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MASTER GARDENERS VISIT WITH SENIORS AT VILLAGE

The Master Gardeners Horticulture Therapy Enrichment programs in Union County are available to many communities in the area with their purpose of “sharing knowledge, experience, and a love of gardening.” “Their volunteers have been proudly serving the communities of Union County, NJ for over thirty years. Their mission is to expand Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension’s outreach efforts by educating the public and engaging communities throughout New Jersey with unbiased research-based information in horticulture, agriculture and natural resources.”

The senior citizens living at Village at Garwood are grateful to be in the receiving end of their programs from forcing paper white bulbs to building “grass head buddies.” Also, programs on planting seeds this season are in development. With encouragement and assistance from Deb Murphy’s volunteers: Bob Platt, Carol Wenk, Connie Salisbury, Carolyn Della Sala, Jeanmarie Keenan, and Krystyna Slojan, each of the Village at Garwood seniors receive all of the supplies required to complete their project. The seniors then take their creation home to their apartments with instructions on how to maintain and successfully grow



their plants. The Master Gardeners’ volunteers also hold a plant therapy session for seniors who are having issues with their plants at home.

The programs are not only educational but enjoyable. Dorothy S., a Village at Garwood senior, said, “We are so lucky to have the Master Gardeners come here. I love learning new things.”

The Village at Garwood, a 72-unit low-income housing development, opened its doors in 2015 with the purpose of serving the needs of low-income senior citizens. The building is a 3-story, elevator-equipped building located at 320 Second Avenue. It is a short distance from South Avenue, and convenient to shopping and local restaurants. The Village at Garwood is managed by Westfield Senior Citizens Housing Corporation.

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(above) The senior citizens living at Village at Garwood recently enjoyed a program presented by the Union County Master Gardeners.

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GarwoodTimes_{NJ}

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TROOP 41290 MAKES SWEET DONATION

Garwood Girl Scout Troop 41290 recently donated Girl Scout cookies to St Anne's 5 Loaves food pantry. The 5 Loaves food pantry is a Faith-based organization that provides food and support to all ages to nourish the body and the soul. Food is distributed weekly to Garwood residents and families of surrounding towns.

Donations can be dropped off in person M/W/F 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., or donations can be left anytime in the donation drop box located outside the rectory. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, the 5 Loaves food pantry is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.



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WESTFIELD CHAMBER HOSTS ANNUAL SPRING FLING – MAY 7TH

It is time for the 28th Annual GWACC Chamber of Commerce’s Spring Fling in downtown Westfield. The event this year will be held once again on Central Avenue running from E. Broad to North Avenue and will include the parking lot across from the Post Office as well as the section of Lenox Avenue on Sunday, the 7th of May, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. (rain or shine). A fun filled day for all ages, the event will have many diverse food vendors as well as

many merchandise vendors. There will be a Kids Zone with rides and a multitude of fun activities to engage the young patrons for the entire day. And there will be a beer and wine café, curtesy of The Crossroads. It is expected that entertainment will be provided by Valencia Music and the New Jersey Workshop of the Arts. Be sure to arrive early and stay for the day. Admission is free.

Central Avenue will be closed to traffic beginning at 6 a.m. from North Avenue to E. Broad Street. Downtown residents on Central Avenue and Lenox are reminded to park in municipal lots, out of the Spring Fling area.

Please note, pets, skateboarding, bike riding and roller blading are prohibited in the Spring Fling area. This rule is for the safety of attendees of all ages. Spring Fling attendees are also encouraged to park in the South Avenue train station parking lot. This will provide the closest parking to the activity area, with easy access to North Avenue through the convenient underpass at the Westfield Train Station. For further information, please contact the GWACC, 908-233-3021, or visit the website www.gwaccnj.com and look for Street Fairs.

GREATER WESTFIELD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GWACC)

For over 75 years, the GWACC has been connecting commerce and community. The GWACC promotes the economic prosperity of

businesses primarily in Clark, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield. It is the largest association of businesses and nonprofits in our area. Members include business owners, professionals, managers and operators. Membership cultivates the opportunity to build relationships, partner, make referrals, increase business, attend networking session that support the community.

The GWACC hosts five festivals each year, an inaugural Rock the Block in Clark, Spring Fling and FestiFall in Downtown Westfield and Garwood Rocks and one is Summer FanJam in LaGrande Park in Fanwood, both with a classic car show and stage entertainment. The GWACC monthly networking events — one in the early morning and one directly after work — serve as an opportunity for current members to network with each other regularly and for prospective members to come and see what we're all about. In addition, the Professional Women in Business Committee. The Young Professionals and the Health and Wellness Alliance organize networking events specifically tailored to those industries and associations.

