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FOOTBALL TEAM ANNUAL FIRST CHILDREN'S SCHOOL VISIT

On Thursday, August 14, 2025, members of the Arthur L. Johnson High School Crusader Football Team participated in a visit to the First Children's School, located in Plainfield, New Jersey.

The First Children's School in Plainfield is a stepping off point for children who need highly specialized educational services for some period of time in their lives. First Children's services extend into the home districts of students with special needs where they are invited to work with faculty and administration to assure that children with special needs get cutting-edge services in their home schools. The dedicated staffs, including teachers, aides, and therapists, are prepared to deliver their services in the schools and homes of the children they serve. First Children partners with districts and other providers like Children's Specialized Hospital and Eden Autism Services to make

sure that the children receive the very best services possible.

Members of the Crusader Football Team went into various classrooms and participated in a multitude of activities relating to the school's curriculum.

Gus Kalikas, Head Football Coach, had this to say about the event. "The football program was thrilled to be able to assist with the daily routines and to participate in activities held at the First Children's School. It was fun watching our Crusader Student Athletes as they interacted with the children, and I think both groups not only enjoyed the experience, but learned a lot while doing it."

The Arthur L. Johnson High School Crusader Football Team would like to thank everyone associated with the First Children's School for welcoming us and allowing us to be a part of a fabulous day.



(above) The 2025 Arthur L. Johnson Crusader Football Team visits the First Children's School on August 14, 2025.

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COURSE ON HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR LOVED ONE'S MENTAL HEALTH JOURNEY

The NAMI Family-to-Family Education Course will be offered by the Union County Chapter of NAMI. The course will meet in person starting on Thursday evening October 9th and meet each Thursday from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. over a consecutive 8-week period in Scotch Plains. The course is free-of-charge, with all necessary materials furnished at no cost to participants.

The course is specifically for the parents, siblings, spouses/partners, teen-age and adult children, and significant others of individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. The program is not appropriate for individuals who, themselves, suffer from one of the major mental disorders. NAMI members who have completed intensive training will teach.

Curriculum topics include schizophrenia,

bipolar disorder (manic depression), clinical depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder etc., the clinical treatment of these illnesses and how caregivers can learn to cope more effectively. Attendees will learn about new research, medications, skills needed to successfully communicate with a relative and how to deal with critical periods.

Advance registration is required. To register or if you have questions contact Evelyn Nath at (908-377-4886) or email evelynodat@gmail.com

Family-to-Family education has been called one of the most valuable programs NAMI offers. Many graduates say it changed their lives and interactions with their loved ones for the better.

Visit namiunioncountynj.org for more information about the NAMI Family to Family Education program.

OPERAS ON FILM ANNOUNCES SEASON LINEUP

Mountainside Rescue Squad
Operas on Film, now in its 12th season is held at the Mountainside Rescue Squad. The selected films from famous opera houses throughout the world, will be played with subtitles on the second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. hosted by Mena Clemson and Norma Huber, Jr. It is free to attend. Whether you are an opera buff or an opera neophyte, you are invited to join us for the following films:

October 10th, THE MERRY WIDOW
Seefestspiele Mörbisch, 2005
comedy, 150 mins
November 14th, THAIS
starring Renee Fleming
Metropolitan Opera 2008, 138 mins
December 12th, I LOMBARDI
starring Jose Carreras LaScala
1984, 127 mins

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INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA BUILDS CONNECTION THROUGH MUSIC

At a time when many people are searching for meaningful, screen-free ways to connect, the New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) offers something special: a space where musicians of all ages and levels come together to create music, and where audiences are invited into that same spirit of community.

Founded on the belief that orchestra is for everyone, NJIO welcomes people of all ages and

musical levels into its four non-audition orchestras. By blending generations and skill levels, NJIO creates more than music; it creates moments of human connection, belonging, and joy.

