



The Official Newsletter for the THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

SPRING/SUMMER
ISSUE 2014-01



FROM YOUR MAYOR

As of this writing, Watchung still has a few piles of snow in the corners of parking lots and on the sides of our mailboxes! This has been an unusual winter for snow, averaging more than double what is seasonal. Our Borough Department of Public Works has done a terrific job, especially considering the close proximity of storms, the enormous snow totals, and the relentless below-freezing temperatures. With good planning and close management of salt inventories, Public Works had enough salt to get through these storms. Not every road was immediately dry black top as quickly as we may have liked, and after the third storm clearing the sidewalk around Watchung Lake had to wait; but the roads were generally very good, the catch basins were cleared out to reduce flooding, and with the help from the volunteer Fire Department and some residents, our Public Works also dug out our fire hydrants. When you see Watchung Department of Public Works employees, please thank them for their dedication, high standards, and the many day and evening hours they spent on our roads making them drivable for us. We are fortunate that the weather has not resulted in many downed trees and wires.

For the last two months a subcommittee I formed has been looking into the various alternatives we have for the construction of a library and community center here. They will report out their findings and recommendations to the public as part of a Mayor and Council meeting in April.

During December's volunteer thank you dinner, we had the largest-ever gathering of volunteers present. This is an indicator of the strong continued support we have from our residents – thank you! That being said, we have several volunteer openings which we hope to fill with recent offers from you to help. We will be in touch! One opportunity will be to provide support as “neighborhood captains” in case of another major event (see Emergency Response Update inside).

We continue to make progress on our preparedness. Generators for several municipal buildings are being installed; Borough procedures (Emergency Management Annexes) are being reviewed; enhanced radios are being installed across our emergency services; our CERT team has had several drills.

The 2014 budget is being finalized over the next month. In addition to “preparedness” investments we are looking at the costs associated with reinforcing the rock wall on Somerset Street, making some much-needed repairs to the Fire Department building, in addition to evaluating our roads needs which may require considerable repairs after the difficult winter.

For safety/security concerns, the Borough has worked with the Watchung Board of Education to relocate two of its Voting Districts (Districts 2 & 5) from Valley View School to Wilson Memorial Church beginning with the June 2014 Primary. Districts 1 and 4 will remain at the Fire Exempt building; District 3 will remain at Bayberry School.

Mountain Boulevard road reconstruction was completed by the County in December; the Borough completed stormwater management projects on Mountain Drive and portions of Edgemont, East, and North Drive. Curbing and stormwater management work has begun on Cedar, Lakeview, and sanitary sewer installation is almost complete on parts of Johnston Drive and Valley Drive.

The Borough received an excess of \$346,000 in grants in 2013, including \$220K in road aid from the DOT and \$87,000 from Safe and Secure communities.

I am proud to report that the Police Department achieved state accreditation status relating to the structuring of, and demonstrated compliance with, its policies and procedures. This greatly minimizes Watchung's exposure and liability but also sets standards and requirements that will be maintained by our Police on behalf of our residents.

The Watchung 9-11 Memorial Fund is in need of donations in order to construct a beautiful tribute to the victims of 9-11. Please support them with a tax-deductible contribution to the 501c3 "Watchung Community Foundation" (specify "9-11 Memorial" in the Memo section of your check).

For those of you who have not yet visited Watchung's Historical Museum at the Texier House, please visit them during select Sundays of the month. You will be impressed with what has been assembled.

In January we honored we believe to be Watchung's oldest resident, Marie Malone, who turned 101. In April we will be honoring America's oldest teacher, Agnes Zhelesnik, also a resident of Watchung, who turned 100. With that as inspiration we should all renew our gym memberships!

Among the pleasures I have as your Mayor, in February it was a privilege to help honor two new Troop 32 Eagle Scouts: Brian Delfs and Walter Pennett. Congratulations to them and their proud families!

In March I was at Bayberry School reading to Kindergarten and First Grade classes. Later in the month I was one of several who participated in a new "Teacher for a Day" program at Watchung Hills Regional High School. My ongoing contact with teachers and administrators at both school systems provides even greater assurance to me that our precious tax dollars are hard at work and are producing excellent results with our children.

We look forward to the Spring and our Memorial Day picnic on May 17th (rain date May 18th). Other upcoming events for Recreation are listed inside and will be posted on the Borough website. With Spring in sight, we have included in this issue our "Bulky Waste Collection" information and permit application form; please fill this out in advance of the June pick-ups so that you will not be disappointed.

