



THE

\*Weekly Newspaper\*

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# AMBOY GUARDIAN

• VOL. 5 NO. 4 • 732-896-4446 • P.O. BOX 127 • PERTH AMBOY • NJ • 08862 • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015 •

## Court Drama Continues April 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Caucus & Council Meetings Special Election Causes Budget Glitch



(L to R) Councilmen Bill Petrick, Joel Pabon, Council President Lisa Nanton, Councilman Fernando Irizarry listen intently to the audio portion of Middlesex County Superior Court Judge Heidi Currier's ruling regarding the 11/4/14 election at the 4/8/15 Council Meeting.  
\*Photos by Carolyn Maxwell



Mayor Wilda Diaz sits next to B.A. Jillian Barrick as they listen to the audio at the 4/8/15 Council Meeting

PERTH AMBOY – The 2015 Budget discussion was a topic on the 4/6/15 Caucus Agenda. B.A. Jillian Barrick told the Council, “This Budget was adopted last week by the you. There is a Flat Tax Levy, but the Property Values have increased for the first time in 5 years. We still have a \$205 million debt which is 10% of our budget. We’ll have an increase in staff for Code Enforcement and in technological advancements for the Police, Code Enforcement and the Department of Public Works. We intend to hire 12 more Police Officers and 4 more Firefighters. A Budget Hearing will be held at 5 p.m. at City Hall on 4/13/15.”

Mayor Wilda Diaz then came up to speak. She was very pleased with the budget and thanked all of the employees involved in preparing it, “We still have a huge debt, but we never anticipated Sandy.” Then she raised her voice slightly stating, “There was one line item that was not budgeted (the Special Election). The City Clerk said it might cost around \$75,000. The Superior Court judge called for this election because of fraud. We intend to go after the people that perpetrated this fraud and they should be held accountable. This will affect our

Police Department who over a year ago committed themselves to an event that will be held the same week as this election.”

B.A. Jillian Barrick added, “We will have to adjust the budget because this special election is going to affect the Police Department and the City Clerk’s Office. We will have most of the burden on us.”

City Clerk Elaine Jasko interjected, “I have contacted the Board of Elections and they said they might be able to help us with some of the advertising.”

Barrick said some of the cost will include payment of poll workers and overtime for employees of the Police Department, City Clerk’s Office, etc. and rental space for voting machines.

Councilman Joel Pabon said, “The City loses because we have to pay most of the cost of the election.”

Mayor Diaz continued, “I want to seek some sort of recourse for the City over this fraud.”

Council President Lisa Nanton stated, “Corruption and poverty go hand in hand.”

The Mayor continued, “People kept coming forward saying that votes were suppressed. Our taxpayers should not have

to pay for this cost. Can you imagine what programs could be funded (senior, youth programs) with this \$75,000.”

City Attorney Mark Blunda told those in attendance that the City is considering civil action and there is a possibility that the government may get involved in the case.

Chief Financial Officer Jill Goldy gave a more detailed explanation of some of the items on the budget. “There is a gross debt item on the budget which includes the schools, utilities (water, parking) and the City debt (sometimes issued by the MCIA (Middlesex County Improvement Authority)). Sometimes we have to issue bonding for our debt to get a project going. An example would be in order to get reimbursements from FEMA (i.e. damage from Sandy). The net debt is the true debt of the City. We hired a debt management service to help us out. We paid down some short term borrowing such as PARA (Perth Amboy Redevelopment Agency). In 1991, the water and utility which was privately funded was not reported as refundable debt. The initial money funded at that time was almost 3 times the \$76 million we now owe the water company. Some of

Continued on Page 8

## Mayor Fred Henry Delivers the South Amboy State of the City 4/9/15



Mayor Fred Henry prepares to deliver the State of the City at the Stevens Avenue Senior Center



Marty Dwyer gave a brief update of the Manhattan Beach Project during the State of the City Address.

\*Photos by Carolyn Maxwell

By: Katherine Massopust and Carolyn Maxwell

SOUTH AMBOY – Mayor Henry gave his State of the City Address at the Hoffman Community Center.

Business Administrator Camille Tooker thanked everyone in attendance before introducing Mayor Fred Henry. “Mayor Henry’s father was a Councilman. Mayor Henry continues in his family tradition of service to the community. He is in his fifth year as Mayor of South Amboy.” Tooker noted that Henry will be retiring from his job as a history teacher and therefore will be spending more time in City Hall.

Mayor Henry joked about the “interesting” elections winning the first one by only one vote and the last primary by 3 votes. He was pleased to return to the Hoffman Senior Building which was recently renovated with a fixed roof and paint job. “After an emergency alarm went off in the South Amboy YMCA we recommended moving the Senior Center back here.”

Henry added, “There will be an Open House here on April 25<sup>th</sup>. We refinanced with the City in order to make the move back here. The St. Patrick’s Day parade was great. Thank you with a special men-

tion to Chair Mickey Gross for a successful parade. The Dowdell Library is celebrating 100 years. The Library joined the Middlesex County Consortium. They have an app that brings the library to your smart phone.”

“We are celebrating Independence Day with fireworks on July 2<sup>nd</sup> with Perth Amboy and Staten Island.” He recognized Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz and Staten Island Mayor James Oddo and Celebrate the Amboys Chair Barry Rosengarten whom South Amboy will partner with this year for the fireworks celebration. “This event could not be possible without sponsors.” Henry asked the public to please patronize these sponsors.

Henry continued, “It’s the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the South Amboy Fire Department. There are a number of events planned including a parade in September.” He recognized the Fire Chief, Assistant Chiefs and the outgoing Chief. We were able to purchase a brand new fire truck (a 2015 Pierce XLT). It’s two trucks for the price of one. They were able to procure a 9-11 Memorial located near the train station. We have upgraded our Police Department with two

Continued on Page 10



If It's Local - It's Here!



# BINGO

EVERY Wednesday and Friday Night From 7:30 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.  
The door is open at 6:30 p.m.  
Ukrainian Catholic Assumption School Auditorium  
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## Storytime & Craft

SOUTH AMBOY - Wednesdays in April at 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Dowdell Library of South Amboy, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060.

## Convenience for Our Perth Amboy Taxpayers


Press Release  
PERTH AMBOY - Mayor Wil-da Diaz is pleased to announce that the City of Perth Amboy's tax office is now offering on-line tax services for payment. This online program would also allow residents to access their tax account information through the City's website for their convenience. Taxes are due by: May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.  
Visit the City's website at: [www.ci.perthamboy.nj.us](http://www.ci.perthamboy.nj.us)  
For additional information contact the Tax Office at: 732-826-0290 ext. 4027 or for more information about the City of Perth Amboy, please visit: [www.ci.perthamboy.nj.us](http://www.ci.perthamboy.nj.us).


## Check Presentation at Hy Tavern 4/10/15

\*Photo by Carolyn Maxwell

# WELCOME TO HY TAVERN

## WE SUPPORT JOIN US!





PERTH AMBOY - The Hytavern gang presented a check to the Perth Amboy Police Project Lifesaver to be given in honor of the memory of Moises Torres, a city resident who suffered from Alzheimers. The hope is that by donating this money to be used toward the purchase of tracking bracelets so that no other family endures such a tragic loss. Harry Scheman does the honors.



## 3rd Annual Red Carpet Gala

Saturday, May 2, 2015  
6:00 p.m.  
Cornucopia River Queen Boat  
21 yrs. & older  
Tickets - \$60 pp

Tickets can be purchased at the following locations:

-   
273 High Street  
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
-   
100 1st Street  
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

Proceeds will go towards  
6 Scholarships for  
Perth Amboy Education Center  
2015 Student Graduates

Honoring:

- Jaqueline Del Tapia and Wells Fargo
- Rafael Mendez Corporate Leadership
- Linda Palileo
- Fortunata Valenty Outstanding Staff Member
- Yvonne Lopez
- Hon. Mathias E. Rodriguez Humanitarian
- Tyrell Grant
- Eddie Trujillo Community Ambassador
- Margarita Bogliotti
- Ida Greene Life Longing Perseverance
- Abraham Pitre and The Perth Amboy Firefighters
- Rose M. Lopez Outstanding Mentor

## Cash or Money Orders Only



## Military Timeline 3/22/15

\*Photos by Anton Massopust III



PERTH AMBOY - There was a Military Timeline at the Proprietary House on 3/22/15. (Above) A Vietnam War Reenactor. (Upper Right) WWII issue rifles and a machine gun. (Lower Right) - Tony Sattilaro demonstrates Civil War Military necessities.

## Join the YMCA in Keeping Kids' Minds and Bodies Active

### Press Release

PERTH AMBOY - To kick-start learning about physical activity now and throughout the summer, on Saturday, April 25, the Raritan Bay Area YMCA is celebrating Healthy Kids Day® with a free community event for kids and families. YMCA's Healthy Kids Day, the Y's national initiative to improve families' health and well-being, features activities such as: games, arts and crafts with active fun to motivate and teach families how to develop a healthy routine with their children at home.