All NJIO concerts are free, open to all ages, and require no tickets or RSVPs. Each performance is also livestreamed and recorded for later viewing on NJIO’s YouTube channel, ensuring accessibility. Concert lobbies feature NJIO’s Concert Comfort Station, offering sensory and comfort items such as cushions so everyone can enjoy the music.

A SEASON OF “SPIRIT”

This year, NJIO’s 32nd concert season carries the theme “Get Into the Spirit!”, highlighting the natural spirit, the holiday spirit, the human spirit, and the national spirit. Each program is designed to draw people together around a shared experience of beauty and hope.

• FALL CONCERT:

**The Natural Spirit November 2, 2025 at 3pm
Crescent Ave Presbyterian Church, Plainfield**

Beethoven’s “Pastoral” Symphony paints a picture of meadows, flowing streams, and a sudden storm. The concert also features the NJIO 2025 Young Artist Concerto Competition winner (sponsored by NJIO’s community partner, Elefante Music), Marcus Chong-Wah Wong, a 9th grade violinist from Edgewater, NJ.



• FAMILY HOLIDAY CONCERT:

**The Holiday Spirit December 13, 2025 at 2pm
Summit Middle School**

A joyful celebration of holiday and winter favorites, including interactive moments for kids and an Instrument Petting Zoo sponsored by Elefante Music.

ABOUT NJIO

The New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) brings together musicians of all ages and skill levels through four non-audition orchestras and educational programs. Its mission is to open the world of orchestral music to diverse audiences and to foster human connection through education and performance.

For more information, visit www.njio.org or email info@njio.org

THE NJ INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA PRESENTS



Spirits of nature

Sunday, November 2 • 3:00 PM

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, Plainfield

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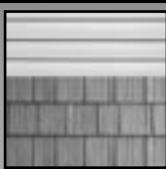
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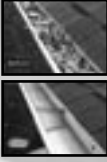
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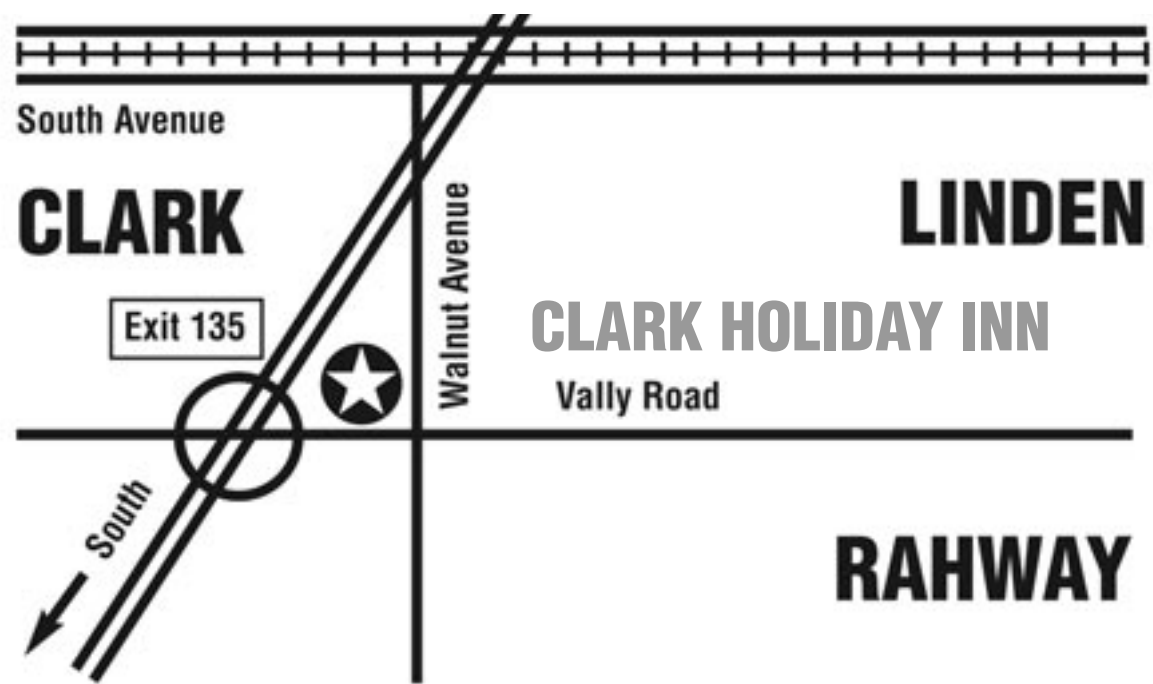
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MORRISTOWN PUP NABS SPOT IN 2025 BARK FOR LIFE CALENDAR

