

# The Gazebo



This year, we are dedicating our Branchville newsletter, “The Gazebo” to John Newcomer.

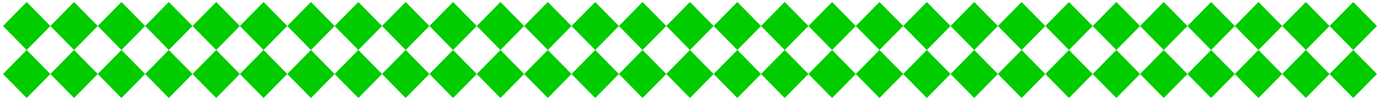
At a young age, John and his family moved to Branchville where his father had a local interior cleaning business for several years. Many of you may know John from going to school with him, being a friend or neighbor or from the time he spent working at the Branchville Post Office.

Although John lives in Frankford Township, he has a love of our town which will never end. He is always taking photographs or videos of various events that are going on. Those events include the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Scarecrows that are on display during the Halloween season, the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony, Santa Claus on the firetruck, or any other occasions that may be taking place.

For those of us that have known John over the years, we thought that John was born with a camera in his hands!

Thank you John, for your dedication and the love of our town!





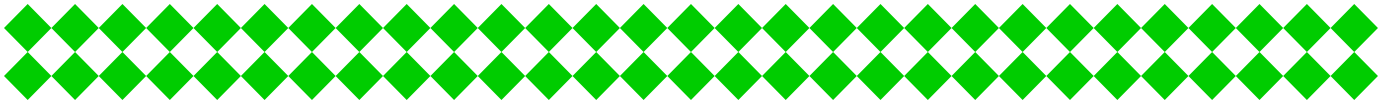
# 2023

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**Editors:** Kate Leissler and Beverly Bathgate

**Graphic Design / Typesetting:** Lorie Laux



# **News from Borough Hall**

## **Branchville Borough Council**

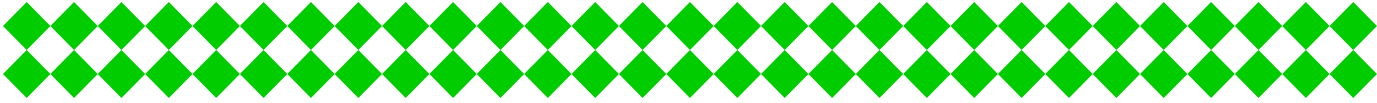
Mayor:	Anthony (Tony) Frato, Sr.	(973) 903 3792 (cell)
Council President:	Richard Van Stone	(973) 948-5888 (home)
Council Members:	Beverly Bathgate	(973) 948-3721 (home)
	Russell Bellis, Jr.	(973) 343-9154 (cell)
	H. Lee Doremus	(973) 948-5439 (home)
	Troy Orr	(862) 354-4874 (cell)
	Mary Whitesell	(973) 948-6060 (home)

## **Branchville Borough Meeting Schedule**

Mayor and Council: First Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm  
Planning Board: Second Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm - as needed  
Board of Health: Second Thursday of each month at 7:00pm - as needed  
All meetings are held at the Branchville Borough Municipal Building, 34 Wantage Avenue, Branchville, unless otherwise advertised.

## **Branchville Borough Website**

Please visit the Branchville Borough website [www.branchville.us](http://www.branchville.us) for information you may need.



# News from Borough Hall

## Branchville Borough Staff Directory

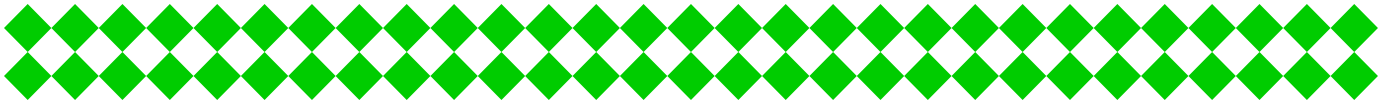
**Business Hours are 9:00am – 1:00pm – Monday thru Friday**

Mayor	Anthony Frato, Sr. (973) 903-3792	(973) 948-4626, press #20
Municipal Clerk, Registrar, Tax Collector, Water Collector	Kathryn “Kate” Leissler	(973) 948-4626, press #20
Chief Financial Officer	Christine Rolef	(973) 948-4626, press #25
Finance Secretary, Dog Licensing	Michelle Shelton	(973) 948-4626, press #23
Tax Assessor (Available on Thursday, 9am-10am)	Kristy Lockburner	(973) 948-4626, press #22
Construction Official/Plumbing Subcode/Plumbing Inspector		(973) 948-4626, press #24
Fire Subcode/Building Inspector/ Building Subcode	Gary Kristoffersen	(973) 948-4626, press #24
Zoning Officer	George Boesze	(973) 948-4626 <b>OR</b> (570) 992-3686
Code Enforcement Officer		
Fire Official	Virgil Rome	(973) 579-0380
Department of Public Works	Darren Haggerty Barry Norman Robert Garman	(973) 948-5515
Planning and Zoning Board Secretary, Deputy Municipal Clerk/Deputy Registrar/Sewer Collector	Karen Braun	(973) 948-4626, press #21 or #23
Board of Health Secretary	Mary Whitesell	(973) 948-6060
Animal Control Officer	Wantage Township	(973) 875-7192
Dog Licensing	Michelle Shelton	(973) 948-4626, press #23

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY CELL PHONE NUMBERS LISTED ABOVE ARE PERSONAL CELL PHONES. PLEASE CALL DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS AND RESPECT THEIR PRIVACY DURING NON-BUSINESS HOURS. IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, THESE CELL PHONE NUMBERS CAN BE USED DURING WORKING AND NON-WORKING HOURS.**

The 2023 schedule for the **Zoning Officer** (George Boesze) is listed below. Please call George Boesze at the number listed above to confirm his availability. Office hours are on the 3rd Monday of each month, from 1:00pm-3:00pm.

