# Garwood Times

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## **SENIORS CELEBRATE WITH HOLIDAY PARTY 2021**

On Thursday, December 2, 2021, Garwood seniors celebrated the holiday season at the Westwood. The event included a delicious meal and music and dancing to really get everyone into the holiday spirit! What a fun event for the seniors of Garwood!























Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Garwood Times page on facebook.com. Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."

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## Garwood Times...

#### Renna Media LLC, Publishers

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### **SEND US YOUR NEWS**

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Garwood Times

Tina Renna: 908-418-5586 tinarenna@rennamedia.com Joe Renna: 908447-1295 joerenna@rennamedia.com

## FIREFIGHTERS WANTED

Garwood Fire Department Seeking Firefighters

### OPENINGS FOR JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS 8TH GRADE STUDENTS OR AGES 14 - 18 Interested? Call 908-789-8877

Leave a Message or Stop By for More Info Sunday Morning: 9 - 12 Monday Eventings: 7 - 9

### **GARWOOD LIBRARY JANUARY EVENTS**

411 3rd Ave, Garwood, NJ • (908) 789-1670 • garwoodlibrary@garwood.org www2.youseemore.com/garwood/

Mon and Wed from 9am-5pm, Tue, Thu from 9am-8pm, Fri 9am-4:30pm and Sat 10am-1pm Library will be closed January 1 for New Years and January 17 for Martin Luther King Day.

### **Garwood Library Goes Fine Free**

January 1

The Garwood Library will cease charging overdue fines and expunge existing fines on Garwood Library material, effective January 1, 2022. Library will continue to assess charges for the following items 1. Lost and Damaged Material, 2. Overdue Inter Library Loan Material, 3. Museum Passes, 4. Technology Devices and 5. Resource Kits. Failure to return Library materials in a timely fashion will still result in suspension of Library privileges.

#### **APP Makers via Zoom**

January 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 3:30 pm

Your child will learn how to create and code their own profile smartphone App using the MIT App inventor. For kids in grades 3-8.

Registration required. Limit 10. Once registered a Zoom link will be provided.

#### YoBoo

January 6, 13, 20, 27 at 10:00 am
YoBOO is a unique take on fitness for little
ones (ages 2-8). It combines the aerobic fun of
Bootcamp with the powerful breathing
techniques of Yoga, a fun energy rollercoaster
for kids. Registration required. Limit 10.
Registration required.

#### **Storytime in the Library**

January 11, 18 and 25 at 10:30 am and 11:30am

Join Miss Maryanne for stories, bubbles and more at 10:30 am and 11:30 in the library. Registration Required. Limit 10 per session.

#### **Library Board Meeting**

January 12 at 7:30 pm

A meeting of the Garwood Library Board of

Trustees will take place in the Library. This meeting is open to the public. Masks and social distancing are required.

#### **Virtual Kid's Craft**

January 11, at 3 pm

Pick up supplies for a craft and then watch craft tutorial on the Library's Facebook page at 3 pm.

The video will be available for viewing thereafter. Registration is required for craft kits and is limited to 15 participants. Sign up on the Library website's events calendar or by phone.

### **Virtual Adult Craft**

January 18 at 3pm

Pick up your craft supplies from the Library and then watch the Facebook tutorial at 3 pm. Registration is required for craft kits and is limited to 10 participants. Sign up on the Library website's events calendar or by phone

### **Book Discussion Group**

January 24 at 1pm

Join us in the library for a lively discussion of this month's book "The Third Angel" by Alice Hoffman.

## Lead Like a Pro, How to be an Effective Athletic Coach - a Virtual Presentation

January 27 at 7:00 pm

Whether you are a volunteer coaching your child's team, a part-time high school coach, or a full-time college or professional coach, this is the program for you. Join Dr. Matthew Raidbard, author, college basketball coach, and athletic administrator as he explains how to enhance your leadership style and become a better coach for your athletes and team. Registration required. Limit 30. Once registered

a Zoom link will be provided.

### **LIBRARY TO STOP CHARGING OVERDUE FEES**

The Garwood Public Library has announced that effective January 1, 2022, it will stop charging fines on overdue material and expunge existing fines.

Garwood Library is not the first go fine free. Many large metropolitan libraries throughout the country have eliminated fines including New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles County, and Chicago Public Libraries. In New Jersey, Jersey City, Newark, Princeton, Toms River and Hoboken are a few of the libraries that have eliminated fines. Closer to home, the following Union County Libraries have gone fine free, Plainfield, Roselle, Scotch Plains, Union and Westfield.

