

OUR TOWN

RAHWAY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

MAILED FREE TO EVERY HOME
AND BUSINESS IN RAHWAY

Published by Renna Media, LLC. On-line at RennaMedia.com

Issue 164 • March 2024

JILL
JILL GUZMAN
REALTY INC.

Good Old Fashioned Service

Rahway Resident &
Former Rahway Teacher

List with your neighbor!



2024
Celebrating
36 Years

908-353-6611
CELL: 908-377-4140
JillGuzmanRealty.com

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BRIDGEPORT CT
PERMIT NO.390

ECRWSS

*****ECRWSSDDM*****
POSTAL PATRON
RAHWAY, NJ 07065

ANGELS FROM ELKS CLUB CELEBRATE WITH VETERANS

Submitted by Kristina Petti

Rahway Elks members celebrated the holidays with veterans by distributing the "Veterans Angels" gifts at the Menlo Park Facility this past December. The program allows veterans to make a wish list for the holidays and various charity organizations donate items. Our lodge sponsored four wish lists this year!

If you are interested in learning more about our organization or becoming a member please visit our website rahwayelks.org and follow us on Facebook: Rahway Elks #1075. To become a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks you must be 21 or over, an American citizen, and believe in God. May God bless all of you during this holiday season!



Courtesy photos





RAHWAY'S LOCAL LISTING EXPERTS

Call one of our experienced agents to see what your home could be worth in this low-inventory market!

Serving the Community for over 20 Years

All Towne REALTY

732.381.1190
30 Brant Avenue, Clark
www.alltownerealty.com





Renna Media LLC, Publishers
202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

Our Town Rahway is published by Renna Media. 13,000 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Rahway, NJ. Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

©2023 Contents of this newspaper cannot be reproduced without written consent from Renna Media LLC.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (honor, award, etc.), send us your news! **Email: editor@rennamedia.com**

ADVERTISING

Joe Renna: 908-447-1295
joerenna@rennamedia.com



Find us on online: rennamedia.com
[facebook.com/ Our Town Rahway](https://facebook.com/OurTownRahway)

WEBINAR ON TALKING TO KIDS ABOUT DEATH AND DYING

Imagine

“A child can live with anything as long as he or she is told the truth and is allowed to share with loved ones the natural feelings people have when they are suffering.” – Eda LeShan

We often struggle to find the words to talk to kids about life changing diagnoses, illness and death. Sometimes, we feel so unsure of what to say that we don’t say anything at all. But our kids need to be given the opportunity to engage in honest conversations about these life changing events.

The staff at Imagine are offering a free webinar to help community members navigate these difficult conversations. On Thursday, March 14th from 7-8:30 p.m., Imagine will offer a webinar on Talking to Kids about Death and Dying. Those attending the webinar will learn to:

- Recognize that grief begins at diagnosis
- Describe how children grieve at different developmental stages
- Develop tools for creating a safe space where children can share their feelings
- Discover ways to navigate conversations

about diagnosis, illness and death

If you’d like to join us for this webinar, please visit our website at imagineinj.org or scan the QR code below to register. Once you register, you’ll receive a zoom link to join us on March 14th. Please contact Imagine’s Training and Education Director, Veronica C Ortiz, LPC at veronica@imagineinj.org with any questions.

Because loss is inevitable, it’s so important that we have open conversations with our kids in these difficult moments. We hope that you can join us as we work to create a world where no child grieves alone.

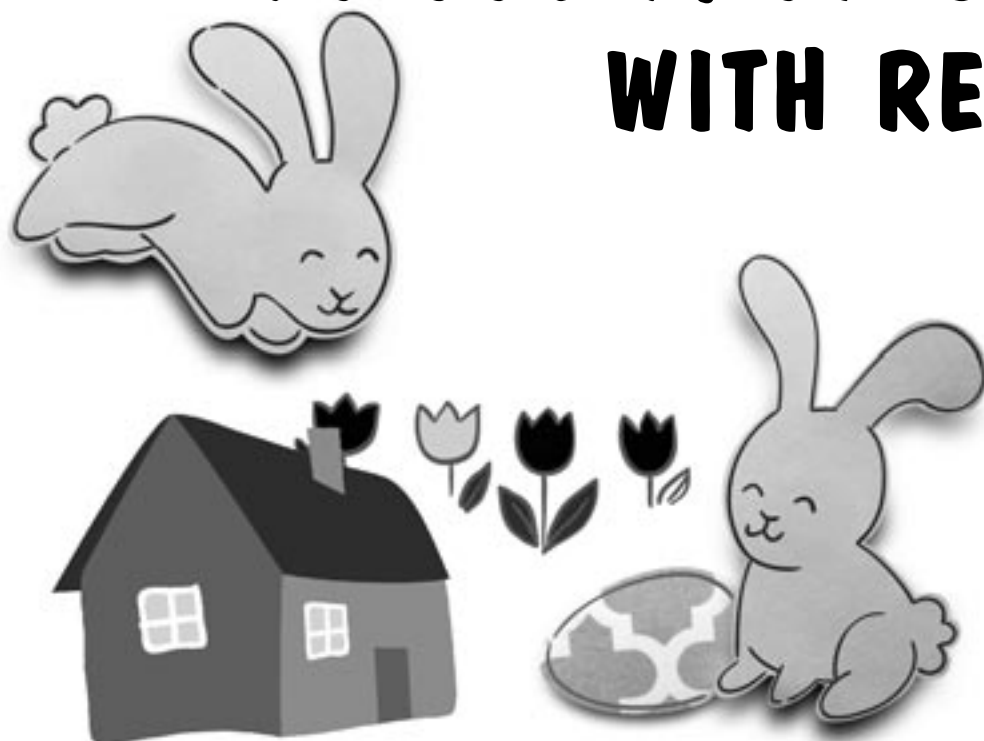


LOSS OF A CHILD PRAYER SERVICE

Parents who have lost a child at any age, under any circumstances, are invited to a time of prayer and remembrance to be held on Sunday, March 10th at 2 p.m., at Church of the Little Flower, 310 Plainfield Avenue, Berkeley Heights, NJ. The

program will also be livestreamed at littleflowerbh.org. For any questions contact Dan Grossano, Pastoral Associate for Outreach and Ministries at 908-464-1585, pastoral110.lf@gmail.com.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEBUNNY WITH REAL ESTATE NEEDS? WE'RE ALL EARS



REDUCED COMMISSION • HOME STAGING SERVICES



RE/MAX Select

137 Elmer Street
Westfield, NJ 07090
Office: 908-233-9292



Each office is independently owned and operated. If your home is listed with another broker, this is not intended as a solicitation.



Janice Van Der Veken

Realtor-Associate

RE/MAX Select

Cell: 908-577-0824

JaniceVanDerVekenRealtor@gmail.com



Mary Rittenhouse

Realtor-Associate

RE/MAX Select

Cell: 908-477-4486

Mary.Ritt@hotmail.com

Serving our community since 1988!



WWW.JILLGUZMANREALTY.COM

CALL US 908-353-6611

124 Elmora Ave., Elizabeth, NJ 07202



Calling all homeowners!
Looking for the best price for your home and most qualified buyer?



103 Bailey Ave., Hillside
This home was
successfully marketed by
Jill Guzman, Jill Guzman Realty
SOLD FOR: \$ 494,500



732 Essex Ave., Linden
This home was
successfully marketed by
Jill Guzman, Jill Guzman Realty
SOLD FOR: \$377,000.



419 W Elm St., Linden
This home was
successfully sold by Jill Guzman,
Jill Guzman Realty
SOLD FOR: \$499,000



1607 Wood Ave., Roselle
This condo was
successfully sold by Jill Guzman,
Jill Guzman Realty
SOLD FOR: \$160,000

Since 1988, 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**

THINKING OF SELLING YOUR HOME ? YOU KNOW WHO TO CALL

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST" A SPECTACULAR PRODUCTION FOR ALL AGES

Rahway High School is delighted to announce its upcoming production of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," set to captivate audiences on Friday, March 22nd and Saturday, March 23rd at 7:30 p.m., with a matinee performance on Sunday, March 24th at 2:00 p.m.

This enchanting and timeless tale of love, acceptance, and magic is brought to life by the talented students of Rahway High School. The cast, crew, and orchestra have been hard at work, ensuring that the production is not only a visual feast but also a heartwarming experience for audiences of all ages.

The classic story follows the journey of Belle, a bright and independent young woman, as she finds herself in an enchanted castle ruled by a Beast. Despite the initial challenges, Belle discovers the beauty within, and her kindness and compassion lead to a magical transformation that transcends appearances.

The Rahway High School production of "Beauty and the Beast" promises to be a magical experience for the entire family. From dazzling costumes to intricate set designs and unforgettable musical numbers, the show is a testament to the dedication and talent of Rahway's young performers.

Join us at the Rahway High School Center for

the Performing Arts, located at 1012 Madison Ave., for performances on Friday, March 21st and Saturday, March 22nd at 7:30 p.m., or for a Sunday matinee on March 23rd at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets are priced at \$12 for the public and \$10 for students. Secure your seats today by visiting

RWHS.BOOKTIX.COM or purchase tickets at the door before each performance.

Don't miss this opportunity to be swept away by the magic of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast." Bring the whole family for an unforgettable evening of entertainment and enchantment.



