

The Rahway Review

Winter 2003

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Kennedy Focuses Fourth Term Agenda on Smart Growth

The following is the text of Mayor James Kennedy's 2003 State of the City address, delivered to the City Council and residents of the city on January 7th.

Sprawl. Smart growth. Livable communities. Pedestrian-friendly. Transit-friendly. These buzzwords were barely heard of back in 1991 when I stood here for the first time and delivered my inaugural State of the City address.

Nowadays, it seems that every day I read articles on these topics or receive mail describing them. They are issues of vital importance to the future of our state, and some even say to the future of our nation. Little did we know twelve years ago that Rahway would be on the forefront of New Jersey's smart growth movement.

Simply put, smart growth encourages economic development and specifically, construction of businesses and homes, where infrastructure like utilities, roads and transit facilities already exist. After losing millions of acres of farmland and environmentally sensitive lands over the past two decades at an alarming rate, New Jerseyans are beginning to say enough is enough. Public officials, private developers and citizens all across New Jersey are beginning to take a fresh look at our urban areas and older suburbs like Rahway.

Here in Rahway, smart growth means concentrating new development around our \$16 million train station that was completed in 1999. I'm pleased to say that we are now reaping those rewards.

Here in Rahway, smart growth means transforming old tax-exempt surface parking lots and underutilized properties into market-rate housing, cultural activities and busi-



Municipal Clerk Jean Kuc gives the oath of office to Mayor James Kennedy in the City Council Chambers. Joining Mayor Kennedy are his son, Sean, and wife, Lori.

nesses. They will produce tax revenue, bring new residents into our community and reestablish our downtown as a place with a high quality of life for residents and visitors.

You may have already noticed the new 136-unit River Place development now under construction on the corner of Lewis and Dock Streets. This one development alone will provide \$150,000 in new annual revenues. It will help stabilize property taxes. And it will bring young professionals into our central business district to inject new life and vitality downtown. It will soon be followed by a 14-unit building with an upscale restaurant on Main and Monroe Streets. These are just two projects planned for our central business district.

Since 2001, when I first called for the creation of the Rahway Redevelopment Agency, we have made steady progress on turning the idea of smart growth into reality. The planning stages have been completed. Now is the

Continued on page 2

Veterans Honored

Mayor James Kennedy and some 100 residents braved the rain last November 11 to thank the men and women who served in our nation's military at the city's veterans memorial at the corner of West Grand and St. Georges Avenues. The ceremony was the city's annual Veteran's Day commemoration, which is sponsored by the Rahway Veterans Central Committee.

The 2002 featured speaker was Paul Sutton, President of the New Jersey State Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Veteran's Day began as a tribute to those lost in World War I as Armistice Day, which officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action. After the end of World War II in 1945, Congress was requested to make this day an occasion to honor those who have served America in all wars. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day.



The color guard and members of the award-winning Rahway High School U.S. Marine Corps Junior R.O.T.C. turned out on Veterans Day to pay tribute to those who have answered their country's call.

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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:

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State of the City

Continued from page 1

time to have permits secured and begin construction.

In a densely-populated area like Rahway, purchasing properties and making them attractive to developers is a complicated, expensive and time-consuming process. In 2001 and 2002, the city made those initial investments in our central business district, which laid the ground work for private investment.

For example, we worked with Congressman Payne and our state legislators to secure over \$7 million in federal and state grants to build our new library that will be completed this summer. A public-private partnership that will develop the top two floors will net \$3 million towards construction costs. As a result, Rahway will soon be the only library in the state to produce needed ratables for our property taxpayers. This was a cutting-edge concept that was carried out in a fiscally conservative and sound manner and will give our children the best library in New Jersey.

In addition to the state and federal funds we received for the library, the city will be breaking ground this summer on the long-awaited 300-car parking deck on Main and Lewis Streets. We have been aggressively canvassing the state to secure funding for the deck to minimize costs to property taxpayers. We anticipate the deck to be completed by mid-2004.

We have numerous development proposals ready to go—most notably, the commercial development planned for the corner of Irving Street and East Milton Avenue that will be built simultaneously with the parking deck. Once the deck and

adjacent project are completed next year, I expect the pace of construction on other projects throughout the downtown to increase significantly.

Our efforts of growing smart and promoting Rahway as a great livable community are attracting attention. Last year, the public plaza the City constructed in front of the train station received an Excellence in Downtown Award from Downtown New Jersey, and later that year, Rahway was named one of seven “transit villages” by the New Jersey DOT. Being named a transit village means that we are planning our future growth around mass transit and not around auto-dependent suburbs. This moves Rahway to the “top of the list” when competing with other municipalities for state development and transportation funds. I’m pleased to announce that this spring, Rahway will be named “Smart Growth Community of the Year” by New Jersey Future, the state’s largest smart-growth advocacy group that is fighting suburban sprawl in favor of livable communities.

As we continue to receive awards and attract the investment of private developers, some development projects like the library will be completed and others like the parking deck will begin. They will encourage new private-sector development throughout Rahway and bring new energy to our central business district.

Rahway has fared relatively well over the past decade in keeping property taxes stable. It gets tougher and tougher each year to control costs while maintaining revenues. By making spending cuts and realizing new revenues during the mid-90s, we have been able to keep Rahway’s municipal tax increases stable—an average of 2.4 percent, less than the inflation rate. Last February the *Star-Ledger* cited Rahway as having one of the most stable tax rates in Union County, with total property taxes rising at a moderate rate—less than half of the state average—over the last ten years. Moody’s Investor’s service recently gave Rahway’s bonds one of its highest ratings and our notes its top rating, praising our fiscal stability and conservative financial management. In the past three years, we have been actively controlling discretionary spending, but contractual and mandated expenses like sewerage costs and health insurance have been

spiraling ever higher and putting additional strains on our budget. Coupled with the \$7.8 loss in accumulated state aid since 1992, assembling an equitable and sound budget becomes more difficult each year.

