

DEMAREST JOURNAL



Official Borough Newsletter
Volume 44 No. 1 March 2012

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

2012 Budget – Your governing body started diligently working on this year's budget in mid-January. Some measures we took in 2011 will accrue benefits in 2012, however, meeting the mandated 2% tax cap levy (excluding items such as medical and pension costs and debt service) will be challenging as most costs have increased from last year, some significantly more than 2%. Increased costs, an increase in tax appeals, contractual obligations, a decrease in surplus funds, all will affect our effort to minimize the impact on taxes. Saying that, I am committed to working with the Council to introduce a budget in March that will be within the 2% tax cap as well as having a minimal increase overall.

Major Projects – Major projects such as construction of the DPW buildings, restoration of the railroad depot and library addition and renovation are completed. We invite you on a walking tour of the aforementioned facilities on Sunday April 15 at 1:00 PM (date & time subject to change). We will continue to prioritize road paving projects with several roads to be paved this year. A final determination on the roads will be made once bids are received and we know where we stand with our budget.

Past (Continued), Present and Immediate Future Tasks

Police Consolidation - After several iterations and awaiting required approvals, we advertised earlier this month for proposals to study the consolidation of the Demarest and Closter Police Departments. Once proposals are submitted, both towns have 60 days to award a contract with the study to be conducted within 90 days.

DPW Contract – We are currently in contract (expired Dec. 31, 2011) negotiations with our DPW union.

Police Contract – We will soon be starting contract (expires Dec. 31, 2012) negotiations with our police union.

Sustainable New Jersey – Passed a resolution to be certified through Sustainable NJ, a program that has goals of improving the quality and sustainability of a community and decreases costs. This ultimately makes Demarest eligible for private foundation grants.

Recycling – Electronic and Metal recycling bins are to be in place at the DPW facility at the end of February. This will make it more convenient for residents to recycle these materials while generating additional revenue for the Borough and thus, its residents.

Quality of Life – Demarest is a wonderful community as are many communities nearby. We all expect our municipal taxes to provide operation and maintenance of our infrastructure (roads, municipal buildings, storm drains, sewers, etc.). Employees maintain our parks and fields, provide administrative services, and along with volunteers, provide public safety services. How can we distinguish our community from others? I would venture it is the small things that add up. Volunteering, maintaining our properties (home and yard – go to www.demarestnj.org and view a garden built and maintained by a homeowner, not a professional landscape firm), befriending and offering assistance to neighbors, keeping our public places free of litter (including timely removal of trash receptacles and newspapers 'delivered' onto our roads and driveway aprons), supporting our historic preservation projects and maintaining the ambiance of the community. On this last note, we will be working with our Historical Society to provide tours of historic sites throughout town this spring. We hope you participate in these tours and learn a bit more about your community and its past.

A little effort by all makes a **BIG** difference in a community! Thank you.

*Meet with the Mayor
Monday, March 12th at 8pm @ Borough Hall*

Sincerely,
Ray Cywinski

Environmental Commission Announcement

Recycling of Obsolete Electronics

Looking for easier ways to dispose of "old" electronic equipment (E-Waste)?

GOOD NEWS

By the end of February, plans are to have containers for the recycling of "E-waste" and metal, right at our own DPW facility.

There will be a container to recycle, among other things, computers, CPU's, laptops (hard drives and other data media will be physically destroyed and rendered useless), fax machines, mobile phones, TV's, stereos, VCRs - all miscellaneous electronic devices. In addition, you will also be able to recycle scrap metal.

Take advantage of the above to reduce the potential for toxic metals being deposited in landfills, increase Demarest's recycling rate and generate some revenue for the Borough which ultimately benefits you!

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.

ART SCHOOL AT OLD CHURCH MIKHAIL ZAKIN GALLERY

March 2 - April 6: Leonard Freed's Photo Essay:
"The Italians"

April 13 - May 11: Notations 21:
artistic scores of composers

May 18 - June 22: From the Studio Classes:
student exhibit

CAFÉ GALLERY

March 29-April 24: Students of Hank Gans:
photographs

April 28- May 12: Underground Potters: show &
sale of pottery

SCHOOL CALENDAR

March 27: Spring semester begins (10 weeks)

May 1: Summer registration begins: mail, fax, or hand deliver

May 15: Summer registration begins: mail, fax, hand deliver or phone. Website www.tasoc.org

DEMAREST NATURE CENTER

Keep taking photos for the photo contest!

