

# OUR TOWN

RAHWAY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

**FREE**

Distributed as a community service by the Rahway Chamber of Commerce.

Premier Issue • June 2010

## NEXT CHAMBER MEETING

June 24, 2010

8:30am - 9:30am

at Masonic Temple

1550 Irving Street  
downtown Rahway.

### WHAT TO EXPECT AT A RAHWAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING:

You'll be networking with other businesses, learn what's going on in the city, and have the opportunity to promote your business.

Meetings are open to the public, non-members are welcome. There is no cost to attend but bring business cards. You may just show up. Coffee and donuts are served.

Inquiries can be directed to [kateconroy@gatewaychamber.com](mailto:kateconroy@gatewaychamber.com)  
908-352-0900.

## WELCOME BACK RAHWAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND FIRST MEETING ON JUNE 24TH

The Rahway Chamber of Commerce is back on the local Rahway business scene after having closed its doors nearly ten years ago. The Rahway Chamber of Commerce is taking off. It is stepping up efforts to accommodate the needs of businesses, large and small. The Chamber's main objective is to stimulate the business community and, in turn, improve the economic climate throughout the entire city. The goal is also to reach out regionally and market our city's resources to a broader base market outside of our borders. The Chamber will offer services that will help strengthen our local businesses while being affordable for everyone.

Please make an effort to learn about what we are doing and take advantage of the opportunities we offer. Get involved, come to a meeting or just give us a call if you have any questions.

We want more businesses to get involved because there is strength in numbers. By sharing the cost of marketing and advertising the cost to the individual business is lessened. We have also built financial savings into our programs that offset the cost of membership. Members also enjoy the benefits of being in the spotlight at meetings, in print and on the Internet.

Rahway Chamber of Commerce members are

automatically members of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce. The Gateway organization facilitates our local chamber along with several other communities. With 1,800 members it is the largest business association in the New York Metropolitan Area. Your business will be networked across the entire Gateway marketplace. You are also encouraged to get involved with them at the regional level.

The exposure has had proven success for many local businesses. The Gateway Chamber also maintains a Members Discount Program in which businesses offer other members savings on products and services.

The upcoming general meeting will be held on Thursday, June 24 and graciously hosted by the members of the Masonic

Lodge located at 1550 Irving Street in downtown. The Masonic Lodge continues to be a great supporter of Rahway and the Chamber thanks them for being our June host location. Doors open at 8:15am and the meeting will run from 8:30am till 9:30am. Wake up coffee and donuts will be on the menu and generously provided by Chris Wenson of The Waiting Room bar & restaurant located on East Cherry Street. The Chamber would like to invite the entire Rahway community, businesses, organizations, government officials and residents.



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## HOT RODS AND HARLEYS 2010

Hot Rods & Harleys returned to Downtown Rahway! The event was sponsored by Liberty Harley-Davidson and RSI Bank and features classic cars, motorcycles, music, games, food & drink and much more.

Hundreds of classic cars and motorcycles were on display, as well as music, food and products sold by downtown merchants. Over 150 trophies were awarded for winners of various auto and motorcycle categories. The event also featured world famous Bubba Blackwell Daredevil.



Photos by [joerenna.com](http://joerenna.com)  
More photos can be found on pages 6 and 7.



Rahway Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 300  
Elizabeth, NJ 07207-0300

# OUR TOWN *Rahway*

*Our Town* is published by Renna Media in coordination with the Rahway Chamber of Commerce, an affiliate of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Three thousand newspapers are printed monthly and mailed free to every business in Rahway and distributed free at distribution sites throughout Rahway.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media or the Rahway Chamber of Commerce or Gateway Chamber assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

### RAHWAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

C/O Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce  
**Gateway Vice President: Kate Conroy**  
908-352-0900

