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THE
Biweekly Newspaper

AMBOY GUARDIAN

• VOL. 12 NO. 18 • 732-896-4446 • P.O. BOX 127 • PERTH AMBOY • NJ • 08862 • WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2022 •

MERRY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY CHANUKAH! HAPPY NEW YEAR!



• Perth Amboy • South Amboy •

**Photos by Paul W. Wang, Carolyn Maxwell, Katherine Massopust, Eric Salvary, Anton Massopust III*

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Noble, Skarzynski, Final Meeting 12/14/22 Council Meeting

By: Katherine Massopust
SOUTH AMBOY – Council President Mickey Gross explained that the City of South Amboy acts as its own board of health. Inspector Tom Sikorski spoke about what his responsibilities are.

“Right now, we are down on personnel by five inspectors. If anything ever happened here in South Amboy, we would flood it with inspectors. Mickey Gross is aware of assigning a person to South Amboy. At least you’re here part time. I am at my desk. Anytime you need me, call Mickey Gross or me.”

Gross said, “You never worked with a better bunch of people during Covid. They worked day and night. We were scared to death of Covid, and we told them they had to do testing stations. Tom has been in public health for over 50 years. God bless you!”

For the consent agenda, City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz explained 22-218 – Resolution authorizing the purchase and installation of a Franklin Miller Taskmaster sub grinder.

“The O’Leary pumping station costs \$88,333 (reflecting current pricing).”

Council President Gross asked if the cost is being handed down to Venetian.

Law Director Francis Womack stated that would be up to the judge to decide when the case is heard in court.

For 22-213 – Resolution authorizing the mayor or his designee to execute the purchase of one Generac Light Tower through Sourcewell National Cooperative Purchasing Program.

Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski stated that it was a combination generator and light tower which will come out of the OEM (Office of Emergency Management) budget.

Councilwoman Zusette Dato asked about the cost of the ferry terminal floating dock system (22-216). “The bids came in at \$4 million and the estimate is at \$2 million?”

City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz stated that the city has a consultant. They are asking \$2 million. Each bidder had an item that was out of whack. We don’t know why. When the consultant put the estimate together, how the contractor came up with the number, we don’t know. We are exploring other options.”

Gross asked, “If we assume \$6 million, do we have it?”

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski answered, “Not without borrowing Peter to pay Paul.”

Councilman Brian McLaughlin stated that inflation should be taken into account.

City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz stated, “This project is much bigger scale. Why? I can’t tell you.”

Councilman Tom Reilly asked about 22-218. “Are we absorbing the cost?”

B.A. Skarzynski stated, “We want to stop the bleeding.”

Reilly added, “If we don’t get those funds, are we absorbing the cost of the grinder?”

Gross answered, “Yes.”

Rasimowicz added, “We are in litigation to recoup these losses. Venetian is still there, and we need the grinder.”

The consent agenda, bill list,



SOUTH AMBOY - Councilman Tom Reilly, Councilman Brian McLaughlin, Council Vice President Christine Noble, Mayor Fred Henry, Councilwoman Zusette Dato, Council President Mickey Gross, Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski, Law Director Francis Womack, City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz.

*Photo by Katherine Massopust

and minutes passed.

Council Comments:

Council Vice President Christine Noble, who is not returning as a Councilwoman, and this is her last meeting spoke first. “Thank you to Mayor and Council for everything. I showed up on the council and I don’t always see eye to eye, but it’s worth it. I thank Mark Rasimowicz and Francis Womack for your knowledge. I thank, everyone at the city of South Amboy, the Fire Department and First Aid Squad for doing an incredible job. I wish you the best of luck, thank you.”

Councilman Tom Reilly thanked the food pantry and first responders. He reminded everyone that the Friends of South Amboy are having a basketball tournament to raise money for needy families on Saturday, December 17, 2022. “We are doing well with the 50/50. We help out a lot of people in the community.” Reilly then asked about the PILOT numbers at Station Bay. “When did they begin renting?”

Skarzynski answered, “I think February.”

Reilly said, “That’s ten months. We should have some numbers.”

Law Director Francis Womack said, “I had to go over the last couple of weeks with the numbers in that audit. The auditors may have put the numbers in that audit.”

B.A. Skarzynski stated that to his knowledge, the city did not get any numbers.

Reilly thanked outgoing Fire Chief David Szatkowski for his service. He then asked about the status of the demolition of the Pigeon Palace.

B.A. Glenn Skarzynski answered, “No, we still do not have a hearing scheduled.”

Reilly stated that it has to be made a priority, “It’s an eyesore and a health hazard. It’s falling apart. Can we please make it a priority?” Reilly then asked for an update on the Venetian case.

Law Director Francis Womack stated, “Monday we were listed for trial, but there was no judge. It could be at the end of the year.”

Reilly thanked Christine Noble for serving on the council. “You were a softball coach, a basketball coach. You followed the steps of your father as a council member. Please stay involved. Serving on the council comes at the cost of personal time. You served well and improved the lives of our resi-

dents. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.”

Councilman Brian McLaughlin wished Christine Noble good luck. “Loyalty, character, speaks volumes. You are the voice of reason. Congratulations to Fire Chief Szatkowski. It has been a pleasure. The bids got put out. I hope bids are looked over for the floating dock system.”

Councilwoman Zusette Dato said, “Congratulations to South Amboy Student Jasmine Antonucci who came in as a runner up for an essay contest for Hispanic Heritage. I bid a farewell to Business Administrator Glenn (Skarzynski) who has been outstanding. You have been an asset to the City of South Amboy. Christine (Noble), it has been an honor to work with you. We will miss you. You always have been outstanding in the interest of the residents.”

Council President Mickey Gross said, “Chief (Szatkowski). Thank you. You are a great man. Glenn (Skarzynski), sorry to see you go. You really made a difference. You spearheaded many programs. You gave 100% 24/7. What you decide to do in life – you will do it well. Chrissy (Noble), we all love you. You are the voice of reason. You are very talented at what you do. You’ve got to be proud, Chrissy. Thank you.”

Mayor Fred Henry said, “We have an awful lot to be thankful for. Those who do so much for those who are needy. It’s not an easy thing to volunteer anymore. Our city workers, city hall, Mark Rasimowicz, thank you for what you do. Thanks to Congressman Pallone, we received \$2.6 million grant to restore our coastline. \$17 million this much in grants. I want to thank Congressman Pallone, Speaker Coughlin, Assemblywoman Lopez who got more money for South Amboy. This month three young men will be receiving their Eagle Scout Badge. Congratulations to the achievement of these young men. I want to thank the police, fire department for the tree lightings. I want to thank B.A. Glenn Skarzynski who has resigned as Business Administrator to pursue other endeavors. I worked closely with him for these five years. He will be missed. Chrissy, I’ve known

*Continued on Page 9

Holiday Message from Mayor Helmin J. Caba

The holiday season is a special time of year to honor and celebrate what is genuinely important—family, friends, health, and happiness. In this timeless message of faith and hope, let us unite to make our city strong and prosperous with a future filled with promise and opportunity.

To our first responders and essential workers, thank you for working relentlessly to keep our city safe.

To our military men and women serving this holiday season, thank you for your sacrifices to protect our nation and liberties.

Thank you to our city employees for all you have accomplished this year. Thank you for your dedication, commitment, and service to our residents.

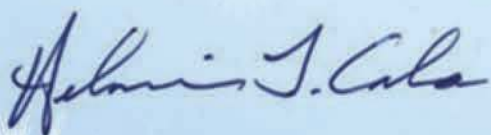
We also thank our community partners who have collaborated with and supported our residents.

I am grateful for all volunteers who give back to our community with open and generous hearts.

Thank you to our elected officials for their service to our residents.

As we move forward, we remain dedicated to making our city the best place to raise a family, live, work, play and visit.

I extend my warmest wishes to you and your loved ones for a happy, healthy, safe, and prosperous holiday season and New Year.



Helmin J. Caba
Mayor, City of Perth Amboy



LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Ending on a Positive Note



Joel Pabon

The 12/14/22 Perth Amboy Council Meeting was the last meeting for Joel Pabon and William Petrick who served together when they were elected in 2010. Although in the last they may have not always seen eye to eye, I need to congratulate both of them as well all of the council members who stood shoulder to shoulder during the last couple of meetings battling to make sure all employees who came to work in person during Covid receive the American Rescue Funds they were rightly entitled to.

I would also want to thank City Clerk Victoria Kupsch who proudly stated that she would give up her portion of the American Rescue Funds money so more people not on the list can receive those funds. She said at one time she and former Business Administrator Frederick Carr would be the only ones in the building when two of her clerks came down with Covid. "Frederick Carr deserves to have those funds."

It was also good to see Resident Alan Silber at the meeting which he had been absent from for a long time. He was very passionate when he spoke about dedicated long serving city employees who were also excluded from getting American Rescue Fund money.

There will be a 30 minute video on the Amboy Guardian website: www.amboyguardian.com which will show how passionate the city council and Silber were when speaking about these dedicated employees. When the council, city clerk, business administrator, and law director returned from the closed session, everyone was curious as to



William Petrick

what would be the final outcome when they were to vote on those American Rescue Funds.

When Law Director Opel said that there would be an amendment to add additional employees to receive those funds, it was a huge victory for the council and more so for those employees.

Congratulations also to B.J. Torres Milady Tejeda, Rose Morales for also adding their voices to support those employees.

We want to also congratulate the new council members Ken Puccio and Hailey Cruz, and Milady Tejeda on her reelection.

It is important to remember that the council is here to serve all of the constituents. As they say: you can't please all the people all of the time.

We wish all a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

The Amboy Guardian will not be publishing in print in the immediate future. We will keep you updated on our website what our future plans are. In the meantime you can contact us at amboyguardian@gmail.com for updated information which will also be on our website. We would like to thank all our advertisers and our contributors. Special thanks to Bill George, Richard Pietkowski, and Bob Ned, Peter Book, Thomas Francis Clark, Dioris Arlequin (see poem on page 11) who are probably hanging out together in heaven. The best way that you can thank the Amboy Guardian staff is by patronizing our advertisers, for without them, there would be no Amboy Guardian.

Carolyn Maxwell.

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Let's Make a Deal

For you sports fans: bringing drugs into Russia is not OK - but having drugs in sports in

America is OK. That's what happened to Brittany Griner, the basketball entertainer that brought drugs into Russia. Then it became a political show case and a tradeoff for an international weapon dealer for Russia - and Mr. Putin is laughing. What's next in sports?

Orlando "Wildman" Perez

Thank you from the Friends of South Amboy

On behalf of the Friends of South Amboy we would like

to thank everyone who came out and supported our charity games on December 17. With your support we are able to assist city residents in need. A special thank you goes out to all the sponsors, participating

teams and the South Amboy Board of Education.

Sincerely
The Friends of South Amboy

Putin's Chess Game: A Pawn for a King

President Biden announced the agreement to exchange former Soviet military translator turned Merchant of Death arms dealer Victor Bout, one of the world's deadliest arms dealers. He has served over 12 of 25 years in prison for crimes, including the targeting of American citizens, for WNBA star Brittney Griner reminded me of a Chess Game. Bout was the second most wanted man in the world after Osama bin Laden.

