



THE

Biweekly Newspaper

AMBOY GUARDIAN

• VOL. 12 NO. 15 • 732-896-4446 • P.O. BOX 127 • PERTH AMBOY • NJ • 08862 • WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022 •

Arguments Ensnare Part I 10/24/22 Caucus Meeting

By Carolyn Maxwell
PERTH AMBOY – The meeting started with the reading of the ordinances first. Law Director William Opel told the council in reference to Ordinance No. 1 (No Public Hearing) which dealt with the Focus 2020 Redevelopment Plan for Area No. 2. The Amendment had to make sure that the bulkhead met the current standards.

The next ordinance was Ordinance No. 2 open for public hearing entitled: Parking Meter Zones. Council President Bill Petrick remarked, “Some on Front Street are not metered and should we remove those (parking) lots (10,11,12) in the ordinance?”

Councilman Joel Pabon then remarked, “It is to put an exact address on the lots.”

Petrick then made a brief comment in regards to Ordinance No. 3 – Providing various water/wastewater utility improvements appropriating \$1,500,000 of bonds. Petrick was happy that this may be granted to us.

Next, there was a discussion on the Resolutions. R-505 – Release of two paper performance bonds in the total amount of

\$4,344,852.30 to Harbortown Terrace LLC. for certain blocks and lots.

Councilman B.J. Torres questioned if Harbortown was in compliance with the original deal they made with the city.

Petrick answered, “I am not an expert. Maria Garcia used to be on the Planning Board and might know.”

City Engineer Ernest Feist spoke up via Zoom. He said, “The site improvements are not a Planning Board issue. It is governed by the Municipal Land Use and Laws, and they are in compliance. I can give you a copy of the site plan.”

Torres continued, “Can we get an update on the original deal and if they are following the original PILOT obligations, especially when it comes to security?”

Business Administrator Michael Greene spoke briefly about R-508-10/22 – A contract with Stage Drop, LLC. for the purchase of an all-terrain outdoor stage system in an amount not to exceed \$28,519.36.

Greene said, “This was requested by Danny Cleaver to replace the wood with steel.

CDBG funds were used.”

Petrick said, “Was the school by Patten Park door fixed after it was run into by a car?”

Torres also remarked, “The Patten Park is heavily used for afterschool activities.”

Petrick said, “Yes, the door that the car slammed into needs to be repaired.”

There was a discussion regarding R-510 – 10/22 - A contract to Z Brothers Concrete Contractors for 2022 UEZ Road Rehabilitation and Improvement Hall Avenue, Jefferson Street, and Maple Street in an amount not to exceed \$409,244.89.

Pabon said, “This always come up and when will they start?” He also questioned when will they start to work on Sunshine Alley?”

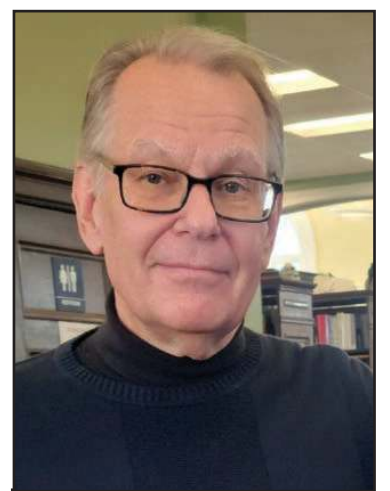
Feist remarked via Zoom, “They should start working on Sunshine Alley in about a week or so. They should be done by the end of the year.”

Pabon said, “There is a lot of digging going on Market Street. There are a lot of bumps. It’s horrible. They should be doing a better job. How long does it take for the soil to settle?”

Greene remarked, “When



Councilman B.J. Torres



City Historian John Dyke

PSEG came at the meeting, they said it may take up to 90 days for the soil to settle.”

Pabon disagreed and said, “I think the work will be completed in 90 days. The soil should already be settled.”

Feist spoke up again, “We can sit down with Elizabethtown Gas and also it is a county road.”

Council President Bill Petrick asked if there will be stormwater issues regarding Sunshine Alley.

Feist remarked, “That will not

be a problem.”

There was an actual discussion on R-522 – 10/22 – A contract with Center State Engineering to provide professional engineering services for the reconstruction and paving of Sunshine Alley in an amount not to exceed \$460,000 which is being funded through the American Rescue Plan Act.

Council President Bill Petrick spoke up first, “Will this be the actual completion of repairs?”

**Continued on Page 8*

Tow Truck Donated by Estate of Donald Rzepka 10/19/22 Council Meeting

By: Katherine Massopust
SOUTH AMBOY – Councilman Tom Reilly stated that the city should not be charging the Vets for certain fees. “If we don’t have that, it should be there (a city ordinance).”

Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski explained Resolution 22-191 – Resolution accepting the donation of a tow truck to the City of South Amboy. “The daughters of Donald Rzepka (Jill and Janet) who was the owner of Al’s Auto Body who recently died asked to give a donation of a vehicle with his name immortalized on it.”

It stated in Resolution 22-191: The city acknowledges the generosity of local businesses, and the city of South Amboy has enjoyed decades of support from the late Donald Rzepka owner of Al’s Auto Body. The Rzepka Estate wishes to continue the legacy of generous spirit. The Rzepka Estate desires to donate a 1994 Chevrolet K3500 4-wheel drive light duty wrecker with 4-ton Hydraulic boom and hydraulic wheel lift to the city of South Amboy. The city

of South Amboy would benefit from the acquisition of this particular type of equipment.

The council thanked the daughters of Donald Rzepka for their generous donation to the city.

Council Comments:

Councilman Tom Reilly thanked the Food Pantry donors and volunteers and all the First Responders. Reilly stated that he wants the individuals at the Food Pantry to be recognized for all the hard work they do. He thanked everyone who bought a brick to help the veterans. He then emphasized that he wanted certain fees to be waived for veterans. He then asked about PILOT numbers.

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski stated that he did not have those figures yet. Neither did CFO Dan Balka who was present at the meeting.

Reilly asked if the city was going to audit those PILOTS. He then asked about the “Pigeon Palace.”

B.A. Skarzynski answered, “The hearing is in the middle of November. We have a hearing,

make a testimonial, we move forward. As long as there is no interference with the owners, we should move forward.”

Law Director Francis Womack stated, “We will proceed if you rule in that the direction that they will have to pay for demolition.”

Reilly then asked about the blighted property on Roosevelt Street.

Skarzynski answered, “I will answer that question privately.”

Reilly then wanted an update on the illegal palate operation.

Skarzynski answered, “We are citing the person. It is not something in our control. It’s in the courts.”

Councilman Reilly then added, “October is Fire Prevention Month. On the October 22nd event, will the Chief make a speech?”

First Assistant Fire Chief John Dragotta came up to speak, “This Saturday (Oct. 22nd), Fire Prevention Day, all the apparatus will be out. There will be a live controlled burn for families. There will be tables set up for First Responders. There will be

a demonstration of tools to get people out of a damaged car (a car was donated for this demonstration). If it works out, we will go back to the schools. It will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at John Street Board of Education parking lot.”

Reilly wished everyone a Happy Halloween. “Be careful driving.” Reilly then stated that the State Assistance Program is available, and the information should be on the city’s Facebook Page (for those who meet the requirements).

Councilwoman Zusette Dato thanked the South Amboy Parade Committee and Chair Mickey Gross for their work at the Irish Festival (Held on October 8th). She mentioned the food drive and spoke about the upcoming election including early voting. “We should all exercise our right to vote.” She noted that you could vote by mail and Early Voting was available.

City Council Vice-President Christine Noble wished everyone a Happy Halloween. She thanked Jill and Janet (daughters of Donald Rzepka) for the tow truck donation.

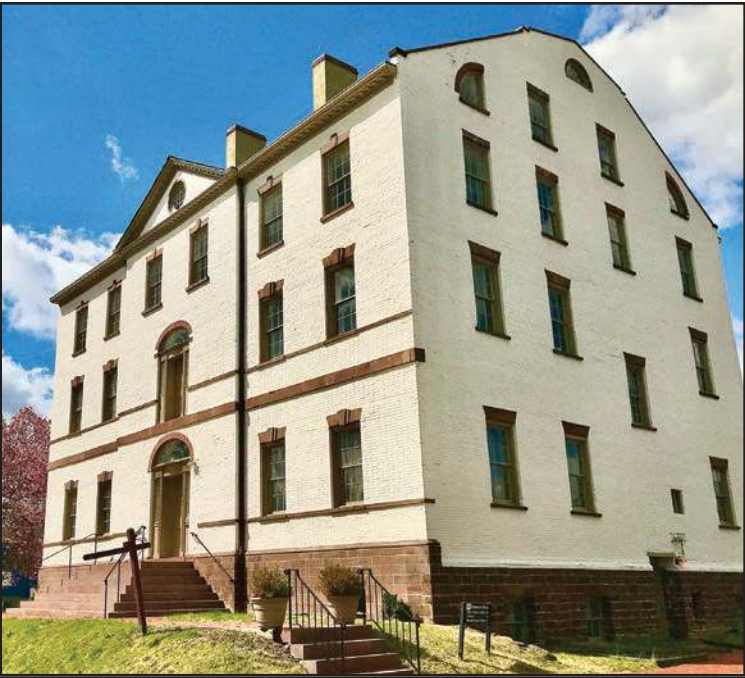
ters of Donald Rzepka) for the tow truck donation.

Council President Mickey Gross thanked the food bank for their hard work.

Mayor Fred Henry thanked the South Amboy Fire Department for their programs this month. “We had another successful Lunch & Learn program (at the Senior Center). It is a very successful program. There was a nice article in the New York Times Real Estate Section giving South Amboy credit for being an up-and-coming place to be. Dredging for the Ferry is beginning very soon. There was a vascular screening that took place. It was very successful.” Mayor Henry mentioned upcoming events in the city.

Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski stated that dredging is imminent on the Ferry Site and that the city is sending out RFP’s (Request for Proposals) out for temporary service.

No one spoke during the public portion. The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m. All council members were present.



Perth Amboy History Walk

PERTH AMBOY - Proprietary House Association and the Perth Amboy Historic Preservation Commission have announced a “Perth Amboy History Walk” to take place on Sunday, November 6th at 1 PM.

The two-hour guided walking tour (approximately 2 miles) through Perth Amboy’s picturesque historic district will cover centuries of history, from the city’s founding in 1683 through its 20th century industrial age. Sites on the tour will include: Proprietary House (colonial NJ’s royal governor’s mansion – built in 1762-64); St. Peter’s Episcopal Church & its colonial churchyard; 18th century Kearny Cottage; City Hall (built in 1713); early 20th century Ferry Slip; and portions of the NJ Coastal Heritage Trail & the NJ Women’s Heritage Trail.

The walking tour starts and finishes at Proprietary House (149 Kearny Avenue, Perth Amboy, 08861) where light refreshments will follow the walk’s conclusion.

Admission is \$5 per person. Space is limited, so advance purchase is suggested. Rain date is Sunday, November 13th.

For tickets, visit the website at: www.theproprietaryhouse.org (click on Events) or contact Proprietary House Association - Phone: 732-826-5527 - Email: info@theproprietaryhouse.org.

PERTH AMBOY - (L to R) Commissioner Kenny, Mayor Caba, Governor Murphy, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Congressman Pallone Jr. Commissioner Director Rios, NJDEP Commission Shawn LaTourette *Photo & Rendering submitted

Press Release 10/25/22

PERTH AMBOY – Governor Phil Murphy today announced community investments to promote access to open space, expand recreational opportunities, and enhance green infrastructure in Perth Amboy. The \$6 million project, which supports improvements to the Veterans Memorial Youth League Complex, is partly funded by the Department of Environmental Protection’s Green Acres program (\$1.2 million), the Perth Amboy’s Open Space Acquisition and Improvement line item in the Department of Community Affairs budget (\$2 million over Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023), and an earmarked Federal Appropriation for Community Projects (\$1.5 million).

“Enabled by an all-of-government approach to comprehensive community investments, the improvements we begin in

earnest today will be transformational to the Perth Amboy of tomorrow,” said Governor Murphy. “For far too long, overburdened communities in New Jersey – and throughout the nation as a whole – have not enjoyed equitable access to green, open space and its host of accompanying physical and mental health benefits. Today, my Administration reaffirms once again that our state can only flourish if we cultivate the conditions necessary for our children to live safe and healthy lives in the communities they call home.”

“A big part of what makes a community healthy and vibrant is giving residents the opportunity to take a walk, play a game, and participate in sports and other activities with friends and neighbors in a safe and accessible place,” said Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver, who also serves

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Designer Handbag Bingo

Sponsored by the
Ukrainian Assumption Church Holy Name Society

Sunday, November 13, 2022

380 Meredith Street Perth Amboy, NJ

Doors open at 12 Noon
Games Start 2:00PM
Admission \$25

Includes all 13 Games & Dabber

Extra booklets available for purchase

Prizes, Food and Raffles

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WWW.AMBOYGUARDIAN.COM

Governor Murphy Announces Community Investments in Perth Amboy
State and Federal Funding Will Support Improved Recreational Opportunities and Green Infrastructure

as Department of Community Affairs Commissioner. “For these reasons, DCA is proud to contribute in a meaningful way to the improvement of the Veterans Memorial Youth League Complex, which will benefit people in the community for years and years to come.”

“Today is a great day for the residents of Perth Amboy. Thanks to investment from federal and state governments, we’re going to begin making overdue improvements to the Veterans Memorial Youth League Complex Park,” said U.S. Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. “I’m glad I was able to secure \$1.5 million in a House spending bill for the city to invest in recreation and sports fields for young people that will greatly enhance the park’s value for students and residents alike.”

“It’s exciting to see local, State, and Federal resources come together to revitalize

open spaces in Perth Amboy. Improvements to the Veterans Memorial Youth League Complex will provide families and residents of the city with new opportunities for recreation,” said Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin. “This is just one example of the investments being made in communities throughout the State to ensure all New Jersey residents have access to enjoyable, outdoor recreational opportunities.”

“Every New Jersey community deserves quality open and green spaces with facilities that provide children safe places to play and for people to gather in their neighborhoods,” said Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette. “Projects such as this build upon the Murphy Administration’s significant investments in recreational opportunities and environmental justice initiatives to improve quality of life for families here

in Perth Amboy and across New Jersey, today and in the future.”

"These renovations represent our city’s path to SMART infrastructure and the vital role our parks play in the physical well-being of our city," said Perth Amboy Mayor Helmin Caba. "This is what we have been advocating for a long time, and most grateful for announcing this today. And to be able to accomplish the funding is crucial. Today also demonstrates the efficacy at all levels of government and that it works for our residents."

"Parks, in general, give us relief from work and school as well as from the isolation of our modern lives," said Perth Amboy Superintendent of Recreation Kenneth Ortiz. "These improvements will increase the park’s uses and expand the recreational opportunities for present and future generations."

