

JUNE 2021

A community magazine serving the residents of Nutley

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**Hats Off to the Class of 2021  
and All the Educators!**



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## Letter to Residents

## It's a Wrap!

In the early 20th century, directors would use that phrase to mean that the filming was over, and the footage was ready to go to post production.

I always think of that phrase at the close of another school year, especially when the high school seniors graduate and move on to the next phases in their lives. "It's a wrap" also carries the idea that things were done well; the director would only move to the next stage of the film-making process if he was satisfied with the results.

But the big difference between a movie set and real life are the variables. A movie script outlines all the elements: dialogue, actions, settings.

But here, in Nutley in 2021, students and educators have no script. Our world has been in a constant state of change as we look for ways to navigate through a pandemic.

This month, we bring the words of some of the graduating seniors to you as they give us a little snapshot of their last year in school here. You will see some of their sadness and frustration as well as their hope.

Several educators have shared their thoughts about teaching in a pandemic. Most commendable is their steadfast resolve to impact the lives of the students.

While none of us have been in the most ideal situation in over a year, it's inspiring to know that our town has continued to maintain high standards in education while keeping students safe.

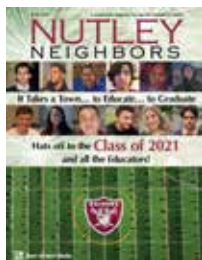
We are all hoping that we can return to the normalcy of following a script soon, but until then, we will continue to improvise the scenes, and even invent new ways of moving through this.

As we say "It's a wrap" to the graduating seniors, let's all keep in mind that we are making history. In a pretty amazing way, the high school classes of the future will study the pandemic and see how we handled things.

Together, we will direct Nutley's future, one scene at a time.



**Joyce Corey** Content Coordinator



**ON THE COVER, TOP ROW:** Anish Kumar, Jordan Greene, Amanda Gibney, Zain Abbas, Liamarith Gil, Peter Lim.

**SECOND ROW:** Salvatore Verlingo, Meghan Tran, Taylor Carnell, Edward Schaefer, Samantha Daly, Suvrat Dwivedi. **BOTTOM:** A socially distanced photo of the Class of 2021 at the Oval!



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153 Ridge Rd	\$675,000	\$580,000	148
15 Chestnut St	\$794,900	\$750,000	139
163 Mountainview Ave	\$379,500	\$396,000	10
5 Montclair Ave	\$344,900	\$360,000	57
53 Weston St	\$519,999	\$497,500	93
63 Prospect St	\$459,000	\$455,000	28
102 E Centre St	\$349,900	\$360,000	33
355 Prospect St	\$825,000	\$780,000	77
14 Bayard St	\$645,000	\$600,000	57
102 Stratford Dr	\$370,000	\$370,000	26
41 Hillside Ave	\$525,000	\$560,000	30
211 Swathmore Dr	\$477,700	\$475,000	27
21 Freeman Pl	\$629,900	\$615,000	42
107 Myrtle Ave	\$442,500	\$475,000	17
105 Walnut St	\$390,000	\$425,000	20
189 Highfield Ln	\$759,900	\$780,000	21
58 Newman Ave	\$399,900	\$410,000	14
464 Hartford Dr	\$469,000	\$449,000	10
111 Wilson St	\$549,945	\$549,945	5
23 Burnett Pl	\$639,900	\$675,000	11
169 Oak Ridge Ave	\$459,900	\$520,000	17
29 Race St	\$370,000	\$370,000	4
280 Centre St	\$369,000	\$430,000	21
557 Bloomfield Ave	\$349,000	\$375,000	20



**Median List Price** \$459,000  
**Median Sale Price** \$475,000  
**Median Days on Market** 21

SOURCE: GSMLS DATA

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- 202 Chatfield Dr., Pequannock | \$295,000
- 5A W 19th St., Weehawken | \$640,000

