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A community magazine serving the residents of Nutley SEPTEMBER 2024

NUTLEY NEIGHBORS

Swiped Right!

Tony, Michele, and Mia Policastro

Photograph by Carly Ann Photography

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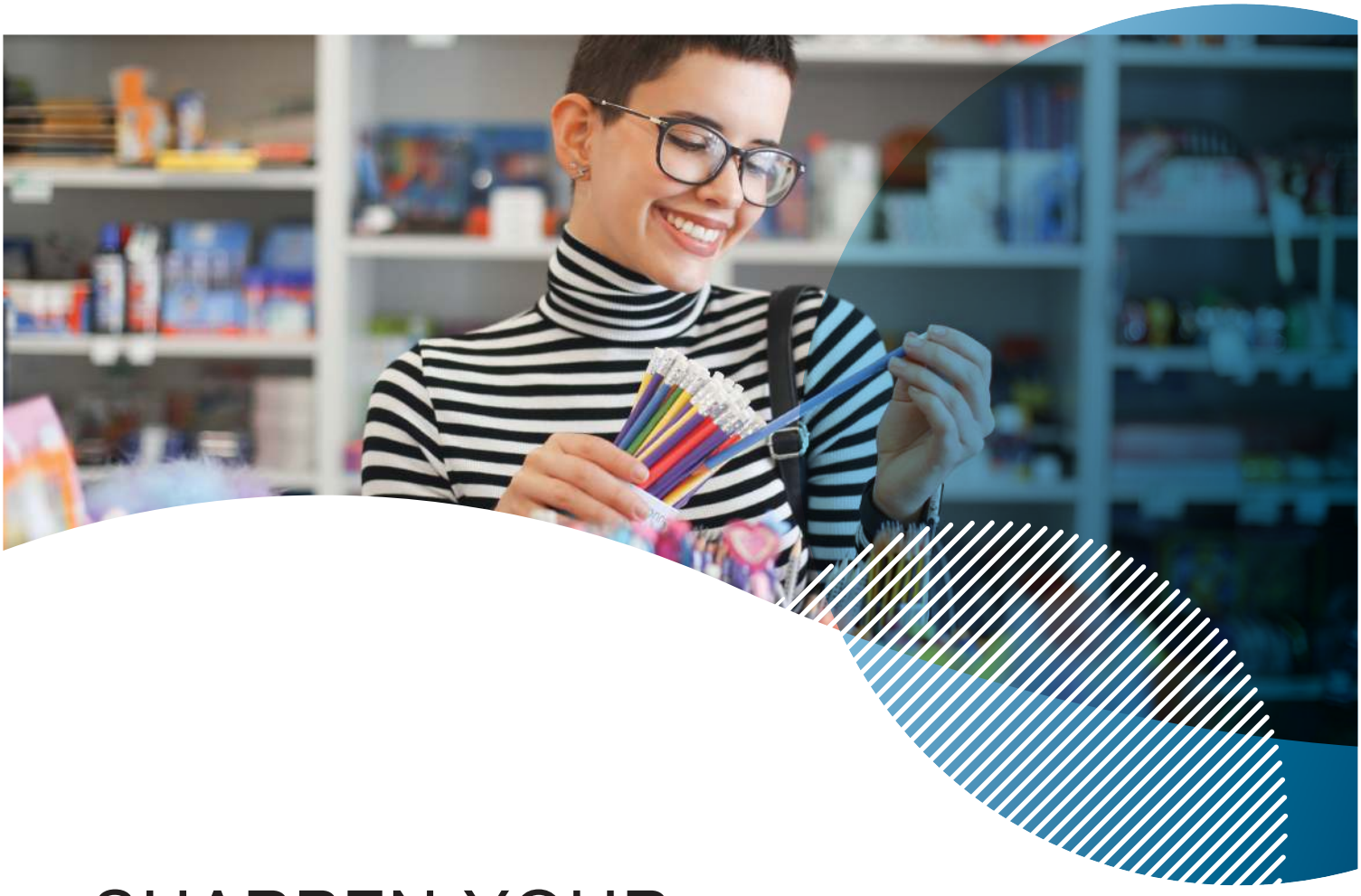

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Feedback/Ideas/Submissions: Have feedback, ideas or submissions? We are always happy to hear from you! Deadlines for submissions are the 25th of each month. Go to www.bestversionmedia.com and click "Submit Content." You may also email your thoughts, ideas and photos to: jcorey@bestversionmedia.com.

