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- Dr. Seuss

July 2021 Single Family Homes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPERTY ADDRESS</th>
<th>LIST PRICE</th>
<th>SALE PRICE</th>
<th>DAYS ON MARKET</th>
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Median List Price $459,900
Median Sale Price $482,000
Median Days on Market 20

SOURCE: GSMLS DATA

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Life may not be linear, but for Laura Del Tufo and her son, Brandon, leaning into the changes gives them a list of possibilities. Exploring various interests, traveling, and navigating the ‘new normal’ of work and school allows this family to make empowering choices and to have a lot of fun along the way.

“I have lived in the Spring Garden section of Nutley for the last 11 years,” Laura said. “I did not grow up in Nutley but moved here when I attended graduate school. I fell in love with the town and knew I wanted to live in Nutley long-term. We looked for a year to find the right house in the right neighborhood for our family. I love the sense of community and the small-town feel of Nutley.”

Laura’s educational background, career, and her role as single mom has given her ways to actively demonstrate her empathy. “I have a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Monmouth University and a master’s degree in marriage and family therapy from Seton Hall,” she said. “I am licensed as a marriage and family therapist (LMFT) and a professional counselor (LPC). I have worked for Care Plus NJ for the past 16 years; currently I am Senior Vice President of Administration and Finance. Previously, I had a private practice in Haworth for seven years.”

At home in Nutley, Laura creates a nurturing and supportive environment for her son, Brandon, who is 9 years old. “Brandon is very active and involved in sports and other activities,” Laura said. “He enjoys playing baseball and was part of the Championship Farm League team this year. His favorite sport is football, so he has been part of Nutley’s flag football team for the last few years. He is very social and loves any activity with his friends whether it’s going to the park,
swimming, or playing video games. Brandon loves science and wants to be a scientist when he grows up. He is a very curious child who loves to learn!"

Every weekend, Laura and Brandon decide on an ‘adventure’ which has become a special time of sharing as well as enrichment.

“Every Saturday morning, we look at what events or activities are happening that day,” Laura said. “We love to go to food truck festivals, the zoo, aquariums, Dave & Buster’s, or any unique local event. Brandon calls them our ‘adventures.’ With the COVID-19 restrictions, we had to be more creative as there was little to do. Last summer, we decided to take day trips to small beaches each week and we took a road trip up the East Coast together.”

Brandon even learned a new skill and perfected his favorite meal.

“We try to find a television show to watch together each night,” Laura said. “We started watching MasterChef Junior and it inspired Brandon to try to cook his favorite dinner, pasta with butter. It built his confidence and interest in cooking, and it was a fun way for us to spend time together.”

Laura’s mom heart, as well as her certifications, led her to take an active interest in the mental well-being of the children in Nutley. She was actively involved in a parent advocacy group challenging the district to provide full-time in-person instruction for students this past year.

“This has not been an easy path to take, and it can be difficult to be the voice of a movement. I am proud to be joined by many strong, data and research-driven parents,” she said. “Our belief is that our children are at less risk for contracting and/or becoming significantly ill from COVID-19 than they are at risk of learning-loss, social isolation, and mental health issues.”

While New Jersey schools are preparing to open full time this September, Laura shares some statistics that are of particular importance to parents and educators.

“The recently released NJDOE’s Interim Assessment Data Collection Report stated that 37% of students are below grade level in ELA and math and 21% of students are below grade level in science. According to the CDC, data released in June of 2021, reported a 31% increase in mental-health related ER visits by adolescents compared to the...
same point in time in 2019.”

This information leads Laura to continue to advocate and to “see that each child’s individual needs are met.”

While there have been many issues relating to COVID-19 which have polarized communities, Laura maintains a healthy viewpoint.

“In these difficult times, I think it’s extremely important to be inclusive of all thoughts, opinions, and values,” she said. “Each perspective comes with value and benefit. As a therapist, one of the most humbling and powerful experiences is listening to others’ stories. While one may not agree with all opinions, be open to listening and allowing others to express themselves and advocate for what is important in their lives. No one knows what is happening in anyone else’s life so it’s important to accept each individual’s life path.”

Laura and Brandon have also been on the receiving end of acceptance by their wonderful neighbors.

