

DEMAREST JEST



Official Borough Newsletter
Volume 40 No. 4 December 2008

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Days are short and the holidays are just around the corner. With that, I am pleased to wish everyone a very happy Thanksgiving and a festive holiday season and New Year.

I must first congratulate Councilmembers-elect Steve Conti and Marianne Bolduc on their successful campaign this fall. I look forward to working with Steve, Marianne and the rest of the Borough Council to continue the progress we have made in the past few years on such items as infrastructure redevelopment and budgetary issues. Also, with the passage of the Citizens' Shared Services Commission referendum, I have already begun gathering information and speaking with potential volunteers to serve on the Commission, which will be appointed early in 2009 to begin work on finding more efficient ways of addressing municipal procurement and delivery of services.

The council has already begun working hard to develop a lean, efficient budget for calendar 2009, with the goal of maintaining the municipal tax stability and quality services we have come to expect here in Demarest. I have asked the municipal department heads, namely, Borough Clerk Susan Crosman, Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer Maureen Neville, Police Chief Jim Powderley and DPW Superintendent John Crosman to make every effort to do 'more with less', in order to offset contractual obligations, unstable energy costs and unfunded mandates with savings in operations costs.

I would like to thank John Crossman, Bob Miller and their men at the Department of Public Works, as well as Chief Jim Powderley and the officers of the Demarest Police Department, Chief Al Bolduc and the Demarest Fire Department and all the many volunteers, sponsors and participants in the 3rd Annual Demarest Day celebration. In my estimation, this was the best Demarest Day yet, with all rides, snacks and attractions free to the public, and the total cost to taxpayers was just \$385.

I would like to extend best wishes for happy and healthy holidays, and a happy New Year to each and every one of you. Finally, I invite you to join me on New Year's Day at 12pm in the Borough Council chamber for the Annual Municipal Reorganization meeting. I look forward to seeing you there.

CHRISTMAS TREE

The annual lighting of the Holiday Tree will be held on Tuesday, December 9 at 7:30pm at the Railroad Station. When Santa Claus sees the festive lights radiating from the Christmas tree, he will arrive on a beautiful Demarest Fire Truck. Come and enjoy the Christmas Tree, Santa, hot chocolate, candy canes and Christmas Carols.

CHANNUKAH

The Public Lighting of the Menorah will be on December 21 at 6pm at the Gazebo. The candles will be lit and it is a tradition to have a different Demarest family light the menorah each night.

REORGANIZATION DAY

The residents of Demarest are invited to attend the annual reorganization of the Demarest Borough government on January 1st. The meeting will begin at 12pm at Borough Hall. A delicious buffet will be served immediately after the business meeting. Please come and meet the members of the government and those who work and serve our community.

"SANTA TOURS DEMAREST"

Santa will be touring Demarest on December 13th. The Demarest Fire Department will be driving "Santa" around town, weather permitting.

Ho! Ho! Ho!

**ATTENTION RESIDENTS:
LAST DAY FOR LEAF PICKUP IS
DECEMBER 8TH**

DEMAREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

www.Demarestfire.org

The Fire Department took 1st Place Overall in the Northern Valley Fire Chief's Parade held in Haworth. The Parade kicks off Fire Prevention week and a number of towns competed for various trophies. Demarest bested several other participating towns for the top award, the Dell Trophy. The Dell Trophy gets rotated amongst the Valley Fire Departments on an annual basis and once again sits in the Demarest Fire House!

Your Fire Department recently conducted it's annual Fire Prevention Program at LLL & CRS. The students learned some Fire Safety Tips and participated in some activities with the fire fighters. The annual Fire Safety Poster Contest is under way as part of the program. The winners will receive awards at a special student assembly in the next few weeks.

Membership: New members are always needed. We are a small volunteer group who prides itself on providing fast, efficient, professional service when the alarm goes off. Day or night... we are here to answer the call. Please consider joining our ranks as a fully trained Fire Fighter or as a member of our growing Auxiliary. Stop by the Fire House any Sunday morning for more details.

Fire Safety Tips:

Heating Systems: Winter is here. Have a professional check your system to prevent possible carbon monoxide back-up and to check to ensure all components are operating properly. A recent fire in Hanover, NJ was caused by a faulty furnace and the house is now un-inhabitable!

