

# Watchung Post

Watchung's Hometown Newspaper

NJ

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## RENOVATED LIBRARY TO OPEN JUNE 5

The Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) Watchung branch temporarily closed for renovations on Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

"We'll soon be closing the doors on a branch that's served its community for decades," said Brian Auger, library director. "Next year, new doors will reopen both physically and metaphorically to a library sure to be the 'wow' of Watchung. There's much for us to do between now and then, but I promise it will be well worth the wait."

Beginning May 1, 2024, all Watchung branch holds will be available for pickup at the Warren Twp. branch, located at 42 Mountain Boulevard in Warren, until Watchung's temporary location opens in early June. Customers may change holds pickup location at any time by accessing SCLSNJ's online catalog at [catalog.sclsnj.org](http://catalog.sclsnj.org). If you require personalized assistance to complete a holds pickup location change, email [ask@sclibnj.org](mailto:ask@sclibnj.org).

"It's always hard to close a library, even when we know what the Watchung branch will be like after the renovation," said Lynn Hoffman, deputy director. "We are so fortunate that the Borough of Watchung has successfully worked with a community partner to find us a space for temporary library service. We will still be able to connect with our customers in Watchung while we wait for the new library to take shape."

"Thanks to the work of Mayor Jubin, the Watchung Council, Township Administrator Jim Damato, and especially the generosity of Frank Bisignano, SCLSNJ will open a temporary library in Watchung," said Manny Miracle, branch manager. "The Library will provide access to amenities, including: a boutique collection of new books, magazines and movies available for onsite borrowing, as well as access to critical services such as holds pickup, computer access, printing, and photocopier services."

Continued Miracle, "Additionally, the Library will host smaller programs at the temporary location and thanks to Wilson Memorial Church,

we are thrilled to offer larger library programs such as One Man Sideshow on June 15 at the church's Fisher Hall. We look forward to seeing you at our temporary location. And, yes, the library fish are coming with us, too!"

The temporary branch located at 20 Stirling Road in Watchung will be open with limited hours of operation beginning Wednesday, June 5, 2024. The temporary branch hours will be as follows: Mondays: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Tuesdays through Thursdays: 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.; and Saturdays: 10 – 2 p.m.

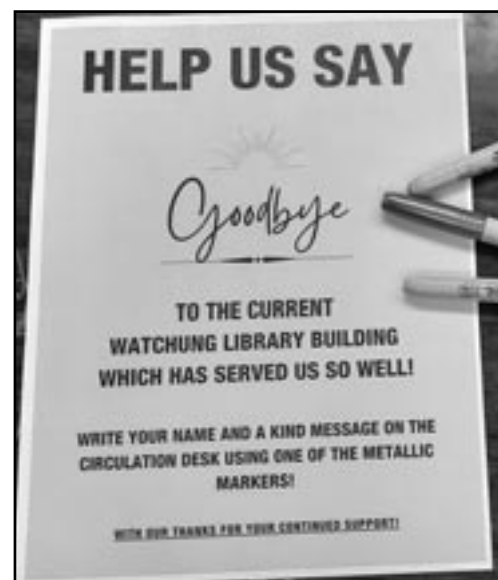
For additional assistance or questions, email [watchung@sclibnj.org](mailto:watchung@sclibnj.org). To discover all SCLSNJ has to offer, visit [SCLSNJ.org](http://SCLSNJ.org) or connect with SCLSNJ on Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), or YouTube.

### ABOUT SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM OF NEW JERSEY

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) partners with you to connect, to explore, to share, and to discover. Together we enrich lives, expand knowledge, and strengthen communities. SCLSNJ serves the following communities in Somerset County: Bound Brook, Branchburg, Bridgewater, Green Brook, Hillsborough, Manville, Millstone, Montgomery, North Plainfield, Peapack and Gladstone, Rocky Hill, Somerville, South Bound Brook, Warren Township, and Watchung. Visit [SCLSNJ.org](http://SCLSNJ.org).

## LIBRARY TEMPORARY MOVE

Watchung Library patrons bid a fond farewell in April to the building that has long served as the public library by signing the circulation desk before the building closed for renovations. During renovations, library services will be available at a temporary location, 20 Stirling Road, off the Watchung Circle.



