

A community magazine serving the residents of Nutley

MARCH 2024

NUTLEY NEIGHBORS



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Publisher:

Michael Stefanelli



Account Executive:

Neil Leibowitz



Content Coordinator: Joyce Corey

Designer: Marti Golon

Contributing Photographer:

Carly Ann Photography

Contributing Writers:

Linda Buset, Barry Lenson,
Michelle Palmer, David Wilson

ADVERTISING

Contact: Michael Stefanelli

Email: mstefanelli@bestversionmedia.com

Phone: 973-277-7301

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July 25.....	September 1
August 25.....	October 1
September 25.....	November 1
October 25.....	December 1

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Making a Right Turn

Making a right turn is always easier than making a left one, isn't it?

And I will make a little confession—when there is a lot of traffic and it seems especially hard to make a left turn, I have occasionally driven around the block to escape the drama and to position myself in an easier place.

Being in the right place is much more comfortable. Ask our cover story family—Dr. Larry and Debbie Marchese. They have been Nutleyites for 37 years and have impacted the community in many wonderful ways.

Dr. Larry also knows a lot about being aligned; as a chiropractor he has helped improve the well-being of his patients. When the body's joints are in the right places, there is an overall improvement in the body.

Being in the *right* place at the right time can also make special memories. Barry Lenson's article about the Franklin Theatre will turn back the clock for many of you as you get to 'walk' through the doors of this building and remember all the times you were there.

It's always the *right* time to appreciate and applaud the artwork of children. We are very thankful to Michelle Palmer who sends us photos for our Kids Corner each month. To see a smiling child proudly displaying something they created is a wonderful reminder of the sweetness in this world.

Perhaps it's the right time to adopt a dog or kitten. Please read our Pet Corner feature and see if one of those furry faces touches your heart.



To navigate the streets of Nutley, you will make a lot of right turns.

To thoroughly enjoy the Nutley community, all you need to do is know that you are in the right place.

Joyce Corey
Content Coordinator

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2023 Real Estate Snapshot in Nutley*

Median List: \$505,000
 Median Sold: \$545,000
 Median Days on Market: 16

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ADDRESS	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE	DIFFERENCE
26 Fulton St.	\$479,000	\$510,000	\$31,000
312 Bloomfield Ave.	\$425,000	\$431,000	\$6,000
33 Sunset Dr.	\$599,999	\$607,500	\$7,501
25 River Rd.	\$319,900	\$315,000	-\$4,900
11 Ravine Ave.	\$525,000	\$565,000	\$40,000
283 Grant Ave.	\$599,000	\$640,000	\$41,000
25 Howard Pl.	\$499,900	\$550,000	\$50,100
11 Lake St.	\$599,000	\$690,000	\$91,000

*GSMLS Data: Single Family, Condominiums/Cooperatives, Town Houses 2023-2024

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WARNING: Home inventory is low. You may receive several strong offers on your home if you list this spring!

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The Marchese Family Perfectly Aligned with Nutley

By Joyce Corey

Photograph by Carly Ann Photography

Don't you love it when you feel connected to people and a place? It's like having all the pieces of your life aligned, giving you a healthy appreciation of everything around you. When you have a sense of belonging to a community, you are free to be yourself and to engage in community activities and organizations that share your interests.

That's exactly how the Marchese family feels about living here in town.

Dr. Lorenzo (Larry) and Debbie Marchese have been Nutleyites for 37 years, but their story officially starts before that.

"Debbie and I met through my sister," Dr. Larry said. "My wife was best friends with my sister in high school."

After graduating, Dr. Larry and Debbie each chose different career paths but with a common goal of making a positive impact on the lives of those around them.

"I am in my 23rd year of being a special education teacher at Lincoln Elementary School," Debbie said. "Most of my career was spent working with kindergarten students. I love teaching in the same town as my students since I see them at different events and places we attend."

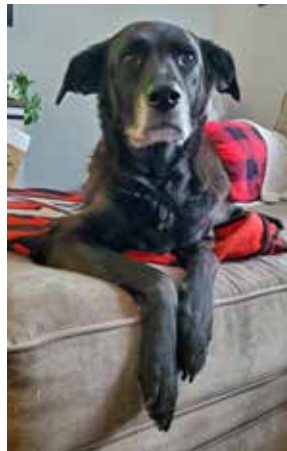
Dr. Larry became a chiropractor who focuses on the physical wellbeing of his patients, thereby improving their lives in several significant ways.

