

OUR TOWN

RAHWAY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Issue 171 • October 2024

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ELKS AND ANTLERS GO WHERE THEY ARE NEEDED

Submitted by Kristina Petti

Members of the Rahway Elks #1075 and Rahway Antlers #39 attended the annual East Central District Elks Camp Moore dinner held on August 18, 2024. We were happy to have the time to interact with the campers before and after dinner. Helpers from Rahway Elks included: Exalter Ruler- Larry Mastroberardino, East Central District Special Childrens Committee- Doreen Duffy, Lead Antler Advisor- Kristina Petti, Antler Advisors- Mary Murray and Trisha Grimes, along with 5 Rahway Antlers.

It was a wonderful day that started out with a tour of the camp while the rain held off, a nice group meal with all of the volunteers, helping out with the dinner, and cleaning up. We especially loved listening to the many songs that the counselors lead and that all of the campers loved after dinner!

Our second road trip of the year was to Lacey Antlers #1 in Lacey, NJ to assist with the NJ Elks Veteran's committee annual Army of Hope picnic on Sunday, September 9, 2024. They joined the 50+ other Antlers from around the state in volunteering and serving our gold star families! Helpers from Rahway Elks included: Lead Antler Advisor- Kristina Petti, Antler Advisors- Mary Murray, Trisha Grimes, Bob Temple, and Suzanne Lang. East Central District Vice President Jonathan Joshua, Rahway lodge member Mike Lang, and 6 Rahway Antlers.

The Army of Hope picnic gives the Elks an opportunity to honor and express our sincere gratitude and support to the families of fallen heroes, or severely wounded soldiers, and the brave members of our military from NJ for their dedication and sacrifices in defending our freedoms.

Our next trip will be to the Stirling Lodge for their East Central District

Veteren's committee Family Fun Day Picnic to benefit homeless veterans on Saturday, September 28, 2024. Our Antlers are doing great things in Rahway and around our state!

The Rahway Antlers are 12-20 year olds who volunteer at various events and do community service. If you are interested in learning more or joining please visit our website rahwayelks.org and follow us on Facebook & Instagram: Rahway Antlers #39.



(above) ECD SCC Chair-Doreen Duffy, PDD, Rahway Lodge ER Larry Mastroberardino, and Kristina Petti, Lead Antler Advisor

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(above) Participants from Rahway Lodge.

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



RAHWAY ELKS & LIGHTNING WHEELS

Submitted by Kristina Petti

OUR TOWN *Rahway*

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On Saturday, September 14, 2024, the Purple People Eaters, sponsored by the Rahway Elks participated in the 28th year, the annual Lehrer-Gibilisco Benefit Softball Tournament.

The tournament is run to benefit Children's Specialized Hospital's Lightning Wheels, an athletic team for children, ages 7 to 22, with physical disabilities. The team competes in a number of sports and events such as track and field, archery, swimming, and powerlifting at local, regional, and national levels.

The team consisted of members of the Rahway elks, as well as a Union Lodge member, friends, and family. The team played their best and had fun in the name of charity.

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.



(above) Purple People Eaters

Courtesy photo

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HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH CONTINUES IN OCTOBER



The City of Rahway's 2024 Hispanic heritage celebrations began with events held in September and continue in October.

The Gallery Space will host the Prime-Time Music Series: Swing Sabroso on October 4th at 8:00 p.m. This concert promises to be a night of exceptional music. For tickets, please visit register.communitypass.net/Rahway.

Rahway is home to many unique Hispanic culinary traditions which will be on display on October 5th and October 12th during the "No Sin Mi Bocado" event. Participating Rahway restaurants will offer delicious small bites for a small price for attendees to enjoy from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. For a list of participating restaurants and menus, please follow [instagram.com/rahwayishappening/](https://www.instagram.com/rahwayishappening/).

The Senior Center will host an exciting Senior Salsa Night on October 10th at 6:30 p.m., led by


NJ Salsa. To learn more and register for this event, please call 732-827-2016.

On October 11th, residents are invited to Hamilton Stage Parking Lot, located at 360 Hamilton Street, for a drive-in movie experience featuring "Encanto" at 8:00 p.m. Registration is required at: register.communitypass.net/Rahway

On October 12th, the City of Rahway presents "Mexico Beyond Mariachi: Trekking Mexico" on UCPAC's Main Stage at 3:00 p.m. This family-friendly musical expedition will take you on a journey through Mexico's culture, blending education with vibrant dance and folklore. To learn more about this event, please visit ucpac.org.


Don't miss out on these incredible events celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. For more information, please visit cityofrahway.org/517/Hispanic-Heritage-Month.

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LONG-TIME PUPPY RAISERS HONORED



(above) Pam Heady was among those inducted into “The Seeing Eye 21 Club”, a special honor for volunteers who have raised at least 21 Seeing Eye® puppies.

