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AZARI REDDICK HONORED WITH “IT TAKES A VILLAGE AWARD”

Linden Public Schools

With a heart as fierce as a warrior and a smile that could light up a city, 9-year-old Azari Reddick stood before the Linden Board of Education, not just as a student but as a symbol of strength, resilience, and hope.

The School No. 4 second-grader has faced challenges that most could hardly imagine, yet she continues to inspire everyone she meets. At the February 27 Board of Education meeting, Azari was honored with the district’s prestigious “It Takes a Village Award”—a recognition of her unwavering courage and the community that has stood by her side.

At just two years old, Azari was diagnosed with brain cancer, a battle that would test her strength and resilience beyond measure. But rather than allowing adversity to define her, Azari has redefined what it means to be courageous.

Through countless doctor visits, exhausting treatments, and physical hardships, she has never wavered in her determination to embrace life. Her laughter fills the halls of School No. 4, her kindness lifts those around her, and her presence serves as a daily reminder that perseverance can conquer even the greatest obstacles.

“Despite countless doctor visits, treatments, and physical hardship, Azari has shown up—not just for herself, but for her peers, teachers, and family,” said Dr. Suzanne Olivero, Principal of school No. 4. “She walks into our school each day with a smile that lights up the hallways, reminding everyone that courage isn’t the absence of fear, but the determination to move forward in spite of it.”

Azari’s journey has been one of love, perseverance, and unbreakable support. Standing proudly beside her at the ceremony was her mother, Shakeema Whitted, and other loving family members, who have been by her side every step.

Also in attendance were teachers and staff from School No. 4, a testament to how deeply Azari has touched the hearts of those around her. Their presence underscored the meaning of the “It Takes a Village Award”—a reminder that true strength is built on the foundation of community,



(above) Azari Reddick was honored for being a legacy of encouragement and hope.

Photo by Linden Public Schools

encouragement, and unwavering belief in one another.

Azari’s impact extends far beyond her own journey. She embodies kindness, compassion, and an infectious joy that uplifts everyone around her. Whether it’s cheering on a friend, offering a helping hand, or sharing an encouraging word, she leads with her heart, inspiring her classmates, her teachers, and the entire Linden school community.

“Azari embraces every moment with a joy that is contagious, encouraging her classmates and inspiring her teachers,” said Dr. Olivero. “Her kindness and compassion are as profound as her courage—she is always the first to cheer on her friends, lend a helping hand, or share an encouraging word.”

The “It Takes a Village Award” is more than just a recognition—it is a reflection of the power of community, love, and the unbreakable human spirit. Azari’s journey is a testament that no one walks through life’s challenges alone. Her family, friends, teachers, and the Linden community have all played a part in her incredible story, proving that we all rise to lift them higher when one of us struggles.

As she stood before the Board of Education to accept her award, Azari was not just a student being recognized—she was a beacon of hope, a symbol of resilience, and an inspiration to all.

And so, with every step she takes, Azari Reddick continues to remind us all to be braver, kinder, and stronger—just like her.

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Concert Date	Band Name	Genre
June 3	Sensational Soul Cruisers	Motown
June 10	Men of Soul - Earth, Wind and Fire	Motown
June 12	Afterwork House Music	House
June 14	Legends of Linden	
June 17	High Strung	Rock/Country
June 24	Discoteks	70's Disco
July 1	The Verdict	Reggae
July 8	Larger Than Life - The Ultimate Boyband Experience	Pop
July 15	Valerie Adams & Dimension	Jazz/R&B
July 22	Dzieci PRL-U & SOVA	Rock/Metal
July 24	House Music	House
July 29	Pipe Smoke & Gasoline	Rock
Aug. 5	Frontiers - Journey Tribute	Soft Rock
Aug. 12	Jo Bonanno and the Spirit of Asbury Park	Rock
Aug. 19	80's Revolution	80's Genre
Aug. 21	After Work House Music	House
Aug. 26	3D Rhythm of Life	Latin Rhythm
Sept. 2	Kryer	Hard Rock
Sept. 9	Epic Soul	Soul/ R & B
Sept. 19	Blues People	Blues
Sept. 25	Afterwork House Music	House

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(above) Linden public schools celebrated our incredible team of 20 school nurses across the district in honor of National School Nurse Day on May 7th. From caring for our students to supporting our staff, they are the heartbeat of Linden Public Schools. Thank you for all you do today and every day!

