

Jeffas, Gonnelli and Shinnick Join Town Council

First Ward Councilman Gary Jeffas is an attorney and life-long resident of Secaucus. Councilman Jeffas is a local basketball and baseball coach who is a member of the Secaucus High School Hall of Fame.

He's the Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, Mary Immaculate Council and the recipient of the Adult Youth Leader Award from the Archdiocese of Newark.

Councilman Jeffas is married to Jean (Solter) Jeffas. They have three sons.

Second Ward Councilman Mike Gonnelli is also a life-long resident of Secaucus and the Town's long-time Department of Public Work Superintendent. He's a Commissioner of the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission and was honored as the Community Hero Torch Bearer for the 1996 Olympic Games.

Councilman Gonnelli is the recipient of the 2004 Unico Citizen of the Year, the 200 Club of Hudson County Valor Award and is

past president of the Secaucus Babe Ruth League. Councilman Gonnelli is Deputy Chief of the Secaucus Volunteer Fire Department.

Councilman Gonnelli is married to Linda Haslach-Gonnelli and is the father of four children.

Third Ward Councilman John Shinnick is a former member of the Board of Education and a college administrator.

Councilman Shinnick has been president of the Town's Board of Health, a member of the Secaucus Youth Alliance and a volunteer for Hudson Cradle, an organization that cares for neglected and abused children and infants.

Councilman Shinnick is chairman of the Hudson County Improvement Authority, former member of the Secaucus Library Board and a girls' softball coach for the Secaucus Recreation League.

Councilman Shinnick and his wife Lourdes have two daughters.



Three new members of the Town Council recently took the oath of office.

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**MAYOR
DENNIS ELWELL**

TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS:
John Reilly, Deputy Mayor
Gary Jeffas • Richard E. Kane
Mike Gonnelli • John Bueckner
John Shinnick
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
Anthony D. Iacono

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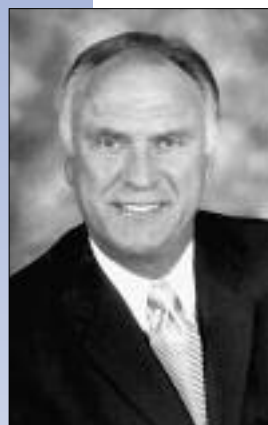
Secaucus Scene

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE TOWN OF SECAUCUS

WINTER EDITION 2007

MAYOR ELWELL STOPS OVERDEVELOPMENT

Mayor Dennis Elwell recently led the effort to veto changes in zoning to the Meadowlands Master Plan that would have called for the construction of a 3,600 to 4,300-car garage in Secaucus, near the NJ Transit Secaucus Junction train station.



"It makes no sense to build a garage without first knowing what sort of other development is going to take place at the site," Mayor Elwell said.

"There's a need for far more detail to protect our community from overdevelopment," Elwell said. "We're not going to be the parking lot for North Jersey."

Mayor Elwell acted in his capacity as Chairman of the New Jersey Meadowlands Mayors Committee.

Mayor Elwell said limitations on any parking garage are needed after first knowing what else will be constructed at the site.

In addition, the mayor said, Secaucus residents must be given preference and reduced rates for any future parking structure built in town.



Elwell: No parking at Secaucus Junction transfer station

By SHIRLEY GARDNER
CONSUMERS

Led by Secaucus Mayor Dennis Elwell, the New Jersey Meadowlands Mayors Committee voted last week against making zoning changes to allow a parking facility proposed for the station's second section transfer station to be built.

"It makes no sense to build a garage without first knowing what sort of other development is going to take place at the site," said Elwell, chairman of the mayors committee.

"There's a need for far more detail to protect our community from overdevelopment. We're not going to be the parking lot for North Jersey."

The vote doesn't tell the proposed to construct either a 3,600- to 4,300-car garage at the site. In its decision, the board said it was "unable to reach a consensus" on the project. The board will reconvene in the next few weeks to consider the mayor's decision, said Dennis Elwell.

The Secaucus, N.J., Council has a plan to build a second section transfer station.

"I know there are people in



LAUTNER/Red Transfer Station Secaucus Junction

TOWN MARKS NUMEROUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT END OF YEAR



The Town marked the end of 2006 with a long list of accomplishments including recognition from New Jersey Monthly Magazine that Secaucus is one of the best places in all of New Jersey to live and the best place in Hudson County.

"Increasing services to our residents while keeping our community affordable has been the goal of my Administration and we've been successful through innovation and hard work," Mayor Elwell said.

Among the achievements marked in 2006 are:

- Breaking ground on a new recreation center
- Restructuring of Police Department to add Deputy Chief and six new lieutenants and sergeants
- Mid-mount Aerial Fire apparatus purchased
- Breast Cancer Awareness program established
- Castle Road project nearly complete
- Secaucus Culvert improvements completed
- Mill Ridge Road Field improvements completed
- New Meals on Wheels vehicle to begin service
- Road improvements to Radio Avenue
- Office of Emergency Management secures all-terrain vehicle with grant
- Resurfacing of Stonewall Lane, Fourth, Sixth and Eighth Streets



PARISI SWORN AS NEW FIRE CHIEF

Robert Parisi, a life-long Secaucus resident and 24-year veteran of the local Fire Department has assumed the duties of Fire Chief.

Parisi joined Engine 1 Plaza Center fire house in 1983, served as lieutenant of the fire house from 1994 to 1996 and as captain from 1996 to 1997.

Chief Parisi serves as liaison to the Office of Emergency Management and is a life-member of the NJ State Exempt Firemen's Association, the International Association of

Fire Chiefs, the South Bergen Chief's Association, the Hudson County 200 Club, Secaucus Exempt Association and is a Northern Trustee of the NJ State Volunteer Fireman's Association.

Mayor Elwell congratulated Chief Parisi on his new position. "Chief Parisi brings an enormous amount of experience to the job and with his leadership our Department will remain one of the top in the state," Mayor Elwell said.

Chief Parisi and his wife Elizabeth have two children, Sean, 15, and Diana, 12.

HAVE YOU BEEN REQUIRED TO CARRY FLOOD INSURANCE?

The Town is asking residents that have been informed they must now carry flood insurance to contact the Mayor's office at 201-330-2005.

Recent changes to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's flood map include portions of Secaucus and as many as 400 more local homes have been designated as being required to carry flood insurance. This insurance can cost up to \$1,600 per year.

Flood insurance is necessary for the protection of homeowners whose property is actually located in flood-prone areas. There are in fact homes that require this insurance, however,

there has been some indication from newly-designated homeowners that the flood insurance is not needed. It's possible the new mapping has resulted in the inclusion of homes that are not located in flood-prone areas.

Once the town determines the newly-designated homes, they will be analyzed for possible further action.

It's possible that if you've been inaccurately designated for flood insurance that you can have your premiums refunded. It's impossible for a determination to be made without further engineering analysis.