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## ALJ INDUCTS 13 STUDENTS INTO NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



(above, l-r) Sitting: Ashley Jimenez, Victoria Venezio, Gianna Caldiero, Tara Marie Viafora, Julia Schelhorn, Julia Kalynchuk, Kaitlyn Greenhill; standing: Joseph Hovick, Matthew Zukowski, Richard Ledden, Patrick Brennan, Daniel McCaffery, and Matthew Hartzler

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ECRWSS

The Arthur L. Johnson chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 13 students in a candle-lighting ceremony held at the Gran Centurions on February 25, 2020.

Kayla White, NHS Advisor, and Nicole Randazza, NHS President, led the night with opening remarks. The candle-lighting ceremony was completed by Nicole Randazza, Robert Lukaszewicz, Heidi Compton, and Gianna Nigro. Each current member discussed the meaning of the pillar and its role in the life of a NHS member.

Superintendent of Schools Edward Grande and Arthur L. Johnson Principal Jennifer Feeley spoke congratulating the students on their accomplishments and encouraging them to embrace new challenges.

New inductees took a pledge led by Nigro and received certificates. NHS Member Mary Nadolsky also issued a challenge to students to always make time for friends and family while working hard to reach your goals.

NHS Member Daniela Thompson then recognized Ms. Carla Wagner, ALJ Media Specialist. Every year, a staff member is recognized for their dedication to student learning.

Thompson spoke about Wagner's support for all students as a media specialist and cheerleading coach.

The evening closed with "Words of Inspiration" from member Samantha Piesco, who reiterated the importance of the pillars and encouraged students to continue to work hard but enjoy the journey as well.

The evening was attended by parents, teachers, administrators, and Board of Education members. Superintendent Edward Grande commented, "This evening is always a most rewarding one in the sense that we are able to honor our students for their academic success, leadership, service towards others, and goodness of character. They exemplify what it means to be ALJ Crusaders and we are most proud of them."

The 13 new inductees join 13 existing members. To be eligible for National Honor Society, a student must have a weighted cumulative GPA of 4.15 or above and be enrolled in at least 3 honors/AP courses. At that point, students are asked to complete the application process demonstrating examples of the pillars.

Photo by Clark Public Schools

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# GARWOOD BASKETBALL'S SPIRIT NIGHT



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Submitted by Matthew Burke

On Thursday, March 5 the Garwood Middle School boys' and girls' basketball teams held their annual Spirit Night Basketball game to honor the 8th graders in the program. The team captains were 8th graders Madden Puerari and Emilio Menicucci.

The other 8th graders honored that night were Miguel Barros, Ryan Bienkowski, Albert Dzeranov, Sean Kessock, Matthew Kuprowski, Matthew Parente, Michael Stoffer, Danielle Archer, Leah Scepkowski, Alyssa Schlauberg, Madeline Tortorici, and Kaeley Yurchak.

In addition, the school raised a banner to celebrate the 2018-19 Boys team that went 11-5 last season. The now 9th graders honored were John Sullivan, Adrian Aguirre, Nick Conrad, Simon Cvercko, Matthew Froden, Ethan Groning, Ian Langston, Jake Malcolm, Henry Nordstrom, Aedan Paredes, Axel Santamaria, and Gabe Snedeker. Current team members, Emilio Menicucci, Michael Stoffer, and Richard Howard were also honored as members of that team.

The basketball teams are coached by Matt Burke, Aaren Beaty, and John Sullivan.



(above) The Blue Team on Spirit Night

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# GARWOOD BASKETBALL'S SPIRIT NIGHT



(above) Purple Team members



(above) The 2018-19 Boys team that went 11-5 last season were honored with a banner to celebrate their success.

## SCHOOL NURSES PARTICIPATE IN JOANN'S FABRIC DONATION PROJECT

Arthur L. Johnson High School Nurse June Curti of the Clark Public School District and Lincoln Franklin School Nurse Karen Lukacovic of the Garwood Public School District have been busy making masks for the Joann's Fabric Donation Project. This project, sponsored by Joann's Fabric Shop, provides fabric and instructions to those willing to make masks. The masks are then donated to those in need. The masks will be used by individuals that are not in an area of high concern for contracting the Coronavirus. They are washable and can be used over again by the owner of the mask.