RAHWAY HIGH SCHOOL
PROUDLY PRESENTS

Disney BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

Friday, March 22nd & Saturday, March 23rd, 7:30 pm
Sunday, March 24th, 2:00 pm

RAHWAY HIGH SCHOOL
CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
1012 MADISON AVENUE, RAHWAY, NJ

FOR TICKETS VISIT RWHS.BOOKTIX.COM



OPENING APRIL 2024



**Central Jersey
Medical Center**
1540 Roosevelt Avenue, Carteret
732.376.6650



CJMC is a Federally Qualified Health Center welcoming patients from the entire community.

CJMC has a sliding fee discount for patients with no insurance that will be used to determine patient's eligibility for government programs such as Medicaid and uncompensated care (Charity Care).

We accept most insurance plans, including Medicaid and Medicare.

Our comprehensive Dental Care Services at CJMC include, but are not limited to:

- Basic & preventive dental care
- Emergency dental care
- Routine dental cleanings and exams
- X-rays and other diagnostic imaging
- Oral cancer screenings
- Gum disease prevention and periodontal treatment
- Replacement of missing teeth with crowns and removable partial & complete dentures
- Fillings, composite bonding and other restorative treatments
- Root canal therapy
- Dental wellness exams for infants (helping prevent baby bottle tooth decay)
- Oral surgery (routine and complex tooth extractions)
- Referrals to specialists if needed.

Call today to schedule your April dental visit
Central Jersey Medical Center (732) 376 - 6650 | www.cjmc.us

Call Today for a Free Estimate!  855.624.6655



*Magnolia*TM
HOME REMODELING GROUP

ROOFING | SIDING | WINDOWS
KITCHENS | BATHROOMS | BASEMENTS
MASONRY | DECKS | PORCHES



Payment Plans

WINDOWS \$209	BASEMENTS \$395
KITCHENS \$389	BATHROOMS \$199
ROOFING \$249	DECKS/PATIOS \$189
SIDING \$289	PORCHES/STEPS \$185

0% Plans Available!

Estimated monthly payments.
Rates & payments based on credit approval.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS ALSO AVAILABLE

Interior & Exterior Remodeling | Family Owned & Operated

100% FINANCING AVAILABLE | 30+ YEARS EXPERIENCE

NJDCA 13VH07755300



MagnoliaHomeRemodeling.com

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Bayway Complex Community Advisory Panel

For the year 2024, the Bayway Complex Community Advisory Panel (CAP) is offering High School Seniors who are residents of Linden, Rahway, Elizabeth, and Staten Island the opportunity to be awarded a CAP scholarship. Several one-year scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$1,000 each, to students in these four municipalities represented by the CAP.

The winners will be selected by the CAP Scholarship Committee, who will be taking the following areas into consideration when reviewing the applications: The Applications must be Computer-Generated and All Sections Completed; Academics (transcript/SAT/ACT scores); Financial Need; Essay; Science/Math Teacher Recommendation Letter(s). This scholarship is open to candidates who will be pursuing a college, university, career or vocational school education in the Industrial, Process Technology, or Engineering (Chemical, Civil, Mechanical, Environmental, Computer) fields. Please contact your high school guidance counselor for more information and the application forms. The deadline to submit applications is March 28, 2023.

The Bayway CAP is a committee of interested stakeholders including community representatives from Linden, Rahway, Elizabeth, and Staten Island representing various sectors of the community including neighbors, educators, retirees, public officials, emergency responders, and environmental organization representatives. The group meets quarterly for face-to-face dialogue between the community and company representatives from Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery, Infineum USA L.P., Cogen Technologies Linden Venture, Veolia North America, Solutia, Linden VFT LLC, and Parkway Generation.

Providing Energy.
Improving Lives.

PHILLIPS
66

BAYWAY REFINERY

Safety. Honor. Commitment.

© 2021 Phillips 66 Company. All rights reserved.

VALENTINE'S DAY CHEER FOR SENIOR COMMUNITIES

Rahway Public Schools.

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, Franklin Elementary School students spread love and joy to local senior communities, bringing smiles and heartwarming connections.

Fueled by creativity and kindness, students crafted dozens of personalized cards expressing their appreciation for veterans at the Veterans Memorial Home in Menlo Park. These heartfelt messages offered a touch of warmth and gratitude to those who served our country.

But the celebration didn't stop there. A group of enthusiastic students ventured out to Atria Senior Living in Cranford, personally delivering their handmade cards and candy treats to residents and staff. The interaction was filled with laughter, conversations, and the joy of sharing Valentine's Day spirit.

"Seeing the residents' faces light up as they received the cards was truly heartwarming," shared Barbara Maher, who accompanied the

students to Atria. "It was a valuable experience for our students to connect with different generations and spread joy through simple acts of kindness."

Franklin Elementary's initiative embodies the essence of Valentine's Day – spreading love, building connections, and making a difference in the lives of others. This heartwarming act serves as a reminder that even small gestures can have a significant impact, fostering compassion and celebrating the importance of community.



1-800-TEAM-LAW®

INJURED?

TELL US YOUR STORY. THE CONSULTATION IS FREE.

TOBIN • KESSLER • GREENSTEIN • CARUSO • WIENER • KONRAY

ONE OF NEW JERSEY'S
TOP-RATED LAW FIRMS

\$10
MILLION

Medical Malpractice

\$18
MILLION

Construction Site Accident

\$1.9
MILLION

Car Accident

• Personal Injury

• Motor Vehicle Accidents

• Medical Malpractice

• Workers' Compensation

136 Central Avenue

Clark, New Jersey

1-800-TEAM-LAW

+12 Office Locations

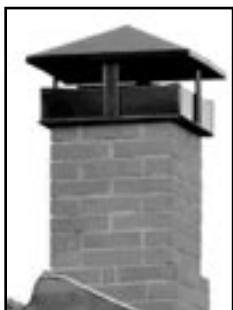
www.teamlaw.com



**100%
Financing
Available**



FOUNDATION REPAIRS BEFORE & AFTER



CHIMNEY LINERS



CHIMNEY REPAIRS



SHINGLE ROOF



FLAT TOP ROOF



SLATE ROOF



SPANISH STYLE ROOF



NEW STEPS

CHIMNEY CLEANING STARTING AT \$150

MAGIC IMPROVEMENTS (800) 206-8529
With this coupon. May not be combined with any other offer.
Expires 3/31/24.

15% OFF SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT

MAGIC IMPROVEMENTS (800) 206-8529
With this coupon. May not be combined with any other offer.
Expires 3/31/24.

\$250-\$350 ANY CHIMNEY JOB

MAGIC IMPROVEMENTS (800) 206-8529
With this coupon. May not be combined with any other offer.
Expires 3/31/24.

\$300 OFF ANY JOB of \$2,000 or more

MAGIC IMPROVEMENTS (800) 206-8529
With this coupon. May not be combined with any other offer.
Expires 3/31/24.

\$800 OFF ANY NEW ROOF JOB

MAGIC IMPROVEMENTS (800) 206-8529
With this coupon. May not be combined with any other offer.
Expires 3/31/24.

\$350-\$450 ANY ROOF REPAIR

MAGIC IMPROVEMENTS (800) 206-8529
With this coupon. May not be combined with any other offer.
Expires 3/31/24.

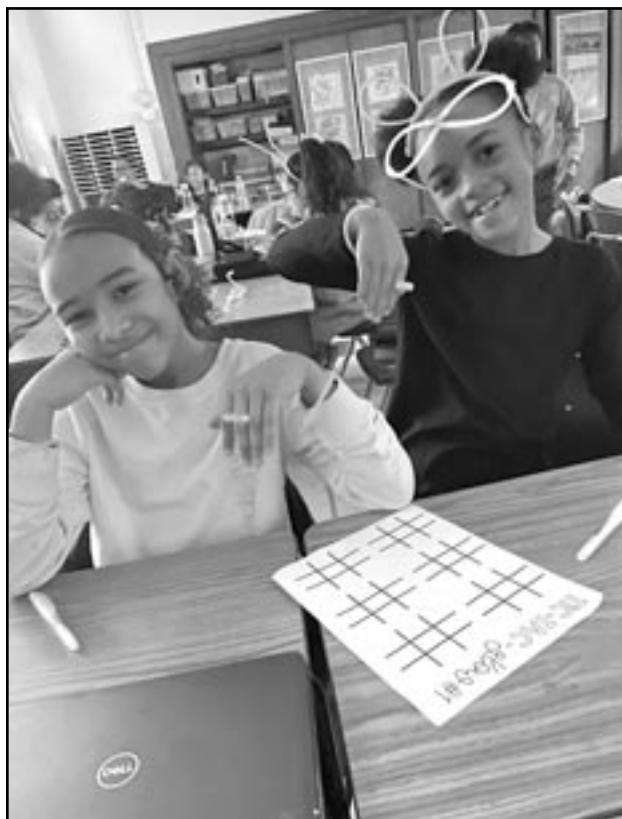


We offer
FINANCING

**24/7
EMERGENCY
SERVICE**

CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATE 800-206-8529

4TH GRADERS LIGHT UP WITH IREADY CHALLENGE



(above) Grover Cleveland 4th Graders Light Up with Success in iReady Challenge

Photo by Stephanie Carvalho

Submitted by Dyan McMillen

Get ready to groove! A 4th-grade class at Grover Cleveland Elementary School recently celebrated a shining achievement in their iReady learning journey, culminating in a dazzling "Glow Day" celebration. By setting a class goal and working together, these young scholars proved that learning can be both challenging and fun!

