



Valentine's Day in Secaucus

Wish you a Happy Valentine's Day! Check out and join Valentine themed events and activities in Town this month!

Mayor's Corner

In late January, the Town Council and I announced a major public safety initiative, which will help the police proactively deter and solve crime in town. We approved a plan supporting the installation of state-of-the-art cameras at all entrances/exits in Secaucus. The cameras will be monitored solely by the police department and will provide alerts under certain conditions, such as a reported stolen vehicle entering or leaving Secaucus. The cost of this proactive public safety project is estimated to be about \$500,000, which will be paid through funds in the current budget.

Considering the increase in car thefts across New Jersey, the Town Council and I agreed that pro-active measures must be taken for the safety and security of our residents and businesses. Even though our town has one of the lowest crime rates in Hudson County, we are continually looking for innovative technology solutions to ensure the highest quality of training and tools are available to our Police Department. Though no measures will completely stop crime, I have no doubt the installation of cameras with license plate reader technology will benefit the police department as well as our residents and business community. The technology will be used as a tool to assist the Police Department in identifying vehicles wanted for their involvement

in criminal activity. Chief Dennis Miller and the Police Department look forward to installation of the camera system and personnel will be trained on how to use it effectively.

The project will go through the purchasing process, followed by equipment delivery, installation, training, and activation. Since we are only at the start of this process, we don't have an exact schedule when the system will be online. But I assure you that we will work diligently to have it installed as soon as possible.

In the meantime, please get into the habit of locking your car doors and do not leave any valuables in your vehicle. Simple measures each of us take will decrease the likelihood of a car break-in. And as we always emphasize, if you see something suspicious, call the non-emergency police line at 201-330-2060. The Police Department will investigate it and respond accordingly.

Be well. Stay safe.



Two New Restaurants Open

There is no doubt the restaurant scene in Secaucus is heating up!

Food Street, at 141 Front Street, officially opened on January 26th with a ribbon cutting ceremony led by Mayor Michael Gonnelli. Councilman John Gerbasio, Town Administrator Gary Jeffas, owners Ishraat Ilyas and Qamar Abba and the staff of the restaurant. The place has a lively vibe and offers Lahore's (a mega-city in Pakistan) street food with a twist. Menu includes deliciously spiced burgers, sandwiches, as well as specialty dishes such as gappa chaat and jalebi.

Dim Sum Station, at 10 Meadowlands Parkway, offers a traditional Cantonese dim sum menu, complete with dumplings, pork buns, steamed rice noodle rolls, fried dim sum, congee, desserts, tea, and more in a fast-casual setting.

Check out our local restaurants and keep supporting businesses in Town. More exciting restaurant additions are coming to Secaucus. Stay tuned!



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

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Councilman James Clancy
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Councilwoman Orietta Tringali
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LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
SECAUCUS, NJ 07094



Secaucus Municipal Government Center
Paterson Plank Road
Secaucus, NJ 07094

Three SPD Officers Receive Promotions

Three police officers, Peter Garass, Joseph Fuardo and Nicholas Spangenberg, were officially promoted at a special ceremony held at the SHS PAC on Wednesday, January 17, 2024. Congratulating the officers, Chief Dennis Miller invited them to be “leaders who will impart (their) knowledge and experience to continue to make the Secaucus Police Department the most progressive, proactive, transparent and community-oriented police departments we have.” He also thanked Mayor Gonnelli and the Town Council for their support.



Officer Peter Garass, an 18-year veteran of the Secaucus Police Department, was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant assigned as a Patrol Supervisor. His career awards include one Life Saving Award, three Meritorious Duty and 10 Unit Citations.

Officer Joseph Fuardo, a 10-year veteran of the SPD, was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He served in the Patrol Division, went on loan with the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Task Force, the Anti-Crime Unit and is a member of the Motorcycle Unit and Marine Operations Bureau. He earned one Life Saving Award, five Meritorious Duty Citations, and nine Unit Citations. He also earned Officer of the Year awards in 2018 and 2019, the American Heart Association's Heart Saver Award and the Gangs, Guns and Drugs Law Enforcement Award.

Officer Nicholas Spangenberg, a 9-year veteran, was promoted to rank of Sergeant. His career includes working with the Patrol Division, Field Training, Anti-Crime Unit, Drone Unit and Marine Operations Bureau. His awards include one Life Saving Award, four for Excellent Police Service and four Unit Citations. He is also a member of the New Jersey Honor Legion.

Make the Newsletter Your Showcase

Send in pictures and information showcasing your special celebrations, children's achievements, mile-stones, graduations, contributions to the community, event announcements and more. Submissions are welcome from residents, community organizations and businesses. Please send information to Alka Jaideep at ajaideep@secaucus.net or call 201-330-2000, Ext. 3042.

