

MAY 2020

A community magazine serving the residents of Nutley

NUTLEY NEIGHBORS

The Herman
Family Found the
Perfect 'Parking'
Space in Nutley

Photograph by
Ann Marie Collins,
AMC Photography



Best Version Media

To Our Neighbors

The staff of *Nutley Neighbors* sincerely hopes that you and your family are safe. Please continue to follow and listen to the recommendations of the CDC and medical professionals as we continue to deal with this global pandemic. The health and well-being of you and your family is most important.

Small businesses continue to be greatly impacted during this time and we ask that you try to support them in any way that is possible for you. Every dollar spent with locally-owned businesses generates, on average, an economic benefit three times greater than the same dollar spent on corporate-owned establishments. Our local businesses play a critical role in the health of our community and supporting them now will help sustain their businesses through this challenging time.

Our magazine focuses on all that is positive in Nutley. We want you to know that we are here for you and will continue to publish and share all the good news in the community we serve.

Enjoy the May issue.

Michael Stefanelli
Publisher

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

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May the Force Be With You

The first time I heard that famous phrase was in 1977, as I was sitting in a movie theater watching *Star Wars: Episode IV- A New Hope*. Little did I know that over 30 years later, those words would still carry meaning and hope.

Life is like that. Things come into our worlds at lightning speed, all throughout the day, and our brains sort them, discard them, or keep them for future pondering. When General Dodonna (Alex McCrindle) wished Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) good luck as he prepared to fight the Empire, that moment became something more to me than just a cool line in a movie.

Luke was fighting against a seemingly indestructible power: the Empire. But he was not alone in his battle because the fight was not his alone. It was the ultimate showdown between good and evil, light and dark, and life or death.

By himself, Luke would have failed, but the Force was with him. When I first heard that line, I thought the Force was some metaphysical entity that would come to his aid. Yet, as the movie continued, the events on the screen proved me wrong.

The Force was everyone who stood with him and placed themselves against the darkness of defeat. It's an expression of hope for others.

Guess what? The Force is here in Nutley.

We might have been calling it community spirit or something like that, but if Yoda were here, he would recognize the power in our neighborhoods as the Force.

When times have gotten dark here in town and you were feeling overwhelmed, I am sure you can remember a person or a place that has literally taken a stand against the fear and uncertainty by doing something tangible that inspired hope. Perhaps it was someone like your next-door neighbor or an organization like the Nutley Family Service Bureau or a fireman or police officer? Business owners are also an active Force here in town as they host and contribute to many charitable events, or donate food, time, or services to those in need.

May I suggest that when the time of trouble has passed that we remember all those who have been a source of genuine help to us?

All of us here at *Nutley Neighbors* give a round of applause to the businesses that make each issue of this magazine possible. We thank the families who share their stories and their smiles on the cover each month; people like the Herman family who was a delight to interview! And we thank you, the readers, for your encouragement and especially for letting us know about the people, places, and events that interest you.

What I have learned so far this year is that we are never in the fight alone.

May the Force be with you like it has always been.

Joyce Corey
Content Coordinator



Expert Contributors



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

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



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INSIGHT EYE & VISION CARE

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

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



INVESTORS HOME MORTGAGE

Joe Isabella is a Certified Mortgage Planning Specialist (CMPS®). He has been with Investors Home Mortgage since 2010 and is a Circle of Excellence Award winner. Since joining Investors, Joe has helped many families in Nutley and the surrounding area with their home financing needs. He was born and raised in Nutley and still

resides in his home town. He is a graduate of both Nutley High School and Montclair State University.

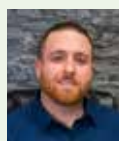


LIGRESTI DERMATOLOGY ASSOCIATES

Doctor Dominick J. Ligresti is a Medical Doctor who is a Board Certified Dermatologist (which is the highest degree in medicine and dermatology). He is also an Adjunct Professor of Dermatology and Clinic Chief at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in NYC.

He teaches medical doctors from Hackensack University Hospital.

He successfully treats all skin diseases for adult and pediatric patients, including advanced painless allergy testing. Ligresti Dermatology Associates is a full service dermatology practice including cosmetic dermatology for antiaging like: Restylane fillers, Botox/Dysport, Chemical Peels and Microdermabrasion. The office is located at 175 Franklin Ave. Nutley.



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Services include acupuncture, cupping therapy, herbal medicine, electric-stimulation acupuncture, dietary therapy and infrared therapy. Dr. Genitempo is a lifelong resident of Nutley and looks forward to serving the community of Nutley for years to come.



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99 Alexander Ave	\$624,900	4	4	3100
377 High St	\$645,000	4	4	2500
124 Stanley Ave	\$649,000	4	4	2383
20 Brookway	\$659,000	4	4	1987
37 Joerg Ave	\$675,000	4	4	2720
166 Walnut St	\$699,000	5	4	4200
77 Passaic Ave	\$699,000	6	3	2688
29 Colonial Terr	\$715,000	6	4	2558
38 Cathedral	\$725,000	4	4	2662
352 Park Ave	\$840,000	6	6	4150

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*Jim and Sara Herman
with their children,
Jack and June*

The Herman Family Found the Perfect 'Parking' Space in Nutley

By Joyce Corey

Photographs by Ann Marie Collins, AMC Photography www.amcpix.com

"What could be better than finding a parking spot close to the mall's entrance on Black Friday? How about finding a home in Nutley that Sara Herman tells us is literally "right on the park?"

That sounds like the best kind of 'parking!'

Sara, her husband, Jim, and their children, Jack (3) and June (1), are thoroughly enjoying our town while having a front row seat practically right inside Memorial Park. As we all know, Nutley's park system is what has given this town the name "the crown jewel of Essex County."

But for the Herman family, the park is part of their home, sweet home.