Courtesy photo

The Seeing Eye

The Seeing Eye recently honored five long-time puppy raisers with induction to “The Seeing Eye 21 Club”, a special honor for volunteers who have raised at least 21 Seeing Eye® puppies. The non-profit also honored the Seeing Eye puppy raising club volunteers with two awards, the Outstanding Leader Award and the 20-year Leader Award. Finally, 34 exceptional college-bound puppy raisers were awarded college scholarships totaling \$64,000.

“Each year, The Seeing Eye’s Family Day is a celebration of all the hard work and dedication of our volunteer puppy raising families,” said Seeing Eye director of canine development Peggy Gibbon. “An army of volunteers provides each Seeing Eye puppy with a loving home environment, socialization, and basic training that prepares them to become Seeing Eye dogs for people who are blind.”

“We’re actively recruiting puppy raisers and puppy sitters for our upcoming litters that are planned for the coming months. If you’re interested in joining our community of dog lovers, now is a great time to reach out to us and learn what puppy raising is all about,” said Gibbon. “We need homes and families of all shapes and sizes for our puppies because fully trained Seeing Eye dogs are placed in similarly diverse families and living situations with people who are blind.”

A puppy raiser family is responsible for providing a loving and nurturing home environment for approximately one year. During

that time, the raiser is responsible for teaching basic obedience, house manners, bringing the puppy to Seeing Eye puppy club meetings and socialization trips in their area. The Seeing Eye puppy could be a German shepherd, Labrador retriever, golden retriever, or a Labrador/golden retriever cross.

Puppy raisers must live within New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware or New York (Rockland or Orange Counties) so they can attend regular puppy club meetings where they will receive help and coaching with their puppies. All veterinary expenses are covered by The Seeing Eye and a stipend is provided to help cover the cost of dog food. If a Seeing Eye puppy does not graduate from the program, the family who raised the puppy is offered the first option to adopt the puppy they raised. For more information visit seeingeye.org/raise.

Established in 1929, The Seeing Eye provides specially bred and trained dogs to guide people who are blind. Seeing Eye dog handlers experience greatly enhanced mobility and independence, allowing them to retain their active lifestyles. The Seeing Eye is a 501(c)3 non-profit supported by contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations, bequests, and other planned gifts.

The Seeing Eye is a trademarked name and can only be used to describe the dogs bred and trained at the school’s facilities in Morristown, N.J. If you would like more information on The Seeing Eye, please visit the website at SeeingEye.org, call 973-539-4425, or email info@seeingeye.org.

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LECTURE: WHEN THERE WERE WITCHES OCT 8

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Lecture Title

When There Were Witches: An Exploration of the Salem Witch Trials

Presenter

Mickey DiCamillo, trustee at the Historical Society of Moorestown, research librarian

Date

Tuesday, October 8, 2024 @ 7:30 p.m.

Location

First Presbyterian Church, Thomson Hall, 11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford

In January of 1692, a strange illness seized control of five young girls living in Salem Village, a contentious and divided town in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. When medical professionals couldn't identify the illness, the town believed the girls had come "under an evil hand." Events soon spiraled out of control with local divisions and a splintered colonial government feeding the frenzy. Archivist Mickey DiCamillo unravels the events with archival documents from the period, and program participants will interact with transcripts from the 1692 interrogations of suspected witches. Participants will also learn where the documents live online, so they can investigate more on their own. A Q&A session follows the presentation.

BILINGUAL VOLS NEEDED TO HELP FOSTER YOUTH

Child Focus

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, Child Focus, the nonprofit organization that runs Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Passaic and Union Counties, proudly recognizes the extraordinary efforts of Advocacy Supervisors Tiffany Mendoza and Wendy Monterrosa. Amid a significant shortage of bilingual volunteers, each has embraced the role of primary advocate on five cases with Spanish-speaking children, biological parents or resource parents, showcasing their commitment to making a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children.

Tiffany and Wendy have stepped up to bridge this gap, in addition to their work supervising a team of volunteer advocates. Their efforts in taking on these additional 10 cases total, navigating complex situations where language barriers could impede access to essential services and support for children and their families, underscore the urgent need for bilingual community members to join CASA of Passaic and Union Counties as volunteer advocates.

The need for bilingual Spanish-English CASA volunteers is more pressing than ever. Child Focus is actively seeking community

members fluent in both English and Spanish to join CASA of Passaic and Union Counties. Volunteers will undergo comprehensive training to become effective advocates for children removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. This training equips volunteers with the skills needed to navigate court proceedings, build trust with children, and collaborate with caseworkers and attorneys.

For those interested in making a difference, the first step is to attend an information session in Union County: Wed., Oct. 9th or 23rd at 5:30 p.m. at the Colleen Fraser Building at 300 North Avenue East in Westfield; Wed., Oct. 16 at noon in the Elizabeth office at 1143 East Jersey Street, 2nd Floor.

ABOUT CHILD FOCUS:

Child Focus prioritizes the needs and well-being of infants, children, and teens impacted by or at risk of abuse or neglect by amplifying their voices and working toward lasting, permanent solutions that address their unique situations and provide the support needed to thrive. This critical work is accomplished through three distinct but complementary programs: CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, NJ Safe Babies Court Team, and the Open Door Store. For more information about Child Focus, log on to childfocusnj.org.

