



At the January 28th town council meeting, jackets were presented to the Secaucus Recreation U-13 boys soccer team for their undefeated season. Pictured with the team is Mayor Gonnelli and Councilwoman Orietta Tringali.

## Mayor's Corner

I would like to take this opportunity to thank retiring Police Chief Kevin Flaherty for his dedicated service to our Town. He talks about how excited he was when he was sworn in at Town Hall as a fresh recruit 31 years ago. And he kept that attitude and dedication throughout his career. The department has grown to 70+ officers—the largest ever for us. We have better equipment and training and our officers are ready and able to keep our Town safe and secure.

The Police Department will now be led by Chief Dennis Miller who already has a vision to take the department to new heights. We just hired six new officers making it the largest police force in the history of our department. We have discussed many new initiatives including an anti-crime unit, better emergency preparedness through an Intelligence and Planning position, a more structured department, active shooter training involving all Emergency Services personnel, a K-9 unit and more. Our officers will

have updated facilities as plans to renovate the squad room and dispatch area are being worked out. Chief Miller and I also share the value of the Police Department working with, and being part of, our community. The Council and I look forward to working with Chief Miller.

As you know, the safety of our residents and businesses has always been a top priority for my administration. We will continue to fully support our Police Department as they become the best equipped and trained department in the State of New Jersey.

For the latest updates and information, please visit our website [secaucusnj.gov](http://secaucusnj.gov)



## Starting a New Tradition for First Responders



The first Annual Vincent A. Massaro Sr. First Responder Breakfast was held on Sunday, February 23rd at Burger Stop on Meadowlands Parkway. The breakfast was dedicated to the memory of long-time OEM Coordinator who passed away last year. Massaro Sr. stressed the need for first responders to know each other in advance of an

emergency, so working together during an emergency becomes easier and smoother. More than 60 individuals including Mayor Michael Gonnelli, Councilmembers and emergency personnel attended the event.

“In the past few years the town has had many new Police, Fire, EMS, OEM and DPW personnel. This breakfast gave them the opportunity to have a hot breakfast and meet each other so the first they meet will not be at a major emergency,” said current OEM Coordinator, Vincent Massaro Jr. who hosted the breakfast along with his sister Judy Zotolo.

## SHS JSA Helps Habitat for Humanity Project



On February 1st, JSA students of Secaucus High School pitched in to help Habitat for Humanity at a house that was being built for a family of five. The Habitat for Humanity event was coordinated by the chapter Director of Activism, Madison Fearon. Nine JSA members—Hiya Bhavsar, Ethan Nguyen, Daniel Mikhail, Luis Guerra, Lisa Hammache, Aditi Sirohi, Marietta Angulo, Grace Angulo and Muskan Duggal—lent a hand at the site in Livingston, New Jersey. Collectively, they put in 36 volunteer hours and helped sand walls and put up scaffolding to prepare for painting. Way to go, young volunteers!

## Valentine's Day Weddings at Town Hall

February 14th, Valentine's Day is a special occasion for those in love. It's usually a special day at Town Hall too. Three couples chose to get married on Valentine's Day this year and Mayor Michael Gonnelli officiated civil ceremonies against a backdrop created just for the day. “This is taking slightly longer but it's a very special one,” said Mayor Gonnelli as he asked David and Danielle to exchange their wedding rings. Danielle had to translate everything the Mayor said into sign language, so David could understand what he was saying.



Did you know that last year alone, 60 civil ceremonies were held at Town Hall? If you or someone you know would like to get married at Town Hall, please contact the Town Clerk's Office on the 2nd floor of Town Hall. Slots available for Secaucus residents only.

## Sign Up NOW for Fresh Organic Produce from CSG at Genesis Farms

The Secaucus Environmental Department is set to continue the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program for its fifth consecutive year with CSG at Genesis Farm.

Fresh, clean, healthy local food is the primary reason most people are drawn to Community Supported Agriculture. While this is a fine motivation, there are other important reasons why a CSA program is a good choice. The CSA community is not simply pre-buying vegetables, it is helping to support an actual running farm. The direct link between members and farmers puts the 'culture' back in 'agriculture' and as a result, our community begins to reconnect to the earth and each other.

Residents who sign up for a "share" will receive a bag of farm fresh, organic vegetables from New Jersey's CSG at Genesis Farm every other week for 24 weeks. The sizable biweekly share is \$510 for the entire season, beginning June 17th thru November 18th. Members pick up their share every other Wednesday at the Recreation Center on Koelle Blvd from 3:00 – 9:00 PM. To learn more about CSG Genesis Farm's Community Supported Garden program, please visit their website [csgatgenesisfarm.com](http://csgatgenesisfarm.com). See 'Delivered Shares – Secaucus', to sign up for updates or to buy a share, email Genesis Farm at [csgardeninfo@gmail.com](mailto:csgardeninfo@gmail.com).

