SECAUCUS



NEWSLETTER

June 2022

Secaucus Monthly Newsletter

www.SecaucusNJ.gov



Memorial Day Parade

The 2022 Annual Memorial Day Parade was held on May 21st. Despite soaring temperatures reaching well into the 90s, residents of all ages lined the streets to wave to veterans, marching bands, school and town organizations, Mayor Gonnelli and members of the Town Council who marched to commemorate those lost in service to our nation. WWII Navy veteran Emmett Thompson was the honored Grand Marshall and Senior of the Year Renate Kern was the honored special guest. (Continued below)

Mayor's Corner

There is one big reason why I love summer—I get to meet residents at numerous events around Town! Secaucus has some of the best events in the area where residents can gather, spend time with family and friends, and just enjoy the beautiful spaces we have. This year, various departments have worked hard for months to organize a variety of events. We already started with some great events – Green Festival (we had a bit too much rain unfortunately), Jazz Night at the Meditation Garden and the Memorial Day Parade. Make sure you mark your calendars and join us for as many events as you can this summer.

The calendar is packed with concerts at Buchmuller Park, Xchange, Monarch Park and Mill Creek Point. There are outdoor movie nights on Tuesdays, and special events, including our Annual Independence Day Celebrations on Thursday, June 30th at the Swim Club. To keep our younger residents busy we have recreational day camps, Junior Police Academy, the Environmental Camp and a variety of sports activities.

Secaucus also has some of the cleanest parks and facilities anywhere. Our Swim Club is now open and is free for all residents. I had residents of many towns tell me how much they envy our outdoor swimming area. There are three pools, a diving pool, spacious grounds that are kidfriendly, and staff that are helpful, courteous and welcoming. Please stop by and enjoy the facility that many other

towns only dream about. Be sure to bring proof of residency as you will need it each time you enter the facility.

Last but not the least, I invite all residents to enjoy our parks and playgrounds. We are fortunate to have beautiful walkways, playgrounds that are safe and clean, and parks that offer a variety of activities. So go out and enjoy the beautiful outdoors.

See you around Town!

Memorial Day Parade (Cont.)

Residents lined the streets to view the Parade that started at the Huber Street Municipal Parking Lot, proceeded to the Plaza, up Front Street, Fifth Street and Centre Avenue and ended at Buchmuller Park. At the entrance of the park, spectators cheered as the Secaucus Concert Band played patriotic tunes. Hotdogs and much needed cold water were served to all those who attended. Children lined up for face-painting, bounce houses, petting zoos, and balloon art giveaways. Live music was provided by Broken Friday, that kept the crowds tapping their dancing feet.

Earlier in the day, the Fire Chiefs, Mayor Gonnelli and members of the Town Council gathered at Town Hall to place wreaths and honor Secaucus firefighters lost in the line of duty.



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2022 Chief for the Day: Brianna Hawxhurst

The Secaucus Police Department is committed to keeping the community, including our young residents, involved and engaged in the safety and security of our Town. As an additional way to engage our youth community, the Department invited high school seniors to submit an essay about the programs they would implement, the changes they would make and how they would run the police department. School Resource Officers reviewed 42 student submissions and chose Brianna Hawxhurst's essay for its clarity, maturity and



understanding of policing issues. On May 10th, Brianna was invited to be "Chief for the Day" and was given an overview of the police department and the opportunity to see the inner workings of the Department's units. Mayor Michael Gonnelli and Town Council members presented Brianna with a Proclamation commending her achievement at the Town Council meeting later that day.

Congratulations Brianna!

Shari Sheshadri Completes Boston Marathon

Secaucus resident, entrepreneur and marathoner, Shari Sheshadri, recently achieved a milestone that marathoners around the world include in their "must do" list. She is one of only a handful of Secaucus residents ever to successfully complete the Boston Marathon. At Boston, Shari was cheered on by her family and finished the run in 3:39:12. Boston Marathon is the only full marathon (other than the Olympics and championship races) that requires a qualifying run. Shari qualified by finishing the NYC Marathon under the required 3:35 mark.

