



**NEW BUSINESS** SPOTLIGHT New places to enjoy in our City





**EVENTS** 2024 Rahway Happenings! April - June







YOUR DEFINITIVE GO-TO-GUIDE FOR WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF RAHWAY, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.



# A Message from The Mayor: **Embracing Spring and Summer in Rahway**

Celebrating the Events of This Past Winter Season

With the weather warming up and the days getting longer, I am excited to share the latest edition of the Rahway Review. Spring and summer are exciting times in our great City and we have a lot to look forward to including the Taste of Spring, Hot Rods & Harleys, the Ready Set Glow Race, and so much more.

2024 is off to a great start in our City. The Special Improvement District (SID) welcomed several new businesses while our existing businesses got into the holiday spirit with the annual Holiday Window Decorating Contest. We hosted the Rahway Sneaker Ball and honored Black History Month with a variety of educational and inspiring events, and the arts were highlighted in the month of February as we hosted the Harriet Tubman: The Beacon of Hope traveling monument all month long and celebrated the reopening of the Hamilton Stage.

Our Senior Community has remained as

active as ever with brand new classes and offerings, while the Health Department has partnered with the Mental Health Association of New Jersey to provide additional support.

The Rahway Police and Fire Departments celebrated the promotions of three new sergeants and captains and welcomed new members to their ranks, while longtime Director of DPW, Mike Smalling, has retired after nearly 36 years of service to the Rahway community and the Engineering Department continues to make advancements to our City through the Water Quality Assurance Initiative and waterway cleanup efforts.

As we embrace spring and summer in Rahway, let's celebrate our community as we continue to look ahead!

**Mayor Raymond A. Giacobbe** 



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Mayor Raymond A. Giacobbe City of Rahway

1 City Hall Plaza
Rahway, NJ 07065



## CITY OF RAHWAY **Municipal Directory**

If you are prompted to leave a message when calling any of the following numbers, please be assured that your call will be returned as soon as possible. All area codes are 732 unless otherwise specified.

## **Municipal Offices**

Building Inspector	827-2087
City Clerk	827-2100
Economic Development	
Emergency Management	
Engineering and Land Use	
Finance	
Fire (non-emergency)	
Fire Prevention Bureau	
First Aid	
Health Department	827-2085
Mayor's Office	
Municipal Administrator	
Municipal Court	
Police (non-emergency)	827-2200
Property Maintenance	
Public Works	
Rahway Special Improvement	
District	827-2193
Recreation	
Recycling	
Tax Assessor	
Tax Collector	
SUEZ-Rahway (Veolia)(877)	
Vital Statistics	
Holpful Numbere	

## **Helpful Numbers**

Board of Education	396-1000
NJ Transit973	3-275-5555
Parking Utility	381-8778
Police Athletic League	827-2097
Post Office	388-3264
Rahway Library	340-1551
Rahway Redevelopment Agency	827-2001
Rahway Y.M.C.A	388-0057
RWJU Hospital at Rahway	381-4200
Union County	
Performing Arts Center	499-8226

#### **Rahway Schools**

Harring Corrocio	
Superintendent's Office	396-1020
Business Administrator	396-1010
Services for Children	396-1035
Rahway High School	396-1090
7th & 8th Grade Academy	396-1025
Franklin School	396-1050
Grover Cleveland School	396-1040
Madison School	396-1070
Roosevelt School	396-1060

The Rahway Review keeps citizens informed of important programs and events that the administration has developed in efforts to improve the quality of life in Rahway. 13,000 newsletters are printed and mailed to each postal customer in the City of Rahway. Others are distributed by request to individuals, companies and organizations interested in living or doing business in the City. Although great care has been taken to ensure that information contained in this newsletter is accurate, the City of Rahway assumes no liability for errors or omissions. The Rahway Review welcomes comments and concerns from its readers. These may be sent to:

City of Rahway • Office of the Mayor 1 City Hall Plaza, Rahway, NJ 07065

www.cityofrahway.com 🖪 CityofRahwayNJ 🛛 🔘 CityofRahway

## Rahway Special Improvement District



The Rahway Special Improvement District (SID) is proud to support the local businesses that make up the backbone of the Rahway community. From cozy cafés to bustling boutiques, each and every one of our businesses contribute to the identity of our great City.

The SID is committed to providing resources and support to both existing businesses and those looking to make Rahway their new home. If you are interested in opening a business or relocating to Rahway, the SID is here to help you navigate the process. Contact us by email RahwaySID@cityofrahway.com or phone (732) 827-2181.

## **NEW** BUSINESS: The City welcomes you!

## Spanish Restaurant

On December 7th, Mayor Giacobbe and members of the Chamber of



Commerce welcomed Spanish Restaurant III, located at 988 St Georges Avenue to our growing dining community. Serving authentic Dominican recipes and natural juices, this family-owned restaurant offers an \$8 all day lunch special along with dine in and take out menus, as well as catering options. They are open 7 days a week, so be sure to stop in and try some of their signature dishes.

XpressGrab XpressGrab, conveniently

located at 1725 St. Georges Avenue,



offers a variety of household items, snacks, drinks, premium meats and specialty sandwiches! They celebrated their official ribbon cutting and grand opening on December 12, 2023 as they joined the Rahway community.

## Charlies Flowers & Gourmet Baskets

On January 30, 2024, Charlie's Flowers &



Gourmet Baskets, located at 1645 Irving Street, was welcomed to our great City with an official ribbon cutting led by Mayor Giacobbe and 1st Ward Councilman Al Parker. Charlie's Flowers & Gourmet Baskets specializes in floral arrangements and personalized gift baskets that are perfect for all occasions, with shipping available worldwide!

## **HOLIDAY** ART: Contest Winners!

The Holiday Window Decorating Contest, sponsored by the SID and the Rahway Chamber of Commerce and hosted by Rahway Rising, returned for its second year. 18 businesses throughout the city participated and decked out their windows with art, lights, and other decorations for the chance to win one of two awards. The People's Choice Award was open to residents and visitors to Rahway and was decided by popular vote. 949 votes were cast via the ballot on display at their business.

on RahwayRising.com and Garden of Ink took home first place with 174 votes. The Senior Art Class Award winner was decided by members of the Senior Art Club who took a bus tour of the participating businesses and used their discerning eyes to cast their votes. At the end of their journey, they chose Gelber Associates as the winner. Garden of Ink and Gelber Associates both received a \$200 award and a trophy to put



## People's Choice Award Winner:

Garden of Ink, 75 E. Cherry Street Garden of Ink is a modern upscale tattoo shop that provides a peaceful, clean atmosphere to receive the finest in new school tattoos and traditional tattoo art. Specializing in fine line, lettering, realism or anime, they offer fine art in ink. tenants needs.



