

Demarest Digest



The Mayor's Message

Dear residents,

As we approach the end of 2021, I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. Hannukah was celebrated in our borough with the lighting of the Menorah on Tuesday, November 30th. The lighting of the Christmas tree will take place on Tuesday, December 7th at 7 PM by the train station. Please join us if you can for this annual event.

We continue to make repairs and follow up on drainage concerns after the unprecedented rainfall events this summer and fall in our borough. The replacement of the washed-out bridge over County Road is still months away. This damage is the biggest disruption to our normal traffic patterns here in Demarest and we will continue to follow detours until Bergen County replaces the bridge.

As we enjoy the end of the year holidays in Demarest, please remember to be cautious and follow protocols for protecting everyone from the spread of COVID 19. Vaccinations will allow us to be able to enjoy the season with family and friends in a more normal fashion than last year. Let's all celebrate and be safe.

Happy New Year,

Mayor Melinda Iannuzzi

Please see the calendar on the following page and visit demarest.org for the latest information. Offices will be closed January 3 for New Years, January 17 for Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, February 11 for Lincoln's birthday and February 21 for Presidents Day. Happy holidays, everyone; stay safe and healthy!

Calendar of Events

Dec 1	Planning Board 7:30 pm
Dec 7	Tree Lighting 7:00 pm
Dec 8	Virtual Court 5:30 pm
Dec 9	Nature Center meeting 7:30 pm
Dec 13	Library Board meeting 7:00 pm
Dec 20	Mayor and Council meeting 7:30 pm
Dec 21	Zoning Board meeting 7:30 pm (virtual)
Dec 24	Offices closed for Christmas Eve
Dec 28	Environmental Commission meeting 7:30 pm
Dec 31/Jan 3	Offices closed for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day
Jan 4	Shade Tree Commission meeting 7:30 pm
Jan 5	Planning Board meeting 7: 30 pm
Jan 6	Sine Die/Reorganization meeting 6:00 pm
Jan 13	Nature Center meeting 7:30 pm
Jan 17	Offices closed for Martin Luther King Jr's birthday
Jan 17	Library Board meeting 7:00 pm
Jan 18	Zoning Board meeting 7:30 pm
Jan 19	Virtual Court 5:30 pm
Jan 19	Recreation Commission meeting 8:00 pm
Jan 20	Board of Health meeting 7:00 pm
Jan 25	Environmental Commission meeting 7:30 pm
Oct 31	Mayor and Council meeting 7:30 pm
Feb 2	Planning Board meeting 7:30 pm
Feb 9	Virtual Court 5:30 pm
Feb 11	Offices closed for Lincoln's birthday
Feb 15	Zoning Board meeting 7:30 pm
Feb 16	Recreation Commission meeting 8:00
Feb 21	Offices closed for Presidents Day
Feb 22	Environmental Commission meeting 7:30 pm
Feb 28	Mayor and Council meeting 7:30 pm

From Our Fire Department

The Demarest Fire Department is having a record-setting year for calls. We have responded to numerous alarms in town and continue to work with our neighboring towns receiving and providing mutual aid. Our members recently received lifesaving awards for water rescues performed during Hurricane Ida's remnants that hit us in September. We continue to look for new members! The department has been awarded a SAFER Grant for \$220,000.00 to assist us with a recruitment and retention plan over the next four years. We understand volunteering in our area is a big commitment to make, but we are reaching out to anyone interested in joining our great department and serving our residents. Another way to help is to contribute to our annual fund drive. The Mayor and Council supports us by funding state-of-the-art equipment to keep us all safe. Our fund drive is used to maintain and support the members inside the firehouse. As an example: For 9 nine years now, we remember and celebrate our Demarest veterans with a service and luncheon at the firehouse. We need to receive donations from more residents. Wishing everyone a Happy Holiday season; please be sure your fire and carbon monoxide alarms are in working order!

Chief John McLoughlin

From The Demarest Nature Center

The Demarest Nature Center thanks everyone who made our Oktoberfest fundraising event a success this year. All Demarest residents are invited to our annual organizational meeting on Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m. We are seeking new board members. For more information, write to info@demarestnaturecenter.org. Watch for our winter newsletter and please donate generously to support nature.

From Our Tax Department

Taxes will be due on February 1, 2022, with a grace period until February 10. If you would like to pay online, please visit our website at demarestnj.org and go to our Tax and Finance page.