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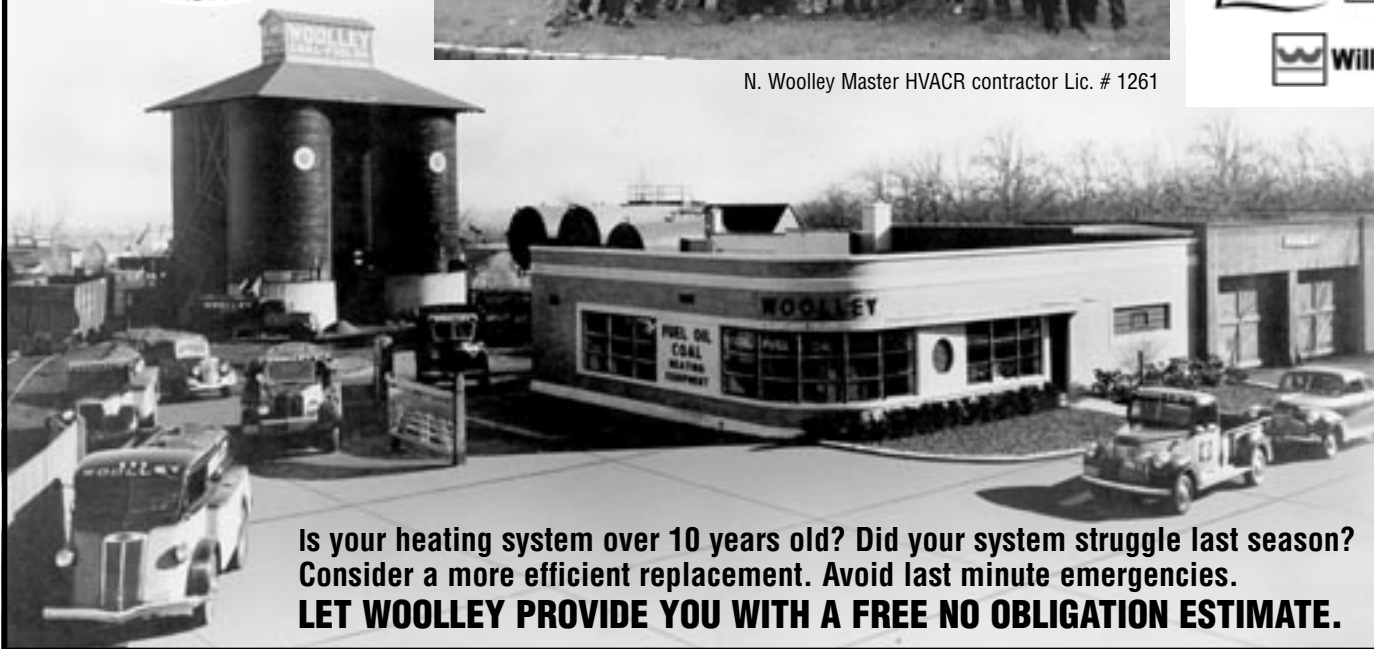
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CEMETERY TOUR TO FEATURE “WORKERS” FROM RAHWAY’S PAST

Submitted by Alex Shipley

“Rahway Works” is the theme for the 2024 presentation of the Merchants and Drovers Tavern Museum Association’s annual program “Ghosts of the Past” Cemetery Tour to be held in the historic Rahway Cemetery on Sunday, October 6. The tour will feature industrialists, artists, writers, architects, factory workers, and laborers.

This year marks the 30th year of this unique program where visitors are escorted to the gravesites of selected individuals from Rahway’s past to meet costumed actors who present their biographies. The tour will include

sculptor John Frazee, industrialist William Squier, architect Seymour Williams, and author Carolyn Wells. Visitors will also be taken to the graves of members of the working class including Catherine Anderson, innkeeper at the Merchants and Drovers, factory workers Elmer Bogart and Octave Challiet, Ambo, an enslaved woman, and clock maker Isaac Brokaw. Factory owners William Flatt, Andrew Jardine, and John Urmston will give information about their manufacturing businesses.

Tours start at noon and groups leave every fifteen minutes with each tour lasting approximately two hours. Tour time reservations

are recommended to ensure a desired starting time. Walk-ins are welcome and may register for tours throughout the day.

Admission for this educational tour is \$15.00 for adults, \$10.00 for members of the Association and seniors (65+), and \$5.00 for children (12 and under).

Parking is available at Parkside Plaza, 1600 St. Georges Avenue which is located a half block from the Museum.

To make reservations, visit the Museum’s website at merchantsanddrovers.org. For more information call the Museum office at 732-381-0441.

PANCAKE BREAKFASTS AMERICAN LEGION

Pancake Breakfast – October 20, 2024

Come to a Pancake Breakfast, hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary - Unit 102, on Sunday, October 20, 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 Blueberry Pancakes. 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 - October 26, 2024

Come one, come all to the VFW#1397 Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, October 26, 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!

