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Division of Community Affairs
Garfield Police Department
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www.Generations4Garfield.org
Edited by NYU SoM NIEHS Center CEC

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JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

Celebrating Our 40th Year



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*Congratulations on Garfield's
Community Newsletter
"Generations for Garfield"*



**Richard "Riggs"
Rigoglioso**



MAYOR

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LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

An Expectational Year

As we watched 2018 wind down with people packing up holiday decorations, spending time with friends and family, and ringing in the New Year, it's important to count the blessings in our lives and our city. 2018 was an outstanding year for the City of Garfield, and despite the many challenges faced, we have achieved a record number of accomplishments throughout the year. Promises were kept true as community principles and values were focused on and promoted every turn of the way. Many new residents have been welcomed as friends and neighbors in our beautiful city, specifically our new residents living at Signature Place on River Road and at Merridan Crossing on Walnut Street. Garfield's spirit of community has been fostered and promoted through the many community events that have been made possible through the help and support of the generous business community, along with our many homegrown organizations and committees such as The Rotary Club, the Community Events Committee, the VFW, the Recreation Department, The Garfield Boys and Girls Club, The Garfield School District, The Garfield YMCA, the Hispanic Alliance, Garfield Women's Club, Vistula Soccer Club, Garfield Coalition, Garfield Health Department, The Venetian, Piast Polish Deli, Garfield Lumber, Garfield Public Library, and various other church-affiliated organizations. The efforts on behalf of the tireless employees and hard-working volunteers deserves a great showing of gratitude as their unwavering dedication serves as the glue that binds our community events. The selfless nature of volunteering is a quality embedded deep into the backbone of our community, and without such giving donors and volunteers we would not be able to accomplish all that we do together.

Garfield has also become home for many new businesses, while also watching existing businesses expand and renovate their facilities; ultimately, the growth and improvements to our local private sector enhance the overall progress of our community. 2019 will see the opening of two new Garfield locations for The Falafel King eatery and Five Below, while also providing our residents with the freshest healthy foods in the state as a farmer's market will come to town once a month. It is important to realize that a thriving community translates into a thriving local economy, so please be sure to help support these businesses by shopping in Garfield. There is a deep gratitude amongst us for our local businesses and for their continued and unwavering support, so in turn, we wish them all continued success.

There is something to say about having patience in life, and planting the seeds of work today, only to watch the successful results of its growth tomorrow. One of these results will be the upcoming renovation of the Garfield Public Library, which will have the elevator window and the bathroom work completed by the spring, while the landscape revitalization should be finished by summertime. It is a continuous pleasure to see a recreational facility being utilized by people of all ages and by many different programs from theater to STEAM to Robotic classes. The Recreation Department has been progressively moving plans forward that will include the addition of another splash park at Century Field; this department has continuously and consistently been expanding and improving programs to help better serve our changing and growing community.

2019 will see the completion of the brand-new Garfield Police Station, the purchasing of new police vehicles and a fire truck to give our public safety personnel the best and proper equipment available. A new D.P.W. sewer jet truck were purchased to ensure a year-round ability to efficiently and more quickly unclog unforeseen blockages. It must be noted that all these projects and equipment purchases were made possible due to the wise and patient financial planning by our City Manager and Council. We have maintained our outstanding AAA bond rating and successfully anticipated costs for the next 5-10 years.

We strive to not only save money, but to also continually seek additional streams of revenue. We are always on the looking for grants and shared services with other municipalities to efficiently save taxpayer dollars for Garfield. Garfield is continuing to move in a positively and legitimately forward direction, from the inside-out; as its success has been the result of all the hard work and many collaborated efforts from Garfield's own.

We all remember the pain and inconveniences of all the on-going utility work and necessary infrastructure upgrades that took place from last March straight through to November, especially on Passaic Street. Thankfully, all of the paving projects and upgrades were fully completed, and additional paving work, sidewalk construction, and repairs were finished throughout the city. We would like to thank you all for your patience. As a result, and with the acquisition of a federal grant, many more sidewalk installations and repairs will be possible for us this year. We will also stay true to our long-term resurfacing road and sidewalk program.

