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## CAR DONATIONS BENEFIT VETS IN NEED

Submitted by Michael Boll, Director New Jersey Veterans Network

For the last few years the New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) has grown to a full time charity that provides life changing and saving resources. Nearly every day the NJVN is conducting numerous charitable pickups and drop offs throughout the state. To accomplish our vital and important missions, we rely on using our trucks and vans. The NJVN fleet is small, and all the vehicles are used, but they are able to deliver because of both of our team board members, Adam Rempfer, owner of DeFalco's Towing, and Joseph O'Neill, owner of Benner's Auto. Not only have these two men always played a major role with the NJVN day to day operations, they have helped countless people in need.

Adam Rempfer, owner of DeFalco's Towing and Auto Body, joined our team after his shop donated a refurbished car to a disabled veteran. For years Adam and DeFalco's have been donating cars to people in need and hosting various charity events. Also, they have contributed huge financial donations to the Law Enforcement Unity Tour and NJ State Police. Now Adam is a NJVN board member and has graciously taken on all the NJVN vehicle repair and maintenance. However, Adam and DeFalco's generosity doesn't stop there; they have hosted and sponsored numerous events at our VA Hospitals and veteran shelters.

Joseph O'Neill, owner of Benner's Auto Body, was a board member of the NABC Charity Cars, and a few years ago he contacted the NJVN about donating several refurbished cars to our veterans. After working with Joe and Benner's Auto, and seeing what an incredible job they did, we asked him to join the NJVN team. For a long time, Joe and Benner's have been helping people who were desperately in need, and they have hosted different types of charitable events and galas. Joe is also a cancer survivor and has done a tremendous job raising and providing large financial donations to fight cancer and fund cancer research. Recently, Joe and Benner's Auto have taken on NJVN vehicle care and maintenance.

Every day the NJVN is providing resources to veterans in need, and now we know there is nothing stopping us from completing our mission because of amazing men like Joe O'Neill and Adam Rempfer. Each of them has always put others first and loves being able to help our veterans live a better way of life.

If you would like to join the team, please send us an email at [NJVN1775@gmail.com](mailto:NJVN1775@gmail.com) and be sure to include your name, email, and phone number. Check out more of our accomplishments at our website: [NJVN.org](http://NJVN.org).

### ABOUT NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

We are a group of veterans and volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live better lives. Our mission is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs. If you are a veteran or family member that is in need of assistance, or are interested in joining our team, would like us to speak at your event, or contribute to our mission, call 973-332-1556 or email [mdbollio@optonline.net](mailto:mdbollio@optonline.net). To learn more visit [njvn.org](http://njvn.org).



(above) Joe O'Neill  
Benner's Auto veteran car donation



(above) Adam Rempfer Defalcos  
towing car donation

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# GarwoodTimes<sub>NJ</sub>

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## TOURNAMENT INDOOR ASSOCIATION COMPETITION HOSTED AT ALJ

On Saturday, April 15th at 7 p.m. the Music Parents Association of Clark will be hosting a Tournament Indoor Association Competition at Arthur L Johnson High School, 365 Westfield Avenue, Clark. This competition will have 10 different units from around New Jersey Performing. These groups will be competing in either an Indoor Percussion or Indoor Color Guard performance. Our very own ALJ Indoor Percussion and Colorguard unit will be one of the

units participating in the competition. The admission for this event is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. If a student of the Clark Public School District brings their school ID they will be allowed to enter for free! Refreshments will be sold in the cafeteria. Please come out and support the ALJ Music Program! If you have any questions about the event please reach out to Mr. Andrew Calo at [acalo@clarkschools.org](mailto:acalo@clarkschools.org).



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## GARWOOD SENIORS BEGIN THE NEW YEAR

The Garwood Senior Citizen Club began its new year on Thursday January 5th, 2023. The group had its reorganization meeting at that time and the following slate of officers was elected: President Pat DiFabio, Vice President George Diers, Treasurer Bruce Paterson, and Secretary Sharon Flammia.

The Senior Club meets on the first and third Thursday of each month at noon at the Knights of Columbus building located on South Avenue in Garwood. Entrance is through the Willow Avenue parking lot at the rear. The building is handicap accessible and all on one level. All Garwood residents, age 55 and over, are welcome to join. The Club has lunch and plays bingo at every meeting.