“I like to say I live on one of the best blocks in town,” Laura tells us. “I have wonderful neighbors who look out for one another. The first week I moved into my house, we needed a wheelbarrow but did not have one. A neighbor across the street, who we had just met, went to another neighbor and within a few hours we had a wheelbarrow sitting in our driveway for our use. I will never forget that experience and I think that truly represents my neighborhood.”

Nugget, their mischievous, spoiled 10-year-old puggle also gets along with everyone in the neighborhood.

“She is well known on the block and lets all the dogs know her presence!” Laura said. “We recently had a windy day where the side gate must have blown open. When she did not come back to the side door, we realized she must have walked through the open gate. She must have gotten bored quickly because when we opened the front door, there she was sitting nicely waiting for us.”

Whether at home, in the community, or at school, Laura and Brandon Del Tufo bring a positive outlook wherever they go. This has helped them lean into all life’s changes while having a lot of fun and preparing for the future—one choice at a time.

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 Things the Del Tufo Family Loves About Nutley
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5. The school and recreational sports

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A Back-to-School List for the ‘New Normal’

By Joanna Buset, MA, LPC

The return to a somewhat ‘normal’ school year for students is the moment most parents have been waiting for, yet some may still not believe to be true. For a year and a half, whether schools were in-person, full or half day for learning, hybrid or completely virtual, the school setting did not resemble previous school years at all. From social distancing to mask wearing to plexiglass partitions, temperature checks and hand sanitizing, it was a year full of questionable decisions and uncertainty for safety.

Emotions ran high among parents and educators due to frustration, anxiety, and just pure exhaustion.

When Governor Murphy signed legislation on June 4, 2021, ending the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, the hope of finally transitioning to a post-pandemic rescue and recovery became real. The governor’s decision may not have meant a lot to some, but to others it was a light they could finally see at the end of a long dark tunnel, a feeling of hope after a long battle with hopelessness.

Through it all, the ones who were just passengers on this awful ride and dealing with whatever decisions were being made for them, were the children. They were being asked to carry on with their education at times as if there was nothing interfering. And now, with schools attempting to return with some sense of normalcy this academic school year, students will most likely be expected to just move on.

But what are kids leaving behind and what are they bringing with them into this ‘new normal,’ a term we have heard over and over again.

Unfortunately, some things may include loss of motivation, an increase in frustration, depression or anxiety, and possible school avoidance or school refusal.

And what about parents?

Are some parents carrying resentment or disappointment in a school system they consider failed them? Are those who need it receiving support to manage their own anxiety over whether their child is safe to return to school or whether their child’s academic or emotional needs will be met?

There is no greater influence on a child than their parents’ thoughts and feelings. This is why it is so important to allow children to have their own thoughts without parents projecting theirs onto them. Children have most likely experienced this pandemic much differently than their parents and their needs may not match each other’s.

We often say children are resilient, but the reality is children will become resilient only when they have appropriate support surrounding them to access that resiliency.

Although many would consider the last school year to be the most difficult they’ve ever experienced, sadly it’s this next school year that may bring even greater challenges.

The best we can offer each child is to provide them with the emotional support they may need when they need it. This can be done by checking in with them, being available, and remaining present in the moment for them. What are they thinking, how are they feeling, how are they behaving?

If you are a parent noticing your child is struggling and have concerns, please seek out support. Encourage your child to get to know their school counselors or, even better, encourage your school counselors to get to know them.

If you need additional mental health care services, you may also contact any of the following community resources.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

PerformCare - New Jersey Children’s System of Care: www.performcarenj.org 1-877-652-7624

Psychology Today: Find a therapist www.psychologytoday.com/us

Essex ResourceNet www.essexresourcenet.org

New Jersey Mental Health Cares: www.njmentalhealthcares.org 1-866-202-4357

Joanna Buset

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There are some dates you will always remember, like a birthday, anniversary, or the day you saved someone’s life.

For Reinaldo Arroyo, June 9, 2021, will be forever marked on his calendar as the day he fought—and won—for the life of his neighbor, Mike Morrison.

That Wednesday started out normally at the Arroyo home. Maika, Reinaldo’s wife, was putting together a presentation for work about all the heroes of the pandemic, especially the unsung ones.

