

Secaucus Rotary Club Gives \$500 To Tech High School

Secaucus Rotary is a fun group that seeks to make life better in town. The March 16 fundraiser involved cornhole and roast pig.



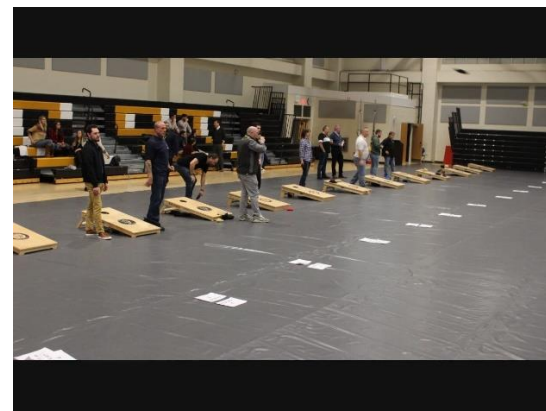
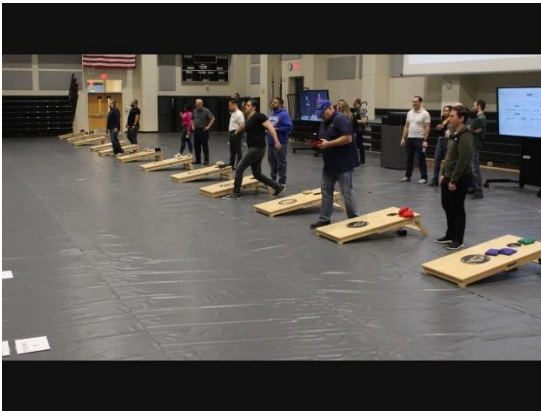
[Carly Baldwin](#), Patch Staff

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The Secaucus Rotary Club is made up of local Secaucus business owners and town residents who want to improve life in Secaucus, in Hudson County, and around the world under the motto “Service Above Self”.



Secaucus Rotary Club President Robert Merlo and Secaucus Rotarian Diane Rich, along with Secaucus Rotary Club members Sherri Merlo, Robin Anselmo, Phil Papa, Gina Gonzalez, Mike Milano, Dianne Vasquez, Rick Saltarelli, Lydia Staab and Rajesh Nagpal presented the check to HCST Foundation Director of Development Silverio “Sal” Vega and Natalia Novas.



Teams playing cornhole at the HCST fundraiser March 16.

SECAUCUS, NJ — The Secaucus Rotary Club was a \$500 Silver-level sponsor of the 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser for the Hudson County Schools of Technology, the tech high school near Laurel Hill. Hudson Regional Hospital, Kearny Bank, and other companies and groups in town attended and donated, too; see their names on the placards in the above photo.

The tournament was held on the evening of March 16 at the school, located on the Frank J. Gargiulo campus in Secaucus and benefited the HCST Foundation, the fundraising arm of the school.

Donations to the HCST Foundation promote quality and innovative education for the community by empowering the district through financial support and community involvement.

The tournament featured 32 two-person teams competing until it got down to the final two teams. The winners won a beautiful Cornhole game set.

Food was served at the event, and there was plenty of it. There was a roasted pig, which provided delicious pulled pork, beef tips, spare ribs, corn bread, different kinds of salads, beer, wine and soda, cookies, cake and other desserts.

The Secaucus Rotary Club supports many charitable organizations in the community, providing scholarships for Secaucus students, supporting the Veterans Pantry and the town food pantry, the Secaucus Emergency Fund, the Secaucus VFW, Toys for Tots and much more to benefit the town of Secaucus.

For upcoming events and fundraisers being held by the Secaucus Rotary Club, visit their Facebook page, [Secaucus Rotary Club](https://www.facebook.com/secaucusrotaryclub), or their website at <https://secaucusrotary.org>

Two Members Attain Next Level of Paul Harris Fellow

We honored two of our members for reaching their next level of Paul Harris Fellow. Through their continued contributions to The Rotary Foundation, Cindy Randina attained PHF+3 level, and Rick Saltarelli attained PHF+7.

Presenting them with their new Paul Harris pins are current President Robert Merlo and Past President Diane Rich.

Both Cindy and Rick are also members of the prestigious Paul Harris Society.



NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

Club President Rob Merlo installing their two of our newest members, Terry Schillari and Joe Marra. Two great people who always supported Club initiatives over the years. We are happy they decided to become full-fledged members.

Terry is the wife of Hudson County Sheriff Frank Schillari, who is also a Club member. Joe is the owner of Marra's Drugs, a family owned business that was established 100 years ago in Secaucus.



Secaucus Rotary Club Reads To Huber Street, Clarendon Students

Rotary members Rick Saltarelli, Diane Rich, Rob Merlo, MaryAnn Weiner and Bill De Iasi read to Secaucus students last week for Read Across America Day



[Carly Baldwin](#), Patch Staff

Posted Wed, Mar 8, 2023 at 4:49 pm ET



SECAUCUS, NJ — Last Thursday, members of Secaucus Rotary read to local students as part of Read Across America Day.

March 2 is Read Across America Day, which was launched in 1998 by the National Education Association and is the nation's largest celebration of reading. This year-round program focuses on motivating children and teens to read. Members of the Secaucus Rotary Club read to Kindergarten, first, and second grade students at Huber Street and Clarendon Elementary schools.

Rotary members Rick Saltarelli, Diane Rich, Rob Merlo, MaryAnn Weiner and Bill De Iasi read a book titled "[Dante's Cool Wheels](#)," a true story written by Marlyn Bandiero, a friend of Rotary member Rick Saltarelli.

Dante is a German Shepherd dog that loves to run and play. He's just like every other dog, except Dante's back legs are paralyzed and he must use a wheelchair to get around. He thinks his wheels are cool, but other dogs don't feel the same and are even afraid of his wheels. They treat him differently and don't want to play with him. Dante doesn't think he's different and all he has to do is get everyone to see that too.

This is an inspiring story about a special dog who gives both children and adults hope and courage.



Birthdays that were celebrated this month:

Diane Rich, March 1

Bill De Iasi, March 7

Joe Marra, March 13

Rick Saltarelli, March 14

Manny Alers, March 29

On March 23-25, we also had many Rotarians from District 7490 attend this years Multi-District PETS (President-Elect Training Seminar) at The Marriot in Whippany. Incoming Presidents and Assistant Governors attended many training sessions to prepare for their upcoming year as Officers in their Clubs. We ran into old friends, made some new ones, learned a lot that will help our Clubs, and we had fun, too.

Rob and I got to meet and get a photo with incoming Rotary International President Gordon McNally, whose theme for next year is “Create Hope in the World”.





Secaucus Club President Rob Merlo with PDG John Susani and his wife Dale, Jean Jadavaia from the Paramus Club, JoEllen Knie from the Englewood Club, PDG Ray Freany from District 7475, and an unknown Rotarian.



District Governor Elect John Cosgrove and his wife MaryAnn hosted us in the Hospitality Suite.

More photos from PETS can be viewed on our Facebook page, Secaucus Rotary Club

Secaucus Rotary Hosts “Music Mends Minds” Drum Circle Event

On March 28, the Secaucus Rotary Club hosted a Drum Circle event for some of the town’s seniors. It has been shown that music, and participating in playing some simple musical instruments like drums and other items you can tap on to keep a rhythm, helps seniors focus and helps with cognitive issues.

Secaucus Rotarian Cindy Randina and Past District Governor Bonnie Sirower organized this event which was facilitated by Cindy Kresch, Director of A-Hum Music. Also in attendance and assisting were Secaucus Rotary Club President Rob Merlo, Eydie Shapiro, and Rick Saltarelli.

The residents really got into learning how to create rhythms by banging on the drums and other instruments, even by just clapping their hands, and are looking forward to our next visit.



Cindy and Bonnie spoke to the residents, then Bonnie showed her drumming skills from when she was in Janis Joplin’s band Big Brother and the Holding Company and the Cosmic Blues Band, who performed at Woodstock. If you get a chance to see the movie again, look for a young Bonnie on the stage rocking with Janice.



Facilitator Cindy Kresch teaching how to create your own rhythms



Relaxing rhythms that Cindy got the residents to sing along to



Even President Rob Merlo showed his skills jamming on the bongos



Looking forward to our next one, and for more members to join in on the fun