



Summer Concert Series

The Summer Concert Series is in full swing and there are still 6 shows left for 2022! View the full schedule below.

Mayor's Corner

I am happy to announce that the overall tax rate for 2022-23 will decrease by about \$12.00 on an average property (assessment of \$176,809.00). Since I have been in office, keeping taxes stable while providing a high level of service, and improving infrastructure has been our goal. Our revenues are still not back to pre-pandemic levels as revenue from hotel and parking taxes continue to lag due to lower hotel occupancy and remote work patterns. However, we were able to offset the lost revenues by utilizing federal funds received under the American Rescue Plan. Town Council members and I also met with our Administrator, CFO, Finance team and all department heads to carefully review all budget line-items to ensure municipal funds are spent wisely.

While overall taxes are going down, our planned programs and projects are ongoing at a robust pace and we seek out grant funds whenever possible to help pay for or, or significantly reduce, project costs. In the next few months we expect to start a road reconstruction project on a portion of Centre Avenue, (County Avenue to approximately Minnie Place) using funds from a Municipal Aid Grant of approximately \$422,000.00. As part of this project we also recently received word that Secaucus has been awarded additional grant funds

of approximately \$154,000.00 by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the construction of four rain gardens on Centre Avenue, at the intersections of John Street, to reduce flooding from storm water and nonpoint source pollution into the Hackensack River. This first-of-a-kind project in Secaucus is especially significant for its use of the latest technology and will support the Environmental Department's work with Rutgers University to develop a comprehensive green infrastructure plan for our Town.

July brought some hot days our way and I was happy to see that many residents enjoyed the Swim Club grounds. It is a spacious, clean facility and is a perfect place to spend summer days with family and friends. And best of all, entrance is free for all residents! Enjoy the family events planned at the Swim Club as well as the remaining concert and movie series. See you there!



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Upcoming Concerts & Movies

Upcoming Concerts

- August 4: Showstoppers at PAC
- August 11: Hourglass – James Taylor Tribute Band at Buchmuller Park
- August 18th: The Elegents at Buchmuller Park
- August 25: The Cameos at Buchmuller Park
- September 1: Neil and the Diamonds at Buchmuller Park

*All concerts start at 7:00 PM

Upcoming Movies

- August 2: Shang Chi and the Legend of Ten Rings at Ice Rink
- August 9: Jungle Cruise at Ice Rink
- August 16: Cruella at Ice Rink
- August 23: Ghostbusters Afterlife at Ice Rink
- August 24: Spiderman No Way Home at Xchange
- August 30: Encanto at Ice Rink

*Start time at Ice Rink is 7:30 PM; at Xchange moves begin at Sunset

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
SECAUCUS, NJ 07094



Secaucus Municipal Government Center
Paterson Plank Road
Secaucus, NJ 07094

Secaucus Calling!

Residents who went to the now-shuttered Jon Giacomo Hair Salon may remember a young weekend receptionist, Poonam, who told everyone she wanted to go to medical school. Well, recently Mayor Gonnelli ran into her and she shared the news that she is now Dr. Poonam Kothari! Poonam is back in Secaucus and works at Hudson Regional Hospital. Talk about her Secaucus journey coming full circle!

Poonam, a former Jersey City resident, worked in Mill Creek Mall at a kiosk while she was in high school. When the mall closed and she was looking for an alternate job, she was offered



the receptionist position at the salon. She kept that weekend job all through her undergraduate years and while waiting for admission into medical school. “The best thing about that job was talking to people. I loved how friendly everyone was and how much of their life stories they shared while waiting for their appointment,” she said. Even when she was studying medicine at Rutgers University, Poonam often visited Secaucus to see her parents who had moved here from Jersey City in 2010. “I knew many people because I had talked to them while at the salon,” she added.

After getting a medical degree, Poonam (now Dr. Kothari) worked in Pennsylvania and recently got married.

“I think Secaucus is a perfect place to raise a family. It feels like a community with so many events and friendly people. Plus, my parents live here so that was an added pull to come back.” And return she did! Dr. Poonam Kothari calls Secaucus home, both to live and to work. Best decision ever!

