



THE MENDHAM MESSENGER



December 2023

The Borough of Mendham Community Newsletter

mendhamnj.org

Letter From the Mayor

Dear Mendham Borough residents and business owners,

The holidays are here, and a new year is coming! I want to take this opportunity to wish you all warmth, good food, and love this holiday season. However you spend your holiday time, let's all take a moment to share our good fortune with someone in need. You may be able to share a can of food at a food pantry, write a check to your favorite charity, or just share a smile with someone who may need some kindness. Give it a try; it will make you feel good all day.

Holiday Lights

Every year Mendham Borough gets dressed for the holidays with plenty of Christmas decorations and a multitude of spectacular light displays. I hope you will join in the fun by entering our annual lighting contest. Visit our website for information on where to send a picture of your masterpiece.

Hanukkah

This year, Hanukkah begins on Thursday, December 7th. Each year I take the time to decorate one of our two mantels in the dining room of the Phoenix House with Hanukkah decorations and ceremonial lighting of the Menorah. It's a very simple tradition, and very meaningful. If you would like to join me this year, send me an email at cglassner@mendhamnj.org.

Important Information About Our Sewer Project

In 2018, the Borough began the process of initiating critical improvements to the Borough Sewer Collection System and Plant. These improvements, mandated by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, are required in order to keep our sewer system working.

The first step in a large infrastructure improvement project is to acquire the financing. In 2019 we secured a low interest loan from the NJ Infrastructure Bank for the project. This is a state bank that provides funding for infrastructure projects and makes the project more affordable by buying down half the interest of the loan. The project was estimated to cost \$5.075 million, which included upgrading the collection system, lining additional pipes, and rebuilding the entire electrical system. As a point of reference, the electrical system for the plant had last been updated in the 1960's, and in a few years we would not be able to get the parts this outdated system uses. The next phase was design, which takes time. These

projects are very complex and take a lot of time to move forward since so many different approvals are needed. Then comes the time for putting the projects out to bid – which means contractors submit their interest, plan and cost for taking on the project. It was in this process that we found out that the original cost estimates were no longer valid. The costs had gone up 22.5% for the same project. The costs went up because it will be 6 years from the start of the process to the start of construction. Some of the increases are due to inflation, escalation, supply chain cost increases, and of course the pandemic.

In November, Council approved a bond issuance for an additional \$1.143 million in order to complete the project. It is extremely unfortunate that the project costs have gone up over 20%, but with such a large project and the many factors that we have all been challenged with in life over the last 5 years, it is not surprising.

What does this mean to your sewer bill? Like all our other costs, our sewer bills will be going up to cover the cost of this project. We don't know how much yet, but our Council Finance Sub-Committee will be meeting to review all aspects of this project, the financing, and our policies and procedures. As soon as they have done their due diligence, they will come back to us with their recommendation for cost increases. At that time, I will write to you again and fill you in on the result.

Weed and Yard Ordinance Tabled

In October and November, the Council introduced a new Ordinance describing what is permissible yard equipment versus what constitutes junk. Additionally, the Ordinance detailed overgrowth of noxious or invasive weeds. I asked that the Ordinance be tabled because the language was not clear. Since we were so close to the end of the year and this Ordinance would require two meetings in the same calendar year, this item is on hold until the second meeting of January. Stay tuned to our website for more information.

Land Use Schedule

The next Joint Land Use meeting will be held Tuesday, December 19th. As of the writing of this newsletter, no information was available regarding items for the agenda. Please check our Borough Calendar closer to the scheduled meeting to know what applications will be heard. You will find our calendar at www.mendhamnj.org, and while you are there, why not sign up for Nixle!

That's it for 2023. Stay warm!

Sincerely yours,

Christine Serrano Glassner, Mayor

Happy Holidays!

Wishing all of you a wonderful holiday season. Our Library is grateful to all of you for giving us an important role in this special community. As the season of giving is upon us, please consider a gift to our Library. Our 2023 Annual Appeal is coming to a close this month. Thank you to all of you that donated to our library already this year. If you have not given yet, please think about making a gift to our Library. The Mendham Borough Library is an Association Library which means that we are not guaranteed funding from tax dollars and need to raise approximately \$100,000 annually in order to meet our annual budget. Know that your gift is essential to our success. To make giving especially easy this year, we now accept VENMO! Look for @mendhamboroughlibrary.

Outdoor Update

Construction on the Outdoor Learning Patio has begun and great progress has been made.

We are very excited to have this new space, and look forward to hosting fantastic programs for our community. Please stop by to see the amazing work that is being done at our Library!



December Adult Programs

Fireside Chat with Local Authors Carol Van Den Hende and Vicky Norton

Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 p.m.



Join Mendham authors Carol and Vicky and enjoy some bubbly and chocolate as they launch their newest books!

They'll discuss their stories and their process. Books will be available for purchase.

Postpartum Moms Chat

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Please join this great group of new moms and listen to speakers talk about issues relating to your new baby. 12/5: Wonder and Nature Play; 12/12: Child & Family Resources

Charcuterie Board Design

Wednesday, December 6, 7 p.m.

