



Dear Friends & Neighbors:

### **Zoning Ordinance Review and Next Steps**

A compilation of zoning ordinance recommendations has been sent to the Mayor and Council and Joint Planning Board for their review, consideration and comments. **The Zoning Ordinance and proposed recommendations are scheduled to be on the agenda for the October 15 meeting of the Joint Planning Board.** Remember, Joint Planning Board meetings, like Mayor and Council meetings, are open to the public so you can participate, ask questions and provide comments. The recommendations of the Joint Planning Board will be forwarded to the Mayor and Council for our review and public discussion. After reaching consensus, with public comments, Planning Board review and input from other Borough professionals, our Borough Attorney will draft a proposed new Zoning Ordinance for introduction at a Mayor and Council Meeting. Once introduced, the draft revised ordinance will be referred back to the Joint Planning Board for Master Plan consistency review. After review, the proposed ordinance will return to the Mayor and Council for public hearing and final adoption. **Thank you to our Borough Planner Darlene Green, Councilwoman Daryl Fox, Former Planning and Zoning Board Members Marian and Dorothy Hayden for their contributions to this first draft. I want to thank and extend my appreciation to Michael Greco, our Zoning Officer, for his work in compiling the recommendations for review – it has been a significant and substantial task necessary to move forward in improving our ordinance.**

### **October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

An annual international health campaign organized by major breast cancer charities to increase awareness, promote early detection, timely diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and cure. **Donate if you can, but early detection is a must! Be a champion of your own health!**

### **Eagle Scout Achievement for Demarest Resident**

Congratulations to Demarest resident Evelyn Ricci on becoming the first female Eagle Scout from Demarest! Evelyn was honored at Demarest/Closter Troop 163's first-ever Eagle Scout Court of Honor last Saturday, September 27. Evelyn's Eagle Scout project was to geolocate, digitally map, and place storm drain awareness markers on storm drains throughout Demarest. While I wasn't able to attend the ceremony, many dignitaries attended to honor Evelyn and her troopmate Jemima Bowen, a Closter resident who became the first female Eagle Scout from Closter. I want to thank Councilman David Jiang for representing our Governing Body and presenting our certificate of achievement to Evelyn. Thanks again to Evelyn for her contributions to the community and congratulations on your achievement!

### **Let's Go Yankees!**

Congratulations to the Yankees on eliminating the Boston Red Sox and advancing to the ALDS where they will meet the Toronto Blue Jays. Rookie pitcher Cam Schlichter pitched 8 scoreless innings and set a new franchise record for strikeouts by a Yankee in his postseason debut with 12 strikeouts and no walks. The Yankees enter the series hot but tired after their wildcard victory against Boston, while the Blue Jays enter rested. *But, as we say at Thanksgiving, rest the bird before you devour it!*

**October 6 marks the beginning of Sukkot**, an annual Jewish festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest. *Chag Sameach!*

### **October is Crime Prevention Month**

Please see Chief Visaggio's important message below:

*As we transition into the fall season and the evenings begin to grow darker earlier, the Demarest Police Department would like to take this opportunity especially during **October, which is Crime Prevention Month**, to remind everyone of the importance of taking proactive steps to protect your home, vehicle, and personal property. Historically, this time of year brings an increase in opportunistic crimes such as burglaries and thefts from vehicles and porches. While our officers remain dedicated to patrolling and monitoring our neighborhoods, **your awareness and participation are essential in keeping our community safe.***

#### **See Something, Say Something**

- If you notice suspicious activity in your neighborhood, report it immediately by calling us at **201-768-1540**, or **dial 911** in an emergency. **Timing is everything** so if something doesn't feel right, don't hesitate to reach out.

Please click on this [link](#) to review these crime prevention best practices:

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**The Art School at Old Church** is excited to announce our 3rd annual **Chili Bowl Festival, Sunday, October 5th, 5 pm – 7 pm**. The community event combines a friendly recipe competition with expert ceramic artistry. Enjoy delicious chili and take home one of 200 ceramic bowls handcrafted by faculty members and students. Tickets are \$30 at the door and on Eventbrite. Visit [TASOC.org](http://TASOC.org) or call (201) 767-7160 for more information.

#### **The Demarest Nature Center**

Board Member **Jeff Shaari** will lead this month's **Community Trail Walk on Saturday, October 4th at 10am**. Jeff will discuss fruits and seeds in nature and explore a variety of tree species and their future offspring. Meet at the DNC entrance adjacent to the Imagination Playground.

#### **DNC Annual Oktoberfest**

**The Oktoberfest is scheduled for Saturday, October 11 from 10-5 at Duck Pond.**

Please mark your calendar so you don't miss this fun event!

For details and up to date information for all DNC events visit the [DNC website](#).

#### **DAA Kids Basketball**

Basketball tryout 2025-2026 registration is now open, and **tryouts begin October 9**

Open to Boys and Girls Grades 3 to 8

**Please go to [daarec.org](http://daarec.org) to view tryout dates and to register**

#### **Demarest Library**

Love Stranger Things and always wanted to try the game they play in the show? Come to this two class beginner introduction to Dungeons and Dragons on **October 9th and October 16th** starting at **6:00 PM!** Register [here!](#)

All are welcome to come celebrate Diwali with the Demarest Library on **Saturday, October 11th** from **10:30 AM - 1:00 PM!** Join us for a family friendly event with food, dance performance, henna (sponsored by the Friends of The Demarest Library), diya craft, storytime, and more. This will take place at the Demarest Library! Register [here!](#)

Have a great weekend!

Mayor Brian K. Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **1,163 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.*

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

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