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Celebrating Our
11th Anniversary

Next Issue
April 20, 2022

THE

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Perth Amboy State of the City Address 3/29/22



Dianne Roman



Color Guard



Pledge to the Flag



Dani Rae Santiago



Pastor Orlando Sanchez



Mrs Anna Maria
Kukuruza



Asm. Speaker
Craig Coughlin



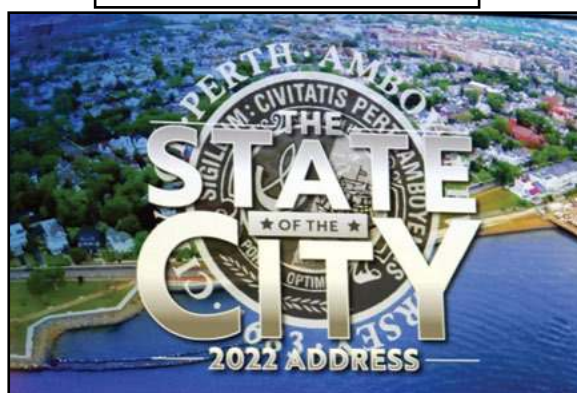
Mayor Helmin J. Caba



Perth Amboy Soccer Club, U15 Wildcats
New Jersey Presidents Club Championship



Ahsia Torres Wrestling Champ
NJ.com's Girls Wrestler of the Year



Rev Gilles Njobam
CMF



Mayor Caba with
Wife Wendy

PERTH AMBOY - Good evening, Perth Amboy family, friends, and loved ones.

Thank you for joining us for the 2022 State of the City Address in person at Perth Amboy High School and streaming live. Thank you to Dr. David Roman, Principal Heidelberg, and the Board of Education for allowing us to host this special event at my beloved high school alma mater. I am incredibly thankful to be the Mayor of this beautiful city we all love. I am pleased to have our elected officials from the state, county, and local levels joining us this evening.

Thank you, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, for the generosity of your time and thoughtful introduction. Your unyielding dedication to our city and

state is unmatched and we are thankful to have you champion for us. Thank you to our city council members for keeping the lines of communication open with my administration in the best interest of our residents. I also express my appreciation to all our city employees. Please stand from your seat to be recognized.

The outstanding work each of you perform every day in meeting the needs of our residents enhances their quality of life and represents what building a connected community is all about. You deserve a rewarding applause.

And lastly, to our city residents. You are the fabric of Perth Amboy and contribute significantly to the progress and

advancement of our beautiful City. You are appreciated. It is also important to take the time this evening to remember those we've lost in the last year.

There is a scripture reading whose words have offered comfort to those who have mourned a loss of a loved one and have also brought joy to those experiencing life's miracles. These words have truly stood the test of time. The scripture begins with, "For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven," I ask for a moment of silence as we remember all our loved ones. Thank you.

When I stepped into office, the city's financial conditions, budget deficit, and the public health emergency of COVID-19

were alarming, as they threatened our city finances and services to our residents. We have emerged stronger than ever. And today, we are beginning to transform our city together and build a Perth Amboy, where everyone can thrive. In the last year, we adapted and learned our strengths. We saw small businesses innovate to survive and our neighbors stepped up to support each other. I take this moment to thank

- Governor Phil Murphy
- Our legislators from District 19 - Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Senator Joe Vitale, and Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez
- Our esteemed Middlesex County Commissioners
- County Administrator and staff

for their unyielding commitment to our city.

Our future is being shaped in new ways, full of new possibilities because of our partnerships, thank you! Everything my administration has done to date has been with a determined effort to be fiscally lean without compromising any services to our residents.

Our focus is and continues to be on

- Economic growth
- Public safety
- and Building Community

In 2021, despite the challenges, we surprised our community and shocked the naysayers by not raising taxes. And this year, our administration proposed a

**Continued on Page 9*

Gustav J. Novak

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Traffic Ordinances, Lunch & Learn, St. Patrick's Day Parade Topics of Discussion 3/16/22 Council Meeting

By: Katherine Massopust

SOUTH AMBOY – At the start of the council meeting, there was a moment of silence for Ukraine and for thanks to Poland for their kindness.

There was a brief discussion regarding Ordinance 10-36 – Traffic Ordinance. Councilman Tom Reilly gave his analysis of the outdated ordinance. “This ordinance is over 40 years old. It needs a lot of work. We started by addressing handicapped parking spaces in town. Back in 1980 Ricky Schultz was Council President and Tom Kross was Mayor.” Reilly cited content in the ordinance that was outdated. “We really should revamp the entire ordinance.” Reilly stated that the ordinance is 40 pages long. It was recommended by the Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski and the council that Traffic Officer Sgt. Clark and the Police Chief Darren Lavigne along with Council President Gross and Councilman Reilly would go over the ordinance and make any necessary changes.

The second discussion was about the Sayreville Association for Brain Injured Children Charity Ball. City Clerk Deborah Brooks said that the city already paid for the ad which was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. The event now has a new date, and the ad was revised. Brooks advised the council that anyone who wishes to purchase tickets may do so and there is a form to fill out.”

Council President Gross stated that the council has bought tickets before and the new date is in April at the Grand Marquis.

The consent agenda was passed along with the minutes and bill list. There was some discussion on Resolution No. 22-087 – Resolution requesting approval for authorizing an emergency temporary appropriation in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20. B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated that the city is still operating on a temporary budget and needed some more money to operate until the 2020 budget was approved.

Resolution 22-091 – Resolution of the City of South Amboy, County of Middlesex State of New Jersey, accepting the certification of the Director of Public Works concerning costs incurred in the boarding up of the property located at 139 S. Rosewell St., Block 161.02, Lot 22, and authorizing the placement of a lien against said property for said costs.

B.A. Skarzynski stated that this resolution was to collect costs for cleanup for a house next to playground. The house was cleaned up by the city and now a lien is against the sale of the property.

Council Comments:

Councilman Tom Reilly said, “I want to thank the food pantry and first responders.” He commented about flyers which are distributed in the street and are blowing around, accumulating, and making a mess.

Law Director Francis Womack said, “We can limit it, but not eliminate the right...”

Councilwoman Zusette Dato

said, “They are a nuisance. It is littering. There is a number to call to remove them.”

Womack added, “They must be placed in a place that the wind does not blow them.”

Councilman Tom Reilly said, “I encourage anyone who sees them blowing around to report it to Code Enforcement.”

Council President Mickey Gross commented that one once blew in his snowblower.

Councilman Reilly continued, “Car repairs on the street – There are popup car repairs opening up already.”

Law Director Womack said, “You can’t repair a vehicle on the street.”

Reilly then spoke about upcoming Government Week from April 3rd to April 9th. “The Volunteer Fire Department and First Aid Squad need new members. We could ask the Police Chief and Fire Chief to come and speak.” Reilly then stated, “I hope everyone comes out for the St. Patrick’s Day Parade (March 20, 2022).”

Councilman Brian McLaughlin thanked the emergency services – both professional and volunteer. “Covid numbers are down. I’m glad to see some normalcy come back. The Parade is Sunday. Keep the families in Ukraine in your prayers.”

Councilwoman Zusette Dato said, “There are a lot of programs at the Senior Center: Lunch and Learn is at 12 noon. An attorney spoke at the last one. She was very good and thorough. I thought it was exceptional. They have really good programs. We are all there for Ukraine. They (Russia) bombed a building that is a maternity hospital with children in it. Keep Ukraine in our thoughts and prayers.” Dato then applauded the Parade Committee for all the hard work they did to make the St. Patrick’s Day Parade possible.

Council President Mickey Gross said, “There cannot be a parade without Mark Herdman. The South Amboy Fire

Department will be leading the parade. On Saturday (March 19th), there will be a mass at 9 a.m. We will not play an Irish hymn (as done traditionally) when they walk in. We will play the Ukrainian National Anthem. At 10 a.m. there will be a flag raising and at 11 a.m. there will be breakfast at the Hibernians. At 7 p.m. there will be an Irish Concert. My wife heads that up. On Sunday, at 2 p.m. the Parade starts.” Gross then spoke about the upcoming plastic bag ban. “It is the first week in May. It applies to stores 25,000 square feet or larger. We will know a lot more in the next few weeks. Start looking for your (reusable) bags. You will need them. It is a statewide ban. It will take awhile to get used to.” Gross then noted, “On July 2, 2022, there will be the fireworks. The fireworks are paid for by sponsors. On October 1, 2022, will be the Irish Festival. There will be fireworks there, too.” Gross then inquired about the new First Aid Vehicle.

B.A. Skarzynski stated that the First Aid Squad did not pick one out yet.

Mayor Fred Henry said, “I wish everyone will enjoy the parade. Congratulations to all the honorees. Lunch and Learn is a new program for seniors. My condolences to Camille Tooker (former South Amboy Business Administrator), whose mother-in-law recently passed away. Our hearts go out to Ukraine. On our website, there are eight different options to help those people. They are in dire need of everything.”

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski said, “Please be respectful of any Police Officer and what they ask you to do at the parade. A lot of work goes into the parade.”

Gross then added, “This will be a multicultural event – a little bit of everything – Chinese, Polish, etc.”

No one spoke at the public portion. Council Vice President Christine Noble was not present at the meeting.



11th Annual Pasta Night & Tricky Tray



Door Prizes
& 50/50 Raffle



JEMMS Foundation Inc.



Date: May 20, 2022
Time: Dinner 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Followed by Auction at 8 p.m.
Place: Hungarian Reformed Church Hall
347 Kirkland Place,
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Dinner Cost: \$10.00 Adult
\$6.00 Children under 12
(Tricky Tray tickets sold separately)
Tickets available by email –
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call 732-850-4156



SOUTH AMBOY - South Amboy Elks Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks # 784 has selected the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development (PRAHD) to be recipients from our Elks National Foundation Awards Committee, for their commitment to their community service in Perth Amboy, by providing a food pantry that gives hope to the less fortunate in need. It is with great pride that our Lodge has chosen PRAHD to receive a Grant in the amount of Two Thousand Dollars along with In a Certificate of Excellence for their commitment to the community: Photo (L to R): Elks National Foundation Chairman Valentine Tarr, PRAHD Executive Director/CEO Kim V. Ruiz, Frank Glenon Past District Deputy, Past Exalted Ruler.

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Pray for World Peace and Healing of All Nations

Sometimes all you can do is pray. Pray for yourself, your family, your town, your country, the world and may peace reign. We pray that the innocence of our children is never robbed from them. Let children be children. Remember the words from the classic musical “South Pacific”: You have to be taught how to hate. Remember the song “The Greatest Love of All,” written by Linda Creed and Michael Masser made famous by Whitney Houston.

I believe the children are our future,
Teach them well and let them lead the way.
Show them all the beauty they possess inside.
Give them a sense of pride to make it easier.
Let the children’s laughter remind us how we used to be.
Learning to love yourself is the greatest love of all.
C.M. & K.M.

Over \$2.1 million in Middlesex County Arts, History, and Historic Preservation & Capital Grants Awarded for 2022
Awarded to 109 Municipal Agencies and Nonprofit Organizations

Press Release 3/23/22
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ – Middlesex County is pleased to announce the 2022 Arts & History Grant Awards in the amount of \$2,178,672 to 109 municipal agencies and local nonprofit arts and history organizations.

Currently, three types of funding opportunities are available: General Operating Support, Program Support, and Historic Preservation & Capital Grants. The grant cycle opens each summer with the announcement of the grant guidelines and a series of Grant Writing Workshops, which were held virtually last year.

Funding for these grants is made possible by the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners through the Middlesex County Cultural and Arts Trust Fund. Middlesex County funding partners include the New Jersey Historical Commission and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

The following is a list of total funding amounts by discipline:

- Dance total amount granted: \$ 327,450
- Festivals/Folklife total amount granted: \$233,425
- Multidisciplinary total amount granted: \$260,025
- Music/Choral total amount granted: \$158,950
- Public Art total amount granted: \$24,325
- Theatre total amount granted: \$945,457
- Visual Art total amount granted: \$69,675
- History total amount granted: \$120,365
- Historic Preservation and Capital total amount granted: \$39,000

With a strong tradition of supporting arts, culture, and history, Middlesex County aspires to reach all County residents through these funded programs and directly through virtual and in-person programming provided by the Arts Institute of Middlesex County. The Arts Institute oversees arts, culture, folklife, and history for the County with offices in the New Brunswick Performing Arts Center and at the East Jersey Old Town Village. The Institute provides technical assistance workshops, arts and history lectures, artist interviews, folklife events and workshops, cultural foodways tutorials and kits, makerspace workshops, arts education programs, public art partnerships, and a variety of interactive arts and wellness programs for seniors and veterans.

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Katherine Massopust - (732) 261-2610
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THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Rich Man’s War
Poor Man’s Grave

As we all know already what's going on in the Ukraine “WAR” and those talking heads are stalling on the peace talks. I guess

they want this war to go on. At the same time here in America, inflation keeps going up with no end in sight, and Mr. Biden is blaming the war in Ukraine is the cause of it. What an excuse! Inflation has been going on before the war in Ukraine, and it is just so odd when Biden

got in, those in power caused more problems with this inflation. Wall Street is making billions on this price gouging and what's in your wallet? Yes, “Rich Man’s War - Poor Man’s Grave.”

Orlando “Wildman” Perez

The Things We Really Need

Does it ever occur to anyone that not everybody can afford a car or a cellphone or a computer, especially those on a fixed income? Yet society today almost demands that we get at least the latter two of these devices! Meanwhile we have thousands of younger folks who cannot do

simple math without a tech gadget or speak proper English if their lives depended upon it. It seems to me we shouldn’t even have history teachers or geography teachers or a whole bunch of other educators when one can simply punch a key here and there and find the solution to a myriad of questions. Imagine the taxes we wouldn’t have to pay! Perhaps when we older

folks could afford a computer or a fancy cell phone and pay for their monthly service fees. Perhaps then we could afford to pay for groceries. . . and the things we really need!

Thank you,
The Honorable
Michael Rusznak.

Where is the Accountability?

I have watched in amazement and shock the recent events that have come to light in the town of Clark, New Jersey where Mayor Sal Bonaccorso, Police Chief Mato’s and Sergeant Tes-ton (Head of Internal Affairs) were caught on various audio tapes secretly recorded by another high-ranking officer making incredibly inappropriate and racist remarks.

Words like “spook”, “shine” and of course the “N” word were used without fear and often said in a laughing carefree manner. As bad as that sounds... add to it the Mayor himself degrade the ability of female officers to do the job as well as a man in front of other township employees - it’s really bad.

But wait - this happened several years ago, the Prosecutor’s office took over the Police Department, identified another Police Captain with credible misconduct allegations and promised a full investigation.... 21 months later after a \$400,000 secret payout to the whistleblower Police Officer, (3) fully paid high ranking officer suspensions and still no determination by the prosecutor’s office??? Could it be the Mayor is in his sixth term in office with substantial political power? Are we to assume the Clark City Council had no idea what was going on when it approved this settlement? Wasn’t it true that until a few days ago this outrage was completely swept under the rug with the hope it would “go away”?? If the justice system typically took this long for criminal matters to be resolved just imagine how long a homicide, robbery or drug case would take to see the scales of justice. Our justice system would be rendered useless.

We take great pride in the City

of Perth Amboy with our commitment to having partnerships with the community we serve as reflected in the various awards we have received in the area of community policing, junior police academy, females in law enforcement to speak to young ladies about gender equality, police /chaplain corps, community meetings, etc. We understand the police department needs to represent the community we serve in relation to diversity in its officers. Officers of different ethnic, gender and cultures have blended together to become one for the betterment of those we serve proudly each and every day.

Yet less than a year ago - a female Sergeant who happens to also be Hispanic was attacked as a racist by social media outsiders looking for attention over the arrest and confiscation of a bicycle...the outrage??? He happened to be a young man of color... he wasn’t assaulted, called vile names or treated unfairly. The Sergeant did her job in response to numerous complaints by city residents in regards to reckless bike riders in groups all over town, was trying to protect the young man from hurting himself or others, had previously warned the young man and the group he was with to enjoy riding your bicycles but just do it safely as to not endanger citizens, motorist and themselves. The irony is the guardians of the young man and others involved understood the officers’ actions, the bicycle was returned within an hour and the young man left with no impact on his record but hopefully a valuable lesson learned

But a full investigation was launched by the prosecutor’s office for full transparency to those outside the city who were concerned, and the Sergeant rightfully was cleared of wrong-

doing several months later. For several months, the Sergeant had a cloud of suspicion over her head which she had to endure and ultimately lost out on an opportunity to oversee the community policing unit despite a long and proactive role with helping city youth and officers alike.

So where is the accountability within the City of Clark for clearly outrageous and offensive behavior by its so called “leaders”?? Imagine being a person of color driving through Clark or living there.... Would you have confidence in your local PD to have your best interest at heart during any type of encounter whether confrontational or not??? Not when you hear the types of foul language that is apparently acceptable in Clark...It’s disgusting.

Body cameras, transparency and accountability are completely and correctly used to ensure policing is done correctly but the blatant misuse of taxpayer money, political power, and accountability does way more damage to the community trust in its officers than taking a bicycle ever did which was solely done to protect the young man from himself....so why is this not on the national radar??? I think we know the answer... True change in the national narrative of policing will never change until the old school mindset of protecting your own at the top is condemned... Racism is ignorance based on misconceptions and sadly the leadership of Clark NJ is the ugly example of this especially when those aware of this behavior accept this by their silence even when they know in their hearts it’s an outrage.

Roman McKeon
Retired Police Chief
of the City of Perth Amboy

*Letters to the Editor Continued on Page 13

Keep those Letters Coming! We Love to Hear From You! E-mail letters to the editor to amboyguardian@gmail.com or write to the paper at Letters to the Editor, The Amboy Guardian, P.O. Box 0127, Perth Amboy, NJ 08862-0127. Letters must include your full name, address and daytime telephone number or cell phone number for verification. First time letter-writers must be called for verification or your letter will not be published. If you are a public official, please include your title. All letters are subject to editing or rejection. All submissions may be published or distributed by us in print, electronic or other forms. Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the writers and do not represent or reflect the views of the Amboy Guardian.



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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
TUES. Apr. 5 PARA, 6 p.m. Zoom
THURS. Apr. 7 Board of Education, 5:30 p.m. PAHS, Eagle Ave.
MON. Apr. 11 City Council, Caucus, 5:30 p.m. City Hall, High St. & Zoom
TUES. Apr. 12 BID, 4 p.m. City Hall, High St.
• Library Board of Trustees, 5 p.m. Library, Jefferson St.
WED. Apr. 13 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, High St. & Zoom
South Amboy
WED. Apr. 6 City Council, Regular, 6 p.m. City Hall, N. Broadway
WED. Apr. 20 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, N. Broadway

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



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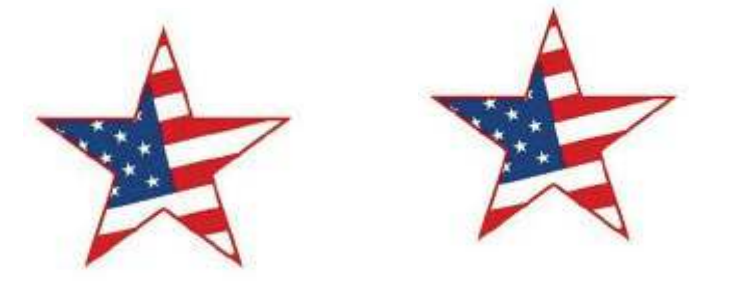
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Social Security to Offer Self-Attestation of Sex Marker in Social Security Number Records

Press Release
Kilolo Kijakazi, Acting Commissioner of Social Security, announced that the agency will offer people the choice to self-select their sex on their Social Security number (SSN) record. The agency anticipates this option will be available in the fall of 2022.
“The Social Security Administration is committed to reducing barriers and ensuring the fair treatment of the LGBTQ+ community by updating our procedures for Social Security number records,” said Acting Commissioner Kijakazi. “This policy change will allow people to self-select their sex in our records without needing to provide documentation of their sex designation.”
People who update their sex marker in Social Security’s records will need to apply for a replacement SSN card. They will still need to show a current document to prove their identity, but they will no longer need to provide medical or legal documentation of their sex designation once the policy change becomes effective. SSN cards do not include sex markers.
In February 2022, the agency issued guidance instructing employees to accept evidence documents that contain non-binary identifiers (e.g., “X”) for original SSN and replacement SSN card applications, and other updates to the agency’s internal SSN records. The agency is exploring possible future policy and systems updates to support an “X” sex designation for the SSN card application process.

