

# DEMAREST DIGEST

Official Borough Newsletter  
Volume 48 No. 1 March 2016



## Mayor's Message

### On-Going Road Paving Program

This year we have requested our Borough engineer to prepare documents in order to obtain costs for the possible repaving of Belmar St., Demarest Ave. (between Lincoln St. and John St.), Lincoln St., Heritage Court and Wellwood Rd. In addition, we plan on paving Everett Road if we are successful in obtaining a grant from the NJ Department of Transportation.

### Northern Valley Regional High School (NVRHS) Referendum

A referendum will be put before the voters in all the towns within the school district of the NVRHS. The vote is scheduled for March 8. The referendum is for certain capital improvements at both high schools. Information on the proposed plan will be sent to all the residents from the school. As this newsletter 'goes to print' the acting School Superintendent has stated that his goal is to make the upcoming budget tax neutral for the towns. Cost savings are proposed to offset the increased cost of the bond should the referendum pass.

### Borough Newsletter

The council voted late last year to discontinue mailing this quarterly newsletter to residents. I did not, and do not support this action. Call me old-fashioned, but I believe having the newsletter mailed to the residents provides a mode of communication to those who may not wish to regularly visit the Demarest website for the newsletter. Printed copies will be available at the Borough Hall and the Library. Should you wish the newsletter continue to be mailed to you, you may request this by calling the Borough Clerk, Susan Crosman at 201-768-2569

### 2016 Budget

The Finance Committee plans on presenting a proposed budget to the governing body at the March 14 Mayor & Council meeting. We are still mandated by the state to keep any budget increase, with some exceptions, to no greater increase than 2%. As the high school is working to keep any tax increase to a minimum or none at all even if the \$11.7 million referendum passes, I encourage the Borough Council to diligently work to propose a budget with a bare minimum tax increase. This would require reductions in expenditures to offset the anticipated increase in debt payments from capital improvements and purchases, including a new fire engine and ambulance.

### Demarest Nature Center Lease

Over 40 years ago, a number of Demarest residents worked to preserve 55 acres of woodland, now known as the Demarest Nature Center. For 40 years, past and present Nature Center Association trustees have been stewards of this land; establishing, clearing and maintaining trails, offering programs to young and old alike. We are now working with the officers and trustees of the Association to apply, as required, to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection to renew the lease between the Borough and the Association for another 20 years. I urge you to support the Association by becoming or continuing your membership, volunteering and certainly, by enjoying a piece of nature right here in our backyard.

### Zoning Ordinances

The governing body, in cooperation with the Planning and Zoning Boards, intends to examine existing ordinances to determine if changes are needed to address issues of concern, especially in regard to new construction.

Recently, I had the pleasure of issuing a proclamation commemorating Demarest resident Frank Lucia, on his 106<sup>th</sup> birthday on Feb. 8 and declaring the week of Feb. 8 as **FRANK LUCIA week**.

Sincerely,  
Ray Cywinski

### 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 1st, April 12th, and May 10th. 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)

### DEMAREST SWIM CLUB

Enjoy swimming, biking or running? It's time to start training! The Demarest Swim Club will be hosting its 5th Annual Triathlon on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. This event has put Demarest on the map for local athletes, experienced and newcomers alike.

Join as an individual competitor or with a team. Proceeds this year will benefit the Yellow Ribbon Fund and all are welcome to participate, sponsor or volunteer to this great community builder. Check out the DSC website for registration & sponsor forms or contact Lenny Cottrell at [lennyrcottrell@gmail.com](mailto:lennyrcottrell@gmail.com).

And share the beauty of the Demarest Swim Club with your friends. Successfully refer a family and receive a guest card worth \$50, or for a single membership receive a \$30 guest card. Again, congratulations goes out to the Demarest Swim Club Swim and Dive teams for their competitive 2015 season placing 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively in the New Jersey State Counties. Stay tuned for upcoming announcement when registration opens for the 2016 summer season!

