

The Mendham Messenger

February 2016

Mayor's Update

Annual State of Mendham Speech from Mayor Neil Henry delivered in January to the citizens of Mendham Borough

I would like to begin by thanking all of the Borough employees and volunteers who have helped us complete another successful year in Mendham Borough. Without them, we could not provide the high level of service our residents expect of their local government. CFO Sue Giordano and Borough Auditor Bud Jones deserve special recognition for the biggest employee accomplishment of 2015 - increasing our bond rating to a Triple A rating. This puts the borough in some very elite company in the state of New Jersey as we are one of only 20 towns or so who hold this rating.

Several other important accomplishments in 2015 included the following:

- The acquisition of Scott Farm located on Mountainside Road. Thanks to Rick Merkt, John Andrus and the entire Open Space Committee, after two years of diligent work we closed on this property in December 2015. Administrator Merkt secured the majority of the funding for this property from the County of Morris and the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority. The property will now be open for passive recreation by members of the public.
- The personnel committee, in conjunction with Administrator Merkt, updated the salary ordinance, borough's job descriptions and employee handbook.
- A five-year deal was negotiated with our local PBA. The PBA also contributed an electronic score board for Borough Park which has been installed will be ready for use come the spring baseball season.
- Margot Kay, Borough Clerk, was appointed Municipal Clerk in the spring after successfully completing her certification courses. Her

previous role as land use coordinator was reduced to a part-time role.

- The replacement of the fire house roof was completed.
- A contract was signed with Matrix LLC, a nationally recognized consulting firm based in Mountainview, CA, to assess the operational efficiencies of our police department. The results of this study are expected to be made available to the governing body and ultimately members of the public during the first quarter of 2016.
- The administration, led by Mr. Merkt, saved the Borough approximately \$400,000 through a combination of grants, reductions in pension and health care costs, streamlining of open positions and finally, the retirement of the last pay phone in the town. This pay phone, located in the Garabrant Center, was costing the borough \$1,000 to maintain.

Mayor's Message continued on page 6

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Mendham Borough
LIBRARY

News from the Mendham Borough Library

10 Hilltop Road 973 543-4152 www.mendhamboroughlibrary.org

Elder Care: Help in making the right choices Thursday, February 25 at 7 pm

Join a team of experts including Richard P. Diegnan, Jr., Esq., Andi Batistoni, Social Case Worker for Morris County Adult Protective Services and Ophelia Cruse, Director of the Division on Aging, as they discuss topics such as what services are available to the elderly and what should be done if an elderly person is at risk. They will also address what documents should be in place to protect your loved ones, their estate and their family. Register today by calling the library.



Device Advice

Wednesdays in February from 1– 3 pm

Drop in for some free help with using your Fitbit, cell phone, tablet, laptop, kindle or other digital device. Let us help you learn the basics or how to find the best apps including accessing the library's *free* collection of eBooks, audio-books and digital magazines. Registration is not required.

Irish Music Concert with Ian Gallagher

Wednesday, March 9 at 7 pm

Come and join us for this special concert with Ian Gallagher, Irish singer and musician, to celebrate St. Patty's Day. Ian will entertain us with favorite Irish classics, new songs and stories about the history of Ireland and the works being performed. Irish soda bread and tea will be served. Don't forget to wear your green and don't miss out on this chance to enjoy a favorite entertainer in traditional Irish song and story. Call the library to register for this wonderful performance.

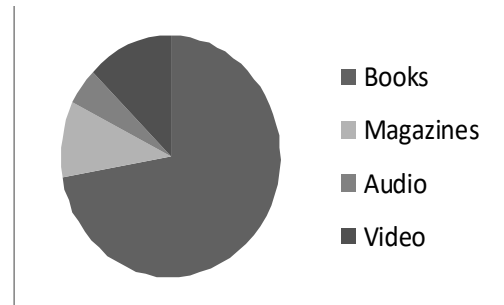


Mendham Borough Library 2015 Thanks for the visits and support!

2015 was a great year for the library thanks to the many people who enjoyed and supported our work by visiting our library and online services. Here's a few of the ways you got involved.

- 49,519 visits were made to the library
- 5,298 people attended our programs
- 2,734 Mendhamites maintain library cards
- 40,481 items were taken out; that's an average of 9 items per Mendham resident!
- And although you may have heard that book reading is waning, that is simply not true in Mendham. The following chart shows that most library patrons still come to us for books.

