



Happy Holidays!

Mayor Gonnelli & The Town Council wish the residents of Secaucus a happy and healthy holiday season!

Mayor's Corner

As the year comes to an end, I am proud to recap the significant improvements we made to our infrastructure and open spaces over the past year. You may have already noticed better driving conditions and enhanced curb appeal in several sections of Town due to repaved roads along with new sections of sidewalk, curbing and driveway aprons. We recently finished construction on the entire stretch of Centre Avenue, a portion of Grace Avenue, and Mansfield Avenue. Significant improvements to Seaview Drive, Pandolfi Avenue and Raydol Avenue are coming soon.

We completed so many great projects this year on the recreational front. Construction was completed on Marcial Memorial Park at the end of Farm Road and I have received tremendous feedback on the park and the overall improvement to the area. The acquisition of the land for use by all residents was a major accomplishment and the park is being enjoyed by many! Furthermore, permanent pickleball courts at Buchmuller Park have been constructed and will be ready for use soon. We also officially opened the Imagine Garden on Meadowlands Parkway—a great space for residents to garden and to enjoy the beauty of native plants. Watch for details about a new spray feature coming to the children's section of Buchmuller Park and a new passive park on Louis Street. Lastly, in the next year, you will see improvements at Shetik Field and Mill Ridge baseball field #2.

In our continuing efforts towards greener energy and reducing our carbon footprint, we completed the

installation of solar panels on the roofs of the Ice Rink at Buchmuller Park and the Recreation Center on Koelle Boulevard. The solar panels were part of a larger project to improve efficiency throughout our buildings and we are pleased that the project is nearly completed.

When you drive up Center Avenue, you will notice the quick progress on the construction of our brand new Community Center. I am looking forward to its completion next year. It will be a great facility for our seniors and community to gather.

I cannot emphasize enough that a significant portion of the major improvement projects are funded by federal, state and county grants. Our Administration consistently applies for, and is successful in receiving grants that allow us to make infrastructure improvements while minimizing the impacts on our budget. Last year alone, we received \$6.9 million in grant funds, helping us keep taxes stable while continuing improvements that make Secaucus a great Town to live.

With your continued support, our Town will remain a great place to live and raise your families. The Town Council and I are here for you, and wish you and your family a very Happy Holiday Season, Merry Christmas and a great start to the New Year!



Town Receives FEMA Funds

The Mayor and Town Council are happy to announce that Secaucus received a reimbursement of \$772,250.00 from FEMA for emergency repairs on the North End berm after Hurricane Sandy. The 2012 hurricane was one of the costliest disasters in New Jersey, with over \$30 billion in damage caused by high waves, wind gusts and a storm surge spurred by high tide. Several areas in Town, including coastal flood-mitigation infrastructure, were impacted. Emergency and long term repairs to the north end berms were completed and the Town applied for reimbursement for the associated costs. Even though the process took years, the Town's administration completed every step of the process meticulously, and consistently followed up with FEMA. These efforts led to the eventual reimbursement to the Town.

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LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
SECAUCUS, NJ 07094



Secaucus Municipal Government Center
Paterson Plank Road
Secaucus, NJ 07094

Officers Spangenberg and Kelly Revive Unresponsive Woman

On November 6, 2023, two police officers, later assisted by EMT personnel from Hudson Regional Hospital, did one of the most thankful things anyone can wish for. They responded to a call about an unresponsive female staff member at the Hudson County Meadowview Campus. Upon arriving, Officers Nicholas Spangenberg and Kasey Kelly discovered that the victim was not breathing and had no pulse. They performed CPR, and after further assessing the situation, utilized their Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to administer one shock to the victim. Thankfully, they found a pulse shortly afterwards. Hudson Regional Hospital EMTs who arrived on the scene, immediately transported the victim, but also administered an AED shock to her onboard the ambulance. She was stabilized at Hudson Regional Hospital and was later transported to Englewood Hospital for immediate cardiac care.



