

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG NEWS



ISSUE 2012-01

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

SPRING/SUMMER

FROM OUR MAYOR

Dear Residents:

First, I'd like to thank the Borough's residents for their patience and understanding following Hurricane Irene and then the sudden snow storm in October. I have never before witnessed such devastation and destruction in our town. My gratitude goes out to our emergency service departments – Police, Public Works, Fire, Rescue Squad, and Emergency Management – all who went the extra mile. Many thanks to our staff at Borough Hall who answered hundreds of storm related calls, and also to Senator Kean, Assembly representatives Bramnick and Munoz for their support, both during and after these emergencies.

The top priority after a major storm event is to get our roads passable for emergency vehicles. By law, only a utility company or their contractor can move or remove a tree that has a wire touching or entangling in it. Public Works is not authorized to do so.

Governor Christie had asked for the names of three volunteers who went above and beyond the call of duty, and my recommendations were former Fire Chief "Skip" Bell, Rescue Squad Lt. Adam Wexler, and Emergency Management Coordinator Gary Greves. We were invited to spend the afternoon with the Governor in the State House and these men were recognized for their efforts. (See picture on page 3) The Borough has received \$100,769.00 from FEMA for expenses incurred during Hurricane Irene, and we will be applying for reimbursement from FEMA if available, for the October snow event.

Many are questioning the future of the Ness property. Before we can move forward, the environmental concerns need to be addressed. A committee composed of representatives from various boards and at large will be formed to determine how best this property will benefit our residents.

By the year's end, much construction will be taking place around the Borough. The County will begin improvements and slight—re-alignment of Mountain Boulevard, from the Warren Township line to Brookdale Road. Another portion of Johnston Drive and Valley Drive will be sewered, and thanks to DOT grants, our Engineer Tom Herits was able to obtain funding that will enable us to overlay and repair streets where necessary. We are grateful to the Borough of North Plainfield for entering into an interlocal agreement with us that will allow Watchung to tie stormwater from Johnston Drive into their system, and provide relief to the residents of Edgemont Road and Mountain Drive. Many thanks to North Plainfield!

We have a very active Senior's Group that now meet at the Fire Exempt Hall, a location that provides close parking and ramps for easy accessibility. They are always seeking new members. If interested, call Borough Hall at 756-0080 for more information.

The State's Mayors' Association is encouraging all business owners to hire a veteran when possible, as a way of saying "thanks" for their sacrifices. Over 700,000 of the men and women who fought abroad are members of the National Guard, which meant they gave up their real job to volunteer for duty. I intend to honor this request if any openings become available within the Borough, and ask that if you are a manager or owner of a company, you do the same.

Congratulations are in order as this year marks the 75th anniversary of Watchung Boy Scout Troop #32. Please continue to support the many boys and girls who participate in Scouting programs.

My hope for this year is that we have learned and grown as a community from the devastation experienced in 2011. We as residents must move forward, in all areas, for the well being of our community and its residents.

Have a great spring and a safe summer – stay healthy.

Jerry Gerald M. Mobus, Mayor

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 :	
		(one per 350 lbs. of mater	,
Address: Telephone No		(Circle District Number)	
Please indicate the items you are pl			
(approximate weights included)	0 1	, ,	O
- 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 w	vith est. weight) -
- Mattress (double)	75		
- Microwave oven	80		
I agree there will be no construction a containers with excessive liquid, mare at the curb for collection. I will not be understand and agree that any unaut designated Borough officials and/or collection day.	materials, regular hadatory recyclable and materials of the material of the ma	materials and similar types of i the weight limitation of 350 lbs r materials that exceed the we	waste, flammable explosive waste, items included in the materials set s. of material per permit sticker. I right limitations as determined by
Signature: Date:			
FOR DEPARTMENT USE O	<u>ONLY</u>		
Check No	Amount:	Date: Init	ials:
District #	_ Permit Numbers	Rec'd:	

GOVENOR CHRISTIE HONORING THE BOROUGH'S VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR EFFORTS DURING HURRICANE IRENE

Trenton, October 26, 2011



Left to right: Fire Chief Skip Bell, OEM Coordinator Gary Greves, Govenor Chris Christie, Rescue Squad Operations Sergeant Adam Wexler, and Mayor Gerald Mobus

FROM YOUR POLICE CHIEF TIMOTHY WENZEL

I hope everyone had a great Holiday Season!

There are a few items that I would like to bring to your attention:

- 1. Reverse 911—As you probably are aware, we have partnered with Warren on a reverse 911 notification system. We have all residents home numbers through Verizon. You may go onto the Watchung police website under "sign up for the Watchung emergency notification system", www.watchungpd.com, and add alternate numbers such as cell phones. We have been using the reverse 911 for a year now and have found it to be a great asset. We have broadcast everything from traffic problems to a missing person report. I would encourage you to sign up to keep informed of emergencies in town.
- 2. We have experienced some phone scams to some of our residents lately. One such scam is the caller posing as someone from Medicare who has to verify your information. During this verification, they ask for bank account information, including the account number. Please do not give out personal information over the phone, ask the caller to send you something in writing and even then, attempt to verify it's authenticity.

