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
www.watchungnj.gov

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
Dave Mobus

William Nehls
George Sopko

Robert Gibbs, Council President
Maria Alberto

***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
458-8455
Monday-Thursday…… 9:30 am-9 pm
Friday…… 9:30 am- 5 pm
Saturday…….… 9:30 am– 5 pm
Sunday……. closed

Fire Department
Emergency 911
Non-emergency 561-9389

Municipal Court
Jodi Mack 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 2018-02

FROM YOUR MAYOR

Greetings, Watchung Residents,

I hope everyone has found some time to enjoy the summer. I initiated a landscaping project on my own, but quickly realized the need for some help if I was going to get it completed before autumn! All this rain has limited a bit of our outdoor activity this summer, but at least there are no issues with reservoir water levels this year!

As this is my last official newsletter as your Mayor, I would like to once again provide the introduction to what is going on in our great Borough.

The Watchung Council in April, and again in July, voted to NOT support future funding in the investment of a library facility in Watchung. As I have previously stated, a physical library presence in Watchung is vital should Watchung want to maintain its excellent reputation as one of New Jersey's "Best Places to Live" (New Jersey Monthly, September, 2017). At this writing, the Council also has refused residents' repeated requests to have a referendum on the November ballot to let the residents decide if Watchung should have its own library.

And the residents wish to be heard! Over 700 residents have signed a petition asking that the Council invest in a new library in Watchung. Over 100 emails have been received by the Mayor and Council in support of a new library, and requesting that a referendum be put on the ballot in November.

While not everyone uses the library, the services provided are diverse across all age groups, and its presence is foundational as a means to support and enhance our community. I have been talking for years about the need to find ways to build a stronger "sense of community". Along with our schools and places of worship, I have always advocated that there is no better source of community presence than the Watchung Library. In 2016, over 49,000 items were borrowed; 198 children's programs (4,398 kids in attendance) and over 200 adult programs (1,716 adults in attendance) were hosted by the Watchung Library. What happens to displaced programs like these, as well its participants? Do you believe that Warren's library can meet the needs of our residents in addition to those of its own deserved residents? Can you imagine the increased opportunities we would have if Watchung had a library with more space and a facility that could better meet the present and future needs of residents, for its programs, education and tutoring, awareness training, and technology and services, etc.?

Libraries play an important role in our society, and for many it serves as an "economic lifeline" (Market Watch: Personal Finance Daily, 07/25/18) to individuals looking for employment. As Watchung already experiences, its library serves many constituents of varied needs and age groups.

Real estate agents and agencies have come forward to argue the perceived benefits of a library to prospective homeowners. Most agree that many young families will look elsewhere (Warren, maybe?) if a library, like a good school, does not exist to enrich their children's education.

Please take note: the Council voted on April 19th and again on July 19th not to invest in a library facility, thereby taking a course that will eventually force the closure of the Watchung Library doors. Establishing "shared library services" with Warren and taking possession of the Firemen's Exempt Hall and trying to use it as a "community center" will not satisfy what the town needs, both in terms of library services and as it relates to a community center. The thought that a fifty year-old Exempt Hall can be retrofitted to meet the needs of a community center, without its integration with a facility providing library services, substantively "misses the boat" as it relates to the value provided when, alternatively, a professionally-staffed library and community center are physically integrated. Those closest to understanding the present and future needs of a library and community center will tell you that those needs could never be met by shared services and the Exempt Hall.

It is anticipated that the State will be issuing its application early this fall for NJ towns to apply for matching library state funding, free, on a first-come, first-serve, basis. Your Mayor and Council have worked hard to be fiscally responsible; however, the Council's decision not to bond for new library reconstruction will eliminate the Borough's opportunity to then apply to the state for 1:1 funding. By voting 5-1 to not invest in a library facility in Watchung your Council has essentially eliminated Watchung residents'

—Continued from page 1

opportunity to potentially secure, for free, a $1M-$1.5M investment in Watchung! This is fiscally irresponsible. This funding would have reduced effectively by half (equating to approximately an average of $40/household per year) the financial commitment that would be expected from each household for a new library. While some may say that Watchung will "save" by not building a library, on the contrary, ultimately this will hurt assessed property values and Watchung's stature and image; nothing will have been saved. All this, in addition to the incredible lifetime benefit and value a library could provide to all of its residents.

