



Secaucus Monthly

Feb.

2020

A look at the Community, including upcoming events, important notices, meetings, and more.



New Police Officers & Firefighters Sworn In At Council Meeting

Mayor Michael Gonnelli & The Town Council welcomed 6 police offers and 2 firefighters during a recent council meeting. Continued on the next page

Holiday Schedule

Secaucus Town Hall will be closed on Wednesday, February 12th and Monday February 17th.

Want Your Picture or Story in the Newsletter?

The Mayor and Town Council invite you to send in your pictures and information for consideration to be included in the Newsletter. Have events, milestone birthdays, weddings, club events, or special achievements? Do you have an interesting fact or an old picture of your family? Share it with us! Email your picture and information to ajaideep@secaucus.net or call Alka at 201-330-2000.

The Mayor's Corner

When I visit elementary schools this time of the year, I see students working on their Valentine's Day projects. I know it makes parents very happy to receive these little tokens of love. I'm fortunate to get some of that warmth from our young residents in the form of cards and posters they send me. Moments like these make everything worthwhile.

Many senior residents in Town tell me how much they look forward to the Senior Citizens Valentine's Day Breakfast that we host at Clarendon School each year. It's our way of saying how much we appreciate all they have done for their families and our Town.

When people show their love for one another, they spread positivity all around. As we go about our lives, let's remember to show people how much we love them. That includes our neighbors, teachers, coaches, and even our Town. If you love something about living in Secaucus, share it with others. Because when we share it, we share happiness too.



Wishing you all a Happy Valentine's Day.

Six Probationary Police Officers and Two New Volunteers for Fire Department

There was an air of excitement at Town Hall on the evening of January 7, 2020. Police and Fire Department personnel, dressed in full uniform, lined the aisles of the Council Chamber and the lobby as the first Council Meeting of the year began. They were joined by family and friends who gathered that evening to witness and cheer those who were sworn in to the Police Department and Volunteer Fire Department.



First, Troy Conville (Engine 3), Michael Schoendorf and Lucas Kloepping (both Rescue 1/Engine 2), Mathew Bienkowski (Tower 2), Joe Franks and Mathew Mattola (Ladder 1/Engine 4) and Yash Patel (Engine 1) took the oath as Captains of the Fire Department.



This was followed by the oath of office as Captains by Jason Leppin (Engine 3), Joseph Schoendorf Jr. (Rescue 1/Engine 2), John Bujnowski (Tower 2), Mark Mastorelli (Ladder 1/Engine 4) and David Hayashida (Engine 1).

Six new Probationary Police officers were also sworn in. Peter Maraldo, Christopher Miller, Dwight Wise, David Delseni, Michael Borrelli and Jason Mitchell successfully completed all of the testing requirements. Police Chief Kevin Flaherty wished them well and advised them "to never stop learning and to remember, it's not a sprint, it's a marathon."

"The safety and security of our residents is of utmost importance, and we are committed to keeping our Police and Fire departments strong and well-equipped. I welcome all new members and wish them the best as they serve the residents of our Town," said Mayor Gonnelli.



Let's Try Composting

The Environmental Department is considering a residential food waste composting program and is currently looking to find out if residents are interested in participating. You can help! Please fill out a brief survey at bit.ly/3aORRYG. It takes less than five minutes, but it could have a lasting impact on how we reduce waste.

You probably do not know that an American family of four sends about 1,160lbs. of food waste into garbage every year. The Environmental Department continues to find ways to help our residents live an environmentally friendly life with fewer negative impacts. The Department has been getting guidance from the NJ Composting Council to turn our excess food waste (food scraps, vegetable and fruit peels, unused food items etc.) into usable compost so we can reduce the amount of trash we send to a landfill.

Please help us create a healthy environment. To fill out the survey visit bit.ly/3aORRYG at your earliest convenience or call Amanda at 201-864-7336 for a paper form.



