



# BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG



Mayor Jubin

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



*2023 Fall/Winter*

### SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Mayor's Message.....	3	Tax Office Reminder .....	10
Scarecrow Stroll.....	3	Watchung Fire Department .....	11
Veterans Day Ceremony.....	3	Watchung Rescue Squad .....	11
Council's Corner.....	4	Watchung Library Advisory Committee.....	12
Watchung Police Department.....	5	Watchung Historical Committee .....	13
Traffic and Beautification Committee .....	5	Mobus Field Renovations.....	13
Contact Information.....	6	Watchung's Farmers Market.....	13
Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission.....	8-9	From the Desk of the Borough Clerk.....	14
Environmental Commission .....	9	Upcoming Events .....	14
Public Works.....	10		

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## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Hello Watchung! I hope all of you had a wonderful summer. We are thrilled to introduce our newly appointed Council Member, Robert Gibbs who was sworn in on August 17, 2023 to replace Freddie Hayeck, who resigned to pursue a career in Law. Our best wishes to Freddie in all his future endeavors! We are equally elated to let you know that Scott Anderle has been promoted to Chief of Police. We wish our outgoing Chief, Andrew Hart, a wonderful retirement and thank him for his 26 years of dedicated service. Additionally, we congratulate Dámaris Quiñones-Gray as she takes over the role of Recreation Coordinator from Linda Monetti who has retired after 14+ years of dedicated service and all the remarkable recreational programs she has created in addition to the many special events. We wish her too all the best in her retirement.

Our Administrative staff, Councilmembers, First Responders and Volunteers are hard at work with particular focus on public safety, infrastructure, recreation, and wellness. Our continued focus on public safety improvements include: new surveillance cameras at Mobus Field, Philips Field, and the waterfalls parking lot. In addition, license plate reader cameras were installed at key points in the Borough to alert our Police Department (PD) to any stolen vehicles entering our community. Our Council and PD are committed and proactive about security. These measures will help prevent future car break-ins and thefts. Please do your part by not leaving valuables in open view and by keeping your vehicles locked at all times. I am also so pleased to report that the 2023/24 school year will now include, for the first time, a dedicated School Resource Officer to increase safety within our schools. We thank the BOE for its Shared Service Agreement, and our school administrators for making school safety a priority for our children.

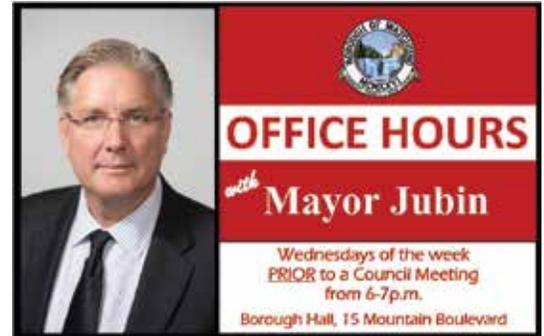
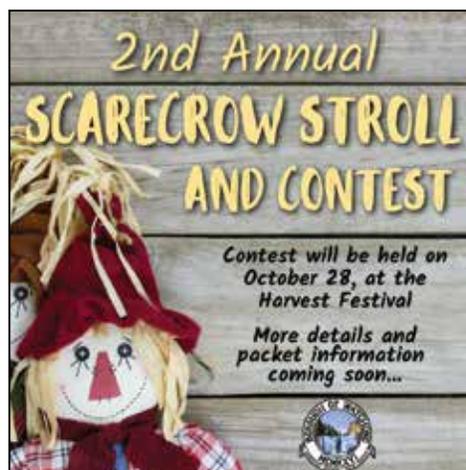
Infrastructure repairs and upgrades are ongoing and so important. Culverts, catch basins, road repairs are critical for the control of stormwaters. Kudos to our Engineers, Bill McClave our Public Works Manager and his team who do a great job maintaining our Borough roads, infrastructure, and parks – if you see them, please say hi, and thanks. By the way, have you been following the latest improvements at Mobus Field? These facilities are expected to be open and available to the public by mid-September. More improvements are in the works, so please keep sharing your ideas with us.

Speaking of recreation and wellness - the Community picnic was such an amazing event and extend a special thanks to our Recreation Commission for putting together and volunteering to make this such an awesome time for all. Our summer camp had another great year as did the fishing camp and volleyball camps run by "Mr. B" (Matt Buglovsky) our Phys Ed teacher at Valley View – his dedication to the health and wellness of our children is phenomenal!

