Secaucus



Newsletter

August 2023 Secaucus Monthly Newsletter www.SecaucusNJ.gov



Annual National Night Out a Huge Success

The Secaucus Police Department hosted the annual National Night Out community event, on a perfect-weather evening of August 2, 2023. This community-building event aims to enhance the relationship between residents and law enforcement. It is a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances. See more pictures of the event on the Secaucus Police Department's Facebook page.

Mayor's Corner

Since being elected Mayor, one of my main priorities has been ensuring public safety and maintaining a well-staffed and proactive Police Department. The Council and I have increased staffing in the department and have fully supported Chief Miller's directive to have a highly trained and responsive force. I truly feel our police department is the best it has ever been, and our men and women work hard every day to keep our community safe.

The Town Council and I work closely with the police department and wholeheartedly support Chief Dennis Miller's initiatives that bring the police department and residents together. There have been many community meetings at various locations throughout Town—a place where residents can raise issues, suggest solutions, or better understand the workings of the Department. "Coffee With a Cop" and "Ice Cream With a Cop" are also great events where individuals can interact with officers in a casual setting. Initiatives such as "park and walk" police patrols in high foot-traffic areas, bike patrols, therapy dog Oakley at community events and Skate with a Cop program are also opportunities for you to interact with our officers. Even our youngest residents engage with our officers during the Walk to School with a Cop sessions at the elementary schools. Please continue to follow the Secaucus Police Department pages on social media for announcements and updates, not just about the

events, but also for live traffic updates, street closings, emergencies and other issues affecting our daily routines.

Our Police Department is also highly adaptive to changing situations and trends. The Autism Registry service was implemented following a missing persons incident. Class III Police Officers

keep our schools safe in an era of increasing gun violence in schools. A special anti-crime unit was created to address issues of vice and illicit drugs at area hotels. The Ring Doorbell Camera campaign coordinates several individual Ring camera footages in case of a crime. And our new K-9, Brix, trained for current standards, also helps the Department as needed. Finally, our Dispatch Center is the first in the state to receive State accreditation—a proud achievement indeed.

While we have police personnel in place, I remind you that we can keep our community safer with your involvement. If you see something, say something. In case of emergencies, call 9-1-1. If it's not an emergency, call 201-330-2060.

New Bus Run Added to Train Station Shuttle

The Mayor and Town Council announce an additional run for the Morning Express Shuttle that travels from the Secaucus Recreation Center to Secaucus Junction Train Station. The schedule for the added run is as follows:

7:30 AM: Recreation Center Koelle Boulevard

7:34 AM: Village Place and Paterson Plank

7:39 AM: 101 Centre Avenue

7:45 AM: County Avenue and Helen Street

7:47 AM: Arrive at Train Station

For complete schedule of the Shuttle Bus, please visit the Social Services Department's page on our website www.secaucusnj.gov.

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Community Partner Honored by Town Council

At the July 25th Town Council meeting, Mayor Gonnelli and the Town Council honored Carla Fattal, for her consistent efforts and continuing donations of items through Delivering Good. Carla retired from the organization after more than 17 years of coordinating suppliers with those in need. The donations of clothing and housewares were distributed to residents in need in Secaucus, as well as other towns in Bergen and Hudson counties. Over the last 12 years, many families, fire and flood victims and



many more in urgent need have benefitted immensely from the donations Carla organized. Items are also available at the Secaucus Thrift Store, open by appointment through the Department of Social Services. Carla praised Mayor Gonnelli and the Town of Secaucus for being reliable partners in Delivering Goods' efforts to make a difference in the communities they serve. We wish Carla a happy and enjoyable retirement!

Frances Pein Retires After 25+ Years at SHA

Mayor Gonnelli, the Town Council, Secaucus Housing Authority (SHA) Executive Director as well as the staff of the SHA thank Frances Pein for 25+ years of service! Frances retired earlier this year and was honored at the July 25th Town Council meeting. "It was an honor working at the SHA and I loved going to work every day. I wish everyone has the opportunity to work at a place that



they enjoy, just like I did," said Frances, as she held a plaque handed to her by Councilman McKeever.

Congratulations on your retirement, Frances! We wish you many years of health, happiness, and relaxation.

Community Hike



On Saturday, July 15th, about 30 Secaucus residents enjoyed the first community-organized, Town-supported, group hike. The activity, organized by fitness advocate Brenda Green, sought to promote a variety of outdoor activities to achieve fitness goals. Thanks to the recent rains, hikers enjoyed waterfalls and flosing brooks along the 2-mile hike at South Mountain Reservation in West Orange, part of the Essex County Park System.

