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## Downtown Managers Starting Work

### Business District Revitalization Is Goal



RAHWAY HOSPITAL ASSISTS PATIENTS WITH ADVANCE DIRECTIVES ... Deborah Pittman, Nurse Manager of Rahway Hospital's Psychiatric Emergency Service and member of Hospital's Ethics Committee, left assists Helen Kress and Dolores Benoit in reviewing Hospital's newly-published brochure regarding Advance Directive for Health Care. Brochure and standard forms for writing advance directive, including sample living will, guide to patients' rights and information on Hospital's Ethics Committee, are available through resource displays located in Hospital's main lobby, pre-admission testing office, diagnostic center and emergency center.

by Pat DiMaggio  
The Downtown Managers, based in Caldwell, has had some success with the revitalization of central business districts in New Jersey. At a recent meeting, Rahway's Municipal Council approved a contract with the professional management firm to facilitate implementation of the proposed redevelopment of the City's downtown business area.

It will be the job of Don Smartt, principal of The Downtown Managers, to sift through the plan, prioritize and make recommendations on implementing proposals. According to Smartt, the contract with the City is geared towards specific goals. "We will develop a consensus-oriented dialogue within the business community as to strategies, timing and the methodology of revitalizing the downtown area, consistent with the findings and recommendations of the central business district plan," he said.

The blueprint for improving the district already has been laid out through the 1990 proposed plan. Smartt will work with representatives of the Chamber and Merck, as well as other members of the business community, to pull out recommendations, prioritize and set a timetable for implementing these items. A private sector group will be put together that will consist of representatives from

the Chamber, Merck and City officials, to review the plan and set preliminary priorities, said Smartt. Those points will then be tested within various segments of the business and commercial community with private and community meetings. When all input is received, the group then will formalize its recommendations.

The contract with The Downtown Managers, in the amount of \$9,000, will be funded through a Community Development Block Grant. According to Smartt, the company has a long track record in downtown economic revitalization. Smartt has served as the principal manager for projects in Madison and Camden, both of which earned an excellent ranking of four by the National Economic Development Council.

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In 1990, Rahway's Chamber of Commerce and Merck & Co. Inc. jointly funded a professional study

### District Loses 'Urban' Label

by Pat DiMaggio  
Rahway's Board of Education has received notification that it will no longer be designated as an "urban" board. Board Business Administrator Anthony Rocco said the board completed a letter from the New Jersey School Boards Association, indicating that the district will no longer hold an "urban" designation.

A teaching staff member, with pay, effective Feb. 4. Because the staff member shows "evidence of deviation from normal mental health," the board voted to require a mental and physical examination to be completed by March 5 or as soon as an examination can be scheduled. The suspension will continue until the board can determine that the staff member is physically and mentally fit to resume employment duties or the board is forced to take "other actions." Because the suspension deals with a personnel matter, board officials refused comment.

A new superintendent to start at \$100,000. Rocco will receive a salary of \$88,500. Both salaries include an increase of less than 6 percent. In other business the board:

- Accepted the retirement of Edmund Daly, High School English teacher, effective July 1.
- Accepted the retirement of Pasquale Miano, High School Math teacher, effective July 1.
- Accepted the resignation of Wanda Jeter, teacher aide, effective Feb. 15.
- Appointed Karen Kramer as a learning disabilities teacher consultant at \$32,684, prorated.
- Appointed Gerri Lambright as a teacher aide at \$5.10 per hour.
- Approved the date of June 4, 1993, and the site of the Livingston Country Club, South Orange Avenue, Livingston from 7 p.m. to midnight for the Class of 1993 prom.

The salaries of administrators not represented by a bargaining unit also were approved by the board. Superintendent of Schools Frank Brunette was granted a 1991-92 salary of \$111,975. Brunette has announced his retirement from the district, effective July 1, and the board has been searching for

### Hospital Asks New Question

Persons who have to go to Rahway Hospital for diagnosis or treatment shouldn't be alarmed if they are asked a question for which they may not be prepared: "Do you have an advance directive?" An estimated 85 percent of Americans do not, but they will now have the opportunity to receive information about advance directives and how they can initiate one.

Advance directives are documents which indicate an individual's choices for future health care if he/she becomes incapacitated and is unable to communicate. There are two kinds: (1) a living will, which describes individual preferences for life-sustaining treatment and (2) a durable power of attorney for health care, which designates someone else to make health care decisions for the individual when he or she is unable to do so.

The purpose of these advance directives is to give individuals more control over their medical care. For example, advance directives can restrain the use of medical technology on dying patients who would not have wanted it but can no longer communicate their wishes. A clear statement, prepared in advance, can speak for the patient, ensuring that physicians and family members have no doubt about how much life-prolonging technology he or she would have wanted.

