

SEPTEMBER 2017

A community magazine serving the residents of Nutley

# NUTLEY NEIGHBORS



## The Merritt Family's Home Advantage



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Photography by Photo Arts Productions

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### AXA ADVISORS, LLC

Salvatore Cocco, Jr. CLU has been with AXA Advisors, 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.

Michael S. Cocco, CFP®, ChFC® is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional with AXA Advisors, LLC where he provides Financial Planning, Investment Advice, and Insurance Planning for his clients. Mike is a graduate of Penn State University and a lifelong Nutley resident.



### HIGH STREET REHAB

Dr. Steven Clarke is a nationally acclaimed chiropractic physician who has practiced in Nutley since 1983. He has had extensive experience with virtually every type of pain condition and has worked with tens of thousands of patients throughout the tri-state area. He was elected and served as the state president of the chiropractic association for four consecutive years and has been a strong advocate of patient rights speaking in Trenton and Washington, DC. He was named New Jersey Chiropractor of the Year for 2006



### GARRUTO & CALABRIA ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Mr. Garruto partnered with Joseph Calabria, another experienced Certified Civil Trial Attorney in 2011, forming Garruto & Calabria. The firm concentrates the practice to personal injury claims, involving any incident where one's negligence causes injury to another, as well as

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### INVESTORS HOME MORTGAGE

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

School and Montclair State University.



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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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## Let's Start September!

I love this time of year. There seems to be so many new things starting this month. School is at the top of the list; students and teachers return to their classrooms after Labor Day. A new season starts mid-month. Autumn brings a lot of changes with cooler weather, colorful leaves, and of course, football games! (Yes, that is David Merritt from the New York Giants and his family on the cover! I had such a great time meeting them.)

Yet, even with all the new things, here in Nutley we recognize our connection to the past.

As I was preparing this month's issue, I saw an exciting theme that runs through these pages. I looked at "today" and saw the school year of 2017-2018 just starting. Then I read Barry Lenson's article about Nutley High School's Class of 1967 celebrating its 50th reunion in October. He asked his former classmates about their thoughts of growing up in town. So many wonderful (and amusing!) memories.

The theme of school continues as we "meet" a very distinguished educator: Dr. Kathryn Ann Mitchell. Currently, she works in the high school but she has been active in the field of education for over 40 years in Nutley. Please read her thoughts and goals for the students and the school system. It's nice to know we have such dedicated people teaching our children.

But wait—there is one more school-related story! Spring Garden Elementary school is getting ready to celebrate its centennial with an Open House on October 1, 2017. This special occasion will reinforce how Nutley prides itself on tradition and will hopefully grow into a Spring Garden alumni association.

So, as you see the children heading off to school in the mornings, think about how this town has kept a vital connection to past school years, former classmates, and outstanding educators. We all get an "A" for this!

See you next month!

**Joyce Handzo,**  
Content Coordinator



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**Meet the Merritt Team: (left to right) Dawson (10), Devin (19), Drayah (9), Dave, Yolonda, and David Jr (20)**

# The Merritt Family's Home Advantage

By Joyce Handzo

*Feature Story Sponsored by Pro Staff Institute of Physical Therapy*

The New York Giants know David Merritt as “Coach” but here in Nutley Yolonda knows him as “husband” and David Jr, Devin, Dawson, and Drayah call him “Dad.”

Both of these “teams,” the Giants and the Merritts, have winning (and very interesting) players.

In the Merritt home, in Cambridge Heights, this family enjoys a wide range of activities (and yes football is one of them!).

David and Yolonda have been married for 23 years. They met at North Carolina State University and moved to Nutley when David became a football coach for the Giants.

David said, “We wanted to live close to my work but we also wanted our home to be in a quiet and safe place. Nutley has all of this. We moved here in 2004 and love

it. We had spent most of our time on Prospect Street but moved to Cambridge Heights last year. Our neighbors are wonderful and we all enjoy spending time together at the pool there.”

David and Yolonda are especially proud of their children.

“David Jr (age 20) graduated from Nutley High School and played in their marching band. He’s attending Guilford Technical Community College in North Carolina now,” Yolonda tells us.

“Devin, who is 19, also graduated Nutley High School and played football and basketball for the Raiders. He’s attending Averett University in Virginia,” Yolonda said. “Both Dawson (10) and Drayah (9) go to Yantacaw School and each is active in sports. Dawson plays flag football,



basketball, and baseball and Drayah dances at Dancers in Motion and plays softball."

And in case you are wondering what kind of input a professional coach gives to his children, Yolonda shares David's views. "Even though he is a coach, he lets the coaches of his children's teams do their jobs." This says a lot about David's professionalism and approach to sports, while also sending a wonderful example to his children about respect.

David has contributed a lot of time and talent to the Giants team. His awards and accomplishments include two Super Bowl championships (XLII, XLVI).

But, just as he is an avid fan for his children's teams, so are they for the Giants. Yolonda said, "We all love football and attend all the home games."

Yet, there is a very big time commitment on David's part. "There is a con to professional coaching," Yolonda explains. "David has long hours which start around the



*Team captains, Yolonda and David*

end of July and continue through the season."

The Merritts still have a home in North Carolina and return there during the summer months. Both David and Yolonda are natives of that state and they have family living there. "Family ties are very important to us and we try to reconnect with everyone as often as possible," Yolonda said.

When back in Nutley, they all attend Christ Church in Montclair, although the Giants' football schedule creates occasional conflicts during the season.

Yolonda is a bit of a celebrity herself with a very popular Zumba class that she teaches at

the Nutley Recreation Annex in Bloomfield and the New York Sports Club. She also enjoys her monthly book club and walking through Nutley's scenic parks. "I see Nutley and all the people here as one big happy family," she said.

Cece is another member of the Merritt family and is a cockapoodle. Yolonda said, "I fell in love with her about

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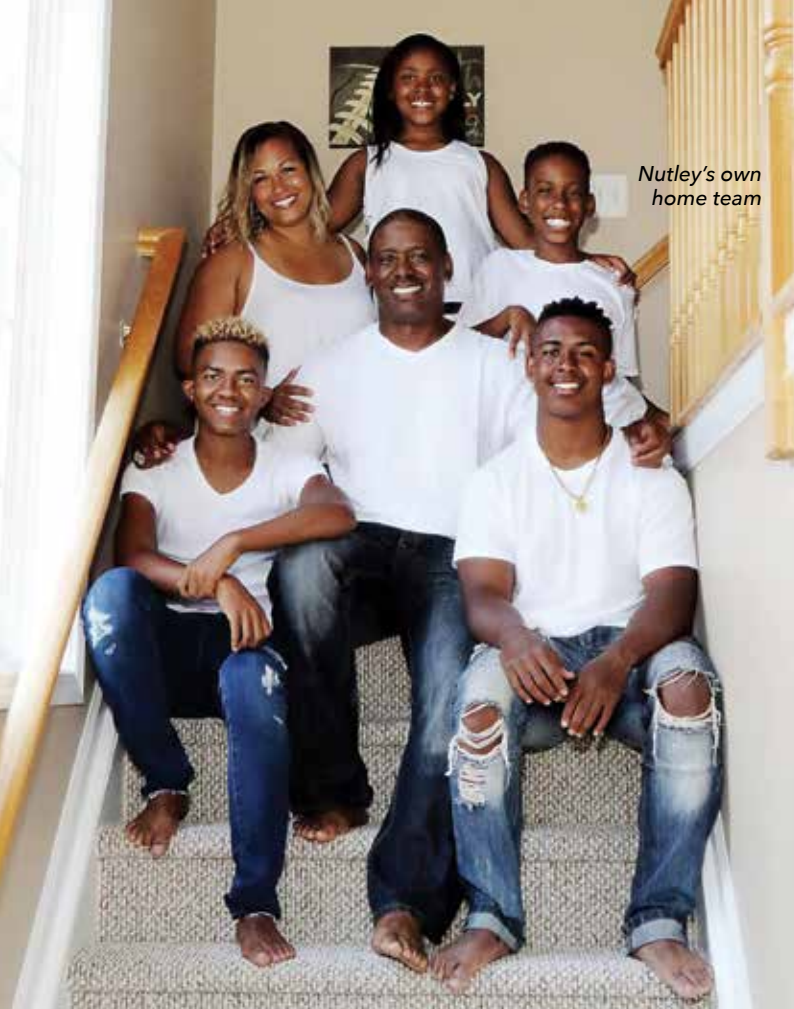
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Nutley's own  
home team

12 years ago when visiting a pet store in town."

