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AMBOY GUARDIAN

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Caba Sworn in As New Mayor of the City of Perth Amboy

Press Release 1/8/21

PERTH AMBOY - Helmin Caba is formally installed as the Mayor of the City of Perth Amboy at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, January 8, 2021 by Governor Murphy, at Bayview Park, overlooking the harborside marina.

Mayor Caba gave an inaugural address following the swearing-in. The theme for the inauguration event is Building Community by Collaboration, Innovation and Engagement.

"I am extremely honored to have been elected the mayor of the City of Perth Amboy and to accept the responsibilities that are entrusted in me. Thank you, residents of Perth Amboy," said Mayor Caba.

Mayor Caba's 100 Day Plan will be a comprehensive blueprint to demonstrate and regulate public policies on the city's pressing needs. The plan will be broken out identifying intermediate milestones, new approaches to tackle old problems, and an engagement strategy to develop organizational capacity. "I will bring skilled, effective and innovative leadership to City Hall to implement new approaches that will build and improve upon solutions that already exist," said Mayor Caba.



PERTH AMBOY - Governor Phil Murphy swears in Helmin Caba as Mayor of Perth Amboy. Wife, Wendy holds the bible.

Inauguration Speech January 8, 2020 Bayview Park, Perth Amboy, NJ

Thank you and good afternoon. First and foremost, let me begin by thanking God for all his blessings. Thank you, Gov. Phil Murphy, Congressman Frank Pallone, Senator Joe Vitale, Speaker Craig Coughlin, Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez, City Council members, Damaris Diaz, Father John, City employees, - Thank you for your support and for joining us today.

Although today I could say a thousand thank yous, and there are too many names to mention, I would like to thank my family,

friends, supporters, union brothers and sisters, contributors, and every single person who supported me every step of the way during this journey.

I am extremely honored to have been elected the mayor of the City of Perth Amboy and to accept the responsibilities that are entrusted in me. Through perseverance and the labor of love we have for our city, you are the reason we are joined together today.

I want to especially thank my wife Wendy, for being the one of the greatest gifts in my life. I am grateful to God every day for giving me such a loving,



PERTH AMBOY -Mayor Helmin Caba offers some remarks
*Photos by Alma Benavides

thoughtful, kind, and empathetic wife like you. I would not be the husband and father to our beautiful children Adam and Audrey, that I am today without your loving support and encouragement.

There is little doubt that this is one of the most difficult times in modern history in America.

- A pandemic is raging.
- A reckoning over racial injustice.
- Local economies are in tatters.
- Budget shortfalls are forcing tough choices.
- And city residents are fatigued, frustrated, and frightened.

We enter a new year that holds tremendous promise and oppor-

tunity for the City of Perth Amboy and for all who live here.

- Together, we are making a fresh start.
- Together, we are embarking on a journey to revitalize our historic community.
- Together, we will meet the challenge of this moment and make our city stronger and healthier.

Our task will be challenging at times. Among our city's first challenges will be to rebound from the pandemic. That is why my administration will pursue federal, state and county

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Councilman Bienvenido "B.J." Torres Jr.



PERTH AMBOY - Newly elected Councilman B.J. Torres holds his certificate of Oath of Office and Allegiance when he was sworn in on December 31, 2020.

*Photo Submitted by
Caroline Pozzycki Torres

The Accidental Meeting? 1/8/21 Reorganization Meeting

By: Carolyn Maxwell

PERTH AMBOY - The 1/8/21 Reorganization meeting was held at the YMCA theater at 4:30 p.m. According to the agenda, the sole purpose of this meeting is to select a council president and to consider a resolution relative to the reorganization of the city council. Also, there was supposed to be an inauguration ceremony to swear in the two newly elected council members: Rose B. Morales and Bienvenido "B.J." Torres. Both were to be sworn in by Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez. They were also supposed to make remarks after being sworn in. A benediction by Fr. Martin Vavrak from St. Michaels and St. Nicholas Church, then followed by a reorganization meeting.

Prior to being sworn in, there were supposed to be a presentation of colors and a pledge of allegiance by the PAFD Honor Guard and the national anthem

sung by PAFD Firefighter Javier Cruz and an invocation by Fr. Vavrak. City Clerk Victoria Kupsch was supposed to read out the election results and the certificates of the election for both the general and special elections.

The only thing that happened on this program was the invocation by Fr. Vavrak. After that, the meeting began with only 3 council members present: Current Council President William Petrick, Councilwoman Milady Tejada, and newly elected Councilwoman Rose Morales.

The first order of business was the nomination of Council President. Tejada made a motion to elect William Petrick as President. It was seconded by Morales. When it came time to vote, both Tejada and Morales voted, "yes" as did Petrick. City Clerk Kupsch swore him in with Petrick's wife holding the bible.

Petrick remarked, "I thank the



PERTH AMBOY - William Petrick was re-elected as Council President at the 1/8/21 Reorganization Meeting by votes 3-0. (Councilmen Pabon and Torres were not present). Photo: City Clerk Victoria Kupsch (R) swears in William Petrick (C) as Council President. (L) Wife, Stephanie holds the bible. *Photo by Katherine Massopust

council for having faith in me. I will do the job to the best of my ability."

The resolution R-1-1/21 - adopting council meeting dates,

times, and locations and rescinding R-528-12/20. There was one amendment to R-1. It

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Gross Reelected Council President; Noble Vice President

1/6/21 South Amboy Reorganization and Business Meeting

By: Katherine Massopust
SOUTH AMBOY – The Council unanimously reelected Mickey Gross as Council President and Christine Noble as Vice President.

When voting upon the consent agenda, Councilman Brian McLaughlin asked if the much-needed fire chief's vehicle was in the 2021 budget. Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski answered that it was not in the temporary budget, but it will be in the full budget under bonding and in the middle of February it will get funding.

The consent agenda was passed, but Resolution 21-043 – Authorizing the Award of a contract for Bond Counsel and Resolution 21-049 Appointing SARA – Dato – unexpired term were pulled to be voted upon separately.

The vote for Resolution 21-043 was: Zusette Dato, Christine Noble, Mickey Gross voted "yes" and Brian McLaughlin and Thomas Reilly voted "no." Motion passes 3-2.

The vote for Resolution 21-049 was: Zusette Dato, Christine Noble, Thomas Reilly, Mickey Gross voted "yes" and Brian McLaughlin voted "no." Motion passes 4-1.

There was a question if the umpire fees were for this year or last year. It was answered that it was for 2020.

After the reorganization portion of the meeting, the regular business meeting began. Council Comments:

Council Vice President Christine Noble said, "There are so many families affected by Covid. Congratulations to Brian McLaughlin, Tom Reilly, and Zusette Dato on their reelection. It is well deserved."

Councilwoman Zusette Dato said, "I'm very happy to serve and begin my 3rd term. I take it very seriously. We do take it – all of us. I want to commend those who volunteer in South Amboy. We have the most kindest, generous people in our city. Whether it be the Friends of South Amboy, the Fire Department, Police Department, Volunteers at the YMCA or any group – you know who you are. Whenever we have a need, you rally around." Dato then added, "(City Clerk) Deborah Brooks recently lost her dad." Then she offered her condolences to South Amboy Grant Writer Chris Mazauskas, Our grant writer did his job and helped us. I am so sorry to lose him. My condolences to his family."

Councilman Thomas Reilly said, "Thank you to the food pantry and first responders. We are putting ourselves out there in the pandemic. We received a sign-up for the Covid vaccine."

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski said, "There is a top posting on our website for the Covid vaccine."

Councilman Thomas Reilly said, "Stay safe. We just went through the holidays. There were a lot of social gatherings. We are in the second wave." He then added, "The December

2018 minutes – we can get the audio and minutes?"

B.A. Skarzynski answered, "We will send it tomorrow. The audio is not great, but it's better."

Reilly then asked about the illegal palette operation, and an update on illegal housing.

Skarzynski answered, "As far as the palette operation, nothing yet. For the illegal housing, we are making progress. We went through the list. There are 60 actual cases of illegal housing. We are diligently working at getting them to be compliant."

Councilman Thomas Reilly said, "I want to thank Christine Noble for her kind comments. We are in the second wave. You have a voice on the city council. Put South Amboy first."

Councilman Brian McLaughlin said, "I want to thank the first ward and the entire city, my wife Amy and three children. Are we allowed to have a second person to be on the Redevelopment Agency? I'd like to be appointed if we can."

Council President Gross asked if the law director could research that. Law Director Womack said, "I'll get that to you quickly."

McLaughlin said, "I want to thank the services personnel. A council member should be appointed to each department. Is there any way to get some relief to the residents (regarding the water bill)?"

B.A. Skarzynski answered, "I'll see what we can do – a temporary reprieve."

Law Director Francis Womack said, "I want to address Council McLaughlin's concerns. I don't believe our form of government will do that (an extra councilmember on the redevelopment agency). Those are pertaining to specific forms of government – not the terms in our city code. That we'll be without changing forms of government."

Council President Mickey Gross said, "There is no better place than South Amboy. The greatest people in the world are in this city. When a crisis hits, the first thing out of their mouth is: 'What can I do?' We lost our grant writer. Chris (Mazauskas) was my friend. I will miss you, my friend. Get vaccinated. Let's get back to normal. Vaccinate – Vaccinate-Vaccinate!"

Mayor Fred Henry congratulated Council President Mickey Gross and Council Vice President Christine Noble. "Happy New Year! May it be healthier than in the past year. I hope it all ends peacefully in Washington D.C. May God bless America. May God save America!"

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski said, "Everyone on the council has South Amboy's best interest at heart. I will miss Chris (Mazauskas) and Debra Brook's dad. I offer my condolences."

Law Director Francis Womack said, "Congratulations. I echo what the mayor said about Washington D.C."

Public Portion:

Council President Mickey Gross then welcomed Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez, and County Clerk Nancy Pinkin who were logged on via teleconferencing.

Assembly Speaker Coughlin spoke first, "It is the saddest most shameful night in our democracy. Pray for the safety of everyone. Hope this comes to a peaceful resolution. Congratulations and thank you for your service."

County Clerk Nancy Pinkin congratulated the reelected council members and Mickey Gross and Christine Noble. "We wish our (50) troopers (deployed to Washington D.C.) well."

Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez said, "It's an extreme honor to join you. I wish a safe 2021. Congratulations. You have such a wonderful team. Send best wishes to all of you."

Brian Murphy spoke, "Congratulations to everyone. The house next to me has been unoccupied. There is a new owner. In the night he put 6 no parking signs in front of his property. That's 4 parking spaces. It's handwritten 1-7-21 to 1-15-21. Did he have permission to do this? We will be missing 4 parking spaces."

