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 The Rahway Review is your
 definitive go-to-guide
 for what's happening in our City.
 Right here. Right now.

THE rahway review

PUBLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF MAYOR RAYMOND A. GIACOBBE

VOL XXXII ISSUE 1 | SUMMER/FALL 2022 EDITION



Rahway is.

Summer Fun

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Greetings Rahway Residents!

It's summertime in the City of Rahway! The Rahway City Council and I are thrilled to extend an invitation for you to visit and explore all that Rahway has to offer! Rahway is known for its diverse dining selections and vibrant local scene, which is only a fraction of what you can expect this summer. From live music events to social celebrations, and family-friendly festivities, the summer is filled with activities that will attract all ages.

The summer-long, city-wide Mayor's Music Series draws music lovers from neighboring counties and residents of our arts-centric city. Performances begin with Live at the Paseo, every Friday and Arts District Park performances every Saturday. Music events in the

city are continually growing and evolving, adding harmonic ornaments to the community through September. All of the City events are listed in the calendar section of this Review, so make sure you save the date for all of the events you don't want to miss!

In this issue, you will also find information on new businesses that have opened as well as some that are slated to occupy vacant commercial space in our downtown. This steady flow of new and expanded entities proves that Rahway is open for business. Our Special Improvement District has been hard at work connecting with local businesses and new businesses to ensure that they have everything they need to be successful in our City.

You will also find plans for the Main Street Boulevard project and learn how Rahway is at work for you. In addition to highlighting the work that is done in our City, it is also important to recognize those who are committed to their work in our City. One of our City employees is approaching her 40th year with us, and it is important to me to share her achievements and dedication to our community.

We hope to see you at any or all of the events this summer in Rahway! For more information on all that Rahway has to offer, please visit rahwayishappening.com or cityofrahway.com.

MAYOR RAYMOND A. GIACOBBE

Rahway City Council Community Block Parties

Reuniting the Community

Mayor Raymond Giacobbe and the Rahway City Council continue work for the betterment of our community and to provide fun filled events that allow the community to come together. During April and May, the City hosted five park cleanups that were followed by community block parties, located throughout the City. These community events took place at Flanagan Field, Madden Field, Howard Field, Berzinec Park, and Williams Field, and included carnival-style games, face painting, food trucks, balloon sculptors, and more.

Mayor Giacobbe and Rahway's City Council were thrilled with the turnout at the events.

"It was excellent to see so many of our residents come out for the neighborhood block parties. Just as City Council and I hoped, these smaller-scale events offered our residents an outdoor venue to reconnect with one another following the pandemic. With music, games, food, activities, and more, there was something fun for everyone!" stated Mayor Giacobbe.

Council President Joanna Miles added, "My fellow City Councilmembers and I truly enjoyed meeting and connecting with Rahway's residents at the block parties. We appreciated the opportunity to spend time with residents new and old. Our neighborhood parks are gems, and it was fantastic to see so many people out taking advantage of them. Thank you to everyone who came out!"



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 City of Rahway
 1 City Hall Plaza
 Rahway, NJ 07065

THE rahway review

Rahway is.
Business



A new series of businesses are slated to occupy the vacant commercial spaces that are located within the 1400 block of Main St. The spaces may potentially include new spa and beauty-related businesses, social club with bar, and other storefronts. Some of the existing establishments will be undergoing renovations and aesthetic improvements.

Gilded Lillie, presently at 1433 Main St, will be relocating two doors away, to the former dental lab building at 1419/1421 Main Street. This will include renovating its facade as well as the interior of the building.

Wet Ticket will continue in its present space at 1435 Main St and will also take over the Gilded Lillie space, thereby doubling the size of Wet Ticket from 3,600 square feet to 7,200 square feet. The interior will be substantially renovated. A year-round outdoor tasting/dining/beer-garden space will be created across the entire rear of the building. This space will be covered, lighted, and landscaped. It is anticipated that the outdoor space will be open for Spring 2023.



The City of Rahway Officially Welcomes Our New Businesses!

River City Gaming

Get your gaming thumbs ready and head over to River City Gaming for some old school arcade games, Skee-ball and more! The newest entertainment destination has come to 1527 Main Street and is a great place for gamers of all ages and skill levels. River City Gaming will host theme nights, gaming tournaments for some of today's most popular games, and coding classes for young people to help them learn more about what goes into creating video games.



