



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

**Happy New Year!** We welcomed 2024 in Demarest on New Year's Day with our Annual Reorganization meeting where our two new Councilmembers Jonathan Reiss and Adam Collins were sworn in to begin their service to the Borough. Thank you Jonathan and Adam for dedicating your time to serve on the Council. I also want to thank our Bergen County Commissioners, Tracy Silna Zur and Steve Tanelli who were kind enough to attend our meeting on New Year's Day and swear in Adam and Jonathan.

I was honored to swear in Frank Visaggio as our new Deputy Police Chief. Frank has risen through the ranks since he joined the force in 2000 and is an excellent leader. I am confident that he will continue his strong leadership in his new role. Congratulations Deputy Chief Visaggio! Next, I was proud to swear in our Fire Department Officers for 2024, Chief John McLoughlin, Deputy Chief Carl Pavlik, Captain John Young, Lieutenant Matthew Carey and Lieutenant Matthew Mayer. These selfless volunteers lead a volunteer Fire Department that responds to hundreds of calls each year and they devote their personal time to training and being prepared to respond to any emergency whenever called, day or night! Congratulations and thank you for your service. I was also thrilled to recognize members of the Police Department, Fire Department, and Ambulance Corps. for their distinctive service in 2023. I issued commendations to EMS members Jeff Geisenheimer, Julie Fortunato, Roberta Hoag, and Andy Woods; Fire Department Members John McLoughlin, Carl Pavlik, John Young, Matthew Carey, Michael Morrison, and Kyle Pavlik; and Police Department members Deputy Chief Frank Visaggio, Lt. Michael Bartelucci, Officer Connor Owens and Officer Michael Krynicky. Each of them performed lifesaving rescues in 2023 and I was honored to recognize each of them. Lastly, I want to congratulate all of our many volunteers who were appointed and reappointed to our Boards and Committees. The commitment that these residents make to serve the community is invaluable and I thank them all for their contributions to Demarest.

### ***Warning for Solicitation Scams/Unsolicited Contractors***

- **All Solicitors must have an approved "Demarest Solicitors Badge". They went through a vetting process, all companies must be registered**

and soliciting individuals named.

- Always be vigilant of individuals coming to your door offering service. Or seeking money.
- Signs to look for: Professionalism in their appearance, proper credentials for the company they are representing. Are they wearing some type of uniform (Shirt/Jacket/Logo)? Do they display the approved “Demarest Solicitors Badge?”
- *When they are giving you estimates on the work, if they are cheaper than any other company beware!*
- Like the old adage says, “If it’s too good to be true it probably is.”
- Please immediately contact the Demarest Police if you are unsure or skeptical of the solicitor or contractor.

**SNOW ALERT:** Please be careful this weekend, as we are expecting snow. Reminder, there is no overnight street parking when Borough roads are covered with snow.

Thank you and be safe.

Mayor Brian Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **786 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 on the Demarest homepage [[demarestnj.gov](http://demarestnj.gov)] under “Quick Links.”*

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