

JUNE 2022

A community magazine serving the residents of Nutley

NUTLEY NEIGHBORS



Say Hello – and
Ciao! – to the
Marucci Family!

Cathy and Dan Marucci

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Photography



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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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A Let's-Do List!

I'm sure you all have a 'to-do' list; but how about making a 'let's-do' list?

Let's be honest. If your to-do list is anything like mine, it's boring. Schedule an oil change for the car. Wash the dog. Clean out the attic.

But a let's-do list is a lot more fun. I was thinking about this when I interviewed our cover story family, Cathy and Dan Marucci. They are having such a wonderful time traveling and owning their own travel business.

When someone says, "I want to visit Italy," Cathy and Dan say, "Let's do it!" and set them up on an amazing trip they will always remember. But traveling isn't the only thing in their lives; there is also gourmet cooking, music, and a whole lot of old-fashioned family fun. Read their story and I am sure it will make you smile.

Have you been following all the success of the Nutley Junior Raiders? These wrestlers have said, "Let's do it!" and they are back with victories and plenty of team spirit. A big round of applause goes to the coaches who had some rescheduling to do because of the pandemic. But their optimism and determination are making this an outstanding program and you can read all about it in this issue.

Do you know what UNICO stands for? Unity, Neighborliness, Integrity, Charity, and Oppportunity. The leaders and members of this vital organization said, "Let's do it!" to all those wonderful words. And for that, we say "Bravissimo!" (I need to try out my Italian in case I book a trip with the Marucci's travel agency!)

The Nutley Public Library will be hosting its summer reading program for all ages and it's a great time to say, "Let's do it!" Not only will you get enrichment from reading, but they have some terrific prizes!

Or maybe we should all say, "Let's do it!" and thank our advertisers for bringing this magazine to our mailboxes each month?

But for now,
I really need to
get back to my
'to-do' list. That
dog is not going
to wash himself!

Joyce Corey
Content
Coordinator

Letter to Residents



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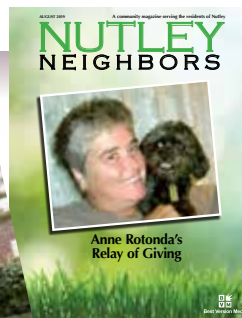
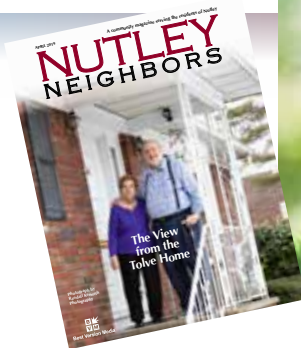
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PROPERTY ADDRESS	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE
322 Winthrop Dr.	\$499,000	\$488,000
46 Newman Ave.	\$519,000	\$490,000
83 Oak Ridge Ave.	\$649,900	\$680,000
38 Mount Vernon St.	\$349,999	\$360,000
10 Funston Pl.	\$499,900	\$525,000
374 Mount Vernon St.	\$449,900	\$525,000
44 Friedland Rd.	\$425,000	\$475,000
165 Whitford Ave.	\$729,000	\$777,000
9 Knox Pl.	\$589,000	\$615,000
110 Crestwood Ave.	\$599,999	\$680,000
131 Cedar St.	\$379,000	\$450,000
40 Oak St.	\$475,000	\$467,100
31 Terrace Ave.	\$599,900	\$650,000
283 Grant Ave.	\$530,000	\$560,000
42 Weston St.	\$399,999	\$425,000

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Median List Price	\$469,000
Median Sale Price	\$470,000
Price Difference:	1%
Median Days on Market	16

*GSMLS Data: Single Family, Condominiums/Cooperatives, Town Homes during January-April 2022



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Cathy and Dan Marucci with Lucy, their Portuguese Water Dog

Feature Story

Say Hello – and Ciao! – to the Marucci Family!

By Joyce Corey Photograph by Randall Kenneth Photography

What does Nutley and Italy have in common? You could probably name several things, but my answer is the Marucci family. Cathy and Dan love living in Nutley, but as seasoned travelers, they spend a lot of quality time in Italy.

"We've been to Italy 26 times, so obviously that's our go-to place and why we started our travel business," Cathy said.

But before we jump on the plane, let's first see how this family became Nutleyites.

