

OUR TOWN

RAHWAY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

FREE

The Voice of the Rahway Chamber of Commerce.

Issue 52 • November 2014

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING

Thursday

NOVEMBER 20TH, 2014

8:30 am – 9:30 am

MASONIC LODGE

1550 Irving Street

RAHWAY FARMERS MARKET THURSDAYS UNTIL NOV. 13

Noon til 7 pm

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EVERYONE HAS THE POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

On Tuesday, October 7, 2014, 23 students from Rahway High School's Holocaust and African American Literature classes, accompanied by their teachers, Ms. Maller and Ms. Sharrock-Shaw, travelled to The College of Saint Elizabeth to attend a program called, "Rescuers During the Holocaust: One Person Can Make a Difference."

The guest speaker, Jeannie Opdyke Smith, shared the story of her mother, Irene Gut Opdyke, a courageous, young Polish Catholic girl, who saved 13 Jews during the Holocaust by hiding them in the basement of a Nazi commandant's house. They also viewed the film The Courage to Care and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's video Why Remember the Holocaust? The students then discussed how they can follow in Irene's footsteps of being a bystander rather than an onlooker. Senior Alexandra Concepcion, said about her experience, "Hearing Irene's story was truly inspiring. Her courage proved that anyone can stand up for what's right." RoseMarie Blake, also a senior, commented, "I am grateful to be able to hear Irene's story. It was a life-changing experience." A timely lesson during National Bullying Prevention month.



(above) Majid Abdur, RoseMarie Blake, Anna Marie Belfon, Si'Mir Boss, Kelvin Caraballo, Esther Collin, Ally Concepcion, Naja Featherstone, Darien Fowler, Michael Harris, Amlra Hill, Naa'rah Huey, Rodrigue Joseph, Naomi Lopez, Ana Monterroza, Natalia Moreira, Asyra McCoggle, Aidah Muhammad, Jenilee Perez, Destiny Price, Kameron Robinson, Dana Scott and Samantha Vinajero.

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RAHWAY BOY SCOUT TROOP 40 RIDE THE THE PIRATES OF RAHWAY SHIP

The Pirates of Rahway ship, along with Boy Scout Troop 40, marched in the 69th Annual Linden Halloween Parade held on October 26th. The Troop meets at St. Mary's on Monday nights.



(above) Assistant Scout Leader Rags



PUMPKIN CHARACTER BOOK REPORTS

Mrs. Rosemary Curcio's first graders at Roosevelt School in Rahway just completed a really fun project. After reading a book, students created a character from the story with a pumpkin.



(above, l-r) Jamyra Cuevas with her princess pumpkin and William Levy with Pete the Cat.

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Our Town is published by Renna Media in coordination with the Rahway Chamber of Commerce.

Five thousand papers are printed monthly, 4,000 are mailed to businesses and homes in Rahway and 1,000 are distributed free at the Rahway Public Library and other 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.

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OUR TOWN *Rahway* • Page 2 • November 2014

TREE LIGHTING FRIDAY, NOV 28TH 2014 AT 7 P.M. CITY HALL

featuring the
Rahway High School Band and Chorus.
Santa arrives by fire truck to light the tree.
Take your own photos with Santa
immediately afterward.

FLEA MARKET SATURDAY, NOV 15TH

Time: 9 am to 3 pm
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Christmas items, Furniture, Jewelry,
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The Rahway Chamber of Commerce
Announces Our Fourth Annual

RAHWAY DAY!

May 2, 2015 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
At the Rahway Public Library

For sponsorship information
call Carmen at 732-259-6361
or email

rahwayday@rahwaychamberofcommerce.com



ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL, ELIZABETH, NJ ANNUAL ALUMNI GET TOGETHER

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2014 7 pm - 11 pm

Westfield Knights of Columbus
2400 North Avenue, Scotch Plains
Wine, Beer, Soda, Hors d'oeuvres, Coffee, Tea, Dessert
\$25 by 11/10 - \$30 at door.
Contact Joanne Shigo at 908-352-4350

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download for free, and forward to
friends and family.

Photo albums of current and past
Community Events are available
to view, download and share.

