



## Halloween in Secaucus

Secaucus residents enjoyed many Halloween events throughout the month of October. Visit [SecaucusNJ.gov/2022Halloween](http://SecaucusNJ.gov/2022Halloween) to view photos.

## Mayor's Corner

As we turn to cooler weather, and look forward to family gatherings and holiday celebrations, I invite you to look for ways to share the joy with those less fortunate by donating to the annual food and toy drive conducted by the Department of Social Services. They do a phenomenal job of connecting donations with families in need. Remember, no donation is too small. As you may know my team and I continue to share donations from various organizations, so please feel free to reach out to Social Services or my office for any help you or someone you know may need.

I would also like to remind you to apply for benefits under the state's ANCHOR program that provides a check or direct deposit to homeowners with incomes under \$250,000.00 and tenants with incomes under \$150,000.00. Please see details inside and make sure you don't miss out on this benefit.

Before the winter weather hits us, we are completing several projects around Town. Construction on the new passive park on Farm Road is progressing at a robust pace and will be a great addition to our recreational space

along the Hackensack River. By Spring 2023, we will have new shrubs and other plantings at the park that can be enjoyed by residents and their pets. Additionally, a roadway improvement project is currently underway at Julianne and Paulanne Terrace, which will include repaving of the roadway, new curbs and some new sidewalks. These and other ongoing improvements are made possible, thanks to the joint efforts of many departments continuously working to make our Town even better. While I will enjoy Thanksgiving with my family, I also thank the Town employees for working with me and making our vision of Secaucus a reality.

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving. Stay safe and healthy.



## Vote on 11/8/2022

Remember, Tuesday, November 8th is Election Day! Every vote counts! Polling Stations are open 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Please go to the polling station listed on the sample ballot that was mailed to you.



## Ice Rink Open Skating Schedule

Thursdays: 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Fridays: 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Saturdays: 1:30-3:30pm & 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Sundays: 3:00 - 5:00pm & 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Admission \$3 | Skate Rental \$2



Mayor Michael Gonnelli- [mayor@secaucus.net](mailto:mayor@secaucus.net) - O: 201-330-2005

Councilman William McKeever  
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LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER  
SECAUCUS, NJ 07094



Secaucus Municipal Government Center  
Paterson Plank Road  
Secaucus, NJ 07094

## Student Action Group KAI Creates New Ad Campaign

For this year's Red Ribbon week, students of the Secaucus High School KAI Club, along with the Secaucus Coalition Coordinator, Dave Bratton, created a new "What If" campaign to share based on the look of Marvel/Disney+ streaming show. In brainstorming sessions leading up to the campaign, student leaders indicated that their peers didn't know what to do or where to turn in certain situations. The goal was to create a campaign that gave teens actionable information to address issues of vaping, bullying and suicidal thoughts.

The campaign was shared with CADCA, a national prevention forum, as well as with the CDC with permission for other prevention networks to use it free of charge. Within a few days, the CDC circulated it with their Project Officers and there were more than 400 downloads within the CADCA network.



The Secaucus Coalition and its student chapter, KAI, strive to prevent addictive behaviors in youth. The team creates special activities for Red Ribbon Week, observed annually in October, on alcohol, tobacco, and other drug and violence prevention awareness campaign.

## Secaucus High School Senior Presents Paper at MIT



Secaucus High School senior, Ayush Agarwal, was selected to present a paper at the 2022 MIT Undergraduate Research Technology Conference, where he presented a project on audio source separation—a way to separate different sounds on a track using artificial intelligence and machine learning. He had worked on the paper at the New Jersey Governor's School of Engineering and Technology, a selective summer program that included 72 students from around the State. Ayush worked on the project with five (5) other students and is proud that the paper will be included in a publication by the Institute of Electrician and Electronics Engineers, the largest engineering and technology community worldwide.

## Making Business-Community Partnerships Better



On Thursday, October 20th, volunteers from Kapsch TrafficCom, a local business, joined the Environmental Department to help with de-weeding and planting at the new Meadowlands Garden. Kapsch currently has two office locations in Secaucus as well as numerous locations across North America. Pictured are Kapsch volunteers with Mayor Gonnelli and Environmental Director, Jennifer Schneider. Thank you Kapsch for sharing your Annual Service Day with us!

## Fire Prevention Week



The Secaucus Fire Department and the Office of Emergency Management teamed up to share the importance of fire safety basics, smoke detectors and escape plans during Fire Prevention week which was from October 9th through the 15th. Special assemblies were held at Huber Street and Clarendon schools where students learned how to "Stop, Drop and Roll," an important technique that could save a person's life. Students also had the opportunity to interact with firefighters in full gear and visit the cabin of a fire engine.

## Secaucus Wants Your Pumpkins

Every Wednesday in November. Include your pumpkins, cornstalks, and hay bails with your bagged leaves\* for pickup in front of your house.



FREE biodegradable bags are available for residents at the DPW. Call 201-330-2080 to schedule a pickup time. Reminder: NO plastic bags!

