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AMBOY GUARDIAN

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Mayor Wilda Diaz Delivers Her 2018 State of the City Address

3/27/18



Lydia J. Valencia, CEO/President, Puerto Rican Congress of NJ, Inc.

PERTH AMBOY – On Tuesday, March 27, 2018 Mayor Wilda Diaz gave the 2018 State of the City Address. The Perth Amboy Police and Fire Departments gave the Presentation of Colors. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by the Perth Amboy High School NJROTC. The National Anthem was sung by the Academy for Urban Leadership Charter School Choir. Monsignor John Gordon gave the Invocation.

There was a ten-minute film highlighting the accomplishments and character of Mayor Wilda Diaz. Diaz was then introduced by Lydia J. Valencia, CEO/President, Puerto Rican Congress of NJ, Inc. “10 years of public service. In 3 terms – you’re in – you’re all in. The first female Mayor in Perth Amboy. She’s led her life to serve all of her constituents. She’s the first Latina chair of the Urban Mayor Association. She learned to do right by others and felt the need to stand up and lead.”

Mayor Wilda Diaz then came up to speak and thanked everyone who was present. “It is hard to believe that a decade has passed since I was first sworn in, and I am proud of the work that we have accomplished together. It’s been ten years of difficult decision making, growth and progress and serving the community that I absolutely love!”

Diaz thanked God for His guidance, stressing her faith that keeps her going through tough times. “I have two wonderful adult children, Greg who com-



Mayor Wilda Diaz delivers the State of the City Address
*Photos by Paul W. Wang



A crowded room in the Theater in the Perth Amboy YMCA



Husband Greg Diaz, Congressman Frank Pallone, Mayor Wilda Diaz, Asm. Craig Coughlin, Son, Greg Diaz, Jr. (Rear) Asm. Yvonne Lopez, Councilman Helmin Caba

pleted his undergraduate education and has honorably served our country, during two tours overseas in Afghanistan and Iraq as a Sergeant of the Army reserves. And tonight, I have an exciting family announcement, Gregory and his beautiful girlfriend are going to make us grandparents. My daughter, Sa-

mantha will soon be completing her fellowship in Minnesota, as she works towards attaining her Master’s Degree in Public Administration.” Diaz thanked her parents in Puerto Rico and her sisters. “I love you so much!”

“Year after year, my admin-

*Continued on Page 7

A Lot on the Table

3/26/18 Caucus

PERTH AMBOY – City Clerk Elaine Jasko advised the Council that she needed to have two items added to the agenda. The first one involved someone who applied for a handicapped spot who did not have the money for an application fee in February 2017. “The Handicapped Committee does not want to make a decision of a fee waiver.”

Council President Bill Petrick requested that financial statements be asked of the applicant, so the Council could make the determination.”

Jasko then asked the Council when they wanted to have the Budget Hearings. “Right now, there are two available dates: April 2 or April 16. There’s a possibility that we can have the hearings on April 12 if we reschedule the Zoning Board Meeting.”

Councilman Fernando Irizarry thought April 2 was too early. Councilman Fernando Gonzalez said he would not be here until after April 16.

Towards the end of the discussion, it was suggested to have the meetings (Budget Hearings) moved to a different location and later in the day so the public could attend.

The Meeting continued - Ordinance No. 1. Irizarry then asked that Ordinance No. 1 regarding adding a title Non-union and Management be discussed in closed session.

Jasko responded that it is already scheduled.

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez then added, “We have not issued a Rice Notice to the person involved in this Ordinance.”

Next, there was a lengthy discussion regarding equipment for the Scuba Diving Team. There were two bids: one was for equipment such as a Digital CHIP Side Scan Sonar System. The second item was for Scuba Aqualung Hazmat Dry Suits and Accessories.

Acting Fire Chief Ed Mullen came up to give more detailed information. He stated, “We have specific bidders (who carry certain equipment because of geographic regions). Some of the equipment is interchangeable between the two types of boats that we have. The Scuba Diving Dry Suits and Accessories will have a lifespan of be-

tween 10 years to 20 years and come with a standard warranty. This is the fourth part of Rescue and Diving Grants. We get a 75% discount, which is also assisted with FEMA Grants. At the end of the life for these grants, we’ll put in for additional grants. By July 1, our team should be up and running.”

Council President Bill Petrick asked about the training sessions.

Mullen responded, “Training is at the YMCA, Raritan Bay, and Ice Breaking Training is done in Pennsylvania. The lifeguards that we use for the Safety Course Instructions are familiar with our waters.”

Councilman Joel Pabon was pleased about the Scuba Team getting this equipment. “We (the City) always ask for outside units to help us find someone in the waters. This equipment is worth every penny. We have to protect our Waterfront and those who use it.”

Irizarry took a different approach, “No disrespect to this unit, but we can’t afford this, especially with the government budget caps and cuts.”

Gonzalez disagreed with Irizarry, “We can create something unique to benefit the City. We’re paying 25 cents out of every dollar, which is worth it.”

Councilman Helmin Caba said, “I agree with Councilmen Pabon and Gonzalez. We can’t put a price on a life.”

Mullen finished up the discussion stating, “This is already earmarked.”

DPW Director Frank Hoffman came up and spoke about R-126-3/18 – To supply and install a new fuel force 894-K fuel management system under a state contract in an amount not to exceed \$27,100. “This is to replace the old system which cannot be upgraded and be used for diesel and gasoline. The IT guy said we need a new system.”

Hoffman spoke about R-127-3/18 Awarding a contract to Jersey Elevator Company, Inc. for preventive maintenance and minor repairs in an amount not to exceed \$60,000. He stated, “This is for the City Elevator for the Power System and other safety parts.”

Petrick asked, “Will every-

*Continued on Page 2

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A Lot on the Table

thing be in one package?" Hoffman said, "That is correct."

Irizarry then asked how long it will take to get the elevator working in City Hall.

Hoffman answered, "Two months."

Hoffman then spoke about R-128-3/18 – Extending the contract with Thyssenkrupp Elevator Corp. for preventive maintenance and service of elevators at the Public Safety Complex for an additional \$11,803 to an amount not to exceed the sum of \$31,803. "This is for minor elevator repairs."

The last item he spoke about was R-129-3/18 – Authorizing submission of a recycling enhancement grant application. "This is to expand the Recycling Center of the southwest corner beyond our gate. It will make the flow of traffic easier."

Deputy Chief Larry Cattano came up to speak about Resolution – R-130-3/18 – Purchasing a 2018 Ram Promaster Cargo Van 2500 in an amount not to exceed the sum of \$28,130.78. "This vehicle is to replace a Tahoe and will also make it easier to process a crime scene. It will allow us to do fingerprints and tape interviews on site. Regarding R-131-3/18 – The purchase of four 2018 Police Interceptor Utility Vehicles in a total amount not to exceed \$109,148 is to replace old Crown Victoria Vehicles."

Mullen came back to explain R-135-3/18 – Purchasing Scuba Diving Equipment in an amount not to exceed \$52,601.60. "This hardware equipment which is part of the Security Grant Award."

R-136-3/18 was explained by Council President Petrick - Authorizing a contract with Edmunds & Assoc. for utility billing, work order, and online inquire and payment software and conversion of water/sewer accounts data in an amount not to exceed \$39,100. "This is to bring the work inhouse instead of it being done by the water company."

City Engineer Jeff Rauch came forward to talk about the performance bonds for BRIDGE Development Partners LLC for specific blocks and lots. "This is the E-port #1 Property."

Petrick asked if the three buildings already put up met all of the requirements to get their release of the return of their cash bonds.

Rauch said, "Yes, except one bond is being held because they have to finish landscaping. All other bond requirements were completed to our satisfaction."

During the public portion, Resident Stanley Sierakowski came up to speak. He questioned Ordinance No. 1 Re: Non-Union and Management title. "The Board of Adjustment Attorney had been eliminated. Who will be their Acting Attorney?"

Petrick responded, "It will be a contract person."

B.A. Adam Cruz added, "It was removed in the ordinance."

Sierakowski then questioned, "Is the current Executive Director (of PARA) an employee or consultant? And is she in the

pension system? Does the position entitle it to be in the pension system or even entitled to health benefits? Also, did Peter King write a letter in regards to appointments (on Boards) yet?"

Petrick said, "King is on vacation right now."

Resident Ken Balut came up to speak. He was again annoyed because the PILOT money could have been used for the school system. "The Mayor did not know how much money was given away due to the PILOTS. You should also talk about the Chaplains who left. I heard that money for the homeless was mishandled. How many new City hires were involved in the political campaigns? The schools and the City are being shafted."

Resident Alan Silber came up. He stated, "We didn't get a good explanation of the City Budget Cap Increase. The \$619,000 increase is necessary. I know a lot of people don't know what these increases mean." Silber then told the Council they should demand backup material (on Agenda Items) a week before the Meeting. You should ask about Mr. Walensky (Parking Utility). You guys need a staff. If there's an item on the agenda, it should be discussed in public. You need a person to help you look through 400-page budget. You should ask why certain paragraphs of the Nepotism (ordinance) were eliminated."

Resident David Caba addressed Councilman Irizarry, "Have you driven through town lately? Someone said our roads are worse than Cuba."

Caba then addressed the real estate market in Perth Amboy, "Since 2015, the real estate has decreased. Kushner left, and his property is still abandoned. In the past few years, real estate has doubled in other towns. Why hasn't the real estate gone up on the Landings? The developer made all these promises that he broke, but he wants a second chance."

Code Enforcement Director Jamie Rios was called up to talk about a recent violation committed by the Santa Domingo Restaurant. They recently went over the maximum capacity of patrons in its establishment from 54 to 78.

Rauch came up to answer

questions about road repairs on Market and Smith Streets. The milling and paving on Market Street will start on April 4. Smith Street will follow. This work will begin around 7 a.m. until the afternoon."

Irizarry requested they notify residents who will be affected.

Business Administrator Adam Cruz said, "This information will be on social media, the City's Website and posted on telephone poles. "The Police Department to make sure this is done."

Rauch answered a question about how permits are issued, "Code Enforcement is the one who issues the permits to the utility companies for roadwork. I issue letters for previous work that was done on roads that need to be re-dug. Elizabethtown Gas will do restoration work (such as potholes and manholes) starting on May 5."

Irizarry then asked Rauch, "There's a perception that our roads are bad. Is there technology to let us know how bad our roads are?"

Rauch responded, "There are devices that can evaluate grating. I can't tell you what the price is off the top of my head, but we can do a cost analysis. We have done this in other towns. It will be less than \$100,000. We get grants in the amount of \$300,000 to \$340,000 per year for road improvements."

Councilman Helmin Caba then stated, "It's not a perception that our roads are terrible. It's a reality!"

Pabon showed his frustration stating, "I don't know where to drive anymore because of the road conditions."

CFO/Comptroller Jill Goldy then came up to speak because of Silber's question in reference to R-120-3/18 - Authorizing emergency temporary appropriations to extend the CY 2018 temporary budget in an amount of \$2,680,339.48.

She asked the Council, "Do you want the long explanation or the short explanation? We are allowed by stature to increase the budget appropriations by a certain percentage. There are exclusions to these such as pensions. It's a line of credit."



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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Remembering Ann Henry
1926-2018



South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry (2nd from Left) stands with his proud family after delivering the State of the City Address in 2015. Pictured above (L to R) is his wife, Linda, his mother, Ann and brother, Bill.
**File Photo by Carolyn Maxwell*

I remember Fred Henry running for Mayor of South Amboy for the first time in 2010. At the time, the Amboy Beacon was still in publication and there were many letters to the editor in support or attacking the candidates running for office.