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

Mayor Michael Gonnelli and the Town Council would like to residents to know that there is help available for anyone struggling or is in crisis. The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline offers 24/7 call, text and chat access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing suicidal, substance use and/or mental health crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

When calling 988, callers first hear a greeting message while their call is routed to the local Lifeline network crisis center (based on the caller’s area code). A trained crisis counselor answers the phone, listens to the caller, understands how their problem is affecting them, provides support, and shares resources, if needed. If the local crisis center is unable to take the call, the caller is automatically routed to a national backup crisis center. The Lifeline provides live crisis center phone services in English and Spanish and uses Language Line Solutions to provide translation services in over 250 additional languages for people who call 988.

Chat (988lifeline.org/chat) and text services are currently available in English only and will continue to expand over the next few years to increase local and state level response.

Remember, if you or anyone you know is in a crisis, please call 988 or send a text message to that number. Help is just a call away.

NJDEP Awards Grant for Rain Gardens

The Town of Secaucus received notice from the NJDEP that we have been selected under the DEP’s Water Quality Restoration Grant Program to received funds of \$154,600, to implement the installation of four (4) rain gardens on Centre Avenue, at the intersection of John Street. The proposed project will deploy green infrastructure design strategies to reduce stormwater flooding and the amount of nonpoint source pollution impacting the Hackensack River. Once complete, the rain gardens will increase the town’s capacity to capture stormwater.

Raben Makes Secaucus Proud

Six-year-old Secaucus resident, Raben Goel, made waves in the international chess circuit in June by winning second place in the U7 group at the FIDE World School Chess Championship. Raben started participating at local, State and national chess tournaments late last year and has won several awards already. The FIDE championship was his first international tournament. In all, 489 players from 37 countries participated in the nine-day event held in Panama City, Panama, held in June 2022. Malika Ziyadin, age 7, of Kazakhstan won first place.



Raben started playing chess at home about a year ago. When his parents, Deepti and Sachin, saw how interested he was in the game, they enrolled him in a local chess club. Soon he was going to state tournaments, and in just 6 months, Raben started winning in the under-7 group—second place in a NY championship in March 2022, and 5th place in a championship in Ohio that was held in May. June proved to bring more excitement—the games were nail biting, and the deciding last game lasted three and a half hours! “Raben had no idea that winning that game took him to second place. He was beyond ecstatic when he heard he won,” said dad Sachin. The tournament’s outcome was based on his win and other player’s standing, so Raben had no idea that he won the silver medal. A sweet surprise indeed!

We wish Raben the very best in future tournaments.

Resident Submissions



Resident Charlene Hallam’s pictures capture the beauty of birds in Secaucus. If you love birdwatching, you may join walking tours conducted by the Bergen County Audubon Society at Mill Creek Marsh and more. Visit bergencountyaudubon.org for a list of field trips. You may also call Don Torino 201-230-4983 or email greatauk4@gmail.com for more information.

988 24/7 Crisis & Support



Mike’s Ice Cream Owner Honored

One Secaucus business has been in the news lately because of a popular TikTok review leading to a sudden surge in business. In mid-June, Michael Flaherty, the owner of Mike’s Ice Cream located at 1540 Paterson Plank Road, caught himself scratching his head when he saw lines at the store going around the block. His teenage employees later informed him that the store was featured in a viral TikTok video. That publicity was certainly good for business!

But there’s a different reason why owner Michael Flaherty was honored at the June Town Council meeting. Town Council members Jim Clancy and Mark Dehnert presented a plaque and thanked him for being a supportive local business and hosting fundraising events for community organizations, schools, and our Town. Mike’s Ice Cream has been in business for more than 40 years and most patrons agree “it’s the best ice cream around”!



Double Celebration: Marie and Joseph DeMartine Turned 100 in July



Reaching the 100-birthday milestone calls for a big celebration. What happens when both husband and wife turn 100 the same week? That calls for a very special double celebration! Lifelong Secaucus residents, and WWII veterans, Marie and Joseph DeMartine, celebrated their 100th birthdays on July 8th and 10th this year. Both have been looking forward to this milestone birthday for the last few years. Granddaughter Jamie O'Beirne, with some help from Mayor Gonnelli and Councilman McKeever, organized a drive-by parade in which the Secaucus Police Department, Fire Department, Office of Emergency Management, family, friends and other residents participated, much to Marie's surprise. The balloons, signs and bunting on their front lawn made the atmosphere extra festive. Joe, who is currently in a VA home in Paramus recovering from a hip injury, received a visit from family members, Councilman McKeever and VFW Chapter 3776 President Phil Papa with tons of pictures and videos of Marie's celebratory parade. Though this is the first time in almost 80 years that Marie and Joe are not together on their birthdays, they were full of joy and positive spirit.

