

THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG SPRING/SUMMER 2021

FROM OUR MAYOR

Warmest Greetings Watchung Residents,

One year after the State of Emergency regarding the COVID 19 pandemic, we reflect on the outpouring of help and assistance our residents and businesses provided and how thankful we all are for the tireless efforts to help each other and those in need. As more people are vaccinated, we look forward to resuming pre-pandemic activities with restrictions imposed by the State being lifted. Borough Hall is open with safeguards. All Borough operations are fully staffed and working to assist our residents, businesses and visitors. We have extended the outdoor dining rules to allow our restaurants in Watchung to continue with outdoor dining. Our School Board President Dorie Harvey and I have been communicating on a regular basis to discuss opportunities to share more services between the Borough and schools to provide activities and benefits for our residents. We look forward to planning many community activities and events utilizing all of our combined facilities. Our proposed plan for establishing a Watchung Community Garden and Charitable Farm at Camp Endeavor is moving forward and we look to incorporate the science and environmental education with the garden in collaboration with the Bayberry School curriculum. I strongly encourage all residents to join in our volunteer efforts throughout the Borough whether on a Borough committee or supporting our school programs and community groups.

Regarding Borough operations, we combined the position of Borough Engineer and Public Works Director which will result in a significant financial savings for the Borough. We have applicants being interviewed for the Borough Engineer/ Public Works Director. We recently hired two new employees for our DPW. We are going through the evaluation process for replacement of our Police Chief who has retired. We are also in the process of hiring additional Officers for our Police dept. to fill vacancies. We have continued to improve our technology and communications within the Borough and digitize records. We are moving forward with the redesign of our Borough website to provide timely communications and updates for our residents on activities and Borough information to streamline the experience. When we return to in person Council meetings we will continue to live stream and have zoom capabilities so more residents can stay engaged with our Governing Body and the matters we discuss and deliberate.

The WIDER committee investigated and addressed complaints, issues and acts of racism, discrimination, and inequality in Borough activities and operations. We held community meetings to hear from all residents and gather facts and information to be used in the establishment of a standing Watchung Inclusion, Diversity, Equality and Respect committee. WIDER will continue to review our policies, procedures and operations regarding recruitment, retention, training, support, advancement and recognition in all operations of the Borough, including our volunteer committees,

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From Our Mayor

to best ensure that Inclusion, Diversity, Equality and Respect are adhered to. The objective is for Watchung to continue to be a welcoming, inclusive and safe community for all who live, work and visit here regardless of their national origin, color, race, religion, age, physical or mental abilities, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic status or political opinion.

Our Recreation committee activities are still not fully operative due to COVID 19 restrictions. We have scheduled the summer camp, movie and music nights and activities for our children. May 1st is Watchung Pride Day where we bring our community together for spring clean-up of our parks and grounds and have free trees for residents plantings, children's decorating crafts and tours of the historic Texier house. This has always been a great opportunity to help our Borough and meet neighbors and friends and get to know others in the community as we work together for a common cause. As we come out from the pandemic restrictions we plan to host more senior activities; have an international foods night; host a chili cook-off contest; and welcome suggestions from the community for a variety of new events for our residents to gather together.

We are working with Christopher Korenowsky of our Somerset County Library System to assist us in Round 2 with our application submission for the State Library Construction Bond Act Grant. In addition to the regular Library activities the new Library Facility will contain space for the Watchung Arts Center activities and programs; technology programs; crafts and other community activities and community center space. The existing Library is open and has many resources available to all of our residents. Our Library is truly a great amenity for residents in our Borough, so please stop in.

Watchung Arts Center has held virtual events during the pandemic shutdown and we anxiously await the time we can gather together again for the great activities. We have many talented residents in Watchung and I ask for all of our gifted and talented residents to volunteer and provide assistance and work in collaboration with our Arts Center in developing and providing diverse programs for all. The Arts Center is a real treasure in Watchung which brings many from outside our borders to experience our wonderful community and the great talent and entertainment in Watchung.

