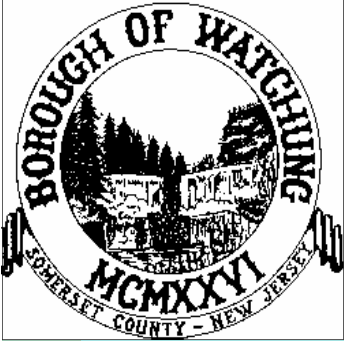


FALL 2005



PUBLISHED BY THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

The Borough of Watchung Community Newsletter

Mayor's Message

As we are looking toward the end of summer, I am sure residents are as pleased as I am to see several projects moving along that have been "in the wings" for some time. On the down side is the inconvenience a project causes to a neighborhood. The Washington Rock Road/Rock Road East Intersection is a perfect example. I want to thank those residents whose properties have been affected. They have shown a great deal of patience during this project. Those of you who use the road on a regular basis have also shown great patience dealing with the condition of the road. I'm told the road will be open for the beginning of school.

A contract has been awarded to Tomaro Contracting of Rockaway to do drainage improvements and reconstruction on Anderson Road and this project should be starting the first week in September. Design plans for the Orchard/Cory/Sunbright/Eaton Road Sanitary Sewer and Water Project and are moving along and we will schedule an information meeting for the residents before the end of September.

Bids received on the sanitary sewer repair project for the Spencer Lane/Fawn Drive area came in higher than the engineer's estimates, so the project will have to be rebid. Field work has begun for drainage projects on Joan Drive and Ridge Road in the Crestwood Drive area.

People cannot drive along Valley Road and not see the "green" hue of Best Lake. An article in another part of this newsletter gives reasons for the Lake's poor condition, but it also relates that the Borough has issued a final design contract for the remediation, dredging and dam reconstruction to bring Best Lake back to good health.

We have reached an agreement with Estate trustees for purchase of the 20 acre "Ness Farm" and will finalize the agreement with the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey. The plan is to create a great recreation area with several all purpose fields and trails. I will be putting together a task force that will develop a plan in a similar way we planned Watchung Lake.

The Library Advisory Committee has been meeting this summer and will be reporting to the Council their suggestions for the future of the facility. I am looking forward to their report. Please note that due to structural concerns the bridge to the Library and Seniors Room has been closed to both vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

I have received notice from the Somerset County Freeholders that, as part of their municipal out-reach program the boulevard improvements for Somerset Street from Veterans Memorial Park to Watchung Circle, approximately 0.6 miles, are being considered for their capital plan for 2006. We are sending in our comments and we will coordinate our plans for "Spratford Park" with the project.

Welcome to Dr. Pat Parenty on his return as interim School Superintendent for the Watchung Schools. I look forward to continued cooperation with him and the Watchung Board of Education. "Thanks" to our Borough staff and volunteers for their continued excellent service in the "wonderful Watchung spirit" that continues to make our community unique. Don't forget the September 11 Memorial Ceremony scheduled for 5:00 PM on that day.

Looking forward to seeing you at the *MAYOR'S REGATTA* ON September 25th.

Mayor, Al Ellis

FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The 2005 Leaf Pickup will commence on November 1, 2005 and continue until December 2, 2005. All leaves **must be in BIO-DEGRADABLE PAPER BAGS** and placed on the grass area close to the road. **NO PLASTIC BAGS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR PICKUP.** Pickups will not be scheduled for any specific time or location.

Leaf pickup is limited to high density areas located within the following areas: Brookdale, Stirling and Hillcrest Roads north to Evergreen Lane; Mountain Blvd from Washington Drive to Rock Ave.; Johnston Drive to the water tower including Upper Drive and Johnston Drive Extension. All residents are urged to utilize their leaves as compost; however, should any resident in a rural area desire pickup of leaves in BIODEGRADABLE PAPER BAGS ONLY, call the office of Public Works at 756-0080, ext.35. Due to the State's New Stormwater Regulations, the Borough now has an ordinance prohibiting placement of leaves in the street.

Old man Winter is just around the corner. The Public Works Department works hard to maintain public streets, thoroughfares and right-of-ways clear for safe passage of vehicular traffic during and following periods of snowfall.

Public Works would like to remind residents that the pushing/plowing of snow onto Borough roads is prohibited by ordinance. Please take the time to advise your contractors. Remember, the icing over of residual snow in the roadways creates unnecessary safety hazards and removal takes a severe toll on the Borough's equipment. For further information regarding property maintenance and snow removal, visit http://www.codedsystems.com/watchung_nj.htm to review the Watchung Borough code and check



SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

Dear Residents:

With shrinking federal and state resources for public education, the Watchung Borough School District would like to establish an independent, private foundation to fund programs and activities that will enrich student learning.

