

OUR TOWN

RAHWAY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

FREE

The Voice of the Rahway Chamber of Commerce.

Issue 8 • January 2011

**NEXT CHAMBER
MEETING
JANUARY 27
8:30am to 9:30am
Masonic Lodge
1550 Irving Street
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All Welcome**



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MISS BLACK NJ TO SPEAK AT NEXT CHAMBER MEETING



(above) Nicole Stanley, a longtime Rahway resident, was recently named Miss Black New Jersey 2011.



Rahway's 32" inch snow fall of December 27th 2010 is the most recorded in our tri-state region.

Photo contributed by Rahway resident, photographer, graphic artist and Chamber member Clea Carchia.

RICK PROCTOR SWORN IN AS MAYOR

Rick Proctor became our town's 49th mayor as he was ceremonially sworn in at City Council Chambers on Monday evening, January 3rd. On Saturday morning of New Year's day, the City Clerk arrived at Rick's home and performed the actual swearing as Rick's family and outgoing Mayor Jim Kennedy looked on.

(right, l to r) City Clerk Jean D. Kuc and Mayor Proctor and wife Denise.



FIFTY UNIT APARTMENT BUILDING ON ST. GEORGES AVENUE DESTROYED BY FIRE



On the morning of Tuesday, January 4th a horrendous fire destroyed a nearly completed 50 unit apartment complex located in the 1300 block of St. Georges Avenue between Church Street and Central Avenue. Over 100 firefighters from eleven departments battled the blaze in freezing conditions. The cause is not known and is presently under investigation.

Photo contributed by Rahway resident, photographer, graphic artist and Chamber member Clea Carchia.

Rahway Chamber of Commerce
PO Box #277, Rahway, NJ 07065

OurTownRahway.com

The website features up to date articles, a calendar of events, archives of Our Town and photo albums of events, along with advertising opportunities.

Businesses and residents are encouraged to submit items for publication through the site.

OUR TOWN *Rahway*

Our Town is published by Renna Media in coordination with the Rahway 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 assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

RAHWAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PO Box #277, Rahway, NJ 07065

Acting Chairman: Bob Markey

732 388 1765

Bob@SaligaMarkey.com

CITY OF RAHWAY

1 City Hall Plaza, Rahway, NJ 07065

www.cityofrahway.com

Mayor: Richard Proctor

732-827-2000

RAHWAY CITY COUNCIL

First Ward: Robert Rachlin

2215 Allen Street • (732) 499-7389

Second Ward: Michael Cox, President

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

1104 Plymouth Drive • (732) 388-4475

At Large: James Baker, Vice 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.....	(732) 827-2000
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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Message from the Chairman



I LEARNED A LOT FROM THE BROKEN TRAFFIC LIGHT

Our blizzard of December 26th knocked out the traffic light at West Main & Elizabeth Avenue. Due to weather related complications it took traffic repair technicians two days to get it fixed and during that time the red signal just blinked on and off in each direction. I happen to live at this intersection and so I had a bird's eye view of the comings and goings of cars and trucks and plows and emergency vehicles as well as pedestrians. Like most of us, I was pretty much snowed in for the better part of two days and I spent a lot of time just gazing out my windows at the swirling snow. I may be in the minority but I really enjoyed that storm; its natural beauty and energy were spectacular and the muffling quiet that deep snow brings brought a peacefulness to my senses.

So, for those two days my intersection became a 4 way stop street. Just a red flashing traffic signal which at night reminded me of wintertime highways and avenues in many of our Jersey shore communities. For those two days vehicles didn't have to wait for the light to turn green before proceeding through the intersection; just stop and go when safe. You know something: I saw no problems. No idling at the light not only saves gas but it shortens the trip, helps our air quality and if you've ever lived near a traffic light you'd really appreciate a lessening of the traffic noise that idling vehicles generate. There's the normal engine noise that's bearable but I can get real close to going over the edge when idling outside my home there's one of those window rattling boombox guys or a motorcyclist that thinks it's cool to ride around with no mufflers.

