SECAUCUS



NEWSLETTER

September 2021

Secaucus Monthly Newsletter

www.SecaucusNJ.gov



Annual Street Fair Returns

Mayor Michael Gonnelli & The Town Council are excited to announce the return of the annual street fair! Join us on October 1st, 2nd, and 3rd!

Mayor's Corner

I look back at this summer with a lot of good memories around Town. The Summer Concert Series was a big hit and brought back a sense of normalcy to our event schedule. Buchmuller Park was filled with lively music every Thursday except, well, some rained-out days when we had to move it to the Ice Rink. For our younger residents, Tuesdays Night Movies at the Ice Rink, Summer Day Camp, Arts and Crafts, Basketball, Tennis and Environmental camps, Showstoppers, Game-on and Junior Police Academy, became the place to have fun and safely interact with peers. I am also happy that we could offer free entry to the Swim Club. I know many of you enjoyed the facility regularly.

While we say good-bye to our concert gatherings, I am excited that we have a line-up of big events coming in September. The Green Festival, which is usually held in May, is now scheduled on Saturday, September 18th. The marquee library Fall Festival and Book Sale is on September 25th and the Annual Restaurant Night is on Thursday, September 30th at the Ice Rink. We also have the very popular Street Fair

on October 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Get ready to get together with family and friends and enjoy these well-organized, fun events. Our teams have worked hard to make them happen. I have no doubt you will not be disappointed.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank all residents for your patience and understanding as we mill and pave various roadways around Town. Infrastructure improvements have been an important focus for me, the Town Council and my administration. While construction may bring us temporary inconvenience, the result will benefit us all.

Lastly, welcome back to all students, teachers, and staff! Wishing you a great year ahead.

Secaucus Lends Helping Hand to Carteret



The Secaucus Thrift Store is a place where residents in need can pick up essential items such as clothes, shoes, school uniforms and more. It has been a blessing for many residents. The store's supplies are not limited to Secaucus residents though. Recently, a fire displaced a significant number of families in Carteret, and the store was the place to go. Two trucks were loaded with clothes and shoes for children and adults. The supplies, picked up by Carteret Town Hall employees, were distributed to the families there. Secaucus is the Jewel of the Meadowlands in more ways than one.

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Library Annex Anniversary & Programs

On Saturday, August 7th, 2021, The Katherine Steffens Library Annex celebrated its first year of library service. Library staff, board members, Katherine Steffens, Mayor Michael Gonnelli and Secaucus community members were in attendance and enjoyed the festivities of the day. There was live music and performances by Mrs. Vasuda Saxena and her students, canvas painting and tattoos for kids by Craft Clique, as well as food from Starters & More. Secaucus community members had the opportunity to meet and mingle with the staff and see what the Katherine Steffens Library Annex has to offer. "A special thank you to the Katherine Steffens Library Annex staff for working so hard and helping to make our first year so successful, especially during the pandemic. We look forward to offering the Secaucus community many years of continued library service," said Branch Manager Lisa Machno.

September Program at the Katherine Steffens Library Annex

(Masks required for indoor programs. Please register at www. Secaucuslibrary.org)

Paws for Reading: Wednesday, September 15th at 3:30pm

Paws for Reading is for children ages 6-12 who want to practice their reading skills. Participants get to read, relax and spend time with therapy dog, Chipper. Reserve a 10-minute slot online at www.secaucuslibrary.org.

The People in Your Neighborhood Storytime Series: Wednesday, September 29th at 4pm

For children 3-8. This new monthly series will host different people from our neighborhood reading a story and discussing their job. This month's neighbor will be Secaucus Public Library Director Jennifer May. Ms. May will read a story, have a Question-and-Answer time, and bring bookmarks and other goodies to give out to children.

Trivia Night on Facebook Live

Tune in as Jeffrey hosts Trivia Night on Facebook Live. Every Friday is a different movie/show. To participate, like the Secaucus Library's Facebook page and tune in at 7:00pm. For more information, call 201-330-2083 x 4050.