She’s got the ears of a supermodel, the zoomies of a champion sprinter, and a bark that says “treat, please.” Meet Josie, Morristown’s unofficial mayor of South Street — and now, one of the proud winners of the 2025 Bark for Life Calendar Contest!

After a week-long voting frenzy, Josie galloped ahead of the competition to earn a coveted feature in this year’s 2025 Bark for Life calendar. And not just a cameo — a full-page glam spread, complete with her story, her signature side-eye, and plenty of reasons why she’s the queen of local hearts.

But Josie’s calendar win is more than just a photo op. It means she’ll be a VIP (Very Important Pup) at the Bark for Life of Central NJ celebration on October 12, 2025 at Bell Works in Holmdel, where she’ll be officially honored for her victory — likely with applause, belly rubs, and maybe a few snacks.

WHO IS JOSIE?

Josie is a 4-year-old Australian Cattle Dog (allegedly)— though some suspect she may also be part professional napper and part mayhem enthusiast, depending on the hour. She was rescued as a puppy and now lives her best life ruling the sidewalks and hearts of Morristown.

Known for her expressive ears, her suspiciously dramatic sighs, and a highly curated side-eye, Josie has become a local celebrity — both on leash and online.

Her favorite things include: Car rides (windows down, please), Sidewalk café people-watching (her favorite being the Lokl!), Chasing squirrels she has no intention of catching, Ignoring her toys to chew sticks instead, and Judging humans from the couch like it’s her full-time job.

In short: she’s a rescue with attitude, heart, and a whole lot of fans.

WHAT IS BARK FOR LIFE?

The Bark for Life event is part of the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life movement. It

honors the caregiving qualities of canine companions while raising critical funds for cancer research and support services — especially here in New Jersey.

Proceeds from calendar sales and fundraising events all go toward supporting programs like free rides to treatment, overnight stays near major cancer centers, and 24/7 access to cancer information and support for patients and families. **GET INVOLVED!**

Missed your chance to vote for Josie? You can still be part of the tail-wagging fun. Donations are open at the Bark for Life of Central NJ

website, and registration is now live for the October 12 celebration at Bell Works.

Whether you’re walking in honor of a loved one, supporting a survivor, or just want to hang out with some adorable dogs (like Josie), this is your chance to do some good — and pet some pups.

Big paws up to Josie and all the calendar winners! Be sure to snag your copy of the 2025 Bark for Life Calendar, come say hi to Morristown’s finest furry ambassador this fall, and follow @ispyjosie and @barkcentralnj to come along for this year’s adventure!



(above) Paws Up for Josie!

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WEST FIELDS CHAPTER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Submitted by Christopher D. Sands

This summer has been a very busy time for the West Fields Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. In June the chapter presented the SAR Bronze Medals to cadets at the Perth Amboy, and Linden High School Naval JROTC's and Roselle's Abraham Clark High School Marine Corps JROTC. The Army's 250th Birthday was on the 14th of June and there were a few events the members participated in to commemorate it. On 13 June the Association of the United States Army held a ceremony at the Founding Forward Medal of Honor Grove in Valley Forge. On the 14th the chapter helped Commentate the Battle of Springfield with the Church and Cannon Chapter of the DAR and also held an Army 250th Birthday party at the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield. On the 26th of June the Chapter again celebrated the 250th Army Birthday as part of a combined Color Guard at the AUSA Northern NJ Chapter Gala in Jersey City, while other members conducted Color Guard activities at the Battle of the Short Hills Commemoration in Edison. On June 28th we laid a wreath at the Statue of General von Steuben at the Battle of Monmouth event.