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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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Nice to Meet You!

The ways in which we meet people have changed a lot over the decades. In the 1930s, most people married someone who lived within a 10-block radius of their home. In 1940, introductions were often brought about through family members. The 1950s enlarged the social circle to include meeting people through mutual friends.

This trend continued through the 70s but in 1990, it was common to find your partner at work. In 2010, bars and restaurants were the first-choice places to meet, but the second most popular way was online. Today, online dating ranks first for age groups 18 to 58.

The internet has given us an opportunity to connect with people and places around the globe. We don't have limits based on geography. I bet they didn't see that coming in 1930!

And whenever we don't have limits, the possibilities are endless.

On this month's cover are Tony and Michele Policastro who met online, fell in love, got married, and are now our *Nutley Neighbors*. Together, with their daughter, Mia, and Turk, their dog who is a potcake *(read about that in the story!)*, they are looking to meet new friends in town–the 1930s way–right in the neighborhood.

While I love my internet connection, there is something to be said for talking to someone face to face. Seeing them smile, giving them a hug or a handshake, and knowing they are close by makes a neighborhood one of the best places on earth.

That's what we are all about here in the magazine. We want to bring people together through ideas, events, and businesses to make our small spot on the globe happy and healthy. As you turn the pages, please look for ways you can connect with those around you.

We have an article from Barry Lenson, art historian at the Nutley Historical Society, an invitation from Jeanne Sylvester, librarian at the Nutley Public Library, to sign up for a card, and Lorraine Kucinski keeping us up to date with Nutley UNICO.

Check out the Calendar of Events, our Pet Corner page, or read informative articles from Michael S. Cocco at Beacon Wealth Partners and Dr. Shefali Pilar at Smile Today Dentistry.

Consider every page as a way for you to meet someone and enrich your life. You don't need Wi-Fi to read the magazine, just the idea of making a 'we' connection.

Joyce Corey
Content Coordinator

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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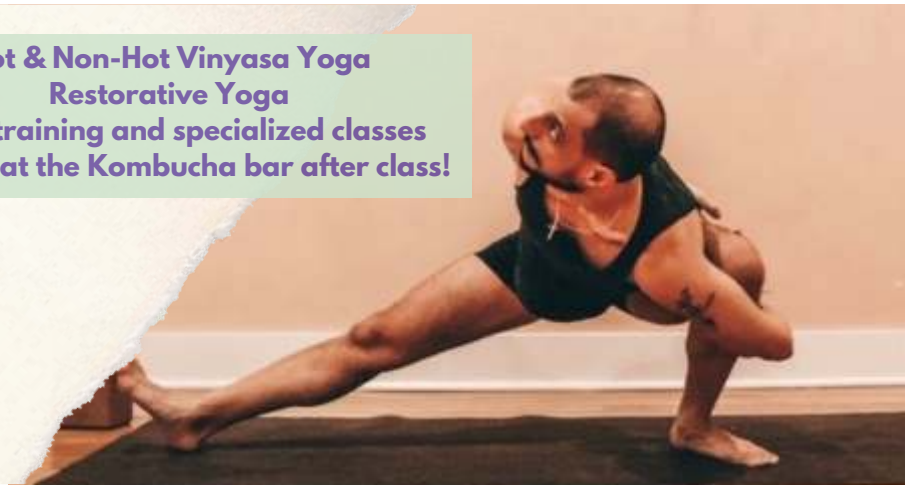

