



SPRING
2006

VOLUME
XIV
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 2006

Rahway's Fifth Annual

Independence Day Fireworks Spectacular

Tuesday, July 4

9:30 pm

New location!

Rahway River Park

Free admission

Bring lawn chairs and blankets

No coolers, backpacks or pets, please

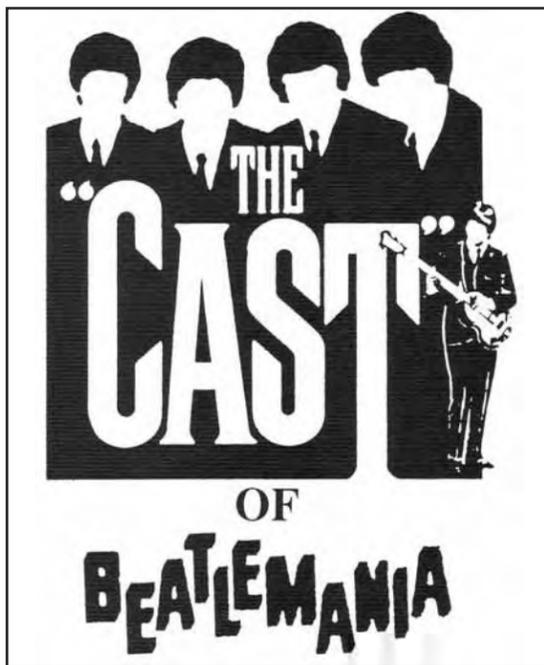
For more information,

visit www.cityofrahway.com and Comcast TV-34

Mayor's Summer Concert Series

Thursdays in August, 7 pm

New location - City Hall Parking Lot



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

August 3: **The Cast of Beatlemania**

August 10: **Tribute to Johnny Cash: Michael Patrick's Ring of Fire Band**

August 17: **Jobonnano & the Godsons of Soul**

August 24: **The Duprees**



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

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City of Rahway
City Hall Plaza
Rahway, NJ 07065
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Council President

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396-8536

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382-6499

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Volume XIV, Issue 1

MAYOR'S message



Below is the text of Mayor James J. Kennedy's 2006 State of the City Address that was delivered at the City Council's Reorganization Meeting in January.

Good evening. As your mayor, this is my fifteenth State of the City Address that I have had the privilege to deliver. This evening I will give you a broad view of the State of our City, as well as a projection of our near future.

Our good city is faring quite well! There is much positive growth, our property values continue to increase and our property taxes are among the most stable in New Jersey. It is not one person that makes the city work well, but a collective energy among many employees as well as volunteers to our local boards. Our boards in Rahway are filled with dedicated people who truly love the city they serve. Without these citizens, our Redevelopment Agency, Library Board, Housing Authority, Parking Authority, Planning Board and Board of Adjustment as well as others, our city government would be less effective. These groups have a tremendous voice in the direction of our city government. They make my job as mayor much easier: to guide the direction of the city, as well as create a future vision.

Through strong fiscal management, our city is enjoying a very solid credit rating of A1, which is important as we continue to develop our town. Because of this, we have been aggressive at improving our infrastructure. Miles of new sewer lines have been constructed throughout the town, separating our old sanitary sewers from our storm sewers. This saves taxpayer money and helps improve the health of the Rahway River and the environment. Much of this work has been a joint effort between the city and the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. The county has also made a tremendous investment in our city this past year in improving many of our antiquated traffic signals. These improve-

WORKING TO BUILD A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

ments will also insure a safer community.

Over the years, our water utility has been upgraded to improve the quality of our drinking water which meets the highest standards in the country. The agreement that we embarked on several years ago with United Water Resources has proved to be a great partnership. The city has been able to stabilize its rates as well as continue to provide additional capital improvements to the system.

One of the areas in great need of improvement is our local roads. Several years ago, the State of New Jersey stopped funding the Transportation Trust Fund. This has created a problem throughout our state. We will encourage our new Governor and Legislature to renew this important fund. I believe only through an equitable gas tax can these important dollars be found, so that communities like ours can make the necessary improvements to our much-traveled road and rail network in New Jersey.

Redevelopment has been the hallmark of my administration and will continue for the next several years. The plans to redevelop Rahway's central business district date back over two decades. Guided by the City Council and the Rahway Redevelopment Agency, this plan is now well-developed and is on the cutting edge of sustainable development. It started by recognizing our basic resources, such as our train station and the Union County Arts Center. Following the strategies of both New Jersey's Smart Growth and Transit Village initiatives, Rahway has made a public investment into our community to foster private, rateable-producing development. By centralizing government services such as the new library and recreation center near the existing services of our City Hall, Post Office, Police and Fire departments, we have created a critical mass of public amenities in one area. This helps to generate a needed level of vitality.

New Jersey Transit's investment in rebuilding the Rahway train station in 1999 has allowed Rahway to take a more serious look at developing new housing and mixed-use projects near the train station. This transit village concept has enabled us to market a tremendous development project directly across the street from the train station. This

project includes a major hotel chain as well as new retail and new condominiums. With mass transit across the street, a 35 minute commute to NYC and a connection to Newark Liberty International Airport, this becomes a very successful venture. Look for construction of this high-profile project to commence in 2006.

Housing in the central business district is a major feature of our smart growth plan. The city has conducted several housing studies, which have all shown a need for additional housing. We are looking to build approximately 1,500 new units over the course of the next few years. This represents about 10 per cent of Rahway's population that will be living in the center of town. This development will add a presence of new energy to an area in need of improvement.

The nature of business districts are changing. The postwar growth of shopping malls and the recent explosion of online shopping have affected traditional retail areas across America. To survive, retail districts must move toward more specialty shops and service-related businesses. We are seeing more and more conventional retail areas trying to reinvent themselves. Many professional planning studies are showing a need for central business districts to create a "sense of community."

Today, with our busy lives, people want to enjoy their towns differently. They are looking for communities whose center represents a broad base of interests, or simply put, a "sense of community." A recently-completed traffic study recommends a change in our city's traffic flow that adds traffic-calming measures to protect pedestrians as well as returning downtown traffic to two-way along Main and Irving Streets. We are strongly considering many of the changes recommended by the study.

Several years ago City Council, along with our Economic Development officials and planning board, rezoned the portion of real estate around the Union County Arts Center as an official Arts District. This designation will help the district in the future to receive grant funds as well as foundation endowments to several of the non-profits in the Arts District. We want to make the Arts District

(continued on page...8)

School NEWS

Rahway students participate in 'Heroes and Cool Kids' program

Students in Rahway's Public Schools are participating in an innovative new program that mentors young people and helps them avoid many of the pitfalls of adolescence.

Titled "Heroes and Cool Kids," the program matches select Rahway High school student-athletes with fifth graders in Rahway elementary schools. The high schoolers mentor the younger students in areas like academic skills and problems like bullying and drug and alcohol abuse.

