



TOWNSHIP OF

# NUTLEY

*Winter / Spring 2026 Nutley Newsletter*

## Mayor's Message



**Mayor John V. Kelly, III**

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@nutleyjofficial



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Hello, Nutley! After a blustery winter filled with cold and tons of snow, spring is finally here! In Nutley, the weather never holds us back for long. During the frigid first early months of the year, we hosted a long list of Township events including our annual Black History and Women's History month celebrations, our first (of hopefully many) Ladies Open Mic Night, our first indoor Farmers Market of the season, our Senior Dinner and Show celebration, and, of course, our 47th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

With the snow melting and the coming of spring, Nutley has plenty of spring activities and events for residents as they emerge from their winter hibernations. As you go through this newsletter, be sure to look for upcoming dates of Nutley traditions like the GNCF Festival of Hope, our Spring Concert Series featuring The Little Mermen: The Ultimate Disney Tribute Band, our Free Rabies Clinic, the Early Morning Walking Club, our 5th Annual EMS Night, Big Truck Day and the return of our weekly outdoor Farmers Market. As always, Nutley is your destination for spring fun and activities.

In January, I returned from my deployment in Iraq. It was an honor to serve my country alongside the professional and honorable men and women with whom I had the privilege of serving with every day, many of whom are still in harm's way. I would like to thank the entire community for their prayers and patience during my deployment, and for the many care packages sent to me and to my unit. I could not have completed my mission without your support and the support of my family, especially my wife and parents.

And so, I am even more inspired this year than ever before to remind everyone of the importance of honoring those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, for whom we will have our annual Memorial Day Commemoration events. Memorial Day observations begin, as they do each year, at the Nutley VFW Post 493 at 7:30am. We will then travel to all of the war monuments to read aloud the names of those Nutley residents who perished while at war. Following the remembrance ceremony, the township will gather to honor Nutley's fallen firefighters at the Public Safety Building at 10:30am. Our Memorial Day parade's opening ceremonies and welcome will commence at 11am at the Park Oval before stepping off along the traditional route—Chestnut Street, right onto Passaic Avenue, onto Centre Street, and concluding at the reviewing stage in front of John H. Walker Middle School. As we prepare to honor our veterans, I am also proud to announce that our third round of Hometown Hero banners are in the process of being installed over the next few weeks.

As always, our destination of Nutley has so much more to offer. Be sure to read this newsletter for the full offerings and details. Also, stay connected to Nutley through our social media pages as events are continually updated. Speaking for myself and the Commissioners, please let us know if we can better serve you in any way.

# Nutley St. Patrick's Day Celebration



# Nutley St. Patrick's Day Celebration



# Mayor John V. Kelly, III Returns from Iraq Deployment

Mayor John V. Kelly III, the youngest Mayor elected in Nutley Township's history, has returned from deployment. As an active service member, Mayor Kelly was deployed to Iraq in August 2025 to serve our country. For six months, he served as the unit commander's legal advisor for the Army National Guard. Mayor Kelly had served two deployments previously, one in the Middle East, and one in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria.

"I would like to thank the entire community for their prayers and patience during my deployment, and the many care packages sent to me and to my unit," Mayor Kelly says. "I also want to thank Commissioners Petracco, Scarpelli, Tucci, and Deputy Mayor Evans and their staff for their support during this time. I want to especially thank the staff of the department of Public Affairs and Health, who did not miss a beat



in my absence, and continued to deliver the best services possible for the community.

"I was touched by all the letters I received from the entire school at Good Shepherd Academy and the students at Yantacaw school. They brightened not only my day, but those that I served with as well. I could not have done my mission without your support and the support of

my family, especially my wife and parents.

"It was an honor to serve my country, especially alongside the professional and honorable men and women with whom I had the privilege of serving with every day, many of whom are still in harm's way. I will continue to pray for them and their families (no service member sacrifices alone) until all deployed service members are home where they belong."

In honor of the Mayor's service, the Township unveiled a "Welcome Home" banner this week on Franklin Avenue between Church and Chestnut Streets.

The Township of Nutley is excited to see the safe return of their Mayor and thank him for his service.

"I'm looking forward to seeing and thanking everyone in person," Mayor Kelly added.