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Nutley Real Estate

Real Estate Snapshot*

SINGLE FAMILY HOMES SOLD JULY 2024:

ADDRESS	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE	DIFFERENCE
357 Prospect St,	$1,200,000	$999,999	-$200,001
46 Daily St.	$639,000	$760,000	$121,000
127 Nutley Ave.	$699,000	$665,000	-$34,000
115 Chestnut St.	$799,999	$800,000	$1
1 Stewart Ave.	$699,900	$785,000	$85,100
302 E Passaic Ave.	$462,000	$540,000	$78,000
462 Chestnut St.	$450,000	$555,000	$105,000
96 Highfield Ln.	$649,900	$794,000	$144,100
146 San Antonio Ave.	$599,000	$612,708	$13,708
23 Park Dr.	$699,900	$790,000	$90,100
341 Washington Ave.	$749,999	$750,000	$1
37 Glendale St.	$430,000	$460,000	$30,000
16 Jackson St.	$449,000	$505,000	$56,000
416 Chestnut St.	$498,000	$578,000	$80,000
20 Brookway	$825,000	$850,000	$25,000
62 Stager St.	$699,000	$900,000	$201,000
22 Cherry Pl.	$679,900	$805,018	$125,118
203 Walnut St.	$639,900	$672,000	$32,100
126 King St.	$379,900	$433,000	$53,100
479 Prospect St.	$750,000	$836,000	$86,000
22 Wilmington Dr.	$850,000	$989,000	$139,000

Average List: $599,900
Average Sold: $623,000
Median Days on Market: 14

**GSMLS Data: Single Family, Condominiums/Cooperatives, Town Houses January-July '24*

Best Version Media does not guarantee the accuracy of the statistical data on this page. The data does not represent the listings of any one agent or agency but represents the activity of the real estate community in the area. Any real estate agent's ad appearing in the magazine is separate from the statistical data provided which is in no way a part of their advertisement.

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Tony, Michele, and Mia Policastro

Swiped Right!

By Joyce Corey

Photograph by Carly Ann Photography

Life is a lot about choosing–yes or no–or swiping left or right. For Tony and Michele Policastro, their swiping put them both in the right direction and placed them right here in town.

"Michele and I met on two dating apps," Tony said. "The funny thing is that on the first app, we never went out on a date. The second time we matched we went on a date in the financial district where she later called me out for not asking her on a date the first time we matched!"

Tony did not make that mistake again and their dating led to marriage which brought them to Nutley.

"We moved into the Spring Garden area in the summer of 2023," Michele said. "We knew we wanted to land in Essex County, coming from Jersey City, and after about 18 months of serious house hunting, we found our current home with a great local realtor, Denise Payne of Pollock Properties. I grew up in Syracuse, New York, came to New York City for college, and now I am acclimating myself to being a Jersey girl!"

The location of their home was a great fit for the couple in many ways, one of which is the proximity to their jobs.

"I'm a registered architect that works in construction management," Tony said. "I graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute a decade ago with a bachelor's degree in architecture. Most recently, I worked in Manhattan putting up skyscrapers on the west side of Midtown predominantly on a site called Manhattan West."

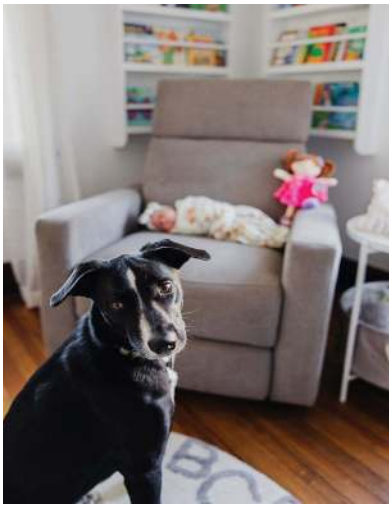
"I graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City in 2013," Michele said. "I currently work in research and development for Kate Spade, also in Manhattan. Sometimes my work takes me to Europe and Asia to visit various factories and trade shows."

Michele's travels have made for some special memories for the couple.

