



Residents Make Restaurant Night a Success

On Thursday the 19th, more than 1000 residents and friends gathered for food from local restaurants as Gian Faraone Band and Cassandra Elyse provided live musical entertainment. The setting was perfect with purple tablecloths, live flower centerpieces and ample seating for large groups of 10 per table. And at just \$5 per tasting, residents enjoyed a variety of cuisine as S.A.I.L club and Hygiene Project members sold beverages as a fundraiser for their community service projects.

Mayor's Corner

A very special milestone is coming up for our Town—we will be celebrating Secaucus' 125th anniversary next year! A milestone this big deserves a grand celebration, a day when our residents can come together and celebrate the most enduring characteristic—a strong community with a sense of pride. The event will tentatively take place on Saturday, May 31, 2025, so save the date!

You may know that Secaucus has gone through several transformations since it's early settlement way back in the early 1700s. For a long time, the area was part of Bergen, one of the oldest municipalities in New Jersey. Secaucus was formed as a borough in 1900 from portions of North Bergen and was eventually incorporated as a town in 1917.

We are now a beautiful suburb, literally a stone's throw away from the most popular city in the world and it is hard to imagine that Secaucus was originally a flourishing agricultural community. Our Town was once famous for orchid and celery farms, and one of our residents, Sebastian Meisch was even known as Celery King. In the early 1900s, Secaucus started becoming known for its burgeoning pig farms. At one point, there were more than 50 farms in this small area. That is

one of the reasons, why you will find so many pig-related décor items in my office!

By 1950, pig farms were gone, partially due to the Turnpike using up land from 11 farms, and later due to a court order shutting down all pig farms. I am fascinated with how Secaucus has reinvented itself again and again. With the Turnpike in and pig farms out, Secaucus once again re-invented itself with much-needed warehouses and outlet malls. And when outlets went out of fashion, data centers took their place.

Throughout all these changes, I hear a constant—that Secaucus residents love living in this Town! They love the community feel and unity; and they take pride in this beautiful "Jewel of the Meadowlands." Let's celebrate this and more throughout next year as we celebrate the 125th anniversary.

Meanwhile, I hope to see you at all the events lined up this Fall!



Secaucus Procures New Bus for Senior Trips

Great news for seniors! The Town of Secaucus received a new senior transportation bus thanks to NJ Transit and the Federal Transit Administration! The grant-funded, 28-seater bus can be changed to the 2 wheelchairs-24 seats configuration when needed.

"This is one more improvement that is entirely funded by grants. The need for a new bus for senior trips is fulfilled without an impact on our budget, thanks to NJ Transit", said Mayor Michael Gonnelli. "Our seniors will love the cushioned seats and smoother ride. And having the flexibility to have 2 wheelchairs is a big plus," said Lisa Snedeker, Director of Senior Services. The new bus will replace an older one and will be utilized for senior trips to stores, restaurants, malls, health classes, special events and more.



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

Councilman William McKeever
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Councilman Robert Costantino
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Councilman James Clancy
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Councilwoman Orietta Tringali
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LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
SECAUCUS, NJ 07094



Secaucus Municipal Government Center
Paterson Plank Road
Secaucus, NJ 07094

Historical Plaque on Paterson Plank Road Unveiled

Did you know Paterson Plank Road was a main throughfare for people traveling west from New York to Paterson, New Jersey? For more than 200 years, the cobbled stone and wooden plank road was heavily used by travelers. The street was fortified by stone walls on either side to prevent flooding—some of the original walls still stand and you can see them between Huber Street and Hops Lane. A plaque commemorating those walls was installed in August and was unveiled on August 23. Seen in pic at the unveiling are Councilmember John Gerbasio, Museum Directors Scott Schaffer, Anna Schwarz, Tom Schwarz, Mayor Michael Gonnelli and Councilmember James Clancy.



Check out this and other historical plaques around town. There's one on County Road by PSEG, Trolley Park, Mill Creek Point Park and Laurel Hill Park—these tidbits of history of Secaucus will fascinate you!

