



THE

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# AMBOY GUARDIAN

• VOL. 12 NO. 4 • 732-896-4446 • P.O. BOX 127 • PERTH AMBOY • NJ • 08862 • WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2022 •

## Adding Additional Police Officers, Paving City Streets, and Illegal Housing Among Topics Discussed 5/9/22 Caucus

By: Carolyn Maxwell  
PERTH AMBOY – There was a discussion pertaining to Ordinance No. 2 (First Reading) – Amending an Ordinance entitled “Police Department” Regarding Composition.

Councilman Joel Pabon asked for an explanation of this ordinance.

Business Administrator Michael Green explained that currently the Police Department has 135 officers, and this will give us permission to go up to 145 officers. “It can allow us to have a chief, 4 captains, or a chief, deputy chief, and 3 captains.”

Pabon then questioned, “Does it give the mayor power to add another chief?”

Green then emphasized, “It allows the department to go up to 145 police officers.”

Councilman Torres questioned, “Will it require a demotion of a Deputy Chief if we change the ordinance?”

Green gave additional information and said, “A federal grant would be used to pay 75% of salaries and the city would be responsible for 25%.”

Torres continued, “We need to have a cost to factor in the salaries along with benefits. Do we need more police because of the new apartment units coming in? And will it be on the back of taxpayers and homeowners?”

Acting Police Chief Larry Cattano came up to add additional information, “Presently, we have 3 captains, 10 lieutenants, and 17 sergeants.”

Councilman Pabon then stated, “We were promised that we were not going to fill any vacant positions, but they were filled anyway. PILOTS failed because the money from them have not been seen. The PILOT money was going to pay for things we already have budgeted for.”

Cattano made corrections to some statements that were made earlier, “We only have 128 full time officers. 4 are slated to retire and 1 may retire soon. That person right now is on light duty until it can be determined if he can come back to full capacity. The department does not have permanent light duty.

Some of these officers that are slated to retire are not currently being paid. The budget determines how many officers we can have.”

Council President Bill Petrick asked for an explanation on Ordinance No. 3 (First Reading) – Authorizing a temporary construction and access easement agreement with NJ Transit.

B.A. Green responded, “This is to repave and restripe the parking lot.”

Petrick asked on the status of progress being made on the Market Street and Fayette Street bridges.

Green stated he will consult with City Engineer Jeffery Rauch.

The Council then discussed the Resolutions. R-221-5/22 – A refund of a fee paid in the amount of \$450 to Edgar I. Cruz. Owner of Puchos Puerto Rican Cuisine for withdrawal of a 2022 Fixed Peddler Application.

Pabon asked if anyone else can apply for this spot.

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch replied, “Somebody already has.”

Business Administrator Michael Green explained R-223-5/22 – Emergency Temporary Appropriations to extend the CY 2022 Temporary Budget in the amount of \$1,256,100.13.

Green said, “\$1.1 million will be used for remediation for the Second Street Park.”

He then talked about R-225-5/22 – A Contract with Game Time c/o Maturano Recreation Company for various playground repairs in an amount not to exceed \$61,999.

Green stated, “There are 24 city parks. This money is only for 8 parks and the equipment will be installed by our employees.”

Green then talked about R-227-5/22 - A contract with Z Brothers Concrete Contractors decreasing the contact for the 202 CDBG Road Development - A portion of Madison Avenue in the amount of \$15,797.30.

He said, “This is going to be based upon the inspection of the city’s parks.”

R-228-5/22 – Execution of a Professional Services Agree-



Council President  
William Petrick

ment with Center State Engineering for Design Engineering Specification bid documents and construction inspection for the NJDOT Municipal Urban Aid Grant improvements to Sadowski Parkway and High Street for the fiscal year 2022 in the amount not to exceed \$70,000.

Petrick said, “This is from High Street to Brighton Avenue on Sadowski Parkway.”

City Engineer Ernest Feist spoke up via Zoom, “The administration asked us to hurry up for this project and we already went out for a bid because they wanted to get it done before July 4th. They are looking to get a \$614,000 grant for this. It will include milling and paving.”

R-229-5/22 – Authorizing payment to the law firm of King, Moench, Hirniak, and Collins, LLP for services rendered in an amount not to exceed \$88,249.52.

Petrick said, “King should finish his project.”

Green responded, “I will let King (Former Law Director) and Opel (Current Law Director) decide on this.”

R-230-5/22 – An agreement with Shoppes at Smith & Oak Streets LLC for the use of the property of 272 Smith Street for a Perth Amboy Mural Project.

Petrick asked if the Arts Council has reviewed this project.

Tashi Vazquez from the Office of Economic and Commu-

*\*Continued on Page 7*

## 2022 Municipal Budget Adopted 5/4/22 Council Meeting

By: Katherine Massopust  
SOUTH AMBOY – Council President Mickey Gross changed the order of business with the permission of the council to discuss the 2022 Municipal Budget. Gary Higgins, CPA/Auditor gave some brief remarks. “The budget has already been introduced on April 6, 2022. It has been submitted to Government Services on pertaining to two pieces of revenue that need to be approved to adopt the budget. The budget is \$1.22 per 100 municipal dollars – the same as in 2021. There is no increase to the taxpayers. The Local Finance Board extended from March 20<sup>th</sup> to a March 29<sup>th</sup> deadline. You are supposed to act on the next scheduled council meeting which is this evening.”

Councilman Tom Reilly asked, “Upon review, there were two items, elaborate.”

Higgins said, “The backup of revenue between the city and the Redevelopment Agency, and the backup in the rate increase. They want to tie out to locals. The backup sheet. They were satisfied with what Dan (CFO Balka) gave. You cannot appropriate in excess of prior years. There is a \$1,366,000 line for additional new sewer fees. Dan put in a certification in. They were satisfied with what he gave.”

Councilman Brian McLaughlin asked, “We are still in the middle of a contract with the city workers. Are pay raises put in?”

CFO Balka answered, “Yes.” Higgins continued, “I am not an attorney.”

Councilwoman Zusette Dato stated that she had no questions and was satisfied with the budget.

Council President Mickey Gross stated that he too was satisfied, “You did a good job, Glenn (B.A. Skarzynski) and anyone who put it together.

The Municipal Budget was opened up to the public for any questions anyone may have.

Resident Greg Babolack asked, “Are we adding any taxes?”

Higgins answered, “The tax rate in the municipal portion of the budget is not increasing.

There are the municipal, school, and county portion of the budget. The municipal portion is not going up.”

Council Comments on the Budget:

Councilman Tom Reilly asked if there were continued funding for SARA through the American Rescue Plan. “I would like sustainable revenue to come into the budget.”

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski answered, “Redevelopment is taxpayer money for the use of general benefit of the community. We sent a yearly limit to work with what happens in the city. Every time a PILOT is done with a development, a fee is paid to the agency.”

Councilman Tom Reilly stated “There is a 33% increase in service fees. That did not happen with the Woodmont PILOT. It is \$2,400 per unit per year. It is kind of low. People in this town are paying \$9,000 a year.”

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated, “We will go over PILOTS to see if anything is owed to the government.”

Councilman Brian McLaughlin said, “Councilman Reilly stated my concerns.”

Councilwoman Zusette Dato stated, “I’m pleased to present the 2022 budget without providing a burden to our residents with the help of our CFO and B.A. and everyone who put this together.”

Council President Mickey Gross said, “Hopefully in the future, we will have more money come into the city. There is a zero increase without cutting any services.”

Mayor Fred Henry stated, “Whenever you come up with a budget with zero tax increase, the city council has a lot to do with these things, not cutting back on the budget but adding services. Thank you to everyone involved – it’s a team project.”

CFO Dan Balka stated, “Another half of the American Rescue Plan – we can use it in capital projects.”

Mickey Gross thanked everyone. The 2022 Municipal Budget was unanimously adopted.

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski said, “Asked to provide money all

*\*Continued on Page 2*



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## 2022 Municipal Budget Adopted 5/4/22 Council Meeting

*\*Continued from Page 1*

that SARA can give to the city – it is subject to review.”

Zusette Dato said, “If it happens in the future, if a professional is required, SARA pays the fee to the city.”

Tom Reilly stated that there are two new firefighters to the Protection Fire Department.

The bill list, consent agenda, and ordinances were passed. Council Comments:

Councilman Tom Reilly thanked the volunteers and donors to the food pantry and thanked the first responders. “The Independence Fire House is having a flower sale on Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (for Mother's Day) Please support them. Kindly and Place Program by Habitat for Humanity – there are certain income and age requirements. Custom order Bricks for a property destroyed by Sandy – there is an order form on our Facebook Page and website. It's Small Business Week. Help out our small businesses in town.” Reilly then asked about the Business Breakfast with a possible date of June 11th. He asked the city clerk if there are any grants or loans available.

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated that Kathy Kudleka had conversations with him.

Councilman Tom Reilly stated, “I don't know where to host it. I'm supposed to find out interest level. There probably is money available to help the businesses.”

City Clerk Deborah Brooks stated she would send a “Save the Date” email.

Reilly asked about the Handicapped Parking Ordinance that was being reviewed.

B.A. Skarzynski stated that the traffic officer has a copy of the old ordinance.

Councilman Brian McLaughlin stated, “A blast email/news story was sent out with false information going out. “Someone hacked my Facebook Page,” he stated. He then wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day.

Councilwoman Zusette Dato stated, “Yesterday a group of second graders started a water safety program at the Y. Since we are close to water, all second graders will learn basic skills. I hope they come back for swim lessons.” She stated that there is a concert to help Ukraine. Tickets are \$20 each ahead or

at the door. “Sunday there was a Beach Cleanup. WeLoveFour and Amazon cleaned up the beach. Amazon supplied equipment.” Dato then wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day. “It's the most important career to be a parent.”

Council President Mickey Gross said, “The concert Friday night to help people in Ukraine – please help out. The American Legion sold some bricks already. For the swim program – we will do second, third graders. We are surrounded three sides by water. If we do one thing right, teach the kids how to swim. It's the right thing to do! Happy Mother's Day!”

Mayor Fred Henry said, “I want to thank all the people at the ballfields. They are really doing good. On May 16th there is a Police Memorial, please come and support our men and women in blue. There is a free health screening on May 18th. On May 29th at 9 a.m. the American Legion. The Mayor's walk on May 14th – and Healthy Kids Day - I want to thank Jay Elliot for organizing this. I want to thank the Council for the positive vote and no increase in municipal tax. Best wishes to (Council Vice President) Christine Noble whose mother was rushed to the hospital.”

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski thanked Chris Meger. “Chris is very quiet. He is an environmental advocate. South Amboy is open to 260 different species of birds. I have a lot of projects he discusses with me.”

Law Director Francis Womack stated that the court date with Venetian has been rescheduled to either late June or early July.

Public Portion:

Mary Szaro stated that the minutes on South Amboy's website did not reflect her comments on parking that she made at the last council meeting.

City Clerk Deborah Brooks stated that the website had been updated to include Szaro's comments.

Larry Parsons spoke next. He urged everyone to come to the Memorial Day service on May 22 at 11 a.m. at City Hall which will be run by the South Amboy Exempts. He explained that there will be 4 cemeteries in which wreaths will be laid, Calvary at 8:30 a.m.; Sacred Heart at 9 a.m.; St. Mary's at 9:30 a.m. and Christ Church at 10 a.m.

The next person to speak was owner of the Broadway Diner, Vicki Grasso. She asked if South Amboy had a Chamber of Commerce and if they could put something together. She stated that there used to be a trash can in front of the diner, and it was removed. She complained about bags of dog poop that people leave on the sidewalk because there was no longer a garbage can there.

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated that the South Amboy Business Association was run by Dr. Jordan Gonzalez, and he will pop in and see him. He also suggested the local Rotary Club. He assured Vicki that her garbage can will be back there tomorrow.

Vicki made a few comments about the Department of Public Works. “They are underpaid. I love the town of South Amboy. How early do you shut down the street when there is a city event? People have no place to park.”

Council President Mickey Gross answered, “I am part of the reason. For safety reasons, we like to keep the cars off the street.”

Resident Greg Babolack asked, “Where does SARA get their money from?”

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski answered “Fees from projects.”

Babolack then asked, “Is there a set of rules of how the money they can be used?”

Skarzynski answered no.

Gary Higgins then added, “The Redevelopment Agency fees have to go into the agency because that is their general purpose.”

