SECAUCUS



NEWSLETTER

April 2022

Secaucus Monthly Newsletter

www.SecaucusNJ.gov



Police Officers Promoted

On March 16th, two new promotions took effect at the Secaucus Police Department. Congratulations Deputy Chief Joseph Baccola and Captain Scott Coar on your new roles. Pictured here are Councilwoman Orietta Tringali, Councilman James Clancy, Captain Scott Coar, Chief Dennis Miller, Mayor Michael Gonnelli, Deputy Chief Joseph Baccola, Councilman William Mckeever, Councilman John Gerbasio and Councilman Mark Dehnert.

Mayor's Corner

Over the last month, the people of Ukraine have suffered unimaginable horrors of the war. Millions have been forced to flee their homes, families are being torn apart, lives lost, and a once-beautiful country is being ravaged. While the war was not started by citizens of the country, they are the ones who feel the repercussions most severely. I ask the residents of Secaucus to collectively pray for peace and for a return to normalcy in Ukraine.

We cannot directly impact the current direction of events in Ukraine, but we are doing all we can to show our support for Ukrainians. We have installed signs around Town to show our solidarity with Ukraine and have the tree in the center of town lite with the colors of the Ukrainian flag. Many organizations in Town, volunteer groups at the Secaucus High School and employees of the Town have been working hard to gather supplies, sort donations and find a way to send much-needed items to Ukrainians who have been displaced or otherwise affected by the war. While our donation drive was successful, we had to find a way to send these supplies to the impacted regions. We were fortunate to make the connection with an organization started by Aleksandra "Sasha" Chmerkovskiy called "Baranova 27". The charity is named after the address

where sons Maksim and Valentin grew up. Maksim and Valentin, former Dancing with the Stars participants, are actively overseeing the shipment and distribution of donated supplies to the Ukrainian region.

As of March 24th, Secaucus donated 15 palettes of supplies to Ukraine—items include

562,000 pairs of nitrile gloves, 208,000 surgical gloves, 5000 face shields, 3,600 white coveralls, 8,125 clear reusable masks, 2,400 medical gowns, 20,000 washable 3-ply adult masks and 20,000 washable 3-ply kids masks. We are currently working on gathering more supplies on the list of items needed and will send out another shipment soon. Under Baranova 27's supervision, these items are being shipped to areas where Ukrainians have taken refuge.

Secaucus stands with Ukraine. Please join me in praying for peace and the end to the war.



Second Quarter Property Taxes Due

The Secaucus Tax Department reminds residents that second quarter taxes are due on May 1st. The Department is making it easier for residents to pay their property taxes. Online payments, with an option to enroll for Auto-pay is now available. Please visit www. secaucusnj.gov/departments/tax for more information or to pay online.

You can also drop off a check at the drop box located at the Town Hall lobby. If you prefer, mail your payment to Tax Collector, 1203 Paterson Plank, Secaucus NJ 07094. For answers to property tax-related questions, please call (201) 330-2021 Ext. 1.

Join Girls U14 Soccer

Secaucus Recreation is currently seeking athletes to join the Secaucus U14 Girls Travel Team effective immediately. If interested, please text/call/email Coach Alex Lalaoui at 201-920-8523 or Secaucusnjsoccer@gmail. com. To learn more about Secaucus sports please visit www.secaucusrecreation.org.

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DIAG 201 201 201 201 201 201 201 201 201 201	
ECRWSS	Paterson Plank Road
OT2 T9299	Secaucus Municipal Government Center

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER SECAUCUS, NJ 07094

Councilman William McKeever wmckeever@secaucus.net C: 551-665-7650 Councilman John Gerbasio

gerbasio@secaucus.net

C: 551-226-0955

Councilman James Clancy clancy@secaucus.net C: 201-906-9657

Councilman Robert Costantino

rcostantino@secaucus.net C: 201-401-9315 Councilman Mark Dehnert mdehnert@secaucus.net O: 201-330-2000