The Merritt family has already won their own "Super Bowl Championship" through a wonderfully encouraging family unit. Their activities and involvement in the community and among friends is a testament to their enjoyment of life.

While Nutley cannot give out a trophy for this, we can applaud them.

Sometimes the playing field is turf; sometimes it's grass in the backyard. David and Yolonda Merritt, along with David Jr., Devin, Dawson and Drayah (and Cece of course!) have the home advantage every day.

## 5 Things the Merritt Family Loves about Nutley

1. Safety
2. Schools
3. Community involvement
4. Convenience to New York City
5. Quiet

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 [jhandzo@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:jhandzo@bestversionmedia.com)

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# Kingsland Park

## (PART 1 OF A 3-PART SERIES)

By Dave Wilson

What were Nutley civic groups and elected officials doing in 1921 to enhance the town's appeal to current and prospective residents? What was being done on a national level to preserve open space and provide recreational opportunities? We now know that from 1872-1938, the golden era of U.S. National Park authorization, our forefathers forever protected vast areas of land and resources from private development. Nutley was creating our wonderful park belt following the Third River as it flows through the township. These preservation activities ensured no development within the flood plain and provided a multitude of benefits for the public.

Kingsland Park originated in June 1921 with Ordinance #35 to create, acquire, lay out, improve, and embellish a public park along the eastern shore of Kingsland Lake from Rutgers Pl. to Kingsland St. \$7,500 was appropriated to purchase five parcels of land from Nutley Realty Co, Emil Schneider, A. Paul Geger, Wilhem B. E. Hirsch, Theodore Zeigler, and Gerardo Cetrulo. This action created the main body of the park.

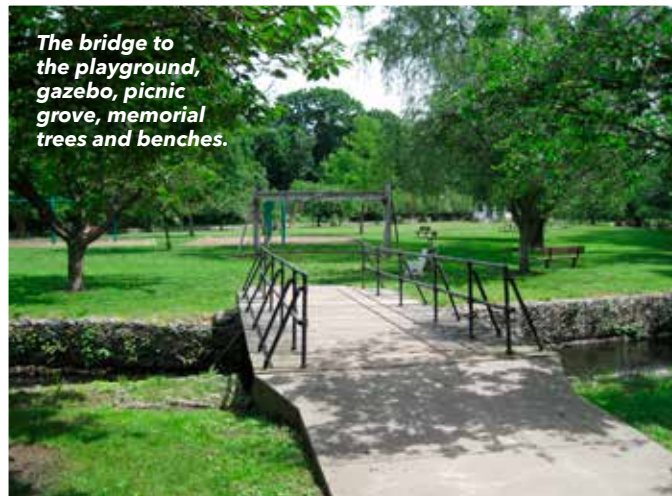
In August 1930, Ordinance #565 provided for the acquisition of certain lands for park purposes, either by gift, condemnation, or purchase. Nutley acquired six more parcels for \$12,000. These lots made up the area around the baseball field and the right of way for stairs to McKinley St. This ordinance was later amended to include construction of cinder paths, clearing of land, and other such improvements, along with funds for tools and payroll.

The final land acquisition was provided for by Ordinance #767 dated November 1935. This included the northwest path from Passaic Avenue and the stairway access from Lakeside Dr. Maude A. Maguire was paid \$1,500. A grand total of \$21,000 was spent to acquire this beautiful park with additional improvements to provide fishing, wading, walking, picnics, weddings, birdwatching, sleigh riding, ice skating, baseball, and other outdoor recreational activities.

Three locally-quarried brownstone stairs leading into



*Kingsland Manor was another great asset added to Kingsland Park in the 1970s.*



*The bridge to the playground, gazebo, picnic grove, memorial trees and benches.*

the park were constructed under Works Progress Administration (WPA) grants. These New Deal projects provided public infrastructure improvements and jobs for the unemployed during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Seven bridges were installed for people and vehicle access.

Playground equipment was installed in

the late 1940s among a grove of weeping willows and picnic tables on the island. There were monkey bars, seesaws, swings, a sandbox, sliding board, and carousel for exercise and fun. Modernization occurred over the next several decades as storm damage and safety codes necessitated improvements of the playground. We used to sit on wax paper to make the sliding board really fast and get dizzy on the carousel we pushed as fast as possible.

The lowering of the dam in the 1950s and a new bridge at Passaic and Rutgers in the 1960s was supposed to help alleviate flooding on Passaic Ave. Continued erosion of the river banks inspired some Comprehensive Education & Training Act (CETA) projects, using old sidewalks and curbs as walls. These walls proved unsightly and prone to failure. Grants, capital ordinances, and DEP permits led to the Gabion rock basket walls that are now used and can be naturalized with plantings.

*This article will be continued with more memories of my brother Robert and myself growing up with Kingsland Park as our backyard and the building of the United Nations Garden.*

# Nutley Family Service Bureau

By Joyce Handzo

**H**elping hands. We all need them at certain times in our lives. Maybe to lift us up at a difficult moment or perhaps those hands give us something tangible like food or clothing.

Many times hands can convey support through a hug or a high-five.

The professional staff, dedicated administrators and cadre of enthusiastic volunteers of Nutley Family Service Bureau (NFSB) are the helping hands of our community. Providing a wide array of services, the NFSB team stand alongside people to give them what they need at that particular moment so they can not only *survive* but someday *thrive*.

NFSB's mission is simple, yet powerful. According to the website, [www.nutleyfamily.org](http://www.nutleyfamily.org), the organization seeks to "strengthen the emotional and social well-being of individuals and families through affordable mental health counseling and social service programs."

NFSB has been a responsive community resource for over 100 years. The characteristic integrated community involvement highlights NFSB's understanding of human needs and the value of each individual. Emma Cortese, an NFSB trustee, related that "NFSB is in a unique position to relieve the often cumulative and corrosive challenges that stressors such as financial hardship, food insecurity, and mental health issues present to individuals and families residing in the area".

Eileen Painter, Executive Director, continued along those lines, "We fundamentally are tied to the community."

This connection is evident especially in the mental health services they offer. Yet, as with everything NFSB does, they go above and beyond. Their mental health services are distinguished in many ways, with accessibility to therapy a primary distinction.

Firstly, there is a low economic barrier for those people in need who seek services. NFSB networks with over 27 insurance companies, including Medicare and Medicaid. Many private practices and other local facilities do not have such a wide umbrella of coverage. Additionally, an adjusted fee schedule is in place, based on taxable income as well as other the variables that impact payment ability. "The fee adjustment for a family of six would likely be more generous than for a family of two. So here we see not only the accessibility, but also the focus on family, just as the name of our agency indicates," said Emma Cortese.



Nutley Family Service Bureau located at 155 Chestnut St, Nutley



Another way that NFSB works toward making services accessible is by minimizing wait time as a barrier to treatment. "We feel that efficient scheduling is crucial to best practices for mental health counseling. We triage our intake calls with crisis issues differently and with more urgency, but typically we attempt to schedule in-person assessment appointments within two weeks after that first call in," Felicia Gardner, Director of Clinical Services stated.

