

## **GARWOOD POLICE** *By Chief Bruce D. Underhill*

With the holidays now behind us we can start the long stretch toward spring. A few more weeks and it will be time for pitchers, catchers and the boys of summer to start gathering down south. But before we get too far ahead, we can root for our favorite team to make and win this year's Super Bowl! While we hope everyone enjoys the game, the Garwood Police remind you that "Fans don't let fans drive drunk". Please have a safe and victorious Super Bowl Sunday!

The department will be saying goodbye to Sergeant Mario Morelli on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Sgt. Morelli has decided to retire after 25 years of service with the Garwood Police Department. Mario grew up in Garwood and was a longtime volunteer with the Garwood First Aid Squad before and after becoming a Garwood Police Officer. Mario will be dearly missed by his brother officers and the community he served. Please join me in wishing he and his family all the best as they enter this new phase in their lives.

This year, students will have Officer Scott Eriksen teaching DARE and GREAT classes in partnership with Lincoln School. Officer Eriksen began teaching last year under the supervision of Lt. Sam Rocco who has had the responsibility for many years. Lt. Rocco and Officer Eriksen are the department's juvenile officers and liaisons to both the school and the Union County Prosecutors Office's Juvenile Division. Other personnel news includes the appointment of Officer Andrew Horan to the Union County SWAT Team. Officer Horan first served with the Emergency Response Team (UCERT) before trying out for and being accepted to the SWAT Team. Officer Horan served the county proudly as an Army Ranger, and bring his experience and knowledge to the Teams and the department. Congratulations Andrew – well done!

I'd like to take a moment and 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 and needs money. 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.

Even though it's cold out, remember not to leave your car running in front of your house or while shopping as it could slip into gear or be stolen. Residents may come to Borough Hall to warm up if your heat or power goes out. We urge you to dress warm and to be careful with electric heaters. As always, we are here for you. Please visit with us in person or on line at [www.garwoodpd.org](http://www.garwoodpd.org).

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS** *By Frederick W. Corbitt CPWM CRP* *Superintendent Garwood Department of Public Works*

As this winter's potholes are becoming more numerous, the D.P.W. is making repairs now on almost a daily basis. Please be careful when approaching a work zone and thank you for your patience as these repairs are made. To report a pothole call 908-789-1522.

The final scheduled pickup for Christmas trees was on Wednesday, January 28th. Any trees curbside after that will be picked up when time permits.

## **GARWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY** *By Carol A. Lombardo, MLS* *Director of the Garwood Public Library*

This year the Garwood Public Library is celebrating over 80 years of service to the residents of Garwood. The staff is ready and willing to provide for your recreational and educational reading and informational needs. The Library offers print items and e-books, as well as a large selection of audiobooks and DVDs for your listening and viewing pleasure. Also, the Garwood Library participates in Jersey Cat, a state-wide inter-library-loan system, funded through the NJ State Library, which can get items for you that the Garwood Library does not own, but may be owned by another library elsewhere. Check the Garwood Library's home page at their website for the databases that are offered at [yousemore.com/garwood](http://yousemore.com/garwood). Our webpage also provides information on best sellers, recommended staff picks, recently acquired movies and audiobooks, photos of recent events, library news, holiday closings, borrowing information, as well as overdue fee schedules and policies.

There is a toddler story time held each Wednesday morning at 10:30 AM, led by Library Assistant, Maryanne Duffy, who entertains the children with stories, crafts, songs, and activities. The program is open to children 4 years old and under, accompanied by their caregiver. No registration is required.

The Library hosts a Friday morning *Movie Time!* each Friday morning at 10 AM. Movies shown are first run, classics, old favorites and special requests. There is a schedule posted in the Library and on our monthly flyer at the Circulation Desk. Refreshments are provided, or you may bring your own. Registration is not required and the program is open to all adults, not just seniors.

There are two book discussion groups; one on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM in the evening, and the other on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 1:00 PM in the afternoon. Registration is not required for either. Their latest book selections are posted in the Library.

