



# Secaucus Monthly

Dec.

2019

A look at the Community, including upcoming events, important notices, meetings, and more.



## Holiday Bazaar, Pictures with Santa, Parade, and Tree Lighting 12/7/19

Join us on December 7 for our annual holiday events in Secaucus. See the back cover for details.

### Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Town Hall will be closed on December 25th and January 1 with early closing at 2 PM on December 24th and December 31st.

### Let's Make this OUR Newsletter!

The Mayor and Town Council invite all residents to contribute your pictures and information to this Newsletter. Have events, milestone birthdays, weddings, engagements, club events, or special achievements? Send a picture and a brief description for consideration. Now that we don't have a local newspaper like Home News, let's make the Secaucus Newsletter a community platform. Just email your information to [ajaideep@secaucus.net](mailto:ajaideep@secaucus.net) or call 201-330-2000 x 3042.

### The Mayor's Corner

The festive season is here! Members of the Town Council and I wish you all a Happy Holiday Season. Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas or Kwanzaa, may you and your family have a joyous time as you celebrate the gift of family and friendship.

For me, this is a special time of the year because it's the season of giving. It's the perfect time to bring cheer to those who need it. I can tell you it brings me great joy! I know many residents who donate generously to make the holidays extra special for families in need. Thank you for that. If you would like to donate, consider dropping your donations of unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items at boxes set up by the

Department of Social Services at various locations throughout town. Look for other ways to make a difference and spread the joy of the holiday season.



I hope to see you at the many upcoming events we have planned for the Holiday Season, such as, the tree lighting ceremony, holiday bazaar, skating with Santa, Hanukkah Candle Lighting and more. And don't forget the Holiday Lights Contest; the best decorated homes will be announced in early January.

Wish you Happy Holidays and a great start to the New Year!

# Thanksgiving Donations



On November 25th, the Town of Secaucus partnered with Hudson Regional Hospital and Walmart to donate turkeys to eligible residents.

## Ice Rink Open for Season!

The Mayor, Town Council and the Recreation Department welcome you to the Ice Rink, located in Buchmuller Park. Several "Learn-to-Skate" programs are available for children of all ages. Public Skate Hours are:

Thursday-Saturday: 1:30-3:30PM; 7:30-9:30PM

Sunday: 3:00-5:00PM; 7:30-9:30PM

Call 201-330-3299 if you need more information.



## Local Honey Makes a Perfect Holiday Gift!

Looking for a unique, gift to give this holiday season? Think fresh, local honey produced in bee hives right here in Secaucus. The honey is sourced from hives set up behind the Secaucus Animal Shelter and are managed by the Hudson River Apiary Society (HRAS). Secaucus Honey packed in 1lb. (\$20) and ½ lb. (\$10) sizes which are available for purchase on the 2nd Floor of Town Hall. Limited quantities are available, so get some and check off a few boxes on your list. Health enthusiasts, teachers, neighbors, cooks, tea drinkers, even out-of-towners, will love this sweet gift!



## Elected Officials

**Mayor Michael J. Gonnelli**  
Mayor@Secaucus.net  
O: 201-330-2005

**Councilman John Gerbasio**  
JGerbasio@Secaucus.net  
C: 551-226-0955

**Councilman James Clancy**  
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**Councilman Mark Dehnert**  
MDehnert@Secaucus.net  
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**Councilman Robert Costantino**  
RCostantino@Secaucus.net  
C: 201-401-9315

**Councilwoman Orietta Tringali**  
OTringali@Secaucus.net  
O: 201-330-2000

**Councilman William McKeever**  
WMcKeever@Secaucus.net  
C: 551-655-7650

# Secaucus Bans Retail Use of Carryout Plastic Bags

On August 27th, Secaucus Mayor Michael Gonnelli and the Town Council passed an Ordinance banning the use of single-use plastic bags in Town. With this ban, Secaucus joins municipalities nationwide that are actively trying to reduce the environmental impacts of plastic pollution. The goal is to reduce single-use plastic bags and promote the use of reusable carryout bags. The ban comes into effect on February 1, 2020, after which businesses in Secaucus will no longer be allowed to offer single-use plastic bags (carryout bags) to their customers. Businesses may provide a reusable bag or a paper carryout bag provided they collect a minimum fee of 10 cents for each single-use paper carryout bag. All paper carryout bags must be 100% recyclable with a minimum of 40% post-consumer recycled content.



