



Warren Township NEWS



ISSUE 2016-02

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WARREN

Fall/Winter 2016-2017



From Our Mayor

I hope everyone enjoyed the summer and nice weather with your friends and family. As the Township prepares for the Fall Season and the start of school, we were fortunate to avoid any big summer storms and subsequent power outages. I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the work of our Utility Advisory Committee. JCP&L and PSE&G have partnered with the Township and our Utility Advisory Committee to ensure a consistent maintenance effort for all our power lines and reduce the possibility of subsequent power outages. The "pro-active planning" of the Utility Advisory Committee and Township have ensured Warren Power Lines are clear from low, over-hanging trees and bushes, crooked poles, and vulnerable lines and this effort has directly and positively impacted our residents.

Keeping the focus on community safety, this fall our new 9-1-1 Communications System will be fully operational. This innovative system will now provide citizens with a "text to 9-1-1" option for those situations where calling may not be available or safe. Additionally, the new system will allow our police dispatchers to multi-task with ease to better handle incoming calls for service. Additionally our Police Chief Billy Keane and his department are upgrading police equipment in a cost effective manner to serve our residents including vehicles, new firearms, and updated computer equipment in our patrol vehicles.

Our DPW led by Doug Buro and Mike Lovett have once again managed our Annual Road Overlay Program. Starting in early spring, several of us travel the townships more than 325 roads and force-rank those that need immediate attention for that year. Our residents expect safe roads for their families and we are pleased to announce another 20 township roads paved for 2016-2017.

Eleanora Murfitt and our Recreation Department have recently finished a very busy summer with Camps, Open Mic Night's, and Concerts. I want to thank them for the variety of programs enjoyed by many residents.

I also want to "thank" our residents who participated in the annual Township Department Survey. The Township Committee began circulating the survey to residents in 2010, and then again in 2012, 2014 and 2016. Surveys were included with the Township Newsletter during each respective year, and we have seen a gradual progression



New Town Hall



Progress to Date

toward the number of surveys returned with 81 in 2010 increasing to 96 in 2016. It is an effective way for our Municipal Departments to better understand what they are doing well, and areas with which they need to improve. I am proud to say the number of negative responses has significantly decreased since 2010, from 52 negative comments to just 28 in 2016. Conversely, we received an aggregate total of 184 positive comments in 2010 and improved to 218 positive comments in 2016.

In conclusion, our Township Municipal Departments and Township Administrator work very closely with our Township Committee. We will continue to evolve and improve our services to you the residents. Enjoy the start of Fall and as always myself and the Township Committee sincerely appreciate your continued support to keep our economy healthy by shopping and supporting our local businesses in town. The downtown neighborhood is looking better and better every year and it's great to see new restaurants and businesses in town. In addition, let's not forget our volunteers—who do so much for all of us, from fire and rescue to all those who serve Boards and Commissions, coach a sports team or serve many other organizations; they do it for the love of their community.

From the entire Township Committee, have a safe and wonderful fall and winter season.

Very truly yours,
Mayor George K. Lazo

Municipal Alliance

SERVING:

Warren Township
Watchung Borough
Long Hill Township
Green Brook

108 Stirling Road
Warren, N.J. 07059
(908) 604-2021



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE



The Watchung Hills Regional Municipal Alliance (WHRMA) is inviting you to participate in their Annual 5K Run and Family Fitness Walk on Saturday, November 5th 2016, at Mobus Field in Watchung. The "WHRMA 5K Run" is a fundraiser for the WHRMA which serves the communities of Long Hill, Green Brook, Warren and Watchung by providing Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Abuse (ATOD) prevention services for community citizens, schools and municipal agencies.

The WHRMA is part of a network of community-based anti-drug coalitions sponsored by New Jersey Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA). "Municipal Alliances are established by municipal resolution and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey. The Somerset County GCADA awards each Municipal alliance funds for prevention programs. To secure these awards the individual Alliances must raise matching funds to receive the grants from the Drug Education Demand Reduction Fund.

WHRMA provides prevention education for all; from elementary school students to our senior citizens. Our programs address:

- intervention, assessment and referral
- support to those dealing with addicted or mentally-ill loved ones
- training in our school systems, police departments, Parent Teacher Organizations etc.

We are seeking runners, walkers or contributors to participate in our WHRMA Annual 5K Run/ Walk which will help support our programs for the coming year. Please consider participating in our event or becoming one of our contributors.



