

Watchung Post

Watchung's Hometown Newspaper

NJ

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ISSUE 8 • MAY 2013

**SOMERSET HILLS
BUSINESS NETWORK
MEETING**

FRIDAY

MAY 24, 2013

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

FIDDLER'S ELBOW

811 Rattlesnake Bridge Rd.
Bedminster, NJ

**1st TIME GUESTS:
FREE**

Cost: Members: \$5.00

SPEAKER TOPIC:

*Entrepreneurial
Strengths and Blindspots*

WILSON CHURCH RAISES OVER \$1000 FOR SANDY RELIEF

On April 14, 2013, a fundraising Spaghetti Dinner was hosted by Wilson Memorial Church in Watchung. Over \$1000 was raised to support Hurricane Sandy relief efforts. As a result, twenty members of the congregation youth and their adult leaders will be working this summer in Union Beach, NJ to help rebuild and refurbish homes that were damaged as a result of the storm. The funds raised will be used for the purchase of building supplies and donations to local relief agencies.

The dinner also served to educate the community about the effects of the storm on the mental health of its victims. Two members of NJ Hope and Healing (a project sponsored by the NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services) participated in the evening. They discussed the impact and strategies for coping with severe weather emergencies such as Hurricane Sandy and distributed brochures and literature for obtaining mental health services in NJ.

Wilson Memorial Union Church, located in Watchung, NJ is an interdenominational community church which strives to continually strengthen its links with the local and global community through acts of compassion and caring.

NJ Hope and Healing can be reached at www.disastermentalhealthnj.com or 877-294-HELP.



(above) Tom Williford serves up a plate of spaghetti for the Hurricane Sandy benefit at Wilson Memorial Church.

(right, l-r) Claudia Salgado and Alison Diecke from NJ Hope and Healing discuss mental health services available to NJ residents at the Wilson Memorial Church fundraising spaghetti dinner in Watchung.



Photos by Anthony Cito

BROWNIES GO GREEN!

In honor of Earth Day, the second grade Brownies from Bayberry School are working on a community service project. With help from their Troop Leaders Cara Salas and Marilyn Cubano, and Anne DeParto, youth leader for the Watchung Garden Club, the scouts plan to make an herb garden at the Watchung Library. They are currently growing herbs such as parsley, rosemary and basil in planters at their homes. By the end of May, the herbs should be large enough to be transplanted to the Library grounds for the patrons to use.

(right) Bayberry's Brownie Troop preparing for Earth Day project.



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Discounted rates for advertising in this newspaper are offered to members of the Somerset Hills Business Network call Joe Renna at 908-447-1295

for more information about placing an ad.

The group which is part of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce is offering a special recession rate of just \$100

for new members!

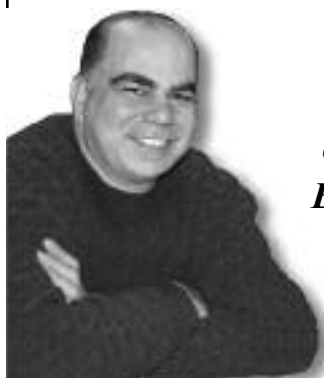
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THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

On Wednesday, May 8, the Watchung Seniors were entertained by Good-Time Charlie's Music Memories - from Bing to the King and a whole lotta swing!

The members thoroughly enjoyed themselves throughout the sing-a-longs, Bingo, Raffles, and games. There were numerous prizes claimed throughout the afternoon.



WATCHUNG SENIORS CLUB

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(left) Charlie Zavalick (a.k.a. Good-Time Charlie) and Linde Friedrich, Bingo winner from Watchung.



(above, standing, l-r) Linde Friedrich, Watchung; Joan Decker, Warren; Grace Bell, President, Watchung Senior Citizens; June Perry, Watchung. (sitting, l-r) Doris Kratson, Watchung; and Joy Maye, North Plainfield.

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WATCHUNG'S LITTLE LEAGUE IN FULL SWING!

Written by James Williams, president Watchung Little League

The main source of The Watchung Little League funding is derived from registration fees and sales at the snack shack when games are in play. This year, we conducted a town survey and asked residents if they would support additional fundraising events that supported the efforts of the league. The results came back with an overwhelming yes. As a result, we have conducted two fund raisers in 2013. One was a dinner and wine tasting event at Ferraro's restaurant in Westfield. The evening included a five course meal with an incredible array of wine tasting arranged by one of our current board members, Curtis Dahl. Additionally, we had a successful wine pull event. Individuals donated bottles of wine valued at \$25 or higher and then they are raffled with willing participants purchasing a chance to get a random selection at the wines donated. So in the end, folks could participate with helping the league by donating bottles of wine or by purchasing a chance to get a bottle of wine. In some cases, we had individuals do both. Each of these events were extremely successful and we are looking to repeat them next year.

