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Merry Christmas! & Happy New Year! - Perth Amboy - South Amboy



*Photos: Perth Amboy by Paul W. Wang; South Amboy by Eric Salvary



ALAMEDA CENTER

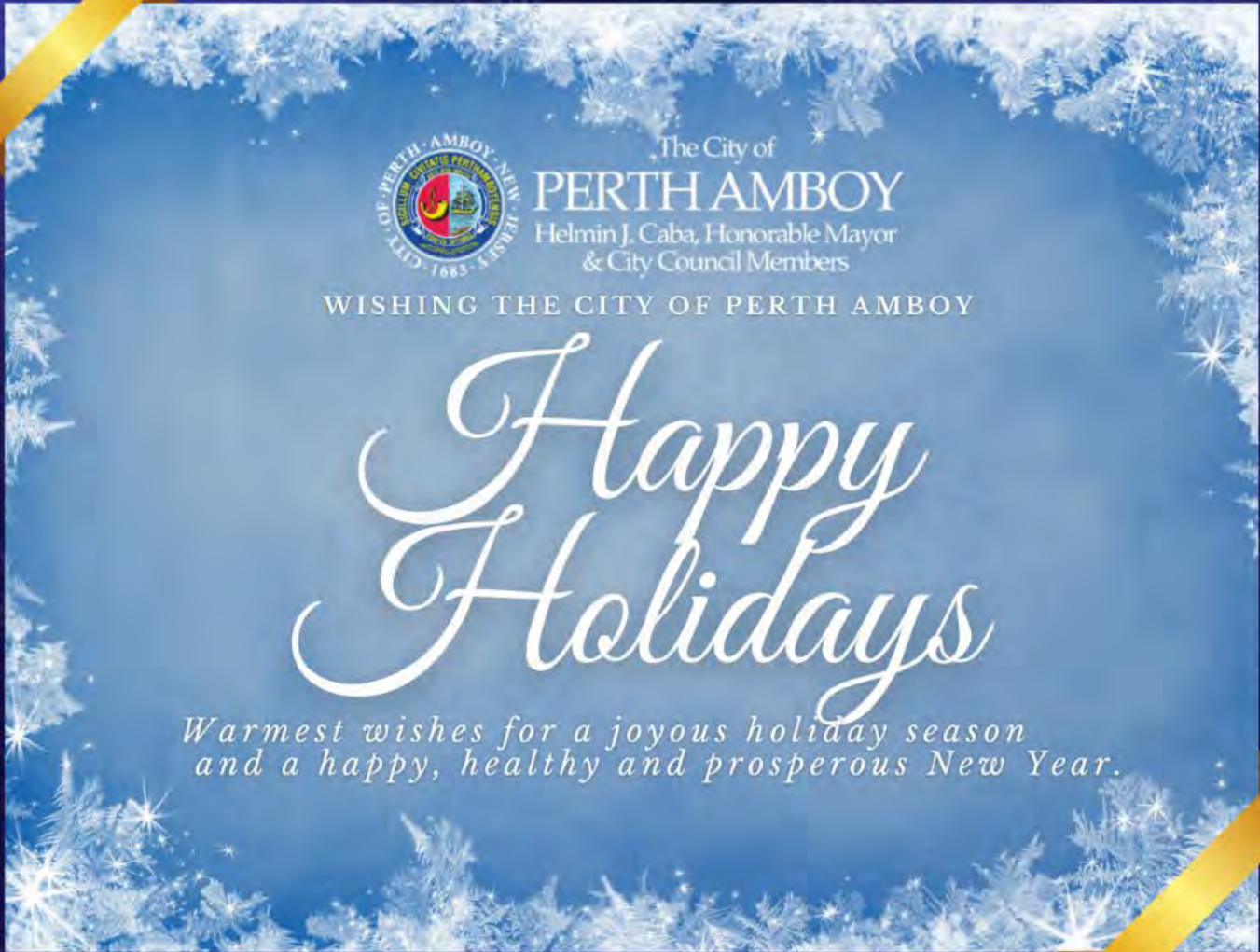
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& A HEALTHY NEW YEAR!**



Holiday Message from **Mayor Helmin J. Caba**

The holidays are a festive time of year when we share special moments with our family, friends and loved ones, and look ahead to a new year filled with promise and opportunity. We reflect upon our many blessings, and are grateful for the sacrifices being made by our military and public safety personnel who protect our nation, safeguard our freedom, and secure our liberties.

During this season of hope and joy, I offer my sincere thanks to all of our residents for their continued support and collaboration. You are the foundation of Perth Amboy and contribute significantly to the progress and advancement of our City.

I also express my appreciation to all our City of Perth Amboy employees for their dedication and service to our residents. The outstanding work they perform each and every day in meeting the needs of our residents, enhances quality of life and exemplifies what building community is all about.

In the spirit of the season, I commend all those residents and employees who have made a special effort to give back to the community. As the New Year approaches, it is truly an exciting time to be in Perth Amboy and as look forward to new opportunities that lie ahead:

- Building a Healthier Perth Amboy
- Redevelopment Updates
- Train Station Improvements
- Library Renovations
- Expansion of Parks and Recreation with free WIFI
- Empower Residents with the introduction of the SDL Citizen App
- Continued Street and Infrastructure Repair
- Embracing the Future, Preserving Our Past

We remain committed and passionate about working together to make Perth Amboy the best place to live, work, play, visit and raise a family.

My warmest wishes to you and your loved ones for a Merry Christmas, a joyous holiday season, and a happy, healthy, and successful New Year. God Bless.

Helmin J. Caba
Mayor, City of Perth Amboy

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

A Christmas Truce

Let's face it. This year has been very challenging. The country has been divided on a slew of different issues, but as the Christmas season approaches, it's time for everyone to call a truce. We are going to leave you with this story:

"Even at the distance of a century, no war seems more terrible than World War I. In the four years between 1914 and 1918, it killed or wounded more than 25 million people—peculiarly horribly...Yet there were still odd moments of joy and hope in the trenches of Flanders and France, and one of the most remarkable came during the first Christmas of the war, a few brief hours during which men from both sides on the Western Front laid down their arms, emerged from their trenches, and shared food, carols, games and comradeship.

...While it lasted, though, the truce was magical, leading even the sober Wall Street Journal to observe: "What appears from the winter fog and misery is a Christmas story, a fine Christmas story that is, in truth, the most faded and tattered of adjectives: inspiring."

...Christmas Eve. At 8:30 p.m. an officer of the Royal Irish Rifles reported to headquarters: "Germans have illumi-

nated their trenches, are singing songs and wishing us a Happy Xmas. Compliments are being exchanged but am nevertheless taking all military precautions." Further along the line, the two sides serenaded each other with carols—the German "Silent Night" being met with a British chorus of "The First Noel"—and scouts met, cautiously, in no man's land, the shell-blasted waste between the trenches. The war diary of the Scots Guards records that a certain Private Murker "met a German Patrol and was given a glass of whisky and some cigars, and a message was sent back saying that if we didn't fire at them, they would not fire at us."

...For British soldier, Private Frederick Heath, the truce began late that same night when "all down our line of trenches there came to our ears a greeting unique in war: 'English soldier, English soldier, a merry Christmas, a merry Christmas!'" Then—as Heath wrote in a letter home—the voices added: 'Come out, English soldier; come out here to us.' For some little time we were cautious, and did not even answer. Officers, fearing treachery, ordered the men to be silent. But up and down our line one heard the men answering that Christmas

greeting from the enemy. How could we resist wishing each other a Merry Christmas, even though we might be at each other's throats immediately afterwards? So we kept up a running conversation with the Germans, all the while our hands ready on our rifles. Blood and peace, enmity and fraternity—war's most amazing paradox. The night wore on to dawn—a night made easier by songs from the German trenches, the pipings of piccolos and from our broad lines laughter and Christmas carols. Not a shot was fired." (From "The Story of the WWI Christmas Truce," Smithsonian Magazine, December 23, 2011, by Mike Dash)

This year, one of our frequent letter writers, Orlando Perez wrote a very meaningful letter titled, "The True Meaning of Christmas" that is apropos to this time of the year. As in past years, letter writer Bob Brown's "Let Go! Let God! Give Patience and Peace a Try!" and the late well known Perth Amboy poet, Dioris Arlequin's "A Christmas Gift."

Please remember those in your prayers who recently lost loved ones and those who tragically were lost in the recent tornadoes that affected six states.

Let 2022 begin the year of healing. *C.M. & K.M.*

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

The True Meaning of Christmas

It's that time of the year! We celebrate and enjoy Christmas with family and friends, watching children unwrapping their gifts from Santa Claus. It is a time to forget the world's problems; it's a day to remember and understand the true

meaning of Christmas. Let no one stop you from enjoying the Christmas holiday. And let us not forget those unfortunate not to have a Christmas for whatever reason. Make this Christmas an enjoyable one by helping one another that's the most important "meaning" of Christmas. Merry Christmas!

Orlando "Wildman" Perez

"Let Go! Let God! Give Patience and Peace a Try!"

It's the season to "Let Go! Let God! Give patience and peace a try. The years have brought about many conflicts in our lives which never seem to fade away. The old grudges, family feuds and misunderstandings stay with us because we don't take the time or are afraid to

talk about the unresolved hurts from the past. Now is the time to set about righting the old hard feelings. I assure you all parties will become away stronger, happier and with a better understanding of what really matters in life. Reach out. You will be amazed to learn that the other party has wanted to forgive and forget but was afraid to make the first move. Let Go! Let God. He will show you the way.

Respectfully: Robert A. Brown

Celebration of Hanukkah, Perth Amboy Public Library, Jefferson Street, 12/2/21

*Photos by Paul W. Wang



A Christmas Gift

During this season of giving

Each one of us can give a Christmas Gift to our fellow man
With giving respect and kindness you may be giving a person that is down
on his luck a reason to keep on living
You may lift up someone's spirit by giving him a helping hand
By giving the gift of reverence of every human being
You will be receiving a Christmas Gift
A gift that was given to us over two thousand years ago
The gift of being selfless
The gift of love
By being tolerant and giving love to everyone you meet during this
Christmas Season
You will be giving and receiving "A Christmas Gift"

By "The Poet" Dioris Luis Arlequin



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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

TUES. Dec. 14 BID, 4 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
• Library Board of Trustees, 5 p.m.
Library, Jefferson St.
THURS. Jan. 6 Board of Education, 5:30 p.m.
PAHS, Eagle Ave.
MON. Jan. 10 City Council, Caucus, 5:30 p.m.
City Hall, High St. & Zoom
WED. Jan. 12 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St. & Zoom

South Amboy

WED. Dec. 15 City Council, Business/Regular, 6 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway
WED. Jan. 5 City Council, Reorganization/Business, 6 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway

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

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Arguments Over Appointees to Municipal Boards and Removing Fluoride from the City’s Water Among Topics Discussed 12/6/21 Caucus

By: Carolyn Maxwell
PERTH AMBOY – Councilman Joel Pabon had a heated discussion regarding three appointments to the Citizen’s Public Safety Advisory Board that was put on the agenda as a Resolution by Council President William Petrick. “Why are these candidates being reappointed again? And why were these resolutions put on the agenda before informing the other council members. Once you put these on the agenda, it is going to be hard to put another candidate up for these positions.”