Heroes and Cool Kids is a program that was started in 1998 by former All-Pro running back Bruce Harper of the NY Jets. This unique program teaches high school athletes to be role models for the elementary school children in their neighborhood, who truly look up to them. The objective of this program is to educate our students in the area of drug and alcohol prevention.

High schoolers apply for Heroes and Cool Kids in their sophomore year. If accepted, they must maintain a high level of ethical and academic standards in order to remain active in the club.

The program is funded through the support of United Water

Rahway, which manages the City's water utility and provides clean drinking water to some 8,000 customers in Rahway.

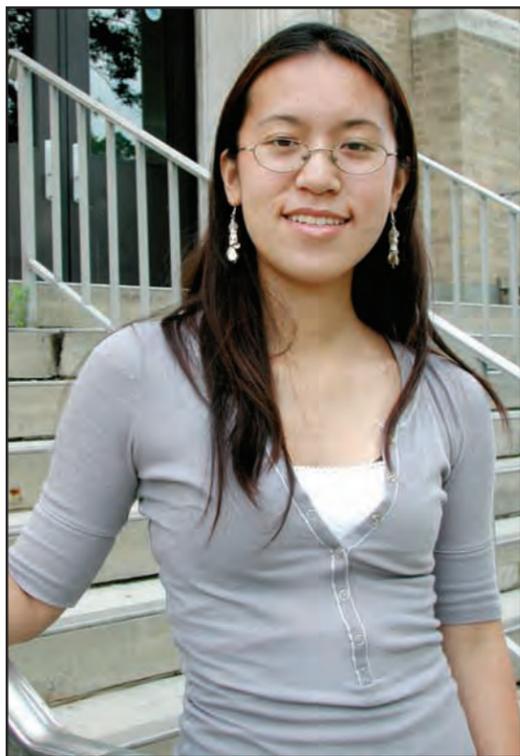
The mentors are trained by former NFL standouts like Harper and Keith Elias of the Giants. The high school students then meet with the fifth graders four times per year.

"United Water is pleased to sponsor the Heroes and Cool Kids program in Rahway as part of our outreach and education initiatives," said United Water Chief Operating Officer Robert J. Iacullo. "This is a program that has been successful in helping kids throughout New Jersey understand the unique role that students and athletes can play in mentoring younger school-age children."

"Young people have long looked up to athletes, and they can be effective teachers to keep our students on the right track to success in and out of the classroom," said Mayor James Kennedy. "Heroes and Cool Kids is proving to be a productive partnership between athletes and students to help them resist peer pressure and navigate the stormy waters of growing up."

MAN YAN LAM

NAMED 2006 VAGELOS SCHOLAR



Congratulations to this year's Vagelos Scholar Man Yan Lam! Lam plans to attend Vanderbilt University in the fall and study human and organizational development and child development. She is the daughter of Leung Chun Yip of Rahway and the sister of 2001 Vagelos Scholar Chau Wing Lam, who graduated in 2005 from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Psychology with a Chemistry minor.

The Vagelos Scholar program began in 2001 through a partnership between Mayor James J. Kennedy 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. To date, the program has helped 18 RHS graduates pursue their studies.

A tree grows in Rahway

Representing Mayor James J. Kennedy, Third Ward Councilman Jerry Scaturro joined over 100 Roosevelt School third graders and Principal Rocco Collucci on May 3 to celebrate Arbor Day in Rahway with the planting of a flowering redbud tree on school grounds and reading a proclamation about the holiday.

The tree was provided through a generous donation from Public Service Electric and Gas, which gave \$500 to the city for planting of utility-friendly trees. Students read the poem "Trees" by New Jersey poet Joyce Kilmer and were given evergreen tubelings to take home.

"Rahway has been named 'Tree City U.S.A.' for several years due to our efforts toward managing a suc-

cessful urban forestry program here in Rahway," said Kennedy. "Thanks to the support of PSE&G and the county's 'Greening Union County' program, we have planted over 300 street trees in Rahway since 2004, and plan to plant another 170 trees this fall."

Arbor Day was first established in Nebraska in 1872 by J. Sterling Norton and has spread to all fifty states and dozens of countries around the globe.

The National Arbor Day Foundation estimates that each street tree adds \$5,000 to the value of a nearby home, in addition to reducing topsoil erosion, cleaning the air and reducing home energy costs.



Third Ward Councilman Jerry Scaturro, back row, at left, and Roosevelt School Principal Rocco Collucci, back row, at right, recently celebrated Arbor Day in Rahway by planting a tree at the school. Representing the third grade classes at the school are, front row, from left, Reshad Parson, Brianna Porr, Bianca Dominguez and Christopher Majcher.

Read Across America



Mayor Kennedy was a guest reader at Franklin School earlier this year as part of Rahway Public Schools' district-wide celebration of "Read Across America Day."

MUNICIPAL DIRECTORY

POLICE, FIRE & FIRST AID EMERGENCIES

DIAL: 9-1-1

Library NEWS

Rahway Public Library Summer Reading Club 2006 'Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales'

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 Clark	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 (Comm. Relations)	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

Arts Guild	381-7511
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

Summer Reading Club signup begins on June 19 at the Rahway Public Library. Summer Reading Club is for all children under age 13 residing in Rahway and rewards readers with prizes and special events all summer long! 'Summer Read To Me' is for children who are not yet able to read but are read to by parents and caregivers.

Special Events for Club participants are:

'DinoMan' - Saturday July 15 at 2 pm - Meet a life size dinosaur!

Pete Geist - Thursday July 27 at 6:30 p.m. - Get ready to laugh at this kids' comedian!

Pet Show - Thursday August 10 at 2 pm - Bring in your stuffed animals and enter them in our Pet Show!

Turtlesinger - Thursday August 10 at 6:30 p.m. - Meet turtles and hear songs!

End of Summer Reading Club Reception - Friday August 11 at 2 pm - Enjoy snacks with your Summer Reading Club friends and pick up your Summer Reading Club certificate!

Other Programs - No registration required, tickets will be given out a half hour before the start of the program. Children must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Critter Bingo - Mondays at 2

p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

July 3, 10, 17, 24, August 7

Book Buddies - Tuesdays at 11 a.m. - Teen volunteers read to children age 2-8 with activities afterward.

July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 8

Little Artists - Wednesdays at 2 p.m. - Learn about artists and create works of art, please wear smocks!

July 12 - Little Jackson Pollocks - splatterpaint fun

July 19 - Little Henri Matisse - cut-out collages

July 26 - Little Georges Seurat - painting with dots

August 2 - Little Frida Kahlo - painting with props (bring your favorite toy!)