Babolack then said, “Two meetings ago I was told I cannot talk about politics in the Council Chambers,” (Referring to McLaughlin's comments).

Council President Gross answered, “I take pride not to turn council meetings into a political arena. What Mr. McLaughlin's reasons (for stating what he did) is not politics.”

Vicki came back up and asked about outdoor dining. “Are you going to limit it? I did not apply because I can only put two tables.”

B.A. Skarzynski told her to call him for more information. “There has to be room for people to walk down the sidewalk.”

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. Council Vice President Christine Noble was not present do to a family emergency.

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Remembering Jack McGreevey



Jack McGreevey with Daughter, Sharon McGreevey 2019  
\*File Photo

Memorial Day is coming up and as always, we remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Recently, we heard of the death of James McGreevey and all that knew him, knew that his life’s work was making sure that Veteran’s were taken care of by receiving the benefits they so richly deserved.

Those who die in service also have survivors and it is important that they are taken care of. I’m pretty sure that Mr. McGreevey also made sure that the survivors receive the benefits they were entitled to. In this issue, there is a statement from our 19th District Representatives who wrote a letter mourning his loss and the lessons they learned from him. What stood out to me on that letter, is that Mr. McGreevey considered all who he served with as his brothers.

Often when we would go to the Reo Diner in Woodbridge, we would see Mr. McGreevey sitting there dining with others. When he would spot us, he would always have a big smile on his face, which always made us happy. He was always someone that you would enjoy running into.

In June 2019, Senator Joseph Vitale invited Katherine and I on the bus ride to visit the USS New York docked in New York Harbor. I received the invitation and he asked if my father who he knew was a WWII Veteran would also come on the trip. I told him unfortunately my father passed away in 2010.

That day started out with a light breakfast at the Wood-

bridge Community Center. Several Veterans were honored. Jack McGreevey, his daughter Sharon, Senator Joe Vitale, Assemblyman Craig Coughlin, Woodbridge Mayor John McCormack. Former Governor James McGreevey was also in attendance. I remember that Woodbridge Mayor McCormack was delighted because it was the first time he was going on this trip.

We were so honored to be in the presence of all these Veterans and it is a day we will always remember. I can just imagine that when Mr. McGreevey was greeted at the Pearly Gates by St. Peter, and when the gates were open, the first one he would see will be his wife. Then God will take McGreevey’s hand and will lead him to this special building, and when they open the door, all of his brothers that he served with will be there to salute him and he will salute them back. They will then sit for a meal like they did in the mess hall, and it will be one of the best meals they ever had in their lives.

We salute Jack McGreevey for his service to our country, to our state, to the Veterans, and to the survivors of those who died in the line of duty.

His wake will be held on Tuesday, May 17 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, 7 Locust St., Carteret, NJ 07008. Mass of Christian Burial will be at the church Wednesday, May 18 at 10 a.m. Arrangements by Chubenko Funeral Home of Woodbridge. *C.M.*

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Top Floors

A recent letter commented on air conditioning units in garret windows (which were called attics). The letter fantasized about these dwellings. Would people rent rooms that don't have pri-

vate entrances and sanitary facilities?

Garrets maximize the living space in dwellings. They are probably a feature of older homes and were part of the original construction. You can

find such dwellings in other places than Perth Amboy. No one has found them to be sources of taxes and penalties.

Ronald A. Sobieraj

It's Getting Out of Control

I was reading the community voice a letter from a concerned citizen about “Legal Weed in N.J. Creates Quandary for Students Schools”, May 4, 2022. But marijuana has been around

for a long time, and it was smoked anywhere. This is nothing new. I remember students coming in class “High and Dry” and yes it was illegal to have it. The government had realized some drugs have become uncontrollable. Better to sell it and make a buck on it. California was the first state to legal-

ize marijuana it in 1996. Hate to say it, but drugs have been part of life in America and its a BILLION-dollar enterprise, and you'll be surprised who controls it. And yes, it's getting out of control.

Orlando “Wildman” Perez

Is The \$33 Billion Gateway Tunnel Ready To Proceed?

There is more to do after appointment of Kris Kolluri as CEO for the Gateway Development Commission in order to move forward with the \$12.6 billion basic or full scope \$33 billion Gateway Tunnel project. After all these years, why has the issue of who will oversee engineering, contractors and procurement not been resolved? Will it be NJ Transit, Amtrak or the Port Authority?

To win a Federal Transit Administration Full Funding Grant Agreement, any project needs documentation that the billions in matching local share is se-

cured, along with an approved Project Management Plan, Quality Assurance and Quality Control Plan (monitors that the contractor builds to the design and engineering specifications), Fleet Management Plan, Annual Force Account (Amtrak and NJ Transit employees who work with and provide support to third party contractors) and Annual Track Outage Plan. There needs to also be approved Title VI, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) programs.

All must be reviewed and approved by FTA to insure that this record investment is completed on time, within budget, built to the design and engineering specifications so that it will remain in beneficial use for the promised intended life.

Larry Penner  
Retired  
Former Director  
Federal Transit Administration  
NY Region  
Office of Operations and  
Program Management

*(Larry Penner -- transportation advocate, historian and writer who previously worked for the Federal Transit Administration Region 2 New York Office. This included the development, review, approval and oversight for billions in capital projects and programs for NJ Transit, New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority, NYC Transit bus, subway and Staten Island Railway, Long Island and Metro North Rail Roads, MTA Bus, NYCDOT Staten Island Ferry along with 30 other transit agencies in NY & NJ.)*

Statement from Viridian Partners  
Plan Not Feasible for Perth Amboy

On April 5th, Perth Amboy Redevelopment Authority (PARA) presented PARA’s Vision Plan for the Downtown Gateway Redevelopment Project (“Gateway”). This plan includes 6,000 residential units as well 7,000 parking spaces and 700,000 square feet of retail and municipal buildings. As stated in the meeting, PARA never evaluated whether the Vision Plan was feasible.

Since the meeting, PARA has been blatantly untransparent with Perth Amboy residents by not making the proposed vision plan publicly available online. Viridian Partners was able to obtain the plan via an OPRA request, and we are attaching the full plan to this email. It can also be found in full at saveperthamboy.com.

Viridian Partners, the design-

ated redeveloper for Gateway since 2015, hired Nassau Capital Advisors to evaluate the feasibility of PARA’s Vision Plan. Nassau Capital’s detailed financial report clearly demonstrates PARA’s Vision Plan does not work. The study concludes that PARA’s Vision Plan can never be built for several reasons:

- Based upon current costs of construction and the market value of each residential unit, the developer would lose \$182,230 per unit.
- At 6,000 units, the developer would lose a whopping \$1.1 billion! No developer would build a project to lose that kind of money.
- This site served as a solid waste landfill for decades. To clean up this space for basements and sub-terranean parking, as PARA’s plan calls for, the price of testing, air monitoring, dewatering and removal costs would be \$143 per ton – approximately \$100,000,000 for this entire site.
- PARA’s plan suggests both a performing arts center and a new public school. To build

these, the cost would be approximately \$120 million, which would prorate the capital cost of each of the suggested 12 apartment buildings built on site to \$10 million per apartment building.

PARA’s Vision Plan is not financially feasible, and that is evident in both the above metrics as well as the attached presentation of PARA’s vision plan. PARA’s failure to analyze feasibility before and during preparation of their Vision Plan is utterly irresponsible.

“Sometimes doing nothing is doing something.” This process wasted \$17,500 of public money producing the plan and, since August 17, 2021 (the date PARA announced it would pursue this Vision Plan process), lost an additional \$1,487,256 of Perth Amboy’s tax revenue. PARA’s failure to enact a realistic redevelopment plan is costing Perth Amboy taxpayers!

We encourage PARA to engage with Viridian to work on a plan that benefits Perth Amboy.

\*Letters to the Editor Continued on Page 6

Keep those Letters Coming! We Love to Hear From You! E-mail letters to the editor to amboyguardian@gmail.com or write to the paper at Letters to the Editor, The Amboy Guardian, P.O. Box 0127, Perth Amboy, NJ 08862-0127. Letters must include your full name, address and daytime telephone number or cell phone number for verification. First time letter-writers must be called for verification or your letter will not be published. If you are a public official, please include your title. All letters are subject to editing or rejection. All submissions may be published or distributed by us in print, electronic or other forms. Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the writers and do not represent or reflect the views of the Amboy Guardian.



Published by Amboy Guardian LLC  
P. O. Box 127 • Perth Amboy • New Jersey 08862  
Carolyn Maxwell - (732) 896-4446  
Katherine Massopust - (732) 261-2610  
AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

Carolyn Maxwell  
Publisher & Advertising Manager  
Katherine Massopust  
Layout & Asst. Writer  
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PETRA BEST REALTY.....	329 SMITH ST.
PETRICK'S FLOWERS .....	710 PFEIFFER BLVD.
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PROVIDENT BANK .....	339 STATE ST.
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QUICK CHEK .....	853 CONVERY BLVD.
QUISQUEYA MARKET .....	249 MADISON AVE.
QUISQUEYA LUNCHEONETTE .....	259 MADISON AVE.
RARITAN BAY AREA Y.M.C.A. ....	365 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
RARITAN BAY MEDICAL CENTER .....	530 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SANTANDER BANK .....	365 CONVERY BLVD.
SANTIBANA TRAVEL .....	362 STATE ST.
SCIORTINO'S RESTAURANT .....	473 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SHOP-RITE .....	365 CONVERY BLVD.
SIPOS BAKERY .....	365 SMITH ST.
SUPERIOR DINER.....	464 SMITH ST.
SUPREMO SUPERMARKET .....	270 KING ST.
TORRES MINI MARKET .....	403 BRUCK AVE.
TOWN DRUGS & SURGICAL .....	164 SMITH ST.
WELLS FARGO .....	214 SMITH ST.
<b>IN SAYREVILLE:</b>	
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<b>IN SEWAREN:</b>	
PUBLIC LIBRARY .....	546 WEST AVE.
SEWAREN CORNER DELI .....	514 WEST AVE.
<b>IN SOUTH AMBOY:</b>	
AMBOY BANK .....	100 N. BROADWAY
BROADWAY BAGELS .....	105 S. BROADWAY
BROADWAY DINER .....	126 N. BROADWAY
CITY HALL .....	140 N. BROADWAY
COMMUNITY CENTER .....	200 O'LEARY BLVD.
KRAUSZER'S .....	200 N. BROADWAY
KRAUSZER'S .....	717 BORDENTOWN AVE.
PUBLIC LIBRARY .....	100 HOFFMAN PLAZA
SCIORTINO'S HARBOR LIGHTS .....	132 S. BROADWAY
SOUTH AMBOY MEDICAL CENTER.....	540 BORDENTOWN AVE.
WELLS FARGO BANK.....	116 N. BROADWAY
<b>IN WOODBRIDGE:</b>	
CITY HALL .....	1 MAIN ST.
MAIN ST. FARM .....	107 MAIN ST.
NEWS & TREATS .....	99 MAIN ST.
ST. JOSEPH'S SENIORS RESIDENCE .....	1 ST. JOSEPH'S TERR.

**Important!**  
Always call ahead of time to make sure any event you intend to attend will take place.  
The Amboy Guardian will only put a cancellation notice in if we receive notice from the organizer of the event.

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<b>2022 Amboy Guardian Publication Dates</b>	
January 5	January 19
February 2	February 16
March 2	March 16
April 6	April 20
May 4	May 18
June 1	June 15
July 6	July 20
August 3	August 17
September 7	September 21
October 5	October 19
November 2	November 16
December 7	December 21

**Community Calendar**

**Perth Amboy**  
MON. May 23 Special Council Meeting (RE: El Patio), 4:30 p.m.  
City Hall, High St. & Zoom  
City Council, Caucus, 5:30 p.m.  
City Hall, High St. & Zoom  
WED. May 25 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.  
City Hall, High St. & Zoom  
THURS. May 26 Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m.  
City Hall, High St.  
THURS. Jun. 16 Board of Education, 5:30 p.m.  
PAHS, Eagle Ave. & Zoom

**South Amboy**  
WED. May 18 City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.  
City Hall, N. Broadway  
WED. Jun. 1 City Council, Regular, 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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**Office Hours:**  
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**Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.**  
**Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Safety Announcement**  
We are taking safety precautions in the City of Perth Amboy, emphasize that it is important:  
**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!!**  
Report Suspicious Activity - Be Vigilant - **STAY ALERT!**  
Do not think that any call or report is too small  
Don't allow the actions of a few dictate your quality of life  
**FOR ALL EMERGENCIES, DIAL: 9-1-1**  
**FOR ALL NON-EMERGENCIES, DIAL: 732-442-4400**



Letters to the Editor  
\*Continued from Page 4

Statement from 19<sup>th</sup> District  
Legislators on Passing of  
Jack McGreevey

It is with real sadness that we mourn the passing of our friend and mentor, Jack McGreevey.

