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# THE AMBOY GUARDIAN

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## Fourth of July Annual Ringing of the Liberty Bell - City Hall Circle 7/4/20, Perth Amboy

*\*Photos by Katherine Massopust*



Master of Ceremonies  
Margarita Feliciano



Invocation by  
Fr. Michael Chendorian



Pledge to the Flag &  
National Anthem by  
Firefighter Javier Cruz



John K. Dyke & Anton Massopust III explain the  
significance of the flag



Ed Troche  
Office of Vital Statistics



PAPD Chief  
Roman McKeon



Lissett Lebron  
Perth Amboy  
Board of Education



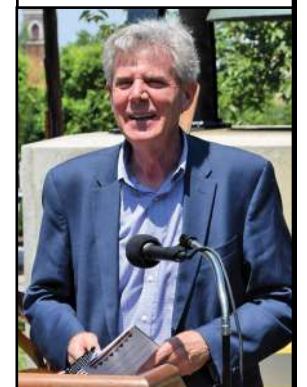
Lissette Martinez  
Office on Aging



Alma Benavides  
Office of the Mayor



Diane Oliver  
Daughters of the  
American Revolution



Congressman  
Frank Pallone  
offers some remarks

PERTH AMBOY - Residents, Representatives and City Employees read the Declaration of Independence followed by the Annual Ringing of the Liberty Bell. The New Jersey Liberty Bell is located in City Hall Circle, Perth Amboy. Every Fourth of July the Mayor of Perth Amboy rings the Liberty Bell 13 times at 2:00 p.m. representing the original 13 colonies.



Assemblyman  
Craig Coughlin  
offers some remarks



Mayor Wilda Diaz rings the Liberty Bell



Group photo of all the participants and local politicians present

## Attention All Candidates for the November 3, 2020 General Election

Please be Advised there are

6 Publication Dates Before the Election

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for publication in the September 16, 2020 Issue

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## Swearing in of Police Officers- City Hall Circle 7/6/20, Perth Amboy *\*Photo submitted by the City of Perth Amboy*



PERTH AMBOY - On Monday, July 6, 2020 at City Hall Circle, eleven police officers were sworn in: Alan Octavio, Ariela Peguero, Desiree Konopka, Juan Machuga, Eddie Munoz, Romer Almanzar, Jose Almonte, Jorge L. Inoa-Tejeda, Luis Rolando Ramos II, Jonas Junior Reyes, Matthew Snyder. Congratulations!

Updates on Coronavirus Outbreak: [www.perthamboynj.org](http://www.perthamboynj.org) & [www.southamboynj.gov](http://www.southamboynj.gov) & [www.amboyguardian.com](http://www.amboyguardian.com)



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## Problems Continue

### 7/8/20 Caucus & Council Meetings via Teleconference

By: Carolyn Maxwell  
PERTH AMBOY – During the 7/8/20 Caucus portion, a question was asked regarding Resolutions R-231 – 7/20 – A Contract to Hoagland, Longo, Moran, Dunst & Doukas to provide defense of the city in tax appeals before the Middlesex County Board of Taxation in an amount not to exceed \$65,000. And R-233 – 7/20 – A service agreement for the company Boggie & Boggie LLC to provide defense of the city in tax appeals as needed in conflict cases in an amount not to exceed \$8,000.

Business Administrator Frederick Carr explained that for Resolution R-233, “Those attorneys are working for clients, and not the city. They are back-up attorneys.”

Director of Human Resources and the Department of Recreation Ken Ortiz was on the conference call to explain R-234-7/20 – An agreement with the Perth Amboy Youth Football League for the organization and operation of the Youth Football & Cheerleading Program from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Ortiz explained, “This wasn’t included in the temporary budget. The equipment has to be ordered beforehand. It’s reimbursement for their upfront cost.”

Council President William Petrick and Councilman Fernando Irizarry questioned why there was a difference in R-236-7/20 – A contract with Northeast Roof Maintenance for the repair and reinforcement project at the Clock Tower at the Simpson Methodist Church in an amount not to exceed \$385,700. “In the bid for the repair and the reinforcement, the amount was \$360,000. How come in the resolution, it’s more money?”

DPW Director Frank Hoffman went on the conference call and explained, “There were added costs for options or extra costs added for unforeseen problems. The architect included this (the options) in the report.”

Council President Bill Petrick asked that R-237-7/20 – Increasing the bid threshold to \$44,000 pursuant to N.J.F.A. 40A:11-3 commencing July 1, 2020 and terminating June 30, 2025 to be tabled.

B.A. Frederick Carr explained R-238-7/20 – Consenting to the designation of Maria Rivera as a Public Agency Compliance Officer for the city of Perth Amboy effective August 1, 2020 thru December 31, 2020, “She would be reviewing some of the city contracts.”

Petrick had a problem regarding R-244-7/20 – Payment to Peter J. King for legal services rendered in 2019 beyond the regular duties of the Director of Law in the matter of the City of Perth Amboy vs. Elaine M. Flynn in the amount not to exceed \$9,677.50.

Petrick explained, “We (the council) put the referendum on the ballot (50%+1 of the votes) and they (the mayor) did not win the lawsuit. The voters passed this unanimously. The mayor wanted it overturned and the judge said the initial decision was correct.”

Councilman Helmin Caba then spoke up, “It (the mayor’s

lawsuit) was rejected twice by two different judges. The taxpayers should not have to pay for this.”

Petrick moved to table R-244. It was seconded by Councilman Caba.

There were 3 resolutions (late starters) added during the caucus: R-252-7/20 – Appointing Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe to the Zoning Board of Adjustments. R-253-7/20 – Appointing Justin Ross to the as Alternate #2 to the Zoning Board of Adjustments. R-254-7/20 – Insertion of Green Acres Grant for the amount of \$258,000.

Council President Bill Petrick asked if the Council wanted to make any comments (before the public portion).

Councilman Helmin Caba spoke, “Someone had said at the previous meeting that the council is ignoring citizen complaints and how will it be different if someone else becomes mayor.” Caba went on to explain, “The council does not have the authority to enforce our laws.” He then briefly talked about the presentation that was made earlier in the caucus regarding as CSO (Combined Sewer Overflow) Long Term Control Plan. “This will not only involve Perth Amboy, but municipalities around us have to comply with regulations set forth the by the DEP. These regulations will involve safeguarding our beaches. If surrounding municipalities don’t comply with the regulations that will affect our beaches, the city will be basically just throwing money away.” Caba then continued and spoke about Governor Murphy mandating that masks be worn (even when you’re on the outside). “How will that be enforced?”

Business Administrator Carr explained, “We’re still waiting for the governor’s guidance and I don’t think we need a COVID-19 mask police.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejada spoke next, “It’s mandatory to wear a mask when you enter a restaurant, yet I’ve seen people enter restaurants without masks and sometimes the servers are not wearing masks. We will end up like Florida or California.”

Councilman Fernando Irizarry said, “No comments.”

Councilman Joel Pabon spoke next, “People are still complaining about loud music, speeding, and loud vehicles. “We need to send a message.” He then mentioned the problem on the south side of Elm Street near the train station, “There is grass there that must be 3 feet high in the area between 40 ft – 50 ft. I can probably get my own lawnmower and cut that grass in a couple of minutes. Let’s take care of our residents.”

