

2007 Standing Committees

The following Committees of the Council, consist of three Council Members each (other than the Mayor, ex-officio), and were appointed by Mayor McCarthy at the annual meeting.

Council President Charles Lombardo
 Streets & Roads Commissioner
 Committee on Aging
 Celebrations Liaison

Councilman Victor DeFilippo
 Buildings & Grounds Chair
 UC Air Traffic Advisory Board

Councilman William Schadewald
 Ecology
 Industrial and Commercial
 UC Transportation Commission

Councilman Keith Sluka
 Fire Commissioner
 Recreation Commissioner
 Municipal Alliance Liaison

Councilman Walter Tucker
 Police Commissioner
 Laws & License Chair
 Library Representative

Councilwoman Kathleen Villaggio
 Finance Chair
 School Board Liaison



Just the Facts...Garwood News
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Office Hours:

Clerk:
 Mon-Fri 9am-4:30pm
 till 6:30pm—2nd
 & 4th Tuesday each
 month, except during
 the summer months

Violations:
 Mon- Fri 9am to 4pm

DPW
 Mon-Fri
 6:30am to 3pm

Police
 24/7

Christina M. Ariemma, Administrator/Clerk	789-0710
William D. Legg, Police Chief	789-1500
Fred Corbitt, DPW Superintendent	789-1522
Sue Wright/CFO Treasurer	789-0475
Aggie Kurzweil, Tax Clerk	789-0475
Martha Marino, Court Administrator	789-0780
Adele Lewis, Planning Board Secretary	301-9357
Howard Coppari, Zoning Code Official	709-7216
Paulette Drogon, Senior Citizen Director	789-0738
Board of Health	789-4070
Donald Guarriello, Borough Engineer	620-1139
Construction Department	709-7213
Fire Department Non-Emergency	789-8877
Carol Lombardo, Librarian	789-1670
Kathleen Pender, Recreation Director	418-7649
Garwood Schools	789-0331
Union County Public Information	527-4744

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Spring/Summer 2007

Volume 3, Issue 1

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Important Information

- ◆ **Cat Licenses are due during the month of June. All cats in the borough must be licensed. The cost is \$5.00 and proof of rabies is required. Licenses are issued at the Borough Clerk's Office.**
- ◆ **Tuesday, June 5, 2007 Primary Election—Polls are open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**



How did it become an Athletic Field Complex?

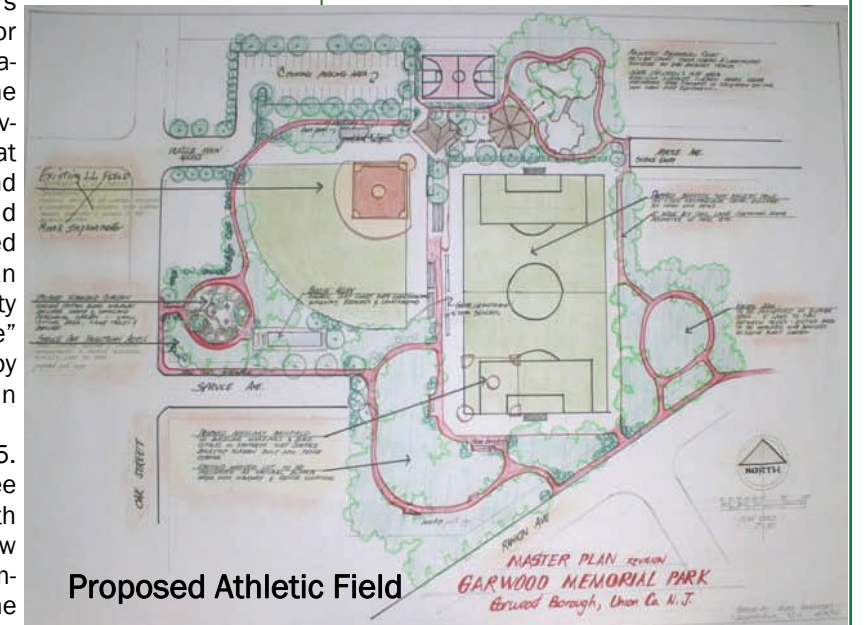
The last update in our newsletter concerning the "Community Center" was printed in the 2005/06 Fall/Winter Edition. If you no longer have your copy, you can access it at www.garwood.org. The following is a quote from that edition "The meeting did not provide enough feedback to decide to build or not to build, however residents did provide good ideas that warranted investigation. The Mayor recruited eight citizens, including the Borough Clerk and appointed them to a committee to investigate those ideas. The committee will make a recommendation that perhaps the community will support." The above mentioned town meeting was held on June 30, 2005.

Just to recap, at the meeting many ideas were presented including field expansion, adding a gymnasium to Washington School, and basketball courts to Lincoln School. Many of the 150 people present didn't want a center at all and many did. Some said the center was too big for the seniors and too small for children's recreation. It became evident to the governing body that these ideas and concerns should be investigated and thus began the "Community Center Committee" established by Mayor McCarthy in October/November 2005. The committee was charged with the task to review and make recommendation to the

Mayor and Council for recreational improvements in the Borough of Garwood and to explore the ideas presented at the June 30th meeting. The committee consisted of Keith Sluka, Karen Resetar, Karen Rusin, Bob Pender, Pat DiFabio, Angelo Alimonti, and Borough Administrator/Clerk Christina M. Ariemma. The Mayor chose approximately 12 people from the June 30th meeting to serve on the committee; however only the seven mentioned accepted.

The committee held its first meeting on **November 15, 2005** with all members present. Discussion included options, funds, wish lists, adding a gymnasium to Washington School, shared services, and adding basketball courts to Lincoln School. Since Bill Nierstedt suggested adding a gymnasium to Washington School the committee decided to invite him to the next meeting to discuss the idea.

