A community magazine serving the residents of Nutley

**DECEMBER 2023** 

# NEIGBORS

# THE ARDIZZONE FAMILY Always Something To Cheer About

Photograph by Carly Ann Photography













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#### Content Submission Deadlines:

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September 25	November 1
October 25	December 1

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# A Cup of Good Cheer

an you put cheer in a cup? Apparently so. At least according to the song "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." (They also mention figgy pudding, but we'll save that one for later!)

In keeping with this idea, we have put cheer on every page of this issue!

Cheer is an old-fashioned term for 'a feeling of happiness' and captures the emotion of the holiday season.

But not everyone is happy during this time of year and that made me remember another definition of the word 'cheer'-to give comfort or support to.

On the cover is the Ardizzone family. Jaime is well-known here in town as a successful and much-loved cheerleading coach. And-you guessed itcheerleaders encourage and support their teams.

Cheering doesn't always have to be on the playing field; we can cheer on others just by our presence. Nutley Family Service Bureau held their fundraiser at the Mountsier-Hardie Garden, and it was a stellar event! Nutley artist Denise Costantino brought her easel and her creativity to the party and captured the event on canvas.

The Nutley Public Library is always cheering on patrons to enjoy the books, movies, and music albums that are available. The staff has compiled a list of their favorite titles; be sure to check it out!

Let's raise our cups of good cheer, grab some figgy pudding, and start turning the

turning the pages!

**Joyce Corey** Content Coordinator







### Letter to Residents

### **Expert Contributors**

To learn more about becoming an expert contributor, contact BVM at mstefanelli@ bestversionmedia.com or phone (973) 277-7301



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# Pet Corner Adopt Us!

Submitted by Christa Milici, Yellow Brick Road Rescue NJ



arry is about 5 months old and has been in foster since he was a kitten. He had surgery to remove a polyp in his nose and is now able to breathe normally. Because of the surgery, one of his pupils is smaller than the other but that hasn't affected his vision and will require no extra care.

He is extremely sweet and loves being around people. He

is being fostered with other cats and dogs who he does well with. Because of his mellow personality he would also do well with children. He is up to date on vaccines, FIV/ FeLV negative, microchipped, and will be neutered prior to adoption. He is ready to find his forever family!

To apply for Larry: https://form.jotform.com/ 231577667522060 or email us at yellowbrickroadnj@gmail.com.

#### Submitted by Nicole Milici, Jersey Pits Rescue Inc.

lease join us in welcoming Landry to Jersey Pits Rescue! We received an email from a local NJ facility that we

have not previously partnered with. This facility, like everyone else, issued a desperate plea due to overcrowding. Thankfully we had a short-term puppy foster available and were able to help.

Adorable Landry joined us along with his brother and we are now seeking an



adopter for this beautiful puppy. He is about 4 months old and weighs 16 pounds. He must go to an adopter with another resident dog he can learn from. Landry's adopter will need to agree to continue his vet follow ups for remaining vaccines as well as his neuter (at 6 months of age) at our vet's office.

Our vet is in Union County, NJ, and we cover the cost of these remaining appointments.

#### Please visit www.jerseypitsrescue.com to apply for Landry.

### Nutley Real Estate

# Single Family Homes Sold In Nutley October 2023\*

PROPERTY ADDRESS	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE	DIFFERENCE
22 Race St.	\$254,900	\$375,000	\$120,100
120 Mountainview Ave.	\$299,999	\$388,800	\$88,801
194 Hancox Ave.	\$425,000	\$437,294	\$12,294
4 Parallel St.	\$450,000	\$455,000	\$5,000
81 Coeyman Ave.	\$449,000	\$469,000	\$20,000
24 Glendale St.	\$399,999	\$470,000	\$70,001
99 Church St.	\$440,000	\$490,000	\$50,000
42 Mount Vernon St.	\$479,000	\$536,000	\$57,000
14 Ackerman St.	\$499,999	\$540,000	\$40,001
87 Wilson St.	\$579,000	\$581,000	\$2,000
28 Windsor Pl.	\$629,000	\$610,000	-\$19,000
9 Wilmington Dr.	\$830,000	\$885,000	\$55,000



