



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

Code Enforcement in the Borough

I would like to address an issue regarding the **increased construction in our town** and the increased disruption and frustration it brings. Some streets and parts of our town have had to deal with multiple construction jobs on their blocks, which only serve to increase the disruption and sense of, *when is this going to be finished?*

We are also aware that **some contractors or builders** may not, or are not, following the rules designed to protect the neighborhood tranquility and our community. In some cases, the issue is not that a contractor was not following the rules, but that the rules permitted the builder/contractor to build to a max that is unacceptable to many of us, but compliant with the former zoning code.

Our Code Enforcement Officer, Construction Official, Zoning Officer, DPW and Police Department all work together to proactively monitor construction sites and routinely issue warnings, violations and fines, as warranted, but they can't possibly see everything, so if you see something that you believe needs to be addressed, we welcome the information.

The contact information for everyone at Borough Hall is available [here](#).

If you see an issue that is time sensitive (someone is doing construction before 8 am or on weekends, for example) or an unsafe condition exists, that issue should be reported immediately to the **non-emergency Police number 201-768-1540. (unsafe conditions requiring immediate attention or life-threatening emergencies should always be reported by dialing 911)**. Violations that occur outside of regular business hours and on weekends and holidays that can't wait until Borough Offices reopen, should also be reported to the non-emergency police phone number. I know people often think they are "bothering" the police, but it's not a bother, they are here to serve and want the information. I met with the Police Chief this week and he confirmed that they want the calls.

During regular business hours, unless it is an emergency, you should contact our Borough Administrator and Clerk, our Deputy Clerk, our Shade Tree Secretary or our Technical Assistant- they are full time employees handling the administrative issues at Borough Hall and can either address your issue or get the information to the right person, so please don't hesitate to reach out. **As always, our staff is here to help!**

We recognize that issuing violations or summons is not the only solution, so we have amended our noise and tree ordinances to address many of the issues affecting residents and the quality of life in town. We also substantially overhauled the entire Zoning Ordinance to reduce the bulk of construction and address many of the issues that you have brought to my attention and to the attention of the Borough. We will continue to review ordinances and policies to ensure that we have all the tools in place to compel compliance.

I want to thank all of you for sharing your comments, observations, complaints and suggestions. It helped greatly in amending/overhauling our ordinances and provided information to our Police Department and Enforcement Officers regarding violations. I also want to thank our Enforcement Team for their handling of calls from our residents.

Here are some **helpful reminders and information** for builders and residents:

1. **Hours for construction: Monday – Friday 8:00 am -6:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am – 6:00 pm.** Prohibited on Sundays and Holidays. (all the details can be found [here](#))
2. **Tree Removal – Trees cannot be removed without first obtaining a tree removal permit and mitigation may be required for trees that are permitted to be removed.** Please help preserve our beautifully tree lined streets, respect the environment and preserve the natural flood mitigation that healthy trees provide by following the requirements of our tree removal ordinance, which can be found [here](#).
3. **Tree protection – You are required to protect trees during construction and to follow the Ordinance.** Proscribed measures must be put in place, in accordance with our Ordinance, to protect the trees on the property. Please comply with our Ordinance and follow the directions of our construction and code enforcement officials on how to best protect trees on construction sites.
4. **Whenever you are in doubt about the rules, please reach out!** Our goal in enforcement is not punitive; our goal is compliance with the ordinances the Borough has put in place to protect the health and welfare of our community.

Mobile Outreach Vaccination Clinic

The Bergen County Health Department is conducting a mobile vaccination clinic at our DPW Building on Wakelee Dr. tomorrow, **Saturday 5/16 from 9AM-Noon**. Various vaccines are available, click [here for all the details](#).

Demarest 5K

The Annual Demarest 5K Run/Walk For Your Health is this Sunday **May 17, 2026**

5K Start: 9:30 AM Fun Run Start: 10:30 AM

Additional information at www.Demarest5k.org

The Art School at Old Church

Join us for our **Annual Pottery Lawn Sale** this **Saturday, May 16, from 12–3 PM!** Each year, students and faculty donate original cups, bowls, sculptures, and other ceramic works to help raise funds for our school. Arrive early for the best selection before these one-of-a-kind pieces sell out!

There's still time to register for our **Summer Courses** (June 20–August 1) and **Summer Workshops** (June 15–19) for adults of all ages and interests. We also have openings in **Blast of Art!**—our popular summer camp for children ages 6–12. Families are invited to enroll in *one or both* weeklong camp sessions beginning August 10 and August 17.

Register online at TASOC.org or in person at **561 Piermont Rd**. For more information, call **(201) 767-7160**.

Memorial Day

The Annual Memorial Day parade will kick off **Monday May 25, 2026 at 10 AM from the library**. The parade will then continue east on Hardenburgh Avenue to Piermont Road, north on Piermont Road to Northwood Avenue, east on Northwood Avenue to High Street, south on High Street to Hardenburgh Avenue, west on Hardenburgh Avenue to the monument at the Duck Pond. I hope to see you all there!

Demarest Library

Join us for coffee, cookies, and conversation! Seniors are invited to meet fellow community members and chat with the Library Director on **Tuesday, May 19 from 10:00 - 11:00 AM** about how the library can be a welcoming gathering place with programs and spaces designed for seniors. All are welcome—stop by and say hello!

Join **Miss Cristina** at the Demarest Public Library on **Tuesday, May 19th from 10:30 - 11:15 AM** for an interactive Spanish Storytime! Engage in songs, stories, movement and play. This program is for children ages infant to 4 and their caregivers. Register [here!](#)

Attention High School Juniors! Join the zoom presentation, “Creating a Compelling College Application this Summer” on **Wednesday, May 20th at 7:30 PM**, which will provide a detailed and strategic overview of what students should focus on to make their college applications as compelling as possible. The

presentation will be led by **Ron Feuchs and Jackie Tepper, partners at Stand Out For College, LLC.** (www.standoutforcollege.com) Register [here!](#)

Have a great weekend!

Mayor Brian K. Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **1,228 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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