



Pic credit: famartin-WikimediaCommons. See bit.ly/3JRXITn

Toll Decrease Coming this Spring

Secaucus residents will soon pay the lower 16E rate on the northbound NJ Turnpike, thanks to the efforts of Mayor Gonnelli and the Town Council. Read details inside on page 3

Mayor's Corner

Spring is just around the corner, and I know you are looking forward to warmer weather and more time outdoors. I love to meet residents as children enjoy the playgrounds, athletes run on trails and families walk their dogs or gather in beautiful open spaces. I am excited that we will have another brand-new park that going to be built at the end of Farm Road. The new facility, which is adjacent to Acorn Park will double the size of the existing park and has been in the works for a few years now. The land was acquired from a private entity by the Town of Secaucus with the intention of preserving open space and developing the area to be enjoyed by all. An existing structure on the property was demolished by the prior owner and the land is now prepared and ready to construct the passive park.

When finished, the Farm Road Riverfront Park will consist of a large dog run, a small dog run, a wide paved pavilion with benches and picnic tables. Numerous trees, most of them native to our area, will be planted around the perimeter. Lastly, a new parking lot will provide access to both the parks as well as to the Secaucus

Greenway.

Development of the park, which is just under one acre, is being funded, in part, by a \$317,873.00 Hudson County Open Space Grant. A construction bid will be awarded in early March and the park is expected to be completed this summer. I will post pictures and updates as the project progresses.



On that note, I have heard from many residents who are happy that the Greenway by the new Waterton residential property at the end of Paterson Plank Road is ready and open to the public. We are fortunate to have several waterfront walking trails, so go out and enjoy them all!

Stay healthy and be well.

THE SECAUCUS SHADE TREE COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP to preserve & grow our vital tree canopy



ENCOURAGED

- ✓ DO request NEW street trees
- ✓ DO "stomp out" the Spotted Lanternfly
- ✓ DO plant native species on private property (JerseyYards.org)
- ✓ DO preserve trees on private property

NOT ALLOWED

- ✗ DO NOT trim/cut or injure a Town tree
- ✗ DO NOT plant in the Town's right-of-way (think curblines)
- ✗ DO NOT violate the Town Tree Protection Ordinance (Ch. 109)

<https://ecode360.com/35539023>

201-86-GREEN

Mayor Michael Gonnelli- mayor@secaucus.net - O: 201-330-2005

Councilman William McKeever
wmckeever@secaucus.net
C: 551-665-7650

Councilman Robert Costantino
rcostantino@secaucus.net
C: 201-401-9315

Councilman Mark Dehnert
mdehnert@secaucus.net
O: 201-330-2000

Councilman John Gerbasio
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C: 551-226-0955

Councilman James Clancy
clancy@secaucus.net
C: 201-906-9657

Councilwoman Orietta Tringali
otringali@secaucus.net
O: 201-330-2000

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
SECAUCUS, NJ 07094



Secaucus Municipal Government Center
Paterson Plank Road
Secaucus, NJ 07094

Where Recycled Paper Goes - Beyond Your Bin

As of February 1, 2022, residential paper and cardboard collected by the hardworking Secaucus DPW employees gets weighed and dropped off to YES Recycling's facility in Newark. Several town employees had the opportunity to tour the YES facility and meet their staff to see firsthand how they sort, bale, and sell the materials. They learned even more about the urgent need to "recycle right." Essentially, anything that is not fiber such as styrofoam or plastic can damage sorting machinery and contaminate an entire bale. This, in turn, can lead to hefty fines and even worse - rejection of entire bales that force it to be denigrated to a landfill. Please help by keeping your recycle paper dry, clean, and without contaminants. Visit secaucusnj.gov/recycle for more information.



Pictured here are Anthony Giordano Jr. VP of Integrity Recycling and Waste Solutions Inc., Secaucus Employees Christine Smith, Jennifer Schneider, Kevin O'Connor, & Dave Kowalewski, and Rich Biondi General Manager of YES Recycling Inc.