Continued on next page.....



Proposed Athletic Field

The committee did not meet in December. The next meeting was held on **January 26, 2006** with all members present. Also present was invited guest Bill Nierstedt. The idea of building a gymnasium addition to Washington School was discussed. The committee discussed size, need, funding, Board of Education approval, and cooperation. It was concluded that Mr. Nierstedt as well as other committee members provide information at the next meeting regarding the cost involved. Mr. Nierstedt and Ms. Ariemma presented old blue print plans prepared in 1995 by Kinsey Associates that included field expansion at the Little League complex. These plans were discussed.

The committee met on **February 23, 2006** with five members present. The information to build a full size gymnasium was presented with an estimated construction cost of approximately two million dollars and it was noted that grants or funding for this type of project was not available. It was quickly realized that the cost to construct the gymnasium was too high and would not serve the entire community and although this was something the committee would like to see in the future, it was decided to table that idea. The old field plans were reviewed and discussed. Ms. Ariemma advised the group that there is funding available for projects like this through the Open Space, Recreation & Historic Preservation Trust Fund, and also the Green Acres Program. Cost and the existing field house were discussed. The committee decided that it would like to explore the option of constructing the fields on the old plan with a building to serve the seniors. Ms. Ariemma advised the group that limited funding is available from Community Development Block Grant for projects concerning senior citizens. Discussion involved inviting professionals to the next meeting to discuss idea of an Athletic Field Complex. Ms. Ariemma recommended Noel Musial of The Musial Group for building design. It was concluded that the next meeting would include Musial Group for building design, Kinsey Associates for Field design, and Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello.

The committee met on **March 23, 2006** with all members present. Also present were invited professionals Noel Musial for The Musial Group, Gordon Raupp for Kinsey Associates, and Borough Engineer Guarriello. The committee's ideas were discussed including building and field design. It was concluded that the professionals would submit proposals for their services to provide cost estimates and plans for construction of a building and field.

The committee met on **May 18, 2006** with all members present. Proposals were received from the professionals and were reviewed and discussed. The committee did not have the authority to hire the professionals, therefore it was concluded that three members of the governing body be invited to the next meeting to discuss the proposals to hire the professionals.

The committee met on **June 1, 2006** with all members present. Also present were Mayor McCarthy, Councilwoman Villaggio, and Councilman Lombardo. The committee explained how they arrived at this point and discussed with members of council their ideas for the area and the proposals received from the professionals. All questions asked by the council

were fully answered by the committee. It was concluded that the committee present these proposals to the full council for approval at the next meeting.

On **June 13, 2006** the committee went before council at their regular meeting to present the committee's recommendations for the construction of a building and athletic field. Mr. Sluka and the members asked Mayor and Council to consider passing resolutions hiring a professional engineer/architect for the building structure and a professional landscape architect for the fields. Plans, designs and cost estimates would be necessary for the committee to make a recommendation to the council and therefore warranted the hiring of professionals.

There was discussion regarding items to be included in this proposal and items that had to be eliminated. Mayor McCarthy thanked the Committee for their efforts and hard work. Councilwoman Villaggio made a recommendation to authorize the funds and approve the request from the committee. All agreed. Councilman Lombardo seconded the recommendation and stated the committee did an excellent job.

The committee did not meet in July, while the contracts were finalized hiring Musial and Kinsey as approved by Mayor and Council at their June 13th meeting.

The committee met on **August 1, 2006** with all members present. Also present were Mr. Noel Musial of The Musial Group, Mr. Gordon Raupp of Kinsey Associates, and Borough Engineer Don Guarriello. The committee was working to finalize a plan to submit for a grant to the Open Space, Recreation & Historic Preservation Trust Fund that was due on September 14, 2006. Mr. Musial prepared a draft estimate based on our last discussions. The building was to include approximately 6,487 square feet with 60x100 meeting room, 20x20 dance floor, 20x20 kitchen, 15x15 game room, offices, restrooms, and storage. The estimate for this building that included everything the committee requested was approximately \$1.4 million, not including contingent, professional fees and demolition. It was realized that it would cost well over two million dollars for the building alone. The fields were to be similar to the old-field plans, with some revisions made. Synthetic surface versus regular surface was explored, discussed, and considered. The field estimate, although not in draft form was mentioned to be \$1.4 million inclusive. A \$3.4 million project total was excessive and the committee quickly realized revisions were necessary. The requirements of the grant application were discussed and Ms. Ariemma explained that funding must be for open space. With that in mind the committee revised the building to a field house that replaced the existing field house to serve the needs of the Athletic Field Complex. Although disappointed the committee realized this was the only way to get the grant and subsequently decided to submit a plan accordingly. Other funding discussed included the Green Acres Program. Ms. Ariemma was asked to obtain more information for the committee.

The committee met on **September 5, 2006** with all members present. Also present were Mr. Noel Musial of The Musial Group, Mr. Gordon Raupp of Kinsey Associates, and Borough Engineer Don Guarriello.

Various events are planned for our Borough by the Garwood Public Celebrations Committee. On May 28 we are having a solemn ceremony for Memorial Day honoring those service members who have given their lives or have risked their lives preserving and fighting for our nation's freedom. The event will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 43 South Ave at noon-time. Parking and the entrance is at the back of the building on Willow Avenue. We will have a guest speaker and refreshments. All residents are welcome, we would like to see the children, and young adults attend to help them understand the value of our freedoms for which the armed forces

fought so valiantly. The following event is being planned in conjunction with the Garwood Police department: On the first Tuesday of August 7th, we will be celebrating our second annual National Night Out. Although the event is not firmed up, last year we had the event celebrated by block. This year's idea are being discussed to either have a large gathering place, one on each side of town, or one main one downtown. The residents will be notified shortly how this event will be celebrated. National Night Out's purpose is to improve the safety of our town and neighborhoods, build community awareness, and meet and greet your neighbors. Remember, we are all in

this together and want to prevent crime in our great Borough. You can visit the National Night Out website at www.nationalnighout.org/nno/. Garwood Public Celebrations Committee is a mayoral appointed commission that sponsors community events including the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt extravaganza, Memorial Day Ceremony, Halloween Home Decorating Contest, Tree-lighting Festival, Holiday Luminary Sale, and Holiday Home decorating Contest. If you are interesting in volunteering for the committee or require more information, please call 908-789-0710.