Residents are encouraged to bring their own reusable bags and/or use paper bags multiple times so less material ends up in landfills. The Environmental Department will be distributing a limited number of reusable bags to residents. The Town will also seek help from local private entities and not-for-profit organizations to provide and distribute reusable carryout bags to residents and stores.

Certain bags are exempt: small produce bags without handles, laundry or dry-cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, bags sold in packages intended for garbage, pet-waste or yard waste, and bags provided by pharmacies for prescription drugs. Please re-use these bags whenever possible or drop off bags at places that offer recycling for clean plastic bags. "Plastic bags are a huge problem here. Our crews go out and they pick up loads of plastic bags near creeks, stuck in fences, in parking lots, in the meadows and in parks. We need to fix this and we are hopeful that the Plastic Bag Ordinance will help raise awareness and change behavior," said Mayor Michael Gonnelli.

Amanda Nesheiwat, Director at the Environmental Department, said that the Department will be meeting with businesses to explain the details of the plastic bag-ban. "We want businesses in town and retail establishments to be a partner in this effort. We want to make it as easy as possible for them. We have to work together to tackle the problem of plastic pollution," she added.

If you have any questions about the ban on single-use plastics, please call Amanda at 201-864-7336.

## Secaucus Awarded New Drug Free Communities Grant

Secaucus was awarded a five-year grant by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) for the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program. This program's goal is to prevent and reduce youth substance abuse through local initiatives and community-based efforts. The \$125,000 per year grant will fund a variety of prevention and youth substance abuse education programs primarily through the Secaucus Coalition. "The DFC will continue to be an instrumental piece of our Town's efforts to reduce youth substance abuse in our community, especially given the e-cigarette/vaping epidemic. We have made great strides in the last 5 years through the Secaucus Coalition, and we will continue to address the dangerous substance abuse challenges our youth face today," said Dave Bratton, Coordinator of the Secaucus Coalition.

This is the second time that this highly competitive, five-year grant was awarded to Secaucus. This award is testament to the great work the Coalition has done over the years in implementing substance abuse prevention strategies.



SECAUCUS COALITION

## CAST Goes to the Movies

CAST, a not-for-profit community theater group in Secaucus, presented a production of "CAST Goes to the Movies" which featured popular songs from classic movies. With two performances at the Arthur F. Couch Performing Arts Center on November 8th and 9th, it showcased amazing local talent. The sixteen young residents who participated in the show gained valuable experience in musical theater. They were involved in all aspects of the show, including on-stage performance, audio, lighting and set design/stage crew. Over 300 people attended the show over two days and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

CAST was started by long-time friends and theatre-lovers Pat DeFerrari and Joan Kashuba more than 30 years ago. Since then, CAST has produced and staged several shows at the Performing Arts Center, High School Cafeteria, Buchmuller Park, the Senior Center and Immaculate Conception Church. Proceeds from CAST productions go back to the community in the form of scholarships to Secaucus residents graduating from high school who plan on pursuing the arts or furthering their education in arts.



## Veteran Paul Pinkman Honored as Secaucus Veteran of the Year

Vietnam veteran and Secaucus resident Paul Pinkman was honored with the Hudson County Veteran of the Year award at the 2019 Veterans Day Ceremony held at High Tech High School on November 7, 2019. He joined the Air Force in 1964 when he was 17 and completed two tours of duty by 1968. Paul was born in Hoboken, however, has been a resident of Secaucus for 51 years. He is married to his loving wife, Betty Ann, for fifty years and has two daughters, Dena and Kara, and six grandchildren.

