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DAISIES THANK FRONT LINE WORKERS WITH CARDS & COOKIES

Submitted by Vanessa Schubring

Garwood Daisy Troop #41108 received multiple donations while selling cookies which enabled the Troop to donate cookies to those on the front lines during the pandemic. We donated cookies to the Garwood Police, Fire and EMS departments, our town postman Xavier Carpio, and to the nurses and doctors at St. Barnabas Hospital.



(above) Garwood Daisy Troop donated cookies and thank you notes to nurses and doctors at St. Barnabas Hospital and RWJ Hospital Rahway



(above, l-r) Garwood Fire and Police Department and EMS received cookies from Garwood Daisy Troop #41108.

(above) Garwood postman Xavier Carpio received cookies from Daisy Troop #41108.

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To submit content email:
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MAYOR'S WELLNESS CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Needless to say, during this national health crisis, the Garwood Mayors Wellness 3K Walks are being discontinued until further notice. Our walks are normally held on the third Saturday of each month at the Garwood Recreation Center at the end of Myrtle Avenue. All residents are welcome to participate regardless of age or ability, as it is a friendly walk to get to know your neighbors, not a competition.

Since we can't meet face to face, the Garwood Mayors Wellness Campaign Committee invites all our residents and friends to join us for our virtual programming activities including health and fitness tips and other health related information found on our Facebook page

@Garwood Mayors Wellness Campaign. Other information about the activities in the Borough can be found on Facebook @Garwood Borough-Government and @Garwood.org. The Committee also suggests that if you haven't already done so, please sign up for community and emergency alerts at nixle.com.

For further information, or if you'd like to join the Mayors Wellness Campaign Committee, please contact us, or, when we can once again meet face to face, please attend one of our meetings. The meetings are generally held on the second Monday of each month in the Borough Hall Conference Room at 7:00 p.m. Our email is GMW@garwood.org.

NEW GARWOOD RECREATION DIRECTOR

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Ralph Bernardo

My name is Ralph Bernardo and I am the newly appointed part-time Recreation Director for Garwood. I am extremely excited to begin this new venture with Garwood. My recreation career expands many years so I hope to use my experience and vision

to bring Garwood to the next level in recreation. I am very organized and a strong communicator with commitment in everything I do. I hope to be a real asset to the great Borough of Garwood!

Please feel free to contact me anytime with any questions or suggestions.

I can be reached at 908-418-7649

or via email at r-bernardo@garwood.org

or garwoodrecreationdept@garwood.org.

I look forward to meeting and speaking with each one of you and cannot wait to dive into my new journey!



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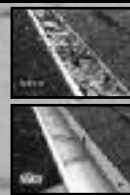
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GARWOOD NAMED “HEALTHY TOWN TO WATCH”

Submitted by NJ Healthcare Quality Institute

Mobile fresh food markets. Community walks. Weight-loss challenges. Healthy corner stores. Outdoor yoga. Bike trails. Health fairs.

These and other innovative programs helped New Jersey communities win recognition through the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute’s annual Mayors Wellness Campaign “New Jersey Healthy Town” designation.

Garwood, along with 11 other communities participating in the Mayors Wellness Campaign (MWC), a program of the Quality Institute, in partnership with the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, was named a 2019 Healthy Towns to Watch. Seven towns were designated as 2019 Healthy Towns, and five were designated as 2019 Healthy Town Up and Coming.

Each year, communities participating in the MWC complete a comprehensive application

outlining the research they’ve done to identify their community health needs, explain how they have organized their local MWC committee, and highlight the actions they’ve taken to make their communities healthier places to live, work, and play.

The Garwood MWC has significant support not only from its current Mayor, but the former Mayor continues to be a driving force for the program as well. In addition to the programs Garwood provides for residents, such as supermarket tours and monthly Walks With the Mayor, Garwood has taken the lead on providing

a space for Union County MWCs to come together to collaborate on programming and share best practices.

