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Rahway's finest saluted for dedication  
One from neighboring Linden also honored

by Pat DiMaggio  
Rahway's Police Department Annual Dinner, sponsored by the Honorary PBA, hosted local officials who applauded the City's finest for their dedication to the community. The dinner, held January 27, was well attended by P.D. members, their families and friends, and City officials.

"Over the last couple of years, the Honorary PBA has been involved in many civic organizations," said Chief Barry Henderson. "They have supported us, not only in financial matters, but also through their moral support. They've shown a genuine interest in the community and especially in the Police Department."

"We are very proud, here in Rahway, because we are like a family," said City Business Administrator Joseph Hartnett. "The average citizen isn't really aware of what our police officers do day after day. They are on the front line of society. The police are always there first. And we have the best."

Mayor Daniel L. Martin also saluted the Police Department and the Honorary PBA when he said "Everyone, not only those here tonight, but those in the community, want to salute you for the job you've done."

Chief Barry Henderson also presented commendation awards to members of the Police Department.

February 8 is deadline  
for School Board  
nominating petitions

Although the date of the 1990 Annual School Election is expected to change, officials of the N.J. School Boards Association recently advised potential candidates for the election to "play it safe" and stick to the original February 8 deadline for filing nomination petitions.

"Right now, the date of the 1990 Annual School Election is Tuesday, April 3," explained Jeremiah F. Regan, NSBA president. "This election date is expected to be postponed by two weeks to a month by the state Legislature. If that happens, the filing deadline for school board candidacy could also change."

"Nonetheless, the Legislature has not yet taken final action. Therefore, we strongly recommend that persons considering candidacy file their nominating petitions with the secretary of their local school board by 4 p.m., Thursday, February 8."

Approximately 1,550 board of education positions in some 350 of the state's 600 local school districts will be up for election.

To serve on a local school board in New Jersey, a person must:

- Be a citizen and have lived in the school district for at least one year.
  - Be able to read and write.
  - Have no interest in any contract with or claim against the school board.
  - Not hold office as mayor or member of the governing body of the municipality served by the school district.
  - Be registered to vote in the district and not be disqualified as a voter under state law (N.J.S.A. 19:4-1).
- "In N.J., local school board members receive no salary," Regan noted. "However, for the person who cares about children and their education, the rewards of school board membership can be immeasurable."
- Information on school board candidacy, nominating procedures and the responsibilities of local boards of education is available from local board of education secretaries. Interested citizens should ask for a copy of "Be Part of a Great American Heritage: Serve on Your Local School Board," an information booklet prepared by the N.J. School Boards Association.

to the identity of the suspect and learned that he may have been armed with a gun. Upon their arrival, they were advised by a 3rd party that the subject was hiding on the 2nd floor of the premises. The officers entered the premises in search of the suspect and found him hiding behind a couch on the 2nd floor. The officers, exercising great caution with guns drawn, managed to extricate the suspect from his hiding place without injury to the suspect or to themselves. Found in the suspect's hiding place were an automatic hand gun and two large knives. These officers displayed great courage and restraint under the most stressful conditions and were awarded with a commendation for their actions.

— Sgt. Anthony Maisto (2nd commendation). On February 12, 1989, Sgt. Maisto responded to the Pathmark in Rahway to assist with the investigation and search for suspects who had just perpetrated a purse snatch. After hearing the description of the suspects and their possible route of escape, Sgt. Maisto, who had been monitoring previous incidents at this location, apprehended the suspects and recovered the proceeds of the robbery. He displayed aggressiveness and a keen awareness of the actions of his adversary. This was an outstanding piece of police work and Sgt. Maisto was awarded a department commendation for his actions.

— Sgt. Edward Hudak. The officers were commended for their outstanding efforts and were presented with a department commendation award.

— Sgt. Edward Hannan. On June 12, 1989, a robbery occurred at the Rahway Train Station. Sgt. Hannan, who was off-duty at the time, was informed by the victim of the occurrence. After being advised of the situation, Sgt. Hannan immediately gave chase to the suspect and apprehended her some distance from the scene. Sgt. Hannan's action displayed a truly outstanding devotion to duty and he was recognized with a department commendation.

— Police Officer Thomas Hubert and Police Officer Robert Conroy. On or about September of 1989, these officers developed information regarding the growing of marijuana plants in the City. As a result of aggressive actions and investigative skills, enough information was developed to assist the narcotics unit in formulating an affidavit for a search warrant, which led to the execution of the warrant and the confiscation of the illicit drug. One individual was arrested for possession. These officers displayed devotion to duty and skill above and beyond the normal routine patrol and received a department commendation.

— Police Officer Robert Post. On December 13, 1989, The N.J. State Police contacted the Rahway P.D. requesting assistance in searching for a subject wanted for two armed robberies. Officer Post, after being apprised of the fact that the state police were looking for was able to provide a possible address of the subject



NICE WORK... Rahway Police Chief Barry Henderson congratulates Lt. Frank Kuczyński of the Linden P.D. for a heroic action as the Lieutenant's wife, Betty Ann, looks on.

who was helping the wanted subject. Officer Post had contact with the subject approximately eight months prior to this and remembered his whereabouts. Officer Post pursued this further by staking out the residence and locating the stolen car used by the

himself, Lt. Kuczyński stepped in front of the waiting vehicle, displayed his service revolver and ordered the vehicle to stop. Lt. Kuczyński then identified himself as a police officer and held both suspects in custody until units of the Rahway Police Department arrived on the scene. Kuczyński displayed great courage and outstanding devotion to the police profession and was honored for his heroic action with a department award.

severance in pursuing the investigation, thus assisting the state police in the apprehension of a wanted felon. He was honored with a department commendation.