VOTE FOR AN HONEST, INDEPENDENT CITY COUNCIL



G-1
Petrick

Capable
Experienced
With a lifetime of experience
in the community

G-2
Garcia

Honest
Knowledgable
Never afraid to speak
truth to power

G-3
Cruz Cortes

Compassionate
Generous
Ready to roll up his sleeves to
improve this community

Elect council members who will:

- o Ask questions, not take orders
- o Have your interest in mind, not the mayor's
- o Be willing to oppose bad ideas, not meekly accept them

WHEN THE MAYOR CONTROLS THE CITY COUNCIL,
IT'S BAD FOR PERTH AMBOY

VOTE FOR WHAT'S GOOD FOR PERTH AMBOY

VOTE COLUMN G

November 8, choose independence on the city council

Vote Petrick, Garcia, Cruz Cortes

HAVE YOU EVER ASKED YOURSELF WHY

... Members of the mayor's staff got \$8000 raises in his last budget—people who were already making more than \$70,000 a year? How do the mayor's council candidates justify that in a city that is almost \$200 million of dollars in debt?

... Landlords have gotten away with renting apartments with huge code violations? Ask the mayor's council candidates, where is code enforcement?

.... Developers have gotten tax breaks, while taxes for ordinary residents have remained sky high?

... The mayor and his council candidates support converting our only community hospital into a mental illness facility? Yes, that is happening right now. Is losing our community hospital a way to move Perth Amboy forward?

... There is little or no enforcement of quality of life issues such as noise, illegal parking, garbage all over the streets, and unsafe housing? Why do the mayor's council candidates have nothing to say about that?

We don't know why either.

Elect council candidates who are independent, experienced, knowledgeable, and HONEST!

Vote Column G

Perth Amboy Re-Imagined

Paid for by Perth Amboy Re-imagined: Norine Gall Treasurer

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Remember Our Veterans



It was our honor to be present at the book signing of "The Borinqueneers" Author Noemi Figueroa Soulet, who had a very successful book signing at the Perth Amboy Public Library on October 28th. We were also honored to be in the presence of Ervin Machado who was one of the Borinqueneers.

After the slideshow presentation which included a narrative of some of the photos in the book, Noemi Soulet asked Mr. Machado to come sit next to her for a question and answer period. After that segment, a long line formed to purchase her book. There were two things that they did not anticipate: the large number of books sold that night, which would leave them short of books for her next book signing in Newark the following evening. The second pleasant surprise was the number of people who asked Mr. Machado to also sign the book.

I don't know who was more excited - Mr. Machado or the people who requested his signature. One of Mr. Machado's relatives remarked that any time she takes him somewhere, he is always recognized. Sometimes a short trip to the Supermarket

turns into a trip much longer than anticipated.

Noemi also mentioned that even though she is from New York, it is the New Jersey people who show her the most love and support. She acknowledged Sam Delgado who is the one who helped get the word out on the importance of her book. I will refer to Sam Delgado as Noemi's "Wingman." You can tell by how emotional she was that she appreciated all of his help. Also, in her book, she had listed other states that had parks honoring the Borinqueneers and was thrilled that Perth Amboy will be the latest to honor them. So, for the upcoming Veteran's Day it was fitting that we have a member of the 65th Puerto Rican Regiment in our presence and we urge all to get a copy of that book.

It was reported that there was one young man with tears in his eyes and so proud to hear of the accomplishments and achievements of the men who proudly fought in the US Army that made him so proud of his heritage.

Photos are worth a thousand words. *C.M.*

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Official Statement from
The Vote For A Better Tomorrow Campaign

On October 22, 2022, one of the volunteers for our campaign was arrested and accused of bribery. Authorities involved in the arrest have alleged that the volunteer offered to complete a resident's mail-in-ballot in exchange for a \$20 gift card. While several media outlets have reported on the arrest, none of these media outlets have reached out to our campaign for a statement. As a result, the information contained in the various news reports is one-sided and does not reflect an accurate account of what actually transpired.

Throughout the past year,

hundreds of volunteers have energetically participated in our campaign by speaking to voters, disseminating literature, and attending rallies and other events. As candidates seeking your vote in this year's pivotal election, we have continually encouraged and promoted the highest moral and ethical standards among our volunteers and the community in general. In this regard, we were shocked to learn that one of our volunteers was arrested and charged with bribery. It is vital that the residents of Perth Amboy understand that our campaign did not authorize any unlawful behavior, and that in

pursuit of our election, we are committed to conducting ourselves in accordance with the law.

We pledge our unwavering support to the volunteer who was arrested and charged this past week. It is our sincere belief that the volunteer did not violate any laws as alleged in the media. We will continue to support the volunteer as the legal process plays out, and we expect that the volunteer will be fully exonerated of any alleged unlawful conduct through a full and fair judicial process.

Open Letter from Mayor Caba to
The City of Perth Amboy Residents

Dear Residents,

It is with the most profound concern that I write this letter about an investigation launched by the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office. Regrettably, I learned of the arrest of a campaign worker for three Perth Amboy City Council candidates and three Perth Amboy Board of Education candidates. This individual was arrested and charged with bribery.

One of my Administration's highest priorities is restoring trust and confidence in local government. The illegal vote-buying operation that a cam-

paign has allegedly engaged in, undermines that mission and does great harm to our community.

There is no place for voter fraud in Perth Amboy. I thank the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office for exposing this alleged illegal behavior. I expect the Prosecutor's Office to hold those responsible accountable, and I encourage anyone who knows of any other credible incidents of voter fraud to come forward and contact law enforcement immediately.

The conduct of those involved does not represent our city and

what we stand for. Our focus remains on public safety, improving the quality of our local services for our residents, and strengthening our capacity with fiscal responsibility and transparency for a transformative and thriving future.

The Middlesex County Prosecutor's investigation is active and continuing. Anyone with information is to call Detective Shadi Zaiton of the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office at (732) 745-4263.

Sincerely,
Helmin J. Caba



**Election Day is Tuesday,
November 8, 2022
from 6 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Early Voting has Already Started
Check your Ballot for Dates,
Time, and Locations**

***Remember to Vote!
It is Both Your Right and Privilege!***



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On November 16, 2022
Deadline: Friday, November 11, 2022
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Our Special Advertising Rates!***

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COLONIAL RESTAURANT..... 366 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
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SUPER DUPER DELI III 650 KING GEORGE'S RD.

IN HOPELAWN:

KRAUSZER'S.....683 FLORIDA GROVE RD.

IN LAURENCE HARBOR:

HOFFMAN'S DELI 5 LAURENCE PKWY.

IN MORGAN:

SOUTHPINE LIQUORS467 S. PINE AVE.

IN PARLIN:

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IN PERTH AMBOY:

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ALAMEDA CENTER 303 ELM ST.
AMBOY CHECK X-CHANGE321 MAPLE ST.
ANDERL PC 309 MAPLE ST.
THE BARGE201 FRONT ST.
BAY CITY LAUNDRYMAT.....738 STATE ST.
C-TOWN272 MAPLE ST.
CEDENO'S PHARMACY 400 STATE ST.
CITY HALL260 HIGH ST.
EASTSIDE DRY CLEANERS 87 SMITH ST.
FAMILY FOOT CARE252 SMITH ST.
FU LIN 79 SMITH ST.
HY TAVERN 386 HIGH ST.
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JANKOWSKI COMMUNITY CENTER 1 OLIVE ST.
KIM'S DRY CLEANERS 73 SMITH ST.
LAW OFFICES 708 CARSON AVE.
LEE'S MARKET 77 SMITH ST.
LUDWIG'S PHARMACY75 BRACE AVE.
NEW ELIZABETH CORNER RESTAURANT175 HALL AVE.
PETRA BEST REALTY..... 329 SMITH ST.
PETRICK'S FLOWERS 710 PFEIFFER BLVD.
POLICE HEADQUARTERS 365 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
PORTUGUESE MANOR 310 ELM ST.
PROVIDENT BANK 339 STATE ST.
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PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATION100 FIRST ST.
QUICK CHEK853 CONVERY BLVD.
QUISQUEYA MARKET249 MADISON AVE.
QUISQUEYA LUNCHEONETTE 259 MADISON AVE.
RARITAN BAY AREA Y.M.C.A.365 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
RARITAN BAY MEDICAL CENTER530 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SANTANDER BANK 365 CONVERY BLVD.
SANTIBANA TRAVEL 362 STATE ST.
SCIORTINO'S RESTAURANT473 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.
SHOP-RITE365 CONVERY BLVD.
SIPOS BAKERY 365 SMITH ST.
SUPERIOR DINER.....464 SMITH ST.
SUPREMO SUPERMARKET270 KING ST.
TORRES MINI MARKET403 BRUCK AVE.
TOWN DRUGS & SURGICAL 164 SMITH ST.
WELLS FARGO 214 SMITH ST.

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SENIOR CENTER 423 MAIN ST.

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BROADWAY BAGELS105 S. BROADWAY
BROADWAY DINER126 N. BROADWAY
CITY HALL140 N. BROADWAY
COMMUNITY CENTER 200 O'LEARY BLVD.
KRAUSZER'S200 N. BROADWAY
KRAUSZER'S717 BORDENTOWN AVE.
PUBLIC LIBRARY100 HOFFMAN PLAZA
SCIORTINO'S HARBOR LIGHTS 132 S. BROADWAY
SOUTH AMBOY MEDICAL CENTER.....540 BORDENTOWN AVE.
WELLS FARGO BANK.....116 N. BROADWAY

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MAIN ST. FARM107 MAIN ST.
NEWS & TREATS 99 MAIN ST.
ST. JOSEPH'S SENIORS RESIDENCE1 ST. JOSEPH'S TERR.

Important!

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

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

Attention Businesses Open During Pandemic Crisis:

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

Call Carolyn:
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Katherine:
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Email the Amboy
Guardian:
AmboyGuard-
ian@gmail.com

Attention!

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

2022 Amboy Guardian Publication Dates

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

TUES. Nov. 1 BID, 4 p.m.
City Hall, High St.
• Rent Leveling Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m.
Zoom
WED. Nov. 2 Planning Board, 7 p.m.
Zoom
MON. Nov. 7 City Council, Caucus, 5:30 p.m.
City Hall, High St. & Zoom
WED. Nov. 9 Library Board of Trustees, 5:30 p.m.
Library, Jefferson St.
• City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St. & Zoom
THURS. Nov. 17 Board of Education, 5:30 p.m.
PAHS, Eagle Ave.
THURS. Nov. 17 Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St.

South Amboy

WED. Nov. 2 City Council, Regular, 6 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway
WED. Nov. 16 City Council, Regular, 7 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.*



The Barge
On The Waterfront in Historic Perth Amboy

Open 7 Days a Week
For Inside Dining Only or Orders to go
11:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Limited Seating - Reservations Suggested

Come have your favorite Sangria & Seafood Dishes
Check our website for menu
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7 p.m. Thursday

Office Hours:

Mon. - Wed. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

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

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

Law Office of ERALIDES E. CABRERA



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708 Carson Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

Phone: 732 - 826-5020; Fax: 732-826-4653

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**Former Mayor of the City of
Perth Amboy Wilda Diaz Endorses
Vote for a Better Tomorrow:
Joel Pabon, Jeanette Rios,
and Junior Iglesia
*Pabon, Rios, and Iglesia in Column F on the
Perth Amboy 2022 General Election Ballot***

Press Release 10/8/22
PERTH AMBOY, NJ – Former Mayor of the City of Perth Amboy Wilda Diaz announced her endorsement of the “Vote for a Better Tomorrow” campaign. The team is composed of Perth Amboy residents: Council Member Joel Pabon, Entrepreneur Jeanette Rios, and Board of Education member Junior Iglesia. Vote for a Better Tomorrow’s focus is to improve the quality of life for city residents; the three candidates will appear in Column F on 2022 election ballots.

Wilda Diaz’s endorsement stems from her mayoral experience working alongside Jeanette Rios, who was the mayor’s aide for more than five years. “It’s extremely valuable to have a candidate who understands this form of government,” said Diaz. “Not only am I familiar with Jeanette’s work ethic, but she is also a generous individual. She is passionate about volunteering and is committed to the well-being of the Perth Amboy community.”

“We are honored to be endorsed by former mayor Diaz,” the Vote for a Better Tomorrow Candidates explained. “Diaz was very beloved to the people of Perth Amboy, creating lasting changes that will continue upon the appointment of our team. Jeanette Rios’ experience as mayor’s aide in Perth Amboy is a tremendous asset to the team of Pabon, Rios, and Iglesia. Rios specifically thrived in the areas of economic development during her time in office. Rios is complemented by Pabon, who contributes his 12 years of experience as a councilman and as a retired U.S. Army First Sergeant. Additionally, Iglesia has served as a board member, where he fought against a tax increase for residents. With our combined expertise, we have pledged to work together for a Better Tomorrow.”

The longtime residents, whose campaign is titled “Vote for a Better Tomorrow,” bring more than 50 years of combined community service to Perth Amboy. They will leverage their collective knowledge and record of success to create a la-

ser focus on improving the lives of the community they are eager to serve.

Running for council to make a difference, Pabon, Rios and Iglesia have a multi-faceted platform aimed at:

- Combating the unconscionable and uncontrolled increases in rent prices for the 64% of Perth Amboy residents who are renters by enforcing the City’s existing rent control ordinance, and reducing the maximum annual rent increases to three percent; a rent control ordinance has been in place in Perth Amboy since 1983 limiting annual rent increases to five percent unless significant capital expenditures have been made by the landlord, in which case the Rent Leveling Board may authorize an additional amount.

- Requiring City law enforcement officials to conduct annual threat and safety assessments at all public schools to determine how best to protect the health and safety of the City’s students and faculty; and
- Launch a citywide “Quality of Life” educational effort aimed at making Perth Amboy cleaner, safer, and more liveable, particularly how to live safely in the COVID-19 environment, including adding additional testing and vaccine locations.

“As long-time residents, we embrace the diversity within our city and have a defined strategy to create positive change to make for a better tomorrow for all residents,” Pabon, Rios and Iglesia said in a joint statement.

The Perth Amboy City Council election is scheduled for November 8, 2022. For more information on the Vote for A Better Tomorrow campaign, visit their website, www.vote4abettertommorrow.com, or follow them on social media:

Twitter: @VoteBetterTmrw
Facebook: @VoteForABetterTomorrow
Instagram: @vote-forabettertommorrow

Avoid the lines and traffic by voting via mail or early in-person at select locations. Mail-in voting in New Jersey starts September 24, and in-person early voting is October 29-November 6, 2022.

**Maria Vera Endorsement to
Perth Amboy Re-Imagined**

Our town is heading into a downward spiral of poverty and decay. However, there is hope, and the only way to bring this town back is NOT to continue duplicating or repeating the same mistakes made from prior administrations. We can make this happen by voting for Column G: Petrick, Garcia and Cruz-Cortez. What are our candidates’ goals and plans? What is the number one biggest issue? Hi, my name is Maria Vera. I live on Madison Ave., in Perth Amboy, NJ. I’m here to discuss our town election on November 8. We have three candidates: William Petrick, Maria Garcia, and Alfred Cruz-Cortes.

These candidates want to put the community first. They want to listen and address the issues presented at City council meetings. They want to have and maintain good relationships with city workers. These candidate, Petrick, Garcia and Cruz-

Cortez, will listen to the voices of the people in this town. They will focus on bringing our town back to health in the future. They have been studying the facts and the many issues created by former Mayor Awilda Diaz that current Mayor Helmin Caba has exacerbated and repeated.

