

SPRING 2010



PUBLISHED BY THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

The Borough of Watchung Community Newsletter

Mayor's Message

As I write this spring newsletter we are still covered with snow, however, some temperatures seem to be rising and that is good news. Speaking of good news, I have received several notes and many calls praising our Public Works crew for the fine job they did handling the latest snowstorms.

The bridge is finished at our circle and the restriction on turning left at the bottom of Hillcrest is in place. Work continues on Somerset Street with completion, including new lighting, anticipated this summer. The improvement project has begun at the Blue Star overpass and will continue for the rest of this year, with completion expected next March, 2011. We will be completing paving and drainage work on Johnston Drive from Upper Drive to Woodledge with the aid of \$325,000 grant funds from the state. As we prepare our budget for this year we do not expect much in state aid. We will know more after the Governor's budget address on March 16th. In the meantime, we are reaching out to the Board of Education for discussions on their budget. I predict many difficult decisions will have to be made this year.

Somerset County is promoting an innovative solar panel program and we are applying to explore adding solar panels to all our public buildings. This is a long-term project, which will save electricity costs. We are saving on the cost of natural gas through our Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) as a member of New Jersey Sustainable Energy Meeting, which will also be applying for electricity savings via an auction in April or May.

I am sending Acting NJDOT Commissioner James S. Simpson an update on our effort to revisit Route 78 and Diamond Hill Road. We need to revive this project, on which \$5 million has been spent, with the new administration. This project is shovel-ready and we need to revive the "political shovel" which was put on the shelf. I continue to ask for your help in this process by contacting the Governor, Commissioner, Senators and Assemblymen and women. With over 14,000 cars per day using Hillcrest Road, we deserve relief.

The next phase for the Library Study Committee is sending out a request for quotes to pre-selected architects for cost analysis and conceptual design drawings. When the selection is complete and the drawings have been received, we will begin a series of meetings for public comment.

The Historical Committee is anxious to begin renovating the Texier House in their effort to finally establish a home for the history of Watchung. The building was rented to the contractor who has completed the bridge reconstruction and those funds, along with funds previously established for building improvements, will be used for this project. Please contact the committee regarding items you have that would add to the collection.

I attended a meeting of the Somerset Hills YMCA Diversity Initiative whose goal is to improve tolerance, generate better understanding of diversity and to prepare our children for participation in our local communities and, subsequently, into their futures. This dynamic group is in the planning phase and if you have an interest, please give me a call at Borough Hall, 756-0080.

I will see you at the Memorial Day picnic on Sunday, May 30th. This will be an extra special Borough event co-sponsored by the Watchung Chemical Engine Company in celebration of their 100th anniversary.

Mayor

Al Ellis

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG BULKY WASTE COLLECTION
REGISTRATION APPLICATION**

Please return this application with your check made payable to the Borough of Watchung

Name: _____ Number of Permits : _____ @\$40.00 = _____
(one per 350 lbs. of material)
Address: _____ District # 1 2
(Circle District Number)
Telephone No. _____

Materials must be out at the curb be 7:00 AM on the Monday of your designated week.

Please indicate the items you are planning to dispose of on collection day by checking below.
(approximate weights included)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|--|-----|
| - Air conditioner | 100 | _ Refrigerator | 400 |
| - Bathtub | 400 | _ Rug 5x8 | 50 |
| - Chair (large stuffed) | 75 | _ Sink (porcelain) | 40 |
| - Chair (small straight) | 25 | _ Sofa | 150 |
| - Cedar chest | 70 | _ Sofa bed | 300 |
| - Coffee table | 50 | _ Stove | 250 |
| - Desk (large) | 100 | _ Table (large) | 100 |
| - Dishwasher | 150 | _ Table (small) | 50 |
| - Door | 50 | _ Tire (auto) | 20 |
| - Dresser (adult) | 170 | _ Toilet & tank | 100 |
| - Dryer | 200 | _ TV (portable) | 75 |
| - Freezer | 250 | _ TV (console) | 100 |
| - Gas barbecue grill | 70 | _ Washing machine | 300 |
| - Hot Water Heater (40 gal) | 150 | _ Window | 30 |
| - Lawn mower | 100 | _ Other (Please list with est. weight) | |
| - Mattress (double) | 75 | - | |
| - Microwave oven | 80 | | |

STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT

I agree there will be no construction materials, regular household garbage, hazardous waste, flammable explosive waste, containers with excessive liquid, mandatory recyclable materials and similar types of items included in the materials set at the curb for collection. I will not knowingly exceed the weight limitation of 350 lbs. of material per permit sticker. I understand and agree that any unauthorized material or materials that exceed the weight limitations as determined by designated Borough officials and/or the contractor will be left at the curb and must be removed by the end of the collection day.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Check No. _____ Amount: _____ Date: _____ Initials: _____

District # _____ Permit Numbers Rec'd: _____



BULK PICK UP
DISTRICT #1
(June 7-11)