Students Enjoy the 2024 Back to School Carnival

What started off as a way to encourage social interaction among students and teachers immediately following the COVID pandemic has now become a much-anticipated tradition each school year! The annual Back-to-School carnival, sponsored by the Secaucus Youth Alliance, was held on September 5th at the Secaucus High School grounds and was a great way for teachers, parents, and students to kick off the new school year. There were rides, games, prizes, and the all-time favorite watermelon eating contest organized by the Pinto Foundation. This year, the mechanical bull ride was equally popular with long lines of students challenging friends about who could stay on the bull the longest. Zeppoles and soft-serve ice-cream complemented Steve's on Wheelz' delicious meals and perfect summer-fall weather kept the students at the carnival longer. (Many attendees and volunteers were thankful for the good weather and reminisced about the scorching heat at last year's carnival) The raffle basket for "Pie the Mayor" filled up fast— and students were excited to win the raffle even while they hesitated to pie their favorite Mayor. Speaking about the event, Mayor Gonnelli said, "This year, we had a huge turnout of volunteers from our school district. I was so glad to see this as that's the goal of the carnival—it's a way for students and teachers to interact outside of the classroom."



KAI Students Help with Vaping/Cannabis Presentation to 5th Graders

Students of the KAI club assisted Partners in Prevention (PIP) staff with 8 presentations to a total of 159 5th graders to end the school year. The presentation provided information about the consequences of vaping and cannabis use in middle and high school, and the KAI students answered questions after the presentation. The program also included a cannabis goggles activity which allows students to wear specialized eyewear that mimics the impairment certain substances can cause. KAI students hope that the presentation helps fifth graders as they learn ways to avoid substance use in school and beyond.



Fall Pumpkin Sale at Carnegie Diner

This October, Carnegie Diner & Café is spicing things up with a Fall Pumpkin Sale in partnership with Secaucus High School! Whether you're carving jack-o'-lanterns or adding a festive touch to your home, swing by Carnegie Diner on Plaza Drive. They have pumpkins of all shapes and sizes, perfect for whatever you're planning! And the best part? All proceeds will go to support the Senior Class of 2025. Grab a pumpkin, support the seniors, and make this fall extra fun!

Pets Have a Splash at the Pool

The last official day of the Swim Club is usually marked by Dog Day at the Pool—a pupstastic day for dogs of all sizes to unleash their energy and have a splashing time! This year, rain delayed the event to Sunday, September 8th when pawsome friends of all sizes gathered for a swim and treats at the kiddie pool. Play time from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM was reserved for the youngest pets and the rest of the day was open to all pets. Donations of \$10 per pet and all proceeds went to Friends of the Secaucus Animal Shelter.



Young Environmentalists Attend Annual Camp

The Environmental Department hosted an unforgettable trip-based camp for 25 students at the end of August. The students immersed themselves in nature and learned about preserving natural habitats and sustainable practices. The students visited Liberty Science Center, the Raptor Trust, Sedge Island, and Essex County Environmental Center. Each trip ignited their curiosity and planted seeds of environmental consciousness, encouraging them to make a positive impact on the world around them.



Frank Walters Leads NJ Fire Chief's Association

Former Secaucus Fire Department Chief Frank Walters has been appointed as President of the New Jersey Fire Chief's Association! As President of the Association, Frank will continue to provide "visionary leadership for chief fire officers and fire departments and provide support and resources to chief officers through education and exchange of ideas." Frank is currently Secaucus Fire Inspector and long-time member of our Fire Prevention team. Congratulations to Frank on the well-deserved appointment!



Students Shine at the Young Entrepreneurs Expo 2024



The Secaucus Recreation Center was abuzz with excitement on July 21st as over 50 young entrepreneurs transformed the space into a bustling marketplace. Our town's future business leaders showcased their creativity, determination, and exceptional business skills as they ran their own stalls. Mayor Gonnelli, Councilwoman Tringali, and many residents showed up to support and encourage them, and bought items including jewelry, handmade crafts, art, wares, lemonade, fruit cups, ice cream and more! Judges Anna Reilly Leppin, Raj Padasani, and Cathy Sofjan Wolf had a hard time choosing the winners. True to

the strong, tight-knit community that we are, generous sponsors and dedicated volunteers supported the event to make it a success. Middle-schoolers Shreya Arjun and Simran Bassi spearheaded this incredible event under the mentorship of Ramya Nair.

Congratulations to all participants, and a special shoutout to the winning entrepreneurs: Diyanah Rahamane, Aariz Rahamane, Tvisha Dhir, Aarti P. Khanna, Diya Napa, and Dhvani Napa! Your hard work and talent are an inspiration to us all.

