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Published by Renna Media

Issue 66 • May 2023

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## PERCUSSION AND COLOR GUARD CHAMPIONS

Submitted by Nancy Morris

The ALJ High School Indoor Percussion and Color Guard went to Jackson Liberty High School to compete in the Tournament Indoor Association Region Championships held on Sunday, April 30th. ALJ placed 1st becoming Region Champions.

The ALJ Indoor Percussion and Color Guard has 6 graduating seniors. These seniors have become great role models for all of the underclassmen at ALJ. They all have big plans in their future and will definitely be missed at ALJ. Emma Czeh - Seton Hall University; Mackenzie Nielsen - Rutgers University; Kaitlyn Diaz - Ramapo College; Jenna Grandal - Ramapo College; Amber Saccardi - Montclair State University; Alycia Arboleda - Saint Peter's University

Moving Forward the ALJ Music Department has great things on the horizon, the ALJ Marching Band is starting up and will be hosting

a Tournament of Bands competition in September at ALJ.

If you have any questions about joining the ALJ Marching Band reach out to Mr. Andrew Calo at [acalo@clarkschools.org](mailto:acalo@clarkschools.org).



(above) Graduating Seniors: Emma Czeh, Mackenzie Nielsen, Kaitlyn Diaz, Jenna Grandal, Amber Saccardi, and Alycia Arboleda

Courtesy photos

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(above) The ALJ High School Indoor Percussion and Color Guard

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GARWOOD ROCKS - SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH



Renna Media LLC, Publishers  
202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016  
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On Sunday, June 4th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Garwood will once again be buzzing with excitement; the annual Garwood Rocks festival, sponsored by Vermella at Garwood Station and brought to you by the GWACC Chamber of Commerce will feature food, musical performances, a kids' zone, a beer garden, and a highly-anticipated classic car show.

Center Street will be opened at 11 a.m. with food vendors and trucks lined up along the street, offering everything from classic carnival fare and much more.

The main stage at Center and Willow will feature performances from a variety of musical acts from local bands to bigger and more well-known artists, including RMC Studios, Riff Raff, Soul Seduction and 4 Flight Rock.

The Beer Garden, sponsored by the Crossroads, will provide adult beverages throughout the event.

Families with young children will be drawn to the kid's area at the Westfield Y location, between Locust Avenue and Beech, where there will be inflatable bounce houses and a carnival ride.

Near the Beer Garden, will be the slot car race course for everyone to try their hand at racing a slot car around the track. May seem easy until you get "behind the wheel".

Teenagers can explore the obstacle course,

where they can show off their skills and watch others do the same.

Classic car show which is expected to draw over 150 cars.

Merchandise and artist vendors of all kinds will also be displaying their wares for purchase.

Several non-profit organizations will also be on display.





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# ANNUAL APPRECIATION DINNER

The Education Foundation of Garwood (EFG) held its Annual “EFG Appreciation Dinner” on Thursday April 27th at the Westwood in Garwood.

The evening included the presentation of the Garwood Educator of the year to Mr. Aaren Beaty, as well as the “Making a Difference” award, given annually to a person from Garwood who has had a positive impact on the community. The award recognized Ms. Maryanne Duffy, the Garwood Library Director for her initiatives and innovative programing. Ms. Duffy recently was recently awarded a grant for the Earth Dome.

The EFG would like to thank the community for their support which enables the continuation of its mission of providing funding for educational programs and scholarships for Garwood students. We appreciate the generosity of our event sponsors and donors ensuring another successful event. A special thank you to Garwood Girl Scout Troop #41290 for making the fabulous and creative centerpieces.

# STUDENTS SPEND TIME WITH SENIORS

The Lincoln School Builders Club joined Garwood seniors at a recent club meeting to play some Bingo. The students did a great job calling the numbers, and loved sharing stories with the seniors!

Courtesy photos



(above) The Earth Dome

Courtesy photo

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# GIRLS' LACROSSE PROGRAM MAKES HISTORY

### Clark Public Schools

The Arthur L. Johnson High School Girls' Lacrosse program hosted their first ever game in program history on Friday, April 14th, 2023. The girls took on Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's Junior Varsity team. Early in the first half, Ava DeMarco scored the first goal in the history of the program off of an 8-meter shot. The defense caused multiple turnovers to transition the ball to the offensive end where the

midfielders and attackers were able to score 7 goals. In addition, the midfielders collected multiple draw controls allowing the offense to control the ball. In goal, Alyssa Szarszewski topped off the defense by making multiple saves to lead the team to a 7-2 victory for their first ever game in program history! Athletic Director Gus Kalikas had this to say about the event: "Our girls' lacrosse program had a wonderful debut, as they showed

tenacity, camaraderie, and sportsmanship throughout the day in their first ever game. The team's popularity is evident by the 50+ girls that are on it, and it was wonderful to see their hard work pay off with a victory. Our school and community are extremely excited and proud of their efforts, led by the coaching staff of Meghan Santina and Jamie Wronski. The future of Johnson Girls' Lacrosse is extremely bright!"

