



# THE MENDHAM MESSENGER

**The Newsletter for Mendham Borough**

**May 2023**

## Letter From the Mayor

### **Borough Budget**

Now that the town budget has been submitted to the state, there are some important aspects that you should know. For the first time since the 2% cap increase was instituted in 2011, our budget will exceed the cap. This year the Governor raised the cap limit to 2.5% due to increases at the state level that have been passed down to the municipalities. Some of those increases include:

- ◆ Increased pension payments of approximately 19%
- ◆ Increased health insurance costs for our employees of approximately 22%
- ◆ New lead paint inspection requirements that municipalities have not been responsible for in the past that will require additional staffing hours

These are just a few of the new mandates handed down to us that we have had to adjust our operations and budget to accommodate. Additionally, we are faced this year with having to commit to the purchase of a new fire truck to replace a 20-year-old truck that is no longer accredited by the State of New Jersey. When a fire truck loses its accreditation, the cost of our residents' homeowner's insurance policy could increase. We closely studied the costs of refurbishing the existing pumper truck instead of purchasing a new truck, but our professionals told us that the truck is simply too old to be considered for refurbishment. Note that this fire truck is a replacement for an existing truck. It is not being acquired as a reaction to the housing applications that have recently come before the Joint Land Use Board. We would have to purchase this new truck even if these applications had not come in.

The new fire truck, along with the unanticipated mandates from the state, means we have had to increase our budget by 2.4% this year. We do not anticipate having to increase the budget again next year and are planning to come under the 2% cap. Please review the budget on our website.

### **Historic Walking Tour**

On May 6, learn more about the history of our wonderful Mendham Borough! With the Mansion in May coming to the Borough, we want to show off the most enchanting qualities of our beautiful town. Our new town Historian, Bill Maurer, has been working with some of our historically knowledgeable residents to curate three very interesting tours. The first, "Revolutionary War and Other Graves" will be at 10:30 in the old

section of Hilltop Cemetery. The 11:30 tour is "Hilltop Road – Heart of Mendham." The third tour, at 1:00pm, is called "Main Street, from East to West." More information is available on our website and the Mendham Borough Library website. We hope to see you there.

### **Mendham Borough Police Adopt New Autism Awareness Program**

Our Mendham Borough Police Department is excited to announce their participation in the "Blue Envelope" program. The "Blue Envelope" program is designed to help those affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to better communicate with law enforcement in the event of a motor vehicle stop by immediately disclosing the driver's condition to the officer in a blue envelope. The blue envelope holds the driver's documents, and communicates personal information to the officer to help facilitate smoother interactions.

The "Blue Envelope" program has been incorporated into the MBPD's Autism/Vulnerable Persons Registry (AVPR) program. If you or a family member would like a "Blue Envelope" or need more information, please contact the MBPD directly. Walk-ins are always welcome, or requests may be submitted to [AVPR@mendhamnj.org](mailto:AVPR@mendhamnj.org).

### **Reminder**

Thinking about installing a new fence? Remember that you need to apply for a zoning permit first. If the fence is over 6 feet tall, you will also need to get a building permit. All Zoning Permits for non-pool fences, walls, gateway & entrance pillars are issued by the Zoning Office—NOT the Construction Department.

Applications require the submission of a picture of the fence and a survey indicating the placement of the fence and dimensions. All pool fence permits are issued by the Construction Department. You can find the zoning and permit applications on our website. While you're there, remember to sign up for Nixle!

### **Land Use**

The May Joint Land Use Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16th at 7:30pm. It will take place in the cafeteria at Hilltop School. Please check our website for the agenda. Additionally, please be aware that the meeting location will change monthly depending on the availability of the schools.

That's all for our May issue. Wishing you many May flowers on your journey!