The 4th of July was very busy as members attended the reading of the Declaration of Independence at the grave of Abraham Clark, one of the five signers of the Declaration from New Jersey, in Rahway Cemetery. Then they traveled to Perth Amboy for the towns "Let Freedom Ring" 4th of July event. Perth Amboy was the Capitol of East Jersey in Colonial times. They finished the day at the Kearny VFW for the

Town of Kearny's 4th of July event.

On the 7th of July chapter members attended the rededication of the Pastor James Caldwell and his Wife Hannah's monument in Elizabeth. Caldwell the "Fighting Pastor" and his wife were killed by the British during the Revolutionary War. Then they mustered at the crypt of Colonel Elias Dayton who Commanded the 3rd NJ Infantry Regiment. The New Jersey Color Guard uses the 3rd NJ 1776 "Jersey Greys" uniform for its color guard members.

Members also celebrated the Franco-American Alliance of the Revolutionary War by attending two General Lafayette and two General Rochambeau events. The 200th Anniversary of General Lafayette's 1824 tour of America were held in Bordentown on July 11th and 13th July in Morristown. While the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Events were in Philadelphia on 20 July and the March to Yorktown Day this past weekend in Westfield.

The National Society had its 135th Annual Congress at the Mohegan Sun Resort in Connecticut from 12 July through the 18th. During the week of 23 July members participated in the

Monmouth County 250th opening celebration at their county fair. After opening the fair by the presentation of the Colors by the color guard, we helped man a Revolutionary War tent the rest of the fair. In August members traveled to York, PA for the North Atlantic Middle States District Meeting. On 17th of August members took part in the grave marking for ten American patriots including Alexander Hamilton and Lewis Morris



above) New Jersey Society President and also the West Fields Chapter President Chris Sands with a Mohegan Warrior.

in Trinity Church Cemetery, NYC. On the 23 and 24 of August members took part in the 249th commemoration of the Battle of Brooklyn. On the 23rd it was held at the Old Stone House and on the 24th it was conducted at on the green in front of Green-Wood Cemetery front gate and on top of Battle Hill inside the cemetery.

The Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is a genealogical society which was Chartered by an Act of Congress. It is the largest male lineage organization. If you would like to learn more about the West Fields Chapter of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution please contact President Chris Sands at chrissands44@aol.com.