Photo by Linden Public Schools



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LIBRARY PROGRAMS

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Website: <https://lindenlibrary-nj.gov/>

The Linden Public Library is pleased to announce our lineup of programs for June. Programs marked with an * require pre-registration.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Book Club: The case of the missing maid by Rob Osler

6/4 - 6:30 pm

De-Stress Fest

6/11 - 6:30 pm

Trivia

6/17 - 7 pm

Adult Craft Club- Stone cactus painting

6/18 - 6:30 pm*

Morning Makers Craft Club- Stone cactus painting

6/19 - 10 am*

NJ Travel Bingo

6/20 - 2:30 pm

Juneteenth Program: Cathy Williams

6/25 - 6:30 pm

Cookbook Creations: Pasta Making

6/30 - 2:30 pm*

In addition to these, movies will be held

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1 pm

for the full listing of movies please visit our website or call.

Chair Yoga will be held

every Tuesday at 10 am

Project Healthy Bones

every Wednesday at 10 am.

CHILDREN & TEEN PROGRAMS

De-Stress with Perler Beads!

6/5 - 3 pm (teen)

Father's Day Craft

6/9 - 4 pm (children)

String Bracelets

6/12 - 2 pm (teen)

When the Calvary Came to Call

(Juneteenth program)

6/16 - 4 pm (children)

SUMMER READING KICKOFF PARTY (CHILDREN):

Touch a Truck

6/26 - 9 am-12 pm

Color Your World Cake decorating

1 pm*

Terrific Toddlers Playtime

every Wednesday at 10:30 am in the Children's Room.

All programs are presented free of charge.

Space is limited so advance registration is recommended. To register please call 908-298-3830 or email adultprograms@lindenpl.org for adult programs and childrensprogramslindenpl.org for children's programs. For more information on these or other programs please call or visit our website at LindenLibrary-NJ.gov. Please like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram.

SEA SCOUT OPEN HOUSE – JUNE 21

The crews of Liberty Sea Scout Squadron from Patriots' Path Council will host their annual open house at the Carteret Marina, located in the Carteret Waterfront Park, 200 Middlesex Avenue, Carteret, NJ, on Saturday, June 21, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The open house will include tours of our primary training vessel, the Sea Dart II, an introduction to the Sea Scout program, and nautical activities. Our members are from across Northern New Jersey; historically from as far as Warren, Sussex, and Ocean counties.

The Sea Scouting program is open to male and female youth ages 14 to 21. The crews operate a fleet of vessels that include the Sea Dart II, sailboats, powerboats, and paddle craft out of the Liberty Nautical Education Center (libertynautical.org) on the Rahway River in Linden, NJ. Aboard the vessels, young men and women learn nautical skills, including navigation and engine room maintenance, while visiting

various ports on their many trips. Come down to visit and the scouts will be glad to welcome you aboard!

Courtesy photo



(above) The scouts will be glad to welcome you aboard during our open house on Saturday, June 21, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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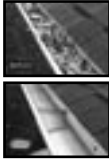
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ARBOR DAY CELEBRATED WITH SONG, SPIRIT, AND SOIL

Linden Public Schools

Sunshine, music, and the promise of growth filled the air as School No. 10 celebrated National Arbor Day 2025 with a joyful outdoor ceremony that brought together students, school leaders, city officials, and community partners. The event embraced this year’s national theme: “Plant Trees, Make a Difference.”

More than 50 kindergartners and first graders, many dressed in bright orange shirts, gathered on the school’s sun-drenched front lawn to perform cheerful, tree-themed songs in a spirited guitar-led singalong with music teacher Mrs. Walton.

Their infectious enthusiasm filled the air as proud teachers, staff, and guests clapped and sang along.

At the center of the celebration stood a four-foot-tall Linden tree, donated by Columbia Bank, symbolically rooted on school grounds where students will watch it grow for years to come. Children eagerly took turns watering it with jugs and slow-drip irrigation bags, gaining firsthand experience in nurturing the environment.

After enjoying the student performances — including a catchy tune referencing a “pineapple tree” — Mayor Armstead took the mic to read an official Arbor Day proclamation, offering a mix of humor and heartfelt reflection on the day’s significance.

“Arbor Day is more than just a day outside,” he said. “It’s about planting trees that clean our air, protect our soil, and give wildlife a place to live. There’s pollution in the air, and sometimes adults act like we don’t care — but that’s not fair to you. It’s our job to teach you how to care for the environment so you can protect the planet for the next generation.”

