

The Rahway Review

SUMMER 2003

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

Volume XI, Issue 2



At Home 2003 Friday, July 4th

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HOLIDAY



Last year's spectacular fireworks display lit up the sky over the City!

4 - 10:30 P.M.

Rahway's second annual
Independence Day celebration
will feature

Food! Fun! Games!

The Celebration will include a 7 P.M.
live performance by the
Marvelettes ("Please Mr. Postman") and a
9:30 P.M. fireworks show over the Rahway River.

Free admission

Bring you lawn chairs and blankets!

No coolers, backpacks or pets, please



The marvelous Marvelettes will perform live on July 4th.

Mayor's Concert Series Returns!

Join us this summer as the Mayor's Summer
Concert Series returns for another fantastic season!

When: Thursdays in August at 7 p.m.

Where: Corner of W. Main & Irving Streets, behind
the Union County Arts Center.

Who:

August 7 – Cornell Gunter Coasters ("Yakety Yak,"
"Charlie Brown")

August 14 – New York City Swing (swing band)

August 21 – Jukebox Heroes ('50s-'70s music)

August 28 – The B Street Band (Bruce Springsteen
tribute)

In case of rain the concert will be held inside
the Arts Center. Local restaurants will again be sell-
ing food before each show.

New Park Named For Rahway Vet

Officials from Union County and the City of Rahway dedi-
cated a new 4.5 acre segment of Union County's Rahway
River Parkway on Saturday, May 17. The ceremony took
place at the entrance to the new park, located at the cor-
ner of Union and Allen streets in Rahway's First Ward.

Over the past year more than 400 volunteers from the
community and local businesses transformed the land
from a flood-prone neighborhood to a thriving wetlands
area where trails meander along the river.

"This will be a great place for families to bring their
children to learn about the natural world that is literally
in their back yard," said Freeholder Chairwoman Debo-
rah P. Scanlon. "Every Rahway resident can be proud of
See "Bezega Park," on page 7



Freeholder Rick Proctor, Freeholder Chairwoman Deborah
P. Scanlon, Mrs. Mary Bezega, Mary Jane Hoeman and
Freeholder Chester Holmes at the park dedication.

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 the Mayor 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 patron in the City of Rahway. The balance is distributed by request to individuals and companies interested in living or doing business in Rahway.

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

The Rahway Review welcomes the comments and concerns of its readers put into writing and sent to:

The Rahway Review

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Volume XI, Issue 2

Mayor's

All across the nation, state and local governments are grappling with fiscal crises not seen in decades. Each day we read of the budget crisis in Trenton and how the Governor and the Legislature are pondering serious cuts in state programs. New York City taxpayers are facing a hike in their property taxes of nearly 20 percent and the possibility of shuttered firehouses, public pools and zoos. These are certainly lean times for both government and business.

Rahway has been fortunate to enjoy one of the most stable property taxes in New Jersey over the past ten years. Since my administration's first budget (fiscal year 1992) the local portion of a homeowner's property tax bill has only increased an average of 2.4 percent annually, less than the annual inflation rate of 2.8 percent. The February 17, 2002 *Star-Ledger* reported that Rahway's total tax rate (which includes the school and county portion of a tax bill) in the 1990s increased at a rate that was less than half of the state average and only 62 percent of the Union County average. The article also cited Rahway as having the second-most stable property tax rate in Union County. In 2001, Rahway's total tax rate was the sixth lowest in Union County (out of 21 municipalities).

During this period of stabilizing property taxes, we renovated every park and playground in the city, drastically improved the city's solid waste and recycling collection, built a new recreation center and increased the number of recreation programs available to Rahway residents. We will soon be celebrating the opening of our new public library behind City Hall that will be a beacon of learning and information for residents of all ages.

It gets more difficult each year to match Rahway's excellent history of property tax stabilization, and I am committed to maintain that record. Sharp property tax hikes are completely unacceptable under my administration, and the city will take all necessary steps to lessen the property tax burden for every property owner in Rahway. That was my promise to you in 1991 and it will remain my administration's number one goal now and in the future.

Last year's budget presented numerous fiscal challenges that we were able to overcome. Health insurance premiums for municipal employees rose \$1.3 million, or nearly 20 percent. The city lost over \$7.8 million in cumulative state aid since 1992, and we were billed an extra \$800,000 for our sewerage costs by the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority. Faced with these issues, we were still able to keep property tax hikes down to about \$10 per month for the average Rahway homeowner.

The anticipated revenues that will be produced by the myriad of redevelopment projects planned for downtown and for other areas of Rahway will go a long way in providing us with a steady, reliable source of ratables for years to come. However, as you may know from past columns like this, many of these projects will not be completed for several years, as properties continue to be acquired and permits continue to be secured. We should look at redevelopment as a long-term solution to property tax stabilization.

In the short term, I pledged to the taxpayers of Rahway last year that we will be aggressively examining ways to increase revenues that are not dependent on property taxes while continuing to cut costs and improve services.

