



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

Our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting was held on December 3rd and it was a **FUN** and **Spectacular** event. Great turnout on a cold night, but we had hot chocolate, candy canes, great music, the lighting of the tree and, of course, **SANTA!** It was a wonderful event thanks to a lot of dedicated employees and volunteers. **THANK YOU** to the **Recreation Commission and Leigh Barker** for taking the lead in planning the event, to our **Police Department** for their support and to **Jason and Jimmy from the DPW** for their efforts in making sure everything was ready and waiting for Santa's assistant, **Matthew Chong**, who flipped the switch to the light the tree. I would also like to thank the **Fire Department** for escorting Santa along with honoree **Dylan Novelli** who accompanied Santa on the fire truck to the ceremony. As always, great job by **Music with Marly and all her students** for providing non-stop entertainment. And a **very special thanks to Keith Mitchell of the DPW** for undertaking his voluntary special assignment and *magical* contribution to the event. You truly personified the spirit of Christmas for our community and have my gratitude and respect for a job well done!

Please join us again on Sunday 12/14 at 7 PM when we light the Menorah in celebration of the first night of Hanukkah.

Leaf Pickup Update

Thank you to our DPW for their extraordinary leaf pick-up this season. They have done an excellent job, again, keeping our streets free of leaves! **Last curb pickup is 12/12, so please make sure your leaves are at the curb for pickup no later than 12/12.** After that date, your leaves must be bagged or removed by your landscaper. After leaf pickup, branch pickup will resume, weather permitting.

The Art School at Old Church

The 51st annual **Old Church Pottery Show** will take place December 5–7, 2025. Twenty-six renowned potters from across the U.S. will show and sell their work at the three-day celebration of ceramic artistry! **Friday: 6 PM to 9 PM — Saturday: 10 AM to 5 PM — Sunday: 11 PM to 4 PM.** Collect one-of-a-kind works while supporting The Art School's programs and community partnerships.

The Traffic Light Update

As you know, the County is nearly complete with the installation of the new traffic signal at the Pond. They adjusted timing to add additional time for Hardenburgh Avenue and will be installing a green arrow signal to implement the eastbound lead time for traffic travelling East on Hardenburgh. I hope these final adjustments are completed within the next few weeks. In the interim, the Polkice Department has placed an officer at the intersection to help keep traffic moving during morning school time.

The Demarest Nature Center

Please join the **Demarest Nature Center this Saturday, Dec. 6 at 10am** for their monthly Community Trail Walk. **Our Arborist Ray Slaman** will be a part of the Walk! Entrance adjacent to the **Imagination Playground** on Wakelee Drive. For details on this and all of the exciting Nature Center events, please visit their website [here](#).

Demarest Library

Join **The Parent Discussion Group: Families & Screens** on **Monday, December 8th** from **6:30 - 7:30 PM** to discuss the new book **Power On: Managing Screentime to Benefit the Whole Family** by Ash Brandin—a practical and encouraging look at how families can use technology in ways that support connection, health, and balance. The Parent Discussion Group is facilitated by three moms in town -- Joanna Fried, Fatemah Mamdani, and Sandhya Nankani. Joanna is a psychiatrist, Fatemah is a pediatric anesthesiologist, and Sandhya is a children's media producer and educator. Whether you've finished the book or just want to listen and learn, we hope you'll join us for thoughtful conversation and community. Register [here](#)!

Come stop by our **Adult Holiday Wrapping Party** on **Thursday, December 11th** from **5:30 - 7:30 PM** to wrap all those gifts and enjoy the holiday vibes. There will also be a hot chocolate bar (non-alcoholic) so everyone can enjoy the festivities. Register [here](#)!

We will be providing a selection of wrapping paper, bows, and ribbons and a holiday wrapping assistant to help you with your wrapping needs!

DISCLAIMER: In order to use the assistant, your package for wrapping must be a reasonable shape.

Have a great weekend!

Mayor Brian K. Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **1,183 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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