

## OUR TOWN

### HISTORY

As the melting Wisconsin Glacier slowly retreated north 20,000 years ago, it left behind Lake Passaic in the curves of the Watchung Mountains. The land that is now Chatham was at the bottom of that lake, nearly 160 feet below the surface. The only visible sign of what would become Chatham was a long island formed by the top of the hill at Fairmount Avenue, known as Long Hill. Lake Passaic drained into the sea when the ice cap melted near Little Falls. The Passaic River slowly made its winding path through the marshlands.

#### Early Settlers

Six or seven thousand years ago the first people to settle in the area were the Lenni Lenape (“Original People”) Indians. It is believed that the Lenape migrated from Canada and possibly Siberia in search of a warmer climate. The Minsi group of Lenni Lenape occupied the northern section of New Jersey, including the area of present-day Chatham.

In early summer the Lenape journeyed to the sea to feast on clams and oysters. Traveling from the northwest, they followed a path along the Passaic River through the Short Hills to the New Jersey shore. The trail became known as the Minisink Trail and followed a route that includes what is now Main Street in Chatham.

The Lenni Lenape forded the Passaic River at a shallow point east of Chatham at a place they called “the Crossing of the Fishawack in the Valley of the Great Watchung.” “Fishawack” and “Passaic” are two versions of the many ways early settlers tried to spell the name they heard the Indians call the river.

In 1680 Sir George Carteret paid the Minsi the equivalent of \$55 for land that included the present area of Chatham. By 1721 John Budd, a wealthy Philadelphia merchant, owned much of the land in the area. He sold some of his holdings in 1728 to John and Daniel Day, who became the first settlers on the west bank of the Passaic. John Day built a bridge over the Passaic roughly at the location of the present-day Route 124 bridge. The small village, called “Day’s Bridge” expanded along both sides of the river.

John Day established a tavern that became well-known among travelers. There were several mills south of the bridge and the village became a center for residents of outlying areas. People came to barter goods, have their grain ground, and lumber sawed. They visited the all-important blacksmith to have their horses shod and they went to church.

By 1750 the main street of Day’s Bridge stretched for three-quarters of a mile on either side of the river. Names associated with Chatham appear: Samuel Lum, Nathaniel Bonnell (also spelled “Bonnel”), and David Vanderpoel. These men settled in the area by the time of the Revolutionary War and made substantial contributions to Chatham’s early history.

#### The Revolutionary War

On November 23, 1773, the following notice appeared in the *New York Journal or Advertiser*:

*“Whereas the inhabitants of a certain village, situated at Passaic River, on the main road that leads from Elizabeth-Town to Morris-Town, found themselves under a considerable disadvantage from the place’s not*

*having a particular name...the principal freeholders and inhabitants assembled together on Friday, the 19th inst., and unanimously agreed to call it Chatham."*

The new name was chosen to honor the English Prime Minister, Sir William Pitt, Earl of Chatham. Pitt was revered as a champion of the American colonies in their struggle with England because he opposed King George III's tax policies. The name Chatham means "a village of cottages," and the area was just that as the Revolutionary War began.

Chatham's citizens proved to be staunch revolutionaries and joined with leaders from other villages to form committees of observation and correspondence. Chatham citizens erected a liberty pole at what is now the corner of Main Street and University Avenue.

Throughout the war Chatham was the scene of much troop movement. For two long winters Chatham served as a buffer between the British in Elizabethtown and the patriotic troops of General George Washington at Jockey Hollow near Morristown. In 1776 New Jersey bore the brunt of the war. Towns such as Chatham and Springfield were expected to hold against any enemy advance to the west.

With the outcome of the Revolution in doubt, Continental Army officials decided to create a newspaper dedicated solely to the patriots' cause. In 1779 Shepard Kollock, an artillery soldier with a newspaper background, started the *New Jersey Journal* in Chatham. He continued to publish this weekly newspaper until 1783.

In late August 1781, Washington assembled his army of two or three thousand men in the Chatham area. The French army established a camp at Whippany at the same time. To give the appearance of a permanent encampment, Washington ordered the French to build their large bake ovens to the east of the village. He arranged other preparations to further the deception. Rumors began to spread that the combined forces planned to attack Sir Henry Clinton and the British in New York City.

However, Washington's real intention became clear in the early morning hours of August 29. The army quietly left Chatham, heading south for Yorktown, Virginia. Clinton did not learn of their departure until the army had crossed the Delaware River. Washington's maneuver helped force the surrender of Gen. Charles Cornwallis at Yorktown in October.

#### Growth During the Nineteenth Century

With the war ended, Chatham settled back into peaceful pursuits. The population grew, but the economic base of the town, which stretched west and south for considerable distance, remained the bridge and the mills along the river.

As people migrated westward, passenger and freight trade between the seaport area of Elizabeth and the western mountains increased. In 1801, New York investors interested in the lucrative western New Jersey market obtained a charter for the first state turnpike. The Morris Turnpike connected the west with Newark through the upper Delaware. Its first section ran from Elizabeth to Morristown through Springfield and Chatham. Toll gates stood near what is now Canoe Brook Country Club and near the Madison Junior High School. Soon farmers, unwilling to pay the toll or "shunning the pike", began traveling on a parallel route along what is today called the Shunpike Road (known as Watchung Avenue in Chatham Borough).

The Morris and Essex Railroad came to Chatham in 1837. The railroad was a wood-burning, two-locomotive line that ran from Newark through Orange to Morristown. With luck, it was possible to get to New York on business and return home the same day. Chatham gradually became a summer resort (people came for the fresh air) and commuter town, quite well established by the start of the Civil War with almost 3,000 citizens.

The introduction of the railroad helped encourage a thriving brick business that developed in 1835. Chatham also became a center of the rose growing industry in the 1870's and 80's. Louis M. Noe, who, with his two brothers-in-law, was the largest peach grower in New Jersey, built greenhouses for his specialty, the American Beauty Rose. Noe's roses, with five foot stems, sold even in Europe.

In 1867, a wealthy industrialist, George Shepard Page, took Chatham by storm. He bought several hundred acres of land, including the Bonnell family mill sites on the Passaic River. He built a mansion on Hillside Avenue, known as Dixiedale. Page converted old mill sites to roofing paper factories and persuaded the Lackawanna Railroad to stop at his factories. He also convinced the U.S. Government that Stanley, as his land was known, needed a post office with G. S. Page as the first postmaster.

Industry attracted a good many Irish to Chatham and by 1870 Irish and other Catholics founded a mission and a school that was completed in 1872. In 1887 a church was built on the corner of Washington Avenue and Oliver Street. A new social dimension was given to the town by the addition of the Irish to Chatham's population.

The years between the Civil War and World War I were a period of quiet living and simple pleasures. Chatham's reputation as a fine, healthy place to live brought a community of bustling tourist trade. Advertisements of its pure "mountain air" appeared as far away as Boston. Many travelers visited the Fairview Hotel on Main Street, which flourished at the turn of the century.

The trains that brought vacationers to Chatham also transported residents to city jobs. The "Chatham Accommodation" left at 7:15 a.m. and returned at 6:00 p.m. When the Lackawanna electrified the railroad in 1930, surrounding communities delighted in and celebrated the new soot-free service.

## MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

The government of Chatham evolved to reflect the growth of the area. Morris County had been carved out of Hunterdon County in 1738, due to increasing population in Hunterdon. In 1740, Morris County Courts convened and divided the county into three townships: Morris, Hanover, and Pequannock. The New Jersey Legislature created Chatham Township from parts of Morris, Hanover, Florham Park, Madison and Chatham.

. When it was found that "villages", which Chatham had become in 1892, had no power to establish public utilities, a group of citizens, led by village president Frederick Harvey Lum, persuaded the state legislature to pass a special act establishing the Borough of Chatham, which took effect on March 1, 1897. Under the Borough form of government, which Chatham Borough still maintains, there is a 6-member Borough Council, in which each Council Member is elected at-large and serves for a 3-year term. The mayor is elected separately and serves a 4-year term. [*Cross reference to pages on Government*] The first public utility was the water department, in February 1898. This was followed by an electric department, in 1901 (which was subsequently sold to Jersey Central Power and Light).

The neighboring towns of Madison and Florham Park also seceded, leaving Chatham Township at its present geographic size. Chatham Township has maintained its "committee" form of government - in which there are

5 Committee Members elected at-large, each for 3-year terms, and the Committee Members select one of their members to serve as mayor for a one-year term -- since its founding in 1806.