In the past, we have controlled spending at city hall and increased tax ratables through redevelopment or rezoning. We reduced staff while expanding services. In speaking with many residents, citizens do not want to sacrifice public safety or public works improvements to our sidewalks, parks or trees. These investments are too important to our safety and our quality of life.

Quality of life may be harder to define, but it is important to everyone who lives and works in Rahway.

“Quality of life” includes:

- New playgrounds that were completed at Brennan Field, as well as the new playground and tennis courts at Berzinec Park on Central Avenue and the playground that will be completed this spring behind Grover Cleveland School.

- Over 100 programs offered at our recreation center and senior center, more than four times the amount we offered in 1999.

- New water meters that were installed in our homes to improve meter readings and ensure that Rahway’s water rates remain the lowest in the county.

- Free garbage, recycling, bulky waste and yard waste pickup that costs homeowners in other towns hundreds of dollars per year in fees

and forces them to wait months for a pick up.

- Restoring the Rahway River and preserving open space. In 2002, we celebrated the rebirth of wetlands along the Rahway River near Union & Allen Streets.

This year we will take a closer look on how we can curb rising expenses like insurance while maintaining our obligations to our employees and our citizens. We will be examining new sources of revenue that do not put the cost burden on homeowners. For example, we will be scrutinizing permits and fees that have not changed in decades to provide property tax relief for existing residents. We are reviewing our sewerage fees to make sure the city is paying a fair and proper cost for these services. And, of course, continuing our drive for new development in our central business district and along our highway corridors is also crucial if we are to keep Rahway affordable for families and seniors.

It was once said, “The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.” So tonight I am asking for all of your combined efforts to making Rahway a better place to live, work and raise a family. Contribute something positive to your community. Join our combined efforts as we work to redefine Rahway as a true “livable community.”

On behalf of Lori, Sean and all of our city employees, I want to thank you for your attention and wish everyone a healthy and prosperous new year.



James J. Kennedy

MAYOR



RHS Cheerleaders Cheer for Charity

On Sunday February 23, the Rahway High School Cheerleaders will be hosting the second annual Mountain Valley Conference Cheer Championships. Proceeds from last year's championship benefited Coaches Against Cancer. This year we will be funding scholarships for cheerleaders from throughout the conference. Varsity and Junior Varsity teams will be competing for this year's conference title.

Congratulations to this year's RHS Cheerleading Squad: Danielle Talbot, Jessica Diegue, Nakeisha Sweatte, Brittney Murielle, Kandis Gillette, Victoria Vazquez, Danna Herman, Ingrid Larobis, Kristen Lenkiewicz, Christy Larobis, Stephanie Kidd, Jessica Godfrey, Vienna Mouzon, Heather Medina, Meagan Mallick, Kristina Novello, Kristie Krawec, Laura Werner, Avah Macknowsky, Whitney Johnson, Lauren Fitzgerald, Krystle Truncala, Laquonda Smith, Andera Topping, Lisa Dunn, Nicole Wonski and Hanae McRae.

Future Sculptors



Rahway Middle School art students Cristina Tavoraro and Barbara Plaza prepare appliqués for the completion of soft sculpture projects.

Congrats Scholars!



Four Rahway High School seniors were recently named Bloustein Scholars for the 2002-2003 school year. Clockwise, from left, are Lisa Talavera, Daniel LaBellarte, Jaime Segal and Sophia Kahn. The Bloustein Scholarship is an award given to students who score above 1260 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test and rank in the top ten percent of their class. These students will receive annual scholarships of \$1,000 if they enroll in a New Jersey college or university.



Science bugs—Rahway Middle School students Matt Brehm, Edel Melgen and Andrew Torre discover the microworlds of Paramecium, Euglena and Amoeba under 400x magnification as part of the school's science curriculum.

**Annual
Memorial
Day
Parade
Sunday
May 25**

**Visit Rahway
on the Internet!
www.cityofrahway.com**

Flood Rating Improves; Saves \$\$\$

Mayor James Kennedy announced recently that the city's Community Rating System rating, part of the federal National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), was recently upgraded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA upgraded the city from class 9 to class 8, giving the approximate 402 flood insurance policyholders in the city a total discount of 10 percent off of flood insurance for all policies renewed after October 1, 2002. The total savings to city policyholders is approximately \$27,472, or \$68 per policyholder.

The city of Rahway is a participant in a federally subsidized program that enables property owners to purchase flood insurance. The NFIP, administered by FEMA, requires that the city adopt specific flood damage reduction education, planning and building criteria. 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 benefit from premium discounts. This is due to the city's extensive efforts to obtain credits, through the Community Rating system, to maintain specific measures for flood damage reduction.

"The new flood map places fewer Rahway properties in a 100-year flood zone downstream of Bridge Street, meaning an additional savings on flood insurance for some residents affected by the change," said Kennedy. "Overall, this is part of the city's aggressive effort to lessen the impact of flooding on homes and businesses. Building against Mother Nature is expensive and can be detrimental to the environment. Smart planning and sensible growth that protects a natural resource like the Rahway River is the best course of action."

Rahway's "Virtual Library"

Did you know that you can perform all kinds of research without leaving your home or office by "visiting" the Rahway Public Library?

