



Secaucus Monthly

Sept.

2019

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



Junior Police Academy Graduation

Participants in the Junior Police Academy 2019 graduated and were presented with their awards at a ceremony at Buchmuller Park on August 22nd. See the video at SecaucusPolice.org

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 Pia Valentin: pvalentin@secaucus.net for consideration.

The Mayor's Corner

It's almost time to say goodbye to summer and welcome Fall. And it is also time to look back at the amazing season we had this year. Our students were off from school, but we had plenty of options for them to be active, involved and happy. The Secaucus Recreation Department offered a range of sports activities—from basketball clinics and tennis to soccer camps and yoga, our young athletes had the opportunity to stay involved with the sport they love. The youngest group enjoyed Arts and Crafts, and the Secaucus Day Camp allowed children to splash in the Town pool, go on exciting field trips and more. Participants in Showstoppers had a venue to show off their talent and win our hearts. The camp season ended with the Junior Police Academy and Environmental Camp. High School and college students were gainfully employed as Camp Counselors, Life Guards, Interns, support staff and more, gathering important life and career skills. Thank you all for a job well done.

Many of our residents tell me how much they look forward to the 4th of

July Celebration and Summer Concert Series. I'm happy to say, we had an amazing line-up of concerts at Buchmuller Park, the Xchange and Harmon Meadow.

We had a great turn-out at all the events, including the one at Monarch Park featuring a Secaucus band. We added an interactive feature, including a magic show or other entertainment for our young residents who attended Movies in the Park. Our Senior Citizens continued to enjoy scheduled activities including a very enjoyable Cruise on the Hudson, on a warm, sunny summer afternoon.

On behalf of the Town Council and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who made this summer enjoyable for all our residents. What we do makes our Town more than a place to live. It makes us a close-knit community proud to call Secaucus home.



New Fire Boat: Secaucus Marine 1



Mayor Michael Gonnelli and the Town Council are proud to announce that the Secaucus Fire Department received a new state-of-the-art marine rescue boat on August 2nd. The 28-foot Lake Assault Boat, fitted with a powerful 1500 GPM fire pump and CBNRE-response capabilities, prepares the SFD to respond to marine emergencies from the Hackensack River through the Newark Bay, all the way up the Hudson River and in the Passaic River when needed. "We thank Rep. Bill Pascrell for his support and unwavering efforts in getting us the FEMA grant used to purchase the Marine 1 boat. On our end, the grant award would not have been

possible without Fire Chief Carl Leppin's relentless efforts on the grant application," said Mayor Gonnelli.

Rep. Bill Pascrell Jr. is the Co-chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus and was instrumental in getting Secaucus the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Port Security Grant of \$346,410.00 for the purchase of the boat.

The grant enables the Secaucus Fire Department to robustly participate in the New Jersey Regional Task Force, which is comprised of 12 fire departments. The combined Task Force protects more than 50 miles of shoreline, critical facilities including transportation hubs, marine terminals, and chemical plants. The new rescue boat also enables the Secaucus FD to appropriately respond to common marine emergencies including individuals and vessels in distress, fires and navigation-related incidents. Several Secaucus FD personnel will take part in ongoing search-and-rescue training, US Coast Guard procedures, as well as familiarization with communication and command processes.

Fire Chief Carl Leppin was ecstatic about the boat's acquisition and its impact on the Fire Department's capabilities for Secaucus and surrounding communities in the Task Force. He said, "The Fire Department really appreciates the support of Rep. Bill Pascrell, the Mayor and the Town Council. Lake Assault did a tremendous job building a quality boat which was customized for our needs. The process was long, but it was definitely worth the wait."

The Marine 1 Boat will be docked on the Hackensack River at the US Coast Guard Auxilliary station at 5 Meadowlands Parkway.



