



## Secaucus Honors Veterans

Each Year on November 11th, the country pays tribute to selfless service members who serve and have served our country, knowing full well the risks. Continue reading and view more photos on page 3.

## Mayor's Corner

Another year comes to a close and it is time to look back with thanks and gratitude. I thank each one of you for the tremendous support my council members and I have received throughout the year. Without your encouragement, we would not have accomplished the things that make Secaucus a beautiful place to live and work. Our newly re-elected Council Members also thank you for the confidence you have showed in our team. Each one of us truly appreciates this opportunity to serve you.

In 2022, we have launched three major initiatives to our parks systems. Trolley Park at the cul-de-sac of Paterson Plank Road has been completely refurbished. Two new park projects have been launched and are almost complete—the park on Farm Road expands our riverfront parks systems with the construction of the passive park, complete with a gazebo, two dog parks and walking areas. The community and sensory garden on Meadowlands Parkway is another great addition to the open recreational spaces in our community. Both are massive achievements given the extensive planning and execution that went into these efforts.

This year, our infrastructure improvements have resulted in the repaving of several streets including Centre Avenue, Julianne Terrace, Paulane Terrace, Acorn Road and Oak Lane. In addition, we launched a new project to include rain

gardens off Centre Avenue—a groundbreaking initiative that not only harvests rainwater, but also helps with flooding due to rainwater runoff in the area.

Finally, the design of our brand-new Senior and Community Center project is well underway and making good progress. We are hopeful construction will begin in the Spring of 2023. I cannot wait for senior activities to be hosted there as soon as it is complete. All of these projects would not be possible without the hard work of the men and women working to serve you through various departments in Town.

While you enjoy the beautiful decorations in the center of Town or drive by and enjoy decorated homes along the way, I hope it reminds you of the wonderful community we live in. Secaucus is a wonderful place to raise a family because of the beauty and kindness of the people who live here. Please continue to nurture this beautiful town and make amazing holiday memories with family and friends.

Wishing you and your loved ones a safe, enjoyable holiday season and a great start to 2023!



## Street Sweeping Suspended Beginning December 12



Please be advised that street sweeping is suspended from Monday, December 12, 2022 to Sunday, March 12, 2023. Alternate side parking rules are also suspended.

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## Hudson Regional & Town of Secaucus Turkey Distribution

Hudson Regional Hospital and the Secaucus Social Services Department joined hands to make a difference to the celebrations of numerous families during the Thanksgiving Holiday. They were joined by Mayor Gonnelli, members of the Town Council and HRH President and CEO, Dr. Nizar Kifaieh, as they handed the bags with turkeys and all the accompaniments to complete a Thanksgiving dinner to residents in need. HRH donated 200 turkeys, the Rotary Club donated cookie mix and K & S Social Club made a generous monetary donation. Thank you to all who made this event, which seems to have become a tradition, a huge success!



## Secaucus Rotary Gives Back



The Rotary Club of Secaucus works on several community projects throughout the year and was happy to participate in recent Town events. Current President Rob Merlo and Past President Rick Saltarelli handed out treats at the Schmidts Woods Trick-or-Treat. Earlier in the month, they visited Huber Street and Clarendon Elementary Schools to encourage students to read and handed out informational bookmarks. For The Town's Thanksgiving turkey distribution, the Club added 200 packages of cookie mix for families in need.

## Carnegie Diner Donates to Class of 2023



When local businesses make a commitment to our community, great things can happen! Carnegie Diner, located in Harmon Meadow, held a Fall Fundraiser and Pumpkin Sale. Owner Stathis Antonakopoulos presented a check in the amount of \$2000.00 to the Class of 2023 at the November 9th Town Council Meeting. Proceeds will go towards several senior activities for which the class has been fundraising for the last 3 years.

## Senior Art Competition Winners

By Danielle Fry



## Filipinos to Celebrate Simbang Gabi at Immaculate Conception Church

The 30th annual celebration of Simbang Gabi at Immaculate Conception Church will be held from December 15th through the 23rd. The Filipino Society has been hosting this uniquely Filipino Advent tradition since 1993.