What is going out at the Mendham Borough Library?



Our patron's participation and involvement make all the difference and are the reason we try to bring a great variety of books, magazines and other information resources and programs to the community.

The donors on the following pages have helped us do this and we are so very grateful for their contributions. Many thanks also to our anonymous donors, those who would rather not be listed and our corporate donors. We have made every effort to be accurate with this list but apologize if there are any omissions or mistakes.



2015 Donors to the Mendham Borough Library

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Thanks to the following companies and foundations for their matching gifts.

Chubb & Son * Exxonmobile Foundation * K & P Appraisers & Consultants, Inc.

Pfizer Foundation * TRUiST * United Way of Central Jersey, Inc.

New Books, Audio-books & DVDS

Non-Fiction

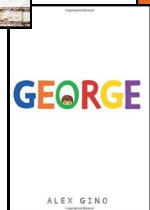
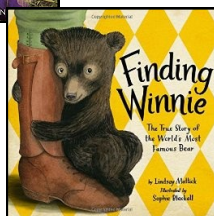
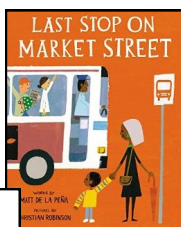
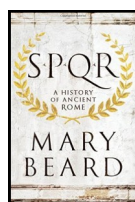
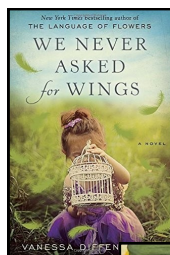
| | |
|--|-----------------|
| <i>Always Hungry?</i> | David Ludwig |
| <i>Crippled America</i> | Donald J. Trump |
| <i>Idiot's Guide Optimum Nutrition</i> | Stephanie Green |
| <i>iPad for Seniors</i> | Nick Vandome |
| <i>Spqr A History of Ancient Rome</i> | Mary Beard |
| <i>Take Your Soul to Work</i> | Erica Brown |
| <i>Troublemaker</i> | Leah Remini |

Fiction

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>After She's Gone</i> | Lisa Jackson |
| <i>The Bitter Season</i> | Tami Hoag |
| <i>Blackout</i> | David Rosenfelt |
| <i>Commander in Chief</i> | Mark Greaney |
| <i>Dictator</i> | Robert Harris |
| <i>The First Order</i> | Jeff Abbott |
| <i>Forty Thieves</i> | Thomas Perry |
| <i>The Guest Room</i> | Chris Bohjalian |
| <i>Hostage Taker</i> | Stefanie Pintoff |
| <i>Killing Trail</i> | Margaret Mizushima |
| <i>My Name is Lucy Barton</i> | Elizabeth Strout |
| <i>Scandalous Behavior</i> | Stewart Woods |
| <i>Signal</i> | Patrick Lee |
| <i>Time of Departure</i> | Douglas Schofield |
| <i>What She Knew</i> | Gilly MacMillian |

Audioboks

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| <i>The Crossing</i> | Michael Connelly |
| <i>Lafayette in the Somewhat United States</i> | Sarah Vowell |
| <i>We Never Asked for Wings</i> | Vanessa Diffenbaugh |
| <i>Commander in Chief</i> | Mark Greaney |
| <i>The First Hostage</i> | Joel C. Rosenberg |



DVDS

| | estimated arrival |
|---|-------------------|
| <i>The Affair: Season 1</i> | 2/1 |
| <i>Before We Go</i> | 2/1 |
| <i>The Big Short</i> | 2/12 |
| <i>Bridge of Spies</i> | 2/12 |
| <i>Downton Abbey: Season 6</i> | 2/5 |
| <i>Elementary: Season 3</i> | 2/5 |
| <i>Hotel Transylvania 2</i> | arrived |
| <i>The Martian</i> | 1/23 |
| <i>Masterpiece: Wolf Hall</i> | 2/5 |
| <i>She's Funny That Way</i> | 2/5 |
| <i>Sicario</i> | 2/5 |
| <i>Some Kind of Beautiful</i> | 2/5 |
| <i>Spectre</i> | 2/19 |
| <i>Steve Jobs</i> | 2/26 |
| <i>Testament of Youth</i> | arrived |
| <i>The Walk</i> | 2/5 |
| <i>Walk in the Woods</i> | 2/5 |
| <i>War Room</i> | arrived |
| <i>Yoga for Runners: Intermediate Program</i> | 2/5 |