Russian President Vladimir Putin exchanged a pawn (Griner) and got a king (Bout). If Biden knew how to play chess, he would have exchanged a king for a king and made it a higher priority to obtain the release of former Marine Paul Whelan instead. Former U.S. Marine Paul Whelan was arrested in Moscow in 2018 on espionage charges. He was subsequently found guilty in a closed trial and has served three years of a 16-year prison sentence. Contrast that with Women's Basketball Star Griner, who has been detained for nine months and just began serving her 9 year pris-

on sentence. In 2020, she was quoted as saying "I didn't think the national anthem should be played before WNBA games and would not be on the floor if it was." Former chief of operations for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration told 60 minutes in 2010 "Victor Bout, in my eyes, is one of the most dangerous men on the face of the Earth." The exchange of Bout for Whelan would have been a better. Once again, Putin has played Biden for a fool.

Sincerely,
Larry Penner

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Coughlin, Lopez Applaud Unprecedented \$25 Million Investment in the Preservation of Historic Revolutionary War Sites

Proprietary House Among the Sites Receiving Funding

Press Release 12/6/22
TRENTON – As our nation approaches its 250th Anniversary and the celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, historic sites throughout New Jersey are preparing to welcome thousands of visitors eager to learn the role our State played in the founding of the United States.

An unprecedented \$25 million investment was allocated earlier this month to support the revitalization of ten State-owned historic sites from the revolutionary period, including the Proprietary House in Legislative District 19. Securing funding for the renovations in the FY 2023 State Budget was an Assembly priority.

"The funding will help ten historic sites, including the Proprietary House, throughout the state restore, upgrade and begin visitor readiness projects to prepare for the semiquincentennial anniversary of our nation," said Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez (D-Middlesex). "The Proprietary House in Perth Amboy is the only proprietary governor's mansion of the original thirteen colonies still in existence. Its part in history will be preserved and shared with future generations for many years."

The organization, Revolution NJ, in partnership with the New Jersey historical commission and crossroads of the American Revolution, will assist in coor-

inating the restoration of the revolutionary war sites.

"New Jersey's role in the American Revolution is unquestionably significant," said Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin (D-Middlesex). "The Battles of Trenton and Princeton singularly re-energized the fledging effort at perhaps the most crucial point of the war. Today's sizable \$25 million investment in capital upgrades across ten critical, state-owned sites marks a big step in leveraging the full civic and economic potential of our state's consequential revolutionary war history, not just in preparation for 2026 but for the years that lie ahead."



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



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April 6	April 20
May 4	May 18
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August 3	August 17
September 7	September 21
October 5	October 19
November 2	November 16
December 7	December 21

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy

THURS. Jan. 5

Board of Education, Reorganization, 5:30 p.m.
PAHS Eagle Ave.

WED. Jan. 9

City Council, Reorganization, 5:30 p.m.
City Hall, High St. & Zoom

WED. Jan. 11

City Council, Regular, 7 p.m.
City Hall, High St. & Zoom

South Amboy

WED. Jan. 4

City Council, Reorganization, 6 p.m.
City Hall, N. Broadway

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

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Safety Announcement

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A Long Day’s Journey Into Night

12/14/22 Caucus/Council Meetings

By: Carolyn Maxwell

PERTH AMBOY – The evening began with a brief engineering report from Chris Tryon from Hatch Mott MacDonald, a Civil Engineering Firm. He talked about an APP called Map My Problem. “The State of New Jersey has 21 counties and 565 municipalities. All the roads in the cities are not owned by them. Smith Street in Perth Amboy is owned by the county.” As he spoke, there was a slideshow presentation to accompany him. “This APP will improve engagement with the public. It can show road ownership which is preassigned to the state, county, municipality, or agency. The public can receive feedback on their problems. It also feature is dashboards of KPI (Key Performance Indicators) and Map of Incidents. There will be no IT setup, and the cost will only be \$3,600 annually. The APP on the website will indicate city roads only. I recently gave a presentation at Atlantic City, and they were excited about it. There are already 20 configurations built into the system.”

Business Administrator Michael Greene then spoke up, “This new APP can supplement the SDL Citizen that we already have in the city. I also have a proposed contract that I have setup with this company.”

Council President Bill Petrick stated, “Any information regarding this APP can go on our website.”

Next on the agenda was a lengthy presentation by Resident Grace Sardina who talked about a denial of a handicapped parking application. She stated that in July 2022, her husband who is handicapped had his car towed. “It cost \$315 for towing and av\$285 fine. I appealed to the Judge but lost that appeal. My husband got his handicapped placards approved by Trenton in August 2022. My neighbor got her approval through the city. I also got approval through the DMV.”

Council President Petrick spoke up, “We once had a Handicapped Parking Committee which was disbanded, so any appeals will come back to the council.”

Sardina then explained, “My husband has acute asthma and lung problems.”

Petrick responded, “In the past, we’ve don waivers.”

Councilman B.J. Torres then spoke up, “Maybe that’s why we have so many handicapped parking spots.”

Police Lieutenant Montalvo came up to shed more information on this particular situation, “When she (Sardina) applied for a handicapped spot, she didn’t have the proper documents. In the meantime, her neighbor applied for a handicapped spot with proper documents, and she was approved. 22 feet is required for a handicapped spot and Ms. Sardina only has a 15-foot clearance.”

Councilman Pabon spoke up, “If a person that has a handicapped parking spot dies, that spot cannot be transferred to another person who lives there.”

Montalvo continued, “Ms. Sardina would have to get permission from the property owner of her building to get a handicapped spot. She is still under the required footage needed for a handicapped spot. She could also ask the neighbor if she could use the space in front of her house for a handicapped placard.”

Petrick then suggested that Sardina get documentation from the person whose husband died about that space being available.

Sardina then said, “I am not going to jump through hoops to ask people for documentation, and I am not going to appeal anymore.”

Montalvo then suggested, “She can transfer her small vehicle to her husband so she will be able to get a handicapped spot.”

B.J. Torres spoke next, “There is no reason to have so many handicapped parking spots.”

Petrick interjected, “We have an older population that want to remain here.”

Torres disagreed, “Our population is younger than Jersey City. Strong laws and leadership can address issues of too many cars parking illegally.”

Lt. Montalvo spoke up, “We still have a problem, because there are two handicapped spots already on the street she lives on.”

Police Chief Larry Cattano came up and stated, “I am not going to allow my police officers to violate a state law.”

The next item for discussion had to do with Towing Suspension Appeals involving A.T. Towing and Scott’s Towing.

The owner of A.T. Towing Adele Tawfik came up to speak.

Before he started, Councilwoman Rose Morales spoke up via Zoom. She stated that she requested information to see if there were any prior complaints against A.T. Towing. “I haven’t received anything, yet.”

Council President Petrick asked Police Lieutenant Montalvo if they reviewed towing record complaints.

Montalvo responded, “Yes, we do. Whatever we have is forwarded to the City Clerk’s Office.”

City Clerk Kupsch spoke up. “I have not personally received anything.”

Montalvo stated, “I emailed it to the Clerk’s Office.”

Morales continued, “There was nothing in my email, and I think we need to postpone these hearings until I get the reports.”

Montalvo then explained, “For the last 3 years, there have been no suspensions on A.T. Towing.”

Councilwoman Tejada stated that she would also like to wait until there is more documentation.

Councilman Torres said, “We should proceed because the attorneys are here from these companies, and I am sure they are on the clock.”

Officer Montalvo said, “The council was given a summation of any complaints against A.T. Towing but there was nothing

to a suspension and he was approved to be put on the Towing List.”

Kupsch reminded the council that the towing contracts were signed last year. “Prior to that, the last towing contracts were signed in 2008.”

Councilmembers Pabon and Tejada both agreed that the hearings should be postponed until they get more information.

Council President Petrick said, “I only see two complaints and if you want to have another meeting regarding these suspensions appeals, you will have to have a special meeting because it is the last meeting for the year. The Reorganization Meeting will be held in the meeting in January.”

Another person came up to speak at the mike was attorney Spenser Robbins who was there to represent Scott’s Towing. “We have asked for discovery so we could be prepared. According to the police officer, there are no complaints against my client.”

Law Director Opel said, “I spoke to Mr. Robbins and we each have different information.”

City Clerk Kupsch said, “January 7, 2023, will be the caucus meeting. The first Council Meeting will be January 9, 2023.”

Robbins spoke again, “I have asked for subpoenas for certain police officers to be here tonight and I want them here at the next hearing.”

One of the officers that was subpoenaed here tonight came up to speak, “The information I have is only just for A.T. Towing.”

It was decided to postpone the hearing until January 2023.

The Council then went on to discuss the resolutions.

For R-573-12/22 – Appointing Heidi Burke to the Perth Amboy Zoning Board as Alternate No.1 to fill an unexpired term to expire December 31, 2023.

Council President Petrick explained that someone resigned, and Burke was Alternate No. 2 so she moved up.

There was a discussion regarding R-601-12/22 – Authorizing a contract to purchase food gift cards from Wakefern Food Corporation in the amount of \$400,000.

Council President Bill Petrick wanted a breakdown.

B.A. Greene explained, “They will be a \$100 gift card, and this was put out to bid. This amount will be for 4,200 gift cards. They will be distributed to some senior centers and to others and to community partners and housing. The OECD will monitor who will get these cards.”

Council President Petrick was concerned that people will go to several entities and be given multiple gift cards. “In the past, food pantries would monitor their clients, so they don’t get duplicate services.”

OECD Director Tashi Vazquez spoke via Zoom, “There are tracking services put in place to make sure people are not getting duplicate services. We will be able to track the issuance of



PERTH AMBOY - (L to R) - Law Director William Opel, City Clerk Victoria Kupsch, Councilman B.J. Torres, Council President William Petrick, Councilman Joel Pabon, Councilwoman Milady Tejada, Business Administrator Michael Greene. 12/14/22 was Council President Petrick and Councilman Pabon's last meeting.
**Photo by Carolyn Maxwell*

these cards.”

Joel Pabon asked why the bodegas were excluded.

Vazquez responded, “Wakefern was the only one who could give us a discount.” She also explained that the bodegas such as Quisqueya on Madison Avenue are participating in the City Gift Card Program.

Pabon then said, “You are giving these Wakefern gift cards to organizations when regular people walking around are in more need. People should apply for these Wakefern gift cards instead of them just being handed out in certain spots.”

Vazquez explained that a certain number of these cards will be put away for emergencies. “We need to purchase these cards by April 2023.”

B.J. Torres spoke up, “We should purchase items wholesale such as baby food.”

Vazquez explained, “These food cards have specifications and can be used for food purchases only. We did our due diligence, and they could be used in emergency shelters.”

Torres then said, “The families who receive food vouchers for school should get these food cards.”

Vazquez then explained R-602-12/22 – Applications to New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for \$125,000 grant to administer the Year Three Neighborhood Preservation Program Implementation Plan.

“This is to show how these funds will be expended. This is for the Neighborhood Preservation Plan, and we get the parameters from the Department of Public Affairs. We can get matching funding. The monies will be used for gum buster machines, popup holiday décor, a new mural near Alameda, stop, shop & dine signage, sidewalk cleanups, information kiosks, another mural project, what to do with the fountain on the Five Corners, and popup small business incubators.”

Tashi also explained R-603-12/22. “It is an agreement with the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program for the rehabilitation of the Veteran’s Memorial Baseball Field.”

R-612-12/22 - A change order for a contract with B&W Construction increasing the contract for emergency repairs to the Perth Amboy collection system in the amount not to exceed \$100,000 was asked to be removed by B.A. Michael Greene because it was already approved by the Council in July 2022.

Council President Bill Petrick was concerned about R-616-12/22 – A contract with A.C. Schultes for the repair and maintenance to the Runyon and Florida Grove Road Booster Station Pumps, Motors, and Appurtenances in the amount not to exceed \$100,000 from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023.