Featured Listing: Wayne Place \$609,900

Median List Price	\$499,999
Median Sale Price	\$529,900
Median Days on Market	16

\*GSMLS Data: Single Family, Condominiums/Cooperatives, Town Houses January-October 2023

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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### Feature Story

# THE ARDIZZONE FAMILY Always Something To Cheer About



By Joyce Corey

Photograph by Carly Ann Photography

ou won't find Jaime Ardizzone on the sidelines; she is someone who believes that the best part of life is getting into the game. I am not only talking about her role as a cheerleading coach, but the many ways in which she demonstrates a healthy positivity and team spirit, both of which impact all her *Nutley Neighbors*.

Jaime has been a Nutleyite for 16 years, moving here from

Lyndhurst where she grew up and where she was first introduced to an activity that still figures prominently in her life.

"I was a cheerleader from first grade all through high school," Jaime said. "So, when we came to Nutley it was natural for me to take part in the cheerleading program here."

As a mom to two children, Jaime acknowledges that her 'family' grows considerably during the season due to her role as director of the Nutley Junior Raider Recreation Cheer program.

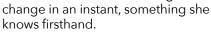
"Each year I acquire over 250 children," she said. "The cheerleading program affords me the opportunity to meet, mentor, and coach so many little ones that quickly become like my own. Strong bonds are created, and these young athletes become my second family."

Jaime is also head coach of the Nutley Junior Raider Competition Cheerleading squad which she led to an outstanding series of successes in the 2022-23 season. Composed of 24 girls ranging in age from 11-14 years old, the team won 5 different competitions and a grand champion title.

Jaime's pride in the team is truly

understandable, and so is the team's sincere recognition of their coach's leadership skills. The accolades earned by the team came after weeks of practice, overcoming injuries, and battling fierce competition.

This is where Jaime's healthy positivity comes in. Leading a group of girls to these victories required a special person who could see the obstacles but also realize that things can



"In September 2020, I was diagnosed with ocular melanoma, a rare form of eye cancer," she said.

While Jaime has usually been the one to help other people in their time of need, the community now rallied around her. This was much appreciated by the Ardizzone family which includes Ava (16), Rocco (13), and Remy, their three-year-old Chihuahua.

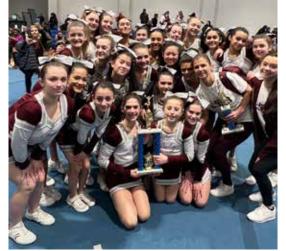
Jaime's 'home team' has been following her lead and both of her children are active in town sports and other activities.

"Ava is a Nutley High School junior who was a recreation cheerleader in grammar school," Jaime said. "Now, she works at Gia Dance Studio, teaching beginner cheer dance classes. In the summer, she works for Camp Nutley. Rocco is an eighth grader at John H Walker Middle School and plays recreation soccer and runs track."

Remy, the family doggie, also understands how quickly life can change.

"Ava and Rocco wanted a dog, but I said that it wasn't a good idea since we're not home enough," Jaime said. "Then came 2020 and





the lockdown and there went my reason! Remy was a rescue we got from Darling Paws right here in Nutley. He's got his forever family now."

Although Jaime and her children are active in town, they always make time to spend with Remy and each other.

"We enjoy camping and taking day trips," she said. "We always look forward to spending time at the beach, especially at Long Beach Island."

In fact, Jaime's understanding of the importance of spending time with her family led her to make a career move.

"I attended college for allied health and nursing and worked for 20 years in the medical field," Jaime said. "But due to the rising cost of health insurance, a hectic schedule, and long hours away from my children, I wanted a better quality of life for all of us. I started working for the Township of Nutley in the Revenue and Finance Department 8 years ago."

This career decision also allowed her time to volunteer in several activities besides the cheerleading program.

"I coach recreation soccer and track since that's something Rocco is involved in," she said. "I am captain of Cheer Away Cancer for Nutley Relay for Life. I served as chairperson for the Hurricane Irene flood relief program in Lyndhurst."

