



Secaucus Monthly

Oct.

2019

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



Halloween in Secaucus

Paw-Rade

Saturday October 12
10 am Mill Creek Pt.

Spooky Friday

Friday October 25
5:30 pm Schmidts Woods

Ragamuffin Parade

Sunday October 27
1 pm Clarendon School

Mischief Night

Wednesday October 30
7 pm Buchmuller Park

Trunk or Treat

Thursday October 31
6:00 pm Recreation Center

Monthly Newsletter Available Online

The Secaucus Newsletter is available monthly by visiting SecaucusNJ.gov

Newsletter Submissions

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

Send articles and photos to Alka Jaideep at ajaideep@secaucus.net for consideration.

The Mayor's Corner

Secaucus is a historic Town and residents are proud of it. The Town Council and I have taken several initiatives to keep Secaucus history alive and to bring it to all residents. We actively support the Town Museum in its efforts to acquire, catalog and display information and artifacts about Town. I invite all residents to explore the amazing collection of historical items displayed there.

The Town has certainly evolved over time and there are many unique places in Secaucus that you may not be aware existed. There were orchid fields and celery farms in Secaucus, even though Secaucus pig farms became more well-known. We are in the process of placing plaques around Town that capture the interesting history of each location. The first one has been installed at 325 County Avenue, which was "The Celery King" Sebastian Meisch's farm more than a century ago. More historic plaques will be installed Town-wide and we will let you know as soon they are ready.

The Town also had new street signs installed on roads named after our veterans. The new signs help better distinguish the roads named after our brave veterans.

It's a great way to pay homage to our residents who served our country and to keep their memory alive. Look for the blue street signs, which appear throughout the Town.

Schmidt's Woods, or "The Woods," have a special place in the hearts of residents who grew up here. It is also the only wooded area in urban north Jersey, and a venue for many community events. We recently secured a grant to upgrade the trails and playground, and I want residents to be assured that the woods will be preserved so generations to come can make memories there.





New Marine Rescue Boat Unveiled

Congressman Bill Pascrell was joined by Mayor Michael Gonnelli, Town Council Members William McKeever, James Clancy, John Gerbasio, Robert Costantino and Orietta Tringali, Assemblyman Pedro Mejia, Fire Chief Carl Leppin, Deputy Chief Joe Schoendorf, Police Chief Kevin Flaherty, Capt. Carlos Goyenechea and members of the Fire and Police departments to unveil the new Marine Rescue Boat acquired by Secaucus through a FEMA grant.

Water for Newark



Secaucus is a community that cares. When tests in Newark showed elevated levels of lead in their water supply, Secaucus residents donated cases of water and a truck load was sent for distribution there.

Wine Night



The annual Wine Night held on Friday, Sept. 6th, was moved from the Swim Club to the Ice Rink in Buchmuller Park due to inclement weather. Even with this change, Secaucus residents came out for an evening of wine sampling and the company of family, friends and neighbors.

Secaucus Soccer Champions



The Secaucus Patriots 10-12 Girls Soccer Team attended the Town Hall meeting on September 10th and were presented with sweatshirts for an undefeated season.



The Secaucus Patriots Under-10 won the Travel Soccer Championship and were honored at the September 10th Town Council Meeting.

Museum Movie Day: “Snake Hill”

Come to the Town Museum’s private screening room to view the award-winning documentary “Snake Hill.”

From 1870 to 1962, Snake Hill institutions housed mentally and terminally ill patients and prisoners. During that time, approximately 10,000 bodies were illegally and anonymously dumped, buried and forgotten. When excavation for exit 15X on the turnpike began in 2002, the remains were discovered. This led to the largest disinterment of human remains in the United States. The 80-minute, must-see documentary takes us through that amazing story.

Showings are on Thursday, October 24th at 1:00 p.m. and at 7:00 p.m. Enter through the Town Museum at 150 Plaza Drive. Admission is free.

Teens Attend Leadership Conference



The Secaucus Coalition and the Hudson County Department of Health and Human Services sponsored five students to attend the Lindsey Meyer Teen Institute’s Summer Leadership Conference. The students from Secaucus High School and High Tech High School joined over 400 teens from across New Jersey at the Ralph S. Mason Camp in Hardwick, New Jersey for the weeklong conference. They had the opportunity to learn new concepts, develop confidence in themselves and their abilities, and gain the tools and skills necessary to create a positive impact in their schools and communities regarding substance abuse. Kseniya Antonova from Secaucus High School was happy to meet “people who support my choice to be a drug-free student” and was eager to share her experience with other students. Nicky Sanchez of High Tech High School summed up the experience: “We need something to inspire us to shine our light in the world. LMTI did that for me.”

Pictured here are: Front Row (L to R) Kseniya Antonova (SHS), Ivonne Ovalles (HT), Nicky Sanchez (HT), Jonathan Pham (HT), Valeria Arias (HT Advisor) Back Row: Secaucus Coalition Coordinator Dave Bratton, Gabe Rocha (SHS)

Secaucus Represented at UN Civil Society Conference

Amanda Nesheiwat, Director of the Environmental Department, represented Secaucus at the 68th Civil Society Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah this year. The theme of the Conference was Building Inclusive and Sustainable Cities and Communities. Amanda presented at the session titled “Infrastructure and Natural Resource Use.” She spoke about the history of the Meadowlands and the sustainability initiatives the Town has undertaken, including preservation of open space and flood control measures. “It was an amazing exchange of ideas. The Conference was an opportunity for youth to discuss the issues that we’re inheriting, and we feel inspired to follow through with solutions,” she said of her experience at the Conference.



