



THE MENDHAM MESSENGER

The Newsletter for Mendham Borough

September 2025

Letter From the Mayor



Dear Mendham Residents:

Although it's August now, by the time this reaches you, Labor Day may have already come and gone—and much of the news may feel like old headlines. July brought us a significant downpour that caused some flooding, and I hope everyone has recovered safely. My wife was caught in the storm while out walking and was kindly rescued by lifelong Mendham resident and firefighter, Tom Porter. Thank you, Tom, for getting her home safely!

August kicked off with beautiful weather—the kind that makes Mendham shine. If you've been around town, I hope you've had a chance to enjoy the peace and serenity that makes our community so special. There truly aren't many places in the world that compare.

Labor Day Grand Marshal

This year, we're proud to announce Pat Serrano as our 37th Labor Day Parade Grand Marshal. Pat has lived in Mendham Borough since 1965. Her son Kenny and I were good friends growing up, and many of us have fond memories of the Serrano home. In 1976, Pat founded Serrano Travel Agency, helping countless residents—including my wife Frederica and me with our honeymoon plans 34 years ago. Pat also co-founded the Mendham Business Association 25 years ago and remains an active member. She's involved with the Mendham Seniors and the Hometown Heroes Banner Committee. Her tireless volunteerism and work ethic make her a perfect choice for this honor.

In celebration of Pat and all the hardworking residents of Mendham, this year's Labor Day Parade theme is "Celebrating Mendham's Working People." Labor Day honors the contributions of workers across all industries and the labor movement's fight for rights. It's a day to recognize everyone in the workforce—including volunteers and retirees.

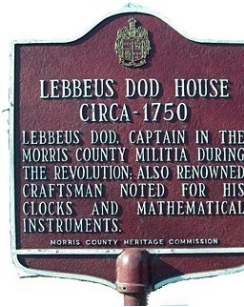
Borough Park Facilities

We ask everyone to kindly respect our Borough Park facilities, especially the Botti Pavilion and Carriage House restrooms. Unfortunately, due to misuse, these bathrooms are currently only open for scheduled events. They are seasonal facilities and are winterized during the colder months. For convenience, porta-potties are available at all parks, typically near ball fields. These are maintained weekly by United Site Services (800-628-8955) and provide a safe, sanitary solution for all visitors.

Emergency Operations Plan Update

Public Safety Director William Craig and Officer in Charge Captain Pat McNichol have completed the County-required bi-annual update of Mendham Borough's Emergency Operations Plan. This comprehensive, all-hazards plan ensures borough-level coordination during disasters and emergencies. It has been in place for decades and is updated every two years. The professionalism and dedication of our Police Department should give everyone peace of mind.

250 Years of the U.S.A.



Looking ahead, Recreation Coordinator Aubrey Egerter reminds us that July 4th, 2026, marks our nation's 250th birthday. Mendham Borough, settled in the 1720s and officially incorporated in 1906, has deep historical roots. The Hilltop Cemetery is the final resting place of 27 Revolutionary War soldiers, and the Black Horse Tavern & Pub—dating back to 1742—is New

Jersey's oldest continually operating tavern. We're excited to celebrate this milestone and are seeking volunteers to join our Historic Committee. If you're interested, please reach out to Aubrey at aegerter@mendhamnj.org.

I'll leave you with a quote from John Ruskin that reminds me of my brother Mike, one of the hardest-working people I know: "When we build, let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for present delight nor for present use alone. Let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for; and let us think, as we lay stone on stone, that a time is to come when these stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and that men will say, as they look upon the labor and wrought substance of them: See! This our fathers did for us."

I hope you've all had a wonderful summer filled with lasting memories.

Happy Labor Day!

Mayor James Kelly



Save the Date!

Historic Holiday House Tour

Saturday, December 6



The Mendham Borough Library is excited to bring back the cherished Historic Holiday House Tour fundraiser on Saturday, December 6th from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Get ready to step inside some of Mendham's most charming historic homes, beautifully decorated for the season.

