



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

Today, I begin with a personal message to the town from the Borland Family of Demarest.

***“To the town of Demarest. This year, Donna, James and I have decided to donate our beautiful Christmas Tree that has been on our front lawn for the past 20 years to the town of Demarest in the name of peace and to honor our beloved daughter and sister Christine. For many years, residents have looked forward to November to see the tree lit and have expressed how beautiful it is. Being transferred to public land will afford the tree to live in perpetuity in the center of our town and will give the opportunity for all who pass by to enjoy it.***

***We could not be happier with our decision.***

***Wishing everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday and a Healthy New Year.  
Frank, Donna and James Borland”***

I want to thank the Borland Family for their generous donation. Indeed, it is not only a wonderful gift to our town, it's a timely one. At our meeting in October, the council approved a proposal obtained by our Public Events and Recreation committees to decorate the tree by the train station. In November, however, the contractor backed out of the pricing they had quoted after revisiting the site and increased the cost to \$15,000. After all the work the committee had done to find a way to improve our downtown decorations, we were back at square one with little time to make new arrangements. The donation from the Borland family solved our problem and is a wonderful way to honor the holidays and Christine. I am excited for everyone to see the new and improved decorations at the gazebo area that include the Borland tree, a new nativity scene, a new Menorah and updated and enhanced lighting on the landscaping around the gazebo. Lights will be placed at the train station, as well. Lastly, I am honored that the Borland Family will not only be in attendance but will be the first to light the tree at the ceremony on 12/5 at 7pm. Thank you to the Recreation Commission for planning the event. Please join us for refreshments and music and maybe even a visit from someone in a red suit!

This past Sunday marked the conclusion of the outdoor recreational soccer season. We extend congratulations to all the players and coaches who were part of it. Notably, two Demarest Rec Soccer teams secured 1st place in their respective divisions in the Northern Valley Soccer League this year. We look forward to recognizing the members of these winning teams at an upcoming Council meeting.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone in our community! As we gather with our families in gratitude this week, let's pause and take a moment to acknowledge and think of the innocent Israeli hostages and innocent Palestinian people who together are victims of the Hamas terrorist attack and resulting war. My thoughts, empathy and prayers are with all of them. May the day come soon that we give thanks for lasting peace in the Middle East for all people!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Menorah Lighting ceremony on 12/10 at 7 pm with

entertainment and refreshments.

In observance of Thanksgiving Borough offices will be closing at 1 pm on Wednesday and will reopen Monday 12/27 at 8 AM.

Lastly, please remember that there is no garbage pickup on Thursday, November 23, but there will be garbage pickup on November 24! Please place your garbage out early for pickup.

**Important Library Update:**

The library reopened today, Wednesday, November 22 at 9am. The Children's Room is still under renovation. The library thanks everyone for their patience!

Have a great long weekend!

Mayor Brian Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **713 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."*

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

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