## CHATHAM TODAY

The character of Chatham Borough still reflects its early roots. The town grew as real estate developers purchased land and built homes for commuters in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Within the Borough's 2.4 square miles, there are residential areas reflecting the wide range of housing styles popular in America in the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, a charming central business district on Main Street, small retail centers on the east and west ends of Main Street, several garden apartment complexes, and small industrial areas on the periphery of the town. As of the 2010 census, the population of Chatham Borough is 8962. (The population of neighboring Chatham Township is 10,452.)

There are numerous annual events in which Chatham Borough celebrates and preserves its small town character, including the [Fishing Derby at Kelley's Pond](#), the [Fishawack Festival](#), the [Fourth of July Parade](#), and the [Green Fair](#). In addition, a [Farmers' Market](#) operates at the Railroad Station from late June to mid-November, providing shoppers with the opportunity to buy New Jersey grown produce, locally-baked goods, meat and fish, and other foodstuffs.

John T. Cunningham, in his preface to [Chatham: At the Crossing of the Fishawack](#), states "I doubt that any other community of Chatham's size in this country has ever taken such a detailed look at its history." More information about the history of the Chathams can be found in the following books, available at the Library of the Chathams or the Chatham Historical Society.

### Books

1. [History of Chatham, New Jersey](#). Ambrose Ely Vanderpoel. 1959 Detailed, scholarly work, dwelling heavily on the War of Independence.
2. [Chatham: At the Crossing of the Fishawack](#). John T. Cunningham. 1967. The story of Chatham from its beginnings through 1966.
3. [Shepard Kollock: Editor for Freedom](#). John R. Anderson. 1975. The story of the New-Jersey Journal and its publisher in Chatham, 1779-83.
4. [A Village at War](#). Donald Wallace White. 1979. A story of the people of Chatham, New Jersey, at the time of the American Revolution.
5. [Memories Entwined with Roses](#). Ruth Pierson Churchill. 1984.

### Pamphlet

"Washington's Ruse de Guerre." Ambrose Ely Vanderpoel. Reprint of Chapter XVI of History of Chatham.

[Link to the Chatham Historical Society website]

## MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

In addition to the federal government, the state and county governments exercise authority over municipal governments.

## Federal Government

New Jersey's Senators are Joseph Lautenberg (Democrat) and Robert Menendez (Democrat). [Links]  
Chatham Borough is in the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, which is represented in Congress by Rodney Frelinghuysen (Republican). [Link]

## State Government

The source of all municipal power comes from the state, which has delegated certain powers and responsibilities. State influences felt most directly concern state highways, licensing and inspection activities of the [Division of Motor Vehicles](#), environmental protection, and the state sales and income taxes.

Chatham Borough is in the 26th Legislative District and is represented in the State Senate by Senator Joseph Pennacchio (Republican) and Assemblymen Alex Decroce (Republican) and Jay Webber (Republican).

[Link to State of New Jersey]

[Links to the legislative sites?]

## County Government

County governments in New Jersey, like municipal governments, derive all of their powers from the state. Services provided by Morris County are in the following areas: courts and law enforcement; health, welfare, and institutions; education; county roads and bridges; and the recording of documents.

Other services provided by Morris County include a county library, parks, mosquito control, and county planning. State-appointed and state-paid county commissions oversee the areas of taxation and elections.

The Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders, which administers the county government system, has seven members elected from the county at large.

[Link to Morris County]

## Borough Government

The Borough of Chatham is administered through the combined efforts of elected officials, appointed board members, and employees of the Borough. [Organizational Chart]

The Borough plan under which Chatham operates provides for a mayor and six council members. The mayor serves a four-year term. Each year two of the six council members are elected to three-year terms. All elections are partisan. The mayor and council members are not paid for their service, and do not receive stipends, health or pension benefits.

## Mayor

The mayor maintains order, executes state laws and local ordinances, makes personnel appointments with the advice and consent of the Borough Council, and recommends measures to assure the welfare of the Borough. The mayor presides at Borough Council meetings but has no vote except in case of a tie. He or she may veto measures, but the Council may override the veto by a two-thirds vote. By right of office the mayor serves as a member of all Borough committees.

Pictures of Chatham Borough's past mayors are in the main entryway of Borough Hall.

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

{Note the current Elected Official page has list of current mayor and council and contact}

The duties of the six-member Borough Council include passing local ordinances and resolutions, awarding contracts for public works, approving appointments made by the mayor, making appointments as provided by law, setting the budget and tax levy, and handling bond issues.

Council meetings are open to the public. The time and place of the meetings are set at the council's re-organization meeting during the first week of January. The Borough Council holds its regular business meetings on the second and fourth Monday (unless Monday is a holiday) of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the municipal building (also known as "Borough Hall"), 54 Fairmount Avenue. (The Council sometimes meets only once a month during the summer months and December.) The mayor or a majority of the council may call special meetings.

The agenda for each Borough Council meeting is generally available on the Friday before the meeting and is posted on the Borough web site. Borough Council meetings are broadcast live on Cablevision Channel 21 and FIOS Channel 32, and are also rebroadcast frequently. DVDs of the meetings can be purchased from the Municipal Clerk.

The Borough Council elects a president from its members by a majority vote at the annual re-organization meeting. The Borough Council president serves a one-year term and presides at council meetings when the mayor is absent.

In addition to other duties, each council member chairs one Borough committee and serves on two others. The committees are as follows:

### Budget and Finance

*Financial oversight and planning; preparation of the budget; review of fees.*

### Communications

*Web site and community TV development, maintenance, policy and planning*

### Capital Infrastructure Planning

*Infrastructure planning and capital program oversight*

### Public Safety and Emergency Services

*Oversight of police, fire and the department of public works*

Shared Services and 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Agreements

*Planning, evaluation and management of shared services*

Council members also serve on the Madison-Chatham Joint Meeting, which operates the sewage treatment plant located in Chatham Borough on North Passaic Avenue that is shared with Madison, and its two committees: Operating Committee . Finance Committee

## LOCAL ORDINANCES

Municipal laws, known as ordinances, are adopted by the Borough Council. These ordinances cover a wide range of topics, including speed limits, parking, the various boards, commissions and committees, and land use. [Link to Code]

A proposed ordinance is introduced at a Borough Council business meeting on what is called the “first reading.” After introduction, it is advertised in full in the official municipal newspaper, currently the *Chatham Courier*, and posted on the Borough’s web site.

The proposed ordinance is then “introduced on second reading” at the “hearing,” which takes place at another scheduled business meeting. The ordinance can then be passed, defeated, or held over for further consideration. If the ordinance passes, it is then advertised, by title only, in the official newspaper..

## Open Public Meetings Law

New Jersey’s “Open Public Meeting Act” took effect on January 19, 1976. The law ensures the right of all citizens to have advance notice of and to attend all meetings of public bodies where discussion or action on public business take place. The act allows certain limited exceptions to protect the public interest and to preserve personal privacy. Such exceptions might include personnel matters, collective bargaining, litigation or contract negotiations, or investigations of violations of the law. The act also requires certain public bodies to set aside a portion of their meetings for the public to make comments.

The Open Public Meetings Law applies to all boards in Chatham that perform governmental functions and spend public funds. These boards must post in January a schedule of the regular meetings for that year. Work or conference meetings are also open to the public. Boards may hold special meetings by posting a “48-hour notice” in a public place and publishing in two newspapers. Specific restrictions apply to emergency meetings so that the public receives notice as soon as possible.

The law requires that each public body keep minutes of its meetings and make those minutes promptly available to the public. Residents may read or photocopy (for which a reasonable fee may be charged) the minutes of municipal meetings at Borough Hall, or the Library of the Chathams. Minutes are also published on the Borough web site [Link to Agenda and Minutes]

## Boards/Commissions and Advisory Committees

Many Chatham citizens serve the community on various boards and commissions that oversee specific governmental areas, especially in matters relating to land use. The members of these bodies are not paid for their service, but the service they provide is essential to the community. Members are appointed to these bodies by the mayor, by the mayor with the consent of the Council, or by the Council, depending on the applicable state law or municipal ordinance.

To apply to serve on a board, commission or committee, simply submit the “Application for Appointment to Borough Boards, Commissions and Committees” available on the web site [Link] and at the Municipal Clerk’s office.

Schedules of Borough meetings are posted at the municipal building and listed in the Borough calendar.

#### PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board consists of six citizens appointed for four-year terms, the mayor, one Borough council member, one municipal official, and two alternates, appointed for one-year terms. The Planning Board’s responsibilities include adoption of a Master Plan and development of zoning ordinance. Members must be familiar with municipal land use laws and local ordinances and attend a half-day state-mandated training class.

