



SPRING
2005

VOLUME
XIII
ISSUE 1

THE RAHWAY R e v i e w

Published by the Office of the Mayor of the City of Rahway



HOLIDAY AT HOME 2005

Monday, July 4

4 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Rahway's Fourth Annual Independence
Day Celebration City Hall Parking Lot

**FOOD! FUN!
GAMES! RIDES!**

Featuring musical guests: **The Tim Gillis Band**

The night ends with a spectacular 9:30 p.m. fireworks show over the Rahway River

FREE ADMISSION

Bring your lawn chair and blankets. No coolers, backpacks or pets, please.
For more information, visit www.cityofrahway.com and Comcast Channel 34

MAYORS' SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

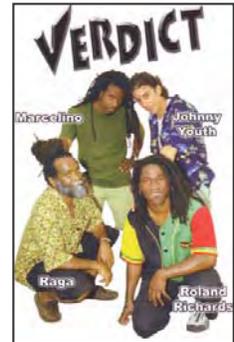
Thursdays in August, 7 p.m. • New location - City Hall Parking Lot

Free admission • Bring a chair!

In the event of inclement weather, the concert will be held in the Recreation Center

- August 4 **The Five Satins ("In the Still of the Night")**
- August 11 **Verdict**
- August 18 **Joe Bonanno & the Godsons of Soul**
- August 25 **Larry Chance & the Earls**

Watch Comcast Channel 34 and www.cityofrahway.com for more information



FIRST ANNIVERSARY IN THE NEW BUILDING

Saturday March 19 was a special day at the Rahway Public Library. The Library marked the first full year in the new building. Balloons, refreshments and party favors were all part of the day.

Performances began in the morning with the Give and Take Jugglers who performed amazing feats and taught some of the braver audience members to juggle. Tours of the Rahway History Room by Al Shipley were of interest to the old timers and some younger people as well. Two historic community quilts from the old library were on display. Did you make a square? Scrapbookers cut and pasted in the lobby and created a 'Memories' scrapbook for the library to keep. The afternoon was capped by the Rahway Jerseyaires Barbershop Chorus who performed many old favorites and had the audience singing.

Do you still need a new library card? The new cards have a great new logo and you can trade in your old card.

Come and join a book group, hear an author speak, register your kids for the Children's programs, bring your sewing projects to 'Pins and Needles', find a chess or checkers buddy, take a computer class and take home the latest DVDs. Ask about the many new services offered; Literacy and ESL tutoring, books in other languages, audiobooks, interlibrary loan and much more. For more information call (732) 340-1551, visit <http://www.rahwaylibrary.org> or come in and pick up a newsletter.



LIBRARY CELEBRATES

The Rahway Review
City of Rahway
City Hall Plaza
Rahway, NJ 07065

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The Rahway Review

The Rahway Review is published by the Office of Administration of the City of Rahway. Its purpose is to keep the citizens informed of important programs and events that the administration has developed in efforts to improve the quality of life in Rahway.

Eleven thousand newsletters are printed and mailed to every postal customer in the City of Rahway. The balance is distributed by request to individuals, companies and organizations interested in living or doing business in the city.

Although great care has been taken to insure the information contained in this newsletter is accurate, the City of Rahway assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

The Rahway Review welcomes the comments and concerns of its readers. They may be put in writing and sent to:

The Rahway Review

Office of Administration
City of Rahway
City Hall Plaza
Rahway, NJ 07065
(732) 827-2190
Fax (732) 574-0477

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Volume XIII, Issue 1

MAYOR'S message



The following is the text of Mayor James Kennedy's 2005 State of the City address, which was delivered to the City Council and the public in January.

Good evening.

I'd first like to "welcome aboard" our two newest members of the City Council, 5th Ward Councilperson Jennifer Wenson-Maier and 6th Ward Councilman Samson Steinman. Jennifer and Sam are dedicated professionals who will bring a new voice to the City Council and help us move our shared agenda forward during this new year. We are fortunate to have such a caring as well as hard working council. Each member is dedicated to making Rahway a better place to live and raise our families. I personally thank each and every one of you, as well as all that have served this city in the past.

Redevelopment

I stood before you in years past and described the potential that our city held. Ten years ago, I talked about the new train station planned for Rahway. Five years

ago, we were still reeling from the effects of Hurricane Floyd, a storm that dumped nearly a foot of rain on Rahway and destroyed our public library. And three years ago, we were celebrating the first anniversary of our Redevelopment Agency as a tool to foster lasting, sustainable economic development in our central business district and throughout Rahway.

Those State of the City addresses all spoke about what was planned for Rahway: our train station, our new library and redevelopment downtown as well as along Route 1. Now, in 2005, we are finally seeing the fruits of our labor.

As I stand here today, Rahway is in the midst of a construction boom not seen in town for over 50 years. The completion of the 136-unit River Place apartments along Lewis and Dock streets and the opening of our new 500-car parking deck are two major, substantial economic development projects that will spark further growth all around town. I'd like

"As I stand here today, Rahway is in the midst of a construction boom not seen in town for over 50 years..."

to thank Heartstone Development and the Rahway Parking Authority for sharing our vision for Rahway and their continued support for our city.

And how can we forget the biggest news item of 2004? The Rahway Public Library - perhaps the finest library in the entire state - opened to great fanfare last March. We had our doubters who said that this project would never work, but this historic public-private partnership has resulted in one of a handful

of public libraries nationwide that shares space with a private developer and will actually generate tax revenue. I'd like to thank Library Director Gail Miller and her staff for creating a very exciting and innovative gateway to lifelong learning right here in Rahway.

2005 will see the completion of a record number of redevelopment projects that will change the face of Rahway for the better for generations to come. This month, the new Park Terrace luxury senior apartments will open on the site of the vacant Huffman-Koos property. This project has greatly improved the neighborhood by removing a blighted block and constructing much needed housing for age restricted residents. It will be joined by Rosegate, an income-restricted community located on East Hazelwood Avenue which will be completed later this year. This project will add needed housing for our seniors at an affordable rate. Park Terrace and Rosegate will add 300 new residential units for residents over the age of 55 and will ensure that our seniors get to remain in our city, close to friends and loved ones, for years to come.

Within the year, I expect to cut the ribbon to open the new Best Western hotel on Routes 1 & 9. This development replaces the old Rahway Tourist Court and a burned-out house. It will help beautify the adjacent Rahway River and enhance the entire neighborhood.

The Park Square project on the site of the old Cliff Hardware building will begin construction in 2005. This project adds a mix of rental and

(continued on page...14)

Luciano's

Luciano's Italian Restaurant at the corner of Main and Monroe Streets is now under construction and is moving closer to completion. In addition to the restaurant, the building will feature 14 upscale luxury apartments.



Interlocal Services Agreement Ends with Woodbridge Public Library

The Interlocal Services Agreement which provided shared library services for Rahway residents and Woodbridge residents ended on May 1. Rahway residents will be required to purchase a non-resident library card for \$50 to borrow materials from the Woodbridge Public Library and Woodbridge residents will also be required to purchase a non-resident library card (\$50) to borrow materials from the Rahway Public Library.

Rahway Public Library paid an annual fee of up to \$60,000 for the shared network services and borrowing privileges for Rahway residents. During the years that the Rahway Public Library was closed for construction, the arrangement provided much needed library

services to the city. Now that the new library is open, the city and the library board want to put that annual fee back into library services at the Rahway Public Library. Vanessa Rozzelle, Board President is confident that the new library will become a "central part of the community" and that services will exceed those available at other libraries.

Rahway Public Library remains a participant in the MURAL agreement. Rahway residents may borrow library materials from 40 other Middlesex and Union County libraries free of charge. The list of participating libraries is available at the library. Woodbridge Public Library is not a MURAL participating library.