The City Council passed numerous ordinances earlier this year that raise fees for city services like filing building permits, copying documents, etc. Most of these fees have not been updated in decades and will help the city recover the cost for filing and processing these documents. We expect this updating to bring in approximately \$305,000 in new revenue.

Each department has also submitted plans to the Business Administrator on ways to bring in new revenue that will lessen the burden for property taxpayers. From providing bulky waste collection for Union County municipalities like Clark, Kenilworth and Roselle Park to soliciting sponsorships for the *Rahway Review*, we are leaving no stone unturned when it comes to streamlining municipal operations.

This also means that while we are increasing nontax revenues, we are serious about reducing the cost of local government.

We plan to streamline our workforce this year without reducing services. This will increase our efficiency at a significantly lower cost.

Perhaps the biggest savings will be realized through reducing the city's health care premiums for its employees. The city is presently a member of the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP), which



is the health care package offered to state, county and municipal employees. As I mentioned earlier, our health care premiums rose \$1.3 million last year and were projected to increase by \$783,000 this year.

The City Council approved a measure in April to leave the SHBP. Oxford Health Plans of New Jersey will provide the same or equal coverage that is presently offered to city employees and retirees at a savings of \$593,000, or over \$59 per homeowner in Rahway. Oxford will offer our employees and retirees the choice of a traditional, Point of Service plan or HMO, as is already made available to them through the SHBP.

We will also be examining the prospect of having municipal employees contribute a portion of their health care premiums like most of you already do. Recent data shows that 82 percent of private-sector companies require employees to pay a portion of their health insurance premium, and 91 percent require workers to bear part of the cost to cover their families.

You may also know that in April, Rahway voters rejected the proposed Board of Education budget that would have raised property taxes by almost \$200 on the average home. Thanks to the hard work of our City Council school budget committee, the budget was reduced by over \$2.6 million and will keep the school tax increase down to a more manageable amount of \$72 or so. This was done without seriously impacting programs for our public school students.

Many of these reductions in spending have not come without some fiscal pain and hard decisions. The courage to keep property taxes from spiraling out of control is extremely difficult in these lean economic times. We must continue to work together – public sector unions, citizens and elected officials – to realize our shared obligation to the public. Delivering necessary services at an equitable cost should be the goal of every public official. We will continue to strive towards that goal every day.

“Sharp property tax hikes are completely unacceptable under my administration, and the city will take all necessary steps to lessen the property tax burden for every property owner in Rahway...”

– Mayor James Kennedy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James J. Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MAYOR



Franklin School students staff "mission control," at the Buhler Challenger & Science Center.

Elementary Students Take To The Stars

Earlier this year, students visited the Buhler Challenger & Science Center in Paramus after several weeks of intense study and preparation in the classroom. The students worked as a team to land a simulated spacecraft on the moon in a realistic mock-up of mission control in Houston. The students applied lessons learned in the classroom to the mission as they prepared to land the unmanned probe on the moon.

The students presented their findings to parents and members of the Board of Education during a debriefing session February 11.

"The students worked cooperatively to tackle the variety of challenges needed to stage a successful space mission," said Franklin School Gifted & Talented teacher Margaret Cilia. "They not only learned important science and technology skills, but how to develop a successful mission plan and to carry out that plan as a unified team."

School Construction Update

Early Childhood Additions

Construction has resumed on the early childhood additions at Franklin and Grover Cleveland Schools. Block and brick work have been progressing at a decent pace in spite of the harsh winter. Both facilities are expected to open in September. Negotiations are continuing to restart construction work at Roosevelt and Madison Schools.

Middle School Electrical Upgrade

Concord Engineering is presently revising and updating the electrical specifications previously developed for the Middle School. Work is projected to begin this summer.

Roof replacements

A portion of the High School roof over the auditorium and technology center will be replaced this summer. Another partial roof replacement is planned for Roosevelt and Madison Schools. State grants are expected to cover a portion of these necessary repairs.

New public address and clock systems

Long-awaited improvements in the public address and clock systems at Franklin and Grover Cleveland Schools are ready to begin, thanks to funds from the state. A similar system was installed at Roosevelt School in 2000.

Girls Basketball Wins State Title

After a successful 2001-2002 campaign, the Rahway girls basketball team soared to new heights this past season by capturing its first ever state title.

Under the leadership of senior captains Casey Probus, Elizabeth Bauer and Chante Small, the team made it to the semifinals of the Union County Tournament and then won the Group 2 North Section 2 State Championship in March.



Front row, from left, are Jarisha Jackson, Kristyne DeJesus, Kristen Didyoung, Casey Probus, Amanda Casares, Jamie Godfrey, Khudia Rivers-Payne, Jasimere McMillan. Back row, from left, are Rachel Munoz, Christine Beaver, Lindsay Connell, Elizabeth Bauer, Chante Small, Krystle White, Francesca Garay and coaches Chris Van Vliet and Chris Remley.