"One of our best memories is a trip we took to Milan," Tony said. "Michele was there for work, and I flew over a little later so we could do some excursions and finish with skiing in the Italian Swiss Alps. The trip was incomparable to say the least."

Another trip the couple took brought a new addition to their household.

"A few years ago, we visited the Turks and Caicos Islands and fell in love with potcakes, a dog breed found there," Michele said. "Last year, when we got back from a vacation in Europe, we reached out to the potcakes rescue and got matched with Turk who is now 2 years old. A few weeks later, we picked him up from Newark International Airport and the rest is history. He's a very silly guy who is regimented, quirky, and still getting used to house living."



Their potcake rescue, 2-year-old Turk

Then, last year, a special someone joined the Policastro family.

"Mia is 1 year old, and we are looking forward to watching her grow up here," Michele said.

"Right now, her special talents currently revolve around dancing, keeping mommy and daddy on their toes, and babbling," Tony adds. "She started daycare in March, and beyond that we can't wait to take advantage of the various community events offered by the town throughout the year."

And while their house is quickly getting filled with a baby and a puppy, the couple decided some renovations were in order.

"We bought our house here in Nutley last year and wanted to make some changes," Tony said. "Before this past Thanksgiving we finished renovations on the first floor. We're still undergoing a lot of decorating and remodeling as well. Most recently, in the spring and summer, I renovated the second-floor bathroom."

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5 Things the Policastro Family Loves About Nutley

1. Queen Margherita, Aroma Di Napoli, Vilardo's Deli–the Italian food is amazing in this town
2. Running through the parks in nice weather, turning it into a little unofficial 5K
3. Turk is enjoying the renovations at the dog park at Reinheimer Park
4. Mia can't wait to play in Nichol's Park
5. Santa's annual arrival by helicopter in December

Although focusing on home improvements has kept this couple busy, they have found time to get to know the people who live nearby.

"We love our neighbors," Michele said. "Right off the bat they were helpful and friendly. We plan to get involved in community and neighborhood activities especially when Mia gets a little older."

While the Policastro family is settling in nicely in town, there is something our *Nutley Neighbors* can do.

"We would like to extend an invitation to those around us that we haven't met yet," Tony said. "We're new to town and always looking for new friends for all four of our family's members."

If you see any of the Policastro family around Nutley–swipe right–and say hello.

Life is all about saying 'yes' to moments, and for Tony, Michele, and Mia, that's the perfect response to an enriching life surrounded by wonderful neighbors. ■

Feature Story Sponsored by Donna Keena, Christie's International Real Estate Group

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Is Retirement on the Horizon for You?

Contributed by Michael S. Cocco, CFP®, ChFC® Beacon Wealth Partners

Since the days of everyone having a lifetime pension and health benefits from their employer are long gone, it's up to the individual to ensure they are set up properly for retirement. Here are some areas to focus on and some tips to help you prepare.

Medicare and Healthcare
Does your job offer you any retiree health benefits? How much do they cost and how do they compare to Medicare or a Medicare supplement?

Work with an experienced and licensed health insurance expert who will help you evaluate what you will need.

Don't just choose the cheapest plan, since "you get what you pay for" and some Medicare supplement plans are very inexpensive but offer limited benefits.

Social Security If you haven't yet, sign up at www.ssa.gov for a Social Security account to review your earnings history and make sure it's accurate.

Work with a financial professional to see when and how you, or your spouse, should collect.

Understanding Cash Flow
Review monthly sources of income from pensions, social security payments, annuities, etc. Decide what you need to spend on essentials and what you want to spend on other items like vacations.

Look for the gap between income and expenditures and work with a financial professional to solve for that amount through your investments and other resources.

Investment Review Since you may be exiting the accumulation phase of your investment life and entering the distribution phase, it's time to reallocate your investments to meet your needs.

For example, most people have their investments leaning toward the aggressive side of moderate when they are saving money all their life, but now, controlling risk and creating income becomes even more important than growth.