Sara said, "Pretty much everyone in Nutley talks about the parks. What's not to love? We live directly on Memorial Park; it's literally our backyard. We love watching the ducks and geese, walking to the playground, and strolling around at all of the activities such as the Fall Festival, summer concerts, and Easter Egg hunt. If you walk by our house on any given weekend afternoon in the summer, you'll likely see us outside grilling, hosting friends, and listening to music. After

living in the city for so long, it's important for us to be able to walk everywhere, like school, the playground, and the library, and we try to take advantage of our proximity to town as much as possible. Our street is great; our neighbors have a long history in Nutley, and have welcomed us 'newcomers' with open arms."

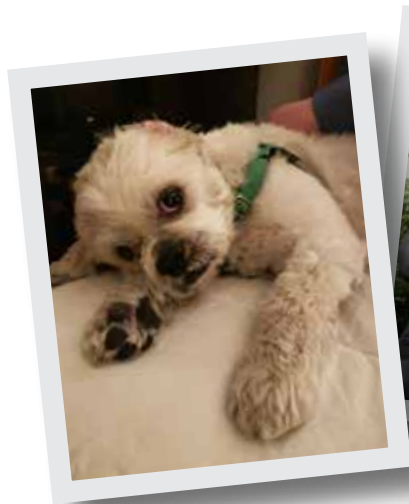
So how exactly did these 'newcomers' find their way to Nutley? It all started on Tinder, (which has nothing to do with parks and trees despite its name sounding tree-like!).

"Jim and I met on the Tinder app," Sara said. "He was living in Brooklyn, and I was living in Jersey City. We both were ready to start looking for a relationship after many years of looking for love in 'all the wrong places' as they say. We initially bonded over our Pennsylvania roots (he is from Erie, PA and I'm from Harrisburg, PA) and our love of Penn State football. We had planned to meet, after texting back and forth, in August 2015, but on the day of our first date, Jim cancelled. As disappointed as I was, I had a feeling I'd be hearing from him again. Fast forward to October 2015, Jim sheepishly sent a text message about a Penn State football game that

day. We agreed to meet for drinks the following week. Our first date was at the Dead Rabbit in the Financial District. A few gin and tonics later and we discovered we had a lot in common beyond our love of Penn State football and fancy cocktails."

As their relationship deepened, Jim moved to Jersey City and, not long after, Andy Rooney and Bubbles joined them.

"About a week after Jim moved in, we adopted our first 'child,' a rescue pup named Andy Rooney," Sara tells us with a smile. "Andy was the only dog in the shelter that showed zero interest in meeting potential adopters. He was even less interested when we circled back to his cage and requested to meet him outside. He had a turned in paw, just like Jim's childhood dog, Kato, and that's when we knew that we couldn't leave him at the shelter. Twenty minutes later, we drove off into the sunset with our new dog. Now, he enjoys barking at everyone in the park from 'his' window, chasing squirrels, and eating pizza from Cucina 355. We also have a goldfish, Bubbles, who came from a boardwalk game in



Left: Andy Rooney in one of his quieter moments
Right: The Peanuts Gang enjoying the Nutley Halloween festivities



Coney Island circa 2010."

Their family continued to grow which led them to look at Nutley for a new home.

Jim said, "One month after Andy arrived, we received the best news possible: a positive pregnancy test. The following March, our son, Jack Irving Herman, was born.

After Jack arrived, we decided a third-floor walk-up in Jersey City wasn't for us anymore, and started looking for a home."

Their search finally led them to Nutley.

Sara describes how they found the perfect house. "We initially looked in Bloomfield, and nearly put an offer on a house until our realtor, Liz Green, suggested we check out a home in Nutley which was 'right on the park.' The home had a story to it: many in Nutley knew the owner as a beloved kindergarten teacher named Mrs. Schwartz. We found some of her recipe cards stowed away in the kitchen cabinets and kept them as an homage to her time here. While the house needed some updates, (as any home built in 1910 would)

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Left: Spending the day at Knoebels Grove, in Elysburg, PA - another tradition and favorite road trip destination for the Herman family. Right: Returning to Jersey City to partake in the fun of La Festa Italiana, one of our favorite Jersey City traditions.

we couldn't pass up on an opportunity to make this little house our own. We officially became Nutley residents in August 2017."

Jim adds, "We moved from Jersey City, where Sara had spent the previous ten years. When we first saw this little house, we loved the idea of living so close to the park and being able to walk all over town. Living on a quiet street after escaping the chaos of urban life in the city is a wonderful change."

While they certainly had a busy year, there was one more major event that rounded out 2017.

"We ended a whirlwind year of milestones by eloping in late December on the Staten Island Ferry. We each brought a witness, and Jim's friend officiated at our marriage ceremony with Lower Manhattan as the backdrop. We toasted with champagne on the return trip to Manhattan, before having an impromptu happy hour and first dance at the Fraunces Tavern, right around the corner from the location of our first date."

Yet, now that the Herman family is parked in Nutley, they aren't exactly idle.

"I am very active with the Nutley Moms group and this has been a great way to meet new parents," Sara said. "Jim has met many neighbors while golfing at Hendricks Field. We're looking forward to joining more activities with the kids as they get older. Jim has big plans for a future soccer star in the family."

Actually, the Herman family's motto, (inspired by New Jersey's famous native singer) tells a lot about Sara, Jim, Jack, and June, who probably all won't ever fully 'park' but will continue to make memories and have fun. Sara said, "We love adventure and, obviously, we love the Boss. We take a lot of day trips on the weekend enjoying all that New Jersey and Nutley have to offer."

Roll down the window and let the wind blow back your hair!

And if the wind is blowing the right way at the park, you can almost hear Bruce singing those words. ■

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.

5

Five Things the Herman Family Loves About Nutley

1. GRANDMA PIE AT CUCINA 355 AND THE ENTIRE STAFF

It's become our "local" and it's now a tradition for us to take all of our out-of-town family to our favorite restaurant.

Kerry, in particular, has been someone we've grown to love. She treats us as family.