Dr. Seuss Visits Kids

On March 3, elementary schools throughout Rahway celebrated "Read Across America" with a special tribute to noted children's author Dr. Seuss.



Rahway High School student John Ott reads *The Cat In The Hat* to Madison School kindergartners Brittany Zweibel, Tyra Watkins, Cailey Buckley, Connor Weinert and Christopher Fedorczyk.



Grover Cleveland students Katherine Naper and Elizabeth Cron make "Ooblek" as part of the Read Across America festivities.



UPDATE

RAHWAY CENTER PARTNERSHIP

Making a Difference Downtown

Downtown Rahway On the Move! 'Be a Part of It'

By William J. Brenner, Jr.
Chairman, Rahway Center Partnership

Ray Mikell
Executive Director, Rahway Center Partnership

'Jersey Fresh' Farmers' Market Returns Downtown



The Rahway train station plaza will once again host this year's Farmer's Market with the return of 'Jersey Fresh' farmers. The Jersey Fresh program is sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and offers fruits and vegetables grown in New Jersey and picked fresh the day before they arrive for sale. This year's Market will also feature fresh baked good and homemade crafts.

The Market kicks off on July 17 at noon and will run every Thursday through the end of October between 12 and 6 P.M.

You Can Now Check Us Out On Our NEW Website!

Rahway Center Partnership
www.rcpnj.org

The Rahway Center Partnership Web site is sponsored & paid for by:

PJC Monogram Co., Inc.
689 Jaques Avenue



"The Big Easy" Comes To Rahway

Mardi Gras beads, Cajun and Creole cooking, hurricane cocktails and jazz and blues music have arrived downtown as Main Street takes on the flavor of Bourbon Street. Fat Tuesday's Bar & Grill, located at 1467 Main Street, is the newest venture of restaurateur Maurice Flynn, proprietor of Flynn's Irish Pub & Steakhouse.

Fat Tuesday's boasts of a New Orleans-inspired décor with a new and fun atmosphere downtown. Live entertainment and special events are all on tap for 2003 and beyond.

Rahway Center Partnership's 2003 Schedule of Events

- Holiday at Home..... Friday, July 4
- Jersey Fresh Farmers Market
Thursdays July 17 – October 23
- Merchants/Trustee Barbecue..... Thursday, July 24
- National Night Out Against Crime Tuesday, August 5
- Mayor's Summer Concert Series
Thursdays August 7, 14, 21, 28
- Hot Rods & Harleys Part 2..... Saturday, September 13
- Baby Parade Sunday, October 4
- Craft Market Saturdays, October 11 & 18
- Tree Lighting/Holiday Market..... Friday, November 28
- Festival of Trees November 28 – 30
- Holiday Gala Saturday, December 6

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'Hot Rods & Harleys' A Success Downtown

Over 1,500 people filled downtown Rahway on Saturday, May 17 to enjoy "Hot Rods & Harleys," which was sponsored by the Rahway Center Partnership. Some 75 classic cars and hundreds of motorcycles were also

on display, as well as music, food and products sold by downtown merchants.

Hot Rods & Harleys will return downtown on September 13.

Third Annual Baby Parade & Wellness Day

The third annual Baby Parade & Wellness Day returns to Rahway's downtown on Saturday, October 4. The day features rides, attractions, food entertainment, and the traditional Baby Parade through downtown Rahway.



Last year's Second Annual Baby Parade & Wellness Day was an unqualified success with legions of citizens taking part in the wide range of the day's entertainment and activities. This year's is destined to be even bigger. Don't miss it!



Merck Honored at Recognition Breakfast

RCP Executive Director Ray Mikell (center) presents a plaque to Merck representatives Gail Driscoll (left), Chris Stubbs (second from right) and Bob Gregory (right) at the Partnership's Second Annual Recognition Breakfast held on January 30 at the Masonic Lodge on Irving Street.

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ART DOWNTOWN

Rahway Named 'Tree City USA'

The city's celebration of Arbor Day on April 25 brought good news for the city's continuing efforts to preserve and protect Rahway's natural resources. Mayor James Kennedy announced that the city has been named "Tree City USA" for 2002 by the National Arbor Day Foundation. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

To become a Tree City USA, a community must meet four standards: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance.

"Trees in our cities and towns help clean the air, conserve soil and water, moderate temperature and bring nature into our daily lives," said John Rosenow, president of the National Arbor Day Foundation. "Tree City USA designation recognizes the work of elected officials, staff and citizens who plant and care for the community forest."

"According to the U.S. Forestry Service, each shade tree can increase the value of a house by five or six percent, which averages over \$5,000 in Rahway," said Kennedy. "We also know

that streets without shade trees look sterile and unsightly, and that trees lower home energy costs by shielding homes from the summer sun, reducing reliance on air conditioning."



Councilman At-Large James C. Jones, center, helps local Boy and Girl Scouts plant a tree at Berzinec Park as part of the city's annual Arbor Day celebration.

River Place Construction Begins Downtown



Construction on River Place at Rahway, a 136-unit market-rate apartment complex on the corner of Dock and Lewis Streets and the largest privately-funded residential housing development in the central business district in 25 years, began this April.