## Fire Department Adds Two Members

Two volunteer firefighters were sworn in at the Town Council Meeting on February 25th. With this, Patrick Cavalcante, Engine 3, and Isaiah Davis, Secaucus Rescue1/Engine 2 officially join the ranks of the Secaucus Fire Department. While thanking them for joining the all-voluntary SFD, Councilman James Clancy announced that Isaiah Davis is the first African American member to join the department who was born and raised in Secaucus. Congratulations and welcome, Patrick and Isaiah!



## Lenten Fish Fry Dinner Month

Knights of Columbus, Mary Immaculate Council #12769 will be hosting the annual Lenten Fish Fry on Friday, March 27th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria at 760 Post Place. The price is \$25.00 and you will receive a fish dinner complete with french fries, and cole slaw. Also included is dessert and beverages. You may also order the dinner as a take-out and still receive the same as if you were to dine in. Just be sure to let the organizer know if

you are going to take-out when you purchase your ticket.

The dinner is being catered by Thistles Catering of Lyndhurst and cooked fresh on premise.

For tickets contact Grand Knight, Rich Steffens at 201-481-8751 or you may contact any Knight. Tickets will also be sold in the Church Gift Shop before and after each mass.

## Police Chief Flaherty Retires

Chief Kevin Flaherty retired from the Secaucus Police Department and was honored at the February 25th Town Council meeting. Presenting a plaque, Mayor Michael Gonnelli thanked him for 31 years of service to the Town and for accomplishing many items in moving the department forward. Chief Flaherty said he started his career in the same council chamber and envies the young officers present for being part of one of the best police departments around. "If I had to do it, I would do it all over again. No offense to the fire department but being a police officer is the best job in the State of New Jersey," he remarked.

Captain Dennis Miller will be the new Chief and will be sworn in at the next Town Council meeting on March 10th. Pictured below are Councilman Clancy, Capt. Dennis Miller, Councilman Costantino, Mayor Gonnelli, Chief Flaherty, Councilwoman Tringali, Councilman Dehnert, Councilman McKeever, and Councilman Gerbasio.



## Remembering the Korean War

An event in remembrance of the Korean War was held in the Panasonic Room of the Secaucus Public Library on January 29, 2020. Councilman William McKeever spoke about "Hudson County: At Home and At War", making connections between local happenings, New Jersey servicemembers and the events surrounding the Korean War that lasted from 1950 to 1953. Several veterans from Town as well as from around Hudson County attended the event.

This program was made possible by a grant from The New Jersey State Historical Commission, a Division of the Department of State, and administered by the Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, Thomas A. DeGise, Hudson County Executive and Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

## Secaucus Educator Awards Announced

The Secaucus School District recently announced this year's awardees.

Secaucus High School Teacher of the Year: Stacey Lee

Secaucus Middle School Teacher of the Year: Sandra Vitulano

Clarendon School Teacher of the Year: Michele Martinelli-Wurst

Huber Street School Teacher of the Year: Alexis Leppin

Clarendon School Educational Service Provider of the Year: Patricia Daddetto

Huber Street School Educational Service Provider of the Year: Patricia Brown



## Jack McStowe Honored

At the February 11, 2020 Town Council meeting, Jack McStowe was presented with a plaque for 23 years as soccer coach and organizer.

## Coronavirus Updates

Mayor Michael Gonnelli and the Town Council would like all residents to know that the Secaucus Department of Health is working with the Hudson Regional Health Commission and the New Jersey Department of Health on the Coronavirus issue. For the latest updates, please visit our website [secaucusnj.gov](http://secaucusnj.gov) or the State of New Jersey's website at [nj.gov/health/coronavirus](http://nj.gov/health/coronavirus). The State of New Jersey has also established a hotline for questions or concerns about the Coronavirus. Representatives may be reached by calling 1-800-222-1222.

# Art Fair at Hudson Regional Hospital

In recent weeks, the lobby of Hudson Regional Hospital was colorful and vibrant as dozens of posters made by Secaucus elementary school students welcomed visitors. The theme was HOPE, and art posters were colorful, thoughtful, inspiring and touching. It was part of Hudson Regional Hospital's initiative to be involved in the community, including its young residents. The Hospital invited students ages 5 to 11 to participate in the art fair and awards were announced at a reception

on February 19th. Three prizes each were awarded to students at Clarendon and Huber Elementary Schools. The winning pictures will be framed and displayed in Hudson Regional Hospital's Pediatric Department.

