BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG NEWS

ISSUE 2011-02 THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG FALL/WINTER

FROM OUR MAYOR

Dear Residents:

Back to back blizzards, record amounts of snow, record amounts of rain falls, a drought, followed by a twister in New Jersey, then continuous days of record high daily temperatures, and acorns dropping in July... its seems that weather, like it or not, is part of our daily conversations - the "small talk."

There's plenty of local "happenings" to talk about in Watchung. On January 1st, I had the great pleasure of swearing in Lt. Tim Wenzel as the Borough's Police Chief. He was surrounded by his wife Patty, his four children, and may I add - most of Dunellen! Chief Wenzel brings many years of experience to the position, and we wish him much success.

With changes to the State's pension plans, New Jersey lost many veteran employees, and Watchung felt the pain as well. First, long time Deputy Treasurer Paula Heilman retired after 25 years of dedicated service. Paula's devotion to Watchung was second to none and we wish her much happiness in this next chapter of her life. After a thorough search, Mrs. Jessica Rutishauser was hired to fill this position. Jessica's financial background and professional experience, in addition to her technical skills, will help move Watchung into the future. Welcome Jessica!

For the last year or so, I have been continually preaching to our Council about "life after Reenie." As the Borough's Administrator and Clerk, Laureen Fellin wore many hats during her 20 year tenure, and her guidance during some very difficult times will never be forgotten by yours truly, and the Council as a whole. Besides being a walking encyclopedia, Reenie possessed great people skills, a trait that cannot be learned from a textbook. Reenie submitted her retirement papers, and the daunting task of trying to "fill her shoes" began.

The Council decided to separate these positions and appointed Deputy Clerk Michelle DeRocco as Clerk. Attaining her certification in 2006, Michelle has been an asset to Borough since her employment in 2003. We welcome Michelle as our Borough Clerk.

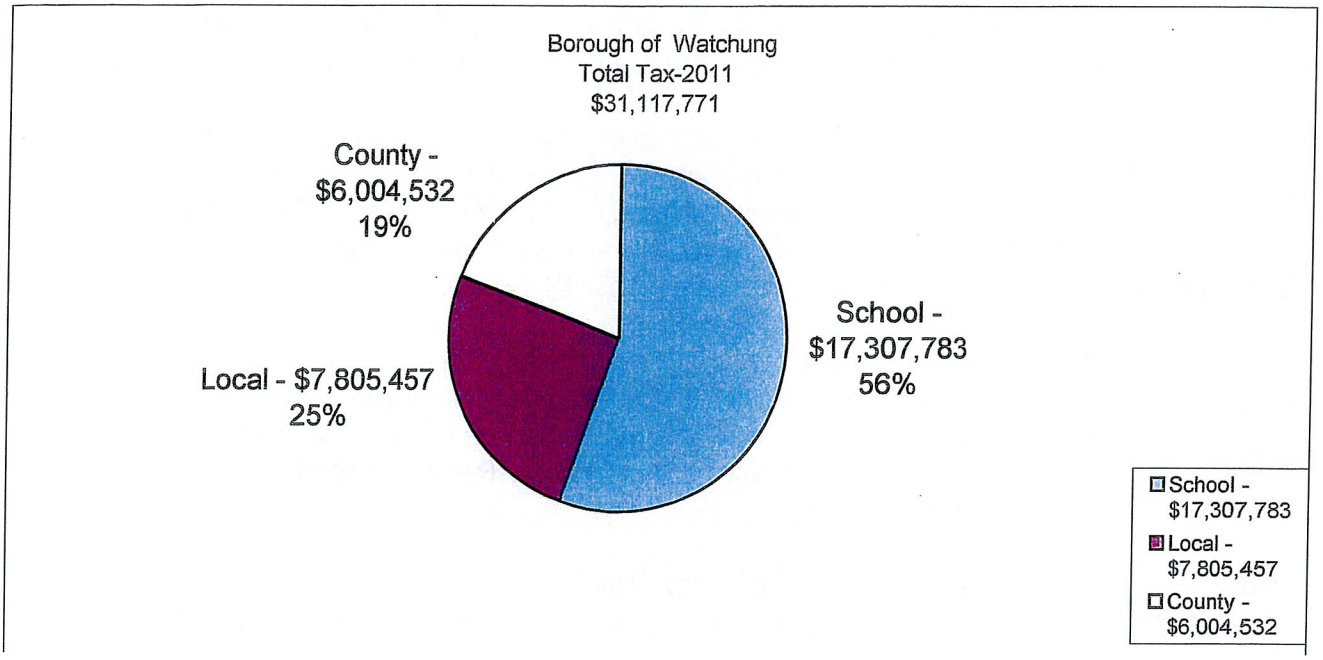
The Council explored the options and benefits of hiring a full or part-time Administrator. After a review of more than 60 applications, and several interview sessions, the Council President, Personnel Chairperson, and myself narrowed the pool to one full time and one part-time candidate. After an extensive interview with the full Governing Body, a decision was made to hire Mr. Thomas Atkins as the Borough's part-time Administrator. Retired after 27 years as the Manager of Scotch Plains, Tom brings his years of experience and expertise in municipal government with him to Watchung. His appointment as the Borough's new Administrator was effective August 1st. We welcome Tom Atkins to Watchung.