The Garwood Library Board feels its' decision to go fine free is in line with the library's goal of providing free and equitable access to its information, resources, and services. A review of the library's budget indicates the fine free decision will have limited

impact on the Library's finances. Studies show and a brief poll of other fine free libraries indicates that going fine free may actually increase circulation. The decision is also in step with the American Libraries Association 2019 resolution on fines. The Board hopes that a fine free library will encourage library use and create a more welcoming environment for its patrons.

The Library will continue to assess charges for the following items 1. Lost and Damaged Material, 2. Overdue Inter Library Loan Material, 3. Museum Passes, 4. Technology Devices and 5. Resource Kits. Failure to return library materials in a timely fashion will still result in suspension of library privileges.

For more information on library services or to register for programs, check out our website at:

youseemore.com/Garwood, call 908-789-1670 or email the library at: garwoodlibrary@garwood.org.



Reserve space in the next issue. Call Tina today at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com

## **CAMP AND CHILD CARE OPEN HOUSES - JAN. 8**

#### WESTFIELD AREA YMCA

The Westfield Area YMCA will hold Summer Day Camp and Child Care Open Houses on Saturday, January 8 from 10 a.m. - noon.

Summer Day Camp Open Houses will be held at the Main Y Facility, 220 Clark Street and the

accredited. Traditional, sports, S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and

Garwood Family Center Y, 500 East Street. All Y offers full-day and half-day camps by the week Westfield Area YMCA camps are ACA- or all summer long. Camp Early Bird registration begins January 3 and ends on January 31.

Child Care Open Houses will be held at the Math) and leadership development camps are Bauer Branch, 422 East Broad Street; Early available for children and youth ages 3-15. The Learning Center, 170 Elm Street; Main Y Facility, 220 Clark Street; and Garwood Family Center Y, 500 East Street. Registration for the 2022-23 school year for full-day child care, half-day and full-day preschool, full-day Kindergarten, Kindergarten Wraparound and Garwood after school care will be available. Registration for Westfield after school care will begin in March.

> For information on all Westfield Area YMCA programs and services, visit westfieldynj.org or call the Welcome Center at 908-301-YMCA (9622). The Y is the nation's leading nonprofit committed to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.



(above) Westfield Area YMCA Blue Sky Camp

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## DAISY AND BROWNIE TROOPS GIVEBACK TO COMMUNITY

The Garwood Daisy Troop 41005 and Garwood Brownie Troop 41108 had a busy couple of months of giving back to their community. In the month of November, the girls made 32 Samaritan Purse Christmas boxes. The girls stuffed their boxes to the top with notebooks, pencils, coloring books, crayons, combs, brushes, toothbrushes, play doh, a surprise toy and more. This project delivered not only the joy of what, for many kids, is their first gift ever, it also teaches both troops the gift of giving and being thankful for what they have.

In December, the girls used money earned from various troop activities to donate over \$100 worth of toys to Toys for Tots in Garwood. They were excited to support Milk Money, a local business in Cranford, to purchase the toys. In the months of December and January, the girls will

The Garwood Daisy Troop 41005 and be collecting items off their Amazon wishlist to make care kits for the homeless. They will be assembling the care kits on Monday, January 15th for their MLK Giveback act of service. If you are unable to find the wishlist, please email Vanessa at vanessa.schubring@gmail.com.

Lastly, the Daisy Troop made flower arrangements and Christmas cards as part of earning their first petal. The girls were able to bring Christmas cheer to The Village at Garwood by handing out homemade Christmas cards and putting flowers in the common area.





Photos by Garwood Girl Scouts













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### THREE COUNTY FAMILIES MADE OFFICIAL ON NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

Multi-town parade includes superheroes, gift baskets and more

#### **CASA** of Union County

The frosty morning of Nov. 19 may have been any other Friday for many, but for three Union County foster youth in Rahway, Roselle and Roselle Park, all under age three, their lives changed forever, as Union County Superior Court Judge Lara DiFabrizio granted each the consistency and stability deserved by all children, finalizing their adoptions and ending their time in the child welfare system. Each family had their own CASA volunteer working the case.

The annual event is held the Saturday before Thanksgiving and courts nationwide often celebrate National Adoption Day the business day before, or even open on Saturday, to hold adoption hearings. Here in Union County, all hearings were performed via Zoom due to Covid-19, and Judge DiFabrizio made official what each child likely already felt: they were finally home.