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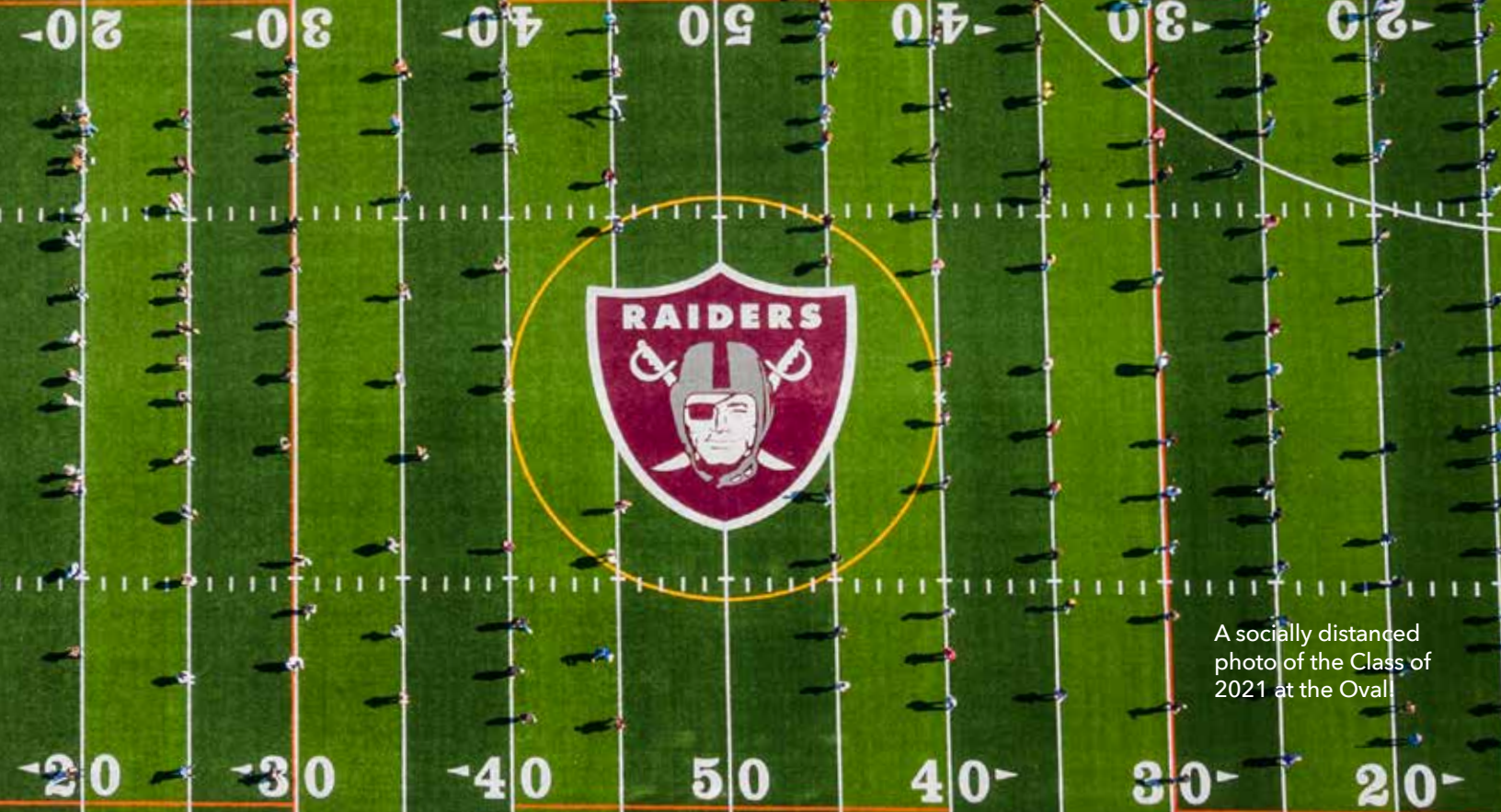
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A socially distanced photo of the Class of 2021 at the Oval

## Feature Story

# It Takes a Town ... to Educate ... to Graduate Hats Off to the **Class of 2021** and All the Educators!

By Joyce Corey

**H**ats off (but masks up!) to the Class of 2021 and all the educators!

While this past year has been called *unprecedented*, *unparalleled*, and just plain *unusual*, let's take a few minutes to acknowledge how our town has continued to maintain high standards in education while keeping students safe.

Nutley's high school seniors will not only be graduating and taking their places in educational institutions and employment opportunities, but they have also earned a place in history.

The Class of 2021 has overcome challenges that no one expected as the world battles a virus that has claimed lives and changed the very way we live.

I asked several of Nutley's graduating seniors to share their thoughts on how the pandemic affected their year, to describe their most memorable moment and difficult challenge, and to tell us about their future plans.



### ■ ZAIN ABBAS

This year has been nothing less than a roller coaster ride for me and my family as I lost my maternal grandfather to COVID in June 2020. However, the pain and agony were reconciled as I was accepted to five universities where I applied. For me, the most memorable moment was when I received the first acceptance from Columbia College in Chicago. But due to virtual school and COVID restrictions, I was not fully able to celebrate this accomplishment the way I always thought I would. I have now almost made my final decisions for my college plans and am looking forward to the future.

I would like to share with the upcoming seniors that it is always good to apply to a lot of colleges and universities and then wait and make the decision accordingly. Sometimes, acceptance from a low-ranking university also boosts your self-esteem which is good for your confidence in the future. I want to say that the Nutley School district has been extremely helpful and supportive in everything

in terms of academics and faculty. I will always miss NHS wherever I go!

#### ■ Jordan Greene

Being a senior in Nutley High School has definitely been a challenge throughout the year. As a student athlete, having school events canceled and sports seasons shortened have made it difficult for it to be an enjoyable year. Despite this, there have been times where I was able to feel a sense of happiness. For example, I have been able to both teach and help people in our community by writing articles about injustice in our world, tutoring younger students, and sharing great conversations with my fellow students in different clubs.