2. PARKS They offer a shady respite from the chaos of living in such proximity to New York City. The amount of wildlife and open space they offer is top notch. It's great to see our neighbors and to spend time outside.

3. LIBRARY The children's section is fantastic, and we enjoy escaping to the playroom to have puppet shows and play in the pretend kitchen.

4. WALKABILITY We enjoy walking everywhere: ShopRite, the library, restaurants, and school.

5. SHOPRITE This is not sponsored, but the music is hilariously upbeat for a grocery store (think of all the fun songs you hear at a wedding and can't help but dance to), and the bakery is where diets go to die.

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Nutley Wrestling

A Vision for the Future

Submitted by Joyce Corey

This year marks another step in the right direction for the Nutley Junior Raiders' Wrestling Program. Coach Michael Blanchard will tell you that it has been a labor of love for him and his 18 other youth coaches. The program expanded this year to over 90 young wrestlers after being as low as 50 wrestlers just four short years ago. "We're succeeding in making wrestling accessible and cool. Not to mention it's fun to see the progress our individual kids are making."

At the heart of it is a vision that helps continue to foster a team approach with a focus on individual progress that is not measured by wins and losses. Two things emerge from this ideal: 1) Nutley is becoming what it once was - heavy in volume making them tough to compete against. 2) Sustainable for the foreseeable future. "We can continue to see the program rise as we develop our wrestlers at an age-appropriate pace," Blanchard said. "Many have made yearly jumps without having to be full-time wrestlers. It's exciting to be involved with this change."

The County Team went 8 and 3 this season - only dropping matches to Caldwell, Verona, and Maplewood. "Our Verona and Maplewood matches came down to the difference of one of our 16 weight classes. If things had been different, we could have won both matches. Caldwell still represents a reach for us, but in time we can compete with them, as well," he said.

The County Team competed on Sunday, February 23rd, in Livingston at their end of the season tournament and placed second only to Caldwell despite only entering 12 out of the 16 weight classes. "We decided to wrestle our more experienced wrestlers and have the other four members compete at the league tournament," Blanchard explained. "It played out well as the Jr. Raiders had numerous placements in the league and novice end-of-the-season tournaments. There were also eight wrestlers who qualified for the state tournament this season. This marks a push to compete more as the program expands its efforts for young people."

In addition to the team successes, the program held its first home tournament in six years on January 5th of this year. "We had a highly successful tournament. We sold out the whole event to 330 local area wrestlers and with the cooperation of the high school program we were able to unite our whole program. It was a terrific experience and one in which we will



Pictured left to right: Coaches Michael Blanchard, Derrick Chell, Antonio Maiden, and Ed DeLaney who coached the team to an 8 and 3 record and a second place finish in the Suburban League County Tournament on February 23rd. Photo Courtesy of Dawn Cundiff



Pictured left to right: Coach Dennis Tenorio, Coach Christian Crespo, Coach Michael Berardesco, Coach Michael Blanchard, Superintendent Frank DeMaio, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Mauro Tucci, Coach Antonio Maiden, Coach Ed DeLaney, and some of the wrestlers in the remodeled wrestling room at Parks and Recreation. The room was finished on March 11th, 2020. Photo Courtesy of Parks and Recreation

look to continue to repeat each season."

As the season closed out in March, Blanchard has worked hand-in-hand with Parks and Recreation Superintendent, Frank DeMaio, and Head Wrestling Coach, Michael DiPiano, to successfully secure a needed wrestling room remodel. "Thanks to Commissioner Mauro Tucci, Frank and Michael were able to help me realize one of our goals for the program," Blanchard said. "Now our

room will reflect how many of us feel about Nutley wrestling."

"This new room will be used by our current wrestlers and the many we hope to attract as we hold our annual Wrestling Clinic July 13th through July 16th. On the July 16th night, we have Joe Dubuque and Pat Glory of Princeton Wrestling coming to instruct over 70 young wrestlers. We continue to grow the program and the sport with great ideas and great people at the heart of our decisions." The philosophy is simple, "Summer wrestlers make winter champions." Keep an eye on the Jr. Raiders as the program continues to climb to new heights of success. ■

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Michael's Roscommon House

By Joyce Corey

"We want to thank the immediate community for letting us be part of your family for nearly 38 years. It's been our joy to serve you good food and drink since day one." —**Frank Dauksis, owner**

Have you ever visited that delicious slice of Ireland that fits inside Belleville, only a few short blocks outside of Nutley? Michael's Roscommon House (named after a county in Ireland) features more than fine food; patrons are welcomed with a friendliness that will make them very glad to have pulled up a chair at the table.

Owner, Frank Dauksis, describes his establishment as a "local Irish bar and restaurant with an Italian soul in the kitchen. My parents, Mike and Pam, opened it in 1982. My dad, Big Mike, passed away but my mother, who is now retired, still helps us out on occasion."

The Dauksis family roots can be traced back to Ireland's County of Roscommon before they immigrated to the United States in the early 1900s. They brought with them a strong sense of family and community.

The motto of Michael's Roscommon House, 'Where



you're a stranger only once,' highlights what's important to them. Since the eatery opened, it has remained a vibrant force in the community as it 'feeds' patrons, not only a varied menu, but tangible support in a number of charitable events.

Frank said, "We are proud to have such a tremendous community involvement. We participate in several charitable events and make donations to different causes, but I want to mention two specifically. Each year, we run a scholarship golf outing in honor of my late father, Mike, as well as offering scholarships in the names of many customers who have passed on. In the past 16 years, we raised over \$100,000."

They also run a 5K breast cancer walk in October each year. "This is a special day for us, as my wife is a breast cancer survivor," Frank said. The money raised, which was



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over \$40,000 in five years, goes directly to help local breast cancer patients with mounting medical bills.

The connection between family and community involvement shows up clearly in these fund-

raisers. The participation of Michael's Roscommon House in these charitable events began as a show of love and encouragement to family members that now extends into the entire community. These fundraisers are like a giant hug of support that makes a real and positive change in people's lives.