Elected Officials

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Housing in Secaucus

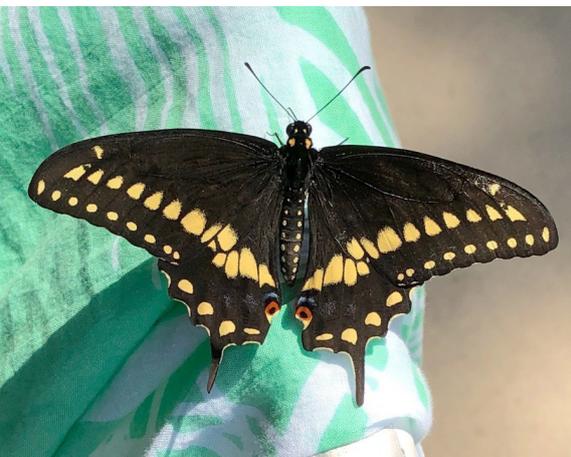
Secaucus is a very desirable location to live as it is a beautiful, safe, suburban community within minutes of New York City. It also has a lot of programs and facilities to offer, making it a sought-after location. Over the past 10 years the Town's rental housing market has grown. New developments like Xchange, Osprey and The Harper have been built, which have increased the population. As many of you know, 88% of Secaucus falls under the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority (NJSEA), formally the Meadowlands Commission. All of the rental housing developments previously mentioned were reviewed and approved by the NJSEA. In fact, Mayor Gonnelli was a Commissioner on the Meadowlands Commission back when the developers of Xchange were seeking approval to build at the site and the Mayor voted against the development.

The Town realizes the importance of maintaining the suburban feel and balancing that with the many people who want to live here. The largest tract of undeveloped land in Secaucus is 138 acres referred to as the "Mori Tract". This land abuts Park Plaza Drive. Many developers have approached the Town seeking to construct residential housing on this site and Mayor Gonnelli and the Council have refused their support. In fact, the Town recently settled litigation surrounding affordable housing and was successful in having the Mori tract deemed not suitable for housing. Additionally, at the former Boulevard Tire location (845 1st Street) a developer sought approval for a mixed commercial/residential development with 66 rental residential apartments, which the Town has opposed. Furthermore, the owners of the Empire Hotel had sought support to convert the structure to residential units, which the Mayor and Council are not supporting.

Any project proposed in the Town, whether residential or commercial, is looked at carefully. For example, a developer sought approval to construct a 4-story, 72-room hotel at 120 County Avenue. The Town has voiced objection to this project as it is, among other things, too dense for the lot and would not be the right fit for that location.

In short, the governing body has been working hard to regulate the growth of the community. At the same time there are many factors that are out of their control. For example, in settling the litigation filed against the Town related to affordable housing, Secaucus is required to allow approximately 850 affordable housing units to be constructed by the year 2025. Affordable units are normally a percentage of a developer's overall project and are not "stand alone" homes. The governing body will continue to work for smart growth in our community, however, government mandates such as meeting affordable housing needs, and the fact that NJSEA controls 88% of the property in Town, presents certain challenges that are outside of the control of the Governing Body.

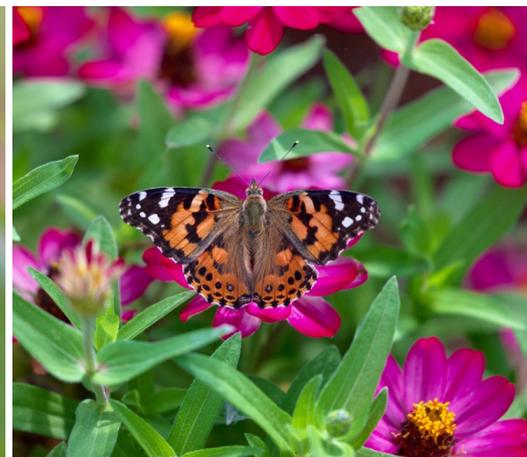
Resident Photo Submission - Charlene Hallam



Black Tail Swallow Butterfly at Harmon Cove.



Monarch Butterfly at Monarch Park.



Painted Lady Butterfly at Monarch Park.