January 23	February 13	March 20	April 17
May 15	June 19	July 17	August 14
September 18	October 16	November 20	December 18



# News from Borough Hall

## **Branchville Borough Tree, Stump and Clipping Policy**

When a homeowner hires a contractor to cut down trees or take down a tree on his/her own, it is the responsibility of the contractor or homeowner to remove all wood and brush from the property.

No stumps will be picked up by the Borough's Department of Public Works.

Brush from tree pruning and/or shrub removal is normally picked up in the early morning hours (after 7:00am) or when the Department of Public Works is available to do so.

If you have a tree on a Borough or County road, please **do not cut down or prune the trees yourself**, call the Borough Hall and we will do it. Some of our new trees are being damaged by individuals who prune these trees incorrectly.

In the event of a storm there may be exceptions to brush pick up.

If you need to have tree clippings removed, they will be picked up by the Borough's Department of Public Works. Please call them at **(973) 948-5515**.

## **Water Works**

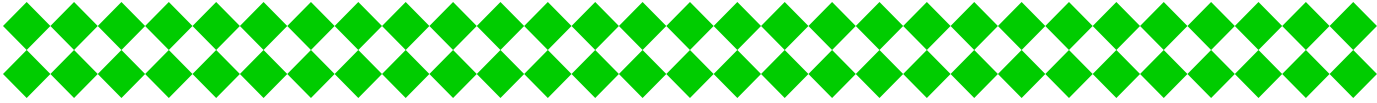
Residents may **not** shut off their own water. This must be done by the Road Department Personnel only. Please notify Darren Haggerty at **(973) 948-5515** if you need to have this done. This is to protect you and the Borough from a water leak. In the event that there is a break, the person who caused it will be held responsible. The on/off fee is \$45.00 for each service.

## **Municipal Court**

The Borough of Branchville has a combination court with Wantage Township. For additional information, please call **(973) 875-7310**.

## **Facebook Question and Comments**

Any questions or comments on Facebook regarding various topics for Branchville will **not** be acknowledged or answered by Branchville Borough employees.



# News from Borough Hall

## Tax Bill Information

The Tax Bills for the August 1, 2023, November 1, 2023, February 1, 2024 and May 1, 2024 quarters will be mailed as quickly as possible, after the rate has been certified. Occasionally, there is a delay in mailing the tax bills due to the adoption of the other municipal or state budgets. If your bill is mailed late, it will clearly indicate that payment of your taxes is due 25 days from the date of mailing by the tax collector. If payment is not received 25 days after the date of mailing, interest will be charged, calculated back to August 1, 2023.

**NOTE:** Separate checks are needed for the payment of taxes, sewer and water (please do not combine the tax, sewer and water payment into 1 check - **3 separate checks are required**). Partial payment for taxes, sewer and water will not be accepted. Partial payment checks will be returned to you.

## Mailing Address Changes

If residents change their mailing address or add a mailbox with a street address, it is your **responsibility** to notify the municipal office of that change at your earliest convenience. You are still liable for your bills, even if your address on file is incorrect. If the Borough is not notified, this could result in your property being put on **tax sale** for lack of payment of bills. This notice also applies to your water and sewer bill.

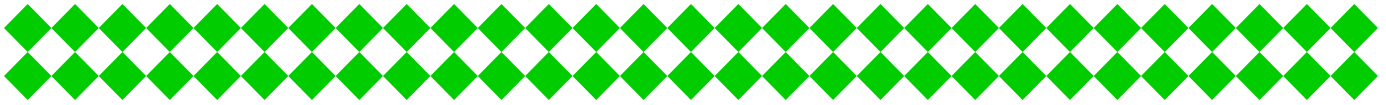
## Mail Boxes

If residents have their mail delivered to a mailbox on their property, the mailboxes **must** be placed in a location as advised by the U.S. Postal Service (specifically due to snow plowing). Please follow the requirements set by the U.S. Postal Service for your mailbox placement.

## Dog Cleanup

The Mayor and Borough Council are requesting that dog walkers clean up after their dogs. Please be considerate of others and clean up after your pet and dispose of it properly. Do not leave bags of pet feces at inappropriate locations or on the lawns of residents in town. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE BAGS OF FECES ON THE GROUND!** There are many trash cans located throughout the Borough for your disposal use or take it home and dispose of it in the trash. **If anyone is caught violating this, action will be taken.**





# Utility News

## **Sewer News**

During heavy rain storms, it can be necessary to truck raw sewage from our treatment plant to SCMUA's Hardyston Facility because of excess flows. We believe that one significant cause of this increase is due to sump pumps discharging into the sewer system.

Sump pumps remove water from foundations, basements and other sources during heavy rains or the Spring thaw. When sump water is discharged to the sewer system, it must be treated as raw sewage and the Borough is charged for treating it. Therefore, **IN NO CASE, CAN SUMP PUMP WATER BE DISCHARGED TO THE SEWER SYSTEM.** This is a violation of Borough Ordinances. If the Borough is not able to correct the overflow problem, additional fees will need to be billed to the sewer customers. In an attempt to isolate the problem, the Borough will start tracking the inflow through each of the manholes in the system and use a camera to track actual discharges.

Your assistance in checking your properties for sump pumps would be appreciated. If you have one or more sump pumps, make sure that they don't discharge to our Sewer System.

Please **DO NOT** flush cleaning wipes or paper towels into the sewer system. The wipes and towels do not break down like regular tissues or toilet paper. Please remember that if a clog should occur between your home and the street, it is the responsibility of the HOMEOWNER to repair it. This could be a costly expense which homeowners should not have to be concerned with.

Please **DO NOT** dump kitchen grease or cooking oil down the sink drains.