Skating for a Cause

Secaucus Middle School students Kaylie Bartletta and Ava Falco at the Ice Rink on January 25th 2020, supporting the fundraiser for St Jude's Children's Hospital hosted by Mayor Michael Gonnelli and the Town Council. The event raised \$925.00. Mayor Gonnelli presented a check at the January 28th council meeting to Mrs. Anna Falco. These funds will be added to the total collected by the Secaucus School District.

Elected Officials

Mayor Michael J. Gonnelli
Mayor@Secaucus.net
O: 201-330-2005

Councilman John Gerbasio
JGerbasio@Secaucus.net
C: 551-226-0955

Councilman James Clancy
JClancy@Secaucus.net
O: 201-330-2000

Councilman Mark Dehnert
MDehnert@Secaucus.net
O: 201-330-2000

Councilman Robert Costantino
RCostantino@Secaucus.net
C: 201-401-9315

Councilwoman Orietta Tringali
OTringali@Secaucus.net
O: 201-330-2000

Councilman William McKeever
WMcKeever@Secaucus.net
C: 551-655-7650

Emergency Preparedness for Special Needs

The Secaucus Office of Emergency Management (OEM) reminds residents with special needs to take these additional steps so first responders and utility personnel can plan and support them in case of an emergency.

For Users of Life-Sustaining Equipment:

If a family member or someone you know relies on electricity to run life-sustaining equipment in their home, like a respirator or dialysis machine, please advise them to register their equipment with PSE&G. They can call PSE&G at 1-800 - 436 -7734 or they can use the application on the website: PSEG.com/life.

For Residents with Special Needs:

You (or someone on your behalf) are encouraged to register with **NJ Register Ready** if you have a physical, developmental, cognitive or behavioral impairment, language barrier, or transportation challenge that may make it difficult for you to safely shelter in place or evacuate in a disaster. Go to: www.registerready.nj.gov to fill out a form, or call 2-1-1 (within NJ), or 1-877-652-1148 toll free. **NJ Register Ready** is free, voluntary, secure and confidential.

You can also reach the Secaucus Office of Emergency Management at 201-864-1061. Remember, in case of an immediate emergency, call 9-1-1.

Alaska Oilers Visit Secaucus



The U16 Secaucus Patriots hosted the Alaska Oilers on December 31, 2019. This was the first time in program history that the Alaska Oilers traveled to the tri-state area. The Oilers visited the 9-11 Memorial as well as other tourist sites in New York City. The hockey game was close for 2 periods, but the Oilers pulled away in the 3rd period gaining a 7-3 win. Overall it was a friendly competitive experience for both teams. Mayor Michael Gonnelli and members of the Town Council attended the game and presided over the Ceremonial First puck drop. Both teams appreciated the hospitality and the efforts of Mayor Gonnelli and the Town who made this a special day for both teams.

Photo courtesy of Cory Robinson

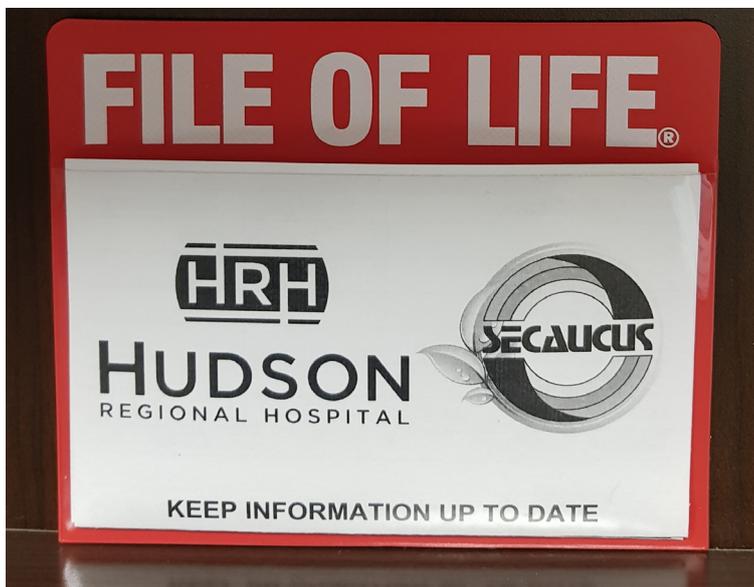
Plaque Dedicated to Volunteer Emergency Squad