kateconroy@gatewaychamber.com  
P.O. Box 300, Elizabeth, NJ 07207-0300

### Acting Chairman: Bob Markey

732 388 1765  
Bob@SaligaMarkey.com  
103 West Main Street, Rahway, NJ 07065

### CITY OF RAHWAY

1 City Hall Plaza, Rahway, NJ 07065  
www.cityofrahway.com  
**Mayor: James Kennedy**  
732-827-2000

### RAHWAY CITY COUNCIL

- First Ward: Robert Rachlin**  
2215 Allen Street • (732) 499-7389
- Second Ward: Michael Cox**  
776 West Scott Avenue • (732) 388-2880
- Third Ward: Jerry Scaturro**  
515 Albermarle Street • (732) 381-1924
- Fourth Ward: David Brown**  
353 East Stearns Street • (732) 388-6545
- Fifth Ward: Jennifer Wenson-Maier**  
1314 Bryant Street • (732) 396-8536
- Sixth Ward: Samson Steinman, Vice President**  
1104 Plymouth Drive • (732) 388-4475
- At Large: James Baker, Council President**  
596 Leesville Avenue • (732) 574-1206
- At Large: Salvatore Mione**  
1452 New Church Street • (732) 574-1328
- At Large: Nancy Saliga**  
1103 Milton Boulevard • (732) 574-3188

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency .....911
- Non- Emergency Police.....(732) 827-2200
- Non- Emergency Fire .....(732) 827-2155
- Mayor's Office .....???????
- Building, Planning, and  
Economic Development.....(732) 827-2176
- Public Works & Engineering.....(732) 827-2060
- Solid Waste & Recycling.....(732) 827-2159
- Municipal Clerk.....(732) 827-2100
- Senior Services .....(732) 827-2016
- Health & Housing.....(732) 827-2172
- Parks & Recreation.....(732) 669-3600
- Law Department .....(732) 827-2000
- Tax Collector.....(732) 827-2050
- Tax Assessor .....(732) 827-2030
- Municipal Court.....(732) 827-2039
- Library .....(732)340-1551
- Board of Education.....(732) 396-1000

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Inquiries concerning advertising and submissions of press releases can be made to Our Town Rahway via email or fax to:  
**TINA RENNA**  
Email: TinaRenna@RennaMedia.com  
Phone: 908-418-5586  
Fax: 908-709-9209

## Message from the Chairman



Here I am again heading up the Rahway Chamber of Commerce. I was the founding president back in 1977. In 1992 the Chamber of Commerce membership and vitality was at a low point and I took over the helm for the second time. The Rahway Chamber dissolved about ten years ago having lost many of its volunteer members to the Rahway Center Partnership.

Now it's 2010 and we are in the worst economic time since the Great Depression and I've agreed to help startup this organization again. Our goal is simple. Help business to grow and prosper throughout Rahway. We support strong schools and great parks and good business and fair play. Our organization is transparent, volunteer led and we welcome your questions, interest and involvement.

Sincerely,  
**Bob Markey**  
Acting Chairman

I can be reached by calling 732-388-1765, By email at Bob@SaligaMarkey.com or by mail at 103 West Main Street, Rahway, NJ 07065

## WHAT'S THE FUTURE FOR DOWNTOWN'S SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT?

Many questions are being asked on Main Street about what the future will bring for downtown's Rahway Center Partnership. Slashed funding forced the recent elimination of the job held by longtime RCP Director Ray Mikell, maintenance workers lost their jobs and staffing is drastically cut and running on a skeleton crew.

The downtown commercial property owners are assessed an additional 7% of their annual

property taxes and these SID monies are used to support the RCP and downtown improvement efforts. The annual renewal of the SID assessment will be on the August City Council agenda.

The Chamber supports dialogue on this issue and would encourage Mayor Kennedy and City Council to host an open and informal forum in July to discuss the issues with downtowners and interested citizens.

## MORE GRAFFITI APPEARING IN TOWN

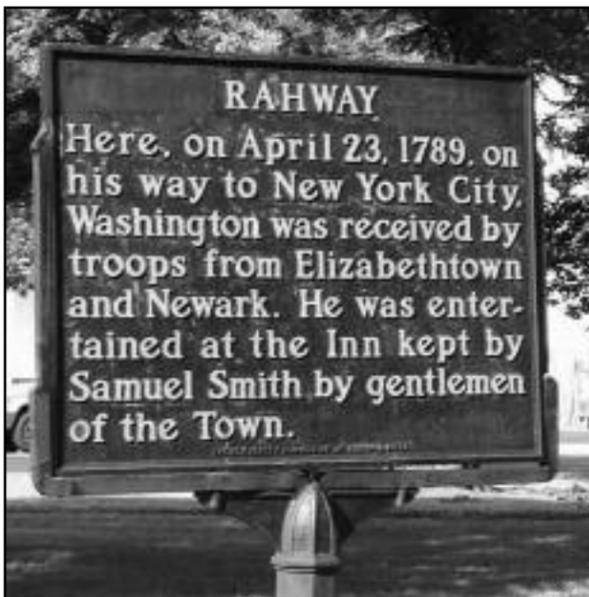
Sometimes art, oftentimes a gang's markings. Recently more graffiti is surfacing around town and its appearance has a negative impact on our city's quality of life. The best advice generally is to remove it as soon as possible. It's likened to washing our face as the job will never stop. The Chamber of Commerce would like to work with Rahway City officials to help address the graffiti problem.

