

DEMAREST DIGEST

Official Borough Newsletter
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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Winter Weather and Snow Removal Efforts

Only one more month until spring! Although not as much snow as last winter, we have been 'hit' with a number of storms, below normal temperatures and freezing rain. All this adds up to far from ideal driving conditions. Normal operations for snow removal consist of plowing roads and school parking lots and drives, clearing snow from Borough sidewalks, and application of de-icing chemicals, primarily rock salt. Primary roads, areas around emergency service facilities and schools are a priority. Application of de-icing chemicals is made initially along primary roads, at intersections, on hills and curves and near schools. The application of de-icing chemicals will also be made on secondary roads as called for. Unfortunately, rock salt does not work at very cold temperatures and lack of traffic also decreases the efficacy of this compound. Your DPW does it best to make the roads in town safe, but please remember, winter driving calls for slower driving when snow or ice conditions exist.

Thank you for clearing snow from your sidewalks and from hydrants near your home.

Meeting for Volunteers

Several residents have volunteered to serve on committees for Demarest Day and a Sustainability Team. We are still looking for more volunteers to work on these committees as a 'critical mass' of people is needed to be successful. All who are interested in the aforementioned committees, or other, are invited to meet at Borough Hall on Saturday, March 14 at 10:00 AM. All ideas for community events and activities are welcome.

Current Tasks

- * **Demarest Brook Dredging** – The DPW has accomplished their work and the site has been prepared for the Bergen County Mosquito Control. As soon as weather permits, the dredging will start (do I dare say February or the latest, March?). This work is from Northwood Road to Central Avenue and south toward Demarest Road.
- * **Road Paving Projects** – Grant applications have been made for paving certain roads in town. In addition, the council will be deciding in February, the road paving projects to be included in this year's budget.
- * **Waste Collection** – By the time you read this, the Borough should have gone out to bid for a new garbage and recycling contract. Little, if any, change to the collection of garbage or recyclables is anticipated. Remember, the more we recycle material, the more benefit to the residents in terms of cost control. Consider using a mulching mower rather than putting grass out for curbside collection.
- * **Open Space Grant** – Working with the Demarest Athletic Association (DAA), the Borough has received a grant from the Bergen County Open Space Fund for the refurbishment of the American League baseball field. The Borough matched the funds from its municipal open space fund and approved the use of these funds after a public hearing. The Borough will work with the DAA to accomplish the work entailed.
- * **Merger of Girls Softball** – Having successfully merged boys' recreational baseball with Closter and Haworth over the last few years, the DAA is merging girls' softball this year with Closter and Haworth.

On a very happy note, I declared February 8, 2015 as "Frank Lucia Day" in Demarest in recognition of Frank celebrating his 105th Birthday. And what has Frank wished for his birthday? Good health & happiness for others; if not the secret for a long life, certainly a happy one!

Unfortunately, we all suffer loss of family, friends and loved ones. Please keep the Buksbaum/Maloof and Tabacchi families in your thoughts and prayers with their recent tragic passing of family members

Sincerely,

Ray Cywinski

DEMAREST GARDEN CLUB

Annual Plant Sale

The Demarest Garden Club is a 501.c3 not-for-profit organization. Our annual plant sale is the club's only public fundraiser and is organized around pre-orders placed by Friday, April 3rd.

Plant pickup will be at the United Methodist Church on Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2 or delivered locally for a small fee. For your convenience, pre-order forms are included in this newsletter, available at boro hall, local libraries, and on our Club website at www.DemarestGardenClub.org

Please mail your pre-order form *with payment* before April 3. In addition, the sale will feature 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, workshops for school children, fund 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 at 1:00 P.M. in the United Methodist Church, 109 Hardenburgh Avenue. Club Business Meetings are conducted at 1:00 P.M. with Program to follow at 2:00 P.M. All interested gardeners and visitors are welcome.

Spring Programs

- ★ Feb 6th-ABC's of Rock Gardening by Michael Wilson-learn how to design a beautiful rock garden
- ★ March 6th-The Deliciousness of Weeds by Tama Matsuoka Wong-Foraging for food has moved into the mainstream. Come find out the why and how!
- ★ April 10th "Container Gardening"-by Ron Binaghi of Stokes Farm-Grow almost anything you want in a pot!
- ★ May 1, Friday 2:00 – 6:00 P.M. Plant Sale: Pick-up pre-ordered plants and purchase from the members' table of homegrown items.
- ★ May 2, 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: Based around field trips to public and private gardens throughout the tri-state area.

Members and their invited guests are welcome to join us.

Spring Activities and Field Trips

Dates and Locations to be announced

February: GCNJ State Flower Show-NJ Convention Ctr., Edison NJ

February 28 to March 8-Philadelphia Flower Show

April-Field Trip to Washington Irving's Sunnyside, Tarrytown NY

April-Flower Arranging Workshop to make small floral arrangements to be used as tray favors by Meals on Wheels

April-Plant exchange: Bring One; Take One

May-Trip to Laurelwood Arboretum, Wayne NJ

May-5th Grade Environmental Day: The DGC will co-host a science field trip for 5th Graders

June: Pot Luck Picnic Luncheon and Installation of Club Officers

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

Davies Arboretum Civic Project

The Garden club oversees Davies Arboretum at 49 Anderson Avenue. After a winter hiatus, Club members will meet on Tuesday mornings 9-11 A.M., commencing March 16th until the end of 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 grounds for spring bloom and summer life.

