



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023

Happy New Year

Mayor Michael J. Gonnelli, The Town Council, and the entire Municipal Staff wish the residents of Secaucus a Happy & Healthy New Year.

Mayor's Corner

The New Year is here and, for many of us, that means it is time for resolutions. How can we improve upon ourselves in 2023? The most common resolutions are to spend time with family and get in better shape. If that is your resolution, you will be happy to know we can help you out! You and the family can join our state-of-the-art Recreation Center on Koelle Boulevard. We have a large pool, fitness room, full court basketball, walking/running track and fitness rooms where classes are run by caring and motivated instructors. There is always something to do for a price you cannot beat. You can join by the month or year. We have plans that will work for everyone. If you have not seen the facility, come by and check it out. We know you will be impressed.

If you prefer to enjoy the outdoors, even in the cold months, you will be glad to know that according to WalkScore, Secaucus has a walkability score of 83 out of 100. That means it is easier for residents to access parks, community facilities and other locations by foot. We have many miles of great walking paths and loads of parks. However, we do recognize, while this is great for most residents, getting around town may not be as easy for some of our seniors. That is why we have always maintained a robust transportation system for our seniors and continuously look for ways to make it better. A couple

of weeks ago we leased a brand new 24 passenger, handicapped equipped, bus that will be used for transportation of our seniors. The full amount of the lease on this bus is being paid for by a CDBG grant we received from Hudson County. We hope this added convenience is just one way that makes Secaucus a great place for seniors. I would like to remind residents that while the new Senior Center is being built, all the programs that seniors love are still being offered through our Department of Senior Services located at 145 Front Street.



If you'd like to know more about other services the Town offers, please be sure to check our website, www.secaucusnj.gov. If you would like to receive text, email or phone alerts, sign up for our new alert notification system at www.secaucusnj.gov/rave. It's a great way to get alerts in case of emergencies and also updates you about various events in Town.

On behalf of myself, the Council and our employees, I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

Winners of the 2022 Holiday Lights Contest

"Martha Stewart" Category

- 697 Second Street
- 695 Second Street
- 225 Pandolfi

"Clark Griswold" Category

- 30 Green Valley Court
- 100 Huber Street
- 236/238 Maple Street

"Best Block": Central Lane

- 150 Central Lane
- 156 Central Lane
- 160 Central Lane
- 162 Central Lane
- 166 Central Lane
- 190 Central Lane

Congratulations to all the winners!

Mayor Michael Gonnelli- mayor@secaucus.net - O: 201-330-2005

Councilman William McKeever
wmckeever@secaucus.net
C: 551-665-7650

Councilman Robert Costantino
rcostantino@secaucus.net
C: 201-401-9315

Councilman Mark Dehnert
mdehnert@secaucus.net
O: 201-330-2000

Councilman John Gerbasio
gerbasio@secaucus.net
C: 551-226-0955

Councilman James Clancy
jclancy@secaucus.net
C: 201-906-9657

Councilwoman Orietta Tringali
otringali@secaucus.net
O: 201-330-2000

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
SECAUCUS, NJ 07094



Secaucus Municipal Government Center
Paterson Plank Road
Secaucus, NJ 07094

Secaucus Introduces NEW Alert Notification System

Many residents now receive emergency alerts and community announcements through phone calls, text messages and/or email. The provider we were using for our alerts (SwiftReach) was acquired by a new company (Rave Mobil Safety). Therefore, to continue receiving community announcements and alerts, you MUST sign up for RAVE alerts, our new system for resident notifications. Please visit our website, www.secaucusnj.gov/rave, and create an account so you are all set to continue to receive notifications. When signing up, please be sure the "General Notifications" box is selected to receive all town messages. The new system allows you to change preferences, contact information and more.