Council President Petrick then asked B.A. Carr if the DPW can take care of the grass on Elm Street on a regular basis. Public Portion:

Resident Jeremy Baratta came up first. He questioned R-231. “They are demanding too much money per hour.” He then questioned R-232 – A contract with Queues Enforth for the maintenance of 9-11 Dispatch and Recordkeeping software for the police computer system for the period of July 1, 2020 to

June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$41,676. “Look at this closely. This company is located in Massachusetts.” Baratta then questioned, “When will City Hall be open for meetings? When will Zoom Conferencing calls end?”

Petrick responded, “We have to have a date when the COVID is ending.”

Baratta continued, “The government has to open, and people can take their own risk if they want to come to a meeting in person.”

Petrick responded, “The number of people who can come to a meeting is limited, and we are looking for a bigger venue to hold the meetings.”

OEM Director and Deputy Police Chief Larry Cattano came on the line to talk about R-232. “We have been using this company (Queues Enforth) since 1992. They come into town to do upgrades every year or once every two years. They have trained our personnel and upgrades are included in their costs.”

The council went into closed session at 7:06 p.m. They returned at 7:30 p.m. closed the caucus and took a brief break. They opened the regular council meeting at 7:55 p.m.

The first order of business was the Hearing of Citizens for 8 minutes with Jeremy Baratta of J. Baratta Industries who spoke about the Business Improvement District Programs and Services. Baratta stated, “My company had a lawsuit against the BID because of an OPRA violation which was finally done today. I filed a second lawsuit against the BID. There are 16 members. Wilda is a Board Member, but Jeanette Rios is the Mayor’s alternate in case she can’t attend the meetings. Only 4 members were elected and a lot of times they don’t have a quorum for the meetings. The March, April, and May meetings were cancelled because they weren’t filed in accordance to the sunshine laws. The meetings that were held – their minutes were not posted. A First Constitution Bank Member is on the Board. The EIN Number is not noted. Noelia is still a city employee. The council has no involvement in the BID. The BID has given Colon a cell phone. They are blaming you guys (the council) for Colon’s executive position in the BID. Colon is getting \$100,000 a year, but doesn’t have the qualifications for the Executive Director job. You (the council) can shut down the BID.”

After Baratta spoke, the council voted on the ordinances. Ordinance No. 1 (public hearing) – Regarding Management and Nonunion salary and salary ranges was moved by Councilman Irizarry and seconded by Councilman Joel Pabon. When polled separately, everyone voted “Yes” except for Council President Bill Petrick who voted, “No.” For Ordinance No. 1 (First Reading) – Adding a loading zone on New Brunswick Avenue. It was moved by Councilman Irizarry and seconded by Councilwoman

*\*Continued on Page 3*



# Problems Continue

## 7/8/20 Caucus & Council Meetings via Teleconference

*\*Continued from Page 2*

Tejeda. Ordinance No. 2 (First Reading) – Designated restricted parking spaces for use by handicapped persons re: additions. It was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Caba. Ordinance No. 3 (First Reading) – Administration of Government re: Division of Engineering was moved by Irizarry and seconded by Pabon.

Public Comments:

Baratta questioned Ordinance No. 1. He asked Carr if he could name the people, department, and the position they are in for

those people who received a 5% or more increase in their salary.

Carr stated, “The Assistant Municipal Clerk, a Payroll Supervisor, and a Recreation Supervisor, but no one is in that position right now.”

Baratta then questioned Law Director Peter King’s legal bills, “King is the full time City Attorney. If he has to farm some of his work out to another attorney, King gets a referral fee. He can’t submit a full bill to the city when farming work out.” Baratta then questioned the council, “What are you going do about businesses in the BID that are not legitimate companies?”

Resident Maria Vera spoke next, “I agree with Councilman Pabon regarding people in cars playing loud music and not following regulations. Down the waterfront, people are ignoring the yellow lines on the curb and parking illegally. They block sidewalks by having their cars in the driveways. They also park where the fire hydrants are. We have houses with a lot of garbage. People try calling Code Enforcement and no one answers the phone. Perth Amboy is going backwards, and our downtown is filthy. Why paint yellow lines on curbs if people are not going to obey the

laws? It’s dangerous when people park too close to the corners. Our police officers are not being properly trained. They need to walk and talk to the people in the community.”

Petrick responded to Vera, “The mayor is the Police Director and is in charge of Code Enforcement. I feel your frustration. We are spiraling out of control.”

Resident Justin Ross came up next, “I want to thank the council for considering appointing me to the Zoning Board of Adjustments. I emphasize with Mr. Pabon and Ms. Vera. I’ve lived here most of my life and

never had to call the police as much as I have to now, but now they always blamed the situation on COVID-19. We are talking about our public health and unsanitary conditions of some of the houses. It’s best to forward any communications to the City Clerk.” He ended by stating, “The audio for Business Administrator Frederick Carr is garbled.”

When it came time to vote, Resolutions R-237 and R-244 were tabled. The Consent Agenda was R-230 thru R-236, R-238 thru R-243, and R-245 thru R-254 were moved by Councilman Irizarry and seconded by Councilman Pabon.

Public Portion:

Resident Jeremy Baratta spoke first and asked, “Who was the Public Compliance Officer before Maria Rivera?” He then talked about Stateside Company (the company that was hired to do PR work for the city and was paid \$17,499.99). "They don't even have a stamp. When you go to a company and open up a business, they give you the checks with the binder, folders and your slips to fill out. They also give you a stamp with your company name on it and address. Wilda gave her campaign people a PR job." Baratta then addressed Councilman Irizarry, “You voted to pay someone who worked on your campaign. I’m going after everyone who voted to pay Stateside.”

Petrick answered Baratta's question and stated, “Gary Muska is the current Compliance Officer.”

Former Councilwoman Lisa Nanton came up next and addressed the COVID-19 situation, “I hear they can furlough employees (and hold off on giving raises). We can’t afford to give raises. Businesses need to open up first and make money.”

Council Comments:

Helmin Caba said, “We don’t ignore citizen’s complaints. We pass them on to the administration so they can enforce the laws.”