The Watchung Education Foundation would be a non-profit, philanthropic, community-based organization. The goal is to enhance education through innovative and creative projects that will enhance current curricula and improve technology.

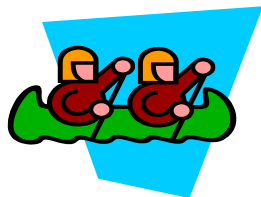
We are seeking prospective trustees to serve on the foundation board to assist in fundraising and distribution of grant funds. The most successful foundations include a broad array of volunteer trustees, including parents, local business leaders and senior citizens.

Education foundations provide an essential link between the schools and the community, and ongoing success is dependent on getting a number of citizens involved. In late September, we will host a meeting to explain a more detailed understanding of the foundation and its proposed activities. If you'd like to learn more, please call Margaret Weidlich, 756-6427



Recreation

MAYOR'S REGATTA



The **2nd Annual Watchung Mayor's Regatta on the Lake** will be held on Sunday, September 25, 2005 from 2-4 pm, at Watchung Lake. Watchung residents and their friends are welcome to watch Borough officials and employees, local teachers from Valley View Middle and Bayberry Elementary Schools, Watchung Fire, Rescue Squad and Police Department officials, Watchung Committee members, the Boy Scouts, and other groups participate. The purpose of the Mayor's Regatta is to provide the community an opportunity to meet and cheer on those who are dedicated in serving our community so well! The Mayor welcomes all Watchung residents (including children) to attend. Come out to root for the Mayor's team or a favorite teacher! Light refreshments will be served. No Fee for Watchung Residents.



Watchung Recreation Annual Harvest Festival will be held on October 29, 2005—Rain Date Oct. 30th. The costume parade starting from Valley View School will begin at 3:00 and lead to the festival at Mobus field. Inflatables, DJ, games, prizes, ponies, light refreshments and more will add to the fun. Enter the scarecrow decorating contest and vote for your favorite. Bring your camera to this exciting family day! 3:00 pm—5:00 pm. No Fee for Watchung Residents.



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Women's Volleyball is a pick up style and older. The program starts mid October and School 7:00 pm—9:00 pm. No Fee for Watchung



league for Watchung Women 18 years meets on Monday nights at Valley View Residents.



Open Gym Basketball is a pick up style league for Watchung adults 18 years and older. This program starts in September and meets on Friday nights at Valley View School 7:00 pm—9:00 pm. No Fee for Watchung Residents.

Recreation and Travel Basketball leagues for 2-8th grade will begin registration in October. The season runs December through March.

Basketball for Warriors is a pick up style league for Watchung teens 9th—12th grade. Look for details in October.

Jr. Field Hockey is an starts September 11th and High School. \$40.00



instructional league for girls 6th—8th grade. This program (8 weeks) meets on Sundays at 1:00 pm or 2:00 pm at Watchung Hills Regional league fee includes uniform. **Volunteers needed.**

Coming Soon . . . On line registration for all recreation programs!!
Visit our link on the Watchung Website
www.watchungnj.com

BEST LAKE UPDATE

Watchung residents have surely noticed the greenish hue taken on by the waters of Best Lake. Borough Officials are quite aware of the problem at Best Lake and are working toward a solution. The problem is algae growth and exists due to a shallow depth situation and lack of aeration in the Lake. In order to improve the quality of Best Lake it must be dredged, removing the silt that has settled on the bottom of the lake over the past several years. Dredging is part of the overall Best Lake Dam Rehabilitation Project. The project has just begun its Final Design stage after recently receiving approval from the Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Dam Safety and Flood Control. The Bureau approved the Class III, low-hazard classification and the 100-year storm for the spillway design storm as recommended in the Hazard Classification Study submitted by Civil Dynamics, a consultant to the Borough. During the next several months the Borough will work with Civil Dynamics to design Best Lake Dam Rehabilitation Project, which includes dredging and reconstruction of the dam and spillway. Once final design is completed and the project construction has been funded, the permit applications will be submitted to the Bureau for approval. After receiving the permits the project will go out to bid, construction can begin and residents can look forward to a clean and improved Best Lake once again.