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

Safety Announcement
We are taking safety precautions in the City of Perth Amboy, emphasize that it is important:
IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!!
Report Suspicious Activity - Be Vigilant - **STAY ALERT!**
Do not think that any call or report is too small
Don’t allow the actions of a few dictate your quality of life
FOR ALL EMERGENCIES, DIAL: 9-1-1
FOR ALL NON-EMERGENCIES, DIAL: 732-442-4400



State of the City Address

3/29/22

**Continued from Page 1*

stable budget to our city council members, once again, with no municipal tax increase. We were able to balance our City budget, fund our priorities and provide fiscal relief for our residents. I want to recognize our budget committee, leading with •Michael Greene, our Business Administrator, •Jill Goldy, our Chief Financial Officer, •and our city directors for their diligence and efficiency

This demonstrates that we take our fiscal responsibilities very serious with the decisions we make. We also earned an “A+” long-term rating, citing our stable fiscal management and budgetary flexibility from Standard & Poor’s, one of the nation’s top credit rating agencies, What does this mean for the City of Perth Amboy?

•It means increased purchasing power and provides better lending opportunities with lower interest rates.

Housing is also essential to the economic strength of our city. When we can attract and retain residents to invest, we build Perth Amboy up. Our city’s future developments will look to provide high-quality housing to stimulate our economy and strengthen our neighborhoods. When the city conducted its housing study, it highlighted the need to develop luxury projects to attract disposable incomes while protecting our current residents with safe and affordable opportunities. When the housing element was adopted by our city council last year, it allowed Perth Amboy to begin collecting fees from developers to address our housing and rehabilitation requirements. In the fall of 2021, we collected our first development fee in the amount of \$2.25M. With this new funding, we plan to rehab homes to be safe and affordable in Perth Amboy.

Here are some of the additional accomplishments in housing, development and business:

- We re-established our Rent Control Board
- We awarded \$150,000 dollars in Tenant-Based Rental Assistance
- And received \$1.4M from the American Rescue Plan through the Department of Housing and Urban Development that will help stabilize those at risk of homelessness.
- I want to thank the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development, the Jewish Renaissance Foundation, the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, and the Perth Amboy Housing Authority for their support in executing these initiatives.
- We are also in the final phases in the street repayment, expanded waterfront promenade, and pier in the Harbortown community.
- And are working to enhance our city's entrance, by cleaning up the contaminated old Celotex property to beautify the Gateway Neighborhood.

And great news, everyone, we are finally revitalizing our train station, with the groundbreaking scheduled later this Spring!

I want to thank Governor Phil Murphy, our legislators, NJ Transit, and previous administrations for their advocacy and commitment to making this possible. Perth Amboy is a transportation hub with a solid retail base in our downtown and a strong network of institutions, including healthcare, education, social services, and workforce development- all committed to collaboration.

With these assets, we look to expand our business corridor and invest more opportunities for our businesses. Last fall, the Business Improvement District Board of Directors unanimously voted to endorse the Business Improvement Expansion Project. The project is set to enhance economic development programming and expand business benefits to all merchants, city-wide. Last summer, I joined Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver, as she signed the new legislation to reform the Urban Enterprise Zone program. The UEZ program supports 37 of the 564 municipalities across New Jersey, including Perth Amboy for revitalization and business growth in urban communities. And I am pleased to say that the funds will reinvest nearly \$1 million in public improvements, sanitation, economic development, and financial assistance programs, throughout all of our local commercial districts, with a commitment to continue the program for the next 10 years. And with our dedicated County partners, Destination 2040 and various NJ state departments, our path to opportunity will be paved with physical and capital improvements in our downtown district.

As we move the city forward, we realize the importance of strategic planning, understanding our City’s needs and the ever changing landscape of urban municipalities. For those reasons, we’ve initiated the updating of our Master Plan, which will guide our investments and initiatives citywide for the next 20 years. Thanks to our directors, Tashilee Vazquez, Noelia Colon, and Annie Hindenlang, for their dedication to these projects.

I’m proud of how our city has responded and continues to respond to the pandemic. We are a city that innovates to survive. The partnership with Middlesex County and its Telehealth programs is an example of the need to adapt to create opportunities to extend the reach and expand healthcare services to our residents and reimagine how our health policies need to address our communities’ most pressing health and wellness needs.

Each of us stepped up to turn the tide of this pandemic inclusive of our COVID-19 Taskforce, whom I’d like to personally thank for

- Establishing Middlesex County Vocational School as a super-site for vaccinations.
- Hosting over 40+ mobile vaccination clinics
- Distributing educational materials about vaccinations and myths versus facts, establishing COVID-19 testing locations, creating a dedicated city hot-

line, organizing volunteers to canvass in the business district, and deploying a series of social media and website campaigns.

•In addition to feeding over 27,000 people.

This was indeed a coordinated effort of over 40 partnerships, including

- Governor Murphy
- Our state legislators
- NJ Department of Health
- Middlesex County Department of Health
- Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center
- The Jewish Renaissance Medical Center and Foundation
- Raritan Bay Area YMCA
- McFoods
- NJ Community Food Bank
- US Foods
- The NJ Feed Program
- Our houses of worship, businesses, schools and countless volunteers.

And I want to thank our OEM Director, Acting Police Chief Cattano and Dianne Roman for leading the task force to an 88% vaccination rate in 2021. Public safety continues to be our top priority. We recognize the critical role our officers play in keeping Perth Amboy safe. To enhance our response, solve and deter crimes, we look to expand staff and technology, such as

- An intelligence unit
- State of the Art cameras
- And license plate readers

We also have increased our police force by 17 officers, the single most hire of police officers in Perth Amboy’s history, and added to the ranks of our Special 1 and Special 2 Officers. We are reimagining public safety and policing through technology and innovation, moving Perth Amboy into a smart city, a City of the Future.

In addition,

- We signed the PBA Contract and have reached an agreement with the FOP moving the contract towards ratification.
- We passed the ordinance that created the Citizens Public Safety Advisory Board. A special thank you to Harry Pozyski and the Citizens’ Campaign for your advocacy.
- We’ve increased our patrols in our parks, waterfront, and our business district.
- We have also expanded our Juvenile Bureau’s Station House Adjustment Program for the diversion of youth offenders.
- And increased our community outreach through positive interactions and partnerships.

A strong relationship of mutual trust with our residents is key to maintaining public safety. And our police and fire know how important it is to foster these relationships with our school districts, especially with our youth. Last year, Felix Velez, home/school liaison of Perth Amboy High School’s Personalized Learning Program, identified a student exhibiting a decline in his motivation, academics, and attendance.

The student, Andres Castillo, dreamed of a career in criminal justice, and there was a need to help restore his confidence to see his future. Felix reached out to our juvenile police bureau for assistance. Detective Rafelito Cruz and Sergeant Jessica DeJe-

sus responded immediately and coordinated a tour of our police department, introduced him to other officers, and allowed him to experience a day in the life of an officer, they even sang him happy birthday. Following the visit, a group of officers made a promise to mentor him. Since then, Andre’s outlook on life has transformed. His mother shared his story with us and its impact on his life and the Castillo family.

I want to recognize Andres for his courage, the school community and police staff that rallied around him. Andres is a shining example of how strong relationships between the police department and our community reflects our core values. First responders are the foundation of our city, as safety is a vital component of our community. When we think of firefighters, we have the iconic image of responding to fires, automobile accidents, and medical emergencies. It takes a special kind of person to become a firefighter. Being a firefighter means more than just battling blazes. They save lives. Last year, our Perth Amboy Fire Department responded to 2,232 incidents, including 183 fires. With God’s grace, there were no fire fatalities for the 3rd consecutive year. This is a proven result of our three top priorities.

- First is fire safety, education and fire prevention, where education and enforcement work together to reduce the risk of fires from ever happening, including cross-training staff as fire inspectors.

•The second is to make sure all properties have working smoke alarms,

•And the third is rapid department response from our dedicated staff.

We also held the 100th-anniversary memorial ceremony for the 1921 train accident that killed 9 Perth Amboy Firefighters, the single most significant loss in New Jersey’s history at a single incident. A plaque was dedicated by the Middlesex County Commissioners that will be installed near the crash site. And a second memorial plaque will be installed in the Perth Amboy Train Station once renovations are completed. Our investment in public safety continues with the promotion of members of the Police and Fire Departments to fill existing vacancies in the ranks of the Departments. Congratulations to all, and thank you:

- Police
 - Auxiliary Police
 - Fire
 - our Fire Volunteers
- for your life saving service to the City of Perth Amboy.

As our City continues to move towards a brighter future, we must pay close attention to necessary improvements to our City’s infrastructure. That includes our water and sewer infrastructure, streets, and parks. We have made investments in each department by streamlining our processes, incorporating tracking key performance indicators, and improving our customer service. For example, we have increased Code enforcement Departments’ capacity and

abilities with the following improvements:

- Hiring 2 new Code enforcement officers and a full-time plumbing inspector.
- We have increased our use of Spatial Data Logic (SDL) technology with many staff members having gone through training to process and view inspections, violations, and respond to concerns.
- In addition, Perth Amboy residents will be able to submit permit applications, make inspection requests and address concerns online.

Have any of you seen the app? If you haven’t - get SDL Citizen by downloading the mobile app.

Thank you to our Code enforcement Director Irving Lozada, and our Administrative Analyst, Joel Rosa, for coordinating efforts with the SDL team and our city staff. In keeping with my pledge to improve our city’s beauty, I created the Anti-Graffiti and Vandalism Taskforce, made of various city staff and community volunteers to oversee the enforcement of clean-ups and education efforts regarding graffiti. We also have expanded city routes for trash collection with automated vehicles and were awarded two ELECTRIC-POWERED sanitation trucks to expand our fleet while minimizing our carbon footprint. Our physical improvements are seen throughout the city and in our highlights, including the LED lighting, benches and trees and the reactivation of the Green Team. We also want to thank NJDEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette for stopping by to plant the state’s first Salem Oak Tree seedling. I greatly appreciate our DPW staff’s daily commitment to providing top of the line services to our residents under the direction of Interim Director, Matthew Nieves. Thank you.

The global pandemic has underscored that close-to-home parks are crucial to a community’s quality of life. During the crisis, people have turned to our parks like never before—for fresh air, exercise, meditation, and a sense of peace. Understanding the need for public open space for our children, families, athletic leagues, and visitors, we made a commitment to updating our parks leading to a year of accomplishments.

•First was the fencing installed at Washington Park made possible through the advocacy of our District 19 legislative partners. We also re-activated the park with free WIFI.

•Another success was the long-awaited groundbreaking last summer for the future 2nd Street Park. It was an honor to be joined by Korean War Veteran PFC Ervin Machado at the park’s dedication as Borinqueneer Park after the 65th Army Infantry. Thank you Sam Delgado for the inspiration for the park’s name.

This new park will create opportunities for programming and activities for the entire community and restore part of the City’s natural coastline. It

**Continued on Page 27*

**Play Ball: Liberty Base Ball Club
of New Brunswick
Is In Search of New Players**
Season Opener on April 2 at East Jersey Old Town Village
**Photos Submitted*



Press Release 3/23/22
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ – Middlesex County’s Liberty Base Ball Club of New Brunswick is looking for players. The club plays base ball (originally two words) by 1850s rules, using period-accurate replica uniforms, bats, balls, bases, and other equipment. The club competes against other historically accurate opponents across the tri-state area and strives to remain true to the time they represent while maintaining a competitive presence on the field.

Players of all genders with an interest in history and/or baseball, and are 18 years of age or older, should contact Captain Lawrence Major at nblbbc@gmail.com. Previous baseball experience is preferred.

The season opener will take place on Saturday, April 2 when the Mutuels of New York take on the Liberty Base Ball Club at the Liberty’s home field at East Jersey Old Town Village. For the full schedule, find the club on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LibertyBBCofNB/>

“There’s no better time than Spring to get outside and get involved in your community,” said Director of the Board of County Commissioners Ronald G. Rios. “While many in-person events were rescheduled or canceled last year, the Liberty Base Ball Club of New Brunswick is recruiting players to return to the field this season. Whether you’re a history buff or simply enjoy playing baseball, this is a great opportunity to play ball the way it used to be played back in the 19th Century.”

**HISTORY OF THE LIBERTY BASE BALL CLUB OF
NEW BRUNSWICK**

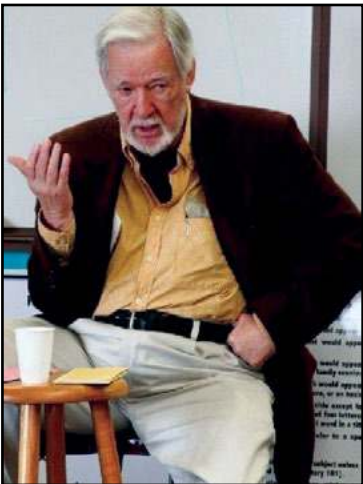
Originally conceived in 1857, the Liberty Club exclusively played local New Jersey teams until the inception of the National Association of Base Ball Players (NABBP, of which they helped found) in 1858. The Liberty played formidable clubs from around the New York/New Jersey region, most notably the fearsome Atlantic Base Ball Club of Brooklyn and established themselves as a reputable and highly skilled club. The onset of the Civil War saw the Liberty members disperse, but shortly after war’s-end they were back on the field. By the early 1870’s the Liberty had all but disappeared, however their legacy on the game of baseball, both nationally and within New Jersey, is well documented.

Taking the field for the first time in 2018, the modern interpretation of the Liberty club uses period-accurate replica uniforms, bats, balls, bases, and other equipment and play their home games on the field adjacent to the East Jersey Old Town Village in Piscataway. The Liberty competes against other historically accurate opponents ranging all the way from Maine to Maryland, along with four other clubs within New Jersey, and strive to play in strict accordance to the rules and customs of the time they represent while maintaining a competitive presence on the field.

The Liberty plays home games on the Liberty Field at East Jersey Old Town Village, located at 1050 River Rd., Piscataway.

For more information on the Liberty Base Ball Club of New Brunswick, visit: <https://arcg.is/1T55mG> or find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LibertyBBCofNB/>

Tribute: Charles W. Wiley



Charlie Lecturing



The Veteran Sage *Photos Submitted

By: Vilma E. Novak
SAYREVILLE, NJ - Charles Wiley, Combat Journalist, was a loyal fan of Perth Amboy, so much so he challenged Perth Amboy’s Edward Patton for his seat in the 1976 and 1978 congressional elections. In 1978 Charlie lost the election by 1%. A remarkable achievement in itself. The race was so close that one of the TV networks, early on, mistakenly called the race for Charlie.

Every year Charlie looked forward to receiving Kearny Cottage’s Historic Perth Amboy Calendar. Charlie spoke several times at Kearny Cottage, The Ferry Slip Museum, Perth Amboy Free Public Library and the Kiwanis Club. He told fascinating stories about American culture during WWII, his experience on the Sino-Soviet border

witnessing their war games. He told about the time he was in Viet Nam when Saigon fell and how he snuck into Afghanistan during the Soviet occupation posing as a Pakistani physician. He taught Americanism at the University of St. Petersburg. I remember a time when my TV was on in the background and thought I heard Charlie’s voice on “Crossfire”, when I went to see, sure enough, it was Charlie!! Mostly I think of his kindness, humor and wisdom and how much a blessing it was to have known him and how fortunate our organizations were to have him speak to us.

For many years one of Charlie’s pet projects was founding the National Committee for Responsible Patriotism, (NCRP). Their purpose is to inform all as to how Viet Nam Vets, con-

trary to popular opinion, were honored when they returned home. One way they were honored was that there was a huge welcome home parade in New York City that lasted hours, media focused mostly on the few but raucous protestors there and that’s what most people remember. The following is the NCRP webpage where you can learn about the parades. Charlie founded and directed this organization to make sure there is a vehicle in place to show that Viet Nam Vets’ service was appreciated and that they were welcomed Home with Honor.

To see the parade and hear the story go to:

<https://www.homewithhonor.us/>

The work of NCRP will continue through Mrs. Charles Wiley, Alice, and the NCRP, Trustees.

Obituary: Charles W. Wiley, 95
Journalist, Writer, Lecturer

SAYREVILLE Charlie Wiley died peacefully at home on March 9 at the age of 95.

Charlie was born in New York City on November 17, 1926, to Faye and Charles Wiley. He began life as a child actor. He had the distinction of being cast, as a child, in two Pulitzer Prize winning Broadway productions. At the age of 7 he appeared in "The Old Maid." Later, he appeared as Wally Webb in the original cast of Thornton Wilder’s "Our Town."

Soon after Pearl Harbor, at age 15, Charlie joined the USO and entertained at bases throughout the United States. He answered his country’s call by enlisting in the Navy, serving during the battle of Okinawa and taking part in the initial occupation of Japan. He later participated in the operation to evacuate the natives of Bikini Atoll prior to the atom bomb tests.

After the war, Charlie studied journalism at NYU. His great hunger for truth led him to travel to more than 100 countries and cover 11 wars, writing for publications such as The New York Times, U.S. News and World Report, Time, and Newsweek. His reporting also appeared on NBC, UPI, and The London Ex-

press.

As a journalist, he spent 4 tours in Vietnam, covering the war in 1962, 1964, the Tet Offensive in 1968 and the Easter Offensive in 1972.

For the last 50 years, Charlie was a well-known radio/TV talk show personality and commentator. He appeared on hundreds of networks and local programs- including many times on CNN and C-Span and was both a guest and host on Barry Farber’s Radio show.

Until his passing he was also an active lecturer in all 50 states and on six continents, sometimes under the auspices of the U.S. government. He was also on the AIM Speakers Bureau for over 30 years.

He also was a master of organization. In 1967, he organized the massive Support Our Boys in Vietnam Parade in New York City. In 1973, he organized the “Home With Honor” Parade.

One of Charlie’s great passions was educating young people. He spoke at dozens of colleges, high schools, and youth organizations all over the country. He spoke annually at UC Berkeley’s political science classes and Boys State high school groups in New Jersey

and Wisconsin.

