



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

Spring is in the air! This weekend the Fire Department reminds you that when you adjust your clocks forward this weekend for daylight saving time, it is also time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

I am pleased to announce that at Monday night's Mayor and Council meeting I will have the honor of swearing in Paul Schmidig who will be accepting a promotion to the rank of Lieutenant in the Demarest Police Department. Paul has provided exemplary service to the Borough as an officer for over 19 years. Congratulations Paul and thank you!

I am working with the County and Rockland Electric to upgrade the traffic signals and add additional street lighting at the intersection of Hardenburgh and County Rd./Piermont Rd. and expect to have the new street lighting in place this spring and the traffic signals by the time school opens in the fall 2024.

Our finance department has completed the transition to our upgraded finance software. I want to thank our CFO Peter Suh as well as his team including Debra Mati, Andrea Johe, Shivam Patel, and Josh Salles for their work in support of this effort.

We are close to realizing a shared service for a consolidated municipal court with one of our neighboring towns and expect the service to begin on or shortly after April 1. In the meantime, Kara Yako our violations clerk will be leaving the Borough court for another opportunity in a few weeks. I thank her for her service and wish her well!

Upcoming Events:

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 <https://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!

Demarest Swim Club:

The Demarest Swim Club is continuing its plans to open for this summer including a fund drive and outreach to the community. There will be a discussion at Monday's Council meeting regarding the pool. I will report back to you after Monday's meeting.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who are working hard to make the swim club a success this year. I thank new board members Leigh Barker, Brandis Bukzin, Stephanie Dunatov, Alli Deutsch, Vanessa McAndrews, Erin and Andy Shyong; along with veteran board members Jackie Fulin and Jennifer Anavim. I also thank volunteers Sandhya Nankani, Ann Robbins, and Anna Sergeeva who organized the assembly of registration packets and organized a group of volunteers to distribute the packets. I am advised that 1800 swim club registration packets have been delivered to residents. Last but not least, I'd like to thank Council President Andrea Slowikowski for her time working with the swim club and serving as a liaison to the Mayor and Council.

Early Bird discount registration for the 2024 season is available through April 1. Additionally, the new board will hold an in-person registration and meet and greet event at Borough Hall on Thursday March 14 from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm. If you are considering membership, please stop by and meet the Board members who can answer all your questions and accept your Early Bird membership application! Additional information is available at demarestwimclub.org.

News from the Demarest Public Library:

Come hear from Cecilia Milambo, a Demarest resident, on Thursday, March 14th from 6-7pm. Cecilia is a Zambia native, entrepreneur, the President of the United Nations African Ambassadors Spouses Group, as well on the Board of Directors for the African Education Program. Register [here](#).

Stop by the children's section of the library for Maker's Day on Saturday, March 16th from 10am-12pm to participate in STEAM activities! Best suited for ages 4+

Have a great weekend!

Mayor Brian Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **866 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."*

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