

FIRE DEPARTMENT

By Chief Michael Tharaldsen
Fire Chief

Just like everyone else, the Fire Department is happy to see spring finally arrive. No more manning the fire house for 24 hours due to impending storms and clearing out snow covered hydrants. I would also like to thank the residents who cleared the hydrants near their homes after a storm.

Last year was another busy year for our volunteer members! We responded to 197 incidents which included 47 calls to assist in neighboring town. A total of 2,746 man-hours for these events. Schools attended & drills added another 2,177 hours to our overall total of 6,631 hours for 2014.



Our volunteers are on call 24/7 to respond to the needs of our borough & county.

Anyone interested in joining this dedicated team of Volunteers call 908 789-8877 for further information.

GARWOOD SENIOR PROGRAMS

By Paulette Drogon
Senior Director

The Senior Department offers many healthy activities every week from September through June. We have limited activities in July and August.

On Mondays there is beginner line dancing at 9:30a.m. On Tuesdays there is Zumba Gold at 10:00a.m. and Bowling at Garwood Lanes at 1:00p.m. This is not a league, you can bowl weekly or once a month, including one game of bowling with shoes. Join us when you can. Wednesday is exercise class at 9:00a.m.

June 25th from 11:00a.m. until 3:00p.m. we are having our senior picnic. Come and enjoy music, games and food by Jersey Joe's including, chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs and a lot of other great food. Please join us for a great event at the new Garwood Sports and Recreation complex on Myrtle Ave. (Rain location Garwood Fire House)

On August 13th our seniors are invited to the Ice Cream Sundae Party, with music and a sundae made the way you like it.

During July and August the only weekly activities are Tuesday bowling and Zumba Gold which is moved to Monday at 1:00p.m. (Please call the senior director number to check on summer Zumba Gold as time and dates many change).

Except for bowling and the picnic, all activities are held at the Garwood Fire House. All of these activities are free to Garwood seniors, 62 years or older.

Please call Paulette Drogon, Senior Director at 908-789-0710 ext. 3027 with any questions or for additional information.



HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

By Bruce Paterson & Carol Lombardo
Historical Committee Members

The Garwood Historical Committee met in March to discuss plans for a variety of upcoming events. Foremost was the opportunity for residents to "Reserve a Spot in History" on the interior walls of the new Recreation Complex. Residents will be able to sponsor a frame, either 11x14 or 16x20, containing a photo of historical significance in Garwood, selected from the archives of the Garwood Public Library's extensive photo collection. For your sponsorship, your name will be etched on a brass tag below the photo. Contact Carol Lombardo at the Library (908-789-1670) or at bkwrml48@hotmail.com for further information.

The Garwood Historical Committee is also requesting that anyone who has Garwood memorabilia or photos of past events in Garwood to consider preserving them by bringing the items to the Library. The staff will scan the photos and give you back the originals, or the Library can keep them for you in their archives for future generations to explore and enjoy. The Garwood Library also maintains a showcase reserved specifically for historical artifacts from Garwood's past. Remember Tillie's Luncheonette or Stoffer's or even Schlechter's Hardware? No? Stop by the Library, and learn about our notable past.

Garwood is only 112 years old, young compared to the ages of some surrounding towns, but it has a rich history that needs to be protected. Not only are our past parades and events of importance, but memorabilia from schools, churches, civic organizations and even personal achievements should be cherished and preserved. Please consider the Library's archives when you are doing closet or attic cleaning. Those old photos may not hold any personal significance anymore, but to Garwood's history, they would be priceless.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

By Carol A. Kearney
Business and Industry Liason

The Chamber of Commerce has been very busy with the Grand Openings of a hair salon on Center Street and the rededication of a Chinese American Montessori school also located on Center Street. I have also been assisting the Garwood Family Center with placement of directional signage on Center Street and on South Avenue.

This year I will again be the Event Director for Garwood Rocks which is scheduled for June 7th 10:00AM to 5:00 PM rain or shine and will be presented by The Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce on Center Street. The Festival will have live and DJ entertainment, fantastic festival food along with a wine and beer garden, a kids zone with rides and activities by the Garwood Family Center. We have also added an obstacle course for children.

The Car Show last year was so successful we are bringing it back, we had over 200 cars and this year we are expecting more. There will be plenty of specialty cars the Batmobile and Back to the Future may make an appearance. Registration is free and trophies will be awarded. We also will have the Fire Department and County vehicles on display for all to enjoy.