Also announcing her retirement was Municipal Court Administrator Pamela Steves. Pam has decided to relocate to Arizona, to be closer to her son and new grandchild. We congratulate Pam on her successful career and wish her well in her retirement. We are actively engaged in the process of replacing the Court Administrator, as we put pen to paper.

We are proud to announce that Watchung is the recipient of a piece of steel from the World Trade Center, and wish to thank Sara Beth Joren for her assistance. A 911 Memorial Committee has been formed and they are currently seeking ideas, suggestions, and monetary donations. For more information, please contact Committee Chair, Fire Chief Skip Bell at 911Memorial@watchungnj.com. Our annual memorial service will be held Sunday, September 11th, on the Village Green. It will begin at 1:00 pm, starting with the National Moment of Remembrance. Please join us in paying tribute to those we lost.

Residents can look forward to the Recreation Commission's annual Mayor's Regatta, held on Watchung Lake, and scheduled for September 18th. The Harvest Festival will take place on October 29th, with a rain date of October 30th. This is a great family event and one that has been a wonderful tradition in the Borough. We hope to see you there!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Watchung Hills Regional High School and our local school boards for their diligence in presenting responsible budgets to our taxpayers. Also this year, the Governing Body was able to put together a budget within the mandated cap, and avoid furloughs, lay-offs and other reductions to municipal services. With the current state of the economy, I can assure you that we continue to assess our revenues and expenditures and explore all resources to provide efficient municipal services while trying to keep property taxes stabilized as much as possible.



Watchung is a wonderful town to live in, work in, and to go to school in. You, the residents, make my job very easy. Thank you all!

Jerry

Gerald M. Mobus, Mayor

Message From the Chief

On January 1, 2011, I had the honor of being sworn in as the Police Chief of Watchung. I say it was an honor for two reasons, first I get to lead a group of outstanding and professional men and women. Second, I get the opportunity to work in a wonderful, close knit community and interact with Watchung's residents and it's leaders whom I have the utmost respect for.

During my 27 plus years in Law Enforcement, I have had the opportunity to work for four different agencies and jurisdictions. I can honestly say that the most pleasurable time in my career has been the 17 years that I have been working here in Watchung. This town is unique in that it is the small town atmosphere and closeness mixed with a large retail district that at times presents big city problems. Having said that, Watchung is a very safe town.

The Watchung Police Department strives to provide the best service to all individuals who pass through our borough each day, however, we pride ourselves on what we provide to our residents. The Police Department goes out of its way to provide special services to the residents and to make them feel secure, knowing that on those rare occasions when they call for our service, a professional, caring officer, most times multiple officers, will be there in an expeditious manner ready to serve. Some of the "special services" we currently provide a police presence on school bus routes and at morning drop off at the schools to ensure the safe arrival of our students. We provide a comprehensive Drug Education Program, as well as Stranger Danger and Internet Safety Seminars for both students and parents. We also offer vacancy checks to residents who may be away from their homes for a period of time. We respond to car lockout calls and try to help people get into their cars, something that most departments have gotten away from. When someone reports an identity theft or a fraudulent use of credit cards, we are required to take a report, however many police departments end their involvement there. The Watchung Police Detective Bureau will follow through and take the case to it's most logical conclusion. The Detective Bureau has solved many of these crimes and have uncovered some major theft rings in the process. This unit is recognized in the County and State as one of the most progressive and talented bureaus. These are just some of the "personal touch" services that we provide.

