

DEMAREST JOURNAL



Official Borough Newsletter
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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

2013 Budget – Preliminary discussions have been held regarding this year's budget. This year promises to be even more daunting than the last two years due to decreased surplus funds, increased costs incurred from prior years' projects and the 2% tax cap levy. I am hopeful that the council finance committee will have some estimate of the proposed budget by the time this newsletter goes to print. As this goes to print (Feb. 21), we do not have a proposed budget nor do we know what surplus funds are available to be used. As the vote last year to exceed the 2% tax cap was overwhelmingly against, I will work to not have a referendum this year to exceed the cap.

Police Consolidation – On November 6, 2012, Demarest voters supported by a vote of 56% - 44%, the referendum to merge the Demarest Police with the Bergen County Police. Demarest then prepared a contract, with the applicable County and Demarest parties involved, passed a resolution to dissolve the Demarest Police Department and introduced an ordinance to merge with the County Police. On December 28, the Bergen County Freeholders voted 4-3 not to merge the County and Demarest Police Departments. This proposal would have saved Demarest taxpayers approximately \$400,000 per year while at the same time benefiting County taxpayers and serving as a model for future shared services, not only in Bergen County but across New Jersey. Unlike other proposals to share services, this merger was supported by both Police unions, the County & Demarest Police Chiefs, the County Executive, I and the majority of the Demarest Council; all concerned parties working together. We are continuing to discuss options regarding the police department as well as any other shared services that would result in significant savings for our Borough residents.

Present and Immediate Future Tasks

- * **Police & DPW Contracts** – We are negotiating new contracts with the Police and DPW unions.
- * **Road Paving Projects** – Last month, we sent letters to all the residents on unpaved roads within the Borough in order to gauge their interest in paving those roads.
- * **E-Waste & Metal Recycling** – Electronic recyclables (TVs, computers, etc.) can still be dropped off at the North Borough parking lot by the ambulance corps and DPW building (Wakelee Drive). The bin for these items has been removed but we are still collecting these items to be recycled. By law, these items cannot be left at the curb for trash pickup, nor will the trash collector pick up these items. As we were not able to generate enough metal recyclables to be cost effective, the metal recycling bin has been removed and the Borough will no longer accept metal at this location.
- * **Group Home** – Work has commenced on converting a home on Knickerbocker Road for use by four adults with developmental disabilities. The Borough's Housing Trust Funds are being used to fund part of the purchase and renovation of this home.
- * **Rail Road Station** – We continue to look at the possibility of renting out the station as a café or for other purposes. Consideration of our seniors, Historical Society and other organizations that use the station will be considered in reaching a decision.
- * **110 Serpentine Road House** – We are working on resolving the issue of selling this property and getting this property back on the tax rolls and eliminating the carrying costs to the Borough. We must consider the requirements in the original purchase agreement.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us in 2012; members of the fire department, ambulance corps, CERT, the many boards and commissions and those involved with our athletic program. Your time and willingness to serve for the betterment of our town are greatly appreciated!
Thank you also to all of you who clear the snow off your sidewalks in a timely manner. The safety of all pedestrians is enhanced by your efforts.

Sincerely,
Ray Cywinski

DEMAREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

On January 28th a special assembly was conducted at CRS and Luther Lee Schools to announce the winning posters in the annual Fire Department Fire Safety Poster contest. The following students were presented with ribbons and gift certificates:

County Road School

Kindergarten: 1st Place: Gaby Rothstein; Runners-up: Angel Jeanty, Jina Pak, Catherine Lee, Gavin Greer
Grade 1: 1st Place: Celine Hong; Runners-up: Dylan Steiner, Lucy Brisman, Sloan Kaplan

Luther Lee School

Grade 2: 1st Place: Lily Dipple; Runners-up: Ella Cho, Cherie Chung, Hara Kyriacou
Grade 3: 1st Place: Olivia Presser; Runners-up: Iris Lee, Anjali Bakhru, Brian Winters
Grade 4: 1st Place: Natalia Garcia; Runners-up: Danielle Jacobson, Noah Cohen, Zachary Jacobson.

The Annual Fire Prevention program has been very successful in teaching the students about fire safety. During our visits the students also get to meet some of the fire fighters as well as see some of the fire trucks and equipment. These programs are funded by the department.

Welcome to our new Department Officers for 2013
Chief: Richard Motta, Jr., Asst. Chief: James McFadden, Sr., Captain: John McLouglin, 1st Lt.: Michael Morrison, 2nd Lt.: Robert Russenberger, Fire Official: Alan Silverman

Safety Tips: Winter is not yet over, so please

Please ensure that all heating systems are safely maintained. Don't leave rags, clothing, paper or flammable liquids near any heating systems. Including portable heaters! Please maintain your fireplaces and keep screens and glass doors closed during operation. Dispose of ashes in a safe manner. Be sure candles are kept out of reach of children and away from any drapes, curtains or papers. Be sure they are extinguished before leaving the house or going to bed. DO NOT leave vehicles or snow removal equipment 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.

