

The Mendham Messenger

May 2011

Mayor's Update

Dear Residents and Business Owners,

By the time you receive this letter, voting will have been completed on both the local and regional school board budgets. Both Boards of Education have done a good job communicating what the public can expect from each budget.

At its April 4 meeting, the Borough Council introduced its 2011 budget. A public hearing is scheduled for the May 2 Council Meeting. The overall municipal budget is up from \$7,322,247 to \$7,471,851 which is a total increase of \$149,603.83 or 2.04%. The amount to be raised by taxes is up from \$5,290,999.78 to \$5,465,599.78 for a difference of \$174,600 or 3.299%. The overall monthly increase for an average assessed home of \$705,500 is \$8.82.

Operating budgets were down \$32,000 while the salary budget was up \$5,000. State mandated expenses are up as follows: pension payments: \$84,625 (police), \$17,587 (other employees) and group health insurance \$38,900. This totals \$141,112 or 94% of the budget increase!!! The state mandated these increases; they were not optional for the Borough Council.

I am also happy to report that the debt payment schedule that was established by the Council six years ago has been maintained. This year a pre-planned additional payment of \$70,000 will be made to pay down principal because it is a priority to adhere to our pay down schedule. Our operating debt is now under \$4,000,000. By way of comparison, you should know that Mendham Borough has the lowest debt service as a percentage to budget amongst all Morris County municipalities. In addition, according to our financial auditors, Mendham Borough borrows less than other local governments and remains one of the most fiscally healthy and best run towns in the region.

The Mayor and Borough Council feel it is very important to continue to be "reasonably frugal" by avoiding putting new and unnecessary expenditures on the "credit card." With that being said, I am happy to report there was a consensus that there will be no new borrowing this year.

Capital projects in this year's budget include: resurfacing the basketball courts \$23,000 (\$13,000 from Mendham Basketball), paving roads \$212,000 (pay now or pay more later), replacing fencing in Borough Parks \$30,000 (public safety is our #1 concern), and purchasing self-contained breathing apparatus for the fire department \$12,000.

Over the last several years, we have been setting money aside in a capital improvement fund to help offset future big ticket items. This year we have reduced that payment from \$110,000 to \$50,000. It is important to reserve this money so we can avoid additional borrowing down the road.

Essentially all departments' operating budgets are down or flat to 2010. The increases (in DPW and Fire) are because, rather than borrow, we rolled several small capital expenditures into the operating budget (pay now not later). Our police contract has been settled with a 1.5% increase for 4 years; DPW continues to work on projects in-house rather than using private contractors and our fund balance reserve remains just slightly over \$1,000,000.

Our tax collection rate is at an astounding 99.4% despite the present economic conditions. This figure is tied for the highest we have seen in the last 25 years!

Formal discussions continue with surrounding municipalities to add to the long list of successful shared services we currently have in place.

Thanks to all of the members of the Borough Council for working to build a consensus on this budget and working together with Ellen Sandman, Sue Giordano and our auditor, Bud Jones, to strike what we believe to be a fair budget, both for the short and long term financial health of Mendham Borough.

If you have any questions pertaining to any aspect of this budget or our town governance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Neil Henry
Mayor



Mendham Borough
LIBRARY

News from the Mendham Borough Library

10 Hilltop Road 973 543-4152 mendhamboroughlibrary.org

We Need Your Support

Many thanks to all residents who joined to support the library's February fundraiser at the Savino's lovely home. While this event was great fun and very successful, all of the funds raised were earmarked for the replacement of our antiquated heating and cooling systems this spring. We are thrilled to report that this project is in process and we hope to have a new HVAC system soon.

At the same time, we continue to need funds to cover daily operating costs and ensure that the library remains open to the public, able to purchase new books and audio/visual materials, and offer programs to all residents. Our annual appeal is approaching in May and appeal letters will be sent to all residents. The library staff and Board of Trustees are grateful to all who continuously support the library each year. This year we hope to surpass pass the number of households contributing. If more households contribute, the library is able to offer even more to the community. Please join the many residents who do contribute by responding to our appeal today.