ACORN ROAD
 ANDERSON ROAD
 APPLETREE ROW
 BEECHWOOD PLACE
 BLUE WOLF TRAIL
 BROOKDALE ROAD
 CAIN CIRCLE
 CARRAR DRIVE
 CEDAR LANE
 CEDAR ROAD
 CRESTWOOD DRIVE
 DALE ROAD
 DAWN WAY
 DEER RUN
 DOGWOOD LANE
 DRIFT ROAD
 DUG WAY
 EVERGREEN LANE
 FAWN LANE
 FOREST DRIVE
 GENTIAN LANE
 GILDERSLEEVE PLACE
 GLEN EAGLE DRIVE

GLENVIEW DRIVE
 GUINARD DRIVE
 HEATHER LANE
 HIGH OAKS DRIVE
 HIGH TOR DRIVE
 HILL PLACE
 HILLCREST ROAD
 HILLSIDE AVENUE
 HUGHES LANE
 INDIAN RUN
 JOAN DRIVE
 JOHANNA LANE
 KAPPELMAN DRIVE
 KNOLLWOOD DRIVE
 LAKEVIEW AVENUE
 LAKEVIEW TERRACE
 MAPLE STREET
 MOUNTAIN BLVD.
 NATALES WAY
 PARK PLACE
 PARLIN LANE
 PHILLIP LANE
 PINE LANE

REYNOLDS DRIVE
 RIDGE ROAD
 ROBIN GLEN ROAD
 ROCK AVENUE
 ROCK ROAD EAST
 SCHMIDT CIRCLE
 SCOTT DRIVE
 SHAWNEE DRIVE
 SNODEN LANE
 SPENCER LANE
 STANIE BRAE DRIVE
 STANIE GLEN
 STIRLING ROAD
 STONE GATE
 SUNLIT DRIVE
 VALLEY VIEW ROAD
 VERONA PLACE
 WASHINGTON DRIVE
 WASHINGTON ROCK ROAD
 WATCHUNG CREST DRIVE
 WETUMKA LANE
 WILDWOOD TERRACE
 WINANS LANE
 WINTER LANE

DISTRICT #2
(June 14-18)

APPLETREE ROW
 BAYBERRY LANE
 BIRCHWOOD LANE
 BONNIE BURN ROAD
 BROOK DRIVE
 BUMBLE BEE LANE
 CANTERBURY LANE
 CARDINAL DRIVE
 CENTURY LANE
 CHELSEA CLUB COURT
 COREY LANE
 CRYSTAL RIDGE DRIVE
 DEVONSHIRE LANE
 DIAMOND COURT
 EAST DRIVE
 EATON ROAD
 EDGEMONT ROAD
 ELSINORE DRIVE
 ELLISEN ROAD
 EMERALD DRIVE
 FOX CHASE DRIVE
 FRIAR LANE

GALLOWAE
 GRAND VIEW DRIVE
 HILL HOLLOW ROAD
 HYDE CIRCLE
 JARED COURT
 JOHNSTON DRIVE
 JOHNSTON DRIVE EXTENSION
 KING RICHARD'S COURT
 KNIGHTSBRIDGE
 KRISTY LANE
 MAREU DRIVE
 MEADOWLARK ROAD
 MOUNTAIN DRIVE
 NEW PROVIDENCE ROAD
 NOTTINGHAM DRIVE
 OAKRIDGE LANE
 OAKWOOD ROAD
 OAKWOOD ROAD EAST
 OAKWOOD ROAD WEST
 OLD SOMERSET WEST
 ORCHARD ROAD
 PLAINFIELD AVENUE
 PRICE DRIVE

PROSPECT AVENUE
 REDMONT ROAD
 ROUTE 22
 SEQUOIA DRIVE
 SHADY BROOK COURT
 SHERWOOD DRIVE
 SKYLINE DRIVE
 SOMERSET STREET
 SUMMIT WAY
 SUNBRIGHT ROAD
 TALL TIMBERS ROAD
 TEMPLAR DRIVE
 TUTTLE ROAD
 UPPER DRIVE
 VAIL LANE
 VALLEY DRIVE
 VALLEY ROAD
 WATCHUNG AVENUE
 WILL LANE
 WOLFORD COURT
 WOODED ROAD
 WOODLEDGE ROAD



TRAFFIC AND BEAUTIFICATION

Another busy year has just started and we are actively planning our year. This spring the Bridge and the Somerset Street projects will be completed and should enhance the look of our town.

Once again our triangles will be planted and we are discussing new projects we can pursue during the summer. Many thanks to our committee members and the Public Works crew for all their help.



Don't forget March 20th—Operation Pride—our town-wide cleanup. This is a fun event. Please join us.



WATCHUNG GARDEN CLUB



The ladies of the Watchung Garden Club continue to donate beautiful floral arrangements for display at Borough Hall. They are a beautiful addition to the office and make a nice welcoming touch for visiting residents to enjoy.

Department of Public Works—Spring Cleanup

The Department of Public Works will again have a Spring Cleanup. Use biodegradable paper bags for all lawn debris and secure small branches and twigs in manageable bundles at your curbside. Trash or refuse will not be picked up and only small branches arranged in manageable bundles will be accepted. Your own contractor should remove large limbs/trees, which have fallen outside of the Borough's Right-Of-Way. Remember, raking of leaves and debris into the gutter is strictly prohibited by ordinance and may result in the issuance of a summons.