Aiming High: Led by their dedicated teacher, Mrs. Carvalho, the class embarked on an ambitious mission: to achieve an average score of 80% or better on their iReady math and reading lessons by the end of January. This challenging benchmark demanded individual dedication and collective support.

To keep spirits high and excitement buzzing, the class implemented a unique incentive system. Every student who scored 80% or better on their iReady lessons earned the right to color in a square on a giant, disco ball chart displayed in the classroom. As individual accomplishments mounted, the disco ball gradually transformed, reflecting the class's progress towards their collective goal.

The hard work and perseverance paid off! By the end of January, the class had not only met their target but surpassed it, achieving an impressive average score of 85%. This collective victory sparked a wave of

excitement, earning them their highly anticipated reward: a "Glow Day" celebration!

The classroom transformed into a dazzling wonderland of neon lights and glow sticks. Students participated in a variety of engaging activities, like a game of "Tic-Tac-Glow" and a collaborative glow-in-the-dark mural creation. The atmosphere buzzed with energy and pride, showcasing the joy of learning and achieving goals together.

"Mrs. Carvalho shared the secret to their success: 'This experience goes beyond academics. It's about teamwork, setting goals, and celebrating each other's achievements. Seeing the excitement on their faces during Glow Day made it all worthwhile!'

Anna Cuevas a student in the class, added, "iReady was challenging, but working together and knowing we had a fun reward at the end really motivated me. Plus, Glow Day was the best!"

The iReady challenge and Glow Day celebration served as more than just a fun activity. They instilled valuable lessons in perseverance, teamwork, and the joy of achieving goals. This experience will undoubtedly stay with these students as they continue their academic journey.

Grover Cleveland Elementary School is proud of their 4th-grade class and their commitment to learning.



**ITALIAN CONTINENTAL CUISINE
WONDERFUL FOOD
WITH GREAT ATMOSPHERE**

***Come Celebrate
Easter***

With Our Traditional
Lamb Dinner & Baby Goat
As Well As Our Regular
Extended Menu
Seating Starts at 1 p.m.



Open 6 Days a Week - Closed Mondays
(Closed for lunch. Open for groups of 25 or more only.)

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!

Private Rooms Accommodate Guests
Ranging from 25-200

Gift Certificates Always Available

(908) 862-0020

1700 W. Elizabeth Ave., Linden, NJ

www.amiciristorante.com

PASSAIC COUNTY CASA EXPANDS TO UNION COUNTY

Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan

Passaic County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), a leading child advocacy organization focused on protecting the best interests of abused and neglected youth, has announced the expansion of its service footprint to include Union County. With this expansion, critical volunteer advocacy for child victims removed from home and living under the jurisdiction of the family court will be made available to even more of New Jersey's most vulnerable children. This expansion allows for greater community impact, efficiency in operations, and greater long-term sustainability.

CASA recruits, screens, trains, and supervises community volunteers to advocate for local abused, neglected, and abandoned youth from birth to age 21 involved in the child welfare system through no fault of their own.

Executive Director Erica Fischer-Kaslander, who continues to lead the expanded advocacy organization, said, "There's no doubt this expansion will reap even greater rewards for Union County's vulnerable youth. The synergy created from two experienced programs allows far greater community impact and enhances its agility to withstand today's shifting landscape as a strengthened, multi-county program."

Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan, Content Director for CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, added, "In my 11 years working with CASA in Union County, I have seen the organization pivot to meet unforeseen needs, adapt to changing trends,

and persevere through recent challenges faced by all nonprofits, including a global health pandemic. Indeed, passion for and commitment to every child drives us, and this new chapter is simply an opportunity to enjoy greater efficiency, resource allocation, and space for innovation. Ultimately, the expansion of Passaic County CASA to include Union County breeds a strengthened organization that bolsters CASA's impact throughout the county. For our local youth, that's what matters."

Considered extra "eyes and ears" for judges hearing abuse and neglect cases, CASA volunteers are assigned to a youth or sibling set by court order, granting access to all parties in the youth's life. Advocates use unbiased observations to make fact-based recommendations to judges deciding the future of each youth. Often, CASA volunteers are the only long-term, caring, and informed adult in the corner of a youth awaiting a safe, stable, and permanent placement.

Volunteer advocates need no prior experience in child welfare. All prospective volunteers complete a 36-hour training course, extensive application, and screening process in addition to background checks. Volunteers with the newly expanded CASA of Passaic and Union Counties program are supported by a 26-person professional staff with extensive experience in child welfare. For details on becoming an advocate or other ways to get involved, visit casapassaicunion.org.

CHIMNEY & ROOFING SPECIALISTS

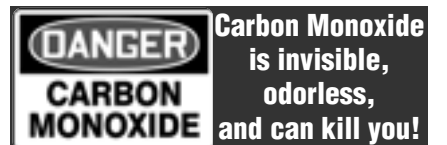
MURSELI PRO CONSTRUCTION
908-361-6372

Family
Owned &
Operated For
20 Years

- All Work Guaranteed
- 24/7 Emergency Service
- 15% Senior Discount
- Major Credit Cards
- NJ Lic. 13VH08570100

**Save \$1,000
ON ROOF
REPLACEMENT**

With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer.
Some restrictions apply. Expires 3/31/24.



COMPLETE SET OF STEPS
Up to 6 Feet, 5 Steps / Brick, Limestone & Concrete
Special **\$3,750**



FOUNDATION



- NEW FOUNDATIONS
- REPAIRS
- WATERPROOFING

MASONRY



- DRIVEWAYS
- STEPS
- BRICK & BLOCK
- SIDEWALKS
- REPAIR

ROOFING



- RE-ROOF
- NEW ROOF
- ROOF REPAIRS
- SHINGLES
- FLAT ROOF

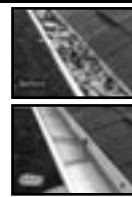
CHIMNEY



- CLEANING
- RE-LINE
- REPAIRS
- REBUILD
- CAPPING

GUTTERS

- CLEANING
- INSTALLATION
- SCREENING
- REPAIRS
- REPLACEMENTS



**\$600 OFF
NEW SIDING JOB**

With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer.
Some restrictions apply. Expires 3/31/24.

**\$400 OFF
ANY FOUNDATION JOB
OF \$2000 OR MORE**

With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer.
Some restrictions apply. Expires 3/31/24.

**\$350 OFF
ANY ROOF REPAIR
of \$1,000 or more**

With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer.
Expires 3/31/24.

**\$350 OFF
ANY CHIMNEY REPAIR
of \$800 or more**

With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer.
Expires 3/31/24.

**\$150
GUTTERS CLEANING
(Any Average House)**

With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer.
Expires 3/31/24.

CHIMNEY LINER
Special **\$1,300**

WHY SHOULD I USE A CHIMNEY LINING SYSTEM?

- Protect your house from heat transfer combustibles
- Protect the masonry from the corrosive by products of combustion
- Provide a correctly sized flue for optimum efficiency of appliance



**Easy &
Effective
Cleaning**



Long Term Preservation

With this ad. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires March 31, 2024.



**FISHING FLEA MARKET
MARCH 23RD**

The Rahway Spring Fishing Flea Market will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. Thomas Church Hall, 1400 St. Georges Ave., Rahway, NJ. A wide variety of salt and freshwater fishing tackle will be on display for anglers looking for great buys. New, used, antique, custom fishing and boating items will be available to all. Door prizes will be given away every half hour which include rods, reels, tackle and much more. Food and refreshments are sponsored by St. Thomas Holy Name Society. Admission price is \$5 per adult, children 12 and under are free. For show or vendor information visit fishingfleamarkets.com or call 732-381-2165.

RAHWAY'S

FISHING FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

9 am to 2 pm

ST. THOMAS CHURCH HALL

1400 St. Georges Ave, Rahway NJ

Door Prizes Every Half Hour

Food and Refreshments, New-Used-Antique
Fishing and Boating Items

Tackle Store Blowouts

Admission: \$5, Kids under 12 - FREE

Info: 732-381-2165

Email: info@fishingfleamarkets.com

I BUY OLD MOTORCYCLES

All Types - Running or Not

Same Day Pick-up
We Pay Cash

Call or Text Glenn
732-556-7636

Also Looking for
Honda Elements
Toyota Camrys
and Lexus

AMERICAN LEGION & VFW POST BREAKFASTS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST – MARCH 17, 2024

Come to a Pancake Breakfast, hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary - Unit 102, on Sunday, March 17, 2024 at the American Legion Post 102, located at 112 West Elizabeth Ave., from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. This month's special is Corned Beef Hash. Donations: Adults \$8.00 / Seniors & Children \$7.00 / Ages 5 & Under Free. Take outs are available.

This event is open to the public, so come out and enjoy a home cooked breakfast, and support our veterans!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST - MARCH 23, 2024

Come one, come all to the VFW#1397 Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 23, 2024 for the VFW Post #1397, which will be held at the American Legion Post 102, located at 112 West Elizabeth Ave in Linden from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Donations: Adults \$7.00 / Seniors & Children \$6.00/ Ages 5 & Under Free. Take outs are available.

This event is open to the public, so come out and enjoy a home cooked breakfast, and support our veterans!