Borough of Watchung Resident Email

To sign up for the Borough of Watchung Resident Email mailing list, go to the bulletin board on www.watchungnj.com and click on Watchung Resident Email Mailing List. Follow the instructions for filling out the form. When the form is completed submitted, you will receive an email confirming your subscription. **YOU MUST REPLY TO THIS EMAIL TO CONFIRM YOUR SUBSCRIPTION.** If you do not follow the instructions on the email and reply to it, you are not signed up to receive emails. This confirmation eliminates the possibility of people signing other people up for the service without their knowledge. You can cancel or amend your subscription by logging on to <https://mail.watchungnj.net/mailman/listinfo/watchung-news>. Your information is kept private and can only be seen by the list administrator. Contact bhance@watchungnj.com with any questions or problems.



Planning to Sell your home?

All private wells must be tested by a certified lab and septic systems must be inspected and certified by an engineer or other qualified inspector. All certifications must be submitted to the Health Department for approval. You may obtain applications for these permits at the Watchung Municipal Building, 15 Mountain Blvd., Watchung, NJ 07069.

All homes, under Law, must have a smoke and carbon monoxide detector inspection prior to closing. Please give yourself adequate lead time for these required inspections. Please call 908-756-0080, ext. 35 to schedule an inspection.

WATCHUNG



FIRE DEPT.

During the first half of 2005, the Watchung Volunteer Fire Department responded to 139 calls and held 14 training drills totaling of 1300 man-hours.

Fire Prevention Week is October 9th to the 15th. This year's theme is "Use Candles with Care, When you go out, Blow Out!" Over the last decade, candle fires have tripled to over 18,000 a year.

Some tips for safe candle use are:



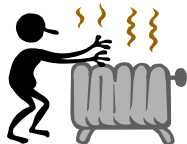
- 1) Use sturdy candle holders that won't tip or burn.
- 2) Use candles on sturdy uncluttered surfaces.
- 3) Keep lit candles at least 1 foot away from curtains, mattresses, and other combustibles.
- 4) Trim candle wicks to one-quarter inch before lighting.
- 5) When lighting candles, keep your hair and clothing away from the flame.
- 6) Extinguish candles when they burn to within two inches of their holder.
- 7) Never allow children to use candles in their bedrooms.
- 8) Avoid using candles during power outages. Have flashlights, batteries and battery-powered lights on hand for emergency lighting.



The Watchung Fire Department and the Bureau of Fire Prevention will be holding assemblies at the local schools during Fire Prevention Week. School art classes will also participate in the annual poster contests. There will be an Open House at the Firehouse at 57 Mountain Blvd., on Sunday, October 16th at 12:00 noon.

Fall and winter safety tips:

- 1) Have fireplace and wood burning stove chimneys cleaned regularly.
- 2) Use space heaters with adequate ventilation. Store the fuel safely and clean up all spills before starting the heater.
- 3) Holiday lights—Use proper number of extension cords, do not use cords that are frayed, never run cords under carpeting or where they can become worn and shorted out, and do not overload electrical sockets.
- 4) Never start your car in an enclosed garage. This will lead to carbon monoxide poisoning and could be fatal.



Fire Safety in the Home



Things you can do to prevent fires in your home and help you get out safely if you do have a fire:

- 1) Perform a home safety inspection. Examine every room of your house. Check all electrical cords for loose, frayed wires, make sure combustibles are far enough away from heat sources, gasoline and flammable liquids are stored properly in metal cabinets, clean up leaks and dispose of the rags properly.
- 2) Check smoke detectors regularly.
- 3) Have at least 1 fire extinguisher on each floor of your home.
- 4) Plan and practice **EDITH** (Exit Drills in the Home). Make an escape plan of your house with 2 ways out of each room. Have a common meeting place outside. Hold practice drills so everyone knows what to do in case of emergency.

Help us find you in case of an emergency. House numbers should be clearly visible to all emergency services. Numbers should be a minimum of 3” and reflective. It is recommended that these markings be on a mailbox or lawn marker at the street. Valuable time can be lost trying to determine the correct address for our response.

Remember on October 29th, when you change your clocks, change your smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries. Detectors of each type should be properly installed on each level of your home for your safety. Test your detectors at least once a month.



HYDRANTS



Being able to quickly find a hydrant can save precious time in an emergency. If you have a hydrant on or near your property - clear snow from around them in the winter and in the summer keep grass and weeds trimmed. PLEASE ADOPT A HYDRANT AND HELP OUT!