“I remember telling him that the song from Alicia Keys, ‘Good Job,’ was the perfect salute to these special people,” she said.

The words and ideas in that song, particularly, ‘you’re doing a good job’ and being a hero in disguise will later seem like a foreshadowing as the day unfolds.

“We attended our son’s baseball game in the late afternoon,” Maika said. “As we were returning home to Cambridge Heights, we saw about 30 people gathered around the clubhouse entrance.”

When she got closer, she realized her neighbor, Mike Morrison, was in distress but no one knew how to help him.

“I went back to the car to get Reinaldo,” she said. “I knew he would be able to help. He has over 25 years of training in both military and policing. He is an army veteran and retired police detective.”

Reinaldo quickly assessed the situation. Mike had stopped breathing and was turning blue. Reinaldo started CPR.

“It got completely quiet when Reinaldo was working on Mike,” Maika said. “I knew that people were praying.”

“Reinaldo did CPR for what seemed like such a long time and there was no response,” she said. “We heard him saying ‘not on my watch, not today, Mike’ over and over. One of the neighbors called Rupali Shah, a physician’s assistant, who lived nearby, and she came over in her scrubs.”

"Rupali continuously checked for a pulse while Reinaldo did the compressions,” Maika said. “Finally, I heard her say they had a pulse.”

By the time the ambulance arrived, Mike was breathing on his own.

“I believe that God had prepared Reinaldo for this moment,” Maika said. “The song from Alicia Keys came back to me and it was like the entire day had been planned out!”

Mike Morrison was admitted to the ICU and was later watching an episode of “The Golden Girls” on television. After he was released—with a clean bill of health—the neighbors held a gathering to celebrate at Cambridge Heights.

Mike’s sister Marie said that “all the neighbors were angels.” Her brother had been an essential worker during the lockdown putting in long hours at the Starbucks inside Stop & Shop. “He worked sometimes from 5am to 8 at night.”

The Cambridge Heights community is looking to offer CPR training to ensure that more people can learn this life-saving procedure.

Reinaldo Arroyo, all of your Nutley Neighbors (and Alicia Keys!) say “Good job.”
If the photo of this dog looks familiar, it's because he is still looking for his forever home. Kane was surrendered to a local animal control facility, received the medical attention he needed, and is cleared for adoption.

He is about 8 years old, but don't let his age fool you, he is such a playful, goofy pup. He would love to cuddle on the couch or go for a walk. He desperately craves companionship and will be the most loyal friend you could ever ask for. Kane is about 45 pounds and walks nicely on leash. He is now thriving with his foster family and is eager to find his forever home and family. Could it be you?

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To apply for Mimosa: www.yellowbrickroadrescuenj.com/cat-adoption-application/ or email us at yellowbrickroadnj@gmail.com
School Then and Now

By Linda Buset

Going to 5th grade in the 1950s and going to 5th grade in 2021. What could be different?

In 1959, I was in the fifth grade; my granddaughter Alexa is going into fifth grade in September of 2021. Let’s examine the differences.

When I started fifth grade, the first thing we thought about was buying new clothes for school. This meant hopping on the 13 Broad bus to spend the entire day shopping, annoying our parents, having lunch at Woolworths, and arguing with our siblings.

School clothes in the 1950s meant dresses and shoes. As young ladies, we were not allowed to wear pants, nor were we allowed to wear sneakers. Yes, through rain, sleet, wind, and hail, we walked to school wearing a dress. Thank goodness the feminists of the 1960s saved us from that nightmare.

Today, girls can wear pants, leggings, sneakers, shorts, and all things comfortable, if they follow the dress code. Shopping can also be done from the comfort of home through online shopping, or if preferred, driving to your favorite store for all the newest styles.

Along with changes in dress, there have been a multitude of changes in the classroom.

In the 1950s we had blackboards, white chalk, and erasers. If you were lucky enough, you could get out of class for a bit to go outside on the playground and ‘clap the erasers.’

Clapping the erasers meant standing outside, in your school clothes, and banging all the erasers together while white chalk powder flew everywhere. You tried hard to keep your mouth shut so the chalk powder wouldn’t get in your throat, setting off a fit of coughing.

