



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

### **Adjudicated Chili...**

On Sunday, September 29, **The Art School at Old Church held its Chili Bowl Fundraising festival.** I was invited to assist judging the great chili cook off. **First Place Chili was awarded to Mary Martire, Second Place: Heidi Bacaz, Third Place: Will Richichi.** Congratulations and thanks to all of the winners, competitors and the potters that created over 200 handmade ceramic bowls for the event.

### **DMV To Visit Demarest!**

**On November 18th, the NJ DMV, at the Borough's request, is scheduled to have the Mobile DMV truck at the train station.** Details on which services will be offered, times and how to schedule an appointment will be shared as soon as they are available. At least for one day, you can avoid the trip to the DMV and get it done in town!

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I want to wish a Happy Chuseok to all of our Demarest families that celebrate! Chuseok is an important Korean Holiday that celebrates Korean culture and the autumn harvest. It is a special time for family and friends. We hope you enjoyed the Korean Thanksgiving celebration!

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### **October 7, Rosh Hashanah and the Yom Kippur Holiday**

It is hard to believe that it is almost an entire year since **October 7, 2023** -- the day that Hamas terrorists brutally murdered over 1200 Jews, solely because they were Jewish, and kidnapped more than 200 innocent civilians - men, women, and children. Recently, Hamas executed six of the innocent hostages held in captivity by them, in a tunnel 65 feet underground the night before Israeli forces reached the tunnel. Their names are: **Hersh Goldberg-Polin, Ori Danino, Eden Yerushalmi, Almog Sarusi, Alexander Lobanov and Carmel Ga.** We owe it to them to say and remember their names.

As of today, the war continues, and hostages are still held in captivity under the threat of execution. The fact is, **there are 101 hostages still being held in Gaza.** Hamas is a terrorist organization. It is evil and does not want peace, as peace is not in their self-interest. No terrorist wants peace.

As Jewish families celebrate their New Year on **Rosh Hashanah (October 2-4)** and prepare for **Yom Kippur (October 11-12)**, the holiest day of the Jewish year, we extend our prayers to the remaining hostages and for their safe return. **Let me end by wishing you a Shana Tovah – a happy and sweet New Year and Gmar tov! And, may the world find and enjoy peace!**

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### **OKTOBERFEST NEWS:**

Reminder, on Saturday, October 5 from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, join the Demarest Nature Center for its Oktoberfest & Craft Fair at the Duck Pond. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE – The world’s busiest motor vehicle bridge turns 93 this month. For 93, You look marvelous!**

**The George Washington Bridge**, linking New Jersey with New York, was dedicated on October 24, 1931 and opened to traffic the following day. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY GWB!**

The back story: the Port Authority, with **Othmar Ammann** as its new chief engineer, began construction of the bridge **in October of 1927. Ammann's design was bold and an engineering marvel at the time with an extraordinary 3,500-foot center span suspended between two 570-foot steel towers, and the strength to carry two levels of roadway or rail.** The physical construction of the bridge is itself an engineering tour de force. The four main cables are each composed of a single strand carried back and forth across the river 61 times. Each strand contains a bundle of 434 individual wires.

The Bridge first opened to traffic in 1931. **On the first day, 57,788 vehicles and one man on a horse crossed the bridge.** During the first full year of operation in 1932, more than 5.5 million vehicles used the bridge. As traffic demand increased, additional construction became necessary. The two center lanes of the bridge, which had been left unpaved in the original construction, were opened to traffic in 1946, increasing capacity of the bridge by one-third. The six lanes of the lower roadway were completed in 1962. **Today, the bridge carries approximately 106 million vehicles per year. Original toll: .50 cents per vehicle; today, \$17 without E-ZPass. For inquiring minds, the toll for the horse was the same as for a vehicle.**

### **Halloween Save the Date**

Recreation’s annual Halloween event will be on 10/26 at 3pm. More details to follow!

### **Demarest Library**

The Demarest Library's annual Diwali Celebration is happening on Saturday, October 12 from 11 am - 1 pm at the United Methodist Church. There will be food, henna, dancing, & more. All are welcome to join! Register [here](#).

The Family Pumpkin Decorating Contest is back! Come pick up a mini pumpkin (1 per family please!) starting on October 9th to decorate and return to the library for display and voting. Available while supplies last.

The Demarest Library is excited to offer Fiero Code, a website that teaches coding skills using interactive mini games, self-paced exercises, robotics, and more. Sign up with your Demarest Library card [here](#) to access the platform anywhere and start coding!

### **Support Our Local Businesses:**

I believe it is important to support our local businesses. Over the next few months, I intend to highlight the town’s retail businesses. The first business is **Xplor Wine of Demarest**, located at 128 Hardenburgh Avenue. A bespoke wine and liquor store where the owners,

**Kurt and Donna** share their vast knowledge of wines, beer and spirits, invite you for wine tastings and provide you with friendly service and excellent product at great prices. **October 29th marks their 5-year anniversary.** Drop in and say happy anniversary and you may just find yourself transported to some faraway wine region!

Have a great weekend,

Mayor Brian Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **1,034 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](http://demarestnj.gov) and sign up for my weekly emails! The link can be found about halfway down the homepage.*

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