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STEPHEN GREET 91 MILE RUN BUYS AED EQUIPMENT FOR PARKS

Stephen grew up in Garwood, NJ, whose motto is “Small Town, Big Heart.” Now living on Manhattan’s Upper West Side just a block from Central Park, Stephen has recreated that sense of small-town closeness in the middle of the city, as his building has become a family hub, housing his identical twin brother Justin, their spouses, and in-laws.

When Stephen Greet saw a woman collapse during his morning run through Central Park on Father's Day, he didn't hesitate. The former EMT dropped to his knees and began chest compressions as park staff scrambled to find an automated external defibrillator (AED), the portable device that can restart a heart during cardiac arrest.

“Those minutes felt like an eternity,” he recalled. Despite every effort, the woman did not survive. That loss stayed with him and sparked a mission that would soon move an entire community. “I realized there weren't enough AEDs in places where people gather,” Stephen said. “Every second matters, and every second without an AED is costing a life.”

After winning a 100-mile ultramarathon, Stephen wanted a challenge that went beyond physical endurance rooted in meaning and community impact and had been eyeing a Fastest Known Time. When he shared his idea with childhood friend Ryan Bjellquist-Ledger, founder of RunByRyan, they immediately joined forces and Ryan began coaching Stephen.

Determined to make a difference, Stephen connected with The Aliver Foundation, a volunteer-run nonprofit founded by Garwood resident Jill A. Pall after she had cardiac arrest at Echo Lake Park. The organization's mission is to raise awareness and funds to install all weather AEDs in outdoor recreation spaces while also providing crucial resources and educational opportunities to individuals and communities.

Stephen launched a fundraising campaign, figuring he might be able to fund one lifesaving bundle consisting of an all-weather, climate-controlled outdoor enclosure and AED at a cost of \$2,500.

On October 11, during Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month, Stephen set out to run 124 miles (20 full loops of Central Park) in a single



(above) Ryan and Stephen

Courtesy Photo

day. His goal was to break the park's single-day mileage record while raising funds for The Aliver Foundation.

A tent near the 96th Street entrance became a gathering point for cheering family and friends, as well as strangers who stopped to ask questions, scan a QR code, and donate.

After nearly 14 hours and 91 miles, Stephen's left quadriceps seized, forcing him to stop at 7:55 p.m. By the end of the day, Stephen's campaign had raised over \$10,000, surpassing what is needed for four lifesaving equipment bundles to be purchased.

Each October marks Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month, a national effort to educate the public on recognizing cardiac arrest, performing CPR, and using an AED. Sudden cardiac arrest has an out-of-hospital survival rate of just 8% and kills more than 350,000 Americans each year. Every minute without defibrillation reduces the chance of survival by 10 percent.

To learn more or donate to Stephen's campaign, please visit: thealiverfoundation.org/stephenrunscentralpark.



(above) Supporters urged Stephen on along the route.

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GarwoodTimesNJ

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UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS

email recreation@garwood.org • (908) 789-0710 ext. 4. • on Facebook at facebook.com/garwoodreccom • on Instagram • at instagram.com/garwoodnj

The Garwood Recreation Committee announces its upcoming winter holiday events and activities including the Holiday Tree Lighting, Family Skate Night, Holiday House Decorating Contest, Santa's Mailbox, and the Menorah Lighting.

The Annual Holiday Tree Lighting

Saturday, Nov 29th from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Borough Hall (403 South Avenue).

The event will feature music, fun family friendly activities, vendors, food trucks, and special guest, Santa Claus! The Garwood Police will also be collecting donations for Toys for Tots. This event is free and open to the public.

The Garwood Family Skate Night

Saturday, November 29th from 6 to 8 p.m.

