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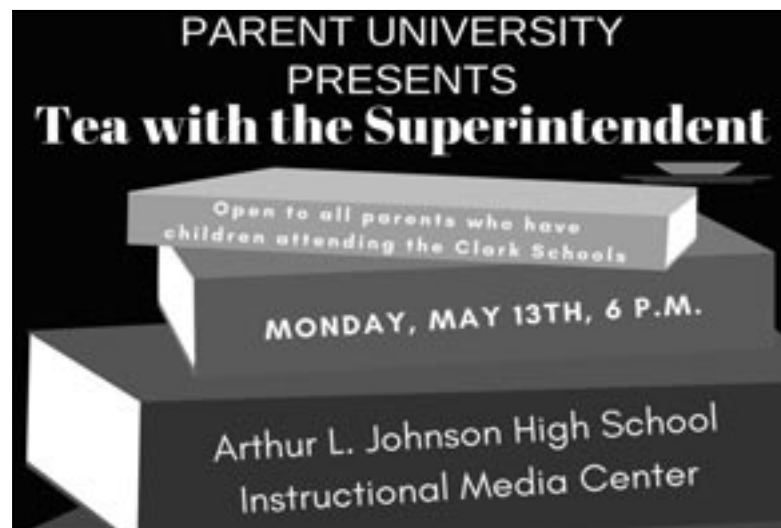
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TEA WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Clark Public School District's Parent University will be holding a Tea with the Superintendent "Preparing for College" on Monday, May 13th, at 6 p.m. in the Arthur L. Johnson High School Instructional Media Center. Join us for an informational discussion with Director of School Counseling Andrew Amendola on how to best help your child prepare for college. Practical strategies will be shared with a focus on social/emotional skills. The event is open to all parents who have children attending the Clark Public Schools. To register, contact Christine Broski at cbroski@clarkschools.org or (732) 574-9600 x3355 by May 6th. This event is part of the district's Parent University program, which includes virtual sessions, community education nights, and two larger assembly-type programs.



DOG DAYS AT LINCOLN SCHOOL

Garwood Public Schools

Fenway, an Australian Labradoodle, and Plato, a Swiss Mountain Dog, recently visited the kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms. Students learned about how dogs help

people and how to safely approach a dog, and then of course practiced relaxation by petting the dogs. We are looking forward to the therapy dogs visiting our other grades in the future.



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MUSTANGS HAVE GREAT BASKETBALL SEASON

Garwood Public Schools

The Lincoln School in Garwood celebrated their 8th grade basketball players in the annual Spirit Night Basketball Game held on March 14th. The 8th graders who were honored were: Kassidy Clark, Elena Pizarro, Hannah Scepkowski, Roman Malsky, Dom Ruano, Collin Maloney, JJ Marinello, Xavier Barnes, Oliver Ficarra, Gabe Bellomo, Josh Galvez, Sean

Raftree, Henry Ruggiero, Arthur Silva, Niko Koutzoulis, James Peniche, and Paulie Lionas.

Additionally, at halftime the 2022-23 Garwood boys' team was honored for their successful season with the raising of a championship banner.

