A community magazine serving the residents of Nutley FEBRUARY 2024

NUTLEY NEIGHBORS

Amanda, Eric, Asher, and Eliana Goldberg

With Every Beat of Their Hearts

Photograph by Carly Ann Photography

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Publisher:
Michael Stefanelli

Account Executive:
Neil Leibowitz

Content Coordinator: Joyce Corey
Designer: Marti Golon
Contributing Photographer: Carly Ann Photography
Contributing Writers: Linda Buset, Barry Lenson, Michelle Palmer, David Wilson

ADVERTISING
Contact: Michael Stefanelli
Email: mstefanelli@bestversionmedia.com
Phone: 973-277-7301

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Content Submission Deadlines:

Content Due:	Edition Date:
November 25	January 1
December 23	February 1
January 25	March 1
February 25	April 1
March 25	May 1
April 25	June 1
May 25	July 1
June 25	August 1
July 25	September 1
August 25	October 1
September 25	November 1
October 25	December 1

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Dancing with the Stars

It's time to align our calendar with the stars with what I like to think of as the *leap year sync!* I envision it as a kind of cosmic dance where our orbit around the sun takes 365.25 days but our calendars round it to 365. At some point, we must include that .25 day or else we will be out of sync with the seasons.

Someone came up with the idea of adding an extra day to the calendar every 4 years, so here we are in 2024 with February 29.

Everything counts and that's a good thing.

Perhaps you have had an experience and wondered why that happened. We might not know the reason for years or maybe never. But in the cosmic calendar of life, those moments have a purpose, and, in some way, they will be counted.

Amanda Goldberg with her children, Asher and Eliana

Just like that .25 day that we're adding this month.

On the cover is the Goldberg family–Amanda, Eric, Asher, and Eliana. When Amanda was very young, she had a medical condition, atrial tachycardia, that affected her heart. A Nutley pediatric cardiologist recommended a procedure, and she was one of the first children in the world to have a cardiac ablation.

Fast forward to 2024, and Amanda and her family are sharing their story in February, National Heart Month. No, I didn't plan it that way; I guess it was that cosmic dance.

Barry Lenson has an article about Carol Fortunato, who grew up in Nutley and captured her town in magnificent paintings. Her work is found in collections nationally and, while we mourn her passing on October 18, 2022, her canvases have the power to take us to the places that inspired her work. Like right here in Nutley.

Everything counts and nothing is ever forgotten.

And let's not forget Lucy. We featured her previously in our Pet Corner, but she hasn't found a forever home yet. Maybe it's time for a cosmic dance that will have Lucy doing a happy dance.

We are always dancing with the stars!

Joyce Corey
Content Coordinator

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Pet Corner

Adopt Us!

Submitted by Christa Milici, Yellow Brick Road Rescue NJ

Etches is a 2-month-old male who was found wandering the streets in a bad area. We instantly took him in, and he went to foster. He was super skinny but now he is doing wonderful and is healthy! He would make a great addition to any family. Etches is being fostered with other cats and gets along with them but we are unsure about dogs, although he is young enough to adjust to one. He is such a happy little guy. He is up to date on vaccines, microchipped, dewormed, and tested FIV/FeLV negative. He will also be neutered. Application and $185 adoption fee apply. ■

To apply for Etches: https://form.jotform.com/231577667522060

Submitted by Nicole Milici, Jersey Pits Rescue Inc.

Do you believe we already started a new year and Mama Lucy hasn't found her own forever home and family? We showed her photo and told her story last year; surely 2024 will be her year! Lucy is 9 years old and is as sweet as can be. She is so happy to be out of the shelter and feeling better. She enjoys rolling around in the grass and cuddling on the couch—life's simple pleasures.

Lucy is looking for a home with either another calm senior *pitizen* or where she can be the only pet.

She is crate trained, housebroken, and does well with other dogs. She would be a great addition to any home or family. Please apply today if you are looking to add this incredible pup to your family! ■

If you're interested in adopting Lucy, please fill out an adoption application at jerseypitsrescue.com. Already have an application on file? Send us an email at jerseypitsrescue@gmail.com to express interest.

