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LEGACY TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE OF DR. P. ROY VAGELOS

Submitted by Rob Kinch

From 2001 to 2012, Rahway High School's Main Office wing was regarded each year with pride by teachers, students, staff, and administrators as its walls continually filled with the photos of those students carrying the distinction of being named Vagelos Scholars. This year, a formal portrait of Dr. P. Roy Vagelos and his wife Diana will take its rightful place of honor in the "Vagelos Hall of Fame" among the many students whom Mr. Ibrahima A. Sharif, retired Merck employee and catalyst for introducing this initiative to Merck and Company, refers to as "some of the best and brightest students at Rahway High School."

Former Superintendent of Rahway Public School District Mr. Edward Yergalonis affirms, "A defining moment occurred in 2001 when Dr. P. Roy Vagelos, an alumnus of RHS and former CEO of Merck and Co., became actively involved in changing student expectations and created a scholarship to help facilitate Rahway High School students to attend the top 25 universities in the nation. Simultaneously, the Merck Institute of Science Education (MISE) partnered with the Rahway Public Schools helping us change the way Science was taught by helping us develop teacher leaders throughout the district."

The litany of top universities attended by former Vagelos Scholars include Harvard, Notre Dame, Princeton, Brown, Columbia, and Georgetown. Scholars from the classes of 2003, 2004, and 2005 include, respectively, Dr. Sophia Kahn and Dr. Leonard Edokpolo, Dr. Sayuri Jinadas, along with Dr. Rosa Mendoza and Dr. Rebecca Rothstein. As Dr. Vagelos cites, "My career was capped when I became Chairman and CEO of Merck." Although he quickly adds, "But my involvement at Rahway High School gave me and my family a special joy since we watched the products of the program start to make special contributions to society."

In 2016, Dr. Vagelos and his wife Diana were the benefactors of a \$1.75 million gift that would allow 15 Rahway students per year to participate in the 'Rutgers Future Scholars' program, which initially served the four host communities of New Brunswick, Newark, Camden, and Piscataway. Funded primarily through private and corporate contributions, the 'Future Scholars' program provides students, beginning in the seventh grade and through high school, with mentoring, tutoring, and college prep courses, including summer sessions that are a required part of the program. In turn, should a student apply and be accepted to the university, Rutgers will cover the cost of his or her tuition. This year Rahway District has over 60 Rutgers Future Scholars in grades 8-12 and is in the process of selecting the 15 7th graders. For some Rahway students, this program can make the critical difference between advancing an academic career or suffering a lost opportunity for financial reasons. At the time of his and his wife's gift, Dr. Vagelos commented, "I had wonderful teachers at Rahway High School who helped me to reach the top by working harder. I believe this program will challenge RHS students to go for it – entry into a great university. I like being challenged and they will too."

Dr. Cary Fields, now in her first year as Rahway High School's new

Towne



(above) Portrait of Dr. Vagelos and wife Diana now hangs in the "Vagelos Hall of Fame"

Photo by Joseph Mudrak, Rahway Public Schools

Principal, is pleased to have it marked with this most kind gift. "We are proud to honor Dr. and Mrs. Vagelos by adding their portrait to our hallway. They have done so much for our students, dedicating a hallway in their honor is the least we can do to memorialize their contributions. I hope our students are inspired as they walk through the Vagelos Wing." Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Camp is also appreciative for the broader positive effects of the Vagelos family's benefaction. "The amazingly generous gift from Dr. P. Roy and Diana Vagelos has not only helped our 60+ RFS Rahway students, it has also sparked motivation in other RHS students to aim higher in their collegiate expectations. Too many of our children feel they either do not have the academic 'chops' nor the finances for universities the caliber of Rutgers; the Vagelos' have helped to disprove that notion." Dr. Camp quickly adds that she is "very proud" of the collaboration between RHS staff and Rutgers RFS, noting that, "We have teachers that work in the RFS program and bring those supports back to the high school for all of our students."

Ultimately, as all pass through the Vagelos 'Hall of Fame' at Rahway High School, it is clear that, hanging beside a very formal portrait of two caring benefactors, hang the accompanying images of hopes, dreams, and goals pursued and fulfilled.



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For all current and past issues to 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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NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS CAN NOW ACCESS CLEAN ENERGY AND SAVE ON ELECTRIC

Residents within PSE&G's service territory now have the option of locally produced, clean renewable energy through New Jersey's Community Solar Energy Pilot Program. Located right here in Linden, this 4 MW solar farm can produce enough energy annually to power 670 homes.

Both homeowners and renters are eligible to subscribe to this project through Community Solar Platform with no long-term commitment, upfront costs or cancellation fees. This is a completely free program for area residents. Once

subscribed, residents can expect to save up to

10% on their electric utility bills. The average customer saves \$176/year!

Community solar is the answer for those who do not wish to install solar panels on their property or would like the option to take their solar with them to their next home. Renters are also eligible to participate in the program with the same 10% savings. The electricity generated by the solar farm is fed into PSE&G's power grid and then delivered to subscribers in the form of on-bill credits. To see your estimated savings and subscribe, please visit

Linden.RooflessSolar.com. Space is limited, so act fast!

NJ CAREER NETWORK HELPS JOB SEEKERS

Are you a New Jersey resident and looking for **WHAT THIS COMMUNITY IS:** work? Do you want to be part of a community of job seekers and volunteer coaches who want to support and encourage each other along the way? If so, consider joining the NJ Career Network Job Seeker Community today!

What is the NJ Career Network Job Seeker Community? A free online community to help you in your job search and to connect you with other people who are looking for jobs and with our volunteer coaches. This community offers a supportive network so you know where to turn with your questions and concerns. Volunteer experts and your peers will be here to help you navigate your job search and cope with all aspects of searching for work.

Why should you join? The job seeker community will share resources, facilitate conversations, and welcome questions about looking for a job. You will gain access to exclusive community member-only events when you join. We also understand that your job search will not be successful unless you are okay, both physically and mentally. That's why the community will be a place for you to share challenges that get in the way of or discourage your job search.

- A safe space to ask questions and share your concerns.
- A chance to connect with your peers.
- A place to participate in events.
- A place to share and contribute your knowledge and expertise to your fellow community members.
- A place to figure out solutions to problems.
- A network to offer support for your overall well-being.
- An opportunity to help yourself and others looking for employment.

What this community is not: A job board or other impersonal networking. Networking that ignores the rest of your life. A place to just get information without participating.

Please visit nj-career-network-jobseekercommunity.mn.co and join us! One of our coaches or moderators will reach out to answer any questions you may have and to help you get started! We are using the Mighty Networks online platform to host the NJ Career Network Job Seeker Community. When you join the online community, any references to Mighty Networks are in regard to the community's hosting platform service.







Wow! Are we selling Rahway, and for great prices!