There was one particular person who kept writing attack letters against Fred Henry. There was a letter signed by Ann Henry who fiercely defended her son against his attacker. Bill George, who owned the paper called up Mrs. Henry to make sure she wrote that letter. She said she indeed wrote that letter. A few days later, Bill and I were attending a South Amboy Council Meeting and she smiled at Bill and thanked him for calling her and publishing that letter.

I was introduced to her and she gave me a warm, friendly smile. From that day on, she never forgot me and she would always greet me. I would say, "You remember me?"

She would reply, "Of course, I do."

The last South Amboy State of the City Address that the Amboy Guardian attended was in 2016. The story was on the front cover with additional stories and photos inside. I happened to run into Mrs. Henry a week after that paper came out. She said she hadn't seen that copy and people were commenting on how nice she looked in the photos and the nice write-up. She asked me if I could please get her a couple of copies, she'd appreciate it. I was happy to accommodate her. She also told me that her son, Bill took after



Mayor Fred Henry stands above his mother, Ann at the 2017 St. Patrick's Day Parade. Ann was "Irishwoman of the Year" and Fred Henry was "Irishman of the Year."
**File Photo by Ray Kawka*

her as a fierce fighter. When I happened to see her son, Bill a few weeks later, I repeated what his mother said. He kind of shook his head, "yes" and had a big smile in agreement.

When I read in the obituary Ann was donating her body to Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, it was not surprising. She helped so many people while she was alive and by doing this, she'll continue to help others.

Our condolences to her immediate and extended family, friends, and the community. I'm officially giving Ann the title of "The Permanent Honorary Mayor of South Amboy," and a proclamation should be passed stating this. *C.M.*



THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Humility is Far Greater than Pride

Other than to placate and/or inflate someone's ego, I fail to understand why Mr. "Build a Wall Around Lakewood," and

Mr. "60K Pension (Plus Benefits)" are getting their panties into a bunch (Just an Expression!) Because of the omission of certain individuals' names in a publication. In and of itself being first at something is not an accomplishment unless one actually accomplishes some-

thing! And even if they do, isn't that their job? The public has a right to expect that for their tax dollars, don't they? Humility is a far greater trait than pride!

Michael J. Rusznak

We Value Your Opinion *Send Us a Response!*

Orthodox Christians To Celebrate Easter (Pascha) Sunday, April 8

Press Release
PERTH AMBOY - As the sun sets this Friday, April 06, the church bells will be silenced in Perth Amboy at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Christian Church as they mark the beginning of the Burial Service of Christ being removed from the cross on their Good Friday. A solemn candlelight procession will take place around the church with a burial shroud adorned with an embroidered icon (picture) of Christ's burial and placed in a tomb inside the church. The stage has been set for the movement which will culminate with the Sunday Pascha (Easter) Service celebrating the joyful Resurrection of Christ from the tomb.

This year, the Orthodox Christian Church, the sister branch of the original Church of Christ which was split off from by the Roman (Western) Church in 1054, celebrates Easter on April 08. The variation has differed over the centuries due to the calculation of the date of Pascha

(the liturgically correct term for 'Easter').

The explanation of the calculation difference is that Pascha happens the first Sunday following the first full moon following the vernal (spring) equinox, which is assumed as the invariant date of March 21. This was established by the First Ecumenical Council, held in Nicaea in AD 325.

The differences arise because:

1. The Orthodox use March 21 on the Julian (Old) Calendar, which differs by some 13 days from the Gregorian (New) Calendar. If a full moon occurs in this interval, the Paschal dates will be off by quite a bit.
2. The full moon is determined not by observation, but according to tables that say when it is according to the year in a cycle. The Orthodox have a different table than the Roman Catholics (and, consequently, the Western Protestants).

The differences have nothing to do with observing Pascha after Passover. The first Nicaean Council explicitly de-linked Pascha from Passover, which, due to Jewish rabbinical decisions could move from year to year. The Council wanted to free the Christian Church from this variability.

Orthodox Pascha will be celebrated at St. John the Baptist

Orthodox Christian Church, 145 Broad Street, Perth Amboy, according to the following schedule:

Good Friday, Friday, April 06: 9 a.m., Royal Hours; 3 p.m., Lamentations of the Mother of God in Front of the Tomb, 7 p.m., Candlelight Procession and Vespers Burial Service.

Holy Saturday, Saturday, April 07: 9 a.m., Liturgy of Holy Saturday and Annunciation, 7 p.m., Resurrection Matins with Candlelight procession.

Pascha (Easter) Sunday, Sunday April 08: 9 a.m., Joyful Divine Liturgy of the Resurrection followed by the blessing of baskets on the parish lawn.

Celebrant for all services will be the Reverend Father Michael Chendorain, pastor. All services will be in English with some Church Slavonic being used for traditional hymns. Responses will be sung acapella by the church choir, under the direction of Professor George Hanas.

Father Michael and the parish family of St. John the Baptist cordially invites both Orthodox Christians and the public to share in this awesome and moving weekend celebration by attending these traditional services. Experience an Easter service like none other and join us in the proclamation of Christ's Resurrection from the dead!

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TOWN DRUGS & SURGICAL 238 SMITH ST.
WELLS FARGO 214 SMITH ST.
ZPA 281 GRACE ST.

IN SAYREVILLE:

BOROUGH HALL 167 MAIN ST.
SENIOR CENTER 423 MAIN ST.
SUNNYSIDE RESTAURANT 111 MAIN ST.

IN SEWAREN:

PUBLIC LIBRARY546 WEST AVE.
SEWAREN CORNER DELI514 WEST AVE.

IN SOUTH AMBOY:

AMBOY NATIONAL BANK100 N. BROADWAY
BROADWAY BAGELS105 S. BROADWAY
BROADWAY DINER126 N. BROADWAY
CITY HALL140 N. BROADWAY
COMMUNITY CENTER 200 O'LEARY BLVD.
KRAUSZER'S200 N. BROADWAY
KRAUSZER'S717 BORDENTOWN AVE.
PUBLIC LIBRARY100 HOFFMAN PLAZA
SCIORTINO'S HARBOR LIGHTS 132 S. BROADWAY
SOUTH AMBOY MEDICAL CENTER.....540 BORDENTOWN AVE.
WELLS FARGO BANK.....116 N. BROADWAY

IN WOODBRIDGE:

CITY HALL1 MAIN ST.
MAIN ST. FARM107 MAIN ST.
NEWS & TREATS 99 MAIN ST.
REO DINER392 AMBOY AVE.
ST. JOSEPH'S SENIORS RESIDENCE1 ST. JOSEPH'S TERR.

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.

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. by appointment. 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

Historic Surveyor General's Office

PERTH AMBOY - The Historic Surveyor General's Office, which is adjacent to Perth Amboy City Hall, is now open for tours. At one time, this structure was the meeting place of the East Jersey Board of Proprietors & housed their records. Presently the Surveyor General's Office is displaying artifacts from the John Watson (1685-1768) archaeological site along with other items from Perth Amboy's rich history. Perth Amboy history DVDs are also available.

Free tours are available Mondays & Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Clubs, classrooms & groups are welcome. Come & view this newly restored building! For more information call William Kurzenberger: 732-826-0290 ext. 4862

Proprietary House Open

PERTH AMBOY - The Proprietary House, the last official Royal Governor's residence still standing in the original 13 colonies, is open every Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., for tea and tours. Tea is served in our atmospheric candle-lit wine cellar, and includes our delicious homemade desserts and assorted teas. A \$10 donation, \$5 for children under 12, covers both the tea and a mansion.

Although the house is still in the process of being restored, some rooms have been newly decorated. Go back in time and learn about William Franklin and other residents of the house. It's a perfect way to spend a pleasant afternoon. The gift shop is also open.

Groups are welcome, although reservations are required for groups over six people. The Proprietary House is located at 149 Kearny Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ. Tel. 732-826-5527 E-mail: info@proprietaryhouse.org. Follow us on our website, www.theproprietaryhouse.org and or/ Facebook.

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

WED. Apr. 9 City Council, Regular, 4:30 p.m.
Flynn School, Chamberlain Ave.
WED. Apr. 11 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
Flynn School, Chamberlain Ave.
THURS. Apr. 12 Board of Education, 5:30 p.m.
PAHS, Eagle Ave.

South Amboy

WED. Apr. 4 City Council, Business 6 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway
WED. Apr. 18 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Council, N. Broadway

**Check our website www.amboyguardian.com for updates on meeting times and places*

Please Submit Your Events
to AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

A SUPERIOR DINING EXPERIENCE

The Barge

On The Waterfront in Historic Perth Amboy
EARLY BIRD SPECIALS
Mon. thru Sat 3:00pm to 6:00PM
Sunday 12:00 noon to 4:30PM
The Barge offers Off-Premises Catering for the Holiday's, parties, Business Meetings & More!!

Featuring the Finest
Seafood • Steaks
Live Maine Lobster
Long Island Steamers
Clams on the Half Shell, Oysters,
Soft shell Crabs, and so much more!

Have Your Next Party on The Waterfront
Outside catering is our specialty
Great for parties, luncheons, dinners,
Retirement parties, business
Meetings, christenings,
Engagement and bridal showers.
We accommodate up to 100 people.
Let's work together and plan the
Perfect party for you!

**EX P. 03/31/18
NOT VALID ON HOLIDAYS**

**Buy 1 Dinner & Get
2nd Entree 1/2 Price***
*Equal or less value, with this ad. Discount up to \$10.
Cannot be combined with any other offer.
Not valid on Early Bird Specials.
The Barge
732-442-3000 / 201 Front Street, Perth Amboy
VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.thebarge.com

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

Safety Announcement From Mayor Wilda Diaz Regarding the Recent Incidents in NYC and NJ

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

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.

New Business Administrator Hired; A Potpourri of Topics

3/26/18 Business & Council Meetings

By: Katherine Massopust
SOUTH AMBOY – At the beginning of the 3/26/18 Business Meeting, the Council unanimously voted to hire Glenn Skarzynski as the new Business Administrator. Council President Mickey Gross was pleased with the decision and welcomed him aboard.

There were several topics for discussion.

The first item discussed was Ordinance No. c) An ordinance supplementing Ordinance No. 22-99 establishing a length of service awards program for volunteer firefighters and first aid organization members who serve the City of South Amboy to include cost of living adjustments.

B.A. Skarzynski stated it's to allow for the cost of living increase. C.F.O. Angel Albanese stated that a list of the requirements for qualified members are posted in locally in firehouses.

Councilman Thomas Reilly stated, "Thank God we have those people in the Fire Department and First Aid"

On Business Item e.) Update Drug Free school zone/public parks ordinance. B.A. Skarzynski stated there are new changes in the mapping.

A discussion then ensued about cars speeding in the school zone during high traffic density times in the day. Councilman Thomas Reilly stated, "We have a drug free school zone. It defines increase in expanding (what is defined as) a school zone. We will explore the idea (about speeding). We have a lot of kids waiting to go to school in the morning."

City Attorney John Lanza stated he would look into any town road that the City has jurisdiction over that would apply. He stated that he would pass this information over to the Police Department. Councilwoman Zusette Dato stated, "I see it near the middle school."

B.A. Skarzynski stated that the speeding stature was governed by the state stature.

City Attorney John Lanza stated that he would look into it.

Council Member Thomas Reilly suggested between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. and between 2:15 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. (the hours when children are present).

Item No. h) Senior Bus Bid Award. Mayor Fred Henry stated that the new bus for the Seniors will be replacing the old bus.

Item No. i.) Business Liaison – Councilman Thomas Reilly commented on the Business Breakfast that was recently held. "The businesses want the City to be more business friendly to the businesses in town. We would like to publicize the (local) businesses on our site. It's a marketing tool to enhance the businesses in town."

Mayor Fred Henry stated, "It's something very easy to do."

City Attorney John Lanza stated, "We should put a disclaimer (on the site in case of unwanted links on the businesses websites). Council President Gross agreed with this, "Somebody has to watch the store."

