The City of Rahway is located in the southern portion of Union County, and is bordered by Middlesex County to the south, Clark to the west and Linden to the east. The community as we know it today was settled by Europeans in the 1660s and was incorporated as a city in 1858. Its early growth can be attributed to the navigable Rahway River and the City’s location along the early stagecoach and later rail line. It became a major manufacturing center in the early 20th century. Rahway experienced a marked decline in its industrial base in the latter 20th century, mirroring the nation. Since the late 1990s Rahway has planned for and realized redevelopment centered on the arts and transit oriented development. Since 1997 Rahway is a Tree City USA community and in 2016 Rahway achieved Sustainable Jersey Silver Level Certified Communities status. Rahway hosts an International Film Festival annually and has become a regional hub for arts and culture. The City is part of the New York metropolitan area, with direct access to NYC via the Northeast Corridor Rail Line.

History, Location & Highlights

Transportation

Rahway was an early recipient of NJ Department of Transportation’s Transit Village designation program in 2002. The City is traversed by the Northeast Corridor Rail Line, which provides direct access to New York City and Trenton, and the North Jersey Coast Rail Line, with a station in downtown Rahway.
It is also crossed by the major commercial corridors of Route 1 and Route 27. The City is also served by NJ Transit bus lines 48 and 115. For working Rahway residents, 79% use a private automobile to commute to work, either alone (67.9%) or in a carpool (11.1%). 12.9% use public transportation, 3.0% walk to work. The average commute time for a Rahway worker is 32 minutes.

Housing

The City of Rahway has focused much of its recent redevelopment efforts on building high-density housing downtown. Of the City’s 11,782 housing units, 26.3% are in structures with three or more units, 15.1% are in two-unit structures, and over 58.1% are in single-unit detached or attached structures. Over 91.9% of the units are occupied—58.5% by owners and 41.5% by renters. The median housing value in Rahway is $263,200 and the median gross rent is $1,402 per month.

Community Facilities & Services

Public Schools:
- Franklin Elementary School (PreK-6)
- Grover Cleveland Elementary School (PreK-6)
- Madison Elementary School (PreK-6)
- Rahway 7th & 8th Grade Academy (7-8)
- Rahway High School (9-12)
- Roosevelt Elementary School (PreK-6)

Private Schools:
- Childtime of Rahway (Infant – PreK)
- St. Mary’s Parish Religious Education (K-12)
- Stepping Stone Academy (PreK-6)

Health Care:
- Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

The Rahway Public Library
- Located at 2 City Hall Plaza

Fire Department:
- Located at 1300 Main Street

Police Department:
- Located at 1 City Hall Plaza

Department of Public Works:
- Located at 999 Hart Street

Parks & Recreation:
- Berzinec Park Municipal Tennis Courts
- Madison Avenue Park
- Milton Lake Park
- Rahway Recreation Center
- Rahway River Park
- Veterans Memorial Field
- Additional parks, ball fields, and basketball courts throughout the City

Arts & Entertainment:
- Union County Performing Arts Center
- Hamilton Stage

Web Links:
- City website: http://cityofrahway.com/
- Union County: http://ucnj.org/
- Public Schools: http://www.rahway.net/Page/1
- Public Library: http://www.rahwaylibrary.org
- Chamber of Commerce: http://www.rahwaychamberofcommerce.com/
- Arts District: http://www.rahwayishappening.com/