The curbside spring pickup will begin on April 1st and continue through April 30th. If you have any questions regarding our conditions, please call the Dept. of Public Works at 756-0091 ext. 214 or 753-6115.

Wood chips are available while supplies last. Arrangements can be made by contacting Public Works Dept. at 753-6115

Watchung Arts Center:

Please visit our website for information about our programs/events at:

www.watchungarts.org

Watchung Library:

Please visit the Watchung website for information about our programs/events at:

www.watchungnj.com



RECREATION
UPCOMING EVENTS



ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC

SUNDAY, May 30th

12:00 - 3:00 PM

CELEBRATING WATCHUNG FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Food and Fun for the whole family

SPRING AND SUMMER PROGRAMS

Visit: www.watchungrecreation.com

Women's Volleyball

Kiddy T-ball

Flag football

Multi-Sports Camp

Open Gym basketball

Kiddy Fitness

Soccer, Basketball, Frisbee Camp

Field Hockey League

Adult Tennis

Sports Squirts

Tennis

Golf

WATCHUNG SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM

1st-8th Grade

June 28th-August 6th

\$75.00 online registration fee

SOFTBALL

Watchung Ponytail Softball Web: www.whponytailsoftball.com

BASEBALL

Watchung Little League Web: www.watchunglittleleague.org

SOCCER

Watchung Hills Soccer Association Web: www.whsa.org

WRESTLING

Watchung Hills Wrestling Association Web: www.whwa.org

LACROSSE

Watchung Hills Travel Lacrosse Web: www.watchunghillslacrosse.org

FOOTBALL

Watchung Hills Pop Warner Web: www.watchunghillspopwarner.org

Watchung Hills Jr. Warrior Football Association Web: www.whjuniorwarriors.org

BASKETBALL

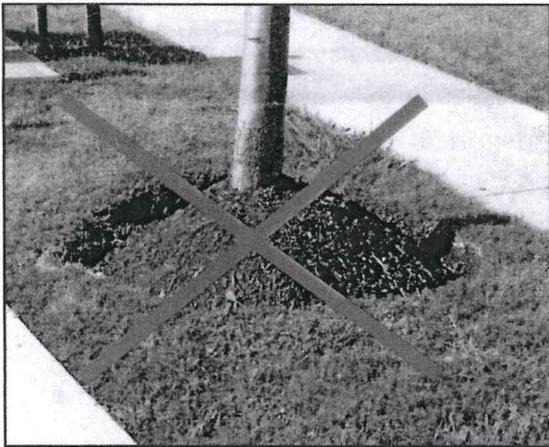
e-mail: WatchungLoops@optonline.net

MULCH VOLCANOES CAN KILL TREES

Improper mulching techniques are a common downfall and are among the leading causes of mortality in freshly planted trees. Mulch should never be piled up against the tree trunk. Mulching in a volcano shape can make the tree more susceptible to fungus, insects and rodents. The volcano of mulch also prevents water from reaching tree roots. Among the worst materials for mulching are fresh grass clippings, organic matter, peat moss or sawdust, ground rubber tires and stones or pebbles.

Mulching in the shape of a donut is the best form to prevent disease and damage to the tree. The best materials for proper mulching are chunks of bark, pine needles, wood chips aged for one year, or leaves that have been shredded and decomposed for a minimum of three months. Mulch should be spread six inches from the trunk at ground level and outward to the ends of the outreaching branches. Keep the mulch to a maximum depth of four inches, never allowing it to gather around the trunk itself.

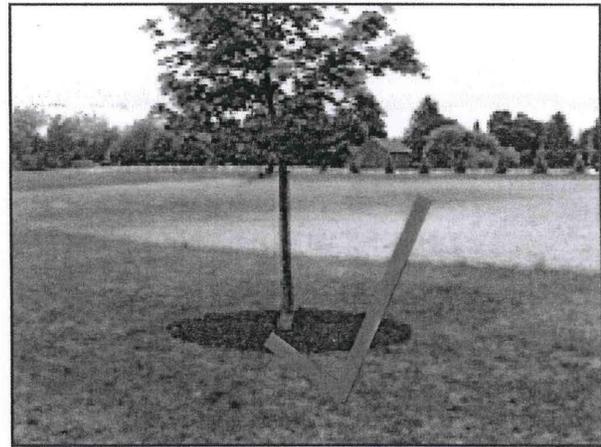
Proper mulching techniques nourish the tree by



assisting the soil to hold water for the roots while reducing weeds and grass around the tree that would compete for resources such as water and nutrients. Mulching also prevents soil erosion, which is highly damaging to the tree's roots and increases the chance for the tree to become uprooted in a storm. Mulch helps to moderate soil temperature, which is much less stressful for the tree's roots. Acting like an insulating blanket, mulch helps to cool the soil in the summer and warm it in the winter. The right mulch can act like a slow-release fertilizer for the tree.

If trees on your property are surrounded by mulch volcanoes, do not remove the entire volcano at once, which may further stress the tree as its roots may have grown up into the mulch volcano. The New Jersey Community Forestry Program suggests contacting a registered NJ Certified Tree Expert for suggestions on treating the tree. For more information contact the Community Forestry Program at (609) 292-2532 or visit www.communityforestry.nj.gov.

Volcanoes Are Bad! Donuts Are Good!