513 N. Park Avenue Linden

Hats off to Sergia Floy!
Amazingly dedicated Realtor
Associate for many years with
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ask for Sergiia!!! You will be
glad you did!!!



1322 Maple Terrace Rahway



74 W. Cherry Street Rahway

Adorable colonial, but you are too late!!! Listed by Jill Guzman and successfully placed under contract in a week!!!! Buyers love the easy commute to NYC with the Rahway train steps away!!!!!! Your home may be worth more than you think. Call your neighbor and friend Jill for a free market analysis!!!!



1176 Kline Place Rahway

Wow! This home was listed exclusively by Jill Guzman Broker. Placed under contract by Jill 5 days later . . . Happy Seller and Happy Buyer . . . The closing is right around the corner. Call Jill! She can make this happen for you.

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For more than 30 years, Jill Guzman Realty proudly serves NJ homeowners and buyers with all of their real estate needs. Jill's trilingual fulltime staff prides themselves on their outstanding "Good Old Fashioned Service."

Jill, who lives in Rahway, NJ, had the honor of teaching at Rahway High School in her early career!!! Trusted and loved by clientele for three decades, sellers, investors, first time buyers and renters will find that this Real Estate office is committed to working harder and caring totally for YOU!

- HOMES
- APARTMENTS
- MULTI FAMILY
- BUILDINGS
- LANDS

THREE LOCAL CHORUSES PRESENT FREE ONLINE SHOW

Summer is coming! And what better way to celebrate than with a virtual concert full of songs about sunshine and summer and the hope they bring.

Here Comes the Sun: Three Great Choruses, One Online Show will premiere Sunday, May 23, at 5:00 p.m. on YouTube. It's a first-of-a kind collaboration between three of the area's bestloved choruses. The Maplewood Glee Club is a community chorus that's been delighting local audiences with its harmonies and humor since 1946. The Morris Music Men is Morris County's premiere barbershop harmony chorus. The award-winning Hickory Tree Chorus shares the joy of barbershop through songs from the Beatles to Broadway.

This family-friendly show features a range of uplifting songs including Happy Together, Kokomo, Heat Wave, and Circle of Life, plus music by Beyoncé, Whitney Houston, Chance the Rapper, and more! The show will also feature guest appearances by two dynamic teen ensembles from West Morris Mendham High School

Here's the best news about Here Comes the Sun: it's free! Just register ahead of time at threechoruses.com and you'll receive a free show link 24 hours before the premiere.

The choruses are also spreading sunshine by raising money for Newark Working Kitchens, a

non-profit organization that enables many local Newark restaurants to keep their doors open, their stoves on, and their employees paid during the Covid-19 crisis by cooking and delivering hundreds of meals a day to low-income seniors and families and people without homes. Donations can be made during the show or through the show's website.

To learn more about Here Comes the Sun, visit threechoruses.com or contact Josh Adler at JJadler@ymail.com or 917 697-2893.

To learn more about the three great choruses, check maplewoodgleeclub.com; morrismusicmen.org; and hickorytreechorus.org.











Cynthia Goodman Broker Associate 20 years of experience **Direct 908-400-7925** Office 732-669-9090 Offices in Linden, Rahway, Livingston, Milburn, Holmdel 1516 Irving Street • Rahway, NJ 07065





Don't hesitate to contact me for any of your real estate needs!

My Mother's friend referred me to Cynthia Goodman and I loved her from the first moment I met her. She has guided me with finding tenants for the past several years for my two family home until I decided that I couldn't be a landlord

She is very knowledgeable, knows the market and listens to her clients desires. It is very rare to find a caring professional sell your most valued treasure; but Cynthia makes everything run smoothly as though it is her own home.

During the pandemic, everything was and is so upside down. Many people lost so much and contemplating selling my home was a tough decision to make. Cynthia let me know that everything would be okay and acting promptly; my home sold within four days. We closed in March, 2021. Cynthia is like Allstate Insurance; you know "you're in good hands" with Ms. Goodman. You're the BEST and thank you for all that you have done for me! - KB.

I recently had the opportunity to work with Cynthia Goodman on the marketing and sale of my property. I can clearly state that Cynthia is the best real estate professional I've ever worked with. From the beginning, Cynthia demonstrated confidence and along with her charismatic persona was able to draw, disarm and persuade potential buyers. She took charge from the very start which was particularly exhibited in her communication ability with all parties to the transaction including coordinating issues with city hall, attorneys on both sides as well as handling my tenants through out the entire process. Cynthia made the difficult task of selling a commercial building during a pandemic, look easy. Cynthia is a winner. - P.S.

this whole adventure.I'll certainly recommend your services to anyone I know in NJ looking for a realtor.-L.D

Thanks again Cynthia - you were a trooper throughout

My husband and I are very grateful for all of your assistance in helping us sell our home. We'll definitely recommend you. Thank you - Mr. & Mrs. Johnson

I knew from the moment you answered your office phone and we spoke a few minutes, that you were going to be the agent to list my home. You were very polite, professional and enthusiastic. You were just as pleasant when we met. I also want to thank you for keeping me up to date throughout the entire transaction. I will definitely recommend you to someone who needs a good realtor. – T.C.

Hello Ms. Goodman,

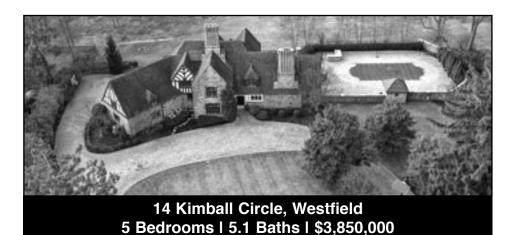
I'm very happy that I decided to use you as my real estate agent. When we met, I explained to you that since I'm an investor, I normally don't use an agent, but my property was a unique style & I needed professional assistance. All of your recommendations were very instrumental in getting my property sold. Thank you -I. T.

Dear Cynthia, I'm very happy that we chose you as our real estate agent. Your knowledge and professionalism was outstanding. - G.R.

Thank you Cynthia for going over and beyond in helping me sell my home. - S. L.

The Isoldi Collection



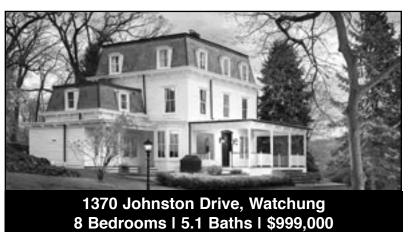


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CAU HELPS YOUTH OUT OF HOMELESSNESS

Submitted by Erin Jerome

The COVID-19 pandemic is straining resources that assist runaway and homeless youth, who are often trying to escape problems at home such as neglect, poverty, abuse or mental health issues.

