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## CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

The 2022 Garwood Tree Lighting was held on Saturday, November 26th at Garwood Borough Hall.

Santa and his favorite elves were there. Festivities included live entertainment by the Celebrations Choir and Legends

Dance Center, complimentary hot chocolate, donuts, face painting, holiday music, and more.

Residents were encouraged to bring a new toy to help support the Girl Scouts troop#41290 Toys for Tots drive.



Photos from this and other events can be found online at [rennamedia.com](http://rennamedia.com) and on Garwood Times page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/garwoodtimes) Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."

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# GarwoodTimes<sub>NJ</sub>

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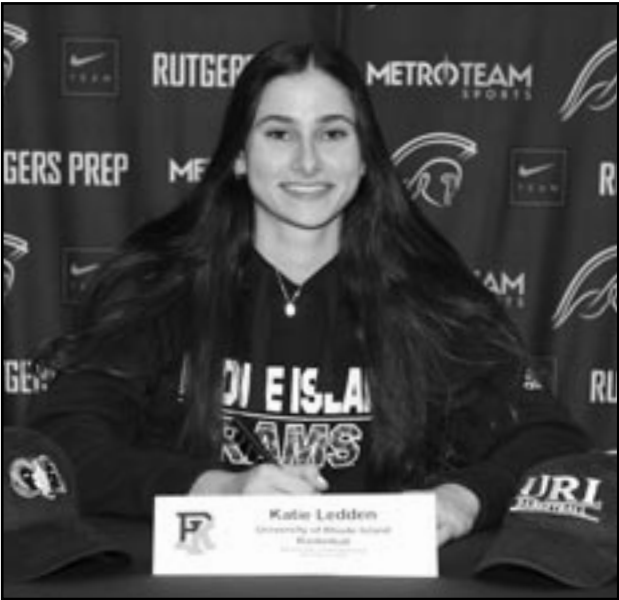
## KATIE LEDDEN SIGNS WITH UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

On November 10, 2022, Katie Ledden, a Clark Resident and a Senior at Rutgers Preparatory School in Somerset, NJ, signed a National Letter of Intent (NLI) to play Division 1 Basketball at the University of Rhode Island (URI). Ledden originally verbally committed to URI on November 1, 2021, but could not legally sign and formally commit until the recent NCAA National

Signing Day of her senior year. Ledden attended Arthur L. Johnson High School as a freshman before transferring to Rutgers Prep her sophomore year. Ledden played with the Clark Travel Basketball program from 3rd grade until 8th grade and also played AAU basketball for Team Sharp from 3rd grade to 11th grade. She left Team Sharp briefly in 10th grade to compete in the Nike Elite Youth Basketball League (EYBL) with the Philly Rise. After receiving 10 athletic scholarship offers to play Division 1 basketball at various schools, she ended her recruiting process early before her Junior season when she verbally committed to Rhode Island and knew that was where she wanted to play her collegiate career.

In a press release on signing day from the Rhode Island Women's basketball program Head Coach Tammi Reiss had this to say about Katie, "Katie is true New Jersey guard! Hard-nosed, hard work through and through. She has great length and size for the guard spot. Katie loves basketball and lives in the gym, always working on her game. She gives us much needed 3 level scoring and has a high IQ for the game. Katie is my Rocky Balboa!"

Ledden still has her senior year to play at Rutgers Prep where she hopes to help her team win another State title, as well as become a 1,000 point scorer for her school.



(above) Katie Ledden of Clark recently signed a National Letter of Intent to play Division 1 Basketball at the University of Rhode Island.

Courtesy photo

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# SANTA’S HELPERS

Over the last four years, a small group of Santa’s elves has helped fill Christmas stockings for Family Promise of Union County. The organization serves low income families and families experiencing homelessness.

Students and staff at the Academy for Performing Arts at the Magnet School in Scotch Plains participated this year also. Kaitlyn Landaverde, a Junior from Clark, organized the drive at the high school.

