



Secaucus Pays Tribute to Our Fallen Soldiers

Each May, Secaucus organizes two events to honor those who gave up their lives in service to our nation. Pouring rain and wind gusts could not stop the patriotic fervor of the Secaucus Annual Memorial Day Parade. Veterans, the Mayor and Council, Officers of the Secaucus Police Department, volunteer firefighters, members of community organizations, students, marching bands and residents marched through the parade route from Fifth Street to Buchmuller Park. Continued Below

Mayor's Corner

When a community comes together, beautiful things happen. The Imagine Community Garden is just one of them. For months, our Administration, Environmental Department, Department of Public Works, and the Native Plant Society of New Jersey have worked seamlessly with partners including the Sadhu Vaswani Center, ZT Systems, the Perricone Foundation, Union Beer, Hartz Mountain, Home Depot and Life Art Cabinetry, to bring the concept of a sensory garden to reality. A host of local organizations including The RealReal and Rotary Club of Secaucus helped with de-weeding and planting native species. The area has 3 rain gardens, 60 community garden plots, a gazebo, several walkways, and a berm filled with native plants. It is already a beautiful space for residents to enjoy and I cannot wait to see how beautiful it will become once plants thrive and trees grow taller.

At the official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on May 24th, I was happy to see a large gathering—proof of the involvement and interest in making this garden a community space. Didi Krishna of the Sadhu Vaswani Center joined Town Council members and me at the Ribbon Cutting and tour of the garden. Representatives from sponsoring organizations

were also present to celebrate. As a perfect ending to the celebration, and as if on cue, it started raining right when everyone was dispersing.

I was not surprised at the speed of which our residents signed up for the community garden plots at the Imagine Garden. We just started the first planting season, but there is already a long waiting list for plots there. In fact, all 268 plots across Town are allocated with a waiting list at every garden. The success of this project is impressive, and the camaraderie it creates among gardeners is priceless.

In the coming weeks and months, I invite you to explore our parks and playgrounds. More than 20 unique open spaces and a range of facilities and equipment, and some with access to the Hackensack River and stunning views are yours to explore!



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Memorial Day - Continued

Veteran Patrick Brooks was the Grand Marshall and Senior of the Year Margaret Cruz was the special guest. Residents proudly waved flags and cheered the participants even as they were soaked in the heavy rain. At Buchmuller Park, children, unfazed by the weather, lined up for balloons and face painting. The Secaucus DPW, members of the VFW, Secaucus Cares and others were on hand to serve hot dogs and beverages.

Our second event was our annual Memorial Day Ceremony held at Town Hall. This was a solemn event to honor Secaucus servicemembers who lost their lives. Father Victor Kennedy of the Immaculate Conception Church led the opening prayer. Councilmember and Vietnam veteran, William McKeever, led the ceremony; VFW Post 3776 Commander Phil Papa and VFW member Claude Macchieraldo spoke about the obvious as well as the unseen sacrifices of servicemembers who laid down their lives for our nation. Evelyn Bonin, President of the Ladies Auxiliary, noted that the true meaning of Memorial Day should be reserved for the remembrance of our lost servicemembers, instead of the day becoming the kickoff to summer barbecues and beach trips. She also read the poem, We Remember You, a touching and forceful reminder of the void left by soldiers lost.

Members of the Secaucus Boy Scouts, laid flags as Councilman McKeever read the names of Secaucus residents lost in the line of duty. A touching tribute to Secaucus' bravest.

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
SECAUCUS, NJ 07094



Secaucus Municipal Government Center
Paterson Plank Road
Secaucus, NJ 07094

Student Group Gets Pleasant Surprise

Secaucus Coalition and its student wing, KAI, got a pleasant surprise from actor Cooper Andrews (of The Walking Dead and Shazam! fame). Here is what happened, according to Secaucus Coalition Coordinator Dave Bratton: “Our KAI group set up an event to go see the movie, Shazam: Fury of the Gods thanks to a grant from Partners in Prevention. This is part of our substance-free activity series. I knew we were taking a big group, so I tweeted what we were doing to several stars and creatives involved in the film. Cooper Andrews, one of the stars of the film, saw my tweet and messaged me. I told him about KAI, the students, and their goals, and he sent a video message for our KAI students. It was extremely kind, generous, and cool of him to do that.”



