



May 2021

Secaucus Monthly Newsletter

www.SecaucusNJ.gov



Mayor Michael Gonnelli & The Town Council present the annual Memorial Day Parade – Saturday, May 22, 2021 beginning at 12 noon assembling at Trolley Park on Paterson Plank Road.

## Mayor's Corner

I am happy to announce that as of April 19th, 35% of Secaucus adult residents have been vaccinated. That is impressive indeed, but we still have work to do! I thank all residents who have made efforts to secure a vaccination appointment and took the time to ensure the continued safety of families, friends and our community. For all those who wish to be vaccinated, please know that there are vaccinations available right here in Secaucus. The Town-run Vaccination POD located at the Recreation Center at 1200 Koelle Boulevard is open to Secaucus residents as well as those working in Town. Appointments are required and can be made on our website at [www.secaucusnj.gov/vaccine](http://www.secaucusnj.gov/vaccine).

The Town Council and I are excited about the next few months as we work to Restart Secaucus. We are doing all we can to support local businesses. Our recreation

programs, Town facilities, and events around Town are steadily coming back to normal. Spring sports programs for our young

residents have started with robust participation. Planning for annual Town events is in full swing. Don't miss the Annual Memorial Day Parade that kicks off at 12:00 noon from Trolley Park on Saturday, May 22. And I'm looking forward to one of my favorites—the summer concert series!

The next few months hold so much promise. At the same time, let's continue to follow all recommended measures to keep people around us safe and healthy. Let's work together to Restart Secaucus.



## Get your COVID-19 Vaccine in Town

The Secaucus Vaccination POD is administering the COVID-19 vaccine and is open to those who live and work in Secaucus. Located at the Recreation Center at 1200 Koelle Boulevard, the site has successfully vaccinated thousands of eligible individuals. The vaccinations are free and Health insurance is not required. However, appointments are required, no walk-ins allowed. For appointments, please visit our website [www.secaucusnj.gov/vaccine](http://www.secaucusnj.gov/vaccine). If you do not have access to online resources, please call 201-330-2007 for help.

## NJ Veteran Property Tax Deduction

In late 2020, the war time service requirement for the \$250 New Jersey Veteran Property Tax Deduction has been eliminated. You may qualify if:

- You are an honorably discharged veteran with active military service
- You are a surviving spouse/civil union/domestic partner of an honorably discharged veteran with active military service

For detailed information regarding requirements and application forms, please visit the State of New Jersey Division of Taxation website at <https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/lpt/lpt-veterans.shtml>

Forms can be completed online at [https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/pdf/other\\_forms/lpt/vss.pdf](https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/pdf/other_forms/lpt/vss.pdf)

If you prefer, forms can be picked up at Town Hall. Please bring completed forms to the Town's Tax Assessor's Office in Town Hall, 1203 Paterson Plank Road, 3rd Floor, Secaucus. Please reach out to the Town's Tax Assessor's Office at 201-330-2075 if you need assistance.

Mayor Michael Gonnelli- [mayor@secaucus.net](mailto:mayor@secaucus.net) - O: 201-330-2005

Councilman William McKeever  
[wmckeever@secaucus.net](mailto:wmckeever@secaucus.net)  
C: 551-665-7650

Councilman John Gerbasio  
[gerbasio@secaucus.net](mailto:gerbasio@secaucus.net)  
C: 551-226-0955

Councilman Robert Costantino  
[rcostantino@secaucus.net](mailto:rcostantino@secaucus.net)  
C: 201-401-9315

Councilman James Clancy  
[clancy@secaucus.net](mailto:clancy@secaucus.net)  
O: 201-330-2000

Councilman Mark Dehnert  
[mdehnert@secaucus.net](mailto:mdehnert@secaucus.net)  
O: 201-330-2000

Councilwoman Orietta Tringali  
[otringali@secaucus.net](mailto:otringali@secaucus.net)  
O: 201-330-2000

