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# AMBOY GUARDIAN

• VOL. 9 NO. 15 • 732-896-4446 • P.O. BOX 127 • PERTH AMBOY • NJ • 08862 • WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019 •

## Land Swap Between City & Board of Education Discussed

10/7/19 Caucus

By Carolyn Maxwell  
PERTH AMBOY – Director of Human Services and Recreation Ken Ortiz appeared at the council to discuss why the land swap between the city and the Board of Education is vital. Ortiz stated, “The proposed land swap exchange started in 2013 after a study was done to address key items such as open space and park land. Most athletic fields are in the northern part of the city. We need to address our open space land. 25% of our city’s households do not own a car. Compared to other cities, we have a significant lack of parks and open spaces. Many of the most densely parts of the city have the least amount of parks. We have a deficit of 30 playgrounds. There were many suggestions from focus groups. An organization called Kaboom has helped build playgrounds around this city. Dalton Park just added 2 basketball courts. A kayak storage was placed on Sadowski Parkway and we are

getting a ton of activity from out-of-towners who use the kayak ramp. This is an opportunity to generate revenue in renting and storing kayaks. Also added on Sadowski Parkway were water fountains and a shower and a recreation facility. I can get more details about these facilities that were installed during a holiday. The Middlesex County Park located on Washington Street has an expected completion date by the end of 2020. Second Street Park has 6 acres (to build on). The Raritan River Park which is located by the Victory Bridge will have a large ballpark, a riverwalk, and a fishing pier. Washington Park is in total disrepair. Over 200 kids started their own softball leagues and they do their own officiating. We’re trying to patch up (the field) so the storm water doesn’t cause flooding. We’ll have to install more synthetic grass. We’ll expand our parks quite a bit, but we need to generate revenue, so we don’t have

to use city funding to maintain the parks. We have to follow the criteria from Green Acres and the NJDEP. We’re looking to do an exchange of property with the Board of Education involving the Seaman Street lot, Lucey Center, the New Brunswick Avenue parking lot and Flynn School. With the Seaman Street lot, elevated levels of lead and arsenic were found and that’s why Kaboom rejected that area for a playground. The state said to remove the contaminants or cap it. Some contaminants (on the Seaman Street lot) were just 6 inches below the surface. Kids like to dig, and 6 inches is nothing, and they can easily be exposed to contaminants. The Lucey Center (on William Street) has .69 acres, but there is a lot of vandalism that goes on there, and there is only one way to go in and out. With the Board of Education property, they have 1.5 acres located on the corner

*\*Continued on Page 7*

## Tensions Continue, But Not as High

10/9/19 Council Meeting

By: Carolyn Maxwell  
PERTH AMBOY – During the first public comments, resident Stanley Sierakowski came up to question R-445-10/19 – A contract with D&H Alternative Risk Solutions of Newton New Jersey for Risk Management, Third Party Administrative Services, Managed Medical Care and PPO Access Administration and Safety Training for a 3 year period commencing January 1, 2020 thru December 31, 2022 for an amount not to exceed \$255,000 per year.

Council President Bill Petrick stated, “This is a company who gave us a \$2 million check (At a previous meeting, a representative from this company came up to explain how they had gone to court on some cases, such as when an employee went out on maternity leave and was paid during that time and she never came back to work. They were able to go to court to recoup some of that money.)”

Sierakowski then questioned R-440-10/19 – Professional services with Center State Engineering for preparations of a

preapplication for Green Acres Land Diversion – Board of Education Land Swap (175 Seaman Ave.) in an amount not to exceed \$7,500.

Sierakowski stated, “The city can’t use this land because of the contaminants. Donate it to the Board of Education for a parking lot. It can’t be used for anything else.” He then talked about the lot on the corner of New Brunswick Avenue and East Avenue. “The city probably wants it for housing.”

Council President William Petrick responded, “We proposed to use that lot for a park.”

Sierakowski retorted back, “You might not even be here next year.”

Petrick responded back, “I will be here.”

Sierakowski added, “It’s a great location for a condo.”

Resident Ken Balut came up next. He talked about R-453 – Authorizing submission of an application to the Middlesex County Department of Community Services for the Code Blue Warming Center Funding Opportunity.

Balut referenced, “What’s going to happen when the hospital changes to a psychiatric hospital?” He then pivoted over to R-450-10/19 – Authorizing the city to execute a contract with the Raritan Bay Area YMCA – Center for Support, Success, and Prosperity in the amount \$15,000 (which is a CDBG Grant).

“The Y owes us over \$2 million. The CEO and employees get a lot of benefits. You should see how much money they get. It’s up to the council to do a complaint and investigate this. The same employee who had gotten a house through a CDBG Grant is now buying another house.”

Law Director Peter King responded, “The Jewish Renaissance is a private entity.”

Resident Stanley Sierakowski shouted out from the audience, “The council should go to the attorney general to investigate this.”

Petrick then questioned,

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## Reappointments, Special Circumstances & Supporting The Business District

10/2/19 Business Meeting



Members of Presbyterian Church accept check from Assemblyman Craig Coughlin for their food pantry. Part of the proceeds from Bowling For Hunger.  
*\*Photo by Carolyn Maxwell*

By: Carolyn Maxwell  
SOUTH AMBOY – Under Business items: Ordinance 11-15 and Resolution 1-141-2015 amending city code post Superstorm Sandy came under discussion by Councilman Tom Reilly. He felt that this ordinance would be going against the master plan pertaining to proposed density. “The master plan called for single unit structures (in that area - near Roswell Street).”

Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski responded that the Planning Board approved this resolution and ordinance.

Councilwoman Zusette Dato spoke up, “I trust the Planning Board’s decisions.”

Reilly also had a question regarding Resolution 156-2019: SARA (South Amboy Redevelopment Agency) appointment. “I want to make sure that everyone is okay with Camille Tooker’s appointment. Did other people apply?”

Council President Mickey Gross stated, “Camille (Tooker) has done a great job in the past on this board and will continue to do so.”

Councilwoman Zusette Dato added, “Camille was nominated and approved to be on this board.”

Gross and Mayor Fred Henry both stated, “It’s a vote to reappoint Camille Tooker to SARA. Henry then clarified, “Tooker’s term was up (which made reappointment necessary).”

Reilly then questioned the property at the corner of lower

John Street and Roswell Street. “Superstorm Sandy happened 7 years ago. My concerns would be rescinding Resolution 141-2015.”

Skarzynski responded, “People didn’t know about the closing date to rebuild after Superstorm Sandy and what could be built (after the storm).”

Reilly responded, “I talked to Tom Kelly (Building Inspector) who stated that site needs to be cleaned up.”

Dato said, “I think 7 years is sufficient (for that spot to have been cleaned up).”

Mayor Henry added, “There’s a cleanup pending.”

Gross then added, “That particular location may be grandfathered in.”

Law Director Francis Womack stated that he will look to see if orders are pending on this property (John and Rosewell).

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski gave an overview of Business Item g.) A resolution purchasing a 2-ton asphalt hot patch trailer. “This will enable us to do hot patches which will create smoother and longer lasting street surfaces.”

Skarzynski then discussed the Best Practices results: “Our information was sent into the Department of Consumer Affairs and we should have our results no later than October 3, 2019.”

Councilman Reilly then questioned Item No. j.) Resolution

*\*Continued on Page 2*





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# Reappointments, Special Circumstances & Supporting The Business District

## 10/2/19 Business Meeting

*\*Continued from Page 1*

authorizing a tax lien for maintenance performed at 356 Ward Ave. "Are there monthly fees for a late payment?"

B.A. Skarzynski answered, "There is a lien on the property if they were in default. Decisions are made on a case by case basis."

Reilly then questioned, "Are there any considerations if a person is a senior?"

Skarzynski added, "We may extend (extra courtesy) if a person is caught between a rock and a hard place."

There also was a discussion regarding Business item No. h.) A resolution authorizing a sewer payment installment plan.

Councilwoman Dato said, "It sounds like there may be a glitch in the utility system."

Skarzynski responded, "There has been miscommunication with the water utility since we no longer do the billing. We have a lien on the property that we had to do a cleanup for. The cleanups are discretionary."

Reilly then questioned Business Item No. l.) An alleyway clearing. "Residents have been complaining about the number of people who speed in that alleyway. "Maybe we can look into placing a speed limit sign or installing speed bumps."

Skarzynski said, "We can look into this."

There was a lengthy discussion regarding Business Item No. m.) The Broadway Festival.

Reilly spoke up and explained there were mixed feelings about the Arts Festival, "Some businesses said that the Arts Festival helped them, while some said it actually hurt them. Some of the bars were not happy."

Council President Gross spoke next, "I heard both positive and negative from the bars. You have to do what's right and best. You can't win that argument."

Council Vice President Christine Noble thought it was a great event. "I think there was one specific tavern who had a problem."

Gross then requested that the Council make suggestions.

Dato was the first to respond, "We should survey the business owners. Any traffic coming into town is good, but we also have limited parking."

Gross spoke again, "Camille Tooker is the one suggested having limited food vendors."

Mayor Henry felt that the people who complained should make suggestions.

Reilly said, "We tried helping the businesses on Broadway. Surveying those businesses is a good idea. We've tried to engage our businesses in the past, but we've gotten poor responses. We used to have a Waterfront Festival."

Gross then added, "One business actually complained about having the fireworks because it brought too much traffic into the city."

Mayor Henry then stated, "If the festival helps most businesses, it's important. Maybe the bars should have half price sales during these events."

After that discussion, Reilly asked if the county can do fire inspections in town.

B.A. Skarzynski answered, "I don't think so, but I can give them a call."

Council Comments:

Vice President Christine Noble congratulated The Friends of the South Amboy for recent events they sponsored throughout the city.

Councilwoman Zusette Dato was delighted that Assemblyman and current Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin came to the council meeting tonight to present a check to two food pantries (the Presbyterian Church had 2 employees present. There also was a check for St. Mary's Food Pantry to be given to them later because no one was present.) These checks were part of the proceeds from the Bowling for Hunger event.

Dato also congratulated the Artsfest Committee for the work they did on the Festival. "It was a great day."

Councilman Reilly stated, "The Friends of South Amboy raised a lot of money and their next event will be held sometime in December." Reilly was also concerned about a fire haz-

ard (piles of pallets near the old St. Mary's School).

B.A. Skarzynski responded, "Someone is running an illegal business near there. Summons were issued and we're trying to get the owner to court."

Gross spoke up, "This business is blatantly violating the law."

Law Director Womack then said, "The city will send another notice to the owners."

Reilly then questioned why e-mails he had sent to B.A. Glenn Skarzynski were unanswered.

Skarzynski responded, "Some of the issues may be something that should be taken care of by the City Clerk."

Gross came to Skarzynski's defense, "Glenn is bombarded with e-mails and I'm guilty of doing that myself. I also call Glenn a lot."

Reilly continued, "I see Glenn responding to e-mails that were sent after mine."

Gross spoke next. He also complimented the Art Society. He urged everyone to see the upcoming Holocaust Remembrance event to take place. "There will also be an event discussing opioid abuse. My hats off to Kathy Kudelkak who is part of the South Amboy Alliance who helps put these programs together. She is part of the Municipal Alliance."

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated, "The DPW received new uniforms and the mechanics were able to rehabilitate some of the older vehicles. Some of the pews and some 50 chairs are to be replaced in city hall. The Municipal Alliance will also have dances, movies, and an upcoming Trunk or Treat for the kids. There will be a delivery for bicycle racks and the cost will be picked up by the Board of Education."

City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz said, "There will be milling and paving on Pine Street. There was a blockage that was caused by a hairbrush on the pump station on Raritan Street which is an old system. The DPW and Sewer Team reacted quickly and there was no back-up in the homes in that area. We are looking to do upgrades to the pump system."

Mayor Fred Henry spoke last. He began by thanking the Public Works Department and the Arts Council for all the work that they've done. He also mentioned the upcoming Holocaust exhibit and citywide yard sale (weekend of 10/5-6/19). "The Public Works Department has new hires and have acquired new equipment." He then spoke about the Historical Society and their cooperation with the School System and the YMCA. He thanked SARA who paid for the new digital signs by the high school. "There have been beach cleanups, but there are still things that need to be cleaned up, but Glenn is a go-getter. We always thank the Council for supporting us."

Councilman Brian McLaughlin was absent from the meeting.



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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Over the Top  
Missing the Days When Late Night TV  
Host Comedians Were Funny



Johnny Carson and Friend  
\*Pinterest.co.kr

There are a ton of political shows on TV: regular and cable. Maybe too many. But, you could always depend on the late-night and sometimes late afternoon who would provide a much needed escape from the tensions of the world.

Yes, they would have a little bit of political satire humor, but it wasn't their bread and butter. The most entertaining segments when they would feature the interactions of animals with the host.

Many times, especially on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson, he would interview regular people who were just as funny as some of the entertainers who came on.

Some entertainers were very difficult to interview because they were so used to reading from a script, they would freeze when questioned about their personal life.

One of the best guests Johnny Carson had on was Jimmy Stewart. I would suggest that people look at YouTube of shows such as: Johnny Carson, Merv Griffin, Mike Douglas, Jay Leno, and some of the comedians who guest-hosted when Johnny Carson wasn't there.

Here's a big difference: people were able to laugh at themselves. If you want to see what real love and respect is, you need to look at the Dean Martin Roast. A celebrity or well-known individual would be roasted by a host of comedians or acquaintances. It didn't matter if you were a male or a female.

Good natured insults would be



Dean Martin's  
Celebrity Roast \*AP

flying left and right. It would be an insult if you weren't insulted or laughing.

After the roast, everyone would embrace each other in good fun.

Some of the comments that were made back then, would probably be viewed as an insult today. The difference is that back then, people had a genuine affection for each other.

I don't want to put all talk show comedians down today, because there are a few that have made me laugh when they stray away from the hostile political attacks.

To me, Jimmy Fallon and his crew are hysterical when they did a takeoff on Downton Abbey which they called "Downton Sixbey". Another skit I love watching is when Fallon, his staff and the musicians dressed in drag and pretended to be their wives. You talk about funny - it's above and beyond. I suggest the skit when the staff dressed as the wives go to a city where the super bowl was being played not knowing that team was not in the super bowl. I have tears rolling down my eyes with laughter.

James Corden who is an Australian actor likes to sing with celebrities while they are driving in a car which is a pleasant segment. I love the one when he is in the car with Paul McCartney and they drive to his childhood home and surprise the current occupant. After that, they go to a local bar and surprise those patrons with a concert.

Thanks for the happy memories!  
C.M.

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

The Joke is on  
the Voters

This is a concerned response to the Amboy Guardian article in the Oct 2, 2019 issue (It Got Ugly 9/25/19 Council Meeting). When reading this article of what was going on at the City Council Meeting and many

The Second  
Amendment

A letter presented an erroneous interpretation of the phrase "well-regulated militia". This referred to the practice where members of the militia elected their officers for a one-year term. One example was Davy Crockett who was elected Colonel after he joined the militia for the Black Hawk War. There were no police forces in the

others that also read it told me the city has gotten out of control. Those concerned citizens are being left out. When a concerned citizen writes a letter to the Police Chief and the Mayor to the Amboy Guardian, that's a WARNING SIGN. Over the years it has been nonstop of citizens complaining from A

to Z and when it will STOP? Perth Amboy has to move forward and catch up - not go backwards. Here's the best one: those city politicians tell us they need another four years to fix the problems. I hate to say this, but "The joke is on the voters!"

Orlando "Wildman" Perez

early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Armed citizens protected themselves. Police forces were mostly created around the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century for the big cities (after the Panic of 1837). Rural areas today are armed and depend on the Sheriff's department as needed, like in those old Western movies.

The rise of corporations with hundreds of workers meant they could not depend on the militia when a strike occurred since the militia would be composed of the striking workers,

their friends and relatives (as in 1877 Pittsburgh). People have a natural right to protect themselves from predatory animals in rural areas and elsewhere. The Second Amendment recognized this right. Given their experiences they did not want to depend on government forces when they were the government. William Weir's book "A Well Regulated Militia" has the historical facts.

Ronald A. Sobieraj

Perth Amboy's  
City Hall  
Civil War

In the October 2, 2019 edition of the "Guardian" a woman only identified as Elizabeth tells Council president Petrick "You don't belong in our community....". This statement puzzled me on many levels. Who is this Elizabeth that she has the authority to say who is part of "our community"? The next question is: how does she define "community"? If "community" is the City of Perth Amboy Council president Petrick's family have been residence of the City of Perth Amboy, like myself, for 3 generations. Besides his current political contributions to the City, Mr. Petrick contributed to our community

as a volunteer firefighter and Volunteer Fire Chief. Is Elizabeth defining "community" as a political-social-ethnic group? In that case Mr. Petrick, myself and many who still live and contribute to the City of Perth Amboy can never be members of Elizabeth's community since we do not know what community she speaks of we certainly cannot be members. The community I belong to is best characterized by the phrase "Out of Many, One". It symbolizes the American ideal that while we all have come from different places with different ideas and religions with a belief in the ideals set forth in the U.S. Constitution we become one people not a political-social-ethnic group which separates it's members from the rest of society. By separating its members from the

rest of society, they feel special and are often exploited for political purposes. I suspect that is the case at the Council meeting reported in the "Guardian." They became Warriors in Perth Amboy's City Hall Civil War.

