



# Borough of **DEMAREST** 2026 NEWSLETTER

*PUBLISHED BY THE DEMAREST MAYOR AND COUNCIL*

**Dear Demarest Residents,**

As 2025 comes to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the meaningful work we have accomplished together over the past year. This has been a year marked by progress, collaboration, and thoughtful planning for the future of Demarest. I am proud to share these updates – each representing the dedication of our governing body, our Borough employees, and, most importantly, our engaged and caring residents.

## **Infrastructure & Traffic Improvements**

This year, we completed the long-needed installation of a dedicated turn lane from County Road west onto Hardenburgh Avenue. This improvement significantly enhances safety and improves traffic flow. In addition, we have requested that the County install a delayed green signal for westbound Hardenburgh traffic, which will help alleviate congestion by allowing eastbound vehicles additional time to clear the intersection.

## **Shared Services & Cost Savings**

We continued to expand our shared service partnerships to both improve efficiency and save taxpayer dollars. We entered into a new shared services agreement with Haworth for Construction Official and Building inspection services and we are pleased to welcome Bobby Sherrow to our team. Our successful partnership with TenaFly for Municipal Court operations continues and we have substantially benefited from our engagement of a shared DPW Superintendent. We are actively exploring additional shared-service opportunities with other neighboring communities.

## **Downtown Revitalization**

Revitalizing our downtown remains a top priority.

- The train station project has moved forward -the bid has been awarded and we are in the lease-negotiation phase with the restaurant operator for an American Brasserie. This will bring new energy to the Borough, provide a valued amenity for residents, and generate lease and tax revenue for the Borough.
- Work is also advancing on the future of the former bank building. We are reviewing proposals and expect a recommendation from the Redevelopment Committee by year's end. This project will bring significant revenue from both the sale of the property and future PILOT payments-revenue that reduces reliance on residential property taxes while enhancing the vibrancy of our downtown and providing additional consumer services.

## **Gazebo Enhancement Project**

Last year, we proudly received a County Open Space Grant to enhance our beautiful gazebo. In early 2026, we will award the contract to renovate and improve the Gazebo. Work will begin in the spring. Our target completion date is July 4th, ensuring the Gazebo continues to serve as a cherished gathering place for our community for decades to come.

## **Compost Facility & Environmental Compliance**

We secured approval of our Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for the compost facility - an issue we inherited upon taking office. We are currently reviewing bids to complete the required work. To meet one of the DEP's tree-planting requirements for the CAP, we acquired a densely tree-populated property in a neighboring municipality at little cost to the Borough, saving Demarest approximately **\$1 million** in planting costs. This is a major financial and regulatory success for our Borough!



## **Planning, Zoning & Responsible Growth**

The Council took an important step toward ensuring responsible development by establishing a Joint Planning Board. We are currently undertaking a comprehensive rewrite of our zoning ordinance. These efforts will modernize our land-use framework and address concerns raised by residents regarding building, growth, and neighborhood character.

## **Looking Ahead**

Our commitment to improving Demarest remains steadfast. In the coming year, we will continue pursuing solutions for senior transportation and evaluating the best use of the Baptist Church property-including its use as a senior community facility. Nearly 1,200 residents now receive my weekly Friday email updates. I appreciate your engagement-it strengthens our community and ensures transparency and direct communications. I am excited for the year ahead as we will finalize the new zoning ordinance, renovate the gazebo, open the train-station restaurant, and advance development of the bank property. My goal is to ensure funding is in place to complete the paving of Demarest's unimproved roads like Pine Terrace and Demarest Avenue in 2026.

**Wishing all of you and your families a very happy and healthy New Year.**

Warm Regards,

**Brian K. Bernstein**, Mayor of Demarest

Don't forget to visit [demarestnj.gov](https://demarestnj.gov) (or scan the QR Code) and click on the link to sign up for the Mayor's Friday Updates along with other important email alerts from the Borough.



# THANK YOU FROM MAYOR BERNSTEIN

## The Police Department Leadership & Excellence

We are extremely proud of the continued growth and professionalism of the Demarest Police Department. The restructuring and leadership changes implemented have produced a revitalized department widely recognized by neighboring towns. My thanks and respect to Acting Chief Visaggio and Captain Talty for their steadfast and professional leadership and to every member of our Police Department.

