



Police Officers Honored for Saving a Life

Secaucus Police Officers Jonathan Padron, Christopher Boyko and Justin Pardo were honored at the Town Council meeting on February 28th for helping save the life of an unresponsive male at the Secaucus LA Fitness in December, 2023. Police Chief Dennis Miller applauded the officers for using their skills and training and congratulated them on a job done well.

Mayor's Corner

Since early January 2024, I have had several meetings with the school Superintendent and some members of the Board of Education regarding their thoughts for the future of the school system. I wanted to share the details as I understand them with you. There are three key components.

Redistricting: As has been discussed in public meetings, the redistricting of the elementary schools would group students of all grades together. For example, all those in kindergarten through 2nd grade would attend Clarendon School and all students in 3rd through 5th grade would attend Huber Street (this is just an example and not based grade distributions that have been decided). The thought is this will enhance educational instruction, provide consistency, better serve those with special needs, etc. Any potential redistricting plan has been delayed to September of 2025 to allow more time to completely evaluate the impacts.

Full Day Pre-K: The school district applied, and is hopeful, for a grant from the State of New Jersey to expand Pre-K for 3-4 yers-olds to full day. The proposed program would would service about 100 students and would be done in conjunction with area childcare centers to gain the additional space needed. Some classes will be held in the school buildings and others will take place in private facilities such as, St. Matthews, Harmony and

Kiddie Academy. The grant funds will provide funding for the teachers and staff at the outside facilities. As with the current Pre-K program, students will be chosen by a lottery system. The expanded program is expected to start this September.

School Expansion: When evaluating the aforementioned proposed changes, coupled with the change in the use of classroom space to accommodate programs, special needs, changes in Department of Education standards, etc. there may be a need for expansion, mainly in our elementary schools. Therefore, the Board of Education is exploring possible scenarios for school expansion. I have asked the Superintendent to ensure adequate time is afforded to fully evaluate any possible expansion plans so they can ensure whatever path is chosen is well planned out, financially feasible and absolutely necessary.

Even though all decisions on school matters are made by the Board of Education, my Administration will continue to work with the Board and will support initiatives that are necessary, sound, and in the best interest of the education of our children.



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Street Cleaning Resumes

Please be advised that alternate streetside parking will be back in effect starting Monday, March 11, 2024. To avoid fines, please read posted signs and keep that side of the roadway clear for street cleaning. Thank you for your cooperation.

Bocce League

The Secaucus Bocce League is looking for players for the upcoming season starting in late April/early May. The League consists of local, fun-loving individuals who play at the Bocce courts at Buchmuller Park. If you want to add a great activity to your summer evenings and would like to join the Secaucus Bocce League, please email secsparks@aol.com.

SHA Senior Housing

The Secaucus Housing Authority (SHA) is accepting applications for apartments (studios or one-bedroom units) in one of their three properties located at 600 County Avenue, 700 County Avenue, and 777 Fifth Street. To be eligible you must be 62 years of age and older or receiving Social Security Disability. To obtain an application, please contact the Housing Authority at 201-867-2957 or download an application at www.secaucussha.org.

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
SECAUCUS, NJ 07094



Secaucus Municipal Government Center
Paterson Plank Road
Secaucus, NJ 07094

Inspiring Girls to Break Barriers

This is a story about Bailey Fearon's dreams and actions coming together to inspire younger girls to follow their dreams. Ever since her first field trip to the firehouse in kindergarten, Bailey dreamed about becoming a firefighter. Her fascination for everything firehouse turned to grit and determination to become a firefighter despite it being a male-dominated profession. She fulfilled that dream two years ago when she was sworn in as a volunteer firefighter with Rescue 1/Engine 2 in the Northend. Today, she inspires young girls to break traditional norms and follow their dreams, no matter what the challenges. "There is not one thing a woman can't do. If she puts her mind, her heart and hard work into it, she can be anything," she said at the February 24th Amuse Journey meeting of the Secaucus Girl Scouts Junior Troop. We hope Bailey's example inspires a new generation of women firefighters in Secaucus.



Volunteers are always welcome at the Secaucus Fire Department. To know more, please send an email to secaucusfd.site@gmail.com.

Huber Street School Hosts Senior Valentine's Day

Valentines Day is always a special day for Secaucus Seniors! Elementary Schools, along with the Department of Senior Services, host a sit-down breakfast each year. This February, the event was held at the Huber Street School gym; complete with themed tablecloths and heart shaped balloons for centerpieces. The room filled up with many seniors dressed in red and pink. Councilmembers and Cathy Wolf of Hygiene Project, distributed forever roses and cards made by students at the Kindness Institute program. While teachers, and Senior Services employees, plated the delicious spread, select fifth graders carefully brought them to the assigned tables, taking care of every need—choice of juice, extra napkins, more of a particular item served—all with a smile. First graders, with their angelic voices and coordinated sign language rendition of a medley of songs, stole everyone's heart. This perfect event was topped off with gift bags for every senior, presented by Mayor Gonnelli and the Town Council.



