



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

#### **4 Alarm Fire**

On Tuesday afternoon, a home in Demarest experienced a devastating four alarm fire. Fortunately, the fire was not in the middle of the night, and the resident was not at home when the fire broke out. Our Fire Department did a fantastic job, with the assistance of 13 other mutual aid fire departments, containing the fire and protecting the surrounding properties. Thank you to our **Fire Chief John McLoughlin** and his entire team for their swift and professional response. Thanks also to **Police Chief Frank Visaggio, Lt. Joe DelGreco and Officer Kyle Polo**, who were first on scene and took steps to ensure there was no one inside the building before being repelled by extreme heat and smoke. All three officers, and a Haworth Fire Fighter, were taken to the hospital to be evaluated for smoke inhalation and thankfully received a clean bill of health. Thank you to **Jeff Geisenheimer and Andy Woods of the Demarest EMS** who remained on scene to attend to all the first responders. **I also want to thank our Police Department and DPW and Jason Gangi for their proactive assistance during this emergency.**

I also want to thank the mutual aid received from **Cresskill, Haworth, Closter, Norwood, Northvale, Harrington Park, Dumont, Tenaflly, Bergenfield, Old Tappan, New Milford, Oradell and Alpine's Fire Departments and police support from Alpine and the Palisades Interstate Parkway Police. They were all called and responded.**

Additionally, **EMS from Dumont, New Milford, Haworth and Closter were on scene assisting all the first responders and we thank them for that support. Countrywide Canteen also responded to provide support to all emergency responders – thank you!**

While it was a very scary and chaotic scene, our entire team did a fantastic job protecting our residents and their property from an even more devastating outcome. **THANK YOU!!!**

The cause of the fire is still under investigation but not deemed suspicious. Our hearts go out to the homeowner and tenant for their loss.

#### **Demarest Day-America 250!**

Last call to make Demarest Day **2026** the biggest and best yet and celebrate the theme of America 250. I want to thank all of our businesses and residents who have already sent in donations big and small – all are appreciated! Below are a few specific sponsorship opportunities, but all donations are welcome!

#### **New This Year – Become a Family Flag Sponsor!**

We're excited to introduce a new way for residents to participate in Demarest Day and honor America on her 250<sup>th</sup> birthday.

For a \$50 donation, your family can become a Demarest Day Family Flag Sponsor.

Each sponsorship includes:

A personalized American flag displayed throughout Demarest Day as part of a patriotic community display with a ribbon recognizing your family's support.

At the end of the event, the flag is yours to take as a keepsake.

It's a wonderful way to celebrate our community while helping support one of Demarest's favorite annual traditions. Family Flag Sponsorships are available through August 28.

### **Final Call for Fireworks Sponsors – Deadline: August 19th**

We're currently seeking our final sponsors to help make this year's fireworks display possible.

Sponsorships help fund one of Demarest Day's most anticipated traditions while demonstrating a commitment to bringing our community together.

If your business or family is interested in helping support this year's fireworks display, please contact the Borough by August 19th.

Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered, sponsored, or supported Demarest Day. We look forward to celebrating with the entire community on September 26! Please visit [demarestnj.gov](http://demarestnj.gov) for more information about how to donate and be a part of our big day!

### **Road Closure Alert!**

Bergen County is advancing a drainage improvement on Closter Dock Road at Route 9W in the Borough of Alpine.

The project will require eastbound traffic to be detoured on Closter Dock Road from 7 AM and 4 PM, Monday through Friday.

The work is anticipated to begin Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> and take approximately 3 weeks to complete, weather permitting.

### **The County has coordinated with Demarest, Alpine and Closter Police Departments on the following traffic detour:**

1. Trucks will not be permitted east of Piermont Road in Closter. They will travel south along Piermont Road to County Road. They will then continue to the intersection of County Road and Hillside Avenue, where they will turn left onto Hillside Avenue and continue towards Route 9W.
2. Passenger vehicles will have 3 options to travel to Hillside Avenue:
  - a. Follow the truck detour route described above.
  - b. Travel south along Anderson Avenue to the intersection of County Road. and continue south on County Road to the Hillside Avenue intersection. Once at the County Road and Hillside Avenue intersection, they will be directed to turn left and take Hillside Avenue to Route 9W.
  - c. Travel south along Church Street in Alpine to Hillside Avenue, where they will be directed to turn left and proceed towards Route 9W.

Detour signage is tentatively scheduled to be installed by the County's contractor this afternoon.

Please [click here for notice](#) from Bergen County regarding the project.

The County appreciates everyone's cooperation as we complete this important drainage improvement.

