



Friends & Neighbors:

Memorial Day Parade

This Monday, we will hold our Annual **Memorial Day Parade**, featuring the **NVD High School Band**. **The Parade and Memorial service will be held on May 26, 2025**. The Parade will commence at **9:30 AM**. **The Parade** will start at the Demarest Library and go East on Hardenburgh Avenue to Piermont Road, north on Piermont Road to Northwood Avenue, east on Northwood Avenue to High Street, south on High Street to Hardenburgh Avenue, west on Hardenburgh Avenue to the monument at the Duck Pond.

Memorial Day is about remembering our American Heroes who lost their lives in service to our nation. This year marks the 80th Anniversary of the end of World War II. In recognition of that, at this year's service, **we will be recognizing two Demarest residents who are Gold Star Veterans of World War II. We are also recognizing another soldier who was killed in action whose nephew lives in Demarest.** Our records indicate that over 100 young men from Demarest served during World War II. We obtained information about three men with ties to Demarest who proudly served and did not return to their families.

Walter G. Kellmann, lived on Stelfox Street back in 1941 when he entered the service at just 21 years old. According to our research, **Mr. Kellmann served to protect freedom and liberty, not just for America, but for people around the globe.** During his service for our Country, Mr. Kellmann experienced a critical situation outside of the battlefield that led to his death. **We honor the memory of Walter G. Kellmann for his service and for his ultimate sacrifice.**

Nicholas G. Muller also hailed from Demarest and was lost at sea, with his last known location in the English Channel. **He was declared dead on June 9, 1944 in Normandy . The D-Day invasion of Normandy** marked the beginning of the end of the war and the liberation of Western Europe, was on June 6, 1944. This timeline suggests that he was part of that mission. Mr. Muller is memorialized at *Tablets of the Missing at Normandy American Cemetery, Colleville-sur-Mer, France*. His death occurred during the largest amphibious invasion in history, involving more than 156,000 troops. **We honor the memory of Nicholas G. Muller for his courageous service and ultimate sacrifice.**

Charles J. Merritts, Private First Class, Co F, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, was killed in action (KIA) at Ardennes during the Battle of the Bulge on January 9, 1945. KIA refers to the death of a military person at the hands of the enemy or hostile forces during combat or battle. **We honor the memory of Charles J. Merritts for his courageous service and ultimate sacrifice.** Charles' nephew Gerry and his wife Jenny live in Demarest and we honor them as a **Demarest Gold Star Family**.

**WE CAN NEVER REPAY THE DEBT OWED OR EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO
WALTER, NICHOLAS AND CHARLES AND THE APPROXIMATELY 407,316**

SERVE MEMBERS THAT DIED DURING WORLD WAR II AND TO ALL OF THE OTHER BRAVE SOULS WHO DIED AT DIFFERENT TIMES IN DIFFERENT WARS AND CONFLICTS. MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PEACE FOR ALL ETERNITY!

To our Veterans:

This November, in honor of Veteran's Day, we would like to recognize Demarest residents who have served our Country at the November 10, 2025 Mayor and Council Meeting. If you are a veteran, or know someone in Demarest who is a veteran, please [use this link to register](#).

Also, if you are a veteran (or the surviving spouse of a veteran) you should be eligible for a **\$250 property tax deduction every year after you are registered and approved.** If you have not applied, please click [here for the application form](#), which can be returned to the Demarest tax office. If you need further information or have any questions about this program or other tax relief programs, please contact our Deputy Tax Collector, Andrea at 201-768-0167 ext. 142.

Our thanks to Sophie Gutter:

I would like to thank Demarest resident and 10th student at the Saddle River Day School, **Sophie Gutter** for hosting a chess tournament at her school last month. **Sophie donated all of the proceeds (\$507!) to the Demarst Public Library** to support and improve their chess club. Sophie is an avid chess player and I commend her public service and desire to support the Demarst library. **Sophie, you're a rockstar!**

Beware ... It's fawn season!

Important reminder from the Garden Club, it's fawn season! Every year from late spring through the summer, our local deer have their babies (fawns). You may encounter fawns almost anywhere in town, including your lawn, garden, under the azaleas, etc. Even though you don't see mom, she is off feeding and helping to keep predators away and will be back, likely at dusk, if humans are not near the fawns. Generally, a fawn will curl up, nap most of the day and move their heads. They have no scent, and predators cannot find them unless humans interfere, touch or feed them. **If you find a fawn on your property or elsewhere in town; it's only temporary, please do not touch, move or attempt to feed them.** Thank you!

Demarest Swim Club

The swim club is scheduled to be open for Memorial Day Weekend from noon-7pm Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 24 – 26. Please check the [DSC website for schedules, hours of operation, events and membership information](#).

The Demarest Library

The Friends of the Library are holding a **Tile Fundraiser!** Leave your family's legacy on the library walls forever! Children and their families can design a 6 x 6 ceramic tile that will be installed in the children's room. There is one tile painting session for this fundraiser still left. **The remaining date is Wednesday, May 28 from 6 - 7 pm.** Please find more information, pricing, and registration [here](#).

Join us at the library for **Hebrew read-aloud stories and a Shavuot craft on Wednesday, May 28 from 4:00-4:45 pm!** This program is intended for children ages 4+ with their caregivers. The craft will be led by Rakefet Krochmal. No registration is required.

Schedule Change:

Borough offices will close at 12:30 pm on Friday, May 23 and will be closed on Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day. We hope to see you at the parade on Monday morning at 9:30 am.

As we enter this Memorial Day Weekend, I leave you with this poem:

In Flanders Fields by John McCrae

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly*

Scarce heard amid the guns below.

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

May their souls rest in peace for all eternity!

Enjoy your Holiday Weekend,

Mayor Brian K. Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **1,146 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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