

# OUR TOWN

RAHWAY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

**FREE**

The Voice of the Rahway Chamber of Commerce.

Issue 16 • September 2011

**NEXT CHAMBER  
MEETING**  
**SEPT 22, 2011**  
**8:30am to 9:30am**  
Masonic Lodge  
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## PRESIDENT DECLARES DISASTER FOR NEW JERSEY

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that federal aid has been made available to the State of New Jersey to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area affected by Hurricane Irene beginning on August 27, 2011, and continuing.

The President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Union County.

Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured or underinsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Federal funding also is available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by Hurricane Irene.

Individuals and business owners who sustained losses can begin applying for assistance today by registering online at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov), by web enabled mobile device at [m.fema.gov](http://m.fema.gov) or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). Disaster assistance applicants, who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY, should call 1-800-462-7585 directly; for those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 1-800-621-3362. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.



(above) Irving St. just above Seminary Ave. Photo by Derron Palmer



(above) A fallen tree on Westfield Ave., going towards Madison Ave with Jefferson Ave. behind. Photo by Derron Palmer



(above) Fifty foot container floated down river during Irene's wrath and lodged at Hamilton Street bridge. Flood waters floated the construction container that was being used on the nearby Hamilton Street Arts Development.

(right) Union County workers remove storm debris from Rahway River at historic bridge on Irving Street. Although beautiful and works of art, these old arched bridges slow the water's movement and their arch foundations collect debris. This bridge had been cleared of river debris by the County Bridge crew on Friday before Irene hit. Photos by Our Town



# OUR TOWN *Rahway*

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*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

**President: 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 President

### ST. MARK'S UNDER FLOOD

*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.* - Ecclesiastes- King James Version

Early that Sunday morning in the midst of Irene's wrath I cautiously walked up Hamilton Street to get a view of my flooded Irving Street building only to meet Father Dennis Kaelin who was walking up Hamilton Street to view his flooded Church.

As St. Mark's Church steeple remained high above the raging Rahway, Father and I paused, looked at one another and we both smiled. "To remind us what's really important and what is not" mused the good priest. I nodded in agreement.

What a challenge to our spirit this hurricane was, yet what an opportunity for each of us to pause and reflect on what's truly important in our lives. For me, another lesson in letting go of attachments that keep me too grounded to this material life. Another lesson also to help me in opening my heart further.

In time, our town will repair itself and hopefully we'll work as a community to find ways to lessen the impact of future floods. For today, let's continue our cleanup and repairs and be grateful for the wonderful job performed during these last 10 days by so many of our city's workers, not forgetting as well the kindness of our neighbors. As old friend Ed Saliga used to say "don't you worry none, everything will be ok".



*Bob Markey*

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

Photo by Derron Palmer

## RWJ RAHWAY FOUNDATION'S 28TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

Honorary Golf Classic Chairman, Dr. Barry Benisch, Rahway Pathology, P.A. expressed his appreciation, and that of the hospital's Medical/Dental Staff, to the Golf Committee and RWJ Rahway Foundation for their dedication and commitment to the hospital at the

*(right, l-r) Brian Leddy, Chairman, RWJ Rahway Board of Governors; Kirk Tice, President & CEO, RWJ Rahway; Kevin Headd, Co-Chair, Golf Committee; Dr. Barry Benisch, and Marlene Lubinger, President, RWJ Rahway Foundation and Golf Co-Chairman.*

Honorary Chairman's Reception.

The Golf Classic will be held on Monday, September 19, at Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield. For information, call 732-499-6135.



## Advertise in this newspaper

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.

**Reserve your space  
in the next issue.**

**Call Tina today  
at 908-418-5586  
or email info@  
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# CITY MEETING DATES & SCHEDULES

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## 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.

Monday, September 12, Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 4, Pre-Meeting Conference

Monday, October 11, 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, September 13, Monthly Caucus

Tuesday, September 20,

Regular Board Meeting

## 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.

Monday, September 19

## RAHWAY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at Rahway City Hall (2nd floor conference room)

Thursday, October 13, 2011

## 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, September 20

## 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, September 27

## PLANNING BOARD

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

Tuesday, September 27

## RAHWAY CENTER PARTNERSHIP

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. at Café at UCPAC, 1601 Irving Street. Please call (732) 396-3545 for any inquiries.

Check for meetings; [www.cityofrahway.com/rahway\\_center\\_partnership.htm](http://www.cityofrahway.com/rahway_center_partnership.htm)

# CHAMBER ANNOUNCES PUBLICATION OF BUSINESS DIRECTORY

*Over 1000 Rahway Businesses Included.*

The Rahway Chamber of Commerce is producing the 2012-2013 Rahway Business Directory that is scheduled to be on the streets by the end of this year. Here is a great opportunity to promote your business and make it more visible to potential clients. Over seven thousand books will be printed and distributed to residents free of charge. There will also be an online version on our website.

