



BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG



Mayor Jubin

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



2023 Spring/Summer

SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Watchung,

Hello and a happy (belated) New Year! I am so proud and honored to be the 14th Mayor in our great Borough's history. We have three great tenured Council Members: Council President Christine B. Ead, Councilman Curt S. Dahl and Councilman Freddie Hayeck. We welcomed at our recent reorganization meeting our newest three Council Members: Councilwoman Sonia Abi-Habib, Councilman Paul Fischer and Councilman Paolo Marano. They have such unique individual skill sets and a camaraderie that will allow us to continue our mission to improve public safety, infrastructure and family fun activities to gather and celebrate together.

Public safety is and will remain a top priority. Our Police, Fire and EMS professionals provide us with 24/7 peace of mind and timely interventions when needed. We are committed to providing them with the resources, personnel, and other support items to enable them to excel at their job keeping our homes, businesses, and parks safe and inviting for all.

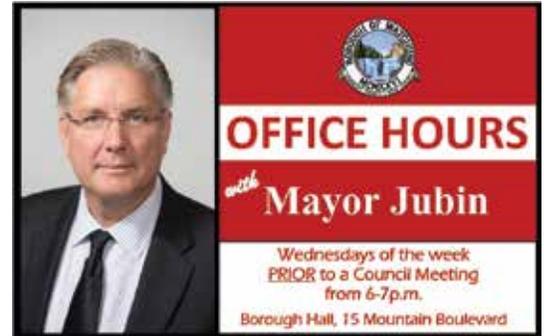
We began dedicated efforts last year to improve our aging infrastructure. Our roads, buildings and parks all received much needed repair. We have continued this year to make additional improvements in the library so please stop by and enjoy an event or pick up a good book. I hope you have seen the difference and enjoyed our holiday lights and displays on the village green - inviting for all.

Communities that celebrate together provide residents and visitors opportunities for health and wellness. Our Memorial Day picnic and Harvest Festival have become annual favorites for our residents that eagerly look forward to these get togethers. The return of the Farmers Market has been a great success providing us with fresh local foods produced by sustainable means. I have been here long enough to remember when the annual traditions were just a vision. I will be working with our volunteer committees and their Council Liaisons and along with your input to develop newer traditions that welcome newer residents with the opportunity to shape their future years in Watchung just as so many of us "old-timers" did in our past. Let's develop new events and create more lasting traditions for generations to come - inviting for all.

Help us help you. Remember to visit the Borough website, our social media pages, and be sure to sign up for emails and text alerts from our Police and for other important matters. Even if you have done so in the past, sign up again to ensure you have complete communication coverage. Also, please consider attending a meeting of the Mayor and Council. These in-person meetings at Borough Hall held twice a month allow you to be best informed towards current municipal activities and offer the opportunity to share your suggestions and opinions directly to us. My focus has been and will remain to do what's best for Watchung and the more input/feedback we have from you, our residents and our businesses, the better we will all be - together.

God Bless,

Ronald Jubin, Ph.D., Mayor



Council's Corner

Greetings from the Borough Council in this first newsletter of 2023!

Council is excited and energized to get to work on behalf of all residents and eager to share some recent news. Following the devastating events of September 2, 2021 when Storm Ida ravaged NJ and hit Watchung hard, the work quickly began to rebuild and repair. Through coordinated efforts with the Office of Emergency Management and numerous Borough departments, the weekly meetings and non-stop efforts working with FEMA have paid off. To date, Watchung was approved and will be receiving \$1,251,956.73 in relief funding and mitigation investment. The most notable change due to these efforts can be seen in the new Mobus Field Playground facility that opened this past October. This ADA compliant and state of the art facility brings a vast array of equipment to children of all ages and abilities in a safe environment that adds to the existing park.

We celebrate both the completed projects and those in the works. Completed projects include fence replacement, electrical upgrades, Carriage House repairs and a new brick patio at the Texier House in addition to repairs throughout the Borough. Projects slated for further improvement include various culverts and bridges.

As projects develop and we continue our efforts to deliver more services to this wonderful community, be sure to look out for updates provided at Council meetings and future communications. On behalf of all Council Members, it is our honor to serve and work for all in our community!

Christine B. Ead, Council President



Left to right top row: Paolo Marano, Curt S. Dahl, Freddie Hayeck, Paul Fisher

Left to right bottom row: Christine B. Ead, Ronald Jubin, Sonia Abi-Habib

WATCHUNG FIRE DEPARTMENT

IS THERE A FIRE IN YOU? - Become A Watchung Volunteer Firefighter Today!

The Watchung Fire Department is a 100% volunteer organization that is constantly in need of new members. Beginning at 16 years old, Watchung residents can join our Junior Firefighter program, which allows them to respond to emergencies under the guidance of experienced firefighters, as well as learn about the fire service and gain valuable knowledge and life skills. Our Active Firefighters and Associate Members are over 18 years old and come from Watchung and neighboring communities. Active Firefighters attend basic Firefighter training as well as other training courses, all paid for by the Department. Associate Members assist with non-firefighting activities such as Membership Recruitment and Retention, Fund Raising, and other administrative duties.