But in addition to all his professional accomplishments, Charlie was also a beloved character. He was quick with a joke and always there for people. He loved playing the horses and after WWII even tried briefly to see if he could make a living that way (he couldn’t). Charlie also prided himself for being able to play quarterback in the neighborhood touch football games even into his 70s "Life with Charlie was an amazing adventure," recalls Alice Bell Wiley, Charlie’s wife of 38 years. "I always felt loved and privileged to have such a wonderful husband. I am so grateful to have been able to play a part on his world stage."

Charlie will be sorely missed by his family and by countless numbers of friends who were fortunate to have known him. He is survived by his devoted wife Alice, his son Scott of Sayreville NJ and daughter Chris of Los Gatos CA and grandchildren Adrian and Katherine. He was pre-deceased by his first wife Tina and son Cliff.

Burial arrangements will be private, per the family.



PILOTS and Addressing Behavioral Issues in the School District

3/30/22 Council Meeting

By: Carolyn Maxwell & Katherine Massopust
PERTH AMBOY – All Council Members were present in person except for Councilwoman Rose Morales who participated in the meeting via Zoom.

Resident Ken Balut spoke on Ordinance No. 1 which had to do with an amendment to a bond ordinance. He questioned, “What is the difference between Tennessee and New Jersey? The federal money they receive could be used on lowering their taxes. We are sitting on \$8 million and so far, the only expense I’ve seen were for the new parking meters. How much are the legal fees when for the amendment to the bonds?”

Business Administrator Michael Green replied, “\$1,200 for each bond. Since there were two bonds, it was \$2,400 for this ordinance.”

Council President Bill Petrick responded, “These amended bonds are to save interest.”

Balut continued, “That’s a lot of funding for bonds. When our former Business Administrator Greg Fehrenbach was here, he applied a different method to save money.” Balut asked a question regarding Ordinance No. 3. “What is the difference between full taxes and having a PILOT?”

Green explained that for Sayre Avenue land, which is underdeveloped, the city’s share would be \$22,000 a year and at the end of the 25 years, the city would only get \$700,000. The lender will not give a contract with any money under a certain amount.”

Ordinances No. 1 and No. 2 were passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 3 – Ordinance of the city of Perth Amboy, County of Middlesex, New Jersey approving the application for a long-term tax exemption and authorizing the execution of a financial agreement with 585 Sayre Avenue Urban Renewal, LLC for the property located at Block 183 Lot 29.01 and Block 189.03. lot 24 on the tax map of the city of Perth Amboy.

Ordinance No. 4 – Ordinance of the City of Perth Amboy, County of Middlesex, New Jersey approving the application for a long term tax exemption and authorizing the execution of a financial agreement with Victory Center Urban Renewal, LLC for the property located at Block 38, Lot 1, Block 77, Lot 72.03 Block 83, Lots 14, 15 and 30, Block 84, Lots 14, 15, 29 and 30, Block 85, Lots 14, 15, 29 and 30 on the tax maps of the city of Perth Amboy.

Council President Bill Petrick noted that the agreement is for 25 years - not 30 years for both Ordinances No. 3 and No. 4. A chart was put up on the screen in Zoom for both Ordinances No. 3 and No. 4 for the hypothetical tax money that would be returned if the land stayed as is if and there was no PILOT and if there was a PILOT. The chart stated what the tax revenue would be after 25 years in all three scenarios. It was noted on the chart that both projects would not be possible without the PILOT. Business Administrator Michael Green gave the

numbers off the chart that appeared on the screen.

First, he explained the Sayre Avenue. “If it stayed an empty lot, the projected tax revenue would be \$700,000. With the PILOT, the city will wind up getting in total after 25 years, \$9,743,081.”

Comments were open to the public on Ordinance No. 3. The first person to speak was Ken Balut. He was concerned about the PILOTS. “I remember when a guy went to jail (over illegal dealings). Who is watching the henhouse? I believe that Eddie Trujillo will give us what he says. Kushner has the mafia on his side. When Vas was Mayor, he would give detailed speeches on PILOTS. Were PILOTS mentioned during the State of the City Address?”

Green then recalled that PARA gave a presentation regarding these PILOTS at a previous council meeting.

Balut ended by telling Green, “You are taking a lot of heat (for things that happened before you came here).”

B.A. Green stated that if the lot stays undeveloped, the city will collect \$700,000 in tax revenue versus \$9,743,081 with the development and PILOT. With an empty lot, the city would only collect after 25 years, \$2 million.

Maria Garcia spoke via Zoom. “If we receive \$700,000 for an empty lot, it would be without any more services, people, schools. Those \$9 million over years are nothing compared to when to we have more people with more schools. Right now, we have a debt. Someone that already has a lot of properties in town is good at building. If a bank states that if you don’t get a PILOT, we will not service you – I don’t know what bank is asking for this. It’s dubious if a builder needs a PILOT to get a bank loan. If you put in the numbers, again it is not a good idea.”

Sharon Hubberman spoke via Zoom, “Rather than just assess land value, we need to assess the following with no PILOT. A land worth \$10 million or more? What is the projected ratable? We have a developer who has stated that he is about people. We are a highly dense area. If a developer is about serving the community, then why not donate the land to the city for the residents to use for open space instead? We have an obligation to our pension plans which are not fully funded. It offsets a deficit of in terms of our pension plan. I am surprised there are no union (reps) speaking on this topic. We have to fund the pensions. Whoever negotiated this, if you are going to collect the fee, why were we not collecting the land tax. I am not for any of these PILOTS unless there are studies with terms of value. There are other avenues we can create to enhance our town. There are various ways of the tax assessor to assess the land. Say there is no PILOT. That is calculating by gross revenue. The land and property value, if we were not going give a PILOT, what is the projected

value? The benefits do not outweigh the costs.”

Petrick asked, “Should the land assessment be separate?”

Hubbemran said, “The growth revenue which is the land and property value need to have separate calculations.”

B.A. Green said, “For the record, there is not a deficit in pensions in the City of Perth Amboy. The pension is expenditures, and we have \$9 million for our pensions. There are no deficits. It is important to say what would be if there is no PILOT: \$721,000. If we get a PILOT, it will be \$9,743,000 over 25 years. If we do not grant the PILOT, the lender will not fund the project.”

One of the developers said, “What Green said was correct. This project will have to pay land tax. When it comes to the land tax, 60% goes to the city; 26% goes to the schools; and 14% goes to the county. The land is totally undeveloped”

When it came to vote, all council members voted, “Yes.”

For Ordinance No. 4. Ken Balut spoke in person: “In 2012 I talked to a developer who wanted to build a marijuana factory in town. This building would have been well guarded.” Balut then asked about what kind of money they would receive from the Victory Center Project.

B.A. Green answered, “The developer would pay \$44,000 a year and the city would get \$26,000. With the 25-year PILOT, the city would wind up getting \$49 million. Without developing the land, the city would only receive after 25 years would be \$851,846.

Sharon Hubberman spoke via Zoom. “I want to object to the PILOT for the same reasons I reject the first one.”

Maria Garcia spoke via Zoom. “I have to reject the PILOT for the same reasons. As of today, how many PILOTS does the city have in place?”

B.A. Green answered, “Home Depot has a PILOT. That land was not developed. We received \$1 million. It was undeveloped property.”

Garcia asked, “How many jobs will this project bring in?”

Green answered, “It is not really a job generator.”

Garcia said, “The development is generating money and is it saving us money in taxes? How much are we getting? How much are we losing? The new High School they are building - they are going to be packed by the time we are finished. The more people we are bringing in, the more schools that need to be funded. We don’t have enough spaces. I don’t understand what we are planning. We are not thinking about how we should widen the roads and building schools. With residential projects it affects everything. We keep losing open land. We are supposed to think about the environment, and we keep building.”

When it came to vote, Rose Morales, Joel Pabon, Milady Tejada, and Bill Petrick voted “Yes”. B.J. Torres stated that he had issues with a develop-

ment of this magnitude and the work should be union driven and they should create career opportunities and apprenticeship programs. Therefore, B.J. Torres voted, “No.” Although Bill Petrick agreed with him, he voted, “Yes.” Public Comments on Agenda Items Only:

Ken Balut spoke in person. “We got money from T-Mobile. You can use this money to help Veterans and set up mental health programs and housing for Veterans. There is a church up for sale and you can use that church for the homeless and as a satellite for psychiatric services. Each year, we get money, and you have the power to allocate that money. Someone else always benefits. Each year, you get a lot of money for grants. You should meet with the administration on how to use those funds. I wish we had the \$8 million when I was in office. You need a 10-year plan. If the school money is taken away, our taxes will go up. After I left the city, it got changed. It’s never transparent – somebody’s getting the kickbacks. It’s time we got a lot of money here.”

Sharon Hubberman spoke next via Zoom. “There was a comment made regarding the land tax. The land will be by taxation. In the financial agreement, there is a land exemption, and this has been misrepresented. The information presented by the card is misrepresentation by the city. This is falling on deaf ears. Yes, in Code Enforcement, there are some good and bad aspects. I feel we are in for a disappointment down the road. You have voted to approve a project. If you listen carefully, there are areas we need to approve land tax. Councilman B.J. Torres is practical. Look at Section 4.0.9. When the project is completed, that land tax will not be effective.”

Resident Denise Miranda who lives at Central Place spoke next via Zoom. “I am addressing the festivals being moved to Rudyk Park. Why are residents not being told that the festivals are being moved to the part of town where the poorer people live? I found out from a friend. By the way, I am not poor; I have a modest house. We don’t want to deal with the festivals. It’s hard enough for one festival that lasts for 3 days which means I can’t leave my house for 3 days. We should have a say to the area. It’s okay that rich people from the waterfront area don’t want a festival. Why do we have to bring thousands of people who start traffic problems, drunks, and drug addicts and loud music for 3 days? This is not a festival – it’s a 3-day concert. They should put flyers out. I live on a dead-end street. God forbid there is a fire. It is not fair to us. It is bad enough. And now you want to bring all these festivals here. You should give all of all of us a voice.”

Maria Garcia spoke next via Zoom. I think these festivals have gotten out of hand. I live on Kearny Avenue, and I am not rich. When they have the Greek Festival, we don’t have noise or

issues, or people urinating on property. When we have Concerts by the Bay, people come and there is no problem. When there is Family Day at the waterfront – no problem. We have a lot of festivals at the waterfront. These are normal festivals and concerts. You are putting a concert in a residential area. There are so many people for 3 days. If they move festivals to the other side of town, it’s ridiculous. You make life miserable for 3 days. They destroy our property. We have drunks fighting. You have Rte. 440 if you want to get out. In the waterfront area, if you want to get out in case of an emergency, you can’t get out. All roads except High Street are very narrow. What kinds of festivals are we going to have for people who live in this area? I don’t think festivals have to go on for 3 days. Back when Joe Vas was Mayor, the police had a machine that measured decibel levels (during the festival).”

Acting Police Chief Larry Cattano spoke via Zoom, “You cannot enforce noise for decibel levels. I have been on the force for years and I don’t remember anything like that.”

Madison Avenue Resident Maria Vera spoke next, “As for the PILOT, I agree with Maria and Sharon – our town is so overcrowded and now over 50 teachers quit. I agree with Denise (Miranda) and Maria (Garcia). Festivals are a nightmare. We can’t get out of our house. We are stuck for 3 days. It is not a festival – it is a concert. Festivals should be small and one-day. We can’t get in and out. Only two streets – Madison Avenue and Lewis Street are clogged. Sometimes the traffic doesn’t move. It is not safe, not healthy – a nuisance. I feel it is very detrimental to the environment. They should go someplace else if they want concerts.”

For Ordinances No. 1, No. 2 (First Reading) passed unanimously.

Ordinance No.3 – An Ordinance to amend an Ordinance entitled “Public Entertainment” (Ordinance No. 830-96 and Amendments, adopted April 2, 1996) Also known as Chapter 343 et seq of the code of the city of Perth Amboy. Re: Public entertainment limited to certain locations.

Rose Morales, Joel Pabon, Milady Tejada voted, “No.” B.J. Torres, William Petrick voted “Yes.” Motion does not pass. Council President Petrick stated that amendments needed to be made regarding these types of events. Only two festivals exceed the multiple days and large crowds: the Dominican Festival and the Puerto Rican Festival.

For the consent agenda, Resolutions R-145 thru R-171 and R-173 thru R-175; R-151 was voided, the consent agenda passed.

R-172-3/22 – Authorizing settlement in the matters of Ivette Rios vs. City of Perth Amboy, et als, United States District

A Lot on Their Plate

3/24/22 Board of Education Meeting

By: Carolyn Maxwell

PERTH AMBOY – At the beginning of the Board of Education Meeting, Student Representative Charlyze Leon gave a brief overview of activities that went on during the last couple of months. First of all, she mentioned March being Woman’s History Month and that her mom was her biggest role model. She then mentioned other female leaders that were also her role model and that this month some of the students dressed as women they admired. She also mentioned that March also included Read Across America and that Perth Amboy had a top female wrestler, Ahsia Torres who was recognized nationwide. She urged all to attend the annual musical, “Kinky Boots.” She added, “No, it’s not bad. We appreciate the counselors that support the students.”

Public Portion:

Perth Amboy Federation President Pat Paradiso spoke first. She read a statement. Part of her statement read as follows: “We are often accused of lying. We have raised red flags about teachers leaving. Even Board Member Junior Iglesia would talk about this, but he no longer does. We’ve discussed staff injuries by students and students injuring each other (it’s too many). For too long, things were swept under the carpet. (It took a video to bring this out in the open).”

Perth Amboy Federation Union Representative Lynn Audit spoke next: “In November, we reported about the staff being injured by students and how to improve these conditions. We welcome Board Members to attend meetings where we discuss these problems.”

The next person to speak was Retired Attorney George Boyd, “I was a 1962 graduate of Perth Amboy High school. I serve as the Executor of Katherine McDermott who left a portion of her estate to the Perth Amboy Education Center for scholarship for the students. At a previous meeting, I voiced concerns on how the funds were used. You went into an executive session that lasted for four hours, and I wasn’t able to stay that long. In February of 2020, I gave the Board of Education the first check from that estate for \$240,000. On October 20, 2020, I gave a check for \$224,000. I was not informed on how this money was used. I heard a committee was formed on how to distribute the monies. Tonight, I am presenting a third check of \$101,641. The McDermott Family wishes everyone well and enjoy the money.”

Acting Business Administrator/Board Secretary Michael LoBrace answered for the Board. “We will have a meeting about the monies received and will be distributed.”

Board President Ken Puccio thanked Mr. Boyd for his service and what you have done for the McDermott Family.”

Boyd responded, “I was on the Board of Education, and it was the toughest job I ever had.”

Board Member Junior Iglesia said, “This is my opinion only,

but the public must have the right of having advanced notice of meetings.” He also read an email that was sent to him by a resident. The letter said, “We should have the public participate in meetings electronically. Even if you are vaccinated, you can still transmit the virus.” Junior then said, “We are representatives of the people and public communications matter to me. I make a motion that we could also have meetings via Zoom, online, or by phone or in-person.”

Board Member R.L. Anderson seconded the motion.

Superintendent Dr. David Roman spoke up, “There may have to be a policy change first.”

Board Attorney Isabel Machado mentioned, “I revised the policy for the Board to look at, and you could vote to table until the Board can look at the policy.”

Vice-President Tashi Vazquez questioned, “Should we have a first and second reading?”

Board Attorney Machado suggested they table this matter for the Board to look at the policy.

Iglesia was not happy, “The city council just takes a simple vote at their council meetings if they want to do the meetings remote and in person.”

Vazquez responded, “We need to table this and see how to manage this. I know there are restrictions, and I am making a motion to table this decision and bring it back at a later date.”

Puccio seconded that decision.

Iglesia agreed to discuss it at the next meeting, but Dr. Roman spoke up and said that it might not be until June. Iglesia stated, “It might be more beneficial to us if the public can attend (in-person or via Zoom).”

R.L. Anderson stated that he was against tabling this issue. “The public should be more aware if something happens like if we get another pandemic. If the legal work was already done, let’s just make this happen.”

Board Attorney Machado said, “The legal work for this policy has already been done.”

Board President Puccio said, “I’ve been on the Board for 12 years, and I’ve seen the public come here in mass when something affects them, but in the last couple of meetings, it is the same 2 or 3 people who always come to the mic. The person who sent that email (about meetings should be held remotely and in-person) is sitting home and running for office.”

Vazquez spoke up, “If the legal work is done for this policy, we can view it and present it at the April meeting. I am still voting to table.”

Puccio agreed, “We need to go about it the right way. It has to be an act of emergency by the Governor (to have remote meetings).”

Iglesia said, “We discussed this a few months ago.”

R.L. Anderson said, “There are still people who can be immune compromised and cannot come to meetings.”

Superintendent Dr. Roman said, “The policy committee can meet. It is a sense of urgency.”

The Board decided to vote to table; the only two Board Members to vote “No,” was Anderson and Iglesia. Motion to table was carried.

Vice President Vazquez briefly talked about Perth Amboy Education Foundation. “The Executive Team were moving forward on the McDermott Scholarship Money. I want to thank all who donate money. 50 scholarships will be given out this year. You can also donate your time.”

Council President Puccio said, “I want to congratulate all the students.”

The Board went into closes session at 6:19 p.m. and returned at 8:17 p.m.

When they came back, Board Member Junior Iglesia had concerns about the February 3rd Meeting. He said, “Mr. Anderson voted “No” on one of the items. They had him abstaining on some of the items on the minutes of the February 3rd Meeting. I have a recording of the meeting, and you can hear exactly how he voted. He did not vote to abstain. As you hear, he voted, “No,” and it should be corrected.”

When President Ken Puccio read his report and mentioned that a bus driver had passed away suddenly. For Woman’s Month Puccio recognized the women on the Board and what you bring to the table. “My mom set an example. She was a cleaning woman at the school and never missed a day. We get raked through the coals, and we don’t get paid for this. When we hear something, we do care. There are some things that we are prohibited from talking about in public. WE care immensely and that is why we are behind. In 2012 I was sued, and I had ethics charges against me for talking out. I apologize for my rant.”

Superintendent Dr. Roman gave his report, “I concur with what Puccio said. I want to recognize all the woman on the Board, and my mom who is no longer here, and my wife. Recently, we had discussions about national security where all staff, students, parents, and police participate in every school to talk about positivity. We have a zero-tolerance policy (when it comes to unacceptable behavior) and there are programs to support our children. Sometimes expulsions and arrests are necessary. All are responsible for what happens in the district and to make it better.”

Board Member Junior Iglesia wanted to briefly talk about the state funded surplus money, “Our balance from November 30, 2021, thru January 31, 2022, is a little bit over \$76 million. “Due to the fact that we’ve had an increase in state aid this year, I vote that we remove the property tax increase in this budget.”

Vice President Vazquez spoke up, “It’s the temporary budget.” She wanted an explanation of

what exactly would be the 2% tax increase and the state aid and the fair share.

Superintendent Dr. Roman explained that, “The new high school has to be taken into consideration.”

B.A. Michael LoBrace explained, “The surplus we have will decrease because it is now being placed in the appropriate accounts.”

Dr. Roman interjected, “The new high school will eat up some of that surplus money.”

LoBrace added, “The surplus net will be 5.6% and the state aid is based on the property taxes. The fair share is the amount from the state and what the district should tax the resident. Our tax levy is \$26 million. We are undertaxing the residents. \$15 million to \$18 million will decrease the surplus because of the cost associated with the new high school.”

Dr. Roman explained, “The tax increase will amount to \$37 per household.”