*GSMLS Data: Single Family, Condominiums/Cooperatives, Town Homes

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Nutley Sales Data 2022-2023

SALE PRICE RANGE	2023 PROPERTIES SOLD	2022 PROPERTIES SOLD
$150,000 - $199,999	5	10
$200,000 - $299,999	14	19
$300,000 - $399,999	18	33
$400,000 - $499,999	50	82
$500,000 - $599,999	66	107
$600,000 - $699,999	45	45
$700,000 - $799,999	19	17
$800,000 - $899,999	14	8
$900,000 - $999,999	5	5
> $1,000,000	1	2

CALENDAR YEAR	MEDIAN SALE PRICE	PROPERTIES SOLD
2023	$540,000	237
2022	$515,000	328
2021	$475,000	398
2020	$425,000	334
2019	$385,000	340
2018	$393,000	310

2023 BY THE NUMBERS*

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*Data collected from GSMLS

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Amanda, Eric, Asher, and Eliana Goldberg

With Every Beat of Their Hearts

By Joyce Corey
Photograph by Carly Ann Photography

February needs an extra day now and then so it's great that we have a leap year. This small month, now extended to only 29 days, gets right to the heart of our lives—both romantically and literally. Valentine's Day and National Heart Month have a home in February, which very nicely combines romantic gestures and health advocacy.

And isn't it a supreme act of love to encourage ourselves and those around us to adopt healthier lifestyles?

That's exactly what Amanda and Eric Goldberg are doing, for themselves and their children, Asher and Eliana. But they didn't need anyone to tell them how important the heart is—Amanda learned this firsthand when she was a young child.

"When I was very little, about 3 years old, I was diagnosed with atrial tachycardia," Amanda said. "My doctor was Milton Prystowsky who was an amazing Nutley pediatric cardiologist. He took care of me and recommended that I become one of the first children in the world to have a cardiac ablation done at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston when I was 12. Since then, heart health awareness has been very important to me, and I really try to live a healthy lifestyle and work out religiously. We want to instill positive habits for our kids involving physical activity and nutritious eating."

On the romantic heart side of their lives, Amanda and Eric have been married for 4 years.

"We met on Bumble, a dating app, 8 years ago," Amanda said. "We can honestly say that our best memories are every day that we spend time as a family with our two adorable children! Asher is almost 3 and Eliana turned 1 in December."

Besides being busy parents, both Amanda and Eric are pursuing their respective careers.

"I'm a speech language pathologist," Amanda said. "I've been a therapist for a private school for children on the autism spectrum for 12 years and the coordinator of the department for almost 7 years. Eric is a digital marketing manager for a life sciences company and was named Marketer of the Year in 2022!"

But when their workdays end, they come home to a neighborhood that is perfect for them. "We live in the Spring Garden section," Amanda said. "When we were looking for houses, we didn't know exactly what town we wanted to end up in, but our house kind of fell into our laps and we couldn't be happier. We have been here for almost 5 years now. Time is flying!"

Also living in their Spring Garden home is a very special family member, Bowie, who is appreciative of the heart-health care he has received.

"He is our 5-year-old dog that we adopted," she said. "When we first got him, he was diagnosed with heartworm. I started looking for more information on treatment by posting on a Facebook board and randomly connected with the families who adopted Bowie's brother and sisters. We keep saying we need to get the doggies together!"

While there may be barking coming from their home now and then, other, more melodic sounds may be heard here.

"Eric is a very accomplished musician who has been in several bands and has recorded countless albums," Amanda said. "He is currently playing guitar and singing in Delicate Flowers and 3ric Goldb3rg. He has also made music as a member of All Sensory Void, NGHTCRWLRS and the Nico Blues." *(Be sure to listen to him on Spotify.)*

Amanda enjoys music as well and was in several choirs during her years in the Nutley public school system and will be joining the Bloomfield Chorale this year.

Running is something else that Eric and

Amanda enjoy doing together.

"We have participated in many races and have most notably completed the Asbury Park Half Marathon in 2019," Amanda said.

Nutley and their neighborhood add to their lives in many ways and the family looks forward to getting more involved in the community.