Town Wide Yard Sale & Clean Up

The 11th Annual Town Wide Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, June 23, 2007, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Register at Borough Hall by June 21st, in person or by calling 789-0710 or email kathleen@garwood.org. A list of participating households will be available at Borough Hall on the morning of the yard sale. The Annual Town Wide Litter Cleanup Day will be held in Garwood, Saturday, September 29, 2007, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., rain or shine. Volunteer Services, neighborhoods, social and school groups as well as individuals are invited to work together to reduce the amount of litter accumulating in various parts of the Borough. Supervision must be provided for all children's groups and all participants must provide their own transportation to the Municipal Building to get their supplies and site assignments. A pizza lunch will be served to volunteers. To participate please call 789-0710 after September 1st or email kathleen@garwood.org.

The Shade Tree Department is again participating in the New Jersey Tree Foundation Green **TREES, TREES, AND MORE TREES**

Streets Cool Schools Tree Planting initiative. 75 trees will be planted in the parks and school grounds over the next several weeks. The Green Streets Cool Schools program is creating lush green corridors and school grounds in cities and towns throughout the region. In addition to the trees planted in the aforementioned program, the Shade Tree Department planted 25 trees this spring. Altogether, the department will have planted 100 trees in 2007. In 2006, the borough planted 188 trees and in 2005, 43 trees were planted for a total of 331 trees planted in three years. If you would like a tree planted in the borough right of way in front of your home, please contact us at 789-0710. We will be planting again in 2008!



DPW Laborer Pete Bongiovanni unloading the 75 trees from the NJ Tree Foundation



The Recreation Commission will be having fun under the sun this spring and summer. April brought many new events for Garwood Children. As Garwood Schools are closed during the week of April 9th-13th, we kept the children busy with "Spring Recess Activities". On April 7th, we held our first "Teen Bowling", at the Garwood Lanes for grades 6th through 8th. April 9th with "Batting Cage Night", at the "Ballpark" in Springfield. All elementary age children took a crack at hitting fastballs between 40 - 55 M.P.H. between 6 - 8 pm. In addition, the instructors gave 2 15-minute fielding seminars. Children also timed themselves as they ran from home to first base. April 12th "Family Roller Skating Night" was held at the Woodbridge Recreation Facility.

In February, we had our Family Swim Night, at the Cranford Pool and Fitness Center. It was well attended, by both children and adults. 180 people attended the event.

We continue the fun with "Ceramics" The events are held periodically at the Garwood Baseball Field House. We also added women Ceramics with a great success. Therefore, we intend to have additional dates in the future.

In between all this, the Recreation Department coordinates soccer for Garwood children with the Cranford Soccer Club, at a low cost to our children. We organize a Soccer Clinic for Pre-K and Kindergarten Children, as we introduce them to the sport. A Pizza Party ends the Clinic.

This past March the recreation implemented a new "Girls Softball Clinic". The clinic coached by Jack Sullivan and two College players was introduced to enhance the players in catching, hitting, throwing, pitching, and technical skills.

The Commission holds a Summer Camp from 9 a.m. - 12:00 noon (Mon- Fri.) at the Garwood Baseball League, as soon as

School lets out. We have crafts, sports, and more fun on a daily basis. In addition, we have day trips; previously we have gone to Point Pleasant Aquarium, Canoe trip, Minor League Baseball games, etc.

Last summer, with great success, we held our first annual "Senior Dinner". The dinner allowed the youth of Garwood to meet members of our senior community and show their appreciation for them. The Mayor, Council, members of the Recreation Commission along with their spouses prepared all the delicious food for the event. In addition to the great food, the children along with a township employee provided entertainment. This year's Dinner will be held on Saturday July 21, 2007, at the Garwood Knights of Columbus. ALL senior citizens from Garwood are welcome to attend.

Currently, the Recreation Commission is organizing a "Manor Park Family Swim Night" in July for the first time, but no dates have been set. The night at Manor Park will be a great event for the whole family to enjoy.

We have also budgeted for a "ski trip", for the first time, and we are looking forward to this challenge. The ski trip this past winter was cancelled, due to warn weather and a future date of February 9, 2008 has been set.

Our goal, as a volunteer commission, is to introduce our children and adults to recreational and cultural activities at low-or-no cost to our Garwood families. Volunteers are always needed and we look forward to your input. The Recreation Director, Kathleen Pender can be reached at 908-418-7649. The Commission includes Sandro Villaraut (Chair), Jack Sullivan (Vice-Chair), Stephen Napolitano (Treasurer), Sue Baron (Secretary), Chris LaSpina, Tom Mehalick, Kelly Dunn, and Keith Sluka (Council Liaison).