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

GarwoodTimes NJ

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(above) Garwood Mustangs

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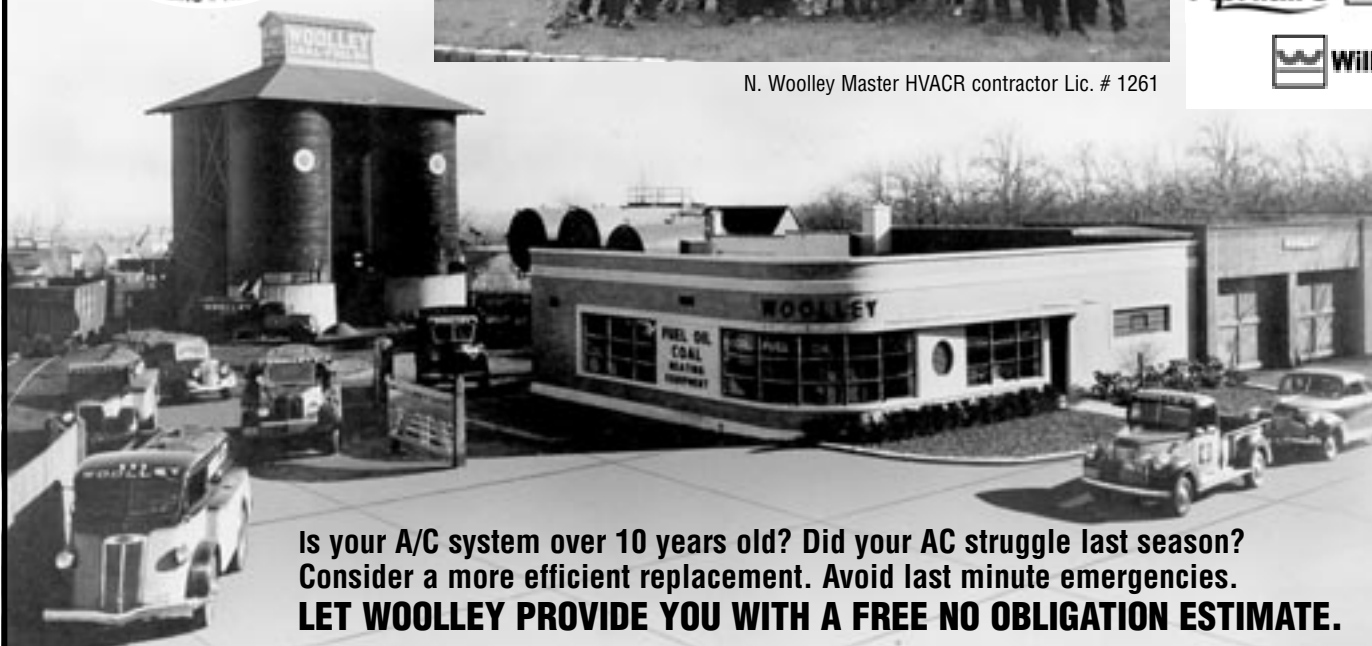
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ADMINISTRATIVE ASST OF THE YEAR

Clark Public Schools

Geraldine Bonaccorso has been chosen by the Executive Board of the DAANJ and Chairman of the Committee, Joe Piro, as the Administrative Assistant of the Year for Central Jersey. This is a well-deserved honor that speaks of Geraldine's ability, personality and dedication to the Clark School District and athletic community.

Gus Kalikas, Athletic Director of Arthur L. Johnson High School, had the following to say about Geraldine "Behind any high functioning Athletic Department stands an effective Administrative Assistant willing to do the hard work that is needed for all of our student-athletes. Geraldine works tireless hours for our student-athletes, and our Athletic Department and student-athletes are lucky to have such a dedicated employee working for them behind the scenes."

Geraldine was honored at the DAANJ Annual Awards Banquet on March 14, 2024.

Photo by Clark Public Schools



(above) Geraldine Bonaccorso

STAR TREKKING 3RD GRADERS

Garwood Public Schools

Mrs. Florio's 3rd graders boldly travelled where no 3rd grader has ever gone before. As part of the Solar System Unit, they created informational posters on a planet of their choice, and cardboard replicas of the planets using oil

pastels. Students incorporated technology as they collaborated on Google Slide presentations. Their knowledge of google suites techniques were evident in their presentations which included a variety of fonts, images, animation, and fun facts.



BOXING FOR A CAUSE

Garwood Public Schools

The Builders' Club volunteered at the Community Foodbank of NJ recently. Students worked together with other volunteers to pack boxes of food. The group packed 1,176 boxes in total! Nice job giving back to our community!

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FROM THE ARCHIVES - 1924 TRAIN CRASH



Garwood Historical Committee

On Thursday, August 21st, 1924, at 10:30 a.m., almost a hundred years ago, a terrible train crash occurred at the Lincoln Ave. crossing, at the border of Garwood and Cranford. This is where Frosty Freeze was on North Ave. and Walgreens Cranford is on South Ave. At that time, the rail tracks ran flat on the street and cars on Center St. and Lincoln Ave. ran right over the tracks.

On that day, construction was being done on North Ave., so traffic was detoured down Lincoln Ave., across the railroad tracks onto South Ave.. There was no gate, but there was a warning bell at the crossing that went off to signal that a train was coming. There happened to be a stationary freight train nearby and the driver of a truck thought that it was that train ringing the bell so he could safely cross. However, the passenger train, Philadelphia & Reading express train #604, heading eastbound through Garwood into Cranford, and moving at 60 miles per hour, overtook the crossing and slammed into the 10-ton truck.

