Garwood Times

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FIRST AID SQUAD AT YOUR SERVICE FOR OVER 85 YEARS

The Garwood Volunteer First Aid Squad has been serving the community of Garwood for over 85 years but did you know we do much more than just respond to emergency join us, we are in need for adult and junior members to join! calls?

We provide standby services at numerous community events throughout the year such as: Little League Parade, emergency calls 24 hours per day, every day of the week. Flex-Garwood Rocks, Summer Junior Police Academy (First Aid time shifts are available. Volunteers are provided with free first & CPR Demo), Memorial Day Parade, Halloween Parade, aid/CPR training and uniforms. Tree Lighting & Menorah Lighting, Sponsor the Summer and Winter Craft Bazaars at the Garwood Knights of Columbus Building, Provide Mutual Aid Stand-by for Other Towns (e.g. Carnivals, Fireworks, Street Fairs & Parades).

CAR SEAT INSPECTION STATION

We also host the Union County Central New Jersey Safe Kids Car Seat Inspection Station Program on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 - 11:00 a.m. Just stop by our station at 401 - 2nd Ave & Walnut and certified technicians will ensure your child's safety seat is the correct type and properly installed.

For info please call 908-789-6830.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT PROGRAM

We offer a free Medical Equipment Program to residents (e.g. wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, and shower seats) at no charge. We also accept donations of new, or well persevered and clean, equipment.

Please call 908-789-0300

FIRST AID SQUAD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Volunteers Are Needed! If you have the desire to help others We are staffed 100% by volunteers who live and work in the town, and surrounding communities. Squad crews respond to

> For more information call 908-789-0300, or email us informationgfas@gmail.com.

FIRST AID AND CPR CLASSES

We offer First Aid and CPR classes to the community as several of our members are certified American Heart Association Instructors. We conduct monthly CPR classes at our squad building on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 2 to 6 p.m. (6 people minimum to run the class). We can also provide group classes on other days at our building or at another location upon request.

CLOTHING BIN & BOOK BIN

Clean out their closets or book bin!

We have permanent Clothing Bin & Book Bin in our parking lot located at 401-2nd & Walnut Street. (The clothing will not be turned rags. We can only accept books: hardcover, paperback, or textbooks with ISDN numbers.)



(above) Squad members with Garwood Mayor Jen Blumenstock in the middle along with Glen Costello, President of Garwood First Aid Squad who is holding the proclamation.

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Garwood Times "

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SEND US YOUR NEWS

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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COMMUNITY GROUPS GIVING BACK

Garwood Public Schools

The Builders Club teamed up with the Garwood Police Dept, Fire Dept, First Aid Squad, Recreation, and Girl Scout Troop 41290

to collect toys for the annual U.S. Marine Corps "Toys For Tots Campaign." Dozens of toys were collected at Lincoln School! The club members helped load the toys onto a truck to be delivered.

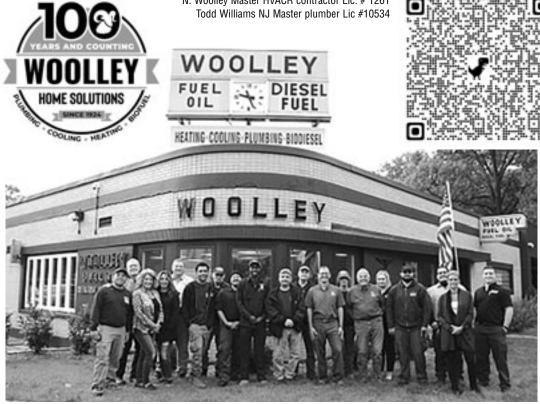


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GO MUSTANGS AND GO TIGERS!