Watchung Police Officers are a highly trained and educated group. Most Officers possess a Bachelor's degree and some have either achieved or are pursuing their Masters degrees. Our Officers respond to a wide variety of calls, they can go from a barking dog call in town and have to instantly change gears for an armed robbery on the highway.

I hope that you have had the opportunity to interact with our Officers in a positive way. I hope that you have found us to be helpful and courteous. The letters and calls that I receive praising our Officers far outweigh any complaints that I may receive. We will continue to strive to serve you the best we can. I invite you to let me know how we are doing.

Timothy Wenzel
Chief of Police

FREE Rabies Vaccination for Cats & Dogs:

Rabies continues to be a concern in our state, with an average of 200 – 300 cases each year in all animals. Rabies is caused by a virus which can infect both people and animals. While the majority of rabies cases in the state have been in wild animals such as raccoons, skunks and foxes, cats are also a relatively common victim of rabies. These cases can pose a significant threat to unvaccinated domestic animals, which can contract the virus from wild animals and transmit the infection to humans.

The rabies vaccine is available at no charge for domestic cats and dogs, through the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission. Because the vaccine is provided by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, residents can bring their pets to *any of the locations below.* Cats must be transported in a carrier and all dogs must be leashed.

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

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 Blvd.

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

In addition, residents are reminded to take these rabies prevention measures:

- Immediately report a bite from a wild or domestic animal to the local health department *(so that post-exposure treatment can begin immediately if needed)*
- Immediately report any wild animal showing signs of unusual behavior
- Be sure all family pets and agricultural animals are up to date on their rabies vaccinations
- Animal-proof home and yard
- Do not feed or handle wild animals
- Avoid contact with stray animals or pets other than your own
- Try to prevent your pets from coming into contact with wild animals
- Screen off vents to attics and other areas that could provide shelter for bats

FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The 2011 Leaf Pickup will commence on November 1, 2011 and continue through December 2nd. 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.

Borough of Watchung
BOARD OF HEALTH

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 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 (date expires)_____ (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.com
Phone: 908.756.0080 ; Fax: 908.757.7027

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Flu Clinics Available:

The flu vaccine helps to reduce the incidence of illness in the community. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone over six months of age get a flu vaccine each year, but it is especially important that certain people get vaccinated either because they are at high risk of having serious flu-related complications or because they live with or care for people at high risk for developing flu-related complications.

For example, the following groups are at particular risk:

- Pregnant women
- People 50 years of age and older
- People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions
- People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu, including:
    - Health care workers
    - Household contacts of persons at high risk for complications from the flu
    - Household contacts and out of home caregivers of children less than 6 months of age (these children are too young to be vaccinated)

The Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission will be offering public flu clinics in the late fall of 2011. Due to the unknown delivery date for vaccine, clinics had not been scheduled at the time of this article, but you are encouraged to contact the Commission at 732-968-5151 or 908-753-8000 ext. 239 beginning in September to learn the times, dates, and locations of our clinics. You can also search for clinics throughout the State at:

http://www.nj.gov/health/flu/findflushot.shtml

Rodent Control:

Rats are a public health concern because they can transmit diseases such as Salmonella, Bubonic Plague, Typhus, and Hanta virus. Rats especially like to dwell anywhere humans are because they depend on us for food, water and even harborage. Areas such as loose soil near buildings, under decks, sheds, wood piles with overgrown vegetation and even near rubbish & junk piles are all ideal homes for rats and can even become breeding places. You can make your property unwelcome for rats by taking the following steps:

- Keep all garbage in cans with tightly closed lids.
- Remove any birdseed, bread or pet food from outside.
- Repair any broken screens or any openings in exterior walls or buildings.
- Remove any piles of rubbish (branches, leaves, grass clippings).
- Eliminate outside storage of junk or debris on the property.
- Trim all overgrown weeds, bushes and lawns.
- Keep the lawn clean and free of pet feces.
- Store fire wood off the ground
- Remove any old, rotted railroad ties.
- Remove any buckets, fountains or any items which may accumulate water. Rats need to be near a continuous supply of water.

