



BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER - FALL/WINTER 2024



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Residents,

I hope all of you had an enjoyable summer. The saying “It takes a village” probably gets overused at times. However, I think it’s appropriate to acknowledge and say thanks to so many of our fellow residents that selflessly give their time and efforts to keep Watchung beautiful, safe, fun, and inclusive. Please take this letter as an open invitation to apply as a volunteer. The details herein are included to provide you with some context and detailed information is available on our website (Watchung, NJ - Become a Volunteer (watchungnj.gov).



Mayor Jubin

Some residents volunteer a day, a year or a few, and many others for decades (like Sondra Fechtner). I wish to thank our members of the Zoning and Planning Boards. The Zoning Board under the leadership of Dan Cronheim and our Planning Board under Tracee Schaefer work hard to keep Watchung development and property improvements aligned with our Master Plan. If you are detail-oriented and want to help regulate Watchung’s growth and development, perhaps one of these Boards may be for you.

Public safety is of paramount priority to me and thankfully we have several volunteer groups dedicated to these functions. Our Board of Health was tested as no other when the COVID-19 pandemic caught Watchung, and the world, by surprise. During the height of the pandemic, I had frequent meetings with our Board of Health (BOH) President Dr. Bruce Ruck and our renowned health officer Kevin Sumner. I never felt so informed and safe in such a daunting time. Many BOH members have a healthcare background, but it is not a requirement. If you want to help keep Watchung healthy and safe, this is a wonderful group to work with (I can attest as a past member).

We have several volunteer groups that do require significant training and may involve putting yourself in harm’s way. This is why I have so much respect and gratitude for the volunteer members in our Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Fire Department, and Rescue Squad. Our OEM is led by our coordinator Carolyn Solon. Solon was also in those COVID meetings and was instrumental in coordinating Borough activities as we operated under Emergency Orders. She also leads the volunteer CERT team who are “ready for deployment” to assist the public when emergencies arise.

continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

Mayor’s Message.....	cover, 3	Environmental Commission.....	10
Watchung Rescue Squad.....	5	Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission.....	11
Leaf Pickup, Snow Removal.....	5	Watchung Police Department.....	12
Contact Information.....	6	Watchung Fire Department.....	12
From The Desk Of The Borough Clerk.....	6	Watchung Library.....	13
Council’s Corner.....	8	Traffic and Beautification Commission.....	13
Upcoming Events.....	8	Watchung Historical Committee.....	14
Green Team.....	9		

SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

15 Mountain Boulevard | Watchung, NJ 07069 | 908.756.0080



Visit us at www.watchungnj.gov





BONELESS MEAL DEAL

\$16⁹⁹

20 BONELESS WINGS | 4 FLAVORS | 2 DIPS | LARGE FRIES



order on wingstop.com or
(908) 668-9464

1680 US-22, Watchung, NJ

THANK YOU!

Watchung Borough would like to thank the businesses that appear in this newsletter and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community. For it is with their contributions that this newsletter has been produced at no charge to our residents. The Borough would like to further request that citizens, in response, patronize these businesses first when given a choice as these businesses are saving each citizen tax dollars.

PURPOSEFUL LIVING



Offering Assisted Living, Memory Care and short-term stays with 30-60-90 day options with all the amenities of home.

TO LEARN MORE AND SCHEDULE A TOUR

908.754.8180



BRANDYWINE

MOUNTAIN RIDGE
INDEPENDENT LIVING, ASSISTED LIVING, AND MEMORY CARE



680 MOUNTAIN BLVD, WATCHUNG, NJ 07069
908.754.8180 | WWW.RUI.NET



A RETIREMENT UNLIMITED, INC. COMMUNITY.
FRALIN & WALDRON FAMILY-OWNED & OPERATED ACROSS THE EAST COAST FOR OVER 40 YEARS



Stress Solutions Spa

Relax and Rejuvenate

MASSAGES • FACIALS • WAXING
BODY TREATMENTS • SPA PACKAGES

908-754-5999

916 Somerset St, 2nd Floor, Watchung, NJ 07069

StressSolutionsSpa.com

StressSolutionsSpa@yahoo.com

MAYOR'S MESSAGE *continued from page 3*

Our Fire and Rescue are always looking for volunteers. Fire Chief Al DeSandolo leads a great department and if you have an interest, I am sure he would be happy to speak with you. Similarly, our Rescue Squad has talented and dedicated members trained to answer health emergencies whether an illness/injury at a home or business or responding to car accidents.

Special shout out to the Brescia family for purchasing a professional ping pong table for the Rescue squad. Not sure if any members will make it to the LA Olympics in 2028, but it should make long nights a bit more fun. Please reach out to President Genevieve Nitzsche and she can provide more details regarding membership. Lastly, OEM, Fire and Rescue are always present at our Borough events so please say hi and thanks for all they do for us and feel free to ask them what it's like to be a member.

We have several other commission/committees that are tasked with other important responsibilities, and are headed up by devoted leaders (names in respective parentheses). Our Environmental Commission (Rachael Funcheon) and Green Team Committees (Charlie Neiss) are best known for the Operation Pride and farmers market, respectively. They do so much more to maintain the natural beauty of our Borough and are always looking for members with interest in nature, conservation, and green efforts.

Watchung has a truly remarkable history for being such a small community. The steward of our past is the Historical Committee (Chris VanderFliet). Historical members often act as detectives, reviewing documents and speaking with residents piecing together our intricate history. If history's mysteries sound interesting to you, please consider volunteering.