Garwood PTA News...by Sue Baron

On April 4, 2007, the Garwood PTA hosted Candidates' Night for those individuals running in the school board election in our community. This forum is provided as a service to the public to help all citizens educate themselves about the issues and the opinions of the candidates so they can cast an informed ballot on Election Day. We also had our Past Presidents' Celebration at the April 4 meeting. It was a wonderful evening when we had the opportunity to honor our past PTA Presidents for their commitment to our community, and their dedication to the youth of our town. The Garwood PTA continues to do many and exciting things for the school children of Garwood. Please join us on the second Tuesday of most months at the Lincoln School at 7:30pm for our meetings, and learn more about all of the wonderful programs that the PTA sponsors that help to enrich the children of Garwood. The Garwood PTA is also excited and proud to announce that we have increased our high school scholarship awards from a single scholarship to FOUR scholarships now available to the Class of 2007 graduating seniors!!! These scholarships are a minimum of \$500.00 each, and any senior, who resides in Garwood and is graduating from Arthur L. Johnson High School, or an affiliated high school, is eligible to apply for these scholarships. We are thrilled that the PTA is able to honor these extremely hard-working and deserving students

with the additional scholarship money to further their education.

Some upcoming events that we are planning are as follows:

- We are proudly sponsoring our Fourth Annual Variety Show on Friday, April 20 at the Lincoln School from 7-10pm. This has been a very enjoyable event for performers and audience members, and we welcome all to join us for the fun. Contact Angela Villaraut at 518-1874 for additional information.

- We are looking forward to honoring our terrific teachers from Garwood with the PTA Teacher Appreciation Week, May 6-13.

We will be holding our annual Mother's Day Plant Sale at Lincoln and Washington Schools on May 10, with a rain date set for May 11. All are welcome.

The Garwood PTA also sponsors the Garwood PTA Playgroup for the pre-school aged children, run by Playgroup President Esteffany Lambert. This group meets at The Garwood Presbyterian Church on Friday mornings for fun and activities for children and parents. Some upcoming events for this group include a trip to the Garwood Fire House in May, a Mother's night out in the spring and an end-of-the-year picnic. For more information about the playgroup, please contact Esteffany at garwoodplaygroup@yahoo.com.

Athletic Field Complex.....Continued

Plans and cost estimates were received from Musial and Kinsey. Discussions included the plan that would be submitted with the Open Space, Recreation & Historic Preservation Trust Fund Grant application. The plan estimated the entire Athletic Field complex to cost \$2,107,572.00. It was concluded that the entire plan be submitted to Open Space for half of the project cost of \$1,053,786.00.

On September 14, 2006, the application was submitted to the Open Space, Recreation & Historic Preservation Trust Fund Grant Program. The committee did not meet in October and November, awaiting reply on the grant.

The committee met on **December 7, 2006** with all members present. Also present were Mayor McCarthy and Councilwoman Villaggio. Discussion included the amount received from the Open Space, Recreation & Historic Preservation Trust Fund Grant Program of \$150,000 and downsizing the project. Discussion focused on additional funding such as Green Acres program. Ms. Ariemma explained that the Green Acres program is not seeking applications because they have no funds. It was concluded that the field house part of the plan be dropped and the focus be on the Athletic Field. The committee decided to recommend the Athletic Field project to the Mayor and Council.

The committee met on **March 1, 2007** with six members present. Prior to the meeting, Kinsey Associates was asked for a letter describing what could be done with \$400,000, which represents the grant money and the required match, and \$800,000, which represents the grant money other funds. The letter from Kinsey outlined how to complete the project in phases and described options based on funding levels of \$400,000 and \$800,000. However, the letter did not recom-

recommended plan to the Mayor and Council at their regular meeting. Below is information concerning that recommendation including the impact and funding.

The plan is a renovation to the Little League field and utilization of the remaining open space in that area to include a new soccer/hockey/baseball field with synthetic surface, new basketball court, playground and overall improvements including a walking trail, bocce ball court, and quiet sitting area. The improvements would be paid by funds the Borough has in place, the receipt of Open Space, Recreation & Historic Preservation Trust Fund Grant, and a municipal bond that will have a minimal tax impact.

The entire project estimate is \$1.4 million.

The funding in place includes:

Grant balances	65,665
Sale of Assets 2002	405,000
Capital Surplus	225,000
Open Space Grant	38,700
Open Space Grant	150,000
TOTALS:	884,365

Funding to be bonded \$515,635.00

Estimated impact for 15 years:

Home Average Assessed Value: \$100,000 = **\$25.20**

Home Average Assessed Value: \$125,000 = **\$31.50**

Home Average Assessed Value: \$150,000 = **\$37.80**

The committee asked the governing body to consider the recommendation and provide a reply at the meeting on April 24, 2007. The committee has completed its responsibility by making a recommendation they feel has the least impact on the taxpayers and that will provide an asset the Borough needs greatly and will enhance recreation for everyone.

On **April 24, 2007** at the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council, the committee's recommendation was discussed. Questions and discussion arose about the field house being insufficient to serve the needs of the new Athletic Field. The governing body requested the cost and impact from the committee. The following was provided:

A 1,580 square feet field house to replace the existing 1,320 square feet field house with a 15x16 kitchen with concession stand, ADA bathroom, 9x16 equipment storage, 12x16 other storage, 22x12 meeting room and an announcement tower, at an estimated cost of \$715,000.00.