9-11 Memorial Ceremony

The Town of Secaucus held its 18th 9-11 Memorial Ceremony at the Fireman's Memorial in Buchmuller Park. Mayor Michael Gonnelli, members of the Town Council, Assemblyman Pedro Mejia, Police Department, Fire Department, American Legion Post #118 and VFW Post #3776, and Secaucus residents attended the ceremony. A solemn reading of the names by Secaucus High School students paid a special tribute to the six Secaucus residents (Arlene Babakitis, Richard Cudina, Nancy Perez, Kenneth Simon, Steven Strobert and Michael Tanner) who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. "Even as we feel the void they left, we are filled with pride thinking about the people they touched and the positive difference they made," said Mayor Gonnelli about the ones we lost.

The opening prayer was led by Father Victor Kennedy of Immaculate Conception Church. Maleesa Lamatina sang the National Anthem, Amazing Grace and America the Beautiful. Pastor Nancy Ruckert led the Closing Prayer.



Spotlight: Liam Shah, Mayor for the Day

When 8-year old Liam Shah heard that he won the "Mayor for the Day" raffle at the Clarendon School Tricky Tray, he was beyond ecstatic. On August 28th, he showed up at Town Hall with comfortable shoes on, ready to accompany Mayor Michael Gonnelli for a packed schedule and learn a little about what a Mayor does.

Mayor Gonnelli and Liam visited the Helping Hands Thrift Store where Liam learned about the many resources available to residents who may need them. A quick overview of environmental clean-up efforts at the Duck Pond, and a house-call to discuss a resident issue were next. He greeted seniors on the Senior Movie Trip at Kerasotes Theater, and got some tickets for his family and grandfather who is visiting from Malaysia. Later in the day, he enjoyed a photo-op with Rep. Bill Pascrell and Governor Phil Murphy at the Gateway Tunnel Presentation at the Secaucus Junction. Understandably, he didn't seem to enjoy the "too long" presentation itself! A visit to the Senior Center where water donations were being collected for Newark was a great opportunity to learn about the issue of lead contamination.

When asked about the best part of his day. "A duck just came up to me at the Duck Pond and I could feed it," he exclaimed. An award-winning Lego-builder, Liam loves playing video games on his iPad, helping his mother bake, playing tennis, and swimming. Does he want to be a Mayor when he grows up, we asked. "No, I want to be a hotel owner so I can stay in hotels all the time," says Liam gleefully.



Job Fair on October 9th

The Secaucus Employment Center would like to invite residents seeking employment to attend a Job Fair for Empire CLS-Secaucus. The event will take place on Wednesday, October 9th from 9:00 am to 2:00pm at the Secaucus Senior Center, 101 Centre Ave. Call Center Agents and Chauffer positions are available. For more information, please call Tara Acquaviva at 201-863-2532.

Secaucus Patriots Swim Team



Mayor Michael Gonnelli presented medals to Members of the Secaucus Patriots Swim Team at the August 27th Town Council Meeting. The team was recognized for their outstanding performance and 2nd place standing in the Hudson County Championship. The coaches and members of the team were beaming with pride.

Secaucus Fire Department Receives AFG Grant

The Secaucus Fire Department was awarded a \$10,186.00 Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for the purchase 9 new multi-gas monitors. The award was announced by U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell Jr., co-chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus and author of the FIRE Act which created this grant program. Rep. Pascrell has been instrumental in securing these funds. "Today's grant follows a common theme: as the dangers of the job evolve, so too must the training and equipment our firefighters have. I'm proud to work tirelessly in Washington for the brave first responders in Secaucus and throughout our great state," said Rep. Pascrell as he announced the award on September 20, 2019.

"We want our first responders to have access to the best equipment available so they can keep our residents safe. On behalf of the Town Council and the residents of Secaucus, I would like to thank Congressman Pascrell for his support for our firefighters. He has been instrumental in securing a large grant for a new marine rescue boat as well as this award for gas monitors," said Mayor Michael Gonnelli.

The new, easy-to-use 4-gas monitors will replace 9 older units and measure Lower Explosive Limit (LEL), oxygen, carbon monoxide and hydrogen sulfide. Units feature real-time gas concentration readings and alarm status. This upgrade will help the Secaucus Fire Department effectively respond to increased calls relating to gas leaks, following a change in PSE&G policy assigning the local fire department as the initial responder. The monitors will help firefighters quickly assess a problem, locate the source of the gas, shut down and vent the building and remove the hazard and verify that the building is clear of the hazard.

New Dog Park Dedicated to Councilwoman Susan Pirro



A new, grassy dog park on Meadowlands Parkway was dedicated to late Councilwoman Susan Pirro. Susan was known for her love and advocacy for animals and was actively involved with the Secaucus Animal Shelter. Announcing the dedication, Councilman William McKeever recalled Susan's contribution to the community, as a councilwoman, sports coach, animal activist and a beloved friend and family member. Her contribution to the Secaucus Animal Shelter and her passion for placing rescue animals with families will always be remembered. Council members James Clancy, John Gerbasio and Orietta Tringali, also attended the dedication ceremony. Michael Bukatman, Municipal Court Prosecutor, and Christine Conti, Secaucus Animal Shelter Manager, also spoke about their friendship with Susan and the love for animals she inspired.

It's the Thought that Counts

When Sharif Alaoui got his summer earnings working at a soccer camp, he decided to set aside some money for a good cause. "I don't want to donate online, instead I want to make a difference in our community," he said as he reached out to the Department of Social Services. He got connected with Chase Nieves, a Secaucus student who is battling cancer. Sharif shared toys, school supplies, stories and smiles and would like to "become Chase's walking buddy at the High School Track as he recovers from cancer." One small gesture and hopes for a long-term friendship—that's an inspiration for all of us.



Elected Officials

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