After my high school career is over, I plan to attend a prestigious four-year university, perfect my writing, and become the best athlete to my ability, and then become a great journalist where I can affect many people around the world with what I put on paper. I plan to be very successful and a person who is looked up to for having lots of courage, intelligence, charisma, and love for those who promote the things in the world that deserves recognition.



#### ■ Salvatore Verlingo

St. Mary High School

My senior year has been very different from the last few years. Remote learning has had its ups and downs. I've enjoyed the extra time to sleep and not rush to get to school in the morning, but I have missed the interaction with my friends and teachers. Although it was a different kind of learning, it gave me extra time to complete my college applications and all that goes with deciding on my future plans. I'm already looking forward to September.

I have received the Presidential Scholarship to attend and play baseball at New Jersey City University. I will be attending NJCU to pursue a career in business accounting and finance. I am excited to play baseball with the NJCU Gothic Knights and look forward to building new friendships with my teammates and coaches. I will be living on campus and exploring everything that college has to offer.



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### ■ Salvatore Mainiero

Our class has missed out on a lot of fun activities like Senior Cruise, the fashion show, Decathlon, Powder Puff, and others. Wrestling, which I thought wasn't going to happen actually did, and I am thankful for that. My nephew, Vinnie, was born. He was the highlight of staying home from school.

One of my biggest challenges was virtual learning from home. My biggest accomplishment was staying focused and training for wrestling season. After graduation, I will be taking the fire department exam and also want to become an electrician or plumber; I haven't decided yet.

I never thought that I would be upset about not being in school for a year, but I did miss everything that came with it. But it didn't stop me from hanging with my friends. I made sure of that.



prom and the senior cruise.

One of my most memorable moments is being the senior boys coxswain for the Nutley Crew team, as I love the sport and all the rowers that I get to share a boat with. After graduating from Nutley High School, I will be attending Misericordia University in Dallas, Pennsylvania. There I will be in the occupational therapy program, and in six years will be graduating with a doctorate in occupational therapy.

I would like to share my never-ending gratitude to all the teachers and coaches I have had at Nutley High and say a huge congrats to all of my fellow graduates because while we didn't have a traditional high school experience, we still did it!

### ■ Samantha Daly

Being in high school during the pandemic is definitely a struggle for all grades but especially the senior class. Everything that we have looked forward to during our early high school years is no longer possible.

Even though we have not been able to have the full high school experience, there were still memorable moments. School sports were still happening which at least gave the seniors the ability to get on the field or court one more time.

The most memorable moment would have to be all the college acceptances and making important decisions about our future. Even though the pandemic is still happening, the seniors were still able to enjoy parts of high school. I plan on majoring in pre-veterinary medicine in the future and hope to continue to be involved with the community at my school like I have been all these years in Nutley.



### ■ Edward Schaefer

For the most part, my senior year has been good even with all the lockdowns. It has worked out well because, despite many of the problems that I've faced as a result, I've remained resolute and determined to succeed throughout the year.

Applying for college is tough, but my friends and family have

motivated me to continue to move forward and keep going. One of the main things I've learned over the past year is that if people have your back you will push through anything that destiny can throw at you. That is the real value of the people around you.

### ■ Amanda Gibney

This pandemic has had a pretty big impact on my senior year. It is hard not being able to see my friends as much as normal, and not being able to celebrate our last high school year together with events such as a normal



### ■ Isabella Rovito

The pandemic has essentially robbed my classmates and their senior year. We all worked so hard freshman, sophomore, and junior year but were held back from all the events that were at the end of the road.

Online learning is especially hard to be engaged in when you have a big comfy bed to lay in. Another challenge I had was getting



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my peers to be excited and participate. As student body president, I felt this was my job. But with the past year and a half filled with constant let-downs, I completely understand why classmates are already checked into the next parts of their lives.

In the fall, I plan to attend Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton for a degree in exercise science and health promotion. I then plan to attend a physical therapy school with a focus in pediatrics. I have very bittersweet feelings about leaving Nutley but nonetheless, I am very thankful for the past 13 years as a Nutley student. I want to congratulate all my classmates on their future plans and wish them nothing but success! Go Raiders!

#### ■ Meghan Tran

The pandemic has left the senior class with a lot of unmade memories. However, we find our own ways to make them. The most memorable moment of my senior year was actually having a marching band season, even though we didn't get to compete this year. Just being on the field surrounded by my band family was more than what I could have asked for during this crazy time.



My biggest accomplishment was applying to college and getting into one of the hardest schools I applied to. I committed to said school and it was the proudest I've ever been of myself. Even though I don't have much time left at NHS, I will always remember it as the place where I became the person I am today.



