



SHS Class of 2022



Graduation Day

Congratulations Class of 2022

Secaucus High School Class of 2022 graduated at a beautiful outdoor ceremony on June 24th, the last day of school for the school district. The bright faces pictured here reflect the bright future of 124 young residents who will go on to pursue their hopes and dreams.

Mayor's Corner

Firstly, please join me in praying for the Uvalde families who are victims of mass gun violence. Schools are no place for fear and insecurity, and I would like to assure parents that our safety standards are reviewed periodically to keep our students, faculty and staff protected. In early June, Members of the Town Council and I met with Police Chief Dennis Miller to review school security protocols and I am confident our schools are as safe as they can be.

Schools are now closed for the summer and there's no better place to enjoy the outdoors than right here in Secaucus. As you may know, Secaucus has more than 20 parks and playgrounds with more than 205 acres of open space and recreational facilities. Our location along the Hackensack River provides us with not just functional recreational space, but also scenic vistas where you can enjoy the beauty of nature. My Town Council, Administration and I find ways to preserve and upgrade these spaces, and we have several projects underway that will continue to improve our parks and playgrounds.

I am happy to announce some highlights: Trolley Park will be completely refurbished with all-new cushioned mats and new playground equipment, the flooring surface at Naters Park on Koelle Boulevard

will be replaced.

Construction on the Farm Road Park, adjacent to Acorn Park has also begun. When finished, the Farm Road Park will have a passive recreation area, benches, and a dog park. We recently announced plans for the Imagine Garden on Meadowlands Parkway and in mid-June several volunteers gathered at the site to help the New Jersey Native Plant Society prepare the ground and plant native plants. It promises to be a beautiful, serene sensory garden and community space.

Apart from these major upgrades, the DPW continues to do a tremendous job keeping our Town, facilities, parks and playgrounds clean and welcoming. Season after season, the Town center comes alive with flowers and colors that make Secaucus special.

Please join us at the many outdoor events planned this month. See you there!



Mayor Michael Gonnelli- mayor@secaucus.net - O: 201-330-2005

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

Councilman John Gerbasio
gerbasio@secaucus.net
C: 551-226-0955

Councilman Robert Costantino
rcostantino@secaucus.net
C: 201-401-9315

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

Councilman Mark Dehnert
mdehnert@secaucus.net
O: 201-330-2000

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

Summer Pool Hours and Events

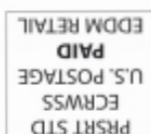
The Secaucus Swim Club is now open with free entry for all Secaucus residents:

- Monday - Friday: 12:00 noon - 7:30 PM
- Saturday & Sunday: 10:00 AM - 7:30 PM

Additionally, there are several special events lined up for families:

- July 6, 7:00 PM: Kids Pool Night
- July 13, 11:00 AM: Tot Pool Day
- July 20, 7:00 PM: Teen Pool Night
- August 3, 11:00 AM: Tot Pool Day
- August 10, 7:00 PM: Kids Pool Night
- August 24, 7:00 PM: Back to School Family Pool Night

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
SECAUCUS, NJ 07094



Secaucus Municipal Government Center
Paterson Plank Road
Secaucus, NJ 07094

School Safety Continues to be a Top Priority

In the wake of the recent school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, Mayor Michael Gonnelli and Secaucus Police Department Chief Dennis Miller reviewed the safety measures taken by our Town to ensure that protocols are in place for the safety and security of students, teachers, and staff throughout our school district.

“It was heartbreaking to hear updates as events unfolded in Uvalde. No family should fear for their child’s safety while at school. I would like to assure parents that our schools are as safe as they can be. Our Police Department goes above and beyond in reviewing security protocols and enhancing their training, and I have full confidence in them,” said Mayor Gonnelli.

Speaking on the procedures in place for the security of our schools, Chief Miller emphasized, “We take student safety very seriously. Secaucus has many security measures in place already. We’re ahead of the curve and take advanced steps that many other towns do not.” The Chief laid out a three-pronged approach to all security measures at school: prevention, deterrence, and effective response.

There is a special team of Police Officers, with one officer posted at Mill Ridge School, Huber Street School, Clarendon School and Secaucus Middle School. The team is comprised of retired police officers who are fully trained, armed and hold full police powers. At the High School, a full time SPD officer is on duty, along with our L.E.A.D. Officer William Eccles, who also goes to all schools.

“Our Police Officers are the first line of defense at every school, and we make sure that they’re trained to respond appropriately. We repeatedly conduct drills, and assess lockdown and evacuation procedures frequently,” said Chief Miller about the security process. Other important safety measures include the policy of keeping doors locked to prevent outsiders from entering the building and thoroughly screening every visitor. Enhanced “park and walk” patrols by Police Officers on duty add another level of security outside the buildings.

