kit orders in the continental U.S. are sent through First Class Package Service, and by Priority Mail to Alaska, Hawaii, and the U.S. Territories and APO/FPO/DPO addresses.

Once an order is placed on the covidtests.gov website, the requestor receives an order confirmation email and additional status updates as the package is shipped. Requestors can track their package online and receive status updates via the Informed Delivery notification feature.

Order your free at-home COVID-19 test kit at covidtests.gov or by calling 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489).

The Postal Service generally receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.



## Obituary: David J. Volk

PERTH AMBOY - David J. Volk, 60, of Perth Amboy, passed away on March 7, 2022, at JFK Medical Center, Edison. David was the husband of Susan (Murawski) Volk for 37 years and father to daughters, Brittany (34) and Courtney (30) and son-in-law Bill. He was born in Johnstown, PA to the late Rev. David G. Volk and Carolyn (Baer). David lived in Perth Amboy for 33 years and was devoted to his family, friends, faith and public service.

David was a graduate of Perth Amboy High School, Class of 1980 where he was on the Varsity Football team and member of All-State Chorus. He could always be found working on the stage crew, set and lighting designs for the High School theatrical productions. As a "PK" (pastor's kid) he was involved in the choir, plays and youth group activities at Grace Lutheran Church and was part of a close knit neighborhood of friends on Neville Street. He graduated from St. John's University, NY in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in business administration and communications. David also served as a producer for Cablevision TV3.

From an early age he was fascinated with fire trucks and knew he wanted to be a fireman. In 1980, David joined the Keasbey Fire Department as a volunteer as well as the Perth Amboy Fire Department's Volunteer Division. In 1987, he was hired by the city as a Firefighter. Appointed as the department's initial Training Officer in 1991, David was promoted to Lieutenant (1999), Captain (2003), Battalion Chief (2008) and ultimately rose to become Chief of the Department (2009). David was a charter member for the Perth Amboy Fire Offi-

cers Association and served as an Assistant Fire Bureau Chief for the Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management & Fire Marshal's Office. He received many awards and recognitions including the 1997 Valor Award, the 1998 Team Effort award from the St. Barnabas Burn Foundation, and the Valor Award from the Professional Firefighter's Association of NJ. Before and after his retirement in 2013, David was committed to teaching future generations of firefighters serving as an instructor with the Monmouth County Fire Academy. He was extremely proud to serve his community and cherished the lifelong friendships he made throughout his career.

David found a second career at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. In 2015, he joined the team as a Safety Programs Coordinator for the Port Authority Trans Hudson Corporation (PATH). In 2017, he became the Principal Safety & Compliance Coordinator and in 2019 was promoted to Manager of System Safety & Environmental Management. David's employees always spoke highly of him and his open door policy. He encouraged communication and cared about more than just the job.

David is survived by his wife, Susan (Murawski) Volk; his daughters, Brittany Volk and her partner Chris Morse and his children, Brayden, Scarlett and Thea, Courtney (Volk) Skinner and her husband, Bill; his siblings, Krista Volk, Paul Volk and wife Carol (Zeller) and their children, Hayden, Matthew and Jack and Sarah (Volk) Kozak, her husband Keith and their Children Graham and Kyle; in-laws Sandra, Margaret, James, JoAnn, Robert, Ed-



David J. Volk  
March 5, 1962 -March 7, 2022

ward, Michele, Deborah and Carl; and nieces and nephews Jamie, Justin, Allison, Jennifer, Craig, Robert, Ariana, Ryan, Tyler, Judith, Katie, Mallorie, Thomas, Resa, and Shannon; predeceased by mother and father-in-law Joseph and Arlene; brother-in-laws Joseph and Thomas.

Visitation was held on Monday, March 14, 2022, from 4:00-8:00 PM at Flynn & Son Funeral Home in Fords, NJ. Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, March 15, at 10:15 AM at the funeral home, followed by a 11:00 AM service at Grace Lutheran Church in Perth Amboy. Interment will be in St. Gertrude Cemetery in Colonia.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in David's memory to Good Shepherd Home where his sister Krista lives. Donations "In memory of David Volk" can be made online at [www.goodshepherdrehab.org/donate](http://www.goodshepherdrehab.org/donate) or by check to Good Shepherd, Development Department, 850 S. 5th Street, Allentown, PA 18103, indicate on check donation is for the "Rev. David & Carolyn Volk Fund".

## Donations to South Amboy Parade Committee & Fireworks Committee; Ferry Project Progressing 3/2/22 Council Meeting

*\*Continued from Page 1*

near his property, the city took care of the situation and issued a \$900 fine to the management company. He stated that this was important because of a school bus stop near the property, and it was a safety issue. Council Comments:

Councilwoman Zusette Dato stated her feelings about the invasion of Ukraine, "I think we are all shocked. My grandparents came from Ukraine. All they want to do is live in peace. Mothers and young children – men asked to fight the war. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers. If you can make a donation, please do."

Council Vice President Christine Noble said, "Keep Ukraine in your prayers. The Parade Committee – you do an incredible job. South Amboy is very proud of you." Noble then stated, "The beach looks fantastic."

B.A. Skarzynski added, "The lights and cameras are all up and operating."

Councilman Brian McLaughlin stated, "I want to thank URSB Bank for their donation. It is good to see the Covid numbers dwindling. Keep Ukraine in your prayers. I would like to thank the first responders."

Councilman Tom Reilly said, "I want to thank the volunteers who got recognized for one of the nicest events in town. I want to thank the food pantry volunteers and donors." He then asked about the illegal palate operation and about a few blighted properties. He also asked if something could be done for government week at the April Council meeting. "I'd like people to know what role government plays in our town. I'd like to engage our high school students in civic education and civic pride – maybe an essay contest. I'd think that would tie in nicely."

Mickey Gross thanked URSB

Bank for their nice work and Barry Rosengarten for the work he does on the Fireworks. "I'd also like to thank the First Aid, Fire Department, and First Responders. Say a prayer for our friends in Ukraine."

Mayor Fred Henry thanked the Parade Committee and Fireworks Committee. "You are always amazing. Thank you for what you do. Our hearts and prayers go out to Ukraine. I hope we can come together to support the people."

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated that South Amboy is one signature away to go for the Ferry and that dredging will be at the same time. "Be patient. If you need anything of city hall. We are ready and willing to help. We have two sizable Ukrainian Communities: Carteret and Sommerset. You can send funding and support."

Public Portion:

Greg Babolack asked what phase Station Bay was at.

B.A. Skarzynski stated the only thing is Building #1.

Mayor Fred Henry stated that at this point, only they applied for two buildings, and they only sold the first. "There are two lots there."

Babolack asked what does the future holds for this property and is it open for a PILOT?

B.A. Skarzynski stated that it is negotiable.

Robert Mickiewicz spoke next. He asked about an abandoned apartment on Roosevelt Street.

B.A. Skarzynski answered, "You will be delighted to know that in 3 weeks, some preliminary industry (is moving in)."

Mickiewicz stated that kids were playing on the property.

Skarzynski stated if he sees kids there, call code enforcement immediately.

The council went into closed session at 6:38 p.m. All council members were present.

## Schaer & Coughlin Bill to Divest, Block Public Entities Conducting Business with Russia Signed Into Law

Press Release 3/9/22

TRENTON –Taking further action to condemn the unprovoked and premeditated war being waged against Ukraine by Russia, bipartisan legislation to prohibit public entities in New Jersey from doing business with Russia, or companies tied to Russia and Belarus was signed into law today.

Sponsored by Assembly Democrats Gary Schaer (D-Bergen, Passaic) and Speaker Craig J. Coughlin (D-Middlesex), the law (formerly bill A-3090/A-1889) will ban public entities from investing pension funds, accepting public contracts, or partnering with Russian and Belarusian financial institutions. The New Jersey Pension system represents \$90 billion in domestic and foreign

investments. This law will also ensure state pension funds are used to promote peace and security abroad.

"Coordinated sanctions have already devastated the Russian economy," said Schaer. "Through this law, New Jersey joins the international community in fighting for Ukrainian freedom. No nation can stand alone, Russia will be forced to recognize Ukraine's sovereignty or risk total financial collapse."