The final thing I am puzzled about are the people who came up and asked for a tax increase to help the Seniors. While I am sure that Senior services provides for many of our city's seniors, they are not the only seniors effected by the city's budget. Many seniors struggle to pay their property tax. It has to be remembered that as we age on a fixed income our dollars do not go as far as they used to. I'm sure there are seniors who would suffer if taxes are raised, even by 3% or 5 %.

John Yuhas

"Presumption  
of Innocence"

Good evening,

My name is Maria Garcia. I am sure that most of you know me for my years of working against corruption in our government and making this city progress into a better future. I am writing this letter to you to express my views about the organized effort of the character assassination of Councilman Bill Petrick for political expediency.

I am a woman, an immigrant, and Hispanic, but above all I am an American citizen who believes that we all have the freedom of speech, association, and presumption of innocence given to us by the constitution of the USA. I've known Councilman Petrick since 2009. Councilman Petrick and Mr. Gonzalez and I ran together for city council in 2010. Since the first day that I met Councilman Petrick,

he has always been respectful, caring for this community and its people, no matter what race, creed or religious beliefs. I've also served with Councilman Petrick in the Planning Board of the city of Perth Amboy; he has always been very conscious of how we must redevelop this city to avoid mistakes of overdevelopment which will put a strain on our infrastructure, schools, parking, police, fire department, sanitation department, open space, and quality of life. Councilman Petrick knows what his duty as an elected official is: he is representing the people of this city. He was not elected by the people to represent everything the Mayor wants; his duty is to represent the people and protect us from bad decisions that will impact us for years in negative ways.

I want to ask those who are prejudging Councilman Petrick to think of two things: First- Have you ever sat down with

Councilman Petrick and have a conversation with him?; Second: Why would Councilman Petrick run with two Hispanics for the city council and was supported by many Hispanics including the Mayor if he was a racist?

I know that the people of Perth Amboy are smarter than some politicians think, and I know that we will not fall for lies, propaganda and character assassination of a good man for political reasons. Do not let the Mayor manipulate you with lies in order to have total control over the council to do whatever the lobbyists, campaign donors, and developers want to do with our city at our expense.

Lastly, I will leave you with this. . .

1 Peter 2:1 So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

Maria Garcia

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DAD'S ROYAL BAKERY.....	3290 WASHINGTON RD.
<b>IN PERTH AMBOY:</b>	
1 <sup>ST</sup> CONSTITUTION BANK .....	145 FAYETTE ST.
ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTER .....	178 BARRACKS ST.
ALAMEDA CENTER .....	303 ELM ST.
AMBOY CHECK X-CHANGE .....	321 MAPLE ST.
ANDERL & OAKLEY PC .....	309 MAPLE ST.
ANITA'S CORNER .....	664 BRACE AVE.
THE BARGE .....	201 FRONT ST.
BAY CITY LAUNDRYMAT.....	738 STATE ST.
C-TOWN .....	272 MAPLE ST.
CEDENO'S PHARMACY .....	400 STATE ST.
CITY HALL .....	260 HIGH ST.
COPA DE ORO .....	306 SMITH ST.
DULCE'S SWEETS.....	222 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
DUNKIN DONUTS .....	587 FAYETTE ST.
EASTSIDE DRY CLEANERS .....	87 SMITH ST.
ELIZABETH CORNER .....	175 HALL AVE.
FAMILY FOOT CARE .....	252 SMITH ST.
FU LIN .....	79 SMITH ST.
HY TAVERN .....	386 HIGH ST.
INVESTOR'S BANK .....	598 STATE ST.
JANKOWSKI COMMUNITY CENTER .....	1 OLIVE ST.
JEWISH RENAISSANCE MEDICAL CENTER .....	272A HOBART ST.
KIM'S DRY CLEANERS .....	73 SMITH ST.
LAW OFFICES .....	708 CARSON AVE.
LEE'S MARKET .....	77 SMITH ST.
LUDWIG'S PHARMACY .....	75 BRACE AVE.
MITRUSKA CHIROPRACTIC .....	788 CONVERY BLVD.
PETRA BEST REALTY.....	329 SMITH ST.
PETRICK'S FLOWERS .....	710 PFEIFFER BLVD.
POLICE HEADQUARTERS .....	365 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
PORTUGUESE MANOR .....	310 ELM ST.
PROVIDENT BANK .....	339 STATE ST.
PUBLIC LIBRARY .....	196 JEFFERSON ST.
PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATION .....	100 FIRST ST.
QUICK CHEK .....	853 CONVERY BLVD.
QUICK STOP DELI .....	814 AMBOY AVE.
QUISQUEYA MARKET .....	249 MADISON AVE.
QUISQUEYA LUNCHEONETTE .....	259 MADISON AVE.
RARITAN BAY AREA Y.M.C.A. ....	365 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
RARITAN BAY MEDICAL CENTER .....	530 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SANTANDER BANK .....	365 CONVERY BLVD.
SANTIBANA TRAVEL .....	362 STATE ST.
SCIORTINO'S RESTAURANT .....	473 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SHOP-RITE .....	365 CONVERY BLVD.
SIPOS BAKERY .....	365 SMITH ST.
SUPERIOR DINER.....	464 SMITH ST.
SUPREMO SUPERMARKET .....	270 KING ST.
TORRES MINI MARKET .....	403 BRUCK AVE.
TOWN DRUGS & SURGICAL .....	238 SMITH ST.
WELLS FARGO .....	214 SMITH ST.
ZPA .....	281 GRACE ST.
<b>IN SAYREVILLE:</b>	
BOROUGH HALL .....	167 MAIN ST.
SENIOR CENTER .....	423 MAIN ST.
SUNNYSIDE RESTAURANT .....	111 MAIN ST.
<b>IN SEWAREN:</b>	
PUBLIC LIBRARY .....	546 WEST AVE.
SEWAREN CORNER DELI .....	514 WEST AVE.
<b>IN SOUTH AMBOY:</b>	
AMBOY NATIONAL BANK .....	100 N. BROADWAY
BROADWAY BAGELS .....	105 S. BROADWAY
BROADWAY DINER .....	126 N. BROADWAY
CITY HALL .....	140 N. BROADWAY
COMMUNITY CENTER .....	200 O'LEARY BLVD.
KRAUSZER'S .....	200 N. BROADWAY
KRAUSZER'S .....	717 BORDENTOWN AVE.
PUBLIC LIBRARY .....	100 HOFFMAN PLAZA
SCIORTINO'S HARBOR LIGHTS .....	132 S. BROADWAY
SOUTH AMBOY MEDICAL CENTER.....	540 BORDENTOWN AVE.
WELLS FARGO BANK.....	116 N. BROADWAY
<b>IN WOODBRIDGE:</b>	
CITY HALL .....	1 MAIN ST.
MAIN ST. FARM .....	107 MAIN ST.
NEWS & TREATS .....	99 MAIN ST.
REO DINER .....	392 AMBOY AVE.
ST. JOSEPH'S SENIORS RESIDENCE .....	1 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.

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.

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 Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Clubs, classrooms & groups are welcome. Come & view this newly restored building!

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

THURS. Oct. 17 Board of Education, 5:30 p.m.  
PAHS, Eagle Ave.  
MON. Oct. 21 City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m.  
City Hall, High St.  
WED. Oct. 23 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.  
City Hall, High St.  
THURS. Oct. 24 Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m.  
City Hall, High St.

South Amboy

WED. Oct. 16 City Council, Regular 7 p.m.  
City Hall, N. Broadway  
WED. Nov. 6 City Council, Business, 6 p.m.  
City Hall, N. Broadway

\*Check our website [www.amboyguardian.com](http://www.amboyguardian.com) for updates on meeting times and places

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. 12/31/19  
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](http://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.

# Tensions Continue, But Not as High

## 10/9/19 Council Meeting

*\*Continued from Page 1*

“When the YMCA collects fees, should some of the money they collect go to paying the city what they owe. Is the Y cooperating with the auditor?”

Business Administrator Frederick Carr stated, “The Council can decide not to award the money (allocated to Center for Support, Success, and Prosperity) and can roll it over to the Department of Recreation.

After the public portion was closed, there was a vote on the ordinances. Ordinance No. 1 An ordinance to amend an ordinance entitled, “Vehicles and Traffic” re: parking prohibited on Andrews Drive and Wagner Avenue.

When it came time to vote: Council Members Joel Pabon and Milady Tejada both voted: “No” for Andrews Drive, but “Yes” for Wagner. Pabon said that they need to address the issues related to the Heat Club (local bar). The other Council Members all voted “Yes” to everything.

City Engineer Jeff Rauch came forward to give more detailed information, “The Zoning and Planning Boards were not involved in this. Code Enforcement is the one who has to deal with the problems associated with parking for this club. They are the ones who have to investigate this.”

When it came to vote for Resolutions, R-428 thru R-449 and R-452 thru R-453 was moved by Councilman Fernando Irizarry and seconded by Councilman Joel Pabon. R-450 was asked to be pulled to be voted on separately by Councilman Fernando Irizarry. Councilwoman Milady Tejada asked for R-451 – A contract with the Jewish Renaissance Foundation Alternative Education Institute in the amount of \$15,000 (CDBG Grant) to be voted on separately.

R-450 was moved by Councilman Irizarry and seconded by Councilman Joel Pabon. When to vote, everyone voted “Yes” except for Irizarry who voted “No.” For R-451, Councilwoman Tejada said they needed to table this because many people have come here to talk about concerns about the Jewish Renaissance giving houses to people who they felt were not entitled to or did not meet the criteria to qualify for those houses.

B.A. Carr wanted to clarify R-450, “This is not for the YMCA which is part of the Public Safety Complex. It’s only for the property located on Smith Street.”

During the second public portion, Stanley Sierakowski came up first and told the council they must have oversight (when granting the CDBG monies). “You should know that person’s income that is requesting the money, and who will benefit from the grant.” Sierakowski then asked, “Did the council win or lose the case dissolving PARA? And if you did lose the case, what reasons were given, and did you have a recourse?”

Council President Petrick responded, “We’re waiting for the minutes to come out.”

Resident Ken Balut came up,

“Go to Long Branch to see the units that Kushner built there. The DeCotiis Law Firm is filing a lawsuit against the city regarding the Kushner properties. There was a person who owned a Kushner property who had a laundry unit in it which was not even big enough to put in washer and a dryer. No fire-stops were put in. After Arlene Quinones Perez left, she said the Mayor gave her power to negotiate for the city with Kushner. An owner of a unit at the Kushner property in Perth Amboy voted by phone (at the special PARA meeting) to approve a new 600-unit Kushner project. There was no quorum for that meeting. There will be an impact on the schools and traffic. These people (the Kushners) are criminals. The apartments are garbage. Why are we bending over backwards for Kushner? We are lower than Asbury Park and Long Branch if you allow this. Our City Engineer did not even know the old naval building was knocked down. The Engineer did not know about the lights (on the walkway near the Landings associated with that building) were out. This is incompetency.”

Police Chief Roman McKeon came up next and addressed Council President Petrick, “You (the council) and the Mayor do not support each other. Now, the police have been victimized. Since I was promoted to Chief, I have been criticized, and have been under a microscope. I know a lot of people have not been happy with my promotion. I found the e-mail from Council President Petrick to be offensive. He implies that I don’t know what I am doing.” He then continued to address Petrick. “You question our detectives and how we do investigations. We need unity, togetherness, and to work as a team. The people love this city. You need to get politics out of this, and you need to respect me as I respect you. The police are in the cross-fire.” He then went on to explain how a robbery took place in one of the stores in downtown Smith Street. “The police were able to get fingerprints off of a bag of potato chips which enabled us capture the robber. You can pull all the reports of all the incidents I’m telling you about.”

Petrick responded, “I addressed issues from the public. Sometimes they come to us with their concerns instead of the police.”

McKeon responded, “There is no such thing as a secret in Perth Amboy.”

Petrick then continued, “A former B.A. said that Department Heads don’t have to respond to the council. People complained that there is not enough police presence downtown.”

McKeon added, “We are down 30 officers.” McKeon continued, “There are not enough officers to back up an officer who may need additional assistance. There was an instance where we were looking for 2 missing kids near the YMCA. At the same time, there was activity being investigated on the other side of town. Our Narcotics Division went from 7 to 3 officers. Our Community Officers went from 6 to 2. The Traffic Division

went from 6 personnel to 3. Whenever a Crossing Guard is absent, we have to have someone from the Traffic Division to cover for them.” McKeon went on to explain, “The police made arrest where they confiscated over \$15,000 in drugs. Supervisors are working overtime and getting burnt out. I know we have to have more police who have their feet on the ground. There were 132 police officers under the Joe Vas administration. Now, there are 110. We are struggling to keep the substation (on Madison Avenue) open, but sometimes we don’t have the manpower to open it. I will take the heat. Between September 2018 to September 2019 violent crime went down 17%. I appreciate the 5 new officers that were given to us. I don’t like to share e-mails like this. Our police department was recognized by the state. We don’t always need to have negative rhetoric, but we need to know you’ll have our back. I know you support us.”

Petrick then asked McKeon, “In the case of the missing children, did you ask for help from the Fire Department?”

McKeon answered no.

Petrick said, “You should have utilized them.”

McKeon explained, “In the case of the missing children, (who were at the YMCA) – they live on the other side of the tracks that are not active, and they decided to walk home. Just ask me, and I will give you the truth. I don’t tell you how to run your job. Don’t tell me how to run mine. I’ve been doing this for 30 years. You can talk about me, but support my officers.”

Resident Alan Silber came up. As he started to talk, Chief McKeon was leaving the council chambers. Silber remarked, “I thought the chief would still be here (until the end of the meeting). McKeon came back and sat down to hear what Silber had to say. Silber remarked, “I can’t believe all the police officers that are here at this meeting. At the last meeting (9/25/19), there was only one officer and there was a large intimidating crowd. If the chief had been notified about their permit (protesting outside of city hall and the council chambers) to have all those people there at the last meeting, then there should have been more officers here.” At that point, McKeon got up and left the meeting.

Silber then questioned the council, “What will happen when we have more buildings come into the city? The special PARA meeting was advertised on Saturday, but nothing was posted on the bulletin board (by the City Clerk’s Office). What was the emergency (calling for a special PARA Meeting)? It (the topics) should have been discussed on the same day as the regular PARA Meeting.”

Resident Sharon Hubberman came up to speak next, “The tides have turned.” She then talked about people who own private companies and don’t clean up their garbage. “This also tells you about the leadership (in our city). The last meeting was a lack of leadership. The council supported the police, the DPW, and the fire departments when it came to the

budget. There was a directive that the council could not contact the department heads. We had contaminated water which caused resentment. We have 3 contaminated wells and multiple levels of certain contaminants. How is my statement causing indignation? What I share with you is from my heart and for the people.”

Former President of the Library Board of Trustees Barbara Sottilaro came up to speak next. She thanked the council for getting the work down paving Gornik Drive. “There still some streets in that area that need paving.” She also thanked the council for keeping the taxes lower. “I’m appalled at the mayor’s actions and her attack on Joel Pabon.” Sottilaro was concerned that the Perth Amboy Library has an interim Library Director for the past 11 months. “He is a nice man, but he’s not qualified for the job. We need a certified Library Director.”

B.A. Carr responded, “We only got one person who is qualified, but they live in California.”

Barbara Sottilaro suggested, “We should go to Rutgers.”

Carr responded, “We have not gotten a response from them.”

Council President Petrick then asked, “Are there statewide searches?”

Sottilaro answered, “There are many social medial sites (where the city can advertise for a Library Director).”

Carr responded, “I have put searches on them all. If you can find a director, let me know.”

Petrick then said, “I heard they need 2 positions in the library: a Library Director and another employee.”

Sottilaro said, “The only position open is for Library Director.”

Petrick said, “Eleni (Glykis – the Former Library Director) was very innovative, but we lost her.”

Sottilaro concluded, “A lot of times, the Library Board of Trustees don’t have quorum when the meet, and sometimes people will phone in to the meetings.”

Resident Reinaldo Aviles came up to speak and addressed the situation with finding a Library Director, “I don’t know if you would get a qualified person. People know that Eleni was pushed out, and that she had a lack of support.” He then went on to talk about the special PARA meeting. “Under certain circumstances, you (a member of a municipal board) can phone into a meeting. With a special meeting, there has to be 48 hours prior notice before the meeting. The Mayor said it was a special meeting. If it was not posted, then the meeting was null and void.”