The Borough also offers an incentive plan as well as numerous other benefits to our Volunteer Firefighters, most importantly, the ability to be one of the heroes who helps their neighbors in a time of need.

If you or someone you know has a desire to be a hero in our community, please visit our website at www.watchungfd.org, follow

us on Facebook @WatchungFD, call us at (908) 756-0080 x250, or email at recruitment@watchungfd.org, or pick up information at Borough Hall! As always, we appreciate the support from our community in Watchung. Without your generous contributions and the dedication of our volunteers YOUR Fire Department could not continue to provide these invaluable lifesaving services.



WATCHUNG RESCUE SQUAD MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight on: EMT Denise Wilson!

Since responding to their first call on December 31st, 1950, the Watchung Rescue Squad has endured over 70 years of emergency response thanks to the countless dedicated volunteers who have committed their time to helping their community.

Meet Denise Wilson. A long time Watchung resident, Denise is a mother of two children, a few cats, and a dog named Maverick. Denise joined the Watchung Rescue Squad in April of 2011 and has moved through the ranks serving in multiple officer positions including 1st. Lieutenant and President. Upon joining, she attended EMT schooling while working a full time job and raising two young children. She quickly rose through the ranks, becoming a driver and then a Crew Chief. Throughout the past 11 years, every member who has walked through the doors of the Watchung Rescue Squad has been welcomed by Denise's friendly and exuberant personality. Residents will find Denise at Mobus Field during the Harvest Festival, handing out candy at the Trunk or Treat, standing at attention during the 9/11 ceremony and taking calls on Monday nights.

From her first shift in 2011, Denise has primarily rode on Monday nights with a determination to make her shift "the best shift of the week". She prides herself on consistently training not only her crew but all members at monthly drills. Through WRS, she has acquired her EMT and CPR certifications, became a CPR instructor, and now works as an EMT instructor as well. When she is not training, Denise can be found decorating the building for the nearest holiday or organizing a "Squaddie get together" for members to eat and have fun.

Join Denise and the other volunteers at the Watchung Rescue Squad in helping the community and becoming part of something bigger than yourself.



This could be you!

We are looking for eager individuals 18+ to join our squad! No experience is necessary.
We offer: Free training, Free uniforms, Flexible schedules, The chance to make a difference!
Want to Apply? Have Questions? Visit our website at www.watchungems.org

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FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Fire Safety



The Watchung Fire Prevention Bureau would like to share the following information to keep you and your family safe this Spring/Summer season.

Lithium-ion Batteries supply power to many kinds of the devices that we use every day. These devices include, smart phones, laptops, E scooters & bikes, toys and even vehicles.

The batteries that are included with these devices are relatively safe when used and maintained properly. These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small package. When not used as designed, these batteries can become dangerous.

The following Safety Tips are provided by The “National Fire Protection Association” to keep you safe when using, storing and charging Lithium-ion batteries.

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory like UL
- Always follow manufacturer’s instructions
- Only use batteries designed for the device
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device
- Do not charge any device on a bed, pillow or couch
- Do not overcharge the device, disconnect the charging cord when complete
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible
- Do not charge batteries at Temperatures below 32 degrees or above 105 degrees
- Store batteries away from any combustible materials
- Never store batteries in hallways or exits



Stop using the battery/device if it shows signs of a problem

- Unusual odor
- Change in color
- Excessive heat
- Change in shape
- Leakage

If it is safe to do so, move the battery to the outside and call 911. Always have working smoke alarms within the living space of the home.

Remember to test your smoke alarms monthly! Enjoy the season and Be Fire Safe!

If you are in need, Watchung Fire Prevention Bureau has a limited number of 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms for distribution.

- The smoke alarms may be picked up from the Fire Prevention office during normal business hours.
- The name, address and phone number of the resident receiving the smoke alarm is required.
- One smoke alarm per resident please.

WATCHUNG POLICE DEPARTMENT

Hello Watchung Neighbors,

Our biggest crime issue impacting Watchung is the theft of unsecured motor vehicles. The State of New Jersey is facing a stolen vehicle epidemic which has not been seen since the 1980’s. Motor vehicles are being stolen across the state at an astonishing rate. More than 14,300 vehicles have been stolen in New Jersey through November 2022, an increase of 9% from this same time last year, and 41% increase from 2020. Regrettably, Watchung has been victimized by these stolen vehicle crews. These crews target affluent neighborhoods and seek out vehicles where the key fob is left inside the vehicle. The stolen vehicle is then shipped overseas or used in other violent crimes which occur in other jurisdictions.

The Watchung Police Department has apprehended as well as assisted in prosecuting multiple crews, only for more to move into place.

We ask you to help up in trying to combat this crisis. Please **remove the key fobs** from all your vehicles, along with any valuables and personal effects. We also ask that you report any suspicious activity immediately. We want the opportunity to check out all suspicious activity as it could help us prevent another crime in progress.

Together we will keep Watchung safe!