So maybe we need to have our city fathers take a new look at some of Rahway's traffic lights and without compromising safety, modify their operation to help make our driving more efficient. Perhaps at a secondary intersection like Jefferson at Hamilton we might consider re-programming that traffic light so it becomes a four way stop between the hours of midnight and 6AM. I think this same suggestion would work well at my intersection and many others around town. If you've ever been stuck at a signal waiting for the light to turn green when there's no other traffic around except you, you'll probably appreciate what I'm advocating.

No, I'm no traffic engineer. I'm a real estate broker. Having said that I have a bit of common sense as well as a passion for helping to improve our town's quality of life. Sometimes the experts miss the big picture and as the adage goes "can't see the forest for the trees". So if what you just read rings true to you drop me note or an email and I'll pass it along to the powers that be.

Happy New Year!

Bob Markey, Acting Chairman

*I can be reached by calling 732-388-1765,
By email at Bob@SaligaMarkey.com,
or by mail at PO Box #277, Rahway, NJ 07065*

ADVERTISING & PRESS RELEASES

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 Chamber of Commerce. Call today to reserve your space in the next issue.

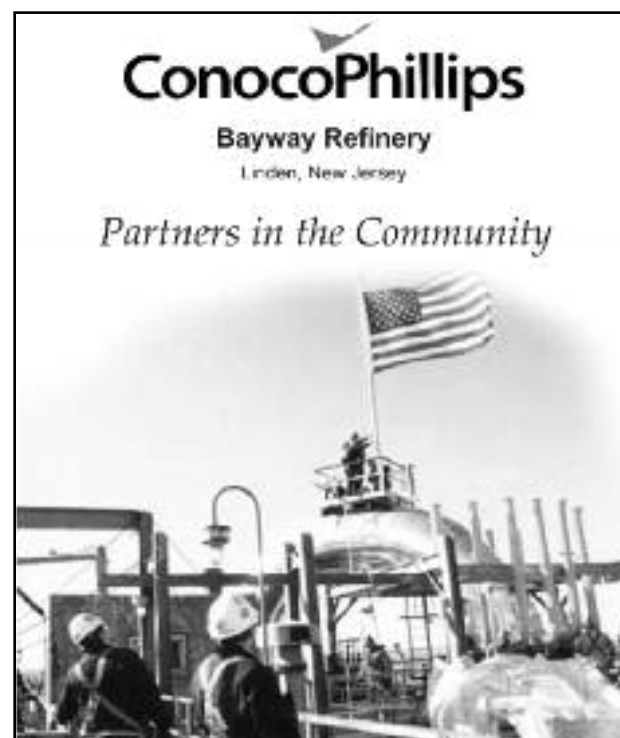
Inquiries concerning advertising and submissions of press releases can be made to Our Town Rahway via email or fax to:

TINA RENNA

Email: TinaRenna@RennaMedia.com

Phone: 908-418-5586

Fax: 908-709-9209



CITY MEETING DATES & SCHEDULES

RAHWAY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, City Hall Plaza, Rahway. Please call (732) 827-2100 for any inquiries.

Tuesday, February 8, Pre-Meeting Conference
Monday, February 14, Regular Meeting

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 p.m.

Board Meetings are held in the Cafeteria at 7 p.m. Organization Meeting begins at 7 p.m., Regular Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. (Both in the Cafeteria). Please call (732) 396-1000 for any inquiries.

Tuesday, January 18, Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 8, Regular Monthly
Caucus

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

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

Friday, January 28

Monday, January 31, Annual Reorganization Meeting to start at 6:30 pm

LIBRARY BOARD

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

Tuesday, January 18

PARKING AUTHORITY

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

Tuesday, January 25 Reorganization Meeting followed by Regular Meeting

PLANNING BOARD

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

Tuesday, January 25, Annual Reorganization Meeting begins at 6:30

RAHWAY CENTER PARTNERSHIP

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

Check for meetings; www.cityofrahway.com/rahway_center_partnership.htm

RAHWAY GARDEN CLUB INVITES PUBLIC TO NEXT MEETING!

