



THE MENDHAM MESSENGER



December 2024

The Borough of Mendham Community Newsletter

mendhamnj.org

Letter From the Mayor

Dear Mendham Borough residents and business owners,

As another great year in Mendham comes to a close, let us think back on all that we accomplished in our town. I believe that reminding oneself of where you have been helps you set your goals for where you are going next.

Some Thank Yous

An important part of that process is to thank those that made a difference along the way. We said goodbye to great teammates and devotees to our town who had a long history of caring for our community. Some of those people are Councilman Brennan Reilly, who served our town in so many ways and had a special love for our trails and natural environment; Police Chief John Camoia, who provided over 30 years of safety to our streets and neighborhoods; Wayne LeBlond, who provided care and protection to our students in the morning and afternoons helping cross the street; and Bruce DiBisceglie, who helped keep us all entertained and having fun for 20 years. We have an amazing team here in the Borough who help our town run smoothly and look beautiful. A very big thanks to all of the staff and volunteers that make this effort.

Now it's time to say thank you and goodbye to another leader in our community who will depart at the end of December.

Councilman Steve Andrew has been a dedicated friend and advisor in many aspects of our town. He has faithfully served on Council for six years. Councilman Andrew began his career many years ago as a police officer, and he has brought that dedication to the Borough every day, where he and his wife made a new home and raised their four children. When his children were young, he fulfilled fatherhood duties, supporting his children through sports and other activities. As time passed, he continued to find new ways to serve his community. Steve has helped John Andrews launch and grow our veterans events, which have become popular ways for our residents to honor our veterans. Steve has been a well-known fixture with our Pastime Club and has made significant contributions to this bedrock organization. He has never been one to sit around, which is why he became a driver for MASH earlier in his Council tenure. When that service ended, he continued to drive friends to the airport regardless of what time of day or night they needed his help. Although Steve will be leaving Council shortly, I know he will not be out of the picture for long. We will continue to see his service through the Pastime and many other areas in town. Thank you, Steve, for all you have done and will continue to do for our town.

Update on Land Use

A great deal of misinformation has been spread via word of mouth and over social media regarding current and future dense development applications. We do our best to keep people informed with the facts. I think it is equally important to start

correcting some of the wrong information that is being spread by people whose focus is to condemn residents who sit on our Joint Land Use Board and our Governing Body. The people on our Board volunteer a tremendous amount of time to this process, and they are operating in the town's best interest. They also deserve our respect for their contributions.

When I became Mayor six years ago, no one had any idea what would be coming in the way of dense development. Upon taking office, I pushed for our legal team to settle our third-round obligation for affordable housing, which had been before the judge for many years and was costing this town unnecessary legal fees. A part of that settlement was this current application before the Board. This project was delivered to the judge from the developer and the Fair Share Housing organization. If we had not accepted the project, the judge made it clear that he would mandate the project be built and we would lose all land use control over the development. That situation repeated itself earlier this year with the town being blamed for the years of delay without progress for this project and the threat of costly fines and even costlier loss of control, while having to pay for an outside entity to make decisions on this project. Since I have been Mayor, we have been aggressive in making sure that we could force developers to build affordable units as required by state law. With so little development taking place in town, few units have been built. During this time, we have also been making plans to develop our own affordable units to curb dense development.

As we move forward, we will no doubt see other developers submit applications for dense development projects, as the state has made it very profitable for many real estate developers. As a municipality we have little control and are legally required to follow all state processes, including how we run the land use meetings. Not following the state's legal process for these applications could have an expensive result for our town, and ultimately for all taxpayers. You may hear people from other towns insert their opinions and demands for how they want our Land Use Board or Borough Council to act. You may hear some of these people dictate that we should run our meetings the way they want and not the way the state has specifically mandated by legislation and regulation. We will continue to do what is required by these burdensome state mandates. And we will do our absolute best to protect our town from overdevelopment and at the same time from costly fines and penalties.

Wishing you all the happiest of a holiday season for all the holidays you celebrate!

Warm regards,
Christine Serrano Glassner
Mayor

Happy Holidays!

Wishing each of you a joyous holiday season. Visit the library to help you ease into the holidays; pick up a new cookbook for inspiration for your holiday meal; attend an educational and fun program; check out a wonderful new novel to escape for a few minutes; choose a jigsaw puzzle; pick out children’s books to keep the kids busy; or utilize our online resources like Libby and Hoopla for downloadable e-books and audiobooks.

Our library is grateful to be an important part of this community. Please consider making a donation to our 2024 Annual Appeal. Your gift is crucial to our success and funds our many programs and services. Giving to the Mendham Borough Library is easy as we now accept Venmo! Search for us @mendhamboroughlibrary.

Welcome Kristen Hecker!

We would like to welcome our newest staff member, Kristen



Hecker, to our library. Kristen will be working at our Circulation Desk and is happy to assist you with your library needs. She lives in Chester with her husband and two daughters. Kristen previously worked in the education field and has volunteered with school

organizations. She is an avid reader and is thrilled to share her love of reading with others. Feel free to stop by the library and introduce yourself to Kristen.

Mendham Borough Library will be closed on Tuesday-Thursday, December 24-26, and Tuesday, December 31.

Did You Know?

We are excited to announce that we have added the **Montclair Art Museum** to our Library Museum Pass collection! Each pass allows free entrance to the museum to two adults plus all children in the household. Please call or stop by the library to reserve your pass today.

In addition to the Montclair Art Museum, we have passes to the **Morris Museum, Fosterfields Living Historical Farm, and Historic Speedwell.**



December Adult Programs

College Prep: Testing & Admissions

Tuesday, December 3, 6:30 p.m.