The Watchung Volunteer Fire Department is always in need of new members. Any person, 16 years of age or older with a desire to serve their community, can join. The department has many responsibilities to perform, from firefighters to drivers and pump operators. Training is provided at no cost to you. If you would like to know more about membership, please stop at the firehouse at 57 Mountain Blvd., on Sunday mornings between 10:00 AM and 12:00 noon or call (908)561-9389 and leave a message with your name and phone number.

Dog Licenses

Dog licenses are due during the month of **January**. *The most efficient method is to mail your license request to Borough Hall.* Simply enclose a copy of the updated rabies certificate (**the State Board of Health requires that the vaccination against rabies be valid through December of the license year**) with your check for payment, and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. *Using this method will alleviate the inconvenience of waiting at Borough Hall.* Licenses can also be purchased in person Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

All original documentation will be mailed to you with the license and tag. A license cannot be issued without proof of a current vaccination. All dogs seven months of age or older must be licensed. Please use this form to mail your request to the Board of Health, 15 Mountain Blvd., Watchung, NJ 07069.

Owner's Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Dog: Male _____ Female _____ Breed: _____ Date of birth: _____

Hair: Long _____ Medium _____ Long: _____ Color/markings: _____

Dog's Name: _____ Address of different from above: _____

Neutered _____ Spayed _____ Rabies inoculation (compulsory) Date expires: _____



Proof of rabies vaccination must be sent with this application.

Veterinarian's Name: _____

Fee Schedule

License Fee:	\$ 6.80
*Non-neutered/spayed fee:	\$ 3.00
State fee:	\$ 1.20
Additional fees:	
<u>Late fee after Jan. 31st</u>	<u>\$ 2.00</u>

Fee Calculation

License Fee: \$ 6.80

Non-neuter Fee _____
(\$3.00)

State Fee: \$ 1.20

Late Fee: (\$2.00) _____
After Jan. 31st

Total Due: \$ _____

Make check payable to: Borough of Watchung

Environmental Commission



VOLCANOES KILLING TREES IN WATCHUNG

Mulching has recently introduced volcanoes to many lawns in our community.

Proper mulching and especially in new plantings is an accepted and recommended practice that will enhance the soil conditions for optimum root growth. This can be the difference between success and failure of the tree or shrub.

Starting approximately 6" from the trunk spreading outward to at least the dripline of the tree, apply mulch to a maximum depth of 2" – 4". For extra weed avoidance, a woven landscape fabric can be put under the mulch. Never pile mulch up against the trunk as this can cause decline and death of the tree in several ways. Mulch materials by their very nature retain moisture, which is good except where it prevents the exchange of gasses at the trunk. The above ground trunk tissues are different from the roots and will be damaged by excess moisture, eventually disrupting the natural uptake of water and nutrients from the roots, resulting in a stressed plant subject to any number of disease or insect problems.

Mulching over the recommended 2' – 4" maximum depth can also reduce the gas exchange in the root zone, harbor rodents that feed on roots or stems, increase soil moisture to harmful levels, and even kill by increasing soil temperatures during the mulch's decomposing process. Tree roots that may grow up into the cone of mulch on top of the soil cannot be healthy.

It is hard to convince homeowners of the dangers of improper mulching because it takes years for damage from the volcanoes to appear. By the time the tree starts to appear distressed, considerable growth time and mulch expense has been wasted.

If your plants are currently growing in a volcano type of situation and have been for several seasons, be very careful in trying to remedy the problem. Complete and rapid removal of excess mulch can do damage. Start by carefully, and with hand tools, removing some of the mulch away from the trunk and work your way outwards, being careful of damaging either the trunk or roots. It can be completed, again with care, at a later date.

Remember that volcanoes are **bad** and donuts are **good**.



"ICE" - IN CASE OF EMERGENCY



A campaign encouraging people to enter an emergency contact number in their mobile phone's memory under the heading **ICE** (In Case of Emergency), has rapidly spread throughout the world as a particular consequence of last week's terrorist attacks in London.

Originally established as a nation-wide campaign in the UK, **ICE** allows paramedics or police to be able to contact a designated relative/next-of-kin in an emergency situation.

The idea is the brainchild of East Anglian Ambulance Service paramedic Bob Brotchie and was launched in May this year. Bob, 41, who has been a paramedic for 13 years said: "I was reflecting on some of the calls I've attended at the roadside where I had to look through the mobile phone contacts struggling for information on a shocked or injured person. Almost everyone carries a mobile phone now, and with **ICE** we'd know immediately who to contact and what number to ring. The person may even know of their medical history."

