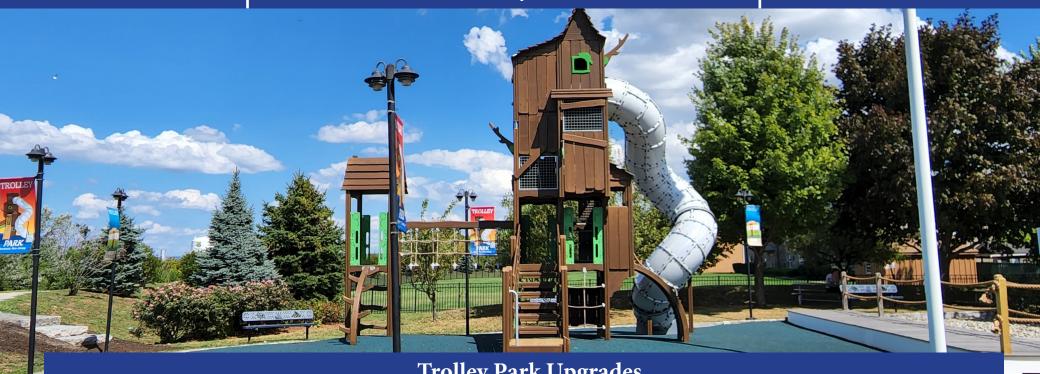
## **SECAUCUS**



## **NEWSLETTER**

September 2022 www.SecaucusNJ.gov **Secaucus Monthly Newsletter** 



**Trolley Park Upgrades** 

Welcome to the latest upgrade to our parks and playgrounds! Enjoy this new playground at Trolley Park situated at the cul-de-sac of Paterson Plank Road. With beautiful views of the river, a great place to watch sunsets, track the ebb and flow of the tide, and access to the Greenway that runs along the Hackensack River, it could soon become your favorite place.

## **Mayor's Corner**

In the last couple of weeks in August, families were invited to several back-to-school events in Town. It included the Back-to-School Pool Night at the Swim Club, where backpacks filled with school supplies were given out. It makes me feel very happy to see the children's enthusiasm as they prepare for the new school year. Secaucus schools are indeed a great place to meet with friends and showcase potential talent in academic, athletic, and extracurricular fields. I would like all parents to know that the Town Council, administration, and I are here to support the School District and help ensure our Town is a great place for your child's education.

While teachers were preparing their classes for the new school year, the Town's administration has been meeting with the SBOE to explore ways to maximize resources through Shared Services. Starting this issue of the Newsletter, we are including a special section that has exclusive content from the SBOE. On August 4th, we also held a joint meeting that included the Town Council, Board of Education and residents. It was a great opportunity for everyone to discuss the

issues and strengths of, as well as opportunities for, our School District. Secaucus is one of a very few, if not the only, school district that has held joint meetings such as these. It shows our Town and School administrations' commitment to

making children's interest the first on our priority list.

While school is in session, I invite your child to stay active and engaged in arts, sports, music and, most importantly, academics. Explore the wide variety of programs offered by our Recreation Department, Library, EPOS and more. And remember to join us at the upcoming fun family events—School Carnival, Restaurant Night and Street Fair.

Wishing you the very best.





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

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## **Meadowlands Garden: Update**

At the end of August, a new gazebo was built at the new garden on Meadowlands Parkway thanks to the generosity of the Perricone Foundation. Additionally, throughout the summer, amazing volunteers joined the Environmental Department and Native Plant Society of NJ Hudson County Chapter to weed and mulch the pollinator gardens that are becoming native habitat for butterflies, birds, and more. Starting in mid-September through October, hundreds more flowers and shrubs will be planted. If you are interested in volunteering, please email



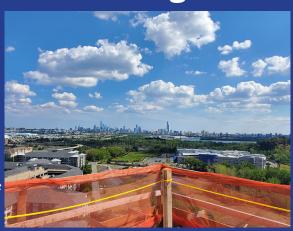
environmental@secaucus.net or call 201-864-7336 to be notified of dates once they are scheduled.

As a friendly reminder, work is still underway at the new garden on Meadowlands Parkway and improvements/additions will continue to be made through next spring including a trellis, educational signage, sponsorship plaques, waste bins, and more. In the meantime, visitors may passively walk and enjoy the space along the gravel path. Please be respectful of the native plantings and

community garden plots and do not pick plants or allow pets to go in these areas; dogs must be leashed. The closest dog run is across the street at Snipes Park.

