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Issue 178 • May 2025

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STUDENTS EMPOWERED AT KEAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Rahway public Schools

Sixth-grade students from Madison Elementary School recently journeyed to the Holocaust Resource Center at Kean University to participate in the Elementary and Middle School Leadership Conference. The event provided a unique platform for students to connect with peers from across Union County and engage in impactful discussions about leadership and community improvement.

The highlight of the conference was the keynote address by Amya "Roxxstar" Meekins, a New Jersey-based teen author of the acclaimed book, *The Life of a Teenage Girl*. Madison students had prepared for the conference by reading Ms. Meekins' book in class, fostering a deeper connection with her message. Ms. Meekins captivated the audience with her inspiring story as a young author, musician, and student, sharing her journey and answering thoughtful questions from the attendees. She also surprised the audience with an impromptu live mini-concert, showcasing her musical talents.

Following her presentation, Ms. Meekins generously signed book covers for all the students and accepted an

invitation to visit Madison Elementary School in the future, further extending the impact of her message.

Beyond the keynote, students actively participated in collaborative community engagement activities. Working alongside their peers from other schools, they identified common challenges within their school environments and brainstormed innovative solutions. This collaborative effort fostered teamwork and empowered students to become agents of positive change within their communities.

"This conference was an incredible opportunity for our students to develop their leadership skills and connect with peers from across the county," said Ms. Strong, 6th Grade Teacher at Madison School. "Meeting Amya 'Roxxstar' Meekins and participating in the community engagement activities left a lasting impression on our students, inspiring them to become active and engaged leaders."

The students returned to Madison Elementary School with newfound enthusiasm and a deeper understanding of their potential to make a difference. The conference provided a valuable experience, fostering leadership skills, promoting collaboration, and inspiring positive change.



(above) Students from Madison Elementary School recently journeyed to the Holocaust Resource Center at Kean University to participate in a Leadership Conference. The event provided a unique platform for students to connect with peers from across Union County and engage

Photo by Rahway Public Schools

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202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

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CLOTHING DRIVE A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

Rahway Public Schools

Franklin School and the Rahway community have once again demonstrated their incredible generosity through the overwhelming success of their annual clothing drive. Thanks to the enthusiastic participation of students and families a significant amount of clothing was collected.

These contributions will make a tangible

difference in the lives of those in need, providing essential clothing items. "We are so grateful for the incredible outpouring of support from our students, their families, and the entire Rahway community. This annual drive is a testament to our collective commitment to helping one another" said Ms. Kym Adams, who helped organize the drive.



(above) The success of this year's clothing drive underscores the strong partnership between Franklin School and the Rahway community. Looking ahead, Franklin School is eager to continue this tradition of giving.

Photo by Rahway Public Schools



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HOMETOWN HERO VISITS CLEVELAND SCHOOL

Submitted by Dyan McMillen

Army Specialist Alexander Argueta, a proud alumnus of Grover Cleveland School and a member of the New Jersey Army National Guard, returned to his roots recently to share the joy of reading with the D.A.I.S.Y. preschool classes.

Specialist Argueta captivated the young audience with an engaging reading session, bringing stories to life and fostering a love for books. He also provided a unique and memorable experience for the children by allowing them to place honorary badges on his military hat, creating a tangible connection to his service and dedication.

The students were thrilled to interact with a real-life hero and learn about the importance of service and community. The visit served as a powerful reminder of the impact reading can have and the importance of honoring those who serve our country.

"Having Specialist Argueta return to Grover Cleveland School was truly a remarkable experience for our students," said Assistant Principal Mr. McCormick. "His presence not only celebrated the joy of reading but also provided a valuable lesson in community service and patriotism. It's incredibly inspiring for our young learners to see a former student return and share his experiences. We are immensely grateful for his time and service."

The Read Across America event, a nationwide initiative, aims to motivate children to read, celebrate diversity, and highlight the importance

of literacy. Grover Cleveland School's event, featuring Specialist Argueta, successfully combined these goals, leaving a lasting impression on the young students.