And Watchung will still have to pay the annual County Library Tax in excess of $875,000, regardless of whether Watchung has a library facility or not; so it is clear that Watchung will be getting even less benefit in return for this annual county tax. Watchung has precious little time to change its course, thus the reason for outlining again the issue. Contact your Mayor and Council now, if you have not done so already, to let them know what you are thinking.

On another important topic, Watchung has been a defendant in the Fair Share Affordable Housing litigation, and the Mayor and Council have been working very diligently on the issue. The Council voted in June to move forward with plans to build affordable housing units off of Bonnie Burn Road, as part of a market-priced development. These actions will effectively help Watchung meet its third-round affordable housing obligations. This was an extremely tough decision to have been made by the Mayor and Council. With a 3-3 vote, I cast the deciding vote. While this whole issue is of great concern (as it relates to e.g., impact to schools and traffic), four of us believed that not doing something now would have, with most certainty in my opinion, resulted in a judicial decision to declare "builders' remedy", legally then approving the construction of potentially double the number of homes, including low and moderate income homes. While I understand the impact of this vote on our residents, the impact to Watchung if builders' remedy is approved by the court would be catastrophic to the area. Watchung's decision to move forward is consistent with every other town in the area, most of whom have already worked through a settlement with NJ courts. The key is to now get judicial approval and then depend upon the Planning Board and Mayor and Council to ensure that a high quality development is the result.

Summer is also a time for road work, and the town is hard at work doing milling and paving (and possible drainage) in numerous locations, including (weather-permitting): Ellisen, Parlin, Phillip, East Drive, Carrar, Anderson (Upper), Lakeview, Shady Brook, King Richard, Sequoia, Bayberry (upper), Price, Old Somerset (East), Old Somerset (Orchard-Sunbright), Robin Glen, Stanie Brae, Johnston Drive (lower).
We believe the problem (gas station spillage) at the entrance to Watchung at Spratford Park finally has been remediated. The Texier House was painted and now plantings will be added. There are new plantings along Somerset Street. Plans also are being made now to extend, later this summer, one of the existing lake walkways to the 9/11 memorial, where personalized purchased bricks will be placed. We have initiated planning around the future dredging of Watchung Lake, as well the reinforcement of its embankment.

Two of my long-standing requests are being fulfilled: first, all Council meetings are now being videoed so that our residents have greater access to what takes place at Council meetings. Plans also are being made to purchase an electronic sign for the front of Borough Hall. This sign was a top priority identified as a result of the "after action review" I conducted with Borough leadership after the weather events of earlier this year. Office of Emergency Management continues to ensure that plans and provisions are in place for future emergency events; more information is to come on this, including what role Watchung residents can and need to play.

It has been a pleasure serving you as Mayor for what will be almost six years (in addition to eight years as a councilman) at the end of this year. A lot has been accomplished, and yet there is a great deal more to do; all of which I will discuss in a closing letter to you in December.

Best Regards,

Stephen K. Pote
Mayor

DUAL STREAM PILOT PROGRAM

County Recycling Program will undergo some changes soon!

The Borough is a participant in the house to house recycling program with Somerset County. The County will be making some changes to the program very soon. Some highlights follow:

1. The county will be distributing two (2) separate 65 gallon totes (containers) to residential property owners. One (1) tote will have a lime green lid and the other will have a yellow lid. Residents will receive these totes (containers) from the County free of charge. But if you move from Somerset County, these totes are to be left at the residence for the new owner.
2. The 65 gallon lime green lid tote will be for newspapers, junk mail, magazines, catalogues, envelopes, corrugated cardboard, paperback books, most types of paper, etc. The 65 gallon tote with the yellow lid is for aluminum, all glass bottles, glass jars, plastic containers, etc.
3. Not all of the Borough will begin this modified County program at the same time. The western part of the borough along with the far north end (Ridge Road, High Tor, Phillip Lane, etc.) will commence soon.
4. The County stipulates that these totes are to be used for recycling only. Continue to place totes curbside the night before the regularly scheduled pick-up. The County asks that totes not be placed behind vehicles, mailboxes, utility poles, etc. so that the totes can be more easily picked up by the County crew. also, the County cannot take plastic bags, styrofoam, garbage cans, flower pots or kitty litter containers.
5. The County will be sending out information through the media shortly. Any questions should be directed to the County Recycling Division who can be reached at 732-469-3363, Thank you for your cooperation and participation.