CHECK YOUR SMOKE & CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS!

FUND DRIVE

If you haven't responded to our annual fund drive we encourage you to do so. Any contribution, big or small is appreciated. Without your financial assistance, many of our programs, such as the annual fire safety contests at the schools may have to be eliminated.

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 service 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

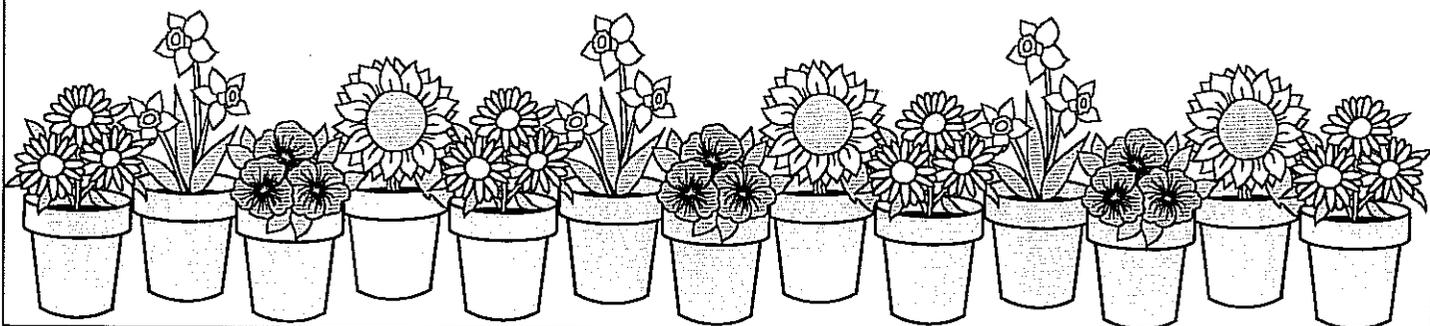
Please contact the Police Department @ 201-768-1540, if you meet these qualifications and are interested in participating.

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 and in-line skating 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.

SPRING CALENDAR EVENTS

- March 1 Demarest Garden Club meeting; 1:00pm @ the United Methodist Church; 2:00 pm program "Importance of Bees" presented by Mr. Ron Breland.
- March 16 Demarest Nature Center Bird House & Feeder Construction @ Wakelee Field House, 11am & 1pm ; cost \$8, Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- March 23 Demarest Nature Center Annual Egg Hunt @ 2pm at the children's playground (rain date: March 24)
- April 5 Demarest Garden Club meeting; 12:30pm @ the United Methodist Church; 1:30 pm program "Five Ingredients for Organic Gardening" presented by Daphne Boss Ayalon
- April 20 Demarest Nature Center Spring Nature Walk & Volunteer Day @ 9:30am (Rain date: April 20)
- April 22 41st Anniversary of Earth Day
- April 26 Arbor Day
- May 3-4 Demarest Garden Club Annual Plant Sale pick up @ United Methodist Church Fri 2-6pm, Sat 9am-1pm
- May 14 Last Day to register to vote for the Primary Election
- May 27 Memorial Day Parade; 9:30am
- May 31 Demarest Nature Center Photo Contest Deadline
- June 4 Primary Day; Polls open from 6am-8pm



DEMAREST NATURE CENTER

March 16th: Birdhouse and Bird Feeder Building Wakelee Field House. Two sessions. The first starting @ 11 a.m. and 2nd @ 1 p.m. Wooden kits are \$8 each and \$15 for two. Our builders are asked to provide their own hammers and be accompanied by an adult(s) *Knock, knock. Who's there? Wren. Wren who? Wren will I find my birdhouse?* A wren is a small reddish sparrow-like bird with an upturned tail. In early spring, wren houses shelter eggs and, then, nestlings from predators and harsh weather.

March 23rd: Egg Hunt @ 2 p.m. The Bunny Rabbit is sure to show up with some yummy fun and cuddly photo ops. Appropriate for toddlers through fourth graders @ the Imaginative Playground at Wakelee Field. Rain date March 24th.

April 20th Nature Walk & Volunteer Day. At 9:30 our naturalist, Marc Gussen, will lead our walk through the nature center trails as we spot signs of spring in the flora and fauna. Followed by... Volunteer Day, 10:30. Wear long pants and bring your gardening gloves. We'll be cleaning up litter, maintaining trails and planting native wildflower seeds in our two meadows.