Council Comments:

Councilman Helmin Caba said, “I was accused of not picking up my budget binder. Unless there was a new binder (that was made up), then this was the only budget given to the council. The Mayor’s Aide at the time accused me of not picking up the budget. I had the budget at the time she said I didn’t. Someone at the last meeting (9/25/19) said that no councils anywhere in the state did defunding of titles. It was done here in the past. The

term was then called: “phased out”. I was accused of not being a true Latino. We gave everyone at that last meeting their 5 minutes, but not for us to be shouted at. I’m for protesting, but do it respectfully. There was a pre-protest with the same group of people. They were shouting a phrase: “White men out!” That is reverse discrimination. That should not have a place in Perth Amboy. Race, nationality, and gender should not matter. Everyone is quick to throw out those terms (to cry discrimination). We need to get over it.” Caba then addressed what happened in 2016, “I was at your (the Mayor’s) campaign headquarters. Your (the Mayor’s) people showed me a selected few of Petrick’s posts on his Facebook. I look at Petrick’s Facebook and he reposted things from Hilary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, moderate conservative – all different views and current events, but he did not comment on the posts. They were cherry picked. The Mayor tried to say I was quiet about the posts (in 2016). If it was only posts from one party, then I would have protested. Let’s not mud things up. Go through Petrick’s Facebook to see for yourself. Saying “White men out!” has no place in our city. I know the police feel they are underpaid and unappreciated. The morale is down, but not because of the council.”

Councilman Fernando Irizarry had no comments.

Councilman Joel Pabon said, “Many of us have been in charge of people. I have in my job and in the military. My biggest concern is that nobody talks to the police officers before they leave. After 4-5 years, the police get a substantial pay raise. I urge McKeon to sit down with the officers and let them know they should hang in there. McKeon has to question how he can stop the bleeding. It’s not us.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejada said, “Some people complain about nonessential people (being defunded). They should picket about needing more police. They advocated for defunded positions, but not for our police. The administration is there day to day. We used to get a lot of briefings about what’s going on in the city, but it stopped. Citizens question us about things that happen in the city that we don’t know about. If 600 units are built (by Kushner), what school will those kids go to that live in those buildings? I will never vote “Yes” to another apartment building going up.”

Council President Bill Petrick said, “I appreciate all those who spoke, and I appreciated what Chief McKeon said, but the buck stops with him. I have relatives in the police department here and in other towns. If there’s a morale problem in the police department, then McKeon should look within. I asked Mr. Carr to work with Barbara (Sottilaro) to find a new Library Director. We had an innovative young woman who was driven out and suspended because she spoke the truth. Many individuals left the town because of all the negativity.”





Knights Honor Police and Firefighter

\*Photo Submitted



Press Release  
WOODBIDGE - At a recent Corporate Communion breakfast, Our Lady of Peace Knights of Columbus Council 9199 presented their annual Shield Awards to an outstanding Woodbridge Township police officer and a Fords Volunteer Firefighter. Deputy Director Joseph Nisky nominated officer Christopher Esteves for his outstanding service to the community. Officer Esteves was a former Corrections Officer and has been on the Woodbridge Police Department for 4 years. He was the “Officer of the Quarter” for the 2nd quarter of 2019. The award is a reflection of officer Esteves’ commitment to the community, as well as his service and productivity.

Fords Fire Dept Chief Howie Bauer nominated volunteer fireman John Dimitakis, who joined the department in 2006. He rose thru the ranks and became the department’s chief in 2014 and is one of the most active first responders. Past Grand Knight William Herring awarded the Knight of the Year for 2017-2018 to PGK Ed Delaney, posthumously. Other awards presented by Grand Knight Emil Ferlicchi were the 2018-2019 Walter Pazinski Award for volunteerism to Steve Hatola and the 2018-2019 Knight of the Year to James Padden. The Council also presented a \$1000 donation to OLP Church, which was accepted by Fr. Virgilio Tolentino and a donation of \$200 to the Council’s One On One Program, which was accepted by Kate Devane.

Pictured in the photo (left to right) are: Knight of the Year James Padden, Deputy Director Joseph Nisky, Officer Christopher Esteves, Firefighter John Dimitakis, Chief Howie Bauer, Grand Knight Emil Ferlicchi and Walter Pazinski Award winner Steve Hatola.

Perth Amboy to Decide on Runoff  
Voting System This November  
Contact: Councilman Fernando Irizarry  
Chair, Vote YES on the Referendum  
732-841-2448

Press Release 10/5/19  
PERTH AMBOY - The candidate that gets the majority of votes wins. That’s what most voters expect—but often, that’s not the case. The people of Perth Amboy have seen a number of mayoral elections won by less than 50 percent of the vote—sometimes much less. A question on the ballot this fall just might change that.

The November ballot in Perth Amboy will include a referendum question that proposes a switch to a runoff system for municipal elections. If approved by voters, no candidate will take office without at least 50 percent of the vote. If no candidate garners more than 50 percent, a runoff between the top two vote getters would take place.

This “50+1” proposal was approved by the city council earlier this year. This set the process in motion that will place the question before Perth Amboy voters this November.

“The system we have now doesn’t necessarily give us the best candidate,” says local attorney Allen Papp. He is a member of “Vote YES on the Referendum,” a committee formed to support the referendum question. “The problem is, when you have three, four, five candidates, the votes get split and you end up with someone running the city who is representing a minority of the voters, and I don’t think that is necessarily a good thing.”

Fernando Irizarry, who is a member of the Perth Amboy City Council, organized the committee to inform the public about the ballot question. “I think it’s important for us to educate the community on what they are going to see on the ballot in November,” Irizarry says. “Most people don’t even know there is going to be an important question on the ballot. I want to make sure our community understands what they are going to be voting for.”

The runoff election system isn’t new to Perth Amboy. The city had this system for a time in the past, but scrapped it several years ago for the current plurality system in which the highest vote getter wins, even if he or she gets only a minority of the votes. Many people believe the present system makes it much easier for incumbents to get reelected, especially when there is more than one opponent.

Supporters of the runoff system admit that a second tier of runoff elections will cost the city more money. So is it worth the additional expenditure in a cash-strapped community like Perth Amboy? “It is,” says Lisa Nanton, former city council president and community activist. “The winner will be the person a majority of the people want for mayor, and that’s definitely worth the cost.” Papp agrees, and says it’s important to put the cost in perspective. “We’ve got upward of a \$80 million budget. A few thousand dollars is really insignificant when the important thing is who best to govern the city.”

The Vote YES on the Referendum Committee, composed of local political leaders and activists, plans an education campaign between now and November. It will get the message out on social media, in print, and even door to door.

Irizarry believes it will be good for the city. “I think we will elect leaders who reflect the will of community.”

Perth Amboy  
NAACP Meeting  
PERTH AMBOY - The Perth Amboy Unit of the NAACP meets Monday Oct. 21, 2019 at the Jankowski Senior Center, 1 Olive Street Perth Amboy NJ at 7 p.m. sharp. All are welcome. Reverend Donna Stewart President.

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, Nov. 7, 2019. Bus leaves 12 Noon. Bus will depart from behind St. Stephens Church parking lot on Mechanic Street, Perth Amboy. (New Location) Cost 30 pp. Receive \$30 back in slot dollars. For more info call Joe at 732-826-0819.

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. Oct. 23, 2019. Cost \$35 pp.; \$25 back in slot play. Bus will depart from behind St. Stephens Church (St. John Paul II) parking lot on Mechanic Street at 9:30 a.m. Call Bobbi to reserve a seat: 732-636-2867.

A.C. Bus Trip  
Holy Rosary Seniors  
HOPELAWN - Holy Rosary Seniors is sponsoring a bus trip to Wind Creek Casino (formerly known as Sands Casino) in Pennsylvania, Tuesday, 11/12/2019. Cost is \$30 with \$25 back in play and \$5 for food. Bus leaves Church parking lot at 10:00 am. Any questions please call Ronnie at 732-442-5252.



Tricky Tray  
HOPELAWN - The Good Shepherd Parish Tricky Tray is Sunday, October 27, 2019 at Most Holy Rosary Church at the Msgr. Gambino Hall, 625 Florida Grove Road, Hopelawn, NJ. Doors open at 12 noon, Drawing begins at 2 p.m. Admission is \$15 and includes 1 sheet of 25 level 1 tickets & coffee and cake. The kitchen opens at 12 noon - for items to be purchased. There are 4 levels of prizes, Grand Prizes, Broadway Show tickets and more, plus a 50/50 and special raffles. They always have great prizes. Adults only are permitted. The auditorium is handicapped accessible. To purchase tickets or for more information call the Parish office 732-826-859, gstrickytray@gmail.com, www.goodshepherdpanjy.org. Proceeds benefit The Good Shepherd Parish and the Good Shepherd Scholarship fund.

Ghosts and  
Legends with  
Jeff Belanger  
WOODBIDGE - Historical Association of Woodbridge Township presents.... Ghosts and Legends with Jeff Belanger. Award winning, Emmy nominated host, writer and producer of the New England Legends Series on PBS and Amazon Prime, Jeff Belanger is a noted speaker, media personality and the author of more than a dozen books on legends and paranormal phenomena. Mr. Belanger explores unexplained happenings, the weird and creepy side of life using photographs and images, audio and video clips and a crypt full of paranormal experiences. A natural born storyteller, he captures believers and skeptics with his spooky tales and has been seen on The History Channel, CBS News, NBC and the Travel Channel.

This supernatural evening of Ghosts and Legends also will include who is haunting The White House. The program will be presented free of charge to the public by the Historical Association of Woodbridge Township at their monthly meeting to be held at 7p.m. at the new Avenel Performing Arts Center (APAC), 150 Avenel Street, Avenel. Children over 12 with their families are welcome to attend. A question and answer session with a book signing will follow.

Due to limited seating, tickets are required to attend and will be distributed on a first order basis. To order online: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hawt-presents-ghosts-and-legends-with-jeff-belanger-tickets-73201173681>

2019  
Amboy Guardian  
Publication Dates

- January 9
- January 16
- January 23
- January 30
- February 6
- February 13
- February 20
- February 27
- March 6
- March 13
- March 20
- March 27
- April 3
- April 17
- May 1
- May 15
- June 5
- June 19
- July 3
- July 17
- August 7
- August 21
- September 4
- September 18
- October 2
- October 16
- November 6
- November 20
- December 4
- December 18



## Volunteer from Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen Assists Migrants at the Border

Press Release 10/9/19  
PERTH AMBOY - Erio Rosario-Perales is not your typical student. A graduate student at Rutgers, Erio is a full time employee at Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen with a passion for social justice. Erio originally studied Human Resources Management with a minor in Labor Studies. During his junior year, Erio took a course for his labor studies minor that would change his life.

A community organization representative visited the class and told her story of enduring an unfathomable journey of immigration that included the experience of sexual abuse. As Erio listened to her tell her story in Spanish, he immediately felt a connection. Erio, himself being Puerto Rican, compared it to his own family's move to the States, not having to deal with immigration proceedings, "When my family came here, we got on a plane and moved here, and that was that."

Erio was so moved he interned at the organization that very summer. The following year, Erio declared a second major in Labor Studies. When the oppor-

tunity came up though Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen to volunteer at the Diocese of Laredo to assist with the influx of migrants at their shelter, Erio knew he had to go.

Erio took the trip to volunteer for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Laredo in June, 2019. They had a small building and a small team. Every week new volunteers came into the shelter. Erio was there for two weeks, and the addition of one more person to a small staff made a big difference.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Laredo was tracking who was coming in, what shelter they were going to, what their final destination was, and their travel information. The operation included transportation coordination, provisions of food, water, clothing, and sanitation items so migrants could shower. When migrants were released from detention centers, having been there for a couple of days to about a week, Erio's job was to do intake. Erio said, "I made it my mission to make sure I had a smile on my face and to treat them with dignity, because I was probably the first

person who treated them as a human being in a very long time."

Erio described conditions of the migrants seen at the Laredo Shelter; of people who didn't know where they were going, hadn't showered, who were wearing the same clothes day after day, who had no shoelaces, and of babies with old diapers. Some people were dropped off at a bus stop or at the airport without food in hot conditions that at times reached 112 degrees. These are people who don't speak English and don't know anyone, and who may or may not have any money.

If they were assigned to the Laredo shelter, they would go into another room where another team member would assist them with getting in touch with their families and help to arrange their travel. If there was not room at the Laredo shelter, they were dispersed to other shelters that were working in partnership with the Diocese of Laredo. They had to work quickly each day, as tomorrow would bring an additional 200 people.

Erio saw babies, kids of all

ages, pregnant women, single dads with kids, single moms with kids, but very rarely he would see an entire family. So he was especially moved to see a family who thought they would never see each other again be reunited right in front of him.

Erio knows he will have these experiences with him forever and it solidified his desire to work in the field of Immigration. Currently, Erio is pursuing his Masters in Labor Employment Relations and is taking steps toward earning his accreditation in Immigration Services. Ultimately, Erio plans to attend law school to officially pursue becoming an immigration attorney.

Rosario-Perales' service in Texas did not go unnoticed. In a July 23 letter to Julio Coto, acting executive director of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen, with a copy sent to Bishop James F. Checchio, Bishop James A. Tamayo, shepherd of the Diocese of Laredo, said, "Thank you for sending Erio Rosario-Perales to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Laredo to assist with the influx



Erio Rosario-Perales

of migrants at our shelter. I can't begin to tell you how valuable Erio has been and we are so appreciative of your generosity, dedication, and support as we navigate these difficult circumstances. The flexibility and expertise of Erio had an immeasurable positive impact on our operation and the migrant men, women, and children we have the great opportunity to serve. Your solidarity is much appreciated and we cannot thank you enough."

### SHINE THE LIGHT AWARD GERI BARCHESKI



For her impeccable work and commitment to the community, the RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA & Gods' Army Ministries of NJ will be acknowledging Geri Barcheski for her endless work and support to the Center for Support, Success & Prosperity, and most importantly for her dedicated work with those in crisis.

Geri Barcheski is a lifelong resident of the City of Perth Amboy where she currently holds the position as the Municipal Recycling & Clean Communities Coordinator. Geri is coming up her 30th year of commitment to making a difference in her community as a servant leader.

Geri is passionate in the quest to help eliminate homelessness and has empowered individuals to live a life of sustainability and self-improvement in Perth Amboy, the City she loves. Geri is involved in numerous organizations: Kiwanis Club of Perth Amboy, Perth Amboy Municipal Alliance to prevent alcohol and drug abuse, Co-Chair at St. John Paul II community feeding program, CCD Teacher, Co-Leader of youth programs and a community member for the Perth Amboy Gateway Neighborhood Collaborative.

Geri Barcheski, we want you to know that your passion exemplifies the core values of the Y and embraces our mission to help others learn, grow and thrive. WE COMMEND YOU!

Join us as we recognize Geri Barcheski for her dedication to serve and provide aid to individuals and families in our community.

Pledge your support to help us provide support and case management services to the most vulnerable by becoming a Partner to End Homelessness.

**RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA**  
357 New Brunswick Avenue  
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861  
732.442.3632 [www.rbaymca.org](http://www.rbaymca.org)



### Ending Homelessness Fundraiser

**Thursday, November 14, 2019**

**Portuguese Sporting Club**  
**782 State Street, Perth Amboy NJ**

**5:30pm | \$30 Per Person**



#### SPONSORSHIPS NEEDED!

Unable to attend but still wish to support the mission? Make a donation or become a Sustaining Partner by calling Jennifer, 732.442.3632.

### Brain Health Workshop

PERTH AMBOY – Are you Age 50-85? Join our free Brain Health Workshop! Get your free brain health score! At the Raritan Bay Area YMCA, 357 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 Noon. Please signup or call Emily: 480-210-8363 to reserve your spot. Remember to bring your glasses.

### Kearny Cottage Open House

PERTH AMBOY - Come enjoy a taste of autumn at the Cottage. Light Refreshments and tours. 63 Catalpa Ave., Perth Amboy. Author Donald Gavron will be present from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m..

### The Battle of Gettysburg

PERTH AMBOY – Perth Amboy City Historian Anton J. Massopust is having a lecture at the Kearny Cottage, 63 Catalpa Ave., on the little known reasons why the South lost the Battle of Gettysburg. Sunday, November 10, 2019 at 2 p.m. Light refreshments. Everyone is welcome. This event is free, but donations are welcome.

### Pirohi Sale

PERTH AMBOY - St. John's Orthodox Church will be holding their Pirohi Sale at \$9.00 Per Dozen. Orders may be called in from November 4 to 6, 2019 to 732-826-7067 between 9:00 A.M. and 12:00 Noon. Please call early to be sure your order gets in. Orders may be picked up on November 12 or 13, 2019 at 404 Division Street, Perth Amboy, NJ. Orders can be picked up after 2:30 P.M.



Candy



**Raritan Bay Cruisers**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Trunk or Treat**

**Saturday, October 26, 2019**

**1 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Pizza Hut (parking lot)**

**320 US Highway 9 North**

**Woodbridge, NJ 07095**

**For more info call: 732-407-2396**

Trophies



Decorate your car



**Raritan Bay Cruisers Car Show 9/7/19**

*\*Photos by Paul W. Wang & Carolyn Maxwell*



Members of the Febles Family at the Car Show



Bill and Linda Kaleta of Perth Amboy with one of the Batmobiles used in the Adam West 1960's TV Series



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**Land Swap**

**Between City**

**& Board**

**Discussed**

**10/7/19**

**Caucus**

*\*Continued from Page 7*

complaints about the Y. There was supposed to be a meeting and the meeting was cancelled. The hospital will be turned into a psych ward. The council gets blamed for everything.”