Photo by Clark Public Schools



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## GARWOOD TOWN-WIDE YARD SALE

The small town with a big heart is having their annual town-wide yard sale on Saturday & Sunday, June 10 & 11, 2023, rain or shine 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. No early birds please!

To participate, you must register by June 8th, by calling 789-0710 or email [kathleen@garwood.org](mailto:kathleen@garwood.org).

For shoppers, come have a fun day of shopping. List of participants and map will be available on [garwood.org](http://garwood.org) or you can pick up the list at Borough Hall, 403 South Avenue, Garwood.

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## ARBOR DAY PLANTINGS

Arbor Day 2023 was celebrated in Garwood by planting new Eastern Redbud trees at Lincoln and Washington Schools. Led by Mayor Jennifer Blumenstock and Shade Tree Board members Robert Bilyeu and Bill Nierstedt, the first planting was completed with the assistance of the Westfield YMCA preschoolers who participated in an indoor discussion about trees and their benefits – oxygen, flowers, fruit, shade and beauty - to humans and animals alike. The students then walked outside where 3 new trees were planted to replace previous trees that had died. Students were shown the proper way to plant trees, and were asked to tell ask their caregivers to plant trees at home in celebration of Arbor Day.

The planting scene then changed to Mrs. Florio's and Ms. Storti's third grade classes at Lincoln School who also participated in a tree discussion but with slightly larger words and concepts! Words like habitat and ecosystem

suddenly appeared! Questions about tree life cycles, tree benefits regarding society at large and advanced tree planting techniques were discussed. A new Eastern Redbud was also planted.

All of the trees were obtained through the Union County 'Free Trees for Schools' Program in which Garwood has been lucky enough to participate for a number of years. So much so that Lincoln School may be running out of tree planting locations soon! All students reviewed the purpose behind 'The Lorax' which shows in Dr Seuss' magical wording how important trees are. Students also viewed pictures of the oldest living trees (Giant Sequoias), and the widest Live Oak. With climate change upon us, and tree planting being an easy way to regain our planet's health, the Shade Tree Board, Union County, and Garwood students will continue to work together to plant more trees and encourage others to do so too. That means you, says The Lorax!



(above) Garwood Shade Tree Officer Bill Nierstedt, Mayor Jen Blumenstock and Board member Robert Bilyeu assisted the Washington School YMCA pre-school students in planting trees on Arbor Day.

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# GARWOOD MUSTANGS HAVE SUCCESSFUL BASKETBALL SEASON

The Lincoln School in Garwood celebrated their 8th grade basketball players during the annual Spirit Night Basketball Game held recently. The boys team secured a championship banner by finishing with a record of 10 wins and 4 losses. The girls basketball team also had a great season finishing with a record of 9 wins and 4 losses.

The 8th graders honored were Vanessa Hechevarria, Yvett Rodriguez, Ella Myers, Gabriella Stoffer, Madison Oliveria, Carley Ridente, Evenesse Rosado, Valerie Orozco, Courtney Kilmer, Olivia Blanche, Caitlyn Marcazo, Julianna Ferraz, Lia Simitz, Analisse Ortiz, Gio Hernandez, Ryan Osnato, Stas Walentek, Matthew Ruggiero, Damian Garrido,

Evan Nocera, CJ Lowry, Arturo Palacio, Chris Anastasio, Russell Tortorici, Noah Gibson, & Jack Pellino.

The teams are coached by Matt Burke, Aaren Beaty, Laura Knutson, & Lia DiPiazza. The student assistants were John Sullivan and Maria Mormile. KC Bree was the team statistician.



(above) Garwood Mustangs

Courtesy photo

## SPIRIT AWARD PRESENTED TO DEBRA AND JULIO SUAREZ

Mayor Jen Blumenstock presented Debra and Julio Suarez with Garwood’s Community Spirit Award during the April 25, 2023 Garwood Council meeting. This award is given to a Garwood resident, business owner, or volunteer who exemplifies what it means to give back to the community. Mr. and Mrs. Suarez, nominated by Carolyn Reed, have been instrumental in caring for and helping their neighbor for many years, taking her to medical appointments, shopping for her groceries and helping with her medical needs. They are a true example of Garwood’s big heart.

Courtesy photo



## GARWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY JUNE EVENTS

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.

### Kid’s Chess

June 1 at 3 pm

Informal chess games for children of all ages. Note this is non-instructional supervised play. No registration required. Limit 12.

