

# Warren Township NEWS

ISSUE 2006-03

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS OF WARREN TOWNSHIP

Winter 2006 - 2007

## From Our Mayor...

Warren's Bicentennial celebration was a proud moment for all of us as we looked at our 200 year history and celebrated both our past and our progress to the present. It was also a time of great learning for me and the other members of the Township Committee as we witnessed the incredible power of committed volunteers working with our Township professionals in accomplishing a Bicentennial events agenda that once seemed almost overwhelming in its scope.

It's the power of this coming together of the local citizen with our Township staff that has created what Warren is today and will eventually determine what it becomes tomorrow. Resident input has always driven our Master Plan, our Green Space program, our Planning Board deliberations, our Recreation Commission activities and our Public Works department to itemize only a very few of the of the organizations that constitute the Warren Township government.

The purpose of this Newsletter is to provide you with a snapshot of the key Township government elements, hoping that you will find some of your questions answered by these articles and understand where you might go for even more information. It is also a great inventory of opportunities where Warren resident thoughts and actions are needed as Warren changes itself to adapt successfully to our future.

If there are parts of Warren's Township government you would like to see reviewed in future Newsletter publications or if you would like to volunteer to work in some of the areas discussed, please contact Ann Carlson, Deputy Township Clerk, on (908) 753-8000, x 222.

Carolann Garafola, Mayor

## HOME REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Warren Township Committee offers a Housing Rehabilitation Program for residents who meet C.O.A.H. regulations for low and moderate incomes. The program provides up to \$11,000 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. Interested residents can contact *Rehabco, Inc.*, at (732) 477-7750 of Brick, New Jersey or the Township Administrator's office at extension 252. The Township has been successful in rehabilitating over 45 houses since 1989.

In order to be eligible, the following guidelines are in effect for 2006. Income cannot exceed the following amounts per households:

1 person.....	\$53,648
2 person.....	\$61,312
3 person.....	\$68,976
4 person.....	\$76,640

Additional information is available on the Warren Township web site:  
<http://www.warrennj.org/>



## Seeking Members and Volunteers To Turn Ambitious Vision into Reality

"Our goal is to create an arboretum and educational center that will benefit the community now and in the future. We are seeking the help of anyone and everyone in the community who feels energized by what we are trying to do," said Suzanne Smith, the Wagner Farm Arboretum Foundation (WFAF) President.

While the WFAF has enjoyed a busy and rewarding year that has included a membership drive, an annual plant/art sale, finalization of the design plan for the formal garden, completion of its offices and a fall celebration to kick off its community garden, the organization needs the energy of many more in the community to help make the vision of for the arboretum – a reality.

In addition to the community garden that will be operational by this spring, the vision also includes: a children's garden, mediation garden, butterfly garden, picnic area and a garden accessible to people with disabilities. Also planned is a pavilion for public events and classes in nature studies, organic gardening, and nature art.

### The Community Garden

The WFAF has partnered with the Garden Club of Watchung Hills on the community garden. Keith Cooper has spearheaded the community garden project with a committee of 18 people who meet at the farm at 7p.m. on the third Monday of each month. Anyone interested in getting involved in the community garden should contact Keith Cooper at: [keithcooper@wfafnj.org](mailto:keithcooper@wfafnj.org)

### Fundraising for the Wagner Farm Arboretum

The WFAF has also formed a fundraising committee that will meet the second Tuesday of the month at the farm at 7 p.m. Anyone interested should contact: Carolann Garafola at: [carolanngarafola@wfafnj.org](mailto:carolanngarafola@wfafnj.org)

### Classes to be Offered

If you are interested in developing, coordinating, or leading classes, please contact Mindy Lighthipe, Director Education and Community Programs, at [mindylighthipe@wfafnj.org](mailto:mindylighthipe@wfafnj.org).

For more information about the Wagner Farm Arboretum, go to our web site at: [www.wfafnj.org](http://www.wfafnj.org) or attend one of our informational meetings: If you are interested in attending an informational meeting please contact Suzanne Smith, WFAF President, at: [suzannesmith@wfafnj.org](mailto:suzannesmith@wfafnj.org) or (908) 647-3737.

## SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Senior Citizen Advisory Committee is a 7 member committee appointed by the Township Committee to discuss senior citizen issues. The current members are: Betty Grossweiler, Chairperson; Mary Ellen Florey, Jean Carnevale, Angie Sacca, Gene Spivak, Jerry Toth and Lydia LaVine.

We sponsor the **annual Senior Citizen's Picnic** held each September. Our committee works with the Township Committee for the Somerset County senior citizen bus service which provides transportation to senior residents 3 times a week. Interested residents can call (908) 231-7115 to arrange bus transportation, and please specify the "Warren senior bus." Calls for transportation must be made two (2) days in advance.

The Senior Advisory Committee is working with the Township Committee to provide affordable housing to seniors and is searching for a site for a senior center.

The Senior Citizen Advisory Committee meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the Susie Boyce Meeting room (courtroom) at the municipal complex.

### ***From your Tax Collector***

#### **Important 2007 Dates**

**1<sup>st</sup> QTR taxes due Feb 1 - Feb 12,  
2<sup>nd</sup> QTR taxes due May 1 - May 10,**

Residents should have already received their tax bill for these two payments in July 2006. Any questions or problems can be addressed by calling or visiting the Tax Collector at the Municipal Building. If you have any questions regarding tax payments contact the Tax collectors office at x 231 or 232. Any questions regarding tax assessments should be addressed to the tax assessors' office x 235.

**On or about July 20, 2007, the tax bills for 3<sup>rd</sup>QTR 07, 4<sup>th</sup>QTR 07, 1<sup>st</sup>QTR 08 & 2<sup>nd</sup>QTR 08 will be mailed to residents.**

If paying your own taxes, please mail in sufficient time to insure that it is received prior to the end of the grace period. After the 10th of the month, interest is charged at a rate of 8% for the first \$1,500 and 18% thereafter.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Warren Township Vol. FD has started a new **Smoke Detector Inspection program for Senior citizens** in Warren Township. The Fire Department will come out and replace the battery and inspect all smoke detectors at no cost for Warren Township Seniors. We will also provide and install detectors for those seniors who have none. Seniors who are interested in this **free** service can call 908-753-8000 x 271 or 269 and leave a message with your name and a phone number you can be reached at and someone from the Fire Department will contact you to schedule the inspection.

This is also a great time for all the other residents of the Township to change the batteries in their smoke detectors.

Residents who have a Fire Hydrant on their property should remember that it is their responsibility to keep the hydrant clear and visible. That means there should be no shrubs, rocks, or other obstructions that would prevent the Fire Department from seeing or accessing it. You should also be sure that during the winter the hydrant is clear of snow, sometimes the plows pile up snow and block the hydrant.

The Members of the Fire Department would like you to know that we strive to provide the residents of the Township with the best fire protection we possible can. Warren Township has the highest ISO rating (ISO is an Insurance Industry Organization) that a town can have with a Volunteer FD your fire insurance premium is based on this rating. The higher the rating the lower your premium is. It takes a lot of work and effort to achieve that rating and hold it as we have for the last 30 years. We are an organization of approximately 80 active members and in the course of a year we spend on average 8,000 man hours training and about 30,000 man hours responding to a variety of emergency calls through out the Township. Our members are very dedicated and Community minded people many of them are also EMT's with the Rescue Squad or are either serving or have served on various Boards and Committees within the Township. We welcome any and all who would like to volunteer to serve their neighbors as Firefighters, if your interested please call the Chief on 908-753-8000 x 269.

Finally we would like to thank you all for your continued support, we hope that when and if we ever meet it is at a parade or other type of social function, but if it is that we respond to an emergency that involves you we pledge that we will do all we can to help and comfort you.

### **Warren Township Volunteer Fire Department Board of Fire Officers**

Tim McGowan – Department Chief  
Mike Gonnella – Asst. Chief Mt. Bethel  
David Dante – Asst. Chief Mt. Horeb  
Kai VonRiman – Asst. Chief Community  
John Christoffers – Asst. Chief Washington Valley



**The Warren Township Sewerage Authority** continues its capital improvements projects, updating aging treatment plants and pump stations to current specifications. This is an appropriate time to thank all the Warren residents for their patience as, there have been multiple road closures through the Town this year.