The school extends its heartfelt gratitude to Specialist Alexander Argueta for his time, dedication, and service to our country and community. His visit was a highlight of the Read Across America Month celebrations and will be remembered fondly by the students and staff.



(above) Army Specialist Alexander Argueta, a member of the New Jersey Army National Guard, returned to his roots to share the joy of reading.

Photos by Rahway Public Schools

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(above) Randy Wahl, Grand Marshall of the City of Rahway Memorial Day Parade for 2025.

Courtesy photo

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE – SUN., MAY 25TH

The City of Rahway Memorial Day Parade will be held on Sunday, May 25, 2025, stepping off at 1:30 p.m. from Rahway City Hall, residents are invited to line the parade route thru downtown Rahway.

Randy Wahl will serve as the Grand Marshal. Randy is a lifelong New Jersey resident, born in Elizabeth and raised in Linden. He enlisted in the Army at the age of 17, serving during the Vietnam War era for two and a half years as an Armored Unit Supply Specialist in the 1st Calvary Division 1st Team of the 27th

Maintenance Battalion. Randy has been married to Nancy for 33 years; they raised 2 sons. He joined the American Legion Post 5 of Rahway NJ when his family moved to Rahway. He has been a member of Rahway Post 5 for 32 years, holding multiple positions of leadership with the American Legion including serving as commander. Currently, he is the vice president of the Rahway Honorary PBA Local #31. As well as employed by the City of Rahway in the Special Improvement District.

VIBRANT MURAL AT MADISON ELEMENTARY

Rahway Public Schools

Eliza Louro, a student teacher from Kean University, has brought a splash of color and a powerful message of growth to Madison Elementary School through her innovative Kean S.T.A.Y.S. (Students Teaching At Your Service) initiative. As part of Kean University’s student teaching program, S.T.A.Y.S. encourages future educators to give back to their placement schools in meaningful ways.

Louro chose to focus on fostering self-growth, learning, and collaboration through creativity and artistic expression. Her vision culminated in a collaborative mural project led by the talented students of the Madison Elementary Art Club. Fifth and sixth-grade students dedicated their Monday and Thursday recess periods to bring this project to life.

Guided by the inspiring prompt, "Here is where we learn and grow!", the young artists developed initial concept art, enthusiastically

shared their ideas, and learned the value of teamwork as they collaborated on their designs. In a unique display of school-wide engagement, the entire student body of Madison Elementary had the opportunity to participate by voting on their favorite mural design. This inclusive approach ensured that the students’ creative voices were not only heard but would also be prominently showcased within their school environment.

The Art Club students approached each painting session with enthusiasm and pride in their developing artwork. The resulting mural stands as a vibrant testament to their hard work, dedication, and burgeoning artistic talents.

"I am genuinely proud of the collaboration and creativity that emerged from this project," said Eliza Louro. "Witnessing the students' excitement and their commitment to creating something beautiful and meaningful for their school has been truly inspiring."



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(above) The mural is now a permanent fixture at Madison Elementary, serving as a daily reminder of the power of collective creativity and the vibrant spirit of learning and growth within the school community.

Photo by Rahway Public Schools

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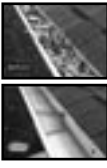
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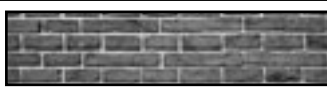
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CELEBRATE NATIONAL SENIOR HEALTH & FITNESS DAY® - MAY 28

The Gateway Family YMCA

The Gateway Family YMCA will join over 1,000 local groups nationwide to celebrate the 32nd Annual National Senior Health & Fitness Day (NSHFD) on Wednesday, May 28, 2025. As an official host site, The Gateway Family YMCA is providing a Community Open House with activities like Swimming, Group Exercise, Water Exercise, Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring, 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 feel that National Senior Health & Fitness Day is an excellent opportunity for seniors to renew their commitment to lead healthier lives through wellness, nutrition and programs designed specifically to meet their needs. At the Y, we are here to partner with each individual in achieving their goals through social, educational and wellness opportunities for all.”

