



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

Daylight Savings Time starts on Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 a.m. and ends on Sunday, November 1, at 2:00 a.m. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour. This "spring forward" means an hour less sleep in March, but longer daylight in the evenings until "falling back" in November.

### **Project Update**

The Borough met this week with our Special Projects Engineer and the contractor for the gazebo rehabilitation. The work is scheduled to begin, weather permitting, by the end of next week. The goal is for the work to be completed by Memorial Day. The biggest factor in the work timeline is the timing of custom-built handrails planned for around the gazebo. I will keep you posted with schedule updates as the project progresses. During the Gazebo work, please be mindful of signage and barricades when spending time in the park.

**232 County Road** – At our next Council meeting, March 9, the Council will hear public comments concerning the ordinances required to update our Housing Plan and Redevelopment Plan including the rezoning of 232 County Rd. and meeting the town's Fair Share Housing obligation. The ordinances are necessary to retain the town's "immunity" from Builder Remedy lawsuits. Due to the rescheduling of our 2/23 Council meeting to 2/25 in response to the snowfall and state of emergency and an error by the Bergen Record in publishing, we are conducting a special public meeting on March 12 (at 7:30 p.m.) to hear additional comments and conduct the public hearing and for the Council to vote on adoption of the ordinances. The text of the ordinances can be found [here](#). The public is welcome to attend both the March 9 and March 12 meetings to comment on the ordinances.

### **Hometown Pride**

The Demarest Public Schools are incredibly proud to celebrate Jackie Jesner, an 8th grade student at Demarest Middle School, as the winner of 2026 Bergen Idol! Jackie was the only middle school contestant in the competition, performing against a field of talented high school students throughout Bergen County. Her achievement is not only a testament to her remarkable talent, but also to the credit of the performing arts programs at the Demarest School District.

Jackie may never have discovered her voice or had the opportunity to develop her artistry at such a young age without the spark inspired in her by the school Rock Band. Jackie's success tells a powerful story about what is possible when passion meets opportunity and we could not be more grateful or proud to see her shine on such a stage. Congratulations to all of the finalists and a special shout out to Jackie!

### **Demarest Nature Center**

The Demarest Nature Center's Monthly Community Trail Walk will take place on Saturday, March 7th at 10 a.m. A trail clean-up will immediately follow. Want to know how to approximate a tree's age without cutting it down? How about estimating a tree's height without using a tape measure? Come join us to find out! Meet at the DNC entrance adjacent to the Imagination Playground.

**Spring is Just Around the Corner – Oh Deer!**

Let the countdown begin – Spring will begin on Friday, March 20, 2026. Only 14 days to go! But remember, in early spring, typically starting in March, the snow melts (finally!) and food sources reappear. And, with that, deer activity increases as deer transition to feeding on new green vegetation and fawning preparations begin. So, please be careful driving, especially early morning and sunset/dusk.

### **The Art School at Old Church**

Registration now for Spring Session (April 6 - June 14) at The Art School at Old Church! Visit [tasoc.org](http://tasoc.org) to explore more than 80 visual arts and craft experiences for children, teens, and adults. Register online, or in person, at 561 Piermont Rd. Study painting, drawing, pottery, jewelry, printmaking, fiber arts, sculpture, photography, and more! If you have questions, call (201)767-7160.

### **Demarest Library**

On Wednesday, March 11 from 2:45 - 4:45 PM, The Office of New Americans (ONA), a division of the State Department of Human Services that covers Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Warren, and Union counties, will be tabling at The Demarest Library to help connect immigrant and refugee families to essential services like healthcare, pro bono immigration legal support, public benefits, and works to make state social services more accessible for communities that speak languages other than English.

We are three months into 2026, which is usually when people start falling off of their goals or realizing what goals they can prioritize and implement into their lives for the New Year. Join the Demarest Library on Thursday, March 12 from 6:00 - 7:30 PM to get back on track and clarify your goals for 2026 with our Adult Vision Board Crafting Event! Register [here!](#)

Come celebrate Ramadan at the library with our Ramadan Storytime & Craft Event on Thursday, March 12th from 3:30 - 4:15 PM led by a community volunteer! This program is best suited for ages 4+. No registration required.

Have a great weekend!

Mayor Brian K. Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **1,220 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.*

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