Gail Griffith-Roch, Library Board President

2011 ANNUAL APPEAL FOR THE BOROUGH LIBRARY

Enclosed please find our donation of:

\$10 _____	\$100 _____
\$25 _____	\$250 _____
\$50 _____	Other _____

All donors will be thanked in our annual donor listing in the Messenger. Please let us know how you would like your name to appear.

Fletcher Gallery showcases local talent

Opening Reception for show by Deborah Stryker, Charlie Churchill & Louise Duffy on Monday, May 2 from 5 to 7 pm

Local artists Deborah Stryker, Charlie Churchill and Louise Duffy will display their works in the Gallery during May. Ms. Stryker's paintings reflect her interest in the familiar patterns of everyday life including domestic scenes, pets and architectural studies of homes in Mendham and St. Croix. Mr. Churchill's art relies upon incisive draftsmanship and vivid colors. He specializes in commissioned portraits, landscapes and narrative figurative compositions. He is a graduate of Parsons School of Design and The New York Academy of Art. Ms. Duffy is gifted with a unique ability to capture the personality and physical likeness of her subjects. She focuses on commissioned portraits of horses, dogs, children and coaching scenes in pastels and oils.

Summer 2011 Kid's Program Preview

Rizzo's Reptiles returns on June 23 to help us kick off the summer library programs. More details to follow!

Join our pre-K to 4th grade Reading Challenge with fun crafts and prizes awarded weekly to all participants in July. Some of the activities planned for the month include puppet shows, open craft afternoons, Lego club, and movie night. We'll end the month with an Ice Cream Luau Party with fun games and prizes.

Fifth graders and up can join a special reading challenge with their own weekly chances to win prizes. Free movie rental and popcorn for everyone who signs up.

Please look for more dates and details coming soon in the June Messenger and on our website.



Thanks to everyone . . . for all the donations of Legos to help start our summer Lego club. Please keep the Legos coming, let's see what we can build!

New Acquisitions at the MBL



Keep your eyes open for . . .

<i>Boomerang</i>	Michael Lewis	6/13
<i>Carte Blanche</i>	Jeffery Deaver	6/14
<i>Folly Beach: A Lowcountry Tale</i>	Dorothea B. Frank	6/14
<i>The Kingdom</i>	Clive Cussler	6/7
<i>One Summer</i>	David Baldacci	6/14
<i>Smokin' Seventeen</i>	Janet Evanovich	6/21

Books

<i>10th Anniversary</i>	James Patterson	5/2
<i>Transition</i>	Chaz Bono	5/3
<i>If You Ask Me</i>	Betty White	5/3
<i>Caleb's Crossing</i>	Geraldine Brooks	5/3
<i>Dead Reckoning</i>	Charlaine Harris	5/3
<i>The Devil's Light</i>	Richard Patterson	5/3
<i>My Lucky Life in and Out of Show Business</i>	Dick Van Dyke	5/3
<i>American Outlaw</i>	Jesse James	5/3
<i>Sixkill</i>	Robert B. Parker	5/3
<i>Tabloid City: A Novel</i>	Pete Hamill	5/5
<i>A Time for Patriots</i>	Dale Brown	5/10
<i>Faith: A Novel</i>	Jennifer Haigh	5/10
<i>In the Garden of Beasts</i>	Erik Larson	5/10
<i>Buried Prey</i>	John Sandford	5/10
<i>A Drop of the Hard Stuff</i>	Lawrence Block	5/12
<i>The Final Storm</i>	Jeff Shaara	5/17
<i>The Long Journey Home</i>	Margaret Robison	5/17
<i>Children and Fire: A Novel</i>	Ursula Hegi	5/24
<i>Summer in the South</i>	Cathy Holton	5/24
<i>Trader of Secrets</i>	Steve Martini	5/31
<i>Dreams of Joy</i>	Lisa See	5/31

