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Issue 99 • April 2026



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## RESIDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT

### *The Aliver Foundation*

In celebration of The Aliver Foundation's second anniversary, supporters, community leaders, first responders, donors, and volunteers gathered on January 23rd for Impact Night, the organization's annual event reflecting on progress and recognizing individuals who have made a meaningful difference.

This year, two Garwood residents were recognized for their commitment and service to the foundation.

Dylan Mason is a senior at Union County Magnet High School and has been actively involved with The Aliver Foundation's Teen Ambassador Program. A varsity athlete who plays soccer and runs track, Mason is CPR certified. Through his work with The Aliver Foundation, he has helped raise awareness about cardiac arrest statistics, CPR, and AED usage while encouraging peers to get involved in community service.

"Dylan represents exactly what we hope this foundation encourages," said Jill A. Pall, founder of The Aliver Foundation. "He shows that young people can make a real impact in their community. His dedication, compassion, and leadership are truly inspiring."

Also recognized was Luciane Raibin for her leadership and dedication through The Aliver Foundation's First Responder Committee. Raibin, Vice President of the Garwood First Aid Squad, has played a crucial role in helping strengthen collaboration between first responders, municipalities, and community outreach efforts to save lives.

"Luciane brings both professional expertise and deep care for her community into everything she does," Pall said. "Her leadership and partnership have strengthened our work and reinforced the importance of collaboration."

The foundation also recognized the Cranford Jaycees for underwriting two outdoor AED equipment bundles and Jermaine Randle, Director of Roselle's Department of Public Works, for his advocacy for outdoor AED equipment in the community. The evening highlighted the role everyone can play in



(above) Teen Ambassador Sebastiao Pinto and First Responder Committee Member Luciane Raibin



(above) Treasurer Mollie Barnes and Teen Ambassador Dylan Mason

Courtesy Photo

advancing public safety and community health.

Pall reflected on the foundation's growth over the past two years. Since its founding, The Aliver Foundation has been responsible for more than 140 highly visible, bright yellow, all-weather, climate-controlled, tamper-proof outdoor AED equipment bundles placed in public recreation spaces in New Jersey and other states, ensuring lifesaving equipment is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The organization's educational messaging has been viewed more than 1.12 million times, and more than 3,150 people have been educated on cardiac arrest statistics, CPR, and AED usage at over 30 in-person community events. In addition, the foundation has provided more than 4,500 hours of free support to more than 200 cardiac arrest survivors and their loved ones through peer-to-peer groups, meetups, and mental health partnerships.

Impact Night is not a fundraiser and there is no cost to attend. The event was intentionally designed so that individuals, municipalities, first responders, businesses, and organizations can focus their resources on meaningful giving rather than event-related expenses. This year's event was hosted at the beautiful, historic Hanson House, which generously donated the venue. Decor and refreshments were personally covered by the foundation's founder, with beverage support provided by ShopRite Garwood.

As The Aliver Foundation looks ahead, its mission remains focused on saving lives, supporting survivors, and changing the 8 percent out-of-hospital survival rate of cardiac arrest through community-driven action.

For more information, please visit [thealiverfoundation.org](http://thealiverfoundation.org).

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# GarwoodTimes<sub>NJ</sub>

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## SEND US YOUR NEWS

Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (honor, award, etc.), send us your news! **Email: [editor@rennamedia.com](mailto:editor@rennamedia.com)**

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# MEMBERS BRING HEART, STYLE AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

## Westfield Service League

The Westfield Service League continues to prove that community service can be as joyful as it is meaningful. While local grants each year are made possible through our thriving Thrift & Consignment Shops, our members' impact stretches far beyond our storefronts.

This past year, our volunteers brought smiles and style to Cranford Senior Housing with a lively fashion show and pop-up boutique. Residents enjoyed a front-row seat as our members modeled curated looks — fun, fashionable and all from our Shops. The boutique allowed seniors to browse beautiful, affordable pieces right in their community, making the afternoon entertaining and empowering.

Our outreach didn't stop there. Members gathered much-needed items for Sir Henry's Closet at Rutgers Basic Needs Center, before closing for the summer. These clothes and accessories help college students access essentials that support their well-being and academic success and extend our mission of care to young adults building their futures.