## **Waterside Tower at Xchange**

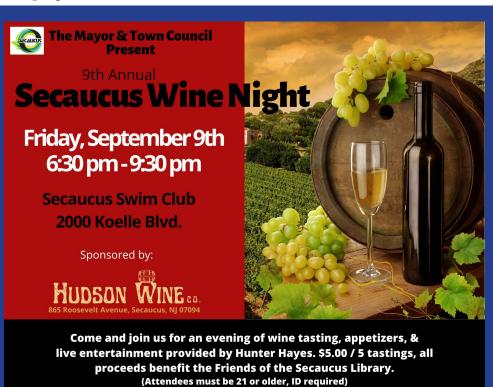
Fraternity Meadows, the developer of Xchange on the banks of the Hackensack River held a "topping off" celebration on the 19th floor of the Waterside on Wednesday, August 25th. The 25-floor tower, consisting of 21 floors of living and 4 floors of parking, is currently under construction and is the final section of the current Secaucus Transit Village Redevelopment Plan. Once completed, the residences will offer spectacular views of the Meadowlands and New York skyline.



### **2022 Environmental Camp**



The Town of Secaucus held its annual Environmental Camp August 22nd through 25th. Campers in grades 6-8 had fun on four environmentally focused field trips. This year's trips included Sea Life NJ Aquarium, Rutgers Farm with the NJAES Animal Care Program, the Middlesex County E.A.R.T.H. Center at Davidson's Mill Pond Park, Tenafly Nature Center, and Arcadia Earth Museum. Throughout the week, campers learned hands-on about ecology, sustainability, and more. Thank you to all who participated in the fun and educational program!



#### **Drought Watch: What You Can Do**

As you may have already heard, New Jersey has been placed under a statewide drought watch. This is the first step in a three-stage drought advisory system that encourages voluntary water conservation measures. If stream flow and groundwater levels continue to fall, a drought warning or drought emergency with mandatory water use restrictions may become necessary.

Simple steps everyone can follow help in conserving water:

- Take shorter showers
- Turn off water while brushing
- Fix constantly running toilets and faucets
- Run washing machine and dishwasher only when full
- Water plants early in the morning or in the evening to reduce evaporation; avoid watering lawns
- Avoid toys that require constant stream of water

Save water today to save tomorrow's water.



#### **Walk at American Dream: Program for Seniors**

The Department of Senior Services has now added a walking program, "Walk at American Dream", for seniors to stay active. This program is a great addition to other programs, such as yoga, that the Department already offers. Two scheduled walking programs are available this month—Monday, September 12th, and 19th. Seniors who sign up are bussed to the American Dream Mall where they can walk with their group.

Walking contributes to stronger bones and muscles, burns calories, helps with better mood and lowers the risk of high blood pressure. When done together in a group, it also offers a great way to connect with friends and can provide a way for seniors to be active if they are reluctant to walk alone.

Seniors can sign up for "Walk at American Dream" by calling 201-865-4422.



#### **Secaucus Supports Ukraine**

Mayor Michael Gonnelli, Councilman William McKeever, Councilwoman Orietta Tringali, several Secaucus residents and members of local Ukrainian families joined the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Branch 413 in a flag raising ceremony on Thursday, August 25th, 2022. The ceremony marked the Town's support of the Ukrainian community on the occasion of Ukraine's 31st anniversary of independence.

## 2022 National Night Out Held at Buchmuller Park



## **Chief Sallick and Officer Borrelli Honored**



The Knights of Columbus honored ex- Fire Chief William Sallick with the 2021-2022 Firefighter of the Year Award at both the local and State level. They also presented Police Office Michael Borrelli with the 2021-2022 Police Officer of the Year Award. The awards were presented by Sir Knight Charles Schumacher at the Town Council meeting on August 23rd. Mayor Gonnelli, members of the Town Council, Fire Department, Police Department, family and friends cheered the recipients as they received the honors.

Chief Sallick was commended for his support for the all-volunteer Secaucus Fire Department since he joined the department in 1975 and for his service at Tower 2. He was the Deputy Chief when Hurricane Sandy hit. He served tirelessly with the Police and Emergency Departments as the storm ravaged through several areas of Town. He served as the Fire Chief

in 2013-2014 and was instrumental in launching the Junior Volunteer Firefighter program that encourages volunteers between the ages of 16 and

18 to actively participate in firefighting so they can gain real-life experience before they graduate to become volunteer firefighters.

Police Officer Borrelli was nominated for his positive mindset, self-motivated attitude, and versatility. He worked in patrol and the anti-crime unit and has proved himself a valuable resource for both senior and junior officers. He was commended for his successful efforts to take illegally held guns off the streets and for his efforts to go above and beyond his call of duty as exhibited in an incident when a resident was found unresponsive.

Congratulations Chief Sallick and Officer Borrelli for the well-deserved awards at both the local and State levels!