"It's usually something that triggers them to run and it's our job to try to find out why," said Rolando Zorrilla, Managing Assistant Executive Director of Youth Services at Community Access Unlimited (CAU) in Elizabeth. CAU runs the Union County Youth Shelter, Runaway and Homeless Youth Transitional Shelters, and a Basic Center program. The statewide nonprofit works to integrate people with disabilities and youth at risk into the general community through comprehensive supports.

"Outreach is harder since the pandemic," Zorrilla said. "We used to get referrals through libraries, police departments and schools, but we are getting fewer referrals so our street outreach has picked up to try to reach those that are in need."

Youth living on the streets are at high risk for victimization and assault, mental illness, substance misuse, juvenile justice system involvement, and human trafficking, all of which increases the likelihood of perpetuated homelessness in adult life.

Youth who enter the shelter go through a screening process to determine their needs, including whether reunification with family or



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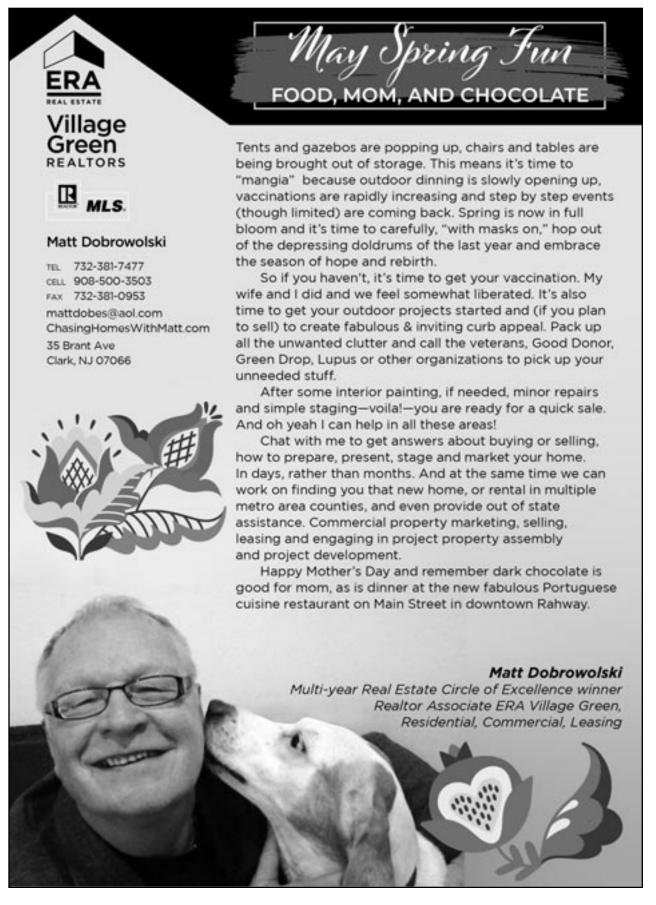


guardians is a goal. They are then connected to caunj.org/support-us/. the right resources, such a medical or mental ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED health care, vocational training, or family counseling.

CAU offers a continuum of services and provides a second chance for young people to build healthy relationships and get started on a path to a self-sufficient adulthood. Youth programs include the Transitional Opportunities Program (TOP) which provides comprehensive residential services to youth ages 13 to 21, as well as the Union County Youth Shelter and federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Basic Center Program and federal Transitional Living Programs.

To learn more about CAU, visit caunj.org or follow the agency on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Learn more about supporting the

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating more than 40 years in 2020, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU provides support and gives voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little support and no voice in society. CAU helps people with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil rights. CAU currently serves more than 4,000 individuals and families, with the number served growing each year. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, online at caunj.org or by mail at agency and become a monthly donor at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.











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MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The New Jersey Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) – a network of community-based, locally organized units comprised of volunteers - is looking for reinforcements, particularly those with vaccination skills. MRC volunteers are especially vital during emergencies and disasters when paid public health and emergency response assets are overwhelmed. Healthcare professionals (including recently retired individuals) having vaccination skills are especially needed now that COVID-19 vaccines are available.

In addition to skilled vaccinators, individuals with all types of skill sets (for example, security, language translation/interpretation, education and outreach, warehouse operations, clerical, counseling, and more) are needed. If you are interested in volunteering with the MRC, visit njlmn.njlincs.net and click on "Register as an Existing or New MRC Volunteer!"

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Are you feeling stressed and alone in trying to provide the link to the meeting. cope with a loved one's mental illness?

NAMI meetings can help!

Join our peer-led group meetings and gain insight from others facing the same challenges.

To register, please email Denise at namiunioncounty@yahoo.com. Kindly include your name, town, and phone number. She will

Questions? Contact Us:

NAMI Union County, PO Box 724

New Providence, NJ 07974,908-233-1628,

Email: namiunioncounty@yahoo.com,

www.naminj.org/affiliates/union, Web: Facebook: facebook.com/NAMI.UnionCounty

LOVE SHOULDN'T HURT

Safe+Sound Somerset

You may have heard about the increase in domestic violence since the start of the pandemic as families are forced to shelter in place. Since then. Safe+Sound Somerset has seen a 40% increase in calls and texts to our 24/7 domestic violence hotline – even as it has become harder for those experiencing domestic abuse to reach out for help. Domestic abuse is a pattern of

controlling, threatening, degrading and violent behaviors by a partner. Abuse takes many forms, including emotional, psychological, physical, sexual and financial.

If someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse or dating violence, we can help.

24/7 Confidential Hotline - Call or text 866-685-1122. For more information visit www.safe-sound.org.



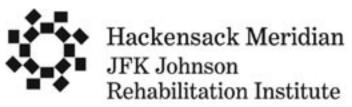


Do you constantly turn up the volume on your tv, have a hard time hearing in crowded places, or ask "what did you say" a little too much?

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(above) Alana Lamberti of Faith repairs a bike for shipment.

DONATE UNWANTED BICYCLES

On Saturday, May 8, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Faith Lutheran Church, 524 South Street in New Providence, will be collecting second-hand bikes for use by adults and children in third world countries.

The collection is being conducted on behalf of Pedals for Progress (P4P), an organization which



(above) Bikes filled the P4P truck to capacity.

On Saturday, May 8, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, annually recycles 6,000 bicycles for persons in developing countries.

Anyone with a bicycle in repairable condition is urged to donate to this worthy cause. Bikes may be dropped off at the parking lot next to the church. Members of Faith will repair and process the bikes for shipment.

Since 2002, Faith Lutheran has been collecting bikes. In 2020, 170 bikes were collected from persons in New Providence, Berkeley Heights, Mountainside, Westfield, Warren, Scotch Plains and Fanwood. This range of towns was aided by articles published in Renna Media town newspapers.

Every year affluent Americans buy 22 million new bicycles and discard millions of old ones, abandoning many more in basements, sheds and garages. Most of these end up in our already overburdened landfills.