**Please pay close attention to any water leaks.**

## **COMMERCIAL SEWER USERS**

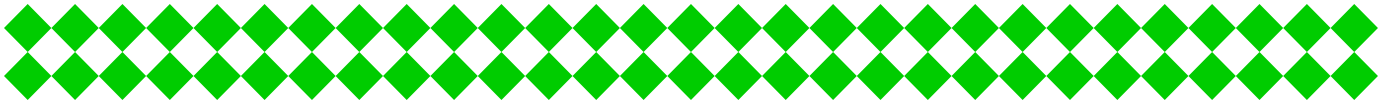
**It is recommended that you monitor your water usage. Sewer rates for commercial sewer users are based on water usage. Monitoring your meter means to check the usage monthly. Call the Department of Public Works at (973) 948-5515 if meter location help is needed.**

## **Reporting a Power Outage or Streetlight Outage**

If you need to report a power outage, please call JCP&L / First Energy at: **1-800-544-4877** or go online to [www.firstenergycorp.com](http://www.firstenergycorp.com)

If you need to report a streetlight outage, please call JCP&L / First Energy at: **1-800-662-3115** or go online to [www.firstenergycorp.com](http://www.firstenergycorp.com)

When reporting either of these outages online: click on "Contact Us" and fill in the appropriate information. Please have your account number available so you can reference it.



## Utility News

### **Call Before You Dig**

Are you planning a home improvement project? Planting a tree? Installing a fence or deck? **WAIT!!!**

Before any digging on your property, this is what you need to know:

Excavation work, including digging or plowing around a home or business, is the most common cause of natural gas emergencies. Before digging around your property, New Jersey state law requires you to call **811**, a statewide, toll-free number, to have your utility lines professionally marked.

At least three business days prior to outdoor construction, planting, landscaping or digging, contractors or property owners — (whoever is excavating), must call New Jersey One Call at **811** or **1-800-272-1000**. After calling, you must wait until your local utilities, like Elizabethtown Gas, arrives. They will locate and mark, free of charge, each with a different color paint or flag, where their underground utility lines are within the area you want to dig.

Once that happens, you can dig with confidence, because you'll know how to avoid any damage to these underground utility lines which might interrupt or hinder your services and potentially damage your property.

For additional information, visit New Jersey One Call: [www.nj1-call.org](http://www.nj1-call.org)

## Branchville Food Pantries

### **Presbyterian Church**

The **Branchville Presbyterian Church** located at 5 Wantage Avenue has a food pantry for those who are in need. Boxed, canned and jarred food products, paper products, etc. are available.

The food pantry is open on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00am to 12:30pm.

If you would like to donate items, the office is open to accept donations Monday thru Friday from 9:30am to 2:00pm and Saturday from 9am to 11am when the Daisey Roe Thrift Store is open.

For more information, please call the Church Office at **(973) 948-3495**.

### **Methodist Church**

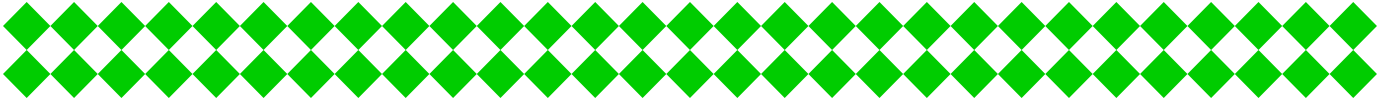
The **Branchville Methodist Church** located at 8 Broad Street has a food pantry for those who are in need. Boxed, canned and jarred food products, paper products, etc. are available.

The food pantry is open on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00am to 12:00 Noon and Thursday evening from 6:00 to 8:00pm.

If you would like to donate items, the office is open to accept donations on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00am to 12:00 Noon or thru an appointment.

For more information, please call the Church Office at **(973) 948-3749**.





# Events in 2023

## **Arbor Day 2023**

The application has been submitted for 2022 Tree City USA for Branchville Borough (this runs one year behind which is why it is for 2022). Mayor Frato has proclaimed Friday, April 28, 2023 as Arbor Day.

Please do not prune any trees in the County or Borough right-of-way areas yourself - call the Borough Hall and we will do it. Some of our new trees are being damaged by individuals trying to prune these trees incorrectly. Do not cut down or remove any trees on the borough right of way on your property.

## **Miss Branchville 2023**

The annual Miss Branchville contest will be held in the late spring/early summer. Any girls interested in entering the Miss Branchville contest should contact Debbie Anderson at **(973) 948-6932** for further information.

## **Annual Branchville Borough Garage**

The annual Branchville Borough-wide garage sale will be held as follows, if possible:

**DATE:** Saturday, September 9, 2023    **RAIN DATE:** Sunday, September 10, 2023

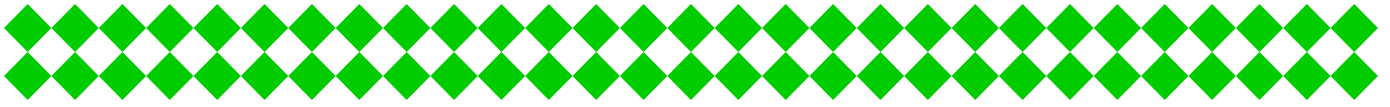
**TIME:** 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Kate Leissler and Karen Braun in the Borough office will organize this event, including signups, preparation of the map showing the locations, and advertising. Please call Karen at **(973) 948-4626, extension #21** for additional information and if you would like to have your home listed on the map.



## **Free Rabies Clinic**

Branchville Borough will provide a FREE rabies clinic for the residents of Branchville. It will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2023 from 10:00am to 12:00 Noon at the Department of Public Works garage at located at 6 New Street in Branchville.



# Talk Around the Town

## Welcome New Businesses

Branchville Borough welcomes the new businesses that have come to our town. We are happy to have you and wish you many years of success.