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 inside by 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

Preschool Open House for Demarest Early Learners Monday, December 13, 2021 at 3:20 pm at County Road School in Demarest. Please join us for an informative session on the Demarest Early Learners (DEL) Program. This event is for parents only. Attendees will be socially distanced from one another and all must wear a mask.

Preschool 3 and Preschool 4 Registration We are taking calls on a first-come, first-serve basis on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, starting at 9:00 am promptly. Children are eligible for the Preschool program if they will be 3 by October 1, 2022, or 4 by October 1, 2022, depending on the program.

Kindergarten Registration for Demarest Public School January 10 through January 12, 2022, 9:00 to 11:00 am each day. Please call to make an appointment with the County Road School secretary, at 201-768-6060 EXT. 51535. All registration forms can be found online at <http://demarestsd.schoolwires.net>. Please bring the completed forms along with the child's original birth certificate, three (3) proofs of residence (e.g., deed, lease, utility bill). Children are eligible for Kindergarten in September if they will be five years old by October 1, 2022.

The Demarest Board of Education and the administration invite you to stay informed for all of Demarest Public School, PreK-8th grade events by visiting our website at <http://demarestsd.schoolwires.net>

The Shade Tree Commission

TIME TO ADOPT A TREE

Adopting a tree in Demarest is a great way to help contribute to the greening of your community. Every tree planted needs TLC from a caring individual and it's easy to adopt a tree and add it to your family. The Shade Tree Commission would be happy to plant a tree on your property in the right of way. All you have to do is make the request from Lee Campbell at the Borough Hall and we will try to connect you with a tree that will beautify your property and help the climate.

As a good caretaker you can watch the tree grow and flourish. A little water during dry spells will go a long way to help your tree reach its full potential. Adopting a tree also teaches your family about different species of trees, how they grow and their importance to the environment. You can even take monthly photos of the tree to document its development. The more you interact with the tree, the more the community benefits and that is the goal of the Shade Tree Commission.

From the Demarest Board of Health

Pet licenses must be renewed by March 1, 2022. There is no extension this year on late fees. The registration form will be mailed, is available online or at borough hall. If your pet has passed away, please notify the Board Secretary at 201-768-0167, ext. 130. Also, please be sure to register your new pets.

The annual Flu vaccine clinic was held for residents in September. If you still need to get your flu shot, please consult your physician.

The Pfizer vaccine has been approved for kids 5-11 years of age and is available in many locations.

COVID-19 BOOSTER: If you are immunocompromised or have received two (2) doses of Pfizer or Moderna at least six months ago, or one (1) dose of Johnson & Johnson at least two months ago, you are likely eligible for a booster. Please consult your physician. Boosters are available at many locations including local pharmacies.

Mobile app **Docket** may make it easier to securely access your COVID-19 vaccination record. You may want to take a look in the app store on your device.

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.

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

Little Wiggles Storytime at the Train Station (ages 0 to 4, Monday and Wednesday at 10:30 am)

Join Ms. Cara for an in-person, socially distanced storytime for infants to toddlers and their caregivers. Masks are required. No registration necessary.

Crafternoon with the Bendy Bookworm (grades K-3, Friday, December 17, 4:00 pm, Train Station)

Online registration is required

Learn silly yoga poses, enjoy a read-aloud story and make your own Arctic Seal Sun Catcher with Bendy Bookworm Yoga! Get your child moving AND spark their creativity in this Yoga and Craft after-school program. Children must wear masks. Registration begins on Friday, December 3.

Adult Improv Acting Class with Victoria Pero (Wednesday 7pm-8:15pm 1/12, 2/9, 3/9 & 4/16, Train Station)

Victoria Pero, Demarest resident and Performing Arts Teacher at Bergen County Academies, is offering four classes on improvisational acting. No experience needed. Learn more at:

bccls.libcal.com/calendar/demarest/Improv

See all adult and children's events at: bccls.libcal.com/calendar/demarest

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.

Art School at Old Church

The 47th Annual Pottery Show will be held online from 6:00 pm on December 3 through 12:00 am on December 5. Please visit oldchurchpotteryshow.org

Visit the Borough's official website

Demarestnj.org.

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 (mfrancis@demarestnj.gov) so I may fix it.

Constant Contact

Stay up to date about Borough information from Constant Contact. Watch for a mailing and an opportunity to sign up!

(Please note, the data will be a public record but will not be voluntarily distributed to third parties for marketing, political or other commercial purposes).