Tickets go on sale in October. Stay tuned for details!

Calling All Library Lovers!

Volunteer Grant Writer Needed for Mendham Borough Library

The Mendham Borough Library is seeking an experienced volunteer grant writer to help secure funding for vital programs, services, and facility improvements. Perks include unlimited book loans, no late fees, and the immense gratitude of your community!

We're applying for just a few grants, so the time commitment is minimal—but your expertise is invaluable in today's competitive funding landscape. If interested, contact Jennifer Zervigon at jennifertzervigon@yahoo.com. Your help would make a real difference!

Library Spotlight on Rickie

We had the pleasure of sitting down with rising fifth grader Rickie to chat about books, games, and the best place in Mendham (hint: it involves ice cream).

MBL: Rickie, you're starting fifth grade next year. What are you looking forward to?

Rickie: I'm excited to start a new school and change classes throughout the day.

MBL: What is the most interesting book you've read lately?

Rickie: "King George: What was his problem?" by Steve Sheinkin. I learned about many different people from the 1700s and the stories are pretty funny.

MBL: Do you have a favorite book series?

Rickie: The Geronimo Stilton books. I like the creativity and adventures in the stories.

MBL: What's the best thing about the Mendham Borough Library?

Rickie: The computers! I like to play games on Poki. My favorite game is Mad Drive where you have to get through crazy obstacles.

MBL: What is your favorite place in Mendham?

Rickie: The Mendham Creamery!

Thanks for spending some time with us, Rickie, and good luck in fifth grade!



September Adult Programs

The Heart of Central America: Guatemala

Wednesday, September 17, 6:30 p.m.

Join us in celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month with world traveler

Chris McCormack, as he takes us on a journey through the vibrant landscapes and rich culture of Guatemala.

Drawing from his own adventures, Chris will share insider tips, practical advice, and hidden gems to help you experience this captivating destination like a pro.



Paint & Sip

Wednesday, September 10, 5:30 p.m.



Join us for a fun night out on our outdoor patio for our much-loved Paint & Sip! We welcome back local artist Lynne Tenten to lead us in creating an abstract acrylic flower painting. Each artist will also receive a

glass of wine to enjoy! Ages 21+ only.

New! Mahjong

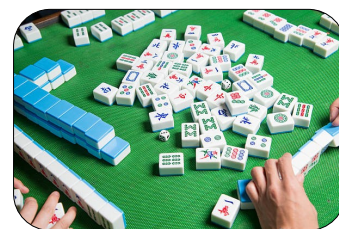
Wednesday, September 10, 1:30 p.m.

Play Mahjong at the library! Beginners welcome with knowledge of game play.

Bring your own 2025 Mahjong card to participate.

Group will meet every Wednesday.

*Registration required.



Did You Know?

Call for Volunteers! The Mendham Borough Library is hosting a Historic Holiday House Tour on Saturday, December 6th and we're looking for friendly, enthusiastic docents to welcome guests and share fun facts about the homes. Volunteers will receive half-price tickets as a thank you!

If you're interested in helping bring this special event to life, please contact Rosemary D'Urso at circ-mnb@mainlib.org.

September Children's Programs

Toddler Sing-Along (0-4 years)



Mondays, September 8, 15, 22, 29 (closed September 1), 10:30 a.m.

Join us for some fun songs!

Babies and Books (0-4 years)

Fridays, September 5, 12, 19, 26, 10:30 a.m.

Join us for a story, nursery rhymes, and playtime.

LEGO Club

Tuesday, September 2, 3:30 p.m.

We'll bring the LEGOs. You bring your imagination.



Wooden Magnet Painting (4+)



Wednesday, September 10, 4:00 p.m.

Paint your own fun wooden creature magnet.

Apple Sponge Painting (5+)

Wednesday, September 17, 3:30 p.m.

Create your own apple art using sponges to paint.



Car Seat Safety

Friday, September 19, 10:30 a.m.

