



Demarest Digest

The Mayor's Message

Dear Residents,

I hope that everyone enjoyed this summer by being outdoors as much as possible. The highly contagious Delta variant of COVID-19 is now the prevalent variant of this virus. With that in mind, masks are again required in order to enter Borough Hall, whether you are vaccinated or not. Masks are also required to enter our public library.

Recent changes in our state's marijuana laws have required local municipalities to decide whether to allow the sale, distribution or warehousing of cannabis products in their towns. Borough residents have contacted me to find out if our borough would be allowing these sorts of businesses to open in Demarest. The Council recently passed an ordinance, required by the state, to opt out of the marijuana/cannabis business.

Our abundant undeveloped green spaces are just one of the things that make Demarest a terrific place to live. The Davies Arboretum has a pond, dam and icehouse that are unique to our borough. The dam requires some necessary repairs and improvements. Driving by or walking through the Arboretum you will see a new, temporary access road to the dam. Once the necessary repairs are made, the area will be restored. Thanks for your patience while these improvements are being made.

Finally, Our Police Chief, Christopher Bianchi, is retiring at the end of this year. He began his career as a police officer in our borough and is retiring as our chief. Thank you, Chief, for your 25 years of service to our borough. Best of luck to you in your future endeavors. We'll miss you.

Let's all enjoy the beautiful fall weather that is on the way. Oktoberfest returns to the Duck Pond on Saturday, October 9, from 10AM through 5PM. Stay safe and healthy by masking, social distancing and above all, getting the vaccine.

Mayor Melinda Iannuzzi

Please see the calendar on the following page and visit demarest.org for the latest information. Offices will be closed Sept.6 for Labor Day, Oct. 11 for Columbus Day, Nov. 11 for Veterans Day and Nov. 25 and 26 for Thanksgiving.

Calendar of Events

Sept 1	Planning Board 7:30 pm
Sept 2	Shade Tree 7:30 pm
Sept 8	Virtual Court 5:30 pm
Sept 9	Nature Center meeting 7:30 pm
Sept 11	9/11 Ceremony 1:00 pm
Sept 16	Flu Clinic 2:00 – 6:00 pm
Sept 20	Library Board meeting 7:00 pm
Sept 21	Zoning Board meeting 7:30 pm (virtual)
Sept 22	Board of Health meeting 7:00 pm
Sept 27	Mayor and Council meeting 7:30 pm
Sept 28	Environmental Commission meeting 7:30 pm
Oct 6	Planning Board meeting 7: 30 pm
Oct 9	Oktoberfest 10:00 am – 5:00 pm at the Duck Pond
Oct 13	Virtual Court 5:30 pm
Oct 18	Library Board meeting 7:00 pm
Oct 19	Zoning Board meeting 7:30 pm
Oct 20	Recreation Commission meeting 8:00 pm (virtual)
Oct 25	Mayor and Council meeting 7:30 pm
Oct 26	Environmental Commission meeting 7:30 pm
Oct 30	Halloween Parade 4:00 pm
Nov 3	Planning Board meeting 7:30 pm
Nov 4	Shade Tree Commission meeting 7:30 pm
Nov 10	Virtual Court 5:30 pm
Nov 15	Library Board meeting 7:00 pm
Nov 16	Zoning Board meeting 7:30 pm
Nov 17	Recreation Commission meeting 8:00 (virtual)
Nov 17	Board of Health meeting 7:00 pm
Nov 22	Mayor and Council meeting 7:30 pm
Nov 23	Environmental Commission meeting 7:30 pm

From Our Police Chief

School Opening: Allow Extra Time for Drop-off and Pick-up of Students

If you are dropping off students, please follow the proper drop-off procedures at each school to ensure the safety of our students. Also, please allow extra time in your commute to deal with increased traffic due to school drop-offs and an increase in pedestrian traffic. Your cooperation and assistance will be greatly helpful in keeping our children safe. Making sure you have extra time and not rushing in the morning or afternoon to drop off or pick up students helps you obey traffic laws. If you see an incident of unsafe driving, please contact the Demarest Police Department. Help us keep our pedestrian traffic and students safe.

We Would Like to Welcome our New Special Police Officer

Congratulations to Special Police Officer Class II Joseph Solan who just graduated the Class II Academy. We look forward to his serving the community.