P4P ships its reconditioned bikes to persons in need of countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia. The bikes provide reliable transportation to commute to work, transport produce to market, access health care and other services. Steady employment for adults is vital to the development and success of these economies.

Persons who have bikes but are unable to deliver them to Faith on May 8 may call the church office on 908-464-5177 or email family.faith@verizon.net.





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³ / ₄ Goose Egg	\$94
1 ¹ / ₂ -3 Goose Egg	\$98
³ / ₄ Arctic White	
3/8 Riverbed / Pea Gravel	
1 Riverbed	\$70
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-	

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CELEBRATE OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

The Gateway Family YMCA

In honor of Older Americans Month this May, The Gateway Family YMCA and Shaping Eastern Union County will be hosting a series of free virtual community educational HealthEASE Presentations, YMCA Chronic Disease Self-Management programs, wellness opportunities and social events. Individual event listings and information is available registration tgfymca.org/events

"The global coronavirus pandemic has brought unique challenges to our senior population, exacerbating chronic disease, social isolation, mental health and obesity rates based on multiple recent studies. At The Gateway Family YMCA we found a bright spot in the consistency, community and support we have been able to build within our virtual programs and events, especially within this group of community participants," stated Krystal R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA.

Virtual programs will be facilitated by Susan Butler, Director of WISE Adult Day Services and Paul Mickiewicz, Senior Director of Healthy Living at The Gateway Family YMCA.

Virtual Events offered by The Gateway Family YMCA in celebration of Older American's Month this May include:

HealthEASE - Serving Up Good Nutrition May 3, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Learn to identify common nutritional deficiencies in older adults and learn some easy ways to make meals healthier.

HealthEASE – Keep Your Mind Sharp May 10, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Learn about the effects of normal aging on the brain, how to improve brain function and prevent "senior moments".

None Better Than a Boomer Trivia! May 24, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Join The Gateway Family YMCA for a fun and fact-filled virtual trivia game, especially designed for Boomers! Test your knowledge and spend time with friends.

Healthy Eating Presentation Mondays 10:15-11:15 a.m.

Provided as a complementary program to Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring, individuals will learn about health, nutrition and healthy

eating options. **Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring program** Wednesdays 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Participants work with trained YMCA staff to improve their self-monitoring skills with the goal of reducing and managing blood pressure and enhancing knowledge of healthier eating habits.

Diabetes Empowerment Education Program Wednesdays 2:00-3:00 p.m.

This program is designed to help participants gain a better understanding of diabetes selfcare. Curriculum includes preventing complications, increasing physical activity, improving nutrition and utilizing available resources.

Healthy Living Behavior Change

Fridays 10:15-11:15 a.m.

This program is designed to assist members in setting goals and making personal progress to a healthy life.

Free community registration for all individual and sessions is available tgfymca.org/events. In addition to these community events, the YMCA suggests individuals check with their health insurance regarding programs and options that may be available to cover the costs of a Y membership or provide incentives for participation.

"The YMCA is one place where everyone can participate, get healthy and make new friends, even virtually," stated Melynda A. Mileski, EVP/COO, The Gateway Family YMCA. "We have served communities in Eastern Union County and Northern Middlesex County since 1900, and understand the unique needs of those who may need a little extra support in their wellness journey."

The Virtual WISE Adult Services program provides specialized support for individuals, families and caregivers living with dementia, Alzheimer's or mild cognitive impairment. For more information, contact Susan Butler, Director wiseinfo@tgfymca.org or 908-349-9622. The HealthEASE educational series was developed by the NJ Institute for Successful Aging and is sponsored by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services.

The Gateway Family YMCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, health and community service organization of caring staff and volunteers



(above) Older Americans Month is May. Join The Gateway Family YMCA for their series of free virtual programs, wellness opportunities and social events.

dedicated to strengthening the foundations of community and stands For Youth Development, For Healthy Living and For Social Responsibility. The Gateway Family YMCA impacts the community by providing quality services to people of all ages, races, faith or incomes. The Y doesn't just strengthen bodies it strengthens people, families and communities.

Shaping Eastern Union County is committed to improving the health and well-being of county residents and creating strategies to support improved health, nutrition and physical activity for all. The Shaping Eastern Union County Initiative is sponsored by the County of Union.

For more information about programs and services provided by The Gateway Family YMCA, visit tgfymca.org or contact 908-355-9622.

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It Saves – You will start earning monthly credits directly on your PSEG electric bills, providing ongoing energy savings.





(above) Past President of The Rahway Garden Club, James Keane, has been researching and answering garden questions since 1995. Visit 'Keane Gardener' blog at: keanegardener.blogspot.com



(above) A clean birdbath will attract local birds as well as many summer visitors to your summer garden.

Photo by Audra Loccisano



ATTRACTING BIRDS DURING SUMMER

The best reason to attract birds during spring and summer is for our own entertainment. Watching the male and female courting rituals, dancing and feeding each other soon followed by bonding and nesting is educational and entertaining. With luck a pair will nest close by and you can watch the fledglings eagerly follow their parents begging for food. Although many birds leave their parents after a week or ten days, some young stay longer learning the techniques they will need for survival.

Crows are so intelligent they stay with their parents up to two years learning the tricks they have developed for survival. For instance, crows drop nuts from far in the air to crack them open. They also use sticks as tools to dig ants and insects out of their mounds. These are not instinct, they are learned techniques by the crows from generation to generation.

Keeping a small bird feeder with a high protein such as black oil sunflower seed helps the parents teach their young how to utilize bird feeders. This is essential for winter survival for many species.

Bird houses are invaluable to many birds. If you put up a bird house it will most likely have a pair of birds in it quickly. I will focus in detail on the topic of bird houses in a future article. Bird houses make great gifts.

Birds eat so many thousands of insects in the garden they pay back for any investment you make.

BIRD BATHS

You can easily attract many birds during the spring and summer months by supplying a source of clean water. Garden centers offer a wide assortment from the traditional pedestal bird baths to modern 'water features'.

A bird bath doesn't have to be big or expensive.

Even a simple plant saucer filled with clean water will be used by many birds. There are a few things you can do to make your bath more user friendly. Since birds come in many different sizes, a stone placed in the bath creates levels for the birds to enter the water. This will make it more attractive to many birds from smaller wrens and sparrows to the larger colorful bluejays and cardinals.

Protection from cats and hawks is a major concern. Keep your bath about ten feet from shrubs or a fence that can be used for a quick escape. This will give birds time to hide but prevent cats from using the bushes to hide and wait. Cats are born hunters.

Many migrating birds are attracted to the sound of moving water. These water features have the added advantage of a relaxing sound which is enjoyed as much by people as it is by animals. I'm going to be honest; they are harder to clean, but the extra effort is well worth the rewards. Most garden centers and stores put these on sale in the autumn. A good time to buy one.