Councilwoman Rose Morales agreed with Pabon.

Council President Petrick then explained, “They haven’t had a chance to have even one meeting, yet.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejada then chimed in, “I was puzzled why this group never had a meeting.”

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch then spoke up, “The ordinance creating the Citizen’s Public Safety Advisory Board sets the terms of each member, and how long they serve.”

Petrick said, “These people that are on the agenda for reappointment were told they shouldn’t have any concerns. We will reappoint them at the end of the year to formalize the rotation of the time they are to serve. If you want, we can bring up the tape of that meeting.”

Pabon spoke up again, “We had the same problem with the Rent Leveling Board reappointment.”

Petrick reminded Pabon, “You were the one who asked

about the reappointment of the Rent Leveling Board Members. Those appointments had to be readvertised because of sudden vacancies. We are only reappointing two members to the Citizen’s Advisory Board.”

Councilwoman said, “Actually, it’s three people on the agenda to be reappointed.”

Councilman B.J. Torres then added, “The initial appointment for this Board were made in the spring and due to unforeseen circumstances, they were not able to have not even one meeting.”

Petrick reiterated that same fact as to why they need to be reappointed, “They have not had a chance to have any meetings. Before we look at appointing anybody new, we have to look at the people who applied beforehand and were turned down.”

Pabon stated, “We have to follow the law.”

Petrick fired back, “There are a lot of laws that haven’t been followed.”

Pabon answered back, “This is not about us.”

Petrick agreed and said, “It is really about people.”

Councilwoman Tejada stated, “We should wrap this up. It is just that we thought that the other council members should have been informed about these reappointments before they were put on the agenda.”

The next topic of discussion was Resolution R-631-12/21 – Consenting to the extension of the interim appointment of Matthew Nieves as Acting Director of Public Works for a period of

no longer than 60 days from December 2, 2021.

Petrick stated, “There was no advise and consent for this appointment.”

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch stated, “It was on a previous agenda as a communication - not a resolution.”

Petrick was frustrated and stated, “If it was done properly, it should have been a resolution to appoint someone as an Acting DPW Director.”

Councilman Joel Pabon referenced R-633-12/21 – An installment payment agreement with Carlos Jimenez for water consumption at 553 Gerard Street.

He thanked Luis Perez Jimenez - Director of Operations at the USA-PA (Utility Service Associates Perth Amboy) Middlesex Water Company) for investigating this matter.

City Attorney William Opel explained R-645-12/21 – Authorizing execution of a revocable license agreement with Convery Boulevard LLC.

“This is on the agenda to formalize an agreement so that the city can access this property if necessary. This was originally on the agenda in early October.”

Council President Petrick questioned R-647-12/21 – Extending the contract with Milenium Strategy for grant writing services for a one-month period in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.

He questioned, “I thought we had enough grant writers.”

Business Administrator Michael Green responded, “This company has gotten the city seven grants since August, and

they have brought in much more money to the city than what we have paid them, and they are finding the grants.” Green then explained, “For R-651, they are asking for an expansion of two months for the professional services contract for Bruce Kaplan as a City Benefit Consultant until February 28, 2022.”

Petrick agreed with this. “Kaplan has been a tremendous asset to the city.”

Milady Tejada spoke up and asked Petrick if he would like to speak about R-657-12/21 – Prohibiting the use of fluoride in the city drinking water. Tejada questioned how people would feel about this.

Councilman B.J. Torres spoke up, “Fluoride might be a carcinogenic in the long run, and it’s been known to decrease a person’s IQ by 10 points when they become adults. It’s good for children, but not for adults. We are only one of two municipalities in the county that has fluoride in their water.”

Council President Petrick who put this resolution on the agenda stated, “Middlesex Water doesn’t add fluoride and plus fluoride is already in commercial products. Dentists give it to children to just swish it around in their mouths and have them spit it out.”

Milady Tejada spoke, “In the long run, will it benefit the taxpayers and the health of all? There’s not much going to be much of a tax savings if we remove the fluoride in the water.”

Councilman Pabon said he was okay with removing it.

Torres spoke up again, “There are no mass tooth decay when fluoride was removed from the drinking water.”

Petrick then remembered, “At one time, Perth Amboy had the best water.”

Councilwoman Morales asked, “Can we have someone who is an expert who knows the pros and cons of fluoride in the drinking water?”

Council President Petrick said, “There was a presentation on this.”

Torres said, “I must have missed that presentation, but the students have dental checkups in the school.”

Morales then suggested that the council have Dr. Lydia David, a local dentist come and speak.

Petrick was adamant, “If Middlesex Water thought it was great (having fluoride in the water), they would have supplied it to all the cities that they serve.”

Petrick then talked about R-658-12/21 – Involving improvements to several roads in Perth Amboy.

One of the roads mentioned was Krockmally Avenue. “That road is so bad, it’s like a warzone.”

Business Administrator Mike Green explained R-660-12/21 – Authorizing initiation of competitive contracting for grant writing services.

He said, “This is part of Best Practices to solicit for grant writers. It authorizes the cities to submit RFQ’s.

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch spoke up, “R-636-12/21 – Accepting the bid and awarding the contract to Signal Control Products for traffic signals and parts in an amount not to exceed \$177,504.

She stated a department head asked this to be removed from the agenda.

Mike Green responded, “I am not aware of anyone asking to remove this from the agenda and I’m requesting that it be kept on the agenda.”

Public Comments (in-house first):

Resident Alan Silber came up. “What kind of expertise do you have to remove fluoride from our water? You had several people come here to speak about weed, but not about fluoride.” He then turned his attention to R-631 (the extension of the DPW Acting Director). “Who is Matthew Nieves? An acting appointment is to put a person in place for someone who is on leave and interim is temporary while you search for a permanent replacement. Now, it seems that everything is interim and all you are doing is adding extensions to these interim appointments. At the end of the 60 days of these interim appointments, you were to vote and have a regular person in place. If you look at the City’s website, it has Matthew Nieves as Director of Public Works. It’s the law and an ordinance. Now, with this resolution, Matthew Nieves has been an Acting Director for 127 days. Before Frank Hoffman was appointed as DPW Director, there was a bridge between him being appointed as Acting Director before they made him DPW Director. Was this advertised?” Silber then went back to talk about fluoride removal resolution. “You have dental schools in New Jersey. Why don’t you ask someone from one of those schools to come here and speak?”

Councilman Torres spoke up quickly, “New Brunswick does not have fluoride in their water system.”

Silber then mentioned that a Dental School at Rutgers in New Brunswick and the Harvard Dental School also talked about the benefits of having fluoride in the drinking water. “Just have pros and cons presented. The council failed by extending the interim contract for the DPW contract for up to 127 days for Matthew Nieves.”

B.A. Green responded to Silber’s last remark, “This does not have to be advertised – the DPW Director position. It is the mayor’s decision with the advise and consent of the council. If the city website has Nieves as the DPW Director, that is incorrect, and we will correct that as Acting DPW Director.”

The meeting was opened up to Zoom and no one spoke.

The council went into closed session at 6:33 p.m. All council members were present.

Latino and Black Voices Unite to Create Mental Health Agenda Advocate for Mental Health Equity for Communities of Color

Press Release 12/1/21

The Latino Action Network Foundation today released two policy reports focused on the current state of Latino and Black communities in New Jersey. Among the recommendations, the LAN Foundation calls for funding for pathways to help bridge the gap for Black and Latinx persons seeking to obtain mental health degrees and licensure via supported partnerships and paid residencies.

The reports also highlight the need to incentivize collaboration and co-location of services among community-based organizations, schools, churches, and other social services agencies to reduce gaps and achieve an increase in access to treatment amongst Latinos & Blacks. “Between the pandemic, rampant racism, and xenophobia, New Jersey’s Black and Brown communities are coping with life-or-death issues daily and our current healthcare systems are failing us,” said Jesselly De La Cruz, Executive Director of the LAN Foundation and Past President of the Latino Mental Health Association of NJ. “COVID-19 has taught us that implicit bias can be life threatening and that communi-

ties of color continue to receive less quality care.”

The recommendations include the following:

- Panelists of both roundtables call for the NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services and all mental health licensure boards begin collecting data on race, ethnicity, & language ability. This way we can begin to assess the client-practitioner ratio in mental health services.
- The reports recommend that programs be developed that integrate Black and Latino paraprofessionals such as Promotors [Promotoras] and faith-based leaders in community education to help reduce stigma of the mental health system.
- We are also recommending that Latino mental health and anti-racist curriculums be integrated into professional training and be publicly available. The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services should also start to gather information about clients’ racerelated experiences.

In the summer of 2021, the LAN Foundation in collaboration with Salvation and Social Justice organized Black and Latino mental health policy roundtables to create an agenda for

action. The roundtables were moderated by Elsa Candelario, MSSW, LCSW, Program Coordinator for the Rutgers Latinos in Social Work Training and Assessment Program, Henry Acosta, Acosta Consulting LLC, and Dr. Tawanda Hubbard, Professor of Professional Practice at Rutgers.

The roundtables produced two policy reports: NJ Voices Call for Greater Access to Mental Health Services for Latinos and Mental Health in the Black Community. Panelists identified the impact of racism and xenophobia on the mental health of Black and Latino communities, as well as the disparities in accessing quality care.

Both reports are available on the LAN Foundation’s website, www.lanfoundation.org. The Latino Action Network Foundation (LANF) is established as a charitable organization with the goal of uniting New Jersey’s diverse Latino communities and advancing our economic and social empowerment. We are organized to research the issues impacting the Latino communities of New Jersey, develop policy proposals to address those issues, and conduct outreach to those communities.

