

DEMAREST DIGEST

Official Borough Newsletter
Volume 48 No. 2 June 2016



Mayor's Message

2016 Budget - The municipal budget was passed by the Borough Council by a 4-1 vote on April 25. Although only a nominal increase in the tax rate will take effect, I strongly believe the Borough could have presented a budget with no tax increase, letting the taxpayers keep their money rather than having the Borough "hold onto it". Each of the last two years, the Borough has increased its fund balance (surplus) by approximately \$700,000, bringing the fund balance to over \$2,100,000 at the end of 2015, a VERY healthy fund balance for an annual budget the size of Demarest's. As Demarest was ranked as having the 11th highest taxes by household, in NJ in 2015, I hope the council will diligently work to not have our ranking get closer to No. 1 in future years. Reducing taxes and/or paying off debt with a portion of the fund balance would certainly help in this effort.

Memorial Day Commemoration – Monday May 30, 2016 at 9:00 AM - Please join us in spending an hour or two in honoring all those men and women who gave their lives fighting for our freedom. The annual Demarest Memorial Day parade will begin at 9:00 AM 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.

This year's Grand Marshall will be Veteran Ray Di Pietro, a long-time Demarest resident and frequent participant playing taps at our Memorial Day Ceremony.

On-Going Road Paving Program - In addition to the roads envisioned to be paved through local expenditures, Belmar St., Demarest Ave. (between Lincoln St. and John St.), Lincoln St., Heritage Court and Wellwood Rd., a portion of Everett Road will be paved as a result of obtaining a grant from the NJ Department of Transportation.

Nature Center Lease - The governing body has agreed to renew the lease with the Demarest Nature Center for an additional 20 years. The proposed lease will be sent to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection which we anticipate will approve such lease as proposed. I personally thank all the Nature Center Trustees, past and present, for all their work, time and talent they have put forth over the years to maintain the lands of the Nature Center and make the various events available to our students and general public.

Shade Tree Ordinance – The council ordinance committee continues to investigate a possible ordinance to help protect the existing trees resource in town. I support an ordinance to protect existing trees (even on private property) and to require mitigation in some ratio for removal of trees (in excess of a minimum number) that are healthy and not within or close to the footprint of a proposed building or addition. The ordinance should not prevent removal of trees by property owners, but shall serve to benefit the public interest as ruled by the Supreme Court of NJ.

Dedication of American League Baseball Field – The Demarest Athletic Association's 'Opening Day' Parade for Demarest youth baseball and softball season was held Sat. May 7. Following the parade, the American League Field was dedicated and renamed the JFR Field for former Demarest Mayor Joseph F. Ringelstein. Joe served as mayor in 1965-1966 and 1969-1974 and was very involved with youth sports, especially with his eight children, most of whom were present for the dedication and first pitch.

Borough Newsletter - Printed copies will be available at the Borough Hall and the Library. Should you wish the newsletter continue to be mailed to you, please contact Susan Crosman at Borough Hall.

I wish you all a Safe and Enjoyable Summer!

Sincerely,
Ray Cywinski

DEMAREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Department recently conducted several Live Fire Drills at the Bergenfield Live Burn Facility. This 3 story facility allows Fire-Fighters to train and enhance their skills in a real world environment. Under the supervision of the Chief and trained instructors, our members trained on fire extinguishment, rescue techniques and hose evolutions.

SAFETY REMINDERS

Summer is almost here so please:

- * Be careful with solvents and other chemicals while cleaning. Be sure to keep area well ventilated.
- * Allow your lawn mower, trimmer or other gas operated tool to cool down before re-fueling!
- * Don't run lawn mowers or other gas operated equipment in your garage. Carbon Monoxide is a killer! You also run the risk of a fire.
- * Keep combustibles away from heating systems and water heaters.
- * Please keep fire hydrants clear of brush, tree limbs and other trash.
- * 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

The department wishes to thank all our residents who have contributed to our Fund Drive. 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. Our members respond to over 350 calls a year. New members are always needed. If you don't have the time to devote to be trained as a regular Firefighter then consider joining as an Auxiliary member. An Auxiliary member requires less training. As an Auxiliary you assist at Fire scenes or help out as needed at the Fire House. Auxiliary's are never placed in a hazardous situation such as entering a burning structure or other hazard. If interested please Stop by the Fire House any Sunday morning or Tuesday night for more details.