Resident and businessman David Caba came up to speak next. “I look at the disrespect (that was shown at the last council meeting (9/25/19)). I deal with other cities that act very professional, then I see people here disrespecting the council. We even had a bishop who said he had a church on 185 Hall Ave. who tried to get you to change your vote. You got elected to look out for 60,000 people and not just 4 people. This bishop threatened you by saying you will not get reelected. I’m shameful and I have a lot of integrity and I take pride in it. Asbury Park which also has water views is selling their properties for \$5 million. We are putting rental units on the Waterfront.”

Resident Alan Silber came up next, “When I heard about the PARA meeting, it was disgraceful. Was there anybody there from the public?”

Carr responded, “I went in (and saw some of the members) and went right out of the room. They threw George (the cameraman) out, so there was no filming of the meeting.”

Silber continued, “If you can phone into a meeting, why even bother coming to a meeting?”

Law Director King explained, “Calling in to a meeting is an exception.”

Silber then continued, “Why was it an emergency meeting? The mayor has been in office for 11 years and she works for the city. She does not own it. She might own certain people. That meeting (PARA) was shameful.” He then referenced homeless people, “When I was driving on Market Street when I was going to the train station to drop off my wife. When I arrived at the train station, I saw people in the waiting room sleeping on the floor and on benches at 10:00 a.m. Also, it’s not the council’s job to translate for people (who come up and speak in another language). When people watch it on TV, it’s as if the council is speaking those words – and not translating for the person speaking.” Silber then referenced the bishop spoke in Spanish at the 9/25/19 meeting and Councilman Fernando Irizarry translated the bishop’s words into English. “I saw a picture of that bishop whispering in Assemblyman Coughlin’s ear. Was he translating for Coughlin?”

The Council adjourned into closed session. Councilman Helmin Caba was not present at the Caucus due to illness.

**Haunted Lantern Walk from**

**The Proprietary House**



**PERTH AMBOY – The Proprietary House, the Royal Governor’s Mansion, has scheduled “A Haunted Lantern Walk” for Friday & Saturday, October 18th & 19th, with guided walks to be offered at 7:00 PM & 8:30 PM each evening. Take a ghostly journey through centuries of history from Proprietary House to St. Peter’s Graveyard. Hear creepy tales & meet spirits from Perth Amboy’s past. Hot cider & sweets. DOORS OPEN AT 6:45 PM.**

**ADMISSION: \$20 in advance / \$25 at the door (Members \$20; 12 & Under \$15)**

**THERE IS LIMITED SPACE, SO RESERVE IN ADVANCE.**

**All funds raised will benefit ongoing restoration and operation of Proprietary House’s Museum.**

**CONTACT THE PROPRIETARY HOUSE ASSOCIATION -**

**Phone: (732) 826-5527; E-mail: [info@theproprietaryhouse.org](mailto:info@theproprietaryhouse.org);**

**Website: [www.theproprietaryhouse.org](http://www.theproprietaryhouse.org); Address: 149 Kearny Avenue, Perth Amboy, NJ, 08861.**

**Perth Amboy BID Votes to Support 2019**

**Taste of Perth Amboy**

*\*Photo by Perth Amboy BID*



**Press Release**

**PERTH AMBOY - The “Taste of Perth Amboy,” which shares the proceeds from the event with a local not-for-profit organization, is returning to the City-by-the-Raritan Bay on Tuesday, Dec. 3rd from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Business Improvement District’s (BID) Board of Directors recently voted to provide financial resources to assist with planning, marketing and organizing the 2019 “Taste.” The organizing committee is exploring a range of exciting venues to stage the event that celebrates the community’s exceptional chefs, delicious international cuisine, great seafood, superb desserts and baked goods. Shown in the photo from 2018 “Taste” is the team from Torres Café, located at 431 High Street, which the earned a trophy in the “Best Presentation” category. For more details, about the “Taste of Perth Amboy,” visit the City’s new website, the BID’s Facebook page or contact the BID office by calling 732.826.0290, ext. 4050.**

**WWW.AMBOYGUARDIAN.COM**



Update on City Employees Whose Previous Titles were Defunded

**Statement Read at September Council Meeting**  
PERTH AMBOY - Today, 1 October 2019 the defunding resolution passed by the City Council on 9 September 2019 along with the formal adoption of the COPA Budget took effect. This defunding has resulted in the following actions taking place based on the actions of Mayor and City Council.

1. Only the Mayor may layoff or fire employees in the City of Perth Amboy. The Mayor has not laid off or fired any additional employees. That is her Statutory authority and it cannot be usurped by the actions of the City Council.
2. The Council defunding positions is not a lay off or the removal of an employee. This is just the removal of the money allocated to pay that employee. Therefore:
  - a. **Jeanette Rios** – Jeanette, previously assigned as the Mayor’s aide (defunded position) has been reassigned as Executive Assistant to the BA with duties in the Mayor’s Office effective 1 October 2019.
  - b. **Noelia Colon** – Noelia, previously assigned as the Public Information Officer (defunded position) has taken a position in the BID.
  - c. **Ivette Rios** – Ivette, assigned to Code Enforcement (defunded position) will continue to work in Code Enforcement as a code enforcement Officer. The budget line item for the Code Enforcement Department has sufficient funding in spite of the defunding by Council action of one position. This funding is sufficient till the end of this fiscal year.
  - d. **Lisette Martinez** – Lisette, assigned to the Office of Aging (defunded position) will continue to work in the Office of Aging and no personnel are to be transferred from that department.
  - e. **Mark Cintron** – Mark, assigned as a Prosecutor in the Courts (defunded position) will continue to work based on the City Council Presidents email indicating that funding will be made available and transferred during a Council meeting in November.
3. Failure of the City Council to enact budgetary transfers during a Council meeting in November will result in all a budgetary shortfall in Office of Aging and the Department of Law.

Frederick C. Carr, Business Administrator  
City of Perth Amboy  
Business Administration  
Email: [fcarr@perthamboynj.org](mailto:fcarr@perthamboynj.org)

WWW.AMBOYGUARDIAN.COM

Amboy Bankers Volunteer at Eva’s Village

\*Photo Submitted



News Release

PATERSON - As Eva’s Village volunteers, Amboy Bank employees helped to prepare the Community Kitchen, serve lunch, and cleanup after meal service. The mission of Eva’s Village is to provide care and support for people who are struggling with poverty, hunger, homelessness and addiction. Their community of supportive services, based in Paterson, includes food, shelter, addiction and mental health treatment, childcare, job training, medical and dental care, and housing.  
“Eva’s Village is truly making a difference in the society and in the lives of the people they serve. We believe in their mission to help everyone who comes to them for help with a comprehensive and individualized approach. They address both basic needs, like food and shelter, as well as more complex issues, such as mental health and homelessness. We commend their kindness and compassion, and we are proud to support their mission,” said Greg Scharpf, Amboy Bank President and CEO.

Pictured from left to right: Luc D’Andrea, Ellen Simons, Robin Granger, Cheryl Bonczek, Kay Warren, Marie Caliendo of Eva’s Village, Teresa Gilligan, Sylvia Rapoport, Jose Rodrigues, Eileen Roemer and Harry Deerfield.  
Founded in 1888, Amboy Bank, a full-service commercial bank with 23 offices in central New Jersey, prides itself on quality service and responsiveness. They have been voted “Best Bank in Central Jersey” for the past 21 years in a row.

Amboy Bank Hosts Its Annual Food Drive

News Release

SOUTH AMBOY - Throughout October and November, all 23 offices of Amboy Bank will collect food and household items for food banks in their branch area. Every Amboy office manager has selected a food bank to collect for in their community. In many cases, Amboy has a strong relationship with the organizations, including St. Laurence Food Bank, Lunch Break and Freehold Open Door.  
Gregory Scharpf, President and CEO, stated, “At Amboy Bank, we are dedicated to helping our local community prosper, and we are proud to lend a helping hand to our neighbors who need it most. Our annual food drive will help to restock the shelves of the food banks in our area.”  
Branch locations and details about the food drive can be found on Amboy’s website, [www.Amboy-Bank.com](http://www.Amboy-Bank.com).

VOTE on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2019

VOTE for  
COLUMN E

COMMITTED TO YOUTH

Tashi L. VAZQUEZ  
Junior IGLESIA  
Danielle BROWN

OUR COMMITMENT

Continue to strive for student achievement through academic growth, increased graduation rates, open communication, collaborations and fiscal responsibility

Paid by Committed to Youth,  
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PERTH AMBOY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
VOTE COLUMN E  
COMMITTED TO YOUTH

Tuesday, November 5th  
POLLS OPEN 6AM - 8PM



Campaign Address: 178 Rector Street, Perth Amboy, 08861  
[www.facebook.com/CommittedToPerthAmboyYouth/](https://www.facebook.com/CommittedToPerthAmboyYouth/)



PERTH AMBOY BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES FORUM 10/2/19 PAHS

By: Katherine Massopust  
PERTH AMBOY – The Board of Education Candidates Forum was sponsored by the Perth Amboy American Federation. Co-President of the Greater Red Bank League of Women Voters Barbara Chaudhery was the moderator, and Justine Cook (from the Red Bank League of Women Voters) was the time-keeper. The Forum was held at Perth Amboy High School Auditorium.

Chaudhery welcomed everyone present. “The League of Women Voters encourages active participation in government, influencing public policy and promoting advocacy. We are nonpartisan and deal only with issues. Questions will be from the audience and have to be submitted in writing. No personal attacks will be accepted. Questions must be pertinent to the office of Board Member.”

Candidates had 90 seconds to answer each question and 2 minutes for an opening and closing statements.

Candidate **Maria Rodriguez** was not present at the forum but provided a brief statement which was read by Chaudhery. Rodriguez’s statement included the following: “Thank you. To run as a Board of Education candidate, as a mother, grandmother, and as a retired businesswoman who has lived in Perth Amboy for over 45 years. I believe in a quality education is the only sustained in life. A safe school environment, an A+ education and opportunity are paramount to my goals for Perth Amboy School’s Quality Education.”

**Opening Statements:**

**Dr. Danielle Brown:** I have served on the Board since January. I was asked to complete the term and serve on the Board for someone who is now on the City Council. We have a great working team, and we share in decision making progress. We now have an increased graduation rate. We work together, celebrate employment of staff, and our students within the classroom. We are the best we can presently be.

**Junior Iglesia:** I have been an educator for over 19 years. My wife is an educator. All three of my children attend public school in Perth Amboy. PAHS has been honored as a National Scholl of Character and will be honored in DC. Test scores went up in our district. With the opening of the Rose M. Lopez Elementary School, the students will reach greater standards due to the work and dedication of teachers and staff – the Board of Education work together to provide the best education possible to provide our students for a bright future.

**Beth Lieberman:** As a teacher, I believe education first is important. I have certifications in Early childhood education and educational technology and I also have master’s degrees in those areas. I have worked in Education in those areas. I have also served on the AFT executive board. I am currently serving the AFT retirement board. I’ve spent the last 29 years as a teacher. This has prepared and qualified me to be on the Board of Education. I have a working knowledge not only for students, but for staff and parents and how to provide the best education possible in the 21st Century.

**Justin Ross:** I’m passionate about education and about the youth having the best education possible. I’ve been an educator for most of my adult life. I currently teach in a Catholic high school in Newark. I’ve spent 11 years teaching in the classroom in Newark. I currently chair the English Department. I believe a thriving community depends on a strong school system. I want to do what’s best for children in the community. I strongly agree

students should get the best education possible.

**Stanley Sierakowski:** 2 days ago, I retired as an employee with Middlesex County. I was a program coordinator for transportation of seniors and disabled for residents throughout Middlesex County. During all those years I was a union rep. While in college I took classes on labor law and organizing unions. A lot of people decades before us struggled for what we have right now. I’m pro-worker, pro-labor, pro-union. I’ve been a social activist for 50 years starting with the Vietnam War, for women’s rights, gay rights, etc. I believe paying workers a living wage. I’d like to emphasize the arts as far as students as well as microscopes as well as telescopes.

**Tashi Vasquez:** I’m not here to simply share a campaign promise instead to highlight a platform of progress. As Vice President of the Board of Education, I’m keeping the promises I made from my 2016 campaign. I have an open-door policy. Along with my fellow Board Members, we’ve charged the Superintendent with maintaining the website and sending the newsletters. We have a working relation. We’ve made financial decisions aligned with district goals. For example, food services had \$250,000 increases in one year. We’ve been honored as a lighthouse district. We’ve made innovative progress while striving for academic success. I want to continue to work hard to you towards excellence.

**Question:** *What will you contribute to the Board of Education?*

**Dr. Danielle Brown:** Experience. I’ve been a teacher. I’ve been a Board of Education Member here. I have a bachelor’s degree in education and a master’s degree educational leadership and curriculum development. I have a pulse on the community. I have an open-door policy with different groups where they share their thoughts and are brought back to the board and heard. We are all working for the greater good not just individual desires.

**Junior Iglesia:** I have a master’s degree in childhood education and a bachelor’s degree in finance and investment. I am a parent and my 3 young children are attending public schools (in Perth Amboy). I have a lot at stake in the school district. I’ve been a teacher for over 8 years. Right now, I am a Dual Language teacher in New York. I bring that experience here. We collaborate and work together.

**Beth Lieberman:** My experience as a classroom teacher has given me a unique experience of student, staff, parents and the community. I have an unwavering commitment to the community. I’m committed to education. I’m a great listener and problem solver.

**Justin Ross:** I’m a good listener. I know how to count and work with others. Kids first, education first, the community - the parents. I traveled and work with kids in San Francisco. I know how to be a problem solver. I’ve worked with teens who were intense. I taught in South America where I learned Spanish. I will use all those experiences to the Board and will be positive and will complete our objectives as needed.

**Stanley Sierakowski:** I’ve been described as an assertive person. I do not hesitate to challenge authority. Who, what, where, why, when, and where applicable, how. If elected, I want to be appointed a liaison to the City Council all of who I know personally. I will attend the Redevelopment agency meetings and Planning Board meetings. There was land taken away from you. The land was supposed to be used by you for a school in Harbortown was supposed to be given to you. I want that to be investigated.

**Tashi Vasquez:** I too have a master’s in public administration and a School B.A. Certificate of Eligibility. My passion and dedication to years of the city. I’ve spent 17 years working here. I am an alumnus of PAHS. This is my home and where I want to continue to serve. I’ve lived those concerns and I’ll continue to serve. It’s not just going to a meeting. It’s what is going on in the community. I will dedicate my time and my service on the Board with teamwork, dedication and passion.

**Question:** *Two-part question: To the incumbents: How do you plan to improve and rebuild the trust of the community? To all other candidates: How do you plan on establishing a positive reputation and building the community’s trust?*

**Junior Iglesia:** Right now, we have the highest graduation rate in our school district. We have been working diligently to have the best education diligently. Because of what we have done, the community trusts us.

**Beth Lieberman:** Advocacy for programs, implementing funding of maintenance of current buildings, ensure the needs of student and staff are met. As a member of the Board of Education, we have to provide advocacy for direct channels – advocate for our district if it means to go to politicians, if we will.

**Justin Ross:** Building trust in the community is something I’ve been doing for the past 2 months. I am dedicated to this community. I want to laud achievements we’ve had as a district. As a Board Member, I plan to spend every moment to move this district forward. I’ve knocked on doors as a community member. I’ve gone to community events. My actions will show what will do for the Board.

**Stanley Sierakowski:** Rapport and trust. I will promote the needs not only for students, but for parents. For example, gridlock. I would expand the busing program to eliminate 10 cars by transporting 10 students (by bus). For the teachers I would expand the free Parking by the hospital, using eminent domain to condemn land to procure parking and for schools. I plan to attend council meetings, zoning, redevelopment agency meetings to see that needs are met. If you are in the dark without an effective liaison, most people don’t know what’s going on. We need effective liaisons. Know what’s up.

**Tashi Vasquez:** I’d like to believe I have the trust of the community. When people come up to you in ShopRite and ask the concerns of the community, they trust you. When it comes to trust, I’m there to listen. That’s what we have done in this board. That trust is here in the public and the community. We’ll get the word out to you.

**Dr. Danielle Brown:** Trust is not broken. Can it be improved? Yes. Concerns that come to us do not go unnoticed. We are the community. We are Perth Amboy. Truth matters. Improve on that trust. Improve on that relationship. Being transparent and remain being fair on issues that pertain to all of us. We are the community.

**Question:** *Staff members, especially at the elementary level are reported being physically assaulted by students, for instance, being hit, kicked, or bitten. They feel neither their needs nor the child’s needs are being met, as a Board Member, how will you address this?*

**Beth Lieberman:** There is a code of conduct that is in place and should be implemented. As a Board Member I will advocate for this code of conduct. If that code of conduct is not effective, I have to evaluate why it isn’t effective, not only in elementary schools, but middle and high schools as well.

**Justin Ross:** We do have a code of conduct. If a child in elementary school hitting teacher or hitting others, there is a problem not only in the classroom, but at home. Who is the advocate of the child? Outreach to the parent is important. Implement the policy. For an elementary student, start at a (discipline) level that is appropriate, that the child understands. The code of conduct should be applied.

**Stanley Sierakowski:** If a student made a verbal threat or physically assaulted another student, teacher or anyone, I would have that student removed immediately until it was adjudicated. A school should be a place of safety for students and teachers. If I thought I would be physically assaulted, I would call the police. You don’t let abusive, violent students (stay). A verbal threat – many people implement that threat. Those people should be removed as soon as possible, and depending on their age be charged with a crime.