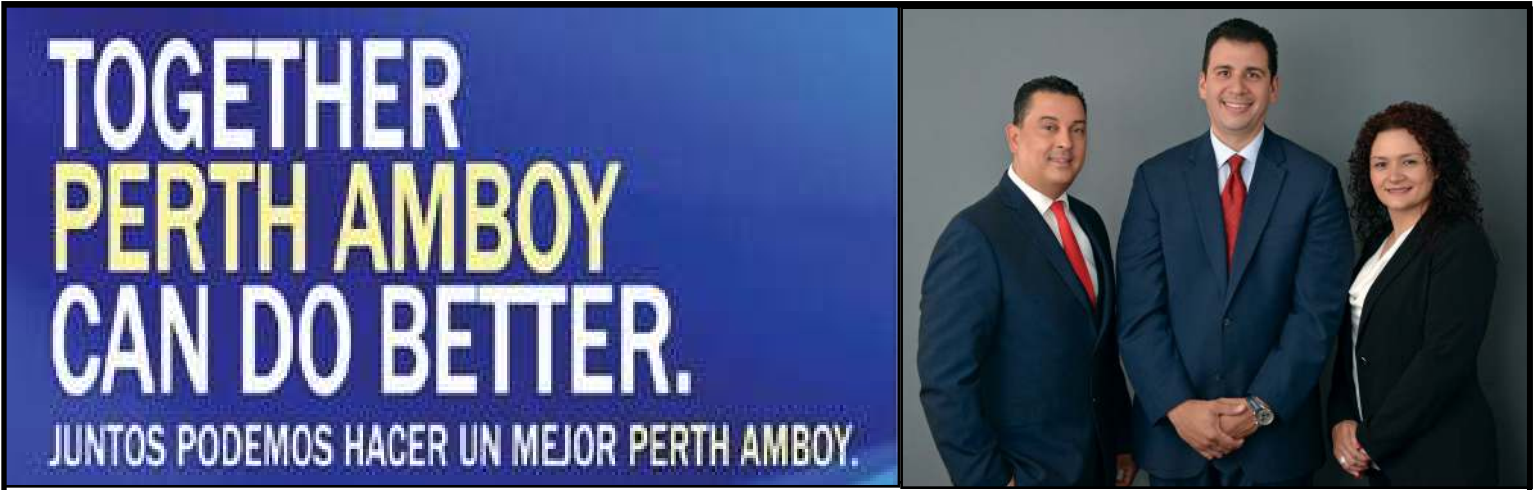
Fernando Irizarry had no comments.

Joel Pabon urged residents to continue to be safe, “Enjoy yourself, watch out for your kids. Have a safe weekend.”

Milady Tejeda told everyone, “Wear your masks when going into a restaurant. Be safe and take care of yourselves.”

Council President William Petrick said, “Many people are not wearing their mask properly. It is important to cover your mouth and your nose – not your chin. Stay safe and be well. We had a lot of discussions about people speeding, noise, and enforcing the laws. Code Enforcement needs to answer these complaints. The quality of life needs to be addressed by the police and Code Enforcement.”

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



## Vas, Bermudez, Mota Ramirez announce candidacy for Perth Amboy Mayor and Council

### “Together, Perth Amboy Can Do Better”

Press Release 7/9/20

PERTH AMBOY, N.J. – Confirming longstanding speculation, Joseph B. Vas, lifelong son of Perth Amboy, announces that he will proudly seek the office of Mayor. He will be joined on his ticket for City Council by longtime residents Vanessa Bermudez and Angel Mota Ramirez in the November 3rd non-partisan election. The campaign’s slogan will be “Together, Perth Amboy Can Do Better.” Former Mayoral candidate and current businessowner Frank Salado has been named campaign Treasurer.

Mr. Vas, an active member and former Chancellor of the Knights of Columbus-San Salvador Council #299, was born and raised in Perth Amboy. Following his graduation from college and law school, where he simultaneously received a Master of Business Administration, he opened a successful law practice in Perth Amboy which he currently maintains. He previously held positions at the New Jersey Department of the Treasury and in private practice at a New Jersey mid-size law firm which provided him with public finance and regulatory experience and insight. Mr. Vas has dedicated a portion of his practice as an attorney to helping almost 1,000 Perth Amboy residents reduce their property taxes through property tax appeals. This became necessary due to the current administration’s refusal to provide non-commercial property owners with tax relief.

“In the past 12 years Perth Amboy’s tax rate has continued to increase nearly every year from one of lowest effective tax rates in the county in 2008 to one of the fastest increasing tax rates per capita in the county in 2020, far outpacing nearly every Middlesex County municipality. Elected city officials from the Mayor to City Council have endorsed unnecessary tax abatements and payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTS) to the wealthiest outside taxpayers shifting the tax burden on residential taxpayers. While local residential property owners have seen consistent taxes increases, public services have declined and there has been overall decay to the City’s infrastructure and in the quality of life. My greatest concern is that no one has proposed a comprehensive plan to stabilize taxes or provide relief to its residential property owners - instead it appears their only plan to balance the municipal budget is to continue to raise taxes,” stated Vas.

Mrs. Bermudez currently serves on the Perth Amboy Zoning Board, is an active member of the American Legion, the Moose Lodge, and Latin American Motorcycle Association. She is employed as National Sales Manager for an LED Manufacturing Company. As a resident of Perth Amboy for the last twenty-five years, Mrs. Bermudez has raised two daughters and a son, alongside her husband, Anthony, a Middlesex County Sheriff’s Officer

and former member of the Board of Education. “As a member of the Zoning Board I have seen firsthand how the City’s overall lack of leadership and political interference has negatively impacted Perth Amboy’s economic growth and quality of life for its residents,” stated Mrs. Bermudez.

Mr. Mota Ramirez, an undisputed hardworking self-made businessman and property owner in Perth Amboy, has served on the Redevelopment Agency (2002-2004) which has provided him with insight into the potential for improvement Perth Amboy possesses. As the father of two boys, he has invested himself in the community and its future through his activism. “Perth Amboy is blessed with a great geographic location and a hardworking community, yet constant political infighting over the past 12 years has prevented the City from fully realizing its redevelopment potential and has denied it’s residents better employment opportunities at a time when they are needed most,” added Mr. Mota Ramirez.

“Whether it’s providing safe drinking water, controlling the spread of Covid-19, the highest rate in the county, or the basic health and safety of our community, City government and everyone associated over the past 12 years has failed the good people of Perth Amboy at every level. Perth Amboy is in need of strong qualified leadership to overcome the failure of the

last 12 years. It’s time to put qualifications over failure,” Vas stated emphatically.

While there will be an inevitable comparison and association to Mr. Vas’ father, who served as Mayor of Perth Amboy for 18 years, none of the other candidates, including the current incumbent, can even hold a candle to the accomplishments under the former Vas administration. Specifically, Perth Amboy residents enjoyed stable property taxes which did not increase for 14 of his 18 years. He also lifted a moratorium on new construction which allowed for further development of Perth Amboy and increased revenues for municipal services. Mr. Vas’ father also oversaw the improvement of 22 parks, 176 streets, and the cleanup and improvement of contaminated brownfields like the Chevron and American Smelting sites through litigation which avoided taxpayer expense. In addition to all of this, the Waterfront and Downtown beautification projects overseen by Mr. Vas’ father are projects which continue to benefit Perth Amboy residents to this day.

The easy out for other candidates will be to focus on the unbreakable family bond shared by Mr. Vas and his father. But this deflection is ineffective at distracting from their deep entrenchment with the current administration and lack of vision for the future of Perth Amboy.

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

THE  
COMMUNITY  
VOICE

It's All About Family  
Louis T. Seminski  
June 10, 1955 – July 1, 2020



Sciortino's returns to Perth Amboy. Grand Opening 9/27/12.  
\*File Photo by Carolyn Maxwell



The Seminski & Sciortino Family pose for a photo during the Christmas season at Sciortino's Harbor Lights, South Amboy 12/15/12.  
\*File Photo by Aaron Beers

Perth Amboy and South Amboy recently lost one of their favorite sons and a member of one of the most traditional families in Perth Amboy. Louis T. Seminski was a proud member of the Sciortino Family who had been in the restaurant business for decades on New Brunswick Avenue, Perth Amboy before having to close down due to eminent domain. The business was known for its original brick oven which gave a unique flavor not only to its pizza, but to all the dishes on the menu. You never really had pizza until you tried Sciortino's.

