

# DEMAREST DIGEST

Official Borough Newsletter

Volume 46 No. 3 September 2014



## LIGHTNING DETECTION IN DEMAREST

A lightning detection system provides early warning throughout our parks and school fields. The newly installed lightning detection's alarm system, administered by Strike Guard Lightning Warning System, consists of a horn and a strobe light, covering an area that is roughly 700 yards.

When lightning up to 10 miles away is detected, the signals will be activated. The detector, located centrally in Demarest, will send a signal to remote devices located in all participating southern section municipalities, which consist of Demarest, Haworth and Closter. The northern section municipalities consist of Old Tappan, Northvale, Norwood and Harrington Park. This system is made up of a solar panel, a detection box, sirens, speakers and a strobe light.

In Demarest, five fields have been outfitted with the emergency notification devices: Demarest Middle School, Luther Lee Emerson School, County Road School, Northern Valley Regional High School and Wakelee field.

When first activated, residents will hear three blasts of the siren and a strobe light will flash and continue to flash until no lightning is detected for 30 minutes. The "all clear" signal to notify residents that it is safe to return to the fields or parks is a one-siren blast and the deactivation of the strobe lights. Until hearing the "all clear" signal, residents must go to their vehicles or a permanent structure for shelter.

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

**9/11 Remembrance (Thursday September 11, 2014)** – Please join us for our annual "9/11 Remembrance" to be held at 6:30 PM at the 9/11 Memorial in the park southeast of the railroad depot. Please join us in paying respect to the innocent victims who perished as a result of the attacks that day 13 years ago.

**Budget and Taxes** – The delay in sending out tax bills was a result of the late adoption of the County budget. With prudent fiscal management over the last three years, a budget was adopted earlier this year that will result in an increase in municipal taxes of approx. \$.007/\$100 of assessed value or \$7 for each \$100,000 of assessed value. Most of the increase is due to salary and benefit increases, including projected retroactive pay. The total tax increase for municipal purposes, municipal library, schools and County will be approx. \$12 per \$100,000 of assessed value. A decrease of \$.005/\$100 assessed value for the local school rate; a nominal increase in the regional high school rate has helped keep the overall rate increase very low. An increase of \$14.1 million in assessed value for residential properties also helped keep the overall tax rate increase to a minimum or about 0.5%.

### Major Infrastructure Improvements

- \* From Luther Lee Emerson School to north of Madison Avenue, Columbus Road was repaved last year and new sidewalks were installed with a grant. Receipt of another grant this year will allow the repaving of Columbus Road from the point we stopped last year, north to the municipal boundary. This work is planned for 2015.
- \* **Road Paving Projects** – Of seven roads that residents were originally interested in having paved, residents on only one street (Margaret Court) has a majority of residents interested in paving their road. The governing body is working with the residents to address the drainage issue along this road.
- \* **Flooding on Wells Ct.** – New curbing is to be installed to prevent road runoff from the yards. The curbs will direct the runoff into catch basins.
- \* **Dredging of Demarest Brook** - Now that all access agreements have been signed by affected residents and state regulations allow for the dredging, the Bergen County Mosquito Division can now proceed with the work. Barring adverse & schedule changes by the County, we anticipate the work to start in October.

\* **Myrtle Street** – Curbing at the east terminus of the road and repaving of the eastern 50 feet or so of the road is planned for this year.

**Boards, Commissions and Committees** – In a previous newsletter I wrote about the number of people (volunteers) needed for all the boards, commissions and services. At one of the meetings I have held to meet with residents, I was struck by a comment from a resident. He stated that yes, he had attended to question (euphemism for complain) about an unresolved issue. He also stated that he felt one should not just complain, but should also offer to volunteer, to be part of the solution. It does not matter who is elected in November, volunteers, with knowledge in specific areas or a passion for a particular interest, are always needed. Just visit the Borough website and see all the official boards and commissions there are. Many opportunities exist to volunteer in town, formally and informally. You can contact any governing body member or drop a note at Borough Hall if you are interested in volunteering. You may want to be a part of a board that meets on a regular basis or may want to volunteer for one specific project or event such as Demarest Day or establishing a community garden. You will be contributing to the high quality of life we have come to enjoy in Demarest. I say **“THANK YOU”** to all our volunteers!