Jack, a proud Marine veteran, worked in the 19<sup>th</sup> District legislative office in Woodbridge since 1998. His focus and passion was to serve the veterans who lived in Carteret, Perth Amboy, Sayreville, South Amboy and Woodbridge, ensuring they received the services and benefits in which they are entitled.

Over the years, we have watched Jack drive veterans to the local VA, standing with them as they applied for their benefits and then following up with them over the following weeks, months and years. Jack – who enlisted on his 17th birthday to serve in World War II – was so proud of his opportunity to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces; he considered others who fought to be his true brothers and sisters. He defended them passionately and fearlessly; his loss will have a tremendous impact on the entire veteran community in New Jersey.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to the McGreevey family, which has been so proud of Jack’s work. For us, it was a distinct honor to know the man,



Jack McGreevey

to work with him and to marvel over his decades of service to fellow veterans.

On behalf of the 19th Legislative District office, as well as the many constituents who Jack has served over the years, we express our appreciation on this very sad day. There was no one like Jack, and we are better public servants for having the opportunity to watch him work.

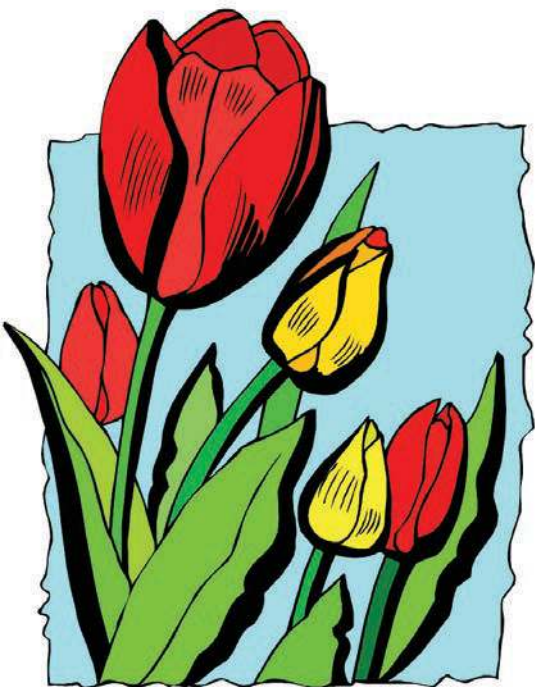
Senator Joseph Vitale  
Assembly Speaker  
Craig Coughlin  
Assemblywoman  
Yvonne Lopez

America is My  
Country

The last time I checked Perth Amboy was in the state of New Jersey which is located in the United States of America. When my Grandparents (both sets) came to this country from Europe around the turn of the 20th Century, they were proud of their heritage yet more proud to be Americans. They never referred to the country they left as “my country” but rather called it the “old country”. Though they kept some of the traditions of their native land and spoke the language of the “old country”

at home, they learned English (our official language since it is what all of our documents are written) and celebrated the American holidays (since they considered themselves to be Americans first and foremost) and not European ones. Any flag that was displayed was always the American flag! It matters not where you came from, but rather where you are now! You can read into this whatever you wish! GOD BLESS AMERICA!!! Thank you!

The Honorable Michael  
Rusznak



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## Presentation on the 2022-2023 School Year Budget

### 5/5/22 Board of Education Meeting

By: Katherine Massopust  
PERTH AMBOY – There was a short delay at the Board Meeting because those on Zoom were unable to see and hear the meeting. After the technical issue was resolved, the meeting began.

Student Representative Charli-ize Leon stated, “This week is Teacher Appreciation Week. I want to take the opportunity to thank our teachers.” She stated that the “Spring Fling,” the first school dance since the pandemic was recently held.

Board Member Junior Iglesia thanked Leon for her report.

There was a presentation on the proposed 2022-2023 Budget by Superintendent Dr. David Roman and Business Administrator/Board Secretary Michael LoBrace. It was noted that the new high school which is scheduled to open in September 2024 and the district needs to be fiscally prepared for the new High School and the expenses along with it.

LoBrace stated, “There will be additional teachers along with other expenses. There is \$16,658,855 in additional finances and added expenses for the new high school.” It was noted that the district saved some money last year because of the pandemic.

Dr. Roman stated, “There will be no tax increase for the school community. In New Jersey Monthly Magazine for 2022, Perth Amboy High

School was ranked 247 out of 445 high schools (the top 55%). If you count all the high schools (668 school districts), Perth Amboy ranks in the top 37%. We have the Seal of Biliteracy. We are a Lighthouse District. Do an evaluation of what the district is doing relative to what it has been.” Dr. Roman noted that salaries and benefits take up 67% of the budget. The budget includes mitigation for students whom they lost during the pandemic. He stated that the transition from Learning to Read to Reading to Learn. “We will have a systematic deep-rooted change. We will have in the district outdoor classes. This will allow students to express themselves in a matter that’s different. It will uplift our community with equality and diversity. Students embody what that means. Biliteracy and Mathematics. Initiatives keep coming and we sustain them. The Curriculum Instruction and Dual Language in the Biliteracy Program. We are putting \$3,293,000 into our Mathematics Initiative. We need to recognize and continue our science programs. We are putting \$5,268,000 into technology.”

Dr. Roman spoke about the annual school play, “Freaky Friday,” which was one of four schools in the state that the Papermill Playhouse chose (for an award).

PAHS has award winning pieces in the Congressional

High School Art Competition. Dr. Roman continued stating that Waters Stadium will be done when the new High School is finished in 2024. “Transportation – seating will be safer for children with cameras on the buses.” Dr. Roman continued, “It’s about the work we are doing as a district.”

Ms. Gomez came up and spoke about the recent job fairs, “We had two inhouse job fairs. We had 186 potential candidates. I want to thank Dr. Pepi and the Volunteer Committee. We were able to do their first interview at the job fair. This job fair gave a pool of candidates to choose from. We need to screen, interview, and get a reference check.”

Dr. Roman emphasized that there is no discrimination based on race, gender, or any other breakdown. He stated that he would like to make the job fair an annual event.

Board Vice President Vazquez said, “I think it should be noted that our draft budget there was originally a 2% increase which would cost each taxpayer an additional \$15 for the year. One of our responsibilities is to be fiscally responsible with your money. We decided there will be no tax increase for the 2022-2023 school year. The decrease was not easy to make. If we have an additional \$6 million from the state or surplus. We trust this budget with the most prudence in past years.



Superintendent Dr. David Roman (L) and Business Administrator/Board Secretary Michael LoBrace (R) give a presentation on the 2022-2023 School Budget. \*Photo by Katherine Massopust

We honor the work we put into the budget. We looked into the budget. \$15 - \$20 million with no surplus is going to be a problem. A district that is moving forward will have an increase in cost. We have to move forward. If we want our schools to progress, we have to take it into account. The reason we made this clear as a committee are many reasons. It will be a challenge to make the budget next year with a smaller surplus.”

Board Member Junior Iglesia said, “I welcome the committee with no public tax increase. It’s the fiscally responsible thing to do.”

Superintendent Dr. David Roman said, “We were able to not lose integrity of programs.”

Iglesia added, “New Jersey property tax rate is the highest

in the country. The property tax issue is the heart of the crisis. The inflation rate is 9.62%. We have not seen a rate of inflation this great in 40 years. Rent is going through the roof. Gas is \$4.31/gallon in 2022 when it was \$2.95/gallon in 2021. The cost of living is drastically increasing. If they (homeowners) don’t pay taxes in 3 months, they can lose their homes. The State Revenue went up by \$60 million. I anticipate it will continue to go up. Our next financial position is strong. There is a lot of factors to get from the State.”

Board Member Stacey Peralta said, “I as a Special Education Professional want to commend Dr. Roman. 2 years ago - it was

*\*Continued on Page 9*

## Adding Additional Police Officers, Paving City Streets, and Illegal Housing Among Topics Discussed

### 5/9/22 Caucus

*\*Continued from Page 1*

nity Development responded online via Zoom, “The Arts Council was involved in where this should be located, and their Chair approved the location. This is the first of many steps for this project. We will get the artist’s renderings and everything else involved with this project and for the Arts Council’s input.”

Fire Chief Ed Mullen came up to speak about R-232-5/22 – Submitting an application to FEMA for the Port Security Grant Program 2022 to be used for the purchase of Active Shooter/MCI Marine Response Kit.

“This will be a zero-cost match. Ballistic Vests are to be used for incidents that may occur on ferries. It is a case of better to have and not need than need and not have. They can be used on sea or land. We have tried to get these through the county who would not give it to us and that is why we put a grant into FEMA. Firefighters need appropriate PPP in case they have to follow the police in an active shooter situation.”

Acting Police Chief Larry Cattano came up to talk about R-233-5/22 – To apply for a New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety 2023 Pedestrian Safety Enforcement and Education Fund Grant in

the amount of \$35,000 with no matching funds required.

Cattano said, “This is for pedestrian safety and for flashing intersection lights for pedestrian crossings.”

Pabon spoke up, “The bridge on Market Street – I’ll see people crossing at dangerous spots such as on the incline.”

Cattano explained, “We used to have signage along with cones (so people can cross within those cones). With this money, the funding will be spaced out.”

R-234-5/22 – Amending R-138-3/22 – A grant from the State of New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General in the amount of \$32,400 under the FY2022 Safe and Secure Communities Program Subaward grant Number 22-1216.

Cattano explained, “As long as we retain 122 officers, we can apply for this every year. It will pay for the partial salary of two officers.”

R-235-5/22 – Authorizing the refund in the amount of \$4,746.48 on an account resulting from an overbilling due to an incorrect multiplier.

Green explained, “The person had paid for two water meters instead of one.”

R-236-5/22 – Amending CY 2022 Budget.

Council President Bill Petrick said, “We need to hear from two more departments – the BID

and the Department of Recreation.”

B.A. Green responded, “The BID is not a part of the City’s Budget.”

Petrick continued, “We need the Code Enforcement Director here to answer more questions.”

Green responded, “The Recreation Director is on vacation.”

Councilman B.J. Torres spoke up, “There are still a lot of questions we need answered regarding illegal housing.”

Green responded, “With the illegal housing that had fires, the lenders of those buildings are being notified.”

Torres continued, “One of those fires just had new renovations and it is up to the homeowners to put up those families.”

Fire Chief Ed Mullen came up to speak, “A lot of times we are called out which has nothing to do with fires. One time, there was a water leak that caused a ceiling to collapse. The Red Cross goes out to all fires and a majority of fires are accidental and have nothing to do with illegal housing. People can call anonymously if they see illegal housing.”

Torres then asked, “Will the landlord have to pay if their tenants are displaced because of a fire?”

Mullen explained that Director of Human Services Dianne Roman can pay to put them up

for a couple of days.

Pabon then asked if Hazmat was called about the house that caught on fire on Second Street.

Mullen explained that there was gasoline found in drums on that property. Special materials had to be used because of that. Testing will be used if any of Hazmat materials have been spilled out. We have responded to 70 fires so far this year and strong winds have played a major role in some of these fires. We document every part of the buildings that have fires.”

It was decided to table Ordinance No. 2 (First Reading) – Police Department regarding composition. It was moved by Torres, seconded by Pabon.

It also decided to table R-236 – Amending CY 2022 Budget. It was moved by Petrick, seconded by Pabon.

R-237 – Waving the residency requirements for Nicholas Prochilo. R-237 was also tabled. Moved by Petrick, seconded by Torres.

Public Portion (in-person first):

Resident Ken Balut spoke first, “Is Code Enforcement driving with blinders on with all these violations taking place? Are there any investigations going on regarding that boat accident (discussed at the last council meeting in April)? The Attorney General should investigate some of our city employees. We hired two employees getting

\$80,000 apiece and who are getting raises. Police Officers are a necessary evil, but we need then to keep our city safer. Who is in charge of giving background checks? Tickets are being taken care of through dismissals or maybe shakedowns. See how many tickets were dismissed and by whom and what judges. And did R-225 (Contract with Game Time Recreation Company) go out for bid?”

