

# OUR TOWN

RAHWAY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

**FREE**

The Voice of the Rahway Chamber of Commerce.

Issue 25 • June 2012

**NEXT CHAMBER MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 27 2012**  
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## CHAMBER CELEBRATES TWO YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Rahway Chamber of Commerce marked its second anniversary at its May 24th, 2012 meeting. The revived Chamber is now boasting over 100 members. Anyone interesting in joining the Chamber can attend the next General Membership Meeting on September 27th or is welcome to contact Chamber President Bob Markey at telephone 732 388 1765.



(above, left) A jazz piece from Michael Jackson's "This Is It" was performed by Rahway Dance Theatre's senior student Imani Wideman.



(above, right) Rahway High School senior Daniel Hurtado demonstrated RHS's robotics team creation.

(left, l-r) Chamber meetings are hosted by businesses to help offset the costs. May's meeting was hosted by Jeff Spatola of Spatola Plumbing and Heating, shaking hands with Chamber President Bob Markey.

## NETWORKING OPPROTUNITES

The Chamber provides a number of free networking events during the year. On Tuesday evening May 30th, Patria Restaurant located at 169 West Main Street, hosted a Business Networking Social attended by over 50 local business and community leaders.

(right) Patria Restaurant manager Miguel Vasquez pours a special martini. Patria hosted the Chamber's May30th Event.



Photos from the chamber meting and networking events can be found on line at [OurTownRahway.com](http://OurTownRahway.com)



(above) Live entertainment was supplied by artist Dave Allen.



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# OUR TOWN Rahway

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## RAHWAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PO Box #277, Rahway, NJ 07065

**President: Bob Markey**

732 388 1765

BobMarkey@StrikerRealty.com

## CITY OF RAHWAY

1 City Hall Plaza, Rahway, NJ 07065

www.cityofrahway.com

**Mayor: Richard Proctor**

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## Message from the President

### HAPPY 2ND BIRTHDAYS TO "OUR TOWN" AND THE "CHAMBER"

The first "Our Town" issue was published two years ago in June, 2010. This first issue coincided with the reforming of the Rahway Chamber of Commerce. Twenty-four issues later our paper, the "Voice of the Rahway Chamber of Commerce", has become a positive voice for this organization and for our city, and the Rahway Chamber has become a respected member of our community.

I agreed two years ago to re-start and head up the Chamber. It had dissolved some ten years before in 2002. My goal two years ago was simple: establish a non-profit, non partisan, transparent, volunteer led organization that helps all local businesses grow and prosper while at the same time supporting strong schools and great parks, good business and fair play. I believe that we have done all of the above and so much more and I am grateful for our many successes and accomplishments.

Having said this, we cannot remain strong and vital without your continued support; supporting us with your membership and involvement while also supporting our organization's many fine businesses. Please consider joining the Chamber as a business, a

resident, or an organization as we have membership categories for each. Our dues are very reasonable and we truly welcome your interest and involvement. Whenever possible, please "Think Rahway First" when it comes to shopping and help our town's large and small businesses strengthen by supporting them with your dollars.



(above) Scene from the Chamber's 1st meeting.

*Bob Markey*

Bob Markey, can be reached by calling 732-388-1765,  
by email at BobMarkey@StrikerRealty.com, or by mail at PO Box #277, Rahway, NJ 07065

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## EXISTING HOME SALES UP. PRICES RISE AGAIN

Existing-home sales rose in April and remain above a year ago, while home prices continued to rise, according to the National Association of Realtors® (NAR). The improvements in sales and prices were broad based across all regions.

Total existing-home sales, which are completed transactions that include single-family homes, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops, increased 3.4 percent in April from a downwardly revised March, and are 10 percent higher than April 2011.

Regionally, existing-home sales in the Northeast rose 5.1 percent in April and are 19.2 percent higher than a year ago. The median price in the Northeast was \$256,600, up 8.8 percent from April 2011.

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## IS RAHWAY DISAPPEARING.....?

*Submitted by Tony Hall, Transportation Chairperson, Rahway Chamber of Commerce*

### MOTHER OF TEEN KILLED BY DRUNK DRIVER ADDRESSES HS SENIORS

At great personal cost, Ellen Lurig has dedicated her life to increasing teen's awareness of the deadly consequences of drinking and driving. Her son, Robert, was killed at age 16 by a drunk driver in Phillipsburg, NJ in 1998. Lurig recently addressed seniors at Rahway High School, explaining in a very personal way how the actions of a drunk driver have impacted her family's life forever and imploring the students to avoid actions leading to such tragedies. She shared a video of her son's life and the accident that resulted in his death as well as many personal photos. Students were very moved by her presentation and had an opportunity after the presentation to meet with her personally.



