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Issue 95 • December 2025

A GREAT LINE UP OF HOLIDAY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



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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 will take place on Saturday, November 29th from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at 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 Department will also be collecting donations for Toys for Tots. This event is free and open to the public.

The Garwood Family Skate Night will also take place that same evening on Saturday, November 29th from 6 to 8 p.m. at 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 Garwood Annual Menorah Lighting will be held during Hanukkah on Tuesday, December 16th. The event will begin at 7:00 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.

The Annual Holiday House Decorating Contest will again take place with entries being accepted until December 20th. Garwood residents can enter into the contest for a chance to win a gift card (and bragging rights!).

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.

For more information about the Garwood Recreation Committee's upcoming holiday events and activities, please email recreation@garwood.org or call (908) 789-0710 ext. 4. For announcements and updates, follow us on Facebook at [garwoodrecom](https://www.facebook.com/garwoodrecom) or on Instagram at [instagram.com/garwoodnj](https://www.instagram.com/garwoodnj)



Photo from 2022

DECEMBER 16 Menorah Lighting
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Borough Hall (403 South Ave)
Celebrate the Festival of Lights!
Entertainment, free cider and donuts,
arts and crafts!

NOVEMBER 29 Christmas Tree Lighting
3:30 pm to 5:30 pm
Borough Hall (403 South Ave)
Music, entertainment, fun activities, food
trucks, ugly sweater contest, and special
guest Santa Claus!

Family Skate Night

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Warinanco Skating Rink
One Park Drive, Roselle, NJ
Pre-Register at: www.garwoodrec.com

DECEMBER 1-20 Santa's Mailbox
Drop a letter in Santa's mailbox by
December 20th for a reply by
Christmas. Santa's Mailbox located
at the Garwood Public Library (411
Third Avenue). Include first name,
last name, and address on the letter.

Holiday House Decorating Contest

Enter into the contest by visiting:
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High school seniors in New Jersey who are U.S. citizens, are in need of financial assistance to continue their education, and plan to attend a college or university in the U.S., may apply for one or both scholarships offered by the New Jersey State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

The Vail Scholarship provides a one-time award of \$2,000 to a student who plans to major in political science, history, government or economics.

The New Jersey State DAR Scholarship offers a one-time award of \$1,000 to a student who reflects the DAR objectives of community

service and patriotism.
The deadline to submit applications is December 31, 2025. Scholarships will be awarded in April 2026.

For application forms, contact Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter DAR at ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com.

DAR is a nonprofit, nonpolitical, service organization open to women 18 and older who are descended from a man or woman who aided the cause of American independence. The mission of the DAR is to promote education, historic preservation, and patriotism.

Learn more at www.DAR.org.

COUNTDOWN TO JULY 4TH, 2026

America250 - In New Jersey & Nationwide

Next year, on July 4, 2026, the United States of America will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our country's past, to honor the contributions of all Americans, and to also look ahead towards the future that we want to create and leave behind for the next generation of Americans.

On the federal level, America250.org is a nonpartisan initiative working to engage every American in commemorating the 250th

anniversary of our country. This multi-year effort, from now through July 4, 2026, is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond.

In New Jersey, RevolutionNJ.org has been set up and is a partnership between the New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC), a division of the New Jersey Department of State, and the nonprofit Crossroads of the American Revolution Association to plan the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in New Jersey.



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ALJ SIGNING DAY CEREMONY HONORS GRADUATING STUDENT ATHLETES

Clark Public Schools

On Wednesday, November 12, 2025, various staff members and administration at Arthur L. Johnson High School participated in a signing day ceremony to honor multiple student athletes for their years of service to Crusader Athletics and commemorate their moving on to continue their athletic and academic careers as NCAA Collegiate Athletes.

The following student athletes were honored for signing their NLI to continue their athletic and academic careers collegiately:

SOFTBALL:

- Elizabeth Yanni
Division I Seton Hall University

FIELD HOCKEY:

- Avery Forfa
Division I Vermont University
- Alisia Hamm
Division I Merrimack University

MEN'S LACROSSE:

- Matthew Robertazzi
Division II Pace University
 - Adrian Varon
Division I Wagner College
 - Jack Kalikas
Division I Vermont University
- Gus Kalikas, Athletic Director at Arthur L. Johnson High School, had this to say about the event. "All of these student athletes have been

an integral part of the success of our athletic programs while competing at Arthur L. Johnson High School the past four years. More importantly, they have been model student athletes that did things the right way both on the fields, in the classroom, and throughout our community. Although it will be sad to see them leave, the Crusader's loss is their respective college's gain, and we look forward to following their successful collegiate athletic careers over the next four years."

Crusader Athletics would like to wish the best of luck to all of our student athletes moving on to participate in NCAA Collegiate Athletics.



