

# The Mendham Messenger

February 2017

## Mayor's Update

Dear Residents and Business Owners,

Despite dealing with several significant time-consuming distractions which we normally don't deal with, the Mayor and Council accomplished much for 2016. Some of the many accomplishments included, but were not limited to, the following:

- **Styrofoam Recycling Day:** Our Department of Public Works hosted our first Styrofoam recycling day. The event was set up as a shared service with Mendham Township. The respective Public Works Departments and Environmental Commissions worked well together to make this event a success.
- **Paving Talmadge Road:** We were able to complete the paving of the entire length of Talmadge Road. The project, which was partially subsidized by the New Jersey Department of Transportation, came in under budget.
- **Procurement of Sidewalk Snow Plow:** This new piece of equipment arrived just in time for Blizzard Jonas in January and was used by the Public Works Department to clear most of the sidewalks leading to the Hilltop School and Mountain View School.
- **Balanced Municipal Budget:** The Mayor and Council once again delivered a balanced budget which resulted in a very minimal tax increase in the municipal portion of your tax bill.
- **New Ambulance:** The Borough took delivery of a new ambulance and converted the older one going out of service into an emergency triage support vehicle. The vehicle presently sits outside the first aid bay.
- **Completion of the Accreditation of the Police Department:** The Rogers Group completed a multi-year review and update of our department's policies and procedures to bring them into line with national police standards.
- **Receipt of County Grant Money to Complete the Scott Farm Trail:** The County of Morris offered grant money to municipalities who had shovel-ready projects to construct trails. Funding was awarded to the Borough for construction of a loop trail around the Scott Farm Property on Mountainside Road which we acquired at the very end of 2015.

As we begin 2017, we have a significant amount of work to tackle as a governing body. The significant tasks in front of us include but are by no means limited to the following:

- **Deliver a Balanced Municipal Budget:** Deliver a budget which results in a minimum increase in municipal taxes.

- **Appoint a New Chief Of Police:** The Mayor and Council continue to assess potential amendments to our Promotional Ordinance for the Chief of Police that will insure we select the right person who can lead the department effectively and efficiently. We will take as much time as needed in order to do this. In the meantime, Sgt. John Camoia will lead the department as the Officer in Charge when Chief Libertino retires at the end of the month.
- **Evaluate the Merits of Re-Organizing the Command Structure of our Police Department from a Police Chief and Four Sergeants to one that would be composed of a Police Chief, Police Lieutenant and Two Police Sergeants:** The appointment of a Police Lieutenant was recommended in the recently delivered Matrix Report that reviewed the efficiency of our police department. It was recommended by the State Chiefs of Police Association and endorsed by leaders of the local PBA during a meeting Mr. Merkt and I had in July of 2016. The full governing body will have a thorough public deliberation on this possible re-structure with input from OIC Camoia.

## Friends of the Mendham Borough Library Donation

The Friends of the Mendham Borough Library generously donated a new outdoor sign for the library. The Friends of the Library is currently looking for new members interested in

helping to make Mendham Borough Library an even better place. They are a long standing group of community members, of all ages, who donate their time to help the Library achieve its goals - from raising vital funds, to helping maintain the Library's facilities and services, or simply by building awareness within the community for what our wonderful Library has to offer. If you would like to know more about the Friends of the Library and how to get involved, they are holding an open house on **Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.** If you can't make it, but would like to learn more about the group, please check out their website at <http://www.mendhamboroughlibrary.org/friends.htm>. Whatever your talent or skill, the Library could use your support!



Pictured above is Deborah Stryker from the Friends of the Library, Richard Moore MBL Board President and Rosie D'Urso Board Member and Friends of the Library Liaison



Mendham Borough  
LIBRARY

# News from the Mendham Borough Library

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

## "Dishing Up New Jersey" Author Talk and Book Signing

*Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm*

New Jersey native John Holl searched from Sussex County to Cape May to find the best recipes New Jersey has to offer, and the result is this rich and unique cookbook celebrating the foods, flavors, cultures, and traditions of the Garden State. Space is limited and registration is required.