“Older adults at all levels of physical fitness are encouraged to participate in National Senior Health & Fitness Day,” says Patricia Henze, National Senior Health & Fitness Day program manager. “Our event goals are to increase awareness of the benefits of regular exercise, and to encourage all older adults to take advantage of the many health and fitness activities offered in their communities, as well as online.”

During National Senior Health and Fitness Day, participants will join with an estimated 100,000 older adults across the country participating in local events to help promote active, healthy lifestyles through physical activity, good nutrition and preventative care. The Gateway Family YMCA, Shaping Elizabeth and Shaping Union County will be hosting this year’s event, along with local community partners to participate in a YMCA Community Open House with information and activities provided free of charge.

A Virtual Open House is also available for individuals who cannot easily access the YMCA for Senior Health & Fitness Day on Wednesday,

May 28th with a schedule of group exercise programs available through Zoom.

The Gateway Family YMCA provides chronic disease self-management programs open 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, LiveSTRONG at the YMCA or the Veterans Wellness Initiative at 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.

National Senior Health & Fitness Day is the largest event of its kind, organized by the Mature Market Resource Center, a national clearinghouse for professionals who work with older adults. For more information about National Senior Health & Fitness Day, visit fitnessday.com

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

SUMMER CAMP INFO SESSION – MAY 21

The Gateway Family YMCA

Spring is the best time to consider Summer Camp opportunities and research the best opportunities for your child to thrive, in a safe, caring and supportive environment. The Gateway Family YMCA understands the unique needs of children and families, providing Summer Camp experiences for hundreds of children throughout Eastern Union County and Northern Middlesex 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 May 21 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!

At Y Summer Day Camp, kids can develop self-confidence, learn new skills, build

friendships, and gain a sense of belonging – all while having fun. From sports and games to arts and crafts to outdoor adventures to STEAM and academic enrichment, a Y Summer Day Camp experience offers children the chance to explore new activities and enjoy new adventures.

2025 Summer Camp begins on June 23rd with sessions continuing through August 28th. Registration began in December at all branches and is available in person and online at tgfymca.org. Y Summer Day 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.

In addition to Summer Day Camp, the Y also offer Holiday Break Programs when school is out, ensuring that children have a safe and fun environment to explore.

The Gateway Family YMCA is a leading 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to strengthening community by connecting all people to their potential, purpose and each other. The Y brings together people from different backgrounds, perspectives and generations, to ensure that all have access to the opportunities.

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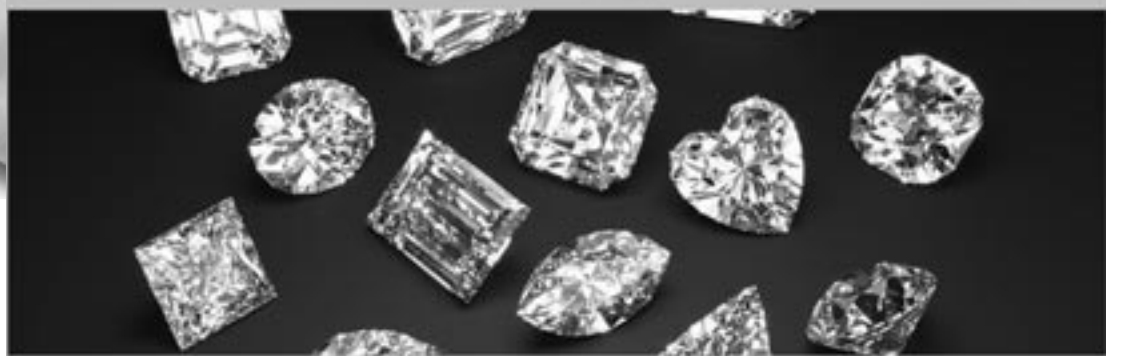
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KU KLUX KLAN PROVIDES DARK CHAPTER IN RAHWAY HISTORY (PART II)

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

The Ku Klux Klan had been making inroads in Rahway since 1922 and by the summer of 1925 was no longer a clandestine organization. Times and locations of Klan meetings were being listed regularly in the local paper. Many of the Klan members, most of whom did not hide their identity, were active in the community, belonged to various other clubs, and were church-goers. Some were well-known residents. A number of businessmen who found it advantageous to advertize their Klan membership placed KKK symbols on the front of their establishments. Although there was a large segment of the population that found the Klan philosophy disagreeable, there was no united effort to confront or condemn the group. Things were about to get more uncomfortable as plans were set for a spectacular Klan gathering to take place in the center of the Rahway County Park.