Councilwoman Orietta Tringali otringali@secaucus.net O: 201-330-2000

2022 First Responder Breakfast Held

The Annual Vincent A. Massaro Sr. First Responder Breakfast was held at Burger Stop on February 27, 2022. The room was packed with emergency responders, and all enjoyed a great breakfast. The annual event is held in memory of Massaro Sr., a former Korean War veteran and OEM Coordinator who served at the Department from 1975 to 2016. As OEM Coordinator, Massaro Sr. led the Town through various disasters, including two train derailments, the 9/11 crisis, and several natural disasters including hurricanes, floods, and snowstorms. His vision inspired the expansion of the Emergency Operations Center from an attic in the old Town Hall building to the current expanded state-of-the-



art facility at 1377 Paterson Plank Road. To honor Massaro's contributions the **OEM** Operations Center is now named Vincent A. Massaro Sr. Emergency **Operations** Center.

Scam Alert

As the pandemic recedes and businesses come back to normalcy, there has been a sharp uptick in the number of residents who have been scammed of their savings. The Secaucus Police Department conducted several community meetings with seniors making them aware of possible scams. The Department requests all residents to be alert and aware of scams, with people posing as utility bill, bank, credit card or other service representatives. Some pose as law enforcement professionals, IRS and Social Security Administration staff. Please remember these helpful tips:

- Never share your personal information including social security number, bank account and credit card information with a person you do not know, whether on the phone or in-person.
- Never wire money to "claim a prize", "get funds from a sweepstakes you won" etc. Wiring money is like handing them cash.
- Do not succumb to pressure from a "debt collector" or someone posing as an "IRS • Official." You will never be asked for immediate payment or punished for not making a transfer the same day.
- Do not send prepaid cards, gift cards to anyone you do not know.
- Call the Police Non-Emergency number (201-330-2060) if someone calls you about a family member being in a serious situation. The Police may be able to confirm if this is true.
- Do not wire money to stop "disconnection of your PSEG or other services." • Companies do not threaten immediate disconnection.
- When in doubt, hang up the phone and talk about it to someone you know or the Police Department.
- Do not let any salesperson, repair person or other service technician into your home if you have not requested such service. Door-to-door canvassers must be approved by the Town before they approach anyone at their doors.

On another note, the Secaucus Police Department urges all residents to lock their car doors when parked. Open car doors are an invitation to thieves. Be smart, be safe.

Secaucus Welcomes New Restaurants



U12 Soccer Club Honored

The Secaucus Soccer Club Boys U12 team was presented with jerseys at the March 22, 2022, Town Council meeting for ranking #1 in the Fall 2021 Northern Counties Soccer Association League. Pictured are: (Standing) Faddie Alnabtiti, Khalid Alnabtiti, Juan Ruiz Garcia, Christopher Akkarakaran, Ranvir Bhardwaj and Vivaan Budhian.

(Kneeling): Nico Leonardis, Anthony Mendez, Nicholas Bolognino, Aaryan Shah, Santiago Molano Prieto, Enrico Bolognino, Krish Bairoliya. Team's Goalkeeper Kabir Walia was not present. In back row are Councilman Rob Costantino, Attorney Ken Porro, Councilman Jim Clancy, Councilman John Gerbasio, U12 Assistant Coach Rahul Bhardwaj, Mayor Michael Gonnelli, Soccer Director Alex Lalaoui and U12 Boys Head Coach Luay Alnabtiti.

Coach Alex Lalaoui thanked Mike Pero, Superintendent of Recreation, and Sports Coordinator, Dennis McCaffery, for their support and encouragement. "This is not just a terrific accomplishment for the team but it is also a great moment for the Secaucus community to celebrate and to be proud of their student-athletes," he added.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration



Seniors in Secaucus know how to party! The Mayor and Town Council held a celebration at the Elms to mark St. Patrick's Day on March 17th and were joined by residents of the building wearing their lucky green shirts and cheerful spirit.