**Summer Recreation** - A heartfelt thank you to Andrea Slowikowski who was instrumental in turning our summer recreation program around over the last two years. Enrollment in the program reached the maximum this summer and there has been much praise this year and last for the revamped program.

The governing body hopes you had a wonderful summer and remind you that with school starting, one needs to be especially alert for school children as you are driving.

Sincerely,

Ray Cywinski

## DEMAREST POLICE DEPARTMENT

School is opening on **Wednesday, September 3**. We need the help of every citizen to protect our school children and school crossing guards. Tragically, the pedestrian accident rate has significantly increased statewide:

\* New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the nation, a situation made worse by the number of vehicles on the State's roads. For example, 30 years ago 50% of students walked to school. Today, 85% are driven to school, resulting in congestion in the school zones far beyond what the streets were designed to handle.

\* Too many drivers are distracted by eating or drinking behind the wheel, using cell phones or simply not paying attention. There also are increasing incidents of aggressive driving. Most unsafe driving in school zones are by drivers who use the streets most often - the parents and caregivers dropping off or picking up children.

**See children ahead?** Don't assume they know you are coming, even if they are looking right at you. Children and senior citizens lack auditory localization-the ability to locate a moving object by hearing it. That's why children and older people are far more likely to be involved in pedestrian accidents.

Accidents involving children are especially common where there are parked cars that block driver's vision of children darting into the street. Accidents involving senior citizens are more common at intersections because older people take longer to cross.

Many people aren't even aware how fast they are going. If a car going 20 MPH hits a pedestrian, there is a 95% chance of survival. However, the survival declines to 45% at 30 MPH and less than 10% at 40 MPH.

Any person seeing an incident of unsafe driving, especially any action that interferes with a crossing guard, is urged to notify the **Demarest Police Department @ 201-768-1540**. Your cooperation & assistance will be greatly appreciated in keeping our children safe.

*Chief James F. Powderley*

*In Case of Emergency*

**Demarest Volunteer Ambulance Corps**

PLEASE KEEP THIS UP TO DATE AND IN A VISIBLE LOCATION

IN THE CASE OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY, **DIAL 911**

**General Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Power of Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_ DNR form: Y N Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital Preference: \_\_\_\_\_

**Medical Information**

Recent Hospitalizations: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

Medical Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Medications: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## DEMAREST PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Hours: Monday & Thursday 9 am – 8 pm  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9 am – 5 pm  
The library will resume Sunday Hours on September 7



Please take the time to participate in our survey. Your input will help us to further our mission and improve our services.

If you have already replied to our Library E-Mail request **thank you**.

If not we thank you in advance for taking the time to participate in our survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6726CJY>

*We value your feedback*

**ESL CONVERSATION GROUP**– Tuesdays, 10:30 am- 12 pm. Improve your English speaking skills – All levels welcome- Registration not required. Group meets upstairs in the Conference Room at the Library. Questions? – Contact Orla Cassidy 201-768-8714

**MANGO LANGUAGES**-Mango just got twice as big in 40+ languages. Check out Mango Language @ demarest.bccls.org.

### **Book Discussion Group**

**2nd Monday of the Month @ 7:30pm unless otherwise noted**

This lively group of avid readers enjoy in-depth discussions of popular and classic literary works. New members are always welcome, including non-residents.

### **Knitting Club**

**1st & 3rd Wednesday of the Month @ 7:30pm**

Come join this hip group of talented knitters affectionately known as "Bottles & Cans." Whether you're an experienced pro or just starting out, you're welcome to come for advice or for the good company. New knitters are always welcome, including non-residents.

Children's Programming Schedules are posted on our library website demarest.bccls.org or check out our facebook page.

## DEMAREST AMBULANCE CORP

The Demarest Volunteer Ambulance Corp. is pleased to provide you with this emergency medical information sheet. The information you provide to us on this sheet is of great assistance to the Corp should you have a medical emergency. The completed sheet should be kept in an easily accessible place such as on your refrigerator, or top of your desk. Please take the time to fill out the sheet and help us to help you.

The Demarest Volunteer Ambulance Corp. needs YOUR help so we can CONTINUE to help others in our small community. Please consider joining. We cover education costs. Become a First Responder Driver or EMT.