Marie and Joe have lived in Secaucus all their lives, except for a few years when they served in World War II. Marie, an original "Rosie the Riveter," worked in San Diego from 1942 to 1945 and was "employed in the performance of essential war work in the production of airplanes and parts for the US Army and Navy," declares a certificate she

received from Ryan Aeronautical Company. Joe signed up to be a Marine when he was 18 and served in the South Pacific in WW II.

After the war, the DeMartines continued to serve veterans and others in our community. Both have been active members of the Secaucus VFW chapter. Joe joined the VFW reluctantly after being cajoled by Marie, but said that was the best decision he made. Since then, the VFW has been part of his daily routine. Until a few months ago, Joe visited the VFW Building on Paterson Plank Road every day, taking care of maintaining the space. Marie has been an active member of the Ladies Auxiliary, raising funds for charitable causes and for returning veterans. "The veterans used to do a lot of good work with the facility on County Road. We organized lunches and music bands for them," recalls Marie, referring to the homes for the elderly there.

Hudson County honored Marie and Joe with the Veteran of the Year award in 2018, the first time a husband and wife duo won the honor. Their humble nature and positive spirit continue to touch and inspire those around them, including their daughter, 3 granddaughters and 8 great grandchildren.



Historical Plaque Unveiled at Laurel Hill Park

Did you know Laurel Hill was formerly known as Snake Hill and the name changed only in 1926? And that the site we now know as Laurel Hill Park was a self-contained city, complete with its own sewer system, electricity plant, incinerator, and quarries? Yes, the space that now houses walking trails, children's playgrounds, soccer, baseball and cricket fields was once a maze of buildings including a jail, small pox hospital, asylum, tuberculosis sanatorium and a shelter for the poor and elderly. It housed hundreds of people at any given time and housed thousands through the years. In 1962, Hudson County finished closing all the facilities, which had fallen into disrepair, and the space has been reimagined as a County park, an oasis of natural features, dozens of recreational facilities and access to the Hackensack River. The construction of the 15X ramp off the New Jersey Turnpike had a major impact on the grounds in the area. In 2003, more than 4500 human remains of those who were buried in a potter's field on the grounds were disinterred over a 10-month period and reburied at Maple Grove Park Cemetery in Hackensack.

On July 9th, Mayor Michael Gonnelli and Councilwoman Orietta Tringali were joined by Town Museum Directors Tommy Schwarz, Anna Schwarz, John Bueckner, and Scott Schaffer to unveil a historical plaque detailing the history of Laurel Hill Park. It is the third in a series of historical plaques that have been installed in Secaucus. The other two are at 325 County Avenue about "Celery King" Sebastian Meisch, and at Trolley Park. Check them out and get familiar with a slice of Secaucus history.



Town Museum breaks record on 4th anniversary!

On Saturday, July 9th, the Secaucus Town Museum proudly celebrated its 4th anniversary. One hundred and fifty-three (153!) townspeople, passed through and were treated to coupons to Mike's Ice Cream shop. The event brought lots of first timers to the museum, and all were in awe of what the museum has collected since its inception.

The children loved playing with the typewriters, watching the trains running high above, riding the little fire truck and discovering the Disney slide view finder. Adults were excited to find pictures of themselves in old photos and reminisce about places long ago replaced by 21st century progress.

If you haven't yet visited, it's time to stop in and see the collection of memorabilia from Secaucus and amazing artifacts dating back to the late 1800's. You'll recognize many "blasts from the past". The Town Museum is always FREE!

EVERY SATURDAY, 11AM – 3PM

(ADDITIONAL SUMMER HOURS: THURSDAYS, 4:30 – 6:30 when there is a concert at Buchmuller Park)

150 Plaza Center

(across from the Plaza)



Prevent Car Break-Ins

The Secaucus Police Department reminds residents that simple safety measures you take can go a long way in preventing car break-ins. There has been an increase in break-ins in our area and your help is crucial in stopping miscreants.