ES Builders Group

ES Builders Group, a New York-based licensed general contractor/ construction management firm, has officially opened its new home office in Rahway. Located at 177 Lafayette Street, ES Builders Group has worked on an array of projects, including but not limited to high rise residential, commercial space, hospitality centers, schools (especially charter and private schools). The team includes estimators, architects & engineers from various backgrounds in the industry and can take on any of your construction and project management needs.



New Business Openings



Copacabana Coffee
(77 E. Milton Ave.)

The newest coffee spot in Rahway has a huge menu with bagels made fresh daily and coffee roasted on site!



Grand Delicias
(434 W. Grand Ave.)

is serving up delicious Mexican cuisine for breakfast and lunch!



Adeline Deli & Grocery
(45 E. Milton Ave.)

Bagels, sandwiches, fresh fruit and more!

Stay in the know as more businesses begin to open by following our our social media pages @Rahwayishappening on Instagram and Facebook and visiting our website Rahwayishappening.com.



VOL XXXII ISSUE 1 | SUMMER/FALL 2022 EDITION

The Rahway Review is published by the Office of the Mayor, Raymond A. Giacobbe. Its purpose is to keep citizens informed of important programs and events that the administration has developed in efforts to improve the quality of life in Rahway.

13,000 newsletters are printed and mailed to each postal customer in the City of Rahway. Others are distributed by request to individuals, companies and organizations interested in living or doing business in the City.

Although great care has been taken to ensure that information contained in this newsletter is accurate, the City of Rahway assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

The Rahway Review welcomes comments and concerns from its readers. These may be sent to:

City of Rahway • Office of the Mayor • 1 City Hall Plaza, Rahway, NJ 07065



RAHWAY MUNICIPAL DIRECTORY

If you get an answering machine when calling any of the following numbers, please leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible. All area codes are 732 unless otherwise specified.

Municipal Offices

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Building Inspector..... | 827-2087 |
| City Clerk..... | 827-2100 |
| Economic Development | 827-2193 |
| Emergency Management..... | 827-2120 |
| Engineering..... | 827-2176 |
| Finance..... | 827-2020 |
| Fire (non-emergency) | 827-2155 |
| Fire Prevention Bureau..... | 827-2133 |
| First Aid..... | 911 |
| Health Department | 827-2085 |
| Mayor's Office..... | 827-2009 |
| Municipal Administrator..... | 827-2001 |
| Municipal Court..... | 827-2039 |
| Police (non-emergency)..... | 827-2200 |
| Property Maintenance | 827-2199 |
| Public Works..... | 827-2060 |
| Rahway Special Improvement District | 827-2193 |
| Recreation..... | 669-3600 |
| Recycling | 827-2159 |
| Tax Assessor..... | 827-2030 |
| Tax Collector | 827-2050 |
| SUEZ-Rahway (Veolia)..... | (877) 303-2435 |
| Vital Statistics | 827-2172 |

Helpful Numbers

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Board of Education..... | 396-1000 |
| NJ Transit | 973-275-5555 |
| Parking Utility | 381-8778 |
| Police Athletic League..... | 827-2097 |
| Post Office | 388-3264 |
| Rahway Library | 340-1551 |
| Rahway Redevelopment Agency | 827-2001 |
| Rahway Y.M.C.A. | 388-0057 |
| RWJU Hospital at Rahway | 381-4200 |
| Union County | |
| Performing Arts Center | 499-8226 |

Rahway Schools

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Superintendent's Office..... | 396-1020 |
| Business Administrator..... | 396-1010 |
| Services for Children..... | 396-1035 |
| Rahway High School..... | 396-1090 |
| 7th & 8th Grade Academy | 396-1025 |
| Franklin School | 396-1050 |
| Grover Cleveland School..... | 396-1040 |
| Madison School | 396-1070 |
| Roosevelt School | 396-1060 |



Like us! Follow the City of Rahway on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/CityOfRahwayNJ