If you cannot donate your time, please consider making a donation. No amount is too small. We exist because of your kind donations.

You can contact us at 201-767-8050. Our address is P.O. BOX 131, DEMAREST, NJ 07627

## JENNIFER ANAVIM

On behalf of the Demarest Swim Club Board of Trustees and members, I would like to thank Jennifer Anavim for years of dedicating her time to the swim club. Jenn has always been a helping hand with the daily operations of the swim. It will be very hard to find a person to replace her. Best wishes to Jennifer and her family as they start their new lives in San Diego.

Jackie Fulin

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Church *Annual Community Craft Fair* will be held on Friday, December 5th from 3pm-8pm and Saturday, December 6th from 10am-3pm.

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

**SCHOOLS ARE OPEN**

**PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY**

## DEMAREST GARDEN CLUB

### New Officers for 2014-2015

President: Ruth Haynes-Closter, First VP: Ginny Bargisen-Demarest, Second VP Judy Lugo-Haworth, Treasurer: Karen Koehler-Park Ridge, Corresponding Secretary: Barbara DiNovi-Demarest, & Recording Secretary: Eileen Corrado-Demarest

### 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.

### FALL PROGRAMS

- September 5th Fall Blooming Perennials-Bill Kolvek Bill, of Perennials Nursery & Garden Shop will enlighten us on how to brighten our gardens as to which plants we can count on to renew and/or add flowers in the fall.
- October 3rd Flower Arrangements-Audrey Stober 2014 NJ State Designee THE PERRENIAL BLOOM, Audrey joined our club in the 1950s and has been keeping our archives up to date for many years. She will share her talent on flower arrangements as well as experience as a long term member of the club.
- November 7th Napkin Art-Container Decorating Workshop by Doris Belschner Our neighbor from Packanack Lake, Doris will share with us this art form. We will create unique and artistic designs for vases and other containers. Relax and enjoy this. *To participate, please bring two small vases with you.*

### Club Activities

Members and their invited guests are welcome to join us.

- Fall Field Trips – Dates and Locations to be announced.
- New Jersey Botanical Garden Holiday Open House - The Demarest Garden Club has been selected once again to participate in the Holiday Open House at Skylands Manor in Ringwood, NJ. The theme is RENAISSANCE HOLIDAY. The house is open December 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 4pm. There is a delightful dining/food area at the Carriage House.
- December 5<sup>th</sup>-Holiday Luncheon - celebrate the Holidays with a luncheon at Madeleine's Petit Paris, Northvale NJ

### Awards

The Demarest Garden Club is proud to announce that member and President Emeritus-1986, Audrey Stober, has been honored by the Garden Club of New Jersey with the prestigious NJ State Award named The Perennial Bloom Award. This designation honors Audrey's many years of service to the local club as well as the state's gardening community.

## Davies Arboretum Civic Project

The Garden club oversees Davies Arboretum at 49 Anderson Avenue. Club members meet on Wednesday mornings 9 - 11 A.M., from March to October, weather permitting. The arboretum project was begun in 1977 and is funded by the Garden Club and community donations of money, ideas, and service. Your tax-deductible donations to the Demarest Garden Club earmarked for the arboretum are appreciated. Prospective members are welcome to join us on Wednesdays and participate in garden related activities as we begin to prepare the plants for winter.

### Membership

Membership in the Demarest Garden Club is open to all local Gardeners, male and female, from any town. Annual dues are \$25 and includes membership in the Garden Club of New Jersey. To join, attend any monthly public meeting, please contact Membership Chairman Elisabeth Evans [ellevans2@verizon.net](mailto:ellevans2@verizon.net) or contact us at our website [www.DemarestGardenClub.org](http://www.DemarestGardenClub.org)

## ART SCHOOL AT OLD CHURCH

### FALL ART CLASSES BEGIN SEPT. 6

The Art School at Old Church in Demarest is getting ready for a new semester of art classes to begin Saturday, September 6. An eclectic group of professional artists offer instruction in a diverse range of art practices. With new 10-week courses and new workshop offerings in addition to the tried and true, the Art School has something for everybody.

There is a class for every schedule and a wide range of interests. Learn from the Art School masters and develop your own skill and style. Highlights include calligraphy on Monday nights, watercolor painting on Wednesday mornings or digital photography on Saturday afternoons. Those who wish to get their hands covered in clay are invited to build their own tea set on Friday mornings. Make works of art to display in your home or give as gifts and enjoy the journey!