Black History



Franklin celebrates Black History Month – Franklin School celebrated Black History month by honoring some of Rahway's prominent African-American residents and by unveiling a mural about Black History in Rahway. Unveiling the mural are, from left, Freeholder Chester Holmes, fifth grader LaTeya Tennett, Principal Paula Braxton and fifth grade teacher Bobby Akbar.



Have a question? Call 2-1-1

What is 2-1-1?

- An easy-to-remember telephone number that connects callers to the health and human services, community resources, and government assistance they need.
- Available 24/7.

Easily accessed by any landline or cell phone.

- Calls are free and confidential.
- Multi-lingual / TTY / TTD
- Certified Call Specialists make appropriate referrals and monitor outcomes to ensure services are provided.

Where is 2-1-1 Available?

- Calls are handled throughout New Jersey and local call centers are geographically distributed throughout the state.
- 34% of the U.S. population has 2-1-1 access.
- Plans are focused on 50% of the U.S. population by the end of 2005 and growing to 100% soon thereafter.

What types of questions can be answered by 2-1-1 Call Specialists?

While resources that are offered through 2-1-1 vary from community to community, 2-1-1 Call Specialists will provide comprehensive information and referral services to callers about a variety of issues, including:

- **Basic Human Needs Resource:** food pantries, clothing closets, shelters, rent assistance, utility assistance.
 - **Support for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities:** adult day care, congregate meals, Meals on Wheels, respite care, home health care, transportation, homemaker services.
 - **Support for Children, Youth and Families:** childcare, after school programs, NJFamily Care (health insurance programs), family resource centers, summer camps and recreation programs, mentoring, tutoring, protective services.
 - **Physical and Mental Health Resources:** health insurance programs, Medicaid and Medicare, maternal health, Children's Health Insurance Program, medical information lines, crisis intervention services, support groups, counseling, drug and alcohol intervention and rehabilitation.
- Employment Supports: financial assistance, job training, transportation assistance, and education programs.

Who Funds 2-1-1 in New Jersey?

New Jersey's local United Ways, the State of New Jersey, county grants and the Verizon Foundation have generated more than \$2.2 million in resources to support 2-1-1 operations in New Jersey.

Farmers Market Returns

JERSEY FRESH™

FROM THE GARDEN STATE

Rahway's farmers market is returning to the train station plaza this summer and fall for the best in Jersey Fresh fruits and vegetables grown right here in the Garden State. The farmers market will be held from 12 to 6 p.m. every Thursday between July 14 and October 13. Participating farmers include Schieferstein's Farm of Clark and DeWolf Farms of New Egypt.

POOL PERMITS REQUIRED

With the arrival of warmer weather, the Department of Building, Engineering, Planning & Economic Development reminds you that permits are required before you install a pool or hot tub. Please stop by the Department on the second floor of City Hall weekdays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. or call (732) 827-2087 for more information.

RAHWAY HISTORIAN



Rahway Historian Alex Shipley, right, holds office hours in the new library's history room, located on the second floor of the library. Shipley is at the library Monday afternoons after 4pm to assist residents who are searching Rahway's past.

Rahway Center

HOT RODS & HARLEYS

Under brilliant sunshine, some 8,000 people enjoyed a day downtown for the 3rd Annual "Hot Rods & Harleys" festival, sponsored by the Rahway Center Partnership, Commerce Bank and Devine Media Enterprises.

Chairman:

Don Andersen

Vice Chairman:

Matt Dobrowski

Vice Chairman:

Kevin O'Brien

Secretary:

Robin Guinta

Treasurer:

Jane C. Weaver

Board

Peter Barba
James McCall
John R. Bowen
Ann McDarby
Deborah Bridges
Lori McDarby
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Cheryl Anne Cammann

Maintenance Supervisor

William Fox
Eric Oliver
William Roszits



Partnership PROGRESS

YMCA opens new fitness center & parking lot

The YMCA of Eastern Union County, Rahway Branch is working to improve, so that we can serve the Rahway Community better.

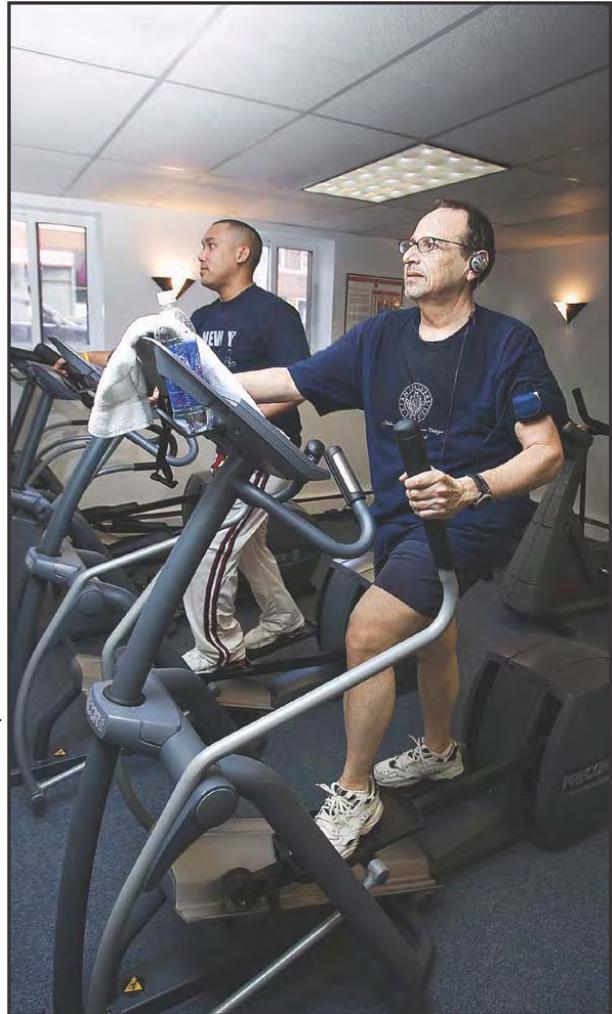
The YMCA's new 60-car parking lot is opening this summer. The lot will provide needed parking spaces for our members as well as permit-holders. The parking lot is well-lit and fenced. In addition, the YMCA will be leveling and seeding a large open area behind the Rahway Branch that will be fenced in. This area will be used to provide a needed outdoor space for our childcare programs as well as a site for future youth sports activities.

Earlier this year the Y introduced its new line of Precore fitness equipment. It features new cardio equipment, including, treadmills, stationary bikes and elliptical trainers. The new weight training circuit

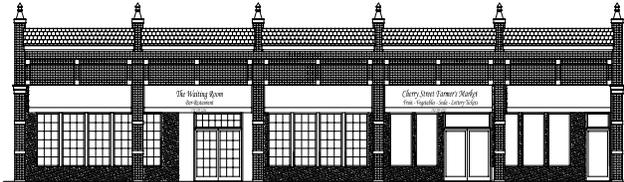
will provide user-friendly equipment that will help members of all levels of fitness reach their goals, as well as look and feel great. The Y's trained and helpful staff can set up a program for you, whether you are a beginner or fitness fanatic.

In addition to the new Fitness Center the Y's 6-lane pool has had extensive work done to improve the quality of the air and water. Child care programs are strong and serving families as well.

If you haven't visited us in awhile there is no better time to become a part of one of Rahway's best-kept secrets. The YMCA of Eastern Union County, Rahway Branch – We build strong kids, strong families, strong Communities. For more information, stop by the Y or call (732) 388-0057.



Restaurant to return downtown



FRONT ELEVATION

Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, the Waiting Room Restaurant is preparing to re-open at 66 East Cherry Street following almost a two year hiatus.

