



# Secaucus Monthly

May  
2019

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



## VIETNAM WAR VETERANS HONORED

On March 29th, Mayor Michael Gonnelli, members of the Town Council, JoAnn Northgrave, Hudson County Veterans Affairs, and residents gathered at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Flanagan Way to honor Vietnam War Veterans. Councilman William McKeever, a Vietnam War Veteran himself, welcomed attendees and Mayor Michael Gonnelli thanked the veterans for their service. *Continued on page 2*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Be sure to visit  
[SecaucusNJ.gov/EventList](http://SecaucusNJ.gov/EventList)  
to get a list of upcoming events!

## Newsletter Submissions

Do you have any photos taken in our  
Town to share?

Send articles and photos to Pia  
Valentin: [pvalentin@secaucus.net](mailto:pvalentin@secaucus.net)  
for consideration.

## The Mayor's Corner

Warmer weather is here and it is time to enjoy being outdoors. As always, the DPW staff is planting flowers, beautifying streets and making the Town look great. You may have already seen the colorful tulip blossoms in the center of Town. Stop by, take pictures and share it with your friends.

We have several other initiatives to make our Town beautiful, greener and environment-friendly. For our efforts, the Arbor Day Foundation has selected Secaucus as Tree City USA for the 26th year! As we continue to plant trees, I invite residents and businesses to join us in reaching our tree cover goal by sponsoring the cost of trees. Call 201-330-2000 if you would like to be a sponsor.

You may also know about the Community Gardens in Town. They are one of my favorite projects. They are small planting plots that residents can book to plant their own gardens.

We just added Community Gardens at Creekside and Maple Street and expanded

the current garden at Xchange. If you have a yard, I encourage you to plant flowers and vegetables. Stop and think when you use fertilizers though, as they can wind up in our soil and waterways and have long term affects.

In the coming months, we have many events lined up so everyone can enjoy being outdoors. Mark your calendars and attend The Green Festival at Xchange, Street Fair, Summer concerts and more. You are sure to have a good time with your family, friends and neighbors. Check out the events listed on the Town Calendar mailed to all residents and on our website [secaucusnj.gov](http://secaucusnj.gov). Looking forward to seeing you this Spring!

- Mayor Michael J. Gonnelli



# Give Voice to a Neglected Child

Every year in New Jersey 12,000 children end up in foster care or other placements under the family court system. Only one-third of these children have a CASA volunteer—a Court Appointed Special Advocate who makes sure the children receive the services and stability they need. CASA volunteers make a report, after meeting the children and everyone who is important in their lives, to help a Judge make the best decisions possible in the interest of children. You can join the CASA team and make a difference in the life of a neglected or abused child. You can volunteer to become a CASA member, help train volunteers, become a Committee member, help in the office or more.

To get more information or to volunteer, please call 201-795-9855 or email [info@HudsonCountyCasa.org](mailto:info@HudsonCountyCasa.org)

## The Food Pantry: Stocked by a Community that Gives

The Secaucus Emergency Food Pantry is open to all qualified residents and can be used as a supplement to Food Stamps. It is stocked with a variety of perishable and non-perishable foods donated by schools, businesses and volunteer organizations. Recently Scout Cub Pack 87 donated over 1150 pieces of packaged, non-perishable food. Donors to the Food Bank include The New Jersey Community Food Bank-Hillside, Stop and Shop, Walmart-Teterboro, Aldi, Kings, Panera and more. Donations are also collected through food drives organized by the Secaucus Emergency Food Pantry. Qualified residents can sign up to pick up food on a pre-determined Food Day, but are welcome any weekday between 8.30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Residents may get help with clothes and more through the Secaucus Store. Social Services can also help you save money on your PSEG bill by applying to the Home Energy Assistance Program through the Hudson County PACO. For more information on the Secaucus Emergency Food Pantry, Secaucus Store and PACO or to see if you qualify, please call our Social Services Department and speak with Judy or Eileen at 201-330-2014.

## Drone Surveys Aid Flood Management Plans

In its continuing efforts to address flooding issues, the Town of Secaucus is surveying ditches and catch basins, so they can be cleaned and restored to their full functioning capacity. Last month Secaucus tapped into the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority's (NJSEA) Municipal Drone Program to undertake an aerial survey of the area around the Golden Avenue pump station that drains into Sachs Creek. The drone survey was run by the Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute, (MERI) Rutgers University, Newark.

"Pictures and video from the drone survey gave us a detailed picture of what's going on with the ditches and now we have a better idea of what needs to be done in the area," said Mayor Michael Gonnelli. "Secaucus is the first town to take advantage of the Municipal Drone Program. This project was technically complex, needed FAA clearance and had to be completed before the area was covered with foliage. MERI did it successfully and now Secaucus has a clearer picture of these drainage systems and the places that need cleaning," said Michael Stepowj, GIS Specialist at MERI. The aerial survey was fully funded by NJSEA.