**2007 bills will be mailed in early January and then again in June** for the third/fourth quarter. If you don't receive your bill in a timely manner, please call our office: (908) 753-8000 X 258

Many of you have asked what to do in the event of a sewer emergency during the evening and weekend hours. Please direct all calls to the Warren Police Dept. at 908 753-1000 and they will contact the appropriate people.

A reminder to dispose of grease, disposable cleaning rags, dental floss in an alternative container or garbage as these products can cause a blockage/entanglement in the sewer lines or equipment. A complete listing of items that should not be disposed of in the sewer system is available in our office at the Municipal Building.

## Youth Services Commission

The Warren Township Youth Services Commission was formed in December of 2003 by a resolution of the Township Committee. The functions of the Commission include the development of programs for the youth of Warren in response to identified community needs in addition to assistance in the implementation of these programs. Funding is provided via a grant from the County Freeholders.

For the year 2006-2007, the Youth Services Commission received a total of \$10,000 in grants (including a \$1200 grant given to Watchung Hills Regional High School). This grant money is being used to sponsor the following 2007 events:

- There will be at least two (2) coffee houses held for the students in grades 6 through 8 on Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday March 16<sup>th</sup>.
- On Sunday, January 21, there will be a Boys' Day Out for boys in grades 5 thru 8 at the Warren Middle School.
- On Sunday, February 25, the Youth Services Commission will host their second annual Girls' Day Out. We will again have exercise, self-defense, and wardrobe, hair, make-up advice and more.
- Warren Township will begin its own Ophelia Project. The Ophelia Project is a relational aggression program for girls. A core group of adults and children will receive training to create a community relational aggression prevention task force. This project has helped other communities to create a safe social climate where everyone feels accepted and respected and in which people support each other.
- Lastly, the Warren Youth Services Commission will create and sponsor its own "Myspace" internet chat room that is password protected and available only to the children of Warren.

Anyone who would like additional information on these events or to volunteer for any of these projects should contact Roberta Monahan at 908-647-4632 or at [rmonahan@aol.com](mailto:rmonahan@aol.com).

## "BUILDING COMMUNITY PRIDE THROUGH PARKS AND RECREATION"

The Warren Township Recreation Commission, appointed by the Warren Township Committee and chaired by Adriane Stewart, invites all residents to take advantage of the parks, natural resources, and recreation programs available in Warren Township.

The Recreation Commission sponsors several programs, activities and trips throughout the year. New programs include an after school drama program, an after school science program, golf lessons, a summer sports camp, and a tennis lessons program. Upcoming trips include **Radio City Music Hall on December 16<sup>th</sup>** and a **Stowe Mountain Winter Adventure from February 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>**. Plans are also underway for a trip to Broadway tentatively scheduled for April.

There are several locations for both active and passive recreational pursuits in the Township. The finishing touches on a new neighborhood park on Elm Avenue will be completed in time for the spring. The Municipal Tennis Courts were recently resurfaced and work is planned for the Greenwood Meadows tennis courts in the spring. In addition, the Township boasts a comprehensive trail system for hikers and nature lovers.

The Recreation Commission also strives to be a community resource of information for recreation organizations and sports programs within and around the Warren community. The Recreation Commission offers a mandated Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y course for coaches involved in these programs and is responsible for scheduling Township recreational facilities.

For further information or to bring forth any ideas, please contact the Recreation Office at (908) 753-8000, x270. Information is also available on our web site at [www.warrennj.org/wtrec](http://www.warrennj.org/wtrec).

### Christmas Tree Disposal

Between December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup> you can drop off your *undecorated* Christmas tree(s) by the ball field parking lot that is located just to the left of the entrance to the DPW yard. The trees will be chipped up so nothing is wasted. Just please make sure all decorations are removed.

Please don't hesitate to call the DPW at 908-753-1223 if you have any questions.

## Department of Public Works

Did you ever wonder?

- Who gets up in the middle of the night during a snow storm to plow and sand the roads and on occasion stays up all night plowing and sanding?
- Who cuts back the vegetation along the Township roads?
- Who fills the pot holes, fixes sink holes and does line striping?
- Who fixes water drainage problems?
- Who removes dead, diseased, downed trees and branches?
- Who cleans storm sewers and gutters?
- Who tends the baseball fields, soccer fields, parks, schools & playgrounds?
- Who maintains the Hoffheimer, Dealaman and nature trails?
- Who repairs and maintains the Township vehicles including the Police cars & Fire Trucks?
- Who installs and repairs the curbs, catch basins and drainage pipes?
- Who arranges to have the streets swept?
- Who overlays the streets?
- Who operates the Mini-Dump program?