[Link to Planning Board page]

#### ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Zoning Board of Adjustment has seven members, appointed for four-year terms, and two alternates, appointed for a one-year term. One member is also a member of the planning board. Members must be familiar with municipal land use laws and local ordinances and attend a half-day state-mandated training class.

[Link to Zoning Board of Adjustment page]

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

The Environmental Commission has seven members appointed for three-year terms, including one representative from the Planning Board. This commission has played a major role in preserving open space, monitors environmental concerns and is also authorized to review site plans. The Environmental Commission has been the host of Chatham’s Green Fairs.

[Link to Environmental Commission Page]

#### HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Historic Preservation Commission, created in 1988, advises the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment on applications that involve historic districts and historic sites. The commission has five members appointed for four-year terms and two alternates who serve for two alternating terms.



[\[Link to Historic Preservation Commission Page\]](#) [\[Link to Map of Historic District\]](#)

#### BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health consists of seven members appointed for three-year terms. This board grants food licenses and investigates health related complaints. A state licensed health officer and a sanitarian carry out the board's inspections and licensing.

[\[Link to Board of Health page\]](#)

#### LOCAL ASSISTANCE BOARD

Serving on the Local Assistance Board are four local citizen members, appointed for four-year terms, and one Borough council member, appointed for a one-year term. The board handles claims for local aid and works with the Borough welfare director.

#### SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Five members of the Shade Tree Commission, appointed for five-year terms, oversee the planting and removal of Borough owned trees and advise on their placement and choice of species.

[\[Link to Shade Tree Commission page\]](#)

#### THE LIBRARY OF THE CHATHAMS AND THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The mayors of Chatham Borough and Chatham Township, the superintendent of schools, and three members from each town sit on the library board of trustees. The community members are appointed for five-year terms. The board oversees the operation of the Library of the Chathams

[\[Link to Library\]](#)

#### CHATHAM JOINT RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The mayors of Chatham Borough and Chatham Township, a Borough council member, a Township committee member, a representative of the School District of the Chathams, and 3 residents from each town constitute the regular members of the Joint Recreation Advisory Committee, which provides advice and recommends policy regarding the joint recreation program.

[\[Link to Chatham Recreation\]](#)

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Farmers' Market

Communications Technology

Public Arts Council

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee

9/11 Memorial

Green Initiatives

Land & Historic Preservation Conservancy

Municipal Pool Advisory Committee

Parking Task Force Advisory Committee

COAH Advisory Committee

## EMPLOYEES

Chatham Borough has about 50 full time and several part time employees. An employee is hired by the Borough Council upon the recommendation of the pertinent council committee and department head. Chatham has no civil service commission. Employees are promoted on the basis of merit. An annual salary review considers merit and increases in the cost of living. The Chatham Boro DPW Association, Inc. represents employees in the public works department. The Patrolmen's Benevolent Association represents members of the police department.

[Link to Salary Ordinance and Salary Resolution for the current year. Salaries are in the December 2009 minutes.]

Employees of Chatham Borough come under one of two retirement programs. All employees, other than those of the police department, are covered by the Public Employees' Retirement System of New Jersey. Police officers are members of the State Police and Fireman's Retirement System. Both the employees and the Borough contribute to these programs. Employees are also provided health insurance.

## BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR

In 1970 the position of Borough Administrator was established by local ordinance. The administrator manages the business affairs of the Borough, consults with department heads about operations, and directs corrective action when necessary. The administrator also attends meetings with the mayor and the Borough

Council and makes recommendations to the Council on municipal budgets, financial, operational and personnel matters.

#### CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Chief Financial Officer oversees functions such as development and management of the budget, purchasing, bill paying, payroll, and investment.

#### BOROUGH ATTORNEY

The Borough attorney, appointed annually by the mayor and Council, attends Council meetings and work sessions. The Borough attorney's office represents the Borough in legal matters and draws up some Borough ordinances and resolutions. The Borough attorney is not an employee of the Borough, but is instead an attorney who works for the Borough pursuant to a professional services contract.

#### BOROUGH CLERK

The Borough clerk is appointed yearly and gains tenure after five years. Duties include attending and keeping minutes of all Council meetings, advertising hearings, as well as attesting contracts, deeds, and certificates of indebtedness. The clerk also registers voters and sends registration records to the County Board of Elections, receives nominating petitions of candidates for local and county committee offices, and notifies successful candidates and certifies their election. In addition, the Borough clerk is the registrar of all Borough vital statistics, assumes custody of all Borough records and issues certain licenses and permits, such as birth, death and marriage certificates.

#### BOROUGH ENGINEER

The Borough engineer is responsible for drawing up plans and specifications for all municipal construction, for seal-coating of roads, and for installation of sidewalks. The engineer reviews all subdivision and site plans submitted to the planning board and is responsible for inspection of subdivisions.

#### SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

#### CHIEF OF POLICE

#### TAX ASSESSOR

The tax assessor is licensed and certified by the state and appointed by the mayor and council. The assessor is responsible for assessing all properties in town. Property assessments are the basis for determining the tax rate.

#### TAX COLLECTOR

The tax collector is responsible for mailing tax bills and collecting tax payments. A professional property evaluation performed by the tax assessor is the basis of the tax rate. The tax rate is set by the Borough Council and determines the amount of taxes owed on each property.

#### CONSTRUCTION OFFICER

The construction code enforcement official issues building permits for any new construction or renovation.

[Link to Construction Office]

#### ZONING OFFICER

The Zoning Officer, is responsible for assuring that use of property in the Borough conforms to the local zoning ordinances.

[Link to Construction Office]

#### JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT OF MADISON, THE CHATHAMS AND HARDING

Established in February 2011, the Joint Municipal Court holds probable cause hearings on all indictable offenses. County authorities then handle the case when the accused is subject to indictment and trial by jury. Other serious cases are referred to the county court in Morristown.

#### Joint Municipal Court Judge

The municipal court judge presides over the Joint Municipal Court. Municipal court is in session at Madison Borough Hall. Jurisdiction includes violations of municipal ordinances, motor vehicle and traffic laws, fish and game laws, and the Disorderly Persons Act. The judge may arraign persons accused of a crime committed in the Borough, issue warrants for arrest and search, and set bail.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### REVENUES/PROPERTY TAXES

The property tax levied on real estate has historically been the chief source of income for municipalities, schools, and counties in the state of New Jersey.

The Borough acts as tax collector for the schools and the county as well as for the municipality. Monthly payments are made to the board of education in sums sufficient to operate the school system. The Borough pays its share of the county taxes to the county treasurer quarterly.

### TAX BILLS

Tax bills are mailed to residents in late spring/early summer of each year after the municipal, school district and county budgets are finalized. There are four payments, due on the first day of February, May, August, and November. The first two (for the third and fourth quarters) include adjustments for the difference between the present and previous tax rates. The last two payments (first and second quarters) are charged at the current rate.

A ten-day grace period is permitted for the payment of these installments. After the grace period, Chatham Borough charges interest on delinquent taxes at the rate of 8 percent per year. If an individual delinquent account exceeds \$1,500, interest is charged on the amount in excess of \$1,500 at the rate of 18 percent per year.

### TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR VETERANS AND SENIOR CITIZENS

State law allows honorably discharged veterans who served during time of war or national emergency, and surviving spouses of such veterans, a deduction of up to \$50 on their property tax. This deduction can be obtained by presenting an application and honorable discharge papers at the municipal offices. To qualify for the deduction in a given year, the veteran must have owned the property in question on October 1 of the preceding year.

In 1983 state legislation provided for a property tax reduction of \$250 for senior citizens 65 years or older, residing in New Jersey for at least three years, and with an income of less than \$10,000 per year. The applicant must own and live in the home on which the deduction is claimed. Application for this deduction is made on forms that are available at the tax collector's office.

Municipalities are reimbursed by the state for these deductions on property taxes.

### OTHER REVENUES

In addition to property taxes and general revenue-sharing funds, the Borough derives operating revenues from a number of other sources, such as various license fees, permit fees, and receipts and interest on delinquent taxes.

The Borough participates in other programs which provide inter-governmental revenue: supplemental safe neighborhood program, supplemental fire service program, DWI enforcement fund, alcohol education and rehabilitation program, state highway aid for street lighting, department of transportation assistance for road improvement grant, and Morris County drainage improvement grant.

