

JANUARY 2022

A community magazine serving the residents of Nutley

NUTLEY NEIGHBORS

Take Two in 2022!

*Jennifer, Elle, and
Domenic Matesic*

Photograph by
Randall Kenneth
Photography



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Publisher:
Michael Stefanelli



Content Coordinator: Joyce Corey

Designer: Marti Golon

Contributing Photographer:
Randall Kenneth Photography

Contributing Writers:

Linda Buset, Barry Lenson, Michelle Palmer
Frankie Turano Jr., David Wilson

ADVERTISING

Contact: Michael Stefanelli

Email: mstefanelli@bestversionmedia.com

Phone: 973-277-7301

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Letter to Residents

Another Year!?

I couldn't decide on the right punctuation for the title, so I used both.

Another Year! would be a perfectly fine title. January resets the yearly clock and it's almost like having a clean slate. The next 365 days are full of possibilities and the whole idea is exciting.

On the other hand, *Another Year?* could also work. After welcoming 2020 (with an exclamation mark!) I have become a bit cautious about what a new year might hold.

So, I decided to include both punctuation marks because I am having some mixed feelings. I really want 2022 to be full of wonderful things, but I also question whether the new year will carry some of the old worries with it.

Yet, that kind of sums up every year, doesn't it? We hope for the best but don't really have full control of everything life throws our way. We learn to adapt, overcome, and to turn the page on the calendar in quiet hope.

I see a lot of that in this issue; our *Nutley Neighbors* are moving forward into the new year with their eyes wide open and their hearts trusting in what lay ahead.

Our cover story features the Matesic family, who moved to Nutley in 2019, just before the pandemic started. Being new to a neighborhood always has some adjustments but being new on the block and isolated during lockdown was challenging. This year, they are looking for a 'take two' in 2022, as they get another chance to meet their neighbors and get involved in town as the world, hopefully, gets back to normal.

Did you know that the Kingsland Manor had a question mark attached to it? It seems there was a bit of uncertainty as to whether the town should purchase and restore it. Now, it gets a wonderful exclamation mark because the Manor has become an integral part of Nutley with a wealth of history. Linda Buset's article will tell you more with both words and terrific photos.

Several other of our features seem to have both a question and an exclamation mark. Like the Pet Corner; these dogs and kittens don't know when they will find a forever home but when they do, bring on the exclamation mark!

As another year begins, we will probably experience all kinds of punctuation as the days go by but holding on to hope is a constant.

All of us here at *Nutley Neighbors*—Michael Stefanelli, our publisher, Marti Golon, our designer, Randy, our photographer, and I—wish you a Happy New Year.

Yes, with a period because it's certain that 2022 is here and so are we—together.

Joyce Corey Content Coordinator

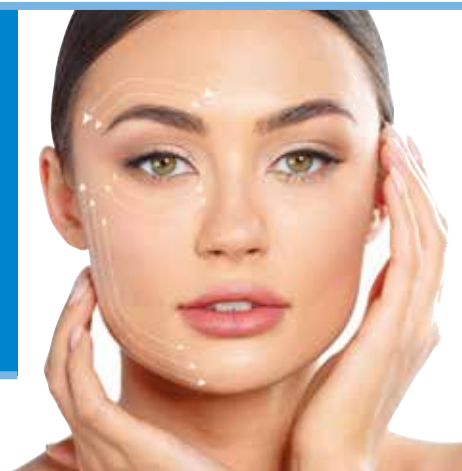


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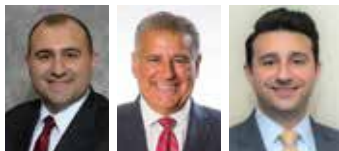
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Pet Corner

Adopt Us!

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



Alfredo hasn't had a great start to life. He was kept in a crate for essentially 24 hours a day in his own urine and feces. He was also denied necessary puppy socialization, vet visits, stimulation, and training.

Can you believe how awesome he looks thanks to his temporary medical foster? This boy has made so much progress in the short time he's been with us, and we can't wait to see what the future has in store for him.

Alfredo is looking for a long-term foster to help him continue to mend. Here is the amazing part— he is cat friendly, small dog friendly, and big dog friendly. At this time, no children in the household as he needs to continue to learn and decompress. Alfredo is about 10 months old, and he weighs 40 pounds. He would do best in an adult-only household with breed savvy and experienced humans. He is a very sweet and loving puppy that is still learning his manners and how to dog. He will need structure, boundaries and love just like any other puppy.