For their commendable actions and teamwork, Mayor Gonnelli and the Town Council honored Officers Spangenberg and Kelly and presented them with a proclamation at the November 28th Town Council meeting.

“I am extremely proud of these officers and commend their determination in performing these life saving measures. I am especially proud that these officers utilized their training and the equipment provided to them, worked as a team and were able to bring this victim back to life. I also commend Hudson Regional Hospital EMS for their efforts and thank the hospital’s staff for their ongoing commitment to public safety in Secaucus,” said Chief Dennis Miller.

Town Receives Grant for Renovation of Pandolfi and Raydol Avenues



The Mayor and Town Council are happy to announce that Secaucus received a Municipal Aid Grant in the amount of \$528,185.00 for roadway improvements on Pandolfi Avenue and Raydol Avenue. The award was announced on November 1, 2023. When a formal award letter is received, the Town will move into engineering design and construction bid phases for repaving the entire stretch of Pandolfi Avenue and the cement section of Raydol Avenue. Based on the engineer’s recommendation, select sections of sidewalks, curbs and driveway aprons will also be replaced. Construction is expected to begin in Spring/Summer 2024.

Secaucus Residents Complete NYC Marathon



Two Secaucus residents, Kaitlin Jackson and Sylwia Lasota, successfully completed the New York Marathon held on November 5, 2023. Congratulations, Katilin and Sylwia!

Quest Diagnostics Participates in Clean-up Drive



The Town of Secaucus welcomes private and corporate groups to participate in environmental clean-ups at our expansive recreational areas, including the Hackensack River waterfront. The Environmental Department appreciated the overwhelming response from a Quest Diagnostics team who participated in a clean-up at Mill Creek Marsh in September. Cleanups slow down during the winter months, but if your group would like to schedule a date for Spring and Summer, please email the Environmental Department Coordinator at kmcleary@secaucus.net.

Secaucus Honors Our Veterans

November 11th is a special day in our country and in Secaucus. It is a day set aside to honor our veterans in many special ways. Events and programs in Secaucus started off in early October when banners honoring our veterans were hoisted throughout the town. The banners, organized by the Knights of Columbus, were displayed the entire month of November.

On November 3rd, Huber Street School held a touching assembly to honor veterans. Fourth graders welcomed gathered veterans with patriotic songs and a special reading of “America’s White Table” by Margot Theis Raven. Following the Veteran’s Day tradition, they also set up a small dining table with a white tablecloth, a setting with lemon and salt on a plate, and an empty chair to honor service members fallen, missing or captive. Then, fifth grade students led the veterans to the front of the school where they respectfully lined up small American flags with their family names written on them. The students also fundraised and presented a check of \$380.00 each to American Legion and the Secaucus VFW 3776.



On November 9th, Hudson County hosted the annual Veteran of the Year Award Ceremony at County Prep High School. Our own Philip Papa was honored along with 10 other veterans from around the County. Phil Papa is known for his ardent support for the welfare of all veterans and is vocal about the plight of veterans returning from the Vietnam War. He continues to serve our community as Commander of VFW Post 3776, Rotarian, and as an owner/operator of Papa’s Travel Store.

On November 11th, Secaucus veterans, members of the Ladies Auxiliary, families of veterans, and residents joined Mayor Michael Gonnelli and the Town Council at Town Hall for the Annual Veteran’s Day ceremony. The ceremony kicked off with Brian Beckmeyer’s signature Taps Across America. Councilman McKeever, a Vietnam War veteran, led the proceeding. Mayor Gonnelli, Phil Papa, and Claude Machieroldi also addressed the gathering. The ceremony was followed by refreshments for everyone gathered there.

Thank you, veterans, for your service to our nation and for your continued support to our community.