"We have two little ones and are already enjoying bringing them to activities around town such as events at the library or play dates at friends' houses," Amanda said. "No one is involved in sports yet, but we have baseball in our blood and our son just got his first wiffle ball set, so you never know! Asher recently joined the program KidStrong, a gym program for children so he gets plenty of physical activity while building confidence and learning about sportsmanship. Several of our friends live within walking distance and we love enjoying our neighborhood, the park, and taking walks. We love our community and try to enjoy everything the town has to offer. We can't wait to participate in more activities as our children get older."

Traveling is also on their future itinerary and has been a big part of Amanda's life.

"I was an avid traveler when I was growing up and have been all around Europe and the United States," she said. "Eric and I have traveled to California, Croatia (for our honeymoon!) and Mexico. We are looking forward to bringing the kids on our travels."

5 Things the Goldberg Family Loves About Nutley

1. The town events
2. The community feeling
3. Living close to our friends and family
4. The parks
5. The library!

But right now, at the heart of the Goldberg family are all the wonderful moments of children laughing and growing up, a dog wagging his tail in his forever home, and parents who know that a healthier lifestyle is an investment in their futures.

The themes of Valentine's Day and National Heart Month are celebrated all year round in the Goldberg home. Love and heart health are prioritized, and incidentally, those are two things that cannot be touched, only experienced.

Which is something that happens every day for Amanda, Eric, Asher, Eliana, and, of course, Bowie! ■

We are always looking for fascinating residents to feature in *Nutley Neighbors*. If you are interested in being included or would like to nominate one of your neighbors please email jcorey@bestversionmedia.com.

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Nutley Residential: Year over Year – As of December 31.

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In Appreciation of Carol Fortunato

A Brilliant Artist Who Got Her Start in Nutley

By Barry Lenson, Art Historian, Nutley Historical Society

Many renowned artists have lived and painted in Nutley, but as more than 200 people discovered on November 11, nobody ever painted Nutley more beautifully than Carol Fortunato. On that day, an exhibition of her paintings opened at the Nutley Museum. The exhibition included drawings and paintings of Vermont, England, and other locales, as well as still lifes. They all took our breath away, but I think that for those of us who attended, the paintings Carol did of our Nutley parks held a very special meaning. Tragically, Carol passed away on October 18, 2022. The exhibition was spearheaded by Carol's husband, Angelo Gaccione.

Stream near the Kingland Manor

Vermont landscape

The gazebo in the park

ABOUT CAROL FORTUNATO

(Adapted from an essay by Angelo Gaccione)

Born in 1958, Carol was the youngest of three siblings who grew up on Washington Ave. While she was attending Saint Mary's grammar school, Carol was already sketching for an hour daily, inspired by books on animals, particularly dogs, which were her favorite. Later, Carol and Angelo met while attending Nutley High School. They were destined to share a life of adventure together.

Upon graduating from Nutley High School in 1976, Carol earned a full scholarship to the School of Visual Arts in New York City. While there, Carol was particularly inspired by the drawings and paintings of instructor Harvey Dinnerstein. She then continued the study of representational painting at the Art Students League of New York. Carol later immersed herself in the art of the past, moved by the Barbizon painters whose rich, atmospheric depictions of nature led her to further continue her studies at the Ridgewood Art Institute under master landscape painter, John Osborne.

Carol and Angelo divided their time between Montclair and a second home in Dorset, Vermont. They took trips near and far in a quest for new painting opportunities. In 2013, they spent the summer in England, where Carol painted landscapes, some of which were included in the Nutley Museum exhibition.

Carol was much in demand as a guest art teacher. In the spring of 2017, she helped spearhead a one-day plein air painting fundraiser for the Kingsland Manor, with contributions benefiting the Friends of the Nutley Public Library. She frequently donated paintings and illustrations to various causes she felt strongly about.

Carol's work can be found in collections nationally, as well as in the U.K. The last work Carol painted locally was of the Mountsier-Hardie garden in Nutley. This magnificent painting depicts a summer afternoon in a beloved setting.

Carol structured her life on living it to the fullest and did it incomparably to the end when she passed away in the comfort of her Montclair home with her husband Angelo and her devoted terrier, Nigel, at her side.