(right) Photo taken at intersection of New Brunswick and Inman Avenue.

Note: It is the policy of this publisher to black out graffiti in publications.



## PAUSING TO REMEMBER JULY 4TH



Most of us pass by this highway sign located on St. Georges Avenue at Veterans Park giving little thought to it or to the times that it speaks to.

"Yeh, yeh we know. George Washington slept across the street at the Merchants and Drivers Inn". What we often forget is that on that date our War of Independence was by no means a sure victory. July 4th marked a date in 1776 that our Declaration of Independence was signed some seventy five miles away at Philadelphia. Patriots were in 1789 fighting and dying and victory was yet years away. As we celebrate this coming July Fourth may we pause for a moment during our parades and family reunions and barbecues and fireworks displays and remember that our freedom was won at great cost.

Happy Fourth of July!

# CITY MEETING DATES & SCHEDULES

## RAHWAY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Meetings are held in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 1 City Hall Plaza, Rahway at 7:00 p.m. Please call (732) 827-2100 for any inquiries. Tuesday, July 6 Pre-Meeting Conference. Monday, July 12, Regular Meeting

## BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Meetings are held in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 1 City Hall Plaza, Rahway at 7:00 p.m. Please call (732) 827-2176 for any inquiries. Tuesday, July 13

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meetings are held in the 2nd floor conference room Rahway City Hall 1 City Hall Plaza, Rahway at 7:00 p.m. Please call (732) 827-2000 for any inquiries. July NO MEETING

## PARKING AUTHORITY

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at the Parking Authority offices 67 Lewis Street, Rahway at 6:30 p.m. Please call (732) 382-3279 for any inquiries. Wednesday, August 4

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Monthly Caucus Meetings are held in the Louis R. Rizzo Board Meeting Room (room 105) of the Middle School at 7:00 p.m. Board Meetings and Organization Meetings are held in the Cafeteria at 7:00 p.m. Regular Meetings are held in the Cafeteria at 7:30 p.m. Please call (732) 396-1000 for any inquiries. Tuesday, July, 13 Caucus Meeting Tuesday, July 20 Regular Meeting

## PLANNING BOARD

Meetings are held in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 1 City Hall Plaza, Rahway at 7:00 p.m. Please call (732) 827-2176 for any inquiries. Tuesday, July 27

## HOUSING AUTHORITY

Meetings are held on Thursdays in the Regular Meeting Room of the Housing Authority of the City of Rahway at 165 East Grand Avenue at 7:00 p.m. Please call (732) 499-0066 for any inquiries. July NO MEETING

## RAHWAY CENTER PARTNERSHIP

Meetings are held at Hotel Indigo, 1 Carriage City Plaza, 2nd Floor at 7 p.m. Please call (732) 396-3545 for any inquiries. Wednesday, June 23

## REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Meetings are held in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 1 City Hall Plaza, Rahway. Please call (732) 827-2193 for any inquiries. Wednesday, July 7

## LIBRARY BOARD

Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at the Rahway Public Library at 7:30pm. Please call (732) 340-1551 for any inquiries. Tuesday, July 20

## GATEWAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS

For additional event information call the Chamber at 908-352-0900 or visit our website at [www.gatewaychamber.com](http://www.gatewaychamber.com)