“I’ve heard that Old Bridge wants to build a housing project nearby.”

Luis Perez Jimenez, Director of Operations at the USA-PA (Utility Service Associates Perth Amboy) Middlesex Water Company) came up to speak, “We met with Old Bridge about our concerns, and they draw their water far away from Runyon.”

There was a very long discussion regarding R-618-12/22 – Authorizing payment to essential workers in the amount not to exceed \$484,500 to be funded through the American Rescue Plan Act.

Pabon questioned, “What is the reason to exclude retired people or those who passed away.”

B.A. Greene explained, “We used a timeline between March to June (2020). We need to give to our active employees. Some people left with a lot of bode feed money. We need to only give it to active employees.”

Pabon then asked, “How many people have left who worked during Covid? I don’t want to stop this now. I’ll tell the new council members to make sure retired employees who worked during Covid will get money.”

Petrick then asked, “How come there are no auxiliary police officers or volunteer firefighters listed to get money?”

Greene responded, “You approved the amount of money allocated for employees to get Covid money.”

B.J. Torres then spoke up,

**Continued on Page 7*

A Long Day’s Journey Into Night

12/14/22 Caucus/Council Meetings

**Continued from Page 6*

“This is not good for employee relations because it will cause bitterness because of which employees will get Covid funds. Some employees were pushed out of the job and this is adding salt to the wounds.”

Public Portion (In person first):
Resident Alan Silber spoke first. “We should pay former B.A. Frederick Carr who came here in person during Covid. A lot of people are retiring in their fifties. Most people who were working during that time is when there was no vaccine. They were going into the homes of people who were dying. The mayor should be here. There’s also long-term Covid and everyone should not be getting the same amount of money. How many people on the list can get this money came into contact with people who had Covid? This is all lip service. You need to get this all straightened up now.”
Retired Police Officer Michael P. came up next to speak, “You need to pay deserving employees for their selfish devotion to duty. You said there will be a list to add additional employees. Why put a timeframe? The mask mandate was lifted in 2021. When did you get a list of the people who were to get paid?”
Petrick and Pabon answered, “Tonight.”
The officer continued, “It should all be based on who was exposed to Covid. It has to do with respect. It’s disgusting that some people were left off the list because they retired.”
B.A. Greene responded, “The council can vote yes or no on this resolution.”
Law Director Opel said, “This money was adopted in March 2021.”
Greene spoke up again, “Everyone was ordered back to work in July 2021.”
Police Officer Guadalupe Munoz came up next. He asked, “Does this money apply to employees who are working at home?”
Petrick responded, “No.”
Munoz asked, “Can we get more money by reaching out to Pallone?”
Petrick answered, “No.”
Councilman Torres said, “We can tap into the \$8 million left for more payments to employees.”
Munoz finished with saying, “You should do so.”
Resident David Caba came up next. He wanted to put to rest the rumors that he had left Perth Amboy and moved to Pennsylvania. “That is not true. I have fought for this city for 25 years.” He then offered his congratulations to Milady Tejada for her reelection to the council and congratulated Petrick and Pabon for their service and contribution (on the council). “What good is thanking someone for their service to the country, but they are homeless.” He then talked about the guy in the Bahamas (Sam Bankman Fried) who stole millions and gave contributions to politi-

cians from both sides. “There’s always issues giving money to people who serve and protect us.”
Resident Hailey Cruz spoke next. “Since the council cannot disperse funds, what is the next step?”
B.A. Greene responded, “We can give money to the people who are on the list now. For any additional people, they will be put on the list to get money next year.”
Councilman Torres spoke up, “I had asked for a list of individual people to get this money back in July.”
Greene responded, “That is supposed to be for active employees.”
Cruz continued, “How can we advocate now to get this done?”
Torres continued, “I’m sure the directors can add more employees to the list.”
Pabon spoke next, “We included more employees at the last meeting. A complete list should have been done.”
Retired Police Officer Richard Zaleski spoke next. “When I was working, we went to all the businesses to make sure they were in compliance, and we issued summonses. One police officer caught Covid while on duty and brought it back to his family. I am confident you will do the right thing. I want to commend Victoria Kupsch, Irving Lozada, Ed Mullen, and Larry Cattano for standing up for their employees.”
Torres then asked, “Can we approve this list and add additional employees?”
Opel responded, “We decided on what kind of payments would be given out depending on how many hours they worked.”
Torres continued, “We can adjust payments for the churches and nonprofits but not for our employees who worked during Covid.”
Iris Rodriguez came up next, “Can you put in an amount to be determined in the resolution? This is federal money and once the taxes are taken out, it will be less money. We need to help each other out.”
The meeting was opened up to Zoom Participants.
Resident Sharon Hubberman spoke first, “I’m in favor and support of any employee on active duty during Covid should get money, even if they are no longer working. This should not be complicated. You already have a resolution. You have the authority to change the salary of employees plus compensation. Full-time employees should get \$1,500 and part-time employees should get \$600. The directors should give you a final list. Just write a simple resolution for those who are active during Covid, the time you put in, and the payment you should get.”
Resident Maria Garcia spoke next, “I agree with everything Sharon Hubberman said. Anytime the attorney is quoting a state statute, he should give you an example and a docket number. The payroll department should know who was working during Covid. I am afraid for

the new council – not knowing the game that will be played. I want to thank Bill Petrick and Joel Pabon for their service, and B.J. Torres for asking tough questions. We are spending over \$700,000 to renovate city hall which is very historic. You need to consult with people who are familiar with restoration.”
Fire Chief Ed Mullen spoke via Zoom. He wanted to thank Councilmen Pabon and Petrick for their help getting the fire department to what it is today.
Resident Lisa Nanton was the last speaker on Zoom, “Whoever worked in 2020 should get the funds. I appreciate everything that Pabon and Petrick have done. I want to congratulate Milady Tejada who is re-elected to the council, and I hope the new council works together to benefit the city.”
The council went into closed session at 9:19 p.m. and returned at 9:44 p.m. to begin the regular council meeting.
The meeting was opened to the public to comment on any ordinance that had a public hearing. No one commented. Then the meeting was opened to the public to comment on agenda items only. No one commented in person. The only person who commented on Zoom was Resident Sharon Hubberman who commented on R-625-12/22 – Setting forth an interpretive statement for inclusion on the November 7, 2023, ballot which was put on the agenda by Council President William Petrick.
Hubberman stated that she was in favor of this resolution which would allow the mayoral/council elections to be voted on to be put back to the month of May. “Voters should have decided on this and not by an ordinance created by the council. We can be more engaged as voters. Voter engagement was higher when these elections were held locally (and separately).”
The council voted on the ordinances. For Ordinance No. 1 – A ordinance to amend an ordinance entitled Administration of Government regarding residency of officers and employees. Moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejada. Morales and Tejada voted “No.”
Ordinance No. 2- entitled Streets and Sidewalks. Moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejada.
Ordinance No. 3 – Amending Chapter 258 – Historic Preservation – Ordinance No. (691-93) adopted November 19, 1993. Moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejada. All voted yes. Councilwoman Tejada thanked Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission Renee Skelton for the information she provided which was very helpful.
The Minutes for the meetings in September, October, November was moved by Pabon and seconded by Tejada. Tejada abstained on the minutes of the two meetings that she missed.
For the consent agenda R-545, R-572, R-574 thru R-600, R-602 thru R-617, R-619 thru R-624, R-626, R-627 was moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejada.
R-545 was the adoption of the

operating budget for the Perth Amboy Business Improvement District (BID) for 2023. (The public hearing was held on November 21, 2022.)
For R-573 – Appointing Heidi Burke to the Perth Amboy Zoning Board of Adjustment as Alternate No. 1 to fill an unexpired term to expire December 31, 2023. Moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejada. Morales and Tejada voted “No.”
For R-601 – Purchase of gift cards from Wakefern Food Corporation in the amount of \$400,000. Moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejada. Before voting, Pabon and Petrick each made a statement.
Pabon stated that he would have liked the see local stores handle this instead of Wakefern.
Petrick stated that it is a lot of money. “I don’t know if the city will give it to the people who truly need it.”
All the council members voted, “Yes.”
R-618 – Authorizing the payments to essential workers in an amount not to exceed \$484,500 to be funded through the American Rescue Plan Act. Moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejada.
Law Director Opel read the amendment that would add more employees. “It was to add more employees to receive these funds.”
Pabon wanted to thank the administration.
Tejada said that everyone deserved to get paid, “I know how difficult it was to work during Covid. I worked during that time, too.”
Petrick thanked the administration for changing their minds.
For R-625 – Changing the Council and Mayor’s election to May. Moved by Pabon, seconded by Tejada.
Torres said, “Let the people decide.”
Petrick said, “It is important to get the voter’s opinion.”
Tejada and Morales voted, “No.”
Public Portion (in-person first):
Resident Alan Silber thanked the council for voting “Yes” for making sure that more people are getting that money. “This was a major change, but people should have had a chance to comment first. I did research on how many people stayed away from home to avoid giving Covid to others (people in their household). This town gave their opinion on cannabis. I appreciate Petrick and Pabon and Pabon was the most respectable council member. Sometimes Petrick went on too long. I think sometimes it was just to start a conversation. To Councilman B.J. Torres, you were excellent today. I would like to congratulate Milady Tejada for getting reelected.
The meeting was opened up to Zoom participants.
Sharon Hubberman was the only person to speak. She thanked Petrick and Pabon for their years of service. “I’m sure you will both be engaged. I want to thank you from me and my family. Congratulations to Tejada. I thank all who voted on the referendum to have the

council and mayoral election returned to May. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.”
Council Comments:
Councilwoman Rose Morales thanked all who participated. She wanted to congratulate Milady Tejada on being reelected. “It was my pleasure to work with Pabon and Petrick. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.”
Councilman Joel Pabon congratulated all who won in the recent election. “It is important that anyone who applied for a municipal board, needs to fill out their financial disclosure form. I want to thank all of the directors and thank so much for Victoria Kupsch and her staff. Anytime I’ve called them, they were always there to answer my questions. And I would still call. I remember during Covid when I would come in, you guys were there at the open window.”
Victoria Kupsch responded, “I appreciate that.”
Pabon then addressed Bill Petrick, “You are very smart. Thank you for your service and the community will miss you. I wish all the council the best and don’t let the pressure bother you and you’ll come through. Thanks to the administration and this last meeting was special. Happy Holidays. Thank you for supporting me for 21 years.”
Council woman Milady Tejada said, “I want to thank all who participated tonight. I want to thank Petrick and Pabon for their service. You will be missed. Thank you to all who voted. Enjoy the holidays and protect your families. Remember the flu and the RSV is hitting hard. Have a Happy New Year.”
Councilman B.J. Torres congratulated Tejada on being re-elected. “Thank you to Petrick and Pabon for your guidance and your open line of communication and how to maneuver the ropes. We work with the administration and not for them. This is a 24-hour commitment. Thank you so much.”
Council President Petrick said, “It’s been a great 12 years and 6 of those years was as Council President. I want to thank Victoria Kupsch and her staff. They always took care of us and thank you for your support. They are our right hand. I want to thank Pabon. It’s been a long ride. I want to thank all present and past council members who sat up here. I also want to thank the residents that come to the meeting, especially Alan Silber, Ken Balut, David Caba, and the late Stanley Sierakowski. We will miss this. It is more than a parttime job, but remember we are independent. We had a good time and a good ride. Happy Holidays, Happy Kwanza, Happy Hannukah.”
The meeting adjourned at 10:29 p.m.