Do you enjoy our Borough community events like the Community Picnic, Harvest Festival, Movie Night, and Music in the Park (and many others)? Would you like to be part of the group focused on improving or developing new community events and programs for Watchung? Then the Recreation Commission (Bill Jacques) is for you. Related, the Youth Services commission is aligned to develop

programs funded by community grants and includes representative members from our schools.

Have you noticed how beautiful it looks on Somerset St. and the circle? Well, much of the accolades go to our Traffic & Beautification Commission (T&B; Phyllis Juette). The traffic at the circle is not fun, but the flowers are astounding and picked out and planted by our T&B members. If you have a green thumb and some free time, then this may be the group for you! The Library Advisory Committee (LAC; Catherine Leigh) helps to develop programs for all ages bringing the community together year-round, enriching the mind and body of all participants.

Library Update: The internal cleanout and the Best Lake bridge replacement are well underway. The move to the temporary library at 20 Stirling Road (the old Valley Furniture shop on the circle – kindly donated rent-free by the Bisignano family and MAHA At Watchung, LLC) was completed this past spring and all I can say is - wow! This move was carried out by our awesome Librarian Manny Miracle and her amazing staff - thank you for the amazing job you did. Please stop by and check it out.

I will finish this newsletter by expressing my deepest appreciation to Frank Bisignano and his family. Their love of Watchung and philanthropy towards our schools and our Borough remain unparalleled. Not too long ago, the library roof was leaking, the fish tank unfunded and the Best Lake parking lot riddled with pot holes, impassable to pedestrians. Most recently, our library was in search of a temporary home. Frank and his family's heartfelt contributions remedied these issues and with equivocal importance, raised awareness and re-established community pride in restoring and upgrading our library facility.

Thanks again to all our volunteers and donors— both current and past. Our "Village" feels more like a family thanks to all of you!!

With the deepest appreciation,

Ronald Jubin

Ronald Jubin, Ph.D., Mayor, Watchung Borough

BACK TO SCHOOL
KIDS EAT FREE EVERY TUESDAY
#tgifwatchung
1701 Route 22
Watchung, NJ

INTRODUCING \$5 BAR MENU
Monday - Friday 3PM-6PM, 9PM-CL
Saturday - Sunday 9PM-CL
COCKTAILS • BEER • WINE • BITES

FRIDAYS MEAL DEALS
10 COMBOS starting at \$9.99

GIVE MONDAY THE BIRD!
WING MONDAYS
Every Monday, 5pm-Close
50¢ WINGS

FRIDAYS
HURRY IN - THIS OFFER WON'T LAST LONG!
25% OFF
908-322-2376 | 1701 US-22 | Watchung, NJ
*Only one offer redeemable per table per visit. Must present coupon at time of ordering. Not for resale. 2024 TGIFridays Franchisor, LLC. Alcohol, tax and gratuities not included.

FRIDAYS IS NOW SERVING KRISPY RICE

STANDARD TILE
100 
YEAR ANNIVERSARY



Standard Tile is definitely not just another New Jersey tile shop. We are an industry leading tile retailer with six great showrooms across New Jersey. Family owned and operated Since 1920.

STANDARD TILE

WWW.STANDARDTILENJ.COM

1515 RT 22, Suite 24, Watchung NJ 07069

908-754-4200

 @standard_tile

Watchung Rescue Squad Spotlight On: WRS Cadets!



The Watchung Rescue Squad Cadets have been actively involved in community service and educational activities, showcasing their dedication and skills. The cadet program is comprised of high school juniors and seniors who serve their community by taking calls and riding weekly shifts. Recently, the cadet program, led by Cadet Advisor Seth Weingarten, has integrated community outreach into the program, allowing for cadets to practice public speaking skills, networking, and increasing their knowledge on EMT related topics. In May, the cadets



Cadets being tested on infant CPR with an AED. Pictured: Perry Weingarten, Kara Lien, Chloe Chua, Emma Jubin



Pictured: (Top) Genevieve Nitzsche, BSN, RN, EMT – President; Denise Wilson, EMT; Jeiner Betancourt, BSN, RN, EMT – Captain; Matthew King, EMT – 1st Lieutenant (Bottom) Chloe Chua, Ruhika Iyer, EMT, Emma Jubin, Seth Weingarten, EMT – Cadet Advisor

took the initiative to educate the public on Stroke Awareness.

Competing With Honor

In June, the cadets participated in the Bayshore Cadet Competition held at the Keyport Rescue Squad. This event brought together 34 teams of cadets from various rescue squads around the tri-state area to demonstrate their skills and knowledge in emergency medical response. The Watchung Rescue Squad Cadets showcased their training and teamwork, competing with honor and representing their squad with pride. Their participation in this competition highlights their dedication to continuous learning and improvement.

This could be you!

We are looking for eager individuals 16+ to join our squad! No experience is necessary.

We offer:

- Free training Free uniforms
- Flexible schedules
- The chance to make a difference!

Want to Apply? Have Questions?

Visit www.watchungems.org



Follow Us!



@watchungems

Watchung Rescue Squad



LEAF PICKUP - The 2024 Leaf Pickup will commence on October 28, 2024 and continue through December 13, 2024.

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 PICK UP. Pickups will not be scheduled for any specific time or location. Leaf pickup is limited to high density 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 BAGS ONLY, call the office of Public Works at 908-756-0080, ext. 214. Due to the State's Stormwater Regulations, the Borough has an ordinance prohibiting placement of leaves in the street.

SNOW REMOVAL

Residents: Please remember to comply with snow removal regulations. Snow removed from driveways or any other place shall not be placed on any public street or right-of-way! §Chapter 17-3.3, §Chapter 14-45.1

Snow and Ice Removal from Sidewalks and Driveways: The owner or tenant of real property abutting, adjoining, or bordering any public street shall remove all snow and ice from the abutting, adjoining, or bordering sidewalk and driveway within the public right-of-way, of said public street, within 24 hours of the snow having fallen or the ice having formed thereon.