Garwood Public Schools

The Boys & Girls Basketball Teams took on the Princeton court at halftime during a Princeton-Columbia basketball game in January. The talented middle school team showed off their skills and teamwork in an unforgettable display of young talent. With fast breaks, impressive shots, and non-stop energy, these rising stars left the crowd cheering. Meanwhile, in a thrilling finish, Princeton pulled off a last-minute victory, securing the win with a buzzer-beater! A great time was had by all! A huge thank you to Mr. Burke, Mr. Beaty, Coach Gianna, Coach John, Coach James and Mrs. Peniche for making this event possible!





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MARCHING CRUSADERS TAKE THE WIN

Clark Public Schools

The Arthur L. Johnson High School Marching Crusaders traveled to MetLife Stadium, home of the Giants and the Jets, and took the field in USBAND's Ludwig Musser

championship for the 1 Open division. They won best overall and swept every single caption available (Best Music, Best Visual, Best Overall Effect, Best Percussion, Best Color Guard).

Championship, where they won the entire Marching Band Director Erik Krebl stated, "A special thank you to our band moms and dads that have been helping with the trucks and props, as amongst having a champion band, we have a champion parent association!"



Photo by Clark Public Schools



GARWOOD LIBRARY DECEMBER EVENTS

411 Third Ave. Garwood, NJ 07027 • Phone: 908-789-1670

Hours: Monday & Tuesday 9:00 am - 8:00 pm, Wednesday & Thursday 10:00 am - 8:00 pm, Friday 9:00 am - 4:30 pm, Closed on Weekends • Website: https://garwoodpl.org/

For more information and to register for programs, visit garwoodpl.org, call 908-789-1670, or email garwoodlibrary@garwood.org.

The Library will be closed

Monday, February 17, for President's Day.

Knitting Club

February 3,10, and 24 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

February 3, 10, and 24 at 3 pm Informal chess games for children of all ages. Note this is non-instructional supervised play. No registration required. Limit 12.

Storytime

February 4, 11,18 and 25 at 10 am and 11 am

Join Miss Maryanne for stories and more. Registration is required. Limit 12.

Registration is required

STEAM Activity.
February 4, at 3:30 pm

Join the Steam Sharks from Union County Magnet School for another adventure in STEAM. Registration is Required, Limit 10.

Aging Services Kiosk (ASK)

February 5 from 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

Library Board Meeting

February 5 at 7:30 pm

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

Crazy Chem Works.

February 6, 13, 20, and 27 at 3 pm
Children 2nd grade and older will make gooey slime, experiment with different reactions and learn to use the tools that chemists use.
Polymers and catalysts are only two of the fascinating concepts young scientists explore in this thrilling trip through the chemistry lab!

Registration is

Grab and Go Kid's Craft

February 11 at 3pm

Pick up supplies and instructions for a seasonal craft. Registration is required for craft kits and is limited to 15 participants.

Grab and Go Adult Craft

February 11 at 3pm

Pick up supplies and instructions for a seasonal craft.. Registration is required for craft kits and is limited to 15 participants.

From Italy with Love,

February 11, at 7 pm.

this musical performance features an array of Italian classical songs performed by renowned vocal tenor Salvatore Chiarelli.

Adult Game Day

February 12 at 1 pm

Come in out of the cold, play Runikub, Sorry, Uno, or cards and enjoy socializing with others.

No registration required. Limit 12.

LEGO CLUB

February January 19 @ 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

Monday Book Club

February 24 at 1 pm

Join us for a lively discussion of this month's book, Clete By James Burke.



(above) Congratulations to John Nolan, pictured with Mayor Jen Blumenstock, who was honored at a recent Garwood Council meeting for his 9 years of service on the Library Board of Trustees.

Courtesy photo

FIREFIGHTERS WANTED

Garwood Fire Department Seeking Firefighters

OPENINGS FOR JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS 8TH GRADE STUDENTS OR AGES 14 - 18 Interested? Call 908-789-8877

Leave a Message or Stop By for More Info Sunday Morning: 9 - 12 Monday Eventings: 7 - 9





ALJ UNIFIED BASKETBALL

Clark Public Schools

On Tuesday, January 14, Arthur L Johnson's (ALJ) Unified played their first game of the season against Union City. Unified Sports is a program run by Special Olympics that supports students with and without disabilities playing sports together. The goal of this program is to establish relationships between students with and without disabilities both on and off the court. Unified Sports advisors, Miss Jenn Barbera and Mrs. Emily Colonni have worked very hard this year to create a team, composed of 12 students.