A decorated veteran, Paul has been honored with several medals including Republic of Vietnam Medal with Cluster, Vietnam Service Medal with Cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Medal of Honor, Purple Heart, New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal and New Jersey Vietnam Service Medal.

Paul has continued to serve the community after military service and is currently the Master of the Fourth Degree for the Knights of Columbus, overseeing over 400 Knights who honor the veterans with parades, ceremonies or burials, when requested. He is also the Knights of Columbus North Veterans Assistance Coordinator and helps veterans with housing needs, supplies wheelchairs and assists homeless veterans. Paul also uses his talents as a plumber and helps veterans upgrade their homes, assists with plumbing problems, and coordinates construction efforts. As if all these volunteer activities do not keep Paul busy enough, he finds time to distribute clothes and food to homeless shelters.



An active member of the VFW Post 3776 in Secaucus and the Vietnam Veterans Association Chapter 800, Paul holds a Veterans Breakfast every year where veterans are invited free of charge.

Thank you Paul for all you do for our Veterans and the Town of Secaucus!

## Town Bags Grant for Duck Pond Rehabilitation

The Mayor and Town Council are pleased to announce that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the Garden State Preservation Trust have approved a grant to rehabilitate the Duck Pond located on Metro Way. The \$325,000 matching grant will help the Town clean up and improve the Duck Pond area, home of the annual Secaucus Fishing Derby each May. Rehabilitation plans include new benches, a walkway on the entire perimeter of the pond, new landscaping and a gazebo-like seating area. Situated in the midst of warehouses and office buildings, the Duck Pond offers a serene and tranquil spot that many residents enjoy. It's a popular spot for families to enjoy fishing during the warmer months.

"Secaucus is blessed with a lot of natural beauty and our goal is to preserve open spaces for all our residents. We are pleased we were awarded this competitive grant, which will allow us to make the Duck Pond even better," said Mayor Michael J. Gonnelli.

If you have not visited the Duck Pond yet, drive by and enjoy this urban oasis. If you fish here, remember it is a catch-and-release only location. You probably won't see the alligator that was spotted in 2017, but you'll appreciate the variety of water fowl swimming in the pond, including ducks, of course!



## Around Town: Things to Know

A portion of Humboldt Street is now one-way. Additionally, the entire length of Humboldt Street is designated Resident Parking with a two-hour limit for non-residential parking.

Construction on the Rt. 3 Bridge on Paterson Plank Road moves to the next phase. New traffic patterns will be in place. Please exercise caution.

On-going PSEG work weekly updates are available on our website [secaucusnj.gov](http://secaucusnj.gov).

Street cleaning will be suspended from December 16, 2019 to March 16, 2020.

Parking meters are suspended in the center of Town from December 1, 2019 to January 2, 2020.

## Schedule a Group Visit to the Town Museum

The Town Museum invites groups interested in touring the Museum. School groups, clubs and private groups can enjoy a fun time discovering the unique history of Secaucus. Browse pictures, articles and artifacts and learn something about Secaucus you didn't know before! Call 551-257-7205 for appointments.

## Red Ribbon Week



Rich Grosfelt of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) spoke to more than 500 students at Huber Street and Clarendon schools about the dangers of substance abuse. The speaker was co-hosted by the Secaucus Coalition as part of the 2019 Red Ribbon Week.

## Hudson County Community College Secaucus Center Opens

On Thursday, September 5, 2019, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) President Dr. Chris Reber hosted the opening reception of the College's new Secaucus Center on the Hudson County Schools of Technology (HCST) Frank J. Gargiulo Campus in Secaucus. Hudson County Executive Thomas A. DeGise, HCCC Board of Trustees Chair William J. Netchert, Esq., Hudson County Schools of Technology Superintendent Amy Lin-Rodriguez, and HCCC Executive Director of the Secaucus Center Dr. Christopher Conzen joined Dr. Reber at the event. Also in attendance were Secaucus Schools Superintendent Jennifer Montesano and Board of Education President, Joan Cali.