This ticket, Petrick, Garcia and Cruz-Cortez, column G has been living in this town all their lives and putting good energy into this town by doing the right thing. I am confident, as a team they will be able to accomplish and resolve many issues to move this town forward. Between, Petrick, Garcia and Cortez-Cruz they have been serving our town in various positions, Councilman, Board of Education, Planning and Zoning Board, voluntary organizations like the Salvation Army and Fire Department for over a decade. We live in an old city

that has been vastly neglected. They are aware of the problems regarding our infrastructure, streets, drinking water, sewer lines that need to be addressed while protecting the residents from tax increases that we cannot afford. They have the know-how and experience to navigate through all the various obstacles.

They are self-motivated by liking what they do, enough to want to do a good job regardless of the external reward because they care about this Community. They will take 2 feet forward instead of one foot backwards. Their accumulated knowledge and experience outway all of the other candidates combined. Petrick, Garcia and Cortez-Cruz have what it takes to develop our town and make it the jewel that it can be. A vote for them is a vote for people who are going to make decisions that benefit our entire community.

**Perth Amboy Democratic Organization Endorses
“Moving Perth Amboy Forward” and “Moving Our
Education Forward” Candidates
*PADO Endorses Slate of Candidates for City Council and Board of
Education Races, Citing their Vision and Dedication to Progress***

Press Release 10/4/22
PERTH AMBOY – The Perth Amboy Democratic Organization (PADO) is proudly announcing the endorsement of the “Moving Perth Amboy Forward” and “Moving Our Education Forward” candidates for the 2022 City of Perth Amboy Council and Board of Education races, respectively. The endorsed candidates for City Council are Councilwoman Milady Tejeda, Perth Amboy Board of Education President Kenneth Puccio and Hailey Cruz running on Column H. The candidates for Board of Education are Luis Marte, Jasmin Melendez and Joas Quiles running on Column 3.

The Perth Amboy Democratic organization, led by Mayor and Chairman Helmin Caba and Vice Chair Iris Rodriguez, announced the committee’s unanimous decision by acclamation to endorse both slates.

“Perth Amboy’s progress must continue moving forward,

and these candidates have the vision, knowledge, and talent necessary to ensure our city remains on course for continued success,” said Mayor/Chairman Helmin Caba. “Both the ‘Moving Perth Amboy Forward’ and ‘Moving Our Education Forward’ candidates are committed to pursuing policies that will improve the quality of life for our residents, while also addressing the city’s most pressing issues. Perth Amboy needs leaders truly invested in the community’s welfare and I am gratified that the Perth Amboy Democratic Committee membership has endorsed their positive road map for our city’s future.”

The Board of Education and City Council slates are made up of candidates who are committed to building on the progress that has been made in Perth Amboy under Mayor Caba’s leadership. They will fight to increase investment in critical services to improve quality of life, bring jobs and sustainable de-

velopment to the city and keep residents safe.

“As a lifelong resident of the City of Perth Amboy and Vice-Chair of the Perth Amboy Democratic Organization, I am proud that in this critical election our organization has taken this step to endorse City Council and Board of Education slates,” said Vice Chair Iris Rodriguez. “Our committee is composed of longtime advocates and community leaders who understand the progress our city has achieved under Mayor Caba’s leadership and know how important it is to continue moving forward. Quality leaders produce quality results, and the organization looks forward to the positive work these teams will accomplish for our city.”

Learn more about the candidates at www.movingperthamboyforward.com and <https://www.movingeducationforward-pa.com>



PERTH AMBOY CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE PLATFORMS

F - Vote For A Better Tomorrow

Perth Amboy residents Council Member Joel Pabon, Entrepreneur Jeanette Rios and Board of Education member Junior Iglesia are focused on improving the quality of life for city residents, as the team has made their campaign for City Council official. The three candidates will appear in Column F on the ballots.

“Sadly, due to personal and political agendas and a lack of knowledge and experience Perth Amboy’s City government is grossly dysfunctional at a time when residents need it more than ever,” the Vote for a Better Tomorrow Candidates stated. “The team of Pabon, Rios, and Iglesia have pledged to work together for a Better Tomorrow. We cannot allow self-interest to get in the way of what is best for our residents.”

The longtime residents, whose campaign is titled “Vote for a Better Tomorrow,” bring more than 50 years of combined community service to Perth Amboy. They will leverage their collective knowledge and record of success to create a laser focus on



Junior Iglesia	Jeanette Rios	Joel Pabon
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improving the lives of the community they are eager to serve. Running for council to make a difference, Pabon, Rios and Iglesia have a multi-faceted platform aimed at:

- Combating the unconscionable and uncontrolled increases in rent prices for the 64% of Perth Amboy residents who are renters by enforcing the City’s existing rent control ordinance, and reducing the maximum annual rent increases to 3%;
- Requiring City law enforcement officials to conduct annual threat and safety assessments at all public schools to determine how best to protect the health and safety of the City’s students and faculty; and
- Launch a citywide “Quality of Life” educational effort aimed at making Perth Amboy cleaner, safer, and more liveable, particularly how to live safely in the COVID-19 environment, including adding additional testing and vaccine locations.

Since agreeing to run as a slate, the candidates have visited more than 3000 homes to hear concerns and answer questions directly from residents. They plan to visit thousands more in the next few weeks leading up to election day.

G - Perth Amboy Re-Imagined

- 1) We are committed to Stabilizing Taxes in our community, preventing excessive tax increases,
- 2) Committed to Shutting down/preventing excess unnecessary spending.
- 3) Updating our water infrastructure, safer drinking water for every Perth Amboy resident.
- 4) Committed to a safer city, instituting real community policing, signed into law expanded police officer numbers to 145 police officers that can be hired. Creating a more responsive Department.
- 5) Safer Streets, I signed into law the Speed Table law for Perth Amboy, to prevent Speeding.
- 6) We are committed to Safer Streets, improving the traffic patterns around our Downtown Business district.
- 7) We have constantly fought for sensible growth, quality developers, while on the School Board, Planning Board, Zoning Board, and will now on the city council.
- 8) We are Committed to making a cleaned community, first through education.



William Petrick	Maria Garcia	Alfred Cruz-Cortez
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H - Moving Perth Amboy Forward

Councilwoman Milady Tejada and her "Moving Perth Amboy Forward" running mates, Perth Amboy Board of Education President Ken Puccio and Hailey Cruz, filed over 1500 nominating petitions today with the City Clerk's office to be placed on the November 8th ballot for three open City Council seats.

"I am incredibly proud of the outpouring of support our campaign has received from our City's residents," said Councilwoman Tejada. "Our city has harnessed our strengths to carry forward the momentum that Mayor Helmin J. Caba has established to move Perth Amboy forward. Every signature we have collected thus far represents the excitement of our residents and the continued success of Perth Amboy".

"As a long-time resident, community advocate, retired Perth Amboy Police Officer, and current Perth Amboy Board of Education President, I know every inch of this city and the most pressing issues we need to address," said Ken Puccio. “I look to bring



Milady Tejada	Hailey Cruz	Kenneth Puccio
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the same spirit of collaboration, problem-solving, and innovation I use on the School Board onto the City Council."

"I am honored to have been born and raised in the City of Perth Amboy," said Hailey Cruz. Cruz has a personal investment in the success of our students as a school counselor for the Perth Amboy Dual Language School. Hailey also has a strong record of community service and leadership on several civic boards and organizations. "I will work for a better quality of life for our residents and give our residents a voice on the City Council," stated Cruz. “My running mates, Milady Tejada, Ken Puccio, and I are excited to work with our residents and Mayor Caba to help continue moving Perth Amboy Forward."

Learn more about the candidates at www.movingperthamboyforward.com

Arguments Ensur Part I

10/24/22 Caucus Meeting

**Continued from Page 1*

Feist responded, "It will be for the total construction, design, and inspection, and we will reuse the pavers already there."

Greene spoke up and said he made a mistake, "This has to be an Ordinance. It says Resolution. So, strike R-522."

B.J. Torres broke up and said, "I move to table R-522 and all of the American Rescue Plan Money should be put on hold for public input and all the Department Heads should be here."

Pabon spoke up and said he agreed with Torres. "We have to take control of this. Money should have been allocated for this project even before American Rescue Funds were available."

Greene responded, "That is why it was changed to an Ordinance. It was in the Capital Improvement Plan as an option. We can use bond money or American Rescue Plan Money for the project."

Petrick said, "I prefer to use the ARF funds to save on bonding, but I do agree with Torres. Plus, we didn't see anything about paying city employees with the ARF money."

Greene said, "Payment to employees who worked during Covid will be paid by the end of November."

Petrick continued, "Sunshine Alley has been talked about for years. It is a mess, and it needs to be done. During the Vas Administration, it got close to being fixed, then it was botched."

Torres spoke up, "The only people that will benefit are the Sunshine Alley residents. And will their home values go up because of this?"

Pabon said, "Garbage trucks destroyed the alley."

Torres continued, "A lot of historic grants could be applied

for the alley. This only benefits the mayor's allies and it's political."

Feist spoke up, "There may be additional maintenance cost because its cobblestone compared to regular blacktop."

Pabon said, "I would have to abstain. I remember when HPC President Renee Skelton said she applied for grants to restore Sunshine Alley, but they were denied. A lot of drug activity took place on the alleys and there used to be regular drug raids. They left behind a lot of paraphernalia, but the alleys are historical."

Torres spoke up again, "When I came to Perth Amboy, I moved near the Historic Ferry Slip, and my wife and I brought the Ferry Slip back to life with concerts."

City Historian John Dyke was sitting in the audience and was asked to come up and speak, "We put a stop to getting the Ferry Slip torn down. It is used as a symbol of our Waterfront. Other cities are restoring their historic streets. We have ignored these historic allies which are unique. We need to preserve them for future generations."

Torres countered, "We apply for grants for our music series."

Dyke then questioned, "Why are you against historic preservation?"

Torres countered, "This is a working poor community, and it is time to represent the majority of the residents. This (ordinance) is to benefit the mayor's friends."

Councilwoman Rose Morales spoke up, "I am for restoring the alley using the ARF money."

Torres continued, "It is irresponsible to spend money on Sunshine Alley."

Pabon then spoke up, "I'm not against the police, but we need to pay our employees first who worked during Covid. Just like the PBA Contract, the money was already there."

Council President Petrick spoke up, "I had to remind Caba that essential workers also includes city workers from all departments - not just the police and fire departments. DPW worked. Caba was home working when the schools were shut down because of Covid. Caba doesn't think anything through." Petrick also asked for a list of who worked during Covid.

B.A. Greene also said, "The essential workers pay will also have to be in a form of a resolution. I ask that R-522 be tabled."

Torres spoke up again, "I had a member of the audience tell me to go back home." Torres stated that his parents have been here for many years. He then said, "I was elected 3 times to be a Democratic Committeeman."

For R-524-10/22 - Approving the Affordability Assistance Policy & Procedures for the City of Perth Amboy and R-525-10/22 - Authorizing approval of a memorandum of understanding with the Perth Amboy Housing Authority was talked about with Leslie London (Law Firm of McManimon, Scotland & Baumann) via Zoom.

London said, "It was part of the resolution that you just formalized. It is an Obligation of Affordable Housing and how to spend the trust fund money. There is a Rent Assistance Program and updating of utility and appliances. No taxpayer money will be used. It is for improvements of Affordable Housing Units."

Council President Bill Petrick commented, "This is a public/private entity, and the Housing Authority is doing this project together such as the one that was done on Chamberlain Avenue and the building on New Brunswick Avenue."

London continued, "The contractors have to be authorized to do the work."

Petrick was annoyed, "We have more rentals than property owners. Harbortown is all rentals and they don't fall under our Rent Leveling Board guidance."

London answered, "You are mixing apples with oranges. This money helps qualified tenants and affordable housing units, and the funds are limited."

Mr. Levin who is the Administrative Agent for the money spoke up via Zoom, "There is a Rental Assistance Program which will help qualified tenants and low and moderate income households who are employed and it's only for two months of rent."

Director of the Office of Economic and Community Development (OECD) Tashi Vazquez spoke via Zoom, "This gentleman (Levin) was approved by the council. The Housing Authority can work with us on some projects."

Petrick then responded, "It seems that there are a lot of outside corporations involved."

Vazquez said, "20% of the money goes towards administrative purpose and salaries."

Pabon then asked, "How can people apply for two months of rental money?"

Levin spoke up, "It is only for

those who met the criteria for these funds."

Tashi Vazquez finished the conversation, "\$300,000 for Tenant Based Rental Assistance is funded through a PRAHD program."

There were two late-starter resolutions. R-526-10/22 - To buy equipment for the Fire Department and R-527-10/22 - Which referenced the Town Tavern Marker. Both resolutions will be on the agenda on Wednesday (10/26/22).

Public Portion (in-person first):

The first speaker came up to the mike only spoke Spanish. Before any member of the Council could start translating, City Clerk Victoria Kupsch said the council had a resolution saying they could not translate for someone, and only a certified interpreter could do that. Since the meeting was being recorded, an interpreter could do the translation from Spanish to English.

The next person to speak was Resident Maria Rivera. She asked why the Rent Control is not being enforced.

Petrick explained to her that under the Vas Administration, Rent Leveling Board Meetings stopped, and the Board was disbanded, then continued under the Diaz Administration since no one ever complained. Someone then saw a political opportunity to revive it. "We don't have rent control. We have a Rent Leveling Board where a landlord can ask for permission to go above a 2.5% rate increase."

Rivera told the council that she lives on New Brunswick Avenue and her landlord is a slumlord.

Petrick suggested that she complain to Code Enforcement and to the State.

Resident Vince Mackiel came up next, "I am a member of the Rent Leveling Board, and our next meeting is November 7th, but we are presently only meeting via Zoom. I am very conscientious. Around October 13th, there was a cleanup on Convery Boulevard near ShopRite and people got sick. Are there any Emergency Response Drills? I take pride in having that hospital facility nearby. Chemical fumes happened in that area that day. I walked along Rte. 35 where they used to have chemical markers. I am part of the C (Community Team)."

Fire Chief Ed Mullen came up to respond, "There is an industrial cleaning going up at the facility in Keasbey and there was a foul odor in the air. We had to ventilate ShopRite and Walgreens and protected the hospital. Six people were hospitalized. We had to call in Edison for assistance with helping out with the ventilation. We have a drill coming up with Kindermorgan and we already did an emergency drill with Buckeye."

Pabon spoke up. "I remember Vince Mackiel coming up before and asking if there were any drills before in response to emergency situations."

Mullen replied, "The police can do it ASAP through Nixle."

Police Chief Larry Cattano came up to speak, "We have an emergency plan that is updated every year."

Mackiel said, "I was con-

cerned because there were no reports on what happened that day."

Zoom Participants:

Resident Sharon Hubberman spoke first, "The air quality has been impacting me. People have chemical sensitivity which can be severe. We need an alert system such as text messages. Keasbey has been a culprit. When they have fumigation in Keasbey, they should have alerts out. I want to see a plan of action."

Petrick responded, "It seems like there are a lot of things coming from neighboring industrial communities which we can't control. Unless it is very toxic, it won't be detected."

Council Comments:

Councilwoman Rose Morales had no comments.

Councilman Joel Pabon said, "We can't have any disrespectful remarks made toward us. It is not acceptable. We want things done in a positive way and so should anyone who is representing you."