LYME DISEASE

Lyme disease is transmitted through the bite of an infected tick. The ticks are often found on the body in the groin area, armpits, and scalp. Typical symptoms of Lyme disease are fever, headache, fatigue and sometimes a skin rash that looks like a bull's eye. The good news is that Lyme disease is preventable. It is preventable because ticks need to be attached to you for a fairly long time for them to transmit the disease.

To prevent Lyme disease:

- Remove tick habitats (high grass and weeds).
- Avoid walking in wooded, bushy areas with high grass or leaves and when walking in the woods, walk in the center of the trails.
- Use an insect repellent that contains at least 20% DEET when outdoors.

Perform "tick-checks" regularly (at least daily) to prevent ticks from attaching and follow the steps below to remove identified ticks.

Use a fine-tipped tweezers and grasp tick as close to the skin as possible.
Pull upward with a steady, even pressure.
After removing tick, thoroughly clean the bite.

If you feel that you have been exposed to Lyme disease, please contact your physician.

PET WASTE

The Health Department continues to receive complaints of pet waste not being picked up and being left on the ground. This is a violation of local ordinances. It also represents a public health hazard to humans and pets as it can transmit disease. For the health and enjoyment of all, please clean up after your pet and be sure to wash your hands!

RABIES CLINIC

The **Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission** will be offering multiple rabies clinics in the fall, one of which will be held in Watchung, tentatively scheduled as noted below. Please call to confirm the date and time in the fall. Rabies vaccination is the best defense for our pets. If your pet has been previously vaccinated the health department recommends that your dog or cat be vaccinated every other year. If your pet has not been vaccinated against rabies, now is the time. **The clinic is free to all.**

DATE: Saturday, December 1, 2018
TIME: 9:00 am to 10:00 am
WHERE: Watchung Fire House, Mountain Boulevard, Watchung, NJ

ELECTION TIME LINES

October 16, 2018	Last day to register to vote for the General Election
October 30, 2018	Last day Vote By Mail request forms must be received by County
November 5, 2018	Last day to apply for Mail-in-Ballot in Person (must be done at the County Clerk's office, 20 Grove St., Somerville by 3:00 pm)

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. 6th: 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 —5:30 PM
On the Village Green

VETERANS DAY SERVICES

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

TREE OF LIGHTS CEREMONY

December 1st on the Village Green
Fireworks on the Lake, Food & Refreshments

"GREEN TIPS" from the ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

** RECYCLE! Read through the SOMERSET COUNTY RECYCLING brochure to see the rules for curbside recycling and a complete how-to guide, plus a list of dates for shredding, electronic waste recycling, and hazardous waste recycling. Take plastic bags to Shop Rite or Kings for recycling. Plastic bottle caps can be recycled at the library (they are thrown away by the county). Go to www.co.somerset.nj.us/recycle

**Try ORGANIC, NATURAL WEED CONTROL on your property. Chemical products like Roundup are damaging and toxic to wildlife and spread easily through the air or rainwater to your neighbors' yards. This easy-to-make recipe really works and is totally non-toxic: 1 gallon organic vinegar with 20% acidity (not normal vinegar, which has only 5% acidity) + 1 tbsp dishwashing liquid. Mix and spray or pour. Apply on a warm, sunny day when no rain is predicted for at least 2 days.

**COMPOST coffee grounds, tea bags, eggshells, vegetable and fruit scraps, and leaves and grass that haven't been treated with chemicals. This will give your garden a boost and reduce what goes into landfills.
**Bring your own REUSABLE SHOPPING BAGS and produce bags to the supermarket. Take cloth or other reusable bags to any store you visit so you won't need the plastic bags they offer.