REGISTER FOR RELAY FOR LIFE OF RAHWAY

Submitted by Michele Miller

More than just a walk, the American Cancer Society Relay For Life brings together passionate supporters who embody the American Cancer Society's vision to end cancer as we know it, for everyone. This volunteer-led experience unites communities to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost to cancer, and raise funds to improve the lives of people with cancer and their families through advocacy, research, and patient support, to ensure everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer.

Please join us for our biggest event of the year, and bring the whole family, on Saturday, June 8th at the Rahway River Park Stadium, Rahway, NJ, from 2:00 to 10:00 p.m. (check in begins at 1:30). During the course of the day, we will celebrate cancer survivors and

caregivers; there will be an array of children's activities; healthcare, fitness, and wellness personnel with educational materials; music, entertainment, fun, and food trucks! At sunset, there is a very moving, candlelight luminaria ceremony to honor and remember loved ones who have lost their fight against cancer.

Visit relayforlife.org/rahwaynj to register today and join your community in the fight against cancer. If you cannot attend this event, please go to our website to find information regarding cancer prevention, support and services for patients and families, ways to get involved, future events, or to make a tax-deductible donation.

Relayers celebrate the wins we have accomplished, own the impact our dollars are making, and champion the future for everyone. Cancer has touched us all. This is our chance to fight back! Every cancer, every life.

SAM'S

LANDSCAPING

COMPLETE PROPERTY CARE

NOW ACCEPTING NEW CUSTOMERS

WEEKLY LAWN
MAINTENANCE
&
SPRING CLEANUP

SAMSLANDSCAPING.COM
908-441-7302

WILBER'S HOME IMPROVEMENTS



**PAINTING • CARPENTRY
ROOFING • LANDSCAPING**

INTERIOR / EXTERIOR

973-762-6333

Fully Insured: Workers' Comp & Liability
NJHIC# 13VH6449500

WILBER'S



CARPENTRY / GUTTERS

973-762-6332

Fully Insured: Workers' Comp & Liability
NJHIC# 13VH11964900

Our floor-to-ceiling renovating team...
is in the Neighborhood!



ROOFING

Roof Replacement
Gutter Installation



CEMENT/STONE

Masonry
Hardscaping



PAINTING

Interior & Exterior
Deck Refinishing
Floor Refinishing



RENOVATIONS

Additions
Attic & Basement Remodel
Kitchen & Bath Remodel



CARPENTRY

Deck Building
Millwork
Floor Installation
Cabinet Installation

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
& REQUEST A QUOTE



Scan Me



WilbersHomeImprovements.com

CAROLYN WELLS – “AMERICA’S MOST FAMOUS MYSTERY WRITER”

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

During her lifetime, Rahway native Carolyn Wells (1862–1942) was hailed as “America’s Most Famous Mystery Writer” and was considered the authority on that genre. In a career spanning over forty years, Ms. Wells produced a body of more than one hundred and eighty literary works including novels, plays, and anthologies.



Born in Rahway, the daughter of New York insurance executive William Wells, she grew up in the elegant Victorian style home which still graces the corner of Elm and Esterbrook Avenues. From an early age she had a love for literature. After her graduation from Rahway High (Class of 1879), she became an assistant librarian at the Rahway Library and in 1890 was named head librarian, a position she held for twelve years. Surrounded by books, she eventually tried her hand at writing stories of her own and in 1896 published *The Sign of the Sphinx*, a collection of verse riddles.

Over the next fourteen years Wells penned stories and poems geared mainly for young readers. Her early works featured playful poetry, nonsense verse, humor, and novels for children. Akin to the popular Bobbsey Twins series, she created the Patty Books, the Margorie Books and the Dick and Dolly series.

Wells’ career took a turn after 1910 when she became fascinated with the structure of the mystery story and ventured into the format, having a more sophisticated adult audience in mind. From 1910–1940 she wrote a succession of some seventy mystery novels and created her own detective character, a distinguished sleuth named Fleming Stone. In 1929 she wrote *The Technique of the Mystery Story* considered by aficionados of the field to be the “most understanding study of the mystery form produced up to that time.”

During her career, she also wrote and generated ideas for 16 silent films and several Broadway shows, edited the first literary daily,

she was one of the first crossword puzzle editors for the New York Times, and was a founding member of the Authors League, the precursor to the Authors Guild.

In 1918 Ms. Wells married Hadwin Houghton, son of the wealthy book publisher Bernard Houghton and heir to the Houghton–Mifflin publishing empire and moved to New York City where she lived until her death. Although she loved the New York social scene, her years in Rahway held special memories as she related in her autobiography *Rest of My Life* (1937).

“Across the street from my home lived a Quaker gentleman with a large estate like an English Park. It pleased him to walk around his

gardens at sunset and I often walked with him. He told me the names of his many rare trees and flowers.”

“When I married, I came to New York to live, which gratified a lifelong longing. Not that I didn’t love my New Jersey home with its broad lawns, big trees, flower gardens and pleasant verandas.”

Ms. Wells died on March 26, 1942, and was brought back to her hometown to be interred in the Rahway Cemetery next to her husband. Her stately Elm Avenue home and her eclectic collection of books (the Rahway Public Library has over one hundred of her titles) keeps her connection to Rahway alive.

GALLERIES
KEAN UNIVERSITY



NOW SHOWING!

East Meets West

Hand-Tinted Vintage Photographs
from Meiji Japan, 1880-1900

March 14 - May 4, 2024

Liberty Hall Academic Center Gallery | Kean University
1003 Morris Ave, Bldg. 2 | Union, New Jersey
Galleries.kean.edu | (908) 737-5301



FREE ADMISSION
Open to the Public



All works are from the collection of Michael Mattis and Judith Hochberg. This exhibition was organized by art2art Circulating Exhibitions.

LIBRARY TO HOST CAROLYN WELLS BIOGRAPHER

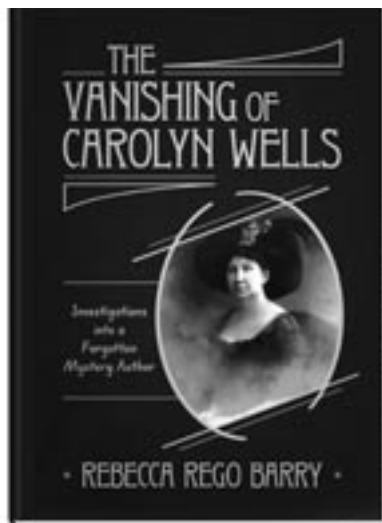
The Vanishing of Carolyn Wells is the first biography of one of the “lost ladies” of detective fiction who wrote more than eighty mysteries and hundreds of other works between the 1890s and the 1940s. What ever happened to the story and legacy of Carolyn Wells? Why did the name of this highly accomplished writer of mystery novels become lost In time? How is she viewed by the critics of today?

These questions and more will be the topic of discussion on Wednesday, March 13, with a visit from Rebecca Rego Barry, author of The Vanishing of Carolyn Wells: Investigations into a Forgotten Mystery Author. City Historian & Rahway Library Research Consultant Al Shipley writes that during Wells’ lifetime, she “was hailed as “America’s Most Famous Mystery Writer,”

and was considered the authority on that particular genre.”

Rebecca Rego Barry is an established writer and editor who lives in New York’s Hudson Valley. Her articles and essays about books, history, and collectibles have appeared in Financial Times, Literary Hub, CrimeReads, Atlas Obscura, Lapham’s Quarterly, Smithsonian Magazine, The Guardian, The Public Domain Review, Fine Books Magazine, and elsewhere. Ms. Barry has made several trips to the Rahway Public Library during her research with City Historian Al Shipley using the materials stored in the Rahway History Room.

The program will begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.



ANNUAL CORNED BEEF DINNER – MARCH 10

Knights of the Columbus, Council #1142, will be having its annual corned beef dinner On Sunday, March 10th, eat in or take out. Adults \$15, children under 10, \$10. Dinner will start at 3:00 p.m., until ????. Dinner will be held at the Columbian Club hall located at the corner of Jaques St and Inman Ave.

TICKETS GO ON SALE MARCH 1!

RAHWAY
TASTE
of SPRING

FRIDAY • APRIL 5
5:30 – 9:00 p.m. • Rahway Recreation Center

Beer, Wine and Food Tasting • Vendors, Music and More!
Limited tickets - Online Purchases Only! \$40/person
*Purchase Tickets online through Eventbrite
Visit www.RahwayIsHappening.com/Taste

MY HANDYMAN & PAINTER LLC

QUALITY HOME IMPROVEMENTS

- Bathroom & Kitchen Remodeling.
- Sheetrock, Install & Repair.
- Painting, Electric & Plumbing.
- Windows, Siding & Roofing.
- Decks Built & Repaired.
- Affordable French Drains & Basement Waterproofing.

View our Google Reviews.



**General
Handyman
Services**

732-331-9572

www.MyHandymanAndPainter.com

No Job Too Small



Licensed & Insured

License #13VH11554200

FREE ESTIMATES!

