



Secaucus Monthly

Jan.

2020

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



Happy New Year!

Mayor Michael Gonnelli & The Town Council wish all residents a happy and healthy new year!

Monthly Newsletter Available Online

The Secaucus Newsletter is available monthly by visiting SecaucusNJ.gov

Let's Make this OUR Newsletter!

The Mayor and Town Council invite all residents to contribute your pictures and information to this Newsletter. Have events, milestone birthdays, weddings, engagements, club events, or special achievements? Send a picture and a brief description for consideration. Now that we don't have a local newspaper like Home News, let's make the Secaucus Newsletter a community platform. Just email your information to ajaideep@secaucus.net or call 201-330-2000 x 3042.

The Mayor's Corner

I am so excited about the New Year and all that 2020 has to offer. As with past years, my focus and that of my Administration will be to keep taxes stable while maintaining services, continuing infrastructure upgrades and making certain the Town of Secaucus remains one of the best places to live.

If you have not had a chance, I would recommend taking a trip to Mill Creek Park to see the awesome new play area that was built on the hill. This play area turned out beautifully. From the top of the structure you can enjoy a great view of the Hackensack River and the creek structure that winds through the meadows as well as overlook

New York City.

This is something you can only get in Secaucus! We are also going to be upgrading Schmidts Woods and putting in new play equipment at Xchange, which is a public park.

Also to come in 2020 will be the long awaited \$2.4 million reconstruction of Meadowlands Parkway; paving, storm line repair and concrete work on Franklin Street, and other roadway projects we are currently evaluating.

On behalf of myself and the Town Council, we wish all a very happy New Year and successful 2020.



Sign up for Emergency Notifications

The Mayor and Town Council would like to remind all residents that the Town offers an automated SwiftReach notification system, a free information resource for residents and businesses. Even though it should not be your only source of emergency information, it is an important supplement for getting information in case of emergencies. Residents can choose to receive Notifications via phone, texts and/or email, and include emergency notices, updates on Town events, traffic or police announcements, inclement weather procedures and more. Here's how to sign up:

- From your computer or mobile device visit SecaucusNJ.gov/Notify
- If you prefer, you could fill and submit a paper Emergency Notification form. Printed forms are available at the Administrative Office on the second floor of Town Hall

Stay informed. Get on the Emergency Notification List today!

Indian Caucus of Secaucus



Since its inception 10 years ago, The Indian Caucus of Secaucus has donated money to the Fire Department each year. Pictured here is Indian Caucus President Rajesh Nagpal handing a \$500 check to Councilman James Clancy. This support of the volunteer Fire Department is much appreciated.

New Museum Hours

As of January 1st, 2020, the Town Museum will be open Saturdays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. However, in order to accommodate all guests, we welcome any group or organization to make an appointment for private/additional hours. The Directors will be happy to work around your day and time requirements. Please call Tommy at 201-315-5437 for more information.

The Town Museum is a great way to learn about the history of Secaucus so come on by. You are sure to love it.

Elected Officials

Mayor Michael J. Gonnelli
Mayor@Secaucus.net
O: 201-330-2005

Councilman John Gerbasio
JGerbasio@Secaucus.net
C: 551-226-0955

Councilman James Clancy
JClancy@Secaucus.net
O: 201-330-2000

Councilman Mark Dehnert
MDehnert@Secaucus.net
O: 201-330-2000

Councilman Robert Costantino
RCostantino@Secaucus.net
C: 201-401-9315

Councilwoman Orietta Tringali
OTringali@Secaucus.net
O: 201-330-2000

Councilman William McKeever
WMcKeever@Secaucus.net
C: 551-655-7650

Rise and Grow opens in Secaucus

Rise and Grow, a new indoor playground for young children, is now officially open at 25 Enterprise Avenue North. Mayor Michael Gonnelli, Councilman John Gerbasio, Town Administrator Gary Jeffas and Town Engineer Jennifer Modi, were present at the ribbon-cutting ceremony on December 9, 2019. The facility has trampolines, soft-play structures, inflatable slides, a toy-filled toddler area, café and party rooms for birthdays and other get-togethers. Day passes for children are available, with no-charge entry for accompanying adults.