KOC ROAST BEEF DINNER – OCT. 13

The Rahway Knights of Columbus #1146, located at 80 West Inman Ave., is hosting a Roast Beef Dinner on Sunday, October 13 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Cost for adults is \$15.00 and for children under 10 years old is \$10.00. Dessert, coffee and tea included.

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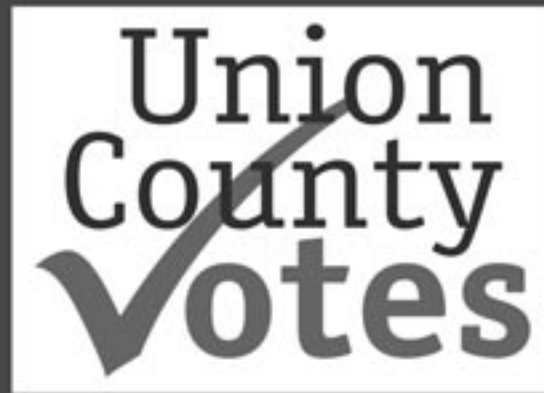
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TRINITY METHODIST, ORGANIZED IN 1849, REACHES 175 YEAR MILESTONE

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

Rahway's earliest religious congregations, which were organized even before the birth of the country, were Quakers and Presbyterians. A third religious sect, the Methodists, organized in the late 1790s and would grow to become a vibrant religious community. Trinity United Methodist Church, an offshoot of that original congregation, began its history in 1849 as a neighborhood church and will celebrate its 175th anniversary on October 27.

On May 25, 1774, Reverend William Watters rode into Rahway bringing with him the words of Methodism. The Rahway area was just one of the stops for this circuit-riding preacher who spread the tenets of the Methodist religion throughout much of the land east of the Delaware River. Several families soon embraced the gospel as taught by Watters and by 1798 there were enough followers to officially organize a congregation. In 1804 William Flatt, owner of a large carriage factory, purchased an old Quaker meeting hall located on Main Street and invited the congregation to meet there. The members accepted the invitation and began bi-monthly meetings in their new home.

By the summer of 1809, the congregation which had experienced growth over the five year period broke ground on Grand Avenue for an edifice that they would affectionately call



(above) A sketch of Trinity's new sanctuary as it appeared on their dedication service program from December 29, 1895.

“Liberty Chapel”. It was at this time that the church was incorporated as the Methodist Episcopal Church of Rahway, New Jersey and in time became known to locals as First Methodist.

In 1856, the congregation built a new sanctuary that would accommodate their growing programs. Their imposing building, built in the Greek revival style was constructed on the same site where their chapel had stood. Today, the sanctuary serves as home for the Family Center Christian congregation.

By the mid-1800s, Rahway's population had grown and sections of the city that had been sparsely populated became busy neighborhoods. For the Methodist families residing in the southeastern part of town, traveling to the Grand Avenue church for over forty years had always been difficult, especially during the winter months. With a larger number of members now living in the area, the families asked the church leaders at First Methodist for permission to branch off and create a new church nearer their homes. Permission was granted and the Second Methodist Episcopal Church of Rahway was established.

In 1850 the congregation moved into a small sanctuary located on the corner of Broad Street and Milton Avenue on the east side of the railroad tracks which at that time were on ground level. During the forty-two years that the church stood next to the tracks, services were constantly disrupted by the cacophony of noises from passing trains. After four decades of dealing with the noise and soot thrown from the engines, a new sanctuary was built on the corner of Main Street and Milton Avenue. At the Dedication Service on December 29, 1895, the church name was changed to Trinity Episcopal Methodist Church.

The new sanctuary was an impressive brick building designed in the Romanesque-style. Prominent features include steep roof lines with a tall main corner tower and two shorter towers on each side. The three-story entrance tower has a belfry with three arched louvered windows on each side topped by a tent roof. The shorter



(above) This 1886 map shows the location of the Second Methodist Church and its close proximity to the railroad tracks. Note on the north side of Milton Avenue the railroad depot and the first home of the First Baptist Church.

towers have similar tent roofs. The huge arched stained glass windows on the south and east sides are also impressive features of this classic design.

Throughout the 20th century, the pastors and church officials remained untiring in their efforts to energize the congregation always leading it toward an active Christian life and character.

In 1930 the church dropped the word Episcopal from its name and became Trinity Methodist Church. It would keep the name until 1960 when it was changed to Trinity United Methodist Church, which remains its current name.

A large education building was erected next to the sanctuary in 1962 to support Trinity's varied youth programs many of which are ongoing to this day.

