

DEMAREST JOURNAL



Official Borough Newsletter
Volume 44 No. 4 December 2012

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

“Superstorm Sandy” – To quote, “It’s like déjà vu all over again”! The ‘Halloween’ storm of 2011 and now Superstorm Sandy of 2012! Virtually all of Demarest lost power on Monday October 29. After a monumental effort by tree and electric crews, power was restored to about half of Demarest on Saturday Nov. 3 with the other half on Sunday Nov. 4. A few individual homes had power restored on Friday Nov. 9.

I offer a very sincere thank you to our volunteers on the Fire Department, Ambulance Corps and Community Emergency Response Team. Employees in the Department of Public Works (DPW) and Police Departments worked tirelessly during the storm and their work is very much appreciated. **I thank our Demarest residents for your patience as we addressed power outages and our continuing cleanup of storm debris and leaves.**

We coordinated tree removal from wires with Rockland Electric crews so repairs to wires could be quickly made. Rockland Electric officials gave us full cooperation, responding in a timely manner considering the magnitude of damage over such a wide-spread area. Once crews (either Rockland Electric or their contractors) arrived in Demarest, they remained until virtually all customers’ power was restored. Tree crews from Michigan and line crews from Georgia Power worked hand-in-hand with Demarest to get power back as quickly as possible.

To expedite cleanup and keep our DPW employees and contractors safe, please keep branches and piles of leaves separate. Please keep the piles of branches and leaves off the streets as much as possible so as not to create a safety hazard for pedestrians and vehicles and keep sidewalks clear of any obstructions.

Your governing body has authorized additional emergency funds to deal with the cleanup and we anticipate receiving assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the form of personnel with chain saws and chippers.

An additional thank you to the many volunteers at Borough Hall who spent Thursday afternoon (Nov. 1) collating, folding and sealing the nearly 1,800 packets of information on the proposed police merger with Bergen County. Due to the storm, without these volunteers, who thought they were just at Borough Hall to recharge their phones and computers, we may not have been able to deliver this information to our residents in time for Election Day.

Proposed Police Merger – The vote, excluding absentee and provisional ballots, on the proposed police merger was 1,002 in favor and 756 opposed. The next step for your governing body is to vote on introducing an ordinance to merge Demarest Police with County Police and if this receives a majority of affirmative votes, I anticipate a public hearing will be held on this ordinance at the Dec. 3 Mayor & Council meeting. The Bergen County Freeholder Board also has to approve this merger, action they may take at their meetings in Nov. and Dec.

New Borough Hall Employee – Philip Moore started work on Oct. 29 as our new Chief Financial Officer and Tax Collector. What an auspicious start, a “superstorm” with 4th quarter tax payments due Nov. 1. Welcome to Demarest Phil! Seriously, Phil has already started addressing the backlog of work in the finance office with assistance from Sadie Delihassani our Deputy Tax Collector.

At the risk of offending those who like snow, I hope this winter is similar to last. Perhaps Mother Nature spent her resources in October and will give us another mild winter. We can all certainly use a break.

*Sincerely,
Ray Cywinski*

WELCOME PHIL !!

You may have seen a new face at Borough Hall, well that would be our new CFO/Tax Collector, Philip Moore. Phil is a resident in Glen Rock with his wife Antoinette. He is a father to two young adult daughters, Mary & Nancy Sue. He has a BBA from Baruch College, New York City. He was previously employed by the Borough of Franklin Lakes as their Tax Collector/Deputy CFO/Payroll Coordinator. Come by and say hi to Phil the next time you are at Borough Hall.

***The Finance team is now up and running
with Phil and Sadie!!***

DEMAREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

In October, the department conducted Fire Prevention programs at L.Lee and CRS schools. These visits, in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week help to instill valuable Fire Safety lessons. During the visits, the students interacted with the Demarest Fire Fighters, practicing some of the lessons discussed, such as crawling low in smoke and having two ways out! They also had a chance to view the department trucks and tools.

As part of its annual program, the department will again be sponsoring the Fire Prevention Poster contest. This program has been very successful and we look forward to reviewing the many excellent entries. Winners will be presented with awards.

During the recent storm, the Demarest Fire Department responded to over 50 calls to assist residents. Many of our Volunteers slept at the Fire House during the storm.