Councilman B.J. Torres said, "It doesn't matter how long you have been here - you don't have ownership of Perth Amboy." He then quoted author Maya Angelou, "When someone shows you who they are - believe them." Torres continued, "At the last PARA Board Meeting here, they would not take public comments from anyone on Zoom. One Board Member was 2000 miles away. There was one item on the agenda listing Perth Amboy as being in Union County. We need to get updates as to what is happening on that board."

Petrick spoke up and directed his question to Law Director Opel, "Did you advise them about not letting Zoom people speak?"

Opel responded, "That is in their (PARA's) policy. During Covid, their meeting became hybrid. At some meetings, they let Zoom participants speak."

Petrick spoke up and said, "One of the PARA Members lives on in Washington State."

Opel said, "When it went to virtual meetings, the public was allowed to speak via Zoom."

Petrick ended the meeting and said, "Have there been any talks about getting a local Executive Director for PARA? She lives and works on another coast and also works for the City of Perth Amboy. Put out an RFP for an Executive Director for PARA."

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m. There were no items for discussion in closed session.





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*Fernando Oliveira
Proprietor*

Arguments Ensur Part II

10/26/22 Council Meeting

By: Carolyn Maxwell
PERTH AMBOY – Resident Sharon Hubberman was first up to speak about the misconceptions that people had regarding the Rent Leveling Board which she is the chair. She also had paperwork that she handed out to the council so they could follow along as she spoke about different issues. “We need to set the record straight. Someone stated that we don’t have brochures or any other printed information about the duties of the Rent Leveling Board. We had our first hearing in 2021 from a landlord who had a hardship request. We’ll grant a hearing within 45 days of a request. We’ve had hearings because tenants thought they had an unfair rent increase. Our secretary sends out all the information when there is a request for a hearing. Sometimes hearings are withdrawn if a landlord and tenant resolve their issues. We address all matters that fall under our jurisdiction. We need open discussions, and you all are here to address issues given to you. We want to make sure we have procedures put in place that will be used going forward. Our Board Secretary Dianne Roman (who is very efficient) and our we have a new member Mr. Nunez, who seems very excited to be on the board. We need to have an additional attorney because we have a lot of hearings coming up. The original ordinance was adopted in 1973. We need more marketing material and to make sure the material is readable for the landlords and tenants. We may need a technical assistant instead of another lawyer.”

Council President Bill Petrick spoke up, “What is most important is clarity in your literature and you need to send it to the clerk’s office.”

Councilman Joel Pabon thanked Hubberman for coming tonight, “What is the Rent Leveling Board’s budget?”

Dianne Roman came up to speak, “I have included allocations for what we need. I also have talked to our law department about our needs.”

Pabon said his concerns were that he wanted to make sure that all this information gets out to the landlords and tenants regarding rent increases.

Petrick then suggested that this information about rent increases will go out the same time as the water bill.

Business Administrator Michael Greene said, “We will put it out on social media and with the water bills.”

Roman said, “We will have popup information on the city website, but first it needs to be okayed by the legal department.” Roman then briefly spoke about the Landlord Identity Registration. “We are looking how New Brunswick handles their tenant registration. We want to make sure that tenants can provide feedback on their apartments (good or bad).”

Petrick suggested, “There should be one form to do all registrations (no matter what kind of rental unit you have).”

Sharon Hubberman continued, “We are looking for uniformity, contact information, and who would receive the forms and decontrolled forms.”

Councilman B.J. Torres spoke up and thanked Hubberman for

the hard work that she does for the residents. “A lot of residents were not aware of the Rent Leveling Board, and they go to other social services and resources (when they have problems regarding their rent).”

Petrick then suggested that there be one single phone number for landlords and tenants to contact regarding any matters involving rental increases, etc.

Torres said, “We can’t change the past – we can only go forward.”

Hubberman concluded the discussion, “PRAHD and Middlesex County have helped us, especially during Covid. We want to make sure we have a positive governance and policy.”

The meeting was then open to discussion on any ordinance that had its own hearing.

Resident Ken Balut came up to speak, “For Ordinance No. 3 – A bond ordinance for water/wastewater utility improvements issued in the amount of \$1,500,000. He wanted to know how much it will cost in lawyer fees.

B.A. Greene explained, “It will be \$15,000 and there may be partial forgiveness on the amount of these bonds.”

Balut continued, “All lawyers have to do is use an APP to do calculations. We have a B.A. who is a lawyer. This is why poor towns bleed money. When I was on the council, I always asked questions and went to the Comptroller’s office when it came to issuing bonds. This has got to stop. I look at everything, especially when it comes to fees. You need to always ask what the legal fees will be. There are no discussions on lawsuits. When I was on the council, there was one person who sued the city multiple times. I once was able to get a lawsuit that was originally for \$75,000 knocked down to a settlement of only \$7,000.”

B.A. Greene concluded the discussion, “Going forward, the fee will be 1% of the lawsuit and the amount is more than just lawyer’s fees.”

No one from Zoom spoke. Public Portion (Agenda Items Only – In-Person First):

Resident Ken Balut came up first. He referenced R-504 – Appointing Jill Goldy as Second Alternate Funds Commissioner for the Public Entity Joint Insurance Fund. “This is another place all of our money goes to. Someone on the council should be on this committee and someone should account for this money. We stopped some of the excessive lawyer bills when I was on the council. You make the decisions and should investigate lawsuits before settling. A lot of times prosecutors fail.” Balut then referenced R-523 – Rescinding Resolution R-458-9/22-Accepting the bid and authorizing a contract with Altec Building System for the Perth Amboy Water Department in an amount not to exceed \$5,926,500. He asked, “Why the change?”

Council President Petrick responded, “It is because they have to use union labor.”

Greene then explained, “The price might go up because of this.”

Law Director Opel then added, “That project labor agreement had to be in place.”

Balut then talked about R-528

– Authorizing the waiver of all fees associated with the construction and installation of the City Town Tavern Marker to be located at 315 High Street. “This has been a 10-year project and it started in 2012. I sat with the mayor and the architect of this project.” He couldn’t remember at the time who it was. “Now, it is finally being done.”

The council voted on the Ordinances. Ordinance No. 1 (No Public Discussion) – Amendments to Focus 2020 Redevelopment Plan for Area No. 2 was moved by Pabon, seconded by Morales. Ordinance No. 1 regarding additions and deletions for restrictive parking places for use by handicapped positions was moved by Pabon, seconded by Morales. Ordinance No. 3 – involving bonding for water/wastewater improvements – moved by Pabon, seconded by Morales. The only person to vote no was Torres.

Law Director Opel stated that since the vote was not unanimous, it failed to pass.

Ordinance No. 4 – Granting the conveyance of a dedicated right of way easement over a portion of Block 172, Lot 1.01 was moved by Pabon, seconded by Morales.

Ordinance No. 5 – Purchase of two firetrucks and appropriating \$860,000 and authorizing the issuance of \$342,500 bond or notes to finance part of the cost thereof. Moved by Pabon, seconded by Morales. B.J. Torres had one brief comment, “We have the money and should use the American Rescue Funds.”

Public Portion (In-Person First): Resident Ken Balut came up first, “We should a plaque up honoring Tom Ward. He was part of initial discussions involving the Town Tavern. You should call Kevin McCabe about getting money for improvements to the Outerbridge instead of having a study done.” He then turned his attention to the YMCA. “We had an arbitration agreement. The school pays to use the pool as well as others. Look at his salary and benefits. He is getting to be a millionaire and donated to politicians. You need to make sure that the \$486,000 are given to all employees who worked during Covid. They came to work and did their job and should be getting that money before the holidays. Everyone who runs this town are out-of-towners.”

A man who lives on Packer Place came up to speak next. He was concerned about all the commercial vehicles that park on Sayre Avenue. “The police ticket them after 6 p.m. They also park on Mitchell Street. When will the city employees get Covid money?”

B.A. Greene explained, “They will get it before the holidays.”

Petrick then said, “Caba will probably hand them out personally.”

Councilwoman Morales asked if fees could be raised on the fines for the trucks that park on those streets.

Police Chief Larry Cattano came up, “There was an authorization for additional charges and graduated fines.”

Councilman Pabon spoke next, “The neighbors are complaining about the school buses parking on Brace Avenue. People are having trouble backing

out of their driveways. It is out of control.”

Cattano responded, “We only get involved if buses are blocking driveways. There is a light traffic street ordinance in place that involves gross vehicle weight. Nighttime is when enforcement takes place mostly.”

Councilman B.J. Torres spoke up, “The council wants to make sure all employees who worked during Covid will get some of those American Rescue Plan Funds. This is not a gift. It is money that was earned by the employees and should have been given out months ago. Now, the money has been devalued.”

The next person to come up to speak was a woman who lives on Andrew Drive. “The parking is horrible even though we have parking permits. The cops can’t do anything involving private lots. There was a fight that happened at the parking lot at Urgent Care and when the cops came, they were cursed out. Some people will ignore the resident parking spots and urinate in our neighborhood.”

Councilman Petrick responded, “We need to get enforcement in that neighborhood. People have sent me videos.”

Another woman who lives on the same street came up to speak, “JamaGrille - Why were their liquor license renewed with the trouble that we’ve endured for three years?”

Petrick answered, “We wanted a license removed from another bar (El Patio), but the state overruled us.”

Opel spoke up, “The state had disciplinary action with due process. Owners can appeal the decision.”

The resident continued, “Can we petition to have this bar close earlier?”

Opel stated, “It depends on the kind of violations such as too much noise after a certain time. It depends on the infraction and if it goes before the court.”

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch spoke up, “Restrictions can be added at renewal time for their license. The resident continued, “The police have been called 66 times to that bar. Parking permit signs mean nothing to those violators.”

Petrick spoke up, “It is up to the discretion of the police who respond to those calls as to what will be done.”

Police Chief Cattano who also lives in the area said, “There has been multiple calls to the area. Arrests have been made and summonses have been issued. 15 households are affected, and 16 resident stickers have been issued. We can’t do towing because it is not in the ordinance. We have to take more abuse because of new police restrictions. We get loud music complaints coming from cars. Some people don’t care if they get tickets.”

Pabon spoke up and asked if they checked for the capacity for parking for the lots at the club and the capacity inside the club.

Cattano then explained, “We worked with Code Enforcement to check that there are no capacity issues, and that club also has a downstairs bar. They were told they can’t park at the business next door.”

Petrick stated, “Now, all these small bars are turning into night-



Sharon Hubberman

clubs.”

City Clerk Victoria Kupsch told the council, “This place is licensed for a downstairs bar and patio.”

Petrick then requested to see a list of all complaints at this establishment.

Kupsch reminded the council, “You have to build a case and there would have be a file in order for the council to take action.”

Cattano spoke up again, “There also have been a lot of outside fights.”

Petrick said, “The State always has precedence over us with these bars.”

Kupsch then added, “We can do complaints as long as it does not involve parking issues.”

Law Director Opel then added, “There could be input from the neighborhood that they are having quality of life issues with this bar and our city departments can also add comments.”

Petrick then asked, “Can we have a hearing regarding this bar?”

Opel responded, “Only if it has ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Control) Violations.”

Pabon again stated, “We need to check the capacity inside the bar.”

Cattano said, “We will put a package together, but most of the complaints are what is going on outside the bar.”

One of the residents from the neighborhood asked, “Why do Waterfront Residents get special treatment with warning signs?”

Petrick said, “The people ignore those signs, also.”

Cattano added, “Maybe we could look into adding DWI Checkpoints.”

Petrick then suggested, “Maybe there can be a meeting with the residents and the owner of the business.”

One of the residents from Andrews Street stated that she had photos of people urinating, fighting, and discarding garbage.”

The next person that came up to speak was Former Police Officer Guadalupe “Lupe” Munoz who talked about what is needed for the police department to operate efficiently and how Councilwoman Morales said to give the police department additional tools. “We are looking at quality of life issues and safety for all our residents. I worked for 26 years in the police department. I also worked at the former Safe Haven Building. There are robberies left and right on Columbus Avenue. I feel bad for the Chief. You know how things operate – there is crime, noise,

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FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 11, 2022

11:00AM



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sacrifice.



Veterans' War Memorial
Sadowski Pkwy, Perth Amboy, NJ
Reception to follow at 56 Brighton Avenue



RAIN LOCATION
Alexander F. Jankowski Community Center
1 Olive St, Perth Amboy, NJ

Honoring all who served.



**Students Honored for Perfect Score on NJSLA & Advanced Placement Exams,
Controversy over LGBTQ Curriculum, Hiring and Firing of High School Boys Basketball
Coach, Transferring of Teachers & Staff Throughout the District, and
3-Hour Executive Session All Make for a 6 Hour 21 Minute Marathon BOE Meeting
10/20/22 Board of Education Meeting**



PERTH AMBOY - Members of the Board of Education and Administrators recognized students with a perfect score on the NJSLA and Advanced Placement Exams.

**Photos by Katherine Massopust*

This meeting involved some heated discussion. Warning the language used may be uncomfortable for some readers. All meetings are videotaped and minutes are taken. Both are available at paps.net

By: Katherine Massopust
PERTH AMBOY – After the 10/20/22 Board of Education Meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. Superintendent Dr. David Roman stated that the Perth Amboy School District came in second place in the NJSPRA School Communication Awards for their Electronic Newsletter.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Damian O. Medina, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Jessica Neu, and Dr. Richardson, along with Board of Education Members presented students that achieved a perfect score on the AP Exams and the NJSLA (New Jersey Student Learning Assessments) Tests. Each student received a certificate, trophy, and swag pack. Some of the students had graduated in 2022, although and were not present at the meeting (they are presently attending college), the district wished to honor them.

Ms. Katelyn Tivald gave a presentation on the District's Anti-Bullying Self-Assessment. The district met or exceeded all the categories needed to pass the evaluation.

Superintendent Dr. David Roman and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Damian O. Medina gave a presentation on the State Assessment Results of the NJSLA. They identified areas that are successful and what areas needs to be addressed. It was noted that many newspaper articles emphasized that the pandemic wreaked havoc on New Jersey's educational system and student performance. These articles state that there has been a decline in all NJ Assessment scores.

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Jessica Neu explained some of the new educational initiatives being implemented in the district. This includes a Phonics Program in Grades K-2, I-Ready Software which is an online instructional tool to target literacy instruction. The new Math initiative

will utilize real world applications to mathematics where the teacher is a facilitator to the students. There is an after school program, "Brilliant Math Games" which all contribute to the Countdown to Success. The district will continue its After School Program. For Special Education Students, the district will continue to support the students with disabilities and utilize the I-Ready Platform. For English Language Learners, there is Professional Development to enhance Bilingual Education.

Dr. Damian O. Medina stated that the NJGPA (New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Exam Assessment) which was taken for only informational purposes for review. Although the scores were less than what the district's target was, it was noted that the projected Graduation Rate for 2023 was 86.2%.

Board Member Junior Iglecia stated, "With the pandemic, there is the reality I see there is a targeted intervention. Do we have any goal to when we will achieve our goals?"

Dr. Roman answered, "That is to be determined to get back to what it was."