## Our DPW - The Best DPW in the Northern Valley

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Demarest Department of Public Works for their unwavering professionalism, reliability, and pride in service. Under the outstanding leadership of Director **Jason Gangi** and Foreman **Paul McCauley**, the DPW consistently delivers prompt, efficient, and high-quality work that keeps our Borough running safely and smoothly. We are truly fortunate to have such a capable and hardworking DPW serving the residents of Demarest.

## The Extraordinary Professionals at Borough Hall

Our entire team at Borough Hall is truly the engine that keeps our Borough running smoothly each and every day. Whether you visited our finance office to pay your taxes, visited the building department to improve your home, applied to remove a tree from your property, consulted with our tax assessor, or applied to the Planning Board for a variance, chances are you were assisted by one or more of our outstanding employees. This dedicated team led by Borough Administrator/Clerk **Julie Falkenstern**, serve our residents with professionalism, courtesy, and an unwavering commitment to helping our community. Thank you for your hard work, your patience, and your steadfast dedication to Demarest. Our Borough is stronger, more efficient, and more welcoming because of you.

## Our Demarest Volunteer Ambulance Corps

Our Volunteer Corps is truly the little engine that could. It is run by a small number of volunteers and operates 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. I want to thank Chief **Roberta Hoag** and Assistant Chief **Andy Woods**. I also want to thank **Jeff Geisenheimer** for his service to the Corps and our town. Lastly, my thanks and appreciation to **Jeff Bellusci**, **Michael Ceccon**, **Fred Zigami**, and **Stephen Tillack** for volunteering their time to drive the ambulance. Thank you all.

## Demarest Volunteer Fire Department

Another spectacular volunteer Department serving our residents every day and night! They get on the trucks 24/7 and always answer the call. Their motto, "Don't wait, CALL 911 right away." My thanks to Chief **John McLoughlin**, Assistant Chief **Carl Pavlik**, Captain **John Young**, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant **Matt Carey**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant **Matthew Mayer** and all the firefighters who serve our community.

## My Appreciation and Thanks!

I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to everyone who serves the Borough, on the Council and on our Boards and Commissions. All of you play an important role in making Demarest an exceptional place to live. Thank you for your dedication and support throughout the year.

## WELCOME SHARON CARMELI



In 2026 Sharon Carmeli joins the governing body after her recent election.

Congratulations Councilwoman Carmeli and thank you for your commitment to our community

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW OFFICERS

Kyle Polo, Vincent Quintana, and Luke Cataldo joined us as full-time police officers after graduating from the Bergen County Police Academy on January 8, 2025. We are proud to report that all three have exceeded expectations, and we look forward to the positive impact they will continue to make in our community throughout their careers. Welcome back to former Chief Chris Bianchi who rejoined the team this year as a SLEO III officer charged with keeping our high school students safe.



## BUILDING DEPARTMENT REMINDER

If you are selling or renting your home, you must apply for a CCO. This process can take 4-6 weeks so please plan accordingly. The application and additional information can be found on the building department page of our website @

[demarestnj.gov/departments/construction](https://demarestnj.gov/departments/construction) or by scanning the QR Code.





## A LETTER FROM COUNCILMAN JIANG

Dear Demarest Neighbors,

As my tenure on the Borough Council concludes at the end of 2025, I want to share my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve this exceptional community. Working together with devoted colleagues, residents, and volunteers who care deeply about Demarest's future has been one of the greatest honors of my life.

As Chair of the Economic Development Committee, I am proud of the meaningful strides we have made to strengthen and revitalize downtown Demarest. In 2024, the Borough received formal approval designating our commercial center as an "Area in Need of Redevelopment" under New Jersey's Local Redevelopment and Housing Law. This milestone lays the groundwork for future investment while ensuring that we preserve our town's small-scale character and sense of place.

One particularly exciting development is the lease award for the historic Demarest Train Station. Soon, a new café and restaurant will breathe life back into this beloved landmark, offering a welcoming gathering space for residents and visitors.