The students were, of course, thrilled! Naija Agarwal, a senior at Secaucus High School is one of KAI's active members. “Hearing Cooper Andrews talking about the importance of substance abuse prevention and our efforts was inspiring and left such a strong impact on the younger members of KAI. They will have this moment to look back on as they continue to advocate for change in their community,” she said.

Annual Green Fest Kicks Off Events Season

The first weekend in May was the official kick-off for warm-weather events in Town. The Fishing Derby at the Duck Pond, planting of flowers by Girl Scouts at the Town Center as part of Project Pride, and the well-attended Green Fest at Xchange—all made it a happening weekend!



This year, visitors had the best Spring weather that anyone could expect with a cool breeze, perfect temps, and sunny weather. Over 19 private vendors with green and environmentally friendly wares, 9 children's activities, 27 non-profit organizations and 5 food vendors serving a variety of cuisines welcomed about 1500 visitors to the event. Children of all ages enjoyed activities including yoga, rock-climbing, cornhole, mega-sized checkers and more. Information about eco-friendly projects and programs such as electric vehicles, incentives on solar energy, EV recharging station, recycling, composting, community-supported agriculture, and community gardening was available through many vendors that lined up at the Fest. One of the most popular vendors was the plant sale by the Native Plant Society of New Jersey that has been a supportive partner with planning Town garden spaces, including the Imagine Garden on Meadowlands Parkway. One of the busiest kiosk was the Secaucus Town Clerk's office with on-site service for residential parking stickers and more.

Participants in the Annual Fishing Derby were equally happy about the beautiful weather and well-stocked Duck Pond. Nestled in the commercial warehouse section of the Town, the Duck Pond can be an adventure of discovery for those who have not been there. Once there, the tranquil area and several ledges/rocks with easy access to the water make it a relaxing, family friendly fishing day. Supervisors from the Recreation Department were on hand to measure each fish caught and to ensure that catch-and-release is followed. The day was rewarding on its own, but some residents also got additional bragging rights: most fish caught, largest fish caught, and variety of fish caught.

On the same day, you may have also seen Secaucus Girl Scouts planting flowers in containers throughout the center of Town. It is an annual event that adds to the beauty of blooms in our Town center. The Town thanks the Girl Scouts for their consistent efforts year after year.

Check out our website, www.secaucusnj.gov and Facebook page for updated information about our events and happenings this summer!

Blood Drive a Huge Success

On May 6, 2023 the Secaucus Swaminarayan Temple in partnership with the Secaucus Police Department held a blood drive. Councilman John Gerbasio, members of the RWJ Barnabas Health, and the Secaucus Police Department joined the organizers from the temple to kick off the event. The well-attended drive saw a turnout of over 70 attendees of which 54 were eligible to donate. The blood, plasma and red cells collected at this drive will sustain or save the lives of 88 patients. Secaucus is indeed a community that gives, no matter what the need.



Undefeated Basketball Champions



The Bergen Travel Basketball League 5th Grade Air Force Division undefeated Champions with a 16-0 record and overall record, including tournaments, was 22-6 had an amazing season! Mayor Michael Gonnelli and Council members honored the team at the Town Council meeting on May 23, 2023. The players (and coaches) were very excited to receive their sweatshirts and backpacks. Congratulations, team!

Harmony Suites Donates to the PBA



Harmony Suites, located in Harmon Plaza, is a proud supporter of the Secaucus PBA Local 84. Owner Alex Patel donated \$5000.00 to support PBA activities, and in sponsorship of the 6th annual PBA Golf Outing. Proceeds from Secaucus PBA events and fundraisers go towards several community events, sports activities for children, support for residents with special needs, the Junior Police Academy and more.