It's easy to see that the Ardizzone family doesn't just live

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# Things the Ardizzone Family Loves About Nutley

- 1. Parks
- 2. Sports programs
- 3. School system
- 4. Families
- 5. Sense of community

here in Nutley, they have become part of the community. The idea of team spirit is alive and well with Jaime, Ava, and Rocco as they share their skills and interests with those around them. Making friends and making memories go hand in hand.

"When we lived on Villa Place, I made some of my best friends," Jaime said.

And even though she knows that life offers a lot of changes-both good and bad-Jaime Ardizzone always has something to cheer about. ■

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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### Community

# **Closet Treasures**

By David Wilson

e have all read accounts of people finding buried treasure that former owners left in their homes. These finds can include coins, bonds, stamps, jewelry, antiques, baseball cards, and other valuables. Sometimes it is a time capsule of sorts that includes old

newspapers, receipts, love letters, postcards, ticket stubs, and keepsakes that shed a light on the former owners and their eras of occupancy.

The Salvas family has lived for 6 years in their home and recently discovered some hidden Nutley historical treasures. Bill Salvas was preparing their Christmas 2022 celebration with presents for his children when he noticed something through the closet floorboard and wall seam. Could it be some long-lost items from the Cece family who built the house in 1929? About a foot long, the seam had to be opened up by a contractor friend with a saw and the 70-year-old cache was revealed.

A 1923 buffalo nickel and 1940s wheat back pennies were first out and induced some dreams of riches. The papers were from the 1940s and 50s including a St Mary's Church program and stubs from a 1955 Drum and Bugle Corps competition. A 1948 Nutley gas station receipt takes us back to repairs and having a fuel account with your local dealer. There was a 1954 NJ license plate medallion. Harking back to a more affluent and formal era, a 1955 receipt for fur storage with an insurance policy. Cold storage in fur vaults at banks and stores was essential to preserve the garments from summer heat damage.

Town Historian John Demmer visited to view and qualify the finds as terrific Nutley history trivia items. Bill was able to track down a former resident through a garden club article. Carol Ann, now 90 years old and living in Georgia, confirmed these memorabilia came from her family, but not sure how they ended up under the floorboards. We can surmise most ended up there from cleaning and moving activities, but I





prefer to romanticize that items were placed for some future occupant to discover and connect to former residents.

Older houses in Nutley can be a treasure trove of local history and family memories. Removing old fireplace mantles has resulted in discovery of antique greeting cards, postcards, and other items people would display on the ledges. Newel posts and other hiding spots have contained blueprints from the original designer of the building. Hoarders have secreted away money stashes for a rainy day and economic crashes. Children hid trinkets and toys from their siblings. Teenagers are intent on thwarting the prying eyes of their parents.

Even Hollywood gets in on the act in *The Great Rupert* with Jimmy Durante and an animated dancing squirrel who cleans out a nesting spot full of cash that helps a down on their luck family. So, keep your eyes open during renovations or repair projects and you too may find some hidden treasures.

David Wilson is the author of *Fire in Our Lives*, a book containing stories, experiences, and advice from his fortyyear career in public safety. Available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Google Play.

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# The Dolores Capalbo Semi-Annual Book Sale

By Linda Buset Photographs by Linda Buset

n October 25, the staff, trustees, and Friends of the Nutley Public Library gratefully recognized Dolores Capalbo

for her outstanding leadership as the founder, organizer, and champion of the Friends of the Nutley Public Library Book Sale.

Moving forward, the book sale will be referred to as "The Dolores Capalbo Semi-Annual Book Sale."

Library Director Michelle Albert expressed appreciation with the following





### Neighborhood News

sentiment: "The Nutley Public Library and our entire town have been incredibly fortunate to have you at the helm of this essential event for so many years. Your boundless enthusiasm and ceaseless energy have made the book sale not just an event, but a tradition that brings our community together. You have turned a humble collection of books into a semi-

annual cherished event that benefits our library and the countless readers who eagerly anticipate it each year. So, on behalf of the library staff and trustees. l extend our

deepest thanks to you. Your legacy will forever be cherished in the pages of our library history."