Check the borough's website for full regulations or call our Public Works Dept. with any questions, 908-756-0080 ext. 214.

Watchung Municipal Building

15 Mountain Boulevard, Watchung, New Jersey 07069

Phone: 908-756-0080 • Fax: 908-757-7027

www.watchungnj.gov



Mayor Ronald Jubin, Ph.D.

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Christine B. Ead, Council President
Curt S. Dahl, Paul Fischer, Paolo Marano,
Sonia Abi-Habib, Robert Gibbs

Administration

James Damato, Administrator
908-756-0080
JDamato@watchungnj.gov

Borough Clerk

Edith Gil 908-756-0080 ext. 213
EGil@watchungnj.gov

CFO/Tax Collector

William Hance 908-756-0080 ext. 216
BHance@watchungnj.gov

Engineering Office

Jason Cline 908-756-0091 ext. 225
jcline@watchungnj.gov

Watchung Fire Official

Thomas McNulty 908-756-0091 ext. 235
fireofficial@watchungnj.gov

Police Department

Chief Scott Anderle 908-756-3663

Emergency 911

Non - Emergency 908-756-3663

Fire Department

Chief Albert DeSandolo 908-756-0080 Ext. 250

Volunteer 908-585-1272

Emergency 911

Non - Emergency 908-756-0091

Emergency Management

Carolyn Solon 908-756-0080 ext. 239

CSolon@watchungnj.gov

Municipal Court (N. Plainfield)

263 Somerset Street, N. Plainfield, NJ 07060

Court Administrator, Jodi Mack 908-769-2265

Tax Assessor

Ed Kerwin 908-756-8333 ext. 224

ekerwin@watchungnj.gov

Tax Clerk

Kathy Vilarino 908-756-8333 ext. 223

taxclerk@watchungnj.gov

Construction Official

Robert Lacosta 908-756-0080 ext. 228

RLacosta@watchungnj.gov

Carolyn Taylor, Zoning Officer/TACO

908-756-0080 ext. 219

CTaylor@watchungnj.gov

Public Works Manager

William McClave

wmcclave@watchungnj.gov

908-756-0080 ext. 214

Watchung Arts Center

For information call 908-753-0190

18 Stirling Road, Watchung, NJ 07069

(Closed Saturdays during July and Aug.)

SC Public Library - Watchung Branch

Temporary Location

20 Stirling Road, Watchung, NJ 07069

908-458-8456

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Watchung Hills Regional High School

Grades 9 through 12

108 Stirling Road, Warren, NJ 07059

908-647-4800

Bayberry Elementary School

Kindergarten through 4th Grade

113 Bayberry Lane, Watchung, NJ 07069

908-755-8184

Valley View Middle School

Grades 5 through 8

50 Valleyview, Road, Watchung, NJ 07069

908-755-4422

FROM THE DESK OF THE BOROUGH CLERK

The Clerk's Office manages content on the website and notices that get sent out via email and social media. We highly encourage all residents and Watchung businesses to subscribe to the borough's email system. This is the best way to get a wealth of information directly from us! This is separate from the Nixle alerts that our Police Department manages for emergency notifications. Sign up to borough hall notices directly from our homepage or



Become a Volunteer!

In November we will begin accepting applications from residents who wish to volunteer in any board/committee for the year 2025 (and/or have expiring terms Volunteer forms are now fillable online!



IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTION

October 15th - Voter Registration deadline to vote in the upcoming General Election

October 26th to November 3rd - is the early voting period. Please visit our election webpage for all the polling locations in Somerset County that you can take advantage of and vote early

November 5th - General Election Day. Polls open 6am - 8pm.

POLLING LOCATIONS

- **Districts 1 and 4:** Fireman's Exempt Hall, 31 Mountain Boulevard
- **District 3:** Bayberry School, 113 Bayberry Lane
- **District 2 and 5:** Wilson Memorial Union Church, 7 Valley Road

BECOME A POLL WORKER

Watchung needs you!!
~ Become a Poll Worker!!

Scan for more information

OPEN & CLOSED PERMIT REQUESTS

Save time! No need to fill out an OPRA request!
Sign-up for Watchung's **FREE Spatial Data Logic (SDL) Portal** to:

- Check for Open/Closed Permits on a property
- Verify Inspection Status
- Check Permit Status



Scan the QR Code to Sign Up!
www.sdlportal.com



YY Beauty Spa

28 Johnston Drive, Watchung, NJ 07069

Tel: 908.756.3502

www.vybeautyspa.com

Your Journey in Renewing Your Skin's Natural Beauty

Established in 1991, YY Beauty Spa is the ideal place to go for those wishing to rejuvenate and restore their skin. It is not just for the fancy and high-end person, but for anyone looking for a relaxing experience. The environment at our spa is friendly, while maintaining a homey look.

As the skincare industry evolves, so do we. We use the latest technology, techniques and quality products to maximize the overall effectiveness of the service, and to provide you with a better experience. To relax and start your journey in renewing your skin's natural beauty.

New Client Special Basic Facial (60 min) - \$59

Ultrasonic Lift Facial (60 min) - \$69

Oxygen Facial (60 min) - \$89

Microdermabrasion Skin Peel Facial (60 min) - \$100

Deep Pore Detox Facial (60 min) - \$110

Teen Facial (30 min) - \$45

28 Johnston Drive,
Watchung, NJ 07069
(Between Watchung Ave & Somerset St)
Tel: **908.756.3502**

Store Hour:

Mon-Fri 9:30am-7:30pm

Sat 9:00am-6:00pm

www.vybeautyspa.com



The Council continues work on a variety of projects, events, and improvements as we move through the summer months into Autumn 2024.