As always, I am available if you have comments, questions, or concerns.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen K. Pote". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S' and 'P'.

Stephen K. Pote

Mayor, Borough of Watchung

**** IMPORTANT ** IMPORTANT ** IMPORTANT ****

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – CHANGE IN POLLING LOCATIONS!!

****Voters in Districts 2 & 5****

If you have previously voted at **Valley View School**, be advised that this location will no longer be used. Your **new** location will be:

Wilson Memorial Church, 7 Valley Road
(parking behind church off Hillcrest Road)



ELECTION TIME LINES

- April 9th : Last day to submit a “Change of Party Affiliation Declaration”
- May 13th: Last day to register to vote for the Primary Election
- May 27th: Last day to apply for a “Vote by Mail” application for Primary (after this day, you must apply in person at the County Office in Somerville)
- June 3rd: Primary Election Day (polls open from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm)
- Oct. 14th: Last day to register to vote for the General Election

Voter Registration forms, Vote by Mail forms, Change in Party Forms, are all available at Borough Hall, or on our website: www.watchungnj.gov or www.co.somerset.nj.us/elections

POLL WORKERS NEEDED!

If you are interested in serving as a Poll Worker, contact the Somerset County Election Board at 908-231-7084 or, for a complete outline of duties, responsibilities, and compensation information, visit their website at: www.co.somerset.nj.us/elections

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT **CLEAN WATER**

WASHING AND MAINTAINING YOUR CAR

If you wash your car on a paved surface the soapy water and other pollutants, like oil & grease can run off into a storm drain and eventually flow directly into lakes, rivers and the ocean. These pollutants in large quantities can contaminate your drinking water, kill fish, wildlife and plants.

YOU CAN HELP!

1. Take your car to a car washing facility—they treat and recycle the water.
2. If you can't get to a car washing facility, wash your car on an unpaved surface and use biodegradable soap.
3. Keep your car well maintained.
4. Regularly check your car for leaks or drips and if you find any have your car serviced.
5. Take your car to a service center to change the oil—if you do your own oil change do it in a garage never in the street. Use a self-contained oil pan and discard the oil at a local service center for recycling. **NEVER DISCARD OIL, GAS, OR ANTIFREEZE INTO A STORM DRAIN.**
6. If you do have a spill—contain it with rags and cat litter. Clean up the spill and properly dispose of the waste.

FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES

If improperly applied, fertilizers and pesticides can wash off lawn or garden directly into storm drains and from there flow directly into lakes, rivers and the ocean.

YOU CAN HELP!

1. Test your soil at your County's Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension office, 310 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807-3587 (Somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu) or buy a self test kit.
2. Use natural, slow-release nitrogen, or low phosphorus fertilizers.
3. Look into natural alternatives such as integrated pest management.
4. If you need to use fertilizers or pesticides, follow the instructions on the label.
5. Do not apply before it rains. This does not allow them to penetrate through the soil.
6. Try to use drought-resistant native plants in gardens; they require less fertilizer and water.
7. Use a mulching mower instead of bagging grass clippings.

PET WASTE

Rain can wash pet waste that sits on a lawn or unpaved surface into storm drains, ultimately ending up in our lakes, rivers and the ocean. Pet waste contains coliform bacteria and other pollutants that can make people sick and can cause beach closures. Coliform bacteria can contaminate shellfish, pollute drinking water and kill fish, wildlife and plants.

PET WASTE IS A HEALTH HAZARD AND ALSO A NUISANCE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS.

YOU CAN HELP!

1. Use newspaper, plastic bags, or a pooper-scooper to pick up the waste when walking your pet.
2. Properly dispose of pet waste into the trash or toilet.
3. Do not dispose of in storm drains.



Telephone Game Gone Wild

Providing information is a tremendous responsibility that is not taken lightly by the Watchung Police Department. How often have we heard “breaking news” only to find out in due time that what was initially reported was not true at all? There’s no denying that social media has had an enormous impact on how we get news and information, but the first story is not always the right story. Early reports can be lacking or inaccurate, so please be sure to question and verify information before you accept it as true and pass it along.