**Tashi Vasquez:** If a teacher is being hit or kicked, are they being listened to? –These are not bad kids. Perth Amboy generally has amazing kids. Let’s be very careful how we classify our students. It could be an issue of overcrowding. We have to be very careful. We are listeners. We have hired a new Director of Special Services and a new Supervisor and are working diligently to take a good look at that program. We need to look at the students.

**Dr. Danielle Brown:** It is the desire of the Board of Education that our students have the best learning environment possible. Another is to provide support and the best instructional environment possible and school safety and school learning are possible. As a Board Member, it’s our responsibility that these policies are conducive to these things. We should not classify all students who kick or hit. Take all factors into consideration.

**Junior Iglesia:** If a staff member reports being assaulted by students? We shouldn’t look who is right or who is wrong. What are the needs of the student/educator? Every staff member should be safe. Every student’s needs should be met. Look closely to our needs. As a Board Member how are we going to make sure every staff are safe to meets the need to this district. Invest in appropriate learning programs, maybe reducing classroom size.

**Question:** *This schoolyear, Shull School staff had no copy paper. Staff members are paying for copy paper out of their own pocket. As a Board Member, will you ensure the staff has proper materials vital to do their job?*

**Justin Ross:** There should be a committee or some sort of liaison to find out a solution to that problem. As a schoolteacher, staff should not be paying for supplies. As a Board Member, I would listen to what problem is and figure out through committees and find a solution to the problem.

**Stanley Sierakowski:** I was in a bureaucracy for almost 30 years. Usually there was a primary person to go to make sure we have supplies. If so, go to another building for supplies. If staff members pay for a supply out of their own pocket, there should be an understanding that they are reimbursed. Why should you pay for supplies when there’s a \$300 million budget? When I worked, we did inventory all the time. If something is missing, you see the person who ordered it.

**Tashi Vasquez:** This is district-wide. Our teachers go beyond what their expectations are. They buy things for their classroom. I thank you for that. As a Board Member, our role is as Board Members is to listen and to advocate. We cannot

do an administrative function. It is the job of the school administrator to ensure every school gets what they need.

**Dr. Danielle Brown:** Information is power, but it also brings sobriety. Sobriety is really important. We have to make sure we are not overstepping our bounds. I would ask the question to who is responsible for ordering the paper. When addressed, leave it in the hands of that administrator. We do thank the teachers who have above and beyond to ensure our needs are met.

**Junior Iglesia:** As a Board Member, we cannot call or send an email to order paper. That is not the function of a Board Member. This is unacceptable. I’m on the curriculum committee. With good communication, we will solve this. We do have to improve communication and follow proper protocol to make sure we meet their needs. This is not acceptable.

**Beth Lieberman:** One of the roles of a Board of Education is to provide the resources for children to have the best education possible. It’s not the Board of Education Members responsibility to get paper. There has to be lack of communication. It becomes the responsibility of the Board of Education to make sure that it is brought to the administrator’s attention.

**Question:** *Last school year, the Superintendent received over \$30,000 in bonus money. The taxpayers were never informed what the bonus money was for. What would you do to make sure the taxpayers know where their money is going?*

**Justin Ross:** I need to understand I’m working for my constituents. Identify why that happened. As an advocate for staff and for students, I can only do so much. I have to no knowledge sitting here as to tell you. It is an issue that is a responsibility of the Board. A good Board will know where every dime goes.

**Stanley Sierakowski:** I would ask what it is for. Is this a performance bonus? Is it in the contract? You have to honor a contract. I do not begrudge people getting money for performances, as long as everyone is able to partake in that evaluation and goals are met. I don’t know if it was deserved or not. I did not investigate it.

**Tashi Vasquez:** As a member of the personnel committee and the finance committee, I find it my obligation today to speak to those Merit Goals. What the Superintendent received was Merit Goal Pay. Money did not go missing. It was not unknown to the public. Merit Goals were enacted when the then governor enacted Superintendent cap. With that cap, he put out Merit goals for each Superintendent in the state to meet. Those merit goals are discussed to those Board Members who are not conflicted. Board Members who are conflicted are not part of that conversation. The Superintendent is evaluated on those merit goals. The Superintendent is doing an amazing job. He has not gotten a raise in 3 years. Money did not disappear.

**Dr. Danielle Brown and Junior Iglesia** both stated they were satisfied with Vasquez’s explanation of the Superintendent’s bonus in merit goal pay.

**Beth Lieberman:** I was just informed as to the process of by which Merit Goal Pay is produced. To this day, I’m not really sure what bonuses were for. I think when a Superintendent meets his bonuses, it’s because of the teachers and the staff of the entire district. Not only should those bonuses be awarded to the Superintendent but to the staff. We have been in negotiation with the staff for 3 years now. They have not received any kind of Merit Pay. Those kinds of Merit Pays really do need to be revisited to see if they are promoting education in



# PERTH AMBOY BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES FORUM 10/2/19 PAHS

this district.

**Question:** Last year, over 100 staff members resigned or retired from the school district. Central Administration says their exit survey shows they are leaving for more money. The AFT survey says they are leaving due to inadequate support and lack of leadership. As a Board of Ed Member, what would you do to stop the exodus?

**Stanley Sierakowski:** If those members that resigned or went to other school systems or quit, have issues, the first thing they should do is go to the union – not to a Board Member. Have the union file a lawsuit and deal at that level. They have the other option of hiring an attorney. I saw on the TV the statistics were on the screen (about this issue at BOE meetings). Unless you know the facts of each individual case, there is no way to comment on it. I used to be a shop steward also. As a shop steward, I was misled, deceived, lied to from both ends.

**Tashi Vasquez:** Two different reasons: money and lack of support. Both those explanations are given on exit surveys. Exit surveys are somewhat flawed. If I'm a teacher, and I'm going to HR to leave a district, I possibly will say a half-truth – and if I go to the union, I may give them another half-truth. Exit surveys may not be the best way to measure why our staff is leaving. 100 staff members have left our district for various reasons. When your neighboring district is offering \$10,000 more, it is a problem. So is support and morale and we are working on that. We need honesty from both ends. We need to open up that door of communication.

**Dr. Danielle Brown:** It's important question to ask at what point are they leaving? Primarily it's in the first 3 years. A lack of pay can also be translated as a lack of support. If you are a first-year teacher, it's the bills. If I can go to next door and make \$5,000 to \$10,000 more, that neighboring school district is supporting me more than the school district I'm starting at. As a Board Member, I want to work with the AFT so that there's incentives in those first 3 years, so we keep those teachers in our district.

**Junior Iglesia:** As a Board Member, I was one of the first members that recognized there were many teachers leaving our district and the staff retention record was a problem in our district. My goal is for every staff member to retire – to have a career in our school district. The longer a staff member works in a school district, the better they are prepared. We have to work in create a more supportive working environment. We need to continue to increase increments in salary.

**Beth Lieberman:** This is a reflection of the morale of the amazing staff in Perth Amboy. We need to give our staff and teachers the means they need to be included in decision making, curriculum decision making, provide the resources so they can do their job properly. The way to show staff that they are respected in value is to provide timely contracts and honor contractual agreements.

**Justin Ross:** What you want to do ideally is catch new teacher and keep them. Do more teachers leave compared than other districts? Are teachers leaving? Part has to do with salary. Part has to do with support. I would look into creating a program to pair young teachers with veteran teachers. It's worked out well in my career. To have that support, to have that name, does wonders in your first year. Since most teachers are leaving within the first 3 years. It helps a new teacher and is important. Give them an endorsement as a mentor teacher. Focus on what makes veteran teachers better. Give them autonomy.

**Question:** What factors are critical to the quality of education? What would you do to preserve and improve it?

**Tashi Vasquez:** The most important person in education is the teacher, and we have to provide them the support they need. Caring staff and administrators that understand there are social and emotional situations in a classroom. We have been working on them with curriculum, programs for the teacher. How do we improve this? We're sending teachers out to get more training.

**Dr. Danielle Brown:** The learning environment is crucial in education. Assistance is important. Teachers can flourish here in a couple of years they can become administrators. It is important to be liaisons to the community. We've got to be aware of those things. Consistency is important.

**Junior Iglesia:** Learning environment and learning space is the most important factors as well as well qualified educators. As far as space, we are working in the biggest project in New Jersey in the spring of 2020 we will begin construction of the biggest high school in New Jersey, totally funded by the SDA (School Development Authority). In 2024, will open that high school. We must make sure we have the staff we need for the high school. We invested \$50 million in our budget to start preparing for the opening of the new high school. We are working now for our future.

**Beth Lieberman:** I would make sure that funding schools are a priority and acknowledging the classroom size and addressing the overcrowding. We must provide staff and teachers with necessary resources. A valued staff is a productive staff. Often, they are the bottom line.

**Justin Ross:** Consistency is first. Children need to understand there is a place for them. There is a crossing guard, a cafeteria worker there for them. Emphasize the community. Everyone is a part of a community. We need a rigorous curriculum that gives kids opportunity – not only 4-year colleges, but 2-year colleges. Focus on career paths. Perth Amboy can become better.

**Stanley Sierakowski:** Try to create with school system with the teacher, a positive vision for that student. Bring back successful students who are athletes (or other high achievers). Tell them their future can be positive.

**Question:** How would you balance budget pressures against the growing needs of the community which includes the rising population and overcrowding?

**Dr. Danielle Brown:** Information is power. The more information you have, the better decisions you can make. When you take into account all the factors, you balance with what funding you have available. Be informed. Are we in a crisis or not in a crisis?

**Junior Iglesia:** Work smart. Looking ahead. We know the school district is growing. It's one reason we are getting a new high school. We need to balance the budget. We included in the budget to have the resources we need to operate the new high school. We also have a policy on the board - raising taxes is the last choice – not the first.

**Beth Lieberman:** A large part of our budget comes from outside the city. A major amount goes to salary and other necessities and resources. As a Board Member I will be ever vigilant and careful eye on the budget. Our primary goal is that of educating the child.

**Justin Ross:** We only have so much control over the budget. Most goes to salary and benefits. Balancing the budget goes with advocating – working with the AFT and



(L to R) Timekeeper Justine Cook, Moderator Barbara Chaudhery, BOE Candidates: Beth Lieberman, Justin Ross, Tashi Vasquez, Dr. Danielle Brown, Junior Iglesia, Stanley Sierakowski \*Photo by Katherine Massopust

NJEA and to establish trust and respect. Class size has been a problem. It's always a struggle.

**Stanley Sierakowski:** If it's legal, I would try sell bonds for capital improvement projects. Another way long term, the biggest banker in the United States is the federal government. Pass legislation on a federal level to allocate the cost of that area in grants per student. Divert they trillions of dollars and bring it back for healthcare and education.

**Tashi Vasquez:** Be informed. Ask questions and do your research. As a Board, we've been doing that. The SDA has invested \$5 billion in new schools. It didn't come out of our budget. We have to keep pressure in our state, so they continue to build for our students. 1000 students last 10 years; 1000 in the next 10 years. We know what the numbers are. We are preparing for those numbers. Collaboration with the city and making things work.

**Question:** Where do you stand on the privatization of services within the schools? Are you in favor of privatization of support staff?

**Junior Iglesia:** I totally oppose privatization of any kind.

**Beth Lieberman:** The Board of Education is one of the largest employers in the city of Perth Amboy. The Board of Education has to be judicious when privatizing. Sometimes it is more fiscally responsible to do that.

**Justin Ross:** I am against privatizing. However, you do need privatizing where the school itself does not handle. We have a workforce in Perth Amboy need to invest in the people of Perth Amboy. We have the workforce in Perth Amboy to strengthen our school system here. Special Education should be privatized to be improved.

**Stanley Sierakowski:** Privatization is outsourcing the jobs. What generally happens is like on the Turnpike which was privatized. The new vendor/owner for the company gave them a chance to reapply and with no benefits, sick days or vacation days. It's a lack of humanity for a person to make an extra million dollars. Look at those who are outsourced. Those people have no benefits. I'm against outsourcing people's future and their children's future.

**Tashi Vasquez:** I am against privatization. We have to care of own. We take care of our support staff and encourage continuing education. We have to keep it in house. We are caring for our support staff. Dr. Danielle Brown: I'm opposed to privatization. I'm pro-community.

**Question:** How do you currently volunteer for the Perth Amboy community and in what capacity?

**Beth Lieberman:** I have attended afterschool events such as the harvest festival, science fair projects. I've organized trips outside the community. I donate monies to

charities.

**Justin Ross:** I've been involved in years with the Civic Trust, an organization that lets people learn about government. I'm on the Board of Trustees at the Library. One of the first events I worked on was the Thomas Mundy Peterson event. I am fully invested to better the community.

**Stanley Sierakowski:** I've been retired 2 days, so I'll have more time to volunteer. I attend City Council Meetings. I try to expose greed, disfunction, so money is better spent. I want to see a skyline in 30-50 years here to look at. New Brunswick had the vision to do that. I want to be a part of the process to create that vision in Perth Amboy that outlives all of us here.

**Tashi Vasquez:** I've been involved since I was a student. I continue to be involved. I find time to still do things outside my daily role. I along with a couple of friends started a woman's networking groups. We help get a girl a prom dress or shoes for young ladies who cannot afford prom. I raise money for the Leaf Foundation. I was called to give. I started as a youth minister. I'm committed to this city and to our youth.

**Dr. Danielle Brown:** My call is public service. I'm a pastor at the largest church in the city. I'm positive the light shines in this city. Through Mercy House, we feed the homeless in the soup kitchen every Thursday. We provide social services. We held back-to-school giveaways. I'm a member of the Perth Amboy NAACP. I'm currently on the strategic task force with particular attention to the quality of life committee and safety committee.

**Junior Iglesia:** I love public service. I work in New York City as an educator. I'm part of the school leadership committee. My 2 daughters play soccer. I try to go to their games. Before I was elected to the Board, I founded the Perth Amboy Soccer Organization. I serve on the Perth Amboy Democratic Committee.

**Question:** How do you feel about a librarian in every school?

**Justin Ross:** I love the idea. I'm on the Library Board of Trustees. The people helped steer me are librarians. They are vital. They are crucial. I will advocate for a librarian in school and the community. Many mentors of a community use this library.

**Stanley Sierakowski:** I'm in favor of librarians in every school. When I was young, I looked for books on dinosaurs and Greek mythology. They bring an installment to any person growing up. Books can change your life forever.

**Tashi Vasquez:** Reading is fundamental. There is a need for them (librarians/media specialists). Look to share services and collaborate with the public library.

**Dr. Danielle Brown:** When I was writing my dissertation, I remember the research process. There was so many things my librarian taught me I was using 13 years later. Having a library in every school is a great idea. I would love for it to happen.

**Junior Iglesia:** If we have to give our students a gift the love of reading could be the greatest gift. Students should read a as a habit.

**Beth Lieberman:** Libraries are needed to teach how to find information in resources. Libraries no longer teach a child just reading. The children navigate technology and learn with librarians/media specialists. They are very important in our schools.

**Closing Statements:**

**Tashi Vasquez:** I am here not to make promises, but to continue leading our district to success. I have advocated for the community. I have a personal obligation to serve our community. I support excellent schools. Keep personal agendas out of the classrooms.

**Stanley Sierakowski:** One of my favorite quotes is: "All power to the imagination!" that's for the students. The other one is "One's reach shall exceed one's grasp or what's heaven for?" again that's for the students. I would be the best liaison you would have. You've been left out of the loop. Most people don't know what a PILOT is. There is no oversight. Developers can steal your land. I'm committed to control the oversight.

**Justin Ross:** You want someone who cares and who has the qualifications and who has the passion for children and their education. My goal is the install the love of learning. When you know learning, there's no limit. I believe in this community.

**Beth Lieberman:** I believe education first. My hope is I've given an honest picture of my vision and trust how I can advance policy to be in a leadership role in this community. I've spent my whole life dedicated to education.

**Junior Iglesia:** \$2 million is what we saved our community. We had a budget to approve that included a \$2 million tax increase. We had \$48 million surplus. I believe in the policy of raising property tax as a last choice. I made the motion to amend the resolution to approve that budget without the tax increase. We were then able to save \$2 million. We will act in your best interest.

**Dr. Danielle Brown:** We've made so much progress. Consistency is key. The numbers are there. The graduation rate, the test scores. It tells our story. The Board of Education we have should continue. Give us another 3 years.

The forum concluded. The entire forum is available for viewing on PA-TV.



Maria Rodriguez, Perth Amboy BOE Candidate

Dear Perth Amboy Residents, I thank you for the opportunity to run as a Perth Amboy Board of Education Candidate. As a mother, a grandmother, and a retired businesswoman who has lived in Perth Amboy for over 45 years, I know that a quality education is the only way our children will achieve success in life. They are the future and that is why I am running for the Perth Amboy Board of Education.

A quality education begins with inspiration and is fully realized in a Child's Success

in their Endeavors. Your children will achieve when they have a Safe School Environment, Amazing Teachers who are Appreciated, An A+ Education, and a Rewarding Experience of Success and Opportunities. Having opportunity, promoting, and preserving creativity is paramount to my goal for quality education in our Perth Amboy Schools. On Tuesday, November 5th, I'm asking for your vote and support for Column G, #FTLO Quality Education. Thank you again for this opportunity to serve you.



