PUBLISHED BY THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

Watchung Municipal Building
15 Mountain Boulevard
Watchung, New Jersey 07069

Phone: 908.756.0080
Fax: 908.757.7027
Watchung Public Information Channel
15
Watchung Radio 1610 AM

Visit us on the Web

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

******ECRWSS******
LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
Watchung, NJ 07069

MAYOR STEPHEN K. POTE

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Stephen L. Black
Robert Gibbs

Debra Joren, Council President
Dave Mobus

William Nehls
George Sopko

***Administration*- 756-0080**
Thomas E. Atkins, Administrator
tatkins@watchungnj.gov

Michelle DeRocco, Borough Clerk
mderocco@watchungnj.gov

William Hance, Chief Finance Officer
bhance@watchungnj.gov

Engineering Office
Tom Herits 756-0091
therits@maserconsulting.com
Arlene McCoy 756-0091
amcoy@watchungnj.gov

Watchung Art Center
For information call—561-0190

Police
Emergency 911
Non-emergency 756-3663

Emergency Management
Contact Police Dept. 756-3663

Tax Assessor
Ed Kerwin 756-3366
ekerwin@watchungnj.gov

Construction Official /Zoning Officer
Ed Bennett 756-6093
ebennett@watchungnj.gov

Watchung Public Library
561-0117

Fire Department
Emergency 911
Non-emergency 561-9389

Municipal Court
Jodi Hanson Rodriquez 769-2265

Tax Collector
Ray Murray 756-8333
rmurray@watchungnj.gov

Public Works Facility
Robert Burns 753-6115
bburns@watchungnj.gov

Watchung Hills Regional High School
Grades 9 through 12
108 Stirling Road
Warren,NJ 07059
647-4800

Bayberry Elementary School
Kindergarten through 4th Grade
Bayberry Lane
755-8184

Valley View Middle School
Grades 5 through 8
Valley View Road
755-4422

The Official Newsletter for the
THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
FALL/WINTER
ISSUE 2016-02

FROM YOUR MAYOR

Dear Residents,

I hope you all have had an enjoyable summer. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to travel to China in June with family and friends. The trip was both fascinating and quite enlightening; China is a great country and the people there are wonderful. But in spite of some of the "noise" associated with the political Presidential process now upon us here at home, my recent trip leaves me most appreciative of the freedom to vote my conscience, as well the ability to speak freely and express my opinions. Despite its potential imperfections, we Watchung residents live in a very special town, state, and country. I feel quite lucky.

Your town is moving along on a number of fronts. We have completed a preliminary layout design of the new Library, and I encourage you to take a look online at what will be a two-story structure (only one story in the front and two from the Valley Road entrance). Our next step is to work with Arcari and Iovino Architects to review in October more detailed plans and cost figures.

A smaller scale design of the 9/11 memorial has been completed. We have dug several test holes, and everything is in line with moving forward. Contracts with several vendors are being finalized. Please join us for our ground-breaking ceremony at 9AM on Sunday, September 11th at the Village Green.

Over several years, Weldon has purchased all neighboring properties on its side along Bonnie Burn Road. The Planning Board has been working for over a year on the review and revisions to Weldon's plans for expanded excavation of the quarry, while ensuring that a proper and effective buffer remains between the quarry and both residents and traffic along its perimeter, including Bonnie Burn. The Planning Board, and most recently the Mayor and Council, have approved changes to zoning under conditions which we believe will protect residents for generations to come.

With COAH (Council on Affordable Housing) now disbanded through a judicial decision, the adjudication of determining a municipality's fair share of affordable housing now rests back with the judiciary branch of government. A recent NJ appellate court decision rejected a lower court ruling supporting the need for towns to adhere to what were significant low and moderate income housing obligations for the gap period 1999-2015. Inclusion of obligations for this gap period would have a substantial impact on Watchung. Fair Share Housing is challenging that ruling and it is expected that Watchung will need to substantiate what it believes are its remaining obligations.