Patricia Novy of Clark, who started the project four years ago, shared the fact that the group filled 36 stockings the first year, 67 stockings last year and 91 Christmas Stockings for children ages 4 to 12 this year.

“The need is greater than ever,” Novy said. “In speaking with Family Promise, the children often receive donated gifts, but stockings are not considered. Our little group of friends, family and former colleagues help fill that void.”

We are inspired each year by this quote from a nine-year-old boy, “When you give something; someone else gets.”



(above) Patricia Novy with Christmas stockings waiting for delivery to Family Promise of Union County.

Courtesy photo

# GIRL SCOUT TROOP 41108 GIVES BACK

Garwood Girl Scout Troop 41108 was busy this holiday season. They kicked the month of November off shopping for Toys for Tots and donating them to Hoboken's Santa. The girls received a huge thank you note. During the week before Thanksgiving, the girls went

grocery shopping on their own and donated bags of food to their local pantry of choice.

To complete the month, the girls made a total of 13 Operation Christmas boxes to send overseas to children who are underprivileged.



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## GARWOOD HISTORICAL COMMITTEE NEWS

*Submitted by Carol Lombardo*

The Garwood Historical Committee is always on the lookout for photos and memorabilia of Garwood's past and past Garwood events. While doing your after-holiday and spring cleaning, please think of the Committee before tossing anything Garwood-related, and consider donating it to the Historical Committee for preservation and/or safekeeping. Garwood will be 120 years old this March and compared to most other towns, we are in our infancy, yet many people

have items of interest that could be saved for future generations to appreciate. Over the years Garwood has had many parades and events that you might have photos of that we may be interested in. Please consider the Committee when you do your organizing.

Also, in addition to artifacts, please consider monetary donations to the Garwood Historical Committee. The pandemic has stretched budgets to their limits and every little bit helps our Committee continue the task of preserving

Garwood's history for you, your children, and future generations.

The Garwood Historical Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month in Borough Hall to plan events that will create an interest in Garwood's fine history. Once the Industrial Hub of Union County, as noted by the municipality's great seal, much of that is gone, however, many residents either lived nearby or worked at those many factories that lined the railroad tracks.

If you have an interest in preserving Garwood's history, the Garwood Historical Committee will welcome new members to the Committee. You can download the Municipal Boards and Committees Application Form from the garwood.org website, under the "Office of the Mayor" tab, or you can reach out to the Historical Committee at [garwoodhistory@garwood.org](mailto:garwoodhistory@garwood.org). You may also come to one of our meetings to speak to us in person.



*(above) Folks kicking up their heels for the Electric Slide at the Garwood Senior Club Holiday Party held on December 1 at the Westwood.*



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DO YOU KNOW ABOUT NJ 211?

STUDENTS TAUGHT DANGERS OF OPIOIDS

Clark Public Schools

The Clark Police Department recently visited Arthur L. Johnson (ALJ) High School to present the "Not Even Once" program to ninth graders. The presentation, given by Detectives Brian Soos and Mark Detore from the Clark Police Department, shared valuable information on the dangers of opioid use including a background on opioids, the power of addiction, state, county, and town statistics, as well as stories of those personally affected.

ALJ Principal Tara Oliveira stated, "We are extremely grateful for the tremendous support that we receive from our community partnerships and are appreciative of the Clark Police Department for bringing this impactful program to our high school. We are proud to work together to educate and support the students in our Crusader community."



(above) Detectives Brian Soos and Mark Detore of the Clark Police Department presented the "Not Even Once" program to ALJ students.  
Photo by Clark Public Schools

The 211 system is found throughout the United States and is devoted to connecting people in need to the resources that can help. While each 211 operates independently, all of the more than 200 organizations provide a network of local support that people can call on with confidence when they need help and simply don't know where to turn. In New Jersey, our motto has been: Need Help? Start Here.

