



Nutley Jaycees Announce Distinguished Service Award Winners

Five Nutley citizens will receive the Jaycees' 49th annual "Distinguished Service Award" at a community banquet on Tuesday October 5, 2021.

Nutley Public Schools Director of Special Services Helen Doyle-Marino was named to receive the Nutley Jaycees' Distinguished Service Award as Educator of the Year.

For distinguished service in "Public Health and Public Safety", the Jaycees award will honor recently retired Nutley Fire Department Captain Domenick DiSimone.

Nutley's "Business" award goes to Mike Martin, owner of Nutley Wine Shop a supporter of many of Nutley's civic organizations.

The "Civic Affairs Award" goes to Nutley teacher, Coach and community activist JD Vick for his wide range of activities to help people in need, both in Nutley and throughout America.

Salvatore Balsamo, teacher and former Board of Education Trustee was named 2020 Outstanding Young Man.

Announcement of the award recipients was made by former Nutley Commissioner and past state president of the New Jersey Jaycees, Walt Smith, chairman of the judges' panel. In addition to Smith, the judges' panel includes Dr. Steven Clarke, Superintendent of the Nutley Schools, Dr. Julie Glazer, former Director of Special Education and community volunteer Barbara Hirsch, local businessman John Brown, and former N.J. Assemblyman and Board of Education trustee Fred Scalera.

The Nutley Jaycees Distinguished Awards Dinner is Nutley's oldest and most prestigious awards dinner. The winners will be honored at a dinner on Tuesday October 5 scheduled at The Valley Regency, 1149 Valley Road, Clifton. The event opens at 6:30 p.m. with a cash bar cocktail hour followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Tickets at \$45 can be reserved by calling Dr. Steve Clarke at 973-235-1515 or by visiting his office 25 High Street. His email is sgclarke@optonline.net.

Educator of the Year

The Nutley Jaycee Educator of the year, Director of Special Services Helen Doyle-Marino has worked in the Nutley School District for 21 years. She began her Nutley teaching career teaching the handicapped at Lincoln School. Prior to Nutley, Helen taught at Deron School for the Handicapped in

South Orange, Hawthorne Board of Education, and was a teacher of the handicapped at both Kearny and Montclair High Schools

Helen was a 1988 graduate of Nutley High School. She earned her Associate of Arts degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Rutherford, her Bachelor of Arts from William Patterson College and her Masters of Arts in Special Education from Jersey City University. She also earned a Masters of Arts in Urban Education from Jersey City University.

Mrs. Marino became Director of Special Services at a time when the department saw several leadership changes in a few short years. She stepped into her new role with great enthusiasm and quickly became a role model for future teachers to follow.

Her responsibilities include managing all aspects of state laws and supervising the child study team. She makes a point of consulting with parents of students with disabilities for input on ways to improve services.

Prior to becoming Director, Helen had extensive experience as Supervisor of Special Services. In that position she upheld and enforced all school board policies as well as all state and federal regulations. She supervised the child study team, conducted evaluations, and served as a liaison between principals, teachers, outside agencies, and members of the child study team. That experience served to prepare her for responsibilities as Director.

Her peers recognize her as the consummate professional having been a classroom teacher and supervisor before assuming the role as Special Services Director for the Nutley School District. Her teaching methods have produced knowledgeable, enthusiastic and grateful students. Her interaction and leadership with the Nutley staff has resulted in a partnership that has benefited students, staff and families.

Helen married her high school sweetheart Christopher 24 years ago. They have two daughters, Cameron a freshman at Villanova and Claudia a freshman at West Essex High School.

Outstanding Young Man

Each year the Jaycees choose an outstanding young man or woman. This year the Outstanding Young Man award by the Nutley Jaycees goes to Salvatore Balsamo.

Sal has been a History Teacher at Eastside High School for the past 16 years. In that time he has been the Golf coach for 13 of them. Sal graduated from Rutgers College in 2001 with a BA in History, minor in Political Science. He received his Masters in the Art of Teaching from Montclair State University

Sal has been active in the community for the past 17 years especially with the Melissa's Hope Scholarship awarded annually in the memory of his former classmate and friend, who suffered from Dystonia since the first grade. Every year, awards have been given out to students pursuing a career

in any medical field. To date, they have raised and awarded over \$200,000 and have reached a level that will award a scholarship in her memory in perpetuity.

Very active with his sons, he has been coaching youth soccer, basketball and baseball.

In 2016 Sal was elected a Nutley Board of Education Trustee. As a trustee on the Nutley Board of Education, he helped shape the direction of our public schools. During these 3 rewarding years, Sal was part of the committee that conducted a superintendent search, which included interviewing potential candidates and hiring the next leader of our school system. He was the Board of Education representative to Washington School for three year and assisted with many of their events, including the Scholastic Book Fair. Sal was on the Policy Committee and Chair of the Academic Committee. While on the Academic Committee, in addition to many curriculum cycle reviews, they were able to oversee the initiative of one-to-one Chromebooks for every sixth grader in a pilot program, and subsequently to every student from sixth through twelfth grade.

Sal is married to Sharon (Drost) Balsamo, for the past 13 years, and has two sons Philip James (PJ) and Matthew.

Public Health and Safety Award

For his over 40 years as a distinguished Nutley firefighter, this year's recipient of the Public Health and Safety award is recently retired Fire Captain Domenick DiSimone.