August 9 - Little Wassily Kandinsky - painting to music

Kid Flicks - Wednesdays at 6 p.m. - animal themed movies - July 5 - Aug 9

Critter Crafts - Thursdays at 2 p.m. - July 6 - Aug 3

Pajama Storytime - Thursdays at 7 p.m. July 6, 13, 20, August 3

Book Babies - Fridays at 11 a.m. - drop-in playgroup and social hour for preschool children and their caregivers (no ticket required)

Summer Reading is for teens too! (Kids in grades 6-12) 'Teen

Circle' activities will run from June 26 - August 10

Teen Volunteer Day - Mondays at 11 a.m. - Orientation required for all volunteers on June 26 at 11 a.m or June 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Book Buddies - Tuesdays at 11 am (except July 4) - Orientation required for book buddies on June 27 at 11 am

Creature Feature - Teen Movies - Tuesdays at 1 p.m. (except July 4)

Teen Arts - Wednesdays at 11 a.m. - includes scrapbooking, cartoons, fashion design and karaoke and other fun activities!

Brown Bag Book Club - Thursdays at 12 noon - bring a sandwich and talk about 'Tithe' by Holly Black - June 29, July 6, July 13

Brain Games - Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

'It was a dark and stormy night...' July 20 at 12 noon - reading and prizes for the stories submitted by teens entering the 'Writing Challenge' - Lunch on us!

Summer Reading Club Teen Volunteer Party - Wednesday August 9 at 12 noon

We encourage adults to 'Paws To Read' at the Rahway Public Library Adult Summer Reading Club This Summer!

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
July 5 - Create a Bookmark
July 12 - Scrapbooking
July 19 - Flower Arranging
July 26 - Memory Boxes
August 2 - Rubber Stamping Craft

Tuesdays at 2 p.m. - **'Paws To Puzzle'** - July 11, 18, 25, August 1

Enjoy Sudoku, Scrabble and other word puzzles! Bring a friend! Friday July 14 and July 28 - **Coffee Hour 'Paws To Read'**

Join us for a cup and talk about books and the library! Share your ideas. Parents, please feel free to bring your children.

'Mutts' Cartoonist, Patrick McDonnell at the Rahway Public Library Thursday June 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Learn how Patrick McDonnell creates the cartoon character 'Mutts'. Mr. McDonnell will sign books that are purchased.



'Cooks and Books' at the Rahway Public Library. Children enjoying making buttermilk biscuits and learning to read recipes at this popular program.



Heather Mulvey takes her listeners on a 'Celtic Music Journey' at the Rahway Public Library program on March 16.



Storyteller Julie Pasquale telling African Folktales at the Rahway Public Library in February.



Pam Newitt of 'Nature by the Yard' introduces a snake to the audience at the 'Wildlife in Winter' program at the Rahway Public Library in January.

County and Arts Center to team in making \$6 million renovations

The Union County Freeholder Board recently announced improvements designed to modernize and update the Union County Arts Center (UCAC) in Rahway so that it can present quality entertainment on a year-round basis.

"We are looking forward to working with the Board of Trustees of the Union County Arts Center in beginning work," said Freeholder Deborah Scanlon, who chairs the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust fund. "The revitalization of this historic landmark is also to further elevate and establish the Union County Arts Center as a premier Northern New Jersey performing arts venue."

Rahway Mayor James J. Kennedy added the county's investment in the UCAC is the centerpiece of a major revitalization in downtown Rahway.

"Part of the role of government is to spur economic development as well as create new jobs and opportunities for our residents," Kennedy said. "The County's investment in the Arts Center is helping to bring about that revitalization in Rahway. One only needs to look at the success of similar endeavors across New Jersey."

Kennedy pointed to examples in Newark, where NJPAC has been credited with helping to spur prosperity in that city's downtown, and also in Red Bank and New Brunswick, where public investment in the arts has spurred a renaissance.

The Union County Arts Center is the jewel of the recently established

Arts District in the City of Rahway and a key to Rahway's redevelopment. The Downtown area is undergoing a \$100 million redevelopment project that will create new jobs and business, increase rates and create new housing for all Union County residents.

Richard Stender, President of the Board of Trustees, said the partnership means the theater can now "achieve its true cultural potential."

"I would like to thank the Union County Board of Freeholders for their vision and their commitment to work with us in revitalizing the Arts Center," said Stender. "This means a future filled with even greater productions and world-class attractions."

Nancy Saliga, vice president of the Board of Trustees for the Union County Arts Center, thanked the Freeholder Board for their support and added "I look forward to a partnership that will bring the Union County Arts Center to the next level." Saliga added that the professional management team and Board of Trustees of the Union County Arts Center will continue to run the facility.

The historic Union County Arts Center, formerly known as the Rahway Theatre, opened in 1928 as a classic vaudeville/movie showplace. In 1984, the theater was saved by a dedicated group of volunteers and in 1985, it became the Union County Arts Center. The theater, which features live performances, seats more than 1,300 people.

(continued on page...8)



Kids Summer Art Camp Summer 2006 For children 7 to 14 years

For four weeks this year the Arts Guild of Rahway is making available a fun opportunity for young children to receive high-level instruction about creating art from a staff of talented artists and teaching professionals.

During a typical one-week session of the camp, children will explore their creativity as they work on exciting projects in drawing, acrylic painting, printmaking, watercolor, collage, sculpture and other creative avenues.

If your child has been interested in drawing, painting or making art of any kind, whether or not they have received art instruction in school, the Art Camp projects will introduce them to another level of artistry and new possibilities for their budding talents.

Each morning and each afternoon during the art camp, your children will be guided through a different project and complete a unique piece of art each time. These fun-filled sessions will introduce each child to art making that excites and challenges under direct supervision and with the input they need to find their own style with the many different materials they will use over the course of the week. The boundaries are only those of their imaginations. Anything is possible in the world of

art! The Art Camp will be offered as four separate one-week long sessions. There will be morning session (9:00 am to 11:30 am) and an afternoon session (12 noon- 2:30 pm) each week

- Week #1:** July 17-21
- Week #2:** July 24-28
- Week #3:** July 31-August 4
- Week #4:** August 7-11

Art Camp is available for children ages 7-14.

Rates

Morning session: 9:00 am to 11:30 am Monday-Friday in any week: \$150 (12 1/2 hrs.)

Afternoon session: 12 noon to 2:30 pm Monday through Friday in any week: \$150 (12 1/2 hrs.)

Entire Day: (a.m. and p.m. sessions) / Any Week: \$ 290 (25 hrs. per week)

This fee includes all art materials and supplies needed as well as drinks and snacks for a daily break. Students are asked to bring their own lunch if staying for the full day; drinks will be provided.

Scholarships

Thanks to the support of local businesses, there will be a limited number of part-week scholarships available for students in need. Call (732) 381-7511 for information and applications.

Arts Center to close out season with screening of *Jaws*

What better way to kick off the summer beach season than with a screening at the Union County Arts Center of the classic 1975 film *Jaws*? The film will be shown on Friday, June 30 at 8 p.m. Directed by legendary filmmaker Steven Spielberg and starring Roy Schieder, Robert Shaw and Richard Dreyfus, *Jaws* is the tale of a killer great white shark that terror-

izes a small town in Long Island. It was a critical and box office smash when first released over 20 years ago, and the film was considered by many to be the first true summer blockbuster.