Throughout the school year, DNC member dollars pay for field trips and environmental programs for our kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th graders; and for the \$1000 scholarship to assist one of our 2013 graduating seniors intending to major in environmental studies.

For details and updates see our website at www.demarestnaturecenter.org

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.

THINK SPRING

DEMAREST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

How often the Hardenburgh Ave. bridge has been crossed in a vehicle or by foot without realizing how significant it is. The Demarest Historical Society is proposing an historical marker to inform the public about the uniqueness of the bridge that crosses the Tenakill Brook. It is the only one of its type of construction in Bergen County and one of about a dozen remaining in New Jersey.

Where did Frank Sinatra, Mickey Mantle, Sugar Ray Robinson, Ava Gardner and hundreds of other A-listers--along with mobsters like Frank Costello and Meyer Lansky--eat, drink and enjoy fabulous entertainment?

It was at Bill Miller's Riviera in Fort Lee, New Jersey. The Riviera's breathtaking views of the George Washington Bridge, its stunning showgirls and its secret gambling casino drew the famous and the infamous to its tables. Bill Miller's Riviera was perched on the edge of the Palisades and attracted the most sought-after performers of the day when nightclubs were the only place they could be seen. Relive the days of the Riviera and experience Bill Miller's special touch.

A program on the above will be presented at the Demarest Borough Hall Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 7:30 PM. The program is titled "**Bill Miller's Riviera: America's Showplace in Fort Lee, NJ.**" Author, Tom Austin, will present an informative and insightful program about a place of interest for so many notable people.

Please join us for an interesting evening. All are welcome.

Historical Trivia

Electric cars are not **new** in Demarest. There was one rolling through town a long time ago. A resident, known by many residents in early 1900's was "Miss Clarke" (no relation to Mary Anne Clarke) who owned an electric car. The following was remembered by former resident, Bernie Willet.

"Miss Clarke's electric car, I remember it well, ... I do remember her coming to Willett's Farm with it one day many years ago. I never rode in it. It was the only electric car I had ever seen. I was impressed by the steering wheel which looked like something from an airplane."

DEMAREST SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Did you know that Demarest has a 67% tree canopy cover, but that cover is dwindling with our aging tree population. Although budget constraints keep new plantings at a minimum the Commission continues to look for new sources of funding through the New Jersey Forest Service and other avenues.

Water is a tree's wonder drug. Water usually does more good than fertilizer. Water is important in preventing stress that predisposes a tree to disease, insect infestations and early decline. It is essential at the time of planting to remove air pockets and to give the tree a good start in its new home. But many trees die from over watering especially when there is an automatic sprinkler system nearby to water the grass. A large newly planted tree needs only about 10 gallons of water a week in dry weather.

As many of you may know we are a designated TREE CITY USA. This designation represents some of our efforts to promote urban forestry which helps not only our immediate neighborhood but also everyone in the surrounding area. Did you know that one acre of trees can absorb six tons of carbon dioxide and add four tons of oxygen to the air we breathe---all in one year!!!!

The Commission is in the planning stage for the annual Arbor Day celebration which this year is on April 26. In the recent past we have celebrated with poster contests in the schools and a tree planting. All the students at CRS-DMS-LLS have received tree seedlings in the past and will again receive them. We are urging students and parents to nurture these small seedlings. Although somewhat delicate, these seedlings represent a substantial planting as part of our urban forestry---That's 700 trees people!!!!

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.

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. All dogs and cats must be registered by April 1st; summons will be issued for not renewing your animal license. You will be in violation of Borough Ordinance #89-6. A summons will be served, for the first offense (\$50 fine), \$100 for a second offense and for a third, a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 90 days or to a period of community service not exceeding 90 days.

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

DEMAREST MUNICIPAL COURT

The court dates for the next three months are March 12, April 9th, and May 14th. 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. Please note: tickets can be paid online at www.njmcdirect.com.

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.

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!

OUR ELDERLY MIGHT NEED OUR HELP!

We have heard of the phrase "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. With heavy snows, treacherous ice and low temperatures, it is appreciated when neighbors check up on our senior neighbors.

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.

Message from Demarest Board of Health

ELECTION NEWS

Primary Day—June 4th

Polls are open from 6am-8pm

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

The last day to register to vote in the Primary Election is May 14th. The Borough Clerk's office will be open from 9am to 9pm on May 14th for the convenience of the residents.

ART SCHOOL AT THE OLD CHURCH

Our Thrift Shop Benefits the Arts

Our Thrift Shop in Westwood is a wonderful place to browse and shop for gently used garments and housewares. Proceeds from the thrift shop support the workings of the Art School at Old Church located in Demarest. Vivien Woodford, a Demarest resident, works tirelessly as manager of Our Thrift Shop, organizing donations and volunteer shifts to keep the displays dynamic and the atmosphere calm. Woodford is also a member of the board of directors at the Art School and uses some of her many talents to keep the shop ship shape.

