Mayor's Message

FALL 2010

PUBLISHED BY THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

The Borough of Watchung Community Newsletter

We are all asking the same question. Where did this summer go? Yes, we lived through very hot weather and really did not see much rain as we continued to be interrupted with ongoing roadwork. The Somerset Street project is almost complete, as we wait for PSE&G to add the balance of new streetlights. However, we will still be affected "traffic wise" with the ongoing work at the other end of the Borough, Route 22 Stage ll – Intersection Improvements from the Park Avenue ramp over Route 22 to Bonnie Burn Road.

The ramp over Route 22 will maintain one lane each direction, but the current left turn movement onto Bonnie Burn Road will be eliminated for approximately two months. Bonnie Burn road will be one-way Northbound, shifted onto the newly-constructed east side of the roadway for approximately .25 miles north of Route 22. Detour routes for the left turn movement and Bonnie Burn Road Southbound will be posted, using Valley Road.

We will begin work on Johnston Drive from Upper Drive to Woodledge in the fall, adding storm sewer and curbing. The small section of Valley Road to Bayberry Lane has been repaved and I no longer hear the noise of every truck as it passes by.

Tax bills were sent out late due to questions in Trenton about our removal this year of the 2 cent open space tax. It has been decided we have the ability to do so, however, in order to eliminate future questions, we will have a question on the November ballot to change the wording from "shall be" 2 cents to "up to" 2 cents. I want to thank Somerset County Clerk Brett Radi for his help in getting the question on this year's ballot.

September is National Preparedness Month and I have included a separate page noting quick tips for emergency preparedness. I'm sure you'll find them helpful.

On October 2 I'll be going to jail. No, it's nothing like some other Mayors in New Jersey. This sentence is for the Red Cross and you can get the details at their web site: http://american.redcross.org/goto/mayorellis. Please help me post bail for our Tri-County Chapter. The bail is $500 and if I raise it before October 2nd at the Fanwood Municipal Court then I don't have to go to jail and the Tri-County Red Cross will have the resources it needs to help families who lose their homes to fire, flood or other disasters. Your contribution of $5, $25, $50 or any amount goes to keeping me out of the pokey and ensuring no one in our community goes without shelter, food and clothing during a disaster.

We continue to explore shared services and we are working with Warren Township to set up a reverse 911 system. They have received a grant for this project and have invited us to participate. I believe this will be of great help in reaching our community in an emergency situation.

We are continuing the Harvest Festival on October 30th from 3 to 5 at Mobus Field and I hope to see you there.

Finally, this is my last newsletter as Mayor, as my term ends on December 31st. I want to thank all of you who have sent me well wishes. It is hard to believe 8 years have passed as your Mayor, as well as 15 years spent on the Council. It has been a very rewarding experience (not the kind one goes to jail for) and I am grateful to the staff and volunteers who have worked to make my service a pleasure. I must express my appreciation to our fine staff of employees for their patience and understanding through these years and I am extremely proud of our whole team. Last, but certainly not least, my wife Fran continues to be my most treasured confidant. Her observations, understanding and opinions continue to keep me focused on decisions that will be best for our Borough of Watchung.

Mayor Al Ellis

RECREATION

For information on programs and events

Check the recreation website at www.watchungrecreation.com

OR

The Borough website at www.watchungnj.com

SIMPLE SOLUTION TO HOUSEHOLD CLEAN-UP DISPOSAL

Many times during the year we receive phone calls on how to get rid of household debris before or after our annual clean-up in June. You should contact your private garbage hauler. However, there is a new way of collection called a "Bagster Dumpster". It is not for appliances, electronics, large stumps, etc. You may go online to www.TheBagster.com for more information.

WATCHUNG LIBRARY

Need more information? Call the Watchung Public Library at 908-561-0117

WATCHUNG ARTS CENTER

VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS

www.watchungarts.org

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: Look on the Bulletin Board and download the form into Microsoft Word. You can email the form to volunteer form @watchungnj.com.

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. (Circle those you would be interested in)

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	

Other (Explain) _____

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

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

HELPFUL HINTS ON WILDLIFE CONTROL

SNAKES IN HOUSES:

If a snake is in your home and hides before it can be caught, put wet cloths on the floor near where the snake may be hiding, and cover it with dry cloths or burlap bags. To keep other snakes from getting into the house block all points where they might enter-remember they can get through extremely small openings, and usually enter near or below ground level. Keep lawns closely mowed and weeds and brush controlled. Snakes like to hide under flat rocks, boards, trash piles and similar materials, so try to eliminate these sites.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A BEAR

REMEMBER - THE BEAR IS MORE AFRAID OF YOU THAN YOU ARE OF HIM

If you do see a bear or one comes into your yard:

- Remain calm. Make the bear aware of your presence.
- **Do Not** feed the bear.
- Keep at least 15 feet away from the animal.
- Make sure the bear has an escape route.
- Yell, stomp on the ground, wave your arms, bang pots and pans and back away slowly.
- hikers are encouraged to carry air horns and pepper spray.
- If the bear will not leave, move to your car, house, or other building, if available.