## The Volunteer Corner

The Borough Council would like to extend their appreciation to all of the volunteers in Branchville Borough. Volunteers like you are what keep Branchville's heart strong.

## New Employee

Branchville Borough welcomes Robert Garman to our town. Robert joins the Department of Public Works. We are very happy to have him as part of our town.

## Special Thanks

The Editors of "The Gazebo" would like to thank Lorie Laux for all the work she does in designing and preparing the annual newsletter for us.

## Trash and Litter Law

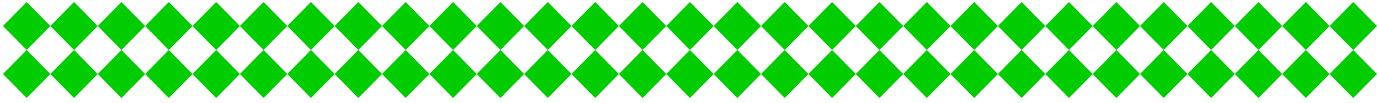
**Please do not transport trash or litter from outside our community, into the Borough of Branchville.** Branchville Borough Code, 81-8 states: "No person shall bring any trash or litter from outside the borough limits, into the borough for the purpose of disposing thereof without the express consent of the Borough Council. All trash collected in Branchville must be created in the Borough". We do our best to control garbage amounts because it affects future contract prices. A fine of **\$500** or a jail term of up to 90 days, or both could be imposed for violation of this provision.

If you witness someone bringing their trash into the Borough, please contact Mayor Frato or any member of the Town Council.

## Branchville Tennis Courts

Recently, there has been a heavy demand for the use of the Branchville Tennis Courts. To be fair to everyone, the Borough Council has voted to allow one court for tennis only and one court for pickle ball only, with Branchville residents taking preference. **IF THERE IS NO ONE PLAYING EITHER SPORT ON THEIR SPECIFIC COURT, THE COURT WILL REMAIN OPEN FOR PLAYERS OF THAT SPORT ONLY.** Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.





# Talk Around the Town

## No Parking on Streets During Snow Season

Whenever snow has fallen and the accumulation covers the streets, NO vehicle shall be parked on the public streets in the Borough of Branchville from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. This parking prohibition shall remain in effect after snow has ceased falling, until the streets have been sufficiently plowed and parking will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic.

If you are a property owner who has tenants, please make sure they are aware of this ordinance.



## Dog Bites

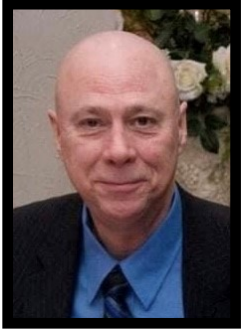
Please remember to report all dog bites to the Sussex County Board of Health. They can be reached at (973) 579-0370.

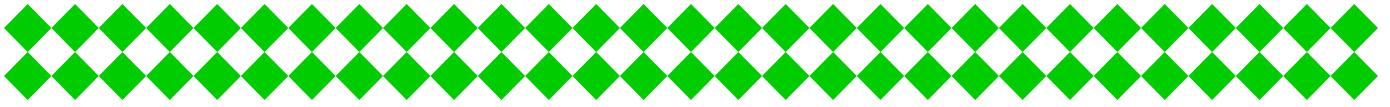
## Retirement Congratulations!

Congratulations and thank you to Mike Little who recently retired following 27 years of service. Mike was the Foreman of our Department of Public Works. We wish Mike the very best in the next chapter of his life.



Congratulations and thank you to Michael Robinson for serving as our Construction Official, Plumbing Subcode, Plumbing Inspector. Best wishes on your retirement!





## Preparing for an Emergency

### **Do You Have Special Requirements?**

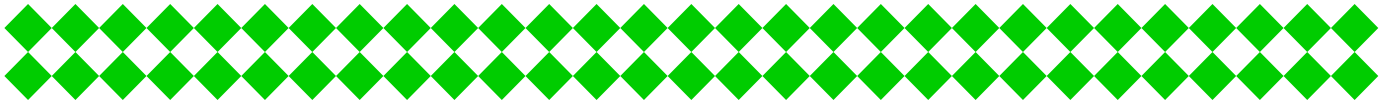
The Branchville Office of Emergency Management continues to compile a list of residents who have special needs such as oxygen/respiratory equipment or other vital types of health support systems. The list will enable the department to work with the Blue Ridge Rescue Squad, Branchville Fire Department and any other necessary agencies in the times of power outages or other emergencies. To be placed on the list, please contact Jeff Lewis (Coordinator of the Branchville Office of Emergency Management) at **(973) 479-7203**.

### **Emergency Planning**

Emergencies can happen at any time of the year. To help you be more prepared for the next emergency, please go to [www.state.nj.us/njoem](http://www.state.nj.us/njoem)

### **House Numbers Must Be Displayed and Visible**

There have been instances when emergency vehicles could not find someone's home because there was no house number displayed. **PLEASE** have your house number displayed on your house or in your yard. Reflective numbers with adhesive backing can be purchased at local stores. Whether you own or rent the house, please have your house number visible.



## Preparing for an Emergency

### **Sussex County's Emergency Notification System**

Sussex County's Division of Emergency Management has the ability to notify all Sussex County residents in the event of an emergency through its "Outbound / Reverse 9-1-1" system. When activated by officials, this automated system calls homes and businesses in the affected area and delivers a recorded message to notify the public about an emergency and what actions they may need to take. The system will be used for the following types of events:

- missing person alerts
- emergency evacuations
- local security and crime alerts
- weather emergencies
- hazardous materials events

All landline telephones serviced by Verizon, Embarq and Warwick Valley Telephone (WVT) are already in the system, however, cell phones and some VOIP (voice over internet protocol) phone numbers are not. We offer a registration process that allows you to quickly add your cellular and/or VOIP numbers to the system which therefore ensures that you receive these notifications.

