Dear Friends & Neighbors,

Pedestrian Safety
At this past Tuesday's Mayor & Council meeting, the Council **approved the funding for engineering services for upgrades to several sidewalks and crosswalks in and around our schools** in preparation of a federal grant application for the Safe Routes to Schools program.

The Council also approved the filing of that grant application. The Borough Engineer, Borough Administrator, DPW Director and Chief of Police are working on the final scope of the project based on the parameters of the grant but anticipate sidewalks near Demarest Middle School and County Road School to be included. Additionally, with the advice of the Police Chief, funding for upgraded signage for several high traffic intersections will likely be included in that application. Since the grant process is lengthy and awards not guaranteed, the Borough is prioritizing upgraded signage at the corner of Anderson Avenue and County Road and are obtaining quotes for that signage.

Subsequent to these actions, a pedestrian accident occurred on Wednesday evening at that same intersection, which highlights the importance of prioritizing upgrades in that previously identified spot. In response to the accident, Thursday morning, the **Police Chief worked with the Borough Administrator to request upgraded and additional street lighting from Orange & Rockland at that same intersection.** Additionally, we have again asked the Bergen County Road Department and Engineers to consider any other changes that may increase safety at the intersection. I will follow up with any feedback that we get from the County.

Also, this week I spoke with the Deputy Chief of Staff for the Bergen County Executive Jim Tedesco regarding my request that the County reduce to 25 MPH the speed limit on all of Hardenburgh Avenue in Demarest. I presented a compelling argument for the speed reduction on Hardenburgh but the decision is a County decision since Hardenburgh is a county road. I am waiting to hear back from the County regarding my request and will keep you advised. I look forward to meeting with the County administration regarding the speed reduction request.

Lastly, I appreciate the participation of residents at Council meetings raising or discussing issues and concerns that they would like the Borough to consider and address. This week, a resident spoke at the public portion of our Council meeting and shared a concern regarding crosswalks and asked if additional crosswalks could be added. The Borough Administrator asked the resident to schedule an onsite inspection with the resident, Boroough Administrator and Police Department to identify specifically the locations that she described at the meeting. **Thanks to all of our residents that provide comments, questions or suggestions to the Governing Body, whether in person at a council meeting, an email or converstion with me or the Borough Administrator or other Borough employee or Council member. Your participation is always helpful.**

Halloween
Demarest Recreation's **Annual Halloween Parade will take place this year at a new time as it will be celebrated on Halloween! It will be on Saturday, 10/31 from 10:30am to 11:30am at the Gazebo.** The parade, with prizes, will begin at 11:00am! **Click here for all the spooky details!**

The Recreation Commission is also collecting candy donations to supplement supplies for the residents that get the bulk of the trick or treaters on the East Side of town. A drop box is located in the lobby of Borough Hall and will be at the Halloween event too! If you are in the high traffic trick or treating zone and are looking for a candy donation, please reach out to Alli at **allideutsch@gmail.com** and she will let you know if there is any candy available!

Upcoming Road Work
PSE&G will be replacing approximately 1200 feet of gas main and 249 residentials gas services in the coming weeks and months in Demarest. The estimated start date of the work is **Monday October 26, 2026** and will likely take 6 months for the entire project to be completed. The streets that they will be working on are **Glenwood Ave., Ross Ave., Highland Ave., Elm Pl, Spruce Pl, Lauren Pond Ct., Heritage Ct, Oak Pl. Cypress Pl. & a portion of County Rd that connects to these side streets.** PSE&G will reach out directly to those residents affected with more detailed information. **Please click here for additional information and contact details for the PSE&G team that can answer questions.**

The Art School at the Old Church
Many thanks to all the children, teens, and adults who participated in our clay activities at Octoberfest and Demarest Day!

Registration for our **Winter Session (Jan. 3 - March 15)** opens on **November 10th at 8:45 AM**. **Enroll online** at **www.tasoc.org** or **in person** at **561 Piermont Rd.** We offer **more than 80 art and craft workshops** and courses for **adults, teens, and children**. If you have questions, call us at **(201) 767-7160**.

Registration for Fall Workshops *(11/14 - 11/16) is ongoing.*

Demarest Library
Diwali 2026 is finally here! On **Saturday, October 24th from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM,** all are welcome to come celebrate Diwali with the Demarest Library! Join us for a family friendly event with food, dance performance, henna (sponsored by the Friends of The Demarest Library), crafts, storytime, and more. This will take place at the Demarest Library! Register **here!**

Please join us on **Thursday, October 22nd from 6:30 - 7:45 PM** for **Crystal Sound Bath Meditation FOR TEENS with instructor Lorig Hamparian.** Yoga and meditation offer a gentle, nurturing space for adolescents navigating academic pressures and daily stressors. By fostering emotional regulation and mental clarity, these practices provide teenagers with valuable tools for lifelong well-being. Whether guiding adolescents through the pressures of school or supporting adults through one of life's transitions, Lorig has tailored mindfulness tools to meet each person where they are. **Registration is required with limited seats available!** Register **here!**

Come to The Demarest Library on **Wednesday evenings from 5:45 - 7:45 PM** to practice American Mahjong! No registration is required and two Mahjong sets are available for patron use. *PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS NOT A CLASS, IT IS A CASUAL SPACE FOR PLAYERS TO PRACTICE/ MEET OTHER PLAYERS. IT IS BEGINNER FRIENDLY! PLAYERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PLAY WITH PLAYERS OF ALL SKILL LEVELS.*

Have a great weekend,

Mayor Brian K. Bernstein

*My Friday emails to the residents are now reaching **1,250 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 about halfway down the homepage.*

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