The newly formed Rahway Garden Club will hold its first meeting of the new year on Thursday evening, January 20th at 7PM. The meeting is held at the Rahway Public Library. The club has formed under the umbrella of the NJ Garden Club and is open to any area person who has a gardening interest. If you have a passion for flowers, vegetables, plants, trees or shrubs then this is the group for you to meet up with. Additional information can be obtained by calling 732-388-1765.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY MONDAY JAN.17th

MLK March and Wreath Laying Ceremony. Begins 10:00 am, Second Baptist Church, 378 E. Milton Ave. March to MLK Park begins at 11 am. For more information for any of these events, call (732) 340-9477 or (732) 574-3740.

RAHWAY REAL ESTATE SNAPSHOT!



Information is provided to Our Town by Chamber member Marianne Power, Real Estate Broker/Owner Saliga & Markey Real Estate, 208 Central Avenue in downtown Rahway. Tel 732-574-3800. www.Saligamarkey.com



2010 SLOW BUT LOT'S OF RAHWAY PROPERTIES SOLD!

Garden State Multiple Listing records list 185 single family homes closed in Rahway during 2010. Average list price was \$249,500. Average sale price was \$236,000. Highest price paid was \$485,000.

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OPENING OF THE WAITING LIST FOR THE SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

The Rahway Housing Authority will open its waiting list to applicants for the federally subsidized Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Applicants qualifying for one, or more, of the following Preferences may improve your chances of obtaining a voucher, but it does not guarantee one. A written request for preferences must be submitted along with the application. Official verification is required.

The local preferences are as follows:

- Rahway residents;
- Veteran (Honorably Discharged);
- Head of Household or Spouse receives state or federal benefits due to an inability to work (includes S.S.D. and S.S.I);
- One or more, adult household members employed at least 21 hours per week;
- One or more, adult household members have graduated or will graduate (within four months) from a Vocational, or educational training program aimed at preparing participants for employment;
- Head of household already working in Rahway;
- Involuntary displacement (due to Government action, natural disaster, etc);
- Head of household or spouse is 62 years or older;

An application may be picked up in person, or by a representative,

Wednesday, and Thursday, January 19 & 20, 2011, from 6:30 AM ~ 9:45 AM at the Housing Authority office located at 165 East Grand Avenue, Rahway, NJ.

Absolutely no applications will be mailed, nor may they be photocopied, obtained before or after the above mentioned dates and times. All ORIGINAL completed applications (no copies will be accepted) may be returned to the Rahway Housing Authority in person or by mail, but they must be received/postmarked no later than February 3, 2011. Any application not signed, incomplete or not legible will be considered unacceptable and will be rejected.

ANY APPLICATION RECEIVED/POSTMARKED AFTER FEBRUARY 3, 2011 WILL BE REJECTED. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.

Kenneth Pushko, Executive Director

If you have a disability and need help with this application process, contact the Rahway Housing Authority at (732) 499-0066

ICE AND SNOW SEASON IS HERE. DOES YOUR WATER TASTE SALTY?

Submitted by: James Lynch of River Road, NJ Certified Tree expert. Former President and Founder of the Rahway River Association.

The ice and snow season goes into March and you never know when your coffee will taste like seawater! Why is our water so bad during these periods? The answer is "Road Salt"; because we take our water exclusively from the Rahway River. High sodium from road salt not only ruins coffee, tea, soups and just about anything else you mix it with but it is a health concern for hypertensive, diabetics, and kidney problem sufferers. The potentially cancer causing chemicals once routinely dumped into the river have thankfully been abated for the most part but the intractable problems like road salt

continue because in all fairness we want to drive nearly the same way winter or summer and want our roads to be clear. If we didn't use as much salt and were willing to slow down during these ice and snow events our river and infrastructure, which is corroding away in part due to excess salt, would be in better condition!

You might ask well why can't we get the salt out? The answer is that salt is arguably the most difficult pollutant to remove and what typically is done is called the "Dilution Principal". For all you budding engineers in the water field the adage "The solution to pollution is dilution" is not really adequate but it definitely helps especially with salt contamination. We used to

dilute our water with well water but unfortunately the local aquifer or underground wells are contaminated! What we need to do during salt season is have our city fathers turn on the tap to our pipe link with Middlesex Water; a much superior supply with some of the water partially from the best aquifer in New Jersey. Middlesex Water can perform the dilution services at a modest charge to Rahway and we'll enjoy in Rahway better tasting tap water. Water is still relatively cheap so of primary interest to us all is the quality of this staple of our lives. I do not think we should be forced to buy bottled water when it snows or ices up; let's just turn on the Middlesex interconnect.



