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MEALS PACKED FOR CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

Liquid Church

This December, the spirit of giving was alive and well at Liquid Church's Garwood campus, where community members came together for a remarkable Christmas outreach event. On December 6 and 7, Liquid Church partnered with Rise Against Hunger to pack meals for hungry children in Zambia and other countries around the world. With a goal to pack at least 1,000,000 meals, the event drew an incredible turnout of over 8,000 volunteers from all across New Jersey, united by a common mission of compassion and service.

The Garwood campus was buzzing with energy as volunteers rolled up their sleeves and worked together to pack an astounding 55,000 meals. This local effort was part of a larger initiative that resulted in a grand total of 1,200,000 meals packed statewide! It was a heartwarming sight to see people from all walks of life, including students from Westfield High School and members of Bear Den 7 from Clark Cub Scout Pack 145, joining hands to make a difference in the lives of those in need.

Liquid Church is known for its dynamic community engagement and this outreach event exemplified that spirit perfectly. The church's commitment to service is not only about helping those far away but also about building connections within the local community. The Garwood campus provided a welcoming space where people could come together, bond over a common goal, and spread joy during the holiday season.



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Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (honor, award, etc.), send us your news! Email: editor@rennamedia.com

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GARWOOD SOCCER TEAM GOES 10-2 THIS FALL

The Garwood Mustangs Middle School soccer team had a very successful season this fall winning 10 games and losing only 2. The team is co-ed and made up of 6th, 7th, & 8th graders who attend Lincoln School of the Garwood Public Schools. 8th grader Nick Anastasio broke the school record for goals scored with 19. The Mustangs were led by the following 8th graders along with Anastasio: Andrew Velaj, Cecelia

Blumenstock, Harper Duskin, John Koutzoulis, Kalliope Koutzoulis, Patrycja Walentek, & Ryan Marcydlo. The team was coached by Matt Burke and Danielle Libutti. Student assistants James Peniche and Ian Kertesz also helped with practice and game day preparation. The team will be celebrated at the school's annual Spirit Night in March with a championship banner hung in the gym.



Photo by Garwood Public Schools

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1ST PLACE WHITE LIGHTNING

On Wednesday 10/23/24, some future Mustang All Stars won their 8th game, with a score of 1-0, it was intense the entire game, but with an amazing save by Roy and strong defense, we came away victorious.

On Saturday, 10/26/24, the boys played 2 games, 30 minutes each. There was some adjustment as the games were played on turf and

shorter fields, but the boys played well and won both games 2-1 and 3-1. The boys played very well and continued with strong defense. Goals were scored by Carson, Michael and Dom who scored his 1st goal of the season. Some nice assists by Leon and teammate Noah from Clark.

White Lightning ended the season 10-0! Such an amazing season.

Photo by Garwood Public Schools



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OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE
Thursday, January 23, 2025

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Sunday, January 26, 2025

11:00 pm - 1:30 pm

PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL FOR MORE INFORMATION

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ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING WELCOMES IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Garwood's annual tree lighting event was held on Friday, November 30th at Borough Hall. There was music, entertainment, and other fun activities and giveaways. Following this event, Garwood families were invited to a family skate night held at Warinanco Sports Center.



Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on Garwood Times page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/garwoodtimes). Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."

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BUILDERS CLUB PROVIDES BIRDHOUSES

Builders Club is a middle school club that organizes and participates in community service and is sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Clark.

The club recently collaborated with the Union County Adopt-A-Park program.

Students sanded, primed, and painted birdhouses that were placed in Unami Park.



Photo by Garwood Public Schools

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT SABRINA DIWANE

Garwood Public Schools

GO MUSTANGS!

ALUMNI
Spotlight

Lincoln School, Class of 2015
Arthur L. Johnson, Class of 2019
Rutgers University, Social Work
B.A. Class of 2023
M.A. Class of 2024

A proud graduate of our class of 2015, Sabrina Diwane, attended Garwood Public Schools from Pre-K through 8th Grade. Her favorite memories were the school dances, field trips and spirit weeks! Sabrina is grateful for the close-knit community GPS provided as it allowed her to build strong connections with her teachers and classmates; helping her excel both academically and socially.

After Lincoln School, Sabrina went on to graduate from ALJ and then completed an accelerated masters program at Rutgers, earning her a degree in social work.

Currently Sabrina works as a Psychotherapist, treating people with emotional challenges and mental illnesses.

Congratulations Sabrina!
You make Garwood proud!