Two New Members Sworn in to the SFD

The Secaucus Fire Department's efforts to recruit more members to the department are paying off. Two new members were sworn in by Town Clerk Michael Marra at the Town Council meeting on August 24, 2021. Both were accepted as full members and Firefighters on their 18th birthdays.

Daniel J. Youn first joined the Secaucus Volunteer Fire Department in January of 2019 as a Junior Firefighter and was assigned to Washington Hook & Ladder Co. #1. Daniel later attended Firefighter 1 school at the Bergen County Fire Academy in Mahwah, New Jersey during the Summer of 2019. He graduated from Secaucus High School with the class of 2021 and will be attending William Paterson University in the Fall.

Zarrar K. Nawaz first joined the Secaucus Volunteer Fire Department in July of 2019 as a Junior Firefighter and was assigned to Washington Hook & Ladder Co. #1. Zarrar later attended Firefighter 1 school at the Bergen County Fire Academy in Mahwah, New Jersey during the Summer of 2020. Zarrar also graduated from Secaucus High School this year and will be attending NJIT in the Fall.

We wish Daniel and Zarrar the best of luck and thank them for their willingness to volunteer.



Centenarian Gets Vaccinated

The Secaucus Vaccination POD welcomed a very special member of our community in late July, followed by a repeat visit in August. That's when 106-year-old Constance Lombardi got her COVID-19 vaccinations. She is now fully vaccinated with both doses completed. She did not have any adverse reactions and is very satisfied that she finally made the decision to get the vaccine.



Want to Dance?

Dance Power Studio, an established school that has been a mainstay in Secaucus for more than 32 years, invites all dance enthusiasts to register for in-person dance lessons/sessions. The Studio plans on re-opening in full swing on September 13th. All recommended health protocols will be followed. Classes are open for all ages—from tiny tots and up—will be held at 812 Second Street, lower level of Church of Our Saviour. Qualified instructors will teach various forms of dance with a goal for students to perform at an annual recital each year. To register, please call 201-617-9194 or register online at dancepowersecaucus.com.

Luau Raises Funds for Animal Shelter

The Harmon Cove Association held a Hawaiian Luau at the Cove Club on Friday, August 13, 2021. The sold-out event was attended by about 110 people. The proceeds went to the Secaucus Animal Shelter. Pictured here are Animal Shelter Director Chris Conte, Tommy Schwarz, Linda Crowley, Mayor Gonnelli, Annette Dongesn and Lillian Sesholtz.



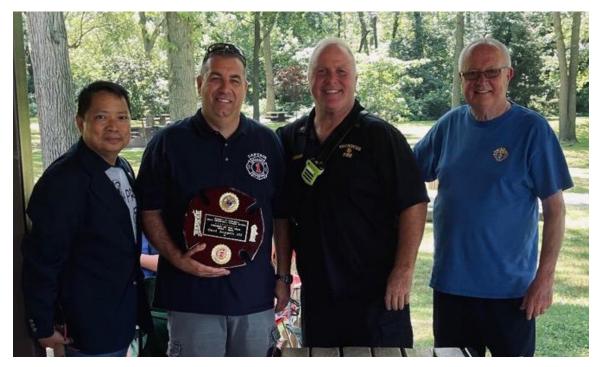
K-9 Strobe Gets Bullet-Proof Vest

Sallah Khan, Vice President, and Nikki Carrano, Trustee of Capital K9 Association presented Secaucus Police Department K-9 Strobe with a bullet-proof vest at the July 27th Town Council Meeting. Strobe seemed comfortable wearing the vest and even posed for pictures with his handler, Officer Defazio.



