



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

My email is early this week due to the Christmas holiday. **Borough offices will be closed tomorrow 12/25 and Friday 12/26 for Christmas. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas. Also, Friday 12/26 is the beginning of Kwanzaa. Happy Kwanzaa! Next up, New Year's Eve!!!**

Trash Schedule this week.

While there is no trash pickup on Thursday [12/25 Christmas Day], **there will be trash pickup on Friday, 12/26** – so make certain your trash is out early Friday morning.

Our annual Newsletter will arrive soon!

The Demarest Post Office, or Santa, will deliver our **end-of-year newsletter that includes a 2026 Borough Calendar**. It should arrive by year's end! **IMPORTANT** - our **new garbage and recycling contract is effective 1/1/26. The big change for residents is that you no longer have to remember which recycling Wednesday it is!** You can put both bottles and cans and paper and cardboard out each Wednesday throughout the year. Please refer to the calendar for any schedule changes due to holidays.

Our 2026 Reorganization Meeting

The Governing Body's Annual Reorganization meeting will be held on **January 5, 2026, starting at 3:00 pm**. Hope to see you there!

Demarest Nature Center

"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!" Contact info@demarestnaturecenter.org for more information.

The Art School at Old Church

Celebrate the season with creativity at The Art School at Old Church! Our Winter Semester begins January 4, 2026. Visit tasoc.org or call (201) 767-7160 to discover more than 80 inspiring visual arts and craft classes for children, teens, and adults.

Looking for a meaningful holiday present? Gift certificates in any amount are available by calling the school.

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!

Please remember to update your pet license for 2026. Applications are available [here](#) and are included with the Annual Newsletter to be delivered soon! The Borough will also have a **free Rabies Clinic on February 7, 2026, from 10am-11:30am** if your dog or cat needs an updated vaccine, don't miss out!

My Special Thanks!

I want to thank all of our employees, volunteers, Councilmembers, members of our Boards and Commissions and our Professionals for all of your hard work, commitment and dedication. I also

want to thank our residents for all that you contribute. I have had meaningful conversations with many of you about our shared vision for Demarest. You have all made significant contributions to our town and I look forward to our continued partnership in making progress for our community. Remember, I am in the office almost all day, every Monday, and at many other times, to meet with you to discuss all issues affecting you and Demarest. I am pleased that many of you have met with me for these discussions. Your engagement has been extraordinary and is very much appreciated. Thank you!

Have a very Merry Christmas!

Mayor Brian K. Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **1,186 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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