A Christmas Tradition in the Making



The Unofficial Meadowlands Gospel Band Christmas / Holiday Concert was held on Saturday December 7th at Kroll Heights in Secaucus for the Senior Citizens and was open to the public. Everyone had fun singing along to many of the songs. The Band thanked all the residents who brought in baked goods, including Ken Wildrick, GroMart and Vito's Bakery for arranging and donating Christmas cookies, and Bill Woltmann for providing coffee. The band's current line-up has Pastor Will Henkel, Pedro Perdomo and his daughter Natasha Perdomo, and Reverend Craig Harris. The band plans to make it an annual event.

Secaucus Resident Bags Prestigious Law Fellowship

Ruby Kish, a long-time Secaucus resident and Rutgers University Law student was recently selected for the prestigious 2020 Skadden Fellowship. She is one of 28 winners nationwide chosen from more than 200 applications, which included law students from Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Georgetown and NYU. She will spend the 2-year fellowship at Advocates for Children of New Jersey and will help children, especially those with a special need. "These children need diagnosis, but quite often they end up in the justice system. I want to be their advocate so they can get the help they need," explained Ruby.

Before Ruby went to Rutgers Law School, she was a special needs children's advocate through Secaucus Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC), an organization she co-founded. "While I was navigating education issues with my own child, I realized the need for advocacy for these children. With the support of Mayor Gonnelli, the Board of Education and another parent, Abigail Gonzalez, we helped many children and families in Secaucus through the SEPAC," she said. Ruby plans to continue working in the same field after the Skadden fellowship ends.



Holiday Toy Shopping

The Department of Social Services and Mayor Michael Gonnelli were Santa's elves for a day as they shopped for toys for children in need in Secaucus and the surrounding area. They were supported, in part, by generous contributions from Sam's Club and Walmart.



Students Make PBJ Sandwiches for Local Shelters

SecaucusCares, a Students-in-Action and family group, celebrated Thanksgiving by giving back to those in need. About 900 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were donated to the PERC Shelter, Hoboken Shelter, St. Lucy's Shelter and Integrity House. To date this year, the group has donated about 1,100 PBJ sandwiches. SecaucusCares is a member of the Jefferson Awards Foundation's Students in Action program and is sponsored locally by Hygiene Project. It offers service opportunities and leadership training to young Secaucus residents. To learn more or to volunteer, visit www.hygieneproject.org or email cathy@hygieneproject.org.



Goodbye Single-use Plastic Bags

The Environmental Department reminds all residents that the Secaucus Ordinance banning most plastic bags goes into effect starting February 1, 2020. Residents are encouraged to carry reusable bags when shopping. Starting next month, with some exceptions, retail businesses will not be offering plastic bags for your purchases. They could offer paper bags at the cost of 10 cents a bag. For a limited time, the Town is offering residents two reusable bags, free of cost. Stop by Town Hall, 2nd floor, to pick up your bags. Let's do our part in reducing plastic waste that pollutes landfills and creates a negative impact on marine life.

Announcements from the Health Department

- Pet Registration and Pet Renewals for residents are now open for the 2020 calendar Year! Residents with pets are also eligible to receive complimentary rabies vouchers that can be used at either Secaucus Animal Hospital in Town!
- Opening a new Restaurant, Retail Food business, or Food Truck in Town? Make sure you are licensed with the Health Department! Our office can assist with registering your food establishment in Town and the application process. For more information, please contact the Health Department at 201-330-2031 or caguilera@secaucucs.net
- Got questions about our licensing process, pet registration, or have general Health Department questions? Visit our new FAQ page on the Secaucus Town Website! We will have current and new information on our Health Page to better answer your inquiries.

For more information, please contact the Health Department at 201-330-2031 or caguilera@secaucucs.net

Pet Registrations Now Open

The Secaucus Department of Health reminds all pet owners that they must register their cats and dogs every year. Registrations are valid for one year from January-December. To register, visit secaucusnj.gov/departments/health and fill out the online registration form. If you prefer you may fill in a paper form available at the Health Department office located at 20 Centre Ave. Please have proof of rabies vaccination when registering. Please note that rabies vaccinations must extend to November 1, 2020 or later to receive your license. Fees are \$17 for neutered and \$20 for non-neutered pets; No cash accepted. For more information, please call the Department of Health at 201-330-2031.