Enjoy Restaurant Night with Family and Friends

Mark your calendars! The 8th Annual Restaurant Night will be held on Thursday, September 26th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Secaucus Ice Rink at Buchmuller Park. \$5.00 sampling will be available from restaurants including Bareli's, Bembe, Blackjack Mulligan's, Bonefish Grill, Burgerifi, Carrabas, Chili's, China Chef, Cheesburger in Paradise, Filomena's, Firenza, Mix Platters, Jersey Mike's, La Casa De Los Tacos, La Mia Cucina, La Reggia, Mix Platters, Natoli's, Olive Garden, Outback Steak House, Panera Bread, Red Lobster, Sweet & Flour, Tadka, Vito's, and Wayback Burgers. Live entertainment is also provided.

Restaurant Night is always a fun night out so please join us, eat, mingle, meet new friends and enjoy the company of your neighbors. Tickets can be purchased on location the evening of the event.



Spotlight: Antionette Veronica Scalzo

Antoinette Veronica Scalzo, celebrates her 101st birthday on September 1st! Born in New York, she moved to Secaucus when she was seven years old and has since been a Secaucus resident. "I had a very good life, and I'm still having a good life," she laughs.

For most of her life Ann, or Annie as she's known to friends and family, was a businesswoman, running the A&R Paint Store with her husband Richard. "Everyone knew me as "Annie from the paint store." I used to carry gallons of paint at a time, she recalls as she travels down memory lane. She has a wide smile and a glow in her eyes as she talks about the best time in her life. "Growing up in my parents' home on Meadow Lane, those were the best days." Her family had a farm and chicken coops there. Her aunts, uncles and their families lived close by.

Ann and her family moved from Meadow Lane when her husband bought architect's plans of a house in another town that Ann loved, and built a similar house on Schultz place. "She was happiest when taking care of the family. And she really enjoyed being with her grandchildren," said daughter Maryann Bologna, who took over the paint store from Ann and still lives in Secaucus. Son Richard served in the Secaucus Police Department and now lives in New Hampshire.

Everyone who knows Ann agree that she's an independent and active woman even today. She goes on walks down the street, takes the Senior Bus in and out of Town and takes part in many activities planned for senior citizens. We wish Ann many more years of health and happiness.



Rocks Come Alive at The Library

“Create art with everyday things around you. Each object you see can be a canvas, even rocks.” That’s what Barbara Hennig wanted participants to take away from the Rock Painting class at the Secaucus Public Library on July 30th. Young participants, some accompanied by their parents, packed the Panasonic Room to put their imagination to work with rocks and acrylic colors. Many loved it so much that they wanted to stay at the library to paint more rocks. Mission accomplished!



Recreation Online Store

It is now easy for Secaucus Recreation athletes, families and residents to wear and show off Patriot spirit. Apparel is now available online at the Secaucus Recreation website. The online apparel store has Patriot gear for football, soccer, cheerleading, hockey, community and general recreation for athletes, parents, siblings, coaches and fans! Apparel for swimming, basketball and softball will be added soon. All Secaucus spirit wear is produced by 5Kount, a local premium sports apparel company that designs, develops and manufactures quality performance athletic wear that is wholly made in the USA.



Since all spirit wear is custom-made when you order, please allow 2 weeks during summer months and 4 weeks during the school year for receipt of your order. There are no minimum orders required, so you can purchase the apparel you need, even if it is just one item. All apparel is shipped directly to you by 5Kount, which is an independently owned and operated business.

To order Secaucus Patriot wear, visit secaucusrecreation.org and click on the Online Store tab on top of the homepage. The FAQ page has answers to many questions you may have. For additional questions, email sales@5Kount.com or call 201-775-4990.

Upcoming Events

9-11 Memorial Ceremony: Wednesday, September 11th, 8:30 a.m. at the Firefighters’ Memorial in Buchmuller Park. (Please note change in venue due to roadwork on Paterson Plank Rd.)

