



THE MENDHAM MESSENGER



January 2026

The Borough of Mendham Community Newsletter

mendhamnj.org

Letter From the Mayor

Dear Mendham Residents

Happy New Year!! Wishing you and your loved ones a year filled with Joy, Success, and Wonderful New Memories.

This year's MBA Holly Trail and Tree Lighting Ceremony, a tradition for over 24 years, was enjoyed by all. Over 130 families joined us at the Phoenix House for complimentary pictures with Santa. Pictures with Santa are available to download at www.mendhamnj.org.

With the wonders of the season comes the fun and joy of shoveling snow and keeping the sidewalks in front of our homes and businesses clear for pedestrians. This is a great activity for the kids and families to do together and a chance to break in that new holiday snow shovel! Don't forget the hydrants located in front of homes should be kept clear of snow for our Volunteer Fire Fighters and First Aid to access and help keep us safe.

Please remember that the No Overnight Winter Parking rules are in effect. From November 1 to April 15 from 2am to 6am, no vehicle may be parked overnight on the streets in the Borough.

Some of us just can't wait to get that Christmas tree out of the house and get the house back in order. If you need to have your Christmas tree picked up in front of your house, please call 973-543-6535 or email the DPW at dpw@mendhamnj.org to take advantage of this service provided by our DPW. Winter walks are wonderful, invigorating, and healthy. When enjoying the outdoors with furry friends, please keep them safe, on a leash, clean up after them, and dispose of their waste in a proper receptacle. Please be courteous and remember not to throw it in someone's trash can.

If you are lucky, maybe you are able to get away for a warm weather vacation, so if you do try to prepare

your home as best you can by turning off water to outside hoses, keeping the heat on, not turned down too low, and perhaps have someone check your home for long stays away.

You can find us at www.mendhamnj.org. Once there, sign up for email alerts by clicking on the green envelope icon or Nixle on the left side of the page. You can also find us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. You will find our Council Meeting schedule and our Committee and Board meeting schedules on our calendar. Council meetings start at 7 p.m.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank with deep gratitude all the hard-working Mendham Borough Council Members, Staff, and Volunteers that keep our Borough a safe and great place to live. May the coming year bring you everything you hope for. Cheers to a bright 2026!!!

Have a great winter.

Mayor James "Jim" Kelly



Need to Report a Code Concern?

Use the QR code to access the online form to report a code enforcement concern.



Happy New Year from All of Us to All of You!

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year in 2026. As we begin to plan the year ahead we will focus on bringing the community more services, with an emphasis on things that people want and enjoy. We will continue to purchase bestselling and popular books, and increase our digital collection and offerings. We currently subscribe to Libby and Hoopla which offer hundreds of thousands of electronic reading and audio materials which are free to use with your library card. If you need help to log in to one of these platforms, please call the library at 973-543-4152. Additionally, we will bring interesting, educational, and entertaining programming to the library for people of all ages. Please monitor our website and sign up for programs early as they often fill up quickly. We look forward to connecting with all of you in the year ahead!



January Adult Programs

College Prep Workshop: Testing & Admissions

Thursday, January 15, 6:30 p.m.

9th, 10th & 11th Grade Students and

Parents: Join Breakaway Prep

Mendham for this free information session to hear about both the SAT and ACT and the changes in the ACT. We'll provide advice on the timeline for testing, talk about the status of test-optional admissions, and learn what colleges are looking for in an applicant.



Artificial Intelligence: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Wednesday, January 21, 6:00 p.m.

Presenter John Tomaszewski will take us on an eye-opening journey through the real-world uses and ethical complexities of Artificial Intelligence, from its history to the latest generative tools. This program will equip you with practical insights to harness AI's transformative power in your work and life while thoughtfully navigating its challenges. No technical expertise is required—just bring your curiosity!

Adult Crafting Club: Snowflake Tote Bag

Monday, January 12, 12:00 p.m.

Relax at the library while painting your own tote bag.

We'll provide all the supplies so you can easily create a beautiful, custom tote to take home—perfect for your winter errands or as a thoughtful gift.



Monthly Programs

Yoga via Zoom

**Tuesdays and Thursdays,
8:30 a.m.**

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

Beginner Mahjong

Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

Social Bridge

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

For experienced players.

Mahjong

Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

For experienced players.

Canasta

Thursdays, 10 a.m.

For experienced players.

In Stitches

Fridays, January 2, 16, & 30, 1 p.m.

All levels welcome!

Coloring Club

Monday, January 26, 6:30 p.m.

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

Book Club

Friday, January 23, 10 a.m.

Say Nothing by Brad Parks

Fletcher Gallery

In January, the Fletcher Gallery will feature the joyful artwork of our talented local preschoolers from Hilltop Christian Nursery School, Mendham Co-Operative Preschool, and The TCS Co-op School.

Mendham Borough Library will be closed on Thursday, January 1 and Monday, January 19.