For more information about the GWACC, visit www.gwaccnj.com. You can also call the office at 908-233-3021 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Our office is located at 212 Lenox Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090.

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KIWANIS CLUB OF CLARK WELCOMES GARWOOD SCHOOL'S BUILDERS CLUB TO THEIR K-FAMILY

The Kiwanis Club of Clark officially welcomed a new member club to their K-Family. The Builders Club at Lincoln School in Garwood was chartered by Kiwanis International, a non-profit global organization that helps children and communities thrive. Under the direction of Lincoln School Social Worker Michelle Coyle, the club will offer leadership skills training and volunteer experiences to children in the middle school age group.

Their official charter document was signed recently by Garwood School Superintendent Christopher Kinney, Lincoln School Principal Mary Emmons, Adviser Coyle, the club's president Madison Oliveira, and the Clark Kiwanis Liaison Adviser Susan Dougherty. Kiwanis Club of Clark president Bruce Jones expressed his delight at the formation of the new club. "It's exciting to see the enthusiasm that the children have to serve their community and we're thankful to Michelle Coyle for stepping up to organize the group," he said.

Likewise, the Clark Kiwanis Secretary Cara Hund added support to the new adviser and the new officers. "Anything we can do to help the new club, we are here for you," she shared. The Lincoln School Builders Club has participated in service activities creating Valentine messages for veterans in the NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park and painting inspirational messages on rocks to beautify the area underneath their school's flagpole. They have a field trip planned to play Bingo with senior citizens in Garwood in May.

The Clark Kiwanis Club is also the proud sponsor of the K-Kids Club at Valley Road and Hehnlly Schools in Clark, the Builders Club at Kumpf Middle School, and the Key Club at Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark. The intention of the K-Family clubs worldwide is to spread the joy of volunteerism while providing on-the-job training in leadership to young members.

For information about the parent organization in Clark, contact crusadersue@hotmail.com.



(above, l-r) Charter Complete... Pictured at the signing: Superintendent of Garwood Schools Christopher Kinney, secretary Ania Sobotka, adviser Michelle Coyle, Projects Chair Ellie Heyder, President Madison Oliveira, Vice President Cece Blumenstock, Principal Mary Emmons, and Treasurer Vaughn Zalenski.

Photo by Susan M. Dougherty

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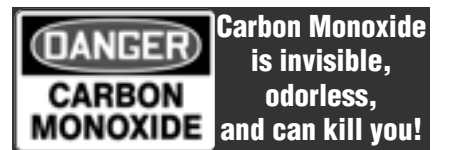
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MAKING THE MOST OUT OF THE SUMMER - TEA

The Clark Public School District's Parent University will be holding a Tea with the Superintendent "Making the Most out of the Summer" on Wednesday, May 10th, at 6 p.m. in the Arthur L. Johnson High School Instructional Media Center. Join us for an informational discussion with School Counselor Sarah Badillo on how to best help your child academically, socially, and emotionally during the summer! The

event is open to all parents who have children attending the Clark and Garwood Public Schools. To register, contact Christine Broski at cbroski@clarkschools.org or (732) 574-9600 x3355 by May 5th.

This event is part of the district's Parent University program, which includes virtual sessions, community education nights, and two larger assembly-type programs.

GARWOOD POLICE TO HOST YOUTH ACADEMY

Registration for the Garwood Police Department's Youth Academy is now open. The Academy will meet daily from 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. beginning on Monday, August 14th, and concludes on Saturday, August 18th, 2023.

The six-day program offers Garwood youth graduating grades 5th through 8th an opportunity to learn about policing procedures through a series of lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on activities presented by Police Officers from Garwood and partnering agencies including the Union County Sheriff's

Department, the Union County Emergency Response Team, Garwood Fire Department, Garwood First Aid Squad and the New Jersey State Police NorthStar Medevac Helicopter team.