NFSB is not merely connected to the community; it is connected *with* the community.

Eileen Painter explains: "In addition to individuals, we have multiple and unique community partners including municipal, civil, faith-based, and corporate organizations. For example, NFSB Food Pantry is the grateful recipient of fresh produce donations from Nutley Farmer's Market, the Giving Garden, and Nutley Community Garden. Any surplus is shared with community partners such as Vincent United Methodist Church Care Kitchen. Such reciprocal relationships also help to avoid duplicating services so we may work more efficiently. We are always conscious of how to maximize our cost/benefit bottom line," she said.

Felicia Gardner comments on another example of partnering which occurred during a recent crisis at NHS. "We opened our doors and blocked-out the schedules of three seasoned therapists. Any student who wanted to process the incident or discuss their feelings was invited to come in, free of charge, to receive guidance and/or possible referral sources."

Nutley is fortunate to have such a dedicated, professional staff at NFSB, as well as over 100 adult and youth volunteers. Everyone in town knows that if they need a helping hand, there are many at NFSB locations (155, 169, 172) on Chestnut Street.

Just like they are there for all of us here in town, let's be there for them by supporting their work in positive ways. Tell a friend, write a letter of encouragement to them, or spread the word of their work among people you know.

*Nutley Neighbors* puts their collective hands together in a round of applause.



# Nutley Real Estate Statistics

## HOMES FOR SALE

\$400,000 - \$500,000	18
\$500,000 - \$600,000	9
\$600,000 - \$700,000	6
\$700,000 - \$800,000	5
<b>LARGEST LISTING</b>	<b>\$859,000</b>

## HOMES SOLD IN LAST 6 MONTHS

\$400,000 - \$500,000	46
\$500,000 - \$600,000	12
\$600,000 - \$700,000	5
\$700,000 - \$800,000	4
<b>LARGEST SALE</b>	<b>\$1,277,000</b>

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# EVENTS CALENDAR **SEPTEMBER** 2017

**Sept. 1, 8, 15, 20, 29, Fri.**

## **Old Guard Club**

@Nutley Senior Citizen & Recreation Department, 44 Park Ave.

Time: 9am

Cost: Free

For Information concerning programs, please contact Linda Hamilton, Senior Citizen Coordinator at 973-284-4966.

**Sept. 3, Sun.**

## **Trophy Recycling Day**

### **@Municipal Parking Lot #1**

Don't know what to do with that dusty, broken Little League trophy? All trophies and medals will be collected for recycling. Time: 9am-2pm

**Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24, Sun.**

## **Nutley Farmer's Market**

### **@Municipal Parking Lot #1**

The Nutley Farmers Market, established in 2009, features live musical entertainment and a wide variety of fresh regionally-grown produce, as well as cut flowers, homemade cheese, dried fruit and fresh nuts, pickles, bread and more. The market helps New Jersey family farmers, enables people to meet, talk to and ask questions of the person who grew their food, brings shoppers into our local business districts and is a great place to meet friends and neighbors.

Time: 9am-2pm

Cost: Free

For more information please contact the Department of Public Works at (973) 284-4959 or visit [www.nutleynj.org/farmersmarket](http://www.nutleynj.org/farmersmarket)

**Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24, Mon.**

## **Senior Art Program**

@Parks and Recreation Bldg., 44 Park Ave.

Time: 1-2:30pm

For information concerning programs, please contact Linda Hamilton, Senior Citizen Coordinator at 973-284-4966.

**Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24, Mon.**

## **Self Help Program: Tai Chi, Qigong, Yoga, Stress Technique & Meditation**

@Parks and Recreation Bldg., 44 Park Ave.

Time: 10-11am

For information concerning programs, please contact Linda Hamilton Senior Citizen Coordinator at 973-284-4966.

**Sept. 5, 19, Tue.**

## **Board of Commissioners Meeting**

@Township of Nutley Municipal Building, Third (3rd) Floor; Commission Chambers, 1 Kennedy Drive

Time: 7:30 pm

Open to the public

[www.nutleynj.org/board-of-commissioners](http://www.nutleynj.org/board-of-commissioners)

**Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26, Tue.**

## **Bridge**

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Drive

Time: 1-4pm

Cost: Free

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

**Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27, Wed.**

## **Wednesday Afternoon Knitters**

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Drive

Come share your love of knitting and crocheting with both beginning

and experienced knitters. Meet fellow knitters, brush-up on your skills, and learn some new techniques. Please bring your own supplies.

Time: 1-3pm

Cost: Free

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

**Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27, Wed.**

## **Essex County Aerobic Exercise Program**

@Parks and Recreation Bldg., 44 Park Ave.

Time: 9:30am

To register or for more information: (973) 735-6228.

**Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27, Wed.**

## **Senior Bingo**

@Nutley Senior Citizen & Recreation Center (transportation available)

Time: 12:30-3pm

For information concerning

programs, please contact

Linda Hamilton, Senior Citizen

Coordinator at 973-284-4966.

**Sept. 6, Wed.**

## **Essex County Clerk Program**

@Recreation Department, 44 Park Ave.

On the first Wednesday of each month the Essex County Clerk's office is available at the Recreation Department for residents to obtain passports and Notary Public services.

Time: 2-8pm

For more information: [www.nutleynj.org/recreation](http://www.nutleynj.org/recreation)

**Sept. 6, 20, Wed.**

## **Planning Board Meeting**

@Township of Nutley Municipal Building, Third (3rd) Floor;

Commission Chambers, 1 Kennedy

Drive

Time: 7pm

Open to the public  
[www.nutleynj.org/meeting-schedules](http://www.nutleynj.org/meeting-schedules)

**Sept. 17, Sun.**

## **Green Day at the Market**

@Municipal Parking Lot #1

Join us at our 5th annual "mini" eco-fest featuring a fair trade market, eco-friendly vendors, educational exhibits and workshops focused on environmentally friendly living and making "greener" choices.

Time: 9am-2pm

For more information please contact the Department of Public Works at (973) 284-4959 or visit [www.nutleynj.org](http://www.nutleynj.org)

**Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28, Thurs.**

## **ESL Classes**

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Drive

Time: 5:30-7:30pm

For more information about other class days and times, please contact the library.

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

**Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28, Thurs.**

## **Project Healthy Bones**

@Parks and Recreation Bldg., 44 Park Ave.

Time: 1-2:30pm

Cost: Free

For information concerning programs, please contact Linda Hamilton Senior Citizen Coordinator at 973-284-4966.

**Sept. 9, Sat.**

## **Delightful Garden – Delicious Food: A Family Event**

@Mountsier-Hardie Garden, 205

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Buy tickets at [www.nutleyfamily.org/DGDF](http://www.nutleyfamily.org/DGDF). Email at [marketing.nfsb@gmail.com](mailto:marketing.nfsb@gmail.com) or call 973-667-1884 for more information.

### Sept. 11, Mon.

#### Monday Night Book Club

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Drive

Do you know listening to jazz can enhance your enjoyment of food? Join us as we kick off our new season discussing summer reads, listening to smooth jazz, and sampling healthy snacks presented by registered dietician Stephanie Bini.

Time: 7-8pm

Cost: Free

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

### Sept. 12, Tue.

#### Tuesday Afternoon Book Club

@Nutley Parkside Apartments, 7 William Street

Time: 2pm

Cost: Free

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

### Sept. 17, Sun.

#### Kingsland Manor Open House Tour

@3 Kingsland Street

Time: 1-4pm

Come explore the historic homestead of the Kingsland family and beyond, set within park-like grounds overlooking a pond and

waterfalls. Please visit their website for more information: [www.kingslandmanor.org/](http://www.kingslandmanor.org/)

### Sept. 19, Tue.

#### Graphic Novel Club for Adults

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Drive

The book, Shoplifter by Michael Cho will be discussed.

