



# *Demarest Digest*

## *The Mayor's Message*

Dear Residents,

In March of 2020, our world changed and our lives were turned upside down by the COVID-19 pandemic. The first COVID-19 case in Demarest was reported in March 2020. One year later, the borough has a total of over 250 reported cases. The advent of the vaccine means that the outlook for this year is more hopeful. We can see a future in which our daily lives return to normal or at least a new definition of normal. For this to happen, we need to continue to wear masks, practice social distancing and get vaccinated when we are eligible.

I am pleased to report that the summer recreation program for our borough's children is returning. We also will be scheduling outdoor concerts at the gazebo and will again be remembering our nation's service members on Memorial Day as a community. Details will follow for these events.

Finally, we have all been spending much more time at home since the pandemic began. With that, we have seen a sharp rise in home deliveries resulting in more garbage and recycling to attend to in our homes. Our borough provides garbage pickup and is required by the state to recycle certain materials. Please do your part by properly disposing of your garbage and recycled materials.

Please empty and clean all recycled materials.

Please do not place cardboard out to be collected on garbage pickup days.

Look for more information on recycling in this newsletter.

Stay safe and well, everyone.

*Mayor Melinda Iannuzzi*

PLEASE NOTE: Offices will be closed April 2 for Good Friday and May 31 for Memorial Day.

# *Calendar of Events*

Please visit [Demarestnj.org](http://Demarestnj.org) or call 201-768-0167, ext. 110, for the latest information.

March 3	Planning Board meeting 7:30 pm
March 4	Shade Tree Commission meeting 7:30 pm
March 10	Virtual Court 5:30 pm
March 11	Nature Center meeting 7:30 pm
March 15	Library Board meeting 7:00 pm
March 16	Zoning Board meeting 8:00 pm
March 17	Recreation Commission meeting 8:00 pm
March 22	Mayor and Council meeting 7:30 pm
April 7	Planning Board meeting 7: 30 pm
April 8	Nature Center meeting 7:30 pm
April 14	Virtual Court 5:30 pm
April 17	Shredding and Stormwater management event 9:00-1:00 DPW parking lot
April 19	Library Board meeting 7:00 pm
April 20	Zoning Board meeting 7:30 pm (Note new time)
April 21	Recreation Commission meeting 8:00 pm
April 24	Birdhouse and birdfeeder building 12:00 (see article inside)
April 26	Mayor and Council meeting 7:30 pm
April 27	Environmental Commission meeting 7:30 pm
May 1	Nature walk followed by Volunteer Day Cleanup 11:00 am (see article inside).
May 5	Planning Board meeting 7:30 pm
May 6	Shade Tree Commission meeting 7:30 pm
May 12	Virtual Court 5:30 pm
May 13	Nature Center meeting 7:30 pm
May 17	Library Board meeting 7:00 pm
May 18	Zoning Board meeting 7:30 pm
May 19	Board of Health meeting 7:00 pm
May 22	Canoe Day 12:00 (see article inside)
May 24	Mayor and Council meeting 7:30 pm
May 25	Environmental Commission meeting 7:30 pm

## *Let's Help Make Recycling Effective*

- ~containers must be clean and empty.
- ~All containers with recycling numbers 1-7 are accepted.
- ~All glass, plastic, waxed paper and metal containers are accepted for recycling.
- ~Dried paint cans with lids off are recyclable.

Electronics and white goods may be brought to the dumpster at the DPW (22 Wakelee Drive).

Please visit [bcua.org](http://bcua.org) (or visit the Borough website, [Demarestnj.org](http://Demarestnj.org)) to learn about hazardous waste drop off.

### **The following items are not recyclable**

- ~boxes with residue (e.g., pizza boxes)
- ~used paper plates, paper cups or paper towels
- ~Styrofoam, plastic bags, plastic shopping bags
- ~plastic knives, forks, spoons or dishes
- ~ceramic, pottery, crystal, cups, plates or glasses, flowerpots, garden hoses.
- ~windows, plate glass, mirror glass or light bulbs
- ~meat trays
- ~automotive-use containers like antifreeze jugs or motor oil bottles
- ~household batteries
- ~building and construction material

## *A Plea from the Department of Public Works*

We have been responding to quite a few sewer backups. The usual culprits are baby wipes and grease! Please do not flush either of these items. Both are trash and need to be disposed of in your garbage can.

## *Municipal Court*

The Borough Hall and Court office remain closed at this time. However, virtual court will be held on the assigned dates. Anyone needing to speak to the Violations Clerk may call 201-768-1160. Payments may be mailed to the Borough Hall, paid online or dropped in the box at the Borough Hall door.

# *From Our Police Chief*

**Bicycle Helmets** Please remind your children that in New Jersey, anyone under 17 years of age that rides a bicycle, is a passenger on a bicycle or is towed as a passenger by a bicycle must wear a safety helmet.

