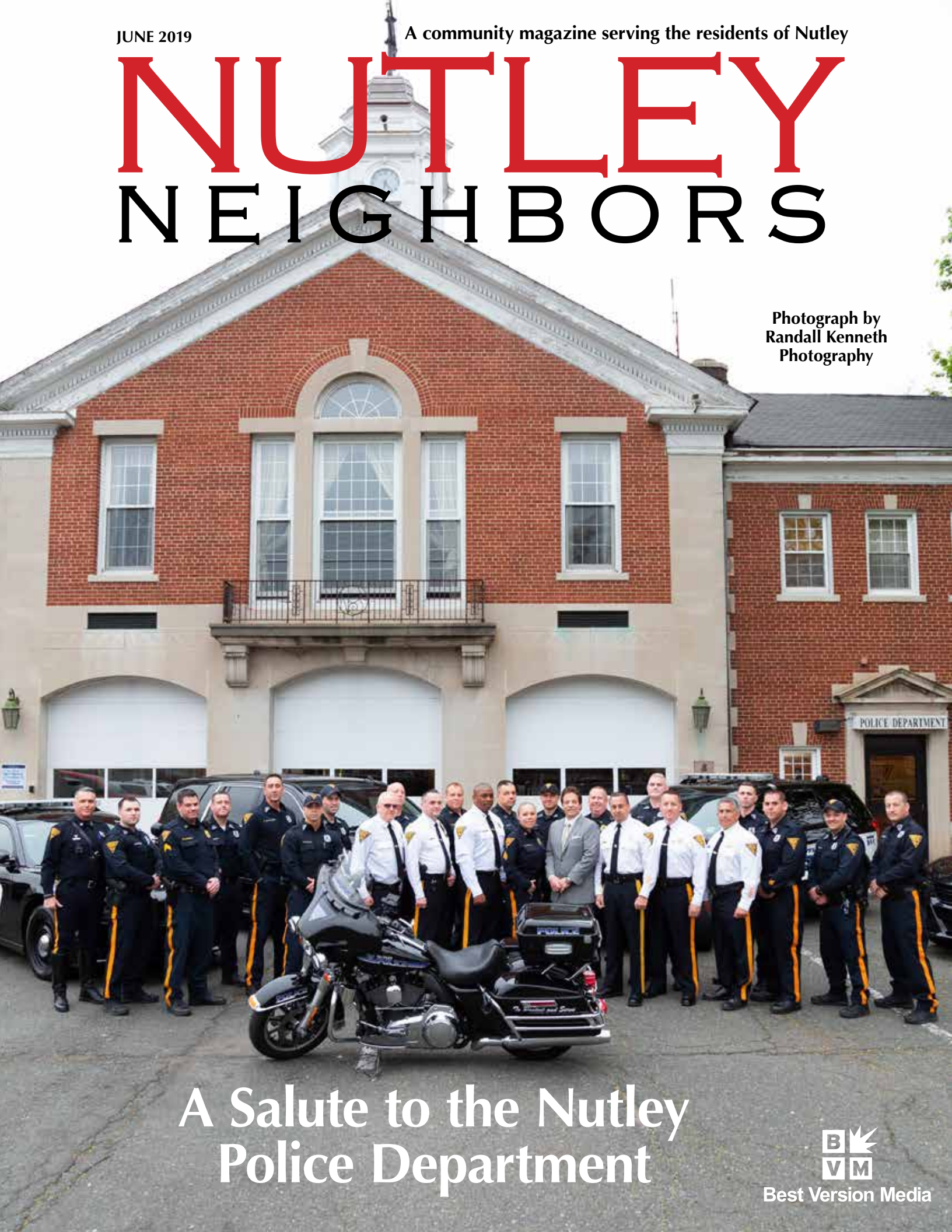


JUNE 2019

A community magazine serving the residents of Nutley

# NUTLEY NEIGHBORS

Photograph by  
Randall Kenneth  
Photography



A Salute to the Nutley  
Police Department



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**Michael Stefanelli**



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## Content Submission Deadlines:

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

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## Hello Nutley Neighbors,

I hope 2019 has been fantastic for you thus far. Looking forward to another warm enjoyable summer. This issue marks our 49th and the beginning of year five in our publication. It has been truly an honor to bring this publication to the community for the past four years.

Personally, I have never been one to look for praise in my endeavors. I try to operate, in life and in business, with as much humility as I can. Adding value to the world costs nothing. But when I meet you, our readers, our supporters, our sponsors, our neighbors, you certainly know how to make a guy feel great. I truly appreciate all your well wishes and words of encouragement on how our publication makes you feel and how it has become a little part of your lives. Thanks for letting us know we are doing something that matters to you and is making a difference. This is what perpetually motivates us.

In a time when we are being bombarded with irrelevant information and 24/7 headlines competing for our time and attention, its ultra-important to consume what serves us best. People will never lose interest in the communities that they live in, nor should they. That's always been our aim and mission here. To bring out the best of what Nutley has to offer. To focus on the positive aspects of our community culture. To connect one another by tapping into the interesting items and anecdotes that make up the social fabric of this great place we live in.

I couldn't think of a better way to kick off our 5th year than featuring Nutley's finest: the men and women who serve and protect our community in the Nutley Police Department. They help us in times of need and distress. They make our town a safe place to live. The Nutley police department has some unique qualities that set it apart. They have been recognized on a statewide level and we hope our feature brings out the recognition they deserve. Some of them might be your neighbors. When you see or call on one of our finest, let them know how much you appreciate their service.

I'm certainly ready for another issue and year of *Nutley Neighbors*. Let's dive in to these pages together and celebrate. Have a great June and I can't wait to meet more of my neighbors as summer progresses along.

**Michael Stefanelli**  
Publisher



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## Time Passages

The June issue of *Nutley Neighbors*, (yes, the one you are holding now!) is a milestone issue. It commemorates our 4th year in publication!

My first thought when I realized how long we have been bringing you this magazine each month is "Wow, time flies!" (Yeah, my first thought is usually a cliché.)

But after wondering how time seems to pass so quickly, I came upon another thought. We are not



only celebrating the passage of time; we are remembering something more important: our passage of purpose.

When Michael Stefanelli decided to publish a magazine that highlighted the people, places, businesses, and events in town, he put a purpose statement on the cover of each issue – "A community magazine serving the residents of Nutley"

Our purpose in the past four years has been to bring articles and information to the residents of Nutley and, by doing so, to enhance the community spirit that is already alive and well here. With each page of this publication, we strive to introduce you to interesting neighbors, community events, and businesses that enrich all of our lives.

Do you remember drawing connect-the-dots pictures? How you start at dot 1 and follow the number sequence until a picture is formed? In a way, I see this magazine like that. Each page connects you to the town. By the time you get to the last page, or even to the end of four years, you get a picture of the family-friendly, fun, and caring atmosphere that exists in Nutley.

And that is more than a passage of time; it's a passage of purpose.

Thank you all for being part of *Nutley Neighbors*! This is your magazine about your town and I am happy to be part of it.

**Joyce Corey** Content Coordinator



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Michael S. Cocco, CFP®, ChFC® is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional with AXA Advisors, LLC where he provides Financial Planning, Investment

Advice, and Insurance Planning for his clients. Mike is a graduate of Penn State University.

Salvatore Cocco, Jr. CLU has been with Beacon Wealth Partners, LLC since 1995 and has practiced as a generalist in all disciplines of the financial planning services including Investment Planning, Retirement Planning, College Savings, and Insurance. He is a 1977 graduate of Seton Hall University and was inducted into their Entrepreneurial Hall of Fame.