Preserving and Protecting Perth Amboy's History

12/8/21 Council Meeting

By: Carolyn Maxwell
 PERTH AMBOY – Perth Amboy Historic Preservation Chair Renee Skelton appeared before the council to present a Historic Preservation Committee update. She stated that of the 360 municipalities in New Jersey, one-third have a Historic Commission. We're here to ask for your support so we can do what an HPC is intended to do. We are working on projects now and for the future. In 1978, a survey of historic sites was done. 32 of those sites are gone, and those that are still standing had a great number of alterations done to cause them to lose their historic value. We demolished a lot of buildings that were on the state and national listing." She then mentioned the Anaconda Old Copperworks located between Second and Elm Streets which had 20 historic buildings that were eligible for the state register. "Some of those buildings were destroyed and the HPC was never consulted. Our HPC ordinance is very vague and easy to circumvent. With some of the previous administrations, there have been more rhetoric than action. The last inventory of historic sites was done in 2016. There were reviews for proposed changes and there were supposed to be reviews of requests for demolishing of some buildings that may have had historic value. There are four land use boards, and three that are regulatory. We are an advisory board, and we are supposed to give our recommendations to the other boards. We should always be the first stop (when it comes to looking at historic sites or buildings), then it should go before the Planning or Zoning Board. In other towns that have HPC's, they have listed in their ordinance that they are advisory boards. We are the only ones who can bring perspectives from our experts regarding historic sites which other boards don't have. We are often passed over because of our ordinance being so weak which allows our HPC to be sidestepped. Hoboken has 64 historic sites of which they list all the pertinent details on each one and why they should be included in the master plan." She then went on to mention two buildings that have historic terra cotta: one at 224 Smith Street, and the Massopust Building located at the 700 Block on State Street. "The terra cotta can be removed from those buildings because they are not considered historic sites. The only thing the HPC can do in those cases to protest that action. In 2011, the Chair at time was William Pavlovsky who emphasized the need to strengthen the HPC ordinance. We want to give the council the actual information to do this. Our priorities are to revive the ordinance to get the skilled people we need such as a restoration architect, and someone on the Planning Board and a council member as members. We also need to hire an architect (whose specialty is in historic restoration.) We need to add a restoration coordina-

tor. We presently do our own research, attend workshops, and write grants. The city needs to hire someone to do this and work with us. We need to get the needed sites on the national registry, and we need to have historic districts set up. We are doing some of that now. The library and the post office are on the short list. To have sites to be put on the national historic registry has benefits. You can attract additional funds and get economic incentives which can help with taxes which also include federal tax credits. Governor Murphy recently signed into law where eligible historic sites can get tax credits. Many buildings in Perth Amboy are eligible for the NJ Tax Credits. It will bring more money into the town and depending on the historic building, the tax credit could be anywhere from \$5,000 to \$20,000 per historic building. We would like to be certified by the local government. We had historic markers that did not cost the city. Duke Realty is giving us markers for the Anaconda site. The Thomas Mundy Peterson Site is on Kushner's property and people are willing to donate money to excavate that site and Kushner's representatives are okay with that. All of our city museums should be open at the same time and we also need a map showing all the restaurants in town. The Surveyor General's Office needs to be open, and we need a historic trail map printed in English and Spanish. Schools can use them to teach our children about Perth Amboy's history. A trust fund for the HPC would be a basic source of funding. We can set local tax levy's which can be used for an arts and cultural center. Jersey City has done this." She then mentioned the old city buildings that have mostly been abandoned which encompasses High Street, Commerce Street, Rector Street, and Fayette Street. "We need to preserve these old city buildings and add a memorial to Thomas Mundy Peterson." Skelton noted that it would be a good site for a museum and a cultural center. She then recognized some of the HPC members that were present. Phyllis Gianfrancesco and Katherine Massopust. She also mentioned the tremendous support from Councilman Joel Pabon and former Councilwoman Lisa Nanton who are both on the Board of Trustees on the Proprietary House. Joel Pabon lives across the street from the Proprietary House. She also recognized former Councilman Dave Szilagyi. "The Office of Economic and Community Development were also able to supply grants to us." She noted City Historian John Dyke has highlighted Perth Amboy's history with his videos. "I remember when Helmin Caba and I would often attend HPC meetings before he became mayor and I became an HPC commissioner. He was a commissioner for short time. He was always supportive of what they did."

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda thanked the HPC for what they

do to preserve our history. "We are here to support you."

Council President Petrick said, "All volunteers should be recognized. We support you, but what is the number value of your budget?"

Skelton said, "We gave you a rough estimate, but we need to decide as a city what we want to do. I don't know what we will be allowed to do."

Councilman Pabon suggested, "We need to start with the ordinance and give us the information with what the other HPC's in other municipalities have in their ordinances. See what happened after 2011 (when the HPC was revitalized)."

Skelton reiterated, "The ordinance has to be strengthened first. I don't have much information as to what happened regarding the ordinance from 2011."

Pabon stated that he would sit down with Lisa Nanton to discuss this.

Petrick then suggested, "We can pass an ordinance to strengthen it and then provide the funding needed."

Skelton replied, "We have funding to hire an expert, and we will give you a report on that."

Business Administrator Michael Green spoke up, "I will do everything I can to assist you."

The meeting was open to anyone to speak on ordinances on the agenda that had a public hearing. No one present at the meeting spoke.

Resident Sharon Hubberman spoke via Zoom on Ordinance No. 1 – Appropriating \$1,800,000 of American Rescue Plan Act Funds for the acquisition of meters for the water/wastewater public in and by the city of Perth Amboy.

She asked about the price of the smart meters and if the residents have an option to opt out of getting a new meter. "There should be access to clean drinking water. We still have a lot of issues with the water. What does this ordinance have to do with meters and new pipes being laid down? The \$1,850,000 should be for our infrastructure and cleaner water. The American Rescue Plan should not be used for this (buying meters)."

B.A. Green responded, "This ordinance is for 4,000 meters which will be 5/8" to 2" and this is to improve our water. The DEP and EPA has not cited us as having bad water and these will be smart meters."

Council President Petrick then commented, "The meters were going to be replaced and we will be using this money instead of having to use bonds for the cost and people cannot opt out on this."

Public Comments on Agenda Items Only (in-house):

HPC Commissioner Phyllis Gianfrancesco came up to speak. She remembered when she attended meetings with one of the former chairs. "I know you are doing the master plan and the former chair of the HPC said we can have historic districts in the city to be incorporated into the master plan.

We need to have a historic site element. The old police department can be restored into a rec center. It could be a site for the enjoyment of children and all residents."

Petrick responded, "I remember when the late well-known local artist Tom Ward was around. He would talk about all the historic buildings." Petrick then asked B.A. Mike Green if the HPC Commissioners can go into the old police station."

Gianfrancesco continued, "We lost state grant money when we lost those buildings on the Anaconda site."

Petrick then commented that some of the parking lots near there are being used.

Green said that he would see about the HPC Commissioners getting access to the old police building.

Resident Alan Silber came up to speak next. He stated that he would like to apologize for some of the statements he made at Monday's Caucus meeting. He was concerned that minutes of council meetings are not posted in a timely manner on the website and the clerk's office needs more people.

Petrick replied that the clerk's office is trying to catch up since the pandemic began.

Silber continued, "There has been misinformation regarding fluoride, and I disagree with what the Business Administrator said about our water. There were two different Deans from universities – one of them from Harvard Dental School who talked about the benefits of fluoride. There have been disputes about the dangers of fluoride. You as a council are not qualified to vote on this. 73% of the country drinks fluoride water. Mayor Caba used to come to the meetings. Maybe he can enlighten us (on this issue)."

Councilman B.J. Torres responded, "You are giving us biased information (using Dental Schools as your source). I am quoting what the CDC and the WHO stated about fluoride."

Silber continued, "I can't believe you having a war on this."

Petrick concluded, "Most people drink bottled water anyway."

Resident Ray Kawka, Jr. came up next to speak about the old city buildings. He suggested that the old police buildings can be converted into a community police center, or a museum and those buildings should be saved.

No one spoke via Zoom. The council voted on Ordinance No.1 (water meters). It was moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejeda.

Rose Morales asked for R-657 – 12/21 - Prohibiting the use of fluoride in the city's drinking water to be voted on separately.

For the consent agenda, R-620 thru R-656; and R-658 thru R-660 was moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejeda. When it came to vote on R-657, it was moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejeda. Pabon, Morales voted "No"; Petrick, Torres, and Tejeda voted "Yes". Motion passes.

The council voted to add the later starters. R-665-12/21 –

Qualifying public defenders who submitted responses to request the qualifications for CY: 2022.

R-666-12/21 – A contract with Hanan A. Boulas as a public defender for the CY: 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$37,100.

R-667 – A contract with William Northgrave to perform legal services beyond the regular duties of the Director of Law in an amount not to exceed \$80,657.

It was moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejeda.

Public Portion (in-house first):

Resident Lisa Nanton came up to speak first. She thanked Renee Skelton on her excellent presentation, "How long will it take to put the amended HPC Ordinance on the agenda?"

Petrick responded, "We need to get specific information to put in the ordinance and then incorporate it into the master plan. Our budget comes out in March. We have to see if there is money we can place in our budget for the HPC. We can do this as a Council Body."

Nanton asked, "Is the master plan separate? We have funds for an attorney and there should be money in the master plan."

Petrick responded, "We took money from our budget to put in the master plan. The city can put in an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for a city planner, then an RFP (Request for Proposal)."

B.A. Green said, "We are working with the state on our master plan."

Petrick commented, "The city engineer and the planning board work together on the master plan and present their findings to the council. With the new administration, we have also added that the HPC be included in the committee. Our City Engineer Ernest Feist stated there was no money to pay him and he knew there was an RFQ."

Councilman Pabon spoke up, "Now that the HPC is part of the committee that is working on the master plan, we can make it happen (identifying historic sites)."

Petrick then suggested to use part of Hoboken's ordinance as an example. "Our City Engineer needs a checklist of the historic sites. Nothing is mentioned. The planning board also overlooked the HPC for advise and consent."

The next person to speak was Maria Peralta who lives on State Street. She spoke in Spanish. Pabon translated. She was concerned about a meeting that was cancelled in September regarding a bar at 415 Fayette St. where there many disturbances. "What is going on and when will the hearing take place? This bar needs to be relocated because the residents near there need to have peace. They would like to attend the meeting regarding this bar. Please do not permit any more bars to be near any residential areas. This bar should be closed because of the fights and shooting that took place until they are

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAMS FUNDING APPLICATIONS FOR FY 2022

The City of Perth Amboy is initiating planning for Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Action Plan as part of its application for funding to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The City expects to receive approximately \$660,000 from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and \$407,000 in HOME funding. Funds may be used to assist persons with low to moderate-incomes, remove slums and blight, or address urgent needs.

Starting Thursday, December 16, 2021, applications and guidelines for FY 2022 CDBG and HOME funds will be available on the City's website www.perthamboy.nj.org through the Office of Economic and Community Development webpage. Be advised, all proposals will be due via email (microdriguez@perthamboynj.org) on **Tuesday - January 18, 2022 by 5:00 P.M.**

A public hearing is set to be held on **Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 3:00 P.M.** via a phone and ZOOM meeting due to the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and following the social distancing guidelines.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88225425990?pwd=MnFNb3NXT0xrRUdkOTBjcWVFSy9xUT09>
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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kuQuUF0WY>

The draft FY 2022 Annual Action Plan will be prepared following the close of the application period and committee review. This document will be available for public review in the City's website www.perthamboy.nj.org through the Office of Economic and Community Development webpage for 30 days starting **Monday, March 28, 2022 to Thursday, April 28 2022** in order to receive comments on the proposed plan prior to finalizing the document and to meet the timing submission requirements established by HUD.

Comments can be sent to the Office of Economic and Community Development, 260 High Street, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861, or by emailing tvazquez@perthamboynj.org or microdriguez@perthamboynj.org.

Thank you.

Helmin J. Caba,
Mayor

Benson & Lopez Legislation to Prevent Violence Against Rail & Bus Employees Passes Assembly Committee Legislation Would Provide Resources to Prevent Violence & Upgrade Penalties for Assault of Transit Employees

Press Release 12/9/21
TRENTON – As attacks on transit employees continue to rise throughout the country, legislation sponsored by Assembly Democrats Daniel Benson and Yvonne Lopez seeks to protect New Jersey bus and rail employees. The measure, named the 'Motorbus and Passenger Rail Service Employee Violence Prevention Act,' was advanced by the Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee on Thursday.