WHRMA Annual 5K Run/Fitness Walk Day
on Saturday, November 5th,
at Watchung Lake's Mobus Field

For registration form e-mail cseracka@gbtps.org (subject: WHRMA Run)
or sign-up at website: runsignup.com



Contributors or general questions call:

Carolyn Seracka 732-968-1051 ext. 3 or Jack Walsh 908-561-8883

STAY IN THE KNOW

Join Our Mailing List

Email:

The Township has implemented through its website, the ability to provide an "email blast" concerning subjects of importance through email to all who REGISTER by utilizing the services of Constant Contact.

This form of communication will be invaluable during emergencies, weather related events, road closures, recreation programs, etc. All residents are encouraged to sign up. It is important for the Township to reach you.

In order to register, go to the Warren Township website (www.warrennj.org) and enter your e-mail address on "Join Our Mailing List." You will then receive email blasts any time there is a subject of main concern to Township residents.

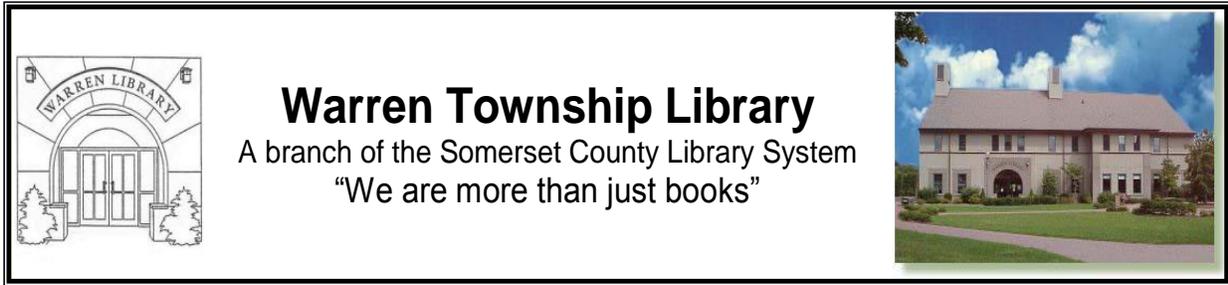
We encourage you to forward the information to your family, friends and neighbors to share the information.

HOME REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Warren Township Committee offers a Housing Rehabilitation Program for residents who meet Affordable Housing guidelines for low and moderate incomes.

The program provides up to \$16,000 per dwelling for home improvements such as: new roof, electrical improvements, smoke detectors, etc. The funds are in the form of an interest free loan which is forgiven after a 10 year period. The loan must be repaid only if the property is sold within the 10 year period.

Interested residents can contact *Rehabco, Inc.*, at (732) 477-7750 in Brick, New Jersey or the Township Administrator's office at x252. The Township has been successful in rehabilitating over 60 houses since 1989.



Art Space @ Warren:

We have one more reason for you to visit the Warren Library! Stop by and admire the beautiful works of art exhibited in the Display Case or the Gallery Wall. The exciting and ever-changing Art Space located in the Community Commons area of the library lobby, provides an opportunity to showcase the talents of local artists - both professional and amateur. Interested in exhibiting? Please contact Kathy DeCristofaro at kdecrist@slibnj.org.

ADULT PROGRAMS

- September through November - English Conversation Group 10 week session which meets on Monday mornings from 10-11:30am
- October 10th Recipe Club - "Get Ready for the Cold Weather: Soups & Stews"
- October 14th, and November 18th from 6-8pm - Open Mic Nights
- October 17th at 7:00pm - Special Needs Social Hour favorite music played by Tweed Schade
- October 19th at 7:00pm - Theodore Roosevelt: American in the Arena
- October 22nd at 2:00pm - Mystery Story Hour with the Mystery Writers of America
- November 5th at 2:00pm - "Belles," an Oldwick Community Players Staged Reading
- November 9th at 7pm - What's Normal Forgetting and What's Not?
- November 12th at 2:00pm - "Girls Night Out" performance: Musical duo
- November 14th Recipe Club - "Thanksgiving the Easy Way"
- November 21st at 7:00pm - Special Needs Social Hour practice yoga with Jillian Keller
- December 14th at 7:00pm - Women in Art

The library also offers a variety of on-going events including book discussions, film discussions, mahjongg, bridge, knitting, needlepoint, etc. Contact the Adult Reference desk for more information at 908-754-5554 x32

YOUTH PROGRAMS:

The Youth Services Department has planned a range of programs for children of all ages from birth through high school, including story times, music programs, STEM, and college prep.

This fall, stop in and vote for the Garden State Book Awards--your vote counts for this very special award voted on by kids! Take a look at the list of nominees and cast your ballot.