The Farmers market now located at the newly paved Best Lake parking lot has generated record breaking attendance. Special thanks to Councilwoman Sonia Abi-Habib and the Green team, for improving an already great program by including musicians and food trucks too. Don't forget to stop by the library or take a break in the chairs on the lawn to enjoy the beauty of Best Lake. Speaking of the library, have you seen the new Fairy Village and met our new Librarian Manny Miracle? Please stop by to meet them both.

Upcoming Fall events include our 2nd Annual Scarecrow Contest, Municipal Alliance 5K Pumpkin Run, and of course our Annual Harvest Festival. Lastly, but close to my heart is the Mayor's Wellness Monday evening walks around the lake. I have met so many of our residents and to have discussions as we enjoy the beauty and serenity of our larger Watchung lake. I know we are all busy these days, but please consider joining us on one Monday walk or let me know your thoughts for additional health and wellness programs. I am holding office hours the Wednesday's the week preceding Council meetings so consider visiting with ideas to improve Watchung – remember to check our Boro calendar for specific upcoming event dates and/or email me, our Clerk Edith Gil, or Business Administrator James Damato. We are all here to help make Watchung the best place to live, work and play in NJ!

God Bless, Ronald Jubin, Ph.D., Mayor.

A graphic for signing up for e-bulletins. It features a blue envelope icon with the text "SIGN UP FOR EMAIL ALERTS" in white and orange. To the right, it says "Register for Borough of Watchung Website e-Bulletins". Below this, it explains: "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." It provides instructions: "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)". At the bottom left is the Borough of Watchung logo, and at the bottom right is a QR code with the text "or use this QR code" and an arrow pointing to it.

## Council's Corner

It is the 2nd bi-annual newsletter and there is much to report. The Mobus Field Improvement project continues with construction underway. The conversion of 1-tennis court into 2-pickle ball courts, full renovation of the remaining 2-tennis courts, and full resurfacing of the basketball court will provide residents with the recreation services they have requested. This project was supported by a \$75,000 recreation grant to help offset costs. Additional security cameras will be installed throughout the park to ensure public safety for all, especially our children.

As with all communities, recreation space is a welcome retreat, and it is exciting to share that Phase One of Camp Endeavor is finally moving forward after more than 2-decades of being unused. A community survey resulted in a passive recreation option. Clean-up and construction are currently in progress including removal of old tennis courts, clearing and leveling the area, and seeding to provide another location for community activities and enjoyment. Opening dates will be announced once the work is complete.

On August 3rd, Watchung held a remembrance of the 50-Year Anniversary of the great flood of 1973, as a result of which 7-lives were lost, and severe damage was experienced. This event and subsequent severe rain and storm events remind us of the critical need to maintain and improve our infrastructure and work toward lake cleaning initiatives. The Borough, in conjunction with our partners at FEMA and other government entities, are constantly looking to mitigate any damage from weather related events. We cannot prevent storms, but we can prepare and protect vital areas that help to keep residents and property safe. We are actively seeking state and federal funding to fortify these infrastructures.

Other projects slated include: 2023 Road Project for Washington Rock Road, Reynolds Drive, and Meadowlark Road. The 2024 Road Project is submitted for Vail Lane, Wolford Court, and Drift Road. There are other roads that also need attention. We ask for your patience as we make repairs, work with service providers currently in construction, and evaluate roads according to severity. Phase One of the Valley Road Sidewalk Project will be completed in the coming weeks. Concrete sidewalks will be installed from Best Lake to Knightsbridge. The Circle Island landscaping project is underway and the island off Sterling Road is complete. The island across from Borough Hall will be next and once PSE&G is finished with gas line replacement, the island by the Rescue Squad will be addressed. There are so many other projects that you will see and hopefully hear about at Council Meetings. We encourage you to check the Borough Website, [www.watchungnj.gov](http://www.watchungnj.gov) and on social media. The Council welcomes all residents to come to Council Meetings where your thoughts and comments are greatly appreciated. It is a privilege serving all the residents of Watchung and we take great pride in doing the very best we can to make our community a wonderful place to live and call home.

*Christine B. Ead, Council President*



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# WATCHUNG POLICE DEPARTMENT



## Introducing New Police Chief Scott Anderle

In April of 2020 the Watchung Police Department approved the use of a load-bearing body armor vest for our officers to wear on patrol. While this has been a growing trend within the law enforcement community, the many advantages of these vests are often unknown to the public. At first look, civilians have sometimes characterized the load-bearing vests as intimidating or overly militaristic. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the many benefits of this item to both the officer and the public.