Yours in service

Chief Andrew Hart

NIXLE

To join the Watchung NIXLE you can send a text to 888777. In the text field just type Watchung and hit send. This will sign you up to receive Watchung Nixle text messages. You can ensure maximum access to Watchung Nixle messages by adjusting your settings online. You have to start by going to www.nixle.com.

You will need to click on Resident Login. It is located on the top right. If you have not logged in before you can select SIGN UP and enter your email and create a new password.

Once you have a login you can login and go to the settings tab. This will allow you to select how you would like to receive Advisory and Alerts. It is recommended to set them both for Text Notifications. Most notifications that Watchung sends out are Advisory messages.



Watchung Municipal Building

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Watchung, New Jersey 07069

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www.watchungnj.gov



Mayor Ronald Jubin, Ph.D.

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Curt S. Dahl
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Police Department

Chief Andrew Hart 908-756-3663
Emergency 911
Non - Emergency 908-756-3663

Fire Department

Chief Charles Pivnichny 908-756-0080 Ext. 250
Emergency 911
Non - Emergency 908-756-0091

Emergency Management

Carolyn Solon 908-756-0080 ext. 239
CSolon@watchungnj.gov

Municipal Court (N. Plainfield)

263 Somerset Street, N. Plainfield
Jodi Mack 908-769-2265

Tax Assessor

Ed Kerwin 908-756-8333 ext. 224
ekerwin@watchungnj.gov

Tax Collector

William Hance 908-756-8333 ext. 223
BHance@watchungnj.gov

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Robert Lacosta 908-756-0080 ext. 228
RLacosta@watchungnj.gov

Carolyn Taylor, Zoning Officer/TACO

908-756-0080 ext. 219
CTaylor@watchungnj.gov

Public Works Manager

William McClave
wmcllave@watchungnj.gov
908-756-0080 ext. 214

Watchung Art Center

For information call 908-753-0190
(Closed Saturdays during July and Aug.)

SC Public Library - Watchung Branch

Watchung Branch
12 Stirling Road 908-458-8456

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Watchung Hills Regional High School

Grades 9 through 12
108 Stirling Road, Warren, NJ
908-647-4800

Bayberry Elementary School

Kindergarten through 4th Grade
Bayberry Lane
908-755-8184

Valley View Middle School

Grades 5 through 8
50 Valley View Road
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WATCHUNG LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Spring is a time for new beginnings and growth, and renewal is not only taking place in nature but at the Watchung Library as well! The Watchung Public Works staff repainted the second floor Bicentennial Meeting Room and hallway in February. The borough also arranged for installation of new carpet; in March, a brighter and refreshed Bicentennial Room will reopen. Library programs, such as children's story times and adult book discussions, will return as will Second Story Books, the ongoing used book sale sponsored by the Friends of Watchung Library. Patrons, non-profit organizations, and community members/groups may reserve the refurbished Bicentennial Room for meetings and activities. A valid SCLSNJ library card number and pin are required to reserve this space, and all groups must agree to the meeting room policy. Go to the sclsnj.org website and click on "Using Our Libraries" then "Meeting Rooms." The reservation process is simple and there is no charge to use the room.

Did you know that all Watchung residents are invited to suggest engaging programs they would like to see offered at the Watchung Library? Just go to sclsnj.org, click on "Programs and Events" along the top, then click on "Suggest a Program." You will be asked to describe the program and target audience. This process takes less than five minutes. Be aware that you will not receive confirmation regarding your submission. In addition, programs are planned four to six months in advance. Two exceptionally well-received programs took place at our library this past summer and fall. The patrons and supporters of the Watchung Library enthusiastically promoted these programs and the turnout was outstanding. These programs originated through the efforts of local volunteers and patrons—people just like you—who are brimming with ideas for new offerings. Are you a beekeeper? Scientist? Author? Expert gardener? Could you teach a class about photography or calligraphy or interior design? Help bring more exciting programs to our library by offering to lead a program or by making a suggestion for a program you'd like to see. Just go to the sclsnj.org website and make a request.

Exciting things are happening at the Watchung Library! If you are a new resident, stop by and sign up for a library card. It's free. If your Kindergarten student obtained his or her new card at the Back to School ice cream event last summer, bring him/her back to check out some spring-themed books or a craft project. Patrons are encouraged to pick up a Cultural Adventure Pass and enjoy free admission at dozens of cultural venues in the area. Customers experiencing temporary or permanent health, mobility, transportation, age related, or other qualifying barriers to visiting physical library locations can take advantage of the Home Borrowing Library Services. High school students are reminded they can reserve and check out their summer reading books...and everyone is invited to borrow a CD or book and relax and read in the new outdoor chairs or by one of the cozy indoor spaces near the picture windows overlooking the lovely spring sights of our beautiful borough. Our library is so much more than books; it is a place to read, listen, view, explore, learn, gather, and engage with others.

Tamara Benc, President, WLAC

TRAFFIC & BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Happy Spring!