"Dan and I met at a graduation party for one of his cousins," Cathy said. "A year later, we had our wedding at Baltustrol Country Club!"

Saying "I do" has a magical way of bringing the past



into the present for a future together. The couple's education, careers, talents, and interests blended to create a fun and interesting life.

"I graduated from Seton Hall University in 1973 with a degree in education, but I wound up selling pipe valves and fittings to piping contractors in the five boroughs of New York for 45 years," Dan said.

"I was Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Board of Summit Bank," Cathy said. "Then I moved on to Bank of America and U.S. Trust as Vice President where I served as manager of investment administration, support staff, and oversaw compliance processes for the metro area. I was also in the work force for 45 years."

But in 2021, they took their careers in an entirely new direction.

"We started Marucci Travel, calling on our love of travel, exploring new places, and meeting new people," Cathy said.

Marucci Travel is a home-based, independent travel agency located right here in Nutley, but Dan and Cathy are ready to help their clients visit anywhere in the world.

"Our mission is to have people return from their trip completely satisfied knowing that Marucci Travel did everything they could to put a smile on their face and make it the trip of a lifetime," Dan said.

Their success in the travel industry reflects how this couple has approached life: with an itinerary of doing fun and interesting things.

"Dan is a gourmet chef," Cathy tells us. "We had a restaurant in our home for over nine years called Grampy's Kitchen just on alternate Saturday nights. It was so popular that at one point there was a six-month backlog."

"Cathy is dedicated to her yoga and had sung in Sweet Adelines for over 20 years and can say she once sang at Carnegie Hall," Dan said. "She was also a cantor at Holy Family Church for over 20 years and is an accomplished seamstress, having started a business called Garnett Industries after learning the trade from her mother and grandmother."

Their children and grandchildren have also inherited the 'enjoy life' gene.

"We have a daughter, Chrissy, and a son, Rick," Cathy said. "And seven grandchildren!"

"Chrissy and her husband, Manuel, have three daughters, Gaby (22), Angelina (17), and Daniella (14)," Dan



Dan and Cathy have been to Italy 26 times!

said. "Chrissy is the business manager of an insurance company and Manuel operates a business that broadcasts baseball games in Spanish. He is also an amateur photographer and has a house full of action photos of all the girls."

"Our son Rick is married to Allyson, and they have four children, Lily (17), twins Caroline and Ellie (15), and son Cooper (8)," Cathy said. "Ricky is a Wall Street wiz after graduating from Cornell. Lily is hoping to follow in her father's footsteps and go to Cornell and hopefully get a soccer scholarship. Ellie and Caroline are also athletic, playing soccer and lacrosse. Cooper is trying all sports and hasn't yet settled on one but watches the Devils."

The Marucci family also includes Lucy, a Portuguese Water Dog.

"Lucy has to be the most affectionate dog we've ever had," Cathy said. "So loveable that she'll sit on your lap for hours. If she has one fault, it's that she is always putting anything in her mouth she can find and many times we have to bring her to our good friend and vet Lou Crupi!"

Dan and Cathy know that a bit of imagination and some good old-fashioned fun can lead to a different type of traveling, like when they hosted a special sports event without ever leaving their house.

"Two years ago, we were lucky to have five of our granddaughters staying with us for the weekend," Cathy said. "Dan decided to have a family Olympics as all five participate in athletics and devised various events in Boys Park and on the street. The prize was not gold, silver, and bronze medals, but a dip in Grampy's change jar. Dan has a giant jar filled with coins that he puts in every day. Whoever won the events got to grab five handfuls, second had four

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5 Things the Marucci Family Loves About Nutley

1. Italian delis
2. Friendly neighbors
3. Restaurants
4. Franklin Avenue with its old-town look
5. The care that the town commissioners take in making Nutley the perfect place to live

handfuls, third three handfuls and so on. It was fun to watch and especially fun when the girls started to count their handful of change."

While their lives together have created many wonderful memories, there was an experience that will not be forgotten for a different reason.

"We watched our house burn in a fire in 2010," Cathy said.

That defining moment highlights the resilience and hope that also lives in the Marucci home. They took comfort knowing they are all together and living



among people who truly care.