#### ■ Suvrat Dwivedi

It's unimaginable how rapidly social distancing went from being an expression that a few individuals had never heard to one that is reshaped all over social media, on the news, and in private conversations multiple times a day. The phrase, social distancing, became a huge part of our everyday lives including our time spent in

school. Our senior year of high school was constrained due to all the pandemic regulations.

The most memorable part of my senior year was working on the college application process. There were a lot of challenges through this pandemic, but where there's bad, there's always good nearby. I was able to take advantage of all the time spent at home to learn new skills, start a business, and grow as a person. These new skills will aid me in my next steps as my high school journey concludes, and the next chapter begins. I plan on studying finance and going along the path of Wall Street for the next four years and the foreseeable future.

#### ■ Veronica Helms

My most memorable moment of my senior year was going back into the high school for hybrid learning. Though it is different for many, the atmosphere is still the same at Nutley High School; students of different grades all talking together about how nice it is to be back in the building and seeing their teachers in person.

#### ■ Peter Lim

I could never imagine my senior year to be like this. I had everything planned out since junior year. I took classes in subjects that I thought would be relaxing, but engaging, like culinary and robotics. However, as COVID kept me glued to my seat with a computer screen and my home desk, I couldn't help but feel helpless during this time. Nevertheless, I still tried to enjoy as much as I could, using any chance I got to go back to school and do something.

I am extremely grateful I could make a robot for the Robotics Club, a passion of mine. It was challenging and definitely not a walk in the park, however, it was so far my most memorable moment in senior year. When it comes to the biggest challenge this year, I have one more task to leave this school with: painting a mural for the tech room.



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I want to leave something for Mr. Campbell and for this school year.

I hope to succeed in college and pursue whatever career calls me. The future will be bright, even if COVID makes everything feel so bleak. Although this year has been terrible for us seniors, we still can make the most of what we have. We are lucky to live in such a wonderful community in Nutley.

#### ■ Chris Carnovale

The four years of high school that we, the Class of 2021, experienced have been truly unprecedented. The pandemic has led to us facing so many challenges that I could never have imagined, not even in my wildest dreams. Although it has been tough not getting the "normal" junior and senior year events that many look forward to, I feel like it has better prepared me for going into college and life as a whole.

Throughout my time at Nutley High School, I've had the chance to learn from some of the best teachers whose lessons go way beyond the four walls of the classroom and formed friendships that I hope last a lifetime. If given the opportunity to change how these last two years have played out, would I? Yes, but there's no way to do so and the only thing we can do is better prepare ourselves for the unknown of our future endeavors. I will always be grateful for my experience at Nutley High.



#### ■ Anish Kumar

This past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented many challenges for everyone around the world. I am pleased by the resiliency and dedication that everyone showed in keeping the community safe. Social distancing and masking have become a large part of our daily lives, and they have shaped the way we live

in many ways. I want to thank my teachers, counselor, principals, coaches, and school faculty for helping me grow as an individual and for providing me with the support I needed both before and during the pandemic.

Our senior year was different because we could not meet with each other, as classes were virtual, and many activities were canceled. My most memorable moment of senior

year was opening my college decisions letters. Throughout the pandemic, I spent my time doing what I love, from singing songs in different languages to reading more about current events in the world. After high school, I plan on studying finance and international relations in college. After my education, I want to get a job in the banking industry. Looking forward, I will use the skills, knowledge, and experiences I gained throughout my high school career to guide me throughout my life.



#### ■ LoriAnne O'Connor

My senior year has been tough. Between trying to learn virtually, not seeing classmates and friends in person, trying to commit to a college, applying for scholarships, and slowly losing the motivation to continue up with my schoolwork, I would say it has been a pretty rough year. However, it wasn't all bad.

The most cherished memory from this year was the chance to play my last season of varsity softball for the Nutley Raiders. Because I didn't get the opportunity to play as a junior, I was excited to play, especially now as a senior captain. I also plan on continuing my love for the sport in college as I am now committed to Fairleigh Dickinson University to study sports management and play Division I softball!

I thank everyone who has supported me through this challenging year, and I wish all my classmates the best as they continue to strive in college!

#### ■ Taylor Carnell

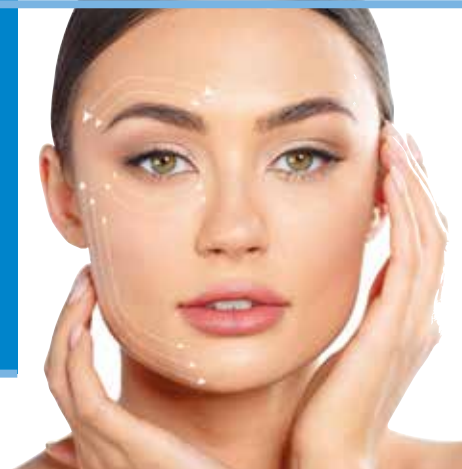
The pandemic has made it especially difficult to have a normal high school career. Trying to manage classes, clubs, and college applications all from my desk at home has definitely been a challenge but it has made me appreciate every moment I was able to be in person at school. Despite the challenges, I still did my best to enjoy the rest of high school by



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organizing virtual and in-person events, when possible, with the student council. After high school I will be attending Kean University and working towards a degree in public administration to benefit my community locally and nationally after high school.