# Township of Nutley Recognizes USA 250 Year Celebration

Mayor John V. Kelly III and the Nutley Board of Commissioners are proud to announce plans for upcoming celebrations commemorating the 250th Anniversary of our Nation! Nutley has always taken great pride in the role it has played in our Nation's history over the past three centuries, and the Township is

eager to celebrate this rich history with our community!

The celebration of our Nation's 250th birthday will kick off in May with the honoring of our service members at Nutley's annual Memorial Day Parade and continue through to July 4th which will culminate this auspicious occasion with the Township's Independence

Day Celebration which will include food, music, fun and an incredible firework display.

The list of participating organizations and additional planned events includes:

Nutley VFW Post 493, Nutley Elks Lodge #1290, Nutley American Legion Post 70, Nutley Masonic Lodge #25, and Nutley Little Theatre. With events to include, History Trivia Night, History walks, Nutley Historical Society and History Movie Night, just to name a few. (Dates and times to be announced).

Mayor Kelly and the Board of Commissioners look forward to celebrating this momentous occasion like only Nutley can, with honor, pride, history and fun!



# Township of Nutley Black Balloon Ceremony

Mayor John V. Kelly and the Department of Public Affairs and Health in collaboration with Commissioner Alphonse Petracco and the Department of Public Safety hosted a Black Balloon Day tribute during the Board of Commissioners meeting on March 3.

“Black Balloon Day serves as a day of remembrance for family and friends, while also aiming to raise awareness about the opioid epidemic, reduce the stigma surrounding substance disorders, and promote advocacy for treatment and prevention,” Mayor Kelly said at the beginning of the evening’s events.

The meeting featured a speech from the Department of Public Affairs and Health’s Sharon Lemma-Bozza (who helped organize the memorial) as well as a musical tribute and moment of remembrance to the song, “Gone Too Soon” by Ed Sheeran. The event concluded with the traditional raising of the balloons, black for those lost to substance abuse and white representing the hope kept in the hearts of the families who fight for their loved ones everyday.

In her speech, Lemma-Bozza

further explained the importance of Black Balloon Day to the Nutley community and beyond. “Black Balloon Day is a time when people come together to pay tribute to those who have been lost in overdose and have been fighting a stigma due to the disease of addiction. It involves uniting and



advocating for overdose prevention. It is a powerful reminder of the importance of supporting an individual’s struggle with addiction and working toward a future free from the devastation of overdose deaths.”

Commissioner Alphonse Petracco spoke to the importance of events like Black Balloon Day and its effect on his life as well.

“Unfortunately, drugs and alcohol don’t discriminate. One thing I learned about any kind of abuse or addiction from my own loved ones and working in Public Safety, is that these people don’t want to be like that. They fight everyday. It’s easy for us, who are blessed, who have never had an addiction, to pass judgment, but until you’re watching it affect your own household, you really don’t know. But as my mother used to say, where there’s life, there’s hope.”

“It’s an emotional day for many people,” said Commissioner Joseph P. Scarpelli. “When you’re opening up old wounds and recognizing and remembering people who have passed away, it’s a solemn day and an emotional event.”

“There is no one anywhere in the world who is immune from drug abuse,” expressed Commissioner Mauro G. Tucci.

Commissioner Tom Evans added, “It always feels like you can never do enough. It’s incredibly hard to see someone you love suffering. The more awareness we can raise through events like this, the more help we can provide.”

# Nutley Receives Essex County Block Grant

Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. presented nine Essex County municipalities and 35 community organizations about \$5.7 million through the Community Development Block Grant Program and the Emergency Services Grant Program.

The Township of Nutley received \$238,000 for roadway construction on Margaret, San Antonio and Van Winkle Avenues.

“The County consistently demonstrates its commitment to our community,” states Mayor John V. Kelly III. “Executive DiVincenzo has been an unwavering supporter of our Township, and we are deeply appreciative of his partnership.”

Programs supported through the CDBG and ESG programs are direct investments to provide services that enhance quality of life and help stabilize neighborhoods by modernizing infrastructure.