It is important to keep your bird bath clean and filled with fresh water. This will prevent it from becoming a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Once a week I empty it out and scrub it with baking soda and steel wool. I keep those items together in zip-loc bags so they are always handy.

When selecting your bird bath get one which you know you can easily tend. Otherwise, it will become an annoying chore rather than the enjoyable experience it should be.

Happy Gardening & Keep Keeping Safe,



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UC COLLEGE GRADUATES NOW ATTENDING ELITE FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES

Union County College is proud to announce medicine as a cardiovascular surgeon. that three of the College's spring 2020 graduates are continuing their educations at prestigious colleges and universities. Kamilla Kocsis is attending Dartmouth College, Beianka Tomlinson is attending Princeton University, and Vasiliki "Vas" Vlastaras is attending Georgetown University.

While each of these three graduates had their own journey, there is a common thread: they all wanted to start their college experience at an affordable school that provided a high-quality education and was close to home. Once at Union, to further grow, they sought out engagement and leadership opportunities through involvement with student clubs, American Honors, and the honor society Phi Theta Kappa (PTK).

Kamilla Kocsis, of Rahway, has continued her studies at Dartmouth College with a major in international relations. At Union, Kamilla was an American Honors student with a 4.0 GPA. She served as president of the College's Model United Nations Club, was a Cranford Senator for the Student Government Association (SGA), and served as Co-VP of Scholarship for Phi Kappa Theta, the international honor society for twoyear colleges. In 2020, Kamilla was named a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholar. This prestigious award includes up to \$40,000 per year in financial support to attend a four-year college or university. Kamilla was selected as one of only 50 recipients out of almost 1,500 applicants.

Beianka Tomlinson was accepted as one of only 13 transfer students admitted to Princeton University for the fall 2020 semester. Beianka graduated from Union with a 4.0 GPA and her Associate in Science degree in chemistry. While attending Union, she was an American Honors student, served as SGA President, and was a member of PTK. Beianka also served as a tutor in the College's Academic Learning Center (ALC) which provides free peer-to-peer tutoring to students. At Princeton, Beianka is majoring in chemistry. She hopes to pursue a career in

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Vas Vlastaras, of Union, is now attending Georgetown University. She is majoring in government with a minor in modern Greek. While at Union, Vas was also an American Honors student. She served as SGA Secretary, Vice President for the American Honors Council, Fellowship Committee Leader for PTK, and worked as an ALC tutor. Vas graduated from Union with her Associate in Arts degree in public administration. Vas headed to the right city for her future goals: she hopes to become a lobbyist or campaign staffer.

"Each of these three outstanding students made

their mark at Union before moving on to their dream four-year schools. Their hard work and dedication has paid off. As Kamilla, Beianka, and Vas did, we welcome all students to start their higher education journey at Union: earn an affordable and excellent education and then go on to attend the four-year school of your choice. We look forward to seeing what they do next," Union President Margaret stated McMenamin.

Registration for the fall 2021 semester is open. To apply to the College with our free application, search for classes, and to learn about financial aid and more, visit ucc.edu/fall or call 908-709-7000.



(above) Union graduates Beianka Tomlinson, Kamilla Kocsis, and Vasiliki "Vas" Vlastaras.



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RELIEF FROM CHRONIC KNEE PAIN

FDA Approved Treatment to Avoid Surgery

DON'T BLAME THE ARROW FOR MISSING THE TARGET

Just like tens of millions of other Americans, you were looking for relief from your chronic knee pain. You thought Viscosupplementation injections might be the answer, but the results were disappointing and painful. Don't assume the treatment wasn't right. That could very well be like blaming the arrow for its path to the target when the problem might be the archer. If you didn't get the pain relief you were hoping for, chances are your injection treatment was off target. Unlike blind injections or even ultrasound targeted treatments found elsewhere.

Northeast Spine & Wellness Center uses diagnostic fluoroscopy to make sure the area that needs treated is the exact area where the injection goes. This is the most advanced method of delivering this pain relieving treatment with 95% accuracy to give you the results you're looking for. The use of Fluoroscopy guided injections sets Northeast Spine & Wellness Center apart. The end result is you living pain free from your chronic knee pain. You can avoid the lengthy and painful road of knee replacement surgery. You can avoid the endless trial and error assortment of potentially addictive prescription medications. This treatment, using fluoroscopy guided injections has seen a success rate of above 85% in those suffering from knee pain related to osteoarthritis, and that includes people with bone on bone involvement. You've suffered from chronic knee pain long enough. Call Northeast Spine & Wellness Center now for a RISK FREE consultation.



If Knee Surgery Sounds Scary, It Should

Have you have been told you are facing knee replacement surgery? Have you been told about all the downsides you could be facing? First and foremost, there are NO guarantees that knee replacement surgery will be the answer to your pain, but let's look further:

- Surgery is costly, regardless of the percentage of services covered by insurance.
 Surgery requires lost time from work and typically requires a regimen of rehabilitation and medications.
- With surgery, there is always a risk for unwelcomed complications. And you could be back to where you started, or worse.
- Medications will be required for relief from surgery and you have been down that road before. Addictions to these pain medications can cause potential side effects, something you do not want to experience.
- · Rehabilitation can take years.

Consider This Alternative To Surgery

Northeast Spine & Wellness Center offers you a real opportunity and a painless way to say goodbye to your knee pain without any surgery. Here are just a few of the important benefits you should consider?

- Diagnostic fluoroscopy accurately targets the pain, unlike blind injections.
- · Guided fluoroscopic injections are virtually pain free, unlike blind injections.
- · No lost time from work or family.
- No expensive or time consuming rehabilitation.
- No potentially addictive prescription medications.
- Recovery time is almost instant, not months or years.

How Does This New Treatment Work?

Relief begins almost as fast as it takes to pronounce the treatment. It's called Viscosupplementation Therapy. To begin with, it starts with Northeast Spine & Wellness Center investing in the use of diagnostic fluoroscopy.

investing in the use of diagnostic fluoroscopy This enables them to target the exact location of your knee pain with pinpoint accuracy. What follows is a simple injection that causes little to no pain, especially when compared to what you may be living with daily. That explains what you will see on the surface of this revolutionary treatment. What's taking place below the surface is how and where the natural healing process takes place. The injection of a Hyaluronic acid called Hyalgan. This gel-like substance was approved by the FDA in 1996. Hyalgan is a natural substance that mimics the synovial fluid that is already produced by your body in your joints. Osteoarthritis sufferers in particular see a reduction in this much needed synovial fluid in their knee joints. Without that cushioning layer of protection, the cartilage in your knee can begin to wear away leading to the rubbing of bone on bone. Through Viscosupplementation Therapy, this natural substance immediately goes to work reducing the swelling and inflammation in the joint and adding a coating layer of protection. Think about Derothy taking the oil can to The Tin Man. You'll begin to feel that same kind of relief and quite possibly feel like you're ready for a dance down the yellow brick road to recovery yourself. And with a success rate of over 85% in alleviating pain associated with esteoarthritis, it's easy to see why this treatment is so readily covered by Medicare and by most major insurance providers. Diagnostic fluoroscopy to target the pain, Viscosupplementation Therapy to relieve the pain. Simple, fast

Do you Suffer from any of these Symptoms?