Carol Fortunato was a truly remarkable painter whose life began in Nutley. We can all say she was one of the best. ■

To express appreciation for Carol and her art, you are invited to email her husband Angelo Gaccione at puff242424@aol.com

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Enhancing Cinematic Exploration: Nutley Public Library's Digital Gem - Kanopy

By Michelle Salimbene Albert, Library Director

Kanopy is not just another streaming platform; it's a carefully curated digital library offering a diverse selection of over 30,000 films, documentaries, and educational content. With a Nutley Public Library card, users can unlock the doors to a cinematic treasure trove, accessible from the comfort of their homes or on-the-go from their mobile devices.

The beauty of *Kanopy* lies in its thoughtfully chosen catalog. Instead of drowning users in an overwhelming sea of options, the platform presents a curated collection of high-quality films spanning various genres and cultures. Nutley residents can explore everything from timeless classics to contemporary gems, ensuring there's something for every taste and preference including critically-acclaimed films; popular TV series; classics; *Kanopy Kids,* an unlimited, curated education and entertainment collection just for children, complete with parental controls; lifelong learning with PBS; a rich international selection representing cinema from around the world; movies in non-English languages; documentaries; and thousands of films that support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

What sets *Kanopy* apart is its commitment to education and accessibility. The platform boasts an extensive documentary collection, covering topics from science and history to art and social issues, and *The Great Courses,* instructional videos presented by the world's top professors. This aligns seamlessly with Nutley Public Library's dedication to lifelong learning, providing a valuable resource for those seeking to expand their knowledge in an engaging and entertaining way.

Navigating *Kanopy* is a breeze, thanks to its user-friendly interface which ensures that patrons of all ages can easily explore the platform. With a unique ticket-based system, library cardholders receive a set number of tickets each month, allowing them to choose films without the burden of subscription fees. ■

To get started exploring *Kanopy*, visit the reference desk at the library or online at nutleypubliclibrary.com/kanopy.

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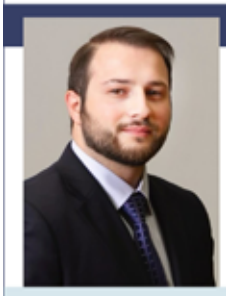
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Rusty Myers

By Bill Chivil

Rusty Myers' father receiving the Bronze Star Medal (left) Photo credit: U.S. Army

The small group made their way across the 225-acres of the BG William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown, NJ. Each carried a wreath intended for a veteran who was buried there.

The contingent, which included Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 105, Post 105 veterans, and members of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), were participating in Wreaths Across America Day. That afternoon, each of them would ceremoniously lay a wreath at the grave of a parent, uncle, friend, or relative buried at the state-operated veterans' cemetery. The trip was organized by Nutley resident Rusty Myers.

"Our veterans' commitment to service and sacrifice is something that I'm in awe of," Myers noted recently. "It's important that we honor their service by remembering those who are gone, and by working for those still in uniform."

Myers puts these words into action each day as an officer of SAL Squadron 105 where he holds the positions of adjutant, finance officer, and unofficial public affairs officer. He also works on the county level as detachment executive committeeman for Essex County.

The Sons of the American Legion is a non-profit organization of male descendants of men or women who served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces. Its mission is to serve U.S. veterans, the military, and their families through outreach programs.

Myers is actively involved with the Legion's charitable endeavors including sponsorship of the Children's Organ Transplant Association, Fisher House Foundation, and events that raise money for veterans and local charities.

"Rusty and I are like bookends," noted Squadron

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Commander Steve Sangemino. "We work great together. I bounce ideas off him and he's the one who makes those ideas actually happen."

Myers comes from a family with military heritage. His ancestor, Heinrich Shatz, fought in the Revolutionary War. Other family members fought in the Civil War, Spanish American War, both World Wars, and Vietnam.

Myers' father, Russell Myers Jr., joined the army after high school and deployed to Vietnam with the 1st Signal Brigade. "He's the reason I became involved with the American Legion. Having never served, I felt like if there is something I can do for those who have, then it's my responsibility to do so."