The fund raisers will assist with field enhancements as recent changes were passed down from The Williamsport Baseball Little League. The new rules allow for kids to play baseball on a 50/70 field versus the current 46/60 configuration. As a result, plans are in place to make modifications to our current fields at our baseball complex. Additionally, we enhanced our pre-season clinics to allow for



(above) L.A. Dodgers
Ethan Marmelejos



League President
James Williams



(above) L.A. Dodgers
Dylan Cooper

better evaluation and instruction. This topic ranked high on our town survey where residents wanted to see improvements. Lastly, we used funds to get training for our volunteers on CPR/AED. We wanted to ensure that we had a qualified person at the fields at all times in the event that medical assistance was needed.

I must say that the Watchung residents have been very supportive of the baseball program and more importantly, patient with all the additional activity we have had in 2013. It shows how great our residents are and what a lovely town this is to live in and raise a family.

NEIGHBORS & NEWCOMERS CLUB!

The Neighbors & Newcomers Club of Watchung Hills has been welcoming both new and existing residents from Warren, Watchung, Long Hill and Green Brook for over 35 years. Members receive a monthly newsletter highlighting the Club's activities and events for the month. The Club offers a variety of activities such as monthly meetings featuring guest

speakers; special interest groups including Bunco, book club, day trips, knitting, fun in the kitchen; evening socials including game night, wine tasting, and candlelight dinners.

For additional information, please contact Laura Merizio at (908) 490-0140, or at ajmlam4@aol.com. Feel free to visit our website: www.nncwhnj.org.

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BROWNIES VISIT WATCHUNG TOWN HALL

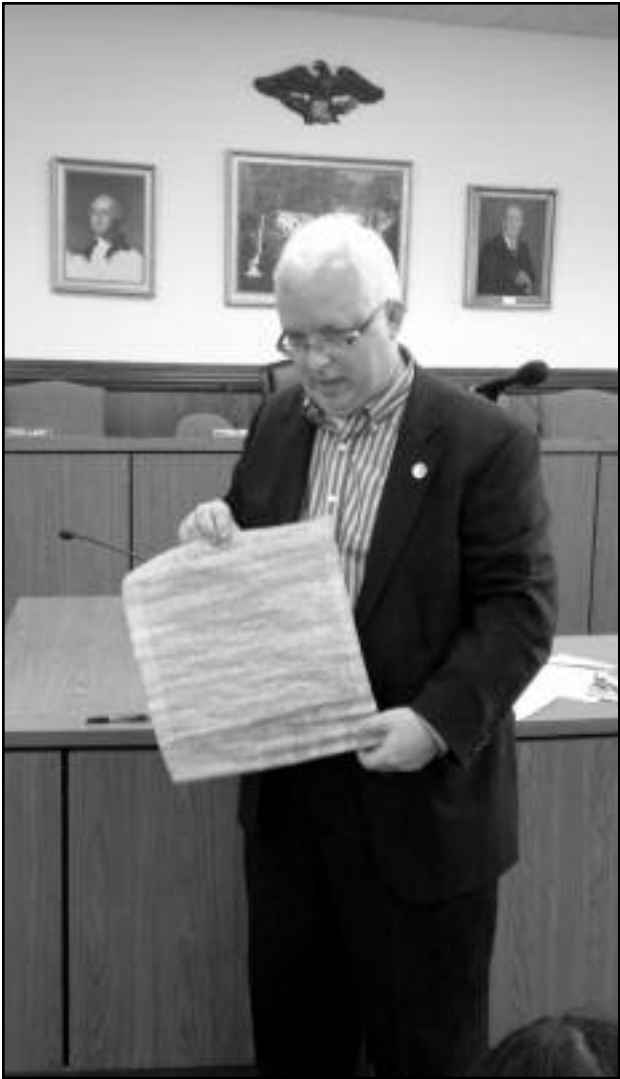
The Girl Scouts 4th grade brownies and their troop leaders visited the Watchung Town Hall Monday May 13, meeting with Mayor Steve Pote.

After everyone recited The Pledge of Allegiance, the mayor reviewed with the Brownies the Declaration of Independence, and Constitution. He explained how the constitution established the separation of powers into three branches of government; thereby separating governmental powers.

Next, the Brownies were invited to simulate a council vote. The subject was whether to buy a

new truck for snow removal and borough maintenance or just updating an existing truck. During the review, the Brownies asked many questions, such as, would a new truck be worth buying? What is the allowed budget? What will repairs to the existing truck cost? The Brownies voted no (5 no, 4 yes) on the question of whether to acquire the new vehicle.

The girls had a wonderful time and greatly appreciated the Mayor's time and information. The girls learned a lot and enjoyed the whole event. The Brownies will receive the badge of Public service for this project.



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WATCHUNG'S NEWEST SOLAR HOTSPOT

On Tuesday, May 7, Watchung residents attended a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of a new solar panel installation at Bayberry School.