A coalition of Mayors continues to strengthen its numbers and voice as it relates to its opposition to the Pilgrim Pipeline, who it is anticipated in the very near future will apply for permits in New Jersey to construct pipelines parallel to the PSE&G power lines on the east side of Watchung, as part of a 178 mile bi-directional pipeline between Albany, New York and Linden, New Jersey refineries. The proposed route crosses both many municipalities and sensitive environmental streams and aquifers. The Mayor and Council have approved sharing financial costs with what has grown to over fifteen towns associated with legal environmental support in opposition. Again, if asked by Pilgrim or an affiliate, you have every right to deny surveying of your property, which Pilgrim needs in order to apply for state permits.

—Continued—

—Continued from page 1

I am happy to report that a number of roads are being scheduled for milling and paving over the summer and fall months (weather permitting), including: Dale Road from High Tor Drive to Route 78, Spencer Lane between Hillcrest Road and Guinard Drive, High Oaks Drive, Redmont Road, Cardinal Drive, Canterbury Lane, Hyde Circle, Brook Drive, Wetumpka Lane, and Deer Run (between Knollwood Drive west and Stanie Brae Drive).

I am very pleased to note that Fire Department volunteerism is up; over the last year we have added several new volunteers. The Watchung Rescue Squad also continues to maintain its volunteer levels, in order to be there as well when we need them. Thank you! These volunteer positions require quite a commitment. We appreciate everyone who volunteers to help our town.

Fishing on both Watchung and Best Lakes has become very popular; there are many individuals and families who are participating in this great rite of summer. We want to remind you to respect specified locations for fishing, as well that Watchung has a policy of "catch and release". There also is a Borough Ordinance against feeding wildlife. We ask that you please respect these rules, and remind others to do the same.

Please join us in visiting the Farmers' Market, on Sundays (10am-2pm) now through October 2nd. Again this year we will have a Civil War encampment on the Green, beginning on Friday evening, September 23rd, and following with re-enactment events on Saturday.

I wish you all a great end to the summer and an enjoyable autumn.

Best Regards,

Stephen K. Pote
Mayor

Volunteers Needed

The Borough is looking for residents who are willing to work on our volunteer boards. Please let us know if you would have an interest in serving. Cal (908)756-0080 or mail in the form below to the municipal building. You can also fill out this form on the Borough website: **www.watchungnj.gov** Look on the Bulletin Board and download the form into Microsoft Word. You can email the form to volunteer form @watchungnj.gov

Please send this completed form to:

Volunteer Pool
Borough of Watchung
15 Mountain Boulevard
Watchung, NJ 07069

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please include me on the list of potential volunteers for the following boards, committees and commissions.

[ ] Board of Adjustment	[ ] Board of Health	[ ] Environmental Commission
[ ] Historic Committee	[ ] Library Advisory	[ ] Municipal Alliance
[ ] Open Space Committee	[ ] Planning Board	[ ] Recreation Commission
[ ] Traffic & Beautification	[ ] Village Center Committee	[ ] Green Team
[ ] Youth Service Commission	[ ] Other (Explain)	

I have the following experience, skills, talents or special interests:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Note: Additionally, we are currently in need of volunteers with the following skill sets:
Fund campaign/Fundraising capabilities

STOP THE PIPELINE

DID YOU KNOW A CRUDE OIL PIPELINE MIGHT BE COMING THROUGH WATCHUNG??

Here are some facts about the project …

Pilgrim Pipeline Holdings, LLC is proposing to build 2 new pipelines to transport Bakken crude oil and refined petroleum products between Albany, New York and Linden, NJ. This for-profit oil transport company would condemn private property to build their pipelines within feet of thousands of homes as well as schools, businesses and parks. It would permanently destroy wetlands and critical forest habitat for endangered species, and would cut through the Highlands region, endangering the drinking water for millions of New Jerseyans.

If approved, the Pilgrim Pipeline would run the length of Watchung, north/south under the high-tension wires that run parallel to Bonnie Burn. The pipeline would run adjacent to the homes on PHILLIP LANE, VAIL LANE, BIRCHWOOD LANE, OAKWOOD RD, and across VALLEY RD AND JOHNSTON DRIVE, near the power lines. It would also run close to BAYBERRY SCHOOL and MOUNT ST. MARY ACADEMY. If there was a leak or spill, the oil would contaminate wellheads and residential wells. The oil is highly volatile and an accident or explosion would be devastating to Watchung. Its presence could substantially lower property values.

Most of the NJ towns on the proposed route have passed resolutions or ordinances opposing the pipeline, as have both parties of the NJ State Legislature.