"I attended St. Peter's College, with additional credits from Kean College, Bloomfield College, and Fairleigh Dickinson University, prior to attending Life University for my Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C.) degree," Dr. Larry said. "I graduated from Life University in Georgia in 1983. I am very involved in the chiropractic community and currently am on the executive board of the International Chiropractic Association and board advisor to the Life University Alumni Association. I also held positions as past president of the Life University Alumni and served on the board of trustees of Life University representing the alumni association as president."

While their respective careers have filled their lives in meaningful ways, they cherish two other events even more.

"Our best memory together was the birth of our two daughters," Dr. Larry said.

"Both of our daughters, Jessica and Lauren, grew up in Nutley and now work here," Debbie said. "Jessica married Vinnie DeMartinis and has



been a cosmetologist in Nutley for many years. Our younger daughter, Lauren is married to Will Gabela and are parents of our beautiful grandchild, Eliana Ann. Lauren followed in my footsteps and works with students with special needs at Spring Garden School."

Chloe is also a valued family member who has filled the Marchese home with barks and tail wags. She's a 13-year-old rescue dog who is a mix of Labrador and Coonhound.

Choosing to live in Nutley, raise their family, and open a chiropractic office was a decision that they never regretted.

"We moved to Nutley after I started my chiropractic practice on Washington Avenue in Nutley," Dr. Larry said. "My wife and I loved this town, and we lived close to Nutley all

our lives. Before moving here, my wife would drive past the lot where our house was built and say to her mom that this is where she wanted to live. We made the house a home office, raised our daughters here, and met wonderful people."

"We love our neighborhood and our neighbors have become part of our family," Debbie said. "Nutley is a great place to live with the beautiful parks and amazing events that the town holds throughout the year. My family tries to attend as many of



the town events as possible.”

Dr. Larry is also involved with many organizations that serve the community.

“I am a member of Nutley UNICO and the Nutley Irish American Association,” he said. “I serve as chair for the Nutley Juvenile Conference Committee and as a member of the Nutley Planning Board. I am also on the board for the Northwest Essex Community Healthcare Network, Inc.”

Dr. Larry has been honored to receive the Life University Board of Trustees and Presidential Citation being only the 7th person to receive this award in the lifetime of the school. In 2022, he was awarded Chiropractor of the Year from the International Chiropractic Association and was the first to receive the Life University Alumni Director Emeritus Award in the history of Life University.

As a family, they participated for two summers with Project Children. This program finds a host family for Irish children to stay, giving them a respite from the strife in their homeland.

“Twenty-four years ago, we hosted a 12-year-old girl, Nicole, and she is still a huge part of our family,” Dr. Larry said. “We still get together with her and her family whenever we can, both here and across the pond. Our girls have become like sisters.”

In addition to traveling to Ireland, the family has visited St.



5 Things the Marchese Family Loves About Nutley

1. Beautiful parks
2. Town-wide events
3. Schools
4. The community and family spirit and how people grew up here and come back to raise their children
5. Restaurants

Thomas, Cancun, Puerto Rico, and Lake George.

But it’s Nutley where Dr. Larry and Debbie are most aligned with their lives.

As Dr. Marchese can tell you, chiropractic adjustments align the bones so joints and muscles work properly.

And as Dr. Larry and Debbie can tell you, when a family lives in a place that they love, among neighbors who become best friends, and in a community where they can serve, everything in life is in a perfect balance. ■

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 Residential: Year over Year - As of December 31.

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How to Build a Two Touch Branding Strategy

Contributed by Michael Stefanelli

Best Version Media has been connecting small and mid-size businesses to local residents for more than 15 years. We've successfully launched more than 1,200 publications across the U.S. and Canada because we understand how to successfully reach hyper-local markets. Now, by using the partnership of both print and digital

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Library Corner

Join Us for NJ Makers Day at the Nutley Public Library on March 16

By Lucia Alvarez, Librarian, Children & Young Adult Services

The maker movement in the United States isn't just a hobby; it's having a significant impact on school curriculum development and growing local economies. To celebrate making and maker culture, the Nutley Public Library will be hosting NJ Makers Day on March 16 from 11am to 3pm. Nutley patrons can come together to celebrate the maker movement!