Remembering Melanie Diane Williams

By: Carolyn Maxwell
PERTH AMBOY – During her high school career, she was ranked among the top five female shot putters in Middlesex County. Following her 1993 graduation from Perth Amboy High School, she was a recipient of an athletic scholarship allowing her to pursue her baccalaureate degree at Campbell University, North Carolina. As a scholar athlete, she participated in collegiate track and field and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree from Campbell University in 1997. She was an educator who taught students from grade school all the way up until high school. She had a love of science but found her true love by serving the Lord who enabled her to serve others. As a community-based counselor for an organization

called Thrive2Heal counseling and therapeutic services. She never gave up on anyone and as a teacher, she touched every student she ever met, and invested in each person a scent of selflove, worth, and peace. As a minister and mentor at the Greater Love Christian Center in Waynesboro, Virginia, she led a team church and engaged those teams in community activities that allowed them to serve others. She found pleasures in sitting in the sunlight and thanking God for its presence. She loved laughing, sunflowers, and playing video games. She loved her family and friends and also took solo trips to the Bahamas, family trips to Mexico, and girls’ trips to Ireland with her mother, Barbara. She left a positive impression on every single person that



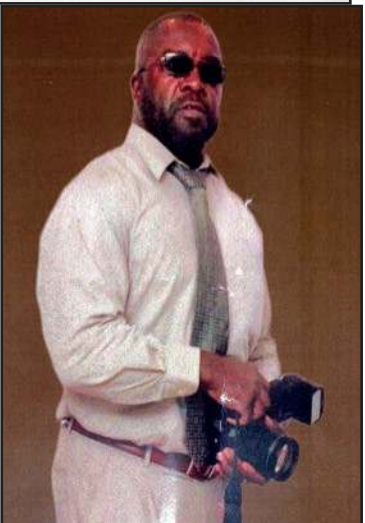
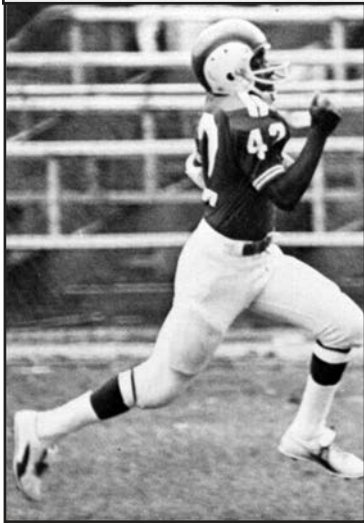
Melanie Diane Williams
Mar. 12, 1975 - Dec. 7, 2022

she ever met. Although she left unexpectedly, we know she is well and rejoicing with those who went before her and now the family has another angel watching over them.

Remembering Tyrone Fashaw



Perth Amboy's Varsity and Junior Varsity Teams Include: Bottom Row: (left to right) M. Arocho, N. Toran, T. Fashaw, J. Tyson, T. Walicky, D. Barbaiti, W. Riggins, H. Morales, C. Pasternicki, V. Dziepak, C. Winfield, B. Sasala, A. Pittel. Second Row: J. Fenyar (head mgr.), M. Pyzik, R. Wilhelm, F. Nestico, J. Jimenez, J. Mecka, R. Rabiner, G. Sosnovich, J. Bojarski, D. Maruca, T. Rylyk, P. Pope. Third Row: E. Perez, G. Muniz, R. Mozolic, R. Petro, G. Diaz, J. Parkin, B. Zolnowski, W. Buntan, C. Grahm, R. Peterson. Fourth Row: K. Puccio, F. Mauro, C. Ziznewski, B. Skelton, R. Rodgers, E. Lesur, R. Barbaiti, R. Rosa, Head Coach William Gatyax. Fifth Row: R. Raji (mgr.), B. Taylor, A. May, N. Franqui, R. Crudup, B. Kushner, H. Arvelo, R. Bigos, B. Handerman, D. Negron, J. Sanchez, J. Boyko (head tr.) Top Row: Assistant Coach Dennis Hrehowski, Trainer Anton Massopust, Assistant Coach Donald Mitruska, Assistant Coach Robert Gatyax.



Tyrone Fashaw
Feb. 15, 1954 - Nov. 16, 2022

*Photos submitted by Ray Kawka Jr.

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Local 9 of New Jersey Retired Police and Fire of Middlesex and Monmouth Counties Elected Their Officers for 2023 at Their Annual Holiday Party

Press Release
MIDDLESEX/MONMOUTH COUNTY - Local 9 of New Jersey Retired Police and Fire of Middlesex and Monmouth Counties elected their officers for 2023 at their annual Holiday Party. The following officers were reelected: John Fedorka, President, Joe Britton, vice-President, Ken Kresowski, State Delegate, Dave Jakubaszak, Financial Secretary, Tom Noble,

Sgt. At Arms. As were Trustees Haag, Norek, Yackel and Tabaszewski. Newly elected were: Edward Barrett, Trustee, John Meleski, Treasurer and John Yuhas, Recording Secretary. New Jersey Retired Police and Fire is the only organization combining both retired law enforcement officers of any title and retired fire fighters of any title fighting for our C.O.L.A

(Our Local 9 President elect John Fedorka is a retired Federal Fire Fighter). Anyone interested in joining should go to the website of the State Association (New Jersey State Retired Police and Fire). Click on Locals, Click on Local 9 and Click on Application. Local 9 meets the first Wednesday of the month in South Amboy N.J.



Auto Detailing



Mobil Gas Station

264 New Brunswick Ave.
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861



Mon.-Thurs. 5 a.m.-1 a.m. Fri-Sun 24 hrs.
Call Jamie 732-486-8551

Optimum Announces the Winners of its 2022 Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Contest



SOUTH AMBOY - (L-R) Board Member Joan Conway, Councilwoman Zuzette Dato, Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez, Mayor Fred A. Henry, Nicole Vancil, Board of Education President Lynn Kascics, Jazmine Antonucci, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frederick D. Williams, Optimum’s Sr. Director of Government Affairs Marilyn D. Davis) *Photo Submitted

Press Release
SOUTH AMBOY - Optimum, together with co-sponsor TelevisaUnivision, is proud to announce the 2022 winners of its annual Hispanic Heritage Month essay contest. In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, which is celebrated each year from September 15 – October 15, Optimum invited students across the company’s 21-state footprint to share in 500 words or less a person or group of Hispanic heritage who have kept their community connected to one another, to their culture or to those outside their community. The student essay contest ran from September 15 to October 31 and boasted a total of four Grand Prize scholarships of \$3,000. Prizes have also been awarded to a dozen finalists in both the high school and middle school categories. To view the full list of finalists, visit www.optimum.com/hhm.

Optimum.com/hhm. Additionally, for the first time, Optimum and TelevisaUnivision recognized the educators who encouraged their students to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by submitting an essay. Special gifts were awarded to educators who sponsored the highest number of essay submissions from their students. On Thursday, December 15, Optimum will host a live virtual celebration event to recognize all winners and runners-up and to continue celebrating the diverse histories, cultures, and contributions of generations of Hispanic Americans across the country. Altice USA and Optimum are committed to making a positive impact in the communities we serve. Click here to learn more about how Altice USA and Optimum are involved in our local communities.



CITY OF PERTH AMBOY, NJ
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (HOME)
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN AMENDMENT for FY 2017, 2019, 2020 & 2021

The City of Perth Amboy is planning to amend the Annual Action Plan to reallocate funding from the Home Investment Partnership (HOME) Program for Fiscal Years 2017, 2019, 2020 & 2021. The City will no longer use HOME funds for Home Improvement Grants (HIG) as the City recently has collected and will be using Affordable Housing Trust Fund monies to assist low to moderate income home owners with rehabilitation projects. Consequently, the HOME-HIG funds will be moved into the City’s First Time Homebuyers Program and to the Tennant Based Rental Assistance Program as the need for both programs have increased in the City due to increasing rents, loss of income due to the COVID pandemic and increasing interest rates for potential home buyers.

The following reflects the proposed amendments to the HOME funding:

- The Puerto Rican Association for Human Development (PRAHD) was allocated of \$66,746. in FY 2017 HOME funds for the rehabilitation of 96 First Street in the amount These funds will be reallocated to PRAHD to provide Utility Deposit Assistance for low/moderate income households that are relocating due to loss of income or other hardships and need the assistance to have their utilities turned on. Deposits are often required due to low credit scores or history of non-payment.
- The City will no longer use HOME funds for Home Improvement Grants (HIG, instead and will be using Affordable Housing Trust Fund monies to assist low/moderate income home owners with rehabilitation projects. The HIG program had been allocated a total of \$31,860. in FY 2019 of which the remaining of \$16,009. will be reallocated to the City’s First Time Homebuyers Program due to increasing rents, loss of income due to COVID and increasing interest rates for potential home buyers.
- The City had been allocated a total of \$75,000. to the HIG program in FY 2020 which will be reallocated to PRAHD to provide Tennant Based Rental Assistance to assist with rising rent cost, decrease in income due to COVID and increased evictions.
- The City had been allocated a total of \$120,830.75 to the HIG program in FY 2021 which will be reallocated to the City’s First Time Homebuyers Program due to increasing rents, loss of income due to COVID and increasing interest rates for potential home buyers.

A public hearing is scheduled to review the amendment to all Annual Action Plans on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 3:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 260 High Street, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861.

The information received from interested individuals at the public hearing will assist the City and the Development Advisory Committee in the preparation of all the Amendments. The hearing is designed to obtain resident’s views and to respond to questions. Residents are invited to provide written or verbal comments at or prior to the hearing. The public comment period is for 30 days starting Monday, December 22, 2022 to Thursday, January 22, 2023 and the plan will be resubmitted to HUD by Monday, January 30, 2023.

In addition, this document will be available for public review in on the City’s website at <http://www.perthamboynj.org> or in City Hall, 260 High Street, Perth Amboy, NJ, until the public hearing date.

Comments can be sent via email to Tashilee Vazquez, Director of the Office of Economic & Community Development.

Helmin J. Caba,
Mayor
City of Perth Amboy

South Amboy Saint Patrick’s
Day Parade Committee
Announces Grand Marshal
for the 2023 Parade

Press Release 12/5/22
SOUTH AMBOY - The South Amboy Saint Patrick’s Day Committee is pleased to announce that Mary Porcello will serve as the Grand Marshall of the 46th annual South Amboy Saint Patrick’s Day Parade to be held Sunday, March 19, 2023.

Mary, a resident of South Amboy, has spent several years as the volunteer food bank co-ordinator at the First Presbyterian Church, South Amboy. In addition to volunteering over 35 hours per week at the food bank, Ms. Porcello has been an elder in the church for over 23 years.

Her dedication to the community is evident not only in the hours she spends overseeing the food pantry but in her outreach to families in need regardless of their circumstances. The pantry, with a staff of 10-15 volunteers, is open every other week on Monday and Thursday from 12 noon to 3:30pm by appointment only and distributes over 1625 bags of food a month with the help of various organizations throughout South Amboy and community donations of non-perishable food items. Those interested in donating to the food pantry may do so by texting 732-902-1172 or calling 732-721-4516 to arrange a drop off time for donations.

Ms. Porcello is also a past recipient of New Jersey State Governor’s Award for her record of service, leadership, and commitment to the residents of her community

When told that she would serve as Grand Marshall for the 2023 Saint Patrick’s Day Parade, Ms. Porcello stated, “This is

our community, one of which I am happy to serve. I am quite proud to have this wonderful honor bestowed on me.