Hospitals are now required by both federal and state law to ask patients if they have an advance directive and offer them an opportunity to execute one if they wish. At Rahway Hospital, patients are provided with a brochure which contains information on advance directives and samples of a living will.

Elaine H. Jansen, Assistant Vice-President/Support Services who administers the advance directive program on behalf of the Ethics Committee at the Hospital, states "Most patients are pleased to know that they can make these choices for themselves in advance, rather than leaving the burden to their loved ones."

Rahway Hospital understands why some individuals might not want to think about such a subject when they may already be apprehensive or, conversely, only entering the Hospital for a minor procedure, according to Jansen. She states, "We think it's better to introduce people to advance directives before they are admitted to a hospital. We believe individuals need time to think and talk about the kind of care they might want or who should decide for them when they can't decide for themselves."

### We Salute Black History Month

Nationally-renowned accounting firm Price-Waterhouse measures quarterly the Postal Service's on-time overnight delivery of First Class Mail via the EXFC. This survey ascertains and evaluates service performance for First Class Mail from deposit to delivery, or "collection box to mail slot." During the first quarter of FY 92, the Rahway Post Office's EXFC was 79 percent - up nine points from the fourth quarter of FY 91.

### Bereavement Group At Rahway Hospice

For many people, life becomes very difficult after the loss of a loved one. Sometimes, even everyday tasks become burdensome. We all express grief in our own unique ways, but sometimes it helps to talk to others who also are coping with the recent loss of a loved one.

### Support For Production ...

Ricardo Khan, left, Grossroads Theatre Company Producer and Artistic Director, accepts \$50,000 donation to support Company's Black History Month production of "Oak and Ivy" from John Taylor, Director of Corporate Contributions at Merck & Co. Inc., and Larry Branch, Merck's Director of Equal Employment Affairs. "Oak and Ivy" chronicles lives and works of African-American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar and his wife, Alice Dunbar-Nelson, and play continues celebration of Grossroads' inaugural season in its new facility in New Brunswick.



SUPPORT FOR PRODUCTION ... Ricardo Khan, left, Grossroads Theatre Company Producer and Artistic Director, accepts \$50,000 donation to support Company's Black History Month production of "Oak and Ivy" from John Taylor, Director of Corporate Contributions at Merck & Co. Inc., and Larry Branch, Merck's Director of Equal Employment Affairs. "Oak and Ivy" chronicles lives and works of African-American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar and his wife, Alice Dunbar-Nelson, and play continues celebration of Grossroads' inaugural season in its new facility in New Brunswick.

### Customers Satisfied

An overwhelming majority of Rahway postal customers is very satisfied with the daily performance of the U.S. Postal Service, says an independent New Jersey factfinding and research firm. According to the latest Customer Satisfaction Index (CSI) compiled by Opinion Research Corporation of Princeton, 87 percent of Rahway customers surveyed felt the Postal Service was doing a "good, very good or excellent job."

### Committee Organized

Mayor Jim Kennedy and Council President Michael Esposito are proud to announce the formation of the Rahway Train Committee. Some of the goals of this group will be renovation of the Rahway train station, provisioning of handicapped access at the station, and having improvements made to the underpass and tracks.

"I am very pleased and proud that we are in the 'B+' range on our CSI scores for Quarter I of Fiscal Year 1992," Rahway Postmaster Joseph Ruffolo said. "However, there remains 13 percent of our customer who are not satisfied with the job we're doing. We want to push our CSI approval rating to at least 90 percent this quarter."

Members of the Committee are: Council members Esposito, Sal Miano and Alex Shipley; Robert Marley, Vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce and a commissioner on the Rahway Parking Authority, and Brian O'Donnell, a local architect, who will serve as Chairman of the Committee. Comments or questions may be mailed to: Rahway Train Committee, c/o Rahway City Hall, 1 City Hall Plaza, Rahway, NJ 07065.

### Rahway, Clark Residents Named

Louis A. Santagata, Chairman of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, has announced the appointments of five local residents to various county advisory boards. As advisory board members, the appointees bring their expertise in a variety of areas to improving county programs and fostering community relations.

### Board Meeting To Pick Support

A special meeting of the Rahway Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, March 2, 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room, 1000 N. Broad St., Rahway, N.J. 07065.

the first phase of the project take four to six months, and construction could start in early 1993 if the preliminary work shows a staged construction program is feasible.

"Rahway station is used by about 2,000 passengers each day, making it one of our major stations," said Shirley A. DeBono, Executive Director of NJ Transit. "Our planned rehabilitation will significantly improve conditions for passengers."

The Ives Group and A.G. Lichtenstein previously have performed design work for NJ Transit at the North Elizabeth, Elizabeth and Linden train stations. They have also performed similar work for other public transit clients.

The Americans with Disabilities Act, passed in 1990, requires public transit operators to make new and rebuilt train stations accessible to disabled residents.

Funding for this project is being provided through the state Transportation Trust Fund.