Note that the bear may make huffing sounds, snap its jaws, and swat the ground. THESE ARE WARNING SIGNS that you are too close. Slowly back away.

NEVER APPROACH THE BEAR

TIPS FOR PREVENTING UNWANTED BEAR ENCOUNTERS

- Keep garbage in an airtight plastic bag and place in a bear-proof or bear-resistant garbage cans.
- Double bag dirty baby diapers and use lime to reduce odors.
- Keep your deck, yard & barbeque grill clear of all food sources.
- Use electric fencing to protect caged and penned pets, farm animals and beehives.
- Feed birds only between November and April when most bears are hibernating and suspend bird feeders at least 12 feet off the ground and clean up any seed that falls to the ground.
- Pick ripe fruit from trees and remove fallen fruit from ground.
- Do not leave groceries or other attractants in your vehicle.
- Comply with the law. **NEVER INTENTIONALLY OR UNINTENTIONALLY FEED BEARS.**

BOARD OF HEALTH

RABIES CLINICS—Tentative Dates

The Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission will be offering one rabies clinic this winter to help our residents protect their pets against rabies. All residents are encouraged to have their dog or cat vaccinated against rabies. Spring will be upon us and we can expect to see a restart of rabies activity in our local wildlife. Along with this activity comes the increased risk of exposure to rabies. 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 clinics are free to all.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2010
9:00 AM TO 10:00 AM
South Bound Brook Municipal Garage
44 Washington Avenue
South Bound Brook, NJ

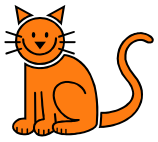
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2010
11:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON
Green Brook Fire House
115 Greenbrook Road
Green Brook, NJ

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2010
10:45 AM TO 12:00 NOON
Middlesex Borough Garage
Main Street
Middlesex, NJ

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2010
9:00 AM TO 10:00 AM
Watchung Fire House
57 Mountain Boulevard
Watchung, NJ 07069

DOGS MUST BE RESTRAINED ON A LEASH AND CATS MUST BE IN CAT CARRIERS

Dates and times are tentative and should be confirmed by calling: 732-356-8090
or
908-753-8000 ext.239 just prior to the clinic.



FLU AND PNEUMONIA CLINICS

CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND WATCHUNG TV CHANNEL 15 FOR DATES, LOCATIONS AND TIMES.
www.watchungnj.com
OR
Call: 732-356-8090, ext.254

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER

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 1st 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: Short _____ Medium _____ Long _____ Color/markings: _____

DOG'S NAME: _____ Address if Different from above_____

NEUTERED _____ SPAYED _____ RABIES VACCINE– DATE EXPIRES:_____
(Proof required)

VETERINARIAN'S NAME: _____

Proof of rabies vaccination MUST be sent with this application

Fee Schedule

License Fee -	$10.80
*Non-neutered/spayed fee -	$ 3.00
State Fees -	$ 1.20

Additional Fees:

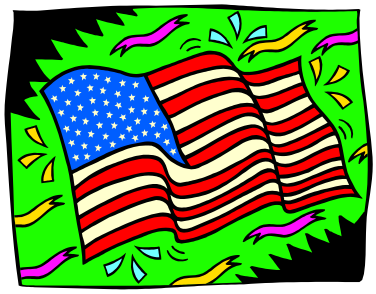
Late Fee after Jan. 31st -	**$2.00/dog**

PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31st

CHECKS PAYABLE TO BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

Fee Calculation

License Fee:	$10.80
Non-Neuter Fee **($3.00)**	$ _____
State Fee:	$ 1.20
ADD LATE FEE ($2.00/dog) (After Jan. 31st)	$_____
TOTAL DUE	**$_____**



Register and Vote!

Watchung residents age 18 and over may register to vote or request forms for Vote By Mail Application at the Borough Clerk's office, 15 Mountain Boulevard, Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 4 PM, or by calling 908 -756-0080 and requesting that forms be mailed. Either form may also be obtained through the Somerset County Government page on the Internet at http:// www.co.somerset.nj.us. Or Borough Website at: www.watchungnj.com

Qualifications to register to vote are:

18 years of age or older by the date of the election, citizen of the United States; a resident of New Jersey for at least thirty (30) days prior to the election; and a resident of Somerset County for twenty-one (21) days prior to the election.

Polls are open from 6 AM to 8 PM on election days. The County Clerk must receive request forms for Vote By Mail ballots not later than October 26, 2010 -7 days prior to the election.

