

# DEMAREST DIGEST



Official Borough Newsletter  
Volume 45 No. 4 December 2013

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

### Mayor's Message

#### Holiday Wishes

Starting with Thanksgiving in November and continuing with the holidays in December and New Years Day, the governing body wishes you all, safe and happy celebrations!

#### Capital Improvements

- \* The repaving of Columbus Road and sidewalk replacement from Luther Lee Emerson School to the high school property is complete. Additional paving north of Madison Avenue to the Board of Education property was added at no additional cost to the Borough as the original bids were less than anticipated and less than the amount of the grant awarded.

#### Current Tasks

- \* **Road Paving Projects** – Meetings with residents along the unpaved roads of Chestnut St., Drury La., Margaret Ct., Orchard Rd. (off Anderson Ave.), Prescott St., Prospect St., and Ruth La. are to be held as soon as the DPW committee makes the arrangements.
- \* **Flooding on Wells Court** – Once the videoing of the storm drains is completed and reviewed, the governing body will discuss available options to resolve this problem.
- \* **Dredging of Demarest Brook** – The lack of an access agreement with one property owner has prevented this project (vicinity of Central & Northwood Avenues) from going forward at this point. Dredging will proceed as soon as an agreement is reached, weather conditions allow and the County is available.
- \* **Railroad Depot** – The two senior citizen groups in town are now utilizing the depot for their meetings and activities. Anyone 55 and older can partake in the senior activities.

#### Reminders

- \* Leaves will continue to be picked up at the curb until December 5. Following that, you can bring leaves (loose or in paper bags, no plastic) to the composting area off County Road, north of Orchard Road. Leaves only at curb side - no branches or foreign material.
- \* Branch removal will begin shortly after leaf collection ends. Branches will be removed on the east side of town (east of the railroad tracks) the first 10 days of the month (eg. Jan. 1-10), while branches will be removed on the west side of town (west of the tracks), the second 10 days of the month (e.g Jan. 11-20).
- \* For pedestrian safety, following a snowfall, please shovel your sidewalks within 24 hours of the end of the snowfall. Do not place the snow from sidewalks and driveways in the roadway. (Local ordinances regulate the aforementioned).
- \* If you have a fire hydrant along your property, please keep the area around the hydrant clear, including removing snow. This will help you and your neighbors in case of an emergency.

Congratulations to Councilman Joseph Gray on his re-election to the Borough Council. Congratulations also to Councilwoman-Elect Melinda Iannuzzi who will join the council in January.

Last, but certainly not least, a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to Councilwoman Mary Montagne for her dedication and hard work over the last three years! I will miss her diligence, attention to detail and follow-up. Beside the duties of her respective committees, Councilwoman Montagne often volunteered and went above and beyond in assisting with extra tasks for the Borough and its residents. **Job(s) well done Mary!**

Sincerely,  
Ray Cywinski

## DEMAREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department recently conducted its annual Fire Prevention Program at County Road School and Luther Lee. These visits, held in October, help commemorate National Fire Prevention Week. The kids learned valuable fire safety lessons conducted by the Firefighters. They also had a chance to view some of the trucks and gear. The students were also reminded to participate in the Fire Department's Fire Safety Poster contest. We encourage the parents to discuss the program and the poster contest with their children, as it helps to reinforce the lessons learned!

### **SAFETY**

- \* *If you haven't done so, PLEASE have your chimney, flues and heating systems checked for proper operation. This goes for fireplaces as well!*
- \* *Please keep all flammable liquids stored safely. Keep them away from water heaters and heating systems. Spilled liquids or fumes may be ignited by a heat source such as your furnace or boiler.*
- \* *DO NOT leave any vehicles running in the garage. Carbon monoxide poisoning is deadly.*
- \* *An easy to read, well lit house number helps us to find your home quicker in case of an emergency.*
- \* *Don't, overload your fire-place, keep screens and fireplace doors closed during operation. Ensure fire is out prior to turning in for the night. Dispose of ashes in a safe manner! Metal containers should be used for disposal. Coals can smolder for hours.*
- \* *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.*

### **FUND DRIVE**

The department urgently reminds all residents to respond to our annual fund drive. Any contributions, big or small, helps. Without your helps, many of our programs, such as the annual fire safety contests at the schools may have to be eliminated.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

We are a volunteer organization that has been providing services to the community since 1894. New members are always needed. Don't have the time to be a full member then join us as an Auxiliary member. Stop by the Fire House any Sunday morning or Tuesday night to learn more.

