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Published by Renna Media

Issue 72 • December 2023

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ANNUAL GARWOOD BROOK CLEANUP

Submitted by Bill Nierstedt

Garwood Green Team volunteers recently joined up with NJDEP AmeriCorps Watershed and Garwood LIDL employees for the annual Garwood Brook Cleanup.

The rain and high stream flow kept most of the cleanup crew from walking in the brook, but there was plenty of trash - most of it plastic - to collect along the stream banks, and along South Avenue as well as the eastern edge of the LIDL parking lot and stream bank. Particular trash highlights included a portable CD player, a broken fence panel, and a table lamp. The crew cleaned the railroad edge of the LIDL property for the first time and was quite amazed at the amount of empty (!) beer and vodka bottles collected around the embankment. People really have to stop using street

gutters, streams, railroad lines and parking lots as dumping grounds! It all ends up in our drinking water!

The cleanup grabbers, gloves and bags are funded through a Clean Communities mini grant provided by the Borough of Garwood. Lidl commenced this joint project in 2022 as part of their community involvement campaign and strives to maintain their Garwood property on a weekly basis. Both parties to this public-private venture wish that they didn't have to schedule annual cleanups but look forward to doing so in order to make the eastern entrance into Garwood a pleasing one for all. Please dispose of all garbage appropriately!

For more information, or if you want to join the Garwood Green Team, please visit the Green Team on Facebook: garwoodgreenteam.



(above) Garwood Green Team volunteers Jeff Jotz, Kim Ficarra, Daniel D'Amico, Michael Mindel and Leslie Breen were joined by Eleina Ficarra, NJDEP AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador Megan Crouch, and Garwood LIDL employees Lewis Dokie, Chris Okeefe and store manager Nik Reed for the LIDL/Green Team's annual Garwood Brook Cleanup.

Courtesy photo

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GarwoodTimes_{NJ}

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202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016
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HOLIDAY EVENTS

The Annual Holiday Tree Lighting will take place on Saturday, November 25th from 5 to 7:30 at Borough Hall. The event will feature music, entertainment, fun family friendly activities, vendors, food trucks, a laser light show, and special guest, Santa Claus! The Garwood Police Department will also be collecting donations for Toys for Tots. This event is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the Union County Board of County Commissioners.

The Festival of Lights at the Garwood Annual Menorah Lighting will take place on Saturday, December 9th at 6:30 p.m. The event will take place at Borough Hall. Enjoy a lazer light show, cider and donuts. This event is free and open to the public.

JACOB CRUZ WINS POSTER CONTEST

Garwood Public Schools

Mrs. Planer, the art teacher at Lincoln School in Garwood, is proud to announce that one of her students was a winner in the Prevention Links Red Ribbon Anti-Drug Poster Contest in Union County. Students had to illustrate an activity that they do to keep them away from drugs. Jacob Cruz was the 1st place winner for fifth grade students. Jacob worked hard on his baseball themed posters and was thrilled to receive the award and gift card from Prevention Links at the Red Ribbon Prevention Walk and Family Fun Fall Festival at Nomahegan Park on Oct. 21st.



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HOLIDAY MAGIC AT THE HOPE CHEST

The Hope Chest Thrift Store, located at 26 Prospect Street in Westfield, is outfitted for the Holidays! The store welcomes shoppers in with an array of beautiful holiday items. There will be holiday table linens, glass and dishware, serving pieces, centerpieces and wreaths. For a Christmas tree the store will be offering lights, garlands, and ornaments. In our book and CD section there are many options for children or adults.

For the man of the house the store maintains a wonderful selection of slacks, jeans, sweaters, sports jackets, suits, and outerwear that will outfit him for the chilly weather and perhaps that special holiday party. Women can choose anything from casual clothes to a glittering gown or dress. To accessorize there is a selection of beautiful earrings, necklaces, and bracelets. Dress

and casual shoes along with boots will complete the look. Add one of our many pocketbooks and clutches and you are all set!

Be sure to check out our sales promotions which change weekly.

The Hope Chest is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and gladly accepts donations of new or gently used items on Tuesday and Saturday. The store is manned totally by volunteers and all of our profits go to support the Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care in Scotch Plains. To volunteer at the store or to enquire about joining the Center for Hope Hospice Auxiliary please call the store at 908-233-9973 or stop in and speak with one of our volunteers. We always welcome new members.