Prior to the load-bearing vest, police officers carried most equipment on their waistband belts. The traditional police belt was adorned with a firearm, extra magazines, ammunition, a baton, handcuffs (often two pair), a radio, and chemical spray. This equipment can range in weight between twenty and thirty pounds. Over the last several years there have been advances in life-saving equipment and techniques which have increased the load carried by police officers. The modern police officer usually carries at least one tourniquet and other "Stop the Bleed" items on their person. Uniformed police officers are also tasked with wearing a body worn camera during their tour. The load-bearing body armor vest system allows police officers to distribute the weight of this equipment across the upper body, taking the bulk of the load off

of their hips and back. Load-bearing vests come with multiple pockets and pouches which gives the officer more options for added equipment. This increases the services a police officer can offer in the field.

Only a few weeks after the vests were approved, Watchung Police Officers reported significant relief from hip and back pain. Many patrol officers work twelve hour shifts consecutively, and often spend several hours at a time in a police vehicle. The shifting of the equipment weight off of the waist immediately improved the health and wellness of our officers. Police officers are also subject to very physical tasks throughout their tours. Running, performing life-saving services (CPR, carrying patients), and a myriad of other duties become easier when body armor is worn over the shirt as opposed to underneath. Extreme heat can lead to extreme discomfort when body armor is worn beneath clothing. The outer-carrier gives the officer the ability to remove the vest and "cool off" after a call for service is complete.

As police administration, it is our duty to provide our officers with the best equipment and training necessary to properly serve the public. The load-bearing vest has made an immediate and significant positive impact to officer wellness, morale, and service to the public. Our agency continues to look for new advancements in equipment and technology that will improve the day-to-day operations of the Watchung Police Department and personnel.

## TRAFFIC & BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE



The Traffic and Beautification Committee members together with the DPW and the Garden Club of Watchung continue to work at beautifying Watchung Borough. Everyone is working diligently to restore its beauty after the devastation made by hurricane Ida.

May planting included Spratford Park, Borough Hall, the Police Station, DPW, and the Village Green. The front of Borough Hall has new plantings in addition to the colorful flowers that were added.

A tree was planted at Bayberry School for Arbor Day with the help of the Fourth Grade Garden Club. A member of the Garden Club of Watchung explained the origin of Arbor Day, the significance of trees to our environment, and how vital it is for us that trees produce oxygen,

provide food for birds and are a habitat for wild life.

Watchung Clean Communities t-shirts were distributed to all who participated in Operation Pride. This event is hosted each Spring by Traffic and Beautification and invites all to participate in this community event. Scouts, parents, families, the Knights of Columbus and individual town members turned out to clean up around the Borough to keep Watchung pristine clean. This is a fun way to instill pride in our community.

The triangles are getting a fresh look and there are plans to restore plantings on Somerset Street and Spratford Park. Infrastructure repairs have been addressed so that improvements can continue to be made.

Everyone is invited to participate in our second Scarecrow Stroll around the Village Green this Fall. This was an exciting activity for individual families, scout troops and town organizations. Many pictures were taken in front of these amazing entries as people marveled at the creative ideas put forth by the various groups.

*Phyllis Juetter, T&B Chair*



# Watchung Municipal Building

15 Mountain Boulevard  
Watchung, New Jersey 07069

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

[www.watchungnj.gov](http://www.watchungnj.gov)



**Mayor** Ronald Jubin, Ph.D.

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

Christine B. Ead, Council President

Curt S. Dahl  
Sonia Abi-Habib  
Paolo Marano  
Paul Fischer  
Robert Gibbs

## Administration

James Damato, Administrator  
908-756-0080  
JDamato@watchungnj.gov

## Borough Clerk

Edith Gil 908-756-0080 ext. 221  
EGil@watchungnj.gov

## Chief Finance Officer

William Hance 908-756-0080 ext. 216  
BHance@watchungnj.gov

## Engineering Office

Jason Cline 908-756-0091 ext. 225  
jcline@watchungnj.gov

## Watchung Fire Official

Chris Czuba 908-756-0091 ext. 235  
cczuba@watchungnj.gov

## Police Department

Chief Scott Anderle 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

## Construction Official

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

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# MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION

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

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

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



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## Fight the Flu – Get Vaccinated!

The best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get vaccinated every year. The Flu vaccine takes about two weeks to cause antibodies to develop in the body. The antibodies protect the body against influenza viruses.



Contact the Health Commission at 732-968-5151 for information about locally available flu vaccines.

## The National Emergency is over, but COVID-19 isn't!

As we approach the winter season, please remember that even when COVID-19 case numbers are low in our community, do not let your guard down. Similar to preventing other infectious diseases, follow these tips to stop the spread:

- Stay Home if Sick
- Wash Your Hands Frequently
- Cover Your Coughs and Sneezes
- Make Sure You and Your Children are up to date with the COVID-19 Vaccine
- To stay updated with the CDC's COVID-19 Vaccine recommendations, click here
  - Visit [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find a COVID-19 vaccine near you!
- Clean and Disinfect Frequently Used Surfaces in your household, such as door handles and light switches



COVID-19 Vaccines are free and available to all people living in the U.S., regardless of immigration or health insurance status.