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### INSIGHT EYE & VISION CARE

Dr. Theresa Radtke is a 2016 graduate of the Arizona College of Optometry. Through completing a residency and clinical rotations focused in Ocular Disease, she honed her skills in diagnosing and treating a full spectrum of eye conditions. InSight Eye & Vision Care is a full

service optometric practice and optical shop she opened in 2017 with hopes of providing a one stop shop for excellent eye care, eyewear and personalized service for the community.



### INVESTORS HOME MORTGAGE

Joe Isabella is a Certified Mortgage Planning Specialist (CMPS®). He has been with Investors Home Mortgage since 2010 and is a Circle of Excellence Award winner. Since joining Investors, Joe has helped many families in

Nutley and the surrounding area with their home financing needs. He was born and raised in Nutley and still resides in his home town. He is a graduate of both Nutley High School and Montclair State University.



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# A Salute to the Nutley Police Department

By Joyce Corey

Photographs by Randall Kenneth Photography

**T**he Nutley Police Department is more than a building or even a group of men and women; it's the heart and soul of town. The dedication of *everyone* in the department literally impacts *everyone* in town. Their mission statement, as seen on their website, clearly identifies their goals.

*"The Nutley Township Police Department will commit its resources in partnership with the community to promote a safe and secure environment, free from crime and the fear of crime, to maintain order and provide for the safe and expeditious flow of traffic while practicing our core values of integrity, respect and service."*

Most noteworthy is the fact that the Nutley Police Department partners with the community; this is not just a job, it's a mindset. Promoting a safe environment is only part of the work performed by police officers; their main consideration is for the entire community and their website lists a variety of ways in which they do just that.

Did you know they offer child seat checks, physical security surveys of your home or apartment, bicycle registration and inspections, and assistance with vehicle lockouts?

Their educational programs for children are designed for specific age and interest levels. The very popular Junior Police Academy welcomes students in fifth to eighth grade for a week-long training in basic police functions like marching and crime scene processing.

Kindergarten students can get a tour of the department and even see their fingerprints on the Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS) machine.

On a more serious note, the department's support services include the Domestic Violence Intervention Team: a group of trained individuals who are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to assist domestic abuse victims.

In a concerted effort to reduce the impact of heroin and opiate abuse in the community, the Nutley Police Department encourages those who suffer from addiction to seek help. They treat those suffering from addiction with compassion and concern while fairly enforcing the law.

Their website, [www.nutleynj.org/police](http://www.nutleynj.org/police), offers a lot more information about all the programs and services the department has in place for the community. There are also sections that list contact information for the various departments and offices within the department,

*From left to right:*

1. P.O. Joe O'Halloran
2. P.O. Nick Albanese
3. P.O. Chris D'Alessio
4. P.O. Matt Murphy
5. P.O. Jim Baunhuber
6. P.O. Steve Scioscia
7. P.O. Rich Rempusheski
8. Lt. Dennis Guider
9. Detective Bob McDermott
10. Captain Nick Neri
11. P.O. Jeff Polewka
12. Captain Gerry Green
13. P.O. David Strus
14. Det. Sgt. Tiffany McDermott
15. P.O. Nick Tedesco
16. Commissioner Alphonse Petracco
17. Lt. Robert Kordas
18. Chief Tom Strumulo
19. P.O. Ryan Mulligan
20. Captain Robert Irwin
21. Det. Lt. Anthony Montanari
22. P.O. Chris Melilli
23. Detective PJ Sandomenico
24. P.O. Anthony Osetto
25. P.O. John Mecka



instructions on how to apply for forms, licenses, and permits, as well as alerts and advisories.

A quick trip to their website may answer questions you have or give you the information you need. It will also show you just how involved the police department is with the community in worthwhile ways that affect us all on a daily basis.

Yet, they still have time to keep us safe.

Nutley recently ranked among the top 50 safest cities in New Jersey according to a report published by the National Council for Home Safety and Security, a trade association of security professionals that advocates for safe communities and home safety.

To keep this important distinction in perspective, here are the rankings for nearby towns: Lyndhurst (92), Rutherford (112), Bloomfield (131), Montclair (140), Belleville (154), Clifton (195).

To identify the safest cities in New Jersey, the National Council for Home Safety and Security reviewed the most recent FBI Uniform Crime Report statistics. The Council rated New Jersey cities with populations greater than 10,000.

Commissioner Alphonse Petracco, the township's Public Safety Director, credits Nutley's ranking among the top 50 safest cities in New Jersey to the upgrades to the department which occurred during his tenure. Installed was an up-to-date communication center which allows the police officers to respond more efficiently. New cars and radio

equipment were also added. Commissioner Petracco believes that these "investments are paying dividends" to the town now.

Also noteworthy is the fact that Nutley had the first accredited police department in the state, with the process being initiated by Commissioner Petracco and former Chief John Holland. The town earned this distinction on November 10, 2011.

Police accreditation is accomplished through the creation of approved policies and procedures by a law enforcement agency. These policies and procedures help ensure an agency meets the highest accepted standards of law enforcement in New Jersey. An agency must not only create policies and procedures, but must also demonstrate compliance with these policies and procedures to the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) on a regular basis.

So, let's join together to give the Nutley Police Department a salute for all they do within the community!

These are the people who come alongside us in various times and in diverse situations. I invite you now to 'meet' some of the people who serve in the department. I had the opportunity to ask several of the officers a few questions about themselves and their work in town. Each of them is a vital part of our community, serving all of us with integrity and respect.

The Nutley Police Department is the heart and soul of a very safe and very active community.

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**COMMISSIONER  
ALPHONSE PETRACCO**  
**Public Safety Director for  
11 years**

I thank the police officers for their commitment to the community in keeping us safe. I also commend the residents for their roles. I ask them if they see something to say something. Public safety is a top priority in town thanks to the work and dedication of all the Commissioners.

**CHIEF THOMAS J. STRUMOLO**  
**Chief of Police for the past 6 years**

**Member of the department for 23 years 4 months**

My father was a Nutley police captain and served the community for 37 years. I decided to enter into law enforcement after growing up observing the rewarding career he had as a police officer. This played an important part in my decision to follow in his footsteps and to choose a career where I can help people and make the community a better place.

Our police department is made up of dedicated men and women who work hard every day to keep Nutley safe. We work together with the community to address crime issues and community concerns; this partnership is what makes us one of the safest communities in New Jersey. I want our residents to know they are getting the best and most efficient police service available. We provide many programs to interact with the children and residents of the community which continues to build upon the great relationship we have with our residents. In addition, we are very proactive in our policing strategies and utilize the latest technology to keep Nutley a safe place to live, work, and raise a family, and this is reflected in the recent article where Nutley was named one of the top 50 safest

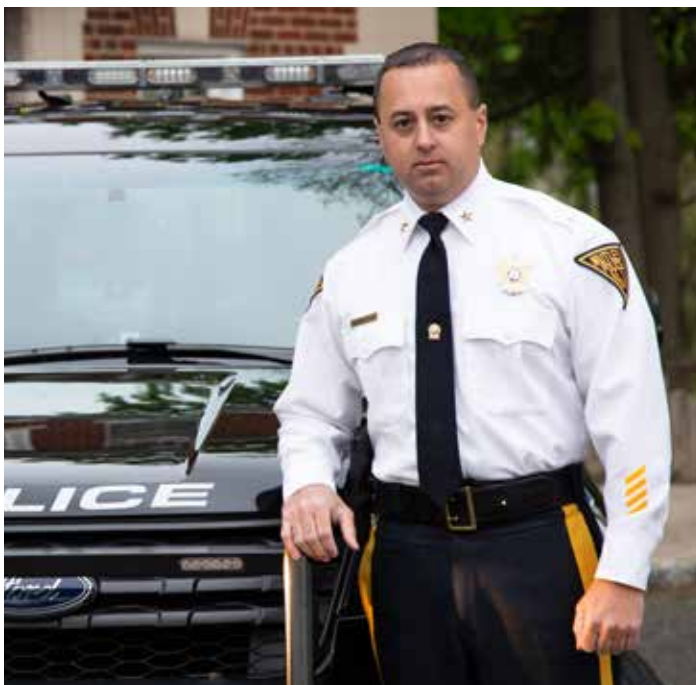


**TIFFANY MCDERMOTT**  
**Night Sergeant in the Detective Bureau**  
**Years of service: 15.5 years**

I wasn't raised in a family of police officers, like an episode of Blue Bloods, but I always admired who they were and what they did. They were the people you called when you were scared, sick, or just needed help; no matter what day it was or the time of night. They would always show up putting someone else's comfort and safety first before their own and even their families. I saw police officers as a group of special people that give up so much of their time away from their own families to help others that I wanted to be part of that.