The truck was thrown 75 feet. The locomotive and 3 of the 4 train cars overturned and slid 3 city blocks. Sadly, the truck driver died along with 3 people on the train including the engineer. 40 people were injured. Everyone living nearby went to help the passengers. Local homes were used as first aid stations. The injured were rushed to Elizabeth General Hospital and Muhlenberg Hospital. Many of the injured were from Philadelphia and Plainfield.

This accident made headlines in the major local newspapers. This was one of many train crashes, most of which were minor, over the next decade along the Jersey Central railway, but none were more spectacular than this. The company finally made the decision to raise the railroad in many places and Lincoln Ave. now has an overpass for trains. As for the Center Street train crossing, it wasn't until 1963 that the underpass was built to avoid a replay of this tragic incident.



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VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN ANNOUNCED

Clark Public Schools

Arthur L. Johnson High School is proud to announce the Class of 2024 Valedictorian Grace Wright and Salutatorian Taylor Normann.

Grace has excelled in a challenging curriculum of honors, AP and Dual enrollment courses at Arthur L. Johnson High School, including being the lone student to take Calculus 3, a class typically reserved for the second year of college. Mr. Michael Charatan, her teacher, commented, "Grace is extremely bright and easily grasps difficult concepts." She had the distinction of receiving the Dwight. D. Eisenhower Leadership Award from West Point and the Rensselaer Medal for her excellence in math and science. Throughout the years, Grace's talents flourished in all of her activities, notably serving as a peer leader, treasurer for the S.M.A.C (Student Movement Against Cancer), varsity tennis and softball player, member of five national honor societies, Key Club volunteer in both her school and community, and reigning as homecoming queen. Seeking a new adventure this year, she had her first audition for a high school musical and landed the starring role of Regina in "Mean Girls." She will be attending the University of Virginia and pursuing a major in biochemistry.

Taylor has taken on the most rigorous course load that Arthur L. Johnson High School offers. She has excelled in 10+ Advanced Placement courses, including our AP Capstone Program,

which is a two-year endeavor through the art of conducting research. Outside of the classroom, Taylor has been a dedicated member of our Theatre Program; from coordinating musical numbers to small roles to starring in this year's rendition of "Mean Girls," Taylor is just as artistically talented as she is academically. She plans on studying Pharmaceutical Sciences and/or Chemistry at Duquesne University in the fall.

Superintendent Edward Grande stated, "Grace and Taylor displayed standout academic performance. We are looking forward to celebrating their accomplishments with them and their families in the coming weeks and ultimately at graduation this June."



(above, l-r) Arthur L. Johnson High School 2024 Valedictorian Grace Wright and Salutatorian Taylor Normann.

Photo by Clark Public Schools

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 05

Spring Fling

From 10 - 5 rain or shine in Downtown Westfield! Central Avenue will be transformed into a marketplace of vendors, crafters and retail establishments. Come enjoy the culinary delights of our food vendors.

JUNE 02

Garwood Rocks

Center Street in Garwood will be transformed into a marketplace of vendors, crafters and retail establishments. The event will include a huge car show which attracts thousands of fair goers.

JUNE 23

Clark Rock the Block

This block party will feature quality exhibitors, a special crafter's section, a classic car show, gourmet food trucks, a beer garden, a kid's zone, live music and performances, and local merchants & civic organizations.

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Monday Eventings: 7 - 9

2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES ANNOUNCED

The Arthur L. Johnson High School Alumni Association will be inducting the 2024 Hall of Fame Class at our annual HOF/Scholarship Dinner on May 16, 2024, at The Gran Centurion Banquet Hall in Clark. If you'd like to attend the dinner, a dinner registration form can be downloaded by visiting: aljalumni.org/default-new.asp - Click on "Alumni Hall of Fame", and then "Dinner Registration Form".