December 2023 Secaucus Events

Musical Instrument Donation Drive for Secaucus Middle School Bands

The band members of Secaucus Middle School benefit greatly from our annual instrument donation drive. If you have any drums, cymbals, guitars, keyboards, flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets, trombones, amplifiers, microphones, audio gear, cables, or any other musical gear you are willing to donate to our program...

Please take your donations to the Secaucus Middle School main entrance (11 Mill Ridge Road) between 7:00 AM and 3:30 PM, Monday through Friday. If you have any questions, please email Secaucus Middle School Band Director, Sean Sonnett at ssonnett@sboe.org.

SECAUCUS PUBLIC LIBRARY



Hudson Valley Chamber Musicians

SUNDAY, DEC 10 TH
1:00PM
2ND FLOOR PANASONIC RM.

Get into the holiday spirit as we listen to the sounds of the Hudson Valley Chamber Musicians.



Secaucus High School Presents

Third Annual Holiday Assembly



To Our Secaucus Senior Residents

Come Celebrate the holidays with us !!!

Dec. 21, 2023
5:00 p.m.-dinner
Followed by a wonderful holiday performance by the chorus & band Secaucus Performing Arts Center (PAC center)



Please call 201-865-4422 to register

JOIN US FOR A **WINTER WONDERLAND**

DECEMBER 14
4:00 PM
SECAUCUS PUBLIC LIBRARY
2ND FLOOR PANASONIC RM.

Children ages 4 and up and adults who are children at heart are welcome to visit our Winter Wonderland. Join us for Santa Claus's Storytime, selfies with Santa, and holiday cookie decorating. Space is limited, please register all participants individually @ secaucuslibrary.org so we have enough spirit to go around. Contact Lee Penna for any questions.

Sponsored by:




2ND annual

TREE DECORATING PARTY!
DECORATE an ornament!
Ornaments and craft supplies will be provided.

GET CREATIVE!



... or donate one of your own ornaments

Come to the **TOWN MUSEUM** and share in the holiday festivities with treats, cookies, candy & toys.

SATURDAY DEC. 16TH
11am - 3pm
Secaucus Town Museum
150 Plaza Center

The Mayor & Town Council

Invite all residents to participate in



HOLIDAY LIGHTS
An exterior illumination contest!
3 Winners in each category


"Martha Stewart"
"Clark Griswold"
1 Winner
"Best Block"

Winners will be announced at the January Council Meeting
Lawn signs will be posted by Impressive Printing
Contest runs from December 6-23, 2023
www.secaucusnj.gov

Rushcart Players

Presents **"A Season of Miracles"**

December 16th
1:00pm
Arthur F. Couch PAC Center
11 Millridge Rd., Secaucus, NJ



"A Season of Miracles" is a collection of holiday stories from different cultures. Tales within this heartwarming musical include O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi", an original tale set in Nigeria entitled, "The Kwanzaa Kite", a fanciful tale from The Wise Folk of Chelm - "The Chanukah Miracle" and E.T.A Hoffmann's "The Nutcracker."

This program is made possible by a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a division of the Department of State, and administered by the Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, Thomas A. DeCristo, Hudson County Executive & the Hudson County Board of County Commissioners. All Friends of the Library sponsored programs are ADA-accessible. Special accommodations are available upon request.

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

Alternate side of the street parking will be suspended from:
December 18, 2023 through March 11, 2024

NOTICE TO HOLIDAY SHOPPERS




Town of Secaucus metered parking will be suspended for the month of December

The Town of Secaucus



Holiday TOY DRIVE

NOW through December 15th
Special Drop-off day December 9th at 145 Front St 9-12
New, Unwrapped Toys needed for less-fortunate children between the ages of 1 to 14 years old

Bring all donations to:
Community Center—145 Front St
Recreation Center—1200 Koelle Blvd
Town Hall—1203 Paterson Plank Road
Secaucus Library 1379 Paterson Plk Rd
For more information call 201-330-2014

Filipino Tradition of Simbang Gabi at ICC

The 31st annual celebration of Simbang Gabi at Immaculate Conception Church will be held on December 15-23. The uniquely Filipino Advent tradition consists of nine novena masses that provide a prayerful way to prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord.

