

THE GARWOOD GAZETTE

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Police Department News	2
Fire Department	2
Recreation News	2
Garwood D.P.W.	2
Celebration Committee	2
Senior Programs	3
Library News	3

Mayor's Saturdays

Residents are invited to meet with Mayor Quattrocchi

WHERE: Borough Hall
WHEN: Third Saturday of each month
TIME: 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

No Appointment Necessary



From the Mayor's Office

By Mayor Patricia Quattrocchi

Sometimes I think that I must drive my family bonkers because of my desire to recycle as much of the waste product as possible. Not as driven as some people, I do confess to occasionally picking in the kitchen trash bin for an errant plastic pill bottle or two that one of my offspring has chucked into the incorrect receptacle. My dad set the tone early in my life by collecting the family newspapers in our basement to be delivered to the Boy Scout paper drives for years. As the artsy kid in the family, I always had a steady supply of newspaper for my paper mache creations and just assumed that everyone enjoyed that same convenience. These days, only two of our seven still live at home and no one does crafts using newspaper, which is just as well as we have gradually shifted to getting our news updates in a number of other ways, which is greatly diminishing how much paper finds its way into our home.

But what becomes of the paper waste, my family does generate or what our residents drag out to the curb on recycling days. The second life for paper has come a long way since Dad turned ours over to the scouts. Litter for cats and dogs is made from recycled paper and is three times more absorbent than clay, non-toxic and nearly dust free for easier cleaning. Bedding for small pets such as hamsters and gerbils is also produced and on average 44 million pounds of paper are annually recycled for these products by one company alone. Old newspapers or magazines and cardboard are made durable by the infusion of asphalt creating roofing material and each day 40 to 50 tons find new life in one company's product available at home improvement stores.

And did you know that the sound proofing in the ceiling material of certain vehicles is made partly from reused cardboard shipping boxes. Plastic milk jugs are turned into colorful toys and repurposing just one pound of the jugs saves enough energy to run a computer for a month. Also, aluminum can be recycled an infinite number of times and is called the "Miracle Metal"; Alcoa re-melts collected cans and rolls out coils of "new can" sheets. The process can be repeated indefinitely without any loss of strength to the metal. If every American recycled just one more can a week we would remove 17 billion cans from landfills each year and save enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for 20 hours.



Students presented the borough with a banner created by their 8th Grade History Class commemorating 9/11. (Mayor Patricia Quattrocchi, 8th Grade Students – Jessica Knowles, Grace Duffy and Casey Pender)

Leave the car keys home...

By Kathy Villaggio

A bonus to living in the Borough of Garwood is the train stop on the Raritan Valley Line. It's within walking distance of most households. NJ Transit added additional service on weekdays and started weekend service also.

On Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, the trains leave the Garwood train stop at 8:51 a.m. and 10:51 a.m. to Newark/NYC and trains return in the evening at 5:58 p.m. and 7:54 p.m. This is an incredible opportunity. You can hop on a train and leave the tolls, parking costs and traffic congestion to others. For weekday commuters, there are five eastbound trains leaving Garwood in the morning and four in the afternoon. Coming home later from Newark/New York, there are nine afternoon and evening trains arriving at Garwood, in addition to morning trains. At Newark Penn Station, passengers take a second train to New York Penn Station or switch to PATH for Jersey City or Lower Manhattan.

For more information and travel updates: www.njtransit.com, or the County has a centralized website for all travel at www.ucnj.org/connect.

Garwood Police

By Chief Bruce D. Underhill

I'm pleased to announce that Lieutenant Douglas Stoffer was promoted to Captain of the Garwood Police Department on September 10, 2013. Captain Stoffer is a 14-year veteran of the department who has been serving in the patrol division as a squad leader and division commander. Prior to that, he was a Sergeant assigned to patrol, as a squad supervisor. Captain Stoffer holds a bachelor's degree and has taken many management courses, specifically relating to Law Enforcement. He has also been serving on the Union County SWAT team for many years. Having taken care of many senior administrative duties in the past, he now heads the Detective Bureau and assumes all of the duties formally held by Captain Jim Pipala, who retired in April. Captain Stoffer resides in Garwood with his wife and children.

The Police Department recently put into service an Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) which was fully funded by a grant received through Union County and the Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness. The ALPR system includes cameras mounted in one of the departments patrol vehicles. The cameras continually read license plates and provide "alerts" on those that are either entered in as stolen, unregistered, have suspended registrations or for owners with warrants / "wanted people." Because the courts have ruled that there is no expectation of privacy on a license plate, officers for years have been manually entering plates into a system. With the ALPR system, the process is instantaneous which is beneficial to Law Enforcement. As a result, enforcement of these violations (summons and arrests) has increased 200 and 300 percent for July and August, respectfully.