Reilly then added, "It's a good point. We can take any additional links off the site."

Skarzynski added his concerns, "I don't know if it's practical. Policing so many sites could be difficult."

Reilly then added, "Volunteers (Fire, First Aid, etc.) can get discounts. I've spoken to businesses in town. Feedback has been positive. Everybody wins."

B.A. Skarzynski stated, "We want to designate somebody in the City the point of contact. For that, clerical support will be better."

Councilman Thomas Reilly then stated, "(Council Vice-President) Christine Noble has offered to help me with the Street Fair in June. The date is to be determined."

Mayor Fred Henry then added, "The 9th is the Baseball Game for the Historical Society." Reilly then stated there was a Breakfast Buffet in May to lead up to that."

Item No. j.) Budget Timeline. There was a discussion stating that the City is allotting an additional \$500 to cover business meeting refreshment expenses. It was also stated that there will be six summer jobs for a 20-hour week at \$10/hr. to work for the Department of Public Works. There was also a discussion about some positions open in Code Enforcement. Councilman Brian McLaughlin asked if any new hire would have to be trained. It was recommended that any individuals to be hired should ideally be up to date in training.

Item No. l.) Resolution authorizing TAN (Tax Authorization Note) C.F.O. Angel Albanese stated that many residents made prepayments on their taxes due to anticipation of President Trump's new tax law.

Item No. m.) Sexual Assault Awareness Month. It was noted that in the United States 1 out of 4 girls and 1 out of 6 boys have been sexually assaulted (at sometime in their life). The Council agreed to do their best to promote awareness of this issue. It was also noted that they will paint the town pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Council President Mickey Gross recused himself on Items n.) Resolution appointing Michael Testa, Architect (for the façade on City Hall) and o.) Resolution for Middlesex County's 2018 Recycling Enhancement Grant Program (the grant comes out of his office).

Item No. r.) A Resolution authorizing the award of a Contract for Special Legal Service#26-2018. City Attorney John Lanza received a raise from \$175/hr. to \$195/hr. It is only the second raise Lanza's had in 32 years.

Councilman Thomas Reilly noted there is a huge waiting period (3 months) for Volunteer Firefighters before they are allowed to ride on the truck. Councilman Brian McLaughlin stated the new firefighters have to pass a background check and that the waiting period was necessary.

For Ordinance #2-2018 – An ordinance to amend South Amboy City Code Chapter 79, Garbage, Rubbish and Refuse, Article I, Collection and Ordinance No. 10-2015. The times were discussed when to put garbage on the street.

Councilwoman Zusette Dato mentioned the Pigeon Palace was fined \$500. Mayor Fred Henry said, "We are glad to meet with the owner as long as he tears the building down."

"It's 5 plus years since the hurricane (Sandy). I don't have tolerance anymore," Dato said.

There was a discussion regarding South Amboy's "Hole in the Wall." Mayor Fred Henry said, "We had a Freeholder Director look at it. They're claiming it is safe. The columns are sticking out. Trains do go over it."

Councilman Thomas Reilly stated, "Not only is it a hazard, it's worse in the wintertime."

Council Vice-President Christine Noble stated, "I got a lot of compliments about the DPW's job of snow removal."

Councilman Thomas Reilly said, "On Wednesday, June 20, 2018 there will be a sales event at 11 a.m. at the Senior Center."

There was a discussion regarding an access road behind

Frog Hollow in case of an emergency. Councilman Thomas Reilly stated, "I want to introduce a bill. There is over 20 First Aid Calls a year (that is affected by the blocked area) Part of the problem with the First Aid is that they have to have 2 EMT's at each call. We really have only one access road. (Venetian, Woodmont, the YMCA, and Frog Hollow all are in the area affected). Mayor Fred Henry said, "Let me talk to Mark (City Engineer) about what can be done. We're already looking into that. (an access road behind Frog Hollow)"

Council President Mickey Gross stated the date for the Fireworks will be Tuesday, July 3, 2018. Gross stated the next years St. Patrick's Day Parade will be on Saturday, March 16, 2019. "Yes, that is a Saturday. It will give the taverns and local businesses a chance to be open two days instead of one."

Mayor Fred Henry thanked everyone for their condolences for the passing of his mother, Ann Henry.

The 3/26/18 Council Meeting followed the Business Meeting (both of which were rescheduled due to the recent storms).

Councilwoman Zusette Dato




Councilman Thomas Reilly

stated it was the best St. Patrick's Day Parade ever. "A big thanks to the Parade Committee. It makes us proud to be from South Amboy. I also want to thank Public Works for their huge job during the snow."

Mayor Fred Henry again thanked everyone who gave condolences on the passing of his mother, Ann Henry. "Everyone loved Mrs. Henry. She keeps us proud. I thank everyone for these comments and I thank the whole Council. I welcome the new B.A. and we had a great (St. Patrick's Day) parade."

Girls On the Run Spring 2018

April 9th-June 10th



“We inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running.”

YOUTH COMPLEX
Dorothy Ave & Convery Blvd,
Perth Amboy

Who: Girls in grades 3-5

When: April 9th to June 10th

Days: Monday & Wednesday

Time: 4:30PM-6:00PM

Space is limited, register by March 16th

For more information, contact Lisett Lebron at (732) 324-0384 or at info@partnernj.org

The girls will participate in the Girls on the Run 5K on June 10th in Somerville, NJ.

The Girls on the Run 5K is open to the public and families are encouraged to run.

This program is sponsored by the City of Perth Amboy's Dept. of Recreation and P.A.R.T.N.E.R.

For more information, please contact Lynn Sherman at Lynn.Sherman@GirlsontheRun.org https://www.gotrunj.org

Girls on the Run of Central NJ

2018 State of the City **Continued From Page 1*

istration, our council and I have worked to restore this City back to good health. Together, we have proven time and again that our quality of life, investments, partnerships and opportunities for each of our residents has strengthened and matured. One great accomplishment is a well-negotiated PILOT program for Bridge Development Partners located on High Street, which the Council approved last summer. I would like to thank the City Council for their partnership in the project. It became the home of Target's first distribution center in the State and one of the single most important commercial facilities built in New Jersey over the past few years. With the adoption of the Bridge, Phase 1 PILOT agreement, the City secured over \$2.2 million dollars in annual revenue stream that will benefit our community long-term!! Target, as the only occupied facility to date, hiring over 60 percent of their workforce as Perth Amboy residents. In 2008, we were facing a national economic crisis and the City had an unemployment rate of 16 % - one of the highest in the State. Today, that rate has been cut to 6 % - the lowest it's been in 10 years."

She spoke about the ePort project. "It was named a finalist as "Industry of the Year" by the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties. Recently, the 1.2 million sqft. of warehouse facilities was sold to Duke Realty. Duke is a national investment group who made its first expansion into the north east region of the United States through Perth Amboy. I welcome them to the City of Perth Amboy and congratulate them on leasing an additional building will be announced this summer. The Perth Amboy Redevelopment Agency currently has 16 projects underway. Within the next 12-18 months, we are awaiting over 1,000 new jobs, over 100 acres of brownfields remediation and over 500 million dollars of investments are in progress and millions in anticipated new tax revenues. The Elm Street Logistics Center, will be investing over \$100 million in the remediation and construction of 92 acres of modern warehouse facilities, beginning at the end 2019. Demolition is complete and remedial work is currently being conducted. Upon completion, the project is set to generate between 400-600 jobs in our City. The unique feature of this particular redevelopment project is that it will create public access, near and around the commercial property at the gateway of our City. Through this partnership, we plan to preserve two historic structures for recreational use on the site and provide public waterfront access, including an amphitheater, public picnic area, restrooms, a senior citizen park located near our Jankowski Community Center and a mile-long green pathway that borders the shoreline. Other redevelopment projects are the Second Street Park Project which received \$7.1 million dollars of funding dedicated by NJDEP for the environmental clean-up and con-

struction of the 6-acre parcel. Amenities include an adventure playground, a spray park, a plaza and picnic area, a skate park, tiered seating and performance space. In order to continue attracting investors we submitted a request to the State of New Jersey to become designated as a Community Opportunity Zone. This new program established by Congress provides significant tax incentives for private investors. Last week, Governor Murphy announced that Perth Amboy's request is currently being reviewed for final approval. Future private developments are still underway totaling over \$15 million dollars throughout several areas in the City as well! 500 High Street is in remediation for 21 luxury units, roof top gardens and restaurant on the first floor, and a 46-unit apartment complex on Washington Street, will soon be available housing for working professionals at our local hospital. The former Good Year Tire business on Smith Street will be converted into modern design commercial property with 2 floors of housing. We encourage those who are seeking to rent or purchase property to visit the Perth Amboy Housing Expo on April 21st. Staff and resources will be available to guide you in that process. Small businesses are the driving force of Perth Amboy's economy. My mission is to make our City a premier destination where residents and visitors have the opportunity to enjoy a transit district with thriving businesses and a walkable downtown area. that effortlessly connects you to both mass transit and the quiet, scenic view of our waterfront. In 2008, one of my first projects was my advocacy for a new train station with complete accessibility. NJ Transit is in the process of an environmental review in preparation for the renovation of this historic site in 2020. Before the proposed Transit Village takes form, the City plans to draw more diners and shoppers to the heart of the downtown by introducing a "Parklet Concept." In the first phase, the sidewalks by the restaurants are being extended to make room for more outdoor dining. Phase 2 of our future plan includes a seasonal Pedestrian Plaza, with outdoor seating and a space for music, art and food to enjoy. We hope to attract even more visitors to our bustling shopping district and increase visibility for our small businesses. Last year, we passed a street performers ordinance for artists to showcase their talent in the downtown area. It's all a part of making our city more livable. We continue to strengthen our small businesses through seminars, workshops and promotions, like "Café con Wilda," a social media series that really highlights our restaurants and their best-selling dishes though a one-on-one interview with myself and the owner, over a delicious cup of Joe or as I would say, "café con leche." This past year, as the Perth Amboy Parking Utility remains self-sufficient it collected a surplus of \$76,000, through continued enforce-

ment and a near ten percent increase in monthly permits. Through our summer employment program, we hired over 100 students, who while working in various departments they learned how to contribute to our city, while adopting financial literacy and job training. This summer we will introduce an anti-cyber bullying campaign to instill in our youth a message of care and respect for their classmates and peers.

The Perth Amboy Public Library provides ESL courses and citizenship classes for all residents. It hosted the VITA program for the past three years established to offer income tax filings for FREE to the residents! The library's return on investment amounts to over 1.1. million dollars! Every book, film, newspaper and magazine is there to aid, educate and inspire our readers and viewers. The Perth Amboy Public library has a wealth of resources that is just a free library card away. I want to thank them for their dedication to our community! Expungement programs for second chances in the area of employment and an "employment bank" to assist with available work opportunities are being offered. Just 2 weeks ago, we joined P.A.R.T.N.E.R. and held a successful Career Fair with many co-sponsoring organizations, reaching hundreds of residents seeking career launches or changes. Additionally, a 70-page information directory, which includes a workforce and human development section will soon be made available for public access. Soon, we'll be running a trade union educational campaign in the near future to expose residents to the benefits of joining a trade union—for security, strength and opportunity.

When I stood before you as Mayor in 2008, Perth Amboy faced many serious fiscal challenges. I am happy to be standing on this side of the timeline, looking back on wage freezes, layoffs and increased taxes that were necessary in order to prevent bankruptcy and a State take-over. All of which came to light at a time when this country sank into the worst economic recession since the Great Depression, but my administration never concealed the facts from the public no matter how disturbing they were. We are open and honest about the condition of the city. It was also a time of shared sacrifice, when I voluntarily took a 30 thousand dollar pay cut for my first year in office and exceeded my pledge by declining any salary increases for 8 consecutive years.