#### Senior Art Class Award:

Gelber Associates, 1002 St. Georges Avenue Gelber Associates specializes in commercial and residential real estate management services. Their main office is conveniently located with a highly trained team ready to address your property or

Stay in the know by following us on social media @Rahwayishappening on Instagram and Facebook and by visiting us at Rahwayishappening.com.

## Rahway Arts and Community

## **Black History Month 2024**

In February 2024, the City of Rahway celebrated Black History Month with a variety of educational and inspirational events including the Notes from the Underground Art Exhibit, the Harriet Tubman: The Beacon of Hope traveling monument unveiling, the Quilts That Speak in the Story Telling Tradition Art Talk, an American History Talk & Cemetery Tour at Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum, the Urban League of Union County's Annual Black History Month College Fair, a performance by blues guitarist Junior Mack, the Cosmic Adventures Traveling Planetarium, and the Harriet Tubman Panel Discussion hosted by the Rahway Social Justice Commission.





## Harriet Tubman: The Beacon of Hope Monument

The City of Rahway had the honor of hosting the Harriet Tubman: The Beacon of Hope traveling monument at City Hall Plaza from February 1 to February 29. It came to our City from Salisbury, Maryland as the 3rd stop on its Freedom Tour throughout the country. The 13-foot bronze sculpture, created by sculptor Wesley Wofford of Wofford Sculpture Studio, depicts Harriet Tubman's unwavering commitment to justice and equality, portraying her as a free woman, extending an encouraging hand to the viewer. A closer look reveals a golden "generational key" in her hand, inspiring observers to unlock their inner strength and forge their destinies, mirroring Harriet's own resilience.

As described by Wofford Sculpture Studio, the oxen yoke is a metaphor for the yoke of slavery. It also illustrates the legendary story of Araminta's youth which describes her single-handedly steering a team of oxen for her father. The piled shackles and chains depict all of the lives adversely affected by the scourge of slavery. The open shackles represent those freed by Harriet and others on the Underground Railroad, while the locked ones depict those not liberated until after the Civil War. The closed manacles also symbolize the unfinished work ahead of us, essential to achieving a just and equitable future for all.

Following the monument's stay in our great City, it went off to its next destination, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio!

## Hamilton Stage Grand Reopening!

The Hamilton Stage, Rahway's beloved community theater, officially reopened its doors for the first time since 2021 on Saturday, February 3 and Sunday, February. 4 with a weekend of free performances celebrating the arts.



A ribbon cutting marked the reopening of Hamilton Stage

The event was attended by Union County Commissioner Chairwoman Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded, Union County Commissioner Vice-Chairwoman Lourdes Leon, Union County Commissioners James Baker, Sergio Granados, Bette Jane Kowalski, Alexander Mirabella, & Rebecca L. Williams, Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly Craig Coughlin, Assemblywoman Linda Carter, Assemblyman James Kennedy, UCPAC Executive Director Deanna Hunt, UCPAC Director of Development & Programming Kim Farrier, Council President Vannie Deloris Parson, Councilwoman Karla Timmons, Councilwoman Danni Newbury, Councilman Al Parker, Councilman Jeremy Mojica, and Councilwoman Joanna Miles of the Rahway City Council, and President & CEO of United Way of Greater Union County

Visit www.UCPAC.org/Hamilton-Stage to stay up to date on all events and performances at the Hamilton Stage.

and South Plainfield Councilwoman

Julienne Cherry.





CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

On Saturday, January 13, the Rahway Sneaker Ball took place at the Rahway Recreation Center. This event was created to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his vision to end economic and employment inequities. Attendees were able to participate in workshops hosted by local entrepreneurs, learn how to start their own business through the "Hall of Knowledge," and network with local business owners in the Business Marketplace. The second half of the evening began with remarks from Mayor Raymond A. Giacobbe, Business Administrator Jonathan Parham, and Tina Wilson of the Mally Gaines Foundation, who presented a donation to Rahway schools on behalf of the foundation to Superintendent, Dr. Aleya Shoieb. The evening closed out with live entertainment including local artists, a live DJ, and a fashion show.







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## **Rahway City Council**

At Large Joanna Miles 732-822-2050 jmiles@cityofrahway.com

At Large Jeffrey Brooks

732-688-9116

**First Ward** *Al Parker* 732-713-6356 aparker@cityofrahway.com

Second Ward *Karla Timmons* 848-467-8475

Vannie Deloris Parson Council President 732-853-5971 vdparson@cityofrahway.com

**Fourth Ward** *David Brown* 732-484-5485 dbrown@cityofrahway.com

Fifth Ward Danielle "Danni" Newbury 732-735-5884 dnewbury@cityofrahway.com

#### **Sixth Ward**

Joseph D. Gibilisco Council Vice-President 732-259-3144 jgibilisco@cityofrahway.com

Rahway Municipal Clerk 732-827-2100

CityClerkDepartment@cityofrahway.com

## Council in the Community! **Rahway City Council**

The members of the Rahway City Council take great pride in their active involvement within the community by presenting and participating in the wide range of City events offered throughout the year alongside Mayor Giacobbe. These events provide the opportunity for Councilmembers to engage with residents from their wards, and throughout Rahway, to foster a strong sense of community and connection.

Our Councilmembers' dedication to Rahway is a driving force that continues to push our great City forward. From cultural celebrations to art and music festivals, these collaborative efforts showcase the vibrance, diversity, and charm of our City to provide memorable experiences for individuals of all backgrounds.



