Beneficiary and Estate Planning Review
When is the last time you reviewed your beneficiary designations? You may know your primary beneficiaries, but what about contingent beneficiaries? Do you have a testamentary trust provision in your will that you should be naming as your contingent beneficiary on your retirement accounts and life insurance?

Are your wills up to date? How about a living will and/or medical directive so your loved ones know what your medical wishes are? Do you have a power of attorney? This is extremely important if you are incapacitated and unable to access your financial assets.

Getting these three documents–will, living will or medical directive, and power of attorney–as well as reviewing all beneficiaries, is extremely important. Meet with an attorney to go over this.

Retirement is one of the biggest life changes that you will experience. Before you take that leap, take time to prepare and plan. Our firm is here to provide that "white glove service" so you will feel confident as you enter this next phase of your life. ■

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Remembering Nutley Photographer Edith Worth (1907-1983)

By Barry Lenson, Art Historian at the Nutley Historical Society and Museum

For many years, Edith and Robert Worth lived at 67 North Road in Nutley. As they came and went, they looked like most of the other family-oriented, hardworking, married couples who lived in Nutley at the time. But when you got to know them, you discovered that they were both renowned, important photographers. They traveled to Europe, North Africa, and Asia, often making films and taking photos for the Quakers and other organizations.

Edith and Bob also had a mission to teach photography and darkroom techniques to young people in town, with the result that many Nutleyites took up photography seriously. I was one of those fortunate kids.

Chris Yandow, the grandson of the Worths, recently lent the Nutley Historical Society some photos that Edith took of young dance students in the 1950s. We think they are beautiful, and we wanted to share some of them with you. The Nutley Historical Society is hoping to present a show of photos by the Worths at the Nutley Museum in the next few years. ■

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Library Corner

Roll Out to the Nutley Public Library This September for Library Card Sign-Up Month

By Jeanne Sylvester, Supervising Librarian

Celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month this September with the Nutley Public Library! We're inviting everyone to discover the incredible resources and opportunities available at your local library by signing up for a library card.

This year, we're thrilled to have Optimus Prime from the *Transformers* as a special ambassador, highlighting that there's more than meets the eye at the Nutley Public Library. Whether you're looking to enhance your skills, find valuable information, or connect with fellow avid readers, a library card unlocks a world of possibilities.

Today's libraries are vibrant community centers offering much more than just books. You'll find diverse programs, museum passes, job search assistance, homework help, book clubs, author talks, crafting sessions, story times, family programs, and more. Getting a library card is an easy and essential step toward academic success and lifelong learning for students and adults. Everyone should have one!

Join us throughout September for our library card sign-up activities, including:

■ **Local Author Book Fair: Saturday, September 21, 1:30pm-4pm** Discover fiction and nonfiction for all ages from local published authors. These authors will be available to discuss, sell, and sign their books, as well as meet with aspiring authors and avid readers. No registration is required, and light refreshments will be provided. Sponsored by the Friends of the Nutley Public Library.

■ **The Friends of the Nutley Public Library Dolores Capalbo Book Sale: September 25-28** Donation drop-off days will be September 21, 23, and 24 during library hours. All proceeds from the sale are used to support the Nutley Public Library's programs and collections.

Don't miss out! Visit the Nutley Public Library this September to sign up for a library card and discover all that your library has to offer. ■

For additional information, please call 973-667-0405 ext. 2604 or email library@nutleynj.org.

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Pet Corner

Adopt Us!

Submitted by Nicole Milici, Jersey Pits Rescue Inc.

It's not all that often we have a cat friendly adoptable adult, but Ember is just that! This sweet 5-year-old mama prefers to live with cats rather than dogs! So, if you're a cat person who is looking to add a dog to your life, look no further! Ember's your girl.

She is a very balanced dog who enjoys walks and playtime just as much as hanging out on the couch or napping with her human. She is housebroken and crate trained. She is so well behaved that she has free roam of the house when her foster family is not home.