I want residents to know that the men and women of the Nutley Police Department are dads, moms, brothers, sisters, coaches, counselors, and neighbors. They are everyday people that put on their uniform, leaving their loved ones behind, to protect and serve our community. Police officers leave their homes unaware of the dangers that may befall them during their shift, but still remain kind and compassionate to those in need in our community and ready to help.

There is one in particular moment that stays close to my heart and helped shape who I have become as a police officer. While serving in the Juvenile Detective Bureau, I had a mother in my office feeling hopeless and in fear that her daughter was on the wrong path. I asked her if I could speak with her daughter who eventually came to my office a couple times a month to talk. Our conversations continued and I was able to be a shoulder to cry on, an ear to listen, and a voice to give guidance. This young girl is now an amazing young lady. This I believe is the truest essence of being a police officer and that which continues to encourage me when my days are stressful and filled with heartache.





## P.J. SANDOMENICO

### Detective

#### Years of service: 16 years

My mother always reminded me growing up, that at the age of five, I told her I wanted to be a police officer. While in elementary school I had the pleasure of meeting Port Authority D.A.R.E Officer Bob. Officer Bob was assigned to visit my sixth grade class monthly and to teach us about the struggles of substance abuse. I admired his knowledge and his drive to make a difference in the community. In 1993, I moved to Nutley and remembered my first interaction with a Nutley police officer. While I was playing baseball at Nutley American Little League, I slid into second base and broke my ankle. Unfortunately, I do not remember the officer's name but he was friendly, compassionate, and made every attempt to make my bad situation a good one. From that point on I was always infatuated with police officers and admired the phrase 'To Serve and Protect.' I knew that I wanted try my best to make a difference in the community that I would serve. On August 15, 2003 the dream I had as a little boy came true when I was sworn in as the 339th officer of the Nutley Police Department where I currently serve the community I grew up in.

The Nutley Police Department has 72 sworn officers who are diligent at performing their duties and responsibilities. Our number one objective in the Nutley Police Department is to serve the residents of Nutley and protect them from any evils they may encounter. Our goal is to make sure OUR community stays within the top 50 safest cities in New Jersey.



My most memorable moment occurred in June of 2011. I was dispatched to a residence on a report of an unconscious/unresponsive male. When arriving on scene I began to evaluate the patient who had no signs of life, at which time I began CPR. While performing multiple cycles of CPR, my partner attached the AED to the patient. The patient was shocked three times and we were able to regain a pulse. The reason this moment was so memorable to me was because three months after the call I was off duty

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and shopping in CVS. A man approached me and asked if I remembered him. You can only imagine the thoughts that ran through my mind at this point. Did I arrest him? Did I write him a ticket? Did I arrest someone in his family? This is a very uncomfortable situation that every officer gets put in sometime through their career. Everyone we interact with always remembers us ON and OFF duty whether it was a GOOD or a BAD interaction. This interaction was for definitely for the GOOD! The unknown male proceeded to put out his hand and say, "Officer, I just want to thank you. Because of you my father is still alive and with me today." He was the son of the person I saved three months earlier. For the remainder of that day I felt like I was floating on cloud nine because all I kept thinking about was that someone's father is still alive because of me.

#### **KEN WATSON**

**Detective Lieutenant -  
Professional Standards Bureau  
Years of service: 24 years 4  
months**

I wanted to be in a profession that provided the opportunity to work with and give back to the community on a daily basis.

The Nutley Police Department is a part of the community as a whole. Often, police officers are viewed only as the enforcers in a community. They can be seen as an entity that should be avoided instead of engaged. While enforcement is a part of police work everywhere, it is not all that we do. We go into the schools, places of worship, and community centers to meet with our citizens. We get to know the children and teachers in our schools. We speak with our business owners to discuss their concerns. We meet with our senior citizens to provide safety lectures and sometimes just to talk. Our outreach programs such as



Steven Scioscia

Coffee with a Cop, Trunk-or-Treat, Public Safety Night and the Nutley Police Department Bike Rodeo give us a chance to both teach and learn from our citizens. I also want people to know that we are there for them whether they live, work, learn, worship, shop, or just pass through our community.

Some of my most memorable moments as a Nutley police officer include watching the ITT Tower demolition in 1996, serving the community during the days and months that immediately followed the 9/11 attacks, marching in the Memorial Day Parade each year and having my wife and daughter take part in my promotion to Lieutenant in 2015. One of the best things about being a Nutley police officer has been the friendships that I have made with my co-workers and citizens.

#### **JOSEPH STEWART**

**Patrol Officer  
Years of service: 25 years**

I became a police officer to protect and serve my community and to carry on the family tradition for over four generations. Nutley is one of the few departments in the state that still has that great relationship with its citizens, where people trust the police and respect us. One of my most memorable moments was saving a family from a house fire at 5:00am.



#### **STEVEN SCIOSCIA**

**Patrolman  
Years of service: 7**

I was influenced to become a police officer by my uncle who is a police officer in Kearny. Between hearing stories from him and watching cops on television, I liked the idea of possibly becoming a police officer. I enjoy that every day at work could be different and you never know what to expect.

The men and woman who work in this department are fully dedicated to serving the township of Nutley. Some people hate the fact that we write traffic tickets but unfortunately that is part of our job. At the end of the day everyone inside this department will do whatever it takes to try and keep the town and its residents safe to the best of our ability. ■



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](mailto:jcorey@bestversionmedia.com)



# Nutley Current Real Estate Statistics

## HOMES FOR SALE

\$300,000 - \$350,000	13
\$350,000 - \$450,000	18
\$450,000 - \$500,000	11
\$500,000 - \$550,000	5
\$550,000 - \$600,000	2
\$600,000 - \$750,000	3
\$750,000 +	3
<b>Largest Listing</b>	<b>\$875,000</b>

## HOMES SOLD LAST 90 DAYS

\$300,000 - \$350,000	2
\$350,000 - \$450,000	17
\$450,000 - \$500,000	7
\$500,000 - \$550,000	4
\$550,000 - \$600,000	0
\$600,000 - \$750,000	1
\$750,000 +	1
<b>Largest Sale</b>	<b>\$770,000</b>



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## Nutley High School Programs: Indoor Percussion

By Joyce Corey

### "Why are there drums in the gym?"

If that's something you may have been wondering about, allow me to introduce you to an exciting, and very successful, musical program. The Nutley High School Indoor Percussion ensemble first assembled in 2016 and had its inaugural competition debut in the winter of 2017.

