

DEMAREST DIGEST

Official Borough Newsletter
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MAYOR' MESSAGE

Memorial Day (May 25) – Please join us in honoring all those men and women who gave their lives fighting for the freedoms we enjoy and sometimes take for granted. The annual Demarest Memorial Day parade will begin at 9:00 AM on Monday May 25 at the Demarest Library and proceed east on Hardenburgh, to Piermont, to Northwood, to High, to Hardenburgh and into the park to the war memorial. The ceremony will immediately follow the parade. Thanks once again to the 5th grade Middle School students for planting flowers around the Pond area in advance of Memorial Day.

Fourth of July (Saturday) – As a first for Demarest, we will have a reading of the Declaration of Independence. Resident Thornton Lockwood, a descendant of one of the signers of the Declaration, Josiah Bartlett from New Hampshire, has put together a program incorporating the reading. The event will be held at the Pond area (railroad depot in case of rain) from 11:00 to noon. Light refreshments will be served immediately after.

Demarest Day and Sustainability (Green) Team

If you are interested in helping organize a Demarest Day, please contact Councilman Gray or myself as we have several residents who volunteered to work on this for a possible date in September. The more volunteers, the better chance of success as putting this event together requires many hands and a significant amount of money to be raised.

The Environmental Commission has done an admirable job of closing in on Demarest obtaining Bronze certification from Sustainable NJ, enabling the borough to apply for grants to implement environmental and health related measures. Again, the more residents involved, the work becomes much easier and the benefit to residents and the Borough ever greater.

Current Tasks

- * **Demarest Brook Dredging** – The dredging work has been completed and restoration of the site will shortly commence.
- * **Road Paving Projects** – Unfortunately, the Borough did not receive state funding to finish paving Columbus Road and Everett Road. The applications for aid far outweighed the funds available.
- * **Waste and Recyclable Collection** – Bids have been received and are being reviewed for a new contract. **REMINDER: Recycling paper, cardboard, bottles (glass, plastic), cans (aluminum, steel) is mandatory. Please place these materials at the curb on the respective Wednesdays. Electronic equipment (computers, TVs, etc.) can be dropped off at the container by the DPW building near the entrance road to Wakelee Field. The waste contractor has been instructed not to pick up waste with recyclables mixed in with trash.**

2015 Budget – On May 11, the governing body adopted a budget that calls for an increase in the municipal tax rate from \$0.509/\$100 assessed value to \$0.519/\$100 assessed value. This will result in an increase of \$70 on the average home assessed at \$730,000. The increase by the library will result in an additional \$14 on average. These increases do not include the local and regional schools nor the county portion of taxes

While the average increase of \$70 is relatively small, I do believe the budget could have been reduced without jeopardizing any services. Total general appropriations increased \$413,428 this year or approximately 5%. The amount to be raised by taxes this year is \$167,000 more than 2014. This amount to be raised by taxes was lowered by using \$540,000 from surplus compared to surplus used in 2014 of \$189,900. Even using \$540,000 in surplus, the Borough still has a surplus of over \$921,000, this amount being above the state recommended guidelines. (As a comparison, the Borough had surpluses of \$418,884 and \$693,259 as of January 1, 2013 and 2014 respectively). I will continue to advocate for keeping expenditures to what is reasonable and necessary.

Sincerely,
Ray Cywinski

DEMAREST NATURE CENTER

Spring is the time of year to do spring cleaning, smell the flowers and just breathe. It is also the time of year to visit the Demarest Nature Center. The Demarest Nature Center is a serene place to get back in touch with nature. Look at the wonderful different types of trees, the different types of wildlife that grace the Demarest Nature Center. You can either walk across the waterways on one of the beautiful bridges or you can sit in the middle of nature on one of the benches and listen to the sounds all around you. There will be a few events coming up that benefit the Demarest Nature Center that are great for the entire family.

Breakfast in the Woods is a wonderful annual event for people who love breakfast, nature, photography and animals. Come Saturday, June 13 at 9am and enjoy made-to-order omelets under open skies with your friends and neighbors, along with the announcement of Photo Contest winners and a live animal show. This is a Membership Appreciation event. If you are not a member of the Demarest Nature Center there is a charge to enjoy the Breakfast. You can pay on the spot for as little as \$10 for an individual and \$20 for a family. Demarest Nature Center is a 501C3 Not for Profit corporation. (Naturally we encourage people to contribute more. Many of our members pay \$50, \$100 or more per year to support trail maintenance, school nature programs and other nature center priorities.)

