



BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

Welcome To Our New Newsletter!

Dear Residents and Friends:

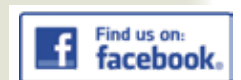
The Borough of Watchung is pleased to introduce you to our new Borough newsletter. The publication will provide you with information on municipal services and officials, contact numbers for municipal offices and other agencies, and updates on current projects being undertaken and events within the Borough.

We extend a special thanks to the business and professional members of our community whose support through advertising has made publication of this newsletter possible at no cost to taxpayers. Please support the local businesses that support the Borough.

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage all residents of the Borough of Watchung to contact the municipal offices for any assistance you may need. Community service is a priority of the Borough. We strive to do our best to make this a better community for all our residents.

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Letter from Mayor Keith S. Balla

Hello Neighbors & Friends,

I wish to welcome Watchung's newest residents and their families, and many new businesses that opened in our community over the past year or so.

I applaud these new businesses for making significant investments in Watchung, despite the challenges of Covid-19. This is a credit to our community's resilience and to our many residents who support our local businesses with their patronage.

As we rebound from the pandemic, I am proud to announce the Borough of Watchung is fully operational. Our dedicated employees fully staff Borough Hall's offices, ready to serve you. Our advisory boards, commissions, and committees also have a complete compliment of appointees dedicated to making Watchung a better place to live and work.

School board President Dorie Harvey and I are working closely to find efficient, money-saving ways to share more services between Borough Hall and our school district to provide activities that benefit residents and your children.

I am also extremely pleased to see an increase in local volunteerism. It's wonderful that so many people are offering their valuable time and energy to help their neighbors and our town.

OUR LIBRARY & ARTS CENTER

Regrettably, Watchung did not receive a New Jersey State Library Grant that would have greatly benefited our popular Public Library and our Arts Center, on Stirling Road. Anticipating this shortfall, my staff and I developed a couple of alternatives for these facilities.

The first option is to create a joint venture between the Borough and a potential developer. Watchung would continue to own these properties, leasing them to a developer. The developer, in turn, would agree to build a mixed-use facility that includes a brand new, state-of-the-art library and arts center plus ample parking at no cost to the Borough.

This concept would also include cost-efficient apartments for our growing number of senior citizens living on fixed incomes. These lower-cost rentals would also help Watchung meet state-required affordable housing obligations.

The second, less attractive option, is for Watchung to pay out-of-pocket for much-needed upgrades to our library and arts center, bringing them into current building code compliance.

I recently appointed an Ad Hoc Facility review committee to evaluate all borough properties, including our public library and arts center. This committee will provide its own assessments and recommendations to the Borough Council about maintenance, renovations and redevelopment options.

SURVEY FOR RESIDENTS

As Mayor, I want residents to know that I value their ideas, opinions and suggestions. Local government works best when more people participate in the decision-making. Borough Hall wants to hear from you.

Our Borough will soon ask you to reply to a website survey at www.watchungnj.gov, requesting feedback about proposed uses for nine-acre Camp Endeavor, on Sequoia Drive, and about the 20-acre former Ness Farm on Mountain Boulevard.

The Ness Farm is a contaminated site. Watchung has engaged qualified professionals to evaluate this property and recommend cost-efficient remedies. We also want to hear what you think. Please look for this survey and respond.

Watchung also drafted a survey to enlist the community's help formulating our Borough's future agenda. We embrace a thoughtful dialogue with our residents. I am confident our residents, with their personal experiences and talents, can offer beneficial ideas and suggestions that help Borough Hall provide the best solutions for our community.

SEEKING A NEW DIRECTOR

Watchung is conducting a search for a qualified new engineer/public works director who can best serve our residents and businesses.

This new director is vital as Watchung undertakes its street resurfacing program, culvert repairs, landscaping and beautification projects, and as we enhance our public buildings and grounds.

A skilled engineer/public works director will be a valuable asset to Watchung as we work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to overhaul the Mobus Field playground on Brookdale Road.

This new director along with our Police Chief and Administrator will hopefully provide vital assistance as Watchung continues to work with Somerset County and the N.J. Department of Transportation to formulate safety improvements for Hillcrest Road that alleviate illegal truck use problems and mitigate accidents.

We hope to persuade the State Transportation Department to enact changes at Route 78's Exit 40 to reduce the illegal truck traffic on Hillcrest Road.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

My Administration is giving our residents greater access to public information. Transparency is vital to our Democracy, especially at our local level of government.

So, Watchung continues to improve public access with technology upgrades to our borough website at www.watchungnj.gov. We also now make more digitized records and videos publicly available.

I am proud of our redesigned Borough website that offers timely updates about municipal services and upcoming activities. I am also proud that Watchung again holds in-person Borough Council meetings. We continue to live-stream these meetings so more people can watch and participate.