**Duke says
“Adopt,
Don’t
Shop.”**

Pet friendly - We support animal rescues



YMCA OFFERS MARCH OPEN HOUSE & MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL

The Gateway Family YMCA is celebrating Membership Madness March 28-30 with a YMCA Open House and Membership Special open to everyone in the community. Individuals and families are invited to the Y to Find Your Passion, Find Your Purpose, Find Your Y. Swimming, Basketball, Pickleball, Soccer, Group Exercise and Water Exercise programs are available, as well as Chronic Disease Management programs like Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring. Located in Elizabeth, Rahway and Union, individual YMCA Branch event schedules and details are available at tgfymca.org/events

The YMCA provides programs and services with the goal of building community, developing youth and creating a safe experience for all. New members who join The Gateway Family YMCA online at tgfymca.org/join-the-Y or in person at the Y will pay \$0 Joiner Fee with the code SP24 March 28-30!

"Family and social activities are important for your well-being. As a nonprofit community organization dedicated to strengthening community, the Y is the perfect conduit to share healthy activities with loved ones, create lasting memories and share lifestyle changes to increase health," stated Melynda A. Disla, President/CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. "We are here to meet the unique needs of our community, every day."

The Gateway Family YMCA has served the community since 1900, and provides traditional programs like swimming lessons, summer camp and child care, as well as WISE community services, housing and social services, drowning prevention, mentorship and STEAM initiatives. The Y provides a safe and supportive community to inspire everyone to find balance in spirit mind and body, both in person and virtually.

"At the Y, we are here for all, and making wellness, nutrition, mental health and enrichment programs easy, no matter where you are, is a priority. Through our digital innovation efforts and community outreach, we work

tirelessly to provide equitable access for all," stated Rodger D. Koerber, EVP/COO.

As an alternative option for individuals who wish to participate from home, the YMCA is offering a Virtual Group Exercise Open House with registration available online at tgfymca.org. Throughout the week, the Y will also share community health and safety information on their Facebook page at facebook.com/GatewayFamilyYMCA highlighting healthy family tips, nutritious recipes and exercise recommendations.

The Gateway Family YMCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, health and community service

organization of caring staff and volunteers dedicated to strengthening community through Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. The Gateway Family YMCA impacts the community by providing quality services for all. The Y doesn't just strengthen bodies – it strengthens people, families and communities.

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA, visit tgfymca.org or contact the Elizabeth Branch 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch 908-688-9622, Rahway Branch 732-388-0057 or the Wellness Center and WISE Center Branch at 908-349-9622.

YMCA SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION SESSIONS

The Gateway Family YMCA

It's never too early to begin thinking about Summer Camp and researching the best opportunities for your child to thrive. The Gateway Family YMCA understands the unique needs of children and families, providing transformational Summer Camp experiences for hundreds of children throughout Eastern Union County each year. Learn more about Summer Day Camp at The Gateway Family YMCA this Spring at YMCA Summer Camp Parent Information Sessions.

Hosted at The Gateway Family YMCA – Elizabeth Branch, 135 Madison Avenue, Elizabeth, Five Points Branch, 201 Tucker Avenue, Union and Rahway Branch, 1564 Irving Street, Rahway, Summer Camp Parent Information Sessions are scheduled on March 21st 6:00-8:00 P.M., April 20 12:00-2:00 P.M. and May 16 5:00-7:00 p.m. Parents are invited to join YMCA Camp Directors for tips on getting the most out of your child's camp experience, transition from school to camp, summer safety and fun! Advance registration is optional, with additional information available at tgfymca.org/events.

At Y Summer Day Camp, kids can develop skills and self-confidence, make new friendships, and gain a sense of belonging – all



(above) The Gateway Family YMCA is offering Summer Camp Information Sessions

while having tons of fun. From games and sports to arts and crafts to outdoor adventures to STEAM and academic enrichment, a Y Summer Day Camp experience offers kids the chance to learn new things and enjoy new adventures.

Camp is available in one-week sessions for Pre-K Age 3 through Grade 6. Registration is first come, first serve and parents are reminded to register early.

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA, visit tgfymca.org or contact the Elizabeth Branch 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch 908-688-9622, Rahway Branch 732-388-0057 or the Wellness Center and WISE Center Branch at 908-349-9622.

Membership Madness

YMCA Open House March 28-30

Open to the Community! Take a Swim, Shoot Some Hoops, Try a Class! Learn More at tgfymca.org/events

SO JOINER FEE
March 28-30
Join the Y & Use Code SP24 at tgfymca.org/join-the-Y

THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA tgfymca.org

FIND YOUR PASSION!
YMCA ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Your Support is Greatly Needed to Support Our Community!

We're Hiring!

The Gateway Family YMCA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening community.

JACOBSON APPLIANCES

- Financing Available
- Special Discounts
- 50% off Sales Tax

FREE DELIVERY
Open Mon. & Thurs. 10am - 7pm;
Tues., Wed. & Fri. 10am - 6pm;
Sat 10am- 5pm; Sun - closed

All Major Credit Cards Accepted

725 Rahway Ave - Elizabeth
908-354-8533 • 908-352-2232
www.jacobsonappliances.com

\$25 OFF FOR RAHWAY RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES

One per customer. Can not be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase of \$399.00. must present this coupon at time of purchase. Offer Expires 3/31/24.

DOUBLE D CONSTRUCTION

Home Improvements

(732) 981-0800
[WWW.DOUBLEDCONSTRUCTIONNJ.COM](https://www.doubledconstructionnj.com)

Proudly serving Middlesex, Somerset, Union, Morris & surrounding counties for over 30 years!
Call now for your free, no obligation estimate!

\$250 OFF Any Job Of \$5,000 Or More

- Roofing
- Siding
- Gutters
- Windows
- Doors
- Decks
- Interior
- And More

Follow us on Facebook
FACEBOOK.COM/DoubleDConstructionNJ



DANDELIONS (TARAXACUM) WILDFLOWER - HERB - MEDICINAL PLANT - WEED

Native to Asia and Europe, the dandelion has been recorded in ancient writings, and Arabian physicians used the plant as medicine in the tenth and eleventh centuries. For centuries, the Chinese and Indians have grown the dandelion to treat liver diseases and digestive problems.

The common dandelion is a perennial, herbaceous (i.e. not “woody”) plant that forms rosettes of leaves with yellow flower clusters rising from the center. The seed head is quite symmetrical and beautiful.

Its name comes from the Latin *Dens Leonis*; meaning lion’s teeth, describing the plant’s tooth-like leaves. The English changed this phrase to dandelion.

Dandelions were grown alongside vegetables and herbs in home gardens to create remedies from the discomfort of many ailments: baldness, toothaches, fevers, weakness, lethargy, and depression; and as a food commodity. Tonics and teas made from dandelion roots resulted in a gentle, nutritional diuretic that aided digestion and helped the body remove toxins from the liver and bloodstream. In the late spring, dandelion wine was made to drink in the autumn and winter. Ladies drank the sweet and light wine as a digestive. Another common culinary use was roasting dandelion roots for a caffeine free coffee substitute.

Dandelions have been eaten for centuries because the leaves contain numerous vitamins and minerals, including iron, potassium, and calcium. A salad of dandelion leaves is packed with valuable vitamins and minerals.

The dandelion arrived in the Americas at the time of the Mayflower. European settlers used the herb for its many medical advantages. There is a legend that the Pilgrims brought the dandelion seeds to the New World in a golden box and with much ceremony and fanfare, Myles Standish planted them into the virgin soils of eastern North America.

Dandelions are now found throughout North and South America and on every continent except the Arctic, because they tolerate a wide range of conditions.

Their quick spread is due to a few factors. Dandelions are fast growers. It takes as little as 8 weeks for a dandelion to go from seed to seed head. The seed of dandelion are not dormant and can germinate immediately in the same year that they are formed. Long lived, a healthy dandelion can thrive up to 13 years. They are adaptable and they can live in almost any condition except compacted soil. Dandelions are very prolific. They produce 150-200 seeds per flower or 15,000 seeds per plant. Dandelions can grow from the taproot or from new seed spread in the wind. The parachute (pappus) attached to the seed carries it far and wide. There are over 100 different species of dandelions around the world.



(above) Once grown by humans for their many benefits, Dandelions are now viewed as the enemy of beautiful lawns.

We most commonly see the common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) and the red-seeded dandelion (*Taraxacum erythrospermum*).

Bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects love dandelions. The flower heads consist of tube like florets, each containing nectar and pollen. Although seen as a weed, it can make a good companion plant in the home garden. Its deep roots pull up nutrients for plants with shallower roots, and add nitrogen and minerals to soil. This once-prized plant, which gardeners used to exhibit at county fairs, now holds the title of Public Lawn Enemy No. 1.

Our obsession with lawns dates back to the days when most people were actively involved in agriculture, growing their own food. Lawns were a symbol of wealth, a way to signal that a person could afford to maintain unproductive land. The concept took hold and evolved into its current ideal: a uniform, highly manicured swath of nothing but grass. “It comes down to image. It’s this cultural thing. It means that you take pride of ownership in your lawn.”

In fruit tree orchards and on farms, dandelions bright yellow flowers lures bees away from the fruit and vegetable blossoms. Each plant can be removed by use of a dandelion knife but it must go deep into the ground to remove all of the crown buds.

Today many environmentalists are asking people to leave some dandelion flowers for our native pollinators. In many areas it is the only early food source for bees.

The information in this article comes from National Library of Medicine, Rutgers University, Michigan State University & Smithsonian Museum.