After talking with Frank Dauksis, I have come to believe that owning and managing a restaurant is rather similar to inviting a few hundred people over for dinner each evening. Besides creating a welcoming atmosphere, Frank and staff literally dish out a menu that keeps patrons coming back.

"We see a lot of repeat customers as well as first-time ones who are looking to enjoy food and drinks with family and friends," Frank said. "We try to make sure that everyone feels like one big family and part of our family."

On a personal note, Frank has been Nutley resident since 2017. "I grew up in Belleville but this town is now home to me, my wife, Sheila, five-year-old son, Leo, and one-year-old daughter, Riley. We love Nutley and raising our kids here."

His wonderful attitude of making people feel welcomed, while serving them great food and drinks, makes Michael's Roscommon House more than an ordinary place to eat.

Come for the food and stay for the friendliness. ■



Located at 531 Joralemon Street, Belleville, Michael's Roscommon House is your home sports' bar! They serve American food, with Italian and Irish favorites dotted throughout the menu. Family owned and operated since 1982, they keep the business fresh without losing its 'at home' appeal. The kitchen is open until 12am daily and the bar from 11-2am. Call for more information, 973-759-0060, or visit their website to see their menu, www.michaelsroscommon.com.



Darling Paws Rescue

By Joyce Corey



Every dog should have a forever home, and if it's up to Alison Rogers, she will do whatever she can to make that happen. As the founder and owner of Darling Paws Rescue, located out of her Nutley home, she has found happily-ever-after endings for about 350 dogs so far.

Darling Paws is a 501(c)(3) charity organization that serves a three-hour radius of their location in Nutley.

"We are a small dog rescue that focuses on saving dogs out of high-kill shelters in Texas," Alison said. "Although we do not have a facility where you can visit the dogs, the adoption process is similar to other rescues. After you fill out an application, we check your references and then set up a meet-and-greet."

"Running a rescue is dependent on a network of reliable and caring people. When we are contacted about a small dog that has been taken to a shelter in Texas, we make arrangements for the dog, or litter of dogs, to be brought here to Nutley. This involves a transport system that we use."

Once here in town, Alison has volunteers who serve as foster parents. The first step is a vet check to assess their overall health. The foster family takes time to determine the dog's personality and starts considering what type of person or family would make the best match. Finally, this information is posted on the Adopt a Pet website.

"When all the paperwork is done, as well as the home inspection, the best part is introducing the dog to its new family," Alison said. "We bring the dog to you, and in some cases, we may bring more than one dog to see which one makes the better connection. We usually meet in a public location in Nutley."

Alison has high praise for all the people who work at the rescue. "First, I thank my husband, Frank. It's a lot of work organizing the transport, as well as taking care of the dogs. All of our volunteers work full time and volunteer their free time to help rescue the less fortunate pets of Texas."

But Alison Rogers and everyone at Darling Paws Rescue keep focused on the big picture of giving someone the chance to add the love of a dog to their home while saving a dog's life.

Visit their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/Darlingpawsrescue/ or email them darlingpawsrescue@gmail.com ■

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Massive COVID-19 Spending Bill to Help Individuals, Businesses

Contributed by Beacon Wealth Partners Michael S. Cocco, CFP, ChFC Salvatore Cocco, Jr. CLU Daniel N. Cocco

On March 25, the Senate passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), which provides emergency assistance and health-care response for individuals, families, and businesses affected by the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.

KEY PROVISIONS PROVIDING RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES:

- Small-business interruption loans for businesses with not more than 500 employees. Loan may be forgiven by meeting certain requirements
- Payroll tax credit: 50% refundable credit on wages paid up to \$10,000 of compensation (including health benefits) paid to an eligible employee during the crisis
- Employer payroll taxes for the rest of 2020 may be

delayed. Half of amount owed must be repaid by the end of 2021 and the other half owed to be repaid by the end of 2022

- Modifications to net operating losses (NOLs) - Under this legislation, NOLs realized in 2018, 2019 or 2020 may be carried back a maximum of five years
- Enhancements to paid sick and family leave program by providing advance refunding of paid leave tax credits so that employers can access the funds quicker

PROVISIONS AFFECTING INDIVIDUALS:

- Recovery rebate payments to individuals through refundable tax credit of \$1,200 (\$2,400 for couples) via direct deposit or checks, \$500 per "qualifying child" defined as being under the age of 17. Phase outs apply at an income level of \$75,000 (\$150,000 for couples filing a joint return), fully phased out at \$99,000 (\$198,000 for couples)
- Waiver on required minimum distributions (RMDs) for 2020
- Penalty-free retirement account distributions of up to \$100,000 by the end of 2020 for those affected by COVID-19
- Retirement plan loans expanded from a maximum of \$50,000 to \$100,000
- Expansion of charitable contributions - New \$300 above-the-line charitable contribution for filers taking the standard deduction applies to contributions made after 2019
- Delay for federal student loan payments - repayments delayed through September 30, 2020
- Tax filing deadline is delayed until July 15, 2020, also applies to Q1 estimated tax payments that were previously scheduled for April 15

Important to remember: Business owners and individuals should consult a financial advisor and tax professional to fully understand these changes and how they apply to their own situation. Guidelines are often updated and its important to stay informed on the latest developments. ■



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Financial Consultant
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*By Dr. Dominick Ligresti, MD
Board Certified Dermatologist*

As we all know Botox and Dysport are derived from botulinum toxin which freezes muscles to prevent wrinkles. It is mainly injected to improve forehead lines and crow's feet around the eyes. On average, the effects of the injections can last three to four months. You will need to alternate between the two compounds as your body gets used to them and the results diminish with this resistance.

