



## Earth Month Cleanup Events a Success

The Environmental Department of Secaucus is thrilled to share the incredible success of our Earth Month cleanup events! On April 14th, we collaborated with St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Youth for a community cleanup, where we removed five bags of trash from the neighborhood surrounding the church. Items collected included plastic water bottles, fast food wrappers, snack packages, cigarettes, cardboard, and paper, to name a few. Then, on April 20th, our most extensive Earth Day cleanup took place, with 65 volunteers joining forces to tackle County Road Extension.... Continued Below

## Mayor's Corner

Summertime is here and I see residents already enjoying our parks, playgrounds, and open spaces. For a small Town, Secaucus has many parks where residents, including our young ones, can get quality outdoor recreation close to where they live. For some time, we have been working on a plan to upgrade a park very much in need of restoration and I am happy to share that the plan is finally becoming a reality. We recently received notification that we were awarded a Green Acres grant in the amount of \$750,000.00 to refurbish Ivanoski Park on Charles Street. Additionally, we are seeking grant funds from the Hudson County Open Space fund for the remainder of the funds needed to complete the rebuilding of Ivanoski Park. We should receive formal word in July regarding the Open Space grant. Pairing the two grants together should cover the entire cost of the project without the need to utilize any taxpayer funds. The new park surface and play equipment will result in an inclusive park, catering to children of all abilities.

In addition to Ivanoski Park, field #2 at the Mill Ridge Ball Field Complex is getting a complete makeover, which is partially funded by grants. Grading is now in progress, and the base is being

prepared for a field with artificial turf. We expect the project to be completed in about a month. Lastly, we received grant funds to upgrade the spray feature at Buchmuller Park. We expect the engineer design to be completed soon and the project to be done in the late summer/early fall. I am happy that we can continue to improve our facilities and infrastructure, thanks to several grants, thereby minimizing the impact on our budget.

As we welcome warmer weather, various departments in Town are planning summer events, camps, concerts, movies, recreation and more. Our teams have worked hard for months, and meticulously put together an array of activities that provide summer fun for all our residents. We strive to make the events better each year, and I hope you will enjoy them and make memories that will last a lifetime.

Stay safe and be well.



## Cleanup Events Continued

We collected 70 bags of trash and debris! We found a variety of drink beverages, food containers, shoes, clothing, furniture, floor tiles, and even a toilet seat. We are grateful for the support of residents, youth, and companies like Equinox, DHL, and Brilliant Earth. A massive shoutout to Natoli's for fueling our efforts with five delicious pizzas! We also partnered with the Gemological Institute of America on Earth Day to clean up Duck Pond. Together, we collected seven bags of trash.

One easy way to keep our roadways, parks, and waterways clean is to dispose of trash and recyclables properly. Always use trash cans and recycling bins and avoid littering. Additionally, consider bringing a reusable water bottle and avoiding single-use plastics to reduce waste. If you have furniture you no longer need, consider reselling, donating, or calling our DPW at 201-330-2080 for FREE bulk pickup. Small actions like these can make a big difference in keeping our environment clean and healthy for everyone to enjoy.

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LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER  
SECAUCUS, NJ 07094



Secaucus Municipal Government Center  
Paterson Plank Road  
Secaucus, NJ 07094

## Ways to Know Daily Air Quality Index

Have you noticed the brightly colored flags on the flagpole at the Recreation Center on Koelle Blvd.? To help our community be aware of daily air quality conditions, the Recreation Department raises a flag daily based on the color of the Air Quality Index (AQI) to show how polluted the air is expected to be. Green signals good air quality, yellow is moderate, orange means unhealthy for sensitive groups (like children and people with asthma), and red signals unhealthy air for everyone. A purple flag means the air quality is very unhealthy, and sensitive groups should avoid all outdoor activities while everyone else should limit outdoor activities. Our local air quality can affect our daily lives, and it can change from day to day, season to season, and even vary depending on the time of day.



Getting up-to-date air quality information is easy by subscribing at [www.enviorflash.info](http://www.enviorflash.info) or downloading the AirNow app. The daily air quality forecast can be sent to your email or cell phone. For more information on the Air Quality Flag Program, visit EPA's AirNow website at [www.airnow.gov/flag](http://www.airnow.gov/flag).