"We have lived on Hampton Place for over 30 years," Cathy said. "It's a great street where everybody knows everybody else and look out for each other. Heavy snow? No problem, we all help each other shovel snow. Somebody sick? No worries, hot soup is on its way over. On vacation? Somebody will take care of your mail and deliveries. Hampton Place is the way every neighborhood should be."

And I'm pretty sure that their *Nutley Neighbors* have high praise for Cathy and Dan as well. Whether they are in town or on another continent, the Marucci family makes you feel right at home when you meet them. ■

We are always looking for fascinating residents to feature in *Nutley Neighbors*. If you are interested in being included or would like to nominate one of your neighbors please email jcorey@bestversionmedia.com.



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Nutley Jaycees 2022 Distinguished Service Award Recipients

By David Wilson

The Nutley Chapter of the Jaycees honored the 2022 recipients of its Distinguished Service Award at a reception held on Wednesday, April 13, at the Valley Regency in Clifton.

■ EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Ian Viemeister is the Nutley Public Schools IT Systems Manager. Ian grew up in Nutley, attended Lincoln School, John H. Walker Middle School, and graduated from Nutley High School in 1995.

In 1998, as the Nutley School District was completing plans to install its first district-wide computer network and permanent internet connection, Ian was asked if he would implement and maintain the fledgling network. That network has grown from a small number of connected desktop devices to include universal wireless connectivity across all schools.



■ OUTSTANDING YOUNG ADULT

Krista Crumrine began her teaching career after graduating *summa cum laude* from Loyola University Maryland. She teaches kindergarten in Union City to a mix of English language learners and native English speakers.

Krista serves as Co-President of the Yantacaw PTO. She is active at Yantacaw School as class parent, curiosity shop volunteer, and co-chair for the Boosterthon Fun Run which raised over \$100,000.



■ PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY AWARD

Sandra "Sam" Carella arrived in Nutley in 1985 and became involved in school interests including President of the Yantacaw School PTO and Vice President for the PT Council. She joined the Nutley Municipal Alliance, Nutley Family Service Women's Auxiliary, and became a trustee on the Nutley Family



Service Bureau Executive Board.

She is in her 22nd year working in the Department of Public Safety in Nutley as Assistant to Commissioner Alphonse Petracco. Sam is responsible for overseeing budgets, personnel, civil service processing, Shovel Out Seniors, and is the point of contact for grants and funding opportunities.

■ CIVIC AFFAIRS AWARD

Thomas Evans has been a lifelong resident of the community and raised his three children here. In 2003, Tom was elected as Nutley Commissioner and has served as Director of Revenue and Finance where he handles public sector financial compliance issues and capital planning.

In 2014, Tom worked with the State of New Jersey negotiating changes in the state's formulas enabling Nutley to receive \$28 million in Transitional Aid, which was utilized to help offset the financial impact with Hoffman La-Roche closing their headquarters. He has worked to increase the state's Property Tax Freeze Program for local residents increasing the number of participants from 247 to currently over 1,000 homes.



■ BUSINESS MAN OF THE YEAR

Daniel Geltrude, 1983 Nutley High School graduate, is a third generation Nutleyite who is still living in the community, raising his family, and setting up his accounting firm on Franklin Avenue.

He received two master's degrees: in taxation from Fairleigh Dickinson University and in human resources and employment relations from Penn State University.

He became a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in 1991. He served on a number of Boards of Directors for banking institutions and now serves as President of the NJ Board of Accountancy.

In 2006, Dan, and his brother John, co-founded the Mike Geltrude Foundation. This 501(c)(3) organization raises funds to support various national melanoma foundations that focus on awareness, detection, research, and patient support services. ■



Nutley Junior Raiders Climb Together

By Joyce Corey

Covid has impacted all of us, either directly or indirectly, these past two years. Since wrestling is a sport that does not allow for social distancing or even mask wearing in the conventional ways, it had been on hold in Nutley up until last summer when the Nutley Junior Raiders hosted their annual clinic.

"We were grateful to return, and for a few weeks in the summer, it seemed like we were living a normal life," said Coach Michael Blanchard.

Last November, the wrestling season, the first since the 2019- 2020 campaign, was ready to begin.

"Frank DeMaio and I planned how we would handle our sport," Blanchard said. "We had attendance sheets,



The 2021-2022 Nutley Junior Raiders as undefeated Suburban League and Tournament Champions. They won by over 60 points.

parents monitored their kids for symptoms, and we stayed in constant communication. Coaches were great at keeping track of it all, and parents kept kids out if it seemed like their child might have an issue."