The ***Last Day*** to register to vote for the November 2nd General Election is Tuesday, October 12, 2010

Vote By Mail Law

The following are some significant changes with the new law:

1. An applicant can apply once for all elections in a calendar year.
2. An applicant can apply once for all future general elections. This means they actually get a ballot automatically every November. The old law only provided for an application to be sent.
3. All applications must be received in the Office of the County Clerk 7 days prior to an election. Not postmarked, but physically received.
4. An individual may still come in person up to 3 pm. the day before the election. A voter may also send an authorized messenger up to 3 pm the day before as well. The major difference is that the voter no longer has to be sick or confined to have a messenger. A single messenger can only pick up 10 ballots statewide for an election and cannot be a candidate in that election.
5. There is no longer a permanent and totally disabled category. Those voters are likely to become individuals who check the A box and receive ballots for all elections in a calendar year.
6. The old yellow applications for military voters are no longer valid. There is a special status box on the Vote by Mail Application that can be checked.
7. The new application is available on the County's website at:

www.co.somerset.nj.us/clerk or at the Borough's website at www.watchungnj.com.

FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The 2010 Leaf Pickup will commence on November 1, 2010 and continue through December 3rd. All leaves **must be in BIODEGRADABLE 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. **PLEASE NO GARBAGE IN BAGS!**

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 756-0091, ext.214. 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 the bulletin board on our borough website @ www.watchungnj.com.

The Watchung Hills Municipal Alliance
ANNOUNCES
The Alliance 5K Certified Run
Fitness 1 Mile Walk

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31 AT 9:00 a.m.
(on-site registration begins at 8:00 a.m.)
LOCATION: WATCHUNG LAKE
Brookdale Road
Watchung n.j.07069
You can register at https://register.bestrace.com/register/?event=2134
Any questions call Kim Otto or Jack Walsh
(908)-578-4404 or (908)-561-8883

Why should we be environmentally conscious freaks?

Have you often wondered what difference you will make in all the hype from the dry, obtuse information from environmentalists who don't take into account the reality of our daily lives? Well, here are a few practical things we found that will make a difference.

Trash bags

Use leftover paper or plastic bags as liners for your trashcans or recycle them. When one ton of plastic bags are reused, the energy equivalent of eleven barrels of oil is saved. When one ton of paper bags are reused, up to seventeen trees are spared.

Light Bulbs

Dust your light bulbs and change them – to compact fluorescent – only when they burn out. You'll increase energy efficiency and light output and because electricity production generates pollution, you'll also help promote cleaner air. If every American home changed just 5 regular light fixtures or bulbs with more energy-efficient compact fluorescent ones, we'd keep more than one trillion pounds of greenhouse gases out of our air – equal to the emission of eight million cars. That's $6 billion in energy savings for Americans.

Existing Lawn Irrigation/Sprinklers

Consider installing a rain sensor to override your automatic sprinkler cycle during and after rain events. Your water consumption (and your water bill) could drop up to 30 percent per year.

Use fewer paper napkins

There is no need to grab a huge stack of napkins from the concession stand when you use only one or two. Each American consumes an average of 2,200 standard two-ply napkins per year or approximately 6 per day. If everyone used an average of one few napkin per day, more than a billion pounds of napkins could be saved from landfills each year. A stack of napkins this size could fill the entire Empire State Building.

User ceramic or reusable mugs for your coffee at work

We use more than fourteen billion paper cups every year, enough to circle the world fifty-five times. The Styrofoam kind will stay on the plant for nine generations.

Outdoor Furniture

Purchase outdoor patio furniture made from recycled materials instead of from wood or metal. One bench made from recycled materials can prevent the equivalent of two thousand plastic bottles from entering landfills.

Beer packaging

The energy required to produce a single 12 oz aluminum can from virgin ore is enough to produce nearly two new 12 oz glass bottles. The manufacturing energy conserved could power your television through two Sunday NFL Games. If 10% of beer drinkers replace a 6-pack of cans with a 6-pack of glass bottles, the energy saved could fly thirty thousand

Cowboys fans from Dallas to the Meadowlands to watch their team play against the New York Giants.

Organic Wine

Organic wines can be affordable, tasty and healthy alternatives to their non-organic counterparts. A bottle of conventionally produced wine may contain up to 250 different types of chemicals. For a wine drinker, a year's worth of organic wine purchases would keep roughly 2 pounds of fertilizers and 50 grams of pesticides out the environment (and out of your wineglass).

Watch for more tips in the next Newsletter.

Provided by the Watchung Environmental Commission

Presorted Std.

U.S. Postage

PAID

PERMIT 155

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.com

CART-RT-SORT WS
Postal Patron
Watchung, NJ 07069

MAYOR ALBERT S. ELLIS

Stephen L. Black
Debra Joren

Thomas Franklin
Stephen Pote

Gerald Mobus
William Nehls

Administrator/Borough Clerk
Laureen B. Fellin 756-0080
lfellin@watchungnj.com

Municipal Court
Pamela Steves 757-1407
psteves@watchungnj.com

Public Works Facility
Robert Burns 753-6115
rburns@watchungnj.com

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

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
Edward L. Kerwin 756-3366
ekerwin@watchungnj.com

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

Fire Department
Emergency 911
Central Station Fire Alarm 725-0513
Non Emergency 756-6288

Watchung Arts Center
for information call: 753-0190

Watchung Public Library
Library Hours:
MondayThursday…..10am-9pm
Friday…….10am-4:30pm
Saturday…….10am-4pm
Sunday……...Closed
Closed Saturdays during July/Aug.
561-0117

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