Under the leadership of current pastor Arturo Bautista, who was assigned to Trinity in 2015, the congregation has been engaged in varied mission programs designed to uplift the spiritual life of the church and nearby communities. Trinity partnered with the Elizabeth Coalition to house the homeless in 2016 and has provided overnight lodging for homeless individuals during cold winter nights. Members of the congregation regularly visit three area nursing homes where they spend time interacting with sick and elderly residents. Their “Coffee Box” ministry was initiated as an alternative to traditional ministry to bring young people closer to Christ through music. The congregation supports the Food for Friends food pantry by collecting canned and boxed food items that are distributed to ones in need. On the evening of the City of Rahway's Christmas Tree Lighting/Winter Wonderland festivities members help keep the crowd warm by distributing complimentary cups of hot chocolate.

Trinity United Methodist will celebrate its 175th Anniversary on Sunday, October 27 with focus on the theme “Be Still and Know.” The Anniversary Committee has invited Rev. Bernadeth A. Morales, Chaplain of Overlook Medical Center in Summit to be the guest speaker. The celebration will culminate with a fellowship luncheon with the Trinity family, City of Rahway officials, guests, and friends. All are welcome.

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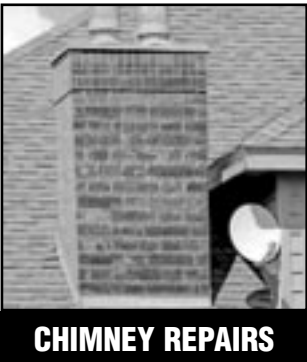
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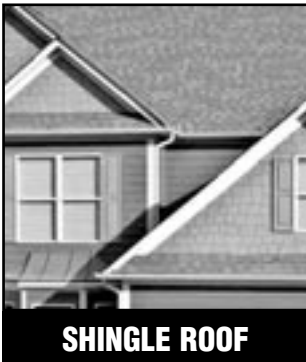
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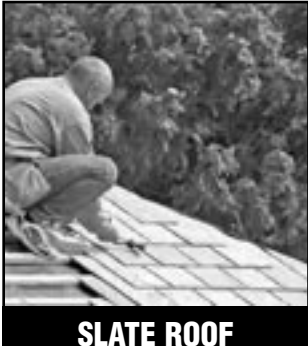
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FAMILY-FRIENDLY HALLOWEEN EVENTS



The City of Rahway is thrilled to announce a lineup of thrilling and family-friendly Halloween events for residents of all ages. From Halloween parties to pumpkin painting to the highly anticipated Halloween Parade and Spooktacular, there is something for everyone to enjoy this spooky season.

Kicking off the festivities on Thursday, October 17th, Rahway Seniors are invited to attend the annual Senior Halloween Party at the Rahway Recreation Center. Starting at 12:00 p.m., this event promises an afternoon of music, lunch, and exciting door prizes. While costumes are optional, participants are encouraged to embrace the Halloween spirit. For more information on ticket sales, please contact the Rahway Senior Center at 732-827-2016.

Union County residents with disabilities and special needs aged 13 and older are invited to the 2024 Halloween Bash. Taking place on Friday, October 18th, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., this inclusive event promises a night of fun-filled activities. Attendees can look forward to a dance party, games, haunted rooms, costume contests, and arts and crafts projects. To register for the Halloween Bash, interested individuals can visit cityofrahway.com/Halloween or call

908-527-4781.

On Monday, October 21st, the City will host a Pumpkin Patch Pick and Paint for children with disabilities and special needs. Children ages 3-18, accompanied by a parent, will pick a pumpkin from the “patch” at the Rahway Recreation Center and bring it inside to paint. This event is free, but registration is required at cityofrahway.com/recreation.

The highlight of the Halloween season in Rahway is undoubtedly the Halloween Parade and Spooktacular, set to take place on Saturday, October 26th. Residents are encouraged to wear their most creative costumes and gather at the Hamilton Stage parking lot at 360 Hamilton Street for the parade departure at 1:00 p.m. Led by a lively procession down Irving Street, the parade will stop at the Train Station Plaza, where the Spooktacular festivities will continue until 4:00 p.m. The Spooktacular promises a variety of carnival-style games, stilt walkers, face painters, Halloween-themed music, goody bags, strolling characters, and exciting prizes for the best costumes.

Registration for the Halloween Parade and Spooktacular is now open and can be completed online at cityofrahway.com/Halloween.

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(above) The City of Rahway Announces Exciting Halloween Festivities

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SENIOR HEALTH & FITNESS DAY - OCTOBER 16TH

The Gateway Family YMCA

The Gateway Family YMCA will host Senior Health & Fitness Day on Wednesday, October 16, 2024. The Y is providing a Community Open House with activities like Swimming, Group Exercise, Water Exercise, Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring, a Community Health Fair, Health Screenings and Information at Y branches in Elizabeth, Rahway, and Union. For details on individual Y branch events, classes, and times, visit tgfymca.org/events

According to Melynda A. Disla, President/CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA, "We are committed to ensuring that everyone in our community is supported, promoting health equity, and providing access to chronic disease prevention and management programs. Our commitment reaches beyond the walls of our branches, throughout the community and virtually, from home."

During Senior Health and Fitness Day, community members will join the YMCA and community partners for a Community Health Fair with vaccination information. The Gateway Family YMCA, Shaping Elizabeth and Shaping Union County will be hosting this event, along with the YMCA Open House with access and activities provided free of charge for all.