The development is the product of a partnership of the Rahway Parking Authority, the city and Heartstone Development, LLC, of East Hanover. River Place will be marketed towards young professionals looking for an easy commute to Manhattan via the new NJ Transit train station two blocks away.

"Rahway is taking the lead in making 'smart growth' a reality," said Mayor James Kennedy. We are using our new train station and 35-minute commute to New York City as selling points to bring new energy to our downtown. River Place is an example of how we are taking old surface parking lots and turning them into attractive, pedestrian-friendly and revenue producing developments that improve the quality of life and economic vitality of the city."

River Place at Rahway is expected to be taking reservations for apartments next spring, with full occupancy expected by late 2004.

Kennedy added that Rahway is one of a handful of "Transit Villages" across the state that has actively solicited development around mass transit hubs like the Rahway train station. The city received an award from the Newark-based Regional Business Partnership on May 19 for its efforts in promoting mixed-use development downtown. On May 29, the city and Merck & Co. were honored by New Jersey Future, the state's leading anti-sprawl organization, for their efforts in promoting smart growth in and around Rahway.

Be Safe With Household Hot Water

Over 8 million hot water heaters are manufactured in the U.S. each year and almost 60 million gas water heaters in use in American homes and businesses. Hot water heaters have the potential for danger even when installed with usual temperature settings.

Expected hot water temperatures lack fidelity because of inaccuracies or defects in the thermostats and because tempering valves are rarely included in the heaters for residential use. These problems are compounded by the problem of layering, where the hottest water rises to the top of the heater after hot water is drawn from the heater. As a result, the next draw temporarily produces an excessively high temperature.

These conditions have the potential to put individuals at risk. This may leave the hot water heater manufactur-

er, the plumbing engineer, the plumbing contractor, the maintenance plumber, and the property owner at high risk of lawsuits.

According to data from the National Safe Kids Campaign, almost 5,000 children are scalded each year, most often in household bathtubs. Statistics from the campaign indicate that 95 percent of such burns occurred in the home or apartment.

Residents are urged not to exceed the manufacturer's recommended temperature settings for their hot water heater. When turning on the hot water, wait a few seconds for the water to regulate to the desired temperature.

Information provided courtesy of Watts Regulator Company and the Rahway Division of Building Code Enforcement.



Scouts, Volunteers Clean Up Rahway River Branch

On May 3, over 125 people, including girl scouts, cub scouts, boy scouts, representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers, fishermen, local activists and citizens, descended on the North Branch of the Rahway River to conduct a day-long cleanup. Sponsors came through with coffee, bagels, danish, donuts, cookies, bottled water, and juice boxes. Water bottles, coloring books,

posters and some T-shirts were given away to the participants. The team cleaned up over a one-mile stretch of the river through Rahway River Park.

More information and photos are available on the US Army Corps of Engineers web site:

<http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/harbor/rahoway/phrway.htm>



Thurman Simmons and Alehna Weaver, Merck Environmental Champions, plant trees and shrubs in the County's newest park.

Merck Champions Plant Newest Park

More than 40 Merck employees spent the day digging, planting and mulching at Union County's newest park. In celebration of Earth Week, Merck "Environmental Champions" worked in partnership with the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation, the City of Rahway, and the Rahway River Association to complete the planting project, which began last year, at the wetland restoration area on the banks of the Rahway River.

Volunteers planted additional wetland shrubs and coniferous trees at the 4.5-acre site. Once finished, the new park was named the Rahway River Parkway, Rahway Section, Michael S. Bezega Wetland Observation Area, and provides a diverse plant and wildlife habitat and scenic landscapes with walking trails for community enjoyment, in addition to flood protection.

The park's dedication ceremony was held on Saturday, May 17 (see story on front page).

G.A. Geyer Appointed To Board

Rahway Hospital has announced the appointment of G. Allen Geyer, Scotch Plains, as its new Chairman of the Rahway Hospital Board of Governors.

Geyer is Chief Executive Officer of AGR Financial in Edison, a financial services company specializing in financing, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate restructuring in specialty markets. Prior to that, he held several executive positions in finance and banking; most recently serving as CEO for North America of Bank Brussels Lambert, a major international bank.

Geyer earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Grove City College, PA, as well as an MBA from New York University Graduate School of Business Administration. He joined the Rahway Hospital Board of Governors in 1996, serving mostly recently as its treasurer/assistant secretary. Geyer will serve a two-year term in his newly elected position.



Other two-year Board appointments include: Brian Leddy, Cranford, Kent Lorentzen, Westfield, and Nicholas Delmonaco, Edison, retired, as Secretary.

The volunteers removed 105 bags of floatable and small debris as well as tires, fire extinguishers, an air conditioner, a computer monitor, a lawnmower, a window frame and dozens of other items.

The event got good reviews from nearly everyone that participated, and everyone left feeling they had made a positive impact on their community.