Jay Zinberg
Beth Zinberg
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Thu: 9am-6:30pm
Fri: 9am-6pm
Sat: 9am-1pm

732-388-0073 or 7337 Fax 732-388-0027
1086 St. Georges Avenue Rahway, NJ 07065



(above) Main Street with 2nd Presbyterian Church in background during December 2010 storm.

Photo contributed by Rahway resident, photographer, graphic artist and Chamber member Clea Carchia.

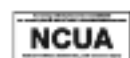


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MEET BUCKY, MILTON LAKE'S 6 POINTER

OUR TOWN *Rahway* • Page 5 • January 2011

Deer in Rahway...Naw! That would have been the majority reaction just a few years ago but today there are at least three deer herds here in our town and they all seem happy, healthy and well fed.

For years now, deer have followed the Rahway River down from the Watchung Mountains and are here in Rahway as close to downtown as Wheatena Park. Their beauty and grace are a treat to watch but they love to eat our shrubs and flowers when given a chance. Tree damage can also be an issue in the fall of each year when mating or rutting season occurs. Male deer will rub their antlers against young trees damaging their bark and sometimes it may be fatal for the tree. A lot of rubbing behavior takes place shortly after their antler velvet is dried and/or shed, but continues throughout the rutting period. A rub is initially made by a buck rubbing his antlers and forehead (for scent deposition) on a shrub or small tree. Once created, a rub may be used by several bucks or does. Protecting your young trees by fencing or wrapping their trunks in late summer can minimize this damage. More information can be obtained by contacting our Union County Agricultural agent located at 300 North Avenue East in Westfield telephone # 908.654.9854.



Photo of "Bucky" courtesy of Marianne Power



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THERE'S A RIVER THERE?

Submitted by Jeff Jotz, President, Rahway River Association

Dusk is slowly descending on New Jersey as a brilliant display of reds, purples, peaches and pinks lights up the sky just west of Exit 12 as the Watchung Mountains reach up to the horizon many miles away. In front of me sits the post-agricultural Garden State: a neatly-ordered tank farm containing thousands of gallons of fuel to heat our homes or propel the endless stream of cars and trucks that rush by my left along the New Jersey Turnpike. Below me a yellow-crowned night heron wakes up and starts rooting around tidal flats looking for breakfast as fiddler crabs scurry about upland into the marsh.

While this may seem like the theme for the newest Bon Jovi album or a lost scene from the Sopranos, this is what you'll see on a typical summer night along the lower Rahway River in Carteret before the river empties out into the Arthur Kill. Seeing nature survive amid one of the most populous regions of our country's most densely-populated states is truly thrilling and inspiring.

The Rahway River watershed stretches from the Oranges in the north to Edison and Woodbridge in the south and the base of the Watchung Mountains in the west. It is the home to over 500,000 people and provides drinking water, both directly and indirectly, for a large percentage of those people.

Three centuries ago, the Lenni Lenape fished its banks and used it for travel and trade. Rahway relied to the river to ship coal and other cargo to and from New York City and Cranford held elaborate festivals along the River. The river inspired the architectural firm headed by Frederick Law Olmstead to create a greenway along the river through Union and Essex

Counties and preserve it for many generations. Of course, the 19th and 20th centuries led to a great deal of use – and abuse – of the river and the surrounding area in the name of commerce and economic development.

Where does the Rahway River Association come in? For almost 20 years we have been protecting and promoting this resource right in our backyards. We are an all-volunteer organization with members throughout the watershed and beyond. In 2010 we sponsored the popular "Discover the Rahway" educational

series that brought the river's biodiversity into libraries and community centers and brought people from all walks of life out into the watershed to see both nature and humanity at work.

This month we are conducting a membership drive to build on this groundswell of support and enthusiasm from the residents of the watershed; from Avenel to West Orange. Please visit our Web Site at www.rahwayriver.org to learn more about what we do and what you can do to help protect and promote the Rahway River.



