



# THE MENDHAM MESSENGER



March 2024

The Borough of Mendham Community Newsletter

[mendhamnj.org](http://mendhamnj.org)

## Letter From the Mayor

### **Dear Mendham Borough residents and business owners,**

I can't remember the last time that the groundhog called for an early spring. I think we all know that an early spring doesn't mean that we won't see more snow, so don't put your shovel away just yet.

### **Time To Vote**

The West Morris Regional High School District has a referendum regarding their budget on the ballot. The vote is set for Tuesday, March 12. If you are signed up to receive a Vote by Mail ballot you may have already received it. In Mendham Borough the polls will be open as they usually are on our Primary or General Election days. Just go to your regular voting location and vote in person the way you always do.

For questions on voting you can contact Lauren McBride in our Clerk's Office.

### **New State Legislation on Affordable Housing**

On February 12, the State Assembly passed new affordable housing legislation by a 51 – 28 member vote. You can find the bill here: [https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2024/A0500/4\\_R1.PDF](https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2024/A0500/4_R1.PDF).

The bill essentially dissolves COAH and gives the NJ Department of Consumer Affairs the authority to determine housing numbers for towns. The State Senate is expected to hear and vote on this bill by the end of February, which means by the time you are reading this newsletter a decision may have been made. The new law would give additional credits for supportive housing for people with special needs, along with some other opportunities to develop affordable housing while limiting dense development.

We will be posting a summary on our website for everyone's better understanding. I am also planning to host a Mayor's Roundtable to learn about what this new legislation could mean for Mendham Borough. The meeting will take place sometime in the month of March and details for the meeting will be posted and advertised for all interested parties to attend. Be prepared to register your attendance so we can arrange for a large enough room to accommodate all.

### **Thinking About a Major Home Project?**

We have had some residents recently begin major yard projects, not realizing that there are approvals and permits that are required. Depending on the project, you may need both Borough, County and State approvals. One new factor that has increased the need for review and approval is the State stormwater regulations. These new regulations are complicated, so the best course of action is to reach out to

our engineering department for a thorough review. Failure to file with all of the appropriate offices can result in a fine. Don't just believe a contractor if they tell you that you don't need any approvals, because you could end up having to pay twice: once to do the work and once to undo it. Here is an example of just some of the requirements when it comes to moving soil:

For Mendham Borough the following require a lot grading permit from the Engineer:

- ◆ Any increase in lot coverage of 1,000 square feet or more
- ◆ Any soil disturbance of 2,500 square feet or more
- ◆ All new driveways require Engineer review
- ◆ Road openings require permits through Engineering department.

For the County:

- ◆ Any soil disturbance of 5,000 square feet or more requires a permit from Morris County Soil Conservation.

Remember, doing work on your own yard can have a big impact on stormwater flow or your neighbor's property. Get a review up front!

### **Phoenix House Restoration**

We have officially moved out of the Phoenix House building and into the Bowers Building for at least the next 4 – 6 months. As a reminder, this is necessary to make room for the structural work that needs to be completed. Our staff is working in tight quarters, and they don't have immediate access to records, so patience would be appreciated. We are asking residents to schedule appointments if you need an in-person meeting. You can still drop off payments to the Bowers Building mailbox. During this process we know there will be some growing pains, so please don't hesitate to reach out if you need something.

### **Coming Up...**

It's budget time of the year again. We will be posting important meetings and deadlines so you can follow the process.

Friendly reminder: if you are new to town, please visit our website and make sure you sign up for our social media and Nixle, which can be found to the left of the home page.

That's it for this month. Happy St Paddy's Day! Wishing you tender corned beef.