In addition, volunteers delivered Mobile Meals each week to homebound seniors, as well as worked the Westfield Food Pantry each month to those experiencing food insecurity.

So whether we're hosting events, stocking shelves, delivering meals or uplifting individuals, we take pride in strengthening our community through hands-on service.

To learn more about the Westfield Service League, visit our website at: [thewestfieldserviceleague.org](http://thewestfieldserviceleague.org). Or visit us at 114 Elmer Street in Westfield. We are open Tuesday - Friday, 9:30-4 and Saturday, 10-4.

Follow us on Instagram, Facebook and TikTok for special offers, promotions and events. Proudly servicing the community since 1932.



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# TAMMY KLEEMAN RECEIVES COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

## Borough of Garwood

During the March 12th Garwood Council meeting, resident Tammy Kleeman received the Garwood Community Spirit Award from Mayor Jen Blumenstock. "Tammy's selfless act of making special gloves for Christina Socha's son prompted Christina to nominate Tammy for the award. Tammy also gives back through the Garwood Food Drive and the Bike Unity Tour."



Courtesy Photo

### CASTING CALL

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A television and streaming renovation project is seeking a limited number of homeowners in this area with outdated or distressed homes requiring substantial remodeling. This opportunity is for full-scale renovations only-not cosmetic repairs.

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## LIBRARY APRIL EVENTS

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or email [garwoodlibrary@garwood.org](mailto:garwoodlibrary@garwood.org)

### DIGITAL ARCHIVES

#### Garwood Public Library

Check out the Historical section of the Garwood Library's website, brought to you by a grant from the Union County Office of Cultural Affairs. In the Garwood Digital Archives, you can find:

Old street scenes and maps showing Garwood's layout around the early 1900s.

Yearbooks of Garwood Residents dating as far back as 1941.

Local news bulletins published between 1943 and 1946 detailing various current events within the town.



Courtesy Photo

#### Library Board Meeting

April 1, @ 7:30 pm

A meeting of the Garwood Board of Trustees will take place at 7:30 pm in the library located at 422 Third Ave. Open to the public

#### Science Day

April 4 at 11 am

Join Elias Chang a junior at AIT, UCVTS and learn the science behind paper air planes, Skittles, Strawberry DNA, and gummy bears. Registration is required.

#### Code Forward

April, 7, 14, 21, and 28 and 31 at 3:30 PM offers Lincoln school students the opportunity to learn computer programming languages such as Java, Python, and more.

#### Storytime

April, 14, 21, and 28, at 10 am and 11 am

Join Miss Maryanne for stories and more.

Registration is required. Limit

#### Storytime

April, 14, 21, and 28, at 10 am and 11 am

Join Miss Maryanne for stories bubbled and crafts. Registration is required. Limit

#### Virtual Kids Craft

April 14 @ 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

#### Adult Game Day

April 15 and 22 at 1 pm

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

Limit 12

#### The American Revolution in Union County New Jersey

March 16 @ 7:pm

Join John Prescott from the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs as he discusses significant events of the Revolution that took place in Union County.

Registration is required

#### Book Club

March 20 at 1pm

Join us for a lively discussion of this month's book Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi

#### Virtual Adult Craft

March 21 at 3pm

Pick up supplies and instructions for a craft. Registration is required for craft kits and is limited to 15 participants.

Registration is required

#### LEGO CLUB

April 22 at 3 pm

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

Registration is required



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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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Our volunteers receive comprehensive training which includes CPR and the opportunity to work alongside other local emergency services, gaining invaluable experience while serving their neighbors.

Contact us today to get started! 908-789-0300, information GFAS@gmail.com

## FIRST AID SQUAD SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Submitted by Glen Costello

The Garwood First Aid Squad held a ceremonial swearing in of Administrative and Line Officers on January 22nd, 2026. The ceremony was held at the Borough of Garwood.



