



New leaders of the all-volunteer Secaucus Fire Department were sworn in at the January 5th Town Council meeting. Town Clerk Michael Marra administered the oath of office to Joseph Schoendorf as Fire Chief, Fred Schneider as Deputy Chief and Larry Marciano as Battalion Chief. Mayor Michael Gonnelli and Councilman James Clancy, the Fire Department Liaison, congratulated the newly appointed members. - Continued Below

Mayor's Corner

I would like to thank all residents for their patience as we help people get the COVID-19 vaccine at the Secaucus Vaccination POD. As you may have heard, there is a limited number of vaccines available to us as well as vaccination sites across New Jersey. Despite limited availability of vaccine, the State opened eligibility to all individuals over 65 years old and those 16-64 years old with underlying conditions. That means a large portion of our population is eligible, but we do not have enough vaccines to meet that demand. From the outset the Federal Government stated it would take six months or more to vaccinate up to 70% of the population. So please continue to be patient as we work towards our goal to vaccinate all those who wish to receive it.

I am closely monitoring the response to our vaccination POD. As soon as we announce the availability of vaccine through our SwiftReach system, appointments are filled within minutes. This reflects the demand for the vaccine. If you are not already receiving SwiftReach alerts, please register on our website www.secaucusnj.gov on the "I want to - register for - Swift911 Alerts" tab. Seniors who do not have easy access to online registration can call Town Hall and

our staff will be happy to help you.

I would like to thank the departments who are working tirelessly to make the Vaccination POD a smooth and efficient operation. The Secaucus Health Department, Police and EMS, Administration and the Hudson County Health Department for all their efforts during the past few months. I am confident we will get more vaccine in the coming weeks and months so we can vaccinate more people right here in Secaucus. That being said, please make sure you are registered on all available vaccination sites so that you have the best chance of receiving your vaccine as early as possible.

In the meantime, please continue the practice of wearing masks, hand hygiene and social distancing.

Stay safe and be well.



Secaucus Fire Department



Fire Department for their trust and confidence. He also thanked his family and the Mayor and Town Council for their support. He welled up as he proudly thanked his two sons, who are also volunteer firefighters, for the journey together as firemen. Outgoing Chief Carl Leppin briefly recapped the accomplishments of the Fire Department in the past two years and reaffirmed his commitment to the Fire Department and support for the incoming team.



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LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
SECAUCUS, NJ 07094



Secaucus Municipal Government Center
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Secaucus, NJ 07094

Information about Second Dose Vaccine

All residents who received the first vaccine at the Secaucus Vaccination POD will get an email the week before you are due for your second vaccine (at the address provided during registration) with a link to the scheduling site for the second vaccine. Please book your appointment for the second vaccine as soon as possible after you receive the email. The suggested date for the second vaccine noted on the yellow vaccination card may be different than the dates offered. You should pick any available appointment date and time which is on or closest to the return appointment date on the reminder card you were given. Your second shot should be done approximately 28 days from the date of your initial vaccination. Your recommended appointment time on the yellow card you were given when you received your initial shot should fall within to available appointment dates for next week. Receiving the second dose a few days before or after the 28-day period is acceptable and does not impact the efficacy of the vaccine.

Please note if you did not have an email address, you will receive a phone call the week before you are due for your second vaccine.

If you feel you received the email for the second vaccination too early and the available appointment dates are not 28 days or more since your initial vaccination, please call us at 201-330-2007 and we will check our records. If you are uncertain, please do not book the appointment before calling us.

Please note that the second vaccine appointment email cannot be used for scheduling the first vaccine. Do not forward it to anyone else, even if you think they should have received it. If a person who has not received the first vaccine schedules an appointment using the link in the email, the appointment will be cancelled.

We received many queries regarding the second dose and want to assure you that we are doing our best to make sure that all those who have received their first vaccine at the Secaucus POD are scheduled for the 2nd dose. Please help us make it a smooth process by adhering to the instructions on the email.