**1**-Winter Wonderland at the Rahway Recreation Center **2**-Holiday Market at the Cherry Street Mall

**3**-2024 City Council Reorganization Meeting **4**-Rahway Lady Chiefs Cheerleading Team at the Hamilton Stage

**5**-MLK Birthday Celebration at MLK Park **6**-MLK Birthday Celebration at the Rahway Recreation Center

**7**-Rahway Sneaker Ball at the Rahway Recreation Center

8-Rahway Sneaker Ball at the Rahway Recreation Center

9-Harriet Tubman: The Beacon of Hope Monument Unveiling at City Hall Plaza

# City of Rahway Ward Map: Get to know your Representative



Raymond A. Giacobbe

#### **Rahway City Council**



Al Parker aparker@cityofrahway.com ktimmons@cityofrahway.com Council President



**Karla Timmons** 



**Third Ward** Vannie Deloris Parson



David Brown



**Danni Newbury** 



Joe Gibilisco **Council Vice-President** igibilisco@cityofrahway.com

#### Councilmembers At-Large

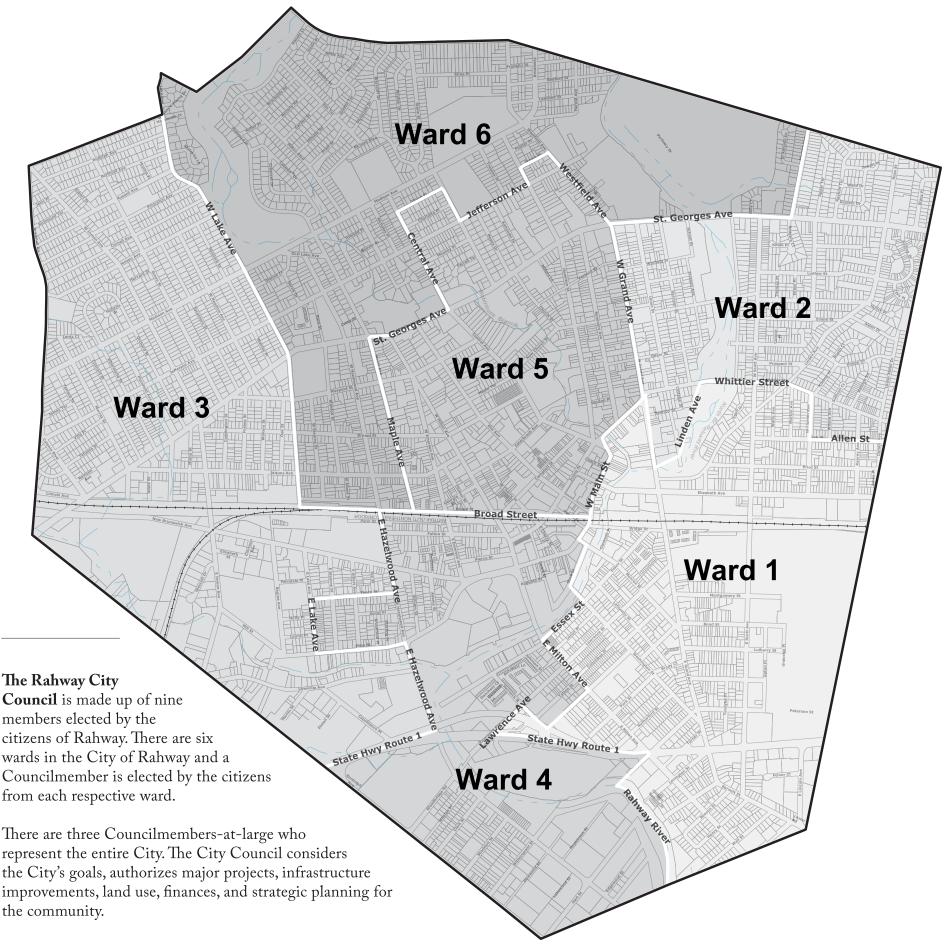






jbrooks@cityofrahway.com jmiles@cityofrahway.com jmojica@cityofrahway.com

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The Rahway Municipal Clerk is Secretary to both City Council and Administration. The Clerk is tasked with preparing and distributing meeting agendas, attending all meetings of the governing body, maintaining minutes of the proceedings of every meeting, certifying, and retaining the original copies of all ordinances and resolutions, and placing legal notices. To contact the Rahway Municipal Clerk's Office, please call 732-827-2100.

# City of Rahway Engineering Division

## **WATERWAY MAINTENANCE & DEBRIS REMOVAL**

The City of Rahway contains more than 9 miles of waterways, that fall on both public and private properties. Many portions of the waterways are connected to manmade pipes, culverts or other underground structures. The combination of the natural waterways and manmade structures work together to move water out of the area which is why

it is essential that these areas remain clear of debris and overgrowth. Failure to keep the areas clear results in blockages in the waterways and structures that ultimately cause upstream flooding throughout our community. While the City is responsible for publicly owned portions of the waterways, the responsibility for regular maintenance and debris

Property owners can follow these simple tips for regular maintenance to prevent blockages:

- do not dump materials in waterways
- do not store loose materials near waterways
- remove overgrown vegetation from waterways.

removal on privately owned portions of the waterways falls upon the property owner.

Any debris removed from waterways on private property can be placed at your curb for collection by the Rahway Department of Public Works.

Together, we can reduce flooding in Rahway by keeping our waterways clear!

## WATER QUALITY ASSURANCE INITIATIVE

The Water Quality Assurance Initiative (WQAI) is a proactive measure the City is taking as a testament to our dedication to providing clean, lead-free water to every home and business in Rahway. This will be achieved via a multi-year project that started with test pitting in 2023. When test pitting is complete, replacement of services consisting of lead material or having galvanized components will begin.

Test pitting involves digging a small pit, approximately 2'x2', over the water service between the curb and sidewalk to visually determine the material composition of the service line. No disruption to water use is anticipated. Approximately 1 week before test pitting begins, all properties that will be test pitted will receive door tags with information about the test pit work. The door tags include contact information for

ENGenuity, the City's consultant overseeing the project to report concerns.

The current test pitting project began in November 2023 and has been progressing rapidly ahead of schedule. As of late February, approximately 50% of the 5,000+ service line test pits have been completed by the City's contractor, ConQuest Construction. The next phase, "service line replacement," is anticipated to begin over the summer and extend into the fall and will be the first of several replacement projects over the coming

As part of the City's commitment, we secured grants so the service line replacements can occur at no cost to residents, approximately a \$6,000-\$10,000 value if contracted individually. If your property has been identified as having a service line made of lead or having galvanized components,

you will receive communication requesting access to your property for service line replacement before the project progresses in your area. A prompt response is appreciated to help move along scheduling and to help ensure you receive this service from the City while current funding is available.

