Garwood Times

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HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY PAULINE PERLMAN!

Pauline Perlman recently celebrated her 100th birthday. She was honored with a cake and party at her residence, The Villages of Garwood, and was presented with a Proclamation by Mayor Jen Blumenstock. She was also recognized at the Garwood Senior Club meeting for reaching her impressive milestone!

Proclamation by Mayor Jen Blumenstock

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2024, Ms. Pauline Perlman will celebrate her 100th birthday; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Perlman resides in Garwood and grew up in Jersey City as one of twelve children; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Perlman worked as a solderer for Western Electric during World War II and often spent her free time during that period with her girlfriends greeting soldiers in Manhattan and buying them meals to show her support; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Perlman raised six children, and proudly supported her husband who was an accomplished AMF bowling salesman; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Perlman taught sewing lessons for Singer, was a top demo sales associate travelling to supermarkets throughout NJ, and worked in sales until her retirement at age 85; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Perlman's love of sewing prompted her to join the Multicultural Doll-Making class taught at the Rahway Senior Center several years ago; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Perlman's vibrant imagination and resourcefulness for using recycled materials has created an inspiring collection of hand sewn multicultural faceless dolls; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Perlman has proudly displayed her multicultural doll collection for several years in over 20 public libraries including Garwood, Mountainside, Union and Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Perlman has a love for all art and has had her watercolor paintings put on display at Union College for the Artworks by Union County Seniors Exhibit; and



(above) Mayor Jen Blumenstock and Pauline.

WHEREAS, Ms. Perlman continues in her love of glitzy casinos, daily coloring and singing; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood do hereby extend sincere congratulations and best wishes to Ms. Perlman.

Courtesy photos



JOE RENNA





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OSTAL PATRON ARWOOD, NJ 07027

Garwood Times ...

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Five-year-old Jennifer is diagnosed with autism and almost completely nonverbal. Due to excessive violence in the family home, a concerned neighbor called for help and, after investigation, Jennifer was placed in foster care. The two phrases Jennifer can say graphically depict violence witnessed at home and confirm trauma she's endured. Since entering care and being enrolled in school, it's evident Jennifer has



(above) There are currently hundreds of Union County children in need of a CASA volunteer! Plans are underway for an advocate training class. To learn more, attend an information session either Monday, April 22, at 5:30 p.m. at the Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Avenue in Clark, or Tuesday, April 30, at 10 am at the CASA office, 1143 East Jersey Street, Second Floor in Elizabeth. Register now at casapassaicunion.org/info-session.

also experienced educational neglect. At age three, she was entitled to an Individualized Education Plan from the Department of Education to provide such intervention services as in-home speech and behavioral therapies, both helpful for future enrollment in a half-day educational program. Unfortunately, Jennifer's parents neglected to utilize these services and she is now more than two years behind her peers.

Jennifer is just one of the more than 500 children removed from home in Passaic and Union counties each year due to abuse and neglect. These children are separated from all they've ever known: parents, siblings, friends, teachers, and their belongings. For Jennifer, the road ahead is long, and she needs a caring, consistent adult in her corner to protect her best interests while in foster care. That's where Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers come in.

A CASA volunteer is trained on the ins and outs of advocating for child-victims and fully supported by CASA staff for the duration of the case. No special background in child welfare is necessary; successful CASA volunteers are dedicated community members with varied life experiences who believe abuse and neglect are non-negotiable. CASA volunteers visit the children, make unbiased observations, interview others in the child's life, and make recommendations to the judge. They often are the

only consistent adult in the life of a child involved in the child welfare system, as caseworkers, professionals, and even placements can be ever-changing. A CASA volunteer provides continuity during a time of chaos and unknowns.

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To learn more, attend an information session either Monday, April 22, at 5:30 p.m. at the Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Avenue in Clark, or Tuesday, April 30, at 10 am at the CASA office, 1143 East Jersey Street, Second Floor in Elizabeth. Register now at

casapassaicunion.org/info-session.

ABOUT CASA OF PASSAIC AND UNION COUNTIES:

The nonprofit is court-empowered to recruit, train and support volunteer advocates to speak up for the best interests of children in foster care. Assigned by a court order that grants access to the child and all those in their lives, the CASA volunteer gathers information and makes informed recommendations to the judge deciding the child's future. Often, the CASA volunteer is the only consistent person in the child's life. For more information about CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, call 973-832-4002, e-mail info@casapassaicunion.org or log on to www.casapassaicunion.org.

USED CLOTHING AND BOOK DROPS BENEFITS GARWOOD FIRST AID SQUAD

The Garwood First Aid Squad has donation bins in their parking lot, located at 401 2nd Avenue, Garwood, where books and clothing can be dropped off to help with the Squad's operating expenses.



Used clothing drop-off is Sponsored by the Garwood First Aid Squad with the help of Turnkey Enterprises. The clothing collected is used as clothing, not cut into rags.

Items accepted

All clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, drapes, pillowcases, and stuffed animals. Help us keep your donations clean & dry. If possible, please put clothing in plastic bags.