Girl Scouts Donate Books



Dublin Yard 146 Front Street DublinYard.com

The Franklin 780 5th Street TheFranklinSC.com

The worst of the pandemic is behind us and Secaucus seems to be finally arriving at post-pandemic days. The opening of two new businesses is a good sign of the return to normalcy. The Franklin opened at the corner of Fifth and Front with a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 7th. The Dublin Yard, at the Blackjack Mulligan's site, also opened its doors in March. Please shop and dine at local businesses-they need our support. We wish both restaurants much success.



The Secaucus Girl Scouts Troop 12251 collected more than 200 books and donated it to Barbara Hennig and the Mini Library Project. Books will be used to fill the take-one-leave-one book boxes located throughout Town. Once again, the Girl Scouts did a great job! Their efforts are always appreciated.

Tam Le Nominated for Woman's History Month Honor



Secaucus resident Tam Le was selected as the 2022 Hudson County Woman's History Month nominee. The theme of this year's nomination was "Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope," and is "both a tribute to the ceaseless work of caregivers and frontline workers during the ongoing pandemic and a recognition of the thousands of ways that women of all cultures have provided healing and hope throughout history."

Tam Le was nominated for her selfless efforts to provide free masks to the residents of Secaucus. She epitomizes the massive impact an individual can make to a community, and how one person can create a momentum of goodwill and work towards a common community goal. As soon as the mask recommendation was announced by CDC, Tam started sewing masks for distribution to residents of senior housing. She worked relentlessly to sew masks and worked with Mayor Gonnelli's office to distribute them where they were most needed. Her efforts multiplied many-fold when she encouraged other community members to join her in the mask making effort through Humanity First, a group she

created to help with the Town's needs during the pandemic. Soon, Tam and her group started organizing donations of other essential supplies such as gloves, sanitizers and cleaning supplies. Many residents who have benefitted from their donations may not even be aware of their tireless efforts.

Tam Le was honored at Hudson County's Woman's History Month celebrations held at the William Brennan Courthouse on March 30th. The Town of Secaucus congratulates Tam Le, and members of Humanity First, for their selfless service to our community.

Join the CSA Program for Fresh Organic Produce

Would you like fresh, organically-grown local produce this summer? The Secaucus Environmental Department has worked closely with School Lunch Organic Farm and CSA in Hackettstown, New Jersey to offer Secaucus residents fresh produce for 16 weeks from mid-June to late September. Residents who sign up and buy a "share" will receive a bag containing 10-15 types of produce harvested and delivered the same day. The produce can be picked up on Tuesdays at the Secaucus Public Library. The full share is recommended for families of 3-4 members. Residents with smaller families can choose the "half share" option. This program is a great way to "eat with the season" as the Farm grows over 200 types of vegetables, herbs and flowers, all of which are 100% certified organic and GMO free. The Community Supported Agriculture program provides residents an opportunity to support a local farm while receiving healthy, organic produce to enjoy all summer.

School Lunch Organic Farm has partnered with Secaucus since 2016 and has received positive response from residents who have joined the CSA program. The positive feedback is, in large part, due to the collaborative partnership and hard work of Farmer Margaret Noon. She welcomes "shareholders" to visit the farm and even encourages volunteers to help with farm activities.

Resident Stephanie, who has participated in the Secaucus CSA program in previous years, says she loves the program as it is a great way to introduce vegetables to her daughter Tara's meals. Tara loves to explore the produce in the CSA share the family receives and loves to help her mother in the mealprep. Other Secaucus CSA "shareholders" have expressed their satisfaction with the quality and freshness of the produce as something "that can't be bought at a store."

If you are interested in participating in the CSA and receiving fresh produce weekly this summer, please visit green.secaucusnj.gov/food/CSA. The Farm prefers you to sign up by April 15th. For more information, you can also call the Secaucus Environmental Department at 201-86-GREEN (201-864-7336). The Farm will also have a stand at the Secaucus Green Festival on May 7th where you may buy seedlings from the Farm to plant in your own garden.

Join Hands to Make a Difference



Calling all Secaucus nonprofit organizations! You are cordially invited to join us for #HudsonGives 2022. Register today at www.hudsongives.org.

What is #HudsonGives? #HudsonGives is a 24-hour, online fundraising campaign and friendly competition that unites the community in support of local charities. Since its launch in 2019 as an annual giving day, \$1.1 million has been raised by more than 80 nonprofits that have participated.