The state is struggling to fund the many new initiatives they have planned, but my job is to protect Perth Amboy and I will support those proposals that I feel benefit our residents and will also be an active voice against those proposals which may cause us harm. This includes the conversation about legalizing recreational marijuana. I know that there are many opinions about this subject, but I want to be clear that "weed" will NOT be part of our com-

munity garden. There is nothing more that I would like to see, than for this city to reach its full potential in education, safety, commerce and that comes from good government! I want to personally thank the work of our Finance, Tax, Clerk and Business Administration Offices for making this possible. And good government in every area matters to all of us, especially when it comes to the well-being of our children and I thank the many students who are here. Thank you for participating in our program and for joining today's ceremony. I am so impressed on how today's youth have courageously speaks out for important political topics, such as school safety and gun control. Every decision made by our local governing body will impact our youth moving forward, whether fiscal or academic. We have created a stronger bond with the Board of Education to help aid our children to quality education. Congratulations and thanks to the School Development Authority and the Board of Education for their investment in our children by building learning facilities such as the Seaman Street Elementary Education school, currently underway and the future High School on Convery Blvd. The work of our Office of Recreation is second to none. Through countless programs among sports, fine and performing arts, summer programming and activities year-round. They are nothing short of making it happen. This past December, we opened the Brighton Avenue Community Center as the Teen Center, the home base of the Perth Amboy Youth Alliance. We've partnered with the Middlesex County College to administer a summer learning and employment program through the Success Bound Summer Initiative. This will equip our students with the support they will need to be a successful learner, motivated student and gain leadership skills. I also want to thank a very special person Abraham Pitre, who is no longer with us, but a man who had a life of caring, especially for the youth. He selflessly served our community for 25 years as a humanitarian, and he unconditionally loved this City—of this, I have no doubt. Acting Chief Edward Mullen assumed command last year along with 5 firefighters who were promoted. I thank this team for continuing to demonstrate their diligence and comradery during such a difficult past year. They were awarded half a million dollars in aid and funding that allowed for 7 new hires, who completed over 10,000 hours of training and expanded the department to a total of 67 members. Nearly 2.3 million dollars have been awarded to the department in the past 4 years. Grants this year assisted in funding training and new apparatus and equipment of the newly established dive team that will be fully operational this spring. In 2017, the Fire Department began to receive funding for the new Fire Station 2, which will provide greater fire protection and first

responder attention to the northeast side of our city. Our Fire Department continues to protect and educate our families with an outreach program. A 6-week Fire Safety Program in partnership with the American Red Cross was put into action the beginning of this year to continue educating and providing fire and carbon monoxide detectors at no cost to the residents. I want to congratulate the Department for their Class 3 upgrade. The rating upgrade is as a result of, increased staffing levels, upgrades to the 9-one-one Dispatch Center, new apparatus, and upgrades to the City of Perth Amboy's water mains. Taxpayers may see a decrease in the fire portion of their property insurance premiums. The new Class 3 rating is effective June 1st. I'm proud of their work and training these individuals do to take care to keep the residents of our community safe. Our Fire Department is committed to the rescue of fire victims, and also to fire prevention. I commend them for their work in our great City!!! The Perth Amboy Police Department has been recognized as one of the top six community policing Precincts by the State of New Jersey's Attorney General's Office. We continue to see the results of our dedication to building a safer city. We are transitioning to using body cameras as a protection for the police and our citizens. Plans are to locate a police substation right in the heart of our community, the downtown district through a partnership with The Cathedral. This will continue developing partnerships with our schools, businesses and houses of worship and help bridge any gaps of communication. This continues with our youth outreach, when last year the Police Department launched the youth academy to teach them about law enforcement and the work and training of an officer. \$10,000 was awarded through a Community Policing Grant Program to be used for Red Ribbon Week, the nation's largest anti-drug campaign. The Perth Amboy Auxiliary Officers became the first Auxiliary Unit in New Jersey to be trained on the use of Narcan, a lifesaving agent for opiate overdose cases. We've partnered with the Township of Woodbridge on a Shared Opioid Overdose Program Agreement to have recovery specialists available and on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to help overdose victims when they are hospitalized. This program will establish a support system to initiate a road to recovery. When I took office, this department was severely understaffed, with less than 100 officers on duty. In the past 10 years the department has seen an 18 % increase in staffing and this past year alone. We now have a total of 135 uniforms, as a department that fully reflects the diversity of our community. The violent crime rate has decreased by 16 % in the past year. The PAPD continues to ensure an increased emphasis on quality

**Continued on Page on 8*

2018 State of the City *Continued From Page 7

of life for our residents. That is worthy of recognition and I thank them for their due diligence in curbing the availability of street drugs. Support and guidance is provided by our Chaplain Corps who have lifted the arms of these men and women, something that I am so thankful for. I'm proud of our departments, students and local businesses along with many others who volunteered over 9,000 hours during several weeks when we experienced such devastation across our nation after being hit with Hurricanes-- Harvey, Irma and Maria and the earthquakes in Mexico. Perth Amboy was among the first to respond to the unbelievable devastation. Like many of you, my loved ones were in Puerto Rico when the storm hit. We could not have imagined the horror of that tempest. In Perth Amboy, my administration led a city-wide collection drive. More than 400,000 pounds of goods of essential supplies was collected. 4 officers and several chaplains who were deployed through the efforts of the State of New Jersey. Many families have lost so much on the island and are seeking a new life on the mainland. So far, we have welcomed over hundreds of families to the City of Perth Amboy from Puerto Rico. Our staff and community partners have assisted in getting families settled into our community and finding housing, employment, education and healthcare. It's clear that my work as Mayor could not be accomplished without the community, and the same stands for the Island of Puerto Rico and all others devastated communities. We need to help our American brothers and sisters, looking beyond cultural boundaries and agendas. During a humanitarian crisis, all the luxuries afforded to us of opinions and differences must be set aside for the preservation of life. You have to understand that the Perth Amboy response is a typical response. We're a unique caring community that looks out for one another. The Office on Aging assist people with disabilities, veterans and seniors, to go to meet their needs--the office offers support, friendship and wellness, through over 65 programs, workshop and activities year round. A grant provided by NJ Transit, enabled us to acquire a new bus to provide for additional services and medical transportation. I want to thank the entire team for working so diligently with our maturing population. Another vulnerable population we have reached are the homeless. Our City works closely with the County to find solution on how to best serve them. This past winter, we hosted more than 50 code blue shelter nights. The work of our diligent staff and generous business owners provided meals and a warm place to sleep during some of the coldest winter nights. Quality of life and wellness for all families and youth have been a main priority. Our annual summer food program has fed nearly 100,000 breakfast and lunch meals to children

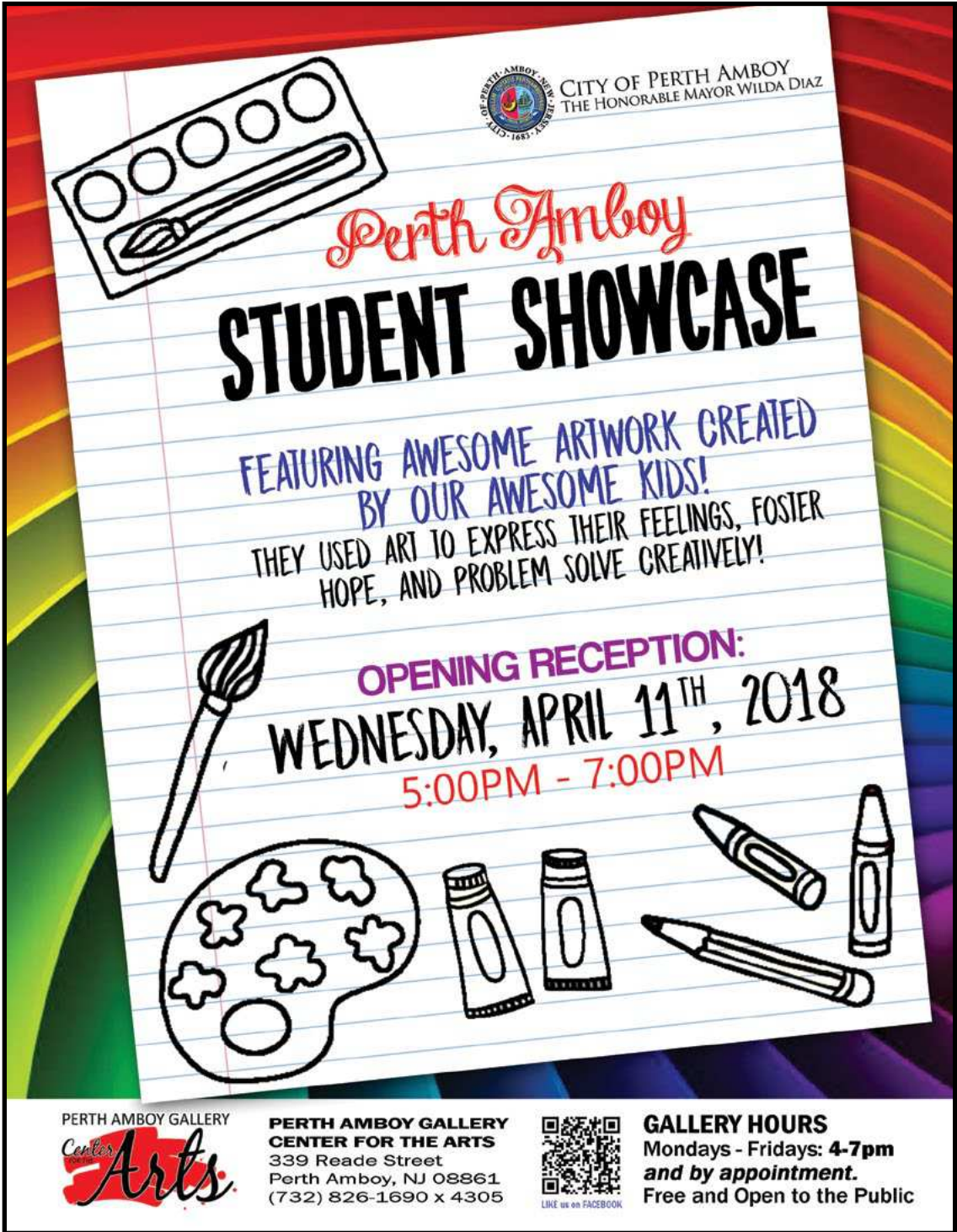
in many of our city parks and through other non-profits, this past year alone. Community gardens city-wide provide families with local grown produce through many of youth programs. Green space is extremely valued in such a small urban community, and so we've made improvements by investing over a million dollars in these areas. This includes renovation and upgrades to Washington Park, Willow Pond and our waterfront. We have enhanced over 45 acres of green space city-wide. We received the NY/NJ Baykeeper 2017 Outstanding Leadership Award, and the Outstanding Achievement in Recycling Award, for our extensive sustainable and recycling efforts. Our green initiatives are working toward protecting our aging infrastructure and building a healthier and stronger community. We have developed over 15 green programs that are in line to improve our stormwater management, our resident's health and wellness, among others. Public Works has supported these efforts, among all of their daily duties they aid us in creating a green and clean environment for our City. Their work includes community street sweeps, clean-ups and a launch of the Recycle Coach app. This year, we will be investing over half a million dollars in grant money for road repairs and paving! In the next 2 weeks both the entire length of Smith and Market Street will be fully repaved. I want to thank the men and women of the DPW for their commitment and their work, even down to the very decorations you see here tonight. Our municipal court handles about 19,000 cases per year. While it's one of the busiest departments we must ensure that services are provided with respect and compassion. I took advantage of the opportunity for the City to begin a total restructuring of the Municipal Prosecutor's Office. Perth Amboy is now one of the very few, if any, fully bi-lingual Municipal Prosecutor's office in the State of New Jersey. Perth Amboy, is now in the top tier municipalities in Middlesex County, to efficiently processing and resolving of cases. Our Code Department has reached new heights, as technology has allowed their work to be more efficient and as a result, increased revenue. They have also extended their implemented extended seasonal hours. I congratulate the skill and expertise of this department for receiving a Class 9 Recognition awarded by FEMA for exceeding the requirements of effective floodplain management. This award also benefits the homeowners with a discount on flood insurance premium rates. Thanks to the entire team at Code Department. We are always enhancing our outreach and capitalizing on resources available to all. This year we will launch a new user-friendly and upgraded website through a complete redesign set to go live later this Spring. Last November, the New Jersey league of Municipalities presented