- When you park your vehicle, please roll up all windows and lock the doors.
- Never leave money, shopping bags or other valuables on your dashboard or anywhere visible.
- When returning home or your final destination for the day, place your key fob in a location away from the windows. Car thieves have now devised a digital method to activate your vehicle motor if the fob is within their digital range.
- Never leave your car running when exiting your vehicle for any length of time. When you do this, thieves can take your vehicle with young passengers and animals inside.

On a different note, but more importantly, during the summer months never leave young children or pets in the vehicle alone to go shopping even for just a few minutes. Heat levels become dangerous much faster than you would ever think and can be fatal.

Ice Cream with a Cop

The Secaucus Police Department had yet another successful event aimed at building closer connections with the community. On Tuesday, July 12th, the Department held the "Ice Cream with a Cop" program at Mike's Ice Cream Store on Paterson Plank Road. For more than 2 hours, members of the Department including Chief Dennis Miller and several officers were at hand to talk to residents. It was a great turnout and residents of all ages participated and enjoyed ice cream courtesy of the Police Department. Therapy dog Oakley was, of course, present and ready for a paw-shake and seemed to also enjoy some ice cream.



Free Introductory Pickleball Clinic

Come down to the courts in Buchmuller Park to learn more about, and play, the fastest growing sport in America (and Secaucus)! If you have ever played tennis, ping-pong, or badminton, you will love this small court game relying on quick reaction, anticipation, and ball placement rather than pure foot speed.

For the Secaucus session in August, no experience is required. Anyone ages 18 and up is invited to participate. This is specifically for new players or those with very limited experience. We will supply paddles and balls and have a certified instructor and advanced players on-hand for a great experience. No registration needed, but space is limited (first come, first served basis).

When: Monday, August 15 (rain date Wednesday, Aug 17)

Where: Buchmuller Park Pickleball Courts (next to basketball courts)

Time: 6:30-7:30 PM Session 1 (8 participants) | 7:30-8:30 PM Session 2 (8 participants)

Parks with Water Features

Summer is in full swing and school is still out for a few more weeks. If you have young children, explore our local parks and playgrounds, most of which have updated play equipment. Did you know that some parks even have water features, like sprinkler showers and waterspouts, to add more fun to toddler playtime.

Check out these parks with water features:

- Buchmuller Park at the Plaza
- Ivanoski Park on Charles Street
- Naters Park on the corner of Koelle Blvd. and Blondel Street
- Smit Park on Valley Court
- Eckel Park at the corner of Clarendon and Ninth Street

Celebrate the Meadowlands

Join us Saturday, August 13, 10am - 4pm at Laurel Hill Park in Secaucus for a free event celebrating the history, ecological significance, and natural beauty of the Meadowlands.

Enjoy free boat and paddling tours, a morning fishing clinic, food trucks, booths staffed by local environmental groups and vendors, and more!

[Register Here](#) or visit rpa.org/events

Presented by:

Thank you to our sponsors:



2ND ANNUAL
SECAUCUS GOT TALENT!

August 17, 2022
7:00 pm

Buchmuller Park
150 Plaza Center
Secaucus, NJ

Mayor Gonnelli & The Town Council invite Secaucus residents to attend a NY Mets baseball game

Wednesday, August 10, 2022
Bus leaves 10:30 am

N Y METS VS. CINCINNATI REDS
\$33.00

Please pay at 145 Front St
Mon - Fri 8 am - 3 pm
Info 201-617-5917

Very limited space-must reserve by 7-29

What does the future hold for you?
The Mayor and the Town Council
Invite you to a Mystical Celebration

~ Psychic Fair/Fund Raising Event ~
Sunday, August 21, 2022
11:00 am to 5:00 pm
Secaucus Senior Center
145 Front Street

For directions and further information Call (201) 617-5917
\$5.00 admission benefitting Secaucus Emergency Fund

Readings and Chakra Tune-ups are just \$30.00 for every 15 minute session
Readings are for entertainment only!

Dev Markowitz ~ Psychic Tarot Readings
Donna Marie ~ Psychic Tarot / Mediumship Readings
Patricia Farrell ~ Psychic Mediumship Readings
Yasmina Groves ~ Psychic Palm / Mediumship Readings
Shannon Wisner ~ Tarot Readings
Yvette McGuire ~ 15 Minute Chakra Tune-ups
"Life's Too Short To Live Out of Tune"

Pop-Up Shop
Also visit our Vendor: "As Above So Below" for crystals and original creations

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