As a courtesy, the Chamber will include a free listing for every business in Rahway. Ad space will be available at an additional fee, discounted for Chamber members. In addition to ads and business listings by category, the directory will include general information about Rahway including: a message from our Mayor, a directory of Rahway Council members and City Hall Departments, places of worship and a directory of city organizations. Further information and an ad contract will be available online in early September.

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MUST PRESENT THIS COUPON AT TIME OF PURCHASE. OFFER EXPIRES 10/15/11.

## TRUNK SALE TO SUPPORT LIBRARY

The Friends of the Rahway Public Library (FRPL) is sponsoring a flea market/trunk sale on Saturday, September 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parking lot next to the library at 2 City Hall Plaza, and the group is looking for sellers wishing to declutter their own homes.

"Whether it's people looking to take part in a larger community-wide sale, individuals who regularly sell at flea markets, or apartment dwellers who may not be able to hold this type of sale, this event presents a great opportunity to clean house, make a little money, and support a great cause," said FRPL treasurer Cathy Keefe.

Vendors can set up tables in the rented spaces, or sell directly from the trunk of a car. Set up will begin at 8 a.m., and sales of bootlegged materials (ie, DVDs) is not permitted. Refunds will be given if the event is cancelled due to weather.

Vendors can reserve double parking spaces for \$20 by contacting Ms Keefe at 732-388-4487 prior to the day of the sale. Rentals will also be available on September 24, subject to availability.

Make checks payable to "Friends of the Rahway Public Library" and send to: Trunk Sale, c/o Rahway Public Library, 2 City Hall Plaza, Rahway, NJ 07065.

The Friends of the Rahway Public Library is a volunteer 501(c)(3) organization that serves to support the library through fundraising and volunteer activities. To learn more, visit our website ([www.friendsofrpl.org/](http://www.friendsofrpl.org/)) and Facebook pages.

## RAHWAY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### SEPTEMBER 2011 EVENTS

#### READER'S CIRCLE BOOK GROUP:

Wednesday, September 21 at 2:00 pm

This month's title: "Time and Again"

#### TRUNK SALE:

Saturday, September 24 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Run by The Friends of the Rahway Public Library  
Flea Market held in the parking lot next to the library.

#### BOOK BINGO:

Tuesday, September 27 at 2:00 pm

for ages 18+; everyone wins!

### TEEN EVENTS

#### TEEN TIME: Wii, Crafts, Games, Music, and more!

Monday Afternoons 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Age 13 and Up Only!

#### "YOU PICK IT" Teen Movie:

Friday, September 30 at 1:00 pm

Help select the movie to watch and enjoy a snack!.

### CHILDREN'S EVENTS

#### TODDLER TIME: Story, Craft, and Playtime.

Tuesdays, September 13, 20, and 27 at 10:30 am

No registration required.

#### DROP-IN CRAFT: BACK TO SCHOOL

Saturday, September 17

All day! Stop in any time!

#### LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP NIGHT:

Thursday, September 29

Storytime, craft, tours of the Library, light refreshments.

#### BACK-TO-SCHOOL BOOK BINGO

Friday, September 30 at 1:00 pm

#### LIBRARY SIGN-UP NIGHT:

Thursday, September 29

Storytime, craft, tours of the Library, light refreshments.

## THE RAHWAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INAUGURAL GOLF OUTING

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

Ash Brook Golf Course  
1210 Raritan Road  
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

#### LUNCH:

12:00 NOON to 1:00 PM at the golf course

#### GOLF:

1:30 PM Tee off time

#### DINNER, AWARDS & DOOR PRIZES:

6:30 PM to 9:30 PM

The Waiting Room

66 East Cherry Street

Rahway, NJ 07065

#### COST:

\$125.00 per golfer\*

#### MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:

The Rahway Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 277

Rahway, NJ 07065

#### RSVP:

No later than September 15, 2011

*\* All net proceeds to be donated to the Rahway nonprofit: Healing And Helping Women In Our Communities With Health Awareness*