All seats for this show are only \$5 and can be purchased at the Arts Center box office, online at www.ucac.org or by calling (732) 499-8226.



Richard Stender, president of the Board of Trustees of the Union County Arts Center (center, third from l.) presented Union County Freeholder Chairman Al Mirabella (r.) with the key to the arts center during a ceremony marking the County of Union's purchase of the theater prior to a show there this Sunday. Rahway Mayor James Kennedy (l.), Freeholder Deborah Scanlon and Freeholder Chester Holmes (fourth from l., back) also participated in the ceremony.

**Rahway Center
Partnership
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Vice Chairman:

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Ann McDarby

Lori McDarby

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Clark Neumany

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Brian Shivers

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Rahway Center Partnership

PROGRESS



Hot Rods & Harleys another success

Thousands of people visited the Fifth Annual Hot Rods & Harleys festival in Downtown Rahway on May 13. This yearly event was sponsored by the Rahway Center Partnership and Liberty Harley-Davidson and presented by Commerce Bank.

For the second year in a row, Liberty Harley Davidson (LHD) being among one of the strongest and most dependable supporters of the Rahway Center Partnership has once again donated a brand new 2006 Harley-Davidson Sportster for this year's Annual Hot Rods and Harleys Event. The winner

of the Sportster was Rahway's own Lafayette Lodge #27, Free and Accepted Masons.

Liberty Harley-Davidson has been a most gracious and generous contributor to the Partnership. Last year LHD brought in the Harley-Davidson Traveling Museum to downtown Rahway as part of an exhibit for the Memorial Day Parade.

Owner and Operator Thomas McTamney opened LHD in 1997 after nine years as owner of Mac's Motorcycle Maintenance in Landisville, NJ. Until recently, Tom was Publisher of *Iron Biker News*

which has a readership of approximately 60,000 in 29 east coast states. Hailing from Vineland, Tom and his wife Lucy have now made Rahway their residence of record. LHD is a family-run business with Tom's wife, Lucy, as an owner, their daughter, Michelle, as Office Manager, and son-in-law, Chris, as a certified technician.

Thank you Liberty Harley-Davidson for all that you do to make Hot Rods and Harleys Day a truly successful event each year!



Jersey Fresh Farmers Market returns

Train Station Plaza • Noon-6 p.m.

Thursdays from July 23 through October 29



Downtown Rahway • On the Move!

'Be a Part of It'

Ray Mikell
Executive Director

Rahway Center Partnership

Paul Mulligan
Chairman

National Flood Insurance Program

The City of Rahway is a participant in a federally-subsidized program that enables property owners to purchase flood insurance. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), requires that the City adopt specific flood damage reduction education, planning and building criteria.

In an effort to inform residents and property owners of the presence of flood hazards in Rahway and to suggest possible actions that may be taken to protect persons and property, the following is provided:

Flood Insurance

Most homeowner insurance policies do not cover losses due to floods. However, since Rahway is a participant in the NFIP, it is possible for property owners to obtain federally backed flood insurance. This insurance is available to any owner of insurable property (a building or its contents) in Rahway. Tenants may also insure their personal property against flood loss. Also, flood insurance policy holders in Rahway benefit from premium discounts. This is due to the City's extensive efforts to obtain credits, through the Community Rating system (CRS), to

maintain specific measures for flood damage reduction.

The City strongly urges you to buy flood insurance as needed to protect yourself from devastating losses due to flooding.

You can find out if your property is located in a special flood hazard area through the City's Department of Building, Engineering & Economic Development at (732) 827-2176.

The local flood hazard

The areas in and around the North and South Branches of the Rahway River, the Robinson's Branch of the Rahway River, the Orchard St. Brook, Maurice Avenue Brook, Milton Lake, Rahway Lake Park and certain other watercourses are subject to flooding. Floodplain maps, charts, reports and studies that document these areas are available for review in the Department of Engineering and also available for review at the Rahway Public Library.

Flood protection assistance

The City Engineer's office can provide technical assistance relating to flood elevations and data on historical flooding, and is available to advise owners of appropriate flood protection measures.

Flood safety

If it has been determined that

your property is in a special flood hazard area, there are several steps you can follow to alleviate problem situations, such as:

1. Keep children away from flood waters, ditches, culverts and storm drains.

2. Evacuate the flood hazard area in times of impending flood or when advised to do so by the police or fire department.

3. In your home, turn off flood prone electrical circuits and shut off the water and gas service valves.

4. Do not walk through flowing water. Currents can be deceptive; six-inches of moving water can sweep you off your feet.

5. Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out. If your car stalls in high water, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.

6. During times of heavy rainfall, monitor the level of water in the drainage way.

7. Plan escape routes to high ground.

8. Know the flood warning system below.

expecting or experiencing inclement weather that may include heavy rain, residents in flood prone areas or low lying area are urged to plan preventative actions to protect life and property.

Residents are urged to monitor frequently weather and flood conditions that are broadcast over local radio and television stations. Residents will be provided with flood watch and flood warning advisories. A flood watch advisory indicates that the potential for a flood exists in the watch area, while a flood warning indicates that a flood has been detected.

Comcast Channel 34 covers the City and will issue timely updated information. This station is part of the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) as are local television stations Channel 5 & 9. Radio station NJ 101.5 FM will also carry EBS messages.

In extreme situations, personnel of the Rahway Office of Emergency Management or Department of Public Safety will conduct "Route Altering" within flood prone areas to advise residents to move to higher ground prior to water levels reaching critical stages.

Flood warning system

When the City of Rahway is

(continued on page...8)

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 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or call (732) 827-2087 for more information.

YMCA celebrates 10 years in Rahway

To recognize the tenth anniversary of the Rahway Branch YMCA, the Y will be selling 50/50 tickets this summer as part of its "Celebrating a Decade of Accomplishments" campaign. Tickets cost \$100 each; only 250 tickets will be sold. All proceeds will benefit the Y's financial assistance for local families and program areas. A celebration cocktail party highlighted by the drawing of the winning ticket will be held at the Masonic Lodge on Irving Street at 6:30 p.m. on September 14. To purchase a raffle ticket, please stop by the YMCA at 1564 Irving Street or call (732) 388-0057.

Residents reminded on yard waste collection

Until leaf collection season begins in October, residents are asked not to pile yard waste (leaves, grass clippings, etc.) into the street or gutters, as it will not be collected. Yard waste must be placed in open containers weighing less than 50 lbs. or in biodegradable paper bags found at many hardware stores. If you have any questions on solid waste collection, please visit the Division of Solid Waste & Recycling at the City's web site or call (732) 827-2159.