JULY 2022 EVENTS AT A GLANCE

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 4th of July Fireworks Rahway River Park 5PM-10PM | 4 | 5 Ice Cream Social Rahway Senior Center 1PM | 6 Encanto Hamilton Stage 8:30PM-10:30PM | 7 TSP 12PM-7PM Tito Puento, Jr. UCPAC 7:30PM-10PM | 8 Alvin Madison Paseo 6:30PM-9:30PM | 9 Vintage Property RAD 6PM-8PM Kohai's Junction Funktion TSP 4PM-7PM |
| 10 | 11 | 12 Bingo Rahway Senior Center 1PM | 13 | 14 TSP 12PM-7PM WALL-E Hamilton Stage 8:30PM-10:30PM | 15 Erika Sherger Paseo 6:30PM-9:30PM | 16 One Love Tribe RAD 6PM-8PM Rahway is Live! Local Station TSP 3PM-9PM |
| 17 | 18 | 19 Movie - King Richard Rahway Senior Center 1PM | 20 TAJ MAHAL UCPAC 8PM | 21 TSP 12PM-7PM Mulan Hamilton Stage 8:30PM-10:30PM | 22 Brendan Higgins Paseo 6:30PM-9:30PM Hitchcock Weekend Strangers on a Train UCPAC - 8PM | 23 Animaloo @RAD 6PM-8PM Downtown Bohemian Pop-Up Festival Hamilton Stage 8:30-10:30PM Hitchcock Weekend North by Northwest UCPAC - 7:30PM |
| 24 Hitchcock Weekend Psycho UCPAC 3PM | 25 | 26 Name that Tune Rahway Senior Center 1PM | 27 | 28 TSP 12PM-7PM Soul Hamilton Stage 8:30PM-10:30PM | 29 Danny Vargas Paseo 6:30PM-9:30PM | 30 Gypsy Funk Squad RAD 6PM-8PM ABSolute House Music Rec Center Lot 5PM-9PM |
| 31 |  | | <p>LOCATION KEY</p> <p>RAD: Rahway Arts District Park UCPAC: Union County Performing Arts Center TSP: Train Station Plaza</p> | | <p>EVENT KEY</p> <p> Rahway Farmer's Market  Mayor's Music Series  Drive-in Movies</p> | |

AUGUST 2022 EVENTS AT A GLANCE

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|-----------|---|---|---|
|  | 1 | 2 Organ Concert Rahway Senior Center 1PM | 3 | 4 Birthday Luncheon Rahway Senior Center 12:00PM TSP 12PM-7PM Sheila E - UCPAC 7:30PM-10PM | 5 Kayka Paseo 6:30PM-9:30PM | 6 Jazz Trax TSP 4PM-7PM Jivestock RAD 6PM-8PM |
| 7 | 8 | 9 Bingo Rahway Senior Center 1PM | 10 | 11 TSP 12PM-7PM ABSolute House UCPAC 7:30PM-10PM | 12 Lauren Cook Paseo 6:30PM-9:30PM | 13 Jazz Trax TSP 4PM-7PM Charles Lauren RAD 6PM-8PM |
| 14 | 15 | 16 Coffee & Canvas Rahway Senior Center 1PM | 17 | 18 TSP 12PM-7PM Company Men UCPAC 7:30PM-10PM | 19 Tom Lucas Paseo 6:30PM-9:30PM | 20 Jazz Trax - TSP 4-7PM Noname James RAD 6PM-8PM Film Noir Summer: Double Indemnity UCPAC - 7:30PM |
| 21 | 22 | 23 Movie - West Side Story Rahway Senior Center 1PM | 24 | 25 TSP 12PM-7PM Brian McKnight UCPAC 7:30PM-10PM | 26 Glenn Schneider Paseo 6:30PM-9:30PM | 27 Jazz Trax TSP 4PM-7PM Penniless Loafers RAD 6PM-8PM Heart of the City Cherry Street 12PM-6PM |
| 28 Soirée en Blanc Cherry Street 7PM-10PM | 29 | 30 | 31 |  |  |  |
|  |  | <p>LOCATION KEY</p> <p>RAD: Rahway Arts District Park UCPAC: Union County Performing Arts Center TSP: Train Station Plaza</p> | | <p>EVENT KEY</p> <p> Rahway Farmer's Market  Mayor's Music Series  Drive-in Movies</p> | | |

