



THE MENDHAM MESSENGER



December 2025

The Borough of Mendham Community Newsletter

mendhamnj.org

Message From the Mayor



Dear Mendham Resident:

First and foremost, to our veterans, thank you for everything you've done to protect our country. We salute you for your service with respect and gratitude. This wouldn't be the "Home of the Free" if not for our brave veterans. It was wonderful to see all the Hometown Hero Banners up for Veterans Day. Thank you to former Council member John Andrews for starting the banner program.

Many of us will be celebrating the Holiday Season soon. Whether you're welcoming family home to Mendham or traveling this year, I hope it's a time filled with gratitude, love, and reflection. Let's be thankful for the blessings we share in both the easy times and the hard ones because, as life reminds us, you can't have one without the other.

The **Mendham Business Association's Holly Trail** takes place on December 6th. Be part of our vibrant business community and come out to support local shops and services during this festive event. Enjoy the "Where's Santa" hunt with your kids and all the fun-filled festivities including the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and arrival of Santa on a Fire Truck "sleigh" at Borough Park, the Annual Holiday Community concert at the Mendham Methodist Church. Lastly, don't forget to make your reservation for photos and cookies with Santa at the Phoenix House!

The Borough's Recreation Committee will host the 8th Annual **Holiday Home Decorating Contest** in December. Submissions are due on December 19th. The judging period is from December 20-31, 6-8 pm. The application can be found on the Recreation Home Page.

Congratulations to Councilwoman Alexandra Henry Traut and her husband Max on the birth of twin boys! The holiday season will be a little busier for them—and a lot fuller of love and joy.

Thank you to outgoing Councilman Bruce LaFera for his excellent work and contributions to the Borough, especially through his service on the Public Works and

Utilities Committee. Bruce approached every task and interaction with professionalism and a smile.

Congratulations to Chris Neff on his election to the Mendham Borough Council. We look forward to welcoming you and working together in the coming year.

Thank you!! to the Mendham Borough community for electing me as your Mayor. I am humbled and honored, and I look forward to serving you in 2026.

Warmly,

Mayor James Kelly



Wishing you a joyful holiday season filled with peace, laughter, and meaningful moments. May the spirit of community and kindness carry us into the new year with hope and gratitude.

Holly Trail and Photos with Santa



On **Saturday, December 6, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.**, the whole town comes out for the annual Holly Trail. The Borough of Mendham businesses and service organizations offer treats and events for all, including the **"Where's Santa?"** game and complimentary **"Cookies and Photos with Santa" at Phoenix House from 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**



Reservations for "Photos with Santa" are needed. Scan the QR code or visit the Recreation Homepage.

The day also includes a **Community Christmas** at the Mendham United Methodist Church and ends with the **Tree Lighting** at Borough Park Gazebo with High School Carolers and Santa's arrival on his firetruck "sleigh"!



Holiday House Tour

Saturday, December 6, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



Ticket sales have been great for our upcoming library fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket. If there are remaining tickets on December 6th, they will be sold at the Library. We are thrilled with the

support of this event. Tremendous thanks to all of the homeowners who are graciously opening their homes for this special day in Mendham. We are incredibly grateful to the homeowners for their commitment to our library and our community. This exciting event is only possible through their generosity.

Library Spotlight

Mahjong at the Library

In the past three months we have hosted 20 Mahjong programs with over 275 people in attendance. We must thank several individuals for their time, energy, and passion about Mahjong to help us start this new program at our Library and teach beginners how to play the game. Thank you Loni Bach, Ellen Baxter, Jane Benjamin, Peggy Burke, Stacie Cataldo, Sue Crowley, Debbie D'Urso, Margaret Erath, Caitlyn Folkes, Cheryl Garfinkel, and Marlene Phillips.

If you are interested, we play Mahjong on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. and we have a beginner session on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. Please join us!



December Adult Programs

Historic Holiday House Tour

Saturday, December 6, 11:00 a.m.

Wreath Making

Tuesday, December 2, 6:00 p.m.



Create your own holiday wreath with greenery donated by Hidden Pond Tree Farm in Mendham. The Mendham Garden Club and Library staff will assist you in making a festive wreath to take home.

Adult Crafting Club: Mini Winter Hat Gift Toppers

Monday, December 8, 12:00 p.m.

Get cozy and create adorable Mini Winter Hats from colorful yarn! These festive little treasures are perfect for brightening up gifts, topping wine bottles, or hanging as charming ornaments. All supplies are provided. Just bring your holiday spirit!