No one spoke via Zoom. The meeting went into closed session at 6:48 p.m. They returned at 9:14 p.m.

Council President Bill Petrick spoke, “The council decided to have the meeting regarding the El Patio License Suspension rescheduled for May 23 at 4:30 p.m. We are hoping to get the bodycam video from the Police Department. There appears there may have been two shooters at an incident that happened at the bar. We may have to have a representative from the Police Department who reported that incident to come to that meeting.”

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m. Councilwoman Milady Tejeda was not available to attend the meeting in person or on Zoom.



# Concerns About Proposed Powerplant in Keasbey

## 5/11/22 Council Meeting

By: Carolyn Maxwell  
PERTH AMBOY – The first order of business was a presentation by Charlie Kratovil who is a Central Jersey Organizer, Food & Water Watch and Food & Water Action Group. He talked about the proposed construction of a gas-powered plant in Keasbey. He provided a hand-out and presented a slideshow to argue his case as to why this should not be built. He said this would be the sixth powerplant built in the county. “In 2016, there was a huge gas-powered plant that opened up in Keasbey on the Raritan River. Now, they want to build another one right next to it. This will be one of the greatest county polluters in the state. When the other plant opened up in 2016, they were supposed to build a park which has not happened yet. 70 schools would be located within 6 miles of the newly proposed plants. Edison, Highland Park, and Hoboken have already drafted a resolution to oppose this new powerplant and I hope you will do so tonight.”

Some of the information on the handout provided by Kratovil listed the total number of pollutants that would be harmful to the environment and to the health of Central Jersey residents. At the top of the fact sheet, were the different organizations who were against having this plant. He also said they intend to have more meetings so the public can have input.

He thanked the council for the opportunity to be here, “It was an honor.” He also stated that the Perth Amboy Green Team hosted an event that they were able to speak at and we need to move away from fossil fuels.

Council President Petrick asked if this proposed plant would use natural gas fire.

Kratovil answered, “Yes.” He also said, “There are many other sources such as solar, wind, and hydraulic electricity. I am not an advocate for nuclear.”

Petrick then asked if the proposed plant would use scrubbers.

Kratovil answered, “Yes, but they stated it would be state of the art. So far, 3 towns have these plants: Sayreville, South Amboy, and Keasbey.”

The meeting was then open to the public to talk about any ordinance that have their own public hearing.

The only person who spoke about Ordinance No. 1 – An ordinance to amend an ordinance entitled Streets and Sidewalks was Business Administrator Michael Green. “The amendment to this ordinance mandates that DPW will no longer have to build structures.”

Resident Sharon Hubberman spoke via Zoom, “Why did they remove the portion of the ordinance that says exclusive of the commercial zone on the application? Is there room in the ordinance for a final council approval. A lot of cleaning of sidewalks need to be done before you allow any sidewalk dining.”

Green responded, “The Chief of Police, the Fire Department,

and DPW will make sure that all the applicants are in compliance with the ordinance.”

No one commented on Ordinance No. 2.

For Ordinance No. 3 – Approving the easement for open space purposes at Block 427 Lot 3. Law Director William Opel spoke up, “In 2018 PARA had an agreement with the storage company who owns that property that 6,621 sq. ft. of easement would be donated to the city which is adjacent to Rudyk Park, and they are fulfilling that agreement.”

Public Comments on Agenda Items Only (in-person first):

Resident Ken Balut spoke first. “For R-225 – A contract with Game Time Company Maturano Recreation Company for various playground repairs in an amount not to exceed \$61,999.00. not go out for bid? How can you cut the budget so close to June? You have two city employees whose combined salaries will cost close to \$5 million in a 5-year period. Why do you have these high salaries in the Mayor’s Office. Why are they doing a rush job to get work done by July 4<sup>th</sup> and paying overtime for it? Can you show us what work was done on Saturday and Sunday? Who approved all this work to be done on overtime for July 4<sup>th</sup>?”

B.A. Green responded, “For the park repairs, it was a state contract which does not have to go out for bid.”

Balut suggested that they go to the League of Municipalities to get a cheaper cost on equipment and furniture.

The next person to speak was Resident Jim Dabrowski who stated that he was a member of the NAACP and a Patten School Teacher. “I am against the new powerplant. It hurts our children. I urge the council to join the other towns to oppose this plant.”

A young woman who resides on Kearny Avenue whose first name was Gillian stated that she is an educator and she has another doctor’s appointment to check her immune system. She stated that she too, is against this powerplant.

Another Perth Amboy Resident spoke. She stated that Perth Amboy is a beautiful and historic town and she doesn’t want to have more pollution in it.

The Meeting was opened up to Zoom Participants:

The first person to speak was Sharon Hubberman, “I thank Charlie Kratovil for his presentation. I’ve complained about our air quality, and you were supposed to look into that. I appreciate the presentation about how powerplants have negative impact on the environment and our residents. Biofuels don’t release as much harmful by-products. This is a horrible thing, and I am against powerplants. The council needs to adopt a resolution to oppose it.”

A woman by the name of Nina who is a resident of Old Bridge thanked Kratovil also. “I am terrified for our children. I am against this powerplant, and we need to have people come out to

speak about the harmful effects on our health. We need to protect our residents.”

Resident Jeremy Baratta spoke next, “I think most people would oppose this powerplant.” He then asked if the El Patio Bar was there at an earlier meeting.”

Council Petrick stated that there was no meeting regarding the Patio Bar tonight.

Montville Resident Holly Cox spoke next, “Within 5 years there is a 50-50 chance of a large temperature increase. The world will be unlivable if we continue with powerplants and fossil fuels which are relics. We are in a climate crisis and need to stand up for the harmful long-term effects. I especially urge the residents of Perth Amboy to oppose the plant.”

Caroline Pozyscki-Torres spoke next, “I urge the council to pass a resolution to oppose this plant. Governor Murphy should use the environmental protection law to deny these plants (from being built).”

Resident Maria Vera spoke next, “I agree with all of those who oppose this powerplant. We need a safe and healthy environment, and the council needs to make the best decisions for us.”

Council President Bill Petrick said, “We need to have representatives from the powerplant company make a presentation, and we will need to have an ordinance drawn up.”

Councilman B.J. Torres spoke up and questioned if R-231 – (An application to the USDOJ for the Cops Hiring Grant Program to hire 10 police officers) should be left on the agenda.

The council then voted on the Ordinances and the Consent Agenda.

Ordinances No. 1,2,3 was moved by Councilwoman Rose Morales, and seconded by Councilman B.J. Torres. For the consent agenda, R-221 thru R-235 was moved by Morales and seconded by Torres. Ordinance No. 2 (First Reading re: Police Department Composition) was removed at the Caucus. R-236 (Amending the CY: 2022 Budget) and R-237 (Waiving the Residency Requirement for Nicholas Prochilo) were both removed at the Caucus.

Public Portion:

Resident Ken Balut spoke first. He requested that they (the council) get every available call made in the last 5 years to the El Patio Bar. “A lot of tickets issued to that bar were dismissed and there were video tapes. If we take care of the bars that always have trouble, then everyone else will fall into place. (There are still some good bars that are in town.) With these bars (that are constantly causing trouble) are unsafe for the residents and for the police. The Clerk’s office is supposed to have a meeting with the bar owners. 106 youth have died from opioid abuse. Someone should talk about that. The governors and mayors don’t want to provide those stats showing all of these people that are dying from drug abuse. They put

blinders on. What happened to the project to help people with substance abuse? Think how much will die in 5 years.”

The meeting was then opened up to Zoom participants:

Maria Vera spoke first, “We have too many buildings and houses in Perth Amboy already and we are so overcrowded. There is no parking, but everyone wants to build. We have to send our kids to schools out of town because of this. We are living on top of each other. There are over 500 school buses. In the past, they only used buses for kids that were handicapped. I’ve lived here for over 40 years. I see so many people that congregate on corners. We need space, and we keep polluting with all of these out-of-town school buses.” She then addressed comments to Acting Police Chief Larry Cattano who was not present.

Council President Petrick reminded Vera that she had to address the comments to him.

Vera continued, “There are too many cars with loud mufflers, and we don’t want to hear that. There are too many cars with dark, tinted windows and we need to have more checkout points.”

Resident Sharon Hubberman spoke next. She wanted to know if there were any more discussions on the city budget, “Will there be any tax increase? What happened to the discussions on animal control regarding feral cats? I haven’t seen any feral cats lately, but the resident should not have to capture them.”

Council President Petrick answered, “Residents are not responsible to trap feral cats.”

Chief Cattano came on Zoom, “Animal Control will set up traps and residents can call when they see the animals are in the trap. If a cat is pregnant, they cannot disturb the cat.”

Resident Maria Garcia spoke next, “I requested that Code Enforcement address the issues of people living in attics and rooms and can those rooms be rented out?”

Green responded, “We will have that code up on the website.”

Garcia continued, “I don’t think rooming houses are permitted via the ordinance.”

Green repeated, “I will have that ordinance posted on the website on Monday.”

Garcia then questioned, “What was the cause of the recent fires?”

Fire Chief Ed Mullen then spoke on Zoom, “The vast majority of the fires were accidental such as discarded smoking materials on the outside. Sometimes, it’s faulty electrical wiring, overloaded strips, and cooking fires. Out of 70 fires, 3 were suspicious. Wind was the major factor in spreading fires. Have an alternate exit out of your house or apartment. The Fire Department works every day to make sure the residents are safe. We have rescued people from attics. If we see illegal housing, it has to be reported to the Police and Code Enforcement.”

Council Comments:

Councilwoman Rose Morales said, “The presentation on the powerplant was very informative. I thank all who participated tonight.”

Councilman Joel Pabon spoke via Zoom, “I am in the mountains. I could hear what was going on during the meeting, but the reception was bad. That is why I was not able to speak for most of the meeting.”

Councilman B.J. Torres said, “I thank Kravitol for his presentation and others who talked about the environmental impact of this powerplant. We have spent tens of millions of dollars to do remediations on land. We have airports, oil tankers, and increase in warehouses which have an impact on our children. 3 of my relatives had brain tumors and one recently died. Communities like us suffer and I would like us to draw up a resolution to oppose this plant and to have it available for the next meeting.”

Council President Bill Petrick thanked Kravitol for his presentation, “I would like to invite powerplant representatives to also make a presentation. Be careful, because Covid is still here.” Petrick added, “The County and School increased their taxes.”

B.A. Green closed out the meeting letting the council know that \$8.4 million of the federal money is due next and the city has no financial stress.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Councilwoman Milady Tejada was not present in person or on Zoom. Councilman Joel Pabon was present via Zoom but unfortunately during a major part of the meeting had technical difficulties with the audio and could not be heard on Zoom.





## Presentation on the 2022-2023 School Year Budget 5/5/22 Board of Education Meeting

*\*Continued from Page 2*

not so robust. Creating playgrounds that are wheelchair accessible – thank you Dr. Roman and your administration to give special education students a meaningful existence.”

Board President Ken Puccio stated, “When I sat up here in 2009-2010 when the State of New Jersey – we are a special needs district. 80% funding comes from out of state. The city let us slide each year with \$40 million. The state can pull it from under the rug at any time. We pay \$26 million. We are lucky we are a special needs program. Marisol Gonzalez is the one who came to me to have no tax increase. Sooner or later the taxpayers are going to get whacked. Sometime in the future there will be a large tax increase in Perth Amboy. I’m paying \$11,000 in property tax. Somewhere down the road someone is going to pay for all of this.”

Board Member Marisol Gonzalez said, “It does matter. Our schools are getting better. It’s important for parents don’t send their kids to go to private schools. Not everyone had the support I had. You guys don’t have so many outside our school district. I don’t have children. I am happy to contribute to our schools.”

Public Portion:

Resident Sharon Hubberman spoke first through Zoom, “I am very content that there is no increase to the taxpayers of Perth Amboy. We are under the School Reform Act. This note

of fair share is where certain individual’s demographics are not able to afford high rent. We all pay our fair share. I see technology has a significant increase over the last couple of years. Those who called were put on hold for 19 minutes at the beginning of the meeting. I do not appreciate this. There are medical reasons not to be in person (at the meeting).”

