

SPRING 2009



PUBLISHED BY THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

## The Borough of Watchung Community Newsletter

# Mayor's Message

As I write this message, I'm hopeful we have seen the last snowstorm until December. Once again our Public Works Department handled the storm in grand fashion. Our neighbor Green Brook had some of their equipment down and we were able to assist them by plowing and salting several areas. Speaking of shared services, we are sharing a new trailered catch-basin cleaner with Warren Township, in order to meet new state mandated rules on storm water. We are also joining with Warren in sponsoring a job fair at Warren Middle School on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

The update on Route 78 and Diamond Hill Road is disappointing. In December, I sent letters to Governor Corzine, Senator Lautenberg and Senator Menendez seeking their help in getting a new life for this project, for which \$5 million tax-payer dollars have been spent. I have not received any response; not even an acknowledgement. I attended a meeting of the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition and NJDOT Commissioner Stephen Dilts agreed to meet again with Somerset County officials and Borough representatives. Additional history on this project has been unearthed, including some innovative engineering ideas that could get this project moving again.

Eleven miles of Route 78, starting in our town and going west through Warren, will get a new paving surface this summer. A special repaving material will be used that dampens road noise and improves vision during rain events. We will not be getting sound barriers; however, there will be new landscaping placed that may help with road noise. This new paving will be done at night.

Somerset County will replace the bridge on Watchung Circle in front of Valley Furniture beginning in July. This is a very involved project and County officials have been open to all our concerns. They have agreed to fabricate the bridge off-site and install sections one lane at a time. Also, a new island will be built at the intersection of Valley Road and Hillcrest, designed to prevent a left turn onto Valley Road from southbound Hillcrest Road traffic.

At the east end of the Borough, NJDOT will be reworking the Route 22/Bonnie Burn Road overpass. They expect to have funding in place this July and go out to bid in October and award in November. This is a major project and, as we receive staging and detour plans allowing utilities to replace their infrastructure beginning this summer, we will announce details and post information on our web site and channel 15.

New Jersey American Water Company will be milling and repaving the full width of Valley Road which was disturbed by their installation project this spring. They will coordinate their work with the County and the asphalt plant, which starts up April 1<sup>st</sup>. NJAWC also has about 30 new connections to complete this spring. Paving of Valley Road from Bayberry Lane to Bonnie Burn Road will be next year's project.

The County also has plans to complete the Somerset Street boulevard project this summer. As you can see, we will have a lot going on at one time. The good news is, with the exception of the Route 22 overpass, all should be completed by the end of fall.

We are continuing our talks with our K-8 Board of Education regarding a study of our participation in the Watchung Hills Regional High School District.

The Borough and the Board of Education formed a joint committee to gather information and apply for a Green Energy Audit Grant provided through Somerset County. All Borough buildings and schools were included in the application and the County will advise which buildings are selected for an Energy Audit, with the end goal of improving our energy efficiency and economy.

Hope to see everyone at the May 21<sup>st</sup> Triathlon. This will be the second year for this event at Watchung Lake - and don't forget the annual Memorial Day Picnic on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

*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 : \_\_\_\_ @\$35.00 = \_\_\_\_  
(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 1-5)**

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 8-12)**

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



## ***TRAFFIC AND BEAUTIFICATION***

**Best Lake is done and we are all anxious to enjoy this beautiful area. More trees need to be planted and a walkway with personalized bricks is planned.**

**Operation Pride—our town cleanup—was held on March 21st at 9:00 AM at the Texier House. We look forward to this event every year to keep our town looking as beautiful as always.**

**Many thanks to all our dedicated committee members who devote so much time and effort to make our Borough so picturesque.**



### **WATCHUNG GARDEN CLUB SPECIAL THANKS...**

**To Watchung's very own Martoccia Landscape Services Inc. for the upcoming 2009 season, the Martoccia family has been kind enough to assist the Garden Club and Traffic & Beautification by donating the time and materials to beautify and maintain the flower beds and lawn located within the triangles on the traffic circle. The Martoccias are a second generation family owned and operated business with a proven performance rooted in quality since 1962.**