EDUCATION FOUNDATION NEW OFFICERS

The Education Foundation of Garwood (EFG) recently held their first meeting of the 2023-2024 year and selected their new slate of officers:

- President: Maureen Skepkowski
- Vice President: Adele Lewis
- Secretary: Jessica Rivera Siew
- Treasurer: Stephen Napolitano

The Education Foundation of Garwood will continue its mission of providing funding for teacher-sponsored programs and scholarships for Garwood students. Plans for the upcoming 20th Anniversary milestone will be forthcoming and

the EFG looks forward to the community's continued support.

The EFG is also seeking new members. If interested, please contact an officer or emailgarwoodeducationfoundation@gmail.com for more information.

The EFG is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization and was founded in 2004 to work with the Garwood School District "in pursuit of educational excellence." You can follow the foundation on Facebook at "Education Foundation of Garwood."



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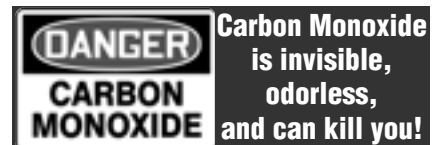
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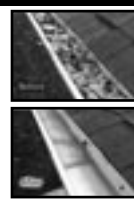
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GARWOOD GREEN TEAM

Submitted by Bill Nierstedt

October was a busy month for the Garwood Green Team, with a cleanup and holiday events. There are also upcoming events to advertise and this request for assistance to make them happen!

First off, Garwood's very own Luke's Farm stand came through by donating and delivering pumpkins, hay bales and corn stalks for the Team and the Garwood Girl Scouts to arrange at Garwood Borough Hall and the JFK Plaza parking lot on October 8. Garwood just doesn't look like autumn until these decorative trimmings are completed.

Team member Jeff Jotz organized the Garwood/LIDL joint Garwood Brook cleanup on October 21. The cleanup got changed a little due to the rain, and subsequent high-water flow in the brook, but the group was still able to clean the top sides of the brook, and the South Avenue ROW. Thanks go to Jeff, Kim and Eleina Ficarra, Daniel D'Amico, Leslie Breen and Michael Mindel of the Garwood Green Team, and store manager Nik Reed, Chris O'Keefe,

and Lewis Dokie of LIDL. AmeriCorps NJDEP Watershed Ambassador Morgan Crouch also assisted.

Highlights of the cleanup were finding a compact disk player, a fence section and a table lamp, and too many empty beer and vodka bottles to count! People really do need to stop throwing their litter in our streets, streams and parking lots! Don't they realize that this stuff enters our drinking water?

On October 28, the Green Team had a table and bikes - but no cars - at the Garwood PTA 'Trick or Trunk (bike)' event. Kim Ficarra, Julie Graham, and Jen Blumenstock 'womaned' the table where costumed figures selected our Halloween themed handouts (nothing with candy wrappers, of course!).

The Team's next activity is the completion of the wood chip path that was started back in April in Unami Park. As part of our adoption of the park, team members worked with Union County personnel to install a path from Cener Street

halfway through the natural area of the park. This next phase -to be undertaken on October 18 - will complete the path from that halfway point to the baseball/soccer fields, providing a designated and dry path for all park users to travel.

Upcoming activities include the 'Adopt A Pot' program where Team members make and decorate Christmas Trees for placement in the 24 pots that are centered around Garwood's downtown. Local businesses chip in \$45/pot for decorated trees and their business signs 'planted' around the downtown. Volunteers are always welcome for the final decorating. All adopted pots will be out by the day before Thanksgiving. The Green Team will also participate in the Borough Tree lighting scheduled for November 25.

For more information, or if you want to join the Garwood Green Team, please visit the Green Team on Facebook: facebook.com/garwoodgreenteam

GARWOOD SHADE TREES

Submitted by Bill Nierstedt

This has been a very important year for Garwood's shade trees with many actions taking place. With the tree planting and removal contracts being let very shortly by the Borough administration, residents will begin to see positive shade tree changes within the Borough Right-of-ways and on Brough properties.