Perth Amboy Federation District Representative Lynn Audet spoke through Zoom, “I want to recognize the entire district staff for Teacher Appreciation Week. Anyone who works with students is an educator. In the past two years, it’s been difficult and unstable to staff given the students. Last week, teachers were inundated with calls. The payroll table for the website for 2022-2023 – payroll schedule needs to be put up.”

The Board went into closed session at 7:04 p.m. and came back at 9:03 p.m.

When the Board returned Board Vice President Tashi Vazquez stated that the Board needs to read their Code of Ethics. “At our last executive session, there was a breach by our Board Members.”

Board President Ken Puccio said, “I was a victim of a breach of confidentiality. What we discuss in executive session is confidential. Using poor judgement makes us look bad. What we discuss in executive session affects us in executive session.”

Board President Ken Puccio gave the President’s Report. “The Perth Amboy Board of Education is in the business of

teaching kids. We are changing lives. We should bring up that we were in the bottom 5%. Now we are in the top 37%.” Puccio then read the bereavement report including former Teacher and Principal in the Perth Amboy School District Mr. Julius Uribe who passed away.

Board Member Junior Iglesia said, “At the beginning of the presentation on Covid, any information to provide at the time. We received test kits from a grant then they lifted restrictions.”

Ms. Gomez came up to speak, “Unvaccinated staff has to get tested every week. They have different choices.”

Dr. Roman said, “There is one bottle of solution for the test kits. There are over 36,000 kids.”

The final cost of the budget is \$292,450,560.00 for the 2022-2023 school year. It was adopted by the Board.

Board Member R.L. Anderson congratulated all the retirees. “I want to recognize Rose Cardona. Thank you for your service.”

Dr. Roman stated that tomorrow (Friday May 6, 2022) was an unused snow day, and the district was off. It also was for Teacher Appreciation Week.

The Board wished everyone a Happy Mother’s Day. Board President stated, “Our teachers are special.”

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m. All Board Members were present, but Board Member Stephanie Marquez-Villafañe left after the Board came back from executive session.



## Dredging for South Amboy Ferry to Proceed

Press Release 5/11/22  
SOUTH AMBOY - In a major milestone for this long-awaited project the New Jersey Department of Transportation is soliciting bids for dredging in preparation for the construction of the South Amboy Intermodal Transportation Center/Radford Ferry. Bids for this 100% State funded project will be opened on May 26th.

This important phase of the project will include the dredging and removal of 19,100 cubic yards of material to increase the depth at the project site. Work is expected to begin this summer as the City prepares to advertise bids for actual construction in upcoming weeks.

“This is an important first vis-

ible step in the construction of this long-anticipated facility”, said Mayor Fred Henry. “As we await the notice to proceed for construction of the land element of the facility in the upcoming weeks, this is a good indication of the importance placed on the project by the State”.

The City is still awaiting notification from Federal authorities which is expected in the upcoming weeks. “Once we receive the final authorization my administration will be ready to advertise bids to identify the general contractor who will bring this outstanding facility from the drawing board to reality” said the Mayor “I am pleased that at long last we will see the fruits of our long labor”.

## Seven Hackensack Meridian Health Hospitals Receive ‘A’ Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades

*Hackensack Meridian Health hospitals Bayshore Medical Center, Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Ocean University Medical Center, Old Bridge Medical Center, Palisades Medical Center, Raritan Bay Medical Center and Riverview Medical Center received spring 2022 “A” grades*

Press Release 5/10/22  
EDISON, NJ – Hackensack Meridian Health, New Jersey’s largest and most comprehensive health network, is pleased to announce that seven of its hospitals received an “A” Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade for spring 2022. This national distinction recognizes hospitals for their achievements in protecting patients from preventable harm or error in the hospital.

The following Hackensack Meridian Health hospitals have received “A” grades for spring 2022: Bayshore Medical Center, Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Ocean University Medical Center, Old Bridge Medical Center, Palisades Medical Center, Raritan Bay Medical Center and Riverview Medical Center.

“I am incredibly proud of Hackensack Meridian Health’s hospitals for everything our team members are doing to enhance patient safety and provide high-quality, compassionate care,” said Robert C. Garrett, FACHE, CEO of Hackensack Meridian Health. “They have been fighting on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic and are working tirelessly to keep the patients and communities we serve healthy and safe. I want to congratulate them on this well-deserved recognition.”

The Leapfrog Group, an independent national watchdog organization, assigns an “A,” “B,” “C,” “D,” or “F” grade to general hospitals across the country based on over 30 national performance measures reflecting errors, accidents, injuries and

infections, as well as systems hospitals have in place to prevent harm.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only hospital ratings program based exclusively on hospital prevention of medical errors and harms to patients. The grading system is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

“As our health care system continues to feel the strain of the pandemic, I thank the workforce and leadership at these Hackensack Meridian Health hospitals for their sustained commitment to patient safety, day in and day out,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “An ‘A’ Safety Grade is an outstanding achievement, and one that is not possible without a 24/7 effort by the entire health care workforce to protect patients from harm. These communities should be proud.”

“Our team members are continuing to transform the way care is delivered by striving for excellence and enhancing quality and safety standards across the network. We are honored to receive this recognition and will continue to do everything we can to provide exceptional care to our patients,” said Jose Azar, M.D., Executive Vice President and Chief Quality Officer, Hackensack Meridian Health.

To see each hospital’s full grade details and to access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit [HospitalSafetyGrade.org](https://HospitalSafetyGrade.org).

## Arguments Continue Over El Patio Bar Infractions 5/9/22 Special Public Meeting Continuation of 5/2/22 Meeting

By: Carolyn Maxwell  
PERTH AMBOY – R-219-5/22 – Authorizing the suspension/revocation of Plenary Retail Consumption License held in the name of Royal N. Inc. t/a the Courthouse Inn, d/b/a El Patio Bar at 417 Fayette Street.

The only council members present at this meeting were Council President William Petrick, Councilwoman Rose Morales, and Councilman B.J. Torres. The meeting started shortly after 4:30 p.m. Council President William Petrick stated that the Prosecutor was supposed to give us a video showing a recent incident that happened at this bar. “As of today, we have not seen that video. The only one we have was supplied by the El Patio owners. We may have to continue this meeting to a later date.” Petrick talked about the possibility of having the meeting on May 12, 2022, at 6 p.m. Petrick continued, “If we don’t get the Prosecutor’s video

before that date, we’ll have to get the video from someone in the police department who was involved in reporting of that incident to appear before the council.”

The meeting was then opened up to the public (in-person first).

Ms. Curry who lives at the Senior Building located at 415 Fayette Street (across the street from the El Patio Bar) says all she hears is the noise and fighting. “When I go to bed, I want to rest. All this noise goes on even when the weather is bad.”

Alberta Victoria who also lives at the Senior Building came up next, “Last night (Mother’s Day May 8<sup>th</sup>) at about 12 o’clock there was a yellow van and a truck that had a lot of lights on it. At 1:35 p.m. they were outside on the sidewalk and across from the building. I’ve called the police and they never showed up, so why should I bother calling? It’s stupid that they let this happen. You get

worked up and you can’t get to sleep. When you come to this country, you should respect the law or don’t come here.”

Councilman B.J. Torres responded to Ms. Victoria’s comments. He told her not to be discouraged. “It is important to hear all the complaints so we can make a case against this bar.”

Ms. Victoria responded, “I’m glad I came here because I learned a lot.”

Councilwoman Morales said, “I want to wait to see the videos before I make any comments.”

Torres ended the discussion, “I want to wait to see the videos to see all the people that were involved (in the incident).” No one spoke from Zoom.


The meeting ended at 4:56 p.m. and will continue Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30 p.m. in the council chambers and on Zoom on the El Patio Bar Hearing only.

## Poll Workers Needed

Press Release  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY - John Anagnostis regional Chair of the Middlesex County Republican Organization, is seeking poll workers for the June 7, 2022, Primary Election. This year is scheduled to be an in person election so the need for poll workers is great. Poll workers are needed for Perth Amboy, Old Bridge, Sayreville, and South Amboy. There is paid training for poll workers. If interested, please call 732-371-9967 and leave a message.



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& City Council Members

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Monday | May 30, 2022 | 11 AM  
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- 2022 -

# MEMORIAL DAY

## REMEMBER & HONOR

We want to express our gratitude to every member of the armed forces who have fought for our country and those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, as we mark Memorial Day 2022 in the historic City of Perth Amboy. May the courage and dedication of those who have given their lives for freedom never be forgotten.

- From all of us at the Perth Amboy Business Improvement District and the entire Perth Amboy business community





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FALLEN HEROS ON  
THIS MEMONIAL DAY

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### 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.*

**May 17 | 7PM | Virtual Program**  
**Understanding and Responding to Dementia Related Behaviors**  
Review caregiver tips and strategies to respond to common behaviors exhibited by individuals living with dementia, such as agitation, confusion and more. Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=12263&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/05/01>

**May 23 | 7PM | Main Library (In-person)**  
**Drying Herbs & Flowers**  
Attendees will learn simple techniques of how to grow, dry, and store herbs for use all year. Attendees will also learn how to create sachets and works of art using dried flowers and other inexpensive materials. Presented by Rutgers Master Gardener Pat Donahue. Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=12308&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/05/01>

**May 26 | 1PM | Main Library (In-person)**  
**Effective Doctor Visits for Seniors**  
A free cholesterol screening will be available to program attendees. This presentation walks people through the steps to prepare for a doctor visit. No Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=12955&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/05/01>

**Movies at Main | Fridays at 2PM**  
Join us every Friday at 2PM to catch a free movie! This 9-week series is themed is Spring into Movies!

**Woodbridge Library Programming Department**  
**Woodbridge Public Library**  
**1 George Frederick Plaza,**  
**Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095**

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## Pallone Announces Schools and Libraries in New Jersey Will Receive Over \$2 Million from the Latest Rounds of Funding from the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program

### May 13 is Deadline for Schools and Libraries to Apply for Additional Support for the Upcoming School Year

Press Release 5/6/22  
LONG BRANCH, NJ – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) today announced that schools and libraries in New Jersey will receive \$2,091,451 million from the latest rounds of funding from the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) Emergency Connectivity Fund Program (ECF). To date, schools and libraries in New Jersey’s 6th Congressional District have now received over \$12 million, and New Jersey has received over \$124 million from the Fund in total.

“I’m glad that essential funding for our schools and libraries is coming to New Jersey to help every student and teacher stay connected to the classroom. In creating the Emergency Connectivity Fund with my colleagues, we focused the program on helping to get broadband service and devices into the hands of the students who need them,” Pallone said. “This crucial funding will help students do their homework, conduct research, and complete at-home projects long after the COVID-19 pandemic is over. I encourage schools and libraries to apply for more funding to ensure students and teachers have internet access for the upcoming school year.”

May 13 is the last day for schools and libraries to apply for support to purchase eligible equipment and services for the 2022-2023 school year. This window likely will be the last opportunity for schools and libraries to request funding before available funds in the Emergency Connectivity Fund program are exhausted. A link to information on how to apply is available here: <https://www.emergencyconnectivityfund.org/>

The ECF provides funding to help students get the tools they need to connect to the internet from home – crucial resources as approximately 16 million children nationwide lack home internet access, hindering their ability to learn and do homework at home. Funding can be used to purchase modems, devices like laptops and tablets, broadband service, and more. The \$7.17 billion ECF program was spearheaded by Pallone’s Energy and Commerce Committee and authorized as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

## PAHS 35<sup>th</sup> Class of 1987 Reunion

PERTH AMBOY – PAHS Classmates, please join us at the beautiful Raritan Yacht Club for food, drinks, and dancing! Saturday, August 6, 2022, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Raritan Bay Yacht Club, 160 Water St. #4703, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861. Tickets are \$85 each. No tickets at the door. Checks & Zelle Accepted. Questions? Message on Facebook @Class of 1987 Reunion or Email at: [Classof1987.PAHS@gmail.com](mailto:Classof1987.PAHS@gmail.com)

## 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

Rev. András Szász – Pastor; Organ Prelude - Richard Russell, Organist. We Extend an Open Invitation to All!

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Parking behind the church on the Wilson Street side.