The director, Julia Wehrer, was influential in starting this program. "I did indoor percussion when I was in high school and loved it, so I wanted to give my students a chance to enjoy indoor percussion too," she said. When Julia was hired as the percussion instructor of the NHS Marching Band in 2016, she also helped coordinate the school's indoor program with Dr. James Riley. "Since the school didn't have a program like this in place, we collaborated and made it happen."

As the name implies, an indoor percussion ensemble consists of the marching percussion (or battery) and front ensemble (pit or frontline) sections of a marching band. There are no strings, woodwinds, brass, or color guard.

Performed in a gym or indoor arena, the ensemble combines the elements of music, marching, and theater to produce a high-energy presentation.

Indoor percussion ensembles commonly perform at judged competitions officiated by local and regional associations using criteria developed by Winter Guard International (WGI).

"This was our third competitive season to date," Julia said. To keep this in perspective, it's not common for such a recently-established ensemble to compete, but it's even more noteworthy that they are doing exceptionally well.

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"Our 2019 production was entitled 'Drought' and we took second place at USBands Indoor Championships on Sunday, March 31," Julia said. "In 2018, our ensemble placed first at that same competition, becoming champions in our second year of existence. This year, we placed seventh (out of 20) at the WGI East Power Regional. This was our first time competing in WGI, and it was a huge accomplishment to make it in the top 10! During the 2018 marching band season, our percussion section went undefeated and won 'Best Percussion' at every competition including States and Nationals. For such a young program, we have seen a tremendous amount of success, and I couldn't be more proud of these kids."

Julia credits the team's success to talent, hard work, and enthusiasm. "In our first year, we only had 18 students; now we have 30. We even have some students who learned new instruments so they can join our program. The success of the group is amazing. We continue to challenge them season after season, and they continue to grow."

Julia directs the Indoor Percussion ensemble along with Connor Horwath and Nick Peters, who are the battery instructor and pit instructor of the Raider Marching Band.

The group's popularity can be attributed to several aspects. Percussionists have a new opportunity to hone their skills and they get a chance to do something after the fall marching band season. Providing a unique performance experience differentiates the team from the

marching band or class ensembles and allows the students to use some of their theatrical skills. And taking all this to the competitive level bonds the members and infuses the group with a high level of camaraderie and focus.

Julia is very excited about the group's success. Her plans for the future include taking the ensemble to compete at the WGI World Championships in Dayton, Ohio. Considering the group's motivation and determination, that looks like a goal that is certain to be accomplished. ■



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Courtney Wilde on...

## Courtney Wilde: Playing to Win

By Joyce Corey

Courtney Wilde touches all the bases in her softball career. Not only is she adding to her impressive list of sports accomplishments, she also values the importance of family, faith, and her education. This winning combination has put this high school senior in the right place for her future plans at Rutgers.

Courtney developed an active interest in sports at a young age. "My parents encouraged me to try a lot of different sports and I really love basketball and softball," she said. "I also competed in soccer when I got into high school. But when I realized that I had to put a little more time into softball, because I was going to continue it in college, I gave up a fall sport to concentrate on travel softball."

To accommodate her increased concentration on softball, Courtney set up a schedule for practicing. "When

I am in season, I try to hit as much as I can, but it can be hard if I have a game. In season, I try to hit for an hour two to three times a week. I also take a pitching lesson once a week just in case my team needs me to go in. Off season, I hit four times a week and workout as well."

Her dedication has certainly paid off, as a list of her accomplishments shows. "I have been an All-League player three years in a row, All-Essex County two years, and starting pitcher for two years," she said. "I received an athletic scholarship to play softball at Rutgers University-New Brunswick in the Big Ten Conference."

Courtney is also very aware of the importance of education. "I always try hard in school and go for extra help when I miss something from traveling. It really helps and as long as I stay on top of my work my grades are fine," she said.

She has prioritized the main elements in her life which

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gives her a solid foundation for success. "While sports are very important in my life, my faith is first, followed by my family, and education," she said.

Courtney also gets a lot of motivation and support from her family. "My hero is my father because he played college sports and made so many accomplishments in his athletic career. I look up to him every day in life and in sports," she said. "In the summer, my mom travels with me. Last year, I was gone for four weeks and I didn't see my dad for half the summer. My mom gave up her summer for me. I owe a lot to both of my parents who help me follow my dreams."

Sacrifices seem to be standard while pursuing success in a sport. Courtney had to make some of her own. "Sometimes my friends are all hanging out with each other and I have a hitting lesson late that night. It works though because it pays off in the game. I have to make some sacrifices, but I am definitely fine with making them."

Her short-term and long-range goals should keep her occupied. "In high school I would like to win the league championship, county championship, and state championship. When I get to Rutgers, I want to play early in my career," she said. "I chose that school because of the amazing coaching staff and the opportunity to compete in the Big Ten Conference."

Courtney Wilde has a solid game plan for her future, a family that supports her, and her priorities in order. That winning combination should lead her on to many more victories. ■



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# D-Day: Nutley Neighbors Paid the Ultimate Price for Our Freedom 75 Years Ago

*By Anthony Buccino*



Photos are courtesy American Legion Post 70, Ed Stecewicz collection, Nutley Historical Society archive.

Our World War Two Honor Roll memorial on the town green bears 2,647 names of the men who served from our town. The flag pole near its entrance names 89 Nutley men who paid for our freedom with their lives. On the 75th anniversary of the June 6, 1944, D-Day invasion let us remember our Nutley neighbors, the young men who once lived in our houses, attended our schools, played sports, left loved ones, and ultimately paid for our freedom with their lives to free the world beginning at Normandy, France and on to Germany.

- Lt. Commander William Pearson, 33, 100 Glendale Street, was killed in action on a destroyer escort in the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944.
- Paratrooper Pvt. Donald Wood, 20, 81 Nutley Avenue, was KIA in France on June 7, 1944.

- Watertenderer 3/c Lee White, 26, of Brookline Avenue, was KIA aboard USS Meredith during invasion operations on June 8, 1944.
- Pfc. Stanley Szczyrek, 25, 27 Homer Avenue, was KIA in France on June 8, 1944.