NJ 211 provides live assistance 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Our services are free, confidential and multilingual. There are several ways to reach us: By phone (simply dial 2-1-1); via text (send your zip code to 898-211); email (info@nj211.org); or chat on-line: nj211.org/contact-us. Whichever method you choose, you will be communicating with a community resource specialist who has been educated about federal, state and local systems created to help people who are struggling.

NJ 211 also serves as the State Homeless Hotline and New Jersey's Utility Assistance Hotline.



ALJ CRUSADERS MARCHING BAND

The 7th and 8th grade music students from Kumpf and Lincoln schools had the opportunity to visit ALJ High School and see the Crusader Marching Band perform a sneak peak of next year's show, and eat lunch with the ALJ Music Students.

Courtesy photo



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FIRST AID SQUAD ACTIVELY RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

The Garwood First Aid Squad is actively recruiting volunteers and invites you to join our team. Whether you are looking to help out the community or get a start in the medical field, we would be glad to have you join us. You can work on board the ambulance or just help out around the squad house. No experience necessary. As a squad member, you can make a difference in a person's life join today.

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To request an application or have questions email: [InformationGFAS@gmail.com](mailto:InformationGFAS@gmail.com) or contact: Josh Regan / Captain (908) 868-3913, or Glen Costello / President (908) 229-0327 or our Squad Building at (908) 789-0300.

Visit us on our Facebook Page: [Garwood First Aid Squad](#)

Our Address: 401 2nd Ave, Garwood NJ 07027 (we are the white corner building)

The members of the Garwood Volunteer First Aid Squad would like to wish everyone in are community a very safe and happy holiday. Thank you.



# 2022 FALL ATHLETIC AWARDS

## Clark Public Schools

The Arthur L. Johnson Athletic Department recently held their 2022 Fall Athletic Awards. All the Fall Athletic Teams and their seasons were highlighted by their coaches while all athletes received letters and awards. Over 197 varsity athletic letters were awarded throughout the evening, as participation in athletics at Arthur L. Johnson High School continues to prosper.

The program culminated with the Student Athlete Award, which was presented by the Athletic Director of Arthur L. Johnson High School, Mr. Gus Kalikas. The Student Athlete Award is given out each athletic season to a student athlete that is not only a champion on the field but in the classroom as well. The 2022 Fall Student Athlete award recipient was Grace Warnick, with a 4.62 G.P.A.

In addition, the Crusader G.P.A. Challenge was awarded to the team that finished with the highest overall G.P.A. amongst athletic teams for the fall season. The recipients were presented with certificates and will have their team memorialized on a plaque to celebrate their actions both in the classrooms and on the fields. The winner of the 2022 Fall Seasonal G.P.A. Challenge was the Field Hockey Team with a G.P.A. of 4.14. Members of the Field Hockey Team include Peyton Collings, Tatum Dobbins, Angela Aromando, Julia Skultety, Maria Dante, Jenna Grandal, Julia Ranski, Jenna Reider, Georgia Sebok, Grace Warnick, Zoey Brown, Ava Wood, Veronica Parzych, Leah Scepkowski, Lacey Vill, and Lily Ficarra.

The Best Teammate Award will be given out seasonally to one member from each athletic team that best fits the characteristics of a good teammate. The individuals that receive these awards exhibit upbeat attitudes and outstanding character. They helped influence the team's culture in a positive manner, while always supporting teammates and promoting team unity. The Best Teammate Award Winners were: Cross Country – Andrew Trescott, Field Hockey – Zoey Brown, Football – Matthew Froden, Boys' Soccer – Antonio Rafoa, Girls' Soccer – Bella Decker, Girls' Tennis – Alison Burkhard, Volleyball – Rebecca Fogle, and Cheerleading – Rylie Weber.

The evening culminated with the announcement of the Team Most Valuable Players. The MVPs were: Cross Country – Kyle Gunsiorowski, Field Hockey – Grace Warnick, Football – Steven McCaffery, Boys' Soccer – Carson Pires, Girls' Soccer – Alexandra Zotos, Girls' Tennis – Nicole Lenkiewicz, Volleyball – Sophia DiProfio, and Cheerleading – Angelina Jacobs.