Join us as we learn the universally loved art of making a charcuterie board. Participants will watch as expert Beth Greenspan creates a stunning and delicious board for the audience to enjoy at the end of the event! Get ready to gain a better understanding of presentation and balance of flavors for entertaining.



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.

For experienced players.

In Stitches

Fridays, December 1, 15, 29, 1 p.m.

All levels welcome!

Book Club

Friday, December 15, 10 a.m.

Finding Me

By Viola Davis

*****NEW PROGRAM!*** Coloring Club**

Monday, December 18, 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a fun drink and creative coloring with friends!

Cribbage

Tuesday, December 19, 6:30 p.m.

All levels welcome!

Fletcher Gallery

In December, the 7th & 8th grade students of Mountain View Middle School will display their pet portraits for adoptable pets at Randolph Animal Shelter. They are also accepting donations at the library for the shelter. Requested items include canned cat food, bully sticks, toys, and gently used towels or sheets. Drop off your donations inside the library, near the printer.

**The Library will be closed on
December 25 and 26, and January 1.**

Did You Know?

- ◆ Our Library just purchased three new computers for public use and upgraded our WiFi. Visit the Library and feel free to use one of our new computers, and enjoy access to WiFi throughout the building!
- ◆ Please be aware that on December 4, 5 & 6, library cards will be required to check out library materials, due to a system upgrade. If you know you need a new library card, please do so prior to December 4.

December Children's Programs

Toddler Sing-Along

*Mondays, December 4, 11, 18 (closed 12/25 and 1/1),
10:30 a.m.*

Join us for some fun songs!



Babies and Books

*Fridays, December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29,
10:30 a.m.*

Join us for a story, nursery rhyme or poem!

Holly Trail Take Home Craft

Saturday, December 2, 10-2 p.m.

Visit the Library during your Holly Trail adventures to pick up a special Snowman Mitten craft kit to bring home and create.

Sloth Painting (7+)



*Wednesday, December 6,
4-5:30 p.m.*

Come paint your own sloth with local artist Mou Saha! Aprons will be available.

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

Gingerbread House Workshop

*Wednesday, Dec. 20, 3:30-4:30
and 4:45-5:45 p.m.*

Decorate together as a family
and bring home your own
gingerbread house!!! LIMIT ONE
HOUSE/SIGN UP SPOT PER FAMILY.



TAG (Teen Advisory Group)



Street Art Painting (12+)

Wednesday, December 13, 5-7 p.m.

Learn this eclectic style of art with local
artist William Stillman.

Coming Up

Home Decluttering and Organizing - Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m.

Artificial Intelligence is Here. Now What? -

Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m.

Girls Who Code (Gr 3+) - Tues. Jan. & Feb. 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Lunar New Year - Feb. 7, 3:30 p.m.

Holly Trail Fun

Saturday, December 2, 11 a.m. — 3 p.m.

Join the Mendham Business Association for another fun-filled day!

Where's Santa?

Come to Mendham Jewelers at the Kings Shopping Center to get your map, then visit participating stores to find Santa and collect signatures. Fill up your map and win Mendham Money!

Candy Canes

Look around town for Candy Canes. When you see a cane outside a business, there is Holly Trail Fun inside!

Santa at the Phoenix House

(See Insert) Have your picture taken by a photographer while you visit Santa. Reservations required.

Tree Lighting

After walking around town, join us at the Gazebo on Mountain Ave at 4:00 p.m. Take part in carols with the Mendham High School Carolers, and welcome Santa as he arrives on a fire truck!



**RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED**



**2 West Main Street
Mendham, NJ 07945
973-543-7152
mendhamnj.org**



*Please Join Us
For The*

**ANNUAL
HOLLY TRAIL
COMPLIMENTARY
COOKIES
& PHOTOS
WITH SANTA**

**The Borough Of Mendham
Historic Phoenix House
Saturday~December 2nd
11 AM-3:30 PM**



Borough Events in December 2023

Borough Offices Closed December 25 and 26, and January 1

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

Council: 7 p.m. Wednesday, December 13;

7 p.m. Wednesday, December 20

ECOSST: 7:30 p.m. Monday, December 4

Recreation Committee: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, December 14

Historic Preservation Commission: 7:30 p.m. Monday, December 18

Joint Land Use Board: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 19

Board of Health: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, December 21

Borough Schools Board of Education:

7 p.m. Tuesday, December 12, Hilltop Elementary School Cafeteria

Recycling: Thursdays, December 7, 14, 21, 28

Curbside Bulk Pickup: Mondays, December 4, 11, 18; Tuesdays December 26 and January 2.

Winter Weather

Winter is upon us! Just a reminder to get your outdoor winterizing done.

Here are a few items to consider:

- ◆ Remove and drain hoses
- ◆ Turn off outside water spigots from the inside source and leave the external open
- ◆ Clean out gutters
- ◆ Bring in your plants
- ◆ Secure your umbrellas, patio or deck furniture and grill
- ◆ To prevent pipes from freezing set your thermostat accordingly and keep storm and garage doors closed.