Serving as Deputy Grand Marshal of the 2023 parade will be Monsignor John Gordon, a native of South Plainfield who earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy at St. Pius X Seminary, Scranton University, Pa., and a Master of Divinity degree at Christ the King Seminary, Buffalo. He was ordained to the priesthood May 18, 1985, at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen.

Early in his priesthood, Msgr. Gordon served in the parishes of St. Bartholomew, East Brunswick; Guardian Angels, Edison; St. Magdalene de Pazzi, Flemington, and St. Mary, Perth Amboy. He is currently pastor for St. Joseph Parish, Carteret.

For five years, he served as multicultural director of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Metuchen. His ministry also included terms as chaplain for Bishop George Ahr High School, now St. Thomas the Aquinas High School, Edison; the now-closed S. Pius X High School, Piscataway, and the now-closed St. Mary High School, South Amboy. He was installed as Chaplain to His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI with the title of Monsignor Jan. 29, 2012.

When told of his nomination as Deputy Grand Marshal of the 2023 South Amboy Saint Patrick’s Day Parade, he stated that he “is very humbled and honored to serve as Deputy Grand Marshal and congratulates all honorees for this year’s parade and all things Irish.”

Local South Amboy Businesses
Support Parade Efforts

Press Release 12/6/22
SOUTH AMBOY - Once again, the South Amboy Parade Committee is hard at work planning for the city’s 46th annual Saint Patrick’s Day parade to be held on Sunday, March 19, 2023.

The committee has announced its fundraising efforts will include “Hoist-A-Pint” events at local establishments throughout South Amboy. The first will take place on Thursday, January 19th at Raise the Bar Lounge (RTB) 117 North Broadway from 7 – 9 pm followed by a second event on Thursday, February 16th at Teddy’s Bar, 379 South Pine Ave. from 7-9 pm. Our third and final Hoist-A-Pint will take place on Thursday, March 9th at Monaghan House, 400 South Pine Ave. from 7-9 pm.

Each event will charge a \$20 pp entrance fee, collected at the door, entitling the participant to beer, wine, food sampling and a performance by the D.B. Kelly

Pipe and Drums.

The parade committee will also host a Grand Marshals Night on Friday, January 27, 2023, from 7-10 pm at the Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall (AOH), 271 2nd St, where the 2023 Grand Marshal and Deputy Grand Marshal will be formally announced and recognized for their contributions to our community and the City of South Amboy.

Tickets, available for purchase at the AOH Hall, for the Grand Marshal’s Annual Dinner are \$60 per person (includes dinner, beer, wine, and soda as well as a performance by the D. B. Kelly Pipes and Drums. Congratulations to all of the 2023 honorees: Grand Marshal -Mary Porcello, and Deputy Grand Marshal, Monsignor John Gordon.

Proceeds from these events will support the efforts of the South Amboy Saint Patrick’s Day Parade Committee.

Noble, Skarzynski, Final Meeting
11/14/22 Council Meetings

**Continued from Page 1*

you for a longtime. You’ve done well for yourself. You come from a great family in town. We greatly treasure your calmness. You have been a great asset. South Amboy is a great place to live. The Friends of South Amboy does a great job. It’s great to see people donate their free time and money.”

City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz wished Glenn Skarzynski well and thanked Christine Noble for her great work. “Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.”

Law Director Francis Womack said, “It’s been an honor to represent this city. I am inspired by the community spirit. This is a fine town.”

Business Administrator Glenn Skarzynski said, “Adding to Tom Reilly’s comments, the people that sit at this desk – it takes a lot to be here. I thank those who serve. This city is moving in the right direction It has been an honor. The name Noble is a name that is associat-

ed in this town, you are a credit to your name.”

Public Portion:

Resident Chris Smiga came up first. “Congratulations for the recipients of a \$2.6 million grant. It is a sign of dedication of Pallone. A fiscal environmental commission to help preserve the shoreline will help with assistance planning is needed.” He spoke about the need for a municipal alliance to help with environmental conservation.

Resident Greg Babolack asked about lights being on at the fields. B.A. Skarzynski stated that they are on a timer which goes out at 10 p.m. and are on at night to deter vandalism. He also stated that they are LEDs and save money on electricity.”

Babolack asked why the business administrator didn’t know the numbers on rentals event though it’s been six months.

Skarzynski stated that he does not have those numbers in front of him. “I will report this to Councilman Reilly. I need to read the RDA to find out when they are due.”

Babolack then asked if the new audio system is in.

Skarzynski said it was. City Clerk Deborah Brooks stated that she listened to the last two meetings, and they sound fine.

Babolack asked about the March 2023 revenues from the apartments at the end of Henry.

Skarzynski stated that in March 2023 the first segment of marshland restoration will begin at the shoreline.

A resident wished Christine Noble and Glenn Skarzynski luck. He asked about repairs at the hole-in-the-wall.

City Engineer Mark Rasimowicz stated that he would call about it tomorrow.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.



SEASON'S GREETINGS

BAYSIDE CREAMERY

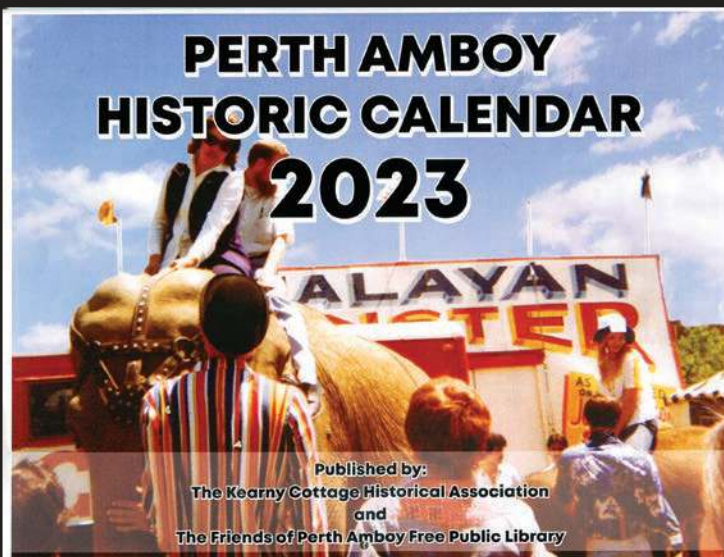
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Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

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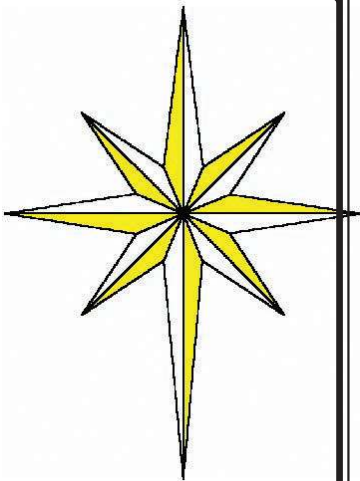
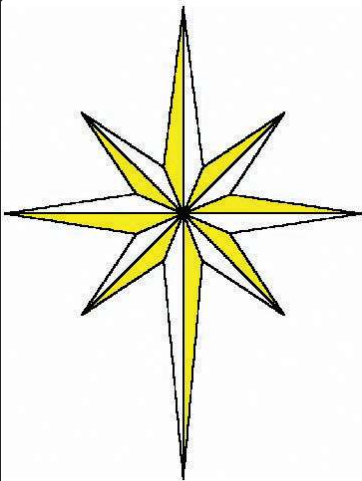
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SEASON'S GREETINGS



A Christmas Gift

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luck a reason to keep on living
You may lift up someone's spirit by giving him a helping hand
By giving the gift of reverence of every human being
You will be receiving a Christmas Gift
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The gift of being selfless
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By being tolerant and giving love to everyone you meet during this Christmas
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WOODBIDGE - The Barron Arts Center Holiday Model Train Show 2022 November 26 - December 30 (CLOSED Dec 25 & 26) Featuring the set-up and design of Mike Gelesky. Now in its 32nd year at the Barron Arts Center. Free admission. Donations welcome. Barron Arts Center, 582 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge, NJ 07095. Reservations Required on all weekends and the week after Christmas (Dec 27-30) No reservations needed Monday-Friday (Nov 28-Dec 23) To make your reservations call 732-634-0413

Reservations Required on all weekends and the week after Christmas (Dec 27-30); No reservations needed Monday-Friday (Nov 28-Dec 23); To make your reservations call 732-634-0413

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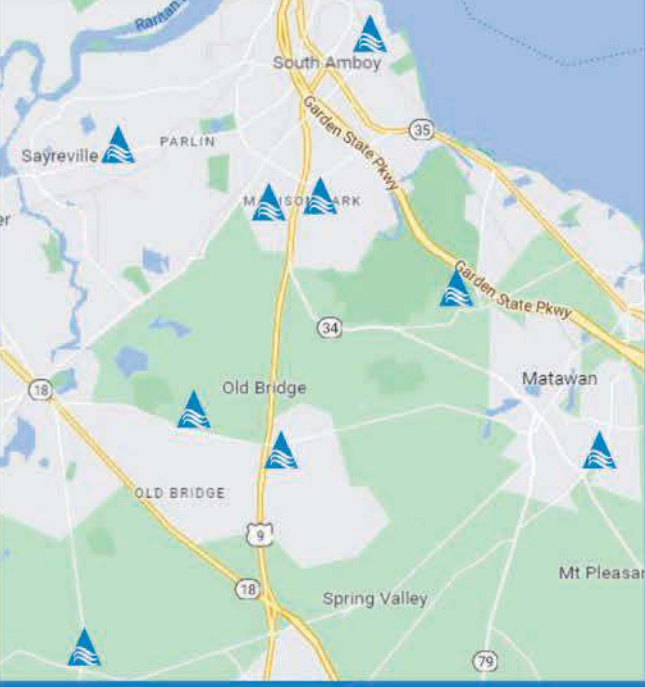
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FINANCIAL SELF EVALUATION
QUESTIONNAIRE

Let's Take a Good Look at Ourselves at this stage of life
FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The following questions are designed to stimulate your thinking. In some cases, a yes or no answer will suffice; in others you will want to expand or qualify your answers. Change, modify, add to, or delete as required. Above all play straight and enjoy getting to know yourself!

After you have completed the questionnaire, go back and review your answers. If you are basically happy with your answer, consider it a strength. If you wish you could have answered it differently, consider it a weakness. Recognize that some of your weaknesses could very easily become strengths and some of your strengths you be developed even stronger.

1. Do I place the proper emphasis on money and what it will buy?
2. Do I try to keep up with the Joneses?
3. Do I neglect other areas of my life in pursuit of money and/or material things?
4. Do I spend money carelessly?
5. Am I often short of cash?
6. Do I have a budget?
7. Do I live within my budget?
8. Do I save regularly?
9. Do I have good credit.

The purpose of this exercise is to take a comprehensive look at the financial area of your life and thereby gain a better understanding.

“THERE’S ALWAYS ROOM AT THE TOP”–Daniel Webster

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.

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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 Saturday, December 10th from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. at the Brighton Avenue Community Center at the corner of Brighton Avenue and Sadowski Parkway in Perth Amboy. We are delighted to be back after being sidelined by the pandemic for 7 months. I know many people have been starving for reading material for these long months we were at home. We will be wearing masks and providing hand sanitizer and bags if needed. We also insist that anyone coming to peruse our collection also wear a mask as mandated by the State of NJ. Paperbacks are \$.50, hardcovers are \$1, \$5 for a bag full, no limit to size of bag except no lawn or garbage bags. We have best sellers by popular authors that are like new. The money we raise goes to support the library with providing programs, promoting literacy or to provide funds to the library with their needs beyond their budget. We look forward to your visit.