"The Y is so much more than sports, swimming, gymnastics and a place for kids to hang out. We support families in their efforts to instill healthy habits at home," said Steve Jobin, CEO Raritan Bay Area

YMCA. We know that it can sometimes feel like a challenge, so at Healthy Kids Day we'll encourage kids to stay physically and intellectually active all summer long, and give families tips they can easily replicate at home. It's free and open to the entire community!

In celebration of YMCA's Healthy Kids Day, the Y offers the following tips to help families develop healthy habits:

- Try, try, repeat – There are many great tasting fruits and vegetables that many kids have never heard of, let alone tried. Grab a new fruit or vegetable and encourage everyone in the family to try at least a bite. Sample some new fruits and veggies from our Farmer's Market this summer!
- Play around town – Chal-

lenge the family to play on a different playground every week. Identify playgrounds at a variety of parks; expand definitions of playgrounds to include nature trails, a nearby stream or a bike path.

- Families at play for an hour a day – From walking to gardening, swimming to shooting hoops, make playful movement a part of your family's day. To get 60 minutes of moderate activity throughout your day just add 10 minutes here and 15 minutes there.
- Foster a passion for reading – Read to and with your kids. Help children read at every age and every stage of their development.
- Make sleep a priority – Doctors recommend 10-12 hours of sleep a day for children ages 5-12 and 7-8 hours per night for adults. Sleep plays a critical role in maintaining our healthy immune system, metabolism, mood, memory, learning, and other vital functions.

The Raritan Bay Area YMCA's Healthy Kids Day event takes place in front of the Y building at 357 New Brunswick Avenue, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861 from 12:00pm to 3:00pm, in case of rain we have activities scheduled for inside the facility – so please join us rain or shine! For more information, please stop in or call the front desk 732.442.3632, or follow us and check back on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/rbaymca](http://www.facebook.com/rbaymca). We look forward to seeing you on April 25<sup>th</sup>!



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# PUT MORE IN... GET MORE KID OUT!

JOIN US FOR  
**HEALTHY KIDS DAY®!**

**APRIL 25**  
**12:00pm – 3:00pm**  
**RAIN OR SHINE!**

**THE Y IS ALL ABOUT MORE.** The more support, guidance and opportunities we give kids...the more amazing qualities they'll get out. The more they get out, the more they can achieve growing up. That's why we provide kids a healthy, caring environment of fun, learning and belonging to help them reach their fullest potential. **And that's why we celebrate Healthy Kids Day, our biggest day of the year devoted to kids and MORE!**



YMCA LOGO and HEALTHY KIDS DAY are registered trademarks of YMCA of the USA. These materials do not imply endorsement or recommendation of any particular product or service by the YMCA. All rights reserved.

**RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA | 357 New Brunswick Avenue | Perth Amboy, NJ 08859**

**Ph: 732-442-3632 | [www.rbaymca.org](http://www.rbaymca.org)**

**Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/rbaymca](http://www.facebook.com/rbaymca)**

### *Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public*

### *Library Meeting*

PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library will be meeting on Wednesday, April 15 at 7 p.m. at the Kearny Cottage, 63 Catalpa Ave., Perth Amboy. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more info call 732-797-8074.

### *Bingo for Bags*

PERTH AMBOY--There will be a "Bingo for Designer Bags" sponsored by St. John Paul II Parish on Friday, April 24, 2015 at St. Stephen's School Auditorium at 500 State Street. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Games start at 7:30 p.m. The cost of \$30 per ticket includes 12 games, dessert, and coffee. Outside food is welcome. You must be 18 years or older. For more information, please contact Liz at 201-921-6030 or the office at 732-826-1395. EMAIL: [office@johnpaulsecond.com](mailto:office@johnpaulsecond.com)



LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Shattered  
Just Like Walking on Broken Glass



Don't blame the Republicans. The Democratic Party is shattered in Perth Amboy. Two interesting comments were made during recent Perth Amboy Council Meetings. A resident had accused former Republican candidates of changing their party affiliation to Democrat just to get elected to office.

It's funny how this resident has supported one of these candidates when they changed to the Democratic party. When those candidates no longer lived up to that person's expectations, he accused them of being true Republicans. The truth is that not all Democrats are angels. Just like any other political party, they have their bad apples, too - just own up to it.

There was one Republican candidate that I voted for when he ran for City Council, but unfortunately he is no longer with us and he never got elected. That person was Richard Piatkowski. During any meetings he attended he said what he meant and meant what he said. Unfortunately, Richard couldn't get the backing (monetarily) or support that he needed to get into office. He was on several municipal boards and was always very dedicated in his service.

I remember one year when Richard was running for City Council and a Council Debate was being held on a date that Richard was obligated to take a class for one of the boards he was serving on. He arrived at the debate after it had started with manuals in hand from the course he just attended.

That showed his dedication as a member of a municipal board. He knew how important it was to attend those courses mandated by the state to be on Boards. He arrived at the debate when it was already in progress. He decided that it was important that people could hear his point of view even if it was in a small window of opportunity.

When Richard was the Republican Chair, he along with Vilma Novak, Reyes Ortega and other members of the Republican Committee would put together a yearly event known as the Ides of March. This dinner event would honor those in the community who sought to make Perth Amboy a better place to live. Your party affiliation was not a factor in being honored. I remember one year when Chris Christie was the guest speaker after he announced his candidacy for Governor. The Mayor of Franklin Township, Brian D. Levine was present and was also running for Governor. He had asked if he could say a few words and Richard relayed this message to Chris Christie. Christie didn't have a problem with this and the Levine said a few words about his candidacy.

When Richard was terminally ill, he still was concerned with what was going on in the City. People would call him or he would call them to see what was said at the Council Meetings. He had a laptop on hand and was always researching or looking at the latest minutes of the meetings. This included the Council and the Boards he

participated in.

We need another Richard Piatkowski to emerge and unfortunately, I see none around. Let's face it. The Perth Amboy Democratic Party has been slowly unraveling for awhile. Now it looks like it's coming to a head. There have been attacks on the late Mayor Otlowksi, Vas and Diaz - all Democrats.

People switch political parties all the time and what's the big deal? The last time I looked it wasn't a crime. There has always been back-door and behind-closed-doors politicking going on. In politics, that's the Nature of the Beast. Then there is a lot of nitpicking over very minor items which are very embarrassing. I feel like I'm back in grade school - and that's an insult to grade schoolers.

All I can say is Facebook can be your very worst demon. Facebook has been very helpful in capturing and foiling terrorists and bringing them to justice.

Some comments made are silly, foolish and juvenile. A lot of people will take those comments and have you twisting in the wind.

People brag about how many people are their Facebook "friends." Honestly, that's nothing to brag about. Here's the problem: How would someone who is not your friend get information about comments or likes that you made. I guess they are friends of your unfriends and your so-called friends sabotaged you.

Are we at the brink of what they do in other countries where politicians have physical fights with each other? I remember a few years back when there was an altercation that took place in the corridor of City Hall. Another altercation took place inside the Council Chambers while a Meeting was going on. Luck-

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THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Our  
Leadership  
is Lost

On May 12, 2015 Perth Amboy is having a Special Municipal Election, for 2 Candidate, **Mr. Sergio Diaz & Mr. Fernando Gonzalez**, this is awfully unfair to the Citizens of Perth Amboy that we have to pay for a 2nd election, because of the fraud committed by the Democratic Party. I oppose, and hope that the Citizens will join me by signing a petition stating that we will not pay for this additional expense in any WAY OR FORM. This special election will cost an **additional \$75,000** that we will have to pay **one way or other**, due to the negligence, deceiving and manipulation of absentee ballots which were created by the runners working with the campaigns. The ones involved should be held accountable for the depth of fraud they created. Since this election must take place it is important to have the responsible parties pay for the fraud they intentionally committed. We should not have to pay for the negligence of corrupt runners, this is not in any way the peoples fault, and the candidate's should raise the money for their own campaign and pay for the people that have to be hired in order to redo the election. The 1st election was ruined by greed and abuse of our most vulnerable, **Our senior citizens**, by stealing their rights to choose and vote for whom they wanted to. This was done by intimidation, lies and abuse of their power. By allowing this reelection to go thru without saying a word, not only are we paying for it, but **Condoning Corruption**.