Time: 7-8pm

Cost: Free

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

### Sept. 21, Thurs.

#### Historic Preservation Committee Meeting

@Town Hall, 3rd Floor Commission Chambers, 1 Kennedy Drive

Time: 7pm

Open to the public

[www.nutleynj.org/calendar/20](http://www.nutleynj.org/calendar/20)

### Sept. 23-24, Sat-Sun.

#### Town-Wide Garage Sale

@Town-Wide

Now expanded to two days.

Time: 8am-5pm

Cost: Registration fee of \$10 benefits Township Go Green initiative. Pre-registration required. Please visit the Engineering Department.

For more information please contact the Department of Public Works at (973) 284-4959 or visit [www.nutleynj.org](http://www.nutleynj.org)

### Sept. 24, Sun.

#### Civic Pride Day

@Municipal Parking Lot #1

Come and meet local civic organization leaders. Learn how to get involved in the many civic organizations that Nutley has to offer.

Time: 9am-2pm

For more information please contact the Department of Public Works at (973) 284-4959 or visit [www.nutleynj.org](http://www.nutleynj.org)

### Sept. 25, Mon.

#### 109th Nutley Invitational Golf Tournament

@Forest Hill Field Club, Bloomfield  
Golf or casual attire is acceptable. Dinner will follow immediately.

Time: Luncheon 11am-12:30pm/  
Tee Time 12:30pm/Cocktail Hour 5:30pm

Cost: Golf, Lunch, Dinner \$195/  
Dinner only \$100

For more information, email [nutleyinvitationaltournament@gmail.com](mailto:nutleyinvitationaltournament@gmail.com) or call 973 544 1099


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# EVENTS CALENDAR **SEPTEMBER** 2017

**Sept. 25, Mon.**

## **2017 Golf for a Cure Outing**

@Hendricks Field Golf Course, Belleville

The money raised will be donated in memory of all deceased Nutley High School football players to several organizations dedicated to prostate cancer research and treatment. Golfing includes a "Closest to the Pin" contest, a "Longest Drive" contest and 18 holes of golf with a cart. The golf outing will be followed by a luncheon at Nanina's in the Park, 540 Mill Street, Belleville, with food, beer, wine and soda.

Time: Registration at 7:15am/Start at 8am

Cost: Golf and lunch \$120 per person/Lunch only \$50 per person  
For details and reservations, call 973-634-1240

**Sept. 26, Tue.**

## **Nutley Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting**

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Drive

Time: 6:30-8pm

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

**Oct. 1, Sun.**

## **Open House**

@Spring Garden Elementary School

This special occasion will reinforce how Nutley prides itself on tradition and will hopefully grow into a Spring Garden alumni association.

Time: 12-3pm

Cost: Free

For more information, visit the Spring Garden PTO webpage on the school website [nutleyschools.org](http://nutleyschools.org) or the Facebook page "SGS 100 Year Anniversary Celebration – Alumni Page"

## **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.

Call for more information: 973-284-4976

[www.nutleynj.org/content/public-health-hursing.html%20](http://www.nutleynj.org/content/public-health-hursing.html%20)

## **Nutley Corps**

Nutley students from grades 6 to 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. Email Commissioner Rogers for more information: [commissionerrogers@nutleynj.org](mailto:commissionerrogers@nutleynj.org)  
[www.nutleynj.org/content/nutley-corps.html](http://www.nutleynj.org/content/nutley-corps.html)



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## Tips for Business Owners: Protect Your Business from Ransomware

You have probably heard of the recent WannaCrypt cyber-attack that began Friday, May 12, 2017. Please find below 10 tips that can help keep your computers and data safe from Ransomware.

How is it spread? WannaCrypt is spread both via email (disguised as social media notifications, banking alerts, and even virus warnings) as well as through infected computers on your network.

### How can I protect myself?

**1** Do not click on links or open attachments in emails unless you are 100% certain of their legitimacy. If a bank or social media service contacts you, go directly to that service to check, and not trust the links provided. Email has becoming the #1 source of infection.

**2** Only check business email accounts at work if it is work related. Businesses do their best to protect their own emails but they have no way of doing so for external email services.

**3** Make sure your home PCs are updated with the latest patches.

**4** If you have Windows XP, remember that is no longer supported and should be replaced.

**5** If your computer is infected turn it off immediately to protect other computers.

**6** Make sure your home PCs have a virus scanner.

**7** If, while browsing, you get an alert that you have a virus and need to run a scan, that is likely a fake alert to trick you into installing the actual virus. Take a screen shot and close your browser. Send the screenshot to your IT professional for review. If you continue to get alerts turn your PC off.

**8** Beware of "free" games and applications. Many of these contain malware or worse, actual viruses.

**9** Beware of social media games - they are sometimes used to capture personal information or create vulnerabilities.

**10** When in doubt, turn off your PC and contact your IT professional.



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## 50 Years Later . . . Members of Nutley High School's Class of 1967 Reflect on Growing Up in Nutley

By Barry Lenson

*Nutley High School's Class of 1967 celebrates its 50th reunion in October. Let's hear what members of the class have to say about what growing up in Nutley has meant to them.*

### LAURIE COLIN FORMICHELLA

Librarian, Gloucester, Massachusetts

Growing up in Nutley gave me a sense of place. In all the other places I've lived, Nutley inspired the characteristics that informed my choices. A place with a unique identity, check. A place that incorporates nature within the town, check. A scenic view from my residence, check. A town with varied architecture and historic buildings, need that too. An excellent school system and public library. Nutley had all of that, and I'm not happy in a place lacking any of those qualities.

### KENNETH D. COLE

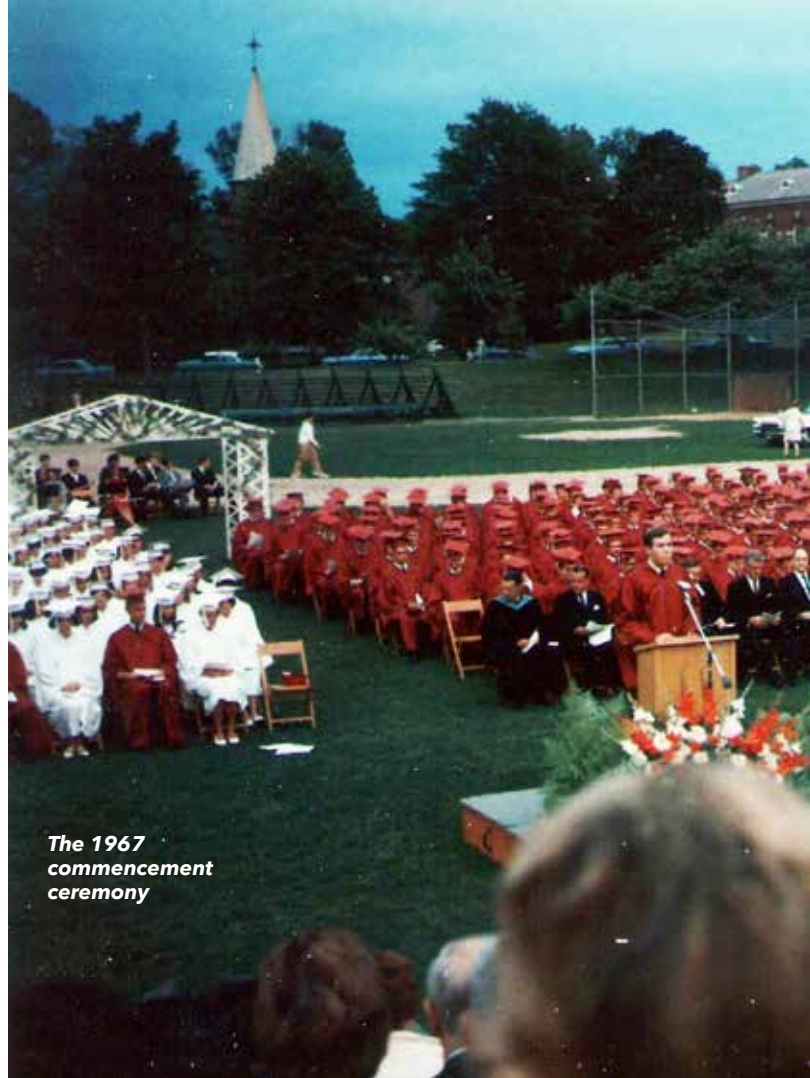
Psychologist, Huntington Beach, California