- 8:30 AM JUNE 23**  
**CLARK CHAMBER GROUP**  
Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Avenue, Clark
- 8:00 AM JUNE 25**  
**SOMERSET HILLS BUSINESS NETWORK**  
Fiddler's Elbow Country Club,  
811 Rattlesnake Bridge Road, Bedminster
- 7:30 AM JULY 1**  
**NETWORKING PROFESSIONALS OF NEW JERSEY BREAKFAST MEETING**  
Perkins of Green Brook,  
297 Route 22 East, Green Brook
- 6:00 PM JULY 14**  
**NEW JERSEY REAL ESTATE SOCIAL NETWORK**  
The Westwood, 438 North Avenue, Garwood
- 6:00 PM JULY 20**  
**IRISH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (IBA) MEETING**  
Molly Maguire's Irish Pub & Restaurant,  
1085 Central Avenue, Clark
- 8:00 AM JULY 21**  
**EMPLOYER LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**  
Kenilworth Inn,  
Boulevard & 31st Street, Kenilworth
- 6:00 PM JULY 22**  
**NEW JERSEY REAL ESTATE SOCIAL NETWORK HAPPY HOUT**  
Location to be determined
- 8:00 AM JULY 23**  
**SOMERSET HILLS BUSINESS NETWORK**  
Olde Mill Inn, Basking Ridge

*If you like this newspaper,  
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Learn more about the gateway Chamber of Commerce at:

**[www.gatewaychamber.com](http://www.gatewaychamber.com)**

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## RAHWAY'S SUMMER CAMP & DAY CARE GUIDE

*Stay in town ...save time ...save gas ...no need to drive far!*

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**ARTS GUILD**  
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Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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Call for details: 732-396-1533

**JFK COMMUNITY CENTER**  
Oldest childcare Center in Rahway  
796 East Hazelwood Avenue  
Call for details: 732-382-9311

**KIDDIE COLLEGE II OF RAHWAY**  
700 New Brunswick Avenue  
Rahway, NJ 07065-3819  
Call for details: 732-382-2111

**RAHWAY BRANCH YMCA**  
Summer Day Camp\* (Ages 5-14)  
June 28-September 3  
Monday through Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm  
Extended Care Available\*  
Daily swimming in our full size indoor pool!  
1564 Irving Street, Rahway, New Jersey  
Call for Details 732.388.0057

**SUMMER DANCE CAMP 2010**  
Rahway Dance Theatre  
Trips to the pool, beach, NYC, etc.  
Doors open 6:30 am for early bird parents.  
Class starts at 9am.  
439 Irving Street  
Call for details: 732 388 4242

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**RAHWAY DAY CARE CENTER**  
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**SUMMER THEATRE CAMP**  
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www.merchantsanddrovers.org  
Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum  
1632 St, Georges Avenue, Rahway, NJ

**COOL SPLASHINGS AND LOT'S OF SUMMER FUN AT  
CITY AND COUNTY PARKS AND PUBLIC POOL**  
We're really so fortunate to have within our  
city so many wonderful public parks to enjoy.  
From tennis to soccer to swimming and fishing  
and baseball and barbequing and walking and  
running. We've got park spaces to workout in  
and some for sunning or simply sitting down on  
the grass and just plain bumming!

## CITY OF RAHWAY RECREATION

*Call for Details Recreation Hotline  
732-827-2095*

**SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM - AGES 5 - 13**  
Arts & Crafts, Games, Playground Olympics &  
Carnival Day!

Mon - Thurs 9 am - 2 pm, Fri - 9 am - noon  
Weather Permitting, June 28 - August 13  
At the following parks:

Brennan, Tully, Berzinec and Roosevelt  
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**SUMMER TENNIS INSTRUCTION**  
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### SPELL CHECK IS A BIG WAIST!

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on this County Park Pool sign?



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*15% Off first order with this Ad*

The Berzinec Courts at Central Avenue and St. Georges were abuzz with tennis players of all ages and abilities having fun. From the novice to the advanced all were welcomed. Lessons were given free and many prizes were awarded. The weather was sunny and clear and in the low 80s which helped make for a great day.



