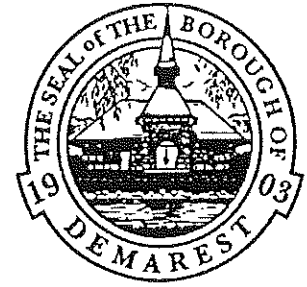


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Mayor's Message

Dear Neighbors,

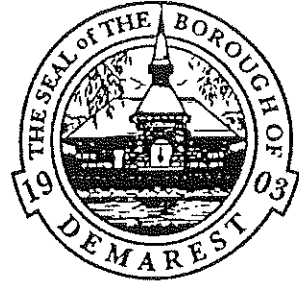
First of all, I want to thank you again for placing your trust in me. It is truly an honor and privilege to serve as your Mayor. It has been a very busy first three months. I hit the ground running and began working with the entire Council, our residents, our borough professionals and countless volunteers to ensure that Demarest continues to be a wonderful place to live.

We hired a new Borough Administrator, Julie Falkenstern, who is doing an excellent job! We made critical changes to the Finance Office and hired a new interim CFO, Cameron Keng, and finance assistant, Peter Suh. We said good-bye to Jim Powderly, our former Borough Administrator, our Interim Acting Borough Clerk, and a Finance Clerk. I wish them all well and success in the future.

We are making long-overdue changes to our finance software and payroll service to better serve the Borough and its employees. These changes will create better accountability and needed efficiency.

We have rolled up our sleeves and started to work on the many issues I highlighted at our Council Reorganization meeting in January. Demarest's financial health and taxes remain a priority, and to be honest, some of what has been discovered in the these beginning few months is disconcerting, revealing long standing issues. This presents significant economic challenges for the Borough. Some of those challenges include rectifying inappropriate spending, bills left unpaid, indefensible use of the Borough's Fund Balance, mismanagement and lack of financial planning. Our debt servicing is a significant part of the budget and needs better management and oversight. Police and Fire safety equipment were allowed to exceed their useful lives without planning for replacement. However, we are working with our financial professionals and staff to develop a budget that provides the best services to our residents, addresses the issues we found and makes certain that we invest in our infrastructure and our future while also managing rising costs. Accounting for mistakes of the past is an unfortunate reality, but we are employing a common sense approach to navigate a better path forward. Flood management, affordable housing, our Borough Hall and bank building, and our closed leaf compost yard are just a few of the issues that we are addressing. The budget will be presented to the public as soon as feasible; but remember, we inherited problems that cannot be resolved in a single budget year and will need to be addressed with a multiyear plan.

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As promised, we have returned to twice a month Mayor and Council meetings so that we have more opportunities to come together as a group to discuss the issues that face our town and are able to make informed decisions and offer the public an opportunity to participate. Agendas and minutes are posted at demarestnj.gov under the tab labeled government.


Since January, I have had Mayor's office hours on Mondays. Going forward I will generally be available 10-4 on Mondays. Please feel free to call the Borough Administrator to check to make sure I am available or make an appointment at another time. You can also stop by and see if I am available. I have already met with many residents.

The Borough Administrator and I spoke with our trash / recycling contractor, IWS, and were able to arrange for a few extra pickups for the months that have 5 weeks, and our normal schedule would have precluded a recycling pick up on the 5th Wednesday for the balance of 2023, without additional cost. The first extra pickup was March 29, 2023 and I'm pleased to report that over 5 tons of paper and cardboard were picked up, so the day was a success! Please mark your calendars for the additional days for the extra paper/cardboard pick up on May 31, August 30 and November 29. Please make sure you put these items at the curb the night before so you don't miss the early morning pickup!

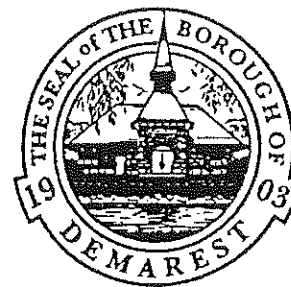
While working toward our goal to improve communications with you, we will be launching a new website and Facebook page in the coming months. Ahead of that launch, we would like to ask you to sign up for direct email communications from me and the Borough by subscribing with your email address. We want to have the opportunity to share current news with all of you in a timely, efficient, and cost-effective manner and email is the best way to do that. We promise not to inundate you as we value your time and limited inbox space. **Please visit demarestnj.gov and click on the "Sign up for email updates from the Borough" link under Borough Notices.**

There is a lot of work to be done. We will build on lessons learned and a vision for what is best for our town. We will not follow a path travelled because it is easier, we will make a new trail, marked by innovation, open communications, consensus, and a commonsense approach.