Bezega Park cont. from p.1

the natural diversity and beauty we are preserving here."

The park is named for United States Army Staff Sgt. Michael S. Bezega, who was killed in combat in Vietnam in June 1970, a few weeks shy of his 22nd birthday. A lifelong Rahway resident, Mr. Bezega lived on Walters Street and attended Rahway High School. He went to Vietnam in January 1970 attached to the 101st Airborne Division. He was killed in the province of Thua Thien, near Hue, by small arms fire.

Mr. Bezega is survived by his mother, Mary, and sister Mary Jane Hoeman.

"We worked closely with officials from the City of Rahway, particularly Council President Sal Mione, on this project," said Freeholder Chester Holmes, a Rahway resident. "All of us agreed that it was important that we recognize Mr. Bezega, who lived nearby, and to the contribution he made to his country."

The park was once a residential neighborhood where four years ago, residents were pulled from their homes by rescue workers

during Hurricane Floyd, as waters from the Rahway River threatened their homes.

The City had purchased 11 properties in that community with funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State's Green Acres programs. The homes have since been demolished and removed. The City of Rahway currently owns the property and plans to cede the parkland to Union County this summer.

"This is a floodplain, and homeowners and their families were suffering from constant flooding there," said Freeholder Rick Proctor, a former member of the Rahway Environmental Commission. "This is a better, safer use for the land and it ensures that all residents can enjoy Union County's natural beauty."

The parkland was improved through a joint effort of Union County and the City of Rahway, with state and federal funding and assistance from non-profit organizations. Union County provided more than \$50,000 toward the project and in-kind services by the county's Department of Parks and Recreation.

THANKS, guys!



Congratulations to Rahway Fire Chief Edward Fritz, left, and Police Chief Kevin White, right. Both are retiring this year after 31 and 28 years of service, respectively.

Children's Safety Takes to the Web

The Rahway Fire Prevention Bureau, with the support of the Rahway Public Library and the Union County Fire Prevention & Protection Association are hosting a new Web site.

The new site, ChildrenSafetyCorner.com, has been created to act as a link to some of the best public access web pages dealing with children's fire safety and other safety issues. Children, parents, teachers and safety educators should find this a valuable and efficient resource.

The site is the brainchild of Rahway Fire Department Battalion Chief Robert Latherow. Fun and learning will be combined to promote the importance and proper use of fire and life safety in children and adults. The site contains numerous links that includes access to a variety of fun and games, information, facts and educational tools, which will all promote child safety issues.



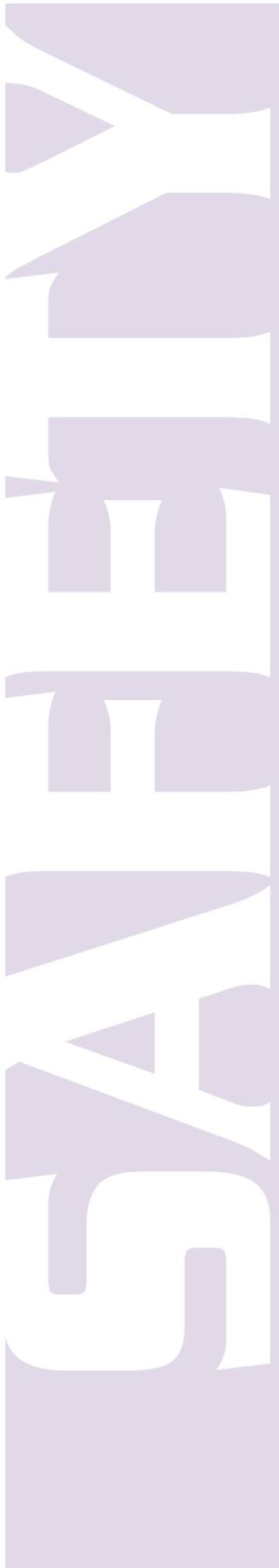
The four honorees are, back row, from left, Capt. John Fleischman, Firefighters Michael Roberts and David Delaney and Capt. William Young. They are joined by, front row, from left, Capt. Bill McQueeney, Battalion Chief Harold Stahl, Battalion Chief Gerald Dodman and Chief Edward Fritz.

Four Rahway Firefighters Honored

Four Rahway firefighters were recognized by the 200 Club of Union County at its Annual Valor Awards Luncheon at L'Affaire in Mountainside on May 9.

The four honorees, Capt. John Fleischman, Firefighters Michael Roberts and David Delaney and Capt. William Young, received Medals of Valor from the 200 Club for their actions on May 5, 2002, when they responded to a fire at a residence on Park Street. The firefighters rescued an elderly woman from the burning building who was badly burned and overcome by smoke, saving her life. They were among 11 firefighters and one police officer who were honored by the 200 Club.

The 200 Club of Union County was created in 1968 to recognize the valiant efforts of police, firefighters and State Troopers from Union County and to provide financial assistance to families of men and women who have given their lives in the line of duty.



