



Dear Friends & Neighbors:

### **SPEAKING AGAINST DANGEROUS HATE**

Earlier this week, I became aware of a **disturbing antisemitic image of a vehicle in Closter with a Nazi swastika that was posted on the internet. This is hate speech, plain and simple.** Like it or not, the message, however abhorrent, may be protected as free speech. And, no ... I don't like it. **I immediately called Congressman Josh Gottheimer, and he was contacting the Sheriff's Department to investigate the matter.** A close-up of the back of the vehicle shows a NY EMT license plate. **A vehicle being used for EMT services should never be permitted to display such messages!**

The NYS Department of Motor Vehicles must cause the plate to be revoked and removed. If the individual is not an active certified EMT, which should be investigated, there should be consequences for continuing to use the EMT plate. This issue should be investigated by multiple agencies including, but not limited to, the Department of Motor Vehicles and Homeland Security, as **I believe a danger exists because an EMT plate would likely grant the vehicle access to sensitive areas and locations during public emergencies.**

***A copy of this email will be sent to our State Assembly leaders, Congressional leaders, DMV and Homeland security.***

### **In a Nutshell - Your Tax Dollars -**

I think it is important that you, as residents, have a **concise picture of the tax levies giving rise to your tax bill.** The Demarest 2025 apportionments are as follows:

County Levy	\$5,205,803.68
County Open Space Levy	\$233,267.93
Municipal Open Space Levy	\$248,688.00
Local School Level	\$18,428,826.00
NV Regional School Levy	\$10,134,163.00
<b>Total School Levy</b>	<b>\$28,562,989.00</b>
Library Levy	\$719,837.00
<b>Municipal Levy</b>	<b>\$9,912,047.00</b>
Total Levies to be Raised 2025	<b>\$44,882,659.61</b>

The **Municipal Levy** includes all municipal services including Police, Fire Department, EMS, Recreation, Trash and Recycling Pickup and DPW services such as snow removal, maintenance of Borough properties, parks and road maintenance. All Borough employees' salaries including statutory pensions and health care are also included in the municipal levy, which accounts for **22%** of your total tax bill.

**The remaining 78% of your tax bill, over which the Borough Council has no control or input, relates to the other levies set forth above.** Nearly 64% goes to the extraordinary local and high school school system (K-12) in Demarest. Research shows that homes in high

performing districts such as ours see greater appreciation in value when compared to homes in lower performing districts.

### **New Administration at NVD**

**I want to welcome Keith Johnson, the new Principal of Northern Valley Demarest High School.** Mr. Johnson has been with the district for 21 years, eight of those years in administration, including four as Assistant Principal at NVD. Mr. Johnson has also coached at both Northern Valley Old Tappan and Demarest. I met with him this week and discussed many issues, including a collaboration between the Borough and the High School regarding a proposed expanded Senior Service program that will greatly benefit the high school students and our residents. One example, is a concept I call **Seniors for Seniors** where students assist seniors with technology like computers, cell phones, texting and the internet. Also, our school seniors may be able to assist our resident seniors with shopping, playing chess, cards, and having discussions. **I find that the engagement between senior citizens and high school kids to be extremely positive and rewarding for both.** I look forward to working with Mr. Johnson along with new **Assistant Principals Susan Baez and Rich Scherer who are also joining Northern Valley Demarest.**

### **Jen Pawol Welcome to The Show!**

This weekend, Jen Pawol will make history as the **first woman umpire** in a regular-league MLB game. Pawol will ump three games during this weekend's **Marlins-Braves series**, including both ends of a Saturday doubleheader and she will be behind home plate for Sunday's game. Congratulations and call 'em like you see 'em.

### **Concerts in the Park**

Next week's concert features **Sidepiece! on 8/13 at 7:30 pm** at the gazebo.

### **Demarest Library**

Calling all kids who love art! On Monday, **August 11th from 3:30 - 4:00 PM**, come listen to a story and then decorate the library walkway with chalk!

Join us on **Tuesday, August 12th and Friday, August 15th from 3:00 - 4:00 PM** for Summer Literacy Club - In Her Words, a creative writing and journalism program designed for middle school girls but is open to boys as well! These sessions will be centered around journalism. Sign up for the August 12th session [here](#) and for the August 15th session [here](#)!

We are deeply grateful for the generous support from members of the Demarest community. **A donation in memory of Barbara Bar-Nissam** made by the Bar-Nissam family and friends contributed to the purchase of doors for our community meeting room. A significant gift from the estate of **Nancy Richman**, a longtime Demarest resident, helped us complete the upper-level construction and furnish the space. Additionally, a heartfelt donation from **Kathy and Bob Dean, in memory of beloved music teacher Lisa Woods**, will support the Children's Department in creating a special music program to honor her legacy.

Have a great weekend!

Mayor Brian K. Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **1,206 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.*



Try email marketing for free today!