Mayor Gonnelli also thanked Dr. Nizar Kifaieh for Hudson Regional Hospital's donation to the Secaucus Emergency Fund and Youth Alliance.



Front Row. Penelope Campo, Iris Lin, Naina Thakur, Emma Valente, Pranav Iyer, Alyssa Lee

Back row: Secaucus Councilmembers William McKeever, Orietta Tringali, James Clancy, Mayor Michael Gonnelli, Dr. Nizar Kifaieh, and Artist Rizz (Galen) Robinson.

## Which Firehouse Makes the Best Meatballs?



On January 31st, the Town's firehouses pitted against each other in a friendly competition for the Best Firehouse Meatball title. The Best Firehouse Meatball Fundraiser, held at the VFW Post 3776, was organized by The Rotary Club of Secaucus to raise funds for the Secaucus Fire Department. Ladder 1, Rescue 1, Engine 1, Engine 3 (two entries) and Tower 2 participated. The meatballs were taste-tested by seven judges. Rotary President Rick Saltarelli, assisted by VP Cynthia Randina and Sgt. at Arms Forrest Elliott, counted the votes. By an almost unanimous vote of 6 to

1, Ladder 1 was chosen as the Best Meatball winner. All entries received trophies of participation and fire department themed salt-and-pepper shakers.

The Rotary Club of Secaucus presented Fire Chief Carl Leppin with a check for \$500.00. The Club is also making a \$250.00 donation to Secaucus VFW Post 3776. It will be presented to Phil Papa, Commander of Secaucus VFW Post 3776 and member of the Secaucus Rotary Club. Any remaining proceeds will go to other charities supported by the Secaucus Rotary Club.

## Senior of the Year



Richard Fairman was awarded the Senior Citizen of the Year award on February 11 at the Senior Citizen Valentine's Breakfast. Students of Clarendon School served breakfast and provided entertainment. Mayor Michael Gonnelli, Councilmembers Jim Clancy, Rob Costantino and Orietta Tringali greeted the attendees and presented them with flowers.

## Secaucus Public Library Celebrates Black History Month



On February 18th, the Secaucus Public Library held "The Flavors and History of African Food," a historical journey of food and how African cultures have influenced what we eat in the United States and around the world. Chef Sean Bell of Rythm N Food cooked as participants discussed topics such as Soul Food, French Creole, Caribbean Cuisine and more. Perhaps the best part of the evening was the food demonstration and tasting session, which was enjoyed by all attendees. The event was part of the Library's Black History Month celebrations.

## Have You Spotted Koalas in Secaucus?



This initiative is brought to you by Mayor Michael Gonnelli and the Town Council to raise awareness around the devastating bushfires in Australia and to do our part to help save the land, wildlife, and people affected.

Over 1 billion of the world's unique wildlife has died in the Australian Bushfires. You can help!

**Help Secaucus Save Wildlife.  
To Donate, Visit [koalasofnyc.com](http://koalasofnyc.com)**

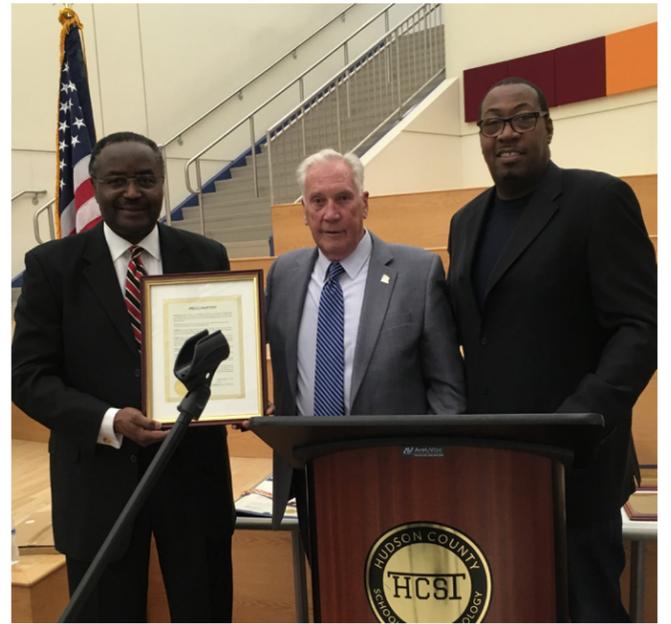
# Adam Gardner Honored at Black History Month Celebrations