I want to publicly thank our Police Dept. for the great job they did in the investigation and apprehension of the individual responsible for the hit and run accident which occurred over a year ago. Also hats off to our DPW team for the great work clearing our roads and school grounds after the heavy winter snow storms. We have many dedicated employees in our Borough and when you get the chance, please thank them for their hard work and dedication.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of our essential workers, first responders, volunteers and residents who have been so generous in helping in so many ways during the pandemic. The community truly has come together to help one another and all of 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, our community will be greatly enriched.

I thank you for the privilege and opportunity to serve as your Mayor and look forward to resuming many activities and projects as we enter the spring and summer.

God Bless you All,



Keith S. Balla, Mayor

Fire Department



IS THERE A

FIRE IN YOU?

Become A Watchung Volunteer Firefighter Today!

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

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

If you or someone you know has a desire to be a hero in our community, please visit our website at www.watchungfd.org, follow us on Facebook @WatchungFD, call us at (908) 756-0080 x250, email 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.

Police Department

Traffic Safety Initiative

Press Release

Since taking over as Chief of Police this past October, our agency began a traffic safety initiative. This safety initiative has included a wide range of current, on-going and future traffic strategies. This project has been extremely successful, under the direction of our specially trained Traffic Safety Unit. The current traffic safety initiative began with the collection of data from some of our local and county roads. Our current initiative is also focused on school traffic/pedestrian safety concerns.

One of our continuing traffic safety projects involves the study of speed limits, traffic volume, and traffic patterns on our local and county roads. You may be familiar with some of the devices we utilize to collect the traffic data. These devices are speed limit messenger signs, positioned on some of our local roads. These devices are designed to display your vehicle's speed as you pass them, but more importantly they collect data for us to study.

Another recently completed safety initiative involved traffic pattern studies at our two public schools. The main focus of this study was to work with the schools, in an effort to develop a more efficient and safer student "pick up" and "drop off" traffic plan. Our Traffic Unit Officers drafted multiple designs, and working with school leadership, selected one with the best safety considerations available. If you have a child attending one of our schools, you are probably familiar with it. The Traffic Unit Officers also assist with pedestrian crossing at the schools. All of our patrol officers continue to follow our public-school buses each morning in marked police vehicles.

One of our agency's primary traffic concerns continues to be Hillcrest Rd. Our Traffic Safety Unit, and all patrol officers, continue to monitor, deter, identify, and enforce traffic concerns and violations on this road.

Our future traffic safety initiatives include an evaluation of all the speed limits on our public local roads. Our Traffic Safety Unit will methodically evaluate all speed limits on public local roads. Once this task is completed, they will present recommendations to lower speed limits if appropriate.

Watchung has unique traffic challenges: a traffic circle with four connecting county roads, an interstate highway, and numerous adjoining state and county roads. We witnessed the reality of such challenges after the recent arrest of Bryant Eggleston (51-year-old resident of Plainfield, NJ).

Police Department

Mr. Eggleston was the operator of a motor vehicle responsible for a “hit and run” accident with a juvenile pedestrian on Valley Road in 2019. He was charged with numerous offenses; his case is pending a hearing in Somerset County Superior Court.

Our agency has been, and is, prepared to accept all traffic safety concerns. These have always been a priority for our agency and residents. We have dedicated officers committed to the safety of our residents and the public. I look forward to sharing the results of these traffic safety initiatives in the future.

At a glance, Watchung Traffic Unit:

This specialized Traffic Unit consists of two highly trained and experienced officers. Traffic Officer William Stankan a 20-year veteran of the Watchung Police Department and Traffic Officer Barry Kelly a 10-year veteran of the force. Both officers operate marked police vehicles that are specially outfitted and designed for traffic enforcement.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chief William Kelly
Watchung Police Department



Emergency Management

NJ Special Needs Registry

This is designed to help emergency responders locate and safely evacuate people who could find it difficult to help themselves in the event of a major disaster. The NJ Special Needs Registry is free, voluntary, strictly confidential, protective of your privacy, a way to protect you in a major emergency.

