



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

Thanksgiving News

No need to check your calendar, it is only Wednesday. My email this week is two days early because tomorrow is Thanksgiving Day. I want to wish all of you a **Happy Thanksgiving!** I hope your Thanksgiving is filled with good times, good food and that you enjoy a day with family and friends. **No garbage pick-up tomorrow 11/27; but there will be garbage pick-up on Friday, 11/28! Please make sure you put everything out on Thursday evening, because pickup will be very early on Friday! Borough Hall will be closed Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving. A special thanks to all our employees for their dedication, hard work and contributions to our town. My thanks and appreciation!**

Antisemitism, Bigotry and Intolerance Have No Place in Demarest!

Demarest is a wonderful and diverse community, and it is precisely our diversity and inclusivity that make our town such a special place to live. We value and welcome public participation on all matters affecting Demarest, including the significant time the Council has dedicated at multiple meetings to hear your concerns regarding 232 County Road.

Unfortunately, yesterday the platform hosting the 232 Petition displayed an explicitly antisemitic comment. Let me be clear: such rhetoric has absolutely no place in Demarest or in any civil discourse. The comment was not only offensive and antisemitic—it was false and wholly contrary to the very purpose of the Petition.

The Borough and its representatives remain steadfast in acting in the best interests of our community and will continue to do so. As I noted in my November 21 email, the Council and I fully recognize the issues you have raised, including traffic and safety concerns as well as the historic character of the property at 232 County Road. We are actively engaged in the compulsory mediation process, and if a satisfactory resolution cannot be reached, the Council and I are fully prepared to continue vigorously opposing the objections filed against our Housing Plan. Demarest deserves thoughtful, respectful dialogue—and we will continue to uphold those standards as we work together toward outcomes that protect and strengthen our community.

Congratulations to resident Dr. Christopher Shaari for competing in and completing an exceptional competition of human endurance, an extraordinary marathon spanning the globe in seven days! The race is known as the **Great World Race**. Over a seven-day period, competitors complete a marathon on each of the 7 continents. **That's right – 7 marathons, in 7 days on 7 continents!** The race began on November 12 in Wolf's Fang (Antarctica), then onto Cape Town (Africa), Perth (Australia), Abu Dhabi (Asia), the Algarve (Europe), Cartagena (South America) and concluded in Miami (North America). **Congratulations Dr. Shaari on your impressive achievement!**

Our students make their mark! Over the years, many Demarest students have distinguished themselves through exceptional performance on the PSAT/NMSQT and have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program. Congratulations to Demarest Middle School students and

residents **Meesum Panjwani, Leah Park, Dalia Sasmaz and Justin Song** who were named **National Merit Semifinalists**, placing them among the top test-takers nationwide.

In addition, congratulations to **Mia Barbieri, Schuyler Berenbroick, Amadeo Bonde, Alexa Brillhart, Benjamin Faehndrich, Jayden Han, Devan Huber, Natalie Khawaja, Sohi Kim, Elizabeth Maxwell, Caleb Park and Miya Shelton** earned **National Merit Commended** status, reflecting their academic excellence and promise. This local achievement highlights the high level of scholastic dedication and rigor within Demarest's student community. We are very proud!

Tis the Season ... Holiday Announcements ... Please mark your calendars!

The **Christmas Tree Lighting and Concert** is scheduled for **December 2** at the Gazebo. Our Music with Marly concert will begin at **6:30 pm**, followed by the tree lighting and visit from Santa! The Demarest Volunteer Fire Department will also escort Santa around Demarest on 12/21/25 starting at 10am.

The Menorah Lighting is scheduled for Sunday December 14 at 7PM, at the Gazebo for the first night of Hannukah.

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** 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 to register.**

Demarest Library

Do you have books that need a new home, or do you need to make room for new releases? Donate your used books to the Friends of The Demarest Library on **Saturday, December 6th** from **9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**. Please drop off your used books at The Demarest Library in the Community Room on the Main Level. We will also be accepting textbooks, old/antique books, DVDs, CDs, and video games.

Have you ever been overwhelmed by the many different variations of tech products for sale during the holiday season? Join us at the library on **Tuesday, December 2nd** from **1:00 - 2:00 PM** for our **Tech Holiday Shopping Guide Presentation** to get the scoop on what tech to buy for your loved ones. This event will be live streamed to the Demarest Library Instagram if you can't make it! Register **[here!](#)**

Have a great weekend and enjoy the holiday!

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** and sign up for my weekly emails! The link can be found about halfway down the homepage.*



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