March 17: Birdhouse and bird feeder building, in the Demarest Athletic Assoc. Building. Two sessions: the 1st starting at 11 a.m. & 2nd at 1 p.m.

Kits are \$8 for one and \$15 for two. Participating children are to be with an adult(s) and please bring your own hammer.

March 31: Easter egg hunt, 2 p.m., In the Imaginative Playground near Wakelee Field. Toddlers through fourth-graders. Bring a basket and your camera. Rain date April 1.

May 19: Spring Nature Walk, guided by our local naturalist, Marc Gussen, at 9:30 a.m. Followed by **Volunteer Day** 10:30 a.m. We supply the trash bags. Bring gardening or work gloves. Both activities start from the Imaginative Playground parking lot. Rain date May 20.

June 1: Deadline for Photo Contest entries. Bring your photos to the Demarest Public Library. All photos must be taken in the nature center.

See newsletter or our website @ www.demarestnaturecenter.org for more details.

June 9: Breakfast in the Woods, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., next to the Imaginative Playground. Breakfast al fresco. Photo Contest awards, and a live wild creature show. Rain date June 10.

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.

HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES RECYCLING UPDATE

Please do not bring batteries to the Borough Hall. Check the Borough website: www.demarestnj.net under DPW for more information.

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.

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.

Thank you Jim Bailey for all your years of services as an officer of the Demarest Fire Department.

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 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.

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 for cycling, roller skating, in-line and skateboarding. Children under the age of 17 MUST wear helmets. Parents may be given a summons if their children do not use helmets as required

SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM MARK THE YOUR CALENDAR

The program will be held from July 2nd to August 10th. More information will be in the Summer Newsletter

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 HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A program of interest is planned for March 21. "Ancestry Research: The Next Step" will be presented by Mary Beth Craven. Ms. Craven will discuss ways to research and discover ancestry information after an initial search. It will be held at the Demarest Borough Hall at 7:30PM.

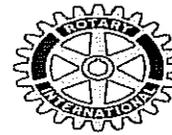
The Demarest archives still needs additional material. Photos, memories and items that residents and non-residents are willing to provide will help to enrich our collection. If you have any information or photos of Demarest you would like to share with the present and certainly the future people of town, please let us know. Please feel free to contact Borough Historian, Mary Anne Clarke @201-768-3649.

Historical Trivia

During the 1950's the Demarest PTA sponsored memorable "Tea Dances" each year on February 14. These social events were held at the Aldecress Country Club, now called the Alpine Country Club. Later they were held in the community hall of St. Joseph's Church. Fancy tea sandwiches and punch was served

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.



CRESSKILL-DEMAREST ROTARY CLUB

Your local Rotary club meets weekly on every Tuesday for 12:15pm lunch at Griffin's 44 East Madison Ave. Cresskill. Please be our guest for lunch and fellowship. Find out what Rotary is all about and what we do in Demarest. Please call Dick Oakley at 201-768-3000 for more information.

OUR ELDERLY MIGHT NEED OUR HELP!

We have heard of the phase "graying of America" - the growing "senior citizen" population. Demarest's senior citizens live among us in our neighborhoods. Especially during the winter months, your neighbors might be in need of a little assistance. Heavy snows or ice or just plain cold weather could very well keep a senior citizen housebound. And although this winter has not provided heavy snows, treacherous ice and record breaking low temperatures, good neighbors must still watch out for each other.

Errands might need to be taken care of and it is easy to run low on food and essentials. A sudden storm might find one out of vital medication. During a really severe storm an electric outage could put an elderly person, without heat, perhaps without a telephone, in real danger. A phone call, a knock on the door, and some real help might make all the difference for someone, especially some living alone.