TEN OF THE MANY REASONS TO PLANT TREES IN NJ

1. Trees store carbon and clean our air. In 50 years, one tree generates \$30,000 in oxygen, recycles \$35,000 of water and removes \$60,000 of air pollution.
2. Trees prevent or reduce soil erosion.
3. Trees make life more pleasant by softening harsh outlines of buildings and reducing noise pollution.
4. Trees screen unsightly views and provide privacy in our neighborhoods.
5. Research shows that trees help reduce stress in the workplace and speed hospital patients' recovery.
6. Living windbreaks reduce cooling and heating costs, reduce wind, provide wildlife habitat and simply look nice.
7. Living snowfences, strategically placed trees hold snow away from roads, reducing maintenance costs.
8. Trees, planted as memorials, leave a valuable gift for future generations.
9. Trees add brilliant colors to fall landscapes and following the dropping of the leaves, provide excellent mulch for the Garden State.
10. It has been proven that trees measurably increase neighborhood cohesion and thus reduce crime rates.

Cat Licenses

Cat licenses are due during the month of May. *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 April of licensing 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 AM to 4:00 PM.

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 cats seven months of age or older must be licensed. If you have more than one cat to register, please provide requested information for each cat. You may use a separate sheet of paper or pick up additional registration forms at Borough Hall. Proof of vaccination must be submitted with this form for each animal registered. 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: _____

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

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

Cat's Name: _____

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

Proof of rabies vaccination must be sent with this application.



Veterinarian's Name: _____

Fee Schedule:

During May, \$3.00 for NEUTERED cats

Maximum Fee \$15.00 per household

During May, \$5.00 for NON-NEUTERED

Maximum Fee \$25.00 per household

**After May 31st, a \$2.00 late fee per license
Is added.**

Fee Calculation

License Fee Neutered: \$3 x _____ \$ _____
Maximum \$15.00 (#cats)

Non-Neutered Fee: \$5 x _____ \$ _____
Maximum \$25.00 (#cats)

Late Fee: \$2.00/cat \$ _____
After 5/31/05

Total Due: \$ _____

Make check payable to: Borough of Watchung



FACTS ABOUT LEADING CAUSES OF FIRES IN THE HOME

COOKING - The leading cause of Home Fires & injuries. (40% of reported home fires each year)

SAFETY TIPS:

1. Pay attention to your cooking. (stay in kitchen when cooking). If you leave, turn off the stove.
2. When simmering, boiling, baking or roasting food—check regularly, use time to remind you.

SMOKING - The leading cause of Fire Deaths. One out of four victims **are not** the smoker whose cigarette started the fire.

SAFETY TIPS:

1. Ask smokers to smoke outside.
2. Provide smokers with deep, sturdy ashtrays.
3. **Never** smoke if you are tired, have had alcohol or drugs that make you sleepy.
4. Keep smoking material away from things that can burn, like bedding, furniture, clothing.

HEATING - The second leading cause of fire deaths. Half of all heating-related fire deaths happen in December, January and February.

SAFETY TIPS:

1. Keep space heaters at least 3 feet from people and from anything that can burn (curtains, bedding).
2. Turn portable space heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
3. Have heating equipment professionally inspected and serviced every year.
4. Have your chimneys cleaned and inspected each heating season.

CARBON MONOXIDE THE INVISIBLE KILLER

Each year in America, carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning claims more than 500 lives and send another 15,200 to emergency rooms for treatment . It is an odorless, colorless, toxic gas, impossible to see, taste or smell the fumes. It can kill you before you are aware it is in your home. Lower levels of exposure to CO causes mild effects that are often mistaken for the flu. Symptoms include headaches, dizziness, disorientation, nausea and fatigue. The effects of exposure can vary greatly from person to person depending upon age, health and concentration and length of exposure.

CO gas can come from gas fired appliances, charcoal grills, wood burning stoves or fireplaces and motor vehicles.

Protect yourself and family by installing at least one CO alarm on every level of your home with an audible warning signal.

Purchase CO alarms that have been evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory such as (UL). Install near sleeping areas and outside individual bedrooms. These alarms measure levels of CO over time and are designed to sound an alarm before the average, healthy adult would experience symptoms.

THE WATCHUNG HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

The Watchung Historical Committee continues its mission to preserve, protect and record the history of the Borough of Watchung. We had a busy and productive year.

We are continuing to collect and organize weekly newspaper clippings to put in yearly scrapbooks, highlighting the important events.

We continue to photograph current events in the Borough. We also photograph important changes in the landscape, with the intention of publishing a "Then and Now" booklet in the future.

We are responsible for providing information about our veterans for the Memorial Day Service. This past Memorial Day we honored the Scotti brothers, Donald, Lou and Henry. All three men served in our armed forces. We also honored Dr. Lee Ehrenworth. The ceremony was well attended by families and friends of our veterans. Councilman Steve Pote gave a very moving and memorable speech.

We are working on the possibility of honoring Dr. Charles A. Eaton who was a Congressman from Watchung and was one of the original signers of the U.N. Charter and is credited with helping the U.N. get up and running. He may well have been Somerset County's most prominent citizen. We currently have one of our Somerset County Freeholders working on this for us.