## Healthy Habits

**Nutrition during the Holidays** - Pay attention to your body's hunger and fullness cues and eat slowly. Visit: <https://www.myplate.gov/myplate-kitchen> to find low-cost, healthy meals to bring to the table.



**Physical Activity** - To learn about physical activity, visit: [www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/](http://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/)

**Seasonal Affective Disorder** - As days get shorter and the leaves begin to change – let's be aware of **Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)**. You may know it as "seasonal depression"; SAD is a form of depression that typically occurs in the fall and winter months. Talk with your healthcare provider if you are concerned and think you are suffering from SAD. If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. **Call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org.**

Contact the Health Commission at **732-968-5151** or visit our website: [middlebrookhealth.org](http://middlebrookhealth.org) to locate mental health services in Somerset County.

## Rabies Clinics

Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission plans to offer clinics in the fall to assure availability of **free** rabies vaccines for our cat and dog owners.

Here is the **Tentative** Schedule:

November 4, 9 am to 10 am, Green Brook, NJ

November 18, 9 am to 10:30 am. Bridgewater, NJ

December 2, 9 am to 10 am. Watchung, NJ



As we are still working to coordinate all the moving pieces to make these clinics happen, residents are asked to call the Health Commission at **732-968-5151** or **scan the QR code to view the Commission's Calendar** to confirm the dates, times, and locations. All cats must be held in a carrier and all dogs must be leashed.

## Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention

Please visit: New Jersey Poison Control Center at: <https://www.njpies.org/> or call 1-800-222-1222 to get more information on how to keep your family safe.

**Call the NJ Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 if someone is not breathing, hard to wake up, or having a seizure call 9-1-1**

## Tick-Borne Illnesses

Lyme's disease is an illness caused by bacteria carried by blacklegged ticks, which are found in the Northeast of the United States. Although tick exposure can occur year-round, remember that they are most active during April- September. Learn more about which tick species are in your area, visit: [www.cdc.gov/ticks/geographic\\_distribution.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/geographic_distribution.html).

For more information on ticks, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html> and <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/tickborne.shtml>

## A Message From New Jersey American Water

The Health Department encourages all those served by New Jersey American Water Company to review the following message regarding lead service lines. Your cooperation will assist the company to achieve the goal of replacing all lead service lines. For more information on lead in drinking water please visit: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/lead/replacement.html>

**New Jersey American Water Launching Education Campaign to Encourage Customers to Identify & Report Their Service Line Material**

Customer education effort will support company's Lead Service Line Replacement Program, replacing all lead and galvanized water service lines by 2031.

CAMDEN, NJ. – MAY 22, 2023 – New Jersey American Water is launching an education campaign across the company's service areas to encourage customers to self-identify and report the

material of the service line that brings water into their home. The educational effort is part of the company's Lead Service Line Replacement Program aimed at replacing all lead and galvanized water service lines by 2031 as mandated by state law.

"Replacing all lead and galvanized water service lines by 2031 is a top priority. The first step in accomplishing this goal, in the most efficient and cost-effective way, is to know where they are so we can remove them in a coordinated method, street-by-street and town-by-town," said Mark McDonough, President, New Jersey American Water. "By educating and empowering our customers to participate in this easy way, we can help accelerate the program more expeditiously than the law's 2031 deadline."

New Jersey American Water is asking their customers to help

support the effort by locating and identifying their water service line and submitting a survey with their findings. This can be done in three easy steps and using simple household items such as a magnet and a coin to identify the material of the water service line. The instructions on how to identify your line – including a video tutorial at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHzIn7Bi24I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHzIn7Bi24I) – and a special portal to submit your findings can be found at [www.njamwaterlsr.com/inventory](http://www.njamwaterlsr.com/inventory).

For more information on this program, and lead and drinking water, please visit [www.newjerseyamwater.com/leadfacts](http://www.newjerseyamwater.com/leadfacts).

For more information, visit [www.newjerseyamwater.com](http://www.newjerseyamwater.com) and follow New Jersey American Water on Twitter and Facebook.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

The Watchung Environmental Commission (EC) has been busy as always working to protect and preserve Watchung's natural beauty and resources. Below is an update on what the EC has been doing in 2023, as well as information you can use to help keep Watchung green!

### Tree Removal Information

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. Due to the huge loss of trees in Watchung, please consider replanting, even if it's not required. To help residents choose the best trees to plant in this area, the EC has created a PREFERRED TREE LIST of recommended NATIVE trees. The list can be found on the Borough website on the EC page under "Trees."