So far, Garwood has good fortune to avoid the 2013 hurricane season and as we enter into fall, we hope Mother Nature continues to treat us well. Soon the leaves will be falling and the roads may become slippery because of it. School is now open and the children are walking to and from school daily. Drivers are advised, as always, to use extra caution when operating their motor vehicles. Motorcyclists should take extra care when navigating the roadways. Residents can help with drainage in their neighborhoods by keeping the leaves out of the sewer grates and gutters until they can be bagged and removed. To avoid possible fire, it's always a good practice not to park your cars on leaves that have gathered on the side of the road. As the days get shorter and as it becomes darker earlier, please use caution when enjoying your evening walks.

As always, please feel free to visit us in person at Police Headquarters with any concerns you might have or just to say hello! You can also visit us on the department's website "garwoodpd.org" for all the latest updates and alerts.

Recreation News

By Kathleen Pender, Recreations Director

We are currently conducting our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Soccer Program. This will end on October 25th with a pizza and trophy party. Coming in November, we will be running a basketball program at our Garwood Lincoln School for children in Grades 3 through 8. On December 7th, we will have our family ice skating night at Warinanco Ice Rink from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Roselle Park. We will have a children and ladies ceramic night at the Lincoln School in December. In January 2014, we will run a Basketball Clinic for our 1st and 2nd graders. Then on March 8th, we will have our spring family skate night at Warinanco Park from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Fire Department Update

By Michael Tharaldsen, Fire Chief

As we move into the fall, our Garwood Fire Department in their 110th year will again ask the citizens of Garwood to be as aware, as always about fire safety. Removing trash and debris from in and around their property, safe guarding and using properly their barbecue grills, whether charcoal or propane, keeping their fire/CO alarm systems in working order, with fresh batteries and always keep a "TWO WAYS OUT" emergency escape plan in mind.

Although slightly undermanned, our "volunteer" department is still active in serving the Borough of Garwood with emergency services when called upon, as well as being involved in other civic programs. This spring, scholarships were awarded to high school seniors, Ryan Brinkerhoff, Camellia Mooney and Mary Van Natta. The eighth grade award winners for high math averages were Elizabeth Archer and Martin Herman

We are always actively looking for people able to help their community, willing to be trained and become part of neighbors helping neighbors, which is what volunteerism is all about. Anyone interested please call the business phone at (908) 789-8877 or talk to any Borough firefighter. The officers and members wish all residents to have a safe and happy fall season.

Department of Public Works (D.P.W.)

By Frederick W. Corbitt CPWM CRP

Beginning in October, leaves will no longer be permitted to be put out loose in the street for collection. All leaves must be put in bio-degradable paper bags or garbage cans. Bags are available to residents **free of charge** at the D.P.W. located at 15 South Ave., Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Collection this way, has many benefits over loose leaf collection. One reason is that it takes up less street parking spaces. Bags and cans can be placed on the curb, taking up no parking spaces at all. Also, leaves get washed into the storm drains when it rains, clogging the drains and causing minor flooding in many areas. Wet leaves in the roadway, can also be a traffic hazard. This method is also less time consuming and it keeps our streets cleaner. Thank you to our residents for your anticipated cooperation with this new collection method.

Garwood Celebrations Committee

By Liz Mathieu, Secretary

We have just two events left for 2013! Where has the year gone? The last two events of the year are: The Pumpkin Decorating Contest and Santa's visit to light the town Christmas Tree at Borough Hall. This year the Pumpkin Decorating Contest will be held at Lincoln School immediately before the PTA sponsored "Trick or Trunk" event on October 26, 2013 at 4PM. The contest is open to all residents of Garwood from children through adults. Please bring your already decorated/carved pumpkins for display and judging and join us for refreshments, too.

The Christmas Tree lighting and visit from Santa will be at 5PM on Saturday, December 7, 2013. Santa will arrive on the Fire Truck to light the tree, take pictures and hear all the children's wish lists. Holiday music sets the mood and refreshments are served, compliments of local retailers.

Please come out and join us at an event. If you're interested in serving on the committee, please contact the Mayor at Borough Hall; we'd love to have you join us.

Garwood Senior Programs

By Paulette Drogon, Senior Citizen Director

All Garwood Seniors are welcome to enjoy activities for **FREE**. On Mondays, there is beginners line dancing from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. On Tuesdays, there is Zumba Gold at 10 a.m. On Wednesdays, there is an exercise class at 9 a.m. All of these activities are at our Garwood Fire House on South Avenue.

In addition, one time per month on a Thursday, we offer a craft and a ceramic class. The craft classes will be held on October 10th and November 14th. The ceramic classes will be held on October 24th and December 12th. To attend the craft class, please register at least 3 days in advance by calling (908) 272-1705 and to attend a ceramic class, please register at least 3 days in advance by calling (908) 686-2035.

