



# THE MENDHAM MESSENGER

**The Newsletter for Mendham Borough**

**February 2023**

## Letter From the Mayor

### **Dear Mendham Borough Residents and Business Owners,**

Whether you are new to town or a long-timer like me, read on for the latest Borough news.

### **Mendham History**

Prior to the pandemic, the Borough had an active Historical Society which met numerous times a year and often had speakers come and talk about Mendham's early years, or New Jersey history in general. Our new town Historian, John Rollins, is working to help restore our Historical Society. If you have information or would be interested in assisting, please reach out. You can email [info@mendhamnj.org](mailto:info@mendhamnj.org) or place a call to our town Clerk,Carolynn Budd, and leave your contact information.

### **Mansion in May coming to Mendham**

We are very proud that the Women's Association for Morristown Medical Center has selected one of our turn-of-the-century Manors as their 20<sup>th</sup> Mansion in May Designer Showhouse and Garden sites. This month-long event is the Association's signature fundraiser for the Morristown Medical Center. The home, known as Three Fields, was originally built for the Benjamin Duncan Mosser family in 1929 and later became home to Mayor Andrew Fletcher's family.

Our Local Economic Development Committee has been meeting and discussing ways Mendham can put our best foot forward and expand on this opportunity, in an effort to attract attendees to our business district. Currently we are considering signage during Mansion in May to welcome attendees and encourage them to support our local businesses. We are also having conversations about a guided historic walking tour of downtown Mendham Borough on one weekend of May. If you are interested in getting involved, please email [information@mendhamnj.org](mailto:information@mendhamnj.org).

### **In Memoriam**

Council members who serve our town receive a lot of kudos when in office, but it's easy for us to forget about their efforts once they have completed their service. I feel it is important for us to remember former Councilman Paul Kelly, who passed away in mid-December. He and his late wife became Mendham Borough residents in 1972 and raised their 8 children here. Not long after making Mendham their home, Paul ran for office and joined Council in 1976. It's my understanding that Councilman Kelly was very passionate about his service and considered his

service a crowning achievement. I am grateful for all he did for our town, and his dedication will long be remembered.

### **Who's Who in Mendham**

Changes are coming to our Construction Department in February! Council recently approved full-time employment for our part-time Construction Official, Rob Rosendale.

Born and raised in Franklin Lakes, Rob went into the construction industry after high school, working for a few privately owned construction companies before going into business for himself. For 22 years his small firm focused primarily on specialty architectural craft work and custom carpentry.

In 2014 Rob went back to school to get his construction inspection licenses. He soon began working for several Morris County towns, including ours. One of his first big jobs in Mendham was the Sisters of Christian Charity Motherhouse project. He is also an active member of the Morris County Code Officials Association, where he was recently elected Vice President.

Rob and his wife Jeanette live in Sussex County and have been married for 30 years. They met at a family event where Jeanette was attending while on a date with a mutual friend. After being introduced to Rob, fate would change course; Jeanette boldly left a note in his car asking him to go out one night. Five years later they would begin their lives together. Their family now includes Stephen, who has graduated from college, and John, a junior in college.

When Rob's not attending to business, he enjoys making home-brewed beer, which he says is quite good. Although he makes small batches he gives away as much as he keeps.

His words of wisdom for our residents: the building codes we all need to follow are designed by the State and not by the Borough. For this reason Rob says to always consult with him before starting the job and he will make sure that you don't leave with a permit that you don't need. He is looking forward to being with us full time and is eager to make improvements for our community's benefit.

It's always a pleasure to provide new information to our town. Thank you for reading!

Warm regards,

Christine Serrano Glassner, Mayor

Join Us for a  
Sherlock Holmes Murder Mystery



**Saturday, February 4, 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

**at the Mendham Borough Library**

Grab your spyglass and prepare yourself for a live comedy "whodunit" style murder mystery show featuring The Riddlesbrood Theater Company. Audience participation and interaction is encouraged. Get your tickets

soon as space is limited. This event is for adults only. Wine and light snacks will be served. Ticket price is \$50 per person and is 100% tax deductible. Scan the QR code to register.



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. at the Library**

For experienced players. Come out and play!

**Canasta**

**Thursdays, 10 a.m. at the Library**

All levels of play are welcome to join this fun, lively group.

**Book Club**

**Friday, February 24, 10 a.m. at the Library**

*The Beauty of Dusk* by Frank Bruni

February Adult Programs

**The Morris Canal: Northern New Jersey's Water Highway**

**Wednesday, February 8, 7:00 p.m.**



Join the Canal Society of New Jersey's Tim Roth as he explores the history of the Morris Canal from its inception in the 1820's to its abandonment 100 years later.