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski said, "I'll call the police after the meetings."

Brian Murphy added, "He (the neighbor) is a nice guy."

First Assistant Chief Dave Szatkowski said, "I want to thank the Mayor for swearing in the fire chief. My condolences to the grant writer, Chris."

Resident Branden Russell spoke next, "The 2018 Meeting – I reminding you of the solution I prepared. I did research and I did a spread sheet."

Mayor Fred Henry answered Russell, "Questions are to go to the Council President, and we will discuss this with the CFO and the B.A."

Russell then asked, "When can I expect a response – a written response?"

Mayor Henry said, "We'll get everything to you."

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m. All council members were present.



The Accidental Meeting? 1/8/21 Reorganization Meeting

**Continued from Page 1*

was decided that there would be a double meeting on Monday, January 25, 2021 where the caucus will be at 4:30 p.m. followed by the regular council meeting and removing January 27, 2021 for the council meeting. R-1 was moved by Tejeda and seconded by Morales. All present voted "yes".

It was also decided that during Zoom meetings there will only be 3 minutes maximum for the public to speak instead of 5 minutes as in the past.

No one from the public spoke. Council Comments:

Councilwoman Rose B. Morales had no comments.

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda congratulated the new mayor and the two new council members. "I know we will work together to move the city forward. Be safe and have a Happy New Year."

Council President Petrick welcomed all who were present and wished everyone the best. He also told the newly elected council members to reach out to him anytime. "If I can't answer your questions, I will direct you to anyone that can help you. I have an open-door policy.

I hope to help the new mayor move the city in a positive direction. I also want to welcome our new Law Director, who is present, William Northgrave and our new Interim Business Administrator, Mr. Edward A. Remsen, who is not present."

Petrick then asked the two council members present if they would like to meet in person or have Zoom meetings.

Tejeda and Morales both agreed that they would prefer to have Zoom meetings. City Clerk Kupsch spoke up and stated that the next meeting (the 1/11/21 Caucus) would be too late to have on Zoom because it would have to be advertised in a certain timeframe which had already passed.

Petrick then stated for the Monday Caucus Meeting, it would be held in person at the YMCA theater. For the 1/13/21 Regular Council Meeting, there would be an option of coming in person to the City Hall Council Chambers at 7 p.m. or through Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m. Councilmen Joel Pabon and Bienvenido Torres were not present.

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Contract Questioned – Are We Falling Back into Old Habits?

1/11/21 Caucus

By: Carolyn Maxwell

PERTH AMBOY – The Caucus began at 4:38 p.m. at the YMCA theater.

There was a question regarding one of the bids for the installation of a fence at Washington Park. Councilman Joel Pabon questioned why National Fence Systems was recommended for this job when there was no description or details provided as were provided by the other contractors.

Maria Rivera from the purchasing department said it was her mistake that she did not provide all the details from National Fence and she would make sure all the council members will have what they needed by Tuesday morning, January 12, 2021.

Council President Bill Petrick then asked that Ordinance No. 1 – RE: Public Entertainment limiting locations to Rudyk Park be withdrawn to look at more closely.

There was a discussion on Ordinance No. 2 – To amend an ordinance entitled, "Administration of Government Re: changing the start time of the caucus meeting."

Petrick said, "This will be to change the start time of the meeting to 5:30 p.m. because we are attempting to accommodate everyone, especially working people for a chance to attend the meeting.

Councilman Pabon said, "We had the caucus meetings start at 4:30 p.m. for a while now. I see no big difference to change them to 5:30 p.m."

Petrick concluded, "If need be, we can always roll it back to 4:30 p.m. start times."

DPW Director Frank Hoffman came up to provide information

regarding R-5-1/21- A contract with Excel Environmental to assess the current status of Perth Amboy Department of Public Works former landfill site in an amount not to exceed \$19,340.

Hoffman explained he had some involvement with this and had one meeting with former Business Administrator Frederick Carr. "The old public works grounds needed remediation. One of the former public works director showed me old photos of the contamination. Things fell through the cracks. The city needs to do something, or the DEP will step in. The first person who did the remediation retired and we need to find someone else to do the work."

Councilman Pabon had a question regarding R-7-1/21 – Settlement of the workers compensation in the amount of \$10,846 for Jamie Tavera vs. the City of Perth Amboy.

"Was there any malfunction of equipment?"

PAFD Fire Chief Ed Mullen stated, "A father and son were found deceased in the building. Two firemen were injured fighting the fire."

Pabon then questioned R-8-1/21 – A contract for professional services of an Interim Business Administrator and oversight services to government strategy group in an amount not to exceed \$95,000 for a period of 6 months commencing on January 1, 2021 and expiring on June 30, 2021.

Pabon said, "It states on the paperwork that it is only for 25 hours a week. Are we only doing part-time? It states 6 months. I thought it is supposed to be only for 60 days."

Maria Rivera came up to speak again. "It is supposed to

be 60 days and not 6 months."

Interim B.A. Edward Remsen said, "It states 24 hours per week, but I'll be working remotely and sometimes I will be in the office. On-site at city hall, it's supposed to be Monday thru Wednesday, nights and weekends, but I'll be on call at all times. I expect to be working 32 hours, and I expect to be in the office 4 days a week. You are only committing my service for 60 days.

Pabon then questioned R-9-1/21 – A professional service agreement with McManimon, Scotland, and Bauman for bond counsel services for a period from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

Pabon asked, "Why isn't there an amount attached to this resolution?"

Law Director William Northgrave answered, "An amount cannot be added until the bond counsel services are provided. The same could also be applied to R-10-1/21 (A professional service agreement with GB Associates for financial advisory services for the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021). A soft cost would be provided, and the council will have to authorize the actions by this company."

B.A. Remsen also wanted to make it clear, "I will be a city employee. I work for you. I will be subject to the rules of the municipality."

Law Director Northgrave answered a question on R-14-1/21 – Authorizing collection of interest on delinquent taxes and assessments. "This will stay in effect until Governor Murphy changes the executive orders."

Councilwoman Rose Morales questioned R-30-1/21 – A con-

tract with ACCSES New Jersey Inc. – CMA Services under state contract 77110 for custodial services at the Jankowski Center, Department of Public Works, the Fire headquarters, City Hall, and the Municipal Court for a 1-year period from January 1, 2021 to commence on December 31, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$126,662.

She questioned if the city could hire 4 or 5 part-time city employees instead.

DPW Director Frank Hoffman responded, "A full-time employee's cost would far exceed what we pay for this service. Sometimes the city workers are not reliable. We had cleaners who retired 8 years ago. These people (ACCSES) have extensive cleaning experience. I can talk to the Buildings and Grounds personnel to see about having 4 or 5 parttime city employees do this work. You can hold off on voting on R-30."

Council President Bill Petrick said, "We pay a flat fee with these contractors and they will always provide replacement workers."

Fire Chief Ed Mullen came up to speak, "We have a private company that comes in. This way we don't have to worry about workers compensation injuries, and it costs a lot less money when you hire a private company."

Morales then stated, "We can wait until next year to review R-30."

DPW Director Frank Hoffman came up to explain, R-32-1/21 – A contract to Musco Sports Lighting for the purchase and installation of a Full Re-Lamp and Capacitor replacement for the athletic fields at Rudyk Park, Washington Park, and Veteran's

Youth Baseball Field under the Keystone Purchasing Network Purchasing Co-op contract in an amount not to exceed \$46,000.

Hoffman stated, "We are keeping what lighting that is presently there."

Petrick then stated, "The last contractor that did this work was not that good."

Morales spoke up again, "I noticed there seems to be different companies that seem to be doing the same sort of services."

Hoffman explained that if you look closely at the different resolutions, there are many different types of maintenance work going on. "Danny (Cleaver) one of our DPW Supervisors always goes out to get the most cost-effective and reliable contractors for the services required."

Hoffman went on to explain R-33-1/21 – A contract with Z Brothers Concrete to increase the contract for the NJDOT Road Rehabilitation and Improvement, Hall Avenue and Rector Street in an amount not to exceed \$48,803.02.

"There is not one person in charge. We have to go after the performance bond to pay for this."

Petrick spoke up, "Our engineer should have taken care of this."

Hoffman explained that there was no project manager for this.

Petrick continued, "This should have come back to the council about this problem."

Northgrove then spoke up, "We are looking at the performance bond (connected to this work).

Pabon concluded, "Some of those buildings on Rector Street

**Continued on Page 7*

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

A Lot on Our Plate

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday was celebrated on Monday, January 18, 2021, and we wonder what he would think if he were alive today of the current events that have happened recently. What would he think of a party who spent the better half of almost 4 years whose goal was to get rid of Trump instead of serving their constituents which they were elected to do?

Another problem is that people have to take responsibility for their own actions. Remember the old saying: “If someone told you to jump off a bridge, would you do so?” Looking over the past few years during the Trump presidency, and any arrest that occurred up until January 6, 2021, you have to carefully dissect all the incidents. I don’t care what anybody says. Some of those riots and demonstrations were carefully planned and paid for. There were many social postings recruiting people, not just peaceful protests, but to destroy businesses, cities, and communities. It was up to both parties and independent parties to condemn all unrest that led to any destruction.

Why would you want to bail someone out of jail who caused communities and businesses to be lost? – Especially the communities who were already struggling and in low-income neighborhoods. How many people were bailed out of jail by people in power? That never should be allowed to have happened. How could you live with yourselves? Some people in power only cared when it spilled over to their neighborhoods.

All we know is that there were a lot of events that happened that did not add up and seemed very sinister. First, where did Covid-19 come from? When the unemployment numbers were coming up and the jobs coming back and the trade deals were in our favor, an atomic bomb in the name of COVID-19 suddenly appeared. The economy tanked because many businesses had to close as did schools and many organizations. Churches were closed not only for services, but their events to help sustain them were cancelled. So many people who had excess funds when the economy was rebounding and could donate to food pantries

wound up being clients. This is what we call the domino effect.

I believe anyone that had anything to do in any way, shape, or form with Covid or with desecrating memorials, monuments, or statues, or destroying businesses or communities will be exposed. Anyone who paid people or allowed people to destroy their businesses or communities to be destroyed will also be exposed. Look at people who came into office with very modest income and each year became more powerful and wealthier. Look at the money trail. Look at their constituents and how well they are doing. Are there people moving out or into those states? Granted, there are politicians who became wealthy because of book deals, or speeches, etc. You have to look at any dealings they had outside the country. You have to look at who is connected to whom to get the whole picture.