**Consider driving a HYBRID or ELECTRIC CAR. They drive like any other car and the only difference you'll notice is how little you spend on gas!

**BUY GREEN PRODUCTS, such as: cleaners made of plant materials (like 7th GENERATION), no VOC paint, and products made of recycled materials, like notebooks, copy paper, countertops, tile, doormats, and napkins and other personal paper products (all MARCAL products are made from recycled paper, not trees!).

**Give up plastic water bottles. Use a WATER FILTER at home and carry a PERSONAL REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE with you.

**PLANT FOR POLLINATORS. Many pollinators are threatened or endangered. Butterfly bushes and milkweed are great for pollinators. Milkweed is the only place Monarch Butterflies lay their eggs and the only food source for their larvae.

**Use a NATURAL or ORGANIC DRY CLEANER, instead of one that uses harsh chemicals.

**RECYCLE CLEAN, WHITE STYROFOAM (non-food) year round, 24/7/365 in outdoor bins at FOAM PACK 72 Fadem Rd. in Springfield (just off of Rt. 22). Google them for more info or call 973-376-3700

**DEER REPELLENTS work well for plants and shrubs. Spray later in the day to avoid affecting active pollinators.

**TRIM TREES AND BUSHES LATER in spring or in the fall to avoid disrupting nesting birds and their offspring. Keep in mind nests are often well-hidden. Dead and downed trees and stumps provide homes for birds and other wildlife and provide food as they decay.

**DON'T LAUNCH HELIUM BALLOONS. The materials can be deadly to land and sea creatures that might mistake them for food.

**LIMIT FERTILIZERS. They can run off into waterways and cause undesirable water conditions, like algae bloom.

**USE TRAPS, NOT D-CON, to remove mice and rats from your home. Non-targeted animals can be impacted or killed by the poison of D-CON. For rodent protection, seal up cracks to the exterior of your house.

**Use PAPER STRAWS rather than plastic ones.

**RESPECT WILDLIFE. Wildlife helps the environment! Opossums can eat up to 5,000 ticks per season and do not carry Lyme disease. Spiders are beneficial and eat many of the insect pests that bother us. Save wildlife rather than kill them. Drive defensively in areas where there are deer and other animals and obey speed limits to avoid collisions.

** DISPOSE OF FISHING LINES PROPERLY, as carelessly discarded lines can entangle lake and sea creatures.

** Use a CAR WASH that RECYCLES WATER it uses.

Thank you for "Keeping It Green"!!!

WATCHUNG HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

The Historical Committee continues to explore a suitable home for the Watchung Mural and we hope to make a recommendation soon. In the meantime, we are proceeding with the complete renovation and restoration of the Mural. We are using the grant money from the Somerset County and Cultural and Heritage Commission to complete the first step which includes mounting the Mural on appropriate backing. The goal is to make sure the Mural can be moved again without a major process in case it is ever necessary. This will be completed by the end of the year and then we will continue to raise funds to complete the renovation.

The video, *Reflections of Watchung, A Historical Journey into its Roots and Vibrant Past* is complete. This set of three DVDs contains abut six hours of material and will be presented to the public in early fall. I know all our residents will be pleased with the outcome of this project. Although many people have worked on this video over the years and have contributed to its content, we must single out and thank Historical Member Chris Vander Fliet who is largely responsible for putting it all together and getting it done!

Another exciting project has been to copy and preserve the Civil War Diary of Captain Willian Davis Purlin so that it can be viewed and read by the public. Captain Parlin was the father in law of Congressman Charles Eaton. The diary was gifted to us from his great-grandson, former Watchung resident Charles A. Eaton, III. Captain Parlin led the first battalion of black soldiers freed during the war. It is a fascinating glimpse into the thinking of the past. We also have on display Captain Perlin's cap, glasses, and the bullet that grazed his neck! Worth seeing, so please com visit. This is a treasure for the Texier House.

We will be participating in Somerset County's Weekend Journey to the past again this year. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 13, 2018 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday, October 14, 2018 from 12 noon to 4:00 PM. We will be highlighting our video and the Civil War Diary. Last year, about 99 people from all over the state and out of state came to visit and the feedback was very positive about our little local museum!