The Waiting Room Restaurant, which was located on Irving Street between 1979 and 2003, will re-open this Fall in the former home of McCrory's 5 & 10 at 66 East Cherry Street. Demolished in March 2004 to make room for the city's new parking deck, the Waiting Room has been searching for a new location. That search resulted in the acquisition of the historic McCrory building, with the original tin ceilings and hardwood floors, this location will bring back all the charm that was The Waiting Room as well as accentuate the natural beauty of the building and the surrounding streets.

"I am very excited to be back in Rahway" said owner Chris Wenson. It will be a pleasure to showcase the natural beauty of this building in a restaurant setting. I hope that this ensures that the Waiting Room experience will be available for continuing generations at the place I am sure will become the epicenter of Rahway's revitalization."

Cherry Street Mall



The Cherry Street Mall (75 E. Cherry Street) has spruced up its building with a new face lift. New inviting, energy efficient windows were installed, part of the effort by many downtown business owners to spruce up their properties. Cherry Street Mall is home to the Rahway Center Partnership as well as several other businesses and organizations.

CERAMICS



Slip Into Ceramics, located at 1548 Main Street, has become a source of family fun and challenges to ceramic enthusiasts. Pictured are Keith Ferraiolo and his daughter, Zoey, as they work together on a special ceramic piece. Slip Into Ceramics has thousands of items to choose from and is a great place for your next party.

City receives \$250k streetscape grant

Mayor James Kennedy announced that the City of Rahway has received \$250,000 from the New Jersey Department of Transportation FY 2005 Transit Village Program to help fund Phase II of the streetscape improvement project downtown.

"This allocation was made possible because of your municipality's commitment to revitalization and redevelopment to encourage the use of your transit facility which resulted in your designation as a Transit Village," said DOT Commissioner Jack Lettiere in awarding the funds.

Rahway was one of a handful of New Jersey municipalities in 2002 that were designated Transit Villages by the DOT for promoting sustainable economic development around the Rahway train station.

The city has already earmarked nearly \$2.5 million in federal and state funds to improve pedestrian and bicycle access in and around the central business district. This project will include improvements along Main Street from East Milton to Elm Avenues. Phase I, which started in April, makes roadway improvements

surrounding the train station. When completed, the streetscape project will feature decorative sidewalks, new period lighting street trees and pedestrian-friendly crosswalks.

"For Rahway to attract private, ratable-producing development, we have to be serious about improving our infrastructure and creating a safe and comfortable environment downtown," said Kennedy. "These funds are a significant help in making this important project a reality."

Ethnicity Art Gallery, located at 74 East Cherry Street, is more than just an art gallery. Since the Gallery opened on Cherry Street in August 2002, there have been a variety of notable events, including artists such as Larry "Poncho" Brown, an internationally known artist from Baltimore. In addition to Larry Brown, John Toms, Frank Morrison, Michael Anthony Brown, Mansa Pryor and, most recently, Curtis Grayson, have all appeared at Ethnicity.

This past December, Ethnicity held its first vendor expo which allowed crafters to sell and introduce their unique products to customers.

In February, the gallery hosted an African Mosaic Quilting Workshop, taught by Lisa Shepard Stewart, which was one of the many events in celebration of Black History Month.

On April 23, a Youth Poetry Slam was held at the Gallery which provided youths between the ages of 8-17 an opportunity for self-expression using the spoken word in front of a live audience. This event was an outstanding success and enjoyed by more than 75 attendees.

Ethnicity Art Gallery is open from 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Stop by and see the beautiful art created by some of today's talented artists and receive a 10 percent discount on your first purchase. Also, please visit our website www.ethnicityart.com to check out the calendar for upcoming events and to view photos of past events held at Ethnicity.

**YOU CAN NOW CHECK US OUT
ON OUR NEW WEB SITE!**
Rahway Center Partnership
www.rcpnj.org
*The Rahway Center Partnership Web site
is sponsored & paid for by:*
P.J. Screening & Embroidery, LLC
689 Jaques Avenue

Pothole Repair Program

During the winter and spring months the Public Works Department is called upon to repair hundreds of potholes throughout the City. Potholes are caused by the effects of water freezing and thawing within the roadway's macadam surface. Public Works has a specialized piece of equipment to make repairs with hot asphalt that will hold up over a longer period of time.

Residents who observe a pothole should call the department at (732) 827-2060 and it will be repaired within 48 hours.

Enhanced LeakGuard for United Water Customers

United Water is going to partner with Home Service USA to provide upgraded LeakGuard services to customers in Rahway.

Existing LeakGuard customers will continue to be billed by United Water for LeakGuard coverage, so there will be no change in the payment method and how receivables are managed for these customers moving forward.

Customer will receive all the current benefits of LeakGuard, including no cap on repair costs, repaving of asphalt and concrete surfaces, and reseeding of lawn areas.

Home Service will upgrade the service by offering 24/7 coverage and a 3-hour response time for emergencies.

Existing customers will also be able to sign up for added service

coverage, including sewer line protection and interior plumbing repair. United Water and Home Service will work together to market water line protection, sewer line coverage and interior plumbing repair coverage to those customers who do not currently have LeakGuard coverage; Home Service will bill these customers directly.

United Water and Home Service represent a team approach to providing new and innovative service products to customers that will demonstrate our objective to deliver the best service possible.

If you would like to sign up for home services, please call our customer service line at (877) 303-2435.

MUNICIPAL DIRECTORY

**POLICE, FIRE & FIRST
AID EMERGENCIES**
DIAL: 9-1-1

When dialing one of the following numbers below and you get an answering machine please leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES

Accounts Payable	.....827-2017
Building Inspector	.....827-2087
City Clerk	.....827-2100
Community Development	.....827-2193
Comptroller/Finance	.....827-2022
Court	.....827-2039
Economic Development	.....827-2160
Fire (non-emergency)	.....827-2155
Health Department	.....827-2085
Mayor	.....827-2009
Municipal Administrator	.....827-2001
Police (non-emergency)	.....827-2200
Police (CAT Team)	.....827-2179
Public Works	.....827-2060
Recreation	.....669-3600
Recreation (Hot Line)	.....827-2095
Recycling	.....827-2159
Senior Center	.....827-2016
Tax Assessor	.....827-2030
Tax Collector	.....827-2050
Vital Statistics	.....827-2172
Water	.....877-303-2435

OTHER HELPFUL NUMBERS

Board of Education	.....396-1000
C.Y.R.C.	.....827-2191
Hospital	.....381-4200
Library	.....340-1551
NJ Transit	.....800-772-2222
P.A.L.	.....669-3610
P.A.L. (Hot Line)	.....827-2097
Parking Authority	.....381-8778
Post Office	.....388-3264
Rahway Center Partnership	.....396-3545
Rahway Y.M.C.A.	.....388-0057
Rahway Youth Soccer	.....827-2099
U.C. Arts Center	.....499-8226

RAHWAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS KLINE PLACE

Dr. William Petrino Superintendent	.....396-1020
Al DiGiorgio Business Administrator	.....396-1010
Eleanor Peris, Director Services for Children	.....396-1035

SCHOOLS

Rahway High School 1012 Madison Ave.	.....396-1100
Intermediate School Kline Place	.....396-1025
Grover Cleveland School 486 E. Milton Ave.	.....396-1040
Franklin School 1809 St. Georges Ave.	.....396-1050
Madison School 944 Madison Ave.	.....396-1070
Roosevelt School 811 St. Georges Ave.	.....396-1060

**POLICE, FIRE & FIRST AID
EMERGENCIES**
DIAL: 9-1-1

Downtown Rahway • On the Move!

'Be a Part of It'

Donald Andersen
Chairman, Rahway Center Partnership

Ray Mikell
Executive Director, Rahway Center Partnership

The 2004-2005 season at the Union County Arts Center comes to a close this month. The season was packed with performances and events that had appeal to audiences of all ages. Music, comedy, film and dance were all a part of the offerings. Performers were both world famous – Lou Rawls and the Glenn Miller Orchestra, for example – and locally renowned – The Westfield Symphony.