On Friday, July 8, cars from across the state started to arrive at the county park at 5:00 p.m. carrying Klansmen anxious to participate in a massive KKK membership initiation ceremony. Hosted by the Union County division of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, the group would be bringing 450 new adult members into the fold. It was expected that over 4,000 would attend the ceremony.

To prepare for the visitors, the entire length of St. Georges Avenue from the bridge over the Rahway River to Maurice Avenue had been roped off. Klansmen, armed with clubs, were stationed along the rope barrier to make sure only Klansmen and their families entered, and spectators were kept out. The cars that were allowed in were directed to back into each spot along the circular roadway so the headlights would be facing the field. There were more than

enough vehicles to surround the entire park.

Activities began at 7:00 with the construction of a 40' cross that was positioned in the center of the field. As the sun set in the western sky, just before the park fell into darkness, a signal was given to switch on the headlights of all the vehicles. The lights made the scene as bright as day and the landscape, filled with robed and hooded apparitions, created an eerie atmosphere.

The initiations began at 10:00 when 185 women joined the organization. At 10:20, aerial bombs were exploded at regular intervals and a small plane, lighted to resemble a red cross, flew over the field drawing loud cheers from the huge crowd. Following the fly-over, 14 junior members were initiated. The ceremony for 450 adult members took place at 10:45. It was reported that two-thirds of the adults were Rahway residents with the other third coming from Clark and Linden.

A highlight of the evening came at exactly 11:00 when the large cross was lit bringing on more cheers. With the backdrop of the burning cross in the night sky, three speakers were introduced. The featured orator, a high-ranking Klansman from a western state, presented a patriotic speech emphasizing white supremacy and an "America First" agenda. He encouraged everyone to attend the national Klan demonstration scheduled for Washington D.C. on August 8. (The gathering and parade in D.C. brought 75,000 Klansmen to the nation's capital.)

From the time the event started until it ended at 1:00 a.m., curious spectators including those opposed to the Klan had been gathering on St. Georges Avenue. Several hundred were still at the site when the Klansmen began to leave. As they exited the park, the anti-Klan groups assailed them with abusive epithets and threw rocks at their cars. Some windshields were smashed, and a number of separate fights broke out between Klan guards and foes of the organization. The Rahway Police, who had been at the scene since mid-day doing crowd and traffic control, kept the disturbances from escalating and were able to restore order by 2:00 in the morning.

The next public appearance of the Klan took place on Sunday evening, October 11 when nearly 100 members of the Rahway, Cranford, and Linden units gathered at the First Methodist Church on Grand Avenue. The KKK members, dressed in full regalia and wearing masks, were escorted to pews in the front of the sanctuary. Approximately 500 others, mostly members of the church, crowded into all parts of the building. Both the pastor of First Methodist and the leader of the Basking Ridge Klan spoke of the recklessness of the present time in America and the challenge of maintaining Protestant ideals. If the church council had any misgivings about hosting a Klan gathering in their sanctuary, they gave no indication. Three weeks later, they gave their pastor a salary increase and a unanimous vote of confidence.

Three months later, on January 10, 1926, the Klan made a surprise visit to another church. The Reverend D.C. McCoy of the Friendship Baptist



(above) Owner of this Rahway filling station openly acknowledged his affiliation with the Klan. Note the cross about the KKK sign.