We can't wait to see what our 'Young Entrepreneurs Community' will dream up next!



3 Police Officers Promoted; 3 New Officers Sworn In

The Secaucus Police Department is expanding! Members of the Secaucus Police Department and their families, joined Chief Dennis Miller to congratulate 3 officers on their promotion and 2 new officers who were sworn in at a Promotion and Swearing-in Ceremony held at Town Hall in July.



Captain Martin Moreda, a 22-year veteran, joined SPD in 2008 as a patrolman and rose up the ranks to Captain. He was an instrumental part in creating the Traffic Bureau in Secaucus. He is a certified crash reconstructionist and has earned several awards including two for Excellent Police Service, two Unit Citations and a Jersey City Mayoral Award.

Lieutenant Mark Valentino, a 24-year veteran at the SPD served the Patrol Division, and later, as the property and evidence custodian. He earned several prestigious awards including the medal of Honor, NJSPBA

Gold Medal of Valor Award, and the 200 Club of Hudson County Valor Award. He is a member of the NJ Police Honor Legion and has also been recognized as the Officer of the Year by Knights of Columbus.

Sergeant Taylor Ensmann has been at the SPD for 10 years. He is credited with starting New Jersey's first K-9 Therapy Program after certifying his canine companion Oakley. He is a board member of the Secaucus PBA and is the Local's State Delegate for the last four years. His awards include 1 for Excellent Police Service, and 3 Unit Citations.



Police Officer Jean Carlos De La Rosa was appointed to the SPD in April, 2024. Before that, Jean served with the NJ State Department of Corrections, was a member of the Correctional Emergency Team (CERT), the Special Operations Group, Mobile Field Force Operations/Riot Control, and Search and Rescue Operations.



Police Officer Michael Benavides joined the SPD after serving 5 years at the Cherry Hill Police Department where he received certifications for motorcycle operation, alcotest operators, Methods of Instruction and was a member of the crisis intervention team.

Additionally, on September 3rd, the Police Department welcomed Officer Thomas Schaffer at a swearing-in ceremony attended by SPD officers and staff, town council members and Officer Schaffer's family and well-wishers. Congratulations to all officers and their families!

Solemn 9-11 Ceremony Honors Our Lost Ones

On September 11th, the Town remembered its own loved ones lost on September 11, 2001. At a solemn ceremony held at the Memorial Plaza by the Secaucus Public Library, Town Council members, members of the Police Department, Fire Department and residents gathered to honor all the loved ones lost on the fateful day, 23 years ago. That included six of our own residents—Arlene Babakitis, Richard Cudina, Nancy Perez, Kenneth Simon, Steven Strobert and Michael Tanner. Brian Beckmeyer played the taps.

The impact on the families whose loved ones were untimely taken away is immeasurable. "It is important to remember the scale of loss and it is important to keep the memories of our loved ones alive," said Mayor Gonnelli. The reading of the names at the ceremony by Councilmembers Costantino and Dehnert brought tears to many eyes.

Councilman William McKeever spoke on behalf of Mayor Michael Gonnelli (who was unavailable due to personal matter) and reminded everyone about the magnitude of the loss. Nearly 3,000 lives were lost at World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon in Washington DC, and in the plane crash in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The ill-effects of that tragic day continue to this day with health-related issues faced by those who inhaled the dust at ground zero. Father Sergio and Pastor McCleary led the prayers. Frank Basile moved the attendees with his deep-voiced rendition of the national anthem.



New Hair Loss Specialist and Dermatology Center in Town

A board-certified dermatologist, Dr. Jeffrey Rapaport, and his team of dermatology professionals will be joining our community in October 2024. Dr. Rapaport has over 40 years of experience in medical and aesthetic dermatology and will be the only dermatologist in town.

The center, located at 255 State Route 3, Suite 206, will offer a comprehensive range of medical and cosmetic dermatologic services for both children and adults. Dr. Rapaport and his team are renowned for their expertise in medical and cosmetic dermatology, hair restoration procedures, and acne scar treatments. The center will also offer treatments for all skin conditions and offer aesthetic treatments such as dermal fillers, Botox, laser hair removal, chemical peels, and microneedling. Please join us in welcoming the new center to our Town.