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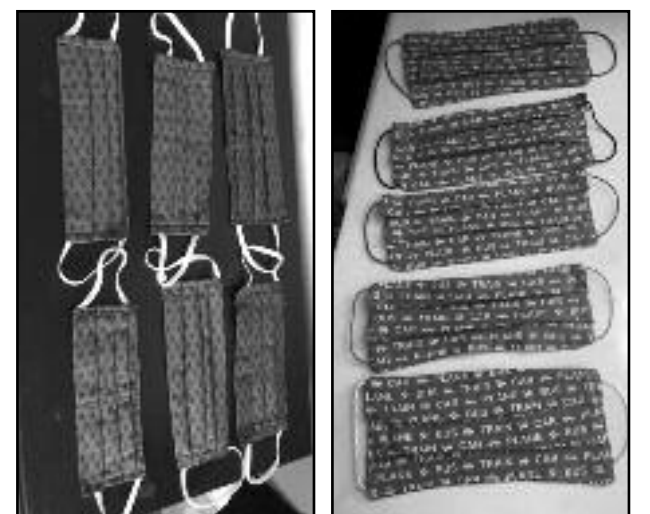
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## WINTER ATHLETIC AWARDS



(above) Team Most Valuable Players were: Boys' Basketball – Matthew O'Connor, Girls Basketball – Katie Ledden, Wrestling – Matthew Lordi, Ice Hockey – Nicholas Galati, Boys' Winter Track & Field – Gregory Lordi, Girls' Winter Track & Field – Carly Tarentino, Swimming – Christian Festa (Boys) & Skye Sener (Girls), Bowling – Dylan Evans, and Cheerleading – Isabella Tallo.

On Wednesday, March 4, 2020, the Arthur L. Johnson Athletic Department held their 2019 – 2020 Winter Athletic Awards. The evening, sponsored by the Crusader Athletic Booster Club, was held in the Arthur L. Johnson Auditorium.

All the winter athletic teams and their seasons were highlighted by their coaches while handing out letters and awards to the student athletes. Over 188 varsity athletic letters were handed out throughout the evening, as participation in athletics at ALJ High School continues to grow.

Athletic Director Gus Kalikas, had this to say about the event “Once again, our Winter Awards Program was a successful evening as it allows the district, administration, and coaches the opportunity to acknowledge a wonderful winter sports season as well as recognize both student athletes and their parents alike for all that they have accomplished this past winter athletic season.”



(above) The Student Athlete Award is given out each athletic season to a student athlete that is not only a champion on the field, but in the classroom as well. The 2019-2020 Winter Student Athlete award recipient was Robert Lukasiewicz (Bobby currently has a 4.99 G.P.A. and is Ranked #1 in his Senior Class).



(above) The Best Teammate Award is given out seasonally to one member from each athletic team that best fits the characteristics of a good teammate. The individuals that receive these awards exhibit upbeat attitudes and outstanding character. They helped influence the team's culture in a positive manner, while always supporting teammates and promoting team unity. The winners were: Boys' Basketball – Robert Lukasiewicz, Girls Basketball – Lily Gull, Wrestling – Stephen Acosta, Ice Hockey – Michael Midrano, Boys' Winter Track & Field – Matthew Kowalenko, Girls' Winter Track & Field – Julia Kalynchuk, Swimming – Alexandra Compton, Bowling – Matthew Hartzler, and Cheerleading – Caitlyn Hessler.



(above) The Crusader G.P.A. Challenge is awarded to the team that finishes with the highest overall G.P.A. amongst athletic teams for the winter season. The G.P.A. Challenge winners for the winter season was awarded to the Crusader Boys' & Girls' Track and Field Teams with a G.P.A. of 3.91. Boys: Aedan Kelly, Matthew Kowalenko, Joseph Greenbush, Gregory Lordi, Matthew Zukowski, John Brighthouse, Aidan Ford, Andrew Pereira, and Brett Makowsky; Girls: Katie Hannah, Julia Kalynchuk, Nicole Randazza, Gina Rizzuto, Megan Tinger, Carly Tarentino, Sarah Scepkowski, and Aria Hicks.

# GARWOOD FAMILY SKATE NIGHT

Garwood residents took to the ice as Garwood Recreation together with the Borough of Garwood sponsored Garwood Family Skate Night at Warinanco Park Skating Complex on Friday, March 6th. A great time was had by all!



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(above) The Dan Beard Tree House at Boy Scout Camp Somers received repairs by the Flintlocks over the winter.

## RETIRED SCOUTS HELP MAINTAIN BOY SCOUT CAMPS

The Flintlocks repaired the Dan Beard Tree House at Boy Scout Camp Somers in Stanhope, NJ over the winter. This camp serves the Union County area scouts, as well as Morris, Sussex and Middlesex Counties.

The Flintlocks are retired scouters who volunteer every Thursday at Camp Winnebago in Rockaway, NJ. All it took was some lumber, some screws and some elbow grease. Since the Flintlocks are all volunteers with outstanding

construction skills, it saves the Council from hiring outside contractors to do the repairs. A small group goes up to Camp Somers on Wednesdays to work over there. Most of the men had fathers who helped the Boy Scouts when they were in the scouts as lads, and have sons and grandchildren who were, or are, in the scouts.