SAFETY

Recent storms such as "SANDY" caused havoc in the NY/NJ area. As a result of power outages, many home owners utilized gas powered generators. Unfortunately, several people in the NY/NJ area lost their lives due to carbon monoxide poisoning because they failed to follow basic safety instructions. If you use a gas powered generator, DO NOT run it in a garage or any enclosed area. Keep the units at least 15' away from the home. Do not run them near windows, doors and basement windows or vents!

Other Safety Tips

- Please ensure that all heating systems are safely maintained.
- Please maintain your fireplaces. Flues/Chimney should be checked annually. Keep screens and glass doors closed during operation.
- Be sure candles are kept out of reach of children and are away from any drapes, curtains or papers.
- DO NOT leave vehicles running in the garage. Carbon monoxide poisoning is silent and deadly.
- Adopt a hydrant! Please keep any fire hydrants on a near your property clear of snow and debris. Valuable time is lost when firefighters have to remove snow from a hydrant.
- Easy to read, well lit house number helps us to find your home quicker in case of an emergency.
- A key or code left with the Police Department or a trusted neighbor will avoid possible damage to your home if there is a fire alarm while you are away and we have to make entry.

DEMAREST POLICE DEPARTMENT

Impaired Driving Enforcement Crackdown

From December 7, 2012 through January 2, 2013 law enforcement officers from the Demarest Police Department will be stepping up impaired driving enforcement as part of the "***Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over***". 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." Please assist us in our efforts to keep our community safe by immediately reporting suspected drunk drivers and deterring those who have consumed alcohol from driving.

Follow us on Twitter (Demarest Police,NJ) or friend us on Facebook (Demarest Office of Emergency Management) to be informed on town wide safety bulletins during emergencies.

Parking Restriction on Hardenburgh Ave.

According to 39:4-13e, parking is prohibited within 25' of a marked crosswalk. This is why parking is no longer allowed 25 feet west of the crosswalk at the corner of Hardenburgh Ave. and Park St. To avoid a potential parking ticket, do not park in this area. A sign is posted regarding this parking restriction.

***HAVE A SAFE HEALTHY
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON***

CHRISTMAS TREE

The annual lighting of the Holiday Tree will be held on Tuesday, December 11th 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.

CHANUKAH

The Menorah Lighting Celebration will be on December 9th at 5pm at the Gazebo. It is a tradition to have a different Demarest family light the menorah candle each night. If you would like to volunteer to light the menorah contact Ellen Sokoloff @ 201-784-8641.

REORGANIZATION DAY

The date for the 2013 reorganization was not selected at the deadline of the newsletter. Residents are advised to check for the date and time on the Borough website and the electronic sign downtown. Refreshments 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.

ATTENTION RESIDENTS

Please call Miele Sanitation at 201-768-3818 to schedule an appointment to pick up large appliances, like household equipment. 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 they 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 plastic bags.



DEMAREST GARDEN CLUB

Meetings of the club are held from 1:00-3:00 P.M. in the United Methodist Church at 109 Hardenburgh Avenue. Club Business Meeting is conducted at 1:00 P.M. with Program to follow at 2:00 P.M. All interested gardeners, visitors and prospective new members are welcome.

Friday, January 4, 2:00 P.M. Program: "Start the Year Right" presented by the general membership, which will share what they do when not gardening.

Friday, February 1, 2:00 P.M. Program: "The Most Common Mistakes in Gardening" presented by Dail Reid, Horticultural Consultant for Bergen County master Gardeners Program.

Friday, March 1, 2:00 P.M. Program: "Importance of Bees" presented by Ron Breland, whom established The Bee Sanctuary in West Nyack & Clavarack, NY. Learn how to encourage pollination by bees and avoid pesticides that threaten pollinators.

Annual Garden Club Holiday Party at Madeline's on Friday, December 7th at 12pm. For more information call Elaine Welch @ 201-784-0829.

Garden Club NJ Flower Show themed "Mardi Gras Madness" will be held from February 14-17 at NJ Convention & Expo Center, Edison.

There will be a tour of the Duke Farms in Hillsborough to see the Orchid Conservatory. Date to be determined.

The Demarest Garden Club has been selected to participate in the 24th annual Holiday Open House at Skylands Manor in Ringwood. The Grand Maor House at the NJ Botanical Garden is arrayed in splendid seasonal finery at this special time of year. Our theme is "The Wonderful World of Winter". Event days are November 29-December 2; hours are from 10am-4pm. For more information call 973-962-9532 or www.njbg.org. Come and Enjoy!