SECaucus, NJ 07094  
LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

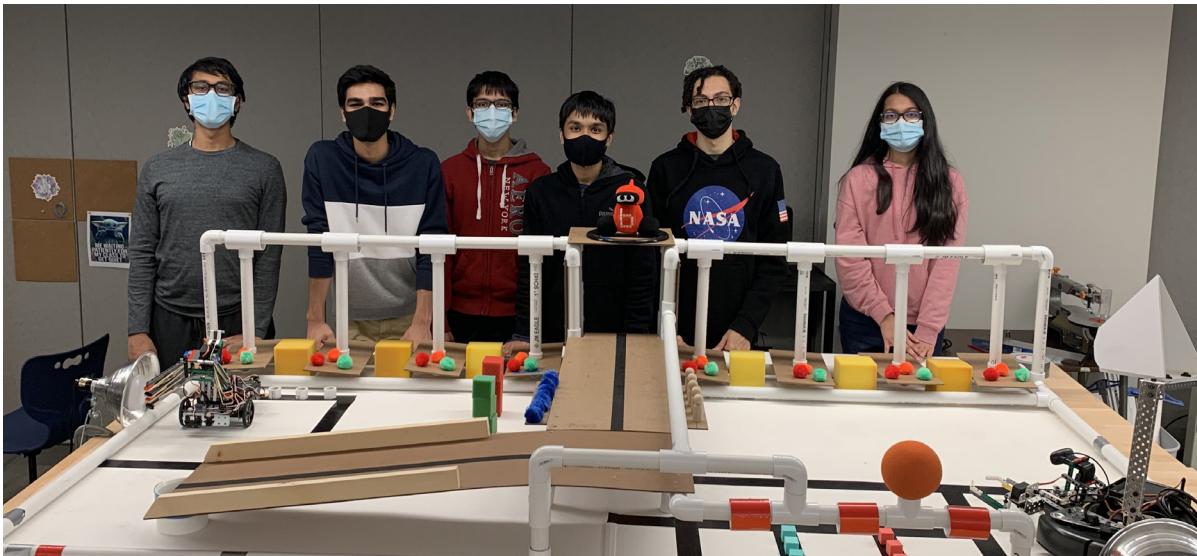


Secaucus Municipal Government Center  
Paterson Plank Road  
Secaucus, NJ 07094

## **Secaucus High School Robotics Teams Snags Second Place in Nationwide Competition**

A relatively new club at the Secaucus High School is making waves in the national circuit. The Patriots Robotics Club recently participated for the first time in a nationwide competition held by the Kiss Institute of Practical Robotics (KIPR) and was placed first in the Seeding Rounds and 2nd in the Double Elimination Rounds, giving it an overall rank of second in the nation.

The Secaucus Robotics Club currently has 18 members. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, only seven members were allowed to work in-person on the robot in Club Advisor Marissa Capobianco's classroom. More often than not, the team met and worked virtually to create a robot capable of completing a given set of tasks on an 8x8ft board. The journey had quite a lot of anxious moments. The day before the competition, the operating system on one of the computers on the robot crashed. Frantic hours led to a final fix and re-testing of the robot. On the day of the competition, the team was both excited and apprehensive. The day unfolded with quite a bit of drama—unexpected snags, two disastrous rounds, more revisions and re-coding on breaks between rounds. A last-minute solution came just in time for the final Seeding Round. The team scored the highest points, giving it the first place leading to the Elimination Rounds. The team proceeded undefeated until the Final Round where they could not overtake the team from Los Altos, California. The Secaucus High School Team won second place and won the Judge's Choice Award for the best overall robot and skills.



Pictured here is the winning SHS Robotics Team—Member Anay Tillu, Engineering Officer Krushay Bhavsar, Coding Officer Ayush Agarwal, Member Aaditya Shroff, President Almutwakel Hassan and Finance Officer Naija Agarwal.