This year's giving day will be held on Thursday, May 12th. Join us as we try to reach new heights by helping local nonprofits raise even more funds in our fourth annual giving day. If you' are a nonprofit organization based in Hudson County, or serving Hudson County, please join us to fundraise for your cause! A \$20,000 prize pool will fund various cash prizes that can be won by participating organizations. And if you are a Secaucus resident, please mark your calendar for May 12th so you can get ready to give!

In the meantime, please check www.hudsongives.org to learn which organizations are participating. If you would like to sponsor, please contact the host organization, the Hudson County Chamber Foundation, at foundation@hudsonchamber.org. It takes a community to ensure that no nonprofit is left behind in these unprecedented and challenging times.

JOIN US AND GIVE!

May 12 -13, 2022 | 12am - 12am **HUDSONGIVES.ORG**

Join the movement and be part of something great. We look forward to an amazing #HudsonGives 2022. See you on May 12!

Important Information About Your PSEG Service

Please be advised that PSE&G resumes service disconnections on March 16, 2022 for customers behind on their bill.

You can protect your electric and gas service from disconnection:

- Enroll in a PSE&G Deferred Payment Arrangement (DPA). Just visit pseg.com/myaccount: or call 800-357-2262. When asked, "What would you like help with today? Say, "payment arrangement."
- Apply for utility payment assistance. You must tell PSE&G if you have recently applied for utility payment assistance. This will protect your account from disconnection for 90 days. To do this, apply for State energy assistance by visiting nj211.org or dial 2-1-1.

If you need help, and not sure where to start, please call PSE&G Customer Care at 800-357-2262 or visit pseg.com/helpnow. Customers receive many opportunities to pay their bill before disconnection. Disconnection for customers protected under the WTP will begin on April 7, 2022.

This Month in Secaucus

FREE

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY WITH A



Wear sturdy shoes & clothes you can get dirty. Equipment & refreshments will be provided!

APRIL 22ND 2:30 PM SECAUCUS DUCK POND



For more information please contact 201-330-2000 ext. 3222





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The Mayor & Town Council

Invite all residents to participate in a



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Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.

POST SECAUCUS TOWN WIDE GARAGE SALE Give your unsold items a second chance & schedule a FREE donation pick-up





Call 888-944-3767 or visit GoGreenDrop.com

888.944.3767 / GoGreenDrop.com

GreenDrop works on behalf of our partner charities; the American Red Cross, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the National Federation of the Blind. We raise critical funds for their causes through the generation and collection of donated clothing and household items

GreenDrop's Recycle For Charity Program

Charitable - Simple generation of charitable donations to help others

· Community Service - Provides student volunteer & community service opportunities

· Environmental Sustainability - Keeps clothing and household items out of landfills

WHAT W	VE NEED	WE CANNOT ACCEPT	
- CLOTHING - SHOES - ACCESSORIES - BLANKETS & BEDDING - FLAT SCREEN TVS	- KITCHENWARE - SMALL APPLIANCES - ELECTRONICS - SPORTING GOODS - MINI REFRIGERATORS	- LARGE APPLIANCES - AIR CONDITIONERS - TUBE TVS - COMPUTER MONITORS - FOOD ITEMS	- EXERCISE EQUIPMENT - MATTRESSES - FOAM PADS - LARGE FURNITURE - RECYCLABLES (cans, paper, magazines)
	American Red Cross	NATIONAL FEERATION OF THE BLIND	sed by this campaign will benefit the (1) Militate

INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

Stop by for free family fun and to learn more about the Hudson County Improvement Authority and initiatives to build a cleaner, more sustainable future

aturday, April 23 North Bergen Braddock Park • 91st & Bergen 11AM-3PM

Saturday, April 30 <u>Jersey</u> City

Lincoln Park • West Side Ave Entrance 11AM-3PM



County Executive Chief Executive Officer Thomas A. DeGise Norman M. Guerra

Chairman Frank Pestana hcia.org

GARAGE

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