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

Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library Meeting

PERTH AMBOY – The Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library are having a meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 6 p.m. at the Perth Amboy Free Public Library (Children's Library), 196 Jefferson St. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more info, call 732-261-2610.

MOVIE REVIEW: Doctor Who: The Abominable Snowmen

By: Anton Massopust III Email: DrZaius69@aol.com



Anton Massopust III

The Doctor (Patrick Troughton) and Jamie (Frazier Hines) and Victoria (Deborah Watling) land the TARDIS in Tibet in the Himalayas in 1935. The Doctor knows a Detsen monastery where there is an Abbott and his group of monks who are the Doctor once helped out many years ago. In this 6-part story, the Doctor Returns of the sacred bell to them after all these many years, but there's strange things on this mountain. They meet Professor Edward Travers (Jack Watling) who is searching for the elusive Yeti (the Abominable Snowmen) and finds out that the Yeti have now turned very savage. Travers thinks that the Yeti were just shy elusive creatures, which they are, but these Yeti are controlled by the Grand Intelligence who are huge giant furry robots that can rip you apart just as easily. Inside the monastery, there is a monk being controlled by the Grand Intelligence. Even his essence is slowly being eat away and the Grand Intelligence is slowly destroying him. The Doctor has to find this control center in order



to stop the Yeti and destroy the Grand Intelligence before he can take a physical form and spread from this tiny mountain throughout the whole world.

You can watch this lost episode of Doctor Who on Blue-Ray DVD which includes 3 different discs: one surviving episode in black-and-white and with all the other episodes which features animation in both color or black and white with the original audio. The last disc features just picture stills from the episode and the audio. The writers (Mervyn Haisman and Henry Lincoln) who

created this story and wrote the sequel “The Web of Fear.” its sequel before writing this one (featuring the first appearance of the Brigadier (Nicholas Courtney) which is an interesting bit of trivia. The antagonist was originally going to use the Loch Ness Monster but then he decided on the Yeti in the end. The audio was supplied by fans which were given to the BBC years ago. This wonderful Patrick Troughton story has been brought back to life through animation and it is great gift for Christmas for any Doctor Who fan of the classic series.

BOOK REVIEW: When Your Heart Speaks: Awakening Your Heart's Potential

by Claudia A. Mercado Review by: Carolyn Maxwell

PERTH AMBOY - About a year and a half ago, by chance, I accidentally had the pleasure of hearing Claudia speak at a book signing held in Perth Amboy. It was a strange coincidence because that day I had an appointment with my cardiologist, which happened to be only a brief blood test which enabled me to take the early bus home. There is a rental hall on High Street that I always pass by. I get curious when I see it decorated for any specific event. I happened to come upon the owner who told me that there will be a woman speaking about when she said that she had a few heart attacks.

This peaked my curiosity. Maybe it was meant for me to have an appointment which is normally an hour cut to only 10 minutes.

When you read about a person with health issues, basically it just encompasses only the health issues, but Claudia takes you back from her childhood to the present and how she views herself as a millionaire and it has nothing to do with the amount of money you have.

It was her support system, especially her mother and the trials and tribulations her mother went through growing up in Argentina. For the longest time, Claudia was growing up, she was the youngest child in her family and despite growing up in a 2-bedroom apartment with 5 siblings and her parents, love overcame many obstacles. She described her mother baking bread on the oven that would be considered a health hazard today. One time

her mother burned her hand and her screaming was so shocking, they were frightened to get close to that stove again.

She talks about how her mother was the driving force and always praised her how intelligent she is. She recounted that when her mother found out when the woman whom she thought was her mother was not. Her mother was also the only girl and had brothers who instead of protecting her would give her a hard time.

Her mother was fortunate that she married a man who was a widower who treated her with love and respect.

When Claudia grew up, she immigrated to the United States, married a strong man. She also vividly described how she ignored the warning of having a heart attack. She suffered through the night getting out of bed trying to ease the pain until her husband realized something was very wrong.

As she was riding in the ambulance on the way to the hospital, she described her pain and discomfort so vividly, it was as if you were experiencing the same pain.

So, she considers herself a millionaire because of the support of her family and friends. Just think about a lot of people that you see that are millionaires and billionaires and are miserable.

There are people who are fair weather friends. I remember my dad saying that you may think you have a lot of friends, but some of those friends are really acquaintances. My dad would say, "Friends are those what you



need to hear - not what you want to hear."

There is so mushroom to this book and you really need to read it for yourself to get the full impact to get the full background of her childhood and of her mother's childhood and of the people in the village where she grew up in Argentina.

At the end of the book, she tells you all of what she had to go through to make her heart healthier. In spite of that, she still had another heart attack and advice her doctor had given her. She also mentions several friends who were important in her life and they are the millions of dollars that she talks about.

She was an educator and has been featured in several magazines, including health magazines. She has been a paraprofessional and was selected to the Governor's Educator for the Year 2016-2017 for her outstanding services as an educator in New Jersey schools.

Woodbridge Public Library Events

Listed below are the free events we have planned for January 2023. 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.

January 4 | 7 PM | Virtual Program
Start the New Year With Meditation
The New Year is a time to create a clean slate! Join Jim Rose, M. Ed longtime meditator for this powerful workshop. Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=13537&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2023/01/01>

January 10 | 4PM | Main Library
Mystery/Thriller Book Club
Join us for an in person discussion of The Younger Wife by Sally Hepworth. No Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=12884&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2023/01/01>

January 10 | 7 PM | Main Library
Meet the Author: Judy Walters
Join us as we welcome local author Judy Walters as she discusses her latest book Perfect All The Time. Registration Recommended - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=13549&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2023/01/10>

January 11 | 1 PM | Main Library
Consumer Fraud: How to Avoid Getting Scammed!!
Join us as a representative from the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs tells us how to AVOID GETTING SCAMMED. Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=13544&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2023/01/10>

January 12 | 7 PM | Virtual Program
Virtual Program: How to Pay for College: A Guide for Parents
A Parent’s Guide on How to Pay For College: This workshop will be presented by My College Planning Team, and will introduce the various financial aid options and focus on some of the biggest college planning mistakes families should avoid. Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=13821&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2023/01/01>

January 17 | 1 PM | Main Library
Stress Management for Seniors
Participants will learn the definition of stress, identify 3 different types of stress, understand the consequences of stress, and learn the negative signs and symptoms of stress and effective coping strategies for dealing with stress. Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=13604&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2023/01/01>

January 18 | 3:30 PM | Main Library
DIY Forever Snowman
Come join us in person to create your own DIY Forever Snowman. All Supplies will be provided. Open to Adults and Teens (13+). Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=13723&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2023/01/01>

January 24 | 6:30 PM | Fords Library
Adult Craft Night
Come to the Fords Library and receive supplies to make your own craft! Find out more details when you register. Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=13723&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2023/01/01>

January 25 | 7 PM | Virtual Program
Consumer Rights: Everything You Need to Know about Product Liability
Have you ever bought a product and came home feeling like you haven't gotten what you've paid for? Senior Attorney Laura E. Fein of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC will tell us all we need to know about product liability law. Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=13736&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2023/01/01>

January 28 | 9 AM | Main Library
Open Yoga
Join the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh Woodbridge Chapter every Saturday morning for drop-in yoga! All ages welcome. No Registration Required - <https://woodbridgelibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=13843&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2023/01/01>

Introducing Classic Movie Nights at the Main Library!
Catch a classic movie every other Thursday at 6:30PM. Light refreshments will be served!

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

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WWW.AMBOYGUARDIAN.COM

Ads Sell! Call Carolyn! 732-896-4446

Perth Amboy Free Public Library Events

Hanukkah Ceremony:
Thursday, December 22, 5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.

Jewelry Makerspace
Thursday, December 22, 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

Book Club
Thursday, January 5, from 6 p.m.-7p.m.

Friday Afternoon Films
Friday, January 13, from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. - (MLK History)

Crochet Class
Tuesday, January 17, from 5 p.m.-6 p.m.

Jewelry Makerspace
Thursday, January 19, from 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

Game Day Crochet Class
Friday, January 27, from 3 p.m.-5 p.m.



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.

New Year, New Fun @ Dowdell Library

Press Release 12/10/22
SOUTH AMBOY — 2023 brings a new year of possibilities and fun to Dowdell Library -including book clubs for teens and seniors, online virtual health classes, storytimes, children’s activities and more. Stop by and check out what’s happening at your local library!

The Senior Book Club will meet on Monday, January 30 from 10:30 am – 11:30 am (snow date is Wednesday, February 1, same time.) Stop by the Library to pick up this month's book. Want to join? Just contact the library at 732-721-6060.

Play BINGO for adults on Monday, January 9 at 10:30 am. Small non-monetary prizes will be awarded. Participate in the Adult Winter Reading Challenge for a chance to win a dessert culinary basket every time you check out library materials throughout January!

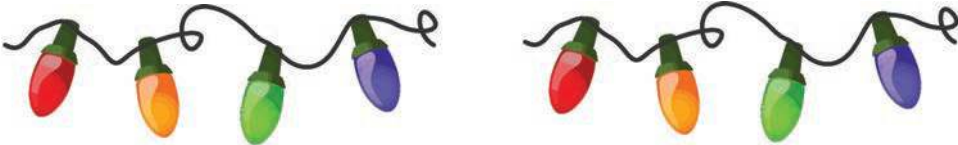
Dowdell Library, in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and RWJ Barnabas Health, offers online virtual health programs. Some courses include Stress Reduction through Imagery and Stretch It! Chair exercising, stretching, and flexibility workshop. Please register by emailing Kathleen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

Parents with toddlers! Join Ms. Maryanne for storytime on Monday, January 9 and Saturday, January 21 from 1-2 pm for stories, games, activities, and crafts.

Kids, stop by every Wednesday from 3:30-4:30 pm for the After School Fun Club. Drop in for bingo, relay races, scavenger hunts and Pokemon card swaps. Become part of the story and adventure in the Dungeons & Dragons Gaming Club on Thursday, January 26 from 6-7:30 pm, for ages 6 and up.

Teens! Join us for our NEW Teen Book Club! Pick up a copy of the book for the first meeting starting Tuesday, February 21 from 3-4 pm. Are you looking to start your weekend early? Stop by the Teen Hangout on Fridays from 2:30-4 pm for video games, enjoying anime, making crafts and meeting new friends. Do you need community service hours? Join the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) on Friday, January 20 from 3-4 pm and bring your ideas for connecting with teens, programming, book selections, and more.

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.



Resorts
Casnino Trip
Good Shepherd
Seniors

HOPELAWN - Good Shepherd Seniors is sponsoring a bus trip to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Tuesday, 2/7/2023. Cost is \$35 with \$15 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.

Blood Drive
SOUTH AMBOY - Ring in the new year on a positive note and donate blood. The South Amboy Elks is hosting a blood drive at 601 Washington Ave, South Amboy, for the American Red Cross on Thursday January 5th, 2023. All donations are by appointment and can be scheduled online. More information on scheduling will be advertised as the date gets closer. For information, please call 732-727-7170 and leave a message for Dawn or Lisa. Thank you in advance for your consideration.