BUSY COMMITTEES

I wish to highlight the exemplary effort of our local Historical Committee and our Recreation Committee. Both have done amazing work over the past year in service to our residents.

The Historical Committee has reopened Texier House Museum, on Mountain Boulevard. Its volunteer staff again provides programs and tours to school children, families and visitors.

continued on next page

Letter from Mayor Keith S. Balla continued

The Historical committee also anticipates honoring "Hometown Heroes" on Memorial Day, featuring Watchung residents who have served in the various military branches.

Second, our borough's Recreation Committee has scheduled a full menu of 2022 activities for youngsters and adults, all scheduled activities posted on our borough's website.

The Borough is holding a Mayor's Canoe Regatta on June 11, and a Chili Cook Off to be scheduled in September.

Our local Chamber of Commerce recently held a networking social and it plans for more business events in the future. Our chamber members also participate in events that the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce sponsors.

Watchung's Chamber of Commerce is a wonderful organization that provides new business opportunities, and enables new and established business owners to network and share resources.

MY GRATITUDE

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to each of Watchung's essential workers, first-responders, volunteers and residents who have generously helped in many ways during the pandemic. Our community truly has come together to help those in need.

Please reach out with your ideas and interests to serve and volunteer within our community. If we all work together for the common good, each of us can improve the lives of all residents in our community.

Thank you for the privilege and opportunity to serve as your Mayor. I look forward to meeting all of our residents at the many activities and projects planned for 2022.

God Bless You All,



Keith S. Balla, Mayor

Borough of Watchung

Watchung Municipal Building

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Watchung, New Jersey 07069

Phone: 908-756-0080 • Fax: 908-757-7027

www.watchungnj.gov



Watchung Public Information Channel 15 • Watchung Radio 1610 AM

Mayor Keith S. Balla

BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Pietro "Pete" Martino

Freddie Hayeck

Curt S. Dahl

Christine B. Ead

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Emergency 911

Non - Emergency 908-756-3663

Fire Department

Emergency 911

Non - Emergency 908-756-0091

Emergency Management

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CSolon@watchungnj.gov

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kerwin@watchungnj.gov

Tax Collector

William Hance 908-756-8333 ext. 223

BHance@watchungnj.gov

Construction Official

Robert Lacosta 908-756-6093 ext. 228

RLacosta@watchungnj.gov

Carolyn Taylor, Zoning Officer

908-756-6093 ext. 219

CTaylor@watchungnj.gov

Public Works

908-756-0091

Watchung Art Center

For information call 908-753-0190

(Closed Saturdays during July and Aug.)

Watchung Public Library

908-458-8455

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

908-755-4422

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.

org, follow us on Facebook @WatchungFD, call us at (908) 756-0080 x250, or email at watchungfire@watchungnj.gov, 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

The Watchung Rescue Squad has continued to fulfill its mission to provide fast and professional emergency medical services to the residents, businesses, and visitors to the Borough of Watchung and the surrounding areas. Our squad operates on a fully volunteer basis and provides care from 6PM-6AM, 7 days a week. In 2021, the Watchung Rescue Squad responded to 280 emergency calls. Our top responders for the year were Jeiner Betancourt, Leo Marchetti, and Matthew King.

The Squad held its annual Tree of Lights Festival event once again in early December. Thanks to the Watchung Borough residents who showed their support through generous donations and great attendance, this event was an enormous success. Our Tree of Lights Festival was held in honor of the educators of Watchung. Faculty and staff from Watchung Hills Regional High School, Mount Saint Mary's Academy, The Giving

Nest, Bayberry Elementary School, and Valley View Middle School were present and accepted awards given by the Squad.

The time for our annual Fund Drive is fast approaching. Keep an eye out for our mailer in early May! The Watchung Rescue Squad is an independent, volunteer organization, and is therefore dependent on the generosity of Watchung residents. We rely solely on your donations for medical supplies and other daily expenses required to keep our ambulances on the road and maintain the high quality, free Emergency Medical Services provided to the town. Don't wait until the Fund Drive to support us! Visit our website at www.watchungems.org to make a donation today, and be sure to follow us on Instagram and like our Facebook page to stay up to date on Squad events and information.

Be a part of the action! The Rescue Squad is always looking for dedicated volunteers interested in joining our team as a Driver or EMT. No prior medical experience or training is necessary to join. Training and uniforms will be provided by the Squad. If you have the desire to help your community, please visit our website and click "Join Us" to learn more and fill out an application! If you have any questions about becoming a member, please contact us at membership@watchungems.org.



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.