It would seem the most challenging issue facing our community right now is dealing with the redevelopment of Passaic Street because without the redevelopment and revitalization work occurring, this could have a crippling repercussion for our community. We will continuously navigate different ideas while working closely with the first ward residents and our Redevelopment Committee to bring forth a successful redevelopment plan to Passaic Street. The residents in the First Ward need to know we are working to make their neighborhood better, safer and inviting for all. I assure you that we are doing all we can and will continue to stay on top of this important issue. Also, we will try to minimize the negativity that a few residents have spread regarding a fear of change and maximize the positivity that change is good for our first ward. We all need to come together.

This year we will also be examining our public information systems to help improve borough communications, provide better, faster, and more current up-to-date public information in a more efficient and rapid manner, and increase user friendliness on our new city website. Additionally, "Coffee with the Mayor" will be coming back, events will be held at various locations around the city and on different days and times to better accommodate our residents. Please check our websites for additional information. As always, residents can call city hall at any time to meet with me or can contact me directly. We are here to serve you.

To say, "Thank You" never seems to be adequate enough to recognize our dedicated employees, our board members, committees, and community volunteers, and our Fire Department. They spend countless hours training, preparing, up keeping equipment, and responding to emergency calls. And, you will always find them at every town event. We are so appreciative of their dedication to our community. We are also grateful for our police who not only keep us safe, but who also sponsor many of their own town events for our community at their own expense. Our Policy Department once again will run a Police Youth Academy in the summer which has been growing every year. Our DPW continues to be our unsung heroes making our borough look great and are always there to help set up, install, and dig us out. We are so appreciative of their efforts which continue to be exemplary, above and beyond expectation. As Mayor, it is with great pride and comfort that all of these entities work, not only as a team, but as a family making Garfield a great place to live. We thank you.

I would be remiss if I did not mention our new superintendent of school Anna Sciacca and the new Business Administrator of Schools Dr. Cusmano who take on the task of moving our school district forward in a positive light, as they will work with the city manager to keep our taxes down. I would also like to congratulate our newest police sergeants: Sgt Anthony Koptyra, Sgt. Jeffrey Stewart, Sgt. Michael Bocco, Sgt. Claire Follari (first woman Sergeant in Garfield), Sgt. Pedro Gongora, Sgt. Everett Garnto, and Sgt. Raymond Bielski. Also; congratulations to Garfield Police Department Deputy Chief Ronald Polonkay and Garfield Fire Department Chief Jason Tani.


I am confident that 2019 will once again be an exceptional year for our city. Thank you all for your continued contributions and commitments to making Garfield the wonderful place that it is. I look forward to working with you and serving you this upcoming year. May God continue to bless Garfield and all of you.

JANUARY EVE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		1 New Year's Day	2
			