Secaucus Cracks Down on Sales of Illegal Flavored Vapes

In 2020, New Jersey became the first state in the country to ban flavored vapes, which studies warn hook teens and young adults to nicotine. Flavored vape products may seem innocent, but they are not! According to a survey in 2019, 27.6% of high school students in New Jersey used electronic vapor products on at least one day in the previous 30 days. Given the overall incidence of vaping among youth, Secaucus is exploring ways to educate youth, encourage the removal of banned flavored vapes in stores and prevent the sale of vaping products to anyone under 21 years of age.

"The Town of Secaucus has been pro-active in educating businesses about the law regarding the flavored vapes ban. We are doing all we can to help businesses stay in compliance," said Christine Aguilera, the Secaucus Health Department Coordinator. "We recognize the dangers of nicotine addiction in our youth and actively promote measures that prevent youth access to these products" Aguilera added.

The Secaucus Coalition is partnering with the Health Department to raise awareness about the addictive nature of e-cigarettes. "We just produced a video PSA to let parents know that illegal sweet-flavored e-cigarette products entice youth. The nicotine can hook kids when they are young and hook them for life," said Dave Bratton, Secaucus Coalition coordinator. "I highly recommend that parents talk to their kids about the dangers of vaping."

Businesses in Secaucus were given informational material along with a fact sheet about the law banning flavored vapes. Secaucus Health Inspectors later visited local businesses and issued citations to those selling illegal flavored e-cigarettes/vaping products. Compliance checks will continue to be in place to prevent sale of flavored vapes to our youth. If you see flavored vaping products being sold at a Secaucus business, please report it to the Secaucus Health Department at (201) 330-2031.



Sydni Ponti Recognized for Kindness

Secaucus resident Sydni Ponti was among four students who were honored for demonstrating exemplary care and compassion. She was awarded the Academy of Holy Angels' Sister Catherine Green Award during the celebration of Catholic Schools Week (January 31 – February 4.) Sydni, along with fellow students Myra Bocage, Alexandra Valdez and Sophia Karamaoukian, were recognized for continuing the inspirational kindness for which S. Catherine Green, SSND, was known.

Sydni Ponti (AHA '23) received her award for being friendly, respectful, genuine, and thoughtful. Those who nominated Ponti said she takes time to greet others and makes an effort to include people in conversations.

Those around Sydni shared the reasons why she makes a difference. "Her compassionate personality makes a difference in our community," one friend shared. Another person said, "She goes out of her way to make others feeling included and is friendly with everyone she meets" and "(Her) kind heart and warm smile are only a few reasons why she is so deserving of this award," are other ways they described her.

We wish Sydni the best as she continues to show kindness and be a role model.

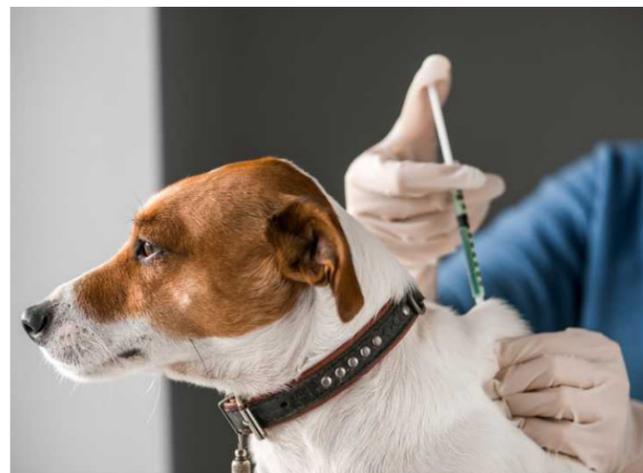


Free Rabies Vaccine Voucher

The Secaucus Health Department offers a complimentary rabies vaccine voucher for your pet! Vouchers may be used at:

Secaucus Animal Hospital and Laser Surgery Center
100 Dorigo Lane
Secaucus, NJ 07094
Phone: 201-348-8100

Please note, the pet must be registered with the Town prior to receiving a voucher. To obtain a rabies vaccine voucher, please contact the Health Department at 201-330-2031.



Alternate Side Parking In Effect March 14



Please be advised that alternate side parking for street cleaning will be in effect starting Monday, March 14th. Cars parked during posted street cleaning times will be ticketed. Thank you for your consideration.