SEPTEMBER 2022 EVENTS AT A GLANCE

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  | | 1 AARP Defensive Driving Course Rahway Senior Center 9:00AM - 3:00PM | 2 🎵 Sarah Teti Paseo 6:30PM-9:30PM | 3 🎵 Bohemian Pop-Up Festival TSP 4PM-7PM Hollow Molly RAD 6:30PM-9:30PM |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Organ Concert Rahway Senior Center 2:00PM | 8 | 9 🎵 Mike Brocato Paseo 6:30PM-9:30PM Dionne Warwick UCPAC - 8PM | 10 🎵 ABSoluteHouse Music Rec Center Lot 5PM-9PM Sad About Girls RAD 6:30-9:30PM The Machine UCPAC - Time TBA |
| 11 | 12 | 13 End of Summer Senior Picnic Hart Street Park 12PM-3PM | 14 Trip to Lake Hopatcong Rahway Senior Center | 15 Celebración: Live Latin Music & Dance RAD 7PM-8:30PM | 16 🎵 Kevin Hill Paseo 6:30PM-9:30PM | 17 🎵 Hispanic Heritage Month Flag Raising & Celebration TSP Canoe Race (rain date 10/1) TBA |
| 18 Exhibition: The Ties that Bind Hispanic and Latin Artists September 18- October 14 The Gallery Space 1PM-4PM | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Celebración: Live Latin Music & Dance RAD 7PM-8:30PM | 23 | 24 WHO'S BAD: The Ultimate Michael Jackson Experience UCPAC - 8PM |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 Celebración: Live Latin Music & Dance RAD 7PM-8:30PM | 30 | |
|  |  |  | LOCATION KEY RAD: Rahway Arts District Park UCPAC: Union County Performing Arts Center TSP: Train Station Plaza | | EVENT KEY  Rahway Farmer's Market  Mayor's Music Series  Drive-in Movies | |

Ready • Set • GLOW!

Lights up the City of Rahway



Mayor Giacobbe, the Rahway City Council, and the Rahway Recreation Center once again hosted Ready Set Glow, an illuminated and glow in the dark 5k race on May 26. Runners and walkers of all ages and speeds immersed themselves in light-up costumes and participated in the annual run that began at 8:45pm in front of Rahway City Hall.

City PRIDE 2022

A Celebration of Love



Mayor Raymond Giacobbe and the Rahway City Council hosted the annual Pride Month Flag Raising on June 3 at Rahway City Hall Plaza.

ArtsFest

Art In All Dimensions: September 24 • 2-6PM • Irving Street



Local artists working in all genres and mediums will take over the Arts District with their dazzling displays of art! Irving Street will be filled with the sights, sounds, and smells of the many talented artists that will captivate the senses of anyone of any age. This family-friendly event will feature live performances from musical groups, dance companies, contortionists, and aerialists! Art will be on display from experienced and amateur artists while demonstrations and art lessons will take place for adults and children. Local vendors will be selling hand-crafted items and our local restaurants will showcase their culinary skills for all to enjoy! For more information check out www.rahwayishappening.com/artsfest.

2022 SUMMER ART WORKSHOPS FOR KIDS & TEENS

WEEK 1: July 18–July 22
WEEK 2: July 25–July 29

Each Class/Workshop runs Mon–Fri (One-Week Sessions)

Kids: \$40 Residents / \$50 Non-Residents
Teens: \$50 Residents / \$60 Non-Residents
All prices are for one 5-day workshop
ALL ART SUPPLIES PROVIDED

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Kids Workshops Ages 6–11 | Teen Workshops Ages 12–16 |
| Drawing 9–10:30 AM | Japanese Manga Cartooning 9–11:00 AM |
| Painting 10:45 AM–12:15 PM | Acrylic Painting 11:15 AM–1:15 PM |
| Sculpture 12:45–2:15 PM | Sculpture/3D 1:45–3:45 PM |
| Cartooning 2:30–4:00 PM | |

Register in person at the Rahway Recreation Center or online at galleryspacerahway.com
Call (732) 669-3600 for more information.

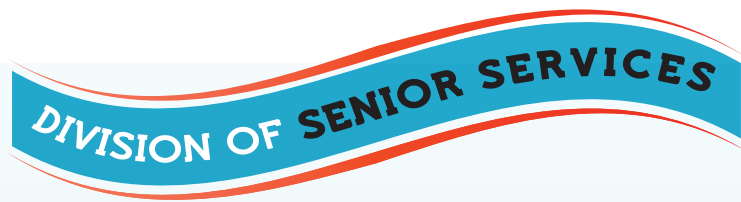
Freedom Week 2022

A celebration of Juneteenth

The City of Rahway's Social Justice Commission (SJC) commemorated Juneteenth by planning a series of events. As this issue went to press, plans included a celebration on Friday, June 17 at Train Station Plaza featuring the annual Juneteenth flag raising. Mayor Raymond Giacobbe, the Rahway Social Justice Commission, and members of Rahway City Council were scheduled to commemorate the holiday with live performances, readings, and special guest speakers before raising the Juneteenth Flag. Following the flag raising, a block party celebration was planned for all to enjoy.

In addition to the flag raising and block party, the SJC planned Freedom Week, a week-long celebration of the significance of Juneteenth with activities and resources targeted to Rahway's youth. These events include decoupage lessons to create freestyle art pieces sing African (Ankara) print scraps, discussions of favorite books, teen focused t-shirt designs, Juneteenth-themed story time, tours of selected gravesites in Rahway Cemetery (including Ambo, an enslaved woman), and more!