Requests for street trees now being taken

The city recently completed the planting of 150 new trees throughout Rahway under Union County's "Greening Union County" program. This furthers Mayor James Kennedy's commitment to add to the city's inventory of shade trees. The county provided 50 percent of the cost of purchasing and planting the trees. Since the program is expected to continue in future years, residents should contact the Department of Public Works at (732) 827-2060 if they would like a shade tree planted in front of their property.

Weather permitting, the street trees should be planted in the fall.

NINE STREETS TO BE RESURFACED THIS YEAR

Mayor James Kennedy announced that nine Rahway streets will be resurfaced later this year as part of the city's annual resurfacing project.

Earlier this year, the City Council approved an ordinance authorizing the issuance of \$650,000 in bonds to fund the resurfacing project. A contractor and work schedule will be published on the City's web site (www.cityofraahway.com) this summer.

The streets that will be resurfaced in 2006 are:

- West Lincoln Ave. between Whittier and Allen Sts.*
- Linden Ave. between Whittier and Church Sts.*
- Robert St. between Berthold and Russell Aves.*
- Bryant St. between Inman Ave. and Walters St.*
- Williams St. between New Brunswick Ave. and Main St.*
- East Emerson Ave. between Broad and Fulton Sts.*
- Broad St. between W. Milton and Maple Aves.*
- Broad St. between Maple and W. Hazelwood Aves.*
- Maple Ave. between Bryant St. and Jaques Ave.*

A portion of the project costs will be absorbed by a Community Development Block Grant and \$135,000 in funding from the New Jersey Department of Transportation. This year's road improvement program is a continuation of Mayor Kennedy's efforts to address the ongoing infrastructure needs of the community.

Parking will be restricted on the above streets during resurfacing and motorists are asked to use extra caution when traveling through these areas. The streets will be milled and topped with two inches of new asphalt. Curb repairs will be made where necessary.

Residents may call the Department of Building, Planning & Economic Development with any construction-related questions at (732) 827-2180.

National Flood Insurance Program

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Property protection measures

There are various actions which can be taken to flood-proof structures. Depending upon the situation, location and availability of funds, the following measures can be used:

- a) Install a sump pump system to dispose of infiltrating water to grade outside of the structure;
- b) Move essential items and furniture to the upper floors of your home;
- c) Elevate electrical and mechanical equipment in the basement;
- d) Flood proof walls, windows and doors;
- e) Construct flood walls or closures;
- f) Elevate structures.

Floodplain development regulations

Please be advised that all development, including filling of land located in a special flood hazard area, is regulated differently from other areas. If you become aware of illegal filling or development in the flood plain, please contact the Department of Engineering in City Hall.

Drainage system maintenance

In addition to regulating development and fill within the flood hazard area, the City of Rahway and State of New Jersey have regulations prohibiting dumping in channels, obstructing flows or any activity that would adversely effect the water-carrying capacity of any channel, floodway or floodplain. It has been demonstrated that regulating development and maintaining drainage systems can alleviate recurrent flooding which endangers life and damages property and facilities. Any activities that may be in violation of these regulations should be reported to the Department of Engineering.

Substantial improvement requirements

With respect to requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) relative to substantial improvement in the flood plain, please be advised that if the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, additions or other improvement to a building or home equals or exceeds 50 percent of the building's market value, then the building must meet the same flood plain construction requirements as a new building. Substantially damaged buildings must also be brought up to the same standards.

This requirement means elevating the lowest floor, including basement and certain utility systems, one (1) foot above the base flood elevation, which is the 100-year flood elevation.

'Spring Cleanup' to continue into summer

Mayor James Kennedy announced that city code enforcement officers will be targeting numerous properties in Rahway in violation of municipal building maintenance codes as part of the city's 2006 "Spring Cleanup."

Code enforcement officers will be out in force this spring and summer asking property owners to keep their homes, buildings and lots clean, safe and free of debris. For example, residents are reminded that abandoned or unused cars must be properly stored in garages and not left to rust in driveways and lots and grass must be kept under 10" in height. Any unsafe and/or

unsightly conditions on or around buildings must also be repaired. Violators can face monetary fines if not corrected.

According to the Mayor, the city receives dozens of complaints each month from property owners concerned about code violations in their neighborhood.

"Maintaining our property is at the heart of any quality of life initiative," said Kennedy. "Keeping our homes and businesses in good condition raises property values, reduces the potential for crime and instills a sense of pride in our neighborhoods. We have a responsibility as property owners to

maintain our properties."

The Mayor added that the city offers financial assistance for homeowners who are unable to afford the cost of major home improvements through community development grants and low-interest or deferred loans. For more information on the city's home improvement program, call (732) 827-2193.

"The cost of most of this work is minimal," said Kennedy, "requiring only some elbow grease. Making that investment in your home or business is a sound one that will pay off for both property owners and our entire city."

County and Arts Center to team in making \$6 million renovations

(continued from page...5)

Over the past two decades, much of the theater has been restored, but in recent years it has had difficulty meeting the technical requirements of present-day performances. Its ability to book an assortment of contemporary acts and Broadway-style productions is compromised by inadequate dressing room facilities and lack of air conditioning.

USA Architects, Planners, and Interior Designers of Somerville, New Jersey is currently preparing plans and documents for the additions and renovations to the Arts Center. Renovations to the historic structure are planned to retain and preserve the historic character and distinctive architectural features of the Arts Center.

Building improvements and expansion will include:

- the installation of central air conditioning, which would allow for year-round performances.
- the upgrading of mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems. This includes increasing the electrical load to meet the standards of most modern productions.
- the modernization and renovation of the existing dressing room areas, with better access to stage.
- the expansion of the dressing room area to include handicapped-accessible dressing rooms.
- the expansion of backstage space to include a rehearsal room.
- the expansion of the wing space of the theater to provide more room for set design and improved access to dressing rooms.

• the construction of a new loading area behind the theater that will improve access for set and production equipment deliveries.

• the addition of a demountable stage extension for larger performances.

• the restoration of the historic orchestra pit to enhance the theater's classic Wurlitzer Organ.

• the creation of a new "meet and greet" room for performers and also for reception usage.

• the relocation of administrative offices to free up more space for use/rental within the theater.

Once the architectural documents are finalized and local approvals have been obtained, work could begin by the end of this year.

Mayor's Message

(continued from page...2)

into a cultural destination for Rahway residents as well as the surrounding area.

One of the most exciting redevelopment ventures happening in Rahway is centered by our city's crown jewel, the Union County Arts Center. The Arts Center will be receiving a tremendous investment from Union County Board of Freeholders in 2006. This investment is in excess of six million dollars. It will make some much-needed improvements to the 76 year-old vaudeville theater. New air conditioning will ultimately enable the Center to have performances all year long. The dressing rooms will be expanded to provide additional space for performers. A new roof, along with other updates to the facility will make it one of the finest theatres in the state.

This Arts District will include the new Union County Arts Center, a first class jazz club, comedy club, black box theatre, dance studios, an art school, bistros and cafés, artist studio space and continued growth of the Arts Guild of Rahway.