Rusty Myers lives in Nutley with his wife Meghan and their three children: Abigail (13) is a freshman at Nutley High School, Grace (11) is a 7th grader at John H. Walker Middle School, and Jake (8) is a 3rd grader at Washington School. "I enjoy the sense of community here," Myers shared, "and the pride that everyone who lives here in town has in being from Nutley."

Outside of his duties as a full-time parent and being an officer at 105, Myers is also a 20-year-employee at Fox News Channel in NYC where he is the director of Fox and Friends First.

"He teaches our children that hard work and dedication are key in life," added his wife, Meghan. "His selfless giving has taught all of us valuable life lessons." ■

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Driving Away from a Leased Vehicle

Contributed by Jeanne Hilla, Proponent Federal Credit Union

When vehicle shopping, lower monthly payments are often the reason to choose a lease instead of a car loan. However, the amount of time you plan to spend in the car could be a factor in your next auto financing decision. Here are some comparisons to show how a car loan could be a better choice than a lease.

GOING THE DISTANCE

- Go further with a loan – You can drive a car you own without worrying about limited miles.
- Track your miles with a lease - If you go over the agreed mileage on a lease, you'll pay a fee for every additional mile.

HIT THE BRAKES ON PAYMENTS

- Borrow and set a pay-off schedule – Car loans have a fixed term, and you'll eventually own the car without having a monthly payment.
- Another lease means more payments in tow - Jumping from one lease to the next will keep you owing payments with no end in sight.

THERE IS A WAY OUT OF A LEASE.

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*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. APR is based on credit worthiness, loan type, loan to value and term of the loan. 0.50% discount is valid on a lease buyout and auto refinance loan. Rate cannot be combined with any other Proponent offer. Rate and terms subject to change. Example monthly payment for a $20,000 auto loan at 5.24% for 48 months would be $463.48. Other restrictions may apply. Financing available up to 84 months. Vehicle retail value must be $5,000 or greater. Vehicles eligible for auto refinance rates are five years old or newer and not currently financed at Proponent. Up to 100% financing available, based on NADA "retail" value. Restrictions apply on financing a vehicle with a Loan to Value over 100%. Offer expires 03/31/2024.

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Happiness is Homemade Art from the Heart

By Michelle Palmer

In February, the stores are full of red heart-shaped goodies, but the most cherished gifts are those made by our children which show their personalities. Here are some memories that are full of love and joy, made by tiny hands building, coloring, and painting.

Sofia's masterpiece

Sofia is in middle school and exploring her artistic talents. She crafted this cool portrait using oil paint and markers and titled it "Garbage Ink" as a tribute to the beloved Oscar the Grouch character. Art has become such a wonderful way for her to demonstrate her creativity.

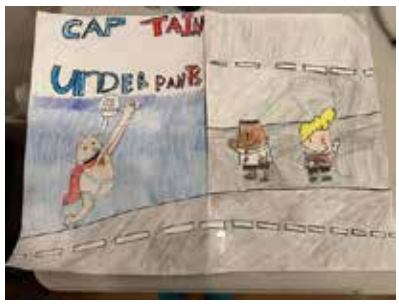
Krisha is a high school student and loves painting! She paints very realistic people that almost look like a photograph. Her talent is a beautiful representation of happiness, culture, travel, and artistic expression.

Krisha paints a beautiful life

Spider-Man in 3D art

Children are often inspired by their favorite superheroes and want to recreate them in the form of art. Julian made a 3D web to match his new pajamas. He is happy with new technology and crafts and his art brings big smiles and imaginative fun.

Nine-year-old George brought his favorite book to life by illustrating some scenes from the story. His characters are so nicely drawn that they look like they should be in a graphic novel of his own. Looking at this drawing really makes someone want to read the book and see what it's all about.



George's love of reading and drawing

Aidan, Julian, and Addison crafted a new spin on the traditional advent calendar. Each day they worked together to build a masterpiece out of a variety of materials. The end result is impressive, making mom super proud. The siblings showed the beauty of teamwork and that art is created over time. ■

Winter wonderland creativity

Michelle Palmer is the author of a children's book, *Brinco Finds His Way Home,* which is available at Amazon and Pretty Handy in Nutley.

