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



Richard "Riggs"
Rigoglioso
MAYOR



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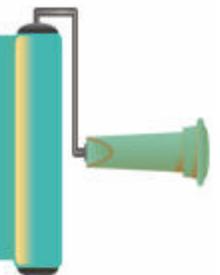
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LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

I have never been prouder to not only be a lifelong resident of Garfield but to also have the privilege of being the Mayor. As we are all aware, our city recently had two devastating fires in the past 2 months that left 8 families displaced. Although we have been going through some very trying times, especially with the pandemic changing everyday life, I am pleased and proud to say that I have witnessed our Garfield residents rally together to unite our community and help each other in any way they can.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Garfield Fire Department and the Garfield Police Department for their prompt and efficient aid during their successful responses. Because of everyone's swift and professional actions, their extensive training, and most importantly, their valiant services, we, the community, have far less tragic circumstances to endure. Homes and infrastructure can be replaced, but not lives. Their efforts resulted in no injuries or loss of life, and for that we as a city are endlessly grateful. We cannot thank them enough for dedicated and courageous service to our community.

I continue to see our residents and community organizations step up and meet the challenges faced by helping others in any way possible. From a tragic event to a pandemic, to even volunteering to help get our residents counted for the 2020 Census, multiple volunteer organizations came together to lend a hand. Garfield Neighbors, Strangers Helping Strangers, the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, Generations for Garfield, GPD Community Affairs, and Garfield United continue to get supplies, raise money, make masks, provide meals on a daily basis, deliver meals to our seniors, and provide school supplies, PPE supplies, and household and hygiene products. We all work together as one community. These are just a few examples of our residents' commitment to our community. Again, I could not be prouder to be from Garfield. Soon the year 2020 will be over, and eventually we will move back to a new normal way of life, but what everyone has done in the last eight months will go down in the history of Garfield lore.

We are finally cleaning up and developing the containment property on Monroe St. and River Road, which will bring a strip mall with a storage facility. The commencement of developing Passaic Street into a true downtown with shopping, cafes, lounges, and restaurants is finally happening and let's not forget the starting of phase 2 of the River Road Park (Monroe St. to Passaic St.), is happening soon. Lastly, we finally will be removing those dangerous tracks along Monroe St., the VISION OF GARFIELD has never been brighter. With all these projects happening the tax ratable Garfield will be receiving, over a 10-year period is close to 20 million dollars...real money.

With that being said, we face municipal budget challenges as a result of the COVID outbreak, our ultimate mission as a municipality currently is to be fiscally prudent. Our major objective is to keep our tax base stable as possible, and according to our tax accessor 97% of our residents are paying their taxes on time. Another goal that we are achieving is promoting economic viability and enhancing economic stability. I am happy to inform you that the development and redevelopment in Garfield continues to grow and I strongly believe that there is business that wants to invest in our city, that will keep our tax base stable for years to come.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation to the dedicated employees of the City of Garfield, as they continue to keep Garfield moving forward, Additionally I would like to thank the members of various Garfield's Boards and Commission; and all the volunteers who donate countless hours of their time for the advancement of Garfield. You are what make Garfield, "The City of Champions."

Mayor Richard "Riggs" Rigoglioso

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Census 2020

Message from the Mayor regarding the Census:

The last day for Garfield 2020 be counted census is September 30th. We know that the hardest groups to count are renters, immigrants in the citizenship process, as well as babies and small children. Well, we want as many of you as possible to be counted – from our most recent infants to our newest residence –

The census only happens once every 10 years ...so now is your chance to be counted! The response rate in New Jersey is about 2 percent higher than the average national rate, and Garfield is about even with our 2010 response rate. so, we are doing great so far! As of Sept. 20th, 64.7% of Garfield residents had responded to the census. But we are still just short of our 2010 response rate of 65%, even though the response deadline has been extended to Sept. 30 this year.