Friendly Reminder from the Tax Office:

Taxes are due:

August 1st and November 1st

Please remember that **Sewer Bills** due in July are NOT typically paid by your mortgage company.

Please note that any accounts delinquent as of 2021 or (prior years), including Special Assessments will be included in our Tax Sale this fall.

Balances can be viewed and paid online at www.WatchungNJ.gov



WATCHUNG LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The mission of the Watchung Library Advisory Committee (WLAC) is to advise, support, and promote the interests of the Watchung Branch Free Public Library located at 12 Stirling Road. Upcoming meetings for 2022 will be held in the Bicentennial Room of the library at 5:30PM on July 20, September 21, and November 16. Mayor Balla has established an Ad Hoc Facilities Committee that will make recommendations regarding the borough's library and other facilities. Patrons and interested parties are welcome to attend WLAC meetings to share ideas about the state of the current library and other library-related issues.

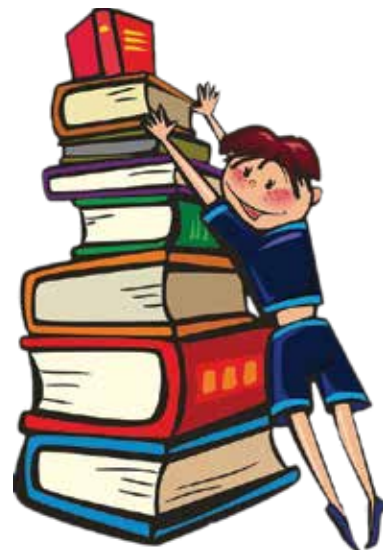
The Watchung Library branch of the Somerset County Library System (SCLS) of NJ is more than just books! As an SCLS NJ library card holder, you can:

- access over one million resources, including books, CDs, DVDs, newspapers, and more.
- download e.books, e.audiobooks, and digital magazines.
- search, reserve, and renew materials from ANY of our branches.
- attend exciting and enriching events—all at no cost to you—for children, teens, adults, and families.

In addition, the Home Borrowing Library Service makes personalized connections between eligible customers and materials. These services are designed for customers experiencing temporary or permanent health, mobility, transportation, age-related, or other qualifying barriers to visiting physical Library locations.

If you or someone you know has difficulty visiting the Library, and would like more information about receiving materials by mail, connecting with digital resources, or designating a friend or family member to pick up materials, email homeborrowing@sclbnj.org or call (908) 458-4938.

Interested in a family storytime event, the LEGO club, a book discussion for adults, or other free library programs? Just visit sclsnj.org/branches and click on the Watchung branch. Our library is OPEN and fines-free. Library staff members are eager to help you explore the many resources available to you and your family, including the 2022 Summer Reading Challenge.



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MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Do Your Part For Your Heart

There are several things you can do to maintain a healthy heart. Eating nutritious foods, keeping active, getting restful sleep, reducing stress, steering clear of unhealthy habits, and having annual checkups with your doctor, can help reduce your risk of heart disease.

Healthy eating includes a diet comprised of fruits and vegetables, healthy sources of protein, polyunsaturated fats, and whole grains. Avoid foods that are high in trans and saturated fats, sugar and sodium.

Regular physical activity can help maintain your weight, lower your risk of high blood pressure and heart disease, as well as give your energy and mood a boost. If you are new to exercise, start small with a 20 minute walk a few days a week and gradually build up your time and frequency. It might help if you exercise with a friend or keep track of your progress. Even losing as little as 5 to 10 pounds can make a difference.

Chronic stress speeds up your breathing and heart rate, and causes your blood pressure to rise. Stress can also affect your quality of sleep, which can add tension to your heart. To reduce stress and anxiety, spend time in nature, exercise, meditate, watch a funny movie, hang out with family and friends, or immerse yourself in a favorite hobby.

Unhealthy habits such as smoking, can do a number on your heart. For example, nicotine elevates your heart rate and blood pressure, carbon monoxide and tobacco reduce oxygen to your heart, brain and arteries, and cause damage to your blood vessels. Fortunately, there are now numerous methods available to beat the habit.

Having annual checkups with your doctor is the very least you can do to get basic information on your health. Knowing your blood pressure, cholesterol, sugar, and meeting with your doctor is important to your heart health. It is a great time to discuss how to get started on a health plan or treatment program.

If you suffer from high blood pressure, it is helpful to keep a blood pressure monitor at home so you can track your readings. Be sure to speak to your healthcare provider about home monitoring. Your doctor can show you how to test at home, tell you what different readings mean for you, and what actions you should take. If at any time you experience symptoms such as chest pain, shortness of breath, back pain, numbness or weakness, change in vision or difficulty speaking, call 911.