The safest products are made by Allergan and Galderma respectively. Using a product that is not FDA certified can lead to serious medical issues like facial paralysis, difficulties swallowing, and death. Fillers such as Restylane or Juvéderm are made from safe, FDA-approved hyaluronic acid. Their primary use is to fill deep nasal-labial lines and add volume to cheeks and lips. Their effect lasts from five to nine months.

Besides checking the source of the products, another important safety component is to check the credentials of

the person who is injecting you. These products are best administered by either board-certified dermatologists, medical doctors, or plastic surgeons since they know facial anatomy. They are required to have three years of extensive training on injecting patients during their medical residency.

By using right medical doctor and products you are ensuring the best and the safest results.

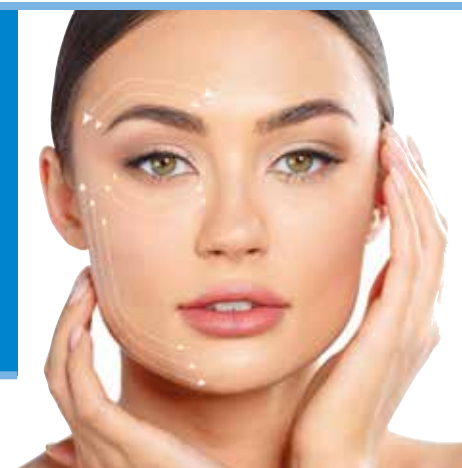
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Article was edited by Joyce Corey

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Free Comic Book Day Comes to the Nutley Public Library with Comics for All!

By Lucia Alvarez, Library Associate

The Nutley Public Library celebrates Free Comic Book Day (FCBD) on May 2, 2020, from 10am-4pm. This is the fifth year the Nutley Public Library will celebrate the event, offering the community a fun, family-oriented program where everyone can find a comic they'll enjoy and make a craft to take home. With awesome titles like Riverdale, Spider-Man, Naruto, and many more, we're sure there's a comic book for everyone!

Celebrating its 19th year, Free Comic Book Day is an annual event where thousands of participating comic book shops and libraries around the world give away comic books absolutely free. Each year, thousands of participating locations give away over five million comic books to millions of fans to introduce them to the wonders of comics.

The event will be held on the first Saturday in May and is the perfect opportunity to introduce friends and family to the many worlds of wonder available at their local comic book shops and libraries. From superheroes to



slice-of-life to action and adventure and beyond, FCBD has a comic book for everyone!

FCBD kicks off on May 2 at 10am and runs until 4pm at the Nutley Public Library. Visit youthservices.nutleypubliclibrary.org, or follow our Facebook page for more information.

Regular updates, information about comic books, and a list of participating publishers and their free comics are all online at www.freecomicbookday.com. ■

At the time the magazine went to print, the information for this event was accurate, but please check the library's website for any updates or changes.

Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Drive, is barrier free.
Visit the website at nutleypubliclibrary.org, email us at library@nutleynj.org or call 973-667-0405. Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., 9am – 9pm / Wed., Fri., Sat., 9am – 5pm

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How Nutley Beat the 1957 Flu Epidemic

By Barry Lenson with research contributed by Research Librarian Kiran Patel of the Nutley Public Library

Since history tends to repeat itself, it is helpful to remember that we have overcome similar challenges in the past.

It happened in 1957, when a new strain of influenza began to infect people in Singapore. It spread quickly through Asia and by late summer of 1957, people in the continental U.S. were starting to get it. Journalists called it the Asian Flu. Young children were most susceptible.

The U.S. Center for Disease Control now estimates that by the time the flu had run its course during the following year, 116,000 Americans had died from it. Around the world, 1.1 million people died. Those statistics are chilling, but still fall short of what happened during the flu pandemic of 1918, when 675,000 people in the U.S. died, along with 50 million people around the world.

The U.S. government was quick to respond in 1957, thanks to a flu vaccine that was about 40%-60% effective. President Eisenhower, leading by example, got a flu shot on August 26, 1957. Our federal government set out guidelines that called for people who provided essential government services to get shots too. That made sense, since people who were protecting other people needed to be healthy.

What Was Happening in Nutley?

According to an article published in The Nutley Sun on September 26, 1957, our Town Commissioners, led by Director of Public Affairs Edgar Wright, were looking out for the health of Nutley citizens. In line with the national policy, they initiated a plan to administer the flu vaccine to 600 town and municipal employees. The people who protected us needed to be healthy. Over time, that plan worked.

The Asian Flu was not terribly severe. After a week or so, most healthy younger people got over it; only very elderly people or people with severe pre-existing conditions became very ill. And, as far as I have been able to determine, not a single Nutley citizen died from the disease. In less than a year, the disease had all but disappeared.



■ **What It Was Like to Have the Asian Flu**
Sometime during the 1957-1958 school year, when I was in third grade in Yantacaw School, I got the Asian Flu too. That was not unusual. Many of my classmates got it.

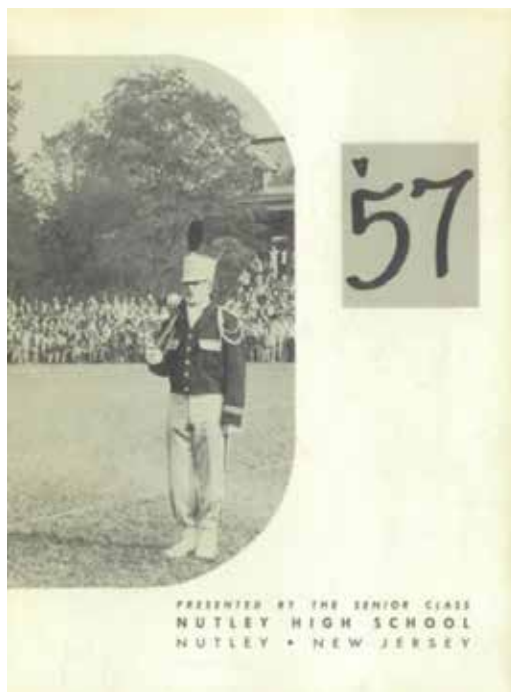
We didn't get shots to prevent it. We waited to get sick, and then we stayed home. But those were the days when most kids got a series of expected childhood ailments, and we usually just stayed

home until we got better. Like most of my classmates, I also got measles, German measles, and chicken pox.