The presence of lead in water poses severe health risks, especially for children, impacting cognitive development and overall well-being. This collective effort will ensure that every tap delivers water free from harmful contaminants, promoting a brighter, healthier future for all. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

If you have questions or concerns about the test pit work, please contact ENGenuity at (732) 741-3176. For other questions about the WQAI, please contact the Engineering Department at (732) 827-2176 or engineering@cityofrahway.com.



## CITY OF RAHWAY: FLOOD PROTECTION INFORMATION

The City of Rahway is a participant in a federally subsidized program that has allowed most property owners to purchase flood insurance with up to a 20% discount on their flood insurance premiums. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), requires that the City adopt specific flood damage reduction education, planning and

In an effort to inform residents and property owners of the presence of flood hazards in Rahway and to suggest possible actions that may be taken to protect persons and property the following article is being sent to you because the City of Rahway has many flood prone areas and your property may be susceptible to flooding.

#### Flood Insurance

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

The City strongly urges you to buy flood insurance as needed to protect yourself from devastating losses due to flooding. Following the purchase of flood insurance, NFIP imposes a 30-day waiting period, so residents should purchase insurance before the onset of the rainy season to ensure coverage during the flooding season. You can find out if your property is located in a special flood hazard area through the Office of the City Engineer at (732) 827-2176.

#### The local flood hazard

The areas in and around the North and South Branches of the Rahway River, the Robinson's Branch of the Rahway River, the Orchard St. Brook, Maurice Avenue Brook, Allen Street Brook, Milton Lake, Rahway River Park and certain other watercourses are subject to flooding. Flooding occurs in Rahway because the flood carrying capacities of the river channels are exceeded, which is caused by a number of factors, such as record rainfall intensities and increased impervious surfaces

due to upstream development. Floodplain maps, charts, reports and studies that document these areas are available for review in the Division of Engineering and also available for review at the Rahway Public Library.

#### Flood protection assistance

The City Engineer's office will provide technical assistance relating to flood elevations and data on historical flooding, and is available to advise owners of appropriate flood protection measures. The City also has copies of elevation certificates for some properties in the floodplain. City staff members are available to undertake site visits, if requested and authorized, to review flood, drainage, and sewe issues. All requests for technical assistance must be made in writing to the City Engineer's Office at 1 City Hall Plaza, Rahway, NJ 07065 or via email at engineering@cityofrahway.com for this service.

## Flood safety

Following is a list of important considerations that should be followed during times of

1. Keep children away from flood waters, ditches, culverts and storm drains. 2. Evacuate the flood hazard area in times of impending flood or when advised to do so by

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

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

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

6. During times of heavy rainfall monitor the level of water in the drainage way. 7. Plan escape routes to high ground.

8. Know the following flood warning system.

#### Flood warning system

When the City of Rahway is expecting or experiencing inclement weather that may include heavy rain, residents in flood prone areas or low lying areas are urged to plan preventative actions to protect life and property

Residents are urded to monitor frequently weather and flood conditions that are broadcast over local radio and television stations. Residents will be provided with flood watch and flood warning advisories. A flood watch

advisory indicates that the potential for a flood exists in the watch area, while a flood warning indicates that a flood has been detected

Comcast Channel 34 covers the City and will issue timely updated information. This station is part of the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) as are local television stations Channel 5 & 9. Radio station NJ 101.5 FM, NIXLE and UCFIRSTALERT will also carry EBS messages Please register for these updates at Nixle.com and Ucfirstalert.org.

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

#### **Property protection measures**

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

a) Install a sump pump system to infiltrating water to grade outside of the

b) Move essential items and furniture to the upper floors of your home: c) Elevate electrical and mechanical equipment

in the basement;

d) Flood proof walls, windows and doors;

e) Construct flood walls or closures; f) The most effective way to flood-proof a structure is to elevate it.

g) During times of flooding, homes that have not been retrofitted can be protected during emergencies by the installation of sandbags. h) Install flood vents in building walls, doors, or enclosures that are subject to frequent flooding and are not flood-proofed.

## Floodplain development regulations

Please be advised that all development, including filling of land located in a special flood hazard area, is regulated differently from other areas and may require a permit. Please contact the City's floodplain management consultant (Joseph DiLorenzo) by phone at (732) 389-0220 or by email at dilorenzo@najarian com for further information and prior to undertaking any activity within the floodplain or if you see non-permitted building or filling in the floodplain.

#### Recognize the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains to help reduce flooding

Floodplains are a natural component of the City of Rahway environment. Understanding and

protecting the natural functions of floodplains help reduce flood damage and protect resources. When flooding spreads out across the floodplain, its energy is dissipated, which results in lower flood flows downstream reduced erosion of the stream bank and channel, deposition of sediments higher in the watershed, and improved groundwater recharge. Floodplains are scenic, valued wildlife habitats, and suitable for residential gardening. Poorly planned development in floodplains can lead to stream bank erosion, loss of valuable property, increased risk of flooding to downstream properties, and degradation of water quality. A number of County and Municipal parks like the Rahway River Park and Milton Lake Park preserve the stream corridor and prevent development in perpetuity

#### Drainage system maintenance In addition to regulating development and fill

within the flood hazard area, the City of Rahway and State of New Jersey have regulations prohibiting dumping in channels, obstructing at would a the water-carrying capacity of any channel. floodway or floodplain. It has been demonstrated that regulating development and maintaining drainage systems can alleviate recurrent flooding which endangers life and damages property and facilities. Please report any activities that may be in violation of these regulations to the City's certified floodplain management consultant (Joseph DiLorenzo) at Najarian Associates at (732) 389-0220.

Substantial improvement requirements With respect to requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) relative to substantial improvement in the flood plain. please be advised that if the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, additions, or other improvement to a building or home equals or exceeds 50 percent of the building's market value, then the building must meet the same flood plain construction requirements as a new building. Substantially damaged buildings must also be brought up to the same standards. In coastal areas, this requirement usually means elevating the lowest floor, including basement and certain utility systems, at least one (1) foot above the base flood elevation displayed on the most recent FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), which is the 100-year flood elevation. A 100-year flood water surface elevation is caused by a storm having a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. In riverine settings, an even higher design flood elevation is often applied. Contact the City's

Engineering Department to determine the local design flood elevation for your property.

