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ALJ HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Clark Township Public Schools

On Wednesday, June 23, 2021, Arthur L Johnson High School held its sixty-fifth commencement ceremony. The event was attended by Board of Education President Steven Donkersloot, Board of Education members, Clark Mayor Sal Bonaccorso, Clark Superintendent Edward Grande, Garwood Superintendent Dr. Teresa Quigley, family members, teachers, administrators, and other community members.

Assistant Principal Joseph Cardinale welcomed the audience. Speeches were given by Salutatorian Matthew Hartzler, Senior Class President Martha Kolfenbach, Valedictorian Joseph Hovick, Board of Education President Steven Donkersloot, Superintendent Edward Grande, and Principal Jennifer Feeley. Board of Education members awarded diplomas.

Hartzler stated, "Effort is everything. It is the drive that guides you to your potential as a student, athlete, parent or anything one strives to be. Exerting a strong effort is why we are all here right now."

Kolfenbach stated, "I have no question that we are ready for whatever life throws at us as we begin to write this next chapter."

Hovick addressed the class stating, "Class of 2021, I ask you to be the best version of yourselves and do what makes you happy. The world is yours for the taking."

Donkersloot encouraged the students to always remain true to themselves. He congratulated students and parents on their accomplishments and thanked the Clark and Garwood teachers, staff, and administrators.

Grande shared some of the Class of 2021's accomplishments and thanked the Clark and Garwood communities for their support. He reminded graduates that ALJ will always be their home.

Feeley spoke about the resilience of this class and asked students to strive towards their dreams and step outside their comfort zones.

Photos by Clark Township Public Schools



(above) Giuliana Fischetti, Gianna Caldiero, Courtney Marano, Kaylee Dente, Victoria Venezia



(above, left, l-r) Robert Nugent receives his diploma from Board of Education Member Scott Bohm. (above, center, l-r) Joseph Greenbush and Daniel McCaffery. (above, right, l-r) Tyler Ashley and Joseph Hovick.



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2021 SENIOR ATHLETIC AWARDS

Submitted by Gus Kalikas

The Arthur L. Johnson Athletic Department held their 2021 Senior Athletic Awards ceremony on June 15th. The evening, sponsored by the Crusader Athletic Booster Club, was held at the Gran Centurions in Clark.

The program continued with the acknowledgements of all of the student athletes that will be continuing their academic and athletic careers playing the sports they love in College. The following Arthur L. Johnson High School Seniors will continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level:

- Kyle Adorno (Baseball – Kean University)
- Rachel Burkard (Soccer – TCNJ)
- Devyn Calas (Field Hockey – Moravian College –)
- Brandon Costa (Soccer – Rutgers Newark)
- Jordan Downey (Wrestling – Ursinus College)
- Anthony Ferreira (Lacrosse – Stockton University)
- Griffin Jones (Football – Norwich University)
- Michele Kukan (Field Hockey – Ramapo College)
- Aiden Laughery (Basketball – Pennsylvania Tech)
- Vincent Papa (Football – FDU)
- Augustine Puentes (Soccer & Basketball – Drew U.)
- William Sasse (Baseball – Middlesex County)
- Carly Tarentino (Track & Field – Univ. of Virginia)

The Richard Superak Field Hockey, Basketball, & Lacrosse Scholarships are presented to senior field hockey players each year. This year the Superak family expanded the scholarship to include a basketball and a lacrosse player as well. The 4th Annual Richard Superak Scholarships are awarded to: Gianna Caldiero

(Field Hockey), Courtney Marano (Field Hockey), Brandon Castro (Basketball), and Anthony Ferreira (Lacrosse).

The Jeffrey Felter / Michael Sot Memorial Scholarship Presentation is given to one senior baseball player each year. The 6th Annual Jeffrey Felter Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Daniel McCaffery.

The Louis Peragallo Memorial Scholarship was also awarded. The 2nd Annual Louis Peragallo Scholarship was awarded to Michelle Kukan and Greg Lordi.