Courtesy photo

Church on Hazelwood Avenue, a church whose congregation was predominately black, was ready to announce the opening hymn to start the Sunday evening service. Just as the first notes were being sung, the doors opened and a large group of KKK members, fully attired in white robes, hoods, and masks, entered and took seats in the rear pews. The joyous singing stopped, and the atmosphere immediately tensed. A number of congregants who had recently moved into Rahway from the south were visibly unnerved as they expected trouble. The pastor nervously welcomed the group and unsure as to what to do, he invited the Klan leader to speak. The spokesman said they had come on a friendly visit and wished the church success in their campaign to raise funds to pay off their mortgage.

The congregation remained deadly silent as Rev. McCoy presented his sermon on Christian Brotherhood, a message he delivered in impromptu fashion. When the offering was taken, the Klansmen walked to the pulpit area and placed their donations on the altar. The bills, which totaled \$100.00, were neatly arranged in the shape of a "K." The hooded visitors then departed. It took a long while before the tension in the room subsided.

Klan initiations, cross burnings, and intimidations by the KKK would continue in Rahway to a lesser degree into 1927, but after that time the casual acceptance towards the group had ended. Nation-wide, by 1930, the power and influence of the Klan would run its twisted course. The collapse came as quickly as the resurgence. The country had finally become tired of the bigotry, hypocrisy, intolerance, fear mongering, and hate on which the Klan fed.



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Come to a Pancake Breakfast, hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary - Unit 102, on Sunday, May 18, 2025 at the American Legion Post 102, located at 112 West Elizabeth Ave., from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. This month's special will be Taylor Ham!

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HESS STEM GRANT, IGNITING STUDENT PASSION FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Rahway Public Schools

Roosevelt Elementary School is thrilled to announce that its STEM club has been awarded a generous STEM grant from the HESS Corporation. This significant grant is designed to foster real-world connections to STEM concepts, providing students with hands-on learning experiences that spark curiosity and innovation.

The grant provided the STEM club with 12 HESS trucks and a comprehensive curriculum centered around engaging monthly STEM challenges. Students have been actively participating in activities utilizing the 2024 HESS truck, which features a police car and truck combination. These challenges have focused on exploring critical STEM principles such as the velocity of a police car, and the engineering behind building bridges and obstacles, with a focus on angles and speed.

"We are incredibly grateful to the HESS Corporation for their commitment to STEM education," said Mrs. Purcell, the STEM club leader at Roosevelt Elementary School. "This grant has allowed our students to experience

STEM in a dynamic and interactive way, making learning both fun and impactful. The HESS trucks have become a powerful tool for demonstrating real-life applications of scientific and technological concepts."

The students have shown immense enthusiasm and dedication throughout the challenges, demonstrating a strong grasp of the principles involved and a keen interest in further exploration.

Building on this success, Roosevelt Elementary School is also excited to announce that it has been awarded the 2025 HESS truck for the 2025-2026 school year STEM club. This early award shows the school's commitment to sustained STEM education and the proven effectiveness of the program.

Roosevelt Elementary School is committed to providing its students with innovative and engaging educational experiences that prepare them for future success. The HESS STEM grant plays a crucial role in achieving this goal, fostering a love for STEM and empowering the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators.



Photo by Rahway Public Schools

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PRESTIGIOUS JAZZ CHOIR ACCEPTS 11 RAHWAY HS STUDENTS

Submitted by David Brighthouse

The Rahway High School (RHS) Performing Arts Department recently announced that 11 of its students had just been accepted into the prestigious New Jersey Region II Honor Jazz Choir. Never before have so many RHS students been so recognized.

The New Jersey Jazz Choir is overseen and organized by the New Jersey Association for Jazz Education (NJAJE) and the New Jersey Music Educators Association (NJMEA).

Rahway's choir director and performing arts teacher, Mr. Robert Van Wyk, upon making the announcement, remarked, "This state-level choir consists of the best student vocalists from Hunterdon, Monmouth, Mercer, Somerset, Middlesex, and Union Counties. All the students auditioned by singing scales, a jazz standard, and an improvised 'scat' solo and were evaluated by a team of New Jersey's music teachers."

Those recognized RHS students are Mia Point-Du-Jour, Madison Moran, Angelyna Bonilla, Nicole Weathers, Elijah Gonzalez, Jeffrey Lopez, Charles Japheth Ello, Brendan Gilliard, Synsere Hancock, Michael Nieves, and Ronald Toth.