## DEMAREST POLICE DEPARTMENT

### **Impaired Driving Enforcement Crackdown**

From December 13, 2013 through January 1, 2014 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.

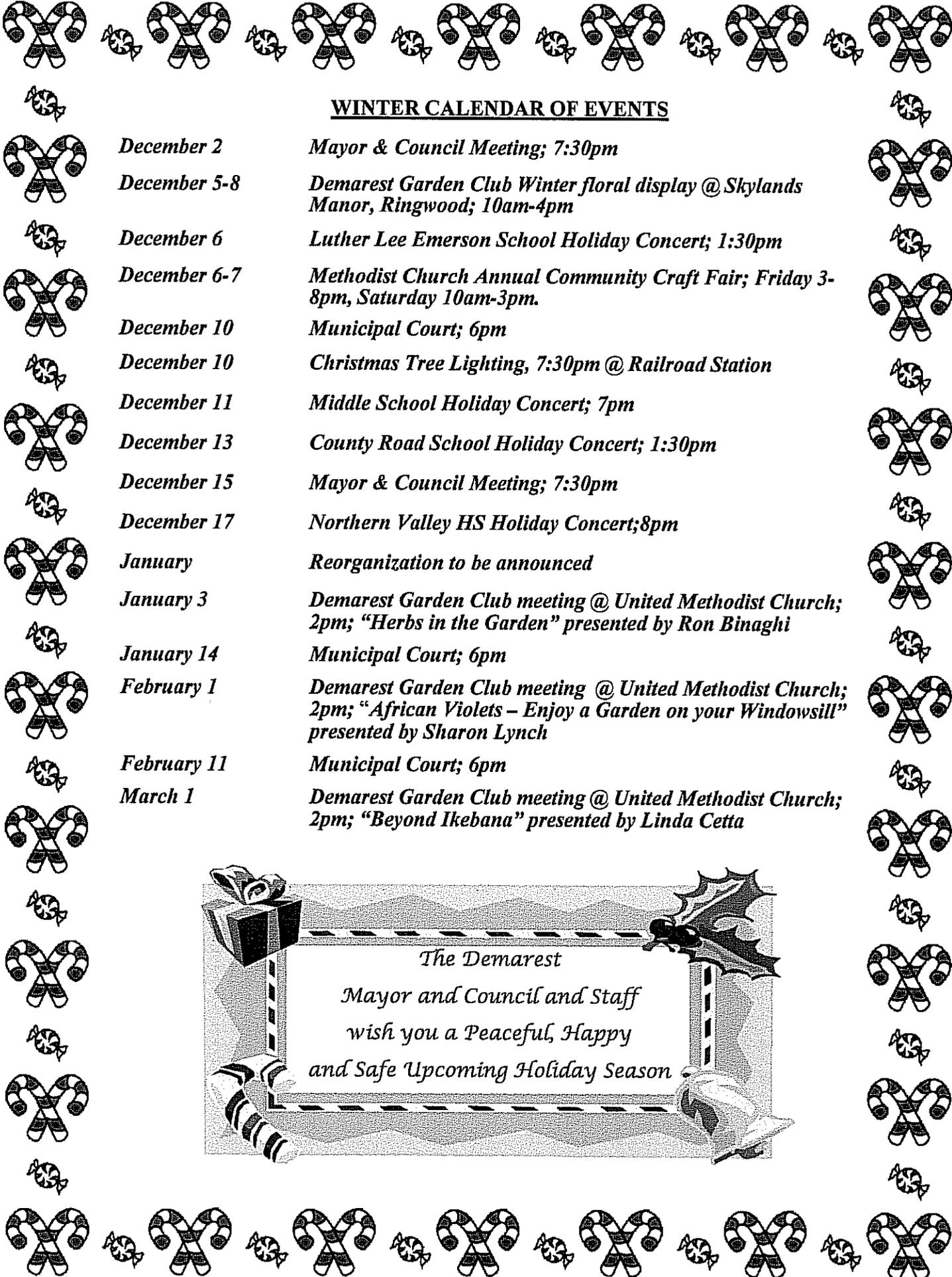
Demarest Police Department offers the following advice:

- \* 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.