#### For more information contact:

TONY FERRARO at 908-370-1442 or

JOSH DONOVAN at 732-895-1698

The printing of this poster was donated by Mr. B Printing 732-396-3990



Come to the Friends of the Rahway Public Library's  
**Car Trunk Sale!**  
It's a Flea Market in the parking lot next to the Library!  
**Saturday, September 24**  
**9 am - 3 pm**

|  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Beauty Supply &amp; Salon</b><br/>Hair Extension Experts<br/>Brazilian Keratin Treatments<br/>Highlights, Low Lights, Corrective Color<br/>Body Sugaring, Eyelashes, Bridal Parties</p>                  |  | <p><b>Gregg's</b><br/><b>Beauty Supply Store</b><br/><b>Beauty Salon</b><br/><b>Wig Store</b></p>   |  |
| <p><b>Wig Store</b><br/>Private Room for Hair Loss Patients<br/>We cut, color &amp; service all Wigs<br/>Largest selection—lowest prices</p>   |  | <p>1107 W Saint Georges Ave<br/>Linden, NJ 07036<br/><b>800 624-1927</b><br/>Mon to Fri 9AM to 9PM<br/>Sat 10AM to 6PM<br/>Sun 12 to 5PM<br/>Se Habla Espanol</p> |  |
| <p><b>\$10 off</b> Any \$25 purchase<br/>Gregg's Beauty Supply, Beauty Salon or Wig Store<br/>Brand New Customers Only - Not to be combined with any other offer<br/>1 coupon per household - Exp 10/31/11</p> |  |   | <p><b>www.GreggsBeauty.com</b><br/> Largest selection of Hair Feather Extensions &amp; Hair Crystals</p> |



# PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDING MID-RISE APARTMENTS TO BE BUILT BEHIND CITY HALL

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*Zoning Board Chairman Bill Hering Pleased*



*Bill Hering*

Capodagli Property Company of Pompton Plains has proposed constructing 108 units on the 0.75-acre property adjacent to the Rahway Public Library. The five-story, 108-unit proposal includes 52 two-bedroom units and 56 one-bedroom units. The same developer recently completed the attractive Meridia Grand Apartments located at 255 East Grand Avenue near Merck.

“As chairman of the Rahway Zoning Board and Vice Chair of the Rahway Planning Board, I

am proud of the work that all our Commissioners do each month in moving Rahway forward in the area of rebuilding, redevelopment and growth for our City” noted Bill Hering. Hering added “the Ordinance passed by the Planning Board on Tuesday night, August 30th, is once again another opportunity for getting people to come to our city”. Bill Hering is Chairman of the Rahway Zoning Board and Vice Chair of the Rahway Planning Board.

A copy of the proposed ordinance No 0-26-11 is available at Rahway City Clerk’s office. Planning Board will send ordinance back to City Council now for a final stamp of approval.



**Jersey Fresh Farmer’s Market**  
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## **“A TOUR OF RAHWAY THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ARTIST” SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2011 • 4:30 PM ‘TIL 6:30 PM**

Our first event of the day will be with Mr. Lloyd Garrison as the guide of “A Tour of Rahway through the Eyes of an Artist” leaving from the Historic Rahway Elks at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday September 24, 2011. Tickets are available at the Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum or [www.rahwayhigh.com](http://www.rahwayhigh.com).

Presented by 4th Annual RHS Alumni Celebration. Meet acclaimed artists and authors, featuring Five Famous Rahway High School Graduates

Artist and Author participants are:

**FRANK THORNE (RHS ‘47)** – Author & Illustrator

Frank Thorne is a comic book artist-writer, best known for popularizing the Marvel Comics character Red Sonja. He began his comics career in 1948, penciling romance comics for Standard Comics. “After graduation, he drew the Perry Mason newspaper strip for King Features, which was followed by more comic book work for Dell. He turned out a multitude of stories for Flash Gordon, Jungle Jim, The Green Hornet and many more.” His published works include two autobiographies, *Drawing Sexy Women* and *The Crystal Ballroom*, as well as a novel, *Nymph*. Among his awards are a 1963 National Cartoonists Society award in the Comic Book Division, the 1978 Inkpot Award and the Playboy Editorial Award for best comic: Moonshine McJugs. Mr. Thorne was known during the 1970s for attending comic

book conventions in his persona as The Wizard judging Red Sonja lookalike contests.

**LLOYD GARRISON (RHS ‘62)** – Artist

Lloyd Garrison, is mostly self-taught and started his career in Rahway, New Jersey, in October of 1966. He is quoted, “I was interested in drawing and painting since I could remember.” The colonial paintings were inspired by the fact that he is the 11th generation in Rahway and his ancestors were innkeepers of the Terrill Tavern (which stands behind the M&D Tavern), and also carriage and sled builders. He painted murals for Prudential Insurance in Newark, Rahway Savings Institution (Battle of Spantown), and the restaurants Barbary Coast, Brass Bucket, and Al Dente Restaurant in Piscataway. Mr. Garrison has a gallery in Red Bank, NJ.