When Sciortino's was located

in Perth Amboy, they hired local residents in Perth Amboy (Many were teenagers or young adults at the time). Among them were longtime city employees such as Former City Clerk Elaine Jasko, Former Police Chief Michael Kohut, and retired Police Officer Ken Puccio who is also on the Perth Amboy Board of Education. Some of those employees also had family members who later worked at Sciortino's in Perth Amboy. Sciortino's found the perfect location in South Amboy and named their restaurant Sciortino's Harbor Lights.

It wasn't unusual when I de-



Lou Seminski Jr putting a pizza in the brick oven in Sciortino's Perth Amboy.  
\*File Photo by Carolyn Maxwell



Lou Seminski with daughter, Sheri in front of Sciortino's Harbor Lights, South Amboy 5/3/13. \*File Photo by Katherine Massopust

livered the papers to Sciortino's in South Amboy to see Perth Amboy city employees eating there.

About a year ago, I was at Sci-orino's in the evening, and the former Pastor of St. Peters Episcopal Church Fr. Rodney Croes who now lives out of state popped in to pick up a couple of pizzas that he had ordered. He told me he made it a point that any time he was in the area, he made sure he got his Sciortino's pizza.

One of the classes from Perth Amboy High School a few years ago had a reunion dinner there. Once I happened to find the late Jack Cerulo there with a table full of relatives celebrating Mother's Day.

Sciortino's is always appropriately decorated for each holiday.

When Sciortino's opened in South Amboy., Lou was the best Italian Irishman in town during South Amboy's Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. After the parade, one of the bagpiper bands would come to Sciortino's.

It was not surprising that Lou would become involved in many charitable fundraisers, especially when it came to help-

ing the YMCA in South Amboy. Lou Seminski Jr. would follow in his father's footsteps to become one of the Board Members of the YMCA in Perth Amboy. The Perth Amboy YMCA is built on the property that was formerly the site of the original Sciortino's. The YMCA and Sciortino's have much in common: Family, Faith, and Friendship.

Lou Seminski was also very aware of people's idiosyncrasies. There was something he told me about one of my brothers that I never picked up on until Lou brought it to my attention. This particular brother and Lou worked construction together and sometimes when I would see Lou, he would imitate my brother. His voice would be spot on. He would say: "Carolyn – your brother would always answer a question with a question. If I said to him: "What time are you going to be at the union hall?" He would shoot back to me: "What time are you going to be at the union hall?" Thinking back, often my brother will respond back to a question with a question. Lou also told me that my brother liked to cook for the crew that

Face Masks

Many people have the coronavirus and don't have symptoms. On Sadowski Parkway and in other places in Perth Amboy, people congregate in close quarters and don't wear face masks in Perth Amboy. This behavior is very irresponsible. According to the Centers for Disease Control, "wearing a cloth face mask will help protect people around you, including those at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Workers in stores and in restaurants should also wear them. Cloth face masks are most likely to reduce the spread of coronavirus when they are widely used by those in public settings."

Also, these people don't stay six feet apart from each other as the CDC urges. By now everyone should know and practice these measures, as well as not touching the eyes, nose or mouth, frequently washing hands, and disinfecting frequently used surfaces.

In a town like Perth Amboy, which is a hotspot for the coronavirus, to neglect these precautions is to invite disaster.

Marianne Komek

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was out on a site. Along with the tools on my brother's belt would also be a frying pan.

It was great that Lou carried on the tradition of Sciortino's and their quality food. Sciortino's was eventually able to open up again in Perth Amboy on New Brunswick Avenue, even though it is in a much smaller location. I know it was very rewarding for Lou to have his children working in the business with him. It also brought him great joy having grandchildren.

He was very proud of his family and they were even more proud to call him "Dad" and "Grandpa". Even though he will be sorely missed, just think about all his family and friends who have gone before him and welcomed him in heaven with open arms and kisses. They are all up there having a great big family meal every day.

Carolyn M.

For more information on Sciortino's go to: <http://www.amboyguardian.com/2013/05/10/amboy-spotlight-sciortinos/>

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HOFFMAN'S DELI .....	5 LAURENCE PKWY.
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DAD'S ROYAL BAKERY.....	3290 WASHINGTON RD.
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AMBOY CHECK X-CHANGE .....	321 MAPLE ST.
ANDERL & OAKLEY PC .....	309 MAPLE ST.
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.
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.
ST. JOSEPH'S SENIORS RESIDENCE .....	1 ST. JOSEPH'S TERR.

Important!

Always call ahead of time to make sure any event you intend to attend will take place.

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

Attention Businesses Open During Pandemic Crisis:

Let customers know your services are helping to serve the community. Consider Advertising in the Amboy Guardian. Our rates are reasonable for both print and/or online advertising. Are you hiring? Get the word out!

Call Carolyn: 732-896-4446 or Katherine: 732-261-2610  
Email the Amboy Guardian: AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

Attention!

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

2020 Amboy Guardian Publication Dates

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

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

MON. Jul. 20 Board of Education, 5:30 p.m.  
Admin. Building, Barracks St.  
MON. Aug. 10 City Council, Caucus, 4:15 p.m.  
City Hall, High St.  
WED. Aug. 12 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.  
City Hall, High St.

South Amboy

WED. Jul. 15 City Council, Business & Regular 6 p.m.  
City Hall, N. Broadway

All meetings are subject to change. Check the City Website to see if the meeting will take place via phone conference and for details how to participate

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

SOUTH AMBOY  
BUSINESS & REGULAR  
COUNCIL MEETINGS  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M.  
THIS MEETING IS BEING  
HELD ELECTRONICALLY  
TO JOIN FROM YOUR COMPUTER,  
TABLET OR SMARTPHONE,  
GO TO [WWW.SOUTHAMBOYNJ.GOV](http://WWW.SOUTHAMBOYNJ.GOV)  
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ENTER ACCESS CODE 292203469  
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Dinner- 3:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.  
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732-442-3000 / 201 Front Street, Perth Amboy  
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YMCA of MEWSA Receives Youth & Government Grant

Press Release  
METUCHEN/EDISON/ WOODBRIDGE/SOUTH AMBOY - The YMCA of Metuchen, Edison, Woodbridge & South Amboy received notification of a grant in the amount of \$2,500 from the New Jersey State Bar Foundation to support the costs of launching their new teen initiative, the Youth and Government Program. The program will be offered at the Metuchen and Edison YMCA locations and will be open to 9th-12th graders in the community who have an interest in civic engagement. Through the existing Y-USA national program model, teens from across the state meet with other local

YMCA's throughout the year to discuss and debate issues that affect citizens of the state and to propose mock legislation. Field trips will include a trip to the NJ State House on Youth Advocacy Day and the program culminates with the teens serving as delegates at the YMCA NJ Youth and Government State Conference, debating bills on the floor of the legislature. The program is fee-based, however, the grant will allow the Y to underwrite program costs for teens from underserved families. The program is anticipated to begin in September 2020. Interested participants should contact Gabriella St. Fleur at 732-548-2044.

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.