Secaucus Youth Volunteer in Costa Rica

This summer, 10 high school students and 4 chaperones traveled to Costa Rica to participate in the Hygiene Project's 11th Community Outreach Program (COP). The group stayed for 4 nights 5 days and embarked on educational, cultural, and humanitarian activities. The trip's highlights include multiple service projects such as cleaning up Siquirres Beach and painting a medical center in Pacquare. 150 hygiene kits, 30 snack bags, 300 lbs of non-perishable food, 48 plush toys, and 250 school supplies were donated to 30 migrant children at the Salvation Army in San Jose, 65 indigenous Cabecar students at Namaldi's elementary school, and 15 homeless individuals in Bataan. They all had the opportunity to play games with and become friends with the children, strengthening their sense of empathy and understanding for them. The group witnessed firsthand the conditions of different struggling populations in another country and returned home content with the positive impact they had made with their service and gained a lifetime changing experience.



Secaucus Author Michael Griffo's Play on Stage in October

Pen Pals, a play written by Secaucus resident Michael Griffo, will be on stage at the NJ Repertory Company on select days from October 3rd to the 20th. The play was inspired by his mother's real-life pen pal relationship with a woman in England that lasted from the time she was 14 years old until the time she passed away at 77. The same play was produced by Secaucus' community theater company, CAST, in 2015 starring Melisa Klausner and Sara DiRienzo. "It was a big hit and by the end of the play there wasn't a dry eye in the theater," said Michael as he looks forward to its staging in October. This time Pen Pals will feature Gail Winar, an accomplished theater actress who appeared in many productions across the country and in London, and Nancy McKeon, a well-known actress who became famous playing Jo Polnizczek in the TV sitcom The Facts of Life. "These actresses truly embody Bernie and Mags - the characters in Pen Pals - and I can't wait for audiences to experience the journey of their lives," added Michael. Tickets are available at www.njrep.org or by calling 732-229-3166.

Michael is a prolific, award-winning playwright and novelist, with over 20 plays and 15 novels written as himself and under pseudonyms J.D. Griffo, Michael Falco and Michael Salvatore. His latest mystery book, Murder in An Italian Café, is the second book in his mystery series set in Positano, Italy, and was published last month.

We wish Michael Griffo and the NJ Rep team the very best in the production of Pen Pals.

COME JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF MISCHIEF!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30TH

5TH-8TH GRADES

TIME: 6:30PM-8:30PM

LOCATION: BUCHMULLER BASKETBALL COURTS

WEAR OLD CLOTHES!

NO EGGS AND FLOUR SACKS

Knights of Columbus
Msgr. Peter B. O'Connor Assembly 1543
Invite You to the Annual

VETERANS BREAKFAST

Sunday, November 10, 2024
At 10:00 AM

Immaculate Conception Auditorium
760 Post Place, Secaucus 07094

Admission: Adults \$10, Under 12 - \$7
Veterans - Free with DD Form 214 or Veteran's ID

For tickets contact:
SK Paul Pinkman at 201-866-8621
SK Sal Manente at 201-866-2988

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

OCTOBER 23RD
4:30 PM OR 5:30 PM

2nd Floor Panasonic Room

Children ages 4 and up are invited to join us at the Secaucus Public Library for a Spooktacular Halloween Celebration! Come dressed in your Halloween costume ready to trick-or-treat. Take a photo with our festive decor, hear a spooky story and decorate cupcakes. Space is limited. Sign up on the calendar@Secaucuslibrary.org (Please pick only one of the two time slots available.)

Sponsored by
OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE

MAYOR GONNELLI AND THE TOWN COUNCIL PRESENT:

SPOOKY FRIDAY

OCTOBER 18, 2024

SCHMIDT'S WOODS

NOT SO HAUNTED HOUSE - OPENS 6:30PM
HAUNTED TRAIL - OPENS 7:15PM

SECAUCUS RESIDENTS ONLY!



WE'RE BACK!
Secaucus Animal Shelter

HALLOWEEN COSTUME DINNER DANCE

FRIDAY
11/01/24
7:30 - 11:30PM

TICKETS \$75pp:
Tax-deductible donation per ticket / Space is limited

- **Checks:** Accepted until 10/26 at the shelter only. Payable to "Friends of the Secaucus Animal Shelter"
- **Venmo:** FOSAS
- **Cash:** Accepted at the shelter and on the day of the event at the door.