Public Portion (In-Person First):

The first person to speak was Perth Amboy Federation President Pat Paradiso (statement submitted upon request of the Amboy Guardian): "If you look at tonight's agenda, you can see all the staff members who have been doing extra work teaching and caring for our students due to the lack of staff, and this doesn't include the teachers or paraprofessionals who have been covering individual classes. Most of these staff members have yet to be compensated for the extra work. It doesn't make sense to make staff members wait so long to be compensated when the contractual rates are in our collective bargaining agreement. By the way, some people are still not getting paid at the correct rate. We will remedy this one way or another.

If you look at tonight's agenda, you can see the transfers of staff members into different positions. Some of these transfers involve elementary teachers being moved to middle school content area positions, for which they are not certified, and which they are uncomfortable teaching. This is not a good

practice, and the Board should investigate this.

Our non-certificated staff are also short-staffed and exhausted. Custodians are working dozens of hours of overtime with no end in sight. I am going to remind you again that the starting salary for custodians is below minimum wage. Food service workers are not afforded the opportunity to work overtime and must accomplish their extra work within the same time frame. No wonder so many of them end up injured.

Bilingual teachers are teaching different levels of students in the same classroom at the same time and being told that this is because there is no busing. We have SIFE students, level 1 students, level 2 students, and level 3 students. I am no expert, but I know that SIFE student have limited formal education, level one students learn in Spanish, level two students learn in Spanish in the beginning of the year and transition to English halfway through the year, while level three students learn in English. How is it possible for teachers to meet the needs of these students all at the same time. Some teachers are expected to manage three different Bilingual levels. It doesn't make sense, and it is clearly not in the best interest of the students.

In the middle schools, books are being deposited into classrooms with the expectation that a teacher will organize them, level them, and shelve them appropriately... all on their own time. This is on top of covering classes during their prep and staying after school to do the things they would have done on their prep.

At one of our preschools, staff members have been "voluntold" they need to provide vehicles, candy and decorations for a community Halloween event that occurs in the evening. This is not part of the staff's job descriptions. To expect them to do it is insulting. You need to have Home School Liaisons at the preschools to make these events PTO functions. Then the staff who can attend can show up like guests and not like free labor.

For the first time since they were made 11-month employees Security officers were forced to work the last days of

June without being compensated. We had an agreement in 2017 that the "11th month" would be either July or August. Someone decided it would be clever to keep guards from being fairly compensated fairly as they have been in the past. We think it is despicable.

If you want to keep the staff you have, and encourage other people to come to work here, you must treat us.

On a final note, we have come to believe that last month's Board meeting was cancelled because of a certain Superintendent's unprofessional behavior at Shull School in front of students and staff. Behavior like that should not be swept under the rug. Our staff is held accountable for actions their actions. My question is, where is the accountability for his?"

The second person to speak was Perth Amboy Federation District Representative Lynn Audet (Statement submitted upon the request of the Amboy Guardian):

"I am Lynn Audet, Perth Amboy resident, 31-year veteran teacher, taxpayer, and voter. I am also the District Representative for the Perth Amboy Federation. I am coming here tonight to discuss something that I have brought up multiple times over the years at Board of Education meetings...lack of communication.

Pat and I met with Central Administration last week to discuss issues that Staff have brought to our attention. The vibe that I got from that meeting because of the rude way we were treated, is that our Superintendent is very upset with us because "all we do is file grievances."

I thought it would be helpful to explain the grievance process for those who may not know the steps. If a Staff member comes to Union Leadership with a contractual issue, we do what we can to address it first with Building Administrators, Supervisors, Directors, the Superintendent or an Assistant Superintendent.

If the contractual issue is not resolved, or the more likely scenario the Administrator does not respond to us at all, we file a grievance. I get the impression that Administrators have been told not to respond to us, because we rarely get a response.

This lack of communication is

not productive. If you want less grievances filed, first and foremost don't violate the contract, but secondly allow your Administrators to respond to us. It will be easier on all of us and would result in fewer grievances, since I am sure we can work most of the issues out.

Please understand that for the most part, Staff Members, don't feel comfortable addressing these issues on their own. They just don't. They look to us to handle the issues.

Our main role as Union Leadership is to make sure that our CBA is honored. I'm sorry if you don't like it, but if the contract is being violated, we will take action. That is what we were elected to do by our Members. Unlike some people, we are not in the business of making empty campaign promises. Our Staff Members entrust in us to defend their CBA, and that's what we are going to do. Period.

We have reached out to various Administrators to solve the following contractual issues, and we have yet to receive a response. Again, I am hoping to avoid more grievances...

- 1) We requested verification that FSAs are being taken out pre-taxed.
- 2) We requested additional time for Paraprofessionals and Secretaries to finish their Vector training since Paraprofessionals don't have PLCs, and on PD days they were with the Teachers. Many of the School Secretaries were working in the schools as they were doing their Vector training. It was a few days before the start of the school year, and they were preparing for the new school year.
- 3) New Math program: From our CBA: "Teachers are supposed to be included in the ongoing process of curriculum development, including the selection of educational materials." We requested to know where the piloting of the new Math program took place. We do not believe that happened. That is a contract violation. All we are asking for, however, is for Staff to not be observed doing the new Math program the first year, until they feel more comfortable with the program. This was done for Writer's Workshop.

These issues need to be rectified.

**Continued on Page 13*

Students Honored for Perfect Score on NJSLA & Advanced Placement Exams, Controversy over LGBTQ Curriculum, Hiring and Firing of High School Boys Basketball Coach, Transferring of Teachers & Staff Throughout the District, and 3-Hour Executive Session All Make for a 6 Hour 21 Minute Marathon BOE Meeting 10/20/22 Board of Education Meeting

**Continued from Page 12*

fied immediately to avoid more grievances. They are clear contract violations.

I have also been asked to bring up that Teachers at PAHS were told that student names, specifics of the disciplinary incident, and ID numbers are not to be put on a discipline referral on IC. They would like to know the reasoning for this."

The next person to speak was Math Teacher Samuel Cerritos (Statement submitted upon the Amboy Guardian's Request) My name is Samuel Cerritos. I am a Bergen county resident in Teaneck, township. I've been an educator for the last 19 years in which I have spent my last 10 years in Perth Amboy. As a mathematics teacher, I had the privilege and opportunity to teach a full gamut of courses, ranging from Algebra, Geometry to AP Calculus AB/BC and Calculus III. I considered myself to be an influential member for the math department and to all colleagues. Throughout my time in the district, I have served in a wide range of committees such SLT, ScIP, Pandemic Response Team, been a club/organization advisor and most important, a student/teacher advocate. During the Summer of 2022 I was on the NJDOE/the NJSLS Writing Committee Mathematics Standard Committee. This past summer I was chosen/selected to be part of the "NJSLS Writing Committee" of New Jersey Student Learning Standards. b. As per state guidelines, Chief School Administrator (CSA) consent form is required.

I shared the information with the former principal, and I was contacted by the math department administration; I was never given the opportunity to meet with anyone from the Office of the Superintendent; it was not fair practice. We all deserve a change, instead, I was given a suggested email response: "Good afternoon Mr. Cerritos, Below is a statement that you can use to reply to Ms. Haberl if you would like. *'I appreciate your offer to reach out directly to my superintendent. However, after discussing with the central administration, they will not approve my participation in part due to the teacher shortage. Time in September with students is crucial. If you have any questions, let me know.'*" - July 27, 2022

On September 1, 2022, I submitted my letter of resignation via email (electronic) and hand-delivered a copy on Friday, September 2, 2022. Since I did not receive any acknowledgement from the Central Office, a certified letter was sent highlighting that my last day of employment will be Monday, (60 days notice). It is sad; once again lack of communication. Personal letters of recommendation were denied from school administrators, but agreed to be contacted by telephone. On the other hand, it is expected that new employees do provide one; is this a new

policy? As the former academic advisor for the Mathletes Club, I never had the opportunity to participate in the September/October competitions, and that is not fair to our students. We ended the 2021-2022 school with excellent goals; a good start and suddenly everything came to a FULL stop. Why? No one seems to know the reason. My colleagues need to be treated with respect. It is time to reflect and act. It is time to finalize the contract! District Initiatives include: A Staff Relations Committee - April 2014; was a good start! Why? A few meetings took place and it stopped. It is meaningless and that's why many of my colleagues do not want to join or participate. The Math Initiative program - To my knowledge, there was NO teacher input here, at the Perth Amboy High School Main Campus. I am aware that I do NOT need to be chosen to participate in every committee: *"Article VI Miscellaneous Certificated Provisions: A. Teachers shall be included in the ongoing process of curriculum development, including the selection of educational materials."* - Page 70

The email response from Director of Mathematics: *"Good Evening Mr. Cerritos, Carnegie Learning MathBook and MathiA for grades 6-12 (and Eureka Math Squared and i-Ready for grades K-5) were chosen as new resources for our district curriculum with various stakeholders in a committee. This committee had administrative and teacher representation from the Mathematics Department, Bilingual Department, Special Education Department, as well as various grade levels and settings."*

"Thank you for reaching out and best of luck!" Director of Mathematics, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

I have asked for demo lessons from Carnegie Learning consultants instead, we have been offered a co teaching model. Do you want us, your faculty, to be successful? Then HELP us be successful. Zoom office hours are great but the issue is how to use the resources. Poor implementation of the program will be reflected on teacher observations. NOT FAIR.

The hiring process needs to be reconsidered - no follow-up and the turnaround time is very slow. Applicants can't wait and are willing to take the next offer. Last year, there was a class that had no content teacher the entire year. Is that fair to our students? Each child deserves a free and appropriate education. Let us service these kids. Should your child be subject to this unfairness? There are many administrators in the district, they were teachers not long ago; teach our students. There was a data breach security incident (January 4, 2021) - No Respond from Central Administration. Has this issue been resolved? I was affected! I deserved an answer. Thank You! Our Kids Deserve More!"

The next person to speak was

a parent, "This is my first time speaking. I have a daughter. Now we are requiring that parents to print out forms and hand them to personnel. In the 4th Grade level, my daughter is 9 years old and has to watch a film about romantic relationships, then it shows homosexual relationships. They are exposing our children to sexuality using these terms they shouldn't be exposed to, like saying "clitoris" and "penis". In this course, they show them pictures. It says it shows pictures of "vulva" and "vagina". This stirred in my heart so much. This place should be filled with parents! There is a time and place for this. I know we are a culture of identity. I feel this should not be taught to fourth graders. We are throwing all seeds to confuse our students. We are here to fight for our children. My daughter should not feel she's being punished because she is separated (Parents have an opt out option). My daughter was menstruating and went into the girl's bathroom. There were 3 boys in there and they were not wearing dresses!"

Board Member Junior Iglesia suggested that the public could speak for 5 minutes instead of 3 minutes due to the lengthier statements of the speakers. The board agreed to do this.

Resident Lisa Nanton spoke next, (Statement submitted upon the Amboy Guardian's request) "I am here to bring attention to the high school basketball coach position concerning Jeffrey Gumbs Jr. On Wed. October 5, Jeff had an interview with the assistant superintendent who told him that he wasn't going to change his appointment but was still required to interview other candidates. October 11, Tuesday, Jeff receives and email from the assistant superintendent to move forward and begin to order supplies and equipment. Friday October 14, Jeff receives a call from Assistant superintendent that some kids had a petition for someone else and Jeff's appointment was rescinded. There was alleged external interference that encouraged some players to sign a petition for another coach from AUL who was allowing ineligible players to play and was forced to forfeit games. Only 2 scenarios could have resulted from this action. Either some kids were able to override the Assistant Superintendents decision, which is analogous to the inmates running the asylum, or any applicant interviewing for a job cannot depend on the credibility of the administrator in question. I would suggest to all staff in the Perth Amboy School District, when interviewing for a new position, to have a union representative present and to record the interview. Jeffrey Gumbs Jr. was wronged and is owed an amends. It is up to the Board and Administration to right this wrong."

Another parent spoke next. "I'll leave it out - it's not political or personal who is this qualified candidate. My comments represent the career of

Mr. Gumbs. A formal inquiry should be made of both candidates and students who signed the petition. I believe Mr. Gumbs is a selection of high moral character. My complaint is the procedure on the whole thing. He asked if I would help him coach. We had connections to the classroom. He gave us an attendance sheet for After School Learning - minimum 10 kids to a maximum of 20 kids. We've had zero complaints from anyone. I know Jeffrey very well - his morals and his character. Jeffrey has gotten some kids scholarships. A 2-day timeframe - we should hire on facts - not feelings."

Luis Gumbs Jr. spoke next, "Jeffrey is my nephew. I've followed Perth Amboy Sports for years. I've noticed after Mizerek retired; the quality is going down. What's going on? Then you hired a gentleman from St. Anthony - that was a disaster. We lost respectability. Jeffrey Gumbs brought it back. Why would you change horses in the middle of the stream?"

Jeffrey Gumbs Jr. spoke next. "Three years ago, I interviewed for coach of the PAHS Basketball Team. As Basketball Coach I improved team athletics and academically as head coach to help students. I have delivered all my promises and had players had success of the team. On October 5th, I interviewed for Head Coach for Basketball. Mr. (Delvis) Rodriguez (Assistant Supervisor of Administration) said I could go forward and on Friday October 14th he said I will not be coach. He told me a group of students signed a petition to complain. Some students said they did not want their name on the petition. Mr. Rodriguez refuses to reveal who these students are. I went through the process and got fired. It was taken away with no wrongdoing on my part. I will bring back the glory of Perth Amboy Basketball. I have emails from students giving me words. Some came here to support me."

Some students stood up in the auditorium in support of Jeffrey Gumbs, Jr.

Jeffrey Gumbs Sr. came up to speak, "I am an alumnus, ex-coach PAHS Championship and as a parent. Coach Gumbs - he is not only a coach, but a therapist, parent - he spends money on socks, bookbags, buys dinner for kids. He had a kid that was 18 years old. The kid's parents were moving back to the Dominican Republic. The kid said that he didn't want to go back with his parents. He wanted to graduate high school and play basketball. My son got him a room and paid his rent, and then got him a job in C-Town. If anybody says these teachers don't work hard - they're wrong. This young man - my son contacted Helmin Caba (at the time a Councilman) and Joel Pabon (Councilman) in front of Patten School at 10 a.m. on a Saturday morning. He was 5-6 credits short (to graduate). By the time January came, he was eligible. On Senior Night, when they announced the kid, he

asked my wife to walk him out. Jeffrey made sure that kid had a hot meal. He got a kid last year a \$20,000 scholarship. He gets kids into the Charter School. In the pandemic you couldn't play, but he still got kids scholarships in Florida. During the season, he pays for some kid's cellphones - lots of young players it's their only mean of contact. My son - you have done a well job - excellent! Me and your mother - keep your head up. When the prayers go up, the blessings come down. In the interview process, my son was professional. He wore a suit. He blew Mr. Delvis Rodriguez away. He went there with a booklet page by page. He said every program should do this! He is also Assistant Football Coach. Your petition is flawed. The kids said they did not know what they were signing. One kid said his signature was forged."