Do You Receive SwiftReach Alerts?

The Mayor and Town Council would like to remind all residents to sign up for SwiftReach alerts if you have not already done so. The SwiftReach alert system allows you to receive important notifications about emergencies, weather alerts, COVID-19 vaccine availability, town events, changes in garbage pick-up and more. You can opt to receive phone voice messages, text messages and/or emails. To sign up, please visit our website www.secaucusnj.gov – I want to – register for – Swift911 Alerts. You can also fax or mail the form titled “Know What’s Going On” included with the 2021 calendar that was mailed to your home last month. Information you provide will not be shared and is only used to provide alerts by the Town of Secaucus. You may opt to change the way you receive notifications or opt out of the alerts system at any time by calling 201-330-2008.

Stay in the loop. Keep up with the latest happenings in Town. Sign up for SwiftReach alerts today!

Know Your Parks: Smit Memorial Park

For children who love dinosaurs, Smit Park is the place to go! Tucked in a quiet corner of Valley Court just off of Gail place is a park with swings for toddlers and older children, a clean and well-kept jungle gym offering a variety of options, and several dinosaurs to keep the youngest ones active and busy. The park’s murals including bright yellow sunflowers add color and warmth. The entire park is lined with artificial turf and has a perimeter of walls or fencing offering children a safe and secure area to play.

Smit Memorial Park is dedicated to those who sacrificed their lives for our country, and honors the memory of lifelong Secaucus resident Sgt. Adrian Henry Smit, US Air Force, whose B-24 bomber was shot down on October 1, 1943 while returning from a raid on German factories in Austria. A plaque marking the dedication was installed on Memorial Day in 1992.

If you have not already been to Smit Memorial Park, take a trip to 5 Valley Court with the youngest members of your family. It might become their favorite destination.



Oakley the Therapy Dog Provides Company at Senior Vaccination Effort

Here is a perfect example of how different departments work together to make experiences better for our residents. The Department of Health, the Secaucus Housing Authority, Town Administration, Senior Services and the Secaucus Police Department coordinated seamlessly to make COVID-19 vaccinations accessible to our senior residents. In line with Mayor Gonnelli and the Town Council’s commitment to helping seniors get the COVID-19 vaccine, two special sessions of vaccinations were held at the community rooms of the Elms and Kroll Heights on January 27, 2021. While Vaccination Coordinators registered the residents and nurses administered the vaccine, Police Officer Ensmann was at hand with his very special partner Oakley, the therapy dog. Oakley was able to lighten the mood for many residents while they waited during the observation period after getting the vaccine.

“Many seniors were unable to travel to our vaccine POD at the Recreation Center, so we offered to bring the vaccine to them. Because of the limited number of vaccines, we were able to offer vaccinations only to the senior-most members. Depending on when and how much vaccine we get, we will continue to return to the senior building until all those who want the vaccine are vaccinated,” explained Mayor Michael Gonnelli.

“Having Oakley there was a pleasant surprise and a big help to some seniors who may have been a bit stressed about getting a vaccine. He was definitely the star of the day,” said Health Department Coordinator Christine Aguilera.



Secaucus Vaccination POD: Things You Should Know

The first COVID-19 vaccinations were administered at the Secaucus Vaccination POD on December 30th. It started with vaccines for health care workers and first responders, in accordance with phased NJ State mandates. Since then Governor Murphy has announced that all individuals age 65 and older and those 16-64 with certain underlying conditions are eligible to receive the vaccine. Based on this announcement, the Secaucus VPOD has opened its vaccine site to all eligible Secaucus residents. Check if you qualify at www.covid19.nj.gov/faqs.