"My mission for the hike was to introduce alternative forms of exercise to the Secaucus community which not only promote physical well-being but also offers connection as well as mental and emotional rejuvenation. A huge thanks to every participant and heartfelt gratitude to the Town of Secaucus, Mayor Gonnelli, Councilwoman Orietta Tringali and the entire Town Council for providing support, transportation and swag bags for participants," said organizer Brenda Green.

Brenda created a fitness company Fit4abetterme in 2016 and runs classes and summer programs at Harmon Cove Club House. A pivotal event in her life motivated her to share the fitness ethic—"when I recovered from breast cancer, the doctors said the recovery was faster because I was fit. Everyone has to realize that staying fit keeps you healthy and equally importantly helps you get better, if something happens to you," she added.

The success of the first hike may lead to more! We'll bring you details when that happens.

New Park at Louis Street Coming Soon

The Mayor and Town Council are proud to announce that the Town is working on finalizing an agreement with the New Jersey Turnpike Authority (NJTA) and are completing plans to build a new passive park on a tract of land on the corner of Louis and Moller streets. Currently, the Town is finalizing transfer of the property from the NJTA to Secaucus. Once the property transfer is complete, a new fence and other improvements will be installed, making it a beautiful space for all to enjoy. The park at Louis Street is part of our ongoing efforts to secure open spaces for recreational use by our residents. This comes right on the heels of the recently completed Farm Road Park along the Hackensack River in the north end of Town.

Visit our website www.secaucusnj.gov to stay tuned for updates on this, and other improvements around Town.

Winning Artists Honored



Winners of the Hudson County Senior Art Competition from Secaucus were invited to the July 25th Town Council Meeting. Mayor Gonnelli and the Town Council presented them with certificates and two baskets with paint supplies.

The Secaucus Senior Art Club, which meets Wednesday mornings at the Secaucus Senior Center, gathers to create art together and fellowship with like-minded artists over 55. Next year the artists are hoping to participate in the Hudson County and NJ State competitions. All artistic residents are welcome to join the club, no matter what level of skill you may have.

NJYS Hosts 4v4 League America Festival in Secaucus



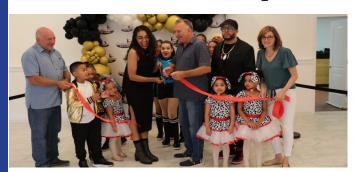
New Jersey Youth Soccer recently hosted its final 4v4 League America Festival for the season in Secaucus. The session was led by Coach Alex Lalaoui, US Soccer Federation and NJYS Coaching Instructor. The purpose of the NJYS 4v4 League America Festival is to provide youth players with a stress-free environment to simply enjoy the game.

Secaucus to Harvard Law School



The Patel family is proud to announce the graduation of Sahil Patel who graduated University of Virginia with a bachelor's degree in Political Philosophy, Policy and Law, with a double major in Economics. Sahil is headed to Harvard Law School in the Fall. He attended Huber Street School, Secaucus Middle School and High Tech High School's (Class of 2019 Valedictorian), before heading to UVA. We wish Sahil the very best!

New Dance Studio Opens



Carolina Rosa Dance Studio and Party Hall is the latest addition to the centrally located Secaucus Plaza area. The studio located at 1309 Paterson Plank Road opened its doors with a ribbon cutting ceremony led by Mayor Michael Gonnelli, and Town Council members John Gerbasio and Orietta Tringali. The dance studio is open for classes in a variety of styles including jazz, ballet, hip-hop, salsa and more. The venue is also open as party hall rentals. A variety of party packages are available. For more information about classes or party hall rentals, please call 2201-685-2722 or visit carolinarosaevents.com.

Resident Graduates from West Point



Family and friends congratulate Derek Fernandez, on his graduation, with honors, from United States Military Academy at West Point. Cadet Derek earned a Distinguished Cadet Award as well as West Point's Reconnaissance Commando Badge, a badge recognizing excellence in infantry field skills such as marksmanship, land navigation and time rucks and runs. He will be commissioned as an officer in the rank of Second Lieutenant in the US Army and will move to Fort Benning,

Georgia, to complete additional training. He will then report to his first unit in the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Derek is a Class of 2019 Secaucus High School graduate and served as President of the class and as captain of the wrestling and football teams. He was awarded the North Jersey Interscholastic Conference Sportsmanship award.

Congratulations, Derek, and thank you for your commitment to serve the nation.

