



Demarest Digest

The Mayor's Message

This is the last edition of the borough newsletter for the year 2020. This year has been challenging for us because of the global pandemic that began early this year. Demarest recorded its first case of COVID-19 in the borough in March. The number of cases rose steadily throughout the spring and leveled off in the summer, numbering in the fifties. Cases began rising again in September. The latest report from Bergen County lists 109 cases for our borough. The second wave of the virus has begun; we must continue to wear masks, wash our hands and practice social distancing.

We can enjoy the winter holidays and greatly lessen the chances of getting this virus if we keep our holiday gatherings as small as possible, preferably household members only. Most of us have been using social media and virtual meeting apps since the pandemic began. We can use them throughout the winter holidays and during the cold weather months ahead to stay in touch with our friends and family.

Two annual outdoor gatherings will be held in the borough, with necessary modifications. The Christmas tree lighting will take place on December 1st at 7:30 PM until 8 PM. The lighting of the Menorah will take place on December 14th at 7 PM. Both events require social distancing, and masks must be worn.

May everyone stay safe and well. With the promise of vaccines in 2021, we hope that next winter we will be celebrating the winter holidays as we used to do.

Mayor Melinda J. Iannuzzi

If you believe any information is incorrect or incomplete, please contact Marti Francis (francis.demarestnj@gmail.com) so I may fix it.



Calendar of Events

December 1	Tree Lighting 7:30-8:00 pm featuring the music of Ray Greiche
December 2	Planning Board meeting 7:30 pm
December 9	Virtual Court 5:30 pm
December 14	Menorah Lighting at 7:00 pm
December 21	Mayor and Council meeting 7:30 pm
December 24/25	Borough Hall Closed for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
January 4	Reorganization meeting 6:00 pm
January 13	Virtual Court 5:30 pm
January 19	Zoning Board meeting 8:00 pm
January 20	Board of Health meeting 7:00 pm
January 25	Mayor and Council meeting 7:30 pm
February 10	Virtual Court 5:30 pm
February 16	Zoning Board meeting 8:00 pm
February 22	Mayor and Council meeting 7:30 pm

Please check Demarestnj.org or call 201-768-0167 for the latest information.

From Our Police Chief

9:00 Routine

Due to an uptick in the number of stolen motor vehicles in the borough and thefts from vehicles in the borough and surrounding towns, the Demarest Police Department encourages vehicle owners to adopt the 9 PM Routine. This routine encourages routinely checking vehicles each night by 9 PM. By doing so, you do your part to ensure your vehicle is safe and secure and that all valuables have been removed.

COVID – 19 Update

Please remember during the Holidays to follow Governor Phil Murphy's Executive Order No. 196, which lowers indoor and outdoor gathering limits. The indoor gathering limit will decrease from 25 to 10 people. The outdoor gathering limit will decrease from 500 people to 150 people.

Indoor Gatherings: The limit for weddings, funerals, memorial services and religious and political activities remains unchanged and will be limited to 25% of the capacity of the room in which the gathering takes place, up to a maximum of 150 individuals. Indoor sporting competitions and practices will be permitted to exceed the 10-person limit only for individuals necessary for the practice or competition, such as players, coaches, and referees, but may not exceed 150 individuals. For most indoor sports, this will mean that there can be no spectators.

Legislative and judicial proceedings are not subject to the indoor gatherings limits.

Outdoor Gatherings: Weddings, funerals, memorial services and religious and political activities are not subject to the outdoor gatherings limit. All other types of gatherings, such as a high school football game or an outdoor concert, will be limited to 150 individuals. Athletes, coaches, referees and other individuals necessary for a professional or collegiate sports competition are not counted toward the 150-person limit. Outdoor gatherings continue to be subject to strict social distancing restrictions including the requirement to wear masks whenever it is not possible to social distance.

Please visit us at www.demarestpd.org for department updates, forms and permit information.



**Demarest
Police
Department**



@DemarestPd



@demarestpolice

From the Demarest Public Schools

Virtual Preschool Open House for Demarest Early Learners: The Preschool Open House will take place on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 2:45 pm. Join us for an informative session about the Demarest Early Learners (DEL) Program. Please contact Kathy Daly at County Road School to sign-up: 201-768-6060, ext. 51535.