Several times a year, speakers are invited in to discuss timely topics that are relevant to the seniors. In the past, the Garwood Police and EMTs have come in to discuss safety in the home and around town, officials from Union County have come in to talk about wills, long

term care and planning for the future. Other speakers discussed nutrition, caregivers, staying sharp as we age, and health and general well-being.

There is a Senior Citizen bus that is available to bring members to the meeting as well as other venues like food shopping and to the local malls. Kathleen Wierzbinski, Garwood's Senior Director, sends out a calendar of all the events to registered members, which include movies at the Garwood Library, ceramics and exercise classes, and dates of importance like the Senior Picnic, bus trips, and the Christmas/Holiday Party, in addition to the dates of mall/shopping trips. If you are registered as a Senior Club member, you should be on her mailing list. For some reason, if you do not receive the Newlsetter, you can call Kathleen at 908-789-0710.

The Club is always welcoming new members to join us. If you are interested in joining the Senior Club you can call Kathleen or just show up at the next available meeting.

## REGISTER FOR FREE COURSE ON MENTAL ILLNESS

The NAMI Family-to-Family Education Course will be offered by the Union County Chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). The course will start on Thursday evening, March 9, 2023 and meet each Thursday over a consecutive 9-week period. It is free-of-charge, with all necessary materials furnished at no cost.

The course is offered specifically to the parents, siblings, spouses, teen-age and adult children, and significant others of individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. The program is not appropriate for individuals who, themselves, suffer from one of the major mental disorders. This course is taught by NAMI members who have completed intensive

training.

Curriculum topics include: schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic depression), clinical depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, etc., the clinical treatment of these illnesses, and how caregivers can learn to cope more effectively. Attendees will learn about new research, medications, skills needed to successfully communicate with a relative, and how to deal with critical periods.

Capacity is limited. To register, or if you have any questions, please contact Pat Roman at (732) 397-8123, or via email at: [patroman2@aol.com](mailto:patroman2@aol.com). Please include F2F Course in the subject line. A F2F instructor will contact you with the details.

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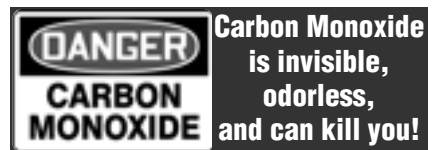
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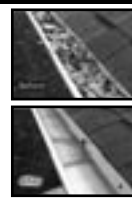
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(above) Do you have any pictures or memorabilia of St. Anne's that you'd like to share with The Church of St. Anne Centennial Anniversary Committee?

GARWOOD  
DID YOU KNOW?

The Garwood Historical Committee

Garwood presently has 3 churches, St Anne's Catholic Church on 2nd ave; the Unitarian Liquid Church on Center St (formally St Paul's Episcopal); and The Garwood Presbyterian Church on Locust Ave. But did you know we also had 2 other churches in town for a total of 5 at one time?

St. Mark's Episcopal Church built in 1907 was originally located at 431 Locust Ave. near the corner of West St and then in the mid-1920's the building was physically moved to 400 Beech Ave. It was shuttered and demolished in the late 1950's. The Pillar of Fire Christian Church with origins from Zarapath, NJ was built by the parishioners at 146 Willow Ave in 1929. It was active into the late 1950's but sadly closed and was demolished by mid-1960's. Homes now occupy both of those properties. Our little boro was certainly blessed. And now you know!



(above) 1953 photo of the Pillar of Fire Church, 146 Willow Ave., Garwood, NJ

Courtesy photo

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CHURCH OF ST. ANNE TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

Submitted by Carol Lombardo

The Church of St. Anne Centennial Anniversary Committee is excited to announce that work has begun on making the church's Centennial in 2026 a very special event. There are so many memories of our parish that we don't want to miss anything. The Church was established in 1925, having its first Mass in 1926, and the school, which no longer exists, opened its doors in the early 1950's.

Right now, the Committee is specifically looking for any pictures or memorabilia that friends and parishioners of St. Anne's may have of past events at our Church and School – graduations, weddings, Christmas pageants at school, May crownings, card parties, banquets, pictures of our beloved nuns and/or teachers who taught so many of our parishioners, school or church pamphlets and programs, anything at all related to the Church or the School. Remember the bowling alleys in the basement of the Church? Remember kindergarten graduations with pink and blue caps and gowns?

If there are items that you don't want to part with, the Committee can photograph or scan the items and return the originals to you. Our goal is

to create a photographic collage of the life of our Church going back as far as we can. The new pastor, Rev. Robert Lamirez, is looking forward to sharing your memories as he is anxious to learn about the wonderful history of St. Anne's and all that has gone on before his residency here.