**Walking Dogs without a Leash** Please remember Ordinance 89-1: No person owning, harboring, keeping, walking or protecting any dog, whether licensed or unlicensed, shall permit said dog to run at large or unleashed off the premises owned, leased, rented or occupied by such person within the territorial limits of the borough.

**9 PM Routine** Adopt the 9 PM Routine: Check your vehicles each night by 9 PM; ensure your vehicle is safe and secure and that valuables have been removed.

**Alerts and Notifications** The Demarest Police Department and the Demarest Office of Emergency Management use two different companies to communicate alerts to the residents. Nixle sends a text message and email to residents, and Swiftreach sends a recorded voice message to landlines. If you would like to receive alerts and advisories from the Demarest Police Department, Text 07627 to 888-777 to opt-in to Nixle. To make sure you are receiving landline messages from Swiftreach, please sign up on the Police Department website and click on the Swiftreach graphic to enter the portal.

**Child Seat Installations** In many instances, parents and caregivers do not install child seats correctly. Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPSTs) are trained to assist with the installation and ensure the safety of these child seats. The Demarest Police Department has assigned Police Officer Del Greco as the Child Passenger Safety Technician. Officer Del Greco can assist Demarest Borough residents who would like help with the installation or inspection of a child seat. To have a child seat installed or inspected please go to [www.demarestpd.org](http://www.demarestpd.org) and click on Child Seat Installation to set up an appointment with Officer Del Greco. Please visit us at [www.demarestpd.org](http://www.demarestpd.org) for updates, forms and permit information.



**Demarest  
Police  
Department**



**@DemarestPd**



**@demarestpolice**

*From the Demarest Ambulance Corps  
We are looking for new members. Join us!*

Remember to WEAR YOUR MASK, maintain social distancing and practice good hand washing!

**FIGHT GERMS BY WASHING YOUR HANDS!**

**1** Wet your hands

**2** Soap

**3** Lather and scrub - 20 sec

**4** Rinse - 10 sec

**5** Turn off tap

**6** Dry your hands

**DONT FORGET TO WASH:**

- between your fingers
- under your nails
- the tops of your hands

*News from the Public Schools*

**Preschool Registration for Demarest Early Learners** Please call Mrs. Kathy Daly at 201-768-6060 Ext. 51535. to learn about availability for the Preschool 3 and Preschool 4 programs.

**Kindergarten Registration for Demarest Public School** Registration can be found online at <http://demarestsd.schoolwires.net>. Please call Mrs. Kathy Daly at 201-768-6060 Ext. 51535 to make an appointment to drop off the forms. Remember to attach the child’s original birth certificate and three (3) proofs of residence, such as a deed, lease, utility bill, etc. Children are eligible for Demarest kindergarten in September if they are five years old by October 1, 2021.

## *From the Demarest Board of Health*

We provide services and information through this newsletter and our FACEBOOK page. Please “like” us online and provide feedback.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

**It is important to remember that social distancing and mask-wearing continue even after getting the vaccine!** You may have seen it on the news, but there are some patients who are still being infected with coronavirus AFTER the vaccination. An immune response can take several weeks to fully develop. Many of these patients were getting infected 2-3 days after the first dose. **STAY VIGILANT! STAY PROTECTED! STAY SAFE!**

**Get Help Scheduling an Appointment:** For help with the New Jersey Vaccine Scheduling System, visit [covid19.nj.gov/vaccinehelp](https://covid19.nj.gov/vaccinehelp) or call 855-568-0545 for phone support from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Due to high call volumes, callers are experiencing long wait times.

It is important that you be registered. There are multiple registration sites; it will take patience and determination to get through, but we encourage you to keep at it. NOTE: Call center staff can only register and schedule people who are in the New Jersey Vaccine Scheduling System.

### **PLEASE KEEP VIGILANT!**

- ✓ Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around people who don't live with you.
- ✓ Masks protect YOU and OTHERS!
- ✓ Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) from others.
- ✓ Avoid crowds. The more people you are in contact with, the more likely you are to be exposed to COVID-19.
- ✓ Avoid unventilated indoor spaces. If indoors, bring in fresh air by opening windows and doors.
- ✓ Clean your hands often, with soap & water for 20 seconds or sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- ✓ Get vaccinated against COVID-19 when it's your turn.
- ✓ Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- ✓ Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- ✓ Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces daily.

## *CCO Reminder from the Building Department*

In order to rent or sell your home, a Certificate of Continued Occupancy is required. The form can be located on the Demarest website ([demarestnj.org](https://demarestnj.org)). You must complete the application, pay the required fees and have the home inspected prior to any change in occupancy or ownership. This process takes approximately 4 weeks, so make sure you allow ample time. Any question, please call Dot Haight at 201-768-3398.



## *The Shade Tree Commission*

New Jersey has a long history of trying to manage its tree resources, and that is where the Shade Tree Commissions enters the picture. The Demarest Shade Tree Commission is tasked with building a healthy, safe and resilient urban forest. With each tree we add to the community, we are attempting to improve the lives of our residents by establishing a healthy balance between people and trees. Our trees benefit the environment by improving the air quality, capturing carbon emissions and providing habitats for our wildlife. On the social level, the trees and the parks and public areas in which they are planted add tranquility and beauty to our town.