Sumo Wrestling
SOUTH AMBOY - Come grab a table with your friends to laugh and have a good time at our Sumo Wrestling fundraiser which comes to the South Amboy Elks on Saturday, January 21st, 2023. You can get suited up and wrestle your best friend or one of our members. Doors open at 6:30, wrestling starts at 7 p.m. The donation is \$25 per person and includes select beverages. Food will be available for purchase from 6:30 p.m. -10 p.m. For more information and tickets, please call 732-727-7170

**“A Token on the Freedman's Coat”
The Story Behind Thomas Mundy
Peterson's 1884 Voting Medal**
WOODBIDGE – The Historical Association of Woodbridge Township presents Gordon Bond on “A Token on the Freedman's Coat” - The story behind Thomas Mundy Peterson's 1884 Voting Medal on Monday, January 23, 2023, at 7 p.m. at Fellowship Hall, First Presbyterian Church, 600 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge, New Jersey.
On May 30, 1884, citizens of Perth Amboy pinned a gold medal to Thomas Mundy Peterson's coat in recognition of his vote as the first African American to vote under the Fifteenth Amendment in 1870.
Gordon Bond not only relates the background of this extraordinary event but places it in a broader historical context. This presentation is based on Gordon's latest book, "To Cast a Freedman's Vote..." which will be available for purchase and signing afterwards.
For further information, contact Brenda Velasco, Township Historian. TEXT 732.428.2403

**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, March 2, 2023. 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.

Trinity United Methodist Church
SOUTH AMBOY - December is a busy, blessed month for Trinity Methodist Church. We have an active Outreach plan for the month, our Annual Christmas Bazaar & Vendor Sale, engaging Advent services Sunday at 9:30 am, exciting children's programs and a busy, thriving Thrift Shop.
The holidays bring out the best in people. It's the time of year many folks are more open to helping others. Our congregation is no different. We encourage anyone in the community to participate if the spirit moves you.
•No More Cold Feet – Sock Collection
•Nursing Home and Rehab Facility Collections
•Blessing Bags for the Homeless
•Advent Food Collection
If you are interested in participating – see the Trinity United Methodist Church Facebook site for information or call us.
Advent services begin on Sunday, November 27, 2022. Come and join us as we prepare ourselves for the Christmas season. Christmas Eve service will be held on December 24 at 7 pm. All church services are Sundays at 9:30 am.
Sunday School is held during the church service. Children from 5 years old to 12 are welcome to join our children as we study scriptures through crafts, study, and song.
As always, are Thrift Shop will be open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9 am to 11 am and drop offs are always open in the one shed. The shop will be closed from December 21 and reopen on January 24. The shop will be closed if the weather is < 34 degrees at 8 am.
Trinity is excited and looking forward to a busy December and the celebration of Jesus' birthday. We invite you to join us. We are located at 815 Bordentown Avenue in South Amboy or www.trinityumc.org or call 732 763 6232 if you have any questions.

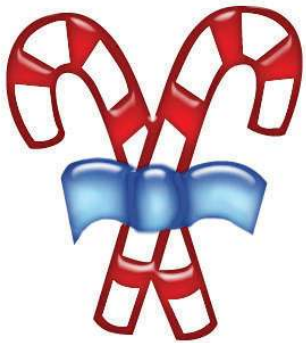
This Week in the Civil War
160 Years Ago
December 21, 1862 – January 10, 1862
By Phil Kohn Phil Kohn can be reached at USCW160@yahoo.com

The massive Union raiding force of Brig. Gen. John Foster returns to its base at New Bern, North Carolina, on December 21, 1862, after destroying a key railroad bridge at Goldsboro. Meanwhile, Confederate Col. John Hunt Morgan and his cavalry depart Tennessee to embark on a “Christmas raid” into Kentucky against Federal supply lines.
In Washington, D.C., after conferring with Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside, President Lincoln on December 22 issues an order congratulating the Army of the Potomac for its bravery at Fredericksburg, Virginia.
In Richmond, on December 23, Confederate President Davis declares U.S. Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler a felon, an outlaw and “an enemy of mankind.” The declaration is spurred by the intensity of New Orleans residents’ bitter feelings towards Butler because of his tyrannical military governorship of the city. Davis states that Butler should be immediately executed if captured and that any Federal army officers captured and imprisoned should not be released prior to Butler’s punishment.
On Dec. 24, U.S. Army units arrive to reinforce naval forces that had previously captured Galveston, Texas, situated on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico.
In Mankato, Minnesota, on December 26, 38 Santee Sioux are hung for their roles in the uprising of August-September 1862, in which between 450 and 600 settlers were killed. Ordered by President Lincoln, who reviewed each case, the hangings are the largest mass execution in the history of the United States. Having come ashore north of Vicksburg, Mississippi, Maj. Gen. Sherman’s force of 32,000 begins moving towards the city. Advance units begin clashing with Confederate outposts. In concert with Sherman’s soldiers, Federal gunboats begin firing on Confederate shore batteries. In Tennessee, Federal troops led by Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans leave Nashville and move towards Gen. Bragg’s Confederates near Murfreesboro.
Col. John Hunt Morgan’s 2,500 Confederate cavalymen on December 27 force the Federal garrison at Elizabethtown, Kentucky, to surrender. Union troops, entering the Indian Territory from Arkansas, capture and burn Ft. Davis, situated below the Arkansas River in the Cherokee Nation. The Federals soon withdraw.
Maj. Gen. John Schofield’s Union cavalry, along with Federal infantry under Maj. Gen. James Blunt, attacks Van Buren, Arkansas, on December 28, 1862. The Federals seize 100 prisoners, as well as equipment and supplies.
On December 29, 15,000 Confederates rebuff Sherman’s force of 32,000 at Chickasaw Bluffs, Mississippi, north of Vicksburg. The Union troops try several times to break through the Southerners’ lines, but to no avail.
Shortly after midnight on December 30, in stormy waters off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, *USS Monitor* founders and sinks with the loss of 16 officers and men. The nearby *USS Rhode Island* rescues 47 other members of *Monitor*’s crew.
The last day of 1862 — December 31 — is extremely eventful. President Lincoln confers with his Cabinet on the final wording of his Emancipation Proclamation, and signs into law an act establishing West Virginia as the nation’s 35th state. In Tennessee, Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans launches 47,000 Federal troops against 37,000 Confederates led by Gen. Braxton Bragg at Stones River, near Murfreesboro. Both commanders plan to attack the other’s right, but Bragg moves first and crushes the Federal line. A desperate counterattack, led by Brig. Gen. Philip Sheridan, saves the day for the Union. Both sides remain on the field, waiting to resume fighting the next day. The cavalry of Brig. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest meets Union troops at Parker’s Cross Roads, Tennessee (near Clarksville), and forces the Federals back a half mile. While Forrest is requesting an unconditional surrender from the Union commander, his force is surprised by an attack to its rear by a newly arrived Federal brigade. Caught between the two Union forces, front and rear, Forrest orders his troopers to “charge ’em both ways.” Forrest’s troops do so and fight their way out, but lose 500 men, one gun and all the goods captured along the way. Both sides claim victory. Along the Mississippi River, Sherman’s force, still trying to push through to Vicksburg, once again clashes with Confederates, this time at Haines Bluff, Mississippi. The Southerners hold strong, forcing a Union withdrawal. Federal casualties: 1,776; Confederate: 207. Maj. Gen. Sherman says later: “I reached Vicksburg at the time appointed, landed, assaulted and failed.”
As of January 1, 1863, troop strengths stand at roughly 920,000 for the United States and around 450,000 for the Confederate States. In Texas, Brig. Gen. John Magruder, with troops and improvised gunboats, re-captures Galveston for the Confederacy. Near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, both sides stand ready to resume fighting at Stones River, but their commanders — Rosecrans (U.S.) and Bragg (C.S.) — use the day to shift troops around. In Washington, President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing slaves in areas still in rebellion. The decree also lets them join the army. In Mississippi, Maj. Gen. William Sherman prepares to withdraw his Union troops from the area north of Vicksburg.
In Tennessee, the second day of combat at Stones River takes place on January 2, with attacking Confederate troops under Maj. Gen. (and former U.S. Vice President) John C. Breckinridge beaten back. Once again, fighting comes to a halt with both sides waiting for the other to make a move. A discouraged Confederate veteran of the battle mirrors the frustration of both sides when he writes: “I am sick and tired of this war, and, I can see no prospects of having peace for a long time to come, I don’t think it will ever be stopped by fighting, the Yankees cant [sic] whip us and we can never whip them...” Casualties of the struggle near Murfreesboro, Tennessee: 12,906 Union soldiers out of 41,400 in the battle, and 11,739 Confederates out of 35,000 engaged.
On January 3, despite holding a good position on the battlefield, Gen. Bragg, to the dismay of his subordinate generals, orders a withdrawal to Tullahoma, Tennessee, some 31 miles south. This sets them to begin actively working against Bragg with authorities in Richmond, expressing a lack of confidence in his leadership. A Confederate attack on Moorefield, western Virginia, southwest of Winchester, is beaten back.
Political appointee Maj. Gen. John McClelland — upset that he hadn’t been named to command the assault against Vicksburg (which failed) that had been led by Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman — on January 4, begins moving 30,000 Federal troops in an unauthorized expedition up the Mississippi River. His goal: the taking of Confederate Fort Hindman at Arkansas Post, Arkansas, on the Arkansas River.
Confederate partisan raiding in Missouri resumes on January 7. Brig. Gen. John Marmaduke, with 2,300 cavalymen, captures Ozark but is unable to make headway against Federal troops and local militia under Brig. Gen. Egbert Brown at Springfield.
On January 9, the (Confederate) Missouri Cavalry Brigade, under Col. Joseph Porter, takes Hartsville, about 50 miles east of Springfield. In the Florida Panhandle, Federal sailors raid and damage a Confederate salt works at St. Joseph, on the shore of the Gulf of Mexico, roughly midway between Tallahassee and Pensacola.
On January 10, Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant arrives in Memphis after pulling back from Grenada, Mississippi, following the Confederates’ destruction of his supply depot at Holly Springs. Of necessity, his force of 103,000 troops has had to live off the land, and it is an eye-opening revelation to Grant that it can be done. In Washington, D.C., a court-martial sentences Maj. Gen. Fitz-John Porter to dismissal from the army for failure to follow orders at the Battle of Second Manassas in August 1862. (Porter spends years trying to clear his name. Finally, in 1879, after a review of the circumstances, the sentence is overturned. However, it takes seven more years, until 1886, for Porter to be recommissioned as a colonel, but with back-pay denied. Two days later, he resigns from the army.) In Arkansas, Confederate Fort Hindman, at Arkansas Post, is surrounded by the Federal force of Maj. Gen. John McClelland

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.



Elks Buffet Breakfast

SOUTH AMBOY – The South Amboy Elks will be having their monthly Buffet Breakfast Sunday, January 15th from 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at their lodge at 601 Washington Ave, South Amboy, NJ. The cost is \$12 per person, children 7 years old and under are \$6. This Buffet Breakfast features a made to order omelet station along with pancake, French toast, scrambled eggs, hash browns, bacon, sausage, coffee, tea, juice and more. It really is the best around. Come give us a try! For more information call 732-727-7170.

Prime Rib Dinner

SOUTH AMBOY - The South Amboy Elks will be Having a Prime Rib Dinner Fundraiser on Friday January 27, 2023, from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. The dinner will include Salad, baked potato, vegetable, and dessert for only \$25 per person. For the non-beef eaters, we will offer a half of a roasted chicken for \$20 per person. **Tickets for this dinner are IN ADVANCE ONLY.** Please call 732-727-7170 or stop Thursday or Friday nights between 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. for tickets. Thank you in advance for your support.



You're Invited to Sunday Worship

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

Rev. András Szász – Pastor; Organ Prelude - Richard Russell, Organist. We Extend an Open Invitation to All!
Magyar Reformed Church, 331 Kirkland Place, Perth Amboy, NJ - 732-442-7799; www.mrchurchnj.org

Parking behind the church on the Wilson Street side.