To prevent any unfortunate incidents, the SPD’s Planning and Intelligent Section also constantly monitors social media for threats and investigates any unusual activity or conversations promptly. Any threats are also shared with Federal, State and Counter-intelligence agencies to investigate.

In case of a threat, officers, school staff, faculty and members of many departments can use skills acquired during specialized training exercises. Most recently, an Active Shooter Drill was conducted at the High School where school staff, faculty, and members of the Police, Fire, Emergency Management and Public Works learned tactics on how to respond to an emerging situation. Procedures were re-evaluated and refined after evaluations of the Active Shooter Drill. The Police Department also partnered with the Board of Education to digitally map each school to locate the presence of officers for a more direct response to engage and neutralize any threat. Patrol cars are outfitted with enhanced weaponry in case there is an assailant in body armor. In addition, School Resource Officers Keegan and Eccles are certified for their roles; and a new certification on Threat Assessment completed by Lt. Elphick complements the Department’s preparedness.

If the need ever arises, the Police Officers are directed to follow an “immediate response” strategy with the goal of engaging and neutralizing the threat. Mutual Aid partners and the SWAT teams in Hudson County are called upon if needed.

“As a parent myself, I understand the concerns parents may have in the light of the recent incident in Texas. But I want to assure them that our foremost goal is to prevent any incident, and we are fully prepared to keep our students, faculty and community safe.” summarized Chief Miller.

Renate Kern: 2022 Hudson County Senior of the Year

Renate Kern, a long-time resident of Secaucus was named “2022 Hudson County Senior of the Year.” The Mayor and Town Council honored Renate with a Proclamation at the Town Council Meeting on May 24th, 2022. Renate was applauded for her long and dedicated service to the community in various official capacities and as a volunteer.



Renate graduated from High School/Trade School in Germany and attended Fashion Institute of Technology after arriving in New York City in 1959 to study Art. She later became a nursery school teacher at St. Matthews Nursery School, bringing the joys of early childhood learning to hundreds of children over the years. Her work with children also extended to the local Cub Scout Pack 157 where she was a Den Mother for many years. At St. Matthews Lutheran Church, Renate served with the Ladies Aid, as President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and member. She was also an active and leading member of the Quilter’s Club, a group that made and donated baby blankets to local shelters and hospitals.

Renate is a person who is both content with her contributions to our community and eager to give more at the same time. In her 80s now, Renate continues to share her generosity and gives back to the Town as much as she can. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, she recruited and led volunteers to make face masks to alleviate the shortage our community was facing.

Renate lives with her husband Martin (Bill) and is a mother of three children, Peter, Janice and Stephen. She has five grandchildren: Alexis, Emily, Kylie, Colton and Elizabeth.

Volunteers Honored at Secaucus Cares Year-end Event



On June 22, 2022, Mayor Michael Gonnelli, Councilman Rob Costantino, Councilwoman Orietta Tringali and several Secaucus residents gathered at Mamma Franca Restaurant to celebrate the contributions of Secaucus Cares and Hygiene Project volunteers. The group’s work won the coveted Gold Banner at the Students in Action Multiplying Good competition earlier in the year. Presidential Service Award Certificates were presented to all volunteers who qualified based on the number of volunteer hours in a year.

Remembering Firefighter Tagliareni



Did you know that the bridge on Paterson Plank Road over Route 3 is named after a firefighter who was committed to servicing the Town of Secaucus? Joseph F. Tagliareni was a firefighter with the Secaucus Fire Department for 16 years. A Marine Corp veteran, Joseph became a firefighter when he was just 17 years old. On June 13, 1999, he was responding to a report of an automobile fire on the New Jersey Turnpike and felt unwell. He pulled over and collapsed of a heart attack at just 34 years old. Hose Company 1 has retired his jersey #11, a special honor that is allowed for members serving 25+ years or under special circumstances.

Each year, on June 13th, members of the Secaucus Fire Department gather to place a wreath in memory of Firefighter Tagliareni.

2022 Senior Boat Trip



The Hudson County Office on Aging and the Town of Secaucus welcomed senior citizens on the annual Senior Citizen Boat Cruise held on June 22, 2022. Senior citizens from our Town and across Hudson County enjoyed the 2+ hour cruise filled with food, music and fun.

EPOS Unveils New Logo



Exceptional People of Secaucus (EPOS) recently unveiled a new logo. Pictured are EPOS members showing off their freshly printed t-shirts!

Secaucus High School Graduate Selected as NASA Flight Director



NASA has selected seven new additions to the team of flight directors to oversee operations of the International Space Station, commercial crew, and Artemis missions to the Moon. The inductees in the class of 2022 include a former Secaucus resident and Secaucus High School Class of 2009 graduate, Ronak Dave.

