



Dear Friends & Neighbors:

Last month, you may have noticed the **Demarest Police** sporting pink hats in support of **Breast Cancer Awareness**, but now that it is **No-Shave November** they may look a little scruffier. During the annual awareness campaign, the month of **November is dedicated to raising awareness for men's health.**

We commend our Police Department's participation in support of these great causes, even though **Chief Visaggio** is normally a stickler for uniform rules! We appreciate his encouragement of the Department's participation in supporting awareness of important issues! **Thank you!**

#### **Thank you from WholeSum Food Pantry**

**The generosity of the Demarest Community has been truly spectacular to see! Since our emails and postings on social media announcing that we were accepting food donations at Borough Hall - our residents sprung right into action!** We have made several trips with an SUV overflowing with donations to the WholeSum Food Pantry in nearby Norwood since the beginning of this month. We also passed on hundreds of dollars in gift cards. **Thank you, I am so proud of our residents' compassion and generosity, let's keep it coming!** Below is an email from the Director of the Food Pantry that I received this week in response to Demarest's generosity. If you are in need of assistance, please reach out to the pantry, they are there to help!

*Dear Mayor,*

*The generosity of the Demarest Boro has been truly overwhelming during these challenging times marked by rising prices and the SNAP pause. The Borough's kindness is making a real difference.*

*The WholeSum Pantry, a ministry of the Church of the Holy Communion, remains open to anyone in need. We welcome families on the first and third Saturdays of each month, and also host monthly Pop-Up events to provide additional support and resources.*

*Together, we're nourishing bodies and lifting spirits—thank you for being part of this mission.*

*With Sincere Gratitude.*

*The WholeSum Pantry*

#### **Congratulations Sophie!**

Demarest Resident, Sophie Gutter, was recently awarded a \$10,000 scholarship from the **NSHSS Be More Grant** at a nationwide competition held in Atlanta, Georgia. This award recognizes high achieving high school and college students from around the country who created an innovation that contributes to technological advancement and innovative solutions for world betterment.

Sophie presented her project, **Writing Mastery**, on 11/7 at NSHSS' Scholar Day, amongst 10 of the brightest high school and college students recognized from our county. Writing Mastery is a writing software program she developed that teaches students a structured, multi-sensory approach to building their writing skills and provides direct AI-driven feedback on their writing. Her program is now being used at schools in Africa and throughout the United States, as well as at Hackensack Hospital, helping pediatric cancer patients who cannot attend school due to treatment. **Congratulations, Sophie! Your family and**

your community are very proud!

### 232 County Rd. Affordable Housing Update

At this past Monday's Mayor and Council meeting, our Affordable Housing Counsel and Planner were in attendance and we took questions and comments from the public regarding affordable housing generally and the 232 County Rd. property specifically. We appreciate the opportunity to discuss these difficult issues and to separate fact from rumor and to hear the public's thoughts and concerns. As we advised, the Borough is scheduled to attend a mediation session next week in response to a challenge filed by the contract purchaser of the 232 County property to our 2025 Housing Plan. The entire governing body is committed to making decisions in the best interest of the taxpayers. We will keep you updated as more information becomes available.

### Traffic Light Update: Progress, but not completion!

Bergen County advised yesterday that Orange and Rockland has now completed their electrical work and energized the project. The County is now waiting for the sub-contractor to turn on the signal which we are advised should be completed by early December.

### The Art School at Old Church

Register now at The Art School at Old Church for *Winter Semester* (Jan 4-Mar 13). Visit [tasoc.org](http://tasoc.org) or call **(201) 767-7160** to choose from over 80 visual arts and craft classes and workshops for children, teens, and adults. **Mark your calendars for the upcoming 51st Old Church Pottery Show, December 5-7, 2025. Twenty-six renowned potters from across the U.S will exhibit and sell their work at the annual fundraising event.**

**DAA Youth Recreation Basketball registration is open now through December 1** for the 2025-2026 season. **Open to Boys and Girls Grades K to 8.** Please go to [daarec.org](http://daarec.org) to register.

### NVD-School Play

Northern Valley Demarest will be performing **Dracula 11/21-11/23**. Support our wonderful student performers by purchasing tickets [here](#).

### Demarest Library

The Demarest Library is happy to provide basic free Notary service to our patrons. We cannot guarantee a notary will be available unless an appointment is made. **Notary services are typically available weekdays Mon-Fri from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Ask for the Notary at the upstairs Circulation Desk.** To learn more, click [here!](#)

In anticipation of the release of *Wicked: For Good*, catch up and watch *Wicked: Part 1* with us at our *Wicked* watch party! NOTE: Attend 15 minutes before movie start time if you want to enjoy a short, guided discussion on expectations for the *Wicked: For Good*. Click [here](#) to register!

Have a great weekend!

Mayor Brian K. Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **1,177 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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