Recently the Redevelopment Agency designated a very significant developer to transform the old Hamilton Laundry site to a spectacular arts facility. This project will add new space for artists to create and exhibit their work in a variety of mediums. Together, this critical mass of space and talent will spark needed synergies to generate a very dynamic district. This, along with the housing component, the hotel and new retail space, will transform our central business district and create a great, sustainable sense of community that will help cement the ties between our city's center and every neighborhood of Rahway.

Investing in the arts does more than improve educational opportunities for families or the quality of life for all of us. It will encourage economic growth throughout our city that will mean a brighter future for us and our children.

It is my pleasure to serve as your mayor, and on behalf of the City of Rahway, as well as my wife and son, I wish all of you a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Deadline for FAIR rebate applications extended

The deadline for senior and disabled homeowners to file their 2005 FAIR homeowner rebate applications has been extended to August 15, and the deadline for filing the 2005 Senior Freeze property tax reimbursement applications has also been extended to August 15.

Because of the time needed to process both the FAIR and Senior Freeze applications, eligible applicants who file for either of these benefits between June 1 and August 15 may not receive their checks among the initial mailing. The Senior Freeze checks are currently scheduled to be mailed in mid-July and the FAIR rebate checks are scheduled to be mailed in early August.

FAIR rebate applications can be picked up at the Tax Collector's office in City Hall or be filed via phone at (877) 658-2972. Applications can also be filed online at <http://state.nj.us/treasury/taxation>. For the property tax reimbursement program, please call (877) 225-1312 or visit <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/propfrez.html>.

REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Carriage City Plaza

Silcon Group has started site work on Carriage City Plaza, a luxurious mixed-used tower across from the train plaza; foundation work and construction of the superstructure will follow shortly. The project will feature over 200 luxury condominiums, 20,000 square feet of retail space (including a restaurant) and a 102-room hotel (*top right*).

Hamilton Laundry

The old Hamilton Laundry site on Hamilton Street has been cleaned out and will see construction commence by the end of the year. The site is being considered as the home of a world-renowned dance company and boasts studio space for visual artists and housing.

Riverview at Rahway

Riverview at Rahway on Main and Monroe Streets will be opening this summer. It features 14 luxury residential units along with Luciano's, a fine dining, 250-seat Italian restaurant with a piano bar and lounge (*bottom left*).

Park Square

With the final parcels of property now purchased by the developer, foundations will be poured this summer for the ambitious Park Square development between Irving and Main Streets. It will feature 159 residential units and 7,000 square feet of commercial space (*center right*).

Riverwalk at Rahway

Over 30 units of this townhouse community have already been sold. Thanks to an agreement signed between the developer and the Rahway Redevelopment Agency, the City has already realized \$470,000 from the sale of the units and will recover its \$1.5 million investment when all 86 units are completed and sold.

The Savoy

Construction of The Savoy at Rahway begins this summer. It will be an upscale, four-story, mixed-use building with 36 two-bedroom, two-bath units of market-rate housing, ranging from 1,150 to 1,300 square feet. The building will also feature 7,870 square feet of retail space at street level that will likely be divided between two and three stores and a building design of brick and stucco finish with decorative window and gables (*bottom right*).



Over 150 compete Mayor's 5K run and 1 mile fun run

Following the completion of the Mayor's 5K run, Mayor James Kennedy, fifth from left, and Third Ward Councilman Jerry Scaturo, second from left, join race director Ally Mongo, left, to congratulate first place female finisher Rebekah Catalano of Elizabeth, third from left, and first place male finisher Demesse Tefera, fourth from left, of Ethiopia.

Tefera was the first overall finisher with a winning time of 14:17. Catalano's time of 20:20 was tops among the female runners. The two joined over 150 athletes who competed in the annual Mayor's Run 5K, 1 mile fun run and pee wee run on May 29, sponsored by the Rahway Division of Recreation and Power Bar.



SAFETY POLICE & FIRE

Safe bike tips

The Rahway Police Department is offering tips on keeping your bicycles safe this summer:

1. Carry a lock and use it.
2. At home, keep your bicycle in a room, basement or locked garage.
3. Never leave your bike in a yard or driveway unattended.
4. Fill in the information below and keep it, along with a sales receipt and a photo of the bike.
5. If your bike is stolen, have your parents call the police immediately.
6. Register your bike with the Rahway Police Department!

Walking patrols return downtown

Mayor James Kennedy has announced that Rahway police officers have begun to monitor downtown on foot each day as part of the Police Department's new walking patrol.

Officers have been reassigned from the former Community Assistance Team and will be patrolling the central business district between 7:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. They are being supplemented with bicycle patrols.

"Merchants, shoppers and residents have been asking for a walking patrol officer downtown for quite some time, and I'm pleased that we were able to work together towards a solution," said Kennedy. "This marks the return of the 'beat cop' downtown for the first time in many years and will help strengthen the bonds between our downtown and our public safety professionals. I'm optimistic that it will lead to safer streets and a higher quality of life."



Police offer guidelines on Internet safety

Recently, there's been a lot of anxiety about the safety of children while they explore the wonders of the Internet. The tension is particularly great when social networking sites such as Teenchat.com, Friendster.com and MySpace.com, are mentioned. With all of the speculation as to whether or not our children are at risk for becoming victims while using these sites, it's a wonder they are allowed to browse the Internet at all. Unfortunately, it's futile to try to block all access to the Internet. The Internet can actually enhance your children's educational experience and prohibiting its use may put them at an academic disadvantage. With that in mind, there are many ways to keep your children safe while they explore the wonders of this useful resource.

1. Take the mystery out of surfing the Net. Simply put, ask your children to show you the "ins and outs" of surfing the Net. You may be surprised by how eager they are to show you just how much they know about computers! This also serves a dual purpose. It serves as a learning opportunity for you and it's a great conversation starter that may help open to the door to the next important step.

2. Ask, ask, ask! Ask your children about chat rooms. Ask about blogs. Ask them to show you the sites that they frequently visit. Most importantly, ask if they have a website on MySpace, Friendster, or any of the other social networking sites. If they do, check out their website. Make sure it does not contain identifiable information such as your child's name, age, address, city of residence, school name, etc. On sites such as MySpace, kids can post pictures of themselves, biographies, where they like to hang out, names and photos of their friends, email addresses, cell phone numbers, and much more. All of this

information in the wrong hands could lead to problems.

3. Establish rules with your children about Internet use. Talk with your children about what they can and cannot do online. Be reasonable and set reasonable expectations. Try to understand their needs, interests and curiosity, but set definite parameters.

4. Limit the amount of time allowed each day on the Internet.

5. Discuss chat room rules. Talk to them about the kind of information they should never release, such as full name, address, phone numbers, email address, school information, sports teams or any other information that could allow someone track them down. Teach them that when they're talking with someone in a chat room or instant message (IM) session, they are interacting with a stranger unless they are positive they really know that person in the "real" world. Also, it is very important that your child does not provide his/her account password to anyone, including friends.