Why make Breakfast in the Woods for members only? To increase the number of members and to raise money for our wonderful Demarest Nature Center. The event is still open to all, including out-of-towners. The only change is that everyone must pay for Breakfast if they are not a member of the Demarest Nature Center. People who aren't sure if they've paid their annual dues can send an email to dncamembership@gmail.com to find out. Breakfast will be served from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. next to the Imaginative Playground at Wakelee Field. Photo contest winners will be announced at 10 a.m. There will be a live animal show after the photo contest. Rain date is June 14.

There are many other upcoming events. Please check on www.demarestnaturecenter.org. Look forward to seeing you at an event soon!

DEMAREST PUBLIC LIBRARY

2015 Summer Reading Program

This summer show off your SUPER reading at the library with this summer's Reading Program, "Every Hero Has a Story". The library will be hosting our annual reading club, where the more you read the more chances you will get towards some fun prizes.

We will also be hosting storytimes, crafts, and other awesome programs that explore the SUPER world around us.

Registration begins June 22nd in the Children's Department. For more questions and details contact Miss Kate @ 201-768-8714.

Storytime

Morning Storytimes for children ages birth to 4 are on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10:30 am.

Afternoon Storytime for ALL ages is every Monday at 3:30 pm.

Library Hours

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 9am-8pm; Tuesday & Friday 9am-5pm ; Saturday 9am-1pm & Sunday 1pm-5pm. No Sunday hours from July 4-Sept 12

Check the Library website at demarest.bccls for Summer Holiday closing.

RECYCLING

Over the past few months we have received numerous complaints regarding residents not adhering to the recycling schedule. I would like to thank our residents for their concern. Complaints have included but have not been limited to cardboard boxes and paper being put out along with the regular garbage. In the future we will be working with our DPW to ensure that residents adhere to the schedule. If you are unsure of the schedule please stop by Borough Hall for one. I would also ask that as a resident if you see something say something. Sometimes hearing from a neighbor will have more impact than anything we can do. Thanks in advance for your cooperation,

Joe Gray

Borough Council President

DEMAREST SWIM CLUB

The Demarest Swim Club is now accepting new memberships for the upcoming 2015 season. Registration is now handled through Community Pass. Just go to <https://register.communitypass.net/DemarestSwimClub> and follow the instructions.

Our lush, 6-acre property has plenty of chaise lounges, tables, chairs and umbrellas for members to soak up the sun, relax in the shade and catch up with friends and neighbors. Three pools offer something for everyone and our snack bar is always stocked with ice cream, cool drinks and light snacks.

Children are also welcome to register for the DSC Swim and Dive teams on June 5th at the Wakelee Field House from 5-7 pm. The fee is \$45.

For more information check out the website at www.demarestswimclub.com or call Jen Anavim at 803-2740 or Rich Gordon at 750-3350.

4th Annual Triathlon

The race will consist of a 300-yard swim, a 12-mile bike ride through Demarest and Cresskill and a 5k run through the trails of the Demarest Nature Center and the streets of Demarest. The transition area will be on the spacious front lawn of the pool complex, with plenty of room for an easy transition. Race Schedule: Check in: Sunday, June 7th, 6 am to 7 am; Announcements/Briefing - 7:05 am; Race start: 7:30 am; Awards: 10 am.

This year's beneficiary is the Research Down Syndrome (RDS). RDS supports scientific studies directed towards understanding the sources of cognitive difficulties in persons with Down Syndrome. RDS believes in the promise of a future where therapies will be available that will help improve memory, learning and communication in persons with Down Syndrome.

DEMAREST MUNICIPAL COURT

The court dates for the next three months are June 9th, July 14th, and August 11th 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. Please note: tickets can be paid online at www.njmcdirect.com.

Looking Back to 1950 by Joan M. Atkinson

That was the year we moved to Demarest. The houses had no numbers then. There was no mail delivery. The "Post Office" was located at one of the stores on Park Street. You picked up your mail there.

Rodney Place was a "Dead End" street. Our neighbor, two houses away, raised chickens. Once a week we could buy 1 dozen for 25 cents. But please return the carton.

My husband commuted to work in N.Y.C. every day by bus (right at the corner). The fare was 25 cents each way and 5 cents on the subway.

There was only one school, grades K-8 on Piermont Road. Where the Bank of America stands today, was an old large house. On the first floor was a soda fountain, where you could buy an ice cream cone or a soda.

Many changes have come to Demarest in 65 years, plus an increase in population. However, Demarest still remains a nice town to live in.

