



THE MENDHAM MESSENGER



March 2026

The Borough of Mendham Community Newsletter

mendhamnj.org

Letter From the Mayor



Dear Mendham Residents and Businesses,

Groundhog Day was February 2nd, and Groundhog Mel saw his shadow, predicting six more weeks of winter. Unfortunately, this means more snow is likely. During the last snowfall many sidewalks were not shoveled, creating safety hazards for

everyone including our school children walking to school. Please remember each property owner is responsible for shoveling their sidewalks. Several residents attended Council and requested the Borough Code to be updated with stronger snow removal regulations. Safety Committee Chair, Marilyn Althoff, is working with her committee and is in the process of drafting an ordinance to amend the Borough Code to address this issue.

The Borough is a member, along with twenty-eight municipalities, of the statewide Local Leaders for Responsible Planning (LLRP). This organization is fighting to create fairer State affordable housing mandates. The organization filed a lawsuit "Montvale et al. vs State of New Jersey" on this issue. LLRP is currently in the process of appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court for a hearing on the matter of unfair treatment of certain municipalities and the affordable housing units they are required to provide. Mendham Borough is a participant in this lawsuit.

Within the past three years the State mandated the Borough to finalize not only its 3rd Round Housing Element Fair Share Plan (HEFSP) to address affordable housing but also its 4th Round HEFSP. The 3rd Round began in January of 2005, at which time the governing body submitted a resolution committing to petition for its 3rd Round HEFSP certification. Previous governing bodies did not address completion of the required plan and the proverbial "can was kicked down the road." In 2019, the Borough Mayor and Council initiated the process to develop the State mandated 3rd Round HEFSP. On the filing date of the 3rd Round HEFSP with the court, V-Fee filed suit to have its apartment project included. The Court mandated the V-Fee project must be included, approved, and zoning provided in the 3rd Round HEFSP. After the Borough Environmental Commission filed comments and an appeal on the project's NJDEP permitting, the court stated it would revoke the Borough's zoning immunity, and the Borough was forced to desist. Losing zoning immunity would have allowed any developer to come in to build high density housing and not be subject to the Borough's zoning. The Borough, however, was

successful in reducing the apartment complex from 100+ units to 75 units.

In my previous letter, I mentioned that the Sisters of Christian Charity and Accordia sued the Borough to have their 150-unit apartment project included in the 4th Round HEFSP. There was a resident question at the last Council meeting about this suit asking if the Borough lost its zoning immunity. At the court hearing the judge took Borough's zoning immunity away. The Judge re-instated the Borough's immunity about a week later once the Borough Council agreed to add the Sisters of Charity and Accordia 150-unit apartment project to its 4th Round HEFSP—with no age restrictions, no conservation easement requirements, and requirement to adopt zoning for the project by March 15th. The Borough is forced again to agree to the court's mandates to protect its zoning. The Sisters of Charity and Accordia did not provide the court required proposed settlement agreement and zoning ordinance to the Borough until February 9th. The Borough requested the documents on January 9th. Our Legal Counsel and Planning Professional have only 5 days to review. All the parties know that for the Borough to meet the mandated statutory requirements the Borough must have the settlement and zoning agreement on the Feb 18th Council Agenda with the Public Hearing at the March 4th Council meeting. Again, the court and developer have tied our community's hands as to input on the development and unfairly created a short timeframe for public engagement.

On a positive note, I am proud to announce the Borough was accepted into the Highlands Council Conformance Area, which will help protect and preserve our community's environment, land, and water resources from over-development. The Borough is also now eligible for Highlands Grant Funds. The NJ Legislature created the Highlands Council in 2004. The Borough had earlier opportunities to participate as a conforming community, but previous governing bodies did not pursue participation out of apprehension it would deter development. This project was over a four-year effort, which I have worked on with our Administrator both as a Council member and Mayor. I would like to thank Administrator Bushman for her diligence and hard work getting the plan prepared for submission and working with the New Jersey Highlands Council on the approval process.

Lastly, be safe and do not put your snow shovel away too soon!

James R. Kelly

Mayor James "Jim" R. Kelly

Library Spotlight

Please celebrate Marian Mundy with us this month. Marian Mundy joined the board of Trustees for Mendham Borough Library several decades ago. From day one she has been a steadfast supporter and advocate for public libraries and literacy in Mendham and beyond. Her commitment and insights helped guide our library's growth and evolution, ensuring it remains a vibrant center for learning, culture, and community engagement.

In addition to her remarkable service at the library, Marian is well known throughout Morris County as the longtime author of "Today's Mundy," a beloved column in the Observer-Tribune. Her thoughtful writing chronicled local life, shared community stories, and inspired countless readers with her unique perspective and wit. Marion is a journalist and feature writer who was affiliated with the Recorder Publishing Co., now Jersey Hills Media, for many years.

We are very proud to announce that Marian has been named the Mendham Borough Library's first ever Trustee Emerita, a distinction honoring her decades of dedicated service and exceptional contributions to our community. Thank you Marian for your service to our community, and for all that you have done for our library.



(L-R): Emma Mason, Marian Mundy, Biz Halliday, Barbara Mason

Fletcher Gallery

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

Did You Know?