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The next issue will be distributed
the week of December 8th. Ad
placement deadline is Nov. 19th.

Call Tina today to reserve
your space 908-418-5586.

FOOD FOR FRIENDS IS SEEKING DONATIONS FOR THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS

We are in need of Nonperishable Foods:
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Coats: For children and teens.

(New or gently used)

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Donations may be dropped off to our location
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Thanksgiving Day Dinner will be held at First
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7 THINGS YOU MUST KNOW BEFORE PUTTING YOUR HOME UP FOR SALE

Rahway NJ - A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market.

The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and - worse - financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar".

To order a FREE Special Report, visit www.njhomesellermistakes.com or to hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-888-243-5861 and enter 1000. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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NJPAC PROMOTES PETER H. HANSEN TO SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT

Rahway resident Peter H. Hansen, CFRE was promoted effective immediately to be the organization's Senior Vice President of Development.

Hansen, who first started with NJPAC in 1992, had rejoined NJPAC as Vice President of Development in 2007 and successfully completed a \$180 million capital campaign in 2009 which in part helped establish a \$70 million endowment for NJPAC, making it one of the largest endowments for a performing arts center in the United States. Since 2009, Hansen has effectively managed an annual fundraising campaign which raises in excess of \$10 million. He has also created innovative programs such as NJPAC's Business Partners Roundtable, a corporate breakfast forum, which has brought business leaders including Arianna Huffington, Mort Zuckerman, Ken Frazier (Chairman & CEO of Merck), and Bill Demchak (Chairman & CEO of PNC Financial Services) to NJPAC to address the State's top corporate executives.

From 1992 to 2002, he served in a variety of senior fundraising positions at the Arts Center, including Vice President of Development, and was a critical member of the team that raised \$187 million to build NJPAC which opened in 1997. In between his time at NJPAC, he was Director of External Affairs for the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City and Assistant Vice President of Development at

Bowdon College in Maine.

Hansen's promotion is part of NJPAC's significant expansion of its fundraising program to support an ambitious new five-year strategic plan. Two new positions, Vice President of Development and Senior Director of Individual Giving, will be added to the Development Department, to provide resources to help fund new strategic priorities. The national search for the new positions is managed by Lois Lindauer Searches of Boston.

"Peter has a long track record of impressive accomplishments at NJPAC," said Schreiber. "He is also considered a national leader in performing arts fundraising. His new role and the additional investment in fundraising will ensure that we have the capacity to achieve our new strategic plan which will set a bold trajectory for NJPAC. Peter has a deep dedication to the Arts Center and is without question the best choice to lead our expanded fundraising program."

Prior to his first engagement with NJPAC in 1992, Hansen served in senior fundraising roles for the Dance Theatre of Harlem and the US Committee (now Fund) for UNICEF.

He is President-elect of the New Jersey Chapter for the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP). In 2010, he received the Robert J. Symthe Award as Outstanding Professional Fundraiser from the Chapter.

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Rahway Police, Fire, and EMS were on hand to answer questions, open lines of communication, and get to know City residents in an informal, open

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Photos by Rahway Police Department.



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HOME INVADERS: LADY BEETLES & BROWN STINK BUGS



(above) Young lady bugs do not look like the adults but they are just as helpful in the garden as their parents.

All of us have childhood memories of catching ladybugs, letting them crawl up our arms and then releasing them; often with the flick of a finger to watch them fly away.

During the autumn, lady beetles crawl to overwintering sites where a few to several hundred will gather in an 'aggregation' (gathering together into a dense mass). The aggregation site might be located at the base of a tree, along a fence, or under a rock. Beetles are usually found under leaves which protect them from cold winter temperatures.

Sometimes lady beetles become a nuisance by their presence when congregating in and around homes. Some congregate in large numbers on the sunny side of the house. Occasionally they invade homes in huge numbers. Since lady beetles are beneficial, insecticide treatments are not suggested. Physically remove lady beetles by using a clean vacuum bag and then release them out doors at the base of a tree or shrub. Caulk and seal spaces and gaps around your house to prevent them from coming inside again.