With the proliferation of smartphones the old telephone game that our teachers once demonstrated to us in a sterile classroom setting has resurfaced globally, unfiltered, and on steroids. It’s amazing when you consider how many people can instantly receive information that has been spread through some type of social media forum, but what happens when that information is inaccurate? Whether it’s teenage gossip, a breaking story with national implications, or anything in between, there seems to be a race to be the first to report the story, but not every “reporter” is held to the same standards. Anyone can drive by the scene of a crash, snap a picture and attach a caption with the story as they see it. With one simple click that news can be spread far and wide, but is that an accurate and reliable report? As public officials we are certainly capable of doing the same thing, but rules, laws, and standards prevent us from doing so. While the average person with a smartphone risks losing some followers on twitter if their story is not accurate, there are many factors, including public trust, that we must consider before we hit “send.”

As a police department we’ve come a long way in how we provide information, and we still have a long way to go. As we continue to figure out how to effectively and efficiently use all the tools that are available to us in getting information out to the public, please remember that not all information is created equal. If there is an event that we do not immediately report to everyone, please understand that unlike the person who drives by and snaps a cell phone picture, there are rules we must follow. Any delay on our part in providing information should not be viewed as reluctance or apathy, but as a product of handling the incident itself, and determining what can, and what can not be released. Be assured that even if we are not the first to report something to the public, we will accurately provide what is allowed by law at the appropriate time.

Please feel free to call me or email me with your comments and suggestions at (908) 756-3663 or jcina@watchungpd.com.

Chief Joseph R. Cina
Watchung Police Department

Emergency Response Update

In response to the Sandy incident, the Watchung Mayor and Council are making numerous changes to improve the preparedness of the Borough in the event of another incident. Included among the improvements is a new website and Facebook page; upgraded telephone service; the purchase (to be installed) of back-up generators for Borough Hall, the Police Station, and Fire Department. The Borough also established and trained its first CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) members, responsible for providing support to the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and Police in the event of an emergency.

Mayor Pote also has asked that the Borough look into establishing an OEM “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.

Specifically, this volunteer would be responsible for:

- Representing either a designated street or several streets or defined “neighborhood”
- Communicating to the Borough any specific 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). This would mean canvassing the street, and if possible potentially driving to Borough Hall to report on anything the Borough should be aware of (fallen trees, people in need, etc.)
- Canvassing the street or neighborhood to understand if there are any specific individual needs that aren’t being met (individual might require oxygen or a trip to the doctors, or requires bottled water or rations, etc.)
- Meeting, as needed, at Borough Hall with other neighborhood captains to understand the current situation relating to any incident that has occurred in town. At Borough Hall Captains would be responsible for picking up information, either verbally or documented (status updates, Q&A, instructions, etc.), for distributing back to the neighborhood. It is possible that over an extended event the Borough would conduct press conferences or meetings once or twice daily in order to provide status updates to the public.
- Communicating back to the neighborhoods might require Captains to put Borough Hall comments into local mailboxes and documentation (fliers) that would provide to residents an update on the incident (current state, progress, anticipated response to specific issues, etc.)

Details continue to be worked through. It is likely this will take shape during the Spring and Summer months.

Emergency Response Update (continued)

Required Qualifications of Street/Neighborhood Captain:

- At least 21 years of age
- Ability to travel to Borough Hall (15 Mountain Boulevard) to pick up information, potentially 1 or 2 times a day during an event in town (assuming roads are accessible)
- Willingness to canvass assigned street(s) or neighborhood to assess issues or concerns
- Willingness to canvas residents to ensure that people are okay in their homes
- Willingness to communicate information back to Borough Hall regarding neighborhood or Individual concerns or needs.
- Willingness to deposit in resident mailboxes fliers or other forms of communication from the Borough.

Registration Form:

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

NEIGHBORHOOD CAPTAIN PROGRAM

I, _____, would like to volunteer with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) "Neighborhood Captain Program" of the Borough of Watchung. I understand that the OEM Coordinator will be in further communication with details and specific responsibilities over the summer months. I also understand that as circumstances change I would be able to relinquish these duties.

