

DEMAREST DIGEST



Official Borough Newsletter
Volume 41 No. 2 JUNE 2009

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

With Memorial Day just passing, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all the members, past and present, of our armed services for their brave and valiant efforts, under the worst of circumstances, to protect our way of life. Their sacrifices are many, and their rewards few, except for the satisfaction of having served their country. Many of our armed service members remain in combat zones and harm's way and I urge you to keep them in your thoughts.

This year has given us unprecedented challenges within the budget process, as it has presented many of us with personal economic challenges. By the time this message reaches you, the 2009 municipal budget will be finalized. A great deal of effort went into reviewing expenses and revenue sources, and to formulate a responsible budget that provides all the services to which we are accustomed while closely guarding the municipal tax rate.

There were many difficult decisions to be made, and I would like to thank all the agencies, organizations and department heads for their extraordinary efforts to keep the budget manageable. We will be funding our pension liability in full, rather than prolonging and increasing payments over the next decade plus at an 8% interest rate. Special thanks go to Budget Committee Chair Melinda Iannuzzi and her committee, Chief Financial Officer Maureen Neville, Tax Deputy Loretta O'Donnell and Acting Borough Clerk Susan Crosman for their invaluable assistance.

Other projects in the works include improved bike paths and Safe Routes to School Program and drainage improvements in the Orchard and Hardenburgh Avenue area. All of these are being accomplished with outside grant funding.

Once again, as summer approaches it is important to keep in mind that schools are letting out, there are proms, dances and graduations, and I urge everyone to exercise caution on the roads and enjoy the summer season in good health and safety. Wishing you health and happiness this summer, I am,

MAYOR JIM CARROLL

DEMAREST

SUMMER RECREATION CAMP

Do you want your child to have a fun-filled summer? Then sign up now for the Demarest Summer Recreation camp. Our six week summer program is offered to children ages 4-up. Camp includes daily special events, arts & crafts, sports, water activities, trips and more! Some of our special events include Water Works Day, Ping Pong Tournament, Halloween in July and much, much more. Don't miss the fun, registration is taking place now. Registration forms are available at the Demarest Borough Hall. Mail-in registration is accepted until June 19th. After June 19th there will be a late charge fee of \$100.00. Camp takes place from July 6th - August 14th from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Camp is held rain or shine. This program is offered to both Demarest residents and non-residents. The cost for Demarest residents is \$400.00 and for non-residents it is \$500.00. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call Jackie DiNuzzo-Sicheri at 201-768-0167 ext. 15.

DEMAREST DAY IS COMING

We had such great feedback from residents that plans are in the works for our 2009 Demarest Day. Please keep your eyes and ears open for more details in the Fall edition of the Demarest Digest. If you would like to be a sponsor or volunteer, please call Police Chief Powderley at 201-768-0167 ext. 18.

LIBRARY NEWS

There have been many rumors and stories circulating about programs and funding issues regarding the Demarest Public Library. Rest assured that the Council and I fully realize the importance of the library and the programs it provides for residents of all ages. We all want to insure that the schedule and programs are continued at their traditional levels, and that there are no interruptions or reduction of operations. I guarantee that we will accomplish this goal.

MAYOR JIM CARROLL

BOROUGH OF DEMAREST DIRECTORY

201-768-0167 (FAX) 201-768-2581

Mayor James Carroll.....201-768-0161 ext. 40

COUNCIL

Council Brian Bernstein.....201-768-0167 ext. 10
 Councilwoman Marianne Bolduc.....201-768-0167 ext. 10
 Council President Bill Connelly.....201-768-0167 ext. 10
 Councilman Tom Connolly.....201-768-0167 ext. 10
 Councilman Steven Conti.....201-768-0167 ext. 10
 Councilwoman Melinda Iannuzzi.....201-768-0167 ext. 10

OFFICE HOURS

Borough Hall..... 8:00am- 4:30pm
 DPW..... 7:00am-3:30pm
 Municipal Court..... 9:00-2:00pm
 Tax Assessor..... Mon. 9:30am-12:30pm
 Zoning Department..... Wed. 11-1pm & 6-7:30pm

FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

Ambulance 201-767-8050
 Board of Health 201-768-0167 ext. 30
 Borough Clerk..... 201-768-0167 ext. 39
 Building Department..... 201-768-0167 ext. 12
 Demarest Senior Center..... 201-767-9785
 Department of Public Works..... 201-768-5439
 Fire Department (non-emergency)... 201-768-0338
 Garbage Collector-Miele Sanitation 201-768-5407
 Demarest Swim Club..... 201-768-8182
 Municipal Court..... 201-768-1160
 Office of Emergency Management 201-768-1540
 Police (non-emergency)..... 201-768-1540
 Public Library..... 201-768-8714
 Recreation Commission..... 201-768-0167 ext.
 Recycling..... 201-768-6669
 Shade Tree Commission..... 201-768-0167 ext. 30
 Tax Assessor..... 201-768-0167 ext. 41
 Tax/Finance Office..... 201-768-3611 ext. 17
 Zoning Officer..... 201-768-0167 ext. 14
 Website..... www.demarestnj.org

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor & Council Exec. Meetings 1st Monday of each month, 7:15pm
 Regular Meeting 3rd Monday of each month 7:15pm
 Municipal Court..... 1st Tuesday of each month, 5:00 pm
 Planning Board2nd Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm
 Zoning Board3rd Tuesday of each month, 8:00 pm
 Board of Health..4th Wednesday of Jan., May, Sept. & Nov., 8:15pm
 Environmental Commission ..2nd Monday of month, 7:30pm (except
 Jul. & Aug.)
 Shade Tree Commission .. 1st Thursday every other month, 7:30pm

In the event that schedules are revised, a schedule of such revised meeting dates shall be posted and published as required by law.

