

DEMAREST JOURNAL



Official Borough Newsletter
Volume 43 No. 1 March 2011

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

My thanks go out to all those volunteers who continue to serve our town on the boards and commissions, the fire department, ambulance corps and recreation programs. Several members decided to not seek reappointment in 2011. Both Mario Di Gia (Planning Board) and Steven Shur (Zoning Board) each served for over 20 years. They deserve thanks from all the residents of Demarest for their selfless service to our town. I also extend my thanks to Kevin McDermott (Shade Tree Commission), Carlos Molina (Planning Board), Doreen McCullough and Kwang Suk Kim (Zoning Board), Jan Miller & Del Carpenter (Library Board) and Ruthellen Fried (Board of Health) for their service to Demarest. Seven residents were reappointed to their respective boards and commissions, along with 14 new board and commission members being appointed. The new members have expressed a keen desire to serve and I'm sure they will be an asset to our town.

At the risk of offending those winter aficionados, I hope we are finished with snowstorms for the rest of this season! The Department of Public Works employees have excelled at keeping our roads safe during and after the many snowstorms we have had this winter. I took the opportunity after a January storm to ride in a plow truck and experience firsthand the skill and dedication of our employees in keeping the roads clear of snow. Yes, this is one of their responsibilities, but I have seen the pride they demonstrate in their work. For this I thank them.

As we go to print we are working on the budget for 2011. The current economy, the new 2% cap on property taxes (with some notable exclusions), prior contractual cost increases, deferred expenses from 2010; all will present a challenge in our efforts to at least stabilize taxes. I will continue to be a strong proponent of fiscally responsible expenditures. Some of these efforts include but are not limited to:

- Eliminating a part-time position at a saving of nearly \$15,000 per year. (I was disappointed that four council members voted to keep this redundant position, created just three years ago. The responsibilities with this position lie with the police & construction departments.)
- Investigating alternate companies for the Borough's web site services anticipating approximately \$10,000 per year in savings.
- Renegotiating certain services & contracts.
- Discussions with employees for reducing expenditures without jeopardizing current services.

Taxes and the new electric sign, two issues that many residents have expressed their opinions about. These two items, although quite different, are on the "front burner". Two advisory groups of residents are working with me on these issues and I look forward to receiving recommendations regarding the sign and I anticipate the council, employees and volunteers working together will present a fiscally responsible budget. I welcome your input on these issues as well as any other town issue and I welcome your suggestions for reducing expenditures and suggestions as to services that we may consider providing.

I thank you for the confidence you have placed in me as we move Demarest forward. I will keep you informed of any major initiative, through our website and printed media. At the same time, I ask that you keep informed on current events in town. Certainly, a major initiative we will be thoroughly investigating is shared or merged services. As we proceed down this road, we will have meetings where every resident will have the opportunity to voice their opinions well before any final decision is made.

Sincerely,
Raymond Cywinski

DEMAREST NATURE CENTER

Keep taking photos for the photo contest!

March 19: Birdhouse and bird feeder building, Demarest Athletic Assoc. Building. Two sessions: 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Kits are \$8 for one and \$15 for two. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a hammer to bang nails and a camera to capture the memories.

April 2: Easter egg hunt, 2 p.m., Imaginative Playground in Wakelee Field. Toddlers through fourth-graders. Bring your own baskets to scoop up chocolate eggs. Rain date April 3.

May 14: Spring Nature Walk, guided by our local Naturalist Marc Gussen at 9:30 a.m. **Volunteer Day,** 10:30 a.m., both departing from Wakelee Field Playground parking lot. Bring gloves and we'll supply trash bags so you can clean litter, maintain trails, or do a special project. Rain date May 15.

May 27: Deadline for submission of **Photo Contest** entries at Bank of America branch in downtown Demarest. All photos must be taken in the nature center. See newsletter or our website @ www.demarestnaturecenter.org for details.

June 11: Breakfast in the Woods, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., next to the Imaginative Playground. Made-to-order omelets, bagels, O.J., etc—all free. Also: Live music and announcement of Photo Contest winners plus a live animal show. Rain date June 12.