Preschool Registration for Demarest Early Learners: To secure a spot in our Preschool 3 and Preschool 4 program, you may begin calling on December 10, 2020, starting at 9:00 am. You can contact Mrs. Kathy Daly at 201-768-6060, ext. 51535. Preschool registration forms and deposits will be due the week of January 4, 2021. All registration forms can be found online at <http://demarestsd.schoolwires.net>. Once a seat is secured, please call Kathy Daly to make an appointment to drop off all the forms along with the child's original birth certificate, three (3) proofs of residence (deed, lease, utility bill, etc.) and deposit. Children are eligible for preschool in September if they are three and four years old by October 1, 2021.

Kindergarten Registration for Demarest Public School: Demarest Public School Kindergarten registration for 2021-2022 will take place the week of January 11, 2020. All registration forms can be found online at <http://demarestsd.schoolwires.net>. Please call Kathy Daly, County Road School secretary, at 201-768-6060, ext. 51535, to make an appointment to drop off the forms. Remember to attach the child's original birth certificate, three (3) proofs of residence (deed, lease, utility bill, etc.). Children are eligible for Demarest kindergarten in September if they are five years old by October 1, 2021.

A Plea from the Department of Public Works

We have been responding to quite a few sewer backups. The usual culprits are baby wipes and grease! Please do not flush either of these items. Both are trash and need to be disposed of in your garbage can.

Municipal Court

The Borough Hall and Court office remain closed at this time. However, virtual court will be held on the assigned dates. Anyone needing to speak to the Violations Clerk may call 201-768-1160. Payments may be mailed to the Borough Hall, paid online or dropped in the box by the Borough Hall front door.

From the Demarest Ambulance Corps

The Demarest Volunteer Ambulance Corps would like to remind everyone to WEAR YOUR MASK and Maintain social distancing with COVID-19 still on the rise! Stay safe. Practice good hand washing!

FIGHT GERMS BY WASHING YOUR HANDS!

- 1** Wet your hands
- 2** Soap
- 3** Lather and scrub - 20 sec
- 4** Rinse - 10 sec
- 5** Turn off tap
- 6** Dry your hands

DONT FORGET TO WASH:

- between your fingers
- under your nails
- the tops of your hands

We are looking for new members. Join us!

From the Recreation Commission

Playground Update:

The original donation sign for the Imagination Playground will be re-hung honoring the community sponsors that contributed to the first build 20 years ago. Unfortunately, the engraved donation pavers from the old playground are no longer viable and cannot safely be re-used. If you purchased a paver years ago and would like to pick up your paver please email francis.demarestnj@gmail.com and we can coordinate a date and time to do so. Please reach out by March 1, 2021. Note: Some pavers have crumbled completely and are no longer legible. Thus, we cannot guarantee all pavers can be returned.

The Old Church Pottery Show and Sale

The Old Church Pottery Show & Sale will be held online beginning December 4. All information, sale links, and links to activity on social media will be available at www.oldchurchpotteryshow.org.

Is Your Number Up?

Emergency personnel need to reach people as quickly as possible. Thus, it is vitally important that your house number be displayed in accordance with Borough Ordinance 78-2. The Police Department reminds you that your number must be affixed in a conspicuous manner on the front of your house so as to be plainly visible from the street. Additionally, you may display an additional house number on a post or mailbox, especially if the front of your house is not visible from the street. Please note that numbers on rocks or otherwise on the ground are not helpful as they can be covered by leaves or snow.

CCO Reminder from the Building Department

In order to rent or sell your home, a Certificate of Continued Occupancy is required. You must complete the application, pay the required fees and have the home inspected prior to any change in occupancy or ownership. This process takes approximately 4 weeks, so make sure you allow ample time. Any question, please call Dot Haight at 201-768-3398.

Why Trees?

The Demarest Shade Tree Commission has as part of its mission the promotion of a sustainable and productive community forest and shade tree resource that improves the quality of life for the residents of Demarest. To accomplish that goal, we plant as many trees as our budget will allow, in the public rights of way as well as in public spaces. Why is this one of our top priorities? The answers are a compelling explanation for the need for increasing the number of trees in our community.

Trees help clean our air by removing pollutants from the atmosphere, particularly the pollutants produced by the burning of fossil fuels. That action helps reduce the effects of climate change, such as more frequent and more damaging storms and higher temperatures.

Because trees provide shade, they reduce surface temperatures and lower our energy needs and costs. More trees mean less reliance on air conditioners.