He shared the origins of Arbor Day, which began in 1872 with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and reminded students how trees also boost home values, beautify communities, and provide a vital sense of peace and renewal.

Principal Chris Happel welcomed guests by connecting the celebration to Linden’s roots — literally.

Following a student-led Pledge of Allegiance

and the School No. 10 Pledge, Superintendent Perkins offered a message focused on gratitude, environmental awareness, and long-term impact.

“Even now, this tree is giving us shade,” Dr. Perkins said. “Trees block out the sun, help cool our homes, and support wildlife. When it rains, they get watered — and when you water them, you’re taking responsibility for something that helps the Earth. Today you are part of something that matters.”

She added, “Years from now, when this tree is tall and wide, I hope students will be sitting under its branches — and I hope they know it was you who helped it grow.”

SINGING, SMILES, AND SOIL

The celebration concluded with group photos around the newly planted Linden tree, where students stood proudly with city leaders and district officials. Inside, guests enjoyed light refreshments while students excitedly asked who was strong enough to lift the next watering jug.

One kindergartner captured the spirit of the afternoon perfectly, grinning between bites of an orange snack: “It tastes like sunshine!”

From music to mulch, Arbor Day at School No. 10 was a joyful reminder that even the smallest hands can help make the world a greener, better place - one tree at a time.



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BLOSSOMING BOWLERS HAVE FAMILY FUN DAY DURING SPRING BREAK



(above) Participants at the Blossoming Bowlers had fun during Spring Break at Jersey Lanes on April 24, 2025. It was a joyful family day filled with great vibes, food, music, and fun!

Photos by City of Linden

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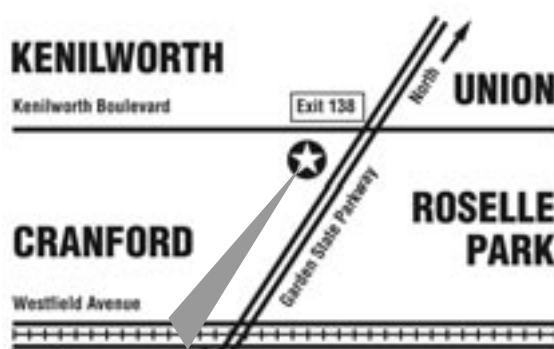
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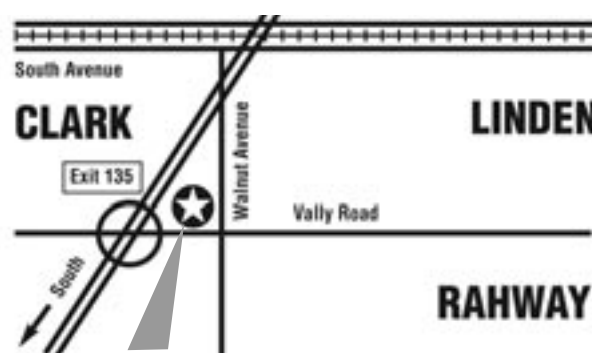


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CELEBRATING SEVEN OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS

Linden Public Schools


Seven outstanding educators were honored for their service, dedication, and commitment to shaping young minds and strengthening the Linden community during the First Baptist Church of Linden’s Educators Brunch held in April. Please join us in congratulating

- Dr. Atiya Y. Perkins,**
Superintendent of Linden Public Schools
- Danie Orilien,**
Director of the Multilingual Learners Department
- Rachelle Crawley,**
Principal School No. 5
- Gwendolyn Long,**
Principal, Soehl Middle School
- Laurence “LJ” McGhee,**
Vice Principal, Linden High School
- Chyna L. Glover,**
Social Worker, School No. 2
- Michelle Majorette,**
a pre-K Aide, School No. 5




Photo by Linden Public Schools


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ST. THERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS PARISH CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

City of Linden

The Parish of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus marked a significant milestone on Sunday, April 27th, 2025, celebrating its 100th anniversary with a jubilant Mass held at the church. The centennial celebration continued with a special reception at The Grand in Totowa.

Mayor Derek Armstead proudly recognized this enduring congregation for its century of service to the Linden community. "For the past 100 years, the St. Theresa community has been an integral and deeply valued part of our City," Mayor Armstead noted. "Their contributions, both spiritual and communal, have enriched the lives of countless residents."

Founded in 1925, St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish has served as a cornerstone of the Linden community, initially established to meet the spiritual and educational needs of the Polish immigrant population. Over the past century, the parish has grown into a diverse and vibrant faith community, holding a special place in the hearts of generations of Linden residents.