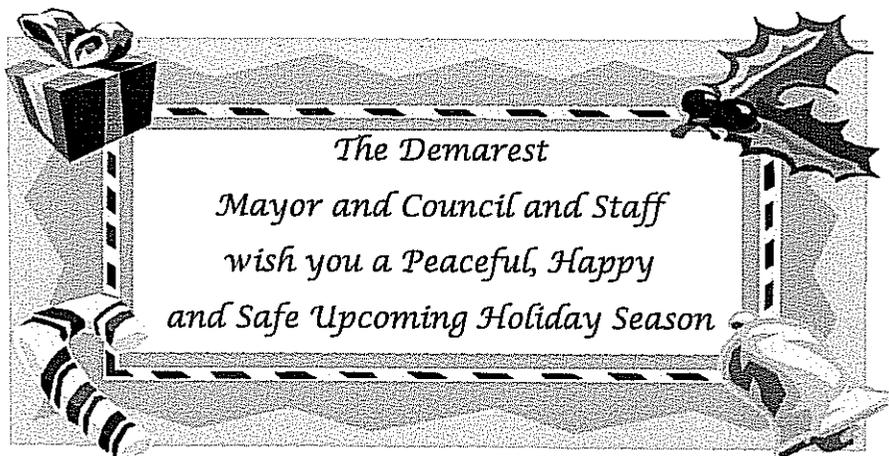
Follow us on Twitter (Demarest Police,NJ) or friend us on Facebook (Demarest Office of Emergency Management) to be informed on town wide safety bulletins during emergencies.

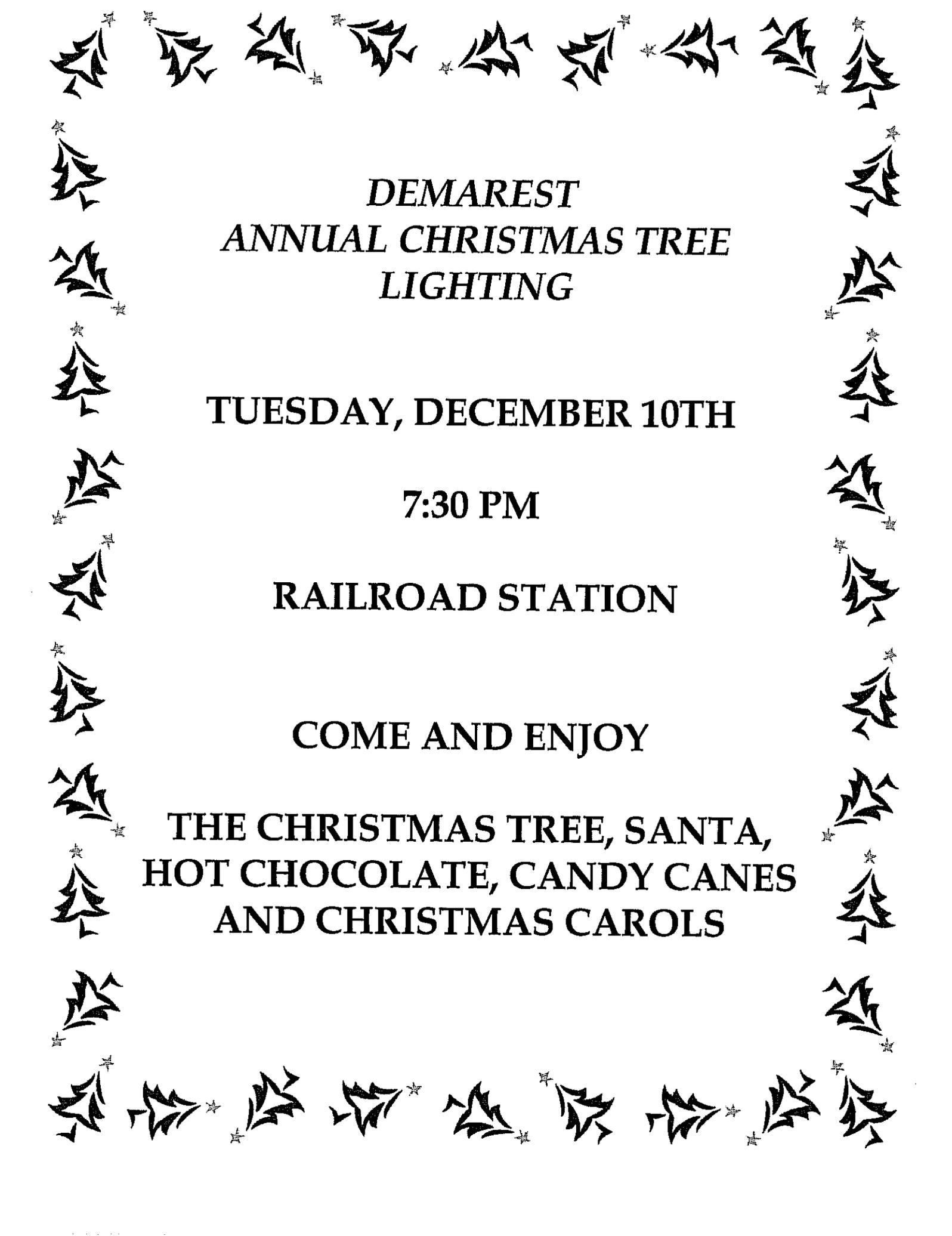
**HAVE A SAFE HEALTHY  
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON**



WINTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- December 2* Mayor & Council Meeting; 7:30pm
- December 5-8* Demarest Garden Club Winter floral display @ Skylands Manor, Ringwood; 10am-4pm
- December 6* Luther Lee Emerson School Holiday Concert; 1:30pm
- December 6-7* Methodist Church Annual Community Craft Fair; Friday 3-8pm, Saturday 10am-3pm.
- December 10* Municipal Court; 6pm
- December 10* Christmas Tree Lighting, 7:30pm @ Railroad Station
- December 11* Middle School Holiday Concert; 7pm
- December 13* County Road School Holiday Concert; 1:30pm
- December 15* Mayor & Council Meeting; 7:30pm
- December 17* Northern Valley HS Holiday Concert; 8pm
- January* Reorganization to be announced
- January 3* Demarest Garden Club meeting @ United Methodist Church; 2pm; "Herbs in the Garden" presented by Ron Binaghi
- January 14* Municipal Court; 6pm
- February 1* Demarest Garden Club meeting @ United Methodist Church; 2pm; "African Violets – Enjoy a Garden on your Windowsill" presented by Sharon Lynch
- February 11* Municipal Court; 6pm
- March 1* Demarest Garden Club meeting @ United Methodist Church; 2pm; "Beyond Ikebana" presented by Linda Cetta





**DEMAREST  
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE  
LIGHTING**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH**

**7:30 PM**

**RAILROAD STATION**

**COME AND ENJOY**

**THE CHRISTMAS TREE, SANTA,  
HOT CHOCOLATE, CANDY CANES  
AND CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

### DEMAREST PUBLIC LIBRARY

Public libraries are awesome! As of 2014 the Demarest Library along with 34 other BCCLS Libraries will be subscribing to Zino. Zino is an online magazine service that you allows you to read or download 100 magazines to your computer, iPad, iPhone, Kindle Fire and PCMac.

View full digital copies of your favorite magazine! Magazine issues are not checked out so they're always available any time. You must have a current Demarest Library card to use this collection.

Want to learn a new language ! Learn English with a narration in your native tongue through an ESL course taught in 15 different languages!

Check out Mango Language on the library website [demarest.bccls.org](http://demarest.bccls.org) Mango will also be offering Language learning through film. This additional feature will be available soon.

If you have not had a chance, please come and visit our newly renovated children's room.

News of children programs and events are also available at [demarest.bccls.org](http://demarest.bccls.org) or check us out on Facebook.

Library Hours are as follows: Monday & Thursday 10 am – 8 pm; Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 10 am – 5 pm; Sunday 1pm – 5pm

Holiday Closings:

Early Closing November 27 – 1 pm; Closed November 28, November 29; Closed, December 24, December 25 & December 26; Early Closing December 31 – 12:30 pm

### **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.

# **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

### BOARD OF HEALTH

It is that time of the year again to renew your dog and cat licenses for 2014. 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 no earlier than November 30, 2014. 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.

### CHRISTMAS TREE

The annual lighting of the Holiday Tree will be held on Tuesday, December 10th 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 1st at 7pm 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.

### MUNICIPAL PARKING

If you are in need of additional parking or have a vehicle that should not be parked in your driveway and need someplace to park - there are available spots downtown for a nominal permit parking fee. To inquire, please call the Borough Clerk, Susan Crosman at 201-768-0167 ext. 39 for further details

### DEMAREST NATURE CENTER

**January and February: Ice-skating parties** on the hockey ponds, as weather permits. Hot chocolate will be served. To be put on an email notification list for skating parties, write to [info@DemarestNatureCenter.org](mailto:info@DemarestNatureCenter.org). Or watch the electronic bulletin board at the corner of Hardenburgh and Piermont for announcements.