(above, l-r) Deputy EMS Chief Kymm Baluinth, EMS Chief Josrh Regan, Garwood Mayor Jen Blumenstock, Senior -Lieutenant & NJ Delegate Gene Kobliska, Lieutenant Stephen Smith, (not pictured) Jeff Regan - Assistant Treasurer; Briana Sanchez - Lieutenant

Courtesy Photo

GARWOOD FIRST AID SQUAD

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(above, l-r) Administrative Officers: Kymm Balinth-Secretary, Wilson Ng-Treasurer, Luciane Raibin-Vice President, Mayor -Jen Blumenstock, Stephanie Willix -Assistant Secretary, Glen Costello-President,

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# STUDENTS CONSTRUCT 17TH CENTURY SALEM PURITAN NEWSPAPER

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As a summative assessment for their drama unit, Mrs. Michele Zederbaum's 11th grade honors English class at Arthur L. Johnson High School worked collaboratively to construct 17th century Puritan newspapers for Salem, Massachusetts. Each team of students took on the

roles of 17th century editors and utilized Google Sites.

This creative and skill set project highlighted the literary elements of Arthur Miller's 1952 play, *The Crucible* and included headline news articles, feature stories, character obituaries, advice columns, and "for sale" ads. In addition

to a creative component, the construction of these sites required students to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the play's characterization; narrative arc; individual and societal conflicts; and historical and cultural contexts. Components of journalism and technological skills were also incorporated.

Photo by Clark Public Schools



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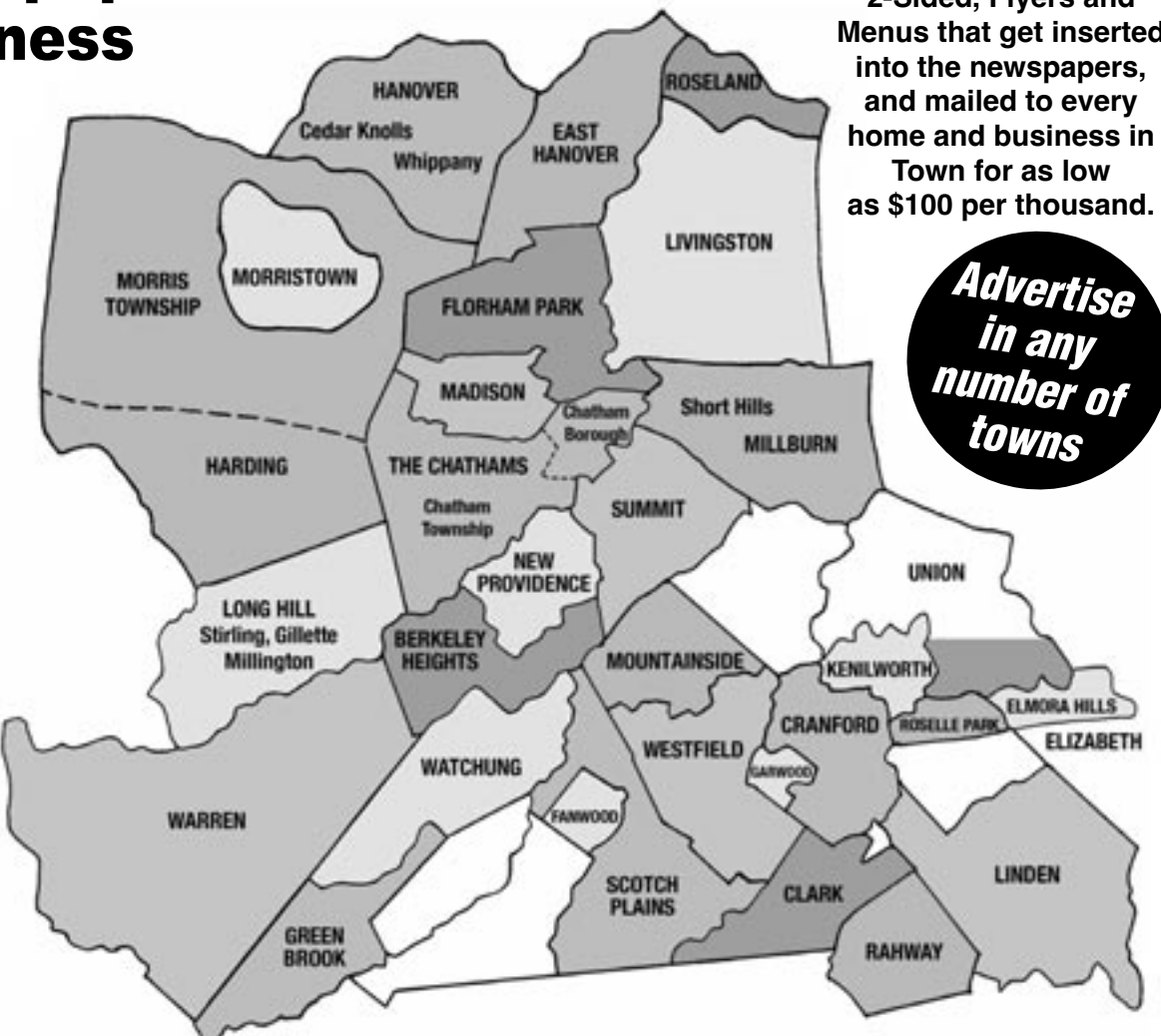
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## ASL STUDENTS VISIT GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