Ladybugs are considered beneficial because they eat large numbers of insects which do damage to plants, flowers and food crops. Among these pests are aphids, soft scales, mealy



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

bugs and spider mites. Ladybugs do not harm humans or our pets in any way. Most people consider them pretty little creatures.

Another home invading insect new in our region are 'Brown Stink bugs'. Native to Asia this shield shaped bug has quickly swept throughout the area since it was first found here in 2005. These insects damage fruit crops and trees. Because of this problem, Rutgers recommends that we do not release it back outdoors. Pick it up gently with a tissue and flush it down the toilet. DO NOT CRUSH STINK BUGS. Scent glands are responsible for a pungent odor that characterizes these insects and give it its name.

For more information on Stink bugs read 'Rutgers Cooperative Extension' fact sheets, FS002 Brown Marmorated Stink Bug- A Non-native Insect in New Jersey.

Happy Gardening,
James



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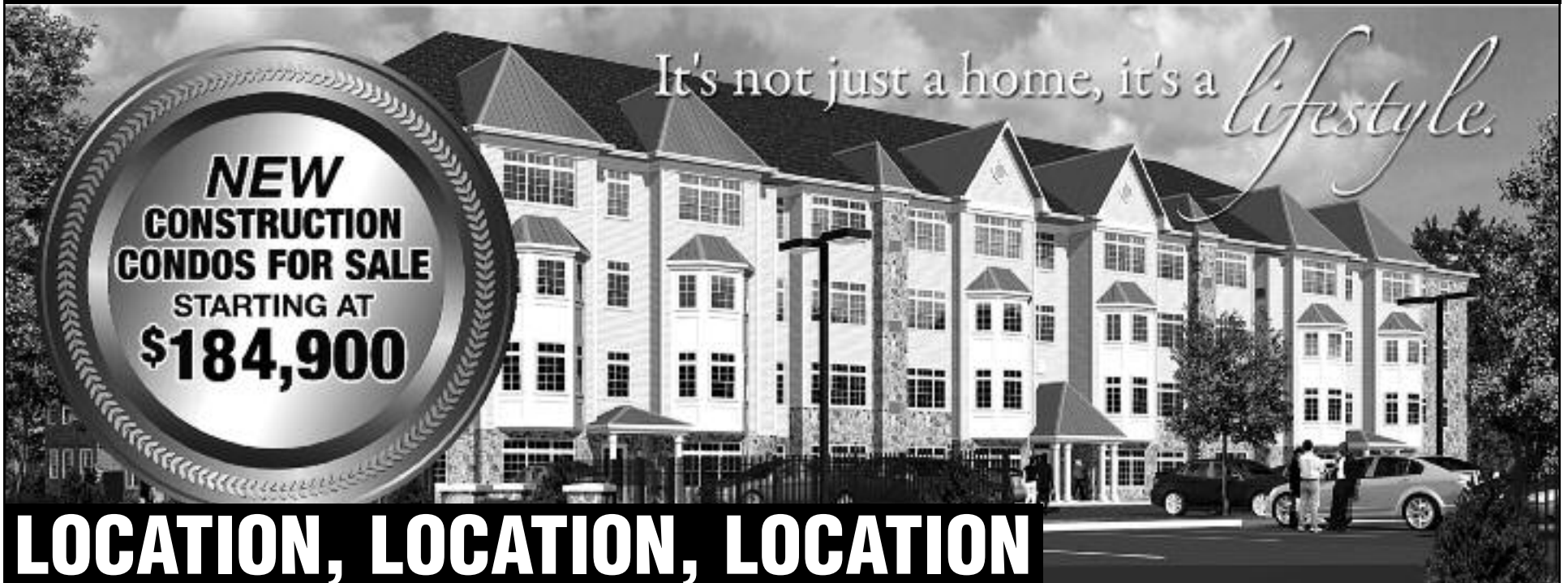
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AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS INVITED TO PROGRAMS FRIDAY EVENINGS

Amateur Astronomers, Inc. (AAI), with its home on the Cranford campus of Union County College since 1967, is one of the largest astronomy clubs in the U.S. The William Miller Sperry Observatory, located on the campus, holds two of the largest telescopes available to the public in the Northeast. The East Dome of the observatory holds a 10-inch f/15 refractor built by AAI members and donated to the college in 1972. The West Dome holds a 24-inch f/11 Cassegrain reflector purchased and owned by AAI and installed in 1974. AAI hosts a Qualified Observers course for members only where they learn to operate the 24-inch and 10-inch telescopes. Members can also learn astrophotography and telescope making. For information contact membership@asterism.org.

