

DEMAREST JOURNAL



Official Borough Newsletter
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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The foremost issue on the minds of our community, and indeed, the entire nation, is clearly the economy. Each day, news of job losses, home foreclosures and business bankruptcies remind us of the fiscal problems we face, both individually and as a community. Fortunately, here in Demarest, we have been planning for a 'rainy day' for some time, and I am hopeful that we will weather the storm better than most municipalities. Hope alone, however, will not get the job done. For this reason, I have met with our municipal department heads and ordered that they all tighten the proverbial belt, deleting any discretionary spending, limiting overtime activity where possible, and delaying non-essential equipment and supply purchases.

I implore the local and regional school boards to heed this call to action and do the same. I know our local trustees and regional delegate are equally sensitive to the current fiscal crisis, and I look forward to working with them to explore ideas to curb unnecessary expenditures and share more services to get more bang for your property tax dollar.

I am pleased to report the inclusion in this year's municipal budget of more than a quarter million dollars in one time non-property tax revenue grants intended to fund such initiatives as Safe Routes to School, bicycle path improvements and long awaited downtown streetscape improvements, including lighting and landscaping upgrades. These grants will allow the improvements with no impact to our property tax levy.

On January 30, I traveled to Washington, D.C. and personally visited with several members of the New Jersey Congressional delegation, including Senator Robert Menendez and Congressman Frank Pallone, to enlist their assistance in obtaining much needed public infrastructure funding for projects that are 'shovel ready'. I hope to have more to report in this area shortly.

As winter concludes, please be cautious of pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-automobile occupants of our local streets, to ensure the safety of all our residents.

WITH WARMEST REGARDS, I AM,
MAYOR JIM CARROLL

DEMAREST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ben Franklin Will Entertain You -On March 18 at 7:30 pm at the Demarest Railroad Depot. This is the March 2009 program sponsored by the Demarest Historical Society. Jack Sherry portrays Ben Franklin for this program. All are invited to meet and listen to Ben.

Happy 200 years, Abe Lincoln!
What would Abe have asked Ben?

The 2009 Demarest Historical Society Calendars are available for purchase at the Borough Hall, Demarest Library, The Demarest Deli, historical society members or by calling Mary Anne Clarke, Borough Historian @ 201-768-3649. All photos come from our archives.

A Look Back

When I was in 4th or 5th grade, (early 1950's) someone put a raft in the Tenakill. I was told the Kenny brothers built it. It was made out of railroad ties, and could hold three or four 10 or 12 year olds. We could go from Wakelee Field north to Closter. Looking back, it was not the best form of transportation. We would all have to jump off and tow it across the shallower spots. I think pulling and pushing and towing that thing up and down the brook gave us a kind of "Huck Finn on the Big Muddy" feeling.

By far the best form of travel was in a cement tub. They had a shallow draft and kept you a lot dryer than the raft. Hubert (Van) Vanderbilt, Dave Herring and I told our folks we were going camping. We put all of our gear into a tub and floated it all the way into the reservoir by the section at the end of Knickerbocker Road. There was a little island out there that we were going to camp on. Dave got his sneakers wet so he took them off, tied the laces together and hung them from the limb of a tree to dry. We had to go for something back by the bridge and got caught by the police and water company people. They took our tub (we never got it back) and chased us home.

For years if you went to the end of Knickerbocker Road and looked out to the island you could see those sneakers still hanging there. They dredged the reservoir in the 1980s and got rid of the island. I wonder if they saved the shoes.

*Quoted as reported to Mary Anne Clarke
by William Earl Hine, a former resident.*

PUBLIC SAFETY/TRAFFIC ADVISORY

When driving in the area of Hardenburgh Ave. & Park St. please do not block the intersection & crosswalks. Please be mindful that our emergency services facilities are located in the center of town. It is essential that our emergency vehicles & personnel are able to pass through without unnecessary delays or obstructions even during periods of heavy congestion. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

DEMAREST GARDEN CLUB

The next club meetings open to the public are on Fridays March 6 and April 3 from 12:30 to 3 pm in the United Methodist Church at 109 Hardenburgh Avenue, Demarest. All interested gardeners from any town are welcome. Scheduled programs begin at about 1:30 pm following the business meeting. Upcoming programs are in March "Unusual Trees, Shrubs, and Vines" by New York Botanical Gardens teacher John Beirne and in April "Topiary Demo and Workshop" by June Fino of Art Flowers in Wayne.