Membership in the Demarest Garden Club is open to all local gardeners, male and female, from any town. Annual dues are \$25 and obligations minimal. To join, just attend any Friday afternoon public meeting, contact us at our website www.DemarestGardenClub.org or call Membership Chairman Luisa Pittaluga at 201-966-9816.

DEMAREST SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Trees are not our enemy!!!!!!

Although after the last few years (weeks) we may wonder about that, with major damage all over the borough with private and shade (town) trees coming down not to mention the devastation all over the state. 'Irene' and 'Sandy' storms have 'beaten up' on our neighborhood 'canopy' cover with total loss of old shade trees and home owner trees in some instances. But let us not forget that many of the private property trees and shade trees were planted decades ago—these trees are aging and vulnerable to 'mother nature'. We NEED to think replanting appropriately. Much of Demarest's beauty has been its trees and how they bring 'canopy' effect to our town and joy for shade during hot months and lend beauty to the overall landscape of Demarest.

There is an effort ongoing by the Shade Tree Commission to rebuild our shade tree population and we will need your help. For now we need your cooperation in reporting shade trees that have been felled or are injured by recent "Sandy" so that we can do the proper clean up/pruning in as **timely manner as possible**. Some shade trees have had ongoing problems in which the Commission has worked to resolve. Please report damaged or felled shade (town) trees to our office 201-768-0167 x10. If you are concerned that there is eminent danger from a shade tree, please report immediately. A shade (town) tree is designated as within a 10 ft area (easement) from the curb of the road to your property.

We are very hopeful that home owners will help nurture that shade tree planted in front of their property when that happens. The Commission is mindful that home owners would like a say in tree planting if it involves their home—We welcome the input and will be considerate of their concerns. Although not all members of the Shade Tree Commission are tree experts, we make every effort to consult with arborists when necessary.

We thank you for your cooperation & patience!!

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 @ United Methodist Church on the 3rd Friday of the month.

38TH ANNUAL POTTERY SHOW & SALE CANCELLED

For the first time in 38 years the Annual Pottery Show & Sale has been cancelled due to the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. The Annual Pottery Show & Sale at the Art School at Old Church is nationally known as a premier East Coast showcase of nationally renowned potters. The storm's aftermath hampered the ability to simultaneously put forth a successful show and operate fully as a local art school. The show will resume next year.

Since its inception in 1974, the Pottery Show & Sale has been a premier event, attracting world-class potters and pottery enthusiasts from around the country. The show has earned its reputation as a go-to event for fine art ceramics where visitors can purchase one of a kind works in addition to supporting the renowned artisans.

For 37 years, this fundraiser for the Art School at Old Church has attracted over 1,200 visitors from near and far. The school transforms into a unique gallery for viewing works by the finest ceramic artisans from across the country. Exhibiting artists are carefully selected by renowned ceramic artist Karen Karnes for their relevance to the contemporary ceramic scene.

Local artists from New Jersey and New York City are included in the show for their achievements on the national stage. Few of the works are strictly sculptural, but there are those that blur the line such as the whimsically zoomorphic pots of Alison Palmer, or the modern block compositions of Sheryl Zacharia of New York, New York. Rugged, volcanic forms by Rob Sieminski of Philips, Maine and the hearth-ready casseroles by Robbie Lobell of Washington State will be missed by dedicated audiences. Please contact the school for more information on invited potters. The Art School is lucky to have these artists return for next year's show which stands to be as excellent as ever.

Those who have attended in the past will miss the Pottery Show this year for its historic reputation, prominent ceramic artists, and over 2,000 one of a kind works of art to marvel at and choose from. Each year, pottery for sale includes pieces for the home and table, such as serving bowls, platters, and tea sets, as well as ovenware, vases, sculptural pieces and much more. This festive tradition will resume with an excellent show in 2013. For directions and general information, call 201-767-7160 or visit www.tasoc.org.

For more information, visit www.tasoc.org or call 201-767-7160.



WINTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 29-Dec 2 Demarest Garden Club Winter floral display @ Skylands Manor, Ringwood; 10am-4pm

November 30-Dec 1 Academy of the Holy Angels play "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

November 30- Dec 1 Methodist Church Annual Community Craft Fair; Friday 3-8pm, Saturday 10am-3pm.