THE ALJHSAA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES FOR 2024:

• Arleen Crescenzi Allen (Posthumous Induction) – Class of 1960 (Distinguished Faculty)

- Marnie Perez – Class of 1990 (Accomplished Professional)
- Dr. Christopher Velotti, Ed.D – Class of 1992 (Community Contributor)
- James Burg – Class of 1964 (Hero)
- Honorable Fred H. Kumpf – Class of 1961 (Accomplished Professional)
- Dr. Daniel Redziniak – Class of 1992 (Accomplished Professional)
- Thomas Galiszewski – Class of 1960 (Distinguished Faculty)
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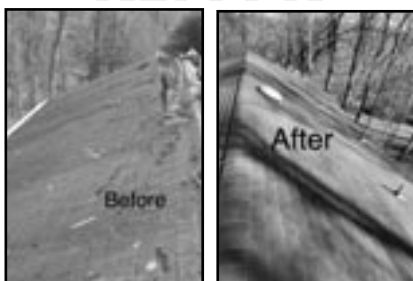
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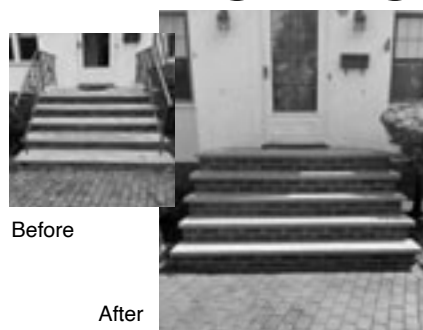
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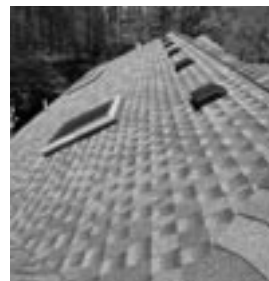
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LIBRARY MAY EVENTS

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

LEGO Club

May 1 and 22 at 3 pm

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

Library Board Meeting

May 1 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.

Knitting Club

May 6, 13, and 20 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.

Virtual Kid's Craft

May 7 at 3 p.m.

Pick up your Mother's Day 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.

Storytime

May 14, 21, 28 at 10 am and 11 am

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

Book Discussion Group

May 20, at 1:00 pm

Join us in the library for a lively discussion of this month's book, "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks.

Virtual Adult Craft

May 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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SENIOR ARTISTS

These talented artists from the Village at Garwood Senior Club displayed their paintings at a recent Garwood Senior Club meeting. Courtesy photo



ALJ'S UNSUNG HEROES

Clark Public Schools

Arthur L. Johnson High School students Danielle Archer and Cassandra Gloster were recently recognized by Union County School Boards Association as Arthur L. Johnson's 2024 Unsung Heroes, at a ceremony at Kean University on March 5th. The ceremony honors students who "make your district a better place simply because they are part of it." According to the New Jersey School Boards Association,

these students have made "outstanding contributions to their schools and communities." "Unsung heroes can be people who make their school a better place because of their warm personality, their empathy and concern for others." They have impacted their school, district and larger communities through their leadership and desire to help others. The district is immensely proud of the achievements of these students.



(above) Danielle Archer



(above) Cassandra Gloster

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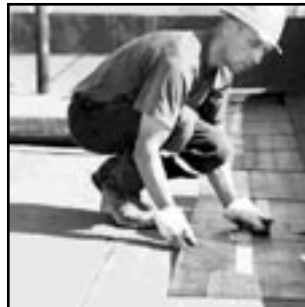
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55TH ANNUAL VALOR AWARDS LUNCHEON

The 200 Club of Union County

Garwood Police Department Patrolmen Jonathan Pridy, Gregory Sanchez, and Sergeant John Wright will be among those honored at the 55th Annual Valor Awards Luncheon to be held on Friday, May 17, 2024, from 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., at the Hilton Garden Inn Springfield, 304 US-22, Springfield, NJ. Tickets are \$100pp and can be purchased at uc200club.org. Fourteen Local Heroes will be honored, and student scholarships will be awarded.

The Two Hundred Club Medal of Valor Award is a prestigious honor reserved for the courageous Police and Firefighters of Union County who have gone above and beyond in the line of duty. Each spring, our Annual Spring Valor Award Luncheon is held, attracting hundreds of attendees who gather to celebrate and honor these true heroes. Since 1968, we have recognized over 400

police officers, firefighters, and State Troopers, all of whom have selflessly risked their lives in service of the public good. The Valor Awards Luncheon is also a time to pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. With solemn respect, we honor the memory of those who have given their lives to protect and serve our community.

GARWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT HONOREES:

On November 28, 2023, Garwood Police Headquarters received a 911 call from an individual reporting an unspecified medical emergency. The caller, sounding disoriented, abruptly hung up.

Being that the caller had contacted Garwood Police several times for various medical issues in the previous hours, Patrolman Pridy and Patrolman Sanchez were dispatched to the scene to conduct a welfare check.

Arriving at the door to the apartment and

hearing no response from inside, Sergeant Wright was called in for backup. Together, they made the decision to breach the door to check on the individual in distress.

The officers were met with a harrowing sight - a man standing on the edge of his third-story balcony with a cable tied around his neck, seconds from taking a fatal leap. As the officers approached, the distressed man jumped over the railing. Patrolman Pridy, Patrolman Sanchez, and Sergeant Wright managed to grasp the man just in time - putting themselves at risk of being pulled over the railing - and successfully pulling the distressed man back to safety.

The Two Hundred Club is recognizing Patrolman Pridy, Patrolman Sanchez, and Sergeant Wright for their unwavering dedication to protecting and serving our community with the Two Hundred Club of Union County Medal of Valor.

A PHONE CALL CAN SAVE A VETERAN'S LIFE

Michael D. Boll, President, NJVN

Every year we honor the fallen, who have sacrificed their lives so we can live in the best country in the world. Please reflect on the service our heroes perform to keep us safe and protect our way of life. This Memorial Day we are asking people to call and check on our active duty soldiers and veterans that have served. Every day we lose twenty-two veterans to suicide and 40 percent of veterans that return from combat are diagnosed with PTSD. Unfortunately, this number has not changed much, and we feel that recreational therapy and peer support can really make a difference for our veterans living in crisis. The New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) is fully committed to combat this epidemic by aggressively seeking out veterans in need. Our goal is to

contact the veteran before they fall into a deep state of depression and provide them lifesaving and lifechanging resources.

Over the last few years, the NJVN has been able to provide thousands of meals to our veterans and active duty soldiers. Thousands of veterans were given new suits and clothing from our storage area, over thirty newly refurbished automobiles were gifted to disabled veterans, and the most important thing the NJVN does is save lives through our peer support /mentorship program.

The NJVN works from the heart and is therefore able to work with all the other amazing veteran charities that share the same common goal, putting veterans first. Our donations go directly to the veteran's programs, which allows us to assist veterans and their

families throughout the entire state and host numerous recreational therapy activities as well. This year we are starting up a few veterans' retreats and will focus on increasing events at our state veteran hospitals and shelters.

We are always looking for volunteers that can both assist with upcoming events and help mentor veterans so they can live better productive lives. Volunteers are the most important NJVN resource, and we would love to have more people help us save lives. If you need assistance or are interested in joining the team, please send us your name, email, and phone number to NJVN1775@gmail.com or call 973-332-1556. Check out our website NJVN.org for our services and accomplishments.



(above) New Jersey Veterans Network veterans and volunteers at a recent event.

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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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ALJ'S NIGHT OF CRUSADER HONORS

Clark Public Schools

Arthur L. Johnson High School recently held a Night of Crusader Honors in the auditorium. During this celebration of student achievement, students were inducted into various honor societies. The mission and accomplishments of each society was shared as well as the requirements for induction. The event was attended by parents, students, teachers, and administrators. The Honor Societies recognized were National English Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society, Science National Honor

Society, American Sign Language Honor Society, Italian National Honor Society, and Spanish National Honor Society. Students were welcomed by principal Tara Oliveira. Superintendent Edward Grande also congratulated the students. Students inducted received certificates.

Grande stated, "Getting to see the accomplishments of our students across a number of different content areas was extremely gratifying. I was honored to be a part of the night."



(above) Italian Honor Society



WATCH EPISODE 3 OF RENNA MEDIA PODCAST

Renna Media has posted its second episode of "Mind Your Own Local Business," a podcast that gives advice on how to run a successful local business. To learn more call me, 908-447-1295, or email joerenna@rennamedia.com.



Scan for Second Episode of Mind Your Own Local Business on YouTube.

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