## VIETNAM WAR VETERANS HONORED *(CONTINUED)*

Phil Papa recollected the pain and hostility the Veterans faced after they returned home from the war. "Only in the last five years or so, people have come around and thanked Vietnam war veterans and recognized us for our service," he said, on behalf of veterans present there. A wreath was laid at the memorial to honor all those who served in the Vietnam war. Veterans present at the ceremony included Don Kennedy, Frank Sasso, Ron Weaver, Phil Papa, William McKeever, George Wohlrab, Charles Eschlebaum, Charles Krajewski, Wayne Wolf, Bill Lauba and Ed Ferguson.

## Spring Fling: Senior Citizen Prom

The Secaucus High School S.A.I.L. Club and the Town of Secaucus held the 9th Annual Senior Citizen Prom on Wednesday, April 17th at the High School. It was an evening of food, fun and festivities. Live entertainment was provided by the Secaucus Jazz Band. Pat and Kathy Galietti were named Prom King and Queen. Six High School senior students (Daniella Gurguis, Diana Byk, Sophia Vogel, Steven Li, Meagan Lam and Marcos Zamora) were awarded S.A.I.L. scholarships.



## Arbor Day Foundation Names Secaucus Tree City USA

The Town of Secaucus was named a 2018 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. This is the 26th year that Secaucus has been included in the Tree City USA program.

Secaucus achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2.00 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

The annual Secaucus Arbor Day celebration was held at Huber Street School on April 30th. This celebration helps those who attend better understand the importance of trees and their contribution to a clean and healthy environment. A Tree Appreciation Campaign is underway with a goal of raising \$10,000 to increase the number of trees in Secaucus.



## Test Drive Electric Vehicles at the Green Festival

The Town of Secaucus' 9th Annual Green Festival will be held on May 4th, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Xchange complex at Secaucus Junction. New to the event this year is a chance for you to test drive electric vehicles, so be sure to bring your driver's license. The family-friendly event also features live music, petting zoo, rock climbing, rides, arts and crafts, face painting, food and more. Make sure to stop by and enjoy the day. This event is brought to you by the Town of Secaucus and Xchange.

## Amanda Nesheiwat Receives Recognition

Amanda Nesheiwat, Environmental Coordinator of Secaucus, was honored with an award at the Pete and Toshi Seeger Wetlands Preservation Concert Series, held on March 30th at the RCC Concert Hall in Rutherford. Amanda was recognized for her outstanding leadership and efforts to conserve the wetlands around the Town of Secaucus. The concert series celebrated the 100th year of Pete Seeger's birthday and was presented by Hackensack Riverkeeper, a stalwart environmental activist group.

## WWE Wrestlers Visit Firehouse



Secaucus firefighters had a couple of special visitors on Friday, April 5th. WWE duo Sheamus and Cesaro, known as “The Bar”, dropped in at Hose Company #2 on 7th Street and donated furniture, small appliances and board games. They also presented Deputy Chief Joseph Schoendorf with two tickets to Wrestlemania. The firehouse was abuzz with excitement as the wrestling stars toured the firehouse, signed autographs and posed for pictures. Then came a loud round of applause for the firefighters as Capt. Anthony Smentkowski won a challenge against Sheamus—a race to wear the full set of firefighting gear. A ride atop the ladder to the full 80 feet was a dream come true for both Sheamus and Cesaro. “You are the real heroes. You put your lives at risk and we really appreciate everything you do,” said Sheamus, thanking the firefighters.

## Support Special Olympic Fundraiser

The Secaucus PBA and Hudson Regional Hospital are organizing two fundraisers to support the 2019 Special Olympics. The first is a basketball game between the Secaucus PBA and Hudson Regional Hospital which is being hosted by Secaucus Spectator. The game will be held on May 15th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center on Koelle Blvd. Seventy Five (75) tickets are available at \$10 each.

The second event is a Torch Run on June 7th organized by Captain Carlos Goyenechea and includes Secaucus police officers, firefighters, teachers and students. The Run starts at 9:30



a.m. at Clendon, passes Huber Street School and ends at the High School. Additional runners join in at every stop. All funds raised go directly to the Special Olympics to provide transportation to athletes and to purchase uniforms, trophies and more. Help Secaucus PBA reach their goal of \$10,000. Buy tickets for the basketball game, support the Torch Runners, or send your personal or corporate donation to Secaucus PBA Civic Association, Attn: Law Enforcement Torch Run, P.O. Box 1038, Secaucus, NJ 07094. If you prefer, you can write a check to NJ Special Olympics and send it to the address above.

**Mayor Michael J. Gonnelli**

Mayor@Secaucus.net

O: 201-330-2005

**Councilman John Gerbasio**

JGerbasio@Secaucus.net

C: 551-226-0955

**Councilman James Clancy**

JClancy@Secaucus.net

O: 201-330-2000

**Councilman Mark Dehnert**

MDehnert@Secaucus.net

O: 201-330-2000

**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