## New Local History Book

### Perth Amboy's Historic Neighborhoods

By Gregory Bender, Albert Jekelis, Marilyn Dudash Anastasio, and Mona Shangold. Available: Monday, May 9, 2022

**PERTH AMBOY**  
**About the Book**  
Perth Amboy, New Jersey, has always been a wonderful and unique place in which to live. Centrally located in New Jersey on Raritan Bay, the city has a deepwater seaport, a marina, white sand beaches, many historical landmarks, and proximity to New York City. The residences, businesses, and industries intertwined in each neighborhood gave the areas their own identities. Industrialization and immigration changed the land and lifestyle of its residents. As immigrants moved into areas with those of similar ancestry and culture, their descendants studied, worked, and played with people from other cultural backgrounds. The resulting assimilation created a strong, unified community in which all Perth Amboy residents accepted, respected, and celebrated their diversity without racial, religious, or ethnic disharmony.

**About the Author**  
Born and raised in Perth Amboy, Gregory Bender, Albert Jekelis, Marilyn Dudash Anastasio, and Mona Shangold are proud members of the Perth Amboy High School class of 1964. Although they have retired from their primary careers (in engineering, science, education, and medicine, respectively), their interest in and passion for Perth Amboy have not diminished. They prepared this book to share their images, knowledge, and appreciation of Perth Amboy’s history, landmarks, and unique features.

## South Amboy Resumes 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Swim Program



SOUTH AMBOY - Swim Instructors join (LtoR) Martin Gurczeski, Council President Mickey Gross, President of the WMES – YMCA Rose Cushing, Mayor Fred Henry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Council Member Zusette Dato, Board of Education VP Anthony Conrad, and Board of Ed President Patrick Walsh *\*Photos Submitted*

Press Release 5/3/22  
SOUTH AMBOY - After an interruption due to the Pandemic the City of South Amboy in collaboration with the Board of Education and the South Amboy YMCA has resumed its very popular water safety program for 2nd grade students in the district. There was a great deal of excitement as the children were greeted by officials from the City, Board of Education, and the YMCA.

Conceived in 2019 by Council President Mickey Gross, this program offers free swim lessons to all 2nd grade pupils in the district. “We are a waterfront community”, said Gross, “and we have an obligation teach our children how to be safe in and around bodies of water”.

According to acting School Superintendent Dr. Martin Gurczeski, this year the program will serve over eighty students all of whom are very excited to visit the YMCA and learn the basics of water safety and swimming.

The YMCA of Metuchen, Woodbridge, Edison, and South Amboy operates the City Community Center at 200 John T. O’Leary Boulevard and has been a mainstay in the City’s recreational programs for many years.

“The opportunity to enhance the safety of our children and provide them with the ability to swim is one we are proud to endorse”, said Mayor Fred Henry. “And to see all of these smiling faces today is just icing on the cake”.



SOUTH AMBOY - Mayor Fred Henry and Board of Education Vice President Anthony Conrad greet the arriving pupils.

## Pallone Statement on Suspected Woodbridge Cancer Cluster

Press Release 5/5/22  
LONG BRANCH, NJ – Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) issued the following statement on the suspected cancer cluster in Woodbridge, New Jersey:

“The questions raised by local advocates and families require serious scrutiny from health and environmental experts, which is exactly why I personally convened state and federal agencies on April 4 and asked them to investigate these serious concerns. So far, the experts have provided the community with important scientific consultation, but I still have not seen enough action.

“The community is lucky to have Mayor John McCormac who refused to wait and instead pressed ahead with his own environmental reviews. My understanding is that those results will be ready later this month, which will help guide our next steps.

“We still need environmental research to see if there is evidence for concern. We also need to verify reported cancer cases and determining based on the specific timing, type, and frequency if they are statistically higher than normal rates.

“That’s why I have called on the state to take two very specific actions. First, I’ve asked the Department of Environmental Protection to show its commitment to the community and its concerns by reimbursing Woodbridge for the cost of the environmental studies and by taking over any subsequent tests if they are necessary in the future.

“Second, I have asked the New Jersey Department of Health to create a process to collect and verify the cases so health experts can complete a scientific evaluation. There’s a reason the state has a cancer registry and epidemiologists. It is my understanding that the state has agreed to work with Mayor McCormac to create a portal to collect the necessary information.

“In addition, federal agencies have committed their full support should the state request their assistance.”



## Getting Ahead in Business By Milton Paris



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## We Need More Thank-You's at Work!

Getting Ahead in Business has worked with CEO's, Presidents, Owners, and Managers to increase their sales. As Founder and Sales Consultant I have found that many do not use the phrase that they should use every day to their employees: "THANKS" or "THANK-YOU."

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A survey has shown that a majority of workers believe they would respond positively to employer gratitude. 75% said they would work harder for a more grateful boss while 60% stated that they would feel better about themselves if their boss expressed gratitude to them. Hence, we need more thank-you's at work.

I once asked an owner of a company whom I was consulting for if he had ever thanked his employees. The owner's answer was that he thanked them with a paycheck. I told him that this was a ridiculous

**BOSSSES, GET WITH IT! If you are not acknowledging your employees' good work with a thank you, you should start today by extending your appreciation through a verbal gesture or hand shake to those of your employees who deserve it. You will definitely see a difference in your workers' performance and morale. THANKS & THANK-YOU!**

### NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE!

If you have any business questions or would like to meet with me in person: e-mail: [milton@gettingaheadinbusiness.com](mailto:milton@gettingaheadinbusiness.com) 732.306.0040

## Used Clothing Drop-Off Shed

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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 every other Saturday from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. at the Brighton Avenue Community Center/Teen 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. Paperbacks are \$.50, hardcovers are \$1, \$5 for a bag full, oversize bags or boxes are \$10, 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 are now accepting donations. We look forward to your visit.

For more information email us at [friendsofperthamboylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofperthamboylibrary@gmail.com), or call us at 201-381-1903 and like us on Facebook. Dealers are welcome. We are also welcoming new members.

## MOVIE REVIEW: Doctor Strange and the Multiverse of Madness



By Anton Massopust III

"Let us see what kind of Doctor Strange you are." - Professor Charles Xavier.

Benedict Cumberbatch reprises his role as Doctor Stephen Strange, just like he did with Spider-Man, he deals with the problems of the Multiverse. The Marvel Universe is part of many alternative universes where things happen the same but sometimes differently. It is possible to travel between universes and meet your doppelgangers, but it isn't recommended. The good Doctor is asked by a young girl named America (Xochit Gomez) who has special abilities to open portals and is able to travel between universes. She can't control her powers unless she is frightened. Doctor Strange saves her from a giant demon octopus creature and suspects that there is more to this. America tells Dr. Strange that they've met before. Dreaming is visiting the Multiverse. America's problem is that she can't find another doppelganger of herself and she herself does not dream. There's only one of her, and Doctor Strange knows about the Multiverse, but him and the new Sorcerer Supreme Wong (Benedict Wong). They vow to protect America.

Doctor Strange goes to recruit the Scarlet Witch (Elizabeth Olsen) who is having her own problems. She wants to find her children in the Multiverse and live there with them. The Scarlet Witch opens forbidden texts called the "Dark Hold," the evil ancient book with dark spells. However if continue to read it, you slowly go insane and it starts happening to the Scarlet Witch. She can control her doppelganger in the Multiverse and use them as a puppet to achieve her goals. Doctor Strange and America escape to another universe, and they run into Baron Mordo (Chiwetel Ejiofor). They

also run into Blackbolt, Captain Carter, Captain Marvel, Charles Xavier (Patrick Stewart), and Mr. Fantastic from the Fantastic Four. The heroes ban together and try to stop the Scarlet Witch. Dr. Strange and America flee to another universe, but it is falling apart. He runs into an evil version of himself. Dr. Strange battles Dr. Strange and defeats him and Dr. Strange himself uses extreme measures using the Dark Hold in that universe to control a dead doppelganger of himself in order to stop the Scarlet Witch once and for all. The Illuminati is the name of the group of heroes in that universe. In the end, he helps young girl control her powers and returns to his own universe.

Just remember, this is Sam Raimi movie and so there's a lot of callbacks to his previous movies like The Evil Dead and Drag Me to Hell. There are lots of monsters, evil specters, undead, jump-scares, and even a little cameo by Bruce Campbell which is always fun. Special effects rule the day in this movie, and they are incredible. We travel through the Multiverse. If you don't know the Marvel Universe, you might be a little lost or if you don't know what the dark hold and another sacred text is that is a good book that helps a wizard defeat any adversary, you'll be a little lost here. It might be a little too scary for younger kids, but if they like that kind of horror, they might enjoy it. I would say if you know a Marvel fan, it might be a good idea to take them along. If you followed all the movies and most of the TV, you'll understand what's going on. It's a lot of fun and it's a different kind of Marvel movie. Benedict Cumberbatch is great as always and gets most of the funny lines. Go and see it.



JEMMS Foundation Inc.

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Pasta Night & Tricky Tray



Door Prizes  
& 50/50 Raffle



Date: May 20, 2022

Time: Dinner 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Followed by Auction at 8 p.m.

Place: Hungarian Reformed Church Hall  
347 Kirkland Place,  
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

Dinner Cost: \$10.00 Adult

\$6.00 Children under 12

(Tricky Tray tickets sold separately)

Tickets available by email –  
[Lisametzger143@gmail.com](mailto:Lisametzger143@gmail.com) or  
call 732-850-4156



## South Amboy Seniors

SOUTH AMBOY - The South Amboy Senior Citizens club is looking for new members. Anyone 60+ years old that lives in South Amboy or has a 08879 zip code is eligible to join. The meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 12:00 Noon at the Senior Building on Stevens Avenue. Come have fun and join the members for lunch and see if you're interested in joining the club. Social activities include trips to local shopping centers and restaurants, lunch and learn seminars, bingo, chair yoga, senior clubs, book club, Medical transportation within a 10 mile radius of town is also available. If interested or seeking more information, please call or additional information please call the center at 732-525-5960. Visit [www.southamboynj.gov/page/senior-citizen](http://www.southamboynj.gov/page/senior-citizen) for calendar of monthly activities.



## Friends of the Library Meeting

PERTH AMBOY – The Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library are having a meeting at the Children's Library, Jefferson St., Perth Amboy on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 6 p.m. New members are welcome!

## City Wide Yard Sale

SOUTH AMBOY - The City of South Amboy will hold a City Wide Yard Sale on Saturday, June 25, and Sunday, June 26, 2022 (rain or shine) from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. All South Amboy residents can participate at no cost.

To have your address placed on the interactive map and list, please register by calling 732-525-5965 or email [recreation@southamboynj.gov](mailto:recreation@southamboynj.gov). Registration deadline is June 20, 2022.

Registration is not required to participate.



Eagle Scout Project, South Amboy  
\*Photos Submitted



Troop #95



Seth Mathias - completed project

Submitted by Seth Mathias  
SOUTH AMBOY - Seth Mathias, currently a life scout from South Amboy's Troop 95 has collaborated with Cheese State Park Superintendent John Luk to complete his eagle project for passersby to enjoy.

"I love scouting because of all of the experiences I was able to have. Through scouting, I have been able to visit new places I have never thought of going to and most importantly I built bonds with scouts from across the world. Camping, knotting, rappel-

ling, leather work, rock wall climbing, swimming in a waterfall, completing a 20-mile hike and learning about our society from a smaller community scale to a larger global level are just some of my experiences."

My Eagle Project:

I choose to build two benches along with a railing to provide additional protect for patrons that use the park. I worked with Cheesequake Superintendent John Luk who offered me to build the benches and railing. This would not only help the park, but it would also protect the protected wildlife around the area. Many people would jump into the marsh and destroy the land, so it was a great feeling to help both people and animals alike.

I hope everyone will enjoy the structure for many years to come as I will.

Yours In Scouting  
Seth Mathias



Cheesequake Superintendent John Luk (L)

This Week in the Civil War  
160 Years Ago  
May 18, 1862 – May 31, 1862  
By Phil Kohn

Phil Kohn can be reached at [USCW160@yahoo.com](mailto:USCW160@yahoo.com).

Having taken Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Natchez, Mississippi, a U.S. Navy flotilla under Capt. David Farragut on May 18, 1862, reaches the stronghold of Vicksburg, Mississippi, which commands a strategic position on the Mississippi River. However, Confederate Brig. Gen. Martin L. Smith refuses to surrender either the city or his 5,000-man garrison and the Yankee vessels return downriver.