## Police Department Adds Officer

On April 11th, Vincent Bova was sworn in as Police Officer with the Secaucus Police Department. Vincent becomes the 80th Police Officer of the Department. Welcoming him to the "brotherhood and sisterhood" of the police department, Chief Miller promised that he would receive all the support he needs to be a successful in his role. Councilman John Gerbasio, the Town Council's police liaison, also congratulated Vincent on his appointment.



## KAI Students Attend Teen Summit

Twenty-eight Secaucus residents who are members of the KAI club, the student group under the Secaucus Coalition, attended a Teen Institute leadership summit at American Dream on April 27th. The event was organized to train students in substance abuse prevention and the concept of achieving social goals through avenues without addictive substance use. Students were also able to enjoy the Nickelodeon theme park, as part of "natural high activities." KAI club members are already looking forward to other planned activities happening before the end of this school year. If you would like more information about the KAI club or the town's Coalition, please call program coordinator, Dave Bratton at 201-330-2000 ext. 3164.



## Student Recognized for Achievements

Mili Raghavan, a Junior at the High Tech High School, was recognized at the April 23rd Council Meeting for winning a gold medal at the 66th annual Hudson County STEM showcase, held on March 11th, at Liberty Science Center. Her project also won the 2024 American Psychological Association Award for achievement in research in Psychological Science. Her project explored the emotions that are most prominent among hearing impaired people when listening to music.

Mili is also an avid musician and sings for the Young People's Chorus of NYC (YPC). She has appeared on CBS Sunday Morning multiple times and has performed at various venues including Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. In summer of 2023, she represented the US in the World Choir Games in South Korea, and won 5 gold medals. This summer she will be representing the country again at the same event in Auckland, New Zealand.

To pursue her passion for STEM and music (M), she started and manages a community initiative called "STEM to STEMM". Through free workshops at local libraries, she helps children and families understand how and why music education facilitates brain development. For this, she has been awarded the 2024 Congressional Awards gold medal.

Later this summer, she will be interning at the Center for Genomics and Neurodegenerative Diseases in New York City. Congratulations, Mili!



## Bocce Season Opens

The Secaucus Bocce League officially started its 2024 season! Players meet at Buchmuller Park and welcome new players. Stats, pictures and updates can be found on the Secaucus Bocce League Facebook page. If you would like to join, please email Barbara Hennig at [secsparks@aol.com](mailto:secsparks@aol.com).



## Military Banners Request Closing Soon

As you may know, each November the Town installs banners along Paterson Plank Road with the name and picture of military members. These banners are requested by family, friends, and relatives of service members. The deadline to request Military Banners in honor of your loved ones who served in the armed forces will close on June 16th. This may be the last time that you may purchase a banner for a while. Please get your application in before the deadline. Once applications are closed there will be no extensions. You may pick up applications at the Recreation Center, Senior Center, Library, Immaculate Conception Church, St. Matthews Church or outside of the Mayor's Office. You may also call SK. Sal Manente Sr. with any questions or e-mail at [salm50@aol.com](mailto:salm50@aol.com).

## Volunteers Participate in Mill Creek Marsh Clean-up



On April 25th, employees of The Children's Place, a business with offices in Town, volunteered at a clean-up drive at Mill Creek Marsh. The 13 employees were joined by 5 children who came along to help as part of the company's Take Your Child to Work Day program. Participants were proud of their efforts and the children's day got even better when they received surprise gifts from Mayor Gonnelli! The Town of Secaucus thanks The Children's Place for their contribution in keeping our Town clean, and for being a partner in our community efforts.

## Wrestlers Honored at Council Meeting



The Secaucus Patriots Wrestling team was honored at the April 23rd Town Council meeting for competing in the Twin County Junior Wrestling League (TCJWL) District tournament. The team made a great showing and proudly represented Secaucus. The Team had 16 wrestlers place in the top-3 in their weight class. Congratulations to the team and their hard working and dedicated coaches.