To learn more about Pilgrim Pipeline and ways to get involved, go to:
http://stoppilgrimpipeline.com/

ELECTION TIME LINES

Oct. 18th: Last day to register to vote for the General Election

Nov. 1st: Last day Vote By Mail request forms must be received by County

Voter Registration forms, Vote by Mail forms, Change in Party Forms, are all available at Borough Hall, or on our website: www.watchungnj.gov or www.co.somerset.nj.us/elections

Tuesday, Nov. 8th: Election Day—polls open 6:00 am—8:00 pm

VOTING DISTRICT LOCATIONS

EXEMPT HALL	-	**DISTRICTS 1 and 4**
BAYBERRY SCHOOL	-	**DISTRICT 3**
WILSON MEMORIAL	-	**DISTRICTS 2 and 5**

BOROUGH EVENTS

9/11 MEMORIAL SERVICE

September 11th at 9:00 AM
On the Village Green

WATCHUNG HISTORY DAY

Saturday, September 24th
Civil War Reenactment & Encampment
10:00 am – 4:00 pm on the Village Green

VETERANS DAY SERVICES

November 11th at 9:30 am
At the War Memorial

TREE OF LIGHTS CEREMONY

December 3rd on the Village Green
Fireworks on the lake, Food & Refreshments

ENVIRONMENTAL

TREE REMOVAL PERMITS

The Borough of Watchung loves its trees. Please, be considerate of the environment, your neighbor, your community and our trees.

The Borough of Watchung requires that ALL residents apply for a tree removal permit for the removal of trees, dead or alive. Any person desiring to cut or remove any deciduous or coniferous tree having a diameter of four inches or any Dogwood, Birch or American Hornbeam having a diameter of two inches must apply to the Borough Engineer for a permit to remove such tree(s).

See full Ordinance on line or stop by the Engineering Department (Phone 908-756-0091) for a permit and discussion on the tree removal and tree replacement ordinance and why our trees are so precious to us here in Watchung.

STILL TIME TO SHRED YOUR DOCUMENTS
FREE TO SOMERSET COUNTY RESIDENTS!

Have Your Confidential Papers Shredded on Site by a Licensed and Bonded Shredding Company

September 10th - Franklin
September 17th – Bridgewater
September 24th – Montgomery

October 1st – Branchburg
October 8th – Bernards
October 15th – Green Brook

*Call **908-203-6018** or go to https://bit.ly/SCShred for exact locations and/or questions.*
*All events are **9 AM to 1 PM** Rain or Shine*

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
BOARD OF HEALTH
2017

TO: All Dog Owners
SUBJECT: Dog License

JANUARY 31ST is the deadline for licensing your dog(s). All dogs six months and older must be licensed. You may obtain your license at Borough Hall, Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM or by mail addressed to the Board of Health, 15 Mountain Blvd., Watchung, NJ 07069.

Include a self-addressed, stamped, return envelope.

You must also submit proof of rabies vaccination, which must be valid through November 1st of the license year (this is a New Jersey State Law).

The fee for a spayed/neutered dog is $12.00 and for non-spayed/neutered it is $15.00. **A late fee of $2.00 per dog will apply for all renewals received after January 31st.**

If you no longer own a dog please call us at 756-0080.

Anyone owning, keeping or harboring any unlicensed dog of licensing age will be subject to summons and possible fine.

Please fill in application below:

NAME OF OWNER _____

ADDRESS_____ PHONE_____

BREED OF DOG_____ NAME_____

SEX_____ NEUTERED_____ SPAYED_____

AGE_____ COLOR_____ HAIR: LONG____ SHORT____ MEDIUM____

RABIES VACCINE **(submit proof)**_____ (must be valid through November 1st of license year)

Make checks payable to Borough of Watchung
DO NOT SUBMIT PRIOR TO JANUARY 1st
(date checks after that date if you wish to send sooner)

Kevin Sumner, Health Officer, (732) 968-5151
15 Mountain Boulevard, Watchung, New Jersey 07069 www.watchungnj.gov
Phone: 908-756-0080; Fax: 908-757-7027

FREE RABIES CLINICS

South Bound Brook
Saturday, November 5
9:00 am to 10:00 am
South Bound Brook Municipal Garage
44 Washington Avenue