Here is what her foster family has to say: "Ember is the sweetest most affectionate love bug ever! She loves to be by your side day and night and cuddle on the couch for hours. She knows sit and gives paw, she plays fetch so well, and loves playing with her toys! Ember will greet you with the warmest hello even if you're only gone for a few minutes."

She's a bit timid when first meeting new people but has been continuously improving as her foster mom socializes her more and more. She's been great with the older child in her foster home. Ember prefers a quiet household without small children.

If you are interested in adopting Ember, send us an email at jerseypitsrescue@gmail.com.

Submitted by Christa Milici, Yellow Brick Road Rescue NJ

Arnold is a 3-month-old male looking for his forever home. He is being fostered with other cats and does well with all of them. He is young enough to adjust to dogs and children. He has been around people since he was 2 weeks old, so he is very used to humans. He is very playful and would do best in a home with another young cat(s) or a cat-friendly dog.

Arnold is up to date on vaccines, microchipped, and will be neutered. $185 adoption fee and application apply.

To apply for Arnold email us at yellowbrickroadnj@gmail.com

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Teeth Whitening Options

By Shefali Pilar, DDS, Smile Today Dentistry

Tea, coffee, wine, smoking, and even smoothies are all things that can contribute to extrinsic stains on teeth. Teeth whitening is a simple, popular, and effective solution to remove these stains and brighten your smile.

There are many options for teeth whitening including over-the-counter strips, custom trays with professional-grade products, and professional in-office treatments. The degree of whitening will vary based on the individual and depends on factors such as the cause of staining, initial shade of the teeth, presence of fillings or dental crowns, or even history of any trauma to the teeth. The team at Smile Today Dentistry can provide guidance to help you decide the best course of action for your smile.

Over-the-Counter Whitening Strips

- Thin layer of 5-14% peroxide gel on flexible, one-size-fits-all plastic strips
- Used for about 30 minutes daily for a period of approximately 2 weeks
- Removes some surface stains but not effective with stains that lie beneath the enamel
- Results start to fade in about 6 months
- Poorly fitted strips may result in uneven whitening, gum irritation, and tooth sensitivity
- Simple, quick, affordable

Custom Whitening Trays

- Custom fitted to prevent bleaching agent from leaking onto gums and ensure teeth are evenly immersed in bleaching agent
- Can be used with professional grade 10-22% peroxide gel for up to 1 hour daily for 1-2 weeks
- Results can last up to 1 year, depending on diet and hygiene habits
- Trays can be reused for years; just purchase new peroxide gel

In-office Professional Whitening

- Examples - ZOOM, Glo Pro, Kor
- Professional grade 22-40% peroxide gel
- Teeth are isolated by a dental professional to protect gums/lips/tongue from the strong bleaching agents
- Treatment time is approximately 1-2 hours in-office
- Results can last anywhere from 1-3 years
- Minimal to no sensitivity and gum irritation

Teeth whitening is an affordable and convenient option for enhancing a smile. In the presence of deeper stains due to complications with tooth development or trauma, alternative options such as porcelain crowns and veneers become the treatment of choice. Schedule a consultation with our office and we can help you decide the best option to make your smile sparkle. ■

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- Teeth whitening
- Clear orthodontic aligners
- Root canal therapy
- Periodontal Therapy (deep cleaning)
- Dentures
- Extractions
- Smile makeovers

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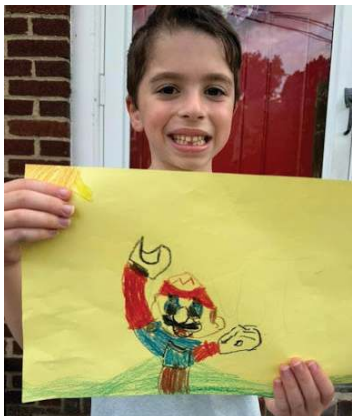
A New Season for Creativity

By Michelle Palmer

Zeltia loves painting at the library



Jack's super cool drawing of Mario

As summer comes to an end and back-to-school season begins, we are reminded that art never takes a vacation. Children are always creating and designing their own masterpieces and showing off their unique skills and talents.

