



# Demarest Digest



## *The Mayor's Message*

After an unprecedented spring dealing with a coronavirus that brought our borough, state and country to a halt, summer has returned and our borough is slowly opening up to what will be a new way of life for us all. This summer will be different from our previous summers. The summer recreation program for 2020 has been canceled, but we look forward to the program's return in 2021. Our Recreation Commission is working to find ways to have some entertainment that acknowledge the challenges of social distancing. Drive-in movies are one possibility.

Our library should reopen this summer with curbside pickup of books and materials. Until the reopening, please visit the library website, [demarestlibrary.org](http://demarestlibrary.org), for all the online programs that are available for residents of all ages. If you need any service from Borough Hall, or have a question for a borough department, please call (201)768-0167 and follow the prompts, or visit our website, [demarestnj.org](http://demarestnj.org). Our Borough Hall employees have been working throughout the shutdown on staggered schedules and from home to ensure their health and safety. Beginning June 8<sup>th</sup>, you may enter Borough Hall by appointment only; please call the appropriate department to schedule .

A special thanks to Christine Nicholas and Noelle Tutunjian for starting Demarest Shoppers. This group of volunteers began grocery shopping for borough residents who could not do so because of the pandemic. Their efforts make all of us proud. Finally, I want to thank our first responders for their dedication to our community. Our volunteer ambulance corps has been outstanding in their dedication to answering every call since March. We thank our police and our volunteer fire and ambulance members for their dedication to duty. Stay safe and well this summer. Please remember to wear your masks! If you have not yet completed a 2020 Census form, it's not too late. Visit [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov) to get started.

As we continue to navigate a global health crisis and more recently a humanitarian crisis brought on by racial tension across the nation, I would like to share with you some words of positivity and hope from our Chief of Police, Christopher Bianchi:

The Demarest Police Department is committed to providing the highest level of professionalism to our residents and our community. The effects of unjust, inexcusable and tragic acts against our citizens are evident in the events that have unfolded in our nation, as well as the world. We at the Demarest Police Department empathize with the friends and family of George Floyd, along with any victim of injustice and in no way condone the criminal acts committed against him. This tragedy is not a reflection of our agency, nor is it a reflection of the vast majority of law enforcement.

We do not support or condone discrimination in any form. All of our officers will continue to serve our community with courtesy, respect and professionalism regardless of color, race, religion, sexual orientation or gender. Demarest Police Officers take pride in being active members of a safe and inclusive community. We will continue to build on the established foundation of positive relationships among our community leaders and residents. We will do our part in ensuring that we collectively strive towards the greater good.

As police officers, our profession is uniquely driven by ever-changing training and adaptation. That being said, we encourage open communication with all of our residents and community leaders. In working together we can all help bring about much-needed healing and social change as we continue to recover as nation.



## *Calendar of Events*

Due to the fluid, ever-changing nature of these times, please check the website calendar at [Demarestnj.org](http://Demarestnj.org) or call the borough hall to determine if and how an event or meeting is being held.

<b>June 15</b>	7:00 pm	Library Board meeting
<b>June 16</b>	8:00 pm	Zoning Board meeting
<b>June 17</b>	5:30 pm	Municipal Court
<b>June 22</b>	7:30 pm	Mayor and Council meeting
<b>June 23</b>	7:30 pm	Environmental Commission
<b>July 2</b>	7:30 pm	Shade Tree Commission meeting
<b>July 8</b>	5:30 pm	Municipal Court
<b>July 9</b>	7:30 pm	Nature Center meeting
<b>July 20</b>	7:00 pm	Library Board meeting
<b>July 21</b>	8:00 pm	Zoning Board meeting
<b>August 12</b>	5:30 pm	Municipal Court
<b>August 13</b>	7:30 pm	Nature Center meeting
<b>August 18</b>	8:00 pm	Zoning Board meeting
<b>August 31</b>	7:30 pm	Mayor and Council meeting

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

The Demarest Recreation Commission has made the difficult decision to cancel Demarest Day for 2020, as we are not certain that we will be allowed to hold large gatherings at that time. We look forward to the return of Demarest Day in the fall of 2021.

Please visit the new website [Demarestnj.org](http://Demarestnj.org) for a full calendar of meetings and events. If you notice any misinformation in this newsletter or on our website, please contact Marti Francis ([francis.demarestnj@gmail.com](mailto:francis.demarestnj@gmail.com) or 201-768-0167, ext. 110) so that I may correct it.

## *Demarest Police Department*

### **Package Theft**

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines, we have seen an increase of residents shopping from online retailers in the Borough of Demarest. Thefts are occurring nationwide as thieves take advantage of an all-time high of online shopping. Help us to prevent package thefts so you don't become a victim.

Please use these tips and tools to protect and prevent package thefts.