Shari didn't start running and training for a marathon until 2016, after the birth of her second child. Splitting time between taking care of her children and being the President and CMO of Photosesh (a company her husband, Chris, co-founded), Shari found time to train. She ran her first marathon in 2017 and has run more than 20 races so far. She has under her belt 14 half marathons, 4 full marathons and more than 50 races. She credits Secaucus for being a place she could run even with her busy schedule taking care of her two children and running a business she started. "If we didn't live in Harmon Cove, I don't know if I would be able to be so active. Now I just walk out and have plenty of paths to walk or run. It made it easier to train and to do it consistently," she said. She also runs in other areas of Town, "as it is always good to mix up the route," she adds.

What next after the Boston Marathon, we asked. "I would love to break the 3-hour mark. That's my personal running goal" she said. "And I always thought about starting a group to run with. I got a lot of support, guidance and encouragement from people around me and I think it'll be great if we have a group for runners in Secaucus to do the same. I want to do something to give back to our Town."

The Sheshadri family, and their company Photosesh, also give back to the Town through their sponsorship of a Secaucus Little League team.





Eric Kosky: Third Generation Firefighter

Eric Kosky was sworn in as a firefighter with the Secaucus Volunteer Fire Department at the Town Council meeting on May 10. 2022. He will represent the third generation of the Kosky family to serve the Department. His father, Ex-chief Ronald Kosky Jr., is a

firefighter with Engine Co. No. 1 and his late grandfather, Ronald Kosky Sr., was with Tower 2. His late Uncle Kevin Kosky also served in the Fire Department with Engine 1 and Tower 2.

Eric joins Tower 2 and has been assigned his grandfather's number. Thank you Eric for joining the best Fire Department in our State!



Arbor Day Poster Winners



The Secaucus Environmental Department invited students to submit a poster themed "Saving Our Trees Will Save Our Planet." Winners and runners-up, pictured here, were announced at the Arbor Day Celebration held at Huber Street School on April 29th. To view the gallery of all posters submitted and complete list of winners, please visit secaucusnj. gov/trees. They will also be featured in the 2023 Town Calendar. Picture courtesy Charlene Hallam.

Work Begins at Joy and Peace Garden



On Saturday, May 14th, Mayor Gonnelli accompanied by Councilman Bill McKeever, Councilwoman Orietta Tringali, Didi Krishna Kumari and several residents gathered to start the groundwork for the Joy and Peace Garden which is to be constructed on Meadowlands Parkway. Members of the Native Plant Society and the Secaucus Environmental Department planted native flowering plants to mark the official beginning of the garden. As we reported in last month's newsletter, the space will have community garden plots and a variety of plants and walking paths—another way for residents to enjoy the beauty of nature.

Earlier in the day, the driveway leading to the Secaucus Animal Shelter was dedicated to Rev. Dada Vaswani, an avid animal lover himself. Mayor Gonnelli and Didi Krishna Kumari led the unveiling. The events culminated at the Meditation Garden at Koelle Boulevard where children sang songs and presented recitations. The day ended with a lunch for all who attended.

New Medical Spa Opens



More new businesses are making Secaucus their home! We welcome Hello Hydration Medical Spa, which officially opened its doors on May 18, 2022 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Mayor Michael Gonnelli, and joined by building owner Victor Salameh, Councilwoman Orietta Tringali, owner Kerrin Antommarchi, Councilman John Gerbasio and owner MD Tameem Murtuza. The spa is located at 255 Rt. 3, Suite 206. Services include botox, dermal fillers, micro-needling and hair restoration, skin lifts, peels, microdermabrasion, facial treatments, light therapy, laser hair removal and more. The spa is offering all Secaucus residents a 15% discount on their first treatment.