Join us for our annual "Winter Festival" in February and "Family Read Aloud Month" in March.

Contact the Youth Services Department for additional information at 908-754-5554 ext. 23 or check th Somerset County Library System website: www.sclsnj.org

VOLUNTEER at the library:

Do you like to keep things neat and tidy? Consider becoming an Adopt-a- Shelf Volunteer! You'll be assigned a section of library shelves to keep in order and all we ask is a minimum commitment of one hour a week. Open to both teens and adults. Contact Bryan Thomson at 908-754- 5554, ext. 26.

All branches of the Somerset County Library System of NJ now offer free Notary Public services. Please contact the library for more information.

Home Delivery of materials is available on a weekly basis to patrons recovering from illness or a hospital stay, those in assisted living facilities, and homebound students and adults. Contact the Circulation Desk or Adult Reference staff about this free service

For complete program information or to register for programs, go to the library website: www.sclsnj.org or call the library at 908-754-5554.

Motor Vehicle Burglary Prevention Tips



Chief William Keane

Warren Township Police Department

For the upcoming Fall and Winter Holiday Season, the Warren Twp. Police would like to provide some helpful tips so you do not become the next victim of a motor vehicle burglary.

Ensure that you always LOCK YOUR VEHICLE whether it's parked on your street, in your driveway, in your garage or shopping center. A majority of the time a would-be thief will move on to the next vehicle when encountering a locked vehicle as opposed to breaking into it and drawing attention.

Make sure your residence/business is well lit during the evening and overnight hours. Thieves typically look for darker areas to commit these burglaries for less visibility by passing motorists, neighbors and police.

DO NOT leave spare keys or anything of value in your vehicle. Purses/wallets, electronics (iPods/iPads, laptops, GPS Units etc), vehicle valet keys, designer sunglasses, credit cards, cash, cell phones and holiday gifts should NEVER be left inside your vehicle, especially in plain view. If you must leave such items in your vehicle we recommend you conceal and/or secure them properly, however we urge you not to leave them in the vehicle.

Additionally, everyone should be aware that these vehicle burglaries often lead to other crimes such as fraud and identity theft. We suggest you limit the amount of personal information you keep in your vehicle as well as keep a record of all the serial numbers for your valuables and store it in a safe place in your home.

While we know nothing is 100% full proof, we feel that by taking the precautions we've suggested you can seriously reduce the chance of being a victim of these types of crimes. If you see any suspicious persons or activities in your neighborhood or while out shopping call 9-1-1 immediately. Criminals thrive on opportunity, DO NOT give them one.

YOUR TOWNSHIP CLERK

The Township Clerk's office is an important link between residents and the Township Committee.

The office is an excellent source of information and can assist you in obtaining the services you require. Cathy Reese and her staff are always happy to lend assistance and guidance to residents and the general public. Please stop by!

The Township Committee encourages residents to attend their meetings. See your local government at work!

As the General Election is just around the corner, please feel free to call the Clerk's office with any questions regarding the Voting laws. Voter registration forms, vote by mail applications, party declaration forms, the location of polling places and information about all elections are available in the Township Clerk's office.

The Somerset County Board of Elections is seeking Board Workers for all Elections. For more information, please call 908-231-7085.

General Election Timeline

October 18, 2016 – Voter Registration Deadline for General Election

November 1, 2016 – deadline to apply for a Mail-in-Ballot by mail for General Election

November 2, 2016 – Sample Ballots for the General Election will be mailed

November 7, 2016 – Deadline for In-Person Mail-In Ballot Applications for General Election

NOVEMBER 8th – ELECTION DAY, Please Vote!

Polls open 6:00 am to 8:00 pm

POLLING LOCATIONS

Districts 1 & 3	Mount Horeb Fire House 19 Elm Avenue	Districts 11 & 12	Warren Library 42 Mountain Boulevard
Districts 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 13		Our Lady of the Mount Center 167 Mount Bethel Road	

If you have any questions or need guidance, please call Cathy Reese, Township Clerk at 908-753-8000 ext. 223.

Planning and Zoning

During 2015 and 2016 the Planning Board and Township Committee have worked on the Master Plan. The Master Plan Reexamination was completed September 2015 and revised June 2016. The reexamination is a summary of the current statistics of population, housing, and zoning, and provides suggestions for future zoning and housing needs. The Planning Board adopted a Land Use Element Amendment and some changes in zoning. The Township Committee is in the process of adopting ordinances to put those changes into effect.