On May 19, President Lincoln countermands Maj. Gen. David Hunter's order freeing slaves in the Federal Department of the South. Lincoln explains that Hunter had exceeded his authority in issuing the order and that such decisions are to be made only by the chief executive. He once again appeals to the states to adopt his proposal of gradual, compensated emancipation.

The first troops of the Federal California Column enter Tucson, Confederate Territory of Arizona, on May 20. The town had been abandoned by the Confederate Arizona Rangers on May 14 as they headed eastward towards the Rio Grande. In Washington, D.C., President Lincoln signs into law the Homestead Act that will give settlers 160 acres of land in the public domain if they occupy it and improve it over five years.

On May 22, in Mississippi, Union troops under Maj. Gen. Henry Halleck skirmish outside Corinth with Confederates commanded by Gen. Pierre Beauregard.

Stonewall Jackson seizes Front Royal, Virginia, in the Shenandoah Valley on May 23. Two days later, Jackson's 16,000 troops crush the 8,000 federals under Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Banks at Winchester, Virginia. U.S. casualties: about 2,800; Confederate: 400.

Concerned by the continued advances of Stonewall Jackson, President Lincoln on May 24 issues orders to Maj. Gen. John Frémont (in western Virginia) to move against Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley and for Brig. Gen. Irvin McDowell, at Fredericksburg, to divert some of his men to help Frémont. Because of these shifts in forces, Lincoln informs Maj. Gen. McClellan that increasing the strength of his Army of the Potomac is impossible.

On May 25, 1862, President Lincoln presses Maj. Gen. George McClellan, sending him a message to "either attack Richmond or give up the job and come to the defense of Washington."

The next day, May 26, President Lincoln again prods McClellan: "Can you get near enough [to Richmond] to throw shells into the city?" Meanwhile, in the Shenandoah Valley, Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Banks's force continues to back away from Stonewall Jackson's advancing Confederates after their defeat at Winchester. In the West, Sherod Hunter's company of Arizona Rangers arrives at Mesilla, where it joins the five companies of Col. William Steele's battalion of 7th Texas Cavalry.

A Federal victory at Hanover Court House, Virginia, on May 27 opens the way for Brig. Gen. McDowell's force — less the 20,000 troops he sent to the Shenandoah Valley — to move southward from Fredericksburg to join with McClellan. In the Far West, ordering Col. William Steele and half his 7th Texas Cavalry regiment along with Hunter's Arizona Rangers company to remain behind in Arizona as a rear guard, Gen. Sibley orders his vanquished invasion force to make the 630-mile retreat from Fort Bliss to San Antonio, Texas. He forwards a report to Richmond, commenting about the condition of his troops, stating that he must abandon New Mexico, "our provisions, forage and ammunition being completely exhausted."

Ahead of the slow-moving siege force of 110,000 federals under Maj. Gen. Henry Halleck, 66,000 Confederates under Gen. Pierre G. T. Beauregard on May 30 stealthily evacuate the rail and road hub of Corinth, Mississippi, under cover of the night and head towards Tupelo, Mississippi, 60 miles to the south. In the Shenandoah Valley, Brig. Gen. Stonewall Jackson — giving up the pursuit of Brig. Gen. Banks's force, begins to pull his so-called "foot cavalry" back from Harper's Ferry so as not to be trapped by the Union troops of generals Frémont or McDowell.

May 31 sees the start of a two-day battle at Seven Pines, Virginia, on the eastern outskirts of Richmond. Some 75,000 Confederates under Gen. Joseph Johnston attack the 33,000 federal troops of the 100,000-strong Army of the Potomac that McClellan had stationed south of the Chickahominy River. During the fighting, Gen. Johnston is seriously wounded. He is immediately replaced by Gen. Robert E. Lee. In the Shenandoah Valley, Jackson's force hastily withdraws from Winchester ahead of the converging troops of Frémont and McDowell, both of whom are too late to catch the Southerners. From Cowskin Prairie, in the Cherokee Nation in Indian Territory, Col. Stand Watie leads a second raid by his Cherokee Mounted Rifles against Neosho, Missouri.

Pallone Announces New Jersey Will Receive  
\$6.5 Million to Clean Up Brownfield Sites  
Pallone Championed the Funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Press Release 5/12/22  
WASHINGTON, DC — Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) today announced that New Jersey will receive \$6.5 million to clean up Brownfield sites through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that Congress passed and was signed into law in November. The law injected \$1.5 billion into the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields program to help communities clean up contaminated industrial sites and turn the spaces into parks, housing developments, or new businesses. Pallone authored the bipartisan bill that created the program in 2002. The breakdown of the funding includes:  
•New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) — \$2 million, which will benefit Perth Amboy, Atlantic City, Bridgeton, Jersey City, Mill-

ville, Paterson, and Trenton  
•Asbury Park — \$500,000  
•Camden Redevelopment Agency — \$3.5 million  
•Hamilton Township — \$500,000

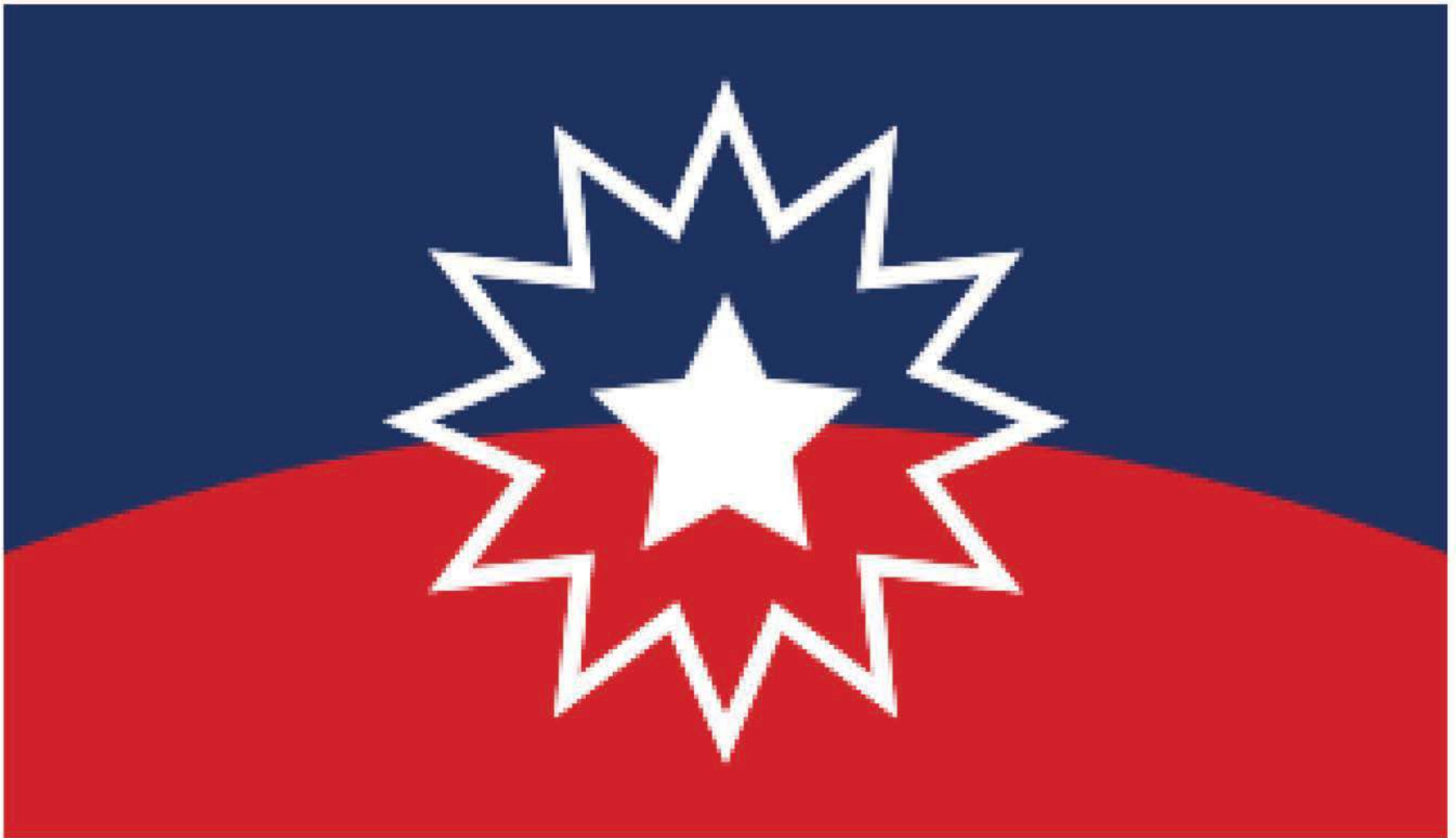
"Today's announcement is welcome news for my home state of New Jersey. These funds, predominantly from our Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, will allow families in New Jersey to rest a little easier knowing that some of the most contaminated sites in their area will soon be cleaned up, revitalized, and generating new jobs and economic opportunities. I'm especially glad to see that Asbury Park and Perth Amboy in my Congressional district will directly benefit from this investment," Pallone said. "I'm grateful to Administrator Regan and the Biden Administration for working so closely with Congress to prioritize the

Brownfields program, and I'll keep fighting to ensure every community — particularly those that have been historically overlooked and underserved — receives the resources they need."

Pallone has been a longtime advocate for the Brownfields program. In 2018, his bipartisan bill to reauthorize the program was passed in a federal spending bill and provided more flexibility for states and non-profits to clean up Brownfields sites. In February, Pallone held a hearing on the program in his Energy and Commerce Committee and heard directly from local leaders, including the Mayor of Elizabeth, New Jersey, about the program and how more funding and flexibility continues to help communities return Brownfield sites to good use.



# **SAVE THE DATE**



## **JUNETEENTH FLAG RAISING CEREMONY**

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**Perth Amboy City Hall Circle  
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	Movano Watch SS Museum Style Mint Condition \$75 Firm. 732-540-5351	Miller Beer Electric Pendulum Mugs \$10 - Budweiser Mugs \$10 - 732-727-8417
<b><i>For Sale</i></b> LP's Cassettes, CD's DVD's \$1.00 each; Radio, CD \$20 - 732-261-4703	3/4 Size Acoustic Guitar. Good for young child - \$50. 732-541-5491	
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## OTHER



Novena to St. Rita

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

Remember to Say Your Novenas!

Prayer to St. Jude for Employment

*(Prayer from The National Shrine of St. Jude)*  
Lord Jesus, my desire to work is itself your gift. You gave me talents, so I could shine Your light to the world. Send Your Spirit to guide me to work that will provide security and joy, and most of all the ability to serve You in love. St. Jude, I do not know where I am going – and so I call upon you in my need. Bless my spirit with the determination to continue on with energy. Give my heart patience and fortitude. Help me, dear friend, to remember that God's plan for me is forged out of love. Amen. *R.N.*

Knight's Trivia Night

FORDS - Our Lady of Peace Knights of Columbus, Council 9199 of Fords is sponsoring "Trivia Night 4<sup>th</sup> Edition" on Saturday, June 11, 2022. It promises to be a fun night of questions, answers, prizes and laughter!! Mostly laughter!! Doors open at 6:30 p.m. at the OLP Parish Center, 25 Franklin St, Edison, NJ 08837.  
Admission is \$25 and includes one sub sandwich, a small bag of chips and one soda or bottled water. Coffee, tea and desserts are available. BYOB (beer & wine only).  
Reservations are requested for teams of 6 or 8. Prizes for top teams and door prizes. For info contact Rich Fetzer at 732-822-4957 or Emil Ferlicchi at 732-261-8280.

Wind Creek Casino Trip  
Good Shepherd Seniors

HOPELAWN - Good Shepherd Seniors is sponsoring a bus trip to Wind Creek Casino, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania Tuesday June 21, 2022. Cost is \$35 with \$25 back in play. Bus leaves our parking lot at 10:00 AM. For more information, please call Connie at 732-442-4978 or Nancy 732-541-5929.

Caesar's Casino Trip

*San Salvador Seniors*  
PERTH AMBOY - The San Salvador Seniors are sponsoring a bus trip to Caesar's Casino, Atlantic City, on Thursday, June 2, 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; \$30 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 before you board the bus.*

Cruise Nights on Broadway

SOUTH AMBOY – Join us for fun, music, prizes, 50/50's. Great people and their cars. 2022 Cruise Nights on Broadway will be the second Wednesday of every month on May 11th, June 8th, July 13th, August 10th, September 14th, and October 12th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. All parking on Broadway. Sponsored by the City of South Amboy. For more information, call 908-930-3497.