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 Statue 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

FINANCE UPDATE

On April 26, 2016, the Demarest Borough Council adopted the 2016 budget by a bipartisan 4-1 vote. The Mayor has asserted in his Mayor's Message that there is currently a \$2.1MM fund balance (surplus) on account, which he "hopes" the Council will use to reduce taxes "in future years." This would lead the average reader to the mistaken belief that the Council voted to "hoard" taxpayer money for no reason. In fact, the Council voted to apply \$600,000 of the fund balance toward the 2016 taxes, which is precisely why there will be only a "nominal increase" in the tax rate for 2016. This left a \$1.5MM balance, which the independent Borough Auditor recommended as a prudent and suitable reserve, particularly for a municipality such as Demarest with a minimal ratable tax base. The Mayor also implied that the Council was less than "diligent" in passing the budget. The Mayor's Message has traditionally been a forum for mayors to advise the community of special events and achievements, and to recognize the accomplishments of residents and employees. The contents of the Mayor's Message are not subject to edit or review by any other municipal official and represent only the Mayor's opinions. The factual statements made therein can be corroborated or refuted by publicly-available information.

Submitted by

Councilwoman Fox & Councilwoman Iannuzzi

DEMAREST SWIM CLUB

Let the Season begin... Registration is now open...

New in town? Share the beauty of the Demarest Swim Club with your family, friends and neighbors. Successfully refer a family and receive a guest card worth \$50 or for a single membership receive a \$30 guest card. Check us out at demarestswimclub.com.

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 5th. This event has put Demarest on the map for local athletes of all ages, 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. For more information go to our website or contact Lenny Cottrell at lennycottrell@gmail.com.

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 programs in the community.

* Thank you to Donny and the crew of the DPW for all of the work they have done in the Davies Arboretum.

Youth Programs

* Spring workshop at Davies Arboretum for the Brownies

* Afterschool program at Luther Lee for Brownies

* Co-hosted the annual 5th Grade Environmental Day with the Demarest Environmental Commission

* Joined with *Shaping a Green Bergen* in creating community gardens at Bergen Tech Paramus.

Youth gardening is alive and well in our community!

Summer Meetings, Social Activities and Field Trips

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. During the Spring, Summer and Fall members meet on Tuesday mornings 9:30– Noon. Prospective members are welcome to join us and participate in garden related activities to maintain flowering trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials and bulbs.