The Planning Board has had applications for minor subdivisions and Preliminary and Final Subdivisions this year and finished some site plan applications from 2015. Other duties of the Planning Board are to review ordinances for consistency with the Master Plan, and Minor and Major Site Plan approvals.

Planning Board (908) 753-8000 Ex 243

Wagner Farm Arboretum Brite Nites 2016



- Returning for a sixth year, Wagner Farm Arboretum's spectacular Halloween-themed event "Brite Nites" showcases an elaborate display of intricately and creatively hand-carved and lighted pumpkins, a Secret Haunted Garden and the ever popular Black Hat Café.
- Your journey will take you through a multitude of amazing scenes that our artists have created using pumpkins. Don't miss out on a visit to our Secret Haunted Garden, which is inhabited by ghouls, vampires, ghosts and zombies. At the end of your journey, don't forget to stop at the Black Hat Café for seasonal refreshments like cider, hot cocoa, fabulous cupcakes or cookies.
- **Dates:** October 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29 and 30. Entry times are from 6:45 PM to 8:00 PM.
- **Where:** 197 Mountain Ave. Warren Twp, NJ 07059.
- **Contact:** Lisa Young Email: Brittenites@wfafnj.org Tel. 908-656-1402.
- **Admission:** \$15 per Adult; \$10 Senior; \$10 Military, Police, Veterans & Firemen; \$10 Child ages 4 to12; Age 2 and under are free.
- No strollers, No pets please.

Programs & Events



Calendar

Click on this home page tab to check out what is scheduled for Municipal meetings and Township events.



Township Clerk - Cathy Reese

Cathy wants to make sure that Warren Township and its residents know she will do her best to serve them. "I am looking forward to working for all of you, both residents and businesses," said Reese. "My door will always be open. Please let me know your concerns or suggestions and I will do my very best to assist you in any way I can." Cathy assumed her new role in Warren on August 1st.



Dear Residents,

On July 29th, I retired from my position as your Township Clerk. I have served this fine community for almost 16 years. My position here was very rewarding and I've always been proud and grateful for the opportunity. I sincerely thank the residents for the honor and privilege. I will miss everyone. On August 1st, my successor Cathy Reese became your new Township Clerk. I wish Cathy success and I am sure that the community will extend their best wishes to her.

Sincerely,
Patricia A. DiRocco

It has been a wonderful summer for me in the Warren Township Schools as the district's new superintendent. I have had the opportunity to meet so many members of the community. My goal for my first few months in the district is to learn as much as possible about what makes the school system, and the broader Warren Township community, so special. I welcome the opportunity to meet with community groups and individuals or to hear your feedback via e-mail at mmingle@warrentboe.org.

Opportunities to Talk with the Superintendent

I will be holding "Coffee with the Superintendent" events throughout the school year to give all members of the community regular opportunities to hear about the latest news from the district and to share their own ideas.

The first "Coffee with the Superintendent" will be held on Wednesday, September 21 at 9:30am in the Warren Township Board of Education office located at 213 Mt. Horeb Road. All are welcome to attend. It is requested that attendees register by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/WarrenCoffee>. Additional dates and times will be announced via the district website at www.warrentboe.com.

Board of Education Meetings

All meetings are held in the Warren Middle School library media center beginning at 7:00pm and are open to the public.

Water Testing

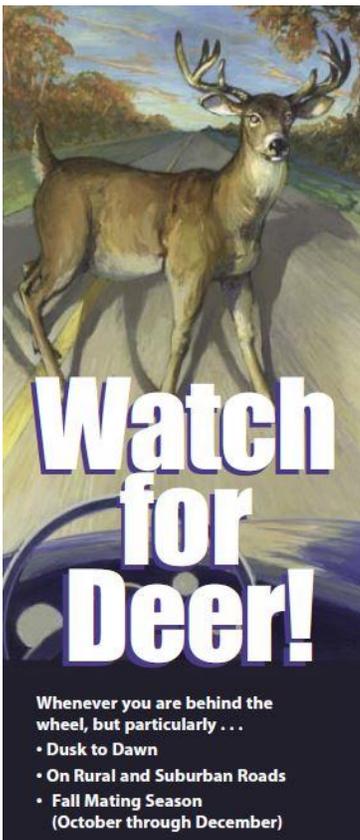
In July, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) enacted regulations requiring all school districts in the state to conduct testing of water used for drinking and cooking within the next year. Warren Township Schools has a history of taking proactive steps to ensure the safety and security of its students. Although it was not required, we previously conducted testing in 2011 and found all water sources tested to be well below the limits set by government agencies. Similarly, our plan for this round of testing will go well beyond the minimum expectations set forth by the NJDOE so that we can reassure our families that their children are safe when drinking water in our schools.