6  Adult Flu shots are still available at the Garfield Health Dept. By Appt only. While supplies last. Call 973-340-3340 for an appt	7 Monday-Friday: Generations for Garfield Walking Club: Check-in at the Garfield Health Dept, 60 Elizabeth St, 9-3 pm 7:00pm Redevelopment Agency, Garfield City Hall	8 9:00-11:00 am Health Counseling/Blood Pressure Screening, Garfield Health Dept, 60 Elizabeth St 6:00pm City Council Meeting, City Hall 5:30pm Family Story Time, Garfield Library	9 9:00-12:00 pm SNAP Outreach, Garfield Senior Center, 225 Midland Ave
13 	14 Monday-Friday: Generations for Garfield Walking Club: Check-in at the Garfield Health Dept, 60 Elizabeth St, 9-3 pm	15 9:00-11:00 am Health Counseling/Blood Pressure Screening, Garfield Health Dept, 60 Elizabeth St. 9:00-12:00 pm SNAP Outreach, Golden Tower, 225 Midland Ave 5:30pm Family Story Time, Garfield Library	16 <i>International Hot & Cold</i>
20	21 Martin Luther King, Jr Day (1929-1968)	22 9:00-11:00 am Health Counseling/Blood Pressure Screening, GHD, 60 Elizabeth St 6:00pm City Council Meeting 5:30pm Family Story Time, Garfield Library	23
27	28 Monday-Friday: G4G, Walking Club: Check-in at the GHD, 60 Elizabeth St, 9-3 p.m 1:00 pm SNAP Ed Cooking Matters, Belmont Gardens, 377 Midland Ave 7:00pm Zoning Board of Adjustment, City Hall.	29 9:00-11:00 am Health Counseling/Blood Pressure Screening, Garfield Health Dept, 60 Elizabeth St 5:30pm Family Story Time, Garfield Library	30

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EVENT CALENDAR			
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	3	4	5
	10 10:00 am Tiny Tots Story Time, Garfield Library 12:00-1:00 pm Garfield Prevention Coalition Mtg, Garfield YMCA, 33 Outwater Lane	11  <i>Are you or someone you know turning 100 in 2019?</i> We want to celebrate Garfield's Centenarians! Email Sgt Stewart @ jstewart@garfieldpolice.org so we can include your special day in an upcoming newsletter.	12
Center, 480			
	17 10:00 am Tiny Tots Story Time, Garfield Library 3:30 Lego Club, Garfield Library	18 3:30 pm Queen from Medieval Times, Garfield Library	19 <i>Include your community event on next month's calendar! Email the name, date, location & time of your event to Sgt. Jeff Stewart @ jstewart@garfieldpolice.org.</i>
<i>Hot Spicy Foods Day</i>			
	24 10:00 am Tiny Tots Story Time, Garfield Library 8:00pm Garfield Planning Board, City Hall	25	26 
	31 10:00 am Tiny Tots Story Time, Garfield Library	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p><i>Coming soon!</i> February 7th & 14th: FREE A1c and lipid screening at the Garfield Health Dept. <i>By Appointment only.</i> Call 973-340-3340 for more information.</p> </div>	



HEALTH & COMMUNITY NEWS

What do I do with my unused medications?



◇ There are more than 5,000 over-the-counter (OTC) & prescription drugs currently on the market.



◇ Nearly 1/3 of people 12 yrs and over who used drugs for the first time, began by using a prescription drug for nonmedical purposes (National Survey on Drug Use and Health).

◇ **Deactivation kits & medication drop boxes** are an affordable and easy answer to proper disposal

Drug Deactivation Kit



1. Add pills, liquids or patches to the bag
2. Add water
3. Shake
4. Dispose in household trash



- Keeps pharmaceuticals out of the hands of children, teenagers or anyone other than the intended user
- Deactivation kits can be used for patches, liquids, pain pills, oral contraceptives & antibiotics
- Prevents environmental contamination of waterways and soil as well potential harmful chemical interactions in the environment

Medication Drop Box



Residents are welcome to bring unused medications to the GPD drop box, located in the police station at 160 Belmont Avenue, Garfield, NJ.

For more information or to pick up a drug deactivation kit, please email Sergeant Stewart at jstewart@garfieldpolice.org

◇ With billions of consumers and thousands of drugs in use worldwide, responsible disposal is the key to safe consumption and a clean environment.

Thanks to a donation from Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals and the collaboration between the GPD Division of Community Affairs, the NYU SoM, Environmental Medicine Community Engagement Core, the Garfield Prevention Coalition and the Garfield Health Department, residents now have 2 great FREE options for the disposal of unused medications.