#### **HOW TO REGISTER:**

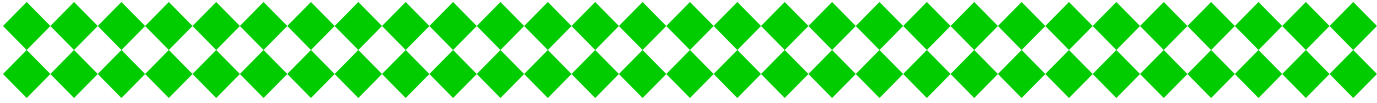
Register instantly by computer by going to: [www.sussexcountysheriff.com](http://www.sussexcountysheriff.com)

Under the Community Programs (in the blue bar), "Community Alerts", then choose the link "Visit the secure enrollment page to register or update your information" to enroll your home phone number. You can also register your cell phone to receive alerts.

From this website, you can download, complete and return the form via email to:

[scsonline@sussexcountysheriff.com](mailto:scsonline@sussexcountysheriff.com)

If you would prefer to fill out and mail the form, please contact Jeff Lewis (Coordinator of the Branchville Office of Emergency Management) at **(973) 479-7203**.



# Branchville Borough Trash and Recycling Information

Recyclables will be picked up, curbside TWICE each month by Waste Management. Collection of recyclables will be made on the **SECOND** and **FOURTH** Fridays for each month. Waste Management will no longer collect recyclables on the scheduled garbage day. Please note that cardboard (boxes, etc.) and newspapers are to be put curbside with RECYCLABLES on the second and fourth Friday of each month, NOT WITH YOUR GARBAGE. Waste Management has been instructed to leave all recyclables, which are left with trash on Thursdays, at the curb. Thank you for your cooperation!

**EVERY THURSDAY**

- Regular curbside garbage pick-up
- DO NOT** put newspaper and cardboard out with your trash. This is for recycling only.

**2ND AND 4TH FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH:**

Singlestream Recycling (glass, plastic and metal containers, cartons, cardboard, newspaper and paper items (styrofoam) can be mixed together - (all in one container)

No liquids  
 No bundles  
 No plastic bags  
 Empty containers  
 Mixed recyclables

**DO NOT** put your recycling in garbage bags!

**LEAVES:**

- In brown paper recycling leaf bags only
- Will be picked up the 2nd and 4th Saturdays in **April / May** and in **October / November**.

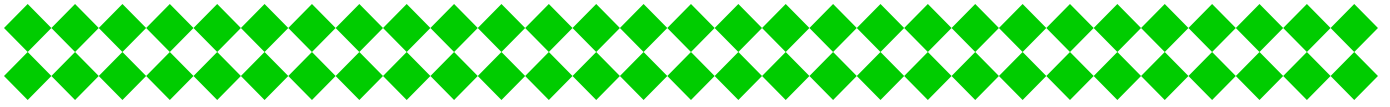
**SUSSEX COUNTY RECYCLING** in Lafayette allows the following items to be dropped off at their facility at any time, Monday thru Saturday 7am-2pm:

- Old clothing
- Dry cell batteries
- Used motor oil, etc.
- Tires - (fee will be charged)
- Cooking oil - (no charge)

After the oil has cooled, carefully pour the oil into a sturdy plastic or wax-coated leak proof container or its original container (no larger than 5 gallons in size). Don't mix the used cooking oil with other liquids. Bring full containers to the Sussex County Recycling Center during normal business hours.

## **Hazardous Household Waste**

Hazardous household waste is not to be put out with your trash. There are specific dates when hazardous household waste can be taken to Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCMUA). Please check their website, [www.scmua.org](http://www.scmua.org) for more information on their special disposal and recycling events.



# Branchville Borough Trash and Recycling Information

## **Inclement Weather Schedule**

If there is inclement weather or a holiday and trash or recycling doesn't get picked up, it will be picked up on the following day, please visit our website **www.branchville.us** for additional information.

Major holidays include: New Year's Day July 4th Labor Day Thanksgiving Day Christmas Day

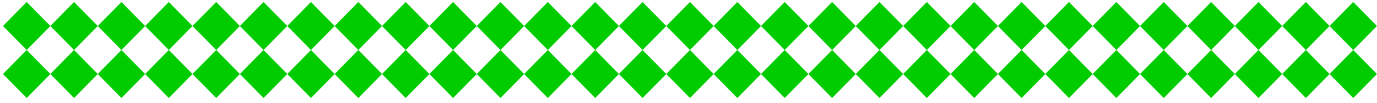
## **Non Allowed Trash Items**

Please note that construction material (wood) and tires will not be picked up by Waste Management. Please do not put these items out with your normal trash.

Newspaper and cardboard are to be put out with your recycling.

**Old televisions will not be picked up** by Waste Management. It is your responsibility to take these to SCMUA on one of their Electronics Recycling Day which are scheduled for **Saturday, April 15** and **Saturday, October 14**.

Air conditioners, refrigerators, water coolers or electronics will not be picked up by Waste Management. Please take these items to SCMUA. There is a \$10 surcharge for freon removal.



# Sponsor Organizations

The Mayor and Borough Council would like to thank the following for sponsoring events in Branchville:

The Branchville Hose Company Auxiliary hosted a Breakfast With the Easter Bunny at the Branchville Fire House on Sunday, March 26, 2023.

The Branchville Borough Historical Society sponsors the Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Rubber Duck Race, on Friday, April 9, 2023.

The Branchville American Legion Post #157 sponsors the annual Memorial Day Parade, scheduled for Monday, May 29, 2023.

The Branchville Borough Historical Society supports the annual Scarecrow Contest, held in October 2023.

