

# *The Mendham Messenger*

October 2009

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## Mayor's Update

Dear Residents and Business Owners:

As we enter October, Mendham Borough is active with news and events.

The Borough Council is concerned about the continuing decline in property values which place the town at risk for tax appeal litigation. To forestall this possibility, the borough council introduced an ordinance at its September 8 meeting for an emergency appropriation of \$67,500 to prepare and conduct a reassessment of real estate taxes for all homes in the town.

A reassessment was chosen rather than a complete revaluation because it will take less time and revenues. Upon approval of this ordinance and approval of the County Tax Board and Division of Taxation, a reassessment could be completed in the 2010 tax year. The reassessment will include inspection of all property throughout the borough. Inspections are mandated because our last full revaluation was conducted in 2005, 4 years ago. The borough council has already passed Resolution 125-09 which awarded the reassessment contract to Appraisal Systems. More details will be provided once all approvals have been secured.

In other real estate related news, we have begun a two-phase process that will expand the borough's historic district. The first phase will insure that all appropriate properties are in the National Historic Registry. The second phase will expand the borough's historic zone to properties identified by the borough's historic commission and Mr. Dennis Bertland, a special consultant assisting with this project.

The Borough recently saw significant savings in the settlement for our portion of a suit which involved several municipalities. Thanks to borough attorney Fred Semrau our original allocation of \$126,000 was reduced to \$9,000.

As most of you know, several members of our police department are currently unable to work due to injuries. We are presently operating with eight officers. Chief Taylor has assured the borough council that all patrol shifts are being covered and he has been directed to begin interviewing candidates for at least one patrol

spot. Chief Taylor hopes to recommend candidates to the council sometime in October. In the meantime, best wishes to Sgt. Libertino, Sgt. McNichol and Ptl. Barnes for full recoveries from their injuries.

Also, best wishes for a speedy recovery to Administrator Ellen Sandman who was stricken with pneumonia and a staph infection while vacationing in Florida. Ellen was hospitalized for 10 days and is now home in Denville where she continues her recovery.

The balance of the year will be busy for the governing body as preparations begin on our 2010 budget. Work will also continue on amendments to our property maintenance code and a new occupancy limitation ordinance.

*Sincerely,*

*Neil Henry  
Mayor*

## **Mendham Borough Board of Education News**

**Next Meeting ~ Tuesday, October 27  
7:30 pm in Hilltop School Cafeteria**

The new school year started smoothly, and students are studying hard with our dedicated teachers. We are pleased to welcome two new members of the teaching staff to Mountain View School, and a new business administrator to the district. Mr. James Bencivenga joins the 7<sup>th</sup> grade team to teach mathematics. Mr. Bencivenga has been teaching algebra at the middle school level for three years. He hopes to share his enthusiasm that "Math can be fun!" with his students. Ms. Tara Collins joins the related arts team, to teach technology, having taught previously in the New York City Public Schools and in the Caldwell/West Caldwell and Kinnelon Public Schools in New Jersey. Her mission is to "provide a welcoming library environment and a lifelong love of learning." Our new business administrator is Ms. DonnaMarie Palmiere. Ms. Palmiere, officially began her job in July, and was most recently the business administrator/board secretary in White Township, NJ.



Mendham Borough  
LIBRARY

# News from the Mendham Borough Library

10 Hilltop Road 973 543-4152 mendhamboroughlibrary.org



## Looks for Books Fundraiser

Next planning meeting ~  
Friday, October 9 at 9:30 am

Do you want to be the best dressed character in town this holiday season? Come to the Friends' first fashion show on Thursday evening, December 3 and find out how. See the best looks for the holiday season from Windswept and Para L'elle and take home the clothes you love that night. The fashion show will also include sportswear from Court-

side and Ecco Life, make up by Carla Fabrizi, jewelry from Red Tops, and accessories from Beryl's Belts. Ticket proceeds and a portion of the sales will benefit the Friends of the Library.

We are planning the event now and would love to see you at our next meeting. Tickets will go on sale on November 2 at the library. Please call Pat Charney at 973 543-4152 if you are interested in more information.

## New Young Adult Librarian

We welcome Maryann Burden as our new young adult librarian. She is embarking on a second career after many years as a food scientist. A resident of Hunterdon County where she lives with her husband and twelve-year-old son, Maryann is looking forward to meeting our patrons and bringing a fresh view to our Young Adult programming and events.

## Special Children's Programs for October

The following programs are free but registration is requested.