Women's History Month

Secaucus Public Library celebrates Women's History Month. Join Margaret Ingles as she highlights and honors women and their contributions that have made a difference throughout history. Please sign up on the calendar @ Secaucuslibrary.org

If you have any questions please contact Lee Penna

March 24th 6:00 pm

SAIL Club's Act of Kindness



Alex Marra, on behalf of SAIL, Secaucus High School, presented sweet treats including cookies, brownies and pretzels to public service employees. The treats were presented to the Town Council at the February 8th Town Council meeting. Thank you, SAIL, for your kindness.

Secaucus Residents to Pay Discounted NJTP Toll Rate

It's a major win for Secaucus residents! The NJ Turnpike Authority has approved a resolution to charge the reduced toll rate for residents taking Exit 16E, thanks to the efforts of Mayor Gonnelli and the Town Council. Over the last few months, Mayor Gonnelli became a vocal critic of the unfair toll hike that was imposed after the open road tolling project was constructed, and the north-bound ramp for Paterson Plank Road was changed from 16E to 18E. That meant that our residents taking the 16E exit into town were charged \$1.50 to \$2.00 more on a typical ride.

"Most of our residents take the 16E exit. The moment I heard that our residents had to pay the 18E toll rate, I knew we had to fight the unfairness. We consulted with our outside legal counsel, sent letters to Governor Murphy, our State Senators and to the NJ Turnpike Authority. We raised the issue at every platform we could and demanded that the unfair toll hike for Secaucus residents must go. It was wrong, and it had to be corrected. It took a group effort to make this change and I thank Senators Nicholas Sacco and Brian Stack for their support and diligent work on the matter. Without them we would not have been successful." said Mayor Gonnelli.

NJ Turnpike Authority's resolution to change the toll rate back to the 16E rate for those using the Paterson Plank Road/Route 3 ramp will go into effect this Spring for all EZ Pass users with a billing address in Secaucus, as well as seven other municipalities—North Bergen, West New York, Guttenberg, Union City, Jersey City, Hoboken, Weehawken and Fairview. If you do not have an EZ Pass, you will be charged the higher rate. Secaucus residents can also use the 15X exit when travelling on the Turnpike. Based on an analysis by the NJ Turnpike Authority this change will result in overall annual savings of roughly \$2.5 million!

Behind on Utility Bills? Help is Available

Are you or someone you know behind in paying utility bills? PSE&G can help. There are several assistance programs available, and more residents may be eligible due to higher income limits. Statewide, 60% of persons eligible for energy assistance have not yet applied for support and may be at risk of being disconnected beginning March 15th. To prevent that, enroll in a PSE&G Deferred Payment Arrangement (DPA). Just visit pseg.com/myaccount; or call 800-357-2262. When asked, "What would you like help with today?" say, "Payment arrangement."

- In addition, there are several State programs that provide financial assistance for low- and moderate-income families.
- Universal Service Fund provides \$5 to \$180 credit on PSEG bill per month.
- LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) for PSEG heating customers who receive an average of \$300 towards their bill
- Payment Assistance Gas and Electric (PAGE) provides customers with financial assistance towards their past-due bill or disconnected for non-payment
- NJ SHARES provides up to \$700 for electric and \$700 for gas
- NJ Lifeline provides up to \$225 yearly credit for seniors and disabled adults

For detailed information about DPA, assistance programs, income limits and list of NJ supporting agencies that can guide you through the application process, please visit our website www.secaucusnj.gov or scan the QR code.



Secaucus Boy Scout Troop Celebrates Three New Eagles

Boy Scout Troop #222 based at the Immaculate Conception Church ("ICC") in Secaucus celebrated an incredible achievement on February 5, 2022. Three members of the troop—Julian Lawrence Ayala, Alexander Nguyen and Adrian Marco J. Delos Santos—were honored for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank achievable, making them the top 8% of Scouts who achieve this rank. The ceremony held at ICC was attended by the proud family members, Mayor Michael Gonnelli, Councilman James Clancy, Father Victor Kennedy, Pastor Danielle McCleary, Troop 222 Committee, members of the Knights of Columbus, Masonic Lodge, Hygiene Project and residents.