Signed _____

Address: _____

Printed _____

Phone: _____



BULK PICK UP
DISTRICT #1
(June 2-6)

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 9-13)

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 ROAD
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
TIMBERLINE WAY
TUTTLE ROAD
UPPER DRIVE
VAIL LANE
VALLEY DRIVE
VALLEY ROAD
WATCHUNG AVENUE
WILL LANE
WOLFORD COURT
WOODED ROAD
WOODLEDGE ROAD

**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 : _____ @\$60.00 = _____
(one per 350 lbs. of material)

Address: _____ District # 1 2
(Circle District Number)

Telephone No. _____

Materials must be out at the curb by 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	- Lawn mower	100
- Bath tub	400	- Mattress (double)	75
- Chair (large stuffed)	75	- Microwave oven	80
- Chair (small straight)	25	- Rug 5x8	50
- Cedar chest	70	- Sink (porcelain)	40
- Coffee table	50	- Sofa	150
- Desk (large)	100	- Sofa bed	300
- Dishwasher	150	- Stove	250
- Door	50	- Table (large)	100
- Dresser (adult)	170	- Table (small)	50
- Dryer	200	- Tire (auto)	20
- Gas Barbecue grill	70	- Toilet & tank	100
- Hot Water Heater(40 gal)	150	- Washing machine	300
- Window	30	- Other (Please list with est. weight)	_____

***COMPUTERS- SOMERSET COUNTY RECYCLE - 732-469-3363**

***FREEZER/REFRIGERATOR: CONTACT JACO ENVIRONMENTAL - 877-270-3520**

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:** _____

[The Watchung Historical Committee](#)

TEXIER HOUSE MUSEUM IS OPEN

The grand opening of the newly refurbished Texier House Museum was held on October 5, 2013. The celebration included a ribbon cutting ceremony, a proclamation of Watchung History Day and a Civil War re-enactment. Mayor Steve Pote and Historical Committee Chairperson Barbara Diem cut the ribbon to open the museum for public tours. Council Liaison Dianna Beck-Clemens assisted with the program and introduced members of the Historical Committee who were present, Betty Jean Aldrich, Dorothy Addario and Susan Tucker who also participated in the program.

The Historical Committee worked feverishly all summer and fall organizing material and creating the artifacts and museum displays. Over 300 visitors enjoyed displays of Moldenke's castle, ice cutting on the Watchung Lakes, Congressman Charles Eaton, the Fire Department, Rescue Squad, Police Department, Pedeflous and O'Connor's restaurants and more. Eagle Scout Walter Pennett, of Boy Scout Troop 32, created a magnificent display of Watchung Sports Champions for his Eagle Scout leadership project. The sports display was a hit! The restored Diorama of Old Watchung attracted a lot of attention. Many thanks to Mary Cicollelo and Phyllis Juette for their meticulous work on the diorama.

To help us celebrate the Museum Opening and History Day, the Civil War 3rd Regiment of the NJ Volunteer Infantry encamped on The Village Green overnight and conducted drills for the younger "recruits", medical and cooking demonstrations and tent tours. Museum tours took place as the muskets fired and Civil War "soldiers" marched.

The Boy Scouts sold refreshments at the event and Girl Scouts provided craft activities for children. Watchung realtors Marion Cowan-Loh, Mary De Lamielleure, Neela Donde and Susan Tucker sponsored a vintage 1950's ice cream truck. The Watchung Fire Department displayed their vintage 1949 Mack fire engine. Antique farm implements from the Ness property and Ralph Diem's restored tractor were also on display. The Watchung Rescue Squad and the Watchung Police provided coverage for the event. The Watchung Arts Center presented a concert of songs of the Irish in the Civil War by musician/historian David Kincaid. The Department of Public Works were tireless in their assistance in preparing the house and the grounds for the event.

The museum is currently open the first and third Sundays of the month, from 2-4 p.m., weather permitting. Future events under consideration include afternoon tea programs. Watchung History Day was such a success it will be repeated **on Saturday, September 27** – mark your calendars!

The Committee has continued to work organizing materials and creating more displays. All Bayberry third grade classes have visited the museum on school trips. Current projects include creating an archive of filmed interviews of longtime residents. Christopher VanderFliet and Bob Adams are filming and editing these interviews to create a "Reflections of Watchung" film. Boy Scout Justin Scalera is creating a "Then and Now" photography exhibit and book of Watchung homes and historic sites for his Eagle Scout leadership project. Girl Scout Madeline Quinn is researching a display of the Watchung Schools.

Cash donations, in addition to the collection of historic artifacts and photos, will help the committee finance the work of properly restoring, preserving and displaying Watchung's History. Tax deductible donations may be made online at the Borough Web Page at www.watchungnj.com, under the Watchung Historical Community Foundation. Books, notecards and Watchung Throws are available at the Museum. If you have items you wish to donate, purchase items, or to arrange for group tours, contact Chairpersons Barbara Diem at 908-756-5949 or Susan Tucker at 908-432-1388.

