



# City of Garfield

Fall 2023 Newsletter



## FALL IS HERE AND WINTER IS NEAR - PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY!



Leaves may be dropped off at the DPW Yard, located at 413 Midland Avenue, Monday-Friday 7:30am-2:30pm OR leaves will be collected on your street cleaning day. They must be placed in brown paper bags, no plastic bags allowed.



Please remember to follow ALL snow parking restrictions on your street. Reminder that throwing snow onto the street is strictly PROHIBITED. Items in the roadway will be removed for snow clearing. Please do not save parking spots!

**Halloween Curfew is 9PM  
on the 30th and 31st!**



**The Annual Fireworks Display was held on Friday, September 22nd and the Annual Pumpkin Patch event was held on Friday, October 13th. Thank you to all of our staff within the Recreation Department, Department of Public Works and Police Departments & the Events Committee for making both events a HUGE success!**

**Mayor Richard Rigoglioso   Deputy Mayor Joseph Delaney   Councilwoman Alejandina Banch  
Councilman Romi Herrera   Councilman Pawel Maslag   City Manager/City Clerk Erin Delaney**

# VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

The Garfield Volunteer Fire Department is in need of volunteers! If you are interested, stop by one of the firehouses at 7:30PM on their wash night:

- Company 1 - 97 Midland Avenue - Thursdays
- Company 2 - 72 Belmont Avenue - Thursdays
- Company 3 - 143 Gaston Avenue - Thursdays
- Company 4 - 97 Outwater Lane - Fridays
- Company 5 - 33 Plauderville Avenue - Tuesdays



\*There is a Jr. Firefighter Program for anyone at least 16 years of age

## New Hours to Begin at City Hall - January 2024

Residents have raised concerns about the operating hours to conduct business at City Hall. As a result, 120 residents were surveyed inquiring about their preference. The results were as follows:

Monday-Friday: 8:30AM-4PM

**9 votes**

Monday-Wednesday: 8:30AM-5PM &  
Thursday 8:30AM-5:30PM. Closed on Fridays.

**111 votes**



Beginning January 1, 2024, City Hall will be following the successful schedule based on White Collar Union contract negotiations and resident responses.

## Grant Corner - Check Here for Updates!

### BID AWARDED

- Recreation Center HVAC
- Fire Company #4 HVAC
- Midland Avenue Sidewalk Improvements

### OUT TO BID

- Columbus Park Improvements

### DESIGN PHASE

- Prospect Street Water Main Upgrades & Road Repaving
- Banta Avenue Sewer Main Upgrades & Road Repaving
- Harrison Avenue Road Repaving
- Miscellaneous Lead Line Replacements
- Belmont Oval/Little League Turf Replacement
- Splash Park Feature/Surface Upgrades



# The United States EPA to Continue Clean-up

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced in December 2021 that under Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the work needed to address contamination and protect the community near the Garfield Groundwater Contamination Superfund site will now be funded.



**The EPA will be working on site within the City beginning at the end of October.**

## Upcoming Council Meeting Dates

**Have a question or concern? Want to get more involved? Residents are welcomed and encouraged to attend Mayor and Council meetings. The remaining dates for the year are as follows:**

Tuesday, November 21st, 2023 - 6PM

Tuesday, December 12th, 2023 - 6PM

Tuesday, December 19th, 2023 - 6PM

## New Quality of Life Ordinances

**The City Quality of Life Committee worked together on recommendations for new ordinances that would improve upon the conditions of the City. See below for brief summaries of the ordinances. Full ordinances can be found online at [www.garfieldnj.org](http://www.garfieldnj.org), under Code & Ordinances:**



- Auto shops will now have a requirement for licensing.
- Vacant properties will now be registered with an annual fee.
- Trash receptacles must be in an enclosed area, if stored in front of a property.
- A general nuisance ordinance was adopted to address a variety of concerns such as noise, lighting, air pollution, etc.

## Taxes & Finances - Balancing the Budget

**The City of Garfield is REQUIRED to collect taxes for several entities including the School District, County (including Open Space Trust), & Library. Your tax bills are broken down as follows:**

- Approximately 48.25% - School Tax
- Approximately 39.25% - Municipal Tax
- Approximately 11.25% - County Tax



In 2023, the City collected \$1.22 million in capital grants from prior years and \$1.56 million in current grants. Additionally, the COVID-19 Emergency Note is now **FULLY** paid-off.

# Message from Mayor Richard "Riggs" Rigoglioso

As the fall season descends upon us and the holidays draw near, on behalf of the City Council, I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to all of you. This is a time of year when our community comes together to celebrate the changing of the seasons, from the spooky delights of Halloween to the warmth and togetherness of the upcoming holidays.

Garfield has some exciting Halloween events lined up. As we will be hosting a thrilling "Trunk or Treat" event where residents can decorate their car trunks and hand out candy in a safe and festive atmosphere. We're also inviting all residents to participate in our annual Halloween decorating contest to showcase your creativity and ghostly spirit. We also thank everyone who showed up for our annual "Pumpkin Patch" event.

We are making great progress in shaping the future of our beloved city. The vision for Garfield's development is coming along. I'm thrilled to share that the Columbus Park redesign is now complete, and we are hoping to begin its redevelopment in the spring of 2024. This revitalized park will offer our residents an enhanced space for recreation and relaxation.

Furthermore, I'm pleased to announce that River Road Park is on schedule to be completed by the end of summer in 2024. This beautiful park will provide a host of new recreational opportunities for everyone to enjoy, bringing us closer to a more vibrant and connected community.

As we enter the holiday season, let's remember the importance of coming together as neighbors and friends. Let us embrace the spirit of giving and support those in need within our community. Thank you, Garfield residents, for your continued dedication to making our city a wonderful place to live. It is your support that keeps our community strong and vibrant. Wishing you all a safe and delightful fall season, a spooktacular Halloween, and a holiday season filled with warmth and joy.



Respectfully,  
Mayor Richard "Riggs"  
Rigoglioso

## EVENT CORNER

### Upcoming City Events

- **October 27th:** City of Garfield Trunk or Treat
- **November 11th:** Veteran's Day Service
- **November 30:** Garfield Library Tree Lighting
- **December 1st :** City of Garfield Tree Lighting



Hispanic Heritage Month was September 15-October 15.  
Thank you to the Hispanic Alliance of Garfield for hanging a banner in commemoration!



Our newest police recruits completed the Bergen County Police Academy in July. We would like to officially welcome them aboard, as well as our Alternate Route candidate!

Instagram:  
[@GarfieldPolice](#)  
X(Twitter): [@GarfieldPDNJ](#)  
Threads: [@GarfieldPolice](#)

Follow the GPD on social media!