



The Mayor and Town Council are happy to announce that the Swim Club will remain open through September 20th. Swim Club hours from September 8th to the 20th will be 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM on weekdays and 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM on weekends. We hope the weather stays warm and residents can enjoy some extra time at the Club.

## Mayor's Corner

As I drive around, I am happy to see progress on major projects around Town. However, it makes me even happier to think that many of these projects are being funded by state, county and other grants we received. Grants make large infrastructure upgrades possible and minimize the impact on our budgets.

Long-awaited repairs on Meadowlands Parkway are currently underway thanks to a \$2,000,000 grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT). We also recently received a \$500,000 grant from the NJDOT-Local Freight Impact Fund to repair and resurface Secaucus Road. We are hoping the work on Secaucus Road will begin before the end of this construction season. If not, the work will commence in the Spring of 2021.

In recent weeks we completed roadway and stormwater improvements on Franklin Street, funded by a \$450,000 grant from the NJDOT Municipal Aid Program. We are currently working on the Meadow Lane Roadway Preservation Project, which will be funded, in part, by a \$410,305 grant from NJDOT.

We will also be completing a reconstruction project on 6th Street and improvements to the parking lot at the top of Kane Stadium off Dorigo Lane, which serves as overflow parking for our

two senior buildings. Both of these projects are being partially funded by two Hudson County Community Development Block Grants in the amounts of \$87,500 and \$90,000 respectively.

While we are renovating roadways, we also want to make the best use of our open spaces. We are nearing completion on an amazing makeover of Schmidts Woods that is funded by a \$500,000 grant from the Hudson County Open Space Trust Fund. The exercise trail has been refurbished with new equipment, new surfacing was installed at the playground and paths and parking area have been repaved. I invite you to visit the woods as I know you will be happy to see the new improvements. We will also be refurbishing turf on Millridge Field #2, which will be funded by another \$500,000 Hudson County Open Space grant.

Stay tuned to more news about projects around Town. We will continue to work to keep Secaucus one of the best places to live in New Jersey.



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## September 11 Memorial Ceremony

The Mayor and Town Council invite all residents to the annual September 11 Memorial Ceremony starting at 8:30 AM at Buchmuller Park. Please join us as we honor the memory of lives lost including six Secaucus residents, Arlene Babakitis, Richard Cudina, Nancy Perez, Kenneth Simon, Steven Strobert and Michael Tanner.



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Secaucus Municipal Government Center  
Paterson Plank Road  
Secaucus, NJ 07094

## First SPD Community Meeting Held



In its ongoing effort to increase interaction between police and members of our community, the Secaucus Police Department will be holding periodic community Town Hall sessions. The first such meeting was held on Wednesday, August 12th at the Harmon Cove Club House parking lot. At this very well attended event, Chief Dennis Miller and SPD captains spoke about their work, shared updates on projects around Town, and answered resident questions.

“We want feedback from our community and would like to address issues in partnership with the community. That is the true meaning of a community-oriented police department,” said



Chief Dennis Miller at the start of the meeting. He said that several drug busts were made in recent months and perpetrators arrested based on resident tips. He announced that since he took over as Chief, he has reorganized the Police Department into

different departments, created a new anti-crime department, started several initiatives to facilitate police/resident interactions and is hiring retired police officers for school security. Speaking about the changes in progress, Chief Miller announced that the department is considering a K-9 addition, is doing more to address race related issues, and, as a result of an agreement with the Hudson County Sheriff, will be handling fewer calls at a County facility, which will free up more time for the SPD to respond to our residents and business community. He also introduced Police Officer Ensmann and his therapy dog Oakley.

Capt. Martin Moreda (Traffic), Capt. Carlos Goyenechea (Planning and Intelligence), Capt. Joseph Baccola (Records) and Detective Aniello Schaffer (Anti-crime) also shared updates from each of their departments.

The speakers then addressed resident concerns and questions. As additional community meetings are organized over the next few months, the SPD invites more officer/resident interaction. Say hello to officers on their walking, bicycle and Segway patrols around Town. Join the Secaucus Police Department's Facebook page and feel free to call the non-emergency number 201-330-2060 if you have any questions.

## Inviting Resident Submissions

Calling all residents and organizations to contribute your pictures and information to this Newsletter. Have events, milestone birthdays, weddings, engagements, club events, or a family member's achievements? How about your child's talents? Send a picture and a brief description for consideration. Let's make the Secaucus Newsletter a community platform. Email your information to [ajaideep@secaucus.net](mailto:ajaideep@secaucus.net) or call 201-330-2000 x 3042.



