



Summer Concert Series & Movies

The summer concert & movies series is just getting started! To view the full schedule, visit secaucusnj.gov/summer

Mayor's Corner

This month, I write to you about something that is dear to my heart—keeping taxes as low as possible. Our Municipal Budget has been introduced and we have been reviewing it continuously since the beginning of the year.

While we knew this year was going to be a difficult one, there were several line items, beyond our control, that increased substantially more than projected. The most impactful increases were in health insurance (23%), interest rates, and pension payments. These three line items resulted in an increase of approximately \$4 million to our budget. Our parking and hotel tax revenues are still not back at pre-pandemic levels and, just like in your homes, inflation is making our purchases more expensive. Because of these stressors on our budget, it was impossible for us to avoid a municipal tax increase. The tax increase for an average home, which is assessed at \$178,101.00, will be about \$21.50 a month.

The decision to increase municipal taxes does not come easy. My administration

works closely with the Town Administrator, finance team and department heads to control expenses. Our goal always is and will be to keep taxes stable, while providing the highest level of services and programs to all our residents. Many of the infrastructure projects you see taking place in Town are being paid for by grants as we vigorously pursue funding for projects. In fact, we just received word we are being awarded an \$850,000.00 grant for a roadway improvement project to Plaza Center, from Route 3 to Paterson Plank Road.



I want to assure you that we will continue to work with every department to control costs now and into the future.

Have a safe, enjoyable summer.

See Democracy in Action: Become a Poll Worker

The Secaucus Town Clerk's Office is actively seeking residents to serve as poll workers for primary and general elections.

Why Should You Apply

Your community needs you! By staffing a polling location, you will:

- Earn \$300 on Primary Election Day
- See our great democracy in action, firsthand, and enjoy the feeling that comes with contributing to your local community, your State and your country

Who Can Apply

You can apply to serve as a poll worker in New Jersey if you:

- Are a United States citizen and a resident of New Jersey
- Are a registered voter in county in which you reside
- Are not running as a candidate in the election that you're working

Possible work date is November 7, 2023. Future dates typically fall on the first Tuesday, following the first Monday, in June and November. For more information and to apply, please call 201-330-2020.

Mayor Michael Gonnelli- mayor@secaucus.net - O: 201-330-2005

Councilman William McKeever
wmckeever@secaucus.net
C: 551-665-7650

Councilman Robert Costantino
rcostantino@secaucus.net
C: 201-401-9315

Councilman Mark Dehnert
mdehnert@secaucus.net
O: 201-330-2000

Councilman John Gerbasio
gerbasio@secaucus.net
C: 551-226-0955

Councilman James Clancy
jclancy@secaucus.net
C: 201-906-9657

Councilwoman Orietta Tringali
otringali@secaucus.net
O: 201-330-2000

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
SECAUCUS, NJ 07094



Secaucus Municipal Government Center
Paterson Plank Road
Secaucus, NJ 07094

Latest Addition to Our Parks Systems Inaugurated

Farm Road Park, the newest addition to our parks and open spaces was formally inaugurated! The ribbon-cutting ceremony held on June 14, was led by Craig Guy from the Hudson County Executive's Office and Mayor Gonnelli, as members of the Town Council and Administration, Hudson County planning officials, and local residents joined in. The property, formerly the site of Estelle Laminations was purchased by the Town, then cleaned up and developed thanks to a \$317,873 grant from the Hudson County Open Space fund. The Town has an agreement with the NJSEA to keep the adjacent property (formerly owned by Boulevard Tire) a recreational space for everyone to enjoy. Whether you want to stop at the gazebo on your jog through the Greenway or bring your dogs for some exercise at the dog run, or just soak in the beauty of the river at high tide, Farm Road Park is the place to be! Native trees and shrubs have also been planted, and a rain garden complete with native plants helps in mitigating rainwater runoff. A parking lot makes access easier for those who would like to drive there.



If you have not been to Farm Road Park yet, head to the dead-end on Farm Road off Paterson Plank Rd. You will be surprised how serene and beautiful the area is!

Secaucus Greenhouse Garden

By Rahi Mehta

Walk along the greenway or use the parking lot behind the new gymnasium at the Secaucus High School, and you'll see a futuristic-looking dome, a geodesic greenhouse made by Growing Spaces. This new greenhouse was funded in most part by a \$20,000 Sustainable Jersey Grant from the PSEG Foundation received by the Secaucus Environmental Department. The collaborative effort furthers the Secaucus High School Environmental Club's community garden project. Installed by the DPW, it is currently undergoing finishing touches and is expected to be fully completed and open by mid-summer.



The structure made of recycled materials withstands snow, hail, and extreme weather conditions. The polycarbonate dome provides diffused lighting to the plants inside and has automatic vents that are heat-activated and require no electricity to operate.

"The greenhouse will serve both our students and community members who would like to participate in community gardens," according to high school principal, Mr. Viggiani. Students from the middle school and high school who work alongside the school greenhouse technician can access the greenhouse and plant seedlings in Winter. This new project will help promote eco-friendly experiments in a way that brings students and community members closer together as they work with one another on this great new addition to the town.