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*Submitted by
Christa Milici, Yellow
Brick Road Rescue NJ*



Peanut is a 2-year-old male. When Peanut was about four months old, he was diagnosed with FIP. He immediately started on the three-month treatment but relapsed and had to go through another three

months of treatment. He has now officially beat FIP and has been FIP free for an entire year! He also needed surgery on his eye for entropion and ended up needing his left eye removed. Peanut has been through so much and deserves an amazing home. He is shy, but loveable and he knows he was saved. He would do best in a quiet, less active home. He is mellow and is dog and cat friendly and loves other cats. Young children will startle him so older kids in the household only. He is microchipped, FIV/FelV negative, stool tested negative, dewormed, UTD on vaccines, and neutered. He is 100% healthy now.

Let's get this warrior into the home he deserves!

To apply for Peanut: <https://yellowbrickroadrescueenj.com/cat-adoption-application/> or email us at yellowbrickroadnj@gmail.com ■



*Jennifer, Elle,
and Domenic
Matesic*

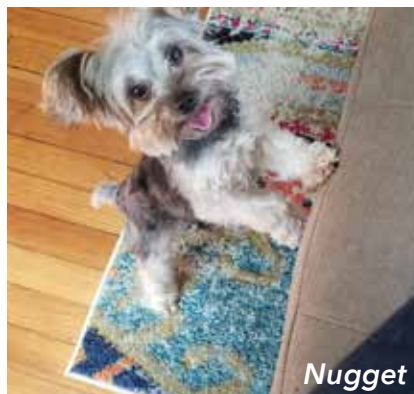
Feature Story

Take Two in 2022!

By Joyce Corey Photograph by Randall Kenneth Photography

Although the Matesic family moved to Nutley in 2019, they are hoping that this new year will bring more opportunities for them to connect to their neighbors and the community.

"We moved to the Spring Garden section right before the pandemic started so we feel like we haven't had the opportunity to get really involved in the neighborhood, but we look forward to doing that in the coming years," Jennifer said.



"We both grew up in Bergen County," Domenic said, "and Jennifer found our neighborhood through work and knew it would be a great fit. We sold our condo in Montclair and moved right in."

But before discovering Nutley (and even before the pandemic!), Jennifer and Domenic met after college and became a couple.

"We were introduced to each other through mutual friends," she said. "I graduated from Kean University in Union with a degree in public

communications and marketing. Currently I am a Realtor with a small real estate team named JM Homes in partnership with the local brokerage, Keller Williams NJ Metro Group."

"I graduated from Ohio State University with a software engineering degree," Domenic said. "I am also the co-founder of a technology start-up named Cquence, which is a video editing app geared toward professional video editors."

The couple has also grown their family a bit over their five years of marriage.

"We have a toddler named Elle," Jennifer said. "She attends The Community School of Nutley. She loves creating things with Play-Doh but it gets a bit messy; we find Play-Doh everywhere imaginable in our house. She is also currently obsessed with Minnie Mouse."

But even at this toddler stage, Elle is showing a strong interest in music.

"She is very musical," Jennifer said. "She is constantly singing and dancing."



Backpacking in Yosemite National Park



Dom doing some landscaping at home

The Matesic family also includes an eight-year-old Teacup Yorkie named Nugget.

"He is a rescue and he's an anxious little guy, but we love him!" Jennifer said. "Dom's sister kept sharing links to dogs that needed a home and then we were in the city one evening for date night and she texted us a picture of Nugget saying this pup needed a home. His family couldn't care for him anymore and they were neglecting him. We rescued him in the middle of the night. We take him on hikes and long walks but he needs to be carried since he is under five pounds!"

Deciding to live in Nutley was the ideal choice and even their first day in the neighborhood confirmed that decision.

"On the day we moved in, there was an annual block party right in front of our new house and Dom was worried about moving in," Jennifer said. "We tried to get the movers to come early but they were late, of course, and we basically ended moving just in time. The neighbors came to ask if we needed help, and it was the perfect

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way to be introduced to the town and street. Our neighbors are all very kind and we have created a mini community within the block. Everyone looks out for each other and there are lots of impromptu playdates, happy hours, and get-togethers. This is all new to us as our neighborhoods in Bergen County weren't like that! We believe one of the best things about Nutley is its people. If you've lived here for many years, it may not even occur to some that this is not the norm in other towns surrounding us. We are so happy to call Nutley our home."