New Award-Winning Reads for Kids & Teens

| Newbury Winner and Honor Book | |
|--|----------------------|
| <i>Last Stop on Market Street</i> | Matt de la Pena |
| <i>Roller Girl</i> | Victoria Jamieson |
| Caldecott Winner and Honor Book | |
| <i>Finding Winnie</i> | Lindsay Mattick |
| <i>Waiting</i> | Kevin Henkes |
| Printz Winner and Honor Book | |
| <i>Bone Gap</i> | Laura Ruby |
| <i>Out of Darkness</i> | Ashley Hope Perez |
| Stonewall Book Award | |
| <i>George</i> | Alex Gino |
| William C. Morris Award | |
| <i>Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda</i> | Becky Albertalli |
| Coretta Scott King Award | |
| <i>Gone Crazy in Alabama</i> | Rita Williams-Garcia |



2016 goals include:

- Adoption of a balanced budget
- Implementation of new accounting software
- Begin and possibly conclude a master plan re-examination
- Upgrade computer security at the Wastewater Reclamation Center
- Develop a repair plan for the Phoenix House
- Research the replacement of the borough telephone system
- Research barn and trail grants
- Reduce police department overtime
- Reduce police department security overtime by contracting with Chester Borough
- Explore the possibility of a shared service with Chester Borough for the position of wastewater superintendent/operator
- Update and upgrade the borough website
- Work with our neighbors in Mendham and Chester Township and Chester Borough and our counterparts on the local school board to determine the next steps in the potential de-regionalization of the West Morris Regional High School district.

The Mendham Borough Council continues to be a highly efficient and effective governing body. While there were differing viewpoints during 2015, council members were able to express their respective opinions while reaching agreements that benefited our Borough. This is what you elected us to do and I am extremely confident that we will continue to work together for the benefit of our community in 2016. As your Mayor, I will work diligently and do everything necessary to insure that this cooperative spirit continues.

I would like to close by asking all of our residents to take the time to consider serving on one of our many volunteer boards. Openings are available on the Planning Board, Board of Adjustment, Recreation Committee, Historic Preservation Committee and the Board of Health. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Borough Clerk Margot Kay, in the Phoenix House.

Sincerely,

Mayor Neil Henry

Free Children's Health Services

Mendham Borough residents are eligible for services from the Bernards Township Health Department. You can visit their website, www.bernardshealth.org, to find out about the full range of services available.

One of the most important programs that they provide is a monthly **no cost** clinic for children **who are not covered by health insurance**. This is part of the *Vaccines for Children* program of the New Jersey Department of Health and ensures that children receive appropriate vaccinations in a timely manner. The clinic is held on the second Tuesday of each month by the *Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills*. The goal of this program is to eliminate vaccine-preventable disease in children. Services are provided to children from birth to 18 years old and include:

- Growth and development assessments,
- Immunizations for newborns through children 18 years of age using age-appropriate *Recommended Immunization Schedule* from the CDC,
- Nutrition assessment and counseling, and
- Information and education on childhood health, safety, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) Pediatric Dental Program, NJ Snap (Food Stamps), etc.

Residents who are interested in this program for their children should **phone the Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills at 908-766-0180** for an appointment or the Bernards Township Health Department at 908-204-2520 for further information.

Clinics will be held from 8:45 to 11 am at St. James R.C. Church, 184 South Finley Ave, Basking Ridge, NJ on the following Tuesdays in 2016.

2016 Children's Clinic Dates

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| January 12 | July 12 |
| February 9 | August 9 |
| March 8 | September 13 |
| April 12 | October 11 |
| May 10 | November 15 |
| June 14 | December 13 |

Mendham Borough Kindergarten Registration during the first week of February

The Mendham Borough School District will be conducting kindergarten registration at Hilltop School, 12 Hilltop Road, from Monday, February 1 through Friday, February 5. Come in from 9:30 to 11 am or 1 to 2:30 pm to drop off your paperwork. Please complete the pre-registration form located on our enrollment site to let the school know when you'll be coming to register. If you are not available, need an alternate time to come in or have any questions, please contact Ms. Katie Dicristina 973-543-4251 x 121. Registration includes sign ups for a 15-minute conference with Hilltop's principal David Heller in April.