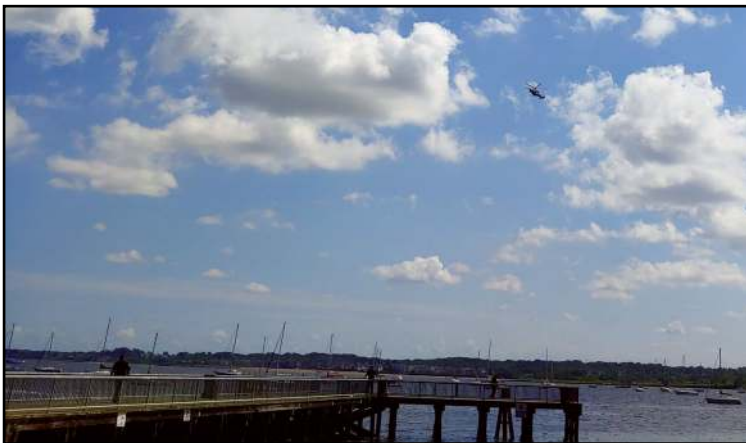


## 17 Year-Old Drowns in Raritan Bay 7/9/20

*\*Photos by Katherine Massopust*

From Perth Amboy Fire Department Facebook Page  
PERTH AMBOY - On 7/9/20 at 14:30, Perth Amboy Fire and Police units were dispatched to a reported person drowning in the Raritan Bay near Water St & Lewis St. Upon arrival, one male was found already out of the water that had attempted to help a 17-year-old male who was now underwater. Police and Fire units immediately began searching the area while four firefighters from Rescue 1 and Truck 2 entered the water to search below. The Perth Amboy Dive Team and NYPD divers searched underwater while numerous fire & police boats scanned the area above along with multiple helicopters. After 2 hours, the victim was located. CPR was immediately initiated, and the victim was transported to HMH RBMC in cardiac arrest.

Fire Units involved in the operation were R-1, T-2, M-5, E-1, C-1, C-3, C-5 and the Dive Team along with the Perth Amboy Police Department. Out of town units that responded were the FDNY Marine Division, NYPD



Air Sea Rescue, NYPD Harbor Unit, NYPD SCUBA Unit, US Coast Guard, New Jersey State Police Marine and Aviation, Carteret Fire Department Fireboat, Bayonne Fire Department Fireboat and Hackensack Meridian Health Emergency Medical Services.

The investigation is currently underway by the Perth Amboy Police Department. Anyone with any additional information about the incident please contact the Perth Amboy Police Department @ 732-442-4400. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victim and his family

## Imagine Your Story!

Press Release 7/2020  
SOUTH AMBOY — This summer is all about **Imagining Your Story at the Dowdell Library**. One of the greatest gifts a book offers is the ability to transport the reader to far-off lands where magic and mystery are only a turn of the page away. Now more than ever, we need an excellent book that can take a lazy afternoon and turn it into an out-of-this-world adventure. The summer at The Dowdell Library may look a little different this year, but it is not slowing us down! Join us while we discover new lands and meet out-of-this-world characters. Each week we will explore a new theme, jam-packed with book recommendations, craft tutorials, and virtual activities for the entire family!

What would summer at the Library be without a summer club? This summer, the Dowdell Library has gone virtual! Join our **Virtual Summer Club** by registering online at [dowdell-library.readsquared.com](http://dowdell-library.readsquared.com). Patrons of all ages can register to earn points and badges to ultimately win a chance at a gift card by the end of the summer! Patrons can also register using their mobile devices by downloading the **Readsquared app** and selecting **Dowdell Library**. Points are earned through reading books and completing activities. Keep an eye out for special events, and secret codes that will also give you extra points!

Are your children missing their friends, or looking for a way to make new ones? If so, we may have a fun solution for you! The Dowdell Library has created a **Pen Pal Program**. We are pairing elementary students with teen volunteers to write

letters (yes, handwritten letters) and mail them back and forth! If interested, visit our webpage [dowdell.org](http://dowdell.org) and fill out a short questionnaire. All information provided will be confidential and shared only with the pen pal. Consent from parents is required.

We would like to congratulate the winner of our Art Contest, Grant Meehan! Grant's creative and colorful drawing can be viewed on our website [Dowdell.org](http://Dowdell.org) and in our summer newsletter. Congratulations Grant!

The Dowdell Library is operating on a phased reopening plan. To find out the latest information regarding our plan please call us at **732-721-6060**, email us at [comments@dowdell.org](mailto:comments@dowdell.org) or visit our website [Dowdell.org](http://Dowdell.org). The temporary library hours are Monday- Friday from 12:30-4:30pm.

To meet the needs of our community, the Dowdell Library offers a large variety of **digital materials** free to all our patrons through the summer. Visit our website, **Dowdell.org** to access the following websites.

**TumbleBook Library** - Over 1100 titles for grades K-6, with animated, talking picture books, read-along chapter books, National Geographic videos, non-fiction books, playlists, and books in Spanish and French. Plus, the collection features Graphic Novels. Access available through August 31, 2020

**eLibraryNJ** - Borrow eBooks and digital audiobooks using **eLibraryNJ** a downloadable digital media collection provided by libraries in central New Jersey.

**Hoopla** - is a web and mobile library media streaming platform for audiobooks, comics, e-

books, movies, music, and TV. Hoopla allows library patrons to download or stream media content.

**E-Comics** - In collaboration with the New Jersey State Library, more than 4,000 comics, graphic novels, and children's materials are now available online.

**RB Digital**- RB Digital offers access to thousands of magazine titles. These digital magazines can be viewed on your computer, or downloaded and used via the RBDigital app on mobile devices.

Don't forget to follow us on **Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!** We will be sharing the most up-to-date information surrounding our opening process and all of the fun summer activities! You might even see a few familiar faces!

The last few months have been challenging. And while things are far from normal, the Dowdell Library is excited to begin our reopening process and serve our community again! We hope everyone is well, and we look forward to seeing you all soon!

Curious what else is going on at your local library? (We can never fit everything here!) Visit our website to sign up for our newsletter and view adult and children's activity calendars, which are updated on a monthly basis.

Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit [www.dowdell.org](http://www.dowdell.org), or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or [comments@dowdell.org](mailto:comments@dowdell.org). The library is located off John O'Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School. Temporary summer hours are Monday – Friday from 12:30-4:30pm.

## Letter from Superintendent re: Condolence

Friday, July 10, 2020

Dear Perth Amboy School District Community,

It is with great sadness that I inform you about a loss to our school community. Yesterday, Thursday, July 9, 2020, one of our students passed away following a tragic accident. The student is the child of Mr. Rolando Vazquez, a Custodian at Samuel E. Shull School.

The family has set up a "Go Fund Me" page to assist with funeral expenses, which will be shared as soon as the information is available. Note that the Perth Amboy School District is not endorsing or sponsoring this fundraiser. This information is being provided as a courtesy in response to the many inquiries received from members of our community.

Let us rally together to support a colleague during this traumatic event in their life. Our sincere condolences and prayers go out to the family during this difficult time of grief and sorrow.