## **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



## RECREATION UPCOMING EVENTS



### **Annual Community Picnic**-Mobus Field

Sunday, May 24th 12:00-3:00 pm

Rain date Monday, May 25th

*Hot dogs, pizza & fun for whole family*

### **Annual Basketball Shoot out**

March 27th, 7:00-9:00 pm

Valley View School

## CAMPS

Watchungrecreation.com

### **Summer Playground**-Mobus Field

June 29th -August 7th -9:00-3:00 pm

Swim Days at Brook Hill

Registration available online soon

### **Tennis Camp**

Weekly starting June 22

grades 1-4 -6:00-7:00 pm

grades 5-8 -7:00-8:00 pm

FEE: \$136.00

### **Ultimate Frisbee Camp**

Mobus Field

July 20th-23rd - 4:30-6:00 pm

FEE: \$88.00

### **Volleyball Camp** - Mobus Field

July 27th-30th

4:30-6:00 pm

### **Flag Football Camp** - Mobus Field

August 3rd - 7th

Age 6-9 - 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Age 10-14 - 6:00 - 7:30 pm

FEE: \$88.00

### **Sports Squirts Camp**-Mobus Field

July 6th-10th and August 10th-14th - 4:30-6:00 pm (ages 3-5)

FEE: \$99.00

## FOR AGES 5-14

### **Golf Camp**-Mobus Field

July 13th-17th

4:30-6:00 or 6:00-7:30 pm

FEE: \$119.00

### **Lacrosse Camp**-Mobus Field

July 6th-10th - 4:30-6:30 pm

FEE: \$119.00

### **Field Hockey Camp**-Mobus Field

July 6th-10th - 4:30-6:30 pm

FEE: \$119.00

### **Multi Sports Camp**-Mobus Field

August 10th-14th

**Age 5-7** - 9:00-1:00 pm - FEE: \$169.00

**Age 8-14**- 9:00-3:00 pm - FEE: \$189.00

## THERAPEUTIC RECREATION PROGRAMS

The Recreation Commission offers a Therapeutic Recreation program through a cooperative effort with the Somerset County Parks Commission. Further information regarding the Therapeutic Recreation program is available by contacting Somerset County's Therapeutic Recreation office at (908) 526-5650 or online at

[www.somersetcountyparks.org](http://www.somersetcountyparks.org)

## *RECREATION—continued*

### ***Women's Volleyball***—(age 18 & older)

Pick up style league

Monday nights—7-9 pm- through June

Valley View School

### ***Open Gym Basketball***

18 and older- Pick up style league

Friday nights-7-9 pm

Valley View School

### ***Field Hockey*** -((location to be announced)

#### ***Summer Field Hockey*** (age 14 & older)

Wednesday nights—6:30-8:30 pm

June 24th - August 19th

### ***Jr. Field Hockey***-Girls (grade 6-8)

Instructional League—8 weeks

Sundays- FALL—(volunteers needed)

### ***Tennis***

Courts open during normal park hours

Please reserve court call: 908-756-0080,X235

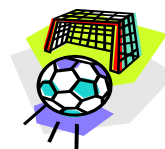
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***Lessons available February-August***

### ***Adult Tennis Lessons (18 PLUS)***

Mondays April 20-June 1 - 9:30-10:30 am

Wednesdays April 22-May 27- 9:30-10:30



### **SOFTBALL**

Watchung Ponytail Softball Web: [www.whponytailsoftball.com](http://www.whponytailsoftball.com)

### **BASEBALL**

Watchung Little League Web: [www.watchunglittleleague.org](http://www.watchunglittleleague.org)

### **SOCCER**

Watchung Hills Soccer Association Web: [www.whsa.org](http://www.whsa.org)

### **WRESTLING**

Watchung Hills Wrestling Association Web: [www.whwa.org](http://www.whwa.org)

### **LACROSSE**

Watchung Hills Travel Lacrosse Web: [www.watchunghillslacrosse.org](http://www.watchunghillslacrosse.org)

### **FOOTBALL**

Watchung Hills Pop Warner Web: [www.watchunghillspopwarner.org](http://www.watchunghillspopwarner.org)