At Hudson County Community College's new Secaucus Center, students may take required, first-semester classes for most majors. Those pursuing Associate Degrees in Liberal Arts (General) and Business Administration may complete their entire degree requirements at the HCCC Secaucus Center. Three full-time staff members are on-site to serve students and to connect with members of the surrounding community. More information about the HCCC Secaucus Center may be obtained by emailing [secaucuscenter@hccc.edu](mailto:secaucuscenter@hccc.edu) or calling 201-360-4388.

## Recreation Football



The Secaucus Recreation Patriots Senior Football Team won the Liberty Bowl Championship beating Wayne Township 26 to 19 in the final game held on November 10, 2019 in Oradell.

## KAI Makes an Impact

Secaucus High School and High Tech KAI Coalition members place post it notes with drug facts, celebrity quotes about substance abuse, and inspirational messages on 1,000 lockers in the two schools for Red Ribbon Week.



## Veterans Day Ceremony

It was a warm, sunny morning as Mayor Michael Gonnelli, members of the Town Council, Assemblyman Pedro Mejia and residents gathered to honor veterans and their families at the Annual Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11, 2019. Banners with the names and portraits of Secaucus veterans fluttered in the gentle breeze on Radio Avenue. The Monarch Park Gazebo was decorated in red, white and blue.

Opening the ceremony, Councilman William McKeever welcomed veterans, their families and residents. Mayor Gonnelli thanked the veterans for their service both to the country and the community. He paid a special tribute to POWs and MIAs for their bravery as they faced unique challenges as he announced the installation of a commemorative plaque honoring them. Councilman James Clancy, who along with Councilman McKeever was instrumental in installation of the plaque, thanked the support of the Mayor and Town Council. Councilman McKeever read the message on the plaque—a robust tribute by Defense Secretary James Mattis to POWs and MIAs. Father Victor Kennedy of the Immaculate Conception Church concluded the ceremony with a benediction.

The Ceremony was followed by a luncheon for all veterans at the Secaucus VFW Post 3776 on Paterson Plank Road.

Other events were also held in Town to honor Veterans. On November 3rd, the Annual Veterans Breakfast was held at the Immaculate Conception Church auditorium and on Tuesday, November 12th, the Secaucus School District held a special assembly at the Performing Arts Center.



# Coach Stan Fryczynski Celebrating 500 Cross-Country Wins

Coach Stan Fryczynski was honored with a plaque at the November 12, 2019, Town Council meeting at Town Hall for reaching the milestone of 500 cross-country wins. Stan has been a driving force in interscholastic sports in Hudson County and a coach and mentor to athletes at Secaucus High School for more than four decades. He devotes countless hours to our athletes and serves as an example for coaches throughout the State and beyond. Congratulations Coach Fryczynski.



## Holidays in Secaucus

Mayor Michael Conelli & The Town Council Together  
With XChange at Secaucus Junction Proudly Present

THE TOWN OF SECAUCUS ANNUAL

# Tree Lighting

Saturday December 7, 2019  
Plaza Center by Gazebo  
Parade kicks off at 7:00pm

Join us early to ride the carousel  
and watch the ice carver!

Free Refreshments, Photo  
Opportunities, Music, & Fireworks



TOWN OF SECAUCUS

# HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Vendors | Pictures with Santa  
Prizes | Children's Entertainment  
Crafts | Face Painting

Saturday December 7, 2019  
10:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Secaucus Recreation Center - Koelle Blvd.

Secaucus Municipal Government Center  
Paterson Plank Road  
Secaucus, NJ 07094

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