Warinanco Sports Center (One Park Drive, Roselle). Garwood residents are invited to skate for free! Pre-registration for the Garwood Family Skate Night is required and can be done by visiting: garwoodrec.com

The Festival of Lights

at the Garwood Annual Menorah Lighting

Hanukkah in December, with the date to be announced. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will take place at Borough Hall (403 South Avenue). This event is free and open to the public and will feature music, cider and donuts, and a crafts activity for kids.

Annual Holiday House Decorating Contest

entries being accepted until December 20th.

Garwood residents can enter into the contest for a chance to win a gift card.

drop a letter into Santa's Mailbox

by December 20th

The children of Garwood are again invited to drop a letter into Santa's Mailbox this year by December 20th for a reply by Christmas. Santa's Mailbox will be located at the Garwood Public Library located at 411 Third Avenue in Garwood starting December 1st.

OPERAS ON FILM 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:

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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**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19
6 P.M.**

Arthur L. Johnson High School
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INVITE TO EDUCATION FOUNDATION MEETING

The Education Foundation of Garwood (EFG) is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the students and staff of the Garwood Public Schools.

OUR IMPACT

- We have been supporting the Garwood Public Schools since 2004.
- Annually, the EFG provides grants directly to Garwood Schools teachers and high school graduating seniors.

GET INVOLVED!

You are invited to the next meeting to find out:

1. More information regarding the EFG.
2. How YOU can help this organization continue its mission.

See you on Tuesday, November 4th, 2025
at Lincoln School, Art Room

JOIN US to help support our Garwood students and teachers! Contact email:
garwoodeducationfoundation@gmail.com

SCANDINAVIAN FOOD & GIFT SALE - NOV 22ND

Lodge Linne #429 will be sponsoring their 45th annual Scandinavian Food & Gift Sale on Saturday November 22nd from, 10 am -3pm. The sale will be held at Salt Brook School, 40 Maple St., New Providence, NJ. We will feature Scandinavian Christmas decorations, Norwegian Sweaters, tomtar, candles, linens, housewares, imported foods and baked goods. Light Scandinavian refreshments will be served starting at 11:00. Lodge meetings are held the 3rd Friday of the month at Faith Lutheran Church, 524 South St., New

CALL FOR MURAL ARTISTS FOR UNDERPASS

The Borough of Garwood is seeking proposals for a mural that is up to 85 feet x 6.5 feet for the Center Street underpass wall.

Theme: Garwood - Then and Now

Submission deadline: December 15, 2025

Email proposals to: j-arthur@garwood.org

Proposals must include: Artist's full name, contact information, at least one mock up of a proposed design, a brief description of the work, requested compensation (inclusive of all costs), and at least two previous work samples.

Design parameters: Designs may fill up the entire wall, a portion of the wall, or be broken up into panels. Designs may also include the 2 feet slanted wall that is located above the 85 feet x 6.5 feet flat wall. The wall is located on the west side of the underpass.

The mural is to be painted in 2026.

For more information or for questions, please contact John Arthur at j-arthur@garwood.org.

Providence. FREE ADMISSION, Handicapped accessible. The event is sponsored by Lodge Linne #429, Vasa Order of America.

Proceeds from the sale benefit many local organizations and charities such as First Aid Squads, local libraries, high school scholarships, Sage, Summit speech schools and New Providence Community Organization.

For Further information contact:

Karen 908-665-1292, Judy 908-464-0139,
Vibeke 908-313-0376.

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Salt Brook School
40 Maple Street, New Providence, NJ
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INFO: Karen 908-578-1945 • Judy 908-464-0139



(above) Nancy Lamensdorf, Erin Cook, Margaret, Warlick, Carol Liscinsky, and Carol Liscinsky.