Homeownership is always an adjustment and for the Matesic family that took a new meaning during the pandemic as they moved into their fixer upper. They quickly found joy in simple home tasks and DIY projects that would make their house a home. They spent most of their free time landscaping, gardening, and even composting!

"It never seems to end and there's always new projects on the horizon, but I wouldn't change it for the world!" Jennifer said. "There's something really special about adding your personal touch to a house. It really makes it a home!"

Home improvement projects weren't the only thing on this family's to-do list. Despite the restrictions and limitations surrounding the pandemic, this fairly-new-to-Nutley family found fun and interesting things to do.

"I am a big football fan," Domenic said. "Although I enjoy spending most fall weekends watching football (Go Bucks!), Jennifer and I like being outdoors and going for walks or hiking as time allows."

"We have a lot of wonderful memories of being together," Jennifer said, "and backpacking though Yosemite National Park is one of them. Since we love to travel, one of our goals is to visit every national park in the country."

Being new to a neighborhood is always a big change but being new to a neighborhood at the start of a pandemic poses some different challenges. Yet, the people of Nutley were still able to welcome the Matesic family.

"I want to thank our neighbors for being supportive

5 Things the Matesic Family Loves About Nutley

1. Walking through town and admiring the beautiful homes that show pride of ownership
2. Parks
3. Small-town vibe
4. Friendly neighbors
5. Local businesses and restaurants



during these past two years," Jennifer said. "Especially when we were isolated from people at the beginning of the pandemic, it was nice to see a smiling neighbor's face even if it was from afar."

So, as 2022 begins, Domenic, Jennifer, Elle, and Nugget Matesic will have a 'take two' in their real-life roles as our *Nutley Neighbors*. ■

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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Someone You Should Meet

Getting to Know Your Library Staff

By David Wilson

■ What is your name, position, and responsibilities at the library?

Kelly Spoer, Library Assistant, Circulation. I'm also in charge of the bi-monthly art exhibits!

■ When did you start working at the library and why?

I began working in libraries in 2017 and started at Nutley in 2018. I'm a huge book person and libraries just seemed like the perfect place to work. I've been in the book business since 2003 when I worked at Waldenbooks, then proceeded to work at Barnes & Noble for eight years. I have also been a book editor for various pop-culture websites.

■ What is your educational background?

I have my B.A. in English literature and theatre arts from Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY and I'm currently working on my master's degree in library science at San Jose State University.

■ Do you have any childhood memories of visiting the library?

When I was about six or seven, my grandmother took me to the Little Ferry Public Library. We took out an E.T. alphabet book. My grandmother got an overdue notice for the book, but she swore she returned it. Fast forward 12 years, my grandmother found the book in her house!

■ Tell us about your family.

New Jersey born and raised, I grew up in Bergen and Sussex counties, making my way down to Essex after college. I have a brother, sister, niece (2), and a nephew (5). I also have two cats: Sir Isaac Fig Newton and Mila.

■ What are your hobbies, volunteer work, or other leisure time pursuits?



Kelly Spoer

When I'm not working, I'm either reading (of course!) or playing World of Warcraft in D&D. I'm a huge science fiction and fantasy fan.

■ What do you enjoy most about working at the library?

I love getting to know the patrons and what they like to read/watch/listen and I love giving out recommendations.

The library is a community center and I strive to make people feel welcome here.

■ Share a memorable story involving a library patron or program.

My favorite memories are when the little kids come in and are excited to see me and tell me about their favorite books. It always puts a smile on my face!

■ What is your favorite book or author?

I have a ton of favorite authors and books, but my number one is *Reader's Block* by David Markson. *Gideon the Ninth* by Tasmyn Muir is a very close second.

■ Your favorite motto or quote.

My motto is "Libraries should be loud; information should not be silenced." I know it goes against what a lot of people think libraries should be, but we are more than just books. We hold programs for all ages to learn about different cultures or learn a new skill. We have online resources that help you learn a new language or two. We partner with local businesses and non-profit organizations to teach people about the various resources Nutley provides.

■ A closing message.