NJ Makers Day is designed to be an event that celebrates, promotes, and in many cases, introduces maker culture, as well as the values associated with making, tinkering, and STEM-based learning. NJ Makers Day allows communities to share programming opportunities, demonstrations and displays, and the expertise of the individuals and organizations that make, create, and develop right in their own backyards.

As a participating organization for NJ Makers Day, the Nutley Public Library will be offering maker-related activities and demonstrations such as 3D printing, robotics, crafts, engineering challenges, and more! Registration is not required for the event. Community members of all ages are invited to join us for an exciting day filled with hands-on activities focusing on maker culture!

For more programming information and times, please visit youthservices.nutleypubliclibrary.org and the Nutley Public Library's Facebook page. ■

Find out more about NJ Makers Day at www.njmakersday.org

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Remembering The Franklin Theatre, Nutley's Own Movie Palace

By Barry Lenson, Art Historian, Nutley Historical Society

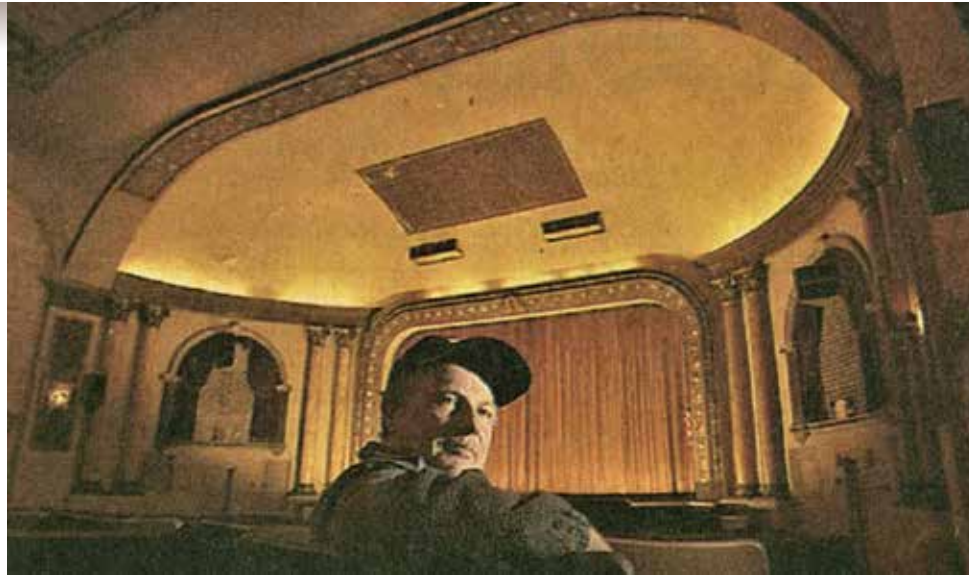
For those of us old enough to remember, Nutley once had a movie palace of its own – the Franklin Theatre, located at 510 Franklin Avenue. It was an unusually elegant movie house that had a fireplace in its cozy lobby, a large theatre organ, thick velvet drapes covering the walls, and overstuffed chairs you could really sink into.

The final show was held on November 15, 2000. But for nearly 75 years before that, the Franklin Theatre was an integral part of life in Nutley.

If you stand on Franklin Avenue and look up at the Franklin Commons building that now occupies the site, you can easily see that the building was once a movie theatre. That wide entrance door once provided access to the theatre lobby. And if you walk around the back and look up at the building from Dodd Street, you will see that the building once was tall enough to contain a stage tower that could accommodate tall sets for theatrical productions.

■ What is the History of Nutley's Vanished Movie Palace?

According to research conducted by Dave Wilson and Town Historian John Demmer, an architect named William Friedberg designed the theatre, which cost \$200,000 to build. The opening on September 8, 1926, was a memorable celebration that attracted a sold-out crowd. There was a master of ceremonies. Boy Scouts stood at attention in the lobby. Inside the theatre, the crowd sang the national anthem.