#### ■ Liamarith Gil

Everyone believes they have life all figured out or knows exactly what they're doing in life, but to be completely honest, I don't. I have a mere trail in the middle of



the forest to guide me to my final destination. Such a trail that any small misstep or carelessness will end me lost in this enormous forest we call life. This trail consists of certain rest stops to keep me pushing, goals to show my hard work is for something. What are these goals you ask? There are many, both big and small, but the greatness starts once I graduate high school and go into the real world.

I am enlisted in the military and one of my biggest goals is to pass Basic Combat Training (BCT) and Advanced Individual Training (AIT). Once I graduate from those two training sessions, which I know I can, I will apply to West Point. This is a prestigious military academy in New York, and I want to study medicine, I don't know what aspect of it, but I know I want to save lives. That is the mere trail I have in this forest; it seems easy to get there but so hard. ■

# Nutley's First Responders in Education

By Joyce Corey

**N**ot one of the educators in town envisioned themselves teaching during a pandemic.

Yet, each one of them has risen to the challenge, adapted to the changes, and held to the vision of creating a culture of learning.

Nutley's teachers remained true to their profession despite the uncertainty of the times.

As the Class of 2021 graduates and leaves the local high school, a few teachers offered their thoughts on this past year.

#### ■ Christopher Rosati

##### World History, Archaeology Teacher

It was a real challenge because part of teaching is the social interactions between students and between the teacher and the students. So, in a sense, an important aspect to teaching was missing. However, the Nutley students are really brave and have worked hard to make the best of it. As a teacher, I am proud of their reaction to a tough situation. Over the long term, this is not the ideal situation but, for now, Nutley is really making it work.

#### ■ Jessica Lemire

##### English Teacher

##### Class of 2022 Advisor

Teaching during a pandemic is one of the most interesting (and hardest) things I've had to do in my career, but it's also given me a chance to reimagine what schools and learning can and should look like. It's forced us to evaluate all of our practices and demands that we pay more attention to accessibility and equity for all stakeholders.

#### ■ Mr. Gulardo

##### NHS Culinary Arts Teacher

Congratulations to the parents, teachers, and students of the Class of 2021 for continually adapting and finding a way to succeed during the strangest school year of our time! The best is yet to come!

#### ■ Mr. Joseph D. Simko

##### NHS Biology Teacher

I think the keys to teaching through this pandemic have been adaptability, flexibility, and a positive outlook. It hasn't been easy, but the successes we have achieved are evidence of the strength and character of this learning community. ■



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# Let's Welcome the First Female Commander of Nutley VFW Post 493

By Joyce Corey

History is being made right here in Nutley this month as Maria Hamlin becomes the first female Commander of VFW Post 493. She accepts this position with gratitude and welcomes the responsibilities that come along with it.

"In the past, I served as Post Adjutant, and I wanted to become more involved in the day-to-day operations of our VFW," she said. "The way the process works is nominations of post officers occur in March and remain open until the post members vote in April."

After receiving the majority of votes, Maria was elected Commander. In this role, she will be conducting the meetings as well as performing all the duties associated with this office.

"I will be responsible for ensuring, enforcing, and upholding the VFW by-laws and standards," she explains. "I will be responsible for day-to-day operations, budget,



Chief Master Sergeant Maria Hamlin

appointment of committee members, and working to form great relationships and partnerships with all our veterans and our community."

Maria is more than prepared for this position since her career path has been steadily moving herself forward. As a retired police officer, veteran, and Chief Master Sergeant of the United States Air Force, she has committed her life to serving others.

"As a teenager, I knew that I wanted to become a police officer and serve in the military," she said. "I wanted to be a part of something bigger than me, and I also wanted to be a positive role model for my children and for others. I chose these career paths to help people and truly work to make a difference in my community and in this world."

Perhaps one of her most important titles is Mother to Alyse, Andre, Aaron, Aiden, and Alexis. Along with Dad, Herb, the family lives here in town and has been involved in the community.

"My husband, Herb, is an active member and officer with the Nutley VFW Post 493," she said. "I also belong to the Nutley Rotary, the Nutley Cultural Inclusion and Diversity

*Randall Kenneth*  
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Council, and the Nutley Irish American Association."

As she looks toward the future, she talks about some of the goals and expectations she has for Post 493.