Another phone scam seen recently, is someone calling an elderly person pretending to be a relative, in this case a grandson. They tell the victim that they are locked up in another state or in need of cash for some type of emergency. The request asks the person to wire money to them.

As unbelievable as these scams seem, the perpetrators are well rehearsed and very convincing. Be suspicious of all calls of this type, and if in doubt contact the Watchung Police Department.

- 3. Be aware of leaving your key fobs in your vehicles. We have been informed that a device exists that can determine if a car has the key fob in it just by driving down the street. If the device indicated the presence of the key fob, they will check to see if the car is open and attempt to steal the car.
- 4. As always, and especially in these economic times, we are all susceptible to home and car burglaries. I ask that if you have an alarm, use it each time you leave home. Please lock your cars even in your driveways and garage. I ask that you watch out for your neighbors and immediately report any suspicious activity. I can't tell you how many times during a canvas after a burglary, people reported seeing something suspicious but did not report it. Please call if something does not seem right, it is not a bother to us and we encourage it. The best prevention mechanism we have is all of your eyes and ears.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. We are constantly striving to be the best police department possible, so if you have any concerns or comments please fee free to contact me.

Provided by the Watchung Environmental Commission Support Renewable Energy

One of the simplest ways you can have a direct impact on global warming and the environment is to help create more renewable energy sources and by powering your home with green energy.



Buy Green Energy

In the United States, we have an abundance of green power which is generated from renewable energy sources such as wind, sun, hydro, geothermal, tidal, and some forms of biomass.

Here are 4 straightforward reasons to make the switch:

The Environmental Benefits include minimal, if any, byproducts of CO₂ and other pollutants such as carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and lead in comparison to those produced in the creation of energy through fossil fuels.

Stimulating Our Hobbled Economy. In 1997, importing fossil fuels sent \$65 billion dollars outside of our country. Renewable energy resources are developed at home. Furthering their development will keep billions of dollars here, creating more jobs for Americans.

Our Children's Future depends on the technological advancements of these energy sources. Two things we know for certain are that oil won't last forever and the sun will.

Our National Security is strengthened as our dependency for foreign oil is decreased. By moving toward renewable energies, we naturally shift toward freedom from unstable ground.

Resource: Campaign Earth – providing the path for a sustainable future

Did you know: 1 trillion bags are thrown away each year!

VOLUNTEERS ARE WANTED FOR THE WATCHUNG GREEN TEAM FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO OUR WEBSITE: www.watchungnj.com

MESSAGES FROM OUR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



"HELP US FIND YOU QUICKLY DURING AN EMERGENCY"

Have your mailbox clearly marked with your address number 3" reflective numbers visible from both directions is recommended.



"CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS.....CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES"

Replace the batteries in your smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector twice a year. And don't forget to test them monthly.





"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.







The Watchung Volunteer Fire Department wishes to thank our community for it's continued support of our organization. We could not continue to provide this life saving service without your generous contributions.







BULK PICK UP DISTRICT #1 (June 4-8)

GLENVIEW DRIVE

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

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 11-15)

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





REGISTER AND VOTE

The last day to register to vote in the June 5th Primary Election is May 15th.

If you are a Watchung Resident age 18 and over, a citizen of the United States, a resident of New Jersey for at least thirty (30) days prior to the election, and a resident of Somerset County for twenty-one (21) days, you may register to vote at Borough Hall, or print a form from the Borough's website at www.watchungnj.com and mail to Somerset County.

All voters are now eligible to vote by mail. This form is also available at Borough Hall or on our website.

IMPORTANT

THE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION WILL NOW BE HELD DURING THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 6, 2012.

THERE WILL NO LONGER BE A SEPARATE APRIL SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION





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 *NO STUMPS, BRANCHES OR GRASS CLIPPINGS WILL BE PICKED UP. Trash or refuse will not be picked up. 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 2nd 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

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 and click on Watchung Resident Email Mailing List. Follow the instruction 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 with any questions or problems

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

The Watchung Historical Committee continues to preserve and protect the history of the Borough of Watchung. We continue to provide information about our veterans for our Memorial Day Services. This year we honored Brigadier General Thomas W. Hartman and his wife Lieutenant Colonel Virginia Procino-Hartman, who is a long time resident of Watchung. There was a large turn out of residents for this memorial occasion.