Parent Tony Minaya spoke next. "I have a daughter. I understand to accept people like that, but what is being taught - the school district should accept gender identity and parental consent is not required? If my daughter wants to change and the school will not tell me? I make decisions for my daughter. She is a minor. First of all, I think there is a problem with students that have an issue. You should follow up with a parent to see if there is a problem and help that student. Not everyone has the same level of education. I disagree that class has to be divided in two. I think this is encouraging bullying. How is this going to reflect on kids? They care less if two parents come in male or female. I don't see how this is relevant because kids are not going to see these things. I went to school with all kinds of kids. I never questioned this. This (LGBTQ Curriculum) should not be taught to our kids."

An Elementary School Teacher spoke next. "I'm a First Grade Teacher and I am now being transferred to Shull Middle School. I am a little kid teacher, and I am not prepared for the Seventh Grade. I understand there is a teaching shortage. There are seventeen kids in my class. Why would you allow a Kindergarten teacher to teach Seventh Grade?"

Another teacher came up to speak, "I am an elementary school teacher with a class of 5-year-olds. I am also on the list of transfers. No one asked. I got told 5 minutes before picking my kids up. I was a Second Grade Teacher last year. I took all my personal materials - 6 carloads back into that room and set it all up. On September 1st on Back to School Night I opened up my boxes. Six hours later I was told I was out the door. If you told me in May... It is an involuntary transfer. It doesn't matter. I spent summer to be a better teacher. A couple of years ago, you told me I was an amazing teacher when I got the Teacher of the Year Award.

**Continued on Page 19*

The Borinqueneers Book Signing by Noemi Figueroa Soulet, Perth Amboy Public Library, 10/28/22 *Photos by Katherine Massopust & Carolyn Maxwell



Hauntings & History, Perth Amboy Public Library 10/29/22 *Photos by Katherine Massopust & Anton Massopust III



Halloween at the South Amboy Historical Society, South Amboy, 10/29/22 *Photos by Eric Salvary



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**BUILD YOUR BUSINESS THROUGH
STRATEGIC NETWORKING**

Networking – it’s the latest business trend. Or is it? Actually, business owners have always engaged in the art and science of networking.

Only years ago it didn’t have a name. Business owners would get together, shake hands, and smile and chat about themselves and their businesses. Same thing with “coaching.” I’ve been a sales trainer for 40 years, but it wasn’t until five or six years ago that someone said, “Milt, you’re not a sales trainer, you’re a coach.” I always thought coaching was leading your kid’s soccer or baseball team. Turns out I’ve been a “coach” for 40 years.

The buzzwords, however, aren’t important. What counts is what you do. And if you’re a business owner looking to grow your business, then networking should be a way of life for you. It’s how you climb the ladder of success. But if you don’t actually climb that ladder, you won’t go anywhere. That’s why it’s called networking!

While you can network anywhere – I’ve met some really great clients while eating at the local diner – a good place to begin is by joining a networking group. It’s an excellent way to meet a lot of potential “suspects” who have the potential to become “prospects.”

Here you will have a brief opportunity to stand up and talk about yourself and your business to a group of people who share the same goals you do. In essence, you become a 60-second commercial. When given the opportunity to “sell” yourself, be sharp and to the point. Look directly at your audience, not at the ground or up at the ceiling. Make eye contact. It lets your peers know that you’re confident.

Once your commercial is over, get out in the crowd and talk to people. Work them like a politician works a crowd. But don’t be pushy; don’t use fancy words – not everyone is a Princeton graduate, and make sure you give a firm handshake. Trust me, you can tell if a person is positive or negative by their handshake. And be a good listener. Listen 80% of the time, talk 20%.

But most importantly, don’t make this an “it’s all about me” affair. Remember, you’re not the only person there networking. You’re all in the same boat. When you introduce yourself, don’t hand someone your business card and immediately tell them what you do. Show an interest in others – talk about what they do. Ask them questions about themselves and their families; develop a rapport. In other words, don’t kiss on the first date!

You’ll know if there’s any “chemistry” between you. If there is, make arrangements to meet at another time and place to discuss your mutual interests. Why eat lunch by yourself? And always ask for a referral.

While there’s no harm in speaking to everyone, do target your audience – seek out people who you know would benefit your business. But even if you determine there’s nothing worth pursuing, a particular business owner may have other clients that can help you. You may speak to a business owner with whom you have no mutual interest, but you’re also talking to his/her 30 “suspects” who may become “prospects.”

As for that business card – make sure it describes what service you are offering. Your card is your billboard. I suggest putting your photo on it. If I don’t remember what you do, chances are I will toss the card. When you receive someone’s card, don’t wait a week or three weeks to make contact. Follow-up in a day or two. The key to successful networking is practicing your presentation. Write down your message and key points and practice it over and over. Repetition leads to confidence. Practice in front of your spouse or friends and neighbors. Practice is especially important for people who are terrified to speak in public, which is about 99% of the total population. You may even want to consider hiring a coach.

There’s also the “likeability factor” to consider. In order to sell your product or service, you have to sell yourself. And if people like and trust you, they’ll sign that contract. Conversely, if they don’t like you, you can be selling gold in your pockets, but they won’t buy.

Networking is the best way to build your business. You can read a million books about it, but unless you get out there and do it, you’ll never even reach the first rung of that ladder. NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE!

If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail: Milton@gettingaheadinbusiness.com

Milton J. Paris, President and Founder of Getting Ahead In Business has been helping businesses grow for over 40 years. As a sales training guru and motivational speaker Milton’s motto is, “Nothing is impossible working with Milton Paris.” In addition to helping owners increase their sales, Milton hosts a weekly business talk radio show at FOX SPORTS NEW JERSEY 93.5FM/1450AM every Sunday from 11 am- 12 noon.

MOVIE REVIEW: BLACK ADAM

By Anton Massopust III

“This world is filled with heroes and villains. Heroes don’t kill.” - Hawkman

“But I do.” - Black Adam

Former Wrestling Superstar and Actor, Dwayne Johnson (A.K.A. The Rock) takes on the role he says he was born to play in Black Adam, a DC Comics antihero who is the equal to Shazam a.k.a. Captain Marvel (DC Character). Black Adam is a character that was given power by a wizard by saying the word: “Shazam,” a predecessor to the charter of Shazam. The character was created by Otto Binder and C.C. Beck and debuted in Fawcett Comics’ The Marvel Family in December 1945. Acquired by DC Comics in the 1970’s, Black Adam was an archenemy of Shazam/Captain Marvel and the Marvel Family. (Source: Wikipedia)

The recent movie shows thousands of years ago, Black Adam was imprisoned in a palace after he defeated an evil king who wanted to use an ancient crown that was made from a rare element in order to rule everybody. The catch was it was also could summon a demon. Black Adam defeated the king but was imprisoned because the wizards thought he was not worthy of his power because his rage was too uncontrollable, and the power was unlawfully used. In present time, an ancient mountain is what is left of the palace. A terrorist organization called the Anti-Gang have taken over the country where the palace was once located in order to use it for all of its resources. The Anti-Gang was looking for the crown. A psychologist, Sarah Shahi (Adrianna Tomaz) and her family are taken hostage, but once she invokes Black Adam’s name, she frees him. Black Adam awakens and deals with the terrorist group. This brings the attention of the Justice Society, the group that was before the Justice League. Led by Hawkman (Aldis Hodge) who is a tough winged warrior, Atom Smasher (Noah Centineo), Cyclone (Quintessa Swindell), and Doctor Fate (Pierce Brosnan) who are on a mission to capture and imprison Black Adam, so he doesn’t threaten the world. The heroes realize that they have to work together in order to stop a worse threat from the Anti-Gang who want to use the crowd for their own benefits. Doctor Fate can see the future and it looks pretty grim. He doesn’t think that it’s over with the capture of Black Adam and realizes they may need him to stop what worse threat is coming.

The only complaint I could really say about this movie is that it takes a little bit too much time to get going and has a predictable plot like many other superhero movies fall into that trap. It could easily become that way and that’s more or less what a lot



of films are facing. However, the movie has plenty of great laughs, especially from Atom Smasher who is very, very, funny. Peter Brosnan who is a terrific actor to begin with plays the mysterious Doctor Fate who is a really strange character Aldis Hodge plays Hawkman as an unconquerable warrior who won’t give up. The main plot of this movie is riding on the shoulders of Black Adam (Dwayne Johnson) is terrific as this character very soft spoken that doesn’t say very much, but his actions speak for him. The special effects are great. Once the movie gets going, the action gets going and there is a lot to appreciate, especially if you love superhero action movies. Stay to the end for a special cameo which is the best part of the whole movie. The cinematography is beautiful especially the exotic locations. It is just plain old-fashioned fun at the movies. Comic book fans will appreciate this character more. Tell the man in black sent you, and go see Black Adam.

Archdiocese of Newark to Celebrate 29th Annual Blue Mass

Liturgy Celebrated by Cardinal Tobin will Honor Fallen Officers

Press Release 10/27/22

Newark, N.J. – The Archdiocese of Newark will celebrate the 29th Annual Blue Mass honoring the dedication and sacrifices of all active, retired, and deceased New Jersey law enforcement personnel on Thursday, November 3, at 10 a.m. in Newark’s Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark, will preside over the Mass, which will be attended by law enforcement officers of all faiths representing federal, state, county, and municipal departments and agencies. They will be joined by families of those who have died as well as multiple police honor guard units, bagpipers, and drummers. High-ranking public officials will also be present to show their support.

“It is always important for police officers to recognize and understand that they are not alone, that they are part of a very important ‘thin blue line’ that protects society from all that seeks to destroy it,” said Chief Christopher Trucillo of the NJ Transit Police Department, the Blue Mass’ honorary chairman. “I believe the Blue Mass brings this home in a spiritual way by showing police officers that they matter, what they do matters, and that good people — the majority of people — appreciate them and their sacrifice.”

This year’s Blue Mass will pay tribute to four local police officers who were killed in the line of duty within the past few years: Senior Correctional Police Officer Daniel Sincavage; Port Authority Police Officer Anthony Varvaro; Middletown Police Detective Lieutenant Joseph Capriotti; and Paterson Police Lieutenant Frank Petrelli. Officer Sincavage died in an on-duty vehicular accident, while Officer Varvaro — a former MLB pitcher — perished in a crash on his way to volunteering at a 9/11 memorial ceremony. Detective Lieutenant Capriotti and Lieutenant Petrelli both suffered from 9/11-related health issues.

Additionally, the Blue Mass will honor Deputy First Class Glenn Hilliard of the Wicomico County Sheriff’s Office in Maryland — a former Newark resident — following his death earlier this year. Deputy Hilliard was shot and killed while attempting to arrest a man wanted on multiple felony warrants.

“Each time I hear of a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty, no matter where they are from, I always think the same thing — they went to work

looking to help people and their community, and as a result of the uniform they wear and the selfless work that they do, they lost their lives,” Chief Trucillo said. “Jesus teaches us that there is no greater love than one laying their life down for another.”

Because law enforcement personnel served on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic, with many getting exposed on the job, the Blue Mass will also pay tribute to 10 officers who recently succumbed to the deadly virus. They are: Bloomfield Detective James Peri; Clifton Sergeant Robert Miller; Lieutenant Matthew Vogel of the Hudson County Sheriff’s Office; Perth Amboy Lieutenant David Formeza; Sergeant Matthew Horton of the Ocean County Sheriff’s Office; Daniel Krupa of the New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC); Paterson Captain John Phelan; Robert McCormack of the NJDOC; Dwayne Gibbs of the NJDOC; and Lakewood Captain Joseph Goertz.

Following the Mass, a luncheon sponsored by law enforcement will be held at the Branch Brook Park Roller Rink in Newark. Tickets may be purchased at the door or by contacting Vincent Nardone and William Schievella at 1-800-427-7651 or bluemass@embarqmail.com.

Woodbridge Public Library Events

Listed below are the free events we have planned for October and November 2022. We will be hosting events both in-person and virtually throughout the month. Please make sure to check which format the presentation will be presented in.

November 3 | 7PM | Main Library

Current Income Tax Issues:

How to Hold on to More of Your Money and Keep Your Sanity

This program, presented Wendy D. Reed owner/operator of Prosperity Tax Service, will cover stimulus payments, child tax credits, itemized deductions, SALT cap, working from home, cryptocurrency, and more! Registration Recommended - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=13431&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/11/01>

November 10 | 7PM | Main Library

What's Cooking?

Just in time for Thanksgiving, this program presented by the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts will invite participants to learn about 19th century cooking techniques through hands-on examination of cooking utensils and food-related artifacts from METC's teaching collection. Registration Recommended - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=13253&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/11/01>

November 14 | 7PM | Fords Library

Fords Adult Grab & Go

Stop by & pick up a Thanksgiving trivet kit to make in the comfort of your own home, starting Monday November 14th. Adults only, one per person, registration required. Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=13209&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/11/01>

November 15 | 4PM | Main Library

Mystery/Thriller Book Club

Join us for an in person discussion of Not a Happy Family by Shari Lapena. No Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=12162&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/11/01>

November 16 | 7PM | Main Library

Teens & Adults DIY Scrapbook Paper Leaf Craft

Come join us in person to create your own DIY Scrapbook Paper Leaf. All Supplies will be provided. Open to Adults and Teens (13+). Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=12881&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/11/01>

November 16 | 7PM | Main Library

Wills, Estate Planning & Probate Seminar

Join guest speaker Kenneth Vercammen, Managing Attorney from Kenneth Vercammen & Associates, for this comprehensive seminar. Registration Recommended - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=13190&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/11/01>

November 17 | 1PM | Main Library

All About Diabetes

Dr. Reema Patel, Director of Diabetes Center at Old Bridge Medical Center will discuss signs and symptoms of Pre-Diabetes and Diabetes and what you can do about it. Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=13201&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/11/01>

November 17 | 7PM | Virtual Program

LGBTQ+ Meetup

LGBTQA+ adults (18+) are welcome to attend our new monthly LGBTQA+ virtual meetups. Come and make new friends, share stories and engage in activities with fellow members of the community. Registration Required.

November 29 | 7PM | Main Library

Using Historical Newspapers In Genealogical Research

This program presented by Laura Cubbage-Draper of LCD Genealogy Services will highlight the importance of newspapers as well as the range of details that can be discovered. Registration Recommended - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=13337&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/11/01>

Movies at Main | Fridays at 2PM

Join us every Friday at 2PM to catch a free movie!

Saturday Movie Matinee | Iselin Branch Library

Join us for a free movie at the Iselin Branch Library!

Thank you for your support!

Woodbridge Library Programming Department

Woodbridge Public Library

1 George Frederick Plaza,

Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095

Try our new app, WPL on the Go! www.woodbridgelibrary.org

Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

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 2nd 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 for calendar of monthly activities.

Perth Amboy Free Public Library Events Calendar

NOVEMBER

Thurs. 11/3 Book Club 4:00-5:00PM
Tues. 11/15 Crocheting Class 4:00-6:00PM

Perth Amboy Free Public Library

196 Jefferson St., Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

732-826-2600

LOOK OUT FOR THESE EXCITING EVENTS!



