



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

Today, March 1, marks the beginning of Women's History Month. United States history is full of women leaders, changemakers and trailblazers leading the fight for women's equality, diversity and inclusion. It's not just about glass ceilings. Women are to be recognized for their substantial contributions to our nation and our history. Also, for their strides to achieve gender parity in the workplace and economic equality everywhere, and to continue shining a light on violence against women. We have come a long way, but a bright and just future can only be achieved by eliminating bias and discrimination from every aspect of our lives and institutions. This month we celebrate progress and acknowledge the barriers that still exist for women in our society and the need to remove those barriers.

Tomorrow, March 2, we celebrate the birth of Theodor Geisel - 120 years ago, and endorse the importance of reading. He is better known to us as Dr. Seuss, who authored and illustrated more than 60 children's books that are part of collective childhoods and learning. His books include favorites like "Green Eggs and Ham," "Horton Hatches the Egg" and the "Cat in the Hat". National Read Across America week is celebrated from March 2 – 6 in schools across the country including right here in Demarest where members of our Police Department will be participating by reading some of their favorites to the students at County Road School.

I have a few safety reminders from our Police Department in response to a burglary last week in town. Please make sure you lock your doors, even when you are home. Please do not leave valuables in your cars and make sure you take your key fobs with you and lock your cars. Lastly, if you have any cameras on your home, please make sure they are activated and functioning. This message is not to scare but to prepare!

At our Council meeting this week, it was brought to our attention that the speed signs in and around our downtown area may be confusing to motorists about the appropriate speed limits in the business district. I asked the Police and DPW to inspect the signage downtown and make any adjustments that can increase clarity to drivers and pedestrians and promote safety. I want to thank Deputy Chief Visaggio and Public Works Manager Jason Gangi for their swift action in ordering new signage to make it very clear to drivers that the speed limit in our downtown is 25 MPH. Please watch for these new signs in the next few weeks and respect the speed limit. As spring weather approaches, more people will be out walking and biking and enjoying our parks and we want to keep them safe!

Shade Tree Commission:

The Shade Tree Commission would like to give a tree a home by giving your home a tree. If you would like to have an 8-12 ft. tree planted, at no cost to you, in the Borough Right of Way at your residence please let Lee Campbell know. You can reach her by stopping by Borough Hall to ask for an application for a tree, or call 201-768-0167 ext. 130 or e mail

Lcampbell@demarestnj.gov. All we ask is that you water the tree during dry periods and enjoy watching it grow. Planting will begin sometime in April. Applications should be submitted by

3/31/24.

Upcoming Events:

The Demarest Athletic Association is excited for the beginning of the baseball and softball seasons! The season is scheduled to start on May 4.

The Recreation Commission is hard at work planning our 2024 Summer Concert Series and sponsorship forms are available [here](#). The concerts will begin on **June 26**. Watch your email and check the website as summer approaches for the line up!

The Borough is partnering with the BCUA to offer a paper shredding day for residents on May 11, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the DPW building on Wakelee Drive. Acceptable documents are limited to confidential and sensitive materials only. Non-confidential materials, such as books, magazines, newspapers, etc., will not be accepted at this event. It is not necessary to remove paper clips, staples or paperboard binder covers. In an effort to accommodate all those wishing to participate, there is a limit of 4 bags or boxes of documents weighing no more than 10 lbs. each.

The **39th Annual Demarest 5K** is happening on **Sunday, May 19th, 2024**. Registration is now open at demarest5k.org. Don't miss our town's 5k and fun run tradition! To volunteer, donate, sponsor, or ask questions, contact demarest5k@demarestpto.org. Looking forward to seeing our runners, walkers, families and spectators, so lace up and join the fun!

News from the Demarest Public Library:

This year for Women's History Month, the library will be having a Spotlight on Demarest resident, Cecilia Milambo, on Thursday, March 14th at 6pm. Cecilia is a Zambia native, entrepreneur, and serves on the Board of Directors for the African Education Program. Register [here](#).

Check out all of the exciting programs happening in the children's room in March by visiting the library calendar [here](#).

Have a great weekend!

Mayor Brian Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **862 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 on the Demarest homepage [demarestnj.gov] under "Quick Links."*

Borough of Demarest | 118 Serpentine Rd., Demarest, NJ 07627

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