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.gov. Look on the Bulletin Board and download the form into Microsoft Word. You can email the form to volunteer_form@watchungnj.gov.

Please send this completed form to:

Volunteer Pool
Borough of Watchung
15 Mountain Boulevard
Watchung, NJ 07069

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Email: _____

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Adjustment | <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Library Advisory | <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Alliance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open Space Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic & Beautification** | <input type="checkbox"/> Village Center Committee ** | <input type="checkbox"/> Green Team** |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Service Commission** | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain) | |

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

**In Immediate need of volunteers

**Note: Additionally, we are currently in need of volunteers with the following skill sets:
Fund campaign / Fundraising capabilities**

RABIES CLINIC

The Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission, with the Warren Township Board of Health, 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 more of our local wildlife. Just like we do, our furry friends become more active when the weather improves. 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.**

DATE: Saturday, May 3, 2014
TIME: 9:00 am to 10:00 am
WHERE: Washington Valley Fire House
Washington Valley Road
Warren, NJ

Residents should also be aware that the Health Department also offers several rabies clinics in the fall of each year. Please call 732-968-5151 in the fall to learn about available clinics.

PET LICENSING

Pet owners are required by local law to license their pets every year. In order for the license to be issued, the owner must present proof that a licensed veterinarian has vaccinated the pet against rabies and that the duration of immunity from that vaccination extends through at least ten months of the twelve-month licensing period.

The Health Commission has learned that pet licensures seem to be declining and we want to tell you why it is important to license your **dogs and cats**. Licensing your pet allows local authorities to identify the animal and its owners if it happens to get loose.

The license tag enables the quick and easy return of your loved animal. In addition, licensure proves that the pet is appropriately vaccinated against rabies. If your pet happens to bite someone then its license tells local authorities that it is current on its rabies vaccine and the bite victim has less to worry about. Your license fees are used toward the provision of animal control services. A licensed animal control officer is available to provide professional services when an animal incident occurs. Finally, failure to license your pet may lead to enforcement action and penalties by the health department and/or police department. So, please license your pet by contacting the municipal building. It is one sign of a responsible pet owner.

ADULT IMMUNIZATION: 19 YEARS AND OLDER

It is thought by many that vaccinations are only for children; but that notion is absolutely false. Each year, about **42,000 adults die** from diseases that can be prevented with a vaccine. These diseases include, but are not limited to, influenza, pneumonia, pertussis, hepatitis, shingles and measles. Contracting these diseases can lead to severe complications such as cancer, developmental disabilities, and as noted, death.

In an effort to educate our residents and address the issue of low immunization rates among adults, the **Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission** is diligently working on creating a program to effectively increase immunization rates among adults in all our municipalities. Stay tuned for further information that will become available this spring and for how this initiative will be integrated into your community. In the mean-time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (**CDC**) recommend a schedule of immunizations that is specifically for adults. It can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/adult.html>. We strongly encourage you to speak to your doctor about your personal status. For more information please contact us via phone: (732) 968-5151 or email: mbrhc@middlebrookhealth.org.

Stay protected. Get Vaccinated!

MULCH

Starting March 15th—weather permitting

1 year old shredded mulch (Brown in color)
5 yards delivered to residents in a mason dump size truck
\$50.00 per load for delivery
908-756-0091

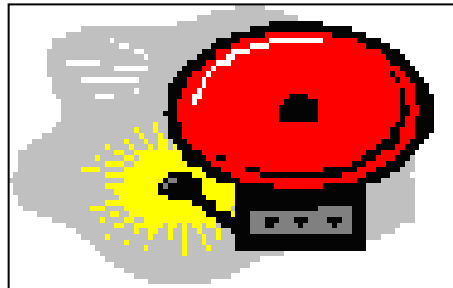
PREPAY at Borough Hall—Lower Level—Engineering Department

The General Public may pick up —Free of Charge
The public works will load your truck
Mondays and Fridays—8 am—2 pm

YOU MUST CALL FOR APPOINTMENT—908-756-0091

WOOD CHIPS

delivered free to residents upon request



VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED!!!

“HELP YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOURSELF”

Join the Watchung Volunteer Fire Department.

We have many membership categories beginning with our Junior program for residents that are 16 years of age.

