



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

Wednesday evening, the town had its Menorah lighting, and it was a wonderful and meaningful event for all present. I want to thank Rabbi Shain & Chabad for donating the new and beautiful Menorah to our town. I also want to thank the Menorah Committee for organizing our Menorah lighting each night and all of the families that participated this year, as well as everyone attending to help celebrate. Lastly, thanks to our Police Department and DPW for all of their assistance. The Christmas tree lighting and Menorah lighting this year at Gazebo Park were attended by hundreds of families. I hope even more of you are able to join us next year and may all of the lights of the holiday-scape make you proud with a reason to smile!

I want to take a moment to recognize our latest Hometown Heroes! In addition to Andy Woods, who I reported on last week, Congressman Gottheimer will be recognizing members of our Fire Department who performed a heroic water rescue back in September. Chief John McLoughlin, Assistant Chief Carl Pavlik, Captain John Young, Lieutenant Matthew Carey, Firefighters Michael Morrison and Kyle Pavlik are all being recognized as Hometown Heroes. Congratulations and many thanks to them and to the rest of the Demarest Team including the Police and EMS who assisted the Fire Department in the rescue.

I am excited to announce that this weekend Demarest will have a visitor from the North Pole! This Sunday 12/17 starting at 10 am the Fire Department will be escorting Santa around town, so listen for the sirens to make sure your kids make it outside to greet him!

My thanks to the DPW for their extraordinary work this leaf pickup season. The town looks great, Bravo!

And, my sincere thanks to each member of our Ambulance Corps, Fire Department, and Police Department for all of your hard work and keeping us all safe. Last but not least, I would like to wish Michael Shields a happy and healthy retirement. The Borough, your coworkers and I appreciate your dedicated service to the Borough for the past 42 years. On behalf of everyone, thank you. Mike, you will always be a part of the Demarest family; so, while this is farewell, it is not goodbye.

**News from the Demarest Nature Center:**

A "Christmas bird count" will take place at the Demarest Nature Center this Saturday at 9 AM which is spearheaded by the [National Audubon Society](#).

Hope you can join and help us count the birds at our nature center! Please join us for our monthly Community Trail Walk. January's walk is scheduled for 1/6 at 10am. Trees, flora and fauna are all alive in the winter months. Come and see the beauty of the woods at DNC in a new light!

**News from the library:**

The Demarest library will be showing *A Christmas Story Christmas* on Monday, December 18th

at 12:30pm. Join us for the 2022 sequel to the classic 1983 movie *A Christmas Story* and our final movie of 2023!

The library invites you to join an online "recipe swap" by uploading your favorite holiday recipe by Wednesday, December 20th. The collected recipes will be distributed to residents to enjoy! Please [visit](#) for more information.

Have a great weekend!

Mayor Brian Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **742 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 on the Demarest homepage [[demarestnj.gov](http://demarestnj.gov)] under "Quick Links."*

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