But in mid-December, Omicron swept in and many families in Nutley were affected by it.

"My own family suffered through it," Blanchard said.

"We had it over the winter break, and it forced us to miss Christmas. Fortunately for the team we did not have any matches scheduled until January and no one got so sick that we had to shut down the whole program."

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2021-2022 8th grade captains: Sean Vilchez, Jacob Harlow, Chris Cifelli, Patrick Chell, Sean Torres, and Michael Koster

tournament by over 60 points. The last league championship for the Nutley squad was 14 years ago in 2008. A banner will be up in Parks and Recreation as a result. The team placed in 12 out of 16 weight classes at the end of the season tournament and saw nine finalists. They had four individual champions in Frankie Wesner (65), Chris Cifelli (85), Jacob Harlow (119), and Sean Vilchez (HWT).

The team finished the season at the NJ Youth State Tournament in Trenton on March 12th and 13th. AJ Berardesco placed 2nd, Michael Perna placed 3rd, Rocco Graffeo placed 4th, and Michael Berardesco placed 6th. Christian Crespo, Frankie Wesner, Beau Siljanoski, Evan Blanchard, AJ Maiden, Aidan Rotbaum, Sean Vilchez, and Nolan Brewer finished in the top 16 of their weight classes. Chris Cifelli and Sean Torres finished in the top 32 of their weight classes.

"We are fortunate to have so many that believe in what we are building," Blanchard said.

Plans for next year have already begun. The annual Raider Clinic begins the week of July 18th. ■



The last league championship for the Nutley squad was fourteen years ago in 2008.

However, quarantines slowed things down.

"It took about six weeks for the travel team to get the first five matches," Blanchard said. "There was a two-week period where we just practiced and waited until teams could lift their quarantines to wrestle us. It was frustrating, but necessary."

"With a week left in the dual meet season, the team was able to reschedule the final five matches," he said. "Nutley rattled off 10 wins with scores that were not even close. We had a successful dual season because we stayed together even when we couldn't be together the year before."

The team went undefeated (10-0) and won the league



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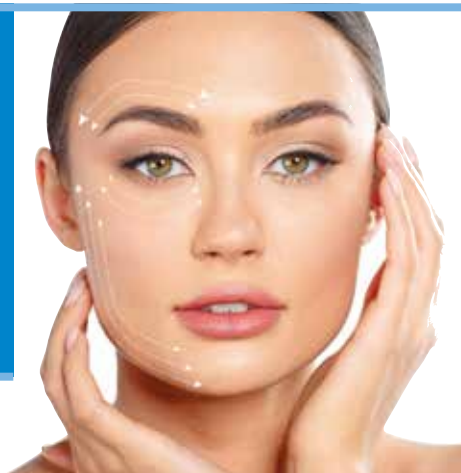
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Colorful Crafts as Bright as the Summer Sun

By Michelle Palmer

Our town is bursting with creativity this summer! These children let their talents shine in all they do. Whether it is painted, colored, designed, or built, these projects remind us of the joy art brings.

Bethany is an eight-year-old who loves to color, but also has a great interest in dogs. Her crafts are cheerful and bring *pawsitive* vibes to everyone around her. Her work is a beautiful representation of how much she enjoys animals.

Her younger sister, Emma, also has a passion for creating brightly colored pictures. She has been learning about shapes and colors. She uses paint sticks to make creative paintings that bring smiles to her family and friends.

Mattie is a six-year-old who showcases her artistic skills in celebration of spring. She used watercolors to make a cute bunny surrounded by a sunset and flowers. This is a drawing that will be treasured for many years to come.

Sebastian is a nine-year-old who combines his great love for Pokémon and his



Bethany's beautiful dogs (far left and middle left) Mattie with her springtime happiness (left) Emma's cheerful colors (below right)

sketching talents. He created this beloved Pikachu character using freehand drawing.