Learn about this fascinating piece of New Jersey history!

**The Art of Crossword Construction**

**Wednesday, February 22, 7:00 p.m.**

Have you ever wondered what is involved in producing a crossword puzzle? This program will walk you through the steps of creating a crossword puzzle, from concept to completion. Follow the process, see the resources used, and gain insight into the attention to detail that is at the foundation of a quality puzzle from former NYT Crossword creator Ruth B. Margolin.



Thank You!

A tremendous thank you to the Mimi Washington Starett Foundation for awarding a grant to the Mendham Borough Library to increase our digital offerings. Thanks to them, we have added Kindles, Launchpads, and Wonderbooks to our collection. Please stop by and check out some of these great new materials.

Did You Know?

You can now check out a Kindle at the library to read great best-sellers. Each Kindle is pre-loaded with current best-selling titles and will have three new best-sellers added each month. All you need to do is come to the library, check out a Kindle using your library card and begin enjoying great books! Kindles are available for check out for two weeks only and must be returned to our circulation desk (no book drop). This month read these new fiction books: *Desert Star* by Michael Connelly, *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus, *The Boys From Biloxi* by John Grisham, *It Starts With Us* by Colleen Hoover, *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver, *A World of Curiosities* by Louise Penny, *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult, and *Without a Trace* by Danielle Steele. Additionally, read these non-fiction titles: *Spare* by Prince Harry, *Duke of Sussex*, and *I'm Glad My Mom Died* by Jennette McCurdy.



## February Children's Programs

### **Toddler Sing-Along**

*Every Monday at 10:30 a.m. (except February 20)*

*At the Library*

Join us for some fun songs!

### **Babies and Books**

*Fridays, February 3 and 10, 10:45 a.m.*

*(First 2 Fridays of the month)*

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

### **Girls Who Code**

#### **Grades 3-8**

*Mondays, Feb 6-April 17, 3:30-5:00 p.m.*

This program will run for a 10-week session.

**(We will not meet during Spring Break.)**

Girls Who Code is a non-profit organization that strives to close the gender gap in computer science. Did you know, as of 2017 only 24% of those in computer science career fields are



women? With the help of this amazing organization, we are able to introduce coding to the girls in our community and help them build confidence and practice in these skills while building their personal confidence, sense of community, and other important life skills. For more information on this organization visit [girlswhocode.com](http://girlswhocode.com).

The girls will need an email address to sign up for Girls Who Code HQ and Scratch, two resources we will be using during this program. Registration required.

### **Kindness Club: Valentine's Cards**

*Wednesday, February 8, 3:30 p.m.*



Spread a little love and joy as we make Valentine's Day Cards together for our friends at Holly Manor Center and MASH (Mendham Area Senior Housing).

### **Lego Club**

#### **Ages 5+**

*Wednesday, February 15, 3:30 p.m.*

Back by popular demand! We'll bring the Legos, you bring your imagination!



## TAG (Teen Advisory Group)

### **Cake Wars**

#### **Ages 12+**

*Thursday, February 9, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.*

Learn the basics of cake decorating with Ms. Celeste, then put your new skills to the test as we battle it out in teams for the coolest cake. Supplies provided. Please bring an apron or an old t-shirt to wear.

### **Leap into Science: Balance**

#### **Ages 3+**

*Wednesday, Feb 22, 3:30pm*

Explore the wonderful force that is Balance as we read a story and do some of our own experiments.

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

Pick up a craft kit at the Library at the desk or through Curbside service. Crafts will be announced on our Instagram and Facebook Pages at the beginning of each week.

### **Wonderbooks and Launchpads!**

Thanks to a grant from the Mimi Washington Starrett Foundation we have a new collection of Wonderbooks and Launchpads for children at our library!

Wonderbooks are books that read aloud with the push of a button. These books are wonderful tools to reinforce reading at all levels and are especially helpful to reluctant readers. We have something for everyone with picture books, chapter books and non-fiction titles.

Launchpads are tablets fully loaded with educational materials that teach reading, writing, math, and STEM activities. Launchpads do not need the internet and are fun and easy to use!

Visit the library to check out this new collection and take one home for two weeks to start a new, interesting and interactive way to learn!