### Garwood Rocks

June 4 from 11am to 5 pm

Come visit the Library’s booth at the town street fair. Sign up for a card, learn about our programs, enter our raffle.

### Knitting Club

June 5, 12, 19, and 26 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

### Primary Election

June 6

The Garwood Public Library is a polling location. The Library will be open, the children’s section will be closed. Computers and seating are not available. Browsing and check out are permitted.

### LEGO Club

June 7 at 3 pm

Be inspired by this week’s theme or build whatever comes to mind. Then share your creation with others. Registration required. Limit 12 children ages 4 -12.

### Library Board Meeting

June 7 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.

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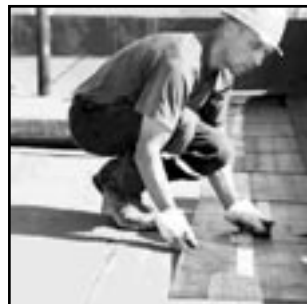
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## MARANO & SONS AUTO SALES NAMED FAMILY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Marano & Sons Auto Sales, located in Garwood, NJ, was awarded the Greater Westfield Chamber of Commerce (GWACC) 'Family Business of the Year Award' during its 75th Anniversary Award Gala held on April 30th. The event brought together business leaders, community members, and elected officials to honor the achievements of the Chamber and its members. In all, 180 were there to enjoy the evening.

*Written by Ralph Marano Sr:*

In 1952, at the age of 5, I moved from Newark to Garwood with my parents. I grew up in Garwood, went to school here and high school in Clark. ALJ is where I started my career when I took auto shop. That's when they offered work programs and options to students who did not want to pursue a college education. In May 22, 1965, I won the Plymouth Trouble Shooting Contest in the State of New Jersey. In 1965 I worked for a VW Agency through a Work Study Program. Upon graduation in 1965 I got a job as a mechanic for Sears Roebuck Automotive Center for \$2 an hour when minimum wage was \$1.35 an hour. I worked my way up to store manager while also working nights and weekends with my father selling cars at a small car lot in Sewaren, NJ.

I have always had a passion for cars. I had my first car at 12 years old. It was a 1947 Ford.

In 1968 I married my high school sweetheart (Adeline) and we had 2 sons (Jim & Ralph Jr). Today we all work together in our family business Marano & Sons Auto Sales, Inc., which we opened in 1976 at 507 South Avenue, Garwood, NJ on a part time basis. After being seriously injured in an automobile accident in 1978 I was forced to give up my job as manager at Sears and pursue my career in car sales full time in 1981.

I worked along with my wife and a longtime employee, Mike Tango, who started with me at the age of 16 and has become a part of the Marano Family and still works for us today at the age of 56. When our boys were old enough to clean cars, they joined in to help make this business a family success. By 1996 both sons had graduated college and decided to make the family business their choice of career. More space was needed for everyone to explore what he did best. This was the beginning of an additional location at 150 South Ave, Garwood, NJ. Although both sons can handle every aspect of the family business, each son has his own special interests and preferences. Both Jim and Ralph Jr share my enthusiasm for cars and now our grandson Nicholas has become a part of Marano & Sons.



(above) The Marano family with the Garwood Mayor Jen Blumenstock.

Courtesy photo

You can find Ralph Jr along with Mike Tango at our original 507 South Avenue location specializing in trucks and SUV's while Jim along with Ralph Sr and Nicholas are at 150 South Ave which specializes predominantly in cars. My wife Adeline runs the office along with long time employee Ryane Brennan and in between classes or vacation breaks our granddaughter Madison helps out.

Both boys have gifted us with 6 beautiful grandchildren, Nicholas, Victoria, Samantha, Madison, Courtney, and Cole. It is not unusual to see any one of them in the office at any time. All four girls are currently in college pursuing specific careers and Cole has just started high school and hopefully he will join all the Marano men in the future.

We never dreamed starting out in 1976 on a small lot with 4 cars in a .7-square mile town we would grow to be such a success and be such an asset to the community. We are proud of what we can do for the community. Marano & Sons has been honored with the Accomplished Professional Community Contributor Award and

the Education Foundation People Make a Difference Award and now this honor. We also give 2 scholarships to students graduating from ALJ High School and are not going to college but are pursuing a trade.

It gives us great pleasure as a family to give back to the community and hope our family is able to preserve our legacy for years to come.

GWACC (Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce)

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 sessions that support the community. For more information visit [gwaccnj.com](http://gwaccnj.com).

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Units	Size	1 TOWN	3 TOWNS	6 TOWNS	9 TOWNS	12 TOWNS	15 TOWNS	18 TOWNS	21 TOWNS	24 TOWNS
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								
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