Yes, Trump has a very big ego. He does not like to lose, and he is a sore loser. He was not a politician, but a businessman. He knew he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. He could have gained a lot more wealth and live very comfortably as a private celebrity. Why even go into politics and lose four years of wealth, creature comforts, and know you will be unmercifully attacked?

On Wednesday, we will have a new President and Vice-President and that worries some people. Some financial advisors are worried about all the excess money that will put the country into a deeper debt and how Biden will rollback some of Trumps economic plans that were working out pretty well pre-Covid. There is nothing stopping big corporations from shipping their factories or work back overseas leading to another rush of layoffs. Many economists are saying that in order for the economy to bounce back, we have to open our businesses back up.

I have no choice but to be an optimist, because the other choice is just to lay down and die. You only have so much that you can control and hope that those in power will do what’s right for the people as a whole and not for their own self-interest. *C.M.*

COVID-19 Testing

I wanted to write an op-ed on COVID-19 testing, since there was and is a big push for it. Although the big push, now, is for vaccines. But I figured it’s been long enough for the “powers that be” to have this testing thing down pat. Wrong!

In doing research into the, “testing phenomena”, I admit I got overwhelmed. If you go to six different websites, you’ll get six different answers, or no answers at all. For instance: the FDA handed out 200 EUAs, (emergency use authorizations), for diagnostic tests and 100 for Serology tests. HUH????

So, I did a search on what states used what tests. Forget it.

First of all, let me explain that there are three different types of tests.

Diagnostic tests – These tests supposedly reveal if you are currently infected with COVID-19.

Serology tests – These tests supposedly reveal if you have been infected in the past but will not reveal if you are currently infected.

Tests for management of COVID patients – These tests supposedly help to determine what course of treatment to use on a person infected with COVID-19.

Under these categories are a few hundred subcategories that you need a degree of some sort to understand.

Let me explain why I decided to do research into testing in the first place.

My neighbors’ granddaughter tested positive for COVID, isolated for two weeks then tested negative after the two weeks. Thing is she never got sick, nor did anyone in the family get sick including her 5-year-old. Was she “asymptomatic”, as people are quick to point out, or were the tests wrong?

Another friend had a daughter that went into a hospital for an unrelated problem and tested

negative when she went in but positive on the way out. What was done? They gave her what I like to refer to as the “Trump Milkshake” and sent her home to her family that included children. Did she get sick? - No. Did her family get sick? - No. So, either the tests were wrong, or the Milkshake works. Will we ever know? I doubt it.

The bottom line is that people are already afraid of this new virus. Enough to do almost anything “the powers that be” tell them to. And the best way to control people is to keep them afraid and make them more afraid.

Do I believe this virus actually exists? Yes, I do. Is it dangerous? Yes, but mostly to the weak and infirmed. Are we over-reacting to the virus, (which I think can also be called politicizing)? Absolutely!

So, what is the answer? God only knows.

Joe Bayona

We Value Your Opinion! Please Send Us A Response!

Caba Speech
*Continued from Page 1

resources and funding to assist with our recovery.

My 100 Day Plan that will chart a new course for our City, which will include collaboration with non-profits, businesses, and state and federal partners to bring every resource to move Perth Amboy forward.

As your Mayor, I will bring skilled, effective and innovative leadership to City Hall to •implement new approaches to tackle old problems

•build and improve upon solutions that already exist

•engage capacity development

I will combine democracy and “meritocracy” in City Hall with merit-based hiring. We will hire professionals for their ability, experience and skill-set.

And we will hold core competencies of

•Collaboration

•Communication

•Flexibility and adaptability

•Initiative

•Problem-solving skills

to be the center of everything we do.

My administration will be inclusive and open. Many decisions will be data-driven, noting that best city ideas often result from public participation. I encourage more residents to get civically involved in our community and to share their ideas on how to move our City forward.

To all the candidates who ran for Mayor, I thank you for your service and invite to all come together.

To Mayor Diaz, thank you for your stewardship of our City. Let



Train Whistles

He always said a woman,
Who loved train whistles as he did,
Could not exist,
A woman, separate and apart,
Who could distinguish between them,
Could tell
When they were simply alerting,
Routinely warning or actually crying,
A woman pensive and profound,
Who could read their very thoughts,
When sometimes
In the soundless depths of the night,
They would call and call,
To just about anyone who would listen.

More than once he confided in me,
How even as a boy, he would dream
Of boarding on e of those long distance trains,
That blazed across entire continents,
That crossed enormous masses of land,
And with only a small suitcase or canvas bag
In either hand,
Ride and ride
Without ever looking back,
And ride and ride,
To the sound of train whistles,
Who like him know what it was like,
To be homesick,
With no home in sight.

Jerry Shonda

us all recommit – every single one of us – to working together to move Perth Amboy forward. Congratulations to the new members of City Council; thoughtful and conscientious individuals that will help make this City a better place for years to come.

Let us restore fiscal responsibility and passionately promote opportunities for civic engagement in our community.

This is my pledge to making our City the best it can be.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless the City of Perth Amboy.



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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

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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.

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2021 Amboy Guardian Publication Dates

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

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

MON. Jan. 25 City Council, Caucus 4:30 p.m.
Zoom.

• City Council, Regular, After Caucus
Zoom

THURS. Jan. 28 Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m.
Brighton Ave. Community Center,

THURS. Feb. 4 Board of Education, 5:30 p.m.
PAHS, Eagle Ave.

South Amboy

WED. Jan. 20 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
GoToMeeting

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

SOUTH AMBOY MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING Wednesday, January 20th 2021, 7:00 p.m.

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PERTH AMBOY CAUCUS & COUNCIL MEETINGS

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, take notice that there has been a change in the schedule of Council Meetings as follows:

FROM: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

TO: **Monday, January 25, 2021 immediately following the Caucus Meeting of 4:30 p.m.**

The meetings will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers, 260 High Street, Perth Amboy; due to the limits on public gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meetings will also be held VIA A ZOOM ON-LINE CONFERENCE AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:

Topic: 1/25 Caucus & Council Meeting

Time: Jan 25, 2021 04:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86005957305?pwd=VGR0T0FsRElnVmpoejk1cHpUT3JuUT09>

1nVmpoejk1cHpUT3JuUT09

Meeting ID: 860 0595 7305

Passcode: 151580

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

All members of the public are invited to participate.



Safety Announcement

We are taking safety precautions in the City of Perth Amboy, emphasize that it is important:

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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

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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.

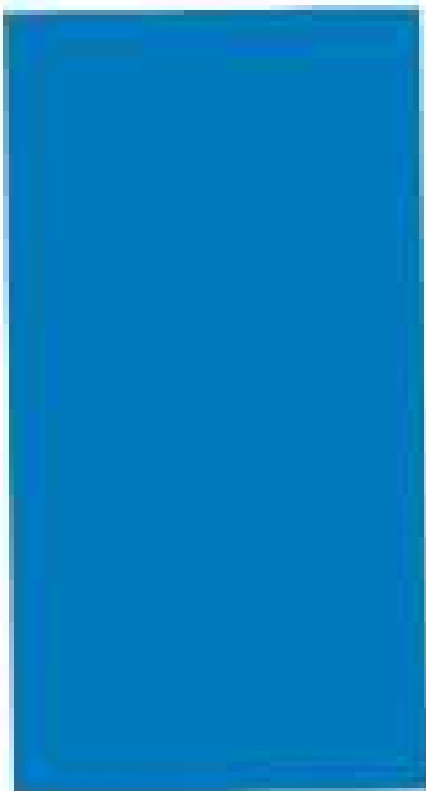
Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Please Submit Community Events
2 Weeks in Advance!**

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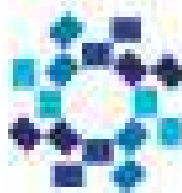
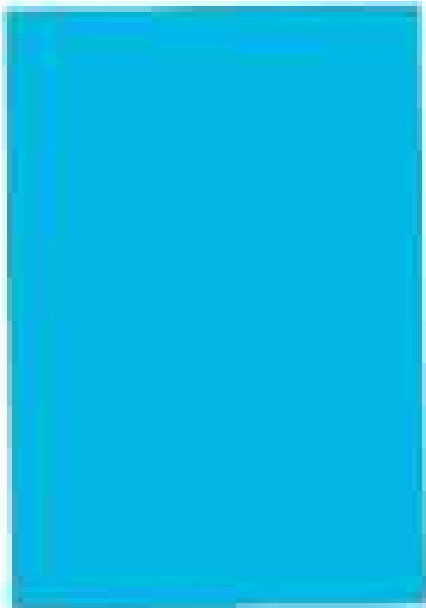
KEEP GETTING HEART CARE



STAYING HEALTHY IS PART OF STAYING SAFE.

We've all spent the past few months taking extra precautions in order to stay safe. But right now, staying healthy is just as important. That's why we've made it safer than ever to keep getting cardiac care and testing, keep getting heart screenings and keep getting necessary procedures.

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Raritan Bay Medical Center
KEEP GETTING BETTER

Contract Questioned – Are We Falling Back into Old Habits?

1/11/21 Caucus

**Continued from Page 3*

should be condemned and it's hard to get Kushner to do anything. The last Business Administrator was looking to get this land reevaluated."

Hoffman went on to explain R-37-1/21 – A contract with Signal Control Products for traffic signal parts, service, and technical assistance for a period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.

"LED lights were used, and the cost dropped a lot to maintain."

Council President Petrick commented regarding R-38-1/21 – Authorizing payments to Thomas Calcagni, Esq. of the law firm of Calcagni & Kanefsky for legal services rendered to the Perth Amboy City Council in an amount not to exceed \$7,447.50.

"Hopefully, this will end the lawsuit between Mayor Diaz and the City Council."

Pabon then had a problem with Resolutions R-40-1/21 – Appointing William A. Petrick to the Planning Board and R-41-1/21 – Reappointing Justin Ross to the Perth Amboy Board of Adjustments as Alternate #2 for a term to expire December 31, 2022. & R-42-1/21 – Reappointing Christine Dispenziere to the Perth Amboy Board of Adjustments as a regular member for a term to expire December 31, 2024.

Pabon stated, "All of these appointments expired on December 31, 2020. I have nothing against any of these people, but we need these positions to be posted instead of just reappointing people."

Petrick responded, "Regarding R-40, one of the members has to be from the council and if another council member wants to take over, they can. Regarding R-41 thru R-42, they were the council appointments and unless there is an issue with them, then we will get someone else to replace them. With other boards, we always reappointed any existing members."

Pabon disagreed, "With the Housing Authority, whenever terms expired, we posted the openings and the people who were already on that board had to reapply to be reappointed. Please give people an opportunity to apply for all boards."