Pets of the Week



PERTH AMBOY - It's raining kittens! Please help us find them homes. Open up your heart and home to these little angels rescued from Perth Amboy. They need love and a chance. This kitty or another will be waiting patiently for you. Can't adopt, then become a foster. Each kitty is fixed, vaccinated to age, dewormed, defleaed, tested for FIV and leukemia, microchipped and fully vetted. Visit Allforthepaws.org for adoption application and email to Vmoralespps@yahoo.com. Donation fee applies. Upon approved application, adoption will take place at adopter's home. Rescue will transport. Text 1.732.486.6382 for questions.

Have a Special Pet?

E-mail us your Pet Photos to AmboyGuardian@gmail.com with Pet of the Week in the Subject line and explain why your pet is special. Please include Name and Phone# for verification.

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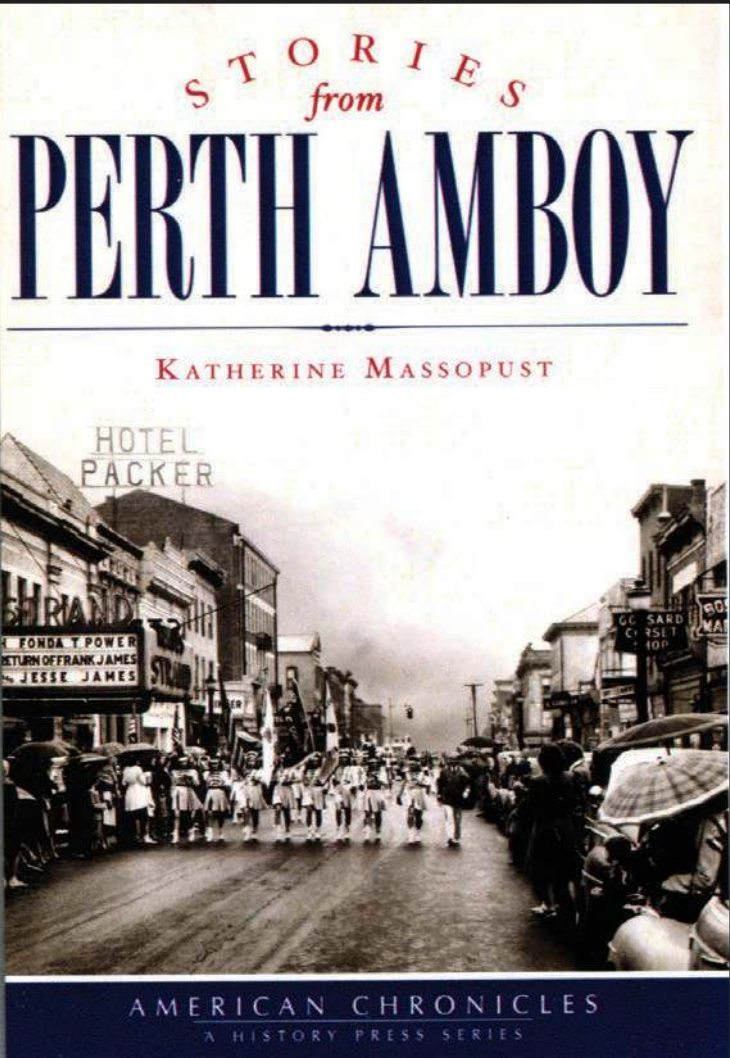
Answers From Puzzle On Page 19

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TEMPE		SCAR	
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	OAKS	OASES	
DENS	NNW		
TIRES	SOME	AHAB	
HAIR	AAA	YMCA	
ELKS	TOP	OTT	

LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY – Convenience Store 1940'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.




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!



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Israeli Flag Raising & Holocaust Remembrance Day, City Hall Circle, Perth Amboy, 5/5/22  
\*Photos by Paul W. Wang





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- 1 18th-century card game
- 4 Fa follower
- 7 Reference
- 11 French islands
- 13 Memorable years
- 14 \_\_\_\_ about (approximately, 2 wds.)
- 15 Less than one
- 16 Walking like a duck
- 18 Vase
- 20 Written reminder
- 21 Neighbor of Phoenix
- 24 Dueler's memento
- 26 Wish undone
- 27 Eager beaver
- 29 Sound repetition
- 33 Mine products
- 35 "\_\_\_\_ Loser" (2 wds.)
- 36 College post
- 37 "Oz" dog
- 38 Bird beaks
- 40 Adam's madam
- 41 Hardwood trees
- 43 Desert stops
- 45 Animal lairs
- 47 Opposite of SSE
- 48 Tedious
- 51 "Pequod" captain
- 55 Bald man's lack
- 56 Letters on some tow

trucks

- 57 Workout spot (abbr.)
- 58 Caribous' kin
- 59 Highest point
- 60 Baseball great Mel

DOWN

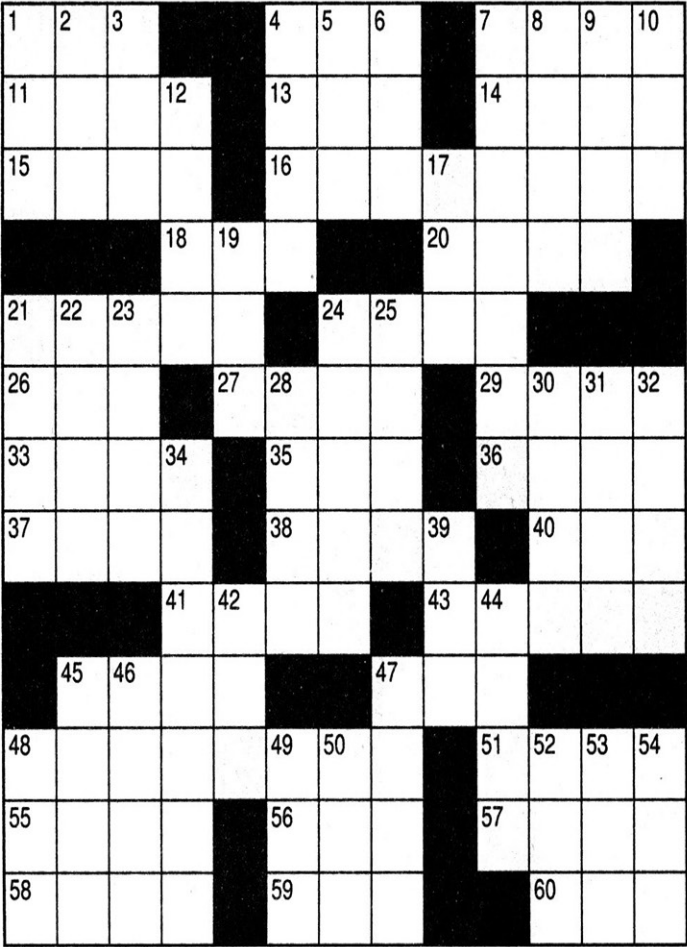
- 1 Actress Taylor's nickname
- 2 Barcelona "rah"
- 3 "\_\_\_\_ the ramparts..."
- 4 Stitched
- 5 "...man \_\_\_\_ mouse?" (2 wds.)

6 Scottish boy

- 7 Used crayons
- 8 Name's first letter (abbr.)
- 9 Color quality
- 10 Unit of energy
- 12 "Duck \_\_\_\_"
- 17 Heredity inits.
- 19 Primary color
- 21 Turkey \_\_\_\_
- 22 Currency unit in Italy
- 23 Get together
- 24 Big rigs
- 25 Grouchy person
- 28 Sty sound
- 30 Fair grades
- 31 "\_\_\_\_ fun!"
- 32 Smallest bills

34 Oklahoma natives

- 39 Junior
- 42 Brayer on the farm
- 44 Gone
- 45 Clock face
- 46 Estrada of "CHiPs"
- 47 Lowest tide
- 48 Common title start
- 49 Granola grain
- 50 \_\_\_\_ Tse-tung
- 52 "Managed care" inits.
- 53 Perform onstage
- 54 Flutter



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Minimum  
Required

Photography

Photos by the Bay  
All your Photography Needs

Under One Roof

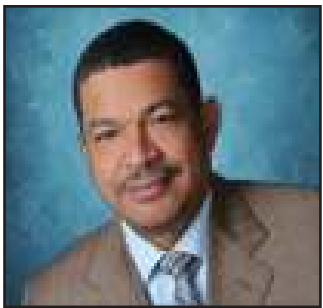
Portraits/Weddings/Sweet Sixteens  
Baby or Wedding Showers  
Bar/Bat Mitzvah's/Head Shots  
Photo Restoration/Digitization  
Graphic Design



732-293-1090

Photography Done Right!





**Enrique Hernandez**  
*Broker/Owner CRB, SFR, CRS*

*Happy Memorial Day  
from  
Petra Best Realty!*



**329 SMITH STREET • PERTH AMBOY**  
**(732) 442-1400 • (732) 442-1480 fax**



## *The Real Estate Team With Dedication, Vision and Results!*

**FOR MORE OF OUR FEATURED LISTINGS, PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE:  
WWW.PETRABESTREALTY.COM**

**PETRA BEST REALTY WILL GET YOUR HOUSE **SOLD** FAST!!!  
PLEASE CALL FOR FREE MARKET ANALYSIS!**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Great downtown location near of center business district of Perth Amboy (Five Corners). For many years Pancho Sneaker has been one of the biggest supplier of Shoes in the Perth Amboy area. Well established business with huge customer base. Pancho Sneaker has been profitable for many year. **\$250,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Welcome to a great opportunity to be a business owner with a amazing property that includes a 3 bedroom apartment on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and your very own business of a fully operating Bar along with liquor license. The bar was completely renovated, it has a amazing luxurious design with tv's, vip seating area, a dance floor, DJ booth, 2 bathrooms, and so much more! This building has been 100% meticulously remodeled from top to bottom. No expense was spared. This is a very rare opportunity to own a corner property with so much potential! Thousands of cars pass by this building weekly coming over from New York right off the 440 highway. Take over the bar and business and cater it to fit your needs. Must come to see in person to truly appreciate all the details that went into the remodeling process of this property. Parking for multiple vehicles and two amazing garages for extra storage. Huge basement with everything brand new! The apartment on the 2nd floor has 2 full bathrooms and 3 bedrooms! Come see asap! Will not last. **\$949,900**



**PERTH AMBOY** - House needs work but has a lot of potential, only one block from train station and stores in downtown. **\$279,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Beautiful townhouse with a lot of upgrades and very low maintenance fee, close to all mayor highways and just 2 min from the Outerbridge. You must see property to appreciate it. This property will go fast! **\$299,000**



**EDISON** - Welcome to Edison!! New construction. 3,500 square feet approximately. 5 huge bedrooms. First floor with en-suite bedroom. Living room, dining room, White cabinets, beautiful granite counter top, new Stanley Still appliances, gas stove with hood included. Second floor Master bed with the huge closet that everyone is looking for, nice size bathroom with double sink. 3 more bedrooms with an excellent sizes. Garage with automatic door opener, extra storage room behind the garage with access to the patio. Under construction!!!! **\$799,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Enjoy the panoramic Raritan Bay from the back upper deck overlooking The Raritan Bay Area. Within close proximity to fine restaurants and waterfront area. This property has lots of potential. Location, Location, a must see all appliances are included in AS IS condition. Hurry!!!!!! **\$389,000**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Beautifully updated 3rd floor unit. 2bd & 2bth gives anyone plenty of space to enjoy this gem in the heart of Perth Amboy. Kitchen updated with all stainless-steel appliances. **\$240,000**



**SOUTH AMBOY** - Do not miss out on this beautifully renovated 3bdrm, 2 FULL bath apartment. Nestled minutes away from South Amboy's gorgeous waterfront area. This apartment offers all the luxuries including stainless steel appliances in the kitchen as well as washer and dryer and off-street parking. This second-floor unit will not disappoint but will not last. **\$2,500 Rent**



**PERTH AMBOY** - Immaculate spacious colonial a truly move-in condition all redone, close to hospital, shopping, and most public transportation. A must see. Showing begins 5/18/2022. **\$339,000**