Open free to the public every Friday evening from 7:30 to 10:30 in all weather (although the domes will be closed on cloudy nights), AAI hosts a public Astronomy talk at 8:30 pm. Earlier programs for younger audiences, such as scout groups and school children, must be scheduled in advance by emailing

info@asterism.org. These programs are tailored to the particular group and consist of such topics as the Constellations, the Solar System, and how to use binoculars and star wheels. The public is invited to look through the huge 10-inch and 24-inch dome telescopes and AAI members' telescopes set up outside the observatory. Admission is always free and there is plenty of free parking! In addition, AAI holds Star Parties at Trailside Nature & Science Center, in Mountainside, and at Sandy Hook State Park.

From September through May, on the third Friday of the month, AAI holds its monthly membership meeting in the Nomenhegan building on the UCC campus. Each month a professional guest speaker from prominent universities such as Columbia, Rutgers, and Princeton as well as NASA, give a presentation relating to Astronomy. These meetings are also free and open to the public.

Please be advised that Sperry is an Observatory and not a planetarium. The temperature inside the domes is the same as outside, and viewing of the night sky is done in

cramped quarters in almost total darkness. Such conditions may not be suitable for very young children.

Please visit our website at www.asterism.org for more information or contact AAI at the following address: Amateur Astronomers, Inc.; PO Box 111; Garwood, NJ 07027-0111.

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THE GREAT POST OFFICE ROBBERY OF 1938

OUR TOWN *Rahway* • Page 11 • November 2014

Submitted by Al Shipley, City Historian and Rahway Library Research Consultant

Before our Milton Avenue Post Office was opened in the late 1960s, postal patrons did business at the building on Esterbrook Avenue which now serves as our Senior Citizen Center. Dedicated in March 1937, it was one of the finest, most modern facilities of its type. In its first year, it would do over \$133,250 in sales of stamps, permits and box rentals. This large amount of business was due to the many manufacturing plants in the city, and because the Rahway branch served an extensive outlying area with its rural routes. With so much cash and postage on hand, it became an attractive target for Depression-era bandits, and before its first anniversary, the post office would be the scene of a major robbery.

In the early morning hours of Friday, January 21, 1938, burglars forced their way through a rear door of the building and made off with \$47,322 in cash and stamps. By the time the morning custodian notified the police at 6:30 a.m., the perpetrators were long gone. Police found that the massive vault had been entered with the use of an acetylene torch which was able to burn off forty interior locks.

As the police continued to survey the crime scene they found footprints in the snow-covered ground and surmised that two men committed the heist with perhaps a third waiting in a get-away car. Later in the day a more valuable clue was discovered. Three fingerprints were found on the door of the vault. It was clear to police that this must have been the work of professionals since they used sophisticated methods and materials. Also, similar robberies

had recently been committed in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Kentucky. Some detectives believed that a local “fingerman” must have furnished important information regarding the layout of the building, the hours of the custodian, and the customary movements of police officers on night duty. To check if this was indeed an “inside job,” all postal workers were fingerprinted but no match was found.

A number of leads surfaced over the next several months, but none proved helpful in solving the crime. Then, on September 30, 1938, the Rahway Police were notified that a suspect had been arrested in New York. Seventy-two-year-old Thomas Donovan, who had a criminal record dating back fifty-three years, came under suspicion when his fingerprints matched those taken from the scene of the Rahway heist.

Donovan was brought to trial in Trenton on January 12, 1939. The trial was unique in the annals of United States court cases as it was the first time the government went to trial with fingerprints as its only evidence. George Stewart, court clerk for the Rahway Police Department, was given much credit and praise for his expertise in lifting the prints.