The United Methodist Church sponsors the annual Christmas Tree Lighting, followed by cookies at the church, held on Friday, December 1, 2023.

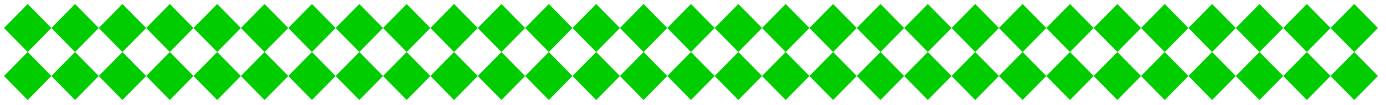
The Branchville Hose Company No. 1 sponsors Santa and Mrs. Claus ride around town, held in December 2023.

Other events are tentative, such as:

The Branchville Hose Company No. 1 sponsors Breakfast with Santa and the Christmas Gingerbread House workshop.

Please contact any Branchville Fireman if you have a question about a Branchville Hose Company sponsored event **OR** watch the sign at the corner of Broad Street and Railroad Avenue for additional information or call the sponsoring organization.





# Fire Department News

## News from Branchville Hose Company No. 1

The following events are sponsored by the Branchville Hose Company No. 1:

The Fire department is currently running a 50/50. Tickets are \$1.00 each and are available from any Branchville Fireman. The drawing will be held on Saturday, May 20.

Saturday, April 30      Venison dinner at the firehouse (sold out)

Saturday, June 10      A & G Block Party

Saturday, October 7      Sussex County Fireman's Parade in Hopatcong, NJ (1:00pm)

A chicken barbeque is planned for the fall. The date is to be determined.

A golf outing is planned. The date is to be determined.

Please contact any Branchville Fireman if you have a question about any of these events **OR** watch the sign at the corner of Broad Street and Railroad Avenue for additional information. Other events may be scheduled throughout the year.

Jon Frato, Chief  
(973) 600-3398

Kyle Whitehead, Deputy Chief

Ryan Hanshaw, Captain

Nick Osterhoudt, Lieutenant

Keith Whitehead, (firehouse hall rental) **(973) 600-3808**

The Branchville Hose Company No. 1 is located at 1 Railroad Avenue in the Borough of Branchville. They were established in 1910. They enjoy having children stop by to see the firehouse and trucks and they thank the residents and businesses for their support throughout the year. Even though they receive financial assistance from the Borough, they would not be able to operate without the residents of the community. Please try to support them by attending any of the events listed above. At any time that you may want to make a donation, please mail it to: Branchville Hose Company No. 1, P.O. Box 2425, Branchville, NJ 07826.

**NOTE:** During the winter season, our Fire Department asks the residents to clear the snow away from the fire hydrants. Also, please keep your chimney clean.

## Smoke Detectors Save Lives

Proper working smoke detectors can alert you to a fire in your home, allowing you time to escape, even if you are sleeping. Install smoke detectors on every level of your home including the basement, and in every sleeping area. Test smoke detectors every month, following the manufacturer's directions, and replace the batteries once each year, or whenever a detector "chirps" to signal low battery power. Never "borrow" a smoke detector's battery for another use — a disabled detector can not save your life! Most importantly, be sure to replace your smoke detector if it is more than 10 years old.



# Branchville Borough Historical Society

This year, the Branchville Borough Historical Society will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary. It was founded in 1998 and over the years, they were able to have a permanent location for the museum located at the Branchville Municipal Building at 34 Wantage Avenue. The Historical Society is very proud of what they have accomplished over the past 25 years. Details for the celebration will be forthcoming.



The meetings for the Branchville Borough Historical Society are held at the municipal building. The meetings start at 3:00 PM (tentatively scheduled on the third Sunday) in March, June, September and November.

Membership Fees: Single \$15/Family \$35 (Annual)  
Life Time Member \$150

The meetings are followed by a program on local history and refreshments are served. Everyone is welcome to attend. Meetings are announced on the Branchville Borough Historical Society's Facebook page. A postcard announcing the meeting will be mailed to all members and will also be posted at the Branchville Post Office.

If you wish to donate or loan any items to the museum, please contact Pete Pearson, Historian for the Branchville Borough Historical Society, at **(973) 786-5966** to arrange for drop off with him (items are not to be left with any employees at Borough Hall).

## Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

### The Borough of Branchville, Department of Public Works

For the Year 2023, Results from the Year 2022

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

**If you are a landlord, you must distribute this Drinking Water Quality Report to every tenant as soon as practicable, but no later than three business days after receipt. Delivery must be done by hand, mail, or email, and by posting the information in a prominent location at the entrance of each rental premises, pursuant to section #3 of NJ P.L. 2021, c.82 (C.58:12A-12.4 et seq.).**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The Branchville DPW routinely monitors for over 80 contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table lists only detected contaminants and shows the results of our monitoring from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data though representative is more than one year old.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant:	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measure -ment	MC LG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants:</b>						
Arsenic Test results Yr. 2022	N	Range = ND – 4.7 Highest detect = 4.7 Average = 1.4	ppb	N/A	5	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium Test results Yr. 2021	N	0.21	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Copper Test results Yr. 2021 Result at 90th Percentile	N	0.19 No samples exceeded the action level.	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride Test results Yr. 2021	N	0.06	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead Test results Yr. 2021 Result at 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	N	1.9 No samples exceeded the action level	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) Test results Yr. 2022	N	0.38	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Nickel Test results Yr. 2021	N	4.6	ppb	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfection Byproducts:</b>						
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes Test results Yr. 2022	N	Range = 9 - 20 Highest detect = 20	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids Test results Yr. 2022	N	Range = 2 Highest detect = 2	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Radioactive Contaminants:</b>						
Gross Alpha Test results Yr. 2021	N	4.6	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>PFAS Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances:</b>						
PFOS Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid Test results Yr. 2022	N	Range = 6.8 – 11.0 Highest detect = 11.0 Average = 8.9	ppt	N/A	13	Discharge from industrial, chemical, and manufacturing factories, release of aqueous film forming foam.
PFOA Perfluorooctane Acid Test results Yr. 2022	N	Range = 3.5 – 4.1 Highest detect = 4.1 Average = 3.8	ppt	N/A	14	Discharge from industrial, chemical, and manufacturing factories, release of aqueous film forming foam.