The Rahway Public Library wanted to serve patrons who need resources that are not available in the temporary Children's Library in the Rahway Recreation Center at 275 East Milton Avenue.

How do you create a Reference Room when there is no room for the reference books? You create a "Virtual Reference Room" on the Internet.

"Sometimes I wish we had come up with another name for this exciting service. We thought everyone would know what we had in mind when we dubbed it the Virtual Library," said Library Director Harry R. Williams, III. "I wonder if people see the tab on our web site for Virtual Library and think it will give them a 360 degree image of the new building under construction."

You can see photos of the library construction, but they are traditional two-dimensional images

of the building. From the library's home page at www.lmxac.org/rahoway, click on the "Library News" tab to view a table of construction pictures.

If you click on the Virtual Library button at the home page, you are taken to a drop-down menu of 31 choices. Before you can go to any of these databases or reference books in electronic format, you must enter a password: your Rahway Public Library borrower's card number.

Don't have a library card? A brief visit to the Children's Library with a photo ID and proof of address will get you a new card or an update of your old one, even if you are an adult.

The 31 choices on the menu represent even more reference sets, as many of them are linked to publishers who offer several items.

For homework, and for personal or business research, we urge you to use the subscription databases available at the Virtual Library!

Rahway YMCA Offers Programs for all Ages

Childcare

All Day Preschool: children ages 2 ½ - 5 years

Early Morning Care: 7:00 – 8:30 a.m. Drop your child off at the Y and we'll bring them to school.

Four Plus: ages 3 ½ - 5 years for children attending half-day school. AM care 7:00 – 11:30 a.m. PM care 11:30 – 6:00 p.m.

After School Program: K to middle school in the schools and at the Y.

Youth Sports

YMCA members have a long history of sports and sport competition. Did you know that a YMCA volunteer invented the game of basketball? The Rahway YMCA encourages youth to learn and participate in a multitude of sports.

Soccer: ages 5 – 12 years. Now is your chance to get your child trained by a national soccer coach. Albert Nguidjol, a former Nigeria National Coach and a current NJIT soccer coach, is helping our kids reach the top level.

Tennis: ages 5 – 12 years. Get your kids the critical coordination skills they need early in life.

Basketball: ages 5 – 12 years. Our coaches are certified and ready to teach your child the fundamentals of the sport.

Basketball Team: ages 10 – 14 years. The new Rahway YMCA basketball team competes with other YMCAs in the New Jersey league.

Gymnastics: ages 3 – 12 years. Have your child start in our Tots in Action program at 3 years old and see them excel to our Swingers pre-team that are training at competition level. Our coach, Tamara Ivankova, hails from Russia and has 20 years of experience.

Tae Kwon Do: ages 5 – 12 years. Your child will learn discipline, self-confidence, and respect while practicing this Korean style martial art for self-defense.

Adult and Senior Fitness

Come check out our beautiful Nautilus and Cardio Workout area. Our Adult memberships include usage of all our workout equipment and aerobics classes.

We offer just about every class you can imagine to bring you to healthier and happier state: Aerobics, Cross-Training, Reebok Cycle, Yoga, Senior Nautilus

Teens

We have structured programs such as Teen Strength and Fitness and we have free range programs such as teen night where teens enjoy open basketball, game room, weight room, basketball tournaments and the pool. All of our programs are designed to enhance the life of teens while giving them something more to do than just hang out.

Summer Camp

Are your children doing something besides watching TV this summer? If not bring them to the Y and let us fill their day with activities like sports, swimming, field trips and overnight camping.

Camp Little Feet: ages 4 years – Kindergarten

Camp Fair Weather: grades 1 – 5

Teen Camp: grades 6 – 8



Big or small—the YMCA is the place to go for fun in the water!

Aquatics

The YMCA has over 100 years experience teaching swimming and aquatic safety to the world. Our 25 yard, 6 lane pool and nationally certified staff are equipped to teach you and your child to enjoy the water without being afraid.

Swimming Lessons: Parent/Child classes for ages 6 months – 3 years; Preschool Lessons for ages 3 – 5 years; Youth Lessons for ages 6 – 14 years; Adult Lessons for ages 15 and up.

Swim Team: Ages 8 – 17 years. Our swim team competes with other YMCAs to help your child learn advanced swimming skills and good sportsmanship.

SCUBA: Ages 12 and up. Learn under the guidance of nationally certified instructors how to explore the vast underwater world.

Lifeguard Training: Ages 15 and up. Become a certified lifeguard and have a "cool" summer job.

Water Exercise: Classes for adults and seniors. Our Aqua Fit class is designed for getting a good aerobic workout while our Stretch & Flex class is geared toward individuals who need a little more flexibility in their lives.

Special Events

Throughout the year the Rahway YMCA hosts different events for the community. Family Fun Day will be held in April. Fitness in the Park will be in the summer, and Halloween at the Y will be in October. Keep an eye out for other events throughout this year.

The YMCA is a family orientated organization that strives to build healthy spirits, minds, and bodies for all people of all ages. Come visit our facility at 1564 Irving St. or call us for a brochure at 388-0057.

Moody's Assigns Library Financing Highest Rating

Moody's Investors Service has assigned one of its highest ratings to the city's recently-issued bonds for the construction of its new public library and its highest possible rating for the issuance of notes for the library construction, reflecting the city's fiscally sound finances. The service also praised the city's recent privatization of the management of its water utility.

In a report released last year, Moody's issued an underlying A1 rating, with a stable outlook, to the \$4.42 million in Rahway Redevelopment Agency, New Jersey Public Library Bonds, Series 2002, and a MIG 1 rating (the highest possible rating for notes) to the \$5.78 million Public Library Project Notes, Series 2002. The bonds are expected to carry the insurer's financial strength rating of Aaa. The city's underlying high rating of A1 will continue to be maintained by investors.