Then Griswold H. Congreve, the theatre organist, played an overture. Girl Scouts performed folk dances, followed by a violinist and vocal ensembles. A tenor sang. A newsreel started the film portion and an "Our Gang" comedy short came next. The feature film was a silent version of "Cinderella". Afterwards, people gathered in the lobby and raved about the inaugural performance and eagerly looked forward to more shows.

■ **The Final 30 Years** According to Dave Wilson and John Demmer, the final 30 years of the Franklin Theatre were a mixture of highs and lows. The early 70s saw the closure of the theatre as profits dwindled due to competition from multiplex theatres. Peter Vivian, a local businessman, purchased the building, divided the auditorium into three theatres, and reopened it in 1979. But even that forward-thinking plan was not enough to ensure profits.

The final film, shown on November 15, 2000, was a restored version of "The Wizard of Oz." But many Nutleyites still have fond memories of the Franklin Theatre. It was the home of first dates, of thrills and chills of watching horror movies, and was our first encounters with blockbuster films like "Gone with The Wind" and others.

Now we have Netflix and other streaming services. Back then we had the Franklin Theatre, which so many of us in town will never forget. ■

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Nutley UNICO *By Lorraine Kucinski*

Applause for the past and current leadership of Nutley UNICO! The photo was taken at their Christmas party that was held at Nanina's in the Park. Nearly 200 members and guests attended the event, which was enjoyed by all.



Past presidents of Nutley UNICO: Anthony Malfitano, Mayor Joe Scarpelli, Tom Sposato, Ciro Violente, Frank Cocchiola, Marie Solimo, Anthony Bengivenga, UNICO National and Executive VP Ann Walko, Past UNICO National President Lorraine Kucinski, Phyllis Coldebella, and current Nutley UNICO President Dan Carnicella.

Nine scholarships were awarded at the Nutley UNICO Brian Piccolo Breakfast at the Chandelier in Belleville.

Brian Piccolo was an Italian American professional football player who played for Wake Forest while in college and later for the Chicago Bears until he lost his life to cancer at age 26.

UNICO (an acronym for Unity, Neighborliness, Integrity, Charity, and Opportunity) honors his memory each year by awarding the Brian Piccolo Award to courageous and outstanding athletes of Italian American heritage. ■



of Italian American heritage. ■

Above: Nutley UNICO Brian Piccolo Breakfast 30th Membership Anniversary for Gerard Tolve (center) (l-r) 1st VP Danielle Manganello, President Dan Carnicella, and Joe Zarra (25 yrs)

Left: Guest speaker Tina Cervasio McKearney with member Frank Cocchiola and President Dan Carnicella



Back row (l-r) Nutley UNICO 2nd VP Frank Russo, President Dan Carnicella, 1st VP Danielle Ferrara Manganello, Treasurer Tom Sposato, Recipient Brandon Lucia, Guest Speaker Tina Cervasio, Recipients Franco Graffeo and Evan Sanchez, Members Frank Cocchiola, Marie Solimo, and Sal Ferraro. Front row (l-r) Recipients Julianne Carson, Angelina Matto, Mia DiPiano, Francesco Califano, Silia DiMasi, and Megan Riccardi.



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Tasting History

By Linda Buset

Photos used with permission of Kingsland Manor

On December 16, 1773, 340 chests of loose tea from the British East India Company were tossed overboard in the Boston Harbor. Dec 16, 2023, was the 250th anniversary of that moment in history, and the Kingsland Manor was the perfect place to have its own tea commemoration.

They held three sold-out events and lots of volunteers helped, from the setup to the serving to the baking to the floral centerpieces! Everyone enjoyed sandwiches, desserts, and colonial teas in a historic setting as they were transported back 250 years.

Board member Eileen LaTorre was the presenter, and she had done much research through history books, the Boston Tea Party Museum, and Oliver Pluff & Company where she purchased the tea. She also bought tea from Bruce Richardson who runs the Elmwood Inn and is the tea master of the Boston Tea Party Museum.