DEMAREST AMBULANCE CORP

WE NEED MORE 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 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

ART SCHOOL AT OLD CHURCH

Our Thrift Shop, a community-based thrift store on Old Hook Road in Westwood, opened its doors in December 2007, with a mission to serve the public by providing quality items at affordable prices, and to benefit the Art School at Old Church, a non-profit arts and cultural center in Demarest. Since then, the thrift shop has been a great source for high-quality seasonal clothing, accessories, jewelry, shoes, books, knick-knacks, electronics, small appliances and other home goods.

Our Thrift Shop is run entirely by a group of dedicated volunteers. Throughout the year, the shop accepts donations of new and gently used goods such as clothing, accessories, home goods, electronics and toys.

The Art School is a 36-year-old institution dedicated to enriching the lives of the community-at-large through education and exposure to cultural diversity in the visual arts. The Art School at Old Church is located at 561 Piermont Road in Demarest. Call 201-767-7160 or visit www.tasoc.org for more information.

Our Thrift Shop is located at 245 Old Hook Road in Westwood. Store hours: Monday-Friday, 10-4 and Saturday, 10-3.

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.

RECYCLING COORDINATOR

All residents should be advised that all televisions and computers cannot be put out with regular garbage. They should be brought to Best Buy who will accept them at no charge or bring them to the County of Bergen Community College on the dates set forth by the County (see insert in this quarters news letter). We also urge you to separate your recyclables from household garbage.

DEMAREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Safety Tips

IF YOU HAVE A HYDRANT NEAR YOUR HOME PLEASE help us help you and your neighbors by keeping it clear of snow! The Fire Department has spent many hours trying to keep the hydrants clear of snow. If we can't see them, or waste time digging them out it can delay our Fire-Crews getting water on a fire. Adopt a Hydrant!

Going away? Please leave a key or a code and a phone number for a contact. If your fire alarms go off, we are often delayed into making entry into your home. We do not want to cause damage trying to get in to check your home.

Check all smoke & carbon monoxide detectors at least monthly.

Call 911 for an activated smoke or carbon monoxide detector or for any unusual odors or noise in the home.

News:

Winners of our Annual Fire Prevention Poster contest are:

CRS:

K-1st place, Michael Babin

Runner's up; Walter Reiss, Allie Pyun,

Dylan Jacobsen

1st Grade: 1st place, Harrison Abramson

Runner's up: Jaden Lazarus, Tal Aviatal, Noa Miller

Luther Lee School

2nd Grade: 1st Place, Jessica Freeman

Runner's up: Claudia Kim,

Jonathan Tenenbaum, Sabrina Perez

3rd Grade: 1st Place; Anastasja Khilko

Runner's Up: Rachael Kim, Luke Haworth,

Eunice Chong

4th Grade: 1st Place; Caitlyn Baensch

Runner's up: Angela Hahn, Sharon Hong, Jason Kim

The Fire Prevention contest is run annually by the Fire Department as part of our Fire Prevention program. Our goal is to help educate the students on Fire Safety tips as well as what to do in case of a fire in the home. The Fire Department also offers similar programs to other groups upon request.

Fund Drive: The Fire Department wishes to thank all our residents who have answered our Fund Drive letter. We ask all of our residents who have not yet sent in their donation too PLEASE help us. Any amount is welcome. Thank you.

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

The Demarest PD is currently recruiting neighborhood youths for its Law Enforcement Explorer program. This program is for career-oriented young adults ages 14-21. Members are referred to as "Explorers" and, while the program is part of the BSA, the Explorer program is distinctively different from scouting. Explorer is a co-educational program for young adults developed and supervised by the Demarest Police Department providing an opportunity for young adults to explore a career in law enforcement.

This successful program is designed to educate and involve young men and women in police operations and to interest them in law enforcement functions whether they enter the law enforcement field or not.

As an explorer, young adults have the opportunity to assist the Demarest Police Department while broadening their understanding and firsthand knowledge of the challenges and job skills that make up their community's police department. In addition to gaining a working knowledge of police work, the participants have the opportunity to give themselves to their community. Although Post 101 is law enforcement oriented, Explorers are volunteers and do not serve as police employees, sworn or civilian.

Qualifications

- * Be between the ages of 14-21
- * Have a good moral character
- * Remain in school while in the program or until graduation.
- * Not have a serious police record
- * Be able to attend monthly explorer meetings
- * Be willing to volunteer your time to attend Explorer functions

Please contact the Police Department @ 201-768-1540, if you meet these qualifications and are interested in participating.