Regulated Disinfectants	Level Detected	MRDL	MRDLG
Chlorine Test results Yr. 2022	Range = 0.7 – 1.2 ppm Average = 0.96 ppm	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm

**Chlorine:** Water additive used to control microbes.

Secondary Contaminant	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	RUL
Sodium Test results Yr. 2022	Range = 59 - 78	ppm	50

We exceeded the Recommended Upper Limit (RUL) for Sodium, which is a Secondary Contaminant. Secondary contaminants are substances that do not have an impact on health. Secondary contaminants affect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. Secondary standards are recommendations, not mandates. For healthy individuals, the sodium intake from water is not important, because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the Recommended Upper Limit (RUL) may be of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

Recommended Upper Limit (RUL) – Recommended maximum concentration of secondary contaminants. These reflect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. RULs are recommendations, not mandates.

Secondary Contaminant – Substances that do not have an impact on health. Secondary Contaminants affect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. Secondary standards are recommendations, not mandates.

**For additional information:** If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Darren Haggerty at 973-948-5515. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Borough Council meetings at the Branchville Municipal Building, 34 Wantage Avenue, on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

**Our water source:** We have two wells. Our wells draw groundwater from the Kittatinny Aquifer. The Mattison Reservoir is no longer in use. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for this public water system, which is available at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/swap/index.html> or by contacting NJDEP’s Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550. You may also contact your public water system to obtain information regarding your water system’s Source Water Assessment. This water system’s source water susceptibility ratings, and a list of potential contaminant sources is included. We have a source water protection plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination.

**Potential sources of contamination:** The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas projection, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can, also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**Waivers:** The Safe Drinking Water Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos and synthetic organic chemicals. Our system received monitoring waivers for asbestos and synthetic organic chemicals.

**Definitions:**

In the “Test Results” table you may find some terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we’ve provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) - laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or nanogram per liter - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 20,000 years, or a single penny in \$100,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal -The "Goal"(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant, below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

**What are PFOA and PFOS?**

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), previously referred to as perfluorinated compounds, or PFCs, that are man-made and used in industrial and commercial applications. PFOA was used as a processing aid in the manufacture of fluoropolymers used in non-stick cookware and other products, as well as other commercial and industrial uses based on its resistance to harsh chemicals and high temperatures. PFOS is used in metal plating and finishing as well as in various commercial products. PFOS was previously used as a major ingredient in aqueous film forming foams for firefighting and training, and PFOA and PFOS are found in consumer products such as stain resistant coatings for upholstery and carpets, water resistant outdoor clothing, and grease proof food packaging. Although the use of PFOA and PFOS has decreased substantially, contamination is expected to continue indefinitely because these substances are extremely persistent in the environment and are soluble and mobile in water. More information can be found at:

[https://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/docs/2019-4-15-FAQs\\_PFOA-PFOS-websites-OLA%204-24-19SDM-\(003\).pdf](https://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/docs/2019-4-15-FAQs_PFOA-PFOS-websites-OLA%204-24-19SDM-(003).pdf)

### **Sources of Lead in Drinking Water**

The Borough of Branchville, Department of Public Works is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. Although most lead exposure occurs from inhaling dust or from contaminated soil, or when children eat paint chips, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) estimates that 10 to 20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from lead in drinking water. Infants who consume mostly mixed formula can receive 40 percent to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water. Lead is rarely found in the source of your drinking water but enters tap water through corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing materials. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipes, brass, and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, service lines made of or lined with lead. New brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as “lead-free”, may still contain a small percentage of lead, and contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as “lead free”. However, prior to January 4, 2014, “lead free” allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified. Visit the NSF website at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions. When water stands in lead service lines, lead pipes, or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon if the water has not been used all day, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

### **Steps You Can Take to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water**

For a full list of steps visit: <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-consumer.html>

**Run the cold water to flush out lead.** Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in the faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer the water resides in plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold-water faucet. Let the water run from the cold-water tap based on the length of the lead service line and the plumbing configuration in your home. In other words, the larger the home or building and the greater the distance to the water main (in the street), the more water it will take to flush properly. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health. It usually uses less than one gallon of water.

**Use cold, flushed water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Because lead from lead-containing plumbing materials and pipes can dissolve into hot water more easily than cold water, never drink, cook, or prepare beverages including baby formula using hot water from the tap. If you have not had your water sampled or if you know, it is recommended that bottled or filtered water be used for drinking and preparing baby formula. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it.

**Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead; however, it is still safe to wash dishes and do laundry. Lead will not soak into dishware or most clothes.

**Use alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) for information on performance standards for water filters.

**Determine if you have interior lead plumbing or solder.** If your home/building was constructed prior to 1987, it is important to determine if interior lead solder or lead pipes are present. You can check yourself, hire a licensed plumber, or check with your landlord.

**Replace plumbing fixtures and service lines containing lead.** Replace brass faucets, fittings, and valves that do not meet the current definition of “lead free” from 2014 (as explained above). Visit the NSF website at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org) to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.

**Remove and clean aerators/screens on plumbing fixtures.** Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen. Regularly remove and clean aerators screens located at the tip of faucets and remove any particles.

**Test your water for lead.** Please call Darren Haggerty at 973-948-5515 to find out how to get your water tested for lead. Testing is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water.

