

The Borough of Watchung and the State of NJ has experienced severe weather during the past few years. We all know that severe weather can occur at any time - Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer. Watchung's Emergency Management Team along with the Mayor and Council, have prepared the **ENCLOSED** double-sided magnet to assist you in preparing for an emergency and as a resource tool during an emergency event. The magnet contains Important Contact Information, How to get Information, In Case of Emergency Checklist, Generator Safety, Downed Poles and Wires, Important Tips/Things to Remember.

In preparation for your family, don't forget to include any pets that you may own. This would include copies of vaccination history, medications, food supply, bowls and proof of ownership, such as pictures of family members with your pets.

The Borough's OEM Team has been diligently updating our preparedness plan for emergencies. The Watchung Fire Exempt Hall will be our primary warming/cooling center in the event of a severe emergency, as deemed by the OEM Team. We have also been working jointly with our neighboring municipalities to update sheltering capabilities.

#### **After a severe weather event –**

- Stay off roads to allow emergency crews to clear roads and provide emergency assistance.
- Use care around downed power lines. Assume all downed wires are live. Report it to emergency authorities.
- Watch out for overhead hazards such as broken tree limbs, wires and other debris. Be cautious walking around.
- Be aware of children playing outdoors and in the streets, particularly climbing on or running around downed trees and wires. Parents should remind their children to stay away from these hazards.
- Avoid walking or driving into flood waters. The water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline or raw sewerage, contain downed power lines or animals.
- Report all hazards, such as broken/leaking gas lines, damaged sewage systems, flooded electrical circuits, submerged appliances and structural damage. Leave the area if you smell gas or chemical fumes.
- Check on neighbors, particularly elderly or those who may require special assistance.
- Take photographs/videos of damage as soon as possible. Contact your insurance company to file a claim.

#### **Additional Resources -**

Somerset County CART Team -

[www.co.somerset.nj.us/CART](http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/CART)

American Red Cross -

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) (click on Plan & Prepare)

Center for Disease Control and Prevention - [www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/)

Federal Emergency Management Agency - [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

We hope you find this information useful and the magnet handy for all of your family members to access, if needed.

***Office of Emergency Management***



**The Official Newsletter for  
THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG**  
SPECIAL OEM EDITION  
ISSUE 2015-02

**A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR**

Spring and summer are wonderful times of the year for people to be outdoors and enjoy the warm weather. What some people do not realize is that spring is the beginning of hurricane season. Without warning, weather conditions can change quickly, and it is not unusual to find yourself in the middle of an unexpected thunderstorm with lightning, heavy rain, high winds and even hail. As we learned from Hurricane Irene, Snow-tober, and Superstorm Sandy, severe weather can result in massive damage such as downed trees and power lines, closed roads and flooding, damaged/destroyed homes, and even loss of life. The aftermath can have an impact on a community for days, weeks, or even months. Being prepared can minimize danger to you and your family.

This Mayor and Council have been diligent in making numerous changes to improve preparedness of the Borough in the event of another incident. An improved website, a Facebook page, Nixel alerts, resident email alerts and a reverse 911 system have all been implemented in an effort to increase communications. Back-up generators in Borough buildings have been installed, and a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Team has been established and added to our Emergency Service family of first responders.

While all of this is proactive, I believe it is not enough. As we learned previously, in times of disaster it is very hard to reach out to "every" resident. That is why I have established a "Neighborhood Captain Program." This program is designed to target individual residents who would represent their street or neighborhood. They would be responsible for helping to ensure that communications are disseminated to all, including those who may not have access to the internet, or need special attention.

While some residents have already volunteered, we need more to make this program efficient and effective. Hopefully, we may never need your help, but knowing you're on-board in the event of an emergency would make all operations smoother.

For additional details, please call Borough Hall at 908-756-0080, or visit the Borough's website at [www.watchungnj.gov](http://www.watchungnj.gov).

I would like to thank those who have signed up. I encourage others to complete the form on the next page, and join us to help ensure your block or neighborhood is informed and your neighbors are safe during difficult times.