“Wellness and sustainability are growing concepts at workplaces and schools, so I am extremely proud of Garwood adding our community as a whole to the list of Healthy Towns to Watch. This outstanding accomplishment could not have been possible without the engagement from our residents and from the volunteers on the Mayors Wellness Campaign, led by former Mayor Charles Lombardo,” said Mayor Sara Todisco.

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CHECK OUT THE NEW BENCH IN FRONT OF BOROUGH HALL

The Green Team collected over 500lbs. of plastic in the TREX plastic recycling challenge and received this bench from TREX to mark the milestone. Thank you to all Garwood residents who recycled and a big thank you to Janine and Mark Koch who helmed this project. Also pictured: Green Team Liaison Jennifer Linken Blumenstock and Mayor Sara Todisco. Keep it up Garwood! Collection boxes are still located at Borough Hall, the Library and Kings.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE LOOKING FOR THE SWEET SIDE OF GARWOOD

Submitted by Carol Lombardo

Garwood has come to be known as "The Small Town with a Big Heart." There is the North Side and the South Side, now Garwood's Historical Committee is looking to find its Sweet Side.

Many years ago in 2003, Garwood's Centennial Committee published a cookbook filled with recipes from its residents, including everything from soups to nuts, and it was a big success! This time around, on a smaller scale, the Historical Committee is looking for Garwood's sweet heart.

The Committee is asking residents to bring out their favorite sweet recipes, from pies to cakes, brownies to ambrosia, and everything in between. The aim is to collect as many dessert recipes as they can so that they can create a wide-ranging compilation, reflecting Garwood's sweet side. This endeavor is one of the Historical Committee's fundraising projects, so that the Committee can maintain funds to preserve and protect its collection of Garwood's memorabilia and artifacts. The goal of the Committee is to collect the recipes from now through May, in order to have the recipe book ready just in time for Garwood Rocks 2020.

If any Garwood resident, or business located in Garwood, is interested in submitting a recipe or two of your favorite goodies, please send them electronically to garwoodhistory@garwood.org, or you can mail them directly to the Garwood Historical Committee, c/o Carol Lombardo, 275 Fourth Avenue, Garwood, NJ 07027. If you like, and the Committee encourages you to do so, please include a few sentences about the recipe, whose it is, why it's your favorite, and how long it's been in your family. You can even submit a picture of yourself or your relative who gave you the recipe. The Committee will make every attempt to include this extra information in the recipe book, depending on the amount of recipes received. When submitting recipes, please include your name, and phone number and/or email in case the Committee needs clarification on your submission.

The Historical Committee is always looking for ways to preserve the history of Garwood, and by doing this recipe book, they will be preserving many of Garwood's favorite childhood memories. The Committee can be reached at garwoodhistory@garwood.org.



Photo by Borough of Garwood

GARWOOD LIBRARY IS OPEN ONLINE 24/7

The Garwood Public Library closed its doors to the public on Friday, March 13 pursuant to a directive by Mayor Todisco and the Westfield Area Department of Health, followed by Governor Murphy's executive order 107 closing all non-essential businesses.

During the closure the Library has increased our digital service by increasing the number of Hoopla checkouts per month from 3 to 5. (Hoopla has thousands of digital books, audio books, comics, music, movies and more.) The Library also added a new digital data base of children's books on our website provided free of charge from Mid America books. This service has unlimited checkouts and no library card or pin information is required.

Local authors have been appearing on our Facebook page. The authors include: Garwood resident, Robb Pearlman reading his book "Bob Ross and Peapod the Squirrel", Garwood resident Eric Nierstedt, reading a passage from his new book "Silent Pantheon" and Laura Sassi, a Cranford resident, reading her book "Diva Delores and the Opera House Mouse". Check our Facebook page for our upcoming virtual Storytime and Lego challenges.