#### Map of the local flood hazard area:

To determine whether your property is located within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are available at the Office of the City Engineer at One City Hall Plaza, Rahway, New Jersey 07065. The maps are also available online at FEMA's Map Service Center website at www.msc.fema.gov, and a FEMA map specialist is available to assist you by phone (at 877-336-2627). In addition, the effective base flood elevation and location of the SEHA on the effective FIRM are mapped on the City's website at www.cityofrah way.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/-Flood-Hazard-Area-Mapping-website.pdf. A comparison of the effective vs. preliminary FIRM is available from FEMA's website at https://fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webapnviewer/index.htm-

I?id=e7a7dc3ebd7f4ad39bb8e485bb64ce44.



Important Contact Information:

City of Rahway Internet Home Page:

Federal Emergency **Management Agency (FEMA):** (425) 487-4600

**FEMA Map Service Center:** 

The National Flood Insurance www.fema.gov/flood-insurance

**City of Rahway Public Library:** catalog.rahwaylibrary.org

**Hiring a Contractor:** 

fact-sheet/tips-hiring-contractor-home-repair-0

## RAHWAY (S) HAPPENING

# 2024

S	M	Т	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4



## APR 1

LIB 6:00 PM

Crochet Club

APR 5

**REC 5:30 PM-9:00 PM** 

Rahway Taste of Spring

APR 9

LIB 1:00 PM

Afternoon Movie at the Library

APR **13** 

**UCPAC 8:00 PM** 

The Hit Men: The Ultimate Rock Concert

**APR 15** 

LIB 6:00 PM

Crochet Club

**APR 16** 

**LIB 10:30 AM** 

Toddler Time

**APR 17** 

**LIB 6:00 PM** 

Reader's Room Book Discussion

## **APR 18**

**LIB 6:00 PM** 

Homeowner Workshop

**UCPAC 8:00 PM** 

Caddyshack

**APR 19** 

LIB 10:30 AM

Toddler Time

M&D 7:00 PM-10:00 PM

Interactive Murder Mystery: An Evening of Dinner, Death and Deceit

APR **20** 

**RRP 9:00 AM** 

Walk with the Mayor

M&D 7:00 PM-10:00 PM

Interactive Murder Mystery: An Evening of Dinner, Death and Deceit

APR **21** 

**UCPAC 8:00 PM** 

The Jazz Ambassadors Of The US Army Field Band

## **APR 23**

LIB 10:30 AM

Toddler Time

**APR 24** 

**LIB 4:00 PM** 

Graphic Novel Book Club

**LIB 4:00 PM** 

Teen Discovery Studio

APR **25** 

(4/26 Rain Date)

HF 5:30 PM-7:30 PM

Howard Block Party

APR **27** 

**RRP 9:00 AM** 

Walk with the Mayor

**APR 30** 

**LIB 10:30 AM** Toddler Time

## **CALENDAR LOCATION KEY**

Arts District Park: Irving St/Central Ave Brennan Field: 741 Ferndale Pl BF

**CHP** City Hall Plaza: 1 City Hall Plaza East Cherry St

CS DR

Downtown Rahway Ebenezer AME Church: 253 Central Ave

Howard Field: 1292 Stockton St HF HS Hamilton Stage: 360 Hamilton St

Rahway Public Library: 2 City Hall Plaza LIB Merchants & Drovers Tavern Museum: M&D

1632 St Georges Ave

**PAS** Rahway Paseo: Main St Near Cherry St

Rahway Rec Center: 3 City Hall Plaza **REC** RFF Rahway Food for Friends: 1221 New Brunswick Ave

RRP Rahway River Park: St. Georges Ave

Rahway Senior Center: 1306 Esterbrook Ave SEN

The Gallery Space: 1670 Irving St **TGS** 

**TSP** Train Station Plaza: Irving St & E. Milton Ave

UCPAC Union County Performing Arts Center: 1601 Irving St Veterans Park: West Grand/Saint Georges Ave VP

YMCA Gateway Family YMCA/Rahway: 1564 Irving St

## www.cityofrahway.com

f CityofRahwayNJ CityofRahway

**FOR MORE INFO** 

**ON EVENTS AND** 

**HAPPENINGS** 



Get your forks ready, the Rahway Taste of Spring is back on Friday, April 5 at the Rahway Recreation Center from 5:30-9:00 PM! Now in its 21st year, this event has been widely recognized as the largest tasting event of its kind in the NJ/NY Metro Area, typically with upwards of 40 eateries and bakeries, plus an additional 40 stations of national distributors of fine wine, boutique beers and aperitifs. With live music, good food, wines and beers from all over the world, Rahway's Taste of Spring is the place to be this April.

Visit www.RahwayIsHappening.com/Taste for more information!

# TEENWORKS

GET PAID TO LEARN, **MEET NEW PEOPLE, & HAVE FUN THIS SUMMER!** 



Teen Works is a five week, paid, summertime job preparedness program sponsored by the City of Rahway. The 2024 program will run July 8th-August 9th. Besides improving soft-skills, program participants will receive valuable career insight from professionals from various career fields. In past years, speakers from the fields of law enforcement, fashion, technology, business, and social media marketing provided valuable career insight. To apply, teens must be Rahway residents, high school students age 16 and older. Applicants will be interviewed prior to selection into the program.

It is strongly encouraged that applicants have completed working papers prior to applying. Your high school guidance counselor should be able to provide assistance.

Applications can be picked up at the Rahway Recreation Center, the Rahway High School Attendance Office, or by emailing TeenWorks@cityofrahway.com.

Applications will be accepted through Friday, May 10, 2024.