Executive Director of The UCIAC and Clark School District Board of Education member, Mr. Tom Lewis, annually presents multiple U.C.I.A.C. Scholarships to deserving senior student athletes. The UCIAC Scholarship recipients are Gia Colicchio, Kayla Bowen, Jordan Downey and James Lordi.

Booster Club President, Mr. Jimmy Minniti, next presented the ALJ Booster Club Outstanding Athlete Awards and Book Scholarships.

The recipients for the Outstanding Athlete Awards were: (Female Athlete) Carly Tarentino and (Male Athlete) Joseph Greenbush.

The recipients for the Book Scholarship were: (Female Athlete) Gia Colicchio and (Male Athlete) Matthew Zukowski.

The Thomas Santaguida Sportsmanship Scholarship was also awarded by the Booster Club. The recipients for the Thomas Santaguida Sportsmanship Scholarship were: (Female Athlete) Gianna Caldiero and (Male Athlete) Steven Acosta.

Photos by Clark Public Schools

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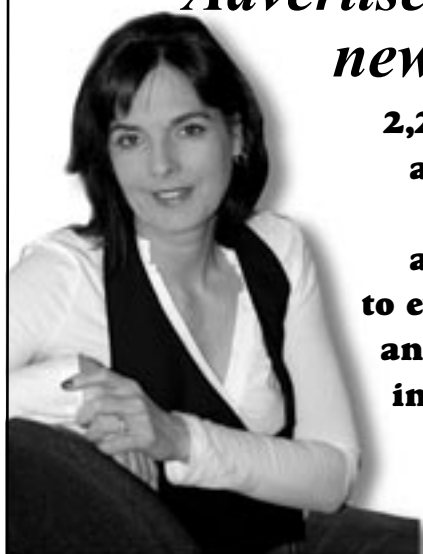
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(above, l-r) Recipients of the Richard Superak Scholarships, Brandon Castro, Anthony Ferreira, Courtney Marano and Gianna Caldiero.



(above, l-r) Recipients of the Booster Club Book Scholarship, Matthew Zukowski, Gia Colicchio, and Booster Club President Jimmy Minniti.



(above, l-r) Outstanding Athlete Award Joseph Greenbush, Carly Tarentino



(above, l-r) Recipients of the Jeffrey Felter/ Michael Sot Memorial Scholarship, George Wolansky, Daniel McCaffery (Baseball), Scott Fritz and Jimmy Minniti.



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SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Submitted by Christopher D Sands

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of those who fought and worked to save the Union. Hereditary membership is available to a male descendant, 14 years of age, who directly descends from a Soldier, Sailor, Marine or member of the Revenue Cutter Service between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865.

The General Phil Kearny Camp #20 meets four times a year at the Abraham Clark House in Roselle, NJ. The next scheduled Camp meetings are September 11, and November 13, 2021, all Saturdays at 1 p.m. We support over 20 high schools and 2 universities with the SUVCW ROTC Medal. Our current program is to place signs where Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) posts met in North Jersey.

For more information visit suvchw.org.



(above) Colonel Stephen Harlan is inducted into the General Phil Kearny Camp 320 membership. Chaplain James O'Halloran, Secretary Clark McCullough, and Commander Peter Lindsey conduct the induction.

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POLICE COMMUNITY DAY – AUG 14

Submitted by Chief James Wright

Due to the unexpected nature the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic had on the initial plans for this summer, the Garwood Police Department was not able to coordinate a full week-long youth academy as had been hoped. To make up for the loss of a second summer of fun and adventure for our cadets, the members of the Garwood Police Department will host a fun packed day of activity for the whole family to enjoy. There is no fee and no age restrictions.

Everyone is welcome to join us on Saturday August 14, 2021 between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Garwood Athletic Complex. We hope to see you there.

SENIORS MEETING UP

Submitted by Kathleen Wierzbinski

A Senior Afternoon Out was held on Thursday, June 17 at the Knights of Columbus for all Garwood seniors. After such a very long time of being apart they really enjoyed socializing, eating lunch together and dancing.

The senior club meetings will start back up in September and are held the first and third Thursdays of every month.

The first club meeting will be held at the Knights of Columbus with a celebration of being back together at last. The remaining meetings of the Senior Club will be held at the firehouse along with weekly activities.