Every Tuesday at 1 p.m. we offer a game of bowling at Garwood Lanes, located at 356 North Ave. One game and shoes are free. Please note that this is not a league. You can just drop in any Tuesday and bowl with your fellow Garwood Seniors. There is a little competition but mostly camaraderie with the Kenilworth Seniors.

For additional information, please contact Paulette Drogon, Senior Director at 908-789-0738.

Library News

By Carol A. Lombardo, MLS, Library Director

This year the Garwood Free Public Library continues to celebrate more than 80 years of service to the residents of Garwood. Begun as a project of the PTA in 1933, the Library had a meager start in the basement of the Lincoln School, with seating for only 6 people. In 1939, the operation of the Library was given to the Borough, and it has continued to flourish. Moving to the basement of the Franklin School in 1979, the Library nearly doubled in size, growing to 1,980 sq. ft., adding to its collections and staff. Its latest move, in 2005, to the back of the new wing of Lincoln School, saw its size nearly double again, to 3,600 sq. ft. Serving both the residents of the borough and the school population, the Library is home to about 30,000 books, 35 different periodicals, about 700 videos and DVDs, and 350 audiobooks and CDs, ranging from the classics and best sellers, to children's favorites.

In the Library's latest endeavor, E-books can now be downloaded to your favorite device through the Library's subscription to Baker & Taylor's Axis 360. Available only to Garwood residents who hold valid Garwood Library Cards, this project provides Garwood's readers with fiction, non-fiction and children's books while they are on the go! Instructions and further information about this program are available at the circulation desk.

The staff of the Library is always willing to help patrons with their educational and recreational needs. As the Garwood Library is a lending and borrowing member of Jersey-Cat, the state-wide interlibrary loan system, if our Library doesn't have what you request, we can get it for you, usually within seven days.

With its many years of experience, our staff can assist you with almost any request. Carol Lombardo, MLS, Director, is a New Jersey Certified Librarian, serving the Library as Director for the past fifteen years, and nine years as Library Assistant before that. She also provides Notary services. Shenaz Nasser, who came to us from the Mountainside Library, has been on staff since 1990. Linda Fiore has been with us since 1993 and Maryanne Duffy since 2005. Our newest Library Assistant, Kelly Greene, has been with us since the beginning of August. There are also two pages, Joshua Law and Nora Duffy, who are of invaluable assistance in keeping the Library in order.

The Garwood Public Library provides a wide range of programming with something for everyone. Some of the past programs were: ghost hunting, room décor, musical presentations, memory experts, handwriting experts, popular authors, and exercising. Some of the programs for children included live animal shows, magicians, and storytellers. The staff is open to suggestions. If you would like to see the library host a particular program, don't hesitate to contact the staff.

Some of the upcoming Library events are:

October 15th at 7:00 p.m. – “*Sorry, Wrong Number*” a live presentation of an old time radio play about a sick woman, confined to her bed, who overhears a murder about to take place. Mystery, suspense, and paranoia – all in one!

November 7th at 7:00 p.m. – “*A Tribute to the Rat Pack*”. Joel and Francine Zelnick present music made famous by the superstars of the era. Registration is required for these events. For further information on these and other Library happenings, you can contact the Library at 908-789-1670, or check out the Library's website at youseemore.com/garwood. At the Library's website, using its new, user-friendly calendar, you can register on line for events that interest you. The library email is garwoodlibrary@gmail.com. You can also “like us” on Facebook – facebook.com/garwoodlibrary, where you will also find out about Library events.

Other ongoing programs at the library are: *Toddler Storytime* (for children up to age 4) on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m., and *Movie Time!* on Friday mornings at 10:00 a.m. The Library provides movie snacks or you can bring your own. There are also two *Book Discussion Groups*. One group meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the Library, and the other meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. For information about the movie being shown, or the book being read and discussed, please contact the Library, or visit our website.

As a reminder, the Garwood Public Library is still developing a Garwood History Corner in the Library. Many photographs have already been brought to the Library and scanned into our database, and several residents have brought us Garwood artifacts recalling its history: some from Aeolian, Diamond Expansion, Anton's Tavern, Tillie's Luncheonette, and school graduations, just to name a few. All these items will be proudly on display on a rotating basis in the History Corner. We continue to accept photos to be scanned or items to be displayed.

The Library Board of Trustees meets at 8:00 p.m. in the Library on the first Wednesday of each month, except July and August, and its meetings are open to the public. Current officers are: President, Maria Nierstedt; Treasurer, Christine DiGiacomo; Secretary, Christine Guerriero. Members are: Walter Tucker, Mary Ann Severage, Carolyn Warchol, and Carol White. The representative of the School Superintendent is Dr. Theresa Quigley, and the Mayor's representative is Councilman James Mathieu.

As the Library continues to grow and address the informational needs of the residents, the staff encourages everyone to “Read...Just for the fun of it!”

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