Joseph Longo Will be Missed

Joseph Francis Longo, a resident of Secaucus since 1976, passed away on December 22, 2022, at age 77. Joe was born in 1945 to Claire (Tosolowskie) and Joseph Longo. He was the youngest child in his family and was predeceased by his sister (Mary Payne). Joe spent his early years in Secaucus working at Woolco Department Store as a Merchandise Manager. He then finished his career in the pharmaceutical industry becoming an accomplished Sales Representative.



Joe was born and raised in Jersey City and shortly before moving to town, he married Rose Ann.

Joseph was a proud Veteran and served honorably in the United States Army from 1965 - 1971 achieving the rank of Sergeant E-5.

Joe was also an avid sports fan and passionately rooted for the Mets and Giants. One activity he loved was walking. He started many of his days at the Recreation Center and always enjoyed spending time talking with staff and friends there. For those that knew Joe, keep the good memories in your heart. He will be missed. - By Greg Kaplan

Do You Love to Read?



FICTION BOOK CLUB

The fiction book club meets every 2nd Monday of the month at the Secaucus Library at 1pm - 2nd floor

The group is lively, smart, friendly, fun and talkative!

If you love to read, give the book club a try and just come in

Monday, September 11th We would like to meet you!















secaucuslibrary.org





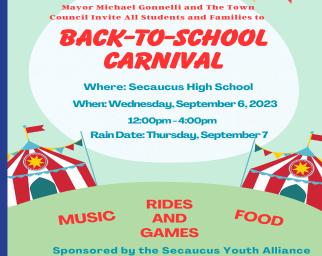
Night

Indulge in the finest wines from around the world and expand your palate. Join us for an evening of wine tasting, music by Hunter Hayes, and appetizers. Attendees must be 21 or older, ID required. \$5.00/5 tastings, all proceeds benefit the Friends of the Secaucus Library.









For more information contact Lee Penna at Lpe

Secaucus



Schools

Dear Patriot Family,

I hope this message finds you all in good health and enjoying your summer. As your Superintendent of Schools, I am honored and privileged to address this wonderful community, a community that is deeply committed to the education, growth, and safety of our children.

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to the parents, guardians, teachers, staff, and all community members for your unwavering support and dedication to our schools. Together, we form a strong partnership, working hand in hand to ensure that our students receive the best possible education, preparing them for a successful future.

At the core of our mission is the belief that every child has unique talents and potential waiting to be unleashed. As a district, we are committed to fostering an inclusive and nurturing environment that empowers our students to embrace their individuality while respecting the diversity that enriches our community.



Our commitment extends beyond just academic achievements. We firmly believe in educating the whole child, nurturing their social-emotional development, and instilling in them the values of kindness, empathy, and integrity. By working together, we can create an environment where our students feel safe, supported, inspired to be the best versions of themselves, and contributing members to our community.

As we look to the future, we are aware of the challenges that lie ahead. The only constant in our world is change itself, and as educators, we must adapt accordingly. Therefore, we will remain agile and open to new ideas, collaborating with parents, community partners, and local authorities to strengthen our schools continually.

Communication is vital to the success of any community, and I encourage each of you to stay engaged with our schools. Attend our events, participate in meetings, provide feedback, and reach out to our talented administrative team. Your perspectives are invaluable in shaping the path forward for our district.

In conclusion, I am excited about the journey ahead of us, the potential that lies within each of our students, and the positive trajectory of our community. Together, as a united front, we can create a transformative educational experience that prepares our children for a bright and promising future.

Thank you for your ongoing support and trust. Let us embrace the challenges, celebrate the victories, and alongside Mayor Gonnelli and Town Council build an even stronger Secaucus together.

Yours in service,

Eric Alfonso, Ed.D., M.B.A.

Superintendent of Schools



Secaucus High School JSA Wins Prestigious Award

Secaucus High School JSA chapter was chosen for the Ernest A. Rogers Chapter of the Year Award. This recognition is given annually to the most outstanding JSA school chapters that have demonstrated exceptional efforts in five areas: chapter activities and political awareness, civic engagement and activism, leadership, community service and event participation. Only seven schools nationwide receive this award each year. Applications were judged by a panel of teachers, advisors and JSA staff.

Secaucus High School, along with the other awardees, were recognized during the 2023 Spring State convention. The school receives the following rewards:

- An engraved plaque honoring the chapter
- A \$1,000 scholarship to JSA Summer School for one dues-paid chapter member
- One full scholarship to a Junior State of America Institute for one dues-paid chapter member
- Become eligible for the JSA's National Civic Impact Award

SECAUCUS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL CALENDAR