PLEASE... NO rags, pillows, fabric scraps, toys, or household goods. Please understand that the above unwanted items are a hardship and expense to dispose of.



Book Donations

We accept books in readable condition that have an ISBN barcode.

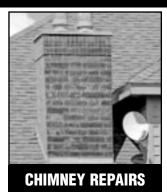
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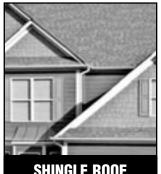
We do not accept books without the ISBN barcode. We also do not accept encyclopedias, magazines, and water damaged, unusable books.







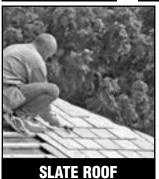




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NEW FOOD PANTRY AND CLOTHING BUILDINGS CELEBRATED

St. Joseph Social Service Center

The St. Joseph's community, encompassing residents from Elizabeth and volunteers and supporters from five counties in New Jersey, came together on February 24, 2024, to celebrate the opening of two new buildings on its campus. The new food pantry building is already in use, and the second building will ultimately be used for clothing distribution.

The cold weather was no match for the warm spirit of compassion and caring that animated the





event and has guided the agency for the past 38 years. All in attendance toured the new buildings and participated in a moving dedication ceremony that concluded with an uplifting blessing offered by Father Anthony Randazzo of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield.

The two new buildings represent the first phase of an ambitious capital improvement plan to improve and expand services to families and children in need in Elizabeth and to fulfill St. Joseph's vision to serve those experiencing homelessness and poverty with dignity. The new food pantry building will allow St. Joseph's to offer a better food pantry model – an individual choice food pantry. With this model, clients will come at an appointed time and will be able to choose their food based on their personal and cultural preferences. The new clothing building will be used as temporary program space during the next wave of renovations and ultimately will be used to offer clothing and home goods in a more dignified environment.

"Dignity has been a core value of the agency since our founding in 1986," noted Bernadette Murphy, Executive Director. "Our goal is to help people acquire the material items they need to live with dignity. We believe that it is vital for our clients to receive food, clothing, supplies and support services in an environment that fosters dignity, where individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness are truly welcomed as sisters and brothers."

Daisy Trocan, a member of the Board of Trustees, spoke at the dedication event about what these new buildings will mean to Elizabeth

residents. As a child her family relied on support from the agency during difficult times. "The love and support my family received from St. Joseph's meant so much to us," Trocan reflected.

Harold "Kess" Kessler, who has overseen the capital improvement plan from its inception several years ago, remarked that work has already begun on the second phase of the construction plan. Over the next year, the main hall on campus will be transformed into a multipurpose space with private offices for mental health counseling and case management services, new facilities for the soup kitchen program, spaces for the Adult Learning Center and health and nutrition workshops and diagnostic testing, and a reception area where residents can obtain information about agency programs and community services. Karen Maher, President of the Board of Trustees, noted that these new spaces will "allow the agency to expand services to the community, particularly in the areas of physical and behavioral health."

Six days a week a dedicated team of 6,000 volunteers from Elizabeth, Union, Westfield, Cranford, Mountainside, and dozens of other communities, make sandwiches for the hungry in their kitchens, bring food, clothing and home goods, serve meals at the soup kitchen and help with the operations of the agency. St. Joseph's serves over 3.500 individuals annually. The organization helps Elizabeth residents access food, medicine, mental health counseling, adult education, clothing and a myriad of additional healthcare and support services.

To learn more about St. Joseph's please visit sjeliz.org.









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LIBRARY EVENTS

For more information and to register for programs, call 908-789-1670 or email garwoodlibrary@garwood.org. Monday and Tuesday 9 am to 8 pm, Wednesday and Thursday 10 am to 8 pm, Friday 10 am to 4:30 pm,

Knitting Club

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 12, and 29 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.

Library Board Meeting

April 3, at 7:30 pm at the Library A meeting of the Garwood Library Board of Trustees will take place in the Library. This meeting is open to the public.

Storytime

April 9, 16. 23, and, 30 at 10 am and 11 am

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

Virtual Kid's Craft

April 9 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.

LEGO CLUB

April 10 and 24 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

Build It - Bean Bag Toss

April 11 at 3 pm

Swing a hammer and twist a screwdriver and go home wit a bean Bag Toss Game. For kids in 2nd grade and older. Limit 10

Book Discussion Group

April 15 at 1:00 pm

Join us in the library for a lively discussion of this month's book, "Finding Dorothy" by Elizabeth Letts

Virtual Adult Craft

April 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.

Ask Kiosk-Aging Services Kiosk

April 17 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

Poetry Reading

April 20 at 11:30 am

In honor of National Poetry month, the Garwood Council for Arts and Culture will hold a Poetry reading at the Library featuring local artists.

40TH ANNUAL QUILT SHOW – APRIL 20TH

Harvest Quilters of Central NJ will present their 40th annual quilt show on Saturday, April 20, 2024. The 40th Sharing the Quilts will be held at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults, and \$3 for children under twelve.