I don't believe my parents were too worried about it. I didn't get the flu vaccine. I just put on a bathrobe and drank liquids and took it easy. Fortunately, that was the year the television program *Zorro* premiered. It was only on once a week, but it was something to look forward to.

After I had been home sick for a week, I got a thick envelope full of handwritten, identical letters from my classmates. "Dear Barry," each one said, "I am looking forward to seeing you when you come back to school."

When I did get back, I couldn't be sure that anybody was actually looking forward to my return. But I did know that my community was caring for me. And when it came to the Asian Flu pandemic of 1957, our town did a very good job. ■





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Nutley Jaycees 2020 Distinguished Service Award Winners

Submitted by David Wilson



EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Helen Doyle-Marino, Director of Special Services, has worked in the Nutley School District for twenty-one years. Prior to Nutley, Helen taught at Deron School for the Handicapped in South Orange, Hawthorne, Kearny, and Montclair. She is a 1988 graduate of Nutley High School.

She earned her Masters of Arts in Special Education and Urban Education from Jersey City University. As Director of Special Services, her responsibilities include managing all aspects of state laws and supervising the Child Study Team. She makes a point of consulting with parents of students with disabilities for input on ways to improve services.



OUTSTANDING YOUNG MAN

Salvatore Balsamo has been a History teacher at Eastside High School for the past fifteen years. Sal graduated from Rutgers College in 2001 with a BA in History, minor in Political Science, and received his Master of Arts in Teaching from Montclair State University.

Sal has been active in the community for the past seventeen years with the Melissa's Hope Scholarship, awarded annually in the memory of his former classmate and friend who suffered from dystonia. Awards go to students pursuing a career in any medical field. To date, they have raised over \$200,000 and reached a level that will award a memorial scholarship in perpetuity.

In 2016, Balsamo was elected a Nutley Board of Education Trustee. During his three-year term, Sal was part of the committee that conducted a superintendent search and

served on the Policy Committee. As Chair of the Academic Committee, he oversaw the initiative of one-to-one Chromebooks for every sixth grader in a pilot program, and subsequently, to every student from sixth through twelfth grade.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Fire Captain **Domenick DiSimone**, now retired, graduated from Nutley High School in 1976, served in the U.S. Navy for three years, before returning to volunteer as a firefighter. In 1991, DiSimone was sworn into Headquarters Company where he served as a Hazmat Technician, arson investigator, fire officer, and in the Honor Guard.

Domenick's distinguished firefighter career was launched in 1994 when he and another firefighter came to the assistance of two Nutley firefighters who were trapped inside a burning building on Kenzel Avenue. DiSimone and Captain Fred Kingston heard yelling, grabbed a ladder, broke through a window, and were able to rescue both firefighters. Just one year prior to that rescue, he and a colleague were called to the Nutley Elks where he successfully performed CPR on a man who had suffered a heart attack in the middle of the dance floor. Domenick is in the Six Gallon Club at the local blood bank.

Several years ago, DiSimone set out to renew the firefighter's memorial just outside the firehouse, raising over \$15,000 to restore the monument honoring fallen Nutley firefighters. He drove the original bell that was in place at the memorial fourteen hours to Ohio for restoration.

CIVIC AFFAIRS

J.D. Vick is an individual who is widely known throughout the Nutley school district, as well as the community, for his

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extensive volunteer efforts on a local and national level. Vick currently serves as Nutley's assistant varsity football coach and baseball coach, head freshman coach for basketball, baseball, and football. His degrees in psychology, special education, and physical education prepared him for assignment as a paraprofessional and special education teacher in Walker Middle School.

Vick formed the Nutley High Patriot Club in 2013 and the Walker Middle School Patriot Club in 2015. As Patriot Club advisor, he works with students to promote the patriotic spirit of the Nutley community to honor and assist members and veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. Students under Vick's guidance have placed American flags on the graves of Nutley war veterans, taken trips to the Pentagon, heard oral arguments at the United States Supreme Court, and visited the U.S. Military Academy. This year, they traveled to Arlington National Cemetery to pay respects to fallen war heroes and participate in an Army Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown at Arlington.

Students under Vick's civic guidance have traveled four times to help rebuild houses destroyed by tornadoes in Alabama, worked with rebuilding in Texas after Hurricane Harvey, and served California residents impacted by wild fires. He has dedicated time and energy to serving food pantries, Habitat for Humanity, homeless shelters, and as a foster parent.

BUSINESS MAN OF THE YEAR

Michael Martin, owner of Nutley Wine Shop, is a Nutley High School graduate who started his career as an employee in 1986. As the years went on, he developed a love of wines and educating people on the various types of wines, where they come from, and how they are used.

In 1999, Mike went from employee to the proud owner of Nutley Wine Shop and has continued to be actively involved in the wine trade, as well as the Nutley community.

In October 1997, he completed his wine education at the Harriet Lembeck School of Wine and has continued each year to further his knowledge of the various wines and visited many vineyards to get first-hand experience.

Martin is being honored for his contributions and ongoing donations to the education community through his time, financial commitment, and overall willingness to be involved when needed. Martin's support for organizations that have put on wine-tasting fundraisers has helped raise thousands of dollars for important missions of the Academic Booster Club and others. ■

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Raymond Blum

By David Wilson

This is the story, chronologically short but historically long, of Private Raymond Blum, son to Abram Blum, Nutley's first mayor under the commission form of government. Born January 12, 1890, the eighth of ten children, Raymond left his clerk job at the American Linseed Oil Company to sign up for the U.S. Army during WWI, a decision impacted by the family's political roles, debates at Carney Blum's butcher shop, and the military draft. He held his newborn niece, Ruth, in April 1918, just before his deployment to France and his parents' homeland of Alsace-Lorraine. A September letter home speaks of corned wooley (beef) and hard tack for sustenance. A total of 427 Nutleyites went off to war and 17 lives were lost, including Raymond Blum, private first class, Company B of the 312th Infantry. He was killed in action at Grand Pre, France on October 22, 1918 at age twenty-eight, just weeks before Armistice Day. Raymond was interred at Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in France.