### ART SCHOOL AT OLD CHURCH

The Art School at Old Church on Piermont Road in Demarest is supported in part by a hidden gem thrift store. Our Thrift Shop in Westwood is a wonderful place to browse and shop for gently used garments and housewares. Vivien Woodford, a Demarest resident, works tirelessly as manager of Our Thrift Shop, organizing donations and volunteer shifts to keep the displays dynamic and the atmosphere calm. Woodford is also a member of the board of directors at the Art School and uses some of her many talents to keep the shop ship shape.

Brand name items in great shape are a common find at Our Thrift Shop. Each season, Bergen County residents filter through their belongings and donate their treasures to a local cause. Savvy shoppers have always known about the bargains waiting to be found in second-hand stores, and Our Thrift Shop in Westwood is a destination for many. The well-maintained displays are replenished regularly by the staff of dedicated volunteers, so there's always something new to be found!

Our Thrift Shop is located at 245 Old Hook Road in Westwood, NJ. For inquiries call 201-594-0144.

Hours are: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Saturday.

For At School

Call (201) 767-7160 for a printed catalog of course offerings. Call or stop by to pick up a catalog of courses and see the studios at the Art School at Old Church, 561 Piermont Road, Demarest, NJ.

The Art School is a non-profit cultural resource center providing community access to enriching experiences in the arts. The school offers over 90 art classes and workshops for adults, teens and children each semester, as well as free gallery art exhibitions, cultural events, and outreach programs for special populations. The Art School's programs are made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as contributions from foundations, corporations, businesses and individuals.

## DEMAREST GARDEN CLUB

**Annual Plant Sale:** The Demarest Garden Club is a 501c3 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 7<sup>th</sup>.

Plant pickup will be at the United Methodist Church on Friday, May6 and Saturday, May7. Please visit our website for details on the pre-order form [www.DemarestGardenClub.org](http://www.DemarestGardenClub.org). Please mail your form with payment before April 7<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds from the plant sale allow us to offer educational programs at our public meetings, workshops for school children as well as fund planting projects around town. The Demarest Garden club also maintains the Davies Arboretum.

### Club Programs Open to Public

Scheduled programs are held at 2:00PM in the hall of the United Methodist Church 109 Hardenburgh Ave. All interested gardeners and visitors are invited.

### SPRING PROGRAMS

March 4<sup>th</sup> –Butterflies and Native Plants-Dan Torino will help us learn what we can do to help support pollinators in the home garden

April 1<sup>st</sup> – “Garden in Fall”-Dail Reid-Master Gardener and Horticulturist with give us tips to apply now and have beauty in the fall gardens

May 6-7-Annual Plant Sale

### SPRING ACTIVITIES AND FIELD TRIPS

Mar 4-Flower arranging workshop for Meals on Wheels favors

Mar 5-13 Philadelphia Flower Show

April -TBD-Field trip to Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit NJ

May-TBD Trip to Laurelwood Arboretum Wayne NJ

May-TBD-Environmental Day educational program

May-TBD-Planting with the Girl Scouts

June-TBD-Trip to NJ Botanical Gardens Ringwood NJ

*All programs and activities are subject to cancellation due to weather conditions*

### Davies Arboretum Civic Project

The Garden Club oversees the Davies Arboretum at 49 Anderson Ave. Be sure to stop by to enjoy the re-freshed grounds. Thank you to Ken Barber and **Ken's Tree Care** crew along with **Demarest DPW** crew who gave an extensive clean up early in the winter. We should see more of the beauty this Spring.

### 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 [elevens2@verizon.net](mailto:elevens2@verizon.net)

## DEMAREST PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Demarest Library has added a second ESL conversation group! Come on Tuesdays from 10:30am to 12:00pm or Wednesdays from 1:00pm to 2:30pm. Registration is not required.

