

Proclamation

COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH - MARCH

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second most common cause of cancer deaths for men and women in the United States and New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer affects men and women equally it is estimated there will be over 140,000 new cases with a death rate of over 50,000; and

WHEREAS, every 3 minutes, someone is diagnosed with colorectal cancer and every 10 minutes someone dies from colorectal cancer; and

WHEREAS, four cancers account for 51.4% of new cancer diagnoses in Somerset County and 45.2% of all deaths, colon cancer accounts for over 10% of all cancer cases and deaths in the county; and

WHEREAS, in Somerset County 30 individuals are diagnosed with cancer each week, ten individuals die of cancer each week and the annual incidence has increased; and

WHEREAS, only 39 percent of colorectal cancer patients have their cancers detected at an early stage; and

WHEREAS, the survival rate of individuals who have early stage colorectal cancer is 90 percent which is why there are over one million colon cancer survivors in the United States however 5 percent of those diagnosed later will have cancer spread to other organs; and

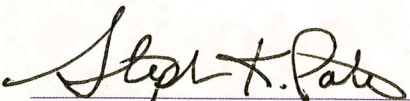
WHEREAS, if the majority of people in the United States age 50 or older were screened regularly for colorectal cancer, the death rate from this disease could plummet by up to 70 percent; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable in most cases; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Chronic Disease Coalition along with its partners are encouraging residents to spread the word, get screened for colon cancer and incorporate a healthy diet, including fiber and whole grains, to reduce the risk of developing cancer. They also remind residents to talk to your doctor about getting screened as the vast majority of cancer deaths can be prevented through early detection.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Stephen K. Pote, Mayor of the Borough of Watchung, do hereby claim *March 2017 as: Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month* and urge all citizens to get regular screenings to help save lives.

Date: March 16, 2017


Stephen K. Pote, Mayor