(above) Crusader Athletics would like to wish the best of luck to all of our student athletes moving on to participate in NCAA Collegiate Athletics.

Photo by Clark Public Schools



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/game/event/clarknj12-06-25-07-00pm/

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CHARLES NEMETH PARTICIPATES IN PANEL DISCUSSION ON AI

Clark Public Schools

Charles Nemeth, a senior from Arthur L. Johnson High School, recently participated in the student panel of the Union County School Board's Association Hybrid Meeting - AI from the Student's Perspective: Learning, Limits, and Lessons. Students shared how artificial intelligence is shaping their educational experiences. According to the SBA, "This student-led discussion explored the academic benefits of AI, how students navigate issues of academic integrity, and the concerns they see for the future. Their perspectives offer valuable guidance for educators and helps build policies and guidelines moving forward."



(above ALJ senior Charles Nemeth

Photo by Clark Public Schools

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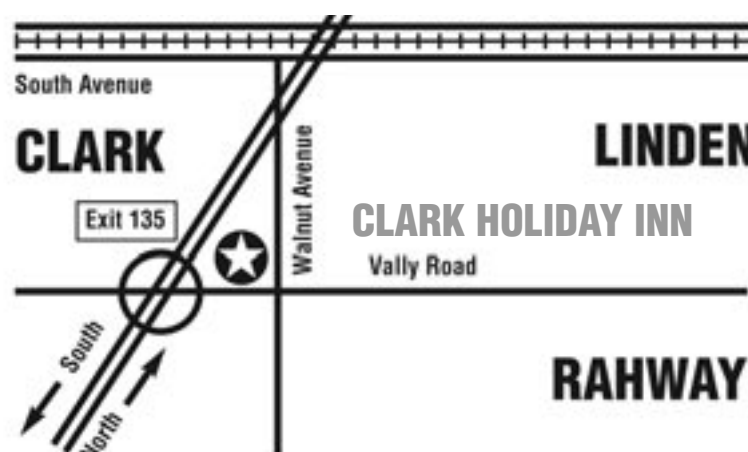
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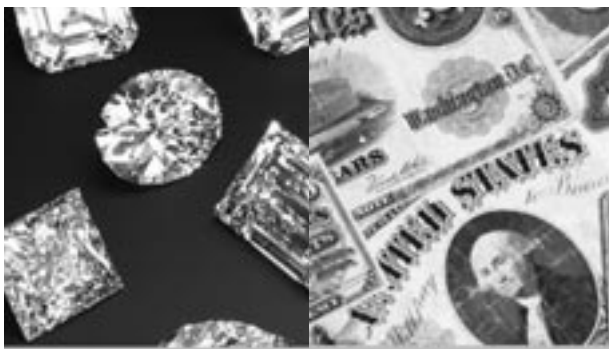
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- Loose Diamonds
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- Engagement Rings

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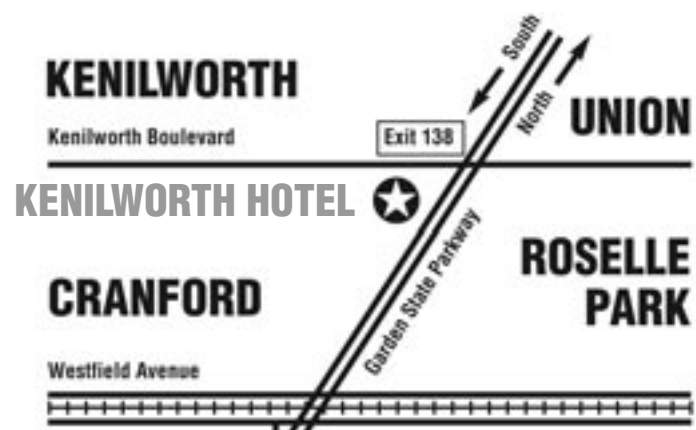
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LIBRARY EVENTS

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Knitting Club

December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - 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.

Send a Letter to Santa

December 2 through December 20

Children can write a letter to Santa and drop it in his mailbox located at the Garwood Library. Be sure to include your child's first name, last name, a return envelope with a stamp and delivery address. Sponsored by the Garwood Recreation Committee.

Holiday Photo Station

December 2 through December 20

Come take your holiday picture at our do-it-yourself Holiday Photo Station complete with a festive backdrop and a cardboard Santa. Goodie bags for kids available while supplies last.

Code Forward

December 2, 9, 16 at 3:30 PM

offers middle school students the opportunity to learn computer programming languages such as Java, Python, and more.

Library Board Meeting

December 3, @ 7:30 pm

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

Storytime

December 2, 9, 16, and 23 at 10 am and 11 am

Join Miss Maryanne for stories and more.

Registration is required. Limit 12.