In addition, throughout the day on October 16th, the community is invited to visit The Gateway Family YMCA's Facebook page for helpful resources, information and updates and discussions at:

facebook.com/GatewayFamilyYMCA

The Gateway Family YMCA provides chronic disease self-management programs free to the local community in English and Spanish. Interested participants can register for the Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring Program (BPSM), Group Lifestyle Balance Diabetes Program, Diabetes Management Program or LiveSTRONG at the YMCA for cancer survivors at www.tgfymca.org or contact 908-349-9622 or

bpsm@tgfymca.org for additional information.

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

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. Shaping Elizabeth, Shaping Rahway and Shaping Union are also sponsoring this event.

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA visit tgfymca.org or contact the Y at 908-349-9622.



14TH ANNUAL RAHWAY DAY CELEBRATION

Presented by the

Rahway Chamber of Commerce

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TABLES ARE FILLING UP FAST FOR THIS YEAR'S 14TH-ANNUAL RAHWAY DAY CELEBRATION

This free community event is open to the public and will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The celebration occurs at the Rahway Recreation Center, 275 East Milton Avenue, behind Rahway City Hall. The event will utilize both the interior and exterior space at our city's recreation facility.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Rahway Day is an all-inclusive hometown experience where new and longtime residents can enjoy all that Rahway offers in one place.

PARTICIPANTS & ACTIVITIES LIST IS GROWING

Over fifty Rahway businesses and organizations, representatives from city departments and commissions, and elected officials will participate this year.

Yoga by Arista Yoga, Poetry by ACP Arts, pickleball instructions by Certified Instructor Emmanuel. Pumpkin painting and crafts for kids, 360 Photo booth, and an ROTC Clothing Drive are just a small sample of the presented activities.

ALL WELCOME - GREAT PRIZES, FOOD & ICE CREAM

There will also be many free giveaways and hourly prizes. The specialty food trucks will offer great lunch options and delicious ice cream and should not be missed.

For more info, please contact us:

Rahway Day at RCC Website

www.rahwaychamberofcommerce.com/rahway-day




AWARD-WINNING EDUCATION INITIATIVE CELEBRATED

Submitted by Kristina Petti

On Thursday, September 12, 2024, the Rahway 7th & 8th Grade Academy celebrated joining Verizon Innovative Learning—Verizon’s award-winning education initiative which addresses barriers to digital inclusion and helps drive digital equity within education for some of the most vulnerable populations across the country—with a kickoff event in which students will receive their own devices. In partnership with Digital Promise, the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools program works side-by-side with schools and districts to get internet-connected devices into the hands of students and enhance how teachers use technology in the classroom. Being part of the program will keep

students connected, helping to facilitate learning wherever it’s taking place.

In addition to reliable access for every student and teacher, Verizon Innovative Learning Schools also equips each school with a technology coach and provides robust professional development support for teachers to effectively integrate technology into the classroom. Teachers in the program have reported that the initiative allows for more individualized

instruction, helps them explore new ways of teaching, and elevates student engagement.

The Rahway High School and Rahway 7th and 8th Grade Academy are among 34 schools joining Verizon Innovative Learning Schools for

the 2024-25 school year, bringing the program’s impact to 626 schools nationwide. A total of 2,228 devices with data plans were provided to these Rahway Public Schools as part of the program.

The kickoff event at The Rahway Academy featured local students receiving their own devices, as well as: Firsthand remarks from administrators and program leaders on why hands-on learning experiences using technology are so important to academic achievement and lifelong success. Demonstrations by teachers and students on how this technology will be used in classrooms this year. And music, giveaways from the Rahway Education Association (REA), and other fun activities.



(above) Ms. Isabel Colon, Rahway Academy Principal with school board president- Mr. Joseph Toma, and Rahway Public Schools Superintendent- Dr. Aleya Shoieb.



(above) Board member-Mrs. Shanna Raysick, and Director of Student Services-Larry Abramowitz.



(above) Ms. Kimberly Shanks, Digital Literacy teacher at the Academy, doing a demo of the Newline Boards that are in every classroom at the school.



(above) Dr. Linda Lampert- District Testing & Data Specialist helping to distribute the new devices.



(above) The Student Technology team that will be supporting the operation and use of the new devices.

Photos by Kristina Petti

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RAKING LEAVES & NEW ENVIROMENTAL THEORIES

Since the end of the last World War, lawns have become a status symbol for the wealthy and upcoming middle class. No longer having to grow our own food, a lush lawn became a way of quietly saying “Look at me”. For most homeowners, a lawn full of fallen leaves is unsightly and unacceptable.

Today with landfills full beyond capacity, agricultural universities, and environmental scientists are searching for better ways to utilize autumn leaves, long known to be wasted source of nutrients for our soil.