The spring holidays are here (not that we had much of a winter); so let me end by wishing you a Happy Passover, a Happy Easter and a Generous Ramadan. Thank you.


Mayor Brian K. Bernstein

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Department Updates & Borough Services

Fire Department

The Demarest Fire Department is once again having a record-setting year for calls. We have responded to numerous alarms in town and continue to work with our neighboring towns receiving and providing mutual aid. We continue to look for new members! We are reaching out to anyone interested in joining our great department and serving our residents. Another way to help is to contribute to our annual fund drive. The Mayor and Council support us by funding state-of-the-art equipment to keep us all safe. We apply for grants every year to offset costs to the taxpayers. Over the past 5 years, we applied for and received close to \$500,000.00 in grant funds for equipment and retention programs.

Never hesitate to call 911 when your alarms activate!! Please don't ever think you are "inconveniencing" us by having us respond to your house, it's what we do, and we love doing it! Be sure to check your smoke/CO alarm batteries, and always be sure any lithium batteries that you may purchase are UL certified! Most fires started by these batteries are from used/rebuilt/cheaper batteries.

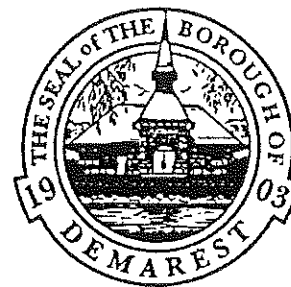
Police Department

The Demarest Police Department is proud to welcome two new officers who graduated from the police academy in December. We are confident they will serve our residents with professionalism, pride, and distinction.

Officer Connor Owens grew up in Westwood and graduated from William Paterson University where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Marketing with a minor in Economics. In January 2022, Officer Owens became a Special Police Officer Class 1 with the Demarest Police Department, where he was recognized with two Life Saving Awards for his actions in saving the lives of two people.

Officer Andrew Anavim grew up in and has been a Demarest resident his entire life. He graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University at Albany in Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security and is currently in the process of receiving his master's degree in criminal justice. He graduated from the Bergen County Police Academy earning the Top Gun award in his class.

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Bicycle Helmets; Please remind your children that in New Jersey, anyone under 17 years of age that rides a bicycle, is a passenger on a bicycle or is towed as a passenger by a bicycle must wear a safety helmet.

Walking Dogs without a Leash Please remember Ordinance 89-1: No person owning, harboring, keeping, walking or protecting any dog, whether licensed or unlicensed, shall permit said dog to run at large or unleashed off the premises owned, leased, rented or occupied by such person within the territorial limits of the borough.

9 PM Routine Adopt the 9 PM Routine: Check your vehicles each night by 9 PM; ensure your vehicle is safe and secure and that key fobs and valuables have been removed.

Emergency Alerts and Notifications: The Demarest Police Department and the Demarest Office of Emergency Management use two different companies to communicate emergency alerts to the residents. Nixle sends a text message and email to residents, and Swiftreach sends a recorded voice message to landlines. If you would like to receive alerts and advisories from the Demarest Police Department, Text 07627 to 888-777 to opt in to Nixle. To make sure you are receiving landline messages from Swiftreach, please sign up on the Police Department website and click on the Swiftreach graphic to enter the portal.

Child Seat Installations: In many instances, parents and caregivers do not install child seats correctly. Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPSTs) are trained to assist with the installation and ensure the safety of these child seats. The Demarest Police Department has assigned Police Officer Del Greco as the Child Passenger Safety Technician. Officer Del Greco can assist Demarest Borough residents who would like help with the installation or inspection of a child seat. To have a child seat installed or inspected please go to www.demarestpd.org and click on Child Seat Installation to set up an appointment with Officer Del Greco. Please visit us at www.demarestpd.org for updates, forms and permit information.