There are a number of reasons why you developed Osteoarthritis pain. It can develop with age or because of heredity. It could be from repetitive stress from a job or some glory days in athletics. Of course your concern is with the symptoms you face daily and how to make them end, hopefully without surgery or the use of potentially addictive medications. Northeast Spine & Wellness Center understands the symptoms you have been

living with and can help. If you have any of the symptoms below, please call us today. Relief is a phone call away.

- Pain Whether it's a sharp aching or maybe a burning sensation, the pain can range from irritating to debilitating.
- Swelling This can cause tenderness and soreness to the entire knee area, making walking or going up and down stairs painful, getting in and out of bed or bathtubs difficult and dangerous just name a few activities affected by swelling.
- Stiffness Getting up out of bed or after sitting for a period of time gets more and more difficult. This loss of mobility can be more than a hindrance. It can be dangerous if you need to move quickly.
- Loss of muscle strength This can lead to balance issues and the strong possibility of falling.
- Joint deformity Not just unsightly, but painful as well.
- Creaking Joints Can be painful and a sign of more discomfort to come.
- Sleepless nights Losing sleep over your suffering is not just irritating, but potentially dangerous because of so many other health concerns that can be affected by loss of sound sleep.

Let Me Show You Targeted Relief From Your Knee Pain

Every day, I see patients suffering from knee pain due to arthritis, osteoarthritis, sports injuries or other conditions. Many have been told that they are in need of knee replacement surgery. Other patients say they have been prescribed various prescription medications to deal with the pain.

Something clse I see almost every day, are patients that have tried viscosupplementation knee injections elsewhere and found it to be a painful and ineffective experience because the injections were not administered using fluoroscopic guidance. Instead of using the incredibly accurate diagnostic fluoros-

copy we use at Northeast Spine & Wellness Center these parients experienced a blind injection technique, which can be as inaccurate as playing pin the tail on the donkey.

Once I am able to explain to my patients about the pin point accuracy of using diagnostic fluoroscopy and the amazing results viscosupplementation can provide, they are thrilled to get started. They are even more thrilled when they feel the relief. Please contact Northeast Spine & Wellness Center today to schedule your RISK FREE consultation. Call 732-827-0800

Here's what our patients have to say

"I'm dancing without pain. I can move with no problem whatwoever. I can go up and down steps with no pain." - Patricia G.

"Over 85% relief for the first time in 15 years, suffering with knee pain. My life is getting back to normal." - Perry O.

"After only four visits, i have absolutely no pain! The staff is "top-notch."

- Quenton L.

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RAHWAY PUBLIC LIBRARY MAY EVENTS

ADULT EVENTS

Don't Get Scammed!

Wednesday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. Please join us as a representative from the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs tells us how to avoid getting scammed. Register here to receive Zoom Login: https://bit.ly/32i55KG.

Readers' Room Book Discussion Group

Wednesday, May 26 at 6:30 p.m. Virtual book discussion. New members welcome! Register here to receive Zoom Login: https://bit.ly/3tmpf29.

DISCOVERY STUDIO (TEENS & ADULTS)

Discovery Studio On-the-Go

Starting Monday, May 3
Easy-to-make Quilled Paper Earrings for
Mothers and Others! These kits are
recommended for adults. Pick one up during
curbside pickup hours while supplies last.

Crochet Classes for Beginners

Mondays, May 3 & 17 at 6:00 p.m.

Registration is not required but is recommended. After you register, you will receive a Zoom link for the class. These classes are for all ages but are recommended for teens & adults. You will need your own supplies prior to the classes. Registration & Supply List: https://bit.ly/3uWSXuV.

Discovery Studio Teens

Starting Monday, May 3

Celebrate Mom this Mother's day! Grab a teen takeout kit during curbside hours to make a mason jar oatmeal milk bath to give as a gift or keep. For teens ages 13-18. Quantities are limited.

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Curbside Crafts

Pick up a new craft every week during curbside hours.

Toddler Time on Facebook Live

Tuesday at 10:30 a.m

Join us on Facebook for a live storytime.

facebook.com/rahwaypubliclibrary/live

Family Fun Nights

Every Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. Register here: bit.ly/RPL-FFN

Graphic Novel Book Club

May 26 at 3:30 p.m.
Register here: bit.ly/RPL-GNBC

LOCALS SEE ACTION IN MAJOR CIVIL WAR CAMPAIGNS

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

PART II – RAHWAY BOYS GO INTO BATTLE

Over the duration of the Civil War, more than 535 young men who called Rahway home, would enter the Union Army with many participating in some of the bloodiest campaigns. Rahway boys were recruited into dozens of different regiments. A number of the recruits were assigned to the 5th and 14th New Jersey Infantry units, two regiments that would win distinction in battle. Black residents joined the United States Colored Troops (USCT). Some of these recruits would end up fighting in the battle-tested 22nd Regiment. The Rahway artillery unit, Company K of the 9th New York State Militia (the focus of the April article), would also see much action.

After leaving Rahway Station on June 18, 1861, Company K reported to Hagerstown, Maryland where they were issued their weapons and received orders to cross the Potomac River to Martinsville, Virginia to drive rebel forces from Charlestown. The company was then assigned to Washington D.C. to provide a line of defense to protect the capital. On August 25, the unit was detached from the 9th Regiment to become the 6th Independent New York Battery, commonly called "Bramhall's Battery, and was placed in General Joseph E. Hooker's division. While under Hooker's command, the battery participated in the Peninsula Campaign including the siege of Yorktown, the battles of Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, and the Seven Day's Battle.

On October 6, 1862, they accompanied threethousand cavalry in an effort to recover government property on the Orange and Alexander Railroad. Rebel troops had succeeded in removing the confiscated goods across the Rappahannock before the cavalry arrived, but the excellent work of the 6th and their quickness in action was noted by Brigadier General William Barry. The general would later honor the unit by changing its designation to a flying battery (also called a horse battery). The 6th would thereafter travel in conjunction with cavalry units on reconnaissance missions and raids. "Bramhall's Battery" was kept in constant service to the close of the war participating in no fewer than a dozen engagements including the major battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg.

The foot soldiers of the 5th New Jersey Infantry saw heavy fighting throughout the war, but especially on July 2, 1863, the second day of the three- day battle at Gettysburg. Under the command of Colonel William Sewell, the regiment, in the face of deadly fire, engaged in brutal, often hand-to-hand combat as it tried to







(above, l-r) 5th N.J. Infantry at Gettysburg; 14th N.J. Infantry at Monocacy Battlefield; 6th N.Y. Independent Battery (Bramhall's Battery) at Gettysburg

at the Battle of the Wilderness. There, the regiment "met the enemy near Baylor's Farm as regiment, consisting of 200 men, suffered losses twenty-two missing.