There is a \$40 registration fee. Space is limited. Applications are available on the department website, GarwoodPD.org or at Police Headquarters, located at 403 South Avenue. Applications must be completed and returned to Police Headquarters by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 2nd.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING DAY AT ALJ

Clark Public Schools

In recognition of SEL (Social Emotional Learning) Day, students at ALJ High School recently attended a Minding your Mind Assembly. Social-emotional learning is the process of developing the self-awareness, self-control, and interpersonal skills that are vital for school, work, and life success. Guest speaker

Scott, spoke about his struggles with anxiety and depression throughout his high school life and college career at Temple University, as well as his journey to find the supports that he needed. Additionally, Tomorrow's Teachers, shared messages and announcements at the start of each block to engage students in SEL skills and awareness.

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Questions & Info Contact : Sgt. John Wright, email: jt-wright@garwood.org

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MEMORIAL DAY PARADE PARTICIPATION

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department proudly announce the annual Cranford Memorial Day Parade will take place on Monday, May 29th. The parade draws great crowds along its route and has been a mainstay for decades in town. Covid forced it not to be held in 2020 and limited in 2021, but 2022 saw a full rebirth of the popular event.

The line up for the parade begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Community Center at 220 Walnut Avenue and the march commences at 9:00 a.m. The traditional memorial ceremony will be held at the parades end at Memorial Park on Springfield Avenue, between Riverside Drive and Central Avenue at 10 a.m. The parade route takes Walnut Avenue to North Avenue, west to Eastman Street. Then to Central Avenue to Springfield Avenue at the Memorial Park. Should there be inclement weather, the Memorial Service (only) will be held inside the Community Center at 10:00 a.m.

Many of the town's organizations are represented in the patriotic parade. The line of march includes the VFW Color Guard, Grand Marshall Jay Boxwell, members of VFW Post #335, Cranford High School Marching Band, the Mayor and Township Committee, Cranford's Police, Fire & First Aid Squad, as well as Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood, along with their Fire and First Aid Department. Many scout and sports Leagues and political organizations will be marching among various other town organizations.

The service at the park is peaked in tradition, featuring the Cranford High School band and the school's Madrigal Ensemble. The reading of the "Cranford 86", the names of those Cranford residents on the Memorial Monuments, who have given their lives for our country tops off the solemn ceremony on this day of remembrance.

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JUDGE MEETS WITH ALJ SOPHOMORES

Students in Laura Bundy's Driver Education class at ALJ in Clark met Judge Gary Bundy recently. Judge Bundy is the Municipal Court Judge for ten plus years in Roselle Park and Garwood. He spoke about many essential topics dealing with teen driving and the law. There are

many different laws drivers have to abide by, especially new drivers. Judge Bundy spoke about provisional license, underage DUI, DUI and illegal drug use in a vehicle. ALJ students were very engaged in each topic and asked some excellent questions.



(above, l-r) Kayla Kershaw, Connor Marczewski, Xander Costar, Judge Gary Bundy & Ava Almeida

Photo by Clark Public Schools

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STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Clark Public Schools

The Arthur L. Johnson chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 24 students in a candle-lighting ceremony held at the Gran Centurions on February 21st. The night began with a welcome from NHS President Alessia Couzzi. NHS member Isabel Cortese opened the ceremony with the National Anthem and Maria Dante led the flag salute.

Ms. Kayla White, National Honor Society Advisor spoke of the collective accomplishments of the group and the rigorous selection process. The candle-lighting ceremony was completed by NHS members Grace Warnick, Timothy Ford, Alessia Couzzi, and Nicole Lenkiewicz. Each current member discussed the meaning of the pillars scholarship, leadership, service, and character and their role in the life of a NHS member.

Superintendent of Schools Edward Grande and Arthur L. Johnson Principal Tara Oliveira spoke congratulating the students on their accomplishments and reminding the students that the journey does not end here.

New inductees took a pledge led by Lenkiewicz and received certificates. NHS Member Samantha Domenick issued a challenge to students to “continue your academic and extracurricular success, but to also find time to fit in family, friends, and hobbies.”

NHS Member Julia Ranski then recognized Mr. David Fosco, ALJ history teacher. Every year, a staff member is recognized for their

dedication to student learning. Ranski stated, “He is a man who does not just walk into this building to do the bare minimum, but a truly exemplary human being that is here to make a difference. He teaches his students to be respectful, informed, kind individuals. He is an incredible role model for his students and even to ones who never had him.”

During the ceremony, students were also asked to give a flower to someone who supported them throughout their lives.

The evening closed with “Words of Inspiration” from member Jillian Olear who stated, “Throughout the rest of your life, you’ll be faced with challenges where you need to make important decisions. In these tough times, it’s imperative that you follow your instincts and do what you think is best.”