Blackboards are now in a museum somewhere, and in 2021, students have something called an electronic smart board in their classes. Students connect their computer to it and it shows what is on it. I do not completely understand it, but I feel it might be something George Jetson’s children might have used.

Communication has changed drastically. Parents can email the teachers with a question or visit the parent portal to view report cards, check immunization records, or see if any electronic forms need their signature.

Information technology is everywhere in the school system.
today. Essentially, students can’t hide much from their parents, since technology prevents that. Parents can even view homework which is done on a Chromebook that the school issues in 5th grade.

In the 1950s, if my parents needed to know something about me, the teacher sent a handwritten note home to my parents, and I was responsible for giving it to them—something that never worked out well in our home.

We also brought our own report cards home to our parents. There was no technology involved in communication in the 1950s, so it was easy to hang on to your report card for a few days if your grades went down.

Yes, I imagine school has changed quite a bit, but in my opinion, it has changed for the better. There is a dramatic increase in services for special education students, students are more advanced in learning, there is more interest in the mental health of students, and better communication between parents, faculty and administration. We now have before and aftercare available, and issues such as bullying, inclusion, and diversity are openly discussed and addressed.

As the 2021-22 school year begins, I am sure we will all join together to keep making additional progress toward the best environment for learning, thriving, enjoying, and appreciating time spent in our Nutley public school system.

Have a wonderful and successful year everyone!
**Historical Society Congratulates Winners of Annual Nutley History Essay Contest**

By Michael C. Gabriele

The Nutley Historical Society named Nutley High School seniors Ibrahim Elnaggar, Emily Ostrowski, and Meredith Carson as the winners of the organization’s annual history essay contest. The students received their awards during a ceremony at the high school on June 14.

All the essay contest participants penned impressive insights into the importance of recognizing and preserving local history. They also reflected on how local history has enriched their awareness of community spirit and culture.

“I stumbled upon how, in 1894, Annie Oakley and Henry Cuyler Bunner, a renowned author and editor of the famous Puck magazine, spearheaded a community effort to benefit the American Red Cross with a performance of the Nutley Amateur Circus,” Elnaggar wrote in his first-place essay. “This historical fact about Nutley explained to me the nature of volunteering service in this town.”

Ostrowski, in her second-place essay, wrote that she is “proud of the advancements that this town has made, and that the information about its history is so accessible due to Nutley’s very own historical society. Historical societies make sure that heroes and significant figures receive the recognition that they deserve. Their legacies and remarkable accomplishments deserve to be celebrated.”

Carson, in her third-place essay, shared her memories of visiting the Nutley Museum, and how she was inspired by the life and career of the world-famous, one-time Nutley resident Annie Oakley. “The idea that a girl from Nutley could defy expectations made me feel proud of my town and made me want to be like her.”

The three seniors will be continuing their educations this fall. Elnaggar will attend Rutgers University Business School, Newark; Ostrowski is headed to the University of Delaware, Newark, DE; and Carson is enrolled at Stephens Institute of Technology, Hoboken.

Suzanne Hagert, the vice president of the executive board of the Nutley Historical Society, and a former teacher in the Nutley district school system, managed the annual essay contest. “Each year, we enjoy reading these essays from our high school students,” Hagert said. “My colleagues and I are always impressed with their observations and their understanding of why local history is so important to our community. We thank Nutley High School for supporting this program.”

Domenick Tibaldo, President of the Nutley Historical Society, congratulated the three students and offered words of praise for their efforts. “It’s wonderful to see that young people still maintain an interest in their local history and that they are eager to learn about historical facts, people, and their accomplishments.”

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September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month

By Jeanne Sylvester, Supervising Librarian

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month, a time when the Nutley Public Library joins the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries nationwide to remind parents, caregivers, and students that signing up for a library card is the first step on the path to academic achievement and lifelong learning. Since 1987, Library Card Sign-Up Month has been held each September to mark the beginning of the school year. This year, Marley Dias, founder of #1000BlackGirlBooks, author, and executive producer, is serving as honorary chair of Library Card Sign-Up Month to promote the value of libraries and encourage everyone to get their own library card.