Watchung Hills Jr. Warrior Football Association Web: [www.whjuniorwarriors.org](http://www.whjuniorwarriors.org)

**BASKETBALL**—e-mail: WatchungHoops@optonline.net

**\*\*\*ANNUAL WATCHUNG LITTLE LEAGUE & PONYTAIL PARADE\*\*\***  
**WILL TAKE PLACE APRIL 18th—9:00 AM**



*Did you know Watchung has a NEW  
"Tree Preservation" Ordinance?*



*The Borough of Watchung recognizes that trees are a significant, historical, aesthetic and valuable ecological resource. Because of this, trees on public and private property are to be protected and preserved.*

- ◆ No person shall cut, remove, top, injure or damage any tree upon any land without first obtaining a tree removal permit.
- ◆ Tree removal permit for five (5) or less trees shall be issued by the Borough Engineer; the identified trees shall not include historic, endangered species or specimen trees, after having inspected the site and compliance with the design criteria as set forth in the tree ordinance, a permit is issued.
- ◆ The Borough Engineer shall issue a tree removal permit for six (6) or more trees only after approval of the application by the Environmental Commission. The identified trees shall not include historic, endangered species or specimen trees. After an inspection of the site and compliance with the design criteria as set forth in the tree ordinance, a permit is issued.
- ◆ All live trees removed shall be replaced on a one (1) to one (1) ratio. Those trees are to be replaced with another tree of the same species or from the preferred tree list. If replacing a tree less than 18" in diameter, the replacement size must be at least two and one-half (2 ½") diameter, or if replacing a tree with a diameter greater than 18", a minimum of 4" diameter.
- ◆ Any person desiring to remove dead, dying, diseased or damaged trees shall apply to the Borough Engineer for a dead, dying or hazardous tree removal permit. There is no fee for this permit.
- ◆ If a property can not support the tree replacement plan as supported by the Borough Engineer, the property owner shall make a contribution to the Tree Bank Fund of \$200. per tree, to be used to purchase future tree plantings on public property.
- ◆ The application fee for a lot owner is \$25.00, which includes the permit, inspection and application review.
- ◆ The Borough Engineer can issue a stop work order to anyone violating the Ordinance by tree removal or other activity without a permit.

**Violations & Penalties**

If a summons is issued, violator of any provision of the Ordinance may be punishable by one or more of the following: a fine not be exceed \$2,000 or imprisonment for a period not to exceed 90 day or to serve community service not to exceed 90 day at the discretion of the Municipal Court.

For a complete copy of the "Tree Preservation" Ordinance or for more information, contact:

Borough Engineer  
15 Mountain Boulevard, Watchung, NJ 07069  
(908) 756 - 0091

**Why a tree falls**

Fast-moving thunderstorms ripped across the state with 50-mph winds that knocked down trees and power lines Tuesday night. Here's a look at some of the reasons why trees topple.

**High wind**

When trees are full of leaves, there is more surface area for wind to contact. When especially strong winds gust, they can snap or push a tree over, not unlike how wind affects a kite or sail.

**Lightning strike**

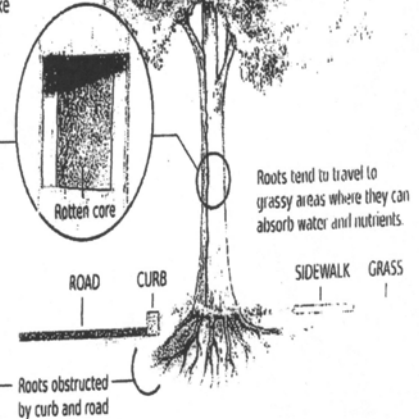
Moisture (sap and water) inside a tree is an excellent conductor — providing a preferred path for lightning to reach ground. A strike can split bark, break the tree-top, blow it apart or, in many cases, split the tree.

**Invisible decay**

Insect or lightning damage can weaken a tree from the core, although it may appear healthy from outside.

**Confined root zone**

Trees growing close to curbs, roads and sidewalks tend to have confined root systems that weaken the bond with the earth. The tree is more likely to tip in high winds.