Snow Shoveling Tips

Snow season is almost here and it's good to remember a few commonsense tips while shoveling:

- Warm up: Stretch, bend side-to-side or walk in place to warm your muscles before you shovel.
- Dress appropriately: Dress warm and in layers. Wear boots with good traction to prevent slips.
- Stay hydrated: Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated during shoveling.
- Pace yourself: Take your time shoveling. Take breaks and don't rush.
- Push, don't lift: Push snow to the banks instead of lifting. It's easier on your body. Avoid twisting and turning as you remove snow.
- Periodic Shoveling: Consider shoveling throughout the storm to avoid shoveling large amounts of snow at one time. It's also easier to shovel right away as the snow is lighter and fluffier.
- Get Help: If you cannot shovel yourself, reach out to snow removal companies. Seniors in Secaucus can get on a Snow Removal Help list by calling 201-330-2034.
- Don't shovel into street: It is against Town rules to push snow into the street.
- Follow posted signs: Don't park in no-parking zones to allow snow plows to clear streets
- Most Important: If you have chest pain while shoveling, call 911 for immediate medical attention.

To ensure public safety for all residents during the winter season, please ensure sidewalks and walkways are clear of ice, snow, debris. For any complaints or questions, please contact the Health Department at 201-330-2031.



844-722-6432



pacoagency.org



f @pacoincnj

ig @pacoinc

346 Central Ave.

Jersey City NJ 07307

ATTENTION LANDLORDS!!

**OWN A PROPERTY BUILT BEFORE 1978?
WORRIED ABOUT LEAD PAINT?
ARE YOUR RESOURCES LIMITED?**



WE CAN HELP!

**Call PACO to learn about
FREE lead paint testing,
FREE lead paint risk
assessment, and FREE
lead paint hazard
remediation.**



Hudson County Executive Tom DeGise
& The Board of Chosen Freeholders



Proclamation to Honor Decorated Veteran

Decorated veteran Paul Pinkman was honored with a Proclamation at Town Hall at the November 26th Council Meeting. Councilman William McKeever thanked Paul for his service and read the Proclamation. Councilman Clancy also thanked Paul not just for his contribution as a serviceman but also as a community member who goes above and beyond for fellow veterans. Talking about his tours of duty, Paul said that it was an honor to serve even though it was a difficult time to serve and “now we have to continue to serve our community.” Paul was earlier honored with the Hudson County Veteran of the Year Award.



Secaucus Garden Club



Pictured here are Mayor Michael Gonnelli and Councilman James Clancy along with Garden Club members Maureen McDonald, Annette Shao, Anna Hsue, and Sheila Whitrock. They brought holiday cheer to residents at Alaris Health at the Fountains with sandwiches, holiday cards and candy canes that were distributed on December 6, 2019.



Many residents may have seen Robert Leier riding his bike across Town. Unfortunately, Robert's bike was recently stolen, which stopped him from doing what he loves; riding around town, meeting people and spreading joy. On December 6th, he came to Town Hall for a pleasant holiday surprise that the Mayor and members of the Town Council had in store for him. His beaming smile said it all!

Secaucus Schools Raise Funds for PolioPlus

The Secaucus School District raised \$2,286.00 for the Rotary Club of Secaucus towards PolioPlus, a global Rotary initiative to eradicate polio and support persons and families affected by the disease. Forrest Elliott, a former educator brought the idea to the school district and obtained permission to involve the students, faculty and staff. Money was collected on Dress Down Day on October 24th, World Polio Day, at Clarendon, Huber, Middle and High Schools. Funds will be directed to the Rotary International Fund, which has since 1979 made huge efforts to eradicate polio. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation matches every donation for PolioPlus with twice the amount raised so this fundraiser, in fact, makes triple the impact!

“The amount the School District raised for PolioPlus is amazing! I thank everyone who donated and School Superintendent Jennifer Montesano for allowing us to do this and the Mayor and Town Council who are always very supportive,” said Rick Saltarelli, President of the Rotary Club of Secaucus. The Town is blessed to have such caring group of students and teachers.



Secaucus Municipal Government Center
Paterson Plank Road
Secaucus, NJ 07094

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

**LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
SECAUCUS, NJ 07094**