Dorothy Huey, President of The Friends of the Nutley Public Library, went on to say, "We are indebted to Dolores for her dedication to the Friends, the book sale, and the library. Now with her mentoring, The Dolores Capalbo Book Sale is continuing with success under the hard work of co-chairs Teri Wrobel and Ellen Arrigoni. Teri and Ellen are a great team, keeping up the tradition and improving on it all the time to keep it relevant and fun."

Teri and Ellen, our new chairpersons, said, "We were honored to be a part of the ceremony that recognized Dolores' contributions to the library. She has been an inspiration to us, and we are happy to continue the work she started

by coordinating the semi-annual book sale to raise money for the programs offered at our library."

Everyone who was present at the dedication expressed heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for Dolores, who is a remarkable individual whose dedication and unwavering commitment have enriched our library for three decades. All in attendance came together to thank and honor her for her outstanding leadership as the founder, organizer, and champion of the Nutley Public Library's book sale. ■









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### Neighborhood News

# The Garden Party By Joyce Corey

he Mountsier-Hardie Garden hosted The Garden Party to benefit Nutley Family Service Bureau on September 24th. Although an unwelcome "guest" arrived in the form of rain, it added a mystical lens to the afternoon gathering, making it even more memorable.

"Raindrops didn't stop this amazing event," said Denise Costantino, Nutley artist. "Without the rain and clouds, we would not have been able to appreciate the vibrant colors of the plants and flowers all around us." (Visit her website to see more of her work: www.ddarchitecturaldesign.com)

Denise brought her easel and her artist's eye to the garden party and painted *en plein air*. That is a French expression meaning "in the open air" and refers to painting outdoors with the artist's subject in full view.

"My view of the garden was through a clear curtain tent," she said. "This added more mystery, a true atmospheric haze to showcase autumn's green, yellow, and orange sienna

leaves as they begin to turn."

Denise titled the painting "The Key to the Garden" and used acrylic paints on a 16x20 canvas.

"I used a limited palette, and blended washes to capture the









#### Photo credits: Blaire Rzempoluch (left and middle) David Wilson (bottom left)

atmospheric misty, magical haze of muted grey green with a touch of autumn," she said. "The scene playfully depicted a few key notes from the garden, including Swiffer the dog."

The painting was part of the silent auction, and all proceeds went to help the Nutley Family Service Bureau whose mission is to strengthen the emotional and social well-being of individuals and families through affordable mental health counseling and social service programs.

The Garden Party also featured fine foods catered by Mamma Vittoria, and an eclectic mix of entertainment including Sheldrake Lukas (opera), Mina Greiss (pop), Xandt Wyntreez (poetry), Vince Villanueva and Scott Avidon (jazz duo), Karen Trindle (harpist), and Ian Frobose (jazz quartet).

The rain may have seemed unwelcome at first, but it brought a distinctive atmosphere that was worthy of a painting. ■

To find out more about Nutley Family Service Bureau and how it has been a steadfast force in the community for over 100 years, visit their website: www.nutleyfamily.org





### Library Corner



# Nutley Public Library Staff Members Select Their Favorites for 2023

By Michelle Salimbene Albert, Library Director

ach month, staff members display their favorite titles near the Circulation Desk. The following is a list of our picks that we have read, listened to, watched, or played this year. Visit in person or on our website at www.nutleypubliclibrary.org to borrow items digitally on Libby, Kanopy, and hoopla.