Sincerely,  
David A. Roman, Ed.D.  
Superintendent



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### Pet of the Week

PERTH AMBOY - Hi. My name is Grace. I'm part of a TNR program. I was born in the streets of Perth Amboy. 2 of my 4 babies went to a rescue. My rescuers don't know where my 2 boys are, but I was saved from a hard life on the streets especially since my caretaker is selling the house and leaving me to fend for myself. I don't belong on the streets of PERTH AMBOY. I'm looking for a home of my own. I'm super lovable, vocal, and even more beautiful in person. Please ADOPT ME or one of



my friends. I'm fixed, vaccinated for rabies and distemper, negative for FIV and leukemia, was dewormed, had my ears cleaned, nails trimmed, and I am healthy and fully vetted.

ADOPT. SPAY. NEUTER. LOVE. Adoption application & donation fee apply. All for the Paws, P. O. Box 2281, Perth Amboy, NJ 08862 [AllforthePaws.org](http://AllforthePaws.org); [Paypal AllforthePaws@gmail.com](mailto:Paypal.AllforthePaws@gmail.com) Text name & email address to 1.732.486.6382 or email [Vmoralesspps@yahoo.com](mailto:Vmoralesspps@yahoo.com) to adopt or for more info.

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



CONGRATULATIONS SOUTH AMBOY CLASS OF 2020!



\*Photos above by Carolyn Maxwell and Tobin Maxwell

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Manager  
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Gary Earl Rumpf  
Director  
NJ LIC No. 3353



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## BRIDGES TO EMPLOYING YOUTH

Through a grant for the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the YMCA is seeking to provide services to pregnant or parenting youth between 16-24 years of age residing in Middlesex County who are out of school, and not employed.

This FREE 20-week program will provide you with:

- An individualized success plan
- 14-weeks of skill building sessions
- 6-weeks of hands-on career exploration

The program is designed to empower Pregnant and Parenting Youth with the skills and confidence necessary to find and retain employment that leads to long term self-sufficiency.

For more information or to register please contact 732.442.3632 x 6526 or email [yfigueroa@rbaymca.org](mailto:yfigueroa@rbaymca.org).


This FREE program  
is accepting  
participants on a  
rolling basis.  
REGISTER TODAY!

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[www.rbaymca.org](http://www.rbaymca.org)



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Phone: 732 - 826-5020; Fax: 732-826-4653  
1201 E. Grand St., Unit 3A, Elizabeth, NJ 07201  
Phone: 908-351-0957; Fax: 908-351-0959  
Email: [ecabrera52@hotmail.com](mailto:ecabrera52@hotmail.com)



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](mailto:ww2remembered@yahoo.com).

Italy declares war on Japan on July 13, 1945. In the U.S., the director of the War Relocation Authority announces that all but one of the internment camps for Japanese-Americans will be closed between October 15 and December 15. In Berlin, the municipal council orders the confiscation of all property of Nazi Party members.

The U.S. on July 14 begins the first naval surface-fleet bombardment of Japan as the Navy’s Third Fleet shells Kamaishi, Japan, about 275 miles north of Tokyo. In Königsee, Germany, U.S. Gen. of the Army Dwight Eisenhower announces the closure of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces — its mission accomplished. The ban on Allied military personnel fraternizing with German civilians is lifted. In northern India, the Simla Conference — between Lord Archibald Wavell, Viceroy of India, and major political leaders of British India takes place. The meeting — the goal of which is to agree on and approve a plan for Indian self-government — ends in failure due to an impasse in the selection and seating of Muslim representatives.

On Borneo, Australian troops capture Mount Batochampar, a key Japanese defensive position, on July 15. The U.S. Third Fleet shells the steel-industry center on Hokkaido Island in the Japanese homeland. It is reported that 108,000 tons of Japanese shipping have been sunk in the last two days’ attacks. In England, the blackout of London ends, with streetlamps lit once more. West End theaters turn their marquee lights on again, after over 2,000 days of blackouts and dim-outs. In the U.S., the government ends blackout restrictions in eight western states.

At 5:30 a.m. local time, on July 16, the U.S. conducts the “Trinity” test in the Jornada del Muerto desert east of Socorro, New Mexico — the first detonation of a nuclear weapon. Approximately six kilograms (around 13 pounds) of plutonium unleashes an explosion that is the equivalent of about 22,000 tons of TNT. The blast flash is seen up to 200 miles away and the explosion is heard up to 50 miles away.

On July 17, the Potsdam Conference begins in occupied Germany, 17 miles from Berlin. The Allied leaders — Truman, Churchill and Stalin — meet to discuss the administration of Germany. They also agree to insist on the unconditional surrender of Japan.

An attempt at a breakout by the Japanese Thirty-Third Army in Burma begins on July 18. At the Potsdam Conference, President Truman informs Prime Minister Churchill that the atomic-bomb test in New Mexico has been successful in a cryptic note: “Babies satisfactorily born.” Simultaneously, American interest in Soviet participation in the war against Japan noticeably wanes. In Bedford (near Halifax), Nova Scotia, an ammunition barge explodes at the Royal Canadian Navy Magazine Bedford, setting off fires along the piers and jetty. Civilian and naval firemen narrowly avert a cataclysmic detonation of the main magazine, which contains about 6,000 tons of ammunition and vast numbers of depth charges and mines. Only one person is killed, while several are injured.

Allied carrier planes hit Japanese naval forces in Tokyo Bay on July 19, sinking 12 ships and damaging nine, including the battleship *Nagato*. On Borneo, Australian troops, facing no opposition, occupy the oil center of Samboja, northeast of Balikpapan.

About 80 American P-51 Mustang fighter planes, flying from Iwo Jima, attack targets on central Honshu, Japan, on July 20. More than 200 Allied bombers, flying from Okinawa, attack Japanese-held airfields in the vicinity of Shanghai, China.

In a private meeting at Potsdam, Germany, on July 21, President Truman and Winston Churchill (heading a “caretaker” government until results of U.K. elections are announced) concur on dropping the atomic bomb on Japan if it does not agree to surrender unconditionally. Allied representatives at the Potsdam Conference select Nuremberg, Germany, as the venue for trying the main Nazi leaders for war crimes. (The city had been used by the Nazi Party for its huge pre-war conventions, propaganda events known as the “Nuremberg rallies,” attended by hundreds of thousands of people.) The U.S. government tells Japan to surrender unconditionally or face “virtual destruction.”

In Burma, Japanese forces estimated to number about 5,000 — part of the Thirty-Third Army — suffer heavy casualties on July 22 in their attempted breakout. Under cover of darkness and a fierce storm, nine American destroyers penetrate Tokyo Bay and attack a Japanese convoy. The Japanese government announces that it is open to peace negotiations, but it will not tolerate threats.

The Allies on July 23 launch a massive 36-hour air and sea bombardment of Kure naval base, as well as other ports on the Japanese coast from Osaka to Nagoya. During the attack: a Japanese escort carrier and 12 other warships are sunk; 84 cargo vessels are sunk or damaged; and over 200 planes are destroyed or damaged. In Paris, Marshal Philippe Pétain, who headed the Axis-puppet Vichy government, goes on trial for treason.

At the Potsdam Conference, President Truman on July 24 informs Joseph Stalin that a new and powerful weapon is now available for use against Japan but does not elaborate on its nature. (In fact, Stalin is already aware of the atomic-bomb project through the Soviet espionage network in the United States.) British naval and air units launch three days of attacks on Japanese positions and transportation targets on the west coast of Malaya.