The proceedings hit a roadblock when Donovan’s lawyer asked for a mistrial. He claimed that newspaper accounts of the case included Donovan’s previous police record which dated back to 1885, thus prejudicing jurors who might have read the stories. A mistrial was granted with no date set for a new trial.



(above) The Rahway Post Office as it looked shortly after opening in March 1937. The building served area postal customers until the late 1960s when a new facility was built on the corner of Main and Milton. Today, the former Esterbrook Avenue post office is a center for senior citizen activities.

Donovan’s conviction in the Rahway robbery was put on hold, however, he did not escape the long arm of the law. In March he was sentenced to ten years in a federal penitentiary after being convicted for a post office robbery in Woolrich, Pennsylvania. Two robbers, who had been apprehended in that case, testified to authorities that they had hired Donovan to blow the safe. Confronted with the evidence, Donovan pleaded guilty.

Donovan’s story does not end there. On January 31, 1940, he pleaded guilty to robbing the Rahway Post Office and was sentenced to five years at a federal penitentiary. Although police were convinced he had not acted alone in the Rahway robbery, he did not implicate anyone else in the crime.



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For more information or to make a donation to RWJ Rahway Foundation, please call the Foundation Office, 732-499-6135 or e-mail foundation@rwjuhr.com.

(right, l-r) Marlene H. Lubinger, Foundation President; Mary Phillips, Community Relations Coordinator; Phillips 66 – Bayway Refinery; Anne Marie Shears, Vice President Patient Services & CNO, RWJ Rahway and Nancy Sadlon, Public Affairs Manager, Phillips 66 – Bayway Refinery.



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DAPHNE LEE IS ONE OF RAHWAY'S OWN

Daphne Lee attached the September Rahway Chamber of Commerce meeting and spoke about the “Rahway's Own” marketing campaign. It is a yearlong initiative to help recognize the talent that had been raised in Rahway. From inventors, to sports, and the performing arts. The marketing initiative features a series of large-scale posters and video interviews highlighting the achievements of Rahway residents, both historical and current, from astrophysicist Carl Sagan to former San Diego Chargers defensive lineman Antonio Garay.

Daphne Lee is former dancer with Ailey II American Dance Theater in New York City. Daphne currently dances with Lustig Dance Theatre in New Brunswick, NJ. She began her dance training at the Rahway Dance Theatre under the direction of her mom, Ms. Jay Skeete-Lee.

(right, l-r) Daphne Lee-Rahway High School Class of 2009, stands next to her poster located throughout the New Jersey Transit Rahway Platform as one of the faces for Rahway's Own.



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Submitted by Friends of Rahway Library - Marilyn Scalia

This month, the Friends have good news and unfortunate news to share. Our good news reflects the changes ongoing in many community libraries in terms of the roles they play and the activities they present. Libraries are very much more than just books these days, and the Friends are proud to help support expanding these boundaries.

In the first of what we hope to be a continuing series of concerts, Nick Cutroneo, a young, up-and-coming classical guitarist, will be performing at the Rahway Public Library on Saturday, Nov. 8, at 2 p.m. The free concert will feature selections from the standard repertoire of classical works as well as recent and newly commissioned music. Mr. Cutroneo, a highly sought-after musician, has performed extensively throughout the United States and Italy. We encourage you to join us to enjoy the music and the complimentary refreshments.

We also are happy to report the success of our Progressive Dinner last month. This event is another boundary-pushing effort we have done in recent years; we're happy to say it was, again,

well attended, with diners enjoying fine food as well as a pleasant evening's walk to the different venues. A special thanks goes to RSI Bank, the Northfield Bank, and Mr B Printing for their generous support of this event.

On a more sobering note, we learned from the Friends of the Edison Public Library, in a Facebook posting titled "End of a Chapter," that the remaining board members of the group had decided "to step back from our activities," noting that while they hadn't "lost the passion for our cause," their energy to pull off their customary activities was flagging.

Now, this was a very determined and active group, which ran at least 4 book sales per year. The Edison Friends also pulled off a very complex but highly successful annual spelling bee fundraiser. They were fortunate to serve in a town with a vibrant library system, with multiple branches throughout the township and a large population of library patrons.