Borrow from the library 24/7/365. A Demarest Library card grants you access to eBooks, eAudiobooks, digital magazines, and streaming movies and music. The Hoopla borrowing cap has recently been increased – get up to twenty titles a month!

Stop by our new coloring table upstairs – unwind with our colored pencils and adult coloring books.

The library is open from 9am to 8pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 9am to 5pm on Tuesdays and Fridays, from 9am to 1pm on Saturdays and from 1pm to 5pm on Sundays. Visit our website to learn more about our programs and services for children and adults: [demarestlibrary.org](http://demarestlibrary.org)

### ELECTION NEWS

#### Primary Day—June 8

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 17th.

### 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 1<sup>st</sup>; 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 NATURE CENTER

**March 19: Easter Egg Hunt with the Easter Bunny!** 2 pm in the Imaginative Playground near Wakelee Field. Bring your toddlers through 4th graders for some yummy fun and great photo ops. Rain date March 20th.

**April 23: Nature Walk & Volunteer Day.** At 9:30 Naturalist Marc Gossen will lead our walk through the trails, as we spot signs of Spring in the flora and fauna. Followed by Volunteer Day at 10:30. Wear long pants and bring your gardening gloves. We'll be cleaning up litter and doing light trail maintenance. Meet at the Wakelee Field Playground parking lot for either or both event(s). Rain date, *only if extreme weather on Saturday, Sunday, April 24.*

**Take a class in nature photography** given by Cynthia Soroka-Dunn, Trustee and current president of the Demarest Nature Center. Open to all ages! Classroom instruction in the Demarest Railroad Station, Field instruction Saturday in the Demarest Nature Center meet in the Wakelee Field Playground parking lot. Advance registration for \$10 per person will be available through our website [www.demarestnaturecenter.org](http://www.demarestnaturecenter.org) or \$12 per person on the day of the event. Bring a digital camera. DATES TO BE DETERMINED, KEEP AN EYE ON THE ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARD AND OUR WEBSITE.

**June 4: DNC Photo Contest Deadline.** Deposit entries at the Demarest Free Public Library in our Basket. All photos must be taken in the nature center. See our website for contest details. Awards to be announced at the Breakfast in the Woods, Throughout the school year, your DNC member dollars pay for environmental programs and educational field trips for our kindergarten & elementary school students. We also have a yearly essay scholarship offered to graduating seniors from high school. For details and updates see our website at [www.demarestnaturecenter.org](http://www.demarestnaturecenter.org)

### 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 #130.

## DEMAREST POLICE DEPARTMENT

### **Beware of Distractions When You Drive...**

Each Year people are killed from 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 phones while driving. Drivers who talk or text on a handheld cell phone while driving face a fine. Driving requires your full attention.

The new fines are:

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

### *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.

### **DISTRACTED DRIVING-- BEYOND PHONES:**

Whenever someone drives a vehicle and their attention is not on the road, they put themselves, their passengers, other vehicles, and pedestrians in danger. Cell phones get a lot of negative media attention-but other more low-tech distractions cause most traffic crashes. Spilling hot coffee or dropping something on the floor while driving are two distractions drivers cited most as reasons for their crashes. Fiddling with a radio or climate-control system is the next most-cited distraction. Some commuters read the newspaper, shave or apply make-up on they way to work. The fact they are operating a motor vehicle at the same time doesn't seem to concern them.

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.

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

## DEMAREST AMBULANCE CORPS

*The Demarest Volunteer Ambulance is pleased to announce the following officers for 2016.*

### **LINE OFFICERS**

*Chief Joseph P. Fortuanto, III, First Chief Roberta Hoag and Second Chief Andrew Woods*

### **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS**

*President Joanne Pianghi, Treasuer Diane Marello and Secretary Robert Schiraldi*

*We are the Demarest Volunteer Ambulance Corp. We need 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 DEMAERST NJ 07627*