I feel so very lucky to have grown up in Nutley. In first grade in 1955, we had a brand new elementary school. I still remember the smell of fresh wood all through Radcliffe School. It was nice to go to Franklin School, which had been Nutley High School when my mom and dad met there in 1937. And then I felt challenged when I started high school. Our accelerated math class was composed of only 24 of us, and we were learning trig by sophomore year. Every Friday our English teachers would assign a "theme" of about four pages, due Monday. If we had a word misspelled or a comma misplaced, we got it back with the grade "65-sorry" written on top. They told us "that's how it's going to be in college." It wasn't. But to this day I think of Nutley High whenever I write.

### JOSEPH TESI

Real Estate Developer, Basking Ridge, NJ

During the 50's we lived on a dead end street in Nutley. It was the last house (my Dad and my grandfather built the house in 1951) at the end of Hope Street. It was adjacent to Plenge's Farm, a vegetable farm covering approximately 70 acres of land split between Nutley and Belleville. Tractors would drive up and down a dirt road that was 15 feet away from our driveway. Cerami's Dairy on the other side of the river. It was indeed a unique corner of Nutley that I cherish to this day.



The 1967  
commencement  
ceremony

### DEANNA BARBARA CHUY

Retired English Department Head, Lake Hiawatha, NJ

Spring Garden School provided an idyllic start to the great education we all received in Nutley during the 50's and 60's. This was a loving, child-centered school community, a real second home to all of us who were lucky enough to be part of it. The love of my first school influenced me in my thirty-three year teaching career. At the start of classes in September, I always had each of my students clearly pronounce his or her name to me, just as Mrs. Simon had done with all of us in first grade so many years before. Her belief was that we all deserved to take

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**LILY SALISBURY** (known as Elaine Hooper in High School)  
**Retired Health Care Professional, Wilmington, North Carolina**  
 I went to elementary school with phenomenal others. The students' faces in those class pictures generally remained the same from kindergarten through sixth grade. Moving mutually through those years forged incredibly strong bonds. How powerful, in 7th grade, to meet *more* extraordinary others, then together sharing junior and high school years. I found myself greatly influenced by the wit and profound intelligence of those friends. So memorable is the laughter of those significant years. It brought lightheartedness to adolescent stress and striving.

**ELEANOR STAGER SLOMKOWSKI** Retired  
**Administrator, Nutley, NJ**

Growing up in Nutley meant everything we needed was right within walking distance, Peerless for school supplies, ShopRite for groceries, D&S Grand 5 & 10, clothing stores, shoe stores, toy stores, a movie theatre, pizza parlors, ice cream and candy stores, appliance and furniture stores, and plenty of parks to enjoy.

**ANTHONY PISCIOTTA**

**Retired Teacher, Nutley, NJ**

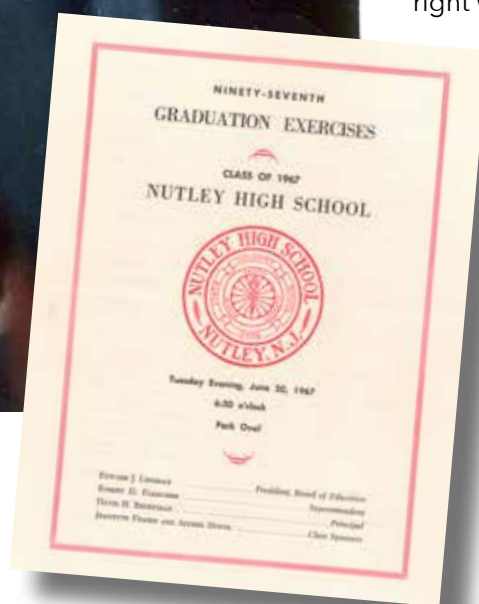
Yantacaw School, what a wonderful experience that was—students, teachers and Mr. Kierstead, the janitor who always let us pull his keys down from his belt. Riding my bike down Rutgers from North Road for the first time, never touching my brakes. Hopscotch on the Yantacaw School playground and throwing chestnuts at each other, when Principal O'Rourke was not looking. Riding in back of the mosquito spraying trucks. Going to the many parties on NHS graduation night, realizing that most of these people I would never see again.

**DAVID MARGULIES**

**Chief, Molecular Biology Section, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland**

Formative years in Nutley 50 years ago: a short walk or bike ride to any part of town, Little League baseball games, the Mudhole in winter, ice skating on a real pond, Yantacaw School bike room and Patrol crossing in a hurricane. Franklin and High School years when it seemed everyone knew everyone (though maybe didn't talk to everyone!). Teachers who could coax, inspire, encourage, belittle, or embarrass, all with the best intent. Trudging up the hill to Boys' Park in noisy cleats, and returning after dark in saturated sweatshirts. A Senior Courtyard that was only a cut through—perhaps it was all a cut through, but not only.

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



pride in ourselves. I still concur and thank her for that life lesson.

**BARRY LENSON**

**Writer, Millburn, NJ**

My uncles Bob and Tom came back from the Korean War and moved in with us. Then my aunt Helen moved in too. Next came my grandmother. Similar things seemed to be happening in many houses on our street in the 1950s. I still carry that idea of what family is in my heart.



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## Nick De Simone N.J. Lenders Corp. Mortgage Bankers

By Joyce Handzo

In an industry that can often be confusing and stressful for buyers, Nick De Simone makes a point to be helpful and hands-on with his clients. His clients use words like "knowledgeable," "hard working," and "honest" to describe him, and these testimonials speak highly of the way Nick treats everyone who works with him.

While Nick deals with numbers all the time in the banking industry, his own personal statistics are impressive.

In less than 10 years, he has become one of the top originators in the country. Most recently in 2016, Nick was listed among the top 1% Mortgage Originators of America, according to *Mortgage Executive Magazine*.

Nick has also earned a Five Star Mortgage Professional



Award by *New Jersey Monthly Magazine* for the past five straight years since 2013.

Not only does Nick specialize in first-time home buying, but is an expert at streamlining the loan application process for all clientele.

"Clients can submit their information online, which only takes about 10 to 15 minutes," Nick explains. "They also have access to our secure Client Portal to upload their credit documents. After I review all this information, we will know of any potential areas that need to be addressed. This makes the mortgage application process go much smoother throughout."

He has been responsible for providing financial services for over 100 new and non-warrantable condominium developments throughout the five boroughs of New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey.

With over 100 5-star reviews on Zillow, the word on the street is that Nick is great at what he does.

*"He responded immediately when we had any questions and kept us informed."* -Vanessa M.

*"He responded to our questions right away and went*

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over and beyond to make this a great experience. I would highly recommend him without any reservations." – Jennifer L.

His clients aren't just pleased with his quick responses, with 70% of his mortgage loans derived from previous customer referrals, clients are also satisfied with the overall process.

"Everything he told us was honest and we grew to trust him very quickly. We always felt like he had our best interests at heart even though we never met him in person. We'd recommend him to anyone who could use his services." – Stanton S.

Nick said, "I understand that obtaining a mortgage is the largest financial undertaking you will ever have in your lifetime. My goal is to help you through this process by answering questions and being available when you need to speak with me."