It is important to know that the older system, SwiftAlerts, will be discontinued at the end of January as it has been phased out by the company. If you already receive community notifications but do not sign up for Rave Alerts, you will stop receiving messages. Please visit www.secaucusnj.gov/rave to sign up. If you need technical help to sign up, please call our office at 201-330-2008.

Girl Scouts Raise Donations of Dental Items

Girl Scout Troop #12251 based in Secaucus participated in the annual Tooth Fairy Program run by the American Dental Association. At a "Parent's Visit Day" they had a discussion of dental care, led by leader/school nurse Mrs. Amato. Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts created posters to hang at home to remind themselves to brush thoroughly daily. In addition, they collected over 100 dental items which they donated to the Town Food Pantry. The items included toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, and mouthwash. Pictured are some of the girls who participated. The troop members are Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts.



If you would like your child to participate in Girl Scouts program or would like to donate items, please contact Hellen Allen at 201-450-4746.

Secaucus Schools Raise Money to Fight Polio

The Secaucus School District participated with the Secaucus Rotary Club to raise money by doing a Dress Down Day fundraiser for World Polio Day. Dr. Daniela Riser, Secaucus Acting Superintendent of Schools, presented Secaucus Rotary Club Foundation Chair Rick Saltarelli with a check for \$1,136.00, which the Club will be donating to the Rotary Foundation's PolioPlus Fund.

Rotary's involvement in polio eradication began in 1979 with a five-year commitment to provide and help deliver polio vaccine to six million children of the Philippines. Following similar commitments in other countries, in the early 80's Rotary started planning for the most ambitious program in its history — to immunize all the world's children against polio, and in 1985 PolioPlus was born. Since then, Rotary's dedication to the global eradication of polio has remained constant. This year, 2022, marks the 37th anniversary of PolioPlus and more than three decades of progress and challenges the program has faced. But through the efforts of organizations like Rotary, over 99 percent of the world's population lives in regions certified polio-free.

Secaucus Loses a Dedicated WWII Veteran



Joseph DeMartine, a lifelong resident of Secaucus, passed away on November 26, 2022 at age 100. Joe was born in 1922 to Katherine and Joseph DeMartine. He was the youngest child in his family and was predeceased by his four sisters (Veronica Clancy, Beatrice Zeeb, Catherine Henkel, and Josephine Cronin). Joe spent most of the century of his life with his beloved wife Marie (nee Romano) by his side. They began dating before World War II and when Joe, a Marine, was sent to Guam, Marie worked as "Rosie the Riveter" in California. They were temporarily apart, but their connection could not be broken. They were reunited in Secaucus shortly after the war ended. Joe and Marie were married on November 23, 1947 and were blessed to celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary together in November, 2022.

Joseph was a proud Veteran of World War II and served with the United States Marine Corps from 1942-1945 in the Pacific Theater. He was a devoted and active member of Secaucus VFW Post #3776, spending much of his free time and his retirement in service to other Veterans and to the community of Secaucus. A beloved husband, father, uncle, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Joe is survived by his centenarian wife Marie, daughter Michele Sierfeld and son-in-law Curtis Sierfeld, three granddaughters (Dawn Madison, Stacey Pitts, and Jamie Sierfeld- O'Beirne) and their husbands (Harlen Madison, Robert Pitts, and Sean O'Beirne, Sr., respectively), eight great-grandchildren (Emily, Sean Jr., Kayleigh, Nathan, Lily, Kate, Abigail, and Maya), and many nieces, nephews, and their extended families.

Town Council Congratulates Marathoners



Secaucus residents who participated in the 2022 TCS New York City Marathon were invited to the December 13th Town Council meeting. Though not all participants could attend the meeting, Mayor Michael Gonnelli and Town Council members were happy to greet and congratulate Secaucus firefighter John Bujnowski, and residents Ibar Dinampo and Arleen Sycordero, who participated, and completed, the 2022 TCS NYC Marathon. Until you try it yourself, you cannot imagine how difficult it is to run a marathon. Congratulations on your accomplishment!