Athletic Director Gus Kalikas had this to say about the event: "Once again, our Fall Athletic Awards Program was a success as it allows the District, Administration, and Coaches the opportunity to acknowledge a wonderful Fall Sports Season as well as recognize both student athletes and their parents alike for all that they have accomplished this past fall athletic season."



(above) Grace Warnick, 2022 Fall Student Athlete Award Winner.



(above) 2022 Fall G.P.A. Winners – ALJ Field Hockey Program.



(above) 2022 Fall MVPs.

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(above) 2022 Fall Best Teammate Award winners.

# JANUARY IS A SOUPER TIME TO VISIT RAHWAY

Rahway is your winter destination in 2023! Looking for something to do to fight off those winter blues? Bundle up and take the train, rideshare, or drive to Rahway to experience all that the city has to offer. Rahway is home to a diverse small business community with unique retail shops and dining experiences. You can start your day in Rahway with a hot cup of coffee and some shopping, get the kids out of the house for lunch and some family game time at the arcade, and plan a date night with drinks and dinner at any one of our many delicious restaurants. No matter what cuisine you are craving, you will find it in Rahway! Watch a show at the Union County Performing Arts Center, view an exhibit at one of our art galleries, or listen to local musicians who can help you rock and sway your way through the winter months.

Looking to warm up this winter? Our annual Soup Stroll, presented by our Special Improvement District (SID), will return every Saturday in January (Jan 7, 14, 21, 28) from 1-4 p.m. Mayor Raymond Giacobbe and the Rahway City Council encourage everyone to attend this free event as a great way to get together with friends, get out of the house, and sample some delicious soups while strolling through the City.

Restaurants will be stirring up their finest soups for you to try, so be sure to follow @Rahwayishappening on Facebook and Instagram or visit [RahwayisHappening.com/soupstroll](https://RahwayisHappening.com/soupstroll) for participating eateries and more information. Snap a photo of you and your Soup Stroll Squad enjoying your samples and share it with @rahwayishappening on Instagram to enter our Soup Stroll Selfie contest for a chance to win a \$25 Gift Card to your favorite participating restaurant.

Visit [Rahwayishappening.com](https://Rahwayishappening.com) for information on parking, lists of shops and restaurants and details about all of our upcoming events!

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Please note: While supplies last. Establishments will not be able to accommodate food allergies or restrictions. Not all restaurants are open the entire 1-4pm. Please check individual hours of operation.

city of rahway

SHOP RAHWAY

Rahway is SOUPER!

# CLARK YOUTH CRUSADER FOOTBALL DINNER

## Clark Public Schools

On Tuesday, December 13, 2022, Clark Crusader Youth Football (CYF) held their annual post-season awards banquet. President of CYF Gus Kalikas presided over the event as all athletes were honored for their contributions to Crusader Youth Football. All athletes received awards for their accomplishments this past

season. The night culminated with the showing of the 2022 Crusader Youth Football Team's highlights. It was a wonderful evening to celebrate both past and present Crusaders and to continue to keep the tradition of Crusader Football alive and well.

Please keep an eye out for Fall 2023 registration which will open soon. Go Crusaders!



(above) 3rd-4th Grade E Level Team: Marcello Miraldo #3, Preston Webb #4, Joseph Cistaro #8, Alessandro Posso #9, Zayden VanDerGroef #10, Mason Holness #13, Declan Salisbury #14, Anthony Desarno #17, Jionni Jacobs #23, Colin Martucci #26, Landon Doherty #27, Frank Saluccio #28, Jesse Sodhi #30, Jackson Brennan #32, Massimo Perentin #44, Thomas DeDeo #48, Nino Vera #50, Chase Ingraham #51, Brett Kaverick #54, Dylan Alvarez #57, Maksim Jadro #66, Hudson Miller #71, and Zachary Peters #87