LoBrace then mentioned, “May 7th is the last day we can make changes to the budget. \$5 million will be used for transportation associated with the new high school.”

Board Member R.L. Anderson spoke up, “\$37 is only the school tax. There will be other increases.”

Vice President Vazquez said, “The school, the county, the state, and the library will also increase your taxes besides the \$37 already mentioned.”

Council President Puccio asked, “What happens if we do not approve the preliminary budget?”

Iglesia spoke up, “The District is only obligated to provide sufficient education which includes all of our programs. The new high school will have teachers that are already employed in the current high school. We pay 3 times as much as other states in property taxes. Inflation is going up and more housing going up means more students and more state-funding aid.”

Dr. Roman responded, “There will be need for more staff members which will cost millions of dollars for the new high school.”

When it came time to vote for adoption the 2022 budget, it was moved by Iglesia, seconded by Anderson. George, Gonzalez, Vazquez, Puccio voted “Yes,” and Anderson, Iglesia voted “No,” Peralta abstained. (Brown and Márquez-Villafañe were absent). Motion passes.

There was a long discussion regarding the amount of teachers leaving the district. Iglesia said, “149 Staff Members left in the last 6 months which affects our students and the quality of education they receive. It could be a number of factors, maybe large class sizes. We should have a yearly survey to ask what are the reasons for resigning?”

Vice President Vazquez re-

sponded, “Some have to resign because they may be in a part-time position, and are being promoted to a full-time position.”

Iglesia continued, “We should have a yearly survey asking what are the reasons that people want to resign.”

R.L. Anderson spoke up, “Resignations are not always about being removed from the district.”

Board Member Marisol Gonzalez said, “I’ve been an educator, and it has been pretty hard years for teachers. We should look at other schools, because they have a lot of people who are leaving their schools also. Some people just want a career change.”

Iglesia spoke up again, “We are going through a difficult time. A lot of people are switching jobs and careers. Let’s take a survey to see why people leave and how we can address everyone’s needs and how we can make our district better.”

Vazquez spoke up, “We know there are concerns. We are not ignorant to discipline and morale issues, and we hear your concerns. We have people leaving after 10 years of service.”

Dr. Roman stated, “We hired 31 people. A lot of things have to take place in what we have to do. Accountability is our concern.”

Gonzalez said she agreed with having a survey done.

Iglesia asked, “As long as we show respect in our disagreements, it is okay.”

Puccio ended this discussion, “There has been a lot of dialogue tonight. Teaching is one of the hardest jobs to do and some may think after a while, this job is not for me. The pandemic has changed people’s behavior. It is hard to fill positions all over – not just here.”

Under New Business, Iglesia talked about the new by-laws and policies. “I don’t remember voting for this. The language was changed from “shall” to “may.”

Board Attorney Machado said, “I will have to see when the by-laws were last changed. It could be a first reading if no changes were made.”

Dr. Roman spoke about the growth and the positivity of our district. “The graduation rate has gone up and we are moving up with the QSAC Mandates. We are moving forward on transitional skills for employment for our disabled students. We are in the design phase for the archway improvements at Waters Stadium. We’ll share positive points during PowerPoint Presentations.”

The Board went into executive session at 10:04 p.m. with no further action taken. Board Members Dr. Danielle Brown and Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe were not present.

One Day to be Inspired: *Woman's Day Panel, Perth Amboy Free Public Library 3/26/22*

By: Katherine Massopust
PERTH AMBOY – The Perth Amboy Free Public Library Board of Trustees held a Woman’s History Month Panel at the library. Featured on the panel were six successful women, each with their own story who shared their experiences with the community.

Board of Trustees Secretary Brenda Delgadillo introduced each panel member.

Municipal Judge Michelle Roman: I used to come home from school and watch “The People’s Court,” and “LA Law,” when I was 8 years old. I grew up in a single parent household in public housing – The Stockton Building and Delaney Homes. I wanted to be an attorney and I realized in order to do so, you had to have an education. I graduated 9th in my class in 1991. I was the first person in my family to go to college. I attended Douglas College and was in the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. I went to Rutgers Law School in Newark and graduated in 1998. I loved being an attorney. I do family law and divorces. I had the honor of being appointed a Municipal Court Judge in 2017. I was the City Public Defender for 14 years. I volunteer for the Charter School. I knew I wanted to become an attorney since 8th Grade. I worked for Central Jersey Internal Services in New Brunswick. I learned family law. I helped people who do not have any resources. It gives you a sense of purpose. As a Municipal Court Judge, I feel that you must judge a person with fairness and justice. I love being a Municipal Court Judge. The diversity in the Judiciary Profession is important. In 1998 I was the only Latina Attorney. Often, I was confused as an interpreter. Your job is to advocate for your client as a woman and an attorney. Things are changing slowly. Perth Amboy has so much to give to the community.

Sgt. Jessica DeJesus PAPD: I am Dominican American. My parents came in 1972 from the Dominican Republic. I was born in 1982. In 1985 my parents bought their first home on State Street where they raised me, my brother, and sister there. Our basis, our foundation was there. I went to Ukrainian Assumption Catholic School and then went to Perth Amboy High School. I went to Rutgers to study the criminal justice system and sociology with hopes to be a Federal Agent. I took a course with my sister, Wanda and it was amazing. I prefer my boots on the ground. In 2004 I took the Civil Test and in 2005 joined the Perth Amboy Police Department. This is the best career. I wouldn't change it for the world. In 2009 I left the PAPD for a while and went to Miami for 6-7 months. It was awesome. I came back to the PAPD. I did 2 years on patrol, but most of the time I spent in the Detective Bureau. During last year, I was promoted to Sergeant. Initially I was asked what I really want to do. Years later, everyone is proud I became a Perth Amboy Police Officer. It is a male dominated field. In 2007 I rode in the Police Unity Tour (A bicycle tour from New York to Washington D.C.). One Lieutenant bet a case of beer I would not make it. He had to



The Panel Members were given citations from the City of Perth Amboy *Photos by Katherine Massopust

eat that beer. One time on a job myself and another female officer had issues when a male officer wouldn't deal with me. We are all very important. We can do the job just the same. I have 2 children. One officer said, “She’s not the same after having children.” That is not true. Always maintain that positivity. Always make sure we leave a little piece of yourself along the way.

Firefighter Ariele Bonilla PAFD: I was born and raised in Perth Amboy. After high school, I decided I was not a college person, so I focused on the military. At age 18 I dived in headfirst. My parents were not too happy. My grandfather was in the Vietnam War, the only person in my family that was ever in the military. I realized I was a shy person. I made it there from 2011-2015. In the military, you eat or get eaten. I was promoted to 3rd Class Petty Officer in charge of people at age 19. The military helped me come out of my shell. I did three deployments overseas. I spent more time on sea than on land. It is a male dominated field and I was one of two females on the job. I had to learn to be as good as the guys. In the military, you have to reapply for an appointment. You have 8 times to get reappointed to the same position. I reapplied 4 times and was rejected. My rank was maxed out – so you would have to go back to school and go where the Navy puts you. So, I came back home and took the civil service test to be a firefighter in the Perth Amboy Fire Department. I left taking the test thinking I didn't do well when my brother called and told me I had gotten the #1 spot. I was in shock. I would go through the process of getting into another male dominated job. Another obstacle and nerve racking. My parents are proud of me. I just took the captain's test.

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda: This reminds me of Saturday Morning Classes. I really miss that time. A lot of people said, "You were a mother and father for those kids." Neither one can do the job of the other one. You can do part of it, but those kids need that parental father figure in their life like they need the mother figure. I know we have it hard. We have to work harder. What in the world in 1962 made my parents feel they needed to migrate to the United States? In 1962 they picked up and left the Dominican Republic looking for the United State for a better life. The boys stayed with the paternal grandparents and the girls stayed with the maternal grandparents. At that

time, it was something that they had to deal with. My grandparents sent the oldest girl and the oldest boy to the university because that is what they could afford. You sit as a child wondering. Now, as an adult you can't judge them, but you have to be in that same situation to understand. My parents came here, and I stayed behind. At 15 years old, I came to the United States with a desire that I only would stay for 2 years – and that was it. I came to Perth Amboy High School. Most students there were mainly Puerto Rican. I was a Junior at that time not knowing the language. You go to high school and get used to it. I was a Straight A Student. I felt lost. I have to appreciate everyone that was around me. Obi Gonzalez was my Guidance Counselor. She said I need to go to college. My dream was to become a pediatrician. I saw the reality - how will my parents pay for medical school? So I went for something in that direction. I went for Medical Lab Technician. I did an internship at Rahway Hospital. I already made my fusion of the Dominican Republic and the United States – no more thinking and looking back. I got to love this country and love my Dominican Heritage. By that time, I am very settled. I finished Middlesex County College, I changed the way I was thinking. I got a job at Rahway Hospital, and from there I paid for my education at Kean University. I got married, had two kids, then unfortunately I got divorced. My kids did not have to struggle like I did. They support themselves and they have jobs. During the time they were in school, there were fights going on in the schools. A group of parents got together - over 400 people in my church. I was there for my kids. No one wanted to go up and speak so guess who they threw me under the bus – they forced me to go up and speak. I did not know how much an impact that I had. I was appointed to the Board of Education when Mr. Gumbs retired from the Board. I became so involved with the Board of Education. A lot needed to be done. We had a united Board. We had obstacles – we hired the wrong person. We dealt with that the way that we could. From then on, we found another person and worked with the community – the place I will never leave. Later on, I was asked to run for City Council, and I won. To me, it's the experience of always working for the community.

Special Education Teacher Loris Welch: I teach English at Perth Amboy High School.



The Library Board of Trustees along with the Panel Members

As a teacher, I feel as I am that part of my lesson, my students ask me where do I start? I say start anywhere. I came from Jamaica in 1982 straight to Perth Amboy. I had a friend from high school who lived in Perth Amboy who was a social worker. I came one summer, and I didn't want to come back to Jamaica. I worked to get my citizenship, which I ultimately did 7 years after I came. My first job was with the Board of Education. I got a job as a secretary. I had no idea I wanted to have a career in teaching, but it is the most fulfilling experience I ever had. I got an apartment with no furniture for more than a year. Someone gave me a bed, but I never used it. My kids went to Shull School. My house was packed with kids every day. When my kids got to the high school, They played sports including football. My neighbor gave me a Chevy Malibu Classic, this huge car so I would take all the kids home. Things continued to be tight so I moved to Delaney Homes for 17 years. I was at my job at the Board of Education when Gloria Harzold, the Head of Curriculum said you need to be a teacher. I said I don't have a high school diploma. She kept saying, you need to go to school to be a teacher. One day, she walked me over to the adult school and said I need to take the GED exam. I didn't want to take the GED because I was afraid of failure. Gloria was there and pushed me to go, so I went. I took off two days from work. All the kids that were taking the test left. I was close to 40 years old. I passed the GED and immediately applied and was accepted to Kean University. It took me 8 years to get my bachelors. I wanted to be a special education teacher. I wanted to teach the hardest, most difficult kids to teach at the high school. They offered me a job in Linden High School, but I wanted a job in my hometown, so I came back to my secretary job in the Board of Education in May after graduation. A special education teacher either retired or resigned. I applied and got the job – my dream job. I at no point felt that this job was not for me to this day. I wanted to give a little bit more to the community. The motivation is to give back are where you got your lessons from. I went to teach at the adult school, and I started to teach high school to kids that didn't have their diplomas. I love to hear their stories. I had the distinct honor to channel people to do what they want. This is Amboy. This is your town. I wanted to get kids to feel like they are part of the community. I found

a community outreach program to give community awareness. I feel complete without an urge to go back to Jamaica. When I got my citizenship, the judge thanked us for being so brave. Don't forget where you came from. I really don't miss Jamaica. We all do the same things in all countries. Your job is everywhere you do everything. My dream is to see more involvement - more community spirit. It matter - a little like the libraries in the parks. We are all one and have the same dream – the same inspiration.

Woman's Club Art & History Director and Art Teacher Marcella Massopust: I am a lifelong resident of Perth Amboy. I graduated from New York University and Parsons School of Design. I taught art for 44 years in the Perth Amboy School System. My journey began with my grandmother sitting at the kitchen table. She asked me to read a letter to her. I was 7 years old. “Baba, why did you ask me to read this?” I asked her. She answered, “I can't read.” I was shocked. “There was no school in my village in Ukraine,” she stated, “I can write my name.” She was proud of that. I learned how important it is to learn to read. Once I wrote to my uncle in France where he was stationed during WWII. It was Christmas and I was excited by all the Christmas presents I received. He wrote back, “The children of France have nothing. Everything is destroyed. You shouldn't just think of yourself.” You learn from your family. My grandparents were immigrants. My grandmother wanted to become a citizen. Her two sons served in WWII and third son served in Germany post war, so the judge let her become a citizen. I started in No. 5 School, then Shull School, and then I went on to Perth Amboy High School where I was a good student and became a member of the National Honor Society. I was a member of 3 clubs: the Art Club, President of the Junior Red Cross, and the Junior Hospital Guild where I did volunteer work for the Hospital. "What you are to be, you are now becoming," said my guidance counselor. I advised the Church Sodality in Ukrainian Assumption Church where I am a member. I wanted either an art career or to be a teacher. I worked in New York for a publishing company and I decided I wanted to leave, so I could become a teacher. I met my husband, Tony (I knew him from high school) on my way

*Continued on Page 11

Irish Flag Raising, City Hall Circle and the Hibernians, Perth Amboy 3/17/22

*Photos by Paul W. Wang & R.J. Kawka



PERTH AMBOY – The wreath is dedicated to all the men and women who belonged to the Organization for the past 137+ years, especially the four they lost recently: Michael Seman, Robert Goodwin PAFD, Charlie (Mav) Logan (RJ's uncle) and oldest Ladies Auxiliary Mary Logan (RJ's grandma). Always be remembered, thank you to the bagpipers first time in a long time. An Irish Prayer: May the roads rise to meet you. May the winds be always at your back. May the sunshine warm upon your face the rains fall soft upon your fields until we meet again. May God hold you in the hollow all of his hand.



Slovakian Flag Raising, City Hall Circle s, Perth Amboy 4/2/22

*Photos by Paul W. Wang



One Day to be Inspired: Woman's Day Panel, Perth Amboy Free Public Library 3/26/22

**Continued from Page 10*
to class. I was waiting in front of the hospital for a bus to go to New Brunswick to go to Rutgers for education courses where he was also going. He gave me a ride and we started to go out. I started teaching in Shull School, then (after having two children) I went to teach in the high school. I loved it from the beginning. My students painted murals in the hospital every Christmas and the mural for the Veterans in the City Hall Council Chambers. I was President of the Ernest Hansen Auxiliary for 12 years. I continue my work with the Woman's Club. I will now talk a little about the Woman's Club. It was founded in 1910 with

the support of the Temperance Movement. There was a lot of domestic abuse (due to alcohol abuse). In 1916 during WWI, the Woman's Club sent bandages to soldiers and made them sweaters. During WWII, they acted as hostesses at the USO Canteen. They purchased an air ambulance which was called, "Perth Amboy Woman's Club". They promoted awareness for the blind with Helen Keller and her Teacher, Anne Sullivan who appeared at Perth Amboy High School. They began a school milk program for children (before the government did). They saved the Proprietary House and saved the Perth Amboy City Seal. I was interested because the Woman's Club ran competitions and gave out scholarships

to Perth Amboy students. My husband's mother belonged to the Woman's Club and had an Art Scholarship for children. I've been a member for over 55 years. The Woman's Club continues to support the Perth Amboy Free Public Library. They helped restore the Statue of Liberty and helped out the Animal Shelter. They donated food for the hospital workers during the pandemic. Recently, the Woman's Club donated money for the people of Ukraine. I retired from teaching in the High School, but I still continue my volunteer work with the Woman's Club and the hospital until I am unable to do so.
There was a brief intermission, and two questions were asked of the panel when the

program resumed.
Question #1) To Judge Michelle Roman: How do you navigate the male dominated world of law?
Judge Michelle Roman: You have to be assertive. You can't let that hold you down and interfere with your goals. You have to believe in yourself. Daily affirmations help.
Question #2) I have autism along with other disabilities. What are your most significant challenges?
Loris Welch: As a teacher of special education, the challenge for me is going to school, I had certain speech. One professor in college accused me of plagiarism because I would use certain words. She stated that's she had students from other coun-

tries, and they didn't use words like this. I think her expectations of me were so low. Often the smartest kids need support.
A woman in the audience spoke up, "I work at Verizon. We all have different challenges. One of our employees is a quadriplegic. It is difficult for him to do what he does. He can think and has so many great qualities. Focus on our strengths."
The Library Board of Trustees thanked the panel and everyone who attended the event. Each panelist was also presented with flowers from the Library Board, and a citation from Mayor Caba, which was given out by the Mayor's Aid, Miguel Arocho.

Happy Easter!

Happy Easter
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THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Crossing to Staten Island

The Port Authority is considering widening the Outerbridge Crossing between Perth Amboy and Staten Island. This sounds like a mistake to me.

Would a 90-year-old structure be able to support the added weight and load of extra traffic? Would the roads in Perth Amboy be able to handle the increased traffic without becoming a bottleneck?

Maybe the better solution

would be a new bridge north of the Outerbridge Crossing with new roads as needed. This would not create any problems with construction to the existing bridge.

Ronald A. Sobieraj

WiFi on NJ Transit Busses

One of the most exciting proposals coming out of the current Democratic-majority legislature is the prospect of every New Jersey Transit bus being equipped with fast, complimentary Wi-Fi access.

As a Central New Jersey educator, I find this idea to be exceptionally overdue. While it might be true that ubiquitous LTE/5G access exists in the Garden State, for many students the cost of an ‘unlimited’ plan remains out of reach. Most monthly plans hover around \$50 a month per line.

With fast Wi-Fi coverage, students will now be able to get work done during their typi-

cally long commutes and other travels on public transportation. Whether attending a virtual class, downloading a required documentary, or engaging in group study via team software, hundreds of thousands of learners will now be more empowered and connected.

I want to personally thank Assemblyman Dan Benson and Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez for strongly supporting this initiative. These Democratic officeholders are getting the job done for all our residents engaged in self-improvement.

Sincerely,
Daniel B. Kurz, M.A.

Congestion Price Tolling

New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority Chairman Janno Lieber announced that Congestion Price Tolling should begin by December 2023. In coming months, there will be another round of public hearings prior to implementation. NJ residents will be paying a portion of revenues generated by these new fees. The MTA estimates it will generate \$1 billion annually. These revenues will be used to leverage another \$2 billion annually via bonding. This is supposed to raise \$15

billion that which will help pay for the MTA \$51 billion 2020 - 2025 Five Year Capital Plan. Both NJ Transit and the Port Authority have similar multi-year Capital Plans. New Jersey residents should consider asking for a fair share of revenues generated by these new tolls that they will be paying.

Some of these dollars could go toward the NJ share for the \$12 billion Gateway Tunnel (two new tunnels plus rehab of existing tunnels) or full build \$33 billion version, \$10 billion Port Authority 42nd Street Bus Terminal, NJ Transit and PATH capital programs or other trans-

portation improvements that would benefit NJ residents. After all, fair is fair.

Sincerely,
Larry Penner
(Larry Penner is a transportation advocate, historian and writer who previously worked for the Federal Transit Administration Region 2 New York Office. This included the development, review, approval and oversight for billions in capital projects and programs for NJ Transit, NY MTA, NYC Transit, Long Island and Metro North Rail Roads along with 30 other transit agencies in NY & NJ).