The Environmental Commission meets the third Tuesday of the month @ 7:30pm @ Borough Hall. Anyone interested in attending any meeting or voicing any environmental concerns is most welcome.

## DEMAREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department will again be conducting their Annual Fire Prevention programs at LLE & CRS. These programs will run in October in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week. The kids have some fun while learning valuable fire safety lessons. The students will also be encouraged to participate in the Fire Safety Poster contest which is sponsored by the Fire Department. We encourage parents to discuss the program and the poster contest with their children, as it helps to reinforce the lessons learned.

### **FIRE SAFETY**

\* Residents should have their heating systems checked prior to the winter season. Flues & chimneys and fire places should also be checked.

\* Please keep all flammable liquids stored safely. Keep them away from water heaters and heating systems. A liquid spill, open can or just fumes from a flammable liquid or spray, can be ignited by an open flame from any appliance with an open flame or even a spark during ignition.

\* DO NOT leave any vehicles running in the garage. Carbon monoxide poisoning is deadly.

With summer ending and schools opening, increased traffic makes travel for parents and responding emergency vehicles more difficult. Please be alert for sirens and responding vehicles. Be aware that volunteers travel with blue lights while in their personal vehicles. You can help get them to the Fire House or Ambulance building quicker by pulling to the right to allow them to pass!

\* Remind your children as well to be alert for emergency vehicles. Stay on the sidewalks if possible.

\* An 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.

### **FUND DRIVE**

Thank you to all who have contributed we appreciate your generosity. If you haven't responded to our annual fund drive we encourage you to do so. Any contribution, big or small, helps. Without your help, many of our programs, such as the annual fire safety program at the schools may have to be eliminated.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

We are a volunteer organization that has been providing service to the community since 1894. We typically respond to over 300 calls a year, day or night, rain or snow! New members are always welcome and needed! If you don't have the time to be a full member you can help by becoming an Auxiliary member. Stop by the Fire House any Sunday morning or Tuesday night to learn more about our organization.

## DEMAREST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### **A Recent Interesting and Informative Inquiry About Demarest History**

Early this summer I received a call from a woman in California inquiring about a little known place that was located in Demarest, the Summerland Home. The caller's great grandmother, Eva Conklin, worked at Summerland from about 1919 until the late 1930s. She began as an "inmate" because she was a young widow with two children and a third on the way on 1918. Summerland Home was then called the Society for Aid to Friendless Women and Children. Eva "married" Dwight Conklin of Alpine. He worked as a gate guard for the Fricke Estate."

The woman's grandmother, Ruth and her two brothers, lived with the kids at Summerland while her great grandmother, Eva, worked there as a laundress. She sent a photo of the children at Summerland Home along with one from a newspaper. They are the only photographs we have of this unique place in Demarest. A bell dedicated to an Alpine resident who supported the home is also in our town's archives.

What was the Summerland Home? The Summerland Home offered a summer respite for disadvantaged children from New York. The home was located at the end of Duane Lane and the Hardenburgh Ave. extension. It was incorporated in Alpine in 1920 by the Summerland Society, whose members were wealthy people mainly from Alpine, Tenafly and Closter. Ever before Summerland was incorporated, the facility had served charitable purposes. For twenty-four years the home had operated as a vacation camp of the Hopewell Society of Brooklyn. On various maps it was listed as Society for Aid of Friendless Women.

### ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARADE

The annual Halloween Parade will be held on Sunday, October 26th. The parade will start at 11am at the Railroad Depot.

All are welcome to see the great costumes.



**Survey for Bus/Van Service for Senior Citizens**

In order to assess the need and desire of seniors for bus/van service please answer the following questions and send the completed form to Susan Crosman, Borough of Demarest, 118 Serpentine Road, NJ 07627.

-----  
Would you use a bus/van service for such things as medical appointments, grocery shopping, etc.?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Would you pay a nominal fee for such service?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

What times of the day would you generally use such service?