The Library and Historical Committee are helping to document history. The Library has teamed up with the Historical Committee to document the impact of Covid 19 on the people of Garwood. Between April 20 and whenever the quarantine ends, we ask those who live and or work in Garwood to share their personal experiences through pictures or words (1500 words or less) by sending their submission via email to garwoodlibrary@garwood.org

On May 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm, author and de-

cluttering humorist Jamie Novak returns to the Garwood Library, via ZOOM to present Keep Less, Toss More. It's the perfect time to learn the best way to de-clutter while sheltering in place. Novak is the author of several books. She's been featured on QVC, HGTV, and Better TV and writes for Reader's Digest online. To join the conversation just click ZOOM Link <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75933856662>

Although the library doors are closed, feel free to return your books to the library book drop located in the Library parking lot. It is emptied daily. Also be assured that it is not necessary to return your books. The due date on all library material is extended until the Library reopens



(above) The library has issued the Bookface Challenge to its residents thru May 30. Here are the rules: 1. Replace your face or body parts with a book cover. 2. Snap a picture. 3. Email your picture to garwoodlibrary@garwood.org. Your picture may be posted on the Library's Facebook and Instagram page. Best pictures, as decided by the Garwood Library staff, will be mailed Dunkin Donuts gift cards.

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CALLING ALL GEEKS, NERDS, AND GAWKERS

Renna Media is putting a call out to the Geeks among us to appear on their podcast Mind Your Own Local Business. The show will showcase local businesses and people who are starting or growing a business, especially those in creative fields or doing something they have a passion for. Owner, Joe Renna, started his business in 1984 as a graphic designer that grew his studio into a marketing and advertising company. Now, along with his wife Tina, publishes 21 community monthly newspapers mailing out 135,000 to every home and business.

Joe says "I started my business right out of college and thought I would get a job if it didn't work out. It's been thirty five years and I never looked back. I thank all those who mentored me along the way, experienced business owners who were generous with their time and taught me best practices in running a businesses and the pitfalls to look out for."

As a way of paying it forward, Joe offers business and advertising advice to local business. This service is the focus of a new YouTube show. Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network is the YouTube Channel of Renna Media. Mind Your Own Local Business is the prime show. Its first episode will feature Katya Stec of Clark, New Jersey who launched her production company All Ages of Geek. Katya has teamed up with Renna Media made her platform, with over 100,000 subscribers, available to Renna Media advertisers and organizations.

Renna Media is recruiting businesses to participate. If you're a Geek or just Geek curious, a variety of advertising opportunities exist, from product placement to fully customized shows. All online advertisers will also be featured in the Mind Your Own Local Business column in 135,000 newspapers!

To learn more call Joe Renna at 908-447-1295 or email him at joerenna@rennamedia.com.



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KATYA STEC LAUNCHES ALL AGES OF GEEK

Geek culture knows no bounds. It crosses every social barrier and unites an eclectic group of people who share specific interests. The label, which usually is thrust upon a person, is now worn with pride. Geeks who historically existed at the fringes of the pop culture are now mainstream. Their ranks are filled with regular folks. And the nerds of the baby boomer generation have joined the ranks.

The internet has given rise to a secret society. The image of a nerd playing video games in his parents' basement has been shattered. Geeks are among the masses, living, working, and playing next to regular folk. All Ages of Geek is a multimedia production company that speaks to them.

Katya Stec is a self-proclaimed geek from Clark, New Jersey who formed All Ages of Geek in 2019, with the core focus of producing content in tandem with the geek culture. She has been creating videos for eight years and has over 700 episodes posted on her website and on YouTube. She now has over 100,000 subscribers clocking over 20 million views!

Katya, who is a talented voice over artist and writer, is a product of home schooling where she was able to cultivate her interests. Now, at 26 years old, she has a career, doing what she loves.

Throughout 2020 All Ages of Geek will be traveling to several geek culture events, conventions, and expos. They aim at making some of the best high-quality content. At the same time, mass awareness and promotion campaigns would be in swing to set the base for their big launch in January 2021.