Death notifications to next-of-kin were done through local governments. Simon Blum was Township Clerk and recipient of the Army telegram. Reacting to the shock of his brother's death, he located his father at fire headquarters and transported him home to be with family for the bad news. Simon returned to Town Hall to run the Commission meeting, all the while keeping silent about the tragedy.



Private Raymond Blum 1918

Below: Memorial at Town Hall 1919

Raymond was memorialized at three separate locations. The first was in 1919 with a plaque and tree in front of town hall supplied by the Nutley Fire Department, dedicated on Decoration Day. Next was on the bronze marker included in the Memorial Parkway project, an area planted with trees and bushes dedicated to all who served, now known as Memorial Park One and Two.

The grandest monument was a brownstone bridge dedicated October 16, 1926. The Raymond Blum memorial bridge was constructed by former Mayor Abram Blum and his family to perpetuate the memory of their son and brother. It was designed by William T.L. Armstrong, built by J.C. and C.H. Freeman from material gathered in the fields nearby, and lettered by Francis McKenna, all residents of Nutley. It spans a tiny stream known as Spring-run, where it joins the Third River in the Nutley Memorial Parkway aka the Mudhole.

The dedication was well attended and included prayers by the Rev. Charles Perley Tinker, music by the Glee Club of Nutley, remarks from Dr. George B. Philhower and Mayor Blum, ending with patriotic sing-alongs by the audience. The bridge stood sturdy for many decades, but ninety years of flood damage took its toll and a replacement bridge was constructed that included the original carved dedication stone.

The Estate of Ruth G. Bedford kindly supplied letters and event programs for this story. Also provided is a 1937 watercolor of



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Modern Bridge 2020



Bridge Dedication Plaque 1926
All photos courtesy Ruth G. Bedford Estate

this bridge by Virginia Bennett, a local artist from a family of amazing talents, including artists, authors, inventors, and musicians. The Bennetts will be a story for another day as we explore the many fascinating personalities and events in Nutley history. Next time you walk in our parks, stop at the memorials and give thanks for those who served. ■

David Wilson is the author of Fire in Our Lives, a book containing stories, experiences, and advice from his forty-year career in public safety. Available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Google Play.

Adopt Us!

Submitted by Christa Milici



Emily is a two-year-old polydactyl female looking for her forever home. She was rescued from a kill shelter. She loves attention and is very sweet. She also gets along with dogs and other cats. Emily is up-to-date on vaccines, FIV/FelV negative, microchipped, and spayed. To fill out an application: www.yellowbrickroadrescue.com/cat-adoption-application/

Submitted by Joyce Corey

Fiona, a one-year-old Chihuahua, was adopted! Here are three reasons how you can benefit by choosing adoption as an option, through Darling Paws Rescue, instead of buying a Chihuahua or another small dog.



- Rescues and shelter volunteers in Nutley already know the personality and tendencies of their pets.
- On average, adoption fees are much less than you'd pay a breeder or pet store. Plus most often rescue pets have already been to the veterinarian for a check-up, had a round of vaccinations, and are spayed or neutered.
- You will become a hero, and give a needy dog or cat a loving home.

Visit www.facebook.com/Darlingpawsrescue/ for more information or email them at darlingpawsrescue@gmail.com ■

EVENTS CALENDAR **MAY** 2020

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.

May 2, Sat.

Big Truck Day

@Municipal Parking Lot 9,
537 Franklin Ave.
Celebrate National Public Works Week by experiencing the high-tech equipment and vehicles used to provide vital township DPW services. Learn how they operate to serve you better. Kids can climb aboard and honk the horn!
Time: 12-3pm
For more information on Department of Public Works programs and events call 973-284-4959

May 2, Sat.

Essex County Household

Hazardous Waste Collection Day

@Essex County DPW,
99 West Bradford Ave., Cedar Grove
Acceptable materials are pesticides, herbicides, automotive fluids (antifreeze, motor oil, steering fluid, etc.), gasoline/kerosene, paint thinners and solvents, household cleaning fluids, oil-based paints and stains, darkroom/photographic chemicals, car batteries, chemistry sets, driveway sealer, home fire extinguishers, barbeque propane tanks, aerosol spray paints, pool chemicals, fluorescent light bulbs and ballasts, nicad/rechargeable batteries, and mercury or products containing mercury.

Time: 8:30am-4pm
For more information call the ECUA at 973-792-9060 or visit www.ecuanj.com

May 2, Sat.

Recreation Fishing Contest

@Memorial Park I (Mud Hole), Passaic Ave. and Vreeland Ave.
This is a free event for Nutley residents only. All participants must be pre-registered prior to the event.
Time: 8:30-11am
Cost: Free
For more information and to register visit <https://register.communitypass.net/nutley>

May 2, Sat.

Up-Cycled, Up-Scaled Beading

@Essex County Environmental Center, 621-B Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland
For ages 14 and up. Just in time for

Mother's Day! Master Gardener and artist-naturalist Maya Bloom will guide participants in making a beaded product using unused or leftover beading material that may be gifted to a mother, another, or kept for oneself. Bring old, unused, reused, or leftover beads. Other material and tools will be provided. Additional beading material can be purchased at an additional cost.
Time: 11am-1pm
Cost: \$12 per child, \$18 per adult
For more information and to register call 973-228-8776

May 4, Mon.