Nick has been working with NJ Lenders Corporation for almost ten years as a loan officer. The corporation started in 1991 and is a leading, privately owned New Jersey and New York mortgage company. Their goal is to offer competitive mortgage rates and fees while providing a level of service that exceeds their clients' expectations.

NJ Lenders Corporation prides itself as a company that obtains 95% of their business through referrals. Therefore, it's important that they make sure clients are satisfied with the level of service they receive so that they will

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recommend someone like Nick to family members, friends, or colleagues who are in need of a mortgage.

According to their website, NJ Lenders' loan officers believe that "the greatest compliment that we can ever receive in exchange for the service we provide is a referral."

Nick commented, "This is a large company but our office has a small business feel. When I meet clients for the first time, I not only look to give them the best rates, I look to give them the best experience. Purchasing a home can be a stressful process and our goal is to remove the stress from the mortgage side of things and allow clients to focus their attention towards other aspects, such as contract negotiations and moving plans."

Nick De Simone can be reached at 973-200-3244 or through his website at [nick.njlenders.com](http://nick.njlenders.com). His main office is located at 219 Paterson Avenue in Little Falls and he also has a branch office at 2 Sylvan Street in Rutherford.

Nick De Simone has been working with NJ Lenders Corp. since 2006. A resident of Hawthorne, NJ, Nick grew up in nearby Wyckoff and graduated from Boston College with a degree in business management. Nick specializes with first-time homebuyers, FHA loans, multi-family properties and condominium financing throughout North Jersey.

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# School Counselor Dr. Kathryn Ann Mitchell, Ed.D., LPC, NBCC

By Joyce Handzo

## Q. PLEASE GIVE US A LITTLE BACKGROUND ON YOUR TEACHING CAREER.

I have been active in the field of education for over 40 years in Nutley. I worked as an elementary school teacher at Lincoln School for 23 years, and I loved every minute of my teaching career. But, I realized what I loved best was the interpersonal connection I made with my students. This prompted me to move into the area of counseling. Upon receipt of my school counseling certificate, I was hired as a school counselor at Nutley High School.

Currently, I work in the high school addressing the needs of students in grade nine through twelve. This work includes helping them make a successful transition between grades and different schools, career exploration and development, post-secondary planning including the college search and the admission process and job searching, resume writing and interviewing techniques. I also served as a member of the Intervention and Referral Services Team which is federally mandated to assist at-risk students.

## Q. WHAT IS YOUR PRIMARY GOAL WHENEVER YOU ENTER THE CLASSROOM?

Simply put, my primary goal is to inspire students. When one is inspired, all things seem possible. We begin to see ourselves in new ways that reflect our inner strengths and

potential. We feel supported and encouraged, and this belief in oneself is what motivates a student to achieve better, accomplish more and reach higher.

## Q. ARE THERE ANY DIFFICULTIES OR CHALLENGES YOU FACE AS A TEACHER THAT YOU WOULD LIKE PARENTS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND?

It is interesting that you asked this question since one of our district counseling initiatives has been to promote our professional identity as "school counselors." In years past, the term was "guidance counselor." However, this role has evolved in the past decade to focus on embracing a comprehensive approach to

optimize student outcomes. Focus areas include personal and emotional support, student and family intervention, social development, academic guidance, college readiness, and career planning. I feel very strongly about the importance of the work I do, and it gives me great pride to call myself a school counselor.

## Q. AS AN EDUCATOR, WHAT ADVANTAGES DO YOU FEEL THE NUTLEY SCHOOL SYSTEM PROVIDES STUDENTS?

Children are highly valued here. Their needs are addressed and their successes applauded. Our teachers and staff care about and support the students, integrate innovative teaching practices and dedicate hours of their day to providing a quality education to Nutley students.

## Q. WHAT WAS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT?

It has been most rewarding to have students come back



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to see me to share their successes, to acknowledge the help and support that I gave them during their elementary or high school years, and to reaffirm that the confidence I inspired in them helped them to have the power to believe in themselves.

**Q. CONGRATULATIONS ON RECEIVING THE SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR. WHAT DOES THIS AWARD MEAN TO YOU?**

I was deeply touched and honored to be recognized for this prestigious award. It meant so much to me to be acknowledged for my efforts over the years. It confirmed the confidence that the Nutley administration has in me, and that can only serve to inspire me even more.

**Q. WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE GOALS?**

Some of my goals include exploring opportunities for future learning, continuing to hone my skills as a counselor, and looking for new ways to inspire my counselees. On a personal note, I was so taken with the effect of the therapy dogs with our students last school year that I would like to find a way to incorporate this into our school counseling program in the years to come.

**Q. ANY FINAL THOUGHTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OR A PERSONAL QUOTE THAT INSPIRED YOU?**

I believe in the power of the individual to create change. I believe in affirming the positive efforts of the individual to achieve self-actualization. I look for the best in everyone, and have never been disappointed by what I have found.

*"You've always had the power my dear. You just had to learn it for yourself."*

Glinda, The Wizard of Oz

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# Spring Garden Elementary School Celebrates 100 Years

Submitted by Paula Miller

Spring Garden Elementary school is getting ready to celebrate its centennial with a robust schedule of fun, family-friendly events starting with its Open House on October 1, 2017. The Spring Garden community is invested in making this year its best yet. Several volunteer committees have been established to organize events for the children to create art projects and activities centered on the 100-year theme.

This special occasion will reinforce how Nutley prides itself on tradition and will hopefully grow into a Spring Garden alumni association. The area now known as Nutley has had residents dating back to 1688. Wouldn't it be great if we could invite the oldest living Spring Garden alumni to join the celebration, and more importantly talk about their journey as a former Spring Garden student? Maybe talk about the ghosts behind the walls, favorite books, and if they were sent to the principal's office?

Here's how you can help! Please participate in the SGS 100 Year drawing. When you answer these questions,



you will be entered to win a special alumni gift and become part of history.

Providing your name, address, and email address will enroll you as part of the SGS Alumni Association. The goal of the association is to share stories and better connect our children with the community. Your answers to the questions provided, will lead us to more clues about how the school has grown over the years. We want to show the students the importance of history and the beauty within the community over

the last 100 years.

Also, to stay up-to-date with events and real-time discussion with other Spring Garden Alumni, Like our Alumni Facebook Page named SGS 100 Year Anniversary Celebration Alumni Page.

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Please answer a few questions to get started!

**YOUR NAME**

(please provide maiden and married name if different)

**YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS**

**YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS**

1. Who are the oldest living Spring Garden alumni you are aware of and their current city, state? What approximate year did they graduate from Spring Garden?
2. Do you have any special mementos from your SGS years that you wish to exhibit at the Open House?
3. As an SGS alumni, would you like to speak at the Open House event? What topic would you be interested in discussing?
4. Have you received any professional honors after Spring Garden Elementary that you want to share?
5. Can you connect with any former SGS teachers to invite them to future alumni events?
6. Can you provide any old photos to be displayed at the event or for a time capsule?
7. Do you or a friend know any SGS alumni and their current city, state? Please list.

