



Fourth of July in August

Join us for our Fourth of July celebration with Food, Fireworks, and Entertainment on August 25th at The Secaucus Swim Club beginning at 6pm.

Mayor's Corner

I have a couple of exciting things to report on our open spaces this month. Laurel Hill Park is getting many upgrades with new facilities and an expansion of offerings for different sports, thanks to Hudson County Executive Tom DeGise. Additionally, there is a major push underway at both the state and federal levels to clean up contamination in the Hackensack River. We will share updates as these projects progress. Both these efforts will improve the quality of life for Secaucus residents with more recreational opportunities and better use of our open space. I strongly believe that open space builds communities by bringing people together. It is where we meet friends, play, exercise, enjoy music and dance, and take in the beauty of nature. Secaucus is blessed with plenty of open space, so go out and enjoy them this summer.

In August, we have a few more sessions of our Summer Concert Series every Thursday at Buchmuller Park. We also

have rescheduled our rained out Fourth of July fireworks for Wednesday, August 25th. Be sure to come out and enjoy the fireworks, concert, and pool activities. It is sure to be a fun evening for all.



Lastly, I would love to see more community participation in the Newsletter. I invite you to send your pictures, announcements, information about special events, your children's achievements, births, weddings and more. I would love the Newsletter to be a platform for letting our community know about things happening in our residents' lives. Just email information and pictures to ajaideep@secaucus.net or call 201-330-2008.

Be safe and enjoy the rest of the summer.

Upcoming Concerts and Movies

Concerts - 7:00 PM at Buchmuller unless noted otherwise

- August 5: Showstoppers Children's Program at SHS PAC
- August 12: Reminisce - 50s and Early 60s music
- August 19: Neil and the Diamonds
- August 26: The Cameos

Movies - 7:30 PM at Ice Rink unless noted otherwise

- August 3: Raya and the Last Dragon
- August 10: Up
- August 17: The Croods
- August 24: Monster Inc.
- August 24: Godzilla vs. King Kong (at Xchange at sunset)
- August 31: Moana

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wmckeever@secaucus.net
C: 551-665-7650

Councilman Robert Costantino
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Secaucus Municipal Government Center
Paterson Plank Road
Secaucus, NJ 07094

Secaucus High School Students Shine at Hackathon

Two Secaucus High School 10th graders participating in SimpliHacks, a two-day virtual hackathon for school students, won first place and the Wolfram Alpha Award. Aayush Agarwal and Krushay Bhavsar created a translator webapp named Signslate (short of Sign Language Translator) which aims at teaching American Sign Language as well as helping people with or without hearing and speaking disabilities. The win lands them a final round interview for internships at Y Combinator, Stanford University and Carnegie Mellon University startups.



Aayush and Krushay created the webapp in 20 straight hours of coding using machine learning and web scraping tools. The English to ASL translator allows a person to simply talk into their computer's microphone, and the website will translate it into ASL and display the sign language video. In addition, the webapp also uses artificial intelligence technology to translate from Sign Language to Text to Voice. This two-way translation allows meaningful conversation between people with and without hearing or speaking disabilities. It can effectively be the Google meet for people with and without hearing or speaking disabilities.

"Everyone knows there is a need to connect people with varying abilities. When we looked for solutions, we found there is not much out there that connects people with speech and hearing disabilities. That's why we decided to create this app. It is a real solution to a very real issue," said Krushay Bhavsar.

Ayush Agarwal summarized his rollercoaster of emotions on the day the winners were announced. "We did not expect to win at all. They first announced the third-place winner, then the second. When they announced the first-place winner, we could not believe it. We were beyond excited."

Ayush and Krushay are part of the newly formed Robotics Club which, under the guidance of Club Advisor Ms. Capobianco, is making its presence felt on the national scene. Earlier this year, the Club won a national robotics competition organized by Botball.

Affordable Housing Rehabilitation Program

The Town of Secaucus committed, through its Housing Department, to rehabilitate 42 units for qualified residents. Here's a program summary:

- A qualified applicant can receive a maximum of \$15,000 per unit for replacement of major systems in their home, i.e. heating system, roof, electrical, etc.
- Available for owner-occupied and investor units (tenant occupied).
- Funds received will be secured by a mortgage that is forgiven at a rate of 10% per year and totally forgiven after 10 years, provided the unit continues to be occupied by an eligible program occupant.
- Current income limits:
 - 1 person: \$58,277
 - 2 persons: \$66,602
 - 3 persons: \$74,928
 - 4 persons: \$83,253
 - 5 persons: \$89,913
 - 6 persons: \$96,573

A Rehabilitation Program Manual has been adopted and provides all guidelines for participation. The application procedure stipulated in the Program Manual will be strictly followed. Applications and the Program Manual are available at the Secaucus Housing Authority or at the Mayor's Office. It is a limited program so apply as soon as possible. For more information, please call the Secaucus Housing Authority at 201-867-5902 and mention that you are interested in the Housing Rehabilitation Program.