## Impressive Arbor Day Poster Contest Entries

Members of the Shade Tree Committee were thrilled to see the creativity and maturity of posters submitted by elementary students for the Arbor Day Poster Contest. With so many impressive posters, it was hard for them to decide winners. Kudos to all students who sent in their posters. They were impressive! We cannot print them all, but here's a sample of the winning entries. All winners can be viewed on the Town's photo album at [www.secaucusnj.gov](http://www.secaucusnj.gov).

See the winning designs on the back cover.

## Arbor Day Tradition Continues

Secaucus celebrated Arbor Day on a beautiful, sunny morning of April 26th at Huber Street School grounds. Second grade students from Clarendon Elementary and Huber Street schools gathered, as Mayor Gonnelli, Town Council members and parents of the students took the audience chairs. Huber Street School Principal Rob Valente welcomed all those in attendance. Shortly into the program the second-grade students from Huber Street and Clarendon Schools delighted the crowd by singing songs about the environment. To a round of applause, Mayor Gonnelli announced that Secaucus has been named Tree City USA for the 31st consecutive year for its efforts towards greener spaces and success in increasing the tree canopy in town. Councilwoman Orietta Tringali, a Shade Tree Committee member, read the Arbor Day Proclamation and Principals Valente and Candela announced the winners of the Arbor Day poster contest. As children came up to the stage to pick up their certificates and prize, Councilmembers handed them giant stuffed bears; a special prize organized by Mayor Gonnelli, which was a huge hit with the children!



## Seniors have a Ball at Annual Spring Fling



On Thursday, May 11th, the lobby of the Arthur F. Couch Performing Arts Center was transformed into a Spring wonderland awash with pastel flowers, spring decorations, balloons, music, boundless laughter, and positive energy. The Secaucus High School S.A.I.L. club students welcomed seniors to a fun Spring Fling event—tables were decorated with elaborate centerpieces, and a welcome snack of a variety of cheese and crackers got the dinner started. As a steady row of students brought in food to each attendee at their table, the sound of cheerful conversations and laughter wafted through the high-ceilinged hall. The High School Jazz Band provided live music from the balcony above as attendees enjoyed their dinner. Soon after, as DJ Tommy Schwarz played tunes that brought the participants to the dance floor, S.A.I.L. students brought in desserts leading to the much-anticipated announcement of Prom Queen and King-- Angela and Sal Manente! Thanks to meticulous organization and thoughtful presentation of the S.A.I.L. Club and the Department of Senior and Social Services, the 2024 Spring Fling was a huge success!

## Aspiring Eagle Scout Donates to Food Pantry

Luke Gutteridge, an aspiring Eagle Scout, took on a project to help collect food for the Secaucus Food Pantry. He first researched the foods most needed at food pantries, then decided to raise funds and collect food donations to fill that need. As of April 13th, Luke raised an impressive \$2,436, which he used to purchase over 1300 lbs. of food, which equates to about 9000 servings! The Food Pantry thanks Luke and we wish him the very best as he continues his quest to become an Eagle Scout. Residents like Luke are what makes our town great!



## Robust Participation in Town's Take Your Child to Work Day

More than 20 young residents participated in Take Your Child to Work Day. Their day at Town Hall was both fun and informative. Children from 1st through 6th grade who attended the program were given a tour of various departments, had group info sessions at the Environmental and Police department, walked through the Mayor's office (they thought it was "so cool") and had a photo-op with Mayor Gonnelli. They also had a tour of a fire truck and a pizza party to top off the day. While the children enjoyed their day away from school, employee parents loved the energy the young visitors brought to Town Hall.



## Shake Shack Partners with Spectrum Works

Mark your calendars! Shake Shack, the iconic burger joint famous for its gourmet takes on fast-food classics, is gearing up to open its doors in a new Secaucus location on May 30th! They are also making the occasion even more special by partnering with Spectrum Works, a nonprofit organization, located in our town, dedicated to working with companies to create employment opportunities for autistic individuals.

As part of this collaboration, Shake Shack has pledged to donate \$1 from every sandwich sold on their grand opening day to Spectrum Works. Your support on this day will directly contribute to building more inclusive workforces and empowering autistic individuals right in our community.