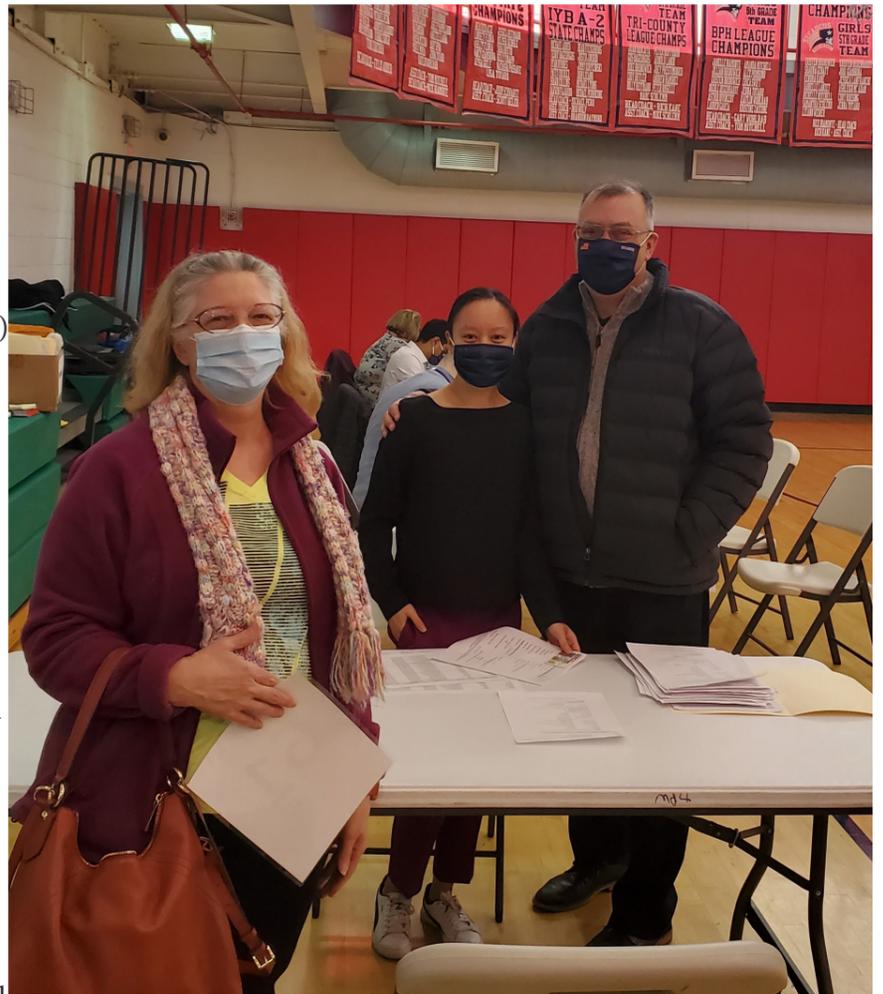
How it works: The State of New Jersey provides vaccines (currently Moderna) to the Secaucus Vaccination POD located in the Recreation Center at 1200 Koelle Boulevard. Depending on when and how much vaccine we will receive, the team prepares for registration and on-site logistics. As of the end of January, vaccine availability has only been confirmed a few days in advance and hence appointments can only be booked within the week. Once more vaccine becomes available, we may be able to offer appointments with more flexible date and time options, however there is no indication that will occur anytime soon. Vaccinations are by appointment only, no walk-ins are permitted.

How to book an appointment: When vaccines become available, a Swiftreach announcement is sent via email and text message to all those who registered to receive emergency alerts. If you are a Secaucus resident and are eligible to receive the vaccine, you can schedule an appointment when the scheduling portal is open at www.secaucusnj.gov/vaccine. Visit the website as soon as you receive the announcement, as slots fill up extremely fast. Your appointment is confirmed only if you see the "Thank You" note following submission and receive an email confirmation. A confirmation email is sent immediately after you reserve your appointment. Please provide a valid email address as this will be used to let you know how to schedule the second vaccine. If you do not have access to the internet, please call 201-330-2007 and our staff will attempt to help you. However, if the available appointments on the scheduling site are full, please do not call as we are not able to open additional appointments.