an award to the City with the Best Overall Public Information Program for having developed successful and innovative techniques to better inform and serve our residents. I was also very excited to introduce the first mural project, Hometown Girl, transforming public spaces into a vibrant, lively community asset. This was made possible by the vision of the Perth Amboy Gateway Neighborhood Collaborative and residents. It has been my vision, as Mayor to incorporate such things into our programming. We started the summer arts program almost a decade ago and since then it has quickly expanded to the arts movement, we see today-- From pop-up art murals, to our Community Theater Program, to various courses offered in music, performing and visual arts. Through these channels, we're mobilizing creativity for all ages. From the Arts Festival to our Historic Tours and Sites-- Perth Amboy embodies all that is arts, history and culture--through its diversity and through its many firsts during the birth of this nation. We opened the doors to the Surveyor's General Building Museum showcasing artifacts and many integral pieces of Perth Amboy's early years. And to help preserve Perth Amboy story, with the support of the Middlesex County Cultural and Heri-

tage Commission, our Public Library has digitized a 110 year of newspaper of our very own City's history. As we memorialize our past, we honor where we came from, while looking forward to what's ahead! TOGETHER, we perform with great service, strong partnership, vision and action. Through the investment of this administration and trust of this community, we have transformed this City. I also want to recognize those who have moved this City forward in a way that was thought unimaginable just 10 years ago. I thank my administration. I want to give a special thanks to my immediate office members, Irving Lozada, Jeanette Rios, Noelia Colon and Margarita Feliciano. Not one project is completed without them. It's not an easy task, but they always get it done and for that I am sincerely grateful. I also want to Thank Dianne Roman for leading tonight's ceremony, as our Mistress of Ceremonies. I would also like to thank the City Council members for being here this evening and their commitment to our residents. There needs to be more of it in our country--on a local state and national level. This is not about the agenda of any politician, but of the office holder to take in account what their constituents need to create an agenda for the people!

So what is the agenda of the people??? You asked for vision, we gave you a plan! You asked for safer street, we hired more first responders! You asked for transparency, we gave you honesty! You asked for more jobs, we created them through numerous redevelopment projects! You asked for cleaner streets, we improved your quality of life! You asked for fiscal stability, we gave you sustainability! You asked for better education, we provided youth engagement and programming! You asked for more projects, we established partnerships! You asked for a change, we gave you transformation! They say... a goal without a plan, is just a wish. We have put our hands to the plow. That's what a leader does. You can trust that we will make every effort to serve you, not just as citizens of Perth Amboy, but as our family. Thank you, once again for the honor of serving you these past ten years, as Mayor. I look forward to continue serving you. God Bless you! And God Bless the great City of Perth Amboy! God Bless the United States of America. For a complete transcript of the 2018 State of the City Address in it's entirety, Please go to www.amboyguardian.com

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CITY OF PERTH AMBOY
THE HONORABLE MAYOR WILDA DIAZ


Perth Amboy
STUDENT SHOWCASE

FEATURING AWESOME ARTWORK CREATED
BY OUR AWESOME KIDS!
THEY USED ART TO EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS, FOSTER
HOPE, AND PROBLEM SOLVE CREATIVELY!

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11TH, 2018
5:00PM - 7:00PM



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RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA Wants to Awaken Summer Imagination at Annual Healthy Kids Day®

Event encourages kids to stay active and keep learning all summer long

Press Release 3/30/18
PERTH AMBOY—On Saturday, April 21, the RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA is holding a free community event to inspire more kids to keep their minds and bodies active at the annual YMCA's Healthy Kids Day®, the Y's national initiative to improve health and well-being for kids and families. Healthy Kids Day is an opportunity to ignite children's imaginations so that they can imagine what they'll accomplish this summer. The day-long event features activities to motivate and teach families how to develop and maintain healthy routines at home throughout the summer months.

Healthy Kids Day, celebrated at over 1,500 Ys across the country by over 1.2 million participants, works to get more kids moving and learning, creating habits that they continue all summer long. When kids are out of school, they can face hurdles that prevent them from reaching their full potential. Research shows that without access to out-of-school learning activities, kids fall behind academically. Kids also gain weight twice as fast during summer than the school year. As spring turns to summer, Healthy Kids Day is a powerful reminder not to let children idle away their summer days. Instead, the Y wants families to focus on helping children

imagine what they can accomplish over the summer.

"When a child is healthy, happy, and supported they can make great things happen," says Steve Jobin, President & CEO, RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA. "We believe in the potential of all children, and we strive to help kids find that potential within themselves. A child's development is never on vacation and Healthy Kids Day is a great opportunity to educate families and motivate kids to stay active in spirit, mind and body throughout the summer," said James Castillo, Program Director, RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA.

Keeping Kids Healthy All Summer Long

In celebration of YMCA's Healthy Kids Day, the Y offers the following tips to help families develop healthy habits this summer that can have a lifetime effect:

- High Five the Fruits and Veggies** – Make sure kids get at least five servings a day, the minimum number nutritionists recommend to maintain healthy childhood development. And to keep kids' taste buds evolving, have everyone in the family try at least one bite of a new fruit or vegetable at least once a month.
- Read Together** – The summer is a great time to enjoy books with summer program participants—and 30 minutes a day goes a long way! Take trips to the local library or create a

family reading challenge to see who can log the most minutes of reading. Encourage youth to create their own stories as well.

•**Get Moving!** – Activities that require movement also help kids flex their mental muscle. Use materials in unique ways: ask youth to build models, manipulate tools or develop their own theatrical scenes.

•**Play Together** – Play may be the best way to prevent childhood obesity. By putting more play into your family's day, you will soon find yourself getting the activity that will have your family feeling energized and strong.

•**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 takes place at 357 New Brunswick Avenue, Perth Amboy NJ from 11:00am – 2:00pm and features fun, active play, educational activities and giveaways. Healthy Kids Day encourages youth and families to awaken summer imagination and this cannot be done without proper nutrition.

For more information, contact James Castillo at 732.442.3632 or visit www.rbaymca.org.

Council Meeting Late Star Time 7:25 p.m. Waiting for Fire Department 3/28/18 Council Meeting

PERTH AMBOY – Because of the elevator not working at City Hall for the last couple of meetings, the Fire Department was supposed to be there to assist those who needed help climbing the stairs. A member of the Fire Department did not show up until 7:25 p.m.

During the public portion, Nilda Rivera, who is the mother of Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe came up to the podium with her cell phone held up to the microphone. This was to enable her daughter, Stephanie to speak at the Meeting. Stephanie who is handicapped, emotionally explained there was supposed to be a location change or viewing rooms for those who could not make it into the Council Chambers. "We have places that meetings have been used in the past that were handicapped accessible. This is a private meeting because of people who cannot get here (handicapped or otherwise). It's unacceptable and humiliating for people to have to be carried by the Fire Department. They should be on regular duty. This is violating an ordinance. It's frustrating and your excuses are unacceptable."

Council President Bill Petrick then announced the next Council Meeting will take place at Flynn School.

Earlier during the Meeting, Residents Ken Balut and Sharon Hubberman had spoken about the elevator issues in City Hall.

Ken Balut had stated, "This comes up every year - R-127 (A contract to Jersey Elevator Company for preventive maintenance and minor repairs) What preventative measures were taken?"

Sharon Hubberman also had addressed this problem, stating, "I've been here a couple of times when the elevator was not working. I appreciate you asking the Fire Department to assist. I asked that the meeting be moved. Handicapped Assistance is not available at the Train Station, the Library, and some street curbs. Does the Fire Department lift the person up here, if they cannot use the stairs, etc.?"

The Council remained quiet.

A Resident who resides at 313 State Street (Five Corners Building), which was recently was remodeled into Senior Apartments and Commercial Use came up to speak. She had moved into Perth Amboy from New York and had questions about parking. "I was parking in front of where I live, and I was told to get a parking permit, but I am paying \$55 a month for it."

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez then asked, "Does your lease indicate that you get a parking permit? You were misled."

Council President Petrick then stated, "I thought the owner has to purchase one parking space for each bedroom."

The resident then stated, "For me and my husband, that's \$110 a month."

B.A. Adam Cruz came forward to get the address and phone number from the Resident to get back to her.

Resident Linda Ferreira was concerned about people getting jobs who worked on political campaigns. "She wants control of the Boards and gives out favors like they grow on trees. They are not working for you (the Council). They are working for her (the Mayor). Only people who help you get jobs. Some of these people have changed views after they see they were being used. She's given them promises. The people (businesses) that are coming in are hiring their own kind."

During the time to vote on the Resolutions, Councilman Fernando Irizarry was the sole "No" vote for R-134 & R-135 which were awarding contracts for equipment for the scuba team for previous reasons stated in the Caucus Meeting. (see pp.1-2) Those two resolutions were moved by Councilman Joel Pabon, seconded by Councilman Helmin Caba.

Councilman Fernando Irizarry moved the Consent Agenda R-119-3/18 through R-133-3/18 and R-136-3/18 through R-142-3/18. It was seconded by Helmin Caba.

During the Council Comments, Helmin Caba stated that we should look into an assistant to look through the backup information that we get on agenda items. "We get the agenda late and it's important we have time to analyze the information. Sometimes we have to meet with residents in public places. On September 11, 2017, we voted to remove two paragraphs dealing with nepotism. We didn't have time to go through all of the changes. We should have been presented with the parts that were changed."

B.A. Cruz responded, "We are transparent. In the past, we have been asked to table items or asked for a presentation on an agenda item. I can put together a presentation if you like. We assume everything is okay if there is no questions asked. You voted on this 7 months ago. If you want these paragraphs put back in, we can do that."

Fernando Gonzalez spoke next. "The removal of these paragraphs was done intentionally. When I was elected in 2008 with the Mayor we wanted to do away with nepotism. She is not the same person. The damage was done and we have to have self-respect. We control the purse strings of the City. We need to have a place to meet the people we represent. Our forefathers wanted to have 3 branches of government for checks and balances."

Irizarry had no comments.

Joel Pabon requested that we get a log on the elevator repairs.

Council President Bill Petrick requested that signage be put up when the new school opens up

**Continued on Page 10*

The Renee J. Bradley Foundation for Domestic Violence Scholarship Luncheon and Launch

Press Release
PERTH AMBOY - The official launch of the Renee J. Bradley Foundation for Domestic Violence will take place on Sunday, April 15, 2018. The launch will be from 2pm-6pm and hosted at the Alexander F. Jankowski Community Center in Perth Amboy, NJ. This event is created to introduce the foundation to the community of Perth Amboy, NJ and surrounding areas.

This foundation will work with the local community leaders, churches and organizations to help bring an end to domestic violence. The foundation believes that strength, compassion, love and education are four major unlocking relationship-changing, life-saving keys.

*Proceeds will go towards the Renee J. Bradley Foundation Scholarship Fund; Ticket Donation will include lunch and raffle ticket entry for door prize.