### Fun with Food ~ Decorate Halloween Cookies

Wednesday, October 21 at 3:15 pm

### Halloween Bingo with creepy, crawly candy prizes

Friday, October 23 at 3:15 pm

### Creepy Crafts

Wednesday, October 28 at 3:15 pm

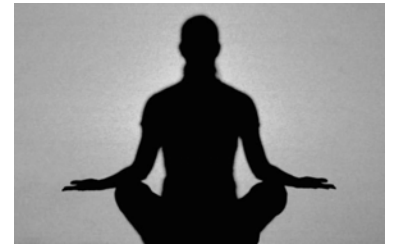
Create a skeleton, witch or 3-D haunted mansion.

*Check out [www.mendhamboroughlibrary.org](http://www.mendhamboroughlibrary.org) for more information about special Halloween activities and about our on-going book clubs for kids in kindergarten to eighth grade.*

## Yoga Class

### Sign Ups Now

The second of the two fall yoga sessions will run from October 27 to December 17 at the Mendham Borough Library. The 8:30 am morning classes will be held on Tuesdays with Peggy Hynes and on Thursdays with Karen Lonergan. The cost for either session is \$30; the cost for both is \$60. There is a 10 person minimum sign-up to run the classes and they will have a 15 person maximum. Drop-ins will be permitted, but only at the start of the session if the 15 maximum "subscribed" participants do not attend. The drop-in fee will be \$5 per class. Sign up at the library or call 973 543-4152 with any questions.



## Children's Room Renovation

The renovation of the children's room in the library in memory of Julia Metzler is underway. Contributions are still being sought for the purchase of the items listed below.



*Yes, we would like to support the library with a gift to . . .*

- Buy a book. . . . . \$20
- Adopt a puppet. . . . . \$30
- Supply dress up clothes. . . . . \$50
- Contribute to computer tables/chairs. . . . . \$250
- Buy bookshelves or seating . . . . . \$600
- Make a general contribution to the Library. ..\$ ???

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact Pat Charney, Library Director, for information about additional giving opportunities. Gifts can be sent to: Mendham Borough Library, 10 Hilltop Road, Mendham, NJ 07945.



October 2009  
Mendham Borough  
2 West Main St.  
Phoenix House  
Mendham, NJ 07945

Presort Standard  
US Postage Paid  
Whitehouse Sta.  
NJ 08889  
Permit No. 35

## Borough Calendar for October

### Curbside Bulk Pickup

Mondays, October 5, 12, 19 & 26

**Recycle** - Thursdays, October 8 & 22

**Borough Council Meetings** - at the Garabrant Center,  
8 pm on Mondays, October 5 & 19

**Planning Board Meeting** - at the Garabrant Center,  
7:30 pm on Tuesday, October 13

**Board of Adjustment** - at the Garabrant Center,  
7:30 pm on Tuesday, October 6

**Historic Commission** - at the Phoenix House,  
7:30 pm on Monday, October 19

**Open Space Commission** - at the Phoenix House,  
7 pm on Thursday, October 8

**Environmental Commission** - at the Phoenix House,  
8 pm on Thursday, October 22

*Borough Offices closed Monday, October 12 for Columbus Day.*

### Free Cabinets Available

Mendham Area Senior Housing is refurbishing all of the kitchens in our facility and will have used cabinets available on a first-come-first-serve basis. They would be great storage in a garage or basement. Please contact Laura Montenegro at 973-543-2666 to get your name on the list. You must supply your own transportation.

## Mendham History Society Meeting

**Tuesday, October 27 at 7:30 pm at the Phoenix House**

Barbara de Mare, attorney, historian, genealogist and grandmother, will share her expertise in research and her knowledge of history. No need for reservations; light refreshments will be served. Any questions please call 973-543-7538 or email Hank-O@comcast.net.

## Swine Flu Update on Website

Please visit the Borough Website, [mendhamnj.org](http://mendhamnj.org) under News and Announcements for a detailed update from our local Health Department. Flu vaccinations should be available starting in last October, but please do not forget these simple preventative measures now.

- Wash your hands frequently, with soap and water.
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Keep your children home if they are sick.



## Mendham Networking Group

The next meeting of the Mendham Business Association Networking Group will take place on Thursday, October 15 at 7 am at the Somerset Hills Bank in Mendham. All are welcome. Please rsvp to Fran Plodkowski at 973-543-2145 by October 13 if you plan to attend.