Virtual Kids Craft

December 9 @ 3pm

Pick up supplies and instructions for a 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

December 10 and 17 at 1 pm

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

Limit 12

Build a Robot

December 11 at 3 pm

with the Brooklyn Robot Foundry. – It's a combination of engineering and crafts. Students can take their robots home for more fun. For students in 2nd to 4thgrade. Limit 10.

Monday Book Club

December 22 at 1 pm

Join us for a lively discussion of this month's book, The Dressmakers of Prospect Heights by Kitty Zeldis.

Virtual Adult Craft

December 16 @ 3pm

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

OPERAS ON FILM

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:

December 12th, I LOMBARDI

starring Jose Carreras LaScala
1984, 127 mins

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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.

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

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ALJ ATHLETIC AWARDS & LETTERS -TO OVER 190 STUDENT ATHLETES



(above) Alisia Hamm 2025 Fall Student Athlete Award Winner.

Photos by Clark Public Schools



(above) 2025 Fall MVPs



(above) 2025 Fall Best Teammates



(above) 2025 Fall G.P.A. Winners – ALJ Tennis program



(above) 2025 Fall G.P.A. Winners - ALJ Field Hockey Program

Clark Public Schools

The Arthur L. Johnson Athletic Department recently held their 2025 Fall Athletic Awards. All the Fall Athletic Teams and their seasons were highlighted by their coaches while all athletes received letters and awards. Over 190 varsity athletic letters were awarded throughout the evening, as participation in athletics at ALJ High School continues to prosper.

The program culminated with the Student Athlete Award, which was presented by the Athletic Director of ALJ High School, Mr. Gus Kalikas. The Student Athlete Award is given out each athletic season to a student athlete that is not only a champion on the field, but in the classroom as well. The 2025 Fall Student Athlete award recipient was Alisia Hamm, with a 4.49 G.P.A.

In addition, the Crusader G.P.A. Challenge was awarded to the team that finished with the highest overall G.P.A. amongst athletic teams for the fall season. The recipients were presented with certificates and will have their team memorialized on a plaque to celebrate their actions both in the classrooms and on the fields. The Girls' Tennis Team with a G.P.A. of 4.15. Members of the Girls' Tennis Team: Lena Blumenstock, Juliana DeDeo, Victoria Martino, Gianna Olas, Jaylin Rivera, Yazmin Yoplac, Isabel Martinez, Meera Raguseo, Naiana Caballero Herrera, Carisa Socci, Ellie Heyder, and Alyssa Telewiak And The Field Hockey Team with a G.P.A. of 3.96: Liliana Budnik, Alyssa Donkersloot, Elizabeth Fitzharris, Avery Forfa, Alisia Hamm, Alyssa Szarszewski, Olivia Blanche, Hailey DeChellis, Addison Herko, Caitlyn Marcazo, Eden Ordner, Lia Simitz, Juliet Spond, Tyler Ortiz, Colleen Sullivam, and Barbara Winouski.

The Best Teammate Award will be given out seasonally to one member from each athletic team that best fits the characteristics of a good teammate. The individuals that receive these awards exhibit upbeat attitudes and outstanding character. They helped influence the team's culture in a positive manner, while always supporting teammates and promoting team unity. The Best Teammate Award Winners were: Cross Country – Mitchell Goodell and Alesandra McFadden, Field Hockey – Elizabeth Fitzharris, Football – Jack Kalikas, Boys' Soccer – Leo Ruggiero, Girls' Soccer – Kayla DeReamer, Girls' Tennis – Tori Martino, Volleyball – Olivia Castro, and Cheerleading – Brooke Dreher.

The evening culminated with the announcement of the Team Most Valuable Players. The MVPs were: Cross Country – Colin Maloney and Ava Szarszewski, Field Hockey – Avery Forfa, Football – John Brown, Boys' Soccer – Gregory Galante, Girls' Soccer – Suzie Pires, Girls' Tennis – Lena Blumenstock, Volleyball – September Ho, and Cheerleading – Ella Rishko.

Athletic Director Gus Kalikas, had this to say about the event: "Once again, our Fall Athletic Awards Program was a successful event as it allows the District, Administration, and Coaches the opportunity to acknowledge a wonderful Fall Sports Season as well as recognize both student athletes and their parents alike for all that they have accomplished this past fall athletic season."