Movie Under the Stars will be back this year in September and sponsored by Spencer Savings Bank, Garwood Family Center and the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce.

If anyone would like to contact me regarding the Chamber of Commerce or if any businesses are in need of information I can be reached at 908-789-3303.

GARWOOD POLICE

By Chief Bruce D. Underhill

Finally, winter exits, kicking and screaming all the way and spring is upon us. Let the sun shine in! With spring in the air, everyone is out enjoying the weather. Please be aware that the children have started afterschool and weekend sports. Walkers, joggers and bicyclists are out in greater numbers. Expect to see them darting around the roadways and use extra caution when traveling around town. As a precaution, dress in bright colors or reflective wear so as to be seen when exercising in the roadways and especially at dusk.

I'd like to take a moment and introduce the community to Garwood's newest Police Officer Valerio Zuena. Valerio is home-grown having been raised in Garwood and attending Lincoln School and ALJ High School in Clark. Valerio graduated from the Essex County Police Academy as a Special Law Enforcement Officer Class II, in November of 2013 and has been working for the Essex County Sheriff's Department as a Deputy Sheriff until coming to us this year. Officer Zuena resides in Springfield with his wife Pauline and new child Lorenzo. Please join with us in welcoming Officer Zuena to the department and back to our community.

Residents can have their Child Safety Car Seats inspected from 7:30am – 11:00am, on Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Garwood First Aid Squad building. This service has been established by Union County in conjunction with the Garwood First Aid Squad, the NJ Division of Traffic Safety, AAA's Northern Division and the UC Board of Chosen Freeholders who have relocated their Child Safety Seat Inspection Program to the Garwood First Aid Squad Building. All residents are invited to take advantage of this highly successful program. No appointment is necessary.

The department has been fielding multiple complaints regarding telephonic scam attempts. Again, we'd like to remind residents to be leery of some scams that are being seen in many of our communities. In particular is the IRS scam where residents may receive a phone call from someone representing themselves as an agent and informing you that you own back taxes or some other payment to the government. As we head into tax season please be aware of this fraud. Other scams involve phone calls reporting a family member is in trouble or in jail locally or even out of the country and request money for bail. Still others involve actual contact in public parking lots with offers to do body or mechanical work on your vehicle. In all these cases, never let anyone in your house or your car and never provide personal information to anyone you don't know. Try to get a license plate and call the police to report the incident. As a reminder, anyone going door to door in Garwood must register with the Borough and Police Department and will be issued a button from the town so that residents know the individual is registered.

Please log on to garwoodpd.org for all the latest alerts and updates or just to visit and catch up with the Police Department. Enjoy the weather and stay safe. Let's play ball!

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

By Frederick W. Corbitt CPWM CRP
Superintendent Garwood Department of Public Works

Curbside mixed yard waste collection began Wednesday, April 1st, and will continue every Wednesday through October. All grass and brush can be put out in a covered garbage can or other rigid container, or bio-degradable paper bags. No plastic bags. Branches should be no larger than 4 inches in diameter, cut to a maximum of 4 feet in length, and bundled to weigh no more than 50 pounds. Weekly scheduled street sweeping has also begun for the year. When streets are posted for sweeping, park on the opposite side of the street so the sweeper can do the best job possible.

To have an old appliance or any other metal items picked up curbside free of charge, call the D.P.W. at 908-789-1522 to arrange a pickup.



Jacob Welch, Brooke Olivia Taylor, Ryan Malcolm, Brandon Earl and John Sullivan pose with Slider on Garwood Baseball Opening Day. They are on the baseball field of the new Garwood Sports and Recreation Complex. Photo by Paul Tarantino

PUBLIC CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE

By Kathy Villaggio

The Celebrations Committee will be having its annual Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony to remember those who have lost their life serving in the military at the Knights of Columbus on Monday, May 25th at Noon. Please join us – hot dogs and soda will be served after the ceremony.

The Celebrations Committee is collecting favorite recipes from people of our community to be published in a Garwood cookbook. If you would like to contribute to the cookbook, please fill out the recipe form, making sure to include a title for your recipe and your name. You may download the form at www.garwood.org. Each recipe that is printed will feature the name of the contributor so everyone can easily locate the favorite recipes of their friends and local residents. We expect to publish the cookbook this fall, in plenty of time to be available for the holidays. Please submit your recipe to Borough Hall by June 1st or to garwoodcelebrations@garwood.org.