- Seaman 2/c Ronald McCormack, 128 Church Street, was KIA when LST 314 was sunk June 9, 1944.
- S/Sgt. Theodore Cassera, 26, 46 Glendale Street, was KIA in France on June 23, 1944.
- Pfc. Walter Mihalchuk, 28, 15 Gless Avenue, was KIA in France on July 3, 1944.
- P-51 pilot 1st Lt. John Gervan, 27, 83 Myrtle Street, was KIA over St. Lo, France on July 4, 1944.
- Pfc. Charles O'Neill, 30, 14 Crestwood Avenue, was KIA in France on July 14, 1944.
- Sgt. Wilbur Westfall, 25, 263 Hillside Avenue, was KIA in France on July 20, 1944.
- 1st Sgt. James Pierce, 35, 343 Park Avenue, was KIA in France on July 30, 1944.
- T/Sgt. Wallace Reed, 27, of Beech Street, was KIA in France on August 6, 1944.
- Sgt. James Murren, 19, 39 Woodland Avenue, was KIA in a collision over England, on August 31, 1943.
- S/Sgt. George M. Haack, 30, 119 Walnut Street, was KIA in France on September 8, 1944.
- Pfc. Robert Dickert, 23, 331 Park Avenue, was KIA in France on September 15, 1944.
- Lt. Charles Liebau, 22, 422 Franklin Avenue, was KIA in France on September 16, 1944.
- 1st Lt. Robert Clendinning Jr., 26, 126 High Street, was KIA over England on September 27, 1944.
- Pvt. Arthur Leithauser, 34, 28 Ridge Road, was KIA in France on November 2, 1944.
- Pfc. Joseph Des Jardins, 19, 318 Park Avenue, was KIA in France on November 5, 1944.
- Pfc. Sidney Butcher, 26, 73 Overlook Terrace, was KIA in France on November 24, 1944.
- Pvt. Frank Stangota, 19, One St. Mary's Place, was KIA in France on November 25, 1944.
- Sgt. Anthony Impellizzeri, 24, of Nutley Avenue, was KIA in Germany on November 2, 1944.
- Pfc. Maro Jahr, 25, 13 White Terrace, was KIA in Germany on December 15, 1944.
- Pfc. Eugene Bellene, 23, 157 Honner Avenue, was KIA in Luxembourg December 17, 1944.
- Sgt. Halsey Miller, 30, 30 S. Spring Garden, was killed in the Malmedy Massacre in Belgium on December 17, 1944.
- 1st Lt. Charles J. Smith, 23, 80 William Street, was KIA in Belgium December 23, 1944.
- Pfc. Malcolm Christopher, 21, of Chestnut Street, was KIA when Belgian troopship Leopoldville was sunk in the English Channel on December 25, 1944.
- Sgt. William Deighan, 30, of Centre Street, was KIA in over England on December 30, 1944.
- Pfc. Frederick D. Kurz, 22, 75 High Street, was KIA in Germany on January 16, 1945.
- Carl Hansen, 36, 17 De Vaunsey Place, was KIA in France on January 17, 1945.
- Pfc. Frank Burak, 28, 22 Homer Avenue, was KIA in Germany on February 2, 1945.
- Pfc. Howard Harle, 21, 105 Centre Street, was KIA in Luxembourg on March 6, 1945.
- Pfc. Frank Garruto, 23, 355 Harrison Street, was KIA in Europe on April 7, 1945.
- T3 James Lofrano, 27, 60 Union Avenue, was KIA in Germany on April 8, 1945.
- Pfc. Russell Wester, 22, 112 Prospect Street, was KIA in Germany on April 11, 1945.
- Pvt. Walter J. Kotwica, 22, 14 Laura Avenue, was KIA in Germany on April 17, 1945.
- Pfc. Robert Gray, 23, 54 Mapes Avenue, died on his birthday, April 19, 1945, in a German POW camp, the day the camp was liberated.
- Pfc. Werner Holzhauer Jr., 20, 11 Crestwood Avenue was declared KIA in France on May 27, 1946. ■

*Anthony Buccino is the author of Nutley Sons Honor Roll, Remembering the Men Who Paid for Our Freedom. For more information, [www.nutleysons.com](http://www.nutleysons.com)*



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# Nutley Jaycees Announce 2019 Distinguished Service Award Winners

*By David Wilson and Michael Stefanelli*



## EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

The Nutley Jaycee Educator of the Year, **Katherine Flannery**, has worked in the Nutley School District for twenty-five years, spending nineteen years at Yantacaw School with dedicated and unparalleled service to the students.

Flannery does not have a classroom or teach various classes throughout the day, yet is involved with every student in her position as school nurse, using her extensive medical knowledge and nursing techniques to aid the children, whether they have a small scrape, fever, or any other issue that arises throughout the day. Students and teachers know she is kind and considerate, no matter what the situation.

A resident of Nutley, Kathy received the Food Allergy Hero Award at the Community Food Allergy Conference

in 2015. She served as a CPR instructor with the American Red Cross and has been instrumental in helping to get many principals, school staff, and school nurses certified in CPR.



## OUTSTANDING YOUNG MAN

**Louie Ritacco** is owner and manager of Luna Wood Fire Tavern on Franklin Avenue.

He has been active with the Nutley Elks since 2010 as a committee member and donor to the Nutley Elks Wild Game Dinner. He is also involved with the Elks War of Wings fundraiser. He was the Elks Citizen of the year in 2014.

He is a Relay for Life volunteer as well as participating in Big D's (Mike DiPiano Sr.) Gift of Life Foundation. Lou donated food to the Columbus Day Parade Dinner and to

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local grammar schools in more than one hundred separate occasions. He hosted the Autism and Breast Cancer Foundations at Midtown and Luna during the past 8 years.

Lou has been active in Christmas for Farm Children by helping with fundraisers and delivering presents in upstate New York to farm children in need. Lou started the James Reitberger Foundation in 2016 to assist high school athletes who need money to attend college.



#### **PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY AWARD**

In the Field of Public Health and Safety, **Charles (Chuck) E. Ennis, Jr.**, has been a member of the Nutley Volunteer Emergency & Rescue Squad for over forty-two years, starting in 1976 when he was a senior at Nutley High School. Chuck is a member of the executive board, Training Officer, and Trustee. On the line side, he served as senior EMT, assistant

crew chief, and lieutenant.

In January 2015, he was promoted to the rank of Captain of EMS services, overseeing fifty volunteer members. He now serves as Captain of the Rescue Division and is responsible for all rescue operations, rescue vehicles, and training of rescue technicians.

While his son was involved in the Cub Scouts, he served as the assistant Cub Master. Growing up, Chuck was a Boy Scout and earned the organization's highest rank of Eagle Scout.



#### **HONORED FOR WORK IN NUTLEY CIVIC AFFAIRS**

Nutley Town Historian, **John Demmer**, was awarded the DSA in Civic Affairs for his wide range of activities to preserve Nutley history, including collecting and sharing the many photos, articles, and artifacts that document the legacy of the township. Demmer has served on the Nutley Community Preservation

Trust, the Van Riper Trust, Nutley Historical Society, and Nutley Historic Preservation Committee.

John is the author of *Images of America—Nutley*, an extensive photograph collection of Nutley images, many from postcards of the community that John has collected. As the second Nutley Town Historian in the community's history, Demmer has given historical presentations to many organizations and works to educate folks on earlier aspects of Nutley and the importance of preserving and maintaining the history for future generations.

John maintains a Facebook page that documents Nutley's history, provides historic photographs of the community, and sparks widespread conversation by community members of their memories. Demmer is the owner of a business that makes reproduction moldings, build-ins, and Victorian details.



#### **BUSINESS MAN OF THE YEAR**

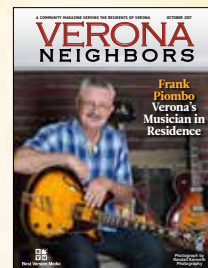
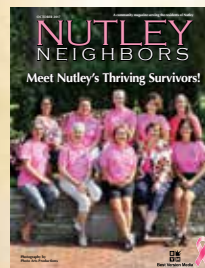
In the Field of Business, **Luther Engler**, was awarded for his lifetime of service to the Nutley community and our country. He served in the United States Marine Corps during the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis and the beginning of the Vietnam conflict. Luther joined the Newark Police Department, serving in a variety of assignments including leading the Tactical Squad, working undercover on the Narcotics Squad, Police Academy instructor and rising to the rank of Captain.

Engler attended Rutgers University and earned five degrees, including two Master's degrees, one of which was an MBA. He also became a CFP (Certified Financial Planner). After receiving his extensive training and education, he opened Engler Financial Services in Nutley.