Late fall and winter inspired many of the photographers who won our 2013 DNC's photo contest. You can see the winning photos on our website [www.demarestnaturecenter.org](http://www.demarestnaturecenter.org). So check it out and maybe you'll find inspiration on our winter trails too.

A huge "thank you" to all of you who came out and supported the craft show at the Oktoberfest, our best ever!

The Demarest Nature Center is a member supported 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation that was founded in 1971 to save sixty acres of forests and meadows in one of the most densely populated areas in the world from development. It is open to all, 365 days a year. Rare for a nature center, it allows responsible use to bicyclist and dog owners. Membership starts at \$20 per year. If you're interested in becoming a member or trustee please call Marianna Simpson at 784-0465.

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

### UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Church Annual Community Craft Fair will be held on Friday, December 6th from 3pm -8pm and Saturday, December 7th from 10am-3pm.

There will be a Community dinner on Friday night from 5-7pm. Saturday soup/sandwich lunch from 12-2pm. Come join fellowship of food prepared by local restaurants and church chefs.

Start your holiday shopping and check out all of the many crafters and vendors.

### CPR CLASSES

CPR class are offered at the United Methodist Church on Wednesday at 7pm

### DEMAREST SHADE TREE COMMISSION

We hope your Fall has been wonderful. Have you been a 'leaf peeper'-the colors are magnificent!!!! Now for leaf removal-leaf pick up ends the week of December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please remember, **no** sticks or twigs in the leaf piles.

The NJ Shade Tree Federation conference was held October 25 & 26 in Cherry Hill, NJ. Many of the presenters were from Rutgers University Environmental and Biological Services. Here are a few 'pearls' from the first day of presentations.

- . Plant hardiness zones are changing (**subtly**)—wetter and warmer.
- . Sugar maples are decreasing- 50% decrease in production of maple syrup over the past 50 years.
- . Management and selection of trees need to be based on the water supply.
- . Snow cover is decreased by ½-this changes the nutrients in the soil.
- . Plants move.
- . Wind speeds of 50mph can cause tree failures in non defective trees.
- . Approx. 113,000 thousand trees were felled in NJ by Super Storm Sandy which represents less than 1% of NJ's canopy cover.
- . NJ has approx. 152 million trees in the urban setting.
- . If you are thinking of planting trees this Fall please consider a few 'failure resistant' species: Sycamore, London Plane, Beech and Honey locust.
- . Remember to water the newly planted trees during the winter according to the species.

In the next issue of the Newsletter the STC will have more 'pearls' to share with you. Please go to [Demarestnj.net](http://Demarestnj.net) web site to locate answers to your questions regarding contacting the STC for issues about your street trees and concerns or call 201-768-0167 x30 Elise Wrede.

### DEMAREST MUNICIPAL COURT

The court dates for the remainder of the year are December 10th, January 14th, and February 11th. Court begins at 6pm 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 AMBULANCE CORP

Getting and keeping your family safe can prevent unnecessary trips to the doctor or emergency room. Here are some tips that will help keep you safe.

- \* Become trained in first aid and CPR with AED. Ideally, at least one person in each household should have these life saving skills. Research shows 75% of out of hospital cardiac arrests occur at home and 25% of hospital emergency room visits could be eliminated if someone knew first aid.
- \* Get "hands on" experience in using a fire extinguisher and learn how to put out small fires in your home. Every adult in your household should be able to operate a fire extinguisher. Many local fire departments provide demonstrations and training at community events or in presentations to church groups, community or homeowner associations.
- \* Refresh your driving skills. Adults seldom receive any additional driver training after high school. A defensive driving course, either online or in a classroom, provides information on how to prevent collisions, recognize potential hazards and drive defensively in unpredictable conditions.
- \* Learn to swim. All adults and children should learn to swim. It is never too late for an adult to learn to swim or too early for children to begin developing water skills. Swimming lessons are offered locally by many park districts, YMCA's and other community locations.

Please consider HELPING the Demarest Ambulance Corps either by volunteering or by donation. HELP US TO HELP YOU! You can contact us at 201-767-8050. Our address is PO Box 131 Demarest, NJ 07627

### 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 201-768-3398.

### DEMAREST ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Sustainable Jersey is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey that want to go green, save money and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term. Launched in 2009, it is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support and reward communities as they pursue sustainability programs.