Funding to build the entire Athletic Field Complex including fields and building is: \$2,107,572.00

Funding to be bonded \$1,250,000

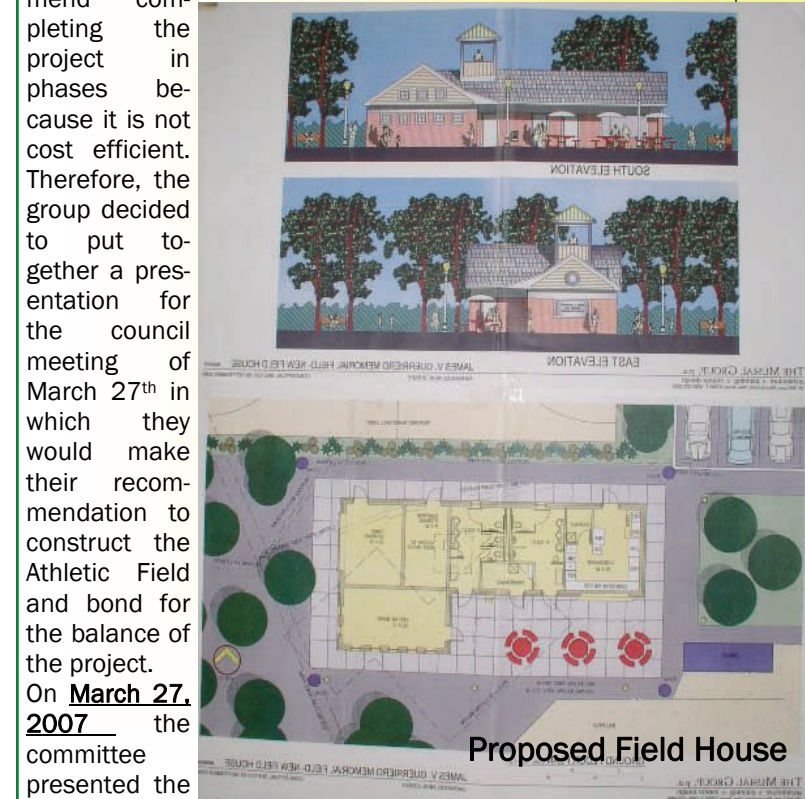
Estimated impact for 20 years:

Home Average Assessed Value: \$100,000 = **\$50.41**

Home Average Assessed Value: \$125,000 = **\$63.01**

Home Average Assessed Value: \$150,000 = **\$75.62**

The governing body and the committee would like to know what you think about this project. Please contact us by e-mail at garwood@garwood.org or write to us at 403 South Avenue, Garwood.



On **March 27, 2007** the committee presented the

Proposed Field House

Garwood P.D. seeks alternate sources for their funding needs

The Garwood Police Department like most in the nation faces the challenge of maintaining and even improving its level of training and technology while keeping costs down. In order to continue providing the citizens of Garwood with the best possible services, the Police Department is always seeking alternate sources to fund these needs.

Currently the Police Department has submitted several Grant applications to various State and Federal Agencies awaiting final approval. The Grant applications currently pending are:

\$4,000.00 Through the New Jersey Highway Traffic Safety Agency's "Click it or Ticket" campaign. This money will be used for overtime expenses incurred for roadside seatbelt checkpoints during the campaigns enforcement stage (May 21 – June 03, 2007).

\$6,684.00 Through the New Jersey Highway Traffic Safety Agency's Pedestrian Safety initiative. This money will be used to upgrade the pedestrian crossing signs at South Avenue and Center Street, as well as at South Avenue and East Street.

\$18,580.00 Through the Department of Transportation's "Safe Routes to School" campaign. This money would be used to purchase a radar display trailer which could be utilized throughout the Borough to reinforce the Police Departments patrol efforts to curtail speeders during school hours.

Although final approval for the outstanding applications may take several weeks to months, the Police Department remains optimistic of its chances.

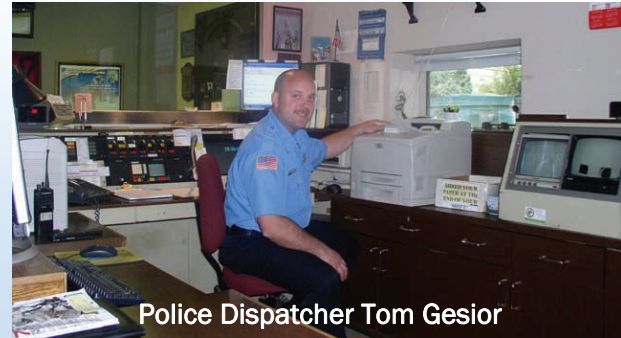
NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

Police officer David Perrotta was sworn in on December 11, 2006. Born and raised in Garwood, he graduated from Arthur L. Johnson in Clark and Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania and completed one year of law school at New York Law School. He later attended and graduated from the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains. Police officer Perrotta resides in Garwood.

PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED IN FEBRUARY

Lieutenant James Pipala, a member of the Garwood Police Department since 1985 is an Expert Crash Investigator and a recipient of several departmental citations throughout his career. Jim and his wife Karen have two children, Emily and James, Jr.

Sergeant Thomas Mericle, a member of the Garwood Police Department since 1987 initiated the Borough's D.A.R.E. program in 1993. He is a 200 Club Valor Award recipient along with other citations from Garwood. He is also very involved with the Wardlaw Hartridge High School athletic program where he is a swim and baseball coach. Tom and his wife, the former Gina Bouska, have five children and two grandchildren.



Police Dispatcher Tom Gesior

GFD HONORS CHIEF RICHARD BONFANTI

The Garwood Fire Department Liberty Hose Co. # 1 honored Fire Chief Richard Bonfanti on February 17th, at the Westwood. Bonfanti served three years as Chief of the Department and gave twenty+ years of service to the Borough. Other Members that received awards for service were Pat Difabio (55 years), former Chiefs Len Spina, Joe Pelusio, and Glenn Miller (30 years), and Firefighter Mike Madiera (20 years).

Spring is here! Did you remember to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, when you set your clocks ahead? All homes should have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. 1500 people die each year because of CO poisoning, and another 10,000 become ill. Since you can't see, smell, or taste carbon monoxide, it can make you sick before you even know it's there. When installing a carbon monoxide detector, you should place them on each level of the home near your sleeping areas.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Garwood Fire Department is looking for Volunteers. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Fire Department can call 908-789-8877 or stop by the Firehouse on Sunday mornings between 9-11am or Monday evenings between 7-9pm, to pick up an application.