For his Eagle project, Julian Ayala organized and distributed hygiene kits consisting of basic toiletries and other essential items to help clients of St. Lucy's Shelter in Jersey City. A current student at Ramapo College of New Jersey, Julian's BSA achievements include Arrow of Light, Order of the Arrow, 50 Miler and Senior Patrol Leader. Besides Scouting, Julian is also actively involved in sports and music and received several awards including 2019 NJ State Champion at SPP Football, 2019 Secaucus Little League Senior League Champions, and the 2019 Secaucus Little League Sportsmanship Award.



Alexander Nguyen, a current student at Secaucus High School's STEM Program, decided to address a unique problem created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Face masks, gloves and hand sanitizers were much needed items at shelters, so he organized and distributed 500 sets of safety kits with these items along with 500 hygiene kits. Alexander is a high Honor Roll student and has consistently received the Presidential Service Award from 2015 to 2021, and the Jefferson Foundation NJSIA Public Service Award.

Adrian Marco Delos Santos created a unique way to organize and donate non-perishable foods, including rice, beans, canned vegetables, soup and more. Faced with social restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, he organized a virtual food drive and managed to raise and deliver 550 lbs. to St. Rocco Church in North Bergen and 200 lbs. to Secaucus Food Pantry. A current honor student at High Tech High School, Adrian is a competitive athlete and won the 2019 Group I, North II Cross Country State Sectional Champion.

Congratulations Eagles Julian, Alexander and Adrian. You make Secaucus proud!

US Military Banner Tribute Still Accepting Applications

The Knights of Columbus Msgr. Peter B. O'Connor Assembly 1543 in conjunction with the Town of Secaucus launched a US Military Banner Tribute effort last year. Over 130 residents submitted forms to honor a loved one who has served, or is serving, in the US military. Banners were proudly displayed for the first time in 2021. The program will continue this year and applications are accepted until June 12, 2022. If you would like to submit information about your loved one's service, a banner will be made and placed on poles in Town a few weeks before Veterans Day, as a public recognition for their service to our country. In December, the Town will take the banners down, store them and they will be ready for display again the following year. This is a great opportunity for your honoree as well as your family to publicly display the appreciation you have for our veterans as well as for the public to remember them. The honoree does not have to be a Secaucus resident.

To participate in the program, please contact Sir Knight Sal Manente Sr. at 201-866-2988 or email him at salm50@aol.com.

ST. MATTHEW'S
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH



ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON

MARCH 13, 2022
1PM-4PM

Dine-in or Take-out
Featuring Corned Beef, Cabbage,
Potatoes and Irish Soda Bread

Tickets are \$25 Bread is \$10
Please make reservations by March 6th

800 Roosevelt Ave. Secaucus, NJ 07094
Follow Us on Facebook
Phone: 201-865-4185
Email: secretary@stmatthewsecaucus.com

partners in prevention
springsprint5K



Co-Sponsored by the Secaucus Coalition

SATURDAY, APRIL 23 - 8:30 AM
Secaucus High School, 11 Millridge Road, Secaucus, NJ 07094

IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL RACE
The Virtual Race begins April 16

MEDALS FOR TOP FINISHERS
Multiple Age Categories

REGISTER AT
PIP.NJ.ORG/SPRINGSPRINT

Register before March 1st to get the early-bird pricing.
There are reduced fees for students ages 18 and younger.

Partners in Prevention's Spring Sprint 5K is a fundraiser to help support our mission to improve wellness and prevent substance use disorders and related health challenges in Hudson County and New Jersey.

We work toward this mission through the use of our Education Programs, the Hudson County Coalition, and the Lindsey Meyer Teen Institute.

100B Meadowlands Parkway, Suite 302
Secaucus, NJ 07094
(201) 552-2264
www.pipnj.org

St. Patrick's Celebration

Live Music
Irish Food
Irish Dancing



MARCH 15
6:30 pm

Secaucus Public Library

*Masks are required at this program




Register on the calendar @ secaucuslibrary.org



BODY & BRAIN

YOGA • TAI CHI



LOVE HEALS
USING THE ANCIENT WISDOM OF ENERGY TO JOURNEY WITHIN

Body & Brain Yoga Tai Chi invites you to a preview of a documentary called Love Heals, a true story of how a young woman with severe back pain after surgery felt better and continues to feel better by activating the natural energy healing in her body. The "Water Up Fire Down" principle part of the healing experience and is based on a new book under the same name written by Ilchi Lee, Founder of Body & Brain Yoga. It is available for purchase on Amazon.