Green Brook
Saturday, November 5
11:00 am to 12:00 noon
Green Brook Fire House
115 Greenbrook Road

Watchung
Saturday, December 3
9:00 am to 10:00 am
Watchung Fire House
57 Mountain Boulevard

Bound Brook
Saturday, December 3
11:00 am to 12:00 noon
Bound Brook Police/Borough Hall
230 Hamilton Street

****

REMOVE YOUR PET'S WASTE

All of our communities have requirements regarding the deposit and removal of pet waste. These requirements are in place to protect the health of our populations, our properties, and to better assure pleasant environments. Unfortunately many people are either unaware of the requirements or do not follow them. Therefore, this is a friendly reminder that no person shall allow their dogs to soil, defile, defecate or commit any nuisance upon any public or private property whatsoever. Further, any person who curbs a dog shall immediately remove all feces deposited by such dog in a sanitary method and it shall be deposited in the owner's garbage. The deposit shall be properly wrapped, packaged or protected so as to prevent unsightly disposal or smell or interference with the health and welfare of the Borough. Please clean up after your dog!

****

WELL WATER TESTING

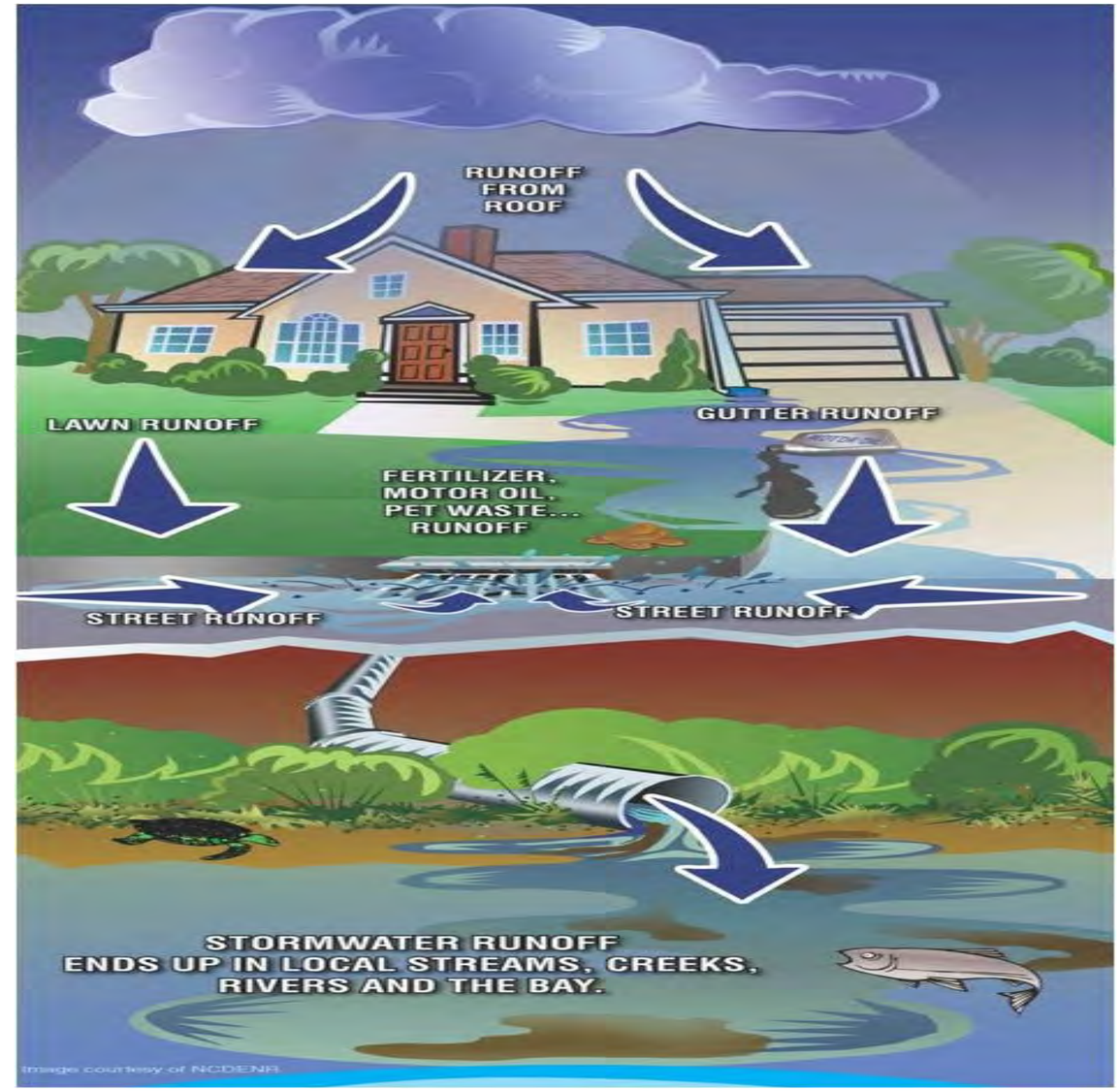
If you have a well on your property then you should be testing your well, but you may not know what to test for or who can test it. Following is a short description of what you may need to know. There are many labs certified to test private wells by the State Department of Environmental Protection and the complete list can be accessed at: http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/pw_pwta.html, however, below is a sample of labs, in no particular order, that are local or who have done work in our service area in the past. Please call and speak to them to get prices and to understand when they may be available to do the work you are requesting. Keep in mind, however, that if you are not satisfied with your response from these there are many other options available.