*Stephen K. Pote*

Stephen K. Pote

Mayor, Borough of Watchung





## NEIGHBORHOOD CAPTAIN PROGRAM

The Borough is in the process of establishing a "Neighborhood Captain Program". This program is designed to identify and involve individual residents who would represent individual streets or neighborhoods. These individuals would be responsible for helping to ensure that effective two-way communication is established between the represented neighborhood and/or street and the Borough, in the event that power goes out for an extended period in neighborhoods and on streets in Watchung.

Some of the responsibilities for this volunteer would include, but not be limited to, the following (a more detailed list including required qualifications is available on the Borough's website at [www.watchungnj.gov](http://www.watchungnj.gov) or call the Clerk's Office at 908-756-0080):

- Representing either a designated street or several streets or defined "neighborhood".
- Communicating to the Borough any immediate issues or concerns that exist on the street(s) or neighborhood either after an incident (e.g., tornado or hurricane) or during an incident (e.g., power outage after a hurricane).
- Canvassing your neighborhood to understand if there are any specific individual needs that are not being met (individual might require oxygen or a trip to the doctors, etc.); we're not asking to resolve the problem, just to identify the issue.
- Meeting, as needed, at Borough Hall with other neighborhood or street captains to understand the current situation relating to any incident that has occurred in town.
- Assisting in the distribution of flyers, and/or notices to your area, which you may be asked to pick up from Borough Hall, or they may be placed in your mailbox periodically for distribution.

Registration Form:

**Complete and return to: Borough Hall, 15 Mountain Boulevard, Watchung, NJ 07069**

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## NEIGHBORHOOD CAPTAIN PROGRAM

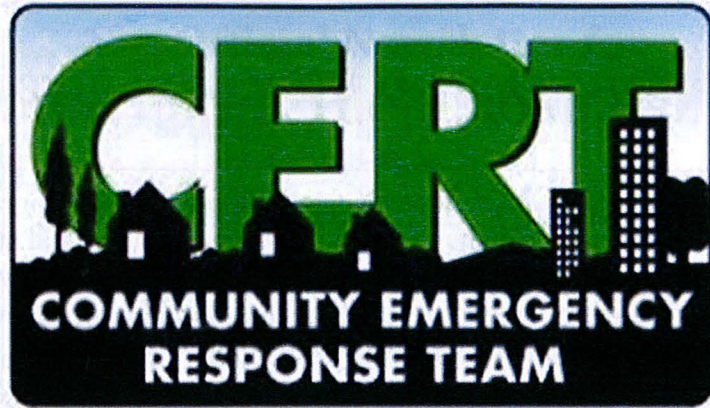
I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby volunteer with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) "Neighborhood Captain Program" of the Borough of Watchung. The OEM Coordinator will be in further communication with details and specific responsibilities.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that at any time I can withdraw my position should things change and I am unable to assist.



## COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

Individuals can make a difference in their own community. Research on personal preparedness indicates that individuals who believe they are prepared for disasters often are not as prepared as they think. In addition, some admit they do not plan to prepare at all.

Our Borough's emergency managers, firefighters, law enforcement officers, EMT/paramedics, and other emergency responders do an incredible job of keeping us safe, but they cannot do it alone. We must all embrace our personal responsibility to be prepared – in doing so; we contribute to the safety and security of our community as well.

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

If you are interested in joining Watchung's CERT Team, please contact:

[watchungcert@gmail.com](mailto:watchungcert@gmail.com)





The Watchung Police Department would like to implement a voluntary registration program for members of our community that have special needs. This program is intended to identify individuals who are at risk of wandering due to any diagnosis, disorder or condition. To assist us in identifying these individuals and maximizing our recovery efforts we have developed a form that includes some basic, yet vital information. This **Watchung Police Department Special Needs Emergency Information Form** can be located on our website at [www.watchungpd.com](http://www.watchungpd.com) or it can be picked up at our headquarters. If you choose to participate in this voluntary program we recommend you complete the form, add any additional information that you deem vital and submit it to the Watchung Police Department along with a current photograph of your loved one. Once the form is completed the information can be mailed or hand delivered to:

Watchung Police Department  
840 Somerset Street  
Watchung, NJ 07069

Attention: Special Needs Emergency Information Form

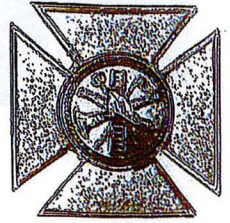
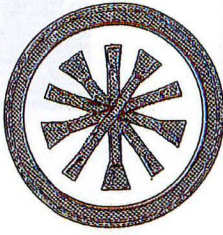
This information will be kept strictly confidential, it is not subject to the Open Public Records Act (OPRA), and it will only be reviewed by first responders during an emergency situation.

In addition to our local efforts Project Lifesaver is a premier search and rescue program specifically designed for "at risk" individuals who are prone to the life threatening behavior of wandering. The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide a timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children who wander due to Alzheimer's, autism, and other related conditions or disorders. Searching for wandering or lost individuals with Alzheimer's, autism, dementia or other cognitive conditions is an enormous and time sensitive task. Without effective procedures and equipment, searches can involve multiple agencies, hundreds of officers, countless man hours and thousands of dollars. Citizens who are enrolled in Project Lifesaver wear a small personal transmitter around their wrist or ankle that emits an individualized tracking signal. If an enrolled client goes missing, the caregiver notifies their local Project Lifesaver agency, and a trained emergency team responds to that area. Most individuals who wander are found within a few miles from home, and search times have been reduced from hours and days to minutes. Recovery times for Project Lifesaver clients average 30 minutes — 95% less time than standard operations. Our current Project Lifesaver administrator is The Somerset County Sheriff's Department. For more information you can visit Project Lifesaver's website at <http://www.projectlifesaver.org> or you can call the Somerset County Sheriff's Office at (908) 231-7140.

Chief Joseph R. Cina  
Watchung Police Department



# Watchung Fire Department



Greetings from the Watchung Fire Department. We are an organization of volunteers that serve the Borough of Watchung's Fire and Rescue needs. We are comprised of 36 members working out of 2 fire houses. Our Headquarters is located on Mountain Blvd by the Watchung Circle and the second firehouse is the East End Firehouse located on Bonnie Burn Road. The Watchung Volunteer Fire Department provides the borough with responses to all structural fires, fire alarm/carbon monoxide alarm activations, as well as motor vehicle accidents/extrications and other technical rescues. When needed, we are also called upon to provide mutual aid to our neighboring communities.

We would like to encourage all residents of the borough to practice fire safety at home. If you have an alarm system, it is a good idea to have the alarm company perform periodic maintenance on your alarm system. If you are utilizing battery operated smoke/carbon monoxide alarms, remember to change the batteries twice per year. A helpful tip would be whenever you change your clocks because of Daylight Savings, take this opportunity time to also change your batteries on your battery powered alarms.

As we enter the hot and dry summer months, please be mindful of carelessly thrown cigarettes as well as open burning on your properties. These situations often result in brush fires that require the need of the fire department's response. If you are wanting to have an outdoor fire, it must be contained in a fire pit or chimenea.

We are always in need of volunteers and have many different opportunities in which you can get involved. If you are looking for a great way to serve your community and are 18 years of age or older, we would love to have you join our team. If are not 18 years old yet, but are between the ages of 16 and 18, you can still participate as a junior member. This is a great opportunity to gain experience prior to becoming a certified Firefighter. Training is provided by the department at no cost to its members.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Watchung for your much needed support. Without your support, our community would not be what it is today.

Jonathan Erber, Fire Chief  
Watchung Volunteer Fire Department





# **WATCHUNG RESCUE SQUAD**

10 Stirling Road  
Watchung, NJ 07069  
908-755-1297  
[www.watchungems.org](http://www.watchungems.org)

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

If you are looking for a rewarding, exciting volunteer opportunity and have the desire to give back to your community, please consider joining Watchung Rescue Squad. We are always accepting new members, and would love for you to join our 65-year-old tradition of neighbor helping neighbor. Everyone likes to feel as though they're making a difference, and there's no time like the present to get started!