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### Ashley's March Watchung Market Update

<b>\$931,634</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>
Average Sales Price	# of sales	Average Days on Market	# of houses on the market

The Cherie Berger Team  
Cherie Berger M: 908.410.0931  
Ashley Berger Freitas M: 908.432.9818  
[cheriebergerteam@compass.com](mailto:cheriebergerteam@compass.com)  
O: 973.310.6816

CHERIE BERGER TEAM

COMPASS

# Watchung Post

Renna Media LLC, Publishers  
202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

Watchung Post is published by Renna Media. 2,700 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Watchung, NJ. Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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# FIRE DEPARTMENT LADDER TRUCK CELEBRATED

## Borough of Watchung

On April 18, 2024, The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung held a ceremony to celebrate a brand new Fire Department Ladder Truck. The acquisition of this apparatus was facilitated by a Shared Services Agreement between the Borough of Watchung and the Borough of North Plainfield. About a year ago, Watchung and North Plainfield formed a

committee to acquire a ladder truck and applied to the State of New Jersey for a Shared Services Leap Grant. Watchung and North Plainfield were awarded the maximum grant amount of \$400,000.00, to assist with the purchase price of the \$1.2M apparatus. The apparatus will be shared between the two communities and will respond to all working fires in both Watchung and North Plainfield.



Photo by Borough of Watchung

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**WARRENBROOK SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR**  
500 Warrenville Road • (908) 753-9440, May 27 – Center Closed – Memorial Day

- Craft – Maracas**  
May 3, 11 a.m.
- Fiesta Games**  
May 6, 11 a.m.
- Mariachi Songs Musical Entertainment**  
May 8, 11 a.m.
- Breathing techniques for mental wellness**  
May 9, 11 a.m.
- Mother's Day Bouquet of Flowers Craft**  
May 10, 11 a.m.
- Mind Reading Game Show**  
May 13, 11 a.m.
- Balance & Flexibility Exercise**  
May 15, 11 a.m.
- Bingo with Bob Mazet**  
May 16, 30, 11 a.m.
- Brains n Games and Hand Bells with Adrienne Graubard**  
May 17, 31, - 11 a.m.
- Spring Trivia**  
May 20, 11 a.m.
- Senior Medicare Patrol & Fraud Prevention by Joel Schneider**  
May 22, 11 a.m.
- Over the Counter Drugs Interactions- Part 2**  
May 23, 11 a.m.
- Memorial Day Paint & Sip with Arista Care**  
May 24, 11 a.m.
- Blood Pressure Screenings**  
May 29, 10:30 a.m.
- Older American Month Celebration**  
May 29, 11 a.m.
- Stretch**  
Mondays – 10:00 a.m.
- Mahjong for Intermediate Players**  
Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Zumba Gold with Judith**  
Tuesdays & Fridays, 10:15 a.m.
- Bridge Group with Ronnie**  
Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m.
- Gentle Yoga with Jillian**  
Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 1:00 a.m.
- Strength**  
Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. ongoing class.
- Art Hour with Jean**  
Wednesdays, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.
- Take Control with Exercise**  
Thursdays, 10 a.m.
- Card/Table Games**  
Thursdays, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
- Chair Exercise**  
Fridays, 10:00 a.m.
- Bridge**  
Fridays, 1:00 p.m.

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**“THE BEAT GOES ON” – A CHER SPECTACULAR!  
MAY 4, 2:30 PM & 7:30 PM**

Straight from the dazzling lights of Las Vegas, award-winning artist Lisa McClowry takes you on a nostalgic and vibrant odyssey through Cher's iconic discography. Imagine witnessing eight dazzling costume changes that transport you to different eras of Cher's career. And that's not all! Mesmerizing video projections enhance the storytelling, leaving you feeling like you've attended the Goddess of Pop concert. Get ready to relive the glitz and glamour of Vegas!

**FABULOUS FANNY:  
THE SONGS & STORIES OF FANNY BRICE  
MAY 12, 2:30 PM**

Immerse yourself in the timeless charm of Broadway with Kimberly Faye Greenberg's heartfelt homage to the incomparable Fanny Brice. "Fabulous Fanny" rekindles the essence of the beloved "Funny Girl," making it an essential experience for Broadway enthusiasts. Revel in the humor that made Fanny Brice an icon.