It's time to restore the plantings on the Somerset Street Medians and on the triangles at the circle after the devastation from hurricane Ida. The sprinklers have been fixed, the soil has been cleared, and weather permitting, the planting will soon begin. A lovely addition of swamp white oaks was planted behind the 911 Memorial in late Fall. These are the same trees as those planted at the 911 Memorial in New York City. We look forward to seeing additional landscaping at the site this Spring.

Each year T&B has been making contributions to brighten Watchung during the holiday season. This year fireworks lights were placed along the walking path on the north side of Watchung Lake lighting that side of town. A small herd of lit winter deer donated by a town member lightened the east side of Best Lake. Thanks to our DPW workers, the evergreen trees behind the Watchung sign at Spratford Park were also lit along with the wall decorations giving a bright entrance to Watchung on Somerset Street. The lighting of the new plantings in front of Borough Hall also brightened the scene around the circle. A welcoming sight was a sweet snowman donated by a T&B member that was placed beside the "Happy Holidays" sign constructed by a DPW member. It's fun to get together to decorate at the circle, around Texier House and at Town Hall making Watchung Merry and Bright during the dark days of winter. Our snowflakes and cozy house in the woods banners along Somerset Street continue to welcome us to Watchung.

The Scarecrow Stroll was a successful happening this Fall. Town groups and individual families each designed a scarecrow which was displayed along the fence at the Town Square. Walkers around Watchung Lake and visitors were seen taking pictures beside their favorite scarecrow. Plan now for a scarecrow contribution you would like to make next Fall. It's a wonderful family and friends activity!

Operation Pride will again be held this Spring. We welcome all townspeople to help make Watchung pristine clean after the long winter. Our dependable scout groups, Knights of Columbus, and town committees come out and choose an area of town they would like to work at. We meet behind the Texier Museum where you sign up, get a T-shirt, a bottle of water, gloves and grippers. Date and time will be announced

Phyllis Juette, T&B Chair

MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION

111 Greenbrook Road
Green Brook, NJ 08812
Kevin G. Sumner, Health Officer/Director

732-968-5151 x 1
732-968-5331 (fax)
mbrhc@middlebrookhealth.org (e-mail)

www.middlebrookhealth.org

Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission and Your Local Board of Health

Who is the local health department, what do they do, how are they related to the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission and the local Board of Health? Simply stated, the Commission is your local health department and the Commission staff works for your local Board of Health to benefit you the members of the community. More specifically, the Health Department is governed by a volunteer Board of Health that is mandated by state statute and is required to meet certain standards set by the New Jersey State Department of Health. The Board has the legal obligation to assess the health needs of the community and to adopt or recommend adoption of local policies specific to the needs of the community. The Board of Health is also a member of the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission, a shared service between Bridgewater, Green Brook, Warren, and Watchung whose mission is to improve the health of our community and environment through the use of prevention services, health promotion and protection strategies. The bottom line is we all work together to improve the health of the communities we live and work in.

The Board of Health accomplishes its goals through the work of the Health Department staff; the Health Officer, Environmental Health Specialists, Health Educators, Nurses, Outreach Coordinator, Infectious Disease Preventionists, and Administrative Staff/Registrars.

The mission noted above is advanced by educating and informing the public and business community about various topics such as healthy lifestyles and behaviors, proper food handling, emergency preparedness, septic systems and wells. Improving child and adult health is accomplished by providing various services such as childhood immunizations, well-baby checkups, cancer screenings and education, blood pressure screenings, and wellness counseling.

Many of these services are provided through contracts and collaboration with our public health partners such as Community Visiting Nurse Association. Environmental health services and enforcement activities are also provided by the department. We inspect establishments and enforce sanitary and environmental laws related to wells, septic systems, restaurants, recreational bathing, youth camps, and body art, among others. We also respond to questions and complaints about mosquito control, hazardous materials, suspect rabid animals and other public health threats. A traditional and continual activity of the department is constant monitoring for communicable disease, investigating disease reports and intervening to stop their spread when identified.

The truth is we believe virtually everything is related to your health and the health of our community and therefore are willing



and eager to talk to you about anything. If we do not know the answer, we will refer you to an appropriate resource. So, contact us as soon and often as you like. We look forward to it! We can be reached at our local offices or by email, all of which can be found on our website at www.middlebrookhealth.org.

Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission to Provide Infection Control Training

The Middle Brook Regional Health Commission (MBRHC) has received a grant from the New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials to support collaboration with long term care and other healthcare facilities to advance infection control practices. MBRHC staff will participate in the Strike Team Infection Control Train the Trainer, a program designed to provide trainings, education, and tools regarding infection prevention and control practices. This will provide foundational knowledge of infection prevention and control measures emphasizing the importance of proper implementation measures and protocols in healthcare settings. The program aims to strengthen confidence in applying infection prevention and control principles to protect staff, patients, and the healthcare community from infectious disease. Two MBRHC team members, Eze Udensi, MD and Megan Romanovich, MPH have been trained through the Strike Team Infection Control Train the Trainer program and are looking forward to passing on the information to help facilities combat the spread of disease. They will be reaching out shortly to offer trainings and look forward to passing in this valuable information to our partners in the community. Please contact the Commission at 732-968-5151 or by email to eudensi@middlebrookhealth.org or mromanovich@middlebrookhealth.org for more information.