All are invited to join the festivities for any night. It's a way for children and adults to experience a different kind of Christmas and to put "Christ" back in Christmas. During Simbang Gabi, family relationships are strengthened, faith is intensified, and no matter what language is used, when people pray and sing together, the universality of the Christmas spirit is realized.

The masses are held daily in church as follows: Dec. 15th -16th, 7 pm; Dec. 17th, 5:30 pm; Dec. 18th, 5 pm; Dec. 19th-23rd, 7 pm. Come once, come twice, come every night!

To foster our community spirit, a Christmas Party and Tricky Tray will be held on December 17th at 6:30 p.m. in the gymnasium. Tickets for the party may be purchased at the church gift shop, \$35 adults, \$20 kids 12 and under.

For information, contact Father Rolando Yadao (201-863-4830) or Maribel Anota (551-655-4811).



This year the Hudson County Senior Art Competition was back as an in-person event, and the county displayed the work of many entrants from Hudson County artists who are over 60 years old, in a show held in the Conrad Rotunda of the Brennan Courthouse in October.

Several of our hometown seniors were ribbon winners in the first, second, and honorable mention categories. Competing categories were offered for fine arts or photography. All county ribbon winners were invited to a congratulatory luncheon in Mercer County, this past October.

Pictured here are photos of Secaucus' ribbon-winning art and photographs for 2022. Among the Town winners were Glenda Kaplan, Harmon Caplan, Barbara Hennig, Danielle Fry, Maureen McDonald, Su Mei, John Garbo, Leslie Hagg, and Charlie Churchill.

The winning art/photos, along with additional pieces created by our Art Club seniors, are currently displayed in the Secaucus main library's 2nd floor Panasonic room – until the end of November.

The Secaucus Senior Art Club, which meets Wednesday mornings at the Senior Center, gathers to create art and fellowship with like-minded artists over 60. Next year we are hoping to participate in the next Hudson County and NJ State competitions in 2023. All artistic residents are welcome to join the club no matter what level of skill you may have.

## Resident Honored for Putting Out Fire



Last month we wrote about how quick thinking and brave actions by a resident prevented what could have been a major fire in Harmon Cove Townhouses. Mayor Michael Gonnelli and the Town Council honored the resident, Michael Hajek, at the November 9th Town Council meeting. They applauded his actions and presented him with a plaque. His neighbor, whose home Michael saved, was at the meeting and it was obvious how thankful she was for Michael's actions. Fire Chief Joe Schoendorff and Deputy Chief, Fred Schneider, helped present the plaque. While we cannot confirm it, the Chiefs may have handed Michael an application to join our volunteer department.

## Cross of Gratitude Graces Immaculate Conception Church

For a week in early November, the Immaculate Conception Church in Secaucus was home to The Thanking Cross, also known as the Cross of Gratitude, that was carved in Lviv, Ukraine. The Cross is travelling across the globe and has been blessed by three popes—Pope John Paul II in 2004, Pope Benedict XVI in 2006 and in 2016 by Pope Francis. The mission is dedicated to the 2000th jubilee of the Crucifixion to be celebrated in 2033 and to the goal of visiting various capitals of the world with the hope of uniting all nations of the world into one family. Since the beginning of the Cross of Gratitude's pilgrimage, it has been carried by men and women of many faiths," said Vitaliy Sobolivsky, who started the mission in 2003.



The Cross is carved from Ukrainian oak and weighs approximately 800 pounds. Its pilgrimage has taken it to 46 capitals throughout Eastern and Western Europe including the Vatican. While in the United States, the Cross has visited Washington D.C., New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and churches in New Jersey, including Secaucus, and the goal is to cover an additional 160 capitals around the world.