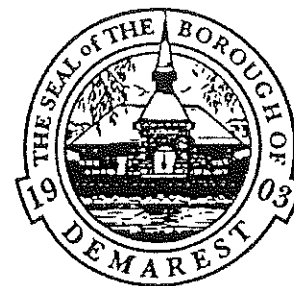
Ambulance Corps

The ambulance corps is being run by a small group of people. The current volunteers give more than double the amount of time they should to make this corps function. **WE NEED MORE HELP.** If you ever wanted to give back to your community, be able to help someone in their time of need, we are looking for you. We know what you're saying - "I can't do it" - but you CAN, and we need you. If you're interested go to demarestems.com and click on the join button under membership.

We are looking for:

- Students 16 years and older. (Great for college resumes!)
- At-home moms and dads
- Retirees or anyone who can donate a few hours during the day.

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Department of Public Works

Demarest Paper Shredding is on Saturday April 8, 2023

at the DPW (22 Wakelee Drive) from 9am-1pm.

DO NOT bring hardcover books, magazines, newspapers, photographs, or x-rays.

Demarest Recycling: We've negotiated **additional Paper Recycling Days** for the remaining **5th Wednesdays** of the year: **Wednesday May 31st, August 30th, November 29th**

Removal of large appliances

Please call IWS sanitation at 201-768-5407 to schedule an appointment for the pickup of large appliances and other household equipment. Refrigerators, air conditioners, and ice makers must have the Freon removed by a certified service person before pickup. If you are buying a new appliance, please check with the merchant as to whether they will remove and dispose of the old appliance.

Free E-Waste Collection & Recycling Event

LG is teaming up with Green Chip Recycling to help NJ residents safely dispose of unwanted electronics in an eco-friendly way.

Saturday, April 22nd 111 Sylvan Ave. Englewood Cliffs, NJ 9AM-2PM Rain or Shine

Accepted Items: Computers, Tablets, Servers, Monitors, TVs, Printers

Not Accepted: Light Bulbs, Batteries, Hazardous Waste, Appliances

Bergen County household hazardous waste recycling

SUNDAY April 16, June 11, October 15 @ Bergen Community College 400 Paramus Road (Entry via Paramus Rd. ONLY) NO COMMERCIAL VEHICLES ALLOWED.

Absolutely no business or commercial waste will be accepted.

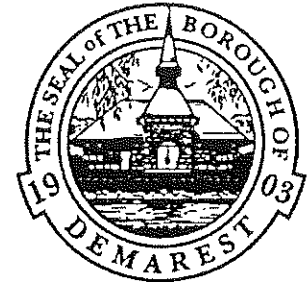
Acceptable Materials Only

Aerosol Cans • Anti-Freeze • Batteries (vehicle & rechargeable only) • Blacktop sealers • Bug spray • Disinfectants • Drain Cleaners • Fertilizer • Fire Extinguishers • Fluorescent Light Bulbs • Gasoline • Glue • Herbicides • Insecticides • Kerosene • Lighter Fluid • Mercury Switches • Oil Filters (used) • Paints & Varnishes - All Types • Pesticides • Photographic Chemicals • Propane Gas Cylinders (1 lb. and 20 lb. only) • Solvents & Thinners • Thermostats • Thermometers • Used Motor Oil

For a complete listing go to bcua.org

Materials not in original containers must be labeled.

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Board of Health

All dogs and cats seven (7) months or older residing in the borough must be licensed. Your pets' current rabies immunization must expire after October 31st of the licensing year. Forms can be found on the borough website under Board of Health

We issue certified copies of Births, Deaths, Civil Unions, Domestic Partnerships and Marriages that occurred in Demarest. Application forms can be found on the borough website. Search "Board of Health Forms"

We've received a fresh shipment of Covid-19 at home test kits at the Board of Health office. Demarest Residents are welcome to stop by and pick up two (2) per person per household. See Lee Campbell, BOH Secretary during regular office hours.

Planning Board

The Planning Board recently approved the site plan proposed by United Way to construct a 17-unit 100% affordable housing project on Borough-owned property at 127 Hardenburgh Avenue. The project will include supportive housing for persons with disabilities as well as housing for seniors and families and will fulfill the Borough's current affordable housing obligation. The Board also recently completed a periodic review of the Master Plan and will be working on recommended updates.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

The Zoning Board of Adjustment continues to receive a steady flow of applications, which in recent years have been mainly related to improved lot and building coverage issues. In January, two regular members and one alternate were reappointed to the Board, and one new alternate was appointed to fill an unexpired one-year term.