Any senior looking to be added to the mailing of activities can call Kathleen at 908-789-0710.

To join the senior club call Pat at 908-789-0835.



TAILS AND TALES BOOKMARK WINNERS

The Garwood Public Library has selected the winners of its 2021 Bookmark Contest. Garwood students in Pre-K through 8th grade were challenged to submit original bookmark designs around “Tails and Tales,” this year’s Summer Reading theme celebrating animals.

The eight winning artists are Chelsea Peniche, Matteo Di Iorio, Kendall Trentacosta, John Rivas, Haley Mason, Jacob Augustyn, Niko Koutzoulis, and Tyler Lerouge.

Winning designs were distributed in school, and additional copies may be picked up at the Library.

Visit youseemore.com/Garwood or stop by the Library for a full calendar of events and information about getting involved with the library’s Summer Reading Program.



(above) Pictured are this year’s winning bookmark designs.

Photo by Garwood Public Library

GARWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY AUGUST EVENTS

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 Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 am to 4 pm
 Tuesday, Thursday from 9 am to 7 pm, We are closed on Saturdays

Events

August 3 at 1:00 p.m.

Sumer Reading Party - The Library Summer Reading Program will come to a close with a party in the parking lot. The party will feature the Scream Ice Cream Truck and a Petting Zoo.

The Grand Prize Winner of the Nintendo Animal Crossing Switch Gaming Console will be announced and the summer’s top readers will be acknowledged and receive a prize. All who attend will enjoy ice cream and giveaways. You must be registered for Summer Reading to attend.

What’s the Buzz?

August 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Bee expert Suzanne Luciano will present an introduction to Honey Bees! Learn about bees, including what you can do to protect them! Via Zoom. Once registered a link will be provided.

Book Discussion Group

August 16 at 1:00 p.m.

Book Discussion Group via Zoom Join us for a lively discussion of this month’s book “Such a Fun Age” by Kiley Reid. Once registered for the club, a Zoom link will be sent via email.

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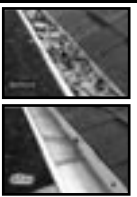
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GARWOOD DAISY TROOP 41108 BRIDGES TO BROWNIES

Garwood Girl Scout Troop 41108 has officially bridged from Daisy's to Brownies during a ceremony held on June 19th. The girls have earned all their petals, and most, if not all, of their Daisy patches, and 3 Journey awards. "To say I am proud of these girls is an understatement, most of their Daisy patches were earned throughout luanartine." Troop Leader, Vanessa said.

As one final Daisy giveback, the girls donated over \$400 worth of cookies to the Garwood Police Department, Garwood Fire Department, and Garwood's favorite postal worker, Xavier Carpio, but most importantly, they donated cookies to their schools.

Girl Scout Troop 41108 is a Garwood based Troop who welcomed 5 girls from Clark when their Troop disbanded. As an end of year gift for their teachers, the Garwood girls donated cookies to Garwood Lincoln School and the Clark girls donated cookies to Valley Road Elementary School. As Troop leaders, we are proud of the choices these girls make and look forward to watching them grow.

We thank you, the community, for your continued support.



(above) Olive Lykin, Principal Joe Beltramba, and Abigail Lonseth pose with donated cookies. Valley Road first graders in clark.