Doggie Pool Party: Saturday, September 14th, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Secaucus Town Pool. \$10 donation, cash only.

Secaucus Public Library 2nd Annual Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show: Saturday, September 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Grounds of the Secaucus Recreation Center.

Restaurant Night: Thursday, September 26th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Secaucus Ice Rink.

Town Wide Garage Sale: Saturday, October 5th, starting at 8:00 a.m. (Rain date: Sunday October 6th). Visit SecaucusNJ.gov/Sale before September 27th to add your address to the list.

Secaucus Prohibits Short-Term Rentals

To ensure safety and quality-of-life concerns in Secaucus, the Mayor and Town Council amended Chapter 154 of the Code of the Town of Secaucus prohibiting rentals for 30 days or less. The Chapter addresses unlawful or illegal dwellings and now includes short-term rentals.

Residents should be aware of these important provisions relating to short-term rentals:

- A Certificate of Continued Occupancy is required every time there is a change in tenancy or ownership. That means the landlord/owner must apply for a new certificate every time there is a change in tenancy or ownership, no matter how long the tenancy/residency.
- The Department of Fire Prevention requires Certificates of Smoke Detector and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Compliance, every time there is a change of tenancy or ownership. The Secaucus Bureau of Fire Prevention will perform an inspection of the premises to determine whether the unit complies with the state and local Fire Code.
- No person, including a real estate agent, shall help in the rental, sale or use of illegal dwelling or short-term rental. The Ordinance requires an agent to make a reasonable written inquiry to determine if a property listed has an unlawful unit or short-term rental.

If you have any questions regarding the Certificate of Continued Occupancy or Certificate of Smoke Detector and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Compliance, please call 201-330-2059.

The Smiles Say It All

Children of the York Street Project and The Nurturing Place were able to enjoy time at the Secaucus Swim Club, thanks to 16 pool passes provided by Mayor Michael Gonnelli and the Town Council. In a letter to Mayor Gonnelli, York Street Project wrote, "Because of your giving spirit, our children were able to partake in two terrific trips to the Secaucus Swim Club. The days were spent swimming, laughing and proclaiming, "this is the BEST PLACE EVER!" We cannot express what a wonderful gift it was to our children to be the recipients of your kindness. Our Summer Enrichment Program is based on experiential learning and because of your thoughtful, and caring nature, we were able to provide an opportunity that otherwise would have not ben obtainable. The children truly had the time of their lives."



York Street Project is a social services organization that helps women and children break the cycle of poverty by focusing on education, housing and childcare. It includes Kenmare High School, St. Joseph's Home, St. Mary's Residence and The Nurturing Place.

Student Lobbying in Action

In response to Huber Street School students' request to make it easy to recycle at schools, the Secaucus Environmental Department purchased over 200 recycling bins through the Recycling Tonnage Grant. Bins will be placed on all Secaucus school premises to reduce the amount of recyclable material ending up in trash bins. Pictured (from left to right) with the new bins are Huber Street School Principal Mr. Rob Valente, Secaucus Environmental Department Director Amanda Nesheiwat and Mayor Michael Gonnelli.



2019 Environmental Camp

The Secaucus Environmental Department hosted the 2019 Environmental Youth Camp from August 26th to 29th. The highly sought-after camp is the last in the series of camps and summer activities organized by the Town of Secaucus to keep children busy and active during the summer months. In its fifth year, the 2019 camp was attended by 25 young residents, aged 10 to 14 years, who enjoyed environmentally-themed day trips to Turtle Back Zoo, Drop the Beet Farms, Liberty Science Center, and Stony Hill Farms.

Pictured here are Mayor Michael Gonnelli and participants on the first day of Environmental Camp.