Happy Spring,

James



(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



Rahway Garden Club

MEETING

"FREE - ALL WELCOME
THURSDAY EVENING, 7-8 pm - March 31, 2024
Merchants & Drovers Tavern Museum
 1062 ST. Georges Ave, Rahway, NJ 07065
SPRING HAS OFFICIALLY STARTED



**DENTURE WEARER
HOTLINE**

908-322-7800



ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN
 If you break or lose your dentures,
 call us for immediate service by
 our in-house laboratory technicians.
SEE US FOR NEW DENTURES



DENTALCARE ASSOCIATES
 PROVIDING HEALTHY SMILES FOR 65 YEARS

567 Park Ave • Scotch Plains
njdentalcare.com

CONCERT CELEBRATES PARTNERSHIP FOR ACCESSIBILITY IN MUSIC

Community Access Unlimited

A group of Union County performers marked seven years of musical partnership and disability inclusion in a recent performance at Kean University's Wilkins Theater in Union.

The Music for All Concert, a collaboration between Community Access Unlimited (CAU) and Kean University, attracted an audience of over 400 people on January 12 for a musical showcase that had a special focus on accessibility for both the attendees and the performers. CAU is a Union County-based nonprofit that provides comprehensive supports for individuals with disabilities and at-risk youth to help them reach their goals and integrate into the community.

The set list included favorites of the group: "Jump" by Van Halen and "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen, as well as a song with original lyrics by CAU's performers from the Academy of Continuing Education (ACE). In addition to Kean University students and alumni as well as performers from ACE, the show featured musicians and choruses from Union County high schools and middle schools.

For the first time, the performance included American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters. The venue also set up a sensory room for anyone who wished to take a break during the show, and provided ear protection and fidget toys.

"We started the Music for All Concert with the idea of giving everyone a chance to participate in a true concert format using music they would be

reading and instruments they would be playing," said Marguerite Modero, music and theater director at ACE. "From the time we started to now the growth has been enormous. We have members who are really eager to perform and come back year after year."

For Samantha Adams, a 2019 graduate of Kean's music education department, mentoring CAU members for the show was an inspiration for her to complete a master's degree in special education, and later become a special education teacher.

"We taught a modified notation system with modified instruments," Adams shared. "It's a color-coded system based on colors along with shapes. So instead of reading black notes on black lines, it's a little bit more accessible. Our goal is to make music accessible for everyone and this concert is a great example of that."

Adams said she was proud to work with Lynann Schraer-Joiner, Kean associate professor and music education coordinator, to build on her work and passion making music approachable for people with disabilities. The group has also submitted their work to be published in an international music education journal.

"Once we had that first concert we knew that we had to do it again," Schraer-Joiner said. "I also saw my students' realization that music really needs to be accessible for everyone, and everyone should have the ability to express themselves musically if that's what they want to do."

ACE student John Drescher sang in the show, sharing his love of Frank Sinatra with a rendition of "Fly Me to the Moon." He credits Modero for helping him build the confidence and skills to sing solo.

"It's a lot of fun, I get to meet new people and meet new friends," Drescher said. "I can't believe I got a standing ovation for Frank Sinatra."

Many ACE students perform each summer with the CAU Community Players, a theater troupe made up of people with and without disabilities. To learn more about the program and register to receive audition information, email Asia Mitchell at Amitchell@caunj.org.

ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating 45 years in 2024, supports people with disabilities 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 3,000 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 www.caunj.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.



Individual and group lessons From beginners on up.

- In-person and Online Lessons
- Regular classes at 27 Bleeker St., Millburn, NJ
- Rated Chess Tournaments
- Search us on YouTube: Chess Party



908-416-1695

Visit our website for details and placement test!

ChessInMillburn.com

chessinmillburn@gmail.com



(above) John Drescher performs "Fly Me to the Moon" at the Music for All Concert at Kean University



(above) Taylor LaFalce provides sign language interpretation as CAU's Academy of Continuing Education students sing at the Music for All Concert at Kean University.

BSE AUTOMOTIVE
www.bseautomotive.com
908-862-9071
MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS
218 W. ELIZABETH AVENUE
LINDEN, NEW JERSEY
 Corner of Lumber Street
 Across from Train Station
 "Leave your car and take the train"
 Second generation owned and operated
 at the same location for over 50 years.
 Like us on Facebook
HONEST, RELIABLE, QUALITY SERVICE

Guitar Lessons
 ONE-ON-ONE
60 MINUTE INSTRUCTION \$45
 Learn at your own pace with customized sessions.
 Private lessons conducted via Skype, Facetime, etc.
 Sample my playing on Instagram & Soundcloud:
 Search "PJ Cotroneo Band". For information, contact:
PJ Cotroneo 908-380-8438
pj@pjcotroneoband.com

BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM OPINION

Submitted by Simone Palermo

The Blue Envelope Program’s purpose is to raise Union County’s police departments’ awareness of special needs (such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, dementia, and anxiety) and how to best communicate with a special needs driver. One point of interest for me in this news article is how all police officers in Union County's twenty-one municipalities will go through a specialized training course on special needs, as well as learning the best methods in engaging with special needs drivers during a traffic stop. These specialized training courses will be vital in not only developing a deeper understanding of special needs, but also on how to best approach special needs drivers to minimize potential misunderstandings and escalations in conflict when pulled over. They will also better communication to special needs drivers that are non-verbal to provide a safer, unprejudiced community that can ensure trust in its police force.

According to one source within the Clark Township’s Police Department, the process of getting a blue envelope is very easy, as the special needs driver can simply call their local police department, press the number for their helpdesk, and ask to receive a blue envelope either directly from the local police station or having it delivered to them in their mailbox. A copy of their driver’s



license and vehicle registration, insurance details, and (if necessary) emergency contact card are placed inside the envelope, which is then placed onto the dashboard of their vehicle so that officers do not make the driver even more nervous than normal under a traffic stop. However, it does concern me deeply how easily accessible these blue envelopes can be as there is a possibility of individuals not in the spectrum to abuse them for their own benefit.

According to the same source, there are other towns in Union County that have implemented the Blue Envelope Program in their police departments; said source however does not know if it has currently spread throughout the entire state of New Jersey. Regardless, my source said that the Clark Police Department has managed to hand out several of these blue envelopes to special needs drivers, which is a promising start for the program’s progress. Upon further research, I have discovered on various websites – such as Crimewatch and the Montgomery County website – that it is being employed in police departments in California, Pennsylvania, Connecticut.

Overall, my opinion on the Blue Envelope Program is incredibly positive. I am advocating for the Blue Envelope Program for Union County’s police departments and hope that it spreads beyond just Union County and the state of New Jersey.

Having lived most of my life with Autism Spectrum Disorder – specifically Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS) – I was personally intrigued when I came across the Clark Monthly’s “Blue Envelopes for Drivers with Autism” newspaper article. As someone who has lived with autism for years, I feel as though I have a voice in this matter, and I would like to let it be heard.

If you or a loved one are a special needs driver looking for more information regarding the Blue Envelope Program, contact your local police department and ask them how you can get started with your blue envelope today.

THE BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM

The blue envelope brings together law enforcement and motorists with autism and other sensory disorders. It’s a resealable and convenient place to keep all driver documents, and contains instruction for both the driver and the interacting officer in the event of a traffic stop.

The tool will help bridge gaps in communication and build empathy in our community.

GET YOURS NOW!

by visiting your local police station in any one of Union County’s 21 municipalities, Union County Sheriff’s office, Union County Police Department, or Union County Prosecutor’s office

GOT COMPUTER PROBLEMS?

SPECIALIZING IN NETWORKS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Call for a Free, No Obligation Consultation

Complete Solutions

Your Complete IT Solutions Provider

732-391-3466

www.completesol.com

Email: info@completesol.com

Al’s Carpentry Home Improvements

25 Years in Business

Bathrooms - Basements - Decks - Tile
Additions- Doors/Windows - Molding - Drywall
Kitchens - Roofing - Siding - Plumbing - Electrical
Int. & Ext. Painting - Household Cleanouts

Call: 908.451.2230
alscarpentry11@aol.com

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER
Electrical Lic. # 14616 & Plumbing w #8660

DANCE DEMOLITION & CLEANUP

License: 13VH01843500

WE CLEAN UP NOT YOUR POCKETS
Specializing in Attic Basement Garage Cleanouts
ALL PHASES OF INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR DEMOLITION
Specializing in Bathroom & Kitchen demolition
Container Rentals 10 – 15 cu. yds
908-759-1463
dancedemolitionandcleanupnj.com

• Video Tape Transfers • DVD & Flash Duplication
• High Speed Photo & Slide Scanning

VIDEO DATA SERVICES®

www.vdsnj.com
facebook.com/vdsnj
email: ira@vdsnj.com
908-964-4004
406 Chestnut St. • Union, NJ 07083

F&S ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

FREE ESTIMATES
All Phases of Electrical Work

ELECTRICAL REPAIR • CONTROL WIRING • CIRCUIT BREAKERS
ELECTRICAL PANELS • SMART HOME SERVICES • BOILERS
EV CHARGER INSTALLATION • SMOKE DETECTORS

SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT - 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

Lic.# 888400 201-600-3530 Bonded & Insured
Short Circuit Specialists

PAYLESS ROOFING

Roofing & Repairs • Metal Roofing
Window Replacements • Vinyl Siding
Emergency Repairs

Many References 22 Years

Call 908-486-0866
or 973-906-8404

Lic # 13VH00418100

Marketing Toolbox

Renna Media offers a full range of marketing services, in print and online, hyper-local to regional, for every budget and market size.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTS

We mail 160,000 newspapers to every home and business in 24 towns. You can advertise in any number of towns. Ads start at \$60.