To register: Log onto www.registerready.nj.gov or telephone 2-1-1, toll free.

The Watchung Traffic Unit can be reached at:

Wstankan@watchungpd.com

Bkelly@watchungpd.com

Board of Health

COVID-19 = COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

One of the major activities of your health department, Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission, has always been to investigate and prevent the spread of communicable diseases. This long-standing public health activity has become more obvious and understood because of COVID-19. While Health Department personnel are trained and experienced disease investigators, we cannot do this job alone. We need the public's help to control this disease.



- Follow Health Department recommendations.
- Wear a mask.
- Watch your physical distance.
- Wash your hands.
- Stay home if you are sick.

• Take the call - If the Health Department calls to ask about contacts and exposures, please help us by cooperating and providing answers to our questions. We are just trying to control the spread of disease and protect others from getting 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](#).

COVID-19 has been an extreme example of the work of local health departments and we continue to be available to address questions and concerns or to assist in the control of the spread of this deadly disease. If you have any questions, please contact us at **732-968-5151** or email mbrhc@middlebrookhealth.org.

REMOVE YOUR PET'S WASTE

All our communities have requirements regarding the deposit and removal of pet waste. These requirements are in place to protect the health of our populations, our properties, and to better assure pleasant environments. Unfortunately, many people are either unaware of the requirements or do not follow them. Therefore, this is a friendly reminder that no person shall allow their dogs to soil, defile, defecate or commit any nuisance upon any public or private property whatsoever. Further, any person who curbs a dog shall immediately remove all feces deposited by such dog in a sanitary method and it shall be deposited in the owner's garbage. The deposit shall be properly wrapped, packaged or protected so as to prevent unsightly disposal or smell or interference with the health and welfare of the municipality. Please clean up after your dog!



Board of Health

RODENT CONTROL

Rats are a public health concern because they can transmit diseases such as Salmonella, Bubonic Plague, Typhus, and Hanta virus. Rats especially like to dwell anywhere humans are because they depend on us for food, water and even harborage. Areas such as loose soil near buildings, under decks, sheds, wood piles with overgrown vegetation and even near rubbish & junk piles are all ideal homes for rats and can even become breeding places. You can make your property unwelcome for rats by taking the following steps:

- Keep all garbage in cans with tightly closed lids.
- Remove any birdseed, bread or pet food from outside.
- Remove any piles of rubbish (branches, leaves, grass clippings).
- Eliminate outside storage of junk or debris on the property.
- Trim all overgrown weeds, bushes and lawns.
- Keep the lawn clean and free of pet feces.
- Store fire wood off the ground
- Remove any old, rotted railroad ties.
- Remove any buckets, fountains or any items which may accumulate water. Rats need to be near a continuous supply of water.
- Repair any broken screens or any openings in exterior walls or buildings.



All homeowners need to check periodically for rat burrow holes in lawns, where garbage and recyclables are stored, near buildings, around storage sheds, under decks and beneath piles of wood or debris. Other signs of rats are gnawed holes or droppings. **If you observe these signs, please contact a licensed exterminator immediately.** For further advice or to report a problem, please contact Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission at (732) 968-5151.

SAFE SYRINGE DISPOSAL

Many households generate medical waste, including syringes and needles, especially those who self-administer insulin or are monitoring blood sugar levels for diabetes. Unfortunately, not everyone disposes of this medical waste properly which results in a potential health hazard to others. State law requires the safe disposal of syringes and needles. Thankfully, several options exist. First, speak to your healthcare provider who may have a safe needle disposal program or may be able to refer you to one. You can also contact Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Somerset at 908-685-2800 as they have traditionally hosted a safe needle disposal program. Finally, you can place used syringes and needles into a heavy-duty plastic container, such as a laundry detergent or bleach bottle. The container should be puncture resistant and leakproof. Screw on the lid tightly and label the container as containing sharps. Do Not Recycle, but you can legally dispose of the container in your household garbage, but we encourage you to check with your solid waste disposal company before you place the container in your household trash.

Fire Prevention

Spring and **Summer** is the perfect time for grilling and enjoying the great outdoors with family and friends.