If you have elderly friends or neighbors, be sure to check in on them. Have you noticed whether the mail is being taken in regularly or if their newspapers are piling up on their driveway. Are the lights on in the evening or are the shades being drawn at the usual time. You know your neighbors' routines? If you see something suspicious or unusual, make a phone call and check on them. It's the right thing to do.

Please if you see or feel someone needs help call the Police Station for a wellness check at 201-768-1540.

DEMAREST AMBULANCE CORPS

Springtime Health Tips

As Springtime approaches, and the weather gets warmer each day, you and your family will be spending more time outdoors. It's a wonderful idea to get out of the house and enjoy some fresh air and outdoor activity, but it's also important to keep spring safety topics in mind so you and your family are protected.

* Sun Safety - The warm sun can feel wonderful after being cooped up during cooler months. But if you and your family don't take the proper precautions, you risk getting sunburn. Some basic safety tips to follow include always wearing sunscreen, even on cloudy days. Apply it 15 to 30 minutes before going outside and reapply often. Cover up with hats and light shirts to provide a barrier between the sun and skin, especially during peak sun times.

* Spring Allergies - One of the most common spring health issues is allergies. Allergies in children and adults can develop at any time. Look out for common symptoms which include repetitive sneezing, heavy breathing or wheezing, runny nose, and itchy eyes, ears and throat. Fever is not associated with allergies, so if you or your child is running a high temperature, you are likely sick versus experiencing a seasonal allergy.

* Insect bites - People aren't the only ones who love the outdoors when the weather gets warm; insects flourish as a natural part of the ecosystem. Unfortunately some insects can bite and sting. Bites to be more concerned about include spider bites, tick bites and bee stings. If you or a family member is stung by an insect of concern, keep a close eye on his/her health. If they experience difficulty breathing, swelling, faintness or vomiting, get medical help right away. Call 911.

News

The Demarest Volunteer Ambulance Corps began 2012 with a new line up of officers. President: Joanne Pianghi, Chief: Roberta Hoag, 1st Asst Chief: JP Fortunato, 2nd Asst Chief: Andrew Woods, Secretary: Diane Marello and Treasurer: Matthew Savitsky.

The members of the Demarest Volunteer Ambulance Corps wish to extend our thanks to all of the residents who have contributed to our Fund Drive letter. Your continued support is greatly appreciated and needed.

DVAC is a volunteer group that is proud to offer 24 Hour Emergency Medical Services to the residents of Demarest. We are always looking for new members to join our family and encourage any resident interested in becoming a volunteer to stop in and complete an application.

ELECTION NEWS

School Board Election – April 17th

Polls are open from 2pm-9pm

Primary Day—June 5th

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 27th and for the Primary Election is May 15th. The Borough Clerk's office will be open from 9am to 9pm on these days for the convenience of the residents

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.

There is a scheduled trip to Mount Airy Lodge on Wednesday, March 15th, cost is \$25 and a special price luncheon. Departure time for both trips is 9 a.m. from the United Methodist Church, located at 109 Hardenburgh Avenue in Demarest. If interested, please contact Grace Walsh at 201-768-1783.

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. Surprise yourself!! Many thanks to Mr. Luhrsen, who does our monthly bulletin, for his wonderful News and Art Work.

DEMAREST PUBLIC LIBRARY

After months of construction, we are now open again!