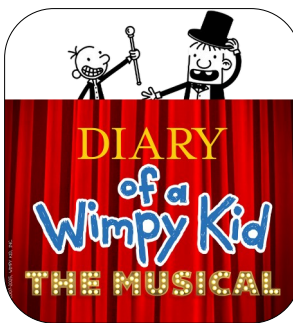
Learn all about car seat safety from Patrolman Kruger from the Mendham Borough Police Department.

Understand how to properly install the car seat into your car and how to buckle up your child safely. Patrolman Kruger will share techniques, tips, and facts and will answer your questions.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Journals

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

Test your knowledge with our Diary of a Wimpy Kid Quiz and make your own "Diary" like Greg!! One attendee will win a pair of tickets (1 adult/1 child) to the Growing Stage's production of "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Musical."



TAG (Teen Advisory Group)

Teen Mini Book Nooks (10+)

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

Come create your own fidget-able portable mini bookshelf for your backpack or locker!



Please register for all Mendham Borough Library Events at www.mendhamboroughlibrary.org.

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.

NEW! Mahjong

Wednesdays, beginning September 10, 1:30 p.m.

Canasta

Thursdays, 10 a.m.

For experienced players.

In Stitches

Fridays, September 12 & 26, 1 p.m.

All levels welcome!

Coloring Club

Monday, September 15, 6:30 p.m.

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

Book Club

Friday, September 26, 10:00 a.m.

The Mountains Sing
Nguyen Phan Que Mai

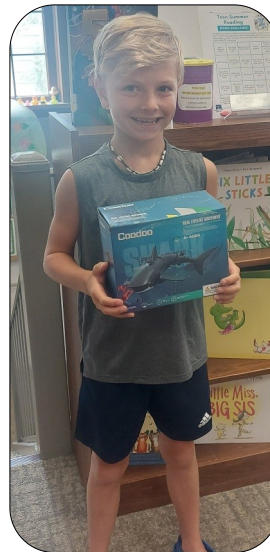
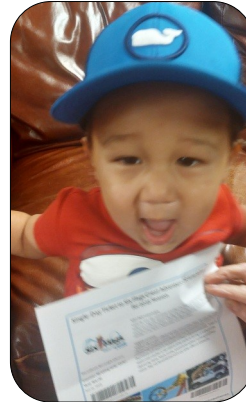
Thank You

Tremendous thanks to **Maplecrest Ford** for letting us drive an amazing truck in the Labor Day Parade again this year! Also thanks to everyone who marched with us and celebrated the holiday and the Library!

The Library will be closed on
Friday, August 30 and
Monday, September 1.

Summer Reading Winners!

Congratulations to our winners, and to all our participants who read so many books over the summer!



Coming Up

MendhamFest—Saturday, October 4: Look for us for a fun craft!

Fire Safety—Saturday, October 11, 11:00 a.m. (tentative)

Boo-Bash—Wednesday, October 29, 4:00 p.m.

Book Launch with Carol Van Den Hende and Guest Julie Mahoney—Wednesday, November 5, 6:30 p.m.

What's It Worth? Antiques Roadshow—Wednesday, November 12, 6:30 p.m.

From the Mendham Borough School District

Next Steps After the Referendum: How Mendham Borough School District is Building Upon Its Tradition of Excellence

As we begin another new school year, I would like to extend a warm welcome back to all of our families. We were excited to open our doors with some refreshed spaces and continue our commitment to providing a safe, supportive, and enriching learning environment for every student.

Our dedicated administration, teachers, and professional advisors have been working diligently to ensure a smooth start to the school year. Together, we will continue to inspire excellence.

In January 2025, voters overwhelmingly approved the two-question proposal to improve Mendham Borough schools (PreK–8), including upgrading the science labs and security at Mountain View School, renovating the Hilltop School library (media center), and building a new auditorium.

“We are so thankful to our community for continuing to support our students and staff,” said Superintendent Dr. Mitzi Morillo. “The Board and administration put forth the proposal after listening to community feedback during the development of the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan. Now that engagement is resulting in actionable progress to build upon our tradition of excellence.”

