



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We are in the process of completing the restructuring of our finance office. Peter Suh, who has been working this year on a part-time basis as the assistant to the CFO, will become our new full-time Acting Chief Financial Officer in October. I am confident that Peter will be successful as our full-time Department Head of the finance department. We also welcomed Kathy Shalhoub this week as our part-time Payroll Specialist. As I reported earlier, Andrea Johe has rejoined Demarest as our Deputy Tax Collector. The department was also lucky enough to have college student, Shiv Patel, as an intern this summer. Shiv will be continuing to come in to learn and support the department as his fall school schedule allows. As this team comes together with Tax Collector, Debra Mati, our Tax/Finance Department will now be fully staffed and better able to serve our residents. I appreciate everyone's patience as we got all these talented staff members into place. Last but not least, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to outgoing Interim CFO, Cameron Keng. Cam was tasked with steering the department from troubled to calm waters. Although not always visible to the residents, behind the scenes Cam has been working nights and weekends and his significant contributions are appreciated by the Borough and by me personally. Cam will continue to be available to the Borough and the department to ensure a smooth transition and assist with our conversion to the new upgraded finance software that should be in place by year's-end.

Welcome back to school all of our Demarest students, teachers, administrators, and support staff! We hope you all enjoyed your summer and will have a great school year. I will ask those getting back into the routine of school drop-offs and pick-ups, that you follow the directions of the police, school staff and signage to make it as safe as possible for our students.

I want to welcome Youngsam Yu, newly appointed Class IV member and Lynn Paulison, newly appointed Class IV alternate #2 to the Planning Board. Additionally, Jodi Brenner has been elevated from an alternate to a Regular Class IV board member. I want to thank all three of them for giving their time to serve the community. I am confident they will be successful contributors to our Planning Board.

Additionally, I will be appointing David Lerner to the Environmental Commission on Monday evening. David is a passionate advocate for environmental issues and will be a great addition to the Commission.

Congratulations to all on these appointments!

In support of our residents' continued frustrations with the increase in air traffic over Demarest, I have contacted the FAA to discuss these issues. The letter can be viewed [here](#). Council President Andrea Slowikowski who is our Council's liaison to the TANAAC board will continue to attend those meetings and advocate for us as well.

Upcoming Events:

The Borough's **annual 9/11 Memorial Service** scheduled for Monday 9/11 at 6 pm at the Demarest 9/11 Memorial. We hope you will be able to join us. In the event of rain, we will hold the ceremony in the Council Chambers at Borough Hall.

Demarest Day is right around the corner. I hope to see you all there on September 23 for a day filled with family fun!

Schedule Change Reminder:

Our Tax Collector and Deputy Tax Collector late hours will change from September 12 through the end of November 2023. During this period, the tax office will open until 7 pm on Tuesdays rather than Wednesdays. Wednesday hours should return beginning December 2023.

A reminder, that November is the last month of 2023 to have a fifth Wednesday and therefore an extra cardboard pickup. Please remember to put out all your extra cardboard the evening before, 11/28 or before 6 am the morning of pickup, 11/29, so that you don't miss out!

This week at the library:

Saturday, Sept 9th from 11am-12pm local Demarest author, Ellen Ricciutti will discuss her debut novel: *One Time or Another*: a time travel romance.

The library's movie screening on Monday, Sept 11 at 12:30pm will be *Book Club: The Next Chapter* (2023) starring Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda, Mary Steenburgen & Candice Bergen.

For all those that are sending their kids Back to School this fall, join Dr. Zuch, a licensed psychologist for Decreasing Conflict around Homework and Scheduled Activities on Thurs, Sept 14 from 6-7pm. You will learn some helpful strategies for this new school year.

Have a great Weekend!

Mayor Brian Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **587 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."*

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