I urge all Citizens to sign a petition denying to pay for an error we the citizens did not commit. We pay enough taxes and are living in a falling town, this town has become the joke in the eyes of other towns. We have filled it with trash, our schools are so over crowded that we need trailers for our children to attend school. We are so over populated and continue with the construction of more and more apartments, this is killing our quality of life. We as is, have a huge problem with

**Parking, Garbage**, and with the **Water Pressure**.

**WAKE UP** Perth Amboy!!! We are spinning down so fast. The vision for this town was endless, and we had so much potential, but some Developers have their own vision. They made this their playground, by building and not caring what the long term effect will be for our City. The people we trust to make decisions for this town that sit on these Boards that have the power to **decline** these projects, yet don't do it. They are not helping our community, but instead, they keep approving more apartments, and they have gone as far as changing **Commercial Zones** into **Residential Zones!!** **AMAZING!!!** ...and they smile at the camera while in session and truly believe they are doing something great!!! Can't you see the developers go home at the end of the day to their beautiful towns and laugh as they fill their pockets at our expense? What a great deal for them. But what about us??? The ones that live here, raise our children here, have homes, and business. We are the ones paying the price for all this corruption. To show how low we have sunken, we have a drug clinic right in the middle of our business district, that's totally uncalled for, and so badly planned, why was this approved, don't they think before they approve thing? I for one am so done!!! I'm so fed up!! My taxes are killing me, my home is not worth half of what I paid for it. And we are paying taxes like we live in a great community, so far the only thing going up is crime, you can't deny that... many business are getting robbed daily, why are we not aware of what's going on in own town??? Why don't they enforce curfews for business? Why have the leaders of this town allowed it to run Amuck, No matter how much you think that we are progressing, we are not! Just walk the streets, spend time with the locals, and you will see that the deterioration is unrepairable, unless this town takes drastic measures, I see no hope, and if there was, it just might just be too late.. **Our LEADERSHIP is lost.**

Wilma R. Matey

What Do You Think?  
Send us Your Response!

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. 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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PUBLIC LIBRARY.....	211 FORD AVE.
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SUPER DUPER DELI III .....	650 KING GEORGE'S RD.
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KRAUSZER'S.....	683 FLORIDA GROVE RD.
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C-TOWN .....	272 MAPLE ST.
CAPITAL ONE BANK .....	313 STATE ST.
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COPA DE ORO .....	306 SMITH ST.
CRISPY CHICKEN .....	223 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
DUNKIN DONUTS .....	587 FAYETTE ST.
EASTSIDE DRY CLEANERS .....	87 SMITH ST.
ELIZABETH CORNER .....	175 HALL AVE.
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FLOWERS 'N THINGS .....	69 SMITH ST.
FU LIN .....	79 SMITH ST.
INVESTOR'S BANK .....	598 STATE ST.
JANKOWSKI COMMUNITY CENTER .....	1 OLIVE ST.
JEWISH RENAISSANCE MEDICAL CENTER .....	272A HOBART ST.
KIM'S DRY CLEANERS .....	73 SMITH ST.
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PROVIDENT BANK .....	339 STATE ST.
PUBLIC LIBRARY .....	196 JEFFERSON ST.
PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATION .....	100 FIRST ST.
QUICK CHEK .....	853 CONVERY BLVD.
QUISQUEYA MARKET .....	249 MADISON AVE.
RARITAN BAY AREA Y.M.C.A. ....	365 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
RARITAN BAY MEDICAL CENTER .....	530 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SANTANDER BANK .....	365 CONVERY BLVD.
SANTIBANA TRAVEL .....	362 STATE ST.
SCIORTINO'S RESTAURANT .....	473 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SHOP-RITE .....	365 CONVERY BLVD.
SIPOS BAKERY .....	365 SMITH ST.
SUPERIOR DINER.....	464 SMITH ST.
SUPREMO SUPERMARKET .....	270 KING ST.
TORRES MINI MARKET .....	403 BRUCK AVE.
TOWN DRUGS & SURGICAL.....	238 SMITH ST.
UKRAINIAN NATIONAL FEDERAL CREDIT UNION .....	615 AMBOY AVE.
WELLS FARGO .....	214 SMITH ST.
<b>IN SAYREVILLE:</b>	
BOROUGH HALL .....	167 MAIN ST.
SENIOR CENTER .....	423 MAIN ST.
SUNNYSIDE RESTAURANT .....	111 MAIN ST.
<b>IN SEWAREN:</b>	
PUBLIC LIBRARY .....	546 WEST AVE.
SEWAREN CORNER DELI .....	514 WEST AVE.
<b>IN SOUTH AMBOY:</b>	
AMBOY NATIONAL BANK .....	100 N. BROADWAY
BROADWAY BAGELS .....	105 S. BROADWAY
BROADWAY BISTRO .....	126 N. BROADWAY
CENTER DELI .....	250 N. STEVENS AVE.
CITY HALL .....	140 N. BROADWAY
COMMUNITY CENTER .....	200 O'LEARY BLVD.
KRAUSZER'S .....	200 N. BROADWAY
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HIV Support

PERTH AMBOY — Raritan Bay Medical Center is sponsoring an HIV support group meeting on Monday’s at 6 p.m. Anyone diagnosed with or caring for someone infected with HIV is welcome to attend. Meetings are held at the hospital’s Perth Amboy Division, New Brunswick Avenue.

To register or for more information, call (732) 324-5022.

Food Stamps Assistance

PERTH AMBOY - Every Wednesday there will be a Food Stamps Assistance Program 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.: JRF’s Family Success Center families to come in and meet with a representative from the Community Food Bank of NJ to assist with food stamps application and eligibility guidelines. For additional information please call 732-638-5063 or visit our office located at: 149 Kearny Ave. Perth Amboy (Proprietary House).

Volunteer Firefighters Needed

PERTH AMBOY - The Perth Amboy Fire Department: Volunteer Division needs members. Accepting men and women ages 18 years or older. Volunteers must be a Perth Amboy resident. For more information please contact 732-442-3430 or 732-324-3505.

Citizenship Classes

PERTH AMBOY - Every Wednesday: : FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER is offering a free course to assist those who plan on taking the USCIS Citizenship Test. All details will be discussed at the meeting. All who plan to take the course must attend Orientation. Call or visit the office to register. 149 Kearny Ave. (Proprietary House) Perth Amboy.

Kearny Cottage Open

PERTH AMBOY - Come visit the historic home of Commodore Lawrence Kearny. The Cottage is located at 63 Catalpa Ave, Perth Amboy, and is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. and the last Sunday of the month from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. The Kearny Cottage needs your help. Anyone interested in joining the Kearny Cottage Historical Society please contact 732-293-1090. We are on the web! www.KearnyCottage.org

Community Calendar

<b>Perth Amboy</b>	
TUES. Apr. 14	Library Board of Trustees, 5 p.m. City Hall, High St. UEZ, 6 p.m. City Hall, High St. BID, 7 p.m. City Hall, High St.
MON. Apr. 20	City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m. City Hall, High St.
WED. Apr. 22	City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, High St.
THURS. Apr. 23	Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m. City Hall, High St.
<b>South Amboy</b>	
WED. Apr. 15	City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, N. Broadway
MON. Apr. 27	Board of Education, Business/Public, 6 p.m. SA Middle/High School, Harold Hoffman Pl.

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## Boards of Meridian Health and Raritan Bay Health Services Corporation Approve Merger

News Release 4/7/15

NEPTUNE — The boards of trustees of Meridian Health and Raritan Bay Health Services Corp., the parent organization of Raritan Bay Medical Center, have approved the definitive agreement for the two not-for-profit health systems to merge. The agreement follows nearly seven months of due diligence during which time a thorough review of clinical, regulatory, service, and financial issues occurred. The merger still requires state regulatory approval, which the health systems expect to secure later this year. Both CEOs commented that the due diligence process has gone smoothly and that the cultures of the two organizations have proven very compatible.

“We’ve been excited about this opportunity with Raritan Bay Medical Center from the beginning,” says John K. Lloyd, FACHE, president of Meridian Health. “Both of our organizations share a commitment to quality and together, we will take progressive steps to join our services and our neighboring geographies to offer expanded choices for care to our residents.”

While Meridian Health serves primarily Monmouth and Ocean counties and parts of Middlesex County, Raritan Bay services Middlesex County and parts of Northern Monmouth County. The combined entity will have eight hospitals — Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Neptune, Ocean Medical Center, Brick, Riverview Medical Center, Red Bank, Southern Ocean Medical Center, Manahawkin, Bayshore Community Hospital, Holmdel, K. Hovnanian Children’s Hospital, Neptune, Raritan Bay Medical Center, Old Bridge and Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy — and a network of physician

practices, ambulatory surgery centers, home care, long-term care and assisted living facilities, ambulance services, fitness and wellness centers, and outpatient centers. The combined entity will serve a regional population of about 1.5 million residents, and the system will employ approximately 15,000 team members and have more than 2,700 physicians on staff.

“We spent a number of years looking for the right partner, one that not only offered the resources to help us to grow, but also shared our vision to be the region’s best medical center. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our employees and medical staff we are joining an advanced, forward-thinking system in Meridian Health,” says Michael R. D’Agnes, FACHE, president of Raritan Bay Medical Center. “I could not be happier to work with my long-time professional colleague John Lloyd to integrate Raritan Bay Medical Center into their system and provide our community greater access to superior care.”

“There is no doubt that this merger gives us the opportunity to offer innovative, patient-centered health care services to a broader region while letting us share significant population health management expertise with Raritan Bay,” says Lloyd. “Through care coordination and clinical integration, we will help individuals better understand their risk of illness, and customize prevention and treatment strategies that will serve our communities well.”