Many of you may know Adam Gardner Jr. as a Parking Enforcement Official. While Adam is a dedicated, and a true professional at his job, what impresses everyone is his commitment to help those in need. Adam goes above and beyond to organize winter clothing drives for homeless children, feed members of the homeless community and participates in many projects to help underprivileged children. He also brings his professional experience to provide valuable input to ensure safety and success of local events. While he is very modest about his contributions, his selflessness and dedication to help those in need is truly commendable. Adam was honored with a plaque at the Hudson County Black History Month Celebrations held on February 19th at High Tech High School. On behalf of the Mayor, the plaque was read and presented by Councilman William McKeever. For the benefit of Secaucus residents,

Adam was invited to, and commended at, the Town Council Meeting on February 28th.

Adam was born and schooled in Portsmouth, Virginia. He had a successful career of 25 years at The New York Times advertising department. Then he joined the security management team at the National Basketball Association, providing security at the New Jersey offices including the Broadcast Operations Center, and events such as NBA Draft Lottery, NBA Finals and All-Star games. Basketball fans will surely be envious of his photo collection! He was also Muhammad Ali's security escort while he visited the NBA All-Star game in Washington D.C.

So next time you see Adam, wave to him, tip your hat and say "thank you" for all that he does for our community.



## Pastor Ruckert Retires



Pastor Nancy Ruckert of Secaucus St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church retired as of March 1, 2020. A celebratory luncheon organized in her honor on Saturday, February 15th was well attended and included Mayor Michael Gonnelli, Councilmembers James Clancy, William McKeever and Orietta Tringali, parishioners, and well-wishers. A Proclamation detailing her life and work was read by Councilmember McKeever and presented to her as she prepares to move to Colorado Springs, Colorado. "I'm moving far away but you will always be in my heart. Because when someone enters your heart, they never leave," she said, in a touching address to everyone gathered there.

Pastor Ruckert came to St. Matthew Church in Secaucus

in 2007, after serving in Hicksville, New York and Hillside, NJ. She then served as Hospital Chaplain and Hospice Chaplain at Lutheran Medical Church in Brooklyn, NY. At St. Matthews, she led the centennial celebrations of the church. She placed special emphasis on teaching the youth about God's love for children. She was also instrumental in reducing the church's carbon footprint by installing solar panels, replacing the furnace and light bulbs with energy efficient ones, and by banning foam products from the building.

We wish Pastor Ruckert health and happiness in her retired life. She was a blessing to our community and will be missed.

## First Annual Service Fair and Competition



The first Annual Service Fair organized by Hygiene Project was held at the Secaucus Public Library in January. Participants were honored at the February 11, 2020 Town Council meeting for service to the community.

CENSUS.HCNJ.US

## THE 2020 CENSUS

EASY+FAST. SAFE. IMPORTANT.

**THE CENSUS IS EASY+FAST. GET COUNTED BY SELF-RESPONDING!**

ONLINE

BY PHONE

BY MAIL

**THE 2020 CENSUS WILL ASK:**

- ✓ The number of people living or staying at your home on April 1.
- ✓ Whether the home is owned or rented.
- ✓ About the age, sex, and race of each person in your home.
- ✓ About the relationship of each person in your home.

**THE CENSUS IS SAFE.**

YOUR RESPONSES ARE SAFE, SECURE, AND PROTECTED BY FEDERAL LAW.

**THE 2020 CENSUS WILL NOT ASK:**

- ✗ About the citizenship of anyone in your home.
- ✗ For a social security, bank, or credit card number.
- ✗ About your political beliefs.

**THE CENSUS IS IMPORTANT.**

**THE CENSUS IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR DEMOCRACY**

A higher count yields a higher apportionment of representation in the State and Federal Government!

It also means more funding for...

SCHOOLS

HOSPITALS

INFRASTRUCTURE

**THE CENSUS BUREAU WILL SEND:**

**MARCH**

MARCH 12 - 20  
An invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census with a unique ID.

MARCH 16 - 24  
A reminder letter.

**APRIL**

IF YOU HAVEN'T RESPONDED:  
MARCH 26 - APRIL 3  
A reminder postcard.

APRIL 6 - 16  
A reminder letter and paper questionnaire.

APRIL 20 - 27  
A final reminder postcard before the census bureau follows up in person.

HUDSON COUNTY EXECUTIVE TOM DECISE & THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Secaucus Municipal Government Center  
Paterson Plank Road  
Secaucus, NJ 07094

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
EDDM RETAIL

**LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER  
SECAUCUS, NJ 07094**