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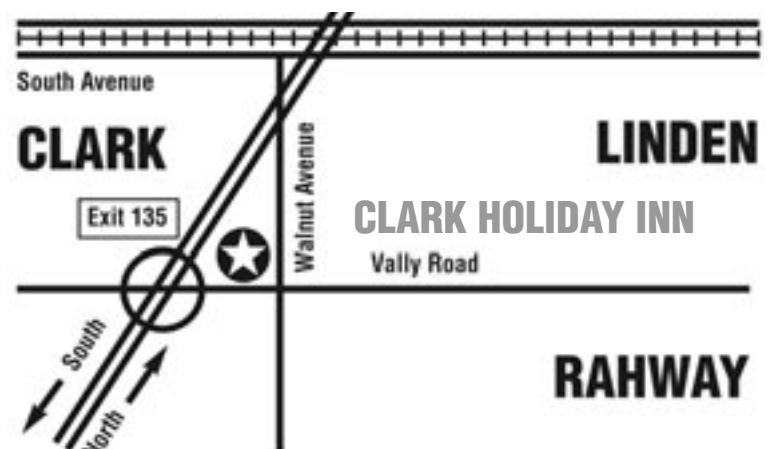
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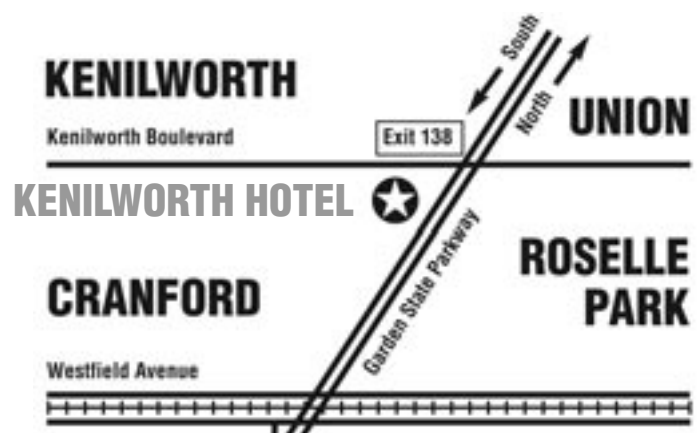
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**TWO WEEKS IN NOVEMBER
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NJ FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA: CANDLELIGHT CONCERT AND TENORS RETURN

Step into an evening of sophistication and charm as the New Jersey Festival Orchestra presents its first-ever candlelight concert, *Romance in the Mansion*, on Saturday, November 15 at 6:30 PM at the James Ward Mansion in Westfield.

Under the baton of Music Director and Maestro David Wroe, a string quartet of NJFO musicians — Bradley Bosenbeck (Violin I), Théo

Payen (Violin II), Gregory Williams (Viola), and Ansel Cohen (Cello) — will perform an intimate program that blends the romance of Broadway, the emotion of cinematic scores, and the allure of contemporary classics. Audiences will be swept away by lush arrangements from beloved artists such as ABBA, Coldplay, George Gershwin, and more — all illuminated by the warm glow of candlelight in one of Westfield’s most elegant settings.

Guests can indulge in complimentary wine and small plates as they enjoy this unique fusion of artistry and atmosphere. With its golden décor, intimate seating, and unforgettable musical program, *Romance in the Mansion* promises to be a highlight of the NJFO season.

NJFO gratefully acknowledges the Ward family for generously sharing their beautiful space to support this fundraising event. Proceeds will help bring notable soloists to future NJFO concerts and fund community initiatives such as the orchestra’s Listening is Healing music therapy program. Earlier this season, NJFO musicians Yifei Xu and Matthew Armbruster shared the gift of music with patients at Overlook Hospital in Summit, NJ, an inspiring example of the impact programs like Listening is Healing bring to the community.

“We are thrilled to present this intimate concert experience and deeply grateful for the generosity that allows us to continue sharing music both on stage and beyond,” said Maestro Wroe.

Following *Romance in the Mansion*, NJFO rings in the festive season with one of its most anticipated events — *The Return of the Holiday Tenors*.