The Borough administrator, as acting treasurer, and the chief financial officer oversee custody of all Borough funds and are responsible for their proper investments, The Borough clerk participates in carrying out some of these duties.

State law limits the types of investment allowed for municipal funds. Local governments may invest only in debt instruments of New Jersey financial institutions or the United States government for a one-year or shorter term.

Municipal accounts are audited annually. The audit is available for public inspection at the municipal offices and is filed with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. A summary of the audit is published in the official newspaper.

State statute limits the amount of indebtedness a municipality or a school district may incur. The municipal government may borrow up to 3.5% of the equalized valuation basis which is the average of the equalized valuation of real estate in the municipality of the previous three years. The board of education may borrow up to 4% of that figure. Chatham Borough has a \_\_\_\_\_ rating.

The issuance of bonds may be authorized for municipal capital improvements by ordinance. Following a duly advertised public hearing, a two-thirds vote of the Borough Council is required to authorize such bonding.

School district bonds must be authorized by a referendum, which is normally held in the spring with the regular board of education election.

## CHATHAM BOROUGH

### ROADS AND SIDEWALKS

The Borough of Chatham contains about 32 miles of roads. New Jersey owns and maintains 1.5 miles of Main Street, and Morris County owns Watchung, North Passaic and Fairmount Avenues (3 miles). The remaining 27.5 miles are owned and maintained by the Borough, using local tax revenues augmented by some state funds.

Sidewalks are located on the public street right of way. Property owners must install and maintain sidewalks. There is an ordinance that requires homeowners to clear snow and ice from their sidewalks within the first 12 hours of daylight after a snowfall. Failure to do so could result in a **fine**.

*A two-hour parking limit is in effect on all streets in the Borough between midnight and 6:00 am. Parking is available at 421 metered spaces in lots on the north and south sides of the railroad station, beside the post office. Free parking near the downtown shopping area is available in Post Office Plaza, Firehouse Plaza and in the Center Street lot off Main Street. Residents may purchase monthly parking permits at Borough hail instead of paying daily fees.*

### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The public works department is responsible for maintenance and repair of Borough-owned facilities, including streets and curbs, parks and other land, and buildings. The public works crew also maintain the storm and sanitary sewer systems and deal with some drainage problems. They also conduct fall curbside leaf pickup.

The superintendent of public works heads the department. His staff includes a senior foreman, a road foreman, a foreman for parks and sewers, a leadman, a mechanic, a dispatcher and several equipment operators. The public works department is located between the middle school and Van Doren Avenue.

Madison and Chatham Boroughs jointly own and operate a sewage treatment plant, known as the Molitor Pollution Control Facility, located on 17 acres off North Passaic Avenue in Chatham. The Madison-Chatham Joint Meeting, with representation from both Borough Councils, administers the facility. The position of chairman alternates annually between the mayors of the two municipalities.

## UTILITIES

The water department, located at the public works department, is the only utility completely owned and operated by the Borough of Chatham. Water comes from three wells about 150 feet deep, which draw on Borough-owned water fields within Chatham and Florham Park. Water is then pumped to standpipes on Longwood Avenue for storage and pressure.

Residents pay the Borough quarterly for water usage. Additional revenue comes to the Borough for use of the fire hydrants, which the water department owns and maintains.

In May 1980 the federal Environmental Protection Agency officially gave a "sole source" designation to the underground aquifer that supplies water to Chatham and other areas in northern New Jersey. This designation means that before any new construction can be built using federal funds in the aquifer recharge area, an environmental impact study must be conducted to determine the potential effect on the aquifer. Chatham has representation on the Passaic Valley Groundwater Protection Committee, whose goal is protection of the aquifer.

Other utilities are provided in Chatham by the Public Service Electric and Gas Company (gas), and the Jersey Central Power and Light Company (electricity). The Borough receives a percentage of revenues from these utilities, which are assessed by the State.

[Solid Waste and Recycling information]

## MULCH AREA

Residents may bring leaves, grass clippings, and branches for disposal to the mulch area behind Milton Avenue School. A permit sticker must be obtained from Borough Hall .for use of this facility. It is open every Saturday from 12 noon to 4 p.m. and on Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Residents may carry away free

compost, wood chips, and gravel for use in their yards and gardens. Employees of the public works department staff the depot.

The public works department collects leaves from the curbs and streets during the weeks of heaviest leaf fall, normally beginning in the second week of October. Leaves are to be placed along the curb on the lawn and not in the street. Residents may also bag their leaves and transport them to the Mulch Area (the Borough does not collect bags).

#### CHATHAM BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (supplemental information)

The Chatham Borough Environmental Commission, established in 1969 by Borough ordinance, consists of seven members appointed by the mayor for three-year terms. The commission meets once a month. One member of the Borough Council serves as a liaison to the commission, and one member of the environmental commission is also a member of the planning board.

The commission acts as an advisory body to the Borough Council. Its primary function is to study open land and water areas within the Borough and to make recommendations concerning their future use. The commission may recommend changes in the master plan to the planning board.

A key responsibility is the review of site development plans from an environmental point of view. Recommendations are then made to the planning board concerning such aspects as impervious coverage of surfaces, control of storm water, water consumption, emission of toxins, noise, energy use, vegetation, and aesthetics.

In 1975 the commission published an Open-Space Report identifying undeveloped land owned by the Borough, the board of education, and private citizens. Characteristics were detailed and proposals were made for land use and protection. This report was followed in 1976 by a Natural Resources Inventory, which included a description and maps of the geology, hydrology, soils, and vegetation of the Borough. Recommendations from these reports are included in the Borough master plan.

The environmental commission was instrumental in securing state and federal funds for purchase of the Warren Tract, 14.2 acres of land along the Passaic River south of Main Street. After detailed study of this area, the commission made recommendations concerning its scenic and recreational potential and also made suggestions to protect the flood plain from encroachment.

As development continues to intensify around the town, the commission will inventory remaining open spaces with the hope that Chatham may preserve more public open space for the future.

#### PROTECTIVE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

All police, fire and medical emergencies are 911

#### THE POLICE DEPARTMENTS OF the CHATHAMS



The Chatham Borough Police Department operates from its headquarters in the municipal building on Fairmount Avenue. The department has a chief of police who directs the overall operation of the department and reports to local government officials. The chief of police answers to the county prosecutor and the state attorney general for enforcement of the law. The chief is appointed by the mayor, with the advice and consent of the Borough Council.

In addition to emergency services, the primary duties of police officers include criminal investigation, crime prevention, and traffic and public safety. Included on the force is a juvenile officer who deals with young offenders. Working with the crime prevention officer, the juvenile officer presents "Dangerous Stranger" and alcohol/drug abuse prevention programs in local schools.

School crossing guards and police officers control traffic at the busiest street intersections before and after school.

Persons wishing to become police officers in New Jersey must be between 18 and 35 years old, a high school graduate, a citizen of the United States and a resident of New Jersey. They must pass written, physical and psychological examinations. Successful candidates are appointed by the Borough Council on recommendation of the chief of police. They must then complete a certified police training academy program and a one-year probation. Officers must periodically demonstrate proficiency with firearms.

Prisoners confined in local jails usually are transferred to county facilities within 24 hours. Juvenile offenders are detained in the Morris County Youth Center in Morris Township.

#### PROJECT COMMUNITY PRIDE

The police departments of Chatham Borough, Madison, Florham Park and East Hanover jointly sponsor a program called "Project Community Pride". The program offers alternatives to the court system for local youth, who commit minor offenses, such as vandalism.

On a case by case basis, a juvenile officer may recommend that the young offender work a number of hours for a participating local organization. The officer may also suggest counseling for the young person or the whole family. A network of 30 local non-profit organizations, churches and schools administer both the work service program and provide family counseling. This service is offered to any family residing in the participating communities who is in need of assistance. In cases that are more serious, an offender is referred to the juvenile conference committee or to family court.

Parents who are concerned with their child's difficulty in dealing with friends, school, drugs and alcohol, unhappiness, boredom, parents, dating, or sex may contact Project Community Pride at 973-593-3032. Day and evening appointments are available. The office is staffed by qualified professionals. All contacts are confidential.

#### JUVENILE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The juvenile conference committee is an arm of the county family court. Its members are eight local men and women appointed by the family court judge. Their job is to confer with juveniles who have committed minor offenses, and with their parents, in order to avoid a family court hearing and possible delinquency record.

The committee receives a case when a complaint is made or when the case is referred to the committee by the family court. A conference with the committee is voluntary for the young person and the parents, but if the invitation is refused, the case may be referred to the family Court for a hearing.