The Environmental commission has applied for certification, and has been notified that the application is in the process of being considered.

By achieving Sustainable Jersey certification, Demarest would gain recognition for the town's accomplishments and join the elite group of certified communities that are leading the way toward a more sustainable future for us all.

### 2014 Demarest Community Events

In the face of rising expenses and a 2% cap, the past three years have seen the Borough of Demarest reducing all non-services related expenses to maintain the level of services provided to Borough Residents. These services we have been striving to maintain are: Ambulance Corps, Fire Department, Police Department, DPW for leaf pickup, branch pick up, overall maintenance of the Borough, and Office Staff to support the Borough and requests from Residents.

Non Services activities that the Borough has not been able to fund are the Halloween Parade, Summer Concerts in the Park, and Demarest Day.

The Halloween Parade, also known as the Ragamuffin Parade, has been funded by private donations for the past two years. Council Members, Steven Schliem, Judy Rosenthal, and Ted Davis are working to form committees that will bring back the Summer Concerts in the Park and Demarest Day. In order to support these activities we need volunteers and we need donations from community members and local businesses.

We are scheduling a Demarest Recreation Committee meeting to be held at Borough Hall on Tuesday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 at 7:30pm. The agenda will take us to 8:30pm. The objective of the meeting is to establish sub-committees to support each Community Event. Please reach out to us via email at: [demarestduckpond@gmail.com](mailto:demarestduckpond@gmail.com) to express your interest and/or ideas.

**DEMAREST GARDEN CLUB**

**Club Meetings Open to the Public**

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 start at 2:00 P.M. All interested gardeners, visitors and prospective new members are welcome.

**January 3, Friday, 2:00 P.M. Program:** “Herbs in the Garden” presented by Ron Binaghi, owner of Stokes Farms of Old Tappan. Learn tips to successfully grow flavorful herbs in your home garden.

**February 7, Friday, 2:00 P.M. Program:** “African Violets – Enjoy a Garden on your Windowsill” presented by Sharon Lynch, former President of the African Violet Society of Bergen County. Learn how to avoid some common pitfalls when growing African Violets at home.

**March 7, Friday, 2:00 P.M. Program:** “Beyond Ikebana” presented by Linda Cetta, flower arranger and Demarest resident. Learn how to create Japanese style flower arrangements in a variety of containers.

**Club Activities**

Members and their invited guests are welcome to join us.

**December:** Holiday Open House “25th Anniversary Celebration” at Skylands, New Jersey State Botanical Garden, held 12/5 - 12/8. Our garden club members will decorate a room in the estate’s mansion. A field trip is planned to see the historic estate decorated for holidays.

**December:** Holiday Luncheon at Madeleine’s Petit Paris.

**February:** GCNJ State Flower Show themed “From Sea to Shining Sea” held 2/13 - 2/16. Field trip to see the show at NJ Convention Center.

**February:** Flower Arranging Workshop to make small floral arrangements to be used as tray favors by Meals on Wheels.

**March:** Informal Club Flower Show themed “Hope Springs”

**Congratulations!**

The Demarest Garden Club (DGC) is proud to announce that our club received the following awards in 2013 from the Garden Club of New Jersey (GCNJ).

The GCNJ Certificate with Gold Seal for "An Excellent Yearbook" ... Judges awarded our club yearbook a perfect score of 100 points.

The GCNJ Certificate of Merit for "An Excellent Press Book"

DGC member Pat Rodriguez was acknowledged for her work as a volunteer typing awards for the GCNJ.

DGC member Beverly Kazickas was elected by the GCNJ to serve a two-year term as the District 1 Director. She will oversee the 16 garden clubs of northern NJ.

**Membership**

Membership in the Demarest Garden Club is open to all local gardeners, male and female, from any town. Annual dues are \$25; this fee includes a membership in both DGC and GCNJ. To join, attend any monthly public meeting call Membership Chairman Luisa Pittaluga at 201-966-9816 or contact us at our website [www.DemarestGardenClub.org](http://www.DemarestGardenClub.org)

Borough of Demarest  
118 SERPENTINE ROAD  
DEMAREST, NEW JERSEY 07627

ECRWS  
POSTAL PATRON  
DEMAREST, NEW JERSEY 07627

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