



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

We will have a borough-wide newsletter sent to all residents later this month. Let me begin by thanking the entire Council for their hard work this year. Indeed, I am proud of the work that we have accomplished so far and excited by the plans moving forward.

I am also proud of our Police Department and was honored and privileged this week to swear in two new Police Officers to our Department. Officers Fernando Saint-Hilaire and Fredi Nolasco are welcome assets to the Department, and it was special for me to meet both of their families. Welcome to the Demarest family! It was also my pleasure and honor to swear in Michael Bartelucci as Lieutenant. Michael has served Demarest since he was a teenager and has dedicated his career to our town. In fact, I was on the Council that hired Michael many years ago. We are confident he will continue his exemplary service to the town and perform the duties of Lieutenant to the best of his ability. Chief Dimitriadis, Captains Visaggio and Talty and Lieutenant Del Greco led an exhaustive search for the right candidates. Thank you for a job well done and we are excited to welcome them to Demarest. Congratulations to Lieutenant Bartelucci, Officer Saint-Hilaire and Officer Nolasco and to their proud families. And, to the entire Department, please stay safe.

Earlier this year we engaged with our Special Projects Engineer, Neglia Engineering, and Bergen County to improve conditions and relieve traffic congestion at peak travel times at the intersection of County/Piermont Rd. and Hardenburgh Ave. This morning, the Borough Administrator and I met with the engineers and spoke to the County to check the progress of the project design. I am happy to report that the analysis is progressing well, and we expect to have upgraded and ADA compliant signals and any recommended traffic pattern changes completed in Late Spring/Early Summer 2024.

As the weather starts to get colder and we approach winter, our Property Maintenance Officer would like to remind everyone that our Borough Ordinance requires property owners to timely remove snow and ice from their sidewalks. Sidewalks should be clear within 24 hours of a snow event. This clean-up keeps our pedestrians safe and is especially important for our students walking to and from school.

I want to thank our DPW for their hard work and efficient leaf removal, keeping Demarest roads clear of leaves. You are doing a great job! Also, thank you for your assistance in installing lights at the Gazebo, together with the Nativity scene and Menorah. You have helped the town create a beautiful holiday-scape, which will also feature the beautiful tree donated by the Borland Family. Once again, let me thank the Borland family for their generous gift to our town. May your gift to the town be enjoyed by residents and others passing through our town for generations.

Upcoming Events:

Our Annual Tree Lighting is scheduled for this coming Tuesday, December 5 at 7pm, as we officially kick off the holiday season. I hope to see you all there! There will be refreshments. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Menorah Lighting ceremony on 12/10 at 7pm with

entertainment and refreshments.

News from the Demarest Nature Center:

November 30- December 3 Holiday Open House at the Skylands Manor House of Highlands to benefit the NJ Botanical Garden on Nov 30th - Dec 3rd at 10am-4pm. Skylands Manor House of Highland is holding an Open House to benefit the NJ Botanical Garden 11/30-12/4. Demarest Garden Club member Barbara DiNovi will be the artistic director with creative vision in charge of the back room. Other rooms are decorated by Master Gardeners of Bergen County and other garden clubs. Click [here](#) for details.

Demarest Nature Center December Community Trail Walk is this Saturday 12/2 at 10am led by Dave Emerson, the DNC historian. Come and hear about the old racetrack and how the DNC was founded!

This week at the library:

Learn more about Artificial Intelligence on Saturday, December 9 from 11am - 12 pm at the Demarest Library. Understanding and Embracing AI in Everyday Life, seeks to provide a clear and accessible understanding of AI technologies, their societal impacts, and ethical considerations. This will be presented by a local young adult who is an active AI consultant.

Join us at the Demarest Train Station for a Winter Concert on Thursday, December 14 at 6pm. Local Musician Steve Kelman will perform instrumental holiday classics as well as folk, bluegrass & country music. Get into the winter spirit with the whole family! Registration is encouraged, call the library at 201-768-8714.

Have a great weekend!

Mayor Brian Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **727 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 and sign up for my weekly emails! The link can be found on the Demarest homepage [demarestnj.gov] under "Quick Links."*

Borough of Demarest | 118 Serpentine Rd., Demarest, NJ 07627

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