Heart attack warning signs can differ between men and women. While men may have the traditional symptoms noted above, women are somewhat more likely to experience pain in the jaw, neck, arms or back, have abdominal pain or a feeling of heartburn, cold sweats, unusual tiredness or nausea, dizziness or lightheadedness, and/or shortness of breath. If you experience any of these symptoms, call 911 right away.

Knowing CPR is an invaluable tool that could save a life. You

can get certified through the American Red Cross or search locally for where to get trained.

For more information and heart-healthy recipes, visit www.heart.org.

For more information on maintaining a healthy lifestyle, visit our Healthy Living page.

Marijuana (Cannabis) Questions & Answers

What does Marijuana (cannabis) do?

The effects from THC in marijuana can include relaxation, euphoria, altered perception and awareness of external stimuli, and increased appetite. The onset of effects partially depends upon route used with inhalation from smoking being much faster than the onset seen with edibles. It can take up to a few hours for symptoms to intensify after use, which may lead to overdoses from overuse due to delayed responses.

Undesirable side effects may include impaired coordination and motor skills, including driving; memory loss and learning difficulties; psychosis, including hallucinations and paranoia; extreme anxiety; and reddened, injected conjunctiva. In the last few years, a syndrome known as hyperemesis THC (cyclic vomiting) has also been recognized.

However, frequent users tend to build a tolerance to many of these symptoms.

Is Marijuana addictive?

This has been a question of great debate. Some information suggests approximately one in ten adults and one in six adolescents who have used marijuana become addicted to it.

What are the symptoms of Marijuana withdrawal?

The primary physical symptoms of cannabis withdrawal include insomnia, anorexia, anxiety, irritability, and restlessness. However, withdrawal is highly variable; some persons have significant symptoms, whereas others report minimal or no symptoms.

It is interesting that some people, first begin to use marijuana to treat anxiety, irritability, restless, insomnia, etc. This makes it difficult to determine if one is withdrawing or experiencing the recurrence of symptoms for which they started to use it.

What about potential contaminants of THC products?

It is often noted that the constituents/additives of marijuana bought on the street remain largely unknown. This is true for products bought on the STREET from unknown sources. However, this is much less of a concern when purchased at a store legally allowed to sell marijuana products. Products sold from an authorized store must be tested for impurities, grown under strict conditions, and be labeled with respect to THC content.

What are some other potential health concerns of marijuana use?

In addition to the personal symptoms noted above, more

research must be done on whether medicinal marijuana is an effective substitute treatment and would decrease the use of opioids. Additionally, research suggests that cannabis use is associated with a higher prevalence of some forms of mental illness, particularly psychotic disorder.

All these concerns warrant expansion of mental health services and the ability for residents to easily access and afford mental health care services.

How can we protect minors from marijuana?

Marijuana sales and use is not approved for those under the age of 21, like alcohol. Unfortunately, scientific research demonstrates that when "perception of harm" of a particular substance is reduced, use among adolescents goes up. Lowered youth perception of harm about marijuana is already occurring, with 7% now reporting use of marijuana by age 12. There is a need for education of minors regarding the potential risks associated with high medicinal or recreational marijuana dosages.

We need stronger funding for and support of health-education curriculum in schools about alcohol, marijuana and other substances.

Is driving under the influence a concern?

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, marijuana use is increasing and 13% of nighttime, weekend drivers have marijuana in their system. It is not known if they are current users, used 10 days ago or if it is impairing their driving. Furthermore, marijuana users were about 25% more likely to be involved in a crash than drivers with no evidence of marijuana use. At this time NJ has not delineated a specific blood level consistent with intoxication; unlike alcohol which has a defined level of > 80 mg/dl (0.08).

We need a public education campaign on how to recognize an "impaired driver" about not driving a motorized vehicle while under the influence of marijuana. Law enforcement needs the resources and training to enforce laws.

Marijuana is legal, but is a controlled substance - why do we have to worry?

True, it is now legal, but consider that smoking tobacco and drinking alcohol are also legal. While these substances are legal, it has taken years since its legalization for lawmakers to identify and implement proper and effective regulations and public education with regards to labeling the health dangers of smoking and alcohol, establishing smoking zones in public spaces, Societal acceptance prohibited alcohol and tobacco use by minors and discouraging use by pregnant women because of the effects on fetal and child health and development has also taken time.

Furthermore, despite regulations and penalties, individuals make poor life choices in which they misuse and abuse tobacco and alcohol, and may mix substances to achieve desired effects. This can have deleterious effects on decision-making, judgement, and cognitive ability as well as negative impacts on those bystanders.

Education and enforcement will be necessary to protect the public's health.

What are the primary public health messages around marijuana?