Despite the virtual component, those involved ensured the excitement was palpable. Upon completion of each adoption, the homes were visited by a caravan of fire trucks, police cars, court staff, law guardians and other case stakeholders, CASA of Union County staff and two of its interns suited up as Captain America and Mr. Incredible, and the bear mascot from Kenilworth's David Brearley Middle and High School. All cheered for the family, where each took their first official photo together, and the children spent time with the superheroes and school mascot.

Families received a hot breakfast donated by Urban Griddle in Elizabeth; a flower bouquet provided by Jane Phillips who, until her recent retirement, headed the Adoption Day Committee for the judiciary; and a gift basket from CASA of Union County made possible by collections of board and card games, puzzles and movie night fixings from the Kenilworth school and Summit's Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child. The latter collection was spearheaded by Desiree Mitchell, daughter of CASA volunteer Hope Mitchell, and included fleece blankets made with classmates. In addition, each child and all siblings received their own superhero dress-up costume and books hand selected by the Phi Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha. Each family received a

WalMart gift card funded by the Union County Bar Association. Costumes for CASA's interns were loaned by generous members of the Facebook Buy Nothing Group in Cranford and Garwood

Today, more than 120,000 youth nationwide need a permanent home, with an average wait in foster care of four years. Each year, 23,000 youth age out of the system without a family or safety net in place. For details on CASA of Union County's mission, the need for volunteer advocates and how to become one, contact Lucia at Ifield@casaofunioncounty.org or log on to casaofunioncounty.org.

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### OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 27, 2022 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Sunday, January 30, 2022 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL FOR MORE INFORMATION

PLEASE CALL (908) 276-9425

100 Alden Street, Cranford, NJ www.smscranford.com

E-Mail: saint.michael@verizon.net



## **TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE**

Students in Mrs. Carol Del Conte's 5th grade language arts classes brainstormed and created a message that they wanted to share with their community. In a beautiful demonstration of the spirit of togetherness that pervades Lincoln School in Garwood, students gesture toward the

Students in Mrs. Carol Del Conte's 5th grade message of "FAMILY" posted on their classroom message arts classes brainstormed and created a windows.

Students are often reminded that—TOGETHER with each other, and the staff—they are members of the Lincoln School family, and that "Together Everyone Achieves More".



Photo by Garwood Public Schools

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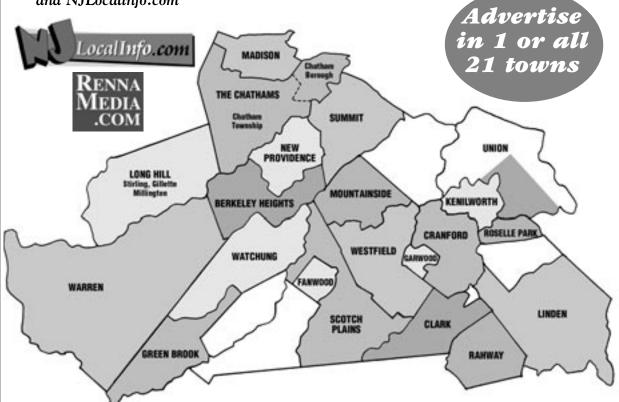
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### **KENILWORTH CHESS CLUB IS BACK ON BOARD**

The Kenilworth Chess Club resumed meeting on November 11, 2021, after twenty months of being closed due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

Club President Jack McCorkell of Cranford held a "Welcome Back Tournament" to celebrate. The casual unrated tournament excited members, and even some new arrivals, who were itching to play "over the board" again. The three-week tournament ended in a tie for first place between Hanna Malko of Clark and Joe Renna of Cranford.

The club was formed in 1972 amid the chess craze in America spearheaded by Bobby Fischer's march to the world championship. For 45 years the club was a force to be reckoned with as its member roster included many Master level players, including state champions.

The club has a reputation for being friendly and accommodating. It welcomes non-members with no obligation or cost. It's a place where beginners can learn in a casual setting without being intimidated. Strong players are generous with their time in analyzing and giving instruction.

The club's website, kenilworthchessclub.org, is well read and features an award-winning blog by Michael Goeller and other instructional features.

Players are welcome to just pop into the Kenilworth Chess Club with no formalities every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. at the Kenilworth Community Center located next to Kenilworth Borough Hall on the Boulevard and the corner of 24th Street.



(above, l-r) Brandon Verno of Kenilworth, John Moldovan of Garwood, Hannah Malko of Clark, Jack McCorkell of Cranford, Mark Shoengold and Louis Leiggi of Colonia analyze a critical position during the post mortem of Welcome Back Tournament game between Verno and Leiggi held at the Kenilworth Chess Club.

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