#### AUDIOBOOKS

The Book of Charlie: Wisdom from the Remarkable American Life of a 109-Year-Old Man

by David Von Drehle

The Country of the Blind: A Memoir at the End of Sight by Andrew Leland

*Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yaros

*Just the Nicest Couple* by Mary Kubica

The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece by Tom Hanks

*Spare* by Prince Harry

#### BOOKS

*The Armor of Light* by Ken Follett

The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession by Michael Finkel

Behind the Seams: My Life in Rhinestones by Dolly Parton

Be Useful: Seven Tools for Life by Arnold Schwarzenegger

Building Boys: Raising Great Guys in a World that Misunderstands Males by Jennifer Fink

Build the Life You Want: The Art and Science of Getting Happier by Arthur C. Brooks and Oprah Winfrey

*How to Sell a Haunted House* by Grady Hendrix

Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See

Like a River: Finding the Faith and Strength to Move Forward after *Loss and Heartache* by Granger Smith

Outlive: The Science & Art of Longevity by Peter Attia, MD

Pineapple Street by Jenny Jackson

*Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond

The Scariest Kitten in the World by Kate Messner

#### GRAPHIC NOVELS

Family Style: Memories of an American from Vietnam by Thien Pham

Festival of Shadows: A Japanese Ghost Story by Atelier Sento, Cecile Brun, and Oliver Pichard

The He-Man Effect: How American Toymakers Sold You Your Childhood by Brian "Box" Brown

R

*Mimosa* by Archie Bongiovanni

*Parasocial* by Alex de Campi and Erica Henderson

Queenie: Godmother of Harlem by Aurélie Levy and Elizabeth Columba

#### MOVIES/SERIES

1923: A Yellowstone Origin Story

Avatar: The Way of Water

Asteroid City

Book Club: The Next Chapter

Elemental

The Great Courses - hoopla

Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken

Scream VI

Tulsa King

#### MUSIC

Barbie: The Album by various performers *Black Rainbows* by Corinne Bailey Rae

But Here We Are by Foo Fighters

*Chemistry* by Kelly Clarkson

*Guts* by Olivia Rodrigo

The Handel Project by Seong-Jin Cho

*My Back Was a Bridge for You to Cross* by Anohni and the Johnsons

One Thing at a Time by Morgan Wallen

*Shadow Kingdom* by Bob Dylan

Star Fleet Project + Beyond by Brian May

#### VIDEO GAMES

The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom

LEGO 2K Drive

Minecraft Legends

Star Wars Jedi: Survivor ■



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### **Expert Contributor**

# Put Money Aside During the Holidays

### Deposit Advice from Proponent, Your Local Credit Union

Contributed by Jeanne Hilla, Proponent Federal Credit Union

hether you're decorating, shopping, or entertaining, it can be too easy for the holidays to take a toll on your finances. If you're concerned about staying within budget, a share certificate may be a solution. Funds that are deposited in a certificate account will be untouchable for a fixed amount of time, whether short or long term, while earning dividends at a guaranteed rate. This way, you can keep your money safe from being spent and add to it at the same time.

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### **Kids Corner**

#### Luna loves gardening fun together.







# A Look Back at Our Young Artists By Michelle Palmer

s the year comes to an end, it is a great time to reflect on the many creative projects our children have made. Whether it is something painted, planted, drawn, molded, or baked, these are the moments we'll look back on with pride.

Luna is seven years old



and enjoys helping her mom maintain their garden. Together, they grew tomatoes and potatoes. This is an art form and a super useful skill

Fishing fun in the park

that makes them both proud of their accomplishments. Anthony is a first grader who loves to craft and be part of a team. He joined the Cub Scouts, and they made popcorn art out of colorful paper. They practiced their fine motor skills and handwriting to put together these projects. He had a great experience crafting up some fun.

Brian is eight years old and is learning a new hobby right

here in town-fishing. He was so excited to catch (and release) four fish by himself in Nutley Memorial Park. He is showing patience and dedication with his new skills while spending time outside. What a special and beneficial experience!