### Clark Public Schools

Students from the American Sign Language (ASL) program at Arthur L. Johnson High School recently traveled to Gallaudet University for their annual educational trip. The visit gave students a unique opportunity to experience a campus where American Sign Language and Deaf culture are central to everyday life.

Located in Washington, D.C., Gallaudet University is the world's only university specifically designed to provide higher education for students who are Deaf. Founded in 1864, the university offers undergraduate and graduate programs while also serving as an international hub for Deaf culture, research, and advocacy. On campus, ASL is used for communication, and the environment is designed to support visual learning and accessibility.

During the visit, ALJ students toured the historic campus, learned about college programs

available to Deaf students, and experienced firsthand how communication through sign language shapes daily life. Many students had the chance to interact with Gallaudet students and staff, practice their signing skills, and gain a deeper appreciation for the Deaf community.

One of the highlights of the trip was visiting the well-known Signing Starbucks located right off campus. At this unique Starbucks location, all of the employees are Deaf, and customers are encouraged to communicate using American Sign Language. ALJ students eagerly ordered their drinks in ASL, putting their classroom learning into practice in a real-world setting and experiencing what it is like to communicate in a fully visual language environment.

The trip was organized by ALJ High School ASL teacher Loren Hsu, who leads the school's sign language program. Hsu said the annual visit helps students connect what they learn in the

classroom with real-world experiences.

"Seeing a place where ASL is everywhere really helps students understand that American Sign Language is not just something you study in a class," Hsu said. "It's a living language and a vibrant culture."

For many students, the highlight of the trip was experiencing a fully immersive ASL environment and learning more about the history of Deaf education in the United States. The visit also gave students insight into future academic opportunities and careers related to ASL and interpreting.

The annual trip to Gallaudet University has become a meaningful tradition for the ALJ High School ASL program, allowing students to deepen their understanding of language, culture, and accessibility while building connections with the broader Deaf community.



Photo by Clark Public Schools

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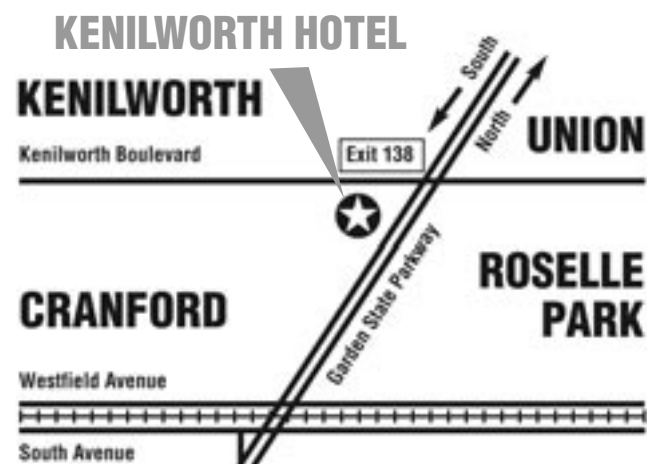
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