**THE MAGIC OF TONY BENNETT  
A HEARTFELT TRIBUTE  
JUNE 1, 2:30 PM & 7:30 PM**

Join us for an unforgettable musical journey as Frankie Cirell pays homage to the legendary Tony Bennett. Backed by a full orchestra, this heartfelt tribute captures the emotional depth and elegance of Tony's iconic songs. From "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" to the soaring melody of "Fly Me to the Moon," get ready to be moved by timeless classics. Whether you're a lifelong fan or discovering Tony Bennett's magic for the first time, this performance promises an evening of pure musical bliss.

**TEA FOR THREE:  
LADY BIRD, PAT & BETTY  
JUNE 9, 2:30 PM**

Elaine Bromka's one-woman show brings to life the remarkable stories of Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon, and Betty Ford. Set in three intimate scenes, each woman shares her hopes, fears, and loves. From the White House to personal struggles, this captivating performance offers a glimpse into the lives of these influential women. Get ready to be inspired by their resilience, compassion, and unwavering spirit.

**DANCING DREAM:  
AN ABBA TRIBUTE  
JUNE 15, 7:30 PM**

Put on your dancing shoes and travel back to the disco era! It's time to groove to timeless ABBA hits like "Mamma Mia" and "Dancing Queen." Dust off those platform shoes, embrace the sparkle of sequins, and get ready for an unforgettable night. The harmonious vocals and lively dance routines will transport you to a world where the dance floor is your playground. Get ready to sing along, dance, and relive the magic of ABBA!

Enjoy an exceptional pre show dining experience at Wilson's Tapas Bar Lounge restaurant Located steps away from the Sieminski Theater. Make a reservation by calling 908-580-3818 for 5:30 pm for the show date.

<p>DISCOVER THE MAGIC AT THE SIEMINSKI THEATER!</p>		
 <p>May 4</p>	 <p>May 12</p>	 <p>June 1</p>
 <p>June 9</p>	 <p>June 15</p>	 <p>8000 Fellowship Rd Basking Ridge SIEMINSKITHEATERORG 908-580-3892</p>

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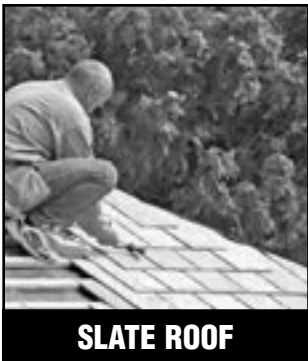
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# GET INVOLVED WITH PROJECT GRADUATION

## WHAT IS PROJECT GRADUATION?

Project Graduation is a tradition at many high schools to keep graduates safe and substance-free on graduation night. For WHRHS, the event will be six hours long, filled with all kinds of indoor activities, entertainment and -- of course -- lots of food and drinks! All students are required to ride the bus to and from the event, which will be held on graduation night June 13, 2024. Location TBD.

## WHO RUNS PROJECT GRADUATION?

Project Graduation is an independent parent organization with their own budget, fundraising events and planning committee. Senior parent volunteers work hard to host various exciting events that lead up to the end-of-year graduation night event.

## WHO ATTENDS PROJECT GRADUATION NIGHT?

WHRHS has approximately 500 seniors from the towns of Green Brook, Long Hill, Warren and Watchung who will be graduating on June 13, 2024. The event is open at no cost to the entire WHRHS graduating class, and we hope for 100% participation.

## WHO PAYS FOR THE EVENTS?

Project Graduation is funded completely through donations.

The ability to provide all the events throughout the year is only possible through generous donations from our families & community. This includes the parents, local businesses and community organizations. As we are a regional high school, we are reaching out to the member towns, seeking donations to help offset the costs of this celebration. In the past, we have received pledges as well as goods and services, from many different community members. If you have a business or skill you can offer or know someone willing to help, please let us know!

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

VENMO @WHRHS-ProjectGrad2024. Or Mail checks payable to WHRHS Project Graduation 2024: Project Graduation 2024

Watchung Hills Regional High School, 108 Stirling Road, Warren, NJ 07059.

# 3RD EPISODE OF MIND YOUR OWN LOCAL BUSINESS


Featuring promo for WHRHS Project Graduation

Renna Media has posted its third episode of "Mind Your Local Business", a podcast that gives advice on how to run a successful local business.

