



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

I want to thank our Demarest OEM team for their preparation and response to this week's storm. While, luckily, the brunt of the storm turned out to be slightly less intense than some of the predictions, there were numerous incidents of flooding, downed trees and wires that our team responded to throughout the night. Our Police, Fire, DPW and EMS were at the ready all night and immediately responded to each incident. Remember, while the residents slept through most of the storm, the Team was working outside responding to every emergency. You have my respect and thanks. And, as always, thank you on behalf of the Council and residents of the town for your dedicated hard work.

Sara Gatanas has been an exceptional member of the Recreation commission for the past eight years. Over the years, she has led the Rec Commission's Halloween event, helped reorganize the tennis rules, and shared the responsibility of the tree lighting. She brought in Christine Nicholas as a generous sponsor to many of our events. Sadly, Sara has decided that it is time for someone new to take her spot on the commission and she has gracefully resigned her post. I spoke with Sara personally to thank her, and I would like to remind all of our residents that none of our wonderful events or celebrations would be possible without the contributions of volunteers like Sara.

Let me also take a moment to thank Christine Nicholas for her generosity as a sponsor of many of our town events. Your assistance is welcomed and helps make our events successful. Thank you.

The Bergen County Health Department has provided a new supply of COVID test kits to the Borough for our staff and residents. Please stop by Borough Hall if you need a test kit.

The DPW chippers are out for regular branch pickup as well as storm clean up. Branches should be at the curb stacked in the same direction for ease of pickup. Christmas Trees can also be placed at the curb for pickup.

The Borough received notification that we received a grant with the assistance of our grant writer, Bruno Associates, in the amount of \$146,730.00 from the Bergen County Open Space Fund for improvements to Wakelee Field. Congratulations to the DAA and Recreation Commission whose programs will benefit from the grant. Thank you to our grant writers, Bruno Associates, appointed last year for their assistance in obtaining the funds.

**This week at the library:**

January 2024 marks the first official Muslim Heritage Month in NJ. The library will be sharing Muslim culture through story time, crafts, games, henna, calligraphy, light food, and coffee & tea for children and their families. Join us on Saturday, January 20th from 10am - 12pm. All are welcome to join!

Borough Offices and the Demarest Library will be closed on Monday, January 15 in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mayor Brian Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **819 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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