At the Manor, all five teas which were tossed overboard in 1773 were served: three types of black tea—Bohea, Congou, and Souchong—and two green teas—Singlo and Hyson.

Although the colonists loved the Bohea tea, our Kingsland Manor guests mostly chose Congou as their favorite. Everyone was thrilled to be able to taste history!



The beautiful petite nosegay centerpieces for the table were arranged by Janet Corrao, manager of the Kingsland Manor gardens. Janet used herbs and florals from the garden such as balm, anise hyssop, thyme, and basilica. And if that sounds delicious, it's because most can be used in herbal teas.

Karen Young and Michele Schaffer, guests from Morris County who saw the Eventbrite advertisement but were never at the Manor prior, were quoted as saying, "The tea commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party was our first time at the Kingsland Manor. As soon as we walked in the door, something about the Manor pulled us back in time and we felt so at home. Learning about the history of the different teas that were tossed into Boston Harbor and then being able to taste them all was so much fun! The delicious tea sandwiches and desserts were made and served with love in beautiful teaware. The setting could not have been more perfect for an afternoon colonial tea tasting and lunch! The house itself is filled with so many years of history and if the walls could speak, I am sure we would hear some amazing stories. The experience was unique, and we are treated like family."

James and Dorothy Huey said, "We were excited to attend this unique event and were not disappointed. Everything was delicious, the decor was beautiful, and we learned more about the Boston Tea Party."

Leon Kish, president of the board, thanked everyone for supporting Kingsland Manor by purchasing a ticket to this elegant event. All the guests were later treated to a tour of the beautiful and celebrated Manor which Nutley is proud to call its own. ■

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How Lucky We Are For These Little Artists

By Michelle Palmer



Mackenzie's amazing axolotl



Giavanna made a perfect pillow!



Happy winter art by Dylan



Owen's drawing of a pug

As March rolls in, we think of spring, all things green, and all the ways we are lucky. The greatest fortunes we have are the treasures that our little ones create.

Mackenzie is a nine-year-old who loves to paint. She used her creativity to make a masterpiece of a unique and adorable animal. She is so proud of her axolotl painting and it is a perfect addition to her collection of beautiful art.

Giavanna is only seven years old and has started learning a new skill - sewing! She got her first sewing machine and has been having lots of fun acquiring this very useful skill. She created a pillow and is all smiles showcasing her pretty design.

Brothers Owen and Dylan, ages 5 and 9, have been using their creative energy and love for animals to make art. Dylan attended a structured painting class and made this happy penguin who reminds us how beautiful it is to create something especially in these cold winter months. Owen sketched and colored a very realistic looking pug. His drawing also reflects the happiness and joy that animals bring to his life. His artwork shows excitement and a thoughtful process for crafting.

Art is a special way our kids connect with the world around

them. Whether it's made with a paintbrush, crayon, machine, or a spoon, it always invites the imagination to play. ■

Michelle Palmer is the author of a children's book, *Brinco Finds His Way Home*, which is available at Amazon and Pretty Handy in Nutley.

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Submitted by
Nicole Milici, Jersey
Pits Rescue Inc.

Tony is a young dog, possibly around 1-2 years old, who joined our rescue after being tied to the fence at animal control, gravely wounded.

Thankfully, Tony only lives in the moment, and after receiving medical care he is feeling comfortable and loved. He is recovering in his cushy bed, receiving his pain meds, and enjoying his lunch.

He is a smaller adult dog (only about 45 lbs.) and he has been extremely sweet and loving. If interested in meeting Tony and adding him to your family, please complete an application at jerseypitsrescue.com. ■

Already have an application on file? Send us an email at jerseypitsrescue@gmail.com to express interest.



Submitted by Christa Milici, Yellow Brick Road Rescue NJ



Wanda is a 3-year-old female. She had been adopted as a kitten 3 years ago and, unfortunately, she is being returned because the other young playful cats and the kids in the home are being too much for her. It is no fault of Wanda! She is a very sweet girl who will cuddle up to you on the couch. Wanda would make a great companion because she has been around humans pretty

much her whole life. She would be best in a home without young, active kids and cats. But she would be ok with another cat that's as low energy and chill as she is!