Well no one sent me the answer to the Demarest Trivia question that was in the Spring newsletter.

To refresh your memory. The question was who was the first full time police officer and Police Chief for the Borough.

The answer is Police Chief Carrol Potter.

The Demarest Police Department was brought into being by Municipal Ordinance #90 approved by the Borough Council on June 20, 1928.

Chief Potter served as Police Chief until his death in 1935.

Happy Summer



**The Demarest Environmental Commission
Promotes**

**PROPER DISPOSAL OF
EXPIRED OR UNWANTED MEDICINES**

Unwanted medicines should be disposed of safely and properly like all other household hazardous wastes. Medications are chemically active and pose a threat to the environment when flushed down the toilet, washed down the sink drain or thrown in the trash. What were once considered acceptable ways to dispose of medicines are proven pollutants and should be avoided.

Research shows that landfills leach residue including pharmaceuticals in to soil and ground water. Likewise, wastewater treatment plants do not remove medicines allowing medications to be released into lakes, rivers and oceans. Traces of human medicines have been found in our drinking water, fish and aquatic animals. Polluting these waters leads to contamination of our food and water supplies. The safest and most environmentally responsible way to properly dispose of unused medicines is to turn them in to a take-back program.

The Demarest Environmental Commission would like to inform residents that the closest drop-off box for unwanted medications is at the Dumont Police Department. **The Drop Box is located inside the door of the Dumont Police Department which is being temporarily housed in a trailer at 50 Washington Avenue, Dumont, NJ.**

Demarest Historical Trivia

Lately a number of vegetables have been in the news as important for good health. One reported was that watercress had more nutritious offerings than kale. A former resident, Mrs. Evelyn Noel, who grew up in town shared this memory about watercress during an interview.

Watercress was abundant and "free" in the earlier days of Demarest. There have been several reports that you could go down to a brook, the Tenakill in particular and pick watercress. Mrs. Evelyn Noel said, "Watercress, you could pick and eat it. Just put a little salt on it. Oh boy! We were in heaven. It had a little spice to it but not enough to be bitter. Oh boy, that was good!"

Work continues to be done to enhance Demarest's archives with photos, memories and items that residents and non-residents provide. If you have any information, memories or photos of Demarest you would like to share with the present and certainly the future people of town, please feel free to contact Borough Historian, Mary Anne Clarke.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Pet Safety Tips

On an average summer day, the temperature of a car in the sun can reach an unbearable 160 degrees. Nine out of ten dogs die of heat prostration within 20 minutes, even with the windows partly open. If your dog is fortunate enough to survive, his heart and lungs can be permanently damaged—damage you cannot see, but which he must live with for the rest of his life. Your pet cannot perspire through his skin as people do; his lungs are his only cooling system. With nothing but overheated air to breathe, he cannot live very long. Please, if you love your pets, leave your pet at home in the shade.

LYME DISEASE

TIPS FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION

1. Avoid tick-infected areas, especially in May, June, July & August.
2. Wear light-colored clothing so that ticks can be spotted more easily.
3. Tuck pant legs into socks or boots & shirt into pants.
4. Tape the area where pants & socks meet so that ticks cannot crawl under clothing.
5. Use insect repellent containing DEET or picaridin.
6. Spray insect repellents containing permethrin on clothing only.
7. Wear a hat & long-sleeved shirt for added protection.
8. Walk in the center of trails to avoid overhanging grass & brush.
9. After being outdoors, remove, wash & dry clothing at a high temperature, inspect body carefully & properly remove any attached ticks.
10. Clear brush & tall grass around house & at the edges of gardens.

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 weeks, so make sure you allow ample time. Any questions please call Kate Williams at 201-768-3398



SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 25 Memorial Day Parade; 9:00am***
- June 2 Primary Day; Polls open from 6am-8pm***
- June 5 Demarest Swim Club Swim & Dive teams registration; 5pm-7pm @ Wakelee Field House***
- June 6 Demarest Nature Center Photo Contest Deadline***
- June 8 Mayor & Council meeting; 8:00 pm; Council Chambers***
- June 9 Municipal Court; 6pm; Council Chambers***
- June 13 Demarest Nature Center "Annual Breakfast in the Woods", 9-11am***
- June 14 Flag Day***
- June 22 Mayor & Council meeting; 8:00 pm; Council Chambers***
- July 4 Independence Day (239th Birthday of the United States of America)***
- July 13 Mayor & Council meeting; 8:00 pm; Council Chambers***
- July 14 Municipal Court; 6pm; Council Chambers***
- July 15 Summer Concert in the Park; 7pm-8:30pm***
- July 27 Mayor & Council meeting; 8:00 pm; Council Chambers***
- July 29 Summer Concert in the Park; 7pm-8:30pm***
- August 5 Summer Concert in the Park; 7pm-8:30pm***
- August 10 Mayor & Council meeting; 8:00 pm; Council Chambers***
- August 11 Municipal Court; 6pm; Council Chambers***
- August 24 Mayor & Council meeting; 8:00 pm; Council Chambers***
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DEMAEST GARDEN CLUB

Thank You!