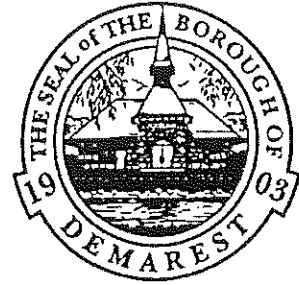
Shade Tree Commission

Demarest has been awarded a Tree City USA award for the 17th consecutive year. In honor of Arbor Day (Friday April 28th), the Shade Tree Commission will be handing out 100 seedlings on **Saturday April 22nd** at the Demarest Train Station from **10AM-2PM**, as supplies last.

Tree Removal and Protection Ordinance

The Council Real Estate and Ordinance Committee wishes to thank the Shade Tree Commission's volunteer Members for taking on the major task of administering the Borough's 2020 Tree Removal and Protection Ordinance, which requires a permit to remove trees on private property and in some cases mitigative plantings (see the "Borough Ordinances" tab under "Government" on the Borough website).

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Recreation Commission

Demarest Summer Camp registration is open now through May 15 for kids K-6th grade. Camp runs June 26-August 4th from 9AM-2PM Register via Community Pass. Link is on the Boro Website on Recreation Page More information can be found at demarestreccamp.com

To use the Borough Tennis Courts at Wakelee Field a current Tennis badge is required. Badges may be purchased at Borough Hall, Mon-Fri, 8:30am - 4pm Badge Costs: Family: \$25 Adult: \$15 Junior (Under 18): \$10 Senior Citizen: \$5

Summer Concerts and Theater in the Park- We are working on the line-up and funding. If you're interested in sponsoring an event, the forms are on Boro Website. Demarest Day!! Save the date! September 23 from 2-6

Demarest Athletic Association

The Demarest Athletic Association is excited to invite all Demarest families to our **Baseball/Softball Opening Day Parade** and celebration that will take place on **Saturday, April 22nd**. The **parade** begins at the Demarest Middle School at **10:30 a.m.** and continues at Wakelee Field where there will be activities, live music and lots of food. We hope you can join us and celebrate the beginning of our spring sports season.

The Demarest Swim Club

Summer is almost here; come join The Demarest Swim Club!

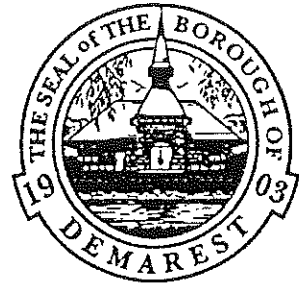
The Club offers: swim lessons for both children and adults, swim and dive teams with a trained coaching staff, Lifeguard Certification Course, Job opportunities, a 4th of July party, Children's Splash party, accommodations for private parties, basketball and volleyball courts, tetherball, wiffleball and ping pong; snacks, playground, board games, 3 Pools including kiddie pool, lap pool and diving boards. Planned opening on Memorial Day for weekends only through 6/23/23 and then 7 days a week through Labor Day.

The Board of Trustees are looking to fill a few spots on the Pool Board. If interested, please let us know.

Please come down after Memorial Day for a free tour!

Visit us at demarestswimclub.com or call 201-788-3377

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Demarest Nature Center:

Demarest Nature Center was incorporated and has been open to the public since 1972. We currently offer various programs such as Maple Syrup Day, Spring & Fall Birdwatching, Canoe Rides at Duck Pond, Birdfeeder building, Oktoberfest, Ice Skating, Master Arborist and Naturalist guided walks, Annual DNC photo contest and many more. New programs will include Beekeeper's talk, National Trails Day participation on June 3rd, and establishing Wildflower and Butterfly Gardens at the nature center.

Sunday April 23rd 9 am at the DNC entrance - we will be planting the native wildflower seeds and flower plugs in the prepared soil. Come and help plant the seeds then join us for our spring birdwatching walk with our Bergen County Audubon Society guide Don Torino.

Saturday May 13th 10 am at Duck Pond field adjacent to train station. We will have our first Beekeeper talk by Frank Mortimer followed by canoe riding and bird feeder building activities for a nominal fee. Join us and have a fun day.

Saturday June 3rd - in observance of the National Trails Day, we will be working on our trails: sprucing up, widening, and protecting wet trails by placing planks, etc. Come join us to help improve our trails.