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Stairs to Nowhere Destinations Revealed

By David Wilson
Photo credit: David Wilson

We have all passed by stairs in Nutley that seemingly lead to nowhere and wondered about the history of these locations. Did local folks on business or recreational walks traverse these steps? What used to be at the end of these now-abandoned stairs? Enjoy the many textures and materials comprising these steps and try to determine a construction date. Local brownstone, fieldstones, and mortar using Third River water add to the historical significance of these stairways.

The pictures follow a today-and-yesterday format to help us understand these access points and how they served people.

Enjoy these pictorial look-backs and the realization that these stairs did lead somewhere at one point and are a part of local history. ■

David Wilson is the author of *Fire in Our Lives*, a book containing stories, experiences, and advice from his forty-year career in public safety.

Passaic Ave. near Grant Ave. led to a local surveyor's office.

Passaic Ave. near the railroad trestle used by the Satterthwaite family to access their 1890s parkland gazebo.

Access to Booth Park from a trolley stop on Centre St. bridge.

Passaic Ave. at the Methodist Cemetery that accessed the 1853 Nutley Methodist Church.

Kingsland Park by Howe Ave. WPA project was used to access the Kingsland Pond for fishing, boating, and duck feeding. Photo (right) credit: Anthony Buccino

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FEBRUARY 2024 EVENTS CALENDAR

Feb. 3, Sat.
Take Your Child to the Library Day
@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Dr., Children's Room
For all ages. Explore your library with activities, games, and crafts all day! Caregivers and homeschool groups welcome. The day starts with story time and a craft at 10:30am, followed by drop-in programs from 11am-4pm including LEGO station, maker/STEM activities, and a library scavenger hunt.
Time: 10:30am-4pm
For more information visit youthservices.nutleypubliclibrary.org or call 973-667-0405 ext. 2623

Feb. 10, Sat.
Great American Songbook
@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Dr., Children's Room
Enjoy a concert of standards and favorites from The Great American Songbook, a collection of the most important and influential songs from the early 20th century. As part of the program, music trivia questions are intermittently posed to the audience. Carol Erickson has been singing publicly since 2010 and Jim Ramundo is a freelance musician with over 25 years of experience.
Time: 2-3pm
For more information visit nutleypubliclibrary.org

Feb. 13, Tue.
Preparation for Breastfeeding
@LiveWell Center, 200 Wycoff Rd., Suite 1200, Eatontown or virtual
Join a Certified Lactation Consultant for a free discussion on breastfeeding preparation in-person or virtually. The talk provides mothers-to-be and their support person the opportunity to learn more about the basics of breastfeeding. Explore topics like how to get a good latch, establish your milk supply, identify that your baby is getting enough, and how to pump and store breastmilk. Registration is required.
Time: 3-4:30pm
To register call 862-781-3873

Feb. 13, Tue.
Baby Prom (23 Months and under)
@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Dr., Children's Room
BYOB: Bring Your Own Baby and get ready to shake your "booties!" Babies 23 months and younger and their caregivers are cordially invited to a special event featuring music, dancing, photo ops, refreshments, and more! Dress to impress! Registration required.
Time: 10-11am
For more information visit youthservices.nutleypubliclibrary.org or call 973-667-0405 ext. 2623.

Feb. 13, Tue.
Valentines Family Walk and Campfire
@Essex County Environmental Center, 621-B Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland
For all ages. Join an ECEC naturalist for a short walk on the trails to experience forest life at night and make birch bark hearts and necklaces that double as fire-starters. Build a campfire and enjoy fire-popped popcorn and mint tea. Dress for the weather. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail, or online.
Time: 6-7:30pm
Cost: $30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or $10 per child, $12 per adult
For more information and to register visit www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar

Feb. 17, Sat.
Build-a-Birdhouse
@Essex County Environmental Center, 621-B Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland
For families. Join to build a home that encourages breeding birds and other wildlife to take residence. Putting out a birdhouse now creates a good chance of having a nesting pair of songbirds in your garden by spring. Registration required.
Time: 10:30am-12pm
Cost: $20 per birdhouse (2 people max per birdhouse)
For more information and to register visit www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar

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