The Russian invasion of Ukraine will have global repercussions, representing the greatest threat to peace and stability since the end of WWII. War will cost countless lives and cause unnecessary suffering as refugees flee state-sponsored terror. During these times of uncer-

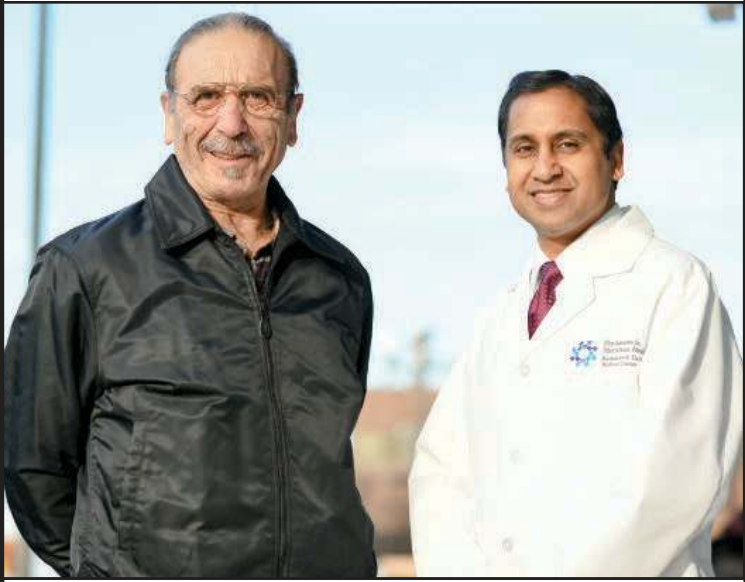
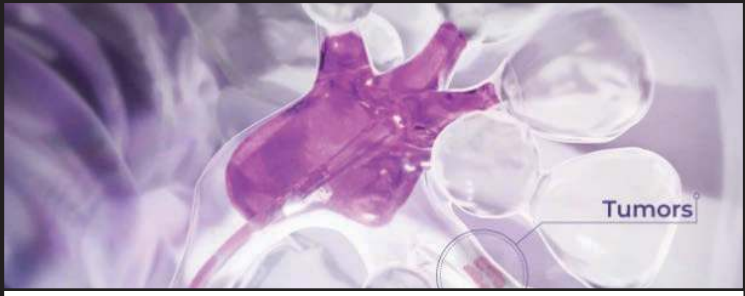
tainity, New Jersey is committed to using its resources to force an end to Russia's illegal violation of Ukraine's sovereignty.

"Putin's values and those of his sympathizers are antithetical to the principles of democracy and independence for which we as a country stand," said Coughlin. "Working in complement to national and global partners to condemn this unprovoked war and support Ukrainians' fight, New Jersey has made clear we will not be a bystander. Cutting ties as this law does sends not only a clear message by eliminating opportunities for trade and investment by aggressors but is a decisive action that will intensify the economic pressures imposed on and felt by Russia."





### An Innovative, New Kidney Cancer Treatment Spares the Organ



Ralph with Dr. Munver

Press Release  
NEW JERSEY - A retired truck driver, Ralph Auriemma, was not surprised when diagnosed with a kidney stone. He was, however, shocked to find out he was also suffering from kidney cancer, which was revealed by additional testing.

The 71-year-old underwent five surgeries to remove multiple tumors inside the kidney but they kept growing back. That is until his urologist, Ravi Munver, MD, decided to try an innovative, new treatment.

“For patients, like Ralph, whose tumors are difficult to treat endoscopically, we now have a new approach using Jelmyto,” said Dr. Munver who went on to explain that Jelmyto is a combination of chemotherapy (mitomycin) and an innovative gel technology that is a liquid when chilled and turns into a gel at body temperature.

The gel is injected through a catheter directly into the ureter or through a tube that goes right into the kidney from the back. The treatment, which was recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration, is based on a clinical trial of 71 people. The Jelmyto stays in the kidney for 4 to 6 hours fighting the tumors and helping them to shrink or disappear. It slowly starts to liquify as you go about your day and leaves your body when you urinate. Results were achieved after Jelmyto was given once weekly for 6 weeks.

The treatment worked wonders for Ralph who was likely going to lose his kidney. “For patients, like Ralph, Jelmyto therapy can potentially help preserve a kidney, forgo or postpone major surgery, and preserve renal function, it is a true game changer,” said Dr. Munver.

## Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation and Old Bridge Medical Center Foundation Welcome New Board Chair

### Laura Bianchini, Vice President and Project Director at Almasi Site Contractors, Named Chair of Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation and Old Bridge Medical Center Foundation.

Press Release 3/2/22

OLD BRIDGE – Hackensack Meridian Raritan Medical Center Foundation and Hackensack Meridian Old Bridge Medical Center Foundation are pleased to announce the appointment of Laura Bianchini as chair of the medical centers’ respective board of trustees, replacing chair Andrew Citron, M.D., who served in the position from 2017 to 2021. Bianchini will take over leadership of the board in its fundraising efforts in support of Hackensack Meridian Old Bridge Medical Center in Old Bridge and Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center in Perth Amboy.

“It is an honor to be named as chair of these two successful foundations,” says Bianchini, who is also vice president and project director at Almasi Site Contractors. “I joined the board of trustees in 2020, and in just a short time, have witnessed the incredible impact of philanthropy on both medical centers and in patient care. I would like to thank and acknowledge Dr. Citron for his dedication and care for our community, not just as board chair, but also as chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology for Raritan Bay Medical Center. His generosity and leadership know no bounds and we are grateful for the support he helped to secure for both medical centers in his time as chair. I look forward to building on the momentum he helped to create and to continuing the wonderful legacy of generosity established at both locations.”

In October 2021, Hackensack Meridian Health, the network to which Raritan Bay Medical Center and Old Bridge Medical Center belong, announced a name change for both medical centers from Raritan Bay Medical Center - Perth Amboy and Raritan Bay Medical Center - Old Bridge, to Raritan Bay Medical Center and Old Bridge Medical Center, respectively. The change in names reflects each medical center’s growth and the shift in each hospital’s area of expertise, however the singular board of trustees will continue to serve both medical centers.

Under Dr. Citron’s leadership, Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation raised more than \$5.6 million for both medical centers to support initiatives such as the expansion of behavioral health services in Perth Amboy, the new Emergency Care Center in Old Bridge and for COVID-19 relief efforts at both medical centers.

“I am grateful to Andy for his incredible partnership and leadership of our board of trustees over the years,” says William DiStanislao, interim president and chief hospital executive at Raritan Bay Medical Center and Old Bridge Medical Center. “Philanthropy is vital to health care, really enabling us to enhance patient care in a number of ways. I would like to thank our entire board of trustees for all of their efforts on our behalf and to welcome Laura as the new board chair. There are many important projects on the horizon for both medical centers and it’s an exciting time to lead our fundraising efforts.”

In addition to her work on the Raritan Bay Medical Center and Old Bridge Medical Center foundation boards, Almasi is a trustee for the National Association of Female Executives and the National Association of Safety Professionals, and is an active member of several organizations. She is an OSHA Outreach and Hazardous Waste Operations trainer and holds a Homeland Security-Terrorism Authorization Certificate.



Laura Bianchini

“Laura is going to be a wonderful leader for our dedicated board of trustees,” says Dr. Citron. “The Old Bridge community is expanding rapidly and with that, growth is required. I know that under her leadership, the organization will be able to attract additional trustees for the board who will work in lock-step to increase funding to meet these growing needs. Likewise, the Perth Amboy community is changing rapidly and funds will be needed to meet those shifts to ensure equal and high quality health care for everyone. It has been my privilege to serve as the board chair and I will continue to support the trustees in their crucial work.”

To learn more about how you can support Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation, Old Bridge Medical Center Foundation, or if you are interested in joining the board of trustees, please contact Melissa Magyar, executive director, Raritan Bay Medical Center Foundation and Old Bridge Medical Center Foundation, at 732-324-5376, [Melissa.Magyar@hmn.org](mailto:Melissa.Magyar@hmn.org), or visit [Give.HackensackMeridianHealth.org/raritanbay](http://Give.HackensackMeridianHealth.org/raritanbay).

### Ads Sell! Call Carolyn! 732-896-4446

## Post Pandemic Obesity Posing a New Challenge for Americans this World Obesity Day, March 4, 2022

Press Release 3/4/22

Nearly two years into fighting COVID-19, we may have learned how to build our immunity but experts say we have unmasked another killer, obesity.