Representatives of Merck and the City of Rahway visited Merck's Rahway/Linden campus earlier this year to view the recently restored fire truck that will soon reside in the new public library presently under construction behind City Hall. The fire truck was originally installed by Merck in the old library on Central and St. Georges Avenue. When the building was destroyed by flooding in 1999, Merck removed the truck, repainted and restored it, and will present it to the library later this year. From left are Merck carpenter Bill Roberts, City Council President Sal Mione, Merck Director of Public Affairs Gail Driscoll, Merck painter Al Camicia, Third Ward Councilman Jerry Scaturo, Merck Fire Chief Ron Kanterman, Rahway Fire Safety Director Robert Latherow and Council Member At-Large Nancy Saliga.

Police Implement Reverse 9-1-1

The Rahway Police Department has recently implemented a Reverse 9-1-1 system that will greatly enhance the quality of service provided by Rahway's public safety services.

Reverse 9-1-1 is an interactive community notification system that enables a recorded telephone message to be sent out to selected areas, blocks or neighborhoods in the event of an emergency. The system is a quick and efficient way of contacting residents of a potentially serious problem near their homes or businesses. It allows the police department to quickly send out time-critical messages rather than going door-to-door. Messages can be sent to a select neighborhood or the entire city and includes a convenient TTY/TDD feature capable of sending information to the hearing impaired. The system is sophisticated enough to indicate whether a call was received or whether a message was left on an answering machine. It also can be programmed to keep trying until a call has been successfully received.

Another convenient feature of Reverse 9-1-1 is the Bulletin Board feature. Bulletin Board enables citizens to obtain up-to-date messages such as crime prevention alerts, street repairs, school closings and more. Community residents will be able to call a designated phone number to get information from the Bulletin Board.

If you have an unlisted or unpublished telephone number, your information is probably not included in the Reverse 9-1-1-system database and will not receive any recorded message that would be sent out to your area. If you would like to have your information included in the database contact the Rahway Police Department Community Assistance Team at (732) 827-2179. The numbers and addresses received will be placed into the system and kept strictly confidential, only to be used in the event of an emergency.

City Works To Snuff Out Underage Tobacco Sales

Following a recent inspection of city tobacco vendors, underage youth successfully purchased tobacco products in 38 of 46 attempts in the city, according to Rahway Health Officer Rick Proctor. These compliance check inspections were part of New Jersey's effort to meet federal requirements for reducing youth access to tobacco products. If this state does not meet federal standards, New Jersey is at risk of losing up to 40 percent of anticipated federal dollars for substance abuse programs over the next four years.

The Rahway Division of Health conducted the inspections in February and March with assistance from the Rahway Police Athletic League.

New Jersey law provides penalties for the sale of tobacco products to persons under 18 years of age.

"Merchants who sell tobacco products to minors may be fined \$250 for the first offense based on a state law that gives enforcement authority to local health departments," said Proctor. "Subsequent violations could result in additional fines of \$500 and \$1,000 and possible revocation of the license after the second violation."

Inspections of tobacco vendors in Rahway will be ongoing. Federal law requires that all states make a substantial effort to reduce youth access to tobacco products or lose up to 40 percent of their federal funds over four years for substance abuse programs. One mandatory requirement of the federal law is that states conduct "random, unannounced inspections" of tobacco sellers.

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 | 827-2043 |
| Comptroller/Finance | 827-2020 |
| Court | 827-2039 |
| Economic Development | 827-2160 |
| Engineering | 827-2176 |
| Fire (non emergency) | 827-2155 |
| First Aid..... | 827-2013 |
| Health Department | 827-2085 |
| Mayor | 827-2009 |
| Municipal Administrator | 827-2010 |
| 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 |
| Tax Assessor | 827-2030 |
| Tax Collector | 827-2050 |
| Vital Statistics..... | 827-2085 |
| Water | 877-303-2435 |

OTHER HELPFUL NUMBERS

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Board of Education..... | 396-1000 |
| Hospital..... | 381-4200 |
| Library | 388-0761 |
| NJ Transit | 800-772-2222 |
| Division of Motor Vehicles..... | 382-5151 |
| P.A.L | 827-2136 |
| P.A.L. (Hot Line)..... | 827-2097 |
| Parking Authority | 381-8778 |
| Post Office..... | 388-1110 |
| 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 |

Visit the
**Rahway Police
Department**
online
www.rahwaypolice.com

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

ARTS

Children's Summer Theatre Returns

The Children's Summer Theatre is back with more opportunities for more children. Recommended grade levels for participation are from kindergarten through grade 12.

Two productions, *Oliver Twist* (July 7 – 12) and *The Fisherman and His Wife* (July 14 – 19) are scheduled for this summer. Both productions require a placement workshop and all pre-registered participants



will be involved with the week's events. Sixty children will be selected each week. The placement workshop will be held on the Monday morning of each week to better place each child in the production. This gives the students the opportunity to put their "best foot forward" and is more about spirit, attitude and participation than talent.