Employee Day Picnic



The Mayor, Town Council and employees of Secaucus thank Outback Steakhouse, DPW and the Swim Club staff for their help in making the Employee Picnic a success. The picnic, held at the Swim Club on May 19th, was filled with games, activities, and a lunch, and proved to be a great way for staff members located in different buildings to meet those who collaborate on various projects. It was a fun afternoon indeed with many hoping this will become an annual event! Pictured here are Mayor Gonnelli, Town Council members, and staff of Outback Steak House, who helped organize, prepare and cook the food.

Police Officers Address EPOS members



In May, the Secaucus Police Department continued efforts to support Exceptional People of Secaucus (EPOS) and residents with special needs. Officer Salvatore Manente explained the newly created registry for people with special needs, a database that helps officers quickly access information in case a person gets separated from family, or if they wander away. It also provides officers with information that helps them interact with the individual based on his/her needs and abilities. Officer Manente leveraged his

experience involving children with special needs to create the registry and other response procedures.

School Resource Officers Thomas Keegan and William Eccles also talked about the Emergency 911 system and guided EPOS participants about how to utilize the service in an emergency. Both officers are trained in methods of instruction and spend a lot of time on instruction in the classroom and beyond.

Chief Dennis Miller thanked EPOS for hosting the event and assured everyone that officers with the right type of training are always available to help residents with special needs. If you would like to know more about the Registry for people with special needs, please visit the Police Department website secaucuspolice.org and go to Autism Registration on the Programs tab.

Walk to End Bladder Cancer

Mayor Gonnelli and the Town Council invited residents to join a walk that took place on Sunday, May 7th at 12 noon at the Harmon Cove front parking lot. The walk around Harmon Cove is organized by Secaucus resident Barbara Milton and aims to raise awareness about bladder cancer and in support of Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network, a national organization devoted to advancing bladder cancer research and supporting those impacted by the disease. Thank you to all who turned out to support the cause and for those that supported, but could not attend the walk.



The Mayor and Town Council Invite Residents to the Annual 4th of July Celebration

Thursday, June 29th
6 P.M.

at Secaucus Swim Club

Xtreme Queen



Come join us for Food & Entertainment,
& FIREWORKS!

Secaucus Residents and their guests
ID Required to Enter Swim Complex

BATTLE OF THE BADGES



VS



CHARITY

SOFTBALL

GAME

KANE STADIUM, SECAUCUS NJ

5:30PM

HOME RUN DERBY

7PM

GAME TIME

EST. 2021

SATURDAY

JUNE 17TH

2023

\$20 TICKET INCLUDES ADMISSION, REFRESHMENTS
& A CHANCE TO WIN A \$500 RAFFLE

PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO COPS 2, COPS AND THE NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

Hudson County Annual Boat Ride



Secaucus Senior Citizen Boat Cruise

Once again Hudson County Office on Aging &
the Town of Secaucus
invites Secaucus Senior Citizens, 60 & older
to a luncheon cruise on

June 28, 2023

Please call 201-865-4422
for information & reservations

HUDSON COUNTY 4-H PRESENTS:

YOUTH URBAN FARM CLUB 2023 AT XCHANGE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Join us weekly from July to August
For youth ages 12-18

- Learn to garden from seed or budding plant to harvest, contribute to hands-on development of compost, and help maintain a large and thriving community garden.
- Gain 10-16 hours of community service
- Learn from volunteer community gardeners, composters, and urban farmers
- Questions? Contact claudia.urdanivia@rutgers.edu

TO APPLY: VISIT
[HTTPS://GO.RUTGERS.EDU/KPO4Y206](https://go.rutgers.edu/KPO4Y206)

In partnership with Xchange Community Garden
Laurel Hill County Park, Laurel Hill Rd, Secaucus, NJ 07094.