Looking ahead, the committee intends to recommend a developer for the historic 'Bank Building' at 129 Hardenburgh Ave shortly. This project represents an exciting opportunity to create a vibrant mixed-use space that will help revitalize our downtown. As I transition into private life, I look forward to continuing my involvement as a volunteer, supporting the new council in seeing this important initiative through to completion.

Serving on the Council has been deeply rewarding and humbling. Whether supporting first responders, advancing smart growth, or engaging with residents, every decision was guided by a desire to strengthen our community. Thank you to all who have shared this journey. Demarest's future is bright because of you.

With gratitude,  
David Jiang, Councilman

## EMS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

The Demarest Volunteer Ambulance Corps is in need of volunteers! If you have a few hours during the day or even one night a week to volunteer, please email us at [dvacsecretary427@gmail.com](mailto:dvacsecretary427@gmail.com) to learn more.

☆ All training is provided free of charge ☆

Last year we responded to over 350 calls for service and participated throughout the year in many community events. Serving the community is a very rewarding experience and we are proud of all our members' contributions. We are here for you 24/7/365 rain or shine!

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

In 2025 Demarest launched a community drop-off food compost program. We have over 25 households currently participating and are looking for more to join. To date we've diverted more than 5000 pounds of food waste from landfills!

Visit [neighborhoodcompost.com](http://neighborhoodcompost.com) for more details.

Thanks to the Demarest 5<sup>th</sup> grade class who, under guidance of the Demarest Garden Club planted patriotic flowers around the war monuments at the Duck Pond for Memorial Day!

## SHADE TREE COMMISSION

The Shade Tree Commission had another productive and eventful year. Over the past twelve months, we removed 30 dead, dying, or hazardous trees and pruned an additional 25 trees located within the public right-of-way (ROW) at various residences.

On April 19, 2025, we celebrated our annual **Arbor Day Festival**, where more than 75 seedlings were distributed to residents. The event also generated several requests from homeowners interested in receiving trees for their properties.

In collaboration with the **Garden Club**, we oversaw the removal of several dead trees near County Road School and helped enhance the area with new perennial shrubs along the west-side path.

Our most significant project this year was the revitalization of the **historic cemetery on Everett Road**. With the support of the Department of Public Works, the deteriorated arborvitae were removed and replaced with 68 skip laurels planted around the perimeter of the headstones. This effort transformed the site into a more respectful and welcoming space.

Commission members **Norman Ng, Linda Cetta, and Kathy Koblyarz** represented the borough at the **New Jersey Shade Tree Federation Convention** in Atlantic City. During the conference, Kathy completed core training, while Norman and Linda attended a series of continuing education presentations to maintain our certification requirements.

We are proud to have once again earned the designation of **Tree City USA**, a recognition that opens the door to future grants supporting our tree planting and maintenance efforts.

Finally, through our **opt-in planting program**, 27 residents will receive new trees in the right-of-way adjacent in the coming months.

## DEMAREST FIRE DEPT.

The 100% volunteer Demarest Fire Department is always in need of new volunteers! If you think you would like to join us, please reach out to [FireChief@demarestnj.gov](mailto:FireChief@demarestnj.gov). I would love to discuss the job and some of the perks. Our members support the community by participating in community events, such as "Trunk or Treat", Demarest Day, Fireworks, Oktoberfest, Hero's Run, and participation in fire prevention month events to educate our school children. Aside from the satisfaction of helping your neighbors, you become part of a team and gain access to our top notch workout and cardio equipment and the professional trainers who visit the firehouse to make sure we get the most out of this grant-funded equipment. If you can't volunteer, but would like to help, please contribute to our annual fund drive. While tax dollars support and fund our state-of-the-art equipment and training to keep us all safe, our fund drive is used to maintain and support the members inside the firehouse.

Wishing everyone a Happy Holiday season; please be sure your fire and carbon monoxide alarms are in working order!

# JANUARY 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

**HAPPY NEW YEAR** - This year brings new and exciting single stream recycling pick-up, which means bottles & cans and paper & cardboard will all be picked up on the same day! All recycling will be collected by IWS every Wednesday! See below for the garbage and recycling schedule for the year.