DISH! The Monday Night Cookbook Club

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Dr.
Each month, patrons will choose, prepare at home, and share a DISH! from a selected cookbook. Then, gather to sample each

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other's recipes, discuss cooking techniques, and share stories. Each month's book will be available to be borrowed from the Circulation Desk. Registration required. Time: 7pm

For more information contact Michelle Albert at michelle.albert@nutleybccls.org or 973-667-0405 x2632. To register visit www.nutleypubliclibrary.org/dish-cookbook-club or stop by the Reference Desk.

May 4, 11, 18, 25, Mon.
Self Help Program: Tai Chi, Qigong, Yoga, Stress Technique, and Meditation

@Parks and Recreation Building, 44 Park Ave.
Time: 10-11am
For more information call the Recreation office at 973-284-4966

May 5, 19, Tue.
Board of Commissioners Meeting

@Town Hall – 3rd Floor Commission Chambers, 1 Kennedy Dr.
The public meetings will begin with a conference session at 7pm before the regular meeting which will not begin until at least 7:30pm, at which time formal action may be taken. Time: 7pm
For more information visit www.nutleynj.org/board-of-commissioners

May 6, 13, 20, 27, Wed.
Essex County Aerobic Exercise Program

@Parks and Recreation Building, 44 Park Ave.
Time: 9:30am
For more information and to register call 973-735-6228

May 15, Fri.
14th Annual Relay for Life
@DeMuro Park, Margaret Ave.
This event is a spectacular display of how this community continuously comes together to fight for a cause they believe in. The American Cancer Society has many ways for students to be involved with the Relay for Life movement too. Not only will this event spread cancer awareness and education among students but it is a great tool for Junior High and High School students to gain community service hours. Don't wait to be part of an event that will touch the lives of so many individuals now and for years to come.
Time: 6:30-11:30pm
For more information or to register, call Crissy or Linda at the Recreation Department at 973-284-4966 or visit www.relayforlife.org/nutleynj

May 16, Sat.
Essex County Computer and Electronics Recycling Day
@Essex County DPW, 99 West Bradford Ave., Cedar Grove
Acceptable items are computers, monitors, printers, fax machines, scanners, telecom equipment, speakers, televisions, keyboards, main frames, VCRs, stereos, DVD

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players, toasters, irons, and old cell phones.

Time: 9am-3pm
For more information call the ECUA at 973-792-9060 or visit www.ecuanj.com

May 17, Sun.
Kingsland Manor Open House Tour

@3 Kingsland St.
Come explore the historic homestead of the Kingsland family and beyond, set within park-like grounds overlooking a pond and waterfalls.
Time: 1-4pm
For more information visit www.kingslandmanor.org

May 19, Tue.
Walter Kidde Dinosaur Park Field Trip

@Locust Ave., Roseland
For adults and children ages 7 and up. Celebrate International Dinosaur Day! Meet at the end of Locust Ave. in Roseland and hike 1.5 miles to explore this National Historic Landmark that is home to three-toed Grallator dinosaur tracks from the late Triassic age.

Using clay, make and take an impression of an existing track and leave the site undisturbed for future paleontological study.
Time: 5:15-7:15pm
Cost: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult
For more information and registration call 973-228-8776

May 21, Thurs.
Plant a Pizza Garden and Make a Pizza!

@Essex County Environmental Center; 621-B Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland
For families. Participants will work in the Geodesic Biodome to create the beginnings of a pizza garden. Learn about the basil and oregano herbs and tomato plant varieties that make a great tasting pizza and together we'll make and enjoy a pizza in the kitchen. Each participant will leave with their own potted herbs to care for and harvest as needed. Liability waivers will be required upon registration (for oven use and allergies). Meet in Garibaldi Hall.
Time: 6-7:30pm

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EVENTS CALENDAR MAY 2020

Cost: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult
For more information call 973-228-8776

May 27, Wed, Infant Care Class

@Clara Maass Medical Center,
1 Clara Maass Dr., Belleville
Learn what you need to know about parenting in an interactive "University" for parents-to-be. Learn about the basics on how to navigate parenthood including topics such as newborn and post-partum care. Parents are welcome to attend at any time.
Time: 7-9pm
Cost: Free
For more information and to register call 1-888-724-7123

June 17, Wed. Nutley Jaycees Distinguished Service Awards Dinner

@Valley Regency, 1129 Valley Rd., Clifton
Five individuals who live or work in Nutley will be honored for their outstanding contributions to the quality of life in Nutley. The awards are presented for commitment and excellence in the areas of business, education, civic affairs, public health and safety, and to one outstanding young adult between the ages of 21 and 40.
Time: 6:30pm
Cost: \$45 per ticket with cash bar
For tickets, call Dr. Steven Clarke at 973-235-1515. For ad book, call David and Dianne Wilson at 973-667-4690.

Nutley Department of Public Affairs FACEBOOK pages

Type these into the Facebook search bar to find:
Nutley NJ Public Health Resource Center
Nutley NJ Young Women's Initiative
Nutley NJ Military & Veteran's Affairs Bureau
Nutley NJ Department of Public Affairs Pet Health Resource Center
Nutley NJ Bernie's Club

Nutley Health Department

They conduct a number of health workshops throughout the year as well as provide resources to some of the finest health service organizations in New Jersey. These resources include home care planning, family/caregiver support and respite, medication management options and home safety. They also conduct screenings

for skin cancer, adult vision, and colorectal cancer. Immunizations and a children's clinic are also available. For more information visit www.nutleynj.org/health or call 973-284-4976

Nutley Corps

Nutley students from grades 6-12 are invited to assist the Department of Public Affairs with a number of our senior citizens, health and veteran programs, and other community services. Nutley Corps is a very rewarding and educational experience for all the students who participate. For more information email commissionerrogers@nutleynj.org or visit www.nutleynj.org/nutley-corps

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 Fire Department (973) 284-4940
 Town Hall (973) 284-4951
 Library (973) 667-0405

Parks and Recreation (973) 284-4966
 School District..... (973) 661-3500
 Chamber of Commerce (973) 667-5300
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