Focus on Jazz

The Union County Arts Center introduced a jazz component to its lineup this season with performances by Dianne Reeves, Patti Austin and Cyrus Chestnut. In collaboration with the Rahway Recreation Department, the Arts Guild of Rahway and the City of Rahway, the UCAC took part in the first Rahway Jazz Festival. In addition to the headlining performance of Patti Austin performing her tribute to Ella Fitzgerald – *BebopElla*, the Arts Center hosted a full day of primarily New Jersey based Jazz artists including Bucky Pizzarelli, Warren Vache, Jeanie Bryson (daughter of jazz legend Dizzy Gillespie), Slide Hampton, Earl May, and Dena DeRose.

In November, Cyrus Chestnut presented a special one-man jazz interpretation of spirituals.

Rockin' Rahway

The Arts Center has long been known for presenting Oldies Shows and this year was no exception. A Night with the Stars of Rock and Roll (presented by LAR Entertainment) featured the Classics, Speedo and Cadillacs, the Del Vikings, and the Chantels. In addition, long-time favorites Get Back! and Bobby Vinton returned. For the first time, Felix Cavaliere had everyone at the UCAC "groovin".

In addition, this season, the UCAC brought popular New Jersey rock sounds to Rahway with the Jersey Shore Reunion (featuring John Eddie, Glen Burnick and Vini "Mad Dog" Lopez) and Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes.

Holiday Events

The Holiday season in Rahway kicked off with the presentation of original *Miracle* on 34th Street and was quickly joined by a family performance of Gregory Popovich's *Comedy Pet Theatre*. Talent from all over New Jersey was presented throughout the season – including Christmas with the Star III (Morningstar Community Christian Center), *A Rahway Nutcracker* (Rahway Dance Theatre) and the *Orchestra of St. Peter* by the Sea (sponsored by RSI as a benefit for the Union County Arts Center).

Rounding Out the Season

Comedy and film rounded out the season at the Union County Arts Center. The theatre rocked with laughter at George Carlin, Tommy Davidson, Kathy Griffin and Colin Quinn.

In tribute to the history of the theatre, The Garden State Theatre Organ Society sponsored *Silents Please!* a silent film series featuring the movies – *Little Annie Rooney*, *Nosferatu*, *The General*, *Matinee Idol* and *Kid Boots*. All films were accompanied by the Union County Arts Center's own Bernie Anderson on the "Mighty Wurlitzer" organ. In addition to silent film, the Union County Arts Center "movie palace experience" presented three weekend events – a Halloween Drive-In Fright Fest, *Rahway Goes to War* (a World War II weekend in honor of local veterans) and *Movie Musicals* (sponsored by the Friends of the Union County Arts Center).

Local Youth and the Arts

The Union County Arts Center has long offered a variety of educational opportunities in the arts for local youth. This season, with the support of the Ronald McDonald House Charities, the Union County Arts Center will have hosted four special "Mentors in Music" workshops. These workshops bring together middle school and high school-aged youth from around

the county to interact directly with artists.

The series was kicked off with a workshop at the Elizabeth Public Library on storytelling featuring David Gonzalez. The workshop focused on the importance of communication - recognizing that for some societies storytelling is a principal way for people to pass information and knowledge between one another and between generations. Participants and their families attended that evening's performance of *Sofrito!* featuring David Gonzalez and the Latin Legends.

The next two workshops featured dance. Fly Dance, a group of Houston Street Dancers presented the rhythmic sophistication and technique of their street dance style in a workshop that focused on creativity through self-expression. Forty-five students participated in an interactive workshop, developing their own hip hop moves. In February, Executive Director, Choreographer and Dancer Eva

Lucena of the Alborada Spanish Dance Theatre presented a workshop featuring an exotic blend of tango, and flamenco dances driven by powerful Cuban Rhythms. Both workshops took place at the Rahway Public Library and again the participants and their families attended the evenings' performances.

On May 21, NJ natives deSol, a rock band with Latin soul, hosted their second Mentors in Music workshop. Last year, deSol introduced students to the creative process that brings together people of diverse backgrounds, talents and activities to form a cohesive conclusion – a song, a performance and a successful collaboration. Their motivational workshop concluded with the students joining the band on stage during that evening's performance. deSol was joined by Mark Rivera of the Billy Joel Band and their manager, academy award winning composer, Franke Previt (*Dirty Dancing*).

More to Come

In addition to the workshop and performance by deSol, the Union County Arts Center hosted a homecoming by Rahway native Eric Roberson and the Beatles Tribute RAIN (with special guest Billy J. Kramer). A number of local dance schools are presenting performances and recitals throughout the month of June – including Rahway Dance Theatre, Sudhamini Dance Academy, and Rhythm and Moves.

The Union County Arts Center will close its season with a Night at the Races fundraiser on June 25 at Pegasus in the Meadowlands. Reservations can be made through the Union County Arts Center Box Office at (732) 499-8226.



"Mentors in Music" workshops



Union County Arts Center

In the City NEWS

School Budget trimmed by \$975k String music program for elementary schools restored for 2005-06

After a series of meetings between city and Board of Education officials, Mayor James Kennedy announced last month that the defeated school budget will be reduced by \$975,000 while restoring the popular elementary school string music program that was eliminated by the Board in 2003.

"Thanks to the cooperation of School Superintendent Dr. William Petrino and our citizens' budget committee, Rahway taxpayers will see a reduction of approximately \$43 in school taxes while bringing back a popular music program that was eliminated from the school budget two years ago," he

said. "There were no cuts made to classroom education or other programs, which is great news for our students."

Kennedy praised Petrino and Board officials for working collaboratively to find a solution.

"I'd like to thank the Board of Education, the City Council and the citizens' budget committee for crafting a budget that balances the interests of our taxpayers with the needs of our students," he said. "The responsibility for educating our children does not stop outside the school grounds. We all share an obligation to better the education of our young people, and I hope that this budget agreement marks a new era of cooperation

between my administration and our public schools. Healthy schools maintain property values and contribute to the quality of life in a community."

City and school representatives met last month at City Hall and agreed to reduce the school budget's tax levy from \$29,957,793 to \$28,982,793. For the average homeowner in Rahway, the school portion of their tax bill will increase only \$148 this year rather than the \$192 proposed by the Board of Education in April. The recommendations made at the meeting were approved by the City Council at a special meeting held in May.

Rahway voters rejected the school budget on April 19 by a

margin of 1,199-903. Shortly after the vote, Kennedy created a citizens' budget committee comprised of Rahway teacher Kathy Keene; resident Rich Trocciola; former Board member and current Sixth Ward Councilman Samson Steinman; former Rahway Education Association President Glen Curnow; Board of Education member Bernie Robson; and independent auditors Lerch, Vinci and Higgins of Fair Lawn.

The purpose of the committee was to bring accountability and transparency to the budget process while finding ways to stabilize school taxes without sacrificing classroom education.



Jugglers performed for guests at the library's first anniversary celebration in March.

Arts Guild of Rahway Kids Summer Art Camp

"The Doors are Open to Adventures in the Arts"

Art is the gateway to the world and an appreciation of the wonders of life. If you child (ages 7-14) has shown an interest in making pictures or other forms of art, the Kids Summer Art Camp at the Arts Guild of Rahway offers a fun-filled journey for your children to learn beyond the limited time allowed in most school classrooms. Drawing, painting, collage, watercolor and printmaking will be the subject of some of the projects in this terrific weeklong adventure into the world of creativity for your child.

**Sign your child up for all of
of one or more of these weeks:**

Week #1 July 18-22
Week #2 July 25-29

Week #3 Aug. 1-5
Week #4 Aug. 8-12

Tuition

Morning session
9-11:30 am \$150
Afternoon session
12-2:30 pm \$150
Full day session
9am-2:30 pm \$285

Scholarships are available

To sign up, visit the Arts Guild of Rahway, located at 1670 Irving Street, call (732) 381-7511 or visit www.rahwayartsguild.org.