(above) Ellen Lurig greets a Rahway senior following her presentation.

Is Rahway Disappearing? Or at least becoming invisible? One could be forgiven for thinking so, in view of certain observable facts.

Beginning as far back as 1928, the interurban RAHWAY trolley line, which had, for nearly forty years, connected Westfield, Clark, RAHWAY, Woodbridge and Perth Amboy was dismantled and replaced with the mundane and anonymous number fifty four bus. More recently our ancient and honored newspaper, the RAHWAY News-Record, declined into virtual oblivion. The RAHWAY "Y" is now the "YMCA of Eastern Union County". The RAHWAY Hospital has been greatly expanded and updated, but was absorbed into a huge state-wide medical octopus. In January 1836, the first railroad trains began stopping in RAHWAY. No more. Now trains of New Jersey Transit stop at an imaginary place called "RAHWAY STATION". The RAHWAY Theatre, now more than ever a center for civic pride, following a spectacular restoration, updating and expansion, yet its name was thoroughly erased from every part of the building. Even our most revered historic site, known for years as the Rahway Hotel, was, upon its meticulous restoration, renamed the "Merchant's & Drover's Tavern", an invented and fictitious name it never had had before.

Yes, RAHWAY is disappearing. If you still have doubts, may I suggest you travel southbound on the Garden State Parkway through Cranford and Winfield. You will see a sign "RAHWAY next two exits". But when you arrive at the first of those "next two" exits, number 135, the sign there will show "Clark &

Westfield", no RAHWAY, in spite of our being but two miles distant from that point. So, you drive on and on. Eventually you will encounter exit #131, four miles beyond #135. At this exit we finally find a sign informing us that RAHWAY lies yet another three miles distant, for a total detour of seven miles, compared to the mere two miles via the unmarked exit of #135.

Friends, if RAHWAY has not yet in fact disappeared, it certainly will in the future unless we, like Lady Macbeth, learn to "but screw our courage to the sticking place" and speak up in the defense of our venerable and unique home, known only as RAHWAY.

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# RAHWAY'S SPECIAL CONNECTION TO THE 4TH OF JULY

*Submitted by Al Shipley, City historian and Rahway Library research consultant*

Americans across the United States celebrate July 4th as the moment in history when our country declared its independence from Great Britain in 1776. We mark the day with parades, picnics, and fireworks and it's easy to forget the fifty-six brave gentlemen who signed their names on a piece of parchment bearing the title, The Unanimous Declaration of The Thirteen United States of America. For each of the signers, it was a momentous expression in which they committed their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to the noble cause of liberty. One of these courageous patriots was Abraham Clark.

Clark was born and raised in Roselle and as a young man worked as a surveyor. This field led him to the study of law, a profession he could employ to settle land disputes and property titles. A good deal of his business was transacted in the larger village of Rahway where he became known as the "Poor Man's Counselor." His family also traveled to Rahway on Sundays to worship in the small Presbyterian Church which stood on St. Georges Avenue.

As the fiery talk of separation from Great

Britain began, Clark found that he closely identified with the patriotic cause, and by 1774 had become a bold advocate of independence. Aware of the great dangers in which the colonies were placing themselves, he wrote, "We can die but once . . . We are now embarked in a most tempestuous sea . . . It is gone so far that we must now be a free independent state or a conquered country."

In 1775 his neighbors elected him to the Provincial Congress of New Jersey and in June of the next year he was appointed to the Second Continental Congress which was meeting in Philadelphia.

Clark was well aware of the penalty for treason. Had the British won the war, all signers of the Declaration would have been executed. Fear of this possible fate, however, did not sway him from his obsession to sever relations with the mother country.

During the war years Clark did suffer severe hardships. The Redcoats destroyed all of his property, and two of his soldier sons were captured and held on the notorious prison ship, "The Jersey," a vile, floating jail where

thousands of American prisoners perished. The conditions aboard the ship were horrible and the Clark boys suffered special hardships because of their father's connection with the rebels. Clark was even promised the release of his sons if he abandoned the American cause, but he refused to betray his country.

Clark was unique in that he was the only member of Congress to serve throughout the entire war. He was re-elected three times and was chosen to represent New Jersey at the Philadelphia Convention in 1787. Due to ill health, however, he was unable to attend this famous convention where our Constitution was being framed.

Clark died at the age of sixty-eight and is buried in the Rahway Cemetery. Residents of Rahway and all of Union County should be proud that of the five signers from the New Jersey Colony, only Clark is buried in this part of the state. Abraham Clark is a name out of the rich pages of Rahway history and a name we should remember as we prepare to celebrate the birthday of our country's independence.

