



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas ...

So, let me wish everyone a wonderful and Merry Christmas. Please enjoy your families spiritual significance, festive decorations, the spirit of giving, love, goodwill, peace and community.

Our annual Newsletter will arrive soon!

Please watch your mailboxes for our **end of year newsletter that includes a 2026 Borough Calendar**. It should arrive by year's end! Please note our **new garbage and recycling contract is effective 1/1/26 and the big change for residents is that you no longer have to remember which recycling Wednesday it is!** You can put both bottles & cans and paper & cardboard out each Wednesday throughout the year. Please refer to the calendar for any schedule changes due to holidays.

Services for our Seniors

One of my goals for **2026 is to create accessible senior transportation services for our seniors**. In mid-2025, I appointed three residents to our Golden Seniors Board and they have been meeting to discuss the needs of our senior community. Senior transportation should be an essential part of our community. Accordingly, **we have started discussions with Cresskill to partner with them to facilitate transportation for our community members to senior centers, supermarkets and medical appointments**. We are officially searching for a driver that can assist Cresskill's current driver who has limited availability. **If you or someone you know has an interest in becoming a driver, please contact us!**

2026 Reorganization Meeting

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

Demarest Nature Center

Join the Demarest Nature Center this **Saturday, December 20 for the annual Bergen County Audubon Society's Winter Bird Count**. This yearly event helps to track global bird inhabitants and aids scientists in understanding bird populations and health. No bird identification experience is needed. Bring binoculars if you have them. **Meet at the DNC entrance adjacent to the Imagination Playground at 10am**.

Looking for something to do on New Year's Day? Come down to the Demarest Nature Center for a winter-themed scavenger hunt. We will also have hot chocolate, coffee and donuts. This event is free and open to all from **10am-12pm on Thursday, January 1st** at the DNC entrance adjacent to the Imagination Playground. And don't forget to join or renew your DNC Membership before year's end!

The Art School at Old Church

Winter Semester (January 4–March 13) is fast approaching at The Art School at Old Church. Visit **tasoc.org** or call **(201) 767-7160** to explore more than **80 visual arts and craft classes** for children, teens, and adults. Start the new year by making art and friends in our spacious studios and galleries!

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** for dates and program information!

Congratulations to Acting Chief Visaggio and Captain Talty

Both successfully completed the **FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Leadership Training**. They completed the three-week training program encompassing the Supervisor, Command and Executive levels, with a focus on leadership principles, ethics and effective communications. **Thank you both for your dedication, service and leadership!**

Demarest Library

Friends of the Demarest Library - Thank You - and Join Us!

As we reflect on the past year, we're incredibly grateful for the community's support. Because of our members and donors, we've been able to strengthen the library, enrich programs, and create meaningful experiences for the entire community.

Together, **Friends** made possible:

- A MoMA Museum membership for residents to enjoy
- A refrigerator for Children's Room programs and snacks
- A new microphone to enhance library events
- A community tile art wall created by more than 50 Demarest residents
- Podcast recording equipment to launch the library's own podcast
- Special events like the Summer Reading ice cream truck, Diwali henna station, and courtyard yarn bomb
- Toniebox audio players to support early literacy and independent listening

We're proud of what we've accomplished — and we're excited about what's ahead. If you're new to the Friends, we invite you to join us and be part of supporting the programs and resources that make our library such a special place. Memberships and donations help fund initiatives not covered by the town budget, and every contribution truly makes a difference.

Learn more about joining or renewing your membership here: www.demarestlibrary.org/friends.

Borough offices will be closed Thursday 12/25 and Friday 12/26 for the Christmas Holiday.

Have a great weekend!

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 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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