There is nothing more empowering than signing up for your own library card. Through access to technology, media resources, and educational programs, a library card gives students the tools to succeed in the classroom and provides people of all ages many opportunities to pursue their dreams and passions. At the Nutley Public Library, you’ll find a wide variety of educational, enriching, cultural, and recreational resources and programs for everyone.

The Nutley Public Library, along with libraries everywhere, continues to adapt and expand services to meet the evolving needs of our community, especially during this past year’s COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the new and innovative virtual programs and digital collections that the library offered will continue, and some will be modified as we gradually return back to in-person programming. To learn more about the library’s resources, collections, and programs, please visit www.nutleypubliclibrary.org.

The Nutley Public Library will recognize National Library Card Sign-Up Month with special events, giveaways, and unique displays all month long. Library Card Sign-Up Day is celebrated on Saturday, September 18, with a re-opening of the Children’s Story Time Room, mural reveal (Buzzing into Imagination), and several fun programs for kids. A week of special events continues through September 25 with a book talk by a local author, a local history program about the Franklin Theatre, an adult crafting session, and many more children’s and teen events. We look forward to seeing you at the library!

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The Nutley Invitational Returns September 20th

Submitted by Michael Stefanelli

After a one-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the longest-standing charitable golf tournaments in the country returns. This year, the 112th Annual Nutley Invitational Golf Tournament will be held at the newly redesigned Hendricks Field on Monday, September 20, followed by dinner at Nanina’s in the Park.

The tournament has been a tradition in Nutley since 1909 and has been an annual celebration by Nutley golfers and their friends.

Due to the response in past years, the committee will limit the event to 120 golfers.

All proceeds from the tournament will be donated to Nutley charities. This year, we were fortunate to donate more than $7,000 to deserving charities. To complement the fund-raising effort, sponsorships are available for individuals and businesses, starting at $100.

Your business or name will be displayed on our outdoor banner in a prominent location for all to view. In addition, you will be listed in our dinner program as a sponsor.

To attend the tournament or for more information contact: danvitiellos@gmail.com

Lunch, dinner, greens fees, and cart are $175; dinner only is $100.
Creating Memories for Years to Come!

By Michelle Palmer

Some of the most special moments are spent watching children explore their talents to create something unique. Whether it’s painted, glued, stacked, or sketched, these projects help their smiles shine brighter as they proudly show off their latest accomplishments.

Charles has been building with Legos for a long time and has certainly become a master builder. He constructed this samurai sword fighter to join his collection. He shows great concentration and determination when putting together his creations, and each one is something to be proud of.

Four-year-old Eva made some painted masterpieces and gave them as gifts to some of her friends. Painting something sentimental made her smile while this future artist learned about colors and shapes. She blended colors onto wooden boxes while adding lots of love with each stroke of her paintbrush.

Salvatore is a four-year-old who has a great love for buildings and cars. He used his Magna-Tiles and his imagination to make this elaborate city. His cars are perfectly organized and lined up, ready to race or ride around the colorful structure he created. His smile shows how happy he is to see his talents come to life.

Claire is only two years old and already enjoys art as a way of expression and play. Her grandmother was so thrilled to see her work featured in the Hoboken Art Walk. She has been taking art classes and three of her pieces were chosen to be displayed. Her nature poster shows how much she’s learned about animals, fine motor skills, colors, and textures, but most importantly, how fun it is to learn something new.

Three-year-old Hazel shows her love for prehistoric times through painting. She made these adorable dinosaurs with her little hands and a big burst of creativity. This masterpiece will inspire us to learn more about these creatures, and the happy faces on them remind us that every day is a chance to make something beautiful.

Did you just create an amazing piece of art? Whether you colored it, glued it, cut it, or even baked it, send us a photo with your name and we will print as many as we can. Let’s make our world a bit more beautiful with your creations and smiles! Email me at: jcorey@bestversionmedia.com
**EVENTS CALENDAR**
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.