Photos by Clark Public Schools



(above) 5th Grade D Level Team: Austin Rishko #1, Anthony Castro #2, Jake Gerstner #3, Joseph Pecoraro #6, Marco Lettini #14, Lucas Estaves #15, Robert Smerina #21, Ralph Nieves #22, Vincent Buffa #24, Connor Gordon #26, Xavier Cresci #32, Jacob Goss #34, Caesar Diliberto #42, George Gyure #49, Christopher Scuorzo #56, and Vinnie Suchak #88



## FOOTBALL DINNER PHOTOS



(above) 6th Grade C Level Team: Jack Thompson #1, Jacob Chrominski #4, Grant Kalikas #7, Nolan Rosen #11, Drew Forfa #12, Richard Raguseo #13, Edward Albarella #15, Ethan Ciuba #16, Christian Tortora #22, Nicholas Marzella #23, Jaden Bencivenga #28, Jacob Hutton #54, Jake Richards #55, Ryan Ciccotelli #57, Michael Pereira #71, Ryan Castro #72, Esteban Romero #74, Joseph Diliberto #75, and Connor Heath #96



(above) 7th Grade B Level Team: Logan Downey #3, Derrick Gunsioroski #4, Julian Colon #5, David Reiley #7, Andrew Bell #8, Mason Spearnock #9, Dario Costa #10, Sean Volmut #12, Christian Campbell #13, Alex Sofianakos #14, James Maiorino #15, Ryan DelPiano #16, Ryan Triola #24, James Salisbury #26, Brendan Uniacke #28, Boaz Coutinho #44, Vito Colacitti #45, Constantine Caldara #52, Nicholas Mallick #57, Sean Lane #62, Christos Ketikidis #63, Nicholas Acosta #72, Jonathan Jukic #78, Jayden Barros #87, and Matthew Talarico #88



(above) 8th Grade A Level Team: Daniel Robertazzi #2, Hudson Couto #3, Matthew Reichenbach #4, Matthew Pereira #5, Louis Mentzel #8, Matthew Ortega #10, Nico Fiumefreddo #12, Ethan Gerhart #13, Zachary MacDougall #16, Frankie Fabio #17, Evan Costa #18, Ricky Higgins #21, Vincent Cilento #22, Christopher J. McCann #24, Sean Sullivan #27, Thomas Kershaw #33, Manuel Rendiero #38, Jack Pellino #42, Gavin Feeley #50, Aiden Wall #51, Amr Ahmed #66, Aiden Horling #67, Louis Ricigliano #73, Max Faria #77, and Gavin Ford #87

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<b>Florham Park</b> Press NJ Qty: 5,500 Zip: 07932	<b>Garwood</b> Times NJ Qty: 2,500 Zip: 07027	<b>Green Brook</b> Gazette NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 08812	<b>BUSINESS • LIFE</b> KENILWORTH NJ Qty: 3,500 Zip: 07033	<b>NJ LIFE in</b> LINDEN Qty: 17,900 Zip: 07036	<b>Long Hill</b> LEADER NJ Qty: 3,500 Zips: 07933, 07946, 07980
<b>MADISON</b> MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,300 Zip: 07940	<b>MOUNTAINSIDE</b> VIEW NJ Qty: 2,900 Zip: 07092	<b>New Providence</b> NEWS NJ Qty: 5,100 Zip: 07974	<b>OUR TOWN</b> Rahway, NJ Qty: 13,000 Zip: 07065	<b>ROSELLE PARK</b> MONTHLY Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204	<b>Scotch Plains</b> NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY Qty: 9,400 Zip: 07076
<b>Short Hills</b> MILLBURN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041, 07078	<b>Summit</b> Times NJ Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	<b>Spirit of</b> UNION NJ Qty: 6,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	<b>WARREN</b> MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,200 Zip: 07059	<b>Watchung</b> Post NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	<b>Westfield</b> MONTHLY NJ Qty: 11,800 Zip: 07090

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4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700	\$1900
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700	\$3000
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000	\$3400
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# WESTFIELD AREA YMCA BEGINS CELEBRATION OF CENTENNIAL YEAR

In 2023, the Westfield Area YMCA celebrates its 100th anniversary of service to the community. The Y will kick off the celebration with special hours on New Year's Day from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. A limited-edition commemorative 100th-anniversary long-sleeve workout shirt will be distributed to current and new members for the first few months of the year,

while supplies last. Centennial celebration events and activities will be announced throughout 2023.