The evening was attended by parents, teachers, administrators, and Board of Education members. Superintendent Edward Grande stated, “The

evening's inductees, along with our existing members, make us proud for the great things that they stand for and will continue to accomplish. It was a true honor to be able to be there with them that night.”

THE 24 NEW INDUCTEES JOIN 8 EXISTING MEMBERS.

New inductees are: Danielle Archer, Elisabeth Brighthouse, Zoey Brown, Dillon Cahill, Gwendalyn Cahill, Connor Chin, Isabel Cortese, Sophia Downing, Catherine Dustin, Gina Galiszewski, Vincent Goodman, Kaden Hackney, Carina Hechevarria, Abigail Henkel, Jacob Kolibas, Miriam Lakkis, Brian Morris, Kaileigh Netland, Taylor Normann, Antonio Rafoa, Natalia Rojas, Eva Sarantidis, Leah Scepkowski, and Grace Wright

Current Members: Alessia Couzzi, Maria Dante, Samantha Domenick, Timothy Ford, Nicole Lenkiewicz, Jillian Olear, Julia Ranski, and Grace Warnick

GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM WINS WINTER G.P.A. CHALLENGE

The Arthur L. Johnson Athletic Department recently held a breakfast in honor of the 2022-2023 Winter Athletics G.P.A. Challenge winners, the Girls' Basketball Team. The event, sponsored by the Athletic Department, was held in the Arthur L. Johnson Cafeteria.

The Crusader G.P.A. Challenge is awarded each season to the team that finishes with the highest overall G.P.A. amongst athletic teams seasonally. They will be presented with certificates, have their team memorialized on a plaque, and be invited for a “Breakfast with the A.D.” to celebrate their actions both in the classrooms and on the courts.

The 2022-2023 Winter Seasonal G.P.A. Challenge winner was the Girls' Basketball Team with a G.P.A. of 4.206. Members of the Girls' Basketball Team include: Sofia DiProfio, Eva Puentes, Ashley Samsel, Gwendalyn Cahill, Georgia Sebok, Kaileigh Nettland, Isabella

Ciccotelli, Alyssa Martucci, Gabriella Muretta, Mackenzie Thompson, Elizabeth Fitzharris, Avery Forfa, Alisia Hamm, Julia Lettini, Alexa Sikoriak and Jordanna Tarentino.

Athletic Director for the Clark School District Gus Kalikas had this to say about the G.P.A. Challenge winners from the Winter Season: “The Athletic Department is extremely proud of all the members of the Girls' Basketball Team. The team was able to balance athletics and academics at the highest level, not only competing in the State Tournament in the winter season but also excelling in the classroom, which is evident by the cumulative G.P.A. of 4.206 that the team held throughout the season. The G.P.A. Challenge was a result of years of hard work, not only by the girls, but by the coaching staff as well. They are a model of what it means to be a student athlete and the Clark School District is proud of all of their accomplishments.”

Photo by Clark Public Schools

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ALJ STUDENTS ATTEND DECA CONFERENCE

Clark Public Schools

Arthur L. Johnson High School students Maxine Guzman, Samantha Costello, and Kiara Moyano recently participated in the DECA conference at Harrah's in Atlantic City. The students participated in a 10 page paper competition that qualified them to go to the States Conference. In this competition, the students created a start-up business plan. They had to come up with the idea for the business and creative ways to implement their plan in the real world. The group decided on creating an all-

natural, personalized shampoo brand. They came up with cost structures and revenue models along with a presentation to present at the state's event. DECA Co-Advisor and ALJ Business Teacher Ms. Julianna Fren stated, "This was a wonderful experience for the students. Schools from all over New Jersey were in attendance, so they were able to network with a ton of different students." DECA's mission is to prepare "emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe."



(above) Anthony Caldiero, K-12 Supervisor of the Arts, Business, World Languages, and ESL, Samantha Costello, Maxine Guzman, Kiara Moyano, DECA Co-Advisor/ALJ Teacher Julianna Fren, DECA Co-Advisor/ALJ Teacher Anthony Borg.

Photo by Clark Public Schools

GARWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY MAY EVENTS

For more information and to register for programs, call 908-789-1670 or email garwoodlibrary@garwood.org.

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Wed and Thur from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fri
from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,
Saty from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Closed Sundays.