SPD Raises Funds for Special Olympics

On June 9th, the Secaucus Police Department held the annual Special Olympics Torch Run to join police departments around the State to raise funds for the Special Olympics. Police Officers, residents and students at all Secaucus schools joined in the effort. The run started at the Police Headquarters, stopped at Clarendon, Huber, Mill Ridge and Middle School/High School grounds. 2023 marks the 40th Anniversary of the New Jersey Law Enforcement Torch Run. The Special Olympics New Jersey's summer games took place from June 9th to 11th. Thank you SPD for participating in this special cause!



Service to Control Spotted Lanternflies

As the weather gets warmer, our area may see a swarm of spotted lanternflies, an invasive species that affects trees and plants. The Hudson Regional Health Commission has received a small health grant from the NJ Department of Agriculture to assist with control of spotted lanternflies and is accepting service requests from the public. If there is any tree of heaven (TOH) on your property, it will be treated with an insecticide. The treatment lasts several months. If there is a large population of SLFs on other infested trees, a different insecticide may be applied. All insecticides are registered with the US Environmental Protection Agency and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, and do not present any significant health or environmental risks. Pets should never touch treated surfaces when wet. Service is provided as time and staffing allows. To make a service request, please call Hudson Regional Health Commission at 201-223-1133.

Comfort Keepers Conduct Food Drive

Comfort Keepers organized a food drive for the Secaucus Food Pantry on their National Day of Joy and Feed Seniors Now program on June 28th. Mary Masoud and Manny Chevres of Social Services received the donations from Eydie Shapiro of Comfort Keepers.



Fourth Graders Visit Town Hall



June 1st was a happy day for Mayor Gonnelli. He got a chance to do something he really enjoys—welcoming students to a tour of Town Hall and his office! Fourth graders from Huber Street School were greeted by Town Administrator Gary Jeffas and Town Attorney Keri Eglentowicz, who introduced them to the workings of various departments. Students participated in a mock trial led by Judge Boylan, where they were assigned roles as Judges, attorneys and witnesses. This fun activity gave the kids an understanding of how our court system works. After the mock trial, the students enjoyed a tour of Town Hall, including all offices, the police department and a fire truck! As you can see from the pictures, the favorite part of tour was visiting with Mayor Gonnelli in his office. All the students shook the Mayor's hand and received some treats on the way out!



Extended Story Time Year-end Celebration



On Saturday, June 17th, the youngest Library patrons had a special celebration. Participants of the Extended Story Time program, the program that runs from September to June, enjoyed the year-end celebration, as parents and Library staff cheered them. Extended Story Time is a drop-off program to help children develop good listening, social and motor skills, gain separation from their caregivers and interact with other kids. To learn more about this, and other children's programs, visit secaucuslibrary.org or stop by the Children's Section at the Main Library located on Paterson Plank Road, or the Annex at Xchange.

Historical Plaque Unveiled at Mill Creek Point Park



Members of the Calderone and Treacy families joined Mayor Gonnelli, Town Council members, and members of the Town Museum Board on June 24th to unveil a historical plaque at Mill Creek Point Park, as the sun played hide and seek, and a slight breeze cut through the humid air.

Some residents may remember, and others may have to imagine, Mill Creek Point Park bustling with activity. The waterfront was home to a tavern-restaurant, horse stables, skeet shooting and pistol range, and a marina. The restaurant, Tony's Old Mill, was built in 1947 by Anthony Calderone and was a favorite place to gather. At that time, roads ended in the Stonewall Lane area and there was no connecting path to Tony's Old Mill. Anthony cleared a pathway and put down shingles to build a road, locally known as Shingle Boulevard. In 1965, Arthur Treacy purchased the property and ran the restaurant. The Old Mill was the oldest building in Secaucus but fell into disrepair and was demolished in 2000. After the Treacy family donated the property to the Town, new parkland and recreational facilities were developed and the area was renamed Mill Creek Point Park.

As longtime residents say, a lot has changed in our Town and there is history in every corner. To explore more and dig into some interesting stories and photographs, head over to the Town Museum located at Plaza Center (open Saturdays 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and Thursdays 4:30 to 6:30 PM in Summer).

YOGA TAI CHI CLASS
AT MILL CREEK POINT PARK SECAUCUS, NJ
CALL 201-864-2095

FREE

Every Monday All Summer
at 10 AM

Town Museum Event!

Celebrating 5 years!

Special guest artist,
Caricaturist Donna Klein



Bring the kids and have Donna create a unique *caricature* for them to keep



Saturday, July 15th

NOT ALL PILLS ARE REAL



**ONE
PILL CAN
KILL**

Taking a pill **NOT** purchased from a licensed pharmacy can be a deadly decision.

Mayor Gonnelli &
The Town Council
Invite seniors

Let's go for a **walk**

At **Walk, eat & shop!**

Monday July 17th & 31st
10 am – 2 pm
201-865-4422
Bus transportation provided

5th ANNUAL
SECAUCUS GOT TALENT!