Libraries are truly the community's gateway for knowledge of all kinds! ■

A Talk with Domenick Tibaldo

President of the Nutley Historical Society and Museum

By Barry Lenson, Art Historian, Nutley Historical Society

If you have attended events at the Nutley Museum, you have seen Domenick Tibaldo step up to the podium and give one of his cheerful, welcoming talks. Everyone present feels like part of the Nutley Museum family, due to Dom's great leadership.

Those of us who serve on the board know another side of his remarkable leadership. He is always supportive of everything we do. Plus, he seems to know everyone in town and can put us in touch with the right people who can help us.

In short, you just can't imagine a better president. It is an honor to work with him.

A CONVERSATION WITH DOM TIBALDO

Barry Lenson: How long have you been president, and what motivated you to take a leadership role?

Dom Tibaldo: I joined the board in August 2002 at the suggestion of then-president Rich O'Connor. He knew I was a past president of the Kiwanis Club of Belleville-Nutley and believed I could add something to the museum's board. I became president in April 2008.

Barry: What is important about the Nutley Historical Society?

Dom: We are blessed to have a dedicated building in Nutley for the museum and Nutley has a very rich history. The programs that we offer include the Annual Christmas



Party, the Pumpkin Festival in the fall, and our Ice Cream for History event in early June.

Barry: Where were you born and when did you move to Nutley?

Dom: I was born and raised on Tiffany Blvd. in North Newark. I moved here when my wife, Joanne, and I were married in 1986. Joanne is a teacher in town. Our kids loved

growing up in Nutley with all the sports and other programs. Our daughter, Stephanie, graduated from Penn State, resides in the area, and is a social worker for a local school district. She just presented us with our first grandchild. Our son Mike graduated from the University of Alabama, resides in Pennsylvania, and is a pilot for Republic Airlines.

Barry: What do you think the future holds for the Historical Society?

Dom: Our future is very bright as we continue to receive input on Nutley history from a variety of sources around the world. It's very interesting that Nutley has such a large global footprint. With the continued strong support from several local benefactors, we continue to thrive and hope to be able to provide more public programs as the pandemic subsides.

To continue our mission our greatest need is to have some younger people join us and learn about Nutley's long and storied history!

PLEASE JOIN THE NUTLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM TODAY

The Nutley Historical Society has big plans that you and your family will want to be part of. You will find a membership form on the Society's website at www.nutleyhistoricalsociety.org.

You are invited to join and get involved today! ■

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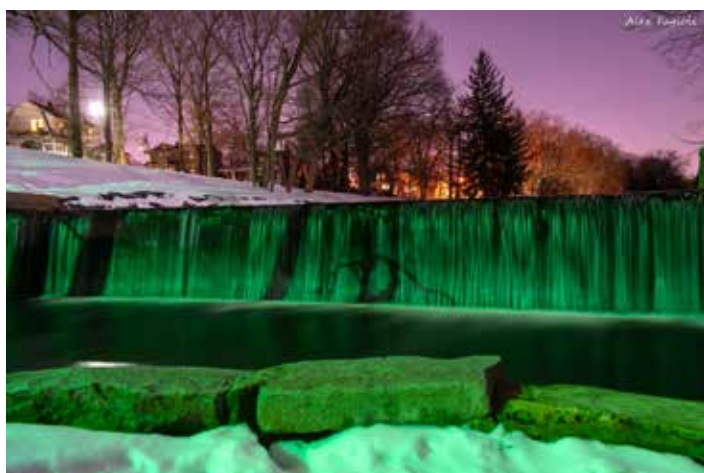
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Nutley Through the Lens

By Joyce Corey

Nothing can describe the beauty and feeling of a place better than a photo. This month, Nutley resident and photographer, Alex Nicholas, captures some familiar landmarks that define the town while showing us Nutley through the lens of his creativity. Each image connects us to well-known places in our neighborhoods while giving us a view that makes us take a second look.



William Lopa, Nutley's Native Artist, Reflects on His Life and Work

By Barry Lenson, Art Historian, Nutley Historical Society



Over the years, important artists like Frank Fowler and Frederick Dana Marsh have moved to Nutley from Paris and set up their studios here. Other famous artists, like Guy Pène du Bois, spent only a few years here and then moved away. Then we come to William Lopa, an important American painter who grew up in Nutley and who now paints in a unique studio loft overlooking Franklin Avenue. And William, who many people call Billy, is not passing through. He is here to stay and, more than anyone has ever been, he is our hometown artist.