Meridian Health and Hackensack University Health Network also signed a letter of intent to merge on October 16, 2014. That merger transaction is nearing its completion of due diligence.

## Statement by Councilman Fernando Irizarry

PERTH AMBOY - Madam President and fellow council members I am going to take some time to respond to accusations and comments that have been against me in this council chamber. I apologize to you and the public for taking the time but enough is enough. Today, I am saying enough to the cynical and obnoxious brow beatings that, in my opinion, are intended to sully my character and integrity.

First, I am going to respond to the accusation that I “wasted 1.5 million dollars of taxpayer monies on the Seaman Ave. property. “Anyone that knows anything about board relations understands that a board member has no authority to act on his or her own. A board member has authority only when the full board acts on the recommendations of the superintendent. In this case the full board, of which I was part, chose to purchase the Seaman Ave. property for 1.5 million dollars. Something that everyone should understand is that the board did not have a buffet of sites to choose from. I am certain that had the board chosen another site it would have probably faced the same issues that it did with the Seaman Ave. property. This was the hand of the board of education had been dealt. Based on what I knew I followed my conscience and voted to purchase the property. As God as my witness, my vote was never about how I, or the property seller was going to benefit from this transaction or about wasting taxpayer money. It was only about how the children of the city were going to benefit. I consider any implication that I benefitted personally or financially from my vote to be slanderous and diabolical.

Here are my recollections of what transpired after the BOE decided to purchase the property:

1) The state approved the project.

2) Board representatives met with the state to select an architect and preliminary drawings were begun.

3) In the meantime, environmental testing and remediation was conducted.

4) The state formed the school construction cooperation (SCC) to take control of school construction. The SCC instructed the BOE to cease what is was doing and took control of the project.

5) The SCC ran out of money before the school could be built, but the project remained on the state’s list of approved school projects.

A rational mind would consider these facts and understand that this matter was taken out of the hands of the BOE. An unbiased consideration of these facts leads to the conclusion that it was never my intent, or the board’s, to waste 1.5 million dollars of taxpayer money.

Something else that everyone should know is that Charles B. McKenna, the chief executive officer of the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (NJSDA), informed the present BOE that it was “presently finalizing plans for a new elementary school on Seaman Ave.” What is interesting about this is that my critics, who seem to have the ability to research and find all kinds of information, never came across or shared this information that was continued in a September 2014 letter to be written to the BOE president. So, as it has turned out taxpayer money was not wasted. As a matter of fact, if the BOE were to purchase this property today it would pay much more than 1.5 million dollars.

Now, it seems that the argument is that I wasted not 1.5 million dollars, but 3 million dollars. Anyone that knows anything about school construction in Perth Amboy knows two things: 1.) that



Councilman  
Fernando Irizarry

the purchase price does not include the cost of remediation. 2.) That remediation is likely to be part and parcel of any project. My question is how is 1.5 or 3 million dollars that is utilized to build a school wasted? Our children have been dealing with overcrowding for 20 some odd years, and they are not worthy of better schools? My answer, and everyone else’s answer to the question should be, is yes they are.

Unfortunately, I must also address a topic that I have addressed before. I regret beating a horse that is in rigor mortis and decomposing. Yes, I voted to give the police chief a LONGEVITY INCREASE that he was entitled to. I did so because I believed that the police chief deserved to be compensated in the same way that previous chiefs were compensated. To put it simply, I followed my conscience on this issue and stand by my vote.

The last topic that I am going to address is my fundraiser at Terrazza. I just cannot believe the attention that this fundraiser has garnered. I categorically deny that there was any quid pro quo (something for something). Again, I consider an implication that there was any as defamatory and evil. The only reason that my team and I chose the venue was because it met our goals and needs. The way I see it is that we contributed to the economy of the city.

Unfortunately, there are some in this community that are not about agreeing to disagree. What they are about is I am right and you are wrong or my way or the highway. I want to assure my constituents that I am committed establishing a partnership that is based on the mutual respect of disagreements. What I will not commit to is a partnership that is based on manipulation, brow beatings, or control.

I humbly thank everyone for time. God bless you. God bless the great city of Perth Amboy.

### Sandy Assistance

NEW JERSEY - Still need assistance to recover from Sandy? Housing assistance may be available for you. Visit [www.renewjerseystroner.org](http://www.renewjerseystroner.org) to learn more about Sandy Recovery Assistance. Free Housing Counseling is available. Call 1-855-SANDYHM(726-3946) Hearing Impaired Users Text Telephone Service (TTY/TDD) 609-984-7300 or 1800-286-6613.

### Waterfront Arts Festival

PERTH AMBOY - The Waterfront Arts Festival planned for Saturday May 23 from 12 Noon to 6 p.m. There will be live music, food vendors and artists selling original artwork on Sadowski Parkway. This is a family friendly event with free admission and will offer arts & crafts for the kids. The Perth Amboy Waterfront Arts Festival Facebook page has an event listing you can share.

### Free Income Tax Preparation

PERTH AMBOY - FSC is partnering up with United Way and is bringing back V.I.T.A. Anyone interested in this opportunity you must first schedule an appointment and come into our center to pick up the paperwork that must be completed prior to your appointment. If interested or for additional information/details please call 732-638-5063 or visit our office located at: 149 Kearny Ave. Perth Amboy (Back of Proprietary House).

### Vendors Wanted

SAYREVILLE - Looking for vendors for the annual Flea Market at the First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville to be held on June 6<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. We are located at 172 Main Street, Sayreville-directly across from the Borough Hall. The rain date is June 13<sup>th</sup>. Spaces are available for \$15 for one space, \$25 for two. A very limited amount of tables will be available for \$5.00 extra. For information please leave a message on the church answering machine at 732-257-6353 or e-mail us at [churchoffice172@optimum.net](mailto:churchoffice172@optimum.net).



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## Strike Out Cancer And Spare Lives

HOPELAWN - Net proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society - Relay For Life of Woodbridge, Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Registration starts 12:30 p.m. The festivities will be held at Majestic Lanes, 525 Rte. 9 North, Hopelawn. Costs: \$5 for Non-Bowlers (Food and Beverage Only) or \$20 pp. Includes 2 hours of bowling, shoe rental, ball, food & beverage. Teams or individuals please fill out form below and submit with your check payable to the American Cancer Society by April 20th to: Relay for Life C/O Woodbridge Chamber of Commerce, 91 Main St. Woodbridge, NJ 07095. No refunds or cancellations. Teams of 6 recommended. If you do not have a full team, other bowlers may be added to fill in the lane. Maximum of 8 bowlers per lane. Any questions contact Amy - 732-887-5640. Lane sponsorship available. \$100 gets your business banner hung over 2 lanes. (Businesses supplies the banner).

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## Safety First & Not Business Friendly

PERTH AMBOY - Resident William Ortiz was concerned about the intersection of Brace Avenue and Lee Street where several accidents have occurred. "Motorists stop to let kids cross at the intersection, but other cars behind that stopped vehicle will swing around that car."

He said this as a warning for people just to be aware of this. He also mentioned the difficulty he had getting a car service started in the City.

"Because, when I got the form from the City I listed my physical address and I was denied a license. I had to go to New York to register my business."

Ortiz said, "People will not be coming to my residence. I will be going to where they want me to pick them up."

Councilman Bill Petrick suggested that Ortiz go to the



William Ortiz

Board of Adjustments for help. City Attorney Mark Blunda said, "I thought we amended the ordinance to say that as long as you are not running the business out of your house, there shouldn't be a problem." Blunda indicated that he would look into this further.

### E-Book Help

SOUTH AMBOY - There are free E-Book Help on Thursdays from 6:15 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at the Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060.

### Zumba

PERTH AMBOY - FSC is bringing Zumba back to our center. Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Recreation center located at 1 Olive St. Perth Amboy. For further information please call 732-638-5063 or visit our office located at: 149 Kearny Ave. Perth Amboy.

### Atlantic City Bus Trip

PERTHAMBOY - The monthly trip to Caesar's Casino will be on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Bus leaves 12 Noon from Knights of Columbus, 228 High St., Perth Amboy. Cost \$30 per person. Receive a \$30 slot card. For more info call Joe at 732-826-0819.

### Let's Crochet With Urian

PERTH AMBOY - FSC has partnered up with NJIT - BRIDGES in bringing a crocheting class for beginners. This class will be held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. at 881 Amboy Ave. Perth Amboy. No registration required.

### Food Drive

PERTH AMBOY - The Perth Amboy Post Office will take part in the National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive which will take place on Saturday, May 9. Non-perishable foods can be brought to the Post Office during regular business hours on that day. Containers will be located inside the Post Office to place your items.

### Vet's Coffee House

PERTH AMBOY - Attention area vets of our Armed Forces. The Salvation Army Vet's Coffee House meets once a month, every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday for coffee, donuts and conversation. Time is 19:00 - 21:00 located at the corner of Washington Street and State Street, Perth Amboy. We can be reached at the Salvation Army 732-826-7040. We look forward to meeting you.