FULL COLOR PRINTING

We print flyers and menus, full color, two sided, on coated stock for only \$45 per thousand.

DIRECT MAIL

Insert your flyer into the newspapers and get it mailed to every home and business for \$60 per thousand and as low as \$30 per thousand for higher quantities.

ONLINE MARKETING

Online ads and press releases designed and placed to drive traffic to your website and get your phone ringing.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We can design and/or manage your social media campaign from passive to aggressive plans customized to work within your budget.

WEBSITE AND SEO SERVICES

Start with an audit/analysis of your website giving you a report and recommendations for \$250.

It is highly recommended to have a marketing plan and budget before spending.

CALL JOE RENNA FOR A
FREE CONSULTATION.
908-447-1295

RENNA MEDIA NEWSPAPER RATE SHEET

WE MAIL 160,000 NEWSPAPERS MONTHLY!

Tina Renna 908-418-5586 • tinareнна@rennamedia.com
Joe Renna 908-447-1295 • joerenna@rennamedia.com
202 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016

Online at RennaMedia.com
and NJLocalInfo.com

Call today for **FREE** consult on marketing and business plans.



Advertise
in 1 or all
24 towns

Berkeley Heights COMMUNITY NEWS Qty: 4,700 Zip: 07922	THE CHATHAMS NJ Qty: 7,500 Zip: 07928	Clark Monthly NJ Qty: 6,700 Zip: 07066	CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ Qty: 9,900 Zip: 07016	Elmora Hills ELIZABETH, NJ Qty: 5,400 Zip: 07208 Section of Elizabeth, NJ	Fanwood Post NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07023
Florham Park Press NJ Qty: 5,500 Zip: 07932	Garwood Times NJ Qty: 2,500 Zip: 07027	Green Brook Gazette NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 08812	BUSINESS • LIFE KENILWORTH NJ Qty: 3,500 Zip: 07033	NJ LIFE in LINDEN NJ Qty: 17,900 Zip: 07036	Long Hill LEADER NJ Qty: 3,500 Zips: 07933, 07946, 07980
MADISON MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,300 Zip: 07940	MOUNTAIN SIDE VIEW NJ Qty: 2,900 Zip: 07092	New Providence NEWS NJ Qty: 5,100 Zip: 07974	OUR TOWN Rahway, NJ NJ Qty: 13,000 Zip: 07065	ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY NJ Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204	Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY Qty: 9,400 Zip: 07076
Short Hills MILLBURN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041, 07078	Summit & Times NJ Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	Spirit of UNION NJ Qty: 6,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	WARREN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,200 Zip: 07059	Watchung Post NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	Westfield MONTHLY NJ Qty: 11,800 Zip: 07090

NEWSPAPER AD RATES

Units	Size	1 TOWN	3 TOWNS	6 TOWNS	9 TOWNS	12 TOWNS	15 TOWNS	18 TOWNS	21 TOWNS	24 TOWNS
1 Unit (Business card)	3.25" x 2"	\$60	\$150	\$250	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600
2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900	\$1000
4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700	\$1900
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700	\$3000
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000	\$3400
2-PAGE SPREAD	21" x 14"	\$700								
BACK PAGE	10" x 14"	\$500								
FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25" x 2"	\$320								
FRONT PAGE BOX	1.5" x 4.5"	\$240								

PREPAY 6 MONTHS AND GET 1 MORE FREE
PREPAY 12 MONTHS AND GET 3 MORE FREE

Back cover, front page banner and front box reserved on first-come, first-served basis. Current advertiser has right of first refusal.

Make Checks payable to Renna Media, 202 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016

THE WONDER BAND TO PLAY MARCH 9

The Salem Roadhouse Café presents The Wonder Band – a Tribute to Stevie Wonder’s Music, Saturday, March 9, 2024. The doors open at 7:15 p.m., the show starts at 8 p.m. Admission is \$20 and includes show, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert. The venue is located in the basement of Townley Presbyterian Church, 829 Salem Rd, Union, NJ. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities.

The Wonder Band is made up of three extremely talented performers who are well known to the Metro NY/NJ area music scene. Ed Alstrom, leader, is the organist for Yankee Stadium, as well as keyboard player for many famous performers such as Bette Midler, Chuck Berry, Leonard Bernstein, Herbie Hancock and others. The list goes on and on.

Accompanying Ed will be guitarist Al Orlo. Al has recorded with the legendary Ben E. King and was his musical director for 25 years. Al also held the #1 chair at Broadway shows, such as Kinky Boots, Carol King Musical, Hairspray and Smokey Joe’s Café, to name a few.

Bobby Deitch on drums rounds out the trio. Bobby has performed on several recordings such as Richard Sorce’s Latin album “A Place I’ve Never Been” and Richie Hart’s “33 1/3” album.

States Ed Alstrom, “Obviously, Stevie’s music is even more fun to play than it is to listen to. This group does a mix of the hits and some lesser-

known things, without the vocals, and it doesn’t hurt the music one bit not to have them, because they’ll be playing in your mind!

Original artwork by local artist James Spath will be on display at the Roadhouse Gallery of Fine Art for all to enjoy before, during and after the show.

As always, the Salem Roadhouse Café is live, intimate, up front, and personal. All ages are welcome.

ABOUT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

It’s not “church music.” It’s music music. Folks who’ve come to the Salem Roadhouse Café know that it’s a clean, safe place for people who enjoy listening to live music — in a world otherwise filled with clubs and bars. The Roadhouse has always offered its stage to local and independent mainstream musicians. Jazz, rock, folk, and other groups have performed.

The Salem Roadhouse Café has raised funds for many carefully chosen charities. They include: The Presbytery of Elizabeth E-port Center, Center For Hope Hospice, Community Food Bank, Monarch Housing, Angel Paws Animal Rescue, National MS Society, Haiti Disaster Relief, Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief, The Union County YWCA Domestic Violence Program, Making It Possible To End Homelessness, Camp Johnsonburg, The Music Institute, and others. Many thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities.



RENNA MEDIA LAUNCHES YOUTUBE PODCAST

Joe Renna

Renna Media has posted its first episode of “Mind Your Own Local Business,” a podcast that gives advice on how to run a successful local business.

This is my 40th year in business and I draw from my experience and expertise to give advice. I have received so much help in my career from mentors and seasoned business owners, and this is a way to pay it forward.

I already offer free one-on-one consultation on putting together business plans and marketing plans. The show would be a way to reach many more people.

I started in business in 1984 as a graphic designer and grew into a full-service marketing and advertising company. Now, along with my wife Tina, we publish twenty-four community newspapers mailing out 160,000 to homes and businesses monthly.

Like the newspapers, the show will serve as a venue to support local community service organizations and events and production costs will be covered by advertisers. There are several marketing and advertising opportunities for businesses to be included with the freedom to be unique and creative.

I am looking forward to having a lot of fun doing the show. It is another application of my Do-What-You-Love mentality. The show is a free-form magazine format production that is flexible. I welcome business owners to join in the fun.

To learn more call me, 908-447-1295, or email joerenna@rennamedia.com.

ONLINE ADS & PRESS RELEASES DRIVE LOCAL TRAFFIC TO YOUR WEBSITE

- **GET UNLIMITED CLICKS**
An alternative to expensive pay-per-click programs
- **FREE AD DESIGN AND COPYWRITING**
Advertising webpage includes many features including write-up, images, video, Google map, etc.
- **POSTS ARE SHARED THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA**
Posts shared on multiple Facebook pages and twitter.
- **PAID SEARCH ENGINE PROMOTIONS**
Posts are promoted by industry, key words and location.
- **TRACKABLE RESULTS**
All ads include a live view counter.

Joe Renna at 908-447-1295
email: JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com

\$10 PER POST
Block of 20 for \$200
Single post is \$20



Full Color Flyers and Menus Printed and Mailed to Every Home and Business in Town!

FLYERS - \$45 PER THOUSAND
8.5" x 11" / Full color / 2 sided / 60lb gloss coated stock
Tri-fold add \$10 per thousand. Minimum order \$450

LARGE MENUS - PRINTING - \$85 PER THOUSAND
For quantities more than 50,000 cost is \$55 per thousand.
11"x17" / Full color / 2 sided / 60lb gloss coated stock. Min. order \$850
Includes folding (quarter fold or tri-fold, with or without coupons tab)

INSERTED AND MAILED TO EVERY HOME AND BUSINESS
\$60 per thousand. (as low as \$30 per thousand depending on quantity.)
Minimum order \$400

Joe Renna at 908-447-1295
email: JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com



FLYERS \$45 PER 1,000

MENUS \$85 PER 1,000

WEBSITE / SEO SERVICES

- **STARTER WEBSITE: \$500**
Basic static site that can be developed further
 - **WEBSITE CREATION/UPDATE: \$2,400**
Cost for average website: 12 pages, contact form, SEO friendly, responsive design
 - **WEBSITE HOSTING: \$300 PER YEAR**
Includes website hosting, software updates, monthly website content updates
 - **SEO SERVICES: AVERAGE COST \$1,000 - \$2,000 PER MONTH**
Custom tailored solutions: Google Ranking, Local SEO, Social Marketing
- Call for free a consultation if you need help developing an online marketing plan.**

STARTER WEBSITE \$500

Call Walter at 201-478-7408
email: wwwinnj@gmail.com



Scan for First Episode of
Mind Your Own Local Business on YouTube.