Sophomore Synsere Hancock, one of the Rahway choir members, said, "I was very glad when I found out that I had gotten in, since the audition process was nerve-wracking. I especially look forward to the upcoming concert."

That concert will take place in April, with the students performing as part of the ensemble.

Congratulations to the Rahway students, their teachers, and all the member of the Rahway High School Performing Arts Department.

SECOND ANNUAL "GROVER'S GOT TALENT"

Submitted by Dyan McMillen

The Grover Cleveland School auditorium buzzed with excitement and anticipation as students showcased their extraordinary talents at the second annual "Grover's Got Talent" show. The event, a resounding success, featured a diverse array of performances that captivated the audience and celebrated the school's vibrant artistic community.

The stage came alive with a medley of musical acts, from soulful vocal performances that filled the room with emotion to instrumental solos that displayed impressive skill and dedication. Dancers of various styles graced the stage, their movements telling stories and evoking applause. The visual arts were also represented, with students displaying striking artwork that demonstrated their creative vision. A particularly memorable moment came from a student whose intricate tap-dancing routine brought a classic art

form to life with energy and precision.

The event demonstrated the wide range of abilities within the student body, highlighting the school's commitment to fostering a well-rounded education that values artistic expression.

"It was truly inspiring to witness the passion and dedication of our students," said Assistant Principal Mr. McCormick. "The 'Grover's Got Talent' show not only provided a platform for them to showcase their abilities but also fostered a sense of community and pride. Each performance was a testament to the hard work and creativity of our students, and we are incredibly proud of their accomplishments."

The "Grover's Got Talent" show proved to be a memorable evening, celebrating the diverse talents of Grover Cleveland School's students and solidifying its place as a cherished annual tradition.



(above) Grover Cleveland School Shone Bright at Second Annual "Grover's Got Talent"

Courtesy photo

PRESCHOOLERS DIVE INTO A WORLD OF WONDER

Rahway Public Schools

Roosevelt Elementary School's youngest students experienced pure enchantment, thanks to a captivating visit from bubble artist Chris, "The Bubble Guy." Forget ordinary bubbles – imagine shimmering spheres as big as beach balls and delicate, swirling sculptures floating through the air!

The school playground transformed into a magical landscape as preschoolers gasped and giggled at Chris's mesmerizing performance. Little hands reached out, trying to catch the giant, iridescent orbs, their faces beaming with delight. The interactive show wasn't just fun; it sparked curiosity and wonder, turning the outdoors into an exciting learning laboratory.

Teachers and staff shared in the joy, witnessing firsthand the power of play in action. This bubbly adventure offered a unique sensory experience that perfectly complements Roosevelt's early childhood curriculum, encouraging exploration and discovery through an engaging and unforgettable medium.



Photo by Rahway Public Schools



CANADA GOOSE - BRANTA CANADENSIS

Scientists are still not sure why the Canada Geese fly in their V shape formation, but they believe the air currents created by the lead goose make the flight easier for the birds following behind it. They can cover 1,500 miles in just 24 hours with a favorable wind, but typically travel at a much more leisurely rate. The noisy groups honk their way along established paths that include designated "rest stops." These social birds remain in flocks year-round, except while nesting.

There is some question how Canada Goose got their name. Was it because of their native habitat in Canada or are they named after John Canada, the ornithologist who separated Canada Goose from other goose species? In either case, the correct name for this bird is Canada Goose, not 'Canadian'.

Canada Geese is now one of the most widely distributed waterfowl species in North America. Due to habitat loss and overexploitation in the 19th and early 20th century, the Canada Goose population rapidly declined to near extinction. Through regulatory actions, habitat restoration, and species conservation initiatives, the population rapidly recovered and then expanded, with current numbers far exceeding historic estimates. Canada Geese are now found in every state throughout the U.S. (except Hawaii) and every province in Canada for at least part of the year.