Sincerely,  
Christine Serrano Glassner, Mayor



## Check out a Kindle!

Check out a Kindle at our library for two weeks to read current bestsellers! We have recently added the following popular titles:

*How to Know a Person: the Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen* by David Brooks (non-fiction) ♦ *Oath and Honor: A Memoir and A Warning* by Liz Cheney (non-fiction) ♦ *First Lie Wins* by Ashley Elston ♦ *Still See You Everywhere* by Lisa Gardner (March 12 release) ♦ *The Women* by Kristin Hannah ♦ *The Heiress* by Rachel Hawkins ♦ *The Ghost Orchid* by Jonathan Kellerman ♦ *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon ♦ *The Teacher* by Freida McFadden ♦ *The Fury* by Alex Michaelides ♦ *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett ♦ *The #1 Lawyer* by James Patterson and Nancy Allen (March 18 release) ♦ *After Annie* by Anna Quindlen ♦ *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros ♦ *Iron Flame* by Rebecca Yarros

## March Adult Programs

### **Small Farm Methods to Backyard Gardens**

**Wednesday, March 6, 7:00 p.m.**

Join family farmer Anthony Bracco of Bracco Farms as he shares his expertise on sustainable farming methods. Anthony will help us understand where our food comes from, share his growing methods and demonstrate how small farm growing methods can be adapted to your backyard garden.



## **Books and Bookmarks Read-A-Long**

**Tuesday, March 12, 3:45 p.m.**

Read a story with children from Hilltop Elementary School and then make a bookmark together! Sign up to enjoy this fun multi-generational program!



## **Artificial Intelligence: Part 2**

**Wednesday, March 13, 6:30 p.m.**

We welcome back local expert Barry Haines to continue the discussion about what's next in artificial intelligence. Please bring your laptop to participate in this hands-on discussion.

## **The Great American Solar Eclipse**

**Wednesday, March 20, 7:00 p.m.**

Compared with the last total eclipse in 2017, this year's total eclipse will last longer, the sky will fall darker, and the sun will put on a much livelier show. Join local



astronomer Paul Cirillo as he shares everything we need to know as we prepare for this astonishing cosmic event.

All attendees will receive a pair of solar glasses to watch the live eclipse on April 8th!

## 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, March 8 & 22, 1 p.m.**  
All levels welcome!

### **Coloring Club**

**Monday, March 18, 6:30 p.m.**

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

### **Book Club**

**Friday, March 22, 10 a.m.**  
March

By Geraldine Brooks

## Fletcher Gallery

Our March gallery will feature the work of Hilltop Elementary Students, grades K through 4th, under the direction of art teacher Jean Na. Stop by to see the amazing display!

The Library will be closed on  
Friday, March 29.

## Did You Know?

Mendham Borough Library cardholders can access the Wall Street Journal online for free thanks to our partnership with Main Library Alliance. Visit our website and click on Digital Resources to register with your library card.

**WSJ**

**Please register for all programs at [www.mendhamboroughlibrary.org](http://www.mendhamboroughlibrary.org).**

## March Children's Programs

### **Toddler Sing-Along**

*Mondays, March 4, 11, 18, 25, 10:30 a.m.*

Sing some fun songs with us!

### **Babies and Books**

*Fridays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, (closed March 29), 10:30 a.m.*

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

### **Meet the First Aid Squad**

*Saturday, March 9, 10:30 a.m.*

**At 24 E. Main St. in Mendham**

Visit with Mendham Borough's First Aid Squad. Hear a story, explore the ambulance, and enjoy a slice of pizza with our local heroes.



### **St. Patrick's Day Fun**



*Wednesday, March 13, 3:30 p.m.*

Celebrate this holiday with a story and a craft, making a fun Leprechaun Wand.

### **Lego Club (5+)**

*Wednesday, March 27, 3:30 p.m.*

We'll bring the Legos, you bring your imagination.

## **Spring Art Contest**

Pick up your canvas panel and create a Spring masterpiece using whatever art materials you wish.

Paint, draw, create, have fun!

Panels will be displayed in our

Library to be voted on. Categories: Younger Kids (0-6), Older Kids (7-11), Teens (12-18), and Adults (18+). All panels must be returned by March 30th. Voting will take place in April. Visit our website for full details.



### **TAG (Teen Advisory Group)**

#### **DYO Duffel Bags**

*Thursday, March 21, 6 p.m.*

Use fabric paint to decorate a duffel bag to take home.