**Sept. 1, Wed.**
3rd Annual Car Show | Nutley Rotary
@Franklin Ave. (between Chestnut St. and Centre St.)
This classic car show will feature a large selection of classic to modified cars, trucks, and motorcycles of all years, makes, and models! Snack at numerous food vendors and enjoy live entertainment in this night of exciting fun for all ages. Over 75 trophies will be awarded to the competitors near the end of the event. Proceeds will benefit the Nutley Educational Foundation and the Rotary Scholarship Fund.
Time: 5–9pm
Cost: Free to attend
For more information email nutleyrotarycashow@gmail.com or visit www.nutleyrotary.com

**Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26, Sun.**
Nutley Farmers Market
@Municipal Parking Lot 9, 537 Franklin Ave.
Now in its 12th season, the outdoor Nutley Farmers Market features delicious local foods and goods, live music, special events, and a weekly walking group.
Time: 9am–2pm
For more information visit www.nutleynj.org/farmersmarket

**Sept. 8, Wed.**
Essex County Parks Photography Contest
@Essex County Environmental Center,
621–B Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland
Anyone with a camera is invited and encouraged to submit photos that capture a part of your visit to the Essex County Parks System. Color and black and white prints will be judged together over three categories: Professional, Adult (18 and up), and Youth (17 and under). This contest is not sponsored by or endorsed by Best Version Media in any way.
Cost: Free
For more information visit www.essexcountyparks.org

**Sept. 12, Sun.**
The Garden Party | Nutley Family Service Bureau
@Mountsier-Hardie Garden, 205 Rutgers Pl.
The event features food from top local restaurants, an eclectic mix of jazz, classical, and contemporary music, and more. Soak in the ambiance set in New Jersey’s renown private grounds, listen to music, sip wine, sample delicious foods, and experience a thoroughly delightful event. Proceeds enable NFSB to carry out its mission to strengthen the emotional and social well-being of individuals and families through affordable mental health counseling and social service programs.
Time: 4–7pm
Cost: $75 per ticket
For more information and to purchase tickets visit www.nutleyfamily.org

**Sept. 17, Fri.**
“September to Remember” Fireworks Spectacular
@Nutley Park Oval, 300 Franklin Ave.
Michael Chiefio of DJMC Entertainment will open the evening before The Duprees (featuring Nutley’s own Thomas Petillo) put on a show that will have everyone on their feet all night long. The evening ends with an astounding firework extravaganza lighting up the sky over Franklin Ave. Celebrate with family and friends while you enjoy fabulous food vendors, children’s entertainment, a video game trailer, balloon artists, fun photo booths, and more!
Time: 6:30pm
For more information call the Nutley Department of Parks and Recreation at 973-284-4966

**Sept. 20, Mon.**
The 112th Nutley Invitational Golf Tournament
@Hendricks Field Golf Club, 220 Franklin Ave., Belleville
This will be an eighteen hole medal play Callaway System tournament. The winners will be announced at dinner at Nanina’s in the Park, 540 Mill St., Belleville.
Time: 11:30am–1pm registration. 1 pm tee off. 6pm cocktail hour with dinner and program following.
Cost: $175 for golf, lunch, and dinner. $100 for dinner only.
For more information contact Dan Vitiello at 973-667-2606 or email danvitiello@gmail.com

**Oct. 3, Sun.**
Returning to our “Routes” Celebration Walk | Nutley Thriving Survivors
@walk begins at John H. Walker Middle School, 325 Franklin Ave.
In 2003, the Celebration Walk went through Memorial Park. In 2021, the Nutley Thriving Survivors will be returning to their “routes” by once again walking through the park. If you have walked before, feel free to wear a t-shirt or sweatshirt from a previous year, but any pink shirt will do. The Nutley Thriving Survivors incite all families to walk to celebrate everyone who has battled breast cancer. Registration includes water, hot dog, and a candle for each family member.
Time: 7pm
Cost: $10 per family of four. $5 for each additional family member.
For more information www.nutleythrivingsurvivors.com/

**Oct. 5, Tue.**
Nutley Jaycees Distinguished Service Awards Dinner
@Valley Regency, 1129 Valley Rd., Clifton
The 49th annual Distinguished Service Awards Program will be honoring the 2020 recipients from the postponed event in April 2021.
Time: 6:30pm
Cost: $45 per person. Cash bar available.
For tickets call Dr. Steven Clarke at 973-235-1515. For ad book call David and Dianne Wilson at 973-667-4690.
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