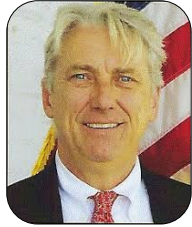




Letter From the Mayor

Dear Mendham Residents and Businesses,



As of writing this, on a dreary March day, I have an optimistic feeling that Spring is right around the corner. After the winter we've had, it will be gratefully welcomed!

Daylight Savings has started and for me it is a big adjustment. "I am working on Springing Forward!" Spring will once again draw us

outdoors and like me, many of you will be cleaning up your yards from the harsh winter. If you are planning a spring building project or just installing a fence it is advised to check the Borough website for permit requirements. Also feel free to stop in and inquire at the Building Department located in the Bowers Building about any necessary zoning or construction permits that may be needed. Do not just accept what your contractor says, and double check.

Coinciding with the Spring season is the time our Mendham Borough Volunteer Fire Department begins its annual fund-raising campaign. The Department currently provides vital fire protection, rescue and fire-prevention education services to over 5,000 residents and visitors to the Borough. It has been serving our community since 1905. Donation request letters are sent out in March. Please take a moment to consider a contribution. Your contribution helps our volunteer firefighters to keep Mendham safe. It allows the Fire Department to purchase equipment and to provide continuing education for all. If you missed the mailer, feel welcome to stop by the fire house in person and drop off a check. There is a drop box located at the fire department's front door. The Fire Department has responded to 41 calls and volunteered 266 hours to keep our town safe so far this year. So, please give generously to support these dedicated volunteers.

On March 9th the Department received the long-awaited new Squad Fire Truck. The Borough provided funding for the new one-million-dollar truck, which took two years to build. It is a combined rescue and fire engine and will replace two aged out trucks. The truck has easy maneuverability and will save garage space, maintenance, operating costs and insurance. I want to thank the Fire Department for their insightful planning dedication and hard work on the new fire truck project. Also, a special thank you to Safety Committee Chair, Dr. Marilyn Althoff, and the committee for their oversight. Lastly, the Department always welcomes new volunteers and has many options for volunteering. <https://mendhamfd.org/join/>

In February, concerned residents attended the council meetings and requested the Borough create stronger snow and ice removal requirements. The group raised strong safety concerns for pedestrians and schoolchildren, as they try to safely navigate walking to and from school, school bus stops, and walking along Main Street. They

highlighted a specific instance in which a young mother had to push a baby stroller in the street to go around a strip of sidewalk that was not shoveled for days after one of our recent significant snowstorms. The Safety Committee reviewed the issue in detail, looked at other communities' ordinances and proposed an ordinance to encourage property owners to keep our sidewalks safe and clear of snow and ice. The Ordinance was introduced at the March 4th Council meeting but was tabled due to objections and concerns raised by other residents. The concerns against the ordinance that were raised included: the impact on our senior citizen population, costs to homeowners to shovel and comply, and snowbirds who live outside of the Borough during the winter season.

This is the third time such an ordinance has been proposed by the Borough Council since 2005. As Mayor, I understand and appreciate both sides. No one wants another local mandated rule or law imposed on them. But at the same time, residents also want safe sidewalks in the winter and shouldn't be forced to walk on busy streets. We are looking at alternative ways to encourage the public to do better.

On Affordable Housing, the Borough has adopted the mandated implementing administrative ordinances and resolutions and adopted its Amended Fourth Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan ("HEFSP") that was mandated by the Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program Judge. The HEFSP includes the redevelopment of a portion of the Sisters of Christian Charity property. This is a project the Affordable Housing Program Judge has forced the Borough Council to accept and include in the Amended HEFSP. The project at the Sisters' property has met with many upset neighbors; and residents have asked, "How, and why is this happening?"

First things first, the Mount Laurel decision has been on the books since 1975. It is a constitutional requirement the Borough must comply with, through its local zoning powers, to affirmative adopting zoning that provides a "realistic opportunity" for the construction of low-and moderate-income housing to meet the Borough's regional affordable housing state mandated obligation.