I recently spent an hour chatting with him about his art and his life. And here is what I learned.



they recommended private study with renowned Nutley artist Vivian Noyes Fikus. Billy was on his way. He later continued his studies at another art school in Montclair. Then he attended William Paterson, where he earned a BFA. Billy developed his own unique style, instantly recognizable for its energy, compelling use of colors, and beautifully organized compositions.

Before he was 20, an art collector noticed his vibrant style and

commissioned him to create a painting of Joe DiMaggio and Mickey Mantle. While he was working on that painting, things kind of gelled when Billy realized he was both a life-long Yankee fan and an artist with a very particular set of skills. He decided to focus on painting sports figures and events, a decision that took him far.

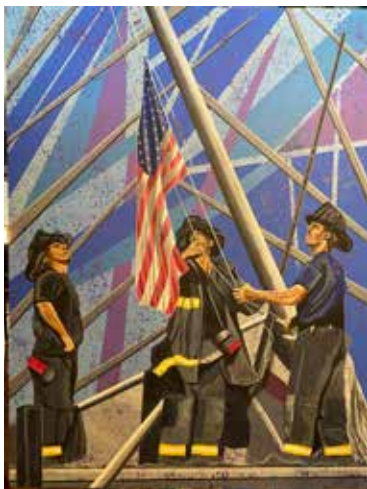
To date, Billy has been invited to attend and paint 25 Super Bowls. He has also painted New York Yankees, and prize fighters. At a certain point, he began to paint celebrities and musicians. Recently, he has begun to paint monuments and iconic buildings like the New York Stock Exchange. Billy's work is always evolving.

"I try to learn something and make every painting a little better than the one before it," Billy says. That is a simple philosophy, but a powerful one.

As the pandemic fades, things are picking up in the art world. In about six months, Billy's work will be featured at the National Sports Collectors Convention in Atlantic City. Recently, he donated a wonderful painting, "Rise of the American Spirit," to the Nutley Museum. At the donation ceremony, lots of people who love Billy and his art came by to

DEEP ROOTS IN NUTLEY

Billy's father was a Nutley policeman for more than 30 years. His mother worked as a practice manager in town for Dr. James Agresti for more than 45 years. When Billy was attending Washington School, his teachers noticed that something special happened when he put a pencil to paper, and when he was only five,



marvel at this wonderful work, which commemorates 9/11.

I find it interesting that Billy likes to make his work available to the largest number of people possible. Unlike artists who offer one painting for sale for tens of thousands of dollars in a major gallery, Billy makes high-quality reproductions of his works available, at reasonable prices, on his website, www.williamlopa.com. Every home in Nutley could have at least one of his works on the wall without breaking the bank. That makes sense. Billy Lopa is our Nutley painter. His paintings speak compellingly to us. He's here for us and Billy, we are here for you. ■

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"Read for a Better World" During the 2022 Winter Reading Challenge this January

By Deidra Garcia, Head of Youth Services

The Nutley Public Library is joining other libraries and schools around the world to once again challenge Nutley residents to read (or have read to them) at least 620 minutes in total (20 minutes or more a day) during the month of January for the 5th Annual Winter Reading Challenge: Read for a Better World! From January 1st to 31st, Nutley Public Library cardholders of all ages can keep track of their reading on our Beanstack site at nutleypubliclibrary.beanstack.org for a chance to win great prizes! All prizes are generously sponsored by the Friends of the Nutley Public Library.

A record number of schools and libraries have signed up to participate in the 2022 challenge, ready to surpass last year's collective goals of at least five million minutes and 75,000 books during the month of January! Sponsored this year by Lerner Publishing Group, the top-performing libraries and schools will be awarded book collections, virtual visits from popular authors, signed copies and more.



Readers in each age category (babies/toddlers, grades K-5, grades 6-12, and adult) who complete the most minutes will win a gift card to a local Nutley business and their name honored with a bookplate in the library's collection. Children and teens will also earn a goodie bag for participating, and all participants who complete the Winter Reading Challenge can collect a certificate of completion.