We are now in the process of finalizing our water sampling plan and timeline with potential vendors. The results of the testing will be published to the district website immediately upon receipt and, while we do not have any reason to anticipate any problems with the quality of our water, we will communicate about and remediate any issues that the testing may reveal.

Sincerely,
Dr. Matthew Mingle Superintendent

BOE: <https://www.warrentboe.org/board/>

Warren Schools: <https://www.warrentboe.org/>



**WARREN TOWNSHIP
SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
4th Quarter 2016 Sewer Use Bill due 11/1/16**

BILLING UPDATE

The Authority has updated its utility billing software and a newly formatted bill was sent out in January for the full year. The due dates for payment remain the same – February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1 - with a ten day grace period until the 10th of each respective month. To avoid having your sewer payments mistakenly applied to your property taxes, do not send your payments to the lock box address that is used only for property taxes. Instead, please be sure to send sewer payments directly to:

Warren Township Sewerage Authority
46 Mountain Blvd.
Warren, New Jersey 07059

While the Authority does not accept credit cards, you can streamline your bill payment by adding us to your online bank account bill payment feature.

EMERGENCIES

The Sewerage Authority has three treatment plants and 19 pumping stations located throughout Warren, and our licensed operators are available and on call 24/7. If you have a sewer emergency during business hours, please contact us at 908 753-8000 ext. 258. **Should you have a sewer emergency after office hours, please call the Warren Township Police Department at 908 753-1000, and they will alert our on-call operator.**



Important Tax Dates & Lock Box Info

2016 4th QTR tax due November 1, 2016
2017 1st QTR Tax due February 1, 2017
2017 2nd QTR Tax due May 1, 2017



Any questions or problems can be addressed by contacting the Tax Collector at the Municipal Building at (908) 753-8000 x 231 or 232. Any questions regarding tax assessments should be addressed to the Tax Assessors' office x 235.

PAY BY CHECK

Checks payable to: Warren Township

Mail to: Township of Warren Tax Collector
P.O. Box 1364
Bellmawr, New Jersey 08099

It is imperative that you include your tax stub with your check or your payment may not be properly credited to your Block and Lot. **PLEASE** –

DO NOT include any payments to the Warren Township Sewerage Authority in the same envelope.

DO NOT include any payments or correspondence to other Township offices. Only your check and the tax stub should be in the envelope to Bellmawr.

DO NOT mail your tax payment to the Warren Township Tax Collector's office at 46 Mountain Blvd, Warren.

PAY BY CREDIT, DEBIT CARD or OTHER ELECTRONIC PAYMENT

Obtain your property tax information and pay via credit card online at

<http://warrennj.org/tax-collector/>

Tax Account Information

Block: <input type="text"/>	Owner Name: <input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Search"/>
Lot: <input type="text"/>	Property Location: <input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Search"/>
Qualifier: <input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Search"/>	
--- OR ---		
Tax Account Id: <input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Enter"/>	

Please make your payment in sufficient time to insure that it is received prior to the end of the grace period. Interest is calculated at 8% on delinquencies up to \$1,500.00 and at 18% on the amount over \$1,500.00. Once the balance is over the 18% threshold, interest will be 18% until all balances are paid in full.

There is a 6% year end penalty on taxes & accrued interest over \$10,000.00 that are delinquent as of December 31st.

WARREN TOWNSHIP – BOARD OF HEALTH

(908) 763-8000 ext 239

In conjunction with

Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission (MBRHC)

www.middlebrookhealth.org

FREE Rabies Vaccination for Cats & Dogs

Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission will be sponsoring several rabies clinics in the fall in order to assure availability of free rabies vaccines for our cat and dog owners. Residents can bring their pets to any of the locations below, but cats must be transported in a secure carrier and all dogs must be leashed.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Saturday - 11/5/16	9:00 am to 10:00 am	South Bound Brook Municipal Garage, 44 Washington Avenue, South Bound Brook, NJ
	11:00 am to Noon	Green Brook Fire House, 115 Greenbrook Road, Green Brook, NJ
Saturday – 12/3/16	9:00 am to 10:00 am	Watchung Fire House, 57 Mountain Blvd, Watchung, NJ
	11:00 am to Noon	Bound Brook Police /Borough Hall, 230 Hamilton Street, Bound Brook, NJ

In addition, residents are reminded of these rabies prevention measures:

- Immediately report a bite from a wild or domestic animal to the local health department (*so post-exposure treatment can begin immediately if needed*)
- Immediately report any wild animal showing signs of unusual behavior
- Do not feed or handle wild animals
- Try to prevent your pets from coming into contact with wild animals
- Call the health department if you find a bat in your home
- Be sure all family pets and agricultural animals are up to date on their rabies vaccinations
- Screen off vents to attics and other areas that could provide shelter for bats
- Animal-proof home and yard
- Avoid contact with stray animals or pets other than your own

REMOVE YOUR PET'S WASTE

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. 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 Township.