SOURCE: Lorianne Brunsch, ISA certified arborist; treesaregood.com

**BOROUGH OF  
WATCHUNG  
RESIDENT EMAIL**

To sign up for the Borough of Watchung Resident Email mailing list, go to the bulletin board on [www.watchungnj.com](http://www.watchungnj.com) and click on Watchung Resident Email Mailing List. Follow the instructions for filling out the form. When the completed form is submitted, you will receive an email confirming your subscription. **YOU MUST REPLY TO THIS EMAIL TO CONFIRM YOUR SUBSCRIPTION.** If you do not follow the instructions on the email and reply to it, you are not signed up to receive emails. This confirmation eliminates the possibility of people signing other people up for the service without their knowledge. You can cancel or amend your subscription by logging on to <https://mail.watchungnj.net/mailman/listinfo/watchung-news>. Your information is kept private and can only be seen by the list administrator. Contact [bhance@watchungnj.com](mailto:bhance@watchungnj.com) with any questions or problems.

# 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





## **LIBRARY NEWS**

### **Programs available for CHILDREN** **(with caregiver)**

#### **BIRTH THROUGH AGE 4**

#### **AGES 2 AND 3**

#### **JUST THREES-AGE 3 ONLY**

#### **AGES 3 AND 4**

#### **special needs children - birth—age 5**

#### **programs** **(without caregiver)**

#### **AGES 5 & UP** **UP**

#### **AGES 4 to 6**

#### **AGES 6 AND**

#### **SECOND GRADE & UP** **UP**

#### **AGES 7 & UP**

#### **AGES 8 &**

#### **GRADES 5 & 6** **PROGRAMS**

#### **GRADES 6 & UP**

#### **FAMILY**

## **PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS**

### **BOOK CLUBS**

#### **THANK YOU FOR BEING PUNCTUAL—ALL PROGRAMS START ON TIME**

**For safety reasons, PARENTS MUST REMAIN IN THE LIBRARY WHILE CHILDREN UNDER 9 ATTEND PROGRAMS. CELL PHONE USE NOT PERMITTED IN LIBRARY OR DURING PROGRAMS IN THE SENIORS ROOM AND WATCHUNG ARTS CENTER**

All programs are free and Registration is required for every program. You can register in-person, by telephone or online at [www.somerset.lib.nj.us](http://www.somerset.lib.nj.us). For further



## POLICE DEPARTMENT



In an on-going effort to provide the best possible service to the residents and businesses of our community, the police department conducted an anonymous survey in 2008. This survey was designed to get feedback on our current performance while also planning for our future needs. To accomplish this, questionnaires were distributed at our schools, Borough Hall, the Tax Office, the Library, and Police Headquarters. The Echoes Sentinel also published an article listing the above locations and the Borough's web address where a questionnaire could be downloaded.

The survey consisted of questions relating to traffic, crime, police response, and an overall rating of the service provided by the Police Department. Over 300 surveys were distributed, and 71 were completed and returned. We are delighted to report that 69 of the 71 respondents rated the overall quality of police service to the residents and the community as either excellent or good.

As a service oriented Police Department that also arrested 598 adults in 2008, the questions in the survey regarding satisfaction with police response times and the outcomes of calls for service were of particular importance to us. We were pleased to find that 82% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that phone calls to the Watchung Police Department were handled professionally and courteously. Additionally, 87% agreed or strongly agreed that the Watchung Police Department responds to calls in a timely manner, 91% agreed or strongly agreed that Watchung Police Officers treat people with respect, and 78% agreed or strongly agreed that the police presence in their neighborhood was appropriate for the need.

The survey also included questions relating to traffic since it affects our community on so many different levels. Because Hillcrest Road provides relatively easy access to and from Rte. 78, regardless of volume, it looks like our current traffic conditions are not going to change anytime soon. There simply is not any remedy that would quickly, adequately, and safely alleviate the congestion, while incorporating the aesthetic and environmental concerns relative to traffic safety projects. That said, hopefully some relief is on the way. Our local officials continue to inquire about the status of the plans for a full interchange at Rte. 78 and Diamond Hill Road in Berkeley Heights. If and when this project is completed, it should ease the volume of cars on Hillcrest Road, Bonnie Burn and around the Circle.