All are invited to join the festivities for any night. It is a way for children and adults to enjoy a different kind of experience of Christmas and to put “Christ” back in Christmas. During Simbang Gabi family relationships are strengthened, faith is intensified, and no matter what language is used, when people pray and sing together, the universality of the Christmas spirit is realized.

The masses (in English) are held as follows: December 15th and December 23rd, 5:30 p.m.; December 16-22, 7 p.m. Come once, come twice, come every night!.

To foster community spirit, a Christmas Party will be held on December 16th at 6:30 p.m. in the gymnasium. Tickets are available at the church gift shop or text Maribel (551-655-4811). \$40 adults, \$20 kids under 12.



Secaucus



Schools

December Reflections from the Superintendent - Looking Back at November

Dear Secaucus Public School District Community,

As we welcome December, I'd like to reflect on the remarkable accomplishments and events that made November a memorable month for our district.

Month of Gratitude Concluded: We wrapped up our special initiative, the “Month of Gratitude,” with immense pride and appreciation. Throughout November, we spotlighted staff members who significantly contributed to the positive culture of our schools. Their dedication and hard work are the foundation of our community’s success. Our social media pages featured these amazing individuals, offering a glimpse into the heart of our district. A big thank you to every staff member for their commitment and invaluable contributions.

Honoring Veterans: Our tribute to the nation’s veterans was a significant part of November. Our schools conducted various activities to honor these heroes, instilling in our students a deep respect for their courage and sacrifices. I am grateful to all who were involved in these impactful commemorations.

Successful ‘Sitting with the Superintendent’ Event: The inaugural ‘Sitting with the Superintendent’ gathering on November 14th was a wonderful opportunity for connection and dialogue. Families of PreK-2nd graders joined us for an evening of discussion and community building. Special thanks to Giovanni’s, Natoli’s, and Filomena’s for their generous food donations, and to the staff and Mr. Clancy from the Town Council for their support.

National Recognition and Grant Opportunities: Our district received the honor of presenting our Fostering Diverse Schools grant proposal in Washington DC, invited by the US Department of Education. This experience not only highlighted our district’s initiatives but also opened doors to future grant opportunities for 2024, promising further growth and development.

As the year progresses, I am increasingly convinced that Secaucus is a special place. My first 100 days here have been an enriching journey, and I am more committed than ever to driving our schools towards greater achievements. I extend my deepest thanks to our board members, staff, families, Mayor Gonnelli, and the Town Council for their unwavering support and the warm welcome they have extended to me.

Yours in service,

Dr. Erick Alfonso, Ed.D., M.B.A. - Superintendent of Schools



Author Tracey Hecht Reads Book at Elementary Schools



Mayor Mike Gonnelli and Tracey Hecht, the critically acclaimed author of *The Nocturnals: The Slithery Shakedown*, led a reading at Huber Street and Clarendon Elementary to teach kids about being brave and standing up to bullies! Tracey fielded a lot of questions and comments from attentive first and second graders on a range of topics, including being brave, giving and receiving help in scary situations and even facts about snakes and why they shed their skin. All students had a great time and received a copy of the book.

Secaucus High School’s Stock Portfolio Challenge

Mr. Sommer’s 10th grade class created a stock portfolio so a child could go to college in

four years. The winning team (The Brokers) included David Shmulyian, Addison Rubin, Jasmine Tsang, Disha Bhuptani, Tamara Borbe and Lucia Mendez. The 8th grade completed the challenge last year and did extremely well even with a volatile market!

Don Evanson, a resident and Editor of *Secaucus Spectator*, conducted the course and awarded the winners with a financial reward. Students learned how to research a company and build a stock portfolio. All teams ended the session with positive returns!

