



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

### **Councilwoman Daryl Fox – Thank you!**

At our May meeting, we unfortunately accepted the unexpected resignation of **Councilwoman Daryl Fox**. Daryl informed me and the Borough that due to personal obligations that unavoidably interfered with the performance of her duties as a councilwoman, she needed to resign. We have since had the opportunity to speak with Daryl and to thank her personally for her years of service to the Borough and its residents. I want to thank and publicly acknowledge Daryl for her long history of public service. **Daryl has volunteered and served the Demarest community for over 50 years.** She joined the Demarest Volunteer Ambulance Corps in 1974 and served as a member and Chair of the Demarest Zoning Board of Adjustment, a trustee to the Imagination Playground, the Demarest Nature Center, and the Demarest Swim Club. She also served as a girl scout leader, a softball coach and a swim team judge. She has been a friend, a member of the Borough Council since 2015 and in that capacity has Chaired the Ordinance Committee, has been liaison to the schools and our emergency services and served on the Planning Board. Daryl's voice and presence on our Council and Joint Planning Board will be missed. **Please join me in wishing Daryl and her family well and thanking her for her service. Thank You, Daryl!**

The vacancy on the Council has been filled by **David Jiang** who returns to the Council since his previous term ended in 2025. We welcome David back and know that his experience and voice will be an asset to the Governing Body.

### **Achievement in Demarest**

**Eighth grade students, Noah Xia, Riya Ganguly, and Eyal Carmeli**, fueled by concerns for their local and global environments, devised a solution to turn an ecological nuisance into a practical product. They founded ReedClaim Bioplastics, which turns invasive into innovative by tackling two issues at once: the well-known global plastic problem and the local phragmite concern. The students incorporated the invasive phragmite fibers into a formula to make an alternative material for plastic. Annually, the worldwide population generates over 660 billion pounds of plastic waste that can take anywhere from 20-1000 years to break down. Invasive phragmites choke wetlands and take over space meant for native species.

This innovative idea has now won the team second place at the BergenSci Challenge and a top three spot in the New Jersey School Board Association sponsored STEAMTank Competition. **The team will travel to Atlantic City in October to present their product at the New Jersey School Board Association Convention.**

**Congratulations Noah, Riya and Eyal – your community couldn't be prouder!**

### **Gazebo Ribbon Cutting**

We are planning our ribbon cutting and rededication ceremony for the renovated and improved **Nancy Woods Peace Gazebo on June 24<sup>th</sup>, commencing at 6 PM, and followed immediately by the first summer concert of our Summer Concert Series – the music of our own Ray Graiche.** If you or someone you know, who may not see this email, was a part of the original group of people who conceived

the idea, or were involved with the Gazebo fundraising, construction or dedication, please provide a current email address for them to Julie @ [boroadmin@demarestnj.gov](mailto:boroadmin@demarestnj.gov) so that we can ensure they are invited to this ceremony.

### Demarest Nature Center

Join the Demarest Nature Center this **Saturday, June 6 at 10am** for their monthly Community Trail Walk. Meet at the DNC entrance adjacent to the Imagination Playground on Wakelee Drive. There will be no trail walks in July or August, but our monthly schedule will resume in September

### The Art School

**Registration continues for Summer Courses (June 20–August 1) and one-day Summer Workshops (June 15–19)** at The Art School at Old Church. Adults and teens can choose from more than 80 visual arts and craft classes addressing all levels of experience. Openings are also available in **Blast of Art!** -- our popular **summer camp for children ages 6–12**, with **weeklong sessions** beginning **August 10 and August 17**. Families are encouraged to **enroll now in one or both sessions**.

This summer, everyone is also invited to experience **In Hand III**, the school's annual **national cup exhibition**, featuring more than 80 creative interpretations of the drinking vessel in the Mikhail Zakin Gallery. **The Figure: Interpretations in Clay** will be on view simultaneously in the Café Gallery. Call **(201) 767-7160** for more information.

Please join us for the **opening reception for both exhibitions on June 11, 2026, from 6:00–8:00 PM**. Located at 561 Piermont Road, The Art School at Old Church has proudly served Demarest and Bergen County for 52 years. Visit and discover all that our vibrant community arts center has to offer!

### Demarest Library

On **Tuesday, June 9th the Demarest Library will be closed from 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM** for staff training. We will re-open from 1:30 - 5:00 PM on that day.

Get creative just in time for summer by painting your very own wine glass with **Adult Wine Glass Painting** on **Saturday, June 13th from 12:00 - 1:00 PM!** Instructor Brandy will lead you in painting your wine glass with a beautiful floral design! All levels are welcome! **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!** Register [here!](#)

Join our 2nd Chess Challenge at the Demarest Library on **Saturday, June 20th!** This time, there will be **TWO SEPARATE TOURNAMENTS** at separate times. **Sign up on the google form and indicate which tournament is appropriate for your child based on their chess experience.**

Ages: 6-14 years old

**NON - Competitive Tournament: 9:45 - 11 am** for beginners

**Competitive Tournament: 11 am - 12:15 pm** for intermediate/advanced players

**Registration required! [Register here](#)**

Run by our TAB volunteers from Chess Club.

*PRACTICE/ MEET OTHER PLAYERS*

**Lastly, Go Knicks – 3 To Go!**

Have a great weekend,

Mayor Brian K. Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **1,235 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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