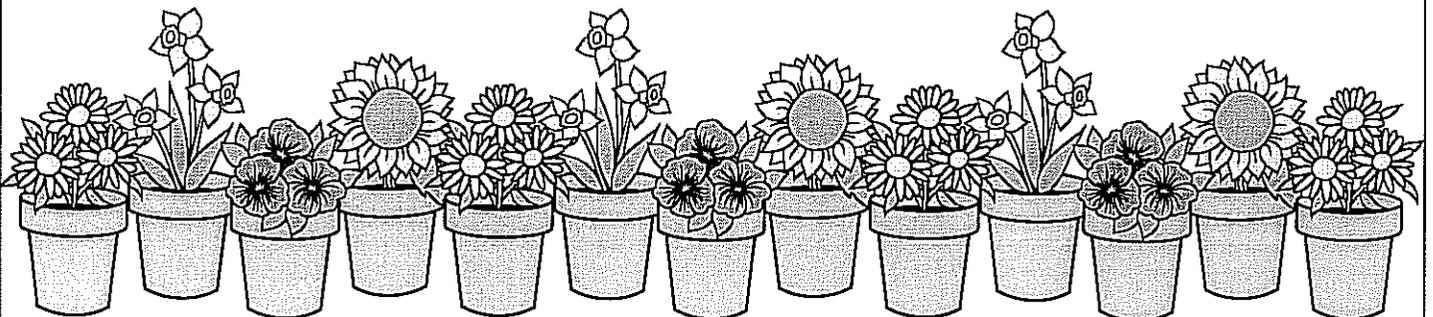
First, we would like to thank you for all your patience. Second we would like to invite you to stop by and "check Us Out"! In addition to our beautifully expanded space, we have a new website at www.demarest.bccls.org/ which brings valuable information into your homes.

Hours are Monday & Thursday 10am-8pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 10am-5pm
Sunday 1pm-5pm

Open House will be on March 8th from 10am-8pm.

SPRING CALENDAR EVENTS

- March 2 Demarest Garden Club meeting; 1:00pm @ the United Methodist Church; 2:00 pm program "Square Foot Gardening"
- March 12 Meet with the Mayor @ 8pm; Borough Hall
- March 17 Demarest Nature Center Bird House & Feeder Construction@ Demarest Athletic Assoc. Building, 11am & 1pm ; cost \$8, Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- March 31 Demarest Nature Center Annual Egg Hunt @ 2pm at the children's playground (rain date April 1)
- April 13 Demarest Garden Club meeting; 12:30pm @ the United Methodist Church; 1:30 pm program "Members Show & Tell of What's Going on in Their Gardens"
- April 17 Board of Education Election; Polls open 2pm-9pm
- April 22 41st Anniversary of Earth Day
- April 27 Arbor Day
- April 28 DAA Opening Day Parade starts @ 10am from DMS & march to Wakelee Field: Ceremonies @ 10:30 am
- May 4-5 Demarest Garden Club Annual Plant Sale pick up@ United Methodist Church Fri 2-6pm, Sat 9am-1pm
- May 15 Last Day to register to vote for the Primary Election
- May 19 Demarest Nature Center Spring Nature Walk & Volunteer Day @ 9:30am (Rain date May 20)
- May 28 Memorial Day Parade; 9:30am
- June 1 Demarest Nature Center Photo Contest Deadline
- June 2 Demarest Garden Club "Victory Container Gardening Workshop" 9am-2pm @ Davies Arboretum
- June 5 Primary Day; Polls open from 6am-8pm



DEMAREST GARDEN CLUB

Annual Plant Sale

The Demarest Garden Club's annual plant sale and only public fundraiser is organized around pre-orders placed by Monday, April 2nd for pickup at the United Methodist Church, 109 Hardenburgh Ave., Demarest, on Friday, May 4th (2 - 6 pm) or Saturday, May 5th (9 am - 1 pm) or delivered locally for an extra fee. Pre-order forms are included in this newsletter and are also available at local libraries, 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 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 the 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 Workshop

"Victory Container Gardening"—On June 2nd from 9 am to 2 pm, we will be hosting a workshop on how to grow an organic vegetable and herb garden in containers based on the square foot gardening method. Attendees will be able to start and take home containers of their choice for their own gardens. Meet at the Davies Arboretum at 49 Anderson Avenue.

Public Meetings

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

- * Friday March 2nd, "Square Foot Gardening" by Terry Holman. Terry is an expert on community gardening and the square foot gardening method popularized by author Mel Bartholomew where plantings are placed on a square foot grid replacing the common single row method
- * April 13th, "Members Show and Tell of What's Going on in Their Gardens" and a presentation of the projects and member services of the National Garden Club and the Garden Club of NJ
- * Summer activities include tours of public gardens, members private gardens and participation in the Garden Conservancy's Open Days program of both private and public garden tours throughout the tri-state area

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 starting March 13th at the Davies Arboretum 9 – 11 am, or call Membership Chairman Luisa at 201-966-9816.

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