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the Garwood Celebrations Committee, please contact Borough Hall at 908-789-0710.

Garwood Gazette

“SMALL TOWN WITH A BIG HEART”

GARWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Carol A. Lombardo, MLS
Director of the Garwood Public Library

The Library Board of Trustees announces the retirement of Carol Lombardo as Director of the Garwood Public Library, effective July 1, 2015. Carol is a resident of Garwood for over 40 years, was appointed Director of the Library in 1998, after the retirement of Madeline Ayres, and was previously a Library Assistant there since 1989. Ms. Lombardo received her Master of Library Science degree from Rutgers University in December of 1997 and has dedicated her career to meeting the needs of the community and bringing the Garwood Library into the age of technology. During Mrs. Lombardo's tenure, the Library has been upgraded to having Wi-Fi, additional public access computers were installed, a Web presence for the Library has been established as well as a Facebook Page, highly successful audio book and DVD collections were established, and e-books became available to Garwood Library Card holders. She has also developed an extensive collection of books for young adults and a substantial large print collection. Library circulation has nearly tripled since she became Director, and the number of cardholders has nearly doubled. Mrs. Lombardo has also continued the practice of having an annual Summer Reading Club for the children. She and her staff have organized and promoted many programs for residents of all ages: musical events, magic shows, live animal shows, slide presentations, in addition to many entertaining and educational programs for the entire borough to enjoy.

The residents of Garwood are invited to a "Farewell Reception" for Mrs. Lombardo at the Library on Saturday, June 27th from 10:00 AM to 12 Noon, hosted by the Garwood Library Board of Trustees. Light refreshments will be served. Borough residents are invited to stop by to bid farewell to Mrs. Lombardo who has served the Garwood Library for over 25 years. As for retirement, Mrs. Lombardo likes to say "I'm retiring from my career, not from life. I am not leaving town, and I will continue to visit and support the Garwood Library any way I can. It has been part of my being for so long, and I will miss the comradery of the staff, and visiting with the residents who frequented the Library. I can now get down to the business of reading a lot of those wonderful books that crossed my desk that I just didn't have time for while working."

The Library Board of Trustees has appointed Maryanne Duffy, currently a Library Assistant at the Library, as the new Director, effective July 1. Ms. Duffy has been employed at the Garwood Library for more than 10 years and is anxious to continue the work that has been started and to enhance services to the Borough.

This year's 21st annual Summer Reading theme is "Every Hero Has a Story". All the details have not yet been finalized, but registration will begin on Wednesday, June 17th, with the program running for seven weeks through Friday, August 7th. As the date nears, more information will be sent home with the school children in their "Friday Folders" and will also be available at the Library, on the Library's web page, and on its Facebook page. The program is open to Garwood children, all ages, through grade 8. As long as you can read or be read to, you can participate in the program.

During the summer, there will be craft events for children (going into grade 2 and up) on Tuesdays at 3:00 PM and kid-friendly movies on Thursdays at 2:00 PM. Registration is required for the craft days (limited to 20) but not for the movie days. The list of crafts and movies will be posted shortly. The Wednesday morning Toddler Story Time as well as the Friday Morning Movies will take a short break during the months of July and August to resume after Labor Day in September.

The Garwood Public Library is located at the corner of Walnut Street and Third Avenue, behind the Lincoln School complex. Hours are from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM Mondays through Thursdays; on Fridays from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, and Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The Library is closed on Saturdays during the months of July and August. Email is: garwoodlibrary@gmail.com.

REMINDERS FROM THE BOROUGH CLERK & ADMINISTRATOR

Christina M. Ariemma, RMC
Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk

The 2015 Town Wide Yard Sale will be held on Saturday June 13 and Sunday June 14, 2015, rain or shine. Residents can participate by registering via email to: k-wierzbinski@garwood.org or by calling 908-789-0710 and ask for Kathleen. You must register no later than Friday, June 12, 2015. No permits or fees are required. However residents that fail to register to participate will have to pay the \$4.00 permit fee. A list of participating households is prepared and available for shoppers the morning of the sale. Please call 789-0710 if you have any questions. Thank you and Happy Shopping!