Radon Awareness

Radon is an odorless, tasteless, and invisible gas that occurs naturally when uranium and radium break down in the soil and in rock formations. Radon gas moves up through the soil and finds its way into homes through cracks in the foundation and openings around pumps, pipes, and drains. Radon occurs in higher concentrations in certain areas of the state, including Somerset County.

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. Radon is associated with approximately 22,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States. Smokers and people exposed to second-hand smoke have a greater risk of developing lung cancer if they are also exposed to excess radon. Radon does not cause any immediate symptoms, such as asthma or respiratory problems, so testing for radon is the only way to know if a home has elevated radon levels.

To reduce the risk of exposure to radon gas, residents are urged to test their homes Even if your neighbor's home is not affected

by radon gas, it does not mean that your home is in an acceptable range. If a radon test indicates a radon problem, radon mitigation systems can be installed at a cost similar to other home repairs, reducing exposures and the risk of lung cancer. In an effort to facilitate radon testing the Commission tries to maintain a limited number of radon test kits. Please contact us for current availability of the test kits.

Rabies Clinic

The **Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission**, with the Warren Township Board of Health, will likely be offering one rabies clinic this spring. All residents are encouraged to have their dog or cat vaccinated against rabies. Rabies has already been identified in the state and several cases were identified last year in the towns of the Commission. In order to protect yourself and your pets it is

essential that all dogs and cats be vaccinated against rabies. If your pet has never been vaccinated against rabies or the vaccination has expired now is the time! **The clinic is free to all and tentatively planned as follows.**

DATE: Saturday, May 6, 2023

TIME: 9:00 am to 10:00 am

WHERE: Washington Valley Fire House
Washington Valley Road
Warren, NJ

Please call the health department at 908-753-8000 ext. 239 to confirm the above information. 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 future available clinics.

TAX OFFICE

Friendly Reminder... Taxes are due quarterly on: May 1st, August 1st and November 1st

Please remember that Sewer Bills are due in July and are typically NOT paid by your mortgage company. Any accounts delinquent as of December 2022, including Special Assessments will be included in our Tax Sale this fall. Balances can be viewed and paid online at www.watchungnj.gov.

Please note that if you use Bill Pay through your bank, it may take a week or more for the Tax Office to receive the payment. Even though your bank account shows the money being withdrawn on the date that you initiate the bill pay, the bank prints and mails a check to the Borough which delays the process. For this reason, we recommend using the payment process provided on our website or dropping a check off at Borough Hall. If you leave a payment in the drop box outside of the Tax Office, the payment will be credited to your account the next business day.

Thank you.



 **THANK YOU!**

Watchung Borough would like to thank the businesses that appear in this newsletter and to recognize them each as supporters and cornerstones of our community. For it is with their contributions that this newsletter has been produced at no charge to our residents. The Borough would like to further request that citizens, in response, patronize these businesses first when given a choice as these businesses are saving each citizen tax dollars.



BEST ASSISTED LIVING
U.S. News
2022-23

BEST MEMORY CARE
U.S. News
2022-23

NAMED BEST

BY U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT


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For a full list of our communities or more information

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OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT offers a consistent nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, which allows them to focus on more complex tasks. Through CERT, the capabilities to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters is built and enhanced.

The CERT Basic Course training includes:

Disaster Preparedness: Addresses hazards specific to the community. Materials cover actions that participants and their families take before, during and after a disaster as well as an overview of CERT and local laws governing volunteers.

Fire Suppression: Covers fire chemistry, hazardous materials, fire hazards and fire suppression strategies. However, the thrust of this session is the safe use of fire extinguishers, controlling utilities and extinguishing a small fire.

Medical Operations Part I: Participants practice diagnosing and treating airway obstruction, bleeding and shock by using simple triage and rapid treatment techniques.

Medical Operations Part II: Covers evaluating patients by doing a head-to-toe assessment, establishing a medical treatment area and performing basic first aid.

Light Search and Rescue Operations: Participants learn about search and rescue planning, size-up, search techniques, rescue techniques and rescuer safety.

Psychology and Team Organization: Covers signs and symptoms that might be experienced by the disaster victim and workers, and addresses CERT organization and management.

Course Review and Disaster Simulation: Participants review and practice the skills that they have learned during the previous six sessions in a disaster activity.

Free CERT training is offered to Somerset County residents at the Somerset County Training Academy, Hillsborough, NJ. For further information, please email Watchung CERT at: watchungcert@watchungnj.gov



NJ REGISTER READY—SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY

NJ Register Ready was created to help people with disabilities in times of emergency. NJ residents with special needs are encouraged to add their personal information to this special needs registry. The information provided will be shared with emergency response agencies so that responders will be better equipped to serve registrants in the event of an emergency or evacuation in their area. No one else will have access to the information.

To keep this registry current, registrants are required to update their registration information each year.

Need help registering? Dial 2-1-1 and a representative will assist you in the registration process.