From Potsdam, Germany, on July 25, a proclamation — the Potsdam Declaration — is issued to the Japanese people jointly by the U.K., the U.S and China that warns of the devastation of Japan from the “final blows” and calls for the nation’s unconditional surrender. Separately, President Truman orders the atomic bomb to be dropped on Japan as soon as possible after the 3rd of August.

On July 26, the American heavy cruiser *USS Indianapolis*, having sailed from the U.S. mainland unaccompanied under secret orders, delivers to the U.S. Army Air Forces base on Tinian the consignment of uranium-235 needed to assemble the first operational atomic bomb. In the United Kingdom, results of the July 5 general election are announced: the opposition Labour Party has received 47.7% of the votes to the incumbent Conservative Party’s 36.2%, winning a majority of seats in the House of Commons. Clement Attlee, leader of the Labour Party, thus becomes Prime Minister, unseating the Conservative Party’s Winston Churchill. Churchill will write: “All our enemies having surrendered unconditionally, or being about to do so, I was immediately dismissed by the British electorate from all further conduct of their affairs.”

U.S. B-29 bombers on July 27, drop some 600,000 leaflets over 11 Japanese cities warning the inhabitants that their cities are on the target list for bombing raids. The British military joint chiefs of staff have their last conference with Winston Churchill. Meanwhile, Clement Attlee begins his tenure at No. 10 Downing Street, the official residence of the Prime Minister. Attlee has been the deputy prime minister and is the only person, other than Churchill, to have served in the U.K. war cabinet throughout the conflict. On Tinian, in the Mariana Islands, technicians begin readying the atomic bomb; it has been given the name “Little Boy.”

The remnants of the Imperial Japanese Navy’s battle fleet are destroyed in three days of attacks over the Japanese Inland Sea beginning on July 28, as the Americans deploy 2,000 carrier-based planes and bombers in the action. Among the Japanese losses is the battleship *Haruna*. In Tokyo, Premier Kantarō Suzuki holds a press conference in which he announces that Japan “will take no notice” of the Potsdam Declaration. British Prime Minister Clement Attlee arrives at the Potsdam Conference to take the place of Winston Churchill. The U.S. ratifies the United Nations Charter. In New York City, a U.S. Army Air Forces B-25 bomber, flying in thick fog, crashes into the Empire State Building between the 79th and 80th floors, killing 14 people — 11 in the building and on the ground and the two crewmen and the one passenger aboard the plane — and injuring 25. Damages are estimated at \$1 million.

Based on Japan’s seeming rejection of the Potsdam ultimatum, the U.S. Joint Chiefs on July 29 order plans for the invasion of Japan to be finalized. In the United Kingdom, the British Eighth Army is disbanded.

On July 30, in the Philippine Sea, the heavy cruiser *USS Indianapolis* is torpedoed by Japanese submarine I-58 four days after having delivered atomic-bomb materials to the USAAF airbase at Tinian. The vessel capsizes and sinks within 12 minutes. Of the 1,196 crewmen aboard, about 300 die in the initial attack. Because *Indianapolis* is sailing alone on a “secret mission,” she is not reported as “overdue” (in part because of negligence) when she fails to reach her next destination (Leyte, the Philippines). The remainder of her crew end up in the water with few lifeboats or rafts. Most die of injuries, dehydration or exposure, with some attacked by sharks, until survivors are spotted — by chance — 3-1/2 days later by pilots on a routine combat patrol. Subsequent rescue efforts manage to save only 316 crew members. In Austria, British, U.S. and French occupation troops enter Vienna, where they will share patrol duties with Soviet soldiers.

U.S. planes engage in heavy bombing attacks on the cities of Kobe and Nagoya, Japan, on July 31. Pierre Laval, former Premier of Vichy France, surrenders to American authorities upon landing in Linz, Austria, from Spain, where he had been granted political asylum. In part, his surrender is motivated by a desire to defend his role in the Vichy government. Laval is turned over to French authorities. On Tinian, assembly of the “Little Boy” atomic bomb is completed.

Toyama, on Japan’s Honshu island, is devastated by U.S. B-29 bombers on August 1. The city of 150,000 residents is a center for the manufacturing of aluminum, ball bearings and steel. At Bougainville, in the Solomon Islands, Allied forces seal off Japanese troops at Buin, on the southern tip of the island. Pierre Laval, former head of government of Vichy France, is returned to Paris, charged with treason, and placed in prison under armed guard to protect him from the public.

On August 2, 800 U.S. B-29s drop 6,000 tons of incendiary bombs on various Japanese cities, killing 80,000 people. In Germany, the Potsdam Conference concludes. Allied reparations are to be paid for by German assets, and major war criminals are to be brought to trial soon. German cartels, as well as war industries, are to be broken up. The Big Three (the U.K., the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.) propose that, going forward, the German economy should “give primary emphasis to agriculture” and “domestic industries.” In addition, Stalin confirms that the Soviet Union will join the war against Japan while also mentioning Japanese efforts to have the U.S.S.R. mediate peace talks with the Americans and the British.

Raritan Bay Area YMCA Launches Educational Healthy Housing Campaign

Press Release 6/30/20  
PERTH AMBOY, NJ, – The RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA understands that where we live can help determine the state of our physical and mental health. Unfortunately, due to social and economic reasons, many Perth Amboy residents are living in unhealthy and substandard homes and apartments, making them more susceptible to fires, carbon monoxide poisonings, mold, and stress. Over the past two years, the RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA has supported the creation of a new housing element of the City of Perth Amboy’s Master Plan which seeks to make positive policy and systems changes. Community engagement in this initiative is a critical element if it is to be successful. As a promoter of physical, mental, and spiritual health, the YMCA has launched an Educational Healthy Housing Campaign. This campaign will speak with and inform residents about the components of a healthy home, tenant rights, and assistance in advocating for positive policy and systems changes.

The Y, with funding from the New Jersey Healthy Communities Network, has hired two bilingual Healthy Housing Ambassadors. Both ambassadors have lived in Perth Amboy for over a decade, are imbedded into the cultural of their city, and are passionate about the wellbeing of their community. Starting July 6th, the Healthy Housing Ambassadors will begin conducting door-to- door Healthy Home Assessments with Perth Amboy residents. Ambassadors will also invite residents to Housing Meetings encouraging them to get involved in our efforts. Additionally, a healthy housing information campaign will be started online. The Y is hoping with the help of its residents, positive change will come to our community.

For more information about the Y or the Educational Healthy Housing Campaign please contact us, 732.442.3632 or [info@rbaymca.org](mailto:info@rbaymca.org).

Flea Market

SAYREVILLE - The First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville has rescheduled their June Flea Market to September 12, 2020. The rain date is September 19, 2020. It will be held in the church parking lot at 172 Main Street (across from Borough Hall) from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. There are also still spaces available for vendors. For more information, please contact us at 732-257-6353 or email: [churchoffice172@optimum.net](mailto:churchoffice172@optimum.net). You can also check out our website at [FPCSAYREVILLE.org](http://FPCSAYREVILLE.org).



Novena to St. Rita

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

Remember to Say Your Novenas!