The 2015 User Fee Based Residential Cleanup Program of Type 13 Solid Waste (BULK) is available to residents through the purchase of a permit for \$85.00 to dispose of up to 750 lbs. of bulk waste. The Spring bulk program will begin on Monday, June 15, 2015 and continue for as many days necessary to complete the program in accordance with the number of permits sold. The application and instructions can be found at www.garwood.org or by e-mailing the Office of the Administrator/Clerk at c-ariemma@garwood.org or by phone at 908-789-0710. All e-mail questions will be answered; however, if you do not receive an answer in a timely fashion, please call this office as your e-mail may have not been received. Applications to participate in the Spring program are due by June 4, 2015.

The office of the Administrator/Clerk has late afternoon hours on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. The extended hours are 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. You can stop by for all your municipal needs except any matter that involves the Municipal Court. For your convenience there is a 24hr drop box for court payments located directly across from the police department dispatch. Please call 789-0710 or e-mail at c-ariemma@garwood.org if you have any questions.

Starting July 1, 2015 and for the remainder of 2015, Waste Management will no longer pick-up recycling in the borough. Equipment Rental Services will be the contractor until the end of the year. There are no other changes to the process and material will be picked up single stream (co-mingled). The pick-up dates include the following, July 9, 23, August 6, 20, September 3, 17, October 1, 15, 29, November 12, 27 (Friday), and December 10, 24, 2015. Please call 789-0710 or e-mail c-ariemma@garwood.org if you have any questions.

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

By Mayor Charles P. Lombardo

Now that the harsh winter is behind us, most of us are looking to spring and focusing on cleaning up our properties and recycling. Mandatory recycling has been the law in New Jersey since 1987, and is an important segment of the state's economy as it employs approximately 27,000 people. The NJDEP estimates nearly 9,000 additional jobs will be created in NJ if the 50% municipal solid waste goals are met. New Jersey has a well developed recycling industry, which includes manufacturing items from various products previously recycled.

There are many dollars that can be realized by our community through recycling, when we avoid the cost of garbage disposal. We can avoid these additional costs of garbage disposal by not sending recyclables to landfills, incinerators or transfer stations.

We, in Garwood along with Union County, have well organized recycling programs in place so all residents could take full advantage of all the programs some of which are listed below.

- Garwood Recycling:** (Schedules available at Borough Hall and the Garwood Library)
 - Household recycling - Every other Thursday at curbside as posted
 - Cardboard Recycling - Millen Industries on North Avenue
 - Bulk Pick Up - the week of June 15 after the Town Wide Yard Sale
 - White goods (Appliances) - by our DPW by appointment
 - Lawn clippings and yard waste - as per our posted schedule
 - Empty inkjet cartridges can be recycled at the Garwood Library as well as outer packaging from infant/ adult diapers and personal wipes.

- Union County Recycling:** (Schedules available at the Garwood Library and on the County website: ucnj.org/recycling)
 - Mobile paper shredding - From April through October at various locations
 - Spring Household Hazardous Waste in April and June
 - Scrap metal recycling in Cranford, Rahway and Westfield
 - Computer/Electronics Disposal - in March, June and October



Seated Left to Right: Councilwoman Sara Todisco, Mayor Charles Lombardo, Councilwoman Ann Tarantino
Standing Left to Right: Councilman James Mathieu, Councilman William Nierstedt, Councilman Michael Martin, Councilman Lou Petruzzelli

Please take advantage of all these services offered both by Garwood and by the County of Union. Every bit kept out of our landfills helps the environment. Also, if you miss any of these scheduled recycling events, remember that the Fanwood Recycling Center will accept waste from other communities. Their schedule is also posted at the Garwood Library. There are also many other sites on the Internet where you can find places to bring your "stuff" rather than put it in the garbage.

I am pleased to continue the practice of Mayor's Saturday on the third Saturday of each month. So far, it has been successful with many residents coming by not only to talk with me, but with the Council Member scheduled for that day. On April 25th, Mr. Jim Mathieu will be with me, Commissioner of Buildings and Grounds, on May 16th, Mr. Louis Petruzzelli, Finance Chair and Library Representative will be with me, and on June 20th, Ms. Sara Todisco, Streets & Road Commissioner, Recreation Chair and Historical Committee Representative will be in attendance. I encourage residents to stop by to talk with us, as we value your input, comments and suggestions.

Just a reminder: I am always available to answer your questions or listen to your concerns and comments. Communication with the residents is of utmost importance to me as I pledged on the day I took office. I will call you back. If I don't have an immediate answer, I will get one for you as soon as I can, or connect you with the proper person in the Borough who can deal with your concerns