You will need your child's birth certificate and three proofs of residency from the following list: mortgage statement, certificate of occupancy, homeowner's insurance, tax bill, lease, deed, and either a gas or electric bill. The school will make a copy of these documents for your child's permanent student file.

Children must be five years of age on or before October 1, 2016 in order to register. Any students enrolling for 1st grade from an outside kindergarten program should register at this time as well.

To download the required forms and for more detailed information on registration procedures, please visit the Mendham Borough School Kindergarten Registration page on the district's website, www.mendhamboro.org.



Library News continued

February Programs for Kids at the Mendham Borough Library *Programs for all ages unless otherwise noted*

Chess Club

Thursday, February 4 at 6:30 pm

Learn top chess techniques with instructor Marty Sobin who will introduce new tips and tricks to improve your game. For children 3rd grade and up.



Knitting Club

Friday, February 5 at 3:30 pm

Learn how to knit and make your own scarves and hats. For kids in 2nd grade and up

Valentine's Extravaganza

Saturday, February 13 at 12 pm

Celebrate Valentine's Day at the library with card making and a fun game of BINGO.



Family Movie Night: R.L. Stine's Goosebumps

Wednesday, February 17 at 6 pm

Drinks and snacks will be provided. Parents please plan to enjoy the movie with your children.



LEGO Club

Saturday, February 20 at 12 pm

Magic & Mayhem:

Late Night @ the Library

Friday, February 26, 7 to 10 pm

Can you read minds? Want to trick your friends into thinking you can? Join magician Mark Zacharia as he teaches the Magic of the Minds workshop. Sponsored by the Mendham Municipal Alliance. Space is limited so sign up today! 3rd-8th grade



Library Announcements

Inclement Weather

When Mendham Borough Schools have a delayed opening, the Library will open at 11 am and morning programs will be canceled. Like [our page on Facebook](#) for updates on closings and delays.



Parents' Policy

Children are allowed to come unaccompanied to the library when they are in 4th grade. Until then, kids should visit us with a caregiver or parent. Thank you!!

The Library will be closed on February 16, 2016 for Presidents' Day.

February 2016
Mendham Borough
2 West Main St.
Phoenix House
Mendham, NJ 07945

Presort Standard
US Postage Paid
Whitehouse Sta.
NJ 08889
Permit No. 35

Borough Calendar for February 2016

Curbside Bulk Pickup

Mondays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

Recycle - Thursdays, February 4 & 18

Board of Adjustment - at the Garabrant Center,
7:30 pm on Tuesday, February 2

Borough Council - at the Garabrant Center, 8 pm on
Monday, February 1 & Tuesday, February 16

Historic Preservation Commission - at the Phoenix
House, 7:30 pm on Monday, February 22

Planning Board Meeting - at the Garabrant Center,
8 pm on Monday, February 8

Recreation Commission - at the Phoenix House,
7:30 pm on Wednesday, February 10

Hilltop Church to hold Pancake Supper to benefit Mendham Borough Library

Tuesday, February 9 from 5:30–7 pm.

Come and enjoy food and fellowship while supporting our local library at a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Tickets may be purchased at the door of Hilltop House where you can enjoy pancakes, sausage and fruit compote.

Events at Schiff Nature Preserve

See a complete listing and register on line at www.schiffnaturepreserve.org or call 973-543-6004.

Moonrise Yoga & Meditation

Mondays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 at 7 pm

Yoga and meditation Monday evenings; all levels are welcome to attend. Members: \$60; nonmembers \$80.

Sunday Morning Fitness Hike

Sunday, February 21 at 8 am

A brisk guided 5-mile hike over varied terrain across Schiff Nature Preserve. Meet at McVickers Brook parking lot at 239 Pleasant Valley Road, Mendham. Free for members; \$10 non members.

Tree Time for Tykes: Tracks

Monday, 2/22 and Friday, 2/26 from 10-11 am

Look for tracks and learn which animals are moving about in the winter. A short walk on the trails and stories inside the Nature Center. Ages 2-4 with adult. \$10 for adult/child pair members; \$15 non members.

The Mendham Messenger

A publication for the residents of Mendham Borough

www.mendhamnj.org

2 West Main Street, Mendham, NJ 07945