SHS Class Toppers Head to Tier 1 Colleges

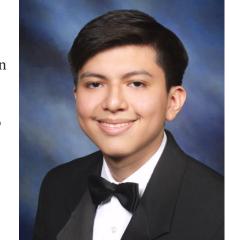
Congratulations to Valedictorian Smriti Chopra and Salutatorian Danny Argudo on achieving top honors in the Secaucus High School Class of 2022. The Secaucus High School posted a Facebook post announcing the news.

Smriti Chopra will be attending Carnegie Mellon where she will be majoring in Mechanical Engineering. A well-rounded student, Smriti excelled academically, and has been actively involved with many extra-curricular activities. She has held many leadership positions including President of the National Honor Society, Director of Advertising and Treasurer for Junior State of America, the Treasurer of Secaucus Cares, Director of Publicity for the S.A.I.L Club and Manager of Registrations for The Secaucus Math Academy. She has also been involved in musical theater for the past five years. Her career goal is to work as a Mechanical Engineer at NASA or SpaceX.



Salutatorian Danny Argudo will be attending Stanford University where he will pursue a major in Computer Science. An extremely driven, persistent, and responsible young man, Danny has managed to maintain a balance between academics and extracurricular activities. Danny has been inducted in the American Technology Honor Society, National English Honor Society, National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta. He is also an active member of the SHS Robotics Club that recently won the Regional Botball Tournament on May 14th. Danny also participated in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Mostec Program where he learned to write blogs on prescription drugs and interview experts for writing research papers. Danny plans to pursue a career in software development.

Congratulations Smriti and Danny for achieving top honors!



Town Hall Welcomes Employee Children

Take Your Child to Work Day is the perfect time to give children an idea of where parents work and what they do. This year, Town Hall welcomed children back to the yearly event, after temporarily pausing the event for the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Enthusiastic participants met Mayor Gonnelli, members of the Town Council, Town Administrator Gary Jeffas and Town Attorney Keri Eglentowicz. They got an overview of how municipal government works and the importance of each department. Pictured here are Take Your Child to Work Day participants, with Mayor Gonnelli on April 28, 2022.



Michigan Graduates Thank Secaucus School District



Elijah Soba (2017) and Gillian Mosher (2018), both graduates of Secaucus High School, are now graduates of the University of Michigan-College of Engineering.

Elijah earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in BioMedical Engineering and a Master of Science Degree in Machine Learning Engineering. Gillian earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aerospace Engineering. Both Elijah and Gillian received the honors recognition of "Magna Cum Laude".

They send a special thanks to the Secaucus High School Faculty, Staff and Board of Education for preparing them to reach their academic goals.

Congratulations, Elijah and Gillian. We wish you a successful career.

Parents Who Host, Lose the Most

To highlight the message of teenage drinking, the Secaucus Coalition team put up "Parents Who Host Lose the Most" signs around Town to remind residents about the dangers of underage alcohol consumption. If you would like to put up this sign on your property, you could request a free lawn sign by emailing the Secaucus Coalition Coordinator at coalition@secaucus.net. Offered while supplies last.

The Secaucus Coalition is also sharing a video via social media with the following message:

For high school students, this can be a fun time of year. There's the Prom, graduation, and best of all... summer vacation. Unfortunately, sometimes teenagers attend parties that permit underage drinking. There are serious potential legal consequences and liability issues for parents who serve alcohol to underage students, including fines, arrests, and lawsuits. Parents can be held responsible for underage drinking even if they are not home when it happens.

Contact the Secaucus Police Department at (201) 330-2060 with concerns about underage drinking, or to report illegal activity.

Parents of Secaucus, please don't be a party to teenage drinking.

Covid-19 Vaccine Clinic to Close This Month

Please be advised that the Health Department will be offering COVID-19 vaccinations at Town Hall every Monday in June from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The last vaccine clinic will take place on June 27, 2022. Walk-ins are welcome, no appointments are needed. If you have any questions, please call the Health Department at 201-330-2031.