According to Moody's, "the rating for both the notes and bonds reflect the strength of the security for debt service payments. The debt is rated based largely on the relative credit quality of the City of Rahway which is characterized by a growing tax base, satisfactory financial operations and a manageable level of debt."



Young Planters Remember 9/11—Children from the Rahway YMCA After School Program recently helped plant 200 daffodil bulbs near the train station downtown. The bulbs were donated by the Rahway Parking Authority. This is the second year that Rahway's young people planted daffodils downtown in memory of the victims of the September 11 tragedy. Top row, from left, are YMCA Staffers Katie Hill and Alex Blaine. Middle row, from left, are David Rubay, Jamal Laduna, Danisha Bellinger and Elizabeth Cron. Front row, from left, are Osborne Bey, Jr., Ayanah Sawyer and Jeffrey Taylor.

Kennedy Honored as Parking's 'Government Official Of The Year'

The New Jersey Association of Parking Authorities and Agencies and its affiliate, the New Jersey Parking Institute recently announced that it has named Mayor James Kennedy its "Government Official of the Year." The NJAPAA cited three specific accomplishments by the city that merited the award: one, the selection of developers for three new projects that will add 360 new market-rate apartments to the central business district and create new tax ratables; two, the selection of a developer to construct a 100-room hotel across the street from the Rahway train station and; three by aggressively pursuing state funding for the construction of an \$8 million parking deck downtown.

Kennedy received the award in November at the NJAPAA's annual conference. He joins Governor James E. McGreevey, former Senator President John Lynch, State Senator John Matheussen and former Governor James Florio as recipients of this award.

This is the third time in the past

year that the Mayor and the city have been recognized for its innovative redevelopment projects for the central business district. Last spring, the city was named as one of seven "Transit Villages" in New Jersey by the New Jersey Department of Transportation for its efforts in promoting "smart growth." The city and the Rahway Center Partnership were recipients of the Excellence in Downtown Award from Downtown New Jersey, Inc. for the new public plaza that was completed last year in front of the train station.

"I'm honored to be recognized by this organization for our work, but there is so much more we have to continue to do downtown to bring it to a better place to live, shop and work," said Kennedy. "Turning our old surface lots into new ratable-producing developments and constructing the new parking deck are major components of that process. I'm hopeful that this recognition will pay off in increased private investment downtown."

Additionally, Moody's identified the city's move to privatize the management of its municipal water utility as a "dependable revenue source, providing almost \$2 million in current fund revenue" and praised the city for its "satisfactory financial operations."

"This third-party analysis of the city finances shows that we are managing our capital projects like the new library and our new parks and playgrounds in a fiscally conservative and responsible manner," said Mayor James Kennedy. "The fact is, the vast majority of the library's estimated cost of \$12 million for the entire project will not be borne by property taxpayers, but by federal and state grants and the sale of two floors to the private sector. Most likely, the top two floors will be used as doctor's offices. We wanted to do this project right, with a minimal impact on our taxpayers and give our residents a library that they could be proud of. This is sensible, sensitive planning at its finest."

Moody's Investors Service, a leading global credit rating, research and risk analysis firm, publishes credit opinions, research, and ratings on fixed-income securities, issuers of securities and other credit obligations.

New Park Dedicated To Rahway Veteran

Councilman Sal Mione was joined by his council colleagues, members of Rahway's Veterans Central Committee, the Rahway High School JROTC and members of the Berzinec family last fall to formally dedicate Berzinec Park at the corner of Central and St. Georges Avenues.

The park features five new regulation tennis courts, new trees and landscaping, new playground equipment and parking for approximately 50 vehicles. When the tennis courts open in April for the season, residents can access the courts via an electronic pass key, similar to the one used to access the Recreation Center. The entire park renovation was funded by the city and a federal Community Development Block Grant.

During Mayor James Kennedy's first term in the mid-1990s, the city built a playground and bocce ball court in the park, which was located behind the old library on the corner of Central and St. Georges Avenues. The library was severely damaged in September 1999 when Hurricane Floyd dumped over a foot of rain on Rahway. The City demolished the library last year and replaced it with a passive park. The eastern third of the park, located along Pierpont Street, will remain as open space.



Councilman Sal Mione joined members of the Berzinec family for the park's dedication.

The park was named for Lt. Col. William E. Berzinec, who was killed in action while serving his country during the Vietnam War. Berzinec served two tours in Vietnam: in 1961 and 1962 as an advisor and in 1968 as a participant in some 25 aerial missions over hostile territory. On July 30, 1968, while on reconnaissance in Long An Province, he was killed in action.

Prior to his death, Berzinec was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with first oak leaf cluster, Army Occupation Medal, National Defense Medal with first oak leaf. Posthumously, he was awarded the Silver Star with two oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star Medal with first and second oak leaf clusters and the Purple Heart. Berzinec was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on August 6, 1968.

"It is always important to honor the legacy of a city resident like Lt. Col. Berzinec and remember his bravery in action and his sacrifice to defend freedom," said Mione. "It's also important to have this park added to the dozens of acres of existing city parks. This park is part of Mayor Kennedy's legacy to protecting our homes and businesses from flooding and to preserving the Rahway River and open space for future generations of city residents to enjoy."