The first annual “Mayor and Council Senior Luncheon” was held at The Exempt Hall in April with support from the “Watchung Exempt Fireman” and “The Watchung Seniors Group”. It was a full house including neighbors from “Brandywine”, County Officials, and residents who loved the opportunity to see so many familiar faces that they had not seen since the covid pandemic.

The Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony was held at Borough Hall for residents, along with state and local leaders who came to honor our bravest Men and Women who made the ultimate sacrifice. Donald Thomas Murray, a Veteran and current longtime resident was honored for his service as a Navy Sonarman who signed up at the young age of 17. Our community and all are fortunate to have the freedoms that we have in large part to those who answered the call then and stepped up to protect this great country.

The Police Committee continues to work closely with Chief Anderle and his team on continued safety and improvements for all in Watchung. Through a partnership with The Somerset County Scholarship Program, new qualified recruits receive funding for the necessary academy training costs and upon graduation, work

directly with a field agent for further on-site training. The program helps to identify qualified candidates and assist with Academy training costs. The latest recruit will graduate this December 2024 and start in Watchung in the Patrol Division. These key partnerships help strengthen opportunities and funding for our Police Force.

Administration & Finance keeps a sharp eye on the budget and while county, state, and school budgets remain out of local governance, the mission of this Council is to keep the Municipal Budget flat for fiscal 2025! The mandatory audit for 2024 was recently concluded and the Borough, Mayor and Council are proud to say that the reports came back with “no comments” or improvements required.

The Laws and Ordinance committee is more active than it has been in years with numerous updates and improvements to municipality codes and regulations. This vital work is an investment in time and communication that helps all aspects of an efficient Borough.

Public Works Committee is dedicated to addressing key infrastructure projects and repairs on a day-to-day basis. In addition to this work, there is coordination with PSE&G to replace the aging gas lines throughout the Borough and once completed, paving will take place. It is busy on the streets so please be patient as we move forward with the 2024 DOT Road Grant repaving in August and prepare for the approved 2025 DOT Road Grant work. A list of all street paving is located on the Borough Website and updated regularly to residents. Also noteworthy is the newly constructed Library Bridge utilizing FEMA Funding, newly repaired and painted Gazebos, a new Gaga Court at Mobus Field adjacent to the new playground, the successful grant approval of \$66,000.00 for Camp Endeavor improvements, and the new entry stairs at The Texier House. Please join us at Council Meetings for more updates.

It is the honor and privilege of all on the Council to work on behalf of every resident in Watchung.

FRIENDLY REMINDER . . .

Taxes are due quarterly on: November 1st

Any accounts delinquent as of December 2023 including Special Assessments will be included in our Tax Sale this fall. Balances can be viewed and paid online at www.watchungnj.gov.

Please note that if you use Bill Pay through your bank, it may take a week or more for the Tax Office to receive the payment. Even though your bank account shows the money being withdrawn on the date that you initiate the bill pay, the bank prints and mails a check to the Borough which delays the process. For this reason, we recommend using the payment process provided on our website or dropping a check off at Borough Hall. If you leave a payment in the drop box outside of the Tax Office, the payment will be credited to your account the next business day.

Thank you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT
5

HARVEST FESTIVAL

1:00pm-4:00pm Mobus Field
Join us for a day of family fun! Petting Zoo, Bouncy Houses, Games, Music, Food and so much more!



OCT
22

EAT TO BEAT STRESS

12:00pm-1:00pm Wilson Memorial - Fisher Hall
Learn how to eat right to live right!
Event Partners: Somerset County Library System, Borough of Watchung, Mayors Wellness Campaign, Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission and Wilson Memorial Church.



NOV
8

PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

6:00pm-7:30pm Watchung Lake
Join us for an evening of hope and peace. Write a personal message on your individual lantern to launch onto Watchung Lake.



NOV
11

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

9:30am War Memorial at Texier House
Join us in expressing our gratitude for those who served and sacrificed for freedom.



For details on the events and more, please visit www.watchungnj.gov

GREEN TEAM

The Green Team was established by the Borough Council to promote efforts to ensure Watchung is a sustainable community. Sustainable policies and practices seek the long-term viability of the Borough by saving tax dollars, conserving energy, reducing the community's carbon footprint and natural resource consumption, and providing for the health and safety of residents.

Members of the team review and recommend eco-friendly, cost-efficient projects designed to improve municipal operations. The team includes residents, and a variety of Borough officials, including representatives of the Environmental Commission and Finance Department. The team works directly with other Borough organizations and seeks public-private partnerships.

The Green Team page on the Borough Website (Home>Boards>Green Team) contains information to assist Borough residents in pursuit of improved sustainability, including grants that may be available.



Sustainable Jersey Certification

Sustainable Jersey is an organization that supports and certifies municipalities in the state that are seeking to become more sustainable. Watchung is in the process of gaining recertification. This is a triennial activity which entails documenting activities across 17 different categories. Certification does provide bragging rights, but more importantly, it opens additional grant opportunities and the process itself, with or without certification, ensures the Borough is following a set of best practices.

The Borough last achieved certification as a sustainable community in 2021. This certification illustrates that a municipality has taken steps to ensure the community remains prepared for, and healthy into the future. The Green Team began working towards recertification last year and submitted the application in May. As with past certifications, the application was for Bronze level. Once feedback was received in June, it was apparent that Silver level certification was potentially reachable and the team worked on not only responding to revision requests for the original application, but also additional action items sufficient to achieve that higher level certification. An application for silver was in July. Feedback on this application is expected in August, with a final round of revisions due in September.