- Warnings to keep out of reach of children.
- No look alike edible products.
- Cases to Poison Centers (including NJ where edibles are not supposed to be available yet) is dramatically climbing for infants, toddlers, and young children.
- No selling of marijuana products to minors under the age of 21 years.
- Require ID at time of sale.
- No driving under the influence.
- No marketing to kids.
- No use in restaurants / parks, public spaces.
- No use while pregnant.
- No use while operating large machinery or working in a hospital or healthcare setting.
- No use on the job that impairs your performance.
- Provide resources so public education can occur and is all encompassing.

Rabies

The Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission has identified multiple rabid animals this year and therefore we urge residents to be aware and cautious of potential rabid animals and avoid contact with any unknown animal. Rabies, a neurological disease, is almost 100% preventable. However, rabies is nearly always fatal once symptoms have developed so prompt action is necessary to prevent rabies! Therefore, we encourage everyone to avoid any animals you are not familiar with and pay special attention to children who may be attracted to animals.

These incidents should also serve as a reminder of the importance of making sure your pet is up to date on their vaccinations, especially rabies. In addition, we encourage pet owners to be aware of their pets' locations and activities at all times in order to try to avoid preventable exposures. If your pet is exposed to a wild animal, it is very important to notify the health department, have the pet seen by a veterinarian, test the wild animal if it is available, and to avoid human contact with any saliva, wounds, etc. to prevent human exposures.

COVID-19 Update

We continue to urge everyone to be cautious and protect themselves from exposure to COVID and other infectious diseases and to pay attention to updates and warnings as the pandemic continues. Steps you can take are:

- Wear a mask, especially when indoors and in crowded conditions.
- Watch your physical distance.
- Wash your hands.

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MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION *continued from previous page*

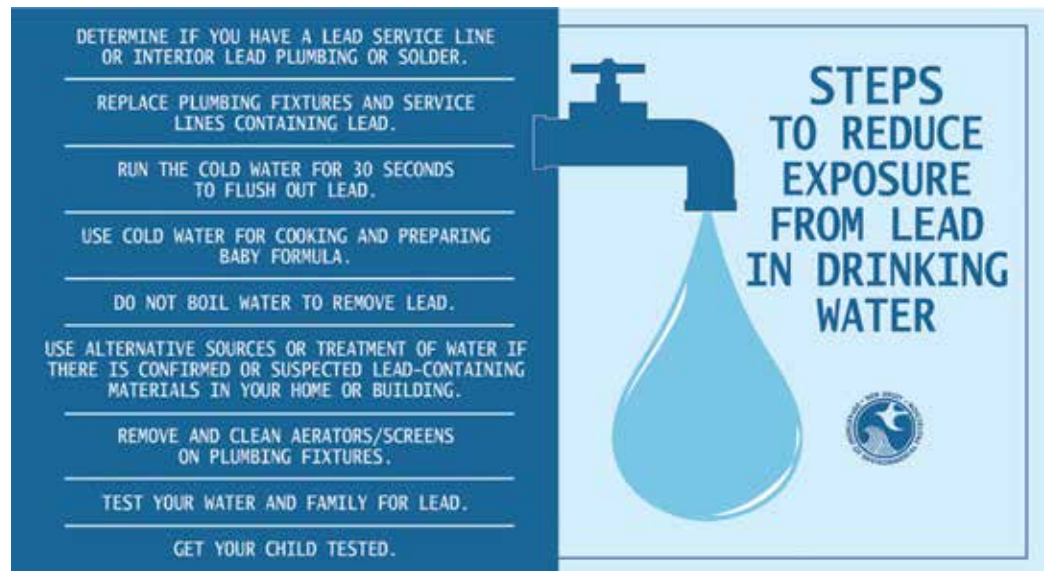
- Stay home if sick.
- Get vaccinated - This includes getting vaccinated against COVID-19 when you are eligible, but also includes keeping up with other vaccinations, such as tetanus, measles, hepatitis, and many others depending upon age and other factors. CDC provides recommended vaccination schedules for adults and children.

We are also very concerned that the pandemic has resulted in individuals neglecting their own health due to fears of possible exposure or distractions that have prevented and delayed routine medical care. Therefore, we want to encourage everyone to:

Care for Yourself – Do not neglect your healthcare. Doctors and healthcare facilities are taking precautions to protect you and themselves during these times. Stay up to date with your routine immunizations and medical appointments, and your children's' too. Call your doctor with any concerns and talk to them about how best to address them. Telemedicine and other options are often available to provide you the care you need, safely.