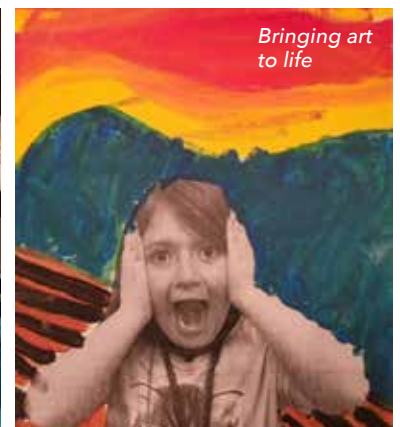
He had lots of fun bringing this super cool cartoon to paper.

Liliana, age seven, recreated *The Scream* using her own likeness in art class at Spring Garden Elementary School. This project is such a fun way to learn about art and incorporate a unique new twist. ■

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 it ore beautiful with your creations and smiles! Email me at: jcorey@bestversionmedia.com



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Nutley High School Senior Paul Scutti Named 2022 Diane Greco Sajle Scholarship Recipient

By Thomas Greco

Nutley High School senior football player, Paul Scutti, has been named the recipient of the 2022 Diane Greco Sajle Scholarship.

Named in honor of the late 1974 Nutley High School graduate, the scholarship is awarded each year to the football program's "Most Valuable Teammate" who, along with excelling on the field, exhibits the qualities Diane was known for: compassion, dedication, and selflessness toward family, friends, and community.

According to his coach, J.D. Vick, Scutti exemplifies all that and more.

"The first thing that stands out about Paul is his character and integrity," shares Vick. "Academically, he has a 4.1 GPA. He really checks all the boxes. A fine young man, Paul really loves to serve other people. He's a heck of a kid and a really great football player. He played defensive back, running back, and was one of our captains. I really can't say enough about Paul. He is probably one of the finest young men I've had the privilege to coach. I'm really proud of him; it's well deserved."

Scutti is honored to be recognized with this scholarship award.

"I'm very proud to get this scholarship," he says. "It really means a lot because I know how others who received this award before me were looked at by our teammates. I played with them, so I know that they truly represented what it means to be a Nutley Raider and how to carry yourself well – on and off the field. I'm honored to receive this scholarship for the leadership and qualities I demonstrated on the field."

Scutti intends to study finance and business once he settles on the school of his choice.

The \$3,500 scholarship is funded by members of the Greco family and a close family friend, Glenn Villacari of Parkway Auto Body in Nutley.

"This year's award was a bit bittersweet," says Thomas Greco, Diane's brother and co-founder of the scholarship. "Coach Steve DeGregorio and I created the scholarship, and this was the first one we've given out since his passing. But we all felt his presence. Anytime anyone is on the Oval, you feel his presence. I'm sure Steve and Diane were looking down at Paul and saying we made a great choice."

"I also want to thank Coach Vick and his staff for picking up the torch and allowing us to continue to award the scholarship, and my nieces and nephews, Ralph, Christy, Michael, Anthony, and Lauren, for contributing to increase the scholarship to \$3,500 this year."

Past winners of the Diane Greco Sajle Scholarship were Tyler Genitempo, Dante Contella, and Jake Walsh. ■



Nutley Football Head Coach JD Vick, Paul Scutti Sr., Dan Sajle, Thomas Greco, Paul Scutti, Kate Sajle, Ralph Greco, Ralph S. Greco, Nutley Coach Jeff Martin



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Community Organizations

Nutley UNICO

By Joyce Corey



Nutley officers and executive committee members (l-r) 3rd Vice President Pasquale Pisani, NJ District VII Governor Marie Solimo, 1st Vice President Daniel Carnicella, 2nd Vice President Danielle Ferrara Manganello, National President Stephen Pelonero, National First Lady Pat Pelonero, UNICO President Vito Matturro, Immediate Past President Lorraine Bini Kucinski, Secretary Catherine Marucci, Sergeant at Arms Anthony Mascolo, Member at Large Lenny Guglielmello, Treasurer Thomas Sposato, Past President Sal Ferraro. Not pictured: Member at Large Anthony Biondi

Unity, Neighborliness, Integrity, Charity, Opportunity not only give UNICO its name; these attributes are what makes this organization a vital part of our community.

UNICO is the largest Italian American service organization in the country. The Nutley Chapter received its national charter in 1959. Prior to that it was called the Columbus Civic Club. The Charter members included familiar Nutley names such as Citrino, Zinicola, Lore, Cocchiola, Varone, Samara, Orechio, Viola, Biondi, and Negra.