Knights of Columbus Annual Awards

The Knights of Columbus Assembly 12769 held their Annual Award Ceremony on August 15th at Schmidts Woods. The event honors members of the Secaucus community who go above and beyond in service to our Town and for their contributions in the past year. This year's awards are:



Firefighter of the Year: Carl Leppin



Distinguished Community Service: Kathy Gerbasio



Senior Citizen of the Year: Myrna Cordova



Police Officer of the Year: PO Kowlessar

NJDEP Pursues Lower Hackensack Cleanup as a Federal Superfund Site

U.S. Representatives Bill Pascrell Jr. and Josh Gottheimer, NJDEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette, Hackensack Riverkeeper Captain Bill Sheehan and officials from Bergen and Hudson County were present at Laurel Hill Park on July 22nd when the announcement was made that the State will pursue a cleanup of the Lower Hackensack River as a federal Superfund site. This would be the first time that a New Jersey river itself would be proposed for Superfund listing and marks a critical step toward remediation of river sediments contaminated with mercury, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and other pollutants from past industrial practices. Superfund listing would provide access to federal funding and enable the EPA to commence the process of identifying responsible parties to fund remediation.



The proposal affects 23 miles of tidally influenced

sections of the Hackensack River, from the Oradell Dam to Newark Bay. EPA previously performed work to evaluate the Lower Hackensack River and is committing to completing the evaluation for potential inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL). This process is expected to take about a year, given the need to collect some more recent samples and to analyze data. If approved, the twenty municipalities that line the Lower Hackensack River will be positively impacted. They are River Edge, Ridgefield Park, Carlstadt, Kearny, Jersey City, Little Ferry, Oradell, Rutherford, Secaucus, Bogota, Ridgefield, Hackensack, Teaneck, East Rutherford, Moonachie, North Arlington, New Milford, North Bergen, South Hackensack and Lyndhurst.

A cleanup of the Hackensack River will improve quality of life and recreational opportunities for Secaucus and surrounding communities," said Secaucus Mayor Michael Gonnelli. "We have seen a vast improvement due to mitigation efforts over the last few years. An initiative by the NJDEP to address sediment contamination will bring a lasting impact. I thank the NJDEP and all contributing agencies for their efforts towards reviving the ecological balance of the Hackensack River."

Military Banner Tribute Project Still Accepting Applications

Last month, Knights of Columbus Assembly 1543 launched the Military Banner Tribute project. It is an opportunity to honor a loved one who served in the military. The response has been impressive. Applications are still being accepted. Pick up an application at Immaculate Conception Church exits, St. Matthew Church and Church of Our Saviour. They are also available at the Recreation Center, Secaucus Public Library and Senior Citizen Center on Front Street. If you do plan on participating in this program, please get your loved one in very soon. Display banners will start going up next month. For additional information or answers to any questions please contact Sal Manente Sr. At 201-866-2988.

UNICO Invites New Members

UNICO is the largest Italian American service organization in the United States with over 5,000 members in 110 chapters across 13 states. With the motto "Service Above Self," members devote their time, energy, and resources to serve their community. The Secaucus Chapter performs community service activities and funds local scholarships as well as other charitable, educational, cultural, and civic programs. We have given over \$100,000 in scholarships to deserving Secaucus students.

If you are an Italian American looking to rediscover your history and to help your community, UNCIO is the organization for you. Anyone interested in joining, please call Melissa at 201-469-6677



The Spotted Lanternfly is not native to the US. It is an invasive species They are harmful to plants, NOT people or animals. So if you see one of these adult Spotted Lanternflies, please help our environment by stomping on them or swatting them.

We caution against using broad-spectrum insecticides because they will kill all the insects in the area including butterfly eggs, caterpillars, bumblebees, lady bugs and many other insects that we need.

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If you have questions please contact Reporting individual locations is no longer necessary







Event Managed by Mikes Poker Tables LLC Make Check Out to Rotary Club of Secaucus and Mail to Call 201-902-9742 or donevanson@aol.com to Register Proceeds Support Various Secaucus Community Projects



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