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## ART STUDENTS DISPLAY WORKS TO THE COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL

The Rahway High School Advanced Art Annual Exhibit was held at the Union County Performing Arts Center May 10 through May 20. In addition, other art classes displayed their work to their fellow students in a traveling exhibit set up in various locations within the school corridors. To see a video of the Gallery Show, go to the Rahway High School website at <http://www.rahway.net/rhs/videosIII/gallery.wmv>.



(above) Members of the Advanced Art class at Rahway High School in attendance at the Gallery Opening at the Union County Arts Center on May 13 with a selection of their works. (back, l-r) Jackie Principe, Brianna Loffa, Brigitte Penaranda, Monika Jarosz, Cheyanne Jones, Samiyah Chester. (front, l-r) Savé Grant, Ernesto Perez, Daniel Velez, Keston Franklin, John Watkins.

## SOLAR ENERGY FOR KIDS - LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Third grade students in Mrs. Rubino's Gifted and Talented class, have completed a unit on Solar Energy. The creation and use of energy is one of the most important subjects for children to learn. Renewable energy sources like solar energy are increasingly important because countries economies are closely tied to their use of energy. Kids that learn about solar energy will be in a better position to make the right energy choices when they get older. The cumulating activity for this unit was using their solar ovens they constructed to make s'mores and playing with solar toys they build using K'Nex.



(above, l-r) Julie Schroeder, Yasmeen May, Juliette Rhinow, Gianna Muschiatti, and Kailey Beckford with their solar merry-go-round.

(left) Gianna Muschiatti using her solar oven.

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# 123 RAHWAY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MAINTAINED HONOR ROLL GRADES

On May 31, 2012, Rahway High School administrators, guidance counselors, parents, and Honor Roll students gathered to celebrate the achievements of those 123 students who had maintained Honor Roll grades for all three marking periods during the current school year. This celebration began with Student Government advisors, Mr. Steven Radler and Mrs. Donna Gerardo serving students and parents refreshments. Next, Principal John Farinella commended students on their hard work. Over 10% of the student body, 123 students, were on the Honor Roll or High Honor Roll after all three marking periods. Vice-Principal Mark Cantagallo mentioned his hope

that the number of these students continue to grow so to live out our district motto of "Expecting Excellence;" he also thanked the guidance staff for their support of student achievement. Then, each student was presented with a certificate. Afterward, a raffle was held, with gifts that included gift cards, movie tickets, an iPod shuffle, 2 portable DVD players, and a Kindle. Finally, all students who had attained High Honors for all three marking periods received a Rahway High School t-shirt. The entire Rahway High School community commends each of these diligent students for their achievements thus far and wishes them success on their final exams.



(above, l-r) Teachers Steven Radler and Donna Gerardo join Charlene Lesinski, mother of an Honor Roll student and also Rahway High School's nurse and William Brenner, another Honor Roll student's father.

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# IN SUPPORT OF THE LIBRARY, AND OF FUN

Submitted by: Colin Gittens, Friends of the Rahway Library



(above, l-r) First place winners "The Streetwalkers," with Friends of the Library President Colin Gittens.



(above) This team seems skeptical about the clue at the YMCA

(right)  
Race organizer  
Eric Miles  
announces  
the results.



Over the past months, these columns have let you know about the Friends of the Rahway Public Library and the fundraising and community-building events we have put on with the goal of supporting the library. But it wasn't until I sat down and began working on this latest installment—more than halfway through my term as president—that the realization of what a dynamic and progressive organization we have fully hit me.

For example, many Friends of Library groups in surrounding communities run library- or book-centric events. We do that too—our annual book sale in April remains the largest single fundraiser we do—but we have also attempted to partner with other groups and organizations in town to create events that help knit together this community. In February, for example, we ran a "Fast Friends" event, which helped introduce regular library users (and even library newbies!) to each other in a forum similar to speed dating.

Just last month, the Friends put on our second annual Race Around Rahway, a challenging scavenger hunt around the downtown area. We held this in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and their first-ever Rahway Day, a celebration of this community and the many things that make it special. This partnership has come about in part because both groups recognize what a treasure the Rahway Public Library is.

And as the photos from the race show, the Race Around Rahway was a bit unconventional. Even more telling are the smiles on faces—clearly, the Race Around Rahway was a lot of fun!

My hope with these columns is that building awareness of the group and our activities will help build support for it and spur new members to join. So what do you say? Do things "unconventional" and "fun" sound good to you? If so, please join us and get in on the action!



(above) The Mets take to the streets.