Police, Fire, Ambulance, Emergency Dial 9-1-1

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

In order to rent or sell your home a Certificate of Continued Occupancy is required. You must complete the application, pay the required fees and have the home inspected prior to any change in Occupancy or Ownership. This process takes approximately 4 to 6 weeks, so make sure you allow ample time. Any Questions please call 201-768-0167 ext# 12.

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.

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 FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Safety Tips:

Barbeques/Grills: Please keep grills from the siding on your home. A grill fire could spread to the home. Also, check hose & valves for leaks. Squirrels like to chew on the hose that connects the tank to the unit.

Paint/flammables: Doing a clean-up, painting or staining? Please be aware that fumes from flammable liquids or spray cans can travel and any open flame may cause a fire. An open flame could be the pilot light on a Hot Water heater.

Fire Extinguishers: It's a good idea to keep at least one Fire Extinguisher near the kitchen, basement and/or work area. They are inexpensive. Generally a good All Purpose Extinguisher (ABC) type is a good choice as it can put out most small fires. Follow the instructions on how to use them. Don't put your self in danger. Then call the Fire Department! Please check your smoke detectors at least once a month.

News:

Free Smoke Detectors are available on a limited basis from the Fire Department. They will be provided to any Demarest resident who currently does not have a working detector in their home. Stop by the Fire House any Sunday morning or call us at 201-768-0338.

Fire-Fighter R. Russenburger has just completed Fire Fighter II classes at the Fire Academy.

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.



DEMAREST POLICE DEPARTMENT

BICYCLE SAFETY

The Demarest Police Department would like to remind parents that under the New Jersey Statute 39:4-10.1 they are responsible to see that their children have and wear bicycle helmets. Children under the age of 14 **MUST** wear helmets. Parents may be given a summons if their children do not use helmets as required.

Obey the Signs or Pay

The 2009 *Obey the Signs or Pay: The Fines* campaign will provide highly visible enforcement of these and other aggressive driving infractions.

The New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety campaign for aggressive driving and speed enforcement will be titled, *Obey the Signs or Pay the Fines*. This slogan was developed in New Jersey's Northern Region in 2006 in response to the pervasive speeding problem. During the program's first year, 114 police agencies in four counties participated in the effort, which resulted in a total of 6,357 speeding summonses. Last year, the initiative was expanded to seven counties with 171 participating agencies, resulting in 10,898 speeding summonses, as well as 4,217 seat belt summonses and 470 DWI arrests.

Although speeding is the most common cause of aggressive driving associated with traffic crashes (25 percent of all fatal crashes in New Jersey involve traveling at unsafe speeds), there are other driving behaviors considered to be just as aggressive such as following too closely (tailgating), improper lane change, failure to yield right of way, and other forms of careless or erratic driving behavior. The campaign will be held in July.

DEMAREST EMS

URGES PRE-PLANNING FOR EMERGENCIES

The members of the Demarest Ambulance Corps are asking residents to document their medications, allergies, medical history and emergency contacts and place the information on their refrigerators should a medical emergency occur in their home. Residents are then asked to place this information in an envelope labeled "Emergency Action Plan". By pre-planning for an emergency, it gives residents and their families the knowledge of knowing that vital information is easily available for medical personnel to assess and treat the injured or sick party in a pre-hospital setting. Please help us to better help you.

The Membership of the Demarest Ambulance Corps

DEMAREST GARDEN CLUB

Thank you once again Demarest residents for your fabulous support of our May 1-2 annual plant sale. The plant sale is our only public fundraiser and helps support the costs of our public programs, workshops, planting projects at the Railroad Station and Davies Arboretum, floral tray favors for Meals on Wheels and Garden Therapy programs, and other civic projects.

The plant sale marks the end of our public offerings until the next meeting on Friday, September 4th at 12:30 pm in the United Methodist Church at 109 Hardenburgh Avenue. Between now and then club activities focus on an annual pot-luck picnic and installation of officers in June, monthly executive board meetings to plan next year's events, field trips to local gardens, Tuesday morning horticultural workshops at Davies Arboretum on Anderson Avenue, maintaining the gardens at the Railroad Station, and Garden Therapy workshops.