LADIES AUXILIARY CLOTHING DRIVE

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Garwood Fire Department will be having a Clothing Drive in September. Your support would be greatly appreciated. Look for more information.

AC BUS TRIP

The Garwood Fire Department – Exempt Association, along with the Garwood Lions Club, will be hosting a Bus Trip to Atlantic City in the fall. All are welcome. Look for more information.

GARWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT

By Edward J. Silver, Jr. – Fire Chief

The Borough entered into a contract to repair portions of the rip-rap slope protection on the Garwood Brook between East Street and Oak Street. There will be no change in the configuration of the brook or the slope treatment. The project is being done to restore sections that have washed out or are beginning to wash out. Work has been completed on this project.

The Mayor and Council have again applied for and received a NJDOT grant. This year's grant is \$185,000 and will be used for the resurfacing of Willow Avenue between Center Street and East Street including curb restoration and related work. In addition, the drainage on East Street, which has been ongoing over a number a years, will be completed with the extension from Beech to Pine Avenue. Finally, we expect to be able to extend the drainage on West Street from Beech Avenue to Pine Avenue. This work should be ready for construction by the end of the summer of 2007.

If you have been following the Borough Council agenda in recent months, you know there has been lengthy discussion about our sewerage system. Let me give you a brief overview of what is happening. About three years ago, the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority was ordered by the NJDEP to make major improvements to its facility to the tune of some 250 million dollars. Since Garwood's sewage is directed to the RVSA, we will be subjected to major expenses in the next five to ten years. Five years ago, it cost the Borough about fifty dollars per household to process the sewage. Work has begun on the sewerage Authority upgrade and already the cost is increasing yearly to the point where it is costing about \$300 per household for the same treatment. That's not the end. It will continue to rise to somewhere around six hundred dollars per household.

The reason I mention this is that more than 60% of our total flow is what is known as inflow and infiltration (I&I). If the Borough can reduce it's I&I it can reduce its cost for sewerage treatment. You also should know that much of the I&I is un-

knowingly created by individual homeowners. If you own a home that is fifty or more years old and does not have a sump pump most likely, you are contributing to the I&I problem. Homes of vintage generally rely on foundation drains that collect groundwater (infiltration) and discharge the runoff into the sanitary sewer beneath the floor, out of sight and out of mind. They usually rely on open joints in the sewer or direct connections. This may not sound like much of a problem until you realize two things.

First, you have been paying for that service and the price is dramatically rising.

Second, if water can find its way into the sanitary sewer, sanitary sewage can find its way into your basement caused by a surcharged sewer. During the recent storm (March 15th weekend) all the flooding that occurred in the Borough was caused by backup of sewage into basements. Almost anything that is exposed to this very hazardous, filthy sewage mixture needs to be sanitized or thrown out. To do less can subject you to all kinds of disease.

This problem can be addressed by installing a porous drain around your foundation, on the inside of the structure and installing a sump pump that will pump this ground water to the street. With this in place and by sealing off any openings in the sewer system will prevent any future backup problems. If you live in an area that has severe street flooding, a back-flow preventor would be extremely beneficial.

These improvements will also directly affect I&I thereby reducing the Borough's overall flow rate.

I should also remind all residents that have sump pumps to be sure that they do not discharge to the sanitary sewer. All sump pump discharges MUST be discharged to the street or some other area that will not adversely affect your neighbors.

In theory if we could eliminate all I&I we could reduce those future sewer bills from that \$600 figure to \$250. If you have any questions, I can be reached at my office 908-620-1139.

SENIOR NEWS... *by Paulette Drogon*

Any senior who does not receive a quarterly letter with a 3 month calendar of activities in the mail and wishes to, please call me at 789-0738. Leave your name address and telephone number and I will put you on our mailing list.

All Garwood seniors are eligible to participate in any activity CDBG grant programs. We have weekly bowling, exercise and country line dancing and monthly craft and ceramic classes. Blood pressure screening is held every third Thursday of the month from September thru June at 11:00am in the Fire House.

New this spring is Friday morning's classic films

series at the Garwood public library. It starts at 10:00am. If you are interested in attending call 789-1670. Forget your aches, pains and problems and enjoy this wonderful time together.

Our next big event is our Senior picnic to be held at the Little League Field on Myrtle Avenue, on Thursday June 28th from 11:00am till 3:00pm Come out and enjoy the food, games, and music. This is our favorite activity. It is open to all Garwood older adults. Bring a folding chair and join in the fun. To register for the picnic call 789-0738 leave your name and telephone number.

As always feel free to call me anytime. Your opinions, ideas and comments are always welcome.

I hope to see you at the picnic.

Garwood Public Library.....By Carol Lombardo

Now that Garwood Public Library is settled into its new home, business is getting back to normal and then some! Circulation figures are up, and patrons are coming in for the new books and access to the computers.

The 13th *Annual Summer Reading Club* begins Monday, June 25 and will run for seven weeks through Wednesday, August 8th. The theme this year is "Get a Clue @ Your Library", promoting the many and varied resources that community libraries provide. Readers and pre-readers will keep logbooks of the books they've read and random drawing prizes will be offered at the end of the program. The Summer Reading Club caps off on Friday, August 10 with our traditional "Make Your Own Sundae" party for the participants. There will be a separate reading program for the middle school children who have their own reading lists provided by the school. They too, will vie for randomly drawn prizes.

Not to forget the adults, there will be weekly random drawings for any adult reader during the summer...just put your name in our fishbowl when you return your book and you'll be entered into our prize drawings, for gifts donated by local businesses.