Space Heaters:

They can be dangerous. Check the units and power cords. Do not use extension cords and keep children, papers, clothes and furniture a safe distance.

Barbeques/Propane:

Always use these units outdoors. Don't cook in the garage or basement because it's cold outside or snowy. You risk carbon monoxide poisoning or house fire.

Christmas/Holiday lights and candles:

Please check directions for proper installation and operation of holiday lighting. Don't overload circuits. Keep candles away from flammables and ALWAYS snuff them out when going to bed or leaving the home.

Hydrants:

As always, we ask that you keep any fire hydrants near your property clear during snow falls. It will only take a few minutes which can save the Fire Department valuable time if we need to use that hydrant! The home we save could be yours!

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors:

Please check the units at least monthly. They are proven life savers. Don't hesitate to call us if you hear an alarm from a detector. Often it is nothing, but let us check it out to be sure.

DEMAREST POLICE DEPARTMENT

Impaired Driving Enforcement Crackdown

From December 10, 2008 through January 5, 2009 law enforcement officers from the Demarest Police Department will be stepping up impaired driving enforcement as part of the ***You Drink and Drive, You Lose 2008 Year End Crackdown.*** The end of the year and the beginning of the new is traditionally a time for social gatherings, which often include alcohol. The goal of the program is to raise awareness about the dangers of drinking and driving through high visibility enforcement, and to arrest motorists who choose to drive while impaired by drugs or alcohol. In New Jersey for 2005, 252 of the 748 motor vehicle fatalities, or 34%, were alcohol-related.

Demarest Police Department offers the following advice:

- * Be responsible and don't risk it...you will be caught.
- * If you plan to drink, choose a designated driver before going out.
- * Realize before going out that every drink you have makes it more difficult to know you've had too much to drive.
- * Take mass transit, a taxicab or ask a sober friend to drive you home.
- * Spend the night where the activity is held.
- * Report impaired drivers to law enforcement.
- * Always buckle up, its your best defense against an impaired driver.

"The end of the year and New Year celebrations are a time for fun with friends and family, not tragedy," said Chief Powderley. "The law enforcement community and safety organizations of the State are committed to eliminating impaired drivers from our roads."

Demarest PBA is conducting their annual toy drive for underprivileged children. Please bring a new unwrapped toy to Borough Hall.

Please drive smart during the holiday season.

Compost Bins for Sale

Compost bins known as "Earth Machines" are available for purchase throughout the year at a reduced price of \$43.50 by appointment at the BCUA in Moonachie. Call the BCUA Environmental Programs Hotline: 201-807-5825 to schedule your appointment.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES

Congressman Garrett's Mobile Constituent Services staff will be available on the **last Tuesday of each month** from 9:30am-11:30am at the Demarest Borough Hall. Residents are encouraged to bring their questions and concerns with federal issues to the Congressman's attention. A representative from his office will be present to answer questions or respond to any inquires. Topics include international adoption, Social Security, transportation, housing, health care and other questions. No appointments are necessary. If you have any questions, please feel free to call 201-712-0330.

NJ TRANSIT

NJ Transit has a new customer services telephone number: 973-275-5555. Customers may call this number to provide feedback or request information about our bus, rail or light rail service.

DEMAREST ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The DAA has elected their officers and Board members for 2008-09. The officers are Rob Amonica, President; Joe Trumbetti, Vice President; Marybeth Cottrell, Secretary; Steve Conti, Treasurer; Bill Lewis, John Bannan, Karen Gioia, Gerry Merritts, Erika Conti, Board Members. The meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 at the Wakelee fieldhouse. All are welcome to attend.

The DAA will be hosting a dinner dance in early spring. Look out for an invitation to the "Fun Raising" celebration.

For more information go to our website www.daarec.org. For game information, cancellation, field information call DAA hotline @ 201-768-4446.

NEW "DEMAREST" WEBSITE

The Borough of Demarest is pleased to announce the launch of its new official website, www.demarestnj.us. This exciting program known as Citizen Communication Center, or "C3", features a new and improved municipal website as well as a cutting edge emergency notification system. This initiative comes as part of the Borough's ongoing commitment to improve communications and services offered to the residents of Demarest.

C3 is an Internet-based software that has the potential to improve and streamline borough services in addition to creating a robust citizen-driven network. By providing advance notification and communication technologies that are easy to access and use, C3 can keep residents well-informed while allowing them to better take advantage of services provided by the Borough of Demarest.