When: Tuesday, April 5, 2022
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Where: Secaucus Public Library and Business Center
1379 Paterson Plank Road, Secaucus, NJ

What: Brain Education TV Clip: Love Heals Preview

- Interviews with Film Director and Producer
- Interview with Ilchi Lee, Founder of Body & Brain
- 15 Minute clip of documentary "Love Heals"

Demonstration of Water Up Fire Down Principle

Host: Secaucus Body & Brain
201-864-2095

DUO TO COVID-19, ALL RESIDENTS MUST REMAIN IN THEIR VEHICLE AND PLACE THEIR MATERIALS IN THEIR TRUNK.

HCIA SPRING SHREDDING 2022

9AM - 2PM (RAIN OR SHINE) FREE!

Saturday, March 19
Braddock Park – North Bergen
Picnic Area Parking Lot

Saturday, March 26
Secaucus High School – Secaucus
11 Millridge Road, Parking Lot

Saturday, April 2
Gregg Park – Bayonne
Parking Lot #1 - Parkview Drive & Kennedy Blvd Entrance

Saturday, April 9
Jose Marti School – Union City
1812 Summit Ave - Field Parking Lot
West Hudson Park – Kearny
Parking Lot, near Duck Pond

Saturday, April 30
DPW – Guttenberg
217 7th Street
DPW – Hoboken
Willow Avenue & Observer Highway

Saturday, May 7
Lincoln Park – Jersey City
Duncan Avenue Parking Lot

Saturday, May 21
DPW – West New York
6200 Dewey Avenue
Red Bull Arena – Harrison
North Parking Lot

WHAT TO BRING: Personal or Confidential Documents

WHAT NOT TO BRING: Newspapers, Magazines, Binder Clips, Cardboard, Books, Binders

IMPORTANT!
In an effort to accommodate all those wishing to participate please limit your documents to no more than 40 lbs. For further information, contact the HCIA's Environmental Hotline: (201) 324-6222 ext. 3257 or visit www.hcia.org. Documents will be commercially shredded safely, privately and properly by trained, licensed and bonded document destruction specialists. Residents may bring documents in whatever type of container they wish. These events are open to Hudson County residents. Businesses are not eligible to participate.

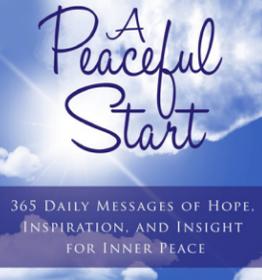
County Executive • Thomas A. DeGise Chief Executive Officer • Norman M. Guerra Chairman • Frank Pestana



LUANN SMITH

AUTHOR TALK

SECAUCUS PUBLIC LIBRARY
MARCH 22, 6:30 PM
PANASONIC RM.



MEET LUANN SMITH
AUTHOR OF "A PEACEFUL START". LEARN HOW 365 DAILY MESSAGES OF HOPE, INSPIRATION, AND INSIGHT CAN CHANGE YOUR MINDSET AND START YOUR DAY IN A POSITIVE WAY.

If you have any questions please contact Lee Penna

*Mask usage determined on community transmission rates

TOWN WIDE YARD SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 30th, 2022

Mark your calendars and start organizing the items you want to sell!



Mayor Michael Gonnelli and Town Council

Secaucus High School presents...



March 11th - 7:30pm
March 12th - 7:30pm
March 13th - 2:00pm

Reserved Seating
Tickets \$15

Arthur F. Couch
Performing Arts Center
11 Millridge Road,
Secaucus NJ

Disney THE LITTLE MERMAID

FOR TICKETS VISIT:
<https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/61516>

Annual BEEFSTEAK DINNER

Sponsored by
AMERICAN LEGION
SECAUCUS MEMORIAL
POST 118

Saturday, March 12th, 2022
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

TICKETS: \$55 PER PERSON
Price Includes:
All You Can Eat Hand Sliced Filet Mignon on French Bread,
Salad, French Fries, Ice Cream,
Beer, Wine, and Soda



Location: **50-50**
American Legion
753 2nd Street
Secaucus, NJ

To purchase tickets, contact Claud Macchieraldo at 201-893-1431
Proceeds to benefit veterans in need.
or call LEGION at 201-863-0260