



Councilmembers Sworn in for New Term

Three members of the Secaucus Town Council were sworn in for a new four-year term at a meeting held on January 3rd, 2023. All three councilmembers ran unopposed in the November 2022 election. Judge Karen Boylan administered the oath of office to John Gerbasio of Ward 1, James Clancy of Ward 2 and Orietta Tringali of Ward 3.

Mayor's Corner

I write this with a heart filled with gratitude and pride for our community that comes together in adversity, as it does in times of joy.

Around midnight of January 15th, the Secaucus Fire Department responded to a fire alarm at 220 Meadow Lane. Fire and Police Departments responded swiftly but what started as a fire in a single unit, sadly ended with one fatality, and 11 families being displaced. Most of the apartments involved were affected by smoke, not by fire, thanks to the response of our Fire Department. It has been a terrible ordeal for the families affected; I pray they can get their lives back on track again soon. We are here to support them every step of the way.

Members of the Town Council and I have been available, answering questions and providing assistance to the affected families since the fire. Representatives of the Red Cross also met with each of the families to help with alternate living arrangements and more. On Saturday, January 21st, members of the VFW hosted a fundraiser led by the Secaucus Emergency Fund with a goal of raising funds to help those impacted by the fire. As soon as the fundraiser was announced, pledges started pouring in from local non-profit organizations, businesses, and individuals. During the 4-hour drive,

Town Council members and I joined the Secaucus Emergency Fund team on Paterson Plank Road and in the Plaza Center, waving to residents as they stopped their cars and poured in the donations. In all, the effort raised more than \$35,000, far more than any of us anticipated. The donations speak volumes about our caring community, and about the generous spirit that binds us together. I am not able to list everyone who donated, but I thank everyone for their contributions, big and small. I am glad to say that 100% of the donated funds were distributed to displaced families--the Secaucus Emergency Fund presented checks at the Town Council Meeting on January 24th and we hope this helps families as they navigate towards normalcy.



My faith that Secaucus is the best place to live gets affirmed, repeatedly when I experience such caring and generosity. Thank you for making it possible.

ANCHOR Program Deadline Extended

The deadline to apply for ANCHOR program benefits has been extended to February 28, 2023! The program provides property tax relief to residents who owned or rented their principal residence in New Jersey on October 1, 2019 and met income requirements.

Homeowners need an ANCHOR ID and PIN to apply online or by phone. If you did not receive a mailer or email with an ID and PIN, but filed a Homestead Benefit application last year can retrieve the ID and PIN online. Certain homeowners must file a paper application.

All eligible renters/tenants can apply online or complete a paper application, and do not need an ID or PIN.

Visit www.nj.gov/treasury/taxation/anchor for more information. To apply by phone, please call 1-877-658-2972.

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
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C: 551-226-0955

Councilman James Clancy
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C: 201-906-9657

Councilwoman Orietta Tringali
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LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
SECAUCUS, NJ 07094



Secaucus Municipal Government Center
Paterson Plank Road
Secaucus, NJ 07094

Pitching In to Make a Difference

On January 15th, an apartment complex on Meadow Lane was affected by a fire resulting in one fatality and displacing 11 families from their homes. Mayor Mike Gonnelli and the Town Council, along with the Secaucus Emergency Fund and volunteers, collected donations during a fund-raising drive on January 21st. VFW Post Commander Phil Papa, Councilman Bill McKeever, and other members of the Secaucus VFW donated the use of their facility, where the volunteers and residents were served food and beverages. The Secaucus Fire Department, Police Department, PBA, K&S, local businesses, organizations and residents together pitched in, and the drive raised more than \$35,000 at the time this report was written. Checks were presented to the families at the Town Council meeting on January 24th. A \$500 voucher from Bob's Discount furniture will also be sent to each family.



The town provided temporary housing for the families at a local hotel until they can return to their homes.

New Fire Department Officers Sworn In

The Fire Department has a leadership rotation every two years. At the January 3rd Town Council meeting, new incoming officers were sworn in: Fred Schneider of Tower 2 as Fire Chief, Lawrence Marciano of Washington Hook and Ladder as Deputy Chief, and Nick Nardone Sr. of Engine 1 as Battalion Chief. Congratulations and many thanks to the Chiefs for their dedication and the time they give to make our volunteer fire department the best in the State!