Anything you can offer us will be greatly appreciated. Items can be dropped off during office hours at the Rectory. Please include your name and phone number and indicate if you want the item(s) or photos returned. If you can, please identify some or all of the people in the pictures. Identities will not be displayed, but it would be great for the Committee to know the names of the people who cared so much about our great parish. If you have any questions, you can leave a message with the parish office at 908-789-0280 and someone from the Committee will get back to you.

Thank you in advance for your help. Our School was an integral part of our community, and our Church still is, and we know there are lots of pictures out there of past events. Please help us celebrate with your memories so we can be able to create more memories for the current and future generations.

MOBILE MEALS CLIENTS RECEIVE VALENTINES

Josephine Walsh, Operations Manager, Mobile Meals of Westfield was presented with beautiful floral arrangements for their clients by the Rake & Hoe Garden Club of Westfield in time for Valentine's Day. Ms. Walsh commented, "Our clients always appreciate receiving these thoughtful arrangements."

Mobile Meals of Westfield is a non-profit organization that provides meals to those individuals unable to provide meals for themselves.

Mobile Meals of Westfield is a non-profit organization which provides prepared meals for those individuals unable to provide meals for

themselves. Mobile Meals serves the communities of Clark, Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield.

For more information on meal deliveries volunteer opportunities, food services or those wishing to donate can visit the Mobile Meals website at [mobilemealsofwestfield.org](http://mobilemealsofwestfield.org) or call 908-233-6146.

Rake & Hoe Garden Club is a non-profit organization that promotes gardening, floral design and community service.

For more information, visit [rakeandhoe.org](http://rakeandhoe.org).



(above, l-r) Front Row: Jeanie Pelikan, Betty Clark, Joyce Mullen, Lena Pietsinovski, Kay Cross, Jane Christiani and Betty Gulino. Back Row: Richard Pelikan, Donna Sevchuk, Regina Kelly, Sharon Siraga and Sue Feldman.



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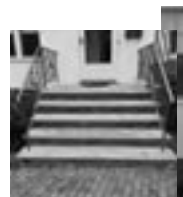
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## AAREN BEATY NAMED EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

### Garwood Public Schools

This year the honor of being named Educator of the Year belongs to Mr. Aaren Beaty. Having been nominated by parents, students and colleagues, Mr. Beaty was bestowed this prestigious title while being with his students.

Mr. Beaty has been a kindergarten teacher for 5 years having taught second grade when he first came to Lincoln School. He volunteers his time to help coach middle school basketball and also coaches softball in the spring. His favorite part of teaching is seeing the love of learning from all of his students. Their incredible growth throughout the year with him is the best gift he could receive.

He thanks the entire staff at Lincoln School, his fiancé and sister for their support, his father for his guidance and his mother who is the reason why he became a teacher. Mr. Beaty will receive further acknowledgement at the next Board of Education meeting and at the Union County recognition breakfast in May.



(above) Garwood Public School District  
Educator of the Year, Mr. Aaren Beaty

Courtesy photo

## SHINING STARS GALA SET FOR MARCH 14TH

Shining Stars Network, a non profit organization that creates opportunities in the performing arts for the special needs community, kicks off their 11th year with their 2nd "Reach for the Stars" Gala, set for Tuesday, March 14th at the elegant Park Chateau Estate & Gardens in East Brunswick.

The evening, which will begin at 6:00 p.m., will feature a five-star cocktail hour, open bar, dinner and dessert. Highlights of the evening include performances by the Shining Stars cast and buddies, live and silent auctions and a 50/50. Special guest will be celebrity chef and restaurateur David Burke, of Iron Chef America, who will auction off dinner experiences at his famous New Jersey eateries, including a personalized dinner for four.

"Our first gala in 2019 was a great success and we can't wait for what will be another magical evening," noted Shining Stars Network President and co-founder Mike Curci. "Park Chateau is one of the finest venues in the country, and we're excited for our Shining Stars families, friends and supporters to enjoy this special night together."

Individual tickets are \$175 and a table of 10 can be purchased for \$1500 (a savings of \$250). Email your request to [ShiningStarsNetwork@gmail.com](mailto:ShiningStarsNetwork@gmail.com). Please mention "gala tickets" in the subject line. Venmo, checks and credit cards are gladly accepted. Sponsorship opportunities and journal ads are also available.