— Lt. Francis Kuczyński, Linden P.D. On February 3, 1989, while Lt. Kuczyński was off-duty and shopping at the Pathmark in Rahway, he was informed that a female subject had just stolen a purse from another female shopper. He pursued the suspect, who entered a waiting vehicle. At great risk to

himself, Lt. Kuczyński stepped in front of the waiting vehicle, displayed his service revolver and ordered the vehicle to stop. Lt. Kuczyński then identified himself as a police officer and held both suspects in custody until units of the Rahway Police Department arrived on the scene. Kuczyński displayed great courage and outstanding devotion to the police profession and was honored for his heroic action with a department award.

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HERO COPS... Left to right, Gary Kostura, Edward Hannan, Steve Valent, Robert Post, Chief Henderson, Mayor Martin, Edward Hudak, Tim Dunn, Anthony Maisto, Robert Conroy.

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Legion  
adds to  
P.D. honors  
Awards medals  
to hero cops  
See article on  
back page

Mayor announces new  
food program for needy

Mayor Daniel L. Martin has announced the establishment of a major new food distribution program by City government named "Operation Care." The Mayor said he was taking the initiative to bring together a system of free food distribution in Rahway, which will ensure that all needy senior citizens, families, and individuals receive food.

The Mayor designated City Administrator Joseph Hartnett as Operation Care Director for Rahway and Health Officer Anthony Dege and Welfare Director Bruce Henderson as Operation Care Coordinators. The Mayor also indicated he was "putting all necessary resources of the City" behind the program "to ensure its success."

Through "Operation Care," the City will solicit and receive from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the N.J. Department of Agriculture surplus foods which are available for the needy. The City-owned news media and be posted at public housing complexes and public buildings. The Mayor indicated that the senior citizen organizations who meet at the Senior Citizen Center "have consented to help serve as eyes and ears for us to make sure this food gets to all those who need it."

Martin also welcomed the cooperation of any churches or service organizations in Operation Care, whether or not they've ever been involved in food distribution and pledged that "the City will try to work with any group that shares our objective of getting food to those in need." He stated that anyone wanting more information on Operation Care should call Mr. Dege at 381-8000.

3rd Tuesday of every month at the Senior Citizen Center from 10 a.m. until noon, "or as long as it takes," the Mayor explained.

To be eligible to receive food, a person must be a Rahway resident, be within income limits established by the state and federal governments, and obtain a registration card from the City.

"A most important thing I want to emphasize," Martin declared, "is that participants can be assured of complete confidentiality in registering for this program. The City provides confidentiality with this program just as we do with other public assistance programs."

In order to register, individuals should come to the Health Department at City Hall and indicate they wish to be eligible to receive food. The first distribution will take place on February 20th.

Reminder notices will be sent out each month to the news media and be posted at public housing complexes and public buildings. The Mayor indicated that the senior citizen organizations who meet at the Senior Citizen Center "have consented to help serve as eyes and ears for us to make sure this food gets to all those who need it."

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Other public protectors  
also commended  
Took personal risks to see justice done

by Pat DiMaggio  
At last week's annual police awards banquet,

Rahway's Police Department commended residents for their courage and dedication. Christopher Decker, Harry Blumer and Dale Bednarz were recognized for their assistance to police and were honored with citizen awards.

On February 28, 1989, Christopher Decker, a Rahway Federal Housing Security Officer, was on patrol in the vicinity of East Cherry and Main Streets when he was summoned by a resident who reported that his car had just been stolen. Officer Decker immediately notified the Rahway Police via radio and gave a description of the vehicle. Officer Decker then gave chase after the stolen vehicle and was able to stop it and detain its occupants until units of the Rahway Police Department arrived to take custody of the suspects. The action took great courage, as officers of the Housing Authority are unarmed and have no means of self-defense. Officer Decker was commended for his courage and dedication to duty.

On or about September 14, 1989, Harry Blumer, a member of the Rahway Fire Department, provided members of the Rahway P.D. Narcotics Unit with information that resulted in obtaining a search warrant that led to the arrest of certain persons for growing and manufacturing marijuana. This particular operation constituted a major supply of the substance in the area. The information supplied by Fireman Blumer was obtained through keen observation with an obvious concern for the community in which he works and resides. Fireman Blumer was commended for his actions and the assistance he rendered to the Police Dept. in their battle against narcotic trafficking.

On September 19, 1989, Sgt. Dale Bednarz, a member of the Rahway Hospital Security Patrol, monitored a radio transmission of a wanted person who had fled from a stolen motor vehicle which police had been pursuing. A short time later, Sgt. Bednarz observed a person fitting that description enter the Rahway Hospital Emergency room. Sgt. Bednarz quickly notified the Police



PROTECTORS... Commended for actions above and beyond the call of duty: (left to right) Christopher Decker, Harry Blumer, Dale Bednarz.



BLUES AND JAZZ LADIES REMEMBERED — On Friday, February 9 at 9 p.m., a tribute to the "Late Great Ladies of Blues and Jazz" will be presented at the Union County Arts Center at 1801 Irving Street in Rahway. Sandra Reeves-Phillips will give her renditions of the immortal Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey, Ethel Waters, Billie Holiday, Josephine Baker, Dinah Washington and a thunderous tribute to Mahalia Jackson. Tickets are on sale now. For more information call 499-0441.