### **September 11 Memorial Service**

This year marks **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the September 11** terrorist attacks on our nation. While our ceremony is usually scheduled in the evening, this year 9/11 falls on the first night of Rosh Hashana. In order to be respectful of our residents who have observances and celebrations to prepare and attend in the event, the ceremony will be at **10:00 am on Friday 9/11** at the Memorial near the duck pond.

### **The Art School at Old Church**

Enroll now for **Fall Session** (Sept 8-Nov 13) and **one-day workshops** (Nov 14 & 15)! We are excited to offer more than 80 art and craft courses for adults, teens, and children. Register **online** at [www.tasoc.org](http://www.tasoc.org), in person at **561 Piermont Rd.**, or by phone at **(201) 767-7160**.

We also have a few spaces available in **week two** (Aug 17 -21) of **Blast of Art!**, our summer camp for **children ages 6–12**. Enroll at [www.tasoc.org](http://www.tasoc.org) or **call the school now** for more information.

**Save the dates! Seniors are invited** to register for **Wing and Wood**, a new collaboration with The Borough of Demarest! Discover how to create a unique decorative bird from soft wood. These **free**

**workshops** will take place at our school, **Sept. 13th, Sept. 27th, and October 4th**. We know you will **enjoy making art and friends** in our spacious studios. No prior woodworking or painting experience is required. **To enroll, call us now at (201) 767-7160.**

### **The Art School at Old Church**

**Registration for Fall Session** (Sept 8-Nov 13) and **one-day workshops** (Nov 14 & 15) is fully open. Choose from more than 80 art and craft courses for adults, teens, and children. **Enroll online at [www.tasoc.org](http://www.tasoc.org)**, **in person** at 561 Piermont Rd., or **by phone** at (201) 767-7160.

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**Seniors are invited** to register for ***Wing and Wood***, a new collaboration with The Borough of Demarest! Discover the relaxing art of creating a unique decorative bird from soft wood. The **free workshops** will take place at our school on **Sept. 13th, Sept. 27th, and October 4th**. No prior woodworking or painting experience is required. Come and enjoy **making art and friends** in our spacious studios. **To enroll, call us now at (201) 767-7160.**

### **Music with a Mission: August 19 Concert**

Please join us for the next evening of the **Demarest Summer Concert Series — Music with a Mission** on **Wednesday, August 19, 2026**, at the **Gazebo**.

This will be a special night of live music and community connection. The evening will begin with **Music with Marly** performing from **6:00 PM to 7:00 PM**, followed by **Warning Track** from **7:30 PM to 9:00 PM**.

We are also pleased to share that **free ice cream** will be available, generously sponsored by **Hilde Cho of Coldwell Banker Real Estate**.

Thank you to **Englewood Health** for sponsoring this concert night, and thank you to all of our sponsors, volunteers, DPW, first responders, and the Recreation Committee for helping make the summer concert series possible.

#### **Event Details:**

**Date:** 8/19/26

**Opening Band:** Music with Marly, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**Main Band:** Warning Track, 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

**Concert Sponsor:** Englewood Health

**Ice Cream Sponsor:** Hilde Cho / Coldwell Banker Real Estate

Please bring a chair, enjoy the music, and spend a summer evening with neighbors and friends at the gazebo.

### **Demarest Library**

Want to de-stress after a long day? Come to the Demarest Library and enjoy some relaxing evening coloring with our Adult De-Stress Coloring Program on **Thursday, August 20th** from **5:45 - 7:45 PM!** According to the Mayo Clinic, coloring “calms the brain and helps your body relax. This can improve sleep and fatigue while decreasing body aches, heart rate, respiration, and feelings of depression and anxiety. Register [here!](#)

Join us for a Sensory Storytime (Ages 2+) on **Tuesday, August 18th** from **10:30 - 11:15 AM**. Let's listen to some stories and explore some sensory stations! Register [here!](#)

Join us for **Chalk & Bubbles** on **Thursday, August 20th** from **3:30 - 4:00 PM!** Let's listen to some music, pop some bubbles, and decorate the library walkway with chalk! No registration required

Check out the **Demarest Library's Storywalk at the Demarest Nature Center! Follow the Trestle Bridge Trail to read *Bothered by Bugs* by Emily Gravett**. The Storywalk was installed a few weeks ago and will be up for the rest of the summer (weather dependent).

**It's worth repeating: Once again, my gratitude, admiration and thanks for all of the fire fighters, EMS, Police personnel, County personnel and DPW workers that responded so professionally to the fire this week. Thank you!!**

Have a great weekend,

Mayor Brian K. Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **1,242 people!** My goal is for every Demarest resident to be up to date on what is going on around town, please help with that goal by forwarding this email to your friends so they can visit **demarestnj.gov** and sign up for my weekly emails! The link can be found about halfway down the homepage.*

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