Come enjoy and learn more about the great outdoors at our Demarest Nature Center. We invite you to join us and become a member! Visit demarestnaturecenter.org for details.

Demarest Garden Club

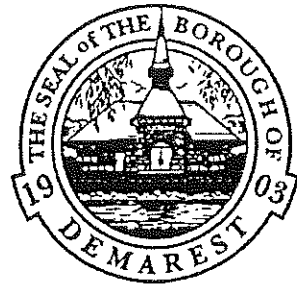
Come join us! Meetings are held at 1:00pm, first Friday monthly September through June, at the United Methodist Church.

Plant Sale 2023, **By Pre-Order Only!!!** Pre-Order Forms are now available at the Public Libraries of Demarest, Cresskill, and Closter and at the Demarest Borough Hall or it can be found at demarestnj.gov/clubs

Pre-Order Forms are due by **April 7th**. Plant Pick Up dates are:

May 5th at 2-5pm & May 6th at 9am-noon at United Methodist Church of Demarest.

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Demarest Library

Sign up to receive any or all of our library newsletters by visiting demarestlibrary.org or find us on Facebook.

- **Adult Events** – be the first to hear about special programs for adults
- **Closing Alerts** – receive a notification in your inbox if the library is unexpectedly closed
- **Library Newsletter** – a monthly newsletter that covers programs for adult, kids, and tweens, and updates from the library
- **Updates from Ms. Chris** – news, programs, and book recommendations from the Children's Room

Join us for our movie matinee at 12:30 PM on **Monday April 10th!** We will be showing a new film ***A Man Called Otto*** rated PG, starring Tom Hanks and Mariana Treviño. Registration not required. We hope to see you then!

Demarest Local History with Mary Anne Clarke! on Wednesday April 12th 1-2:30 PM

Come learn about Jim Neary, a former Demarest Resident. We will be screening a PBS special about him, followed by a lecture from Demarest resident and local historian, Mary Anne Clarke. Registration Required. Call 201 768-8714 <https://bccls.libcal.com/calendar/demarest/localhistory>

PTO

Tuesday 4/4 LLE Me & My Dance @ LLE, 5:30pm

Friday 4/7 – Spring Recess – No School Fri 4/14

Saturday 4/22 International Heritage Day, TBD

Friday 4/28 Spring Fundraiser Gala at the Montammy Golf Club!

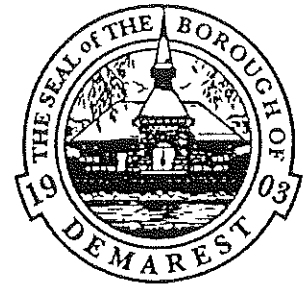
We encourage everyone to join the Demarest PTO! New members can purchase membership at demarestpto.membershiptoolkit.com

Demarest 5K- Since last year occurred late in October, the next race will be May 2024

Air Traffic Noise

Changing air traffic patterns to Teterboro airport are adversely affecting some of our residents. If you would like to register a complaint about noise from air traffic please call 800-225-1071 or visit aircraftnoise.panynj.gov.

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Our Seniors

Did you know there's free Senior Citizen Transportation Services offered by Bergen County?

Service is provided in a professional, timely, courteous, and caring manner in all types of weather. Service is door-to-door, when possible, and is provided by drivers who are specially trained to assist seniors and persons with disabilities for the following:

- Routine medical visits
- Meals on Wheels
- Community outreach/activity center
- Driving people to their places of employment
- Recreational activities
- Shopping
- Education
- Post-stroke support groups
- Physical therapy
- Senior Services
- Service runs Monday through Friday from 10AM-2PM
- Must call 2 weeks prior to date of pick-up
- If you have any questions, please call (201) 368-5955 and press 1 for dispatch.

Bergen County Nutrition Programs

On May 16, in celebration of Older Americans Month, Bergen County is offering a Nutrition Program Open House in Senior Centers throughout the County. For locations, reservations and more information please visit our Facebook page or check out the flyer on the bulletin board at Borough Hall.

Visit co.bergen.nj.us for information on these and all County programs.

If you are interested in a downtown beautification committee or have any questions or concerns about any Borough services, Contact the Borough Administrator Julie Falkenstern at boroadmin@demarestnj.gov or 201-768-0167 x 147

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