Registration for the national Winter Reading Challenge begins online Wednesday, December 1, 2021 at nutleypubliclibrary.beanstack.org and will continue throughout the month of January 2022. All reading during the month of January counts, even if you register in January! ■

For further information, please visit nutleypubliclibrary.beanstack.org, contact Deidra Garcia at deidra.garcia@nutley.bccls.org, or call the Youth Services Department at 973-667-0405 ext. 2623. #WinterRead2022

The Kingsland Manor What Use Could It Be?

By Linda Buset

"Don't look back, you're not going that way."

That's an incredibly wise saying, but when you set your sights on the restoration of an 18th century home, looking back is as important as looking forward.

Our historic Kingsland Manor was a meeting place for troops during the Revolutionary War. During the Civil War, the Manor might have been a stop on the Underground Railroad, where slaves could safely stay while fleeing slavery in the Southern states. Whether the house really was a stop on the Railroad is apparently still under investigation by historians.

When the Township of Nutley first thought about acquiring the building in the 1970s to save it from a developer's plan, many residents were unhappy with spending \$45,000 to cover the town's share of the purchase price.

During the discussions as to whether Nutley should buy the Manor, there was another battle taking place, which some might refer to as *The Battle of What Use Could It Be?*

Yes, there were those who thought of this purchase as irresponsible; they could not imagine what we would do with this building which required so much work. On the other side of the coin was a group of people who wanted this "house with a past" to have a future, and they worked diligently to make that dream come true.

Decades later, and after much renovation, challenging work, dedication, and enthusiasm by the township and countless volunteers, I believe that the decision to save Kingsland Manor was a sensible choice on the part of our town.

The Historic Restoration Trust of Nutley was incorporated



The rear entrance of the Kingsland Manor and the beautiful gardens surrounding it (above). Sal Balsamo and Leon Kish discussing their next play during the 1860's baseball game presented each year by the Kingsland Manor in beautiful Yanticaw Park (left). Karen Wallace, member of the Board of Directors, during the Essex County Historic Holiday House Tour (far left).



Leon Kish, President, and Terry Kish, Recording Secretary, pose for a photo during the annual "Colonial Day" event held at the Manor (above).

on June 16, 1975. Those serving on the Board of Directors at that time were Frank Cocchiola, Ken Sutphen, George G. Korkala, Douglas J. Eisenfelder, Ada Hanrahan, Joan Searle, Dorothy L. Greengrove and Irwin Brill.

The late Mrs. Dorothy Greengrove, who was one of Nutley's most active historians and a past president of the Historic Restorations Trust of Nutley, always encouraged the youth in town to take an interest in its history because it will be up to them to carry the account of the past forward.

Today, the Kingsland Manor is thriving with events such as monthly tours, wine tastings, ice cream socials, weddings, Kingsland family reunions, old-time baseball games and paranormal evenings, along with holiday events such as Storytime with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and participation in the Essex County Historic Homes Holiday Tour.

It has been said that, at its best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future.

The Kingsland Manor is always looking for members and volunteers. Membership is important to keep the Manor going. Visit the website www.kingslandmanornutley.org for more information.

The past is not the property of historians; it belongs to all of us. ■



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Crafting Into the New Year

By Michelle Palmer

As we reflect on the past year, some of our most wonderful memories are from watching children grow and create. Whether they use clay, markers, paint, crayons, or leaves—their projects show us how their

minds are growing, and our hearts are glowing.

Julian is almost four and worked with his mom to complete his first homework assignment. He had a vision of what he wanted to create and, together, they brought it to life. He absolutely loves Spider-Man so when he was told to disguise a turkey, his creativity burst with energy.

Nicholas is a four-year-old who knows how important

it is to appreciate the beauty nature has to offer. He took a walk around town and gathered treasures from the great outdoors. He used his beautiful collection to make a pumpkin.

Brenna is a four-and-a-half-year-old artist! She attended art camp and discovered her passion for painting. After studying brush techniques and practicing with her colors, she produced this amazing masterpiece of an elegant bird.



Kids Corner

Clockwise from top: Sisters Makensie and Madison bringing favorite characters to life. Brenna's beautiful bird. Nicholas and his nature project. Julian's Spider-Man in disguise.