Each season, Bergen County residents filter through their belongings and donate their treasures to a local cause. Savvy shoppers have always known about the bargains waiting to be found in second-hand stores, and Our Thrift Shop in Westwood is a destination for many. The well-maintained displays are replenished regularly by the staff of dedicated volunteers, so there's always something new to be found!

Our Thrift Shop is located at 245 Old Hook Road in Westwood, NJ. For inquiries call 201-594-0144. Hours of operation is 10am-4pm Monday through Friday & 10am-3pm Saturday.

DEMAREST ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

HOME GENERATORS FOR USE DURING POWER OUTAGES

During Sandy, many people opted for **home generators** to carry them through the tough times. While they are useful, they also present some very real problems. A **home generator** allows you to continue using essential appliances such as air conditioners, heaters, refrigerators, as well as lights.

Home generators for power outages can be **portable** or stationary (**standby**). They run on a variety of fuels, such as gasoline, diesel, natural gas (NG), and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Each type has its pros and cons. Portable gas models are relatively cheap. For example, you can buy a **4000W set** for under \$500. However, such devices have a short run time: you would need to refill their tank several times a day if you run them continuously at rated load.

For a long term emergency consider standby sets. They can provide continuous power for the home because they are hooked up to an external fuel source, such as a natural gas line. A fixed **standby generator** is connected to both the house wiring and the fuel source. Therefore it can start immediately either by a push of a button or automatically. Automatic systems have an auto transfer switch. It can sense a power outage, isolate your electrical wiring or designated emergency circuits from the grid, and start the genset. When grid voltage is restored, such a system will connect you back to the utility lines and will turn itself off. You don't even have to be at home to activate it. Note that even though permanently installed natural gas powered gensets can provide practically unlimited run time, you still need to periodically shut them down to change the motor oil. With some engines you will need to do it as often as every 50-100 hours of operation.

If you are considering getting a home generator, the following website will provide important information so that informed decisions can be made.

www.smps.us/homegenerators.html

DEMAREST GARDEN CLUB

Annual Plant Sale

The Demarest Garden Club is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization and our upcoming annual plant sale is the club's only public fundraiser. The sale is organized around pre-orders placed by Friday, April 5. For your convenience, pre-order forms are included in this newsletter, also at Borough Hall, local libraries, and on the Club's website at www.DemarestGardenClub.org

Please mail your pre-order form with payment before April 5 to get the annuals, perennials, geraniums, hanging baskets, herb and other offerings in the colors, varieties, and quantities you prefer. In addition, the sale features a members' table with offerings of favorite and unusual plants propagated from members' gardens and the club-run Davies Arboretum.

Proceeds from the plant sale allow us to offer educational programs at our public meetings and for school children, fun planting projects around town including the Davies Arboretum, and finance Meals on Wheels floral tray favors.

Club Meetings Open to the Public

Meetings of the club are held in the United Methodist Church, 109 Hardenburgh Avenue. The 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.

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

April 5, Friday, 2:00 P.M. Program: "Five Ingredients for Organic Gardening" presented by Daphne Boss Ayalon, a Master Gardener who specializes in conservation and sustainable gardening. Learn the five best steps for creating and maintaining a chemical free garden.

May 3, Friday 2:00 – 6:00 P.M. Plant Sale: Pick-up pre-ordered plants and purchase from the members' table of homegrown items.

May 4, Saturday 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Plant Sale: Pick-up pre-ordered plants and purchase from the members' table of homegrown items.

Summer Meetings: Are based around field trips to public and private gardens and participation in the Garden Conservancy's Open Days program of garden tours throughout the tri-state area.

Social Activities and Fieldtrips Members and invited guests are welcome.

March: Duke Farms in Hillsborough, to see the Orchid Conservatory.

April: Branch Brook Cherry Blossom Festival.

May: Laurelwood Arboretum in Wayne.

June: Pot Luck Picnic Luncheon and Installation of Club Officers.

June: High Line Walking Tour, New York City.

Davies Arboretum Civic Project

The garden club oversees Davies Arboretum at 49 Anderson Avenue. Club Members meet Tuesday mornings 9 to 11 A.M. from March 19 to October 15, weather permitting. Perspective members are welcome to participate in garden-related activities including plant propagation to maintain flowering trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials and bulbs.

Membership

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 monthly public meeting, contact us at our website www.DemarestGardenClub.org or call Membership Chairman Luisa Pittaluga at 201-966-9816.

Borough of Demarest
118 SERPENTINE ROAD
DEMAREST, NEW JERSEY 07627

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 230
Paramus, NJ

ECRWS
POSTAL PATRON
DEMAREST, NEW JERSEY 07627