The mission of the Renee J. Bradley Foundation is to teach, mentor and educate young adults in general and specifically youth adults of color about the importance of healthy relationships and the signs of domestic violence. Our vision is "To Stop Domestic Violence through Strength, Compassion, Love & Education."

Foundation Goals:

- To mentor and coach young adults about the dynamics and realities of healthy relationships.
- To educate young adults about the unhealthy impact of many societal socialization norms regarding various gender roles and expectations.
- To educate young adults of color about the cultural dynamics and realities of domestic violence and healthy relationships.
- To increase prevention and awareness of domestic violence in the lives of youth adults through preventive education, seminars and resources.
- To help support children of domestic violence victims by establishing a scholarship fund.
- To provide a safe place for young adults to dialogue and receive trained peer or professional counseling for abuse/domestic violence.

Foundation Pillars:

- Prevention
- Education
- Awareness
- Solution

For more information please visit www.reneejbradleyfoundation.org or Eventbrite to purchase tickets/donate to this event. The foundation can also be reached at renejbradleyfoundation@gmail.com

Creative Art Contest for Sayreville Students

Press Release
SAYREVILLE - April 27, 2018, hosted by: Sayreville Shade Tree Commission at: Sayreville Senior Center from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Light refreshments will be served We are looking for students to express what a tree means and represents to them. Whether a favorite tree, a memory involving a tree, the beauty of a tree, whatever the passion we want you to show us through art. We hope that this challenge inspires our youth to get involved and show just how amazing Sayreville really is.

Categories: Elementary (Grades K-5); Middle School (Grades 6-8); High School (Grades 9-12); Three Dimensional; Group Project (4 or more students). Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in all categories, except the Group Project. One winner will be selected for the Group Project.

Please notify the Shade Tree Commission by April 16th if you will participate or you need additional information at:

Phone: 732-814-9964

Email: heather.sayrevilleshade-tree@gmail.com

Facebook: [@sayrevilleshade-tree](https://www.facebook.com/sayrevilleshade-tree)

Lecture on Thomas Mundy Peterson, Perth Amboy
Free Public Library 3/23/18
**Photos by Paul W. Wang*



PERTH AMBOY - Gordon Bond (L) gave a lecture on the Site of Thomas Mundy Peterson's home in Perth Amboy. Peterson was the first African-American to vote under the 15th Amendment.



Baskets for the Needy
**Photos Submitted*





Press Release
PERTH AMBOY - Amarilis and Anali Rodriguez, two Assumption Catholic School alumni, saw the need in their community of Perth Amboy and wanted to help make a difference. They have been hosting donation drives to collect nonperishable goods throughout the Lenten season. This Monday, the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption in Perth Amboy, NJ contributed enough donations to provide twenty baskets to families in need for Easter. Amarilis and Anali are so thankful to the parish and their The Alma Mater for the continued support and generosity.



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Phone: 908-351-0957; Fax: 908-351-0959

Scholarships Available

MIDDLESEX COUNTY - Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Omega Mu Zeta Chapter of Middlesex County is now accepting applications from qualified High School Students living in Middlesex County, for one of five general scholarship awards to be used towards tuition, books, and supplies. Download the application from www.omegamuzeta.com. Requirements are as follows: minimum grade point average of (GPA) of 2.5, and demonstrate leadership through extra-curricular activities and community service. All scholarship winners must attend the Zeta Youth Rocks Awards Ceremony on Saturday, June 18, 2018.

The completed application along with required documents must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, May 1, 2018, to: Scholarship Committee Chairperson c/o Trina Goodwin, 149 George Street, Plainfield, NJ 07062. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Trina Goodwin at goodwintrina@hotmail.com

Meet the Author:
Geoffrey Cook

PERTH AMBOY – The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library are happy to host Geoffrey Cook on Saturday, April 21st at 1:00 p.m. in the Children’s Room of the Perth Amboy Library located at 196 Jefferson St.

Geoffrey’s book, Veronica and the Volcano, is an exciting adventure story. Ten-year old Veronica lives in a high-tech, gadget-filled house on the slope of an active volcano. Eruptions are part of life, as she watches from the protective shields of her home or from her family’s well-equipped Lava Car. When she leaves on a quest to find rare white volcanic pearls, she leads everyone into a series of incredible adventures.

The book is geared for grades 4-6, with educational elements. It is designed to stir young readers’ interest in science while entertaining them. Kids will root for this brave young girl and while they are cheering her on, they’ll learn as well.

Books will be available for purchase. For more information on Geoffrey, visit his website at www.geoffreycook.com

This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For information, contact the Friends at (201) 381-1903, e-mail at friendsofperthamboylibrary@gmail.com, visit their website at folperthamboy.com or find them on Facebook.

The Friends encourage the love of reading and independent learning, play a role in community involvement, sponsor special programs, raise funds for special projects, equipment and materials in excess of the general Library budget.

Waiting for Fire Department
3/28/18 Council Meeting

**Continued From Page 9*

by the Public Safety Complex building.

Deputy Police Chief Cattano came up to respond, "Lights and signage will be put up for that area. We're working with the Board of Education on this. We also will be doing this on existing schools. We will also be increasing crossing guards for that area."

Cattano also answered questions regarding lights that are out throughout the City. "Our Auxiliary Police check on any lights that are out and report them to DPW." He then made comments in regards to streets where people have a hard time crossing. "Some of the busy streets have intersections where there are buttons on the light poles that can be pushed to change the lights. They are usually County Roads."

A.C. Bus Trip
St. John Paul II
Seniors



PERTH AMBOY – A trip to the Resorts Casino in Atlantic City will be held on Wed. Apr. 25, 2018. Cost \$35 pp.; \$25 back in slot play. Bus will depart from behind St. Stephens Church parking lot on Mechanic Street at 9:30 a.m. Call Bobbi to reserve a seat: 732-636-2867.

A.C. Bus Trip
San Salvador Seniors

PERTH AMBOY - The San Salvador Seniors are sponsoring a bus trip to Caesar’s Casino in AC on Thursday, Apr. 5, 2018. Bus leaves 12 Noon from the Perth Amboy Knights of Columbus, High Street, Perth Amboy. Cost 30 pp. Receive \$30 back in slot dollars. For more info call Joe at 732-826-0819.



Help Wanted
Bartender
Must Speak English & Spanish
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310, Elm St., Perth Amboy
Call: 732-826-2233

Our Lady of Martyrs

PERTH AMBOY - St. John Paul II Celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Martyrs at Our Lady of The Rosary of Fatima Church, 188 Wayne Street, Perth Amboy, NJ

SATURDAY, April 7, 2018:

- 12:PM : Commencement of Feast with food, beverage, and musical presentations.
- 7:PM : Musical presentation of “NRG Band” from South River, NJ for dancing.
- 8:PM : Presentation of Folclore group “Barcuense” of Newark, NJ.
- 10:PM : Continuation of the Dance.
- 12:AM : End of the Feast celebration outdoors. Continuation of feast celebration in church hall un-til 1:AM.

SUNDAY, April 8, 2018

- 11:AM : MASS
- 2:PM : Procession accompanied by “Filarmonic Band” of Our Lady of Fatima Church of Newark, NJ. Feast commencement immediately following with food and beverages.
- 4:PM : Musical presentation of the group “Duo Primavera” from Elizabeth, NJ.
- 5:PM : Presentation of Folclore group “Raizes de Portugal” from South River, NJ.
- 8:PM : Ceremony of Passing of the Feast Flag of 2018.
- 8:30 PM : Continuation of the Dance until 10:PM

The Perth Amboy Community invites everyone to attend this Grand Celebration. Don’t miss the homemade traditional desserts, traditional Portuguese foods, games, raffle, etc... Banquet tent protects the festival site to guarantee better climate conditions for the festivities. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! BRING A FRIEND! THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE!

Greek Flag Raising, City Hall Circle & Temple Beth Mordecai, Perth Amboy 3/23/18 *Photos by Paul W. Wang



Greek Independence Day Flag Raising Ceremony

Remarks by George N. Petrakakis, Master of Ceremonies, Event Chairman - 3/23/18

PERTH AMBOY - Today is a day which serves as an inspiration to all those who cherish democracy and freedom. In 1821 after nearly 400 years of Ottoman oppression, the Greeks bound together under a flag bearing the cross the fight for freedom and justice in the land which gave the world democracy. Like the revolution which took place in America 45 years earlier, Greece would embark on a journey forever linking our two countries in their struggle for freedom and independence. The Founding Fathers of the United States of America drew upon the ideals and principles forged in ancient Greece in constructing our nation. Thomas Jefferson called ancient Greece “the light which led ourselves out of Gothic darkness.” All who cherish a free and democratic government are beneficiaries of Greece’s legacy and thus should consider themselves Philhellenes. Throughout history, Greece and the United States have stood shoulder to shoulder to face the challenges of an ever-changing world. Greece had been allied with the United States in every major conflict of the 20th

century. The strong alliance continues into the 21st century. Greece, via Souda Bay, Crete; and other military capabilities, has contributed significantly to NATO and United States missions, including peacekeeping operations, in the ever increasingly important region of the world. Greece continues to do so amid two crippling crises, economic and migratory. And we can be equally proud how the people of Greece have responded – with care, compassion, and philotimo deemed worthy of a Nobel Peace Prize nomination.

Greeks and Greek Americans throughout the United States and world have contributed immensely to world civilization, and their achievements set the standard for others to follow in the areas of medicine, arts, science, philosophy, politics, literature, etc., etc. Greeks and Greek Americans throughout our great nation continue to enhance our social, cultural and economic fabric. Our contributions are immeasurable. The freedom that Greece enjoys today is because of the sacrifices they made 197 years ago...Freedom is never free. Countless lives were lost during the Greek War of Independence which lasted eight years, 1821 to 1829.

We must continue to carry on the spirit of Greek Independence by honoring our fallen comrades, by Annually Raising the Flag of Greece at public venues and having such highly successful celebrations as being done today.

May God Bless Greece and the Greek people for their decisive contributions to world history. Our sincere gratitude to Honorable Wilda Diaz, Mayor, City of Perth Amboy for her support. Thank you to everyone for attending today’s 197th Anniversary of Greece’s Independence and to all who helped make today’s celebration a success. ZHTO H EL-LADA! Long Live Greece! God Bless America!



Greek Flag Raising, City Hall Circle , Perth Amboy 3/25/18 *Photos Submitted

PERTH AMBOY. On Sunday, March 25th, the community and Greek School of St. Demetrios, honored Greek Independence Day in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. The pupils performed poems, sang and danced, offering joy, emotion and pride to the packed event hall. Judge Marina Corodemus, parish council president, congratulated students who, as she stressed, continue to celebrate the brilliant tradition and history of the homeland.



Slovakia Flag Raising, City Hall Circle , Perth Amboy 3/24/18 *Photos by Paul W. Wang



Smart Driver Course

SAYREVILLE - An AARP sponsored “A Smart Driver Course” will be held at the Sayreville Senior Center, 423 Main St on Friday, April 13th from 8:30 am – 2:30 pm. The cost is \$15.00, for A.A.R.P. members and \$20.00 for non-members. Payment is collected prior to the course in the form of CHECKS only made payable to “AARP”. Upon completion of the course, students receive a Certificate of Completion, which will entitle them to a 5% discount on the major portion of their automobile insurance premium for 3 years. Two points will be deducted from their Motor Vehicle record, if applicable. Pre-registration is required. This course is open only to those who have a New Jersey Driver’s License. To register, please call the Senior Center at 732-390-7058.