Since the last Newsletter, the Committee has welcomed Amber Murad, Mary Ann Weber and Ralph Diem as members. We still have one vacancy on the Committee, so if you have any interest in becoming a member of the Committee, please contact me. We are a busy Committee with a long "to do" list, but it is fascinating work and there is never a dull moment. Think about joining us.

Dorothy Addario, Chair, 908-757-0862 or cell 908-313-4940, or email DTAddario@optonline.net

Current Historical Members

Betty Jean Aldrich, Co-Chair
Chris Blackadar, Secretary
Mary Ann Weber, Financial Manager
Seth Alexander
Ralph Diem
Tim Logan
Amber Murad
Betse Titus
Chris Vander Fliet
Barbara Diem, Life Member Emeritus
Dave Mobus, Council Liaison

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. Although no final decision has been made by the Borough Council at this time, we need to be prepared and ready in the event a program is authorized. 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 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 22, 2018. The continuation of the deer management program is strongly recommended by the Borough Wildlife Management Advisory Committee. Pursuant to Section 2-44.3b of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Watchung, you, as a property owner participating in the BOROUGH DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, are hereby notified that this "Authorization Letter" could become a government record subject to public disclosure under the Open Public Records Act. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Thank you,

Thomas E. Atkins

Thomas E. Atkins,
Borough Administrator
908-756-0080

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 BOROUGH DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM in the Borough of Watchung. The program will run Monday thru Friday, dawn to dusk. Dates to be determined by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and will be posted on the Borough website. You will be notified in writing two weeks prior to the start of the cull. Please return to the attention of Linda Monetti at Borough Hall.

Date: _____

Property Address: _____

Phone # Home: _____ Cell:_____

#1 Owner (Print Name) _____

Signature: _____

#2 Owner (Print Name): _____

Signature: _____

2018 WATCHUNG RECREATION NEWS

The Commission has partnered with Warren, Green Brook and Long Hill Townships to offer many new programs and trips! Click on the Community section of our web page at www.watchungnj.gov to see details of all the programs, trips and events being offered!

SAVE THE DATES

Movie Night and the PTO Ice Cream Social

Friday September 14th, Phillip's Field
Ice Cream Social Starts @ 6:30 pm
Movie Starts at 7:30pm
Serving Popcorn & Beverages

JERRY MOBUS MEMORIAL FISHING DERBY

Saturday, Sept. 22nd 9:00 AM – NOON (Rain Date Sept. 23rd)
WATCHUNG LAKE
Prizes, Trophies and Refreshments!

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday, Oct. 13th, 1:00pm – 4:00pm (Rain Date Oct. 14th)
Mobus Field
Contests, Haystacks, Pumpkin Painting, Music, Amusements & Refreshments!

We hope you will join the Watchung Recreation Commission for these fun and FREE activities for the whole family!

WATCHUNG RECREATION COMMISSION Coordinator/Secretary – L. Monetti,
Chairman – B. Jacques, Vice Chairman C. Zaikov, Council Liaison – D. Mobus,
Members – J. Pennett, M. Onuska, M. Weber, C. Taylor, M. Candiloros, A. Murad

The Garden Club of Watchung
An Open Invitation

THE GARDEN CLUB of WATCHUNG

The Garden Club of Watchung is a non-profit organization serving Watchung for over 60 years. Join our active club and become involved in adding beauty to our community. Activities include maintaining our gardens in Watchung, informative lectures, and workshops. We visit gardens, nurseries, arboretums, parks, historical sites, and museums, for pleasure and to increase our gardening knowledge.

Our club strives to protect our natural environment by planting flowers and shrubs that support the proliferation of our birds, bees and butterflies. We have an active Youth Gardening Group at Bayberry School for children in fourth grade. Garden Club members are also volunteers on the Borough's Traffic and Beautification Commission.

Our annual Spring Plant sale and other fund raisers enable us to purchase plants and flowers for our Deer Resistant Garden, Blue Star Memorial Garden and the triangle garden on the circle.