PLACE:
La Reggia Restaurant
40 Wood Ave, Secaucus

DONATION INCLUDES:
Dinner, beer, wine & entertainment
PLUS: Dancing, music, DJ, Costume & Raffle prizes, 50/50


CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL TICKETS:
Tommy 201-315-5437
directorluggage@aol.com

Friends of Secaucus Animal Shelter: 525 Meadowlands Pkwy, Secaucus, NJ
Ph: 201-318-3213 / Hrs: Mon - Fri, 11am - 2pm & Sat - Sun, 11am - 4pm

Meet the School Board Candidates

When: Thursday October 24, 2024
Time: 7 to 9 p.m.
Where: Arthur Couch PAC

Seven candidates will discuss their qualifications, views on education, how they will contribute to maintain the highest level of quality education for Secaucus students. A moderator will provide topics for candidates to elaborate upon. Meeting will be recorded for future viewing. School Board election is **Tuesday November 5, 2024.** Three positions are open.



Indian Caucus of Secaucus and the Town of Secaucus Presents

Saturday
OCTOBER 19TH
7PM - 10PM

Dandiya DHAMAKA

SECAUCUS RECREATION CENTER
1200 KOELLE BLVD., SECAUCUS, NJ 07094

TICKETS: \$15

PURCHASE TICKETS AT
WWW.INDIANCAUCUS.ORG

PRICES SUBJECT TO INCREASE WITHOUT NOTICE

Indian Caucus of Secaucus and the Town of Secaucus PRESENTS

ANNUAL Diwali MELA

Sunday
OCTOBER 6TH
12PM

BUCHMULLER PARK, 150 PLAZA CENTER, SECAUCUS, NJ 07094

◇ CULTURAL SHOW ◇ INDIAN CUISINE ◇ KIDS ACTIVITIES
◇ LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ◇ FREE PRIZES

For more information visit our website
WWW.INDIANCAUCUS.ORG

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MARY IMMACULATE COUNCIL #12769

Octoberfest

SATURDAY, OCT. 19, 2024 at 6:30 pm
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH GYMNASIUM
760 Post Place, Secaucus, NJ 07094
Parking is available in the John St. and Centre Ave. Church Lots.

TICKETS : ADULTS - \$30
CHILDREN UNDER 13 - \$15
PRE-SCHOOLERS ARE FREE!

GERMAN CUISINE served until 7:45 pm
FULL BEVERAGE SERVICE & DESSERT
TAKE-OUT MEALS ARE AVAILABLE!
MUSIC BY DJ CHRIS

PURCHASE TICKETS AT ICC GIFT SHOP OR ASK ANY KNIGHT. You may also call Ticket Chairman Charlie at 201-803-9217 or email: www@kofc12769.org

Proceeds to: SEMINARIAN SCHOLARSHIPS and The PGK John Niznik Memorial Scholarship

Craig Guy's
Department of Family Services and Reintegration
The Board of County Commissioners

Community Resources

DEPARTMENTS PROVIDING SERVICES FROM
Medicaid • Housing • SNAP

Every Thursday • 10 am-2 pm
Secaucus Community Center
145 Front Street
Secaucus, NJ 07094

Hosted by
Tamika McReynolds
Email: TMoutreach@hcnj.us



HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 9, 2024
6:30 PM

Secaucus Recreation Center
1200 Koelle Blvd., Secaucus, NJ

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, join us for an evening of food, music, & dance, with world renowned dance instructor and choreographer Talia Castro-Pozo and friends.

Snacks provided by Goya.

(NO PARTNER OR EXPERIENCE NECESSARY)

GOYA SPONSOR

Register using the calendar @ secaucuslibrary.org




SECAUCUS HS PTSA ANNUAL PAWRADE

Saturday, October 12, 2024
RAIN DATE: Sunday, October 13, 2024

Greenway Dog Park
300 Millridge Road, Secaucus

Registration: 10:00 AM
Parade: 10:30 AM
Entry Fee: \$10.00

Includes fun online photo with your pet!
Dress your pet in a costume. (optional)
* Raffle Baskets Available *

All proceeds go to the Secaucus HS PTSA Scholarship Fund

Sign Up
SCAN ME