PUBLIC WORKS

Department of Public Works Summer Hours:

Beginning May 29, 2023 through September 1, 2023

Monday-Friday, 6:00 am to 2:30 pm

The 2023 Spring Leaf Cleanup will commence on April 1, 2023 and continue through April 30th. All leaves must be in **BIODEGRADABLE PAPER BAGS** and placed on the grass area close to the road. **NO PLASTIC BAGS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR PICKUP.** Pickups will not be scheduled for any specific time or location.

Leaf pickup is limited to high density areas located within the following areas: Brookdale, Stirling and Hillcrest Roads North to Evergreen Lane; Mountain Boulevard from Washington Drive to Rock Avenue; Johnston Drive to the water tower including Upper Drive and Johnston Drive Extension.

All residents are urged to utilize their leaves as compost; however, should any resident in a rural area desire pickup of leaves in **BIODEGRADABLE PAPER BAGS ONLY**, call the office of Public Works at **908-756-0080, ext. 214**. Due to the State's Stormwater Regulations, the Borough has an ordinance **prohibiting** placement of leaves in the street.



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: _____ @ \$90.00 = _____
 (One permit = 350 lbs. of material)

Address: _____ District #1 or #2
 _____ (Circle District No.)

Telephone No.: _____ Email: _____

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	___ Dresser (adult)	170	___ Stove	250
___ Bathtub	400	___ Dryer	200	___ Table (large)	100
___ Chair (large stuffed)	75	___ Lawn Mower	100	___ Table (small)	50
___ Chair (small straight)	25	___ Mattress (double)	75	___ Gas BBQ Grill	70
___ Cedar Chest	70	___ Microwave Oven	80	___ Toilet & Tank	100
___ Coffee Table	50	___ Rug 5 x 8	50	___ Hot Water Heater (40gal)	150
___ Desk (large)	100	___ Sink (porcelain)	40	___ Washing Machine	300
___ Dishwasher	150	___ Sofa	150	___ Window	30
___ Door	50	___ Sofa Bed	300		
___ Other (Please list with estimate weight) _____					

***COMPUTERS/ELECTRONICS** – SOMERSET COUNTY RECYCLE – (732) 469-3363

***HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE** – SOMERSET COUNTY RECYCLE – (732) 469-3363

(paint, batteries, propane tanks, pool chemicals, fire extinguishers, tire, etc.)

***FREEZER/REFRIGERATOR** – NJ CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM – (866) 657-6278



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.

DISTRICT #1 (June 5th – 9th)

Acorn Road	Crestwood Drive	Gentian Lane	Hillside Avenue	Mountain Boulevard	Rock Road East	Sunlit Drive
Anderson Road	Dale Road	Gildersleeve Place	Hughes Lane	Natales Way	Schmidt Circle	Valley View Road
Appletree Row	Dawn Way	Glen Eagle Drive	Indian Run	Park Place	Scott Drive	Verona Place
Beechwood Place	Deer Run	Glenview Drive	Joan Drive	Parlin Lane	Shawnee Drive	Washington Drive
Blue Wolf Trail	Dogwood Lane	Guinard Drive	Johanna Lane	Phillip Lane	Snoden Lane	Washington Rock Rd.
Brookdale Road	Drift Road	Heather Lane	Kappelman Drive	Pine Lane	Spencer Lane	Watchung Crest Dr.
Cain Circle	Dug Way	High Oaks Drive	Knollwood Drive	Reynolds Drive	Stanie Brae Drive	Wetumpka Lane
Carrar Drive	Evergreen Lane	High Tor Drive	Lakeview Avenue	Ridge Road	Stanie Glen	Wildwood Terrace
Cedar Lane	Fawn Lane	Hill Place	Lakeview Terrace	Robin Glen Road	Stirling Road	Winans Lane
Cedar Road	Forest Drive	Hillcrest Road	Maple Street	Rock Avenue	Stone Gate	Winter Lane

DISTRICT #2 (June 12th – 16th)

Bayberry Lane	Crystal Ridge Drive	Friar Lane	Kristy Lane	Old Somerset Road	Skyline Drive	Valley Drive
Birchwood Lane	Devonshire Lane	Gallowae	Mareu Drive	Orchard Road	Somerset Street	Valley Road
Bonnie Burn Road	Diamond Court	Grand view Drive	Meadowlark Road	Plainfield Avenue	Summit Way	Watchung Avenue
Brook Drive	East Drive	Hill Hollow Road	Mountain Drive	Price Drive	Sunbright Road	Will Lane
Bumble Bee Lane	Eaton Road	Hyde Circle	New Providence Rd.	Prospect Avenue	Tall Timbers Road	Wolford Court
Canterbury Lane	Edgemont Road	Jared Court	Nottingham Drive	Redmont Road	Templar Drive	Wooded Road
Cardinal Drive	Elsinore Drive	Johnston Drive	Oakridge Lane	Route 22	Timberline Way	Woodledge Road
Century Lane	Ellisen Road	Johnston Drive Ext.	Oakwood Road	Sequoia Drive	Tuttle Road	
Chelsea	Emerald Drive	King Richard's Court	Oakwood Road East	Shady Brook Court	Upper Drive	
Corey Lane	Fox Chase Drive	Knightsbridge	Oakwood Road West	Sherwood Drive	Vail Lane	