Petrick countered Pabon's argument, "People who were reappointed had training and experience and have done a good job. To displace those who have been doing a job for several years would be a disservice to them. People can always apply to boards and don't have to wait for vacancies to come up."

Pabon then requested that City Clerk Kupsch find an ordinance on Board Appointments, especially when it comes to expired terms.

Public Portion:

Resident Ken Balut began by saying, "Law Director Northgrave overturned elections. Does he have a relationship with the Kushner case? – which would not be a good idea. I

have asked all bills related to Kushner (properties). There was a captain and lieutenant suspended with pay. If you can suspend the higher-ups with pay, then you will have to pay those with lower ranks who are under investigation. What is going on with the contract with the Y? Besides Kushner, I also have concerns about what's going on between the police department and the court system. A police officer who campaigned for Mayor Diaz got an \$11,000 raise before he retired." He then reiterated, "This new lawyer we have now overturned an election. We keep bleeding money with the items I just mentioned. One of our former Business Administrators, Fehrenbach did most of the work himself and we paid him \$19,000 for some legal work he did. The Kushner bond should have been settled 6 months ago."

Council President Petrick spoke up and questioned if the new law director would go after Kushner and asked what is going on with the police department.

Balut continued, "The Board of Education pays for the use of the Y's facilities."

Resident Alan Silber came up next, "Former Law Director Peter King was a good lawyer in the respect that he did everything that the former mayor asked of him. He wanted to pay former Business Administrator Adam Cruz when the city didn't have to. And now the new law director Northgrave got paid \$30,000 to overturn an election which caused the city to have a special election in 2014. The person who lost to Fernando Gonzalez in that special election had to pay \$3,000. I love that the new Councilwoman (Morales) asks questions. I think Councilman Pabon was right to question reappointments to boards. I invite you all to see the property at 395 Rector St. There's been a couch sitting on that property for months and that property has been boarded up. Kushner bought this property in 2006."

Petrick then spoke up, "We can put a condemnation order on that property and the old municipal complex. We need to get an evaluation from the tax assessor and put it up for sale."

Silber concluded, "You would never see this in Montclair."

Resident Stanley Sierakowski came up next. He talked about a property that owed taxes for the last 25 years and the city lost \$3 million. Who are the partners that own this property? I asked Nancy Martin from the tax department to give me information which she did. She shrugged her shoulders when I asked what could be done about this. She shouldn't be here. Some properties should have been reassessed, especially the 5 acres owned by Rosengarten. Former Mayor Vas rezoned it for high density. Was it ever rezoned? Many people knew about the property owners but did nothing about reassessing the properties."

Petrick replied, "I asked about

the Duane Marine property, but got no answers."

Resident Lisa Nanton came up next and asked about R-35-1/21 – A contract with Automated Building Controls for HVAC preventative maintenance, repairs and installation services of City Buildings for a period of January 1, 2021 thru December 31, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$67,000. & R-36-1/21 – A contract with RAMAS Climate Refrigeration for HVAC preventative maintenance for the Public Safety Complex for a period of January 31, 2021 thru December 31, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$26,000.

"Why are there two different companies?"

Petrick responded, "Because of better pricing."

Nanton continued, "They need to replace some of the snow fence at some parts of the Waterfront. The bathroom trailer on Sadowski Parkway is blocking the view of a resident's house. There is a mile between bathrooms down the Waterfront. Hasn't the Y's contract expired, yet? I thought it was 25 years."

Resident Alan Silber shouted out, "I think it has 8 more years left."

Resident Vince Mackiel came up next. He wished everyone a happy new year and congratulated the new mayor and council members. He was concerned because there are 39 ShopRite's giving the vaccine, but not in Perth Amboy. "We have a high Covid count. I volunteered for a Hispanic Health Care event at the Y a few years ago. UNICEF can be used to vaccinate a large amount of people. I want to thank the council for putting me on the Rent Leveling Board."

B.A. Remsen addressed Mackiel's concern about the Covid vaccine. "I was surprised there was not a task force to deal with the Covid problem. A long-term task force is being formed with a lot of stakeholders."

OEM Director Larry Cattano came up and stated, "ShopRite Perth Amboy does not have a pharmacy tech on duty like other pharmacies do. Walgreens and Right-Aid will do the Covid vaccine when it is available."

CEO/President of the YMCA Steve Jobin came up next and said, "The Jewish Renaissance did testing over the summer. At some point, they will be giving out the vaccine. We've had Code Blue conditions for 20 days. Food and accommodations were provided. We are still doing weekly food distributions. We have distributed 300,000 lbs. of food a month."

Council Comments:
Councilwoman Morales thanked everyone for putting her on the council. "I am humbled and honored to be here."

Councilman Joel Pabon congratulated Helmin Caba, Rose Morales, and B.J. Torres on their victory. "I look forward to working with all of you. The Friday meeting that was done on 1/8/21 was not necessary and could have been done today. People who have Covid have to test negative before coming

to meetings. Many towns do Zoom meetings. A person got a note from their doctor the same day they were positive that stated they were positive, but they were at the point where they could not contaminate anyone and could attend the meeting. Many department heads were here, and we have to be responsible. I told Council President Petrick that it was irresponsible to have a meeting on 1/8/21. The microphones are not being cleaned after each speaker. We need to do Zoom meetings and the meetings are going on forever. We are talking about lives here. We are the top brass and are being irresponsible."

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda said, "We should have to check the CDC guidelines. In some cases, you can still go back to work if you are positive. It was too late to change to a Zoom meeting, and I take healthcare very seriously. We will have to come to these meetings for a long time and the microphone should be cleaned after each speaker. I welcome the two new

council members and Mr. Caba. I hope to have good relations with the new members and all the employees."

Councilman BJ Torres said, "I'm humbled and honored to be here. I have concerns about meetings being held in public. We should follow Governor Murphy's order #163. Some people are not wearing masks. I would like to have all future meetings go to Zoom until the Covid numbers decrease."

Council President Bill Petrick thanked all who attended the meetings. "I believe all should follow the CDC Guidelines. Wear your mask and wash your hands. Last weeks meetings (1/8/21) was too late to do a Zoom Meeting and you can't do a reorganization at a caucus meeting. The next meeting will be a Zoom and in-person for those who would like to attend at City Hall. People have an opportunity to speak to us in public."

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. All council members were present.

Middlesex County College Creating Apprenticeship Opportunities in Advanced Manufacturing

Press Release

EDISON - Middlesex County College is developing apprenticeship opportunities in Advanced Manufacturing through Career Advance USA, a U.S. Department of Labor-funded grant. Apprenticeships, developed and implemented in collaboration with employers, are earn-and-learn programs that combine formal classroom learning with on-the-job training.

For those seeking good jobs in this industry, apprenticeships are a viable entryway.

"Start your path to a rewarding career," said John Miller, program manager.

Those interested in the program should register for a virtual information session at middlesexcc.edu/manufacturing-apprenticeships. They will be held over Zoom at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays: February 9, March 9, April 13 and May 11.

Miller said the College is also

looking for employers interested in developing excellent workers.

"MCC will partner with employers who can benefit from these resources to assess and improve their entry-level worker abilities and support the recruitment and hiring of effective, long-term employees," he said. "We can also help you customize apprenticeship readiness training to prepare potential employees specifically for your workplace. Let's set up a time to discuss your needs. MCC can help!"

For further information about the MCC Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship grant and how to participate, please visit the MCC Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship Program website: middlesexcc.edu/manufacturing-apprenticeships or contact Yarelis Figueroa, yfigueroa@middlesexcc.edu or John Miller, jsmiller@middlesexcc.edu.



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Email: ecabrera52@hotmail.com

Breaking Away From the Pack

1/13/21 Council Meeting

By: Carolyn Maxwell
PERTH AMBOY – The January 13, 2021 Council Meeting was the first time a council meeting was open to the public at the City Council Chambers since City Hall was closed down due to Covid in the spring of 2020. The meeting started at 7:04 p.m. The public also had the opportunity to participate through Zoom. The only council member present in city hall was Council President William Petrick. Also present was City Clerk Victoria Kupsch, Assistant City Clerk Theresa Lopez, and Interim Business Administrator Edward Remsen. Law Director William Northgrave and the remaining council members participated through Zoom.

The public who were present in the council chambers were allowed to speak first, followed by Zoom participants. The public were only given 3 minutes to speak whether in person or on Zoom.

During the first public comments on agenda items only, the first person to speak was Stanley Sierakowski. He referenced R-14-1/21 – Authorizing collection of interest on delinquent taxes and assessment. He questioned why the department heads were not present at the meeting. “When I’ve attended Freeholders meetings, they always had representatives from all departments to answer any unexpected questions.”

Council President Petrick responded, “The Department heads were at the 1/11/21 Caucus Meeting (at the Public Safety Complex).”

Sierakowski continued, “This is different. Did Nancy Martin from the tax department collect taxes from the Armory? There was a lien put on their property. They defaulted and owe a lot of back taxes. You gave a million-dollar loan with zero interest. Is there a list of monthly properties that own delinquent taxes?”

Resident Ken Balut came up next. He told the council, “We need a tv set put up in the council chambers.” He asked if Law Director William Northgrave is on Zoom.”

Northgrave answered: “yes” over the computer.

Balut then held up a flyer with a huge picture of the Middlesex County Democratic Chamber Kevin McCabe which showed him on the NJG Power List 2020 and all those he connected with which includes a new law director Bill Northgrave. “Northgrave worked on the Kushner case. The party bosses do nothing for the city. They gave us a \$20 million park. Stop giving money to all these power bosses.” Balut also referenced them as: “the mob”. “How much money have we given to the Y? Woodbridge used to have a YMCA. The township took it over and it went to another type of facility instead.”

Council President Petrick responded, “We will have people who are auditing the Y at the next meeting.”

Resident Alan Silber came up next. He first requested of Council President Petrick, “In

the interest of everyone here, please wear a mask. Be an example.”

Petrick responded, “I took a Covid test and it was negative, but you are right about wearing a mask.”

Silber then referenced R-4-1/21 – An agreement with William W. Northgrave (see caucus story). “Will you (Council President Petrick) and Pabon recuse yourself from this vote? You were on a ticket that was supported by Mayor Diaz and you and Councilman Pabon gave one of the candidates running on the ticket with you campaign money. Wilda Diaz also gave \$4,000 to that individual. Mayor Diaz only gave money to Northgrave to overturn a general election. Northgrave represented the candidate who was a part of that special election who wound up having to pay \$9,000 out of that special election, then that amount was reduced to \$7,000 from that amount. There are also video tapes of illegal activity from the past election.”