MATING AND RAISING THEIR YOUNG

The average lifespan of Canada Geese ranges between 20 to 25 years. Geese reach sexual maturity at two to three years of age. Male geese fight one another to win a particular female. The winning male gets the female as a mate, and the pair may stay together for life.

The female selects a good spot to make her nest. She finds a place, always near water which is isolated and a little higher than anything right around it. The female makes her nest of dry grasses, twigs, and other plant material. She uses her body to shape the nest into a bowl.

The baby geese, called goslings, take about a month to hatch. The hatchlings are covered with soft feathers called down. They hatch with their eyes open and will leave the nest within 24 hours, following their parents. Goslings can swim right away. In less than two months, the goslings grow adult feathers and learn to fly. The young geese remain with their family group for about one year, learning essential survival skills. Young geese are taught how to migrate by their parents and other adults in their group. Mother geese will keep her babies under her wings at night to not only protect them from predators but to keep them warm. The male goose stands guard and may show aggression if the nest or goslings are threatened.



(above) There are eleven subspecies of Canada Geese. Four of them occur in NJ.

Photo by Audra Loccisano

In addition to grasses, sedges, grains, and berries, Canada Geese also feast on aquatic vegetation. When eating in water, they "tip up," reaching underwater and tearing water plants with their heads beneath the surface while their rear ends are sticking up in the air.

National Geographic has documented the remarkable adaptability of Canada Geese, thriving in both natural and urban environments. All Canada Geese are protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and regulated in this state by the N.J. Division of Fish and Wildlife (NJDFW). Permits for goose population management are available from both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and NJDFW, depending on which strategy is being employed.*

For information on controlling Canada Geese in New Jersey, Rutgers University has information and strategies on control. You can Google their fact sheets online, or call Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County at 908-654-9852.

The information in this article is from National Geographic, the Smithsonian, and Rutgers's University of New Jersey.

*It is against the law to hunt or harass waterfowl without proper licenses.

Happy Springtime,

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



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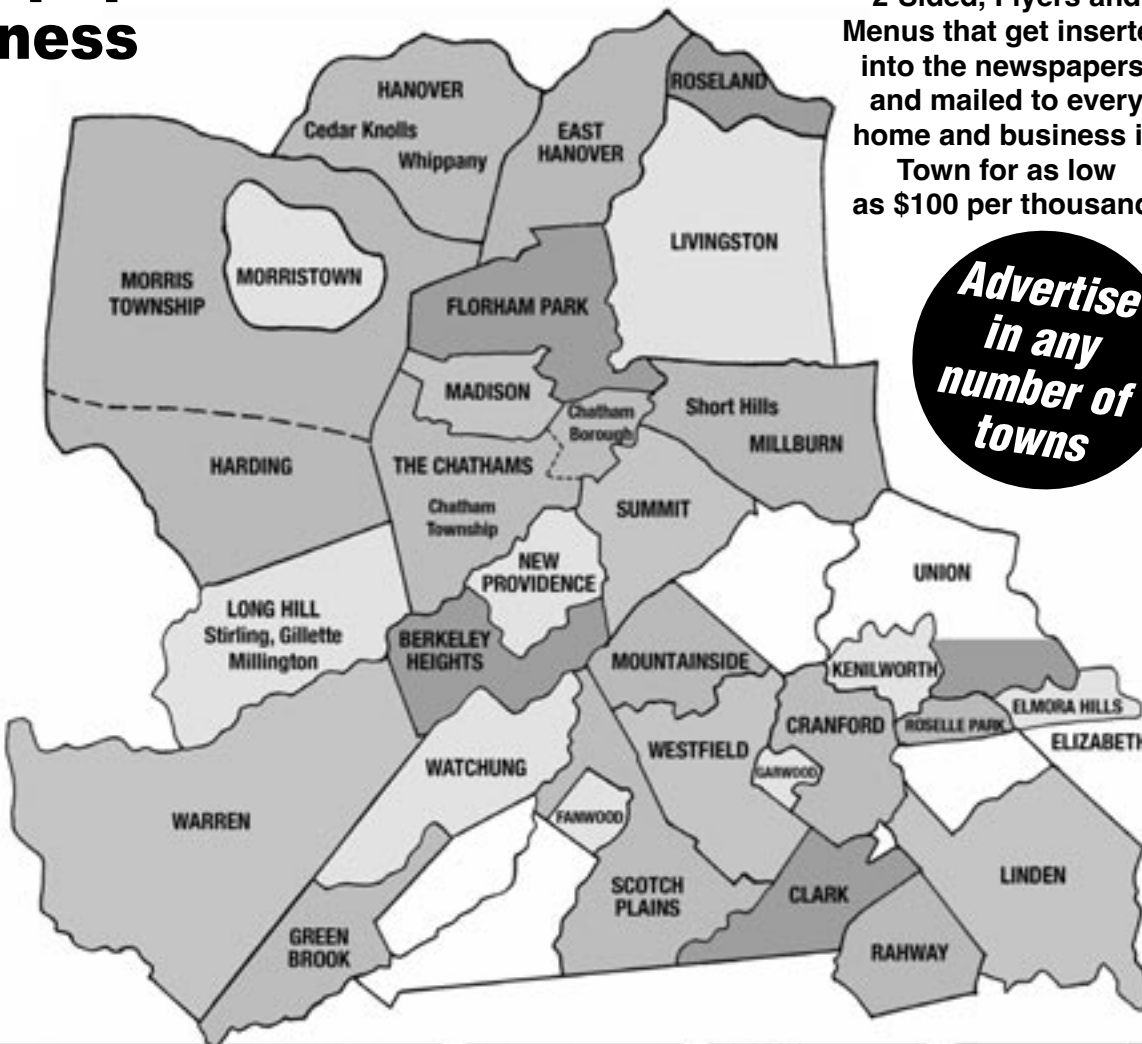
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PODELL NAMED MOUNTAIN COACH OF THE YEAR