This year's 21<sup>st</sup> annual Summer Reading theme is "Every Hero Has a Story". All the details have not yet been finalized, but the program will run from June 17<sup>th</sup>, for seven weeks through August 7<sup>th</sup>. As the date nears, more information will be sent home to the school children in their "Friday Folders" and will 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.

PLEASE NOTE: The Garwood Library has quite an extensive collection of news articles, photos and memorabilia from Garwood's past. We encourage all residents to think of the library before tossing out any of Garwood's history, no matter how trivial. The staff can scan your items into the computer and return the originals to you, or we can store them in our lockable Garwood History file for safekeeping. Garwood's history is a valuable asset that should be preserved for future generations, and we are trying to do our part in saving it.

The Board of Trustees of the Garwood Library are: President Maria Nierstedt, Treasurer Christine DiGiacomo, Secretary Christine Guerriero, and members Mary Ann Severage, Carolyn Warchol, Sara Waverka, and Carol White. School Superintendent Dr. Teresa Quigley, is the School Representative, and the Mayor's Representative for 2015 is Councilman Louis Petruzzelli. The Library Board meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month in the Library at 8:00 PM, except July and August. In January and September the meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday.

The staff is led by Director Carol A. Lombardo, who holds a Master's Degree in Library Science from Rutgers University. The Library Assistants, Shenaz Nasser, Linda Fiore, Maryanne Duffy, and Kelly Greene have combined Garwood Library experience in excess of 40 years, and can help you with just about any reference question you may have. There is also a Notary Public on staff at the Library. Our pages, Joshua Law

and Nora Duffy, provide the assistance needed to keep our Library neat, orderly, and well maintained.

The Garwood Library is located at the corner of Third Avenue and Walnut Street, behind the Lincoln School complex. Phone is 908-789-1670; e-mail is [garwoodlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:garwoodlibrary@gmail.com), and you can "like us" at [facebook.com/garwoodlibrary](http://facebook.com/garwoodlibrary). Hours of business are 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM on Mondays through Thursdays; 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM on Fridays, and 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturdays. The Library is closed on Saturdays during July and August.

Don't forget – the Garwood Library recycles! Although we are no longer collecting dairy tubs or yogurt containers, we're still collecting empty inkjet cartridges, any size, and color, as well as the plastic packaging from baby or adult diapers (the outer packaging) and the outer packaging from personal wipes. We send these items to a company called Terracycle who turns these items into usable products like bags, playground furniture, and a variety of household items. The Library also reaps the benefits as there is no shipping charge to mail the items, and the Library receives 2 cents for every item used by Terracycle. It's a win-win for all involved. Please drop off your recyclables during business hours. And thank you for helping us save a little bit of the planet! The Garwood Library is your "information location". Come check us out and get carded today!

## **HISTORICAL COMMITTEE** *By Bruce Paterson* *Secretary of Garwood Historical Committee*

Happy new year, from the Garwood Historical Committee (GWHC). Some look at the year's passing with sadness; here at the GWHC, we see it as a valuable extension to the long history of our borough. This year we welcome two new members into our committee, each already making history. Member Carol Lombardo is the Head Librarian of Garwood and for the last eight years has allowed her library to become the repository of historical artifacts regarding Garwood, many times displaying these artifacts in the glass cases at the library. Member Paul Tarantino, who is fairly new to our town has jumped right in and has volunteered his time in recording the Garwood council meetings for posterity. He started this in January, 2014. You can find the videos on his Facebook page titled "Garwood Insight." Other recent activities the GWHC performed is the framing of the Garwood Centennial flag found in council chambers and the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Garwood railroad underpass, where we had our original mayor, George Casabona, who actually cut the ribbon back in 1963, give a speech as he "re-cut" the ribbon in 2013. If anyone has any artifacts or historical documents and photos of Garwood's past, they are welcome to bring it to Carol at the Library so she can scan them for record and/or display them. There are other items in the initial works by the GWHC. Details to be released when appropriate. Each day is considered a brick in our historical path.