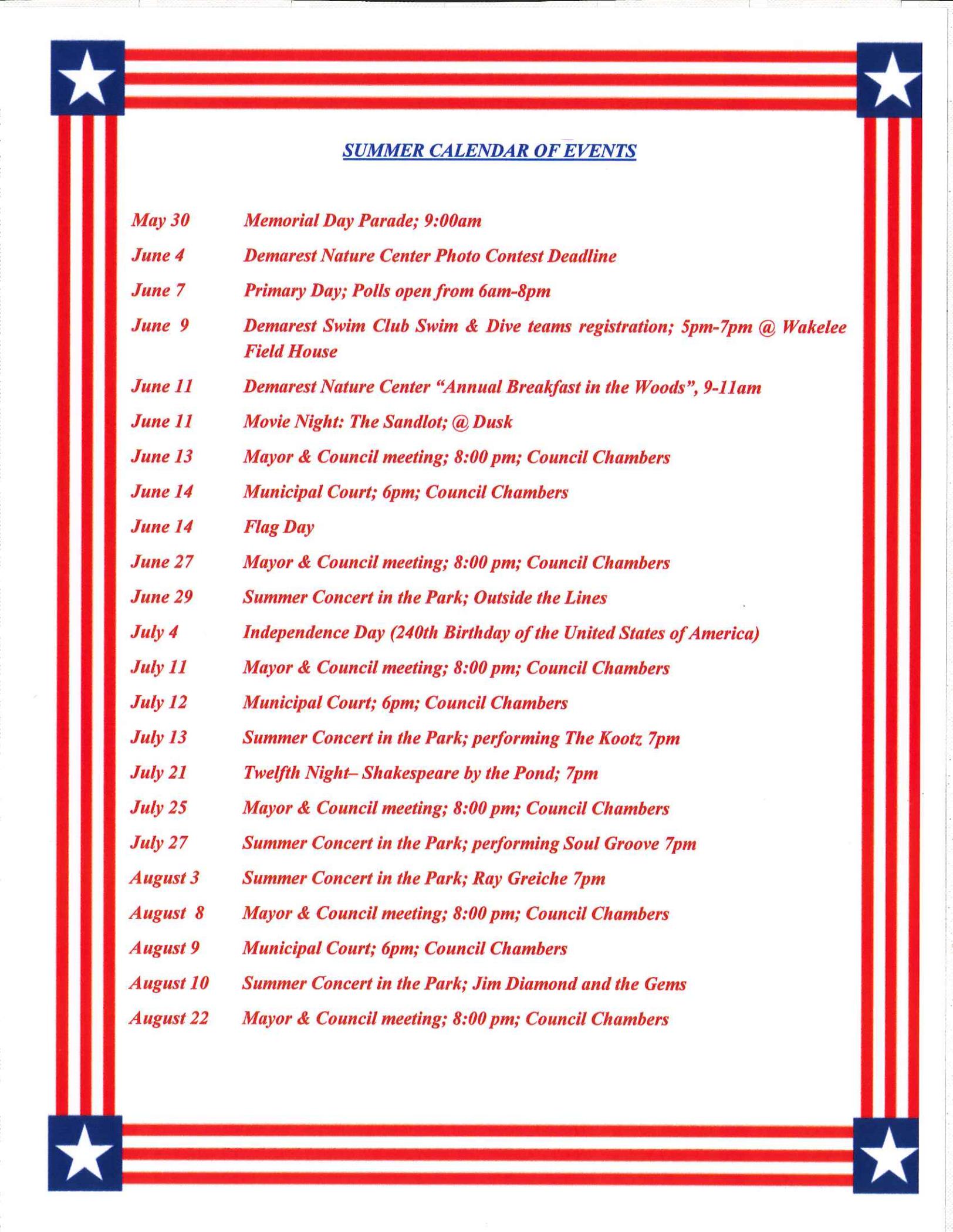
Membership

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

DEMAREST MUNICIPAL COURT

The court dates for the next three months are June 14th, July 12th, and August 9th. 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



SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 30 Memorial Day Parade; 9:00am*
- June 4 Demarest Nature Center Photo Contest Deadline*
- June 7 Primary Day; Polls open from 6am-8pm*
- June 9 Demarest Swim Club Swim & Dive teams registration; 5pm-7pm @ Wakelee Field House*
- June 11 Demarest Nature Center "Annual Breakfast in the Woods", 9-11am*
- June 11 Movie Night: The Sandlot; @ Dusk*
- June 13 Mayor & Council meeting; 8:00 pm; Council Chambers*
- June 14 Municipal Court; 6pm; Council Chambers*
- June 14 Flag Day*
- June 27 Mayor & Council meeting; 8:00 pm; Council Chambers*
- June 29 Summer Concert in the Park; Outside the Lines*
- July 4 Independence Day (240th Birthday of the United States of America)*
- July 11 Mayor & Council meeting; 8:00 pm; Council Chambers*
- July 12 Municipal Court; 6pm; Council Chambers*
- July 13 Summer Concert in the Park; performing The Kootz 7pm*
- July 21 Twelfth Night– Shakespeare by the Pond; 7pm*
- July 25 Mayor & Council meeting; 8:00 pm; Council Chambers*
- July 27 Summer Concert in the Park; performing Soul Groove 7pm*
- August 3 Summer Concert in the Park; Ray Greiche 7pm*
- August 8 Mayor & Council meeting; 8:00 pm; Council Chambers*
- August 9 Municipal Court; 6pm; Council Chambers*
- August 10 Summer Concert in the Park; Jim Diamond and the Gems*
- August 22 Mayor & Council meeting; 8:00 pm; Council Chambers*