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars is a truly diverse organization, and we knew we needed leadership and membership that represents that diversity in Nutley. I am proud to say that we have the most diverse group of officers that our post has ever seen. Our goal is to recruit new members and to retain and mentor our existing members. We also look to bridge the gap between our older and younger veterans. For us to be successful, we need to be transparent and be effective communicators. We will continue to work with our veterans and our community and will build upon our relationships with our community leaders. We want our community to know that we are here to support them and want to thank all the veterans and officers who have given their time to



*The family at Christmas: Aaron, Maria, and Alexis. Sitting: Aiden and Herb*

support us. I am genuinely excited about the future of this organization and the direction in which it is headed!"

Being selected as the first female Commander is a history-making moment, and Maria Hamlin is well qualified for this position.

"It is an honor to be given this responsibility," she said. "I am grateful that our members believe in my leadership capabilities and look forward to working with everyone to do some great things here." ■

For more information on the Stuart E. Edgar Post 493 located at 271 Washington Avenue Nutley, NJ 07110, please call 973-235-9661, email [vfwpost493nutley@gmail.com](mailto:vfwpost493nutley@gmail.com) or visit their new website <https://vfw493.org>



*Aiden, Andre, Alyse, Aaron and Alexis*

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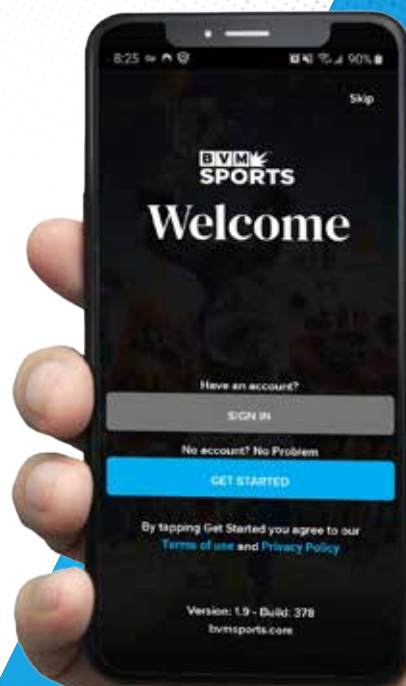
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# Nutley Family Service Bureau Brings Back Rock Hunger Benefit

*Submitted by Emma Cortese, Board of Trustees*

Nutley will be rockin' on June 5th for the Nutley Family Service Bureau's Rock Hunger IV live band extravaganza! The fundraiser is the brainchild of Dave Popkin, currently the chair of the Development Committee and a Vice President on the Board of Trustees. In 2017, after learning about the ever-present needs of the newly established NFSB Food Pantry, Dave conceived the event and organized it with Eileen Painter, then Executive Director. As a professional sportscaster and event promoter/owner of Hilltop Management by day, band singer by night, it was a natural fit!

The first Rock Hunger was such a success, that it since has been brought back annually, except for last year's cancellation due to the pandemic. In the successive years it has morphed into a township happening. There's a back story here: it could not have evolved into a powerhouse event were it not for the generosity and commitment of many Nutley locals.

Old Canal Inn owner Mark Conca again is donating his venue, as he has done since the initial concert in 2017. The entertainment kicking off that first benefit included The Attic, Madison Gerish, Roe Knows Best, a Nutley solo performer, and the local group Almost Original Swampgrass Jug Band joining in the second year. By 2019 two more Nutley connected bands stepped up. The Sticky Wickets, originated by Nutley High School buddies in the 1980's, is performing, with band drummer Denis Williams, Principal at Nutley High School. The Drunk Uncles, a returning band with Nutley roots which has played solo fundraisers for NFSB, includes Augie Mustardo, Tony Nowikowski, Tom Mcglone, and Shane Miller. This year's lineup additionally features The Adventures of Matte Black, with Madison Gerish and Daniel Skinner, who have performed previously at NFSB benefits.

Popkin, member in two of this year's participating bands, The Attic and The Porch Rockers, relates that, "Rock Hunger has been a labor of love for many of us. This event is a joyful thing because it's local musicians donating their

time and talent to raise funds and awareness for a wonderful cause. NFSB is needed now more than ever. I've always been inspired by the work of Bruce Springsteen, Jon Bon Jovi, Bill Ayres of WhyHunger, and others who use music to tackle food insecurity, so this is my way to join that fight."

Katherine Carmichael, Executive Director, comments, "NFSB is a unique non-profit in that its mission, to strengthen the emotional and social well-being of individuals and families through affordable mental health counseling and social service programs, is supported in so many ways by the community we serve. NFSB's motto, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, is exemplified especially in being able to bring Rock Hunger to fruition."

Expect a heavy dose of classic rock, punk, soul, folk, and more at Rock Hunger IV, which will be an outdoor show with masks required and limited capacity to comply with CDC guidelines. Cash bar and chance for prizes available. Proceeds benefit NFSB programs including the Food Pantry. ■

Visit [www.nutleyfamily.org/rock-hunger/](http://www.nutleyfamily.org/rock-hunger/) for more information.