Follow these tips for an enjoyable and Fire Safe season:

FACT: July is the peak month for grill fires. Almost half of injuries involving grills are thermal burns. Protective gloves should be worn while grilling.

- ◆ Propane and Charcoal Grills should only be used outdoors.
- ◆ Grills should be placed at least 5' from the home, and any combustible materials.
- ◆ Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- ◆ Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- ◆ Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat build-up from the grill and in trays below the grill.
- ◆ **Never** leave your grill unattended.
- ◆ Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.
- ◆ If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 5 minutes before re-lighting.
- ◆ If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the Fire Department.
- ◆ Turn off the gas supply valve when the grill is not in use.

Protect the exterior of your home from fire by following these tips:

- ◆ **Remove flammable materials** (firewood stacks, propane tanks) within 30 feet of your home's foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house, deck or porch.
- ◆ **Move any flammable material** away from wall exteriors – mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles - anything that can burn. Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches.
- ◆ Clear **vegetation** from around grills and propane tanks.
- ◆ Clean roofs and gutters of **dead leaves**, debris and **pine needles** that could catch fire.
- ◆ Remove dead **plant** and **tree** material.
- ◆ Remove **vegetation** adjacent to storage sheds or other outbuildings to reduce the risk of fire.
- ◆ Don't let debris and **lawn cuttings** linger. Dispose of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.

Remember to test your smoke alarms monthly. If you are in need of a smoke alarm, the Fire Prevention Bureau has a limited supply for distribution to local residents.

Contact 908-756-0091 ext. 235 for more information.

Enjoy the season and Be Fire Safe!

Christopher Czuba

Fire Official

SPRING IS HERE!

The Department of Public Works will pick up spring cleanup yard debris placed in **BIODEGRADABLE PAPER BAGS** located at curbside. Debris should be limited to leaf and twigs only. No branches bundled or otherwise will be accepted for pickup*. The Department will be making rounds up until **June 1st** and will **not** be scheduled for any specific time or location.

Pickup will be limited to high density areas located within the following streets:

- ◆ Areas of Brookdale, Stirling and adjoining roads. Hillcrest roads including connecting roads north to Evergreen Lane.
- ◆ Areas of Mountain Blvd from Washington Drive to Rock Avenue including areas of lower Washington Drive to Scott Drive.
- ◆ Areas of lower Johnston Drive to include Upper and Johnston Drive Ext. Anyone outside of these areas must call for pick up.

*** NO BRANCHES OR TRASH WILL BE PICKED UP!**

ANY BAGS FOUND WITH TRASH, STONE OR BUILDING MATERIALS WILL BE LEFT AT CURBSIDE!



Questions? Please call the Department of Public Works at (908) 756-0091

Soil Conservation

Soil Conservation Districts and their role during Development

The State of New Jersey has 15 Soil Conservation Districts (SCD) who implement the New Jersey Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act. The SCD's are special purpose subdivisions of the Department of Agriculture and play a unique role in the protection of New Jersey's natural resources.



The SCDs serve the agricultural community through a variety of programs and also serve a regulatory role by implementing the State's erosion control laws on construction and development sites.

SCD Objectives during Development

- Control and prevent soil erosion and sedimentation on construction, agricultural and other land disturbance activities;
- Protect and enhance water quality through control of nonpoint source pollution and stormwater discharge;
- Control and prevent storm and flood water damage;
- Protect agricultural lands through farmland retention and productivity improvements;
- Promote public understanding of natural resource limitations, potentials and management needs through information transfer and environmental education;
- Enhance quality in the natural resource base for the benefit of all citizens.

Preventative Measures during Development

- Keep the storm sewer systems clean by street sweeping and inlet filtration measures;
- Install and maintain temporary controls, including silt fences, stabilized construction access and tree protection;
- Schedule temporary and permanent lawn and tree plantings according to the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map and seasonal schedule that can be found in the Standards for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control for New Jersey.



Traffic and Beautification

Happy 2021 and it appears the end of the pandemic is within reach!