Wonder no more - Please call us - the Warren Township Department of Public Works 908-753-1223.

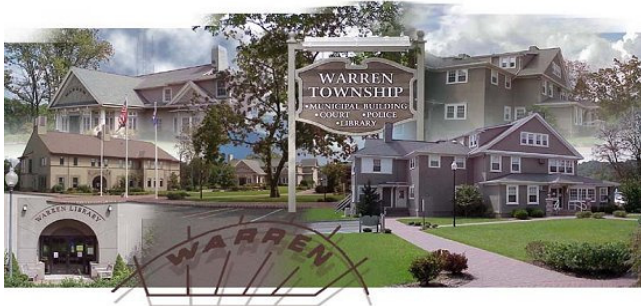
## Important Numbers

General .....	908-753-8000
Township Administrator .....	X 250, 252
Township Clerk .....	X 221, 222
Board of Adjustment.....	X 260
Board of Health .....	X 239
Cable TV 22.....	X 267
Construction Office.....	X 242
Engineering Department.....	X 248
Municipal Court.....	X 226
Planning Board .....	X 243
Recreation .....	X 270
Sewerage Authority .....	X 258
Tax Assessment.....	X 234, 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
Public Works Department.....	908-753-1223

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

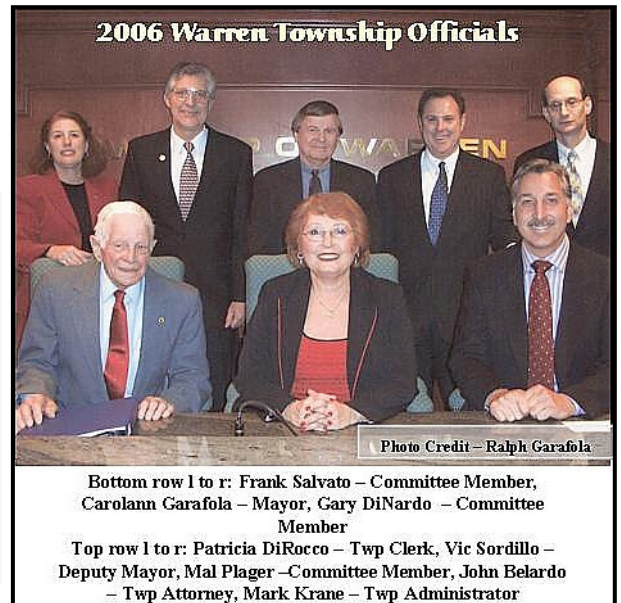
**Township of Warren**  
**46 Mountain Boulevard**  
**Warren, NJ 07059-5695**



**Township of Warren**  
**Somerset County**  
**46 Mountain Boulevard**  
**Warren, NJ 07059-5695**  
**908-753-8000**

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Tune in to  
**Warren's**  
**Cable TV 22**  
 Providing coverage of Warren Twp. meetings, news of community groups, high-school news and sports and other local public and educational activities.



Bottom row l to r: Frank Salvato – Committee Member, Carolann Garafola – Mayor, Gary DiNardo – Committee Member  
 Top row l to r: Patricia DiRocco – Twp Clerk, Vic Sordillo – Deputy Mayor, Mal Plager – Committee Member, John Belardo – Twp Attorney, Mark Krane – Twp Administrator

## Important Websites

Warren Township .....	<a href="http://www.warrennj.org/">http://www.warrennj.org/</a>
Library.....	<a href="http://www.somerset.lib.nj.us/warren.htm">http://www.somerset.lib.nj.us/warren.htm</a>
Police .....	<a href="http://www.warrenpolice.com/">http://www.warrenpolice.com/</a>
Schools .....	<a href="http://www.warrentboe.org/">http://www.warrentboe.org/</a>
Watchung Hills Reg. HS.....	<a href="http://www.whrhs.org/">http://www.whrhs.org/</a>
Somerset County .....	<a href="http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/">http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/</a>
New Jersey .....	<a href="http://www.state.nj.us/">http://www.state.nj.us/</a>

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Pride in our Past – Promise in our Future