Rahway Center Partnership's 2003

Schedule of Events

Civilian Police Academy	March 12
RCP Golf Outing	April 22
Hot Rods & Harleys	May 17
Lunch & Concerts at Arts	
District Park	Fridays May 19 – June 23
Taste of Rahway	TBA
Junior Police Academy	June 23-27
Jersey Fresh Farmers Market.....	Thursdays July – October
Merchants/Trustee Barbecue.....	July 24
National Night Out Against Crime	August 5
Mayor's Summer Concert Series.....	August 7, 14, 21, 28
Baby Parade	October 4
Craft Market	October 11 & 18
Tree Lighting/Holiday Market.....	November 28
Festival of Trees	November 28 – 30
Recognition Breakfast.....	TBA
Citywide Garage Sale	TBA



The Union County Economic Development Corporation recently gave RCP Executive Director Ray Mikell, left, and Mayor James Kennedy, center, its 2002 Community Investment Award for the special events held at the Rahway Train Station Plaza. Handing out the award is UCEDC Loan Officer Josh Donovan. Last year the train station plaza received the Excellence in Downtown Award from Downtown New Jersey, Inc., New Jersey's leading organization supporting the health of downtown commercial districts.

Grants Work



Carlin's World, 84 E. Cherry St.



The Mall, 71 E. Cherry St.

For New Façades

Thanks to grant dollars that are provided through the Special Improvement District, several downtown merchants and building owners have taken advantage of the RCP's Façade Improvement Program:



The Beverage Shop, 52 E. Cherry St.

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Website!**

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Partnership
www.rcpnj.org

The Rahway Center Partnership Web
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**PJC Monogram
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689 Jaques Avenue

Welcome Fat Tuesdays!



Downtown welcomes Fat Tuesday's, a Cajun family style restaurant that will open this winter. The restaurant will include a full-service bar and a 90-seat dining area. Live music will also be featured. Fat Tuesday's is located at 1467 Main Street (at Lewis Street).

The Arts Guild of Rahway Upcoming Events

Exhibits

Feb. 16 through March 14: *Figuratively Speaking*

Paintings by Denise DeVone and Bonnie Maranz
Opening Reception: Sunday, February 16, 1-4 p.m. FREE

March 23 through April 11: *Hidden in Plain Sight*

Paintings by Gary Godbee/Photography by Paul Lachenauer
Opening Reception: Sunday, March 23, 1-4 p.m. FREE
Black & White photographs by Albert Neal and Glen Podel
Reception: April 27, 1-4 p.m. FREE

May 20 through June 13

Work by Rahway High School Advanced Art Students & Art Majors

In Concert

Friday, February 21, 8 P.M.: Judy Bady

Judy Bady is a powerhouse performer whose musical repertoire spans the breadth of jazz, blues, gospel, R&B, rock and roll and contemporary American pop. Judy has played with Bobby McFerrin, Grammy Winner Jon Hendrick and tenor saxophonist, composer and educator Billy Harper. Harper said that Bady's music "makes one's heart sing [and] makes one want to sing!"

Friday, April 4, 8 P.M.: Harry Allen

Stan Getz was once asked his idea of the perfect tenor soloist. His answer was "My technique, Al Cohn's ideas and Zoot's time." The fulfillment of that ideal may well be embodied in Harry Allen. Harry Allen has performed with Rosemary Clooney, Flip Phillips, Bucky and John Pizzarelli, Warren Vache and many other top jazz players and has been featured at jazz festivals and clubs worldwide.

Friday, May 16, 8 P.M.: Eric Mintel

Thirty-five year-old pianist and composer Eric Mintel has been thrilling audiences around the country with his unique brand of jazz. His original music has been hailed by critics and his adventurous jazz piano, with a bent for the classic mode, has gained an ever-growing audience. The Eric Mintel Quartet has played the White House, the Kennedy Center and top jazz venues coast to coast. Eric will be joined by Andrew New on sax, Kenny Kellm on bass and Jeremy Berberain on drums.

Tickets are \$12 per ticket per concert or \$10 per ticket for two or more shows and are available at the Arts Guild and other locations in Rahway. Tickets may also be purchased at the door before each performance for \$15.



Judy Bady

Art Classes

The spring session of art classes will begin in mid-March and run through May. Classes run for eight weeks in the spring, and most classes are two hours each. They are taught by professional, experienced teachers, with many holding advanced art degrees.

Classes will include: Beginning & Intermediate Stained Glass

- Drawing
- Figure Painting in Oils
- Basic and Intermediate Oil Painting
- Pastel
- Two-Dimensional Design
- Pottery for Seniors
- Pottery for Kids
- Life Drawing
- Watercolor
- Introduction to Art
- And many more!

Registration is on a first come, first serve basis, and payment must accompany registration form. All classes also require a small fee for materials. For a brochure and information, contact the Arts Guild by phone at 381-7511 or online at www.rahwayartsguild.com.



Eric Mintel



Harry Allen

Senior Stuff

Rahway Division of Senior Services Upcoming 2002 Events

Senior Registration March 3
The Rahway Division of Senior Services 2003 Spring-Summer program registration will be held on Monday, March 3 at the 9 A.M. at the Rahway Senior Center, 1306 Esterbrook Avenue. This is open to Rahway residents only. No mail or phone-in registrations will be accepted. All programs are subject to change.

Free Income Tax Help Available

Free income tax help for low to moderate income Rahway seniors is available at the Rahway Senior Center Annex each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. This program is administered through the A.A.R.P. in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service and the City of Rahway. Call 827-2016 to schedule an appointment.

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 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.



August featured an enjoyable day at Hart Street Park for the annual Seniors' Picnic. Pictured are some Rahway seniors enjoying the food and good company.