Traffic and Beautification is continuing to work at keeping Watchung the lovely and friendly town that it is, even throughout this difficult time. We on the committee hope that you all enjoyed seeing the lampposts on Somerset Street lit with snowflakes and decorated with red bows this winter. Spratford Park also brightened the darkness with lighted trees at the WATCHUNG sign. There are plans to add banners with a winter scene to have a visual attraction in the daytime.

In early spring, Operation Pride is one of the most important happenings in our town. Neighbors, scouts, school children, the Knights of Columbus, and our Council members volunteer to clean up the areas around our schools, lakes and roads. We are especially pleased to give our volunteers a Clean Communities T-Shirt, plastic gloves, garbage bags and a bottle of water to send them off to an area of their choosing. They wear masks and are given hand sanitizers to use. Everyone is reminded to safely distance. Being outside in the fresh air makes the cleanup easier and safer. All debris is collected at the back of Texier House in a truck supplied by our Department of Public Works. Watchung residents can assist by cleaning in front of their homes, especially on a busily traveled road where debris will collect.

With the assistance of the Department of Public Works, we continue to do our month of May planting in front of Borough Hall, at the triangles, and on Somerset Street. Flowers are also planted along the side of Borough Hall, on both ends of the medians on Somerset Street, in front of the WATCHUNG sign at Spratford Park, and at the bottom of Hillcrest Road. Our goal for spring and fall is to complete the planting of trees on the Somerset Street medians and to replace any shrubs we may have lost during the winter months. Traffic & Beautification has been in contact with the Environmental Committee and Department of Public Works to plant more indigenous trees around town, especially at Best Lake.

Traffic and Beautification will continue to decorate for the Fall, Spring and Winter seasons. We also look for areas that need attention and report it to our council. We are so very thankful for our Department of Public Works for all the help they give us. When you see them working around town, give them a wave or a shout out. They truly deserve it!

Phyllis Juetter,

Traffic and Beautification Chair



Bulky Waste Collection

BULKY WASTE COLLECTION REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Please return this application with your check made payable to the Borough of Watchung
Also available online!

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



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

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE – SOMERSET COUNTY RECYCLE – (732) 469-3363
(paint, batteries, propane tanks, pool chemicals, fire extinguishers, tire, etc.)

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

STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT

I agree there will be no construction materials, regular household garbage, hazardous waste, flammable explosive waste, containers with excessive liquid, mandatory recyclable materials and similar types of items included in the materials set at the curb for collection. I will not knowingly exceed the weight limitation of 350 lbs. of material per permit sticker. I understand and agree that any unauthorized material or materials that exceed the weight limitations as determined by designated Borough officials and/or the contractor will be left at the curb and must be removed by the end of the collection day.

Bulky Waste Collection

DISTRICT #1 (June 14th – 18th)

Acorn Road
Anderson Road
Appletree Row
Beechwood Place
Blue Wolf Trail
Brookdale Road
Cain Circle
Carrar Drive
Cedar Lane
Cedar Road
Crestwood Drive
Dale Road
Dawn Way
Deer Run
Dogwood Lane
Drift Road
Dug Way
Evergreen Lane
Fawn Lane
Forest Drive
Gentian Lane
Gildersleeve Place
Glen Eagle Drive

Glenview Drive
Guinard Drive
Heather Lane
High Oaks Drive
High Tor Drive
Hill Place
Hillcrest Road
Hillside Avenue
Hughes Lane
Indian Run
Joan Drive
Johanna Lane
Kappelman Drive
Knollwood Drive
Lakeview Avenue
Lakeview Terrace
Maple Street
Mountain Boulevard
Natales Way
Park Place
Parlin Lane
Phillip Lane
Pine Lane

Reynolds Drive
Ridge Road
Robin Glen Road
Rock Avenue
Rock Road East
Schmidt Circle
Scott Drive
Shawnee Drive
Snoden Lane
Spencer Lane
Stanie Brae Drive
Stanie Glen
Stirling Road
Stone Gate
Sunlit Drive
Valley View Road
Verona Place
Washington Drive
Washington Rock Road
Watchung Crest Drive
Wetumpka Lane
Wildwood Terrace
Winans Lane
Winter Lane