## Mendham Borough Library 2016 A Community of Readers

2016 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 are a few of the ways you got involved.

- 51,210 visits were made to the library (up 3%)
- 6,772 people attended our programs (up 28%)
- 203 new Mendhamites joined our library
- 41,940 items were taken out (up 4%); 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.

## Coloring February Valentine Adult Coloring

for Adults



*Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm*

We supply the Valentine themed pages and colored pens, you bring the imagination. This event is limited to adults 21 years and over. Refreshments will be served. Call the library today or register online.

## Buying and Selling Online

*Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 1 pm*

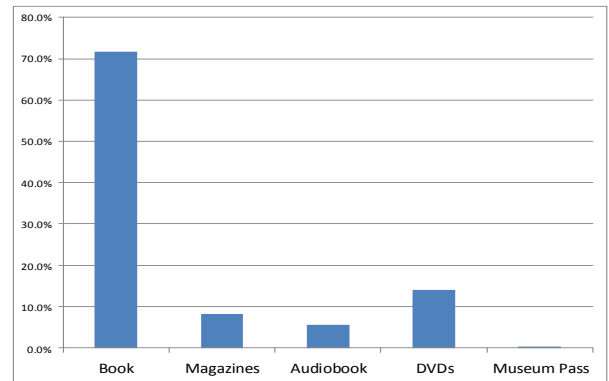
Amazon, EBAY, Craig's List, Yahoo! Shopping, Overstock.com and PriceGrabber.com. The list is long and growing! Come learn the reasons to Shop/Buy/Sell online. The presentation will include possible buyer concerns, seller reliability, product quality, privacy, safety and security when buying and selling online.

## New Research Tool for Investments now Available Online



Designed as the total investment research solution, [The Value Line Research Center Library Edition](#) is the preferred platform for thousands of academic and municipal libraries around the world. The Research Center includes on-line access to Value Line's leading research publications covering stocks, mutual funds, options and convertible securities as well as our proprietary special situation stocks. This resource compliments Zinio Digital Magazines which has business magazines that include *The Economist*, *Entrepreneur* and *Kiplinger's Personal Finance*.

*What is going out at the Mendham Borough Library?*



Our patrons 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.

### Weekly Adult Programs at the Library

**Bridge:** Wednesdays at 10 am

**Device Advice:** Wednesdays from 1 to 3 pm

**Canasta:** Thursdays at 10 am

**Yoga:** Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 am

**Weekly Knitting Circle:** Fridays at 10:30 am



## 2016 Donors to the Mendham Borough Library

Thank you to the many individuals and businesses that support the Mendham Borough Library. Your donations make all the difference. Without them we would not be able to provide books, movies, magazines, on-line services, and special programs for the residents of Mendham. We have made every effort to be accurate with this list but apologize if there are any omissions or mistakes. Many thanks to our anonymous donors and those who would rather not be listed; we are truly grateful because your gifts help the library remain an important part of the community.

John and Eva Abbott \* Tricia Abramson \* Anthony and Lisette Acevedo \* Dianne and Doug Ackerman \*  
Michael and Peggy Ackerman \* Kamal and Chhanda Aditya \* Robert and Leslie Allain \* Jean McNally Allatta \*  
John Andrus \* Ashley Antonello \* Joan Baehler \* Placido and Joy Barbera \* Niki Barna \* Joyce Barnish \*  
Elwira R. Barron \* Barbara A. Barth \* Marilyn and Anthony Bastardi \* Sharon Battaglini \* John and Ellen Baxter \*  
Chris Beck \* Ken and JoAnne Betz \* Joseph and Annette Bertola In Memory of Armand Inelli \*  
Mark Beutnagel and Ginny Pados \* Beth and Dan Bierals \* Janis Biron \* John and Marcy Blumers \* Carla Bortnick \*  
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Nicholas and Paula D'Amato \* Bailey Funeral Home \* Joan Crawford and William DeBuwitz \*  
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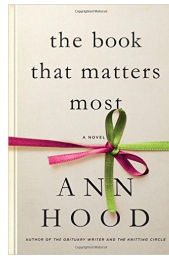
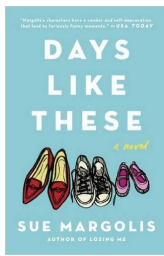
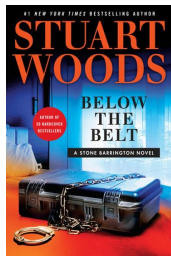
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 Mendham Borough Library Bridge Group \* Mendham Reading Group \* Margaret Moglia \* Richard and Anne Moore \*  
 Glenn and Celeste Moran \* Valerie and Mark Motylewski \* Rachel Mulligan \* Marian Mundy \*  
 Mark and Tricia Munley \* Kevin and Joanne Murphy \* Winnie Murphy \* Gertrude H. Nalven \* Nancy and Marie \*  
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 P. David Zimmerman