Summer Day Camp and Child Care Open Houses will be held on Saturday, January 7 from 10 a.m. to Noon. This summer's theme is "History in the Making" as the Y provides an opportunity for campers ages 3-15 to express

themselves, try new activities, learn new skills, make new friends, be creative, and have a blast! Summer Camp Open Houses will be held at the Main Y Facility, 220 Clark Street, and the Garwood Family Center Y, 500 East Street. Camps are ACA-accredited and located in Cranford, Garwood, Mountainside, and Westfield. Full and half-day traditional, sports, S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) and leadership development camps are available by the week or all summer long. Camp Early Bird registration begins on January 2 and ends on January 31. Child Care Open Houses will be held at the Bauer Branch YMCA, 422 East Broad Street; Early Learning Center YMCA, 170 Elm Street; and Garwood Family Center YMCA, 500 East Street. Registration for full-day child care, half- and full-day preschool, full-day Kindergarten, and Kindergarten Wraparound will be available for the 2023-2024 school year. Registration for after-school care will begin in March.

For information on all Westfield Area YMCA programs and services, visit [westfieldynj.org](http://westfieldynj.org) or call the Welcome Center at 908-301-YMCA (9622). The Y is for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Financial assistance is available for YMCA programs and memberships for those who qualify.



(above) Westfield Area YMCA campers enjoy a trip to Mindowaskin Park.

## GARWOOD PUPIC LIBRARY JANUARY EVENTS

For more information and to register for programs, call 908-789-1670 or email [garwoodlibrary@garwood.org](mailto:garwoodlibrary@garwood.org).

Monday and Tuesday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Closed on Sundays.

The Library will be closed on January 1 and January 16 for Martin Luther King Day

### Storytime in the Library

January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 at a NEW TIME 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Join Miss Maryanne for stories, bubbles and more. Registration Required

### Brixology

January 4, 11, 18, and 25 and Feb 1, 8, and 15 at 3 p.m.

Using Legos kids build a different engineering-themed project each week. They explore different engineering fields including, mechanical, structural, aerospace, and nautical. They use critical thinking and creative problem-solving to test and improve their creations. This is a 6 week program. Registration required For children 2nd grade and older..

### Classic Movie Fridays

January 6 and 20 at Noon

Join us for Classic Movie Fridays featuring memorable movies from the 50s and 60s. Light refreshments will be served. Registration required.

### Knitting Club

January 9, 23 and 30 at 10:30 a.m.

Join our Knitting Club. Open to all levels, whether you're a beginner or you want to share your vast knowledge of knitting, or just spend an hour being creative and socializing. No Registration required. Yarn and needles provided to newcomers.

### Virtual Kids Craft

January 10 at 3 p.m.

Pick up supplies for a craft, then watch the 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's website calendar or by phone.

### Ask Kiosk - Aging Services Kiosk

January 11 and 23 from 10 a.m. to noon

Union County Division of Aging Staff will be on hand to assist seniors (age 60+) or their caregivers with information on services.

### Library Board Meeting

January 11 at 7:30 p.m.

A meeting of the Garwood Library Board of Trustees will take place in the Library. This meeting is open to the public.

### Virtual Adult Craft

January 17 at 3 p.m.

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 23 at 1 p.m.

Join us in the library for a lively discussion of this month's book "Book of Lost Friends" by Lisa Wingate.

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