## RAHWAY (IS) HAPPENING

S	M	Т	W	Т	F	S
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1



MAY 17

Reception

MAY 20

LIB 6:00 PM

Crochet Club

MAY 21

LIB 10:30 AM

Toddler Time

UCPAC 8:00 PM

Comedy Tour '24

MAY 22

LIB 4:00 PM

Eddie B Teachers Only

Teen Discovery Studio

SEN 6:00 PM-9:00 PM

Exhibition - Closing

2024 Rahway Art Student

MAY 2

(May 3 Rain Date) BF 5:30 PM-7:30 PM

Saint Georges Ave Block Party

MAY 3

YMCA 6:00 PM-9:00 PM

2024 Rahway Art Student Exhibition - Opening Reception

UCPAC 8:00 PM

The Shining Stars: The British Invasion Concert

MAY 4

RRP 9:00 AM

Walk with the Mayor

DR 10:00 AM-7:00 PM

NJ Art and Music Festival at several locations throughout the City

ADP 12:00 PM-1:00 PM

Mural Celebration and Artist Meet & Greet (Rain Date May 5)

ADP 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Community Art Workshop (Rain Location: UCPAC)

MAY **4** cont'd

HS 8:00 PM

The Golden Gals Live!

MAY 6

LIB 6:00 PM

Crochet Club

MAY 7

LIB 10:30 AM

Toddler Time

MAY 10

**REC 12:00 PM** 

Senior Summer Kickoff Picnic

UCPAC 8:00 PM

The Doo Wop Project

MAY 11

DR 11:00 AM-7:00 PM

Hot Rods and Harleys

MAY 14

LIB 10:30 AM

Toddler Time

Library

LIB 1:00 PM Afternoon Movie at the

LIB 6:00 PM Reader's Room Book Discussion

MAY 23

RRP 8:30 PM

Ready Set Glow 5k

MAY **26** 

CHP 1:30 PM

Memorial Day Parade / Ceremony

BF 11:30 AM-8:00 PM

Unity Day (B.S.O.C.)

MAY 28

LIB 10:30 AM

Toddler Time

MAY 29

LIB 4:00 PM

Graphic Novel Book Club



IF YOU LITTER IN THE STREET, YOU MIGHT AS WELL LITTER IN THE RIVER.



Rain washes pollutants into storm drains and directly into our lakes, rivers and the ocean, So what can you do? Recycle and dispose of your trash properly.

Mayor Raymond A. Giacobbe & the Rahway City Council present



FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024 RAHWAYRECREATION CENTER 12 NOOM

**Tickets** 

Available at the Rahway Senior Center 1306 Esterbrook Ave.

\$3-Until May 2 • \$8-May 3-9

No tickets will be sold at the door RAHWAY RESIDENTS ONLY

## CALENDAR LOCATION KEY

Arts District Park: Irving St/Central Ave BF

CS

DR

Ebenezer AME Church: 253 Central Ave EAME Howard Field: 1292 Stockton St HF

HS Rahway Public Library: 2 City Hall Plaza LIB Merchants & Drovers Tavern Museum: M&D

1632 St Georges Ave PAS Rahway Paseo: Main St Near Cherry St

Rahway Rec Center: 3 City Hall Plaza REC RFF

Rahway River Park: St. Georges Ave RRP Rahway Senior Center: 1306 Esterbrook Ave SEN

The Gallery Space: 1670 Irving St Train Station Plaza: Irving St & E. Milton Ave TGS

TSP **UCPAC** Union County Performing Arts Center: 1601 Irving St

YMCA Gateway Family YMCA/Rahway: 1564 Irving St

www.cityofrahway.com

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**USE THIS CODE** 

**FOR MORE INFO** 

**ON EVENTS AND** 

**HAPPENINGS** 

## RAHWAY (IS) HAPPENING



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS** 

**Department of New Jersey** 

**Ron Stevinson** | **Department Service Officer** 

VA Medical Center | 151 Knollcroft Road - Bldg 3 - Room 201

**USE THIS CODE** 

**FOR MORE INFO** 

**ON EVENTS AND** 

**HAPPENINGS** 

Lyons, New Jersey 07939

(732) 713-5194 | email: DAV\_Lyons@proton.me

## JUN 1

TBD

Pride Flag Raising More Info: cityofrahway.com

TBD

Mayor's Music Series More Info: cityofrahway.com

JUN 3

**LIB 6:00 PM** Crochet Club

JUN 6

TSP 12:00 PM Farmers Market Begins

JUN 7

**TBD** Mayor's Music Series More Info: cityofrahway.com

JUN 8

M&D 9:00 AM-2:00 PM Annual Tag Sale

Mayor's Music Series More Info: cityofrahway.com

RRP 2:00 PM-10:00 PM Relay For Life

**RELAY** 

## JUN 11

LIB 10:30 AM

Toddler Time

LIB 1:00 PM

Afternoon Movie at the Library

**JUN 12** 

LIB 4:00 PM

Teen Discovery Studio



JUN 13

ADP 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Celebración

**JUN 14** 

TBD

Juneteenth

More Info: cityofrahway.com

**TBD** 

Mayor's Music Series More Info: cityofrahway.com

**JUN 15** 

Mayor's Music Series More Info: cityofrahway.com

JUN 17

**LIB 6:00 PM** Crochet Club JUN 18

LIB 10:30 AM

Toddler Time

JUN 19

**LIB 6:00 PM** 

Reader's Room Book Discussion

**JUN 21** 

**TBD** 

Mayor's Music Series More Info: cityofrahway.com

JUN **22** 

Mayor's Music Series More Info: cityofrahway.com

RRP 8:30 AM-12:30 PM Fishing Derby

JUN 25

LIB 10:30 AM

Toddler Time



LIB 4:00 PM Graphic Novel Book Club



## **CALENDAR LOCATION KEY**

Arts District Park: Irving St/Central Ave Brennan Field: 741 Ferndale Pl BF CHP City Hall Plaza: 1 City Hall Plaza

CS East Cherry St

Downtown Rahway DR **EAME** Ebenezer AME Church: 253 Central Ave

Howard Field: 1292 Stockton St HF HS Hamilton Stage: 360 Hamilton St Rahway Public Library: 2 City Hall Plaza LIB

Merchants & Drovers Tavern Museum: M&D 1632 St Georges Ave

Rahway Paseo: Main St Near Cherry St **PAS REC** 

Rahway Rec Center: 3 City Hall Plaza Rahway Food for Friends: 1221 New Brunswick Ave **RFF** 