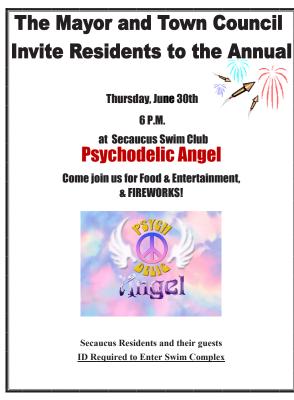
Firefighters Recognized for Efforts at the Elms Fire

On April 8, 2022, a fire broke out in an apartment on the fourth floor of the Elms senior housing building located at 777 Fifth Street. The Fire Department responded and found a 56-year old man, Luis Postel, who suffered life-threatening injuries. He was transported to Hudson Regional Hospital and transferred to the Westchester Medical Center Burn Unit. He later succumbed to his injuries. The fire was contained to that single unit.



Members of the Secaucus Volunteer Fire Department who responded to the fire at the Elms were presented with merit badges, citations and life-saving awards at the Town Council Meeting on May 10th. Mayor Gonnelli asked all who were present at the meeting to stand for a moment of silence to honor the memory of Mr. Postel. He also commended the volunteer firefighters for their efforts to put out the fire and minimize damage to other units.

This Month in Secaucus







Proof of Residency Required









Get together with other parents - See some great recipes! Learn how to have fun keeping the whole family healthy! Location:

Secaucus Public Library 1379 Paterson Plank Rd. Secaucus, NJ Panasonic Rm. (2nd Floor)

Time: 6:00 PM- 7:00 PM Dates: 6/7, 6/14, 6/21,6/28, 7/5,7/12, 7/19, & 7/26

Register on the library calendar@:

secaucuslibrary.org

Law Enforcement Torch Run Coming Up!

Mark your calendars for the Law Enforcement Torch Run to be held on Friday, June 10, 2022, from 9:00 AM to 11: AM. The run will begin at the Secaucus Police Headquarters and end at Secaucus High School. With this, the SPD continues the tradition of participating in the largest public awareness vehicle and grass-roots fundraiser for the Special Olympics. The goal is to champion the acceptance and inclusion for people with disabilities.

Join our Police Department and show you support the cause!



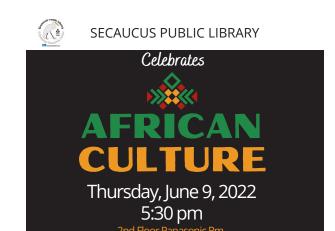
Final Call for US Military Banner Tribute

This will be the final time that you may participate to honor a loved one who served in our military. After June 12th the organizers, Knights of Columbus, will no longer continue to promote this program for a while. The minimum number of banners that need to be printed has not been reached so the program may not be able to continue further.

Those who would like to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity before it is discontinued can do so by picking up an application at the Library, Senior Center, Town Hall, Immaculate Conception Church entrances, St. Matthews Church, Recreation Center and Harmon Cove Club House.

Because of the lower number of applications received, the current cost of the banner is \$90.

If you have questions, please contact Sir Knight Sal Manente Sr. at 201-866-2988 or email salm50@aol.com.



Join Ivy Omere for this family program where we will create African masks and celebrate West African culture. We will provide a space for fun, and creativity that is universal. Children ages 5 years and older accompanied by an adult will create an African mask out of clay while learning why masks were made, greetings in Nigerian languages, dances from the Ivory Coast and More.







1:00 PM



Secaucus Public Library **Main Branch Reading Garden**



Join the Secaucus Public Library and the Environmental Department for this fun and educational program. Learn about oceans with interactive experiments, enjoy our special guest speakers and their animal ambassadors, plant seeds, taste raw honey, attend story time with author Tulani Thomas and more.

Register on the calendar at secaucuslibrary.org.