Fun Fact! Sabrina's mother, Mrs. Diwane, is one of our beloved paraprofessionals, working at GPS for the past 14 years!

SABRINA DIWANE
CLASS OF 2015

GARWOOD LIBRARY JANUARY EVENTS

The Library will be closed Wednesday, January 1, for New Year's Day and Monday January 20, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Knitting Club

January 6, 13, and 27 at 10:30 am

Learn how to knit or show others how it's done while enjoying fun conversation. Open to all levels. No Registration required. Yarn and needles provided to newcomers

Kid's Chess

January 6, 12, and 27 at 3 pm

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

Storytime

January November 7, 14, 21 & 28 at 10am & 11am
Join Miss Maryanne for stories and more. Registration is required. Limit 12. Registration required

Grab and Go Kid's Craft

January 7 at 3pm

Pick up supplies and instructions for a seasonal craft. Registration is required for craft kits and is limited to 15 participants. Sign up on the Library's website calendar or by phone

Make a Harmonica

January 7 at 3:30 pm

Join us to learn how to make a Harmonicas while supplies last.

Library Board Meeting

January 8 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.

Rummikub for Adults

January 9 at 1 pm

Play Rummikub! It's a rummy-like game that you play with tiles instead of cards. Open to all levels. No registration needed. Limit 12.

Fantastic Forces

January 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 3 pm

Children get charged up about the science of current electricity! They learn how tiny invisible particles - electrons - power everything from the fridge to the phone. They learn about insulators, conductors, and experiment to find out what conducts. All their problem-solving skills are put to use to create series and parallel circuits. Once children master circuits, they use their new know-how to engineer a device that can solve mysterious hidden connections. Registration is required. Limit 10

Grab and Go Adult Craft

January 14 at 3pm

Pick up supplies and instructions for a seasonal craft. Registration is required for craft kits and is limited to 15 participants. Sign up on the Library's website calendar or by phone

LEGO CLUB

January 15@ 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

January 27 at 1 pm – Monday Book Club - Join us for a lively discussion of this month's book, The Nature of the Beast By Louise Penny

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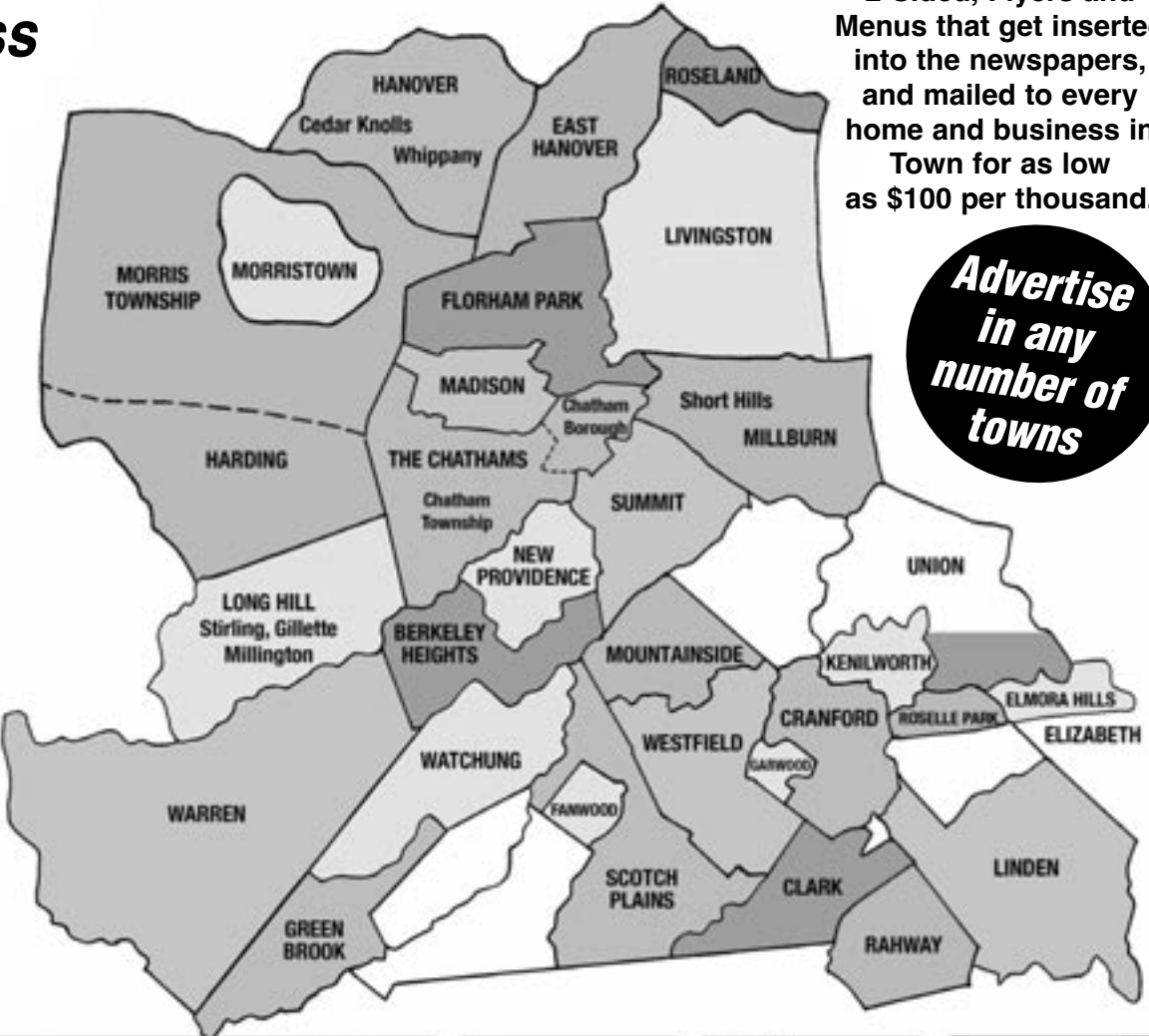
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6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
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TIME CAPSULE TO BE OPENED IN DEC. 2044