Perth Amboy: Museum Pass Program

PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library have generously provided FREE passes to two of the area's most popular museums! Museum passes offer a great way for family and friends to experience educational and cultural fun. **Picking Up and Returning Passes:** Passes can be picked up at the Circulation Desk. Patrons must present the library card under whose name the pass was reserved. Only Adult patrons whose cards are in good standing will be able to check out Museum Passes. Passes are good for a total of three days and are **NOT** renewable. Passes can be returned at the Circulation Desk or at the Book Drop after hours. **Late, Lost or Unreturned Passes:** There will be a \$5 amount late fee each day the pass is past due. Passes not returned within 14 days after the due date will be presumed lost and borrowers charged the full replacement cost. Replacement costs for items are as follows: **Lost museum pass: Full cost of the pass.** Replacement costs vary according to the museum and listed on the catalog record for each museum. **Pass Case: \$1**

Museum Passes available: •American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY | free admission and 1 free exhibit or show •Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, New York, NY | pass admits 4 people (2 adults; 2 children).

For the American Museum of Natural History: Until further notice, the Museum will be open five days a week (Wednesday through Sunday). Patrons making use of these vouchers **need to book reservations online in advance.** For more helpful information on visiting the Museum during this unique time, and to book advance tickets, visit amnh.org/plan-your-visit. Through the Library Voucher program, multiple patrons from your library can visit the Museum **on the same day!** Each library voucher can be redeemed for a **free admission** to the Museum's permanent collection, as well as **one special exhibition or show** of the patron's choice.

For the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum: Patrons are able to bring the library's membership pass along with their library card for complimentary admission on the day of their visit. There is no need to reserve tickets in advance, we always have complimentary tickets readily available for our members. Please note, The Intrepid Museum is no longer checking the vaccination status of visitors. However, for the safety of all, we continue to require masks being worn in all indoor Museum spaces for visitors ages 3 and up.

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

South Amboy: November Programs at Dowdell Library

Press Release 10/11/22

SOUTH AMBOY — Veterans Day Meet & Greet, Author Night, Bingo, Senior Book Club, and Food Explorer's Culinary for Kids!

Meet and Greet with our heroes for Veterans Day on Monday, November 14 from 6:30-8 pm. Join us as we salute our local Veterans for a Q&A session and flag folding demonstration. View military items on exhibit courtesy of the South Amboy Historical Society, and take part in a closing salute.

Discover new reads at Author Night on Thursday, November 10 from 6:30-8 pm featuring authors Jerry Smith and Maria Mantoudakis. They will share insights about their works, hold a Q&A session, and end with a book signing.

Play BINGO for adults on Mondays, November 7, 14 and 21 at 11:30 am. Meet new friends and enjoy some light refreshments. Small non-monetary prizes will be awarded.

The Senior Book Club will meet on Monday, November 28 at 10:30 am. Stop by the Library to pick up this month's book. Want to join? Just contact the library at 732-721-6060

Dowdell Library, in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and RWJ Barnabas Health, offers online virtual health programs. Some courses include Stress Reduction through Imagery and Stretch It! Chair exercising, stretching, and flexibility workshop. Please register by emailing Kathleen Johnson kathleen.johnson@rwjbh.org. For a complete list of the classes, please visit Dowdell.org.

For kids, stop by every Wednesday from 3:30-4:30 pm for the After School Fun Club. Drop in for bingo, crafts and other fun activities! Meet new friends as you unwind after the long school day!

Calling all foodies! Join us for another Food Explorer's on Wednesday, November 9 from 1-2 pm for a hands on cooking program. Make an appetizer/snack from start to finish, learn how to read a recipe, and how to measure ingredients. Ages 5-14. Registration is required.

Parents with toddlers! Join Ms. Maryanne for storytime on Monday, November 7 and Saturday, November 12 from 1-2 pm for stories, games, activities, and crafts.

Teens! Stop by for fun on Fridays, November 4 and 18 for a variety of activities such as video games and crafts! Meet new friends, discover new reads, hang out and have some fun.

Support your community and local library on GivingTuesday which takes place on Tuesday, November 29. GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement, unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world. Help us reach our goals of sharing technologies and donate to your local library!

The library will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25. Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit www.dowdell.org, or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org. The library is located off John O'Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School.





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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, November 3, 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. Please call Joe at 732-826-0819 for reservation.

Windcreek Casino Trip

Good Shepherd Seniors
HOPELAWN - Good Shepherd Seniors is sponsoring a bus trip to Windcreek Casino, Bethlehem, PA on Tuesday 12/6/2022. Cost is \$35 with \$25 back in play. Bus leaves our parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Seating is limited. Please call either Connie at 732-442-4978 or Nancy at 732-541-5929.

Friends of South Amboy Annual Basketball Games

SOUTH AMBOY - The Friends of South Amboy are proud to announce their annual charity basketball games to be played on Saturday, December 17, 2022 at South Amboy Middle High School, 200 Governor Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy, NJ 08879.

The schedule is as follows:
12:00 noon - South Amboy girls vs. East Brunswick Magnet School
2:00 p.m. - South Amboy boys vs. Spotswood
4:00 p.m. - Sayreville boys vs. Calvary Christian
6:00 p.m. - St. Joe's by the Sea Staten Island boys vs. St. Joe's Metuchen
8:00 p.m. - St. Thomas Aquinas boys vs. Oratory Prep

Thank you for your continued support. Friends of South Amboy

Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library Book Sale

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. At this time we are not accepting donations of books. We look forward to your visit.

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

Holiday Cake Sale

PERTH AMBOY - St. John's Orthodox Church Holiday Cake sale. Orders for Nut, Poppyseed, Prune (Lekvar) and Apricot Cake at \$14.00 each may be called in on December 5, 6, & 7, 2022 to (732) 826-7067 between 9:00 a.m and 12:00 p.m. Please call early before our quota is reached. Pick up will be December 14 & 15, 2022 after 3:00 p.m. at 404 Division Street, Perth Amboy, NJ

Hungarian Homemade Nut Rolls

WOODBIDGE – Sponsored by the Lorantffy Women's Guild of the Calvin Hungarian Reformed Church, Corner of School and N. James Streets, Woodbridge. Each individually hand rolled. Made from the best ingredients. Each weighing 1 lb. 8 oz. Available in: English Walnut, Poppyseed, Prune-Lekvar, Apricot, Raspberry-Seedless, and Pumpkin-Cheese. Price \$18 each. Deadline for orders is November 30th. Pick-up date: Saturday, December 17, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall of the Church. Please use the Ross Street Entrance. All orders must be paid in full upon ordering. Please call: Florette Pastor: 732-636-2868 or the church office at 732-634-1751.

Fresh Hungarian Kolbasz Sale

WOODBIDGE - Made by the members of the Calvin Hungarian Reformed Church, Corner of School and N. James Streets of Woodbridge. Price: \$8 per lb. Please call the Church Office at 732-634-1751 or Florette Pastor: 732-636-2868. Deadline for orders: December 5th. Orders may be picked up at the Fellowship Hall, Ross Street Entrance on Saturday, December 17, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. If you are ordering Nut Rolls, you can also place your order for Kolbasz at the same time. Please pay by separate checks.

Super Gift Auction

PERTH AMBOY – St. Peter's Episcopal Church is having a Church Gala Gift Auction at the St. Peter's Episcopal Church Parish House upstairs (elevator available), 183 Rector Street, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861 on Sunday November 13, 2022. Entrance to Auction: \$10; Extra Cards \$1 each. Doors Open: 1:00 p.m.; Start selling tickets: 2:00 p.m. Drawing: 5:00 p.m.

If you bring a non-perishable item for our food pantry (Peter's Panty) you can get free ticket, (Must be used at Entrance One per customer). Special table & Super extra prizes prices will be posted at auction. No outside food permitted. Kitchen offers soda, coffee, tea, Hot Dogs, Sausage & peppers, perogies, chips, & many other foods. Prices listed by kitchen window. For more information, call: 732-826-1594. Please only call the office for any questions not the emergency number. www.StPetersEpiscopal.com

This Week in the Civil War 160 Years Ago November 2, 1862 – November 15, 1862 By Phil Kohn

Phil Kohn can be reached at USCW160@yahoo.com.

On November 2, 1862, in North Carolina, some 5,000 Federals under Brig. Gen. John Foster launch a raid toward Tarboro, destroying the towns of Williamston and Hamilton along the way. The raiders return to Union lines near Plymouth, North Carolina, on November 10.

November 4 is Election Day in the U.S. A war-weary electorate gives generally anti-war Democrats large gains in federal and state voting, although Republicans hold onto their majority in the U.S. House of Representatives. Gains by Democrats are notable in Illinois (home state of President Lincoln, a Republican), New Jersey, New York and Wisconsin. In the West, on the same day, Federal troops capture La Grange, Tennessee, as Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant begins to move on Vicksburg, Mississippi, on the Mississippi River. In Georgia, Federal troops destroy the Confederate saltworks at Kingsbury.

Finally reaching the limit of his patience at the inactivity of the Army of the Potomac, President Lincoln, on November 5, orders Maj. Gen. George McClellan relieved of command, to be replaced by Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside. Burnside, neither seeking the job nor happy to get it, tries to turn down the appointment but is unsuccessful.

In the South, on November 6, James Longstreet and Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson are each promoted from the rank of major general to that of lieutenant general, commanding the First Corps and the Second Corps, respectively, of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia under Gen. Robert E. Lee.

On Nov. 7, the 50,000-strong U.S. Army of the Cumberland, led by Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans, arrives at its new headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee. Back in Virginia, a courier delivers to Maj. Gen. George McClellan the orders relieving him of command. Taken completely by surprise, McClellan works hard to prevent others from seeing his shock. He later writes: “I am sure that not the slightest expression of feeling was visible on my face.”

November 9 is a busy day. Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Banks receives orders to replace Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler — known by residents of New Orleans, Louisiana, as “The Beast” — as military commander in the Crescent City. Banks’s orders include the statement: “The President regards the opening of the Mississippi River as the first and most important of our military and naval operations.” In Virginia, Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside takes command of the Army of the Potomac and re-organizes its now 120,000 soldiers (it had been larger) into three “Grand Divisions.” The Grand Divisions — each comprising two army corps — are headed by Maj. Gens. Edwin Sumner, William Franklin and Joseph Hooker. Federal cavalry, led by Capt. Ulric Dahlgren, makes a quick foray into Fredericksburg, Virginia.


In Warrenton, Virginia, on November 10, Maj. Gen. George McClellan bids farewell to the soldiers of the Army of the Potomac. “Little Mac,” well-liked and respected — even idolized — by his troops, never receives another field command.

In one of their first moves toward Vicksburg, Maj. Gen. Grant’s Federal troops capture a railroad depot near Holly Springs, in northern Mississippi, on November 13. In Tennessee, there is skirmishing between Federals and Confederates near Nashville.

Feeling pressure to “do something,” the newly appointed commander of the Army of the Potomac — Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside — on November 14 sets in motion a plan: He will attack Robert E. Lee’s Confederates at Fredericksburg, Virginia. He feels the move will be a steppingstone to an assault on the Confederate capital of Richmond, some 60 miles farther south. (The bulk of Lee’s force comprises Longstreet’s 40,000-man First Corps, at Culpeper, some 35 miles northwest of Fredericksburg, and his like-sized Second Corps, led by Stonewall Jackson, at Winchester, Virginia, in the Shenandoah Valley, some 80 miles away.)

In Richmond, Virginia, on November 15, Confederate Secretary of War George Randolph suddenly and unexpectedly resigns. One contributory factor: President Jefferson Davis’s meddling in, and micromanagement of, War Department matters. On the same day, Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside begins moving the Army of the Potomac some 37 miles southeastward from its base at Warrenton, Virginia, towards Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Anton Knows: A Review of Pop Culture



Anton Knows

PERTH AMBOY - Check out Anton's podcast "Anton Knows" on Buzzsprout and IHeart Radio.

Arguments Ensur Part II

10/26/22 Council Meeting

**Continued from Page 9*

and fights.”

Petrick responded, “That is why we hired many additional police officers.”

Munoz continued, “Many homeowners own security cameras.”

Petrick continued, “There is an excess in salary. We need more boots on the ground. We have more technology with us just walking around with our own devices.”

Police Captain Miguel Pellot spoke next. “We need to make sure that we get those American Rescue Funds for our essential personnel. Employees are our most important commodity. There have been restrictions on that money which has now been expanded. The money was there for last year’s holidays. Who will oversee the list of people getting the funds? Have you been given any input for how these funds should be used?”

Petrick responded, “No.”

Pellot continued, “Trenton has entire plans for the money, how it has been spent, and the future plans for it. I also need to know what is the city policy for the release of doctor’s records (regarding city employees medical records).”

Opel said, “I will get back to you.”

A resident from Cortlandt Street came up to speak next, “We need to make sure the Outerbridge Crossing is servicing our needs. The Goethals Bridge has pedestrian walkways and that’s what we need.”

Petrick spoke up, “That’s a great idea.”

The resident continued, “We should be able to walk across the bridge and not pay \$16. Let the Port Authority know we need it so it serves everyone. Any modifications to the bridge should benefit us.”

Petrick responded, “Kevin McCabe is a Commissioner on the Traffic Division in Trenton and having a study on the bridge is a waste of money. We need to send a letter to expand the bridge for a pedestrian walkway and a bike lane. We should contact Kevin McCabe.”

Pabon spoke up, “This is the second resident that came to talk about this (the Outerbridge). Staten Island said that we never talk to them about the bridge. Reach out to the mayor and assemblywoman about this matter so that we can inform our residents.”

Zoom Participants:

Resident Lisa Nanton spoke about the grant money when it comes to nonprofits and churches. “It is a long process. You have to apply for licenses and meet certain requirements. It

takes a lot of time and money.” She then spoke about Elizabeth-town Gas and their continuing digging on our streets. “They hire contractors and make sure they pave the streets after digging. We need to pin them down now. The street closures are not announced. The Harbortown Development shrubs are dying. In other towns, those developers have irrigation systems. They give us the least available services.”

Council Comments:

Councilwoman Rose Morales thanked all the participants and hoped that we can find solutions for the residents on Andrews Street. She reminded everyone that early voting starts on Saturday, October 29, 2022.

Councilman Joel Pabon mentioned the Trunk or Treat activity that will be taking place on October 29th at City Hall Circle. “There are too many craters on the streets, especially on Market Street.”

Councilman B.J. Torres reminded everyone about the upcoming election and that voting should be an obligation. When it comes to jury duty and voting, everyone needs to participate.”

Council President William Petrick said that the council will all be back in two weeks. The meeting was over at 9:33 p.m. Councilwoman Milady Tejeda was not present due to illness.

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Students Honored for Perfect Score on NJSLA & Advanced Placement Exams, Controversy over LGBTQ Curriculum, Hiring and Firing of High School Boys Basketball Coach, Transferring of Teachers & Staff Throughout the District, and 3-Hour Executive Session All Make for a 6 Hour 21 Minute Marathon BOE Meeting

10/20/22 Board of Education Meeting

**Continued from Page 10*

If you are going to move me – move me – it killed me – I’m just a body to be put in a room, you need. You don’t treat people like this. 20+ years and I don’t feel valued anymore.

The room was opened up to Zoom Participants:

Parent Sarah Laura spoke first. “We moved here from Nevada. Our daughter was put in Shull School. She was placed in Algebra 1 and Basic English. She already had those classes. I was told there is no policy for advancing students to the next grade. I would not accept that answer. We were forced to pull her from school to be home schooled. It is not fair to my daughter. She loves to learn. If they are accelerating and proving they are learning – currently that is not happening. Every student deserves a fair education. No policy for advancing students? But there are tons of policies for failing students. I get a call from Dr. Medina saying there is nothing you can do. Something needs to be done about this. My daughter and her education are just as important.”