The Gala will start a big year for the Shining

Stars, who will take to the stage for their "Evening of Shining Stars Talent Show" on Saturday May 13th at the Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway.

On Saturday August 5th, history will be made when the Shining Stars make their Paper Mill Playhouse main stage debut, becoming the first special needs show to perform a full production on that iconic venue. Tickets for "The Greatest Show" — which will feature songs from Broadway and movies — will go on sale in late spring.

"We're honored and thrilled to be co-producing a show with the esteemed Paper Mill team," added Curci. "Our brookside cabaret at Paper Mill last September was an overwhelming success and to see our stars on the main stage this August will be a dream come true."

The Camp Shine Summer Workshop will take place in late August, and the Stars will cap off the year with their annual "Christmas Spectacular" on Friday, December 1st.

"Shining Stars is all about being inclusive and giving our performers a chance to shine on stage while creating lasting memories," noted co-founder and show director Sally Curci. "These opportunities build all-important self-esteem and self-confidence. Through the journey, our cast members and their high school buddies create bonds and friendships that they'll always remember."

For more information on the organization or events, please visit [ShiningStarsNetwork.org](http://ShiningStarsNetwork.org).

### FIRST AID SQUAD ACTIVELY RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

The Garwood First Aid Squad is actively recruiting volunteers and invites you to join our team. Whether you are looking to help out the community or get a start in the medical field, we would be glad to have you join us. You can work on board the ambulance or just help out around the squad house. No experience necessary. As a squad member, you can make a difference in a person's life join today.

**If interested, just email us at**  
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## GARWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY MARCH EVENTS

For info ¶ to register for programs, call 908-789-1670 or email [garwoodlibrary@garwood.org](mailto:garwoodlibrary@garwood.org).  
Monday and Tuesday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.,  
Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Closed on Sundays.

### Knitting Club

March 6, 13, 20, and 27 at 10:30 am

Join our Knitting Club. Open to all levels, whether you're a beginner or you want to share your vast knowledge of knitting, or just spend an hour being creative and socializing. No Registration required. Yarn and needles provided to newcomers

### Storytime in the Library

March 7, 14, 21, and 28

at 10 am and 11 am

Join Miss Maryanne for stories, bubbles and more. Registration Required

### Ask Kiosk

March 8 from 10 am to noon

Aging Services Kiosk —, Union County Division of Aging Staff will be on hand to assist seniors (age 60+) or their caregivers with information on services, such as meal delivery, respite care, adult day care and support services for caregivers

### Classic Movie Fridays

March 10 and 24 at Noon

Join us for Classic Movie Fridays featuring memorable movies from the 50s and 60s. Light refreshments will be served.

Registration required

### Virtual Kids Craft

March 14 at 3pm

Pick up supplies for a craft, then watch the craft tutorial on the Library's Facebook page at 3 pm. The video will be available for viewing thereafter. Registration is required for craft kits and is limited to 15 participants. Sign up on the Library's website calendar or by phone.

### The Parnell Band

March 15 at 7pm

Live Irish Music featuring hits like Irish Rover, Black Velvet Band, and Whiskey in the Jar.

Sign up on the Library's website calendar or by phone.

### Book Discussion Group

March 20 at 1pm

Join us in the library for a lively discussion of this month's book "A Week in Winter" by Maeve Binchy.

### Virtual Adult Craft

March 21 at 3 pm

Pick up your craft supplies from the Library and then watch the Facebook tutorial at 3 pm.

Registration is required for craft kits and is limited to 10 participants. Sign up on the Library website's events calendar or by phone.

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We can design and/or manage your social media campaign from passive to aggressive plans customized to work within your budget.

## WEBSITE AND SEO SERVICES

Start with an audit/analysis of your website giving you a report and recommendations for \$250.