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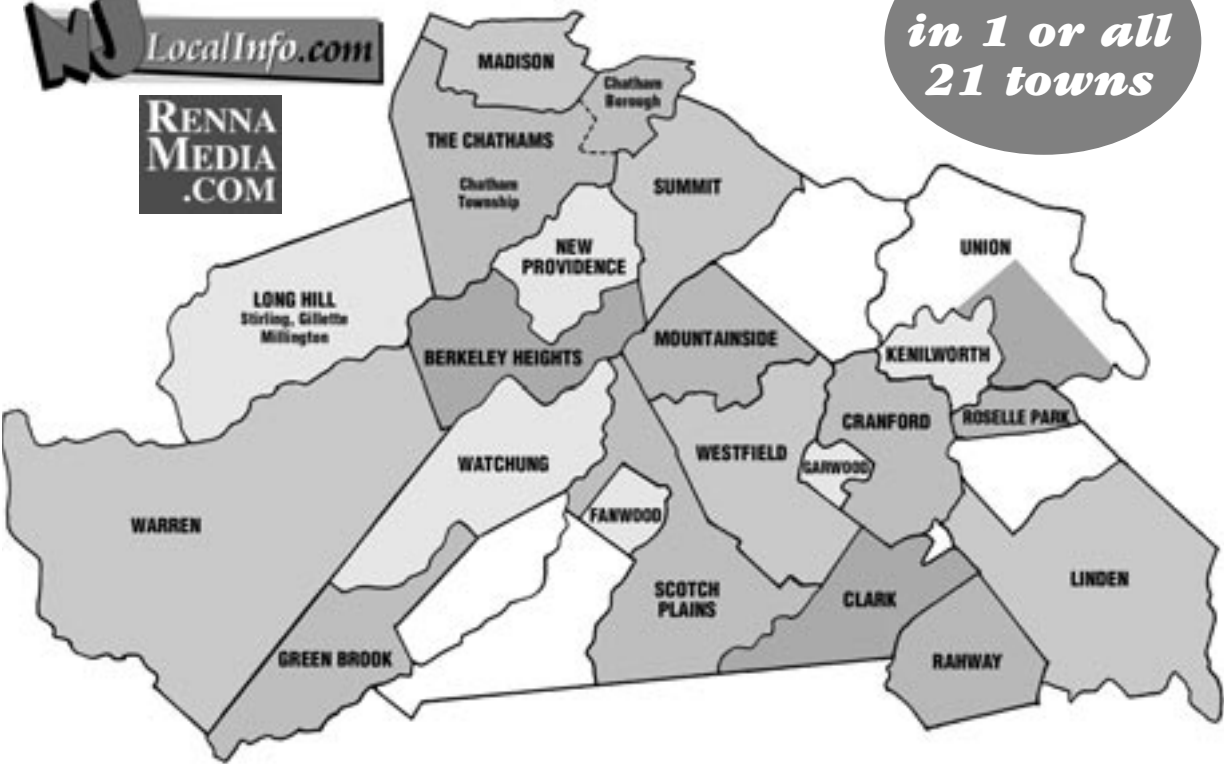
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ARTHUR L. JOHNSON SENIOR AWARDS CEREMONY

Arthur L. Johnson (ALJ) High School recently held its Senior Awards Ceremony on June 1 to recognize outstanding student accomplishments. Seniors were honored with several awards and scholarships recognizing outstanding contributions in the areas of academics, athletics,

community service, and beyond.

ALJ Principal Jennifer Feeley stated, "It was such a special night. Donors were giving back to our students who will one day give back to all of us. Truly full circle. Congratulations to all of our seniors and their families!"

Superintendent Edward Grande stated, "Getting to see our graduating seniors receive their awards as a result of the immense outpouring of support from the larger communities of Clark and Garwood is truly heartwarming."

Photos by Clark Public Schools



(above, l-r) The Tylor Collins Scholarship, In Loving Memory of Tylor Collins, was presented by Sharon Mills to Joseph DeCristofaro, Gia Colicchio, Michael DeGregorio, and Nicholas Mitchell,



(above, l-r) The Clark Board of Education Donna Kircher Nursing Student Scholarship was presented by the Kircher Family to Miles Jean-Louis, pictured with the presenters, ALJ Nurse June Curti.



The Education Foundation of Garwood Scholarship was presented to Erin Hak, Martha Kolfenbach, Hannah Englese, Courtney Marano, and Michael Simitz. They are pictured with Garwood Mayor Sara Todisco and Superintendent Edward Grande.



(above) The Leslie Bartell Scholarship was presented to Daniel McCaffery and Victoria Venezia.



(above) The Leslie Bartell Scholarship Offered in the name of Jack Ford was presented to Ryan Druhot, pictured here with Superintendent Edward Grande.

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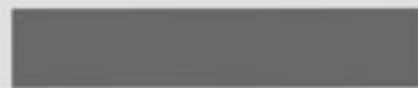
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