With the increased volume, increased violations are almost inevitable. Those who felt that speeding on the side streets was a problem also suggested "strict enforcement" as a way to deal with it. Unfortunately, as we allocate our resources to the more congested areas, violations on the side streets often go unenforced. We also know that when we set up traffic posts on the side streets, local residents are the most frequent offenders. We ask that you keep this in mind, and please drive the way you would like people to drive on your street. Some of the measures employed by the police department in dealing with these types of violations include the use of a radar speed sign which shows each driver's speed. On streets where the sign is not practical, electronic devices can be used to monitor both speed and volume for that area. The information obtained from these devices has been extremely helpful in allocating our traffic enforcement resources when planning traffic posts, or increasing our presence in a particular area.

We would like to thank all of you who took the time to complete and return the survey. We appreciate your compliments, as well as your criticism and suggestions. Your feedback is essential to our improvement. In the near future the Police Department's website ([www.watchungpd.com](http://www.watchungpd.com)) will be completed and it too will provide a forum for comments, suggestions, feedback and information. Until then, please feel free to call or stop in with your questions and concerns.

## **The Watchung Historical Committee**

The Watchung Historical Committee continues its mission to preserve and protect the history of the Borough of Watchung. 2008 was a busy and productive year.

We continue to provide information about our veterans for the Memorial Day service. This year we honored Kathryn Graf from WW II who served in the Army Nurses Corp.; Howard Graf (Kathryn's brother) was honored for serving in the Korean War; William Vactor Jr., (Kathryn's nephew) was honored for his service in the Vietnam War; John Sette from Sunlit Drive was also honored for WW II and he placed the wreath on the monument. John attended the ceremony in his uniform.

The Historical Committee is pleased with the results of honoring specific veterans on Memorial Day. The families attend and it has attracted much more attention and attendance.

We continue to collect and organize weekly newspaper clippings to put in the yearly scrapbooks. We also keep highlights of each year in the scrapbooks. We also photograph events in the Borough and especially "before and after" pictures of each major project such as the refurbishing of the Best Lake Dam.

Reverend Ron Miller has asked the Committee to look into the possibility of honoring Dr. Charles Eaton at the County level. (Dr. Eaton was a congressman and was one of the original signers of the UN Charter and is credited with helping the UN get up and running.) He is probably the most notable national figure in Somerset County. We continue to work on this.

We also continue to sell the Watchung Book at \$20 each and Bill Titus' note cards of local scenes for \$15. They can be purchased by calling Barbara Diem at 908 594 4902 or Betty Aldrich at 908 755 6575.

The Committee spent the June, September, October and December meetings sorting through boxes of materials returned to us. Much of this material we feared had been lost, so we are thrilled that it has been returned to us! We still have one box to go.

The biggest news is that on New Years Day Mayor Ellis announced that the Historical Committee will move into our new home at the Texier House. We are currently working on planning how to use the space to the best advantage. We are looking forward to moving all the artifacts from the Library and our individual homes. This will allow us to set up displays with enough room for programs. We will let you know when we are ready to open to the public. 2009 will be an exciting time for the Historical Committee and we can't wait to show you all the things we have about the history of our Borough!

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 out of doors 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 be contained in a carrier.



**DATE:** Saturday, May 2, 2009  
**TIME:** 9:00 AM TO 10:00 AM  
**WHERE:** Washington Valley Fire House  
Washington Valley Road



Warren, NJ

## SEPTIC SYSTEM CARE

Maintaining a Subsurface disposal system (septic system) can save you money and prevent a potential health hazard for both you and your neighbors.