**ADELE KENNY (RHS ‘66)** – Poet & Author

Adele Kenny is the author of 23 books (poetry and nonfiction). Over 700 of her poems, articles, and reviews have been published in journals throughout the world. Her teaching background includes 20 years full-time employment as a secondary-level English teacher, creative writing specialist, and teacher of the gifted and talented (Rahway, NJ Public Schools). Ms. Kenny taught courses in police report writing at the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains, NJ. She has also taught graduate-level courses in creative writing as an adjunct

professor in NY at the College of New Rochelle and Rockland County Community College, and in NJ at Middlesex County College. Ms. Kenny’s most recent publication is *What Matters* (Welcome Rain Publishers, 2011), poems.

**ALEX SHIPLEY (RHS ‘66)** – Historian & Author

Alex Shipley, a lifelong resident of Rahway, earned a BA in English and later an MA in Humanities from Kean University, taught English for thirty-three years (Linden High School, 1970-79, and Rahway High School, 1979-2003), until his retirement in 2003. He is currently the Director of Museum Operations at the Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum, serves as city historian for the City of Rahway, and is a research consultant for the Rahway Public Library. Published works include: *The Case of the Unknown Woman*

**JOSEPH BOST (RHS ‘74)**

– Author & Olympic Martial Artist

Joseph Bost is a martial artist who competed in the 1976 Montreal Olympics on the USA Judo Team. He is an Officer with Rahway Police Department. His recent publication is *Behind the Blue*.

Come out to meet these acclaimed artists and authors who are proud of their Rahway heritage. Refreshments will be served.

All proceeds are for the benefit of Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum.

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## RWJ RAHWAY FOUNDATION MOURNS PASSING OF LIFE MEMBER OF THE BOARD KITTY QUADREL

The RWJ Rahway Foundation sadly reports the passing of Catherine “Kitty” Quadrel. Mrs. Quadrel passed away on August 5, 2011. A Life Member of the Foundation Board and with her family, a 2007 Guardian of the Rose recipient, for many years of dedication and outstanding philanthropic support to RWJ Rahway. The Nicholas and Catherine Quadrel Foundation donated nearly \$500,000 to the hospital.

In 2007, when the new Nicholas Quadrel Healthy Heart Center was dedicated, a plaque in tribute to Mrs. Quadrel was unveiled. The inscription on the plaque read “dedicated with deepest gratitude to Catherine “Kitty” Quadrel for decades of unfaltering philanthropic support to The Nicholas Quadrel Healthy Heart Center and the construction of this new facility.”

Nick and Kitty Quadrel cut the ribbon at the opening of the first Healthy Heart Center at RWJ Rahway in 1988. This event marked the fruition of Nick and Kitty’s vision for this important community resource. In 1993, the Center would be re-named the Nicholas Quadrel Healthy Heart Center, a fitting memorial to her late husband, long-time Hospital Board Member Nick.

When learning of the passing of Mrs. Quadrel, Kirk Tice, RWJ Rahway President and CEO, said that Kitty Quadrel was a very special person who cared deeply for the hospital and shared generously so that thousands of heart attack survivors would receive life enhancing cardio-pulmonary rehabilitation here at our hospital. We are ever indebted to Kitty and Nick Quadrel.

The Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Rahway Foundation is a not for profit hospital foundation whose mission is to raise funds for the support of

RWJ Rahway, which was founded in 1917. RWJ Rahway provides acute, sub-acute and long-term acute care (LTAC) serving over 15 municipalities in greater Union and Middlesex Counties. RWJ Rahway provides a comprehensive range of services including medical and surgical and specialty programs in cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services including speech, physical and occupational therapy; oncology, neurology, Wound Care, Joint Replacement Center, diabetes services, senior services, community health and wellness education, digital mammography and MRI.



(above) Nick and Kitty Quadrel



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- Non-toxic, safe for children & pets
- Deep stain removal process that eliminates stubborn stains

### Tile & Grout Solutions

OxyMagic also has a safe, effective product for cleaning tile and grout, so it can make virtually any surface in your home look new again.

### Upholstery Cleaning, Too

OxyMagic also offers outstanding upholstery cleaning using Aridex, the dry upholstery cleaning system. This foaming cleaning process is unique: there’s not overwetting, never any shrinkage, and no sticky residue. It’s completely safe for all fabrics and furniture, and it dries beautifully.

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#### 3 ROOMS CLEANED \$129

NO HIDDEN FEES  
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#### 8 FT SOFA & A 6 FT LOVESEAT \$144

reg price is 160.00  
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#### CARPET SHIELD \$15

Discounted 40%  
- free stairs & hallway  
with 3 room minimum

OxyMagic 908-654-4242  
With this coupon. Small furniture  
moving only. Expires 10/9/11.