HOUSE NUMBERS

Responding Fire/Police/Ambulance can often be delayed due to non-existent, small or poorly lit house numbers. Help us help you by installing large, easy to read numbers on or near front door. Keep a light on near the entrance at night so emergency crews can read your house number!

DEMAREST MUNICIPAL COURT

Did you know that fines can be paid on line at www.njmcdirect.com? The municipal court accepts payments 10am to 2pm Monday through Friday. Court is held the second Tuesday of every month. The dates for this quarter are March 8th, April 12th and May 10th.

DEMAREST SENIOR CENTER

All activities are held at the Boro Hall. We welcome all residents and neighbors ages 55 and above. Monthly meetings are held @ Boro Hall 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. George Luhrsen, and the materials are free. The class is held at the Boro Hall Depot. Surprise yourself!! Many thanks to Mr. Luhrsen, who does our monthly bulletin, for his wonderful News and Art Work.

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.

TENNIS PERMITS

Demarest Borough Tennis permits can be purchased at the Borough Hall Monday through Friday 9am to 1pm. 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 201-768-0167 ext# 30.

ACADEMY OF THE HOLY ANGELS

The Academy of the Holy Angels is proud to present *Kiss Me Kate* On April 1st @ 7:30 pm, April 2nd @ 7:30 pm & April 3rd @ 2:00pm. The cost for tickets are \$15 each. You may reserve your tickets at Showtix4u.com or by contacting us at tickets@holyangels.org or by calling 201-768-7822. ALL SEATS RESERVED.

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.

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

DEMAREST SHADE TREE COMMISSION

The 2nd annual ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST sponsored by the Shade Tree Commission featuring the third graders at the Luther Lee Emerson School will be held in early Spring. Details of the contest will be available through the third grade teachers in mid-March. The theme this year is "A Day in the Life of a Tree". A 4 sentences interpretation of the art work and/or of the theme is to accompany the poster. Prizes are given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Barbara Johnson is working with Mr. Kirky, Principal, to set dates of entry and prize presentation.

DEMAREST SCHOOL STUDENTS CONNECT WITH SAILORS

As part of the County Road School, Luther Lee Emerson School, and Demarest Middle School celebrations of National Day on Writing in late October, students in grades K-4 and grade 6 all wrote letters to sailors. These sailors are stationed on the USS Decatur, currently residing somewhere in the Persian Gulf. The letters ranged from the well-developed paragraphs of the fourth grade all the way down to a picture and a short hello from the kindergarten students, with sixth grade students creating a full friendly letter. These letters expressed their thanks for the generosity of the sailors and also listed some of their favorite things here at home and around Demarest. Along with some care packages and winter hats collected by other community members, these letters were sent over during the late Fall.

Early in 2011, a number of students received responses from their sailors, who expressed emotional gratitude for the letters, one even explaining how she got the letter on Christmas Day, and it helped ease the pain of being away from her family. Students continued to receive responses throughout January.

In addition to providing a forum for creating a writing piece, in alignment with the district's curricular goals, the assignment also raised awareness of events happening outside of their immediate environment and also helped serve as a geography lesson.

THINK SPRING

Happy 100th Birthday Emily Hagstrom!

Emily Kirschbrown, born in Brooklyn, NY on January 10, 1911, has seen a lot of changes during her 100 years! Some of the trivia gathered by a family member for 1911 is as follows:

- The life expectancy was 47 years.
- Only 14% of the homes in the US had a bathtub
- Only 8% of the homes had a telephone (no cell phones).
- The max. speed limit was 10 mph with 144 miles of paved roads and 8,000 cars.
- The average wage was \$.022 per hour.
- One in ten adults could read & write. Only 6% graduated high school.
- Sugar cost \$.04 per pound, coffee, \$.15 per pound.
- Most women washed their hair once a month with borax or egg yolks. (Makes you wonder what the men did).
- The US flag had 45 stars-Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii & Alaska were not yet states.

As the saying goes – “You’ve come a long way baby”! Emily married Roy Hagstrom in 1933. They honeymooned in Greenwood Lake and were married for over 74 years when Roy passed away at 97 years old in 2007.