### Special Recycling Reminders

There are a number of special recycling programs available to Watchung residents for items that Somerset County does not collect curbside. First, STYROFOAM can now be recycled Monday through Friday during business hours at the Dept. of Public Works (DPW), 880 Somerset St., just north of the Police Station. You can pull right up to the bin and drop your foam off. Only clean, white packing Styrofoam is accepted with all writing, tape, and labels removed. Also, there's a BOOK recycling bin up the driveway of the Firemen's Exempt Hall, 31 Mountain Blvd. It's available 24/7 for book drop-off. Books must have an ISBN barcode on the cover. Paperback, hardcover, and textbooks in good, readable condition are all acceptable. Books can also be donated to the Watchung Public Library. Regular HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES can be recycled at Staples, at the customer service desk.

### Best Lake Riparian Project

On April 22, 2023, the EC and a host of community volunteers implemented the second phase of the East Branch of the Stony Brook (near the entrance to Best Lake) Riparian Restoration. This was a continuation of the stream buffer project that was completed in April 2022. Phase 2 of the project included: the removal of invasive Japanese Barberry; planting 75 live plant stakes; planting 10 tree

saplings; planting understory native perennials, such as Milkweed and Swamp Sunflower; adding a Blue Bird/Tree Swallow box; and replacing and installing deer protection. The objectives of the project are to continue to transition a 150' stretch of previously mowed stream bank to a healthy riparian zone full of native trees, shrubs, and perennials that will improve water quality, provide flood control, and improve bird and pollinator habitat. We are happy to report that Tree Swallows nested in the bird box soon after it was installed and we observed Tree Swallow fledglings in the box in June.

### Save Watchung's Wildlife – Cut Trees in Fall, not Spring

Each spring when homeowners cut down or prune trees and bushes, they often accidentally displace baby birds. Did you know that dead trees provide ecological benefits? According to the Raptor Trust in Millington, "Dead trees provide an abundance of resources to a wide variety of wildlife. Many species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians depend on them for roosting, nesting, and egg-laying sites, as well as a food source from the insects inhabiting the dead wood." If it's safe to do so, please consider delaying tree cutting until after nesting season. If the dead tree is far away from your house or in an area where it poses no risk, consider leaving it there as habitat for wildlife.

### Fishing Line Recycling

The EC has heard from residents with concerns about fishing line debris accumulating in and around our lakes. The EC shares these concerns, especially with regard to the potential impact this material may have on local wildlife. The EC has identified an innovative fishing line recycling program that would involve placing recycling receptacles at our lakes. The fishing line would then be collected and sent to a company that recycles it into new plastic products. At this point, the EC is seeking a partner, such as a scout group or similar organization to work with on the implementation of this program. Any interested party should contact the EC at [environmental@watchungnj.gov](mailto:environmental@watchungnj.gov)

Submitted by the Watchung Environmental Commission

*Rachel Funcheon, Chair*

## PUBLIC WORKS

The 2023 Leaf Pickup will commence on October 30, 2023 and continue through December 15, 2023. 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 Blvd from Washington Drive to Rock Ave.; 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.

### Residents:

Please remember to comply with snow removable regulations. Snow removed from driveways or any other place shall not be placed on any public street or right-of-way!! § Chapter 17-3.3

§ Chapter 14-45.1

### Snow and Ice Removal from Sidewalks and Driveways.

The owner or tenant of real property abutting, adjoining, or bordering any public street shall remove all snow and ice from the abutting, adjoining, or bordering sidewalk and driveway within the public right-of-way, of said public street, within 24 hours of the snow having fallen or the ice having formed thereon.

Check the borough's website for full regulations or call our **Public Works Dept. with any questions (908) 756-0080 ext. 214.**

## TAX OFFICE

### Friendly Reminder... Taxes are due quarterly on: **November 1st**

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](http://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.



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# 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](http://www.watchungfd.org), follow us on Facebook @WatchungFD, call us at (908) 756-0080 x250, or email at [recruitment@watchungfd.org](mailto: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.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



### MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH THE WATCHUNG RESCUE SQUAD



Since 1950, the Watchung Rescue Squad has been supplying the borough of Watchung with volunteer emergency medical care. Today's medical technology has come a long way. The word volunteer unfortunately has disappeared from today's vocabulary. **THIS IS WHERE WE NEED YOU.** We are currently looking for **adult members** that can provide consistent and dedicated hours to a weekly shift. The Watchung Rescue Squad is always in need of a few extra hands. **Apply online on our website! Come help out your community, meet new people, make a difference, save a life.**