Family Raises Funds for Youth Programs



The Secaucus Youth Alliance thanks Milo and Maria's family for raising funds for our Youth Alliance. Their Pumpkin Patch project raised \$315.00 and funds will be used towards programs that impact the youth of Secaucus.

Promoted Secaucus Fire Department Officers Sworn In



The first month of the year brings promotions to the ranks at our volunteer Fire Department. At the Town Council Meeting on January 23rd, six of the 12 officers who were promoted this year were sworn in. Other officers were either previously sworn in or could not make it to the meeting. Councilman James Clancy, the Fire Department Liaison, noted that four of the officers are second generation firemen, continuing the tradition their fathers started at the Secaucus Fire Department.

Here are the firefighters who were promoted this year:

Engine 1

Captain Rahul R. Nagpal
Lieutenant Yash D. Patel

Engine 2/Rescue 1

Captain Joseph J. Schoendorf, son of current Lieutenant & Former Chief, Joseph W. Schoendorf
1st Lieutenant Sean R. Parisi, son of Former Chief Robert Parisi Jr.
2nd Lieutenant Joseph W. Schoendorf

Engine 3

Captain Jason Leppin
Lieutenant Troy D. Conville

Engine 4/Ladder 1 (WH&L)

Captain Matthew E. Mottola
1st Lieutenant Walter R. Francis Jr.
2nd Lieutenant Donald F. Ciecich, son of Former Chief Raymond Ciecich

Tower 2

Captain Victor F. Paone III
Lieutenant Victor F. Paone IV, son of Current Captain Victor Paone III

Resolution Recognizes Muslim Community

Mayor Gonnelli and the Town Council approved a resolution to recognize January as Muslim Heritage Month in line with the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly's adoption of a similar resolution. Members of The Muslim Community of Secaucus, and Arjumand Juweria from Jersey City, attended the January 23rd Town Council meeting to thank the Town of Secaucus for this initiative. The Muslim Community of Secaucus, formed in 2023, “is a grassroots, non-profit, entity established to meet the diverse needs of the Secaucus Muslim community. It also aims to serve as a source of philanthropic services and education to the greater Secaucus community,” said Samer Elesh, President of the organization. Residents interested in joining this group may email operations@mcofsecaucus.com or call 973-886-6074 for a list of their events and activities.



Secaucus Completes Energy Efficient Upgrades

Secaucus recently completed an Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP) with major upgrades to the HVAC systems at several buildings, improvements to the building envelope at Town Hall, as well as installation of solar panels at the Recreation Center on Koelle Boulevard and at the Ice Rink. The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) administers the program and allows for energy-efficiency projects to be undertaken without expenses from the capital budget. Instead, the cost of the projects are paid through savings gained from energy-efficient system upgrades.

The HVAC upgrades and building improvements result in lower energy consumption, while the solar panels will generate energy and decrease use of grid power. All of these measures will not only save money but also lessen the impact of our energy use on the environment.

Lifesaver Awards Presented to EMTs and Police Officers



On January 10th, Hudson Regional Hospital organized the Lifesaver Award Ceremony to honor nine EMTs and Secaucus police officers who contributed to saving the life two individuals who were undergoing serious cardiac emergencies in separate incidents. Mayor Michael Gonnelli, Councilman William McKeever, Councilwoman Orietta Tringali, Police Chief Dennis Miiller and others joined HRH President and CEO, Dr. Nizar Kifaieh, and owner Yan Moshe to recognize and honor the EMTs and police officers. At the event, Mayor Gonnelli presented a Proclamation to recognize Hudson Regional Hospital for their partnership and for responding to the health needs of the residents of Secaucus.

Secaucus Boy Scout Troop 22 Pancake Breakfast



Sunday - February, 11th 2024
8:30am to 12:30pm
Masonic Temple of Secaucus
1422 Paterson Plank Road,
Secaucus, NJ 07094



Donation: \$8.00
Children 8 years and under - Free

Secaucus Emergency Fund Presents

Designer BAG BINGO

Friday, February, 16 2024 6:00 PM
Secaucus Senior Center
\$25.00 admission includes 2 boards
Additional boards \$5.00
Bring Snacks!



Hiring Event – Tues. 02/20/24



Location: 145 Front St.
Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
****All types of positions/shifts available!****

For further information:
Call: Tara Acquaviva
201-863-2532
tacquaviva@secaucus.net



Stay Tuned to Secaucus News and Events

- Website: SecaucusNJ.gov
- Facebook: Town of Secaucus
- Sign Up for Rave Alerts at secaucusnj.gov/resident/alerts

For more information, call
201-330-2000
(Weekdays 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM)

Love HURTS

a concert to support the
Secaucus High School Performing Arts Program
Saturday, February 10th
7:00pm
Arthur F. Couch Performing Arts Center
11 Mill Ridge Road
Secaucus, NJ 07094
Donation: \$10

Featuring:



Secaucus Public Library

Happy Lunar New Year!