#### ATTENTION PET OWNERS \$24 per room

discounted 30%  
-free stairs & hallway  
with 3 room minimum

OxyMagic 908-654-4242  
With this coupon. Small furniture  
moving only. Expires 10/9/11.

## PASS THE TORCH

The "Pass The Torch" event, Rahway's own biggest and free Hip-hop jam catered to people of all ages, was held at the Rahway Public Library auditorium on August 18th, 2011. Creator and organizer of the event, Evan-Terry Benjamin aka Sneezy of the legendary breakdance group called the Souljerz crew, collaborated with Author/Professor/ Hip-hop Historian and father Terry W. Benjamin on this project. The father and son duo developed the concept "Pass the Torch", with the aim of "bridging the gap" between two different generations by honoring the those who made an impact on NJ's Hip-hop culture as well as pave

the way for the new generation to follow. This event was filled with attractions such as Graffiti exhibitions/workshops, break-dance exhibitions, djs playing music ranging from old tracks such as James Brown "Get on the good foot" to current music. "Pass the Torch" jam had 3 linoleum floors for all dancers of all ages and skill levels to "get down" and execute breakdance inspired dance moves. Guests traveled from as far as Austria, Canada and NYC to attend such a positive gathering. Special guest appearances included legendary Graffiti Artist Delk and Rahway's own Mayor Rick Proctor. Rahway resident and 2001 R.H.S. graduate

Evan is known for hosting many events for the Rahway community such as "Breakin' in the Rec" Summer series 1&2.

Photos by Michelle Benjamin and Carlos Manuel Zayas



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Written by Carmen Tyler McLendon, Broker/Branch Manager of Striker Realty - Rahway  
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## RAHWAY BRANCH YMCA HOSTS THE "GREAT ZUCCHINI RACE"



(above, back, l-r) Volunteer Master Carpenter Don Markulin, Bob Markey Zucchini Race originator and Rahway Y Facility Manager Jim Smythe. (front) Rahway resident Nicole Stanley Miss Black NJ 2011 with winning team.

On August 28th groups of Rahway Branch YMCA Campers grades K-3rd and 4th-8th split into teams of 3 and assembled racers made of Zucchini and other yummy veggies to race each other in "The Great Zucchini Race." It was great fun for all participants and standing room only crowd. Racers were taken home and used in salads with recipes supplied by the "Y Square Foot Gardeners."

Check out photos of the races at [www.ourtownrahway.com](http://www.ourtownrahway.com)



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# FROM GETTING BY TO GETTING BETTER

By Colin Gittens, President of the Friends of the Rahway Public Library.

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*I get by with a little  
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—John Lennon/  
Paul McCartney*

As I write these words, the city of Rahway is slowly pulling itself back together after the drenching, devastating impact of Hurricane Irene. Some residents, thankfully, were spared any harm; most have been temporarily inconvenienced; and some, sadly, lost possessions and even their homes.

The Rahway Public Library was passed over for the most part this time around, but it wasn't that long ago that a tropical storm (in 1999) devastated the library and forced its reconstruction at the present City Hall Plaza location.

The work of supporting the library at this time may be less dramatic than when a building had to be constructed and a collection rebuilt, but the

work is no less important - which is why I want to make you aware of the Friends of the Rahway Public Library.

Most people know that libraries provide essential services, information, and enjoyment to the community at low or no cost. Less clear may be that libraries also need the community's support in order to thrive. The Friends of the Rahway Public Library is a volunteer organization that supports the library through fund-raising and volunteer activities. For example, funds raised in the past year have supported purchases of furniture, computer software, and education for children's programs that could not be supported under the library's existing budget.

The Friends run a number of fund-raising activities during the year—I'll detail those in a future column—but our greatest and steadiest fund-raising source is individual memberships. Students and seniors (under 18 or over 55 years, respectively) can join for \$5; individual rates are \$15, and families pay \$20. Members can help shape the group's direction at our monthly meetings or volunteer to become officers. Application forms can be picked up at the library's reference desk, and more information can be found on the group's Facebook page.

The Friends want the library to do more than just "get by," as Lennon and McCartney suggested. And your participation in and financial support of the Friends of the Rahway Public Library will allow the library to thrive with a little help from the Friends. Please consider joining today!



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# RHS INAUGURATES FRESHMEN SEMINAR AND WELCOMES NEW VICE PRINCIPALS

OUR TOWN *Rahway* • Page 13 • September 2011

When Rahway High School students arrive on Tuesday, September 6, they will find many changes in academics, personnel, and facilities. First, construction will be going on all over the building and grounds. Second, new faces will be present as two district employees have become vice principals. Third, freshmen will see on their schedules a new course, Freshmen Seminar/Financial Literacy.

