



Friends and neighbors,

Tis the season! Demarest resident **Casey Ference**, a Dwight- Englewood senior, has created a program that mirrors a food pantry for families in need. Casey formed the *Gift Pantry* this year to resolve the issue of little kids without birthday or holiday gifts because their families cannot afford them. **GREAT IDEA, CASEY!** Now, it's your turn to help Casey help others. *Got a gift you didn't like? Bought something you never used?* There are gift collection boxes at the Demarest Library and the Closter Library accepting **NEW** clothes, shoes and toys that will be distributed to families through the Dumont food pantry. Of course, you can also donate household items, but at this time of year, items for children will probably be best. If you're donating for the upcoming holidays, please drop off new gifts by Friday, December 20. Casey has been selected as a December 2024 Hometown Hero by **Congressman Josh Gottheimer** for this program.

Leaf Pickup is officially complete! Thank you to the DPW for the excellent job of keeping our streets clean and safe. Please note that going forward all leaves need to be bagged and placed at the curb for pickup or removed by your private landscapers. Leaf piles will no longer be picked up this season. Chipping will resume next week, weather permitting.

Santa Claus is coming to town!

Starting at 10 am on Sunday 12/22 the Demarest Volunteer Fire Department will be escorting Santa around town. Listen for the sirens on your block and make sure you come outside to say hi!

Menorah Celebration

Please remember to mark your calendar for our **Menorah Lighting celebration scheduled for Sunday, December 29th at 7 PM at the Gazebo**. Hanukkah this year is celebrated December 25 – January 2 and candles will be lit each night.

Friday the 13th - Today is the second Friday the 13th of 2024 – the first was September 13th. For many, this day is seen as one of the most unlucky days of the calendar year. Friday the 13th is known to be a day of bad luck, but how it got its “spooky” reputation dates back centuries, although an exact time frame isn't clear. Generally, we create our own “bad luck,” so be careful, be mindful, just watch your step and stopping looking up for drones as you are walking!

Demarest Library

The library is looking for more recipes for our virtual holiday recipe swap. Please submit a meaningful recipe [here](#) or just email jennifer.grutta@demarest.bccls.org by 12/18. Happy Holidays!

The library has DIY holiday craft kits for adults. Please come pick one up by the main circulation desk while supplies last.

No Wednesday recycling on:

· Christmas Day 12/25/24; **Rescheduled** for Friday **12/27/24**

· New Year's Day 1/1/25; **Rescheduled** for Friday **1/3/25**

Please mark your calendars.

Have a great weekend,

Mayor Brian Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **1,084 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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