Rahway River Park: St. Georges Ave **RRP** 

Rahway Senior Center: 1306 Esterbrook Ave SEN

**TGS** The Gallery Space: 1670 Irving St

**TSP** Train Station Plaza: Irving St & E. Milton Ave UCPAC Union County Performing Arts Center: 1601 Irving St VP

Veterans Park: West Grand/Saint Georges Ave YMCA Gateway Family YMCA/Rahway: 1564 Irving St

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JUN 27

ADP 6:30 PM-8:30 PM Celebración

**JUN 28** 

TBD

Mayor's Music Series More Info: cityofrahway.com

JUN **29** 

**TBD** 

Mayor's Music Series More Info: cityofrahway.com

## City of Rahway Health Department

## **JOINING FORCES FOR SENIOR SUPPORT**

RAHWAY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

We are thrilled to announce a new partnership between the Rahway Health Department and the Mental Health Association of New Jersey. Together, we are set to introduce a series of weekly support groups tailored exclusively for our beloved senior citizens. In recognizing the unique challenges faced by our seniors, this collaboration aims to create a safe space that foster connections that uplift and support the mental well-being of our seniors and create access to essential mental health resources.

Support groups will be held at two locations, alternating between the Rahway Senior Center and Clifford P. Case Apartments on Thursdays at 2:00 PM. All groups are open to all Rahway seniors. We look forward to seeing you!

Society Relay For Life is more than just a walk; it's a powerful gathering that embodies our vision to end cancer. This volunteer-led experience unites communities to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost to cancer, and raise funds to improve the lives of people with cancer and their families through advocacy, research, and patient support, to ensure everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive

Join us on June 8th at

## American Cancer Society

Rahway River Park Stadium from 2:00-10:00 PM (check-in begins at 1:30 PM) for a day filled with celebration, remembrance, and fundraising. From honoring survivors to providing support for families, every step counts in the fight against cancer. Register at relayforlife.org/rahwaynj and be part of our community-driven effort. Even if you can't attend, your support online makes a meaningful impact. Together, we can make a difference.



As we turn the calendar to 2024, five new recruits have begun their careers in public safety as they entered the John H. Stamler Police Academy.

To supplement recent retirements from the police department and to maintain a suitable level of operational staffing, Ravell Batchelor, Caleb Davis, Anthony Hozer, Erik Libbey, and Anthony Rambhajan have joined Class #130 and are slated to graduate in June 2024.

Upon successful completion of the academy, these five will begin the Recruit Training Program, under the guidance of the department's FTOs, which is overseen by the Training Unit led by Sgt. Ken Rengifo.



## City of Rahway Police Department

## **DRONE UNIT EXPANSION**

RPD UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS UNIT

To better keep our residents and public safety personnel out of harm's way, the Rahway Police Department recently acquired two new drones that will operate out of the department's UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems) Unit. The smaller DJI Mavic 3 Enterprise can quickly be deployed to assess potentially hazardous situations and monitor active police and fire scenes from above with its thermal camera. This makes operations in areas such as on the train tracks significantly safer and situational awareness can be obtained without putting anyone at risk.

The larger DJI RTK350 is equipped with a more advanced thermal camera, powerful spotlight, and megaphone that will allow pilots to locate and communicate with individuals in distress. The RTK350 also has a payload delivery system that allows for placing potentially life-saving equipment, such as a life ring, rope, or flotation device, within reach of someone stranded. Both aircraft were used before, during, and after the January rainstorms to monitor water levels of the Rahway River and provided decision makers with greater





insight that aided in determining what actions should be taken to keep Rahway residents and the motoring public safe from flooded areas.

# SERGEANT PROMOTIONS

The Rahway Police Department is proud to announce the promotions of Michael Power, Luis Fernandez, and Daniel D'Albero to the position of Police Sergeant.

The three new sergeants were sworn in by Mayor Giacobbe and the Rahway City Council at a ceremony on December 11, 2023.







rahwaypolice.com



/RahwayPolice

## **CRIME PREVENTION TIPS**

Rahway Police Department keeps the Community safe and informed



Part of keeping Rahway a terrific place to live, work, dine and shop is by keeping the community informed and prepared. Recent local and national crime trends (such as the spikes in catalytic converter theft, motor vehicle theft, and motor vehicle burglaries) have also affected Rahway. But there are ways citizens can protect themselves.

## Here are a few tips:

- Have your catalytic converter engraved or stamped with your car's VIN number.
- Park in a well-lit area and consider investing in a doorbell camera.
- If you or a neighbor has been the victim of a crime, check for video doorbell and security camera footage of the incident and contact the Police Department promptly.
- Lock your vehicles, take your key fob with you, and keep items of value and loose change well hidden and out of sight.
- Secure your home with dead bolt locks on exterior doors, lock windows and sliding doors, and keep vehicle key fobs in safe locations, not visible from the exterior of your home.
- "See Something, Say Something" –
   A vigilant community is a safer community.
   If you notice a person or vehicle that seems suspicious, contact police dispatch (732-827-2200) with as much information as possible. In case of an emergency, dial 9-1-1 immediately.

10

## Rahway's Unique Senior Scene

## **EDUCATIONAL** AND MORE!

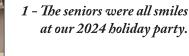
RAHWAY DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES

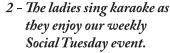
Rahway proudly offers a wide range of informative and enjoyable Senior programs that cater to the diverse interests and needs of our community's esteemed elders. Our Senior programs include educational seminars, social gatherings, and recreational outings, providing opportunities for learning, connecting, and making cherished memories.

#### Miles of Smiles from Our Recent Past Events









3 - The seniors getting their exercise in while having fun in our line dancing class.



#### Mayor Giacobbe's Birthday Lunch Club

One of the City's favorite special events run by the Division of Senior Services is Mayor Giacobbe's Birthday Lunch. Depending on the month of your birthday, you and a guest will be invited to the Rahway Senior Center and treated to pizza and salad along with other members of the Club. To register, please call (732)827-2016. Everyone registered will receive an invitation in the mail with the date and time of the Birthday Lunch.



## **Medicare Fraud Seminar**

Learn how to protect yourself from the growing problem of Medicare and Medicaid fraud. The Senior Medical Patrol will give a presentation at the Senior Center on Friday, April 12, 2024 at 11:30 AM. The event will be followed with a light lunch. Sign-up at the Senior Center or by calling (732)827-2016.