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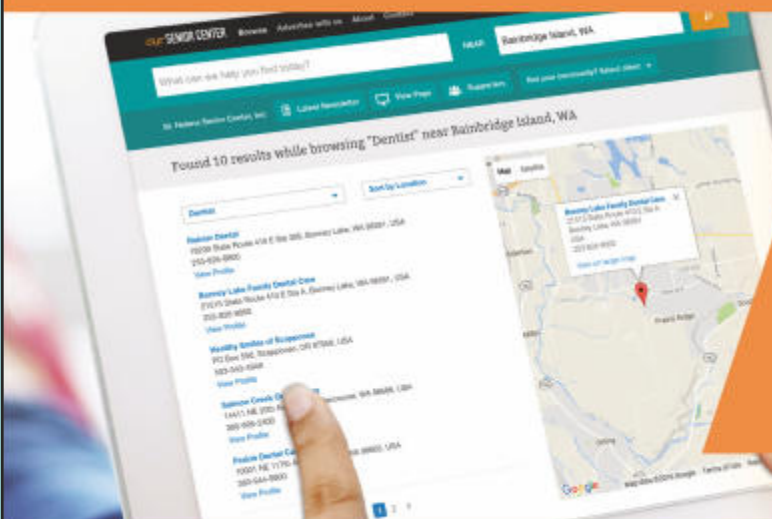
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Garfield Police Department-Community Affairs 06-5306

NEWS & EVENTS

The Holidays at the Garfield Housing Authority

By Taylor McKay



School # 7 visited Belmont Gardens and The Golden Tower on December 11th and 13th to sing holiday songs and help serve pizza at lunch. The seniors enjoyed singing along, dancing and getting to know the children!



The Garfield Housing Authority seniors kicked off their holiday season with a "Senior Day" party at Garfield Middle School on December 14th. The school choir, band and dance team performed and seniors got to spend time with the students playing Uno & Bingo.

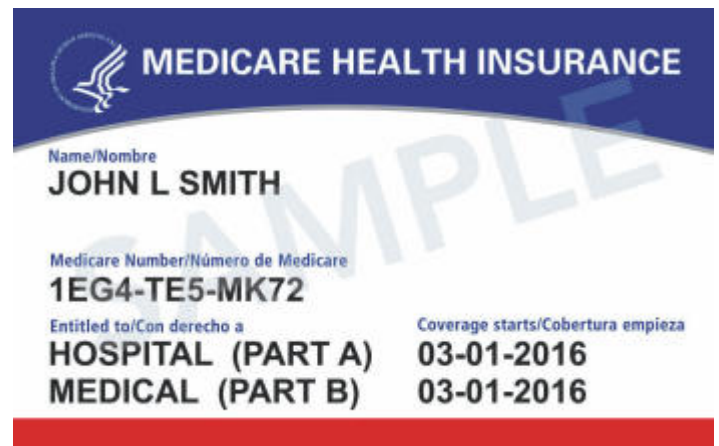
THANK YOU!!

Thank you to all the 'Secret Santas' who donated gifts for the annual toy drive benefiting the children of Garfield! Due to your generosity, Garfield families, including every child in PreK, Kindergarten and 1st grade received a special delivery in time for Christmas.

2019 Medicare Update

There is still time to make a switch for 2019! For the first time, you can switch your Medicare Advantage plan until March 31st. Also, *all* Medicare recipients should have received their new Medicare card and ID number. Old cards and Social Security numbers will become obsolete as of **April 2019**.

NEW Medicare card



Mayor Richard Rigoglioso: Rrigoglioso@garfieldnj.org
Deputy Mayor Joseph Delaney: jdelaney@garfieldnj.org
Councilwoman Erin Delaney: Edelaney@garfieldnj.org
Councilman Frank Calandriello: fcalandriello@garfieldnj.org
Councilman Louis Aloia: laloia@garfieldnj.org
City Manager Thomas Duch: tduch@garfieldnj.org

Thank you to Mayor Richard Rigoglioso, the entire City Council & City Manager Tom Duch for their support!