## **Upcoming Events**

Friday, September 9, 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM: Wine Night at Swim Club
Sunday, September 11, 8:30 AM: September 11 Memorial Ceremony at Public Library
Saturday, September 17, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM: Fall Festival & Book Sale at Public Library
Sunday, September 18, 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM: Dog Day at the Swim Club
Tuesday, September 20, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM: Hiring Event at 145 Front Street
Wednesday, September 21, 5:00 PM: Senior Citizen BBQ & Movie Night at Kroll Heights
Saturday, September 24, 10:00 AM: Pitching for Pinto Cornhole Tournament
Sunday, September 25, 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM: Fundraiser for Emergency Fund at Mike's Ice Cream
Friday, September 30, 6:00 – 11:00 PM: Secaucus Street Fair at Front Street and Plaza Center
Saturday, October 1, 2:00 PM to 11:00 PM: Secaucus Street Fair at Front Street and Plaza Center
Sunday, October 2, 12:00 noon to 6:00 PM: Secaucus Street Fair at Front Street and Plaza Center
Sunday October 1: Town Wide Garage Sale (register online at secaucusnj.gov/garage by 9/27
\*For more information, please visit our website www.secaucusnj.gov or the Town of Secaucus Facebook



# **SECAUCUS**



## **SCHOOLS**

Dear Secaucus Families,

I am happy to welcome you back to the 2022-2023 school year. Although these past few years have been challenging for all of us, the nature of this community and the shared support that has been extended for our students and staff has gotten us through. I can only hope that this school year brings us a rainbow and sunshine following this brutal storm that we weathered.

If you haven't done so already, please contact your child's school to participate in re-registration. We have begun this process in order to update our records and to ensure that all students are eligible to receive a "Free and Appropriate Education" for those who lawfully reside within our School District. Your cooperation in this matter is highly appreciated.

I would like all parents to know that our "Parent Communication Form" is still open and available to all who would like to voice their concerns or ask the administration questions regarding any district issue. The form is readily available as a button on the right side of our website at www.sboe.org. We welcome all correspondence and will answer any questions that you may have regarding our district.



Finally, I wish all of our students the best for this school year. I will continue to ensure that we are providing our Secaucus residents with the quality education they deserve while keeping the lines of communication open with all stakeholders. As always, any updates to our school operational plans will be posted online and shared with parents as soon as readily available.

Be well,

Dr. Daniela Riser - Acting Superintendent of Schools

#### **Boys Tennis Team Named Division Champions**



The Secaucus High School Boys Tennis Team were named 2021-2022 NJIC Meadowlands Division Champions! The team members are James Cottrell, Mahir Wadhwani, Shivam Rajwani, Reginald Mennuti, Druv Kotadia, Manish Kandepalli, Ayush Argarwal, Dev Chandarana, Sharurya Baranwal, Vatsal Swivedi, Harsh Sanghvi, with Head Coach Mark Schroback and Assistant Coach Ron Mroz. They are pictured here with Board Vice President Lance Bartletta

#### **Secaucus High School - Class of 2022**



Congratulations to the Secaucus High School Class of 2022! Best of Luck on all of your future endeavors!

### Congratulations to the Clarendon and Huber Street School Graduates

A special message to 6th graders who celebrated their 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony on Tuesday, June 21st at the Arthur F. Couch Performing Arts Center. Good luck in Middle School! Here's the link to the video that was featured at the 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqS17uc-W5E

#### **Authors Gina and Glenn Noonan Visit Schools**

First grade students had a special visit from authors Gina and Glenn Noonan who wrote their very own book 'Rules of the Playground.' Glenn is a former Clarendon student and Gina is a former Huber Street School student. The author duo put together their interests—Gina's work with alphabet awareness, and Glenn's passion for being outdoors and in the playground—to write about the opportunities for friendship, kindness and courage that a playground offers. Both were born and brought up in Secaucus, and met while attending Secaucus High School. "It was a pandemic project," laughed Gina while talking about how they got started on the book. Gina now teaches Pre K-to 4th grade in Texas and Glenn is a Maintenance Operator. They have a 10-month old son and plan on writing a baby book soon.



### **Secaucus High School Senior Parking Spots**



On July 26th 2022, the PTSA hosted what has become one of the most memorable events for SHS seniors. Seniors got together at the annual event when they paint their parking spots. Thankfully the weather cooperated for them. The seniors had very creative ideas for their spots. and it was a perfect way to spend time with each other before the school year begins. Pizza and drinks were served to keep them refreshed. Have a great school year, Class of 2023!

### **Track Team Honored for Exceptional Performance**

Members of the Secaucus High School boys and girls track team were honored at the July Board of Education meeting for multiple honors, including broken records and state championships. Members of the girls track team were Angelina Alicea, Deborah Biru, Alejandra Coronel, Alyssa Craigwell, Sophia Currier, Charlie Diehl, Tenara Hardy, Brianna Hauxhurst, Kritika Jhamatt, Abigail Jones, Gianna Marin, Jaslene Mora, Katherine Nguyen, Haley Nowak, Isabella Otero, Nicole Parise, Ava Perez, Paige Quinones, Nicole Rocha, Aarya Shroff, Jiliana Tango, and Audrey Youn. Members of the Boys track team are Younes Abada, Randy Worthington (pictured), Kyle Woltmann, Linus Mondo, and Jayden Vargas with Head Coach Bill Kvalheim and Assistant Coaches Michael Vitulano, Jordan Wildermuth, and Don Somerset.