"We are immensely proud of the Secaucus community for its responsiveness and commitment to driving true acceptance for autistic individuals. Our town can help lead the charge in ensuring that neurodiverse people are afforded the same opportunities as everyone else. So, let's come together on May 30th to celebrate the grand opening of Shake Shack in Secaucus and support Spectrum Works in their mission to make sure no one in our community is left behind. With every sandwich enjoyed, you're not just pleasing your palate, but also helping to contribute to a more inclusive and supportive community for all," said Ann Marie Sullivan, CEO at Spectrum Works.

## Arbor Day Posters



Name: Daksh Saha  
Teacher and Grade: Hilda, 4th Grade 2023-2024  
School: Cherokee Elementary School



Name: Harkiya Partha  
Teacher and Grade: Mrs. Augusto, 5th grade  
School: Hudson Street School



Name: Ugo Anani  
Teacher and Grade: Mrs. Wilson, 4th Grade  
School: Hudson Street School



Name: Alicia Li  
Teacher and Grade: Ms. Savelli, 3rd grade  
School: Clarendon



PLEASE JOIN MAYOR GONNELLI AND THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE

# MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

HONOR AND REMEMBER

MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024

11:00 AM

TOWN HALL

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY



Mayor Gonnelly and the Town Council present the:

## Secaucus Memorial Day Parade

— ★ ★ ★ —

Saturday, May 18, 2024

11:00 AM

Alzheimer's New Jersey

### WALK TO FIGHT ALZHEIMER'S

Saturday, May 18  
Liberty State Park, Jersey City  
Registration: 9AM  
Kick Off Rally: 10AM  
Walk: 10:30AM

Scan QR Code or Click the Donate Button to Donate to Team:

### Comfort Keepers

[DONATE](#)

## FREE WEBINAR

### First Time Homebuyer Workshop

During this comprehensive session you will be able to determine if owning a home is right for you, how to manage your money, importance of a budget, understand credit and its importance, understand the buying process including getting a mortgage loan, review mortgage products, learn about down payment assistance, protect your investment, and much more...

Sponsored by

Date: **Tuesday, May 14, 2024**  
Time: **6:30 pm to 7:30 pm**  
Via Zoom Meeting

Registration is required to attend please contact:

Sandra Castano  
HUD Certified Housing Counselor  
(201) 866-3140  
or email [scastano@nhcac.org](mailto:scastano@nhcac.org)

The Mayor & the Town Council present the

## 10th Annual JAZZ NIGHT

in the Meditation Garden

**MAY 16, 2024**  
**6:30 PM - 8:00 PM**

Featuring The Fleur Seule Jazz Band

Located at  
Secaucus Recreation Center  
1200 Koelle Blvd.

Sponsored by:

## REGISTER TO VOTE AT TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

OPEN LATE FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE ON TUESDAY, MAY 14  
4:00 - 9:00 PM  
TOWN HALL  
1203 PATERSON PLANK ROAD

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN PRIMARY ELECTION IS MAY 14!

For more information: Call Town Clerk at 201-330-2016

Secaucus Public Library

## No Sew Bow Tie for your favorite man or pet!

Secaucus Public Library  
May 22, 2024  
6:00pm  
1379 Paterson Plank Rd.

In celebration of National Pet Month and Father's Day, adults and children ages 12 and older are invited to join us as we make a no sew bow tie for your favorite man or pet. \*Attendees must feel comfortable using a hot glue gun.\*

Space is limited please register on the calendar @ [secaucuslibrary.org](http://secaucuslibrary.org)

Sponsored by:

## Secaucus has a Weekly Organic Farm Share CSA!

Convenient Pick Up Location at Secaucus Public Library

For more information:  
Contact Farmer Margaret  
908-451-0051  
[info@schoolunchfarm.com](mailto:info@schoolunchfarm.com)

Vegetables Harvested the Day you receive them!  
100% Certified Organic & GMO-Free Farm  
Starts Tuesday, June 18 thru Sept 24, 2024  
Pick up from 2-9pm  
Sign Up by May 01, 2024

Scan Code for easy sign up online at [schoolunchfarm.com](http://schoolunchfarm.com)