*Welcome to the Courts*



*And the grandchildren too!*



*Even the little guys played!*



*Nice follow thru*



*Tennis Instructor Victor Emmanuel, USPTR*

**JERSEY FRESH MARKET STARTS BACK UP JULY 15th**

*Farmer Fred Schieferstein and Other Favorite Vendors Return*

Beginning Thursday, July 15 and running from noon till 6pm each Thursday throughout the growing season, the Rahway Train Station Plaza will host the long running Jersey Fresh Farmer's Market. Freshly picked produce, baked goods, flowers, nuts and many other assorted healthy food items will be available for purchase. Convenient short term parking can be found on the street or at the adjacent Rahway Parking Authority deck. Come on downtown on Thursdays and enjoy this open air market and perhaps have a casual lunch at one of the many local downtown eateries. The market this year will be sponsored by the City of Rahway with assist from the Rahway Center Partnership. The Partnership ran into stumbling blocks and funding cutbacks earlier this year and sadly much of its staff were let go. Especially missed



*(above) Fred Schieferstein of third generation Schieferstein Farm Market & Garden Center located on Madison Hill Road in Clark.*

will be former RCP Director Ray Mikell who worked so hard for many years to help the downtown to continue to revitalize.

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**www.TheWaitingRoom.us**

# RAHWAY'S HOT RODS AND HARLEYS 2010 STREET FAIR PHOTO ALBUM



Find these and other full color photos from Rahway's Hot Rods & Harley's event at [PrinceofNewJersey.com](http://PrinceofNewJersey.com)

Photos by joerenna.com





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B.L.T. w/ French fries.....	\$4.89
Grilled Cheese w/ French fries .....	\$4.89

**www.valentinasrestaurant.com**

**956 St. Georges Avenue • Rahway, NJ 07065**

# RAHWAY'S HOT RODS AND HARLEYS 2010 STREET FAIR PHOTO ALBUM



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## PAPER MILL RISING STAR AWARDS

### EXHIBIT SHOWCASES YOUNG ARTISTS



(above) Rahway High School graduating senior Asia Pitt joins Marcel Truppa during the 12th Annual Rahway High School Art Exhibit at the Arts Guild on Irving Street.

Rahway High School wishes to congratulate graduating senior Asia Pitt for receiving the Marcel and Erica Truppa Art Major Scholarship. Internationally-renowned artist Marcel Truppa has been referred to as "a local treasure" and has lived in Rahway for most of his life. He was born to Italian parents in France and spent his childhood in a small village in southern Italy. His father moved the family to Rahway, where Truppa distinguished himself as an artist at Rahway High School. Truppa attended the Pratt Institute and the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts and worked in New York in advertising as an art director. He never stopped creating art and his work can be seen in shows at galleries in Rahway and beyond.

The Fine Arts Department of Rahway High School is proud to announce its recognition at the prestigious Paper Mill Rising Star Awards. On Tuesday, June 8, the ceremony for the Paper Mill Rising Star Awards was held at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn. Senior Carl Stamer was honored with an Outstanding Student Achievement Award for his work with set construction and stage crew during the 2010 production of "The Music Man."

Other honors from the Rising Star Awards include several final nominations, including Outstanding Performance by a Chorus, Outstanding Performance by an Orchestra,

Outstanding Achievement in Choreography and Staging (to Dance and Musical Theater teacher Alison Dooley) and Outstanding Costuming Achievement (to parent volunteers Audrey Angrisani and Tina Campagna).

The Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards were created in 1996 to encourage and reward exceptional accomplishments in the production of high school musical theatre. Now in its 15th year, the Rising Star Awards are a statewide competition of New Jersey high school musicals modeled after Broadway's Tony Awards, and with Paper Mill's assistance, the program has been replicated in several regions nationwide.



(above) Students from the the 2010 production of "The Music Man" attend the Paper Mill Rising Star Awards.

(right) Senior Carl Stamer with Dance and Musical Theater Teacher Alison Dooley and Art Teacher Jo-Anne Campanelli as he receives his Outstanding Student Achievement Award.



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# ARMY CHAMP OPENING CHESS MATES

Local chess players are in for a special treat when Arthur Macaspac opens Chess Mates in downtown Rahway, NJ. The storefront will be part cafe, part club and part school featuring instruction by International Grandmaster Leonid Yudasin, a two time candidate for world champion who was ranked one the top five players in the world.

Macaspac is a formidable player in his own rite. A national master since 1998, Macaspac won the US Army Championship three times and was a team Captain for US Military Team in NATO Competition.

In Iraq, Macaspac played the role of "chess ambassador" at Camp Bucca. Despite working 10 hour days he found time to start a chess club. Participants came from different services - Marines, Air Force, Navy, Army and even Iraqi interpreters.

The weekly tournaments became so popular that Macaspac, through Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation officials acquired 20 chess sets and 10 clocks donated by the United States Chess Federation.