### Court Drama Continues

*\*Continued from Page 1*

the \$205 million debt we owe now is not all from the previous administration. Some of it is ours (Capital Improvement Projects) including such items as replacing equipment, road work, etc. The Sandy storm was devastating. If we didn't have Sandy, we wouldn't have had to incur an additional \$72 million in debt."

During the public portion, former Councilman Kenneth Balut was glad they were going to investigate this election. "And this election should not be the only election investigated. I'm asking Attorney Blunda to call the Attorney General and the FBI to help. This has been going on for years in the nursing homes. Computers were stolen from political party headquarters going back to the Vas Administration. The votes of the Council got us into this mess, even when some of you were sitting on the Board of Education. Elaine Flynn's (Middlesex County Clerk) Office was raided. The Democratic Party is shattered. They only like certain Democratic Candidates. You need to OPRA to see how all money is spent."

Resident Stanley Sierakowski came up to speak, "Anyone going to a Senior facility has to sign in and the administrators of that facility must let them know which residents are competent. I heard an appeal is pending (in the election fraud case). If it's overturned, they'll be no new election. The Prosecutor, then the Attorney General will continue the investigation. Wait for the appeal."

Resident David Caba was concerned and puzzled why there are only two candidates on the ballot for the special election. "This election was very close." Caba addressed Councilman Pabon and said, "You ran with Vas and then with Leslie Dominguez. Did you go to nursing homes then? (Pabon nodded "Probably.") Then Caba continued, "My cousin (Jelmin Caba) who was on the New Direction for Perth Amboy slate lost by a small margin. Petrick, Diaz, Gonzalez and Caba should be on this special ballot. The trial should have been moved to another county. I don't believe this judge. Senator Vitale asked for Joe Vas to step down when he was indicted. Have you (the Council) asked for Senator Robert Menendez to resign?"

Caba concluded by telling the Council, "You're not looking good. The Feds are coming."

When Resident Alan Silber came up to speak he asked City Clerk Elaine Jasko if there was a list of the names and addresses of all who voted. Jasko replied, "You can get that from the county."

Silber continued, "There were administrators in a nursing home that gave money to the Mayor's team. There was \$140,000 for the Council Election. These were campaign funds not coming from the Mayor's pocket. Petrick and Pabon spent much more on this election than what was spent in 2010. We really don't know what happened. When we moved the election to November, it was said that we could save \$50,000. Now the election costs \$75,000?" Silber concluded by saying, "I'M A DEMOCRAT WITH NO PARTY. We're paying for your lawyers. That's a scam."

City Attorney Mark Blunda answered some of the issues addressed by members of the audience regarding the Judge's decision calling for a special election. "The court ordered only two candidates. The Trial was held in Middlesex County Superior Court and testimony was given on both sides. There was a violation of the American Constitution. The \$75,000 cost should not be borne by the taxpayers. We can only try to reduce the debt. The judge did a finding then made her judgement."

Mayor Diaz spoke after Blunda, "We should talk about the business development going on in the City at the Caucus Meetings." She talked about some of the recent projects coming up such as the recent demolitions of AS&R (American Smelting and Refinery).

Councilman Joel Pabon made remarks after the Mayor, "I'm glad the Mayor brought up these projects. Some of the land that will be developed has been abandoned for at least 20 years. We have more than 60,000 people in Perth Amboy, no matter how much money we bring to the City, people will still complain."

Mayor Diaz came back to speak, "There are businesspeople that have been in town for years and have given us guidance. We took recommendations from the studies conducted by independent entities. They all stated that we needed more recreation facilities for our residents. I have to go to elected officials to assist us in funding or to lobby for us. You don't hear people who come to the meetings say this."

Councilman Bill Petrick agreed with the Mayor, "A lot of companies are coming in and cleaning these properties and it's a win-win situation for us."

**Attend Public Meetings Have Your Voice Heard!**



# The Battle Continues

## The Tale of the Tape

PERTH AMBOY – Mayor Diaz was not through with her dismay with what happened to cause a special election to be held on May 12<sup>th</sup>. She made it clear at the 4/8/15 Council Meeting that there was no stone unturned. She played part of the audio where Judge Heidi Currier based her decision and called for this special election. You could hear a pin drop while the 16 minute audio was played.

The Mayor announced that the cost to the City would be \$76,835 and she proceeded to give a breakdown of all the expenditures. She stated the reason for playing this audio was so that there would be no hearsay or other interpretation of the Judge’s decision other than this recording.

Some of the people in attendance were not happy that the Mayor was given the opportunity to play this audio. During the public portion Businesswoman Virginia Lugo said, “The Mayor’s presentation was smoke and mirrors. The residents of the nursing home that testified were targeted because Leslie Dominguez worked there. I found it odd that the Mayor supported a ticket. There should be checks and balances. There is an injustice of power going on in the City.”

When Stanley Sierakowski came up to speak, “What about the surveillance cameras at the nursing homes? Leslie Dominguez has not been indicted. Why did you ask Leslie to resign? What about Senator Menendez who has been indicted? Also the Police Chief was indicted. Did you ask him to resign?”

Resident Alan Silber came up to speak and addressed the Council, “You voted for Kenneth Gonzalez to be a judge and Mr. Blunda had stated that all judges are political appointees. Superior Court judges are not infallible.” Silber then proceeded to read a ruling that involved Judge Currier. Silber then referenced the Mayor’s Facebook Page about the opening of the Diaz Team Campaign Headquarters in 2014. “Mr. Blunda is no longer giving legal opinions, but the Mayor’s opinions and this should stop.”

Resident David Caba stated, “This election was fraudulent. More candidates should be on the ballot. I forgot that Mr. Vitale is running the town. I did not attend the hearings because Middlesex County Court is so corrupt. My cousin (Jelmin Caba) is a true Democrat. You saw as Republicans that you couldn’t win, so you switched parties. People are starving while the developers are being enriched and your friends are getting jobs.”

Resident Maria Garcia said, “Some individuals came here to protect us, but slander people personally. At one point they are defending Leslie Rodriguez without facts or proof. Mayors in the past have supported slates and the people who testified did it through a video camera.”

Former Councilman Ken Balut said, “The Planning Board Attorney did not fill out his ethics forms. Judge Robbins did a ruling on Kenny Gonzalez and then Robbins was indicted on voter fraud.” Balut again reiterated that the Middlesex County Clerk Elaine Flynn’s office was raided by the FBI. “If the Mayor needs more evidence (about corruption) I have tapes and letters that I would gladly hand over to authorities. This is about taking over the Democratic Party so they can get the money back. The Y owes us one million dollars. When I left office it was only \$670,000. You should put that in the budget. The City is getting more money from Chevron. What about the money from the dismissal of tickets from the bar (on Fayette Street)? Maybe Elaine Flynn knows where the votes

went.”

Former Housing Authority Member Pedro Perez continued to press the Council about information about the Housing Authority entity (PARTNER) records from 2003-2010. He was told that the information would be available.

Fernando Gonzalez who had been sitting on the Council from 1/2/15 until the court decision came down on 3/25/15 came up to speak. He started out by saying, “News can be spun.” He was beside himself at the \$75,000 expenditure for the special election. “Someone lost and didn’t like that. I can’t hire lawyers to investigate votes. People were sent to people’s homes and told them they were Federal Investigators to intimidate people. Citizens of Nursing Homes have voted for years. 535 votes were the original amount of votes they tried to suppress. The voting machines were rechecked and so were other forms. People called me about people coming to their homes. The Judge went through a lot of hoops to get to her decision. I’m a poor man. I wish I had the money to appeal the Judge’s decision.”

The Mayor answered those who were not happy with Judge Currier’s decision. “We’ve heard a lot of the testimony, and I’m glad that people came up to give their views. I know it’s hard for them to hear the Judge’s decision, but you can’t overturn it. We have to move on. Many great things are happening. The Council doesn’t have the right to second guess a Superior Court Judge. I will continue to support candidates who have the best interest of the community. Businesses want to build up the City. We have to focus on the 50,000 residents. If you have an issue, you should go back to the Superior Court Judge. We are focusing on the redevelopment of the City to get jobs for the community. I don’t know how some people sleep at night.”

Resident Dorothy Daniel who was recently reappointed to the Housing Authority came up to speak. She decided to take a strong stance against those who personally attacked her and others in the Housing Authority. Before doing so, she told the Council that they have been bombarded by stuff that they have no control over. She recounted how she had served the community for over 30 years. “If the abuse continues against me (she referenced that comments are being made by Cathy DePow through Facebook) there will be lawsuits and I hope these people have money. If the Housing Authority was guilty of charges hurled against us, we would have been slapped by

the Federal Government. I was recently honored for my work in the community. Even the top official from HUD sent me a letter thanking me for the job I’ve done.” Daniel again mentioned as she had done in previous meetings about some of the storefronts on Smith Street with “bright flashing lights at night” that should be looked into again. “My granddaughter has a condition where these lights can cause her to have seizures.”

After the public portion was closed, the Council made their comments. Councilman Bill Petrick thanked the Mayor for addressing the issues at hand and told her, “They were right on point. The comments about people posing as Federal Agents and coming to voter’s doors were untrue.”