DISTRICT #2 (June 21st – 25th)

Bayberry Lane
Birchwood Lane
Bonnie Burn Road
Brook Drive
Bumble Bee Lane
Canterbury Lane
Cardinal Drive
Century Lane
Chelsea
Corey Lane
Crystal Ridge Drive
Devonshire Lane
Diamond Court
East Drive
Eaton Road
Edgemont Road
Elsinore Drive
Ellisen Road
Emerald Drive
Fox Chase Drive
Friar Lane
Gallowae

Grand view Drive
Hill Hollow Road
Hyde Circle
Jared Court
Johnston Drive
Johnston Drive Ext.
King Richard's Court
Knightsbridge
Kristy Lane
Mareu Drive
Meadowlark Road
Mountain Drive
New Providence Road
Nottingham Drive
Oakridge Lane
Oakwood Road
Oakwood Road East
Oakwood Road West
Old Somerset Road
Orchard Road
Plainfield Avenue
Price Drive

Prospect Avenue
Redmont Road
Route 22
Sequoia Drive
Shady Brook Court
Sherwood Drive
Skyline Drive
Somerset Street
Summit Way
Sunbright Road
Tall Timbers Road
Templar Drive
Timberline Way
Tuttle Road
Upper Drive
Vail Lane
Valley Drive
Valley Road
Watchung Avenue
Will Lane
Wolford Court
Wooded Road
Woodledge Road

BEWARE OF INVASIVE BAMBOO

The Environmental Commission (EC) has recently received complaints about Bamboo from Borough residents who are concerned about the encroachment of Bamboo onto their property from neighboring properties. Why are residents so concerned about this plant?

First, most Bamboo is extremely invasive. It quickly and aggressively spreads by underground rhizomes (stems) well outside of the intended planting area and in many cases beyond property lines. This can lead to disputes between neighbors, including litigation. Once Bamboo is established, it is difficult and expensive to remove. It often requires multiple pesticide applications which could have other harmful environmental impacts, particularly for residents with well water. In addition, Bamboo can compromise building foundations, driveways, roads, sidewalks, septic systems, and stormwater conveyances. In light of all these concerns, some potential home buyers may be discouraged from purchasing a home with Bamboo, which could reduce property values.

Second, Bamboo is harmful to the local ecology. Bamboo easily spreads from residential to wooded areas where it quickly out-competes native plants and trees, which diminishes the ecological value of the woodland area. This is of particular concern at this time because our wooded areas are already stressed with other invasive plants and insects.



Fortunately, there are a host of plantings that residents can choose from that will avoid all of the problems associated with Bamboo and will help improve the local ecology. Whenever possible, the EC suggests native plantings due to their ecological benefits over non-native plants and trees. Some of these include but are not limited to American Holly, Inkberry Holly, Eastern Red Cedar, Eastern Hemlock (1), Bayberry, and Arrowwood Viburnum. These native species offer varying degrees of deer resistance.

QUICK FACTS about the SPOTTED LANTERNFLY (SLF)

- ◇ SLF are destructive, invasive pests threatening trees, shrubs and agriculture in 6 northeastern states.
- ◇ SLF are in our area. They do not bite or sting.
- ◇ Somerset County is a quarantined county so you do NOT need to report sightings of SLF.
- ◇ SLF feed on 70 different species of trees. Trees of Heaven (also invasive) are a preferred host and, with professional guidance, should be removed from property when possible.
- ◇ Help stop the spread by checking your car and any outdoor equipment (grills, mowers, firewood) before moving around quarantine zones – SLF are excellent hitchhikers! Remove and destroy any SLF you see.
- ◇ Manage SLF on your property by:
 1. Scraping off egg masses, double-bagging them, and throwing them in the garbage;
 2. Destroying any nymph or adult SLF;
 3. Using tree traps (DO NOT use sticky tape! It can kill birds and other beneficial insects and bees);
 4. Removing preferred host trees, such as Trees of Heaven;
 5. Using registered insecticides for control; or
 6. Getting professional help to eradicate SLF on your property.