“With so many people working from home and living a much more sedentary lifestyle, obesity has been steadily on the rise,” said Hans Schmidt, MD, chief, Bariatric Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center.

In fact, new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed 16 states now have obesity rates of 35% or higher. That's an increase of four states — Delaware, Iowa, Ohio and Texas — in just one year.

The findings support several recent research studies showing that many Americans have gained significant weight since the COVID-19 crisis started.

“Obesity is a leading risk factor for almost every serious disease from diabetes and heart disease, to cancer and even COVID-19,” explained Dr. Schmidt.


World Obesity Day is observed across the globe on March 4, 2022 with the goal of promoting practical solutions to end the worldwide obesity crisis. One proven solution is bariatric surgery.

“At one point during the pandemic, it was estimated that 78% of hospitalized COVID-19 patients were obese or overweight and this had a major impact, people realized there was a correlation and were afraid,” explained Dr. Schmidt. Emerging research may now explain why. Recently, a group of researchers published a non-peer reviewed study finding that COVID-19 may infect fat cells directly. The news may suggest that overweight and obese people may be at increased risk for severe disease and long COVID.

Today, Dr. Schmidt’s office is seeing a rise in people interested in learning more about weight loss options, including bariatric surgery.

Beyond weight loss, new studies show bariatric surgery boosts life expectancy, reduces pressure inside the skull, lowers the risk of liver disease, COVID-19 and is effective at improving vascular outcomes.

Nobody knows this better than 37 year old Alex Monteleone, a detective with the Palisades Park Police Department, who underwent bariatric surgery in 2018. Alex not only lost nearly 100 pounds, he’s also no longer on the verge of diabetes or high blood pressure.



Alex Monteleone

underwent bariatric surgery in 2018. Alex not only lost nearly 100 pounds, he’s also no longer on the verge of diabetes or high blood pressure.



# Hackensack University Medical Center Buries COVID-19 Time Capsule on the Eve of Admitting New Jersey’s Very First Confirmed Coronavirus Patient Two Years Ago

Press Release 3/2/22  
HACKENSACK, N.J. - On the eve of admitting New Jersey’s very first confirmed COVID-19 patient on March 3, 2019, Hackensack University Medical Center buried a time capsule today with contents commemorating all that has happened since the start of the pandemic.

“It’s hard to believe it’s been two full years since James Cai, a 32-year-old New York physician assistant, arrived in our emergency department for care,” said Mark D. Sparta, FACHE, president & chief hospital executive, Hackensack University Medical Center. “At that time, we were bracing for the worst, but I don’t think any of us really knew just how overwhelming this virus would be.”

At the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak in the northeast, Hackensack University Medical Center was inundated with patients desperately seeking care in March of 2019. “Mr. Cai’s case was completely new to all of us but just 19 days after being admitted to our Medical Center, we sent him home to his family, including his 20-month-old daughter,” said Mr. Sparta. “Together, our entire team not only navigated the early days of the pandemic, they built a dynamic



path forward helping thousands more patients recover and also go home to their families.”

Before burying the time capsule - which contained contents including thank you notes from the community; photos of claps outs & food donations; home-made masks sent to team members; hand sanitizer especially made for the hospital; and so many other items that represented all that the hospital’s front-line workers went through over the last two years - Mr. Sparta thanked his team. “You are true American heroes,” he said.

After the capsule was placed in a hole dug on the campus of Hackensack University Medical Center, various hospital leaders and team members picked up



shovels to throw dirt on top of it.

“We have learned so much about medicine, resilience and most importantly, humanity,” commented Lisa Tank, M.D., chief medical officer, Hackensack University Medical Center who said this was the perfect



day to bury the capsule, the anniversary of the last normal day we really knew before COVID came.

“This truly has been the greatest global test of healthcare in our generation, but we are hopefully, now, coming out the other side,” said Mr. Sparta,

who said when the capsule is unearthed in 100 years, it will be a true representation of the hospital’s legacy, enduring for centuries more to come. “It’s a new day and we are taking what we learned, delivering a new kind of care and we are never going back.”

## Hackensack University Medical Center Is First in the State and Among First Two Centers in the World to Use New Technology to Enhance Assessment of Living Donor Kidneys Before Transplant

Press Release  
NEW JERSEY - March is National Kidney Month, a time to raise awareness for the 37 million people in the United States estimated to have chronic kidney disease (CKD). As many as 9 in 10 people are not aware that they have CKD.

Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC) has become the first center in New Jersey and the second in the world to use an innovative imaging technology before surgery to assess living donor kidneys more precisely and comprehensively than conventional imaging techniques, as well as during surgery to help guide the removal of donor kidneys. HUMC’s living donor kidney surgeons are now employing the advanced imaging software in conjunction with CT scanning to create virtual 3D models of the kidney that assist with preoperative planning as well as intraoperative navigation during robotic-assisted donor nephrectomy.

The novel software is called IRIS and is made by Intuitive Surgical, the major manufacturer of robotic surgical systems. The technology has enabled HUMC surgeons to use kidneys that might have been deemed unfit for transplant based solely on the findings of standard CT scanning, potentially expanding the pool of donor kidneys available to patients and freeing them from the need for longer-term dialysis while they wait for a suitable donor kidney.

The virtual anatomical 3D digital models generated by

IRIS — which can be downloaded to any iOS device, such as an iPhone or iPad — can be rotated and manipulated by the surgeon to see any part of the kidney in extraordinary detail, including the exact location of arteries, veins, and other structures. Using IRIS can make the removal of a donor kidney faster, more efficient, and safer because the surgeon has more information before and during the surgical procedure.

HUMC urologic surgeons were already very experienced using IRIS to assess the kidneys of patients with kidney cancer before surgery, providing detailed information about a tumor’s depth, location, and blood vessels. The technology proved its value for several patients who would have needed the cancerous kidney completely removed if not for IRIS, which provided additional details that enabled patients to have a partial nephrectomy instead (removal of only the tumor while leaving remaining functional kidney tissue in place).

“This technology was so useful for showing that it was feasible to save the kidney in these patients that we began using it to evaluate the kidneys of living donors,” explained HUMC’s chief of Living Donor Kidney Surgery and vice chair of Urology, Ravi Munver, MD. Preoperative CT scans often reveal that a donor kidney has abnormal blood vessels or other features that may make it seem unacceptable for transplantation.

In one case, a kidney donor

was found to have a tumor, and CT and MRI imaging could not identify the relationship of the tumor to the kidney. IRIS 3D modeling was able to confirm that the tumor not only arose from the kidney, but also that the tumor was not too deep. Dr. Munver performed robotic surgery to remove the kidney, and the tumor was then removed and sent for pathological analysis, as the kidney was placed on a perfusion pump. When pathology showed that the tumor was benign, the kidney was successfully transplanted into the recipient the next day.

Since June 2020, HUMC living donor kidney surgeons have used IRIS technology in more than 50 patients, and this has now become a routine part of their preoperative assessment. “We have not rejected a single donor based on the information provided by this technology, including patients with complex anatomy who might have been rejected based on conventional CT imaging results,” asserted Dr. Munver.

One of those donors was Judy Herman, who answered the call for a kidney for Mark Eisen in fall 2020. Judy had known Mark as an acquaintance from the days when she worked as an EMT in a local ambulance corps in Park Ridge, and Mark was a volunteer fireman. In May 2019, Judy had signed up at another hospital to be a living kidney donor and during the assessment, she learned she had a mass on her spleen. The spleen was removed without



Judy, Kidney Donor & Mark, Kidney Recipient - Both Benefited from IRIS Technology

incident, but when it came time to donate a kidney to Mark, the missing spleen made the operation a bit more complicated. The spleen sits next to the left kidney and acts as a landmark for this organ, but in Judy, the space where the spleen had resided became filled with intestinal tissue.

IRIS technology gave Dr. Munver the information he needed to locate and remove Judy’s left kidney laparoscopically which was then transplanted by one of the transplant team surgeons into Mark’s body. “IRIS confirmed Judy’s anatomy and helped make the surgery more efficient,” said Dr. Munver. Judy was able to leave the hospital 24 hours later. Today Mark feels healthier than he has in a long time and considers him and Judy to be “kidney buddies forever.”