Join us for our 2018 Fall fund raiser. "Seasonal Splendor" at Watchung Valley Golf Club, November 14th, 11:30-2:30. Enjoy a three-course luncheon followed by a demonstration of floral designs by Beth Riley of The Potted Garden.

We are proud members of The Garden club of New Jersey and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. which is the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world.

Telephone (908)754-5766 for membership information. Visit our FaceBook page to see who we are and what we do.

ENVIRONMENTAL

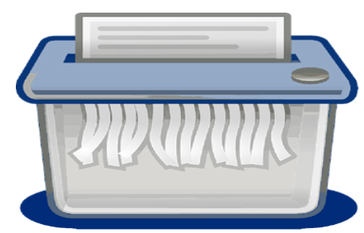
TREE REMOVAL PERMITS

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 22, 2018 - Branchburg
October 20, 2018 - Green Brook
October 6, 2018 – Montgomery
January 19, 2019—Bridgewater

*Call **908-203-6018** or go to publicworks@co.somerset.nj.us or www.co.somerset.nj.us/shredding for exact locations and/or questions.*
*All events are **9 AM to 1 PM** Rain or Shine*

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Department of Public Works will have a **Fall Leaf Cleanup** beginning November 5th thru November 30th. This is for **leaves only** to be recycled.

Leaf pickup is limited to high density areas located within the following streets: Brookdale, Stirling, and Hillcrest Roads north to Evergreen Lane; Mountain Boulevard from Washington Drive to Rock Avenue; Johnston Drive to the water tower including Upper Drive and Johnston Drive Extension. **Outside of these areas you must call for a pickup.**

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 OR 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 driveway into the street. Please advise your snow plow contractors.

IF YOU SEE A HYDRANT BLOCKED BY SNOW, Please call Maria at (908)756-0091

DO NOT BLOW LEAVES OR DUMP GRASS CLIPPINGS IN WATER CULVERTS IF ON YOUR PROPERTY!!!!

****

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.

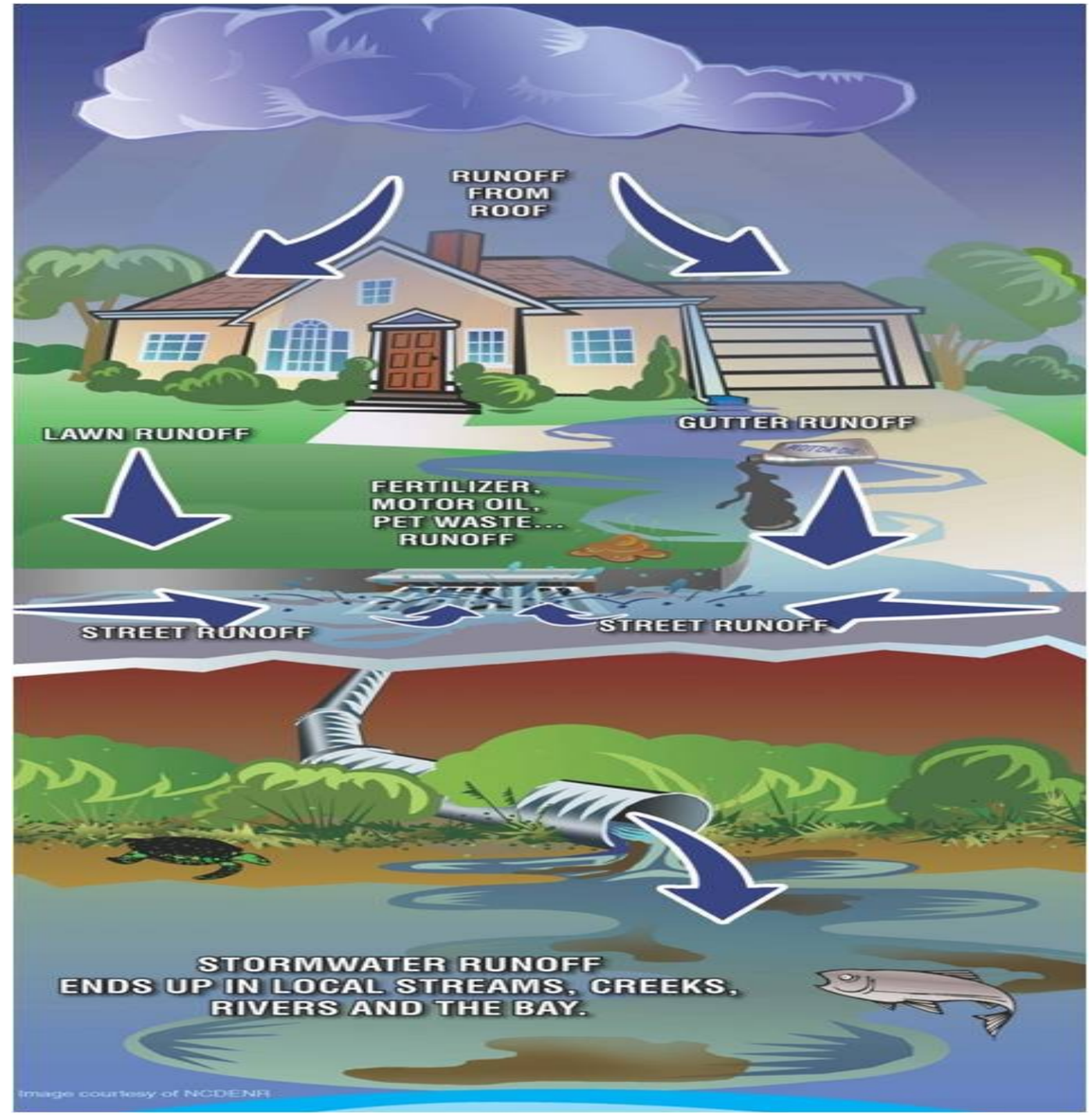
Our Borough's emergency managers, firefighters, law enforcement officers, EMT/paramedics, and other emergency responders do an incredible job of keeping us safe, but they cannot do it alone. We must all embrace our personal responsibility to be prepared – in doing so; we contribute to the safety and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