North Hudson Community Action Corporation Opens Health Center in Secaucus

On January 23rd, North Hudson Community Action Corporation (NHCAC), a Federally Funded Health Center, opened its new service center at the Hudson Regional Hospital in Secaucus. The facility was officially inaugurated at a ribbon cutting ceremony led by NJ Deputy Commissioner of Health Deborah Hartel, NHCAC President and CEO Joan Quigley, Chairman Joseph Muniz, Secaucus Councilman and NHCAC Board Member John Gerbasio and Hudson Regional Hospital President and CEO, Dr. Nizar Kifaieh. The new facility, located on the second floor of Hudson Regional Hospital, includes a reception area, waiting room, and seven patient examination rooms, including an isolation room for severely infected patients.



Speaking about the new center, Ms. Quigley noted that this one-of-a-kind collaboration between a hospital and a Federally Qualified Health Center could become a model for other centers in the country. The facility offers primary health care services, discounted medications and more. NHCAC already has a presence in other locations in the area and now brings its services closer to our Secaucus residents. For more information, please visit their website www.nhcac.org or call 201-210-0200.

Four New Officers Join the Police Department



The Secaucus Police Department added four new officers to the Department, bringing the total to 81. The new members, Jaden Gonzalez, Austin C. Hawxhurst, Robert Schaffer and Andrew Shin were sworn in at a meeting on January 12th. Welcoming the new officers, Chief Dennis Miller and Deputy Chief Joseph Baccola, promised to give all the support the officers and their families need. We wish the officer the best of luck in the Police Academy!

Bollywood Dance Studio Opens



Vasudha Dance Academy, a studio specializing in Bollywood dance, is now open in Town. On January 21st, Mayor Michael Gonnelli, Councilman Bill McKeever and Councilwoman Orietta Tringali were joined by several residents at the ribbon-cutting inaugural ceremony to congratulate owner-instructor Vasudha Saxena. The studio is located at 151 Front Street.

Craft Clique, a studio offering several arts and crafts programs as well as themed parties, previously located at 151 Front Street, has now moved to a new location on 1317 Paterson Plank Road. Owner Lisa Vaca Paparella hopes the larger location will allow Craft Clique to expand its offerings and accommodate the increased interest in the studio's programs.

Tenants: Are you covered?

Are you a tenant without a renter's insurance policy? Did you consider what will happen if the contents of your unit are damaged by a water leak or fire? Or a fire displaces you and your family, leaving you to incur costs for alternate living arrangements? In such instances, your landlord's insurance policy will not cover expenses for your contents, alternate living arrangements and any liability claims. It is important that tenants consider getting a renter's insurance policy. Depending on the type of coverage, renter's insurance covers the current value of the tenant's belongings or a full replacement value. Policies may cover living expenses if the unit becomes damaged, and also liability claims for damage caused by the owner's unit that are not due to a structural problem.

Renters insurance policies are not as expensive as some may think. The benefits may outweigh costs if you ever find yourself in circumstances that could have been covered. Reach out to your insurance agent or search online for the many options available for renter's insurance.

Chess Championship at Middle School



On Wednesday, January 18th, the Secaucus Middle School cafeteria was the stage for a very special tournament. Twenty-Seven (27) chess players gathered to compete from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM in a battle of strategy and quick thinking. The event was even live streamed on YouTube. At the end of the session, Liam Shah and Dev Chandarana emerged victorious and won trophies. Pictured are the winners with Principal Candela and Assistant Principal Cocucci.

Secaucus Patriots are Hockey Champions



Secaucus Patriots Bantam Red AA team went undefeated in the Connecticut Winter Classic Tournament held from December 30th to January 1st and won the Championship on New Year's Day, 2023! Congratulations and wishing you success in the year ahead.

New Bus for Senior Services



A new 24-passenger, handicap accessible bus is now part of our Senior Shuttle fleet! The lease of the bus is fully funded by the Community Block Development Grant (CDBG) from Hudson County. Seniors, if you would like to schedule a ride, please call Senior Services at 201-865-4422.

Secaucus Student Wins VFW-Voice of Democracy Essay Contest

This essay, written by Ayush Agarwal, won the regional Voice of Democracy essay contest held by the VFW. Ayush was honored by the VFW at a special dinner held in Toms River on January 13, 2023. A Proclamation was presented by the Mayor and Town Council, and the local VFW Post 3776 and the NJ VFW presented scholarship checks to Ayush at the Town Council meeting on January 24, 2023.

Why is the Veteran Important?

"Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." The challenge that former President John F. Kennedy gave to every American is one that has survived through the perils of time. At its core, however, his message continues to resonate with the definition of one key concept: The Veteran.

Time and time again, The Veteran is one who has dedicated his or her life to the nation. The Veteran is one who has sacrificed memories with their parents, siblings, wives, and children. The Veteran is more than simply a person. It is a group, an identity, and most importantly, a symbol that we must respect.