#### Types of membership:

**Driver:** No experience necessary. CPR, basic first aid, squad equipment familiarization, drive training provided free

**EMT:** Free NREMT classes provided. Members with EMT certification provide direct patient care.

#### WE OFFER

FREE UNIFORMS  
FREE TRAINING  
FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES  
THE CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

#### FOLLOW US!

WEBSITE:  
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FACEBOOK:  
[@WATCHUNGEMS](https://www.facebook.com/WATCHUNGEMS)  
INSTAGRAM: [@WATCHUNGEMS](https://www.instagram.com/WATCHUNGEMS)

#### CONTACT US!

[WRSMEMBERSHIP@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WRSMEMBERSHIP@GMAIL.COM)  
10 STIRLING RD., WATCHUNG,  
NJ 07069

# WATCHUNG LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Welcome to the library's new branch manager, Manny Miracle, who returns to Watchung after many years. Please stop by the library to say hello.

The Library Advisory Board purchased an art hanging system which was installed by the Department of Public Works. The Art Gallery, located on the second floor of the library, currently features mixed media art by Watchung artist, Lisa Brown. Local artists may have their work displayed in this area for patrons to enjoy. Please reach out to our manager if you are interested in showcasing your work. Visitors are asked to sign the guest book available near the display.

Last year the first ice cream social event sponsored by the Friends of the Watchung Library was held on the same date as the "Meet the Teacher" event at Bayberry School. Nearly 150 people attended and over forty new patrons received a library card. This year's event, cosponsored by the Friends and the WLAC was held on August 30. A craft,

library tours, free ice cream, and library cards for new patrons will be available.

The next meeting of the library advisory board will be held at 6PM on November 15. Please consider participating. Meetings take place in the newly refurbished Bicentennial Room. After the meeting, stop by the children's section to view the new fairy garden in place outside the picture window. November's meeting is scheduled for the 15th.

In-person programs for children and adults as well as virtual programming continue to be offered at the library. Check out the schedule of events at [sclsnj.libnet.info/events](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/events) Stop by the library's booth at the weekly Farmer's Market for more information or to do a craft, walk up the path to take a break at the outdoor seating area to read or play a game of checkers at the wooden picnic table, then visit the library where you may notice more areas for free reading as well as hotspots for better connection. Together staff and dedicated volunteers are working hard to make the library YOUR next destination.



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.

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# WATCHUNG HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Hello Neighbors,

Greetings from the Watchung Historical Committee!

The Historical Committee invites all Watchung residents to visit the Watchung Texier House Museum in the center of the Watchung Circle. Join us every first and third Sundays of each month from 2pm to 4pm with additional openings for special holidays and events. Be sure to check the Borough website for announcements, availability, programming, and special guests! We will once again participate in Somerset County's Weekend Journey Through the Past October 7th and 8th and hope that you can join us during this weekend!

We are always working on new additions and improvements to the Texier House Museum. Recently, we have been working closely with Helena Ruta, Girl Scout Gold Award candidate who has been creating a new display on the Watchung Borough Schools at the Texier House Museum. Her project includes: a brand-new timeline with detailed descriptions and photos of all the schools in the Borough's history, a scavenger hunt that can be used while visiting the Museum, and a time capsule of student essays describing the life of a student in the Watchung Schools in 2023. This time capsule will be sealed for 25 years and reopened in 2048! She also interviewed several teachers and staff from the Watchung Borough Schools, and we hope to have these interviews added to our oral history collection in the future. We thank Helena for her hard work and dedication to this display. We also want to thank the members of our committee and the community who have supported her on this journey. We were happy to celebrate her achievements and updates to the school display in a special Open House event that occurred on September 10th.

The committee is always grateful for community donations. We would like to extend our appreciation to Tim Jones for his recent donation of ice cutting tools used at Watchung Lake. The Pennett Family donated a laundry mangle to the museum which will be added to the Home and Hearth Room. We are constantly reminded that the Texier House Museum is a community museum which continues to benefit from the hard work of residents, volunteers, and historical committee members alike.

We have been working closely with the Borough to launch a historical website that will be an online repository for the digital items we have collected over the years including tours of the museum, interviews with residents, and photos. We have continued to expand our historic collection of films more recently with

interviews with Watchung Borough teachers as mentioned above. We also hope to have a complete video tour of the museum up online soon which can continue to be updated as the Texier House displays are updated. We will also be working with the Borough to post frequent questions about the history of Watchung on the digital sign outside of Borough Hall. We hope to expand this program in the future. More details to come!

We want to remind everyone that in 2026, Watchung will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary. Our committee continues talks about this milestone and what events will be celebrated. Ideas for this celebration can be shared with the Historical Committee and Mayor as we move forward and draw nearer.