During the summer, and hopefully throughout the rest of the year, the Garwood Library will be showing films for children and adults. Check with the library for the schedule and times. Give us some clue as to what you'd like to see: classics, old black & whites, first run films, comedies, dramas, tearjerkers....we're open for suggestions.

"Garwood Library Cares" is a program that the Library is planning to establish in the very near future. The Library would like to be able to deliver books to homebound residents who can't get to the library, due to either illness or disability, either temporary or permanent. If you or someone you know can benefit from this program, please call the library and let us know. If you would like to sign up as a volunteer to deliver and pick up books, call us and we'll add you to our list.

The *Garwood Public Library website* (garwoodlibrary.org) is up but still under construction and should be completed shortly. Through this website library cardholders will be able to access the online card catalog, ancestry databases, full text periodicals, and much more. The barcode on the back of your library card is your key. Getting a library card is free for the asking, just come into the library, show proof of residency (valid driver's license) and fill out the application. It's that simple.

Thanks to an initiative developed by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, all library cardholders in Union County can access articles from the New York Times from 1851 to 2003 and genealogy information from Heritage Quest from libraries or from their home or office. A third resource, Ancestry | Library Edition, a wonderful genealogy tool, is available in libraries only. For remote access from home or your office, you will be asked to enter the bar code number from the back of your library card. Come on in and sign up now!

Toddler Story Time for Garwood's little ones continues every Wednesday morning at 10:30 AM in the Library. Space is limited, so please register at the library.

Other Resources at the Library: Discount theatre tickets, bus and train schedules, variety of Union County periodicals for families and children, more than 35 different magazines (all of which may be borrowed with an adult library card), adult school brochures, audio books for children and adults, books for middle school and high school summer reading lists, and much more...

LIBRARY HOURS: Monday and Wednesday - 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday - 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Saturdays - 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM (Closed in summer)

STAFF: Director: Carol A. Lombardo, MLIS, NJ Certified Public Librarian

Library Assistants: Shenaz Nasser, Linda Fiore, Naomi Desiderio, Maryanne Duffy

PHONE: 908-789-1670

FAX: 908-317-8146

ADDRESS: 411 Third Avenue, Garwood

Garwood Parents Draw the Line...by Sue Baron

Inspired by the success of the DARE Program, parents recognized the need to continue drug prevention education at the middle school level. A unique and special program was designed by the combined efforts of the Garwood Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, Garwood PTA, and the Garwood Board of Education; it is called **Garwood Parents Draw The Line**. The goal of this program is targeted to reducing the abuse of tobacco, alcohol, legal drugs and illicit drugs by the youth in Garwood. While the abuse of drugs can hurt the individual and his or her family, it will also have a

negative effect on the community. Dedicated parents and community members volunteer their time to go into the classroom and educate the students in 6th and 8th grades on the dangers and consequences of substance abuse. Our annual Spaghetti Dinner was held on March 31 to raise money to help pay for the GPDTL Annual Drug Awareness Day. This annual event will be held on June 9, 2007 at the Garwood Little League Field and will have activities for all... The event is free and is intended to demonstrate that fun-filled activities do not have to include alcohol or drugs. All are welcome to come out and enjoy a great day!!

Events Calendar Added to Borough Website.....

An events calendar has been added to the Borough Website. If your group has event they would like posted, please e-mail it to garwood@garwood.org. Check out the Calendar at www.garwood.org

Taxes, Taxes, Taxes... She's here to HELP!!!

By Christina Ariemma

Who's She?? She is Aggie Kurzweil, the nice lady with the wonderful smile. Aggie has been our Tax Clerk since September 2003. She always greets you with a smile and is always ready to help. No matter if its paying your taxes or needing information, Aggie always assists the people of Garwood. I am proud to have her serve our citizens.

Aggie assists the seniors with many tax related matters including the completion of their PTR forms for property tax reimbursement. She is responsible to complete the tax certification form, however, Aggie goes above and beyond and helps the seniors with the entire application form. No matter how busy she is, she makes time for you and gets it done. The deadline for filing property tax reimbursement is June 1, 2007. Property Tax Reimbursement is for low income homeowners who are senior citizens or disabled. The program is offered by the State of New Jersey. You file an application that establishes a base or freeze of your property tax. You are entitled to reimbursements from the State of New Jersey for subsequent increases after the established base. If you have never filed for property tax reimbursement before, please stop by or call Aggie at 789-0475. She has application booklets and is ready to help you.

Aggie and I also assist the seniors with filing their Homestead Rebate Application, which is the green form the seniors are now receiving from the State of New Jersey. If you have recently received this and are having trouble reaching the State, please stop by Borough Hall and I will file it online for you. We are here to assist you, so take advantage of our services.



Garwood Planning Board derives its powers and authority from the Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL). This is the enabling legislation for planning and land use control in the state of New Jersey. In 2006, the Board heard and decided 15 applications. In addition, the Board reviewed several ordinances and the Revision of the Redevelopment Area for North Avenue. In July of 2005, a new law N.J.S.A. 40:55D-23.3 imposed Educational Requirements for Planning & Zoning Board members. Board members are required to attend classes within 18 months or vacate their seat on the Board. The Garwood Planning Board is now in complete compliance as all of our Board members have attended and passed the required class sponsored by New Jersey Planning Officials. Congratulations to all our Board members! That same law also permits municipalities to impose a fee on all applications and increase application fees. The Board reviewed the outdated fee structure and recommended changes to the

Garwood Planning Board.....by Adele Lewis

Mayor and Council. This recommendation resulted in slight increases, which will be borne mostly by large development. The Board welcomes and encourages the public to attend its meetings. The Board recently voted to include an Invitation to Address the Board prior to the start of regularly scheduled business. All meetings are open to the public and are held in Council Chambers at the Municipal Building, 403 South Avenue; beginning at 7:30 p.m. Workshop session begins at 7:15 p.m. Meetings may be cancelled due to lack of scheduled business. The scheduled meeting for the remainder of the year are May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 12, 26, October 24, November 28, December 12 and January 9, 2008. Any questions pertaining to the Planning Board can be directed to the Board Office by phoning (908) 301-9357.