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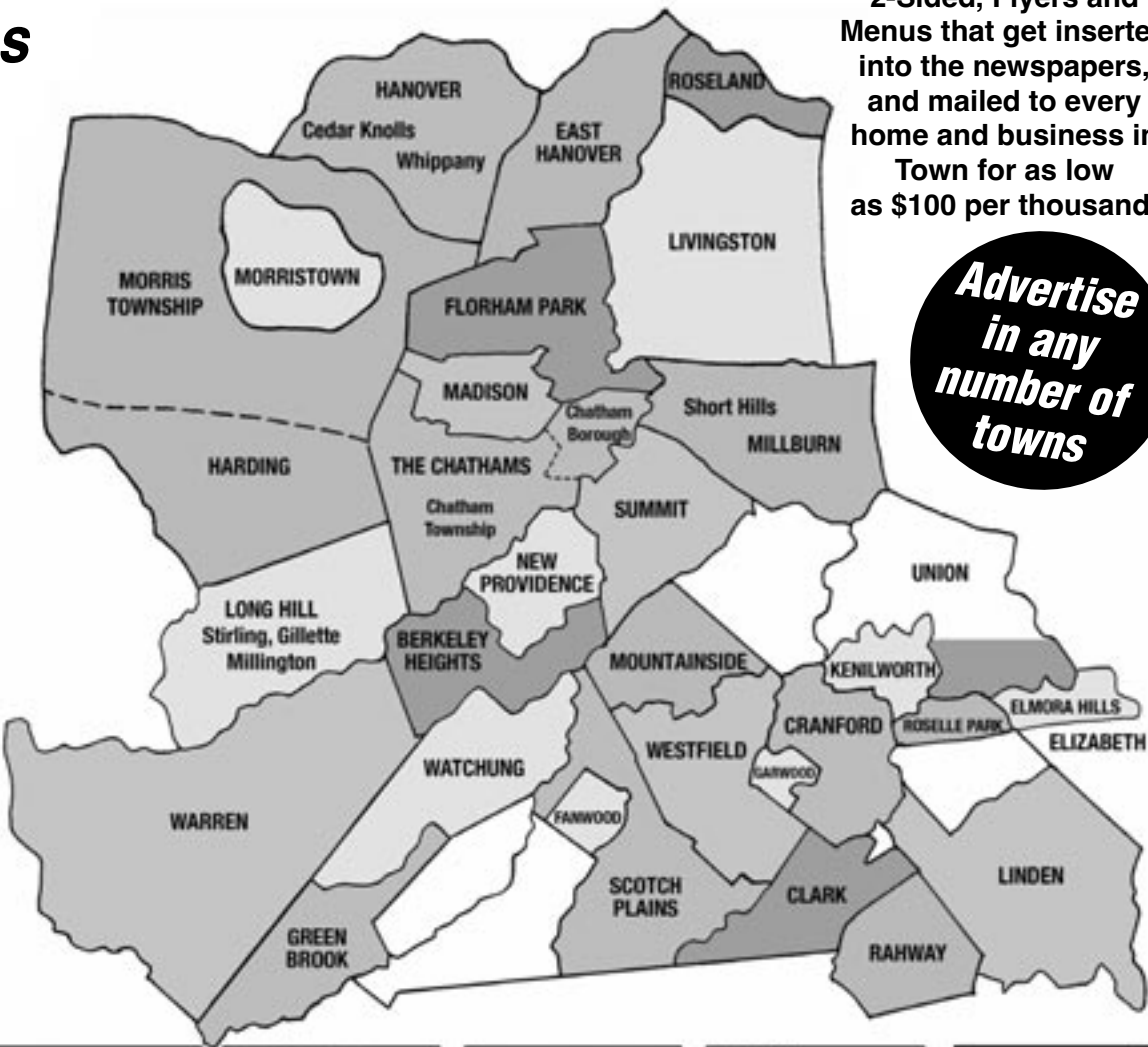
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GARWOOD LIBRARY OCTOBER EVENTS

Decorate a Ghost or Witch

September 26 through October 21

Pick up and decorate a wooden Ghost or Witch while supplies last. Return it to the Library for display through October 21, then take it home for Halloween. Each participant will receive a goody bag when they return a decorated pumpkin. For kindergarten through 8th Grade.

Knitting Club

October 6, 20 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

Storytime

October 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 10 am and 11 am

Join Miss Maryanne for stories and more.

Registration is required. Limit 12.

Virtual Kids Craft

October 7 @ 3pm

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

Library Board Meeting

October 8, @ 7:30 pm

A meeting of the Garwood Library Board of Trustees will be held at the Garwood Public Library at 7:30. Open to the public

Virtual Kids Craft

October 7 @ 3pm

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

Coding with Unruly Splats

October 2 and 9th at 3 pm

Unruly Splats transforms coding into an active engaging experience where kids stomp jump and play their way to learning essential STEM skills. 10, For 2nd grade through 5th grade.

Virtual Adult - Craft Pick

October 14 @ 3pm

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

Adult Game Day

October 15 and 22 at 1 pm

Socialize with others while playing Rummikub, Sorry, Uno, or cards. No registration required. Limit 12

LEGO CLUB

October 16 at 3 pm

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

Registration required Limit 12

Monday Book Club

October 20 at 1 pm

Join us for a lively discussion of this month's book, Tell me Everything by Erika, Krouse.

Golish Delights - Dessert Contest!