RA Data	973-927-7303
Eurofins	215-355-3900
Garden State Labs	908-688-8900
All State Well Testing	908-835-2510

With regard to what should be tested for there are no requirements, unless you are selling your house. If you are selling, then the NJ Private Well Testing Act requires testing for **Nitrate, Iron, Manganese, pH, Volatile Organic Compounds (chemicals), lead, arsenic, and total coliform (bacteria)**. If total coliform is positive then a follow up test must be done for fecal coliform or E. coli. Even if you are not selling your house this list is a good starting point if you have not tested your well in some time. By testing for these items, you will have a good picture and baseline of your well's condition. Finally, if you suspect something is wrong with your well water or you have noticed a change (color, odor, etc.) I would suggest you speak to the laboratory or a well drilling company, as they will have a better understanding of the testing that might be needed.

STORM WATER REGULATIONS

Clean water is up to you



For more information: www.cleanwaternj.org

"It's very dangerous." "People are flying." "Does something terrible have to happen before you'll do something about it?" Complaints of speeders on local roads are nothing new, nor are they unique to Watchung. I grew up on a residential street that was straight and flat, so when it came to people speeding while kids were playing, my father started his own form of a neighborhood watch long before signs that formally recognized the program started popping up. While his methods were highly effective, I simply cannot support them based on my current position. Although his methods may not be considered acceptable in a civilized society, there are other options.

When we receive these types of complaints the first step is to determine if there is a problem, and the second step is to determine the extent and the source. In some cases the complaints match our findings, but in most cases our data shows otherwise. That's not to say that people are falsely reporting a problem, but the extent reported is often contradictory to our findings. If it's your street where your kids play and where you walk your dog you don't care about the extent, you just want it to stop. For everyone who wants it to stop, I suggest you start by checking your own speed. No matter how many times we conduct traffic surveys or run radar posts in these instances the results are always the same. Our residents, and those who complain about speeders, are the most frequent offenders.

Some will argue that a zero tolerance policy is the simple solution to this problem: you speed, you get a ticket. While everyone knows what zero tolerance means, they also have their own definition of a crisis. We want zero tolerance for others, but we expect special treatment when we're involved. The offenders change, but the conversation with the driver is always the same. They "never speed" and they want a break "just this one time" because on this particular day their circumstances somehow justify their actions. "I never speed, but today":