This program is made possible in part by PSE&G and Merck & Co., Inc.

Edge Gallery Expands

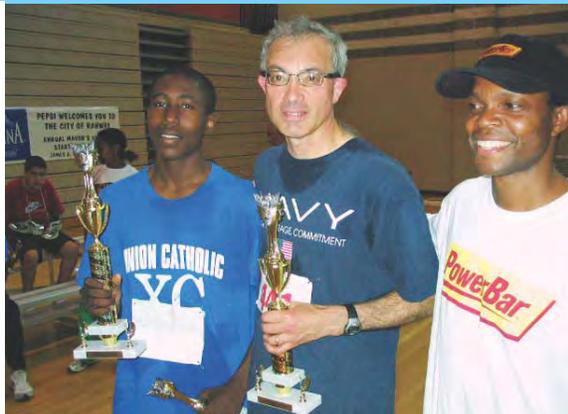
The Edge Gallery, located at 1571 Irving Street, known for its wide variety of art for display and sale, will be expanding this summer as part of the city's growing arts district downtown.

Coming this summer will be a ground-floor art gallery, bookstore and antique center. For more information, call the Edge Gallery at (732) 669-0112 or visit www.edgeart.com.

MAYOR'S 5K RUN

Over 150 runners and walkers competed in the annual Mayor's 5K Memorial Day Run, on Monday, May 30. The race also featured a 1 mile fun run and a 100m dash for children.

In the 5K race, North Brunswick resident Nelson Njeru was the first male to cross the finish line with a time 14:26. Alemtsehay Misganaw of New York City was the first female finisher with a time of 16:52.



From left, city residents Theragoud Fils-aime and Jeff Robinson, the top two Rahway finishers, receive their trophies from race director Ally Mongo.

NEW PARKING DECK OPENS DOWNTOWN



In December, Mayor James Kennedy was joined by NJ Transit officials, 22nd District state legislators and members of the City Council and Parking Authority today to dedicate the new 524-car parking deck downtown. The deck is bounded by Irving, Lewis and Main Streets, across from the NJ Transit train station and has been named the Rahway Transportation Center.

"This deck has been desired by commuters, business owners and civic leaders for decades," said Kennedy. "We now have more parking spaces while reducing our dependence on widely-scattered surface parking lots that are not conducive to transit-friendly land use."

The Mayor added that a major developer is considering building a hotel and residential complex on the site adjacent to the parking deck that once housed the old Rahway Moose lodge and a gas station.

The cost of the \$11 million deck is being shared between the Parking Authority and NJ Transit. Rahway's train station, which serves some 3,000 riders daily, is one of the busiest in the state.

"NJ Transit realizes that in order to get people quickly and safely to their destination, we must be more than just an operator of buses and

trains," said NJ Transit Executive Director George Warrington. "NJ Transit is pleased to partner with Rahway to help us achieve our commitment to add parking near transit facilities, to promote transit-friendly development, and to make NJ Transit as convenient as we possibly can."

Rahway was named a "Transit Village" by the state in 2002 and has seen its redevelopment efforts around the train station honored by New Jersey Future, the Regional Business Partnership and Downtown New Jersey. This new facility is a key component of the city's revitalization initiative.

"Parking permits have traditionally been difficult to obtain due to the lengthy waiting lists and long walks from parking lot to train station," said Parking Authority Chairman Gregory Hardoby, who added that the deck will see its first permit parkers on Monday, January 3, 2005. "This deck will increase our amount of available parking spaces available to the public by over 200 percent."

The deck was designed by Timothy Haahs & Associates of Philadelphia and was built by Fitzpatrick & Associates of Eatontown. Construction on the deck began back in January.

City battles beetles on Arbor Day

As part of the city's annual Arbor Day festivities in April, a new Japanese zelkova and a thundercloud plum tree were planted on the front lawn of Grover Cleveland School. The trees were donated by ADA Landscaping of Cranford and the New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association. Both trees are resistant to the Asian Longhorn Beetle, which has infested numerous trees in Rahway and can be devastating to native trees in our area. Mayor James Kennedy and

Cleveland School Principal Larry Reed were joined by New Jersey Agriculture Secretary Charles Kuperus and Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bradley Campbell.

In addition, six thundercloud plums were donated by PSE&G in its efforts to promote utility-friendly trees. They were planted on the corner of Central and St. Georges Avenues, across from Berzinec Park.



RWJUH Rahway Opens New Emergency Department

In January, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway (RWJUH Rahway) officially opened the doors of its new Emergency Department, marking a new era for the delivery of emergency services for the community. This major project tripled the size of the former Emergency Department, expanding the facility to a completely new 15,000-square foot building and adding 12 patient bays, for a total of 23.

"After great anticipation during the year-long construction, we are very proud to open this new Emergency Department," says RWJUH Rahway President & CEO Kirk C. Tice. "Emergency care is a vitally important community service and this state-of-the-art facility will

help us continue to provide the best care possible for our patients."

RWJUH Rahway Foundation raised approximately \$1.2 million from corporate and community sources, with a lead gift of \$500,000 from Merck & Co, Inc. The hospital borrowed the remaining funds for the construction project. Approximately \$6.9 million is earmarked for construction and related expenses, and \$1.2 million for equipment upgrades such as new monitors, stretchers and furniture.

The new facility serves a variety of medical needs and includes treatment bays dedicated to cardiac, OB/GYN, orthopedic, trauma, and pediatric emergencies. A double triage room and dedicated "Fast Track" area allow staff to

process and treat patients in a significantly expedited manner. And, as in the past, the hospital offers the 15/30 Guarantee, in which patients are guaranteed to see a nurse in 15 minutes and a doctor in 30 minutes or the hospital pays the Emergency Department and physician bills.

In addition to patient-friendly amenities such as wireless bedside registration and complimentary televisions and telephones in each treatment bay, this comfortable setting also has amenities for family members and friends including a children's play area in the lobby and a food court with vending machines and cafe tables. The expanded space can accommodate 45,000 patients per year.

RWJUH Rahway signed an affiliation agreement in October 2003 with the Robert Wood Johnson Health Care Corporation making it the fourth member of the Robert Wood Johnson Health System, joining RWJUH at New Brunswick, RWJUH at Hamilton and Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside. Founded in 1917, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway is a 267-bed community facility situated on a sprawling, suburban-like campus in the City of Rahway. Its service area includes Rahway, Linden, Clark, Garwood, Cranford, Winfield, Roselle, Roselle Park, Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Carteret, Woodbridge Township and sections of Edison.



RWJUH Rahway Holds Grand Opening for New Emergency Department

Rahway – On Sunday, January 9, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway (RWJUH Rahway) officially cut the ribbon at the Grand Opening celebration of its new Emergency Department. Seen here cutting the ribbon are: (from left) Lynn Kearney, director of Ambulatory Services; Thomas Seeburger, representing lead donor Merck & Co., Inc.; Kirk C. Tice, RWJUH Rahway president & CEO; G. Allen Geyer, chairman, RWJUH Rahway Board of Governors; Stephen Ford, president, RWJUH Rahway Medical & Dental Staff; Dr. Frank Light, past chairman, RWJUH Rahway Foundation; Rahway Mayor James Kennedy; Christine Kline, president, RWJUH Rahway Auxiliary; and Arlene Tomchik, vice president, RWJUH Rahway Patient Services.

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Additional asian beetles found in Rahway

In November, 2004, crews under the guidance of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture discovered the presence of Asian longhorn beetles in a tree near the intersection of Lawrence and Washington Streets, the second such location in Rahway (the first was on Stockton

Street between E. Hazelwood and Randolph Aves.). The tree has been removed, and approximately 1,400 trees have been removed from public and private property between March 1 and June 1 in a ¼ mile radius around the original infestation site on Washington Street.