Emily and Roy moved to Norwood in 1959, the same year Roy graduated from Long Island University, then lived in Westwood, Dumont and finally Demarest. Emily lives with her son Robert (who graduated with his father from LIU in 1959) and daughter-in-law, Addys, on Stelfox Street. An only child, Emily has two children, three grandchildren and eight grandchildren. Emily likes to read, with Robert often checking out novels from the Demarest Library, and play solitaire (and not on the computer – with actual cards).

Of course the question everyone asks is, “To what do you attribute your longevity”?

Emily says, “Plenty of walking as exercise”. Perhaps we can emulate Emily more by leaving our cars at home once in awhile and walking ‘into town’.

Again, a Very Happy Birthday to Emily and continued good health for many more years!

HAPPY 101st FRANK

Frank Lucia celebrated his 101st birthday on February 8 with friends and family at the JCC with lunch, songs and a cake (without the 101 candles). During his birthday celebration, Frank sang a song - in Italian - with friends and JCC staff. The memories Frank brought forth from early in his life were vivid and very entertaining.

DEMAREST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The 2011 Demarest Historical Society Calendars are available. Calendars can be purchased at the Borough Hall, Demarest Library, from historical society members or by calling Mary Anne Clarke, Borough Historian @ 201-768-3649.

The answer to the question about the 2011 calendar cover photo is - The Hoffman Rock. It was located in the backyard of the Hoffman’s home on John Street. Jack Hoffman, son of a Demarest mayor, John Hoffman, now has the stone in his possession. Jack’s name and others can be found on the rock assumedly inscribed in 1937.

From the Demarest Archives:

Besides sleigh riding, skiing and tobogganing during our former winters, there was ice skating. A popular spot for ice skating was known as “White Pole”. This wasn’t as deep as Davies Pond and was more likely to freeze to a point that was safe for skating. The name White Pole was derived from a white pole along the railroad tracks between Demarest and Closter. It was just a little north of where the ballfields were located. I guess this would not be far from the current location of the Swim Club. This is a quote of information given by Jack Hoffman, a former resident.

Since this winter has been a “winner” I have included an entry from Matthew J Bogert’s diary of 1862. It appears that February and March of 1862 had snow, rain, wind and many cloudy days.

Bogert’s entry for February 26, 1862: “Clear this morning, overcast by 10AM. Tonight it looks quite stormy. Been to school today. A party of 7 of us were out skating tonight had quite some fun.” The next day, February 27 it “snowed hard til noon” as recorded by young Matthew.

ELECTION NEWS

School Board Election – April 27th

Polls are open from 2pm-9pm

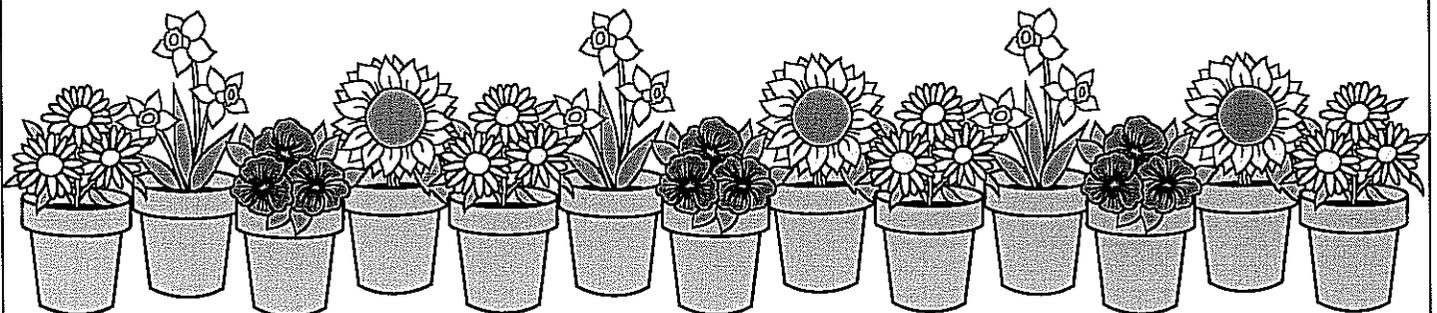
Primary Day—June 7th

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 April 6th and for the Primary Election is May 17th . The Borough Clerk’s office will be open from 9am to 9pm on these days for the convenience of the residents.