“CDBG grant money is an integral source of funding

for our annual roadway improvement programs,” reports Department of Public Works Commissioner Joseph P. Scarpelli. “Last year we received funding for the Oval sidewalk and Pedestrian Safety Project and this year the grant will allow us to reconstruct sections of Margaret, Van Winkle, and San Antonio Avenues.”





# PARKS AND RECREATION

## Winter Events

Commissioner Mauro G. Tucci

### Greater Nutley Cancer Foundation Kickoff



### Senior Dinner and a Show



# PARKS AND RECREATION

## Upcoming Spring Activities

### MAY EVENTS

May Day - May 3

GNCF Festival of Hope - May 14

The Little Mermen Concert #1:

The Ultimate Disney Tribute Band - May 27

### SPRING SPORTS 2026

Boys Flag Football - Grades 1-4

Girls Flag Football - Grades 1-8

Pre T-Ball - Kindergarten

Track & Field - Grades 3-8

Recreation Softball - Grades 1-8

Travel Softball - Grades 3-8

### 2026 SPRING CLASSES

#### AND PROGRAMS

Bounce Out the Stigma

### SPRING ADULT FITNESS PROGRAMS

Morning Grind

Rise and Shine

Movement, Mobility & Stability

Yoga for Life

Zumba Fitness Classes

### SPRING 2026 SPORTS CLINICS

Peanut Soccer (Ages 3-6)

Tennis Lessons

Pickleball Lessons

K-2 Hoops

### SPRING 2026 YOUTH PROGRAMS

Ancient Stories & Mythology (Grades 5-9)

Aspiring Authors (Grades 1-6)

Art Workshop (Grades 1-6)

Contemporary Dance (Ages 6-8)

Edgar Allen Poe (Grades 5-9)

Happily Ever Crafters (Toddlers)

KinderDANCE (Ages 3-6)

Tumbling (Grades K-4)

### 2026 SPRING SENIOR CITIZEN ACTIVITIES

Senior Chair Yoga

Senior Zumba Gold

Art Club

## FESTIVAL OF HOPE

Thursday, May 14, 2026

6pm - 9pm

Father Glotzbach Park  
44 Park Avenue, Nutley



Games, Food, Music etc.  
Fun for the whole family to  
come for the whole family to  
come out and celebrate  
our survivors.



# PUBLIC AFFAIRS & HEALTH

Mayor John V. Kelly, III

## Winter Events

### NAACP Talk



### Black History Month



### Blood Drive

Thank you to everyone who turned out for the Community Blood Drive presented by Mayor John V. Kelly, III, the Nutley Department of Public Affairs and Health and Vitalant Blood Services of New Jersey.



### Heart Healthy Yoga



### “Laughter is the Best Medicine”



### Self-Care Monday



### Women’s History Open Mic



# PUBLIC AFFAIRS & HEALTH

## Upcoming Spring Activities

### **April – Early Morning Walking Club**

#### **Beginning April 7**

Join Mayor Kelly and the “Early Morning Walking Club “for a brisk paced 3 mile walk through the Nutley Park system beginning Tuesday, April 7th at 6:30am. No sign up required.

### **April – Free Rabies Immunization Clinic**

#### **April 13 – 4pm - 7:30pm**

#### **228 Chestnut Street**

Bring your dog properly leashed and your cat in a proper carrier to the Firehouse for protection against this fatal disease. The rabies immunization is a three-year vaccination for dogs and cats.

**FREE.**

### **April – Mental Health Screening**

#### **April 24 – 10am to 12pm**

Behavioral Health professional will screen for signs of depression. Registration is required.

**FREE.**

### **May – Stroke Screenings**

#### **May 21 – 10am to 12pm**

Evaluate your risk for stroke through cholesterol testing, blood pressure, pulse check, carotid artery assessment and stroke related counseling from staff physicians. Registration is required.

**FREE.**

### **June – Memory Assessment**

#### **June 25 – 10am to 12pm**

Are you absent-minded lately or is it something more serious? Join us for a one on one memory assessment to address memory loss, risks & hygiene. Registration not required.

**FREE.**





# PUBLIC SAFETY

## Winter Events

**Commissioner Alphonse Petracco**

### Commissioner Petracco and the NFD Shine a Light on EMTs

Commissioner Alphonse Petracco and the Nutley Fire Department continue to shine a light on just how important their Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) are to keeping the township safe and healthy.