As autumn begins and the sunlight hours lessen, trees stop their food making process. The chlorophyll breaks down, the green color disappears, leaving the yellow to orange colors to become visible and give the leaves their fall splendor. Shortly after that most deciduous trees shed all their leaves. This incredible process helps trees protect themselves from damage during the harsh winter weather to come. Luckily, we get to witness to this spectacular display of color every year.

The following article was written by Diana Alfuth of Wisconsin University, Madison.

Fall is a beautiful time of year in the Northeast, but it comes with a list of chores to be done before the snow flies. Must raking leaves be one of those chores? Maybe, maybe not. If you have trees dropping leaves on your lawn grass, in many cases there is no need to incur blisters by raking them up. Leaves have nutrients, which can be recycled into your lawn. The concern is if your leaf layer is very thick and will smother the grass.

If you have just a few leaves, such as 20 percent of the lawn covered, you can just ignore them. They will blow around, settle in, and break down on their own. If you have a moderate amount of leaves, such as 50 percent coverage, you still don't need to rake. Simply run your lawn

mower over them to chop them into smaller pieces so they can settle between the grass blades where they will decompose over time and release nutrients for your lawn to use next year.

If you have a thick layer of leaves where you can barely see any signs of grass beneath them, it is best if you remove some of the leaves. This prevents matting and smothering of the grass. Rake or otherwise remove at least half of them. You don't need to get every last leaf, but if you remove a significant amount of them, then you can mow the rest up and leave them on the lawn. Those raked up leaves can be a valuable resource, and used in composting, winter mulching, or saved until spring for mulching in vegetable or flower gardens.

The one caveat (concern) to leaving tree leaves where they fall is if your trees have had serious foliar fungal diseases. While most leaf spots on leaves are cosmetic and harmless to the overall health of the tree, fallen diseased leaves do serve as a source for spores that can infect next year's emerging leaves. Significantly diseased leaves should be raked and removed from the area and disposed of properly, such as by burying, burning where allowed, or hot composting. In our area, put them in the trash, not the compost pile.

Of course, one good reason to rake up leaves is to have a pile to jump and play in! But if you only have a moderate amount of leaves on your lawn, quickly mow them up and spend your time doing the other things on your pre-winter chore list.

Caution: All foreign matter must be removed before mulching. Plastics matter will not decompose and have no nutritional value for the soil.

Happy autumn,

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



(above) Deer rutting season begins in mid-October until late December. Use caution when driving. Especially from dusk to dawn.



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AMERICAN REPERTORY BALLET PRESENTS WONDERMENT

American Repertory Ballet's 2024-2025 season opens with WONDERMENT, a program sure to delight both audiences new to ballet and aficionados alike. Presented at the New Brunswick Performing Arts Center (NBPAC) on Friday, October 18 through Sunday, October 20, 2024, WONDERMENT is a mixed bill of four unique and exciting dance works: Antony Tudor's Little Improvisations, Lar Lubovitch's Something About Night, the Swan Lake "Black Swan Pas de Deux and Coda," and the world premiere of a new ballet choreographed by Ethan Stiefel, ARB's Artist in Residence.

Antony Tudor's Little Improvisations depicts two children playing in an attic on a rainy day. Choreographed for one man and one woman, the ballet premiered at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in 1953, and features music by Robert Schumann. From Amanda McKerrow and John Gardner at the Antony Tudor Ballet Trust: "It is always an immense pleasure for us to share Antony Tudor's work with new generations of dancers, but we are particularly delighted to be staging Little Improvisations at ARB. Both Ethan Stiefel and

Gillian Murphy are highly respected longtime friends and colleagues and we are thrilled to be working together again. An added joy for us is that Gillian will be involved in the staging this time and sharing her experiences of when she danced this ballet at University of North Carolina School of the Arts."

Something About Night is "danced to Schubert's tender choral songs about the mysteries of the heart," says choreographer Lar Lubovitch. "Something About Night offers a glimpse into the art of stillness. An opportunity for the dancers and the viewers to share a moment of quiet in a world that has become profoundly noisy." ARB Executive Director Julie Diana Hench says: "It is an honor to have Mr. Lubovitch working directly with our talented artists, and we are delighted to feature his beautiful ballet in the opening program of our 2024-2025 season."

The renowned Swan Lake "Black Swan Pas de Deux and Coda" is an iconic display of technical bravura. This excerpt from Act III of the classic ballet tells the story of Prince Siegfried as he is

seduced by Odile, the Black Swan, daughter of the evil Von Rothbart, and the doppelganger of Odette, the White Swan. This pinnacle moment in the tragic tale seals Odette's fate, as Siegfried had previously declared his undying love to her in order to break Von Rothbart's mystical spell trapping her as a swan.

WONDERMENT features a world premiere choreographed by American Repertory Ballet's Artist in Residence Ethan Stiefel. This new ballet is inspired by prolific baroque composer, conductor, and ballet dancer Jean Baptiste Lully, and one of his protégés, Marin Marais. From Stiefel: "In the 1990's, I was introduced to, and mesmerized by, the viol or viola da gamba, particularly through the artistry and musicianship of Jordi Savall. Many years later, I have found myself in a place where the opportunity has arisen in which I can celebrate the many years of inspiration this music has provided to me. A chance to create a ballet that looks to imbue the drama, reverence and illuminations within the baroque musical and dance canon, although not necessarily by way of pursuing a completely historical or biographical approach to the movement."