Chess Mates is located in the newly build Park Square building in downtown Rahway, one block from the train station making it convenient for players to travel from New York and Philadelphia as well as across New Jersey. Park Square is in the heart of the revitalized downtown arts district. With ample parking and plenty of restaurants in walking distance.

The public is invited in to sit and play at any time in the cafe area during business hours. The doors will be open seven days a week for classes and tournaments. Chess Mates will offer lite fare, coffee and snacks for casual players and have dinner and lunch catered by Michelino's

Pizzeria and Restaurant for students and tournament players.

Lessons are offered for every level of player, beginner and veterans. Classes are organized by age starting with the 55 and older community in the early afternoon, followed by youth lessons for six to thirteen year-olds and early evening classes for fourteen to 54 year olds. These restrictions are casually enforced and players may opt for private lessons also.

A variety of tournaments are scheduled on a daily basis, with short and long time controls. There are different entrance fees with several prize structures applied. Details about class schedules and tournaments can be found on the website ChessmatesNJ.com.

Chess Mates is looking to attract not only top chess players and enthusiasts but the casual and curious players. Part of Arthur's goal is to introduce chess to youngsters and help the game grow in popularity.

**1523 Irving Street, Rahway, NJ**  
**(760) 583-8429**  
**www.chessmatesnj.com**



*(above) Arthur Macaspac was born in the Philippines and moved to the United States after college. He is currently a US Army Reserve Captain (CPT) and served in the Navy as well. Arthur was deployed twice to the Middle East and once to South East Asia. He has returned to the world of chess after returning from his year-long deployment in June of 2009.*



*(left) Arthur's chess mentor and good friend Grandmaster Leonid Yudasin will be teaching chess classes at Chess Mates. Reaching a USCF's second highest ranking of 2735, GM Yudasin was one of the top five players in the world, challenging both Karpov and Kasparov for the world championship. His resume includes:*

- Olympic Champion
- Two time NJ Open Champion
- USSR Cup Champion
- Israel Champion
- Five times World Open Co-winner



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## ANOTHER TRUE ARTISAN IN RAHWAY'S DOWNTOWN ARTS DISTRICT

Rene Valiente's artistic journey began back in Cuba, where his uncle owned and operated El Cojin (The Cushion) an automobile upholstery business and when he moved to Brooklyn in 1963, Rene apprenticed with him after school. They branched out to include furniture which became Rene's specialty, a craft he's honed for almost 35 years.

After he moved to New Jersey, Rene worked at his trade in Westfield until eight years ago when he opened Master Craft Upholstery in Rahway, originally on W. Grande but now located at 1614 Irving Street in Rahway. While he's happy to work his magic on local projects, many of Rene's patrons are interior designers and decorators from NY and NJ who rely on his expertise to transform their clients' furniture from old to new.

Why do people re-upholster rather than buy new? "Well, today's furniture is "throwaway" compared to the quality that went into the older pieces so it makes sense to choose re-upholstery. A chair or sofa might be a family heirloom or a custom fit for their space ... or their bodies!" says Rene. "Some shops just re-cover the furniture but we always strip the piece back and rebuild it from scratch so we make it a point to keep the comfort level the same. Some people love to sink into a favorite cushy chair while others rely on a harder cushion to help them get up and out of it!"

Master Craft Upholstery tackles a huge range of furniture pieces from sofas, wing chairs and recliners to extra pillows, cornices or headboards. They also do complete repairs to the frames, springs, buttons, zippers ... you name it.

And it's not only homes that get a new lease on life, Master Craft excels at re-upholstering whole businesses like offices, eating establishments, even country clubs in towns such as Westfield, Scotch Plains, Basking Ridge and the Jersey Shore.

If you're interested in his work, you can give Rene a call at (732) 423-0689.

*Article and photo by Francesca Rizzo*

*(right) Rene Valiente  
of Master Craft Upholstery.*



## JOIN THE CHAMBER! SPECIAL RAHWAY RATE

Contact Kate Conroy 908-352-0900 or [kateconroy@gatewaychamber.com](mailto:kateconroy@gatewaychamber.com)

When you join the Gateway Chamber you automatically become a member of all thirteen sub-groups at no additional cost.