Bereavement Group
PERTH AMBOY - A support group to help you through loss, grief and mourning with Reverend Andras Szasz, Facilitator. Every Tuesday at 5 p.m.

Free Bingo Machine
For Info Call Church Office

Remember to Say Your Novenas!



Answers From Puzzle On Page 21



LOOKING BACK



PERTH AMBOY - Christmas Parade Smith Street 1990's.
**Photo by Paul W. Wang*
This photo was restored under a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission to the Kearny Cottage Historical Association.

Pets of the Week



ADOPT A KITTEN or CAT!!

PERTH AMBOY - These adorable little kittens have been fully vetted, fixed, vaccinated to age, tested for FIV/FELV, dewormed, deflead, microchipped, etc. If interested in any of our kitties, contact us! Email vmoralespps@yahoo.com for adoption application or text 1.732.486.6382 for pics. Adoption donation fee applies. We desperately need food donations too! Allforthepaws.org
All for the Paws, P. O. Box 2281, Perth Amboy, NJ 08862

Have a Special Pet?

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

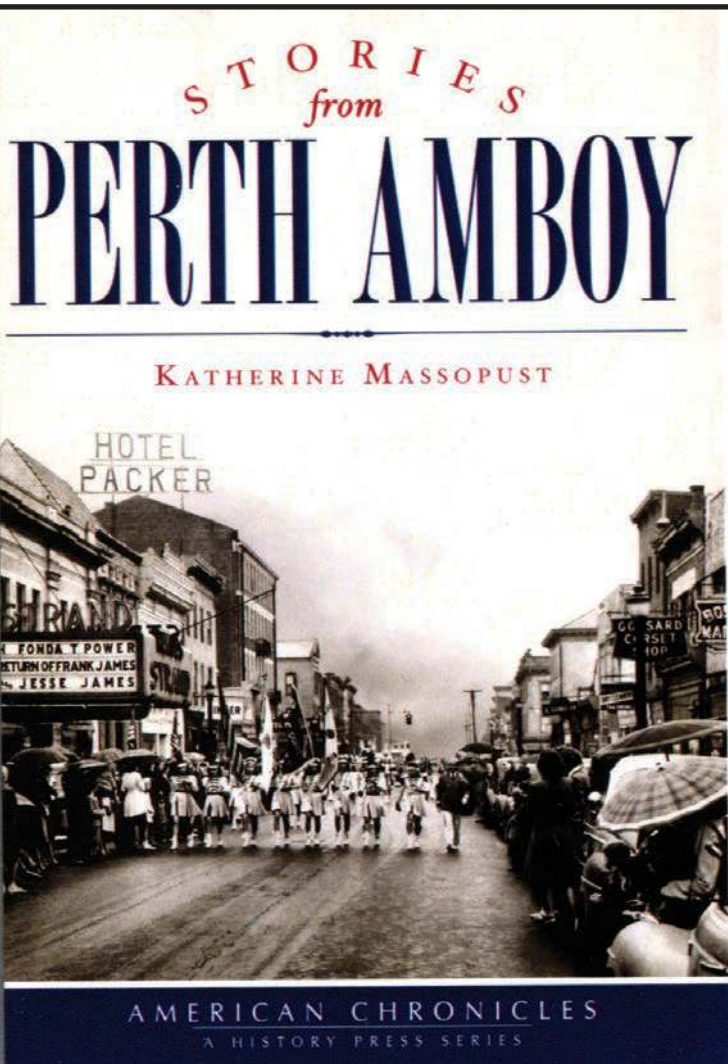
Anton Knows: A Review of Pop Culture



Anton Knows

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

WWW.AMBOYGUARDIAN.COM



Stories From Perth Amboy

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

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Call Carolyn @ 732-896-4446

New Plans for the Service Directory Effective 1/1/16 Are Now in Effect. If You Offer a Service, the Place to Advertise is Here! Catering, Auto Repair, Heating, Plumbing, Home Health Aides, Landscaping, Snow Removal, Dry Cleaning, Chauffeuring, Exterminators, Hall Rentals, Insurance, Delivering Services, Hair Stylists, Photography, Counseling, WebSite Design, Computer Repair etc.

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Please Notify Us Immediately After Your Item is Sold!
Email: AmboyGuardian@gmail.com

Please Note: Only One Classified Ad per Phone# will be published per week. If you already have a classified ad in the paper and another is sent, the new one will replace the one that's already published

Please Include Prices of Items on Classified's or They will not be Published

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Bikes Huffly Ross Mon-goose - Good Condition - \$50 Each Bike - 732-261-4703	3/4 Size Acoustic Guitar. Good for young child - \$50. 732-541-5491	Mickey Mantle Lim. Ed. Gold Card, Authenticity Certificate, Case \$50 - 732-727-8417
Electric Husky Power Washer 1750psi - Good Condition \$75 - 732-277-4635	Brand New Electric Heater Radiator. Was \$65 Now \$20 New Never Used. 732-547-7406	Hess trucks in box \$13 each. Comic books \$2 each. 732-735-2179
Umbrella - Patio, needs cord and iron stand. \$30 - 732-283-0975	Electric Fireplace Light Oak Case, Heat Surge Heater \$45 - 732-570-5199	Dining Hutch - Wood - Good Condition \$50 - Self Pick-up 732-826-6324
Dyson Vacuum Cleaner Mint Condition \$45 - 732-290-1551	Solid Oak Coffee Table \$75; Oak End Table \$50 732-570-9732	5 Pcs. Coffee/Tea Service - Silver Plate \$50 Sewing Machine \$75 732-826-8024
Artificial Christmas Trees 6 feet \$10; Lounge Chair \$10 - 732-297-4457	Set of Three Roof Racks for cargo van - \$75 - 732-583-2305	100% Pure Nice Zealand Wool Rug 122x170 Burgundy Pattern \$60 848-242-2152
Older New Toy Trucks Sunoco, Exxon, Mobil Hess \$20 Each or B.O. - 732-316-5092	Safe Combination 21" High 13 1/2" wide on wheels \$75 732-634-1851	Girl's Bicycle 24" Panasonic LX Sport Twelve Speed. Light Blue. \$75 or B.O. 908-501-3993
Good working Washer -Whirlpool - \$75; 2 power-washers \$75; 1 lawn mower with bag \$75 (both just tuned up) 732-335-8837	Large Garment Bag & 4 Hooks - \$5, Ladies Imitation Fur Coat- Small - \$50 732-634-3589	Sissy Bar and Pad for Harley Sportster - Great Condition \$65 - 908-590-8885
Pancake Air Compressor 3 Gal 100 PSI \$30 - 732-395-1551 - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Nice Bard & 2 Stools \$35; "Free" Washer - Works Great; Love Seat \$30 - 732-670-6649	Power Lift \$75. Wing Chairs, Sofa, End Tables, Lamps, Microwave \$10-\$50 - 908-803-9623
Indoor Rabbit Cage \$25 metal wood 21.5 x 35.5 - 732-401-0226	Three Window AC's 5000BTU, 5000BTU, 8000BTU; \$50; \$75; \$50 732-636-3345	Children's Sports Lamp w/shade. Really cute, BB, FB, Etc. Large \$20 - 917-670-4908
Ion USB Cassette Achiever Convert Tapes to MP3's \$30 732-442-0151	Gold Carnival Glass Collector Plate (5 th Day of Christmas) \$25 732-673-6305	Ads Sell Call Carolyn 732-896-4446
Advertising Fence Enclosure - Heavy Duty 10 ft. \$25 - 732-442-1093	Custom Jewelry \$5-\$10; Sled \$25; Sports Memorabilia \$10; Dream Catcher Cane \$15 - 732-713-0536	

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THE AMBOY GUARDIAN

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If you wish to publish a Novena in The Amboy Guardian, you may use this coupon.

A Petition to St. Joseph

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

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

Prayer To Blessed Mother Prayer To Holy Spirit Novena To St. Anthony

Prayer To Blessed Virgin Thanksgiving Novena Novena To St. Joseph

St. Jude Novena Pray The Rosary OTHER _____

Cost \$10. Pre-payment required.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Initials at end of prayer _____

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

The Amboy Guardian
P.O. Box 127
Perth Amboy, NJ 08862

A Petition to St. Jude

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.

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Send to: The Amboy Guardian, P.O. Box 127, Perth Amboy, NJ 08862

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ACROSS

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

trucks

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

DOWN

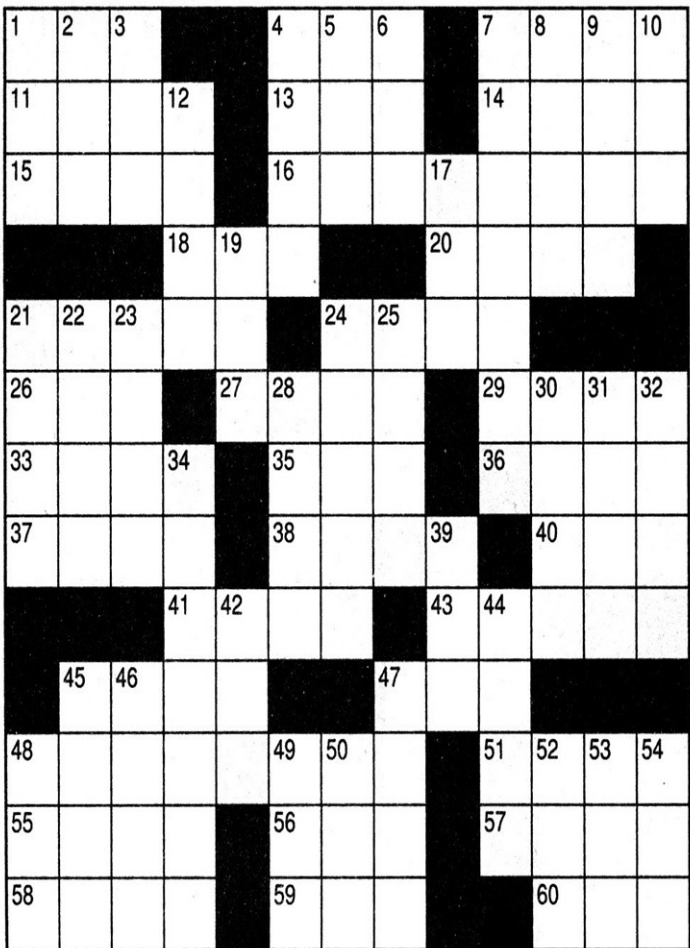
- 1 Actress Taylor's nickname
2 Barcelona "rah"
3 "____ the ramparts..."
4 Stitched
5 "...man ____ mouse?" (2 wds.)

6 Scottish boy

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

34 Oklahoma natives

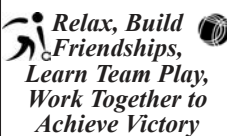
- 39 Junior
42 Brayer on the farm
44 Gone
45 Clock face
46 Estrada of "CHiPs"
47 Lowest tide
48 Common title start
49 Granola grain
50 ____ Tse-tung
52 "Managed care" inits.
53 Perform onstage
54 Flutter



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Christmas in Perth Amboy & South Amboy *Photos by Paul W. Wang, Anton Massopust III, Carolyn Maxwell, Eric Salvary & Submitted





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During this holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have contributed to our success. And in this spirit, we say, sincerely

Thank You and Best Wishes for the Holiday season and a Happy and prosperous New Year!!

- Enrique Hernandez -



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