In January of 2023, the Mayor appointed a Shade Tree Officer, tasked with the responsibility of responding to all citizen requests and complaints regarding shade trees. The Officer has responded to almost 70 such inquiries to date. On April 28, Arbor Day plantings and ceremonies were held at Washington and Lincoln Schools. In July, the Mayor and Council adopted a Shade Tree Ordinance creating a Borough Shade Tree Advisory Board, and adopting regulations regarding managing all Borough shade trees. The mayor also finished appointing all 7 members to the board.

The Borough recently awarded contracts for road reconstruction projects including portions of Second, Third and Locust avenues, and all of Fifth Avenue and Maple Street, and sidewalk improvements at other various locations throughout the Borough. These projects will include removal of trees that are creating tripping conditions on sidewalks, and trees that are not healthy or are simply the 'wrong tree in the wrong place'. Equally important is that these contracts will include the planting of over 70 new trees. The Advisory Board wishes to advise residents that the Borough is no longer planting trees such as oaks, maples, ashes, lindens, plane trees, or others that are prone to roots lifting sidewalks, or that mature to such heights that they interfere with overhead electric wires. The Borough Engineer and Shade Tree Officer walked the entire lengths of the streets to be improved selecting the tree removals and

planting sites. They have also provided the contractors with a tree list inclusive of all trees reaching a maximum of 25-30' heights, the vast majority of which will be native trees. The planting of these trees - while not eliminating ALL such issues- should go a long way to providing shade tree lined streets while reducing future costs of removing large trees.

Residents of properties adjacent to where new trees will be planted will receive a flyer from the board advising of the type of new tree that is being planted, as well as tips on how to assist in maintaining the tree. Contact information for shade tree members will be provided allowing residents to ask any questions that they may have. It is the Board's goal to return Garwood to the days where there is more shade on our streets than heat islands, and our shade tree canopy is restored. We look forward to working with our fellow residents to achieve this goal together.



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"DID YOU KNOW?"

Garwood Historical Committee

What is with the strange Unami name for our nearby local park and what is the history?

Unami Park is located south where the borders of Garwood, Cranford, and Westfield converge and is presently owned by the County of Union. Its origins were just a wooded area, and the locals 100 years ago called it "Garwood Park". In 1930 Union County set up a park system and Garwood ceded this wooded area to them. Subsequently, the county park system layout was designed by the Olmsted brothers, sons of the famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, whose greatest creation includes Manhattan's Central Park.

In the early years of the 1900's during the expansive phase of housing throughout northeast NJ, that wooded area almost became developed. Vintage maps of the woods show roads though it and a few houses within. Roads with names Park Ave, Columbus Ave and Wood Ave. Center Street extended west through the woods into Westfield. Upon making it parkland, the roads became vacated. Of the existing houses, one house was moved over to Pine Avenue, where an old Garwood family, the Hasselman's lived for decades.

But what about that name? Upon developing the parks within, the County named their parks after indigenous tribes living around this region centuries ago. Our local park is named for the Unami Indians who were a branch of the Lenni Lenape Indians that occupied central New Jersey. The Unami tribe, or as it is translated "people down river," is the group that called their home Shackamaxon. The full boundaries of the Unami branch's homeland were the northern two-thirds of New Jersey, the island to be known as Staten, and the adjoining woodland parts of eastern Pennsylvania, down to just below the future city of Philadelphia. One last tidbit of information: Tony Benzinger, the husband of Tina Ariemma, our former Garwood Business Administrator, is a descendant of the Unami Indian tribe.

And now you know the story.

ALJ 2023 FALL ATHLETIC AWARDS

Clark Public Schools

The Arthur L. Johnson Athletic Department recently held their 2023 Fall Athletic Awards. All the Fall Athletic Teams and their seasons were highlighted by their coaches while all athletes received letters and awards. Over 189 varsity athletic letters were awarded throughout the evening, as participation in athletics at Arthur L. Johnson High School continues to prosper.

The program culminated with the Student Athlete Award, which was presented by the Athletic Director of Arthur L. Johnson High School, Mr. Gus Kalikas. 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 2023 Fall Student Athlete award recipient was Elisabeth Brighthouse, with a 4.458 G.P.A.