So why would things come to this sad state for the Edison Friends? According the group's president, Graham Gudgin, the reason is one faced by many volunteer organizations today: "There are fewer people willing or able to make long-term commitments to organizations such as ours," Gudgin wrote. "Finding volunteers for a one-off event is not too big a challenge, but the number of people with the availability and energy to run the organization and plan events, etc., is what has declined."

This issue is faced, also, by the Rahway Friends. We have a core group of members, and have been fortunate to add new members who take active roles in ongoing activities. But there is always room for more volunteers, and it would be wonderful to have more of you take part regularly. As the saying goes, "many hands make light work."

We encourage you to attend our next meeting on Thursday, Dec 11.

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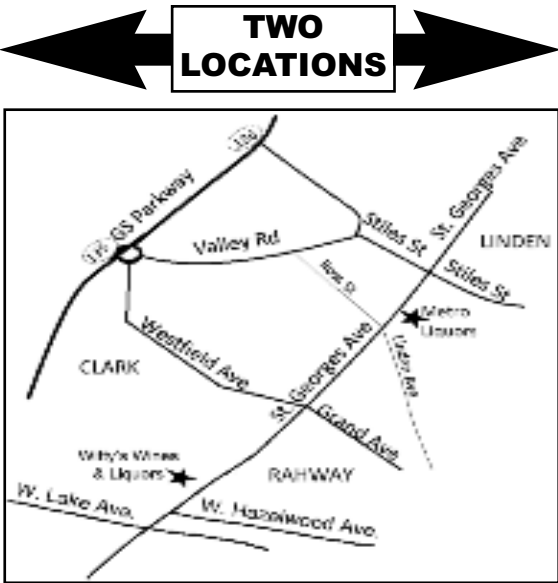
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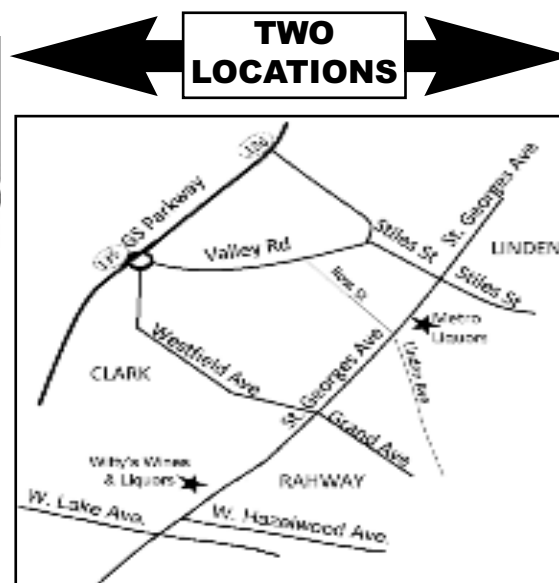
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Alamos Malbec	750ml	\$ 7.99
Alta Luna Pinot Grigio	750ml	\$ 9.99
Andre (All Types)	750ml	\$ 5.99
Apothic Red	750ml	\$ 9.09
Arbor Mist Deserts	750ml	\$ 4.99
Avalon (Cabernet Sauvignon)	750ml	\$ 9.99
Barefoot All Types	1.5L	\$10.29
Bartenura Moscato	750ml	\$10.99
Beringer White Zinfandel	750ml	\$ 4.99
Beringer White Zinfandel	1.5L	\$ 8.69
Black Box (All Types)	3L	\$21.99
Blackstone (All Types except Chardonnay)	750ml	\$ 7.99
Blackstone (All Types)	1.5L	\$14.99
Bogle (Chardonnay and Merlot)	750ml	\$ 6.99
Bolla	1.5L	\$12.99
Cakebread Napa Valley (Cabernet Sauvignon)	750ml	\$59.99
Carlo Rossi (Chablis, Burgundy, Sangria, Blush)	4L	\$13.99
Casal Garcia Vinho Verde	750ml	\$ 5.99
Cavit (All Types)	1.5L	\$13.99
Caymus Napa Valley (Cabernet Sauvignon)	750ml	\$65.99
Chateau ste Michelle Columbia Valley Cabernet and Merlot	750ml	\$13.99
Chateau Ste. Michelle Columbia Valley Chardonnay	750ml	\$ 9.99
Chateau Ste. Michelle Columbia Valley Riesling	750ml	\$ 8.99
Clos du Bois Chardonnay	1.5 L	\$18.99
Clos du Bois Cabernet, Merlot	750m	\$13.99
Cockburns Ruby and Tawny Porto	750ml	\$10.99
Concha Y Toro Frontera	1.5L	\$ 8.99
Coppola Diamond Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot	750ml	\$13.99
Coppola Diamond Chardonnay	750ml	\$11.99
Corbett Canyon (All Types)	1.5L	\$ 7.99
Cupcake (All types, except Prosecco and Moscato)	750ml	\$ 8.99
Don Perignon	750ml	\$144.99
Dreaming Tree (All Types)	750ml	\$13.99
Eco Domani (Pinot Grigio)	750ml	\$ 8.99
Fish Eye (All Types)	1.5L	\$ 9.99
Flip Flop (All Types)	1.5L	\$ 9.99
Franzia (Crisp White, Blush, Sangria, Chilable red)	5L	\$12.99
Freixenet	750ml	\$ 9.99
Gato Negro (All Types)	1.5L	\$ 8.99
Gazela Vinho Verde	750ml	\$ 4.99
Ghost Pines (Merlot and Red Blend)	750ml	\$14.99
J. Lohr Cabernet and Merlot	750ml	\$13.99
Kendall Jackson Vintners Chardonnay	750ml	\$11.09
Kim Crawford (Sauvignon Blanc)	750ml	\$13.99
Korbel (All Types except Natural and Organic)	750ml	\$11.99
La Marca (Prosecco)	750ml	\$11.99
La Crema Sonoma Pinot Noir	750ml	\$16.99
Liberty Creek (All Types)	1.5L	\$ 7.99