Food security is one of the categories in Sustainable Jersey certification. The Green Team, with the strong support of the Mayor and Council, has been providing borough residents with easy access to fresh produce at the weekly Farmers Market for the past four years. The market is located at the Best Lake parking lot from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm every Tuesday from June through October. In addition to food vendors, frequent live music, special events and activities have created a lively community space at which you can enjoy the weather and meet fellow residents while shopping for goods from local small businesses.

JOIN THE TEAM!

While we have added Mimansa Kumar and Emma Speeney, two local high school students, as members, the Green Team needs more volunteers who can help us expand the team's sustainability efforts, assist with upcoming events, and help improve our community. Any resident, whether a community-minded individual or someone with expertise specific to the projects before us, is welcome to apply. If interested, please contact Bill Hance at bhance@watchungnj.gov for additional information.

Broad experience, custom tailored to your legal needs



Legal representation isn't one size fits all. Your individual situation deserves personalized attention from the attorney best suited to your case. Call us today for your custom fitting.



DiFrancescoBateman
Tailor-made representation

DIFRANCESCO, BATEMAN, KUNZMAN, DAVIS, LEHRER & FLAUM, P.C.

Attorneys at Law | 15 Mountain Boulevard, Warren, New Jersey 07059

Phone: (908) 757-7800 Fax: (908) 757-8039 Web: www.NewJerseyLaw.net

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

The Watchung Environmental Commission (EC) has been busy as always working to protect and preserve Watchung's natural beauty and resources. Below are some highlights of our activities, as well as information you can use to help keep Watchung green!

BEST LAKE STREAM PROJECT: We are very proud to announce that the EC was recently awarded an Environmental Achievement Award from ANJEC, the statewide association of Environmental Commissions, for our Best Lake project! The "Riparian Buffer Restoration" project includes nearly 100 native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers that the EC, along with community volunteers, planted and have maintained over the past 3 years along a 200' stretch of stream east of Best Lake. This vegetation will help provide flood control, improve water quality entering Best Lake, reduce erosion, supply habitat for wildlife and pollinators, and enhance the beauty of the Borough. The EC encourages everyone to visit the area to enjoy the native plantings and diverse wildlife. Check out the new educational sign there to learn more about the project and its environmental benefits!



BIRD BOXES: Watchung resident Joshua Cheng recently completed his Eagle Scout project, sponsored by the EC. Joshua built and installed a total of six Blue Bird/Tree Swallow boxes which are located near the Best Lake stream project, at Mobus Park, and at Phillips Field. We have been monitoring the bird boxes this summer and have observed a flurry of activity including the Tree Swallow eggs in the photo.

NO LITTERING CAMPAIGN: Residents are noticing more trash on our streets and more plastic in our lakes. Candy wrappers, old lottery tickets, fast food wrappers, bags, cigarette butts, cans, bottles, etc., etc., etc. This little litter stacks up to a big problem and has major negative effects on our Borough. It harms property values, quality of life, proper performance of our sewer systems, and overall health and safety for all. Please help us in our no littering campaign by picking up loose trash on and around your property. Be sure to keep a tight lid on your trash and recycle bins. If items spill into the street, please pick them up before they blow into your neighbors' yards or into our sewers, streams, and lakes. Remind your young ones to dispose of trash properly. Be part of the solution, not the pollution. Let's keep Watchung clean and green!



DID YOU KNOW YOU NEED A PERMIT TO CUT DOWN A TREE IN WATCHUNG?

Watchung's Tree Ordinance requires residents to apply to the Borough Engineer for a free permit prior to cutting down any tree, dead or alive, on their property. In addition, any live tree removed outside the building envelope must be replaced. Replacement must be done within a year of the permit date and is required to close out the permit. When it is not possible to replace the required tree(s), a contribution to the Watchung Tree Bank of \$350.00 per tree can be submitted. The application for a tree removal permit can be found on the EC's page of the Borough website.

The Borough and the EC have created a Preferred Tree List to help residents identify the best trees to plant on their property. All trees on the list are native to the area. Planting native species is important because they require less maintenance, have a higher chance of survival, and provide food and shelter for wildlife. In addition to many ecological benefits, native trees add to the beauty of the Watchung landscape. The Preferred Tree List can be found on the EC's page of the Borough website.

SPECIAL RECYCLING PROGRAMS:

The EC wants to remind residents of ongoing special recycling programs around the Borough, for items not accepted in regular curbside recycling.



STYROFOAM: Clean, white packing foam only. All tape, stickers, and writing must be removed. There is a bin located behind the DPW garage at 880 Somerset St. Open Monday to Friday during DPW business hours for self-service recycling.

BOOKS: Paperback and hard cover books in good readable condition. Books must have a barcode on the cover. The book bin is located up the driveway of the Fireman's Exempt Hall, next to Borough Hall, at 57 Mountain Blvd.



HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES: Small, regular household batteries. They can be taken to the customer service desk at Staples in the Watchung Square Mall for free recycling.

FLEXIBLE PLASTICS: Household plastic packaging from items like pet food, potting soil, snack foods and many other types of plastic bags. Bin is outside in front of SHOP RITE in Stirling.



Stop the Spread: Respiratory Illness

For more information: www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/

Respiratory viruses cause illnesses such as flu, COVID-19, and RSV, especially in the fall and winter. There is action you can take to prevent the spread of these viruses. Practice the core prevention strategies (listed above) to protect yourself and others from getting sick. Consider taking additional prevention strategies if you or the people around you are sick or if you are recovering from being sick. When we take steps to prevent the spread of disease, we also protect those who are more at risk of severe health complications from these illnesses. Those most at risk of severe illness from respiratory viruses include older adults, young children, people with weakened immune systems, people with disabilities, and people who are pregnant.