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Post NJ**

Qty: 3,000
Zip: 07023

**Florham
Park
Press NJ**

Qty: 6,000
Zip: 07932

Garwood NJ
Times

Qty: 2,500
Zip: 07027

**Green
Brook NJ**
Gazette

Qty: 3,300
Zip: 08812

**HANOVER
TOWNSHIP PRESS NJ**
CEDAR KNOLLS
WHIPPANY

Qty: 6,100
Zips: 07927, 07981

**BUSINESS • LIFE
KENILWORTH NJ**

Qty: 3,500
Zip: 07033

**NJ
LIFE in
LINDEN**

Qty: 18,000
Zip: 07036

Livingston NJ
Monthly

Qty: 12,100
Zip: 07039

**Long Hill
LEADER NJ**

Qty: 3,500
Zips: 07933,
07946, 07980

**MADISON
MONTHLY NJ**

Qty: 6,300
Zip: 07940

**Short Hills
MILLBURN
MONTHLY NJ**

Qty: 8,200
Zips: 07041,
07078

**MORRIS
TOWNSHIP
TIMES NJ**

Qty: 13,500
Zip: 07960,
Harding 07976

**MORRISTOWN
MONTHLY NJ**

Qty: 7,000
Zip: 07960

**MOUNTAIN
SIDE NJ**
VIEW

Qty: 3,000
Zip: 07092

**New
Providence
NEWS NJ**

Qty: 5,100
Zip: 07974

**OUR
TOWN
Rahway, NJ**

Qty: 13,100
Zip: 07065

**Life in
Roseland NJ**

Qty: 3,000
Zip: 07068

**ROSELLE
PARK
MONTHLY**

Qty: 5,600
Zip: 07204

**Scotch
Plains NJ**
WHAT'S HAPPENING
MONTHLY

Qty: 9,600
Zip: 07076

Summit NJ
Times

Qty: 9,600
Zip: 07901

**Spirit of
UNION NJ**

Qty: 7,800
Zip: 07083 (partial)

**WARREN
MONTHLY NJ**

Qty: 6,500
Zip: 07059

**Watchung
Post NJ**

Qty: 2,700
Zip: 07069

Westfield NJ
MONTHLY

Qty: 12,000
Zip: 07090

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100	260	360	460	560	600	660	700	800	900	1000
150	360	560	600	700	800	900	1000	1100	1200	1300
240	560	900	1000	1300	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000	2100
320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
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TWO CONCERTS: HOLIDAY TENORS & BROADWAY THROUGH THE AGES

New Jersey Festival Orchestra ushers in the holiday season with two major December performances that showcase the full breadth of the orchestra’s artistic range.

Under the direction of Maestro David Wroe, NJFO welcomes audiences to celebrate the magic of the season with Return of the 3 Holiday Tenors on December 6 and 7, followed by the orchestra’s signature New Year’s celebration, Broadway Through the Ages, on December 31 and January 1.

Return of the 3 Holiday Tenors features award-winning vocalists John Kun Park, Luke Norvell, and Michael DeShield, each bringing a distinct artistic profile to this beloved NJFO tradition. Park, praised for his “radiant lyricism,” has appeared with major opera houses across the country. Norvell, known for his “effortless charm and ringing tenor,” continues to shine as a rising star on both concert and operatic stages. DeShield, celebrated for his powerful presence and versatility, is a frequent soloist with ensembles throughout the Northeast.

The trio joins NJFO for a sparkling program of holiday favorites, classical tenor showpieces, and uplifting choral moments. They are joined by the Holy Trinity Choir of Westfield and Central Avenue Choir of Madison, adding festive warmth and community spirit to this seasonal celebration. Performances take place Saturday, December 6 at The Presbyterian Church in

Westfield and Sunday, December 7 at Drew University in Madison.

The festivities continue with Broadway Through the Ages, NJFO’s dazzling New Year’s tradition performed in Westfield and Basking Ridge. This year’s concert brings together a powerhouse lineup of guest artists: Tess Marshall, acclaimed for her magnetic stage presence and vocal brilliance; Lisa Marie Rogali, a versatile performer equally at home in opera and musical theater; and Peter Kendall Clark, praised for his “commanding baritone and dramatic flair.” This year’s program also features stars from the Dance Theater of Harlem, adding movement, elegance, and theatrical artistry to this musical celebration. Together with NJFO, the ensemble leads audiences on a spirited journey through iconic Broadway classics.

RETURN OF THE 3 HOLIDAY TENORS

Sat Dec 6, 7 PM
The Presbyterian Church, Westfield
Sun Dec 7, 3 PM
Drew University, Madison
BROADWAY THROUGH THE AGES
Wed Dec 31, 5 PM
Westfield High School
Thu Jan 1, 2:30 PM
Sieminski Theater

Tickets are available at www.njfestivalorchestra.org
or by calling (908) 232-9400.



NJFO NEW JERSEY FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

Return of the 3 Holiday Tenors

 **SAT, Dec 6 at 7:00 pm**
The Presbyterian Church, Westfield
SUN, Dec 7 at 3:00 pm
Drew University, Madison

Renowned tenor fare, holiday classics, and winter-time favorites guaranteed to make the season merry.


BROADWAY 

THROUGH THE AGES

WED, Dec 31 at 5:00 **THURS, Jan 1 at 2:30**
Westfield High School Sieminski Theater



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Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director & Principal Conductor