Zeltia is only 2 years old, but already loves painting. Her finger-painting project at the Nutley Public Library made her inner artist emerge. She even received an award for the most passionate artwork. She has been enjoying programs at the library since she was an infant, but art brings out her most beautiful smile.

Jack is a 6-year-old who loves to draw. He created an impressive Mario drawing after seeing the beloved character on a friend's t-shirt. The cartoon he drew is the perfect example of his creativity combined with his passion for art and games.

Valentina (6 years old) and her little sister Viviana (2 years old) made tie-dye shirts this summer. Valentina is entering 1st grade at Lincoln Elementary School. They always love to do artwork, and this was their first tie-dye activity. Not only are the shirts pretty, but they are a sweet representation of their sisterly bond.

Big sister Liliana took a onesie that didn't fit her baby sister anymore and turned it into a stuffed animal by cutting it, stitching it, and stuffing it herself. She is 10 years old, entering 5th grade at Radcliffe, and her sister Adelina is 6 months old. Her masterpiece is one that will be treasured forever. ■

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

Valentina and Viviana tie-dyeing together

Liliana and Adelina teamed up to make a treasure

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Nutley UNICO President Dan Carnicella, Nutley UNICAN of the Year Frank Russo, and Recording Secretary Sal Ferraro (far left)

Scholarship Chair Hon. Alan Genitempo, Immediate Past Pres. Dan Carnicella, scholarship recipients, President-Elect Danielle Ferrara Manganello (left)

Nutley UNICO: New Officers, Scholarships Presentation, UNICAN of the Year

By Lorraine Kucinski

Nutley UNICO announced their new slate of officers for the 2024-25 year at Mamma Vittoria's on Wednesday, June 12. Congratulations to Danielle Ferrara Manganello who will preside over the 176-member group at Nutley UNICO for the upcoming year. Joining her will be Immediate Past President Dan Carnicella, First VP Pasquale Pisani, Second VP Frank Russo, Third VP Mark DiMaggio, Secretary Jerry DelTufo, Treasurer Tom Sposato, Recording Secretary Sal Ferraro, Members-at-Large Anthony Biondi, Jr. and Lenny Guglielmello, and Sergeant at Arms Anthony "JR" Mascolo.

The remaining scholarships were awarded at the meeting. Recipients are Angelina Colarisso (Pennoni Scholarship), Sandra Fedulla (Nutley UNICO Vocational), Ava Iannitelli (Pedolino Scholarship), Jennifer Pontoriero (Nicholas Martini Scholarship), Lucas Serritella (UNICO Language Scholarship), Gianna Mauriello (Kelly Scholarship), Delilah Roselli (Crupi Scholarship), Ava DelGreco (DiMaggio Scholarship), Riley Sebastiano (Carnicella Scholarship), and Jonathan Breihof and Kaya Guven (Amy Bonadonna Scholarships). More than $44,000 in scholarships have been awarded to Nutley high school seniors since April of this year.

Frank Russo was named Nutley UNICAN of the Year for his support of the Italian American community from the local to the national level. He has been a member of UNICO for 15 years. Congratulations! ■

UNICO National is the largest Italian American Service Organization in the USA celebrating more than 100 years of 'Service above Self.' Nutley Chapter of UNICO has been promoting and preserving its Italian heritage since 1959.

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Nutley UNICO's 2024 Piccolo Scholarship Breakfast

By Lorraine Kucinski

The Nutley UNICO Brian Piccolo Breakfast was held Sunday, May 19, at The Chandelier in Belleville. More than 80 guests were in attendance for the presentation of the 2 Brian Piccolo Scholarships and 6 additional scholarship awards for the 2024 year. In total, Nutley UNICO awarded 31 scholarships totaling $44,400. Our guest speaker, Robin DeLorenzo, NFL Official and Nutley graduate of 1997, gave an informative account of her journey to the NFL.

