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BLANKETS DONATED TO THE HEART 'N HANDS MISSION

Submitted by Tamara Benc

One of Lincoln School's mottos is, "Work hard, be the best you can be, and be kind to one another."

Families from the Garwood Schools community came together to show their kindness by donating over 70 blankets to the Heart 'n Hands Mission.

This organization helps families in need as well as individuals who are homeless or living in shelters in northeastern New Jersey, serving many counties - including

Union County. Many people in need will enjoy a bit more warmth this season, aided by the comforters, blankets, and other bedding donated by generous students, families, and staff members at Lincoln School.

The GPS Student Council unrolled this successful month-long initiative in December, assisted by the Builders Club. Advisors are Tamara Benc, middle school ELA teacher, and Michelle Rosenbloom, school social worker.



(above) Student Council and Builders Club members; club advisors; Dr. Russo,
Lincoln School principal; and Nancy and Cliff, representatives from
the 100% volunteer organization Heart 'n Hands.

Courtesy Photo

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At the Garwood First Aid Squad we believe in the power of community involvement.

That is why we commit to regular training and community engagement to ensure we are always prepared to serve the families and businesses in our towns effectively.

If you are looking for a meaningful way to contribute and are eager to find a new passion that makes a real impact, we welcome you to join our team.

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CHURCH OF ST. ANNE CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

The Church of St. Anne in Garwood is celebrating 100 years of service to the community throughout 2026 with monthly events commemorating specific milestones of the parish. The inaugural event took place on Sunday, January 11th at the 12 noon Mass celebrated by Bishop James Massa, concelebrated by Fr. Robert Lamirez, current Pastor of St. Anne's, Msgr. Ron Marczewski, the previous Pastor at St. Anne's, Fr. James Spera, former Garwood resident and graduate of St. Anne's School, assisted by Fr. Peter Aquino, and Fr. William Morris. Following the Mass, Bishop Massa cut the ribbons and blessed the opening of St. Anne's Memory Wall in the lower hall of the church where photos and memorabilia of the Church, School and Convent are on display. A light lunch followed at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

February 22nd will commemorate the first wedding at the Parish (November 14, 1930). At 12 noon Mass, there will be a special blessing of those parishioners celebrating their wedding anniversary of 10, 25, 50 and 75 years during 2026.

March 8th will commemorate the First Baptisms held at the Church (March 1, 1930). All who were Baptized at St. Anne's are invited to attend the special 12 noon Mass.

April 5th, Easter Sunday, will commemorate the transfer of property from the Garwood Catholic Club to the Church of St. Anne at the 12 noon Mass. Members and heirs of the Garwood Catholic Club will be recognized with a special blessing.

May will commemorate the First Mass held as a newly established parish which was held on

May 1, 1927 with its first Confirmations held on May 15, 1932. First Communion Mass will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2026 and Confirmations will be held on Friday, May 15, 2026.

June 28th will commemorate the purchase of the School and Convent properties (June 1929). The 12 noon Mass will remember all living and deceased members of the Bernardine Sisters who served the school for so many years as well as past lay teachers, staff and students of St. Anne's School. There will be a Grand Alumni Homecoming where all former students of St. Anne's School will be invited to attend the 12 noon Mass celebrated by Fr. James Spera, Class of 1966.

July 26, 2026, the Feast of St. Anne, will see the 2nd Annual Food Truck Festival held on Second Avenue. It also celebrates the laying of the cornerstone on July 25th, 1926. A Mass of Thanksgiving will be held at 12 noon, followed by a procession of the statue of St. Anne and the food truck festival.

August 16th celebrates Ministry and Heritage Month at the 12 noon Mass.

September 13th, remembers the formal establishment of St. Anne's as a Parish on September 9, 1930 and the installation of Msgr. John Walsh as its first Pastor (September 13, 1930). Bishop Elias Lorenzo will be the main celebrant at the 12 noon Mass.

October 18th will celebrate the Independence of St. Anne's Parish (October 24, 1925) with a Grand Gala Celebration at The Westwood in Garwood. Cardinal Joseph Tobin will be the main celebrant at the 12 noon Mass. Tickets for the event will be available soon.



Courtesy Photo

November 1, 2026, will remember our deceased benefactors, parishioners and forgotten souls at the 12 noon Memorial Mass.

December 27, 2026, will be the Parish Christmas Celebration, closing out the year of festivities and celebrations. Throughout the month there will be outreach to homebound parishioners and Viaticum.

Further information for any and all of these events can be obtained by contacting the Rectory of 908-789-0280 or email stannegarwood@gmail.com. Also, you can visit the Church's website at stannegarwood.com.

The St. Anne's Centennial committee is still offering Memorial Bricks to line the walkway to the Grotto. More than 100 engraved bricks have already been installed, with space for about 100 more. Bricks are \$150.00 each with three lines of text available (16 characters and spaces per line). Forms to order your Memorial Bricks are at the back of the Church or at the Rectory.