Free Tree Seedlings for Sayreville Residents

Earth Day / Arbor Day Celebration & Park Cleanup
SAYREVILLE - Saturday, April 21st 9 a.m. – 12 noon, Kennedy Park (Rain or Shine). Tree Seedlings donated by: New Jersey Tree Recovery Program. Hosted by the Sayreville Shade Tree Commission. Seedlings limited to 5 per Sayreville resident. For more information contact Joyce Major at joyce.sayrevillshade-tree@gmail.com

This Week in World War II 75 Years Ago

By: Phil Kohn. *Dedicated to the memory of his father, GM3 Walter Kohn, U.S. Navy Armed Guard, USNR, and all men and women who have answered the country's call in time of need. Phil can be contacted at ww2remembered@yahoo.com.*

On a visit to Germany, King Boris III of Bulgaria on April 2, 1943, reiterates to German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop that, despite German demands, the 25,000 Jews in Bulgaria will not be turned over to German authorities even though the two countries are allies. At most, the king says, Bulgaria may intern its Jews, but only in camps under Bulgarian control.

On April 3, Chinese ship's steward Poon Lim is picked up at sea by Brazilian fishermen after spending 133 days alone on a makeshift life raft. His ship, the British armed merchant freighter SS Ben Lomond, had been torpedoed in the South Atlantic on November 23, 1942. Poon became separated from the other survivors, who had been rescued within days. He survived by fishing, catching seabirds and collecting rainwater. In New Zealand, a riot breaks out between American servicemen and New Zealand servicemen and civilians in Wellington. The trouble begins when some American servicemen try to bar Maori (indigenous New Zealand Polynesian) soldiers from entering an Allied Servicemen's Club. Dozens are injured, but reporting of the riot is squelched by military censors.

U.S. Army Air Corps 1st Lt. William Dyess and nine others escape a Japanese POW camp on Mindanao, the Philippines, on April 4. Dyess had been captured on Bataan when U.S. and Filipino forces surrendered on April 9, 1942. (Dyess and the others elude the Japanese in the jungles for three months with the help of Filipino guerrillas. In July 1943, Dyess is transported to Australia by a U.S. Navy submarine. Once there, he tells the world of the atrocities committed by the Japanese during and after the Bataan Death March.) German radio announces that three former French leaders have been removed to Germany to prevent "establishment of a counter-government." The trio are: former prime ministers Édouard Daladier and Léon Blum, and former French Army commander in chief Gen. Maurice Gamelin.

The Japanese attack the British on Burma's Mayu Peninsula on the country's western coast on April 5. In North Africa, the British Eighth Army attacks the Wadi Akarit Line, an Axis defensive position situated across the route into Tunis. The assault is successful, but the British fail to exploit their breakthrough, and Axis forces regroup. In Berlin, Lutheran pastor Erich Bonhoeffer and attorney Hans von Dohnanyi are arrested by the *Gestapo* (German secret police) at the headquarters of the Abwehr (German military intelligence). Both men are found to possess incriminating materials showing cooperation with the British. Hitler orders Bonhoeffer and von Dohnanyi to be executed as spies. *Der Führer* orders, in addition, the execution of Adm. Wilhelm Canaris, the head of the *Abwehr*.

On April 6, Benito Mussolini arrives in Salzburg, Austria, for a four-day meeting with Adolf Hitler. The agenda: to bolster *il Duce's* flagging morale. Hitler does most of the talking; a suggestion by Mussolini about possibly making peace with the Soviets is strongly rebuffed by *der Führer*. In Tunisia, British and Indian forces overrun the Italian troops defending Wadi Akarit, near Gabès.

Japanese planes, as part of "Operation I-Go," attack Allied ships off Guadalcanal and Tulagi in the Solomon Islands on April 7. Bolivia declares war against the Axis powers, becoming the 33rd nation to do so.

Gen. Masakazu Kawabe on April 8 succeeds Gen. Shōjirō Iida as commander of Japanese forces operating in Burma. A decision is made to improve Japanese logistics there by building a new railroad in the northern part of the country, using forced labor.

Book Sale

PERTH AMBOY - Pick up a book or two (\$.50 for paperbacks/\$1 for hard cover) or select a "bag of books" for a price of only \$5. We are now accepting donations of books.

Visit us at the Brighton Ave. Community Center located at the corner of Brighton Ave. and Sadowski Pkwy. in Perth Amboy. The schedule is as follows: Saturdays: April 14th & 28th. We will be there from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (weather permitting). For more info, e-mail us at friendsofperthamboylibrary@gmail.com Book Dealers are welcome. !!!!

Bag Bingo: Michael Kors & Coach; Tricky Tray & Raffle & 50/50

PERTH AMBOY – St. John Paul II Parish: St. Stephen's School, 500 State St., Perth Amboy. Friday, April 13, 2018. Doors open at 6 p.m. Kitchen will be open. Game Starts at 7:30 p.m. B.Y.O.B. \$30pp. (12 bingo cards per game) Includes a ticket for door prizes. Complimentary coffee & cake. I.D. No. 387-1-39661; BL-1033; RL-4144; RL-4154. For more info call 732-826-1395 or 732-485-9367.

Celebrate! Year of the Dog Celebration

Press Release 4/2/18

SOUTH AMBOY - Experience Chinese Culture with Celebrate! The Year of the Dog event on Sunday, April 29 from 1:30-3:30 pm. Fun activities will be available for the whole family, starting at 1:30 pm sharp with a dazzling Lion Dance performed by students from the Edison Chinese School. A delightful traditional dance, fashion show, and music performance will follow. Art stations featuring Chinese painting, calligraphy and origami demonstrations will also be showcased. Attendees with food tickets will be treated to traditional Chinese refreshments at the conclusion of the program. Directions: www.dowdell.org

Celebrate National Library Week from April 9-14 with fun activities! Also, enter for a chance to win a gift basket simply by checking out materials when you stop in the library.

Olaf – Dowdell Library's Book Buddy will return on Wednesday, April 11 from 3:30-4:30 pm. Please make him happy and read to him! Ages 0-100!

Haven't filed your taxes yet? Sign up NOW to reserve one of the remaining spaces available provided by VITA (United Way). VITA free tax preparation assistance for individuals earning less than \$64,000 per year is available on the following dates. Monday, April 9 for drop off service only from 10 am to 12 noon. Pick up return on Wednesday April 11 from 10 am to 12 noon. Registration is recommended: 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org

Join us for the Earth Day Party on Friday, April 20 from 3:30-4:30 pm. Plant a seed for Earth Day while learning about ways to help the environment.

Drop in for Preservation Day on Wednesday, April 25 from 11 am to 4 pm with your South Amboy photographs and documents to have us scan them for you. Help keep South Amboy history alive.

Learn how to make fast, fresh rice rolls and dipping sauce on Wednesday, April 25 from 11-11:30 am, just in time for Celebrate! Year of the Dog Celebration on Sunday, April 29 from 1:30-3:30 pm!

Take part in Children's Book Day (El día de los libros) April 30 from 3:30-4:30 pm. Come in for a craft and Bilingual Storytime as you listen to stories in Spanish/English!

Do you have knitting or crocheting questions? Stop by and enjoy working on your knitting projects while chatting with friends. Meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. 6 - 8 pm.

To learn about upcoming library programs, sign up for the monthly eNewsletter at <http://dowdell.org/newslettersignup.html>

The Dowdell Library's hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 10 am to 8 pm, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am to 5 pm, and Saturday from 12 to 4 pm. For more information, please visit www.dowdell.org, or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org.

Pet of the Week



Sally is special because she was rescued as a kitten from being a feral and has brought us so much joy and laughter with her adorable personality. Here she is cooling off in the sink. Love, Beth

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.

Ads Sell! Call Carolyn! 732-896-4446

Friends of Sayreville Public Library Events

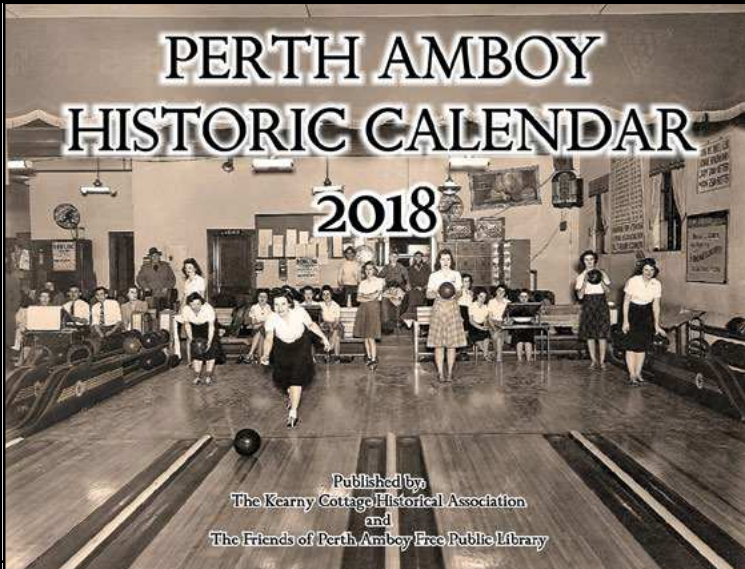
SAYREVILLE – The Friends of the Sayreville Public Library present a BOOK SALE Saturday & Sunday, April 21st & 22nd, 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. -Location: Sayreville Public Library, 1050 Washington Rd, Parlin. A Re-Gifting SALE Saturday & Sunday, April 21st & 22nd, 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Location: Sayreville Public Library. A BUNCO NIGHT Thursday, April 26th 6:30 p.m. - \$10 donation-Location: Knights of Columbus 775 Washington Rd, Parlin.

Edison AARP Ch. 3446

EDISON – Events: April 19: Paper Mill Playhouse - "The Sting"; April 24: Li Greci's Staaten, Staten Island, NY - "Billion Dollar Trio" plus dancing and lunch - For information call Mary Ann at 732-287-3659 May 4: Hunterdon Hills - "Tapestry" Music of Carol King - Lunch and Show - For information call Rose at 732-738-8013

Various items for hospitals and nursing homes will be collected at the meeting, as well as canned food for MCFOOD. Be a guest at our meeting or visit our website at www.edisonaarp.org for additional information.

2018 Historic Perth Amboy Calendars



2018 Historic Perth Amboy Calendars are now available at the Barge Restaurant, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy 732-442-3000 or at Fertigs Uniform Store, 195 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy 732-442-1079, Perth Amboy City Hall or Call Paul or Katherine at 732-293-1090. Back by popular demand the Calendars feature old photographs from Perth Amboy. Sponsored by the Kearny Cottage Historical Association and the Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library. Calendars are \$10 Each.

Novena to St. Rita

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

Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be three times each. **K.M. & C.M.**

Remember to
Say Your
Novenas!

Women of the
Moose

Vendor Fair

PERTH AMBOY – There will be a Vendor Fair at the Perth Amboy Moose Lodge, April 15th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come buy all your favorite products! Vendors wanted: Please email Jndcarpenter420@gmail.com for further information.

Jammin for
Jaclyn

SAYREVILLE - The 5th Annual Jammin for Jaclyn Benefit Concert will be held on April 21, 2018. 100% of the proceeds will go to Katya Hernandez and Chris Szatkowski, both fighting Cancer.

Take note of our new LARGER Venue, Knights of Columbus in Sayreville 775 Washington Road, Sayreville. Wheel Chair accessible and more parking. Please join us for an Endless Hot and Cold Buffet and Continuous Live Bands. \$25/pp Adults Only Please.

Cancer does not discriminate. Anyone can be struck at any time, please help. Contact Denise Morgan at 732-525-9536 or email jamminforjaclyn@gmail.com for further information. If you would like to donate prior to the event, checks can be made to RJC Charities Inc. Mail to 292 Stevens Avenue South Amboy NJ 08879. jamminforjaclyn.weebly.com https://www.facebook.com/Jammin-for-Jaclyn-826847727403904/

PAHS Class of
1958 Reunion

PERTH AMBOY - The 60th reunion for the PAHS class of 1958 is on Sunday, April 8, 2018 at the Grand Marquis, Rte. 9 South, Old Bridge, from 1 until 6 p.m. The cost is \$65. Carol Zick Chojnacki has a wonderful fun day planned. There will be a cash bar cocktail hour with hot and cold appetizers followed by a delicious buffet. The cash bar will be available for the rest of the fabulous day as well dancing to the oldies but goodies.