The Watchung Historical Committee has completed as much of the restoration and conservation of the Legend of Watchung mural as possible. We want to thank once again the nearly 200 donors who helped to make this fundraiser and conservation effort a success in 2017 and beyond! Saving the mural was a community effort, just as the reenactment of the Legend of Watchung was between the years of 1911 and 1936, and a final encore in 1964 in celebration of New Jersey's 300th Anniversary.

As we look around Watchung, we cannot help but notice that there are so many names and places tied to the characters, stories, and people who were part of the Legend of Watchung. It has always been part of the fabric of this wonderful Borough. The mural was painted years ago as a form of storytelling through visuals, before TV streaming platforms. While the Sears store in Watchung has come and gone, the mural is still unique and specific to Watchung and the surrounding area; it is a one of a kind. Some have argued that the mural was one of the most defining features of the store itself! We look forward to announcing the location of a new home for this impressive, original, and important piece of artwork soon!

The Historical Committee of Watchung is grateful for public input, donations, and patronage. To learn more about how you can help the Watchung Texier House Museum, and to volunteer please email us at [historic@watchungnj.gov](mailto:historic@watchungnj.gov).

## MOBUS FIELD RENOVAIONS



Exciting Mobus Field renovations/upgrades are taking place. Once completed, the renovated area will consist of 2 tennis courts, 2 pickleball courts, and new nets! We encourage you subscribe to borough emails to stay informed on any updates

A green poster for Watchung's Farmers Market. At the top left is the Watchung Borough logo. The main text reads "WATCHUNG'S FARMERS MARKET" in large white letters. Below that, it says "3PM to 7PM every Tuesday" in yellow, followed by "Now through October 31st (weather permitting)" in white. The location is "Best Lake Parking Lot (Valley Road at Watchung Circle)". The poster encourages people to join every week for fresh produce, candles, jewelry, herbal blends, soaps, and more. It features a large "OCTOBER 31ST" graphic and says "TRICK OR TREAT OUR VENDORS! PARTICIPATE IN COSTUME CONTEST!". At the bottom, it asks to check the borough's website and social media for a list of vendors and updates, and provides a QR code to scan for the website or visit [www.watchungnj.gov](http://www.watchungnj.gov). The bottom of the poster is decorated with illustrations of Halloween characters like a ghost, a witch, a vampire, a pumpkin, a witch, a ghost, and a witch.

# FROM THE DESK OF THE BOROUGH CLERK

The Borough Clerk's office has been busy working on innovative ways to make operations more efficient for our residents. As of the time of this submission, we look forward to the implementation of the new CivicPlus Software. Once implemented, this software will bring the public to one page where all of the agendas, minutes, and meeting videos for Mayor and Council can be accessed. It will allow users to sign up for agenda notifications and make video content much easier to review. This same structure will be implemented for our Board of Health, Board of Adjustment, and Planning Board. Please be sure to subscribe to borough emails and social media platforms for any updates, you can easily do this right from our homepage!

Reminders!!!

- Rental property registrations are due by the end of September **each year**
- The General Election is November 7, 2023 and polls open 6am-8pm
  - Voter registration deadline for this election is October 17th!
  - Visit our election page for all updates and additional information
- In November we will begin accepting applications from residents who wish to volunteer in any board/committee for the new year. Volunteer forms can be found online and emails will be sent out, so please subscribe!
- Annual dog registrations will commence January 2024, register online or in-person, it's the law!



**Save THE DATE**

# Harvest Festival

**MOBUS FIELD**

**Sat Oct 28**

1:00pm to 4:00pm  
(Rain Date - Sunday, October 29)

**FUN! MUSIC! GAMES! PRIZES! AND MORE!**

**FREE EVENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

Join the **JACK WALSH GREAT PUMPKIN 5K RUN AND FAMILY FUN WALK!**

Supported by THE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE, the MORRIS & SOMERSET COUNTY COMMISSERS and the GCADA - GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALOCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE

For more information, please visit: [www.bestrace.com](http://www.bestrace.com) or to register call (908)753-8000.