Maria Rodriguez

Stanley Sierakowski, Perth Amboy BOE Candidate

Dear Perth Amboy Residents, Thank you for the opportunity to run as a Perth Amboy Board of Education Candidate. As transportation coordinator of the Disabled and Seniors for Middlesex County and an active County Committeeman, it is my hope that my experience in the area of transportation will help provide solutions to the difficulties we currently face due to parking and traffic concerns present in the City I love. I have been a resident of Perth Amboy for over 50 years, a member of AFSCME for approximately 20 years, and I strongly support all unions and believe in the concept of a

"living wage." Teachers hold a vital responsibility of academic excellence, and in their pursuit of educating our children it is essential to advocate for pivotal needs necessary to help each child succeed. Focusing on preparation also means opening up other avenues of opportunities which may be considered non-traditional pursuits. I believe the Arts are just as important as the Math and Sciences, and I would like to encourage growth and development in these areas and in sharing my favorite phrase: "All power to the Imagination." On Tuesday, November 5th, I'm asking for your support and your



Stanley Sierakowski

vote for Column G, #FTLO Quality Education.

Fire at State & Mechanic Streets, Perth Amboy  
10/12/19 \*Photo by Paul W. Wang



From PAFD Facebook Page  
PERTH AMBOY - On 10/12/19 at 09:35, the Department was dispatched to 364 State Street for a reported fire. Units arrived to find heavy fire in the first floor commercial occupancy, with occupants trapped on the floors above. Firefighters quickly deployed two ground ladders and rescued 5 occupants including a baby from the second and third floors. Additionally several attached buildings also filled with smoke and had to be immediately evacuated. Three hose-lines and extensive overhaul were needed to extinguish the fire which took two hours.

6 people were transported to the hospital, including 1 firefighter, with the majority treated for smoke inhalation.

Responding units were E-2, E-3, E-4, T-2, T-3, C-1, C-2, C-3, C-5 & C-9. Mutual aid that responded were Hopelawn Rescue 8, Keasbey Truck 4-2-4, South Amboy Engine 9, Sayreville Engine 3 & Iselin Engine 9-2. Port Reading Engine 2-2, Avenel Engine 5-1 and Sayreville Truck 2 covered the City during the incident. The fire is under investigation by the PAFD.



**Polls Are Open from**  
**6:00AM to 8:00PM**  
Las Urnas Están Abierta de 6:00AM to 8:00PM

**On Tuesday**  
**November 5th**

**VOTE**

**Column**

**G**

# #FTLOQualityEducation

A Quality Education Begins  
with Inspiration and is  
Fully Realized In  
A Student's Success!

Una educación de calidad comienza con  
Inspiración y se realiza plenamente en el éxito de un estudiante!

4-G

1-G

## Maria Rodriguez

## Stanley Sierakowski

For Perth Amboy Board Of Education

Paid For By M. Rodriguez For BOE (Board of Ed) PO Box 753, Edison, NJ 08818; Sierakowski for Perth Amboy BOE, 679 Charles St. Perth Amboy, NJ 08861



# Craig Coughlin & Yvonne Lopez

## KEEP THE PROGRESS GOING

- ✓ **Creating good-paying jobs.**
- ✓ **Investing in New Jersey's workers and economy.**
- ✓ **Making New Jersey more affordable for families and seniors.**
- ✓ **Reining in health care costs.**



Re-Elect Assemblyman

**Craig  
Coughlin**



Re-Elect Assemblywoman

**Yvonne  
Lopez**

**Vote **Column B** Democrats**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> | POLLS OPEN 6AM TO 8PM**

Paid for by Election Funds of Craig Coughlin and Yvonne Lopez; Treasurers Tom Henderson and Miriam Rodriguez P.O. Box 283, Keasbey, NJ 08832.



# DuPont Community Partnership with Old Bridge Township’s Parks & Recreation Department Kicks Off at Camp ROBIN



From L to R: Mayor Owen Henry; Pete Pero, Camp ROBIN Manager; Ashley Krutis, Teen Program Assistant Supervisor; Ulric Butcher, Teen Program Supervisor; Paul Poltrictzky, DuPont; David Kriskowski, DuPont; Catherine Mistretta, DuPont; Iris Man; Matt Mercurio, Director of Parks & Recreation; Nichol Reinhold, DuPont; Anna Fusco, DuPont. *\*Photos submitted*



Mayor Owen Henry, Matt Mercurio, and Pete Pero, welcome DuPont employees to the Camp ROBIN building

Press Release 10/14/19  
OLD BRIDGE TOWNSHIP – The Camp ROBIN Friday Nights Teen Program kicked off Friday, October 4th, 2019 with special guests Mayor Owen Henry and employees from DuPont in attendance. Their presence served as a celebration and acknowledgement of their recent donation to Camp ROBIN. Following summer meetings between DuPont and Matt Mercurio, Director of Parks & Recreation and Anahita Feltz, Manager of Silver Linings at Old Bridge and the Old Bridge Food Bank, a community partnership was established between DuPont’s Parlin Site and Old Bridge Township.

Through this newly-established partnership, a \$7500 donation was made to Camp ROBIN by DuPont to fund various items and programs. The donation has gone towards the purchase of ten computer chairs for Camp ROBIN’s computer lab as well as a new dishwasher. The generous donation also funded transportation for the Fall Friday Nights Teen Program. DuPont also sponsored the first night of activities for the Friday Nights, which included a Game Truck, bingo, crafts, and games. The evening concluded with an Ice Cream Social where DuPont employees helped the campers make ice cream sundaes.

Camp ROBIN (Recreation in Old Bridge for Those in Need)



DuPont employees serve ice cream to Camp ROBIN teen campers during their Friday Night Ice Cream Social.

was designed for those with special needs in the community. The Therapeutic Center is located at Geick Park, with a goal of improving the recreational skills, socialization, and independence of those participating. “Our Camp ROBIN program has provided the special needs community with wonderful resources for many years,” noted Mayor Owen Henry, “and we are grateful to the DuPont Corporation for their support to ensure its continued success and look forward to an ongoing relationship with them.”

This event and DuPont’s donation to Camp ROBIN marks the beginning of this partnership between DuPont and Old Bridge Township. DuPont’s community outreach will continue over the next few months

with upcoming donations to the Parks & Recreation Department and the Old Bridge Food Bank.

DuPont (NYSE: DD) is a global innovation leader with technology-based materials, ingredients and solutions that help transform industries and everyday life. Its employees apply diverse science and expertise to help customers advance their best ideas and deliver essential innovations in key markets including electronics, transportation, construction, water, health and wellness, food, and worker safety. More information can be found at [www.dupont.com](http://www.dupont.com).

For additional information about Camp ROBIN and Old Bridge Township’s Parks & Recreation Department, please visit [www.oldbridge.com/recreation](http://www.oldbridge.com/recreation).

# William Cruz, Candidate for Assembly



William Cruz

Press Release  
PARLIN - Parlin resident William Cruz, Independent Assembly Candidate in New Jersey’s 19<sup>th</sup> District, is calling on the State to establish a healthcare system that mirrors the effectiveness and efficiency of the Massachusetts health care system. Cruz is speaking to this issue more so after reading the Asbury Park Press story on insurance premiums “needing to rise” according to health care executives. “There seems to be one thing that continually happens and that is the cost to New Jersey families go up and up and up,” says Cruz. The 64-year old Cruz also points out that families are paying for these rising costs more than once. “Not only are New Jersey families paying their increased costs, but they are paying for public sector employee’s increased costs by way of tax increases to cover those price jumps,” adds Cruz. “It is time for New Jersey to establish a comprehensive State Health Care Plan that is available to all citizens and provide more efficient and cost-effective benefits to all workers [both public and private sectors].”

Cruz uses the example of a public school teacher to explain the cost increase on families. “You have a public school teacher who [by means of Chapter 78 rules] gets penalized for getting a raise by having more of a percentage of their pay getting taken out for their health care

premium,” explains Cruz. “If the raise doesn’t match the increase, you possibly have someone getting a “raise” but in fact are dealing with an actual pay cut...how is this fair?” Cruz believes that New Jersey can bring about a plan that can allow for all workers to obtain quality, affordable coverage that will allow them to keep more of their pay, thus giving more financial freedom to families and bring property tax relief to all residents. Cruz also points to financial freedom for businesses to use their savings in such a plan towards company reinvestment, new hires, etc. To learn more about the campaign, please visit [qolrtv.com](http://qolrtv.com). Any additional press inquiries can be directed to [pledgetodomyjob@gmail.com](mailto:pledgetodomyjob@gmail.com).

# Blood Drive

SOUTH AMBOY - October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and cancer patients are the #1 users of blood. Blood donors support patients and their families as they are going through their treatments. There will be a Community Blood Drive at St. Mary’s Church, 310 August St., South Amboy on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 8:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.



# Community House at St. Thomas Provides Support in Journey to Independence

Press Release 10/14/19  
OLD BRIDGE - Community House at St. Thomas, managed by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen (CCDOM) is licensed by the Department of Community Affairs as a shared residence for eight adults with disabilities who are self-directed and mentally competent. “The residents of Community House live as a family, in a home that fosters independence, allowing the residents to integrate into the greater community while living in the least restrictive, supportive environment”, said CCDOM Supervisor, Susan Kuzma. Susan expressed pride in the accomplishments of all

of the residents at Community House.

Resident Christina Knorr had this to say about her journey of overcoming obstacles to gain independence and earn her bachelor’s degree,

“Moving to Community House for me has been quite an incredible story and journey. I never thought that I would end up living here, much less earn my bachelor degree from Rutgers University. When I moved in, in 2015, I never saw myself going and earning my degree. For a year I looked for a job, and came up against several barriers, one being not having enough education. Commu-

nity House is much more than a place to live where you need to spend twenty hours out of the house doing something. It is a place where you are pushed and encouraged to figure out who you are and what you want to make of yourself, and provides a safe place to make your mistakes and figure that out...Being accepted into this program has changed my life for the better, given me direction and opportunities, and has been the first step in creating my life as I want it to be.”

Community House at St. Thomas is home to people who would otherwise have remained in long term care, welfare hotels

and inappropriate placements. Community House promotes independence and personal growth by supplying affordable, accessible housing along with the supports necessary for those with disabilities to become part of the greater community. Last year Community House at St. Thomas made a difference in the lives of six adults with physical disabilities.

More information about Community House at St. Thomas can be found on the agency’s website: <http://www.community-house-saintthomas.com/>. Last year, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen served more than 50,000 people through



over 100 programs in Middlesex, Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties.



Pet of the Week



California needs a loving, forever home. She was rescued from the streets of Carteret and is being fostered in Perth Amboy. She loves to be loved by humans, but does not like cats. She tolerates them. She is tiny and barely a year. Cali is spayed, vaccinated, tested negative for FIV and Leukemia, has been dewormed, had her ears and is fully vetted and healthy. Adoption application and a donation fee apply to cover some of the vet expenses. ADOPT. SPAY. NEUTER. LOVE. Allforthepaws.org www.paypal.com allforthepaws@gmail.com

Donations are welcomed and we always need cat food for our Fosters and our outdoor TNR colonies. Contact Virginia at 732.486.6382 to foster or adopt a fur baby.

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.

SkillUp Middlesex

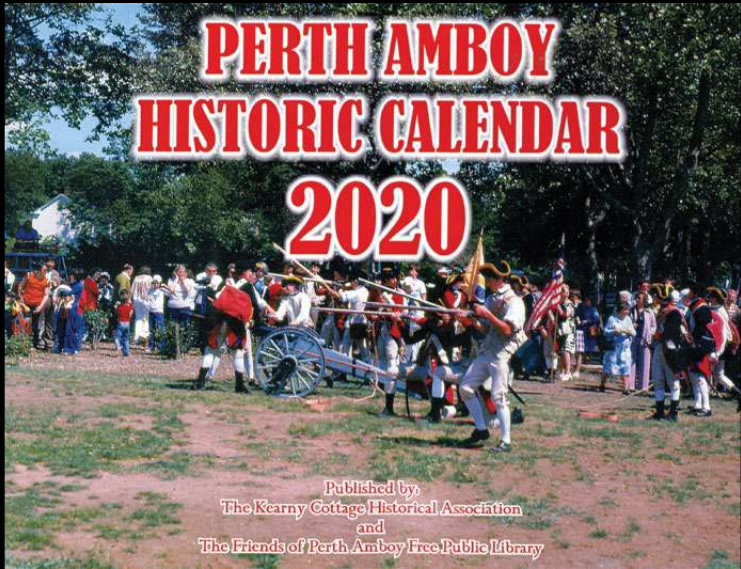
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2020 Historic Perth Amboy Calendars



2020 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 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.

Tom's Tax Tips

Consider The Tax Before You Sell

Courtesy of Tom Ploskanka C.P.A. 1-800-801-1099

**Multiple Tax Rates Hold the Key**

In times of market volatility or when a financial need arises, it is only natural to consider selling some investments. Understanding the tax consequences is key to making an informed and planned decision. Here is what you need to know BEFORE you sell:

Investment Tax Rates

Investment	Tax Classification	Holding Period	Tax Rate	Comments
Retirement Accounts: 401(k), 403(b), traditional IRA, SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA	Ordinary income withdrawn from the account)	Determined by the account type (usually withdrawals after age 59 1/2)	0% up to 37%*	There is not a tax event when an investment is sold within your account. The tax rate depends on your annual income at time of fund withdrawal
Retirement Accounts: Roth IRA and Roth 401(k)	No tax on withdrawals	5 years and 59 1/2 years old or older	N/A	Earnings are not taxed as long as rules are followed
Short Term Capital Gains (STCG)	Ordinary income	1 year or less	0% up to 37%*	For investment sales such as stocks and bonds
Long-term Capital Gains (LTCG)	LTCG rates	More than 1 year	0% up to 20%	For investment sales such as stocks and bonds
Depreciation Recapture	Special	Any	25%	When you sell property that has been depreciated in prior years, part of your sale price may be taxed as a recapture of this prior period depreciation
Collectables	Special	Any	28%	A special tax rate applies to gains on the sale of items you collect (like coins and baseball cards)
Investment losses	Ordinary income	Any	Offset benefit: 0% up to 37%	Losses can offset ordinary income up to \$3,000 each year

\* a 3.8% net investment income tax may also apply to these earnings.

As the above tax rate chart suggests, understanding the tax consequence of selling an investment can be complicated. Your tax obligation could be subject to no tax or up to 37 percent plus an additional 3.8 percent for the net investment income tax. Here are some ideas to consider:

Within retirement accounts

- **Generally not taxable.** Selling investments within your retirement accounts is not usually a taxable event. The potential tax event occurs when you take the funds out of your account either by a withdrawal or occasionally as a rollover into another account.
- **Follow the account rules.** Each of your retirement accounts has its own set of rules. If you follow them, you can avoid early withdrawal penalties. Following the holding period rules within Roth accounts can also make your withdrawals tax-free.

Gains and losses outside of retirement accounts

- **Losses.** Your losses are first used to offset any investment gains. Any excess losses can offset your ordinary income up to \$3,000 per year. So the benefit of losses can be worth next to nothing or up to 37 percent if it offsets ordinary income.
- **Non-investment losses.** Unfortunately, individuals may not offset losses on the sale of non-investment property. So if you sell a car and make money, you need to report the gain. If you sell the car and lose money, there is no deductible loss unless it is part of a business transaction.
- **Long-term better than short-term.** Holding an investment for longer than one year is key if you want to minimize your tax obligation. Short-term gains are taxed the same as wages. Remember your investment decisions can often have quite different tax consequences. The best suggestion is to seek advice BEFORE you sell.

As always, should you have any questions or concerns regarding your tax situation please feel free to call.

CASA of Middlesex County Seeking Volunteers

MIDDLESEX COUNTY - CASA of Middlesex County is seeking volunteers to advocate for children who have been abused or neglected. When a child is in foster care, having a CASA means they are more likely to find a permanent home, spend less time in foster care, and perform better in school. Champion one of these children from your community and safeguard a child’s well-being through advocacy in the court today. Join our next information session on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and learn what it takes to be an advocate and change a child’s life forever. RSVP to Nora Siklosi Szabo, at nora@casaofmiddlesexcounty.org

Where: South Brunswick Public Library, 110 Kingston Lane, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852

When: Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 10.30-11.30 AM

For more information: <http://www.casaofmiddlesexcounty.org/volunteer>



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.*

The German Army begins retreating from Athens on October 13, 1944. Soviet forces reach the outskirts of Riga, Latvia. German V-1 and V-2 rockets land on the port of Antwerp, Belgium, crucial to the Allies for landing supplies. American troops enter Aachen, Germany, and engage in heavy, house-to-house street fighting in the first major battle on German soil.