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<b>Berkeley Heights</b> COMMUNITY NEWS Qty: 4,700 Zip: 07922	<b>THE CHATHAMS</b> NJ Qty: 7,500 Zip: 07928	<b>Clark</b> Monthly Qty: 6,700 Zip: 07066	<b>CRANFORD</b> MONTHLY NJ Qty: 9,900 Zip: 07016	<b>Elmora Hills</b> ELIZABETH, NJ Qty: 5,400 Zip: 07208	<b>Fanwood</b> Post NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07023
<b>Florham Park</b> Press NJ Qty: 5,500 Zip: 07932	<b>Garwood</b> Times NJ Qty: 2,500 Zip: 07027	<b>Green Brook</b> NJ Gazette Qty: 3,000 Zip: 08812	<b>KENILWORTH</b> NJ Qty: 3,500 Zip: 07033	<b>NJ LIFE in LINDEN</b> Qty: 17,900 Zip: 07036	<b>Long Hill LEADER</b> NJ Qty: 3,500 Zips: 07933, 07946, 07980
<b>MADISON</b> MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,300 Zip: 07940	<b>MOUNTAINVIEW</b> NJ Qty: 2,900 Zip: 07092	<b>New Providence</b> NEWS NJ Qty: 5,100 Zip: 07974	<b>OUR TOWN</b> Rahway, NJ Qty: 13,000 Zip: 07065	<b>ROSELLE PARK</b> MONTHLY Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204	<b>Scotch Plains</b> NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY Qty: 9,400 Zip: 07076
<b>Short Hills</b> MILLBURN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041, 07078	<b>Summit</b> NJ Times Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	<b>Spirit of UNION</b> NJ Qty: 6,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	<b>WARREN</b> MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,200 Zip: 07059	<b>Watchung</b> Post NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	<b>Westfield</b> NJ MONTHLY Qty: 11,800 Zip: 07090

NEWSPAPER AD RATES		1 TOWN	3 TOWNS	6 TOWNS	9 TOWNS	12 TOWNS	15 TOWNS	18 TOWNS	21 TOWNS	24 TOWNS
Units	Size									
1 Unit (Business card)	3.25" x 2"	\$60	\$150	\$250	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600
2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900	\$1000
4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700	\$1900
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700	\$3000
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000	\$3400
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								

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# SUPPORTING CHILDREN COPING WITH LOSS WEBINAR, MAR. 21

Children will experience different losses in life: divorce, moving, friendships ending, sports injuries or the death of a friend or family member. Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss is working to create grief informed communities where children will be surrounded by adults who are able to provide support as they cope with these losses.

On Tuesday, March 21st from 7:00–8:30 p.m., Imagine will offer a webinar on Supporting Children Coping with Loss for anyone who wants to learn how to support a child who is grieving. While loss due to death will be the primary focus of this webinar, the concepts that will be presented are applicable to all types of loss. It is especially important for parents and grandparents, guardians, teachers, members of community organizations, coaches, therapists, counselors, and social workers to attend this program. The webinar will be offered in both English and Spanish.

**THOSE WHO ATTEND WILL BE ABLE TO:**

- 1. Define the terms “loss,” “grief,” and “mourning”
- 2. Understand the different types of loss and the impact of those losses
- 3. Identify similarities and differences on how children, teens, and adults experience their grief
- 4. Learn how to support someone who is grieving

CEUs are available for social workers with a \$30 registration fee. For those who do not need CEUs, a \$30 donation is appreciated, but not required.

Those interested in the Spanish-speaking webinar do not need to register, but may contact Imagine’s Training and Education Director, Veronica Ortiz at [veronica@imagineenj.org](mailto:veronica@imagineenj.org) to receive the link to join the webinar.

Please join Imagine in our effort to create supportive communities for children who are

grieving. To register for the English-speaking webinar, please scan the QR code below or visit [imagineenj.org](http://imagineenj.org).



## SPRING PLAY ALL SHOOK UP

“Elvis will be in the building...” at Arthur L. Johnson High School this spring. The musical All Shook Up will be presented on the ALJ stage by 12 very talented young performers on March 30th, 31st & April 1st.

The musical is inspired by the music of Elvis Presley and centers around a small, repressed town where a traveling roustabout (a la Elvis) roars in on his motorbike and turns the town and all its citizens on their ears. The story of these characters, written by Joe DiPietro, is told through the songs of Elvis including some classic faves such as, “Jailhouse Rock,” Heartbreak Hotel,” “Devil in Disguise,” the title track, and many, many more.

Director Peter Nevargic “hopes the audiences will be dancing in the aisles and leave the theatre on a nostalgic cloud.”

So come to ALJ where the auditorium will be rockin’ to the tunes of the King as sung and danced by these very talented student performers.

### ALL SHOOK UP

March 30th, 31st & April 1st, 7 p.m.

Tickets: \$5 for students

& senior citizens; \$10 for adults.

Arthur L. Johnson High School Auditorium

365 Westfield Avenue, Clark, NJ.

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