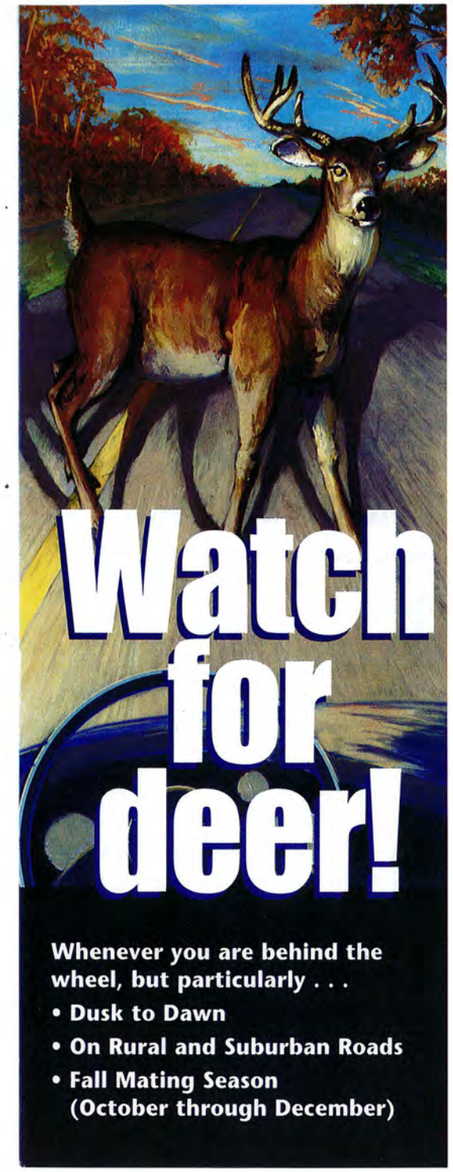
-I have an important meeting.
-I'm on my way to the airport.
-My son/daughter forgot his/her lunch, homework, sports equipment, instrument, etc.
-A repairman is waiting at my house.
-No one's let the dog out since this morning.

You name it, we've heard it. When the other person does it there should be zero tolerance and they should get a ticket, but when you do it you want your "unique situation" taken into account.

I think we can all agree that waiting for something terrible to happen before any of this will change is a bad idea. A police presence can be highly effective, but we can't be everywhere. When you do see an officer on a traffic post, do you flash your headlights to warn others? If we can all just start by slowing down and driving the same way you want people to drive on your street, most of this will take care of itself. Studies have shown that speeding during short trips on local roads does not actually save any time, yet our own residents on our own local roads are our most frequent offenders. As cars continue to become quieter and more comfortable it's going to require that we all pay a little closer attention to our own speedometers.

As always, please feel free to email me or call me with your suggestions, comments, or questions at jcina@watchungpd.com or (908) 756-3663 ext. 117.

Chief Joseph R. Cina



Deer are everywhere!

- There are over 15,000 deer–vehicle crashes in NJ each year.
- A deer crash can happen anytime — but half occur from October through December, and three quarters happen from dusk to dawn.
- Deer crashes can occur almost anywhere outside of dense urban areas.
- Many deer crashes occur on 2-lane roads with no median.
- Every year, deer crashes in New Jersey cause millions of dollars in vehicle damage, injuries, and even deaths.

Reduce your risk!

- **Slow down** — if you see one deer, more may follow.
- **Don't swerve** — If a crash is unavoidable, brake firmly and stay in your lane.
- **Keep headlights clean and aligned** — Use high beams when possible.
- **Always buckle up** — It could save your life.

www.njdeercrash.org

New Jersey Deer Vehicle Crash Coalition

Brochure produced by:
• North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
• NJ Office of the Attorney General – Division of Highway Traffic Safety

Illustration Michael Rothman

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
15 Mountain Boulevard
Watchung, NJ 07069

Deer Management Program
Property Owner Authorization Letter

SHOTGUN USE

Dear Resident;

The deer culling season is fast approaching and the Borough is trying to secure all possible sites with those residents that are willing to give permission to utilize their properties for this purpose. Shooting is limited to designated sites in the program with the utmost of safety and will only be done from elevated tree stands. If you are willing to allow culling on your property, please complete the portion below and return it to the Borough of Watchung by October 15, 2016. The continuation of the deer management program is authorized by the Mayor and Council and is strongly recommended by the Borough Wildlife Management Advisory Committee. Your cooperation is most appreciated.

Sincerely,
Linda Monetti
Linda Monetti
Administrative Assistant
(908)756-0080 Ext. 210

I hereby grant permission to the Borough of Watchung and Warren Blue Ridge Sportsmen, Inc., to utilize my property to cull deer using shotguns within 450 feet of any occupied building on my property. This will be done as part of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife approved Community Based Deer Management Program in the Borough of Watchung. The program will run Monday thru Friday, dawn to dusk, beginning November 28, 2016 and ending February 11, 2017.