City of Perth Amboy  
Awarded \$945,000  
in Port Security Grants

Press Release 7/10/20  
PERTH AMBOY – The Department of Homeland Security with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded the City of Perth Amboy with two Port Security Grants. The Perth Amboy Fire Department has been awarded \$900,000 towards replacing its 15-year-old fireboat, Marine 5, with a new, greater capacity fireboat. View the link to the video announcement from Mayor Wilda Diaz and Fire Chief of the City of Perth Amboy, Ed Mullen, here.  
“Having a fireboat with high capacity is critical in the Perth Amboy Fire Department,” said Fire Chief Ed Mullen. “The federal government realizes the City of Perth Amboy has a lot of properties on the water; we also have three terminals, so that creates a number one priority for having Perth Amboy to respond immediately with firefighting capabilities on the waterfront,” Mullen continued.  
The new Marine 5 will be a 44’ fire rescue boat with twin 3500 GPM water pumps, capable of flowing more than 8,750 GPM of water. This is almost four times the flow capacity of the old Marine 5 and is vital in protecting Perth Amboy’s waterfront, waterways, and petroleum terminals. Additionally, the Perth Amboy Police Department

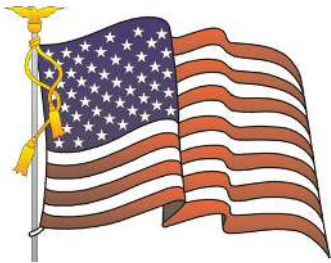
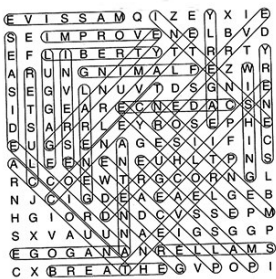
was awarded \$45,000 for maintenance of its existing four police boats: Marine 2, Marine 3, Marine 6, and Marine 7. This will provide for the engine, jet, and generator maintenance as well as seasonal painting of the bottom of the boats to keep them ready for service 24/7.  
The Perth Amboy Fire Department is also part of the New Jersey Regional Fireboat Task Force, which is comprised of 12 fire departments that span from Perth Amboy to Edgewater. The task force covers over 50 miles of New Jersey waterways up through the Port of New York and New Jersey.  
Perth Amboy Awarded \$945,000 in Port Security Grants  
Page Two  
Mayor Wilda Diaz celebrated the announcement that will further protect the community, “We understand that our fire department and our police department need to have the tools at hand so that they can perform the task of keeping our residents and our business community safe,” she said. “When you take a look at all of the new development that’s going on in the City of Perth Amboy and on our waterways, it’s important to make sure that we not only have the facilities but also the equipment to be able to provide safety to the entire community.”

Software Upgrades, Repairs,  
Virtual Graduation  
6/29/20 Board of Education Meeting

By: Katherine Massopust  
PERTH AMBOY – In order to save on time after a closed session spanning almost 4 hours, there was only one public comments during the Meeting. The public was invited to speak on any matter and ask any questions they wished.  
Resident and Businessman Jeremy Baratta was the first to speak. He had concerns about the calling in system and administrative codes.  
The second person to speak was Diane Crawford. She asked what the details were regarding the re-entry plan for going back to school in the fall. She asked if there were committee’s and if there was any idea what the school days will look like.  
The public portion was closed at 10:10 p.m.  
During the regular portion of the meeting, Board Member Maria Rodriguez asked why there were 3 months of bill lists on one agenda.  
Board Secretary Derek Jess answered, “All bills were paid. We had an issue with accounting systems. We are working on the problem. We had an issue with updating our software. We are now confident to work on a regular schedule.”  
When asked about the finances, Jess stated, “Regarding our debts, we paid all of our bonds. We will have no debt come July 1st.” Jess explained that each debt was paid off at different dates and he would provide the information on when these debts were paid to Board Member Rodriguez.  
Board President Tashi Vazquez gave the Board President’s Report. “I want to commend everyone on the virtual graduation. The parade was special and memorable – phenomenal job!” Vazquez then added, “I look forward to be on the committee (for reopening schools). We will look for community input.”  
Superintendent Dr. David Roman stated that the remote graduation was a labor of love. “As far as opening schools in September – the guidelines are not clear. Dr. Rodriguez and Mr. Rodriguez are in charge. This week or next week we will start (preparing for reopening schools). It will be complicated. We will attempt to do all due diligence. It will be a priority.” Dr. Roman then changed the subject, “There will be another committee to discuss social justice. We will help create and have focus on what needs to be learned.”  
Board Secretary Derek Jess stated, “A small portion of funding from the \$3 million from the CARES Act goes to non-public schools. We assure you that money is going where it needs to be.”  
Dr. David Roman added that

the money mainly goes to enhance technology.  
Jess also stated that there were meals given to students. The Board of Education prepared meals and they were distributed throughout the city. He explained that under the McKinney Act, homeless students are given aid by purchasing hygiene supplies and vouchers for school.  
Board Member Maria Rodriguez asked about LGBT Curriculum. “What are the students specifically studying? I feel more needs to be explained.”  
Assistant Superintendent Dr. Vivian Rodriguez explained that here was an addendum at the end of the curriculum. “With the new regulations, we look at every curriculum. We provide professional diligence to go along with them. We should implement that. The work is being done. A lot of answers will be given.”  
Board Member Junior Iglesia asked about the graduation ceremonies being planned in July. Dr. David Roman answered, “We are in the process. We received 20% of responses (to the survey sent out to students who are graduating). We had 106 responses. 98 said they would be willing to attend. I will be speaking to the Board President tomorrow (6/30/20).”  
Board President Tashi Vazquez stated, “Because we had such a low response, we may have 1 or 4 (ceremonies). The graduation date may not be 7/14/20. We may have to look at a later date.”  
For Buildings and Grounds, Board Member Maria Rodriguez asked what was being done to the roof of McGinnis School.  
Dr. David Roman stated that there was storm damage from last August and the roof will undergo a partial repair –and the workers needed steel to complete the job.  
Board Member Junior Iglesia congratulated all the retirees for their years of service.  
Dr. David Roman offered his congratulations to all the graduates and wished them the best of luck. He then stated the books on the summer reading lists are online for students to read. He reminded everyone to complete their 2020 Census forms.  
Board Member Maria Rodriguez wished everyone a Happy Independence Day. Board President Tashi Vazquez wished everyone a happy and a safe summer.  
The meeting adjourned at 11:22 p.m. and included a 4 hour closed session. Board Member Ken Puccio was not present.

Answers  
From Puzzle  
On Page 11



LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - Sciortino’s Pizzeria is a fourth generation family owned and run business. It was established at 397 New Brunswick Ave. in 1932. The pizzeria was forced to close in July 2003 due to urban renewal. It reopened in South Amboy in May 2004 and is located on 132 South Broadway Ave. Sciortino’s boasts to be the 5<sup>th</sup> pizzeria in New Jersey and the 9<sup>th</sup> in the United States. On its old site in Perth Amboy now stands the new municipal complex.  
\*Photo Courtesy of Sciortino & Semenski Families



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**PERTH AMBOY** - Great condition condo with many upgrades, master bedroom, 3 bedrooms, 2 car garage, close to most public transportation and shopping district and more. **\$230,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Beautiful single family with many possibilities 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, convenient 2 huge car garage plus giant workshop space with 1/2bath with electricity. Close to all public transportation, restaurants and business district. all redone throughout. a must see! Hurry!!!!!! Showing begins 6-29-2020. **\$410,000**