Brother and sister, Antonio



and Isabella, shared some special sibling time together when they painted their pumpkins. They incorporated their own personalities and styles into their paintings but were all smiles at the same time. ■

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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# **DECEMBER 2023 EVENTS CALENDAR**

#### Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Fri. Moms Healing Together: All Recovery Meeting @virtual event

Join for a safe space to discuss the challenges of recovery, pregnancy, and parenting. All Recovery Meetings are facilitated by trained and certified IFPR Peer Recovery Specialists and provide social support for those seeking or maintaining recovery, as well as family members, friends, and supporters of those who have been influenced by substance use. Time: 10am

For more information and other All Recovery meeting dates and times visit www. rwjbh.org/events

#### Dec. 2, Sat. Joe Fischer's Holiday Magic Show

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Dr., Children's Room For all ages. Enjoy an amazing magic show and make a holiday craft to take home! No registration required. Time: 2-3pm For more information call 973-667-0405 ext. 2623, or visit www.youthservices.nutleypubliclibrary.org

#### Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27, Wed. Nutley Senior Citizen Club

@Parks and Recreation, 44 Park Ave. This club is open for the fall session, meeting every Wednesday. For more information call Eileen Luberto at 973-632-0763

#### Dec. 8, Fri. Forest Friends Feeder Contest Registration Deadline @Essex County Environmental

Center, 621-B Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland For all ages.

Create an edible, festive, and unique wetland wildlife feeder for an outdoor exhibit. Projects will be displayed on the forested trail for as long as the forest critters allow! Project drop-off date is Fri., Dec. 15th by 5pm. For contest rules and to register call 973-228-8776. For more information visit www.essexcountyparks.org/ facilities/environmental-center/ calendar

#### Dec. 12, Tue.

#### Great Swamp Bonsai Society

@Essex County Environmental Center, 621-B Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland

For adults and children ages 12 and up. This group meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday. Meet in Main Center classroom. Attendees bring trees, pots, and tools for display, discussion, and problem-solving. Each meeting features a different area of focus, including a particular species, designs, and horticultural issues. Time: 6-9:30pm Cost: \$10 per child, \$12 per adult, free for GSBS members For more information email John Michalski at huonia@aol.com or join the Facebook page, greatswampbonsaisociety

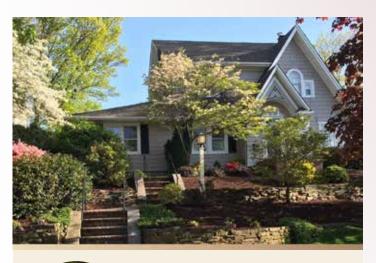


#### Dec. 16, Sat. Musician Richard Stillman Holiday Show

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Dr., Children's Room A holiday program that includes Christmas carols, Chanukah songs, and Kwanza music on banjo, mandolin, bagpipes, guitar, and an African talking drum. Time: 2-3pm For more information visit www.nutleypubliclibrary.org

#### Dec. 26-30, Tue.-Sat. Holiday Break Events

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Dr., Children's Room Dec. 26, Tue., 11am-4pm: Drop-in Craft Dec. 27, Wed., 11am: Movie and Craft Dec. 28, Thurs., 11am-3pm: Free Play with Bricks Dec. 29, Fri., 11am-4pm: Drop-in Craft Dec. 30, Sat., 11am-1pm: Video Game Free Play For more information call 973-667-0405 ext. 2623 or visit www.youthservices.nutleypubliclibrary.org





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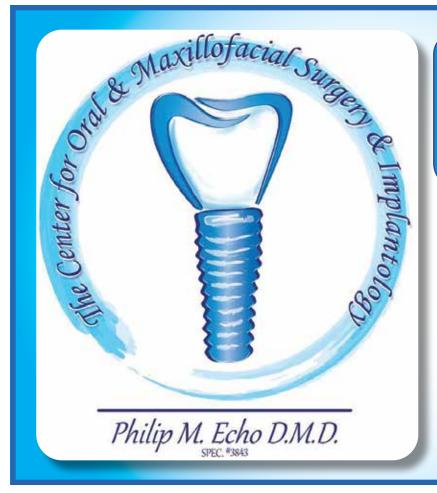
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#### Important Phone Numbers - www.NutleyNJ.org

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Fire Department	(973) 284-4940
Town Hall	(973) 284-4951
Library	(973) 667-0405

Parks and Recreation	. (973)	284-4966
School District	. (973)	661-3500
Chamber of Commerce	(973)	667-5300
Public Affairs & Health Dept	(973)	284-4976
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