Mayor Michael Gonnelli visits residents Noureen and Abir Shafei who served cool lemonade to residents on a hot summer day.

## Attention: Residents Using Life-Sustaining Equipment

If you or a member of your household rely on electricity to operate life-sustaining equipment, such as a respirator or dialysis machine, it is important that you notify PSE&G. When notified, PSE&G will send you a form that must be completed and signed by the prescribing medical professional every year to verify the use of life-sustaining equipment. Once the form is returned and approved by PSE&G, your account will have an indicator that life-sustaining equipment is used in your home. PSE&G will notify you of any power outages and time when it will be restored. Regardless, you should have a back-up plan such as a generator or moving to a location with electric service so you can continue to use life-sustaining equipment. To download a form or learn more, visit [pseg.com/life](http://pseg.com/life) or call PSE&G at 1-800-436-PSEG (7734). In case of a medical emergency, call 911.

## Free Little Libraries

Look around Town for Free Little Libraries. Stop by to take a book and/or leave a book for others to enjoy. You will also appreciate the new look. The Little Libraries now have a fresh coat of paint and fun creative designs, thanks to 13-year old resident Destinee Salinas and her grandmother Barbara Hennig. What started as a small project to paint a neighbor's library box turned into a larger one. The duo has now repainted library boxes at Millridge, Huber and Clarendon schools as well as ones at Harmon Cove and by the Swim Club. Mrs. Hennig also coordinates with the library and other residents to keep books stocked in the boxes.



## Should You Get the Flu Shot This Season?

As Fall approaches, the Health Department highly encourages residents to get their flu shots to protect against the flu virus. However, you should be aware that there is no evidence that getting the vaccination against influenza will help against COVID-19. They are different viruses and the antibodies that protect us from one virus do not protect us against the other, according to the NJ COVID-19 website. Please continue practicing physical distancing as well as following local, state and CDC guidelines to prevent community spread.

For more information regarding Corona Virus updates, please visit [secaucusnj.gov/virus](http://secaucusnj.gov/virus). You may also visit the NJ Corona virus hub at [covid19.nj.gov](http://covid19.nj.gov). For more information on flu prevention visit [cdc.gov/flu](http://cdc.gov/flu).

# Summer Day Camp, Arts and Crafts and Tennis Camp Conclude

Hats off to the Secaucus Recreation Department on the successful completion of summer camp sessions despite COVID-19 related regulations and limitations. The Summer Day Camp ran two 3-week sessions for Pee Wee, Junior and Senior groups and was capped at 50 campers in each group. The ever-popular Arts and Crafts program was well-attended and progressed smoothly as planned. Out-of-town field trips had to be cancelled and replaced with in-house “trips” and special health and safety regulations were put in place to conform to Health Department guidelines. Despite that, campers had a fun and engaging time.

We are pleased to report we had no reported COVID-19 cases related to any of our counselors or campers. This is a testament to the hard work of the camp director, Toni Salvatore, and her staff who worked to ensure the safest possible environment was maintained. We thank all who participated in the program for their patience and understanding in these difficult times.

Two sessions of Tennis Camp over four weekends with a total enrolment of 32 registrants also concluded successfully in August.



## Secaucus Public Library Annex Opens



Secaucus now has a new Library Annex, conveniently located at Xchange! The Secaucus Public Library Katherine Steffens Annex was inaugurated on Saturday, August 1st, 2020. Ex-Director of the Secaucus Public Library, Katherine Steffens, led the ribbon-cutting with Mayor Michael Gonnelli, Town Council member James Clancy, Secaucus Public Library Director Jenifer May, members of the Library Board of Trustees and Branch Manager Lisa Machno.

“A community is known by its library,” said Mrs. Steffens in her remarks. She outlined and appreciated Secaucus Public Library’s growth since its initial opening in the attic of the old Town Hall building in 1935. In 1957, it moved to space where the Town Museum is now located. With expanding collections, new technology and ADA requirements, a larger state of the art facility was built at the current site at 1379 Paterson Plank Road in 2003. The growth reflects both the needs of the community as well as the commitment by the Town to provide engaging spaces and activities for all its residents. The new library is true to Mrs. Steffens’

advice to “stay relevant.” Going by the warm, modern, well-designed, child-friendly design, it promises to be a useful and attractive addition to the facilities in Town.