Interested in composting at home or with the town drop-off? Visit [secaucusnj.gov/compost](http://secaucusnj.gov/compost)

## Football BBQ



The Recreation Department held an evening BBQ for all Recreational Football teams on Friday October 14th. It was a perfect kick-off to Fall football season! Go Patriots!

## Residents Making a Difference



We love to bring you stories of neighbors helping neighbors, and what makes Secaucus the close-knit, caring community that we are all so proud of. Young resident Michael Marrone donated his birthday money to the Secaucus Emergency Fund. The gift was from his loving Grandma, Lois Marrone.

Members of the Schick family also love to help the community and raised money at their annual family gathering for the Secaucus Food Pantry. "Family Member" Matt Bienkowski presented the check to Mayor Gonnelli.

## 2022 Bocce Season Ends



The Secaucus Bocce League completed their 2022 season. Pictured here are Bocce Leaguers Steve Liptai, Barbara Hennig, Gerry Dowd, Carole Gaughran, Fran Pein and John Garbo. The League has 12 teams with 6 players on each team. Participants have fun not just playing bocce but also contributing to the greater good, including a donation for Ukraine. If you are interested, please check out Secaucus Bocce League's Facebook page.

## Neighbor's Quick Thinking Averts Serious Fire

Here is a heart-warming story about how a neighbor averted a potentially serious fire, just by being thoughtful, calm, collected and doing the right thing at the right time.

On the evening of October 18th, Michael Hajek smelled smoke in his apartment. He quickly investigated around his home and determined the smoke was coming from the apartment directly below his. He knew his neighbor goes to bed early and was concerned for her safety. He quickly grabbed his chemical fire extinguisher, knocked on her door, proceeded to enter the apartment and extinguished the small fire inside. His neighbor wasn't home, but her daughter was. Just when he thought everything was under control and stepped outside to get a breath of fresh air, the resident's daughter alerted him of cats inside. He went back in for the cats and realized the fire was not completely extinguished. He called for another extinguisher and continued spraying and successfully extinguished the fire by the time firefighters arrived.

Recalling how the incident unfolded, Michael said, "It happened so fast. It probably took more time for me to tell you what happened than how it unfolded in real time." But it was his lightning-speed reaction that averted what could have been a much larger issue. We asked Michael if he had any thoughts he would like to share and he stated, "I tell everyone to please get a fire extinguisher. That was the only reason I could do what I did," he said. We hope residents listen.

We thank Michael for being a heroic, good Samaritan!

## Homeowners and Tenants: Apply for ANCHOR Benefits Now

Mayor Michael Gonnelli and the Town Council would like to alert all residents to the improved Affordable New Jersey Communities for Homeowners and Renters (ANCHOR) program. This program provides up to \$1,500 to qualifying homeowners and up to \$450 per year to eligible tenants to offset the increasing cost of rent. You must apply before December 30th to get benefits under the program.

Under the expanded guidelines, the ANCHOR Property Tax Relief program will be simplified and split into three levels of eligibility. New Jersey homeowner households with income below \$150,000 will receive \$1,500, homeowner households with income between \$150,000 and \$250,000 will receive \$1,000, and tenants with incomes, up to \$150,000 will receive \$450 per year to offset the increasing cost of rent. The State will begin issuing direct deposits or checks in late Spring 2023, and no later than May.

You may apply online, by phone or print a paper application form and mail with supporting documents. To apply for benefits, print forms or more information, please visit [nj.gov/treasury/taxation/anchor](http://nj.gov/treasury/taxation/anchor) or call 1-888-0238-1233.

## Walk With A Cop a Big Success!



There is no better way for our young students to start a school day than to walk with members of our Police Department! And that's exactly what students of Huber Street and Clarendon Elementary Schools had a chance to do on different mornings in October. On October 7th, Huber Street students gathered at Trolley Park and walked down Paterson Plank Road. On October 11th, Clarendon students gathered at the corner of Pandolfi and Golden Avenues. Officers led the walk and guided students about road safety rules. Police Chief Dennis Miller, officers of various ranks and canine Oakley were among those who walked with the students.

### Upcoming Events

- Saturday, November 5, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM:**  
SPD Blood and Platelet Drive at Recreation Center
- Saturday, November 5, 7:00 PM:**  
SFD Texas Holdem Poker at VFW on Paterson Plank Road
- Monday, November 7, 10:00 AM:**  
Senior Walk at American Dream Mall
- Tuesday, November 8, 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM:**  
Election Day. Vote at allocated polling stations
- Friday, November 11, 11:00 AM:**  
Veterans Day Ceremony at Town Hall Courtyard
- Sunday, November 13, 10:00 AM:**  
Knights of Columbus Veterans Breakfast at ICC Auditorium
- Tuesday, November 15, 10 AM to 3:00 PM:**  
Job Fair at 145 Front Street Community Center
- Wednesday, November 16, 6:30 PM:**  
Tea for Three Theatrical Performance at Public Library
- Saturday, November 19, 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon:**  
Holiday Toy and Food Drive at 145 Front Street Community Center



### FREE HOME REPAIRS FOR SENIORS

North Hudson Community Action Corporation Residential Program will be providing Free Minor Home Repairs for Seniors. The requirements are basic;