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, December 5 and 19, 1 p.m.

All levels welcome!

Coloring Club

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

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

Book Club

Friday, December 19, 10 a.m.

This month we will choose our 2026 selections!

Did You Know?

Giving Tuesday is December 2nd. Our library is dependent upon your donations to keep our doors open and to provide you with library programs and services. Each year we must raise \$100,000 in gifts to continue to meet the needs of the community. Thank you in advance for your support.



Please register for all programs at www.mendhamboroughlibrary.org.

December Children's Programs

Toddler Sing-Along

*Mondays, December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29,
10:30 a.m.*

Sing fun songs with us!

Babies and Books

*Fridays, December 5, 12, 19 (closed 26th),
10:30 a.m.*

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

Gingerbread House Workshop

*Wednesday, December 3, 3:30 &
4:45 p.m.*

Come make a Gingerbread House together as a family. One house per family.



Holly Trail

Saturday, December 6, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Stop in to grab a special take home craft and to find our Santa to mark off your list.



Holiday Bingo

Tuesday, December 9, 3:30 p.m.

Bring the whole family for a fun game of Bingo where everyone is a winner!

Painting Together Workshop: Cardinals (7+)

Wednesday, December 17, 4:00 p.m.

Enjoy some bonding time as adult and child/teen work together to create beautiful cardinal paintings that join in the middle. Each sign up spot is for 1 adult/child/teen pair.



Coming Up

Adult Crafting Club: Snowflake Tote Bag—Mon., Jan. 12, 11:30 a.m.
College Prep Workshop: Testing & Admissions—Thurs., Jan. 15, 6:30 p.m.

Mendham Borough Library will be closed Wednesday-Friday, December 24-26, Wednesday, December 31 and Thursday, January 1.

Mendham Borough Events

Holiday Home Decorating Contest



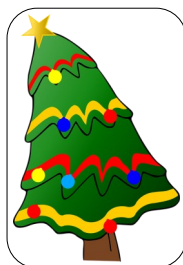
The Mendham Borough Holiday Home Decorating Contest will be taking place for the 8th consecutive year, so decorate your home for the holiday season. If you would like to nominate a house,

please fill out the form at <https://tinyurl.com/25HolHomeCont> and send your completed form to recreation@mendhamnj.org. The judging period will be Dec 20-31, 2025, and the contest winner will be announced in January, so leave your lights on at night! Be creative, be festive, and have fun!

From the Department of Public Works

Merry Christmas, Mendham Borough Residents!

It is that time of year again when the DPW aids in Christmas tree disposal. Starting December 26th, trees



can be dropped off at Borough Park. The DPW will also be picking up Christmas trees curbside.

Please keep in mind that the trees must be free of tree stands, tinsel, lights, and ornaments before discarding the tree.

We cannot accept wreaths or roping pine due to the metal wire that holds them together. Please do not place your tree in a plastic bag, as this cannot go through the chipper.

Residents are encouraged to drop off their Christmas trees at Borough Park; this is very helpful to the DPW. By dropping off trees at Borough Park, trees will not be sitting curbside and potentially blowing into the road.

Trees will be chipped, and wood chips are available at the Public Works for pick-up or delivery.

Need to Report a Code Concern?

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



December 2025
Mendham Borough
2 West Main St.
Phoenix House
Mendham, NJ 07945

Presort Standard
US POSTAGE PAID
Phillipsburg, NJ
PERMIT #4

Borough Events in December, 2025

- ◆ **Borough Offices will be closed Wednesday, December 24, Thursday, December 25, and Thursday, January 1.**

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

Council: 7 p.m. Wednesday, December 10; 7 p.m. Wednesday, December 17

ECOSST: 7:30 p.m. Monday, December 1

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

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

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

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

Recycling: Thursdays, December 4, 11, 18; Friday, December 26; Friday, January 2.

Curbside Bulk Pickup: Mondays, December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Borough Schools Board of Education:

7:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 16; Hilltop Elementary School Cafeteria



Please Join Us
For The

ANNUAL HOLLY TRAIL COMPLIMENTARY COOKIES & PHOTOS WITH SANTA

**RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED**



The Borough Of Mendham
Historic Phoenix House
Saturday~December 6th
11 AM-3:30 PM



2 West Main Street
Mendham, NJ 07945
973-543-7152
mendhamnj.org



Scan the QR Code to sign up for the
Mendham Messenger, or call Mendham
Borough Library at 973-543-4152.



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