Property Tax Due Date Extended

The deadline to pay 2021 3rd quarter property taxes has been extended to September 1, 2021. Any payments received after that date will be subject to a penalty dating back to the original due date of August 1st. Postmark is not considered as proof of timely payment. Residents have several convenient ways to pay:

- Drop off envelope with check in the Tax Collector's box at the Town Hall Lobby by the Police Window
- Mail check to Tax Collector, 1203 Paterson Plank Road, Secaucus, NJ 07094
- Visit www.secaucusnj.gov/departments/tax to pay online (fee applies)

If you have any questions, please call the Tax Collector at 201-330-2021.

Around Secaucus



New Tool to Find Rental Assistance

Has the COVID 19 pandemic affected your ability to pay rent or collect rent? There is a new online tool to help you find information on rental assistance that may be available to you. Renters and landlords looking for assistance can now use the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's new "Rental Assistance Finder" tool at consumerfinance.gov/renthelp to find information on rental assistance in their area. If you do not have website access, please call 201-209-2826 or 201-209-2897.



Mrs. Territola Retires After 27 Years of Service

Anna Territola, who worked for the Town of Secaucus for 27 years, retired from the Finance Department on June 30th, 2021. The Mayor, members of the Town Council and Town employees congratulated her on her retirement at a breakfast gathering at Town Hall. A plaque thanking her for her service was presented. Pictured are Councilwoman Orietta Tringali, Councilman James Clancy, Mayor Michael Gonnelli, Anna and John Territola.



New Spa Opens on Paterson Plank Road

A new business has been added to Paterson Plank Road. Mayor Michael Gonnelli and Councilwoman Orietta Tringali congratulated Lux Beauty Spa owner Johana Rivas (on the Mayor's right) on opening day, June 29th. Well-wishers pictured here include employees, friends, Lois Marrone and Ricky Marrone. We wish the team much success.

Major Upgrades Underway at Laurel Hill Park

Laurel Hill Park in Secaucus has grown from a not-so-used park to a well-outfitted, busy park in recent years. Residents already enjoy full sized fields for soccer, baseball and cricket, a boat launch, canoe and kayak rentals, boating tours, children's playgrounds, fishing pier, dog park and well-maintained walking/bike trails. The park also offers amazing sunset views across the Hackensack. Tom DeGise, Hudson County Executive, announced that park improvement work has already begun, and exciting new upgrades are coming to Laurel Hill County Park soon. The additions and upgrades will transform Laurel Hill Park, the largest park in Secaucus, into Hudson County's premier park.

The planned upgrades include six new tennis courts, two volleyball courts, two basketball courts, a new parking lot with 50 more spaces and a new playground with aquatic features. The bike/walkway system, parking lots, existing playground, landscaping, gazebo, boat/kayak launch and shoreline will be refurbished and/or restored. Funds for these additions and upgrades has been procured through grants.

"This is a huge gain for Secaucus. Our residents can enjoy state-of-the-art features, new playgrounds, and extensive pathways right here in Town. I am happy to see open spaces being upgraded for everyone to use, no matter what outdoor activity you may enjoy. I thank Hudson County Executive DeGise for making Laurel Hill Park a priority," said Mayor Michael Gonnelli.

Stay tuned for pictures and updates about the upgrades and improvements at Laurel Hill. If you have not visited the park lately, take a ride over as we are sure you will be impressed. Located on the western end of New County Road, the park is easily accessible and close to Meadowlands Parkway, NJTP Exit 15X and County Avenue. While there, be sure to check out the Katherine A. Steffens Library Annex as well as eateries located at the entrance of the Xchange complex.

XChange Shuttle

Mayor Michael Gonnelli & the Town Council invite residents of Xchange, 21 & older to use the shuttle bus to Walmart & CVS beginning August 2. Pickups will be at the 5000 building Monday, Wednesday, & Friday at 8:30am, 9:30am, and 10:30am. For information, call 201-865-4422

Hiring Event 8/17/21

Location 145 Front St.

Time 10:00am – 2:00pm

All Types of positions / shifts available!

For information call Tara Acquaviva at 201-863-2532

Secaucus' Got Talent

Join The Secaucus Public Library on August 11, 2021 at 7:00pm at Buchmuller Park 150 Plaza Center for Secaucus' Got Talent

2021 Sticker Shock Campaign



Each year the Secaucus Coalition and its youth wing, KAI, organize a Sticker Shock campaign; an awareness effort that reminds liquor buyers that it is illegal to buy or provide alcohol to minors. This year, current and former KAI members participated in the event held on June 28th. Participants placed neon green labels on beer cases at local stores including Krauser's, The Wine Outlet and USA Wine Traders Club. "We are happy to be part of such an important campaign," said Manager Veronica Cole of The Wine Outlet. It is estimated that in just two weeks after placing the stickers, about 4000 impressions were made on customers entering the stores. Later in the day, the participants took a tour of and got an art lesson "How to Draw Spider Man", at the Kubert School, which offers



programs in cartoon-graphics/sequential art.