After meeting with the youthful offender and the parents, the committee members devise a program to help eliminate the causes of anti-social behavior. They may recommend repayment of damages, participation in certain groups or activities, professional guidance, periodic reporting to the committee, appearance in family court, or other suitable restrictions or actions.

#### CHATHAM EMERGENCY SQUAD

The Chatham Emergency Squad is an all volunteer first aid and ambulance service. It serves both the township and the Borough from buildings on Spring Street and North Passaic Avenue. The squad currently runs three fully equipped ambulances to provide emergency and basic life support service 24 hours/day.

All medical emergency calls are dispatched by the police. Non-emergency ambulance transportation is available and must be arranged in advance. These services are provided free of charge and are funded through private donations and an annual fund drive.

Persons interested in joining the squad must be a minimum of eighteen years old, of good health, and have a clean driving record.

Upon acceptance members complete a certified Emergency Medical Technician course within their 18-month probation.

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Office of Emergency Management, formerly known as the Office of Civil Defense, evolved from the Civil Defense and Disaster Act of 1953. Chatham Borough supports an Office of Emergency Management staffed by a coordinator and one or two deputies.

The coordinator develops a plan to organize the emergency response activities and efforts of the various emergency services groups, municipal employees and volunteer groups. The office activates and coordinates the community's response to natural or man-made disasters when the incident exceeds the scope of regular municipal operations.

The Borough's office is headquartered at Borough Hall.

## DIVISION OF YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

The Division of Youth and Family Service is a state agency committed to the protection of children, preservation of family life and a policy of the least intervention. The agency is mandated by law to respond to all referrals of suspected physical or emotional abuse, neglect, sexual abuse or abandonment, of children caused by a parent, guardian or caregiver. (Physical or sexual abuse and assault inflicted by a stranger is a criminal offense under the jurisdiction of law enforcement.)

New Jersey law requires that anyone having information regarding possible child abuse report immediately to the division. The local telephone number, during regular business hours is 973-927-0931 and the state-wide toll-free number is 1-800-792-8610.

## MORRIS COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The Morris County Board of Social Service provides protective services for adults, especially the elderly and disabled. This unit helps arrange for legal and medical services, such as attorney fees for guardianships, medical and psychiatric examination fees and emergency 24-hour homemaker or home health care. Those at risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation or self abuse should call the intake office at 973-326-7800.

## JERSEY BATTERED WOMEN'S SERVICE

The Jersey Battered Women's Service, Inc. (JBWS) is a private, non-profit, Morris County agency dedicated to helping battered women and their children live in safety.

JBWS maintains a 24-hour hotline (973-267-4763), emergency shelter for women and their children, individual and group counseling for women, advocacy, children's services, community education and counseling for abusive men.

## OPERATION REASSURANCE

Senior citizens living alone may arrange to participate in Operation Reassurance.

Each participant agrees to call police headquarters in the Borough (973-635-8000) by 10 a.m. every day. If the police do not receive a call, they will telephone or go to the home to make sure that all is well.

Hospitals that serve the Chathams are located within a 10 or 15 minute drive.

The nearest facilities are Overlook Hospital in Summit, Morristown Memorial Hospital in Morristown, and St. Barnabas Hospital in Livingston.

## FIRST CALL FOR HELP

First Call For Help is the information and referral service of Morris County. Finding solutions to problems can be difficult if you do not know where to begin. No matter what your concern, First Call For Help staff can guide you to the organization social service and program available to assist you. First Call For Help is confidential and free to residents in Morris County. The service is available Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at 973-898-0550 or 1-800-HELP-555.

## NEW JERSEY BELL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

The New Jersey Bell telephone directory contains a section titled community service numbers. The section lists frequently called telephone numbers of community service organizations and crisis hotlines.

#### POISON CONTROL INFORMATION CENTER

The Poison Control Information Center at Overlook Hospital in Summit (908-522-2232) provides information on toxic substances and antidotes.

#### CHATHAM BOROUGH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chatham Borough's volunteer fire department consists of six individual companies totaling about 60 members. The department, officially organized in May 1898, has attained a "Class C" fire insurance rating, the highest possible for a volunteer department, that allows residents to have the lowest fire insurance premium rates available for a municipality of Chatham's size.

In 1959 the department moved to its present location at Firehouse Plaza. Mobile equipment consists of three pumpers with a combined capacity of 2,500 gallons, one aerial hook-and-ladder truck, two rescue trucks, and a van.

Volunteers are trained at the Morris County Fire and Police Academy. The department has one full-time paid employee, whose responsibilities include inspecting the Borough's industries, stores, schools, churches, multi-family dwellings, and nursing homes. Maintaining equipment, operating department headquarters, and monitoring fire safety in the schools are also part of the job.

The Chatham Fire Department has a chief, appointed by the mayor with the consent of the council, and three assistant chiefs elected by their colleagues. The department is organized into six companies: two engine companies, one hose company, one hook-and-ladder company, one rescue company and wardens' company. Firefighters may become wardens after they have reached age 55, have served for seven years and have participated in 60% of the department activities in each of those years. They are then exempt from certain departmental chores.

The rescue company's primary function is extracting people from automobile accidents, a skill that is shared with neighboring communities.

A prospective volunteer firefighter must be a Borough resident between the ages of 18 and 40, pass a physical examination, and be elected by the other volunteers and approved by the Borough Council. To maintain their status, volunteers must participate in 60% of all annual activities, which include fighting fires and attending departmental meetings and drills conducted by the chief and department heads. The department reports to the Borough Council fire committee.

Volunteer firefighters serve without pay, but the chief receives a part-time salary. The Borough carries Workers Compensation insurance on all firemen, and the department operates a mutual benefit fund and an insurance program.

Members of the department sponsor community activities which include the annual Fourth of July celebration, the Sparky Fire Department for elementary-age children, the Fishing Derby and the arrival of

Santa Claus. They also conduct a curbside pickup of Christmas trees just after the holidays, usually on the first Sunday in January. The fire department participates in area parades and competitions, and has amassed a collection of trophies over the years.

#### SENIOR RESOURCE OFFICE OF THE CHATHAMS

The Senior Resource Office is an information and referral service with a staff of two located at the Chatham Methodist Church on Main Street and at the Senior Center, 58 Meyersville Road, in the township. The office provides services and information to senior Chatham residents in the areas of housing, transportation, and financial and legal concerns.

The Senior Community Center of the Chathams, open 9:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily, at 58 Meyersville Road, provides recreational, educational and social programs designed to meet the needs of older residents in cooperation with existing clubs and community programs. The senior resource office and the senior community center telephone number is 973-635-4565.

#### SENIOR CITIZENS TRANSPORTATION

Free transportation for senior citizens is provided by volunteer organizations generally between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays. Advance reservations are required. Call the senior resource office for information.

#### CHATHAM BOROUGH

##### BOARD OF HEALTH

The Chatham Borough Board of Health is an advisory and policy making body composed of seven members appointed by the mayor and council for overlapping three year terms. The board enforces state and local health codes and regulations within its sphere of authority. The board meets each month to hear reports from its inspectors and to consider other matters.

The board of health addresses conditions that are considered hazardous to the public health. Such conditions could include littering or garbage dumping, animal bites, unsanitary conditions in the food establishments or lack of heat in multi-family dwellings. The board of health secretary can be reached between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at 635-0683.

The board annually appoints the health officer, sanitarian, and a secretary-registrar. The health officer, shared with Madison supervises programs and conducts statistical studies.

##### HEALTH OFFICER AND SANITARIAN

Responsibilities of the health officer include enforcing state and local sanitary and quarantine codes, conducting clinics, and filing communicable disease and other reports. The health officer and the sanitarian inspect the food markets and eating places and may revoke licenses. In addition, health authorities

supplement bi-monthly inspections, made by a private laboratory, of drinking water and public swimming pools. Four times a year a private laboratory tests samples of drinking water from Borough wells.

## CLINICS

*The board of health sponsors several clinics for Borough residents under the supervision of the health officer. Blood pressure testing is conducted following the Senior Citizens Club meeting on the third Thursday of each month. Flu shots are provided for senior citizens and others who are chronically ill or in a high risk category each fall.*

## DOG AND CAT LICENSES

The Borough contracts with St. Hubert's Giralda in Madison for dog warden services. Dogs and cats must be licensed at seven months of age. Licenses must be renewed in January of each year at Borough hall. Dogs are not permitted to run at large and owners are responsible for removing dropping from streets and neighboring properties. A free rabies clinic is held in May of each year.