In the span of just one week, two NJTRANSIT customers were arrested last year in separate incidents involving an attack on a train conductor. Another man was caught on video this summer using racial slurs and curse words against an NJTRANSIT conductor before assaulting him after he was asked to put a face mask on. These are just some of the dozens of attacks against these employees each year.

"Transportation workers are far too often subjected to vicious attacks by irate passengers for simply doing their jobs," said Assemblyman Benson (D-Mercer, Middlesex). "This legislation will work towards preventing that violence while making it clear these attacks unacceptable. Our bus and rail employees must be protected as they fulfill their critical duties on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of commuters in our state."

The bill (A-6013) upgrades assaults on an employee of a public or private bus or rail passenger service – who is identifiably engaged in the duties of their job or who is specifically targeted because of their job – from a crime of the fourth degree to a crime of the third degree. Whereas someone convicted of fourth-degree aggravated assault can get up to 18 months in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000, a person convicted of third-degree aggravated assault can get 3 to 5 years in prison and a fine of up to \$15,000.

The measure also empowers NJTRANSIT and other bus and rail providers to ban riders for up to one year if they commit an assault against an employee. If the assault was with a deadly weapon, the rider could be banned for life.

"The hard-working employees on our trains and buses are invaluable to New Jersey's transportation system and deserve our respect," said Assembly-

woman Lopez (D-Middlesex). "It is unacceptable that so many of these employees fear for their safety due to the frequency of violent attacks, which have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. We must put safeguards in place to enable a safer working environment going forward."

NJTRANSIT and other providers would be required under the measure to equip each bus and rail vehicle with a communication system that would allow operators to alert the company and appropriate law enforcement agencies that they are in distress. It would further require operators to coordinate with law enforcement and transit police to help protect employees during high-volume periods and potentially problematic routes.

In addition to establishing a program to support employees who have been the victim of an assault, the measure would also require operators to periodically provide them with anti-violence training that includes de-escalation techniques.

The legislation now goes to the Speaker for further consideration.

Preserving and Protecting Perth Amboy’s History

12/8/21 Council Meeting

**Continued from Page 7*

investigated. There was even a shot through a window where a child was present. You are here to protect the community. There are too many things going on in the bars (that are wrong). We just need to know a date and time when there will be a meeting scheduled to discuss this particular bar.”

Petrick responded, “Our former Law Director, Mr. King was supposed to get in touch with the bar’s attorney and the state agency investigated this bar. I know that there was a murder that occurred there, but I don’t know what happened after that.”

Lawyer William Opel spoke up. He stated that he spoke to Mr. King and that he is waiting for a report from the state about this bar. “I will follow up on this.”

Council President Petrick then stated, “We were told that we can take action. We have all received petitions from neighborhood (regarding the incident at this bar).”

Resident Alan Silber came up next. “Are city workers required to be vaccinated?”

B.A. Green responded, “There

is no state mandate, so the answer is no.”

Silber continued, “Do we pay workers who have Covid and passed it on? We don’t discuss Covid issues, but we can vote on fluoride. In the New Jersey Magazine, they used to list the best and worst schools. We were always listed as one of the worst schools. You should consult with the Dean of Rutgers and Harvard Dental Schools. I hope everyone enjoys their holidays and my hope is for a healthier new year.”

The meeting was opened up to Zoom participants.

Sharon Hubberman spoke, “Mike Green was once the Business Administrator in Newark. Newark also had a water crisis.” She stated that the comments I made earlier about the water are factual. “Look at our water quality report. Our contaminant levels are high. I am a longtime resident of Perth Amboy and Mr. Green needs to do a fact check. I am an advocate for the community. I see there is a job title that says: “Chief of Staff”. That would be what the business administrator does. How could another person be given that title instead of being the mayor’s aide? What about

the salary range of this title? Mr. Green should access this title. I wish everyone a happy new year. Be safe and blessings to everyone and their families.”

Petrick responded to Hubberman’s comments. “The business administrator is also the chief of staff, but then you have a chief of staff in the mayor’s office.”

B.A. Green also responded, “I was the Acting Director of the Water and Sewer Department in Newark. I stand by what the DEP and the EPA said about our water quality.”

Petrick commented, “There was a lead problem in Newark which went into the homes, but we didn’t have lead bin problems coming into our homes in Perth Amboy like Newark did. Most of our service lines are copper.”

Green concluded the discussion, “We bonded (the money) to correct the service lines to the homes in Newark which were taken care of.”

Council Comments:

Councilwoman Rose Morales thanked Renee Skelton for her presentation and all of the HPC members. “You can’t call our city historical if we keep knocking down our historical buildings.”

Councilman Joel Pabon thanked all who made this year’s Christmas Parade possible last week. “I thank the police department, DPW, and the administration. The turnout was great. Have a happy, healthy, holiday. Merry Christmas. Let’s protect ourselves. Go out and have a good time. God willing, we will be back in 2022.”

Councilwoman Milady Tejeda thanked all who participated in the Christmas Parade. “I enjoyed the presentation by Renee Skelton, and I look forward to participating (with this cause). Enjoy the holidays with your family and friends, and don’t forget to call and reach out to those who are shut in. Have a

healthy new year.”

Councilman B.J. Torres wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy new year. “Get your booster shot. I hope everyone who has not gotten a vaccination has a change of heart.”

Council President Bill Petrick wished everyone a blessed Hannukah. “I heard the library had a wonderful Hannukah event. Merry Christmas. Happy Kwanza. Covid is still here and now there is another new variant. Happy Holidays to everyone. I am hoping that Covid will lesson and in time the economy will recover. Merry Christmas to all here and in Zoomland! God Bless America!”

Basketball Games Fundraiser

SOUTH AMBOY - This year’s Friends of South Amboy fundraising event will be held on Saturday, December 18th at South Amboy Middle High School, 200 Governor Harold G. Hoffman Plaza. Proceeds from the event will benefit families in need. As in years past the event will feature local high school basketball games, as follows:

2 p.m.	South Amboy girls vs. Highland Park
4 p.m.	South Amboy boys vs. Spotswood
6 p.m.	Sayreville boys vs. Johnson high school
8 p.m.	St. Thomas Aquinas boys vs. St. Joe’s Metuchen

Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Almost 90 Percent of Perth Amboy Residents Are Vaccinated Through City Taskforce Efforts

Press Release 12/7/21

PERTH AMBOY — Mayor Helmin J. Caba has prioritized the City of Perth Amboy’s local public health pandemic by creating a COVID-19 Taskforce to provide a credible, effective response and common ground solutions. The taskforce, established in February 2021, consisted of key local, county and state leaders that led the mobilization efforts to increase access to vaccines that turned the tide of this pandemic for City of Perth Amboy residents.

The COVID-19 Taskforce consisted of

- Office of the Governor, Phil Murphy
- Office of Population Health, New Jersey Department of Health
- Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin
- New Jersey Senator, Joe Vitale
- Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez, District 19
- Middlesex County Commissioner Director, Ronald G. Rios and Commissioners
- John Carroll, Director, Office of Public and Government Affairs, Middlesex County
- Lisett Lebron, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
- Larry Cattano, Deputy Chief of Police / Director of Office Emergency Management
- Dianne Roman, Supervisor of Housing and Social Services, City of Perth Amboy
- Kim Ruiz, CEO, Puerto Rican Association for Human Development Inc.
- Eva Kucaba, Supervisor of Nursing & Health Related Services, Perth Amboy Public Schools
- Steve Jobin, President/CEO - Raritan Bay Area YMCA

- John T. O’Leary, CEO, Jewish Renaissance Medical Center
 - Late Tom Shanahan, COO/ Hospital Site Executive, Hackensack Meridian Health Raritan Bay Medical Center
 - William DiStanislao, Interim President, Chief Hospital Executive, Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center
 - Barry Rosengarten, Chair, Perth Amboy Business Improvement District
 - Damaris Ramirez, Mercy House, Cathedral International
- The taskforce’s collective efforts led to the 88% vaccination rate, within 9 months (from February 2021 - November 2021).

The taskforce has been able to

1. Increase access to vaccines with a COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-out through Middlesex County, establishing the Middlesex County Vocational School as a supersite for vaccinations.
2. Jointly hosted over 40+ mobile vaccination clinics throughout the City of Perth Amboy with Middlesex County Department of Health, the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center, Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center, and local pharmacies.
3. Distributed educational materials about vaccinations and myths versus facts, established COVID-19 testing locations, created a dedicated city hotline, organized volunteers to canvass in the business district, and deployed a series of social media and website campaigns.
4. Fed roughly 27,000+ people with the distributed boxes/produce through the help of Middlesex County, MCFOODS, Community Food Bank of NJ, U.S. Foods and the NJ FEED

initiative through the New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

5. Collaborated with 40+ partnerships including houses of worship, businesses, schools, and community non-profits

“This is the kind of daunting job that requires an enormous range of expertise and experience and a vast array of trusted partners,” said Mayor Helmin J. Caba. “The task force was perfectly suited to take on this kind of crucial, large-scale challenge, bringing together skills across all our programs and partnerships to safeguard the health of our residents.”

With the support of Governor Murphy, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez, Senator Joe Vitale, and Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald Rios, in preparing the State of New Jersey for large-scale vaccine delivery, the task force developed a grass roots approach that helped rapidly administer covid-19 vaccines.

“The support from Governor Murphy in deploying Community Health Ambassadors through the Office of Population Health with the New Jersey Department of Health, was an immense help for our residents in getting the information needed of the vaccines available, said Mayor Caba. “On behalf of the City of Perth Amboy, thank you for providing access, resources, and advocacy to get our families vaccinated.”

The taskforce initiative also aimed to support the timely and efficient delivery of vaccines to target groups such as health workers, essential workers, and

the city’s aging and vulnerable populations. As an initial step, the task force organized activities with the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center and Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center with a dedicated city hotline for appointments, six days a week.

The Jewish Renaissance Medical Center (JRMCC) also completed their same day patient care wing designed to further meet the community’s needs on COVID-19 while assuring that the City of Perth Amboy’s first infectious disease center meets all current state and federal requirements. “The modernized wing provides the location and accessible care to all residents, while equipping our medical staff with the tools they need to deliver the highest-quality medical care,” said John T. O’Leary, Chief Executive Officer, JRMCC. “Designed to respond to the overall patient experience in managing the COVID-19 virus and other infectious diseases, the new 1600 square-foot acute care wing focused on administering the COVID-19 testing and vaccinations on site.”

“Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Perth Amboy has gone above and beyond to inform and help our community through their COVID-19 taskforce,” ,” said William DiStanislao, Interim President, Chief Hospital Executive of Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center. “Working together with all the City’s partners has helped increase vaccinations within our community.”