Construction is part of a two-year plan to renovate science and home economics labs and to expand music and dance facilities to house Rahway's highly regarded arts program, recognized in 2010 as a New Jersey Model School in the Arts. The construction began during the past school year with funds provided by referendum.

Both new vice principals have previous experience at the district level. Mark Cantagallo will be in charge of guidance, moving from a position where he was district manager of operations and inaugurated the construction projects. Previous to serving at the district level, Mark taught at the high school in the history department. He received a masters degree in educational leadership from Kean University. Cary Fields will move from Program Supervisor of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) to heading the attendance office. She will soon complete a doctorate in education at College of Saint Elizabeth, having received an educational leadership masters from New Jersey City University. Before coming to Rahway, Mrs. Fields was a math teacher and later vice

principal at Abraham Clark High School in Roselle. Cantagallo and Fields join veteran Vice Principal Chey Rivera and Principal John Farinella in looking ahead to a successful year for all students at Rahway High School.

Freshmen Seminar, the new required course for all entering freshmen is designed both to enable students to meet the revised New Jersey graduation requirements mandating financial literacy and to equip them with the skills to make plans and choices to effectively focus their efforts during high school and beyond to determine and realize personal and career goals. Funding for this course included a grant from the Princeton Center for Leadership Training (<http://www.princetonleadership.org/>). Financial literacy is the cornerstone on which the five-credit freshman seminar will be built, including such topics as saving, investing, insurance, credit, debt, and budgeting. The course is designed so that students might learn about how to formulated career and personal goals, what are associated financial constraints and opportunities, and what actions are required on their part during high school to avail themselves to realistically pursue their choices.

All these changes, staffing, course offerings, and construction are part of the framework designed to maximize student achievement in all areas at Rahway High School. The entire administration, Principal Farinella and Vice Principals Rivera, Fields, and Cantagallo look forward to supporting staff and students in pursuit of excellence in the year ahead.

## WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

On Tuesday, September 6th, Roosevelt School in Rahway opened their doors for the 2011-12 school year.

Principal, Rocco Collucci greeted students as they entered the building. He hopes that everyone enjoyed their summer. Re-energized, the educational community at Roosevelt School returns to the professional challenges that they as educators face in partnership with parents and families.



(above) 5th grader Vanesa Esquivel and Principal Mr. Collucci.

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## RAHWAY RENAISSANCE MAN CREATES THE MAGIC OF MEXICO



(above) Carlos "Steve" O'Connor



(above)  
Red Bank  
location  
at 31  
Monmouth  
Street.

(right)  
Original  
location in  
Downtown  
Rahway  
at 1673  
Irving  
Street.



Local legend, Carlos "Steve" O'Connor, swears he's not an artist and yet his famed Café Mexico restaurant is a masterpiece that continues to live on in both Rahway and Red Bank long after he's retired.

As a young man, Steve served 2 years fighting in the Korean War and when he returned Rahway he carved out a very successful career in the furniture industry, but it was his passion for travel that, inadvertently, set him on a very different life path.

"Over the years I did quite a bit of traveling around Europe for both business and pleasure," says Steve, "but found that I was drawn back again and again to the warmth and comradery I found in Central America." His many trips to the local cafes and nightlife in Panama, Belize, Cuba and Costa Rica resulted in his amassing a huge collection of indigenous art, artifacts and just plain tchotchkes.

Then in 1990, ready for a change, he got the idea to open a little cafe of his own just like the ones he had often frequented. He settled on Mexican cuisine which was still somewhat rare in those day and rented a little storefront on Irving Street and set about painting and filling its walls with his many treasures.

"I have a true appreciation for all the arts and what I wanted to create was a colorful collage that reflected my love of classic and contemporary literature, Mexican art and American culture," he says. "Someone once told me that my décor was 'so tacky but also so beautiful.'" He decided he needed a more fitting name, so a new persona was also created when

he dubbed his whimsical little restaurant, Carlos O'Connor's Café Mexico.

A huge hit, patrons spilled out onto the sidewalk eager to be transported to another country and partake of his authentic Mexican cuisine, made up of recipes given to him by a Mexican chef. And Steve, now known as Carlos, added the most important ingredient by greeting and schmoozing with all who came in.

Soon, the tiny space was bursting at the seams, and an offer to move his Café Mexico to Redbank in 1993, when it was on the cusp of becoming the artsy town it is today. This time the space was three times as big and Carlos set about weaving his magic a second time.

Meanwhile, a certain loyal waitress at the original café remained in Rahway and was determined to fill the void so Gina and her late beloved husband, Kerry O'Connor (Carlos' brother), created a sister café, our fabulous Beana's on Saint Georges Avenue.