Luther has always been involved in community activities through volunteer efforts that include: President of the Nutley Chamber of Commerce, Treasurer of the American Legion, Nutley Post #70, member of the Nutley Elks, the Board of Trustees for the Nutley Volunteer Emergency and Rescue Squad and a member of Holy Family Church parish. ■



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# EVENTS CALENDAR **JUNE** 2019

## **May 31, Fri. – June 7, Fri.** **Montclair Bounce: A Festival of Optimism and Resilience**

A playful, town-wide exploration of ways to brighten our days and strengthen our spirits. This first annual festival offers a week full of creative events and learning experiences to develop practices and connections that can enrich our lives. For more information visit [www.montclairbounce.org](http://www.montclairbounce.org)

## **June 3, 17, Mon.** **Nutley Toastmasters**

@Franklin Reformed Church, 45 Hillside Crescent  
The club helps people from diverse backgrounds become more confident speakers, communicators and leaders.  
Time: 7-8:30pm  
For more information visit <https://7487.toastmastersclubs.org> or email Ben Thompson at [thompsonbenj@optonline.net](mailto:thompsonbenj@optonline.net)

## **June 3, 10, 17, 24, Mon.** **Senior Art Program**

@Parks and Recreation Building,

44 Park Ave.  
Time: 1-2:30pm  
For more information contact the Recreation office at 973-284-4966

## **June 4, Tue.** **All Recovery Meeting**

@Clara Maass Medical Center; The Morris Canal Room, 1 Clara Maass Dr., Belleville  
All Recovery meetings honor all pathways to recovery, acknowledging that each person's path is unique and reflects their personal strengths. This group offers an opportunity for social support that focuses on the hope found in recovery and to connect with others who are initiating and maintaining a recovery lifestyle. Whether you are seeking or maintaining recovery for yourself or have a family member or friend who has been influenced by substance use disorder, this group is for you.  
Time: 6-7pm  
Cost: Free  
For more information and to register contact Jenna Reidy at

[Jenna.Reidy@rwjbh.org](mailto:Jenna.Reidy@rwjbh.org) or call 848-303-0277

## **June 5, Wed.** **Memory Assessments**

@Public Affairs/Health Department, 149 Chestnut St.  
Are you absent-minded lately or is it something more serious? Visit for a one-on-one memory assessment to address memory loss, risks, and hygiene.  
Time: 10am-12pm  
Cost: Free  
For more information or to make an appointment call the Nutley Health Department at 973-284-4976

## **June 6, Thurs., June 18, Tue.** **Board of Commissioners Meeting**

@Town Hall, 3rd Floor Commission Chambers, 1 Kennedy Dr.  
Time: 7pm  
Open to the public  
For more information visit [www.nutleynj.org/board-of-commissioners](http://www.nutleynj.org/board-of-commissioners)

## **June 6, Thurs.** **Nutley at War: Film Screening and Discussion**

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Dr.  
Township Historian John Demmer and David Wilson will host a screening of Nutley at War, a 1942 film by the Nutley Defense Council that has not been shown in public since 2002. Recently restored footage in this forty-minute film will take you back in time when Nutley organized its citizens to prepare for enemy attacks. Scenes filmed throughout Nutley, familiar family names, interior and exterior views of old Nutley buildings, and a celebratory parade document the hard work and dedication of Nutley neighbors. Recently discovered material relating to the making and marketing of the film will be shown.  
Time: 7pm  
For more information email [library@nutleynj.org](mailto:library@nutleynj.org), visit [nutleypubliclibrary.org](http://nutleypubliclibrary.org), or call 973-667-0405

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**June 7, Fri.**  
**Movie Under the Stars**  
 @Nutley Park Oval,  
 300 Franklin Ave.  
 Movie begins at dusk.  
 Rain date is June 14.  
 Time: 7-10pm  
 For more information visit  
[nutleynj.org/calendar](http://nutleynj.org/calendar)

**June 8, Sat.**  
**Rock Hunger III**  
 @Old Canal Inn, 2 East Passaic Ave.  
 A concert to benefit Nutley  
 Family Service Bureau. The Attic  
 headlines along with special guests  
 The Adventures of Matte Black,  
 Drunk Uncles, and The Sticky  
 Wickets. Light-fare food, cash bar,  
 and chance for terrific prizes and  
 raffles. Proceeds will benefit NFSB  
 programs and services, including  
 the Food Pantry.  
 Time: 6:30pm  
 Cost: Tickets are \$20 in advance  
 or \$25 at the door.  
 For more information  
[www.RockHungerConcert.org](http://www.RockHungerConcert.org)

**June 10, Mon.**  
**Dungeons & Dragons Club**  
 @Nutley Public Library, Stockton  
 Room, 93 Booth Dr.  
 Open to grades 6-8. Try this all new  
 Dungeons & Dragons club!  
 All skill levels welcome. Sign up at  
 the Children's Desk.  
 Time: 6-7pm  
 For more information visit  
[www.nutleypubliclibrary.org](http://www.nutleypubliclibrary.org)

**June 10, Mon.**  
**Paws & Relax**  
 @Nutley Public Library,  
 93 Booth Dr.  
 Open to grades 7-12. Unwind with  
 some adorable furry friends!  
 Time: 3-4pm  
 For more information visit  
[www.nutleypubliclibrary.org](http://www.nutleypubliclibrary.org)

**June 12, Wed.**  
**15th Annual Michael's  
 Roscommon House Foundation  
 Scholarship Golf Outing**  
 @Hendricks Field Golf Course,  
 220 Franklin Ave., Belleville  
 Time: 7:15am registration/breakfast  
 7:45am 18-hole shotgun scramble  
 start. 1pm awards banquet @  
 Michael's Roscommon House,  
 531 Joralemon St., Belleville  
 Cost: \$165  
 For more information contact  
 Pam Dauksis at [roscommon14@comcast.net](mailto:roscommon14@comcast.net) or 973-919-0828

**June 12, Wed.**  
**Parkinson's Disease Support  
 Workshop**  
 @Clara Maass Medical Center,  
 Cancer Center Conference Room,  
 1 Clara Maass Dr., Belleville  
 This peer support group will help  
 participants build relationships  
 and share ideas about exercise,  
 nutrition, medication management,  
 medical resources, and how to  
 treat the symptoms of Parkinson's  
 Disease. Participants will be  
 encouraged to talk openly and  
 honestly about their feelings and  
 to support each other. Registration  
 is preferred but walk-ins and  
 caregivers are welcome.  
 Time: 10-11am  
 Cost: Free  
 For more information or to register  
 contact Fabiana Alvarez, RN, or  
 Dhyana Velez, RN, at 973-450-2631  
 or [fabiana.alvarez@rwjbh.org](mailto:fabiana.alvarez@rwjbh.org)

**June 13, Thurs.**  
**Franklin Spring Festival**  
 @Franklin Ave. between Vreeland  
 Ave. and High St.  
 This event includes live  
 entertainment, food and drinks  
 from local restaurants, food trucks,  
 children's entertainment, and more.  
 Time: 6-10pm

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 @nutley\_neighbors\_magazine



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**June 16, Sun.**  
**Kingsland Manor Open House  
 Tour**  
 @Kingsland Manor, 3 Kingsland St.  
 Come explore the historic  
 homestead of the Kingsland family  
 and beyond, set within park-like  
 grounds overlooking a pond and  
 waterfalls.  
 Time: 1-4pm  
 Cost: Admission is free. Donations  
 are gratefully accepted.  
 For more information visit  
[www.kingslandmanor.org](http://www.kingslandmanor.org) or  
 "Kingsland Manor" on Facebook.

**June 16, 23, 30, Sun.**  
**Nutley Farmers Market**  
 @Municipal Parking Lot 9,  
 537 Franklin Ave.  
 2019 marks the 10th

anniversary! Featuring live musical  
 entertainment, a wide variety of  
 fresh, regionally-grown produce,  
 fresh-cut flowers, homemade  
 cheese, dried fruit, nuts, pickles,  
 bread, and more. A great place to  
 meet new friends, interact with  
 the people who grew your food,  
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*Submitted by Tiffany Servidio*

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*Submitted by Christa Milici*

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# Explore a Universe of Stories with the 2019 Summer Reading Program at the Nutley Public Library

By Deidra Garcia, Head of Youth Services

The Nutley Public Library invites children and teenagers to blast off on an exciting summer of reading when the 2019 Summer Reading Program begins in June. The Summer Reading Program is a nationally recognized program in which libraries across the country collaborate on a theme to combat "summer slide" and make summer reading challenging and fun. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, this year's theme is "A Universe of Stories" and will highlight topics of science, technology, and all things outer space.