Thanks to the following companies and foundations for their matching gifts.  
 AT&T Your Cause \* ExxonMobil Foundation \* Johnson & Johnson \*  
 Pfizer Foundation \* TRUiST

## New Books, Audio-books & DVDS

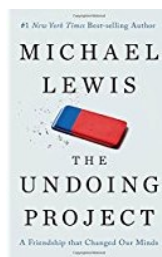
### Fiction

<i>Below The Belt</i>	Woods, Stewart
<i>Curtain of Death</i>	Griffin, W.E.B.
<i>Days like These</i>	Margolis, Sue
<i>Expecting To Die</i>	Jackson, Lisa
<i>Hot Flash</i>	Johnson, Carrie H
<i>Moonglow</i>	Chabon, Michael
<i>My Brilliant Friend</i>	Ferrante, Elena
<i>Nine Women, One Dress</i>	Rosen, Jane
<i>Selection Day</i>	Adiga, Aravind
<i>Swing Time</i>	Smith, Zadie
<i>The Book That Matters Most</i>	Hood, Ann
<i>The House at the Edge Of Night</i>	Banner, Catherine
<i>The Midnight Bell</i>	Higgins, Jack
<i>The Mistress</i>	Steel, Danielle
<i>The Old Man</i>	Perry, Thomas
<i>Time of Death</i>	Kerr, Lucy



### Non-Fiction

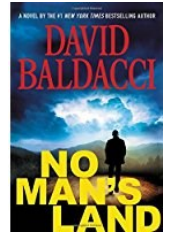
<i>DK Eyewitness Travel Top 10 Paris 2017</i>	Gerrard, Mike
<i>My Digital Travel for Seniors</i>	Rich, Jason R.
<i>National Geographic Prague and The Czech Republic</i>	Brook, Stephen
<i>Talking As Fast As I Can</i>	Graham, Lauren
<i>The Complete Mediterranean Cookbook</i>	America's Test Kitchen
<i>The Undoing Project</i>	Lewis, Michael



*The Library will be closed on  
February 20, 2017 for  
Presidents' Day*

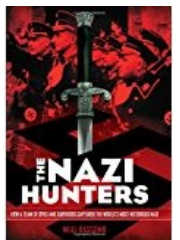
### Audiobooks

<i>No Man's Land</i>	Baldacci, David
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### Large Print

<i>The Nazi Hunters</i>	Bascomb, Neal
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### DVD's

<i>5 to 7</i>
<i>This Is Us Season 1</i>
<i>Better Call Saul Season 1</i>
<i>Better Call Saul Season 2</i>
<i>What Happened the Night of</i>