FOR MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS
PLEASE CALL 908-756-6288

**MUNICIPAL SHRED DATES
2014**

***WATCHUNG RESIDENTS MAY ATTEND ANY OF THE LISTED EVENTS
ALL EVENT TIMES ARE 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM**

2014 Pairing	Spring Date Event #1	Fall Date Event #2
Hillsborough	June 7, 2014	
Bound Brook		September 20, 2014
Raritan	June 21, 2014	
Green Brook	June 14, 2014	October 18, 2014
Franklin		September 6, 2014
Montgomery	May 17, 2014	
Bedminster	June 28, 2014	
Bernards		October 11, 2014
County of Somerset	April 12, 2014	

**TRAFFIC AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Traffic & Beautification Committee would welcome all new members. Please contact George Sopko at 908-612-1811 or Phyllis Juette at 908-625-5359 if you are interested in volunteering. Please complete a volunteer form (included in this newsletter).

T&B organizes and participates in the following activities:
Operation Pride; Arbor Day; May Plantings
Decorating for Fall & Winter seasons

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The OSAC's mission is to develop strategies to maximize opportunities to provide all the residents of the Borough with parklands and green zones, to protect environmentally sensitive areas, to preserve flora and wildlife, preserve farmland and to protect land of scenic, historic and cultural value while at the same time creating public outdoor recreational opportunities (active and passive) for our residents.

Currently we are monitoring the clean-up and remediation of two Open Space Properties, the 20 +/- acre Ness Property (former farmland) located on the north side of Mountain Blvd., on the border between Watchung and Warren, and Camp Endeavor, a 9 +/- acre area located at the east end of Sequoia Drive; former home to two tennis courts and a basketball court.

The committee of seven (7) is comprised of members from the following boards: Planning Board, Recreation Commission, Environmental Commission, Historical Commission, and three members from the general public.

Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month in Borough Hall at 7:00 pm (refer to www.watchungnj.gov for exact dates).

We invite you to join us at a meeting or communicate with us via e-mail, or telephone!

The Open Space and Recreation Plan as well as meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the Borough Web Site at www.watchungnj.gov

WATCHUNG RECREATION NEWS

2013 was an eventful year for the Recreation Commission! First, we now have a new Coordinator, longtime resident and Borough employee Linda Monetti. We are happy to announce that the newly constructed tennis courts at Mobus Field are complete and open to our residents. The Commission has partnered with Warren and Green Brook Townships to offer many new programs and trips!

Click on the Community section of our web page at www.watchungnj.gov to see details of all the programs, trips and events we are offering!

SAVE THE DATES

ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC

Saturday, May 17th
(Rain Date May 18th)
Noon to 3:00pm Mobus Field
Music, Food, Games and Amusements!

JERRY MOBUS MEMORIAL FISHING DERBY

Saturday, Sept. 13th
(Rain Date Sept. 14th)
Trophies and Refreshments!

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday, Oct. 25th
(Rain Date Oct. 26th)
2:00pm – 5:00pm Mobus Field
Contests, Haystacks, Pumpkin Painting, Music, Refreshments!

We hope you will join the Watchung Recreation Commission for these fun activities for the entire family. These events are free for Watchung Residents!

Watchung Municipal Building
15 Mountain Boulevard
Watchung, New Jersey 07069

Phone: 908.756.0080

Fax: 908.757.7027

Watchung Public Information Channel
15

Watchung Radio 1610 AM

Visit us on the Web
www.watchungnj.com



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

MAYOR STEPHEN K. POTE

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Stephen L. Black
William Nehls

Thomas Franklin
Robert Gibbs

Debra Joren
Dianna Beck-Clemens

Administration- 756-0080
Thomas E. Atkins, Administrator
tatkins@watchungnj.gov

Police
Emergency 911
Non-emergency 756-3663

Fire Department
Emergency 911
Non-emergency 561-9389

Michelle DeRocco, Borough Clerk
mderocco@watchungnj.gov

Emergency Management
Contact Police Dept. 756-3663

Municipal Court
Jodi Hanson Rodriquez 757-1407

William Hance, Chief Finance Officer
bhance@watchungnj.gov

Tax Assessor
Ed Kerwin 756-3366
ekerwin@watchungnj.gov

Tax Collector
Ray Murray 756-8333
rmurray@watchungnj.gov

Engineering Office
Tom Herits 756-0091
therits@maserconsulting.com

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

Public Works Facility
Robert Burns 753-6115
bburns@watchungnj.gov

Watchung Art Center
For information call—561-0190

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)

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