Katya has built a team of talented, creative fans who work together in producing podcasts and shows. All Ages of Geek has an article section on their website titled "This Just In." Their writers, who are from all parts of the world, submit weekly articles covering geek

culture events, topics and all forms of creativity.

Currently, they are also producing several video series and podcasts. The company is hopeful of churning out some of the best content and gathering a good base of loyal fans that would engage with the whole community and keep sharing their content to help them amass even more views, exposure, and popularity.

Katya says "Geek culture is what brings the world together. Despite our differences in race, religion, sexuality, and background. One thing is certain about geek culture, it unites us. All Ages of Geek's mission isn't just to entertain; it's to unite the geeks of all ages as part of an interactive community."

The company has a strong interactive community on YouTube and Twitch. The sense of community is both important and powerful and it does wonders when it comes to promoting the firm in the long run.

Their content spans different genres and caters to kids and adults alike. No doubt, if their vision manages to take the due shape, they are likely to become a massive hit among people, especially anime, video games and Dungeons and Dragons fans alike who would finally feel like they too truly belong.

All Ages of Geek has plenty of free content but viewers can access a lot more features by becoming paid members on Patreon or Twitch. They have over 300 members to date with a goal of 1,000 by 2021. They offer advertising opportunities, and their production team can produce original content for businesses and organizations.

To learn more about All Ages of Geek visit: allagesofgeek.com/

Email-id: pr@allagesofgeek.com

Website: <http://allagesofgeek.com>

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(above) Katya Stec on set in her home studio in Clark, New Jersey, where she produces shows for her All Ages of Geek broadcasts. Photo by Tatiana Szewczuk.

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GARWOOD COUPLE ACHIEVES \$1 MILLION FUNDRAISING MILESTONE FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS RESEARCH

After nearly two decades of participating in Walk MS: West Orange, Aaron and Laura Cohen, of Garwood, have reached the \$1 million fundraising milestone and were presented the Circle of Distinction award at the National MS Society’s annual Leadership Conference.

“Raising this amount of money is no small feat and truly is a labor of love,” said Tonya Hall, National MS Society President, New Jersey Metro. “We couldn’t be more honored to show our appreciation by recognizing the Cohens for their commitment to creating a world free of MS.”

Multiple sclerosis is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system. There is currently no cure for MS. Symptoms vary from person to person and range from numbness and tingling, to mobility challenges, blindness and paralysis. An estimated 1 million people live with MS in the United States.

Aaron, who began experiencing symptoms of multiple sclerosis in the 1970s, well before there were MRIs to definitively diagnose the disease much less treatment options to slow its progression, is now living with secondary progressive MS and uses a walker or scooter to get around.

“I live with the fantasy that not only will MS be cured, but that they will also be able to revitalize my nerves that have been destroyed by

years of demyelination, and I’ll be able to get back some of the function I’ve lost,” he said.

Laura said their involvement with Walk MS: West Orange began in 2002 after spotting a brochure for it while taking her son to the barber shop.

“I said I could do this but, I needed to ask

Aaron first because not everyone knew he had MS,” she said. “He was on board with it and it basically became his coming out celebration where we raised \$2,000 with family that first year.”

The next year they became team Mitzvah Squad and have not looked back.



(above) Garwood couple Aaron and Laura Cohen have reached the \$1 million fundraising milestone with their participation in Walk MS: West Orange.

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2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900
4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000
2 PAGE SPREAD	21" x 14"	\$700							
BACK PAGE	10" x 14"	\$500							
FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25" x 2"	\$320							
FRONT PAGE BOX	1.5" x 4.5"	\$240							

Back cover, front page banner and front box reserved on first come, first served basis. Current advertiser has right of first refusal.

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LATEST "MIND YOUR OWN LOCAL BUSINESS" SHOWS

on Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network on YouTube



See how businesses and organizations are getting by during the COVID-19 crisis on Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network on YouTube.