Varsity Tennis Team Honored



The Secaucus High School Girls Varsity team received a plaque and gym bags from Mayor Gonnelli and the Town Council at the December 13th Town Council meeting. The team won their first ever Hudson County Championship and also bagged the 2022 NJIC Meadowlands Division title. Congratulations to the athletes, and Coaches Mark Schrobach and Ron Mroz.

Students Spread Holiday Cheer



This special group of Life Skill Class students had a very special Christmas gift for 37 young Secaucus residents. They raised funds, shopped for age-appropriate gifts, and made personalized gift labels for each toy that was donated. It was not only a generous act of kindness, but also an important life skill lesson on budgeting, empathy, and volunteerism. Thank you Life Skills Class for sharing holiday cheer with fellow residents!

First Quarter Taxes Due

First quarter taxes are due on February 1, 2023. The Department is making it easier for residents to pay their property taxes. Online payments, with an option to enroll for auto-pay, is now available. Please visit secaucusnj.gov to look up and/or pay property taxes online.

You can also drop off a check at the drop box located in the Town Hall lobby. If you prefer, mail your payment to Tax Collector, 1203 Paterson Plank, Secaucus NJ 07094. For answers to property tax-related questions, please call 201-330-2021 Ext. 1.

Visit to Community Composting Facility

On Friday, December 9th Councilman John Gerbasio and the Environmental Department visited Community Compost Company's composting facility in Kerhonksen, New York. The former 300-acre dairy farm is where food scraps from our municipal drop-off program are brought to and processed. They learned first-hand how CCC combines Secaucus food scraps with other organic materials (such as wood chips, leaves, and manure) to create a nutrient-rich compost with the aerated static pile method. All compost is approved for organic use, which means it ends up on local farms and in our Town's community gardens. In all, this process not only helps the environment by diverting food scraps from the landfill, it also recycles it back into the earth and improves the quality of soil for plants to grow.

To learn more and join the Town's community composting program, visit www.secaucusnj.gov/compost. Since the program began in June 2021, over 200 Secaucus families have helped divert over 16 tons of food waste! When you join, organic materials will go to the farm in Kerhonkson, NY (90 miles away) and be converted to compost, instead of going to a landfill in Amsterdam, Ohio (425 miles away). In addition to waste reduction, composting provides a range of environmental benefits, including improving soil health, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, recycling nutrients, and more. It also saves money for Secaucus taxpayers by cutting down on landfill fees and the volume and frequency of garbage collection. So please take a moment and sign up for our community composting program today!



Chess Challenge!

Wednesday January 18, 2023

Secaucus High School Cafeteria

3 PM to 7 PM Use PAC Entrance

Members of the Middle and High School Compete in a Classic Chess Tournament.



Public is invited to view the matches, entrance fee \$5. First 100 admitted, due to cafeteria space limitations.

What chess strategy will prevail? Italian Opening, the Sicilian Defense, Ruy Lopez or the Slav Defense?

Event sponsored by Secaucus Spectator and local Secaucus businesses.



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
America's Volunteer Lifesavers

"Boating Safety Classes"

USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 10 - 02

5 Meadowlands Parkway, Secaucus

NJ Boating Safety Certification

2023 Calendar Schedule

Online Registration

Must complete 8 Hours of Classroom time
Tele #: 201-381-0776 / flotilla1002@gmail.com
<http://www.flotilla10-02.org>

January 14 th (Saturday) 8am-4pm	February 8 th and 9 th , 6pm-10pm
March 18 th (Saturday) 8am-4pm	April 19 th and 20 th , 6-10pm
May 13 th (Saturday) 8am-4pm	June 14 th and 15 th , 6-10pm
July 15 th (Saturday) 8am-4pm	August 9 th and 10 th , 6-10pm
September 16 th (Saturday) 8am-4pm	October 25 th and 26 th , 6-10pm
November 18 th (Saturday) 8am-4pm	December - No Classes

Register online: \$55.00, Includes Book and Test
Pay at the Door: \$65.00, Includes Book and Test

If you are looking for a date other than above, please call us!