Joel Hopitch spoke next. “I’m here to support Jeffrey Gumbs, Jr. I am close to the family. I support my alma mater Delaware State University. I am currently the President of the Men’s Alumni Association. Coach Jeffrey Gumbs took time out to bring kids to school to give opportunities for these kids. I have known him all my life. I’ve seen this excellent young man give a significant amount of time to

his athletes on the court – 12 months/7days/24 hours 100% to his students. He is presently setting up his students in the next level a culture of excellence and an outstanding representation of the school. I strongly recommend Jeffery Gumbs, Jr. as Head Basketball Coach.”

Resident Sharon Hubberman spoke next. “Following up a 9/19/22 email to Tashi Vazquez, Michael George, Ken Puccio, and Junior Iglesia from the Board of Education, they canceled the Board of Education Meeting (in September) I see a failure of the Board. While other school districts were informing the parents and the public about the new curriculum, and they could have opted out. How can you expect parents to make that decision when you don’t explain to the parents and the public? Most districts tabled it until it was explained to the parents and the public. It is up to the Board to decide to have that presentation. The letter I’ve received here has fallen on deaf ears. Let the parents be informed in that decision. I highly recommend the Board have a presentation before they adopt any big change in the curriculum – have a presentation.”

George Carty spoke next, “I am a PAHS Graduate in 1967. Jeffrey Gumbs is my godson. I’m concerned with the situation. The process needs to be looked at again. As my godson, he has taken time for the students. Keep your head up! You will be successful.”

The public portion was closed. Board Vice President Tashi Vazquez said, “There was a

lot said this evening.” Vazquez mentioned offense to the comments of “the inmates running the asylum.” “The type of negotiations – (with the PA Federation) – it was stated we are not moving forward with the contract. That narrative needs to stop. October 20th – we have yet to receive a final proposal by Union leadership. It is your Union leadership’s responsibility to advocate. I sat on the last negotiations. This time around we did not delay a contract. Could it be they are waiting to see who sits on this board come January? We’ve asked since July for financial information.”

Board Attorney Isabel Machado then was asked to explain the negotiation process to the public and the grievance policy.

Board Member Junior Iglesia thanked the members and the public who did so in a respectful manner. “We may not all agree, but we agree to respect each other. As far as Health and Sex Education, is this a mandate by the state or can a parent opt out. I need to have more information. I make a motion to have a special public hearing on this current issue.”

Board Member Michael George seconded the motion.

Board President Ken Puccio said, “I agree with Junior Iglesia. Sometimes our hands are tied for our response in public. We should do this (have a public meeting). All Board Members voted “Yes.”

Board Member Junior Iglesia said, “I know Mr. Cerritos. He was my son’s teacher for AP Calculus BC Class.” He stated that Mr. Cerritos helped his son

who is now very successful.

Board Member Marisol Gonzalez stated, “Insane people running the asylum? Students filed and signed a petition. It is our job to listen to our students. It is their voices that should be listened to. They spoke their mind. It mattered.”

The Board went into closed session at 8:17 p.m. and returned at 11:18 p.m.

Superintendent Dr. David Roman said, “I will bring clarity to statements that were made. The fact that two transfer of staff members – if you were not spoken to – put it in writing. We will now be able to teach 270 students who do not have a teacher. We will be approving two new substitution companies. We come up to procedures to hire teachers. We are conducting another job fair. We try to give enough notice to for transfers. Now does not mean forever. The transgender policy has been in place since 2018. This is mandated and we have no say. We’ve done so with due diligence and concern.”

Due to the lateness of the meeting, the Board voted on the whole agenda minus some items that required a roll call.

Board Member Junior Iglesia asked, “Covid-19 is still affecting a lot of people. What is the plan if we need to go to remote?”

Dr. Roman answered, “We have a similar plan that we had in the past. It’s up to the school district, but it is now more state or county dictated.”

When it came to vote on the table the hiring of the Boys Basketball Coach, Board Member

R.L. Anderson abstained while the rest of the Board voted “Yes.”

When it came to Item #42 on page 31: Marisol Gonzalez said, “Working in preschool and jumping to seventh grade. I would say, yes, it is very difficult. It makes me uncomfortable, too. We want you to go where you love to be. The Vote went as follows: R.L. Anderson voted “No.” Dr. Danielle Brown, Marisol Gonzalez, Michael George, Stacey Peralta, Tashi Vazquez, Ken Puccio voted, “Yes”; Junior Iglesia and Stephanie Márquez-Villafañe abstained. Motion passes.

There was another vote on whether School Security can be armed in the school district. Board Secretary Michael LoBrace read the item and what requirements and training the armed security had to follow under NJS2C.

Board Attorney Isabel Machado stated that the Board is voting on a policy which is already in effect, and it give the option for security to be armed.

R.L. Anderson abstained. The rest of the Board voted “Yes.”

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m.; went into closed session at 8:17 p.m.; returned 11:18 p.m. (3 hours 1 minute) and adjourned at 11:58 p.m. Runtime: 6 hours, 21 minutes. All board members were present, although R.L. Anderson and Dr. Danielle Brown arrived late.

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

Prayer To St. Clare

For Employment

Prayer To St. Jude

Prayer To Blessed Mother

Prayer To Holy Spirit

Novena To St. Anthony

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1. Atlas picture
4. Elongated circle
8. Genesis man
12. In the tradition of: 2 wds.
13. Harsh sentence
14. Soda-machine possibility
15. Signal for help
16. Be bold
17. Exam
18. Blasting compound: abbr.
19. Part of "MFA"

21. Furry sea mammal
23. Serving receptacle
24. Mr. King Cole
27. Very enthusiastic
29. Newport, _____ Island
31. TV dog
34. Got misty-eyed
35. Revises (copy)
36. Typical freshman
37. Uppermost point
38. Remove wrinkles from
40. Be aware of
44. Bit of gossip
45. Rhyming heavy-weight champ

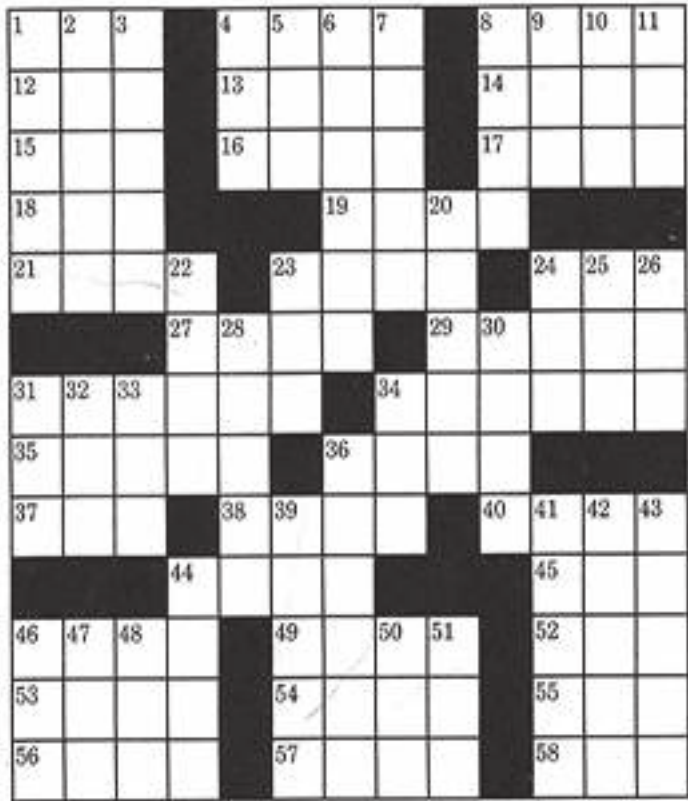
46. Jab
49. Operation reminder
52. Fool (around)
53. Fence bar
54. City vehicle
55. Mate of 8-Across
56. Nothing but
57. Daisy stalk
58. Family room

DOWN

1. Poles on schooners
2. Without any company
3. Fettuccine or ziti
4. Like Father Time
5. By means of
6. Scared
7. Sly glances
8. Plays a role

9. Fawn's mother
10. Gore and Jolson
11. Bathroom rug
20. Age after two
22. Final
23. Expire
24. Word with "neither"
25. Summer citrus drink
26. TV's Koppel
28. Call on
30. Singer Williams
31. "_____ sleeping dogs lie"
32. Fuss
33. Wee swallow
34. The _____ Commandments

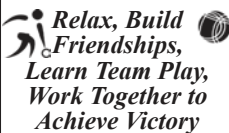
36. Male feline
39. Takes five
41. Not wearing any clothes
42. Pimento-filled food
43. Become broader
44. In a nonchalant way
46. Old hand
47. Was a cross-country competitor
48. Petroleum product
50. Lumber-jack's tool
51. Cup edge



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Halloween Fords, South Amboy, Trunk or Treat, City Hall Circle, Perth Amboy - 10/30/22 *Photos by Carolyn Maxwell



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 the Blessed Virgin

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

A Prayer to St. Joseph For Employment

Dear Saint Joseph, you were yourself once faced with the responsibility of providing the necessities of life for Jesus and Mary. Look down with fatherly compassion upon me in my anxiety over my present inability to support my family. Please help me find gainful employment very soon, so that this heavy burden of concern will be lifted from my heart and that I am soon able to provide for those whom God has entrusted to my care. Help us to guard against bitterness and discouragement, so that we may emerge from this trial spiritually enriched and with even greater blessings from God. Amen **R.D.**

Answers From Puzzle On Page 17



Designer Handbag Bingo

Press Release 10/27/22
PERTH AMBOY - On November 13, 2022, the Holy Name Society of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption will be holding their second Designer Handbag Bingo. The event will take place at the Assumption Catholic School Auditorium located at 380 Meredith St. in Perth Amboy. The doors will open at 12 noon and games begin at 2:00pm. Holy Name President Joe Britton advised that there will be 13 Bingo games and a door prizes. ALL proceeds going to the Holy Name Society which supports programs at the Church and School.

Admission is \$25 which will include your 13 Bingo games and door prize ticket. Extra bingo sheets will be available to purchase. Light refreshments (Hotdogs, Tater tots, Cake and Coffee will be available for minimal charge) Please come out, enjoy the fun and win a possible Christmas present OR a gift for yourself!!

NO MINORS ARE ALLOWED DURING THE BINGO GAMES AS PER STATE REGULATIONS.

Free Thanksgiving Dinner

PERTH AMBOY – The Knights of Columbus San Salvador Council #299 are having a Free Thanksgiving Dinner and cordially invite Perth Amboy Residents who wish to get a free hot takeout meal to stop on by on Sunday, November 20, 2022, from 12 Noon to 4 p.m. at Assumption Catholic School (Playground Side), 380 Meredith St, Perth Amboy, NJ. Turkey & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Corn & Green Beans.

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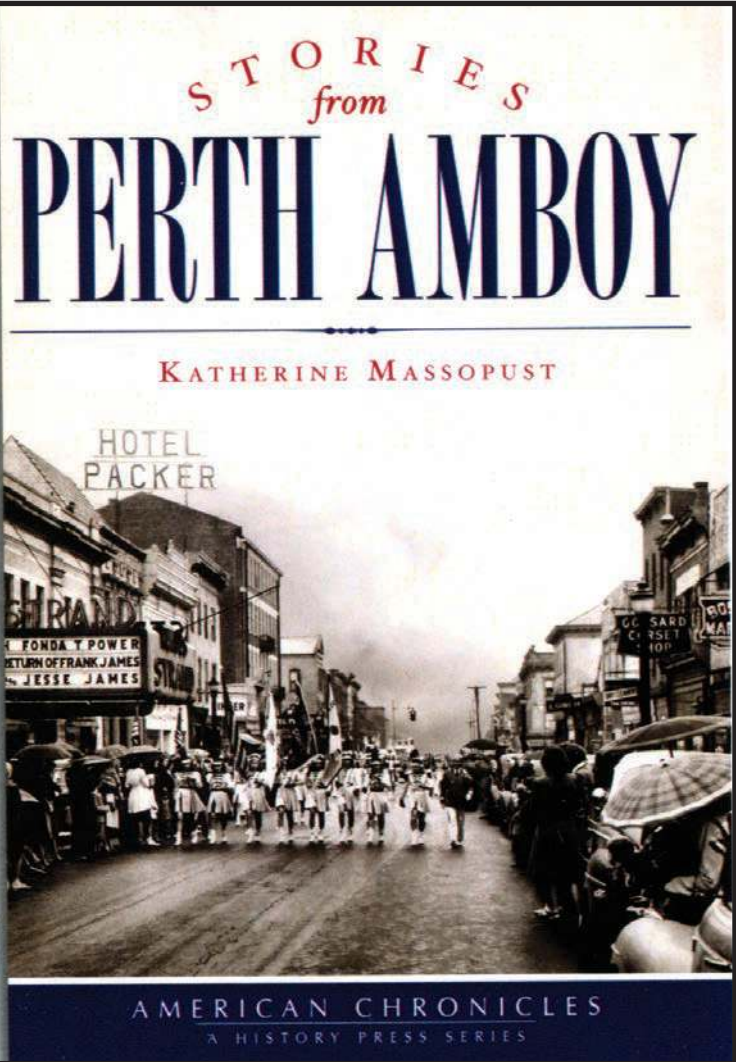
LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - Artistic Doors fire. Keasbey Fire Department.

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

**Photo Courtesy of Paul Wang*



Stories From Perth Amboy

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PERTH AMBOY - Back on market with the entire house re-painted inside. Appointment only through showing time (Supra Box). Beautiful starter home. The entire house was fully renovated about 2 years ago. The laundry room is conveniently next to the kitchen. Includes central heat and A/C, a full unfinished basement, and is waterproofed with a secondary entrance from the backyard. It is fortunately one block from the waterfront and is in front of an elementary school. Come see, it won't last. **\$319,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Great opportunity to own this pristine home in the high school section. This 2-family is in the condition you have been looking for. Both units are immaculate with all separated utilities, a nice large yard, shed, and deck. It is close to most major highways, schools and public transportation. A truly must see to appreciate. **\$489,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Nice 2-family house with two bedrooms in each apartment and two car garage. House is being sold in its current condition as-is. Buyer is responsible for C of O and all repairs. **\$545,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Great Investment Opportunity! A 2-Family House (Side-by-Side). It has two bedrooms and one bathroom per unit. It is close to the beautiful Perth Amboy Waterfront area, a train station, bus stop and major highways. The only thing this house is missing is your personal touch. **\$450,000**



PERTH AMBOY - A 5-family property fully rented on block from the Waterfront. 2 units include 3 bedrooms, 1 unit has 2bd, and 2 units have 1bd each. A great location and all separated utilities. **\$900,000**



PERTH AMBOY - Great opportunity to become your own boss. Located in downtown Perth Amboy in a business area. All equipment included on sale with central air system. **\$150,000**



EDISON - Great high visibility location on Route 1 South Clara Barton Section, AKA 124 Jeff Street. Includes 3 separated units with lots of office space and plenty parking. Unit 1 has 4 office spaces with reception area and large kitchenette, Units 2 & 3. Please call listing agent for more details. A must see! **\$5,500 For Lease**