Large Type

<i>A Discovery of Witches</i>	Deborah Harkness
<i>Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest</i>	Stieg Larsson
<i>The Jungle</i>	Clive Cussler
<i>Minding Frankie</i>	Maeve Binchy

Audio Books

Adult Titles

<i>A Discovery of Witches</i>	Deborah Harkness
<i>Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother</i>	Amy Chua
<i>Bossypants</i>	Tina Fey
<i>Live Wire</i>	Harlan Coben
<i>The Memory Palace</i>	Mira Bartok
<i>Night Road</i>	Kristin Hannah

Children's Titles

<i>Elsewhere</i>	Gabrielle Zevin
<i>The Ring of Solomon</i>	Jonathan Stroud

DVDs

<i>Blue Valentine</i>	5/10
<i>The Voyage of the Dawn Treader</i>	
<i>Drive Angry</i>	5/31
<i>The Green Hornet</i>	5/3
<i>I Am Number Four</i>	5/24
<i>Justin Bieber: Never Say Never</i>	5/13
<i>Little Fockers</i>	
<i>The Mechanic</i>	5/17
<i>No Strings Attached</i>	5/10
<i>Other Woman</i>	5/17
<i>The Rite</i>	5/17
<i>Yogi Bear</i>	

May Children's Programs

Mother's Day Craft and Puppet Show

Saturday, May 7 at 11 am

Plant a flower and decorate a flower pot for Mom for her big day! The fun will kick off at 11 am with a special puppet show performed by 5th grade students from Mountain View. Mother's Day craft will be available between 11:30 am- 2:00 pm.

Chess Club ~ *Thursday, May 12 at 6:30 pm*

Join us for the last meeting of the school year!

Caterpillar Craft ~ *Friday, May 13 at 3:30 pm*

Enjoy a snack and make your own friendly caterpillar!

Bird Biscuits ~ *Friday, May 20 at 3:30 pm*

Enjoy a snack while you make one for the birds.

Pottery Class with Shelley Rosen Howard

For 5th graders and up

Join us on Tuesday afternoons in May for four sessions of this popular program. Kids will learn special building techniques and create and decorate their own clay clock. Classes are sequential so participants should plan on attending all four sessions: May 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 3:30 - 4:30 pm. Space is limited, so please call or stop by to sign up. Registration begins April 4th.

Special Mendham Days

COMMUNITY SHRED DAY

OPEN TO ALL MENDHAM BOROUGH AND MENDHAM TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

LOCATION: Public Works Facility
37 Ironia Road,
WHEN: May 14, 2011 from 9am-1pm

Examples of items you may bring for on-site shredding include:

- Bank statements
- Medical/insurance forms
- Retired tax forms
- Receipts
- Personal files

Staples and paper clips do not need to be removed. Shredded paper will be recycled.



FIGHT BACK AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT

MENDHAM BOROUGH & TOWNSHIP ARE NJ CLEAN COMMUNITIES PARTICIPANTS

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

"MAKING US USEFUL AGAIN"



Date: Saturday, May 14, 2011

Time: 9 AM - 1 PM

Cost: FREE!!

(But donations are welcome)

Location: Mendham Borough Public Works
37 Ironia Road, Mendham

What: Almost everything with a plug

Acceptable items include:

Computers (Hard drives erased by Advanced Recovery Inc. www.advancedrecoveryinc.com)
Small Electronics, Desktop & Laptop Computers,
Copiers, Hardware, Printers, Monitors
Small Household Appliances
Tape Recorders & Radios
Typewriters & Fax Machines
*****TVS of All Kinds*****



Unacceptable items include:

Washers & Dryers
Air Conditioners
Refrigerators/Freezers
Stoves

Sponsored by: Mendham Borough & Mendham Township Environmental Commissions



Make it Better

**Make it Better
Community Collection
Saturday, May 7, 9 am - 1 pm
Mountain View Middle School
100 Dean Road**

Mountain View Middle School's Class of 2014 will hold a textiles and electronics recycling drive as part of a series of environmentally-themed fundraising projects. Clothing, bedding, footwear, handbags, small hard and soft toys and stuffed animals will be accepted. Virtually anything that has a plug (except items containing Freon), as well as cordless phones and cell phones can be dropped off.