In 2024, Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Legislature adopted sweeping changes to the New Jersey Fair Housing Act. The statutory changes dramatically increased regional affordable housing mandated obligations, and made it much more difficult for small municipalities like the Borough to comply with this State mandate. At the same time, the statutory amendments made it easier for builders to sue municipalities for "builder's remedy" relief. As our professionals have explained in several meetings over the last two years, a "builder's remedy" awarded by the court allows a developer to construct a substantial amount of market rate and affordable housing units at a location of the developer's choosing, without regard to local zoning restrictions and limited input from the Borough.

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Fundraiser: Ladies Day Out at Windswept Boutique

Thursday, April 16, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Join us for a great day out to benefit the Mendham Borough Library. Bubbles and nibbles will be served all day while you shop. Bring your friends to have some fun, shop and support the library. Mention the library to have 10% of all sales donated to the library and get a 10% discount on one item.



Library Spotlight

This month we celebrate our Library volunteers, without whom we could not operate the library. Our volunteers work 1,040 hours annually at the circulation desk checking books in and out; shelving books; answering the phone; managing the never ending book sale; calling patrons about books on hold; weeding books out of the collection; and helping with special projects. They even help out when they are not volunteering! Thank you all for your help and dedication. We appreciate all that you do to make our library run smoothly. Tremendous thanks to Rebecca Braun, Pat Charney, Deb D'Urso, Barbara Del Tufo, Wayne LeBlond, Jan Perrier, and Nancy Washco.



*Pictured: Pat Charney,
Wayne LeBlond, and
Jan Perrier.*

Fletcher Gallery

This month, the Fletcher Gallery is proud to feature a new exhibition of local artists, presented by The Arts Council of the Mendhams. We invite you to enjoy the remarkable artwork of your friends and neighbors on display now in our gallery.

Did You Know?

We have Kindles with bestselling books! You can check out a kindle electronic reader at the library for two weeks. Our kindles are pre-loaded with bestsellers each month. Read as many as you can in two weeks, then come and pick up a new one loaded with more new bestsellers. Some of the books currently on our kindles are, The Correspondent by Virginia Evans, Theo of Golden by Allen Levi, Vigil by George Saunders, Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell, Mona's Eyes by Thomas Schlessler and Heart the Lover by Lily King.

April Adult Programs

Eyewitness to the Revolution: Catherine "Caty" Greene

Wednesday, April 22, 6:00 p.m.



In anticipation of the American Revolution's 250th anniversary, storyteller and historian Carol Simon Levin brings fascinating women the history books forgot to life through

engaging first-person portrayals. In this presentation, Carol explores the war through the eyes of Catharine "Caty" Greene, a formidable patriot and wife of Continental Army General Nathanael Greene.

Hometown History NJ Podcast Presents: Mendham's Legacy

Wednesday, April 29, 6:00 p.m.

Mendham locals Ryan Ross and Katie Feather, hosts of the Hometown History NJ podcast, share their expertise on the iconic landmarks and stories that make New Jersey's small towns so unique. In this special presentation, they turn their focus toward home to explore the rich history of our very own Mendham.



Adult Crafting Club: Watercolor Bookmarks

Monday, April 13, 12:00 p.m.

Unwind and create spring themed watercolor bookmarks. 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, April 17, 1 p.m.

All levels welcome!

Coloring Club

Monday, April 20, 6:30 p.m.

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

Book Club

Friday, April 24, 10 a.m.

The Berry Pickers
by Amanda Peters

April Children's Programs

Toddler Sing-Along

Mondays, April 6, 13, 20, 27, 10:30 a.m.

Sing fun songs with us!

Babies and Books

Fridays, April 10, 17, 24 (Closed April 3), 10:30 a.m.

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

Coming Up

Mother's Day Heart Craft—Tues., May 5, 3:30 p.m.