A NASA press release reports that after completing a comprehensive training program that includes operational leadership and risk management, as well as the technical aspects of flight control and spacecraft systems, these future flight directors will lead human spaceflight missions from the Mission Control Center at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

In this role, Ronak and fellow flight directors will lead teams of flight controllers, research and engineering experts, and support personnel around the world, making the real-time decisions critical to keeping NASA astronauts safe in space.

NASA's flight directors lead missions to the space station and are preparing for lunar missions for NASA's Artemis program. The new class will be at the forefront of everything humans do in space, following in the footsteps of Apollo-era flight directors, including Glynn Lunney, Gene Kranz, and Kraft.

Ronak Dave started his career at NASA in 2011 in the Pathways Intern Program. Upon becoming a full-time NASA engineer, he started work in the International Space Station Motion Control Systems Group as an attitude determination and control officer. In that role, he logged more than 1,000 hours in mission control and supported a SpaceX commercial resupply mission to station for NASA. He then transitioned to the propulsion systems group to support Orion, Space Launch System, and Boeing Starliner development and operations.

A Rescue Mission Ends with an Adoption

Secaucus truly cares about all its residents-human and animal. On May 26, the Secaucus Animal Shelter received a call about a cat stuck in the drainpipe by Penhorn Avenue. John and Walter Hugerich from Hugerich Construction Company, a business located in the vicinity immediately rushed to the spot with a robotic camera. They were joined by Animal Control Officers Luis Guillen and Andrew Meier, two members of SMUA and a DPW crew. A robotic camera was piped into the drain to figure out the exact location of the cat.

After a lot of maneuvering and probing, the group located the cat deep in the drain pipe. They used a variety of techniques to move the cat closer to the opening and dropped long corrugated cardboard planks down the pipe. The cat walked up the cardboard and climbed enough for Luis to reach in and grab it up the pipe. The rescue ended happily after a three-hour effort. The kitten was taken to the Animal Shelter, cleaned, fed and provided a cozy space to rest. The cat was given the name "Lucky" and will be adopted by a happy Secaucus family through the adoption process.



"It was a coordinated group effort. Everybody pitched in and we're happy we could rescue the cat. This is what makes my job so enjoyable," said Animal Control Officer Luis Guillen. The Secaucus Animal Shelter is dedicated to saving animals that are abandoned, abused, injured or trapped. They rehabilitate them, have them vaccinated, spayed or neutered and find them loving homes. If you would like to adopt a pet or would like to volunteer at the animal shelter, please call 201-348-3213.

Integrating Special Needs Children-Secaucus Sets Example

Ask anyone about the quality and number of recreational programs offered by the Town, and you'll likely hear nothing but rave reviews. But did you know that Secaucus is one of a few, if not the only municipality in New Jersey, that has a robust program for integrating children and adults with disabilities into regular recreational and other municipal-run programs?

"The idea gained traction in 2014 when Ruby Kish and I founded the Special Education Parents Advisory Committee (SEPAC) and we advocated giving students with disabilities the same experiences as everyone else. Mayor Gonnelli has been extremely supportive of this initiative and has done everything that was needed to make it happen at all municipal level programs," said Abigail Gonzales, Special Populations at the Department of Recreation.

Integrating children with special needs into a regular program helps them improve skills, problem solving and boosts confidence. It also helps all children and adults understand and accommodate differences.

Here's an example: King Miller, a special needs child who attends Clarendon School expressed a keen interest in playing baseball. The Recreation Department worked with the Secaucus Little League to make this happen. Joe Lombardo was assigned as his one-on-one aide. Joe is familiar with King's abilities, had worked with EPOS for many years, and has a teaching certificate, so he seemed a perfect fit. On the baseball field, King gets off his wheelchair and plays just like the other players. He may have to take breaks or need physical support from his aide, but he gets the same experience as other players. And his team has been very supportive and has learned to play with a differently abled teammate.



This year, about 40 special needs children, assisted by 1:1 or 1:2 aides, will be participating with everyone else in several municipal programs including Summer Camp, Arts & Crafts, Game On, Swimming, Little League, Recreation Soccer, Kids Night In and Beyond the Bell.

Secaucus Vaccination Clinic Closed

The Secaucus Vaccination Clinic is now closed, after offering COVID-19 vaccines right here in Secaucus since December 2020. After administering over 13,000 doses, over 125 clinic days, and countless hours of planning, reviewing, and refining the process, we are glad we were able to participate in the process of keeping residents healthy and safe. Overall, 97% of Secaucus has been vaccinated. Thank you for being proactive.