“The Raritan Bay Area YMCA is so proud to be working with a collective group of people and

organizations that understand the importance of getting our residents and business owners the necessary information to make an informed decision to be vaccinated, said, Steve Jobin, Chief Executive Officer of the Raritan Bay Area YMCA. “Led by Mayor Caba, our network collectively understands the responsibility to care for the well-being of our neighbors and are focused on data-driven education and access to the various vaccines.” The pandemic also exacerbated food insecurity, especially for families with children. The use of the city’s six food pantries increased. With the support of federal and state funding and volunteers, donations, 27,000+ people received food boxes/produce through the help of Middlesex County, MCFOODS, Community Food Bank of NJ, U.S. Foods and the NJ FEED initiative through the New Jersey Economic Development Authority. “This task force kept our organization informed of changes, pertinent information and benefits of programs our clients would have difficulty in finding out through weekly conference calls to share with our residents, said Damaris Ramirez, Program Director at Cathedral Community Development Corporation. “It’s has been a great source of information for our organization and the people we serve.”

The taskforce continue their efforts by increasing access to vaccinations at city events and with community partners, including boosters for eligible residents.

Holiday Parade, Perth Amboy 12/4/21

*Photos by Paul W. Wang



Holiday Parade, South Amboy 12/3/21

*Photos by Eric Salvary



American Legion Post 45 Christmas Toy Giveaway, Perth Amboy 12/4/21

*Photos Submitted



PERTH AMBOY - City resident and Perth Amboy Crossing Guard, Mariluz Lantigua, spent \$500 of her own money in order to donate gifts for Perth Amboy children which were given out at the American Legion Post #45.

Toy Distribution to Domestic Violence Shelters, Perth Amboy

*Photos Submitted



PERTH AMBOY - Different organizations and businesses donated toys to Sharpened Mindz. The first toy donation drop off was at the Perth Amboy Police station. These toys are going to the children of Domestic violence shelters. Sgt. Emma Cabrera of the PAPD (not shown) is head of the Domestic Violence Prevention Team.

Proprietary Open House, Perth Amboy 12/12/21

*Photos by Anton Massopust III



Metropolitan-Archbishop Borys Gudziak Visits the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Perth Amboy, 11/28/21

*Photos by Katherine Massopust



By: Katherine Massopust
PERTH AMBOY – On Sunday, November 28, 2021, Metropolitan-Archbishop visited the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Perth Amboy. Rev. Ivan Turyk, Deacon Paul Makar and parish trustees welcomed the archbishop to the parish at the door of the church. Two children welcomed Metropolitan Archbishop Borys Gudziak with bread (on traditional Ukrainian cloth), salt, and flowers. This long-standing Ukrainian tradition symbolizes eternity (bread) and hospitality (salt). Pastor of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Rev. Ivan Turyk presented the archbishop with a cross.

Archbishop Borys Gudziak, Rev. Ivan Turyk, celebrated the divine liturgy with the assistance of Deacon Paul Makar, Deacon Volodymyr Radko, and several altar boys. In attendance at the service were over 55 nuns including Mother Mary of the Immaculate Conception Ambriogio, Provincial Superior of the Sisters Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara SSVM and Sister Veronica who will begin their ministry at the parish. Members of the parish welcomed the archbishop and the visiting sisters. The sisters come from all over the world to join their order. They are Latin Rite and wear blue and grey. These two different colors signify Jesus as both divine (blue) and his humanity (grey). Sister Veronica and Sister Maria wear the black habits because they belong to Byzantine Rite branch of the order.

Archbishop Borys’s sermon was on the day’s gospel Lk 13:10-17 which is about a woman who had been humped over for 18 years. The woman entered the synagogue and Jesus called her over to him and he healed her. This made the synagogue leader jealous, so he complained because Jesus healed on the Sabbath. Jesus calls him a hypocrite stating that the woman has a right to be healed after 18 years of being bound by her disfigurement.

The archbishop stated, “The American slang would be, “Give me a break!” He continued, “All of our prayers, abstinence, self-denial, sacrifice – love of God and love of your neighbor. Religion comes from the Roman (Latin) word ligare – to join(reconnect). Jesus wants our heart. He gives us the love of God. Jesus is saying, “Give me a break! You tell me about rules of the Sabbath. The woman has been in pain for 18 years.” Rules keep order the community. But if the rules get in the way, sometimes the rules need to be suspended. Rules are our comfort zone. Our Lord is not negating the law. There is one fundamental criteria – love. Love is always for others. You can’t love all by yourself. God is a relationship. In God, there is love. Jesus is a relationship with the Father and the Holy Spirit. We are living in a time where we have all these rules – vestments, robes. There is true love – God is calling us to come back to Him – to love. There is no more radical counterculture movement in the 20th (and 21st) century when a woman becomes a nun. You have in your order more than fifty women when everything is crying money, power, sex – you are obedience, poverty, chastity. We pray for you, sisters. We have great trust in God and the community. We pray through your ministry in Perth Amboy that you have many vocations. We see something we only have by grace. Be armed with the word of God. The life of the church is only beginning. It is only 2,000 years old. The church is very young. The universe is billions of years old. Maybe around 20,000 years from now, people will talk of the early years of the primitive church. God bless you!”

At the end of the divine liturgy, Archbishop Borys blessed Sister Veronica a Superior of the convent in Perth Amboy, NJ, and Sister Maria for the beginning of their ministry in Perth Amboy. The nuns in attendance sang the prayer, “Hail Mary,” in Old Slavonic.

After the liturgy, there was a reception at Assumption Catholic School cafeteria prepared by parishioners and ladies from the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) Branch 135. Assumption Catholic School Principal Mrs. Lissette Shumny and several school children presented Archbishop Borys, Rev. Ivan Turyk, Mother Mary, and Sister Veronica with flowers and a song.

After eating lunch, some of the sisters who attended the service got up on stage to sing. One spiritual hymn was, “Down by the Water Side We Meet,” while the postulantes sang, “I Saw the Light.” It was a pleasant day for all.

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Pictures with Santa

WOODBIDGE - Bring your own camera and take pictures with Santa! Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021 from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at International Martial Arts, 54 Cutters Dock Road, Woodbridge. For more information, call/text 732-587-5323. Free event open to the community.

Holiday Model Train Show

WOODBIDGE - Barron Arts Center Holiday Model Train Show, 582 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge from November 27-December 30 (CLOSED DEC 24 & 25) Featuring the set-up and design of Mike Gelsky. Now in its 31st year at the Barron Arts Center. BY RESERVATION ONLY: Call 732-634-0413 to reserve your spot. (Reservations open Nov 4). Monday-Friday: 11am-4pm; Sat & Sun 2-4pm. Please note: We will be limiting the number of guests at one time during the train show to allow for social distancing. Face Masks are Recommended. Free admission; donations welcome.

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Friends of the Perth Amboy Library Book Sale Return!

PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library are once again having a book sale on Saturday January 8th & 22nd from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. at the Brighton Avenue Community Center at the corner of Brighton Avenue and Sadowski Parkway in Perth Amboy. I know many people have been starving for reading material for these long months we were at home. We will be wearing masks and providing hand sanitizer and bags if needed. We also insist that anyone coming to peruse our collection also wear a mask as mandated by the State of NJ. Paperbacks are \$.50, hardcovers are \$1, \$5 for a bag full, no limit to size of bag except no lawn or garbage bags. We have best sellers by popular authors that are like new. The money we raise goes to support the library with providing programs, promoting literacy or to provide funds to the library with their needs beyond their budget. We look forward to your visit.

For more information email us at friendsofperthamboylibrary@gmail.com, or call us at 201-381-1903 and like us on Facebook. Dealers are welcome. At this time, we are not accepting donations of books.

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'Tis the season for us to tell you how much you mean to us. As we reflect on this past year, we've seen nothing but strength and perseverance demonstrated by our creative and hard-working business community.

It has been a pleasure serving you this past year. We will continue to work diligently and in good faith to deliver our best, to help meet your needs and to support you in achieving remarkable growth and prosperity.

On behalf of the BID board, we want to thank you, the City of Perth Amboy's governing body and our co-partnership with the Neighborhood Preservation Program (OECD team) that helped us make these beautification projects possible. Together, we will accomplish wonderful things in 2022. Merry Christmas!

Our warmest thoughts and best wishes for a blessed holiday and a joyous New Year-- From All of Us at the Perth Amboy Business Improvement District!



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Merry Christmas

World War II - 75 Years Ago

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

The United Nations is busy on December 13, 1946, creating trust territories in Africa. Created are British Cameroons and French Cameroun, as well as French Togoland and British Togoland. A trust territory in Ruanda-Urundi is granted to Belgium. The idea is that the administrating power would prepare the territory for independence. Tabriz, the capital of Iran’s Azerbaijan province, is occupied by Iranian government troops.

On December 14, the General Assembly of the United Nations votes to accept the offer by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., to purchase land along the East River in Manhattan so the UN can establish its permanent headquarters there. In addition, the UN adopts a disarmament resolution that prohibits the atomic bomb.

The United Nations on December 15 approves the constitution of the International Refugee Organization (replaced in 1951 by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). From Vietnam, President Hồ Chi Minh sends a cable to French Prime Minister-elect Léon Blum asking for negotiations to prevent fighting between their two nations. Delivery of the cable is delayed for more than 10 days.

Socialist and anti-colonialist André Léon Blum takes office as prime minister of France on December 16, replacing Georges Bidault. The Kingdom of Siam is admitted to the United Nations. (From September 1945 to May 1948, Thailand was officially named Siam.)

A U.S. V-2 rocket, captured from the Germans, reaches an altitude of almost 116 miles at the White Sands Proving Ground, in New Mexico, on December 17.

The International Monetary Fund, based in Washington, D.C., on December 18 establishes its first par values and exchange rates for the currencies of 32 of its member nations. Canadian and U.S. dollars are set at a ratio of 1 to 1, while the British pound sterling is set at US\$4.03.

War breaks out in Indochina on December 19 as 30,000 troops under Hồ Chi Minh launch widespread attacks against French positions in Hanoi and throughout north and central Vietnam. The Viet Minh destroy the central power station in Hanoi.

The British government on December 20 offers Burma independence on the same terms as those given to India. Martial law is declared by the French administration in Hanoi. Viet Minh and French forces fight fiercely with mortars, artillery and machine guns in sections of the city.

It’s a Wonderful Life, produced and directed by Frank Capra, premieres in New York City on December 21. The Christmas fantasy-drama stars James Stewart, Donna Reed and Lionel Barrymore. Although nominated for five Academy Awards, including Best Picture, the movie initially receives mixed critical reviews and is unsuccessful at the box office. Only years later, after the film enters the public domain (due to a failure to renew the copyright) — which allows it to be broadcast without permits and licensing fees — does it become a Christmas classic. The American Film Institute classifies the motion picture as one of the 100 best American films ever made.

On December 22, the last of the 35,000 German soldiers that had been interned in Canada leave for Germany.

In southeast Asia, French authorities on December 23 extend martial law throughout northern Indochina, including Cambodia and Laos.

