

# DEMAREST DIGEST

Official Borough Newsletter  
Volume 46 No. 4 December 2014



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

### Happy Holidays!

The Demarest Governing Body wishes everyone happy and safe December and January holiday celebrations! May Peace and Joy be prevalent in your lives during these holidays.

### Request for Volunteers

This is the time to consider appointments and re-appointments to boards, commissions and committees in the Borough. If you are interested in serving in a voluntary capacity, please contact me or Susan Crosman, Borough Clerk, at Borough Hall. You can call 201-768-0169 (ext. 39) or drop off a note. Besides any official committees, you may want to serve on an ad-hoc committee to start something new in town. Any volunteers to organize a Demarest Day in 2015, starting a Community Garden (never too early to think spring), reaching out to senior citizens? Check the Borough website for Borough boards and commissions.

Volunteers have made a **BIG** difference with a revitalized and very successful summer recreation program and a very well-attended and spirited Ragamuffin parade this past Halloween.

**Thank you to all the volunteers who served the Borough in 2014!**

### Current Tasks

- \* **Demarest Brook Dredging** – After multiple delays, Bergen County Mosquito Control anticipates starting the dredging at the end of November proceeding from Northwood Road to Central Avenue and south toward Demarest Road.
- \* **Road Paving Projects** – The governing body continues to work with residents to pave unpaved roads, both through special assessments and grants where applicable. Grants have been applied for some paving projects and will continue to be sought where the required criteria can be met.
- \* **Ordinances** – We are currently working on amendments to ordinances dealing with building height, fences, impervious area and demolition. Aesthetics, stormwater runoff and permit fees are meant to be addressed by the proposed amendments.
- \* **Waste Collection** - The current garbage and recycling contract expires in April 2015. We are currently preparing bid specifications for a new contract. As this service currently costs residents nearly \$500,000 per year or about 6% of the entire municipal budget we are investigating ways to reduce the cost. (As an example, increased recycling of material decreases landfill disposal costs).

### Reminders

- \* Curbside pickup of leaves is scheduled to continue through December 12. For safety of the employees and to prevent damage to the equipment, please do **NOT** place anything but leaves at the curb during this time – **no branches, rocks, construction material, etc.**
- \* Branch removal will begin shortly after leaf collection ends. Branches will be removed on roads east of the railroad tracks the first 10 days of the month (e.g. Jan. 1-10), while branches will be removed along roads west of the railroad 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 road. (Local ordinances regulate the aforementioned).
- \* If you have a fire hydrant along your property, please keep the area clear around the hydrant, including removing snow. This will help you and your neighbors in case of an emergency.

Sincerely,  
Ray Cywinski

## **DEMAREST FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Demarest Fire Department recently conducted their Fire Prevention programs at L. Lee and CRS schools. The programs were run in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week to help 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 some of the department tools and talk with the firefighters. Unfortunately the weather prevented the students from going outside to view the trucks.

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 at an upcoming school assembly.

### ***SAFETY***

With winter approaching we can expect some stormy weather. Hopefully not a repeat of "SANDY" but being prepared is a wise choice. If you plan to 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 or basement windows or vents! Have a good supply of batteries, flashlights, lanterns and bottled water. A good battery powered emergency AM/FM radio is also a worthwhile purchase.

### **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 pets 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 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.

### ***FUND DRIVE***

The Department needs your help. If you haven't yet contributed, we ask that you please do so. Your donations are greatly appreciated and help fund the school Fire Prevention programs and Poster Contest. Any donation, large or small is welcomed.

### ***MEMBERSHIP***

We are a volunteer organization that has been providing service 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. Our Auxiliary members provide a valuable service assisting the firefighters during operations and helping out at the firehouse. Stop by the Fire House any Sunday morning or Tuesday night to get more details on membership.

## **DEMAREST POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Impaired Driving Enforcement Crackdown**

From December 16, 2014 through January 2, 2015 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 AND HEALTHY  
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON***

## DEMAREST AMBULANCE CORPS

The Demarest Volunteer Ambulance Corp would like to provide you with some information on the importance of becoming trained on CPR.

Anyone can learn CPR – and everyone should! Sadly, 70 percent of Americans may feel helpless to act during a cardiac emergency because they either do not know how to administer CPR or their training has lapsed. This alarming statistic could hit close to home, because home is exactly where 88 percent of cardiac arrests occur. **The life you save with CPR is could be someone you love.**

### **WHY LEARN CPR?**

Cardiac arrests are more common than you think, and they can happen to anyone at any time.

- \* Nearly 383,000 out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrests occur annually, and 88 percent of cardiac arrests occur at home.
- \* Many victims appear healthy with no known heart disease or other risk factors.
- \* Sudden cardiac arrest is not the same as a heart attack.
- \* Sudden cardiac arrest occurs when electrical impulses in the heart become rapid or chaotic, which causes the heart to suddenly stop beating.
- \* A heart attack occurs when the blood supply to part of the heart muscle is blocked. A heart attack may cause cardiac arrest.

### **WHO CAN YOU SAVE WITH CPR**

- \* Four out of five cardiac arrests happen at home.
- \* Statistically speaking, if called on to administer CPR in an emergency, the life you save is likely to be someone at home: a child, a spouse, a parent or a friend.
- \* African-Americans are almost twice as likely to experience cardiac arrest at home, work or in another public location than Caucasians, and their survival rates are twice as poor as for Caucasians.

### **WHY TAKE ACTION?**

- \* Failure to act in a cardiac emergency can lead to unnecessary deaths.
- \* Effective bystander CPR provided immediately after sudden cardiac arrest can double or triple a victim's chance of survival, but only 32 percent of cardiac arrest victims get CPR from a bystander.
- \* Sadly, less than eight percent of people who suffer cardiac arrest outside the hospital survive.
- \* The American Heart Association trains more than 12 million people in CPR annually, to equip Americans with the skills they need to perform bystander CPR.