The New Jersey Forest Service's Community Forestry Program has pledged to plant at least 1,400 beetle-resistant trees throughout Rahway over the next two years in an effort to minimize any concerns. Other non-infested susceptible trees within a ½ mile radius of known infestations will be treated with the insecticide imidacloprid, which has displayed promising results in past treatments in decreasing beetle populations and future tree losses.

The Asian longhorned beetle was first reported in the United States in

the mid-1990s and was believed to arrive here in wooden shipping crates from China, where it is a native insect. The beetle is capable of causing massive damage and death to a wide variety of popular North American trees, including maples, chestnuts, birches and elms. It does not pose any direct danger to humans or pets.

Residents may observe tree climbers and other personnel examining trees on public and private property. For the health of our trees and neighborhoods, residents are asked to give these individuals their full cooperation.

Updated information, which includes a revised quarantine map that prohibits the movement of firewood and scrap wood, beetle FAQ and list of beetle-resistant tree species that can be planted by Rahway property owners are available on the city's web site: www.cityofrahhway.com.



Recreation Center hosts gymnastics tourney

In April, the Recreation Center hosted the Rahway's first USA Gymnastic sanctioned International Rhythmic Gymnastics Competition. Over 180 athletes from Russia, Germany & Canada competed with gymnasts from New Jersey, New York, Delaware, North Carolina, West Virginia, Texas and Florida. Rahway was represented by its own team "Attitude" coached by Tamara Ivankova.

The highlight of the week-long program was an exhibition by the Russian Junior Olympic Team and the Team USA's Megan Griffin.

Will my street get repaved this year?

The streets that are scheduled to be resurfaced this spring and fall are:

- Allen St. between Kearney and Donald Aves.
- Broad St. between West Milton and Irving Sts. (streetscape)
- Bryant St. between West Lake and West Hazelwood Aves.
- Canterbury Lane between Whittier Street & Linden Avenue
- Church St. between West Scott Ave. and Thomas Place
- East Milton Ave. between Broad and West Main Sts. (streetscape)
- Fulton St. between East Hazelwood and East Emerson Aves.
- Irving St. between East Milton Ave. and Broad St. (streetscape)
- Jaques Ave. between St. Georges and West Inman Aves.
- Main St. between East Hazelwood Ave. and East Stearns St.
- Main St. between East Milton Ave. and Lewis St.
- Maple Ave. between St. Georges Ave. and Pierpont St.
- Patterson St. between Routes 1 & 9 and Washington Ave.
- Union St. between Church and Whittier Sts.
- West Inman Avenue between Jaques & New Brunswick Aves.
- West Cherry St. between Esterbrook Ave. and Broad St.

Street resurfacings and reconstructions are performed on an annual basis by private contractors. The City Engineer recommends streets that are in the most need of resurfacing and reconstruction. Approximately 13 roadways are improved each year and are equally distributed throughout the city.



Mayor James Kennedy welcomed Coach Ivankova of Rahway's gymnastics team and the Russian Junior Olympic Team during their weeklong visit to the city in April and May.



Riverwalk at Rahway, a luxury waterfront townhome community, will offer a unique combination of location, setting and quality. Presented by Diversified Communities, one of New Jersey's premier developers, Riverwalk townhomes will feature spacious interiors, gourmet kitchen, formal dining room, 2 bedrooms, den/library, 2 full and 1 half baths, and family room. Fireplace and recreation loft are available in some models. Riverwalk is located on Essex St. at E. Milton Avenue on the banks of the Rahway River. Look for Riverwalk this summer. For more information call (732) 396-8400.

SAFETY POLICE & FIRE

Public Safety Memorial Dedicated

Mayor James Kennedy was joined by members of the City Council and representatives from the Rahway Police & Fire Departments last fall to formally dedicate the city's Public Safety Memorial in front of the new Public Library.

The project began several years ago and was spearheaded by the Rahway Police and Fire Departments, Rahway PBA #31 and FMBA #33, Councilman At-Large Sal Mione and other residents. A committee was formed which raised funds for the \$75,000 project and conducted a slogan contest in the Rahway Public Schools. City resident Victoria Sica's slogan of "we remember and we care" was selected from over 100 entries in 1997.

The granite and block structure is offset by three flagpoles and landscaping and features bronze plaques honoring Rahway Police Officers and Firefighters killed in the line of duty. The deceased police officers memorialized (and the dates of their death) include Charles Bernoskie (Nov. 28, 1958), John J. Burns (Jan. 8, 1971), Jacob Kraus (Feb. 24, 1919), James Lynch (Feb. 24, 1919), Harry J. Orr, (Dec. 4, 1922) and Frank C. Remer (April 12, 1926). Last September, researchers discovered that a seventh Rahway Police Officer, Alfred Jewell, was killed in the line of duty while chasing a burglary suspect on March 2, 1895. His name will be added to the memorial at a later date.

Deputy Fire Chief Nicholas Coppola is the only firefighter reported killed in the line of duty in the Fire Department's 181-year history. He collapsed from a heart attack while battling a blaze at the old Empire Theatre on Irving Street on Feb. 5, 1954.



Police Donate Bicycles To Needy Children

The Rahway Police Department joined forces with the East Jersey State Prison in Avenel to provide 40 bicycles to local needy children. Bicycles collected by the Rahway Police Department over the course of the year come to the prison in various states of disrepair.

It is up to the prisoners to make them seem like they are brand new. The prisoners who volunteered to fix the bikes work in the auto body

shop or painting and decorating shop as part of their vocational training. The program, which is sponsored by the prison and the Rahway Police Department, was continued this past holiday season after a successful debut in 2003. In addition, the Rahway Kiwanis Club donated helmets to be distributed along with the bikes. "It's a win, win, win - for the kids, the parents or guardians of the kids, and the inmates," said Kiwanis Club

President Bill McCarthy. The Rahway Police Department's Community Assistance Team is currently seeking corporate sponsorship in developing a youth bicycle helmet program. This program would provide bicycle helmets to local youths who are unable to afford them.

For further information, please contact the Community Assistance Team at (732) 827-2179.

Pet Waste Pollutes Our Waters

What You Can Do To Help Protect Our Water

Clean and plentiful water is important to our families, our environment, our economy and our quality of life.

Did you know that animal waste from pets can pollute our waters? When left on the ground, pet waste is washed by rain and melting snow and ice into storm drains that carry it to our rivers, lakes, the ocean and drinking water.

Animal waste contains a high concentration of nutrients as well as bacteria and disease-causing microorganisms that can cause problems.

What you can do

Pet owners or anyone who takes your pet for walks must properly dispose of the waste by picking it up, wrapping it and either placing it in the trash or flushing it unwrapped down the toilet.

Your municipality is required to adopt and enforce local pet-waste laws. At a minimum, your community must require that pet owners or their keepers **immediately and properly** dispose of their pet's solid waste deposited on **any public or private property not owned or possessed by that person**. People with assistance animals such as Seeing Eye dogs are exempt.

Make sure you know what your municipality requires - and follow it.

Thank you for doing your part to keep New Jersey's waters clean.

For more information, please contact the following:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water Quality
Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control
Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program
(609) 633-7021

Visit www.njstormwater.org or www.nonpointsource.org

Additional information is also available at U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Web sites
www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater or www.epa.gov/nps



Solutions to Stormwater Pollution

Easy Things You Can Do Every Day To Protect Our Water

A Guide to Healthy Habits for Cleaner Water

Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly to our drinking water supplies and the ocean and lakes our children play in. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings: You name it and it ends up in our water.

Stormwater pollution is one of New Jersey's greatest threats to clean and plentiful water, and that's why we're all doing something about it.