We Value Your Opinion! Please Send Us A Response!

PILOTS and Addressing Behavioral Issues in the School District
3/30/22 Council Meeting

*Continued from Page 10

Court, District of New Jersey Case No. 2-19-cv-19336-SDW/ESK in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.

Rose Morales, Joel Pabon, Milady Tejada, B.J. Torres voted, “Yes,” Bill Petrick Abstained.

Public Portion:

Ken Balut spoke first in person. “I could not make it to the State of the City yesterday. Did they mention anything about the Recovery Act Funds? We normally get a copy of the speech. Right now, I still get calls about illegal housing and Code Enforcement says I call in the complaints. Code Enforcement is dysfunctional. They should be seen. They drive around. Nothing ever happens when it comes to improper behavior. Something is wrong here with some of these lawsuits The interest of taxpayers is lacking. There are serious problems here. Nobody is protecting the taxpayer. This has to stop.

Sharon Hubberman said, “I read the entire context in the program. Look at section 4.0.9. I am correct. Look at the legal jargon as a whole. The municipal operating cost and schools – they need more detail and clarity. Does the council know of a nearby power plant in Keasbey with pollutants? Our air quality has deteriorated. What have we done regarding our air quality? There is no phone number to call to report these problems. I would appreciate if the council and B.A. will look into this matter. This will cause respiratory problems and maybe will be harmful to our children. Our air quality is not good.”

Petrick stated that maybe the DEP should come out and sample the air quality. Green stated that he wrote down the problems that Hubberman spoke about.

Petrick stated, “It depends on

the way the wind blows. I don’t know where the bad air comes from.”

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch stated, “It’s Keasbey.”

Acting Police Chief Larry Cattano spoke via Zoom. “There was a plant located in Keasbey which was handled by the Middlesex County Health Department. They used to have petroleum products burned there, but that plant is no longer there.”

Maria Garcia spoke next. “I am very disappointed on how the Council voted on the PILOTS. I hope I am wrong, and taxes will not go up for 25 years. If I am right, it will be on the taxpayers. I don’t understand how Milady Tejada can vote because she is on the Dominican Festival Committee. When Peter Jimenez was on the council, he did not vote on the Puerto Rican Festival. He abstained.”

Bill Petrick then answered, “I believe we have 5 PILOTS.”

Garcia said, “Our property values are low, and our taxes are high. In other areas, the property values are high, and the taxes are low.”

Milady Tejada responded to Maria Garcia, “This is not about the Dominican Festival and I was advised by our lawyer. It is nonprofit and I do not get a penny.”

Resident Maria Peralta came up in person. She spoke in Spanish and Councilman Pabon translated. “I have nothing against Tejada. You never voted for the festival before and you have created controversy with the festival. I am not against the Dominican Festival, but I have concerns about the pandemic. The day of the flag raising, we were disrespected. There should not be speakers from any other groups to speak at our flag raising. It was disrespectful for the mayor not being there. Many things have been done to me. I

was removed from the festival committee because I took down names of vendors, but this was to help the community.”

Council Comments:

Rose Morales said, “I want to thank all the people last night who came to the State of the City and see all the accomplishments. Congratulations to the mayor, the administrators, and the progress made to help the city move forward.

Joel Pabon said, “I’ve had things stolen from my back yard and mattresses thrown in my back yard. It happens to all of us. As for Rudyk Park, until adjustments are made down there, I just can’t see both the Puerto Rican and Dominican Festivals being down there and they are not getting smaller. If we do improvements to Rudyk Park, it will be bigger. And will the festivals get bigger? More than half of the people who come to the festivals are from out of town. Even when sports are being played at Rudyk Park, parking is hard. There are 3 dead-end streets, and we need to talk to the festival organizers. What area of Sadowski Parkway are designated for festivals?”

Larry Cattano answered, “Between Madison Avenue and the promenade at the end of High Street.”

Pabon turned his attention to the topic of bullying in the Perth Amboy Schools. “This is out of control. I’ve seen 5 of these videos (of kids being attacked by other kids). In one video, there was a kid that was kind of husky on the floor and being beaten on. That is unacceptable. One lady intervened to try to cover the boy. The school is responsible for school to home and home to school. At another time, the lady got the student in her car (to protect him). Other cars drove by but ignored the problem. This broke my heart. There was an incident at Shull

School. I said talk to me. I encourage the 9 members of the School Board to address why this behavior is happening. Something has to be done. They are our kids. We cannot wait until a kid is seriously hurt, dies, or commits suicide to bring attention to this problem.”

Milady Tejada said, “Councilman Pabon, I feel the same way. It’s time to do something. When we live in a community, the way we are, we need to respect ourselves. When the Mayor’s Aid came to our flag raising, that’s acceptable. One of the main things are kids respecting one another. Each ethnicity in the town needs to live, play, in this town. We need to respect each other.”

B.J. Torres said, “I echo off of what Councilman Pabon says. There has been an increase in violence. After 2 years of Covid and lockdown. One video is of a kid being assaulted by other kids. That video was shared by adults. The issues in our school are nothing new. Our teachers have been working without a contract for a year. We are losing teachers left and right. Parents have to wait hours at Board Meetings to speak while the Board goes into closed session. These parents work and don’t have time to wait this long to be heard. These are our children and are the responsibility of the entire community. These kids need help. They don’t need to be sent home.”

Bill Petrick mentioned that at the April 11th and 13th Meetings that some of the Department Heads come in and present their budgets. City Clerk Kupsch stated that there is supposed to be a public hearing on the budget on April 13th. Petrick requested that remaining departments come on April 25th and 27th to present their budgets.

Petrick then stated, “I saw the video of the students in Shull

School being beaten and there should be changes. The school system is only responsible for actions on school property and not the public streets. There should be criminal charges. Things are happening on public streets. They need to keep the public schools safe.”

B.A. Green said that there were arrests made.

Petrick then said, “Consequences need to be made for juvenile crimes. Criminal behavior is criminal behavior. There has to be repercussions. They are going to grow up and think there are no consequences. I don’t remember issues like this when I went to school. How can you have learning going on when you have children attacking children? Things need to be addressed by the School Administration and the Public Administration. Things need to change. People need to consider the feelings of the victims and not the criminals.”

B.J. Torres stated, “They are children, not criminals. They need intervention.”

Pabon then said, “I don’t want to hear Covid as an excuse anymore. The School Board has money to rectify the situation.”

Petrick said, “They are supposed to be an institute of learning. Children should not fear going to school. Those children with issues in school should be placed in a different environment.” Petrick then thanked the Marines and Police who conducted the services for his father who recently passed away. “Good night, be well, and hope we see changes soon.”

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

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Updates on City Services, Grants Amongst Topics Discussed

3/28/22 Caucus

By: Carolyn Maxwell

PERTH AMBOY – Business Administrator Michael Green talked briefly regarding R-139-3/22 – Passage of Senate Bill 330 which will increase distribution to municipalities from the Energy Tax Receipt Property Tax Relief Fund over 5 years.

“This bill is supported by the League of Municipalities. It requires additional aid to be subtracted from the Municipal Property Tax Levy.”

He also explained R-155-3/22 – Awarding a contract to Sonnenfeld and Trocchia Architect for design services for City Hall alterations Phase II.

Council President Bill Petrick said, “This will be in the clerk’s office.”

When Councilman Pabon questioned, “Will this company charge for the mistakes they made?”

Green replied, “No. There is a cost for the publication of documents, and these are the same architects – just different contractors.”

Green also provided information about R-157-3/22 – A grant application to United Way of Central Jersey for the Middlesex County Local FEMA Report for Emergency Food and Shelter Program in the amount of \$230,000. “This is for Code Blue. To date, we’ve had 65 Code Blue Days and we sheltered 881 people. We have a partnership with the YMCA, Jewish Renaissance, Salvation Army, and food was provided.”

Dianne Roman from the Department of Human Resources spoke via Zoom, “The Jewish Renaissance has the Family Success Center by the Housing Authority. Tashi Vazquez, John, and I talked about how we can support our local food pantries. They help with relocation services, and we purchase a lot of foods from businesses located in the town. Toiletries, blankets, socks are provided by other entities. We need to hire personnel to help with mental health issues. Those hired will have the proper certification, and Tashi Vazquez put the grant together.”

Council President Petrick asked if the county and state social services could be used for these purposes.

Roman replied, “They would have to be compensated if working outside of their regular hours. We can explore seeing if we can work with the hospital to help with mental services. The Y has caseworkers who have the history of clients that have used their services and that list may have what those client’s mental health needs are. Vending, laundry, and cleaning services have to be calculated in the cost of grants. Raritan Bay Medical Center gets involved if there are clients who have mental issues (that need additional help).”

Green then talked about R-159-3/22 – An application to the New Jersey Clean Energy Program Community Energy Planning Program.

“This is for green infrastructure projects within the city in partnership with Rutgers regarding our CSO. The \$25,000

associated with this resolution follows the Best Practices Guidelines regarding Greenhouse gas emissions.”

R-160-3/22 – An application to the AARP Community Challenge Grant in the amount of \$15,000.

Councilman B.J. Torres voiced his concerns, “This is another art project that came into fruition without the Arts Council being involved.”

Green replied, “There was a very quick deadline.”

Torres still wasn’t satisfied, “There are PILOTS and other projects that are dealing with the arts and the Arts Council are being bypassed.”

Council President Petrick agreed with Torres. “I hope this money is not to just complete an Arts Project. Anything that has to do with art should not be submitted until the Arts Council is consulted.”

Green replied, “It’s just two pillars at the Outerbridge to be painted. In the future, we will go to the Arts Council.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda questioned, “How soon did you know about the grant?”

Green answered, “It was a short timeframe.”

Tejeda finished, “It is essential for the Arts Council to be involved.”

R-161-3/22-A grant from the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for the Local Recreation Improvement Grant.

Green said, “It is for Raritan River Smart Park. It will include benches, charging stations, and smart water fountains.”

Council President Bill Petrick spoke briefly about Ordinance No. 1 – Entitled “Court” regarding parking offenses.

Petrick stated, “This is to upgrade the fines with steps.”

Ordinance No. 2 – Entitled “Vehicles and Traffic” regarding truck parking regulations.

Green said, “This will be for trucks that are 4 tons, mobile homes, and popup campers. Busses will also be included.”

Pabon asked if the courts were open yet.

Green replied, “Yes.”

There were a couple of questions regarding Ordinance No. 3 – Public Entertainment regarding Public Entertainment limited to certain rotations.”

Pabon started, “There were questions about the Rudyk Park locations. We also talked about the Elizabeth Street and Division Street connections. If Kenny Ortiz is on Zoom, he can give us more details.”

Ortiz was not on Zoom.

Tejeda spoke up. She questioned Section 6D on the Ordinance. “It says that the festivals have to be relocated if it is over

70 people. In the beginning, it said 700.”

Petrick replied, “We went with the old ordinance that was on the books. We need to change that to 200. When I talked to the Peruvian Committee, they said when they had their gathering, their attendance was under 200 people.”

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch spoke up, “R-151-3/22 – A special permit for the Dominican Festival to be held August 12, 13, & 14 was to be removed per the request of the Dominican Festival Chair.”

Fire Chief Ed Mullen came forth to explain R-165-3/22 – A contract with Skyland Area Fire Equipment and Training for Firefighter Turnout Gear in an amount not to exceed \$90,311. “This would be just for coat and jackets which will be 27 sets.

**Continued on Page 15*

PERTH AMBOY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FOR PERTH AMBOY RESIDENTS ONLY:

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

For more information regarding preschool registration, please call: **(732)-376-6200 EXT 30-160** or visit us online at www.paps.net

ONLY FOR CHILDREN WHO WILL BE THREE (3) OR FOUR (4) YEARS OLD ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 15TH, 2022

ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS FEBRUARY 28TH, 2022!

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION & ACCESS TO AFFIDAVITS AND OTHER FORMS:



NEED HELP WITH REGISTRATION? IN-PERSON HELP DESK AVAILABLE:

MAY 17, 18, & 19 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

IGNACIO CRUZ: 601 CORTLANDT STREET

EDMUND HMIELESKI, JR: 925 AMBOY AVENUE

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY: SEE WWW.PAPS.NET/PRESCHOOLREGISTRATION FOR MORE INFORMATION.



DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION:

1. PROOF OF DOMICILE

CATEGORY A: One (1) of the following documents (must be current):

- Deed
- Lease
- A notarized affidavit (**blue**) from the owner of the home
- If residing with another family who **rents** a home, a notarized affidavit (**yellow**) from the host family and their **lease** needs to be provided.
- If residing with another family who are **homeowners**, a notarized affidavit (**yellow**) from the host family and the **deed** needs to be provided.
- If child(ren) is/are residing with someone other than the parent/guardian **temporarily**, a notarized affidavit (**pink**) needs to be provided with the person's lease or deed.

• NOTE: AFFIDAVITS ARE ONLY VALID FOR **ONE (1) YEAR**.

CATEGORY B: Two (2) of the following documents that show your current address dated within the past 30 days:

- Gas, Electric, Cable, Phone, or Water Bill
- Payroll Check or Stub
- First Class Mail or Letter from a State or Federal Agency
- Bank Statement
- Tax Bill

2. CHILD'S **ORIGINAL** BIRTH CERTIFICATE: COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

3. CHILD'S PHYSICAL EXAM

- NJ State Law requires children entering preschool to have **CURRENT physical exams**- must be dated on or after October 1st, 2021.
- You may download **physical forms** from www.paps.net.

4. CHILD'S CURRENT IMMUNIZATION RECORD

- Demonstrating that the child has been immunized for **DPT** (4 doses), **POLIO** (3 doses), **HIB** (1 dose- on or after 1st birthday), **MMR** (1 dose- on or after 1st birthday), **VARICELLA** (on or after 1st birthday or proof of disease immunity), **PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE (PCV)** (1 dose- on or after 1st birthday)

5. PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

- Parent or guardian **MUST** provide proof of identity.

DIVORCED OR SEPARATED PARENTS AND GUARDIANS MUST PROVIDE A COPY OF A FORMAL COURT DOCUMENT DEMONSTRATING CHILD'S CUSTODY.

CHILD FIND:

Families who are concerned about their child's development, aged three to five, may access the Child Find website located below. The link will also provide information on community services available, and it will assist the Perth Amboy School District to identify unserved children who need special education and related services from age three to twenty-one. You may also contact the District's Department of Special Education Services at (732)-376-6200 ext. 30-224 to answer any questions regarding the evaluation process.

www.state.nj.us/education/specialed/childfind/

Updates on City Services, Grants Amongst Topics Discussed 3/28/22 Caucus

**Continued from Page 14*

We expect them to last 5 years. We are still using rescue packs, but they need to be replaced in about a year.”

Green explained R-166-3/22 – A contract with EIG Sports for the purchase of uniforms and equipment in an amount not to exceed \$30,000. “This will be for our youth.”

Green then explained R-168-3/22 – Determining the form and other details of not exceeding \$2,020,000 bonds for the city of Perth Amboy and providing for their sale to the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank and authorizing the execution of various agreements all pursuant to the New Jersey Water Bank Financing Program.

Green said, “This is a short term to a 40-year financing sewer separation, separating State Street, Parker Street, and James

Street. The American Rescue Funds can be used as well as some community grants. We have \$8.4 million more money coming in May. We have also applied for \$100 million in State Funds.”

Luis Perez Jimenez, Director of Operations at the USA-PA (Utility Service Associates Perth Amboy) Middlesex Water Company talked about R-169-3/22 - An emergency contract with Pumping Services for the purchase of a bypass pump to use at the Second Street Pump Station in the amount of \$53,056.24.

“The pump that we are getting is fairly new which will maintain. In the long run, it is cheaper because it will cost us \$15,300 a month to rent one.”

Jimenez then talked about R-170-3/22 – A contract to Rapid Pump and Metering Services in an amount not to exceed

\$20,000 for maintenance and repairs of the Frequency Drive Pump.

“This has to be fixed in place or replaced.

For R-175-3/22 - A Person-to-Person transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption License held in the name of Caribbean Dugout to La Playita Sports Bar effective March 31, 2022.

City Clerk Kupsch said, “This is an existing license held by a father and son.”

Council President Bill Petrick spoke up and stated, “We should be hearing more about the El Patio Bar and what happened from former Law Director Peter King.”

Public Portion:

Resident Ken Balut spoke in person first. He asked, “Are there any tax increases?”

Green replied, “No.”

Balut then asked, “Any tax increase from the School Board?”

Pabon answered, “Yes.”

Balut wanted to know who represented the city (when it came to PILOTS).

Green responded, “The CFO, PARA, and Tax Assessor.”

Balut continued, “If we keep giving PILOTS to billionaires, the state will stop giving us money. This has got to stop. We have a lot of problems with density, illegal housing, and PILOTS should be a part of the mayor’s State of the City Speech. I want to know if there was illegal housing in two recent fires. I still see busses parking illegally. The mayor should discuss illegal housing and how the American Rescue Funds were spent or will be spent.”

Resident Vince Mackiel came up next. He was concerned how the new proposed housing units will affect traffic, especially the intersection of Smith Street and Convery Boulevard. “A traf-

fic study is needed. We need to know the exact amount of what the city will receive and the county. Charging stations are needed as well as better transportation.” He then turned his attention to R-156 and R-157 which had to do with grants for emergency food and shelter services. “It was a half million dollars that were given out 6 months ago for food and shelter. The Office of Economic Development Director said the Salvation Army was looking to have shelters in town. Specialists are needed, but shelters are needed more.”

Fire Chief Ed Mullen came up and said, “The fire on Second Street – there were units in the attic where the building was destroyed. The other fire – there was no illegal housing. If we find illegal housing, it is reported to Code Enforcement.”

Councilman B.J. Torres spoke up, “15 years ago, a homeowner died in a house that had illegal housing. An ordinance was created because of that fire. An ordinance should be created so that illegal property can be seized. Strategy Group said illegal housing is a problem. Now, we have people displaced. Homeowners can repair their units, then sell after repairing them.”

Mullen continued, “If you see something, report it.”

Torres said, “We can’t have residents policing.”

Pabon spoke up, “The fire on Spruce Street was a car fire. You should contact the insurance company, especially when it comes to illegal units, because they may drop the homeowners’ insurance and this will be a stop to illegal housing.”

Petrick replied, “When Code Enforcement was under Housing, it was more strict.”

Torres concluded, “A house was recently purchased. The new homeowner probably knew there were illegal units already existing.”

Petrick then suggested we look into the Jersey City Ordinance (involving illegal housing).

A Resident from 130 Broad Street came up to speak. She spoke only in Spanish, so a city employee translated for her. “This resident received a letter from Code Enforcement that she had a (private) school bus parked illegally on her property. I lived here for 40 years, and I’ve had that bus parked on my property for 15 years and this is my only source of income. The bus is parked in my driveway.”

Pabon spoke up, “Code Enforcement is going throughout the city to see what commercial vehicles are being parked in private driveways. This woman was lucky she got away with this for 15 years, but now they are starting to crack down.”

The woman said, “I have talked to other people who also park school busses in front of their home or in their driveway and I am the only one who had a summons.”