For more information please visit the Facebook Page "Flintlocks", or contact Flintlocks Secretary Michael Hart at [drmhart@yahoo.com](mailto:drmhart@yahoo.com).

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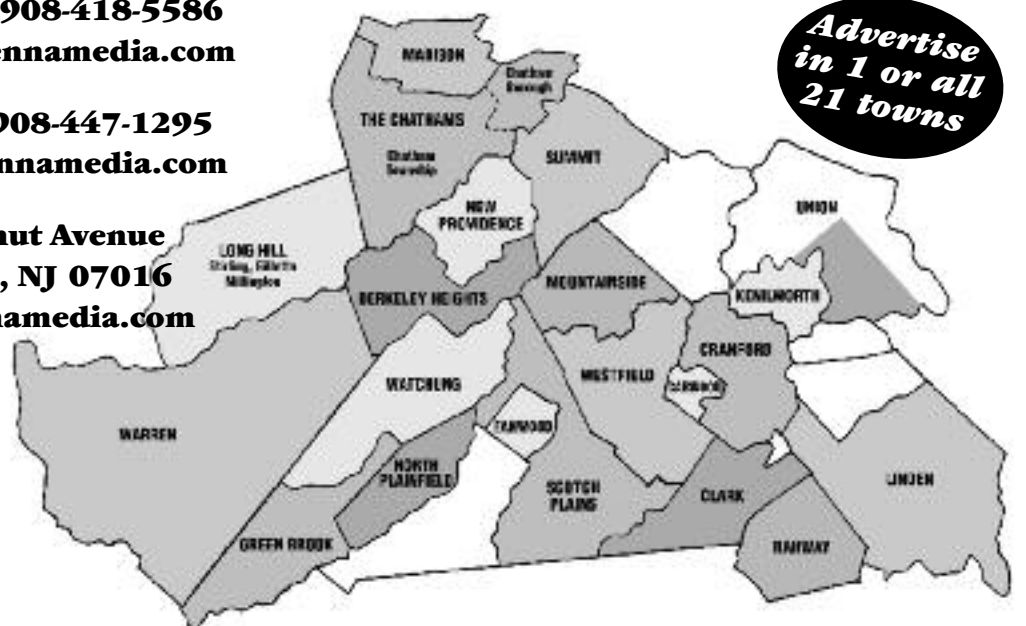
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# JULIENNE CHERRY TAKES HELM AT CHILD ADVOCACY GROUP CASA

Submitted by Gretchen M. Boger-O'Bryan

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County is pleased to announce the selection of Julienne Cherry as its new Executive Director. The organization recruits, trains, supervises and supports community volunteers to advocate for abused, neglected and abandoned Union County youth removed from home and living in foster care.

"Julienne's history in the nonprofit arena, as well as her experience, knowledge and connections within the state, make her ideal to

lead CASA of Union County. The board is excited to welcome her to the organization just as it celebrates 15 years of advocacy for our community's foster youth," said Dr. Ron Silver, president of the organization's Board of Trustees.

She joins the Elizabeth-based nonprofit from the Community Food Bank of New Jersey in Hillside, where she was Director of Agency Relations, overseeing more than 1,000 feeding programs in eight New Jersey counties. Among Cherry's community service efforts in Union County are serving on the board of Moms

Helping Moms, a diaper and baby supply bank in Plainfield, and remaining active with the local chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Eta Omicron Zeta, including serving as its Health Fair Chair. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Kean University.

"I'm very thankful for the wonderful opportunity to join the CASA family," said Cherry. "As a resident of Union County, this new position aligns perfectly with the last 20-plus years I've devoted to advocating for our community's underserved and voiceless. I'm looking forward to meeting with key stakeholders and community members to help move our mission forward. Ensuring the best interests of every Union County youth in foster care through no fault of their own will remain my top priority. As the organization reaches its 15th year of advocacy, the goal continues to be providing an advocate for every fragile youth that needs one. To do this, we need the support of our village. From monthly gives, employer matches and event sponsorships to corporate and business partnerships, every dollar of support for our small-but-mighty nonprofit directly impacts how many waiting foster youth we can reach. Simply, writing a check means writing another chapter. Help us Change a Child's Story."

Through court-ordered access to foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, CASA volunteers ensure the best interests of foster youth remain a priority while parties work toward establishing a safe, stable and permanent home. There are nearly 500 Union County youth in foster care and the organization currently serves just over half those. Its goal is to provide an advocate for every youth that needs one.

To make a tax-deductible donation, log on to [casaofunioncounty.org/donate](http://casaofunioncounty.org/donate). To learn about how to become an advocate for a foster child, contact Courtney at [cgreen@casaofunioncounty.org](mailto:cgreen@casaofunioncounty.org) or Call 908-293-8136.



(above) Julienne Cherry has joined Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County as its new Executive Director.



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