The cost of the program this year is \$110 per child per week if regis-

tered prior to June 5. Family discounts are available for parents registering more than one child.

There are many ways to be involved this year! Please register early to reserve your spot in the program. For more information please call the Union County Arts Center at (732) 499-8226

Or visit our Web site www.ucac.org.

The Children's Summer Theatre is presented at the Union County Arts Center and sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Rahway.



Arts Guild Intros Camp

This summer, the Arts Guild of Rahway is introducing an exciting new summer program for children 7 to 14 years old. The Kids Summer Art Camp is a great opportunity for children to explore their creativity under the guidance the Arts Guild's excellent teaching staff. The camp will be offered for 4 weeks this summer: Week 1, July 7 - 14; Week 2, July 14-18; Week 3, July 21-25; Week 4, July 28- August 1. Hours for the camp are Monday through Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Registration is on a first come first served basis; children may be registered for more than one week if space is available.

During each one week long session children will receive in depth instruction and complete projects in painting, drawing, printmaking, watercolor, mixed-media, collage and other areas of the visual arts.

The rates for a week of Summer Art Camp is only \$275. All materials will be provided. Children will be asked to bring their own lunch, but drinks and snacks will be provided.

For more information about The Kids Summer Art Camp at the Arts Guild of Rahway, please contact Lawrence Cappiello or Tracy Pushko at (732) 381-7511 or e-mail artsguild1670@earthlink.net.



Hospital Hosts Bedside Harp

On Wednesday, February 26 patients at Rahway Hospital were treated to soothing music by Edie Elkan and her Bedside Harp.

Edie Elkan began her music studies at age 7 when her grandfather made her dreams come true by buying her a piano. She later fell in love with the harp and began lessons in Philadelphia. She is now a member of the World Harp Congress, the American Harp Society, the American String

Teachers Association and a board member and officer of the Philadelphia Music Teachers Association.

In February 2002, Edie formed Bedside Harp, LLC, which is a multi-faceted program that includes playing bedside harp throughout hospitals and patient rooms and directing a comprehensive certification program designed to train harpists to work in medical environments.

Merck Celebrates 100 Years With a Variety Showcase

To mark its centennial year in Rahway, Merck & Co., Inc., hosted a Variety Showcase at the historic Union County Arts Center in Rahway on March 1. This afternoon of entertainment was free and open to the public. A committee of Merck employees planned an outstanding and diverse display of local talent featuring performances by Merck co-workers from several facilities as well as singers, dancers and musicians from the surrounding community.

"Variety was the key to the show's success," said Gail Driscoll, manager of public affairs at Merck's Rahway/Linden facility. "Performances ranged from classical ballet to traditional Indian and Irish dance to contemporary and hip-hop. This multicultural showcase had something for everyone, young and old."

The United Youth of New Jersey Elite Drill Team, Sudhamini Dance Academy, La Danse School of Performing Arts, Deirdre Shea Academy of Irish Dance and the Rose of Sharon Youth Choir along with other vocalists and musicians entertained the audience of more than 1,000 with Broadway, jazz, opera, new age, pop, salsa and gospel selections.

Co-hosts for the event, Merck Fire Chief Ron Kanterman and Renee Marino, Miss Union County '02, were impressed with the caliber of talent. "Watch out American Idol and Star Search," said Kanterman.

"We've got true talent right here in our community," said Marino.

Visit Our Recreation Department Online
www.cityofrahway.com/recreation.htm

• Basketball Camp

• Mad Science Camp

• Soccer Camp

• Summer Playground Sessions

Senior Stuff

Rahway Division of Senior Services Upcoming 2002 Events

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.

Senior Citizen Bus Transportation
Transportation is available to all Rahway residents 62 years of age and older. Please call Tina at 499-7930 between 8:00 A.M. and 12 noon to arrange transportation (shopping, doctor's appointments, etc.).

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 for more information.

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 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 last 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 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 827-2016.

Upcoming Blood Pressure Screenings

Rahway Senior Center
Third Wednesday of the month
10:00 A.M.—12 noon
July & August: No screening
Sep. 17 Nov. 19
Oct. 15 Dec. 17

Rahway Recreation center
First Tuesday of the month
3:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.
July & August: No screening
Sep. 2
Oct. 7
November: No screening
Dec. 2

Rahway Senior Clubs

Rahway Retired Men's Club
Meets every Monday at 1:00 P.M.
Pres. Al Bonassi (732) 381-5648

Merck Retirees
Meets 1st Tue. of each month at 1 P.M.
Pres. V. Didia (732) 738-4639

Ladies Golden Age Club
Meets every Wednesday at 12:15 P.M.
Pres. Bernice Valentine (732) 388-3981

Retired Railroaders (Group #2)
Meets 1st Sat. of the month at 11 A.M.
Pres. Conrad Kreisel (732) 634-1804

A.A.R.P. Chapter #607
Meets 2nd Thur. of the mo. at noon.
Pr. Marion Morgensen (908) 351-3378

Retired Carpenters and Millwrights
Meets 3rd Thurs. of the mo. 1—3 P.M.
Pres. Bill Wolf (732) 388-6859

St. Joseph's Guild
Meets 3rd Tue. of the mo. at 12:30 P.M.
Pr. Catherine McGuire (908) 352-0478

North Jersey Electric RR Hist. Soc.
Meets 3rd Tue. of month at 6:30 P.M.
Pres. Bob Hooper (908) 876-4709

UC Minority Task Force on Aging
Meets 1st Friday of the mo. at 12 noon
Lillian Wilder (732) 381-7406

Mintzer Named 2002 Senior Citizen Of Year



Mayor James Kennedy, left, recently named resident Carl Mintzer Rahway's 2002 Senior Citizen of the Year.

