

# SECAUCUS Home News

Official Newspaper of the Town of Secaucus ~ Established 1910

PO Box 1100 ★ 766 Irving Pl ★ Secaucus NJ 07096 ★ tel (201) 867-2071 ★ fax (201) 865-3806 ★ editor@secaucushomenews.com

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102<sup>ND</sup> YEAR NO. 7

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2012

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS



Lisa Snedeker, the town's director of social services, was feted with a birthday cake during the grand re-opening of the Senior Center held last Thursday (May 10). Helping her to celebrate are Mayor Mike Gonnelli, her daughter, Kelsey, who just finished her first year at the College of New Jersey, and her mother, Carole Jernstedt. (More photos on Pages 10-11.)

## High School's 'Spirit Week' canceled, then reinstated

By GRETCHEN HENKEL

The school board meeting of May 10 ran a gamut of emotions as a frustrated administrator poured her heart out to the board, a respected and beloved teacher received a standing ovation, an irate parent demanded that the board suspend a teacher, and a high school student delivered an articu-

late, well-formulated speech regarding the cancellation of the school's "Spirit Week." In between these emotional highs and lows, reports were given by student government organizations and school principals, and the board approved, tabled and rejected resolutions.

Initially, there appeared to be some confusion about procedure and protocol with a new president at the helm following the recent reorganization of the board. Guided by interim board secretary H. Ron Smith, Jack McStowe, the new president, settled into his role and the meeting ran smoothly thereafter.

The first order of business was to recognize Secaucus High School social studies teacher Michael Gehm for being named "Outstanding Star Teacher" for 2012 by the Bergen Record. Gehm was nominated for the honor by student Brianna Marra. The long-time teacher received a standing ovation from the audience and the board.

McStowe commented that Gehm "is a wonderful person, a wonderful teacher." Gehm received the award for his passion for education, love for students and his desire to get students to achieve their goals.

### PHASE OUT ACADEMIES?

Linda Diemer, the district's director of secondary education, lauded the social studies teacher each time she spoke at the meeting, citing his love of teaching, his concern for his students, using him as an example of what teaching should be. Diemer was asked to speak by Superintendent of Schools Cynthia Randina regarding the high school's Media Academy which has elicited controversy over the past few months. There had been talk about eliminating the Academy due to lack of enrollment, however, the board opted to retain it. Controversy also stemmed from some

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)



The town's second annual health fair and plant sale was held Saturday at the Rec Center. Above, a local family looks at kittens offered by the Animal Shelter, and below Mayor Mike Gonnelli poses with Carol Ann Scheiner (left) and Jane Kelly. (More photos next week.)