(top) Rahway River at Bezega Park in Rahway. (above) Ashbrook Reservation in Scotch Plains.



(above, l-r) Jeff Jotz and RRA Board Member Lynda Feder cleaning the Rahway River Garbage Patch in Carteret.

Photos by taken by Debbie Partesi.

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NEW TELEMETRY UNIT AT ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON HOSPITAL RAHWAY IS LIGHTER, BRIGHTER AND GREENER

OUR TOWN *Rahway* • Page 7 • January 2011

Cardiac patients and their families will appreciate the newly renovated 3C Telemetry Unit at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Rahway. In addition to a fresh new look, the 24-bed unit has a new patient and family lounge, energy-saving LED lighting and the latest telemetry equipment. An expanded nursing station has ample meeting space for physicians, nurses and case managers.

In addition to the newly renovated cardiac unit, planned improvements to the hospital's cardiac program include new cardiac catheterization lab equipment and expanded services.

Telemetry patients move into the new unit on January 4th.

(right, l-r) RWJ Rahway Foundation Chairman Joseph Gibilisco, Hospital President and CEO Kirk Tice, and the unit's Nurse Manager Louise Schneider at Ceremonial ribbon cutting and open house held December 29th.



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SENIOR SERVICES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The City of Rahway Division of Senior Services is seeking volunteers to prepare Federal and State Income Taxes from February to April 2011. Over 400 Rahway residents are assisted at the Rahway Senior Center on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

If you would like to help, please call the Senior Center at (732)827-2016 or Dick at (732)388-1814. A four day training session will be held in January. This program is sponsored by Community Access Unlimited.

SENIOR OF THE YEAR CONTEST

Rahway Mayor Rick Proctor is pleased to announce the 14th Annual Rahway Senior Citizen of the Year Award Contest for 2011.

The purpose of this award is to publicly recognize and honor a Rahway Senior Citizen who has displayed exceptional service to senior citizens and to the community as a whole. A plaque inscribed with the person's name will be permanently displayed at the Rahway Senior Center and a similar plaque will be presented to the winner at a Rahway City Council meeting in the Spring of 2011.

Official entry forms may be obtained at the

Rahway Senior Center, 1306 Esterbrook Avenue. Nominations may be submitted by Rahway organizations or individuals and all nominees must currently reside in Rahway and must have obtained a minimum age of 65 by January 1, 2011.

The deadline for nominations is January 28, 2011 at 4:00 PM. The Rahway Senior Center Board of Trustees will select the winner.

For more information call 732-827-2016. Rahway Senior Services is a Division of the City of Rahway Department of Community Services.

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HIGH SCHOL ROBOTCS TEAM IN NASA COMP



OUR TOWN *Rahway* • Page 9 • January 2011

Rahway High School is proud to announce that RoboTribe, the RHS robotics team, has been awarded a highly competitive \$5,000 scholarship from NASA. This scholarship will enable the team to design and build a robot in order to compete in a USFirst regional competition in 2011.

The mission of US First Robotics is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders by engaging them in mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills that inspire innovation and foster self-confidence, communication and leadership skills.

(left) The 2009-2010 RHS Robotics team at the 2010 US First Robotics competition.

FRANKLIN SCHOOL STUDENTS GO HIGH TECH

Students at Franklin Elementary School in Rahway get to go to the computer lab once a week. Throughout the year, they learn how to use different kinds of technology and various computer programs and skills. Recently, the school's fifth graders completed a state project. Mrs. Linda Lampert, the school's Technology Facilitator, assigned a different state to each student, and then she taught them how to create an exciting PowerPoint presentation that included all the bells and whistles. Once they were done, students used Flip cameras to record each other reading their presentations. Afterward, students enjoyed watching each other's presentations on the big screen.



(above) From Ms. Nicole Wronski's class is Nicholas Nemeth as he uses the Flip camera to record Cindy Nguyen's PowerPoint show.



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Our Office Hours:

Mon: 10am to 6pm
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Late appointments are available by request.