The upper house of the newly elected French National Assembly convenes in the Luxembourg Palace on December 24, thus formally inaugurating France’s Fourth Republic. In Athens, Greek Communist leader Markos Vafeiadis declares a revolutionary government; it is not recognized by anyone. In Germany, U.S. Army Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, military governor of the American Occupation Zone, grants amnesty to approximately 800,000 “minor Nazis,” specifically those whose chargeable status in a military tribunal would not be higher than that of “follower,” and who are either in a low-income group or at least 50% disabled.

The National Assembly of China, meeting in Nanking, on December 25 passes a new constitution pledging universal suffrage. The document is to take effect in exactly one year. The Chinese Communists call it “illegal.” In British Mandatory Palestine, Emir Mohammed Zeinati, an Arab landowner, is murdered in Haifa for selling land to Jews.

Under the aegis of mobster Benjamin “Bugsy” Siegel, the Flamingo Hotel & Casino, located in the desert roughly four miles from downtown Las Vegas, Nevada, and outside the city limits, opens on December 26. Built at a cost of \$6 million, the 105-room property ushers in the start of an era — it is the first luxury resort on what is to become known as “The Strip” (Las Vegas Boulevard). In Paris, French Prime Minister Léon Blum finally receives the cable sent on December 15 by Vietnam’s Hồ Chi Minh requesting negotiations to avert fighting between the two countries. Unfortunately, it is too late — in Vietnam, warfare has already begun between the French and the Vietnamese that will last for the next seven and one-half years.

In Melbourne, Australia, on December 27, 1946, the U.S. team of Jack Kramer and Ted Schroeder win the first Davis Cup Tennis Championship, beating Australians John Bromwich and Adrian Quist in straight sets.

From China, Gen. of the Army George C. Marshall, U.S. Special Envoy to China, notifies President Truman on December 28 that his mission to broker a coalition government between the Nationalists and the Communists has failed and that the Chinese Civil War is escalating. In Hollywood, California, singer, pianist and composer Carrie Jacobs-Bond dies at the age of 84. She is the first female songwriter to have sold a million copies of a song — “I Love You Truly,” which she penned in 1901.

Ornithologist Edmund Jaeger, on an expedition in the Chuckwalla Mountains, in southeastern California, on December 29, discovers that the common poorwill (also known as the nightjar or nighthawk) is the only bird species that hibernates for the winter.

The day after one of its members is flogged in a British prison in Palestine on suspicion of bank robbery, the Zionist organization Irgun on December 30 kidnaps a British Army major and three non-commissioned officers from the Metropole Hotel in Netanya, in north-central Palestine. The soldiers are flogged in retaliation, then released. The perpetrators are ultimately caught and punished. On December 31, 1946, President Harry S Truman issues a proclamation that, effective 12 noon, the U.S. has officially ceased hostilities with Germany, Japan, Italy, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania, thereby formally ending U.S. participation in World War II. Truman notes, however, that although hostilities have come to an end, “a state of war still exists.” (Per U.S. law, once war is declared against a country by a joint resolution of Congress, the state of war continues until a treaty of peace is executed with the government of that nation. Thus, the state of war existing between the U.S. and Italy, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania is only officially terminated by treaty on September 15, 1947; with Japan, by treaty on April 28, 1952. The state of war with Germany is terminated on October 19, 1951, by a Joint Resolution of Congress on that date and by Presidential Proclamation 2950, on October 24, 1951. With Germany being partitioned between the Soviets and the “Big Three” of the U.S., the U.K., and France, no peace treaty is ever signed with “the government of Germany.”)

The Axis and Allied nations combined spent more than \$1 trillion on the war, as measured in 1945 dollars [\$14.5 trillion in 2021 dollars]. Beyond the economic devastation caused by the global conflict, the cost in human lives was horrific.

It is estimated that between 75 million and 85 million people — military and civilian — died in World War II. [This includes estimates of some 22,000,000 Soviets, 17,000,000 Chinese, 7,100,000 Germans, 5,600,000 Jews of all nationalities, 3,500,000 in the Dutch East Indies, 2,800,000 Japanese, 2,800,000 non-Jewish Poles, 1,600,000 in French Indochina, 1,300,000 Yugoslavs, 650,000 Greeks, 600,000 French, 560,000 Filipinos, 511,000 from the British Commonwealth nations, 510,000 Italians, 465,000 Hungarians, 450,000 Romanians, 450,000 from the United Kingdom, 420,000 Koreans, 419,000 Americans, 340,000 Czechs, 210,000 Dutch, 210,000 Romani (Gypsies), 97,000 Finns and untold thousands from other nations.] Poland lost about 16% of its population.

On a per-capita basis, New Zealand lost the highest percentage of servicemen among the western Allies — 12,000 of 140,000 New Zealanders (8.57%) who served overseas were killed in the war. That’s one death for every 150 New Zealand residents. Around the world, tens of millions were uprooted from their homes. Hundreds of millions were wounded physically and psychologically. In some places, ruins from the war still exist and remain in place.

— O —

This column is the last of the series.

In the opening section (“To the Reader”) of his 2011 work *The Final Storm: A Novel of the War in the Pacific*, author Jeffrey Shaara wrote: “Every day we lose countless numbers of those who participated in [World War II]. In every case, when I have spoken with veterans, they remind me that once they are gone, their memories will go with them.

Unless, as one GI said, someone tells the damn tale.”

As had Mr. Shaara, I also have tried to tell “the damn tale.” I hope I have succeeded.

Thank you for reading.

Thank you to all who served.

May there never be a conflict on this scale again.

God bless us all.

You’re Invited to Sunday Worship

PERTH AMBOY - Please join us on Sunday mornings: 9:00 AM for English Worship and Sunday School; 10:30 AM for Hungarian Worship and Sunday School

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Bingo is Back

PERTHAMBOY – \$1000 Bingo is back at the Magyar (Hungarian) Reformed Church located at the Reformed Church Hall, 347 Kirkland Place, at the corner of Kirkland and Fayette Streets on Mondays, starting October 11, 2021. Parking option behind the church (331 Kirkland Pl., accessible from Wilson Street.) Doors open 6:30 p.m. Bingo starts at 7:30 p.m. Masks are mandatory. No exceptions! Snacks and coffee are available for sale. For more info, call 732-442-7799. License No: BL-1060: ID No: 387-1-29395

Fresh Hungarian Kolbasz Sale

WOODBIDGE - Made by the members of the Calvin Hungarian Reformed Church, Corner of School and N. James Streets of Woodbridge on Saturday, December 18, 2021. Place your orders with Audrey Marciniak: 732-494-1431 or Florette Pastor: 732-636-2868. Price: \$7 per lb. Deadline for orders: Friday, December 10, 2021. Orders may be picked up at the Fellowship Hall, Ross Street Entrance on Saturday, December 18, 2021, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. If you are ordering Nut Rolls, you can also place your order for Kolbasz at the same time.

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All orders must be paid in full upon ordering. Please call: Florette Pastor: 732-636-2868 or Audrey Marciniak: 732-494-1431.

Getting Ahead in Business By Milton Paris



Milton Paris



Criterion for Successful Telemarketing

There are countless numbers of do's and don'ts to successful telemarketing. Although the goal is to sell your product and/or service, you must understand and respect that there is a process or journey towards that endeavor. The reality is that it is human nature to get turned off by a sales call. We have all been there, that is why it is important, as a telemarketer, to put yourself in the place of the recipient, and that means to give that person a reason to want to listen to you. Your other choice, if you can't devote the time or it is not your forte, is to hire or outsource telemarketing specialists.

A successful telemarketer will do the following in order to sell your product:

- Know your products and services so they can start educating potential clients.
- Express themselves in a positive and enthusiastic fashion. Believe in your brand and getting others to believe in it as well.
- Telemarketers must begin with an attention getting introduction, continue on with an engaging middle and close with a call to action. They are ready for objections with an arsenal of open-ended questions that they respond to with thoughtful consideration.
- They are good listeners, speak with clear and professional voices and ask for the best time to follow-up.
- They call the Decision-Maker at times they expect the Gate-Keeper to be absent, such as before 9:00 a.m., lunchtime, or after 5 p.m.
- A sale is usually not made instantly. A telemarketer knows to be patient and stay consistent with using these concepts. As they continue, they begin to build relationships and trust that will create a climate to draw new business for their clients.

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Milton J. Paris, President Getting Ahead in Business, Sales and Marketing Consultant, Management Coach, Motivational Speaker and Radio Host brings a wealth of experience to the table as a result of building businesses for the past 50 years. He has coached/consulted CEO's, Presidents, entrepreneurs, salespeople and start-ups.

Milton's insights and philosophy have also helped people and their business results. Milton travels with salespeople to visit potential clients. This is all to be accomplished within an environment that puts a premium on taking personal responsibility for results.

No company is too small or too large for him to achieve rapid results in their business development. Milton for the past 15 years has been the host of Getting Ahead in Business on Fox Sports New Jersey 93.5/1450am every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. The only business radio talk show in New Jersey.

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Any business questions? Go to: www.gettingaheadinbusiness.com

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Food Drive for Local Families

SOUTH AMBOY - The South Amboy High School Interact Club (Rotary Club) and the City of South Amboy is holding a food drive to benefit local families. If you are able to donate, there will be a collection of non-perishable food, personal hygiene products and paper goods. Donations can be dropped off at the side door of the South Amboy Senior Center on Henry Street, Mondays – Friday's from 8 a.m. to 3p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Jaclyn at (732) 525-5965. You can also contact Cathy at the Nurse's office in the South Amboy Middle/High School at (732) 316-7668 option 3 to arrange curbside drop off.

Delight in December @ Dowdell

Press Release

SOUTH AMBOY - Tis the season! Mark your calendars now for some great programs this month!

Kick off December with the Holiday Biz Fair on Monday, December 6th from 4-8pm! This is a holiday shopping opportunity that is not to be missed. Drop in for hot chocolate and gift opportunities. Holiday cookies will also be sold. Interested in promoting your business? It may not be too late. Contact the library ASAP at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org.

Storytime with Ms. Maryanne continues in December. Join the fun with stories, games, activities, and crafts, Monday, 12/13 and 12/20 from 10:30-11:30.

Decorate your home with the December Drop-In crafts. Holiday projects will include a Hanukkah Paper Candle, 12/1-12/3 from 3:30-4:30, Christmas Paper Wreath, 12/20-12/23 from 3:30-4:30, and Kwanzaa Beading 12/27-12/30 from 3:30-4:30. All ages welcome!

The festivities continue with our Family Holiday Party on Monday, December 27th from 6:30-8pm. Join us for games, cookies, decorating, and holiday music. Get ready to ring in the New Year!

Do the holidays have you running in every direction? It's more important than ever to make time for your health. As always, the library is here to assist with our virtual health programs through Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital/Barnabas Health. Programs like Stretch It, a stretching and flexibility workshop meets online Thursdays in December. Why not try a Virtual Guided Imagery Relaxation Session to help release the stress of the season. Online sessions will be held on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month (12/14 & 12/28) at 1pm. To register for either program please email kathleen.johnson@rwjbh.org.

Check out the championship round of the fall Video Game Challenge! Kids ages 0-10 will compete on 12/16 from 4-5pm, while teens ages 11-18 compete on 12/14 from 4-5pm. Adults ages 18+ will also finish off the competition on 12/14 from 6:30-7:30. A winner from each category will be crowned with a prize!