CIVIC PLANTING PROJECTS RESTART

Current club planting projects in Demarest include: **The Gardens at Demarest Railroad Station.** Watch for new daffodils planted in the fall **Davies Arboretum at 49 Anderson Avenue**. See the newly installed solar panel and tracks being laid on "Ed's Garden Railroad" project and the many spring-blooming trees, shrubs, wildflowers, bulbs, and perennials. Participate in Tuesday 9-11 am planning and upkeep from March 15 to Oct. 15. Call 201-768-3814 for information on community service projects available for local youth.

Centennial Sundial

The top has been temporarily removed for renovations to the mounting block.

WANT TO JOIN THE CLUB?

Club membership is open to men and women and to Demarest and non-Demarest residents alike. It requires an active interest in gardening and regular attendance at first Friday afternoon meetings. Call Sandy at 201-960-0419 or Paul at 201-280-0695 for application form or just attend a public meeting.

MEMORIAL DAY

The Memorial Day parade will be held on Monday, May 25th at 9:30am with ceremonies at the conclusion of the Parade at the Monument at the Duck Pond. Coffee and donuts will be served after the ceremonies at the Railroad Station and hot dogs and soda will be served at the Firehouse.

DEMAREST RECREATION COMMISSION

TENNIS PERMITS

Demarest Borough Tennis permits can be purchased at the Borough Hall Monday through Friday 9am to 4pm. The cost is \$5.00 per individuals and \$10.00 per family. The permit is good for one year starting in April. If you have any questions, call Jackie Fulin @ 201-768-0167 ext# 15.

ACADEMY OF THE HOLY ANGELS

On March 28, 2009 the Academy of the Holy Angels will host their annual Angelic Evening Fundraiser at Rockleigh Country Club. For further information you can go to our website at www.holyangels.org.

The Academy of the Holy Angels Theatre presents *Thoroughly Modern Millie* on Friday, March 20 @ 7:30pm, Saturday, March 21 @ 7:30pm and Sunday, March 22 @ 2:00pm. Tickets are \$15. Please contact Gabrielle Rispoli-Puzzo @ 201-945-9412 or email grispoli@theyoungschool.com.

RECYCLING

Please note that the garbage contractor may not pick up your household trash if recyclables are found in the trash. Curbside collection of co-mingled glass, plastic and cans is on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month and paper and cardboard are collected curbside on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday. Batteries (nor car or motorcycle batteries) can be recycled and containers are located in front of the DPW garage on Wakelee Drive, at the side door of the Borough Hall and at the Railroad Station

For more recycling & garbage information go to the Borough website www.demarestnj.org

ART SCHOOL AT OLD CHURCH

Register now for classes at the Art School at Old Church

Make time for art this spring by taking one of 96 courses offered at the Art School at Old Church! Visual arts classes are available in ceramics, sculpture, drawing, painting, jewelry, glass, fiber and paper arts. Students can register for 10-week courses or for one- or multi-day workshops. Beyond visual arts instruction, the school offers two yoga classes (one for those with limited mobility), creative writing, art collecting, and storytelling for the whole family to enjoy. A full listing of courses may be viewed at www.tasoc.org. To request a printed catalog, call 201-767-7160. Classes begin March 30, 2009.

OPEN HOUSE

The Art School at Old Church invites the public to attend an open house on May 3, 2009 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Demonstrations, such as pottery wheel-throwing, landscape painting, jewelry-making and glass flame-working, will be held throughout the day. Other events include an outdoor pottery sale and the “from the studio classes” exhibition on display in the galleries. The open house is free and all are welcome to attend. Call 201-767-7160 for more information.