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

DEMAREST NATURE CENTER

March 28th: Egg Hunt, 2 p.m., @ Imaginative Playground near Wakelee Field. Toddlers through fourth-graders. Bunny will be there cheering them on. So bring your basket & don't be late for this very important date. Rain date March 29th.

April 18th 9:30 a.m.: Spring Nature Walk, join our group guided by, Marc Gussen, our local naturalist. Then @ 10:30 – It's DNC's **Volunteer Day!!** After old man winter made a mess - we'll clean up the trails. Be sure to bring gardening or work gloves and we'll supply the rest. Both events start from the DNC Bulletin Board near the Imaginative Playground. Rain date April 19th (only if extreme weather Saturday).

June 6th: DNC Photo Contest deadline date for **cash prizes**. Deposit your photo entries in the DNC basket @ the **Demarest Public Library**. All photos must be taken in the nature center. Go to our website www.demarestnaturecenter.org for contest details.

June 13th: Breakfast in the Woods, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., next to the Imaginative Playground. Enjoy breakfast al fresco - all gratis. Photo Contest awards, followed by a live, wild animal show. Rain date June 15th.

Throughout the school year, your DNC member dollars pay for environmental programs and educational field trips for our kindergarten & elementary school students and for DNC's annual essay scholarship, available to graduating seniors.

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

DEMAREST TRIVIA

Who can name the first full time police officer and Police Chief for the Borough? Send your answer to wrede@demarestnj.org.

Answer will be posted on the Borough website on March 9th.

DEMAREST PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

ESL classes are held each Tuesday morning from 10:30am-12pm. Book Discussion Group meets every Monday at 7:30pm. Knitters gather on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of every month at 7:30pm. Zonio online magazine subscription service has increased from 100 to 250 magazines.

Check out our new website @ Demarest.bccls.org. Follow us on Facebook.

ELECTION NEWS

Primary Day—June 2

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 12th.

DEMAREST ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

The Environmental Commission has purchased a recycling container for downtown near Dunkin Donuts. These containers should be utilized to separate bottles, plastics and paper waste from regular garbage when visiting the downtown area. They are not to be used for recyclables brought from home.

All residents are invited to attend any Board meeting the 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7:30 pm.

SPRING ART CLASSES AT ART SCHOOL AT OLD CHURCH

This spring, the studios will be in bloom with a variety of art classes and workshops at the Art School at Old Church in Demarest. New additions and perennial favorites of art studio instructions are offered to entice seasoned artists and new practitioners. Those who have made art for years or those recently inspired are invited into the studios for classes starting March 30. Classes meet weekly for 10 weeks, with a class to fit any schedule. Call the Art School at (201) 767-7160 or visit the website www.tasoc.org to find out more about registering for spring art classes.

DEMAREST AMBULANCE CORPS

We are please to announce the following officers for 2014.

Line Officers

Joseph Fortunto, III , Chief, Roberta Hoag, 1st Asst. Chief, Andrew Woods, 2nd Asst. Chief.

Administrative Officers

Joanne Pianghi, President, Diane Mareello, Treasurer, Maria Selle, Secretary.

Membership & Donations

We need YOUR help so we can CONTINUE to help others in our small community. Please consider joining. We will cover the educational costs. Become a first responder driver or an EMT.

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

Please contact us at 201-767-8050 or our mailing address is P.O. Box 131 Demarest, NJ 07627.

"We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give" Winston Churchill

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 March 24th, April 14th, and May 12th. 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.

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.

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., 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.

DEMAREST POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Demarest Police Department is pleased to announce the promotion of Officer Frank Visaggio to the rank of Sergeant. Frank has been a member of the department for the past 15 years and his hard work and dedication has proven to be an asset to the community and department alike.

We have also advanced three of our Special officers to the ranks of patrolmen. Officers Brian Hampton, Michael Krynicky and David Dickman are now full time officers and I am certain they will continue to serve us well in their new positions.

We congratulate these fine officers and wish them well as they advance in their careers.

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 blading 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.

THINK SPRING

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 someone 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

DEMAREST SWIM CLUB

Spring is on the way and summer isn't far behind! After a long and relentless winter, the sparkling pools and beautiful grounds of the Demarest Swim Club await you and your family. Swim, relax in the shade, soak up some sun, or catch up with your friends and neighbors. We offer a Swim and Dive team, swim lessons for children, ping-pong, volleyball, and a kiddie pool. We welcome your questions and calls: Richard Gordon (201-750-3350), Jackie Fulin (201-805-3855), and Jennifer Anavim (201-803-2740.)

DEMAREST POLICE DEPARTMENT

Beware of Distractions When You Drive...