By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water, and it saves the high cost of cleaning up once it's dirty.

As part of New Jersey's initiative to keep our water clean and plentiful and to meet federal requirements, many municipalities and other public agencies including colleges and military bases must adopt ordinances or other rules prohibiting various activities that contribute to stormwater pollution. Breaking these rules can result in fines or other penalties.

As a resident, business, or other member of the New Jersey community, it is important to know these easy things you can do every day to protect our water.

Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides

- Do a soil test to see if you need a fertilizer.
- Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted.
- Look into alternatives for pesticides.
- Maintain a small lawn and keep the rest of your property or yard in a natural state with trees and other native vegetation that requires little or no fertilizer.
- If you use fertilizers and pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to correctly apply it.



Make sure you properly store or discard any unused portions.

Properly use and dispose of hazardous products

- Hazardous products include some household or commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze, and paints.
- Do not pour any hazardous products down a storm drain because storm drains are usually connected to local waterbodies and the water is not treated.



SAFETY POLICE & FIRE

Be safe against scam artists

Spring is in the air and the warm weather brings people outside to enjoy the beauty of nature. Unfortunately, it also brings out the con artists and scammers. Every year billions of dollars are lost to fraudulent activities. Scams are conducted over the telephone, by mail, the Internet and door-to-door. Often, you will be pressured into donating or purchasing on the spot. Prizes, vacations, charities, club memberships, or investments can all be fronts used by con artists. We would like to remind all residents to be cognizant of this and offer a few tips to avoid becoming the victim of a scam.

General Rules to avoid becoming a victim of a scam

- Always be skeptical of unsolicited calls.
- Be wary of door-to-door sales.
- Take time to think things through in the face of high pressure sales pitches.
- Take all the time you need to investigate any home improvement offer.
- Never sign a contract of make a purchase without fully understanding the terms of the agreement.
- Never give out your credit card identification or bank account numbers over the phone or to a company not known to you.

- Do not be taken in by the "you have won" notifications over the phone or by mail.

- Do not assume that "charitable" solicitations are legitimate, no matter how heartwarming their cause may seem.

- Do not do business with a company you know little about.

- If in doubt, call your local Better Business Bureau or the Police Department to inquire about the business.

Some of the more common scams include:

Utility Cons (inspectors): Con artists posing as utility employees or inspectors try to gain entry into homes and businesses in order to steal money or other valuables. A variation of this is the "Social Security Agent" and his "colleague" who are conducting a study offering in-home services to seniors who receive Social Security Benefits. They are allowed in to the home to interview the senior. Once inside, one of them leads the victim through a questionnaire, while the other excuses himself to go to the bathroom. He then searches the place for cash and other valuables.

Remember – Always ask for and check the utility representative's photo identification card. If you have questions about the identification at all, ask for the supervisor's phone number and call! Utility companies call ahead to schedule regular maintenance and service.

ing. Water and gas meters are located on the outside of the house, so there's no need to let them inside your home. If in doubt, call the police department and they will respond to verify the identification and employment.

Home Improvement Repair Scams: A "worker" tells a homeowner that he has been working down the street and noticed the owner's roof (or driveway, chimney, porch) has a problem. He claims that he has leftover materials from the job he is finishing and can help you out for the cost of his labor – cash upfront, of course!

Remember – be wary of hiring a contractor who knocks on your door to ask for business. Legitimate contractors usually don't operate this way. Always insist on written estimates from licensed home improvement contractors. Get in writing a description of all the work to be done and the full price of the job.

Telemarketing Fraud: Beware of the prize promoter who wants you to do or pay for something in order to get a "free" prize or "low cost vacation". Be wary of "get rich quick" scams that promise high investment returns with little or no risks. Always ask for and wait until you receive written information about any offer or charity. Check out unfamiliar companies with the Department of Consumer Affairs or Better Business Bureau. Don't be pressured into the "act now or this offer won't be good" pitch. Take

your time to make a decision. Legitimate companies don't pressure you to act fast.

Other tips:

- Never give a stranger your Social Security number, credit card number, bank account number, bank account numbers, or any other personal information (mother's maiden name, date of birth, etc.).
 - Legitimate organizations do not require immediate response and should provide you with information in the mail.
 - Take your time and have others review information with you.
 - If someone will not let you get off the phone, hang up.
 - Familiarize yourself with an organization by asking for references.
 - Ask a lot of questions.
 - Be cautious of anyone claiming, "You will never get another opportunity like this."
 - If the offer seems to good to be true, it usually is!
 - Do not be afraid or embarrassed to call the Police immediately if you think you have been the victim of a scam!
- For more information please contact the Rahway Police Department Community Assistance Team at (732) 827-2179 or visit our website at www.rahwaypolice.com.

Crossing Guards Wanted

The Rahway Police Department is now accepting applications for the position of School Crossing Guard. Uniforms and training provided. 15 hours per week from September to June. Applications can be picked up at Rahway Police Department or call (732) 827-2074 for more information.

National Night Out against crime scheduled for Aug. 2

The Rahway Police Department Community Assistance Team invites you to join us as we join forces with the residents of Rahway and thousands of communities nationwide for the 22nd Annual National Night Out (NNO) crime and drug prevention event August 2.

National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- Generate support for local anti-crime efforts
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community partnerships
- Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

NNO has proven to be an effective and enjoyable program that promotes police-community partnerships in our fight for a safer nation.

The event will be located in the rear parking lot of City Hall and will run from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Please contact the Community Assistance Team at (732) 827-2179 for more information or visit our website at www.rahwaypolice.com.

We hope to see you there!

Firefighters practice ice rescue



Members of the Rahway Fire Department practiced two ice rescues on a slushy lake in Rahway River Park earlier this year to test the department's skills with a new ice rescue sled that will make the rescue of trapped people and animals easier, faster and safer.

Kennedy outlines agenda for 2005 and beyond

(continued from page...2)

retail space which will bring new vitality downtown.

Last month, the City Council approved the acceptance of a loan from the New Jersey Redevelopment Authority that will pave the way for the demolition of a portion of Main Street which is one of the most blighted areas left in town. These dollars will help us redevelop the site from Cherry Street extending to the rail overpass on Main Street. The project will consist of 113 new housing units as well as 9,000 square feet of new retail space. This will transfigure Main Street into one of the most promising areas in our central business district. This development will encourage additional growth and bring positive energy to a much needed area.

The successful redevelopment of the former Wheatena and Quinn & Boden property, the hotel and condominium complex in front of the train station and the Hamilton Laundry site will progress as environ-

mental studies continue and the developers continue to work to make these projects viable.

Property Taxes

Rahway has been fully-developed for well over 30 years. There are no large sections of undeveloped land in our city, so how are we to grow our tax base and keep property taxes stable? During the 1990s, we were able to control property taxes through aggressive cost-cutting and streamlining of government. We will continue to do this in spite of ever-escalating insurance and personnel costs that put a strain on our budget every year. In 2004, Rahway's property tax bill and our tax rate were among the lowest in Union County. Most of the communities that had lower tax rates than Rahway require residents to pay hundreds of dollars extra each year in household trash, recycling and bulky waste disposal, as well as additional sewer costs. In Rahway, we provide better and cheaper solid waste and recycling services than in neighboring towns. Rahway residents pay the lowest

water rates in Union County, as well as having improved water quality and service to our system. I will continue to direct our Administrator and our Department Heads to keep costs under control while finding innovative ways to increase revenues that do not strain the taxpayers.

If we do not grow our ratable base for the long term, these costs will never be kept under control. We are fully immersed in the second phase of tax stabilization, which is redevelopment. Redevelopment means to make better use of our existing properties as we increase revenues and improve neighborhoods. The ten redevelopment projects in our central business district alone generated approximately \$300,000 in property taxes at the beginning of the decade. When they are finally and fully built-out over the next few years, we expect the revenue generated by these properties to bring in some \$2.5 million annually. This does not even include the ambitious plans for the old Wheatena site and the improve-

ment of the Routes 1 & 9 corridor and along New Brunswick Avenue.