Sincerely yours,

Christine Serrano Glassner, Mayor

## Planning a Trip?

We have you covered. The library has many new travel books in our collection to help you plan your next vacation. We have recently added books for trips around the United States, to the islands, and abroad. Come and check out travel guides about your destination before you go! Some new titles include books about California, Chicago, U.S. National Parks, Alaska, Hawaii, Bermuda, Turks and Caicos, Ireland, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Croatia, Switzerland, Mexico, Costa Rica, Australia, and more!

## Three Fields Model on Display



During the month of May, we will continue to display the model of the Three Fields Estate (home of the Mansion in May). This

model is over 90 years old and in excellent condition. Please stop by to have a look—it is special! Again, we thank Tom Brooks for refurbishing the cover and for adding lights!

## Fletcher Gallery

This month the Fletcher Gallery will feature artwork by Advanced Artist Students from West Morris Mendham High School. Visit us to see works from the spectacular talent at our schools!

## This Month's Kindle Books:

Check out a Kindle for two weeks and read current bestsellers—great new books are added each month!  
*Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano; *Pineapple Street* by Jenny Jackson; *Happy Place* by Emily Henry; *Young Forever: The Secrets to Living Your Longest, Healthiest Life* by Mark Hyman (non-fiction)

## May Adult Programs

### **The Seeing Eye Puppies**

**Tuesday, May 2, 6:45 p.m. at Hilltop House**

Meet the puppies in the Seeing Eye Puppy Raising Project! Linda Kabis will help explain how the puppies are socialized and trained by both child and adult puppy raisers. If you love learning about dogs, especially the ones that serve people, this is the place to be!



### **History of Comic Book Heroes**

**Wednesday, May 10, 7:00 p.m.**



Ever wonder how superheroes have stayed so popular? Join us for this lecture as we look at how our favorite comic book heroes came about and why new generations

continue to love them!

## Monthly Programs

### **Yoga via Zoom**

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

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

### **Social Bridge**

**Wednesdays, 10 a.m.**

For experienced players.

### **Canasta**

**Thursdays, 10 a.m.**

All levels of play are welcome!

### **In Stitches**

**Fridays, May 12 and 26,  
1 p.m.**

All levels welcome!

### **Cribbage**

**Tuesday, May 16, 6:30 p.m.**

All levels welcome!

### **Book Club**

**Friday, May 19, 10 a.m.**

*Black Cake*

by Charmaine Wilkerson

**Please register for all library programs online at [mendhamboroughlibrary.org](http://mendhamboroughlibrary.org) or call the library at 973-543-4152.**

The Library Will Be Closed On  
Saturday, May 27 and Monday, May 29.

## Did You Know?

You can access library materials 24/7 from any location using Libby or Hoopla. All you need to do is download the app to your device, sign in using your library card number and password, and begin to download great books, audiobooks, movies, music, comics, magazines and TV shows. Not sure how to do it? Bring your device to the library and we can help you! What's the difference between Hoopla and Libby? In an easy answer: content and wait times. Libby has newer content but you may have to wait for access. Hoopla has older content and immediate access to the entire collection. As a Mendham Borough Library cardholder, you have access to both Libby and Hoopla. Check them out now to get ready for lots of summer reading!

## May Children's Programs

### **Toddler Sing-Along**

**Mondays, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 10:30 a.m. at the Library**

Join us for some fun songs!

### **Babies and Books**

**Fridays, May 5 and 12, 10:45 a.m.**

Join us for a story, nursery rhymes and playtime.

### **Spring Art Contest**

Come vote for your favorite Spring Masterpiece created by your fellow townspeople.

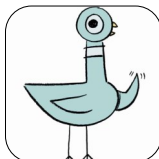
### **Design Your Own Bookplate**

Create a unique bookplate and have it displayed at Fosterfields. Entry forms are available at the library. Submit bookplates by May 31.

### **Pigeon Story Time (All Ages)**

**Tuesday, May 2, 3:30 p.m.**

Join us for Mo Willems Pigeon stories and a craft. One lucky attendee will win a pair (1 adult + 1 child) of tickets to The Growing Stage Theater's show.