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# RAHWAY HIGH SCHOOL ESL STUDENT WINS STATE ESSAY CONTEST

Rahway High School student Eva Jean was this year's winner of the Pedro J. Rodriguez High School scholarship, a \$1,500 award sponsored by the NJ Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages and NJ Bilingual Educators (NJTESOL/NJBE). This award is given to the author of the best essay written by a high school senior in the state by an English Language Learner who has been enrolled in a New Jersey English as a Second Language (ESL) program. Eva Jean took ESL classes for her first three years at the high school and is now in a mainstream English class. She was recognized at the NJTESOL/NJBE Annual Spring Conference award ceremony at the Hyatt Hotel, New Brunswick. Her Rahway ESL teacher, Diana Lagattuta, who is extremely elated to have had a student win this prize, was thrilled to accompany her and her family to this event. We at Rahway High School all pay tribute to one of our hard working students.



*(left)  
Eva Jean,  
Rahway  
High School  
English as a  
Second Language  
state winner  
of essay contest  
displays her  
award.*

# DEBBIE PRAKAPAS - ROOSEVELT SCHOOL'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Mrs. Debbie Prakapas, a fourth grade teacher at Roosevelt School in Rahway, for receiving the honor of Roosevelt School's Teacher of the Year 2012. Mrs. Prakapas is a dedicated and skilled teacher. She demonstrates strong ability to foster excellence in education as evidenced by her ongoing contributions to the improvement of student learning and the learning environment



*(above, r-l) Mrs. Prakapas is Rocco Collucci  
and principal of Roosevelt School.*

OUR TOWN *Rahway* • Page 9 • June 2012

## RAHWAY LIBRARY

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### Rahway Public Library July and August 2012 Events

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**READER'S CIRCLE BOOK GROUP:**  
Wednesday, July 11 at 2:00 pm - "Till A Wheel"  
Wednesday, August 15 at 2:00 pm - "The Quincey Library and Public Reading Society"

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEETING:** All are welcome to attend.  
Thursday, July 12 at 7:00 am  
Thursday, August 9 at 7:00 am

**SO, YOU'RE GOING TO COLLEGE - NOW WHAT?**  
Designed to help students and parents prepare for college  
Wednesday, July 25 at 6:30 pm

**BOOK BINGO:** for ages 15+, everyone wins!  
Tuesday, July 31 at 2:00 pm

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**TEEN EVENTS**  
WEDNESDAYS  
Wednesday, July 11 through August 8 at 2:00 pm

**ZOMBIE SUNDAY:** Monday, July 23 at 2:00 pm

**TTVL (Teen Thursdays @ Your Library):** Chats, games and more in the Teen Circle.  
Thursdays, July 12 through August 9 at 2:00 pm

**SO, YOU'RE GOING TO COLLEGE - NOW WHAT?**  
Designed to help students and parents prepare for college  
Wednesday, July 25 at 6:30 pm

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**CHILDREN'S EVENTS**

**ART BEFORE DARK:** Mondays, July 2 through 23 at 6:30 pm

**BILLY STORYTIME:** Tuesdays in July at 10:30 am

**BOOK REPORT HELP:** Tuesdays in July from 1:00 - 2:30 pm

**BOARD GAMES:** Wednesdays, July 11, July 18, July 25, and August 1 at 6:30 pm

**STORIES BY STARLIGHT:** Thursdays, July 5, July 19, and August 2 at 6:00 pm

**SCARY CAMPFIRE STORIES AND S'MORES:** Best for age 6+  
Thursday, July 26 at 6:30 am

**PUPPET SHOW - THE RELUCTANT DRAGON:** Presented by Lionheart Puppet Theater  
Monday, July 30 at 3:00 pm

**TEDDY BEAR SLEEPOVER / TEDDY BEAR WAKE-UP BREAKFAST:**  
Bring your stuffed animal for story time, pick them up at breakfast the next morning!  
Teddy Bear Sleepover - Thursday, July 12 at 8:30 am  
Teddy Bear Wake-Up Breakfast - Friday, July 13 at 10:30 am