And both establishments are flourishing to this day! The Redbank Café Mexico is now in the hands of a new owner who carries on it's legacy and Carlos is now finally free to enjoy life and the arts full-time. He keeps a little bachelor pad at the Case Apartments while he goes to haunts the many museums and galleries in Manhattan, camping and kayaking all around the area.

Carlos says, "And usually once a year I treat myself to a month in Nicaragua where I stay in a little hut on the beach and relax with the locals at the very cafes that were my inspiration so long ago!"



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|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Finlandia 750ml                 | \$15 <sup>97</sup> |
| Finlandia 1lt                   | \$17 <sup>97</sup> |
| Finlandia 1.75lt                | \$25 <sup>99</sup> |
| Pinnacle Vodka 1.75lt           | \$18 <sup>97</sup> |
| Sobieski 750ml                  | \$10 <sup>99</sup> |
| Sobieski 1.75lt                 | \$17 <sup>97</sup> |
| Grey Goose (All Types) 750ml    | \$29 <sup>99</sup> |
| Grey Goose (All Types) 1.75lt   | \$49 <sup>99</sup> |
| Absolut 750ml                   | \$18 <sup>97</sup> |
| Absolut 1.75lt                  | \$29 <sup>99</sup> |
| Ketel One 1.75 lt               | \$39 <sup>97</sup> |
| Fris 1.75lt                     | \$18 <sup>97</sup> |
| Svedka (All Types) 1.75 lt      | \$19 <sup>97</sup> |
| Ciroc (All Types) 750ml         | \$29 <sup>97</sup> |
| Ciroc (All Types) 1.75lt        | \$55 <sup>97</sup> |
| Smirnoff 750ml                  | \$10 <sup>98</sup> |
| Smirnoff 1.75lt                 | \$19 <sup>97</sup> |
| Three Olives (All Types) 1lt    | \$22 <sup>99</sup> |
| Three Olives (All Types) 1.75lt | \$25 <sup>99</sup> |
| Tanqueray Sterling 1.75lt       | \$29 <sup>97</sup> |
| Luksusowa 750ml                 | \$14 <sup>97</sup> |
| Luksusowa 1.75lt                | \$19 <sup>99</sup> |
| Majorska 1.75lt                 | \$13 <sup>97</sup> |
| Stolichanaya 1.75lt             | \$29 <sup>99</sup> |

### CORDIALS

|                                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Southern Comfort 750ml          | \$16 <sup>97</sup> |
| Southern Comfort 1.75lt         | \$26 <sup>97</sup> |
| Leroux Blackberry Brandy 750ml  | \$11 <sup>99</sup> |
| Leroux Blackberry Brandy 1.75lt | \$19 <sup>97</sup> |
| Bailey's Irish Creme 750ml      | \$19 <sup>99</sup> |
| Bailey's Irish Creme 1.75lt     | \$38 <sup>97</sup> |
| Patron XO Cafe 750ml            | \$22 <sup>99</sup> |

### WHISKEY

|                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Jack Daniel's Black 750ml   | \$21 <sup>99</sup> |
| Jack Daniel's Black 1.75lt  | \$40 <sup>99</sup> |
| Gentleman Jack 750ml        | \$26 <sup>99</sup> |
| Gentleman Jack 1.75lt       | \$49 <sup>99</sup> |
| Maker's Mark 750ml          | \$24 <sup>99</sup> |
| Maker's Mark 1.75lt         | \$42 <sup>97</sup> |
| Crown Royal 1.75lt          | \$45 <sup>99</sup> |
| Canadian Mist 1.75lt        | \$18 <sup>99</sup> |
| Seagram's 7 1.75lt          | \$18 <sup>97</sup> |
| Jameson 750ml               | \$24 <sup>97</sup> |
| Johnnie Walker Black 750ml  | \$33 <sup>97</sup> |
| Johnnie Walker Black 1.75lt | \$61 <sup>99</sup> |
| Johnnie Walker Red 750ml    | \$18 <sup>99</sup> |
| Johnnie Walker Red 1.75lt   | \$29 <sup>97</sup> |
| Dewar's White Label 750ml   | \$19 <sup>99</sup> |
| Dewar's White Label 1.75lt  | \$31 <sup>97</sup> |
| Dewar's 12 Year 750ml       | \$29 <sup>99</sup> |
| Dewar's 12 Year 1.75lt      | \$58 <sup>99</sup> |
| Grant's 750ml               | \$11 <sup>97</sup> |
| Grant's 1.75lt              | \$23 <sup>99</sup> |
| Ballantine Finest 750ml     | \$14 <sup>97</sup> |
| Ballantine Finest 1.75lt    | \$28 <sup>97</sup> |
| Chivas Regal 12 Year 750ml  | \$29 <sup>98</sup> |
| Chivas Regal 12 Year 1.75lt | \$49 <sup>99</sup> |
| Canadian Club 1.75lt        | \$19 <sup>99</sup> |