- ◆ **Do pump your septic system frequently.** Most experts recommend that you pump your septic tank every 3 years (more often if you have a garbage disposal system). While having your septic tank pumped, it is a good idea to have the septic contractor check the inside of the tank to make sure that the baffles are intact. Doing these things should help to prevent solids from entering the distribution field which is the primary cause for most malfunctions.
- ◆ **Do conserve water:** Decreasing the hydraulic load on a septic system, would also help to extend the life of your septic system. You can accomplish this by repairing plumbing fixtures (to prevent running toilet fixtures or leaks), replacing old plumbing fixtures with more efficient ones. Adding a brick to your water closet would help to displace the water and conserve water.
- ◆ **Do inspect your septic field area.** You may be able to extend the life of your septic system by simply making sure that there are no trees planted near your sub-surface disposal system. Roots from trees can wreak havoc on your disposal system. You also want to check to see if rain water is running over your septic field. You can reduce the hydraulic load impacting your system by simply redirecting your roof drains and other sources of rainwater runoff away from your distribution field.
- ◆ **Do Not run heavy equipment over your distribution field.** The laterals in a disposal field are not designed to support the weight of most vehicles.
- ◆ **Do Not place recreational equipment on your distribution field.** Your septic disposal system was not designed to support the weight of items like swing sets or storage sheds. Also, avoid paving over your disposal field. This will reduce the ability of some effluent to evaporate.
- ◆ **Do avoid biological additives.** The bacteria in your septic tank are already capable of handling the waste water. You do not need to add more.
- ◆ **Do avoid chemical additives:** Especially avoid the use of chemical additives which contain banned toxic substances; halogenated hydrocarbons like Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and aromatic hydrocarbons like Benzene, or Toluene. These additives are not particularly helpful in extending the life of the system and will eventually contaminate nearby wells. Also avoid flushing paint, paint thinners and pesticides down your toilet. Instead, dispose of these chemicals during your County Household



## **FIRE DEPARTMENT** **FALSE ALARMS**

Ordinance 08/21 entitled “Police, Fire and Burglar Alarms, adopted by the Mayor and Council in October 2008, is intended to reduce False Alarms and unwarranted responses by the Police Department, Fire Department and other agencies who respond to emergency alarms at residential homes and small business establishments. Foremost, the intent is to reduce the risk for responding Police Officers, Volunteer Firefighters, and other agencies that must respond and investigate these emergent alarms. A secondary purpose is to assure homeowners and small businesses that their alarm systems, which provides them with security, fire alarm detection and or medical alerts, are maintained in full working order.

This revised ordinance also provides Borough departmental support to a home owner/small business who needs assistance in getting their Alarm Company to speedily repair a faulty system. If the home owner or small business continues to have a problem, then the Police Department or Bureau of Fire Prevention has a legal avenue to pursue that could result in monetary fines for the home owner and/or small business establishment.



## **DONATION PROJECT**

### **BEST LAKE**

**The Borough is accepting donations in honor or memory of a special person or organization, with appropriate plaques placed acknowledging the donation.**

### **STILL AVAILABLE ARE THE FOLLOWING:**

**Sunburst Lake Aerators (2)**  
**Flowering Cherry Trees (6)**  
**Benches (5)**

**Details regarding contributions and placement are available at the Borough Clerks’ Office**

**908-756-0080**

# *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](http://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](mailto: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)

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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:

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**SAVE THE DATE  
ART IN THE PARK  
A JOURNEY OF THE FINE ARTS**



On Saturday, April 25, 2009 from 11:00AM to 5:00PM, the Watchung Educational Foundation is sponsoring the second annual "Art in the Park, A Journey of the Fine Arts" at Mobus Field on Brookdale Road in Watchung.

An amazing array of fine art will be presented for sale. There will be sculpture, jewelry and all genre of artwork. With over 50 vendors showcasing their work, there will be something for everyone.

This festival will include a variety of foods, musical performances and many activities and workshops for all ages. For a suggested donation of \$3.00 per person, come and enjoy your journey of the fine arts.

This event is rain or shine. In case of inclement weather that day, Art in the Park will be held at an indoor location, Watchung's Middle School, Valley View. Valley View is located on Dr. Parenty Way off of Stirling Road in Watchung. Please call (908) 822-0873 for weather updates.

The Watchung Educational Foundation is a community based, non-profit organization committed to assisting the Watchung Schools in providing a quality educational experience to all of our students. The Foundation raises money in order to fund innovative and creative projects that will enrich the curriculum and improve technology in the K-8 district.