The Demarest Garden Club wishes to thank the many supporters of our recent and successful plant sale. The funds raised make possible the club's sponsorship of many special events and program.

Gardening With Our Local Schools

The Demarest Garden Club continues its commitment to developing future gardeners. This spring garden club members presented an afterschool program at Luther Lee, hosted the annual 5th Grade planting of flowers at the Duck Pond, participated in the Demarest Middle School teaching garden and joined with Shaping a Green Bergen Garden to create a community garden at Bergen Tech Paramus. Youth gardening is alive and well in our community!

Summer Meetings, Social Activities and Fieldtrips

Members and invited guests are welcome.

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

Summer Activities: Field trips to public and private gardens throughout the tri-state area for garden tours

Davies Arboretum Civic Project

The garden club oversees the Davies Arboretum at 49 Anderson Avenue. Club Members meet on Wednesday mornings 9 - 11 A.M., from March to October, weather permitting. Prospective members are welcome to join us and participate in garden related activities to maintain flowering trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials and bulbs. 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.

Membership

Membership in the Demarest Garden Club is open to all local gardeners, male and female, from any town. Annual dues are \$25 and include membership in the Garden Club of New Jersey. For more information or to join the club or attend our monthly public meetings, you can contact us at our website www.DemarestGardenClub.org or email Membership Chair Elisabeth Evans at elevans2@verizon.net

DEMAREST RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Demarest Summer Rec Camp staff has been working hard to plan an exciting summer camp program for all our registered campers!! The camp calendar has many new creative ideas for it's themed camp days, such as Fiesta Day, Hollywood Day, Scavenger Hunt Day, and I Love Chocolate Day, as well as many new vendors scheduled to visit the camp such as the Harlem Wizards, Breakdancers, and even a petting zoo!! Our field trips will include destinations such as Bounce, Dave and Busters, the Ice House, Keansburg Amusement and Waterpark, and even Medieval Times! Every Tuesday our campers enjoy the beautiful Demarest Town Pool and of course every Friday is "Ice Cream Friday"! And let's not forget our annual Last Day DJ Party, parents join us at noon on this day!! The fun never ends at Demarest Summer Rec Camp - summer is all about FUN and we've got that covered!! The first day of camp is Monday June 29th, 2015 so please look out for your Camp Packets which should be mailed on or about June 1st, 2015

As the level of much-needed involvement from residents expands, so does the quantity and quality of programs and events we are able to support. John Bannen, Sara Gatanas, Rebecca LaPira, and Esther Goodhart are the newest members of the Committee effective in 2015 and join existing members Andrea Slowikowski, Anita Gonzalez, and Virginia Bargisen. We are all greatly appreciative of their time and efforts in developing programs for 2015.

The committee has been working hard to plan several events - some are new and some of picking up where we left off a couple of years ago... please watch out for events posted in the PTO Newsletter, Demarest Mom's Facebook, and the Borough of Demarest Web Site.

Spring / Summer Events the Committee has organized are as follows:

1. The Recreation Committee is hosting a Parents Challenge every Wednesday meeting at the Demarest Train Station at 9:45am. So far we have about 15 parents participating both running and walking.
2. Summer Concerts in the Park - July 15th, July 29th and August 5th - 7pm to 8:30pm at the Gazebo. Join us early for dinner and treats beginning at 5:30pm.
3. The committee is also planning an outdoor summer movie night - more details to follow soon.

The committee is also working to bring back Demarest Day in the fall. If you would like to sponsor a booth or table... or volunteer, please contact: rebecca-lapira@yahoo.com.

The committee meets about once per month and are always looking for ideas from residents and volunteers to help coordinate. Please contact Borough Hall if you would like to get involved.

DEMAREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Safety: Spring/Summer tips.

Spring cleaning? Please don't leave rags, clothing, paper or flammable liquids near any heating systems or water heaters. Fumes could be ignited by pilot lights or flame from these units. Also, keep area WELL VENTILATED.