In fall 2021, Dr. Munver and fellow urologic surgeon Mi-

chael Degen, MD, performed the hospital’s first robotic surgical donor nephrectomies and used IRIS technology to guide the way. Sitting at the robotic surgical console, the surgeons could plug in an iOS device directly into the robotic system and simultaneously see both the live surgical field as well as the IRIS-generated 3D kidney images, side by side, enabling them to plan the most effective surgical route.

Technologies such as IRIS support HUMC’s position as a leading kidney transplant program with some of the best patient outcomes in the region. In the foreseeable future, Dr. Munver and the living donor kidney team have a goal of utilizing IRIS assistance to help remove donor kidneys using single-port robotic surgery, removing the kidney robotically through a single small incision.



# Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios Monthly Column: Women’s History Month

March is designated as National Women’s History Month by presidential proclamation. Some of us may not know the origins of this national celebration which signifies the importance of recognizing the sacrifices and contributions made by women throughout the history of America.

National Women’s History Month began as Women’s History Week which was established by the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women in California when it was noted that women’s contributions to American history were not taught or discussed in high schools. Other communities across the country followed suit and also celebrated this week to honor the contributions of women.

In 1980, a group called the National Women’s History Project (now known as National Women’s History Alliance) along with women’s groups, historians, and scholars worked to have this week recognized by the government.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter proclaimed March 2-8, 1980, as National Women’s History Week and noted the following message to the nation:

From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength, and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well.

National Women’s History Week was eventually changed by Congress in 1987 to National Women’s History Month due to the actions of the National Women's History Project.

Women fought for recognition of their contributions and rights many years before the establishment of National Women’s History Month.

One of the movements for recognition and rights of women was started by the women’s suffrage movement formed in 1890 by two organizations led by a name we all know, Susan B. Anthony, along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucy Stone. The women who were involved with this movement never gave up even though they faced seemingly insurmountable hardships.

Through the determination of all women over a decade who worked tirelessly for equality, on August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment was added to the Constitution stating:

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

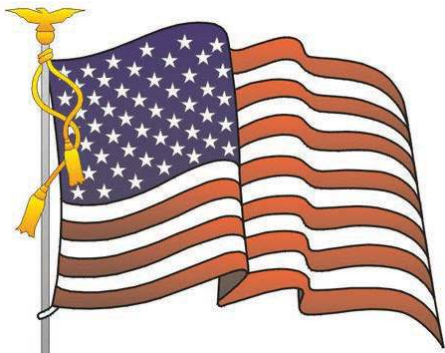
This amendment was only one step in helping women continue to achieve the respect that they deserved; many improvements have followed – all due to the continued determination of women in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Many extraordinary women through the years have paved the way for equality for women and as we know, the fight for equality continues today. Some of these women are well known, such as: Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross; Harriet Tubman, American abolitionist; Marie Curie, the first woman to be awarded a Nobel Prize; and Rosa Parks, an activist and icon of the American Civil Rights Movement. Sandra Day O’Connor was the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, followed by Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Elena Kagan, and Sonia Sotomayor.

We need to impress upon our children — especially our daughters — how important it is to learn about the contributions of these women, as well as the many lesser-known women who have worked to create and maintain a nation where equality is for all and not a few. Learning about these women will show our daughters that there is nothing they cannot accomplish.

Each year, the National Women’s History Alliance selects a theme for Women’s History Month. This year it is Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope. This theme is a tribute to not just the women who have provided healing and hope in the past and present, but also to the caretakers, nurses, doctors, and first responders who have tirelessly worked and are still working during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Remember to honor these women who contributed to our nation’s history by going to your library and community websites for events that are being held.



# This Week in the Civil War 160 Years Ago March 16, 1862 – April 5, 1862 By Phil Kohn

*Phil Kohn can be reached at [USCW160@yahoo.com](mailto:USCW160@yahoo.com).*

On March 16, 1862, Maj. Gen. McClellan starts moving elements of his command in preparation of his Peninsula Campaign. The plan: Move troops by boat to the York and James Rivers and attack Richmond by next moving northward up the Virginia Peninsula. McClellan will be faced by roughly 10,000 Confederate troops under Maj. Gen. John B. Magruder.

Jefferson Davis on March 18 names Judah P. Benjamin as secretary of state of the Confederacy. The former U.S. senator from Louisiana had been serving as the secretary of war, in which capacity Benjamin was often criticized, primarily due to his lack of military experience. Confederate guerrilla William Quantrill conducts a raid on the Federal garrison at Liberty, Missouri. There, he learns of Maj. Gen. Halleck’s proclamation of March 13 that he and other guerrillas are to be shot rather than captured as prisoners of war. From this time on, Quantrill’s raids become more vicious. Capt. William McCleave, of the 1st California Cavalry, leading a scouting party ahead of his main detachment that is on its way to “surprise” the Confederates at Tucson, arrives at the Pima Indian villages. There, McCleave and the nine troopers with him are themselves surprised and captured without a shot being fired by Capt. Sherod Hunter and his Confederate Arizona Rangers, who are already there.

On March 19, Maj. Gen. McClellan orders Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Banks, at Winchester, Virginia, to move his force east of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Banks is to coordinate with the proposed advance by troops under Brig. Gen. Irvin McDowell through Fredericksburg, Virginia, in support of McClellan’s offensive up the Virginia Peninsula.

As Federal troops begin moving out of Winchester, Stonewall Jackson’s Confederates begin advancing on March 20, occupying Strasburg, Virginia, some 19 miles to the southwest.

In the Tar Heel State, Union troops under Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside continue to move inland, taking Washington, North Carolina, on March 21.

Burnside’s troops take Morehead City, North Carolina, on March 22. In the New Mexico Territory, Brig. Gen. Henry Sibley’s Confederates learn that a Federal force is making its way towards Santa Fe from Fort Union, northwest of the Territorial capital, some 95 miles distant along the Santa Fe Trail. At Fort Yuma, California, Col. James Carleton dispatches 272 men and two howitzers to rescue Capt. William McCleave and his men, captured by Arizona Rangers at the Pima Indian villages.

On March 23, 1862, Stonewall Jackson attacks Union forces at Kernstown, in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. While Jackson is forced to withdraw, the attack worries President Lincoln that Washington may be threatened. He orders Maj. Gen. Banks to remain in the Shenandoah Valley and Brig. Gen. McDowell to remain near Washington to protect the capital instead of moving towards Richmond in support of McClellan’s Army of the Potomac.

Brig. Gen. Burnside’s Union troops take over Beaufort, North Carolina, on March 24, and begin a siege of Fort Macon there when a demand for surrender is refused. In Cincinnati, Ohio, abolitionist Wendell Phillips is pelted with eggs and rocks while giving a speech condemning slavery; the meeting ends in a wild brawl between supporters and anti-abolitionists. In a letter to newspaper editor Horace Greeley, Abraham Lincoln comments on his proposal of a gradual, compensated emancipation: “We should urge it persuasively, and not menacingly, upon the South.”

Fighting occurs on March 26 at Apache Canyon, outside of Santa Fe, New Mexico Territory, as 400 troops of the 2nd Texas Cavalry unexpectedly run into a like number of Union troops from Fort Union — reinforced by an additional 950 soldiers of the 1st Colorado Volunteer Infantry. The Colorado force, led by Col. John Slough, has marched some 400 miles from Denver to Fort Union through deep snow and high winds in 13 days. After some severe fighting in the narrow canyon, the outnumbered Confederates withdraw to Santa Fe, while the Union force falls back to an area at the eastern end of Glorieta Pass whence they came.

On March 28, stung by being forced to withdraw after the skirmish at Apache Canyon two days earlier, a much larger Confederate force led by Col. William Scurry enters Glorieta Pass to pursue the Union troops. The Federal soldiers, again led by Col. Slough, are once again heading toward Santa Fe, and the two sides collide in the middle of the tight confines of Glorieta Pass. After some fierce fighting, the Confederates push the Federals back through the Pass and take the field. However, some 400 Colorado troops under Maj. John Chivington circle the battlefield, rappel down 200-foot cliffs, and burn the Confederate supply wagons, forcing the battlefield victors to retire from the field and return to Santa Fe, now lacking ammunition and most of their supplies. (This battle — marking the farthest penetration of a large Confederate force in the Trans-Mississippi — is often referred to as “The Gettysburg of the West.”) In Richmond, President Davis, at the urging of Gen. Robert E. Lee, now acting as the president’s military advisor, recommends a conscription bill to the Confederate Congress.

Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston pulls Confederate forces together at Corinth, Mississippi, on March 29. His second in command is Gen. Pierre G.T. Beauregard.

On March 30, Brig. Gen. Henry Sibley’s Confederates regroup in Santa Fe, New Mexico Territory, after the debacle in Glorieta Pass two days earlier and assess their sorry plight. Meanwhile, fighting breaks out at Stanwix Station, Arizona Territory, about 80 miles east of the California border. There, the detachment of 16 Arizona Rangers led by 2nd Lt. John Swilling that is heading west along the Butterfield Overland Mail route destroying Union supply caches, runs into and surprises the vanguard of the 272-man Federal detachment that has been sent eastward to rescue the captured Capt. McCleave and his men. In the wild gunfight that ensues (the farthest-west action of the Civil War), the only casualty is a Union soldier, who is wounded. Vastly outnumbered, Swilling and his men break off the fight and skedaddle back eastward towards Tucson. They are pursued by a small detachment of Union cavalry, but to no avail.

At Hilton Head, South Carolina, Maj. Gen. David Hunter on March 31 assumes command of the Federal Department of the South. Much farther west, Capt. Sherod Hunter and his Arizona Rangers depart the Pima Indian villages, heading back to Tucson. In tow are several prisoners: U.S. Army Capt. William McCleave, a Union cavalry sergeant and eight troopers, and the Federal agent, Ammi White.

While Brig. Gen. Sibley’s Confederate troops regroup in Santa Fe, Col. Edward Canby on April 1, leads 1,200 Federal soldiers northward from Fort Craig — which Sibley had bypassed on his way up the Rio Grande Valley. Canby’s force will rendezvous with another 1,200 Federal soldiers coming southward from Fort Union. In Virginia, the transfer of the Army of the Potomac, led by Maj. Gen. George McClellan, from around Alexandria, Virginia, to Fort Monroe, at the tip of the Virginia Peninsula, continues.

On April 2, Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston moves his Confederate forces from Corinth, Mississippi, northward toward the large Federal presence, commanded by Brig. Gen. Ulysses Grant, at Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee.

The Confederate garrison at Appalachicola, on Florida’s panhandle, surrenders to units of the U.S. Navy on April 3.

On the Virginia Peninsula, on April 4, U.S. Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan’s Army of the Potomac — some 112,000 strong — begins advancing northward toward Yorktown. It is opposed by fewer than 15,000 Confederates under Maj. Gen. John Bankhead Magruder. In the Confederate Arizona Territory, Capt. Hunter and his Arizona Rangers arrive back at Tucson from the Pima Indian villages with their prisoner contingent of 11 captured Federal troopers of the 1st California Cavalry plus Union agent Ammi White.

At Yorktown, Virginia, Maj. Gen. McClellan on April 5 begins organizing siege lines instead of attacking the vastly outnumbered Confederates there. In the meantime, Confederate Gen. Joseph Johnston is rapidly sending reinforcements to the Virginia Peninsula.



### 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.*

### Novena to St. Joseph

Glorious St. Joseph, foster-father and protector of Jesus Christ! To you do I raise my heart and hands to implore your powerful intercession. Please obtain for me from the kind Heart of Jesus the help and graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare. I ask particularly for the grace of a happy death, and the special favor I now implore *(name it)*. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel animated with confidence that your prayers in my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

O glorious St. Joseph, through the love you bear to Jesus Christ, and for the glory of His name.

Hear my prayers and obtain my petitions. **L.D.H.**

### 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](http://www.mrchurchnj.org)

Parking behind the church on the Wilson Street side.

## Wind Creek Casino Trip

**San Salvador Seniors**  
PERTH AMBOY - The San Salvador Seniors are sponsoring a bus trip to Wind Creek Casino, Bethlehem, P.A. on Thursday, April 7, 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; \$25 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 \$35 with \$25 back in play. Bus leaves our parking lot at 10:00 a.m. For more information, please call Connie at 732-442-4978.

## Friends of the Library Meeting

PERTH AMBOY – The Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library are having a meeting at the Kearny Cottage, 63 Catalpa Ave, Perth Amboy on Sunday, Mar. 27, 2022 at 2 p.m. New members are welcome!

## Pets of the Week

PERTH AMBOY - Ophelia from Oak Street and Brandon from Broad Street in Perth Amboy are waiting for someone to give them a loving home together or separate. Please open your heart and home. They need love and a chance. This kitty or another will be waiting patiently for you. Can't adopt, then become a foster. We provide food and litter. Each kitty is fixed, vaccinated to age, dewormed, deflea'd, tested for FIV, and leukemia, microchipped and fully vetted. Visit [Allforthepaws.org](http://Allforthepaws.org) for adoption application and email to [Vmoralespps@yahoo.com](mailto:Vmoralespps@yahoo.com).



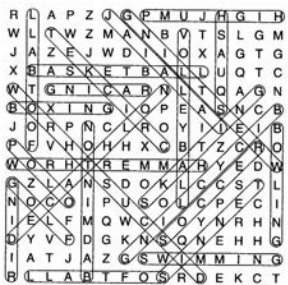
com. Donation fee applies. Upon approved application, adoption will take place at adopter's home. Rescue will transport. Text 1.732.486.6382 for questions.

### Have a Special Pet?

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

## Remember to Say Your Novenas!

### Answers From Puzzle On Page 17



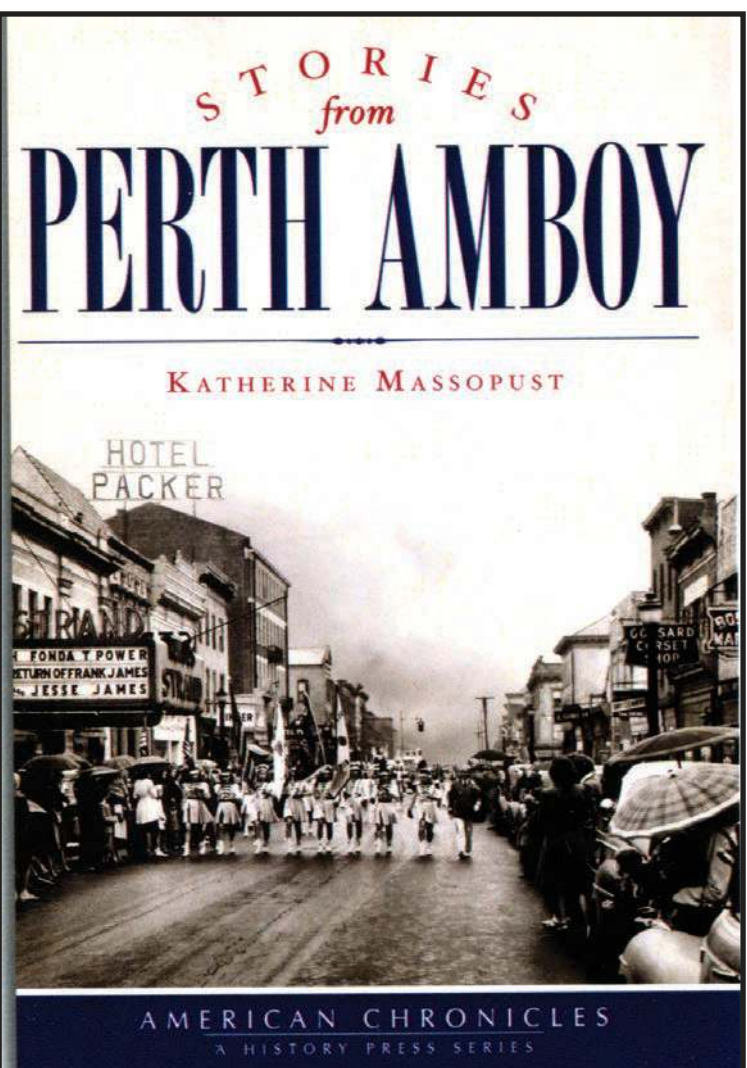
## LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY – Front Street 1950's

*\*Photo by Louis P. Booz III, Courtesy of Andrew Gerena*

*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](http://www.amazon.com) A Great Gift! Get it now along with Then & Now: Perth Amboy!