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

# THINK SPRING

## SPRING CALENDAR EVENTS

- March 4** Demarest Garden Club meeting; 1:00pm @ the United Methodist Church; 2:00 pm Program: Butterflies and Native Plants-Dan Torino
- March 8** NVHS Referendum Vote: 7am-9pm
- March 14** Mayor & Council Meeting; 8pm
- March 19** Demarest Nature Center Annual Egg Hunt @ 2pm at the children's playground (rain date: March 20th )
- March 23** Mayor & Council Meeting; 8pm
- April 1** Demarest Garden Club meeting; 1:00pm @ the United Methodist Church; 2:00 pm Program: "Garden in Fall"-Dail Reid-Master Gardener and Horticulturist
- April 11** Mayor & Council Meeting; 8pm
- April 22** 44th Anniversary of Earth Day
- April 25** Mayor & Council; 8pm
- April 23** Demarest Nature Center Spring Nature Walk & Volunteer Day @ 9:30am (Rain date: April 24)
- April 29** Arbor Day
- May 1-2** Demarest Garden Club Annual Plant Sale pick up @ United Methodist Church Fri 2-6pm, Sat 9am-1pm
- May 9** Mayor & Council Meeting; 8pm
- May 17** Last Day to register to vote for the Primary Election
- May 22** Demarest PTO 33rd Annual Demarest 5K
- May 23** Mayor & Council Meeting; 8pm
- May 30** Memorial Day Parade; 9:30am time???
- June 4** DNC Photo Contest Deadline
- June 7** Primary Day; Polls open from 6am-8pm



## DEMAREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

At a special assembly for CRS & L.Lee Emerson schools the department presented awards to the winners of the annual Fire Prevention Poster contest. Parents, teachers and staff were in attendance as the students were presented their awards. The contest is conducted each October as part of the Fire Departments Fire Prevention program. The winning entrants received ribbons and gift certificates.

**CRS Kindergarten:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place-Caroline Nam Runners-up: Choi Song, Madelyn Wong **1<sup>st</sup> Grade:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place-Jamison Goldberg Runners-up: Carney Cohen, Olivia Kaplan, Eugene Choi

**L.Lee Emerson School** 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: 1<sup>st</sup> Place- Dalia Sasmaz Runners-up: Mia Harrison, Jonathan Mandel, Ar-belle Goldberg 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: 1<sup>st</sup> Place-Isabelle Young Runners-up: Hannah Cohen, Liliana Diaz, Lauren Brolin 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: 1<sup>st</sup> Place- Netta Saban Runners-up: Celine Hong, Lauren Conti, Jack Cleary

Congratulations too all the students for their participation and effort. Our thanks to all the school staff for their assistance.

**Other news:** Thank you and all the best to our out-going Fire Chief, James McFadden. Welcome to our incoming Officers: Chief John Mcloughlin, Asst. Chief Rich Motta, III, Captain, Michael Morrison and Lieutenants Rob Russenberger and Carl Pavlik.

### **Fire Prevention**

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is odorless, tasteless and can be deadly. Malfunctioning heating systems and chimneys can cause (CO) poisoning. Have your systems checked. Any fuel-burning appliance emits CO. These include gas/oil furnaces, space heaters, clothes dryers, gas ranges and charcoal grills. Never use ovens or clothes dryers to heat a home.

Do not run your car or gas-powered snow blowers, portable generators or other fuel-powered equipment in the garage. (CO) can drift into the living spaces creating a hazardous situation. In a snow storm, be sure to check that all vents (fireplace, dryer vents, flues) are clear of snow.

Portable Generators should be installed by a professional. Improperly installed generators can cause death or injury when power comes back on. A licensed electrician will install a transfer switch.

Install CO detectors in your home, especially near bedrooms or other sleeping areas. They can provide an early warning of CO buildup. Many newer units include smoke alarms which every home should have as well.

Clear snow off of outside gas meters. They need air circulation to prevent a natural gas buildup in & around your home.

*Smoke & CO Detectors help Save Lives*

*Check them monthly!*