August 16, 2023
7:00 pm
Buchmuller Park
150 Plaza Center
Secaucus, NJ

*In the event of inclement weather, program will take place at High Tech High School, 1 High Tech Way, Secaucus, NJ.

Sponsored by:

LIVE
Deni Bonet with Chris Flynn

JULY 19TH
7:00 PM
BUCHMULLER PARK

Enjoy the sounds of Deni Bonet whose music style ranges from roots-rock to folk pop, which combined with her fun, dynamic and exciting presentation, has earned her 4 sold-out concerts at Carnegie Hall, a performance at the White House for President Obama, touring with Cyndi Lauper, recording with R.E.M., Sarah McLachlan and many others.

Secaucus Seniors Win at County Art Competition

Several hometown seniors were ribbon winners in the first, second, and third place categories in the Hudson County Senior Art Competition. All artwork was displayed at the Conrad Rotunda of the Brennan Courthouse in Jersey City in May! Competing categories were offered in fine arts or photography. All county ribbon winners were invited to a congratulatory dinner and certificate awards.

Our own Secaucus senior ribbon winners this year are:

Name	Medium	Status	Award
Barbara Hennig	Craft	Professional	Third Place
Harmon Kaplan	Photography	Professional	First Place
Harmon Kaplan	Print	Professional	First Place
Maureen McDonald	Works on Paper	Non-Professional	First Place
Maureen McDonald	Photography	Non-Professional	Third Place
Su Mei	Acrylic	Professional	First Place
Amelia Antao	Watercolor	Non-Professional	Second Place
John Garbo	Watercolor	Non-Professional	Third Place
John Garbo	Oil	Non-Professional	Second Place
Bobby Travieso	Mixed Medium	Professional	First Place
Leslie Hagg	Jewelry	Professional	Second Place
Glenda Kaplan	Photography	Non-Professional	First Place
Danielle Fry	Mixed Medium	Professional	First Place
Danielle Fry	Watercolor	Professional	First Place
Danielle Fry	Digital	Professional	First Place

All first-place winners have an opportunity to compete in an upcoming State of NJ Senior Artists 2023 competition in Mercer County, NJ in August, and we will give you an update of any winners shortly thereafter.

The Secaucus Senior Art Club, which meets Wednesday mornings at the Secaucus Senior Center, gathers to create art together and fellowship with like-minded artists over 55. Next year we are hoping to participate in the next Hudson County and NJ State competitions in 2023. All artistic residents are welcome to join this club no matter what level of skill you may have.

Struggling to pay your water or sewer bills?

LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHWAP)

Provides financial assistance to low-income households to reduce balances on residential water and wastewater bills. Benefits are paid directly to water and wastewater companies, on behalf of residential customers.

Visit: waterassistance.nj.gov

or call: **2-1-1**

FOOD DRIVE

Food Pantry Donations Needed

Saturday, July 22nd
9 am – 12 pm

We are looking for donations of

Pasta, sauce & cereal

During the month the items can be dropped at the **Community Center**
145 Front St
Monday through Friday 8 am – 3 pm
Any questions please call **Marybeth or Paula at 201-330-2014**

We are always looking for donations of **\$10.00 gift cards to Walmart or Shop Rite**

Secaucus



Schools

Appreciation Week



From May 8th through May 12th, we celebrated the incredible educators at Clarendon School for their dedication, devotion, patience and love. Clarendon students will always remember them.

On Saturday, May 6th, we began Nurse Appreciation Week. A special shout out to Nurse Regina! Thank you for taking care of us and keeping us safe.

Clarendon Honors Veterans



During Clarendon School's Memorial Day Assembly, students sang songs, recited poems, read personal essays, and presented a check to our veterans for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Thanks to our students and staff for all the hard work you put into making it a special day and a very special thank you to our veterans for all the sacrifices you have made and for visiting Clarendon School.

Outstanding Students Recognized at Huber



At the End of the Year Award's Ceremony, homeroom teachers distributed Citizenship Awards to one student in their class who demonstrates strength of character and leadership. Our Special area teachers also distributed awards to students who displayed leadership, knowledge, and skills in their special area classes (i.e Art, Band, Computer, Science, Spanish, Music, and Physical Education.) Congratulations to all! #SecaucusPride.

Pool Day for Fifth Graders

Pool Day for Clarendon Elementary School and Huber Street School is a great day for fifth graders to have fun and celebrate their graduation from elementary school. Here are some of the glimpses of memories shared and memories made.



SMS 8th Grade Yearbook Breakfast



On Thursday, June 8th, Secaucus Middle School was buzzing with excitement for a cherished tradition - the annual 8th Grade Yearbook Breakfast. This festive event marks a significant milestone for our students as they conclude their middle school journey and prepare to embark on new adventures in high school. The yearbook, a testament to their growth, friendships, and experiences, was a highlight of the morning.

We are incredibly proud of our 8th graders for their accomplishments and growth. As they move on to the next chapter, we hope they'll look back fondly on their time at Secaucus Middle School, remembering not just what they learned, but also the friends they made, and the community they were part of.

Secaucus High School Class of 2023