- A senior 60 years or older who is a homeowner of a 1-4 family home or a tenant with a minor repair that isn't the responsibility of the landlord
- No Income Requirements
- The minor repair should be related to a health or safety issue but can also involve simple tasks such as raking leaves or snow removal

If necessary, our staff will visit the senior at their residence and can also assist in finding the appropriate vendor. To inquire further or receive assistance, call

201-210-0333 Ext. 22105



**Ceremony  
Town Hall**

**11 am**

**Refreshments to  
follow**

**1203 Paterson Plank Rd**



**THOMAS EDISON  
BLACK MARIA FILM FESTIVAL SCREENING**

**NOVEMBER 29TH  
12:00 PM  
2ND. FLOOR PANASONIC RM.**

Join us for **FREE** screenings of selected works by Black Maria Film Festival award winners from all over the world.



Register on the calendar @ [secaucuslibrary.org](http://secaucuslibrary.org)

**Secaucus Emergency Food Pantry**

**Holiday Wish List**

Stuffing Canned Yams Pasta  
Mashed Potatoes Cranberry Sauce  
Canned Corn Marinara Sauce  
Mac & Cheese Cookies Turkey Gravy  
\$10 gift cards to local supermarkets  
(for perishable items-milk, bread, cheese, etc.)



**New, Unwrapped Toys needed  
for less-fortunate children between  
the ages of 6 to 12 years old**

Bring all donations to:

Senior Center—145 Front St—M-F 8-3

**Special drop-off date**

**November 19<sup>th</sup>**

**9 am 12 pm**

Please call 201-330-2014  
To find out how you can help



Dear Secaucus Families,

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the crisp, fall weather.

Our fall re-registration events have now come to a close. I am happy to announce that we have already registered over 91% of the student population in the school district during our scheduled re-registration dates. We are currently working on re-registering the remaining students and have proceeded with the disenrollment process for others. Again, I thank all parents who have willingly participated in these events.

As always, I would like all parents to know that our "Parent Communication Form" is still open and available to all who would like to voice their concerns or ask the administration questions regarding anything pertaining to our schools. The form is readily available as a button on the right side of our website at [www.sboe.org](http://www.sboe.org). We welcome all correspondence and will answer any questions that you may have regarding our district in our bi-weekly FAQs that will be sent home to all parents via email.

Finally, I want to wish all Secaucus families a happy and healthy Thanksgiving season. I am truly thankful for our wonderful district and community that I serve. As always, I will continue to ensure that we are providing our Secaucus residents with the quality education they deserve while keeping the lines of communication open with all stakeholders.

Be well,  
Dr. Daniela Riser  
Acting Superintendent of Schools



## St. Jude Fundraiser a Success



We thank all the staff who volunteered to play and help out at our Harlem Wizards St. Jude fundraiser on October 14th, especially organizer Mr Allan Bonin. All proceeds from this event were donated to the St. Jude Children's Hospital! Thank you to all of our supporters who bought tickets to the event too!

## Key Club Raises Funds for Breast Cancer Awareness

The Key Club students sold breast cancer awareness bracelets to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. To date, Susan G. Komen has invested more than \$3.3 billion in groundbreaking research, community health outreach, advocacy and programs in more than 60 countries. Their efforts helped reduce deaths from breast cancer by 40 percent between 1989-2016. Susan G. Komen is the ONLY organization that addresses breast cancer on multiple fronts such as research, community health, global outreach, and public policy initiatives in order to make the most significant impact against this disease. The Key Club was happy to help support the foundation's initiatives.

## High School Hosts Inspirational

Motivational speaker and Division 1 basketball player Kevin Atlas visited Secaucus High School on October 14th to speak to the Juniors and Seniors about being humble, empathetic, and never giving up on your dreams, no matter what the obstacle. Kevin was born with his left arm ending just below his elbow. However, he never gave up and defied the odds to become an amazing athlete, an author, and motivational speaker who has spoken to over 900 schools on every continent of the world. Secaucus High School would like to thank Herriff Jones and Varsity Sports for sponsoring such a great event.



## Hispanic Heritage Month at Huber Street School



Mrs. Ramos created a beautiful bulletin board for Hispanic Heritage Month at Huber Street School. She spent the month of October highlighting important people throughout the Hispanic Community, both famous and right here in our own Huber Family!

## Clarendon Book Fair



Our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders shopped till they dropped at Clarendon's Book Fair! Thank you so much to our parents and PTA volunteers!

## Red Ribbon & School Kindness Week



To kick off our Red Ribbon & School Kindness Week, Clarendon School students and staff wore red and were encouraged to always act with kindness!

## 2022 Mental Health Awareness Walkathon

On Thursday, October 6th S.A.I.L. and Middle School S.G.O. held their Annual Walk-A-Thon for Mental Health Awareness at Secaucus High School. After the walk, the students celebrated with pizza, snacks, and Mister Softee Ice Cream. The students raised \$700 for the J-Shine Fund, a local organization that supports mental health awareness initiatives.