Registered Demarest residents will be able to receive emergency notifications via e-mail, cell phone, text message or home phone. While a basic reverse 911 system already exists, individuals will be able to customize the alerts they wish to receive and not only be informed about immediate health or safety threats but also less serious matters like school closings, stopped trains, and road construction. Like every successful program in town, C3 will succeed through the support and participation of our residents.

All residents are invited to learn more by visiting www.demarestnj.us. We encourage you to register online in order to fully take advantage of the beneficial services offered by C3.

We look forward to bridging the gap of communications between the Borough and residents, and providing the very best services when you need them most. Thank you for your anticipated participation and help assisting us in protecting your interest, and most importantly, keeping everyone in our community safe.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

DEMAREST PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Demarest Library Book Discussion Group meets the second Monday of each month at 7:30 pm. All are welcome to attend

The Bottles & Cans Knitting Group meets the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm

Kay Storck, a Demarest resident and member of the Old Church Cultural Center, is displaying her Chinese Brush Paintings at the Library. Her exhibit "West Sees East" will be on display through the month of November.

The library is offering Yoga for Relaxation and Transformation classes with Margaret Shapiro. Classes will be held on Wednesdays from Nov. 13 thru December 17 @ 7:30 pm. Please call the library at 201-768-8714 for registration and more information. Please bring a sticky mat.

Pavers have been installed on the Insley Street side of the library. Please come and check them out. Anyone interested in adding a name will still be able to do so. A donation Board is being designed and will be installed on a wall on the Stelfox Street side of the library.

Library t-shirts (\$15) and library tote bags (\$25.00) are also available for purchase.

The library will close at 1pm on Wednesday, November 26 and will be closed on Thursday November 27 and Friday November 28. The library will reopen on Sunday, November 30th.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Christmas Eve Services
Wednesday, December 24*

All are welcome

4pm- Children's Service (Adults are invited too)
We hear a Christmas story, We welcome the Christ Child, sing Carols, light candles and celebrate.

7pm & 11pm Traditional Carols and Candle Service
Featuring Carol Singing, as well as the songs of our Choir, guest musicians and traditional singing of "Silent Night" in candlelight.

DEMAREST GARDEN CLUB

Demarest Garden Club meets on the first Friday of the month (not July and August) usually at 12:30 pm in the United Methodist Church at 109 Hardenburgh Avenue, Demarest. Membership is open to all interested gardeners from any town.

Regular monthly meetings (not December, May, or June) are open to the public without charge and end with a program of special interest to gardeners and refreshments. See the calendar listing of this issue of the Borough Newsletter for program topics scheduled for January 2, February 6, and March 6.

In addition to monthly public meetings, the club also plans many popular "fun events" open only to pre-registered members and invited guests. Upcoming special events are:

* December or January car pool to see the Railroad Exhibit at New York Botanical Garden

* Feb. 6 10:45 am Flower Show Workshop "Tips for Making Arrangements and Entering Flower Shows" by C. Berkely, experienced flower show competitor and winner, creative arranger, and Flower Show Judge.

* Feb. 12 1:00 pm Garden Therapy Workshop making tray favors for distribution to local Meals on Wheels recipients

* Feb. 12-15 Participation or trip to Garden Club of New Jersey's State Flower Show at Expo Center in Edison

* Demarest Station Gardens. Watch for new daffodils planted in the fall

* Davies Arboretum. Watch for progress on the Garden Railroad installation and early spring blooming winter jessamine (front garden), hellebores and heathers (Winter Garden), Cornelian cherry and witch hazels (Jubilee Grove), and snowdrops (Wildflower Garden edging)

* Centennial Sundial has been temporarily removed for renovations to the mounting block

* Holiday Wreath at the Library, an annual project of the club since the Library was founded in the 1960s
New members always welcome. For information call Paul at 201-280-0695 or Ruth at 201-768-5166.

For the Calendar:

Friday, January 2, Demarest Garden Club meeting at 12:30 pm in the United Methodist Church with 1:30 pm program "Container Gardening" by club expert Gayle Greifenberger. Open to the public.