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# GETTING TO KNOW THE BOROUGH

NJ Local Government week is a time to celebrate the work of local government and encourage civic education.

Throughout the week of April 13-24, 2024 the Borough of Watchung highlighted some of their borough employees so residents can get to know the people behind the scene.



(above, l-r) Dámaris Quiñones-Gray, Colleen Lange, William (Billy) McClave, Tom McNulty, William "Bill" Hance, Jim Damato

## JIM DAMATO

Jim Damato is the Borough Administrator and oversees all departments, coordinates the day-to-day operations of the community, and carries out the policies as set by the Mayor and Council. The Borough Administrator oversees a broad spectrum of Borough functions. When he's not busy in meetings, you can find Jim on the field overseeing a variety of labor projects, or even inspecting trees! Our Administrator plays a critical role in the delivery of public services and the management of local government. If you see him around, be sure to stop by and say hello.

## WILLIAM "BILL" HANCE

William "Bill" Hance is the borough's Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer, Tax Collector, and Qualified Purchasing Officer. He is a man of many hats. What does he do? Well, Bill is responsible for all financial transactions including but not limited to the receipt and collection of all moneys raised by taxation, filling the annual financial statements, the annual debt statement, prepares the annual budget, and maintains all financial records including a complete general ledger. In addition to being the money man, you can find Bill volunteering in the seasonal farmer's market. Be sure to stop by when it begins and say howdy!

## WHAT IS A MUNICIPAL ENGINEER?

"Municipal Engineers combine knowledge of science, mathematics, and economics to solve the problems that confront towns and cities with regard to the design, construction, maintenance and operation of publicly-owned property and infrastructure systems. Municipal Engineers must also be licensed as a Professional Engineer, which means they have demonstrated they possess the required education and experience to practice engineering in the state of New Jersey." - (New Jersey Society of Municipal Engineers)

## TOM MCNULTY

Tom McNulty is the Borough's Fire Official. He has been with the Borough since Fall 2023 after he retired as Deputy Chief from the Maplewood Fire Department in 2016. As Fire Official and member of the Somerset County Fire Investigation Unit, Tom has numerous responsibilities such as: conducting fire inspections of commercial occupancies; inspecting smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers for residential properties changing owners or occupants; and conducting fire investigations to determine cause and origin of all fires. In his personal time, Tom likes to ride motorcycles or spend time with his wife and children. He has a full house with three dogs and three cats!!! Tom brings a smile to any room he walks in with his bright personality.

## WHAT IS A FIRE OFFICIAL?

The primary responsibility of the Fire Official is the enforcement of the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code and other local fire safety regulations. This includes Fire investigations to determine origin and cause; Fire permit control;

Fire safety complaints; Inspections of life hazard uses; and Inspections of nonlife hazard uses (A building or structure that does not constitute a potential risk to human life, public welfare, or firefighters, but must be registered to track inspections with the NJ Division of Fire Safety)

Building/Construction Department is responsible for the administration of zoning and property maintenance regulations as well as the issuance of building permits. Building permits are generally required for any building, structural, electric, HVAC, and plumbing projects. They can include projects such as: new buildings or structures; additions to a building; structural alterations to a building or structure; interior modifications and changes to a floor plan; etc.

## WILLIAM (BILLY) MCCLAVE

William McClave is responsible for overseeing the borough's public works department. He has been the Director of Public Works for the Borough since 2023 and has been working in various public works departments for 34+ years. Outside of work he enjoys playing golf and watching sports, particularly the New York Mets. You can always find Bill and his team out and about working to improve and maintain the quality of the community for the residents of Watchung. He says that he is fortunate to lead a group of seven hard working professional men who work very hard to keep the Borough in pristine condition for all of our residents and visitors to enjoy. Services range from cutting brush and weeds along borough roads, repairing storm drains, maintaining all nature trails, filling in potholes, performing snow removal, and much more! The department is also responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of our fields, parks, and playground. He is also our Recycling Coordinator. The Public Works Department are the unsung hero of our community. So next time you drive down a smoothly paved road or admire the Borough's beautiful landscape, take a moment to appreciate the hard work and expertise of the Public Works Department who made it all possible.