**BLUE = Garbage Pickup**

**GREEN = Recycling Pickup**

**RED = Borough Closed**

*Christmas Tree*

*New Year's*

*No Garbage*

*Day 1*

2

3

*Christmas Tree Pickup*

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

*Christmas Tree Pickup*

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*Christmas Tree Pickup*

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*MLK Jr. Day*

*Holocaust Remembrance Day*

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# MAY 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Demarest Summer Recreation Camp

Don't forget to **REGISTER** your kids - Grades K-6

[www.demarestreccamp.com/](http://www.demarestreccamp.com/)

**TAXES DUE**

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**TAX GRACE ENDS**

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*No Garbage Memorial Day*

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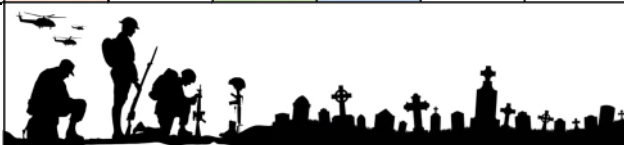
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# FEBRUARY 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



**LICENSE YOUR PETS!**

All pet licenses are due by **March 1st** to avoid late fees.

**TAXES DUE**

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**Rabies Clinic**

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**TAX GRACE ENDS**

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**DPW CLOSED**

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**Valentines Day**

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**Presidents' Day**

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**Ramadan Begins & Lunar New Year**

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**FREE RABIES CLINIC**

To be licensed, all dogs and cats must have a current **Rabies Vaccination**, expiring no earlier than **November 1, 2026**. If this is your dog/cat's first Demarest license, a copy of the **Rabies Vaccination Certificate** must be included. **Free Rabies Clinic**, February 7, 2026, 10:00am-11:30am at the **DPW Building**.

# JUNE 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

**Primary Election**

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**Juneteenth**

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**SUMMER CONCERTS**

Demarest Recreation works hard every year to bring the Summer Concert Series to the residents.

Check the borough web-site and the Recreation Commission home page for information on this year's concerts!





## MARCH 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



Stay up to date on Public Library News and events!  
Please check our calendar to stay up to date with our  
programs at [demarestlibrary.org/calendar](http://demarestlibrary.org/calendar)

			Holi			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	St. Patrick's Day 17	18	Ramadan Ends 19	Eid al-Fitr 20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	<b>PAPER SHREDDING EVENT</b> The DPW looks to have a Paper Shredding event sometime in the early Spring, located at the DPW headquarters, watch the Borough Online Calendar for Date Announcement.			

## APRIL 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



Passover  
Begins  
1

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Good  
Friday  
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Easter

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Passover  
Ends  
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Arbor  
Day  
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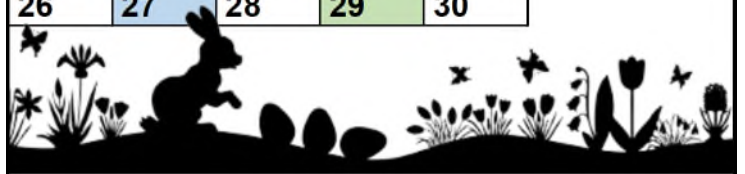
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## JULY 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



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2

INDEP  
DAY  
(obsrv'd)  
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INDEP  
DAY  
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## AUGUST 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

ENJOY YOUR  
VACATIONS!



TAXES  
DUE  
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TAX  
GRACE  
ENDS  
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### DEMAREST DAY



Keep an eye on the Demarest online calendar  
for the exact date of Demarest Day.

[Demarestnj.gov/resident/calendar](http://Demarestnj.gov/resident/calendar)

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## SEPTEMBER 2026


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	No Garbage Labor Day 7	8	9	10	11	12
Rosh Hashanah 13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Yom Kippur						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### OCTOBERFEST

Keep an eye on the Demarest online calendar for the exact date.

[Demarestnj.gov/resident/calendar](http://Demarestnj.gov/resident/calendar)

## OCTOBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	Columbus Day 12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**BLUE = Garbage Pickup**

**GREEN = Recycling Pickup**

To schedule a pickup of *large appliances, household equipment, screens, refrigerators, air conditioners* and *ice makers* (Freon must be removed beforehand by a certified service person), call IWS at 1-866-DIAL-IWS. If you buy a new appliance, ask whether the merchant will dispose of the old one.