Knitting Club

May 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 10:30 am

Open to all levels, whether you're a beginner or you want to share your vast knowledge of knitting Yarn and needles provided to newcomers

Storytime in the Library

May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30
at 10 am and 11 am

Join Miss Maryanne for stories, bubbles and more. Registration Required. The May 2 Storytime features guest reader Lee Ann Pavlak

LEGO Club

May 3 and 24 at 3 pm

Registration required by phone or in person. Limit 12 children ages 4 -12.

Library Board Meeting

May 3 at 7:30 pm

A meeting of the Garwood Library Board of Trustees will take place in the Library. This meeting is open to the public.

Kid's Chess

May 4 and 18 at 3 pm

Informal chess games for children of all ages. Non-instructional supervised play. Limit 12.

Virtual Kids Craft

May 9 at 3pm

Pick up supplies for a craft, then watch the craft tutorial on the Library's Facebook page at 3 pm.

Registration is required for craft kits and is limited to 15 participants.

Ask Kiosk - Aging Services Kiosk

May 10 from 10 am to noon

Union County Division of Aging Staff will be on hand to assist seniors (age 60+) or their caregivers with information on services.

Summer Reading Bookmark Contest

May 15 to May 31

It's time for the annual bookmark contest. We want you (and a buddy if you like) to design an awesome bookmark incorporating this year's theme "All Together Now". One bookmark from each grade will be printed and distributed by the library for everyone to enjoy.

Submissions must be returned to the library by May 31. See our website for more details.

Virtual Adult Craft

May 16 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..

Book Discussion Group

May 22 at 1pm

Join us in the library for a lively discussion of this month's book "The School for Good Mothers" by Jessamine Chan.

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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
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2023 WINTER ATHLETIC AWARDS

Clark Public Schools



(above) Student Athlete Award - Joseph Walsh

On Wednesday, March 08, 2023, the Arthur L. Johnson Athletic Department held their 2022 – 2023 Winter Athletic Awards. The evening, sponsored by the Crusader Athletic Booster Club, was held in the ALJ 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 154 varsity athletic letters were handed out throughout the evening, as participation in athletics at ALJ High School continues to grow.

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 2022-2023 Winter Student Athlete award recipient was Joseph Walsh. Joe currently has a 4.30 G.P.A. and is Ranked #23 in his Senior Class.

In addition, the Crusader G.P.A. Challenge was awarded to the team that finishes with the highest overall G.P.A. amongst athletic teams for the winter season. The recipients were presented with certificates, had their team memorialized on a

plaque, and will be invited for a “Breakfast with the A.D.” to celebrate their actions both in the classrooms and on the fields. The G.P.A. Challenge was for the winter season was awarded to the Crusader Girls’ Basketball Team with a G.P.A. of 4.206. Members of the Girls’ Basketball Team: Sofia DiProfio, Eva Puentes, Ashley Samsel, Gwendalyn Cahill, Georgia Sebok, Kaileigh Nettland, Isabella Ciccotelli, Alyssa Martucci, Gabriella Muretta, Mackenzie Thompson, Elizabeth Fitzharris, Avery Forfa, Alisia Hamm, Julia Lettini, Alexa Sikoriak and Jordanna Tarentino.

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 Best Teammate Award Winners were: Boys’ Basketball – Matthew Froden, Girls Basketball – Ashley Samsel, Ice Hockey – Joseph Walsh, Boys’ Winter Track & Field – Kyle Gunsiorowski, Girls’ Winter Track & Field – Leah Scepkowski, Swimming – Robert Rooney, Bowling – Lucas Kristen, and Cheerleading – Kaitlyn Donkersloot.

The evening culminated with the announcement of the Team Most Valuable Players. The MVPs were: Boys’ Basketball – Thomas Woods, Girls Basketball – Julia Lettini, Ice Hockey – Anthony Jacobs, Boys’ Winter Track & Field – Spencer Prusakowski, Girls’ Winter Track & Field – Melissa Mitjans, Swimming – Kaitlyn O’Neill, Bowling – Justin Earl, and Cheerleading – Natalia Rojas.

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) Winter Best Teammate Award



(above) Winter G.P.A. Challenge Winners Girls’ Basketball



(above) Winter Most Valuable Players

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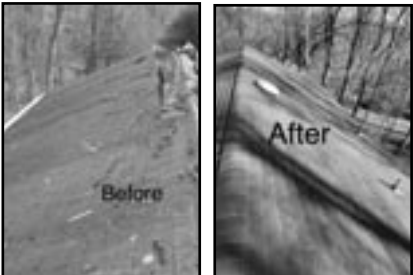


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