



The manicured beauty of blooms and decorations in the center of Town are a source of pride for all residents. Crews from the Department of Public Works do a great job every season and this Fall looks colorful and bright thanks to their hard work. If you see a DPW worker around Town, don't forget to wave or say thank you for all they do to keep our Town clean and beautiful.

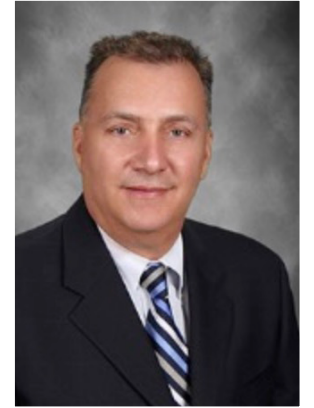
## Mayor's Corner

Fall is here and we move to a cooler season with unique challenges. Soon, there will be many occasions to celebrate with Thanksgiving and the holiday season on the horizon. But like all other events this year, we may have to adjust how we celebrate these special days. With reservations about traveling and quarantine requirements, some of us may not be able to gather the way we did in prior years. But we will get through this together. Continue to be mindful of hygiene practices that have now become part of our lives.

As we count down towards Thanksgiving and the holiday season, I would ask you to be especially mindful of residents who have had an unpredictably difficult year. Many families have been hit hard by the pandemic and businesses have also been impacted. I invite those who can, to donate generously to the Secaucus Food Pantry so we can help provide for those in need. The Department of Social Services is also collecting toys for children in need so

they can help spread holiday cheer. You can drop off food and toys by Monday, December 7th so the team has ample time to sort and distribute them to families in time for the holidays. Donations can be dropped off at 145 Front Street on weekdays from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Meanwhile, if you need help with a special situation, don't hesitate to reach out to a specific department or call my office at 201-330-2005. We are here to assist you.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that the pandemic is not over yet. Please don't let your guard down. Continue to be vigilant and stay healthy.



## Town Hall Holiday Closures

Please be advised that Town Hall will be closed on the following days:

Tuesday, November 3: Election Day

Wednesday, November 11: Veterans Day

Thursday, 26 and Friday 27: Thanksgiving



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LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER  
SECAUCUS, NJ 07094



Secaucus Municipal Government Center  
Paterson Plank Road  
Secaucus, NJ 07094

## Uniqlo Team Participates in Environmental Cleanup



On Friday, October 9th, the Secaucus Environmental Department led a corporate cleanup at Mill Creek Point with staff from UNQILO's new American Dream store. It was a sunny fall day for fourteen volunteers to pick up trash and enjoy the natural beauty of the Hackensack Meadowlands. UNIQLO USA's Sustainability Director Jean Shein noted, "UNIQLO knows our neighborhood extends beyond the walls of our stores and we are grateful that the Secaucus Environmental Department was able to help us contribute to our new community around the American Dream Shopping Center. Not only did our Mill Creek Park

clean-up remove trash from this neighborhood gem, but also helped our store staff bond through this meaningful and memorable action, which will be the first of more to come."

If you, a business, a group of residents are interested in organizing a cleanup with the Environmental Department, please email [enviornmental@secaucus.net](mailto:enviornmental@secaucus.net). You can also do your part to keep Secaucus beautiful and protect our environment by never littering and encouraging others to do the same.

## Congressman Payne Visit the Secaucus Apiary

On October 1st, our hardworking honeybees at the Secaucus Apiary had a very special visitor; Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr.! Congressman Payne was joined by Mayor Michael Gonnelli, Town Adminstrator Gary Jeffas, DPW Superintendent Kevin O'Connor, Jersey City Public Schools Board Member Gerald Lyons and Environmental Coordinator Jenifer Schneider.

Given the great success of our hives, the Executive Director of the Hudson River Apiary Society, Antonio Quinlan, chose to showcase Secaucus in his organization's efforts to expand apiculture. Congressman Payne shared, "I really enjoyed my visit to the Secaucus Apiary. Honeybees are the core of agriculture worldwide and American bees have been dying in record numbers. We need to save these bees to protect them as well as our agriculture. I know Antonio shares my passion for saving the honeybees. That is why we need more apiaries like the Secaucus Apiary in urban areas and throughout New Jersey's Tenth Congressional District." The Environmental Department is proud to continue Secaucus's important pollinator program and hopes that other municipalities can do the same.

In preparation for Congressman Payne's visit, the Secaucus DPW built a beautiful new entranceway to celebrate our honeybees' permanent home. If you are interested in scheduling a visit to the Secaucus Apiary or purchasing a jar of fresh, unprocessed Secaucus honey, please email [environmental@secaucus.net](mailto:environmental@secaucus.net) or call 201-86-GREEN (47336).