## HEALTH SERVICES AND HEALTH OFFICER

In 1972, under the provisions of state law, the board of health entered into a contract with the Borough of Madison, which entitled the township to the part-time services of a professional health officer and to participate in other health services available at the Madison Clinic (some of which are mandated by the State Department of Health).

A variety of health services are available. In the Well Baby Clinic, mothers of newborn babies can be visited by a public health nurse who offers instruction in infant care. Child health conferences are provided for pre-school children and immunizations are given to children in school who need to update their medical records. Flu clinics are scheduled for senior citizens and the chronically ill.

Madison is reimbursed by the township for all services provided.

The health officer receives health reports from the state and brings them to the attention of the board of health, which may then inform citizens. Such reports might concern immunization programs, preventive medicine, or diagnostic clinics. The health officer also is responsible for the enforcement of quarantines of specified communicable diseases. All dog and cat bites are reported to him; the animal in question is quarantined for ten days. If the health of an animal is questionable, he transports it to the State Department of Health for analysis.

The health officer makes inspections of all food markets and eating places in the township and may revoke licenses. He monitors swim clubs in the summer. He investigates all complaints of unsanitary conditions and serves an abatement notice against the owner of such property when necessary. His duties also include observation of percolation and permeability tests; and installation of individual sub-surface sewage disposal systems and wells.

## DOG LICENSES

Dogs must be licensed and kept under the owner's control. Licenses may be purchased or renewed each January at the municipal building. A rabies clinic is held in October of each year for dogs and cats.

Chapter 9

## LIBRARY OF THE CHATHAMS

The library is administered and tax-supported by both Chatham Borough and Chatham Township. All residents and people working in the Chathams are entitled to full usage and free borrowing privileges. Library materials include more than 72,000 books as well as magazines, newspapers and other publications, phonograph records and compact discs, audio and video cassettes, and an extensive reference section with a business/investment collection and televised ticker-tape reports. A reference librarian is always available to answer questions or help with research or student assignments.

[[Link to the Library](#)]

Patrons may use their membership cards at any public library in Morris County.

Thanks to the Morris-Union Federation, a library network, cardholders are also welcome to borrow from libraries in neighboring Summit, New Providence, Bernards Township and Berkeley Heights.

The library is located in the Borough, at 214 Main Street. Parking is available at the Memorial Park entrance, with access from North Passaic Avenue (driveway next to the community pool). Phone 973-635-0603.

## COUNTY PARK SYSTEM

The Morris County Park System adds to the township's open recreation areas. These county lands are maintained by the Morris County Parks Commission. Picnic tables and ball fields in the county parks may be reserved on weekdays (no weekend reservations are accepted) on a first come, first served basis. Reservations can be obtained by calling park police headquarters and requesting the reservation clerk. The telephone number is 326-7631. A nominal fee is charged.

County Parks in Chatham Township include:

### Passaic River Park

This park runs for about a mile along the Passaic River. There is an access road off River Road. Facilities include a picnic area with grills and a softball field.

### Loantaka Brook Reservation

A linear park with a total of 566 acres located through portions of Harding, Morris and Chatham Township. Included on this reservation is:

### Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center

Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center at 247 Southern Boulevard. This is a 40 acre area of county land adjacent to the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The center's personnel conduct classes, movies and other programs. A one-mile self-guided nature trail begins and ends at the education center. The center is open daily, but closed during July and August. Call 635-6629.

## THE GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The real centerpiece of the township is a place where time nearly stands still, the Great Swamp. The end of the last ice age, more than 10,000 years ago, saw the beginnings of the swamp. As the Wisconsin Glacier melted, water accumulated in a basin rimmed by the Watchung Mountains and Mt. Kemble. This body of water known as glacial Lake Passaic was ten miles wide, 30 miles long and 200 feet deep. As the lake eventually began to drain away, pockets of soggy woodland were left. The largest of these is the 8,000 acres of marshy meadow and woodland called the Great Swamp. It is a haven for more than 200 species of birds and 30 different animals. This unique preserved area combines marshes, ponds, meadows, wetlands and woodlands. Some 300,000 visitors explore the swamp and its trails each year.

A determined community effort was all that saved those trails from becoming noisy airport runways. In 1959 the New York Port Authority proposed a metropolitan jetport for the Great Swamp. Homeowners and conservationists joined together in a race to preserve as many acres as possible for a wildlife refuge. Volunteers worked to make the public aware of the swamp's importance and to raise money to purchase land designated for the bulldozer.

Today the refuge has grown to almost 6,800 acres, two-thirds a wilderness area, which, by Act of Congress, must be kept "forever wild" and one-third a Wildlife Management Area, where the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works to develop wildlife habitat.

## MORRISTOWN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARKS



For a time during the American Revolution, the U.S. military capital was in Morristown. It was the site of Washington's military headquarters and the main encampment of the Continental Army in the winters of 1777 and 1779-80. Here Washington reorganized his weary forces to withstand the strong British Army at New York. The park has three units.

#### Washington's Headquarters and Historical Museum and Library

The headquarters, 230 Morris Street, was built by Colonel Jacob Ford, Jr., between 1772 and 1774. During the winter of 1779-80, it was the home of General and Mrs. Washington. It has a collection of material related to Washington and his army, dioramas and a Stuart portrait of Washington.

#### Fort Nonsense

Reached from Washington Street, this was probably built at Washington's orders in 1777.

#### Jockey Hollow

Three miles southwest of Morristown, this area contains most of the campsites occupied by the Continental Army in 1779-80. An army hospital and huts of officers and soldiers have been reconstructed. The area is a wildlife sanctuary with flowers and trails. The Tempe Wick House is a restored 18th century farmhouse used as quarters by Major General Arthur St. Clair in

1779-80. A visitor's center nearby can answer questions and supply helpful information.

#### Fosterfields

A working farm where turn-of-the-century life is demonstrated. Includes walking tours, displays and films. Open Wednesday through Sunday and holidays, April to October. Telephone number is 326-7645.

Patriots' Path. A network of hiking trails, bikeways and green open space. For information, call 326-7600.

## CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Chatham residents participate in many worthwhile local and area organizations too numerous to list here. Information on these organizations can be found at the Chatham Library reference desk. Information on organized sports activities can be obtained from the board of recreation.

## PLACES OF WORSHIP

The following churches are located in the Chathams:

Chatham Township Presbyterian Church  
240 Southern Boulevard 635-2340

Chatham United Methodist Church

460 Main Street 635-7740

Chinese Community Church of Northern Jersey  
272 Green Village Road, G.V. 377-8211

Church of Christ  
382 Fairmount Avenue 635-6810

Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church  
234 Southern Boulevard 377-0070

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
300 Shunpike Road 635-5889

Gospel Hall  
310 Main Street 635-2054

Green Village Methodist Church  
Green Village Road, G.V. 377-1459

Long Hill Chapel, Christian & Missionary Alliance  
525 Shunpike Road 377-2255

Ogden Memorial Presbyterian Church  
Main Street and Elmwood Avenue 635-5567

#### ATTRACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church  
85 Washington Avenue 635-0625

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
200 Main Street 635-8085

Society of Friends  
158 Southern Boulevard 635-2161

Stanley Congregational Church (United Church of Christ) Fairmount Avenue and Oliver Street 635-7723

#### MADISON

Madison Baptist Church (Southern)  
203 Green Avenue 377-2121

## MORRISTOWN

Seventh Day Adventist Church  
Tempe Wick Road 539-2250

## SHORT HILLS

Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints  
140 White Oak Ridge Road 379-9736

## SUMMIT

First Church of Christ, Scientist  
292 Springfield Avenue (908) 273-1820

Jewish Community Center  
67 Kent Place Blvd. (908) 273-8130

Temple Sinai of Summit  
208 Summit Avenue (908) 273-4921

Unitarian Church  
4 Waldron Avenue  
(908) 273-3245

## WESTFIELD

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
250 Gallows Hill Road (908) 233-8533

Two special occasions in Chatham are **Fishawack Day, held biennially** in June, and the Fourth of July celebration, Fishawack Festival, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, includes sidewalk art shows, handicrafts, activities and booths by clubs and organizations, refreshments, concerts and wares on sale by Chatham merchants. The community Fourth of July activities, run by the Chatham Volunteer Fire Department, are highlighted by a parade in the morning and a fireworks display in the evening.

The Chatham Community Players, North Passaic Avenue, hosts amateur actors with a professional director. Several productions are scheduled during the year.