Teens ages 12-17, are you interested in having a say in what the library does for you? Would you like to have some fun and earn community service hours while you do it? Join the Teen Advisory Board! Meetings will be held monthly beginning on December 17th from 3:30-4:30. Hop online and fill out your application today.

Seniors, are you looking for a good read to cozy up with as the winter season heads our way? Join our Senior Book Club! The city of South Amboy and The Dowdell Library have partnered to form the club which will meet the last Monday of the month at 10:30am in the library. The city will provide transportation as needed. Masks are required. Register today and discover the title of our latest selection. Tell us your preferences!

Is English a second language for you? The English Conversation group will continue in December as well! Join us on Mondays in December from 6-8 pm.

For more information on these or any other programs, or for general comments, queries, compliments please contact us at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org. Visit us online at www.dowdell.org. Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10 am - 8 pm, Wednesday & Friday 10 am - 5 pm, and Saturday 12-4 pm. The library is located off John O'Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School.

Woodbridge Public Library Events

Some of our programs this month will be in-person although most will be virtual. Please make sure to check which format the presentation will be presented in.

Library Gingerbread House Competition 2021!!

Woodbridge Library Staff departments are competing for your vote for the best Library Gingerbread House 2021! Enter by e-mail for a chance to win Downtown Dollars, which are gift certificates that can be used in a variety of Woodbridge Main Street stores. The contest begins Monday, December 13, at 1 pm--the link will be active to vote virtually by Monday evening, December 13. Downtown Dollars will be awarded to lucky voters by e-mail on December 21st! Click [HERE](#) (after 5 pm on December 13th) to vote for your favorite Gingerbread House to enter.

January 4 | 3PM | Main Library (In-Person)

Mystery/Thriller Book Club

Our Mystery/Thriller Book Club is back!! Join us for an in-person discussion of The Sanatorium by Sarah Pearse. No Registration Required.

January 5 | 2PM | Virtual Program

Consumer Fraud: How to Avoid Getting Scammed!!

A representative from the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs tells us how to AVOID GETTING SCAMMED. Registration Required.

January 12 | 3:30PM | (In-Person)

Winter Village Candle Craft

Come join us in person to create your own winter candle. All supplies will be provided. Open to adults and teens (13+). Registration Required.

January 12 | 7PM | Virtual Program

Start the New Year With Meditation

Join Umesh Bhatia longtime meditator for this powerful workshop. There will even be a little meditation sitting at the end. Bring joy, peace, positivity and relaxation into your daily life and begin the New Year with a fresh start. Registration Required.

January 20 | 7PM | Virtual Program

Just take another bite! - How to get your child to become a more adventurous eater!

Join Christina, a Speech-Language Pathologist, as she speaks to why children may be selective eaters, when to seek professional assistance, and what your role as a parent is during the stressful mealtime routine. Registration Required.

January 25 | 7PM | Main Library (In-Person)

FamilySearch.org: Getting the Most of a Free Genealogy Resource

One of the largest free genealogy websites, FamilySearch.org contains a massive global collection of records and resources. This program will tour the site as well as provide search tips and techniques for navigation of the main components (searching and browsing records, digital library, research wiki, and family trees). Registration Required.

January 27 | 7PM | Virtual Program

My College Planning Team: Paying For College Without Going Broke

For Teens & Parents: Join us on Zoom to explore the complex world of need-based and merit based financial aid. Parents and students will learn strategies for lowering their EFC (Expected Family Contribution), the new FAFSA rules, and tips for optimizing college admissions and scholarships. Registration Required.

Movies at Main | Fridays at 2PM

Join us every Friday at 2PM to catch a free movie! This 8 week series is theme is Friday Favorites!

Thank you for your support!

Woodbridge Library Programming Department, Woodbridge Public Library. 1 George Frederick Plaza, Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095. Try our new app, WPL on the Go!

www.woodbridgelibrary.org

Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

A.C. Bus Trip Cost Change!

San Salvador Seniors
PERTH AMBOY - The San Salvador Seniors are sponsoring a bus trip to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022. Bus will depart from behind St. Stephen's Church (St. John Paul II) Parking Lot on Mechanic Street, Perth Amboy at 11 a.m. Cost: \$35 per person; \$20 back in slot play. For more information, call Joe at 732-826-0819. Masks are required to be worn on the bus.

You Must Reserve Your Seat!

You must pay with exact amount of ticket and before you board the bus. We will not be able to give out change.

Join the Cub Scouts!

FORDS – Pack 53 wants you to join the cub scouts! For boys K thru 5. Our 70th year. Sign up now! Be ready to start up in September! Our 2021-2 Plans are done and ready for the Scouts to have lots of fun! These pictures are our scouts and some of the numerous activities they participated in last year. Fishing, hiking, BB guns, archery, service time (planting, Scouting for Food, Cleanups, and toy collections), parades, Pinewood Derby, Raingutter Regatta and much, much more.

We are Pack 53 Fords Clara Barton, but scouts are from all over. We are Sponsored by Fords Fire Department, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and Fords Middle School. See our website: pack53fordsnj.shutterfly.com for more information! Send me your email to pack53cs@gmail.com for more information.

Pallone Highlights Build Back Better Act’s Provisions to Lower Prescription Drug and Health Care Costs in Piscataway

Press Release 11/29/21
PISCATAWAY, NJ — Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) held a press conference in Piscataway today with local elected officials and health care advocates to highlight provisions in the Build Back Better Act that will lower prescription drug costs and make health care more affordable and accessible.

As Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Pallone spearheaded House passage of key provisions in the Build Back Better Act this month. The bill finally empowers the federal government to negotiate lower drug costs for seniors, caps what seniors pay for their drugs in Medicare Part D, and helps older Americans access affordable hearing care by expanding Medicare coverage. The bill allows the federal government to negotiate insulin prices and lowers those prices to no more than \$35 a month for Americans with diabetes. The Build Back Better Act also extends Affordable Care Act premium tax credit enhancements that make health care more affordable for millions of Americans.

“At a time when American families are struggling to make ends meet, the Build Back Better Act builds on our efforts to make health care more affordable and accessible for everyone. We pay more for prescription drugs than any other country in the world, and as a result too many New Jerseyans do not take their medications as prescribed,” said Pallone. “The Build Back Better Act makes prescription drugs more affordable by finally giving Medicare the ability to negotiate lower drug prices with pharmaceutical companies. Seniors will also



pay no more than \$2,000 a year in out-of-pocket costs for their drugs, and the legislation penalizes Big Pharma companies that unfairly raise prices. The bill also provides, for the first time, comprehensive hearing benefits under Medicare Part B. With House passage of this historic bill, we are one step closer to getting it to President Biden’s desk.”

“Enabling grandparents to live close to their grandchildren is a priority of families and a priority of Piscataway,” said Mayor Brian C. Wahler. “That is why I am thrilled with the game-changing health care provisions of the Build Back Better bill for seniors on a budget. In our Township with dedicated affordable housing, a free Senior Center, and low cost for our Community Center, retirement in Central New Jersey is being realized by many elderly residents. With lower drug costs and expanding Medicare under this bill, even more retirees will be able to enjoy their golden years in New Jersey and live rewarding lives alongside their families.”

“An overwhelming major-

ity of 50-plus voters want Congress to allow Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices,” said AARP NJ State Director Stephanie Hunsinger. “We applaud the members of Congress who stood up to Big Pharma to reduce prescription drug costs in the Build Back Better legislation. Now we urge the Senate to take up the legislation and move toward a vote quickly. Our seniors need relief from their skyrocketing prescription drug prices now. Senators, it’s time to stand with seniors, not Pharma.”

“Build Back Better will have a transformative impact on the health and well-being of children, seniors, patients and working families for generations to come. It extends more affordable health coverage available to millions, makes the Children’s Health Insurance Program—which will expand to cover all kids in New Jersey—permanent, lowers the price of prescription drugs, and provides other critical supports like child tax credits, childcare, education and housing assistance,” said Maura Collingsgru, Health Care Program Director, New Jersey

Citizen Action. “We applaud Congressman Pallone for his key role in the reforms that will help lower Rx drug prices and express our heartfelt thanks to all New Jersey delegation members who gave their unwavering support to this bill. We urge our Senators to follow their example and pass this bill in its entirety as soon as possible.”

“One of my prescriptions made a remarkable difference on my quality of life but because of its steep price, I had to make the difficult decision to stop taking the drug completely,” said Lisa Ann Trainor, a patient advocate who suffers from a chronic illness and shared her story about how high prescription drug costs have impacted her and her family. “The Build Back Better Act includes important reforms to our broken drug pricing system that would help patients like me afford the medication we need. It is time for the Senate to act quickly and pass the Build Back Better Act. So many New Jerseyans are suffering right now. We don’t have time to wait.”

Hackensack Meridian Health Invests \$35 Million in Raritan Bay Medical Center to Expand Access to High Quality, Compassionate Care and Critical Community Services, Including Inpatient Behavioral Health and Long Term Acute Care

Press Release 12/7/21
PERTH AMBOY, NJ – Hackensack Meridian Health is proud to announce it is investing \$35 million in Raritan Bay Medical Center to expand Behavioral Health and Long Term Acute Care (LTACH) beds, addressing an immediate need identified in the latest community health needs assessment.

“Raritan Bay Medical Center has provided high quality, compassionate care to the Perth Amboy community for more than a century. Our investment will strengthen patient access to critical community services and meet their future healthcare needs,” said Robert C. Garrett, FACHE, CEO of Hackensack Meridian Health.

“We applaud Hackensack Meridian Health’s investment of \$35 million dollars towards the expansion of in-patient Behavioral Health services at Raritan Bay Medical Center,” said Senator Vitale, Speaker Coughlin and Assemblywoman

Lopez. “The ongoing pandemic has placed a spotlight on the growing needs for Behavioral Health services and this evidence-based investment will only add to the competence and high-quality care available at Raritan Bay Medical Center. We appreciate the economic impact this planned expansion will have in Perth Amboy, creating dozens of job opportunities in the hospital and throughout the construction phases of the project. As an anchor institution in the City of Perth Amboy, we are glad the Medical Center is consistently being re-imagined to accurately address the needs of the Perth Amboy community. We have no doubt this investment will create a center for excellence in Behavioral Health and look forward to the many positive outcomes this investment will yield.”

Hackensack Meridian Health’s plan to Reimagine Raritan Bay Medical Center will include:

- Maintaining medical surgical,

ICU and OB/GYN beds and a full service emergency department to continue to serve and meet the inpatient needs of our communities.

- An investment of \$35 million in Behavioral Health and Long Term Acute Care (LTACH) services.
- An expansion of access and capacity to meet patient demand by increasing Behavioral Health beds at Raritan Bay Medical Center to 81, subject to New Jersey Department of Health approval.
- An effort to recruit additional physicians to enhance access and scope of services, and meet the community’s needs.
- Behavioral Health will become an inpatient, specialized center for excellence that includes geriatric care and Dual Diagnosis (psychiatry/addiction) services. Throughout the five-year phased plan, specialty care programs will be added to Behavioral Health that will allow for patients and the com-

munity to receive this specialized service with a seamless continuum of care, close to home.

