



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

#### **In Recognition of Extraordinary Service**

Today, marks the last day that Det. Don Cho of the Demarest Police Department will serve in his capacity as the School Resource Officer. Det. Cho has served in that capacity for 7.5 years and has done so in an exceptional manner setting a HIGH bar for his successors. He built strong relationships with students, teachers, administrators and staff and has had an immeasurable and positive impact on the school community, the larger Demarest community and our Police Department. He voluntarily accepted this assignment and proudly served with true dedication, compassion and professionalism. Det. Cho consistently went above and beyond in every aspect of the role. **On behalf of the Mayor and Council and our community, I want to thank Det. Cho for his exceptional service, his commitment to the safety and well-being of our students, and the positive mark he leaves behind.** Det. Cho will now serve our community as a full-time detective in the Detective Bureau. I know that Det. Cho will continue to provide dedicated, professional and competent service to the Police Department and community in his new role. Thank you, Det. Cho!

**Hanukkah Celebration** - Please join us this **Sunday 12/14 at 7 PM** when we light the Menorah near the gazebo in celebration of the first night of Hanukkah. There will be hot cocoa, chocolate gelt, jelly donuts, dreidels and Holiday music for all!

#### **Leaf Pickup Update**

Reminder: today, **12/12, is the last day that leaves can be placed at the curb for pickup.** Going forward, your leaves must be bagged or removed by your landscaper. After leaf pickup, branch pickup will resume, weather permitting. Thanks again to our DPW for keeping our streets clear and safe!

#### **2026 Reorganization**

The Governing Body's Annual Reorganization meeting is scheduled for January 5, 2026 at 3:00 pm.

#### **Board of Health**

The Demarest Board of Health will again host a free **Wellness for Adults Program** in 2026. Please click [here](#) or reach out to Lee Campbell [lcampbell@demarestnj.gov](mailto:lcampbell@demarestnj.gov) for dates and program information!

#### **Downtown Plantings!**

I want to thank **Patty Rotile and Noelle Tutunjian** for creating and installing the **beautiful winter planters downtown. Great job!** We very much appreciate the contributions of time, effort and money Patty and Noelle have made to our community. Thank you!

#### **Tree Planting Requests**

Due to the early cold weather *and very low* inventory at the local nurseries, fall/winter tree planting will be pushed to early spring. As soon as the weather allows, those residents who requested a tree from our Shade Tree Commission will see their new trees planted!

#### **NVD Senior Class 2026 Project Graduation**

The NVD 2026 Project Graduation Holiday Boutique is this **Sunday 12/14 from 1-5 PM in the NVD North Gym. Help support the 2026 Graduating Class!**

## Demarest Library

With cable prices high, you may be wondering if streaming is worth all the hype? On **Tuesday, December 16** from **1:00 - 2:00 PM**, Come learn about what it is like to transition to streaming, prices, and what streaming platforms are most worth it with Programming and Outreach Associate Reilly Hacker who switched to streaming herself!

Register [here!](#)

Comprised of seasonal, Christmas, and Hanukkah selections, there is a little bit of something for everyone in Alex Prizgintas's holiday concert on his electric cello on **Thursday, December 18th** from **5:30 - 6:30 PM**. With jazz, rock, klezmer, and traditional styles, this program offers a wide palette for the discerning listener. From the Most Wonderful Time of the Year and The First Noel to Ma'oz Tzur and Hava Nagila, all are welcome for a festive event! Register [here!](#)

Have a great weekend and Happy Hanukkah!

Mayor Brian K. Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **1,185 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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