The Chatham Concert Association, launched in 1976, sponsors a concert series of internationally-known musical talent. Concerts are held at the high school. Information may be obtained by writing to Box 124, Chatham, NJ 07928.

## ACTIVITIES IN NEARBY COMMUNITIES

Throughout the year many cultural events, including concerts, plays, lectures and museum exhibits are available in Chatham and neighboring towns. Among them are:

The Paper Mill Playhouse, an old paper mill on Brookside Drive in Millburn has been converted to a modern theater featuring popular plays and musicals with Broadway stars. In fall and spring, children's productions are given on Saturday mornings and afternoons. It is the home of the New Jersey Ballet. The phone is 376-4343.

The New Jersey Shakespeare Festival at Drew University in Madison offers a series of plays with professional actors in the summer. The phone is 377-4487.

The Colonial Symphony, based in Madison, is a professional regional symphony that holds a winter concert series. The phone is 377-1310.

The Summit Symphony sponsors free concerts on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m.

There are movie theaters located in Madison and Chatham Township. Many others are located within a reasonable driving distance. Bowling, ice skating, roller skating and golf are also available in nearby towns. Additional information about the many things to see and do in the can be obtained through libraries, newspapers and other reference sources. Morris

#### PRIVATE CLUBS

Noe Pond Club. 395 Southern Blvd. Swimming, tennis, paddle.

Fairmount Country Club, 400 Southern Blvd. Golf, swimming, tennis.

Chatham Fish and Game 41 Fairmount Ave. Swimming, tennis, paddle, bowling and rifle range, social events.

Minisink Club, Princeton Street. Swimming, tennis, paddle.

Copper Springs Beach & Tennis Club, New Vernon Road, Meyersville. Swim-ming, tennis.

YMCA, Keep Street, Madison. Supported by the United Way, membership fees and contributions, the YMCA provides instruction and supervision in a full variety of physical education, recreation and social programs. Some programs do not require membership. Scholarship memberships are available.

County publishes a pamphlet entitled "Places to See-Things to Do In Morris County" which can be obtained from the Department of Industrial and Economic Development, Courthouse, Morristown, New Jersey 07960.

#### CHAPTER 9A

#### CHATHAM BOROUGH

In Chatham Borough the board of recreation helps fund, sponsor and organize boys football, wrestling and baseball, girls and boys soccer and basketball, and girls softball. In addition, there is softball and volleyball for women and softball and basketball for men.

Traveling teams are available as well, in baseball for boys and in soccer and basketball for girls and boys.

The board sells golf permits to Borough residents for the Millburn par three course.

Board of recreation funds are made available to senior citizen groups for trips and events of exceptional interest, to the Community Band to offset some of their expenses, and to MCARP (Morris County Adaptive Recreation Program) for assisting physically or otherwise handicapped persons.

A brochure describing in detail the recreational activities offered by the Borough is available at the municipal building and the Library of the Chathams.

For seven weeks during the summer the board of recreation sponsors activities for school-age children at Memorial Park and Garden Park. A brochure describing the programs is available in May.

Some of the activities offered are arts and crafts, basketball, kickball, baseball, knock hockey, tennis clinics and lessons, and swimming classes. Chatham Borough provides free tennis and swimming instruction to its youngsters.

The municipal swimming pool at Memorial Park is open at designated times from Memorial Day until the close of school. After that it is open daily until the end of Labor Day weekend. Permits can be obtained at the pool or at the municipal building.

## FACILITIES

### Memorial Park

Located behind the Library of the Chathams, Memorial Park has an all-purpose field with two baseball diamonds, a basketball practice area, general playground equipment, and swimming and wading pools with bathhouse facilities and lavatories.

### Garden Park

Garden Park adjoins the Chatham Middle School. The park contains six tennis courts, for the use of which the town issues permits, a tennis practice area, two ball walls, shuffleboard, general playground equipment, and an all-purpose court.

### Brookside Grove

The Brookside Grove area, located behind Milton Avenue School, includes an artificial spring-fed pond which is the site of the fire department's annual fishing derby for school children.

## VOTING, ELECTIONS, AND POLITICAL PARTIES

### VOTING

Registering to Vote

You must be registered in order to vote in any election in New Jersey. You may register to vote if you are or will be (1) a U.S. citizen residing, at the time you apply, in the district in which you expect to vote; (2) a resident of your county for 30 days by the date of the next election; and (3) 18 years old or more by the date of the next election.

You may register in person at Borough hall with the Borough clerk, at the township municipal building with the township clerk, or at the Morris County Board of Elections, 3 Schuyler Place, Morristown. You can also register by mail, using a registration form from the Board of Elections or the League of Women Voters. To vote in a specific election, you must be registered at least 29 days before that election.

Registration is permanent, but you must reregister if you fail to vote in any election for four consecutive years. You must also reregister if you change your name. If the change occurs within 28 days of an election, you may vote in that election only, using your former name. A move to another county requires re-registration.

All registered voters receive in the mail a sample ballot containing the following information: where to vote, polling hours, offices to be voted on, candidates, public questions, and how to use a voting machine. The sample ballot is the verification of your bona fide residence. Contact the county clerk if you have not received it one week prior to the election. Residents who have requested the post office to forward mail during the time of mailing sample ballots should inform the County Board of Elections, since sample ballots cannot be for-warded.

#### ELECTION DISTRICTS - CHATHAM BOROUGH

District Number for Primary & General Elections

1 St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish House

3 Milton Avenue School Gym

5 Washington Avenue School Gym

7 Washington Avenue School Gym

9 Middle School Auditorium

What Offices Do You Vote For?

There are four levels of government to which officials are elected in New Jersey: municipal, county, state, and federal.. In addition, the board of education members are elected in nonpartisan elections.

Chatham Borough has an elected mayor, who runs as a partisan nominee for a four-year term. Chatham voters also elect a Borough Council, consisting of six members who run as party nominees or independents. Council members are elected to serve three-year terms, with two elected each year.

#### PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS

In a primary you may vote only one party's ballot. Your first vote in a primary

District numbers for Primary & General Elections

- 1 Green Village Fire Department
- 3 Corpus Christi Church
- 5 Lafayette School
- 7 Chatham Township Town Hall
- 9 Church of Christ

Polls for primary and general elections are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Call the Superintendent of Schools for polling places for school elections. School election polls are open from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

#### ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots may be obtained by registered voters who cannot vote in person because of (1) expected absence from the state; (2) illness or physical disability, including blindness and pregnancy; (3) observance of a religious holiday; (4) resident attendance at school, college, or university; or (5) hours and nature of employment. A military service ballot can also be obtained by persons qualified to vote in that manner.

To vote by absentee ballot, apply in person or by mail to the county clerk for primary and general elections, to the Borough or township clerk for municipal elections, and to the school district clerk for board of education elections. State your home address, address to which the ballot should be sent, and the reason for the request, along with serial number where applicable. Sign with the same signature you use at the polls. The absentee ballot and instructions will be mailed to you.

Applications for absentee ballots must be received by mail no later than seven days prior and until 3 p.m. the day before the election, you may vote absentee in person at the office of the county clerk in Morristown. If you are ill or incapacitated, you may send someone as your messenger with written authorization to obtain your ballot and return it to the county clerk's office. For absentee procedures in board of education elections, check with the school district clerk.

No one receiving as absentee ballot shall be permitted to vote at his or her polling place. All absentee ballots must reach the county board of elections by the close of election day.

The five members of the Township Committee are elected at large for staggered three-year terms. The members of the Township Committee elect one of their number to a one-year term as mayor.

On the Morris County government level, voters elect seven members of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, a clerk, a surrogate, and a sheriff.

On the state level, the only executive elected is the governor, who serves a four-year term. Voters also elect representatives to the Senate and the Assembly. New Jersey is divided into 40 legislative districts, each of which is represented by one state senator and two state assembly persons. Chatham Borough is represented in legislative district #26. Chatham Township is in district #22.

On the federal level, New Jersey voters help elect the President and the Vice President. They also elect two U.S. Senators, who serve six-year terms and represent the entire state. For purposes of electing members of

the U.S. House of Representatives, the state is divided into 15 congressional districts. Each district elects one U.S. Representative for a two-year term. **The Chathams are presently in the 11th Congressional District.**

Primary elections are held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June. These are elections held by the major political parties to choose their candidates for the November general election. A “political party” is defined by state law to be one which received at least 5 percent of the total vote in the most recent General Assembly election. At present only the Democratic and the Republican Parties qualify.