If you get sick, treatment may be available to make your symptoms less severe and shorten the time you are experiencing them. Call your healthcare provider to discuss potential treatment options if you feel sick or test positive for a respiratory illness. *Staying vigilant and following preventive measures can significantly protect ourselves, our families, and our community against respiratory viruses.*

Don't Wait. Vaccinate!

For more information, visit: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/

Vaccines protect ourselves and others from infectious disease. When vaccinated, it is less likely that we will get sick and make others sick. They also protect us against severe illness when we do get sick. This upcoming holiday season, do your part and get vaccinated! This fall and winter, the MBRHC and the CDC recommend:

- Everyone ages 6 months and older to receive an updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine to protect against the potentially severe outcomes of COVID-19, whether or not they have ever previously been vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine. Find COVID-19 vaccine locations near you: www.vaccines.gov
- Everyone 6 months of age and older, with rare exceptions, to receive an updated 2024-2025 flu vaccine to reduce the risk of influenza and its potentially serious complications.

The Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission and Green Brook Family Medicine will be offering Community Flu and COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics in the fall for ages 5 years and older and senior flu vaccines for those ages 65 years and older. Check our website for finalized clinic dates and locations at www.middlebrookhealth.org or call the Commission at (732) 968-5151.

Rabies Clinic

Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission plans to offer several rabies clinics in the fall to ensure the availability of **FREE** rabies vaccines for our cat and dog owners. Here is the Tentative Schedule:

November 2, 9am, Green Brook, NJ • November 16, 9am, Bridgewater, NJ • December 7, 9am, Watchung, NJ

As we are still working to coordinate all the moving pieces to make these clinics happen, residents are asked to call the Health Commission at 732-968-5151 or scan the QR code to view the Commission's Calendar in late September/October to confirm the dates, times, and locations. All cats must be held in a carrier and all dogs must be leashed.



Goldberg Implants & Periodontics

Goldberg Implants & Periodontics provides advanced care in a welcoming, compassionate environment.

Dr. David A. Goldberg & Dr. Adam S. Goldberg are both Board Certified in Dental Implants and Periodontics. Between them with over 40 years of experience they provide unique comprehensive care for both simple and complex problems.

Please see our website for more information, or to read our 5 star reviews! Goldbergimplantperio.com

Goldberg

Implants & Periodontics

Services

Dental Implants
Periodontics

Teeth in a Day
Second Opinions

CONTACT US (908) 756-7619 OR GOLDBERGIMPLANTPERIO.COM

WATCHUNG POLICE DEPARTMENT

A Milestone in Community Policing: The Somerset County Scholarship Program

By Chief Scott Anderle, Watchung Police Department

The Watchung Police Department is proud to announce the success of the Somerset County Scholarship Program, which has paved the way for aspiring law enforcement officers in our community. This initiative, funded by the American Rescue Plan in partnership with Somerset County and managed by the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, has provided invaluable support to young residents of our county pursuing a career in law enforcement.

Since the inception of the program, three outstanding individuals have been sponsored to attend the police academy, leading to their successful integration into the Watchung Police Department. The program's first beneficiaries were Officer Christopher Monrroy and Officer Cindy Aldana, both of whom have already made significant contributions to our force. The latest recruit, Gianmarco Acevedo, began his journey at the Police Academy this past July.

Officer Christopher Monrroy was born and raised in North Plainfield. He started his service to our community in 2019 when he joined the Watchung Rescue Squad. He also served on both the Watchung and Warren Fire Departments while attending Stevens Institute of Technology. After earning a Bachelor's of Engineering in Electrical Engineering in 2023, he turned his focus towards law enforcement. He currently also serves with the Hoboken Volunteer Ambulance Corps during his time off.

Officer Cindy Aldana grew up in North Plainfield and now resides in Somerset County. She attended Rutgers University-New Brunswick, where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Planning and Public Policy, followed by a Master's Degree in Leadership and Public Administration from Centenary University. During her studies, Officer Aldana interned at the Bound Brook Police Department,

gaining firsthand experience in patrol operations. She responded to various service calls and was mentored by a female officer, which inspired her to pursue a career in law enforcement. In her spare time, Officer Aldana enjoys working out, making handmade organic scented soaps, and organizing cornhole competitions.

Recruit Gianmarco Acevedo is a life-long resident of North Plainfield. As a North Plainfield High School student, he was a four-year varsity baseball player and a member of the Spanish Honors Society. Recruit Acevedo studied Criminal Justice at Rutgers University and played on the Rutgers University baseball team.

The Somerset County Scholarship Program represents a significant benefit not only to the Watchung Police Department but also to the taxpayers of the Borough of Watchung. The cost of training, wages, equipment and other expenses normally paid by the Watchung Police Department are fully funded by this program. By investing in local talent, we have been able to reduce recruitment costs and ensure that our officers are well-prepared to meet the needs of our community.

As we continue to support and develop these new officers, we remain committed to fostering a strong, connected community. The success of the Somerset County Scholarship Program is a clear indicator that when we invest in our youth, we invest in the future of our department. The success of this program is a testament to the working relationship between our Borough elected officials, Somerset County Prosecutor John McDonald and his office, and the Somerset County Board of County Commissioners. Their partnership in this program has truly benefited the members of our community.