We are still working on getting into our new home, "The Texier House." We have visited other historical houses and are getting great ideas. We met with Tom D'Amico from the Somerset County Historic Preservation Committee and Tom Buckingham, an historian from Greenbrook. We were disappointed to learn that we do not qualify for a Historical Grant because the house has been totally changed. They thought we might be able to get a Museum Grant, which we will look into.

We have had one builder give us an estimate on costs and are contacting two additional contractors.

Please contact us if you have any, or know of anyone who has memorabilia concerning the Texier House, or if you know of any of their relatives who may be living in the area. You may contact Barbara Diem at 908-756-5949. We would also welcome any items that you may possess concerning Watchung's history. We are very excited and cannot wait to move into our new home! We will let you know when we will be open to the public.

We also continue to sell the Watchung Book at \$20.00 each and Bill Titus' note cards of local scenes for \$15.00. These can be purchased at Borough Hall or by calling Barbara Diem at 908-756-5949.

Barbara Diem, Chairperson

Betty Aldrich, Co-chairperson

Dorothy Addario, Secretary

Betty Black

Virginia Cooper

Susan Feibush

Betse Titus

Steve Pote, Liaison



SUMMER HEALTH NEWS
LYME DISEASE REMINDER

Lyme disease is still very prevalent in our environment and the health department would like to remind everyone to take the following precautions against exposure to ticks and Lyme disease as we approach the warmer months of spring and summer.

- ◆ Avoid tick-infested areas such as wooded areas and edges, and landscaped areas covered in leaf litter, dense vegetation, or high grasses or shrubs.
- ◆ Wear light-colored clothing that makes seeing ticks easier.
- ◆ Tuck pants legs into socks and shirts into pants so ticks are forced to crawl on the outside of clothing where they are easier seen and removed.

-
- ◆ Use repellants to reduce the chance of tick exposure. Be sure to read and follow the label directions completely.
 - ◆ Examine yourself and family members promptly after returning from the outdoors to reduce the chance of ticks feeding.

RABIES CLINIC

*The Warren Board of Health, in conjunction with the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission, will be offering one rabies clinic this spring. All residents are encouraged to have their dog or cat vaccinated against rabies. Spring is upon us and we can expect to see a restart of 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 clinic is free to all.** All dogs must be controlled on a leash and cats must*

TIME TO TEST YOUR WELL?

Numerous residential wells are tested and found contaminated with various potential health hazards every year. In response to this, many municipalities and the State require testing of wells prior to the sale of a property and for rental properties. However, there is no law requiring the private homeowner to test their well on a regular basis and consequently many individuals are likely to be unknowingly exposed to potentially harmful materials. The health department urges all property owners whose properties are served by a private well to test the well on an annual basis. We suggest testing for the compounds required by the State's Private Well Testing Act if you sell your home, but at a minimum wells should be tested for chemical and bacterial contamination. Well testing must be conducted by a private state certified laboratory. A list of these laboratories can be found at:

http://www.state.nj.us/dep/pwta/pwta_lablist.htm

or

you may contact the health department at 732-356-8090 for more information on local labs.

The price of a well test may be more than you want to spend, but think of the potential costs of not testing and you will realize that the test is money well spent.

SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Is your property serviced by a septic system? If so, when was the last time you had your septic tank pumped? In order to prolong the life of your system and help prevent problems we strongly suggest you have your septic tank inspected and pumped on a regular basis. A good rule of thumb is to have your tank pumped every three years, but depending upon the age of the system, the size of the system, and the use of the system you may need to have it pumped more or less frequently. Call your septic contractor or the health department for more information. A relatively small expense now can help avert the very large expense of repairing or replacing a septic system later.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY

Did you know that children between the ages of 2-17 average 15,000-18,000 hours of TV watching, which has been associated with childhood obesity. That's equal to three years of their working lives.

H1N1 PANDEMIC INFLUENZA UPDATE

The Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission combined forces and resources with other local health departments by creating the Greater Somerset Public Health Partnership and collaborating to address the H1N1 pandemic influenza. This Partnership started planning in early 2009 and since November 2009 has sponsored more than 40 H1N1 Vaccination clinics throughout the area, vaccinating more than 20,000 individuals. The Commission hosted several of these clinics and vaccinated more than 2000 individuals at our clinics alone. The Partnership will continue to offer the H1N1 vaccine as long as there is a demand and a need. Clinic dates and times, vaccination appointments, and more information on influenza can be accessed at the Commission's website: www.middlebrookhealth.org

The Commission reminds residents that novel-H1N1 influenza is a potentially deadly disease and that residents should get vaccinated. Vaccine is currently available for everyone who wants it. In addition, we encourage all individuals to continue to take these simple yet essential steps to reduce their risk of infection. These steps can help protect you not only from the H1N1 Flu virus, but many other bacterial and viral infections as well. These include:

Applying 'cough and sneeze etiquette' by always covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inside of your elbow. Be sure to wash your hands after! Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way. Staying home from school or work when sick, to avoid spreading germs.