Councilman Joel Pabon stated, “We owe it to the public to explain in detail about agenda items. Sometimes our knowledge is limited and we call on department heads or administrators here who are better qualified give a more detailed explanation. There are good things happening in our City. Let’s give it a chance. I’ve been volunteering since I was a teenager. We have a large number of little leaguers and a lot of them are without coaches. We are getting bashed because we are getting tax money from Chevron and we get kicked around because we want a county park. Someone said that the YMCA owes us a million dollars. It’s actually a little more than that, but if you can come up with something better than the Y, let us know. The Y is doing a lot for the community. A friend of mine has a child who has autism and the Y has helped him out with swimming lessons



Councilman  
Joel Pabon

and that child is now swimming like a pro in a short period of time. Go to the YMCA on a Friday and see how many teenagers are participating in activities there. If I wasn’t on the Council, I would spend more time volunteering like I did before. People who complain should volunteer. I saw a lot of lawyers here. I wonder why they didn’t go to the trial. If you have video and records and other information (to back up your statements about corruption) then take them to the FBI.”

Councilman Fernando Irizarry read a lengthy statement in response to accusations made against him when he was sitting on the Board of Education. This was specifically regarding matters pertaining to the Seaman Avenue School Property (see page 6).

Council President Lisa Nanton said, “It’s an honor to serve with these gentlemen on the Council. It’s all about bettering the community. A lot of times we have our hands tied. We can’t comment on any litigation (referring to the YMCA) or personnel matters.”

## South Amboy Fire Department 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraising Events

### Murder Marinara!

SOUTH AMBOY - The SAFD 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee presents our FINAL Murder Mystery Dinner Murder Marinara on Saturday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Annex Hall, Washington Ave., South Amboy. Price \$40 pp. Includes Show, Dinner, Beer, Wine, Soda & Dessert! (Feel Free to BYOB!) Seating IS Limited Get your tickets beginning 3/1/15!

### 2015 Golf Outing

OLD BRIDGE - The SAFD 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee 2015 Outing will be on Monday, April 27 at the Glenwood County Club, 1655 US Hwy 9, Old Bridge. Cost \$110/player. Early Bird Registration; \$30/Non-Golfer 19th Hole Luncheon 8 a.m. Registration 9 a.m. Shotgun Start.

For more information or to purchase tickets contact: Mike Gerałowski - 848-250-9903; Anne Marie Trapp - 732-207-2848; Kevin Riley - 732-715-1006 or email SAFD125th@gmail.com or any SAFD Member.

## May 12, 2015 Special Municipal Election Cost Estimate

Poll Clerks	\$39,200
• (\$200 x 192) @ 6 poll clerks x 32 districts)	
( <u>\$38,400</u> )	
• (\$25 x 32 districts - supply pickup/drop off)	
( <u>\$800</u> )	
Overtime - Office Staff/Helpers	\$2,000
Overtime - Police	\$7,500
Advertising	\$10,350
Printing of Ballots	\$11,350
Printing of ATV’s	\$800
Bulk Mailing of Ballots	\$1,800
Trucking of Machines	\$3,500
2 Polling Sites Rental Space	\$335
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$76,835</b>



South Amboy State of the City



Police Chief Darren Lavigne (L) and Captain Joseph Matarangolo (R)

\*Continued From Page 1

new marked and two new unmarked police cars.” He welcomed 6 new Patrol Officers and wished the best to the retirees. Mayor Henry thanked Police Chief Darren Lavigne for his service.

Henry mentioned a drill that the Emergency Responders participated in which was held out of state. This was in conjunction with NJ Transit which a simulated train wreck late last year. Those who participated were commended by NJ Transit for a job well done.

Henry spoke of redevelopment in South Amboy. “The old JCP&L Plant has been torn down. It’s positive for the City of South Amboy. We received a \$3 million grant for the walkway at the Waterfront and \$44,000 from the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) to build facades. We continue to protect City’s assets. The plans for the ferry are moving forward. We have a letter of intent from a well-known ferry operation. The Venetian Health Care is now open. It is a state of the art facility.”

Henry went on to announce, “We have finally seen an end to Amboy Aggregates. The structures have been disabled.”

Mayor Henry introduced Marty Dwyer of the Manhattan Beach Project. “I’m from Sherman Cognitive, an investment group headquartered in South Carolina. We have provided capital to move Amboy Aggregates forward. It took 16 months. We’ve invested approximately \$40 million into the property. I’m very excited to be a part of your town. Although we closed on the property 4 months ago, you’ll be seeing magnificent changes. We want to open up the Waterfront so everyone gets to enjoy it. We became a part of the community. We anticipate a ground-breaking in approximately 12 months. We look forward to being a good citizen of this town. It may take 20 to 30 years for the completion of the entire project.”

Mayor Fred Henry thanked Marty Dwyer and his group



(L to R) Mayor Fred Henry, Mayor Wilda Diaz, Council President Mickey Gross, Asm. John Wisniewski, Mayor’s Aide Irving Lozada, Dr. Jorge Gonzalez-Gomez, Yoldanda Rodriguez and Celebrate the Amboys Chair Barry Rosengarten

from the Manhattan Beach Project. He continued stating that there are free summer programs for the youth will continue and there will be more pool time for Seniors at the YMCA. He noted that there is free transportation for seniors if necessary within a 10 mile radius. He acknowledged retirees from City Hall

including Kathy Vigilante and Linda Barret for their years of service and stated that he was pleased with the choices for their replacements. With that he introduced the Acting City Clerk Laura Kalantsis and the Business Administrator’s Secretary Stacy Kennedy and Public Works Superintendent Len Moffa. “They all are very



Mayor Henry is stands with his proud family after delivering the State of the City Address. Pictured above (L to R) is his wife, Linda whom he presented flowers, his mother, Anne and brother, Bill.

\*Photos by Carolyn Maxwell

dedicated to the people of our town.”

Henry then spoke about the financial situation of South Amboy, “We are in much better financial situation. We now have a Moody rating of A3 which reflects stabilization in the City’s finances thanks to B.A. Camille Tooker. “She has put together a lot of hard

work. Our main resource is the people of this great City. They make it better.”

Henry concluded his speech with quoting JFK. “Change is the law of life,” He also stated, “We are making positive changes to South Amboy.

\*Continued on Page 11

# Car Raffle

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**Ticket**

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**2nd Prize - Two round trip airline tickets to Florida, Puerto Rico or Dominican Republic - donated by Ana Maria Zevallos/Skrocki Home for Funerals**

**3rd Prize - Flat screen 55” TV donated by Toshiba**

**4th Prize - 15.6” Touch-Screen Laptop, donated by Tropical Cheese Industries**

**5th Prize - iPad 16 GB, donated by United Poles Federal Credit Union**

**6th Prize - X-Box One, donated by Zylka Funeral Home**

**7th Prize - \$500 Gift Certificate Card, donated by Quisqueya Restaurant**

**8th Prize - Home Theater System, Donated by K&K Project**

**9th Prize - 4 Burner Stainless Gas Grill, donated by Petra Best Realty**

**10th Prize - Microwave Oven, donated by Flynn & Son Funeral Home**

**Drawing is Saturday, May 30, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.**

**At St. Stephen’s Auditorium**

**500 State St., Perth Amboy NJ**

**Call 732-826-1395 or go to [www.johnpaulsecond.com](http://www.johnpaulsecond.com)**

*No substitution of the offered prize may be made and no cash will be given in lieu of the prize. No one under the age of 18 is permitted to participate. Winner need not be present. Winner is responsible for all Federal and State Tax*

**All proceeds benefit St. John Paul II Parish**

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## Editorial

*\*Continued From Page 4*

ily there were people there to keep the combatants apart.

There is so much mudslinging and hatred being exhibited and this is what our youth is being exposed to. What kind of legacy do we want to pass on? There is too much time being spent on nonsense. Let all parties concentrate on getting the City back where it should be.

All Mayors inherit the good and the bad from their predecessors. There's a saying, "If you get lemon, you could be stuck with it or you can make it into lemonade."

There is a lot of rehashing going on in the Council Meetings. I can understand that some of the speakers are very frustrated on both sides of the aisle. In due time, things will come to a head and there will be a solution one way or the other. The solution to a problem may not make anyone happy.

Abraham Lincoln said, "You can please some of the people all of the time, you can please all of the people some of the time, but you can't please all the people all of the time."

One thing I know for sure, if you are a member of a strong union, they will fight for their members' rights. It doesn't matter what the public thinks should be done. The union will rule. And that goes for Facebook comments. **C.M.**

**P.S.** Next week's editorial will be pictorial - Pleasant Memories

## South Amboy State of the City

*\*Continued From Page 10*

Against the odds I persevered. There were some tough times. It's never an easy task but we must do the right thing. I need and expect your support. I thank my mother, Anne, my brother, Bill, my daughters: Kristen and Erin and my stepsons Tom and Mike and especially my wife, Linda who witnessed how tough the last election was. She witnessed the trials, tribulations and court hearings and she endured through it all." He thanked his brother again, "I could not have been successful in the election without Bill's help." He concluded by thanking the City of South Amboy for their support.