People tend to think of firefighters mainly fighting fires, but many of their call are medical emergencies. Having EMTs in the fire department means residents get fast, professional medical care when every second matters.

“We can respond anywhere in town in less than two minutes,” Director of Public Safety Petracco proudly states. “24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.”

Firefighter/EMTs are often the first ones on scene. Because Nutley’s firehouse is centrally located in town, crews can get to a location quickly and start emergency care. Early actions like CPR, stopping bleeding, helping someone breathe, or using an AED can make a huge difference in whether someone survives a medical emergency. Firefighters also come across injured people at car crashes, fires, rescues and other incidents. EMT training lets them size up injuries right away, stabilize patients, and give critical care until paramedics take over or the patient gets to the hospital.

“We actually just had many examples of the advantage of having the EMTs within the fire department over the last few months” Petracco says. “When we were hit with those two massive snow storms, we were able to send the fireman ahead of the EMTs so they could clear a path to enable the EMTs to get into the house as quickly as possible. That allows us to get to our residents faster and gives us a better chance of getting the help they need.”

Having EMT-trained firefighters also helps everything run smoother between the fire department, EMS and local hospitals. Firefighter/EMTs know how to clearly explain what’s going on with a patient so paramedics and doctors can pick up right where they left off. Most

communities see more medical calls than fire calls these days, and Nutley is no different. Giving firefighters EMT training helps to handle that demand and still keep the overall level of public safety high.

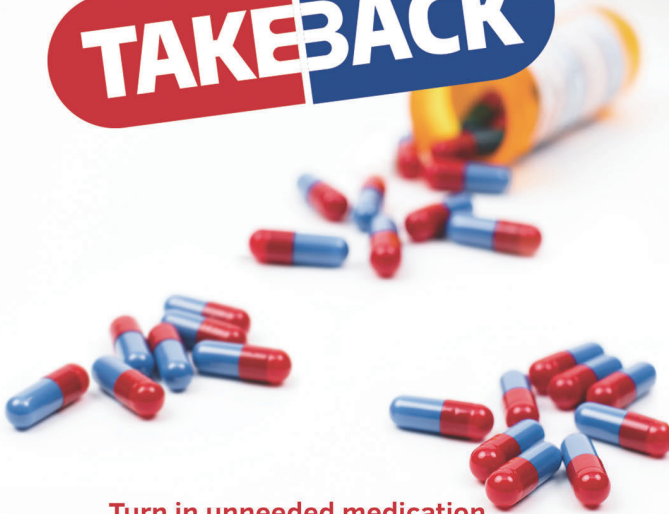
“Our fire department, led by Chief Paul Cafone, is committed to protecting lives with rapid deployment, solid medical skills and ongoing training,” Petracco adds. “We are all about quick response, professional wisdom, and compassion. Having EMTs on the job means residents get immediate help when they need it most and it shows how serious we are about serving and looking out for this community.”



# PUBLIC SAFETY

## Upcoming Events

DEA NATIONAL <sup>Rx</sup>  
**TAKEBACK**



**Drop off location:**  
Police Headquarters  
228 Chestnut Street

Turn in unneeded medication for safe disposal.

**Saturday, April 25**  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Keep them safe. Clean them out. Take them back.

Visit [DEATakeBack.com](http://DEATakeBack.com) for a collection site near you.

**Commissioner Alphonse Petracco**  
and  
**Clara Maas / RWJ Barnabas Health**  
cordially invites the public to the  
**Nutley Fire Department's**

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual EMS Night**



**Friday, May 15th, 2026**

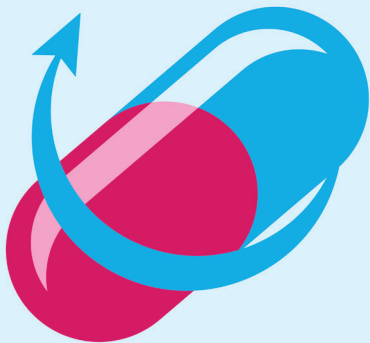
6pm to 8pm

**Fire Headquarters: 228 Chestnut Street**

Informational tables as well as many types of health screenings will be available!! Heimlich maneuver demonstrations for children and adults will be done every half hour!

