

With the weather changing and the days beginning to get a little longer, Garfield will be entering the Spring season brimming with activity again from various events such as Movies Under the Stars, 5K runs, Summer Concert Series in the Park, street fairs and carnivals, Memorial Day Parade, Independence Day fireworks, Restaurant Week, a city-wide family scavenger hunt to several improvements to and celebrations of our great City. Please check out our City website for all events and activities in the City of Garfield.

The Garfield Rotary Club will be having their 52nd annual pancake breakfast at the Senior Center on Midland Avenue. The Garfield Library will be presenting Books N Bagels on March 28th at 10 am. Additionally, Jamie Novak, an expert organizer and book author on organizing ideas, will be in attendance. Jamie is a humorist and writer who knows a lot about de-cluttering homes. Furthermore, on April 25th, the library will also be holding a Craft *Beer & Wine* Festival; this is a chance to try hand-crafted *beers and wines* from around the state in an atmosphere of excitement and fun. Please call the library, (973) 478-3800, for more information on both events.

The City of Garfield has received grants to remove the Monroe Street railroad tracks, as well as an additional \$247,000 for Midland Ave curbing and sidewalk improvement. A "Knock out Opioid Abuse" forum will be held at the VFW in April 1, 2020; this a great opportunity to spread awareness on the opioid epidemic. The Garfield City Council will be looking to entice new restaurants with a new BYOB ordinance. Lastly, I will be hosting the 1st Garfield Summit at the end of March to go over the future "Vision of Garfield".

March is the month to recognize great women. As the Mayor, I am recognizing Councilwoman Erin Delaney and Garfield philanthropist Cassita Messiah at the 2nd Annual Mayor's Brunch, where we will gather and pay respects and honor these two great women of Garfield.

Thank you to our Garfield Parks and Recreation Department head, Christopher O'Reilly, and to our Community Policing division leader, Sgt. Jeffrey Stewart, as they secured a grant that brought "Garfield On Ice" to our City, which was a tremendous event with a great turnout.

With regard to the redevelopment on Passaic Street, the fine residents in the 1st Ward deserve a safe, clean, and inviting neighborhood where their home values will increase, as well as place to shop, eat and just enjoy life. The City of Garfield's Redevelopment on Passaic Street is a vision to transform Passaic Street into a safe, walkable, livable, and sustainable community. Our goal is to strengthen and empower the existing businesses and to provide opportunity for new businesses. We will create a clearly defined downtown district made up of a mix-used neighborhood where our residents and visitors can live, work, shop, and dine.

Thank you and have a wonderful March.

*Mayor
Richard "Riggs" Rigoglioso*