**Attend Public  
Meetings  
Have Your  
Voice Heard!**

## Seaman Avenue Elementary School Still Questioned

By: Katherine Massopust  
PERTH AMBOY – There was a discussion at the 4/2/15 BOE Meeting about an Agenda Item approving the submission of the Schematic Design & Educational Specifications for the new Seaman Avenue School to the NJ Dept. of Education.

Board Member Ken Puccio continued to protest the construction of the school, "I cannot endorse building a school on a site that's uncleanable. The property is a traffic nightmare. We don't have the results of the study. We're absorbing the cost of the cleanup for a site that cannot be cleaned. Until I leave the Board, I will protest this."

Board President Sam Lebreault stated, "I would like Mr. Puccio to produce evidence that this site is uncleanable."

Puccio said, "Until the meantime go to DEP in Trenton."

Board Secretary Derek Jess answered Puccio's concerns, "We are waiting for a report to come back. The property is not as bad as originally expected. The Board of Educa-

tion owns the land, so we have to pay for the cleaning."

"If this site proves to be cleanable, does this bind us to anything?" Lebreault asked.

"No, we are not bound to anything," Jess answered.

"I would like a traffic study done," Puccio said. He voiced concerns about the closeness of the Public Safety Complex and the traffic nightmare of a hypothetical fire or police emergency during school opening and closing times.

Jess answered, "The SDA is currently working on a traffic study."

Puccio also mentioned the 1994 Edison Pipeline Explosion. "In Perth Amboy there is a yellow pole in the ground – the Colonial Pipeline next to the Firehouse. It goes north to Linden. Is there a rule to build so close to a pipeline?"

Lebreault agreed with Puccio's concerns.

"I will ask," Jess stated.

The Board agreed unanimously to approve the agenda item since it did not bind any agreement with the SDA.

## Women's Resource Center Help Program

SOUTH AMBOY - Tuesday, April 14 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Dowdell Library of South Amboy, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060.

## Ferry Slip Museum Meeting

PERTH AMBOY - Come join us at "The Little Museum That Could" where YOUR volunteer efforts will really make a BIG difference! The Ferry Slip Museum Cordially invites you to our reorganization meeting on Monday, April 20 at 7 p.m.

Whether it's a class of young children or a WWII veteran – everyone who visits is touched by the history of ferrying from the Lenape Indians to the 1960s. Our little museum demonstrates the importance of the Raritan to settling Perth Amboy as well as being a source of food, industry and transportation.

Stand in a place where history has been made for centuries! Imagine John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and Edward Rutledge leaving from this spot to cross over the waters and meet with the British regarding the decision to go to war.

Soon to come – A mini museum on-site to be named "Made in Perth Amboy" with examples of the products that came from Perth Amboy and the history of the companies involved. Help clean out the space, stock it, and learn while you volunteer.

We are completely self-supporting and completely dependent upon volunteer to staff the museum, act as docents, clean, elicit donations and run our excellent speakers' program. Surely your talents in one of these areas will make a difference!

Please join us for this important meeting. Chair a committee, join a committee or run for the Board. We need you and we know you'll enjoy the experience!

For more info: email [DE-POW@aol.com](mailto:DE-POW@aol.com) or call 732-442-5425.

## Summer Camp

EDISON – Metuchen High School Students Bridget Waldron and Rachel Suss organized an event at Kiddie Keep Well Camp in Roosevelt Park. Kiddie Keep Well is a 501(C)(3) non-profit that provides hundreds of kids each summer with a sleep away camp experience they would normally not be able to afford.

They received a grant from the Disney Friends for Change program through the Youth Service America to host a Carnival for the campers and the children of Middlesex County to encourage them to get outside and be healthy. The carnival will be held on Sunday, April 19th, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the open grove in Roosevelt Park and we would be honored if you would attend to show support for the kids and the community.

## Healthy Cooking Classes

PERTH AMBOY - Every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the JRF-Family Success Center, 149 Kearny Ave. (Back of Proprietary House) starting March 11. Registration is a must! Spaces are limited. 732-638-5063.

## A.C. Bus Trip

PERTH AMBOY - Bus Trip to Resorts Casino on Sunday, April 19 Sponsored by the Fellowship Circle of the Hungarian Reformed Church, 331 Kirkland Place, Perth Amboy. Bus leaves the church at 12 noon - 6 hour stay at Casino from when we arrive in AC. Cost: \$27 pp. Return of \$25 in slot play. Bagged lunch provided. To reserve a seat call: 732-261-8726. Payment due by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Lego Toddlers

SOUTH AMBOY - Ages 2-3 yrs. old. Mondays at 1:30 p.m. at the Dowdell Library of South Amboy, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060. Come build with us!

## Used Book Sale & Flea Market

SEWAREN – There will be a used book sale and flea market on Saturday, April 25th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sewaren Free Public Library, 546 West Ave., Sewaren (Corner of Marsh St.) Paperbacks, video tapes and DVD's at bargain prices, toys, clothes, furniture, accessories. Bag of Books Special. Rain Date Sunday, April 26th. For more info call 732-634-7571.

## Elvis Dance

SAYREVILLE - Sat. May 16, St. Stan's School Gym, 225 MacArthur Ave., Sayreville. Buffet Dinner and Show, Doors open at 6 p.m. Show starts 8 p.m. \$30 pp. - Cash Bar. Please reserve your table early. A night to enjoy with the memorable music of Elvis. For tickets call: Connie - 732-651-6391; Bernie - 732-257-3077; Church Office - 732-254-0212. St. Stan's Rosary Altar Society would like to Thank You for your support!

## Tree Seedling Giveaway

PERTH AMBOY – There will be a tree seedling giveaway on Saturday, April 18 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Francis Street Park; Wednesday, April 22 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Alpine Street Community Garden and Saturday, April 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fink Park on Smith Street & Madison Avenue. Thanks to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and their Sandy Tree Recovery Campaign, Perth Amboy will be giving away 750 seedlings (between 2-4 feet tall) to residents to plant on their properties in an effort to replace trees damaged by Superstorm Sandy. For more info call 732-826-0290 ext. 4046.



South Amboy State of the City, Hoffman Senior Center, Stevens Avenue, South Amboy 4/9/15

\*Photos by Carolyn Maxwell



SOUTH AMBOY - The photos above were taken after Mayor Henry’s State of the City Address. Some of those in attendance included Assemblymen Wisniewski and Coughlin, City Department Heads, City Hall Employees, Police and Fire Department Representatives, Some of the Council Members, Library Staff, and Municipal Board Members and City Residents.

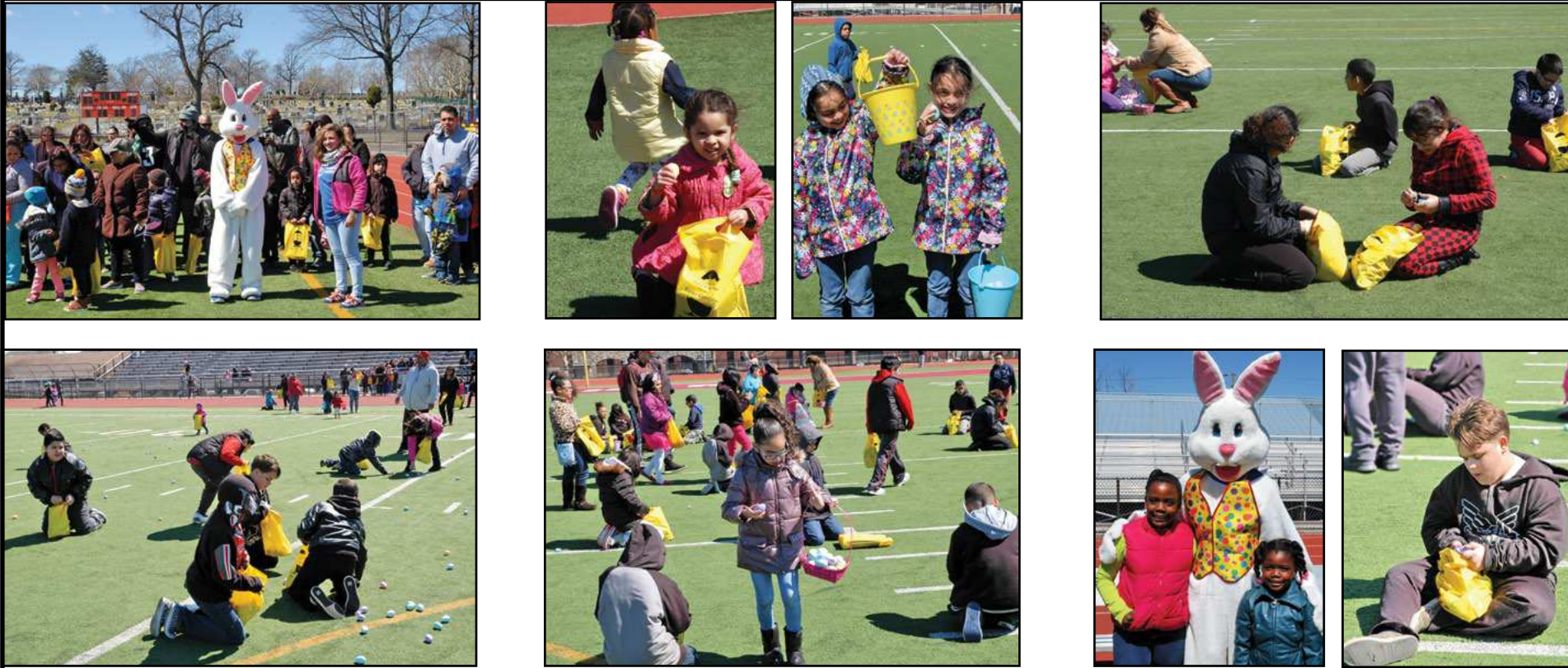
Good Friday Services, The Cathedral International, Perth Amboy 4/3/15