The approved referendum focused on three main points:

Enriching the Student Experience

Provide a balance of mental, physical, and emotional wellness with experiential learning, innovative teaching, and enhanced student support services that embed cognitive, intrapersonal, and interpersonal competencies throughout the curriculum.

Financial Sustainability

Develop strategies for responsible financial management to sustain and enhance educational programs and maintain and improve school facilities to provide an exceptional teaching and learning environment with optimal resources.

Fostering Community Connectedness

Identifying and creating authentic partnership opportunities with parents that extend to school community members so they may contribute toward students’ experiences and success.

Projects Completed

Over the summer, Mendham Borough School District:

- ♦ Created a fifth-grade science lab to ensure learning environments are conducive to modern educational standards.
- ♦ Increased building safety by adding a security vestibule to Mountain View Middle School (Hilltop Elementary School already had one).
- ♦ Replaced the outdated boiler and roof to boost energy efficiency and reduce costly repairs at Hilltop Elementary School.

Next Steps

Work is set to begin on the auditorium in early 2026, which will:

- ♦ Create an appropriate gathering place to support performing arts education, and expand related arts courses to include public speaking, performance, production, and technical areas.
- ♦ Provide a much-needed space to welcome community members to school events, such as graduations, the talent showcase, performances, and more.
- ♦ Create a designated classroom space for music classes.

ROD Grant

Additionally, Phase II of the HVAC upgrade at Hilltop Elementary School will be completed this summer. The Mendham Borough School District applied for and received a Regular Operating District (ROD) grant from the New Jersey Department of Education. This state-funded grant accounts for at least 40 percent of the project’s eligible cost.

Learn More

The Mendham Borough School District values community engagement and is dedicated to keeping the community informed during the construction process. You can stay tuned for the next steps at mendhamboro.org or follow us on our Facebook page @MendhamBoroughSchoolDistrict and Instagram @mbsdnj.



From Cub Scout Pack 133

Enjoy a free presentation of Dinosaurs Rock! at Cub Scout Pack 133's Open House on Friday, September 19th at 7pm. Pack 133 will bring the dinosaur museum to you! Boys and Girls in Kindergarten – 5th grade, plus their siblings, are welcome to attend this interactive and educational experience plus will be able to dig and keep genuine fossils! The event will take place at Hilltop House, next to Hilltop Elementary School.

And there is more Big News from Cub Scout Pack 133! Membership is FREE for new boys and girls joining Pack 133! Pack 133 is co-ed so that both boys and girls can benefit from the awesome Cub Scout program. In Pack 133, we're all about encouraging girls and boys to make friends, be helpful to others, and do their very best no matter the outcome. With the help of powerful learning projects and exciting outdoor activities, Pack 133 aims to teach children that doing their best can be a fun and rewarding experience—no matter the challenge.

Since 1971, Pack 133 has been Mendham's Best-in-Class Cub Scout Pack and is guided by exceptional leaders with unparalleled Scouting experience and training who will always put the needs of your child first.

To learn more about Pack 133 and to register for Cub Scouts, go to mendhampack133.org.

From Boy Scout Troop 130



Is your son prepared... for life?

Mendham's Troop 130 is a Boy Scout troop for all middle school-aged

boys, no prior Scouting experience necessary. Troop 130 builds lasting friendships and lifelong memories, while preparing boys for a lifetime of personal success, leadership, and responsibility. We are active year-round, engaging in a wide range of programs and outdoor adventures boys won't find anywhere else, with best-in-class trained adult leaders to guide them.

Learn more about Troop 130 and all the ways your son can benefit at our **Open House** on Sunday, September 21st from 1-3pm. The event will take place at Community of St. John the Baptist (82 West Main Street). To learn more about Troop 130 as well as to sign up, go to mendhamtroop130.org.