2024 Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast

Tables were set with plates of jelly, cream cheese, butter and a set of cutlery wrapped in napkins. Scouts of Troop 222 were dressed in full uniform and wore their brightest smiles and showed their commitment to service. Troop leaders manned the griddle, pouring ladles of pancake batter, sizzled the bacon, and grilling sausages. On February 11th, also Super Bowl Sunday, the Masonic Lodge on Paterson Plank Road was set for the Annual Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast as residents and supporters streamed in for the \$8 meal. Breakfast was served from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM –the largest fundraiser for the Secaucus troop. Friends chatted over breakfast, and people who didn't know each other introduced themselves to the table. Scouts plied loaded breakfast plates and cups filled with beverages to each table. The friendly atmosphere and vibe make this breakfast one of the community events that many look forward to each year. Congratulations to the Troop for another successful event.



Damaris Rodriguez Shines at NJCU Basketball



A huge shout out goes to Secaucus resident and New Jersey City University's women's basketball's star athlete for earning Player of the Year in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) for two consecutive years. This is the first time in the University's history that the title was given to a player twice and only the 5th in conference history to earn the award in two consecutive seasons. Her stats are spectacular too: 19.4 points per game average, 485 points and 5.6 assists per game. Other NJAC awards include Rookie of the

Year and four Player of the Week honors. Damaris has had an impressive record at Secaucus High's Lady Patriots Varsity team and left a void, or rather big shoes to fill for future Patriots looking to take Secaucus High to new heights.

A Young Author in the Making

The Kashyap family would like to congratulate their daughter, third grader Aadrika, for writing a sweet little story about a friendship of a lotus and hummingbird. "Aadrika loves listening to the stories her father tells her. We encouraged her to tell her own stories and it turns out, she is very imaginative," said mom Pranzali. With a little help and encouragement, Aadrika put her story in written form over the summer which was privately printed.

Keep writing, Aadrika!



SPD Lt. Bruton Retires After 28 Years

On the sunny but brisk afternoon of February 29th, Secaucus police officers, Mayor Gonnelli, Town Council members, town employees, officers from the Sheriff's office, friends, family and well wishers lined up outside Town Hall for a clap out for Lieutenant Wayne Bruton. Lt. Bruton joined the Secaucus Police Department in 1996 as a patrol officer and rose to the Department's Command Staff spearheading efforts to modernize the department's communication infrastructure. He was the first black officer in Secaucus and not only paved the way for other minority law enforcement officers but also set an example for them. We thank Lt. Bruton for his dedication and service to our community and wish him a happy retired life.



Annual First Responder Breakfast

The 5th Annual Breakfast for First Responders held on February 25th at Burger Stop continues to honor the legacy of Vincent A. Massaro Sr. to the Town of Secaucus. Hosted by his children, Vincent Massaro Jr. and Judy Zotollo, this year's event had great participation as members of Emergency Management, Police and Fire Departments gathered over breakfast. The event aims to build camaraderie in a non-emergency setting that could contribute to better outcomes in an emergency. Massaro Sr. spent 40 of his 51 years in Secaucus at the Office of Emergency Management, retiring as Coordinator in 2018. He was also a veteran, having served in Korea as a Corporal in the US Army. First responders thanked the hosts for a well-organized event.



US Military Banner Tribute

The Knights of Columbus Msgr. Peter B. O'Connor Assembly 1543 in conjunction with the Town of Secaucus would like to afford you the opportunity to honor a loved one who has served or is serving in the US Military. Msgr. Peter B. O'Connor Assembly is the patriotic division of the Knights of Columbus, and we promote patriotism in our communities. We are continuing our banner program, where your loved one will be displayed on the poles throughout the Community. Each year before Veteran's Day the banners are placed on the poles as a sign of public recognition for their service to our country. The town will store them and install them again the following year.

This would be a great opportunity for your honoree, as well as your family, to publicly display the appreciation that you have for our veterans as well as for the public to remember them. The honoree does not have to necessarily be a resident.

The deadline for submission is June 16, 2024! For further information please contact Sir Knight Sal Manente Sr. at 201-866-2988 or e-mail him at salm50@aol.com.