- The Gateway Chamber operates in Union, Essex, Middlesex and Somerset Counties, making it the only multi-county association in Northern and Central New Jersey. The Chamber also has many members in other states, and a growing number outside the United States.
- The Gateway Chamber is a strong advocate for its members. It works at the federal, state and local levels on both legislative and regulatory issues.
- The Gateway Chamber publishes its own monthly newspaper, *Inside Business*, which has an estimated readership of 75,000.
- We consider it to be core to our mission to help our members grow their businesses, and as a result our retention rate has averaged 95% over

the last five years. This focus on membership services is at the center of our philosophy.

- Members of the Gateway Chamber run the gamut from large corporations like Merck, Verizon and Continental Airlines, to small and medium-sized businesses, to a very active home-based business group.
- The Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce is the largest business association in the New York Metropolitan Area with about 1,800 members. We hold approximately 150 events per year from large 600-person dinners to small 10-person breakfasts, and everything in between, with a great emphasis on networking and business promotion.
- The Gateway Chamber has a long history dating back to 1911 when it was founded as the Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce by John D. Rockefeller and other New Jersey industrialists.



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# RENNA MEDIA LAUNCHES FIFTH NEWSPAPER

Joe and Tina Renna, owners of Renna Media, LLC, have been publishing community newspapers since 1998 with the launch of Around About Peterstown, a regional newspaper about the Italian American neighborhood in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Publisher Joe Renna recalled "I wanted to preserve the oral history that was being lost, and promote the positive aspects of the present day community." The newspaper celebrates the church, families, organizations and businesses associated with the neighborhood. The readers are diverse but they all relate to the positive refreshing articles. Businesses have realized that Around About Peterstown readers make great customers and have been supporting the paper with advertisements since its creation.

What started out as a small community newsletter quickly grew to epic proportions. Currently 15,000 papers are published bi-monthly and distributed throughout Union County and by subscription across the state and around the country.

Renna Media sought to fill what they saw as a void in other communities and created newspapers that would give a venue to town administrations and non-profit organizations to promote upcoming events as well as to showcase the positive news items to businesses and residents. The newspapers are set up as a community service with the intention of informing the public of interesting and important happenings and promoting local businesses.

Renna Media is currently publishing four newspapers that feature press releases from schools, businesses, libraries, government

departments and non-profit organizations, with an emphasis on photos.

Though Renna Media is the publisher the newspapers are done in cooperation with the local Chambers of Commerce. Joe is a huge proponent of the Chambers and for twenty five years has been active in countless organizations across the state. He was the past president of the Rahway Chamber of Commerce and is presently the Chairman of the Kenilworth Chamber. Joe also sits on the board of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce, the largest business association in the NY/Northern NJ region.

In April 2008 Renna Media began publishing Kenilworth Business Life with the Kenilworth Chamber of Commerce. Over 3,500 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed free to every household and business in Kenilworth.

The Springfield Patriot was launched in August 2008 to help promote the Springfield Patriot Chamber of Commerce. Over 7,500 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed free to every household and business in Springfield.

Life In Linden followed in December 2009. Published in cooperation with the Linden Chamber of Commerce, 5,000 newspapers are printed monthly. Approximately 2,000 are mailed free to every business and the balance is distributed free throughout town.

Our Town Rahway premiered in June, 2010. Over 3,000 newspapers are printed monthly. Approximately 1,200 are mailed free to every business and the balance distributed free throughout town.

For more information about Renna Media publications, please visit [www.renna.com](http://www.renna.com) or call 908-418-5586.

## ADVERTISING RATES

Each month 3,000 newspapers are printed and 1,200 are mailed free to every business in Rahway with the balance being distributed free throughout town. The ads are affordably priced with a special lower rate for members of the Gateway Chamber of Commerce. Call today to reserve your space in the next issue.

**This size ad is only \$60 For Chamber Members**

1 unit = Business card size ads (3.25" x 2" )

	Non-Members	Members
1 Unit (Business card)	\$55	\$50
2 Units (3.25" x 4")	\$65	\$60
4 Units (6.5" x 4")	\$110	\$100
6 Units (10" x 4")	\$145	\$130
1/2 Page (10" x 8")	\$250	\$230
Full Page (10" x 16")	\$550	\$500

**Pay for 12 months and get 2 FREE!**

Inquiries concerning advertising and submissions of press releases can be made via email or fax to:

TINA RENNA

Email: [TinaRenna@RennaMedia.com](mailto:TinaRenna@RennaMedia.com)

Phone: 908-418-5586

Fax: 908-709-9209

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*(Image of four children smiling)*

# Made in the USA

*Made in the USA is a regular feature of Our Town honoring our soldiers and veterans.*

## SGT POWER RETURNS HOME

A very warm Welcome Home to Sergeant Michael C. Power and all of the 4th Infantry Division that returned safely to Fort Carson Colorado and a very heartfelt thank you to those who sacrificed all.