#### OTHER INFORMATION:

**BRANCHES & LIMBS** must be neatly piled curbside, not in the street. *All branches must face the same direction.*

**Please note: all branches under 2 feet in length, and brush clippings will not be picked up!**

**LEAVES** will be picked up by the DPW between the day after Columbus Day and the first week of December. During the rest of the year, leaves must be bagged and placed by the curb.

**GRASS** will be collected between Monday, April 1, and October 30. It must be placed curbside in *uncovered reusable 30-gallon containers.*

#### Regular Meeting Dates

All meetings are held in Borough Hall  
@118 Serpentine Road,  
Demarest, NJ 07627

Check the Borough's online calendar for a more up to date schedule of dates

@ [www.demarestnj.gov/resident/calendar](http://www.demarestnj.gov/resident/calendar)



#### Demarest Directory

(201) 768-0167

Administrator & Clerk	x147
Health, Registrar & Shade Tree	x130
Building Department	x112
Land Use & Zoning	x110
Finance Dept.	x113
Property Maintenance	x130
Tax Collection	x142
Tax Assessor	x138

### THESE ARE NOT RECYCLABLE

- Boxes with residue (especially pizza boxes)
- Used paper plates, paper cups or paper towels
- Styrofoam, plastic bags, plastic shopping bags
- Plastic knives, forks, spoons or dishes
- Ceramic, pottery, crystal, cups, plates or glasses, flowerpots, garden hoses
- Windows, plate glass, mirror glass or light bulbs
- Meat trays
- Automotive-use containers (e.g. antifreeze jugs or motor oil bottles)
- Household batteries
- Building and construction material

Bring electronics and white goods to the dumpster at the DPW (22 Wakelee Drive) .

Visit [bcua.org](http://bcua.org) for hazardous waste drop off.

# NOVEMBER 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Bergen County Clerk  
Election Division  
(201) 336-7020



TAXES DUE	LEAF PICK UP					7
	2	3	4	5	6	
1 \$\$		General Election				
Diwali	LEAF PICK UP					14
	9	10	11	12	13	
8		TAX GRACE ENDS	Veterans Day			
	LEAF PICK UP					21
	16	17	18	19	20	
15						
	LEAF PICK UP					28
	23	24	25	26	27	
22				Thanks giving		
						31
	30					
29						



# DECEMBER 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

HAPPY Holidays!						5
LEAF PICK UP					4	
	1	2	3		First Night Hanukkah	
	LEAF PICK UP					12
	7	8	9	10	11	
6						Last Night Hanukkah
						19
	14	15	16	17	18	
13						
						26
	21	22	23	24	25	
20				Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	
						31
	28	29	30			
27				New Year's Eve	SEE YOU NEXT YEAR	

RED = Borough Hall Closed



## DEMAREST SWIM CLUB

Demarest Swim Club, a 501c7 member-run social club, is a community gem in the heart of the Borough's Nature Center. The Club opens part-time Memorial Day weekend and full time at the end of the school year. Our Club features a large recreational pool with two 1-meter diving boards, a kiddie pool, and a dedicated lap pool. Members have exclusive access to swim and dive teams, group and private swim lessons, and can even host a swim party during operating hours! Daily guest passes are also available to members. Visit [demarestswimclub.org](http://demarestswimclub.org) to join us for Summer 2026, membership opens in March. Please email [demarestswimclub@gmail.com](mailto:demarestswimclub@gmail.com) with any questions!

## DEMAREST GARDEN CLUB

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale in 2025. The proceeds help fund educational lectures for the public hosted at the United Methodist Church throughout the year. Look out for the 2026 plant sale in March! The Garden Club is proud of our collaborations with the Shade Tree Commission and the Nature Center, completing planting projects throughout the year. Did you know that all the beautiful plantings around the Train Station are the result of the Garden Clubs efforts? Thanks again to all of our volunteers! In 2026 we plan to hold clean-up events and plantings in collaboration with the Master Gardeners of Bergen County at Davies Arboretum!