For more information, google [NJ Department of Agriculture, Spotted Lanternfly](#) and [Penn State Extension, Spotted Lanternfly Management for Residents](#).



SLF Egg Masses (Sept. to April)



SLF Adlt Stage (July to December)



SLF Nymph Stage (April to Sept.)

Historical



Hello Neighbors,

Greetings from the Watchung Historical Committee! We have welcomed new members this year who are bringing fresh ideas and new energy to the Committee. We have many projects planned for 2021:

- ◆ Legend of Watchung Mural
- ◆ Reopening the Texier House Museum to the public
- ◆ Jason Ng's Eagle Scout project to update our World War I & II Displays
- ◆ Book-signing event with Robert Mayers a prominent author, historian, and longtime resident

We are very excited to report that the Legend of Watchung Mural is once again in the spotlight! The mural is currently 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. As you might remember, the mural remained in the Sears store for 56 years before it was removed in 2017.

The Historical Committee has been hard at work over the past couple of years fundraising for the full conservation of the mural and we are pleased to announce that, to date, all funds used to save and conserve the mural have been raised through private charitable donations and grants – no Borough funds have been spent on the mural! One of the top goals for the Watchung Historical Committee this year is to provide recommendations to the Council, so a vote can be made on a home for this mural. The Historical Committee is always open to ideas and suggestions on where this beloved mural could be placed. 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 a check to Watchung Borough Hall.

There is an ongoing discussion on when the Texier House Museum can be reopened to the public and in what capacity. While we do not have an official opening date, we hope to work behind the scenes to update some of our displays in anticipation for Watchung Centennial Celebration which is just 5 years away! As these displays are updated, we plan to digitize them individually for protection of the history, as well as to form the basis for a future Watchung Historical Committee website.

The Historical Committee and Borough Council recently approved an Eagle Scout project, which will be one of the major highlights and display updates for this year. Jason Ng will be working closely with the Watchung Historical Committee to update our World War I & II Displays. These displays have been showcased for a number of years at the Texier House, but with little connection to Watchung History. We are excited to announce World War II Veteran and Watchung resident Henry Long will be showcased in this new display.

As we reported last year, we are also happy to announce that Robert Mayers, a prominent author, historian, and longtime resident of Watchung has released his book *Historic Tales of Watchung*. Once we return to some normalcy following the pandemic, the Watchung Historical Committee hopes to host a book signing with the author. A video preview of the book can be viewed at: www.revolutionarydetective.com.

Christopher A. Vander Fliet

Chair of Historical Committee of Watchung

Recreation



The Borough is working on preparations for Music in the Park for a TENTATIVE date of June 5th to take place at Phillips Field (rain date of June 6th).

The Borough is also looking to partner with the Watchung PTO to have food trucks at this event in Phillips Field. Compliance with all NJ Executive Orders must be met, so information is subject to change.

Please be sure to check the Borough website page and the Borough's Facebook page for the most up-to-date information.



**WORK IN
PROGRESS
COMING SOON!**

Tentative dates of July 5th through August 13th
to take place at Round Top Swim Club

All details and approvals are being worked on
to ensure compliance with all NJ Executive
Orders and to protect members of the public

SUMMER CAMP

Borough Clerk's Office

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, June 8th

Polls open 6:00 am to 8:00 pm

The Governor has declared that elections scheduled for the Primary will be conducted in person. Voters will also have the ability to request a vote-by-mail ballot for any reason. All in-person polling places will adhere to proper health and safety protocols, including face coverings, social distancing, and frequent sanitization.

May 18 IS THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION

(21 days before election) *N.J.S.A. 19:31-6*



KNOW YOUR VOTING LOCATION

Districts 1 and 4
District 3
Districts 2 and 5

Fireman's Exempt Hall, 31 Mountain Boulevard
Bayberry School, 105 Bayberry Lane
Wilson Memorial Union Church, 7 Valley Road

**Additional information on drop box locations will be forthcoming*



DID YOU KNOW? THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

You can now download the NJ Elections app on your smart phone device and have all the election information at your fingertips! You can register to vote, find out where to vote, check if you are registered, and many more features. Make sure to check it out!