Warren Township
Recreation Commission



<p>Fall Tennis Lessons Starting September 12 - Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays. 4, 5, 6 or 7pm. Held at the Greenwood Meadows courts or the Municipal Courts. \$140 per 8 sessions, 55 minutes long for ages 4 to adult. To register and for more info go to our website.</p>	
<p>Adult Coed Volleyball Mondays 7-10 pm from September to June at Warren Central School. Watchung, Green Brook and Warren residents welcome. For more information call John Alapatt at (908) 647-4951.</p>	
<p>Adult Men's Basketball Mondays 6-10pm from September to June (Nov.-March time changes) at Warren Middle School. Watchung, Green Brook and Warren residents welcome. For more information email Eric Cheshire at echesh37@aol.com</p>	
<p>High School Intramural Basketball Registration begins October 1 and ends Dec. 2 or when full. Games are played at WHRHS on Mon., Wed., and/or Fridays. Cost is \$100/approx. 10 games. Parent release form required <i>before</i> program begins. For WHRHS sending district <i>Gr 9-12 home schooled and private</i>.</p>	
<p>Letters to Santa Santa is accepting letters from Warren residents between Nov 18 and December 16. Letters dropped off in the red mailbox in front of the Municipal Building will go directly to Santa, your child will receive a handwritten reply. Volunteers needed: To sign up and more info go to www.wtrec.ivolunteer.com/santa</p>	
<p>NOSTALGIA THE BIG BAND with Bob Marino & Barbra Lawson Join us for Singin' & Swingin' Saturday, October 22 at 3pm at the Watchung Hills High School Performing Arts Center at 108 Stirling Rd. Warren. This is a free event so invite your family and friends.</p>	

You're invited to the largest event of the year!!!! Annual Yuletide Bonfire Family Festival & FIREWORKS! Saturday, January 14, 2016 from 3pm-6pm at the Municipal Complex. (rain date 21) Enjoy live music, teen band, carousel, train rides, carriage rides, games, ice skating, sledding, and free refreshments plus two food trucks. Volunteers & sponsors needed, to sign up and for more information go to www.wtrec.ivolunteer.com/bonfire and <http://warrennj.org/donation-sponsorship/>



Register by credit card at www.warrennj.org/recreation/register (Only Visa & MasterCard accepted), mail forms with a check to Warren Township, 46 Mountain Blvd. Warren NJ 07059 or drop in on the 3rd floor. Join our email list at www.warrennj.org for a weekly Recreation Newsletter.



Warren Township must comply with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Stormwater Management Requirements. These requirements include ordinances limiting pollution in our streams, maintenance of catch basins and community education.

SOLUTIONS TO STORMWATER POLLUTION

A Guide to Healthy Habits for Cleaner Water

Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly to our drinking water supplies and the ocean and lakes our children play in. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings. You name it and it ends up in our water.

Stormwater pollution is one of New Jersey's greatest threats to clean and plentiful water, and that's why we're all doing something about it.

By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water, and it saves the high cost of cleaning up once it's dirty.

As part of New Jersey's initiative to keep our water clean and plentiful and to meet federal requirements, many municipalities and other public agencies including colleges and military bases must adopt ordinances or other rules prohibiting various activities that contribute to stormwater pollution. Breaking these rules can result in fines or other penalties.

As a resident, business, or other member of the New Jersey community, it is important to know these easy things you can do every day to protect our water.

- ♦ Properly Use And Dispose Of Hazardous Products
- ♦ Keep Pollution Out Of Storm Drains
- ♦ Don't Litter
- ♦ Clean Up After Your Pet
- ♦ Don't Feed Wildlife
- ♦ Dispose Of Yard Waste Properly
- ♦ Limit Your Use Of Fertilizers And Pesticides

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information on stormwater related topics, visit www.njstormwater.org or www.nonpointsource.org
Additional information is also available at U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Web sites www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater or www.epa.gov/nps
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Water Quality
Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control
Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program (609) 633-7021

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Monday thru Friday 7:00 am to 3:30 pm
(908) 753-1223



Leaves will soon begin to change color and fall onto the ground. It is against the law and extremely important not to blow leaves or any other debris into the street, storm drains, or catch basins. When leaves and debris cover the catch basins or clog the drains, water drainage issues and/or flooding may occur.