*Kimberley A. Donohoe*

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# Adopt Us!

Submitted by Yellow Brick Road Rescue NJ



**H**eidi is a special needs 1-year-old female. She is very sweet and would make the perfect addition to any family without young children since she does play bite and she can't be roughed around with. She loves to purr and snuggle. Heidi made her way here from Texas in 2020 when she was eight weeks old. Over the past year, her stiffness has progressed and she can no longer jump or climb stairs. She has seen neurologists and her brain MRI is normal as well as all other tests. They think she was injured at birth and this is her "normal" or it's degenerative. Since she has progressed, we are leaning towards degenerative which means she can still live up to 10 years. An ideal home for her would be one without stairs. She needs to be bathed often since she falls over in her litter box. Minus her walking issues she is completely healthy. She is one of the sweetest cats, craves human attention, and is dog and cat friendly. She is microchipped, FIV/FelV negative, stool tested negative, dewormed, UTD on vaccines, and will be spayed. \$100 adoption fee and application apply.

To apply for Heidi visit [www.yellowbrickroadrescueenj.com/cat-adoption-application/](http://www.yellowbrickroadrescueenj.com/cat-adoption-application/) or email us at [yellowbrickroadnj@gmail.com](mailto:yellowbrickroadnj@gmail.com)

Submitted by Jersey Pits Rescue Inc

**D**oc is still looking for his forever home! He was featured here last month but we are reaching out again. He is an 18-month-old Cane Corso (mix?) who was surrendered to our local animal control facility due to landlord issues. He is 150 pounds of puppy



goofiness. Even though he is the size of a mini horse, he is so sweet and a big sensitive baby. We have not formally dog tested him yet as he needs time to decompress, but he hasn't shown any reactivity or aggression towards other dogs in passing. Meet and greets are always required.

All applicants for Doc must have breed experience or XL breed experience. Applicants must have a fenced yard and be willing to provide him with daily structured exercise and work with him on basic training manners. A household where everyone is 14 and over would be best. At an absolute minimum, all our animals are fully vaccinated, altered, and chipped prior to adoption. ■

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# Get Ready for Tales (and Tails!) During the Nutley Public Library's 2021 Summer Reading Program

By Deidra Garcia, Head of Youth Services



The Nutley Public Library invites the entire Nutley community to participate in the Summer Reading Program beginning on June 1, 2021. 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 for all ages. This year's theme, *Tails & Tales*, explores stories and facts about the many types of animals on this planet, from exotic beasts to working animals to beloved family pets.

Babies, children, and teens who register for the program will receive a sign-up bag, and upon completion of the program, a mystery prize bag. Participants of all ages will also earn raffle tickets as they hit reading milestones. 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 prizes in the children, teen, and adult categories include a Nintendo Switch Lite, a Fujifilm photo printer, a Fire HD 8 tablet, gift cards to local businesses, book bundles, and a family membership to Turtle Back Zoo.

Registration, logging reading milestones, and submitting raffle tickets will be completed online at [nutleypubliclibrary.beanstack.org](http://nutleypubliclibrary.beanstack.org).

The 2021 Summer Reading Program will also include a variety of virtual and in-person programs for all ages. Events include craft programs, story times, DIY maker workshops, live performances, cooking programs, a summer-long reading bingo, and more. This summer, library visitors can also enjoy special outdoor displays on the library grounds and donate goods to a local animal group. Volunteer opportunities for teens will also be available.

Beginning June 1, residents can register online at [nutleypubliclibrary.beanstack.org](http://nutleypubliclibrary.beanstack.org). The Summer Reading Program will officially kick-off on Saturday, June 26 from 11am-2pm with a drive-up/walk-up event where patrons can pick up their sign-up bag and a sweet treat outside the library. The program will end on August 12 with a virtual performance by Rizzo's Wildlife World and the live 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. The library would also like to thank the library board members, district school educators, high school volunteers, and community members for their continued support. ■

For additional information, please visit [www.nutleypubliclibrary.org](http://www.nutleypubliclibrary.org), call 973-667-0405 ext. 2623, or email Deidra Garcia at [deidra.garcia@nutley.bccls.org](mailto:deidra.garcia@nutley.bccls.org). Give us a call at 973-667-0405 x2604 or stop by the Reference Desk during our in-person hours.



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# Art is Blooming This June!

By Michelle Palmer

Summer is almost here, but our hearts are already warm from all the love and beauty coming from these children's masterpieces.

Charlie is celebrating his 10th birthday this month! He had stopped drawing before the pandemic's restrictions, but because he was inside so much this past year, he decided to start up again. His artwork is amazing. This dragon drawing highlights his dedication to his art and strength. His sketch will certainly be a treasure to save for many years to come.