December 3 Mayor & Council Meeting; 8pm

December 7 Luther Lee Emerson School Holiday Concert, 1:30pm

December 9 Menorah Lighting Celebration, 5pm @ Gazebo

December 11 Christmas Tree Lighting, 7:30pm @ Railroad Station

December 12 Middle School Holiday Concert, 7pm

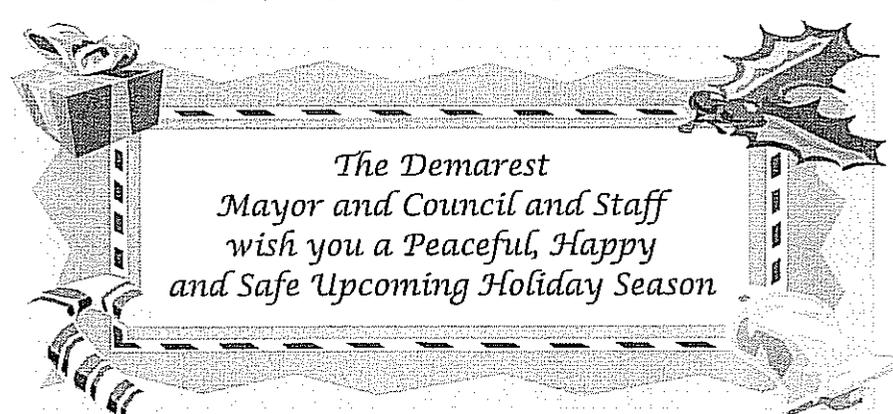
December 17 Mayor & Council Meeting; 8pm

January Reorganization to be announced

January 4 Demarest Garden Club meeting @ United Methodist Church; 2pm program: "Start the Year Right"

February 1 Demarest Garden Club meeting @ United Methodist Church; 2pm Program: "The Most Common Mistakes in Gardening" presented by Dail Reid

March 1 Demarest Garden Club meeting @ United Methodist Church; 2pm Program: "Importance of Bees" presented by Ron Breland



*The Demarest
Mayor and Council and Staff
wish you a Peaceful, Happy
and Safe Upcoming Holiday Season*

BOARD OF HEALTH

It is that time of the year again to renew your dog and cat license for 2013. 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. In order to be licensed, all dogs and cats must have a current rabies vaccination, expiring not earlier than November 30, 2013. 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.

DEMAREST NATURE CENTER

January and February: Ice Skating Parties on the skating pond next to the Imaginative Playground near Wakelee Field, as conditions permit. To be on our email event notification list, go to info@DemarestNatureCenter.org or watch for skating party announcements on the town electronic bulletin board at the corner of Hardenburgh & Piermont.

Saturday, March 9: Birdhouse and Bird Feeder Building, in the Demarest Railroad Station. Two sessions: the morning session starts at 11 a.m. and the afternoon at 1 p.m. Wooden Kits are \$8 for one and \$15 for two. Participating children to be with an adult(s). And remember to bring your hammer.

Saturday, March 23: Spring Egg Hunt, Join the Bunny Rabbit and celebrate the first signs of Spring @ 2 p.m., in the Imaginative Playground near Wakelee Field. Bring your toddlers through fourth graders for some yummy fun and some great photo ops. Rain date March 24th

Many winners of the DNC Annual Photo Contest have entered their winter photos. So come to the nature center to capture your own 2013 photo contest entries!

For details and updates go to our website @ www.demarestnaturecenter.org

A big thank you to everyone who came out and supported the craft show at our Oktoberfest

ELECTRONICS

Pursuant to the NJ Electronic Waste Management Act, as of January 1, 2011, electronic devices and components must be recycled. This includes laptop, desktop or personal computers, monitors, printers, keyboards, fax machines, copiers, TVs, stereos, cell phones and related components (modems, power supplies, VCRs), etc. Devices can be dropped off at the DPW garage.

DEMAREST MUNICIPAL COURT

The court dates for the remainder of the year are December 11th, January 8th, and February 13th. If you are pleading **NOT GUILTY** you must notify the court and a court date will be assigned to your case. For more information call 201-768-1160

DEMAREST PUBLIC LIBRARY

Richard Muti and Charles Buckley will discuss their book "The Charmer: The True Story of Robert Reldan- Rapist, Murder and Millionaire a Library on Sunday December 2 , at 2 pm. Mr. Buckley and Mr. Muti spent three years researching and writing their true crime book about one of New Jersey's most notorious killers. Deputy Attorney General Charles Buckley spent 25 years as one of New Jersey's top trial prosecutors. Mr. Buckley was the prosecutor who finally convicted Reldan after two previous murder trials had ended in failure. Mr. Muti has more than 70 publishing credits- mostly OP-Ed pieces on history, law, politics and government. He spent 19 years as a successful trial prosecutor and taught writing, American government and politics, criminal justice & history. Please call the library @ 201-768-8714 to register as seating is limited. Copies of this book will be available for purchase.