Lindemans (All Types)	1.5L	\$ 8.99
Louis Jadot Beaujolais	750ml	\$ 9.99
Louis Jadot Beaujolais Villages	750ml	\$10.99
Louis Jadot Pouilly Fuisse	750ml	\$19.99
Luna di Luna (All Types)	1.5L	\$13.99
Mark West Pinot Noir	750ml	\$ 9.39
Mark West Pinot Noir	1.5L	\$18.99
Martini & Rossi Asti	750ml	\$11.99
Menage a Trois Red	750ml	\$ 8.99
Mezzacorona Pinot Grigio	1.5L	\$11.99
Mi Amore Red	750ml	\$ 8.99
Moet Imperial Champagne	750ml	\$38.99
Noble Wine 337, 667	750ml	\$10.99
Papi (All Types)	1.5L	\$10.99
Ravenswood (All Types)	750ml	\$ 8.99
Real Sangria	1.5L	\$11.99
Rex Goliath (All Types)	1.5L	\$ 9.29
Robert Mondavi Private Select	750ml	\$ 8.99
Robert Mondavi Private Select	1.5L	\$18.99
Rodney Strong Sonoma Cabernet & Merlot	750ml	\$15.99
Rodney Strong Sonoma Chardonnay	750ml	\$11.99
Rombauer Chardonnay	750ml	\$27.99
Ruffino Chianti	750ml	\$ 8.99
Ruffino Chianti	1.5 L	\$13.99
Ruffino Pinot Grigio	1.5L	\$10.99
Ruffino Chianti Gold	750ml	\$29.99
Ruffino Tan label	750ml	\$19.99
Santa Margerita Pinot Grigio	750ml	\$20.29
Senor Sangria (All Types)	1.5L	\$10.99
Silver Oak Alexander Valley Cabernet	750ml	\$59.99
Simi Chardonnay	750ml	\$12.09
Sonoma Cutrer Chardonnay	750ml	\$20.99
Sutter Home (All Types)	1.5L	\$ 8.99
Woodbridge (All Types)	1.5L	\$10.99
Yago Sangria	3L	\$14.99
Yellow Tail (All Types)	1.5L	\$11.29
Zonin Pinot Grigio	1.5L	\$12.99



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