- **Outdoor security cameras** – For theft deterrence, place your outdoor security cameras in a highly visible area where your packages are dropped off.
- **Video doorbells** – Features like motion activation and easy installation make video doorbells an effective theft deterrent. Make sure the video camera is installed so the vantage point of the camera will catch a thief's identity.
- **Package lockboxes** – There are many options and different sizes of lock boxes on the market today. While even a non-locking parcel box can help prevent theft by concealing the delivery, a lockable box is recommended for maximum security. With boxes that remain locked, you will have to ensure your delivery person has access.
- **Home security window and yards signs** – Security signs can be an effective deterrent by themselves. Thieves are opportunists and hunt for easy targets.
- **Don't leave packages unattended for too long** – have packages sent elsewhere like your place of employment or a delivery site, P.O. box or FedEx/UPS location if you will not be home to receive them. It is well worth the minor inconvenience to ensure that a large-price theft doesn't occur. Other options are to have a package delivered to the home of a relative or friend that you know will be home.
- **Request that deliveries require a signature or subscribe to delivery alerts** – FedEx, UPS and USPS all allow you to arrange for a signature for deliveries. Most delivery services offer some kind of notification service for package updates. Opt in to receive the most up-to-date information available.
- **Take advantage of "Ship to store" options that many stores are now offering.**

### **BEWARE OF SCAMS**

Scammers are taking advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic to target the elderly population throughout the State of New Jersey. Several scams are being attempted, including:

**The BAIL BOND scam:** The criminal will call and explain that their grandchild was arrested. In some cases, a person is placed on the phone pretending to be the grandchild as proof. You will be asked to post (give) a sum of money so the grandchild can be released from jail; you will be asked for your home address so the scammer can pick up the money. Please be aware that the criminal may give you instructions on what to say if a bank teller asks why you are taking out cash and may instruct you to act upset or angry or tell the bank employee that it is none of their business.

**The IRS scam:** The criminal will call to say that you owe the government money and will be arrested if you don't pay. You will be told that to avoid being arrested you must pay your debt by way of a MoneyGram or gift cards. Please understand: the IRS will NEVER call you or pressure you to settle your debt with a MoneyGram or gift card.

These are just two of the MANY scams currently being conducted via telephone, internet and email. If anyone you do not know calls, texts or emails looking for money, please call a relative, a close friend or the Police. A person not directly involved may have a better perspective on the situation and be more able to see through a scam attempt.

## *Primary Election Information*

Every party-affiliated registered voter will receive a mail-in ballot for this election. If you are not party affiliated or not registered, please be aware that the deadline to register for the July 7 primary is Tuesday, June 16. If you choose to vote in person (instead of sending in your mail-in ballot) you will go to the County Road School and be allowed to vote by provisional ballot only. The ADA-compliant machines are strictly for voters who have a disability. If you have any questions, please call 201-336-6110 for assistance.

## *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 at the Borough Hall door.

## *From the Demarest Ambulance Corps*

Please remember to wear masks during this time! Not sure if you're wearing it correctly? Follow these steps!

1. Clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer before touching the mask.
2. Remove a mask from the box and make sure there are no obvious tears or holes in either side.
3. Determine which side of the mask is the top. The side of the mask that has a stiff bendable edge is the top and is meant to mold to the shape of your nose.
4. Determine which side of the mask is the front. The colored side of the mask is usually the front and should face away from you, while the white side touches your face.
5. Follow the instructions below for the type of mask you are using.
  - *Face Mask with Ear Loops*: Hold the mask by the ear loops. Place a loop around each ear.
  - *Face Mask with Ties*: Bring the mask to your nose level, place the ties over the crown of your head and secure with a bow.
  - *Face Mask with Bands*: Hold the mask in your hand with the nosepiece or top of the mask at fingertips, allowing the headbands to hang freely. Bring the mask to your nose level and pull the top strap over your head so that it rests over the crown of your head. Pull the bottom strap over your head so that it rests at the nape of your neck.
6. Mold or pinch the stiff edge to the shape of your nose.
7. If using a face mask with ties: Then take the bottom ties, one in each hand, and secure with a bow at the nape of your neck.
8. Pull the bottom of the mask over your mouth and chin.

STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY EVERYONE!

## *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.

## *Demarest Garden Club*

The Demarest Garden Club has canceled its meeting for June and hopes to resume meetings in the fall.

## *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.

## *The Demarest Public Library*

Please enjoy these Children's Room events:

- Virtual Storytimes are available on the library's Facebook page every Monday and Wednesday.
- DIY Projects are also available on the library's Facebook page every Tuesday.
- Summer Reading begins June 1st. Register at [demarestlibrary.readsquared.com](https://demarestlibrary.readsquared.com)
- Magician Steve Woyce will present "The Imagination Express" on June 15th at 4:00 pm on Zoom. Register at <https://bccls.libcal.com/calendar/demarest/ImaginationMagician>.

## *Playground Update*

The Demarest Playground, located in Wakelee Field, will be closed for updates until further notice. A new and improved playground will be installed in the coming months. Please be patient as we work on improving the site with new, fun and safe playground equipment coming soon!

## *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.

## *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.

## *The Demarest Swim Club*

The Demarest Swim Club is awaiting guidance from the New Jersey Governor's office as to opening the pool and social gathering. Please keep a lookout on the [demarestnj.org](http://demarestnj.org) website for updates.