

Let's Have a Parade

There is nothing like a parade to bring a community together. On Saturday, May 22nd, we will have a Memorial Day parade with the theme *Honor Our Veterans*. I am inviting active and retired servicemen and women to participate. I can't think of a better way to revive our annual parade tradition than by honoring our Veterans. Their sense of patriotism, dedication, and solidarity is an example for us all.

The Grand Marshall for this year's parade is Al McClure. Al is a former commander of the Secaucus VFW Post 3776, and has served many years as moderator for Memorial Day and other patriotic ceremonies. A Navy veteran, McClure received the Bronze Medal during World War II while serving on a torpedo boat in the Pacific. He stands as a representative for all the military men and women who bravely serve our country, and the Town is proud to have him lead our parade.

In addition, the parade will highlight civic, religious and youth groups. Some of the civic groups that will be marching are the National Guard, Kiwanis, Rotary, Unico, Office of Emergency Management, the Secaucus Police and Secaucus Volunteer Fire departments. Also, the towns that we share mutual aid agreements with will be sending their fire trucks. All four churches in Town are participating as are the Knights of Columbus. Among the youth organizations will be the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and several bands. We expect an appearance by Miss New Jersey. There will also be

clowns, Clydesdale horses pulling a cart, a priceless collection of antique cars, and representatives of Medieval Times.

I encourage everyone to come out to enjoy the event and greet friends and neighbors you may not have seen for a while. I am very excited about bringing back this annual Town tradition. I have many personal memories of marching in the parade and believe it's the kind of experience that builds character and community. I think it will be a great way to bring the Town together.

The parade route will start at Paterson Plank Road and Farm Road and will go to the center of Town, turn on Humboldt Street by Marra's, proceed up Front to Hudson Street, down Centre Street, and end at the American Legion Post on 2nd Street. We will be handing out flags to all the kids along the parade route.

The American Legion will have free refreshments for everyone and is selling commemorative mugs as a fundraiser.

The parade starts at 12:00 noon on May 22nd, with a rain date of Sunday, May 23rd. Let's come out and celebrate in good spirit and fun, and once again reconnect with one of our Town's great traditions. I look forward to seeing you there.

Just a reminder – If you haven't already done so, please complete and mail your Census 2010 form. I can't stress enough the importance of getting an accurate count of our population. Did you know that census information

affects the numbers of seats our state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives? An accurate count of residents helps to determine how more than \$400 billion dollars of federal funding each year is spent on infrastructure and service like hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, bridges, tunnels and other public works projects and emergency services. Remember: Participation isn't just important—it's mandatory.