RAHWAY'S UNIQUE SENIORSCENE



For more information on any item listed below, please call the Rahway Division of Senior Services at (732) 827-2016

Rahway's Senior of The Year

Bernadette Frasier has been chosen as Rahway's Senior of the Year for 2021. She was presented with a plaque at Mayor Giacobbe's 2022 State of the City address.



Bernadette relocated with her husband and 3 children to Rahway from Connecticut in 1983. She worked at Rahway Daycare Center where she ran the office, drove the bus and always stepped in when she saw children in need. She volunteered at her children's schools and at the Rahway Hospital Gift Shop. She drives seniors to banks and stores and has taken seniors to vote when they are unable to go by themselves. When seniors need help filling out paperwork or applications to qualify for different services, she makes time to help.

Her strong faith has helped her through difficult times and guides her in assisting others. As she continues to help family, friends, neighbors, and other community members she stays close to her 3 children, 11 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

This is the City's 24th year of publicly recognizing and awarding an outstanding senior citizen for their exceptional service in the community. Members of the Rahway Senior Center manage nominations and choose the recipient of this annual award.

Senior Fraud Seminar

The Rahway Police Department along with the Union County Prosecutor's Office held a Senior Fraud Seminar at the Rahway Senior Center on June 9. This seminar provided detailed information regarding potential scam alerts and what to do if a senior feels they are being targeting.

This seminar was spearheaded by the Rahway Police Department as a way to keep our senior community safe from financial exploitation. Common methods of exploitation include scams where individuals, such as family members or caregivers gain the trust of seniors and have them sign over important documents, IRS scams, phone scams where an individual pretends to be a loved one in trouble, fake/unsolicited checks, or calls/emails that request confirmation of personal information such as a social security number.

If you feel you are being targeted with any form of financial exploitation, please contact the Rahway Police Department.

Rahway Farmer's Market

Senior Vouchers

Eligible seniors can obtain five \$6 vouchers for a total of \$30 to purchase "Jersey Fresh" fruits, vegetables, and herbs from Hauser Hill Farms at the Farmers Market. Eligible seniors can request a voucher application form by calling the Union County Division on Aging at (908)527-4870 or (888) 280-8226. To be eligible, seniors must be age 60 and older. A single person's annual income cannot exceed \$2,095 per month and a couple's combined income may not exceed \$2,823 per month.

Participate in ArtsFest!

SAVE THE DATE! ArtsFest 2022 will take place on September 24, 2022. We invite ALL seniors to create a work of art and participate in this event. For more information, please contact the Rahway Recreation Center by calling (732) 669-3600.



Rahway Senior Clubs Meeting Schedule

The following clubs meet at the Rahway Senior Center:

Rahway Retired Men's Club
Meets every Monday at 1 PM
Pres. Charles Sweetman
(732) 574-8976

Ladies Golden Age Club
Meets every Wednesday at 12:15 PM
Pres. Pat Carson
(732) 215-4174

A.A.R.P. Chapter #607
Meets 2nd Thursday of the month at 12:00PM
Pres. Delores Franklin
(732) 499-7986

Home Improvement Grant Program

The Home Improvement Grant Program is funded through the Community Development Block Grant for the purpose of issuing up to \$25,000 to income-eligible residents in the City of Rahway. All homes must be owner-occupied. Typical projects include roofs, gutters and leaders, windows, doors, heating, plumbing, painting, electrical, bathrooms, kitchens and vinyl siding.

Senior Citizen Home Improvement Grant Program

The Senior Citizen Home Improvement Grant Program is funded through the Community Development Block Grant for the purpose of issuing a maximum forgivable grant of up to \$5,000 for income-eligible Rahway Seniors ages 62+. All homes must be owner-occupied. Typical repairs include roofs, gutters and leaders, windows, doors, heating, plumbing, painting, electrical, bathrooms, kitchens and vinyl siding.

The Home Improvement Grant & Senior Citizen Grant Programs are available to owner-occupants of one or two-family dwellings whose gross income does not exceed the limits of the chart below:

| Number of family members: | Gross income |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1..... | \$52,850 |
| 2..... | \$60,400 |
| 3..... | \$67,950 |
| 4..... | \$75,500 |
| 5..... | \$81,550 |
| 6..... | \$87,600 |

For more information about the Home Improvement & Senior Citizen Home Improvement Grant Programs, contact Elton Armady at 732-827-2193 or email at earmady@cityofrahway.com

Rahway Establishes Shade Tree Committee



In April, the City of Rahway established a Shade Tree Committee to protect, preserve, and plant trees within the City. The Committee celebrated its inauguration on Arbor Day by planting a plum tree at Berzinec Park, on the corner of St. Georges and Central Avenues.

