



Dear Friends & Neighbors:

Open Space Referendum On Ballot

I have received questions from residents regarding the **Open Space Question** on this November's ballot. We currently have an open space tax, approved by ballot question in 2020 that expires at the end of this year, which can be used for certain maintenance or improvements of our fields and parks, to acquire new lands to be dedicated as open space, historic preservation of land or structures or to improve ponds and streams. The recent projects that were funded by Open Space funds include the Imagination Playground, the current drainage improvements to Wakelee Field and the upcoming Gazebo renovation. Demarest Open Space funds can be matched by County Open Space funds on these projects. For just the three projects mentioned Demarest received \$388,801.00 from the County Open Space fund. If Demarest does not have a local Open Space fund, those matching funds are not available to us, even though Demarest residents, along with all other Bergen County residents are funding the County Open Space Fund. The tax is up to one cent for each \$100.00 of assessed value; however, the Council will determine how much that one cent per \$100.00 will be assessed each year. This is not a new tax; the question just allows the Borough to keep collecting as we have been after this current year. Benefits include environmental, economic, health, and quality-of-life categories. Preserving open land helps manage uncontrolled growth, reduces flooding, maintains a community's unique character, and secures lasting benefits for residents.

Updates

The **new traffic lights** at the intersection of Hardenburgh and Piermont/County have been installed. The lights should be energized later this month. Nearing the finish line for a safer intersection and less delays!

As previously advised, the **Zoning Ordinance is under review** and will be substantially revised.

This week, the Planning Board held a meeting at which comments were taken from the public regarding suggested changes, identification of issues and a discussion about how best to address certain issues relating to the Ordinance. This meeting followed a three-hour public session, held earlier this month, before the Mayor and Council. I want to thank everyone that participated in these public discussions, as your input, perspective and comments were extremely valuable. I also want to thank the Joint Planning Board, its Chair, **Tim Woods** and each of its members for the robust discussion at the meeting, which will lead to a better and clearer Zoning Ordinance.

John Canning of the Demarest Post Office officially retires today. We invited John and his family to the Mayor and Council Meeting held on October 14 and presented John with a plaque to honor his more than 40 years of service. Congratulations John and enjoy your retirement!

Hazardous Waste Collection

This weekend is the last hazardous waste collection event in Paramus for 2025. Sunday 10/19 from 9am-3pm, Bergen County residents can visit Bergen Community College for the event. For details including acceptable items for disposal please click **here**.

Demarest Recreation

Demarest Recreation's **Annual Halloween Celebration event will be on 10/25 at 3PM** at the gazebo.

The Recreation Commission is also collecting candy donations to supplement supplies for the residents that get the bulk of the trick or treaters on the East Side of town. A drop box is located in the lobby of Borough Hall and will be at the Halloween event too! If you are in the high traffic trick or treating zone and are looking for a candy donation, please reach out to Alli at allideutsch@gmail.com and she will let you know if there is any candy available!

The Demarest Garden Club

The DGC is sponsoring a **presentation by Naturalist and Master Gardener, Mary Jo Sichak entitled "Art, History, & Benefit of Indoor Gardening on Friday, 11/7 at 1:30 PM** at the United Methodist Church. All are welcome to attend.

League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is sponsoring a Candidates Forum with Demarest Council Candidates and Board of Education Candidates on 10/23/25 at 7:30 pm at Demarest Borough Hall. The League is a Nonpartisan, Nonprofit organization. For additional details on the event, please email LWVNorthernValley@gmail.com.

Diwali 2025 Celebration

Diwali 2025 will be celebrated on Monday, October 20, 2025. Wishing our families that celebrate, peace, happiness and prosperity. **Shubh Deepavali!**

Demarest Library

Join us on Zoom on **Wednesday, October 22nd at 7:30 PM** for a presentation on Successfully Navigating College Admissions in 2025. The presentation will be led by Ron Feuchs and Jackie Tepper, partners at Stand Out For College, LLC. To learn more and to register, click [here!](#)

Think you know the most about Halloween movies/trivia? Test your knowledge at our Adult Halloween Trivia Party Night on **Thursday, October 23rd from 6:00 - 7:15 pm!** Enjoy a discussion/trivia about our favorite Halloween movies (scary and not scary) and Halloween facts and partake in some Halloween mocktails! NOTE: Please bring a phone to complete the trivia. Register [here!](#)

Have a great weekend!

Mayor Brian K. Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **1,165 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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