Things to check before your appointment: Please check with your doctor about the right time for you to receive the vaccine. Make sure you discuss what to expect after the vaccine. If you feel unwell on the day of your appointment, please do not come to the Vaccination POD. In case you need to cancel the appointment, please let us know by calling 201-330-2007 as soon as possible. If you do not show up for your appointment, your vaccine will be given to someone else to ensure it is not wasted.

What to expect on vaccination day: On vaccination day, please remember to wear your mask and bring an ID. Arrive at the Recreation Center at 1200 Koelle Boulevard a few minutes before the appointment time. Secaucus police personnel will direct you to the vaccination area. There is a brief registration process before the vaccine is administered. After receiving the vaccine, you will be required to stay at the site for at least 15 minutes of observation. There is ample space to follow the required social distancing guidelines. Please save the yellow vaccination card that you will receive as proof of your vaccination. The card will also provide an approximate date when you should schedule your 2nd appointment. About a week before your suggested 2nd dose date, you will receive an email with a link to book an appointment.

Other useful tips: If you have not signed up for SwiftAlerts, we urge you to sign up now on the "I want to" tab on secaucusnj.gov. SwiftAlert notifications are the only way we announce vaccine appointment availability. Please also place yourself on all other available vaccinations lists, such as Hudson County at www.hudsoncovidvax.org and the State of New Jersey's registration portal.



CCD Teacher of the Year



The Knights of Columbus, Mary Immaculate Council #12769 has selected Mary Beth Vinone CCD Teacher for the year 2019 -2020. Mary Beth teaches Catechism classes at Immaculate Conception Church. She has been teaching the children for the last 15 years in various capacities from 3rd grade to Family and weekly programs. "Mary Beth, as a professional educator, has brought many assets to the program", according to Linda Meyers, her supervisor. Mary Beth is not only selected CCD Teacher of the Year for Mary Immaculate Council, but has also been selected CCD Teacher of the Year for the Knights of Columbus for the State of New Jersey

This is truly an honor for Mary Beth and the Council as she was in competition with several CCD Teachers from all over the state.

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry Event

Knights of Columbus, Mary Immaculate Council #12769 will be hosting their annual Lenten Fish Fry on Friday, March 5th from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. Due to COVID-19 regulations this will be a pick-up event only. You may pick up your dinner in the school parking lot 760 Post

Place. In case of inclement weather, you may pick up inside the cafeteria. There is no inside dining. The price is \$25 each and you will receive a Fish Dinner complete with french fries, and cole slaw. The dinner is being catered by Thistles Catering of Lyndhurst and cooked fresh on premise. Any profit will go towards operating expenses of the council.

For tickets, contact Grand Knight, Chris Brillantes at 201-497-8870 or you may contact any Knight. Tickets will also be sold in the church Gift Shop before and after each mass.



Would you be interested in a weekly share of seasonal, Jersey-grown, certified organic vegetables, that are harvested & delivered on the same day?

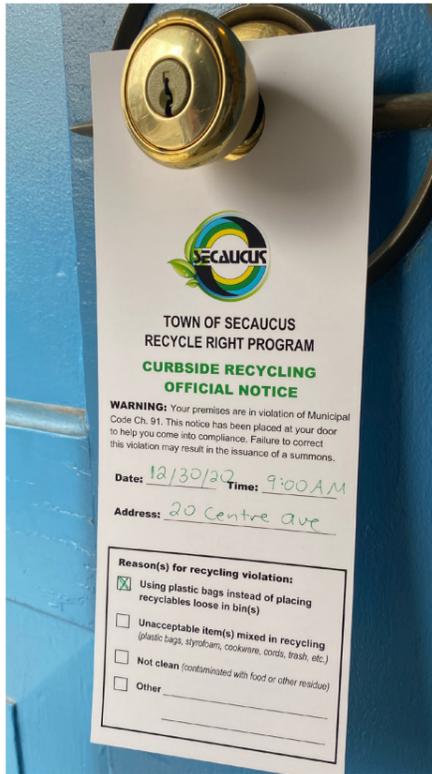
If so, join the Secaucus Environmental Department for a virtual **“Meet the Farmer & CSA 101”** meeting during National CSA Week, on **February 25th**