The City of Linden extends its heartfelt congratulations to St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish on this remarkable achievement and wishes them another 100 years of faith, service, and community spirit. Sto Lat!



(above) In honor of, The Parish of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus marking their 100-year
Photo by City of Linden

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SENIORS PAINT CLASS



(above) Linden seniors recently had the opportunity to paint an inspiring picture with the theme of health and wellness at the JTC Center. Each senior was offered coffee, tea, and donuts before they painted.

Photo by City of Linden

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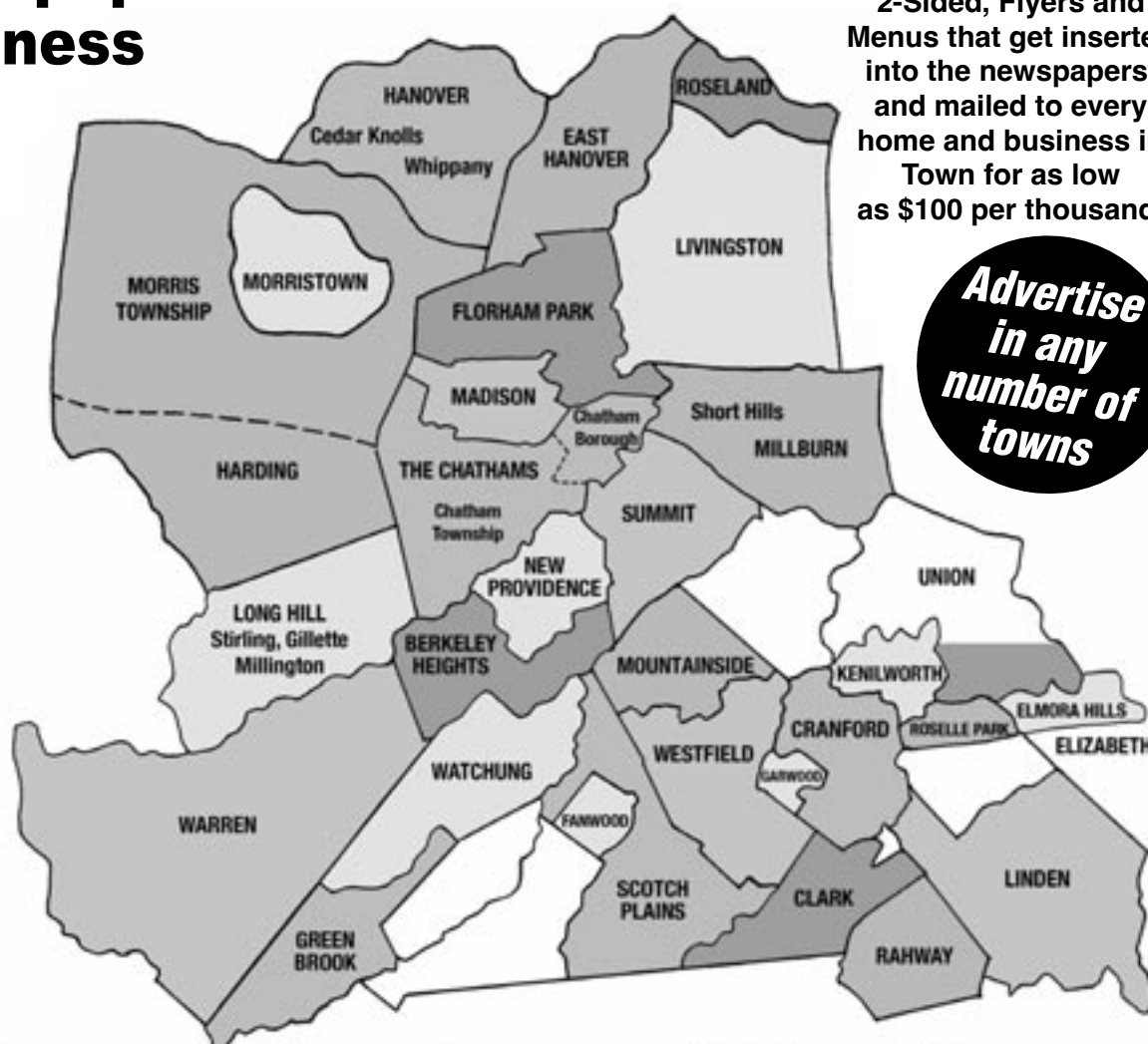
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6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
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