Mike did a tour in Iraq in 2007 and had been stationed for the last year in the mountains of Afghanistan. The father of four children, Michael grew up in Brooklyn and moved to Rahway when he was 15. After graduating from Rahway High School in 2000, Mike worked as a dispatcher for the Rahway Police Department for a few years before deciding to join the army. He is currently stationed in Fort Carson, Colorado and has another year and a half before returning to civilian life.

## “A Mother’s Thoughts” by Marianne Power

“Nobody hates war more than a soldier’s mom. We live, breath, walk, talk and dream about it constantly. We eat, drink, and really taste it every single moment of every single day that our child is away. We pray they come home in one piece; then it comes a point that we just pray they come home. For this one soldier’s mom, her prayers have been answered.

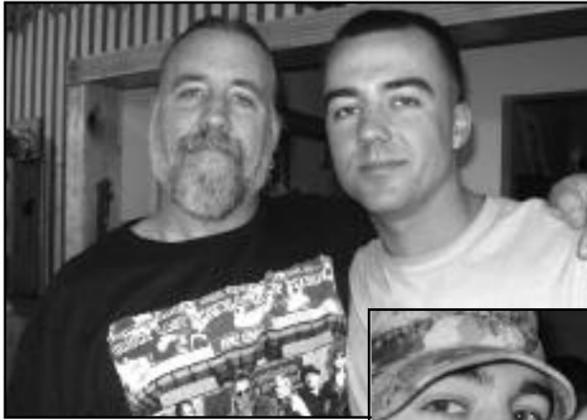


(above) Mike as a baby and fishing in Lake George at 11 years old.



(left) Aspiring soldier in camouflage face for Halloween at 15 yrs old.

(below) Mike in full uniform taken in Afghanistan in 2009.



(above) Mike with dad Mike.

(right) Mike with mom Marianne

(left) Mike with brother Dale and dad.




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 <p>Irving St. \$239,900 / \$249,900 Commuter's Dream! Across from NYC train, 35 Minutes to Penn St. Two 1BR units, 1.5 scale amenities, doorman &amp; rooftop garden. Call Lisa 732-983-1909</p>	 <p>Orchard St. \$290,000 Built in 1992 this 3BR 1.5 B Colonial has lots to offer. Oak cabinets, sliders to deck, above ground pool &amp; is close to NYC Bus. Call Brian -732-925-9583</p>	 <p>Lawrence St. \$165,000 3BR 1.5B Half Duplex. New siding, windows and remodeled family room. Needs a little TLC. Priced right. Theda-732-735-3967</p>	 <p>Madison Ave. \$259,000 Cute as a Button Colonial close to Milton Lake Park. Detached 2 car garage and oversized yard perfect for garden, play or barbeque!</p>	 <p>Orchard St. \$299,000 3 BR 1.5B Colonial with large rooms, refinished hardwood floors throughout, newer kitchen &amp; baths. Inman Heights Section</p>
 <p>Linden Ave. \$239,500 4 BR 1B Cape. Estate Sale is priced to sell. Large walk-out basement. Lovely yard &amp; detached garage.</p>	 <p>W. Grand Ave. \$299,900 TWO FAMILY - Two 2Bedroom units. Well maintained family home with large rooms. Newer mechanics. Low taxes. Call Lynne-732-850-8810</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p>→</p> </div>	 <p>Irving St. \$1,450 mo. 9<sup>th</sup> floor end unit with beautiful NYC views. Washer, Dryer &amp; Dishwasher. Close to restaurants, shops, Arts district and NYC train. Call Lisa 732-983-1909</p>	 <p>Irving St. \$800 month 1 Bedroom apartment above pizzeria. Across from the 11CPAC and 2 blocks to NYC Train. Call Brian - 732-925-9583</p>