Back by popular demand, this symphonic spectacular will fill the concert hall with the magic of the holidays, featuring award-winning tenors John Kun Park, Luke Norvell, and Michael DeShield alongside guest choruses and the full New Jersey Festival Orchestra. Together, they’ll perform an uplifting program of holiday classics, Broadway-style showstoppers, and beloved seasonal songs that capture the joy and wonder of the season.

Under Maestro Wroe’s direction, this festive performance blends grand symphonic arrangements with soaring vocals and heartwarming moments, making it a beloved tradition for families across New Jersey.

Performances take place on Saturday, December 6, at 7:00 PM at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, and on Sunday, December 7, at 3:00 PM at The Concert Hall at Drew University in Madison.

From the candlelit elegance of *Romance in the Mansion* to the jubilant voices of *The Return of the Holiday Tenors*, NJFO’s 2025 season offers something truly special for every music lover.

Tickets are available at njfestivalorchestra.org or by calling the NJFO office at (908) 232-9400 during operational hours. Seating is limited, and early reservations are encouraged.

**NEW JERSEY
FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA**
MUSIC DIRECTOR DAVID WROE

Romance in the Mansion
 **Sat, November 15, 6:30 pm**
The James Ward Mansion,
169 E Broad St, Westfield, NJ

Return of the Holiday Tenors
Sat, December 6, 7:00 pm
The Presbyterian Church, Westfield
Sun, December 7, 3:00 pm
The Concert Hall at
Drew University, Madison 

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH OPERA AT FLORHAM’S HOLIDAY SHOW

Celebrate the magic of the season as Opera at Florham presents its beloved Annual Holiday Spectacular at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, 6 Sussex Avenue, Morristown, NJ.

This cherished holiday tradition invites audiences to enjoy an enchanting afternoon of Operatic favorites, holiday classics, and festive cheer. Featuring a stellar cast of acclaimed vocalists and musicians, the concert promises to fill the air with warmth, joy, and the timeless beauty of the human voice.

Whether you’re a lifelong Opera lover or discovering Opera at Florham for the first time, this delightful performance captures the spirit of the holidays through music that transcends generations. From beloved Arias to familiar seasonal melodies, the Holiday Spectacular is a joyful celebration of artistry and community - perfect for audiences of all ages.

WHY YOU CAN’T MISS IT

Opera at Florham’s Holiday Spectacular is more than a concert - it’s a heartwarming experience that has become a highlight of the holiday season across New Jersey. Each year, this festive performance transforms St. Margaret of Scotland Church into a winter wonderland of music, where world-class voices and live accompaniment inspire wonder and joy.

Expect to be swept away by the power of the human voice, the beauty of timeless melodies, and the spirit of togetherness that defines this

**Opera at Florham**
Founded in 1982

**Opera at Florham
presents
HOLIDAY
SPECTACULAR**

**Sunday, December 7, 2025
3:00 pm**
St. Margaret of Scotland Church,
6 Sussex Ave, Morristown, NJ

 **\$30 GENERAL ADMISSION**
Tickets & Information
operaatflorham.org
973-443-8620
info@operaatflorham.org

OPERA AT FLORHAM IS A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Opera at Florham
presents
Founded in 1982

Two SOPRANO & TENOR
When Two Sopranos Meet a Tenor



**Sunday, November 9, 2025
2:00 pm**
The Mansion at
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Madison, NJ

 **\$30 GENERAL ADMISSION**
Tickets & Information
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973-443-8620
info@operaatflorham.org

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THE SIEMINSKI THEATER FUND RAISING EVENT OF THE YEAR!



SIEMINSKI THEATER
CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

Fundraising Event of the Year
Saturday, November 15 at 6pm

MY UNAUTHORIZED
Hallmark
MOVIE MUSICAL

A fun-filled evening including hors d'oeuvres, drinks, live musical production, dessert bar, raffles and more. All to help raise funds for future Sieminski Theater productions.

The Sieminski Theater is a 501c3 performing arts non-profit.