Petrick told Silber that he would have to ask Northgrave if he should recuse himself from the resolution. “Northgrave has been involved in a lot of other legal cases that are in the city that were not connected to an election.”

Silber finished up by saying, “He (Northgrave) got the special election, but the candidate who requested that election lost.”

Resident Jeremy Baratta spoke next via Zoom. He asked for more information on Communication No. 9. – E2 Project Management LLC submitted a letter of interpretation – line verification for the Riverwalk Crossing.

Both Petrick and Interim B.A. Remsen stated they had no information on this communication.

Baratta said, “It looks like they may have referenced a hazardous material discharge.”

Resident Sharon Hubberman spoke next. She referenced R-9-1/21 (see caucus story). “It

looks like you are in violation of your ordinance. You are lumping several resolutions together. In total for all of these professional services are \$190,000 a year. You also have the incorrect length of time for some of these personnel that you have hired for interim positions.”

After the public portion was closed, the council voted on the ordinances. Ordinance No. 1 (first reading) RE: changing the start time of the caucus meeting. Ordinance No. 1 was moved by Councilwoman Rose Morales and seconded by Councilwoman Milady Tejeda. All voted “yes” except for Councilman Joel Pabon who voted “no”.

Ordinance No. 2 – (first reading) – eliminating the Handicapped Parking Committee. It was moved by Tejeda, seconded by Morales. Petrick, Tejeda, Morales voted “yes” and Pabon and Torres voted “no”.

For the consent agenda, Pabon asked to remove for separate voting R-8, R-38, R-39, R-40, R-41, R-42. Morales asked if

the council could table R-26, R-31, R-35, R-36.

The consent agenda R-3 thru R-7; R-9 thru R-25; R-27 thru R-30; R-32 thru R-34; R-37, R-43. It was moved by Pabon and seconded by Tejeda.

These resolutions were service contracts with outside contractors. The reason that Morales asked for these resolutions to be tabled was that she felt more backup material was needed and a breakdown from having city employees versus contracting out this work.

R-8 (dealing with the interim business administrator and government strategy group) was moved by Tejeda, seconded by Torres. All voted “yes” except for Pabon who voted “no.”

R-38 (payment of a law firm to represent the city council) was moved by Tejeda and seconded by Morales. The only council member to vote “no” was Pabon.

**Continued on Page 9*

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admission@middlesexcharter.org | 848-242-1818 & 848-286-0050

Breaking Away From the Pack

1/13/21 Council Meeting

**Continued from Page 8*

R-39-1/21 – Authorizing the placement of a marker for the city’s designation as a site of memory by the Unesco Slave Marker Route Project. It was moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejeda. All voted “yes”.

R-40-1/21- Appointing William A. Petrick to the Perth Amboy Planning Board. It was moved by Tejeda, seconded by Morales. The only person who voted “no” was Pabon.

R-41 – 1/21 – Reappointing Justin Ross to the Board of Adjustment. It was moved by Tejeda, seconded by Torres. All voted “yes” but Pabon who voted “no”.

R-42 -1/21 = Reappointing Christine Dispenziere to the Board of Adjustment. It was moved by Tejeda, seconded by Morales. All voted “yes” but Pabon who voted “no”.

R-43 -1/21 (late starter) – Appointing Rose Morales to PARA. This was passed with

the consent agenda.

Councilman Joel Pabon made some comments on why he voted the way he did, “The last interim business administrator had no experience and also this new interim business administrator has no experience. Petrick reminded Pabon that the mayor has an opportunity to appoint anyone they choose to for 60 days just like they did with the Code Enforcement Director.” Pabon was also concerned because of the Government Strategy Group that was mentioned in R-8-1/21. This Government Strategy Group brought in this current Interim B.A. and they (Government Strategy Group) are not doing the job they were hired for.”

Petrick responded, “This group is looking for a qualified person (for the B.A. position).”

There was also a discussion on vacancies on boards. Law Director Northgrave said, “I will look to clarify how a board can be filled regarding vacancies and reappointments.”

Petrick then stated, “It has been past practice to reappoint people who are already serving on boards unless there is a charge of negligence on their part.”

Pabon said, “There has been a lot of hashing out of these appointments.”

Public Portion:

Resident Ken Balut was first. He continued talking about Kevin McCabe and a list of people connected to him which included 16 people including McCabe’s wife. “This is the mob and McCabe also controls his wife. There are people still getting full pay while they are on suspension which includes a captain and a lieutenant on the police department.” He again brought up the fact that the captain got a \$12,000 raise before retiring and again how Northgrave was able to overturn an election from a few years ago. “13 days of this new administration and Northgrave should investigate these allegations.”

Resident Alan Silber came up

next and asked, “Are the taxpayers paying for the suspensions? If so, we should know why these individuals were suspended. It’s not a personnel matter, and we should know the status of the case and the reason. Is anything with the suspension considered a personnel matter?”

Northgrave answered, “Yes.”

Silber continued, “There is a gentleman by the name of John Papp who puts on his website court cases with the settlement amount and other pertinent information. Was there a vote on putting a time limit of 3 minutes on public comments?”

Petrick added, “It changed when we started to do Zoom Meetings.”

Resident Stanley Sierakowski came up next, “The Law Director Mr. Northgrave is a “pitbull” attorney. Other attorneys were political hacks. The details of cases are put online only after the settlements. You should have on TV when the meeting is being shown. Duane Marine didn’t pay taxes for 25 years.

There was \$2.3 million owed according Former Business Administrator Fehrenbach. I think it is more like \$5 million. You should question Nancy Martin from the tax department about this. They were told not to pay their taxes. \$485,000 of interest was in default. The DeCotiis law firm stole hundreds of thousands of dollars when we hired one of their lawyers.”

Resident Lisa Nanton came up to speak. “Perhaps we need cutouts made up of the council (like they did at some sport events).” She then mentioned R-29-1/21 – A contract with Aquatic Services for pool maintenance and service at the public safety complex community center from January 1, 2021 thru December 31, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$23,000. “I’m glad we are supporting the Y. The pool should be open free to the public and every child should be taught to swim. You could subtract the cost of the lifeguards to make sure all children have swimming lessons. Even if you have sailing lessons, you have to know how to swim. I will have to go to the Board of Education to talk to them about have sailing lessons.”

Resident Jeremy Baratta spoke via Zoom to congratulate the new council members, the new Interim B.A., and the new law director. He told everybody to have a good holiday.

Sharon Hubberman spoke next. She asked for clarity regarding the appointments of the Rent Leveling Board Members and their terms of office since all members are new. “There are no staggered terms. They need to revisit the resolution.”

Sherri Goldberg from the Jewish Renaissance on Kearny Avenue came up next on Zoom. She spoke a little about the Perth Amboy Alliance Program. “The Perth Amboy Alliance Neighborhood Plan that started in 2008 expired last year. They will have meetings on January 26, 2021 at 6 p.m. and January 28, 2021 at 10 a.m. They are inviting the council and anyone else to attend (which will be virtual - see ad on page 11). It is a collaboration with certain parts of neighborhoods to connect. There are neighborhood ideas and solutions that we will be discussing for the wellbeing of all who live, work, and play here.”

A city resident spoke next., “Will the train station finally be fixed?” She also said, “There are some people who don’t wear masks at some of the bodegas.”

Petrick responded, “We asked the Board of Health to visit bodegas about the importance of wearing masks and other health concerns.”

Council Comments:

Councilwoman Rose Morales reiterated her comments from the caucus and said, “We are working hard to address the citizen’s concerns. It will take time. We will work hard to correct the prior mistakes of the last admin-

**Continued on Page 14*



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World War II - 75 Years Ago

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

On January 18, 1946, an Eastern Airlines Douglas DC-3 on its last leg from Miami to Boston crashes in Cheshire, Connecticut, killing all 14 passengers and three crewmembers aboard. A subsequent investigation finds that a fire, caused by a fuel leak, started in the left engine and spread to the wing, which collapsed and separated from the fuselage, causing a total loss of control of the aircraft.

In Tokyo, on January 19, U.S. Gen. of the Army Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, establishes the International Military Tribunal for the Far East. At the Dachau concentration camp in Bavaria, U.S. and Polish troops use tear gas to forcibly repatriate 339 deserters from the Red Army who had served with Germany during the war. (The repatriations had been agreed upon at the Yalta Conference.) Bombs go off in Jerusalem, blowing up a power substation and a wall of the central prison. In London, the first complaint heard by the United Nations Security Council is made by Iran against the Soviet Union. Iran alleges Soviet interference in its internal affairs and complains that the U.S.S.R. refuses to remove Soviet troops from its territory. The issue is ultimately resolved without UN intervention.

Charles de Gaulle on January 20 is replaced as acting president of the French Provisional Government by Vincent Auriol and as prime minister by Félix Gouin. De Gaulle, rejecting leftist demands that the army’s budget be cut by 20%, resigned his positions “irrevocably” on January 16. (De Gaulle resigned in what he considered a bold political move, thinking that with his being a war hero, the French public would clamor for his return, giving him more power and status. They didn’t.) In Athens, Greece, 150,000 people demonstrate against a proposal to bar members of the resistance from running for office in upcoming elections. The first free elections in Germany since 1933 are held for local offices in the American Zone of Occupation.

Greece on January 21 declares martial law in the Peloponnese (the southern mainland) and sends troops to Kalamáta in the face of royalist uprisings. At a minute past midnight, the United Steel Workers union begins a nationwide walkout, as 750,000 American workers halt work at the nation’s steel mills. It is the largest strike in U.S. history.

President Truman on January 22 establishes the Central Intelligence Group (CIG), the successor intelligence agency to the wartime Office of Strategic Services. In late 1945, Truman had coordinated various intelligence-reform plans considered in the drafting of the directive that created the CIG. (In 1947, CIG is re-named the Central Intelligence Agency [CIA].)

Félix Gouin is officially elected president of the French Provisional Government by the French Constituent Assembly on January 23. The U.S. Navy cargo ship *USS Brevard, en route* from Shanghai, China, to the U.S., rescues 4,296 Japanese civilians from their sinking ship, *Enoshima Maru*, which hit a mine around nine miles from the mouth of the Yangtze River off Shanghai. The Japanese are being repatriated, and their ship is sinking fast. Brevard pulls alongside the stricken ship and manages to get all but 25 passengers aboard. The entire rescue operation takes only 30 minutes and is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as “the most people rescued at sea (civilians).”

On January 24, the United Nations General Assembly passes its first resolution (UN Resolution #1), which calls for the peaceful development of atomic energy and the elimination of nuclear weapons. The resolution creates the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission “to deal with the problems raised by the discovery of atomic energy.”