The Friends of the Watchung Library invite you to stop by our year-round book sale upstairs for some great finds. We have wonderful new and gently-used books for children of all ages, including picture books for the youngest readers and a large collection of books for teens. We have tons of adult fiction for your light reading and an extensive collection of nonfiction, with titles on health, travel, parenting, history and politics, crafts, home repair and maintenance, cookbooks, and more! You're sure to find something you'll want to take home!

April's National Library Week is the perfect time to renew your **Friends** membership or to sign up as a new member. Please look for our annual membership flyer in your mailbox soon.

HOUSEHOLD BATTERY DISPOSAL

AS OF JANUARY 1, 2010 - HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES WILL NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED WITH YOUR CURBSIDE COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLES.

If you have "Alkaline" batteries—they can be disposed of in your regular household trash.

Rechargeable batteries can be recycled at participating retail locations: Radio Shack, Best Buy, Staples, Target, Office Max, Lowes, Home Depot, Sears, Wal-Mart and Verizon Wireless. To find a collection site use the site locator at www.call2recycle.org or call helpline 1-800-8-BATTERY.

CASH IN ON YOUR OLD REFRIGERATOR

Recycling meets energy conservation and job creation in an innovative new program that pays \$30 for old, energy-wasting refrigerators or freezers and provides free pickup and recycling.

Older refrigeration units can use about three times as much energy as those made since 2001, and can leak a host of toxins and greenhouse gases into air and soil when improperly discarded. Old units will be hauled to the State's program contractor to be dismantled and recycled in an environmentally responsible manner.

To schedule a pickup of a refrigerator or freezer for recycling, call (877)270-3520 or visit www.NJCleanEnergy.com. Checks will be mailed to owners within 90 to 120 days after collection. *



Winston leads Rescue Squad into the future

By Independent Press

January 26, 2010, 5:03PM

By Robert Kopacz

WATCHUNG — Robert Winston may not appear to be a veteran of anything, but when it comes to emergency medical services in Watchung, he will call your bluff. For 15 years, Winston, 31, has been a member of the Borough of Watchung's Rescue Squad. Starting as a cadet in high school, gradually moving up through to the position of captain, he has been recently chosen to be president of the Watchung Rescue Squad.

As the new president, he has his work cut out for him. He takes the reins of the rescue squad at the time where economic situation is causing even the most generous of donors and volunteers to perhaps hesitate before stepping forward.

Winston got his start from a push from his mother and father to do some volunteer work as a teenager. His mother one day suggested the rescue squad by leaving an application in his room. It took him just a little way into his first visit interview to start getting excited about the opportunity. "I remember that they were doing extrications during my interview, and they were showing me how to use the Jaws of Life, and from that moment, I was hooked," he noted.

Winston, who is currently a licensed social worker with a private practice of psychotherapy and a full time position at the Jersey City Medical Center in its behavioral health unit sees a need to reform the administrative part of the squad, reducing or streamlining some of the voluminous formalities and numerous reports which volunteers may find burdensome or distracting.

Rescue squad volunteers are remarkable people. According to Winston, they come from all walks of life. He is a professional therapist, running both a private practice, and holding a regular job at a hospital in Jersey City. The members of the squad come from all walks of life. The current squad counts a chemist, a retired pharmacist, a retired college professor, high school teacher and dentist amongst its ranks.

He hopes that a new strategic plan centered on reaching out to the community through more face-to-face contact with the residents, and particularly the high school students, will be key to a robust squad in the future.

In addition to the economic times, another challenge comes from the changing face of Watchung. He notes that recent times have shown a lot of new families moving to Watchung, and a big part of the job will be learning how to educate them on the benefits of donating to the rescue squad by volunteering. An increase in the number of two-earner families makes volunteering your time more difficult, notes Winston (volunteers who are on call for several hours at a stretch must be able to respond to a call at the Rescue Squad's headquarters on Stirling Road within five minutes, even in the wee hours of the morning).

Rescue squad volunteers view life at its most difficult moment: the time somebody needs the assistance of medical personnel, either through some major medical event, such as a cardiac arrest, or an accident, but they can offer support that is priceless to those who need it, sometimes well beyond the scope of providing emergency medical services.

Winston recalls a particularly poignant moment from early in his career, when the squad responded to a call to an elderly woman. As Winston describes it, everybody, including the elderly woman, knew she was dying. They took her to the hospital and did what they could. Winston held her hand during the ride to the hospital.

"As we were walking her inside, she pulled me in close because she couldn't speak very well, and she says 'Thank you so much for holding my hand, I'm going to say a little prayer for you before I go,'" says Winston, relating the story. "If that doesn't rip on your heart strings, nothing does. But that's why we're here."

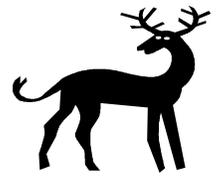
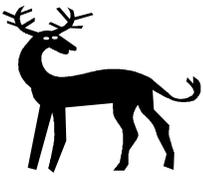
Those interested in volunteering or donating should contact the Watchung Rescue Squad at 908-755-1297, or visit its website at watchungems.org.



