



Friends and neighbors,

I'd like to wish everyone a Happy Passover!

This Passover, please remember those who are not yet free as Passover symbolizes freedom and liberation. As you sit around your seder table with your families and loved ones, please take a moment to think of the 59 families who cannot celebrate this year.

Today is the last day for the **Demarest Garden Club Plant Sale Fundraiser 2025**

Click on link below for all details

Demarest 2025 plant sale order form

Questions: Call Karen Koehler: 201-956-3676 or karenkoe22@gmail.com

Opening Day!

Baseball and Softball Season will begin in Demarest on April 26! Below is the schedule of events.

10:30am – Parade starts at St. Joseph's Church, 280 County Road, led by a firetruck, ambulance, police, DPW and the DAA Tractor.

10:50am – The parade arrives at Wakelee Field! Join us for the Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem, God Bless America, America the Beautiful, Acknowledgements, and First Pitches to close the ceremony. ***Play Ball!***

11:15am - Food service opens

12 Noon - Games begin!

We hope you will join us, have fun and make the kids feel special!

There's more to do on **April 26!** **The Art School at the Old Church is hosting a pop-up event** featuring arts and crafts for sale near the Train Station. Yes, there is more: the **Nature Center will have their annual Canoe Day event from 10-3.** So mark your calendars for a full day of fun in Demarest on April 26! More details to come as the day gets closer!

Demarest Library – We said good-bye to a Library Visionary.

*It is with a heavy heart that we share the news that **Edna Ortega**, the long-time director of the Demarest Free Public Library, passed away on April 8, 2025, which also happens to be National Library Workers Day.*

Edna lived in and served our community for 47 years from 1972 until her retirement

in 2019. Ortega started her career at the Demarest Library in 1972 in the children's reading room, offering arts and crafts in addition to guiding children to books that would create lifelong readers. She soon advanced to become the library director in 1983. During the course of Ortega's tenure, she managed the library's entry into the Bergen County Cooperative Library System in 1986; its transition from a private association library into a municipal library in 2009; and then, a series of building renovations in 2005 and 2011 that included a new entrance on Stelfox Street, the addition of an elevator, a two-story addition on the Insley Street side and a teen room. Ortega's life-long contributions to the Demarest Library are memorialized in "Edna Ortega's Secret Garden," a reading nook in the children's room that features kid-sized gliders and bean bag chairs.

All are welcome to visit and to read, grow, imagine. Edna was pivotal to laying the foundation for how the community continues to experience the Demarest Library. Thank you, Edna.

Anthony Bracco from Bracco Farms will return to the library for Adapting Small Farming Methods to a Backyard Garden on **Thursday, April 24 at 6 pm** Register [here!](#)

Come view **Maureen Bennett's art display, Woodlands on Wood, Beauty & (Im)Balance, on view at the library for the month of April.** Please read the featured article about her from The [Northern Valley Press here:](#)

The library is so pleased that all of our featured artists have been Demarest residents! Our community is full of talent. If you are interested in displaying your artwork, please contact the library!

Demarest Nature Center

Join the Demarest Nature Center for their annual Spring Bird Watching event, led by Don Torino of the Bergen County Audubon Society. Meet at 10am this Sunday, April 13 at the DNC entrance adjacent to the Imagination Playground.

The Nature Center is proud to announce that **Camp SOAR** is coming to the **Demarest Nature Center!** Space is limited.

*** Grades 1-3: August 4-8, 2025 Theme: Nature Art**

*** Grades 4-7: August 11-15, 2025 Theme: Feathered Friends**

Visit www.soar.science or call to sign up! info@soar.science 201-701-0969

Demarest Volunteer Ambulance Corps –

DVAC held its annual Installation luncheon for its members and guests on April 6. The following awards were presented:

Andrew Woods - 20 year service award
Roberta Hoag - 20 year service award
Fred Zigami - 15 year service award
Jonathan Tillack - 2024 President's award
Angelina Panarello - 2024 EMT of the Year
Stephen Tillack -2024 Driver of the Year

I would like to express my appreciation and praise for a small Corps that makes a BIG difference for our residents. You are the gold standard of the Northern Valley! While every member is exceptional, a special recognition is deserved for Jeff, Roberta and Andrew – you are our TOP responders and are super heroes without capes! Or did I miss the capes? Thank you!!!

Have a great weekend,

Mayor Brian K. Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **1,130 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.*

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

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