"It was a terrific day. We put over 1,000 stickers on cases of beer to raise awareness and remind people to 'Keep It Legal.' And the tour at The Kubert School was fantastic. The artwork was amazing, and the students loved the tour and the art lesson." Dave Bratton, Secaucus Coalition Coordinator

Six New Hires at the Secaucus Police Department



With six new additions, the Secaucus Police Department has grown to an all-time high of 79 officers. At the July 6th Town Council Meeting, Town Clerk Michael Marra administered the oath to the new hires. Captain Joseph Baccola presided over the swearing-in as Chief Dennis Miller was unavailable. Capt. Baccola reminded the officers about the immense responsibility every officer is undertaking and the need to support each other as they carry out their duties. Pictured here in the front row are Police Officers Matthew Murphy, Christopher Boyke Jr., Michael Marchitto, Eric Munive, Christopher Carpenter, Jay Valerio and Lt. Scott Coar; (back row) Capt. Carlos Goyenechea, Councilwoman Orietta Tringali, Mayor Michael Gonnelli, Councilman John Gerbasio, Capt. Joe Baccola and Capt. Austin Hawxhurtst.

Participate in the Military Banner Tribute

The Knights of Columbus Msgr. Peter B. O'Connor Assembly 1543, in conjunction with the Town of Secaucus, would like to provide you with an opportunity to honor a loved one who has served or is serving in the military. Msgr. Peter B. O'Connor Assembly is the patriotic division of the Knights of Columbus. The Assembly is starting a campaign to promote patriotism in our community through display of banners. A banner with a picture of your loved one will be displayed throughout the community, like the high school graduate banners this year. The banners will be displayed each year for a few weeks around Veterans Day. The Town will then store them and display them again the following year. This would be a great way for your honoree as well as your family to express your appreciation for veterans and those currently serving, as well as for the public to remember them. The honoree does not have to be a Secaucus resident. The fee for each banner is \$40.

To participate in the program, please contact Sir Knight Sal Manente Sr. at 201-866-2988 or email him at salm50@aol.com.

Breakfast of Champions Food Drive

For the Benefit of the Secaucus Food Pantry

Sponsored by Rotary Club of Secaucus Sept. 17 to 19, 2021

Rotary 



Over 175 Secaucus families are food insecure.

It takes about \$3,500 a week to provide basic food items for them.

We all need to pitch in; individuals, businesses and schools working together.

Send a tax deductible check by September 13 to:

Rotary Club of Secaucus Foundation Box 1094 Secaucus, NJ 07096

If you prefer to donate non-perishable food items such as canned goods, cereals and pasta in September, bring them to

Phil Papa's Travel Store at 1281 Paterson Plank Rd. Secaucus, NJ 07094

The Secaucus Rotary Club members will deliver all donations to the

Secaucus Food Pantry at 145 Front St. that weekend.

For more info, contact Don Evanson 201-902-9742 or e-mail dnevanson@aol.com or

Lachman Rajwani at larry@valentineperfume.com

This community effort is in conjunction with a global food drive conceived by

White House Champions of Change Alumni



fight 3

Viva la Fiesta

\$35 PER PERSON
AUGUST 28, SATURDAY
6:30PM @ ICC GYM

You get an appetizer, entree, dessert, drinks and entertainment.

Tickets are available at the Gift Shop or the Parish Office. Make checks payable to ICC. All proceeds go to ICC.

Attire: Mexican

GOOD VIBES FOR GOOD TIMES

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BUCHMULLER PARK

12 PM - 8 PM

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We're having an ICE CREAM PARTY for The Secaucus Animal Shelter at:

Mike's Ice Cream Shop

1540 Paterson Plk Rd, Secaucus

Sunday August 15th
From: 3 pm-9pm

Treat yourself and help make a difference.

Mike's will donate 20% of all proceeds to The Secaucus Animal Shelter

Don't forget, our shelter is located at: 525 Meadowlands Pkwy, Secaucus NJ
Phone: 201 348 3213

The Mayor and Town Council Invite Residents to the Annual

Wednesday, August 25th
6 P.M.

at Secaucus Swim Club

Psychodelic Angel

Come join us for Food & Entertainment,
& FIREWORKS!



Secaucus Residents and their guests
ID Required to Enter Swim Complex

Hudson County Annual Boat Ride



Secaucus Senior Citizen Boat Cruise
Once again Hudson County Office on Aging & the Town of Secaucus invites Secaucus Senior Citizens, 62 & older to a luncheon cruise on
August 25, 2021

Please call 201-865-4422 for information & reservations
You must show proof of vaccination to sign up
Or proof of negative test less than 72 hrs prior