



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

*Wishing everyone a very **Happy Fourth of July!** Please have fun and be safe!!*

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Please see the below information concerning your tax bills from our CFO and Tax Collector:

Be advised that the 3rd Quarter 2024 Estimated tax bill, due August 1, 2024, was mailed on June 20, 2024. The bill is a new form generated by our updated accounting software. The bill is a pink voucher and looks different from what you have received in the past.

This Estimated bill has the same status as a regular bill and may be paid without interest if paid within the grace period, which ends on August 12, 2024. The bill is two-parts and the bar-coded half can be used as the payment stub if you choose to drop off or mail your check.

The final tax bill will be mailed by September 30, 2024 and will include 4th Quarter 2024, 1st Quarter 2025 and 2nd Quarter 2025 tax stubs.

*If you have a Mortgage or other third party vendor, your tax bill should have *****THIS IS NOT A BILL – ADVICE COPY ONLY***** printed on the top of the bill. In this case your bill will be paid by your Mortgage/escrow/third party, and you do not need to send payment. But, it is advised that you confirm the taxes match your escrow for your records.*

*In the case where your voucher does not have **ADVICE COPY ONLY** printed on top of the bill and your taxes have been previously paid by a third party vendor, we will be notified by your bank and records will be updated. There is no need to send payment.*

Lastly, for those who have gone through the reassessment process, the property taxes do not reflect any changes based on the reassessment.

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I met with the County Road Department this week and learned that we are one step closer to the **upgraded signal and traffic pattern at the corner of County Road and Hardenburgh Ave.** They are finalizing the bid package and anticipate awarding the contract later this summer. The element that will take the most time is procuring the necessary light poles and traffic control box. I am advised that there is a long lead time in the County's obtaining the necessary equipment for the approved project. I will continue efforts to expedite; in the meantime, I want to thank the County Engineering Department for doing everything they can to help expedite the project. If all goes well, the project should be completed by this time next year.

Great news! We received notification this week from the State that **we will receive a Local Recreational Improvement Grant of \$28,000.** We applied for the grant earlier this year and the award will provide funds to install benches and game board tables at the Demarest Duck Pond – Gazebo side and Train Station side.

Next project - our Special Projects Engineers will be surveying and conducting drainage studies on **Wakelee Field to assess field upgrades** to improve the entire field complex to facilitate drainage. The project, once undertaken and completed, will improve drainage on all fields and make our fields more accessible and playable despite the increased rainfalls. We will seek grants for this project, as we did for the park benches and tables.

Borough offices will be closed next week on Thursday 7/4 and Friday 7/5 in observance of Independence Day.

Upcoming Events:

The next concert in the Recreation Commission's summer concert series is scheduled for July 10 featuring **Florian Schantz Jazz Combo**. **Unfortunately, the first show that was scheduled for this week was cancelled due to the thunderstorms on Wednesday evening. Please check your emails and the Borough website for the rescheduled date.**

This week at the library:

Come to the Children's Room for a Global Storytime on Tuesday, **July 2nd** from 4 - 4:30 pm. Make sure to sign up for Summer Reading [here](#).

The library will be closed on Thursday, July 4th for Independence Day . Enjoy the holiday!

Have a great weekend!

Mayor Brian Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **924 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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