**PLEASE MAIL ALL ENTRIES TO:**

Paula Miller  
SGS 100 Year Alumni Committee  
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or email: paula.ma.miller@gmail.com



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# Soccer Player Lauren Holden

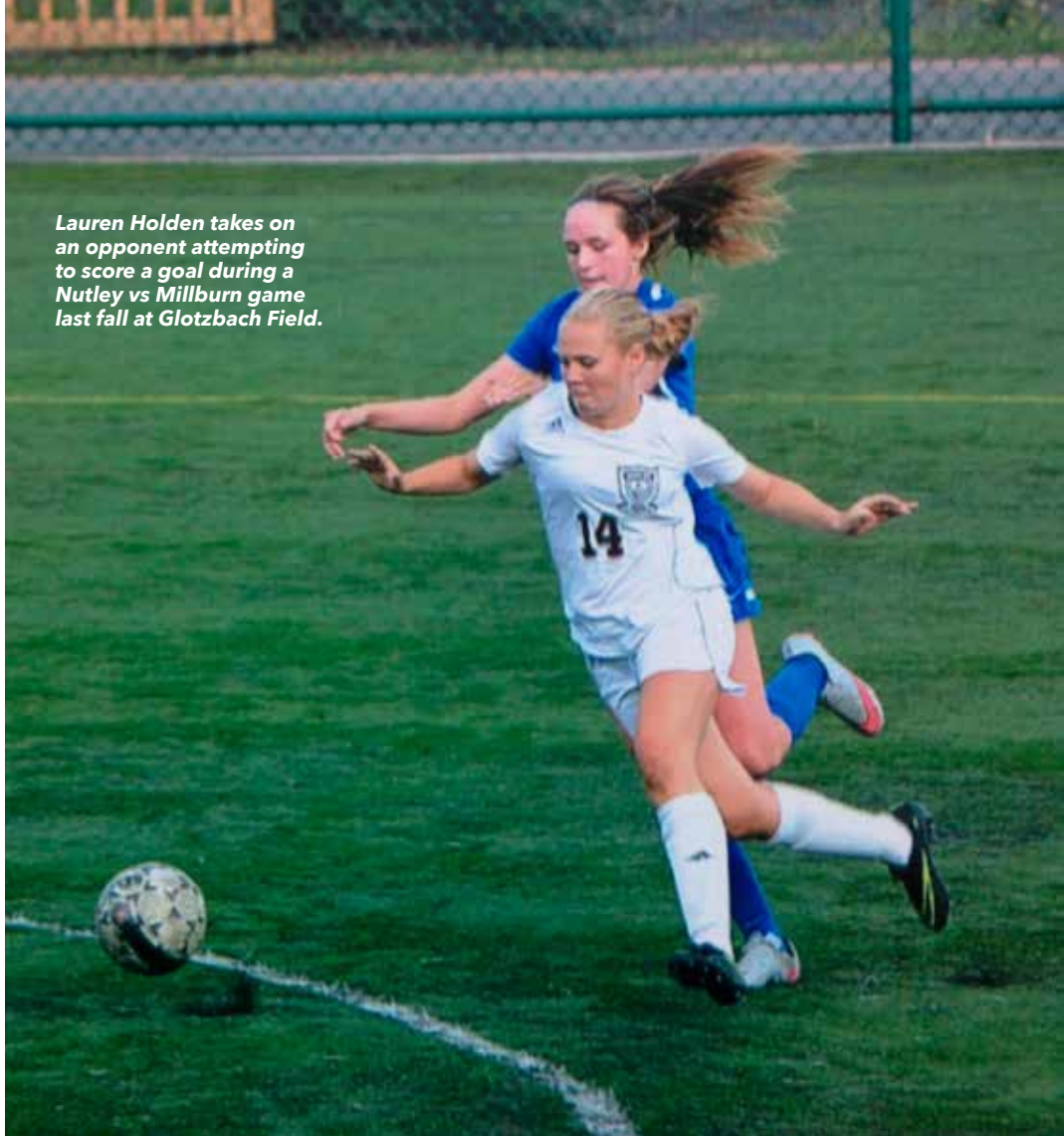
By Joyce Handzo

**L**auren Holden, one of the captains of the girls' soccer team at Nutley High School, along with Isabella Gonsiewski and Maisie Jelley, is more than a number on a jersey; she has made a name for herself in this sport. She has started every game and tallied up several personal achievements which include being named captain of her club team and earning post-season All-Conference awards for the past three years in high school. Lauren's club team recently competed in and won the 17U National Cup Title in Indiana.

How did this all start? Lauren tells us, "I became interested in sports at the age of seven. I played soccer, basketball and softball but focused solely on soccer since sixth grade." This focused interest clearly shows itself every time she steps onto the playing field.

Yet, as every athlete knows it takes more than just an interest in the game to be successful. Lauren describes a typical day: "My routine consists of going to school and then right to NHS practice or a game until 5 or 6pm. After dinner, I complete my homework and then have some downtime talking on the phone or watching television. On days when I don't have practice or a lot of homework, I enjoy hanging out with my friends, shopping, and going out for dinner. Time management and good organizational skills are very important and the key to success."

*Lauren Holden takes on an opponent attempting to score a goal during a Nutley vs Millburn game last fall at Glotzbach Field.*



Balancing school and sports is something that Lauren does well. She said, "My grades in school are very good and I am a member of the National Honor Society. I have worked extremely hard to maintain a 3.75 GPA."

She also recognizes the challenges she faces both on and off the field.

"The challenge I sometimes face during a game is a forward or striker who is faster than me. I have to stay back a yard or two as she is approaching in order to assess the situation better and overcome my opponent."



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In terms of social events, Lauren understands the challenges there as well. "I have had to make many sacrifices to play soccer, especially at the club level. I have missed many birthdays and holidays including Thanksgiving, New Year's Eve, and Memorial Day weekend. I have also missed many social events with my friends."

Yet, she is surrounded by a "team" of encouraging people. "My coaches and my teammates on both teams inspire me to continue playing soccer. My parents have supported me through this entire journey and are my biggest fans."

Everyone should have a hero and Lauren has two people she recognizes as hers. "My heroes are Aunt Kathy and Uncle Bill who both lost their battle with cancer within the last two years. They remained positive and never complained even during the roughest times of their illnesses. They are a constant reminder to be strong no matter what situation I am facing."


Her goals are "to keep challenging myself to learn new skills to become a better defender."

After high school, her plans are "to play soccer at Marist College next fall. All of my hard work has truly paid off and all of the sacrifices I have had to make have been worth it all."


Lauren Holden's game plans, as well as her goals, (both on and off the field) are impressive. All of us here in Nutley wish her the very best!



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# Frank Turano, Sr., United States Army

By Frank Turano, Jr.

My father, Frank Turano, Sr. was born on May 23, 1935 in our charming town of Nutley. My grandfather, Salvatore Turano and my grandmother, Elaina Ritacco, had arrived from their beloved hometown of Acri, Italy in the early nineteen thirties, along with my aunts, Ann and Rachael. Sadly, as was common in those days, my grandmother died shortly after giving birth to my father. My grandfather decided to give all three children to a family who resided at 92 New Street, and who had five children of their own. Mr. and Mrs. Pagliaro took in my father and his sisters, and my grandfather, who was a mason in town, gave a form of child support each week.

Time moved forward, my dad graduated Nutley High School with the class of 1954. He and his friends, such as Nicky Maniero and Gerard Tolve, ended their glorious football days on the field, and their gathering points, such as Bunny's and Rutt's Hut, and went off into the world to find their own paths.

My father joined the United States Army and was sent to Fort Ord California, Company A, 1st Infantry Regiment, 6th Infantry Division. It was here that he learned the meaning of discipline and honor. This was a place where you arrived as a civilian, but departed as a soldier.

He learned to salute with pride, the proper way to use his M-1 rifle and light machine guns, read maps, and fire a rocket launcher. They were briefed in chemical warfare and how to efficiently clean a weapon. He often said it was this strict daily routine that helped him prepare for the future and the many obstacles that would be thrown his way. Other than being home sick, his reflection on his time in the military was one of gratitude and learning.

Then he was sent to Germany.

It was peace time, so his experience until he was discharged was one of amazement on the different cultures



he was to immerse himself in. He also had the opportunity to experience Italy before eventually coming back home to Nutley. He was good enough to be a sniper, and was asked to enlist again where they would send him to Switzerland on ski patrol. Knowing how much my father hated the cold, he could not fly home fast enough for a plate of Zuppa di Pesce and a bowl of Pasta Fagioli. Besides, in less than five minutes in either direction were the Tick Tock Diner and Rutt's Hut. The guy loved food and for that reason alone, he would never leave Nutley again.