The final meeting of Nutley UNICO for the 2023/24 year was held at Mamma Vittoria's on June 12 to award the remaining scholarships and to formally pass the president's gavel from Dan Carnicella to Danielle Ferrara Manganello. ■

Nicolette Brzoska, Alfred and Anna Biondi Scholarship; Katherine Hannon, James Piro-PZCPG Scholarship; Elizabeth DeSantis, Arcuti Scholarship; Brandon Toranzo, Brian Piccolo Scholarship; Frank Cocchiola, Piccolo Breakfast Committee Chairman; Ava Oliver, Tina Battaglia Scholarship; Cynthia DePersio, Brian Piccolo Scholarship; Gianna Pizzano, Frank Cocchiola, Sr. Scholarship; Caitlyn Divilio, Joseph Battaglia Scholarship; Danielle Ferrara Manganello, Nutley UNICO First VP/President Elect, and The Honorable Alan Genitempo, Nutley UNICO Scholarship Committee Chairman.

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SEPTEMBER 2024 EVENTS CALENDAR

Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Sun.
Nutley Farmers Market

@Municipal Parking Lot 7, 1 Franklin Terr.
Now in its 14th season, the outdoor Nutley Farmers Market features delicious local foods and goods, live music, special events, and a weekly walking group.
Time: 9am-2pm **For more information** visit www.nutleynj.org/farmersmarket

Sept. 11, Wed.
Essex County Parks Photography Contest

Submissions are due so grab a camera and visit an Essex County park! Anyone with a camera is invited and encouraged to submit photos that capture a part of a visit to the County Park System.
For more information, rules, and regulations call 973-228-8776 or visit www.essexcountyparks.org

Sept. 14, Sat.
The Garden Party | Nutley Family Service Bureau

@Mountsier-Hardie Garden, 205 Rutgers Place
Soak in the ambience, listen to music, sip wine, sample delicious foods, and experience a delightful event. Proceeds enable NFSB to carry out its mission to strengthen the emotional and social well-being of individuals and families through affordable mental health counseling and social service programs.
This year introduces the VIP ticket. Experience the elegance and charm of the gardens like never before with an exclusive reception. Enjoy early access to the beautifully manicured grounds, offering a serene and intimate atmosphere before the main event. Indulge in premium refreshments and mingle with fellow VIPs, setting the tone for an unforgettable day.
Time: 2:30pm VIP reception; 4-7pm event
Cost: $75 per ticket; $85 at the door; $150 VIP ticket
For more information visit www.nutleyfamily.org/the-garden-party

Sept. 16, Mon.
Gladius: Flamenco Guitar

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Dr.
Raised in Atlanta, Georgia, pupiled by Andrés Segovia's protégé, and driven to obsession by Eddie Van Halen, Gladius is an award-winning composer and "accomplished classical/flamenco style guitarist" who soulfully "shreds on the electric" (Phil Keaggy), sharing the bill with Grammy winners and mesmerizing audiences nationwide with his electrifying live act since 2016.
Time: 7-8pm
For more information visit nutleypubliclibrary.org

Sept. 21, Sat.
Local Author Book Fair

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Dr.
Discover fiction and nonfiction for all ages from local published authors. These authors will be available to discuss, sell, and sign their books, as well as meet with aspiring authors and avid readers.
Time: 1:30-4pm
For more information visit nutleypubliclibrary.org

Sept. 26-28, Thurs.-Sat.
Dolores Capalbo Book Sale | Friends of the Nutley Public Library

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Dr.
Cash only. Accepted items are clean and gently used hardcovers, paperbacks, audiobooks, video games, CDs, and DVDs. To donate items, bring your items on Sept. 21, Sat. or Sept. 23-24, Mon.-Tue. from 10am-4pm. A sale preview for Nutley Public Library cardholders will be held on Sept. 25, Wed. from 4-7pm.
Time: 10am-7pm Thurs.; 10am-4pm Fri.-Sat.
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