### Coming Up

**Women of the Revolution:** Wed, March 1, 7:00 p.m.

**History of Three Fields:** Wed, April 12, 7:00 p.m.

**March Book Club:** *The Magnolia Palace* by Fiona Davis

**Teen Trivia Night:** Thurs, March 16th 5:30-7:30 p.m.

## 2022 Annual Appeal Donors to the Mendham Borough Library

A heartfelt thank you to the many individuals, families and businesses that generously supported the Mendham Borough Library in 2022. We are extremely grateful to you for your donations which allow us to continue to provide you with more books, movies, magazines, digital content, and engaging special programs for people of all ages. Your gifts are vital to our library and make it possible for us to remain an important and integral part of our community. We have made every effort to be accurate but apologize in advance if there are any errors or omissions to this list.

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### **Thank you to the following companies and foundations for their matching gifts:**

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### **Donations in Memory of Loved Ones and Friends**

In Memory of Inge Breves – Janis Biron, Gisela Brunaccini, Carolyn Dunham, Patti & Will Janus, Barbara Kennedy, Valerie Kent,  
 Anna Speicher, Jonathan Speicher, Ida Welsh, Anna Wentrup

In Memory of Marie Cerdone – Betty Steidler

In Memory of Geraldine A. Cillo – James J. Cillo, Sr

In Memory of Carol W. McCarthy – Diagnostic Radiology Assoc. PA, Janet DiPrizio, Caroline Krasnoff, Keith & Alice Kaplan,  
 Alice Lazzarini, Michael & Laurel Skarbinski, Stefan Wagner, Keith Seidenberg & Ellen Ward

In Memory of MaryAnn Moser Wheelright – F. Gregory & Abby Maguire





## Mendham Borough School District

### **Kindergarten and 1st Grade Registration**

#### **2023-24**



Hilltop School in Mendham Borough is excited to begin the process of forming its 2023 kindergarten class. Pre-registration for the 2023-24 kindergarten class is now open.

Parents must visit our website to

review our enrollment process, pre-register, and complete the required forms to upload at the time of pre-registration. Children must be five years of age on or before October 1, 2023, in order to register for kindergarten. Any students enrolling for first grade from an outside kindergarten program should register at this time as well.

You will need your child's original birth certificate and three (3) 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. You will be prompted to upload these documents in the Genesis portal during the online pre-registration process.

Please visit the Hilltop School website ([www.mendhamboro.org](http://www.mendhamboro.org)) to download the Residency Packet, Kindergarten Entrance Form, and required medical forms including the Health Assessment Record, Universal Health Record, and Dental Exam form. Please note that the Universal Health Record will need to be completed by your child's physician and the dental form by your child's dentist. We will also require a copy of your child's up-to-date immunization records which you can obtain from your child's pediatrician. All of these forms will need to be uploaded to the Genesis Portal during the online registration process.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Austin at 973-543-4251 ext. 121.

## Mendham Borough Department of Planning & Land Use

### **Office of Historic Preservation Commission**

Mendham Borough has an Historic District and is documented in the National Register of Historic Places. As

such, its homes contribute in a very real way to the warm, welcoming atmosphere of our Borough.

When the Borough was featured in the August 2013 edition of *New Jersey Monthly*, they complimented our town for having a "Main Street USA feeling," and the Historic District unquestionably contributes to that ambience. Commitment to the upkeep and maintenance of your home is a tribute to the spirit of Mendham and respect for our communal heritage.

In that spirit, in 2001, The Borough Council established the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) for the protection, enhancement, and preservation of properties with historic, cultural, and architectural value in Mendham Borough. If you are an owner of such property, you are responsible for notifying Borough staff of any alterations you are planning for your home that may impact its historic appearance. This includes any change to the exterior appearance by addition, alteration or replacement, and any new construction of a principal or accessory structure. Note that this does not apply to ordinary maintenance on structures and does not govern colors of structures to be painted.



The HPC is here to guide these owners with the design, construction, and material selection process. We have compiled a list of suggested materials and an application checklist to

assist in this endeavor. We suggest that homeowners in the Historic District notify the Borough's Planning & Land Use Coordinator prior to the commencement of any work. The Commission is available to offer any guidance they may need.

As physical and economic pressures become greater, it is more important than ever to the historic character of the Borough to protect the historic core of the community. This is especially true along Main Street from one side of the Borough to the other. Main Street is a major thoroughfare through town and provides a streetscape which defines Mendham Borough, not only to people passing through, but to residents as well. This is, in fact, the heart of our "historic village character."

Mendham Borough residents' continued efforts to enhance and preserve the historic character of the district is to be lauded, and their neighbors in the Borough appreciate their commitment.