From Japan, on January 25, 1946, Gen. of the Army Douglas MacArthur recommends to the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff that Japanese Emperor Hirohito not be put on trial for war crimes. MacArthur states that “no specific and tangible evidence has been uncovered [concerning Hirohito's involvement in war crimes],” and adds: “his indictment will unquestionably cause a tremendous convulsion among the Japanese people, the repercussions of which cannot be over-estimated.” Czechoslovakia begins a process that will continue into November that will expel 1,500,000 ethnic Germans from the country. In the U.S., the on-strike United Mine Workers union rejoins the American Federation of Labor. (The UMW had departed the AFL in 1940.) In Moscow, the U.S.S.R. begins its quest for the atomic bomb. In a meeting, Joseph Stalin tells physicist Igor Kurchatev to spare no expense in developing a nuclear weapon.

President Félix Gouin of France on January 26 names himself as the nation’s prime minister as well. Bikini Atoll, in the Marshall Islands, is selected by the U.S. as its site for testing of nuclear bombs because of its remote location, favorable winds, deep lagoon and small population of around 160 people. The First Indochina War begins as French troops and Vietnamese insurgents clash in the northwestern part of the country. The rebel force surrenders after two days of fighting.

Following the success of local elections in small towns in the American Occupation Zone of Germany on January 20, preparations are begun on January 27 for the holding of elections for towns and villages of under 20,000 in population in the British and French Occupation Zones. Elections in larger towns and cities will be held later in the year, including even those in the Soviet Zone.

In Japan, the Civil Censorship Department is established on January 28 by the American occupation authority, to cut prohibited material from Japanese films before release. Prohibited subjects include: scenes favorably depicting revenge, racial or religious discrimination, violence, militarism, Japanese nationalism, feudalism, or the exploitation of women or children. The government of Chile declares a state of siege after clashes between police and workers in Santiago kill nine people.

On January 29, Norwegian politician Trygve Lie is appointed as the first Secretary-General of the United Nations by unanimous vote of the Security Council.

In Minsk, Belorussian S.S.R., 14 Germans, including three generals, are hanged on January 30 for their part in the murder of millions of Soviet civilians and prisoners of war. In the U.S., the Franklin Roosevelt dime is first issued — on the late president’s birthday — replacing the Mercury-head ten-cent piece.

The Chinese People’s Consultative Congress holds its last session in Chungking on January 31. It finalizes plans to create a coalition government, a new constitution, and to reorganize the army. Kuang Aphaiwong replaces Seni Pramoj as prime minister of Siam (formerly Thailand). A new constitution for Yugoslavia is announced, based on the Soviet model, that establishes a federation of six constituent republics: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia. Eurico Gaspar Dutra replaces José Linhares as president of Brazil.

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!
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Dowdell Library Events

Press Release
SOUTH AMBOY — There are no winter blues around here! The Dowdell Library is still celebrating! Join us while we ring in the Chinese New Year through new virtual programs. Celebrate while Dennis and Maryanne cook up a tasty stir fry in the latest Test Kitchen episode. Then watch Ms. Maryanne read a story and create a Chinese Fan in a special two-part Storytime. Don’t forget to stop in the library starting on February 8th to pick up the take home fan craft so you can get crafty with Ms. Maryanne too!

The Library is launching into the remainder of the month with more new virtual programs! On February 18, 2021, The Mars Rover Perseverance will land on the surface of Mars. Stop by the library the week of the 16th to pick up a rocket take home craft. Then tune into Sadie’s Studio on YouTube with Ms. Laura to learn more about the Rover and make the rocket together! After making the craft, listen to an out-of-this-world tale during Storytime with Ms. Maryanne on YouTube! Follow us on social media and check out Dowdell.org to access all the fun activities and crafts for the month!

Don’t miss the new Teen Social Media challenge! You can choose from one of five categories, including a South Amboy category, and participate in our social media challenge! Those who complete the South Amboy category will be given credit for community service! Please take a picture and send your finished objective to comments@dowdell.org with your name and which category you chose. The Library will share your accomplishment on our Social Media pages! Each month will have a different set of objectives, and each teen will be able to choose more than one category to complete.

The New Year is often filled with the excitement of what's to come. Maybe you have decided to start a new hobby or try that new recipe, or maybe you're just looking forward to leaving 2020 behind. Let's take a moment to reflect on all the small things that brought us joy during such a trying year. Library Director Gaber stated, "After reading Brooks' uplifting Washington Post article on experiences that brought us joy in a tough year, I wanted to share the staff's moments of joy with the community." Check out the Library's February newsletter for creative ideas on beating the winter blues! The Library would also like to hear about what brings you joy! What delights you? Please share! The first ten library cardholders who respond will win a 2021 calendar.

Now through March, the Dowdell Library is happy to offer contactless, drop-off tax preparation assistance. Individuals earning less than \$64,000 annually are eligible to sign up for the free VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program. The VITA program has operated for over 50 years, offering free tax help to low- to moderate-income, individuals with disabilities, and non-English speaking taxpayers. Contact the Library for additional information about this valuable service!

Invest more time in yourself this year! The Dowdell Library is excited to offer free virtual classes through the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Two courses will be available in February. Nadine Roberts, a stress management practitioner, will present A Virtual Guided Imagery Relaxation Session on February 9 & 23. On Thursday, February 25, Anita Bhandarkar Au.D., CCC-A, Senior Audiologist, will hold a virtual program discussing Vertigo, its causes, signs and symptoms, and many other vertigo topics. All classes start at 1:00 pm, and you must be pre-registered. For more information or to pre-register, please email susan.capolongo@rwjbh.org or kathleen.johnson@rwjbh.org.

Is there a new trend or technology you would like to learn about? Do you have an idea for a virtual program? Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit www.dowdell.org, or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org. The library is located off John O’Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School. Due to all services being staff-assisted, walk-in service is available Monday-Friday 12-5pm and Thursday 12-5pm and 6-8pm. Grab & Go Service by Appointment- Monday morning 9:30-10:30am

Woodbridge Public Library Events

Free Virtual Events
All are Welcome to Attend

January 20 | 6:30PM
Beginners Astrology Workshop
Vikki Anderson will guides us through the world of Astrology! Understand astrology vs. horoscope dates, sun signs, planets, qualities, and elements of each sign. Registration Required - https://bit.ly/33SbSvG

January 27 | 7PM
The World of Tea
January is National Hot Tea Month! Get an introduction to the world of loose-leaf tea; from tea plant to teacup with tea enthusiast Nina Androski. Registration Required - https://bit.ly/2JXgI3V

January 29 | 3PM
Mystery/Thriller Book Club
Join us virtually for a discussion of The Nanny by Gilly Macmillan. Registration Required - https://bit.ly/33ZGueO

Thank you for your support!
For more information, call 732-634-4450 ext. 7120



The State of New Jersey, Middlesex County and RWJBarnabas Health Open Regional COVID-19 Vaccine Mega-site at New Jersey Convention & Expo Center in Edison

Press Release 1/15/21

EDISON, NJ – Middlesex County and RWJBarnabas Health officials joined New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy today in opening the Middlesex County Regional COVID-19 Vaccine Mega-site in Edison Township at the New Jersey Convention & Exposition Center (97 Sunfield Avenue, Edison, NJ).

The Edison vaccination mega-

site is equipped with 20 vaccination stations and will be open Monday through Friday from 8am until 4pm. Administration of up to 2,400 Covid-19 vaccinations can occur at the site per day to qualified individuals as per the State's priority guidelines, which now include individuals ages 65 and up. The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines, both currently granted with Emergency Use Authori-

zation by the FDA, will be administered at the site. Qualified individuals must pre-register online for an appointment to receive the vaccine at covid19.nj.gov.

"We are pleased that Middlesex County has been selected as a vaccine mega-site destination and are proud to partner with a trusted name in healthcare, RWJBarnabas Health and the State on this historic effort,"

said County Commissioner Director, Ronald G. Rios. “Our County is fully equipped to provide the necessary resources and advanced infrastructure to deploy the COVID-19 vaccine safely and efficiently both at the mega-site and at our own vaccination sites. This vaccine is a powerful blow to the pandemic, but we need to continue to remain vigilant—by wearing masks, socially distancing,

and maintaining good hand hygiene.”

“We are proud to partner with Middlesex County and Governor Murphy in standing up this vaccination site here in Edison,” said Barry H. Ostrowsky, President and Chief Executive Officer for RWJBarnabas Health. “This mega-site represents the next vital step in getting this vaccine out into our communities so that we can turn the corner in this vicious battle against the virus and make our communities healthier.”

The mega-site is currently vaccinating healthcare workers, staff and residents of long-term care facilities, members of law enforcement and emergency responders including police officers and firefighters. Also included are individuals over the age of 65 and those with certain chronic medical conditions between the ages of 16 and 64.

Teams from RWJBarnabas Health, Middlesex County and the National Guard are coordinating efforts at the site to operate, to staff and to ensure maximum safety and efficiency of the vaccination effort. Together, over 100 staff members are currently on-site to provide services including security, registration, vaccination and medical observation.

The Middlesex County Vaccination Center is one of six mega sites in New Jersey. The other locations include: Gloucester County (Rowan College of South Jersey in Sewell), Morris County (Former Sears store at Rockaway Townsquare Mall), East Rutherford (The Meadows, opening soon), Burlington County (The Moorestown Mall) and Atlantic City (The Atlantic City Convention Center, opening soon).

To schedule an appointment at the Edison Mega-site, please visit covid19.nj.gov. Please be advised that you will not have the option to select the specific brand of Covid vaccine you will receive. Vaccines will be determined by the supply that is available.

For more information and resources from the State of New Jersey, please visit covid19.nj.gov. For general COVID-19 questions, please call 2-1-1. For medical COVID-19 questions, please call 1-800-962-1253.

For COVID-19 resources and vaccine information from Middlesex County, please visit www.middlesexcountynj.gov/COVID-19.