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 Available

The Rahway Senior Center has a notary public of New Jersey on the premises. Any Rahway senior citizen 62 years of age or older may avail themselves of this free service. For more information, call 827-2016.

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
Jan. 15 Apr. 19
Feb. 19 May 21
Mar. 19 June 8
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.
March 4 May 6
April 1 June 3
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 381-5648
Merck Retirees
Meets 1st Tue. of each month at 1 P.M.
Pres. V. Didia 738-4639
Ladies Golden Age Club
Meets every Wednesday at 12:15 P.M.
Pres. Bernice Valentine 388-3981



The annual Rahway Seniors' Holiday Party was a rousing success on Dec. 20, with over 100 seniors in attendance to sing, dance, eat lunch, win prizes and meet Santa Claus. Supervisor of Senior Citizens Activities Sue Baumann, right, awards a holiday gift basket to winner Marie Kree, left.

Retired Railroaders (Group #2)

Meets 1st Sat. of the month at 11 A.M.
Pres. Conrad Kreisel 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 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 381-7406



October was home to the annual Rahway Seniors' Halloween Party, held at the Senior Center. Pictured are some of Rahway's contestants in the costume contest.

Rahway Hospital Foundation Continues Rose Ball Tradition

Rahway Hospital Foundation will be celebrating its 14th annual Rose Ball on Saturday evening, April 12, at Liberty House in Liberty State Park, Jersey City.

The spectacular view from the glass-enclosed ballroom and surrounding veranda will provide guests with the opportunity to stroll outdoors and enjoy the scenery. Entertainment will be provided by the Hank Joel Orchestra. Reservations are \$200 per person.

The Foundation is honoring Dr. & Mrs. Frank Light for their steadfast support of Rahway Hospital and their dedication to helping others, both in their community and abroad. Dr. Light has been a member of Rahway Hospital's Medical/Dental Staff since 1973, and has served as President. He is a long-time trustee of Rahway Hospital Foundation, has held the position of Vice-Chairman and is currently serving his second term as Chairman. For the past twenty-

five years, Dr. Light has been on a medical team with Healing the Children that has traveled to various countries around the world providing medical services to severely needy children. Both he and his wife, Cathy, have personally donated supplies and equipment while actively recruiting volunteer medical professionals to join the medical teams.

Proceeds from the Rose Ball will benefit the programs and services of Rahway Hospital, including the multi-million dollar expansion of the Emergency Center. Construction has begun on the first phase of a three-phase expansion project. Three homes near the hospital are being razed in order to add additional parking space and allow for the ground breaking for the new emergency center.

For additional information about the Rose Ball, or to make a reservation or contribution, please contact the Foundation Office, 499-6135.

Civilian Police Academy Wants YOU!

The Rahway Police Department Community Assistance Team is now accepting applications for the fifth session of 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 begin March 12 and run through April 30. The 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 on April 30 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 827-2179.

Practice Home Electrical Safety

When you plug in an appliance or turn on a light, you probably did not give a lot of thought to the wires carrying the electricity. Few people do. After all, your home's electrical system is out-of-sight and out-of-mind, hidden in the walls. People tend to take potential problems too lightly or overlook them altogether.

But you need to pay attention to your home wiring especially if you live in an older home. Thirty-nine thousand house fires and 350 deaths last year in the U.S. were caused by faulty home wiring and other electrical equipment, such as extension cords, lighting, and plugs, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

The nation's housing supply is aging. One-third of all homes—30 million—are more than 50 years old; half are at least 30 years old. Older homes often fall short of today's electrical-safety standards. Older homes in particular were not designed to handle rising electrical demand. Appliances may be more energy efficient than in the past. But they're bigger and we're using a lot more of them, which chronically stresses many homes' electrical systems.

New electrical work in homes is supposed to be safeguarded by a system of licensing, permitting, and inspection by local officials. But homeowners often bypass that route because it takes more time and money.

Your fire department and safety groups are trying to get the word out that frequently blown fuses, hot or dead outlets, and other problems are not just nuisances; they are serious warning signs of electrical hazards that can result in disaster if not addressed. Your home wiring needs to be maintained, upgraded when necessary, and periodically inspected by a qualified, licensed electrician.

How old is your home? In the oldest homes that are a century old or more, electricity was a retrofit, installed mainly for lighting, sometimes through former gas-lighting pipes or porcelain tubes. Typically these houses were wired at 30 amps; enough to power basic lighting and some kitchen appliances, that's all. By the late 1940's 60-amp service was common which

is better, but still short of the 150 to 200-amp service typical of new construction.

Old wiring, by itself, doesn't necessarily mean trouble. But you have to be careful that the insulation protecting the wiring is in good shape. Insulation can become damaged when it is rubbed or pierced, or even when a circuit is heavily loaded. When that happens, the wires get hot and, over time, the insulation can crack or fray.

Often, older homes are not grounded to minimize the risk of shocks, and they typically have too few outlets for today's demands—sometimes as few as one per room—which can lead to a dangerous reliance on extension cords. By contrast, contemporary codes typically require a wall outlet at least every 12 feet.

Beginning in the 1950's, wires were insulated with tougher thermal plastic instead of fabric or rubber; three prong grounded outlets replaced two-prong one; and circuit-breaker panels replaced fuse boxes. Both circuit breakers and fuses are designed to shut off power to their circuits if more current flows through circuits that they should carry. Experts consider circuit breakers more convenient and safer because they're more tamper-resistant.