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Milton Paris



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Email: miltonjparis@yahoo.com  
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Challenge Yourself to Think Positively and You Will See Results in Any Field

There is a quick fix that will give you the success you’re dreaming of in your professional career. What’s the secret? It’s not a single prescription, but a formula based on a positive belief system.

As a business development coach, I have learned that a strong belief system seems obvious, but few people possess it. Believing you’re the best and you’re capable of great achievements can be the hardest thing to do. It requires daily dedication to self-support, self-encouragement, and positive self-talk. Whatever your professional goal, believe you are capable of achieving it and extend this belief to your product or service.

Ready to start developing the mental posture for success? Here are some of the assessments and strategies I employ in my business development program that get results:

- **Believe in yourself when you network?**  
Walk into a room tall, strong, and proud. Feel you are the best even if your competitors are there. Be confident that you are the only one in the room that can offer the quality your customers seek.
- **Socialize with successful people**  
Hang around the right people: other successful people. Network where the best customers and prospects go, join the right associations, and make the right friends. Stay away from negative people and those who can’t seem to get anywhere. Have a mentor who has reached the goal you aspire to, and that is who you are likely to become. When you hang around negative people you will get negative results. Hang around positive people and you will get positive results.
- **Learn every day**  
If you’re not learning every day you are at a disadvantage because your competition is. New information is essential to success. Spend each day learning something new. Find the best books on your goal and learn from the best. Since you don’t know on which day success will occur, you’d better be ready every day by preparing with education. Study road maps to success and incorporate the details for their achievement into a plan to achieve your goals. Learning and goals are the surest methods to be ready for success. If you do not have a plan then your plan is to fail.
- **Become a resource of information**  
Give first and become known as a resource, not a salesperson. Your value is linked to your knowledge and willingness to help others. The more valuable you become, the more the marketplace will reward you.
- **Opportunities**  
Stay alert for situations that can create successful opportunities. The key is to maintain a positive attitude. Your attitude allows you to see the possibilities when opportunity strikes because it often shows up in the form of adversity. What first appears as adversity may turn out to work in your favor if you keep a positive attitude.
- **Take the blame**  
We all blame others to a degree. Blame is tied to success in reverse proportion. The lower your degree of blame, the higher degree of success you’ll achieve. Get the job done yourself no matter what. Petty blame is rampant and the biggest waste of time. Don’t blame others or yourself. Take responsibility for your actions and decisions. Blaming others is an easy thing to do, but leads to a path of mediocrity. Successful people take responsibility for everything they do and everything that happens to them.
- **Less talk and more action**  
Stop talking about what you are going to do and “just do it” like the Nike ad says. Actions are the only way to bridge plans and goals with accomplishment. Nothing happens until you do something to make it happen every day. Take the step.  
“Successful people are driven. They want to be from the moment they get up till the moment they go to bed. They want to be overscheduled and rushing from one thing to another. There is no greater high.” Michael Bloomberg, former Mayor of New York City.

**Milton J. Paris, is President of the Monroe based consulting firm Getting Ahead in Business whose motto is “nothing is impossible.”** [www.gettingaheadinbusiness.com](http://www.gettingaheadinbusiness.com)  
*Nothing is impossible when working with professional telemarketers! Nothing is impossible when working with Milton Paris!*

Used Clothing Drop-Off Shed  
Sponsored By:  
First Presbyterian Church with the Help of Turnkey Enterprises, LLC

SAYREVILLE - Location: 172 Main St., Sayreville, NJ 08872 (Parking Lot). Items Accepted: All clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, linens, and stuffed toys. (Your donation will not be cut up or shredded). (Please no rags, fabric scraps, pillows, rugs, toys, or household goods, please understand that the above-mentioned items are a hardship and expense to dispose of.)

**Turkey Enterprises LLC** is a for-profit company that partners with non-profit organizations in communities to help support their fundraising needs by recycling unwanted clothing. The clothing collected is used as clothing – not cut into rags. Turnkey services each location and pays the sponsoring organization by the pound for the unwanted items. [www.turnkey-enterprises.com](http://www.turnkey-enterprises.com)

\*\*\*Help us keep your donation clean and dry\*\*\* Please put your donation in plastic bags. Thank you.

**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 every other Saturday from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. at the Brighton Avenue Community Center/Teen 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. Paperbacks are \$.50, hardcovers are \$1, \$5 for a bag full, oversize bags or boxes are \$10, 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 are now accepting donations. We look forward to your visit.

For more information email us at [friendsofperthamboylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofperthamboylibrary@gmail.com), or call us at 201-381-1903 and like us on Facebook. Dealers are welcome. We are also welcoming new members.

Woodbridge Public Library Events

*Some of our programs this month will be in-person although most will be virtual. Please make sure to check which format the presentation will be presented in.*  
[12151&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/03/01](https://www.woodbridgelibrary.org/calendar?startDate=2022/03/01)

**March 15 | 7PM | Virtual**  
**Going to Extremes: An Adventure Travel Presentation**  
Join nationally-known adventure travel journalist and author Peter Mandel as he takes us through a slideshow of his most extreme travel experiences including Antarctica, India, Egypt, Patagonia, the fjords of Norway, the mountain pathways of Japan, and the deserts of Africa. Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=12381&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/03/01>

**March 22 | 7PM | TBA (Location still being decided, check website for updates)**  
**Alzheimer's Association presents Healthy Living for Your Brain & Body: Tips From the Latest Research**  
Join Nicolette Vasco of the Alzheimer's Association Greater New Jersey Chapter to learn more healthy living for your brain & body. Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=12261&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/03/01>

**March 25 | 3PM | Main Library**  
**Maker's Day Afternoon**  
Join us for a Special Makers Day event specifically for teens and adults. Drop in and make your own buttons, magnets, perler beads and more! Please note participants MUST be teens or adults. No Registration Required.

**March 31 | 7PM | Main Library (Hybrid)**  
**Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring**  
**This presentation will cover— planning and cleaning up your garden, pruning, soil/soil test, fertilizer and compost mulches for the garden, planting spring vegetables, and seed packets.** Presented by Master Gardner Shyamala Sharma. Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=12309&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/03/01>

**Movies at Main | Fridays at 2PM**  
Join us every Friday at 2PM to catch a free movie! This 3-week series is themed is Sci-Fi Movies!

**Computer Classes**  
**Our Free computer classes are at the Main Library are back! Classes are offered at various times and cover different topics such as...**

- Introduction to Computers
- Microsoft Office 365 Word
- Microsoft Office 365 Excel
- Microsoft Office 365 Publisher
- Microsoft Office 365 PowerPoint

**Registration is required!**

**Thank you for your support!**  
**Woodbridge Library Programming Department**

**Woodbridge Public Library**  
**1 George Frederick Plaza,**  
**Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095**

Journey To The Cross

PERTH AMBOY - We invite you to join us for an Easter Holy Week excursion, Journey to the Cross, a guided meditative prayer-walk. We hope this evening will give you space to reflect on the events of Jesus' crucifixion that you find the experience unique in a meaningful way.

We are going to hold the Journey on Thursday, April 14 & Friday April 15 doors open at 5:30 p.m. The last tour is at 7 p.m. On Saturday, April 16 hours are 3-5p.m. There will be a Good Friday service April 15, at 7 p.m.

Experience displays that invoke:

- 1) The Garden
- 2) Betrayed by Judas
- 3) Condemned by Pilot
- 4) Denied by Peter
- 5) Whipped and Mocked
- 6) Nailed to the Cross
- 7) It is Finished
- 8) Buried in a Tomb
- 9) Letting Go
- 10) Communion

Why do we do this? In this stressful world, we give people an opportunity to stop and meditate on the essence of Easter, and the Salvation that Jesus brought. We extend an invitation to All and to those who don't have a church to worship please join us in the future. This is a Free event; people from all walks of life are welcome. Magyar Reformed Church, 331 Kirkland Place, Perth Amboy, NJ, For more information, call 732-442-7799. Parking is available in the church parking lot behind the church on the Wilson Street side.