## COLLEEN LANGE

Colleen Lange is an integral member of the Administrator and Clerk's office at Borough Hall. She has been with the Borough since Fall 2023 and is the face behind the Borough's email and social media blasts, amongst other duties.

Outside of work, Colleen enjoys party planning and hanging out with her friends. If she is not out and about, she loves to spend time at home with her cat Gege.

What is the Administration/ Borough Clerk's Office?

The Business Administrator oversees all the departments, coordinates the day-to-day operations of the community and carries out the policies as set by the Mayor and Council. The Borough Clerk serves as the backbone of local government operations and acts as a bridge between the public and government officials.

## DÁMARIS QUIÑONES-GRAY

Dámaris Quiñones-Gray became Watchung's Board of Health Secretary in November 2021 and added the Recreation Coordinator position to her duties in August 2023. Dámaris brings 32 years of experience in local government, specializing in the legislative process and event planning among many other skills to enhance the quality of service to the general public.

What does she do? Along with her administrative duties to the Business Administrator and the Clerk, Dámaris serves as an Alternate Registrar and as the Board of Health Secretary, she is responsible for the meeting agendas and minutes and the processing of applications, collecting fees and issuing of licenses for advanced water treatment, body art/tattoo, body work/massage, retail food establishments along with septic/wells just to name a few. Her duties as Recreation coordinator include but are not limited to planning, executing and overseeing the operations of borough events such as the Easter Egg Hunts, Summer Camp, Community Picnics, Harvest Festival, Fishing Derby, Movie Night, Mayor's Regatta, Memorial Ceremonies for Memorial Day, 9-11 Memorial and Veterans Day,

When she's not planning an event or issuing licenses, Dámaris enjoys networking, reading, Latin, House & R&B music. On sunny days you may see her walking with her colleagues around the beautiful Watchung Lake!

## WHAT IS A RECREATION COORDINATOR?

Behind every bustling community event, there's a dedicated Municipal Recreation Coordinator working tirelessly to ensure everything runs smoothly. They're the bridge between the community's needs and the recreational opportunities available, making sure there's something for everyone. Their dedication and hard work ensure that individuals of all ages and interests have opportunities to connect, learn, and grow. From sports enthusiasts to art lovers, everyone can find something to enjoy thanks to the thoughtful planning and coordination of these hard working individuals.

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# ANNUAL HOME-GROWN PLANT SALE- MAY 11

## The Garden Club of Watchung

The Garden Club of Watchung's annual plant sale will take place Saturday, May 11th at Best Lake parking lot in Watchung on Saturday May 11 from 9:00 am to noon. Rain date is Sunday, May 12th. Our sale is unique as our perennials are "home grown, deer resistant and do well in our climate. Come early because our plants sell quickly!

Since 1958 our plant sale has been a major

fund raiser. Proceeds from the sale enable us to carry out our community service projects. You will see us planting our gardens on the Watchung circle, the gardens behind the Watchung Arts Center and the Blue Star Memorial on Somerset Street.

We mentor the fourth grade garden club at Bayberry school and coordinate with Watchung Traffic and Beautification for Arbor Day planting of a tree on the Bayberry school grounds.



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## SENIORS CLUB 55+

Regular meetings of the Watchung Seniors Club are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. (except July & August). Meetings are held at the Watchung Fireman's Exempt Hall, located at 31 Mountain Blvd., Watchung. The lower level is handicap accessible. Guest speakers, trips, pizza parties and fun events are planned throughout the year. An annual picnic is held June. For more information call Madelyn 908-816-00641.

On May 8th, the Watchung Mayor & Council is acknowledging the seniors with a luncheon, games and a special 'wear your favorite hat' contest, and prizes.

## DONATE ECLIPSE GLASSES

Don't know what to do with your eclipse glasses? Donate them! Warren Township Library will be collecting used solar eclipse glasses until July 15th.

Solar eclipse glasses can be sent to school children in Latin America for the October 2024 Annular eclipse.

All glasses collected by the library will be sent to Eclipse Glasses USA. For the safety of the recipients, it's crucial that the glasses are undamaged. This means no scratches, punctures, tears, or any other form of damage that might compromise the protective quality of the glasses.

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