Tickets for WONDERMENT
range from \$30 to \$60.

Accessible seating is available.

New Brunswick Performing Arts Center
New Brunswick, NJ

Fri., Oct. 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Sa., Oct. 19, 2024 at 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Sun., Oct. 20, 2024 at 2:00 PM

For more information, contact Grant Jacoby, Director of Marketing, at gjacoby@arballet.org, or by calling 609-921-7758 x 34.

ABOUT AMERICAN REPERTORY BALLET

With a distinctive reputation for innovation and individuality, American Repertory Ballet (ARB) is recognized as one of the state's premier performing arts organizations. Presenting classical repertory alongside new and existing contemporary work, ARB is a founding resident company of the New Brunswick Performing Arts Center while also performing in major venues across New Jersey and beyond for an annual audience of more than 30,000. Founded in 1954 as the Princeton Ballet Society, ARB has been designated a "Major Arts Institution" by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and has been awarded a Citation of Excellence by the Council. The company is a core partner of The Arts Institute of Middlesex County and has been recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts and other major foundations and leaders in the field as a prominent force in the field of dance. Princeton Ballet School, ARB's official school, attracts talent from around the world while providing opportunities for local students of all ages, such as through its award winning DANCE POWER program. Find American Repertory Ballet online at arballet.org.

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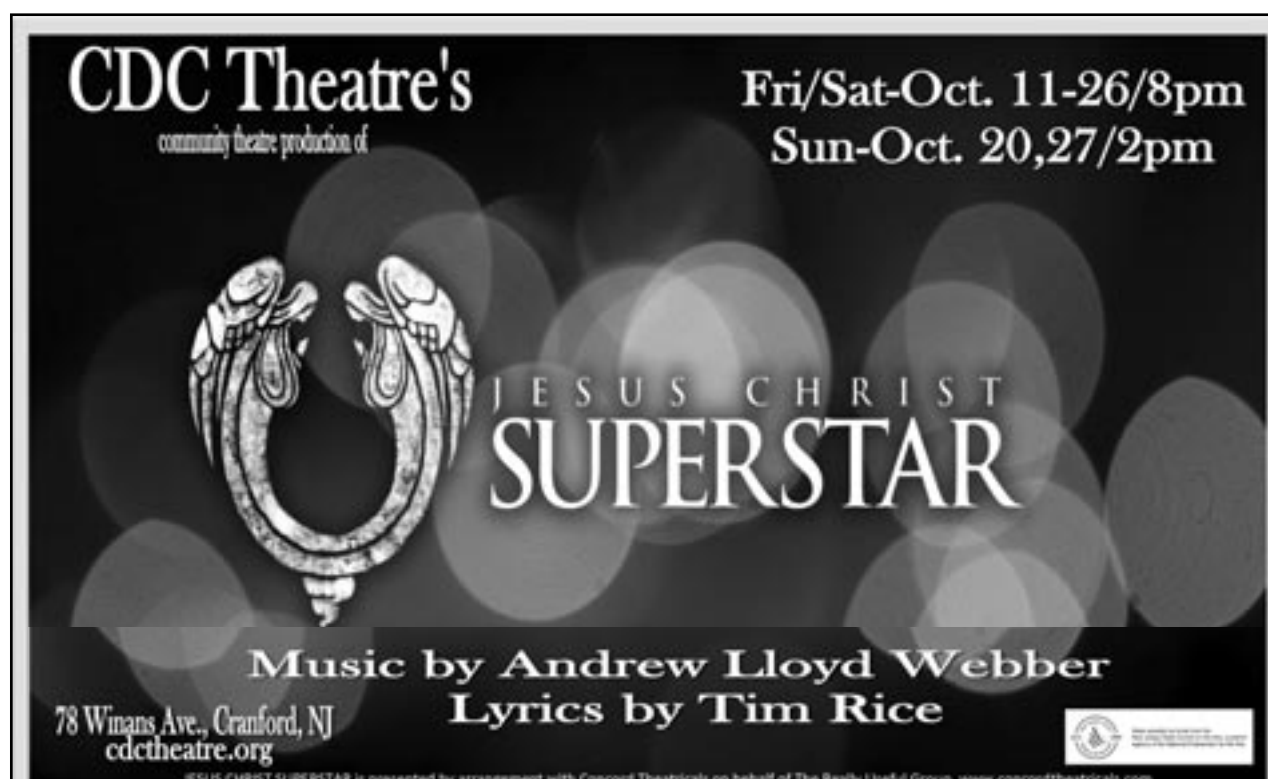
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American Repertory Ballet
WONDERMENT
October 18-20, 2024
New Brunswick Performing Arts Center

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Ethan Stiefel (World Premiere)
Antony Tudor
& an excerpt from Swan Lake

arballet.org



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