## Property Tax Reimbursement – Increased Income Limits

The Property Tax Reimbursement Program which reimburses eligible seniors and disabled persons for property tax increases has increased its income limits to \$150,000 for the tax years 2022 & 2023. This state program "freezes" your taxes the year you become eligible and every year thereafter you are reimbursed the difference. You must have turned 65 in 2022 (the first year you can apply is the year you turn 67) or are receiving Federal Social Security disability benefits and lived in your current home for the last three years. If you are not currently enrolled in this program, please call (732)827-2016 and make an appointment after April 15 with an AARP tax specialist.

For more information on Senior Services and Programs, please call the Rahway Division of Senior Services: (732) 827-2016

## Come Join a Club!



The Rahway Senior Center is home to 6 different clubs. Participation in clubs has been shown to be good for your mental and physical health. Come join a club, meet new people, stay informed and enjoy!

## Rahway Retired Men's Club

The Rahway Retired Men's Club started in 1961, and is still going strong. They meet every Monday at 1:00pm and you must be 55 or older to join. They host bus trips to the casino the first Wednesday of every month and luncheons throughout the year. For more information, please contact Jim Ivers (201)214-2181.

## Golden Age Club

The Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays from 10:00am to 12:15pm. All women age 55 or older are encouraged to join. Enjoy a friendly game of Bingo and laughter! For more information, please contact Miriam Hausman (631) 905-5070.

## AARP Rahway Chapter #607

AARP Rahway Chapter #607 meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 11:30am. Many topics are covered, as you enjoy a light lunch of hot dogs, donuts and a soft drink. New members and new ideas are always welcomed. For more information, please contact Delores Franklin (732) 208-7632.

#### Rahway Valley Jerseyaires

The Rahway Valley Jerseyaires are an acapella group with a barbershop-style sound that has been around for 75 years. If you love to sing, please join them on Monday night at 6:00 PM; no need to read music. Learning tracks are available to help you learn songs. For more information, please contact Al Muller (732) 991-6952.

## Union County Minority Task Force

The Union County Minority Task Force was formed 30 years ago to educate seniors on available services and programs. They meet the first Friday of every other month to discuss how they can help and support the needs of seniors. They also have representatives from social and government agencies that speak at the meetings on topics of interest. If you are interested in joining, please call Elaine Haith (732)428-4800.

## The Garden State Theatre Organ Society

The Garden State Theatre Organ Society (GSTOS) was founded in 1973 to preserve the historic tradition of the Theatre Pipe Organ in American music. Why Get Involved? To hear fabulous organ music, to play and preserve these fabulous units and to meet interesting people of all ages. You can join them on Wednesdays at 3:00 PM - they are well known for our sociability and good food!





## **Caption Promotions**

The Rahway Fire Department is proud to announce the promotions of Dan Marchica, Jim Thornton, and Javier Gonzalez to the position of Fire Captain. Captain Marchica and Captain Thornton were sworn in on December 11 and Captain Gonzalez was sworn in on February 12. The three new captains were sworn in by Mayor Giacobbe and the Rahway City Council.



## **Captain Andy Shumway** Retirement

On Monday, January 29th, Captain Andrew "Andy" Shumway worked his last shift at the Rahway Fire Department. Andy was hired in 1998 and was a department mechanic for 17 years before being promoted to the rank of Captain in 2022. He has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions throughout his 26-year career.

## **New Recruits**

On February 14, 10 new recruits including Ryan Bringuez, Richard Debicki, Joseph Plechy, Carl Stamer, Daniel Brehm, Charles Kaminski, Ryan Urban, Johnathan Torres, Ryan Collins, and Daniel Guinta entered the Fire Academy to replace recently retired members of the Rahway Fire Department.

#### **One Year Completions**

On December 11, firefighters Nicholas Scotti, Gianmickele Petraroia, Kristopher Houck, Ryan Might, Kenneth Gill, Johnny Grande, Jamison Shell, and Patrick Newman, officially completed their first full year on the job and were sworn in as permanent members of the department.



## Rahway is... at work for You

## **STONE ARTIFACT** DISCOVERY

ON LENNI LENAPE SITE

A massive sandstone cylinder, weighing 1,350lbs, was discovered in the City of Rahway in December 2023. This hand-carved artifact is believed to be of Native American or Early Colonial origin and was found on a site that was known to have been occupied by the Lenni Lenape tribe. The only known similar artifact was donated to Rutgers University in 1931 and dates back to 1651, having been discovered on Lenni Lenape land along the Raritan River. The Rahway artifact now resides at the Merchants & Drovers Tavern Museum where it was donated by the salvor, Michael Sancilarti of Big Top Construction, and transported to by the Rahway Department of Public Works.

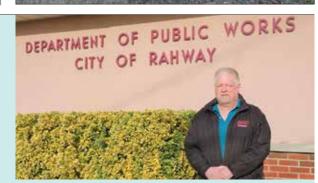




## **DEDICATED**

## SERVICE

Congratulations to Mike Smalling on his retirement after nearly 36 years with the City of Rahway! Mike began his career with Rahway in 1988 where he originally joined the Department of Public Works as a Recycling Program Aide. Over the years, he held multiple positions including Municipal Recycling Coordinator, Assistant Director of Public Works, and finally,



Director of Public Works; a title that he has held since 2011. Under Mike's leadership, the Public Works team has excelled in maintaining our great City day in and day out. We wish Mike a happy and healthy retirement!

## YARD WASTE COLLECTIO

Yard waste collection begins on April 1st and will be collected on your first collection day of the week. Please make sure that all yard waste is in either a brown paper bag or a sturdy garbage can with handles. Yard waste cans should be 32 gallons in size or less with detachable lids. Oversized containers, containers weighing more than 40lbs, and yard waste in plastic bags will not be collected.

## STREET SWEEPER SCHEDULE

Street sweeping in the City of Rahway begins on April 1, 2024 and runs through October. Please follow all parking signs in your neighborhood.

## RECYCLE COACH **APP**

The City of Rahway offers our annual Garbage & Recycling schedule in a digital format through the free Recycle Coach App. With Recycle Coach, residents can stay organized with custom curbside collection and events calendars, receive collection reminders and real-time updates on service disruptions, and access the comprehensive "What Goes Where?" search tool.