## **ROAD WORK** *By Donald R. Guariello* *Municipal Engineer*

This year's Borough road program will include four streets. The work will include paving of three streets and drainage on a fourth street. The three streets that will be milled and resurfaced are Beech Avenue from West Street to the Westfield town line; Maple Street from Myrtle to Spruce Avenue; and Third Avenue from Walnut to Cedar Street. In addition to paving the Borough will be replacing curbs, repairing some sidewalks, and placing new handicapped ramps and concrete driveway aprons on sections where sidewalks exist. We also will be upgrading and installing drainage on Hickory Avenue between Center Street and East Street.

## **GARWOOD SENIOR PROGRAMS** *By Paulette Drogon* *Senior Director*

The senior department offers **FREE** programs for all Garwood senior 62 years or older.

We offer Zumba Gold on Tuesday @10 a.m. and exercise class on Wednesday @ 9a.m. At this time our line dancing class is cancelled due to the resignation of the instructors. We are looking for new instructors so we can resume line dancing on Monday

Craft classes are held monthly on a Thursday. The dates vary. Please call for more information about craft class dates and times. We also have bowling every week on Tuesday @1p.m. These are healthy, fun activities to help you stay active. Except for bowling, all activities are held in the Fire House.

If you are not receiving the 3 month calendar of events please call and leave your name, address, and telephone number and I will add you to the my mailing list.

If you have an interest or activity you would like us to provide please give me a call.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION THE TELEPHONE NUMBER TO CONTACT ME IS 908-789-0710 ext. 3027**

## **PUBLIC CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE** *By Kathy Villaggio*

In 2015 the Public Celebrations Committee will be planning the following events:

- Annual Easter Egg Hunt – March 28<sup>th</sup> at noon  
– Athletic Field
- Memorial Day Remembrance – May 28<sup>th</sup> at noon  
– Knights of Columbus
- Pumpkin Decorating Contest  
– to be held the same date and time as the PTA's
- Trick or Trunk
- Christmas Tree Lighting and Visit from Santa  
– November 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm

New this year we will be planning a Halloween House Decorating Contest – in order to participate in this event, participants will be asked to register their house with the Celebrations Committee by email at [garwoodcelebrations@garwood.org](mailto:garwoodcelebrations@garwood.org).

The second new item will be a Garwood Cookbook – if you have a special recipe that you would like to share with the residents, please email the recipe or drop of the recipe a Borough Hall. It is hoped that we receive all of the recipes before June 1<sup>st</sup> and will have the cookbooks ready to go on sale in the fall. The last time that Garwood had a recipe book was at its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2003.

If you are interested in joining the Garwood Public Celebrations Committee, please contact Borough Hall or if you have any ideas for new events, we welcome your ideas – send an email to [Garwoodcelebrations@garwood.org](mailto:Garwoodcelebrations@garwood.org).

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# Garwood Gazette

"SMALL TOWN WITH A BIG HEART"