## Secaucus Volunteer Group Focuses on Homelessness

On Saturday, November 12, members of Hygiene Project, a youth community group focusing on helping those in need, held a Walkathon and Box City Campout to highlight the issue of homelessness. Students gathered at the Secaucus Library parking lot and walked to Buchmuller Park. Later in the evening, they set up "box homes", small shelters made from cardboard boxes, and camped at Buchmuller Park until midnight to get a feel of the conditions faced by the homeless. "Homelessness is an issue that is getting more acute, and the Box City Campout is our attempt to understand the



issue with more empathy. I thank Mayor Gonnelli, the Town Council and the Police Department for their support and for helping to make this a successful event," said Hygiene Project's Cathy Wolf.

## Secaucus Honors Our Veterans

Our own Veteran's Day Ceremony at Town Hall, honors Secaucus veterans who proudly serve(d) our nation, and in turn make Secaucus proud. Residents and veterans joined Mayor Gonnelli and Town Council members to celebrate the continuing contributions of our veterans and the many ways they enrich our community.

This year's ceremony also marked the recognition of a very special veteran who continuously works to help the cause of veterans not just in Secaucus, but throughout the area. Councilman William McKeever, a Vietnam War veteran and active VFW member, has been a champion of veteran causes and has assisted veterans with housing, job placement, home renovation and more importantly, ensuring that qualified veterans get the vital benefits they deserve. He does all this with humility and discreetly, always deflecting attention from himself and instead focusing on the strength of the veterans. McKeever served in the US Army from 1966 to 1968 with tours of duty with the 3rd Armored Division, Frankfurt, Germany, and as Sergeant in Vietnam. He selflessly gives back to the veteran community through various affiliations and leadership positions including Life Member of the VFW, member of American Legion, Sr. Vice Commander of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Finance Officer of Flotilla 10-2, Treasurer of Flotilla 32 Inc., Life Member of Vietnam Vets of America, and as Liaison for Veterans to Congressman Pascrell.

Earlier in the day, Hudson County honored Patrick 'Littlewolf' Brooks, an Army veteran with tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, with the 2022 Hudson County Veteran of the Year Award. He is a member of the Tuscarora nation of the Iroquois Confederacy in upstate New York. His passion for educating the public about Native culture has taken him to numerous venues to conduct presentations and dance programs to audiences of all ages sharing the history and culture of Indigenous Americans and First Nations People. He is an accomplished dancer and has served as a member of the head staff at several Native gatherings.



## Mayor and the Town Council present



**Skate  
With  
Santa**

**Sunday December 18, 2022  
Secaucus Ice Rink  
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

**Refreshments will be served**

**Michael Pero – Recreation Superintendent  
John Schwartz – Facility Director**

**(Secaucus residents only)**

## The Mayor & Town Council

Invite all residents to participate in



**HOLIDAY LIGHTS**

An exterior illumination contest!

3 Winners in each category

**"Martha Stewart"**

**"Clark Griswold"**

1 Winner

**"Best Block"**

Winners will be announced at the  
January Council Meeting

Lawn signs will be posted by Impressive Printing  
Contest runs from December 18-23, 2022

JOIN US FOR A  
**WINTER WONDERLAND**

**DECEMBER 14  
4:00 PM  
2ND FLOOR PANASONIC RM.**

Children ages 4 and up and adults who are children at heart are welcome to visit our Winter Wonderland. Join us for Mrs. Claus's Storytime, selfies with Santa, and holiday cupcake decorating. Come with your holiday spirit and leave with a goodie bag and holiday snacks! Space is limited, please register all participants individually @ [secaucuslibrary.org](http://secaucuslibrary.org) so we have enough spirit to go around. Contact Lee Penna for any questions.

Sponsored by:

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The perfect gift this holiday season  
from Secaucus' very own hives.

**1/2 LB. JAR = \$10  
1 LB. JAR = \$20**

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# SECAUCUS



# SCHOOLS

Dear Secaucus Families,

I hope everyone is doing well and getting ready for our Winter holidays!

Our fall season has been filled with fun activities for our students, as well as various local and county championships for our fall sports teams. We want to thank all of our coaches and staff for making this season especially memorable for our Secaucus Students! We have already begun to transition into our Winter sports and activities while we are quickly approaching 2023.