STORM WATER REGULATIONS

Clean water is up to you

For more information: www.cleanwaternj.org



Watchung Residents:

As we all enjoy the weather during the summer and fall, let's not forget that Mother Nature is busy preparing. As February 2018 was ending many of us were hoping for an early spring, but storms Quinn, Riley, Skylar and Toby had other plans for the month of March.

A little planning and preparing now could go a long way during a prolonged weather event. Here are a few things to consider in advance:

-be prepared to shelter in place for 3 days
-have enough nonperishable food for all household members
-a manual can opener
-have 1 gallon of water per person, per day on hand
-fill prescriptions in advance
-a battery operated radio for information and updates
-batteries
-flashlights
-fuel up your car before the storm arrives
-keep some cash in case banks are closed and ATM's are not working
-sign up for Nixle alerts
-check Watchung Borough's official Facebook page for updates

I'm sure there are other things specific to your needs and your household that you can think of, and we strongly recommend that you take some time now to identify and secure those items.

Please take a few moments to check out the www.fema.gov and www.ready.gov websites for additional information related to storm preparation and recovery. Also, if you don't already have one, there are two-sided refrigerator magnets available at Borough Hall with many helpful phone numbers, tips and reminders to help you prepare for and recover from a prolonged weather event.

To ensure that you are receiving accurate and reliable information during any local emergency including traffic alerts, storms, bear sightings, etc. please sign up to receive Nixle alerts and visit Watchung Borough's official Facebook page. Nixle is the Borough's emergency notification system and you can sign up to receive alerts by texting the word Watchung to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com for further information. If you have any trouble signing up to receive Nixle alerts, please don't hesitate to call police headquarters for assistance at (908) 756-3663.

Please feel free to contact me with your questions, comments, or suggestions by emailing me at jcina@watchungpd.com or calling (908) 756-3663 ext. 117.

Chief Joseph R. Cina
Watchung PD

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 11:00 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.** Guest speakers, trips & FUN PARTIES.

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!
Contact Information: (732) 968-7843

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

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 its continued support of our organization. Your **100% Volunteer Fire Department** could not continue to provide this life saving service without your generous contributions.

THANK YOU!