It's currently among the three largest of the 104 UNICO chapters across the country with a total of 161 members. In 2001, and again in 2020, they were named the Model Chapter in the country by UNICO National.

But this organization is more than statistics; their high level of community involvement tells their story through events, fundraisers, and establishing camaraderie.

The Nutley Chapter of UNICO National takes pride in promoting their Italian heritage. Their monthly meetings celebrate their culture through sharing a meal based on the

specialties of specific provinces of Italy.

To adhere to and honor the UNICO national theme of "Service Above Self," they engage in community activities and programs, donate to local organizations, assist those in need of financial and/or manpower assistance, and award scholarships to Nutley graduates each year.

This scholarship program is representative of their emphasis on education as well as being one of their most successful initiatives. A scholarship committee meets to discuss all applicants in the spring. In 2021 the chapter awarded 27 scholarships totaling \$34,000. Since the chapter's inception it is estimated that approximately \$775,000 has been awarded to Nutley graduates. Several of our local recipients were also selected for UNICO National scholarships.

Many of those who received scholarships have become members of the Nutley Chapter after graduating college. They include doctors, lawyers, businessmen, and many other professionals.

That emphasis on education is further displayed by their financial support for Italian Studies Chairs at Seton Hall, Montclair State, and Stony Brook universities. They continue to impact the community in a positive way through annual donations to the Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey, Rutgers' prostate cancer research, Nutley Public Library, Nutley Thriving Survivors, Toys for Tots, the Scarpelli Civic Association, and Nutley Family Service Bureau.

The chapter has also dedicated funds to specific local organizations, people and families in need, District activities, and UNICO National Initiatives, such as Cooley's Anemia, Cancer Research, and the National Scholarship Program. The chapter's community activities and service resulted in it being the recipient of 12 National Chapter Achievement Awards by UNICO National over the years.

Other activities designed to promote camaraderie among the members and guests, and which serve as a source of fundraising for the chapter, include their annual golf outing, Christmas Party, Bocce Tournament, and wine making and tasting events.

Promoting their Italian heritage, ethnicity, and culture while making a positive impact in the community is what Nutley UNICO is all about.

And for that, we say "Bravissimo!" ■

Interested in finding out more about the Nutley UNICO? Visit www.NutleyUnico.org/contact-us or contact any member of the Executive Committee. Their mailing address is Nutley UNICO, P.O. Box 43, Nutley.



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Nutley Public Library's 2022 Summer Reading Program Presents Oceans of Possibilities

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, 2022. Libraries across the country collaborate on a theme to combat "summer slide" and make summer reading challenging and fun for all ages in this nationally recognized program.

This year's theme, Oceans of Possibilities, provides an opportunity for patrons of all ages to discover facts and stories about our planet's oceans in an interactive, engaging way.

Participants of all ages will earn tickets as they hit reading milestones to 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 tickets earned, and the greater the chances of winning a big prize. Some

of this year's big prizes include a Nintendo Switch, a Fujifilm photo printer, gift cards, book bundles, and a family membership to Turtle Back Zoo. A new addition this summer are unique scratch-off tickets that will be given out at select programs that may earn more prize tickets.

Babies, children, and teens who register for the program will receive a sign-up bag and a completion bag when they finish the program, and will also be eligible for weekly incentives, including special brag tags. These exclusive charms can be collected all summer long to make a complete necklace.

Registration, logging reading milestones, and submitting prize tickets will be completed online at nutleypubliclibrary.beanstack.org.

The 2022 Summer Reading Program will also include a variety of programs for all ages. Events include STEM workshops, craft programs, story times, cooking classes, cartooning workshops, author events, live performances, teen programs, and more. Volunteer opportunities for teens will also be available.

Beginning June 1, residents can register online at nutleypubliclibrary.beanstack.org. The Summer Reading Program will officially kick-off on Thursday, June 30 from 2pm to 4pm with an outdoor dance party sponsored by Spencer Savings Bank of Nutley. Residents of all ages can enjoy games, sweet treats, and music by DJ Rob of Ultimate Entertainment. The program will end on August 18 with an End-of-Summer Show featuring ScienceTellers 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 the Youth Service's website at youthservices.nutleypubliclibrary.org or contact Deidra Garcia at deidra.garcia@nutley.bccl.org or 973-667-0405 ext. 2623.



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