### **Mother's Day Makers (Ages 5+)**

**Wednesday, May 10, 3:30 p.m.**

Make a beaded bracelet, necklace, or keychain for your mom, grandma, aunt or any other Mother figure in your life.

### **A Visit From Miss Penny the Pig (All Ages)**

**Saturday, May 13, 11:00 a.m.**

Come and meet Mendham's First Pig, Miss Penny. Listen to a piggy story and have all your pig questions answered. This program will be outside, weather permitting.



### **Origami Bookmarks (Ages 7+)**

**Wednesday, May 24, 3:30 p.m.**

Fold yourself into fun as we learn how to make our own origami Bookmarks.

### **Crafts-To-Go**

Pick up a craft kit at the Library at the desk or through Curbside service.

### Coming Up

**TAG Sharpie Bag Tie Dye - June 1, 5:30 p.m.**

**Zoophoria (at Brookside Community Club) - June 13, 2:00 and 2:30 p.m.**

**All About Bees with Rich Hoffman - June 14, 6:30 p.m.**

**Floral Arranging with the Lillie House - June 28, 7:00 p.m.**



### TAG (Teen Advisory Group)

#### **Teen Bingo (Ages 12+)**

**Thursday, May 18, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**

When school tests are done, relax and unwind with a fun game of Bingo and some soothing music.

## Mendham Day Camp Registration is Open!

The award-winning Mendham Day Camp is a morning program nestled in the middle of picturesque



Mendham Borough. We strive to create an exciting, FUN, safe, and encouraging place where campers can grow from new experiences, improve skills, make and expand friendships, and create wonderful summertime memories to last a lifetime. The key to achieving our goal begins with a trained, professional, dedicated, motivated, enthusiastic staff and a well-designed program that appeals to our campers. The Day Camp has been ingrained in the Mendham community for several decades and is usually staffed by counselors who were campers themselves when they were younger. Even some of the parents were

campers way back when. We are looking forward to a great summer experience for 2023. Visit [www.mendhamdaycamp.com](http://www.mendhamdaycamp.com) to register.

### Where Emergency Care Begins

**EMS Week runs May 21-27, 2023**, and is a great way to recognize the more than 35 friends and neighbors that give their time to our community as part of the national Emergency Medical Services (EMS) framework.

This is also a great time for residents to review and update their File of Life and/or Medical Profile Wallet Cards. No one wants to have a medical emergency, but when they do happen, having up-to-date information on medications, medical history and conditions, allergies, and emergency contacts can help improve the care we provide.

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### Borough Meetings in May 2023

**Borough Holiday: Monday, May 29**

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

**Council:** 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 10;  
7 p.m. Monday, May 22

**ECOSST:** 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 1

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

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

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

**Recreation Committee:** 7:30 p.m. Thursday,  
May 18

**Borough Schools Board of Education:**

7 p.m. Tuesday, May 9 (Special Meeting) and May  
23; Hilltop Elementary School Cafeteria

**Recycling:** Thursdays May 4, 11, 18, 25

**Curbside Bulk Pickup:** Mondays May 1, 8, 15, 22,  
Tuesday 30

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Mendham First Aid makes File of Life and Medical Profile cards available for free. Request yours at [www.mendhamfirstaid.org/fileoflife](http://www.mendhamfirstaid.org/fileoflife).

Better yet, stop by our First Aid Squad bays on Sunday mornings between 10 and 11 a.m. to pick them up directly. We're always looking for new volunteers, and would love to tell you more about the squad and how you can get involved with us as a Driver, EMR, or EMT. Age is not a barrier, and you don't need to have healthcare experience... you just need to have an interest in serving the Mendham community!

### New Services from Mendham Area Senior Transportation!

We are very excited about expanding our transportation service to include errands in the Mendhams, Chester, and Morristown. We will take you to the bank, post office, library, farm stands, appointments with other professionals, etc. Give us a call at 973-543-2666 x303 and let MAST do the driving!