Pabon also said, “Some businesses are charging people to

**Continued on Page 19*

PERTH AMBOY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SOLO PARA RESIDENTES DE PERTH AMBOY:

INSCRIPCIÓN PREESCOLAR

AÑO ESCOLAR 2022-2023

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WWW.PAPS.NET/PRESCHOOLREGISTRATION

PARA OBTENER MÁS INFORMACIÓN.

DOCUMENTOS NECESARIOS PARA LA MATRICULA PREESCOLAR:

1. DOCUMENTACIÓN DE RESIDENCIA

CATEGORÍA A: Uno (1) de los siguientes documentos debe estar actualizado:

- Escritura (**deed**)
- Contrato de Arrendamiento (**lease**)
- Una declaración jurada ante notario (**afidavit azul**) del propietario de la casa.
- Si reside con otra familia que alquila una casa, se debe proporcionar una declaración jurada notariada (**afidavit amarillo**) de la familia anfitriona y su contrato de arrendamiento.
- Si reside con otra familia que es propietaria de una casa, debe presentar una declaración jurada notariada (**afidavit amarillo**) de la familia anfitriona y su escritura.
- Si el (los) niño(s) reside(n) con alguien que no sea el padre/tutor temporalmente, se debe proporcionar una declaración jurada (**afidavit rosado**) con el contrato o la escritura de la persona.

• NOTA: LAS DECLARACIONES JURADAS (AFIDAVITS) SOLO SON VÁLIDAS POR UN (1) AÑO.

CATEGORÍA B: Dos (2) de los siguientes documentos que muestren su dirección actual con fecha dentro de los últimos 30 días:

- Factura de Gas, Electricidad, Cable, Teléfono, o Agua
- Cheque de Nómina o Talón
- Correo o Carta de Primera Clase de una Agencia Estatal o Federal
- Estado de Cuenta Bancario
- Factura de Impuestos

2. EL CERTIFICADO DE NACIMIENTO **ORIGINAL** DEL NIÑO/A- copias no serán aceptadas.

3. EXÁMEN FÍSICO DEL NIÑO/A

- La Ley del Estado de Nueva Jersey requiere que niños que entren al programa preescolar tengan un **examen físico ACTUAL/VIGENTE** - con fecha de octubre 1 de 2021 o después.
- Puede descargar formularios para el **examen físico** en www.paps.net.

4. REGISTROS DE INMUNIZACIONES DEL NIÑO/A.

Prueba que el niño/a ha sido inmunizado con las siguientes vacunas: **DPT** (4 dosis), **POLIO** (3 dosis), **HIB** (1 dosis en o después de un año de edad), **MMR** (1 dosis- en o después de un año de edad), **VARICELLA** (en o después de un año de edad o prueba de que tiene inmunización contra la enfermedad), **PNUEMOCOCCAL (PCV)** (1 dosis- en o después de un año).

5. IDENTIFICACIÓN CON FOTO

Padre/Guardián tiene que proveer prueba de identidad.

PADRES DIVORCIADOS O SEPARADOS, Y GUARDIANES, TIENEN QUE PROVEER DOCUMENTOS DE LA CORTE DEMOSTRANDO CUSTODIA DEL NIÑO/A.



CHILD FIND / IDENTIFICACIÓN DE ESTUDIANTES:

Las familias que estén preocupadas por el desarrollo de su hijo/a de tres a cinco años de edad, pueden acceder al sitio de Child Find/Identificación de Estudiantes que se encuentra abajo. El enlace le proveerá información de servicios comunitarios disponibles y le permitirá al Distrito Escolar de Perth Amboy identificar estudiantes de tres a veintidós años que necesiten beneficios de servicios de educación especial. También puede contactar al Departamento de Servicios de Educación Especial de Distrito al (732)-376-6200 ext 30-224 para preguntas relacionadas al proceso de evaluación.

www.state.nj.us/education/specialed/childfind/

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.

April 4 | 3PM | Main Library (In-person)
Mystery/Thriller Book Club
Join us for an in-person discussion of The Maidens by Alex Michaelides. No Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=12155&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/04/01>

April 5 | 7PM | Main Library (Hybrid)
Wills & Estate Administration-Protect Your Family And Make Planning Easy
Join guest speaker Kenneth Vercammen, Managing Attorney from Kenneth Vercammen & Associates, for this comprehensive seminar. Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=12293&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/04/01>

April 12 | 7PM | Main Library (Hybrid)
Natural and Organic Gardening
Learn how to manage your flower bed, shrubs, trees, lawn, and vegetable gardens with minimal, if any, use of synthetic chemical additives. Presented by Rutgers Master Gardener Pat Donahue. Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=12307&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/04/01>

April 19 | 7PM | Virtual Program
10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's
Join the Alzheimer's Association Greater New Jersey Chapter to help you recognize common signs of the disease in yourself and others and next steps to take, including how to talk to your doctor. Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=12310&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/04/01>

April 26 | 7PM | Virtual Program
Holocaust Survivors Speak
In order to remember, and most importantly, learn from the past, the Holocaust Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest has offered its Survivor Speak program. We will hear from a Holocaust survivor followed by a question-and-answer session. Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=12453&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/04/01>

April 30 | Iselin Branch Library
Meet the Author: Deepti Paikray
Middlesex County author and resident Deepti Paikray will read and discuss her new book, Stories at My Doorstep. More details to come about this event can be found on our calendars!

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!

Annual Friends Book Sale!
Sept 23 - Sept 26 | Main Library
The Friends of the Libraries of Woodbridge Township Annual Book Sale is back! Friends of the Library members get special early bird access on Thursday evening! Join early or right at the door!

Try our new app, WPL on the Go!
www.woodbridgelibrary.org
Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

Thank you for your support!
Woodbridge Library Programming Department

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



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 before you board the bus.

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.



Position Available

PERTH AMBOY - ZONING OFFICER – Perth Amboy (Middlesex County). Seeking Full Time Zoning Officer. Must have three (3) years Zoning Officer experience or equivalent, clean driver’s license. Position responsible to enforce zoning and property maintenance laws and regulations. Submit resume and cover letter via e-mail to: Employment@perthamboynj.org



Brainfuse Help Now at Dowdell

Press Release
SOUTH AMBOY — Have you heard of Brainfuse Help Now? It's a free online tutoring and learning website offered at Dowdell. org. Brainfuse Help Now is designed for all individuals, children in grades K-12, and includes numerous adult learning programs. Resources for school-age individuals include powerful study tools, homework help, and live academic support. Brainfuse provides live tutoring and homework help in all core academic subjects, including math, science, social studies, writing, English, and language arts. Adults have access to job search tools and live job coaches. Veterans can utilize professional resume reviews and free anonymous help figuring out a career path. Adult learners that need to prepare for the GED can take practice tests, build skills, and so much more!

Visit Dowdell.org today and click on the Brainfuse logo. All you need is your library card number to access the site.

Library Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10 am - 8 pm, Wednesday & Friday 10 am - 5 pm, and Saturday 12-4 pm. Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit www.dowdell.org, or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org. The library is located off John O’Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School.

April Showers at Dowdell

Press Release
SOUTH AMBOY — April showers bring May flowers, but they also bring a fun-filled month of programs at the Dowdell Library. National Library week is the first week in April, but we celebrate all month long. Stop in and pick up a Scavenger Hunt game card, you can also log onto Dowdell.org to get the game card. Fill in your card and learn about the numerous online programs we offer. The digital scavenger hunt will run through April 30th. Complete your game card and enter to win a 3D printed charm!

Do you want to be more financially savvy or be able to save more money but are unsure where to start? Money Smart Week is dedicated to educating and teaching individuals how to make their money work for them. You can visit www.moneysmart-week.org and attend a new webinar Monday-Thurs the week of April 9-16, for free. Topics covered will include household budgeting, boosting credit scores, buying a home, and more!

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meets on April 1 and 8. TAB is a teen-led club that invites local teenagers to get more involved at the library. TAB is for teens ages 13 - 17 that live in South Amboy. To join, please fill out an application at the library.

There will also be a teen lock-in on Friday April 29 from 4:30 - 7:30pm. Teens ages 13 - 17 are welcome. There is no cost but space is limited. All participants need their parent / guardians to fill out a permission form at the library. There will be games, food, and of course fun!

In celebration of Earth Day, during the week of April 18, children may stop in the library and plant a live flower to take home. The program will run from April 18 - 22 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm daily.

Storytime will take place on Monday, April 4 from 10:30 – 11:30 am and April 18 1:00 – 2:00 pm. Ms. Maryanne will read stories play games, and there is always a fun craft.

Please stop in anytime this month to view our newest art display. Local artist and illustrator Cella Mahoney is a whimsy watercolorist that brings emotions to life in the quirky way she paints characters, color relationships, and lines. Her work has been featured in National Geographic Kid's Magazine, and she has a Catholic greeting card line. Her art will be on display through April at the Dowdell library but can also be viewed and purchased on her website, cellabellailuminations.com.

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

Library Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10 am - 8 pm, Wednesday & Friday 10 am - 5 pm, and Saturday 12-4 pm. Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit www.dowdell.org, or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org. The library is located off John O’Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School.

Bag Bingo

PERTH AMBOY – Bag Bingo Tricky Tray Raffle & 50/50. Michael Kors, Coach, Kate Spade, Dooney/Bourke, Arcadia & Mario Valentino. Friday, April 8, 2022. Doors open at 6 p.m. Game starts at 7:30 p.m. \$30 per person (11 bingo games, plus one special bingo/3 bingo cards per game). Includes a ticket for door prizes. Complementary coffee & cake. St. John Paull II Parish, St. Stephens School, 500 State St., Perth Amboy. For more information, call 732-826-1395 or 732-485-9367.

**No one under the age of 18 is allowed to play*. No refund of any kind. If more than one player is found to be the winner on the call of the same number in the same game, the designated prize will be divided as equally as possible and when the division is not possible, substitute prizes whose aggregate value will not exceed that of the designated prize will be awarded, but such substitute will be of equal value to each other.*

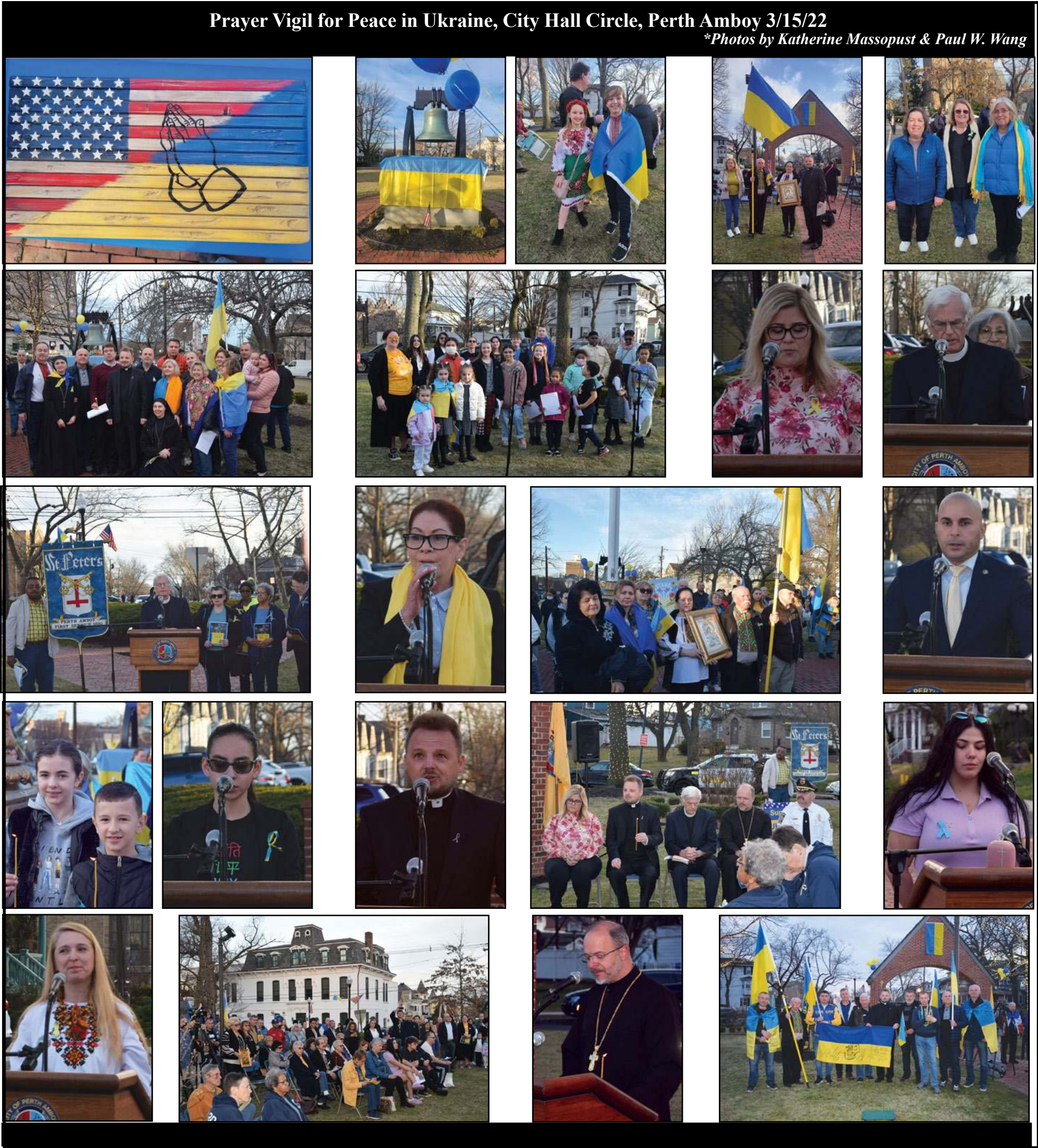
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South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade, South Amboy 3/20/22

**Photos by Paul W. Wang*



**For more Photos of the South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade, go to www.amboyguardian.com*



Perth Amboy Community Gathers for Prayer Vigil for Peace in Ukraine

By: Katherine Massopust
PERTH AMBOY – On Tuesday, March 15, 2022, the community of Perth Amboy held a prayer vigil to pray for Ukraine. The vigil was organized by the city of Perth Amboy and Assumption Catholic School. Over a hundred people gathered at city hall circle in support of Ukraine. Participants included Mayor Helmin Caba, members of the Perth Amboy City Council, local politicians, students from Assumption Catholic School, and citizens of Perth Amboy and surrounding communities.

The vigil began with Principal of Assumption Catholic School Mrs. Lissette Shumny, who spoke of the generosity of the community which has been incredible. She stated that many donations were received

toward the humanitarian fund for Ukrainian aid. Mrs. Shumny stated that the school has united in prayer daily for the last 3 weeks to pray to the Blessed Mother for peace in Ukraine. She gave a brief history of the Perth Amboy Ukrainian Community, “The Ukrainian Catholic Community has gathered to worship in the City of Perth Amboy since 1908 at its original location on Wayne Street. Our current church, the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Alta Vista Place was built in 1952 by Ukrainian immigrants which established themselves in our city. In 1963, our school (Ukrainian Assumption School) opened and has been a staple in this community.

It has served as an important foundation in many families lives as they entered Assumption Catholic School to educate their children. These same children have become pillars of the community of whom we are immensely proud. Currently, our demographics have added a beautiful diversity to our school, yet our Ukrainian Catholic identity is at the root at who we are. We need your generosity and support. Pray for the nearly 3 million Ukrainians, mothers, children, and refugees. Pray for the soldiers that stood their ground against all odds. Pray for the world leaders that they find the strength and guidance to help put an end to this unprovoked attack.”

Fr. Michael Morgan, Priest at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Perth Amboy gave the opening

prayer. “We need to pray for peace among the nations of the world. Let us pray for peace on earth.”

NJ Legislative District 19 Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez offered her remarks, “We are here to offer our collective support to people of Ukraine to this evil attack on democracy.” She denounced the Russian airstrike on a maternity hospital intentionally killing women and children. “Despite these horrors and against all odds the Ukrainian people are holding strong in their determination to remain a free and sovereign nation. I am proud that our country and our state has taken action to block the Russian government in every turn to make sure that they do not engage in the world economy while waging a senseless war. I urge everyone to pray

for the people of Ukraine - for the brave men and women on the front lines fighting for freedom and the loved ones they are fighting for. Let us all pray for an end of this conflict and for the recovery of the Ukrainian people.”

Members of the Assumption Catholic School choir sang a hymn to the Blessed Mother.

The next person to speak was Mayor Helmin Caba who recognized the members of the City Council, County Commissioners, and other politicians who were present to unite in the power of communal prayer. He cited the definition of local leaders, “Our job is to protect our residents and provide services to preserve the best life in our cities. We are to serve

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Perth Amboy Community Gathers for Prayer Vigil for Peace in Ukraine

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our communities and represent our residents to preserve their welfare. We are to serve our community to preserve their wellbeing.” Mayor Caba spoke of the sorrow of the people of Ukraine. “Imagine leaving all your belongings, your home, your job, your community – all of it - leaving it behind. Their reality serves as a reminder to each and every one of us that we should not take our freedom and our liberties for granted. We are a diverse community made up of many different backgrounds, cultures, religions, and beliefs. There is so much that divides us, yet there is so much that unites us, and perhaps nothing is more important than our shared beliefs on democracy and freedom. Today we stand united in support for peace with the Ukrainian people in prayer for the protection. We remain humble by their remarkable courage. We stand in solidarity for peace and for freedom.”

Assumption Catholic School Student Kiera Colon read a poem.

Mrs. Shumny explained that the significance of the Moleben Prayer Service which began in the beginning of the 20th

Century in Ukraine. “It honors Mary, the mother of God, which is usually said during the month of May, but we will honor her now for the love of Ukraine.”

Mrs. Shumny introduced Fr. Ivan Turyk, Pastor at Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption in Perth Amboy. Fr. Ivan began, “It is painful to see forces of darkness at work.” He quoted the Gospel of John 1:5 “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.” Fr. Ivan continued “What is going on in Ukraine is very dark, but each candle that is lit at today’s vigil, reminds all who gather that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World and who brings Hope and Peace to all of us even in the midst of the darkness of war. I ask you to light the candles. They are made from the beeswax, the same ingredients from Ukraine, the Breadbasket of Europe which flows with honey and milk. It is so prosperous and good. We stand here together to pray for my motherland Ukraine, and I am so proud and honored that of my adoptive land of the United States of America who gave us so many opportunities to my fellow immigrant Ukrainians to participate in today’s service to show that the voice of the

Ukrainian people cannot be silenced by the munitions of the Russian army. We pray for the ceasefire and the withdrawal of the Russian occupants. We pray to the Blessed Mother of God for her to intercede on her behalf to our Lord Jesus to bring an end to the war in Ukraine.” Fr. Ivan Turyk then led the vigil in the prayer of the Moleben.

After the Moleben, Assumption Catholic School Alumni Apryl Coffman Shumny sang a beautiful rendition of “Via Dolorosa”.

Mrs. Anna Maria Kukuruza, the Second Grade Teacher at Assumption Catholic School and parishioner at Ukrainian Assumption Church gave a brief history of Ukraine. “When someone says: “Glory to Ukraine,” you respond, “Glory to its heroes!” She explained giving the Ukrainian translation.