It would be a tremendous help if viewers
Subscribe, Comment, Like & Share the shows.



ORDER ONLINE AT
www.metroliquors.com
908-925-1770

**PICK-UP CURBSIDE
OR DELIVERY**

**1179 WEST ST. GEORGES AVE.
(RT. 27) LINDEN, NJ 07036**
email: metroliquors@gmail.com

Hours: Mon. thru Sat. 9am - 10pm, Sun: 11am - 8pm



Hours: Mon. thru Wed. 9am - 9pm, Thur. - Sat. 9am - 10pm, Sun. 10am - 7pm

Witty's
Fine Wine and Liquors

ORDER ONLINE AT
www.wittyswine.com
732-381-6776

PICK-UP CURBSIDE

**870 ST. GEORGES AVE.
(RT. 27) RAHWAY, NJ 07065**
email: wittyswines@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook: [Facebook.com/metrolinden](https://www.facebook.com/metrolinden) and [Facebook.com/wittyswines](https://www.facebook.com/wittyswines)

WHISKY

Ballantine	1.75L	\$30.99
Buchanan's 12yrs old	750ml	\$29.99
Buchanan's 12yrs old	1.75L	\$57.99
Bushmill's Irish	1.75L	\$46.99
Chivas Regal	750 ml	\$31.99
Chivas Regal	1.75L	\$62.99
Chivas Regal 18 yrs old	750 ml	\$82.99
Crown Royal	750ml	\$28.99
Crown Royal	1.75L	\$50.99
Dewars 12 yrs old	750ml	\$25.99
Dewars 12 yrs old	1.75L	\$45.99
Dewars White Label	750 ml	\$20.99
Dewars White Label	1.75L	\$33.99
Gentleman Jack	750ml	\$29.99
Gentleman Jack	1.75L	\$52.99
Glenmorangie 10 yrs old	750ml	\$40.99
Glenlivet 12 yrs old	750 ml	\$56.99
Glenlivet 12 yrs old	1.75L	\$104.99
Grants	750ml	\$15.99
Grants	1.75L	\$24.99
Jack Daniels	750ml	\$27.99
Jack Daniels	1.75L	\$48.99
Jack Daniels Fire	750ml	\$26.99
Jack Daniels Fire	1.75L	\$48.99
Jameson	750ml	\$32.99
Jameson	1.75L	\$60.99
Jim Beam Whisky	1.75L	\$32.99
Johnnie Walker Blue	750ml	\$193.99
Johnnie Walker Blue	1.75L	\$449.99
Johnnie Walker Black	750ml	\$29.99
Johnnie Walker Black	1.75L	\$59.99
Johnnie Walker Double Black	750ml	\$35.99
Johnnie Walker Red	750ml	\$19.99
Johnnie Walker Red	1.75L	\$33.99
Macallan 12yrs old (double cask)	750ml	\$74.99
Makers Mark	750ml	\$29.99
Makers Mark	1.75L	\$56.99

GIN

Beefeater	1.75L	\$36.99
Bombay Sapphire	1.75L	\$39.99
Seagram's gin	1.75L	\$24.99
Tanqueray	750ml	\$22.99
Tanqueray	1.75L	\$38.99

COGNAC & BRANDY

Courvoisier V.S.	750ml	\$35.99
Courvoisier V.S.	1.75L	\$60.99
Remy Martin V.S.O.P.	750ml	\$50.99
Remy Martin V.S.O.P.	1.75L	\$129.99

CORDIALS

Bailey's Irish Cream	1.75L	\$47.99
Duggan's Irish Cream	1.75L	\$32.99
Kahlua	1.75L	\$45.99
Krupnik	750ml	\$20.99
Licor 43	750ml	\$27.99
Licor 43	1.75L	\$45.99

VODKA

Absolut (regular)	750ml	\$21.99
Absolut (regular)	1.75L	\$31.99
Belvedere Organic Vodka	1L	\$39.99
Belvedere Organic Vodka	1.75L	\$49.99
Ciroc (all types)	750ml	\$29.99
Ciroc (all types)	1.75L	\$57.99
Finlandia	750ml	\$16.99
Finlandia	1.75L	\$26.99
Grey Goose	750ml	\$24.99
Grey Goose	1.75L	\$39.99
Ketel One	750ml	\$19.99
Ketel One	1.75L	\$39.99
Luksusowa Vodka	1.75L	\$25.99
Pinnacle (all types)	750ml	\$11.99
Pinnacle (80 proof)	1.75L	\$17.99
Skyy	1.75L	\$21.99
Sobieski	750ml	\$12.99
Sobieski	1.75L	\$21.99
Stolichnaya (all types)	1.75L	\$30.99
Tanqueray Sterling	750ml	\$19.99
Tanqueray Sterling	1.75L	\$30.99
Three Olives (all types)	1L	\$19.99
Tito's Vodka	1.75L	\$31.99

RUM

Bacardi Light & Gold	750ml	\$13.99
Bacardi Light & Gold	1.75L	\$20.99
Captain Morgan Spice	1.75L	\$27.99
Malibu	750ml	\$21.99
Malibu	1.75L	\$31.99

TEQUILA

Deleon Blanco Tequila	750ml	\$37.99
Deleon Blanco Tequila	1.75L	\$59.99
Patron Silver	750ml	\$46.99
Patron Silver	1.75L	\$89.99
Cantera Negra Coffee Tequila	750ml	\$29.99

BEER

Becks (12oz) 24pk	24pk	\$27.99
Blue Moon	24pk	\$36.49
Bud and Bud Lite cans	30pk	\$25.99
Bud and Bud Lite loose bottles	24pk	\$22.99
Coors Lite (24oz) cans	12pk	\$18.99
Coors Lite/Miller Lite loose bottles	24pk	\$23.99
Coors Lite/Miller Lite	30pk	\$26.99
Corona/Corona Lite loose bottles	24pk	\$32.99
Dab (16oz) cans	24pk	\$26.99
Founders All Day IPA	15pk	\$17.49
Heineken/Heineken Lite bottles	24pk	\$32.99
Land Shark	24pk	\$29.99
Lech (500ml)	20pk	\$32.99
Modelo Especial cans	24pk	\$29.99
Pabst Blue Ribbon cans	30pk	\$20.99
Pilsner Urquell	24pk	\$35.99
Sam Adams Boston Lager	24pk	\$34.99
Stella Artois loose bottles	24pk	\$32.99
Super Bock	24pk	\$32.99
Yuengling Lager bottles	24pk	\$23.99
Zywiec (11.2oz)	24pk	\$21.99

WINE

Bartenura Moscato	750ml	\$12.99
Barone Fini Pinot Grigio	750ml	\$11.99
Beringer White Zinfandel	750ml	\$ 5.99
Beringer White Zinfandel	1.5L	\$ 9.49
Black Box (All Types)	3L	\$19.99
Carnivor Cabernet Sauvignon	750ml	\$10.99
Casal Garcia Vinho Verde	1L	\$ 6.99
Cavit (All Types)	1.5L	\$15.99
Clos du Bois Chardonnay	1.5 L	\$19.99
Dom Perignon	750ml	\$264.99
Dreaming Tree (All Types)	750ml	\$13.99
Ecco Domani Pinot Grigio	750ml	\$11.99
Adagio Pinot Grigio	1.5L	\$10.99
Freixenet Brut, Extra, Extra Dry	750ml	\$11.99
Gato Negro (All Types)	1.5L	\$ 9.99
Gazela Vinho Verde	750ml	\$ 6.49
Joseph Carr Cabernet Sauvignon	750ml	\$21.99
Kendall Jackson Vintners Chardonnay	750ml	\$13.99
Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc	750ml	\$14.99
Louis Jadot Beaujolais Villages	750ml	\$13.99
Louis Jadot Pouilly Fuisse	750ml	\$26.99
Martini & Rossi Asti	750ml	\$11.97
Menage a Trois Red	750ml	\$10.49
Mi Amore Red	750ml	\$ 8.99
Moet Imperial Champagne	750ml	\$48.09
Noble Wine 337, 667	750ml	\$11.99
Papi (All Types)	1.5L	\$11.99
Ruffino Chianti	750ml	\$ 9.99
Ruffino Chianti	1.5L	\$14.99
Ruffino Pinot Grigio	1.5L	\$14.99
Ruffino Tan label	750ml	\$19.99
Santa Margerita Pinot Grigio	750ml	\$22.09
Silver Oak Alexander Valley Cabernet	750ml	\$115.99
Simi Chardonnay	750ml	\$13.09
Woodbridge (All Types)	1.5L	\$12.49

**We specialize in hard to find items
and custom orders, just ask!**

10% OFF
Any purchase of
6 bottles of wine
Restriction apply.
Coupons not valid on sale items.

15% OFF
Any purchase of
12 bottles of wine
Restriction apply.
Coupons not valid on sale items.

Visit our facebook page for news of next tasting event:
[facebook.com/metrolinden](https://www.facebook.com/metrolinden)

*“Cold or warm Beer = Same Price”
“Visit the store for more In-Store Specials!”*

ABC prices prevail other prices, limited to store inventory.

Not responsible for typographical errors.

Prices may vary.