## Mendham Borough Department of Public Works



### **A Busy Year at the Mendham Borough Water Treatment Plant**

Our biggest project this year, without question, was the remediation of our sanitary

collection system. Our system is comprised of approximately 128,900 feet of lateral and trunk sewers, 581 manholes, approximately 5,350 feet of force mains, and 4 pump stations. The sanitary collection system was installed when the plant opened in 1963 and needed some rehabilitation. This rehabilitation included slip lining, lateral connection repair, and manhole grouting and repair. This project has now been completed and we have already seen a reduction of infiltration of ground water flowing into the treatment plant.

The first, and by far, largest aspect of the project was the slip lining portion. The slip lining process that was used for the project is referred to as CIPP - Cured in Place Pipe. This is done by pushing an epoxy-coated felt tube through the existing pipe and inflating it with pressurized steam to cure it into a seamless rigid pipe. With CIPP we can replace the worn or damaged clay pipe with a new pipe without having to excavate and with minimal interruption of service. The borough lined 30,000 linear feet of pipe during this project, in addition to the 25,000 feet previously lined in 2009.

Another aspect of this project was Lateral Connection Repairs, or LCR. LCR is like CIPP, where a T-shaped piece of epoxy-coated felt is inserted into the sewer main and positioned at a lateral connection. Once in position, it is again inflated with steam and cured in place. Altogether 29 LCRs were completed. This process also allows repairs to be made without any excavating and minimal interruption of service.

The final part of the sanitary sewer rehab was the rehabilitation of 12 of our manholes. Manhole

rehabilitation consisted mostly of grouting the walls of the manholes where ground water had begun to penetrate due to corrosion. There were, however, some cases where the channel and bench needed to be repaired. Another aspect of the manhole rehabilitation was the raising of the manhole covers to ground level. During the preliminary inspection of the sanitary collection system, it was discovered that several manholes had become buried. By using distances obtained from the inspection videos, metal detectors, and a locator attached to a camera, we were able to locate, excavate, and raise the chimney of the manhole to the surface.

The goal of this project was to reduce inflow and infiltration to the sanitary sewer collection system. Shortly after the start of the project we began to see a reduction in flow to the treatment plant. At times during wet weather events the treatment plant would see flows over 1000 gallons per minute (gpm) and could take several days to return to a typical flow. Recently we had a storm that dumped 1.5 inches of rain on the Borough. Our peak flow for the event was less than 500 gpm and the recovery time was exponentially better.

While this project was a success, we will continue to monitor and maintain the ever-changing conditions of the collection system to keep service to the residents and businesses flowing. We also have upcoming projects at the Franklin Road and Lake Drive pump stations as well as several other upgrades and modifications to the Sewer Treatment Plant.

### **Snow Removal**

In an effort to remove snow as quickly and efficiently as possible from borough roadways, the Department of Public Works requests all residents to follow these guidelines:

- No parking on snow-covered streets.
- Do not leave garbage cans, recyclables, or any other items on snow-covered streets, or if the forecast is for accumulating snow.
- When clearing driveways or sidewalks, please do not deposit snow into the street.
- Whenever possible, wait for the plow crews to complete your street before cleaning off your sidewalk, end of driveway and mailbox. Remember,

*(Continued on page 8)*

### Borough Meetings in February 2023

**Borough Holiday:** Monday, February 20

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

**Council:** 7 p.m. Wednesday, February 8;  
7 p.m. Tuesday, February 21

**ECOSST:** 7:30 p.m. Monday, February 6

**Board of Health:** TBA

**Historic Preservation Commission:** TBA

**Joint Land Use Board:** TBA

**Recreation Committee:** TBA

**Borough Schools Board of Education:**

7 p.m. Tuesday, February 21; Hilltop  
Elementary School Cafeteria

**Recycling:** Thursdays February 2, 9, 16, 23

**Curbside Bulk Pickup:** Mondays February 6,  
13, 20, 27

*(Continued from page 7)*

during heavy snowfalls, it will be necessary for crews to return to your street numerous times.

The Borough will not be responsible for damage to items left in roadways, such as cans, basketball hoops or vehicles, which are prohibited from snow-covered streets as per Borough Code 206-57. Please remember, it is necessary for plows to push snow as close to the curb as possible to assure clear passage in future storms. Additionally, we ask you to clear the sidewalk of snow and ice that is located on your property; as a property owner or tenant, it is your responsibility to keep sidewalks clear as per Borough Code 155-4 (H). Doing this not only keeps the public walkers safe, but also children walking to school. We thank you all in advance for your efforts to help keep our town safe.