Young Resident Raises Funds for Animal Shelter



Seventh grader, Bryce Haveli, was elated when rescued Pomeranian Coco came home to be part of the family about a year and a half ago. His mother, Amy, happened to be volunteering at the Secaucus Animal Shelter at the time and

applied to adopt Coco. Since then, Bryce wanted to give something back to the place that helped bring joy to the family every day. So, for his Mitzvah project, Bryce decided to raise funds for the Animal Shelter. Secaucus Secaucus Animal Shelter Manager, Chris Conte, thanked Bryce upon receiving the check from him last month.

Petition to Declare November Veteran's Month

The Knights of Columbus, Msgr. Peter B. O'Connor, Assembly 1543 under the leadership of former Master SK. Paul Pinkman, are circulating a petition requesting Congress to dedicate the month of November as Veteran's Month. There are months dedicated to various causes, but none recognize our veterans. These brave and dedicated men and women have given up a part of their life to protect our freedom and should be recognized not just for one day.

If you would like to assist in recognizing our veterans, look for petition forms at places you frequent including churches, Public Library, Recreation Center, and Senior Center. If your organization would like to assist SK. Pinkman with this initiative, please contact him at 201-866-8621 or drop off you petition form where you signed it.

Tommy Schwarz Nominated for Hudson County Senior of the Year



At the February 23rd Town Council meeting, Tommy Schwarz was invited with supporters and directors of the Town Museum. What Tommy thought was an event to recognize the awesome work of the Secaucus Town Museum, was, in fact, a surprise revelation of his nomination for the 2024 Hudson County Senior of the Year! Lisa Snedeker, Director of Senior Services, made the announcement as she unveiled a t-shirt with "Secaucus Senior Citizen of the Year 2024" on it. Visibly touched, somewhat overwhelmed and a whole lot humble, Tommy thanked everyone on the nomination. Councilwoman Orietta Tringali detailed Tommy's continuing contributions to our community—as Director of the Town Museum, organizer of the Summer Concert Series, President of the Harmon Cove Recreation Association and active community member who supports a variety of events and fundraisers. Congratulations to Tommy on the well-deserved nomination.

Senior Art Showcase a Success

On Saturday, February 10th, the Panasonic Room at the Secaucus Public Library had a special, creative kind of buzz. The Senior Art Club of Secaucus hosted an Artist's Reception and celebration, with a wide selection of healthy refreshments and a feast of amazing artwork displayed all around the room. The best in photography, mixed media, paintings, drawings, prints, crafts and digital art created by our Town's senior artists were in display the entire month. Winners of the 2023 NJ State Senior Art Competition and Hudson County Senior Art Show stood out with their bright colored ribbons announcing the award won. As visitors, impressed by the displays, walked around the room, artists talked about their winning entries, the creative process and the wonderful group that is the Senior Art Club. Within a few minutes, you are convinced about the friendship and support that members of the Club provide to the creative community. The Club welcomes new members over 55 years of age who want to explore their artistic creativity.

If you would like to join, stop by the Senior Center at 145 Front Street on Wednesdays 8.30 AM to noon.

Mayor Gonnelli stopped in to show his support, congratulate

the artists and take a picture in front of the winning art. Pictured in the back row are Micheal Fargey, Danielle Fry, Harmon Kaplan and Bobby Travieso; in the front row are Joan Kelly, Louise Rittberg, Maureen McDonald, Mayor Gonnelli, Leslie Hagg, Glenda Kaplan, and Amelia Antao. Here's a list of winners in the NJ State Senior Art Competition and the Hudson County Senior Art Show.



Secaucus Hockey Players Win McMullen Cup

The Tri-Op High School Hockey Team, which includes 6 players from Secaucus, won the NJIHL Hockey League Championship and the McMullen Cup at the Richard Cody Arena on February 14, 2024. They defeated the number 1 seed, Millburn, 3-2 to win, making it the team's second division championship in only 6 years since the team was formed. The last time they won the championship was in 2022. In the picture are players from Secaucus: Anthony Leppin, Ian Fu, Aiden Stamm, Billy Worman, Connor Michalkovich and Sean Meaney, who are guided by Coach Rachael.



On the road to the McMullen Cup, the Tri Op team set a record 10-9 total with a 6-4 record in League games. Earlier, on February 9th, they defeated Hoboken, the number 4 seed, in the Quarterfinal round, and on February 12th defeated West Orange, the number 2 seed, in the Semifinal round to advance to the finals.

JOIN THE

SECAUCUS HIGH SCHOOL PTSA AND THE PATRIOT ATHLETIC CLUB

FOR A **BEEFSTEAK DINNER**

INCLUDES SALADS, FRENCH FRIES, AND SUNDAES!