Louie, age 11, has a love of Marvel and the Marvel Cinematic Universe. He created his own superhero with lightning as his special power. His name is pronounced like the word 'ion' which adds science to his creativity.

Three-year-old Ryan loves superheroes! He made this Captain America shield for his room. He cut the little pieces, painted, glued the star, and added glitter glue to make it sparkle



Ryan's shiny and mighty Captain America shield



Happy birthday to Charlie the artist!



Louie's own superhero

## Kids Corner

like Captain America's "mighty shield."

Aside from being an avid fan of Legos, David, age 5, has shown a unique interest in drawing. He deeply focuses on his artwork, precisely selecting colors and structure.

His favorite approach is to watch YouTube Kids on how to draw and color figures, and then he mirrors that from scratch. His parents created a showcase gallery on a wall which brings smiles and joy to everyday life, and certainly makes David very proud of his accomplishments! His drawings have brought his unique talents to life and brightened up the holidays during difficult times.

Three-year-old Dylan brought spring to life with his adorable coloring. His artistic skills are very impressive, and his duck drawing will make many people smile. ■

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](mailto:jcorey@bestversionmedia.com)



David's artistic accomplishments!



Dylan's colorful celebration of spring

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# EVENTS CALENDAR JUNE

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.

## June 1, 15, Tue.

### Board of Commissioners Meeting

@virtual event

The regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Commissioners will take place via Zoom webinar for 2021.

Time: 7pm

For more information visit [www.nutleynj.org/board-of-commissioners](http://www.nutleynj.org/board-of-commissioners)

## June 1, Tue.

### Teen Advisory Board Meeting

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Dr.

The Teen Advisory Board of the Nutley Public Library is designed to allow teens to incorporate themselves within the library through actively engaging in the development and participation of library events and programs for all teens of the community. Members have an opportunity to provide real leadership and service to their local library and, by extension, to other teens in their community by having their voices heard!

Time: 5:30-6:30pm

For more information visit

[www.teenservices.nutleypubliclibrary.org/volunteers/](http://www.teenservices.nutleypubliclibrary.org/volunteers/)

## June 1-30, Tue.-Wed.

### Teen Sewing Workshop – Backpack Tags

@virtual event from Nutley Public Library

For teens entering grades 6-12 in Fall 2021. Pick up a sewing project kit each month and learn how to sew from the comfort of your own home. Perfect for all skill levels. Video link will be shared via email each month.

For more information and to register visit [www.teenservices.nutleypubliclibrary.org/programs/](http://www.teenservices.nutleypubliclibrary.org/programs/)

## June 2, 19, 30 Wed., June 3, 17 Thurs.

### Food Pantry Distribution

@Nutley Family Service Bureau, 169 Chestnut St.

For information or to schedule an eligibility appointment call 973-667-1884. All calls and appointments are confidential. Time: 2-5pm Wed., 10am-1pm Thurs.

For more information visit

[www.nutleyfamily.org/food-pantry/](http://www.nutleyfamily.org/food-pantry/)

## June 5, Sat.

### Rock Hunger IV – A Concert to Benefit Nutley Family Service Bureau

@Old Canal Inn, 2 East Passaic Ave.

Back by popular demand! Rock 'n soul band, The Attic, returns for their fourth Rock Hunger benefit concert and they will be joined by The Adventures of Matte Black, The Sticky Wickets, Drunk Uncles, and The Porch Rockers.

The show will begin at 1pm. This year's event will be held outdoors, and public health COVID-19 protocols will be followed. There will be a cash bar and food service available. All attendees will be entered into drawings for terrific door prizes. The rain date is June 6. All proceeds will benefit NFSB programs and services, including the Food Pantry. The Pantry currently provides support to over 350 households, reflecting an increase in need due to the pandemic.

Time: 1pm

Cost: \$25 (advance ticket purchase online is recommended due to limited capacity)

For more information about the event or sponsorship packages, call

973-667-1884 or visit

[www.nutleyfamily.org/rock-hunger/](http://www.nutleyfamily.org/rock-hunger/)

## June 15, Tue.

### DIY – Summer Floral Wreath

@virtual event from Nutley Public Library

In this virtual (Zoom) program, learn how floral wreaths are designed and assembled. Then, with virtual guidance, create your own floral masterpiece. All supplies are included.

Time: 7pm

For more information and to register visit [www.nutleypubliclibrary.org/diy-summer-floral-wreath/](http://www.nutleypubliclibrary.org/diy-summer-floral-wreath/)

## June 26, Sat.

### 2021 Summer Reading Program Kick-Off

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Dr.

Stop by the library grounds and pick up a goodie bag and sweet treat when you register for the Summer Reading Program! This is a drive-up/walk-up event on library grounds.

Time: 11am-2pm

For more information about this program and to register visit [www.nutleypubliclibrary.org/spring-into-reading/](http://www.nutleypubliclibrary.org/spring-into-reading/)



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