For more information about Make it Better, please visit www.mendhamboro.org/mountainview or www.mendhamboroHSA.org/MakeItBetter. Funds raised will support the Mountain View Class of 2014 Fall 2011 Environmental Education Trip.

Presenting

**The Mendham Garden Club
Annual Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 14, 2011
8 am - 1 pm

Kings Shopping Center
Rain or Shine

Local perennials, herbs and unusual plants

Plant donations welcome the week before the sale. Please call Amy Johanson, (973) 813-7305.



Mendham Borough Loop Trail

Frequently Asked Questions



What is the loop trail?

The plan for the trail was conceived in 1984 and has been developed by the Open Space, Environmental and Recreation Committees. The goal was to unite various neighborhoods and to allow our residents to walk or jog throughout the Borough by connecting already existing trails and walkways.

How will the trail be developed and implemented?

With help of grants from ANJEC (Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions) and the Dodge Foundation in 2010, funding was available for the development of a more detailed plan for the trail. Members of the previously mentioned committees drafted a proposed plan which is available to the public at the Borough offices during business hours.

Approximately 85% of the proposed loop already exists. It includes Patriot's Path, existing Borough properties or rights of way and public sidewalks. The vast majority of the path will remain in its current state. Some improvements with gravel, mulch, etc will be necessary in marshy areas. The only significant required improvements include creating a sidewalk along Hilltop Road that will connect the Heather Hill neighborhood to Hilltop School. No paving of existing trails is contemplated and natural surfaces will be used wherever possible.

How much will the project cost?

As part of the planning grant already received preliminary cost estimates are being produced and will be available later this year. It is not anticipated that the entire project will be completed in one effort. Rather, various sections will be improved as funds become available.

How will the project be funded?

The trail will be funded primarily through grants from the county and state, through federal funds designated for this purpose and through private foundations such as the Dodge Foundation. In cases where there may be a need for matching funds, it may be possible to fulfill that requirement through "in-kind" labor from the DPW or through our salaried professionals. In addition, funds already on deposit with the Borough's Open Space account may be used to match grant monies. In each case, the Borough Council must approve grant applications and the use of matching funds or other expenditures.

Will my taxes increase as a result of this project?

No. The Borough has no budgeted expenditures for the trail at this time, and none are included in the 2011 budget. Since no funding comes from the general tax revenues, it will not impact your property taxes.

How much will the loop trail cost to maintain?

The existing Patriots Path and Schiff links are maintained by the county and Schiff, respectively. Additional maintenance would be the responsibility of the Borough and would be performed by the current staff. Only a minimal amount of additional maintenance is anticipated; it would include clearing brush to trail height and width tolerances as well as maintenance of signs and bridges.

Does the Borough's liability insurance cover the path?

Yes, the insurance would be the same as with any Borough facility or program and the trail will be insured at no additional premium to the Borough.

What safety plans exist for the trail?

It is anticipated that there will be a minimal amount of additional signage and that grading will be performed where needed. In addition, surfaces that may be slick or muddy may have gravel or mulch added. Except for maintenance or emergency reasons, no motorized vehicles will be allowed, and bollards may be installed to prevent unauthorized motor vehicles from entering. All trails will be designated as multi-use, providing opportunities for both pedestrians and bicyclists.

Would any other infrastructure be required?

There are no plans for additional infrastructure, nor is it anticipated that any will be needed in the future.

What is the project schedule?

Except for the current planning stage, there is no project schedule as there are no additional funds to make improvements. The future schedule will be dependent on obtaining project funding.

Where can I find more information about the trail?

The Borough web site will be periodically updated and new developments will be reported in the Mendham Messenger.

Solutions for Stormwater Pollution

Easy Things You Can Do
Everyday to Protect Our Water

A Guide to Healthy Habits for Cleaner Water

Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly to our drinking water supplies and the ocean and lakes our children play in. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings: you name it, and it ends up in our water.