Although our tax rate has climbed a bit, we will keep a close eye this year on the school portion of your bill. The largest portion of your tax increases has been attributed to school taxes, which makes up over 48 percent of your total tax bill. In 2005 we will encourage our school administrators to take a hard look at their administrative costs.

In closing, I'd like to thank all of you for your support in 2004. Improving the quality of life in Rahway is a collaborative process between all of us - public officials, private business owners and everyday citizens. Working together in 2005, we can make our dreams and our visions a reality.

So, on behalf of the city, my wife Lori, and son Sean we wish all of you a very happy and healthy new year.

Thank you.

RACHLIN ELECTED COUNCIL PRESIDENT

First Ward Councilman Robert Rachlin was elected by his fellow council members in January as the City Council's newest Council President.

Rachlin, who is serving his second stint as Council President is employed by Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County. He has lived in Rahway since 1987 with his wife, Melinda, and daughter,

Skyler, who is currently a student in Rahway Public Schools. Rachlin's political career began in 1993 when he waged an unsuccessful battle to keep NJ Transit's North Rahway train station open.

"There is so much going on in Rahway that 2005 will be a very busy year for the Council," said Rachlin. "But I am confident that I will be able to work with Mayor

Kennedy and my colleagues to move our shared agenda forward. Rahway is only now realizing its potential that was laid out by the Mayor over a decade ago."

Fifth Ward Councilmember Jennifer Wenson-Maier and Sixth Ward Councilman Samson Steinman were also sworn in as the City Council's newest members. Wenson, who owns a Rahway-based architectural firm and Steinman, the administrator of the Rahway DMV office, handily beat their GOP opponents in the November, 2004 general election.



Vagelos Scholars 2005

Congratulations to this year's Vagelos Scholars! From left, are Rose M. Mendoza (Princeton U.), Krystyna Soljan (Trinity Coll.) and Rebecca Rothstein (Bryn Mawr Coll.). The Vagelos Scholar program began in 2001 through a partnership between the City of Rahway and Rahway Public Schools. Thanks to the generosity of RHS graduate and retired Merck & Co. CEO Dr. P. Roy Vagelos, Rahway High School's top academic performers who are accepted to America's most prestigious institutions of higher learning receive thousands of dollars in financial assistance from the program to pursue their studies.





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SENIOR PRESCRIPTION CARDS OFFERED

The City Council passed a resolution approving participation in the Senior Preferred Prescription Card program offered by the Garden State Pharmacy Owners Providers Services (GSPOPS). The program allows Rahway residents over the age of 55 to obtain a discount of between 10 and 50 percent for the cost of prescription drugs. Forms are available at City Hall, the Rahway Senior Center and on the city's web site: www.cityofrahwaj.com.

HAMMOND ORGAN SOCIETY

The Hammond Organ Society of New Jersey will present a series of organ concerts at the Rahway Senior Center on the third Sunday of each month through June. Each concert will feature a X-66 Organ with a special guest at the console. The concerts will begin at 2 p.m. and end at 5 p.m. There will be a brief intermission with light refreshments served. Tickets are \$4 for Hammond Organ Society members and \$6 for non-members payable at the door. For more information, please call the Organ Society at (973) 256-5480.

WE NEED YOUR TALENTS!

The Rahway Division of Senior Services is seeking skilled instructors for senior programs. If your expertise included crafts, fitness, arts & leisure, and others, please let us know. Be creative! New ideas are

SENIOR STUFF

always welcome. Send your resume and course synopsis to the Rahway Senior Center, 1306 Esterbrook Avenue.

GERIATRIC NURSE SPECIALIST AVAILABLE

Michelle Kowal, R.N., will be available at the Senior Center for free blood pressure screening and consultation on every other Wednesday from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Call (732) 827-2158 for more details.

COMPUTER ROOM NOW OPEN FOR SENIORS

The Rahway Senior Center now has a computer room with Internet access for the exclusive use of Rahway's seniors. Please contact the Senior Center at (732) 827-2016 for more information.

SENIOR I.D. CARDS OFFERED

Free photo I.D. cards are available to all Rahway seniors aged 62 and older. Call or stop by the Senior Center to schedule an appointment.

NOTARY PUBLIC AT SENIOR CENTER

The Rahway Senior Center has a Notary Public of New Jersey on the

premises. Any Rahway senior 62 years of age or older can use this free service. Call the Senior Center at (732) 827-2016 for more information.

SENIOR CITIZEN BUS TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is available to all Rahway residents 62 years of age and older. Please call Tina at (732) 499-7930 between 8 p.m. and 12 noon to arrange transportation (shopping, doctor's appointments, etc.).

MAYOR KENNEDY'S BIRTHDAY BREAKFAST CLUB

One of the favorite special events run by the division of senior services is Mayor Kennedy's birthday breakfast. Depending on what month your birthday falls, you and a guest will be invited to the Rahway Senior Center and treated to a full breakfast along with other members of the club. To register, please call (732) 827-2016. Everyone registered will receive an invitation in the mail with the date and time of the particular birthday breakfast. Anyone previously registered who has not responded to the invitation in the past year must re-register.

SENIOR DINING AT RAHWAY HOSPITAL

Meals are available from 4:30 p.m. two 6:30 p.m. seven days a week for seniors, age 60 and older. Meals cost an average of \$4. Registration is required. Registration forms are available at the Senior Center. The hospital's menu hotline is (732) 499-6222.

NJ TRANSIT DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

The Rahway Senior Center has applications for seniors (62 and over) for NJ Transit rail and bus transportation discounts. For more information, call the center at (732) 827-2016.

UPCOMING BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

Rahway Senior Center - third Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m. -12 noon.
 July & August - NO SCREENING
 September 21
 October 19
 November 16
 December 21
 Rahway Public Library - first Tuesday of the month from 3 - 5 p.m.
 July & August - NO SCREENING
 September 6
 October 4
 November 1
 December 6

RAHWAY SENIOR CLUBS

Rahway Retired Men's Club

Meets every Monday at 1 p.m.
 Pres. Paul Riekehof (732) 388-6523

Merck Retirees

Meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m.

Ladies Golden Age Club

Meets every Wednesday at 12:15 p.m.
 Pres. Rosemary Jacobs (732) 669-1437

Retired Railroaders (Group #2)

Meets 1st Saturday of the month at 11 a.m.
 Pres. Edward Witos (732) 634-1804

A.A.R.P Chapter #607

Meets 2nd Thursday of the month at 12 noon.

Pres. Ann Lukaszewski (732) 382-8960

St. Joseph's Guild

Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month at 12:30 p.m.

Pres. Catherine McGuire (908) 352-0478

Union County Minority Task Force on Aging

Meets 1st Friday of month at 12 noon
 Lillian Wilder (732) 381-7406

Congratulations Chester Arnold! 2004 Rahway Senior Citizen of the Year

Mayor James Kennedy, left, awards a plaque to city resident Chester Arnold, who was named 2004 Senior Citizen of the Year. He was honored by the Rahway City Council at its April meeting. Arnold was born in Brooklyn in 1922 and began a 45-year career working for the Pennsylvania



Railroad that was interrupted only by his service in the U.S. Army from 1942-1945. He has called Rahway home since 1949. He is married with one daughter, is a Church Deacon and Elder at the First Presbyterian Church, is a member of the Rahway Retired Men's Club and serves on the Rahway Senior Center Board of Trustees.



Freeholders Rick Proctor and Chester Holmes and Mayor James Kennedy were joined by some Rahway seniors at the Rahway Senior Center to announce the county's \$500,000 Senior Home Improvement Program.

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