

Newsletter Mission:

The purpose of our newsletter is to keep our residents aware of Secaucus' recycling and sustainability goals, green tips and environmental achievements.

Individual Highlights:

EV Charging Stations	1
Documentary Film Series	2
Radio Avenue Park	2
Go Green Spotlight	3
Charging Stations (Cont.)	4

Mayor
Michael J Gonnelli
& Town Council
John Gerbasio
Robert Costantino
James Clancy
Mark Dehnert
Bill McKeever
Susan Pirro

Secaucus Environmental Department Brings In Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

The Environmental Department is bringing in four electric vehicle charging stations, which will be placed around Secaucus to encourage the use of electric vehicles.

New charging stations will be placed at the **Recreation Center**, the **Centre Ave Municipal Parking Lot**, and at the **Secaucus Public Library**. These three new charging stations will be available for public use. The charging station placed at **Town Hall**, will replace the current charging station and will be available for use by town employees only.



The charging stations will be provided by Chargepoint.

Chargepoint is the largest electric vehicle charging network and has been providing charging stations for 10 years. Over 65 million kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions have been avoided through the use of Chargepoint chargers.

These fixtures can indicate how long the vehicle will take to charge. Regulations, such as how long a car may be at a charger or possible fees, are under discussion.



An interesting feature of these chargers is their mobile app. With a smartphone, users can check station availability, charging status notifications, and data such as time and energy used. This feature will be available to most

(Continued on page 4.)

Environmental Documentary Winter Film Series

Between the months of January and February, the Environmental Department held a documentary film series at the library. Slated for four consecutive Thursday evenings—one of which was cancelled due to a snow storm—the series revolved around films that focused on pertinent environmental issues.

The series kicked off with ***How to Let Go of the World and Love All The Things Climate Can't Change***. This Oscar-nominated film follows director Josh Fox as he travels to 12 different countries and questions what climate change *can't* destroy.



The second film, ***Tapped***, tackled an issue on a more local level—the bottled water industry. Directed by Stephanie Soechtig and Jason Lindsay, companies such as Coke, Nestle, and Pepsi go under scrutiny for the pollution and health concerns of bottled water. Before the film, **Matt Smith**, a New Jersey representative

from **Food & Water Watch**, an advocacy group that champions healthy food and clean water, discussed the necessity and basic human right of safe, clean drinking water.

The final film shown was ***Blue Gold: World Water Wars***, a documentary based on the book *Blue Gold; The Fight to Stop the Corporate Theft of the World's Water*. Director Sam Bozzo equates future water conflicts to today's fight for oil.

New Park On Radio Avenue

A new passive park was built along Radio Avenue with a dual purpose. Not only is it a beautiful setting to enjoy the nature of the Meadowlands but it also works to help flood control.



This area is low-lying and notably, flooding was a severe issue during Hurricane Sandy.

Future plans for the location include a Monarch butterfly meadow and a rain garden.

Butterfly gardens typically include plants such as milkweed and aster, which provide food and shelter for caterpillars and butterflies.

Rainwater gardens are self-sustaining gardens of native plants, which are placed in areas where water typically pools and floods. These



gardens require little to no maintenance, as they water themselves. This helps with flood prevention, helps filter water and stops pollution from running into the Meadowlands.

Secaucus Is an Award Winning Sustainable Community



Recycle your used batteries and small electronics in our

Big Green Box!

- Town Hall—4th Floor
- Recreation Center
- Library
- DPW office
(370 Secaucus Road)
- Harmon Cove 1 Clubhouse
- Clarendon School
- High School



Published by the Environmental Department.

Sponsored by the Town of Secaucus, Mayor Gonnelli and Town Council.

GO GREEN SPOTLIGHT

- The Secaucus Environmental Department is continuing its **Green Certified Restaurant** program. Many restaurants have already joined! We'd like to thank the following businesses for their sustainable efforts:
 - **Sweet & Flour**
 - **Panera Bread**
 - **Bonefish Grill**
 - **Il Forno**
 - **Georgie's Yogurt**
 - **Barelli's**
- For the second season in a row, **School Lunch Organic Farm** will be partnering with the Town of Secaucus to bring certified-organic produce to town residents. This 22-week program features seasonal produce delivered weekly on the day of harvest and supports local, sustainable farmers!
- A **Rocket Composter** was purchased to be placed at the High School. This device can compost up to 900 liters of food waste quickly and efficiently. The resulting compost is to be used for gardening at the high school green house and projects around town.
- The Town is performing a utility audit for all of our municipal buildings and pump stations to see where we can cut energy costs and improve energy usage. We are working with Schneider Electric to find ways to reduce our energy usage. The Town has submitted two years worth of energy data which Schneider will analyze to determine where we can save money.
- Secaucus is involved in the NJ Direct Install Program where we are replacing old lights and light fixtures to new LED lighting that will significantly reduce our energy usage and costs for municipal buildings including the Library, 7th Street Fire House, Town Hall, Senior Center, Community Center, Animal Shelter and the Old Recreation Center.
- The Secaucus School District has signed onto the **Sustainable Jersey for Schools** program. By becoming certified, the program will allow the school district to become eligible for grants by completing specific tasks which accumulate points towards different levels of certification. Projects may include gardens, composting, revising recycling programs, and small projects that students can be involved with to reduce energy usage.
- Secaucus has endorsed **NYSE Comfort Partners Program** that allows residents, who qualify by income, to take part in a **FREE energy audit** that can lead to **FREE energy efficiency upgrades**. Some upgrades could include repairing old and drafty attics, replacing inefficient boilers, and even help with roof repair. Call 855-333-9191 for more information.



Did you know: 25% of greenhouse gases in the United States come from gas-powered vehicles.



smartphone users, with both an iOS and Android app.

Electric vehicles reduce the need for fossil fuels such as diesel or gasoline and can promote cleaner air. It is projected that by 2040, 35% of vehicles will be electric. By bringing in electric vehicle charging stations, the Town of Secaucus hopes to promote the use of electric vehicles and reduce our carbon footprint.

This newsletter is printed on 30% post consumer recycled paper.

Secaucus Go Green Mission...

Secaucus is committed to the protection and preservation of the environment and is dedicated to enhancing environmental sustainability within our town and the state of New Jersey. We understand the responsibility we have towards the planet and have adopted a policy that reflects this mission.

Secaucus Town Hall
1203 Paterson Plank
Secaucus, NJ 07094
(201)-330-2005

Recycling Coordinator
Environmental Director
Amanda J Nesheiwat
(201)-86-GREEN
anesheiwat@secaucus.net



Visit us on the Web!
www.secaucusnj.gov

Community Garden Plots Reopen at Xchange

The community garden at Xchange, which was previously closed due to renovations, reopens for the 2017 gardening season! This garden contains 39 new plots, rain water barrels, and compost bins.

This garden is one of two in town, the second being located at Fountain Park on Humboldt St. Both community gardens use no pesticides or sprinkler systems.

Residents are encouraged to be creative with their gardens. Plots can be found filled with vibrant flowers, vegetables, and fragrant herbs.