Demarest Borough Hall: (201) 768-0167 Public Library: (201) 768-8714 Police Department: (201) 768-1540  
Department of Public Works: (201) 768-5439 Interstate Waste Services (IWS): 1-866-DIAL-IWS  
Borough Website for most recent information: [DemarestNJ.gov](http://DemarestNJ.gov)



# REMINDERS

## Public Works

Another successful leaf season is coming to a conclusion. The Demarest Department of Public Works would like to thank residents for their cooperation. Until the next season please remember to bag all leaves for pick up (**please remind your landscapers**). Looking ahead the last week to put leaves out to the curb in the 2026 season, is the week of December 7th through December 11th.

As we move forward towards the winter weather, please be mindful during the snowy season, refrain from blowing or shoveling your driveways and walkways back into the roadway. The Department of Public Works strives to keep our roads safe, free of all snow, and salted for everyone's protection.

Branch pick up and removal (Branch Chipping) will return moving into the new year, weather permitting. Public Works asks that all branches over 2 feet in length be put at the curb, cut ends all facing the same direction. **Please note: all branches under 2 feet in length, and brush clippings will not be picked up!** They need to be placed into a garbage can for Garbage pickup.

The Demarest Electronics Recycling Shed and Clothing Drop Off Bin are located behind the Dunkin Donuts and Demarest Auto Service. Donations to the clothing bin should be bagged and placed inside the bin. Please, only place recyclable electronics inside the Electronics Shed. The electronics shed is always open.

## Board of Health

### FLU & COVID VACCINES

Because vaccine protections decrease over time, The Board of Health reminds everyone to update their flu and COVID vaccines to protect yourself and your community each fall and winter. Watch the Borough's online calendar for the date of the yearly free Flu Clinic.

This is especially important for seniors and others who may be at increased risk of complications from infection. Staying up to date on vaccines not only helps prevent illness and reduces the need for doctor visits, it helps preserve medical resources for those who do become infected with COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses.

## Police Department

### Be Prepared for Winter Weather

As winter approaches, drivers are reminded that New Jersey law requires all motor vehicles, commercial and non-commercial, to have snow and ice removed from exposed surfaces before operating on the road. Borough Code **§150-33** requires that homeowners clear snow and ice from all driveways and walkways **within 24 hours of daylight** after snowfall. Help keep our friends and neighbors safe!

### Holiday Scams – Stay Vigilant

The holiday season brings an increase in criminal activity, including email and phone scams, credit card fraud, and deceptive home repair offers. Protect yourself and your property by following these tips:

- Be skeptical of suspicious offers. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Verify unfamiliar email addresses and phone numbers.
- Review your credit card statements regularly.
- Research any home repair or service offers thoroughly.

The Demarest Police Department urges residents and businesses to take proactive steps to prevent theft:

- Remove packages from doorsteps promptly.
- Collect mail and newspapers regularly.
- Secure valuables in vehicles and always lock your car—even when parked at home.
- Increase exterior and interior lighting.
- Ensure alarm systems are functioning properly.
- Keep key fobs out of vehicles and lock all doors and windows.

### Going Away for the Holidays?

If you plan to be away, please fill out a "Vacant House Form" with the Demarest Police Department. This helps us monitor your property and ensure its security while you are away.

### Stay Safe and Enjoy the Season

From all of us at the Demarest Police Department we want to wish you an yours the Happiest of Holiday Seasons.

Keep up to date on Demarest news and information at [www.demarestnj.gov](http://www.demarestnj.gov)

## The DEMAREST Newsletter & Calendar

Published by the Demarest Mayor and Council  
December 2025

**Mayor**  
BRIAN BERNSTEIN

**Council Members**  
ADAM COLLINS  
DARYL FOX  
DAVID JIANG  
DANIEL MARKS  
JONATHAN REISS  
ANDREA SLOWIKOWSKI

## Borough of Demarest

118 Serpentine Road  
Demarest, NJ 07627

PRSRT STD.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PARAMUS NJ  
PERMIT NO. 230

**Postal Patron**  
**Demarest, NJ 07627**