Despite a loss, the ALJ Unified team played their hearts out. The students had a great time and learned the importance of sportsmanship and teamwork.

"Unified Sports has been a huge part of my life since college. Being able to coach a high school program has been such a dream and I am so proud of the team! The team has worked very hard in practice these last few weeks and I am excited to see where the rest of the season brings us! A special thank you to Mr. Gus Kalikas, Mrs. Tara Oliveira, Mrs. Katrina Poskay and Dr. Heather Austin for all your support this school

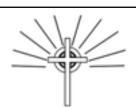
year," said ALJ Special Education teacher and Unified co-advisor, Miss Jenn Barbera

"I am so grateful and proud to be able to help start Unified at the high school level. Seeing students of all abilities work together and have fun, brings joy to my heart. I am so excited for all the hard work and efforts so far. I would like to thank the ALJ administration for their continued support. I look forward to continuing to grow the program," said ALJ Case Manager and Unified co-advisor, Mrs. Emily Colonni.

Follow us on instagram at sounified_ alj for updates!



Photos by Clark Public Schools



Celebrating IOO Years of God's Grace 1925-2025

We are thrilled to announce that Redeemer Lutheran Church will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2025!

This is an incredible milestone that marks a century of Redeemer's faithfulness, fellowship, and service to our community.

Throughout the year, we'll be hosting a series of exciting events to honor this momentous occasion. These events will culminate in a

Grand Anniversary Celebration: Sunday, September 28, 2025

2:00 PM Worship Service in the sanctuary Fellowship Reception to follow in Luther Hall, featuring food and beverages.

Whether you've been with us for years or are new to our church family, we invite you to join us in giving thanks for all that God has done, and will continue to do, through Redeemer Lutheran Church. Stay tuned for more details about upcoming anniversary events!

Let's honor the past, rejoice in the present, and look forward to a bright future together.

Redeemer Lutheran Church • 229 Cowperthwaite Place, Westfield NJ

NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

Clark Public Schools

On January 12, 2025, Mackenzie Thompson, of Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark, N.J., joined together with other female student-athletes from New Jersey's high schools, colleges, and universities at Rutgers University in celebration for National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NAGWS). NAGWS is one of the largest events in the state that recognizes women's athletics. Mackenzie was nominated by her coaches and ALJ Administration for her accomplishments as an outstanding high school female student-athlete in soccer, basketball, and track & field.

NAGWS is recognized in all 50 states to honor the success of female athletes and recognize the struggle for equality for women in sports. The Outstanding Athlete Awards were presented to one individual from each high school, junior college, and college in attendance.



(above) Mackenzie Thompson

Photo by Clark Public Schools



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UNAMI PARK TRAILS DAY SUCCESS

Garwood Green Team

The Garwood Green Team held its most successful Unami Park Trails Day ever on Saturday, November 9, 2024. Over 35 residents and friends worked together to complete several improvements as part of the Team's ongoing rejuvenation of the overlooked wooded section of Unami Park at the base of Center Street in conjunction with the Team 'Adoption of Unami Park'.

Team members partnered with members of the Union County Native Plants Society, Garwood Mayor Jen Blumenstock, and Lincoln School science, and St. Anne's Confirmation classes. A special guest was Hillside Mayor Dahlia Vertreese and members of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. Love all those community service requirements, and the group sponsors!

The team used post hole diggers to install 10 bird houses constructed by 2024 Lincoln School students at the NJ School of Conservation, and artistically painted by the 2025 Lincoln School Builder's Club, on 10' poles donated by Statewide Fencing of Garwood. Garwood TEAM effort! Muscles were growing as two-foot-deep holes (minimum) were dug in very dry and difficult 'soil.'