Trees provide habitats for our wildlife. Although we might find squirrels and chipmunks a nuisance, we relish the beauty of our feathered friends who migrate to our area.

In monetary terms, trees are an economic investment that is well worth the cost. Every dollar spent on planting and caring for a community tree benefits us at two to five times that investment while increasing our property values. Driving through a lush, canopied, green Demarest lures prospective buyers to our town increasing the market demand.

We hope that you will support us in our quest to keep Demarest beautiful, green and desirable.

Linda Cetta,

Chairperson, Demarest Shade Tree Commission

The Demarest Nature Center

The Demarest Nature Center regretfully canceled this year's Oktoberfest and Craft Show fundraiser because of COVID-19, but we're still welcoming people to enjoy our trails and meadows. The Demarest Nature Center remains open 365 days a year, dawn to dusk, for socially distanced enjoyment of nature. To explore our trails, visit <https://www.demarestnaturecenter.org/trail-map/> for a printable map. Please support nature and the nature center!

From the Demarest Board of Health

Flu vaccine: The CDC recommends an annual influenza vaccination for everyone 6 months and older. Getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever during 2020-2021 to protect yourself and the people around you from flu and to help reduce the strain on healthcare systems responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rabies clinic: Due to continued (COVID) safety concerns, the 2020 Rabies



Clinic was canceled. Please schedule a visit to your family veterinarian if your pet needs a rabies renewal. Please obtain a vaccination certificate to submit with your license renewal in January 2021. License renewal forms will be mailed to you and available for download from the borough website at Demarestnj.org.

COVID reminders: We continue to see a steady rise in positive COVID cases in Demarest. It is so important to continue following all CDC recommendations.



Wear a mask Keep distanced Wash your hands Use sanitizer Don't gather

It is everyone's responsibility to be careful, be smart, be safe and stay well. Your actions don't only affect you or your family; they affect us all.

As of 10/21/20, the CDC definition of Close Contact is someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

Monthly Child Health Conference

Did you know... The Demarest Board of Health offers a monthly child Health Conference for Demarest children.

☆ Children ages birth through age 6 may receive complete medical physical exams and all required immunizations.

☆ Children ages 7 through 18 years of age may receive immunizations only.

Services are free and provided by a pediatrician and public health nurse. Appointments are required. For further information call 201-666-4800, ext .1528. Sessions are held at the Borough of Hillsdale, 380 Hillsdale Ave, Hillsdale, NJ, in the lower level.

Removal of Large Appliances and Equipment

Please call IWS Sanitation at 201-768-5407 to schedule an appointment for the pickup of large appliances and other household equipment. Refrigerators, air conditioners and ice makers must have the Freon removed by a certified service person before pickup. If you are buying a new appliance, please check with the merchant as to whether they will remove and dispose of the old appliance.

Municipal Parking

If you are in need of additional parking or somewhere to store a vehicle that should not be parked in your driveway, there are spots available downtown for a nominal permit parking fee. To inquire, please call the Borough Clerk, Susan Crosman, at 201-768-0167, ext. 139, for further details.

News from the Library

Yoga & Meditation on Zoom, Thursdays at 11:00 am

Virtual Holiday Concert, Wednesday, December 9 at 7:00 pm

Digital Storytime on FaceBook on Mondays and Wednesdays

Take & Make craft kits available one a month

Visit demarestlibrary.org to learn more and register!

DEMAREST FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

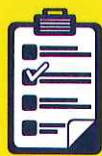
Focus on the Future

THE LIBRARY IS DEVELOPING A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN!

WHAT IS A STRATEGIC PLAN?

The Strategic Plan is the Library's roadmap. Together with the community, we reevaluate the Library's mission, values, goals, and responsibilities, and plan for the future.

WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO:



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

You are our most important resource! A survey will be distributed in early 2021 to help us understand what Demarest needs from its Library. Keep an eye out! Not on our email list? Sign up here: demarestlibrary.org/email



FOCUS ON THE COMMUNITY

The Library will hold (safe!) focus group sessions to gather more detailed feedback. We'll be asking for participation from residents across the community.



MAPPING OUR FUTURE

The Library's Board of Trustees will set goals for the Library based on community feedback and work with the director to plan how we will accomplish our new objectives.



TAKING BIG STEPS

Library staff will implement our new strategic plan so we can provide the Demarest community with updated services that fit your expressed needs.

OUR LIBRARY. OUR FUTURE.