**Get your child tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure. New Jersey law requires that children be tested for lead in their blood at both 1 and 2 years of age and before they are 6 years old if they have never been tested before or if they have been exposed to a known source of lead.

**Have an electrician check your wiring.** If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion may be greater. Check with a licensed electrician or your local electrical code to determine if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere. DO NOT attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.

**Water softeners and reverse osmosis units** will remove lead from water but can also make the water more corrosive to lead solder and plumbing by removing certain minerals; therefore, the installation of these treatment units at the point of entry into homes with lead plumbing should only be done under supervision of a qualified water treatment professional.

### **Health Effects of Lead**

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother’s bones, which may affect brain development. Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure. You can find out more about how to get your child tested and how to pay for it at:

<https://www.state.nj.us/health/childhoodlead/testing.shtml>.

**The Borough of Branchville Department of Public Works; PWSID # 1903001**

Branchville Water Department is a public community water system consisting of 2 wells.

This system’s source water comes from the following aquifers: Jacksonburg Limestone, Kittatinny Supergroup and H

**Susceptibility Ratings for The Borough of Branchville Department of Public Works Sources**

The table below illustrates the susceptibility ratings for the seven contaminant categories (and radon) for each source in the system. The table provides the number of wells and intakes that rated high (H), medium (M), or low (L) for each contaminant category. For susceptibility ratings of purchased water, refer to the specific water system’s source water assessment report.

The seven contaminant categories are defined at the bottom of this page. DEP considered all surface water highly susceptible to pathogens, therefore all intakes received a high rating for the pathogen category. For the purpose of Source Water Assessment Program, radionuclides are more of a concern for ground water than surface water. As a result, surface water intakes’ susceptibility to radionuclides was not determined and they all received a low rating.

**If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contaminant category, it does not mean a customer is or will be consuming contaminated drinking water.** The rating reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels. As a result of the assessments, DEP may customize (change existing) monitoring schedules based on the susceptibility ratings.

Sources	Pathogens			Nutrients			Pesticides			Volatile Organic Compounds			Inorganics			Radionuclides			Radon			Disinfection Byproduct Precursors		
	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L
Wells - 2		2		2				2		2					2	2			2			2		

- Pathogens:** Disease-causing organisms such as bacteria and viruses. Common sources are animal and human fecal wastes.
- Nutrients:** Compounds, minerals and elements that aid growth, that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include nitrogen and phosphorus.
- Volatile Organic Compounds:** Man-made chemicals used as solvents, degreasers, and gasoline components. Examples include benzene, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), and vinyl chloride.
- Pesticides:** Man-made chemicals used to control pests, weeds and fungus. Common sources include land application and manufacturing centers of pesticides. Examples include herbicides such as atrazine, and insecticides such as chlordane.
- Inorganics:** Mineral-based compounds that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include arsenic, asbestos, copper, lead, and nitrate.
- Radionuclides:** Radioactive substances that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include radium and uranium.
- Radon:** Colorless, odorless, cancer-causing gas that occurs naturally in the environment. For more information go to <http://www.nj.gov/dep/rpp/radon/index.htm> or call (800) 648-0394.
- Disinfection Byproduct Precursors:** A common source is naturally occurring organic matter in surface water. Disinfection byproducts are formed when the disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (for example leaves) present in surface water.

**Special Notice:**  
Public community water systems must comply with the Consumer Confidence Rule, which requires community water systems to prepare a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) / Water Quality Report annually, containing the previous year’s drinking water monitoring data, and submit to both their customers and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) by July 1<sup>st</sup> and a CCR Certification Form to NJDEP by October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. For the year 2022 we inadvertently submitted this water system’s CCR late to NJDEP. NJDEP received the CCR on 8/24/22. Compliance was achieved.

**In July 2021, P.L.2021, Ch.183 (Law) was enacted, requiring all community water systems to replace lead service lines in their service area within 10 years. Under the law, The Borough of Branchville Department of Public Works is required to notify customers, non-paying consumers, and any off-site owner of a property (e.g., landlord) when it is known they are served by a lead service line\*. Our service line inventory is available upon request.**

**We at the Branchville DPW work hard to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children’s future. Please call our office if you have questions.**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR DRINKING WATER**

The Borough of Branchville, Department of Public Works had Missed Monitoring Violations

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether your drinking water meets health standards.

**Dibromochloropropane (DBCP), 1,2,3, Trichloropropane (123TCP), and Ethylene Dibromide (EDB)**

We were required to monitor for these regulated contaminants in all four quarters of 2022. We inadvertently missed monitoring in the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2022.

**NJDEP changed our monitoring schedule in July of 2022 to quarterly monitoring for these particular contaminants, but we were not made aware of these changes.**

We monitored correctly in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2022 and January 2023. Those tests all had non-detectable (ND) results. We will monitor quarterly for these contaminants in 2023.

**Dibromochloropropane (DBCP):** 0.2 ppb MCL. Likely source of contamination - Runoff/leaching from soil fumigant used on soybeans, cotton, pineapples, and orchards.

**Trichloropropane (123TCP):** 0.03 ppb MCL. Likely source of contamination - Discharge from industrial chemical factories.

**Ethylene Dibromide (EDB):** 0.05 ppb MCL. Likely source of contamination - Discharge from industrial chemical factories.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*



**Borough Photos**  
**Taken By:**  
**John Newcomer**







**Borough Photos**  
**Taken By:**  
**John Newcomer**



**Branchville Borough**  
**34 Wantage Avenue**  
**Branchville, NJ 07826**



**NOTICE: The code of the Borough of Branchville is available on the Internet.**

**You can view the E-Code by visiting [www.generalcode.com](http://www.generalcode.com)**

- Click on “Code Library” at the top of the screen
- Click on “New Jersey”
- Click on “Borough of Branchville”