Most know what the census is, but many do not understand its importance. The Constitution requires a count of every person living in the U.S. every 10 years. The Garfield census results will not only provide the basis for reappointing the congressional seats, but it will also dictate what portion of the hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funds that will be allocated to Garfield programs including, Head Start programs, community park and block grants, mental health services, social services, education, healthcare, senior programs and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – especially this program is needed more than ever in the age of Covid-19...and much more

Census data is also used to determine our state legislative districts and congressional districts. Did you know New Jersey used to have 15 representatives in Congress, and now we have only 12? We lost a Congressional representative in the 1980, 1990 and 2010 censuses. So, in 2020, let us all do our part to make sure Garfield residents gets our fair share of federal funding AND make sure we are fairly represented in Washington.

Just so you know, in purely financial terms the Census Bureau tells us that The City of Garfield stands to gain \$2,500 of aid per person per year for the next 10 years if counted – that's real money! Even a 1% error could result in the City of Garfield and losing millions of dollars a year for the next 10 years.. If you have not completed the 2020 Census yet, there is still time, and it is easy to do! You have until September 30th to complete the census, and you can do it online at <https://my2020census.gov/> or over the phone (844)330-2020(English) or (844)468-2020 (Spanish).

The census is super important, safe, and easy...I count, you count, we count. Everyone counts.

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HEALTH & COMMUNITY NEWS



September is Recovery Month. Recovery from substance use disorder is possible. September is a month of celebration for those in recovery from substance use disorder and what a wonderful thing to celebrate.

In Garfield we celebrated by reviving the public fence art on the Jewel Street Park. We celebrated with community members expressing themselves with art on a beautiful day. To a person in recovery every day is a beautiful so we celebrated with park beautification. Leaving a message with the Recovery Support Team number, a 24/7 hotline to connect with a Recovery Specialist for those seeking help with any aspect of recovery. #stoptheods 201-589-2976



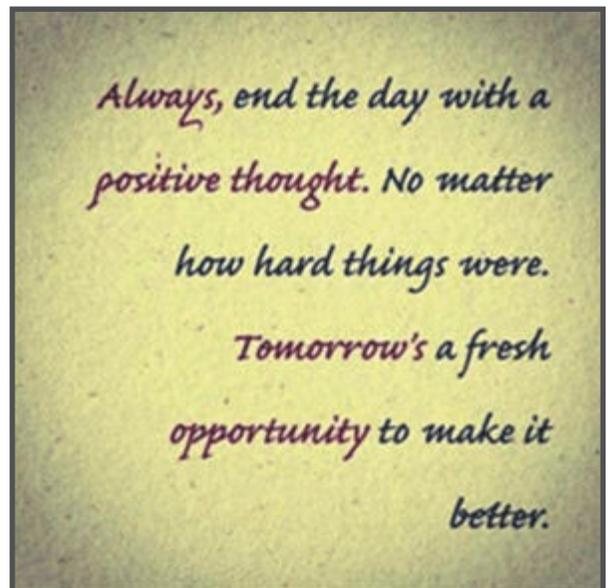
GARFIELD PREVENTION COALITION



EPIC students at the town-wide clean up this month (pictured above). Thank you to all who participated in making Garfield a cleaner place!



One of our youngest volunteers helping out at Jewell Street Park! Thank you to all who joined us for some 'fence art' earlier this month!



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06-5306

GARFIELD COVID-19 SURVEY



Garfield, NJ COVID-19 Community Survey

How has your life been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic?

- ◇ We want to hear from you! 
- ◇ All responses will be collected anonymously.
- ◇ The survey will take 6-7 minutes of your time and may be completed online- see the link below- or over the phone.

Survey link: <https://is.gd/GarfieldCOVID19>

Email or call Shannon @ Shannon.doherty@nyulangone.org or 646-754-9447 for more information.



The City of Garfield has partnered with the NYU Langone Health

Department of Environmental Medicine to conduct a survey to better understand the needs of our community *right now*.

Even if you have never tested positive, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Garfield residents and their families in ways that we want to better understand.

The data collected from this survey will be used to determine appropriate resources and services for our community as we plan for the future. This includes food distribution, public health prevention strategies and digital access.

***Please help spread the word!
We want to hear from you!***

***For more information, email
Sergeant Jeff Stewart @
jstewart@garfieldpolice.org***

Notify Garfield: Visit www.Garfieldnj.org and click the 'Sign up now' button or www.tinyurl.com/ravegarfield to start receiving updates. Once you sign up, you will receive emergency alerts and notifications from Garfield OEM and the Garfield Police Dept.



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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!