The Committee's five voting members and two alternates include residents, business owners, City officials from

Engineering and Public Works, and City Council President Joanna Miles. Assemblyman Jim Kennedy serves as the Committee's state liaison.

The Committee is following the Tree City USA four-step framework to assist with planning for, maintaining, and growing the city's tree cover. The Committee will work closely with Public Works and Engineering to ensure tree

planting and protection throughout the city, including development and redevelopment projects. The Committee will recommend policies and issue activity reports to the City Council, Mayor, and the public. Over time, the Committee will issue recommendations to the City regarding planting, removal, and care of shade trees located in any public right of way, park, or property.

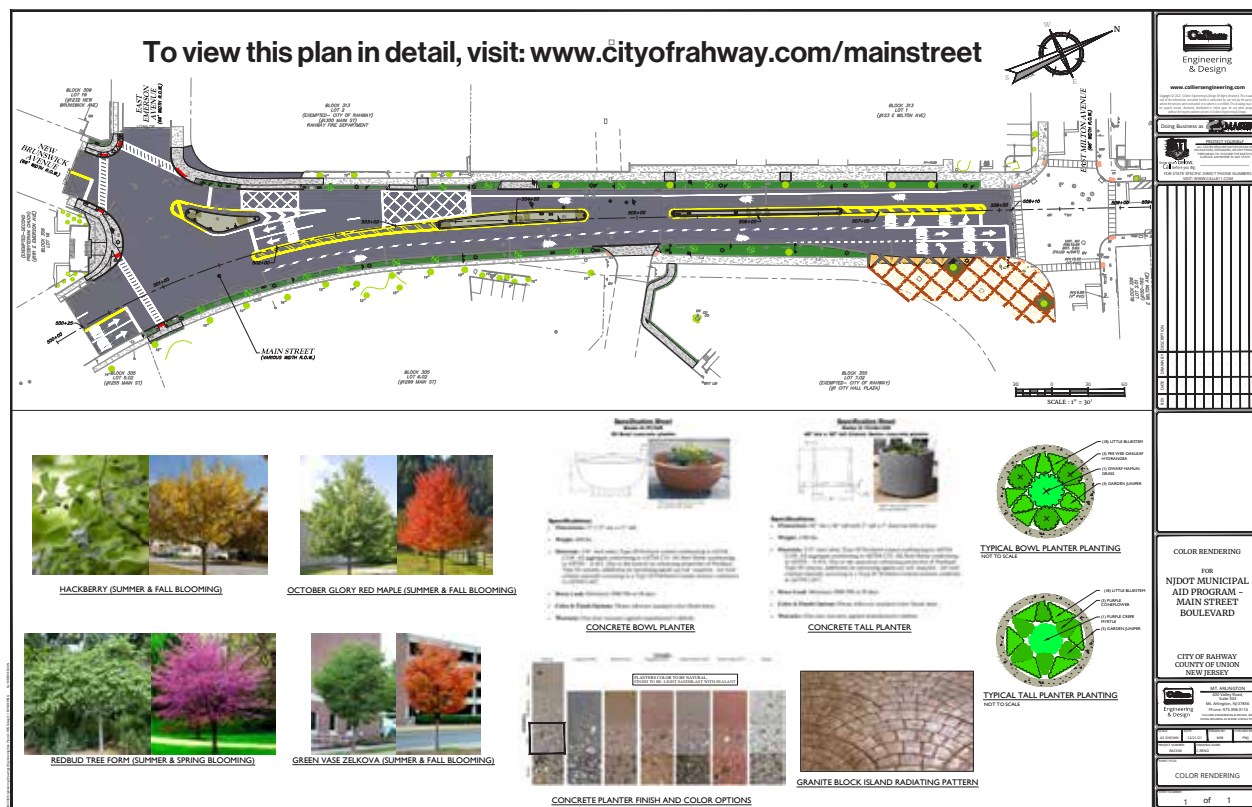
Rahway is at work.

Engineering Highlight

The City is pleased to announce the Main Street Boulevard project, which will create a gateway approach to downtown from the intersection of Main Street at New Brunswick Avenue. This streetscape enhancement project will include a landscaped island with new trees, planters and paver surface and decorative lighting, and the roadway will be resurfaced. The City of Rahway was awarded \$500,000 from the NJ Department of

Transportation 2021 Local Aid Infrastructure Fund grant that will allow this \$700,000 project to move forward with a reduced contribution from the City.