WATCHUNG FIRE DEPARTMENT



The Watchung Fire Department is a 100% volunteer organization that is constantly in need of new members. Beginning at 16 years old, Watchung residents can join our Junior Firefighter program, which allows them to respond to emergencies under the guidance of experienced firefighters, as well as learn about the fire service and gain valuable knowledge and life skills. Our Active Firefighters and Associate Members are over 18 years old and come from Watchung and neighboring communities. Active Firefighters attend basic Firefighter training as well as other training courses, all paid for by the Department. Associate Members assist with non-firefighting activities such as Membership Recruitment and Retention, Fund Raising, and other administrative duties. The Borough also offers an incentive plan as well as numerous other benefits to our Volunteer Firefighters, most importantly, the ability to be one of the heroes who helps their neighbors in a time of need.

If you or someone you know has a desire to be a hero in our community, please visit our website at www.watchungfd.org, follow us on Facebook @WatchungFD, call us at (908) 756-0080 x250 or (908) 585-1272, or email at recruitment@watchungfd.org, or pick up information at Borough Hall! As always, we appreciate the support from our community in Watchung.

The Watchung Fire Department is proud to announce the purchase of our new command vehicle, purchased at no cost to the taxpayers using the generous donations and fundraising efforts our members have put forth. This is the second vehicle the department has funded by 100 percent donations and are both currently in service to serve and protect the residents of Watchung. Without your generous contributions and the dedication of our volunteers YOUR Watchung Fire Department could not continue to provide these invaluable lifesaving services to the residents of this great town.



@WATCHUNGFIRE

WATCHUNG LIBRARY

While the Watchung Library at 12 Stirling Road is being renovated, we were still able to offer a vibrant summer reading program to Watchung kids, keeping them reading, learning and engaged in their community. Not only did our kiddos joyously participate in the summer reading challenge, but they attended many great programs both at the temporary location at 20 Stirling Rd. and at the Wilson Memorial Church which has graciously hosted many of our larger program offerings as well as our weekly Writers Group and monthly Book Discussions.

HERE ARE JUST SOME OF THE PROGRAMS YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO THIS FALL!

Music from the Andes and Latin America
Performed by Eco Del Sur
 ALL AGES
 Thursday, October 3
 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
 Wilson Memorial Church


Paint and Snack: Mountain Reflection
 (GRADES K-5)
 Tuesday, October 8
 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 20 Stirling Location

Drones 101
 (GRADES 5-12)
 Thursday, October 10
 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 20 Stirling Location

Spooky Science Show - ALL AGES
 Saturday, October 26 from 10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
 Wilson Memorial Church

Following Spooky Science Show, a message from our partners at Wilson Memorial
WILSON MEMORIAL CHURCH LOVES HALLOWEEN!

We invite you to continue your Spooky Saturday by visiting the Enchanted Forest from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Located on the Kindness Trail behind the Church's rear parking lot, guests will be greeted by characters handing out Halloween treats. As your journey continues you will discover a variety of experiments, activities, crafts and games. Popcorn, water and other snacks will be available. *(This is a free, yearly event which the Church provides for their community. Wilson Church is committed to supporting allergy free and healthy food choices as suggested in the TEAL Pumpkin Project. Community volunteers are welcome)*




SCLS NEW JERSEY
NOURISH AND THRIVE NUTRITION CENTER

EAT to Beat Stress
 presented by Elisa and Ellen from Nourish and Thrive Nutrition Center

Tuesday, October 22
 12:00pm - 1:00pm
Wilson Memorial Church
 7 Valley Rd, Watchung, NJ 07069

REGISTRATION REQUIRED!
 SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
[HTTPS://SCLSNJ.LIBNET.INFO/EVENT/1126982](https://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/1126982)
 TO REGISTER!

Questions? 908-458-8456



STEAM: Nature Prints
 (GRADES K-5)
 Tuesday, October 29
 4:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
 20 Stirling Road

We are also excited to resume our onsite passport services with a visit from our Passport Team on October 30! SCLSNJ is an officially-designated passport application acceptance facility with passport processing hours set for your convenience. By appointment only. Schedule at <https://sclsnj.org/passports/>.
Passport Services
 Wednesday, October 30 - 2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - 20 Stirling Road

Pie Fraction Party
 (GRADES K-5)
 Saturday, November 2
 12:30pm - 1:15pm
 20 Stirling Road

For more information regarding library programs please visit the library program page at sclsnj.libnet.info/events

TRAFFIC AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

The Traffic and Beautification Commission with the hard work of our DPW kept Watchung abloom this summer with flowers around the Tree of Lights, Spratford Park, Borough Hall, Texier House and other areas in town.

On April 27, Operation Pride once again saw our scouts and Knights of Columbus volunteer their services to keep Watchung clean and beautiful. Townspeople also volunteered their time and effort to clean around our lakes, schools, and roadways. Everyone who participated received an Operation Pride T-shirt and a certificate of thanks from our Mayor. There were refreshments and clean-up gear available for all.

July fourth found Watchung decorated with American flags and flowers. Our tribute to the Founding Fathers and all the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives, fortunes and honor to build a fledgling group of thirteen colonies into the leader of the free world.

We were fortunate to have to replace only a few trees on Somerset Street so far this year. T&B is planning to improve the ends of the islands this Fall. The month of May found the bloom of cherry trees a welcoming sight as they drove along Somerset Street.

Summer is waning and we are all looking forward to the cool Fall weather. Once again we will see scarecrows on the Village Green for Watchung's Annual Scarecrow Stroll. People strolling along stopped to take pictures of the creations from individual school children, families, and local groups. Participation was amazing.