Mayor Michael Gonnelli and members of the Town Council were present as a special plaque honoring the Secaucus Volunteer Emergency Squad for the Town of Secaucus was installed and dedicated on December 28th in front of the Town Hall Annex at 20 Center Avenue. The statement on the Plaque reads, in part, "What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal." The plaque dedication ceremony was followed by a special event at the Town Museum where a display featuring gear worn by emergency volunteers was unveiled. The gear was donated by former member Sal Manente. An official Proclamation detailing the contributions of the Secaucus Volunteer Emergency Squad and thanking them on behalf of all residents of the Town was also read. The Proclamation will be displayed at the Town Museum.



The Secaucus Volunteer Emergency Squad was formed in 1973 and made immense contributions to our community until 1988. Members responded to emergencies including fires, accidents, and floods to ensure the safety and well-being of residents, all on a volunteer basis. We thank all members who served on the squad for their selflessness and commitment.

File of Life: A Must-Have for All



Hudson Regional Hospital, in partnership with Secaucus Mayor Michael Gonnelli and the Town Council, invite all residents to take part in the File of Life program. The File of Life is a foldable card that residents can fill in with their medical information. The card is placed in a red magnetic file that first responders are trained to look for on the refrigerator or in the freezer. It assists them in providing care to patients even if they are not able to communicate in the time of emergency. Hudson Regional Hospital can arrange File of Life cards to be dropped off for homebound residents on request.

"I hope all residents take a few minutes to fill out the File of Life. It's a great program, and a simple way to make sure your medical information is easily available in case of a medical emergency," said Mayor Michael Gonnelli.

"Medical emergencies can happen to anyone at any time, and a patients' confusion, panic or inability to

provide information on current medical issues can interfere with their care," said Kristin Hyman, Chief of EMS for Hudson Regional Hospital. "The File for Life card can speak for them and can tell public safety dispatchers, police officers, firefighters and paramedics what steps to take to save their lives."

To request a free File for Life information packet, or for help filling up the card, please call or text 201-687-1107 or e-mail EMS@hudsonregionalhospital.com.

Things to Do Around Town

The Masquerade Ball: Saturday, February 15th at 6:30 PM at the ICC Auditorium, 1219 Paterson Plank Rd. Wear formal or cocktail attire and enjoy an evening of dinner, beverages and DJ music. Tickets are \$50 per person, available at the Parish Gift Shop or Grand Knight Rich Steffens, Knight Chris Brillantes, or Maribel Anota (Phone: 551-655-4811). Masquerade masks available at Parish Gift Shop. Proceeds benefit Immaculate Conception Church.

Flavors and History of African Food: Tuesday, February 18th, 6:30 PM in the Panasonic Room at the Secaucus Public Library, 1379 Paterson Plank Rd. Discussion about food, and tastings hosted by Chef Sean Bell. Register at secaucuslibrary.org

Black Maria Film Festival: Tuesday, February 25th, 1 pm in the Panasonic Room at the Secaucus Public Library, 1379 Paterson Plank Rd. Free screening of selected films in honor of Black History Month. Light refreshment will be served.

Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament Fundraiser: Wednesday, February 26th, 6 to 11 PM at the VFW Hall, 1400 Paterson Plank Rd. \$100 buy-in to win part of \$4000+ in gift cards and donated prizes. Call 201-902-9742 or email donevanson@aol.com to register. Proceeds support various Secaucus Community projects.

Secaucus High School Wins Hudson County Consumer Bowl

The Secaucus High School won the 2020 Hudson County Consumer Bowl Championship held at the SHS Performing Arts Center on January 14th. The final county level match was against High Tech High School. Secaucus High School team moves to the Regional Competition to be held in April.