You may drop off your Christmas trees up until January 13, 2017. Please place them next to the side of the parking lot just outside of the DPW gate. Make sure all decorations are removed. Enjoy the season!

We are quickly approaching the winter season which means snow. As usual, the Department of Public Works will be keeping a very sharp eye on the weather and will respond accordingly. Just a few tips on how to minimize the discomfort of snow and ice:

- All ice and snow shall be removed from sidewalks by the owner or tenant of lands abutting, bordering or adjoining public streets of the township, or public streets of the County of Somerset, within 12 hours of daylight after such ice has formed or snow has fallen, or as soon thereafter as practicable.
- If you must shovel snow, please do so in moderation.
- *****DO NOT have your driveway plowed out before the end of the storm and before your road has been plowed.*****
- If you clean your driveway before the road is plowed (curb to curb) you risk having it closed up again by a snow plow.
- Don't be surprised if one side of your road is plowed and the other side is not plowed until a considerable time later. This is done per plan and is a way to plow the route in the shortest possible time.
- Make certain that you keep all vehicles off the road when snow is expected.
- If you park your vehicle at the end of your driveway, when snow is expected, make certain that the nose of your vehicle is back far enough so that it does not interfere with the plows.
- After the snow, make certain that your vehicle is properly equipped for driving in winter conditions.

Public Works would like to remind residents that the pushing/plowing of snow onto township roads is prohibited by ordinance. Please advise your contractors. This could create an unnecessary safety hazard.

If you feel we have missed your street, and in an emergency situation this could happen, please call 908-753-1223.

Although we are always very careful when plowing the roads, some damage may occur to mailboxes. When the wet heavy snow or ice that is thrown by the plows hits the mailboxes, sometimes they may get damaged. Please report any damage to us in writing or by phone within 36 hours. All complaints will be verified by a foreperson to determine the appropriate action.

Our commitment is to the residents of Warren Township. We are continually trying to improve our performance and progress. We do need your assistance. If you see a problem, please call. We will certainly respond to your request or concern in a timely manner.

The last day for the 2016 Mini Dump is September 24, 2016.



WARREN TOWNSHIP AFFORDABLE HOUSING



UPDATE ON THE LAW: AFFORDABLE HOUSING LITIGATION

Warren and all New Jersey municipalities have a state constitutional obligation to zone for Affordable Housing. The Township Committee reviews the status of the Affordable Housing process at each meeting with its Planner and Township Attorney. There are many legal issues currently being decided by the Superior Court before the final plan can be determined. Below is an update of the issues.

On July 11, 2016, the Superior Court, Appellate Division (the “Court”) issued its decision in the case entitled *In Re Declaratory Judgment Actions Filed by Various Municipalities, County of Ocean*. The decision arose from an appeal filed by the Township of Barnegat from an order entered by the Ocean County designated Mt. Laurel judge who directed the Special Regional Master to include, as a new “separate and discrete” component, an additional calculation of a municipality’s affordable housing need for the period from 1999 to 2015 (referred to in this article as the “Gap Period”). The Judge’s order was based on his conclusion that a municipality’s third round affordable housing obligation is comprised of (1) a “separate and discrete” gap-period obligation; (2) unmet prior round obligations from 1987 to 1999; (3) present need; and (4) prospective need.

The decision of the Appellate Court applied the principles of the Mt. Laurel decision and the plain language of New Jersey’s Fair Housing Act, which specifically defines “prospective need” as a “projection of housing needs based on development and growth which is reasonably likely to occur in a region or a municipality.” N.J.S.A. 52:27D-304(j). The Appellate Court also recognized the Supreme Court’s directive that the lower courts were not to become “alternative administrative decision maker(s)” for policy issues for the third round which remain unresolved by the Council on Affordable Housing (“COAH”). The Appellate Court further cited the Supreme Court’s decision in *In re N.J.A.C. 5:96 II*, in which the designated Mt. Laurel judges were instructed to assess a municipality’s affordable housing plan to determine if it provided a “realistic opportunity for producing its fair share of the present and prospective need for low-and moderate-income housing.” Based on these considerations, the Appellate Court found that there was no “separate and discrete” affordable housing obligation for the Gap Period.