On October 14, British troops begin moving into Athens even as the Germans are withdrawing. In Germany, Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, implicated in the “July 20 Plot” to assassinate Hitler, is visited at home — where he is recuperating from wounds suffered in France — by two generals from Hitler’s headquarters. (Although Rommel was aware of the plot, he was not a participant.) He is given three choices: defend himself to Hitler in person, undergo a public trial in the People’s Court (a Nazi kangaroo court, in which he would undoubtedly be convicted), or commit suicide with the promise of a state funeral and a guarantee of immunity from prosecution for his wife and family (families of plotters are being prosecuted). Deciding that there is really only one option, Rommel chooses to swallow a cyanide capsule given to him after saying goodbye to his wife and fifteen-year-old son. His death is announced publicly as resulting from wounds he had suffered when his car was strafed in France. *Der Führer* declares a day of mourning and, as promised, authorizes a state funeral for the Desert Fox.

On October 15, the Allies and the Germans engage in an artillery duel at Aachen. In Asia, the British and Chinese begin a joint offensive from Myitkyina to Bhamo, in Burma. In Budapest, the Hungarian chief of state, Adm. Miklós Horthy, shortly after announcing Hungary’s withdrawal from the war against the Soviets, is taken prisoner by a German commando unit led by SS Maj. Otto Skorzeny. Horthy is told that unless he recants Hungary’s withdrawal from the Axis and abdicates, his son (abducted by Skorzeny and his men hours earlier) will be killed. Horthy complies, naming Ferenc Szálasi as head of state and prime minister. Szálasi immediately vows to continue the alliance with Germany, promising to keep the country open as an escape route for German troops fighting in the Balkans. Horthy is brought by Skorzeny to Bavaria, where he is held in “protective custody.”

The Red Army and Partisans under Josip Broz Tito liberate Belgrade, Yugoslavia, on October 16. The Red Army enters German territory near Goldap in East Prussia; thousands of German civilians flee the area in panic. Goldap is the first town in Germany to fall to the Allies. U.S. carrier-based planes, as well as aircraft from airfields on New Guinea, conduct air strikes on Leyte, Cebu and Mindanao, in the Philippines.

In the Philippines, the U.S. Navy on October 17 begins mine-sweeping operations in Leyte Gulf. In Italy, the U.S. Fifth Army’s II Corps continues its attacks toward Bologna. At an *SS* officers’ conference, *Reichsführer-SS* Heinrich Himmler states that Warsaw “must completely disappear from the surface of the earth and serve only as a transport station for the *Wehrmacht*. No stone can remain standing. Every building must be razed to its foundation.” While Hitler’s plan to destroy the city — and build “Warschau, a new German city” in its place — dates back to June 1939, the Warsaw Uprising has infuriated the Nazi leadership and it is decided to make an example of the Polish capital. Even as the city’s residents are being expelled, German teams are working with a will on obliterating the city. Ultimately destroyed are: 10,455 buildings, 953 historical buildings, 25 churches, 14 libraries, 81 elementary schools, 64 high schools, two universities, most historical monuments and much artwork.

Hitler on October 18 orders a call-up of all males between the ages of 16 and 60 for Home Guard duties. *SS* chief Heinrich Himmler becomes Commander-in-Chief, Forces of the Interior. German radio says that 50,000 officers have been killed so far in the war. Soviet troops cross the Norwegian frontier while the Soviet 4th Ukrainian Front enters Czechoslovakia. German troops from Greece and southern Yugoslavia are falling back rapidly to avoid being cut off by the advancing Red Army. The Greek government-in-exile returns to Athens from Italy.

The Germans evacuate Belgrade, Yugoslavia, on October 19. In Burma, the British capture an important Japanese supply depot at Mohnyin. In the U.S., the Navy says that African-American women may join the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, the women’s branch of the U.S. Naval Reserve).

On October 20, the U.S. Sixth Army’s X and XXIV Corps along with Filipino guerrillas make amphibious landings in the Philippines, on the east coast of Leyte. The 60,000 men sent ashore encounter stiff Japanese resistance. Coming ashore at Leyte after a beachhead is established, U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur makes a speech via a portable radio transmitter that begins: “This is the voice of freedom, General MacArthur speaking. People of the Philippines: I have returned.” Soviet and Yugoslavian Army troops occupy Belgrade. Yugoslavian Partisan forces take Dubrovnik, on the Adriatic coast.

Aachen is occupied by the U.S. First Army on October 21. It is the first German city to be captured. (Goldap, in eastern Prussia, captured by the Soviets on October 16, is a small town.) In Yugoslavia, German and Croatian forces establish a line of defense northwest of Belgrade. In the Palau Islands in the Pacific, organized Japanese resistance on Angaur Island ends. 1,300 Japanese are dead and 45 are captured. American casualties number 265 dead, 1,335 wounded. U.S. heavy bombers begin operating from the island’s airfield.

Canadian troops of the British Eighth Army capture Cervia, in northeastern Italy on the Adriatic coast, on October 22. The 14th Soviet Army reaches the Norwegian border.

Much activity of note occurs on October 23. The Allies recognize Gen. Charles de Gaulle’s Provisional Government of the French Republic as the legitimate government of France. The Battle of Leyte Gulf — the biggest sea battle in history — begins. For the first time, the Americans experience heavy attacks from Japanese *kamikaze* aircraft. (*Kamikaze*, which means “divine wind,” are special attack units — first organized in August 1944 — of pilots who fly suicide missions against Allied naval vessels. Over the course of the war, over 3,000 *kamikaze* pilots and 7,000 Allied naval personnel will die in these attacks.) The light aircraft carrier *USS Princeton* is heavily damaged by a bomb dropped from a Japanese Yokosuka D4Y “Judy” dive bomber and sinks with the loss of 108 men (1,361 are rescued). The Battle of San Bernardino Strait takes place, as the Japanese try to stop U.S. Gen. MacArthur’s Sixth Army landings on Leyte Island, in the Philippines. American B-29 Superfortress heavy bombers begin using Tinian, in the Mariana Islands, as a base for the systematic bombing of Japan.

In Europe, the Red Army continues its drive westward, capturing several towns on October 24. In Berlin, Hitler informs his generals of his plan to launch a surprise counteroffensive against a weakly held section of the Allied line in the Ardennes region of Belgium, Luxembourg and France. In the Territory of Hawaii, martial law is lifted, and *habeas corpus* (the right to appeal to a court for a judgment of wrongful imprisonment) is restored.

On October 25, in the Pacific, the submarine *USS Tang*, credited with sinking more enemy ships than any other American submarine, sinks off Turnabout Island in the Strait of Formosa when struck by its own torpedo that, malfunctioning, makes a circular run. Nine crewmen survive, 78 are lost. *Tang* had sunk 33 ships totaling 116,454 tons. Off the Philippines, the most intense fighting of the Battle of Leyte Gulf takes place. The Japanese lose three aircraft carriers, two battleships, two cruisers and five destroyers. The Americans lose two escort carriers (one — *USS St. Lo* — by *kamikaze* attack) and two destroyers. Romania is fully liberated by the Red Army and Romanian troops. Soviet troops take the German base of Kirkenes, in far northeastern in Norway near the Soviet border.

In the Philippines on October 26, elements of the U.S. Army’s XXIV Corps unsuccessfully attack Japanese positions on Catmon Hill, north of Dulag, on the east coast of Leyte. Japanese reinforcements arrive at Ormoc, on the western side of the island, northwest of Dulag. The Battle of Leyte Gulf ends with the Japanese losing yet more ships: three cruisers, three destroyers and a submarine. The Imperial Japanese Navy now ceases to be a factor in the war. U.S. Gen. Joseph “Vinegar Joe” Stilwell, commander of the China-Burma-India Theater, departs China, having been recalled from his command by President Roosevelt. Nationalist Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek had sent to Roosevelt a demand that Stilwell be removed, stating his willingness to accept any other qualified U.S. general to fill the post. Allied losses in Burma and China are high, and Stilwell — highly and openly contemptuous of the Chinese leader — has been clashing continually with Chiang over a lack of aggressiveness on the part of Chinese forces in fighting the Japanese and rampant corruption within the Nationalist government. Stilwell has also had ongoing conflicts with U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Claire Chennault, commander of air forces in the theater, as well as British and Chinese commanders.

Another battle breaks out on October 27, 1944, in the Hürtgen Forest, on the border between Belgium and Germany. The sporadic fighting will last for months. Josip Broz Tito arrives in liberated Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

In Moscow, the U.S.S.R. and Bulgaria on October 28 sign an armistice agreement. The Germans begin to evacuate Albania. In Czechoslovakia, the Slovak National Uprising against the Nazi-collaborationist government of Jozef Tiso is put down by the German Army after two months of fighting. Over 12,000 Slovaks are killed in action or murdered in reprisals; the Germans suffer 4,200 killed and 5,000 wounded.

U.S. Maj. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer on October 29 arrives in China to replace Gen. Joseph Stilwell as Commanding General, U.S. Forces, China-Burma-India Theater and Chief of Staff to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Wedemeyer is dismayed to find that his predecessor has left the country without meeting with him and briefing him on theater conditions. Upon searching headquarters, Wedemeyer discovers that Stilwell has left no record of future plans or ideas, nor any documentation of past or planned operations. Questioning Stilwell’s staff officers, Wedemeyer learns that they know little; they say Stilwell always kept things “in his hip pocket.”

Counterattacks against the Soviets by the 3<sup>rd</sup> *Panzer Korps* near Debrecen, Hungary, on October 30 end with the Germans claiming that they have inflicted 25,000 casualties and destroyed 600 tanks. However, this doesn’t hinder the Red Army — it begins a major offensive into Hungary. Teen-aged Holocaust diarist Anne Frank is transferred from Auschwitz to the Belsen concentration camp, in Lower Saxony in north-western Germany. The Greek government, back in Athens, bans the ELAS National Militia, the communist resistance movement.

On the orders of Prime Minister Churchill, British troops on October 31 move into Salonika, in Greece, to assist the government in its efforts to prevent a takeover by communist insurgents in the wake of the recent withdrawal of German troops. In Denmark, a precision raid by Royal Air Force bombers flying at rooftop level destroys *Gestapo* headquarters in Aarhus, on the east coast of the Jutland peninsula. The *Gestapo* was about to initiate an anti-resistance operation, but all records are lost in the raid, killing the operation.

British forces take Thessaloniki, in Greece, on November 1. In Japan, the first of some 9,000 balloon bombs are launched (through April 1945) from Tokyo. The hydrogen-filled balloons — laden with either high-explosive or incendiary devices, or both — will ride the jet stream at around 37,000 feet in altitude to reach the west coast of North America, coming down from Mexico to Canada and Alaska. Only one of the devices is known to cause casualties. The destroyer *USS Abner Read* is sunk by a Japanese *kamikaze* attack in Leyte Gulf. All but 22 of her crew of 336 are rescued.

Canadian troops take Zeebrugge, on the Belgian coast, on November 2. Belgium is now completely liberated. The Red Army enters south-eastern Hungary. In Budapest, 50,000 Jews are sent on a forced march to Austria; some 10,000 will die in the six days it takes them to reach their destination. Yugoslavian Partisans capture Zadar, Croatia, on the Adriatic Coast. In Belgrade, Josip Broz Tito becomes the 23<sup>rd</sup> prime minister of Yugoslavia.

Book & ReGifting Sale

SAYREVILLE - Saturday & Sunday, November 16th & 17th from 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Sayreville Free Public Library, 1050 Washington Road, Parlin. All Proceeds Go to the Sayreville Free Public Library. For More Information, call: 732-727-0212 Presented by the Friends of the Sayreville Public Library

Edison AARP Chapter #3446

EDISON – The next meeting of the Edison AARP Chapter #3446 will be held Monday, October 21st at 1:00 PM, at: The Elks #2487, 375 Old Post Road, Edison, NJ. Subsequent meetings will be held the 3rd Monday of each month. October’s meeting will include a speaker from the Metuchen law firm of Wolfe Ossa, specialists in Wills and Probate.

Members are always encouraged to bring nonperishable food items which are donated to the Food Bank of Middlesex County. Our donations average 300 pounds of food each month. Other programs for seniors include information on health care, legislation, and community service.

Looking toward the future, we have scheduled a 2-day spring trip to the Amish country, a summer Canadian getaway and a possible fall trip to Washington DC. We also sponsor a series of theater performances at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn as well as other interesting day trips.

Please visit our website at [INFO@EDISONAARP.ORG](mailto:INFO@EDISONAARP.ORG) for more information.

Hungarian Kolbasz and Nut Roll Sale

WOODBIDGE – Kolbasz Sale: Made by the members of the Calvin Hungarian Reformed Church of Woodbridge on Friday, December 13, 2019. Place your orders with Audrey Marciniak: 732-494-1431. Price: \$6.00 per lb. Deadline for order: Saturday, November 30, 2019. Orders may be picked up on the day of the sale between 12 noon and 4 p.m. Use Ross Street entrance.

If you are ordering Nut Rolls, you can also place your order for Kolbasz at the same time. Nut Roll Sale: Sponsored by the Women’s Guild of the Calvin Hungarian Reformed Church, Woodbridge. Each individually hand rolled. Made from the best ingredients, each weighing 1lb 8oz. Available in English Walnut, Poppy Seed, Prune-Lekvar, Apricot, Raspberry, Pumpkin-Cheese. Price \$17.00 each.

Deadline for orders by Saturday, November 30, 2019. Orders will be available for pick-up on Friday December 13, 2019 between 12 noon and 4:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall of the Church. Please use Ross Street Entrance.

All orders must be paid in full upon ordering. Please call: Florette Pastor: 732-636-2868.



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

**Email: ecabrera52@hotmail.com**

### Table of Plenty

PERTH AMBOY – St. John Paul Parish will be serving meals on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, and December 21<sup>st</sup> from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Perth Amboy Catholic School, 500 State St., Mechanic Street Entrance. Open to anyone who needs a hot meal. If you would like to donate food for these meals, please contact Rosemary: 732-826-5385 or Geri: 732-637-7593. Please use collection box in vestibule for monetary donations.

### Book Sale

PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library have a book sale every other Saturday from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. at the Brighton Avenue Community Center at the corner of Brighton Avenue and Sadowski Parkway in Perth Amboy. The schedule for the fall is as follows: Saturday, October 19, November 2. Paperbacks are \$.50, hardcovers are \$1, \$5 for a bag full, no limit to size of bag except no lawn or garbage bags. We have best sellers by popular authors that are like new. The money we raise goes to support the library with providing programs, promoting literacy or to provide funds to the library with their needs beyond their budget. For more information email us at friendsofperthamboylibrary@gmail.com, or call us at 201-381-1903 and like us on Facebook. Dealers are welcome.

### Do you or someone you know have Old Photographs or Documents?

The Kearny Cottage Historical Society is  
Looking for Old Photos and Documents of  
Perth Amboy, South Amboy,

Woodbridge, Fords, etc. (Local Area)

For an Archiving Project - Your Photos & Documents  
will be scanned into digital format & returned to you.

*For more info please call 732-293-1090*

### Museum Pass Program

PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library have generously provided FREE passes to some of the area's most popular museums! Museum passes offer a great way for family and friends to experience educational and cultural fun.

**Picking Up and Returning Passes:** Passes can be picked up at the Circulation Desk. Patron must present the library card under whose name the pass was reserved. Only Adult patrons whose cards are in good standing will be able to check out Museum Passes. Passes are good for a total of three days and are **NOT** renewable. Passes can be returned at the Circulation Desk or at the Book Drop after hours.

**Late, Lost or Unreturned Passes:** There will be a \$5 amount late fee each day the pass is past due. The maximum fine will not exceed \$25.00. Passes not returned within 14 days after the due date, will be presumed lost and borrowers charged the full replacement cost.

**Replacement costs for items are as follows: Lost museum pass:** Full cost of the pass. Replacement costs vary according to the museum and listed on the catalog record for each museum.

**Pass Case:** \$1

**Museum Passes available:**

• **American Museum of Natural History**, New York, NY | free admission and 1 free exhibit or show

• **Grounds for Sculpture**, Hamilton NJ | pass admits 4 people

• **Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum**, New York, NY | pass admits 6 people

Sponsored by the Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library. [www.folperthamboy.com](http://www.folperthamboy.com) For more information, please call the Perth Amboy Free Public Library: 732-826-2600.

## MOVIE REVIEW: JOKER

By: Anton Massopust III

“When you bring me out, could you introduce me as the Joker?”

Joaquin Phoenix brings a new twist on an old character in “Joker”.

Just when you think that things will be the same, they're not. The character of the Joker has been done many times on screen. He appeared in “Batman: The Animated Series” voiced by Mark Hamill. He was portrayed in the Batman TV series with Adam West by Caesar Romero. Jack Nicholson portrayed him with Michael Keaton in the 1989 Batman film. And don't forget Christian Bale's Batman and the Oscar-winning performance by Heath Ledger in 2008 The Dark Knight.

“Joker” concentrates more on the psychological aspect of what makes the Joker tick. The Joker's, Arthur Fleck, a man who is destitute and can't even get the medication that he needs to keep his life stable. He lives in a crummy apartment in Gotham City with his mother, Penny Fleck. A garbage strike is crippling the city, and he just wants to try to make other people laugh. Arthur works as a clown who at the beginning of the film is standing in front of a store with a going-out-of-business sign. He is mugged. A fellow clown gives him a gun in order to protect himself, but he brings it to a kid's party in a hospital



and it accidentally falls out of his pants. Because of this, he is fired from his job. Arthur then finds out a lot of things about his life as if he is pulling out thread and his life just slowly begins to unravel. He's obsessed with a late-night television talk show host Murry Franklin (Robert De Niro). Arthur's big dream is to be a standup comedian. He gets his big break on the Murry Franklin Show after an open mic night at a club.