Nutley Public Library's Summer Reading Program gives students an opportunity to stay connected to reading over the summer in a way that is fun and rewarding. Babies, children, and teens can earn small prizes each week as they reach their reading milestones. In addition to the small prizes, for every few books read, a raffle ticket will be earned. Each raffle ticket can then be entered into a drawing to win big prizes, which will be announced at the end of the summer. The more books read, the more raffle tickets earned, and the greater the chances of winning a big prize. Some of this year's big prizes include a Nintendo Switch gaming system, a beginner's telescope, a Crosley turntable, gift cards, book bundles, and a family membership to Turtle Back Zoo.

In addition to weekly prize giveaways, the Youth Services Department will also be offering a variety of workshops and activities throughout the summer that highlight the interstellar theme, including space-related story times, live performances, science workshops, animal visits, DIY craft events, family nights, and more.

Starting June 3, youth of all ages can begin registering online at the Youth Services website. The Summer Reading Program will officially kick-off on Thursday, June 27, at 2:00 pm, with an outdoor dance party



featuring games, Rita's water ices, and music by Ultimate Entertainment. All activities offered at the Summer Reading Program Kick-Off Party are sponsored by Spencer Savings Bank of Nutley. The Summer Reading Program will officially end on August 15 with a live animal show presented by Rizzo's Reptile Discovery and the announcement of the big prize winners.

Programs and prizes offered throughout the summer are free and made possible due to generous donations from the Friends of the Nutley Public Library. In addition, the Youth Services Department could not have such well-received summer programs without the support from the Nutley library staff and board members, district school educators, high school volunteers, and community members. We thank everyone for their support and looking forward to a summer reading program that will be out of this world!

For additional information, please visit the Youth Service's website at [youthservices.nutleypubliclibrary.org](http://youthservices.nutleypubliclibrary.org) or contact Deidra Garcia at [deidra.garcia@nutley.bccls.org](mailto:deidra.garcia@nutley.bccls.org).

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# Protect Your Eyes, Enjoy Your Summer!

Contributed by Dr. Theresa Radtke  
of InSight Eye and Vision Care

Summer is right around the corner! After the long, cold winter it's time to get back to the beach, head out on the boat, lounge by the pool, and just be outside. All of these activities are healthy for our mind and bodies, but when you are out enjoying the sun, don't forget to protect your eyes. In this article, I will share with you some of the best ways to do that and some of the best reasons to protect your eyes -- we only get two after all!

The beach is one of my favorite places to spend a beautiful New Jersey day, but when the day is over, my eyes often feel irritated and dry. When our eyes are taking in the day, salt and wind from the ocean can cause a lot of dryness. The best way to avoid burning, tearing eyes at the end of your beach day is by wearing quality sunglasses with ultraviolet (UV) protection and polarization.

Choosing the best sunglasses for you is fun! When



choosing your frame, it's important to consider one that sits close to your face and is big enough to cover the sensitive skin around your eyes. Just like with the skin on the rest of our body, UV protection and shading are essential to leaving the beach feeling as good as you did when you got there. Think of sunglasses like sunblock for your eyes! Sunglasses are also available in prescription as well, which means this fashion accessory is also your key to enjoying the beautiful scenery of summer.

Planning to do a lot of swimming this summer? Swim

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goggles are a great thing to have for the beach or the pool. UV protection is also recommended in the swim goggles as the sun's rays reflect off water creating an even more intense sun. This is the reason why we get sunburned easier when we are out swimming for a long time, not just the sunblock washing away. UV-protected swim goggles help physically cover the eyes and prevent irritation from the water and the sun. Swim goggles are also available in prescription, for pool swimming, snorkeling or diving, with or without light changing (transitional) lenses!

Speaking of light-changing lenses, there is a new contact lens available on the market that changes in the sun! They react to and block UV light helping you to squint less in the bright sun. They also help with glare from the sun. While these contact lenses, just like normal contacts, don't replace your sunglasses, they can help in situations where it is difficult to wear sunglasses or to enhance the effects of your sunglasses, especially on bright days.

Eyes still bothering you at the end of the day? Sometimes this is just an unavoidable consequence of having fun in the sun! Just like we use aloe to soothe our skin, artificial tears are an important addition to any beach bag. Try drops at the pharmacy that say "lubricating drops" or "artificial tears" instead of a harsher "get the red out" drop. Cool compresses can also help to make the eyes feel better.

Ultraviolet light exposure can also increase the progression of cataracts and your chance of developing macular degeneration, so it is very important to protect your eyes year-round. In preparing for your vacations, make sure to get an eye exam, new sunglasses, goggles and contacts to enjoy carefree fun in the sun. You don't want to be worrying about your eyes too much while you're having a great time; let us help you enjoy your best summer! ■

*To schedule an exam or shop for the latest eye wear, contact Dr. Radtke at (973)594-0020*

## Ribbon Cutting

*Submitted by Nutley Chamber of Commerce*



The Nutley Chamber of Commerce welcomes, **Verizon Express Store**, 211 Franklin Avenue, Nutley, 973-667-8400, [www.expressstore.net](http://www.expressstore.net), as a member. Express Store started business in 2013 in the greater New York and New Jersey Area. Their team is highly motivated and strives on customer service.

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# Become a Masterful Communicator with the Nutley Toastmasters

*Submitted by Nutley Toastmasters*

**W**e all know that Nutley is one of New Jersey's crown jewels, right? Our town is home to many talented, productive people. Did you know that we have our own club dedicated to helping people become even better? It's Toastmasters.

Perhaps you're saying to yourself, "Toastmasters? Sounds familiar."

The Toastmasters' International organization is almost 100 years old, and it's comprised of thousands of local clubs around the world, including the Nutley Toastmasters club. Toastmasters' motto is "Where Leaders are Made," and is an educational, nonprofit organization that empowers individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. Headquartered in Englewood, Colorado, the organization's membership exceeds 357,000 in more than 16,600 clubs in 143 countries. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people from diverse backgrounds become more



*Nutley Toastmasters at a recent meeting*

confident speakers, communicators, and leaders.

According to Marc Strano, the Nutley club president, it's more than that. "Our members typically join because they are committed to adding to their professional skillset. Maybe they have been promoted or have a new job, and now they'll need to deliver presentations or lead teams."

He continued, "I like to use the expression 'leading beyond the lectern,' because speaking and leading go hand in hand, of course, and really the only proven way to get better at speaking is to do it again and again."

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"Everyone has their own personality and goals," he said. "Toastmasters has different pathways and each member determines what they want to work on. Maybe it's becoming a better presenter or it's to become a more dynamic leader. It's up to the individual. Regardless, public speaking is integral to getting better and that's where our meetings come into play."

"Attending meetings, preparing and presenting speeches, and, most importantly, receiving and providing constructive feedback are the keys to discovering an individual's unique and powerful voice and leadership ability," said club doyen, Maureen Corbeski. "And we do this in an environment that is supportive, safe, and fun."

Maureen added, "I cannot express in words how drastically my life has changed (for the better!) since discovering and developing my own unique and powerful

voice. It has not only affected my professional life but also my personal and social life!"

Nutley Toastmasters meets twice a month on the first and third Monday from 7-8:30pm at the Franklin Reformed Church in Nutley.