At 10:30 a.m., fiber artist Karen Hochman of Plainfield will show her creations and speak on "Everything Old is New Again, What Inspires You?" The award-winning hand-quilter is a former antique dealer and collector of vintage textiles. A Harvest Quilter since 1990, her quilts are influenced by and connected to women artists and makers of the past and present.

Kathy Anderson Lee of Plainfield will be recognized as 2024's Featured Quilter with a special display of 17 colorful modern bed sized quilts. The chemical engineer and active STEM education volunteer began quilting in the 1980's while living in North Carolina. After a hiatus from the craft to raise 2 children and work in oil research, she rediscovered her talent in 2018.

"It was a revelation returning to quilting given all the advancements in technology, dyes, digital printing along with the new availability of international fabrics," Lee said.

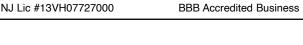
Baby quilts made by members will be displayed and later donated to a local women's shelter. Several additional local charities will benefit from the sale of fabric and drawings for a queen-sized quilt and sewing themed gift baskets.

In addition to viewing a full array of modern, traditional, art and wall-hanging quilts, attendees can participate in viewer's choice awards, kid's crafting table and vendor sales area.

A tearoom offering lunch, snacks, homemade baked goods, and beverages will benefit Willow Grove Church's youth activities.

For additional information, please contact harvestquilters.com or with questions email: harvestquiltersnj@gmail.com.





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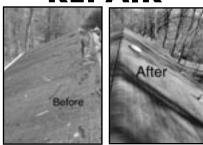




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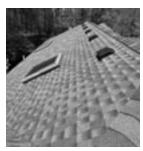
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Lincoln School has been recently recognized as a Certified Kindness Challenge Award Recipient from The Great Kindness Challenge Organization. Below is excerpt from their email to our school.

"There is no doubt about it, KINDNESS makes a difference! We hope you are still immersed in the joy and appreciation resulting from the abundance of kindness, compassion, gratitude, and generosity generated during last week's Great Kindness Challenge! We take immense pride in the 20 million students from 41,103 schools and 115 countries who

participated in this grand celebration of kindness and positivity! Our hope is that the kindness momentum continues well beyond this week!

As a result of your school's active participation in The Great Kindness Challenge, we are delighted to recognize you as a Kindness Certified School.We extend our heartfelt gratitude for the positive impact you've made at your school, in your community, and in our world. Thank you for being such an essential part of this movement!

With grateful and happy hearts,

7eam Kindness





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ALJ ITALIAN CLUB SUPPORTS ITALIAN LIBRARY

Clark Public Schools

The Arthur L. Johnson High School Italian Club, advised by Mrs. Alessandra Bonacchi, helped the Tifosi Napoli Club New Jersey raise over \$700 to support an open-space library in Forcella, Napoli. The club has held Nutella bake sales after school and a district-wide jeans day to help raise money. The library was built in memory of Annalisa Durante who tragically lost her life at 14-years-old.

In addition to donating the funds, an ALJ student Eva Venturino, and Mrs. Bonacchi created an illustration showing the connection between Napoli and America. Italian Club members all signed their names to it. The canvas and donation were presented to the President of the Annalisa Durante Foundation and Annalisa's father on what would have been Annalisa's birthday.

Highlights of the event including this special gift were highlighted by the local and national media in Italy. The illustration is now permanently and proudly on display at the library in Napoli.

Mrs. Bonacchi stated, "My kids, with the support of the district staff, did an amazing job raising money for this cause. And one of my talented kids brought the ideas I had in my head to life on a canvas. Thanks to everyone who supported the ALJ Italian Club!"



(above) The Arthur L. Johnson High School Italian Club, advised by Mrs. Alessandra Bonacchi.

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• Cement • Cinder Block • Belgium Block • Curbing • Bluestone Treads • Diamond Blades • Limestone Treads

• Landscape Tools

• Catch Basins

Mason Tools

• 3" & 4" Pipe

LAWN & GARDEN

- Grass Seed
- Fertilizers
- Peat Moss
- Hay
- Polymeric Sand
- Paver Sealer
- Paver Cleaner

| KUSCAPE | SUIL | per yard |
|---------|--------------|----------|
| nt | Compost | \$30 |
| r Block | Jersey Brown | |

MULCH

| Black Dyed | \$33 |
|------------|------|
| Brown Ďyed | |
| Red Dyed | |
| Hardwood | |
| Playground | |

QUARRY BASE MATERIALS

| Mason Sand | \$60 |
|---------------|------|
| ¾ Clean Stone | \$58 |
| Stone Dust | \$39 |
| OP | \$48 |

DECORATIVE STONE

| DECOMAINE CIONE | |
|---|-------|
| 3/8 Riverbed / Pea Gravel | .\$73 |
| 1 Riverbed | .\$88 |
| 1 ¹ / ₂ -3 Riverbed | .\$98 |
| 3/8 Red Stone | .\$80 |
| ³ / ₄ Red Stone | .\$80 |
| ³ / ₄ Goose Egg | |
| 2-4 Goose Egg | |
| ³ / ₄ Arctic White | |
| | |

Prices subject to change without notice.