Pictured at the Secaucus Apiary are Jenifer Schneider, Antonio Quinlan, Gerald Lyons, Ava Mroz, Congressman Donald M. Payne Jr. Mayor Michael Gonnelli and Kevin O'Connor.

## Three-alarm Fire at Noches De Colombia

On October 8th, the Secaucus Fire Department responded to a fire at Noches de Colombia, a popular restaurant located in the center of town. The all-volunteer Secaucus Fire Department immediately responded to the alarm that was called in at about 4:30 PM.

Soon after, SFD was joined by fire personnel from Jersey City, Rutherford, Lyndhurst, East Rutherford, Kearny and North Arlington and extinguished the three-alarm fire. The plaza area had limited access to vehicular traffic for about two hours to accommodate fire apparatus. Two Secaucus firefighters were taken to the hospital for smoke inhalation and tightness in the chest and were released later that night. Fortunately, no one else was hurt.

The fire that was in the vicinity of the kitchen will, unfortunately, keep this popular restaurant closed until repairs are completed. The cause of the fire is under investigation. The fire was in a commercial building and no residents were displaced.

Thank you to all our emergency responders for the great job.

## 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.

## Junior Firefighter of the Year



Mayor Michael Gonnelli and the Town Council honored Jr. Firefighter Donald Ciecich at the Town Council Meeting on October 13, 2020. Donald is the recipient of the National Junior Firefighter of the Year award, the first time ever that it was awarded to a firefighter from New Jersey. On September 21st, Donald was also honored by County Executive Tom DeGise for his contributions to the Secaucus Fire Department. Pictured here are Councilman James Clancy, Ex-Chief and Former Councilman George H. Heflich Sr., Firefighter Donald Ciecich, Victoria Ciecich, and Ex-Chief Raymond Ciecich.

## John Gallegos Reunited



John Gallegos's sister Nancy thanked the Secaucus Police and Fire Departments at the October 13th Town Council meeting for helping locate John who went missing on September 28th. John, who suffers from Alzheimer's, left his residence at 3:45 PM without any money or his cell phone. The police department worked with other agencies, collected all incoming tips, followed all leads and finally located John in Jersey City. A job well done led to a family relieved and reunited! Mayor Gonnelli thanked all involved in the effort.

## National Night Out



The annual National Night Out is typically held on the first Tuesday in August to encourage police-community interaction with the goal of preventing crime through partnership. The Secaucus National Night Out event was postponed to October 6th this year, however, the delay did not dampen spirits as the delayed event was a huge success. Secaucus police officers, and residents of all ages gathered in a socially distanced setting at Buchmuller Park from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM on a crisp, beautiful evening. Representatives of the Hudson County Sheriff's office, the County Prosecutor, County and Town Clerk's office, Secaucus Fire Department, Secaucus Fire Prevention Bureau and the Secaucus Coalition joined Secaucus police to make this event a success.

The Secaucus National Out celebration was a great way for residents to see police officers outside their official police roles. Officers joined younger residents for a baseball game, tag football and just to shake a leg to music

played by a live DJ. Other games such as corn-hole and street hockey saw robust participation. All attendees had the opportunity to enjoy complementary hot dogs, pizza and ice-cream.

"Events such as National Night Out facilitate police-community interaction. The goal of my department is to create more such opportunities, so we achieve the best partnership possible. I am happy to see such active participation by our police officers, residents, and children. I hope to see more of this in the future," said Police Chief Dennis Miller.

There have been several other recent initiatives by the Police Department to increase community interaction—town hall events, officers walking in high foot-traffic areas, therapy dog Oakley and more. Check out the Secaucus Police Department's Facebook page for more news, pictures and updates.

## Torch Run Tradition Continues Despite Challenges

The annual Torch Run held by law enforcement personnel to raise funds for the Special Olympics continued in Secaucus with the same enthusiasm as every year despite modifications due to COVID-19. Police officers, firefighters and residents gathered at Town Hall on Friday, October 9th for the run to Clarendon School, then on to Huber Street School and culminating at the Secaucus High School. This year, the Torch Run in Secaucus raised more than \$2,400.00, of which every penny goes directly to the athletes competing in the Special Olympics.

The Torch Run is a year-round campaign by law enforcement personnel nationwide who help raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics. Officers in local communities ignite the "Flame of Hope" and carry it through local streets—a campaign that is the primary fund raiser to help athletes competing in Special Olympics. The Secaucus Police Department, Fire Department and School District have actively participated in the Torch Run for five years. Typically, other activities such as basketball games and tag football supplement the fun fundraising efforts but these were scuttled by the pandemic.