The typical meeting will have two or three scheduled speeches by members who are at various stages of their leadership path.

Written feedback is

provided by members and guests. Each speech is informally reviewed by meeting attendees and also formally evaluated by a club member, via their own two-minute speech.

"Immediate feedback is key to improvement," said former high school teacher, Andrew DeCotiis-Mauro. He's also Vice President of Public Relations for the Nutley club.

Another highlight of each meeting is 'Table Topics.' This is when a member, serving as the meeting's host, poses a series of questions to which members and

guests volunteer to deliver a one-minute response.

"It's where we practice our impromptu speaking skills," said Maureen.

Sound scary? "Don't be afraid," says Ben Thompson, Vice President of Education for the club. "Table Topics is a great, low-risk way to stretch yourself. None of us know what the questions will be, and while we all may initially flounder the first time or two, you quickly realize it's not as hard you think."

For free resources and more information, visit <https://7487.toastmastersclubs.org>. Or contact Ben Thompson at [thompsonbenj@optonline.net](mailto:thompsonbenj@optonline.net).

"Our club is growing. Visit us. You'll learn something new and have fun. See if we're a fit for you," he said. ■

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# Memories of Yantacaw School in the 1950s

By Barry Lenson

One of the greatest parts of being on the Board of the Nutley Museum is the opportunity to meet kids who go to Nutley's schools. When they come to one of our events at the Museum, they sometimes tell me, "I go to Washington School" or, "I go to Yantacaw," and I usually answer that I went to Yantacaw too. And they look at me, an older guy with gray hair, and seem to wonder, "How is that possible?"

Well, it is not only possible, it actually happened. So for those kids and their families, I would like to share some recollections of what it was like to go to a Nutley elementary school about 60 years ago.

## FIRST DAY OF KINDERGARTEN

Before I started kindergarten, I asked my older brother Dave, "What is school like?" He answered, "Your teacher looks like a witch. She stands at a desk and screams!" Because that was what I was expecting, that was what I thought I got. Thanks, Dave! But somehow, I got through.

For my first day, my mother dressed me in a brown hopsack two-piece suit with a jacket and short pants. There might as well have been a sign sewn on the back that said, "This is my son, please pick on him." Because that was the way it worked.

## FIRST TRIP TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

At home, when anybody sneezed at our dinner table, my dad would usually say, "Don't point your face, it might be LOADED!"



So one day my first-grade teacher sneezed and I gamely said, "Don't point your face, it might be LOADED!" I expected that my comment would be warmly received, but not so. I got sent to the office of Mr. O'Rourke, the Principal, who called my parents in and made me repeat the awful thing I had said to my teacher.

It was the first of my many trips to his office.

## MUSIC CLASS

Miss Mueller, our music teacher, never spoke to us. She only sang. In fact, she sang everything, including "Welcome class, please sit down." One day when I was walking past Mr. O'Rourke's office, I saw that Miss Mueller was in there speaking with him . . . not singing! I told my pals, who rolled their eyes. Did I really think she never talked? Was I that stupid? Yes, apparently I was.

## GYM CLASS

I forget most of what we did in gym class. Mostly, I remember that our teacher was Glyn Fowler, who later became Superintendent of Schools. He cared for all of us deeply. He really changed my life.



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### AIR RAID DRILLS

In those days, everybody seemed to be afraid that the Russians were going to attack us with nuclear-armed missiles. We had two kinds of air raid drills. In one version, you bent over and stuck your head under your desk. (Proven to be effective against nuclear attack.) In another, we went out and lay down in the hallway, while carefully placing one arm underneath our eyes and the other across the nape of our neck. I have since learned that some kids found those drills troubling. I didn't. They made me think that my school was taking care of me.

### THE BIKE ROOM

In those days, there was a bike storage room near the north entrance to the school. Sixth-graders could ride their bikes to school and park them inside. It was a privilege, and it made me feel special to wheel up on my Schwinn.

### THE PATROLS

In sixth grade I got to join the Patrols, which was what the crossing guards were called. We got a white safety belt with a cross-strap that went across your chest. Every Friday, I scrubbed my belt with Ivory soap and a fingernail brush and let it dry over the weekend. I was so proud.

My pal, David Margulies, and I were partnered up and we served as crossing guards at the same crosswalks. A retired man, Luigi Peduto, was always there to keep an eye on us. Dave and I loved him, and with reason. He told us amazing stories about what it had been like to be a prisoner of war after World War I, when the only water he got to drink was the water he could collect in his hat on rainy days. We would take him the thickest sticks we could find and no matter how big they were, he would break them in half like they were pencils. Another wonderful adult I met thanks to Yantacaw.

That story illustrates that although a lot of my experiences at Yantacaw were funny, most of them had to do with being cared for and loved. I think that is still what going to elementary school in Nutley is all about today. ■

*Schedule a tour or event at the Nutley Museum. For school groups and private museum tours, please call Kerry Flynn, caretaker, at 973-667-1528, or Suzanne Hagert at 973-667-4270. The Nutley Historical Society is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to serve the educational, cultural, and historical needs of our community.*



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# Getting Ready for Baby from Childbirth Preparation to Infant Care: Clara Maas Medical Center Has You Covered

By Dr. Michael Straker



Dr. Michael Straker

Having a baby is one of life's most exciting experiences—and, for first-timers, the prospect may also be a bit intimidating. That's where Clara Maass Medical Center (CMMC) steps in, with a range of Parent Education Programs to help answer every question.

"It's important for the community to have access to the information they need in order to have a healthy, happy pregnancy and childbirth," says Michael Straker, MD, Director of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at CMMC. "It's especially valuable to find out about the childbirth experience at the hospital where you're going to deliver."

## WHEN, WHERE, AND HOW

Tours of CMMC's state-of-the-art labor, delivery, and recovery unit are offered on the first Sunday of each month. The unit houses six contemporary suites with private bathrooms and showers.

Expectant parents can also get ready for the big day by attending the Preparing for Childbirth class, which discusses available birth options as well as offering practice in birthing skills. Children ages 3 and up can enjoy the Welcome Baby! Sibling Program. Each month, a Breastfeeding Workshop, run by a Certified Lactation Consultant, offers reassurance about breastfeeding and the knowledge needed to establish it successfully. "We are here to assist in meeting your goals," Dr. Straker notes. "The child isn't born knowing how to breastfeed, and breastfeeding is not intuitive for the mom. It's important for parents to have access to support and information about breastfeeding techniques." After the baby is born,

CMMC's "Warm Line" (973-450-2868) is available 24 hours a day for parents to leave questions about breastfeeding, which will be answered by a Certified Lactation Consultant as soon as possible.

Whether pre- or post-birth, parents and caregivers can attend an Infant Massage and/or an Infant Care class to help them navigate a whole range of baby basics. Infant massage is a proven way to improve a baby's sleep and digestion, and to reduce stress for both parents and babies.

## ADVICE EVERYWHERE

Expert advice from healthcare providers can be a useful balance for the flood of advice that expectant and new parents tend to get.

Dr. Straker advises his patients to take advantage of all information sources available to them, with one caveat: "Don't necessarily take someone's advice or what you read as gospel," he says. "They are giving you their own experience, but that won't necessarily be your experience. That's why you have healthcare providers—to be the resource you need for your particular situation."

"As a parent of two children of my own, I tell my patients that babies don't come with instruction manuals," he says. "But you will figure out what works for you and your child." ■

**Registration is required for all Parent Education Programs. To learn more and to register, call 1-888-724-7123 or visit [www.rwjbh.org/maternity](http://www.rwjbh.org/maternity). Dr. Michael Straker is an OB/GYN in Nutley.**





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