Stormwater pollution is one of New Jersey's greatest threats to clean and plentiful water, and that's why we're all doing something about it. By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water, and it saves the high cost of cleaning up once it's dirty.

As part of New Jersey's initiative to keep our water clean and plentiful and to meet federal requirements, many municipalities and other public agencies including colleges and military bases must adopt ordinances or other rules prohibiting various activities that contribute to stormwater pollution. Breaking these rules can result in fines or other penalties.



www.cleanwaternj.org



Contact information

For more information on stormwater related topics, visit www.njstormwater.org or http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dwq/msrp_home.htm

Additional information is also available at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Website: www.epa.gov

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water Quality
Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control
Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program
(609) 633-7021

As a resident, business, or other member of the New Jersey community, it is important to know these easy things you can do every day to protect our water.

Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides

- Make sure you properly store or discard any unused portions.
- Do a soil test to see if you need a fertilizer.
- Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted.
- Look into alternatives for pesticides.
- Maintain a small lawn and keep the rest of your property or yard in a natural state with trees and other native vegetation that requires little or no fertilizer.
- If you use fertilizers and pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to apply it correctly.

Properly use and dispose of hazardous products

- Hazardous products include some household or commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze and paints.
- Do not pour any hazardous products down a storm drain because storm drains are usually connected to local water bodies, and the water is not treated.
- If you have hazardous products in your home or workplace, make sure you store or dispose of them properly. Read the label for guidance.
- Use natural or less toxic alternatives.
- Recycle used motor oil.
- Contact your municipality, county or facility management office for the locations of hazardous-waste disposal facilities.



Keep pollution out of storm drains

- Municipalities and other public agencies are required to mark certain storm drain inlets reminding people that storm drains are connected to local water bodies.
- Do not let sewage or other wastes flow into a stormwater system.



Clean up after your pet

- Many municipalities and public agencies must enact and enforce local pet-waste rules.
- An example is requiring pet owners or their keepers to pick up and properly dispose of pet waste dropped on public or other people's property.
- Make sure you know your town's or agency's requirements and comply with them. It's the law.



And remember to:

- Use newspaper, bags or pooper-scoopers to pick up wastes;
- Dispose of the wrapped pet waste in the trash or unwrapped in a toilet; and
- Never discard pet waste in a storm drain.

Don't feed wildlife

- Do not feed wildlife, such as ducks and geese, in public areas.
- Many municipalities and other public agencies must enact and enforce a rule that prohibits wildlife feeding in these areas.

Don't litter

- Place litter in trash receptacles.
- Recycle. Recycle. Recycle.
- Participate in community cleanups.

Dispose of yard waste properly

- Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains.
- If your municipality or agency has yard waste collection rules, follow them.
- Use leaves and grass clippings as a resource for compost.
- Use a mulching mower that recycles grass clippings into the lawn.

Defibrillators for the Fields

Just in case, we have carbon dioxide detectors in our basements, fire extinguishers in our kitchens and Benadryl in our medicine cabinets ~ all purchased just in case! Now, we need AED's on our sports fields!

Donations can be sent to Dawn Nutt - 4 Deerfield Road, Mendham (checks payable to MJWC) or PayPal at www.mjwc.org. For more information visit the Mendham Junior Women's Club website at www.mjwc.org.



Comcast has moved Mendham TV, the public access TV station of the Mendhams, in its channel lineup. Mendham TV now appears on Channel 29 for Comcast subscribers. Verizon users can continue to enjoy Mendham TV on Channel 22.

Mendham TV provides 24/7 programming that includes local meetings, sports, history shows, community events and other hyper-local content of interest to the Mendhams. The station also provides a community bulletin board with announcements and emergency service notifications. For more information and the latest program schedule, along with information on how you can get involved with the station, visit www.mendhamtv.org.

