



THE MENDHAM MESSENGER

The Newsletter for Mendham Borough

April 2023

Letter From the Mayor

Dear Residents and Business Owners,

With the Mansion in May coming to town and municipal budgets due, there is much to talk about. However, I think it's important that I dedicate this letter to a very important subject.

Real Estate Development Proposals

You may have seen discussions on social media regarding two proposed development projects here in the Borough. One of these projects is proposed for the Sisters of Christian Charity property on Mendham Road. The other is located behind the King's supermarket. The project behind King's was a result of our affordable housing settlement with the courts. Although we were required at the time to zone for a 5-story, 75-apartment building, the developer is still required to apply to the Joint Land Use Board (JLUB) for related variances.

As these two proposals work their way through the process, I strongly urge you to read the materials posted on our website for these projects and to be cautious with information on Facebook. What we know is that anyone can post any information they want on Facebook; the information is often incorrect and based on emotion, not fact. There are a variety of posters. Some are Mendham Borough residents asking thoughtful questions. Other people posting and answering some of these questions either lived in town and moved, or never lived here at all. I'm stunned to read repeated posts from an elected official from another town vigorously inciting residents to oppose these projects, when the town this person governs is proactively approving development project after project and rezoning to promote more growth. It was also disturbing to read a former resident's post that suggested our JLUB members, all volunteers and residents, would have "money going into their pockets" as a result of these projects, an act that is illegal and could result in fines and jail time.

Information to know

- ◆ The Mendham Borough Joint Land Use Board, which is a quasi-judicial board, is legally bound to follow State statutes and codes when making decisions on zoning changes and variance requests.
- ◆ Any developer has the right to submit applications for

consideration to the secretary of this board.

- ◆ Mendham Borough Council only votes on zoning and not on variances. Council would be required to vote on the whole project as the result of an appeal process.
- ◆ The town and Board do not intentionally "make it difficult" for businesses or restaurants to open in town. Businesses that comply with the requirements are welcome here. When you don't see a restaurant opening in town, it's because no new restaurants have applied. If you want to open a new restaurant in town, please reach out to us and we will walk you through the process.
- ◆ Opening a new business requires forethought and investment. If a prospective business owner does not feel that they can make a profit in a small town like ours, then they are not likely to invest here.
- ◆ If you are wondering why developers are suddenly proposing to develop here, it is because landowners are making it possible.
- ◆ Finally, please read up on the Mount Laurel decision and why many areas of New Jersey have been allowed to be over-developed in the name of affordable housing, which only constitutes 15-20% of the project.

The April JLUB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m. Although these meetings usually take place at the Garabrant Center, we have applied to Mountain View to use their cafeteria, which requires their Board approval. Once we have confirmation of a larger space we will post in our local papers, on our website and through our Nixle blasts. Since these are multifaceted projects, it is our intention to alternate months when they are heard so that we are not hearing both projects at the same meeting, allowing us to focus on one at a time. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to your participation at these meetings.

As the process for these two applications continues, we will try to communicate schedule-related information in this newsletter.

Enjoy Spring!

Sincerely yours,

Christine Serrano Glassner, Mayor

Three Fields Estate Model on Display

The Mansion in May designer show house and gardens featuring the Three Fields estate will be coming to Mendham Borough next month. The Mendham Borough Library has a beautiful 90-plus-year-old model of the Three Fields estate which was donated to our library by Andrew Fletcher. During the months of April and May we will proudly display this special replica made to scale for all to see and enjoy. Stop by to see the incredible detail of this



model of this magnificent property. Tremendous thanks to Tom Brooks for

refurbishing the cover for easy and safe viewing.

Fletcher Gallery

This month visit our gallery to see the colorful work completed by the students of Hilltop Elementary School. Check out the incredible talent of our budding young artists!

Please register for all library programs online at mendhamboroughlibrary.org or call the library at 973-543-4152.

The Library Will Be Closed On Friday, April 7.

This Month's Kindle Books:

Check out a Kindle for two weeks and read current best-sellers—great new books are added each month!

Simply Lies by David Baldacci (4/18), *Homecoming* by Kate Morton (4/4), *Loyalty* by Lisa Scottoline, *Bittersweet* by Susan Cain (non-fiction).

April Adult Programs

History of Three Fields: Mansion in May **Wednesday, April 12, 7:00 p.m.**

The 2023 Mansion in May will be held at the Three Fields estate in Mendham Borough. Join us and historian Barry Thomson as we explore the history and stories behind this majestic architectural gem located right in town.

This event will be held at Hilltop House, 14 Hilltop Road, Mendham. Please register online.



Paint N Sip: Spring Tulips

Waitlist only at this time.