#### GETTING ON THE BALLOT

**is deemed** a declaration of membership in the party whose ballot you voted. If you wish to change the party of your choice and vote in the other party’s primary, you must declare your party of current choice with the municipal or county clerk at least 50 days before the primary election.

General elections are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. In the general election you need not vote a straight party ticket. You may vote for whomever you choose for each office. You need not vote for a candidate for every office.

In any election you may “write in” your own choice for a particular office in the slot or space provided. Do not open this slot unless you intend to write in a name. Doing so will register as a vote and cannot be changed.

#### SCHOOL ELECTIONS

School elections are held on the first Tuesday in April for three purposes: to elect members to the local board of education, to vote on the school budget, and to authorize bond issues. School elections are run on a nonpartisan basis. Nominations are made by nominating petition with ten signatures, filed 40 days before the election with the school district clerk.

#### ELECTION MACHINERY

Each election district has a board of elections, consisting of four members (two Democrats and two Republicans) appointed by the county board of elections upon recommendation of each party’s county committee members. These members, who are appointed annually before the June primary, have the job of conducting the election at the district polling place.

On Election Day each candidate on the ballot is entitled to have two representatives, who are called “challengers,” at each polling place. In addition, each party is entitled to two official party challengers, whose function is to ensure that only those entitled to vote do so and that each registered voter casts one ballot only. Challengers also observe the recording of the vote tally at the end of the polling hours.

The New Jersey Election Law, known as Title 19, details the procedure for elections. Copies of the law are available from the Secretary of State, State House, Trenton, New Jersey 08625.

#### POLITICAL PARTY ORGANIZATION



## PARTY COMMITTEES

Political parties in New Jersey are organized at the lowest level by local election districts. Each party has a county committee which consists of one committee-man and woman from each unit of representation (One or more election districts are determined in the party's bylaws).

These committees perform the necessary party organizational work at the county and municipal levels. They are forbidden by law to endorse any candidate for any public or party position before the primary election.

A nominee for a partisan election may be included on the primary ballot by acquiring the necessary number of signatures from members of his or her own party who are registered voters in the nominee's own district. The winner in each party's primary becomes the candidate of the party in the general election. Write-in votes are permitted in all elections, so a potential nominee who cannot locate the required number of signatures may be nominated in this manner. A person who wishes to run in the general election without party label is classified as an "independent" candidate. Such a candidate may be placed on the ballot by filing a nominating petition with the county clerk no later than 40 days before the primary in order to run in the general election.

In the event a person nominated in the primary as a partisan is unable to run in the general election, a replacement may be nominated. The municipal committee nominates a replacement for local offices, the county committee nominates replacement candidates for county offices, and the state committee nominates replacements for state offices and for the U.S. congress.

Stanley Hall public school circa 1871, which later became the Stanley Congregational Church  
Former little red schoolhouse is now the home of the Chatham Historical Society  
OUR SCHOOLS...

## HISTORY

### Chapter 11

## EDUCATION IN THE CHATHAMS

Historically the Chathams have proudly supported excellence in education. Expanding from a single school that once met the needs of a rural village, the Chatham schools have experienced many changes as they have kept up with the growth of these two active suburban communities.

During most of the nineteenth century, the Borough remained part of Chatham Township. In 1805, the people of Chatham, recognizing the need for a school, pledged themselves to "build a new house with a steeple and bell fit for an Academy." The early Chatham Academy, located on Main Street at the site of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, was a private institution. In 1829, the first township school committee was formed to raise money to support common schools and the school committee took over management of Chatham Academy. In 1860, the Red Brick School House was built at 24 Southern Boulevard to house the school district first known as the Long Hill School, then as the Washington School, and finally as the Mount Vernon School.

The Chatham Academy served the community until 1873. At that time it was replaced by Budd Lane School on Passaic Avenue. Considered the latest in Victorian excellence, the Budd Lane School boasted 130 students and two teachers.

#### St. Patrick's School

Located at 45 Chatham Street, St. Patrick's Roman Catholic School is dedicated to the spiritual, intellectual, physical, and emotional formation of youth in a supportive community atmosphere.

The curriculum is designed for girls and boys from preschool through grade 8. The current teaching staff numbers 24, and the average class size is 19. Students are required to wear uniforms. Bus transportation or subsidy is available for those living a distance greater than two miles away. Tuition is charged.

For further information call the principal at 973-635-4623.

#### Nursery Schools and Child Care

#### Update and add Kirby/YMCA, The Learning Circle, Little Friends

##### 1. Chatham United Methodist Church Nursery School

Located at Chatham United Methodist Church, 460 Main Street. Enrollment =

90. Classes: 3-year-olds two mornings or afternoons a week; 4-year-olds three mornings or four afternoons a week. One teacher and one assistant per class.

Tuition: registration fee and yearly tuition payments. Parishioners and alumni families have one week preference in enrollment before the general public.

Non-denominational,

##### 2. St. Patrick's Pre-Kindergarten

Located at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, 45 Chatham Street. Enrollment = 60. Classes: 3-year-olds two afternoons a week; 4-year-olds three mornings or five mornings a week. One teacher and one assistant per class. Tuition: Registration fee and monthly tuition.

##### 3. Stanley Congregational Nursery School

Located at Stanley Congregational Church, Fairmount Avenue and Oliver Street. Enrollment = 130. Classes: Pre-3's two mornings a week; 3-year-olds two mornings or a three day session per week 4-year-olds three mornings and optional extended day session per week; 5-year-olds five afternoons per week. One teacher and one assistant per class. Tuition: registration fee and monthly tuition commensurate with number of days attended. Members of the church, current students and siblings have priority until mid-January. A two week summer program for 4, 5 and 6-year-olds is also available. Non-denominational.

Located at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 200 Main Street. Private, non-profit child care center, nursery school and primary school serving children 2 3/4 years old through second grade. Enrollment = 72. Classes: 2 3/4 through 5-year-olds morning sessions; kindergarten morning and full day sessions; first and second grades full day sessions. Extended time available to all ages: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., charged per hour. Tuition: registration fee and monthly tuition commensurate with number of hours attended. One teacher, one assistant per nursery school class. One teacher per primary school class. Partial scholarships are available for primary school.

5. Summit Child Care Center, Inc.

Located at Ogden Memorial Presbyterian Church, Main Street and Elmwood Avenue. Year-round child care: Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for children 6 weeks to 5 years; part-time contracted care, 6 months to 4 years; 2 and 3-year-olds enrichment program morning and afternoon sessions, 4 and 5-year-olds afternoon enrichment program. Staff of 20. Extended care: 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.; "Family Kitchen" provides the hot low-cost dinner (adult \$4.00/child \$2.00) to eat in or take-out. Tuition: registration fee and tuition based on the cost of providing care. Subsidies are available.

6. Gingham Giraffe

A private, non-sectarian school located at the Corpus Christi Church, 234 Southern Boulevard, offers September to June child care, and a team teaching approach with two certified teachers per classroom. Morning sessions only are available with extended care until 1:00 p.m. Children from 2 1/2 years (including the non-toilet trained) to four years are accepted. Tuition: Annual registration fee and bi-monthly payments.

Adult School

The Adult School of the Chathams, Madison and Florham Park is a nonprofit, cooperative organization started in 1937 by a group of citizens in Madison, Florham Park and Chatham to provide continuing education in both vocational and vocational fields. The Adult School is a non-profit, self supporting organization. Boards of Education in Chatham, Madison and Florham park provide the use of their facilities. Classes are held at several of the local participating school buildings,

The adult school operates both fall and spring terms. Brochures of classes are mailed to all residents in participating communities. Residents of neighboring communities are welcome to participate. Tuition varies per class.

Fire

Police ALL ARE "911"

Emergency Squad

Local Government Offices

Municipal offices — ..... 973-635-0674 — 973-635-4600  
Superintendent of Schools\_ — 973-635-5656 — 973-635-5656  
Library of the Chathams 973-635-0603 — 973-635-0603  
Senior Citizens Center\_ — — 973-635-4556 — — 973-635-4556  
Senior Resource Office.\_ — — 973-635-4565 — — 635-4565  
Senior Bus Reservations — 635-8747\_ 635-8747  
Chatham Post Office... — — 635-8400  
Green Village Post Office 377-0737

#### Morris County

Board of Freeholders\_ — — — 285-6010  
Board of Social Service — — — 326-7800  
County Clerk — 285-6120  
Human Services\_ — — — 285-6160  
Passports \_285-6160