

**Newsletter
Mission:**

The purpose of our newsletter is to keep our residents aware of Secaucus' recycling and sustainability goals, green tips and environmental achievements.

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Mayor
Michael J Gonnelli
and Town Council
Gary Jeffas
Robert Costantino
James Clancy
Mark Dehnert
Bill McKeever
Susan Pirro

Secaucus Environmental Department Launches Summer Speaker Series

The Environmental Department of Secaucus initiated a brand new summer speaker series at the Meditation Garden behind the Recreation Center, every Wednesday night in July, from 7:00pm—8:00pm.

Our goal was to educate and inform Secaucus residents on sustainable and ecologically pertinent subjects that affect our lives on a daily basis. The four subjects that kicked off our speaker series were:

- **Composting**
- **The Meadowlands**
- **Bees**
- **“Green Lawns”**

Our first meeting of the series discussed **com-**



Jack Daly discussing the importance of bees.

posting with **Donna LaStella**. She described the benefits and basics of composting and answered questions about how to start, maintain and nurture compost inside and outside the home.

In fact, did you know that Secaucus has four compost bins at the community garden in Fountain Park? All Secaucus residents are welcome to sup-

plement our compost by adding fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds or eggshells to the bin. If you contribute, please feel free to take a little compost for your garden at home.

Our second speaker, **Courtney Lichtenberger**, is an environmental science major at Ramapo College and the Environmental Department's intern for the summer. She spoke about the **Meadowlands**; its formation, history, recovery and Secaucus' unique location within its parameters.

Our third speaker, **Jack Daly**, an Assistant Professor of Environmental Sustainability at Passaic County Community Col-



Donna LaStella kicks off the series by explaining composting.

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Community Supported Agriculture Comes to Secaucus



The public demand for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs is so great that the Town Of Secaucus started one this summer with School Lunch Organic Farm.

For more information, visit www.schoollunchfarm.com or call 908 451-0051 to speak with Farmer Margaret Noon

There is a growing national trend of consumers looking to eat healthier by adding organically grown fruits and vegetables to their weekly menu while at the same time supporting local farmers.

In order to satisfy the demand for pesticide-free foods, farmers who specialize in organic produce have begun offering farm **'shares'** to interested consumers.

This past June, for the first time, Secaucus partnered with Farmer Margaret Noon at School Lunch Organic Farm to deliver interested Secaucus residents a weekly supply fresh picked certified organic vegetables.

Here's how Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) works:

The farmer requires a minimum number of people to commit to the program—so residents start signing up for either a full or half share in the late winter and early spring. The farmer is paid in advance for each share because she buys only enough seed and grows only enough produce for the people who enrolled in the program.

The Secaucus CSA program began on June 21st and will run for 22 weeks through mid-November. Every Tuesday, produce that was picked that morning from the farm is deliv-

ered to the Recreation Center on Koelle Blvd. Members come by the Center to pick up their bags of fresh produce between 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

Since this produce is picked the same morning as delivery, the bags contain whatever seasonal vegetables are growing at that time. This means that the bags contain different vegetables from week to week depending on the time of year and harvest of that day.

Families find a CSA program a good way introduce new vegetables to their families and to help encourage healthy eating.



School Lunch Farm & CSA is a 100% Certified Organic and GMO-Free Farm offering a weekly share of organic produce for 21 weeks from June through November. Shares are harvested the day you pick it up—so your veggies are super fresh. There are 10-18 types of produce available in any given week. 100% of the produce is grown from seed on the farm.

Secaucus Is an Award Winning Sustainable Community

GO GREEN SPOTLIGHT



Penhorn Avenue Cleanup

This newsletter is printed on 30% post consumer recycled paper.

Published by the Environmental Department.

Sponsored by the Town of Secaucus, Mayor Gonnelli and Town Council.



- The Secaucus Environmental Department is in the process of implementing a point system based on eco-friendly practices to certify qualifying restaurants and businesses as being **Green Certified**. Look for our sticker of certification in local area windows!
 - Soon, all water fountains in Town Hall will have filtered bottle refilling stations in order to reduce plastic bottle waste. We are in the process of researching companies who offer these special stations that not only filter out metals and impurities but also allow use by refillable water bottles.
 - Pollinators in Secaucus! Both bats and bees are losing habitat at an alarming rate. We have a plan to install up to six bat houses in Secaucus to not only give the bats a home but also to help us with mosquito control. One bat can eat up to 1,000 mosquitos an hour!
 - And to help the bees, we have installed four bee hives in Secaucus to help these important pollinators with habitat loss.
 - Our cleanup program continues with 12 cleanups completed so far in 2016, including our first ever cleanup on Penhorn Avenue. 34 volunteers from various businesses on Penhorn helped us pick up approx. 50 tires, 35 bags of garbage and 1 mattress.
 - We planted 45 trees as a result of our Arbor Day Tree appreciation campaign.
- Approximately \$9,000 was donated from local businesses and residents to help increase the tree canopy in Secaucus.
- We are taking a recycling bin inventory of all parks in Secaucus to make sure that all parks are equipped with recycling bins.
 - Secaucus has been included in a pilot study by the North Jersey Transportation Authority (NJTPA) to determine the best location and practices for stations servicing Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFV).



TD Bank Cleanup

Secaucus Go Green Mission...

Secaucus is committed to the protection and preservation of the environment and is dedicated to enhancing environmental sustainability within our town and the state of New Jersey. We understand the responsibility we have towards the planet and have adopted a policy that reflects this mission.



Bees Hives near Secaucus Animal Shelter

If you would like to see the hives up close, please call Amanda Nesheiwat at 201 864-7336 to arrange a visit.

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Visit us on the Web!
www.secaucusnj.org

Summer Speaker Series...continued from Page 1

lege and avid beekeeper, told us about the declining numbers of honey bee populations and their importance not only to the environment, but to the overall health of the planet.

Did you know that Secaucus is doing its part to help the bees? We have set up four hives near the Animal Shelter. If you would like to visit, or if you would be interested in getting help to set up hives in your own backyard, please call Amanda Nesheiwat at 201 864-7336.

Our fourth and last speaker of the series was **Gray Russell**, the Sustainability Officer from the Township of Montclair who discussed the way to have the per-

fect green lawn without using chemicals. He shared his insights from



Courtney Lichtenberger talking about the Meadowlands

starting with the right soil through seeding, watering and mowing techniques.

Pesticide runoff from over-treated lawns is harming our rivers and fish and encouraging algae blooms. Gray offered environmentally friendly alternatives to a green lawn without the use of harsh chemicals.

The response we had to our first-ever summer speaker series was ex-

tremely positive. If you missed our series, be sure to keep us in mind for next summer—every Wednesday night in July.

If you have any suggestions on an environmental topic that you would like to see addressed in the future please let us know!



Gray Russell speaking about Green Lawns at the fourth and final Summer Speaker Series at the Meditation Garden on July 27th.