### TEQUILA

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Patron Silver 750ml  | \$37 <sup>97</sup> |
| El Jimador Reposado 100% Agave Tequila<br>(#1 Selling Tequila in Mexico) 750ml | \$19 <sup>97</sup> |
| El Jimador Reposado 1.75lt   | \$29 <sup>99</sup> |
| Jose Cuervo 1lt  | \$22 <sup>99</sup> |
| Jose Cuervo 1.75lt   | \$34 <sup>99</sup> |

### GIN

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Tanqueray 1.75lt       | \$36 <sup>97</sup> |
| Bombay Sapphire 1.75lt | \$38 <sup>97</sup> |
| Seagram's 1.75lt       | \$17 <sup>99</sup> |

### RUM

|                                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Bacardi Lt, Gold, Select 1.75lt | \$19 <sup>97</sup> |
| Captain Morgan 1.75lt           | \$25 <sup>99</sup> |
| Malibu 750ml                    | \$18 <sup>97</sup> |
| Malibu 1.75lt                   | \$24 <sup>99</sup> |

### BEER

"Come check our large 23 door cooler  
full of cold craft beers and large variety  
and as always

COLD AND WARM SAME PRICE!"

|                                       |                    |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sam Adams Lager 24pk                  | \$25 <sup>99</sup> |
| Stella Artois 24pk                    | \$24 <sup>97</sup> |
| Guinness Extra Stout 24pk             | \$28 <sup>99</sup> |
| Beck's (12oz) 24pk                    | \$23 <sup>99</sup> |
| Heineken and Amstel Lt 24pk           | \$24 <sup>99</sup> |
| Tatra (500ml) 20pk                    | \$18 <sup>99</sup> |
| Zyweic (11.2oz) 24pk                  | \$19 <sup>97</sup> |
| Corona 24pk                           | \$24 <sup>99</sup> |
| Yuengling Lager (Loose Bottles) 24pk  | \$15 <sup>89</sup> |
| Mich Ultra (Loose)                    | \$15 <sup>89</sup> |
| Coors Lt & Bud Family (Loose Bottles) | \$15 <sup>97</sup> |
| Budwesier Family (Cans) 24pk          | \$14 <sup>95</sup> |
| Coors Lite (Cans) 30pk                | \$19 <sup>99</sup> |
| Miller Lite (Cans) 30pk               | \$18 <sup>99</sup> |
| Tecate 24pk (Cans)                    | \$15 <sup>99</sup> |
| Sargres 24pk (Bottles)                | \$16 <sup>99</sup> |

We also have a large selection  
of craft beers, European beers  
and kegs on sale!

**10% Off**  
ANY PURCHASE OF 6 BOTTLES OF WINE  
**OR**  
**15% Off**  
ANY PURCHASE OF 12 BOTTLES OF WINE  
MIN. \$40 OFFER ONLY. THIS SALES PROMOTION BEGINS 09/15/11. TO APPLY, PRESENT COUPON. ALLOWANCE NOT TO BE COMBINED WITH OTHER OFFERS. PROGRAM COUPON

**BUD OR BUD LITE**  
**24 PACK CANS** **\$13<sup>85</sup>**  
MUST PRESENT COUPON & CASH ONLY.  
VALID TO 09/15/11 ONLY.

**RUFFINO**  
**CHIANTI**  
**\$13<sup>20</sup>**  
1.5L  
MUST PRESENT COUPON  
TASTING NOTES:  
An elegant Pinot Chianti features  
a beautiful, vibrant bouquet,  
filled with stone and spicy notes  
and offering a crisp acidity  
that allows it to pair perfectly with  
game. It is a classic Italian wine  
in its quality, style, and price.

**SMOKING**  
**LOON**  
**(All Types)**  
**\$8<sup>02</sup>**  
750ml  
MUST PRESENT COUPON  
TASTING NOTES:  
Order smoking Loon and  
visit to Loon's website to see  
the video. When the Loon is  
smoking, it has a beautiful  
color, and it is a Loon.

**SANTA MARGARITA**  
**PINOT**  
**GRIGIO** **\$19<sup>10</sup>**  
750ml  
MUST PRESENT COUPON & CASH ONLY.  
VALID TO 09/15/11 ONLY.

**10% OFF**  
**TWO BOTTLES OR SIX**  
**PACKS OF MICRO BEERS,**  
**LIMITED TO CERTAIN SELECTION**  
MUST PRESENT COUPON