FEBRUARY 7, 2024
6:30 PM
SECAUCUS RECREATION CENTER
1200 KOELLE BLVD

Join us as we celebrate Lunar New Year, the year of the Dragon! Come learn about the significance of the holiday enjoy the dance performances, music, giveaways and much more! "All Secaucus Public Library programs are ADA accessible. Special accommodations are available upon request."

Sponsored in part by:



Please register on the calendar @ secaucuslibrary.org

THIS PROGRAM WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL OF THE ARTS, AND ADMINISTERED BY THE HUDSON COUNTY OFFICE OF CULTURAL & HERITAGE AFFAIRS, CRAIG GUY THE HUDSON COUNTY EXECUTIVE, AND THE HUDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.



Secaucus Public Library February 16th 6:30pm

Relationship Building with Life Coach Sifu Karl Romain

Are you frustrated and confused as to why you can't find satisfaction in your relationships? Are you able to effectively communicate? Do you feel comfortable being your authentic self? Does your dating life seem like a repeating pattern of disappointments?

What attendees will learn:

- Steps to dramatically transform any relationship
- How to overcome relationship challenges
- How forgiveness will allow you to move forward with an open heart
- How to find strength in genuine vulnerability
- Listening skills to be fully engaged when listening to another person
- How to ask for what you really want and deserve



Space is limited, secure your spot on the calendar at secaucuslibrary.org

The staff & students of Huber St. School
Along with the Mayor & Town Council
Invite all Secaucus Senior Citizens
To a Valentine's Day Breakfast
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 9 am



Happy
Valentine's
Day

Followed by entertainment from the students
Please call 201-865-4422 to make your reservation

Please do not arrive prior to 8:30 to ensure all children have arrived at their classrooms without disruption

Help Increase The Tree Canopy

Trees provide many benefits, including reducing cooling and heating costs, interception of rainwater, increased property values, and improved air quality.

**REQUEST FREE STREET TREES
FOR SPRING PLANTING**

The Shade Tree Committee provides street tree planting in the town's right-of-way areas for free.

For more information and application:
www.green.secaucusnj.gov/trees
Email: shadetree@secaucus.net
Call: 201-864-7336

Scan me



CHOCOLOVE.



TREAT YOURSELF TO SOMETHING SWEET!

Indulge in Delicious Gertrude Hawk Chocolate Bars
Choose from Flavors: Milk Chocolate, Caramel, Peanut Butter, and More! Only \$2 Each!
All proceeds benefit the SMS Class of 2026.
Support our school and satisfy your sweet tooth! Find a 6th-grade student to purchase your favorite flavor. Available from 1/2/24 to 1/30/24.

Don't miss out on these delightful treats!

Wish you a Happy and Prosperous Lunar New Year

Year of The Dragon

2024

Mayor Michael Gonnelli
and Town Council



Secaucus



Schools

And the Spelling Bee Winners Are...

After tough rounds of competition at Clarendon, Huber Street and Secaucus Middle Schools, first place winners of the school Spelling Bee cinched their spot to the 2024 Hudson County Spelling Bee and a chance to make it all the way to the Scripps National Spelling Bee competition. The top three winners at each school are:

Clarendon School: Aryan Bansal (1st), Syayin Pradhan (2nd) and Juliette Lamatina (3rd)

Huber Street School: Kabir Singh (1st), Innaya Faraz (2nd) and Akash Raaj (3rd)

Secaucus Middle School: Grrace Kassa Beyene (1st), Ronny Mercado Valdez (Runner-up)



K9 Brix Visits Clarendon School

It's a special day when four-legged visitors from the Police Department visit our elementary schools. On January 17th, K9 Brix visited Clarendon Elementary School and was greeted by excited students who were eager to learn more about his role at the Police Department. Handler PO Tyler Pein talked about Brix's special training and how he helps the Police Department.



Secaucus Tops Cheerleading Competition



2024 got off to a great start for our cheer teams. Both the Secaucus High School Varsity team and the Recreation Cheer team won first place in their respective categories. Way to go!

Huber Students to Raise Funds through Art

Huber Street School students have been putting on their creative hats, donning their aprons and getting their imagination to work with one goal—they are creating artwork for a fundraiser to help with supplies and events. From coffee mugs and phone cases to shirts and tote bags, a large collection of artworks is ready, and more is underway. Parents can purchase their child's artwork to have as a keepsake. More information and order forms will be sent home in student folders. Order forms are due on February 23rd. For more information, please email mmandaglio@sboe.org.