**THE ANNUAL "BAGGY" ICE CREAM PARTY:** Please register!  
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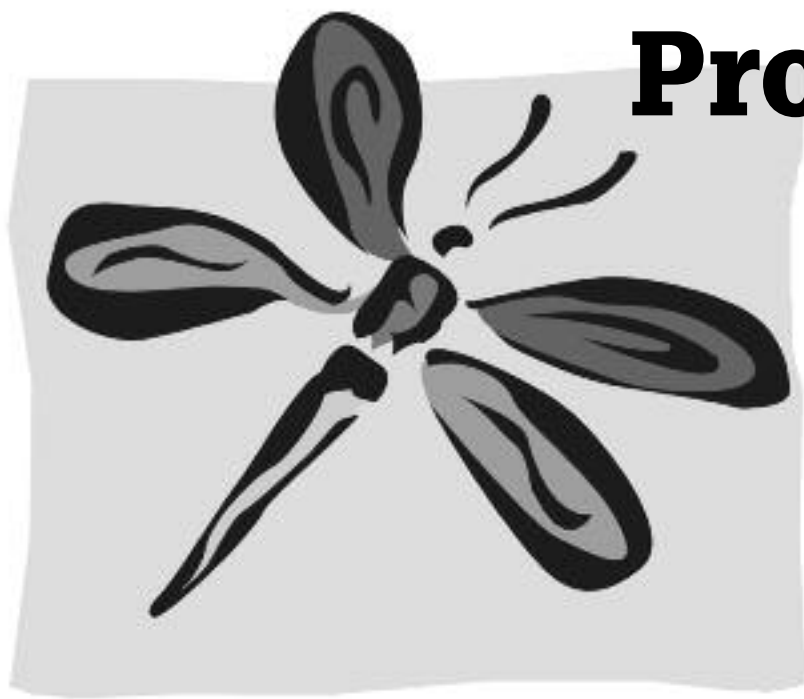
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(above) Sarah Singh and Dominic Markwant enjoyed eating the picnic lunch.



(above) Najee Cuevas passed everyone in the Hippity Hop Race

## FUN IN THE SUN

The students and staff at Roosevelt School in Rahway, celebrated their annual Field Day with many exciting activities including Hippity Hop, Clothing, Relay, and Sack Races, dancing with a

DJ, cooling off with a Sponge Pass, and entertaining performances by Rahway High School's JROTC, and Sovereign Martial Arts. A grand time was had by all!



(above) Pull! Pull! The tug-of-war was a crowd favorite!

(right) Sam Dorielan said the watermelon was cold and juicy.





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## NICHOLAS HEIM AND KATRINA PLOWMAN NAMED UCIAC SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

The 35th annual Union County Interscholastic Athletic Conference (UCIAC) Scholar-Athlete Awards Dinner recognizes two high school seniors - one boy and one girl - from each member high school whose academic and athletic careers have been exemplary. From Rahway High School, Nicholas Heim, ranked first in the Class of 2012, and Katrina Plowman, ranked fourth, were the students chosen.

Heim was Special Teams Captain in Varsity Football this year as well as Team Captain in Varsity Winter and Spring Track And Field. A member of National Honor Society, he received

Rahway High School's AP Star of Excellence award last August. Besides sports, Nick participates in the Social Action Club, the Math Club, and Heroes and Cool Kids, a mentoring program; in addition, he is a student representative to the Rahway High School Action Team. In the summer of 2010, Nick was named Rahway Parks and Recreation Male Counselor of the Year. This fall, he will be attending Case Western Reserve University.

Katrina Plowman, who heads to Albert Dorman Honors College of NJIT to study engineering, is also a member of the National

Honor Society as well as the Italian National Honor Society. She has been an All-County & All-State Varsity Soccer Player all four years, Captain of Varsity Soccer her senior year as well as a RYSA Soccer Referee. She is Co-President of Student Government and has been on the Principal's Advisory Committee the past three years. Katrina achieved black belt in Tae-Kwon-Do during grade 10 and has been a member of the Outdoors Club the past three years.

Rahway High School commends both and wishes them well in their future.



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(above, l-r) Nicholas Heim and Katrina Plowman are commended as Scholar-Athletes at Rahway High School by UCIAC.



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(above, l-r) Manuel Luna, Barbara Pierre, and Janiyah Aiken from Ms. Richert's class setting the butterfly free.

## FRANKLIN SECONDS FRADERS STUDY INSECTS

Second grade students at Franklin Elementary School in Rahway studied the life cycle of insects. Students were intrigued by watching caterpillars change into butterflies. After observing the caterpillars transform into butterflies, the students set them free.

Students also observed the metamorphosis of the darkling beetle. Students were amazing to learn that mealworms turn into beetles.

### READING UNDER THE TREES

As a culminating event to the second grade reading curriculum, parents and students read under the trees at Franklin School. This is an annual event that is enjoyed by students, parents and teachers.



(above) 2nd grader Luzana Bens enjoying a good book with her family and classmate Janiyah Aiken.



(above) Zaria Berrios from Ms. Richert's class observing the mealworm in the larva stage of the life cycle.

### CINCO DE MAYO STUDIED

Each year Miss Lindsey Lerner's bilingual kindergarten class and Mrs. Michelle Tavares's first grade bilingual class from Franklin Elementary School in Rahway learn about Mexican culture and heritage through a Cinco de Mayo celebration. This year, the two classes gathered under a big tree outside of their school and cheered each other on to see who would "rompe la pinata!"