Sisters Makensie, six years old, and Madison, five years old, both created school projects based on their favorite literary characters. Mackenzie made her pumpkin look like Mouse from the beloved book, *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*. Madison



disguised her turkey to look like Elsa from the popular movie, *Frozen*. The girls learned a lot while enjoying quality time with their mom. ■



Did you just create an amazing piece of art? Whether you colored it, glued it, cut it, or even baked it, send us a photo with your name and we will print as many as we can. Let's make our world a bit more beautiful with your creations and smiles! Email me at: jcorey@bestversionmedia.com

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Nutley History

The Rooming Houses of Nutley

PART 1 *By David Wilson*

There have been many types of homes in Nutley – one and two family, apartments, townhouses – but none that can offer a history that includes grand interiors, twenty bedrooms, rent by the week, and occupancy by an ever-changing cast of characters. Rooming houses provide just that, a private room to sleep in and shared bathrooms down the hall. Meals are from local eateries or simple ones such as sandwiches, as no cooking is allowed in the rooms. Occupants varied widely over the years from single ladies and gentlemen, educators, and transient professionals, to those down on their luck or receiving Section 8 housing assistance.

The first house we will explore had a few names over the years – Gifford House, Kingsley House, Latham House, Schatzie's – and was located at 144 Whitford Avenue, corner of Nutley and Whitford Avenues. Tax records indicate a build year of 1870 which coincides with the railroad coming



144 Whitford Ave.
(2003) Photo courtesy of Joanne Cocchiola.
1906 Map of Whitford and Nutley. Photo courtesy John Demmer collection

into Nutley, so there may have been some connection to providing rooms for travelers and business people. Bette-Ann Marko-VanEtten-Rebenack and Laurie Levereth who lived nearby in the 1950s, recall selling Girl Scout cookies to several residents who

boarded Jersey City bound trains at the Nutley Station.

Silas Mountsier recalls the 1940 era as the Kingsley House when it was occupied by school teachers from the area. We find support for this in *Nutley Notables* by Anthony Buccino. Olive C. Sanford lived

there during the years leading up to 1952. She devoted her life to improving public education and urging women into government. Sanford served four terms on the Nutley BOE, was president of NJ State League of Women Voters, and NJ Assemblywoman for eight terms where she attached real estate taxes to funding public education.

Occupied by men or women, but not at the same time, residents were overseen by a live-in superintendent who enforced the house rules. During the 1990s, a single mom and her seven-year-old son had a fire in their apartment and my wife was the Red Cross Director at the time. They needed a place to lodge within walking distance of Yantacaw School and the manager agreed to allow them to stay a few nights. Dianne and I made up the room and decorated it to give them some comfort; this was an interesting experience for sure.

There were many owners through the years and the building's condition ebbed and flowed. Joe Lazur, a local businessman, modernized the house and maintained it with a cleaning crew staffed by his daughters. The building was more frequently inhabited by transient tenants and those experiencing the effects of the deinstitutionalization efforts in New Jersey. The house suffered complaints from neighbors and raised concerns about public safety.

Rooming houses are considered life hazards by fire officials and subject to many inspections, drills, and regulations at state and local levels. Fire Chief Andrew Hutch insisted on good housekeeping, no smoking, and operating fire doors. Just prior to demolition in 2003, instructors conducted a smoke house drill for firefighters to practice search and rescue skills in the many rooms.

There are two more rooming houses to write about. Green Gables at 308 Passaic Ave and Plaza House at 263 Hillside Ave. Anyone who has pictures or memories about these locations, please contact me: dwilsonfiol@gmail.com. ■



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CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional
mcocco@beaconwealthpartners.com



Salvatore Cocco, Jr. CLU
Financial Consultant
scocco@beaconwealthpartners.com



Daniel Cocco, CPFA
Financial Consultant
dcocco@beaconwealthpartners.com

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Single Family Homes Sold in November

SOURCE: GSMLS DATA



**27 Fernwood
Terr**
\$425,000
3 beds 2 baths



**52 Raymond
Ave**
\$480,000
3 beds 2 baths



162 Pake St
\$510,000
4 beds 2 baths



69 Elm Pl
\$520,000
3 beds 2 baths



239 Walnut St
\$531,000
3 beds 3 baths



55 Stanley Ave
\$551,000
3 beds 2 baths



30 Gerard Rd
\$620,000
4 beds 3 baths



38 Beech St
\$625,000
4 beds 2 baths



**23 Overlook
Terr**
\$753,000
4 beds 3 baths

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HAPPY NEW YEAR & CHEERS TO NEW BEGINNINGS!

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JANUARY EVENTS CALENDAR

At the time this magazine went to print, all event times and locations were accurate, but please check event websites for the most current information. Some events may have been postponed or canceled.