# Happy St. Patrick's Day!

### Happy St. Patrick's Day

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**Gary Earl Rumpf**  
Director  
NJ LIC No. 3353

### South Amboy's 45<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick's Day Parade

SOUTH AMBOY – The St. Patrick's Day Parade will be on Sunday, March 20, 2022, at 2 p.m. Grand Marshal is Tom Dempsey. This family friendly event includes 23 bands, fire apparatus, civic organizations, music and more. For updated information, please visit [www.southamboyparade.com](http://www.southamboyparade.com)

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### Happy St. Patrick's Day

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### Irish Flag Raising

PERTH AMBOY - The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Commodore John Barry Division #3 will be raising the Irish flag on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. at City Hall Circle, Perth Amboy. An Open House will follow the flag raising at the Hibernian Club, 428 Brace Avenue, Perth Amboy. The Hibernian Club is accepting new members.

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1-800-649-0358 [www.flynnfuneral.com](http://www.flynnfuneral.com)

### St. Patrick's Day Dinner

SAYREVILLE - St. Patrick's Day Dinner at Sayreville United Methodist Church. There will be a St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner at Sayreville United Methodist, 406 Main St., Sayreville, NJ, on Saturday, March 19, 2022, from 6 - 8 p.m. Cost: \$12.00; Corned Beef Dinner; \$10.00 Spaghetti & Meatballs Dinner. Dinner Includes: Corned Beef or Spaghetti, Boiled Cabbage & Carrots, Boiled Potatoes, Rye Bread or Roll, Beverage and Dessert. Dinner will be takeout.

For questions or reservations, please contact Winsome (732)432-9072.

### WE WISH YOU A HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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LP's Cassettes, CD's DVD's \$1.00 each; Radio, CD \$20 - 732-261-4703	Movano Watch SS Museum Style Mint Condition \$75 Firm. 732-540-5351	Baseball & Basketball Complete Sets Mint Condition \$10-\$30 Each Set - 732-727-8417
Electric Husky Power Washer 1750psi - Good Condition \$75 - 732-277-4635	3/4 Size Acoustic Guitar. Good for young child - \$50. 732-541-5491	White wicker settee with cushion \$60 732-735-2179
Umbrella - Patio, needs cord and iron stand. \$30 - 732-283-0975	Brand New Electric Heater Radiator. Was \$65 Now \$20 New Never Used. 732-547-7406	Powerlift for motorcycle \$75 - must pick up. Please call 732-738-7074
Dyson Vacuum Cleaner Mint Condition \$45 - 732-290-1551	Solid Oak Coffee Table \$75; Oak End Table \$50 732-570-9732	Dining Hutch - Wood - Good Condition \$50 - Self Pick-up 732-826-6324
GPS Tom Tom - 3 pcs Stereo System - Dog Bed \$65 ea. 732-293-0151	Safe Combination 21" High 13 1/2" wide on wheels \$75 732-634-1851	Free Firewood. Must pick up and cart away. 732-826-8024
Older New Toy Trucks Sunoco, Exxon, Mobil Hess \$20 Each or B.O. - 732-316-5092	Nice Bard & 2 Stools \$35; "Free" Washer - Works Great; Love Seat \$30 - 732-670-6649	100% Pure Nice Zealand Wool Rug 122x170 Burgundy Pattern \$60 848-242-2152
Good working Washer -Whirlpool - \$75; 2 power-washers \$75; 1 lawn mower with bag \$75 (both just tuned up) 732-335-8837	Three Window AC's 5000BTU, 5000BTU, 8000BTU; \$50; \$75; \$50 732-636-3345	Girl's Bicycle 24" Panasonic LX Sport Twelve Speed. Light Blue. \$75 or B.O. 908-501-3993
Pancake Air Compressor 3 Gal 100 PSI \$30 - 732-395-1551 - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Gold Carnival Glass Collector Plate (5 <sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas) \$25 732-673-6305	Sissy Bar and Pad for Harley Sportster - Great Condition \$65 - 908-590-8885
Melmac Plates, saucers, bowls, never used plastic glasses \$25 732-442-0151	Custom Jewelry \$5-\$10; Sled \$25; Sports Memorabilia \$10; Dream Catcher Cane \$15 - 732-713-0536	Power Lift \$75. Wing Chairs, Sofa, End Tables, Lamps, Microwave \$10-\$50 - 908-803-9623
Advertising Fence Enclosure - Heavy Duty 10 ft. \$25 - 732-442-1093	Gold Chandelier - Six Lights - Excellent Condition - \$30 - 732-721-7186	Children's Sports Lamp w/shade. Really cute, BB, FB, Etc. Large \$20 - 917-670-4908
Bicycle Tire Deluxe Foot Pump Color coded gauge \$10 - 732-442-5806	Tires - Firestone M&S LT275170R 18 Two \$10 Each 732-727-1772	
Sayreville Bombers 14 KT Charm - \$75 in Box; can add Specialty Sport Charm, etc. - 732-525-2405	Lawn Mower - Sears - Self Propelled Mulcher - no bag 6.75 HP - \$45 732-727-5056	
		<p><b>Ads Sell!</b></p> <p><b>Call Carolyn!</b></p> <p><b>732-896-4446</b></p>

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Dominican Flag Raising, City Hall Circle, Perth Amboy, 2/27/22

\*Photos by Paul W. Wang



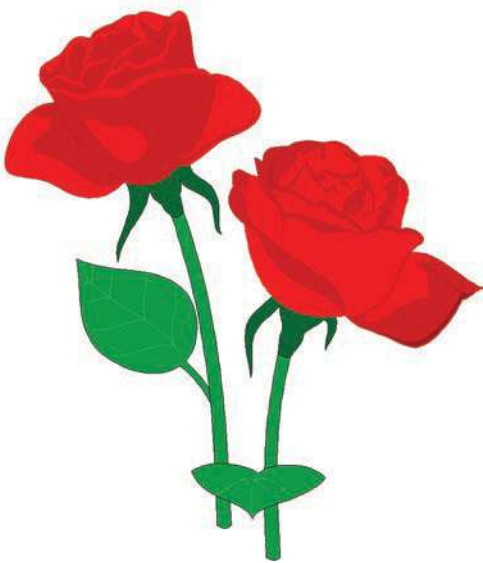
Caputo, Lampitt, Jasey & Jaffer Bill to Prohibit NJGPA Testing Requirement for Class of 2023  
Advanced by Assembly Committee  
*Graduation Proficiency Test Would Only Be Used as a Field Test for Data Collection*

Press Release 3/10/22  
TRENTON – Citing the effects of the pandemic on education for the last two years and its impact on students, who have been coping with high-levels of stress and anxiety, Assembly Democrats Ralph Caputo, Pamela Lampitt, Mila Jasey and Sadaf Jaffer sponsor legislation that would ensure the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment is not a graduation requirement for the class of 2023.  
The Assembly Education Committee unanimously advanced the legislation on Thursday.

Assembly sponsors Caputo

(D-Essex), Lampitt (D-Burlington, Camden), Jasey (D-Essex, Morris) and Jaffer (D-Somerset, Mercer, Middlesex, Hunterdon) issued the following joint statement:  
“From mental health concerns to learning delays, our students have been through a lot and what they need now is our support, not the anxiety and stress that comes with taking a new high-stakes assessment test.  
“Counting the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment this year will create barriers to graduation for many students who have faced challenges over the last two years.

It is unfair and unconscionable to spring a new test on rising seniors and raise the stakes as they are so close to graduation.”  
Under the bill (A-3196), the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment would be administered to current 11th grade students expected to graduate as part of the class of 2023 as a field-test. Under no circumstances would the assessment be used as a graduation requirement for these students. Instead, results would be used to assist in the development of State graduation proficiency tests for future graduating classes.





## Movie Review: The Batman

By: Anton Massopust III  
“Who you supposed to be?” - Thug  
“I am vengeance!” – Batman

Batman returns to the big screen in “The Batman”. Batman/Bruce Wayne (Robert Pattinson) dons the cape and cowl in this detective story in the tradition of film noir such as “The Maltese Falcon” and “The Big Sleep” and the modern classic thriller, “Seven”. A serial killer is on the loose attacking and brutally murdering Gotham’s elite including the police commissioner, district attorney, mob bosses and anyone who is connected to the corruption in Gotham City, even the woman that is currently running for mayor. To solve this mystery was not going to be easy. There are clues within clues, riddles within riddles. Batman and Lieutenant Gordon (Jeffery Wright) are trying to figure out why the Riddler (Paul Dano) is doing this. The two mob families: the Falcone’s and the Maroni’s are connected to the corruption in Gotham City. What is their connection to Bruce Wayne’s mother and father? The Riddler keeps leaving little notes on his victims for Batman starting on Halloween. Connected to all this is well is Catwoman (Zoe Kravitz) who is after something that the Maroni’s or the Romans have over her.