6. Do not meet in person. It's dangerous to get together with someone you first "meet" online. Remember, people are not always who they seem to be. If your child insists on meeting up with someone they met online, insist on being there during the meeting. The meeting should take place in a public area, such as a restaurant, and at a reasonable hour. At least you will have some idea as to the actual age, gender and demeanor of the person your child met online.

7. Check out blocking, filtering and ratings applications. There are services that rate web sites for content. There are also filtering programs and browsers that empower parents to block the types of sites they consider to be inap-

propriate. These programs work in different ways. Some block sites known to contain objectionable material. Some prevent users from entering certain types of information such as names and addresses. Others keep your children away from chat rooms or restrict their ability to send or read e-mail. It's important to realize that filtering programs cannot protect your child from all online dangers.

8. Keep the computer in a central location. Put it somewhere that you can monitor their activities (kitchen, living room, family room). Also, keep in mind there are many other locations besides your home that have Internet access. Most cell phones, PDAs and local libraries allow access to the Internet.

9. Follow up. This is where it all comes together. If you don't follow up or check up on your children once in a while, you will never know if they are following your rules. Surprise them while they are actually online. Check the computer history to see which sites they visited recently. If they know you will check on them, they may be less likely to risk getting caught on a site where they don't belong.

Unfortunately, there are no rules that will give parents ironclad assurance that their children will be 100 percent safe on the Internet. Using simple logic and common sense is still your best bet to avoid problems.

For more information about Internet safety, teen safety, identity theft and other similar topics, log on to the Rahway Police Department website at www.rahwaypolice.com, or call the Community Relations Office at (732) 827-2179.

Around Union County

Nature in your own backyard: Bio-Blitz 2006

A "Bio-Blitz" scheduled for the evening of Friday, June 23 and all day Saturday, June 24 will offer programs that include an introduction to the "language" of birds, glimpses of tracks left by wildlife, and identification of plants that flourished when Native Americans still roamed the area that is now the Ash Brook Reservation in Scotch Plains.

The reservation, a Union County park, and a portion of the adjacent Ash Brook Golf Course, also a county facility, will be the site of the county's second Bio-Blitz, a 24-hour effort to catalog whatever plant and animal life can be found in the area - and thus get a snapshot of its biodiversity.

Another purpose of the Bio-Blitz is to give the public an understanding of the unspoiled habitat that remains even in a region as densely populated as Union County.

Last year, when New Jersey's first-ever public Bio-Blitz was held at Lenape Park, a Union County park with meadows, forests, ponds and rivers, experts identified some 660 different species.

Though this year's site has different terrain - extensive wetlands, ponds and streams as well as hardwood swamp and forest - the study of flora and fauna is again being led by scientists and field experts assisted by lay volunteers.

The event is sponsored by the Union County Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the Rahway River Association. Many other educational and scientific organizations are assisting, including the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, Colonia High School Fishing Club, Columbia University, Fanwood Nature Center, Friends of Lenape Park, Greater Watchung Nature Club, Kean University, National Biodiversity Parks Inc., New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Watershed Ambassador Program, NJDEP Fish, NJ Audubon and Wildlife, Restera LLC, Staten Island Zoo, Stonybrook Millstone Watershed Association, U.S. Department of Agriculture, APHIS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Wild Birds Unlimited.

The Ash Brook Reservation in Scotch Plains will be the setting of Bio-Blitz 2006, a 24-hour effort to catalog the plant and animal life that can be found in the area and thereby get a snapshot of its biodiversity. Naturalists, scientists, families and individual nature lovers will begin the blitz on Friday evening, June 23, and continue throughout Saturday, June 24. A variety of programs will be available to involve children and parents. To partici-

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Senior Home Improvement Grant Applications Available

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders recently announced the continuation of the Senior Home Improvement Program, which offers grants for home improvements to eligible low and moderate income senior citizens of Union County.

The Senior Home Improvement Program is funded by Community Development Block Grant funds. Low and moderate income Senior Homeowners (60 and over) throughout Union County are eligible.

"There are many seniors who may have an old roof, a leaky pipe or old drafty windows and may not have the money to make these needed repairs," said Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella. "This is a program that will address these issues and provide seniors with needed relief."

The program offers a one-time grant of up to \$5,000 which is paid directly to the contractor at the completion of the work and satisfaction of the homeowner. Staff members will be available to prepare a work write-up, review the contractor bids, perform in-progress inspections to assure quality work and do a final inspection at the completion of work.

Eligible improvements include repair or replacement of standard heating, electrical and plumbing systems, sidewalks, roofing and structural repairs. Also included are energy saving measures such as insulation, new windows, storm doors and other improvements that will upgrade your home to standard condition.

Development Directions of Rahway will administer this program. Based upon the overwhelming demand, if you are selected, program staff will meet with applicants and will explain the program guidelines, complete the program application and schedule the property inspections. For more information, eligible senior citizens can call (732) 382-8100.

County of Union
Household Special Waste Collection
Saturday, August 19
8 a.m.-2 p.m.
Union County VoTech
1776 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains
Rain or shine, no pre-registration required
Materials accepted for safe & proper disposal:

Aerosol cans
Antifreeze
Batteries
Caustics
Corrosives and Cleaners
Fire extinguishers
Fluorescent bulbs (unbroken)
Gasoline
Mercury switches
Motor oil & filters
Oil-based paints and varnishes
Pesticides and herbicides
Pool chemicals
Solvents and thinners
Thermostats
Tires (limit eight per household) with rims removed

Unknown or unidentified materials, explosives, radioactive materials, latex paint and PCBs will **not** be accepted. Only materials in original or labeled containers five gallons or less will be accepted.

For more information please call the Union County Bureau of Environmental Services Hotline at (908) 654-9889 or visit www.ucnj.org/oem.

Union County Freeholders to host "Union County Day" in Rahway

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders will host "Union County Day" in Rahway on Thursday, June 22. It features a collection of programs that the county provides for its residents and will conclude with public meetings of the Freeholder Board at Rahway City Hall.

Union County Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella has reintroduced the practice of "mobile meetings" as his first initiative for 2006 with the aim of inviting greater participation in county government. The year's first mobile meeting was held in Berkeley Heights on February 22.

"Since some residents have difficulty attending meetings in Elizabeth, we want to make every effort to increase community connections and increase participation in our programs," said Mirabella.