Exhibitions in the Mikhail Zakin Gallery

Our Present Planet through March 20

This exhibition of seven artists focuses on environmental sustainability.

from the studio classes April 2 – 24

Reception: April 4, 2-4 PM

This salon-style group show features artwork from students of the school's adult studio classes.

United Methodist Church
14th Annual Spring Dinner & Auction
Sunday, March 29th
5pm-9pm at the Elk's Hall Closter
\$30 per person

Cash bar, silent & live auction
For reservation call Liz at 201-768-4355

BOARD OF HEALTH

DOG AND CAT LICENSE

Remember if you have not registered your furry friend before March 1 there will be a \$25 late fee per pet. Please have your animal's rabies shots up to date.

Demarest Board of Health hosts **FREE** Osteoporosis screening; 10 am -12 pm @ Borough Hall. Osteoporosis is a preventable disease that today affects 1 in 2 women over 50 and 1 and 4 men over 50.

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

ELECTION NEWS

School Board Election – April 21th

Polls are open from 2pm-9pm

Primary Day—June 2nd

Polls are open from 6am-8pm

District 1 votes at Borough Hall and District 2 & 3 at the County Road School for both elections.

The last day to register to vote for the School Election is March 31st and for the Primary Election is May 12th. The Borough Clerk's office will be open from 9am to 9pm on these days for the convenience of the residents.

DEMAREST SWIM CLUB

HURRAY! We plan on having an action packed season this year with Ping-Pong tournaments, Volleyball teams, Water Aerobic classes and of course our Swim and Dive teams. If you enjoy tanning in the sun or relaxing under a tree, this is the place to be! Any questions? Please feel free to contact us. We welcome your calls, Richard Gordon 750-3350, Jackie Fulin 784-8212, Jennifer Anavim 767-4502.

DEMAREST TAX OFFICE

The Tax office is open Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm and on Monday May 4, 6pm-7pm.

Please remember property tax is payable by the end of the business day on Monday, May 11.

DEMAREST PUBLIC LIBRARY

ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBITORS WELCOME!
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Demarest Public Library Association's Annual Spring Fair will once again be held at the Demarest Duck Pond on Saturday, May 16, 2009 from 10am until 4pm (Rain Date Saturday, May 23rd).

Attendees of all ages will enjoy fine Arts & Crafts, live music in the Peace Gazebo, baked goods, traditional Indian, Korean and Japanese food concessions, canoe rides sponsored by the Boy Scouts, exciting children's rides and games, such as the ever-popular rock climbing wall and, for the first time ever, Guitar Hero, plus new merchandise, discounted books, White Elephant Sale, and much, much more, at what has become a favorite tradition among area residents.

Proceeds from the annual fundraiser go directly to the Library to improve the services it offers to the community.

If you would like to volunteer to help out at this year's Spring Fair, please call the Library at (201) 768-8714. Volunteers of all ages -- teens through seniors -- are welcome to participate by helping organizers set up, man concessions, organize and sell books, and tidy up at the end of the day. Give back, help out and have fun all at the same time!

Arts & Crafts exhibitors wishing to show at this year's spring fair may apply by filling out and submitting an application. Applications may be picked up at the Library during normal business hours. Returning exhibitors may waive the "Application Materials" requirement. Please remember, space is extremely limited and will be filled on a strictly first come, first served basis. The deadline for applications is Friday, May 8th. Completed applications, required materials and payments should be sent to: **Demarest Public Library, 90 Hardenburgh Avenue, Demarest, NJ 07627; Attention: "2009 Spring Fair."**

The Library's Book Discussion Group meets the second Monday of each month at 7:30 pm.

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

Exhibiting during the month of March will be Isaac Goodhart. He will share some of his Graphic art works with us. Isaac has recently been hired by Marvel Comics.

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 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.

Please contact us at 201-767-8050

DEMAREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Safety Tips

With a few weeks left in winter please remember some Fire Safety tips that may help to keep your family safe!

Planning on some spring clean-up?

- Clean and fuel up yard equipment outside
- Store flammables in metal containers
- Keep flammables & rags away from furnace, boilers or hot water heaters. The fumes could be ignited by flame from these units.