*Mayor's Message continued from page 1*

- **Hire Additional Patrol Officers:** We need to strongly consider adding personnel to our police patrols. An officer was never added when former Chief Taylor retired in 2012. We would also have to consider replacing the existing officer who will eventually be promoted to the Chief of Police. While the optimal number of patrol officers on each shift is two, there are many times, due to contractual obligations (vacations, personal and sick time) when there is only one officer on a shift. This has become problematic due to the length of time needed to process arrests related to DWI's, Domestic Violence Allegations and Officers Needed to Accompany Patients to Morristown Memorial Hospital for Psychiatric Evaluations. Officers cost approximately \$150,000 (all in at the top of the pay steps) which, of course, would have a significant impact on the Municipal Budget. This issue was first raised publically at our October 3 Council meeting and the consensus of the Borough Council, based on feedback from the public, was to explore enhancements of mutual aid agreements between neighboring police departments with the possibility of implementing "cross coverage patrols", particularly during the overnight hours, as being one option to consider. Based on that consensus, Mr. Merkt and I will be meeting with Mendham Township Mayor Diana Orban Brown and Business Administrator Debbie Bonanno to look at improving our mutual aid agreements with our police departments and to gauge their interest in the possibility of sharing the cost of a patrol officer(s). Mr. Merkt and I met with State Assemblyman Decan O'Scanlon from Monmouth County at the League of Municipalities in November on his proposed concept of a "shared patrol model", which by the way, has been approved by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. Mr. O'Scanlon recently published an article that appeared in several publications which advocates the sharing patrols across municipal borders while allowing the respective police departments to remain under the control of their respective municipalities. Assemblyman O'Scanlon is willing to travel to Mendham to serve as a facilitator in these discussions if there is, in fact, an interest and he is invited. You can find more detail on Assemblyman O'Scanlon's concept in information posted on my facebook page, Mayor Neil Henry. I have also asked that this information be placed on our website for public viewing.
- **Assess the efficiencies of the Municipal operation by identifying new technology products that are available on the market which would help improve municipal operations and service levels for our residents:** I believe we are behind the curve on these efficiencies compared to other municipalities and at some point we are going

to have to come to that realization and be prepared to execute a well-developed plan to install new efficiencies. The new financial software which is still being installed is a start but there is still more that can be done including the implementation of an on line payment option to pay taxes and utility bills.

- **New Building for the First Aid Squad:** The Mendham Borough First Aid Squad has asked the Mayor and Council to consider permitting them to build an additional bay to house the Emergency Triage Support Vehicle mentioned earlier. This would be paid for with funds raised by the First Aid squad, not municipal funds. Based on the quick response from all of our Emergency Responders to the recent fire in the Village Shopping Center, it is clear how important public safety response and equipment is to the community.
- **Outside the Box Thinking:** There needs to be more of this type of thinking. Maintaining the status quo is easy for all of us to do, and it is easy to say new ideas will never work without fully exploring any that come forward, such as the shared police patrols, as mentioned earlier. The people, whom we as elected officials and our employees serve expect outside the box thinking that in some cases includes the peoples input. I know that DPW Superintendent O'Brien would like to develop and distribute spot neighborhood surveys that would solicit these types of ideas from our residents and business owners. Also, the Borough Council has agreed to introduce an ordinance this winter that would allow us to partner with the Morris Area Energy Cooperative who provides for the pooling of electricity usage of all our residents. It would secure a lower energy supply price without impacting service from JCPL, who just received an approval from the BPU to raise their rates approximately 2-1/2 percent.
- **Communication with the Public:** We need to continue to engage the public whenever and wherever possible. People need to know what is going on and to get involved with their local government in any role possible. We have several openings on our boards and commissions. If you know anybody who may be interested, please have them contact our Borough Clerk, Margot Kaye, at her office in the Phoenix House.

In closing, you should know the residents of Mendham Borough have a dedicated group of elected officials, Borough employees and volunteers who are prepared to maintain the high quality of life the residents of the Borough have come to expect.

I would encourage all of you to stay connected, attend council meetings and express your opinion on the issues that face us in 2017.

Best wishes once again for a safe and healthy New Year.

Neil Henry  
Mayor

## Hilltop Church to Hold Pancake Supper to Benefit Stores Damaged by the Fire

For the past several years Hilltop Church Board of Deacons has hosted a **Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday** (the day before Ash Wednesday) and the proceeds have gone to support our local community. Past recipients have included the Borough Library, The Borough Fire Department, and our Youth Athletic Programs. This year the proceeds from the Hilltop Pancake Supper will **benefit the four neighborhood stores who were damaged by the fire on December 28th**. (The Country Coffee Shop, Village Pizza, The Chocolate Shoppe, and Aoyama Chinese and Japanese Restaurant.) All of them, whether through smoke damage or fire-related damage, were forced to close.