Did You Know?

The Stigma-Free Task Force of the Mendhams recently awarded a grant to the Mendham Borough Library to purchase books about mental health and well being. Please stop by this month to check out our new collection of these important, relevant and interesting new titles. The collection will include books for children as well as adults. Tremendous thanks to the Stigma-Free Task Force of the Mendhams for your generous grant and thoughtful approach to educating individuals about mental health.



January Children's Programs

Toddler Sing-Along

Mondays, January 5, 12, 26 (closed January 19), 10:30 a.m.

Sing fun songs with us!

Babies and Books

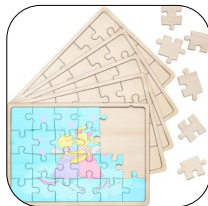
Fridays, January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 10:30 a.m.

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

Puzzlemakers (5+)

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

Paint your own wooden puzzle to play with at home!



TAG (Teen Advisory Group)

Teen Yarn Painting (10+)

Wednesday, January 14, 5:30 p.m.

Create your own landscape masterpiece using yarn and a canvas.

Bluey Storytime

Wednesday, January 21, 3:30 p.m.

Join us for a special afternoon storytime, followed by a fun and simple Bluey craft.

Lunar New Year Celebration

Tuesday, January 27, 3:30 p.m.

Welcome the year of the horse with us as we learn about Lunar New Year, how to use chopsticks and make a fun craft.



Coming Up

Hike Morris County—Tues., Feb. 3, 6:30 p.m.

Kindness Club Valentine's Workshop

—Tues., Feb. 10, 3:30 p.m.

Home Organization Life Hacks—Tues., Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m.

Please register for all programs at
www.mendhamboroughlibrary.org

Kindergarten Registration 2026-27



Mendham Borough's Hilltop School is excited to form its next kindergarten class!

Pre-registration for the 2026-27 Kindergarten class opens **January 5, 2026**. Parents must visit

www.mendhamboro.org to review our enrollment process, pre-register, and complete and upload the required pre-registration forms. Children must be five years of age on or before Oct. 1, 2026, to be eligible to register for Kindergarten. Any student enrolling for first grade from an outside kindergarten program should also register at this time.

You will be prompted by the Genesis Portal to upload your child's original birth certificate and three (3) of your most recent proofs of residency from the following list: mortgage statement, certificate of occupancy, homeowner's insurance, tax bill, lease, deed, or a gas or electric bill.

In advance, please visit Hilltop's website at www.mendhamboro.org to download the Residency Packet, Kindergarten Entrance Form, and required medical forms, including the Health Assessment Record, Universal Health Record, and Dental Exam form. Please note your child's physician must complete the Universal Health Record, and the dentist must complete the Dental form. We also require up-to-

date immunization records, which you can obtain from your child's pediatrician. These forms must be uploaded to the Genesis Portal during the online registration process.

You will receive a confirmation email once all required forms and documents have been uploaded. Registration must be completed by April 15, 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Austin at 973-543-4251 ext. 121.

Capes, Community, and Critical Thinking on Display at Superhero Literacy Night

Hilltop School invited students and families to "unleash their superpower – reading" at its annual Literacy Night on Nov. 20. Through interactive games, read-alouds, and a book fair, young learners experienced the excitement and value of reading and writing.

Literacy Night fosters a love of reading by bringing the entire school community together through engaging activities. Students and teachers throughout the district helped plan and facilitate activities, including a word-puzzle scavenger hunt, do-it-yourself keychains, cursive writing practice, and Scrabble Slam.

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Borough Events in January, 2026

Borough Offices will be closed January 1 and January 19

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

Council: 7 p.m. Wednesday, January 7

ECOSST: 7:30 p.m. Monday, January 5

Joint Land Use Board: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 20

Board of Health: TBA

Recreation Committee: TBA

Historic Preservation Commission: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 21

Recycling: Friday, January 2, Thursdays, January 8, 15, 22, 29

Curbside Bulk Pickup: Mondays, January 5, 12, 26; Tuesday, January 20

Borough Schools Board of Education: 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 7 (Re-organization Meeting); Hilltop Elementary School Cafeteria

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In superhero costumes, students explored the halls, engaging in conversations while collecting stamps by performing games to win prizes. Teachers led interactive story read-alouds, fostering reading comprehension and demonstrating effective strategies to use at home.

“Our goal is to strengthen the home-school connection by engaging families in meaningful activities,” said Supervisor of Literacy Lori Zockoff.

By participating in the educational activities, parents gained valuable insights into how their children learn and how hands-on experiences promote literacy comprehension. This event provides a casual backdrop for the parents to meet and engage with our staff and build connections with the school community,” said Superintendent of Schools Mitzi Morillo, Ed.D.

Mendham Borough School District is dedicated to nurturing confident and capable readers and writers. Literacy Night furthered this mission by inspiring students to keep literacy activities beyond the classroom.