• For LTACH, Raritan Bay will be a discharge option for patients who would typically exceed length of stay at all HMH sites and become a specialty ventilator hospital in the HMH network, a new service that is not currently offered by HMH.

“Behavioral health issues are often stigmatized topics resulting in prolonged suffering in silence in our Latino community,” said Mayor Helmin J. Caba. “With this investment in Perth Amboy, it addresses the issue head on with early and effective interventions and raises awareness in normalizing conversations around them to ultimately improve our city’s health overall. We are proud to work with Hackensack Meridian and grateful for this commitment to our residents.”

The Reimagining Raritan Bay Medical Center efforts will also

add union construction jobs in the short run, and permanent jobs for these additional services.

“The ongoing demand for inpatient Psychiatry beds has been growing for years and has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Donald Parker, president, Behavioral Health Care Transformation Services, Hackensack Meridian Health. “As the COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us, readily available psychiatric services are essential to the overall health and well-being of the citizens of New Jersey. The expansion of Raritan Bay Medical Center to focus on mental health is a vital and timely step in this necessary direction.”

LTACH beds are expected to open in Q1 2022, followed by Behavioral Health beds in mid-2022.

Novena to St. Rita

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

Prayer to St. Jude

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

Novena to St. Joseph

Glorious St. Joseph, foster-father and protector of Jesus Christ! To you do I raise my heart and hands to implore your powerful intercession. Please obtain for me from the kind Heart of Jesus the help and graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare. I ask particularly for the grace of a happy death, and the special favor I now implore *(name it)*. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel animated with confidence that your prayers in my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. O glorious St. Joseph, through the love you bear to Jesus Christ, and for the glory of His name. Hear my prayers and obtain my petitions. *F.M.*

Friends of the Library Meeting
PERTH AMBOY – The Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library are having a meeting at the Children's Library, 196 Jefferson Street, Perth Amboy Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022 at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend.



Stories From Perth Amboy
PERTH AMBOY - Stories From Perth Amboy by Katherine Massopust is available from Katherine at 732-261-2610 or at the Barge Restaurant, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy - 732-442-3000 or at: www.amazon.com A Great Gift! Get it now along with Then & Now: Perth Amboy!

PRAHD Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution
11/24/21 *Photos Submitted



PERTH AMBOY - PRAHD's Kids Club and Local Business owner working together to distribute Thanksgiving Food Dinners to families.

Remember to
Say Your Novenas!

Answers
From Puzzle
On Page 19

MOI	STY	ABBA			
INC	ARES	LIES			
MAE	DUST	CLOTH			
INSOLE	AHA				
KEY	SPINACH				
MAR	SELL	UPA			
CAT	UNWED	TAS			
ACE	HOED	JOS			
BERNARD	TAG				
OUT	CARROT				
GENTLEMAN	ALI				
PROM	DING	PEN			
ARNE	NEO	HOT			

LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY – Robert Hall was a popular store for clothing, circa 1950's
**Photo Courtesy of Perth Amboy Free Public Library*
This photo was restored under a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission to the Kearny Cottage Historical Association.



Pet of the Week

Have a Special Pet?
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PERTH AMBOY - Virginia with furbaby, Laya

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A Petition to St. Jude

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

Name _____

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Initials at end of prayer_____

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

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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

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Novena To St. Anthony

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1 "Me," to Miss

Piggy

4 Sow's home

7 Swedish rock
group

11 "Murder, ____"

12 Son of Zeus

14 Deliberate
misstatements

15 "Bye Bye
Birdie" mother

16 Cleaning tool

18 Shoe part

20 Exclamation of
discovery

21 Lock opener

22 Popeye's
favorite

26 Windy mo.

27 Broker's advice

28 ____ creek (2
wds.)

29 Jaguar, e.g.

30 Not yet
married

31 Professors'
aides (abbr.)

32 Expert aviator

33 Dug up weeds

34 "____ Boys"
(Alcott)

35 George ____
Shaw

37 Price ____

38 Not safe

39 Orange
vegetable

42 Mannerly
fellow

46 Boxer Clay,
today

47 Teen dance

48 Tiny bell sound

49 Cage

50 "Rule

Britannia"

composer

51 Modern

(prefix)

52 Steaming

DOWN

1 Mariah Carey's
nickname

2 ____ even keel
(2 wds.)

3 Michelle Kwan,
e.g. (2 wds.)

4 With tears in
one's eyes

5 Correct

6 "Okay!"

7 Edgar ____ Poe

8 Biography, for
short

9 Wager

10 Fireplace

residue

13 Fastened

papers

17 Youngster

19 Poetic "above"

22 Used a Singer

23 Star's signature

24 Accountants'
initials

25 Consists of

26 Disabling
spray

27 Sounded like a
horse

29 Trucker's
enclosure

30 Truck rental
company

(hyph.)

34 "The Bell ____"

36 "Who did
this?"

response (2
wds.)

37 Valentino's
dance

39 Candy ____

40 Toast spread

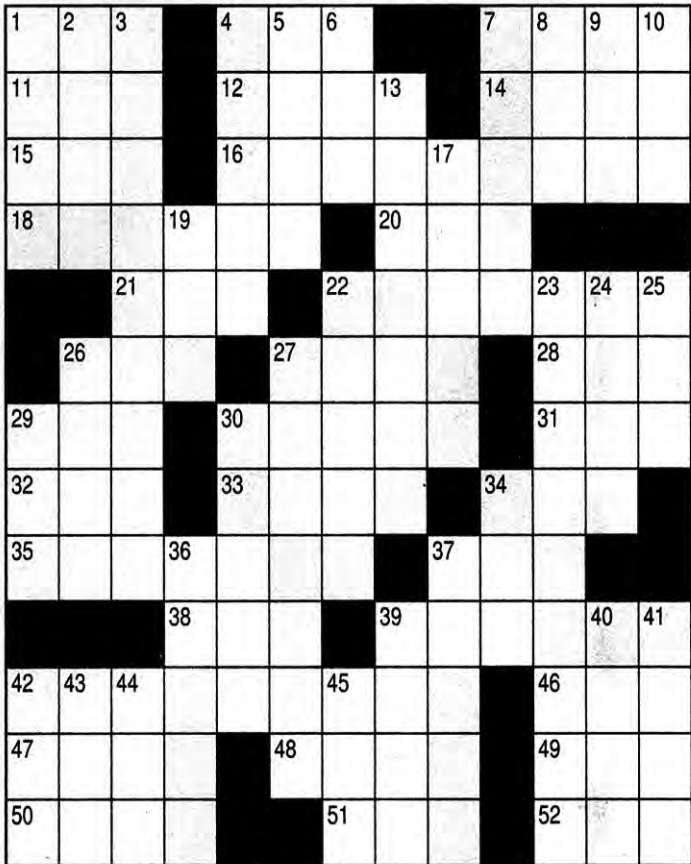
41 Color slightly

42 Grade Point
Average
(abbr.)

43 Do the wrong
thing

44 French
negative

45 1/60 of an hr.



Season's Greetings

Season's Greetings

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Breakfast with Santa & Toy Giveaway

PERTH AMBOY – Edison Jaquez presents Breakfast with Santa & Toy Giveaway. Saturday, December 18th from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at PRAHD, 100 First St., Perth Amboy. Must be registered to receive a toy. Email yvonnelopez1229@gmail.com. Sponsored by Sharpened Mindz, PRAHD, Cathedral Com-mundo, and LAHOZ.

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A Very Happy And
Safe Christmas and New Year

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Holiday Sock Drive

SOUTH AMBOY – The Trinity United Methodist Church, 815 Bordentown Ave., South Amboy is having a sock drive from November 1st to December 20th. Why? Socks are the #1 most requested items at a homeless shelter. NEW!!! infant, children, and adult sizes (all sizes) will be accepted. Drop off new socks at the Trinity United Methodist Church. Contact Steven Wegrzyn: 732-309-6616 for more information. No more cold toes!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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Season's Greetings



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Have A Healthy New Year*

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Happy Holidays




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*Seasons greetings
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YEARS IN A ROW





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PERTH AMBOY - Very clean two family close to high school and most public transportation off street parking, separated utilities and much more. A must see. **\$485,000**



WOODBIDGE PROPER - Everyday Commuter as NY Train is Nearby and Access to ALL Major Roads...Move-In Condition...2 Bedrooms, 1 Full Bath...Cozy and Clean- Showing starts 11/11/2021. **\$275,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Welcome home, original owners of over 30 years ready to pass down to new buyers, charming 3 bedrooms, full partially finished basement with outdoor and indoor access. 3 bedrooms on 2nd floor. 2nd floor has access via a stairwell to full finished attic. 1.5 baths, deck in the rear off kitchen. Common driveway with space for 2 cars in rear of property. Front of home has a beautiful solid concrete porch to enjoy your afternoon. Directly across from Walgreens! close to Hospital (around the block) Home is ready for your personal touch. Showings begin on Monday 11/22/2021 property sold as is seller will apply for C.O. **\$309,990**



PERTH AMBOY - Great condition two family. Front house 4brs, 1.5 bath, living-room and kitchen 2nd house is located in the rear features 1-bedroom, kitchen, bath and living-room. Separated utilities including water. **\$389,000**



NEWARK - Don't let this one get away - Large home with lots of potential to customize it to your liking. Property needs some TLC and can be a great investment opportunity. Showing begins, Saturday 10/8/21. **\$259,000**



SOUTH AMBOY - Charming 4-bdrm cape 3 baths (1 full-2 half) with lots of possibilities! First floor has spacious eat-in kitchen tiled floors, living rm has beautiful hardwood flrs, first bedroom has hardwood floors under carpet, 2nd bdrm has laminate wood flrs, nice closets & updated main bath. Upstairs has 2 bedrooms 1/2 bath. Plenty of closets/crawl spaces/scuttle door to attic for storage. Full basement/walk-out bilco/doors, nice backyard/two sheds. Backs up to "open spaces". NOT a flood zone (x), yet Minutes from the bay, overlooking Staten Island, Outerbridge and South Amboy train station, trendy Downtown area. Conveniently located near travel, houses of worship/shopping/ quiet friendly neighborhood. Your imagination, and TLC will make this a custom home as it has so much potential, "as is" cosmetically & priced to sell! Under Contract, no more showings. **\$332,500**



WOODBIDGE PROPER - This freshly painted Colonial offers generous space for the extended family, including 5 good-sized bedrooms, large living room, formal dining room, and a galley-style kitchen with additional recreational space in the partially finished basement. This home has a full stand-up attic which offers plenty of additional storage space. Attention commuters, this property is very close to train station, buses, and major highways as well as close to shops and restaurants. Home is being sold as-is. Come, see, and make an offer! Showings start 11/27/21. **\$489,000**



PERTH AMBOY - A great opportunity to own this cozy house. Single family home with three bedrooms. **\$269,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Beautifully updated 2 bedroom apt in quiet neighborhood. Ready to move in. **\$1,525 rent**