Lead Service Lines

In July 2021 New Jersey enacted the Lead Service Line Replacement Law (P.L. 2021, Ch. 183) that requires drinking water systems to inventory service lines, notify residents of the potential presence of lead in their service lines, and plan for the replacement of all lead service lines within 10 ten years. This law requires public community water systems in NJ to notify residents who are served by a known lead service line by certified mail within thirty (30) days after the submission of the initial service line inventory to the Department. If you receive a notice from the water company or know that you have lead in your water see below for steps you can take to protect yourself and family.



Borough Events - Save the Date

MAY

- 30** - Memorial Day Ceremony
9:30am @ The War Memorial

JUNE

- 4** - Styrofoam Recycling Collection
9:00 AM - noon @ DPW Garage,
880 Somerset Street
- 7** - Farmers Market
Tuesdays from 4:00-7:00 PM @ Police
Station Parking Lot, 840 Somerset St.
- 11** - Mayor's Regatta
9:30am – 11:30am @ Best Lake
(Rain Date June 12th)
- 18** - Juneteenth, Time TBD (Mobus Field)

JULY

- 4** - 4th of July Parade
Mobus Field & Watchung Lake Walking Path

SEPTEMBER

- 9** - Movie in the Park 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- 11** - 9/11 Ceremony
5:30pm On the Village Green
- 17** - Fishing Derby
9:30am – 12:30pm @ Best Lake
- 24** - Chili Cook-Off @ Mobus Field TBD

OCTOBER

- 22** - Harvest Festival
1:00pm – 4:00pm @ Mobus Field

NOVEMBER

- 11** - Veterans Day Ceremony
9:30am @ The War Memorial

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

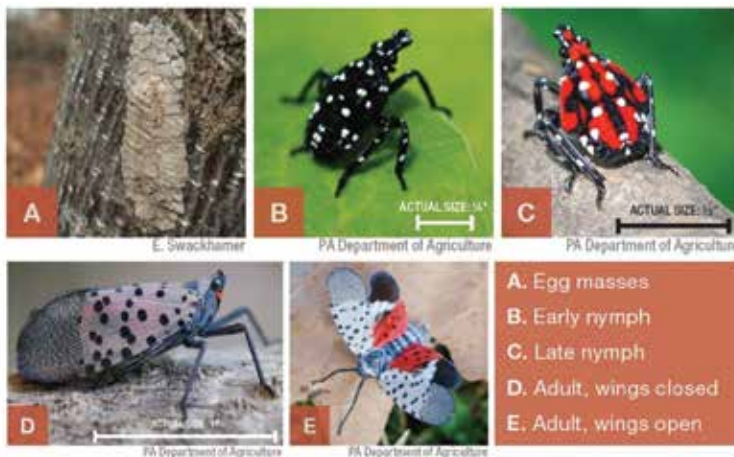
The Watchung Environmental Commission (EC) wishes everyone a happy spring! We have been hard at work on initiatives designed to preserve Watchung's environment and natural resources – the trees, waterways, and wildlife – to help keep Watchung green. Here are some important things to know ...



TREES: Permits are 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. Trees are important in many ways. They enhance the aesthetic beauty of our town, minimize soil erosion, clean the air, provide habitat and food for wildlife, and help control runoff. 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.

RECYCLING: The next Styrofoam collection will be held on Saturday, June 4 from 9 AM – 12 PM at the Public Works Garage, 880 Somerset St. Only clean, white, packing Styrofoam is accepted, with all stickers, tape and writing removed. Clean white coolers from online food and medicine deliveries are acceptable with writing/labels removed. The next Styrofoam collection is scheduled for mid-September. Please save your Styrofoam for recycling!

The EC is also starting a book recycling program with New Legacy Books. Look for the bright green bin with yellow writing, located at 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).



SPOTTED LANTERNFLY: The destructive SLF will be back this spring and summer. Please remove and destroy egg masses on your property and stomp out the insects when you see them. Here is what they look like in their different stages.

Please remember to reduce, reuse, recycle. Think globally and act locally to help protect the environment in Watchung and around the planet!

The Borough of Watchung's Hometown HEROES Banner Project

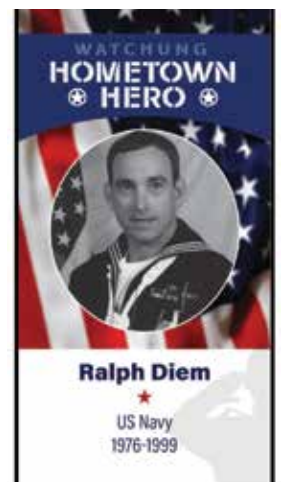
Each banner will honor a "Hometown Hero" — those Veterans (living or deceased), as well as active military, who either lived or currently reside in, or who work for the Borough of Watchung.