With over 18 million veterans in the United States, each individual has a unique story... Continue reading at SecaucusNJ.gov/essay23



HAPPY Valentines!

THE STAFF AT THE SECAUCUS PUBLIC LIBRARY LOVES SERVING YOU! STOP IN AND CHECK OUT OUR NEW BOOKS, MAGAZINES, DVD'S, PROGRAMS AND MORE. PICK UP AN "I ❤️ MY LIBRARY" LIP BALM AS OUR WAY OF THANKING YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE.

Month of February

(One per person while supplies last)

Interested in purchasing organic, locally grown produce that is delivered the same day it's harvested?

LEARN MORE WITH FARMER MARGARET

WHEN: Tuesday, Feb. 21st 6:30 pm

WHERE: Secaucus Public Library Panasonic Room

FREE GIVEAWAYS!

FARM-GROWN FOOD TASTINGS!

PRIZES FOR NIGHT-OF CSA SIGN-UPS!

100% Certified Organic and GMO-Free Farm

SECAUCUS

New Emergency Notification System is Here!

Know what's going on in Town! Sign up for Rave Alerts and receive emergency alerts and community notifications from Town Hall via text, email and/or phone calls. **You must sign up for Rave Alerts, our NEW announcement system, even if you currently receive alerts.**

To receive all community announcements, please be sure to check the General Announcements box when signing up.

Be in the know! Sign up for alerts at secaucusnj.gov/rave

SECAUCUS FOOD PANTRY IS IN NEED OF **REUSABLE BAG DONATIONS**

WHERE & WHEN
145 FRONT STREET
M-F 8AM - 3PM

WHAT
ANY/ALL REUSABLE BAGS

WHY
TO HELP THOSE IN NEED & THE ENVIRONMENT

SecaucusNJ.gov | Social Services 201-330-2014

Live Entertainment & Refreshments

Friends of the Library 2023 Kick-Off Meeting

Thursday, February 23rd
6:30pm-8:30pm

Panasonic Meeting Room
1379 Paterson Plank Road
Secaucus, NJ

All are welcome to attend this free event, but Friends membership is always encouraged and appreciated!

Memberships available at the door, renew in the library or on line at secaucuslibrary.org

Secure your spot today on the calendar at secaucuslibrary.org

Secaucus Public Library
1379 Paterson Plank Rd., Secaucus, NJ 07094

1ST TIME HOME BUYERS SEMINAR

March 8th 6:30 pm

- Mortgage Options
- How to get pre-approved
- When is a good time to purchase a home?
- Step by step process to purchase a home
- How to secure a title?
- Homeowners' Insurance
- Home Inspection
- Q & A Session

To save your spot register on the calendar @ secaucuslibrary.org
Refreshments will be served

kw PARK VIEWS REALTY
KELLERWILLIAMS

Agnes Bowman



Dear Secaucus Families,

I hope everyone is doing well!

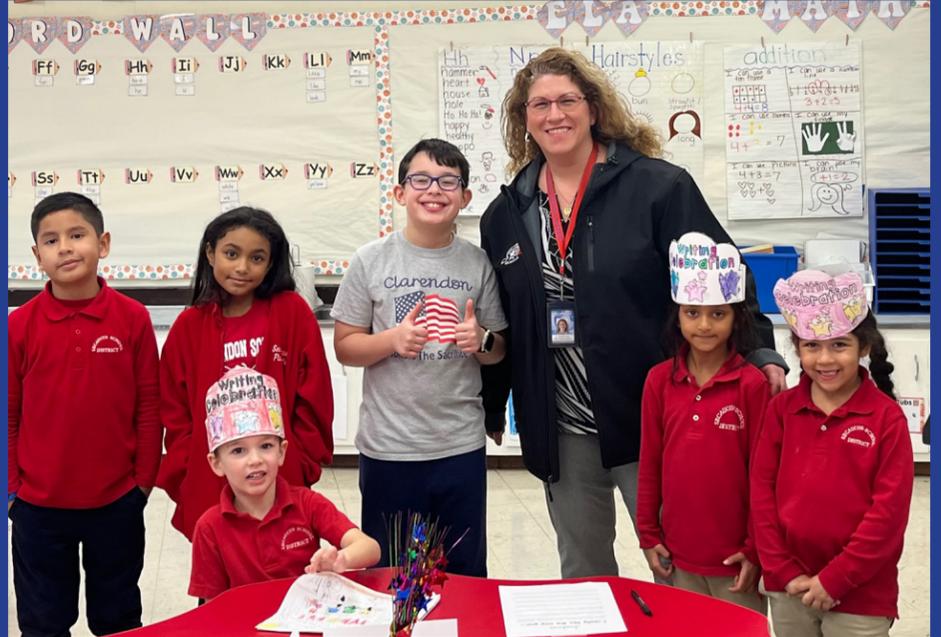
As we progress through the last full month of winter, we are still asking our parents to be mindful of any sicknesses your children currently have. We have successfully kept our schools open throughout this school year without a mask mandate. We hope to continue to do so going forward, but ask for your help in not sending your child/children to school with any contagious ailment.