When fuses blow, circuit breakers repeatedly trip, or lights often dim, it's a sign that there is a problem with the wiring or that you are overstressing the circuit and may need a new one or a service upgrade. Yet homeowners have been known to make quick, often illegal fixes, such as using fuses that are overrated for the circuit they're protecting (20-amp fuses on a 15-amp circuit, for example). Overrated fuses don't protect circuit wiring from overheating because they allow more current through the wiring than the wiring was designed for.

So, remember the warning signs:

Dimming lights: Lights that chronically flicker and dim can be a sign of loose connections or a heavily loaded circuit.

Tripping circuit breakers: Repeated tripping could indicate overloaded circuits, a short circuit, or other problems.

Burning smell: Smoke or a smell



RHS Volleyball team wows 'em—Last fall, the Rahway High School girls' volleyball team completed its season with a 20-4 record and a top-20 finish in the Star-Ledger rankings, its best season in school history. Front row, from left to right, are: Coach Mr. Ray Candiloro, Jasdip Kaur, Elizabeth Bauer, Junie Jean-Marie, Nicole Nixon, Jennifer Babicz and Asst. Coach Ronnie White. Back row, from left to right are: Francis Gonzalez, Lilla Varga and Beatrice Loiseau. Missing from the photo is Jamie Godfrey.

Winter/Spring 2003 Solid Waste & Recycling Info

Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day)
No garbage or yard waste collection

Next garbage and yard waste collection May 29

No bulky waste will be collected on May 29

**The 2003
Solid Waste & Recycling
Schedule is now online!**

<http://www.cityofraahway.com>

of burning metal or plastic may be caused by a bulb of the wrong size or wattage, or burned or overheated wiring.

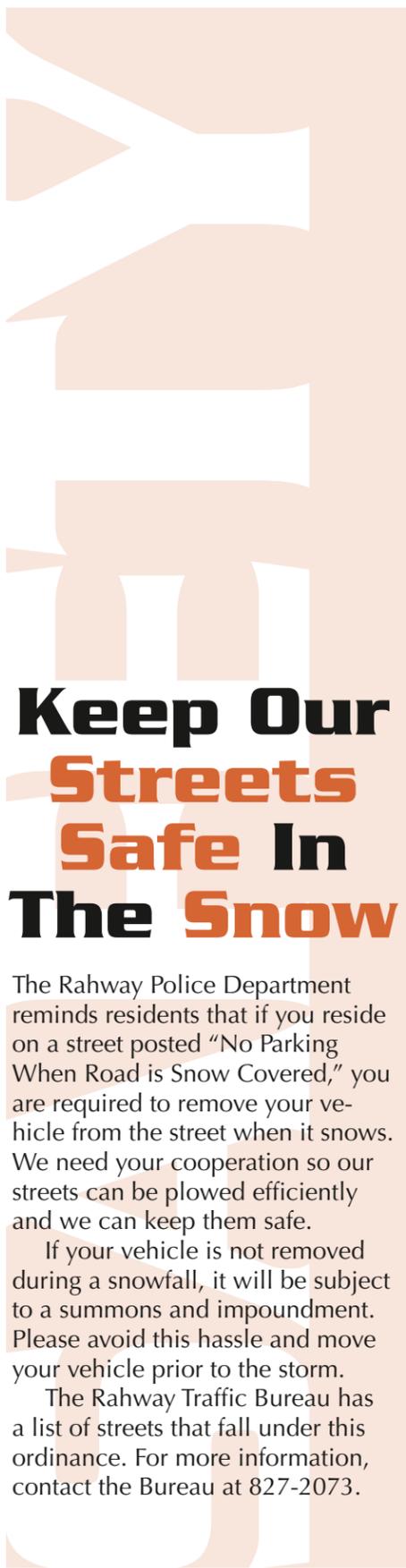
Overloaded outlets: Heavily used outlets can create a fire hazard if they generate too much heat.

Loose plugs: Plugs should fit snugly in outlets. Loose connections can be a shock hazard and can generate heat.

Hot receptacles: Receptacles, switch plates, cords, and plugs should never be hot to the touch or discolored from heat. This could mean a loose connection or other problem.

Our thanks to *Consumer Reports* as a resource. If you wish more information, contact the National Electrical Safety Foundation at www.nfsf.org/homes/safety.ltm or the consumer Product Safety commission at www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/518.pdf.

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Keep Our Streets Safe In The Snow

The Rahway Police Department reminds residents that if you reside on a street posted "No Parking When Road is Snow Covered," you are required to remove your vehicle from the street when it snows. We need your cooperation so our streets can be plowed efficiently and we can keep them safe.

If your vehicle is not removed during a snowfall, it will be subject to a summons and impoundment. Please avoid this hassle and move your vehicle prior to the storm.

The Rahway Traffic Bureau has a list of streets that fall under this ordinance. For more information, contact the Bureau at 827-2073.

Youth Police Academy Taking Applications

The Youth Police Academy is designed to provide young adults with a better understanding of police in today's society. The academy exposes cadets to some of the training, procedures and technology utilized by police officers in order to provide the tools necessary to form objective opinions regarding police action. The Rahway Police Department hopes to increase the awareness and appreciation of law enforcement and its organization. The following topics are covered during the academy:

- Crime Scene Investigation
- Radar/DWI/ Accident Investigation
- Fingerprinting
- Water Safety
- Computer Crime/Internet Awareness
- Sheriff's Department Canine Demonstration
- Patrol Procedures / Motor Vehicle Stops
- Physical Fitness Training

Cadets are required to participate in all scheduled activities, including fitness training, military drills, etc. The Youth Academy adheres to a strict paramilitary code of conduct. It is designed to operate like an actual police academy for those interested in law enforcement.