## **Bicycle Safety Class for Children**

Enroll your child in the Bicycle Safety Class held by the Secaucus Police Department. Participants will be taught safe riding techniques, hand signals, proper ways to wear safety gear, bicycle maintenance and more.

The Bicycle Safety Class is scheduled for Saturday, May 8th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Buchmuller Park. Participants must wear comfortable clothes and closed-toed shoes. Please bring your own bike and helmet. To register, visit Community Pass at [www.secaucusrecreation.org](http://www.secaucusrecreation.org).

This is the second session in the series. The first class was held on Saturday, April 17th.



## **Command Web Thanks the Fire Department and Police Department**



On April 2, 2021, the Secaucus Fire Department and Secaucus Police Department responded to a fire at 100 Castle Road. The site houses Command Web, a large publishing and printing firm that has a Secaucus presence for many years. Several Secaucus units, as well as fire departments of East Rutherford, Lyndhurst and Jersey City responded to extinguish the fire that was located in one of the chutes. The location of the fire made it a labor intensive response but the fire was brought under control efficiently. Command Web thanked the Secaucus Fire Department and Police Department at the April 6th Town Council Meeting and presented generous donations to each department.

# Environmental Department Organizes Earth Day Clean-up

The Secaucus Environmental Department organized several events in April to mark Arbor Day and Earth Day 2021. Two cleanup days brought together more than 70 participants. The first session was held on April 22nd at Mill Creek Point and another on April 24th at Mill Creek Marsh Trail. Volunteers hauled away several bags of Styrofoam, plastic bags, beverage bottles, tires, car parts, and even a large plastic trunk.

"We had an amazing turnout at both clean-up sessions. It was a great group of enthusiastic volunteers to work with! I hope people are more aware of what and where they are discarding litter, because what is left on land will end up polluting our waterways through stormwater runoff. Hopefully one day we will not have to organize clean-ups, but until then, if a group is interested in volunteering to keep Secaucus beautiful and clean, please call us and we'll be more than happy to coordinate it," said Environmental Coordinator Jennifer Schneider.

As part of the Reduce-Reuse-Recycle program, the Department also arranged GreenDrop, an organization that raises funds through the collection of donated clothing and household items, to pick up items left over from the Town-wide garage sale. About half a truck load of items were donated by residents. Proceeds from the donation will benefit The Purple Heart Foundation. GreenDrop offers charity, community service and environmental sustainability opportunities all year round. To participate, please visit GoGreenDrop.com or call 888-944-3767.

The Environmental Department in conjunction with Harmon Cove Recreation Association also celebrated Arbor Day. Young participants plant trees, sunflowers and milkweed, and learned about the importance of trees and pollinator plants to the environment. The Annual Arbor Day celebration held along with the Secaucus School District has been postponed



to Friday, May 7th with limited number of attendees. Public Works staff will be planting a few new trees with some students outside both Elementary Schools ahead of the May 7th celebration. At the event, winners of the annual Arbor Day Poster contest will be announced. This year, Secaucus is celebrating its 28th year as a Tree City USA. To learn more, visit secaucusnj.gov/trees.

Check out the new Environmental Department website for information about recycling, open space, environmental programs, and more. Visit [www.green.secaucusnj.gov](http://www.green.secaucusnj.gov). The Environmental Department can also be reached at 201-86-GREEN (201-864-7336) or at [environmental@secaucus.net](mailto:environmental@secaucus.net).

Picture courtesy WMA 5 Watershed Ambassador Tyler Tierney.



## Nurse Kathleen Gerbasio Honored with Woman of the Year Award



The Mayor and Town Council honored Secaucus nurse and volunteer Kathleen Gerbasio, who received the 2021 Woman of the Year Award from the County. Earlier in the month of April Kathy was also honored by Hudson County Executive's Office with the County's Women of the Year Award that recognized those who went above and beyond to help residents during the pandemic.