For those of you traveling a distance, the Hampton Inn on Route 9 North, in Woodbridge is convenient and nice. The phone number is 732-855-6900. It is about 15 minutes away from the Grand Marquis, and has a shuttle from the airport and I think to the Grand Marquis. You can try Trivago, Expedia, Kayak, etc. for rates or other hotels nearby. They have a nice breakfast and Millers Ale House, Pizza Hut, Longhorn, McDonalds and Walmart are right there. For more detailed directions, GOOGLE it. There are other hotels on Route 18 also.

If there are any of you that graduated from PAHS a different year close to ours, or went to St. Mary's, or have some ties to Perth Amboy, YOU ARE INVITED. We all share a lot of memories of football games, basketball games, dances, drive-ins, buzzing the stem, and more. It should be a great party.

If you plan to come and we hope you do, please send a check made payable to Carol Zick Chojnacki, 174 Ryan Road, Marlboro, NJ 07746-1831 by March 17. The cost is \$65. You can call her of your intentions at Delicious Orchards 732-462-1989. You can also call me at 732-826-9466. My email is babsmsottilaro@gmail.com. LETS PARTY LIKE IT'S 1999.

Senior Scene
Happenings

Perth Amboy

- TUES. Apr. 3 Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.
- Good Shepherd Tuesday Seniors (HS) 12:30 p.m. Msgr. Gambino Hall, Florida Grove Rd.
- WED. Apr. 4 Good Shepherd Wednesday Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Msgr. Gambino Hall, Florida Grove Rd.
- Holy Trinity Seniors, 1 p.m., Church Hall, Lawrie & Johnstone St.
- THURS. Apr. 5 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
- MON. Apr. 9 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
- TUES. Apr. 10 Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.
- Good Shepherd Tuesday Seniors (HS) 12:30 p.m. Msgr. Gambino Hall, Florida Grove Rd.
- WED. Apr. 11 Good Shepherd Wednesday Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Msgr. Gambino Hall, Florida Grove Rd.
- THURS. Apr. 12 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
- Ukrainian Assumption Seniors, 12 Noon Church Basement, Alta Vista Pl.

South Amboy

- WED. Apr. 4 South Amboy Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.
- MON. Apr. 23 Sacred Heart Seniors, 12 Noon Memorial Hall, Wash Ave.
- MON. May 7 St. Mary's Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.

Attn: If Your Club changes its
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

Answers
From Puzzle
On Page 15



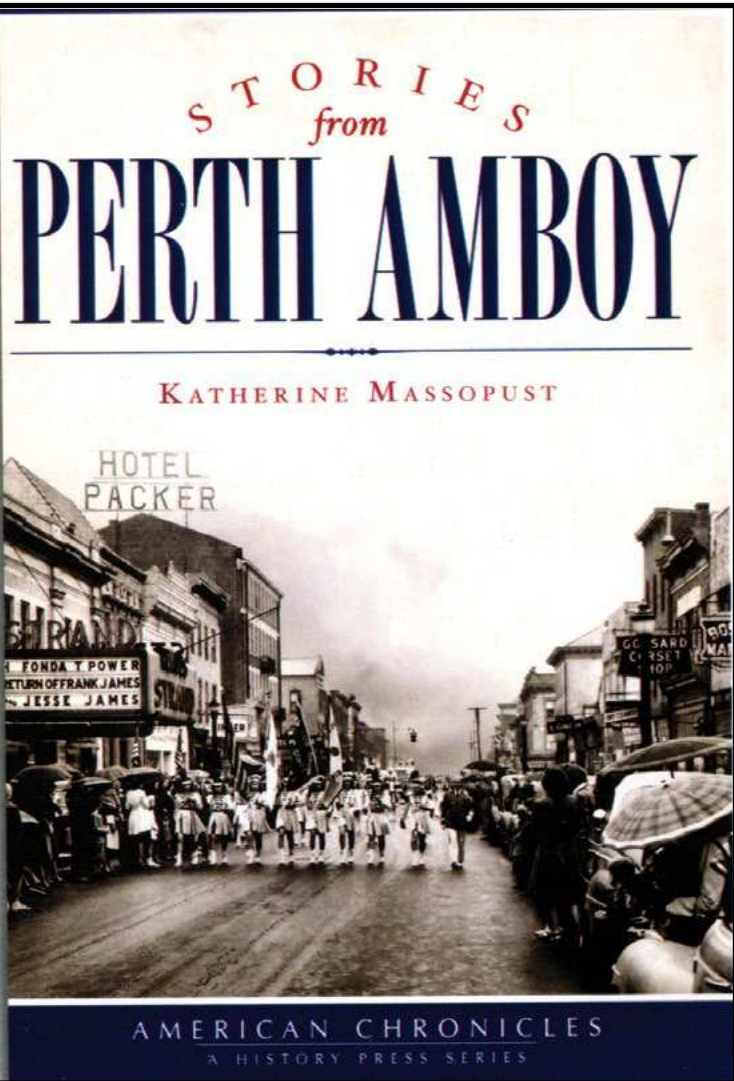
LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - Majestic Drugs Store on Smith Street Fire.

*Photo Courtesy of Jack Dudas

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



Stories From Perth Amboy

PERTH AMBOY - Stories From Perth Amboy by Katherine Massopust is available at the Barge Restaurant, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy or in Fertig's Uniform 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! Get it now along with Then & Now: Perth Amboy!

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Call Carolyn @ 732-896-4446

New Plans for the Service Directory Effective 1/1/16 Are Now in Effect. If You Offer a Service, the Place to Advertise is Here! Catering, Auto Repair, Heating, Plumbing, Home Health Aides, Landscaping, Snow Removal, Dry Cleaning, Chauffeuring, Exterminators, Hall Rentals, Insurance, Delivering Services, Hair Stylists, Photography, Counseling, WebSite Design, Computer Repair etc.
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FREE ITEMS! - Patio Furniture, Microwave, 2 Toilets, Shower Doors(4'x4"x29") Please Call: 732-679-0086

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2 nd Floor; \$925/mo. plus Electric & Gas. 1½ mo. Security Deposit. Off-street parking. No pets. Available April 1, 2018. For more information, call: 732-634-8582 3/28	Craftsman Jigsaw with stand - \$40 School desk chair \$25 - 732-525-8365	Antique Sleds Good Shape, Flexible Flyer Size 51 1/2 in. FF Original Sticker \$50 732-727-0314
	Brand New Electric Heater Radiator. Was \$65 Now \$20 New Never Used. 732-547-7406	20" Snapper Mower \$50 732-727-5056
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Excellent Three-Piece Wall Unit Lots of Storage \$75 - 732-238-8439	Train Lionel Thomas The Tank Engine Electric G Scale Good. \$70 732-583-2305	Fish Tank - 55 gal. \$50. Call Richie: 732-727-9523
Hunter Ceiling Fan with Light - Good Condition \$35 - 732-277-4635	Wood Dining Room Table \$75 (5) Wrought Iron Chairs \$75 732-585-3873	Tree Trimmer Fiberglass Pole, extens rope is good. \$15 or B.O. 732-738-0310
Household Items - Gun Case; Tables, Lamps, Furniture, Dishes \$5-\$75 - 732-277-4975	Safe Combination 21" High 13 1/2" wide on wheels \$75 732-634-1851	Vacuum Cleaner Eureka Bagless \$15; Coffee Machine Keureg \$10 - 732-826-6324
Umbrella - Patio, needs cord and iron stand. \$30 - 732-283-0975	Sewing Machine - portable Singer \$35; Toilets, Shower Doors \$20 Each 732-679-0086	Moving - tables, lamps, dresses, dishes, tools grandfather clock \$5-\$75 - 732-925-6542
Dining Room Set, 6-Piece Bedroom Set, Lamps, Lounge Chairs - \$75 - 732-297-4457	50's Sled \$25; Records \$10up; DVD's - movies \$2 each; Comics \$10 up; Exercise Elliptical \$20; Wood Golf Clubs \$75 - 732-713-0536	Atari 2600 original joystix paddles 27 cartridges \$75 or B.O. 908-803-9623
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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.*

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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

Prayer To Blessed Virgin

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St. Jude Novena

Pray The Rosary

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- Set of tools
- Touches lightly
- Insult by ignoring
- Marriage words
- Revise (a manuscript)
- Gardening tube
- Recently made
- Small horse
- Kitchen appliance
- Ballerina, for one
- Be in debt to
- Listened to (a warning)
- Cow's noise
- Fido's annoyance
- Roll (of bills)
- Coal storage place
- Desk light
- For every
- Actor Hackman
- Adam's mate
- Young lady
- Boats like Noah's
- Military conflict
- Permits
- Egypt snake
- Syrup-producing trees
- Skilled
- Monkeys' relatives

- Drink-cooling cubes

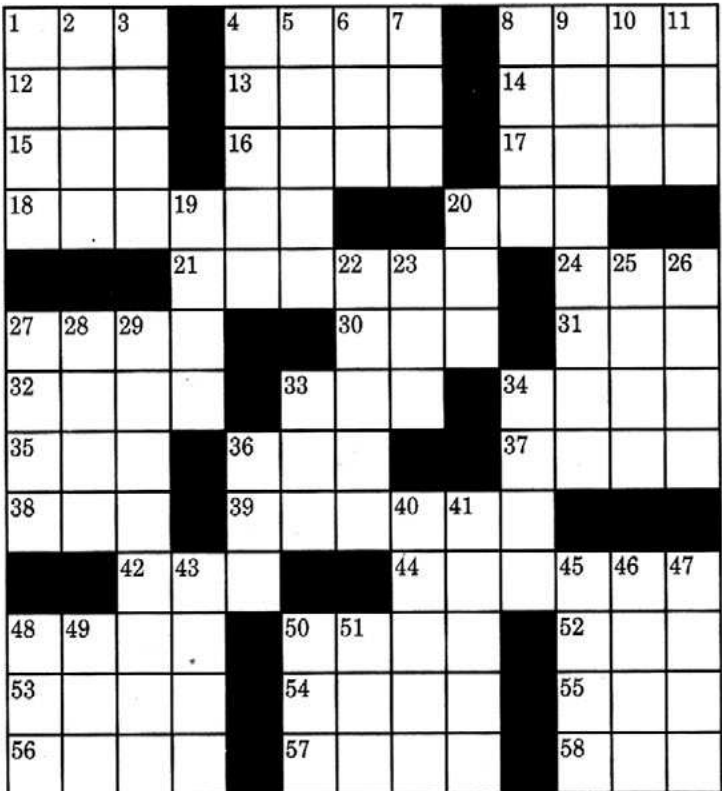
- Traveled by bicycle
- Tenant's payment
- That woman
- Throw
- Lawyer's concern
- Spinning toy

DOWN

- Merciful
- Mental conception
- Urban settlement
- Plains Indian's traditional dwelling
- Love greatly

- Sewing fastener
- Pigs' enclosure
- Demonstrate
- Turkey time
- Employ
- Founding father Franklin, familiarly
- Become rough, as lips
- Strange
- Reside (in)
- Serving of corn
- Cry from a 7-Down
- Washington bills
- Took a plane
- Volcano flow
- Green precious gems
- Buddy

- Shocked inhalation
- Blank space
- Prophets' signs
- "Haste makes "
- Uses the eyes
- Shopper's reminder
- Repeated sound
- Leak slowly
- Museum sight
- Startling shout
- Rainbow's shape
- Tiny, round vegetable



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