By adopting the **ICE** advice, your mobile will help the rescue services quickly contact a friend or relative – which could be vital in a life or death situation. It only takes a few seconds to do and it could easily help save your life. Why not put **ICE** in your phone now? Simply select a new contact in your phone book, enter the word 'ICE' and the number of the person you wish to be contacted.

Fall Health News

Women's Health Screenings

Routine health screenings are vital to your health and everyone is encouraged to be screened. In order to help facilitate this for those who may not be financially able to afford routine medical care, the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission has entered into an agreement with the Women's Health and Counseling Center, located in Somerville, to provide low cost annual women's health screenings. This program will provide the following services:

Annual gynecological screening visit including:

- Medical History
- Physical
- Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening
- Patient Education

The cost of these services will be \$135.00. If follow-up is needed, the Women's Health & Counseling Center will work with the patient to assure a continuum of care, based on the patient's needs and financial status.

If you are interested in participating in this program please contact the Health Officer of the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission at 732-356-8090 ext. 252 or by e-mail at ksummer@middlebrookhealth.org.

RABIES CLINICS

DOGS & CATS

Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission is sponsoring free rabies clinics. The following are tentative dates and should be confirmed by calling: 732-356-8090 or 908-753-8000 ext.239 just prior to the clinic date.

Dogs must be on a leash and cats must be in a cat carrier.

Saturday Nov. 5, 2005

9:00 am to 10:00 am

So. Bound Brook Mun.Garage

44 Washington Avenue

So.Bound Brook, NJ

Saturday Nov. 19,2005

9:00 am to 10:00 am

Bound Brook Police Station

230 Hamilton Street

Bound Brook, NJ

11:00 am to 12:00 noon

Green Brook Fire House

115 Greenbrook Road

Green Brook, NJ

10:45 am to 12:00 noon

Middlesex Borough Garage

Main Street

Middlesex, NJ

Saturday, December 3, 2005

9:00 am to 10:00 am

Watchung Fire House

57 Mountain Blvd.

Watchung, NJ

INFLUENZA CLINICS

WATCH NEWSPAPERS AND CHANNEL 22 FOR DATES AND TIMES

Pre-registration is required for all clinics

Medicare Part B eligible customers will be provided the vaccination at no charge if they can provide a copy of their Medicare card. Others will be charged at a rate necessary to cover the costs of administration of the vaccine.

There may be restrictions as to who is eligible to receive the vaccination—but Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission will do everything in its power to see that those who are eligible and in need of the vaccination receive it. Please contact Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission at 732-356-8090 ext. 254 or 908-753-8000 ext. 239 for further information.

Pneumococcal vaccine will also be made available. The same guidelines as detailed for influenza will apply.

Tentative Schedule—Locations will be announced closer to the date of the clinic:

Wednesday, November 2, 2005:

Middlesex Borough

11:00 am to 12:00 noon

Bound Brook Borough

6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Thursday, November 3, 2005:

Warren Township

11:00 am to 12:00 noon

Thursday, November 17, 2005:

South Bound Brook Borough

11:00 am to 12:00 noon

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Watchung Radio 1610 AM

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www.watchungnj.com

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Watchung, NJ 07069

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Stephen L. Black
Michael Harding

Debra Joren
Gerald Mobus

Thomas Franklin
Stephen Pote

Administrator/Borough Clerk

Laureen B. Fellin 756-0080
lfellin@watchungnj.com

Municipal Court

Pamela Steves 757-1407
psteves@watchungnj.com

Public Works Facility

Charles Gunther 753-6115
cgunther@watchungnj.com

Construction Official Zoning Officer

Ed Bennett 756-6093
ebennett@watchungnj.com

Watchung Hills Regional High School

Grades 9 through 12
108 Stirling Road
Warren, NJ 07059
647-4800

Police

Emergency 911
Non-emergency 756-3663

Emergency Management

Contact Police Dept. 756-3663

Engineering Office

Tom Herits 756-0091
therits@watchungnj.com

Tax Assessor

David Gill 756-3366
dgill@watchungnj.com

Tax Collector

Catherine L. Park 756-8333
cpark@watchungnj.com

Bayberry Elementary School

Kindergarten through 4th Grade
Bayberry Lane
755-8184

Fire Department

Emergency 911
Non-emergency 561-9389

Watchung Arts Center

for information call: 561-0190

Watchung Public Library

Library Hours:

Monday/Thursday.....10am-9pm
Friday.....10am-4:30pm
Saturday.....10am-4pm
Sunday.....Closed
Closed Saturdays during July/Aug.
561-0117

Valley View Middle School

Grades 5 through 8
Valley View Road
755-4422