Kathy has been consistent and unrelenting in her service to the Hudson County community in the face of the pandemic. When COVID-19 testing sites opened in March 2020, Kathy was one of the first to volunteer her nursing expertise and has tested thousands of residents at the Hudson County site at Hudson Regional Hospital. She has also volunteered countless hours as an Immunizer with The Hudson Regional Health Commission and at the Secaucus Vaccination POD since vaccine distribution started in December 2020.

When Kathy is not volunteering at vaccination sites, she works as School Nurse at Secaucus Middle/High School. She previously worked in various nursing capacities at Hoboken School District, St. Mary's Hospital, JSTC Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and more. Her commitment to the Secaucus community is evident in

her countless hours of service as a member, and currently, as President of the Secaucus Board of Health. Her contributions as a member of the Secaucus Emergency Fund, an independent organization dedicated to helping those in need, are invaluable. Kathy selflessly pours herself into a range of efforts that help our community. Her eagerness to volunteer and her dedication are truly appreciated.

Kathy is married to John Gerbasio for 40 years. They have 3 adult children and 6 grandchildren.

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

**FREE!**

**HCIA SPRING HHW DAYS 2021**

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE, COMPUTER & TIRE RECYCLING**

**Sunday, May 2**

9AM – 1PM (RAIN OR SHINE)

**Gregg Park in Bayonne**

Parking Lot #1 – Parkview Drive & Kennedy Blvd

**North Bergen MUA**

6200 Tonnele Ave

### WHAT TO BRING:

- Thermostats
- Tires
- Cleaners & Corrosives
- Pool & Photographic Chemicals
- Oil Based Paints & Varnishes
- Rechargeable & Car Batteries
- Propane Tanks (from BBQ grills only)
- Solvents & Thinners
- Pesticides & Herbicides
- Formaldehyde
- Compact Fluorescent Bulbs
- Used Motor Oil
- Old Gasoline
- Fire Extinguishers
- Antifreeze
- Smoke Detectors

### WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- Alkaline Batteries
- Latex Paint
- Explosives
- Compressed Gas Cylinders & Tanks
- TCBs, TCCD (such as Freon & Helium)
- Woodlife
- Asbestos
- Kepone
- Infectious Waste
- Silvex 2,4,5-t
- Radioactive Material
- Unknown or Unidentified Material
- Ballasts
- Washers, Dryers, Refrigerators, Air Conditioners
- Any OTC or Prescription Drugs

### TIRE AMNESTY COLLECTION

Hudson County residents are asked to bring no more than 4 tires for proper disposal. If you cannot participate in this year's Tire Amnesty Event, either store tires indoors (*in a garage or shed*) or cover them until they can be disposed of properly.\*

\*CONTACT YOUR MUNICIPAL DPW FOR DISPOSAL LOCATIONS.

This program is sponsored, in part, by a grant from the NJDEP-Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste.

Residents can drop off materials at any site. Proof of residency may be required.



County Executive • Thomas A. DeGise

Chief Executive Officer • Norman M. Guerra

Chairman • Frank Pestana

### COMPUTERS ONLY RECYCLING

Computers, monitors, computer mice, keyboards, tablets and cellphones can also be recycled. Household appliances will not be accepted.

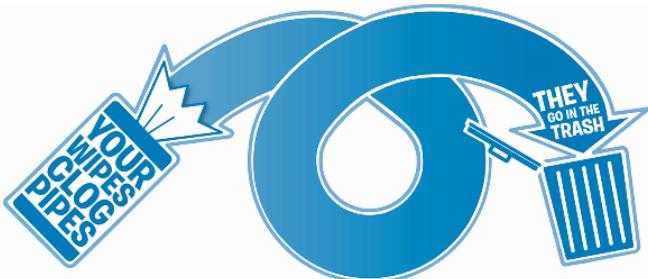
### A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE SECAUCUS MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

A major cause of sewer back-ups are wipes that have been flushed down the toilet.