Irving St. has also undergone resurfacing, and the Pride crosswalk was repainted and updated to represent people of color as well as those who identify as transgender, gender nonconforming, and/or unidentified.



Employee Dedication Honoring Mona Johnson



Mayor Raymond Giacobbe and the Rahway City Council would like to highlight one of Rahway's longest and most dedicated employees, Mona Johnson, and congratulate her on approaching her 40th year as an employee of the City of Rahway. Johnson began her employment in the position of Clerk 1 on November 7, 1983 and was subsequently promoted to the positions of Clerk 2, Clerk 3, and Administrative Secretary/Office Services Manager and finally, Technical Assistant to the

Construction Official, which remains her current position. Johnson also served as the Secretary to the Planning Board from 1990-1992 and as the Secretary to the Board of Adjustments from 1990-2001. Johnson has consistently displayed dedicated diligence, thoroughness, knowledge, urgency, and responsiveness in her work and is recognized by her colleagues as resourceful, kind, and hilarious. We thank Mona for her many years of service to the City of Rahway and we look forward to her continued service.

CITY OF RAHWAY: FLOOD PROTECTION INFORMATION

The City of Rahway is a participant in a federally subsidized program that has allowed most property owners to purchase flood insurance with up to a 20% discount on their flood insurance premiums. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), requires that the City adopt specific flood damage reduction education, planning and building criteria.

In an effort to inform residents and property owners of the presence of flood hazards in Rahway and to suggest possible actions that may be taken to protect persons and property, the following article is being sent to you because the City of Rahway has many flood prone areas and your property may be susceptible to flooding.

Flood Insurance

Most homeowner insurance policies do not cover losses due to floods. However, since Rahway is a participant in the NFIP, it is possible for property owners to obtain federally backed flood insurance. This insurance is available to any owner of insurable property (a building and/or its contents) in Rahway. Tenants may also insure their personal property against flood loss. Also, most flood insurance policy holders in Rahway benefit from premium discounts. This is due to the City's extensive efforts to obtain credits, through the Community Rating System (CRS), to maintain specific measures for flood damage reduction.

The City strongly urges you to buy flood insurance as needed to protect yourself from devastating losses due to flooding. Following the purchase of flood insurance, NFIP imposes a 30-day waiting period, so residents should purchase insurance before the onset of the rainy season to ensure coverage during the flooding season. You can find out if your property is located in a special flood hazard area through the Office of the City Engineer at (732) 827-2176.

The local flood hazard

The areas in and around the North and South Branches of the Rahway River, the Robinson's Branch of the Rahway River, the Orchard St. Brook, Maurice Avenue Brook, Allen Street Brook, Milton Lake, Rahway River Park and certain other watercourses are subject to flooding. Flooding occurs in Rahway because the flood carrying capacities of the river channels are exceeded, which is caused by a number of factors, such as record rainfall

intensities and increased impervious surfaces due to upstream development. Floodplain maps, charts, reports and studies that document these areas are available for review in the Division of Engineering and also available for review at the Rahway Public Library.

Flood protection assistance

The City Engineer's office can provide technical assistance relating to flood elevations and data on historical flooding, and is available to advise owners of appropriate flood protection measures. The City also has copies of elevation certificates for some properties in the floodplain. City staff members are available to undertake site visits, if requested and authorized, to review flood, drainage, and sewer issues. Please contact the Engineering Division at (732) 827-2176 for this service.

Flood safety

Following is a list of important considerations that should be followed during times of flooding:

1. Keep children away from flood waters, ditches, culverts and storm drains.
2. Evacuate the flood hazard area in times of impending flood or when advised to do so by the police or fire department.
3. In your home, turn off flood prone electrical circuits and shut off the water and gas service valves.
4. Do not walk through flowing water. Currents can be deceptive; six-inches of moving water can sweep you off your feet.
5. Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Do not drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out. If your car stalls in high water, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.
6. During times of heavy rainfall monitor the level of water in the drainage way.
7. Plan escape routes to high ground.
8. Know the following flood warning system.

Flood warning system

When the City of Rahway is expecting or experiencing inclement weather that may include heavy rain, residents in flood prone areas or low lying area are urged to plan preventative actions to protect life and property.

Residents are urged to monitor frequently weather and flood conditions that are broadcast over local radio and television stations. Residents will be provided with flood watch and flood warning advisories. A flood

watch advisory indicates that the potential for a flood exists in the watch area, while a flood warning indicates that a flood has been detected.