Dr. M. Williams

Optometric Physician

Lic#. 27OA00565300/27OM00062400



TALENT SHOW AUDITIONS

City of Rahway Department of Recreation

Presents:

So You Think You Got Talent?! Talent Show Auditions 2011

For children: ages 8-17 and adults: 18-older.

Auditions will be held at the Rec. Center

January 28, 2011 at 6pm

Pick up your registration forms at the

Recreation Center or download at

www.cityofrahway.com/recreation

For more info 732-669-3604

WACHOVIA GRANTS TOTAL \$4.345 MILLION TO NJ NON-PROFITS



(above) Denise McGregor Armbrister (2nd, left) of the Wachovia Regional Foundation and Lucia Gibbons, Northern New Jersey Regional President, present a \$750,000 grant check to NJCDC's CEO and Founder Bob Guarasci. Also picture (left) is U.S. Rep. William Pascrell (D-NJ-8).

Wachovia made a holiday donation of \$2,000 to a soup kitchen, food program or homeless shelter in each of New Jersey's 21 counties.

Beneficiaries of Wachovia's holiday grants included St. Joseph's Social Service Center located in Elizabeth, NJ.

These holiday grants and others from its corporate and regional foundation budgets bring Wachovia's total 2010 foundation giving to just over \$4.3 million.

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FLYNN'S IRISH PUB ADDS LIVE WORLD TAVERN TRIVIA TO ITS WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Flynn's Irish Pub has teamed up with World Tavern Trivia to bring you exciting LIVE trivia every Monday night starting on Jan. 24 at 7pm.

Bar trivia has always been around, but never like this! World Tavern Trivia is fun, exciting, and downright hilarious. World Tavern Trivia is not your typical trivia game. With categories like What the Funk, Get Your Buzz On and Heavy Petting, anything goes. Each week the top teams compete for points, bragging rights and for their chance to move on to the Tavern and National Championships where teams from all over the country compete for their share of \$10,000!

Questions are drawn from 12 categories to

make up a 6 round game. Each round consists of 10 questions, and 2 rounds are what we like to call Brain Freeze Challenges.

Along with friendly service and warm atmosphere, Flynn's will have great food and drink to fuel your brain every week.

You don't have to have a PHD to play World Tavern Trivia. All you need is your bar brain, some friends and cold beer! Join us every Monday starting January 24th for a night of exciting trivia with friends and family.

Call your friends and register online at www.WorldTavernTrivia.com or call Flynn's Irish Pub at (732) 381-4700 for more information and directions.



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Z

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Submit your favorite White Castle memory
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All "Cravers" are invited to submit a story.

The story can be any length

and be about any White Castle location.

everyone wins a prize just for entering:

A coupon for 5 FREE sliders!

Include the location and time of the event in the story
if possible. You are also welcomed to submit any photos
taken at any White Castle location.
Original photos will be returned.

So if you are a "White Castle Lover,"
share your most memorable moment with us.

All stories and photos will be displayed on
the contest website and the winners will be published in
Rahway Chamber of Commerce Newspaper "Our Town".



Submissions may be made on-line at:
OurTownRahway.com/WhiteCastleContest

Mail to, or drop off in person at:

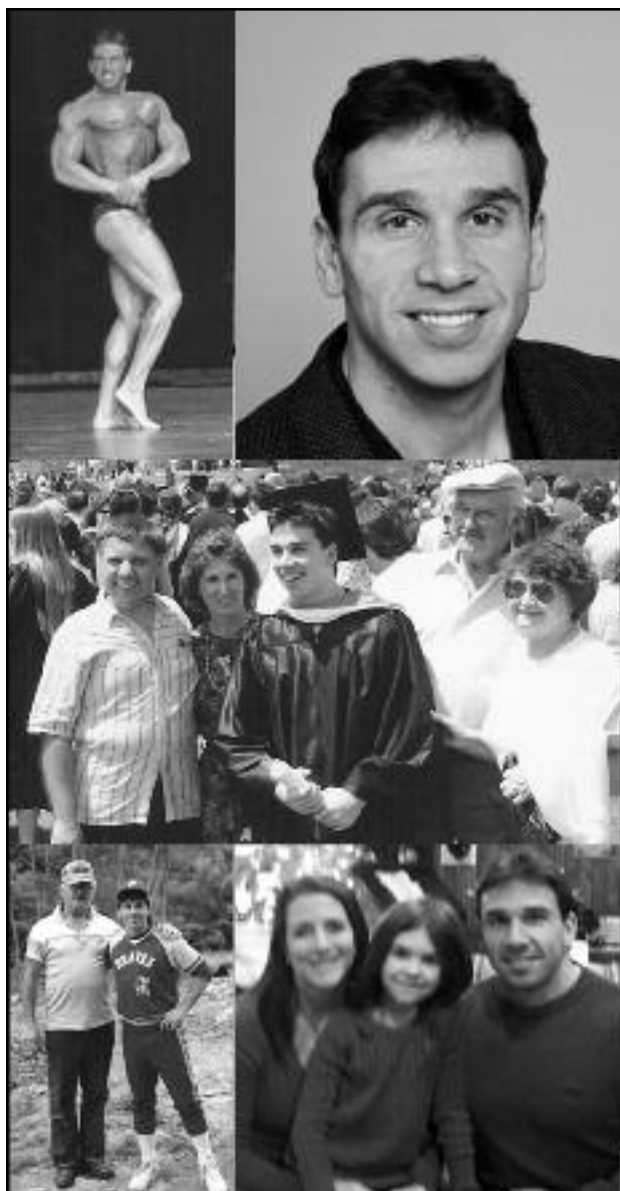
White Castle NJ Regional Office
245 East Inman Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065
1-732-381-4343 9am-4pm M-F

In order to be mailed your prize,
all entries must include:*

Name _____

Address _____

White Castle reserves the right to reproduce submitted
stories and photos as they wish. *Your name and
address will not be used for marketing.
Deadline for entries is February 28, 2011.



(above, top-bottom, l-r)

Gerry Gessie 2nd place natural bodybuilding competition in the 2007 Mt. Rogers Classic;
Gerry William-Patterson College Graduation;
Young Gerry and his Grand Pa Joe;
Gerry and daughter Gabrielle and fiancé Jody.

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NEW DIRECTOR AT THE RAHWAY Y GERRY GESSIE POSITIONING RAHWAY BRANCH FOR 2011

Transformation of upper floors and 3 new school age child care sites on front burner!

Kim Decker, COO of the YMCA of Eastern Union County, has recently announced the promotion of Gerry Gessie to the position of Rahway Branch Executive Director. Most recently Executive Director Gessie was Associate Executive Director at the Y's Elizabeth Branch.

Gerry is Jersey born having spent most of his childhood and adolescent years growing up in rural Sussex County in Hopatcong. Gerry was the only child in his family and spent a lot of his spare time in the outdoors playing sports or fishing and boating on nearby Lake Hopatcong. It was in grammar school that Gerry's dad bought the family a motorboat and Gerry's life changed. "I loved that boat, it had a 150 horsepower motor and it could really fly. I remember when I was in my early teens I was just about ready to get permission to steer and drive it myself. I came home one day from school and I saw the boat was missing from our driveway. I thought that my dad had maybe swapped it for a newer boat as a surprise gift for me. Well it turned out that he had swapped it but not for another boat but rather for a horse. Boy was I disappointed". Gerry remembers having to deal with this disappointment. "However that swap changed my parent's lives for the better as they both became horse lovers and now Mom

and Dad own a small farm in Blairstown and keep horses and grow crops".

Health and well-being and sports have also been a very large part of Gerry's life. In high school Gerry became well known and respected for his baseball skills at 3rd base and short-stop positions and led his team to a number of victories. In the late 1980's Gerry went on to play semi-pro ball for the Newton-Braves as well as playing for his college baseball team at William Paterson University in Wayne. Gerry majored in Psychology and Sociology and decided to make academics his focus. "I loved baseball but it took so much of my time. We were travelling a lot and always seemed to be eating quickly and on the road. At the end of my sophomore year I made a hard decision and that was to place my passion for baseball on the back burner and to focus on academics. The human mind and human behavior I found fascinating and right up my alley. My studies helped me to become a pretty good listener and gave me an ability to better identify a person's needs or for that matter a community's needs". Gerry received his BS degree and graduated William Patterson in 1990.