While some of these wipes are advertised as "FLUSHABLE", they do not break down in the sewer system like toilet paper and cause back-ups. Additionally, these products cause operational problems at the pumping stations and the wastewater treatment facility.

### Wipes Clogs Pipes

Don't flush those wipes!



Put the following items in the trash, not the toilet.

- Cleaning and disinfecting wipes
- Adult and baby hygiene wipes
- Disposable diapers
- Paper towels
- Q-tips
- Toilet cleaning pads
- Mop or "Swiffer" type refills
- Paper towels
- Moist towelettes
- Any consumer item that is not toilet paper

Many household cleaning products and adult and baby hygiene products are labeled and marketed as disposable and flushable. While these products are marketed this way, the truth is these household wipes and cleaning towelettes can clog the sewer line on your property and cause blockage and service problems in the public sewer system and pump stations.

Unlike toilet paper, these products don't break down once they are flushed. They can cause blockages in your on-site side sewer, especially older pipelines that may have grease, roots, or other obstructions already existing. This side sewer is the responsibility of the homeowner, so repair of your homes side sewer line can be expensive and inconvenient for you.

### Restart Secaucus: Centers Across Town Open

Starting Monday, May 3, 2021, the Secaucus Senior Center and Tot Center located at 145 Front Street will be open from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Please be advised that masks are required; capacity limits and other restrictions may apply. For more information and to reserve a space, please call the Secaucus Social Services Department at 201-330-2014.

We are also working on plans to re-open the Teen Center located at 150 Plaza Drive. Those details will be announced soon. For hours, please call the Recreation Department at 201-330-2011.



## Museum Movie Day

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!**

### "SNAKE HILL"

**2007 award winning 80-minute documentary about the infamous Laurel Hill/Snake Hill institutions for the terminally & mentally ill.**

When the excavation for exit 15X in Secaucus began, human remains were discovered. The discovery of 10,000 remains led to the largest disinterment in the United States. More than 4,000 people were reburied and memorialized in Hackensack in 2004.

A MUST-SEE, AMAZING STORY!

**Wednesday, May 12th**

**1 pm & 7 pm**

### Museum Screening Room

**with plenty of seating!**

(enter thru museum)

**150 Plaza Drive**

**FREE ADMISSION! FREE POPCORN!**



**Interested in having access to fresh organic produce—grown locally, picked same day as delivery?**

**School Lunch Farm** offers a weekly vegetable share for 16 weeks, from June 15 through September 28th, 2021.

### Pick Up Site:

Secaucus Recreation Center  
Every Tuesday from 2PM-7PM



To sign-up, visit [www.secaucusnj.gov/csa](http://www.secaucusnj.gov/csa)

Secaucus' Community Supported Agriculture program (CSA) is now in its fifth year! **Sign up by May 14th, 2021**

For more information, visit [www.secaucusnj.gov/csa](http://www.secaucusnj.gov/csa) or contact the Environmental Department with questions:

Call: 201-330-2000, x3222

Email: [environmental@secaucus.net](mailto:environmental@secaucus.net)



### Trains are Running at the Museum

After a collaboration from several sources, the Town Museum has built a unique exhibit of Lionel Trains made in 1950. They are up and running, sound effects and all! A see-through platform has been erected, hanging from the ceiling, allowing visitors to view the trains from below and also an elevated view from a staircase built for children only.

There are two separate tracks operating: one with a small Lionel train set and one with the larger train. In addition to the cabooses, tenders and cattle cars, an entire village has been set up with everything from barns, animals, churches, drugstores, trees, signs, lights and an operating floodlight tower.

This exciting endeavor was conceived, planned, built, and executed by museum directors Tommy Schwarz and Scott Schaffer.

You can't miss this exhibit! Bring the entire family. The Town Museum is open on Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission is always free.