*We need YOUR help so we can CONTINUE to help others in our small community. Please consider joining. We cover education costs. 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**

## 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 2014 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.

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 go to our website @ [demarestnaturecenter.org](http://demarestnaturecenter.org)

A huge "thank you" to all of you who came out and supported the craft show at the Oktoberfest.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

The Environmental Commission would like to inform residents that any unwanted, unused or outdated drugs (prescription or over the counter) should NOT be flushed or poured down the drain. To do so contaminates the drinking water supply! Check at the Borough website ([demarestnj.org](http://demarestnj.org)) for the list of locations to drop off the medications. They will be happy to take them from you.

The Commission is ordering a new recycling container for downtown. Please dispose of trash and recyclables properly and don't litter

If you have metal materials (copper, iron, aluminum) that you need to be disposed of, you can take them to: BERGEN RECYCLING, Inc. 18 Hill Pl. Bergenfield, (201-384-9494). They will pay you according to the weight.

The commission meets every third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. All residents are welcomed

## 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 scheduled Program to start at 2:00 P.M. All interested Gardeners, visitors and prospective new members are welcome.

### **Programs**



January 2<sup>nd</sup>-*"Be Surprised"*- *Presentation by Demarest Garden Club Members*  
Club members will share some stories about their travels and hobbies



February 6<sup>th</sup>-*"ABC's of Rock Gardening"*-*Presentation by Michael Wilson*  
*"Designing Your Rock Garden with Texture"*. Michael has a degree in Horticulture, Environmental Studies and Environmental Management. He began his career in 1986 at the New Jersey Botanical Garden.



March 6<sup>th</sup>-*"The Deliciousness of Weeds"* -*Presentation by Tama Matsuoka*  
Americans want to know where their food comes from and foraging has moved into the mainstream. Tama Matsuoka Wong left a successful career as a corporate lawyer to become a wild plant enthusiast and professional forager for some of the top chefs in the U.S. Her book *Foraged Flavor* was nominated for a James Beard Award in 2013."

### **Club Activities**

Members and their invited guests are welcome to join us.

### *Winter Activities and Field Trips*

Dates and Locations to be announced

December: *Holiday Open House "A Renaissance Holiday"* Skylands New Jersey State Botanical Garden

February: Garden Club of New Jersey Flower Show at NJ Convention Center

February: Meals on Wheels Workshop to help make floral arrangements

March: Philadelphia Flower Show at Pennsylvania Convention Center

*All Programs, Activities and trips are subject to cancellation due to weather conditions*

### **Membership**

Annual dues are \$25 and includes membership in the Garden Club of New Jersey and The National Garden Club. Please contact Membership Chairman Elisabeth Evans [elevans2@verizon.net](mailto:elevans2@verizon.net)

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

### DEMAREST PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Hours are as follows: Monday & Thursday 9 am – 8 pm; Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9am – 5 pm; Sunday 1pm – 5pm

#### Holiday Closings

Early Closing November 26 – 1 pm; Closed November 27, November 28; Closed, December 24, December 25 & December 26; Early Closing December 31 – 1 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.)

### DEMAREST MUNICIPAL COURT

The court dates are December 9th, January 13th, and February 10th. 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 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

### CHANUKAH

The Menorah Lighting Celebration will be on December 21st 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.

### BOARD OF HEALTH

It is that time of the year again to renew your dog and cat licenses for 2015. 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. Every year in order to be licensed, all dogs and cats must have a current rabies vaccination, expiring no earlier than November 30, 2015. 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, 2015

Check out our facebook page for updated information on our programs, clinic and information on health issues.

The Board of Health will be adding two alternates to the Board in 2015. If you are interested in become an alternate, please contact Elise Wrede, Board Secretary at 201-768-0167 #30 or by email @ demhealth@yahoo.com

### CHRISTMAS TREE

The annual lighting of the Christmas Tree will be held on Tuesday, December 9 at 7:00pm 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.

### 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

# **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

*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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## WINTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- December 5*                      *Luther Lee Emerson School Holiday Concert; 1:30pm*
- December 5-6*                    *Methodist Church Annual Community Craft Fair; Friday 3-8pm,  
Saturday 10am-3pm.*
- December 6-7*                    *Demarest Garden Club Winter floral display @ Skylands  
Manor, Ringwood; 10am-4pm*
- December 8*                      *Mayor & Council Meeting; 8pm*
- December 9*                      *Municipal Court; 6pm*
- December 9*                      *Christmas Tree Lighting, 7:00pm @ Railroad Station*
- December 12*                    *County Road School Holiday Concert; 1:30pm*
- December 17*                    *Middle School Holiday Concert; 7pm*
- December 21*                    *Menorah Lighting; 7pm @the Gazebo*
- December 22*                    *Mayor & Council Meeting; 8pm*
- January 5*                        *Reorganization time to be announced*
- January 2*                        *Demarest Garden Club meeting @ United Methodist Church;  
2pm; "Be Surprised!" Presentation by Demarest Garden Club Members*
- January 13*                      *Municipal Court; 6pm*
- January 30-31*                    *Middle School play "Annie" : 7pm*
- February 6*                      *Demarest Garden Club meeting @ United Methodist Church;  
2pm; "ABC's of Rock Gardening" Presentation by Michael Wilson*
- February 10*                    *Municipal Court; 6pm*
- March 6*                         *Demarest Garden Club meeting @ United Methodist Church;  
2pm; "The Deliciousness of weeds" Presentation by Tama Matsuoka*