Other volunteers laid out cardboard donated by LIDL to continue smothering the non-native, invasive stilt weed grasses, while another group

covered them with wood chips donated by Union County. The Team has covered over 800 sq. ft. of invasive plants and looks forward to planting plugs of native plants in spring 2025. We will be looking for MORE volunteers!

Another group spread more chips along the Center Street, Garwood to Twin Oaks Terrace, Westfield path to cover emergent weeds, reestablish a section that was damaged by heavy rain that fell in September, and to add depth to the rest of the chip base. This will be an ongoing maintenance project undertaking by the Team. The Union County Parks Department is looking into a more permanent solution for the erosion.

Participants created a thicket composed of branches gathered in the area which will serve as a 'safe haven' for birds, chipmunks, squirrels and other small creatures to hide in to escape local predators such as owls and hawks.

A final group planted native Sweetgum, Eastern Redbud, Hawthorn, Oak and black cherry trees in an attempt to jump start the recreation of the understory tree layer which has been obliterated by deer munching. Hundreds of Oak, Maple, American Holly, Hickory and Sweetgum seedlings are spread throughout the forest floor, but the deer do not let them grow

any higher than 6-8". A future article will explain what the Team is undertaking to improve that situation.

(above) Mary Roberts of the Union County Chapter of the NJ Native Plants Society explains how to reclaim areas from invasive species. Courtesy photo



Sun & Mon:

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Ask for TV Project Department, for job evaluation and estimate of cost and compensations!

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Garwood LIDL once again provide refreshments - croissants- for all volunteers, and Union County Parks Department provided their 'Tool Truck' from which numerous tools were used. Volunteers provided wheelbarrows, shovels, hay forks, rakes, post hole diggers, and other tools. All of this work was completed in three hours by dedicated volunteers who graciously donated their time, talents and treasures to advance a little bit of nature in our midst.

Anyone who is interested in joining the Garwood Gren Team or participating in future projects can contact w-nierstedt@garwood.org.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Garwood Board of Education designates the following meeting dates for Regular Public Meetings, for the 2025 calendar year; all meetings to be held on Tuesday, in accordance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" and formal action may be taken at any meeting; all meetings to be held in the Lincoln School Cafeteria, commencing at 7:00 pm.

Meeting Date	Meeting Type
January 21, 2025	Regular Meeting
February 18, 2025	Regular Meeting
March 18, 2025	Regular Meeting
April 29, 2025	Public Budget Hearing
May 20, 2025	Regular Meeting
June 17, 2025	Regular Meeting
August 19, 2025	Regular Meeting
September 16, 2025	Regular Meeting
October 21, 2025	Regular Meeting
November 18, 2025	Regular Meeting
December 16, 2025	Regular Meeting
January 6, 2026	Reorganization Mtg.

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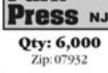
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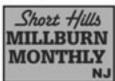
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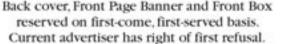
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2025 NJ FMBA COOKED & UNCORKED

On Monday, February 24, 2025, firefighters from around New Jersey will compete at the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival, at the Pines Manor in Edison. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Mark A. Virag Memorial Cancer Fund, Family Promise of Bergen County, and The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off is an integral part of the evening as firefighters will compete in three different categories: Gourmet, Firehouse and Dessert.

The competition is part of the culinary extravaganza where participants will be able to experience the tastes and flavors of some of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers, and dessert shops all in one location.





DON'T MISS OUT ON THE COOKING COMPETITION OF THE YEAR!

MONDAY FEBRUARY 24TH, 2025 PINES MANOR, EDISON 6:00PM - 9:00PM DOORS OPEN AT 5:00PM

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT MARK A. VIRAG MEMORIAL CANCER FUND FAMILY PROMISE OF BERGEN COUNTY THE BURN CENTER AT COOPERMAN BARNABAS



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