Gerry has now been with the YMCA organization for nearly seventeen years. Gerry began his Y career teaching Fitness and Health, Well-being and Personal Training and has broad experience in each having worked in rural Virginia as well as suburban and urban New Jersey Y facilities. Although administration and business duties require much of Gerry's business hours he'll still find some time to help instruct members in all levels of fitness including bodybuilding. The YMCA offers programs and services for all 'health seekers'. "We have learned that our members are health seekers and each of their needs is unique. The YMCA strives to listen and assist each person on their health and well being journey" noted Director Gessie. Gerry makes the time to keep himself in shape too. "I participated in a natural bodybuilding competition in the 2007 Mt. Rogers Classic when I was 39 years old. I was thrilled to compete and even more thrilled when I received 2nd place trophy in the 35 and over age group" noted Gerry.

Welcome to Rahway Gerry!

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www.ymca.org

WRITERS ROUNDTABLE

Franklin Elementary School in Rahway recently held a "Writers' Roundtable Challenge". Students in grades three, four and five were invited to participate in this principal's writing initiative. In order to pass the challenge, students had to follow all of the outlined rules. Some of the rules included writing a sensible persuasive essay that consists of at least three paragraphs, using at least 10 of the vocabulary words from a list of words given to them, and using proper grammar and punctuation. The students did a great job and really rose to the challenge. All of the students whose writing piece passed the challenge were rewarded with a "Make Your Own Ice Cream Sundae" event in the cafeteria with the principal, Mrs. Arina Robinson at which time students also shared their essays with each other.



PRINCIPAL FOR THE DAY

Kimberly Twerdak, a fifth grade student at Franklin Elementary School in Rahway, was recently elected to be Principal for the Day for the month of December. Part of her duties were to make an announcement to the school and send the staff an email wishing them a good day.

OUR TOWN *Rahway* • Page 13 • January 2011

(right) Kimberly sits at the principal's desk, busy at work.



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RWJ RAHWAY FOUNDATION THANKS OUTGOING CHAIRMAN



(above) Joseph Gibilisco (center) receives a plaque from Foundation President, Marlene H. Lubinger and Kirk Tice, RWJ Rahway President & CEO in recognition of his outstanding dedication, leadership and service as Foundation Chairman from 2008-2010.

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Clubs meet at the Rahway Senior Center:

A.A.R.P. CHAPTER #607

meets second Thursday each month at 12 noon

LADIES GOLDEN AGE CLUB

meets every Wednesday at 12:15 p.m.

MERCK RETIREES

meets first Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m.

RAHWAY RETIRED MEN'S CLUB

meets every Monday at 1 p.m.

RETIRED RAILROADERS

meets the first Saturday of the month at 11 a.m.


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RAHWAY PUBLIC LIBRARY JANUARY 2011 EVENTS

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEETING:

All are welcome to attend.
Thursday, January 13 at 6:30 pm

BOOK BINGO: for ages 18+; everyone wins!

Tuesday, January 25 at 2:00 pm

READER'S CIRCLE BOOK GROUP:

This month's title: "Little Heathens".
Wednesday, January 19 at 2:00 pm

TEEN EVENTS

ANIME CLUB: Watch Funimation anime
and enjoy a snack!.

Monday, January 31 at 6:30 pm

MIDTERM WEEK January 24, 26, and 27
from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm.

Cookies and Cocoa provided
for teens studying for exams.

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

COLOR AND SHAPE BINGO: For young children.
Tuesday, January 11 at 10:30 am

DROP-IN CRAFT: DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.:
All day, stop in any time! Saturday, January 15

LET'S PAINT TOGETHER: For all ages.
Monday, January 24 at 6:30 pm

LOL: Laugh Out Loud: Funny Stories.
Wednesdays, January 12, 19, and 26 at 4:00 pm

MINI-MOVIES: For young children.
Thursdays, January 13, 20, and 27 at 10:30 am

TODDLER TIME: No registration required.
Tuesdays, January 18 and 25 at 10:30 am

WINTER'S TALES: Stories for the season.
Thursdays, January 13, 20, and 27 at 6:30 pm

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