



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Each spring, a nation-wide high school visual arts competition is sponsored by the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize and encourage artistic talent across the nation and in each congressional district. Since the Artistic Discovery competition began in 1982, more than 650,000 high school students have participated. Winners will be recognized both in their district and at an annual awards ceremony in Washington, DC. The winning works are displayed for one year at the U.S. Capitol.

This year's Congressional Art Challenge will be held on Sunday May 21 and three talented NVD students are in the competition through Congressman Gottheimer's office. The district winners will be announced this Sunday. Good luck to our NVD competitors: Emily Kim, Erin Rhee, and Caitlin Yoon and congratulations for your participation in the challenge. Thank you Congressman Gottheimer for your assistance with the Congressional competition!

A few residents reached out to ask if I would share the following information on the importance of minimizing garbage that ends up in our landfills. The information below will be added to our website along with a list of resources to dispose of different items properly and responsibly and can be found [here](#).

Not only are landfills dangerous to our health, our soil, water, and air, but according to the EPA, landfills are also the third-largest source of human-related methane emissions in the U.S., which is speeding up climate change.

We need to keep toxic waste out of our landfills AND we need to reduce what we put into our landfills.

In the U.S., over 14 million tons of recyclable clothing, shoes, and textiles make their way into landfills each year. We can do better! There are countless local people and communities who can use such items and keep them out of landfills.

This Saturday, April 20 (rain date Sunday 4/21) is the 14th 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.

Also, this Saturday, April 20, Members of the Shade Tree Commission will be giving out saplings to celebrate Arbor Day at the train station from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

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!

From the Library:

The library will be closed beginning Friday, April 19 due to construction. The Library anticipates that the construction will last for the weeks of April 22 and April 29. Library patrons will be able to check out books and pick them up at the Closter library instead of the Demarest library. More information about the Library renovation can be found [here](#).

Get ready to prep your spring garden and learn 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 **885 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 about halfway down the homepage.*

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