



### Vaccination POD Session at High School

The Secaucus Vaccination Team took the show on the road on Friday, May 21st. As soon as the Pfizer vaccine was approved for the 12-17 year-olds, the team started working on bringing the vaccinations to school-aged children. Collaborating closely with the Secaucus School District, a special vaccine site was set up at the High School PAC. About 120 students took advantage of the opportunity.

## Mayor's Corner

There are so many things that make me proud of our Town. The one that makes me most proud is our residents. They are friendly, close-knit and care for each other. I believe that's what makes us the town with the highest COVID vaccination rates in Hudson County. As of the end of May, 68% of adult residents have been fully vaccinated and 11% received their first dose. By the time this Newsletter is printed more than 80% of our adult population will have been fully vaccinated and we are actively working on our younger population. That is impressive indeed and could not have been possible without our residents' active participation. I thank all residents and the team of the Secaucus Vaccination POD for making this possible.

As restrictions are relaxed, we are doing all we can to restart Secaucus and return to normal. Our recreation sports are seeing robust participation. Senior Services are back and many of you have already started enjoying regular events such as Bingo. Facilities are now open with fewer restrictions and the Town Pool offers free entry for all residents. Summer concerts and movies are back too! I look forward to

seeing you at events and around Town. Please continue to support our local businesses and keep our Town thriving.

Another reason I feel proud about our Town is the people I work with. Over the last few months all departments have been working together to help us introduce a budget with no municipal tax increase. We are hoping to adopt the budget at the next Council meeting; however, we are waiting for final State approval. This is an exceptional achievement, given the challenges of the past year. Lost revenues from parking taxes, hotel taxes, assessments, etc. made it difficult, but we all pulled together to keep taxes stable. As mentioned, even though the budget is still in the approval process, I could not wait to share this news. Our residents will continue to be our #1 priority and our service will remain top-notch.

Stay Secaucus proud, now and always.



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## Upcoming Concerts and Movies

\*events start at 7:00 PM unless noted otherwise

June 10: ABBA Tribute Band, Buchmuller Park

June 16: Gainsboro Trio Buchmuller Park

June 17: Tom Petty Tribute Band, Buchmuller Park

June 19: Secaucus Young Adult Theater Songs for a New World at PAC

June 19: Wall Street R&B-Motown at Xchange

June 24: Van Martin and His All-Star Big Band, Buchmuller Park

June 30: Trolls World Tour, Movie at Xchange at sunset

July 1: Psychedelic Angels, Secaucus Swim Club

July 6: Big Hero 6, Movie at Ice Rink at 7:30 PM

July 8: Johnny Maestro Tribute Band, Buchmuller Park



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Secaucus Municipal Government Center  
Paterson Plank Road  
Secaucus, NJ 07094

## Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest Winners

The Secaucus Environmental Department held their Annual Arbor Day celebrations with tree plantings at Harmon Cove as well as Huber Street and Clarendon Elementary Schools. The Arbor Day ceremony was held on May 7th on the Clarendon School Grounds. The Department also held a poster contest themed “Why Trees Matter” for elementary school students. The response was overwhelming. Mayor Michael Gonnelli and the Town Council honored the winners (one from each grade at the two schools) at the Town Council meeting on May 25th.

Clarendon School Winners:

Bryanna Howard, Kindergarten  
 Stefaniia Riabkina, Grade 1  
 Seobin Kim, Grade 2  
 Elliana Robledo, Grade 3  
 Charles Mascarenhas, Grade 4  
 Anaya Patel, Grade 5

Huber Street School Winners:

Ruhi Patel, Kindergarten  
 Emma McFarlene, Grade 1  
 Harishka Gupta, Grade 2  
 Melanie Leppin, Grade 3  
 Paloma Vera, Grade 4  
 Devi Venkata  
 Ashrith Kanumilli, Grade 5



## Memorial Day Parade Officially Restarts Events in Town

After more than a year of cancelled events, mandatory limits on participation and other restrictions, the Town’s Annual Memorial Day Parade marked a fresh new beginning of spring and summer events in Town. Residents of all ages participated joyously waving flags and cheering veterans, bands, floats, and participant groups.

The day started with a Memorial Service at the “Fire Bell” on the Town Hall Grounds. In attendance was the Mayor, Town Council, members of the Police Department and members of the Volunteers Fire Departments. At the ceremony, names of deceased members of the Secaucus Volunteer Fire Department are read aloud.