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION



Happy spring to all from the Environmental Commission! We hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather and spending lots of time outdoors. Here are some tips you can use to help keep Watchung green:

TREES: Trees are one of Watchung's most valuable assets. **A permit is required to cut down any tree in Watchung, dead or alive.** Permits are FREE and can be found on the Borough website or by calling the Engineering Office at 908-756-0091. In addition to enhancing the natural beauty of our town, trees help prevent soil erosion and runoff, clean the air, provide habitat and food for wildlife, and keep our homes cool. Many trees are being lost to invasive insects, disease, and storms. Please consider these factors when thinking about removing trees, and if you must remove them, **please replant!** New trees will benefit Watchung now and far into the future.

MORE TREES! Taking measures to maintain healthy trees can save a tree's life. This includes **hiring an arborist.** Professional, trained arborists know how to properly maintain trees for the safety of the public and the health of the tree. To find an arborist, visit **TreesAreGood.org** for free tools. The "Find an Arborist" tool can help you locate an arborist. The "Verify a Credential" tool enables you to confirm an arborist's ISA credentials. (This info comes from the International Society of Arboriculture site treesaregood.org)



RECYCLING: BOOKS can be recycled 24/7 in the bright green bin located along the driveway of the Firemen's Exempt Hall. Hardcover, paperback, and textbooks in good condition are all acceptable. Books must have an ISBN barcode. Books in good condition can also be donated to the Watchung Public Library (barcode not required). **STYROFOAM can now be**

recycled in Watchung. Watch the Borough website and Watchung Facebook pages for details. Save your Styrofoam for recycling! Keeping it out of waterways and landfills helps wildlife and the environment.

ORGANIC LANDSCAPING: Avoid using herbicides on your lawn and garden.

They may kill the weeds but they also kill the beneficial insects that live in your yard, and they are toxic to the environment. Tell your landscaping company you don't want chemicals (glyphosate) on your lawn. In hilly Watchung, when it rains, whatever is on your lawn washes down into your neighbors' yards and ultimately into our streams and lakes, polluting the water and aquatic life.

Try this recipe for organic weedkiller – it's cheap, easy to make, and it works! Use 1 gallon of white vinegar, 1 cup of table salt, and 1 tablespoon of liquid dishwashing soap. Blend thoroughly in a bucket and then funnel the solution into a spray bottle. Apply on a dry, sunny day. Carefully spray all parts of the targeted weeds thoroughly and they'll die within a week.

RAIN GARDENS: Rain Gardens can help improve our lakes and streams and minimize local flooding.

A rain garden is a shallow area filled with native plants that receives stormwater from an impervious area such as a roof or driveway. The stormwater is absorbed by the plants in the rain garden, reducing the amount of stormwater pollution that enters our waterways. Lastly, rain gardens also provide much-needed beneficial habitat for birds and pollinators.

If you are interested in seeing a rain garden in action, visit the new Bayberry School rain garden (during non-school hours). You can also google "UConn Rain Garden App" for a **step-by-step guide to installing your own rain garden.**



Planting native trees and shrubs, reducing, reusing, and recycling, and avoiding pesticides and herbicides are some of the best things you can do for Watchung's environment!

COMMUNITY DAY

AT

WATCHUNG VALLEY GOLF CLUB

ON

MONDAY, AUGUST 21ST



THE MEMBERS AND STAFF OF WVGC INVITE YOU FOR A DAY OF GOLF AND LUNCH

Tee times are required and are available starting at 8:00 a.m.

Fee is \$150.00 per person (includes green fee, cart and lunch)
Cash bar will be available.

For questions or to reserve your tee time please e-mail
reservations@watchungvalleygc.com

Dress Code Policy

Golfers must dress consistently with the tradition of the game. The following are permitted on the golf course, practice range and putting/chipping greens | Golf-style pullovers, jackets, rain gear, slacks, and appropriate length Bermuda shorts | Soft spikes or spikeless golf shoes. Metal spikes are prohibited | Hats with the bill forward | Men shall have a tucked-in collared or no space mock neck shirt | Women shall have either collared or mock neck sleeved shirts. Women may replace slacks or Bermuda shorts with "skorts" or capris.

FROM THE DESK OF THE BOROUGH CLERK

Attention Cat Owners!
 Don't forget to renew your **CAT LICENSE!**



Scan here to register your cat online 

Or download/print the application, bring or mail with payment to:
 Borough of Watchung Clerks Office
 Cat Licensing
 15 Mountain Boulevard
 Watchung, NJ 07069

Deadline to register is May 31, 2023!