Mrs. Kukuruza continued, “I am here today to talk to you a little about courage. I am a second-generation Ukrainian, which means my grandparents came here from Ukraine. My family and I have always been active participants in the Ukrainian American Community. We have never been shy when talking about our Ukrai-

nian background or explaining where Ukraine is. We are proud of our Ukrainian ancestry. Our families were forced to leave our beloved homeland to escape during World War II and never to return for fear of retribution. Being courageous was instilled in us to never forget what we left behind, our country, culture, and language. Twenty days ago, Russia illegally invaded the independent country of Ukraine. Millions of Ukrainians have become displaced refugees. Prior to February 25th, Ukraine had a total population of 40 million people. To put it in perspective, it would be as if the entire city of Los Angeles, the second most populous city in the United States would just up and leave. Families leaving everything behind with nothing but a backpack on their backs to leave home for safety. Others are staying behind to preserve what has and always been rightfully theirs. If there is any word to describe Ukraine or its people, it is “Courage”. Olena Zelenska, wife of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the blitz of Russian missiles, especially the death of at least 71 children as genocide. We are no strangers to that. In 1932, Russia tried to eliminate

Ukraine by hunger, a genocide called the Holodomor (forced famine), yet we survived, and we have courage because we refuse to let history repeat itself. We here today must have courage. We must no longer silently observe like we had for decades during the Russian regime where you cannot express your opinions and beliefs in peace, where the nation has turned into slaves. We must have courage and understand that Ukraine is not only protecting itself, but also Europe and the world’s shared values. We must have courage in our convictions to help in any way we can. So often we have seen the power of prayer. Our brothers and sisters in Ukraine need our help more than ever.”

Fr. Michael T. Chendorain from St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church gave the ending prayer. Students from Assumption Catholic School then sang another hymn. Fr. Ivan Turyk then led the vigil singing “God Bless America” and then the Ukrainian National Anthem. “The glory and freedom of Ukraine has not yet perished”. This ended a beautiful evening of prayer.

Updates on City Services, Grants Amongst Topics Discussed 3/28/22 Caucus

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park in their lots and bypassing city parking. I won’t be surprised if more people come in to complain about the same thing.”

Torres stated, “In Sayreville, a firefighter successfully sued the city because of vehicles parking illegally and engines running with diesel fumes near where he lives and it was affecting his health.”

Councilman Petrick piggy-backed off of Torres’s remark, “With all the warehouses and trucks, it is causing health problems here.”

Petrick also suggested, “If the woman has a garage, maybe she can park the bus inside it.”

Torres agreed, “If it is not a diesel bus, she should put it in her garage.”

Code Enforcement Director Irving Lozada spoke via Zoom, “We have distributed several letters to people who have been parking busses illegally and given them a 30-day grace period. The law is across the board for everyone.”

Resident Sharon Hubberman spoke via Zoom. She talked about the PILOTS, air pollution, and quality control issues with idling of vehicles. “With 695 new apartments, you are looking at 1400 additional cars. Multi-families will inhabit these apartments which means more traffic congestion and pollution. It will be a strain on our system and adding to health issues. Advisory Boards are being ignored. The Rent Leveling Board has tried to stabilize rent and has sent suggestions to the council. I hope the resolution we proposed to the council will

be on the next agenda. Please heed our concerns affecting the present and the future.”

Petrick responded, “We have looked at your suggestions. In the past, landlords have burned and neglected their buildings due to not being able to sustain them because of low rent, especially going from 5% down to a 3% yearly increase of rent.”

Resident Maria Garcia spoke via Zoom. She also referenced Ordinances No. 3 and No. 4 (PILOTS). “If we have a huge surplus, why are you giving tax extensions instead of giving money back to the taxpayers? Most builders do not live in the town where they have their projects. The more people we bring in, we have to provide more services, classroom sizes will increase. I pay more in taxes for my empty lot than my home because we don’t have the land. I agree with Councilman Torres that the Arts Council should be more involved when it comes to anything to do with the arts. We are wasting money putting artwork on the Outerbridge pillars.”

A resident on High Street on Zoom wanted more information on the two PILOT Projects coming up. “What kind of tax abatement will they be given, and what kind of jobs will they provide?”

Petrick responded, “If you go online, you will see all of your questions answered on the backup material provided. The jobs will be associated with the building. There will be construction jobs. When that is completed, all the jobs for those two apartment buildings will be inhouse jobs. Each PILOT has separate agreements, but the

maximum amount of years for any PILOT is only 25 years.”

Council Comments:

Councilwoman Rose Morales had no comments.

Councilman Joel Pabon said, “We need a traffic study for Riverview Drive. The lights have gone out underneath the (Victory) bridge, and there are car and truck traffic and a lot of blind turns.”

Acting Police Chief Larry Cattano came up to speak, “The original bypass was for Raritan River Steel. In the last year or two, DPW Supervisor Danny Cleaver has been talking about getting the lights fixed down there.”

Petrick asked, “Who is responsible for the lights, since it is our roads?”

Cattano said, “The property on the east side is state property.”

Petrick suggested that we may need speed bumps.

Councilman B.J. Torres spoke up and said, “We had 4-way stop signs put in the intersection of Grant and Patterson Streets. We need more oversight, so we don’t put people in hazardous positions when we are putting in these developments.”

Councilman Pabon continued, “I sent out an email regarding the proposed firehouse on Amboy Avenue. The owner of one of the properties said he got a letter from the city to fix his property.”

B.A. Green said, “The state got involved to check to see if that is a proper place for a firehouse and we need to get a response from the state.”

Law Director William Opel then said, “The issue is that in November 2020, the appraisals did not include an interior

inspection which put the property owner in a bind. We are pulling the offer right now but reserve the right to do eminent domain.”

Petrick said, “If the owner decides to do improvements, we may need to pay him more money if we decide to take the property.”

Opel said, “Either way, we have to send the property owner that letter.”

Petrick said, “We own the other property and invested in it and had drawing and appraisals which were faulty.”

B.A. Green said, “My mother used to say, you don’t want to throw good money after bad.”

Petrick continued, “Someone thought the initial property was good for a firehouse. There were other properties that we had that were good locations for a firehouse. There is not too much land left. Notify the property owner that we are still interested in this property.”

Pabon continued, “We stopped the owner from investing, but he is still paying taxes on it. We dropped the ball again. I saw detailed renderings on the new firehouse, and I thought it was done deal. How much have we spent so far? I also want to say that Second Street hasn’t been this clear for a long time, and hopefully it will stay that way. I want to make sure all the parks are ready to be used for the kids and all the residents to enjoy.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda, “We were excited about getting a new firehouse. Now, we are finding out that the appraisal was not done correctly. Now, we are waiting for the state to approve the plans. Was this done in the past?”

Law Director Opel responded, “The appraiser said that he was not aware that this appraisal was being based on the condemnation of the property. It is for public need, and there are more details needed and no – we don’t always have to go to the state.”


Tejeda then thanked the Library Board of Trustees for inviting her to participate on a panel with other women. “I was amazed by their jobs and their struggles. I am glad to see events happening at the library and look forward to seeing more events there.”

Councilman B.J. Torres said, “I met with Dianne Roman (Head of Human Resources) about the expansion of Health Services and the environmental impact on our city. Hopefully, we can get our own Health Department in the city. I am also requesting that starting in May, that members of the various municipal boards come in to give updates on their activities and to answer any questions that we may have.”


Council President Bill Petrick said, “I want to thank the marines, and the Marine Corps League and Sergeant DeJesus for the escort for my father’s funeral. They do this on a regular basis. I want to thank all for their concerns and condolences which includes the Clerk’s Office and my fellow Council Members.”

The Council went into closed session at 8:13 p.m. No further action was taken. All Council Members were present in person.

Getting Ahead in Business By Milton Paris



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Criteria for Successful Telemarketing

There are countless numbers of do's and don'ts to successful telemarketing. Although the goal is to sell your product and/or service, you must understand and respect that there is a process or journey towards that endeavor. The reality is that it is human nature to get turned off by a sales call. We have all been there, that is why it is important, as a telemarketer, to put yourself in the place of the recipient, and that means to give that person a reason to want to listen to you. Your other choice, if you can't devote the time or it is not your forte, is to hire or out-source telemarketing specialists.

A successful telemarketer will do the following in order to sell your product:

1. Know your products and services so they can start educating potential clients
2. Express themselves in a positive and enthusiastic fashion. Believing in your brand and getting others to believe in it as well.
3. Telemarketers must begin with an attention getting introduction, continue on with an engaging middle and close with a call to action. They are ready for objections with an arsenal of open-ended questions that they respond to with thoughtful consideration.
4. They are good listeners, speak with clear and professional voices and ask for the best time to follow-up.
5. They call the Decision-Maker at times they expect the Gate-Keeper to be absent, such as before 9:00am, lunchtime or after 5pm.
6. A sale is usually not made instantly. A telemarketer knows to be patient and stay consistent with using these concepts. As they continue, they begin to build relationships and trust that will create a climate to draw new business for their clients.

Nothing is impossible when working with professional telemarketers!

Milton J. Paris, is President of the Monroe based consulting firm **Getting Ahead in Business** whose motto is “nothing is impossible.” No company is too small or too large for him to achieve rapid results in their business development. For the past 15 years, Milton Paris has been the host of **Getting Ahead in Business on Fox Sports New Jersey 93.5/1450am** every Sunday at 11:00am. The only business radio talk show in New Jersey.

Contact Milton: 732.306.0040
email: milton@gettingaheadinbusiness.com
www.gettingaheadinbusiness.com

Nothing is impossible when working with professional telemarketers! Nothing is impossible when working with Milton Paris!

A Poet Remembers

What he missed most of local diners, long vanished,
More than waitresses who almost always blushed,
Or praised him outright for his good looks,
More than oversized desserts, even more
Than the background voices of real people
Speaking plainly of real things,
Was the way those ever glistening coffee mugs,
Hefty, smoothly heavy and reassuring,
Always seemed to be there to impart
Their familiar feel of solidity and calm,
Their look of permanence, security without end,
Into his hands, into his soul,
Like the hand of an old faithful friend.
Sometimes tan, but more often a shaded white,
It made little difference to him
Whether they stood there nearly empty,
Or still brimming to the top,
Still wafting their magic aroma
From stool to stool, from wall to wall,
Like a vague but unmistakable promise
Of still better things to come.

By Jerry Shonda

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

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, or call us at 201-381-1903 and like us on Facebook. Dealers are welcome. We are also welcoming new members.

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Email: ecabrera52@hotmail.com

Join Us for Holy Week at St. John's Lutheran Church

PERTH AMBOY - Join Us for Holy Week at St. John's Lutheran Church.

April 10th - Palm Sunday with Communion and the distribution of Palms

April 14th - Maundy Thursday

April 15th - Good Friday with the Service of the Shadows

April 17th - EASTER with Communion and refreshments after the service

All services will be at 10 am at 664 Amboy Ave. Perth Amboy, NJ. Regular Sunday service are also at 10 a.m. All Invited!

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. 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.

Good Friday 4/15/22 service at 7 p.m.

You're Invited to Sunday Worship

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

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

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

Parking behind the church on the Wilson Street side.

Good Friday 4/15/22 service at 7 p.m.

Easter at the Cathedral International

PERTH AMBOY – An unforgettable Worship Service – Loving – Lifting – Liberating. Sunday April 17, 2022, at 277 Madison Ave., Perth Amboy at 6 a.m., 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Livestream, Facebook Live, YouTube Bishop Donald Hillard, Jr. D.Min., Senior Pastor. www.cathedralinternational.org

Novena to St. Rita

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

Prayer to St. Jude

To be said when problems arise or when one seems to be deprived of all visible help, or for cases almost despaired of.
Most holy Apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered our beloved Father into the hands of His enemies has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes you universally, as the patron and invokes you universally, as the patron of hopeless cases, of things almost despaired of. Pray for me, I am so helpless and alone. Make use I implore you, of that particular privilege given to you, to bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolation and help of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations and sufferings, particularly (Here make your request) and that I may praise God with you and all the elect forever. I promise, O blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, to always honor you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you. Amen.
Thank you, Saint Jude A.L.S.

Prayer to St. Martha
The Dominator

Patron Saint of Servants, Single Laywomen, Servers, Housewives, and Cooks
Let us begin, In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Saint Martha, I resort to thy aid and protection. As proof of my affection and faith, I offer thee this light, which I shall burn every Tuesday. Comfort me in all my difficulties and through the great favors thou didst enjoy when the Savior was lodged in thy house, intercede for my family, that we be provided for in our necessities. I ask of thee, Saint Martha, to overcome all difficulties as thou didst overcome the dragon which thou hadst at thy feet. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
(Mention your request here)
Saint Martha, pray for us.
(Say 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be) E.N.Y.

A Petition to St. Jude

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

Remember to
Say Your Novenas!

Answers
From Puzzle
On Page 23

B	I	O		A	R	F		H	A	H	A
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LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY – PAHS Chair of the Science Department and Biology Teacher Anton J. Massopust with a student on one of many class trips to the Pine Barrens circa 1980's.
This photo was restored under a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission to the Kearny Cottage Historical Association.

Pets of the Week

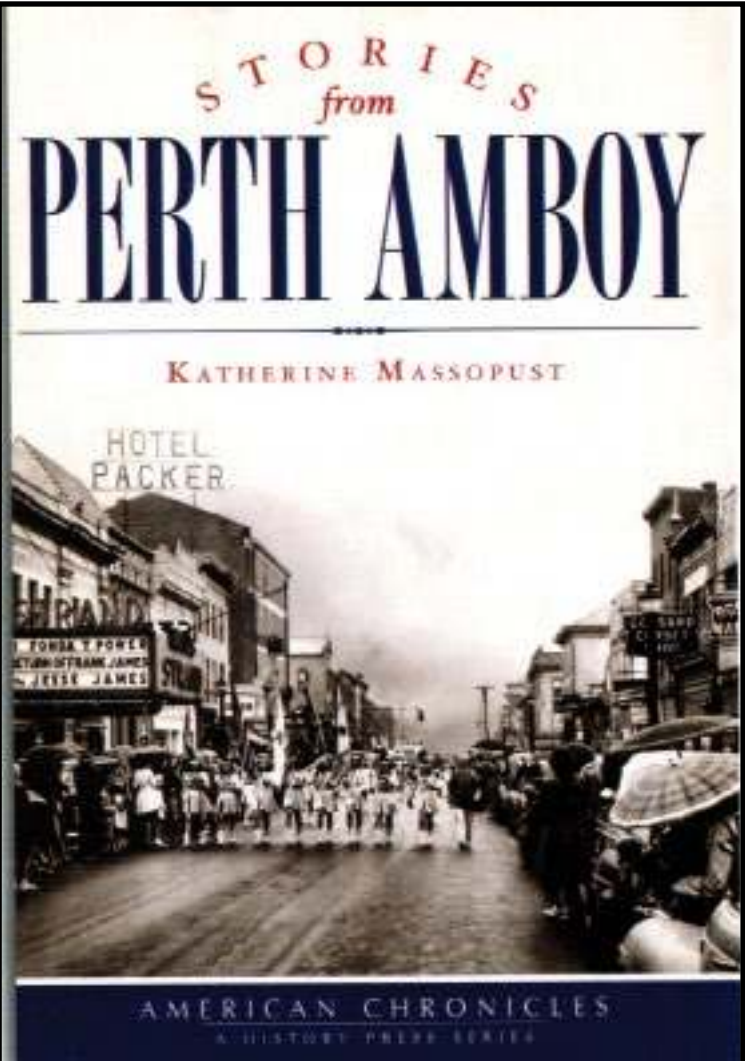


PERTH AMBOY - Please open your heart and home to these little angels rescued from Brace Avenue in Perth Amboy. They need love and a chance. This kitty or another will be waiting patiently for you. Can't adopt, then become a foster. Each kitty is fixed, vaccinated to age, dewormed, deflea'd, tested for FIV and leukemia, microchipped and fully vetted. Visit Allforthepaws.org for adoption application and email to Vmoralespps@yahoo.com. Donation fee applies. Upon approved application, adoption will take place at adopter's home. Rescue will transport. Text 1.732.486.6382 for questions.

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

Annual Cabbage & Noodle Sale

PERTH AMBOY - St. John's Evg. Lutheran Church is having a cabbage & noodle sale. Orders taken March 1st through April 9th. Pick up will be at 664 Amboy Ave (use the side door on Meredith St.) on Sunday April 10th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Contact Lorraine at 732-996-8860 or kookie.mc@gmail.com to place your order. Cost: \$6.00 for 1 pound or buy 3 lbs. or more save \$1.00 per pound!



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

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Electric Husky Power Washer 1750psi - Good Condition \$75 - 732-277-4635	3/4 Size Acoustic Guitar. Good for young child - \$50. 732-541-5491	Miller Beer Electric Pendulum Clock \$10 - Budweiser Mugs \$10 - 732-727-8417
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	White wicker settee with cushion \$60 732-735-2179
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How to Publish a Novena

**If you wish to publish a Novena in The Amboy Guardian,
you may use this coupon.**

A Petition to St. Jude

Dear St. Joseph, head of the most perfect household, foster father of Jesus and guardian of His mother Mary, I confidently place myself and all my concerns under your care and protection. I ask that, through your powerful intercession with God, you obtain for me all the help and graces that I need for my spiritual and temporal welfare and in particular, the special favor I now ask there mention or think of your home sale or any other petition, especially family needs. Good St. Joseph, I know with confidence, that your prayers on my behalf will be heard by God and that He will grant my request, if it be for His glory and my greater good. Thank you St. Joseph, for having responded to my call. Amen. *G.T.A.*

Name _____

Address _____

Phone () _____

Initials at end of prayer

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

Thank you, St. Jude
F.M.J.