Mendham Borough Summer Camp Registration

Held at Borough Park, the Mendham Day Camp is for children entering kindergarten through 5th grade. Daily activities include arts and crafts, sports, games, visits to the library, Pastime Lanes and special events. A snack is provided. On scheduled days, children going into grades 3rd-5th will attend camp at Brookside Beach. Dates: June 27-August 5, Time: 9 am-12:30 pm, Monday to Friday. NOTE: CAMP IS CLOSED MONDAY, JULY 4.

Registration & Cost: Before May 28, the cost is \$60 per week, per child. After May 27, the cost is \$75; after **June 25, the cost is \$90. To guarantee a spot for your child, registration forms and full payment must be received by May 27. Openings after May 27 will be filled, if space is available. Camp T-shirts are available for \$5.**

2011 Annual Health Screenings

Thursday and Friday, May 5 & 6 from 7-9 am

St. James R.C. Church

184 South Finley Ave, Basking Ridge, NJ

Health Screening Cost: Residents: \$30. Non-residents: \$40

Thyroid Screening Cost: Residents: \$30. Non-residents: \$40

The Health Screening includes a blood test, urinalysis, stool blood test and blood pressure test. The purpose is to screen for conditions such as diabetes, gout, kidney disease, liver disease, cholesterol and triglyceride levels, anemia, leukemia, severe infections and hypertension. In person pre-registration is requested at the Bernards Township Health Department, 262 South Finley Ave, Basking Ridge beginning Monday, April 18 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm daily or by phone, 908-204-2520. Male Cancer Screening will be held on June 1, 2011 and registrations will also start on April 18.

May 2011
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 May

Curbside Bulk Pickup

Mondays, May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

Recycle - Thursdays, May 5 & 19

Borough Council Meetings - at the Garabrant Center,
8 pm on Monday, May 2 and 16

Planning Board Meeting - at the Garabrant Center,
8 pm on Monday, May 9

Board of Adjustment - at the Garabrant Center,
7:30 pm on Tuesday, May 3

Environmental Commission - at the Phoenix House,
8 pm on Thursday, May 19

Recreation Commission - at the Phoenix House,
7:30 pm on Wednesday, May 11

Historic Preservation Commission - at the Phoenix
House, 7:30 pm on Monday, May 16

Open Space Advisory Committee - at the Phoenix
House, 7 pm on Thursday, May 12

Pastime Club sponsors Circus Vidbel

Friday, May 13, 2011, 5:00 pm & 7:30 pm

Enjoy the circus under the Bigtop in Mendham Borough Park!! Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door, and kids under 2 are free. Seating is limited, and all advance ticket sale proceeds stay in Mendham, so buy your tickets ahead of time at: Mendham Books, Blue Ridge Pool—Fireplace Center and Robinson Drug Shop. Questions? Please call Tom Callahan - 732-319-2033.

A Tribute to Jim Turner

Saturday, May 21 at Brookside Community Center

3 pm Softball Tournament, all ages welcome,

Donation to play ~ \$20 for adults, \$10 for kids

7 pm Dinner, Tricky Tray & music by Catz and Dawgz

Donation for the party ~ \$50 per person

Proceeds to benefit the MJWC defibrillator project for Mendham sports fields and an educational fund for the Turner children. To buy tickets for the party, register for the tournament, volunteer to help or for more info, please contact Connie Shirtz at 973 543-7478 or at crshirtz@msn.com.

Mendham Borough Historical Society

Tuesday, May 24 at 7:30 pm

Garabrant Center

Nancy Lynch Castellano will present her program "Looking Back at the WAVES: A Chronicle of 90,000 Navy Women of WWII." Castellano, herself a WWII WAVE (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service), will speak about her service and that of the Navy women during wartime and today.

Cestellano is a recruit training instructor at the only such school in the USA ~ Hunter/Lehman College, Bronx, NY. She will share her personal view of the formation, training and teamwork among the women during WWII and the difficulties they encountered with serving in "a man's Navy." Posters, photos, and other memorabilia will accompany her program. The program is free and the public is invited.