At noon, the parade stepped off from Trolley Park, snaked through Town and ended at the viewing stand across from the American Legion Post 118 on Second Street. Hot dogs and beverages were enjoyed by all at the conclusion of the parade.

“It is heartwarming to see people enjoying our community events again. A tribute to our servicemembers and their families is possibly the best way to launch our summer events,” said Mayor Michael Gonnelli. Pictures from the event can be viewed on our website

[SecaucusNJ.gov/Photos](http://SecaucusNJ.gov/Photos)

## Inviting Resident Submissions

Calling all residents and organizations to contribute your pictures and information to this Newsletter. Have events, milestone birthdays, weddings, engagements, club events, or a family member’s achievements? How about your child’s talents? Send a picture and a brief description for consideration. Let’s make the Secaucus Newsletter a community platform. Email your information to [ajaideep@secaucus.net](mailto:ajaideep@secaucus.net) or call 201-330-2000 x 3042.



### Super Moon

Resident Submission:  
 Charlene Hallam



### Project Pride

The yearly Project Pride continues. Girl Scouts planted saplings in the Plaza area and helped beautify the center of Town.

## Around Secaucus



### Alyssa Craigwell

Secaucus High School freshman Alyssa Craigwell has received notable mention in local media’s spring sports coverage. Northjersey.com termed her “frosch sensation” as she posted personal records and snagged the first place in discus and shot put and second place in javelin. She is one of only two freshmen who competed in the NJIC Liberty and Patriot Division. We wish her the best as she moves on to the state meet.



### Jeffas Granddaughter

Gary & Jean Jeffas joyously welcomed the birth of the first Granddaughter on May 26th. Evelyn Jean was born at 7:59 a.m., weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces and was 20 inches long.



### Fishing Derby

It was perfect spring weather for the Annual Secaucus Fishing Derby, held at the Duck Pond on Saturday, April 24th, 2021. The pond was well stocked, and the 25 participants had plenty to catch and release. Here is a list of winners:

Biggest fish: 26-inch carp caught by Grace Tran

Second Place: 17-inch catfish by Oliva Votteler

Most fish caught: Maksin Bell

Youngest fishermen: Gavin Fisher

Youngest fisherwoman: Anastasia Bell

# Hospital Corpsman Second Class Christian H. Bernabe

HM2 Bernabe was born in Hackensack, New Jersey on May 29, 1999. He attended Secaucus High school until his enlistment in the United States Navy on September 17, 2017. After graduating boot camp on November 17, 2017, he went on to complete Hospital Corpsman A-School in San Antonio, Texas on March 22, 2018. Upon graduating he was assigned to temporary duty at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton until he went on to complete Field Medical Training Battalion West in Camp Pendleton, California June 29, 2018.

In late June 2018, he arrived to NMRTC Pearl Harbor and was assigned to Directorate for Public Health at Shipyard Medical Clinic. HM2 Bernabe hit the ground running by upgrading the Phlebotomy Laboratory by decreasing patient wait times and creating the first front desk SOP and PQS, recognized by the Force Master Chief of NAVMED West. Within the first year on board he was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Petty Officer Third Class in March of 2019 and then went on to win Junior Sailor of the Quarter, 3rd Quarter, FY19 and Junior Sailor of the Year FY19. HM2 Bernabe has completed his Associates degree in Health Sciences from American Military University in October of 2020 and is now working on his Bachelor's degree by attending classes at American Military University, Harvard University, and Hawaii Pacific University with intentions of going to medical school. HM2 Bernabe continued striving for success through his dedication to the command's mission and his Sailors. He was then again meritoriously promoted to the rank of Petty Officer Second Class in March of 2020 and was transferred to the Directorate for Health Services in May of 2020 as a Work Center Supervisor for a family practice clinic. Later he was assigned the challenge of supervising an Acute Respiratory Care Clinic for COVID patients. Since his arrival at NMRTC Pearl Harbor he has positively impacted those around him by being a well-rounded Sailor and setting himself up for a future as a Naval Officer.



## What lessons learned growing up in your hometown are you able to apply in your military career, especially in this age of Coronavirus treatment and prevention?

Growing up in a small town like Secaucus taught me the importance of camaraderie. I have many experiences where I witnessed Secaucus come together to overcome floods, storms, fires, and other difficulties and this is something that I try to implement as a leader and subordinate. I believe that in order to overcome any obstacle, we all must work together.

## What does the legacy of the Navy Hospital Corps mean to you?:

Since I was a child, my dream was to become a doctor. When I joined the Navy as a Corpsman, I had people look at me very strange and try to discourage me out of it; however, being a Hospital Corpsman is an honor. The legacy of the Navy Hospital Corps continues to make me proud of my decision every day as I am continuing to pursue medical school.