B.Y.O.B

FRIDAY, MARCH 15th

7-11PM

LOCATION:
CAROLINA ROSA ARTS ACADEMY (OLD NOCHES)
1309 PATERSON PLANK RD.
SECAUCUS

TICKET PRICE \$50 PER PERSON

FEATURING:

- 50/50 RAFFLE
- PRIZE GAMES
- PRIZE RAFFLES

FOR TICKETS CONTACT:
CHRISTINE: 201-469-7655
VICKI: 201-624-2633
JESSICA: 201-978-1390
CASH OR VENMO (@SECAUCUS-SHS-PTSA)

Mayor Gonnelli and the Town Council invite you to join us in safeguarding the Hackensack River at our annual

EARTH DAY CLEANUP

April 20th - 10 AM to 12 PM

County Road Extension
Meeting in front of Secaucus Public Library Annex
1007 Riverside Station Blvd



Equipment and refreshments provided!

Remember to wear sturdy shoes, clothes you can get dirty, and bring a water bottle.

To register, please complete a volunteer waiver at Green.SecaucusNJ.gov/njcc





Join Mayor Gonnelli and the Town Council

Saturday, March 30, 2024

12:00 Noon
(promptly)

Schmidts Woods*

*If inclement weather, the event will be at the Recreation Center on Koelle Blvd.



Easter Egg Hunt

bounce houses
face painting
petting zoo

Help Increase The Tree Canopy

Trees provide many benefits, including reducing cooling and heating costs, interception of rainwater, increased property values, and improved air quality.

REQUEST FREE STREET TREES FOR SPRING PLANTING

The Shade Tree Committee provides street tree planting in the town's right-of-way areas for free.

For more information and application:
www.green.secaucusnj.gov/trees
Email: shadetree@secaucus.net
Call: 201-864-7336




SECAUCUS FOOD PANTRY IS IN NEED OF

REUSABLE BAG DONATIONS

WHERE & WHEN
145 FRONT STREET
M-F 8AM - 3PM



WHAT
ANY/ALL REUSABLE BAGS



WHY
TO HELP THOSE IN NEED & THE ENVIRONMENT



SecaucusNJ.gov | Social Services 201-330-2014

FIRST ANNUAL EASTER PUPPY PARADE

SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH
11:15AM - 12:30PM

PARADE KICK OFF
LOCATION: IN FRONT OF THE HARMON COVE CLUB HOUSE

Donation for each Pup: \$20

Please Register by **Wednesday, March 27th**

All proceeds benefit:

Alzheimer's New Jersey
WALK TO FIGHT ALZHEIMER'S.

Sponsors:





Prizes and Giveaway Items!

Scan QR Code
Click Donate to Register
Click Custom Donation
Amount: \$20
Click Other (Custom): Type in Owner Name and Puppy Name




Questions? Email Cathy at manager@hc-rec.com



Secaucus Public Library
1379 Paterson Plank Rd., Secaucus, NJ

Women's History Month



Tuesday, March 19, 2024
12:00 pm
Panasonic Rm.

In celebration of Women's History Month, join Joel Farkas as he highlights and honors women and their contributions that have made a difference throughout history before, during, and after the American Revolution. Learn how over 25 women, "broke the mold" and "proved men wrong". Women the weaker sex? Think again! Please register on the calendar @Secaucuslibrary.org

Thomas Edison Film Festival Screening

HERSTORY


APRIL 2ND
12:00 PM
PANASONIC RM.

In honor of Woman's History Month, please join us for a FREE screening of selected films curated by the Thomas Edison Film Festival honoring women. A program of films featuring stories about women or films made by women filmmakers.



All Secaucus Public Library programs are ADA accessible. Special accommodations are available upon request.

SECAUCUS HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS



The Addams Family

SPECIAL SENIOR CITIZEN INVITED DRESS REHEARSAL

MARCH 14TH 7:00 PM



ARTHUR F. COUCH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

TICKETS \$5
CASH AT THE DOOR

THE ADDAMS FAMILY IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT. OTHER ALL AUTHORIZED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE SUPPLIED BY THEATRICAL RIGHTS WORKSHOPS, 1130 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, SUITE 640, NEW YORK, NY 10020. WWW.THEATRICALRIGHTS.COM

ARE YOU AN ARTIST?

The Secaucus Seniors Art Club is a place for creative seniors to gather and share their love for making art. If you are 55 and older and you'd love to share your creativity with other artists, stop by any Wednesday morning and see what we do!

WHEN: Wednesday mornings, weekly
TIME: 8:30 am to 12 noon
WHERE: The Secaucus Senior Center (145 Front Street)
BRING: A large plastic tablecloth, and your own art supplies
LESSONS: No lessons are provided, but 'tips' are abundant!
BEVERAGES: Provided by the Senior Center