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

FOOD DRIVE

Saturday, January 21st

9 am - 12 pm

We are looking for donations of

Canned soup &
vegetables

During the month the items can be dropped at the

Community Center

145 Front St

Monday through Friday 8 am - 3 pm

Any questions please call

Judy at 201-330-2014

We are always looking for donations of
\$10.00 gift cards to Walmart or Shop Rite

Musical Instruments for Secaucus Middle School

It's been years since you played a musical instrument.
It's somewhere in the attic or closet.

Find it and donate it to the Middle School Band.

They need: slightly used Drums, Cymbals, Flutes, Clarinets, Saxophones, Trumpets, Trombones, Guitars and Audio Equipment. (No Pianos Please!)

Take your instrument to the Middle School security entrance between 7 AM and 3:30 PM.

More Info? Contact Sean Sonnett, Director of Bands
ssonnett@sboe.org



Secaucus Spectator is encouraging delivery of slightly used instruments on or before Friday January 27, 2023 so students can practice for school concerts.



Artist Reception Views of a Pandemic A Collaborative Hudson County Art Show

January 13, 2023
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Panasonic Rm.



Throughout the month of December and January the Secaucus Public Library will be hosting an art exhibit related to our Voices of the Pandemic initiative. The exhibit will highlight art and handicrafts made by Hudson County residents and workers during the pandemic that captures the emotional, mental, or physical impact of the pandemic on the artist and/or our community. Please join us on January 13th, meet the artists and preview the trailer for the "Voices From the Pandemic" A Collaborative Hudson County History documentary. Register at secaucuslibrary.org. For more information, please contact Lee Penna at Lee.penna@secaucus.bccls.org.

This program is made possible by a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a division of the Department of State, and administered by the Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, Thomas A. DeGise, Hudson County Executive & the Hudson County Board of County Commissioners.



A BENEFIT FUNDRAISER FOR THE SECAUCUS ANIMAL SHELTER Get Into The New Year with The Joy of Dancing



admission
\$25.00
per person*

*Thanks to a generous sponsor, \$75.00 per participant will be contributed to the animal shelter.

Admission fee is to be paid at the event.

saturday
01.14.2023
11:00am

JOIN THE PARTY ZUMBA ZIN fitness
www.ZumbaWithKinga.com
Secaucus Recreation Center
Sadhu Vaswani Meditation Garden
1200 Koelle Boulevard · Secaucus NJ 07094

Secaucus Public Library

Happy Lunar New Year!

JANUARY 18, 2023
6:30 PM

SECAUCUS RECREATION CENTER
1200 KOELLE BLVD

Join us as we celebrate Lunar New Year, the year of the Rabbit! Come learn about the significance of the holiday with Yang Lou and enjoy the art, music, dance and Kung Fu performances from Liwei Fang, Cong Liu, AYLUS North Jersey, Sunshine Dance NJ, and New Jersey Youth Marshal Arts. Enjoy giveaways and much more!

Please register on the calendar @ secaucuslibrary.org

THIS PROGRAM WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL OF THE ARTS, AND ADMINISTERED BY THE HUDSON COUNTY OFFICE OF CULTURAL & HERITAGE AFFAIRS, TOM A. DEGISE, HUDSON COUNTY EXECUTIVE, AND THE HUDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

Bureau of Fire Prevention Winter Safety Bulletin



Space Heater

Power Strips

DO NOT plug space heaters into power strips or extension cords. Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet.

Power strips / Extension cords are not designed to handle the high current flow required by a space heater and can overheat, causing a fire.

Keep the heater at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including people.

Space heaters should be turned off and unplugged when you leave the room.

STAY WARM BUT STAY SAFE

is your dog licensed?