Members of the 14th New Jersey Infantry fought bravely at the Battle of Monocacy (July 9, 1864) tragically losing two-thirds of its contingent. Against heavy odds, Union forces withstood five attacks thus delaying the enemy's advance towards Washington. The delay gave Union reinforcements time to halt the enemy in their last desperate plan to attack the capital. The heroic actions of the 14th earned them the nickname "The Monocacy Regiment."

Following the Emancipation Proclamation on began in full force and free blacks and freedmen rushed to recruiting stations to join the USCT. Enough men would enlist to eventually fill 175 regiments making up one-tenth of the entire Union Army. Men from Rahway were mustered into the 22nd, 25th, 41st, and 127th Regiments. Their actions would bolster the Union war effort at the most critical time.

The 22nd was active in the siege operations at Petersburg and Richmond, the Battle at Dutch Gap, Chaffin's Farm, and the Battle at Fair Oaks. passed.

hold a strategic position. Ten months later, on A specific instance illustrating the bravery of the May 5, 1864, the 5th was again tested, this time 22nd occurred on June 15, 1864 when the Confederate shells were tearing up the troops. As amounting to sixteen killed, 119 wounded, and the Union lines began to fall back, they were saved when the 22nd led a charge and joining with the 5th USCT drove the enemy from their position, captured one gun, and saved the division's honor." The regiment was selected as one of the first Union regiments to victoriously enter the captured Confederate capital of Richmond on April 3, 1865. A part of the regiment was also on duty at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865 when General Ulysses S. Grant accepted the surrender of General Robert E. Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia.

When the terrible war was finally over, January 1, 1863, the recruitment of black men Rahway's citizen-soldiers returned to their home town to resume the lives they had left behind. They did, however, maintain a kindred brotherhood with their fellow vets by establishing a local Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) post. The post would be called William F. Barry Post 27, so named to honor the general who lifted "Bramhall's Battery" to the status of Flying Battery. The fraternal organization remained an active and respected group in the city until 1923 by which time most of the Civil War veterans had





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POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE LISTS SCAMS TARGETING VETERANS; OFFERS VALUABLE INFORMATION TO PROTECT AGAINST THEM

prevention program created by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and AARP, is alerting the more than 17 million U.S. veterans to scams specifically targeting them.

THESE INCLUDE:

Secret Veterans Benefits Scam: Veterans are told they qualify for "secret" government programs or benefits that offer thousands of dollars. But first, they attempt to collect personal information or a fee.

Pension Poaching Scam: Scammers often offer veterans lump sum payments up front, in exchange for signing over all their future monthly benefit checks.

Bogus Employment Scam: Scammers post fake job descriptions to collect personal information from a veteran's job application, or they charge an employment fee.

VA Loan Scams: Offers to refinance VA loans at extremely low rates.

Update Your File Scam: An imposter, claiming to be from a government agency, attempts to get a veteran's personal information to "update their file," so they can maintain their benefits.

Aid and Attendance Scam: Veterans (or their family members) receive an offer to move their assets into a living trust so that they can qualify for financial assisted living benefits.

According to research conducted by AARP, veterans are twice as likely as the general public

Operation Protect Veterans, a joint crime to be victims of scams. What can veterans – and those who care about them – do to prevent being taken advantage of by scammers?

> The Postal Inspection Service advises every veteran do the following:

> Visit the Postal Inspection Service's website (uspis.gov) to learn about scams targeting veterans and what they can do to prevent becoming a victim.

> Check out any offer with a trusted family member, friend or your local veteran's affairs office before acting.

> Don't be pressured into acting immediately. If you are dealing with a legitimate outfit, they won't try to pressure you to act before having a chance to check it out and think about it. If they do, just say "no" and hang up.

> Get an answering machine and caller ID display. Then, let the machine answer the phone for you. If you don't recognize the person leaving a message, don't pick up the phone!

Contact your telephone service provider, and ask them what kind of services they offer to help you block unwanted calls.

Report if you believe you have been the victim of a scam. Contact your local police or AARP (protectveterans@aarp.org or 877-908-3360).

Get credible information on how to qualify for veterans' benefits by contacting your state veterans' affairs agency. Visit nasdva.us, and click on "Links."

"Veterans have access to special benefits and share a special bond that scammers know and use to take advantage of them," said Chief Postal Inspector Gary Barksdale. "The Postal Inspection Service works hard every day to stop scams targeting veterans, but we need everyone to become better informed, so they can help spread the knowledge to the veterans they know and love. I encourage all Americans to make this Veteran's Day not only a day of remembrance and thanks for our veterans, but also to make it the start of learning about, and helping to spread information on scams targeting veterans."

For more information on scams targeting veterans and other scams, visit uspis.gov.

ABOUT THE U.S. POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is the nation's oldest federal law enforcement agency. It supports and protects the U.S. Postal Service and its employees, infrastructure and customers; it enforces the laws that defend the nation's mail system from illegal or dangerous use; and it ensures public trust in the mail. Over 2,400 postal inspectors, postal police, technical and administrative people are spread out over 17 divisions and the national headquarters in Washington.

For more information, visit uspis.gov, and follow us on Twitter (@USPISpressroom), Facebook (@Postalinspectors), and Instagram (@postalinspectors).



FIREFIGHTER MATHEW PRIBISH HELPS NJ SHARING NETWORK

NJ Sharing Network

Celebrated in April each year, National Donate Life Month features local, regional and national activities that encourage Americans to register as organ and tissue donors and to celebrate those who have saved lives through the gift of donation.

Linden, NJ firefighter Mathew Pribish helped NJ Sharing Network kick off National Donate Life Month by sharing his personal heart transplant story to help raise awareness about the importance of organ and tissue donation. Inspired by Mathew's story, Linden Mayor Derek Armstead and the Linden Police and Fire Departments teamed up to educate the community through speaking engagements and a public service announcement on LindenTV, which can be viewed on youtube.com. Mathew's personal story is detailed below.

A PERSONAL STORY FROM MATHEW PRIBISH

My gift of life story started more than a decade ago when I went to the doctor for a regular cardiology checkup because heart disease runs in my family and I wanted to make sure that, as a firefighter, my heart was healthy. I was told during one of these regular checkups that I have Marfan Syndrome, a connective tissue disorder that affects the heart, joints and other parts of the body.