(above) Mrs. Tavares spins around Gianna Rettino, first grade, as she too tries to break the piñata. Mrs. Petraroia raises and lowers the piñata for the children.



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## STUDENTS "IN THE CLOUDS" AT MET



Tomas Saraceno, an Argentine artist created a structure installed on the roof of the Metropolitan Museum of Art called "Cloud City" that enables visitors to climb up and view New York City from a unique perspective. Recently, advanced art students from Rahway High School were able to explore this structure as well as view other art during a field trip to the Metropolitan Museum led by teacher JoAnne Campanelli.

## LUAU FOR LUKEMIA

Students from Mrs. Lopez's third grade class at Franklin Elementary School in Rahway learned that sometimes you get what you give. The third graders raised nearly \$300 in last

month's "Pennies for Patients" fundraiser to benefit The Lukemia and Lymphoma Society. They were rewarded with a surprise luau/ice-cream party in the school's courtyard.



(above) Mrs. Laura Lopez's third grade class.

## ROOSEVELT STAGES "FLASH MOB"

Roosevelt School in Rahway performed a flash mob on the school playground as the culminating activity at their annual Field Day. Ms. Debbie Alford, the physical education teacher, organized the mob dance. She started practicing a few weeks ago during gym class time. The students were really excited when they heard the "Cuban Shuffle". When asked, students responded "Dancing in school is awesome!" Pictured are all 671 students and staff performing.



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## TRIP TO DOOLANS

The Rahway Division of Senior Services is sponsoring a trip to Doolans's in Spring Lake on Tuesday, July 24, 2012. The trip is \$60.00 with no refunds after July 6, 2012. The trip includes bus transportation, show and a lunch (salad, entree, dessert and beverage). The Angel Tones will perform a Forever Famous Female Group Tribute and there will also be a comedian. The bus will leave from the Rahway Senior Center at 10:15 a.m. and return at approximately 4:30 p.m.

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



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## DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES ACTIVITIES

### SY MENDEL ORGAN CONCERT

The City of Rahway proudly presents a First Thursday Organ Concert with Sy Mendel on July 5, 2012 at 6:30 PM. Sy's show will be based on audience requests. So come and request your favorite song and he will play it or you can request music from any year and Sy will pick the song.

Sy will perform on the Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ that was originally at the Rainbow Room in Rockefeller Center. Come and hear an amazing organ with an amazing history! The pipe work is in virtually original condition and

was lovingly relocated and restored by the Garden State Theater Organ Society.

These theatre pipe organs were called "Unit orchestras" which is a pretty apt description of what they do and were popular between 1900 – 1950. From the power of a symphony orchestra, to the whisper of a single flute or violin, The Theatre Pipe Organ fascinates and thrills all who hear it. Come and enjoy this unique and fun concert!

The concert will be held at the Rahway Senior Center, 1306 Esterbrook Avenue. For more information, call (732)827-2016.

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# PARAMEDICS HOPE "DEADLY DECISION" HAS DRAMATIC IMPACT

## Stage mock accident to drive home the point

Andrew Estevez designed his senior project to stop his Elizabeth High School classmates in their tracks. To get them to see that the decision to drink and drive can be a deadly one, he asked for the help of his mother, Maria. As a Victim's Witness Advocate, she speaks often about the deadly results of drinking and driving for the Union County Prosecutor's office.

Maria asked for help from the Elizabeth police, the Emergency Medical Service ambulance corps of the Elizabeth Fire Department, paramedics of Trinitas Regional Medical Center's Mobile Intensive Care Unit, the State Police Medevac Unit, and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey NorthSTAR Air Medical Program.

As a result, these groups staged a motor vehicle accident on May 22 in the school parking lot on Pulaski Street. The firemen and emergency medical technicians placed two cars that had crashed in previous accidents together. Inside the cars were classmates Andrew had chosen to act out four roles: a drunk driver, an on-scene fatality, and two critically injured

people who needed to be transported, one dying en route to the hospital and the other a quadriplegic.

"We've absolutely seen it happen in real life," said Terry Hoben, EMS Coordinator for the NorthSTAR Air Medical Program. "We've learned that you have to get into the kids' heads. They're young and have no life experience."

Firemen pried students out of the cars with the Jaws of Life, while paramedics demonstrated the insertion of tracheal tube and performed CPR because one passenger experienced "cardiac arrest."

"When the students came outside and saw the accident, their eyes lit up," said Kenneth Reardon, Coordinator of the Trinitas Mobile Intensive Care Unit. "But, when they saw their friends inside, there were only one or two kids laughing or yelling; the rest were silent. This hits home, this can happen to people you know. It's real."