Check the grill before using for damaged hoses, valves and leaks. Keep grills at LEAST 4 FEET from the home when in use! Watch the kids. Hot grills can cause severe burns.

Don't run any lawn or yard equipment in the garage or basement. You risk serious injury from carbon monoxide poisoning or fire.

Keep candles out of reach of children and pets, away from drapes, curtains or other flammable material. Be sure candles are extinguished before leaving the house or going to bed.

Keep any fire hydrants on or near your property clear of branches and debris. Valuable time may be wasted while the fire department clears debris in order to make a connection to a hydrant and provide water to fight a fire.

Easy to read, well lit house numbers will help us to find your home faster in case of an emergency.

Going away? Please contact the Police Department to leave a key or leave one with a trusted neighbor along with a phone number. Should you have an alarm at your home while away this will allow the Fire Dept to gain entry without causing damage to your home.

CHECK YOUR SMOKE and CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS at least once a month!

Need advice on where/how to install detectors? Call us or stop by the Fire House.

FUND DRIVE

Our annual FUND DRIVE is in progress. If you haven't responded we encourage you to do so. Any contribution, big or small is appreciated. Without your financial assistance, many of our programs, such as the annual Fire Safety and Poster contest at the schools may have to be eliminated.

DEMAREST POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Demarest Police Department would like to remind all residents that it is now mandated that operators of a motor vehicle must stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk. For additional information regarding this law, you can refer to NJ State Statute 39:4-117.

Below are some safety tips for walkers

* Wear bright-colored, reflectorized clothing, especially at night.

* Walk on sidewalks or paths and always cross at the corner, within marked crosswalks if provided. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic and make eye contact with motorists.

* Never cross mid-block (unless within a marked crosswalk), between parked cars or by climbing over median barriers. This is not only unsafe, but against the law.

* Look left, then right and left again before crossing, and always be on the look-out for turning vehicles.

* Continue to look for vehicles while crossing, even when in marked crosswalks.

* Learn the proper use of "walk/don't walk" signals and obey them.

* Walk and cross with others, when possible.

* Do not attempt to cross while talking or texting on a cell phone. Pedestrian inattention is a common cause of pedestrian-motor vehicle conflicts.

* Try not to walk at night or in bad weather such as rain, snow or ice.

* If you drink alcohol, have someone escort you to your front door.

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 skating, in-line 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

DEMAREST AMBULANCE CORPS

Common Springtime Accidents

Winter is finally beginning to end, and Spring is here. With the changing weather all of the fun activities come after months spent indoors: walks in the park, trips to the beach and the lake, grilling outdoors, sports and more. While all of these activities are fun and enjoyable after the months of being cooped up inside, it's important to be familiar with a few safety tips.

Being Safe During Spring

Getting to do fun outdoor activities for the first time in months can be great, but that's no reason that you can't practice safety at the same time. Some good safety tips for the spring include:

- * Always wear sunscreen when you're outdoors. Even if the sky's overcast, the sun's UV rays can still cause painful (and dangerous) sunburns. Wearing sunscreen and reapplying it frequently can help you stay comfortable and healthy outdoors. Remember - SPF measures how long it can protect your skin. An SPF of 20 will protect your skin from burning 20 times longer than normal.
- * When you're around the pool, don't run. The slick pavement can cause you to slip and fall.
- * When you're going on camping trips or other long excursions, make sure you carry a first-aid kit with you, just in case. You can purchase a readymade kit or build one yourself. Make sure it has bandages, germ killers, cold compresses, and painkillers.
- * Make sure you carefully supervise your children. Keeping an eye out for them can be the difference between a fun outing and a trip to the emergency room.
- * It is a good idea to use some sort of insect repellent. Some insects can carry dangerous diseases. There are many effective repellents on the market, including some organic ones, if you're concerned about the chemicals.
- * When playing sports, make sure you follow the safety rules and use all necessary safety equipment. By following these safety tips, you can ensure that your spring is as safe and fun as possible.

The Demarest Volunteer Ambulance Corps. is always here to serve our community. We are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week and even on holidays. Our Corps is run by a small group of dedicated volunteers. We NEED your help. Become an EMT and join us so we can continue to meet the needs of our community. You can reach us at 201-767-8050. If you cannot give your time consider a donation. Any amount is greatly appreciated. It can be mailed to DVAC P.O. ,Box 131, Demarest, NJ 07627.



Borough of Demarest
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