\*Photos by Eric Salvary



Easter Egg Hunt, Waters Stadium, Perth Amboy 4/4/15

\*Photos by Paul W. Wang



Easter Pageant, Perth Amboy YMCA 4/5/15

\*Photos by Paul W. Wang





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. **A.L.**

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 G.K.**

Vendors and Shoppers Needed

PERTH AMBOY – The Perth Amboy Volunteer Fire Department will be holding a Flea Market/Vendor Sale on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Raritan Bay YMCA Parking Lot, 375 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy. For Vendor info please contact Kim at 732-824-1719 or Kim62694@comcast.net

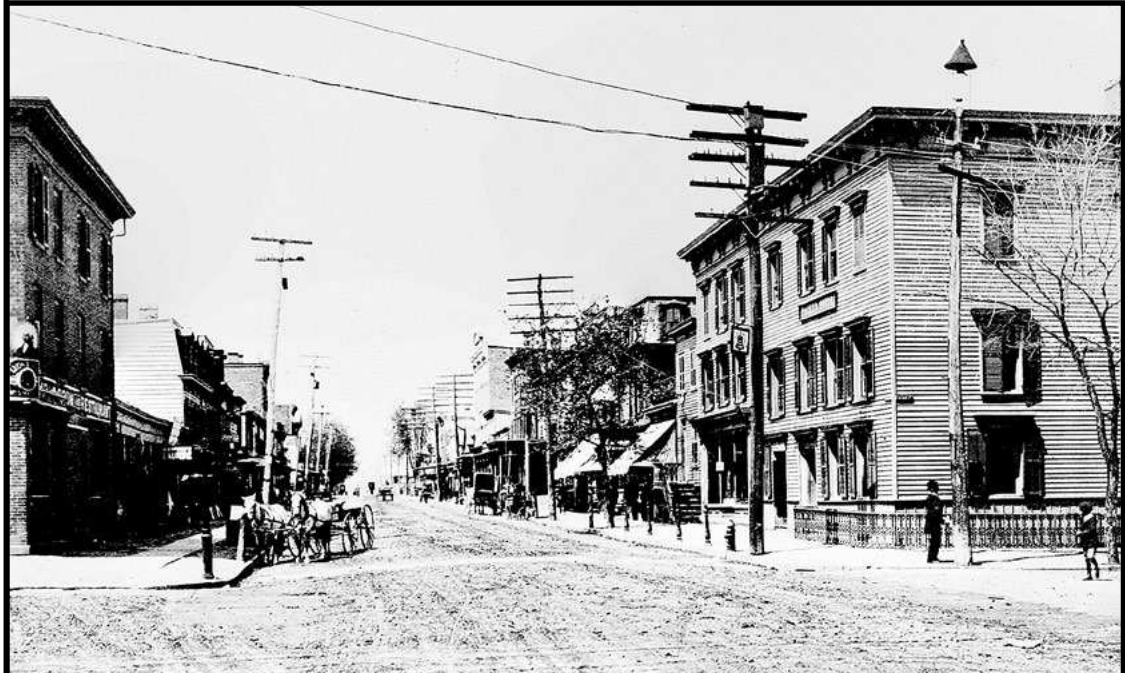
Flea Market

SEWAREN - The First Baptist Church of Woodbridge Food Pantry Presents Spring 2015 Flea Market. Come for food, fun, crafts and bargains: Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> (Rain Date May 16<sup>th</sup>) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 130 Sewaren Ave., Sewaren. Vendors: reserve your space now! \$25 (Space - bring your own table); \$10 Table (You rent one of our tables); \$35 Both (You rent a space & table) For more information call: Deacon Jones 347-930-4764 or Sister Roman: 848-565-1886.

Answers From Puzzle On Page 15



LOOKING BACK



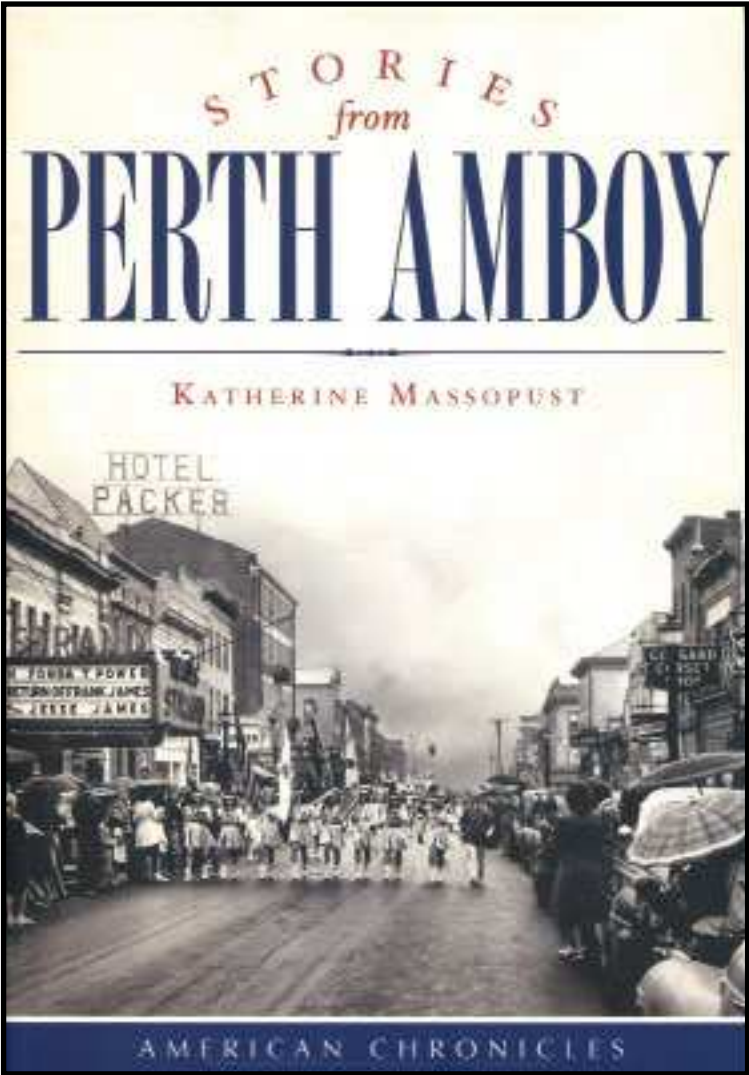
PERTH AMBOY - Smith Street 1890's  
*\*Photo Courtesy of Dale Morris*  
*This photo was restored under a grant for the Kearny Cottage Archiving project by the Middlesex Cultural and Heritage Commission*

Senior Scene

Happenings

- Perth Amboy**  
WED. Apr. 15 Holy Rosary Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Auditorium, Florida Grove Rd.  
• St. Stephen’s Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.  
THURS. Apr. 16 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.  
MON. Apr. 20 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.  
TUES. Apr. 21 Holy Spirit Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Church Hall, Brace Ave.  
• Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.  
WED. Apr. 22 Holy Rosary Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Auditorium, Florida Grove Rd.  
• St. Stephen’s Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.  
• Holy Trinity Seniors, 1 p.m., Church Hall, Lawrie & Johnstone St.  
THURS. Apr. 23 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
- South Amboy**  
MON. Apr. 27 Sacred Heart Seniors, 12 Noon Memorial Hall, Wash Ave.  
MON. May. 4 St. Mary’s Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.  
WED. May. 13 South Amboy Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.

**Attn: If Your Club changes Your Schedule due to the Holidays or if you have Community Events to Submit Please give us two weeks advanced notice! 732-896-4446 or 732-261-2610 AmboyGuardian@gmail.com**



**Stories From Perth Amboy**  
PERTH AMBOY - Stories From Perth Amboy by Katherine Massopust is available at the Barge Restaurant, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy or in Fertig’s Department Store, 195 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy For more info call Katherine at 732-261-2610 or call the Barge at 732-442-3000 - or Fertig’s at 732-442-1079 - A Great Gift!



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