DEMAREST ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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 into 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.**

The Commission has spearheaded an anti-idling campaign aimed at the Demarest area schools. Everyone is asked to respect this effort to reduce air pollution around the schools as children are dropped off or picked up, by not idling your engine while you are waiting.

The Environmental Commission meetings are the every forth Tuesday at 7:30pm in the Borough Hall.

SMOKE-FREE ZONE

Outdoor secondhand smoke (SHS) can pose a health hazard to people, animals and our environment.

There is no safe level of exposure to SHS, a known "Class A" human carcinogen.

Studies show bystanders near outdoor smoking have elevated salivary cotinine levels. Cotinine is a nicotine metabolite, occurring only when the body is exposed to biologically active levels of nicotine.

Outdoor smokefree policies meet worker, resident and customer expectations of a clean and healthy outdoor environment.

Outdoor smokefree policies compliment "green" initiatives like Sustainable NJ, by reducing air pollution and tobacco waste.

100% smokefree parks and recreation areas are safer for children and the elderly, who can be especially susceptible to immediate illness from SHS exposure.

Toddlers and animals may ingest smoking litter, like discarded cigarette butts, and experience serious illness as a result.

Smokefree policies lower park cleanup costs by reducing littering. Tobacco waste is often the most common form of park litter.

DEMAREST NATURE CENTER

Spring is upon us. The flowers are in full bloom and animals are underfoot. Remember to keep your dogs on a leash when outside. All types of ticks are around so also make sure you check yourself, your family and your pets for ticks. There are some upcoming events taking place for the Demarest Nature Center. Please check our website at

www.demarestnaturecenter.org. The next events are: ***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, Saturday June 11th.

June 11: Breakfast in the Woods Fund Raiser! Offering breakfast to current members of the Demarest Nature Center. Memberships can also be purchased at the breakfast for as little as \$20 for the whole family. Serving custom made omelets, coffee, fruit, bagels, OJ, and cereal from 9AM to 11AM, next to the Imaginative Playground in Wakelee Field. Photo Contest Winners will be announced at 10AM, followed by a FREE live animal show. Rain date Sunday June 12. Not sure if you're a current member? Send email to dncmembership@gmail.com to find out.

Thanks and look forward to seeing you at one of the events!

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.

Please check out our facebook page and the Borough website for updated health information.

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

DEMAREST RECREATION COMMISSION

Recreation Commission is hosting a Night at the Boulders on Friday, June 17. The cost of the a ticket is \$15.00 which includes a hot dog and drink. After the game will be a firework display. To obtain tickets email Rebecca LaPira at rebecca-lapira@yahoo.com. Come enjoy a night of good baseball.

DEMAREST PUBLIC LIBRARY

2016 Summer Reading Program

Can you compete????

Are you willing to go for the gold???

Then you're ready for this year's SUMMER READING

This year children are invited to join the Demarest Library's Summer Reading Program and attend all the fun programs and events that we are planning. This summer's theme, is ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, READ!!!. The library will be hosting storytimes, crafts, movies, and more!

On June 13th, come in to the library or register online at <http://demarestlibrary.beanstack.org/>. All the reading you do this summer earns you a chance to some amazing prizes.

For more info contact Miss Kate in the Children's Room.

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-8pm; Tuesday & Friday 9am-5pm & Saturday 9am-1pm.

Closed Sundays- July & August

SAVE THE DATE

Demarest Day is back!

September 24th 11am-4pm.

WE need your HELP!

If you would like to volunteer your time in helping organize Demarest Day. Please contact Rebecca LaPira at rebeccalapira@yahoo.com.

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.