The Library Annex offers limited public access, contactless Grab & Go pickup service, a wide range of online services, virtual children’s programs, book return drop box, WiFi, copier-printer-scanner machines and computer help. Patrons can even “check out” laptops for in-premise use at a laptop kiosk. Currently, the Annex Library is open Monday and Wednesday 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Additional hours will be added soon. There are several virtual programs lined up and the Annex plans on having in-person programs including storytelling, Sensory Story Time and Pajama Storytime as soon as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Stop by the Library Annex and experience the beautiful facility! Plenty of parking is available.

## Census Takers to Visit Homes

In order to ensure complete count of all residents, census takers will visit the homes of residents who have not yet responded to census. The census taker will wear a mask and follow all local public health guidelines when they visit your home. All census takers complete a virtual COVID-19 training on social distancing and other health and safety protocols before beginning their work.

Census takers are hired from our area, and their goal is to help you and everyone in your home be counted in the 2020 Census. If the census taker who visits your home does not speak your language, you may request a return visit from a census taker who does speak your language. Please be sure to check they have a valid ID badge with their photograph with a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date. Census workers may also carry Census Bureau bags and other equipment with the Census Bureau logo.

Respond online by visiting [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) or by calling 844-330-2020 today. Once you respond, a census taker is less likely to have to visit your home to collect your response.



## Knights of Columbus Awards Night

The Town of Secaucus Knights of Columbus held their yearly Awards and Family Barbeque on August 22nd at Schmidts Woods. The Awards recognized men and women in the community, the parish of Immaculate Conception and men in the council for their many accomplishments over the year, and, in the case of the council, the number of hours dedicated to charity, unity and fraternity.

Some of the individuals honored included:

- Outgoing Grand Knight, Richard Steffens
- Eagle Scout, Eric Dougert
- Gold Award recipient, Johann Alo
- Soccer Challenger Shoot-out Champion, Daniel Grudkov
- Religious Education Teacher of the Year, MaryBeth Vanoni

The local council invites residents to a Blood Drive on September 29th from 1:00 to 7:00 PM at the ICC Cafeteria. For more information or to join the local council, please contact PGK Neal at 201-575-9984 or mcgarrityE@aol.com.



## Lemonade for a Cause

When life gives you lemons, Secaucus children make lemonade for a cause. Some of our youngest residents made best use of their time as restrictions were in place during the pandemic. They ran a lemonade stand for a full three (3) weeks to benefit emergency personnel, police and firefighters. They got a surprise visit by Mayor Michael Gonnelli. "It is heartwarming to see our youngest residents come together for a great cause. Small things like these make our Town special," said Mayor Michael Gonnelli. The group told the Mayor they had a goal of raising a total of \$5,000.00! Way to go, team!

*Pictured (Left) Michael Hartung, Somer Hartung, Chris Asy, Juliet Asy, Brooke Hartung and Mirna Asy with Mayor Michael Gonnelli at their lemonade stand.*

DUE TO COVID-19, ALL RESIDENTS MUST REMAIN IN THEIR VEHICLE AND PLACE THEIR MATERIALS IN THEIR TRUNK.

# FALL SHREDDING

9AM - 2PM (RAIN OR SHINE) **FREE!**

Saturday, September 12

Secaucus High School – Secaucus

11 Millridge Road, Parking Lot

Saturday, October 10

Lincoln Park – Jersey City

Duncan Avenue Parking Lot

Saturday, September 19

Red Bull Arena – Harrison

Parking Lot

Troy Towers – Union City

380 Mountain Road

Saturday, October 17

Braddock Park – North Bergen

Parking Lot – 79<sup>th</sup> Street Entrance

Saturday, September 26

Gregg Park – Bayonne

Parking Lot – Parkview Drive & Kennedy Blvd Entrance

Saturday, October 24

DPW – Hoboken

Willow Avenue & Observer Highway

DPW – Guttenberg

217 71<sup>st</sup> Street

Saturday, October 3

DPW – West New York

6200 Dewey Avenue

West Hudson Park – Kearny

Parking Lot, near Duck Pond

- ✔ **WHAT TO BRING:**

  - Personal or Confidential Documents

✘ **WHAT NOT TO BRING:**

  - Newspapers
  - Magazines
  - Binder Clips
  - Cardboard
  - Books
  - Binders

IMPORTANT!

In an effort to accommodate all those wishing to participate please limit your documents to no more than 40 lbs. For further information, contact the HCIA's Environmental Hotline: (201) 324-6222 ext. 3257 or visit [www.hcia.org](http://www.hcia.org). Documents will be commercially shredded safely, privately and properly by trained, licensed and bonded document destruction specialists. Residents may bring documents in whatever type of container they wish. These events are open to Hudson County residents. Businesses are not eligible to participate.

