



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

*My sympathies to James Meyer and his family on the loss of his wife, Carly. The Meyers lived in Demarest for a long time and were an important part of the Demarest family until they relocated to Charleston, South Carolina. I know the family well and am saddened by their devastating loss. My condolences and sympathies to the Meyer family. It is helpful to know that Carly passed peacefully with her family at her side. She was a tremendous person who touched many lives and raised three great children. She will be missed.*

\* \* \*

The Environmental Commission (“EC”) has asked residents to consider a voluntary **No-Mow May** or a **Low-Mow May**, which are quick and catchy names for a movement that aims well beyond reducing lawn mowing the yard for a month. It is a gateway to a conversation and understanding how we share our lawns with bees, pollinators and other small creatures. The EC has said that mowing less in May creates a habitat that can increase the abundance and diversity of wildlife, including bees and other pollinators. They say that one way to achieve that goal is for a No-Mow May or a Low-Mow May. You don’t need to go the full month of May without mowing. Mowing every two weeks can increase flower blooms and provide food for bees. Also, consider adding flower species to your grass and gardens, which will also help pollinators, bees, butterflies, grasshoppers and other insects for the Spring through Fall seasons and not just for the month of May.

Mother Nature continues to demonstrate her power and beauty. Following our earthquake and total eclipse, another natural and rare event occurred this week. In parts of New Jersey, residents recently only asked “did you feel the earthquake?” and “did you watch the solar eclipse?” On Wednesday morning, residents in certain towns, not Demarest, reported seeing a neon green fireball falling from the sky and asked, “did you see that fireball fall from the sky?” It appears that a meteor fell to earth in a fiery display.

Hardenburgh Speed Limit – The Council intends to move forward with a study to support a request to the County to reduce the speed limit on Hardenburgh Avenue. Except as otherwise posted, the speed limit on County roads, including Hardenburgh Avenue, is 35 miles per hour. I would like to see the speed limit reduced to 25 miles per hour for Hardenburgh Avenue; however, it is a heavy lift to obtain County approval to reduce the speed on County roads. I believe, however, that Demarest may be able to present compelling factors to reduce the speed limit, including the location of schools, a house of worship, winding roads, and the building of our affordable housing downtown. It is a very long process, so I will not be reporting back soon but will advise once we submit our request to the County.

Remember to save the date, **Saturday, May 4, 2024** (Rain Date: Sunday, May 5, 2024) – Opening Day ceremonies for baseball and softball. There will be a parade and ceremonies beginning at the Demarest Middle School and ending at Wakelee Field. The parade assembles at DMS and starts at 10:00 A.M. My thanks to the Demarest Athletic Association for being stewards of our Little League and Softball Programs, as well as all other programs sponsored by them. Let me also take a moment to thank our DPW, for their care of the fields, and our volunteers, parents, coaches and sponsors with respect to the Demarest Athletic Association and youth sports in Town. Wishing all our young players a fun season!

Next **Saturday, April 20** (rain date Sunday 4/21) is the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer

Challenge at Northern Valley Demarest. Concessions and merchandise sales will benefit breast cancer research and NVD Girls Softball. The first of 4 games begins at 9 am.

**From the Library:**

This **Saturday, April 13** at 1:30 pm the Demarest Library Presents, *British Invasion Electric Cello Concert with Alex Prizgintas*. Originally planned to take place at the Gazebo, it looks like the weather will force the concert to the train station.

Get ready to prep your Spring garden and learn some victory gardening tips with Anthony Bracco from Bracco Farms on **Thursday, April 25** at 6:30pm. Register [here](#).

Have a great weekend!

Mayor Brian Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **883 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 about halfway down the homepage.*

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