You can download the Wall Street Journal free with your library card. All you need is your library card number and PIN. Go to our website at mendhamboroughlibrary.org and click on the Wall Street Journal button login and get started. If you need a library card, please come to the library with ID and we will give you one.

March Adult Programs

Blueprint of The Mind—Mentalism Show

Wednesday, March 4, 6:00 p.m. at Hilltop House



Join mentalist Fred Berthelot for a one-hour, mind-bending experience where your thoughts serve as the blueprint for a magical journey. Minds are read, lies are

detected, and actions are influenced—all in an engaging, family-friendly format!

Note: This program is designed for adults and teens (ages 14+). Teens must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. To ensure an accurate headcount, please register each attendee separately.

Craft Your Future: Vision Boarding with Eileen Lupu

Wednesday, March 18, 6:00 pm

Kick off the spring season with intention as certified life coach Eileen Lupu guides you through a "mental spring cleaning"

to clear space for new growth and creativity. Create a custom vision board designed to bring your personal goals and dreams to life. All supplies are provided; just bring your curiosity and a sense of possibility!



Adult Crafting Club: Shamrock Sign

Monday, March 2, 12:00 p.m.

Come paint your own wooden shamrock sign!

All supplies will be provided.



Monthly Programs

Yoga via Zoom

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

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

Beginners Mahjong

Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

Instruction is available on the first Tuesday of the month.

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, March 6, 20, 1 p.m.

All levels welcome!

Coloring Club

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

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

Book Club

Friday, March 27, 10 a.m.

Nineteen Minutes

by Jodi Picoult

March Children's Programs

Toddler Sing-Along

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

Sing fun songs with us!

Babies and Books

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

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

Holi Craft (5+)



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

Celebrate and learn about this festival of colors as we make a colorful craft.

Coming Up

Eyewitness to the Revolution: Catharine "Caty"

Greene—Wed., Apr. 22, 6:00 p.m.

Adult Crafting Club: Watercolor Bookmarks—

Mon., Apr.13, 12:00 p.m.

St. Patrick's Day Fun (7+)

Tuesday, March 17, 3:30 p.m.

Celebrate this fun holiday with an Origami shamrock bookmark craft and fortune teller!



Coffee Filter Flowers

Wednesday, March 11, 3:30 p.m.



Make beautiful flowers as we explore the science of paper chromatography.



TAG (Tween Advisory Group)

Coloring Club Bookmarks (9+)

Thursday, March 25, 5:30 p.m.

Take a break and relax with us as we color our own books while listening to calming music.

Check out Mendham TV's Community Bulletin Board

Mendham TV's Community Bulletin Board is your go-to resource for staying connected with events and activities happening right here in The Mendhams! Whether you're looking for events at the libraries, searching for a workshop, or other Mendham news, the Community Bulletin Board has the details.



The Bulletin Board airs between regular programming on Mendham TV (Comcast 29, Fios 22 or on-demand at www.mendhamtv.org).

Organizing an event that you want to promote? The Community Bulletin Board is the perfect platform to share your announcements and reach a wide audience. At Mendham TV, we believe in the power of community, and we invite local organizations, clubs, and individuals to contribute their events to our bulletin board. Contact us at info@mendhamtv.org for details. Share the buzz and make sure your events are front and center—join us in promoting all the fantastic opportunities our community has to offer!

Mendham Boro Summer Day Camp Registration Opens April 1

Save the date to register for Mendham Boro Summer Day Camp! Mendham Day Camp welcomes school-aged children, who will be enrolled in kindergarten through 6th grade for the 2026-2027 school year. Our day starts at 9:00 am and ends at 12:30 pm. It starts the camper's day off right and leaves plenty of time for other summertime activities! For more information and to see pricing, scan the QR Code or go to: <http://www.mendhamdaycamp.com/>.



Winter Termination Program

The NJ Department of Community Affairs has implemented a Winter Termination Program to prevent service discontinuation for eligible residential customers receiving residential electric, sewer and water service from a local authority, municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative from November 15th through March 15th. Mendham Borough does not shut off sewer for non-payment; this is informational for other public utilities. To find out if you are eligible, visit <https://tinyurl.com/WtrTermEligible>.

Need to Report a Code Concern?

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



(Continued on page 4)

Borough Events in March, 2026

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

Council Meeting: 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 4; 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 18

ECOSST: 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 2

Joint Land Use Board: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 17

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

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

Recycling: Thursdays, March 5, 12, 19, 26

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

Borough Schools Board of Education: 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 17; Hilltop Elementary School Cafeteria

(Continued from page 3)

What do you have to do?

1. If you qualify for protection from shut-off during this period, you should contact your utility company to advise them that you are eligible for coverage under the State's Winter Termination Program. You should also pay as much as you can on your bill(s) during the winter.
2. Customers also have the option to complete the Self-Certification form (link below) and provide this form to their utility company as a way of notifying the company of their eligibility for protection. When using the Self-Certification form it is recommended that a copy of the form be retained for one's personal records.
3. To submit a request for protection, visit <https://tinyurl.com/WtrTermForm>.

Messenger Digital Notifications

Scan the QR Code below to receive digital notifications about the Mendham Messenger.