Front Row left to right: Claire Ohl; Richard Young (Operation Sgt); Mel Isidro (Captain); Karin Gast (Administrative Secretary); Dorothy Addario (Secretary); Second Row left to right: Gemmy Siegel (Administrative Sgt.); Celia Garcia (Vice President); Don Monetti (2nd. Lt.); Adam Wexler (1st Lt.); Robert Winston (President)



Left to right: Gemmy Siegel (Administrative Sgt.); Adam Wexler (1st Lt.); Mel Isidro (Captain); Robert Winston (President)



Forest Management experts advise that a healthy forest can support no more than twenty deer per square mile and woodlands such as the Borough's that have already been over-browsed by deer require a deer population of less than ten deer per square mile in order for regeneration to occur and to return our woodlands to a healthy state of environmental balance. Over browsing of our forest understory by the existing deer herd is having a detrimental affect on reforestation. At present, the Borough deer population is estimated to be between forty to sixty deer per square mile. Anecdotal evidence from residents indicates that to a small extent low-lying vegetation has returned to our woodlands and residential properties, but the Borough is far from its goal of complete regeneration of our precious woodlands.

To that end, the Mayor and Council have again authorized a culling program for the 2009-2010 hunting season. There is no viable realistic alternative to reducing the current size of the Borough's deer herd. To date, no alternative programs, such as birth control, sterilization, or trapping has been found to viably replace the present controlled hunt. The destruction of all vegetation below four feet means increased flooding, the lowering of water quality in our streams, rivers, lakes and ultimately bays, loss of habitat for smaller animals and birds and absence of new trees, which are such a vital characteristic of the Borough landscape, to replace the older trees as they mature and die. Ancillary benefits include, but are not limited to, the expectation of a decrease in car/deer accidents, fewer lyme disease-carrying ticks and a reduction in the destruction of landscape plants.

Since its inception in 2002, the Borough of Watchung Community Based Deer Management Program has held safety as its utmost concern and has not experienced a single accident as a result of its culling activities. While the regeneration of our woodlands and the positive outcomes resulting from healthy forests is the primary objective of our program, there have been other benefits from the expenditures associated with the culling program. Since 2002, approximately seven hundred deer have been harvested from the Borough, yielding approximately thirty thousand pounds of high protein venison, all of which was donated to the New Jersey Community Food Bank, an organization that provides food to needy individuals. Additionally, during the first year of the culling program in 2002, the Borough experienced six hundred eighty-five motor vehicle accidents. Of these accidents, forty-five involved collisions with deer causing four personal injuries. During the last full year of the hunt in 2009, the Borough experienced seven hundred thirty-one motor vehicle accidents. Of these accidents, eight involved collisions with deer causing one personal injury, marking a dramatic reduction in car/deer collisions since the culling program was implemented.

The success of any deer population program is heavily reliant upon the number of culling sites. During the 2008-2009 season, the Borough was fortunate to have had approximately ten sites. However, a substantial increase in sites would significantly assist the Borough in improving the culling results and ultimately our goal of regeneration of our woodlands. State law prohibits hunting within four hundred fifty feet of an inhabitable building, without owner's permission. The attached form may be forwarded to the Borough offices to have your property considered for a culling site, or simply call the Borough offices at (908) 756-0080.

For additional information regarding any aspects of the Community Based Deer Management Program please contact Administrator Laureen Fellin at the Borough offices at (908) 756-0080.

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
Deer Management Program
Property Owner Authorization Letter

Name of all property owner(s):

Address:

Borough/Zip:

Phone:

I hereby grant permission to the Borough of Watchung and Deer Management Systems, Inc., to utilize my property to bait, kill, destroy, injure, shoot, shoot at, take, wound, or attempt to take, kill or wound deer within 450 feet of any occupied building on my property. This will be done as part of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife approved Community Based Deer Management Program in the Borough of Watchung, I understand that I will be notified prior to any Borough Deer Management Program activity within 450 feet of any occupied building on my property.

#1 Owner Signature: _____

(Print Name): _____

#2 Owner Signature: _____

(Print Name): _____

Date: _____

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. Call (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.
(Circle all areas of interest)

Board of Adjustment

Board of Health

Cable Advisory Committee

Environmental Commission

Historic Committee

Library Advisory Committee

Local Assistance Board

Municipal Alliance

Open Space Committee

Planning Board

Recreation Commission

Traffic & Beautification Committee

Village Center Committee

Other (Explain) _____

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

Watchung Building Department

HELPFUL FACTS FOR RESIDENTS:

FOLLOWING ARE SOME COMMON JOBS CONSIDERED ORDINARY BUILDING MAINTENANCE IN YOUR HOME WHICH DO NOT REQUIRE A PERMIT

- * EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR PAINTING*
- * INSTALLATION, REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OF ANY INTERIOR FINISHES*
- * VINYL WALL COVERING OF ANY AMOUNT*
- * WALL PAPERING AT ANY LOCATION*
- * REPLACEMENT OF EXTERIOR RAIN WATER GUTTERS AND LEADERS*
- * REPLACE MENT OR INSTALLATION OF SCREENS*
- * REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OF ANY PART OF A PORCH OR STOOP WHICH DOES NOT STRUCTURALLY SUPPORT A ROOF ABOVE*
- * REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OF ANY INTERIOR OR EXTERIOR TRIM, DECORATION OR MOLDINGS*
- * REPAIR OF EXISTING ROOFING MATERIAL NOT EXCEEDING 25% OF THE TOTAL ROOF AREA WITHIN ANY 12 MONTH*
- * REPLACEMENT OR INSTALLATION OF ANY FLOORING MATERIAL, EXCEPT CARPETING, WITH A NEW MATERIAL. HOWEVER, INSTALLATION OF CARPETING IN ONE AND TWO FAMILY DWELLINGS SHALL BE CONSIDERED ORDINARY MAINTENANCE*

Continued on Next Page...