The Penguin (Colin Farrell) steals every scene he is in and he vicious and funny at the same time. The actor is unrecognizable, even his voice is changed. What I really loved about this movie was the influence from the comic books and the famous nineties’ animated TV series. What I was glad about it was it was not another origin story. We get Batman already established right away after two years slowly working with Gor-



don to end crime in Gotham. I also liked the fact that criminals did not know where Batman is. He can be anywhere. Batman’s motivation right now is seeking vengeance for the death of his parents, so he has to change from being just a vigilante to becoming more of detective and more of a hero. Everyone is afraid of him. Besides a really clever mystery we also get lots of action and probably one of the craziest car chases you’ve ever seen in the movies that would even rival the car chase in “The Dark Knight”. There is a brand new Batmobile which is a muscle car. The musical score is awesome, dark and haunting while the cinematography and the use of being filmed London to give it a dark look is chilling. We also get Andy Serkis as Alfred Pennyworth who reveals slowly more about Bruce’s parents and why and how they died.

It’s always great to see director Matt Reeves who previously

directed the reboot of the Planet of the Apes. He is a huge comic book fan and Batman fan and really gets and understands him. We also get a little bit of cameos from other villains, but I won’t say who. I’m sure that we’ll see more of this Batman because this is great start, but at the same time, it is dark brooding and a fascinating from beginning to end. I was not bored for 1 minute, but I don’t think kids will find this interesting because it’s a lot of talking and it’s a lot of clue and mystery solving. There is action, but kids might be bored. We probably will see more of these characters because HBO Max is already planning a Penguin TV series and a Catwoman TV series.

Is this the best Batman movie ever? Well, it’s really good. Check out the graphic novels or trade paperbacks Batman: Long Halloween and Batman: Year Zero and Batman: Year One to look for the inspiration. Go see “The Batman”.

## 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.

## 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.

## Lenten Fish Fry’s

SOUTH AMBOY – The South Amboy Elks, 601 Washington Ave, South Amboy are having Lenten Fish Fry’s starting Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> thru April 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Eat in or take out. For more information, call 732-727-7170 or find us on Facebook for a full menu.

## Soy Awesome BOGO Sushi Deal for Lent

EDISON - The Lenten season is right around the corner, which means many will be swapping meat for fish on Fridays, beginning March 4th.

In case you’re considering a round-up of meat-free deals, I wanted to let you know about Stop & Shop’s sushi offer for the Lenten season. Stores with a fresh sushi department will offer buy one roll, get one for 50% off throughout the Lenten season.

Rainbow, shrimp tempura, salmon avocado, California – and many more made fresh in-store daily, the mix and match options are endless.



## Cruise Nights on Broadway

SOUTH AMBOY – Join us for fun, music, prizes, 50/50’s. Great people and their cars. 2022 Cruise Nights on Broadway will be the second Wednesday of every month on May 11th, June 8th, July 13th, August 10th, September 14th, and October 12th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. All parking on Broadway. Sponsored by the City of South Amboy. For more information, call 908-930-3497.

## South Amboy Seniors

SOUTH AMBOY - The South Amboy Senior Citizens club is looking for new members. Anyone 60+ years old that lives in South Amboy or has a 08879 zip code is eligible to join. The meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 12:00 Noon at the Senior Building on Stevens Avenue. Come have fun and join the members for lunch and see if you’re interested in joining the club. Social activities include trips to local shopping centers and restaurants, lunch and learn seminars, bingo, chair yoga, senior clubs, book club, Medical transportation within a 10 mile radius of town is also available. If interested or seeking more information, please call or additional information please call the center at 732-525-5960. Visit [www.southamboy-nj.gov/page/senior-citizen](http://www.southamboy-nj.gov/page/senior-citizen) for calendar of monthly activities.

## Picture Middlesex County Photography Contest Returns for Spring

*Photo Contest Runs from March 8 – May 17, 2022*

Press Release 3/11/22

MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ – Middlesex County’s photography contest, Picture Middlesex County, is back by popular demand this Spring. The contest runs from March 8 – May 17, 2022, and is open to all New Jersey residents.

“Once again the Picture Middlesex County photography contest is giving individuals the chance to shine by submitting photos that showcase life in Middlesex County,” said Director of the Board of County Commissioners Ronald G. Rios. “From photos of landscapes to close-ups of plants, insects, birds and other wildlife, there are many remarkable photograph opportunities in Middlesex County, and we look forward to seeing what residents submit this Spring. Not only is Spring a great time to get outdoors and explore what our beautiful County has to offer, but it’s the ideal backdrop to showcase Middlesex County’s diverse communities as we

emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.”

The photo contest is open to all amateur and professional photographers, youth to adult. Ages 17 and under require parent/guardian consent on the entry form. Photos must be taken within Middlesex County, New Jersey, and must be taken within the timeframe of the contest. Individuals may submit up to two photos per category.

Contest Categories

- Arts and History: Historic sites, landmarks, public art, festivals, etc.
- Cityscapes: Buildings, architecture, skylines, etc.
- Landscapes: Parks, gardens, waterfront, farms, sunrise, sunset, etc.
- Lifestyle: People, community, photos that showcase life in Middlesex County
- Nature/Wildlife: Foliage, animals, etc.
- Transportation: Planes, railroad/trains, vehicles, boats, roadways, interstates, bicycles, etc.

After the contest, all submissions will be displayed on Middlesex County’s Facebook page, where people will “vote” for their favorite photo by “liking” the picture. The 10-day voting period will be from May 20 – May 30, 2022. This will determine the “People’s Choice Award” winners. A judging committee will anonymously judge all the photos to determine the contest’s overall winner. Winning photos may be publicly displayed at a future County event.

For full contest rules and more information, please visit: <https://discovermiddlesex.com/picture-middlesex-county/>







**Javier Herrera**  
*Realtor/Agent*



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



**PERTH AMBOY** - Welcome to a great opportunity to be a business owner with a amazing property that includes a 3 bedroom apartment on 2nd floor and your very own business of a fully operating Bar along with liquor license. The bar was completely renovated, it has a amazing luxurious design with TV's, VIP seating area, a dance floor, DJ booth, 2 bathrooms, and so much more! This building has been 100% meticulously remodeled from top to bottom. No expense was spared. This is a very rare opportunity to own a corner property with so much potential! Thousands of cars pass by this building weekly coming over from New York right off the 440 highway. Take over the bar and business and cater it to fit your needs. Must come to see in person to truly appreciate all the details that went into the remodeling process of this property. Parking for multiple vehicles and two amazing garages for extra storage. Huge basement with everything brand new! The apartment on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor has 2 full bathrooms and 3 bedrooms! Come see asap! Will not last, showings starts 2/13/2022. **\$949,900**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Very clean two family close to high school and most public transportation off street parking, separated utilities and much more. A must see. **\$454,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Showings start Saturday 3/5/2022, By appointment only through showing time. Beautiful starter home. Entire house fully renovated about a year ago. Laundry room conveniently next to kitchen. Central Heat/A/C, full unfinished basement, waterproofed with secondary entrance from backyard. 1 block from waterfront and in front of elementary school. Come see, won't last. **\$315,000**



**HOPELAWN** - WOW Great quality pride of ownership a must see featuring 3 bedrooms, two car garage, beautiful kitchen all appliances are included, finished basement. Great location close to most major highways, Parks, Supermarkets and shopping centers, above ground pool. Hurry!!! **\$385,000**



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



**PERTH AMBOY** - This two family lies in the hard to find section of Hopelawn close to most major highways, shopping centers and Parks. Great opportunity here to live in one unit while renting out the other or could be a great investment. Separate utilities. Come & see today! Will not last!!!! **\$485,000**



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



**WOODBIDGE PROPER** - Great location in a great town. One bedroom, second floor apartment freshly painted. With access to routes 1, 287, NJ Turnpike, Parkway. Near to Menlo Mall and Woodbridge Mall. Public transportation in the area. Income verification for the last 2 months, Tenant report and credit report should be provided. Water and gas included. Tenants pay electricity. **\$1,450 Mo/Rent**