Club trustees elected in April to take office in June are Paul Ascione of Demarest returning for a second year as President, Gayle Greifenberger of Cresskill returning for a second year as Chairman of Programs, Beverly Kazickas of Demarest returning for a second year in charge of Garden Therapy and floral design programming, Debbie Anderson of Hawthorn returning for a second year in charge of Newsletters and the www.DemarestGardenClub.org web site, Ruth Haynes of Closter beginning a first year as Recording Secretary, and Elaine Welch of Demarest returning for a fourth year as Treasurer

Membership in the club is open to all local gardeners, from any town, with a personal interest in gardening and other club objectives. To join, just attend any public meeting, attend a Tuesday morning workshop at Davies Arboretum, or call Membership Chairman Sandy K. at 201-660-7688.

Davies Arboretum. In 1973, Demarest purchased the 18-acre Davies property at 49 Anderson Avenue with Green Acres funds. In 1977, following the 1976 demolition of the Davies Mansion, the garden club agreed to reclaim the site as an arboretum specializing in protection of existing specimen trees and plantings of flowering, low-maintenance trees, shrubs, bulbs, wildflowers, and perennials in honor of Demarest's 75th Anniversary in 1978. A subscription system for plantings (and other installations) — as memorials, tributes, or celebrations — funds the project on the front 7 acres of the Davies property as a community park.

Club members and non-member volunteers are welcome to assist with the project both as "floaters" who work on the topics of the day or as "project directors" responsible for the care of one of the 33 currently installed projects. Current group efforts focus on renovating the Butterfly and Deer-Resistant gardens, planting the Spring Garden, landscaping and running the first solar-powered trains of Ed's Garden Railroad project by summer, and memorial plantings in honor of Demarest residents Ruth Doolittle, Margaret Shields, and Robert "Ozzy" Ascione.

DEMAREST BOARD OF HEALTH

Pet Safety Tips

On an average summer day, the temperature of a car in the sun can reach an unbearable 160 degrees. Nine out of ten dogs die of heat prostration within 20 minutes, even with the windows partly open. If your dog is fortunate enough to survive, his heart and lungs can be permanently damaged — damage you cannot see, but which he must live with for the rest of his life. Your pet cannot perspire through his skin as people do; his lungs are his only cooling system. With nothing but overheated air to breathe, he cannot live very long. Please, if you love your dog, leave your pet at home in the shade.

DEMAREST SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Demarest has been named Tree City USA. This is the Borough of Demarest's 10th year to receive this national recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation.

Demarest has met the four standards to become a Tree City USA community: having a tree board or department, tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

ATTENTION RESIDENTS

Please call Miele Sanitation at 201-768-3818 to schedule an appointment to pick up large appliances, like household equipment, screens. Refrigerators, air conditioners and ice makers must have the Freon removed before pick-up by a certified service person. (If you are buying a new appliance, check with the merchant whether he would remove and dispose of your old appliance.) After completing the mowing of your lawn, please put grass clippings in a garbage can and not in a plastic bags.

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. Paper and cardboard are collected curbside on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday. Batteries (no car or motorcycle batteries) can be recycled. 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.

DEMAREST HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

At the 2009 Bergen county Preservation Commendation Awards on May 7, the county recognized Robert N. Carpenter, the gentleman who has been so active in helping to repair the stones in our town cemetery, for his preservation work here in Demarest and in several other locations. Bob will continue his work with us to continue our Sautjes Tave's Begraven Ground restoration effort.

As a result of an earlier bit of "town trivia" about a trip on the north-flowing Tenakill Brook, we had a response about a similar journey, only this time the venture by water went south. This is the accompanying article and photo of the "girls" day on the brook.

Attached is a picture of me, (Kira DeLong) and Claudia Levi, in about 4th grade, doing the same exact thing two decades later! (1970's) Amazing, right? The only difference is that we were bobbing around in the Cresskill end of the Tenakill. It was deeper than the river at the Wakelee Field end, and easier to get to since we lived on that end of town (we didn't want to risk the "falls" or being seen punting through the middle of town!). We punted most weekends for at least a couple seasons.

This picture shows us pushing away from our "dock," a semi-island near a storm drain outlet, where we hid our "boat." My mother, who I believe is the picture-taker, was standing either on the top of the storm drain, or at the edge of the cul-de-sac above it.

After one season in the cement tub, which we called SOSS (Save Our Sinking Ship), Claudia was given a blow up dinghy, so she used that. One day, bobbing around on some adventure, she looked past my shoulder and raised her eyebrows. I looked around to see water pouring in over the corner of the tub; I must have jostled too much. I crouched and leapt across the few feet separating our boats and landed with a splash half-in Claudia's dinghy. I turned myself around just in time to see the last few inches of the tub sink forever. We were back in only one boat. Time to find another adventure. We took up bicycle riding to Nyack every Saturday.

Demarest Historical Society Calendars are still available at the library, borough hall and deli. The first edition of the Northern Valley Historical Society Newsletter is available in the library and borough hall. Again, we look for stories and photos from Demarest and former Demarest residents. Feel free to contact Mary Anne Clarke, Borough Historian.

Correction of the caption in the Demarest Library Newsletter: The library location was not part of Camp Merritt. The present library building however, was moved from Camp Merritt to become the Methodist Church and eventually the library.



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