All events are free and open to the public. The schedule of events is as follows:

Child Safety Seat Inspection D-Chip Fingerprint Program

Provided by the Union County Police Department
7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Rahway Branch YMCA, 1564 Irving Street

Union County Public Information Van

7:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. Train Station Plaza

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Rahway River Park

Senior Seminar

11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Rahway Senior Center, 1306 Esterbrook Avenue

- 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Runnells Hospital Blood Pressure/Grip Strength/Cholesterol/Diabetes
- 11:30 a.m. - noon: Surrogate Jim LaCorte presentation on Wills/Probate
- Noon - 12:30 p.m.: Sheriff Ralph Froehlich presentation on Senior Medical Alert
- 1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.: Division on Aging - Senior Outreach Program
- 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.: Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs Presentation
- 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.: Senior Scholar Program - 30 minute class

Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Mobile Meeting

6:30 p.m. Agenda Meeting

7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting

Rahway City Hall Council Chambers, 1 City Hall Plaza

For more information, visit www.cityofraahway.com or www.ucnj.org.

Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum Schedule of Events



For more information about these events, call (732) 381-0441 or visit www.merchantsanddrovers.org

Tag Sale

June 17, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Items may be donated for sale at this all-day fundraiser. Tag Sale drop off dates are June 15 and 16, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Rain date is June 24.

History Day Camp

July 10-14

Children ages 9-14 will study and perform plays and other entertainments presented at New Jersey taverns in the early nineteenth century. This week-long camp will also include crafts and games. Cost is \$100.

Nature in your own backyard: Bio-Blitz 2006

(continued from page...11)

pate or receive a schedule of events, call the Union County Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities at (908) 527-4032.

For the general public, there will be programs designed to appeal to both adults and children, including nature walks, talks and exhibits throughout the day.

Nocturnal creatures will be the focus of the initial programs on the evening of June 23, when a "frog slog" and an "owl prow" and bird walk will be held.

Throughout the following day, there will be a variety of programs and exhibits for children and adults. Members of the Friends of Lenape Park will lead beginner bird walks; the Children of the Earth Foundation of Tom Brown's outdoor education school, the Asbury based-Tracker Inc., will present programs on "Tracking and Nature Awareness;" a team from the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife will collect and identify fish from streams in the reservation; and John Goldman of National Biodiversity Parks Inc. will set out scent stations of sand and tuna-scented cotton balls where visitors

Antiques Auction

September 16, 9 a.m. (preview); 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (auction)

Donations of antiques are needed for this popular fund raiser held with the support of Holiday Auction Sales of Rahway. Pickup of donated antiques is available.

\$3 admission includes auction catalog. Refreshments will be sold.

Ghosts of the Past Cemetery Tours

October 7 & 8, 1 p.m.

Tours of the Rahway Cemetery leave every 15 minutes from the tavern through late afternoon. Meet eighteen "Ghosts" from three centuries and hear them

will be able to see tracks left by any animals attracted to the site.

The historic background of the area also will be included in the program. Frank Thorne of Scotch Plains is scheduled to appear in period costume to present a talk about the Revolutionary War Battle of the Short Hills. There also will be a talk presented by Jeffrey Grob, Landscape Architect and member of Union County Parks Advisory Board, on what the former Union County Park Commission envisioned for the Union County park system and Ash Brook Reservation back in the 1920s.

Children will have an opportunity to win prizes in a variety of contests, and refreshments will be on sale throughout the day on June 24. A complete schedule of programs will be available soon.

Volunteers are still being sought by the Union County Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities.

To participate or to receive a brochure and schedule of events, call: (908) 527-4032. For information about the Rahway River Association, call Dennis Miranda, Executive Director at (732) 340-0882 or e-mail rahwayriverassociation@verizon.net.

tell their stories! Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$9 for members and \$5 for students. Reservations are not necessary. Rain dates are Saturday, October 14 and Sunday, October 15.

Four Centuries in a Weekend

October 21 & 22

Twenty-two historic sites throughout Union County will be open for tours and special programs. Admission is free. This event is provided through the support of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

Holiday at the Tavern

December 2 & 9

The tavern will hold a special holiday open house with period

music. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6 for members and \$5 for students and children ages 6 and up.

The Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum Association is dedicated to preserving the Merchants and Drovers Tavern (c. 1795/1820) and to interpreting early tavern life. The tavern, located at the corner of St. Georges Avenue (Route 27) and Westfield Avenue, is recorded in the Historic American Buildings Survey and listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the New Jersey Register of Historic Places. The Association also owns the Terrill Tavern (c. 1750).



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.

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.

SENIOR STUFF

Senior Prescription cards offered

The City Council has approved 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.city-ofrahway.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 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 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 a.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. Each registered participant 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. to 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 20

October 18

November 15

December 20

Rahway Public Library - first Tuesday of the month from 3 - 5 p.m.

July & August - NO SCREENING

September 5

October 3

November- NO SCREENING

December 5

Rahway Retired Men's Club

Meets every Monday at 1 p.m.
Pres. Ted Polhamus (732) 381-0273

Merck Retirees

Meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m.
Pres. Cliff Lenox (732) 572-2251

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) 738-7189

RAHWAY SENIOR CLUBS

A.A.R.P. Chapter #607

Meets 2nd Thursday of the month at 12 noon.
Pres. Marge Gray (908) 241-3066

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
Pres. Cecilia Ringer (908) 245-3479

Rack named 'Senior of the Year'



Mayor James J. Kennedy, third from left, recently honored William Rack, fourth from left, as 2005 Senior Citizen of the Year. Joining them are, from left, past Senior Citizen of the Year honorees Helen McWhorter (2000), Carl Mintzer (2002), Chester Arnold (2004), Ann McArdle (1999), Grace Wolf (1997) and George Ryan (2003). Not pictured are the late Ed Schweinberg (1998) and Marie Brown (2001).

Mayor James Kennedy has announced that Bedford Street resident William Rack has been named the 2005 Rahway Senior Citizen of the Year.

Rack is a graduate of Rahway High School who has been married to his wife, Noreen, for fifty years. Together, they raised three children in Rahway. Rack received an accounting degree from Rutgers University and was employed at Public Service Electric and Gas for thirty-five years before retiring.

He has long been active in civic affairs, serving on the Board of Adjustment, Planning Board, Parking Authority, Library Board, Environmental Commission and most recently, as Chairman of the Rahway Redevelopment Agency.

He is a member of the Rahway Jaycees, Saint Mark's Church, Rahway Knights of Columbus, Rahway Honorary PBA, the Rahway Center Partnership and the Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum. Rack has been very active in the restoration and operation of the historic Merchants and Drovers Tavern on Saint Georges Avenue and can be found there many days during the week staffing the gift shop or assisting visitors.

"Bill's service and commitment to his community exemplifies the type of person he is," said Kennedy. "He knows that democracy can only be successful when citizens volunteer their time and their skills to making it work, and for that, we are grateful."

A Tree Grows in Rahway



A tree grows in Rahway

Thanks to the Rahway Senior Services Club, who worked with the Rahway DPW to plant a Kwanzaan Cherry Tree in front of the Senior Center last month. A plaque honoring the late resident John Zamorski was provided courtesy of Golden Age Towers and placed at the base of the tree.



Marianne Power Takes the Helm

Nancy Saliga and Bob Markey remain, helping Marianne set the new course!

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Visit Rahway on the web



www.cityofrahway.com

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