## 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**

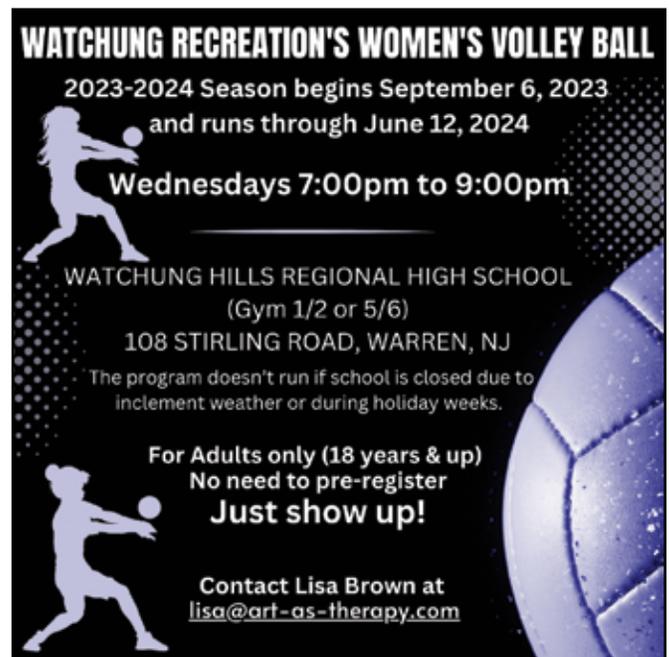
- \$150 Annual registration and inspection fee
- \$50 Per unit, change in tenant/occupancy
- \$50 Per unit, re-inspection fee
- \$50 Failure to be present and/or provide access at requested inspection time (15 min grace period)
- \$50 Petitioned inspection fee (when filed by occupant)

For complete details and to download the PROPERTY REGISTRATION FORM, please visit: [www.watchungnj.gov](http://www.watchungnj.gov) and go to the CLERK page.



## Recreation Programs & Events

Please visit our website for details on activities offered in our area at [www.watchungnj.gov](http://www.watchungnj.gov) or by scanning below:



## WATCHUNG RECREATION'S WOMEN'S VOLLEY BALL

2023-2024 Season begins September 6, 2023 and runs through June 12, 2024

**Wednesdays 7:00pm to 9:00pm**

WATCHUNG HILLS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
(Gym 1/2 or 5/6)  
108 STIRLING ROAD, WARREN, NJ

The program doesn't run if school is closed due to inclement weather or during holiday weeks.

For Adults only (18 years & up)  
No need to pre-register  
**Just show up!**

Contact Lisa Brown at [lisa@art-as-therapy.com](mailto:lisa@art-as-therapy.com)

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**Keith Balla**, Partner  
908.967.6813  
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Fall/Winter 2023



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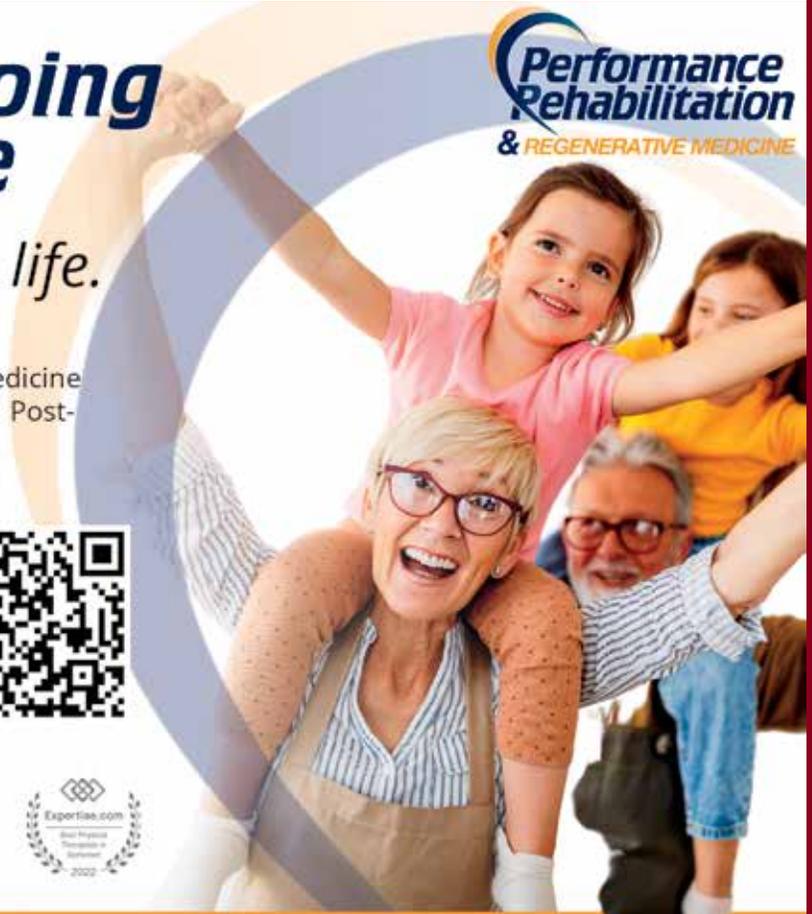
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