October 22 at 7 pm

A Halloween-inspired bake-off where adults put their creepiest, crawliest, and most creative desserts to the test! Judging Criteria:

Taste – Presentation

Prizes: 1st Place & 2nd Place: Gift Cards

Crowd Favorite: Special Prize

Bring your most frightfully delicious dessert masterpiece and see if you can impress both our judges and the crowd!



(above) Congratulations to Robyn. Her name was drawn as the winner of the Library Survey Prize - a \$100 Visa gift card.

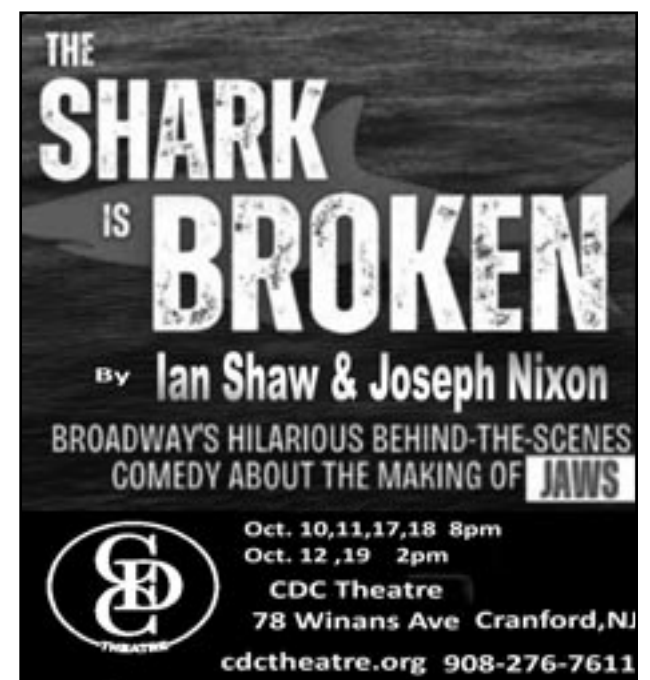
Courtesy Photo

ALJ ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME DINNER

The Arthur L. Johnson High School Athletic Hall of Fame will welcome its newest members during a dinner and induction ceremony on Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Gran Centurions, 440 Madison Hill Road in Clark.

The 2025 induction class, just the second in the history of the ALJ Athletic Hall of Fame, will include coaches Katrina Poskay and Robert Taylor, the 1995 Undefeated State Championship Football Team, and student-athletes Billy Wilson '65, Warren Brown '75, Patti Jaworski '78, Ken Petren '81, Lynn Krohn '83, Jim Bodner '88, Jason Pressman '90, Ray Megill '03, Aleks Ochocki '08, Scott Klimchak '09, Brian Megill '09, Jessica Rusin '09, and Emily Vargas '10.

Tickets to this celebration of Crusader Athletics excellence are priced at \$65. For more event and ticket information, please contact Robert Smorol at robert.smorol@outlook.com.



St. Joseph Social Service Center Fundraising Dinner

Thursday **16** OCTOBER 6:00 PM

The Westwood 438 North Avenue, Garwood, NJ

50/50 RAFFLE | TRICKY TRAY | GIFT CARDS

HONORING Harold "Kess" Kessler

Please Register or Become a Sponsor by October 6

Questions? Call Mary Phillips

908.354.5456 x401

www.sjeliz.org/special-events



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per yard

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- Jersey Brown.....\$40

MULCH

- Black Dyed.....\$33
- Brown Dyed.....\$33
- Red Dyed.....\$35
- Hardwood\$24
- Playground.....\$35

QUARRY BASE MATERIALS

- Mason Sand\$60
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- Stone Dust.....\$39
- QP\$48

DECORATIVE STONE

- 3/8 Riverbed / Pea Gravel\$70
- 3/4 Riverbed\$75
- 1 1/2-3 Riverbed.....\$99
- 3/4 Red Stone\$84
- 3/4 Goose Egg.....\$125
- 2-4 Goose Egg\$135
- 3/4 Arctic White\$120

Prices subject to change without notice.