The "fatality" was laid in a body bag while paramedics worked on the "injured" passengers and police arrested the "drunk driver." After the 25-minute drill, the students went to the high



(above) Stunned students look on at the mock accident as Kenneth Reardon, Coordinator of the Trinitas Mobile Intensive Care Unit, gets ready to remove an accident victim from a vehicle at the crash scene.

school auditorium to hear members of the Union County Prosecutor's office and DWI victims speak.

"We don't want to see our kids involved in accidents like this," Mr. Hoben said. "We don't want to see kids' lives ruined by drunk driving. If we can affect one person, it will be great."

## About Trinitas Regional Medical Center

Trinitas Regional Medical Center (TRMC), a major center for comprehensive health services for those who live and work in Central New Jersey, is a Catholic teaching medical center sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth in partnership with Elizabethtown Healthcare Foundation. With 10 Centers of Excellence across the continuum of care, Trinitas has distinguished itself in cardiology, cancer care, behavioral health, renal care, nursing education, diabetes management, wound healing and sleep medicine. For more information on Trinitas Regional Medical Center, visit: [www.TrinitasRMC.org](http://www.TrinitasRMC.org) rinitasRMC.org or call (908) 994-5138.



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## GARDEN CLUB MEETING AT DOWNTOWN PARK

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Rahway Garden Club will have its June meeting at downtown's Arts Park at the corner of Irving Street and Central Avenue. The date is Thursday June 21st from 7pm till 8.30pm. The public is welcome so please bring a lawn chair and enjoy a special workshop on gardening given by Janet Dillon of Parker Gardens of Scotch Plains.

The Rahway Garden Club has adopted for 2012 the little park and the club augments the work of Rahway's Department of Public Works.

The Rahway Garden 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.

In the event of inclement weather, this meeting will take place inside at the Rahway Public Library adjacent to City Hall.

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Unfortunately many plant disease and problems are caused by poor watering practices. As a general rule in our area of New Jersey most plants, including lawns, require one inch of water per week. An inexpensive or homemade rain meter can save time and help keep your water bill down.

This is especially true for lawns. 'Damp feet' at night is a major cause for many lawn diseases. An ideal water practice for lawns is one inch of water once a week, or a half inch twice a week, early in the morning. This encourages the roots to grow down deep and gives the lawn hours to dry off before nightfall.

Containers dry out faster than plants in the ground, so they need more attention. There are a few things you can do to make sure your potted plants are getting the best watering you can give them. First water the soil, with few exceptions, plants don't like wet leaves. Water your pots



*Rahway resident gardener "Extraordinaire" James Keane, has been researching and answering garden questions since 1995.*

twice, five minutes apart. The first watering will dampen the top layer of soil. Five minutes later give them a second watering. This second watering will work its way deep into the pot where the root system can absorb it.

A handy watering tool is the 'Water-wand', a soaker nozzle at the end of a long metal tube. A stream of water is easily released where the plants need it most; soil level and close to the roots. These can be found at your local garden center.

Make time to sit and enjoy your garden every day. You deserve it.

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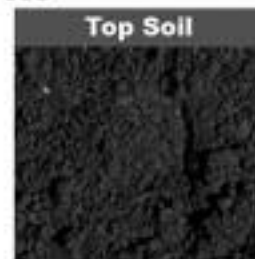
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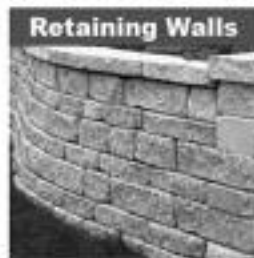
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## COMMUNITY MEMBERS VOLUNTEER TO ENHANCE RAHWAY'S DOWNTOWN

The Rahway Chamber of Commerce, Rahway Arts District, Inc., and the City of Rahway are partnering on the Clean to the Curb program, an initiative to enhance Rahway's town center. This cooperative endeavor is similar to an adopt-a-block program: neighbors work together to create an improved, pedestrian-friendly downtown environment. The program involves local residents, businesses, churches and other community organizations.

In the spirit of volunteerism, Rahway business owner Ed Kennedy generously offered the help of his company Kennedy Landscaping to augment the work of the City of Rahway's Department of Public Works on specific projects. Kennedy Landscaping specializes in landscape design and grounds maintenance. In March, Kennedy Landscaping pruned arid shaped the shrubs and trees surrounding the City-owned building at 1670 Irving Street, Rahway. The impressive building, dating from 1869, houses Arts Guild New Jersey, a non-profit art center.

This spring, members of the Rahway Garden Club will also lend their assistance by recommending and planting flowers and maintaining planters at the Arts District Park, a pocket park located at the corner of Irving Street and Central Avenue.

Community members interested in becoming involved with the Clean to the Curb program can call 732-540-1075 or email rahwayartsdistrict@gmail.com.



## GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS COMPETE IN BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

Rahway's Gifted and Talented third and fourth graders participated in the District Battle of the Books in May. The event was held at Roosevelt School.

The Battle of the Books is a reading incentive program for students. Students read books and come together to demonstrate their abilities and test their knowledge of the books they have read. All of the questions in the competition begin with the words "In which book" and the correct answer is always the title and author of the book.



(above) Roosevelt's 3rd & 4th grade Gifted and Talented students.



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## OLYMPICS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS HELD AT RECREATION CENTER

On May 23, Rahway Recreation Center was the site for the annual Olympics for children with special needs, led by Rahway High School Teacher Patricia Williams. Olympic Day is supported by the Rahway Board of Education and sponsors include TD Bank, Pepsi, RSI Bank, Junior Service League, Rahway Education Association (REA), Verizon, United Water, Rahway High School Blue Tri, and JRS Century 21 Reality. Over 50 high school students volunteer to make the day a success.



(above) John Ludington and Mary Gustofson from United Water presenting bags to Olympians during the recent event held at Rahway Recreation Center.

## BEST INDEPENDENT BLOG? YES, PLEASE

Posted: 28 May 2012 08:18 AM PDT

The New Jersey chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists awarded Rahway Rising the winner of the Independent (non-media affiliated) Blog category in the 2011 Excellence in Journalism Awards. It's unclear how many entries there were in the category but judges did not award second- or third-place winners.

My submission included a blog post from December, "More than 100 properties win tax appeals," featuring this Google Map of all the tax appeals, which is now closing in on 4,000 page views.

The judges' comments: "Rahway Rising's use of web tools such as Google maps, and links to outside sources, show a good understanding of the Internet format, while the topic matter and research provide solid information for readers interested in learning more about redevelopment in Rahway."

## KEEP IT LEGAL CAMPAIGN-PROJECT STICKER SHOCK!

Prevention Links sponsors a positive youth initiative at Rahway High School (RHS) for Juniors and Seniors called Strong, Powered, Inspirational Teens (SPIT). The program is designed to enhance positive characteristics in young people, illustrate the importance of community involvement, instill professional values and the commitment to a healthy lifestyle as well as information regarding substance abuse prevention.

On Saturday, May 12th the group traveled to various locations in Rahway and placed "Keep It Legal" stickers that display a warning message about the penalties for providing alcohol to anyone under 21 on beer cases, wine coolers and other alcohol products that might appeal to

young drinkers. By participating in this project, youth throughout the city are taking a proactive stand against underage drinking and its related problems.

The project represents a partnership among youth, liquor store owners, concerned parents, community members, prevention professionals, and law enforcement. It is a great project for youth groups, faith-based groups, school-based groups or any group interested in preventing underage drinking.

For more information and/or to participate in the Keep It Legal Campaign- Project Sticker Shock and any prevention information, contact Prevention Links at (732) 381-4100 or [cbathelus@preventionlinks.org](mailto:cbathelus@preventionlinks.org).



(above, back row, l-r) Gabriel Vazquez, Colin Quinn, Gianmichele Petraroa, Dan Yarick, CJ Orsini, Nick Santos, Tahlia Welsh, Michael Capko, Craig Nowlin.  
(front row, l-r) Aleia K. Moore, Daija Burnes, Keiana Darling, Diana Pender, Diamond Pender, Dion Pender, Charlene Bathelus, Diane Pender

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(above) Nate Figueroa who received a Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Honorable Mention for Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role is shown here in the Rahway 2012 production of 42nd Street.


## RAHWAY HIGH RECEIVES RISING STAR NOMINATIONS AND IS “ADOPTED” BY PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

In the annual Rising Star Awards competition sponsored by Paper Mill Playhouse for New Jersey for high school musical productions, Rahway High School received nominations in three categories, Outstanding Achievement in Hair and Make-Up, Outstanding Achievement by a Chorus, and Outstanding Achievement in Choreography and Staging. In addition, student Nate Figueroa received an Honorable Mention for Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role.

Recently, Rahway was named as one of four new participants in the Paper Mill Playhouse Adopt-A-School Project. This Project is aimed at bringing direct access to the artist in the day-

to-day environment of the classroom.

The first year provides forty students an opportunity to observe five Paper Mill matinees with supporting workshops. The second and third years focus on the school, with artists coming to Rahway to run workshops and help students stage a production. In the final year, students return to four evening Paper Mill performances as informed critics. Through this program Paper Mill provides young people with choices and possibilities that are often denied because of economic constraint, geographic and/or social discrimination. Alison Dooley, Dance Teacher at Rahway says “I am very pleased about this new partnership.”



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This newspaper publisher, Joe Renna, will be running  
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