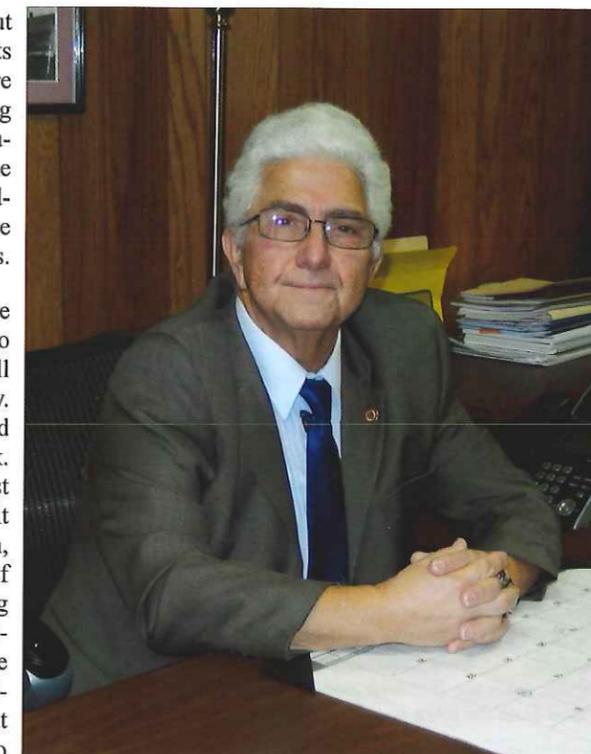
Volume II Issue I

## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

By Mayor Charles P. Lombardo

As this new year starts, with my duties as your new Mayor, I began to think about what was important for me to say in my first newsletter message to the residents of this great town. I've decided to focus on you, the residents. Having lived here for 39 years, I've seen Garwood go through many phases; however, the one thing that has changed little is the enthusiasm and sense of pride we have as a community. The times and economy have surely changed over the years, and so has the availability of leisure time, and time spent with family and friends. Work schedules, both parents working, single parent situations, and long commutes have taken away so much of the time we used to have to just relax and enjoy our lives.

Garwood has always been a town of committed, dedicated people who were willing to go the extra mile to make Garwood the best place that it can be to grow a family. Although time constraints are affecting everyone, Garwood is still needs those residents who can offer a little time to give back to the community. If you've been in town a while, you remember that several years ago, Garwood celebrated "The Year of the Volunteer" with a parade and picnic in Unami Park. Garwood is that strong in volunteerism. Volunteering requires no experience, just a desire to spend a little time to help the community grow and prosper. A benefit of this endeavor is that you get to know your neighbors, the people across town, those who just moved here, and those that have been here for a while. Many of our Borough Committees are facing low participation, whether it's from aging members, residents who moved out of town, or unfortunate illness. These committees are in need of active participants to keep activities going for the rest of the community. The more people who step up to give a little time, the less responsibility will fall to the same few who volunteer for everything. Please contact me at my email [clombardo@garwood.org](mailto:clombardo@garwood.org) or call me 908-789-0508. I will be happy to speak with you and find a place for your talents.



As part of continuing the practice of meeting the residents on Mayor's Saturday, I wanted to change it up a bit by adding a Councilperson to be with me on those days. On each Mayor's Saturday, there will be a different Council Member with me who will be available to answer your questions and listen to your concerns. On January 17th, it is Mr. Nierstedt (Fire Commissioner); February 21 is Mr. Martin (Chairman of Laws and Licenses) March 21 is Ms. Tarantino (Police Commissioner) and April 17 is Mr. Mathieu (Chairman of Buildings and Grounds). Every Council Member will have a chance to meet and greet with me and offer you an opportunity to get to know us better.

Also, if you know of any resident who has gone above and beyond to accomplish something out of the ordinary, let me know and we will honor them with our Citizen's Recognition Certificate. Garwood has so many talented and outstanding people, and yet many of them don't want to come forward to pat themselves on the back. I'm asking you to do it for them. Send me an email about their accomplishments or heroic act and we'll consider them for our program.

Lastly, I want to tell you about a very important change in the Dog Licensing process. Many residents have expressed concern that they have to get in to the Borough Office on their lunch hour or take time off because they work later than the Borough office is open. From here on out, Dog Licenses can be applied for on two Tuesday evenings during the month of January. (The same evenings as our Council meetings, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM.) We hope this will alleviate some of the anxiety and unnecessary stress of our dog owners.

Remember that I am always available for your questions, concerns and comments. If I don't know the answer I will get it for you or direct you to the proper person who can provide it. Communication with the residents is of utmost importance to me and, as I pledged on the day I took the Oath of Office, I will call you back and respond.

**The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders**  
Invites You to the Ribbon Cutting of the  
New Union County Child Safety Seat  
Inspection Center in Garwood



**Wednesday, February 4 at 10 am**  
**Garwood First Aid Squad**  
**401 2nd Avenue, Garwood**

RSVP to [DNewbury@ucnj.org](mailto:DNewbury@ucnj.org) or call (908) 527-4742 for more information

One of Union County's most popular public safety programs, the child seat inspections are provided as a public service by:  
**The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders**  
Union County Police Department  
New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety  
AAA - New Jersey Automobile Club

Free inspections will begin at 7:30 am on February 4.  
Regular inspection hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 am until 11 am.

A Service of the  
Union County Board of  
Chosen Freeholders



**UNION COUNTY**  
We're Connected to You!