9:00 am – Noon \_\_\_\_\_ Noon – 3:00 pm \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Is a vehicle that is handicapped accessible important?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**LEAF NOTICE 2014**

Leaf pick-up begins on October 13th and ends the week of December 2nd. All leaves must be spread close to the curb, but not within 10 feet of any storm drain. **LEAF PILES MUST BE KEPT FREE OF TWIGS AND BRANCHES, STONES AND GRASS OR THEY WILL NOT BE PICKED UP !!** After December 19th all leaves are to be bagged for pick-up

Pease remind your lawn service company, so that we may pick-up your leaves in a timely manner.

**DO NOT PUT OUT BRANCHES UNTIL  
LEAF SEASON IS OVER  
BRANCH PICK-UP WILL CONTINUE  
ON DECEMBER 10TH**

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

**RABIES CLINIC**

The Demarest Board of Health will be having a free rabies clinic on Saturday, **November 15**, from 10am-11am at the Railroad Depot. Every cat and dog must be on a leash or in a carrier and accompanied by an adult. The vaccine will be given to dogs six months or older and cats three months or older. Please examine your pets rabies expiration date to make sure it's valid through November 2014 so a license can be obtained.

**SEASONAL FLU & H1N1  
& PNEUMONIA SHOTS CLINIC**

The seasonal flu & pneumonia vaccine clinic will be held on October 3rd, 10am-11:30am & October 7th, 6pm-7:30pm in the Borough Hall for residents 65 years or older or persons having serious chronic conditions such as heart disease, pulmonary disease and diabetes. Any person under 65 must present a note of approval from their physician before receiving the vaccine.

Please bring your medicare card when registering for the clinic. For any further questions, please call Demarest Board of Health @ 201-768-0167 ext #30.

Check us out on our facebook page Demarest Board of Health for updated health issues and health programs.

**DEMAREST 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 MUNICIPAL COURT**

The court dates for the next three months are September 9th, October 14th and November 11th. 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](http://www.njmcdirect.com).

**DEMARES NATURE CENTER**

***5K Trail Run & Trail Fun Run***

***Saturday Sept. 20th Rain or Shine!***

Two races through a course of scenic trails in the Demarest Nature Center. ***One Mile Fun Run*** for ages 6 and up @ 9 a.m. ;***5K Trail Run*** (3.1-miles) for ages 9 and up @ 9:20am. Trophies awarded for Best in each age group. Registration from 8-8:45 a.m. @ Wakelee Field Playground Parking Lot. Download an application at [www.demarestnaturecenter.org](http://www.demarestnaturecenter.org)

***Hawks Over the Hudson***

***Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>***

Birds of prey by the Delaware Raptor Center 12-4 PM at the State Line Lookout.

***33rd OKTOBERFEST***

***Saturday, October 11th, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Demarest Duck Pond***

50 local crafters bring their handmade goods - toys, jewelry, pottery, paintings, holiday crafts, gift items and more. Serving Bratwurst, Funnel Cakes, Korean Food, Canoe Rides, German Music, Moon Walk; Rain Date: October 18<sup>th</sup>; [www.demarestnaturecenter.org](http://www.demarestnaturecenter.org)

**Demarest Nature Center Photo Contest Winners, 2014**

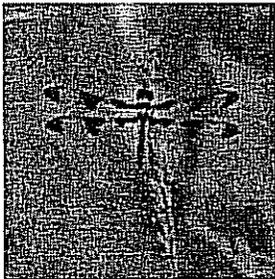
**Grand Prize/Best of Show:** Michele Sunberg

**Adult Color:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Paul Sullivan; 2nd Steve Kelman; 3rd Amie Brancoccio

**Adult Black and White:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Dalia Sherman; 2nd Catlin Cywinski

**Youth Color:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Julia Mancuso; 2nd Rachel Sherman; 3rd Benjamin Nelson

**Youth Black and White:** 1st Brightna Hu; 2nd Rejoice Hu



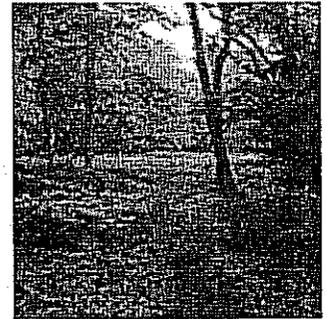
***Grand Prize***

***Michele Sunberg***



***First Place (color, adult)***

***Paul Sullivan***



***First Place (color, youth)***

***Julia Mancuso***

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