All homeowners need to check periodically for rat burrow holes in lawns, where garbage and recyclables are stored, near buildings, around storage sheds, under decks and beneath piles of wood or debris. Other signs of rats are gnaw holes or droppings. **If you observe these signs, please contact a licensed exterminator immediately.** For further advice or to report a problem, please contact your local Health Department at (732) 968 – 5331.

Annual Report and Electronic News:

Our 2010 annual report is posted online at the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission's website: www.middlebrookhealth.org. In addition, you can sign up to receive our annual reports, newsletters, and other important information directly from the health department by providing us your email address. Rest assured that emails will be infrequent, but the content will be valuable. If interested please contact us.

Watchung Environmental Commission

What Is Polystyrene?

Polystyrene is a plastic manufactured from petroleum that is used to make STYROFOAM, a trademarked name of Dow Chemical Company. Although it has the recycling triangle logo with a number 6 inside, polystyrene is not easily recycled because of its lightweight and low scrap value.

Expanded polystyrene (EPS) is utilized specifically to create Styrofoam that is most often used as packaging material shipped with electronics, hardware, appliances and furniture. Foamed polystyrene is also utilized as insulations, food trays and drink cups. Currently, the US EPA estimates that EPS foam packaging is being recycled at the rate of 10-12% per year. Foam scraps can be turned into park benches, flower pots, toys, seedling containers and added to products such as EPS insulation sheets for construction applications.

Solid polystyrene is used in disposable cutlery, craft and building models, CD & DVD cases and smoke detector housings.

Marine Pollution Is A Huge Problem!

Polystyrene takes about 500 years to decompose. It is a major component of plastic debris in the ocean where it becomes toxic to marine life. Animals like turtles and aquatic birds are attracted to plastic and often ingest it. This blocks their digestive tracts and ultimately causes starvation. Polystyrene foam litter is abundant in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in the North Pacific Gyre. Ocean research Charles Moore estimates the amount of plastics in the gyre to be about 3.3 million pieces per squared kilometer.

Toxicity

Polystyrene is highly flammable and contains the toxic substances, Styrene and Benzene, suspected carcinogens and neurotoxins that are hazardous to humans. Test data submitted to the FDA indicate that migration of styrene from polystyrene food service products is "tiny" and significantly below the safety limits. Styrene primarily exhibits its toxicity to humans as a neurotoxin by attacking the central and peripheral nervous systems. A 1988 survey published by the Foundations for Advancements in Science and Education found styrene in human fatty tissue samples with a frequency of 100% which led to their determination that Styrofoam drinking cups leach Styrofoam into liquids they contain. The cups were found to loose weight during the time they were at use.

Effect On Global Warming

Extended polystyrene is usually made with hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) blowing agents, which have affects on ozone depletion and global warming. About 100 cities in the US, including San Francisco and Oakland, California have a ban on polystyrene foam containers being used in restaurants.

What Can We Do?

1. **Use reusable cups at work instead of foam cups.**
2. **When shopping for groceries ask for items to be unwrapped or wrapped in non-polystyrene materials.**
3. **Ask takeaway restaurants and food suppliers to use more earth friendly forms of food packaging like corn-plastic and post-consumer recycled paper. Bring your own container to the restaurant instead.**
4. **Look on** www.Earth911.org **for a list of companies that take polystyrene and other plastics for recycling. Enter the word polystyrene and your zip code for local listings.**
5. **Take your polystyrene to Foam Pack Industries, located at 72 Fadem Road (off Route 22) Springfield, NJ, (973) 376-3700. Mitch will take large pieces of Styrofoam or polystyrene packaging and squeaky-clean food containers. Hours are Monday –Friday 8:00 am –4:00 pm.**

Information compiled from the following sources: Greenlivingtips.com, Wikipedia.org, Americanchemisty.com, Earth911.com, Thinkgreen.com, Treehugger.com, Dangers of Polystyrene written by Bart Simms, barbados.com

Prepared & researched by the Watchung Environmental Commission, Watchung, New Jersey.