(above) Bayberry students sing a song in tribute during the ceremony.



(above) Student demonstrates his solar powered car built for the recent Science Fair at Valley View Middle School. This car was used during the ribbon cutting ceremony to start a "Rube Goldberg" type apparatus demonstration.



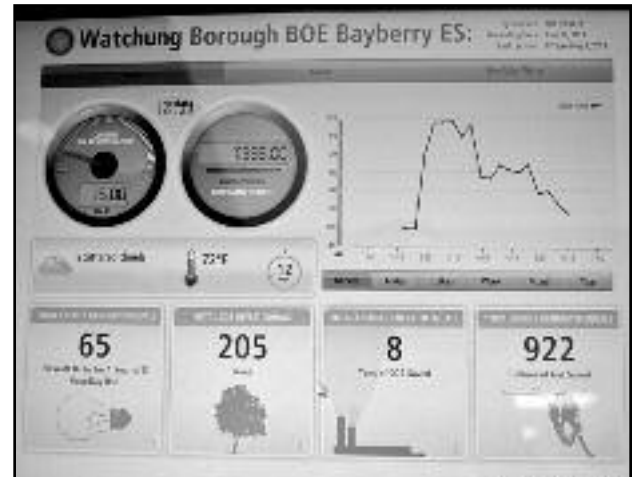
(above) Watchung School Board Superintendent, Dr. Resko, discussing the major steps leading up to the new solar power generation system installation.



(above) Jeff Bonner, President of the Watchung School Board, providing additional insight on the successful program



(above) Watchung Middle School teacher, Chris Riley, demonstrates how to use liquid nitrogen to make chocolate ice cream in just 3 minutes. Attendants were then invited to sample the "High-Tech" ice cream.



(above) The energy savings monitor located inside the school's entrance.



(above) New solar panel array at Bayberry School.

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WILSON MEMORIAL CHURCH CELEBRATES "ALL GOD'S CRITTERS"

by Joseph Higgins & Barbara Peters

Rev. Barbara Peters, Pastor of Wilson Memorial Church, shared the story of Jacques, her family's small poodle mix rescue dog, as a group of about 40 members and visitors, along with more than a dozen dogs, an iguana and several stuffed animals, gathered on the lawn in front of Mary E. Wilson Memorial Church in Watchung for a "Blessing of the Animals" service on Saturday, May 4.

"I really wonder who rescued whom?", she said "We think about what is so special about the family members we call pets and for me, I see Jacques as teaching me about how to face hard times and survive." She told about how Jacques had run away from home after her family had adopted him and survived on his own until he was picked up by an animal shelter. He then was adopted again by a couple who later learned who Jacques really belonged to. "Our story has a happy ending. The couple who gave Jacques a new home wanted us to have him back after they found out we had adopted him first. We are thrilled to have him and are filled with gratitude for how his determination to survive eventually led him back to us."

Members of the congregation told their own

stories of why their pets were special, and Rev. Peters, assisted by her husband, Rev. Tom Peters, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling, offered a "personalized" blessing to each of the animals.

Choir member Joe Higgins led the congregation in singing "All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir" and a special version of "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" which included "dogs and cats", "elephants and camels" and "iguana and rhinoceroses".

Following the service, the group enjoyed snacks of animal crackers, lemonade and iced tea, with water and home-made dog biscuits for the four-legged worshippers

The service was the third in Wilson's First Saturday of the Month Family Worship Service series, designed to offer a child friendly, yet intergenerational family focused church experience for those whose schedules make it difficult to attend a Sunday morning service.

Wilson Memorial Church is located at 7 Valley Road in Watchung, at the intersection with Hillcrest Road, just off the Watchung circle. For further information, contact the church office at (908) 755-5020



(above) Rev. Barbara Peters (right), holding Jacques, looks on as Rev. Tom Peters reads the Scripture lesson at Wilson Memorial Church's "Blessing of the Animals" service.
Photo credit: Pam Davis

SOMERSET HILLS BUSINESS NETWORK MEETING

NEXT EVENT

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2013

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

FIDDLER'S ELBOW COUNTRY CLUB

811 Rattlesnake Bridge Rd, Bedminster, NJ

1st TIME GUESTS: FREE

Cost: Members: \$5.00

Guest Speaker: John Hadley JHACareers.com

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- Understand where your company is most vulnerable and susceptible, and what to do about it.

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- Your natural blind spots.
- How to align your strengths to maximize your performance.
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PHOTOS FROM SHBN'S APRIL MEETING



(above, l-r) Paul Holland of MyBannerStand.com accepts Best Elevator Pitch trophy standing with Jane Brown, Digital Results LLC and last month's winner and judge Robert P. Baker of Copy To Go, Inc.



(above, l-r) Vincent Avantagiato, Transamerica Financial Advisors, Inc., William Kirchgessner, Sienna Funding and Michael A. Abate, ShareBuilder 401k /Capital One.

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