After many years of trying to find a place to honor Dr. C. A. Eaton at the County level, we have received a letter from the Somerset County Freeholders, stating that there is no appropriate place within the County to place a tribute to this Statesman. Dr. Eaton had made many contributions to, not only our County but also more importantly to the United States of America. It is Dr. Eaton's signature on the U.N. Charter that represents the United States. He also served as Chairman to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, achieving the passage of every piece of legislation that he sponsored, including the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan. He was held in high esteem by Republicans, Democrats and Independent voters.

We continue to collect and organize weekly newspaper clippings to be put in yearly scrapbooks. We also keep highlights for each year. We are continuing to visit other local museums to get ideas on how to set up our new home.

Best of all, we are so excited to be so close to moving into our new home. We have started to move our artifacts from the library and our individual homes to the Texier House.

The Borough has refurbished the downstairs floor of the Texier House, which includes flooring, trim, doors and painting. Possible improvements to the ceilings and lighting will be considered in the future. We very much thank Mayor Mobus and the Borough Council for their ongoing support.

It has been an exciting year!

We hope to be open to the public in late 2012

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Barbara Diem, Chairperson Dorothy "Diddy" Addario, Secretary Susan Feibush Susan Tucker Betty Aldrich, Co-Charperson Betty Black Betse Titus Karen Cassidy, Council Liaison

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 5, 2012 **TIME**: 9:00 AM TO 10:00 AM

WHERE: Washington Valley Fire House

Washington Valley Road

Warren, NJ 07059

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

Every year pet owners are required by local law to license their pets. 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 Board of Health has learned that pet owners seem to be declining and we want to tell you why it is important to license your furry friends. 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, the license 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, it's the law! 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.

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK April 2 – 8, 2012

Since 1995 the country has proclaimed the first week of April as National Public Health week and celebrates by highlighting public health achievements and raising awareness of issues important to improving the public's health. This year National Public Health Week, sponsored by the American Public Health Association, will continue its broad vision to make America the healthiest nation by acknowledging that "A Healthier America Begins Today: Join the Movement" In order to "Begin" we must all take action. The action you take may be as simple as washing your hands, eating healthy and getting active or you may want to get even more involved by reaching out to our political leaders. We know that prevention is vital to improving the health of individuals and thus our nation. In order to increase our prevention efforts and to improve the Nation's Health we need to advocate for public health and prevention.

To learn more about National Public Health Week or how you can "Join the Movement" visit: www.nphw.org

SAFE PICNIC TIPS

As the weather gets warmer more people will want to enjoy the outdoors and what better way than with a picnic. Here are some pointers on how to keep food safe so you can have a healthy and happy picnic.

- 1. Don't prepare food more than one day in advance.
- 2. Refrigerate warm foods in shallow pans not more than 2 inches thick to allow them to cool quickly in the refrigerator.
- 3. Keep plenty of blue gel freezer packs on hand for cold storage and if that's not available use ice.
- 4. Store things like meat, salads, boiled eggs and sliced melon in your cooler.
- 5. Make sure raw meat is at the bottom of the cooler so that juices don't drip into other foods.
- 6. Place frozen gel packs at the top of the box. Heat tends to rise while cooler temperatures sink to the bottom.
- 7. If there are no places to wash hands at the picnic site, bring moist towels to wash hands.
- 8. When arriving to the picnic site try to find a shaded spot for your cooler.
- 9. Try not to leave meats and salads out of refrigeration for more than 1 hour but definately no greater than 2 hours.
- 10. Make sure food is covered while out to protect food from flying insects which can carry disease.
- 11. When cooking raw meat, make sure it is cooked thoroughly.
- 12. Do not place cooked meat into the same pan raw meat was stored in without washing it.
- 13. Dispose of leftovers, especially if they were out of the cooler more than 2 hours.

RECREATION

FOR ALL RECREATION INFORMATION PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT

www.watchungnj.com

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 Presorted Std.

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MAYOR GERALD M. MOBUS

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Thomas Franklin William Nehls

Karen Cassidy

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

Stephen L. Black

Stephen Pote

Michelle DeRocco, Borough Clerk mderocco@watchungnj.com

William Hance, Chief Finance Officer ce@watchungnj.com

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

Watchung Art Center For more information call—561-0190

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

Tax Assessor

756-3366 Ed Kerwin ekerwin@watchungnj.com

Construction Official /Zoning Officer Ed Bennett 756-6093

ebennett@watchungnj.com

Watchung Public Library 561-0117

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

Bayberry Elementary School

Kindergarten through 4th Grade Bayberry Lane 755-8184

Debra Joren, Council President

Fire Department 911 Emergency Non-emergency 561-9389

Municipal Court Jodi Hanson Rodriquez 757-1407

Tax Collector

Ray Murray 756-8333

Public Works Facility 753-6115 Robert Burns rburns@watchungnj.com

Valley View Middle School Grades 5 through 8

Valley View Road 755-4422