I want to congratulate our newly elected Board of Education members: Kelli D'Addetta, Alexander DeHombre, and Christina DeBari. Welcome to the board! I am looking forward to working with all of you in our quest to make our school district the best it can be. The Board of Education reorganization meeting, where we say "goodbye" to board members Jack McStowe (current Board President), Kathy O'Connell, and Jayesh Patel, and "welcome" to our new board members, will be held during the first week of January.

Finally, I want to wish all Secaucus families a happy and healthy Winter holiday season! Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Boxing Day or any other holiday, I hope that you spend quality time with family and friends going into the new year and enjoy your Winter break! 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.

Dr. Daniela Riser  
Acting Superintendent of Schools



## S.A.I.L. Members Make a Wish Come True

S.A.I.L. students collected, donated, and decorated shells to help 5-year-old Quinn's Make-A-Wish dream come true. Quinn started her "Make A Wish" journey with only one wish. Quinn asked for a pond with a beach where she could collect shells and build sandcastles. The S.A.I.L. students were compelled by Quinn's story and decided to help make her wish come true. This small gesture will remind Quinn how much love and support she has from the Secaucus High School community.



## Walkathon for Mental Health Awareness

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.



## Secaucus Tennis—What an Achievement!



The Secaucus Girl's Tennis Team made history this year by winning both their division and the County championship. They were undefeated and won their division 10-0, officially becoming the NJIC Meadowlands Division champions. They also became the County champions after winning

some tough matches. This included matches against the 1st and 3rd seeds in the tournament, beating teams that they had never beaten before. It is indeed a proud moment for the team and the Secaucus School District.

## A Tricky Tray to Remember

The only sound was the crinkle of bills. In the silence of the blue gymnasium, people of all ages watched with bated breath. Students, parents, and teachers gathered around as senior Shaun Katchula sorted through the chaos with precision and focus. All were waiting for the moment that the total would be revealed. The air crackled with the remnants of fervor and excitement. Only a few hours ago, the blue gymnasium had been filled with the familiar faces of friends and family, looking upon colorful tickets in anticipation. Tables of intricately wrapped prizes were now empty and vibrant decorations had been cleared away. As Ms. Nappo finished tallying the total and turned her phone, everything stopped. 36,215 dollars. It was astonishing. Everyone in the room was stunned. The senior's Tricky Tray had raised over 30,000 dollars. They had broken the record.

The Class of 2023 had never seen it coming. For class advisor, Ms. Palmosano, "It was exhilarating, I had such confidence that the class would pull through, our wonderful parents would pull through, and our community would help." Every aspect of the Tricky Tray, from the planning to the execution, would not have been possible if not for Ms. Palmisano's ability to lead the way. She brought together the countless seniors that volunteered throughout the summer and on the day of the event.

Thank you donors, volunteers, teachers, staff, parents and community members and businesses for your support.



## Veterans Honored at Huber St. School

The Huber Street School 4th grade students held an assembly and invited local veterans to celebrate Veterans Day. This was a great way to thank the millions of brave men and women who have served our country, and especially the honored guests from our armed forces who were present at the assembly.



The students read "America's White Table" as a symbol for and remembrance to service members fallen, missing or held captive in the line of duty. The students also sang an Armed Forces Medley, and Proud to be an American.

Thank you to Sergeant and Councilman Bill McKeever for being the keynote speaker and thank you to all veterans and specially our local heroes who served our country.

## Clarendon School - Dress like a Rainbow!



Our Bees dressed down in various colors so that together they can make a rainbow!

## Clarendon School - Dress Down Day



On Friday, November 4th, the Clarendon SGO sponsored a school dress down day for a donation to support our troops.

## Turkey Trot



Second and Third grade students at Huber Street School enjoyed Turkey Trot Dance. The fun and games, face painting, arts, crafts, snacks, music, dance and more at the school gymnasium on the evening of November 16th were a great way to kick off the Thanksgiving spirit.