In 2013, after being monitored for a few years, my aortic root was enlarged to the point that I needed replacement surgery. Although my surgery went well, I had an adverse reaction and went into advanced heart failure. The doctors

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(above) Mathew Pribish, a Linden Firefighter, shared his heart transplant story to help raise awareness about the importance of organ and tissue donation.

made the decision to implant a Centrimag BiVad, an external device to pump both sides of my heart. After a couple of weeks, my heart healed enough to remove the device and implant an LVAD-Left Ventricular Assist Device. That was my lifeline for four years and I was placed on the New York heart transplant list.

Life with an LVAD isn't easy and it was hard to adjust to at first - no swimming, limited showers, limited activities and lots of medication. Thankfully, with my family, my fire department family and my doctors, I was able to forge through into this new normal. I was able to return to work for the fire department as an Administrator and Fire Inspector. I started to walk/jog in local 5K events in a healthy condition so that I would be a perfect candidate for transplant.

In 2017, my cardiologist recommended that I also be put onto the New Jersey transplant list. In the time leading up to my approval on the New Jersey transplant list, the alarm of my LVAD

device started to sound, on and off. The team of doctors decided that it was a mechanical issue and that they would either need to either replace the LVAD or hold me in the hospital for transplant.

On June 22, 2017, I was informed by Newark Beth Israel Medical Center that I was officially listed on the New Jersey list. It was just four days later that my wife got the phone call early in the morning. They said, "Mrs. Pribish, we found a heart for your husband."

There were so many emotions that day. I felt happy and thankful that I now had hope that my health could be restored. I also felt a great deal of sadness for the family that lost their loved one. On June 27, 2017, I had a successful LVAD removal/Heart Transplant.

Since my transplant, I have been blessed to return to the life I had known before. In my donor's memory, I decided to become a transplant advocate through NJ Sharing Network.

In Fall 2018, I was released by the doctors to return to full firefighting duties. On January 3, 2019, I officially returned to the fire department for my first day back at the position I left almost six years before.

I never thought that the day would come where I could return back to active duty. But thanks to my donor, my doctors, and NJ Sharing Network, this dream became a reality. I hope that my story can give hope to others that may need a transplant to inspire them to keep the faith.

ABOUT NJ SHARING NETWORK

NJ Sharing Network is the federally designated non-profit organization responsible for recovering organs and tissue for the nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents currently waiting for a life-saving transplant. With headquarters in New Providence, NJ, the organization is part of the national recovery system, serving the 110,000 people on the national waiting list. NJ Sharing Network was selected by NJBiz as one of the state's "Best Places to Work" for the third consecutive year. To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit NJSharingNetwork.org.

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RAHWAY FOOD FOR FRIENDS CELEBRATES WOMEN MAKING HISTORY

Submitted by Can Ashe

Rahway Food For Friends (FFF) would like to spotlight women in our community making history. This month they are highlighting volunteer Audrey Burnett-Young.

Audrey Burnett-Young is originally from Queens, New York and currently lives in Rahway, New Jersey. She is the proud mother of two adult children, Lauren and Erica Young. She currently works in NY for a Wall Street based Investment Banking firm where she has over 25 years tenure. Audrey is passionate about volunteerism. She was introduced to FFF, a nonprofit 503(c) organization in Rahway, NJ that feeds the hungry in Rahway and the surrounding communities, by the City of Rahway where she was employed for over 4 years. Audrey has a long history of volunteerism which started over 20 years ago through her current job. For many years, she would sign herself and her daughters up for various community teamwork projects including: Habitat for Humanity, Jewish Center for the Aging, Bark Animal Shelter, as well as a Women's Shelter in NY for those recovering from domestic violence. Seeing the distress of these mothers further sparked her interest in helping those in need.

Audrey is passionate about her works with FFF, a lot of which are behind the scenes. Through generous donations, Rahway FFF is currently feeding 647 families with food insecurities via mobile pantry and food pantry programs. They also provided 300 families with Thanksgiving holiday meals and supplied over 200 new toys this past Christmas to children who might have otherwise not had any.

Audrey is a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME). She served as Vice President of the Elizabeth Area Woman's Missionary Society which consists of 9 area AME churches. She was also the recipient of the 2017 Women's Missionary Society Diamond Award. Audrey has held several officer positions and served as the President of the Deborah Missionary Society of Ebenezer AME Church.

While serving as Vice President of the

Elizabeth Area Woman's Missionary Society, Audrey introduced FFF as a community service project. All 9 of the area AME churches graciously accepted and have been providing much appreciated ongoing support, volunteerism, and donations to the FFF food pantry and soup kitchen.

Through the AME Church, Audrey signed up for a project where she and other missionaries travelled to an undisclosed location to give out handbags filled with toiletries to victims of Human Trafficking. Through this experience, Audrey has been interested in helping victims of Human Trafficking. She is also passionate about helping to create awareness about mental illness and providing resources.

Audrey is a longtime member of the NAACP where she served on the executive committee. She was also the Banquet Chair. Audrey was presented with the NAACP Rahway Branch President's award in 2014 by former Rahway branch President the late Shirley J. Palmer. In 2018 she was presented an appreciation honor from the Rahway branch's former President Ronald McCrav.

She is also a supporter of the NJ Association of Black Educators (NJABE) and contributes to the NJ Association of Black Psychologists (NJABPsi) as well as The Innocence Project.

Audrey is currently a member of Church Women United (CWU), an organized national movement established in 1941 that brings Christian women together in a visible community to witness their faith in Jesus Christ. Enabled by the Holy Spirit, members go out into every community and nation as instruments of reconciling love. She serves as recording secretary for the CWU Cranford Unit.

Audrey has a heart for missions and helping people and has been known to carry food and water in her car in case she encounters someone in need. While she has received numerous recognitions, she is humbled to be recognized in this Women's History Award. Her mantra is "If I can help somebody as I pass along. If I can cheer somebody, with a word or song. If I can show

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somebody that he is travelling wrong, then my living shall not be in vain." One of her favorite scriptures is: Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."



(above) Audrey Young Burnett, a volunteer with Rahway Food For Friends, is being highlighted this month as a woman in our community making history.

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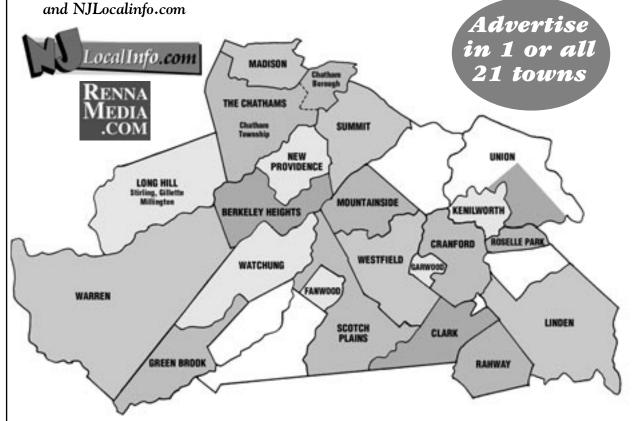
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