Last year we were hit by some devastating storms that caused the loss of over sixty of our trees and wreaked havoc on our streets and power lines. Many of our town trees are majestic but aging. When the trees were originally planted, little thought was given to diversity or maintenance. Over the years it has become obvious that changes in the way we manage our urban forest must be made. Therefore, we hope to plant at least 60 new trees in the right of way and public areas. We will not be planting the traditional oaks and maples, but rather will be adding trees native to the area that will allow us to avoid the spread of tree diseases and accommodate the electrical wires that we depend on. In addition, the town has invested in equipment that will enable maintenance to be more effective and more efficient. We will be working with our Department of Public Works to assist in that important endeavor.

If you would like to have a tree planted in the right of way in front of your home (usually defined as 10 feet from the curb, although exceptions exist) please contact Lee Campbell at the Borough Hall (201-768-0167 x 130) and ask for a tree request form. It will be our pleasure to provide you with a tree.

## *Is Your Number Up?*

Emergency personnel need to reach people as quickly as possible. Thus, it is vitally important that your house number be displayed in accordance with Borough Ordinance 78-2. The Police Department reminds you that your number must be affixed in a conspicuous manner on the front of your house so as to be plainly visible from the street. Additionally, you may display an additional house number on a post or mailbox, especially if the front of your house is not visible from the street. Please note that numbers on rocks or otherwise on the ground are not helpful, as they can be covered by leaves or snow.

## The Demarest Public Library

Use the meeScan app to make curbside pickup a breeze! [demarestlibrary.org/meeScan](https://demarestlibrary.org/meeScan)

From now until June 15, your library card provides access to Brainfuse, an online learning platform with study tools; practice AP, SAT, and citizenship tests; live one-on-one tutoring; and help writing book reports, essays, or your résumé. Brainfuse provides help for students of all ages and adults [demarestlibrary.org/introducing-brainfuse](https://demarestlibrary.org/introducing-brainfuse)

Program for Adults: Yoga and Meditation on Zoom, Thursdays at 11:00 AM

Knitting Club meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month; email [demarestknitters@outlook.com](mailto:demarestknitters@outlook.com) to join.

The Adult Book Club meets on Zoom on the second Tuesday of each month – pick up a copy of the latest book at the library and email [julia.nock@closter.bccls.org](mailto:julia.nock@closter.bccls.org) to join.

In the Children's Room:

Digital Storytime on Facebook on Mondays and Wednesdays

Live Storytime with Miss Kate monthly on Zoom

Take & Make craft kits for kids available once a month

Wacky Science on Facebook and Instagram monthly

Trivia Afternoon for teens and tweens on Zoom & Kahoot

Visit [demarestlibrary.org](https://demarestlibrary.org) to learn more and register.

Sign up for emails to stay in the loop at [demarestlibrary.org/email](https://demarestlibrary.org/email)



Northern Valley Libraries are starting a pen pal program! Patrons of **all ages** are welcome to sign up. We'll contact you starting **March 1** with your match and provide a Pen Pal Kit with everything you need to get writing! Visit [demarestlibrary.org](https://demarestlibrary.org) to learn how it all works, how we'll protect your privacy and to register!



## *Removal of Large Appliances and Equipment*

Please call IWS sanitation at 201-768-5407 to schedule an appointment for the pickup of large appliances and other household equipment. Refrigerators, air conditioners, and ice makers must have the Freon removed by a certified service person before pickup. If you are buying a new appliance, please check with the merchant as to whether they will remove and dispose of the old appliance.

## *Municipal Parking*

If you are in need of additional parking or somewhere to store a vehicle that should not be parked in your driveway, there are spots available downtown for a nominal permit parking fee. To inquire, please call the Borough Clerk, Susan Crosman, at 201-768-0167, ext. 139, for further details.

## *Demarest Nature Center Spring Calendar*

Events are subject to cancelation due to health conditions. Check [www.demarestnaturecenter.org](http://www.demarestnaturecenter.org) and the electronic bulletin board for updates. Masks and social distancing required.

Birdhouse and birdfeeder building Saturday, April 24, noon to 3:00 pm at a location forthcoming. Bring a hammer. In case of unsafe health conditions, kits will be sold for assembly at home.

Nature walk with naturalist Marc Gussen followed by Volunteer Day cleanup Saturday, May 1, 11:00 am nature walk; noon cleanup. Starting from the Imaginative Playground.

Canoe Day May 22, noon to 3 pm, at the Duck Pond. Canoes, paddles, and life jackets will be supplied.

If you believe any information is incorrect or incomplete, please contact Marti Francis ([francis.demarestnj@gmail.com](mailto:francis.demarestnj@gmail.com)) so I may fix it.

Visit our official website

**Demarestnj.org.**

Utilize the Google Calendar and Borough Notices  
to stay up to date!