In tragic circumstances such as these there are always significant expenses that are not covered by insurance. This is especially true of the employees who have lost income with the store closures. The greater Mendham community is invited to **come to Hilltop House (14 Hilltop Road) and share our Deacons Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 28th beginning at 5:30 pm to support our community friends**. All proceeds from the supper will be divided among the four stores. All of us have shared a meal, some sushi, a slice of pizza or something wonderfully sweet because our friends are in business here. We hope they are all open again soon! But for now, let's share a simple meal to help them in their time of need. Come join us for all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, applesauce, and drinks. Prices are \$20/family, \$7/adult & \$5/child.



### *Library News continued*

#### **February Programs for Kids at the Mendham Borough Library**

**Toddler Sing-A-Long**—Mondays at 10:30 am

Come Join Miss Amanda as we sing fun songs and rhymes. Program for ages birth to 5.

**Chess Club**—Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:30 pm

Learn new tip and tricks with chess instructor Marty Sobin. Sponsored by the Mendham Municipal Alliance.

#### **Valentine's Extravaganza**

Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 3:15 pm All ages welcome  
Come join the library as we prepare for Valentine's Day with card making and a fun game of BINGO!!!

#### **Exploring Math**

K-3<sup>rd</sup>: Mondays February 6, 13, & 27 @ 3:15 pm  
4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>: Thursdays February 2, 9, & 16 @ 3:30 pm  
Make math fun again and explore with Toilet Paper Olympics, Zoo Animal Zip Lines and Extreme Bingo!

#### **Book Worms**

Tuesdays, February 7, 14, 21, & 28 @ 3:15 pm  
1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Come read *The Chocolate Touch* by Patrick Catling and discuss. Books available for pick up @ the library.

#### **Knitting Club**

Wednesdays, February 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 3:15 pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> grade & Up

Learn how to knit and make your own beautiful creations!

#### **Late Night @ the Library: A Wild Night**

Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7-10 pm

3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Join Eyes of the Wild as they bring a selection of animals for you to see and touch. Pizza and drinks will also be provided. Sponsored by the Mendham Municipal Alliance.

#### **Tween Advisory Board**

Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6:00 pm

5<sup>th</sup> Grade & Up

Join Miss Amanda for some pizza and planning of fun library programs!

#### **Afternoon Movies**

Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> @ 3:15 pm

Come join the library as we show the underrated hit *Lost & Found*. Drinks and popcorn will be provided.

#### **Bagels & Books: Family Book Club**

Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30 am

Read *Fortunately the Milk* by Neil Gaiman and discuss over delicious bagels.

#### **Lego Club**

Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup> @ 3:15 pm

#### **Candyland**

Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> @ 11-1 pm

Join our Tween Advisory Board as they host a life-sized Candyland. Stop in anytime between 11 and 1 to play and travel through the Peppermint Forest and visit Gumdrop Mountain. All families are welcome and treats will be provided.

## Borough Calendar for February 2017

### **Curbside Bulk Pickup**

Mondays, February 6, 13, 20 & 27

**Recycle** - Thursdays, February 2 & 16

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

**Borough Council** - at the Garabrant Center, 8 pm on Monday, February 6 & Tuesday, February 21

**Environmental Commission** - at the Phoenix House, 7:30 pm on Wednesday, February 15

**Historic Preservation Commission** - at the Phoenix House, 7:30 pm on Monday, February 27

**Planning Board Meeting** - at the Garabrant Center, 7:30 pm on Monday, February 13

**Recreation Commission** - at the Phoenix House, 7:30 pm on Wednesday, February 8

### **Mendham Borough Board of Health**

#### **Volunteers needed**

The Mendham Borough Board of Health has immediate openings. Meetings are on every 1st Wednesday of the month at the Bowers Building, 7:00 pm. Call or email Borough Clerk: Margot Kaye at 973-543-7152 ext. 15 or [mkaye@mendhamnj.org](mailto:mkaye@mendhamnj.org)

## *The Mendham Messenger*

A publication for the residents of Mendham Borough

## **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](http://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 Wednesday 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.

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.

[www.mendhamnj.org](http://www.mendhamnj.org)

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