Comcast Channel 34 covers the City and will issue timely updated information. This station is part of the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) as are local television stations Channel 5 & 9. Radio station NJ 101.5 FM, NIXLE and UCFIRSTALERT will also carry EBS messages. Please register for these updates at Nixle.com and Ucfirstalert.org.

In extreme situations, personnel of the Rahway Office of Emergency Management or Department of Public Safety will conduct "Route Altering" within flood prone areas to advise residents to move to higher ground prior to water levels reaching critical stages.

Property protection measures

There are various actions which can be taken to flood-proof structures. Depending upon the situation, location and availability of funds, the following measures can be used:

- a) Install a sump pump system to dispose of infiltrating water to grade outside of the structure;
- b) Move essential items and furniture to the upper floors of your home;
- c) Elevate electrical and mechanical equipment in the basement;
- d) Flood proof walls, windows and doors;
- e) Construct flood walls or closures;
- f) The most effective way to flood-proof a structure is to elevate it.
- g) During times of flooding, homes that have not been retrofitted can be protected during emergencies by the installation of sandbags.
- h) Install flood vents in building walls, doors, or enclosures that are subject to frequent flooding and are not flood-proofed.

Floodplain development regulations

Please be advised that all development, including filling of land located in a special flood hazard area, is regulated differently from other areas and may require a permit. Contact the Office of the City Engineer at (732) 827-2176 for further information and prior to undertaking any activity within the floodplain or if you see non-permitted building or filling in the floodplain.

Recognize the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains to help reduce flooding

Floodplains are a natural component of the City of Rahway environment. Understanding and

protecting the natural functions of floodplains help reduce flood damage and protect resources. When flooding spreads out across the floodplain, its energy is dissipated, which results in lower flood flows downstream, reduced erosion of the stream bank and channel, deposition of sediments higher in the watershed, and improved groundwater recharge. Floodplains are scenic, valued wildlife habitats, and suitable for residential gardening. Poorly planned development in floodplains can lead to stream bank erosion, loss of valuable property, increased risk of flooding to downstream properties, and degradation of water quality. A number of County and Municipal parks like the Rahway River Park and Milton Lake Park preserve the stream corridor and prevent development in perpetuity.

Drainage system maintenance

In addition to regulating development and fill within the flood hazard area, the City of Rahway and State of New Jersey have regulations prohibiting dumping in channels, obstructing flows or any activity that would adversely effect the water-carrying capacity of any channel, floodway or floodplain. It has been demonstrated that regulating development and maintaining drainage systems can alleviate recurrent flooding which endangers life and damages property and facilities. Any activities that may be in violation of these regulations should be reported to the Division of Engineering at (732) 827-2176.

Substantial improvement requirements

With respect to requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) relative to substantial improvement in the flood plain, please be advised that if the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, additions, or other improvement to a building or home equals or exceeds 50 percent of the building's market value, then the building must meet the same flood plain construction requirements as a new building. Substantially damaged buildings must also be brought up to the same standards. In coastal areas, this requirement usually means elevating the lowest floor, including basement and certain utility systems, at least one (1) foot above the base flood elevation displayed on the most recent FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), which is the 100-year flood elevation. A 100-year flood water surface elevation is caused by a storm having a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. In riverine settings, an even higher design flood elevation

is often applied. Contact the City's Engineering Department to determine the local design flood elevation for your property.

Map of the local flood hazard area:

To determine whether your property is located within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are available at the Office of the City Engineer at One City Hall Plaza, Rahway, New Jersey 07065. The maps are also available online at FEMA's Map Service Center website at www.msc.fema.gov, and a FEMA map specialist is available to assist you by phone (at 877-336-2627). In addition, the effective base flood elevation and location of the SFHA on the effective FIRM are mapped on the City's website at www.cityofrahway.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Flood-Hazard-Area-Mapping-website.pdf. A comparison of the effective vs. preliminary FIRM is available from FEMA's website at <https://fema-maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e7a7dc3ebd7f4ad39bb8e485b64ce44>.



Important Contact Information:

City of Rahway Internet Home Page:
www.cityofrahway.com

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):
(425) 487-4600
www.fema.gov

FEMA Map Service Center:
www.msc.fema.gov

The National Flood Insurance Program:
www.fema.gov/flood-insurance

City of Rahway Public Library:
catalog.rahwaylibrary.org

Hiring a Contractor:
www.fema.gov/-fact-sheet/tips-hiring-contractor-home-repair-0