You will shortly be seeing T&B decorating our town for the Fall season. Pumpkins, mums and wreaths will again brighten the Watchung Circle. T&B wishes you all a Happy Fall!!!



WATCHUNG HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Greetings from the Watchung Historical Committee!

The Watchung Historical Committee has been busy preparing for Watchung's 100th Anniversary in 2026. We encourage all to be involved, and here are some ways we are preparing for this special anniversary!

Watchung T-Shirts: We recently launched a new Watchung Anniversary T-shirt program. Choose one of the three T-shirt designs, showcasing historical buildings in Watchung that are still used today (Texier House, Wilson Church, & Watchung Arts Center). You can purchase T-shirts for \$15 at Borough Hall, any Texier Museum Open House Event, at the Harvest Festival, and the upcoming Somerset County Journey Through the Past! Fabric markers available at the Texier House to customize your own T-shirt (or inexpensively at Michael's and Amazon). Available sizes: Youth M & Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL.



Archiving Collections: The Historical Committee, with the support of volunteers, have been working hard digitizing and categorizing hundreds of photos, articles, other documents on file at the Texier House. Eventually these photos will be incorporated in displays at the Texier House Museum as well as viewable on www.watchunghistory.org. Thank you all who continue to help in this monumental effort and look forward to working with you and others in the future!

Museum & Web Updates: This summer, Eagle Scout candidate Thomas Schaefer began working with the committee on a possible new display at the Museum on the earliest industries in Watchung. We expect the finished display will feature information on various Watchung farms, copper mines, water/glass/ice companies, distilleries and much more!

Some of the most prominent artifacts currently in the museum will be professionally photographed for the website. Please check out our YouTube channel with ever increasing videos about Watchung and the surrounding areas! These videos will be integrated into the website. As always, we seek contributions from anybody with photos or artifacts relative to Watchung history to grow the website and Museum itself.

A representative from the New Jersey Associations of Museums - Artifact Assessment Program visited the Texier House Museum in June to assess the overall museum, artifacts, prevention disaster relief and recovery measures we currently have in place. We expect a report in the coming months on some of our strengths and where we can improve.

Participate in Journey Through the Past with the Historical Committee! The Texier House Museum will participate again in Journey Through the Past on October 12th (10am to 5pm) and 13th (Noon to 4pm). Join us for this special event!

The Texier House Museum is located in the center of the Watchung circle. We have open House events the first and third Sundays of each month. Be sure to check www.watchunghistory.org or the Borough website for any announcements, closures, or special guests. To learn more about how you can help the Watchung Texier House Museum, and to volunteer please email us at historic@watchungnj.gov.



Post #1: Before the construction of the Valley Furniture Shop, originally called the Valley Shop, a two-family residential rental home (shown) existed on the property and had an address of Rural First Delivery,

RFD-3. The Marsh and Haberle families lived in this rental home until Harlan (H.B.) Pratt purchased the residence with the vision to build a business.



Post #2: Horse trails once crisscrossed the Watchung landscape. It was not uncommon to see locals riding horses along the main roads in town including Mountain Boulevard, Valley Road, Bonnie Burn, Stirling Road or even Johnston Drive. Old Somerset Street was no exception, and once served exclusively as a riding trail. It ran uninterrupted between Hillcrest and Bonnie Burn Road, both south and parallel to Ridge Road. This same horse trail extended west of Hillcrest and into the towns of Warren and Bedminster.

Post #3: Throughout its history, the Watchung Library has resided in three buildings. It was first located in the northwest corner of a multi-use building known as the Honeymoon Apartments (shown) and had approximate dimensions of 16' x 30', located in front of



where the Rescue Squad building resides today. It later moved to the Arts Center Building, and then finally to its current location which was previously the residential home of the Pratt Family.

Post #4: The Watchung Chemical Engine Company was first organized on August 18th, 1910, at the Maults Hotel, better known as the Washington House Hotel and Restaurant. It was the spontaneous idea of William de la Roach



Anderson who felt a fire company was needed after a routine test of a fire extinguisher at the Washington House. It is ironic that the Washington House, owned by George Maura, would be destroyed from a devastating fire on October 19, 1962.



REMINGTON & VERNICK ENGINEERS

Excellence • Innovation • Service



Providing comprehensive engineering services:

- Water/Wastewater
- Municipal
- Facilities/Energy/MEP
- Transportation

429 Route 79, Suite 21
Morganville, NJ 07751

732-955-8000
rve.com

YOUR *local* REAL ESTATE OFFICE

M Square Real Estate

nobody better connects people & homes

www.msquarerealestate.com

908-941-7682

63 Mountain Blvd.
Watchung, NJ 07069



Follow us



@msquarerealestate



BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

15 Mountain Boulevard
Watchung, NJ 07069

ECRWSS EDDM

Postal Customer

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 550
Lehigh Valley, PA

FALL/WINTER 2024



This Community Newsletter is produced for
the Borough of Watchung by Hometown Press
215.257.1500 • All rights reserved®



To Place An Ad Call Peggy Kucipak At Hometown Press • 215-262-3617 • peggy.cbn@gmail.com

NEW LOOK, **NEW NAME**, SAME TEAM, BETTER RESULTS.

COME TO **EXPECT EXCELLENCE** IN ORTHOPEDIC CARE

IS YOUR SPINE OR JOINT PAIN KEEPING YOU
FROM DOING THE THINGS YOU LOVE?

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW PERFORMANCE
ORTHO CAN HELP YOU



DON'T WAIT, CALL TODAY!

908-552-0952



PERFORMANCEORTHO™
ORTHOPEDICS | SPINE | PAIN

PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS



No Referrals Needed!
Most Insurances Accepted!
www.PerformanceOrtho.com