MASH Launches Renovation Campaign to Modernize Senior Housing

For over 40 years, Mendham Area Senior Housing (MASH) has provided safe, affordable homes for seniors and adults with disabilities. Managed by a dedicated Volunteer Board of Trustees and part-time staff, MASH remains the only dedicated affordable housing initiative in Mendham Borough—and a vital part of the Borough's compliance program.

Our community of 40 apartments has long been a place of comfort, dignity, and independence. However, many of the kitchens and bathrooms are now outdated and in urgent need of renovation to stay safe, functional, and accessible.

With reserve funds, MASH has already renovated 6 units, greatly improving residents' quality of life. A recent grant will fund 6 more, but 28 apartments still need kitchen and bath upgrades.

Join us for our **Open House on Thursday, September 25 from 6 to 8 pm**. Hot dogs and ice cream will be served!

Location: MASH, 1 Heritage Manor Drive, Mendham.

Meet residents and trustees, tour the property, experience the dramatic transformation of a renovated apartment and find out how you can help us with the next phase of these renovations. With your financial support, we can update the remaining 28 apartments and make a difference in the lives of our senior residents. For more information, visit www.mashnj.org.



2025 Labor Day Parade and Carnival

Join the Fun!

Monday, September 1, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

2025 Grand Marshal

Pat Serrano

2025 Parade Theme

Celebrating Mendham's Working People

Labor Day Concert

After the parade at 11:00 a.m.

Borough Park Andrew Fletcher Gazebo

BreakTime



MendhamFest 2025!

Saturday, October 4, 12:00 — 6:00 p.m.

The Borough of Mendham will host its Annual Mendham Fest on Saturday, October 4 from 12 to 6 p.m. Enjoy the Food, Crafts, Family Fun and Music Festival at Borough Park in the center of Mendham. Make it a special day for your whole family and friends as we say goodbye to the Summer of '25 and welcome the gorgeous NJ Fall Foliage.

Let the kids enjoy Dash and Splash and other inflatable games, while the whole family can enjoy Giant Jenga, Connect Four, Axe throwing, and other yard games.

Dine on a wide variety of food from your favorite local restaurants, including the Black Horse Pub and Saporì D'Italia, as well as the best of food trucks such as Señor Tacos, Colonia Grill, Mac & Cheese, and Smoketown BBQ! Enjoy the food while relaxing with friends and family and listening to live music! The day wouldn't be complete without local arts and crafts vendors, and a beer garden provided by the Borough Fire Department.



Vendors Needed!

Interested in being a vendor at Mendham Fest 2025? Visit <https://tinyurl.com/MFest2025VendorForm> to fill out the interest form.



FOOD ~ BEER ~ MUSIC ~ FAMILY FUN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

NOON TO 6 PM | FREE ENTRY



BOROUGH PARK, MOUNTAIN AVE, MENDHAM NJ
WWW.MENDHAMNJ.ORG



Borough Events in September 2025

Borough Offices will be CLOSED on Monday, September 1.

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

Council: 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 10;
7:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 24

ECOSST: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 2

Historic Preservation Commission: 7:30 p.m.
Monday, September 15

Joint Land Use Board: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday,
September 16

Board of Health: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, September 18

Recreation Committee: 7:30 p.m. Thursday,
September 18

Borough Schools Board of Education:

7:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 30; Hilltop Elementary
School Cafeteria

Recycling: Thursdays, September 4, 11, 18, 25

Curbside Bulk Pickup: Tuesday, September 2, Mondays,
September 8, 15, 22, 29

Pastime Club Annual Labor Day Carnival

The Club's annual Labor Day carnival is a large-scale event, featuring rides, games and food. The carnival runs from 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening. On Labor Day, the Mendham Labor Day Parade marches up Main Street ending at Borough Field. The carnival is open from mid-morning through 9:15 p.m., at which point the mayor will draw the winning ticket for the 50/50 raffle and the fireworks show begins.

Tickets for the raffle are \$10, and last year's winner took home \$78,880. The Club's share of the proceeds are used to fund youth athletics in the community.