For more information or tickets, visit
SieminskiTheater.org
or call (908) 580-3892

The Sieminski Theater, a professional 501c3 not-for-profit performing arts center located in Basking Ridge NJ, announces our 2025 fund raising event of the year!

Saturday November 15th at 6:00pm Join us for this fun-filled evening and fundraising event for the Sieminski Theater! Just in time for the holiday Hallmark movie season, and who doesn't love those cheesy Hallmark holiday movies! "My Unauthorized Hallmark Movie Musical"!

In this innovative one-woman musical show, supported by a cast of eight characters in her imagination via multimedia, we escape into her movie fantasy where men and women find courage and acceptance to speak their own voice without judgement. Frivolous, fractured, and fun musical moments take you on a ride of pure joy where love always wins. "My (unauthorized) Hallmark Movie Musical" is a unique and captivating blend of live theater and cinema, offering audiences a spellbinding escape into the magic of a rom-com where they, too, can discover their inner love warriors. The story follows an exhausted essential worker who finds solace in binge-watching cheesy Hallmark movies. As she attempts to write her own Hallmark-inspired musical, the characters suddenly come to life on screen, taking over the

story and challenging her to wade through the cheese and find a truly happy ending.

The evening will start with a cocktail reception in the lobby with Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Then move into the theater for this delightful, lighthearted musical production. Afterwards, enjoy a dessert bar and champagne and an opportunity to meet the star of the show. There will be raffles, drawings and more surprises. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go to future programming at the Sieminski Theater. An event not to be missed and will help keep the Arts alive at the Sieminski Theater!!

ABOUT THE SIEMINSKI THEATER:

Bringing a professional performing arts venue with a diverse lineup of entertainment to Basking Ridge and the surrounding communities makes the Sieminski Theater and Somerset County an artistic and cultural destination. We enjoy a newly expanded performance schedule from American Theater Group, Light Opera of New Jersey, New Jersey Festival Orchestra, Trilogy Repertory, and countless national touring groups. Our intimate, award-winning non-profit venue features technical amenities that rival any Broadway theater. Visit us at www.sieminskitheater.org to view our upcoming entertainment schedule, where any seat is the best seat in the house.

EXPERIENCE ROCK, SOUL & OLDIES AT DREW UNIVERSITY CONCERT HALL

Get ready for a season of unforgettable live music that spans generations and genres. Drew University Concert Hall is hosting a powerhouse lineup of shows that bring the best of American rock, soul, and oldies to the stage. Whether you're a lifelong fan or discovering these classics for the first time, each performance promises a night of nostalgia, energy, and pure musical joy.

ROCK & SOUL HIGHLIGHTS

NOV. 1 – THE B STREET BAND:

THE MUSIC OF BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

Kick off the series with the ultimate tribute to The Boss. The BStreet Band has been electrifying audiences for over 40 years with their spot-on renditions of Springsteen's greatest hits. From the anthemic "Born to Run" to the heartfelt "Thunder Road," this show captures the spirit, sound, and soul of Jersey rock. Expect a high-energy night of sing-alongs, storytelling, and Springsteen magic that'll leave you on your feet.

NOV. 21 – MOTOR CITY REVUE:

MOTOWN TRIBUTE FEATURING LAYONNE HOLMES

Feel the groove with this 11-piece powerhouse that brings the golden age of Motown to life. With rich harmonies, tight rhythms, and powerhouse vocals led by Layonne Holmes, Motor City Revue delivers unforgettable renditions of hits by The Temptations, The Supremes, Stevie Wonder, and more. It's a soulful celebration that will have you dancing from the first note to the last.

DEC. 14 – TRIBUTES TO MELLENCAMP

AND BAD COMPANY: ONE STAGE, ONE NIGHT

Two rock legends, one epic night. Experience the heartland grit and storytelling of John Mellencamp alongside the anthemic rock energy

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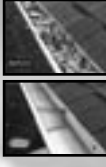
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