Property Address:_____

Phone # Home:_____Cell:_____

#1 Owner (Print Name)_____

Signature: _____

#2 Owner (Print Name): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Watchung Seniors

15 Mountain Boulevard
Watchung, New Jersey 07069

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

The **Watchung Seniors** meet the 2nd Wednesday of every month (no meetings in the summers), from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Meetings are held at the Fireman's Exempt Hall, lower level 31 Mountain Boulevard (next to Borough Hall). **The building is handicap accessible.**

For more details on activities and trips please visit the Borough Website at:
www.watchungnj.gov

Senior Services through Somerset County

Handyman Program Helps Seniors & Disabled Residents

The Handyman Program, operated by the Somerset County Office of Volunteer Services, has trained volunteers available to perform minor home repairs for seniors or disabled residents of Somerset County.

New volunteers, male and female, also are being recruited for the program. No experience is required. Free training is provided. Scheduling of home repairs is flexible.

For information about receiving services through the Handyman Program or about volunteering as a handyman or handywoman, call (908) 541-5715.

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED
"HELP YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOURSELF"

Join the Watchung Volunteer Fire Department. We have many membership categories beginning with our junior program for residents that are 16 years of age.

FOR MEMBERHIP QUESTIONS
PLEASE CALL 908-756-6288
OR PICK UP INFORMATION AT BOROUGH HALL

"CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS….CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES"
Replace the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors twice a year. And don't forget to test them monthly.

The Watchung Volunteer Fire Department wishes to thank our community for it's continued support of our organization. Your **100% Volunteer Fire Department** could not continue to provide this life saving service without your generous contributions.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Department of Public Works will have a **Fall Leaf Cleanup** beginning November 1st thru November 30th. This is for **leaves only** to be recycled.

All leaves must be in **BIODEGRADABLE PAPER BAGS** only (can be purchased at most Hardware Stores or Home Depot) and placed on the grass area close to the road. **We Do Not provide the bags.**

NO BRANCHES, TRASH OF REFUSE WILL BE PICKED UP. ANY BAGS FOUND WITH TRASH OR STONE IN THEM WILL BE LEFT ON THE CURB

Due to the State's **Stormwater Regulations**, the Borough prohibits the placement of leaves in the street.
Questions? Call the Public Works Department at (908) 756-0091.

The Public Works Department is asking for your help!

If you see a pothole in the road or a catch basin covered with debris, please call Public Works Department at (908) 756-0091 or email Maria Fittipaldi at mfittipaldi@watchungnj.gov to report it.

The winter season is fast approaching please remember it is against Borough Ordinance to push snow from your drive-way into the street. Please advise your snow plow contractors.

****

COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

Individuals can make a difference in their own community. Research on personal preparedness indicates that individuals who believe they are prepared for disasters often are not as prepared as they think. In addition, some admit they do not plan to prepare at all.

Our Borough's emergency managers, firefighters, law enforcement officers, EMT/paramedics, and other emergency responders do an incredible job of keeping us safe, but they cannot do it alone. We must all embrace our personal responsibility to be prepared – in doing so; we contribute to the safety and security of our community as well.

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. If you are interested in joining Watchung's CERT Team, please contact watchungcert@gmail.com

WATCHUNG RECREATION COMMISSION

2016 "SAVE THE DATES"

MOVIE IN THE PARK PLAYING "ZOOTOPIA" & THE PTO ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Friday, September 9th @ Phillips Field
Ice Cream Social starts at 6:30 pm * Movie starts at 8:00 pm
Free event for Watchung Residents!

****

GERALD M. MOBUS MEMORIAL FISHING DERBY

September 17th @ Watchung Lake from 9:30 am-12:00 pm (Rain Date Sunday September 18th)
Tackle and bait, Refreshments, Trophies and Prizes Must bring your own fishing pole!
Free event for all Watchung Residents!

****

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Oct. 29th 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm @ Mobus Park (Rain Date Oct. 30th)
Music, Giant Hay Stack, Rides, Inflatables, Cider, Hot Chocolate, Hot Dogs, Popcorn, Cotton Candy, Sand Art, Face Painting, Pumpkin Painting, Costume Contest, Games and Prizes!
Free event for all Watchung Residents!

Go to www.watchungnj.gov for more information!

RECREATION COMMISSION