The New Jersey High School Consumer Bowl is an educational competition for high school students organized by the state's Division of Consumer Affairs—the same department that investigates and answers hundreds of consumer questions every day. The goal of the Consumer Bowl competition is to educate young adults on a variety of consumer issues including credit card scams, home improvement disputes with contractors, licensing for a variety of businesses, senior citizen safety, privacy laws, tenant's rights and more.

Check out the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs website njconsumeraffairs.gov for the range of topics that the students have to master. You may learn a thing or two about your own rights as a consumer!



Pictured here are Secaucus High School Consumer Bowl Club Advisor Alex Chisari, competition participants Rebecca Luz Soler, Zarah Nawaz, Janan Lacka (Captain), Joan Banks and Ergen Banja and Department of Consumer Affairs Outreach Director Melanie Hazim

Bulletin Board for Furniture Donations

Do you have an item, a gently used dresser, chair, couch, bed frame or piece of furniture that you'd like to donate but don't know where to turn? Now it's as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Email flyer with description, picture and information on pick up/drop off location to LSnedeker@Secaucus.net
2. Flyer is posted on bulletin board that is centrally located at 145 Front St.
3. Happiness for both you & recipient

If you have any questions, call Lisa Snedeker at 201-617-5917.

2-1-1 NJ Homeless Hotline

At the first 2020 Council meeting on January 7th, Councilman James Clancy announced the NJ Homeless Hotline. If you or anyone you know is experiencing homelessness, please dial 2-1-1. The State's Homeless Hotline works in partnership with county agencies throughout New Jersey in an effort to ensure that those experiencing homelessness have a safe place to stay at night. The hotline is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Services are accessible in different languages for non-English speakers. Calls to the hotline are free and confidential.

Former Secaucus Resident Named Grand Marshal



Former Secaucus resident Mary Waller has been selected as the Grand Marshal of the Morris County St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held on March 14th at noon. She was a Town employee and an active volunteer at the Immaculate Conception Church School and Secaucus Housing authority. While working for the Town, she furthered her education in Public Administration by attending Hudson County Community College and Jersey City State College. She retired as Chief Legislative Aide for the State of New Jersey in 2001. She continues to actively volunteer with various organizations including the Newton Medical Center and Morris County Parade Committee. She currently resides in Long Valley and is proud to share her love of Irish culture. If you have an opportunity be sure to see Mary in the parade!

Support PBA and Special Olympics

Each year members of the Secaucus Police, Firefighters and EMS participate in a flag football tournament to raise funds for New Jersey Special Olympics. Snow Bowl 2020, as it is known, will be held from March 6th to 8th at MetLife Stadium this year. For over 50 years, Special Olympics New Jersey has provided year-round sports training, competition, leadership opportunities, and health screenings to more than 26,000 athletes. All these programs and services are completely free of charge, thanks to fundraising events like the Snow Bowl.

Help the Secaucus PBA team raise funds for this worthy cause. You could buy a ticket and cheer our team to victory on March 6th. Donations are also welcome. Please send a check before March 1 to:

Secaucus PBA Local 84 Civic Association
P.O. Box 1038, Secaucus NJ 07094.



The Filipino Society
of Immaculate Conception Church
and Mary Immaculate Council,
Knights of Columbus

present

The Masquerade Ball

To benefit Immaculate Conception Church

**Saturday, February 15th 2020
at 6:30 in the evening**

**in the ICC Auditorium
1219 Paterson Plank Rd.
Secaucus, New Jersey**



**Formal or cocktail attire.
Festive masks are encouraged!
DJ music**



**Tickets: \$50 per person
(check payable to Immaculate Conception Church)
includes Dinner and Beverages**

Tickets are available at the Parish Gift Shop or
from Grand Knight Rich Steffens, Knight
Chris Brillantes, or Maribel Anota (phone
551-655-4811)



**MASQUERADE MASKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
AT GIFT SHOP**

Secaucus Municipal Government Center
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Secaucus, NJ 07094

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