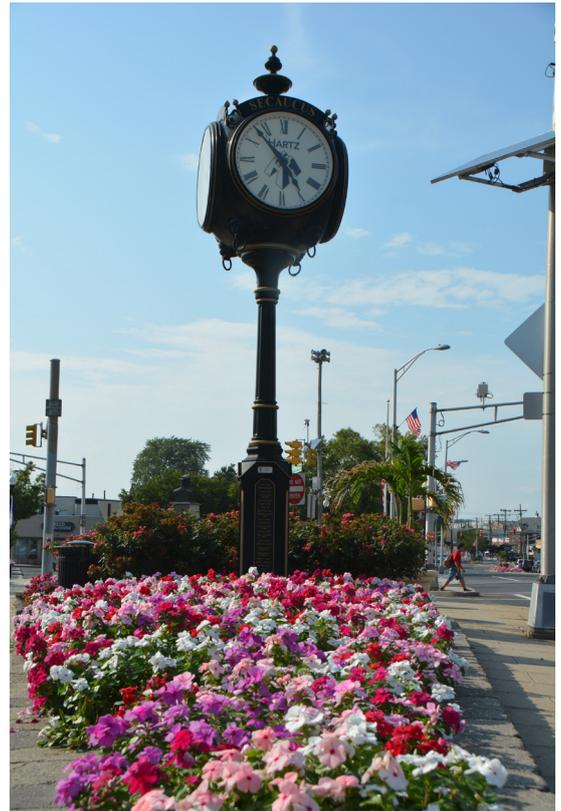
A Visual Treat in the Center of Town

Residents and visitors alike are struck by the beauty of the vibrant flowers on islands and planters across Secaucus. "The flowers don't just beautify, they make us feel proud about our Town and they bring our community together in more ways than one," said Mayor Michael Gonnelli.

Indeed, there is more to the flowers than what meets the eye. The welcoming blooms are a result of coordinated efforts by different groups and departments in Town. The season-long efforts are led by the Department of Public Works. In May, the Girl Scouts take part in Project Pride, a volunteer project to plant saplings in planters in the center of Town. DPW is also helped by members of Integrity House (a non-profit entity on County Avenue) who prepare planting beds and plant flowers in the islands in the center of Town. "For more than 15 years, the Secaucus DPW has provided the individuals we serve a meaningful learning experience and mentorship as they work to reintegrate into their communities and sustain addiction recovery. We are grateful for their role in empowering our program participants to be involved stakeholders," said Alberto Vargas, Senior Director at Integrity House.

Throughout the season, DPW workers meticulously take care of the flowering beds, watering them as needed. The planters are self-watering ones which collect rain water at the bottom and provide moisture to the soil on drier days.

Stop by the flowers, take pictures, share them on social media, and send them to us at pvalentin@secaucus.net to have your photo included in the Secaucus Newsletter.



Update for Census 2020 Job Applicants

For all candidates who applied for positions for Census 2020, please be advised that there has been a delay in response from the Census team. The Census Bureau is currently contacting applicants with next steps in the process. Please be patient during this delay. If you have any questions regarding your application or are interested in applying for open positions with Census 2020, please call Tara Acquaviva, Secaucus Employment Coordinator, at 201-863-2532.

Resident Photo Submission - George Schoenrock

Once a firefighter, always a firefighter. Secaucus resident and Ex-Chief of the Secaucus Fire Department, George Schoenrock, continues to stay connected with the Fire Department. He conducts the Fire Prevention Program at the North End Firehouse where students take part in the STOP, DROP & ROLL drill and learn fire safety tips. Pictured are Lt. Michael Schoendorf, Lt. Joseph Schoendorf, students Chuyan Qin, Akash Raaj, Jaden Ortiz, Erin O'Connor with Ex-Chief George Schoenrock and Firefighter Jared Wetter.



National Night Out Photos

Annual National Night Out in Secaucus was held on August 6th at Buchmuller Park. This is a fun-filled family event that encourages interaction between the community and our police. Secaucus National Night Out brought residents together to enjoy a bouncy house, games, competitive races, giveaways, a barbeque followed by a movie in the park. Representatives from the police, substance abuse prevention organizations, local hospitals and community organizations were present. For more pictures of the 2019 National Night Out, visit secaucusnj.gov/pictures



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