The banner will include the person's name, branch of service, and years served along with a military photo.

Banners will be displayed on the lamp posts along Somerset Street twice each year, on Memorial and Veterans Days.

We encourage all to support the Watchung "Hometown Heroes Project" with a donation of \$125.00, either online or by check made payable to: The Borough of Watchung. If you pay by check, please write "Hometown Hero" in the memo line and mail it to: 15 Mountain Blvd., Watchung, NJ 07069

For more information, and to donate and/or order a banner, please visit: <https://watchungnj.gov>



WATCHUNG HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Greetings from the Watchung Historical Committee!

As we begin 2022, we are reminded that Watchung will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary in just 4 years! Our Borough has had an incredibly vibrant, rich, and deep history and the Texier House Museum holds some of the most interesting artifacts and stories from the last 96 years.

As mentioned last fall, we are excited to announce that the Historical Committee has reinstituted the Open Houses at the Texier House on the first and third Sundays of each month from 2pm to 4pm with additional openings for special holidays and events. We officially reopened following the pandemic on Memorial Day of 2021. We would be delighted for you to visit the Museum! Be sure to check the Borough website before your visit for any special announcements or special guests. The Texier House Museum is located in the center of the Watchung circle.

During 2021 we updated the World War I & II displays with a spotlight on World War II Veteran and Watchung resident Henry Long. Resident, and now Eagle Scout Jason Ng worked tirelessly with the committee and other volunteers to make this project a reality. New displays on the Lions Club, Camp Endeavor, former Restaurants, and Watchung Authors were improved. We added new signage throughout the museum to better explain and describe many of our current displays. The front of the Texier House Museum was landscaped, and American Flags were added to each side of the entrance posts. Our oral history film project was also expanded during 2021, and we hope that 2022 brings all of our videos onto a more public platform so that longtime residents can share their stories from the early days in Watchung.

As we look to 2022 and beyond, we continue discussions on how to best digitize our documents and displays. We

believe that while a physical museum is important, a digital repository of photos and displays is more broad reaching for current, as well as former, residents of the Borough.

The Borough of Watchung supported a Veterans Banner program last year. These banners, honoring our Borough Veterans, will be displayed on the light posts up and down Somerset Street.

A top priority for the Watchung Historical Committee this year will be to recommend to the Borough Council some options for a home for the Legend of Watchung Mural. For 52 years, the Legend of Watchung mural was showcased in the former Sears building at the corner of Terrill Road and Route 22! It was painted by Garfield Hunter Jones who had been hired by Sears to "humanize" the large commercial Sears Department stores. The mural needs a large wall; it is 10-feet high by 16-feet long. It is still being conserved in Cape May, NJ by a fine art conservator. Conserving the painting means it will be cleaned and "touched up" to bring the painting closer to its original state.

All funds used to save and conserve the mural have been raised through private charitable donations and grants – no Borough funds have been spent to date. The Historical Committee is open to ideas and suggestions on where this beloved mural could be placed and we value public input. Donations for the final efforts can be made to the "Watchung Community Foundation," a 501(c)(3) a charitable, tax-exempt organization. Please designate 'Mural Restoration' in the memo line. You can send or deliver your check to Watchung Borough Hall, 15 Mountain Boulevard, Watchung, NJ 07069.



PUBLIC WORKS

Hillcrest Road, County Route 531, from 600' South of High Oaks Drive to the Route I-78 Interchange, Borough of Watchung and Township of Warren - Hillcrest Road is a major north - south commuter link from Route 78 to Route 22. Average daily traffic volumes exceed 20,000 vehicles per day. The project limits extend from a point that is approximately 600 feet south of High Oaks Drive/Ridge Road north to the I-78 interchange. Current traffic patterns exhibit heavy week-day traffic in both the morning and evening rush hours. The roadway is classified as an Urban Minor Arterial by the NJDOT Straight Line Diagrams.

The road has steep curved grades and slippery conditions particularly on wet weather days. This segment of Hillcrest Road is posted with a truck restriction of no vehicles over five (5) tons as well as posted steep grade warning signage. The horizontal and vertical alignment of Hillcrest Road results in a very limited stopping sight distance for motorists traveling along the roadway. There are also sight triangle obstructions for vehicles entering onto Hillcrest Road from High Oaks Drive and Ridge Road.