The NJ Law Enforcement Torch Run started in 1982, when the late Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Officer Steven Vitale was asked to take photos at a local Special Olympics competition in New Jersey. He was so moved by the determination exhibited by the athletes that he asked other police officers to volunteer at the Summer Games. In 1984, the first New Jersey Torch Run was conceived to raise funds and public awareness for Special Olympics New Jersey. The course ran from Liberty State Park in Jersey City to Rutgers Stadium in New Brunswick, through eight towns, covering 43 miles, and raising \$7,000. In each succeeding year, the dollar amount became greater and the number of volunteers increased substantially.



## Secaucus Police Department Awards Ceremony

On Thursday, October 15, the Secaucus Police Department held an Awards ceremony. The event held at Buchmuller Park, honored officers for exceptional service with Medals of Honor, Life Saving Awards, Excellent Service Awards and Unit Citations. “We want to show our appreciation to police officers who go above and beyond to keep us safe. And we thank their families for their support and love,” said Chief Dennis Miller. Mayor Gonnelli echoed the Chief and added how proud he was of our Police Department and all they do to serve our community.



## Video Produced by Secaucus Coalition Goes National

A public service video created by Secaucus Coalition, a group that works to prevent addiction among youth in our community, has become one of the most sought out videos among coalitions and prevention groups nationwide. To enhance the reach of the coalition’s efforts, SC Coordinator Dave Bratton offered a customizable version of the 30-second video that encourages residents to take their unwanted or expired medication to their local drop box for proper disposal. Within a few days of sharing the video on a national forum (CADCA-Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America), Dave got over 80 requests from communities in 30 states around the U.S. Now the video that was created for Secaucus is helping communities throughout the nation! To view the video, please visit the Coalition’s website, [SecaucusCoalition.org](http://SecaucusCoalition.org).

Also, the Secaucus Coalition reminds you to drop off all your unused or expired medications in the drop box located at the Town Hall police lobby, any day, any time. The police department frequently empties the box and disposes the medications in a secure, controlled way. Medication misuse is a real thing. You can prevent it now.

## Viola Neuman Celebrates 100th Birthday

On October 3, 2020 Viola Neuman, a Harmon Cove resident, celebrated a milestone birthday—the big 100! The charming, smiling golden ager celebrated the special event at daughter Miriam Neuman’s home where she currently resides. An industrious self-starter, Viola’s life story is both interesting and inspirational. Her zest for life and dancing saw her through the most difficult times and continue to motivate her today.



Born in Batyan, Czechoslovakia on October 3, 1920 to Adolf Klein and Miriam Marischka, Viola has seen more than her share of historic events over the last century. She lost her parents and many of her nine siblings to the Holocaust and survived three concentration camps including Auschwitz by working as a factory worker making bullets. After being liberated by British soldiers, she made her way back to her hometown and helped at the family store which was reopened by a brother who also survived. Viola married Paul Neuman in 1947 and moved to Israel in 1948 just as communism was taking hold in Czechoslovakia and Israel was at the cusp of its own historical being.

Always in search of a better life, Viola set off to America. Her husband, son and daughter followed soon after, living initially in New Jersey, where Viola worked in a sweater factory and Paul cleaned windows. Paul passed away in 1987 just before the family moved to Florida where she decided to move for better opportunities. She found herself alone but managed to learn English and find partners who shared her love of dance. Unfortunately, she found herself alone two more times but continued to live life to the fullest. “I’m still looking for a man I can dance with,” says Viola, half-jokingly, a few days after her 100th birthday celebration. We wish her many more years of good health and dancing feet. Happy Centennial Birthday, Viola!

### URGENT! SECAUCUS ANIMAL SHELTER NEEDS YOUR HELP

Dear Supporters of Secaucus Animal Shelter,  
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were not be able to hold our biggest fundraiser, the annual Halloween party. Without this event, we are not be able to raise funds to save many animals. Please consider a donation of any amount to help us continue rescuing animals. We know times are tough and we appreciate any help you can provide. Thank you for your continued support to the Secaucus Animal Shelter.

To donate, please Venmo @fosas or make checks payable to Friends of the Secaucus Animal Shelter  
525 Meadowlands Parkway  
Secaucus NJ 07094



### Secaucus Emergency Food Pantry

#### Holiday Wish List

Stuffing Canned Yams Pasta  
Mashed Potatoes Cranberry Sauce  
Canned Corn Marinara Sauce  
Mac & Cheese Cookies Turkey Gravy



\$10 gift cards to local supermarkets  
(for perishable items-milk, bread, cheese, etc.)



**New, Unwrapped Toys needed**

**for less-fortunate children between  
the ages of 6 to 12 years old**

Bring all donations to:

Senior Center—145 Front St—M-F 8-3

**NOW through December 7<sup>th</sup>**

Please call 201-330-2014  
To find out how you can help