Batman does not appear in “Joker”. (Bruce Wayne is 8 years old) The story is well done, and I especially love the grittiness and dirtiness of Gotham City which is sort of told in the mid-seventies and early eighties.

The soundtrack is reminiscent of the music that was used in the TV mini-series “Chernobyl”. When you leave the theater, you will still hear that music

echoing in your ears. The cast is first-rate, and Joaquin Phoenix is sure to get it Oscar nomination.

“Joker” is nothing like anything I've ever seen before. Be warned: “Joker” is not for children. The film is intensely violent, but not in a graphic way - just a quick terrible violence as Arthur slowly evolves into the person we know of today. This is an adult comic book movie that is a serious drama about the psyche of a man and how he falls apart because of terrible circumstances and the hand that he is dealt. Mental illness is no joke, but at least Joker talks about some of the terrible things that happen to people who are mentally ill and are too afraid to seek treatment. Should you see the movie? Yes, it's one movie you'll be sure to talk about after seeing.

## Jessica Guevarra, Teacher Committed Leader of The Y to Receive The Jack Cerulo Leader Award

Press Release 10/3/19

PERTH AMBOY – On October 16, 2019 Jessica Guevarra a Dr. Herbert N. Richardson School teacher for students of different abilities will receive the 2019 Jack Cerulo YMCA Leader Award. The award being awarded at the Woodbridge Metro Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Awards Dinner at the Renaissance Hotel Woodbridge.

Jack Cerulo was a lifelong volunteer who was committed, through his time and talents, to youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. When Jack supported the Y, he fulfilled his passion to help local children and families. Jack understood the challenges facing families in his hometown and the responsibility The Y played in their lives. Fortunately, where some saw obstacles, Jack saw opportunities!

Just like Jack, Jessica is a positive influence and makes every

effort to engage children and families in the community of Perth Amboy. She espouses the core values of the Y and truly exemplifies our mission to help others learn, grow and thrive. The Dr. Herbert N. Richardson School is the home to a huge team of educators and administrators who all share the same goal for students.

Jessica has been the catalyst of advancements in programming and extra-curricular activities for not only the students but their families as well. She presented a proposal to the Y to offer students an Adaptive Swim Program where students were able to learn swim safety at the Y where most of their parents never thought taking them was a possibility. With the partnership of the Y and Perth Amboy Police Department later that year flourished an amazing first ever Walk for Awareness from the Richard School to the

Police Department which then held a ceremony and lastly set free balloons in honor of all those with disabilities.

“Jack left indelible footprints in so many of our lives. I know that Jessica continues to carry on his legacy of goodwill and love for kids by her commitment and dedication,” said Steve Jobin, President & CEO, RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA.

The goal of any educator is to make a difference in a child's life. Jessica had no idea how much of a difference her students, their families, and this community would impact hers. Jessica said, “to receive the Jack Cerulo Civic Leader award is an incredible opportunity. The opportunity to watch the growth, of all students, into leading fulfilling and purposeful lives with the love and support of school and community. It is an honor and dream come true.”

### Angioscreen Event

PERTH AMBOY - Hackensack Meridian Health Raritan Bay Medical Center-Perth Amboy is holding an Angioscreen event, Wednesday, October 23, 1:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., in Centennial Hall A, 530 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy. Learn your risk of heart attack and stroke. Screenings include carotid artery ultrasound, heart rhythm, blood pressure and screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm and peripheral artery disease. Receive a color report of your findings, education materials and consultation with a registered nurse. The cost is \$49.95. Registration is required, visit <https://www.hackensackmeridianhealth.org/events> or call 1-800-560-9990.





SERVICE DIRECTORY  
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.  
Call For the Plan Which Will Best Suit Your Needs.  
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Classified Ads

Please Notify Us Immediately After Your Item is Sold!  
Email: AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

Please Note: Only One Classified Ad per Phone# will be published per week. If you already have a classified ad in the paper and another is sent, the new one will replace the one that's already published

Please Include Prices of Items on Classified's or They will not be Published

For Sale: Exercise Equipment	For Sale	For Sale
Tony Little Gazelle Free-style Exercise - Excellent Condition \$150 - 732-442-5252 11/6	3/4 Size Acoustic Guitar. Good for young child - \$50. 732-541-5491	Baseball Card Collection, Old Mint Superstars in Binder \$60 - 732-727-8417
For Sale	Brand New Electric Heater Radiator. Was \$65 Now \$20 New Never Used. 732-547-7406	Chairs - Dining- 6; 4 side; 2 arms; good condition, oak, will rush seat \$75 - 732-738-4283
Solar Pool Cover Roller - Easy to use 16 x 32 - \$75 - 732-236-4479	Solid Oak Coffee Table \$75; Oak End Table \$50 732-570-9732	40 lbs. of Weights for \$15. All 10 lb. weights. 732-771-1961
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6x8 Railroad Tie \$20 - 732-396-9537 - leave a message	New never used Mirror 27"/41" Brown Frame was \$120 - Now \$75 - 732-721-7186	Ads Sell! Call Carolyn! 732-896-4446
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If you wish to publish a Novena in The Amboy Guardian, you may use this coupon.

A Petition to  
St. Joseph

Cost \$10.  
Pre-payment required.

A Petition to  
St. Jude

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_(\_\_\_\_)

Initials at end of prayer\_\_\_\_\_

Please circle one prayer, and return form with check or money order to:

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Perth Amboy, NJ 08862

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

Thanksgiving Novena

Novena To St. Joseph

St. Jude Novena

Pray The Rosary

OTHER \_\_\_\_\_



Prayer St. Jude

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

Prayer to The Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail) O Most Beautiful Flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). (Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. You must publish it, and it will be granted to you.) **A.L.S.**

Prayer to The Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail) O Most Beautiful Flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). (Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. You must publish it, and it will be granted to you.) **J.M.P.** 10/16

Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library Meeting

PERTH AMBOY – The Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library are having a meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019 at 6 p.m. at the Perth Amboy Free Public Library (Children's Library), 196 Jefferson St. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more info, call 732-261-2610.

Miraculous Invocation to St. Theresa

Oh Glorious St. Theresa, whom Almighty God has raised up to aid and counsel mankind, I invite your miraculous intercession. So powerful are you in obtaining every need of body and soul, our Holy Mother Church proclaims you a "prodigy of miracles. The greatest Saint of modern times." Now I fervently beseech you to answer my petition (mention here) and carry out your promise of doing good upon earth of letting fall from heaven a shower of roses, henceforth Dear Little Flower, I will fulfill your plea to be made known everywhere and I will never cease to lead others to Jesus through you. Amen.

Say prayer every day for 9 days. By the 4th day ask for a sign if prayer is to be answered between 4th and 9th day you will see a rose in a magazine, TV picture, or receive roses, also can get a strange scent of roses in home even if no roses present. Must promise publication. **J.M.P.** 10/16

Remember to Say Your Novenas!

Answers From Puzzle On Page 19



LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY – Artistic Doors, New Brunswick Avenue Fire.

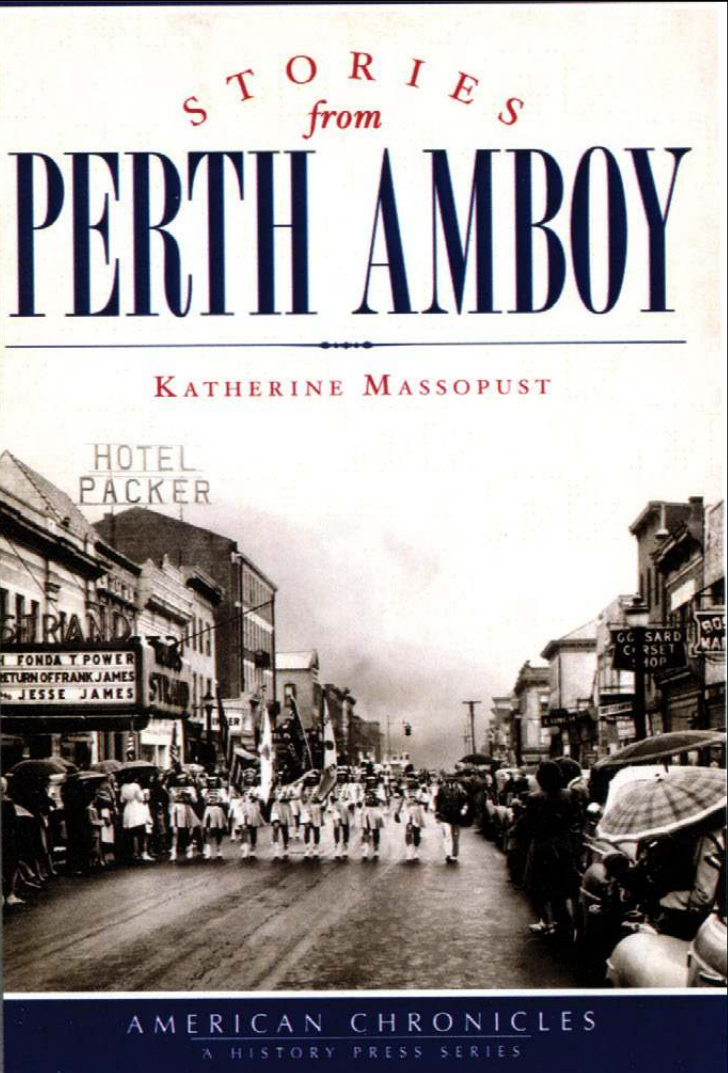
\*Photo by Paul W. Wang

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

Senior Scene Happenings

- Perth Amboy**  
TUES. Oct. 15 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. Oct. 16 Good Shepherd Wednesday Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Msgr. Gambino Hall, Florida Grove Rd.  
• St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.  
• Holy Trinity Seniors, 1 p.m., Church Hall, Lawrie & Johnstone St.  
THURS. Oct. 17 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.  
MON. Oct. 21 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.  
TUES. Oct. 22 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. Oct. 23 Good Shepherd Wednesday Seniors, 12:30 p.m. Msgr. Gambino Hall, Florida Grove Rd.  
• St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.  
THURS. Oct. 24 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m. Family Life Center, Madison Ave.  
**South Amboy**  
MON. Oct. 28 Sacred Heart Seniors, 12 Noon Memorial Hall, Wash Ave.  
WED. Nov. 6 St. Mary's Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.  
MON. Nov. 11 South Amboy 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



**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!



Women's Health Fair, Hackensack Meridian Health, Perth Amboy 9/26/19

\*Photos by Katherine Massopust



Boy Scouts of America 2019 Service Award 9/25/19, The Armory, Perth Amboy

\*Photos by Paul W. Wang



PERTH AMBOY - The Event Co-Chairs were: Junel Harrell-Hutchenson & Mayor Daniel J. Reiman. The Presentation of colors was given by the Scouts of Carteret and Perth Amboy. Youth Remarks were given by John Hartnett, Scouts BSA Troop 88, Carteret. Council Remarks were given by George Barnard. The Honorees of the 2019 Service Award were: Kyle Anderson, Kenneth Armwood, Randy Convery, Francis James, Anton J. Massopust, Dianne Roman.

The Lizard Guys Visit Perth Amboy Free Public Library 9/28/19, Perth Amboy

\*Photos by Paul W. Wang



PERTH AMBOY - The Lizard Guys returned to the Perth Amboy Free Public Library to the delight of the youth who came. The Lizard Guys taught the children about different reptiles and amphibians. The event was sponsored by The Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library.



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### ACROSS

1 Gdansk's locale  
(abbr.)

4 Weekend-  
lover's letters

8 Insurance plan  
option (abbr.)

11 Sis's sibling

12 Perfected

14 Very long time

15 Baseball's  
Maglie

16 Andretti, e.g.

17 Grippe

18 Told untruths

20 Pays to play

22 Select few

24 Watson of  
"Harry Potter"

26 Has a late meal

27 Those who  
play hooky

30 Eastern "truth"

31 Diver's hazard

32 Gen.

Eisenhower

34 Scold

36 Among

37 Insignificant

38 Rotates rapidly

39 Strength

42 Dolt

43 Track circuit

44 Tractor  
producer

47 Country lodge

50 Wide street  
(abbr.)

51 "Little Orphan  
"

52 Vague

schedule info  
(abbr.)

53 Witch's spell

54 Unpaid bill

55 Bark like a

Pomeranian

### DOWN

1 Public TV inits.

2 "...man \_\_\_\_  
mouse?" (2  
wds.)

3 Temple's  
"Good Ship"

4 Magi count

5 Urge on

6 Business abbr.

7 Doctor's charge

8 Importance

9 Beauty mark

10 Load

13 Stage plays

19 "\_\_\_\_ My Party"

21 Fabray, to  
friends

22 New York time  
(abbr.)

23 Waikiki picnic

24 Bert's pal

25 Newsman

Roger \_\_\_\_

27 Salty discharge

28 Shyness

29 Peel

31 Reporter Starr

33 McMahon and

Asner

35 Letters on a  
Yuppie vehicle

36 Military mail  
abbr.

38 Frozen rain

39 Uninteresting

40 Producer's  
dream review

41 Pinnacle

42 Baby's resting  
spot

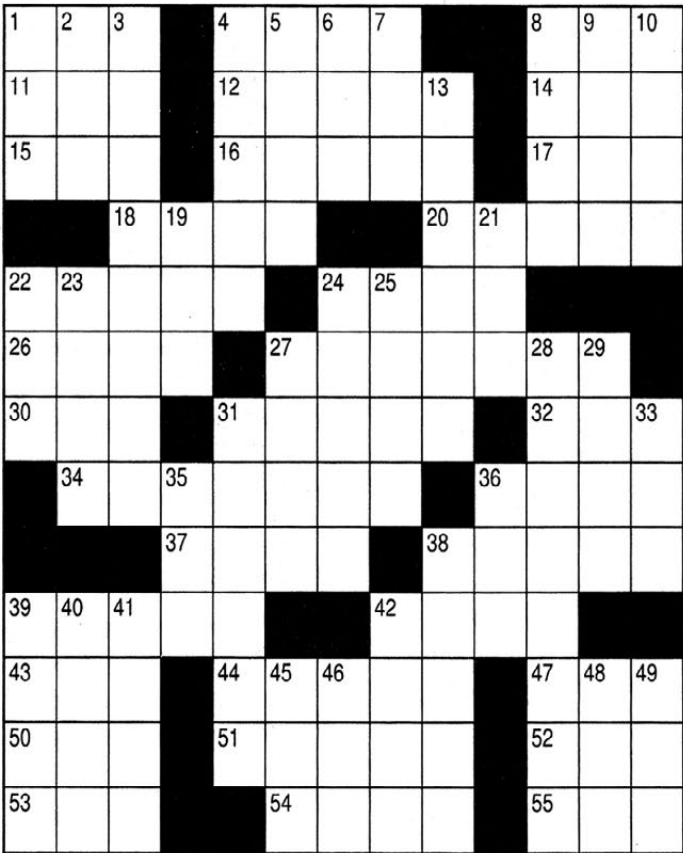
45 To the bitter

\_\_\_\_

46 Compass pt.

48 Hoop group  
(abbr.)

49 Forty winks



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**PERTH AMBOY** - Great investment property fully rented all separated utilities, 3brs ea. apartment, close to high school, public transportation and most of the major highways. **\$369,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Well maintained 2 family house in the heart of the City. Hospital section of Perth Amboy. Boast 3 bedrooms/1 bath per apartment. Full basement & separate entrance attic. Close to everything, mins. from NYC. **\$399,900**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Move in ready, single family home in great location, blocks from downtown, train station, restaurants, school and Perth Amboy Waterfront. This home features kitchen, separate dining room, living room 3 bedrooms, finished basement, deck, detached 2 car garage/rear entrance and central AC /Heating. **\$249,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - This beautiful condo features 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, laundry facility, many upgrades including Hardwood floors, elevators, state of the art fitness center, water view, private garage parking, this is commuters dream close to downtown shopping center and much more. **\$219,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - VERY NICE WELL-KEPT APARTMENT IN GOOD MOVE IN CONDITION. BEAUTIFUL WATER-FRONT VIEW. APARTMENT ON 5TH FLOOR !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! PROPERTY LEASE END ON JUNE 2020 AND BUYER MUST KEEP TENANT ON PURCHASE. **\$139,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Brick Center Hall Colonial on a large corner property. The home is listed as a 3 bedroom, but it actually has a bonus room attached to the Master Bedroom, used as a nursery. Also 2 large finished rooms in the finished basement w/ private full bathroom. Attic fully finished and easily accessible from the 2nd floor hallway. **\$309,900**



**PERTH AMBOY** - This is the last Amboy Model elevation A available is being built as an open plan design, still time to choose your upgrades, features living room, kitchen, dining room, 1/2 bath, full basement A/C 3 bedrooms. Laundry facility, 2 full baths, 2 car garages lots of optional upgrades see attachments, close to all major highways, parks and great Spa spring location. Hurry!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! **\$389,900**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Completely renovated, Beautiful single-family home. **\$240,000**