Wednesday, April 26, 6:30 p.m.

Back by popular demand! Enjoy a glass of wine while you make your own Spring painting, with step-by-step instructions from artist Lynne Tenten. Wear paint-friendly clothing. \$10 fee per attendee.



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, April 7 and 21,
1 p.m.

All levels welcome!

Cribbage

Tuesday, April 18, 6:30 p.m.

All levels welcome!

Book Club

Friday, April 28, 10 a.m.

The Girl Who Wrote in Silk
by Kelli Estes

Did You Know?

The Mendham Borough Library has a great book club that meets on the fourth Friday of each month (except July and August). The group collectively decides on the books they would like to read for the year and we get the books for the group each month. Please read the book, then join us for a lively discussion and tasty snack. Upcoming book choices include **Black Cake** by Charmaine Wilkerson in May, and **Women Talking** by Miriam Toews in June.



April Children's Programs

Toddler Sing-Along

Every Monday, 10:30 a.m. at the Library

Join us for some fun songs!

Babies and Books

Friday, April 14, 10:45 a.m.

Join us for a story, nursery rhymes and playtime.

Spring Art Contest

April 1—28

Pick up your canvas panel and create a Spring masterpiece using whatever art materials you wish. Paint,



draw, create, have fun!

Panels will be displayed in our Library to be voted on.

Categories: Younger Kids (0-6), Older Kids (7-11), Teens (12-18), and Adults (18+).

Visit our website for full details and requirements.



TAG (Teen Advisory Group)

Color and Chill Ages 12+

Thursday, April 20, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Take a step back, color away your stress, and make some fun tea-based drinks to enjoy while we listen to some calming music.

Bunny Bingo All Ages

Tuesday, April 4, 3:30 p.m.

Bring the whole family for some fun where "everybunny" wins!

Earth Day Upcycled Vase Ages 5+

Wednesday, April 12, 3:30 p.m.

Listen to a fun earth day story then reuse a plastic water bottle to make your very own vase.



Money Play Ages 5+

Tuesday, April 25, 3:30 p.m.

Come learn how money works with a quick story and a fun money game, where each child will get to "buy" an item to bring home! Each attending family will also go home with a bundle of kids' financial literacy books courtesy of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Crafts-To-Go

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

Coming Up

Mother's Day Makers (All Ages): Wed, May 10

History of Comic Book Superheroes (Rescheduled):

Wed, May 10, 7:00 p.m.

Teen Bingo: Thurs, May 18

ECOSST—A Strange Name Explained

ECOSST is the acronym for the joint commission covering several town-sponsored environmental organizations: The Environmental Commission, The Open Space Committee, and the Shade Tree Commission. The Joint Commission works proactively to:

- ◆ Maintain and protect the Borough's development or use of natural resources, including water resources
- ◆ Promote the Borough's Clean Communities and Recycling Programs
- ◆ Review sites and recommend which lands and historic properties should be acquired for recreational and conservation purposes
- ◆ Support Farmland Preservation
- ◆ Provide advisory input on the Open Space Trust Fund

- ◆ Support and advise on the Borough Urban Forestry and Tree City USA Programs and promote arboriculture
 - ◆ Support and promote the Borough Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Plan of 2002.
- ECOSST meetings are held the first Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Garabrant Center on Wilson Street. Visitors and volunteers are welcome. Chairman Eric Arena may be reached at eharena@yahoo.com.

Tree Seedling Program 2023

In the past, Mendham Borough participated in The Community Tree Recovery Program, which is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation. This program allows New Jersey towns to receive approximately 1000 free area-appropriate tree seedlings.

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Borough Meetings in April 2023

Borough Holiday: Friday, April 7

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

Council: 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 12;
7 p.m. Monday, April 24

ECOSST: 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 3

Historic Preservation Commission: 7:30 p.m.
Monday, April 17

Joint Land Use Board: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday,
April 18

Board of Health: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 20

Recreation Committee: 7:30 p.m. Thursday,
April 20

Borough Schools Board of Education:

7 p.m. Tuesday, April 25; Hilltop Elementary School
Cafeteria: **Public Hearing on the Budget**

Recycling: Thursdays April 6, 13, 20, 27

Curbside Bulk Pickup: Mondays April 3, 10, 17, 24

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As we all know, the effects of Covid have hit many industries hard, making recovery slow. This is also true for the tree farms that grow seedlings for events such as ours. Seedlings were unable to be planted, meaning that this year the Foundation was barely able to provide 100 seedlings to select New Jersey towns. Unfortunately, Mendham Borough was not chosen, so we will not be handing out seedlings this Arbor Day.

Although this is very disappointing to all of us, we do look forward to the 2024 Spring Seedling Event!