** REPLACEMENT OF GLASS IN ANY WINDOW OR DOOR. HOWEVER, THE REPLACEMENT GLASS SHALL BE OF A TYPE AND QUALITY THAT COMPLIES WITH THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF THE CODE.*

** INSTALLATION AND REPLACEMENT OF ANY WINDOW OR DOOR, INCLUDING GARAGE DOORS, IN THE SAME OPENING WITHOUT ALTERING THE DIMENSIONS OR FRAMING OF THE ORIGINAL OPENING. THIS SHALL INCLUDE STORM WINDOWS AND STORM DOORS. **

** INSTALLATION AND REPLACEMENT OF MEANS OF EGRESS AND EMERGENCY ESCAPE WINDOWS AND DOORS MAY BE MADE IN THE SAME OPENING WITHOUT ALTERING THE DIMENSIONS OR FRAMING OF THE ORIGINAL OPENING, AND SHALL NOT REDUCE THE REQUIRED HEIGHT, WIDTH OR NET CLEAR OPENING OF THE PREVIOUS WINDOW OR DOOR ASSEMBLY.*

** REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OF ANY NON-STRUCTURAL MEMBER SUCH AS A PARTITION RAILING OR KITCHEN CABINET.*

BELOW ARE SOME COMMON THINGS REQUIRING A CONSTRUCTION PERMIT:

HOT WATER HEATERS

RE-ROOF

FURNACE/ BOILERS

AIR CONDITIONING

ADDITIONS

ALTERATIONS/RENOVATIONS

RE-SIDING

IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION OR ARE NOT CLEAR ON WHAT REQUIRES A PERMIT, PLEASE CALL THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT AT 756-6093 AND WE CAN WALK YOU THROUGH THE PROCESS!

EDWARD P. BENNETT JR.- CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL

CAROLYN TAYLOR- TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Garden Club of Watchung

The Garden Club of Watchung is pleased to announce its spring luncheon to be held at the Primavera Regency in Stirling on Wednesday, April 12, 2010 at noon (doors open at 11:00 am).

The guest speaker will be renowned floral designer Julie Conley of Warren Country Florist who will demonstrate her “Dazzling Designs.” Julie’s creations have been featured on television programs on the ‘E!’ and ‘style.’ networks as well as the program ‘Whose Wedding is it ANYWAY?’. As an event designer, Julie says her mission is to form “strategic relationships with the finest...talented event professionals...to orchestrate the perfect affair.” She is known for bringing her more than two decades of experience together to provide beautiful and stress-free parties.

Luncheon co-chair Colleen Mehegan said, “We’re delighted to present a local florist who has made such a name for herself, not only with her floral creations, but also as an event planner.” Julie will

provide the centerpieces for the luncheon tables in addition to sharing her experiences and demonstrating her designs.

A further highlight of the afternoon’s program will be a raffle to include Julie’s demonstration arrangements, the table décor, and a number of themed gift baskets. Co-chair Marie Russo noted, “The doors will open at 11 am and we invite guests to come early to see the remarkable assortment of themed baskets and other items in our raffle this year. There should be something to appeal to everyone, including a delicious three-course luncheon.”

Proceeds from the event will help fund the club’s activities for its 54th year of service to the community. Among current projects are maintenance of memorial gardens, the Watchung Public Library deer resistant demonstration garden and ongoing elementary school programs.

For ticket information and reservations, please call 908-754-0784 or 908-754-5766.



Photo Caption:

At a recent meeting of the Watchung Garden Club, member Colleen Mehegan displayed an item that will be the focal point of one of the themed baskets to be raffled at the club’s April 14 fundraiser.

PUBLISHED BY THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

Watchung Municipal Building

15 Mountain Boulevard

Watchung, New Jersey 07069

Watchung Public Information Channel 15

Visit us on the Web

Www.watchungnj.com

MAYOR ALBERT S. ELLIS

Thomas Franklin

Stephen Pote

Gerald Mobus

William Nehls

Stephen L. Black

Debra Joren

Administrator/Borough Clerk

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

Police

Emergency 911
Non-emergency 756-3663

Fire Department

Emergency 911
Non-emergency 561-9389

Municipal Court

Pamela Steves 757-1407
psteves@watchungnj.com

Emergency Management

Contact Police Dept. 756-3663

Watchung Arts Center

for information call: 561-0190

Public Works Facility

Charles Gunther 753-6115
cgunther@watchungnj.com

Engineering Office

Tom Herits 756-0091
therits@watchungnj.com

Watchung Public Library

Library Hours:

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

Construction Official/Zoning Officer

Ed Bennett 756-6093
ebennett@watchungnj.com

Tax Assessor

Ed Kerwin 756-3366
ekerwin@watchungnj.com

Tax Collector

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

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