In addition, the Crusader G.P.A. Challenge was awarded to the team that finished with the highest overall G.P.A. amongst athletic teams for the fall season. The recipients were presented with certificates and will have their team memorialized on a plaque to celebrate their actions both in the classrooms and on the fields. The winner of the 2023 Fall Seasonal G.P.A. Challenge was the Field Hockey Team with a G.P.A. of 4.057. Members of the Field Hockey Team include: Zoey Brown, Gianna Miele, Lacey Vill, Ava Wood, Lily Ficarra, Gia Impellizzeri, Abigail Marcazo, Braelyn Prusakowski, Hailey Webb, Liliana Budnik, Alyssa Donkersloot, Elizabeth Fitzharris, Avery Forfa, Alisia Hamm, Alyssa Szarszewski, Olivia Blanche, Addison Herko, and Caitlyn Marcazo.

The Best Teammate Award will be 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: Cross Country – Peyton Zawoysky, Field Hockey – Ava



(above) Elisabeth Brighthouse 2023 Fall Student Athlete Award Winner.

Wood, Football – Vincenzo Pedersen, Boys' Soccer – Corey Pires, Girls' Soccer – Vania Oliveira, Girls' Tennis – Lena Blumenstock, Volleyball – Julia Bowen, and Cheerleading – Hope Ferrao.

The evening culminated with the announcement of the Team Most Valuable Players. The MVPs were: Cross Country – Kyle Gunsiorowski & Ava Szarszewski, Field Hockey – Zoey Brown, Football – Emilio Menicucci, Boys' Soccer – Adam Vargas, Girls' Soccer – Mackenzie Thompson, Girls' Tennis – Gianna Olas, Volleyball – Cassandra Gloster, and Cheerleading – Aleya Sahin.

Athletic Director Gus Kalikas, had this to say about the event "Once again, our Fall Athletic Awards Program was a successful as it allows the District, Administration, and Coaches the opportunity to acknowledge a wonderful Fall Sports Season as well as recognize both student athletes and their parents alike for all that they have accomplished this past fall athletic season."

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Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm., Sunday Closed.

Holiday Photo Station

December 2 through 21

Come take your holiday picture at our do-it-yourself Holiday Photo Station complete with a festive backdrop and a cardboard Santa. Goodie bags for kids available while supplies last

Knitting Club

December 4, 11, 18 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. Spend an hour being creative and socializing. No Registration required. Yarn and needles provided to newcomers

Storytime

December 5, 12, and 19 at 10 am and 11 am

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

Library Board Meeting

December 6, at 7:30 pm at the Library

The Library Board meeting is open to the public.

Ask Kiosk-Aging Services Kiosk

December 13 at 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, such as meal delivery, respite care, adult day care and support services for caregivers.

LEGO CLUB

December 6 and 13 at 3 pm

Be inspired by this month's theme or build whatever comes to mind. Some will be displayed in our showcase. Registration required Limit 12

Virtual Kid's Craft

December 12 at 3 p.m.

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

Virtual Adult Craft

December 12 at 3 p.m.

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

November 20, at 1:00 pm

Join us in the library for a lively discussion of this month's book, "Lowland" by Jhumpa Lahiri.

Countdown to Noon

December 30 at 11 am

Ring in the New Year at the Library. Enjoy cookies, crafts, and a whole lot of fun with a noon ball drop celebration. For children in 2nd grade and younger. Limit 15

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Garwood Democratic Club awards two scholarships every year to qualifying Garwood students - one to an eighth grader graduating from Lincoln School moving on to high school, and one to a senior in high school graduating on to college.

The scholarship winners for school year 2022-2023 are Madison Oliveira from Lincoln School, and the 12-grade winner was Karina Hechevarria from Arthur L. Johnson high school. The Club members wish both recipients the best of luck in their future educational adventures and continued participation in the civic culture wherever they may live, work and play. We look forward to hearing of your future community participation and maybe seeing your name on a voting ballot some day!

Criteria for the awards is based on each student's understanding of civic responsibility and their participation in activities advancing that civic responsibility. The Club believes that fostering civic understanding and responsibility of our youth leads to better civic awareness as adults. Promoting involvement in local, state and national issues of concern in our early years encourages our students to understand how they can make a difference, to get involved in civil discourse, and most importantly, to vote.

Grammar school students are encouraged to participate in school activities advancing community activities, and understanding how the different levels of local, state and national levels of government work with each other. Applicants for the high school scholarship are encouraged to communicate with their representatives on issues that concern them, to attend local government public hearings, perhaps get involved in a local campaign, and most important to register to vote when they become of age.

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 InformationGFAS@gmail.com
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Monday Eventings: 7 - 9



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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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