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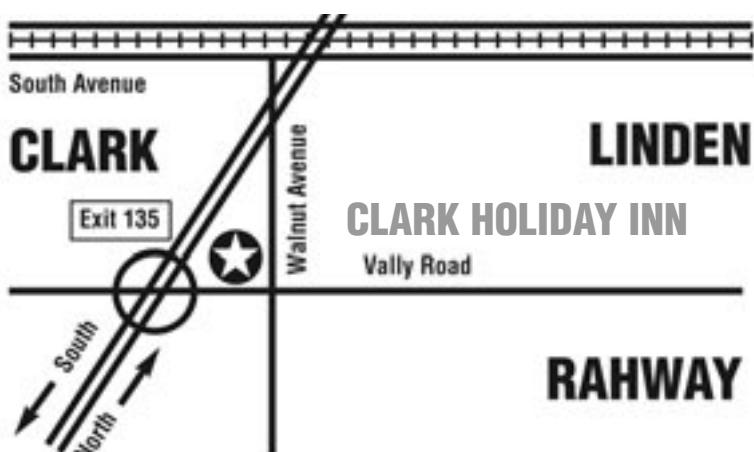
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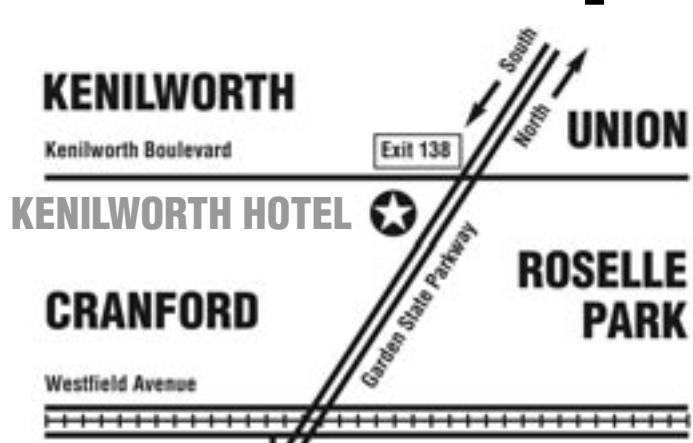
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TOWNS

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SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEMBERS RECENTLY PRESENTED THE



(above, l-r) Jeff Jotz, Michael Mindel, Shade Tree Officer Bill Nierstedt, Mayor Jen Blumenstock, Mark Koch.

Courtesy Photo

Shade Tree Commission members recently presented the Borough with the new sign designating Garwood once again as a Tree City USA. This designation means Garwood has met the 4 criteria necessary to garner this recognition: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and participating in an Arbor Day celebration.

ALJ HIGH SCHOOL NAMED TO ADVANCED PLACEMENT SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Clark Public Schools

College Board announced that Arthur L. Johnson High School has been named to the 2025 Advanced Placement® Program (AP®) School Honor Roll, earning bronze distinction. ALJ has been recognized for student success in the Advanced Placement program while broadening participation.

Schools can earn this recognition annually based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness.

ALJ had 49% of seniors who took at least one AP Exam during high school, 27% of seniors scoring a 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam, and 7% of seniors who took five or more AP Exams! The 7% actually earned the school a silver recognition in that category.

ALJ offers more than 20 AP Courses. Students enrolled in AP courses engage in higher-level discussions, solve problems collaboratively, and learn to effectively communicate their thoughts in writing. AP courses also serve to help students acquire the skills and habits needed to be successful in college, including critical time management skills.

According to Superintendent Edward Grande, "ALJ's inclusion on this most impressive listing is a testimony to the successful efforts of our students, staff, and administration coupled with the strong partnerships with our Crusader families. Go Crusaders!"

"AP gives students opportunity to engage with college-level work, earn college credit and placement, and build professional career skills they can use no matter what path they choose after high school," said Trevor Packer, head of the AP program. "Congratulations to this year's AP School Honor Roll recipients for proving it's possible to expand participation in these rigorous courses and still drive strong performance."

College Board's Advanced Placement® Program (AP®) enables students to pursue college-level studies - with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both—while still in high school. Through AP courses, each culminating in a challenging exam, students learn to think critically, construct solid arguments, and see many sides of an issue—skills that prepare them for college and beyond.

LIBRARY FEBRUARY EVENTS

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or email garwoodlibrary@garwood.org

HOURS: Mon, Tues and Thurs 9 am to 8 pm, Wed and 10 am to 8 pm,
Fri 9 am to 4:30 pm, Sat 10 am to 1 pm, Sunday Closed

Knitting Club

February 2, 9, 23 - 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

February 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 10 am and 11 am

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

Code Forward

February 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 3:30 PM

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

Library Board Meeting

February 4, @ 7:30 pm

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

Decorate Doughnuts

February 5 at 3 pm

Participants will decorate Valentine-inspired doughnuts from Duck Donuts using a provided decorating kit. Each attendee will receive several doughnuts to decorate and enjoy. Registration is required, and space is limited.

Virtual Kids Craft

February 17 @ 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.

Children's Paint Night

February 12 - at 6:30 pm

Children in 1st through 5th grade to express their creativity during this fun paint night!

Canvases and paint will be provided.

Registration is required, and space is limited.

Virtual Adult Craft

February 17 @ 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

Adult Game Day

February 18 and 25 at 1 pm

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

Limit 12

LEGO CLUB

February 18 at 3 pm

Some creations will be displayed in our showcase. Registration is required Limit 12

Robotics

February 19 and 26 at 3 pm

Students will design and build their own robots.

Participants will take their robots home for continued fun and creativity. This program is for students in 1st and 2nd grade. Participants must attend both sessions. Registration is required, and space is limited.

Book Club

February 23 at 1pm

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