For more information visit our departments page at <https://watchungnj.gov/departments/engineering>

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: _____ @ \$80.00 = _____
(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	Dishwasher	150	Mattress (double)	75	Table (small)	50
Bathtub	400	Door	50	Microwave Oven	80	Gas BBQ Grill	70
Chair (large stuffed)	75	Dresser (adult)	170	Rug 5 x 8	50	Hot Water Heater (40gal)	150
Chair (small straight)	25	Dryer	200	Sink (porcelain)	40	Window	30
Cedar Chest	70	Toilet & Tank	100	Sofa Bed	300	Other (Please list with estimate weight) _____	
Coffee Table	50	Washing Machine	300	Stove	250		
Desk (large)	100	Lawn Mower	100	Table (large)	100		



- **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 6th – 10th)

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

DISTRICT #2 (June 13th – 17th)

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

FROM THE DESK OF THE BOROUGH CLERK

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, June 7, 2022 • Polls open 6:00 am to 8:00 pm

Voters are able to cast their votes by any of the following methods:

- Show up on Tuesday, June 7 to your polling location
- Request a Vote-by-Mail ballot and mail it back by US Postal Service or drop it off at any drop box location in Somerset County before the deadline.
- Watchung's drop box is located in the Exempt Hall parking lot next to the Fire House at 57 Mountain Blvd.

*** Sign Up for Borough Communications! ***

Please consider registering for ALL notification services below. Each one serves a different purpose to help keep you informed on a daily basis as well as when emergencies occur.

- Subscribe to NIXLE Alerts by simply texting 07069 to 888777. You can manage your subscription at local.nixle.com
- Register for Borough website e-bulletins by visiting the website and clicking on "Stay Informed"
- Follow us on social media!!

Property Owners - Stay Informed!

The Borough passed a new ordinance on "*Residential Rental Property Registration*" requirements. If you are renting your property, you must obtain a Certificate of Registration for each rental unit in Watchung. Call the Clerks Office for details or check out our website for any information!

KNOW YOUR VOTING LOCATION

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



Mayor's Wellness Campaign
WATCHUNG WALKS!
Join us every Monday at 7pm
Meet us at Mobus Field Parking Lot!
More information coming soon!
www.watchungnj.gov

The poster features a background image of a park with a bridge and trees. Silhouettes of people walking are shown at the bottom. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.



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.



TUESDAYS 4 - 7 PM
AT POLICE HQ
840 SOMERSET ST
WATCHUNG FARMERS MARKET
JUNE - OCTOBER
WatchungNJ.gov

The poster features a background image of various fresh vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, and corn.

KNOW GREATER VALUE®

Proud to Support
Borough of Watchung



Keith Balla, Partner
908.967.6813
kballa@pkfod.com

FORENSIC, VALUATION & LITIGATION SUPPORT GROUP

pkfod.com

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
15 Mountain Boulevard
Watchung, NJ 08069

ECRWSS EDDM

Postal Customer

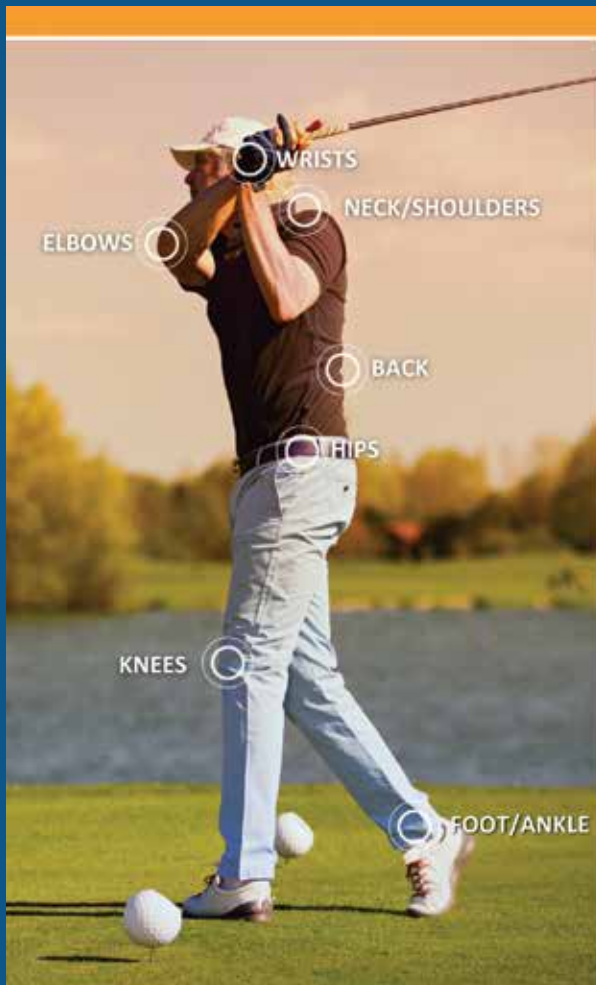
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Dr. Joseph Mejia, DO
Pain Management
Specialist



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Branchburg | Somerset | Watchung

www.performancerehabnj.com