Join Breakaway Prep Mendham for this free information session to hear about the SAT and the anticipated changes in the ACT. Geared toward 9th, 10th and 11th grade students and parents.

Wreath Making with The Lillie House

Tuesday, December 10, 6:30 p.m.



Make your own holiday wreath with step-by-step instructions from Mendham’s floral expert Jillian McFadyen of The Lillie House.

Greenery donated by Hidden Pond Tree Farm in Mendham. Limited spots available. Register early to secure your spot!

Adult Crafting Club

Wednesday, December 18, 1:00 p.m.

Join us for our monthly Adult Crafting Club at the library! Make a decorative holiday tree using old magazines.



Fletcher Gallery

Mountain View Middle School 6th grade art students will have printmaking projects on display for the month of December.

Monthly Programs

Yoga via Zoom

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m.

\$5 per class. Sign up by the month at the library.

Social Bridge

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

For experienced players.

Canasta

Thursdays, 10 a.m.

For experienced players.

In Stitches

Fridays, December 6 & 20, 1 p.m.
All levels welcome!

Coloring Club

Monday, December 16, 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a fun drink and creative coloring with friends!

Book Club

Friday, December 20, 10 a.m.

Join us to choose our 2025 book selections!

December Children's Programs



Toddler Sing-Along

*Mondays, December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30,
10:30 a.m.*

Sing fun songs with us!

Babies and Books

*Fridays, December 6, 13, 20, 27,
10:30 a.m.*

Join us for a story, nursery rhyme,
poems, and playtime!

Elf Scavenger Hunt

December 2—23

Join us and Morris Bernards Moms in this fun interactive holiday event. Find our Library Elf and "check in" with the QR code to be entered in the raffle for a prize. Visit morrisbernardsmoms.com for more information.

Coming Up

Read to a Dog—Tues., Jan. 7, 3:30 p.m.

Maggie Doyme Updates from Nepal Featuring Barry Haines—
Wed., Jan. 8, 7:00 p.m.

**Travel Tips & Tricks with Professional Traveler Chris
McCormick**—Wed., Jan. 15, 6:30 p.m.

Lunar New Year Celebration—Tues., Jan. 28, 3:30 p.m.

Perler Bead Ornaments (5+)

Tuesday, December 3, 3:30 p.m.

Create unique winter decorations out of Perler beads.

Holly Trail

Saturday, December 7, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Stop in for a special take home craft and to find our Santa to complete your list.

Gingerbread House Workshop

*Wednesday, December 11,
3:30 and 4:45 p.m.*

Come make a Gingerbread House together as a family. One house per family.



Painting Together Workshop— Snowmen (7+)

Wednesday, December 18, 4:30 p.m.

Create a masterpiece together. Each sign up spot is for 1 adult/child/teen pair, to work together on a beautiful snowman painting.



Holly Trail

*Saturday, December 7,
11:00—3:00 p.m.*

Join the Mendham Business Association for another fun-filled day!

Where's Santa?

Come to Mendham Jewelers at the Kings Shopping Center to get your map, then visit participating stores to find Santa and collect signatures. Fill up your map and win Mendham Money!

Candy Canes

Look around town for Candy Canes. When you see a cane outside a business, there is Holly Trail Fun inside!

Santa at the Phoenix House

(See ad on back page) Have your picture taken by a photographer while you visit Santa. Reservations required.

Tree Lighting

After walking around town, join us at the Gazebo on Mountain Ave at 4:00 p.m. Take part in carols with the Mendham High School Carolers, and welcome Santa as he arrives on a fire truck!



Holiday Tree Safety Tips from the Mendham Fire Department

- ◆ When you get home with your tree, make a fresh cut across its base and place it in water immediately. Keep water container full at all times, checking daily.
- ◆ Be extra careful with electricity, all open flames and other heat sources during the holidays.
- ◆ Check all Christmas tree lights, electric decorations and appliances for wear. Do not use those with worn or frayed electrical cords. Use only UL approved electrical decorations and extension cords.
- ◆ Place the Christmas tree away from heat registers, space heaters, fireplaces, wood stoves, televisions, computer monitors and other heat sources.
- ◆ Keep an emergency escape route clear of trees, packages and furniture.
- ◆ Unplug tree lights and other decorations when out of the room or sleeping.

December 2024
Mendham Borough
2 West Main St.
Phoenix House
Mendham, NJ 07945

Presort Standard
US POSTAGE PAID
Phillipsburg, NJ
PERMIT #4

Borough Events in December, 2024

Borough Offices will be closed Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25

Borough Meetings: held at the Garabrant Center unless otherwise indicated.

Council: 7 p.m. Wednesday, December 11; 7 p.m. Monday, December 16

ECOSST: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 2

Joint Land Use Board: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 3; 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 17

Board of Health: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, December 19

Recreation Committee: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, December 19

Historic Preservation Commission: 7:30 p.m. Monday, December 16

Recycling: Thursdays, December 5, 12, 19; Friday, December 27

Curbside Bulk Pickup: Mondays, December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Borough Schools Board of Education:

7:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 17; Hilltop Elementary School Cafeteria



*Please Join Us
For The*

**ANNUAL
HOLLY TRAIL
COMPLIMENTARY
COOKIES
& PHOTOS
WITH SANTA**

**RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED**



The Borough Of Mendham
Historic Phoenix House
Saturday~December 7th,
2024
11 AM-3:30 PM



2 West Main Street
Mendham, NJ 07945
973-543-7152
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