Since 1950, the all-volunteer Watchung Rescue Squad has been serving the residents of Watchung and surrounding communities with prompt, skilled basic life support in their time of need, free of charge. What began as a group of 12 men who responded to 10 calls in the first year has grown into a dedicated group of almost 50 volunteer members, who respond to an average of 425 emergency calls per year.

No prior medical experience is necessary to join; we provide each and every new volunteer with on-the-job training and uniform. Members can ride one or more shifts per week and may respond to anywhere from 2-20 calls per month depending on their availability and commitment. Our members range in age from 16-90, so there's no such thing as a "typical" member. WRS members can be students, parents, adults from all walks of life (who work full or part-time in a variety of career fields) and retirees. The common bond that we all share is a passion for what we do, the genuine desire to help others unconditionally, and a standard of professional patient care that is second to none.

There are four Membership Categories to meet our members' schedules and interests, so there's room for everyone:

- Cadet Member (age 16-18)
- Affiliate (Non-riding)
- Driver
- Full Active EMT

We hold monthly general membership meetings as well as training seminars that help our members to maintain their EMT and other certifications, and participate in practical emergency scenarios with neighboring emergency service providers, such as last October's MCI Drill. We also offer additional informal training opportunities twice a month, on whatever skill or subject those attending feel they need to review in order to maintain our high standards of patient care. WRS also participates in a wide variety of community events, and our members are like family.

If you are interested in joining or have any questions about becoming a member, please send an email to: [membership@watchungems.org](mailto:membership@watchungems.org) or visit our website at [www.watchungems.org](http://www.watchungems.org).

If you're unable to join at this time but would still like to help, please consider making a donation. Your donations allow WRS to make repairs to and maintain our building; purchase and maintain our ambulances and other equipment; respond appropriately to calls by stocking our ambulances and first responder with necessary medical supplies, as well as protective equipment for our emergency responders; supply uniforms to our volunteers; and provide up-to-date training to allow us to provide the very best care to our patients. Every donation is important to us, regardless of the amount! For more information, visit our website and click "Donations".

We would love to have you join us. Please don't hesitate to contact us or just stop in to say hello!

Sincerely,  
The Members of Watchung Rescue Squad, Inc.

Watchung Municipal Building  
15 Mountain Boulevard  
Watchung, New Jersey 07069

Phone: 908.756.0080

Fax: 908.757.7027

Watchung Public Information Channel  
15

Watchung Radio 1610 AM

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\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*\*  
**LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER**  
**Watchung, NJ 07069**

**MAYOR STEPHEN K. POTE**

**Stephen L. Black**  
**William Nehls**

Administration - 756-0080

**Thomas E. Atkins, Administrator**  
tatkins@watchungnj.gov

**Michelle DeRocco, Borough Clerk**  
mderocco@watchungnj.gov

**William Hance, Chief Finance Officer**  
bhance@watchungnj.gov

Engineering Office

**Tom Herits** 756-0091  
therits@maserconsulting.com  
**Arlene McCoy** 756-0291  
amcoy@watchungnj.gov

Watchung Art Center

For information call—561-0190

**BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Thomas Franklin**  
**Robert Gibbs**

Police

**Emergency** 911  
**Non-emergency** 756-3663

Emergency Management

**Contact Police Dept.** 756-3663

Tax Assessor

**Ed Kerwin** 756-3366  
ekerwin@watchungnj.gov

Construction Official /Zoning Officer

**Ed Bennett** 756-6093  
ebennett@watchungnj.gov

Watchung Public Library

561-0117

Monday-Thursday..... 10 am-9pm  
Friday..... 10 am-4:30pm  
Saturday..... 10 am-4pm  
Sunday..... closed  
(Closed Saturday during July and August)

**Debra Joren**  
**Dianna Beck-Clemens**

Fire Department

**Emergency** 911  
**Non-emergency** 561-9389

Municipal Court

**Jodi Hanson Rodriquez** 769-2265

Tax Collector

**Ray Murray** 756-8333  
rmurray@watchungnj.gov

Public Works Facility

**Robert Burns** 753-6115  
bburns@watchungnj.gov

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