*** Be on the Lookout! ***

As of the preparation of this newsletter, the Governor is scheduled to sign S3203, which allows registered voters to vote using machines at polling places before the day of certain primary and general elections in New Jersey. **In-person early voting** will enable a registered voter to vote at a designated polling place before the day of an election using optical-scan voting machines that read hand-marked paper ballots or other voting machines that produce a voter-verifiable paper ballot. Designated polling places must be open for early voting on Monday through Saturday from at least 10 AM to 8 PM, and on Sunday from at least 10 AM to 6 PM. **As more information is released, it will be posted to the Borough's website and/or Facebook page. Please check for the most up-to-date information!**



ARE YOU PART OF A PRIVATE ROAD ASSOCIATION?

THE BOROUGH IS SEEKING CONTACT INFORMATION ON EXISTING PRIVATE ROAD ASSOCIATIONS IN WATCHUNG. PLEASE GIVE US A CALL AT (908) 756-0080 EXT. 0 OR EMAIL THE CLERK AT EGIL@WATCHUNGNJ.GOV



Dog and Cat Licensing



NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!



To complete you dog and/or cat licensing, visit our website at www.watchungnj.gov.

Document Library → Forms, Permits, Licenses → Select an option

CAT LICENSING

Application Deadline: May 31st.

A late fee of \$2.00 per cat will apply for all renewals received after May 31st.

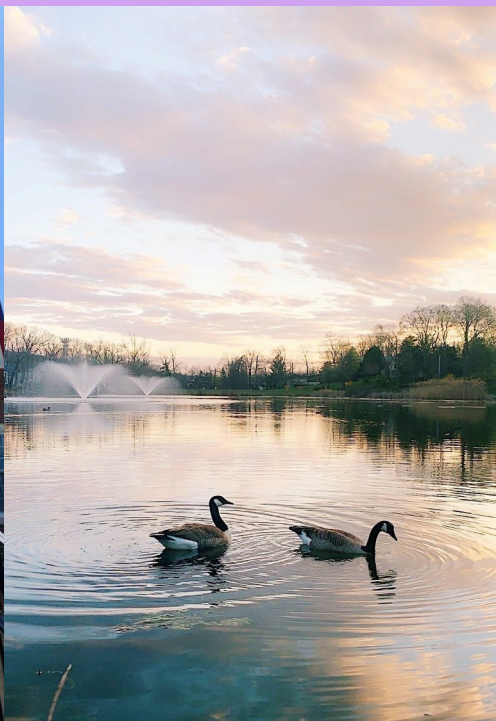
DOG LICENSING

Application Deadline: January 31st.

A late fee of \$2.00 per dog will apply for all renewals received after January 31st.



The Beautiful Borough



Published By The Borough Of Watchung

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Watchung Radio 1610 AM

*****ECRWSS*****
LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
Watchung, NJ 07069

MAYOR KEITH S. BALLA

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wendy Robinson, Council President
Ronald Jubin

Lindsay Goodloe
Pietro "Pete" Martino

Daryl Eisenberg Knegten
Freddie Hayeck

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James Damato, Administrator
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Non-emergency 908-756-3663

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Emergency 911
Non-emergency 908-561-9389

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BKoch@watchungnj.gov

Construction Official
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RLacosta@watchungnj.gov
Carolyn Taylor, Zoning Officer 908-756-6093
CTaylor@watchungnj.gov

Public Works
908-756-0091

Watchung Fire Official
Chris Czuba 908-756-0091

Watchung Art Center
For information call 908-561-0190

Watchung Public Library
908-561-0117
(Closed Saturdays during July and Aug.)

Watchung Hills Regional High School
Grades 9 through 12
108 Stirling Road
908-647-4800

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

Valley View Middle School
Grades 5 through 8
Valley View Road
908-755-4422