Education Foundation of Garwood

On Monday, December 2, 2024, the Education Foundation of Garwood (EFG) and the Student Council of Lincoln School joined together to seal a time capsule to be opened in twenty years. This initiative commemorates the 20th anniversary of the EFG, an organization established by Adele Lewis, who continues to serve as an officer on the Foundation.

To foster inclusion, students participated by completing surveys that shared their predictions and aspirations for the future, alongside newspapers and photographs depicting present-day Garwood. Community residents and

businesses were also invited to contribute items and notes to the future discoverers of the time capsule.

The EFG continues to support the staff and students of Lincoln School through grants and scholarships. Thanks to the unwavering support of businesses, organizations and residents of the community. To date the EFG has awarded over \$65,000 in grants and scholarships and will continue to do so for many years to come.

The EFG envisions that those who uncover the time capsule in 2044 will find a meaningful connection to the past, reflecting the strong bonds that unite the Garwood community.



(above) Superintendent Christopher Kinney, Student Council advisor Tamara Benc, EFG President Maureen Scepkowski along with EFG members, and Student Council Officers pictured closing the time capsule to remain untouched until December 2044. Courtesy photo

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT AND FEEDBACK SOLUTION GARWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Garwood Police Department will be one of the first in the state to use new software to better connect with the community they serve. A new service uses text messaging to allow citizens to provide feedback after police, 911, emergency interaction.

Garwood Police will be launching a new citizen satisfaction and feedback solution that uses text messaging to keep citizens informed and an opportunity to provide feedback after non-life-threatening interaction with the police department.

In today's on-demand society, we understand how important it is to keep citizens informed. Much like private companies use tools to send automatic text message notifications, updates and satisfaction surveys to their customers, Garwood Police is now able to do the same. We expect that

this new solution, Power Engage, will drastically enhance communication with the citizens we serve.

Text messages are sent hours or days after the incident and will ask citizens to take a quick survey about their experience with the call for service. It will also allow citizens to provide their own comments, feedback or have an opportunity to thank the responding officer.

Residents that do not want to participate can simply not respond. As with all texts, residents may simply reply with STOP and that will opt them out of all future text surveys from the department.

It is important that everyone know that these surveys should not be used to report any type of emergency or crime. As always, call 9-1-1 for any emergency or to report any criminal activity.

“ADMISSION” TO CONCERT BENEFITS FOOD PANTRY

Garwood Public Schools

Guests attending the elementary school winter concert held in December were asked to donate a can or box of food. Over twenty bags of non-perishable goods were collected, thanks to the new initiative established by Ms. Hymowitz. Members of the Student Council facilitated the pick up of food by volunteers from the Knights of Columbus. All proceeds were donated to the Five Loaves food pantry at St. Anne's Church in Garwood. Toy donations to benefit Toys for Tots were also collected by members of the Builders Club, led by advisor Michelle Rosenbloom.



(above) Lincoln School music director Charlotte V. Hymowitz

Photo by Garwood Public Schools

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