Storytime has continued to be a great success. Call Kate @ 201-768-8714 for more information or e-mail her at kate.gorman@bcccls.org.

Two new Mac computer have been installed in the YA Room with two Dell's to come.

Our new computer system Polaris will be up and running on December 12, 2012. You will be asked to present the library card used to place the request when picking up requested items. So be sure to bring your library card with you.

We strive to make your library a vital part of the community, welcoming all, and alive with activities. We need your participation in this endeavor. Your advocacy on behalf of your library is essential. Realistic and constructive suggestions are always welcome.

DEMAREST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Manhattan Optical Company was located on the Demarest family property off County Rd between Glenwood Ave and Ross Ave. and Elm and Spruce Streets. A large pond fed with water coming from streams off the palisade ridge had been the site of the J.R. and B.V. Demarest Woolen Mill and ice house. At some point in the late 1800's the 17 acres were leased by F. and EM Schaefer. In 1894 a large building measuring 52 by 100 feet was erected. It was noted in a local newspaper that "the machine shop and other buildings of the Manhattan Optical Co. are near completion, and promise in the near future, under new management, to be one of the largest of the kind in the country." The company employed a large number of men and shipped their products all over the country and overseas. It held a prominent spot in the photographic business. Evidently camera lenses was the main product manufactured. It is also noted that they developed a leather-covered red bellows camera. Prior to the 1903 incorporation of Demarest, the mill site was part of Palisade Township and probably had a mailing address of Cresskill that was closer than Demarest depot and mail delivery. On August 6, 1902 the Gundlach Optical Co. acquired the Manhattan Optical Company Of Cresskill, New Jersey, and changed the name of the company to the "Gundlach-Manhattan Optical Company." with a capital of \$600,000. All of the machinery, stock, patents and business of the Manhattan Optical Co moved to the Rochester, New York plant. The pond was filled in with dirt from the hill to the East. The area became known as "Demarest Gardens" a development of homes during the 1940 and 1950. People who purchased these houses often found lenses when they dug gardens or walked in the nearby wooded area. Also found are remnants of bricks and metal fragments presumably from the buildings.

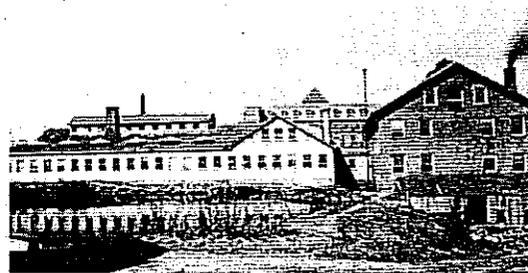
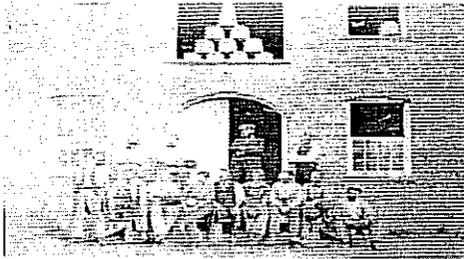
People who worked at the Optical Factory

Charles Leonard- Carpenter, Henry Ulrich - Inspector, James Owens - Clerk , Martha Parcell- Covers Cameras, Albert Scott- Machinist, Jacob Pflieger - Lens Maker, Martina Parsell- Covering, Lydia Oliver - Leather works, Ernest Blankenstein - Polisher, Marcelis Cole - Varnisher, Christopher Graf - Plates, Lizzie Werth - Optician, Max Graf - Nickel Plater , August Donniss - Leather Worker, Peter Han - Optician, George Walters -Machinist, Adolph Graf- Superintendent - Cabinet Maker

WOOLEN MILL WORKER

John Middleton -- Woolen Spinner (1880 - 1900)

The Manhattan Optical Factory



Trivia: Noted in Demarest tax books for Schaefer Brewing Company, Taxes 1911 for 17 acres were \$67.66 -- Taxes in 1925 for 16.79 acres were \$253.83.

"Sandy" and the after effects are in the past. If you have any "show and tell" photos of what happened as a result of the storm in our town of Demarest please consider sharing them. They will become part of the borough archives. Future curious residents may just want to SEE what happened here in late October early November 2012. Work continues to be done to enhance Demarest's archives with photos, memories and items that residents and non-residents provide. 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.

Borough of Demarest
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