The Nutley Health Department and Nutley Family Service Bureau will also be on hand offering health related information to our residents.  
Call 973-284-4936 for more info!

Grab a bite to eat with Spanky's Gourment Grub, Zeppolas, Dunks Coffee and Donuts...all free!! Bounce House and Train for the kids!!



**NATIONAL DRUG TAKE BACK DAY**





# PUBLIC WORKS

## Winter Events

Commissioner Joseph P. Scarpelli

## Electronic Recycling



## Winter Indoor Farmers Market



# PUBLIC WORKS

## Upcoming Spring Activities

**April 11 – Residential Shred-It Day**  
**10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (or until the truck is full)**  
Location: DPW Garage, 1 Cortland Street

**April 18 – Compost Day**  
**9:00 AM – 1:00 PM**  
Location: DPW Garage, 1 Cortland Street

**April 19 – Spring Farmers Market**  
**10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**  
Location: Along Booth Drive

**April 25 – Electronic Recycling Drop-Off Day**  
**9:00 AM – 1:00 PM**  
DPW Garage, 1 Cortland Street, enter through Tremont Place

**May 9 – Big Truck Day**  
**12:00 PM – 2:00 PM**  
Location: DPW Garage, 1 Cortland Street

**May 17 – Spring Farmers Market**  
**10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**  
Location: Along Booth Drive

**June 14 – Nutley Farmers Market**  
**9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**  
Location: Along Booth Drive

**June 21 – Nutley Farmers Market**  
**9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**  
Location: Along Booth Drive

**June 28 – Nutley Farmers Market**  
**9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**  
Location: Along Booth Drive





**Commissioner  
Tom Evans, CPA**

# REVENUE AND FINANCE

*“The Department of Revenue and Finance is Always Here to Help.”  
Thank you to my staff and all township employees for their hard work and  
dedication in providing outstanding service to our residents.*

## Dog and Cat Licensing

Commissioner Tom Evans, the Department of Revenue and Finance and the Township of Nutley would like to remind residents that it is almost time to renew your dog or cat license!

All dogs and cats seven months of age or older must be licensed each April as noted with an official current metal registration tag attached to your pet’s collar or harness. All licenses expire annually on April 30. If your pet is deceased or no longer owned, please indicate this on your renewal notice and return the form.

Beginning April 1, 2026, applications and payments for new and renewal animal licenses may be completed online. Before submitting your application, ensure you have proof of your pet’s current rabies vaccination valid through February 2027. If your pet’s rabies or spay/neuter status has changed, an updated veterinarian certificate must be submitted.

The Municipal Clerk’s Office will also be available from 4:00 PM to 7:30 PM on Monday, April 13 at the Town Hall Municipal Plaza, located directly in front of Town Hall in conjunction with the Township of Nutley’s Free Rabies Immunization Clinic at the same date and time at the Nutley Fire House located at 228 Chestnut Street. Dog/cat licenses may also be purchased during clinic hours after presentation of valid vaccination certificates. At this event, credit card, check, and cash payments are all acceptable – however cash payments must be in exact change.



## Postmark Changes for U.S. Postal System

While traditionally, mail would receive a postmark date as of the date the Postal Service receives the mail, beginning January 1st, the postmark date will now be assigned when the mail is actually processed at its automated mail processing center which could be several days later. This change significantly affects practices such as bill payments, tax returns, and elections.

“These changes could have significant negative consequences for our residents,” Commissioner Tom Evans says. “Folks will need to be aware of the change and make sure they mail several days sooner to avoid potential consequences. For example, if they intend on mailing ballots on election days they should use the election ballot box in front of Town Hall or get a manual same day postmark at the post office.”

## Stay NJ Property Tax Relief Program

New Jersey’s Stay NJ property tax relief payments will soon begin arriving in mailboxes across the state. The program, launched in 2025, is designed to help senior homeowners afford to remain in New Jersey during retirement by significantly reducing their property tax burden.

“Daily my office helps our senior community file for both the Property Tax Freeze and Anchor programs,” Commissioner Tom Evans, Director of the Department of Revenue and Finance says. “The Stay NJ program provides critical property tax relief and greater financial flexibility for our senior community. We are ready to assist here as well.”