SPRING CALENDAR EVENTS

- March 4 Demarest Garden Club meeting; 12:30pm @ the United Methodist Church; 1:30 pm program "Flower Arranging Demonstration"
- March 5 Open House @ Demarest CO-OP Nursery School 10am-12pm @ the United Methodist Church
- March 19 Demarest Nature Center Bird House & Feeder Construction@ Demarest Athletic Assoc. Building, 11am & 1pm ; cost \$8, Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- March 25 Academy of the Holy Angels Annual Angelic Evening Fundraiser @ Rockleigh Country Club 6pm; cost \$110.
- April 1-3 Academy of the Holy Angels presents "Kiss Me Kate"; tickets \$15
- April 1 Demarest Garden Club meeting; 12:30pm @ the United Methodist Church; 1:30 pm program "Edible Landscaping"
- April 2 Demarest Nature Center Annual Egg Hunt @ 2pm at the children's playground (rain date March 28th)
- April 3 United Methodist Church "Beefsteak" Dinner & Auction 5pm-9pm; cost \$30 @ Elk's Hall Closter
- April 22 40th Anniversary of Earth Day
- April 27 Board of Education Election; Polls open 2pm-9pm
- April 29 Arbor Day
- April 30 DAA Opening Day Parade starts @ 10:30am from DMS & march to Wakelee Field: Ceremonies @ 11:00 am.
- May 14 Demarest Nature Center Spring Nature Walk & Volunteer Day @ 9:30am
- May 17 Last Day to register to vote for the Primary Election
- May 27 Demarest Nature Center Photo Contest Deadline
- May 30 Memorial Day Parade; 9:30am
- June 7 Primary Day; Polls open from 6am-8pm



DEMAREST GARDEN CLUB

Annual Plant Sale

Demarest Garden Club's annual plant sale and only public fundraiser is organized around pre-orders placed by April 2 for pickup at the United Methodist Church, 109 Hardenburgh Avenue, on May 6 (2-6 pm) or May 7 (9 am - 2 pm) or delivered locally for an extra fee. Pre-order forms are included in this newsletter and are also available at local libraries and on the club website at www.DemarestGardenClub.org. Place your pre-order now to be sure to get the annuals, perennials, geraniums, hanging baskets, and other offerings of nursery-grown stock in the colors, varieties, and quantities you want. In addition, the sale features a members' table with offerings of common and unusual plants propagated from club-run Davies Arboretum and members' gardens. Proceeds from the plant sale allow us to offer educational programs at our public meetings, help fund planting projects around town, and finance Meals on Wheels tray favors.

Public Meetings

The club's up-coming meetings and public programs, held 1-3 pm at the United Methodist Church, 109 Hardenburgh Avenue, are:

Friday, March 4, "Flower Arranging Demonstration" by Barbara Mullin. Barbara is an officer of the Garden Club of New Jersey, to which the Demarest club belongs and abides by their flower shows rules, and a qualified Flower Show Judge.

Friday, April 1 "Edible Landscaping" by David Daehnke, originally planned for January and cancelled due to snow, has been rebooked to replace the club show and tell. A seasoned gardener, lecturer, and radio host, also known as "The Gardening Guru", David will show how to incorporate fresh, useful, nutritious, and good-looking food-bearing plants into your flower and shrub beds.

May, June, and summer activities of the club are not open to the public but new members are welcome to join in the meetings, trips, workshops, and other summer events.

Davies Arboretum Civic Project

The club continues to develop the Davies Arboretum, on the front (6 of 18) borough-owned Green Acres at what was the Davies property at 49 Anderson Avenue. Members meet Tuesday mornings 8/9 to 11 am from March 15 to October 15 to turn a former eyesore into a passive family retreat of low-maintenance flowering trees, shrubs, bulbs, perennial, annuals, and garden-related activities. To be completed this year are the Vertical Garden, highlighting clematis and roses, plans for a new Community Garden of planting plots, and additional benches to watch model trains run on Ed's Garden Railroad, completed last year, on first Tuesday 9-11 am and first Saturdays 10-12 am. The arboretum project, which began in 1977, is funded almost entirely by the club and community donations of funds, ideas, energy, and skills. To participate or learn more, just show up on Tuesday mornings 9-11 from March 15 to Oct. 15.

Membership

Membership in the Demarest Garden Club is open to all local gardeners, male and female, from any town. Dues and obligations are minimal. To join, just attend any public meeting, find us on a Tuesday at Davies Arboretum 9-11 am, or call Membership Chairman Luisa 201-966-9816.

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