Jan. 1, Sat.

All Recovery Meeting

@virtual event from Clara Maass Medical Center
Come with a Purpose, Leave with a Plan. All Recovery Meetings are for everyone who supports recovery. They honor all pathways to recovery, acknowledging that each person's path is unique and reflects their personal strengths. The meetings are non-denominational and offer an opportunity to focus on the hope found in recovery. Recovery does not happen alone. Join and connect with others who are initiating and maintaining a recovery lifestyle. 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: 12-1:30pm
For more information, meeting link, or other dates and times visit www.rwjbh.org/events/

Jan. 3, Mon.

Bariatric Surgery Information Seminar

@virtual event from Clara Maass Medical Center
Presented in cooperation with the New York Bariatric Group, this is our online seminar for patients that are interested in bariatric surgery. Joining this online information seminar will be one of your first steps in learning all there is to know about bariatric surgery. A Clara Maass bariatric surgeon will join you live to discuss the bariatric surgery journey, from the procedures to risks and benefits.
Time: 6-7pm
For more information visit www.rwjbh.org/events/

Jan. 5, Wed.

Weight Loss Support Group

@virtual event from Clara Maass Medical Center
You're not in it alone, and perhaps one of the most important aspects of a comprehensive weight-loss surgery program is the after-surgery support group. Attending a

support group allows you to share your own personal experiences in open discussion and enables you to participate with your peers who are going through a similar situation. The support group addresses topics to assist you along your weight-loss journey including snacking, meal portions, and self-esteem, to name just a few.
Time: 6:30-7:30pm
For more information visit www.rwjbh.org/events/

Jan. 12, Wed.

Art in the Afternoon

@Montclair Art Museum, 3 South Mountain Ave., Montclair or virtual event
The Montclair Art Museum invites older adults to join an artistic social gathering, either in-person or virtually. Participants will enjoy an opportunity to learn about and creatively respond to art from the permanent collection and special exhibitions. Each session will feature a virtual docent-led tour and engaging conversation followed by thematically related art activities. All registrants will receive information about attending in person and virtually using Zoom so they can choose how they would like to participate.
Time: 2-3:30pm
Cost: Free
For more information and to register visit www.montclairartmuseum.org/events/museum-events/art-afternoon-1

Jan. 17, Mon.

MLK Day: Forest Animals Winter Survival – One Day Camp

@Essex County Environmental Center, 621 Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland
For ages 5-10. Look at winter habitats and how New Jersey nature survives the cold season! Children will explore the winter wetlands and do indoor activities that are both fun and educational. Provide your child with good footwear and outerwear so they can fully enjoy the seasonal discoveries.
Time: 9:30am-3:30pm
Cost: \$75 per child
For more information visit www.essexcountyparks.org/facilities/environmental-center/calendar/

Jan. 24, Mon.

Owl Pellet Dissection

@Essex County Environmental Center, 621 Eagle Rock Ave.,

Roseland

For ages 7-12. Learn about the beautiful and mysterious silent hunters of the night. Discover what they're eating as we discuss predators, prey, and food chain dynamics. Carefully reconstruct the bones found inside owl pellets!
Time: 6-7:30pm
Cost: \$10 per child
For more information visit www.essexcountyparks.org/facilities/environmental-center/calendar/

Feb. 5, Sat.

Winter Journaling

@Essex County Environmental Center, 621 Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland
For all ages (children under 5 with supervision). Discover the joy of phenology, the cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena, especially in relation to climate and plant and animal life. Let's find a special place to write down and draw our winter discoveries and appreciate the cold and brisk change of the season. Maybe we'll even get to partake in some winter birding! We will also hike the grounds to note seasonal changes and beautiful discoveries. We'll make our journals here on site. Friends and family are encouraged to join. Dress warmly.
Time: 11am-12:30pm
Cost: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult
To register call 973-228-8776.
For more information visit www.essexcountyparks.org/facilities/environmental-center/calendar/

Feb. 5, Sat.

Family Walk and Campfire

@Essex County Environmental Center, 621 Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland
For all ages. Join a naturalist for a short walk on the trails and experience forest life at night. After the walk, enjoy a campfire with organic fire-popped popcorn and mint tea.
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 visit www.essexcountyparks.org/facilities/environmental-center/calendar/



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