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ENGLISH



SPANISH



PAAC TE INVITA AL EL LLAMADO A LA COLABORACION "UNA REUNION COMUNITARIA VIRTUAL"

Martes, 26 de Enero – 6:30pm to 8:30pm
Jueves, 28 de Enero – 10 am to 12 pm



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ENGLISH



SPANISH



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

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

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

Prayer To St. Clare For Employment Prayer To St. Jude

Prayer To Blessed Mother

Prayer To Blessed Virgin

St. Jude Novena

Prayer To Holy Spirit

Thanksgiving Novena

Pray The Rosary

Novena To St. Anthony

Novena To St. Joseph

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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

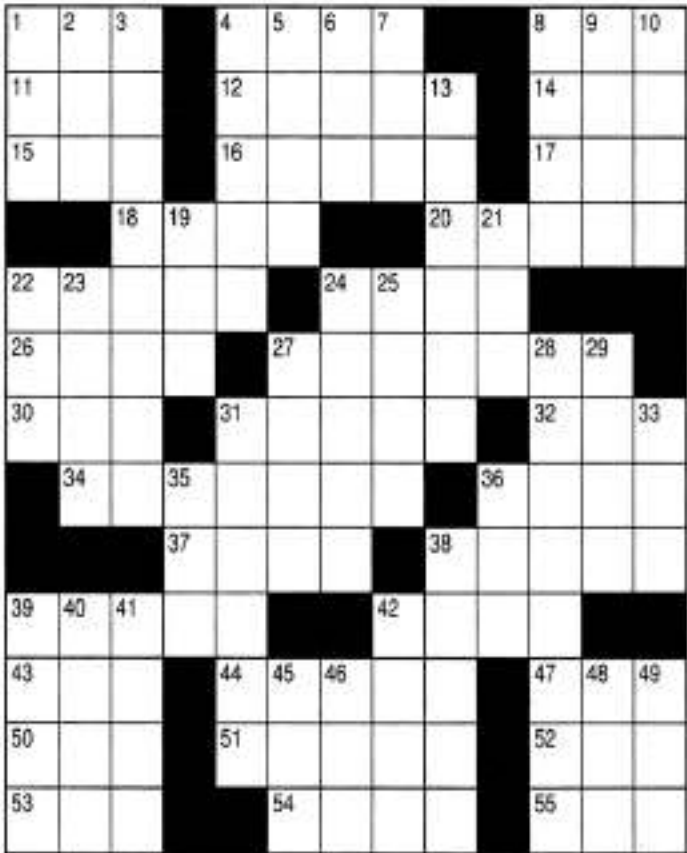
- 1 Public TV inits.
2 "...man _____ mouse?" (2 wds.)
3 Temple's "Good Ship"
4 Magi count
5 Urge on
6 Business abbr.
7 Doctor's charge

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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Breaking Away from the Pack

1/13/21 Council Meeting

**Continued from Page 9*

istration.”

Councilman Joel Pabon spoke next and addressed the concerns regarding the bodegas. “With the bodegas, you don’t have to be in their stores when you call the authorities. You can call from your car or your house and let the police know of any safety violations. As far as the train station, I see at the end of Second Street and on Elm Street, that they are working on the tracks and the bridge.” He then turned his attention to Second Street Park. “They should have started on that two years ago. The debris is starting to be removed, now.” He then talked about Communication No. 11 – Mayor Helmin J. Caba submitted a memorandum appointing Edward A. Remsen Interim Business Administrator for a period of 6 months. “You need to bring this to the attention of the mayor.”

Petrick said, “It was corrected to read 60 days – no 6 months.” Pabon continued, “We need an answer regarding the Rte. 35 Bridge. There’s been no work on it for over a year. I’m hoping the new B.A. and Law Director can make some headway. Businesses on Amboy Avenue are complaining about lights being out. 32 lights are out between Amboy Avenue to Hall Avenue and 30 lights are out from Convery Boulevard to Front Street. This is unacceptable. The Assembly Office helped out the last time. Somebody has dropped the ball and all supervisors should be looking at this. If you see lights out in your

neighborhood, you’ll see a plate number on the pole. You can call it in to PSE&G. There are too many commercial vehicles parked on Second Street after 6 p.m. There are vehicles parked illegally all over. We have a new sheriff in town. These are quality of life issues.”

Interim B.A. Remsen spoke up, “I will make a point of making sure that all the lights that are out are addressed.”

Petrick spoke up, “In the past, the police would make notes of any lights that were out when they were on patrol.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda spoke next. She thanked all who participated in tonight’s meeting. “Take care of all of your families and relatives.”

Councilman B.J. Torres thanked all those for electing him. “There is a light at the end of the tunnel with all the vaccines coming up. I am taking a look at all the CSO (combined sewer overflow) studies that were done in the city and I will provide updates at future meetings.”

Council President William Petrick concluded the meeting, thanking all who participated in person and on Zoom. He wanted to also thank the city clerk and the IT staff. “Everything worked out okay with the exception of a few bugs. Be safe. Stay well. Practice social distancing.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m. All council members were present (either in person or through Zoom).

By: Katherine Massopust
PERTH AMBOY – The newly elected members of the Board of Education were sworn in over the internet by Board Secretary Derek Jess: R.L. Anderson, Michael George, Marisol Gonzalez, and Stacey Peralta.

Stacey Peralta thanked her supporters. “I look forward to working with everyone, the students and their progress.”

Marisol Gonzalez thanked everyone, “Education is the future of this town.”

R.L. Anderson said, “No need to fear – R-Man is here. I interviewed for the position for the late Anton Massopust. I wasn’t selected but I was elected. I am going to gain and maintain public trust. My email is available on the BOE website. My goal is to maximize everyone in public school. I want to thank everyone for your endorsement. I want to thank my 6 children. I wouldn’t have reached the level I’ve reached without them. God Bless America!”

Michael George said, “I feel honored being a Board of Education Member. I’ve been out of education due to illness. I support the students, teachers, administrators. I’m honored to take the place of Anton Massopust who was my supervisor in the High School. I want to thank my two granddaughters.”

Before the Board went into executive session, Board Member Junior Iglesia stated that any discussion should be made according to Roberts Rules of order. “I don’t need to exclude the public. I believe we can continue public trust as we open in public. It will be beneficial to

Puccio Elected President;

Vazquez Elected Vice President

1/7/21 Board of Education Meeting via Teleconferencing

the public. I will remain with the public for discussion.”

Board Member Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe asked Board Attorney Isabel Machado for clarity, “Is that the only thing on the agenda? We need to be cautious on what we say.”

Machado stated, “There are two items to be discussed.”

The Board Members voted to go into closed session. Everyone voted “yes” except Junior Iglesia who abstained. The Board went into closed session at 6:01 p.m. They returned at 6:45 p.m.

When it came time to vote for president, Ken Puccio was nominated by Marisol Gonzalez and seconded by Michael George. R.L. Anderson nominated Tashi Vazquez who declined the nomination. The vote went as follows: Tashi Vazquez, Stacey Peralta, Ken Puccio, Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe, Michael George, Marisol Gonzalez, Dr. Danielle Brown voted, “yes” and Junior Iglesia, R.L. Anderson abstained. Ken Puccio was elected president by a vote of 7-2(abstentions).

Tashi Vazquez was nominated for Vice-President. R.L. Anderson nominated Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe for Vice-President. The vote went as follows for Tashi Vazquez: Tashi Vazquez, Stacey Peralta, Ken Puccio, Michael George, Marisol Gonzalez, Dr. Danielle Brown voted, “yes”; Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe, Junior Iglesia, and R.L. Anderson abstained. Tashi Vazquez was elected Vice-President by a vote of 6-3(abstentions).

Board President Ken Puccio gave a statement, “I want to thank Tashi. I want to move forward. I look forward to working with everyone. Congratulations to all the new Board Members. I’ve known Mike George for 45 years. It’s an honor to sit here with him. If he wasn’t there 46 years ago, we wouldn’t be here today. Also, to you Marisol Gonzalez. 46 years ago, I had a new guidance counselor. She (Former Board Member Obi Gonzalez) was pregnant with you – and I sat here (on the BOE) with her, and now I sit here with you.”

Tashi Vazquez stated, “I want to thank my colleagues on the Board. It’s been a year like any other. You put your trust in me. We’ve had conversations about the Covid pandemic that has ravaged our world. I had those important conversations regardless of what seat I sit on. Congratulations and welcome to the team. We serve as one. We stand with one purpose to learn and grow. Politics easily divides us.”

Public Portion:

Perth Amboy Federation President Pat Paradiso spoke first. She welcomed R.L. Anderson to the Board. “My favorite principal. He has experience and he knows teachers.”

Iris Rodriguez spoke next. “Congratulations to the new officers. With so many educators on the Board we must listen to

their advice.”

District Representative for the Perth Amboy Federation Lynn Audet spoke next. “Congratulations to the new Board Members. We look forward to having an open and honest relationship and reach out to staff and AFT leadership. We have food distribution. Parents sometimes don’t wear masks. We do want parents wearing masks. Staff wants to know the protocols for parents for Covid-19. We look forward to be in schools again after the pandemic is over.”

Superintendent’s Report:

Superintendent Dr. David Roman wished everyone a happy new year. “We must unite, have polite respectful conversations. We will collectively work together with all our board members.” Dr. Roman thanked former Board Members, especially Dianne Roman and Lisette Lebron. "And to our new Board Members: what we do really does matter.”

Board President Ken Puccio said, “We haven’t had a board meeting (in public) since last March. At some point, we should look into having a board meeting in public. I’m asking the administration and Board to meet with the public again. Meeting in person is more personable. The city does it.”

Board member Junior Iglesia said, “I agree with you but I encourage it to make that degree of infection rate down – May or June. Make a decision based on infection rate. Congratulations to the new Board Members.”

Board Vice-President Tashi Vazquez said, “With the smaller Committee meetings, we never want to exclude someone in a public meeting. My suggestion: 23% of total cases were highest in December. My heart goes out to you - my prayers. We are here for you. Please continue to do your part.”

Board Member Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe said, “As a public servant, it is up to the public to know what is going on. A lot of us went through a lot last year. I want to inform the public I do not intend on stepping down. I am continuing on work I’ve been doing. Going on 9 years ago, I was just a student. Last month I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. I’ve started chemo the week before Christmas. Now, I’m on the second round. I want to thank those who have supported me, especially Dr. David Roman, Ken Puccio, and Dr. Danielle Brown. I will continue. I graduated school last month. I felt it was important. Welcome new Board Members Michael George – the first person to tell me I will be a Board Member someday. I took on Obi’s (Former Board Member Obidulia Gonzalez) role on the Board and now I will work with Marisol. This Board is a professional family, and we need to work together. Keep putting Perth Amboy forward.”

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m. All Board Members were present.

Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order to Implement New Policies for the 2020-2021 School Year

Press Release 1/11/21
TRENTON - Governor Phil Murphy today signed Executive Order No. 214 to affect the following changes for the 2020-2021 school year: 1) waiver of the graduation assessment test requirement for any 12th grade student who has satisfied all other statutory graduation requirements; 2) removal of Student Growth Objectives (SGOs) as a component of formal educator evaluations; and 3) extension of the time in which certificated teachers or those in the process of becoming certificated teachers can serve as substitute teachers.