Cooperating agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Board of County Commissioners, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Hudson County, Hudson County Department of Health and Human Services, Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, in an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

Mayor Gonnelli & the Town Council
Invite
All Secaucus Seniors to a
Special Barbecue & Pool Day
June 8, 2023--11:30 AM



Secaucus Swim Club
Reservations Required 201-865-4422

Meet Author Tulani Thomas



World Environmental Day

June 7th
4:00 pm

Secaucus Public Library
Reading Garden



2023 Law Day Winners

Art & Photography Winners:

Penelope Campo - grade 7
Emma Chan - grade 8
Mei Lai-Rosario - grade 8 (honorable mention)
Angelina Alicea - grade 11
Nicole Marin - grade 11 (honorable mention)

Essay Winners:

Grace L. Quinones - grade 6
Nalani Proenza Trueblood - grade 7
Rengin I. Guler - grade 8 (honorable mention)
Simran Bhatla - grade 9
Angelina Bedwany - grade 11 (honorable mention)
Naija Agarwal - grade 12 (honorable mention)

Poetry Winners:

Krushay A. Bhavsar - grade 12

Rap Winners:

Gianna M. Busanic - grade 9
[group] Noel Praveen, Muhammad Arham Khan, Divit Sharma, Satvik Kumar - grade 6
Reyansh Sharma - grade 6 (honorable mention)

FIRST AID & CPR TRAINING

Non-Certified
First Aid &
CPR
Program

Space is limited,
register today on the
library calendar!

June 8, 2023
6:30 pm

Training includes:

- Learn about Emergency Situations
- Basic Life Support
- CPR
- First Aid
- Real-life Demonstration

REGISTER AT: SECAUCUSLIBRARY.ORG



A DAY AT THE RACES

K & S AND SECAUCUS
EMERGENCY FUND



SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2023

\$100 DONATION

MONMOUTH PARK-OCEANPORT
Bus transportation & Food included
Call 201-348-8309 or 201-617-5917



Dear Secaucus Families,

I hope everyone is doing well!

I would like to thank all parents, faculty, staff and students for another wonderful school year. The month of June brings multiple events and activities to the forefront, highlighting our students' achievements and all that they have accomplished since September and, in some cases, over their entire educational career. Again, a list of all activities in all of our schools can be accessed via our Google calendars on our www.sboe.org website.

After what seems like a lifetime as an educator in Secaucus, I will be leaving the district in July. I thank all of you for your ongoing support in our efforts to improve the Secaucus School District. We have seen amazing growth in student achievement for mathematics, opened the lines of communication with parents through our parent communication form, and updated our curricula, programming and website to accurately reflect what our district offers our students. I am proud of what we have accomplished and hope that the district continues to make strides for improvement. In July, we welcome our new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Erick Alfonso, and wish him the best of luck going forward.

I wish you all the best for a relaxing and rejuvenating summer.

Best Regards,

Dr. Daniela Riser - Acting Superintendent of Schools



"Stamp out Hunger" Drive



S.A.I.L., Key Club, and NHS held a food drive at Secaucus High School to support the National Association of Letter Carriers "Stamp Out Hunger" Initiative. All items collected will be donated to the Secaucus Food Pantry.

NJHS Induction Ceremony



In mid-May, the Secaucus Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) inducted new members into its organization. Students who have attained a GPA of 3.85 or higher and have displayed achievement in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character, and Citizenship were considered for membership. Members of the Advanced Learning Program for Higher Achievers (ALPHA) were also recognized and acknowledged for their efforts throughout the year. A big thank you to their advisors (Mrs. Demone and Mrs. Chopra) for all their support!

Spelling Bee Champions



On Thursday, May 11th, the Secaucus Board of Education showcased our elementary school's Scripps National Spelling Bee winners. Congratulations to Clarendon School's 2023 Spelling Bee Champion, Simran Bassi, and Huber Street School's 2023 Spelling Bee Champion, Ranbir Bhatla! We are so proud of you!

Rent the Runway Dresses Prom-Goers



This week several 12th-grade students participated in a Cinderella Experience provided by Rent the Runway. Each student selected a designer dress of their choice for the Senior Prom. A special thanks to Rent the Runway stylists who provided an amazing experience for our students!

Teacher Appreciation Week



Both Clarendon School and Huber Street School showed their staff how much they appreciate them during Teacher Appreciation Week! Many thanks to both PTAs and Dr. Garzon and Mr. Valente for all that they did that week.

Wellness Walk



On Thursday, May 18th, The Clarendon Wellness Club went for a walk at the Secaucus Greenway. Thank you to advisors Mr. Thorne and Ms. Weikert.