Submitted by Samir Williams

Rahway High School's (RHS) boys' varsity basketball head coach, Erik Podell, was recently named the Union County Conference (UCC) Mountain Division Coach of the Year by NJ.com.

Coach Podell led the team this past season to a 15-12 record overall and a 7-4 conference record, along with two Union County tournament wins, reaching the quarterfinal round.

"I'm incredibly honored to be named the NJ.com UCC Mountain Division Coach of the Year, but this is truly a 'Staff of the Year' award," he said. "I'm only as good as my assistants—Coaches Ryan VanVliet, Brian Brown, and La Dante Berry-White—whose dedication and passion drive our success. This journey has been three years in the making, and we're just getting started. Above all, this is about our players and the impact we have on their lives. I'd also like to thank our families for their unwavering support, sacrifice, and presence at every game. We couldn't do it without you."

Congratulations to Coach Podell for being named the NJ.com UCC Mountain Division coach of the year! It was an incredible season for the RHS boys' team.



Courtesy photos



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NEW JERSEY: POWERED BY SMALL BUSINESS

It would not be a stretch to say that the New Jersey economy is built on the backs of the small businesses that call the state their home. Nearly one million SMB enterprises are registered in the state as of 2024, a sector of the economy that now accounts for half of all employment in the state. Things are competitive, to say the least. So, how do you, as a business owner, stand out?

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Chivas Regal	1.75L	\$62.99
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Remy Martin V.S.O.P.	1.75L	\$129.99

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Duggan's Irish Cream	1.75L	\$32.99
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Krupnik	750ml	\$20.99
Licor 43	750ml	\$28.99
Licor 43	1.75L	\$45.99

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Absolut (regular)	1.75L	\$29.99
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Tanqueray Sterling	1.75L	\$30.99
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Tito's Vodka	1.75L	\$31.99

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Malibu	750ml	\$16.99
Malibu	1.75L	\$25.99

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Stella Artois loose bottles	24pk	\$32.99
Super Bock	24pk	\$32.99
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Zywiec (11.2oz)	24pk	\$21.99

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Bell Adagio Pinot Grigio	1.5L	\$10.99
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Beringer White Zinfandel	1.5L	\$10.99
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