Friday, February 6, Demarest Garden Club meeting at 12:30 pm in the United Methodist Church with 1:30 pm program "Tree, Neighbor, and Garden Law - know your legal rights and responsibilities in the garden" by Rachel Roat, lawyer specializing in the rights and responsibilities of neighbors concerning hazardous trees, boundaries, flooding, nuisances and noise, wildlife and pets, fences, trespassers, etc.

DEMAREST SENIOR CENTER

All activities are held at the Railroad Depot. We welcome all residents and neighbors ages 55 and above. Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of the month. All activities except Arts & Crafts will be held daily except Tuesday, from 1-4:30pm.

A monthly trip to Atlantic City is held on the third Tuesday of each month at a cost of \$25.00. The trip departs from the United Methodist Church.

STAINED GLASS CLASS

All Senior Citizens are welcome to join our Stained Glass Class on Fridays to discover the talent you did not know you had. All classes are directed by a super instructor, Mr. Luhrsen, and the materials are free. The class is held at the Railroad Depot. Surprise yourself!! Many thanks to Mr. Luhrsen, who does our monthly bulletin, for his wonderful News and Art Work.

BINGO

All Senior Citizens are welcome to play bingo every Wednesday and Thursday @ 1pm at Railroad Depot.

DEMAREST SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

The Demarest Senior Citizens Club meets the second and fourth Fridays of the month at 1 p.m. at the United Methodist Church. Refreshments are served at the meetings. All citizens of Demarest who are 60 years young and older are invited to join the club

DEMAREST TAX OFFICE

The Tax office is open Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm and on the following Monday evenings from 6pm-7pm - February 9 and May 4.

Please remember property tax is payable by the end of the business day February 10 and May 10. Should the date fall on a Saturday or Sunday your payment is due that Monday by the end of business day.

BOARD OF HEALTH

It is that time of the year again to renew your dog and cat license for 2009. Applications for current licensed animals will be mailed at the end of December. All dogs and cats over the age of 6 months must be registered with the Board of Health. To obtain an application, contact the Board of Health @ 201-768-0167 ext# 30.

Please note: The late fee is \$25.00 after March 1.

ATTENTION: Demarest Residents: blood pressure screening every second Friday from 10am-1pm at the United Methodist Church.

Lead Poisoning

Lead poisoning is the No. 1 environmental hazard affecting children under the age of 6. Each year, nearly 5,000 New Jersey children are diagnosed with dangerous levels of lead in their blood. But childhood lead poisoning is entirely preventable. Many homes built before 1978 have leaded paint. For additional information or for a free lead test kit for your home call 877-DCA-LEAD or visit www.lead safenj.org.

DEMAREST AMBULANCE CORP

TO THE RESIDENTS OF DEMAREST

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The ambulance corps is being run by a small group of people, who give more than double the amount of time that is needed for this corps to function.

WE NEED MORE HELP

We are looking for:

STUDENTS 16 YEARS AND OLDER (GREAT FOR COLLEGE RESUMES), AT HOME MOMS AND DADS, RETIREES or anyone who can donate a few hours during the day.

PROPERTY MAINTANCE

All residents please feel free to contact the Building Department @ 201-768-3398 if you should see a property that is un-kempt. We need your help in keeping Demarest beautiful.

DEMAREST NATURE CENTER

The Demarest Nature Center Association is planning the following athletic and social events for the spring/summer season:

January through February—**Ice-skating parties** on the skating pond next to the playground at Wakelee Field as weather permits. Hot chocolate will be served. Watch the train station bulletin board for information.

March through May--Winter/Spring photo opportunities in the Demarest Nature Center for entry in the Demarest Nature Center photo contest. Many great photo contest entries were taken in the winter months.

An updated calendar of Nature Center events will be included in our winter newsletter in January.

For additional details check our website:
demarestnaturecenter.org

DEMAREST ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

The Demarest Environmental Commission encourages you to recycle all your household waste carefully, observing the correct pick-up dates. You are also encouraged to read and follow the following tips by which we can effectively reduce energy waste and our carbon footprint each year.

5 Simple Tips to Fight Global Warming and Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

Scientists tell us that if we cut carbon emissions by 80% over the next 40 years, we can avoid the worst impacts of global warming. Just think, 80% over 40 years is only 2% per year! By following these quick and easy tips, you can reduce your household's carbon footprint by 2% per year for two years.