The Appellate Court further stated that any Gap Period obligation was a matter more properly to be determined by either the Legislative or Executive branches of the State, where such matters can be publicly debated. The Court also recognized that there was legislation relating to the Gap Period pending in both the Senate and the Assembly.

The Appellate Court decision has been appealed to the New Jersey Supreme Court by Fair Share Housing Center (“FSHC”). FSHC has also filed an emergent motion with the Supreme Court to “stay” the implementation of the Appellate Court’s decision in Ocean County. The municipal consortium of approximately 230 municipalities which Warren Township is a participant has filed its brief to challenge any “stay” and, in the alternative, if the “stay” is granted, that such “stay” apply throughout the State of New Jersey so as to prevent inconsistent rulings by the various lower court judges handling affordable housing lawsuits.

It is also possible that the Legislature will adopt pending legislation which clarifies that the affordable housing need is present and prospective only; meaning there is no Gap Period obligation, consistent with the Appellate Court decision.

Despite all of this legal “wrangling”, the Township of Warren continues to provide affordable housing and is committed to meet the affordable housing needs of its residents. We will keep you updated as events unfold.



'Weekend Journey through the Past'

This year, **30 historic sites** countywide will be open **free** to the public on **Saturday, Oct. 8th**, from **10 a.m. to 5 p.m.** and **Sunday, Oct. 9th**, from **noon to 4 p.m.** All three Warren historic sites – **the Codington Farmstead, Kirch-Ford-Terrill House and Mount Bethel Meeting House** – will be participating in this event. For more information on the event, please visit: SCHistoryWeekend



Engineering Department

Going into the fall we may experience some minor flooding depending on the rest of the summer rainfall. Please keep any storm water inlets clear of debris. If you have any questions concerning property in Warren, the Engineering Department does have the FEMA FIRM maps in the office and can help you.

Flood Insurance:

If you don't have flood insurance, then talk to your insurance agent. Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, because Warren participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the Federal government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been flooded.

- Some people have purchased flood insurance because it was required by the bank when they got a mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually these policies just cover the building's structure and not the contents.
- At last count, there were 91 flood insurance policies in Warren. If you are covered, check out the amount and check to see if you have contents coverage. Remember even if the last flood missed you or you have done some flood-proofing, the next flood could be worse. Flood insurance covers all surface floods.
- If your flooding problem is caused or aggravated by sewer backup, check out a sewer backup rider to your homeowner's insurance policy.

Flood Safety

- Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths, mostly during flash floods. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure that the ground is still there.
- Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to the power company or city emergency management office. PSE &G number is 1-800-436-7734 and JCP & L number is 1-888-544-4877. Emergency information is available on the Warrennj.org website also.
- Have your electricity turned off by the power company. Some appliances, such as television sets, keep electrical charges even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned, and dried.
- Look out for animals, especially snakes. Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn things over and scare away small animals.
- Look before you step. After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.
- Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

Community Ratings System (CRS)

The National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements.

As a result, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from the community actions meeting the three goals of the CRS:

- Reduce flood damage to insurable property;
- Strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP, and
- Encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management.



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Pride in our Past – Promise in our Future



2016 Warren Township Committee

Top row (from left): Victor Sordillo, Mick Marion, Gary DiNardo
 Bottom row (from left): Mayor George Lazo, Deputy Mayor Carolann Garafola

Important Numbers

- General..... (908) 753-8000
- Township Administrator X 250, 252
- Township Clerk..... X 221, 222
- Board of Adjustment X 260
- Board of Health..... X 239
- Warren Media..... X 267
- Building/Construction Office X 241, 242
- Engineering Department X 243
- Municipal Court X 225, 226
- Planning Board..... X 243
- Recreation..... X 270, 271
- Sewerage Authority..... X 258
- Tax Assessment X 235
- Tax Collector..... X 231, 232
- Zoning Office X 243
- Library..... (908) 754-5554
- Emergency Management (908) 753-1000
- Police, Fire & Rescue (908) 753-1000*
- *Dial 911 for any EMERGENCY**
- Public Works Department (908) 753-1223

All correspondence should be addressed to individual departments and mailed to :

**Township of Warren
 46 Mountain Boulevard
 Warren, NJ 07059-5695**

Important Websites

- Warren Township www.warrennj.org
- Library..... www.somerset.lib.nj.us/warren.htm
- Police www.warrenpolice.com
- Schools..... www.warrentboe.org
- Watchung Hills Reg. HS..... www.whrhs.org
- Somerset County..... www.co.somerset.nj.us
- New Jersey www.state.nj.us

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