“The pandemic has presented significant challenges to school districts across our State that have affected our administrators, educators, staff, and students,” said Governor Murphy. “Today’s executive order will provide sensible adjustments to support our school districts during this unprecedented time.”

“Today’s action, which provides a meaningful step towards helping our education system adapt to the challenges posed by COVID-19, is the direct result of ongoing engagement with stakeholders,” said Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan, Acting Com-

missioner of Education. “This collaboration will help ensure that districts have the flexibility needed to better address students’ and educators’ instructional and support needs, while maintaining stability and continuity in classroom instruction.”

Effective immediately, the executive order will direct the following:

Waive Graduation Assessment Requirement

To receive a high school diploma in New Jersey, a student must demonstrate proficiency on a state assessment and satisfy statutory requirements with respect to credits, curriculum content, and attendance. Executive Order No. 214 will waive the graduation proficiency test requirement for all 12th grade students who have not yet met the requirement. All other statutory graduation requirements remain in place.

Remove SGOs from Teacher Evaluations

Student Growth Objectives (SGOs) are measurable and specific academic goals for groups of students set by educators in consultation with their supervisors. In light of the pandemic, Executive Order No. 214 will remove SGOs as a component

of formal educator evaluations for the 2020-2021 school year. As a result, all educators will be evaluated solely on observations conducted by supervisors, principals, or other school leaders. SGOs may still be utilized for other purposes, such as professional development.

Extend Service Time Limitations for Certain Substitutes

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, Executive Order No. 214 will help districts manage the increase in temporary and permanent teacher vacancies by allowing (1) those in the process of becoming certificated teachers to fill teaching vacancies for a maximum of 60 school days instead of 20 school days; and 2) fully certificated teachers who are currently employed as substitutes in an area outside of their credentials to fill teaching vacancies for a maximum of 60 school days instead of 40 school days.

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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.

Miraculous Invocation to St. Therese

O Glorious St. Therese, whom Almighty God has raised up to aid and inspire the human family. I implore your Miraculous Intercession. You are so powerful in obtaining every need of body and spirit from the Heart of God. Holy Mother Church proclaims you “Prodigy of Miracles . . . the Greatest Saint of Modern Times.” Now I fervently beseech you to answer my petition *(mention here)* to carry out your promises of spending Heaven doing good upon earth . . . of letting fall from Heaven a Shower of Roses. Little Flower, give me your childlike faith, to see the Face of God in the people and experiences of my life, and to love God with full confidence. Saint Therese, my Carmelite Sister, I will fulfill your plea “to be made known everywhere” and I will continue to lead others to Jesus through you. Amen.
“I will let fall from Heaven . . . a Shower of Roses” – St. Therese
Say this prayer for nine consecutive days. After the ninth day your prayer request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted. K.M. & C.M.

The Miraculous Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favors. This time I ask you for this my special one *(mention favor)*. Take it, Dear Jesus and place it within your own broken heart, where your Father sees it. Then, in his merciful eyes, it will become your favor, not mine. Amen.
Say this prayer for 3 days, promise publication and your favor will be granted. Never known to fail. B.V.

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.

Pet of the Week

Jayce has been waiting for his forever home since he was a baby!! Now he's a football player of a dar and super Long and muscular...so handsome. Please consider adopting Jayce. He deserves to be spoiled and loved gotten. He loves cuddling. He gets along with most cats and a small dog. He's neutered, vaccinated, tested negative for FIV and leukemia, dewormed and flea treated and had his nails trimmed and ears cleaned.
We also have kittens and cats for adoption and are looking for fosters. ADOPT. SPAY. NEUTER. LOVE. Adoption application and donation fee



apply. Email Vmoralespps@yahoo.com for adoption/foster application or visit Allforthepaws.org or email our rescue at Allforthepaws@gmail.com Text 1.732.486.6382 for info.

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.

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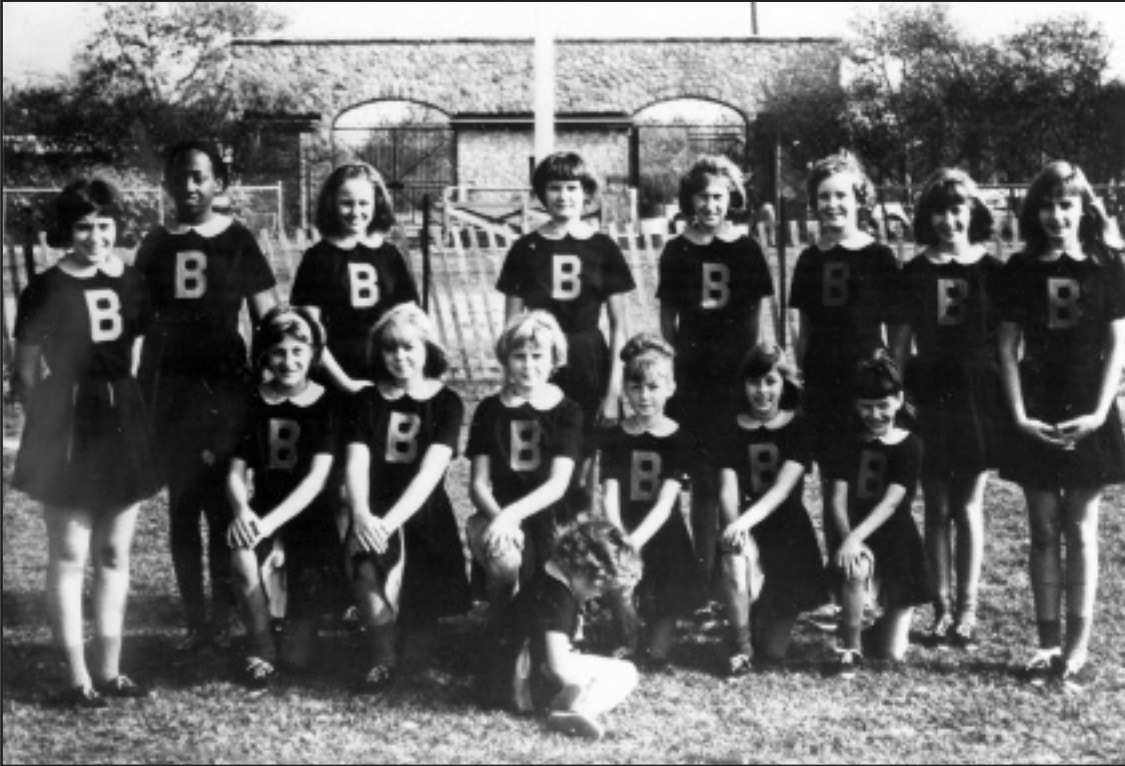
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**Remember to
Say Your Novenas!**

**Answers
From Puzzle
On Page 13**



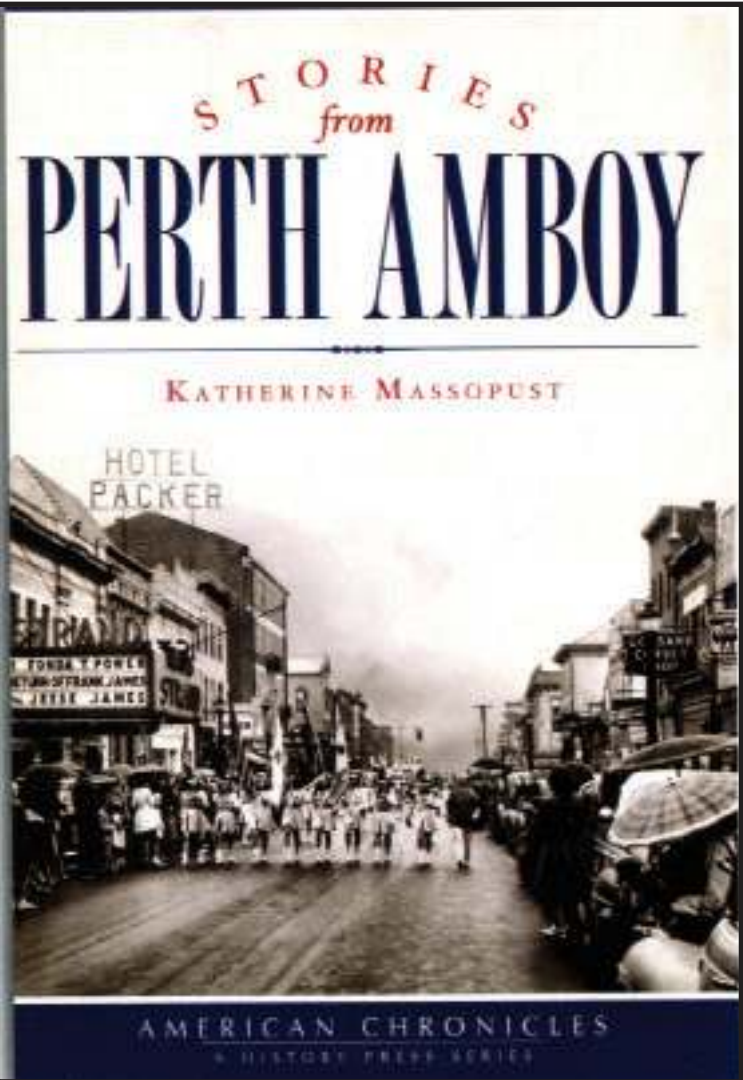
LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY – Perth Amboy Buffalo Pop Warner Cheerleaders (1964) Waters Stadium. (Standing L to R): Candy Renda, Diane Raysor, Linda Check, Bonnie Hain, Patti Bachonski, Barbara Mambort, Rose Lavin, Lynn Ksenic. (Kneeling L to R): Janet Bachonski, Donna Lima, Bernadette Hain, Cindy O'Donnell, Anne Selkowitz, Bonita Sainz. (Sitting): Donna Cattano (Mascot)

**Photo Courtesy of Rose Lavin-Pennyfeather*

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



Stories From Perth Amboy

PERTH AMBOY - Stories From Perth Amboy by Katherine Massopust is available from Katherine at 732-261-2610 or on Amazon.com. A Great Gift! Get it now along with Then & Now: Perth Amboy!



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- Enrique Hernandez -
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PERTH AMBOY - 3 Family located only few blocks from waterfront, very large off-street parking. Fully rented separated utilities, big private yard and much more. **\$575,000.00**



PERTH AMBOY- Stunning very large single family this property features 4 bedrooms two car garage, large corner lot property only few blocks from High School, close to public transportation and major highways. Hurry!! **\$365,000.00**