☀ Unplug electronic devices or put them on a power strip and turn it off when not in use.

☀ Replace frequently use incandescent lightbulbs with compact florescent lightbulbs(CFLs).

☀ Use the air-dry setting on your dishwasher.

☀ Keep your car off the road one day a week by teleworking, carpooling, riding a bike or taking public transportation.

☀ Recycle aluminum cans, glass bottles, plastic, paper and newspaper.

For more tips on how you can reduce your carbon footprint, visit **www.nwf.org**

ART SCHOOL AT OLD CHURCH

Register for Winter Classes at the Art School at Old Church

The Art School at Old Church on Piermont Road opens the door to learning traditional and contemporary visual arts, by providing affordable art experiences to students of all ages and skill levels. Visual arts classes are available in ceramics, sculpture, drawing, painting, jewelry, glass, fiber, and paper arts. Those who like to work without instruction (or just want to pay per session for studio time) can gain access to the studios through the Open Studio sessions. In addition, for those seeking one-on-one instruction, a mentor program can be arranged with faculty from various disciplines.

Beyond visual arts instruction, the school offers two classes in yoga (one for those with limited mobility), creative writing, dramatic play reading, Japanese flower arranging, and other cultural offerings. Don't have time to take a 10-week class? The school holds one- and two-day workshops in many subjects. A full listing of courses may be viewed on the school's website, www.tasoc.org. To request a printed catalog, call 201-767-7160. Classes begin January 5, 2009.

Exhibitions in the Mikhail Zakin Gallery at the Art School at Old Church

January 10 – February 6, 2009
Carol Stronghilos

A Retrospective is a solo exhibition of paintings and works on paper by the artist.

February 13 – March 20, 2009
Our Present Planet

Our Present Planet is a group exhibition of artists whose work focuses on aspects of environmental stewardship.

April 2 – April 24, 2009
From the Studio Classes

From the Studio Classes is a salon-style exhibition of works from current students of the Art School at Old Church .

**Our Thrift Shop benefits
the Art School at Old Church**

The Art School at Old Church , a non-profit cultural resource center on Piermont Road , benefits from sale proceeds of Our Thrift Shop in Westwood , NJ . Our Thrift Shop is a volunteer-run organization that provides affordable clothing and household items to the community. Our Thrift Shop sells new and gently-used clothing, outerwear, shoes and accessories, as well as, books, small household appliances, and knick-knacks. If you are interested in donating items or volunteering at the shop, please contact Vivien Woodford at 201-594-0144. Our Thrift Shop is located at 245 Old Hook Road in Westwood.

DEMAREST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On Sunday, November 2, 2008 a family visited Demarest from Annois, France. Hugues, Marie Demarest and their 3 children are distant relatives of our town's and Bergen County's original Demarest family. Hugues and his wife are farmers in their native land as were the French Huguenot Demarests who settled in our community in the 1700's. The crops they raise in France, wheat and barley, were also raised by Samuel Demarest.



The day was spent in Demarest and other locations in Bergen County where the Demarest ancestors lived, worked and worshiped. The Demarest family enjoyed exploring our community, New Bridge Landing, several churches, cemeteries and finally the Demarest Farm in Hillsdale. At 4:30 in the afternoon, after the children chased squirrels in my yard, the French Demarests left for JFK and their flight home. Needless to say, I was pleased to be a tour guide and act as Borough Historian for the day.

The new **2009 Demarest Historical Society Calendar** is here and available. Calendars can be purchased for \$8 at the Borough Hall, Demarest Library, The Demarest Deli, from historical society members or by calling Mary Anne Clarke, Borough Historian @ 201-768-3649. There is limited supply of the 2009 calendars. These calendars make great gifts for the holidays and for friends who may have moved from town. All photos come from our archives.

Continuation of the photo collection is ongoing. Even yesterday or last year is history. It may not seem to be of interest to people in town now, but 25 or 50 years from now it will be a real find. Any contribution is always welcomed. Your photos can be scanned and pictures returned to you.

The database for the borough's archives is moving along smoothly. Identification of people in some photos who were here in the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's is needed. If you are willing to help with this project please let the Borough Historian know.

Historic Trivia

Demarest had a number of locations in town that residents called "the sandpits". As this goes to press, three places are known, one on the east side town and two in the western part of town. What happened at these places? HMMMM!

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