Sign up at **SecaucusNJ.gov/CSA** or call **201-86-GREEN (47336)** for more information



Introducing the “Secaucus Recycle Right” Program

The Secaucus “Recycle Right” Program was established because we are experiencing a contamination problem that is costly for municipal operations and our environment. Mayor Gonnelli and the Town Council encourage all residents to familiarize themselves with current Secaucus recycling rules to help save our environment and valuable tax dollars. Recycling contamination occurs when the wrong items (such as Styrofoam), or the right items prepared in the wrong way (such as in a plastic bag), are incorrectly placed in curbside recycling bins. Contamination is harmful because it can damage sorting machinery, lower the resale value of materials, and even cause recyclables to go to the landfill. The Town can also receive hefty fines for sending the wrong materials or contaminated recyclables to our contracted Materials Recovery Facility. Contamination is really anything that finds its way into a recycling bin that does not belong there, like food residue, plastic bags, cords, metal cookware, wet/grasy cardboard, etc.



Although recycling has been required by State law since 1987, it can still be confusing. Please visit secaucusnj.gov/RecycleRight to read an in-depth FAQ menu about recycling right. Updated 2021 information was also recently mailed out. Also look for the recycling flyer and recycling information on the town calendar. These resources, along with Environmental Department & Department of Public Works staff, will help

you “recycle right.”

Along with countless communities across the country struggling with contamination, Secaucus is increasing recycling inspection efforts. Town officials will leave warning tags for recycling violations at residents’ doors (pictured). These will be filled out with feedback on what the contamination was to help residents understand what was wrong and fix the issue. The goal of the warning tags is to cut down on recycling contamination and help all our residents follow proper recycling as established in Municipal Code Chapter 91. Remember – recycling is the law, and please reduce and reuse whenever possible.



Inviting Young Artist Submissions

March is Youth Art Month! We invite young artists (18 years old or younger) to submit a picture of their art work for possible inclusion in our March Newsletter. It could be a painting, sculpture, digital art, mixed media creations—in short anything creative! Please do not send your original artwork, just a high resolution picture is all we need.

- A picture of your art work must be submitted with the artist’s full name, parent’s phone number and email address.
- Please email it to ajaideep@secaucus.net with a subject line Youth Art Month – (artist name)
- Depending on the number of submissions we receive and space available, not all submissions may be published.

The Valentine’s Day Gift

by Saanvi Mehta (5th Grade)

I discovered a chocolate box,
In my sister’s drawer of socks.

It must be a gift for Valentine’s as it was near,
Surely it was for me, Who else could be more dear?

The little box of Valentine,
Looked absolutely divine.

It was my choice to eat or not,
I tried my best, but alas, couldn’t stop!!

I ate one, then two and then a few,
But the temptation just grew and grew!

And soon that moment arrived,
With all my hunger I just dived.

I nibbled them on and on,
One by one all chocolate hearts were gone.

As I took the last bite,
I gasped at the sight.

Before I knew what I did,
All left was an empty box with a fancy lid.

Just then my sister entered with a stride,
And gave me no time to hide.

She saw me looking guilty and shy,
For a moment she said nothing then started to cry.

Her eyes were looking for the truth,
Questioning me like a sleuth.

I accepted of devouring my gift for Valentine,
And explained to her, having it early was perfectly fine!

At which she began to whine,
And screamed the gift was for Mom and was not mine!!!

I had no words to say,
Looking at her in complete dismay.

But I had to think fast,
Before my sister could end me up in a cast.

I suggested the box was fancy enough.
To be used for keeping jewelry and stuff

The jewelry case is what Mother will like,
Instead of the chocolate heart delight.

These sweets are just mouthful of relish,
But the bling case, she would forever cherish.

Thankfully my sister liked the idea, I believe I’m smart,
Or all the sugar rush in me simply did its part!!!