### **Coming Up**

**Friendship Bracelets (7+)**—Wed, April 10, 3:30 p.m.

**Harriet Tubman - Liberty or Death featuring Daisy Century, a**

**Bob Bush Exceptional Program**—Wed, April 17, 7 p.m.

**TAG—Teen Jeopardy (12+)**—Thurs, April 18, 5:30 p.m.

**Elephant & Piggie Party**—Tues, April 30, 3:30 p.m.

## **Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority**

### **Household Hazardous Waste**

The MCMUA's permanent Household

Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility is located at its Mt. Olive transfer station; 168 Gold Mine Road, Flanders, NJ 07836.

Appointment may be scheduled online using the form below or by calling us at 973-829-8006. Please read the listing of acceptable materials below and call with any questions.

Please call to discuss large quantities of HHW prior to scheduling an appointment.



**Acceptable Materials:** adhesives ♦ aerosol cans ♦ asbestos (in small quantities, must be under 100 lbs., wet down, double-bagged, sealed with duct tape, and sized to fit into 55-gallon drums) ♦ automotive cleaning products ♦ automotive fluids such as oil, antifreeze and brake, diesel, transmission and steering fluids, etc. ♦ automotive used oil filters ♦ batteries for car, boat, motorcycles and/or ATVs (lead-acid) ♦ batteries, if they are rechargeable (NiCd, NiMH, Lithium-Ion) and/or hazardous dry-cell batteries (button-cell and lithium). Alkaline batteries are not hazardous and are not accepted (put them

into the garbage) ♦ caulks ♦ caustic cleaning materials ♦ cooking oils (vegetable, peanut oil, etc. can be new or used) ♦ corrosive liquids and solids ♦ driveway sealant and roofing tar if they contain coal tar or petroleum distillates ♦ fire extinguishers ♦ flammable liquids (lighter fluid, diesel fuel) ♦ fluorescent light bulbs and CFLs (compact fluorescent lights) that contain mercury ♦ gasoline/diesel gas (must be transported in a certified gas can) ♦ household hazardous cleaning products—must be considered hazardous but note, most are not hazardous. ♦ kerosene ♦ muriatic acid ♦ nail polish and nail polish remover (acetone) ♦ oil-based paints and varnishes, stains, lacquers (liquid or solidified) ♦ pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers (bug sprays, bug killers, home defense and repellents) ♦ photography and printing chemicals (fixers, toners and inks) ♦ pool chemicals and chlorine ♦ propane cylinders (BBQ-sized propane cylinders cost \$5/cyl. at the permanent HHW facility and there is no charge for camping stove-sized propane cylinders) ♦ solvents and paint thinners ♦ thermometers and thermostats containing mercury

**More details and unacceptable materials** may be found at [https://mcmua.com/sw\\_hhw\\_pfacc.asp#unacceptable](https://mcmua.com/sw_hhw_pfacc.asp#unacceptable).

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

Presort Standard  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Phillipsburg, NJ  
PERMIT #4

### Borough Events in March, 2024

**Borough Offices Closed Friday, March 29**

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

**Council:** 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 13; 7 p.m. Monday, March 25

**ECOSST:** 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 4

**Historic Preservation Commission:** TBA

**Joint Land Use Board:** 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 19

**Board of Health:** 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 21

**Recreation Committee:** 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 21

**Borough Schools Board of Education:**

7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 19, Hilltop Elementary School Cafeteria

**Recycling:** Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28

**Curbside Bulk Pickup:** Mondays, March 4, 11, 18, 25

### Mendham Area Senior Transportation

#### **Ride with MAST**

Mendham Area Senior Transportation

drives to:

- ◆ Doctor appointments
- ◆ Physical therapy
- ◆ Wednesday food shopping

Call us at 973-543-2666 x303 and  
enjoy peace of mind!



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A publication for the residents of Mendham Borough

**[www.mendhamnj.org](http://www.mendhamnj.org)**

Mendham Borough Hall: 2 West Main Street, Mendham, NJ 07945