



Secaucus Monthly

Jan
2019

A look at the Community, including upcoming events, important notices, meetings, and more.



SANTA VISITS SECAUCUS

Santa made several trips from the North Pole to Secaucus this holiday season. Pictured above is his visit to The Exceptional People of Secaucus (EPOS) at their annual holiday party. He also visited each of the schools, Tot Center, the skating rink, took part in our annual tree lighting ceremony and parade, and drove around Town on local fire engine trucks.

See more photos from the Holiday Season in Secaucus on the last page.

PROPERTY TAXES DUE

Property Taxes are due February 1st.

For more information, please visit
www.SecaucusNJ.gov.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Municipal Offices will be closed Monday January 21
in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

Newsletter Submissions

Do you have any photos taken in our
Town to share?

Send articles and photos to Pia
Valentin: pvalentin@secaucus.net for
consideration.

The Mayor's Corner



On behalf of the Town Council and myself, I wish every Secaucus resident a very Happy New Year. In the year ahead, let's remind ourselves to smile more, be friendly to our neighbors and stay united as a community.

In 2018, our Town accomplished a lot of what we set out to do. You may have seen many local streets repaved, curbs and sidewalks replaced, updates to fire equipment, more amenities for seniors, expanded recreation programs, ongoing flood control measures and more.

This year we will continue our efforts to keep Secaucus a great place to live. As in previous years, we will seek grants from federal, state and local sources so we can make further infrastructure improvements while maintaining

a balanced budget. Plans are underway for a new indoor recreation facility off Meadowlands Parkway and for a large children's park at Mill Creek Park. Renovation of roadways, including the entire length of Meadowlands Parkway, will make travel smoother. Wherever possible, open spaces will be preserved and programs at our parks, recreation and community centers will give residents more ways to enjoy life in Secaucus.

I invite you to participate in all the community events lined up this year. For updates and Town information, visit www.secaucusnj.gov. Wishing you all a Happy and healthy 2019!

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: Margaret “Peggy” Keane



Margaret “Peggy” Keane with the plaque honoring her with Irish Citizen of the Year award.

One meeting with Margaret “Peggy” Keane and you’ll be touched by her infectious smile, positive outlook and the glow in her eyes. At 94 years, Peggy has seen a lot of life, and she’s living it to the fullest. She moved to the U.S. with her husband, Michael, 64 years ago and has beautifully merged her Irish heritage and American life, contributing to the community wherever she lives. She was an active member of the All Ireland Social Club and organized many dances as President of the Club. “My husband and I loved to dance. I broke my ankle once but that didn’t stop me. I danced in the cast,” she says gleefully.

She worked as a dietician at a hospital in Jersey City and touched many lives in Secaucus when she moved to Town. “I moved to Secaucus when there were pig farms here,” Peggy fondly reminisces, as she talks about her time as a member of the Senior Citizen’s Club, 60+ Club and Vice-President of the Tenant’s Association at Kroll Heights. Before she moved to assisted living, Peggy volunteered for local political campaigns and at Meadowlands Hospital, and knitted blankets for Project Linus. Showing off her hand-crocheted throws she decorates her room with, she says with a hint of an Irish accent, “A whole gang of us used to meet and crochet blankets to donate to hospitals.” Her thought is interrupted as she looks at the clock. “Oh, I have to be at a crochet class in 10 minutes,” she says and just like that, she reaches for her walker and heads downstairs to meet the knitting instructor.

What do you do with Clean Plastic Bags?



Most residents do their part by recycling cans, bottles and jars. But what do you do with plastic shopping bags, cereal bags, packaging, bubble wrap, newspaper sleeves, dry cleaner bags, zip bags, etc.? The Secaucus Environmental Department has partnered with Whole Foods and Trex to recycle these plastics.

You can now drop off clean plastic bags at the Recreation Center, Library, Senior Center, Town Hall and Town Hall Annex. Please make sure the bags are clean, with no food residue or trash in them.

For more information on what you can and cannot put in the bins, please visit www.secaucusnj.gov/departments/environmental.

A Little Goes a Long Way

What started off as a small way to donate money to charity, is now a tradition that has made quite an impact. Beginning in 2004, employees of the Town of Secaucus started Dress Down Fridays. Employees may contribute \$1.00 to be used for a charitable donation. When collections reach \$100, a selected charity receives a money order for the amount. To date, 70 donations have been sent out. "A dollar at a time really adds up. It's a simple way of showing we care," said Debbie DeRosa of the Tax Office, who graciously and meticulously maintains a file containing details of collections, donations and thank-you letters. Start something of your own and make a difference today.

Who's Cooking?

"Beginning January 1st, all food for Meals on Wheels will be cooked in-house in Secaucus", announced Lisa Snedeker, Director of Senior and Social Services. Full meals will be delivered to eligible homebound seniors daily between Monday and Friday. Suggested donation for each meal is \$1.75. To check eligibility and for more information, please call 201-330-2094.

Have You Heard The Buzz... Fresh Honey Produced in Secaucus Available Now

For the third year in a row, the Secaucus Environmental Department's Pollinator Project harvested honey from hives set up in Town. A fresh batch of honey is now available for purchase on the 2nd floor of Town Hall. Hives set up behind the Secaucus Animal Shelter, managed by the Hudson River Apiary Society (HRAS) have produced about 450lbs. of delicious honey. The honey is available for purchase in three sizes: 1lb. for \$20, 1 ¼lb. for \$25, and 1 ½ lb. for \$30, payable in cash or by check. All proceeds will go directly to the non-profit HRAS for the continuation and expansion of the program.



Secaucus Ushers in Holiday Cheer

On December 1, 2018, Secaucus residents came together in the center of Town for the annual tree lighting ceremony. A holiday parade from Huber Street School to the Plaza area kicked off the festivities. Students from Clarendon and Huber Street elementary schools spread holiday cheer with a chorus recital as residents took pictures with Santa and enjoyed hot chocolate, coffee and cookies. The Mayor, Michael Gonnelli, and members of the Town Council were present. Celebrations culminated with a dazzling display of fireworks. Earlier that day, residents shopped at the holiday bazaar at the Secaucus Recreation Center, which included vendors, entertainment, raffles and prizes.

Secaucus also continued the tradition of the annual Menorah lighting at the Plaza. Residents, the Mayor, members of the Town Council and Rabbi Kanelski participated.



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