Mintzer was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania and became a Rahway resident in 1950 after military service in World War II with the U.S. Navy. He was awarded the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal in 2002.

Mintzer worked for the Heil Company for Hillside for 26 years as a welder and at Rahway Hospital for 14 years when he retired in 1989. He received the Rahway Hospital Good Neighbor Award in 1986 for his outstanding record of community service.

Mintzer is a lifetime member of the Rahway First Aid Squad, where he still serves on various committees. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus #1146 and Elks Lodge #1075. He also belongs to the Rahway Sideliners and Rahway Honorary P.B.A. and American Legion Post #5. As a member of the Rahway Retired Men's Club, Mintzer is the club's official photographer.

Mintzer also is an usher at St. Mark's Church and as head usher at the Union County Arts Center. In addition to all of these commitments, he still finds time to help out at area Veteran's hospitals and donate blood.

This is the city's sixth year of recognizing an outstanding senior citizen, and the recipient is selected by the Rahway Senior Center Board of Trustees. Mintzer joins past winners Marie Brown, Ann McArdle, Helen McWhorter, Ed Schweinberg and Grace Wolf.

Discount Prescription Card Available To Rahway Seniors

Rahway seniors faced with the high cost of prescription drugs received some good news recently as 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. The program is also available to city residents who are receiving Social Security Disability benefits.

The GSPOPS savings card is accepted by most pharmacists throughout the nation. No mail-order forms are required. The annual membership fee for the program is only \$20. The service will be provided to Rahway seniors at no cost to the city. There are no income restrictions for membership in GSPOPS and no exclusions for pre-existing conditions. There are no limits on the quantities or refills and requires no deductibles to be met. All Federal Legend brand name and generic drugs are included.

Working residents who are already covered by their employer's prescription plan can still take advantage of the discounts offered by GSPOPS for prescription drugs not covered by their plan or in cases where generic medicine would cost more under their co-payment than it would if filled with GSPOPS.

Enrollment with GSPOPS has already been approved by numerous New Jersey municipalities and Middlesex County over the past several months.

"This is a fantastic program that has the potential to offer Rahway seniors a significant prescription drug discount at no cost to property taxpayers," said Kennedy. "This will go a long way in helping our seniors cope with the high cost of prescription drugs."

Information brochures, which include a registration form, are available at the Senior Center, City Hall and other public buildings in Rahway. Information on the GSPOPS card are also be posted on the city's web site, www.cityofrahway.com and Comcast Channel 34.

The program allows Rahway residents over the age of 55 to obtain a discount of between 10 and 50 percent...



The Rahway Division of Senior Services recently sponsored a bus trip to the Brownstone Dinner Theater in Paterson for a New Orleans Festival. Pictured are some of Rahway's seniors enjoying the festivities.

Rahway Civilian Police Academy Is Accepting Applications

The Rahway Police Department Community Assistance Team is now accepting applications for the Civilian Police Academy. The academy provides a rare glimpse into the world of law enforcement in an effort to improve relations between police and the public. The academy does not train citizens in police work; rather, it helps give a better understanding of what the job of a police officer entails.

Participants receive insight into patrol, investigative and traffic procedures; the criminal justice system and constitutional law as it is applicable to police work; hands-on demonstrations in areas such as the Union County Bomb Squad; United States Customs; the use of K-9s for narcotics detection, tracking of suspects and missing persons; and simulated high-risk motor vehicle stops.

Classes are Wednesday evenings from 7 P.M. until 10 P.M. A graduation ceremony for those participants who complete the course will be held at the John H. Stamler Police Academy.

The Civilian Police Academy is open to all residents of the City of Rahway or those who work within the city, have no criminal record and are at least 21 years of age. Applicants may be subject to a background

check to verify application information, residency and employment. Classes will be limited to 30 individuals.

For more information or to obtain an application, please contact the Rahway Police Department Community Assistance team at (732) 827-2179.

Promote Pedestrian Safety

With the warmer weather upon us, more pedestrians are out on the streets and sidewalks. The Rahway Police Department reminds motorists to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks at all times.

New Jersey motor vehicle laws mandate that drivers yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. There is a steep fine attached to the ticket in addition to two points being added to the offender's license (which ultimately leads to an increase in auto insurance).

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