February will prove to be another exciting month in our school year! We celebrate Black History Month in all of our schools, honoring the triumphs and struggles of African Americans throughout U.S. history. Aside from being encompassed in their rigorous academic schedules, students will also be celebrating “Galentine’s” and Valentine’s Day events, as well as Sweetheart dances and themed celebrations to round out the month. Please be aware that all district events could be accessed on the Google Calendar available on the www.sboe.org webpage.

I would like to make all parents/guardians and Secaucus residents aware of our “Parent Communication Form” that is also available on the www.sboe.org website (as a button on the right side of the page labeled ‘Parent Questions/Comments’). This form could be used by anyone to pose questions to the district administration regarding our school systems. No questions will be ignored!

Finally, I want to wish all of our students continued success for a great school year. As always, I will continue to ensure that we are providing our Secaucus residents with the quality education they deserve while keeping the lines of communication open with all stakeholders

Best Regards,
Dr. Daniela Riser
Acting Superintendent of Schools



2023 / 2024 School Year Advance Enrollment

Pre-K Registration



Enrollment for Pre-kindergarten students will take place Monday, February 6, 2023, through Friday, February 10, 2023 for students who will be 4 years of age on or before October 1, 2023.



Enrollment for Kindergarten students will take place Monday, February 27, 2023, through Friday, March 3, 2023 for students who will be 5 years of age on or before October 1, 2023.

Clarendon School

Call (201) 974-2010

Email clarendon_registration@sboe.org

Area of Residence:

Osprey Cove, Harmon Cove Townhouses and Towers, The Harper at 100 Plaza Drive, and the Entire South Side of Secaucus

Huber Street School

Call (201) 974-2053

Email huber_registration@sboe.org

Area of Residence:

All of County Avenue and County Avenue side streets, Secaucus Road, Henry Street, XChange at Secaucus Junction, North Side of Paterson Plank Road, Roosevelt Avenue and side streets, Green Valley Court, North of the Plaza on Paterson Plank Road, North of Flanagan Way, Liberty Court, Riverside Court, and the Entire North End of Secaucus

All Regular Education Pre-Kindergarten Classes are held at

The Millridge School

40 Millridge Road

AM or PM placement will be determined at a later date.

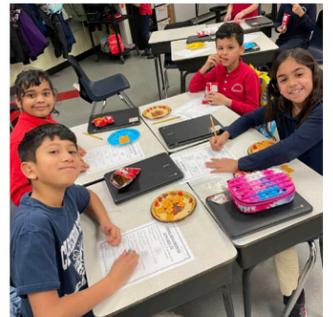
Making Math Fun

At Clarendon School, the third-grade students in Mrs. Wurst’s class enjoyed reviewing Area and Perimeter by using Cheez-Its to represent square units (and even sneaking a couple bites) in math class!

At Huber Street School, Mrs. Martin’s kindergarten class enjoyed taking part in various math games!



Using an interactive Google slide presentation, students practiced proper number formation with flashlights! Students also participated in the game “Bears in a Cave!” Finally, students create a math equation that represents the addition of both groups of bears. Fun was had by all!



Experts Share Medical Career Information

Members from Hudson Regional Hospital recently spoke to roughly 60 students who are interested in pursuing a career in the medical field. Thank you to Sheryl Syby, Assistant Vice President of Nursing; Lucy Job, Clinical Manager of the Emergency Dept; Eda Kasalla, Director of Radiology & Brigdon Campbell, Director of EMS for spending this time with our students. Also in attendance were Marat Rysmendiev and Marjorie Kaplan, who assisted our guidance counselor, Mrs. Suzano is organizing this event.



Making Friends and Venn Diagrams

Miss O’Hara’s first graders had fun learning about Venn Diagrams this week. Pairs worked together to create a “Friend Diagram” by comparing and contrasting information about themselves. Students were able to learn so much about their classmates!



Wrestler Recognition



Dean Costantino of Secaucus High School was voted North Jersey Wrestler of the Week for Jan. 8-14!

School Clubs Host Breakfast



The High School S.A.I.L., Key Club and Middle School S.G.O. students held a “Meet and Greet” breakfast as part of their Big Friends/Little Friends program.