News from the EFG.....

By George Menakis

EFG is the Education Foundation of Garwood, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for worthy programs and educational needs that **directly** benefit our children's education that are **not** funded by the annual school budget. Formed in 2004, EFG is an independent foundation comprised of parents and friends of Garwood students who work in cooperation with the Garwood Board of Education.

As many communities around the country have discovered, creative and worthwhile ideas or projects that would be beneficial to our children's education may not survive the budget process or may be too long-ranged for the school system to fund. EFG is dedicated to filling that gap.

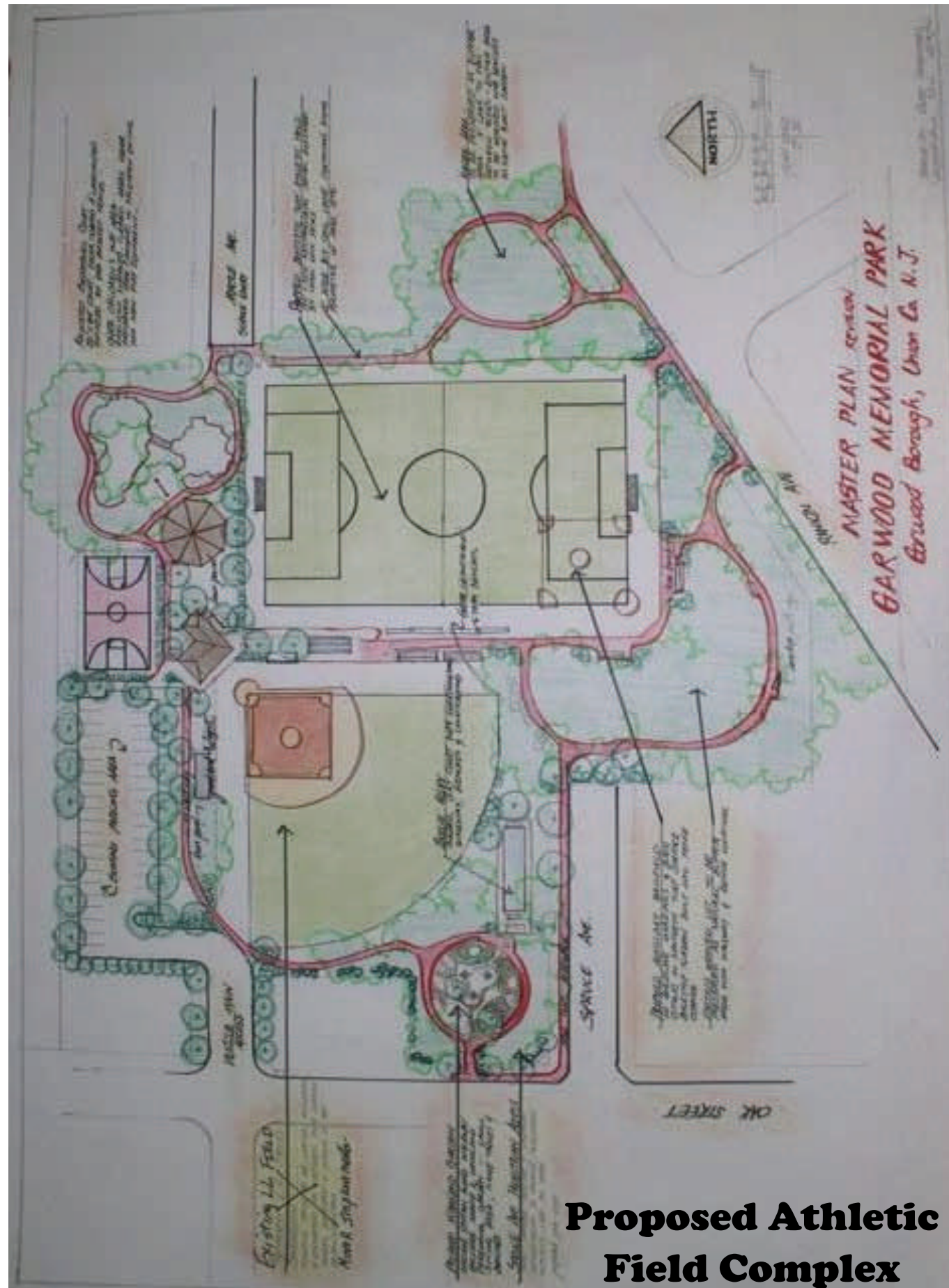
EFG has approved grants that benefited Garwood students from Pre-K to 8th grade. EFG is proud to have provided funds used to purchase computer software, graphing and scientific

calculators, and teacher training, as well as to supply materials for character education programs and construction of the Lincoln School's media center. In addition, EFG continues to award scholarships to two deserving Garwood public high school students each year.

EFG's 3rd Annual Appreciation Dinner was held on April 26th at the Westwood. This event was very well attended and a lot of fun for everyone. It is EFG's most successful fundraiser and provides an informal atmosphere for parents, community leaders, and teachers to relax and interact. This year EFG was proud to honor Teacher of the Year Mrs. Liz Novello and presented its Garwood People Making a Difference Award to the Honorable Rick Fuentes, NJ State Police Superintendent.

EFG is working hard to host a special event in the fall. Stay tuned for further updates.

EFG is always looking for new members or ideas from the community. Please don't hesitate to give us a call at (789-0331 x1450).



Proposed Athletic Field Complex



Proposed Field House