Alerts and Notifications

The Demarest Police Department and the Demarest Office of Emergency Management use two companies to communicate alerts to residents. Nixle sends a text message and email to the residents. Swiftreach sends a recorded voice message to landlines.

If you want to receive Alerts and Advisories from the Demarest Police Department, text 07627 to 888-777 to opt-in to Nixle. To make sure you are receiving landline messages from Swiftreach, please sign up on our website and click on the Swiftreach graphic.

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 Court office is open to the public 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

We are looking for new members. Join us!

Please visit our website or speak to our Chief JP Fortunato for an application!

COVID-19 is on the rise once more! If you're not vaccinated, please make sure you are wearing your mask to protect yourselves and your loved ones!

News from the Public Schools



A rain garden was recently installed in the courtyard of the Demarest Middle School. This was made possible through a combined effort of the Borough of Demarest Environmental Commission and Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program. Rain gardens are shallow landscaped areas that capture stormwater runoff, remove pollutants and sediment and allow water to slowly soak into the ground. Native wet-site and drought-tolerant flowering perennials and shrubs are planted in rain gardens to provide a habitat for pollinators and birds. Several students participated in the August planting of the rain garden and got hands-on experience beautifying their school. The school district was happy to partake in this project which will also afford a living science experience for our student population.

From the Demarest Board of Health

VACCINATION BOOSTER—Who should get one?

Immunocompromised individuals who have received two COVID-19 vaccines may benefit from a third dose. As always, we recommend you consult your physician for personal medical advice. If these individuals don't already have the first two doses, they really need to get going and should always wear a mask indoors in public and/or in crowded places.

CCO Reminder from the Building Department

To rent or sell your home, a Certificate of Continued Occupancy is required. The form is on the Demarest website (demarestnj.org). 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.

The Shade Tree Commission

With cooler weather on the way, the Shade Tree Commission is planning to complete its tree plantings for 2021. For the fall, we are particularly interested in sites that do not have overhead electrical wires and that can sustain taller species of trees. If you would like to have a tree planted in the Right of Way in front of or on the side of your property, please let us know by contacting Lee Campbell at 201-768-0167 ext. 130. We will be identifying sites and will notify you of our intention to plant. As a courtesy, we do allow you to opt out of having a tree planted. If you do not want a tree, it really is important that you notify Lee Campbell as soon as possible. It takes time and energy to mark out a site, making sure it doesn't interfere with water or gas lines, digging the hole. At that point, being told that you don't want a tree is very challenging. Please keep in mind how important trees are to our environment as well as to the beauty of your street when you make your decision.

It has been 50 years since Dr. Seuss published *The Lorax*, a story inspired by the environmental movement of the '60s and '70s. It is an ecological warning that still rings true today amidst the dangers of clear-cutting, pollution and disregard for the earth's environment. Besides being filled with clever illustrations and wonderful rhymes, it encourages us all, regardless of age, to respect our planet and work to preserve and improve our environment. A nice read for kids who will inherit the world we are trying to save now.

Is Your Number Up?

Emergency personnel need to reach people as quickly as possible. Your house number must 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, plainly visible from the street. 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.

Here's What's New at The Demarest Public Library

First Day Friends (Wednesday, September 1 at 9:00 am at the Train Station) After dropping off the kids at their first day of school, stop by for coffee, doughnuts and conversation. Younger children welcome for storytime and play. No registration required.

Mood Boost Yoga with Karen Noel (Thursdays at 11:00 am in September)
Join Karen Noel to use yoga to increase vitality, enhance mood and stabilize thoughts. Registration required.

ESL Conversation Group (Wednesdays at 1:00 pm at the Train Station)
Open to all levels. Contact orla.cassidy@demarest.bccls.org for more information. No registration required.

Outdoor Storytime at the Gazebo (Mondays at 10:30 am, weather permitting)
Join Melissa for a live, interactive storytime at the Demarest Gazebo! No registration required.

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.

Demarest Nature Center

The Oktoberfest and Craft Show, with canoe rides and German food and beer, will be on Saturday, October 9, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, weather and health conditions permitting. Please honor all COVID-19 protocols in effect on that date. For more information on this annual fundraiser visit demarestnaturecenter.org.

Visit our official website

Demarestnj.org.

*** Senior Holiday Trip ***

A senior trip is forthcoming to Radio City Music Hall in New York City.
Call Susan Crosman for further information.

Utilize the Google Calendar and Borough Notices

to stay up to date!

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