Wanda has some sight issues and had entropion surgery as a kitten. Her eyes are all fixed, and while she may not have the best vision, she gets around perfectly fine! She is a special little girl. She is microchipped, FIV/FeLV negative, stool tested negative, dewormed, UTD on vaccines, and spayed. \$150 adoption fee and application apply. ■

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

Mar. 2, Sat. Outdoor Skills Family Day

@Essex County Environmental Center, 621b Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland For families. Explore animal tracks, plants that make cordage, practice fire skills, make a winter campfire and cook treats on it! Please dress for the weather and pack a lunch. Meet in Garibaldi.

Time: 10am-1pm

Cost: \$25 per person

For more information and to register visit <https://essexcountyparks.org/facilities/environmental-center/calendar>

Mar. 5, Tue. Palisades Amusement Park Presentation

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Dr., Second Floor Historian Vince Gargiulo brings the history of the park to life through the use of audio and video clips, music, and over 100 rare photographs collected by the Palisades Amusement Park Historical Society.

Time: 7pm

For more information visit nutleypubliclibrary.org

Mar. 7, Thurs. Crafternoon @ The Library: Beaded Bracelet

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Dr., Stockton Room

For adults. In this fun and friendly crafting session, make stretch bracelets using glass beads and metal charms.

Registration is required.

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MARCH 2024 EVENTS CALENDAR

Time: 1:30-2:30pm
For more information and to register visit nutleypubliclibrary.org

Mar. 8, Fri.
Friday at the Movies:
Ocean's 11

@Nutley Public Library,
93 Booth Dr., Stockton Room
Watch *Ocean's 11* (1960),
the film starring
Frank Sinatra.

Time: 1-3pm
For more information visit
nutleypubliclibrary.org

Mar. 8-10, Fri.-Sun.
Urinetown: The Musical

@Nutley High School,
300 Franklin Ave., Auditorium
Come see Nutley High
School performing arts
students bring their
interpretation of this Tony
Award winning musical to

life. Tickets are available
online or at the door.
Time: Mar. 8-9 at 7-8:30pm;
Mar. 10 at 2-3:30pm
For more information
and ticket pricing visit
[https://nsts.
membershiptoolkit.com/
current](https://nsts.membershiptoolkit.com/current)

Mar. 14, Thurs.
Let's Decoupage!
Wood Eggs

@Nutley Public Library,
93 Booth Dr., Stockton Room
For adults. In this fun and
creative crafting program,
decoupage wood eggs
using napkins, papers,
and other materials.
Registration is required.

Time: 7-8pm
For more information
and to register visit
nutleypubliclibrary.org

Mar. 16, Sat.
NJ Makers Day
@Nutley Public Library,
93 Booth Dr.
Join for a full day of activities
celebrating maker culture!
For all ages.
No registration required.
Time: 11am-3pm
For more information,
visit [youthservices.
nutleypubliclibrary.org](http://youthservices.nutleypubliclibrary.org) or
call 973-667-0405 ext. 2623

Mar. 23, Sat.
Spring Forest Egg Hunt
@Essex County
Environmental Center, 621b
Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland
For families with children
ages 1-6. Celebrate the
beginning of spring with a
story and egg hunt! Children
can bring their favorite
basket to collect eggs and
earn surprises!

Time: 9:30-10:30am or
11am-12pm
Cost: \$15 per child
For more information
and to register visit
[https://essexcountyparks.
org/facilities/environmental-
center/calendar/
spring-forest-egg-
hunt-11091](https://essexcountyparks.org/facilities/environmental-center/calendar/spring-forest-egg-hunt-11091)

Apr. 11, Thurs.
Nutley Jaycees
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@Valley Regency,
1129 Valley Rd., Clifton
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honored.

Time: 6:30pm
Cost: \$65 per person
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<i>Police Department</i>	(973) 284-4940	<i>School District</i>	(973) 661-3500
<i>Fire Department</i>	(973) 284-4940	<i>Chamber of Commerce</i>	(973) 667-5300
<i>Town Hall</i>	(973) 284-4951	<i>Public Affairs & Health Dept.</i>	(973) 284-4976
<i>Library</i>	(973) 667-0405	<i>Public Works</i>	(973) 284-4958



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