From 2003-2012, more than 1,600 people were killed in crashes caused by distracted drivers. Such distractions include:

- Talking on a cellular phone
- Turning a radio or CD player
- Applying makeup
- Talking to other passengers
- Tending to children or pets
- Eating and drinking

Cell phones are one of many distractions both inside and outside the vehicle which can cause crashes. New Jersey law bans the use of handheld cellular phone while driving. Drivers who talk or text on a handheld cell phone while driving face a fine. Driving requires your full attention.

It is important to Just Drive

Texting, talking, using a map basically anything other than driving is dangerous because it takes your attention away from the road. Twenty-five percent of all accidents involve drivers who use a cell phone. Accidents can result in serious, lifelong injuries and death. It is time to put the phone down and JUST DRIVE.

With spring approaching it brings more pedestrians, especially children out on the streets, Demarest Police Officers will be increasing enforcement for distractive driving violations. Our officers will be assisted in their efforts with a new law that has gone into effect that increases the fines for the use of handheld devices while driving.

The new fines are:

- **\$200 1st offense**
- **\$400 2nd offense**
- **\$600 & 90 day driver's license suspension for 3rd**

Please help us keep the streets of Demarest safe by driving responsibly and reporting all unsafe conditions to the police department as soon as possible. Working together as a community we can ensure that we enjoy the coming spring season without incidents.

Respectfully,
Chief James F. Powderley

SPRING CALENDAR EVENTS

- March 6** Demarest Garden Club meeting; 1:00pm @ the United Methodist Church; 2:00 pm
Program: The Deliciousness of Weeds by Tama Matsuoka
- March 9** Mayor & Council Meeting; 8pm
- March 10** NVHS Referendum Vote: 2pm-9pm
- March 23** Mayor & Council Meeting; 8pm
- March 28** Demarest Nature Center Annual Egg Hunt @ 2pm at the children's playground
(rain date: March 29th)
- April 10** Demarest Garden Club meeting; 1:00pm @ the United Methodist Church; 2:00 pm
Program: "Container Gardening" by Ron Binaghi
- April 13** Mayor & Council Meeting; 8pm
- April 22** 43rd Anniversary of Earth Day
- April 27** Mayor & Council; 8pm
- April 24** Arbor Day
- April 18** Demarest Nature Center Spring Nature Walk & Volunteer Day @ 9:30am (Rain date: April 19)
- May 1-2** Demarest Garden Club Annual Plant Sale pick up @ United Methodist Church Fri 2-6pm,
Sat 9am-1pm
- May 11** Mayor & Council Meeting; 8pm
- May 12** Last Day to register to vote for the Primary Election
- May 17** Demarest PTO 33rd Annual Demarest 5K
- May 18** Mayor & Council Meeting; 8pm
- May 25** Memorial Day Parade; 9:30am
- June 2** Primary Day; Polls open from 6am-8pm



DEMAREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

Congratulations to our new Chief, James McFadden, Sr. and thank you to outgoing Fire Chief, Rich Motta, Jr.

On December 9th 2014, the department presented awards to the winners of the annual Fire Prevention Poster contest. The award assemblies were held at CRS and L.Lee schools with school staff and many parents in attendance. The contest is run as part of the department's annual Fire Prevention program. The Fire Department programs are conducted each Fall in conjunction with National Fire Safety Week. The winning entrants received ribbons and gift certificates.

The department is pleased to announce the following winners:

County Road School

Kindergarten: 1st Place-David Choi, Runners-up: Molly Brisman, Ines Ko

1st Grade: 1st Place-Josh Poppers, Runners-up: Leah Park, Mia Barbieri and Ava Chin

Luther Lee School

2nd Grade: 1st Place- Ally Jesner, Runners-up: Isaac Peters, Jacob Kim and Soham Bafana

3rd Grade: 1st Place-Rachelle Wu, Runners-up: Ethan Huang, Roslyn Gonzalez and Thomas Lee

4th Grade: 1st Place- Walker Reis, Runners-up: Cherie Chung, Criss Guzman and Ryan Weiss

Congratulations too all the students for an excellent effort and thank you to the school staff for their cooperation in helping to make this program a success!

SAFETY REMINDERS

** Use caution when using fireplaces. Don't overload a fire-place, keep paper and other combustibles at a safe distance and dispose of ashes in a safe manner. Keep screens and fireplace doors closed and ensure that fire is out before going to bed.*

** Keep combustibles away from heating systems and space heaters.*

** DO NOT leave vehicles, snow blowers, generators, or similar machines running in the garage. Carbon monoxide poisoning is odorless and deadly.*

** A 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.*

** PLEASE keep any fire hydrants near your home clear of snow. In an emergency, the fire department can lose valuable minutes clearing snow away from a hydrant. Those precious minutes could cost a life!*

FUND DRIVE

The department again urges all residents who have not responded to our annual fund drive to please help. Any contribution, big or small is appreciated. Without your assistance 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 provided continuous service to the community since 1894. New members are always needed. If you don't have the time to devote to be trained as a regular Firefighter then join us as an Auxiliary member which requires less training. Stop by the Fire House any Sunday morning or Tuesday night to learn more.

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