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL ALERTS

Register for Borough of Watchung Website e-Bulletins

The E-Mail registration list is an "Opt-In" style email list. You must register to receive *Watchung e-News* and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Go to: <https://watchungnj.gov/resident/resident-communications>
 Click on: **SIGN UP FOR EMAILS** (black button)
 Fill out the information. The screen will be displayed like the one below.
 Submit by clicking: **SIGN UP** (orange button)

 or use this QR code 

BECOME A POLL WORKER

ON PRIMARY OR GENERAL ELECTION DAYS YOU CAN VOTE AT YOUR DESIGNATED LOCATION

POLLING LOCATIONS:

Districts 1 and 4: Fireman's Exempt hall, 31 Mountain Boulevard
District 3: Bayberry School, 105 Bayberry Lane
Districts 2 and 5: Wilson Memorial Union Church, 7 Valley Road

Always check website for updated information

Tuesday, June 6 is Primary Election Day. Polls open 6am to 8pm
 June 2 – June 4 Early Voting Period

Rental Property Update

LANDLORDS in the Borough of Watchung must register their rental property.

All registrations are due by the end of September of each year.

Fees

- \$150 Annual registration and inspection fee
- \$50 Per unit, change in tenant/occupancy
- \$50 Per unit, re-inspection fee
- \$50 Failure to be present and/or provide access at requested inspection time (15 min grace period)
- \$50 Petitioned inspection fee (when filed by occupant)

For complete details and to download the **PROPERTY REGISTRATION FORM**, please visit: www.watchungnj.gov and go to the **CLERK** page.



UPCOMING EVENTS!

- COMMUNITY PICNIC**
 May 20th (Rain Date May 21st)
 Noon – 3:00pm (Mobus Field)
- MAYOR'S REGATTA**
 June 24th (Rain Date June 25th)
 9:30am – 11:00am (Best Lake)
- JUNETEENTH**
 Date & Time TBD (Mobus Field)
- 4TH OF JULY PARADE**
 July 4th (Mobus Field & Watchung Lake Walking Path)

MOVIE IN THE PARK
 September 15th (Phillip's Field)
 7:00pm – 9:30pm

FISHING DERBY
 September 30th (Watchung Lake)
 9:30am – 12:30pm

HARVEST FESTIVAL
 October 28th
 1:00pm – 4:00pm (Mobus Field)

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY
 May 29th
 (Mon. 9:30am @ The War Memorial)

9/11 CEREMONY
 September 11th (Mon. @ 5:30pm
 On the Village Green)

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY
 November 11th
 (Sat. 9:30am @ The War Memorial)

WATCHUNG RECREATION SUMMER CAMP

Early Registration starts Monday, April 3rd offered thru Friday, April 28th
 Summer Camp Counselor positions available for details go to www.watchungnj.gov
 Are you 18 years or older and want to be a **CAMP COUNSELOR**? Full-time and Part-time positions available! If interested, email Linda Monetti at: lmonetti@watchungnj.gov

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Keith Balla, Partner
908.967.6813
kballa@pkfod.com

FORENSIC, VALUATION & LITIGATION SUPPORT GROUP

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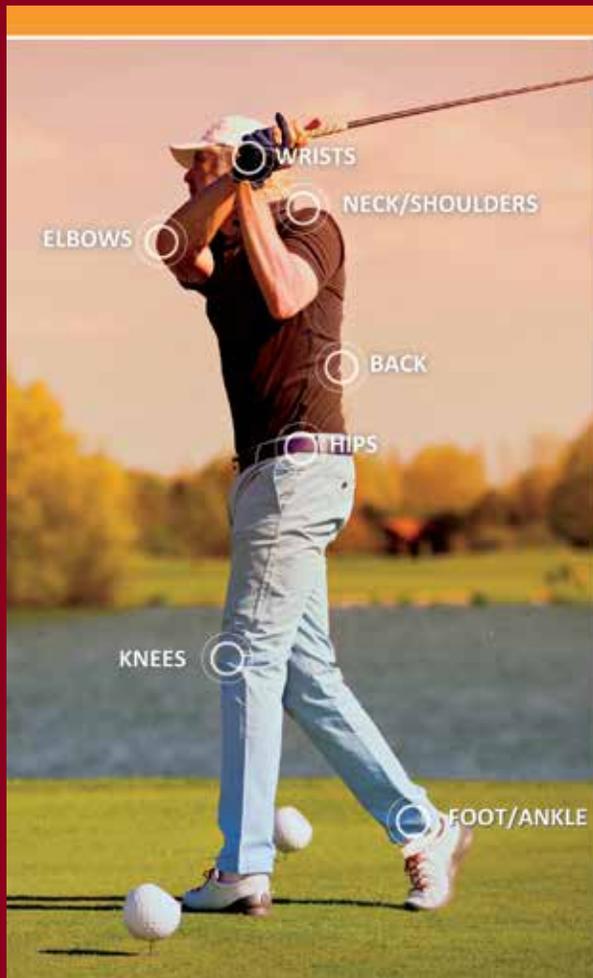
Spring/Summer 2023



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To Place An Ad Call Peggy Kucipak At Hometown Press • 215-262-3617 • peggy.cbn@gmail.com



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Dr. Joseph Mejia, DO
Pain Management
Specialist



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