Applications are now being accepted for the one-week academy, tentatively scheduled for the end of July 2003. Any City resident between 11 and 15 years of age can apply. Applications can be obtained by calling the Community Assistance Team at 827-2179. *Parental consent is required before anyone is allowed to participate in the program.*



Congratulations to the Academy's first graduating class: Anthony Arce, Peter Arce, Claudesha Blackwell, Michael Civitano, Eric Dumay, Alexis Easily, Richard Fitzpatrick, Breanee Flynn, Joseph Gargon, Terrance Hampton, Robert Hendricksen, Sattirah Johnson, Shante Lawson, Tiffany Mahalchick, Daniel Makin, Nicholas Mimikos, Matthew Olters, Raphael Ortiz, Markus Saunders, Michael Saunders, Nicholas Scanlon, Alexandra Searles, Aimee Simon, Nicole Simon, and Dion Smith.

Domestic Violence Response Team Needs Volunteers

The Rahway Police Department, in collaboration with the YWCA of Eastern Union County's "Project Protect" and AHS Hospital Corp/Overlook Hospital's Domestic Violence Program, has developed a program to better serve the victims of domestic violence that it encounters on a daily basis. Due to the special circumstances of domestic violence victimization, it is necessary to seek the assistance of volunteers from the community to participate as trained team members. As team member volunteers, individuals will initially receive forty hours of appropriate training, conducted over an approximate eight-week period.

The team will provide twenty-four hour a day, seven day a week service to domestic violence victims. Those victims of domestic violence who are encountered by the Rahway Police Department will be referred to meet with a Team member. Team members will assist the victim in a variety of ways, ultimately providing support and information to help them make informed decisions on the options that are available to them.

In order to accomplish the goals and objectives of this program, it is necessary for volunteers to possess minimum qualifications. The following is a list of these minimum standards for volunteers:

- 18 years of age or older
- Resident of, or employed in Union County area
- Valid New Jersey driver's license
- Available transportation
- No criminal history

- No prior history as defendant in a domestic violence related matter
- Available to be on-call a minimum of two times per month
- Ability to communicate well with others
- Good listener
- Sensitivity to victim's feelings and concerns
- Desire to help others
- Available to participate in initial and ongoing domestic violence training

Bilingual individuals and persons fluent in American Sign Language are encouraged to participate.

Applicants will be required to participate in the forty-hour initial training course. This course will be provided over an approximate eight-week period. Following certification, volunteers will be assigned to the team and will immediately enter the on-call rotation. On-call rotations for volunteers will require availability for two twelve-hour shifts each month. Volunteers will be provided with pagers during their shifts. The Police Department will contact volunteers via the pagers and volunteers will respond to meet victims at the police station.

The Rahway Police Department recognizes the importance of the community in our endeavor to provide enhanced services to victims of domestic violence. Without the assistance of community volunteers it would not be possible to operate the Domestic Violence Response Team. For an application or further information, please contact Sgt. Janice Witheridge at 827-2179.

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

POLICE, FIRE & FIRST AID EMERGENCIES

DIAL: 9-1-1

UNION COUNTY ARTS CENTER 2002-2003 SEASON

1601 Irving Street, Rahway, NJ 07065

Box office: 732-499-8226 • Fax: 732-499-8227

Web site: www.ucac.org



Carrot Top

The 2002-2003 season is the biggest and most talent-laden ever for the Union County Arts Center! Buy your tickets early to ensure that you get your choice of the best seats in the house. Make sure to check out the box office or website to see the great deals on multi-show purchases and special group rates.



Russian American Kids Circus



Paul Anka



The Spencers: Theatre of Illusion



Robert Dubac

Union County Arts Center 2002-2003 Season at a Glance

Friday	2/7/03	8 P.M.	Bobby Vinton	\$60, \$50, \$30
Sunday	2/9/03	3 P.M.	Russian American Kids Circus	\$18, \$18, \$15
Friday	2/21/03	8 P.M.	Doo Wop: Platters, Classics, Demension	\$28, \$25, \$20
Friday	2/28/03	8 P.M.	Nancy Wilson/Diva	\$45, \$35, \$27
Thursday	3/6/03	8 P.M.	Carrot Top	\$33, \$28, \$25
Saturday	3/8/03	3 P.M.	The Spencers: Theatre of Illusion	\$20, \$18, \$15
Sunday	3/9/03	1 & 3 P.M.	Cinderella (English/Bilingual)	All tickets \$10
Saturday	3/15/03	8 P.M.	The Irish Rovers	\$30, \$27, \$22
Friday	3/21/03	8 P.M.	Women in Folk	\$25, \$22, \$18
Saturday	3/22/03	8 P.M.	WSO: The Gypsy Spirit	\$60, \$40, \$35, \$30, \$25
Sunday	3/23/03	3 P.M.	Harriet Tubman.....	All tickets \$10
Saturday	3/29/03	8 P.M.	Habana Sax	\$27, \$22, \$17
Sunday	3/30/03	7 P.M.	On Golden Pond with Jack Klugman	\$32, \$27, \$20
Saturday	4/5/03	3 P.M.	No Matter What: A Modern Day Story of Job	\$30, \$25
Sunday	4/6/03	3 P.M.	Just So Stories	All tickets \$10
Friday	4/11/03	8 P.M.	Paul Anka.....	\$65, \$55, \$30
Saturday	4/12/03	3 & 8 P.M.	Male Intellect: An Oxymoron.....	\$32, \$27, \$22
Saturday	4/26/03	5 & 8 P.M.	Kenny Rogers	\$75, \$65, \$45

For more information or to order tickets, call Ticket Central at 732-499-8226 or visit our Web site:

www.ucac.org