



From the desk of the Mayor ...

Demarest Day 2026 - A Wonderful Day for Our Community!

WOW! What an incredible day for Demarest!

Demarest Day 2026, celebrating our wonderful town and America's 250th birthday, was a tremendous success! Hundreds of residents, families, and children came together for an afternoon filled with laughter, friendship, excitement, and good old-fashioned community spirit.

From the rides, games, face painting by **Morning Glory**, music, and wonderful performances to the delicious food, refreshing drinks, and spectacular fireworks that capped off the evening, it was truly a day to remember! The celebration began at 1:00 PM and the fun continued until about 7:45 PM.

But what made the day so special wasn't just the food, entertainment or the fireworks. It was seeing our neighbors, friends, and families come together, children laughing and playing, and our community enjoying everything that makes Demarest such a wonderful place to call home.

We were also delighted to give our residents beautiful **commemorative coins celebrating Demarest Day and America 250**. These special keepsakes were designed right here in-house and generously funded by **The Station Restaurant**. My sincere thanks for helping us give our residents something special to remember this historic celebration. And let's talk about the food!

A huge thank-you to **Andreas Plaitis and the Alpine Country Club** for serving up delicious burgers, chicken fingers, mac and cheese, French fries, and cold beer! You were terrific! **You were a showcase in hospitality excellence; and it was a pleasure meeting your family.**

A particularly special shout-out goes to **our very own Lee Campbell and her husband, Steven**, who chose Demarest Day for the maiden voyage of their brand-new hot dog cart! Their hot dogs, sausages, peppers, sautéed onions, and spicy onions were a huge hit. And, of course, I must mention their special creation, the **"Mayor B"** - which I must admit was a personal favorite! Lee and Steven, you brought something special to our celebration, and I couldn't be happier for you both.

And let's not forget cotton candy and **Kona Ice**, other crowd favorites, especially among our younger residents!

Andreas, Lee, Steven, and all our food vendors – you hit it out of the park! THANK YOU!

Of course, an event of this size doesn't just happen. Behind every successful celebration are people who give generously of their time, energy, creativity, and, most importantly, their hearts.

I want to express my **deepest personal appreciation to our DPW Director, Jason Gangi**. Jason was involved in virtually every aspect of this celebration, from the earliest planning stages to the final cleanup. He helped Julie and me design the commemorative coin, coordinated with vendors, managed countless logistical details, helped arrange road closures, lighting, setup, and cleanup, and made certain that everything came together. Jason, I know how much time, thought, and effort you put into making this day a success, and I want you to know how much I personally appreciate you. **Thank you, my friend!**

My heartfelt thanks also go to **our entire DPW crew**, whose hard work before, during, and after the festivities kept everything clean, safe, organized, and running smoothly. Much of what you do happens behind the scenes, but please know that your efforts never go unnoticed or unappreciated.

I also want to recognize and sincerely thank **our Recreation Commission, Brandis Bukzin, Councilman Dan Marks, Dakota Griffin, and our wonderful Borough Administrator, Julie Falkenstern, Shivam Patel, Andrea Johe and the Borough Finance Team** for their dedication, hard work, and contributions to making this celebration possible and a success.

To our **Demarest Police Department, Demarest Volunteer Fire Department, Fire Official Alan Silverman, Demarest Volunteer Ambulance Corps and crossing guards**, thank you for being there, watching over our families, and making sure everyone could celebrate safely. Your service, professionalism, and willingness to give of yourselves mean so much to our community.

My appreciation also goes to **my colleagues on the Borough Council**, whose support and commitment helped make this special day possible.

To **our generous sponsors, donors and contributors**, thank you for supporting our town and helping us create a memorable celebration for our residents. Your generosity and community spirit are deeply appreciated. Click [here](#) to see list of our generous sponsors and donors. Special recognition to **Leda Dekaj and New Luxury Homes** as our title fireworks sponsor and **The Station Restaurant** for their sponsorship and donation of the Borough's commemorative challenge coins. And, of course, special thanks to our Family Flag Sponsors: **Gardner Family, Kundan Family, Litvak Family, McLain Family, Osher Family, Alex Passer and Amy Mazer**.

And what would Demarest Day be without the music and entertainment? A special thank-you to **Master Steve Kwon and the talented students from the Tiger Kim's Taekwondo Center in Closter** for demonstrating their disciplined technique, skills, self-control, self-discipline, respect and perseverance – life skills for success! **To Marly Kay and Music with Marly and her incredibly talented students**, you were all wonderful, as always! We also heard great music from **the band Shoreline Anthem**. **We watched the sensational dance performances of the Holy Angels Dance Team**. And, taking us

from the bands to the Fireworks, was DJ Roy [Carmeli], a/k/a DJ Dance Party. Thank you all for filling the afternoon with music, energy, and fun. You helped make the entire day come alive!

Finally, and most importantly, **thank you to the hundreds of Demarest residents and families who came out to celebrate with us.** Seeing so many familiar faces, meeting new neighbors, watching children having an extraordinary day, and sharing smiles and conversations throughout the day reminded me once again why I love this town so much. As Mayor, there are many responsibilities and challenges that come with serving our community. But days like Demarest Day remind me of something far more important: **Demarest isn't simply a place where we live. It's a community of people who care about one another, who come together, and who make this small town such a special place.**

Celebrating America's 250th birthday made the day even more meaningful. What better way to honor our nation's history and spirit than by coming together as neighbors, friends, and families?

To everyone who planned, organized, volunteered, sponsored, performed, worked, or simply came out to enjoy the day – you made Demarest Day 2026 a celebration to remember. I am grateful to every one of you, and incredibly proud to be part of this wonderful community.

Thank you, Demarest, for another beautiful day and for reminding us of what makes our town so special!

Mayor Brian Bernstein

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