College Prep Workshop Series, Part 2: Rising Seniors—Thur.,
May 7, 6:30 p.m.

Paint & Sip: Lemons—Wed., May 13, 6:00 p.m.

Adult and Child Spring Painting Together Workshop
—Wed., May 20, 5:30 p.m.

Mostly Motown: Concert on the Patio—
Wed., Jun. 17, 6:00 p.m.

**America at 250: Reflections with The Honorable Ken
MacKenzie**—June (Date TBD)



Pokémon Drawing Event (6+)

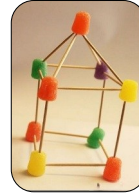
Wednesday, April 8, 3:30 p.m.

Come learn how to draw your favorite Pokémon and make a fun illustration.

Spring Printing Artwork

Tuesday, April 21, 3:30 p.m.

Use geometric shapes to make a mosaic spring stamp and beautiful ink prints.



Sweet STEM (5+)

Tuesday, April 28, 3:30 p.m.

Make your own marshmallow catapult, sweet building, and Peep Parachute as we explore the sweet side of science and engineering.

TAG (Tween Advisory Group)

Dessert Sushi (9+)

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

Make your own Sweet Sushi treat with us. A variety of fillings and "sauces" will be provided.



Mendham Borough Library Will be Closed on Friday, April 3.

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It may have been easier to avoid these mandates in prior affordable housing rounds, but today delaying and trying to "run out the clock" isn't a viable solution, both practically and legally.

Between 1999 and 2018, there were less than 10 new affordable units constructed in the Borough. On the same front, for over twenty years the Borough has had the opportunity to conform with the New Jersey Highlands Act. This left the Borough vulnerable to a higher affordable housing obligation, and more residential development in the Third and Fourth Round. The Borough has subsequently petitioned and was granted Highlands Planner Area conformance in January 2026. But one must wonder, why did it take so long?

I have lived in Mendham Borough my entire life. I have seen a lot of changes growing up and raising a family here. Now, more than ever before, the new State-mandated affordable housing laws have forced local governments to comply with the law or lose control of their zoning authority and the character of their community.

Some of the changes we will see in the coming years due to these mandates may be tough for some to watch. In the end, I believe the residents of Mendham Borough will continue to make this a great community.

Thank you to the Finance Committee Chair, Neil Sullivan and committee, the Borough Administrator, and CFO for their hard work on the Borough 2026 Budget. Having been a previous Chair of the Finance Committee, I know the work it takes. The Borough is fortunate to have excellent fiscal management and has been able to keep tax increases at the minimum 2%. The Borough is mandated to follow the State schedule for budget adoption. The Budget introduction was March 18th and the Public Hearing and Adoption is April 15th.

Have a Happy Easter and Passover.

James R. Kelly

Mayor James "Jim" R. Kelly

Mendham Boro Summer Day Camp Registration Opens April 1, 2026

The Mendham Borough Summer Day Camp is back in 2026! As we welcome registration for our 2026 camp season beginning April 1, we also want to spread the word on a few special events this year. First, get ready for bowling every Thursday for our 5th and 6th graders at



Pastime Lanes! Enjoy our other special events including a water slide, dunk tank, and reptile show!

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Need to Report a Code Concern?

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



Borough Events in April, 2026

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

Council Meeting: 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 1;
7:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 15

ECOSST: 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 6

Joint Land Use Board: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday,
April 21

Board of Health: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 16

Recreation Committee: 7:30 p.m. Thursday,
April 16

Historic Preservation Commission: 7:30 p.m.
Monday, April 20

Recycling: Thursdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Curbside Bulk Pickup: Mondays, April 6, 13,
20, 27

**Borough Schools Board of Education: Public
Hearing on the Budget**
7:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 28; Hilltop Elementary
School Cafeteria

(Continued from page 3)

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, including weekly themes and to see pricing, scan the QR Code or go to www.mendhamdaycamp.com/.



Messenger Digital Notifications

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