The "Art in the Park" is an event to support the Watchung Schools. Please visit our website at [www.wefund.org](http://www.wefund.org) to find out more.



**WATCHUNG RESCUE SQUAD**

2008 was another exciting and successful year for the Rescue Squad. Our 40 volunteers with our two ambulances responded to 478 calls last year! We continue to provide Watchung residents, and the visitors to our Borough, prompt emergency medical services. Two calls were serious enough to require the patients to be transported by helicopter (Medivac) to a regional trauma center. Two other calls were successful CPR resuscitations. The Rescue Squad also responded to neighboring towns 56 times. The Squad sponsors the annual Tree of Lights Festival for the Borough and we also participated in many Borough events such as the Little League parade and the Harvest Festival.

Last year saw the closing of the Muhlenberg Hospital Emergency Department to most patients. The Rescue Squad has adjusted to this change, but now has to travel farther to JFK Hospital in Edison and Somerset Hospital in Somerville. This has increased the average time per call for our volunteers.

Utilizing the donations from both our building and general fund, we renovated our building to enlarge the vehicle bays and update the building's utilities. We also have a new ambulance on order to replace Rig 81 which is 12 years old. The new ambulance should arrive sometime in March. Be sure to join us for a "Wet Down Celebration" for the new ambulance on June 27, 2009.

The full cost of the building renovation and new ambulance was covered by the Squad from the generous donations of the Borough residents and prudent long range planning by the Squad's Executive Board. We could not continue to provide these services without our dedicated core of volunteers and the generous donations and support of the Borough, Borough residents and businesses.

We are always in need of additional volunteers. If you are over sixteen and want to serve your community in a uniquely fulfilling way, volunteer your time with the Rescue Squad and learn to save your loved one or your neighbor's life. There is truly nothing more satisfying. All training is provided free of charge and flexible riding schedules can be accommodated. Contact us at (908) 755-1297 or visit our website at [www.watchungems.org](http://www.watchungems.org)

Mike Vala  
President, Watchung Rescue Squad

Presorted Std.

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15

Watchung Radio 1610 AM

Visit us on the Web  
[www.watchungnj.com](http://www.watchungnj.com)

**CART-RT-SORT WS**  
**Postal Patron**  
**Watchung, NJ 07069**

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**Stephen L. Black**  
**Debra Joren**

**Thomas Franklin**  
**Stephen Pote**

**Gerald Mobus**  
**William Nehls**

**Administrator/Borough Clerk**

Laureen B. Fellin 756-0080  
[lfellin@watchungnj.com](mailto:lfellin@watchungnj.com)

**Municipal Court**

Pamela Steves 757-1407  
[psteves@watchungnj.com](mailto:psteves@watchungnj.com)

**Public Works Facility**

Charles Gunther 753-6115  
[cgunther@watchungnj.com](mailto:cgunther@watchungnj.com)

**Construction Official/Zoning Officer**

Ed Bennett 756-6093  
[ebennett@watchungnj.com](mailto:ebennett@watchungnj.com)

**Watchung Hills Regional High School**

Grades 9 through 12  
108 Stirling Road  
Warren, NJ 07059  
647-4800

**Police**

Emergency 911  
Non-emergency 756-3663

**Emergency Management**

Contact Police Dept. 756-3663

**Engineering Office**

Tom Herits 756-0091  
[therits@watchungnj.com](mailto:therits@watchungnj.com)

**Tax Assessor**

Ed Kerwin 756-3366  
[ekerwin@watchungnj.com](mailto:ekerwin@watchungnj.com)

**Tax Collector**

Catherine L. Park 756-8333  
[cpark@watchungnj.com](mailto:cpark@watchungnj.com)

**Bayberry Elementary School**

Kindergarten through 4th Grade  
Bayberry Lane  
755-8184

**Fire Department**

Emergency 911  
Non-emergency 561-9389

**Watchung Arts Center**

for information call: 561-0190

**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

**Valley View Middle School**

Grades 5 through 8  
Valley View Road  
755-4422