WATCHUNG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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 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 the bulbs with more energy-efficient compact fluorescent one, 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 approx 6 per day. If everyone used an average of one less napkin per day, more than a billion pounds of napkins could be saved from landfills each. A stack of napkins this size could fill the entire Empire State Building.

Use 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 planet 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 Giants.

Organic Wine

Organic wines can be affordable, tasty & 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 of the environment (and out of your wineglass).

Watch for more tips in the next Newsletter.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM:

STATE OF NJ DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

CLEAN WATER

It's Up to You New Jersey

Healthy Lawns Healthy Water

On January 5, 2011, Governor Chris Christie signed into law the most restrictive fertilizer content standards in the nation for nitrogen and phosphorus. The law also requires specific fertilizer application practices. These standards and practices will help reduce pollution from nutrients in all of New Jersey's waters.

Specifically, the law decreases the *total* amount of nitrogen in fertilizer and *increases* the amount of *slow release* nitrogen to 20 percent. In addition, it requires no phosphorus in fertilizer unless a soil test indicates it is needed.

Nitrogen and Phosphorus are nutrients required for plant growth. A limited amount of these nutrients is important for healthy plant life. An overabundance, however, not only can harm lawns, but when washed into our waterways, stimulates excessive algae and weed growth. This in turn depletes oxygen from the water and reduces the sunlight needed for healthy aquatic life.

Other key components of the new law include: the creation of a fertilizer application certification program for professional fertilizer applicators and public education on correct fertilizer use.

The timeframe for implementation of the law is:

Phase I: Effective **immediately**, fertilizer may not be applied from November 15 through March 1 by residential consumers and from December 1 through March 1 by professionals. Application of fertilizer is restricted during winter months when the ground is frozen and not able to be absorbed allowing it to be washed away when it rains. Fertilizer application is prohibited during – or just before – heavy rainfall, and on impervious ground. Fertilizer containing phosphorus or nitrogen can not be applied within 25 feet of any water body except when applied with a drop spreader or targeted spray – then the buffer may be reduced to 10 feet.

Phase II: Effective **January 5, 2012**, all professional applicators will be required to undergo training and become certified through the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers University. Rutgers University is in the process of developing the training program in consultation with the department's Healthy Lawns Healthy Water workgroup.

Phase III: Effective **January 5, 2013**, all fertilizer product for turf must contain at least 20 percent slow-release nitrogen, and zero phosphorus unless a soil test demonstrates a need for more.

PET WASTE

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH PET WASTE?

Rain can wash pet waste that sits on a lawn or unpaved surface into storm drains, ultimately ending up in our lakes, rivers and the ocean. Pet waste contains coliform bacteria and other pollutants that can make people sick, and often cause beach closures. The bacteria can contaminate shellfish, which causes people to get very sick when they are eaten. It can also pollute your drinking water and kill fish, wildlife and plants.

YOU CAN HELP!

- **Use newspaper, plastic bags, or a pooper-scooper to pick up the waste when you walk your pet.**
- **Properly dispose of pet waste into the trash or toilet. (DO NOT dispose of newspaper or plastic bags in the toilet.)**
- **Do not dispose of pet waste in storm drains.**

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.com. 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.

☐ Board of Adjustment	☐ Board of Health	☐ Environmental Commission
☐ Historic Committee	☐ Library Advisory	☐ Local Assistance Board
☐ 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:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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 Blvd., 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 the 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 November 1, 2011 -7 days prior to the election.

The ***Last Day*** to register to vote for the November 8th General Election is Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Vote By Mail Law

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 go to the County Clerk's Office 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

The Borough's website at www.watchungnj.com

PUBLISHED BY THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

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Watchung, New Jersey 07069

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

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www.watchungnj.com

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MAYOR GERALD M. MOBUS

Stephen L. Black
Stephen Pote

Thomas Franklin
William Nehls

Debra Joren
Karen Cassidy

Borough Administrator
Thomas Atkins 756-0080
tatkins@watchungnj.com

Borough Clerk
Michelle De Rocco 756-0080
mderocco@watchungnj.com

Municipal Court
757-1407

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
Ed Kerwin 756-3366
ekerwin@watchungnj.com

Tax Collector 756-8333

Fire Department
Emergency 911
Non-emergency 561-9389

Watchung Arts Center
for information call: 561-0190

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