2023 Dog Licenses Now Available

Apply for a license for your dog(s).

It's required by law.

secaucusnj.gov/departments/health
or call 201-330-2031

\$17 for fixed pet

\$20 for non-fixed pet

You can also receive a voucher for a free pet rabies vaccine to be administered at select locations.

SECAUCUS



SCHOOLS

Dear Secaucus Families,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone is doing well recovering from the holiday season.

As we enter the new calendar year, it is hard to believe that we are almost half-way done with this school year. I am asking parents to please be considerate of others and keep your child home from school if they are exhibiting any signs of a serious, communicable illness. As we all enjoyed our holiday gatherings with family and friends, we have also exposed ourselves to many potential communicable illnesses while gathering in large groups. We would like to do all we can to ensure that these illnesses are contained and are asking our families to assist us in doing so.

In December, we said “farewell” to two administrators in our district; Ms. Amanda Trombetta and Dr. Rene Rovtar. Amanda was our Secondary Supervisor of STEM and a product of our amazing school district. We wish her well as she transitions to a district supervisor position closer to her home. Dr. Rovtar was our Interim Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Rovtar has retired and will be spending more time with her family nearer to her home.

We welcome Dylan Caruso, our new Secondary Supervisor of STEM as a welcome addition to our administrative team! Dylan is also a product of our school district and has been a high school math teacher for 8 years, as well as a coach and advisor at the middle and high school level. Mr. Caruso has earned a Bachelor’s degree from Ramapo College in Mathematics, with a minor in Economics. He has also earned his Masters Degree in Educational Leadership from Montclair State University. Congratulations Mr. Caruso!

Finally, I would like to wish all Secaucus families the very best for a happy and healthy new year! We promise to continue to offer the students of Secaucus the very best in education and extracurricular activities going forward into 2023!

Dr. Daniela Riser
Acting Superintendent of Schools



AP Class Attends Interactive Surgery Session



Mrs. Edmund’s AP class and Ms. Roesing’s Human Anatomy class attended an interactive pediatric/neonatal surgery at Liberty Science Center in mid-December. The surgeon discussed the challenges of working with neonates and students were able to virtually ask the surgeon questions while watching a procedure being performed.

Author’s Virtual Visit

On Tuesday, December 13th, the 2nd grade students at Huber St. School enjoyed a virtual visit from first time authors, twin siblings, Nathaniel and Delilah Adams. Prior to the visit, the students read the book, *The Magical Envelope*, a story about spreading kindness and positivity. Students had the opportunity to purchase a signed copy of the book to add to their home libraries. During the visit, students learned a little about the siblings and what inspired them to write this book. The students enjoyed the visit and are looking forward to writing their own stories one day! As Nathaniel and Delilah said, “Follow your dreams and never give up!”



Three Board Members Retire



At the December board meeting, the Secaucus School District bid “farewell” to three board members. We thank Jayesh Patel, Kathy O’Connell, and President Jack McStowe for their years of service to our school district and to the children of Secaucus.

Holiday Gift for Our Youngest Readers



To kick off the cold weather season, all of our friends at Millridge School received a book from the PTA entitled *Little Bear’s Special Friend*.

S.A.I.L. Trains Session for Seniors

Secaucus High School S.A.I.L. students Naija Agarwal, Dhavni Gandhi, and Vinicius Sacardi provided Virtual Senior Citizen Computer Tutoring during the month of December. We thank them for their service to our community!



Clarendon Girl’s Club



Clarendon School’s Girls Circle Club enjoyed some candy canes and games after writing sweet holiday cards to the Secaucus Senior Citizens!

Santa Visits Huber Street



Santa visited some Bears at Huber Street during the month of December!

First Snowball Event



Our 1st Annual Snow Ball was a success!!! Everyone had a great time! A big THANK YOU from the PTA to Ms. Candela, Mr. Cocucci, and faculty for helping make our Snow Ball event a success!