He went on to work for Hoffman La Roche for many years while starting his own business in 1977 called Kitchens by Turano. As most of you know, it was a successful business that included custom kitchens and bathrooms as well as construction. It is difficult being a general contractor, particularly in this day and age, and so with the passing of my mother and my zero tolerance for supercilious attitudes, I closed the family business down after 34 years in operation to open my more focused business on one aspect of construction only; kitchen design and supply.

Even though it was a rough start for my father, he had friends, his own business, a wife, three children, seven grandchildren, and a dog. He knew the importance of accountability and there was nothing to curb his ambition. Part of this is attributed to his personality, and part of this is attributed to his time in the military. Either way, I know he is somewhere with mom, watching the Yankees or the Giants, and eating a plate of spaghetti.



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Frankie Turano Jr. is the owner of American Made Custom Cabinet Company located at 95 Stager Street. He has been in business for over thirty-seven years. He designs and sells all wood cabinetry, stone countertops, and knobs and handles for kitchens and bathrooms. [www.amccc.us](http://www.amccc.us).



# Celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month at the Nutley Public Library

By Kiran B Patel, Supervising Librarian

September is Library Card Sign-up Month, a time when the Nutley Public Library reminds our community that a library card is a person's most important card of all, from birth to high school and beyond. The Nutley Public Library card is free if you live, work or go to school in Nutley.

Join us at the Nutley Public Library on **Saturday, September 30**, for a day-long celebration of the power of "the smartest card" and a chance to win great prizes. At the end of the day, be sure to use your library card to check out some of the wonderful materials the library offers.

At 10:00 a.m. Enjoy coffee and croissants and sign-up for a library card.

At 11:00 a.m. Explore your creativity at the library's Mini-Maker Space and Art Contest for children of all ages.

At 2:00 p.m. Touch-A-Truck and Safety Fair on the library grounds.

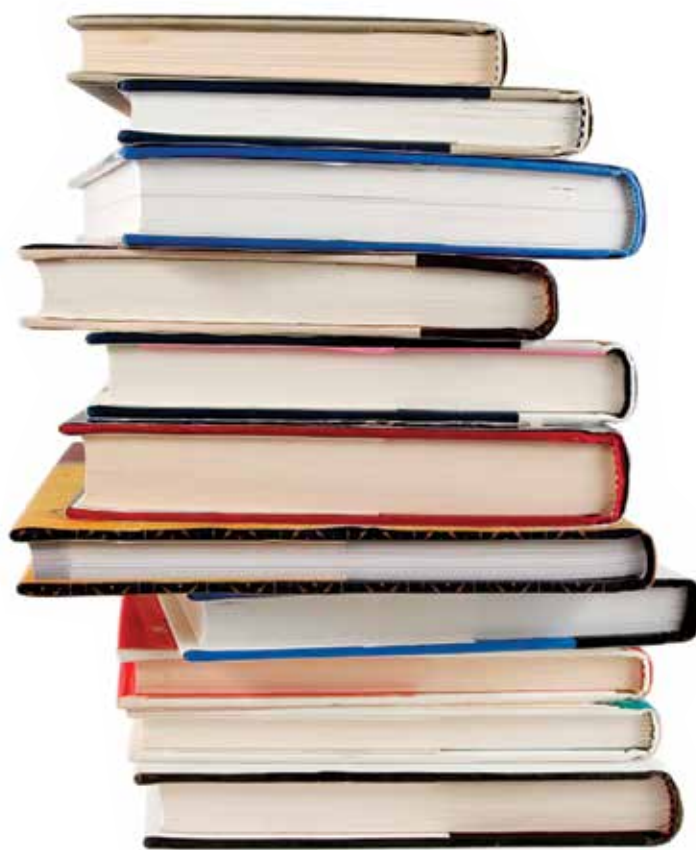
At 3:00 p.m. Town dignitaries sign-up for a library card. Please join us in appreciation of Nutley's Fire Department for their dedicated service to our community.

A Nutley Public Library card entitles you to borrow books, museum passes, DVDs and Blu-rays, music CDs, audiobooks, magazines, eReaders, and video games. With your library card, you also have access to the educational opportunities available through the library's subscription to Lynda.com, an online learning site that hosts a constantly growing library of over nearly 6,000 courses. Can't get to the library? Enjoy online access to eBooks, movies, music, audiobooks, digital magazines, and graphic novels; navigate through research databases; and learn a new language with Mango. You can also renew and reserve materials, sign up for date due reminders and text notifications, and create a custom username.

The Nutley Public Library is a dynamic community center that offers a variety of adult and children's programs to stimulate an interest in reading and learning. Our monthly Monday Night Book Discussion Group and Tuesday Night Graphic Novel Club for adults begin their 2017-2018 seasons this month.

For more information about our print and digital collection and the different programs that we offer stop by the library, check out our website at [nutleypubliclibrary.org](http://nutleypubliclibrary.org), or give us a call at 973-667-0405.

The library is located at 93 Booth Drive and is barrier free.  
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# Your Dining Pleasure—American Bistro

By Dave Wilson

A meal prepared to your liking in comfortable surroundings with a nice glass of wine or other favorite beverage. Sitting in a comfortable chair at a cozy table with good lighting and pleasant music. A menu that offers choices and staff that can explain any item, including specials. Pleasing presentation, satisfying quantities, palate-stimulating flavors and fair pricing. These are the basics we seek when selecting a restaurant where we spend our hard-earned money. This may be a special occasion, family party, business meeting, romantic night out, or just a time when you are too tired to cook. What are some of the subtler things to look for in the perfect "go-to" eatery? We spent some time with Ken Mahon of American Bistro, a restaurateur with over forty years' experience, to shed some light on this subject.

Your list of regular places should consist of three to five separate types of cuisine so you can match it to your mood or that of others in your group. The basics always apply: clean and safe parking lot, well-lit entrance, general sense of cleanliness, tablecloths, napkins, solid tables and chairs, no chipped dishes, correct wine glasses, working light fixtures and exit signs, plates that match the course, clean utensils, fresh flowers, inspection certificates, and well-groomed staff. Reservations taken by phone or in person should be polite, friendly, and accommodating.

Your arrival should be met with a smile and a greeting using your name. Introduce anyone new you bring to the establishment. Table selection should be a joint agreement that meets your expectation of a good seat. The menu should be clean, neatly printed, and presented

right side up. Bread and antipasto should be presented immediately and wait staff should introduce themselves.

The staff should be attentive, but not overbearing. Your relationship with the server is paramount to being treated like royalty. Use their name, make eye contact, smile, communicate clearly, and listen if specials are presented or a menu change has occurred. Staff that is available, yet invisible, and who anticipate your needs and keep your

dinner courses on schedule. Prompt clearing of empty dishes, filling water glasses, and de-crumbing the table are imperative. Good owners feed their staff to ensure they know the food textures and flavors. The chef or manager should come out to visit the patrons and perform a quality control check. James, Donna, Maria, Doreen, Johnny, Brian, and Kaitlyn at American Bistro, are a team that satisfies both the demanding customer and the owner.

The menu selection should include a wide variety of choices to meet dietary needs

and tastes. A good chef will accommodate any reasonable special request or substitution. The food should be served at the proper temperature and simultaneously for large groups. Take-out orders should consist of generous portions and a few extras. The server's tip should be generous to ensure you will be treated right every visit and impress your companions with the special service you receive.

Experienced diners, Jimmy Onello and Robyn Kusman, feel that consistency, variety, accommodation, and value are the trademarks of a well-run restaurant, like American Bistro, that should be on your short list of places to eat.



*Chef Ken checks with patrons and explains desert tray.*

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