## What does it mean to you to serve in the Navy as a hospital corpsman at this time, when the world is meeting the threat of Coronavirus?

During these unprecedented and difficult times, being a Hospital Corps has taught me that each of us need more compassion, respect, kindness, unity, and dignity. In the world we live in, where there is no telling what our next threat is going to be, these are the traits that will help us. These are the traits that will allow our society not only to survive, but to thrive.

**Awards:** Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, Global War on Terrorism, Rifleman Expert Medal, Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon.

## Introducing K9 Strobe



A 19-month old German Shepard named Strobe is the newest addition to the Secaucus Police Department! Chief Dennis Miller officially introduced Strobe and his handler, Officer Vince DeFazio, at the Town Council Meeting on May 11, 2021. Strobe has already collared two arrests and is making waves in PD circles.

The first ever canine unit at SPD was formed in October, 2020, with a generous financial donation from the Steven Strobert Foundation. Strobe is named after Secaucus resident Steven Strobert who lost his life at the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001. The Secaucus Animal Shelter will be providing veterinary services.

“Adding canines to our police force is something I

have always dreamed about,” Mayor Michael J. Gonnelli said. “Strobe will be an addition to the police department’s proactive policing efforts and will simultaneously serve as a remembrance of one of our beloved residents,” Gonnelli said.

“I truly hope Strobe brings the Strobert family some solace knowing that Steven’s memory will continue to live on,” Chief Dennis Miller said. “When questioned about the meaning behind Strobe’s name, Steven’s story and sacrifice will be told, thereby keeping his memory and spirit very much alive. I also thank Bergen County Sheriff Anthony Cureton for the opportunity to attend his Canine Academy.”

Strobe was procured from Connecticut Canine Services. He and his handler Officer DeFazio went through twenty-nine weeks of rigorous training at the Bergen County Sheriff’s Canine Academy. They have been trained in agility, obedience, article/evidence searches, scent work, criminal apprehension, and handler protection. Strobe has also been trained to detect various controlled substances.

The Canine Unit is assigned to the Operations Section and will assist the Secaucus Police Department in furthering proactive policing. Strobe will also be utilized for community demonstrations with the goal of enhancing community policing efforts.



Mayor Gonnelli & the Town Council  
Invite

All Secaucus Seniors to a  
Special Barbecue & Pool Day  
June 16, 2021--11:30 AM



Secaucus Swim Club  
Reservations Required 201-865-4422

Mayor Michael J. Gonnelli & the Town Council  
are pleased to announce the



of the Teen Center  
150 Plaza Center  
Beginning May 11th

6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Grades

Monday-Wednesday-Friday	2:30-4:00	4:30-6:00
	6:30-7:30	8:00-9:00
Tuesday-Thursday	2:30-3:30	4:00-5:00
Saturday	2:30-4:00	4:30-6:00
	6:30-7:30	8:00-9:00

2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades

Saturday	10:00am-2:00pm
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2021

Comfort Keepers®  
National Day of  
**Joy**

**3rd Annual  
National Day of Joy**

**June 30th  
11 am - 2 pm**

This year the holiday is even more relevant than ever as we begin experiencing a year of "new normals"- a hug, a smile not hidden behind a mask and simple things that bring us joy. Please join Comfort Keepers at the Secaucus Public Library and share what brings you joy. You will get a flower to keep or share with someone who needs a little joy in their life. A gift bag will be given to a lucky participant.



Mayor Michael Gonnelli and Town Council Invite  
Pre-K, Elementary, Middle and High School  
Students and Families to  
**School Year-End**

**Carnival 2021**

Where: Secaucus High School

When: Friday, June 25th

1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

▪ RIDES ▪ GAMES ▪ PRIZES ▪ FOOD ▪ FUN ▪

Sponsored by Secaucus Youth Alliance



**IS BACK!**

Where: Senior Center, 145 Front St

When: Mondays and Fridays, 12:00 Noon

Call 201-864-4422 to reserve spot. Space is limited.

Mayor Michael Gonnelli and Town Council

**DO NOT PLACE IN  
RECYCLING BINS**

**DO NOT BAG RECYCLABLES**



**NO PLASTIC BAGS!**

For more information visit [www.SecaucusNJ.gov/RecycleRight](http://www.SecaucusNJ.gov/RecycleRight) or  
download the FREE Recycle Coach App