RENNA MEDIA COLLABORATES WITH ALL AGES OF GEEK

Katya Stec reached out to Joe Renna of Renna Media when she was a teen exploring opportunities to express her creativity in his newspapers. Renna Media publishes twenty-one community newspapers and has an active web presence and social media network. Through the years, Katya has developed her own online media production platform and made her service available to Renna Media's readership and advertisers.

Renna Media has been in business since 1984. The focus of its publications is to promote community service organizations to a hyper-local market. Joe and his wife Tina deliver marketing, advertising and publishing services to local businesses and organizations, in-print and on line. They have joined forces with NJlocalinfo.com to offer website, SEO and social media services. By collaborating with All Ages of Geek they are able to offer video production and hosting.

Joe admits he has Geeky tendencies and shared "I have many Geeks among the folks I deal with on a day to day basis. The Geek culture is prevalent and is revealed when you get to know colleagues on a personal level. It would be fun to showcase businesses and people in my newspaper and in video. It is a great marketing tool and an ice breaker to connect businesses to like-minded customers."

Renna Media and All Ages of Geek has developed a simple inexpensive menu of production services for businesses to make a foray into online marketing. The all inclusive packages are:

- Product placement \$250
- 30 second commercial \$500
- 3 minute spot \$1,000
- 30 minute show \$1,500
- 3 hour shoot - \$2,000

All videos will also be blasted through the extensive social media network and the business will be featured in the newspapers, driving readers to the websites. The approach follows the model of Renna Media's newspapers: Delivering hometown community service news to a hyper-local audience, at affordable rates.

Businesses or organizations who would like more information or help with their marketing plans can call Joe Renna at 908-447-1295.

Email joerenna@rennamedia.com

Visit: RennaMedia.com

NJlocalinfo.com

AllAgesofGeek.com

or find and like us on FaceBook.com

**RENNA
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Stay Strong...Stay Healthy

A Little Help for Businesses Going Through a Tough Time.

**PLACE AN AD
FOR FREE ON
NJLOCALINFO.COM**



Businesses are suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus crisis. Many have to change the way they do business. This is an open invite to post a FREE ad or press release on NJLOCALINFO.COM.

This is an easy, DO-IT-YOURSELF website.

Register one time for free in three easy steps. and post your ads.

- 1) Hit like to "Create Account" in nav bar in NJLOCALINFO.COM
- 2) Enter a "User Name" (one word) and Email address
- 3) Create password as per instructions

Use "Post an Ad" link and use the user interface to create an ad page.

Follow four steps to upload text and images.

Use discount code "RELIEF" at checkout for zero charge.

Classified ad options include:

- Up to 500 words
- Up to 10 key words
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- Sharable web page
- Each ad includes a unique email address keeping your address private
- Upload up to five images, up to 500KB each
- Links to YouTube videos and other websites
- Choose from dozens of search classifications.
- Add Google Maps link

Live Tracking!

Each ad has a live view counter showing daily and total visits.



INCREASED VISIBILITY.

We help people find your ad by cross-posting to several social media sites and by indexing in search engines.
facebook.com/NJLocalinfo • facebook.com/RennaMedia

WEBSITE / SEO SERVICES

- Website Audit/Analysis and recommendation plan: \$250
- Website creation/update: \$2,400 (Cost for average website: 12 pages, contact form, SEO friendly, responsive design)
- Website Hosting: \$300 per year
Includes website hosting, software updates, monthly website content updates
- SEO Services - average cost \$1,000 - \$2,000 per month
Custom tailored solutions: Google Ranking, Local SEO, Social Marketing
- Blast your online ad or press release to a targeted market \$100
- National Press Release Distribution to 300 to 500 news outlets.
Budget choice from \$300 to \$500.

CONTACT JOE FOR DETAILS 908-447-1295

joerenna@rennamedia.com

Visit RennaMedia.com or NJLocalInfo.com

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1 1/2-3 Riverbed.....\$76

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