Don't use a barbeque in the garage or other enclosed area

- Flames from the unit could ignite surrounding material.
 - Death or injury due to carbon monoxide poisoning
- Warming up your car? Please keep vehicles outside!
- Deadly carbon monoxide may permeate your home creating a serious health hazard.

FAST FACT:

In 2006, home fires killed 2,580 people!

News: Stephanie Ceccon, a current Auxiliary member, plans to complete Fire Fighter 1 classes at the Fire Academy. Upon completion she can become a regular member of the Fire Department.

The Demarest Fire Department recently conducted their annual Fire Prevention Program at LLE & CRS. The students learned some Fire Safety Tips and participated in some activities with the Fire Fighters. The winners of the Fire Prevention Poster Contest are:

Kindergarten

1st Place Matthew Berman

Runner-up: Natalia Garcia, Sabrina Perez,

Tamara Kim

1st Grade

1st Place Emily Oh

Runner-up: Chris, Kim, Merrick Reiss, Yael Borger

2nd Grade

1st Place: Kyri LePree

Runner-up: Isabelle St Jean, Christian Kang,

Gillian Koch

3rd Grade

1st Place: Lily Djebiyan

Runner-up: Kelly Jiang, Michelle Hong,

Evan Sherman

4th Grade

1st Place: Kenny Weng

Runner-up: Jessica Verp, Isabella Stern

DEMAREST POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Demarest P.D. & OEM Offer Free Public Safety Courses

The Borough of Demarest is planning to conduct a community emergency response training program in March 26, 2009. The 20 hour program provides information on a variety of topics which include:

- Identifying hazards most likely to affect homes and the community
- General disaster preparedness
- Basic fire knowledge
- Light search and rescue
- Terrorism
- Incident Command System (ICS)

The function and purpose of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

This program is not designed to train attendees in becoming first responders for emergency situations, but rather instruct individuals on how to better help themselves, families, friends and neighbors when faced with emergencies. Anyone 18 years of age or older, *from any town*, may attend these courses.

The Demarest Office of Emergency Management (OEM) staff encourages all who plan to attend and complete this training program to join our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The Demarest CERT program was established in 2006 as part of Demarest's OEM in an effort to educate the public and assist the police, fire and ambulance personnel with additional support during major emergencies and large town events. The CERT program is an excellent way to serve the community for those who have little time to spare, as this program involves a minimal commitment of its team members. All CERT members are issued a ready bag containing emergency preparedness gear and equipment. Additional information about the CERT program can be found at www.citizencorps.gov/cert.

If you would like to attend the free training program, please contact Patrolman William Bizink at 201-768-1546 ext. 64.

DEMAREST NATURE CENTER

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

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.

March 7th--Demarest Nature Center **Bird House/Bird Feeder Building** at the Railroad Station. There will be two sessions, the first at 11 a.m. the second at 1 p.m. Bring a hammer and a camera. Kits are \$8 for one and \$15 for two. The pictures are priceless. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

April 4th--2 p.m. (rain date April 5th)--Demarest Nature Center **Annual Easter Egg Hunt**. Help us search for more than 100 pounds of chocolate eggs spread throughout the Imaginative Playground in Wakelee Field. As usual those special plastic eggs are rewarded with prizes. Toddlers through fourth graders. Bring your own basket to carry the eggs.

April 25th, 9:30 a.m. (rain date April 26th)--**Spring Nature Walk**. Join our part time naturalist Marc Gussen for an informative hike through the nature center. Meet at the skating pond.

April 25th, 10:30 a.m. (rain date April 26th)--**Volunteer Day**. Bring your gloves and join us for some special projects that will help spruce up our trails and meadows. This is a great way to meet people, get some exercise and help the environment at the same time. Meet at the skating pond.

May 30th--**Photo Contest Deadline**. Photos are due at the Demarest branch of Bank of America. All photos must be taken within the bounds of the nature center. Grand prize \$100. Prizes awarded June 3 at Breakfast in the Woods.

For additional details check our website: www.demarestnaturecenter.org



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