After graduating from Nutley High School in 1976, DiSimone served in the U.S. Navy for three years returning to Nutley in 1979, where he joined and served as a volunteer firefighter for 12 years. In 1991, then Mayor John Kelly swore DiSimone in as a firefighter, where his outstanding career and service to the Nutley community became legendary.

Domenick served at various levels in the fire department and served on the Nutley HazMat team and was certified by the N.J. State Police as an Arson Investigator. For more than 10 years he served in the Nutley Fireman's Honor Guard.

His distinguished firefighter career may have been launched in 1994, when he and another firefighter, came to the assistance of two other Nutley firefighter's who were trapped inside a burning building on Kenzel Avenue with no path to get out of the home. DiSimone and firefighter Fred Kingston heard yelling and grabbed a ladder, climbed onto the roof, broke through a window and were able to rescue both firefighters, one who was burned, the other who suffered smoke inhalation.

Just one year prior to that rescue, he and a colleague were called to the Nutley Elks where a man had suffered a heart attack in the middle of the dance floor. DiSimone and his colleague rushed over, and immediately started performing CPR on the man, who thanks to their heroic efforts, survived the near fatal event.

His willingness to help others has been exemplified in numerous ways especially with his donation of blood at the blood bank totaling an astounding 6 gallons.

Several years ago, DiSimone set out to restore and renew the firefighter's memorial on the corner of Warren and Chestnut Street, just outside the firehouse. He worked with the Parks and Recreation Department, local businesses and contractors to raise awareness and worked to help raise over \$15,000 to restore the memorial honoring fallen Nutley firefighters. He drove the original bell that was in place at the memorial, 14 hours to Ohio to have the bell restored and brought back for display. He worked on the design of the memorial and worked on the project to see it to completion almost 2 years ago.

For his stellar firefighting career, he has been honored by the Nutley VFW, Nutley Elks, St. Barnabas Hospital, and the Star Ledger newspaper.

Domenick is married to wife June. They have two sons Brian and Daniel.

Honored for Work in Civic Affairs

JD Vick this year's Distinguished Service Awards winner in the field of Civic Affairs is an individual who is widely known throughout the Nutley school district as well as the community for his extensive volunteer efforts to the community and nation while impacting the youth of our community.

Vick's educational background working with children through the years has led him to coach baseball, boys' and girls' basketball, as well as football. He currently serves as Nutley's assistant Varsity football coach and baseball coach, head freshman boys' basketball, head freshman baseball, and head freshman football

With degrees in psychology, special education and physical education, JD Vick has worked tirelessly to improve the education but just as importantly, the civic character of youth here in Nutley with various activities that have received national attention.

He has worked as a paraprofessional and currently a special education teacher in Walker Middle School. He has been the Nutley High Patriot Club Adviser since 2013 and the Walker Middle School Patriot Club Advisor since 2015. His work as the Patriot Club advisor has become the stuff of legend as he has worked with students to promote the patriotic spirit of the Nutley High community and to honor and assist members of the U.S. Armed Forces and Veterans.

He has led student trips to a multitude of civic pride projects including shoveling snow at Nutley Veteran War monuments, led a Veteran's Patriotic Day for students and veterans. He has led Nutley remembrances of fallen war heroes, participated in flag day ceremonies, as well as had floats in the Nutley Memorial Day parade.

Students in Nutley, under Vick's guidance have placed American flags on the graves of Nutley War veterans, taken class trips to the Pentagon, heard oral arguments at the United States Supreme Court and visited the United States Military Academy.

This year in March, Vick and Nutley High students traveled to Arlington National Cemetery to pay respects to fallen war heroes and had the great honor to participate in an Army Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown at Arlington.

Students under Vick's Civic guidance have traveled four times to help rebuild houses destroyed by tornadoes in Alabama, worked with rebuilding in Texas after Hurricane Harvey, and in 2019 served California residents impacted by wild fires.

He has dedicated time and energy to serving food pantries, Habitat for Humanity, homeless shelters, as a foster parent, and taken students on numerous educational trips.

Business Man of the Year

Nutley Wine Shop owner Mike Martin is this year's recipient of the Jaycees Distinguished Service Award in the Business category.

Martin, a Nutley High School graduate, began his career as an employee of Nutley Wine in September 1986 where he clerked, provided customer service and was involved in inventory management, for the store located on Franklin Avenue.

As the years went on, he developed a love of wines and educating people on the various types of wines, where they come from and how they are used.

In September 1999, he went from employee to the proud owner of Nutley Wine Shop and has continued to be actively involved in the wine trade, as well as the Nutley community. They offer beer, wine and spirits.

October 1997, he completed his wine education at the Harriet Lembeck School of Wine New York, NY and has continued each year to further his knowledge of the various wines and visited many areas where there are wine vineyards to get first-hand knowledge.

He is being honored for his contributions to the community by his support and ongoing donations to the education community through his time, financial commitment, donations to various organizations, and overall willingness to be involved when needed.

Martin's support for various organizations that have put on wine tasting fundraisers has helped raise thousands of dollars for important organizations like the Academic Booster Club and others.

Mike is married to Lisa for more than 30 years. She is a long time member of the Nutley Board of Education. They have three girls Caroline, Shayne and Kelly.

###