If you or someone in your family needs a pediatric or adult first, second or booster dose, please contact your pediatrician or doctor's office or another clinic convenient to you. You may also visit:

North Bergen Vaccine and Resource Center
9243 Kennedy Boulevard
North Bergen, New Jersey

Hours of Operation

Monday & Wednesday : Closed | Tuesday & Friday: 9:00 AM to 4:00 | Thursday: 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM | Saturday: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

All vaccines are available. Walk-ins are welcome, but please call 201-424-0718 or 201-744-7520 to confirm vaccine availability.

Secaucus Police Department Cares in More Ways

Though the general impression of police officers is often one of toughness, the Secaucus Police Department has a softer, caring, kid-friendly side. That side was on display on June 10th when members of the Police Department took part in the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) to help raise funds for participants in the Special Olympics.

The Run started at Police Headquarters, made its way to Clarendon School, and then to Huber Street School where students gathered and participated in running the torch. The group then culminated at Secaucus High School where Middle School and High School students joined in to carry in the "Flame of Hope." In all, the SPD raised more than \$8000 for New Jersey Special Olympics with donations still coming in. To donate, please visit <https://support.sonj.org/give/t397276/#!/donation/checkout>



The Torch Run, which began in 1984 in New Jersey is supported by Special Olympics New Jersey, a not-for-profit organization that provides training and athletic competition to children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Another community event was the annual Bike Safety Program that was held on June 11th. Secaucus Police Officers taught participants basic bike safety tips as well as the importance of wearing a helmet and keeping bikes in good shape. All participants took away a lot of safety information and one, Aastha Dave, even took away the winning raffle prize!

Did we mention that Chief Dennis Miller, Deputy Chief Joseph Baccola and other officers visited the Annex Library at Xchange and read children's book to a young audience gathered there? The children were excited about the book, canine Oakley's visit and the tour of a police car.

The Mayor & Town Council
Invite all residents
To an
ICE CREAM ANNIVERSARY!



Secaucus Town Museum

is celebrating its **4th anniversary** on
Saturday, July 9th, from 11am to 3pm.

As a thank you to all who have supported and visited the museum, we are offering a "delicious" reward on your visit July 9th. Come in and help us celebrate and receive a voucher redeemable at famous **Mike's Ice Cream** store. Valid only for that Saturday & Sunday, enjoy a small soft or hard ice cream or a small sundae, FREE, courtesy of the town museum. Many thanks to Mike for supporting another town event!

What does the future hold for you?
The Mayor and the Town Council
Invite you to a **Mystical Celebration**

~ Psychic Fair/Fund Raising Event ~
Sunday, August 21, 2022
11:00 am to 5:00 pm
Secaucus Senior Center
145 Front Street

For directions and further information Call (201) 617-5917
\$5.00 admission benefitting Secaucus Emergency Fund

Readings and Chakra Tune-ups are just \$30.00
for every 15 minute session
Readings are for entertainment only!

Dev Markowitz ~ Psychic Tarot Readings
Donna Marie ~ Psychic Tarot / Mediumship Readings
Patricia Farrell ~ Psychic Mediumship Readings
Yasmina Groves ~ Psychic Palm / Mediumship Readings
Shannon Wisner ~ Tarot Readings
Yvette McGuire ~ 15 Minute Chakra Tune-ups
"Life's Too Short To Live Out of Tune"

Pop-Up Shop
Also visit our Vendor: "As Above So Below" for crystals and original creations

Above participants provided through
Mystical World, LLC
Metaphysical Bookstore & Enlightenment Center
648 Ridge Road, Lyndhurst, NJ ~ 201-896-3999

Summer blood shortage.
Please help.



SUMMER HEROES BLOOD DRIVE

Making a difference in patient's life!



Secaucus Recreation Department
Gymnasium
1200 Koelle Blvd. Secaucus, NJ 07094

Saturday July 23, 2022
8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Medical Eligibility Questions Answered By Calling 732-235-8100 ext. 248.

All donors will be given a choice of a tee shirt or grocery tote and be entered into a raffle drawing to win 1 of 4, \$25 Wawa gift cards. Platelet donors will also receive a \$10 Shop Rite card.



Appointments are ENCOURAGED and available at rwjhdonorclub.org or by calling 732-235-8100 ext. 221

Bring a photo ID & be sure to eat and drink prior to donating.

RWJBarnabas
HEALTH

Third Quarter Taxes Due

The Secaucus Tax Department reminds residents that third quarter taxes are due on August 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 tax.munidex.info/Secaucus-nj-0909 to look up and/or pay property taxes online.

You can also drop off a check at the drop box located in 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.

GOT DRUGS?

Secaucus Police Department
Chief Dennis Miller

Mayor Gonnelli & Town Council

DRUG TAKE-BACK

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal

NO NEEDLES OR SYRINGES

Saturday, July 23 2022

8 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Secaucus Public Library
1379 Paterson Plank Road
Secaucus, NJ 07094