Prayer To St. Clare

For Employment

Prayer To St. Jude

Prayer To Blessed Mother

Prayer To Holy Spirit

Novena To St. Anthony

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St. Jude Novena

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- 1 Story of a life, for short
- 4 Sound from the doghouse
- 7 Comedy club sounds (2 wds.)
- 11 Sounds of disgust
- 13 Fawn's mom
- 14 Hockey star Lindros
- 15 Anderson of "Nurses"
- 16 Belief in moral values
- 18 "Wuthering Heights" author
- 20 World-weary
- 21 Bear a ____
- 24 Book jacket info
- 27 Dieter
- 32 Candy striper
- 33 Loud thud
- 34 Nick Charles's wife
- 35 Blunder
- 37 Legendary engineer Jones
- 38 Braying sound
- 40 Walk leisurely
- 44 Pass, as time
- 48 Province in Spain
- 51 Authentic
- 52 Poetic verses
- 53 Golf standard
- 54 Building extensions
- 55 Actor Beatty and others

DOWN

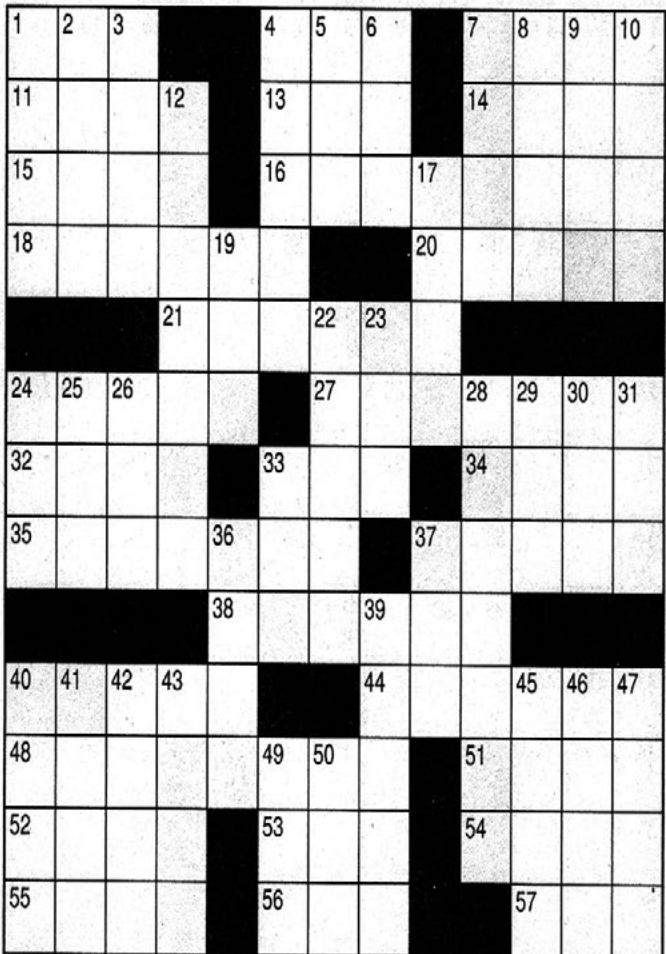
- 1 Lamp necessity
- 2 Composer Stravinsky
- 3 Cry of dismay (2 wds.)
- 4 Farewell, French-style
- 5 Fisherman's need
- 6 Professional charge
- 7 Hades
- 8 Pavarotti solo
- 9 Express displeasure

10 Apex

- 12 Base-hits
- 17 Not up
- 19 Three (Ital.)
- 22 Hang velvet
- 23 Tiara sparkler
- 24 Scottish topper
- 25 Clock numeral
- 26 Football coups (abbr.)
- 28 Oblivious
- 29 Comic Bill's nickname
- 30 Sooner than, in poetry
- 31 Actor Walston
- 33 Seinfeld's "____ Movie"
- 36 At that time
- 37 Coolidge's

nickname

- 39 Pays attention
- 40 Cosmetics company
- 41 Produced
- 42 Needed a Band-Aid
- 43 Subtraction word
- 45 Throw rocks at
- 46 Bill of ____
- 47 Actress Martinelli
- 49 Lifesaving skill (abbr.)
- 50 "I think, therefore ____" (2 wds.)



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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 4th thru April 15th 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 2nd 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 for calendar of monthly activities.

**This Week in the Civil War
160 Years Ago
April 6, 1862 – April 19, 1862
By Phil Kohn**

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

In western Tennessee, on April 6, 1862, Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston launches his 44,000 Confederates at Ulysses Grant's unsuspecting Union force, camped at Pittsburg Landing. The name of a small church in the vicinity gives the ensuing two-day bloody battle the name it is widely known by in the North: Shiloh. While the Confederates have successes on the first day, they are poorly organized. The arrival of Federal reinforcements allows Grant to counterattack on the morning of the second day, forcing the Confederates to retreat to Corinth, Mississippi. The toll of 13,000 Union casualties and 10,700 Confederates shocks both nations: the numbers are greater than those of the American Revolution, the War of 1812 and the Mexican War combined. In addition, Confederate Gen. Johnston is mortally wounded on the first day, the highest-ranking officer of either side killed in action during the war. Confederate command is assumed by Gen. Pierre Beauregard.

After months of maneuvering by Federal naval vessels and ground troops led by Brig. Gen. John Pope, the Confederate garrison of 7,000 defenders at Island No. 10 in the Mississippi River near New Madrid, Missouri, surrenders on April 7. The loss of Island No. 10 represents a serious break in the Confederate defense of the Mississippi. In the New Mexico Territory, Col. Canby's combined Union force nears Albuquerque, lightly defended by 200 Confederates and three cannon.

On April 8, Sibley's Brigade, whose supply train had been destroyed at Glorieta Pass in March, leaves Santa Fe, New Mexico Territory, in a retreat down the Rio Grande Valley toward Albuquerque.

Federal troops pull out of Jacksonville, Florida, on April 9, with Confederates quickly moving in and emplacing an artillery battery in the city. In New Mexico, Sibley's Confederates begin arriving in Albuquerque from Santa Fe, reinforcing the garrison there.

At Savannah, Georgia, Fort Pulaski, which guards the city, on April 10 comes under fire from Federal long-range, rifled artillery situated across the Savannah River on Tybee Island. The masonry fort is no match for the powerful Union shells and is heavily damaged. Some 360 Confederates are taken prisoner and the fort's 40 guns are captured.

On April 11, Maj. Gen. Henry Halleck — overall Federal commander in the West — arrives at Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, to organize the "Grand Army" that has collected there. With a force comprising the combined troops of generals Grant, Buell and Pope (who has arrived from New Madrid), Halleck intends to follow up the victory at Shiloh by moving on Gen. Beauregard's Confederate positions at Corinth, Mississippi. Meanwhile, a Federal force under Brig. Gen. Ormsby Mitchel — capitalizing on the fact that there are few Confederate troops between Corinth, Mississippi, and Chattanooga, Tennessee — captures Huntsville, Alabama.

At Big Shanty, Georgia, on April 12, a group of 21 volunteer Federal soldiers led by a civilian, James Andrews, steals a locomotive ("The General") and three cars of its train in a plan to burn bridges and wreck the tracks of the Western & Atlantic Railroad, which runs between Atlanta and Chattanooga. However, the train's conductor follows in three different locomotives (including, lastly and most famously "The Texas") and foils the plan in what becomes popularly known as "The Great Locomotive Chase." Andrews and seven of his volunteers are captured and executed. The others escape or are captured and later paroled. The first-ever Medals of Honor are bestowed upon some of the U.S. soldiers who survive the raid. In New Mexico, Sibley's Confederates begin heading southward from Albuquerque. They have 20 days' food and one day's ammunition for the 240-mile trek to Mesilla, the capital of the Confederate Arizona Territory. Lacking the resources to support the taking of prisoners, Col. Canby's Union force does not engage the Confederates, but shadows them southward.

Union forces take Decatur, Alabama, on April 13. In the Far West, the main body of Col. James Carleton's California Column of roughly 2,350 Union infantry, cavalry and artillery begins heading eastward from Fort Yuma, California. On the same day, Arizona Ranger Lt. Jack Swilling arrives in Tucson and reports that his detachment ran into Union Army forward elements at Stanwix Station, about 80 miles east of Fort Yuma. Based on that information, Capt. Sherod Hunter posts 10 Arizona Rangers as pickets at Picacho Peak, about 50 miles to the northwest. From that high ground, the Confederates can observe the surrounding, flat countryside for miles.

Being exceedingly low on ammunition, Brig. Gen. Sibley on April 14 moves his Confederate column to the west side of the Rio Grande, while Canby's Union force continues to shadow him on the east bank.

In New Mexico, the forces of Sibley and Canby catch up with each other on April 15 at the village of Peralta, strung out for around a mile along both banks of the Rio Grande. The two sides begin firing at each other across the river, but the thick-walled adobe structures provide good cover and minimize casualties. Finally, a thick sandstorm ends the action. The Confederates withdraw and continue their movement southward. Farther west, forward elements of the Federal California Column learn of Confederates in the vicinity of Picacho Peak and plan a two-pronged attack on the position on April 15. The plan: Two small diversionary cavalry detachments will attack from the east and south while the main body of troops will attack from the north. For some reason, Lt. James Barrett of the 1st California Cavalry doesn't wait for the main body to approach or even for the other diversionary detachment to attack from the south, but instead prematurely leads his diversionary detachment of 12 troopers into thickets at the base of Picacho Peak from the east. There, he and his men are ambushed by the waiting Arizona Rangers that had been posted there as pickets. Following fierce and confused fighting that lasts over 90 minutes, Barrett and two of his troopers are killed and three more are wounded. Three Arizona Rangers are captured and taken prisoner. The Union cavalrymen retreat (with their prisoners) and rejoin the still-approaching main body. Thinking they are facing a larger Confederate force than is the case, they all take flight back to the Pima Indian villages, some 107 miles away. The remaining seven Arizona Rangers return to Tucson and warn Capt. Hunter of the Union soldiers' arrival. The fighting at Picacho Peak is considered the farthest-west battle of the Civil War.

After several weeks of preparation, Confederate President Jefferson Davis on April 16 signs into law a bill that will require a military draft in the Confederate states of men between the ages of 18 and 35; service will be for three years. In Alabama, Tusculumbia is captured by Brig. Gen. Ormsby Mitchel's Federal troops. In Washington, President Lincoln signs into law a bill that bans slavery in the District of Columbia.

Caught between Col. Edward Canby's shadowing force behind him and the strong Fort Craig — which he had bypassed on his way north — ahead of him, Brig. Gen. Henry Sibley on April 17 abandons his wagons and horses, leaves his wounded to the mercy of Col. Canby, and has his men head west on foot into the rugged and hostile Magdalena Mountains to bypass Fort Craig.

Attempting a move on Richmond, Virginia, from the south, a Federal force is defeated at South Mills, North Carolina, on April 19. After its retreat from Picacho Peak in Confederate Arizona Territory, the forward element of the 1st California Cavalry arrives at the Pima Indian villages (near present-day Phoenix) and establishes Fort Barrett nearby, named for the Union officer killed at Picacho Peak.



Woodbridge St. Patrick's Day Parade, 3/13/22

**Photos by Carolyn Maxwell*



**For more Photos of the Woodbridge St. Patrick's Day Parade, go to www.amboyguardian.com*

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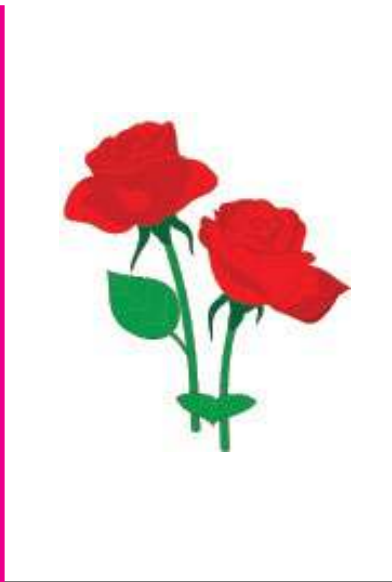
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State of the City Address

3/29/22

**Continued from Page 6*

will be enhanced with cutting-edge technology to help promote the health and safety of all of its users.

- We also continue to honor our history with the newest County Park in honor of Thomas Mundy Peterson.

It includes a synthetic turf multi-use fields to host soccer, football, softball and baseball; and a stunning waterfront walkway.

- We also partnered with AARP and FitLot to build an outdoor fitness station at Dalton Park.

Perth Amboy will also be making necessary updates to the Veterans Youth Memorial Complex, the city's largest park. Since its initial build, this will be the first time; the park will see significant field and tech improvements with an investment of over \$5.5 million dollars. Combining modern technology with the persistent need for open space, these enhancements will revitalize the park experience.

We had many celebrations last year with groundbreakings and dedications. Added to the list was the naming of Washington Park Basketball Courts after Brian Taylor, a local legend and former professional basketball player with the Former New Jersey Nets, whom I had the honor to present with my very first key to the city. I want to thank our Office of Recreation for their responsive and creative ideas in park planning and recreational programing.

I'd also like to thank the local business community for sponsoring our recreational leagues, programs, events and meals. Many of our local restaurants and businesses such as ETC Management, Target, Home Depot, Dunkin Donuts, and Domino's Pizza play a vital role in supporting our city. I want to personally recognize Syed Zaidi, owner of Perth Amboy Dominos Pizza, for being the highest revenue generating franchise location in Central Jersey.

As a former student-athlete, sports have had a tremendous impact on my life, creating life-long lessons that I carry with me.

On May 23rd, the Perth Amboy Soccer Club, U15 Wildcats, won the New Jersey Presidents Club Championship. As a result of winning the New Jersey Cup, the team went on to win the United States Youth Soccer - Eastern Regional Championship. This team has captured the hearts and minds of our city by putting Perth Amboy Soccer on a national stage. Their efforts have brought our community closer together through this amazing sport. We are grateful to the parents, coaches, and volunteers for supporting the team and allowing them to represent Perth Amboy with honor and humility. We are so proud of our student-athletes. Join me with a round of applause for the Wildcats as the United States Youth Soccer Eastern Presidential Cup Champions and finalist of the National President's Cup.

Today, another student-athlete, Ahsia Torres, 107lb wres-

tlar dominated her weight class with an undefeated record of 18 and 0, and became champion for both the Greater Middlesex Conference and the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association. Ahsia Torres is the second state wrestling champion in the City's history and the first female to accomplish this feat. And this weekend she became Amboy's 1st High School All American after placing 5th in the Nation. Please join me in congratulating Ahsia as NJ.com's Girls Wrestler of the Year.

There is a saying that there is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer, and that holds true to board appointments. I want to express my gratitude to the individuals on our boards for volunteering their time to improving our city. Thank you to all board members serving our Library, Planning, Zoning, Redevelopment Agency, Housing Authority, BID, Green Team, Rent Control Board, Historic Preservation Commission, and Arts Council for their time and service to our city.

We continue to invest in our city, including our history. It is essential to learn from it and examine the past to better the future. Our city tells a story of many lifetimes and generations, lasting far longer than you and I. I want thank, City Historian, John Dyke for telling our stories.

Last year, the city unveiled the newest historical marker acknowledging Perth Amboy, as one of 55 documented U.S. Middle Passage arrival sites. I want to thank all involved, including our residents, for securing the marking and educating the community about our past and promoting a more inclusive Perth Amboy. I also want to congratulate the members of the Proprietary House, for not only their commitment to maintaining its history but also being a 2021 Historic Preservation Award winner from Preservation NJ. My vision is to revive our local history to a national platform and it is exciting to announce the City of Perth Amboy will be part of the celebration for the 250th anniversary of the United States to take place in 2026. By preserving our history, embracing our future and celebrating the fabric of our diverse community we provide the finest programming and resources to our residents through our Department of Human Services.

Thank you to the Office of Vital Statistics, the Office of Recreation and the Office of Aging for providing programming that builds a stronger, healthier and happier Perth Amboy. I'd like to recognize some of our senior friends who are with us this evening. In the coming weeks, I will be announcing the activation of the Mayor's Advisory Board, the Mayor's Wellness Campaign and Youth Advisory Council to create community-based, supportive, and people-centric initiatives allowing future leaders the ability to mobilize and spearhead change.

We continue to be a place where people come to try new ideas. Our predecessors invest-

ed in Perth Amboy, and as such, we must continue investing in our existing assets, maximizing their potential, and investing in our youth. The times we live in are truly extraordinary, and now, more than ever, our future rests on the talents, ideas, and ambition of our next generation of leaders. Our educational institutions provide the foundation for us to thrive.

- Middlesex College, my alma mater
- Our Perth Amboy Public Schools,
- Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High School
- the Academy for Urban Leadership,
- Middlesex County STEM Academy,
- Perth Amboy Catholic Schools and
- Ukrainian Assumption Catholic School

I would like to thank their staff and board members for their time and commitment to our youth. Revitalizing our library operations to meet the needs of the 21st century continues to be my priority as we work towards becoming a hub to connect people to people and people to information. As such, Perth Amboy was awarded \$1.5 million dollars by Congressman Pallone. Through our continued partnerships and working relationships we were able to secure these much needed funds to rehab the historic Perth Amboy Public Library, built-in 1903, with renovations and upgrades to meet our current needs. In addition, to our library renovations, our 2022 budget also outlined specific capital improvement investments upwards of \$1.8 Million to strengthen our water infrastructure. With these investments, I uphold my commitment to provide the very best that we have to offer our residents and business owners.

We look forward to the announcement of Perth Amboy's allocation from the Infrastructure Bill that will assist us with making our water cleaner and safer. I want to personally thank Congressman Pallone for his advocacy for the State of New Jersey, our City, our library and our water infrastructure.

Over the past year, we've come a long way in working towards innovation, transformation, and accomplishing our goals illustrated through our city highlights in 2021. While there are still many challenges, I am proud of what we have accomplished together to position Perth Amboy for a better and brighter future.

Being mayor comes with many personal sacrifices, and I want to thank my family and friends for their support. Quiero agradecer a mis padres, Jorge y Gladys, por su apoyo incondicional. Los quiero mucho.

And to one of greatest gifts in my life, my wife, Wendy. I thank God every day for giving me such a loving, thoughtful, kind, and compassionate wife. I would not be the husband and father to our beautiful children, Adam and Audrey, that I am today without your loving support and encouragement. I love you.

I am also privileged to have my office staff dedicated to

their work. They genuinely care about what they do. This is an exceptional team, and I am very fortunate to have them working for our city. Thank you Lisett, Isamar and Myrna for making my days easier. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the creative and forward thinking ideas of our Office of Information Technology and our Audio/Visual Team.

Our city is no stranger to adversity. And our resilience has prevailed once again. We hold tremendous promise and opportunity for the City of Perth Amboy and all who live here. An actual test of what our city will accomplish is still ahead and I will not be able to accomplish anything significant alone.

- Together, we put this pandemic behind us.
- Together, we ensure a safe community for everyone.
- Together, we embark on a journey to revitalize our historic community with innovation and technology.
- Together, we create more vibrant open spaces.
- Together, we build an inclusive economy with access to opportunity and shared growth for our

businesses.

- Together, we create sustainable infrastructure investments.
- Together, we meet the challenge of this moment and make our city stronger and healthier

AND

- Together we all RISE!


The commitment and significant contributions of our city employees should consistently be recognized. I'm grateful for your unrelenting support and dedication to serving our great residents. I look forward to working together to ensure Perth Amboy is a welcoming and a well-maintained city, where streets and parks are beautiful, public safety is upheld, tourism boosts our economy, businesses thrive, and innovation becomes a driving force to prosperity.

As Henry Ford stated. Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is a success. Join me to build a better and brighter future for Perth Amboy – TOGETHER!

Thank you all for coming, God bless you all- Que Dios me lo Bendigas a todos.

**Perth Amboy's Human Services Director
Lauded on Assembly Floor**

**Photo Courtesy of the Office of the 19th Legislative District*



By: John Mooney of Tap into Raritan Bay

PERTH AMBOY, NJ - Dianne Roman, the new director of the human services department in Perth Amboy, was lauded on the Assembly floor this week for directing the local pandemic response.

Roman, who has served the city for 20 years in various leadership roles in the public and private sector, was directly responsible for creating and leading the city's COVID-19 response, bringing together healthcare providers, community organizations and government services to increase testing, educate residents and strengthen the city's resiliency measures.

"Perth Amboy faced an especially challenging time during the COVID-19 pandemic, consistently leading Middlesex County in rates of infection and incidents of death," said Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez, (D-19th Dist.) in presenting the Assembly resolution. "When vaccines became available, Dianne led the city's vaccination campaign to increase vaccine rates, helping Perth Amboy go from one of the lowest rates in the county to achieving the strongest rate of improvement.

Prior to becoming human services director in January, Roman served as the city's business administrator, operations officer for the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development and administrator of the Perth Amboy Chamber of Commerce.

"Thanks to Dianne's leadership and hard work, Perth Amboy residents have been consistently informed and prepared throughout the health crisis," Lopez said. "Her work continues to be invaluable to the City and we are all grateful for her leadership."

Roman also served on the Perth Amboy Board of Education for 11 years, until last month. She was appointed last month to the Board of Trustees of Middlesex College. She earned her undergraduate degree from Rutgers College in New Brunswick.

Roman has also volunteered for the Girl Scouts, for the NJ Sharing Network and for Raritan Bay Medical Center in Perth Amboy.



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