



# Mendham Matters

Monthly Events & News

## May 2019

We hope you find this newsletter helps you keep track of events and news updates. **Please send your feedback, suggestions, or submit an item for the next issue.**

**Find previous issues online.**

### *Township Committee Announcements*

**Ralston Playground Grand Re-Opening** - All are invited on Sunday, May 5, from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m, to celebrate the re-opening of the Ralston Playground and to recognize the community's support! The party includes food trucks, fire trucks, DJ music, games, kids' activities and more. NOTE: Please check the [Township Website](#) or [Recreation Department Facebook page](#) for an update, in case of inclement weather.

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### *Township Announcements*

**Pitney Farm Update** - We wanted to provide an update to the community on the current status of Pitney Farm (7+ retained acres) and the 5+ acre parcel recently auctioned.

We have successfully closed with the winning bidder for the 5+ acres of developable land on the Pitney Estate, for which the Township received \$625,000. It is our expectation that the new owner will be making application to address the current structures on the property, and we look forward to a more detailed application for future development.

We have completed a grant application to the state Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program for a Stewardship grant in the amount of \$377,500 in matching funds towards a project goal of \$755,000. We will be making an additional grant application to the Morris County Trail Grant Program in an effort to secure additional funding for the park. We expect to hear back from the state by mid-summer on the Green Acres Grant and the County Trail Grant by year-end.

Meanwhile, we are taking steps to prepare the property and improve the visual impact. The Department of Public Works (DPW) department has been on the property addressing

several issues related to old/dangerous trees and related structures. They have also graded the area, with near-term plans to temporarily seed and hay the exposed soil to stabilize the property, while we await word on funding. There will also be an outside tree contractor on the property to address the last remaining hazardous trees, which are too large for our DPW department to address.

[Read the entire update.](#)

**Primary Voter Information** - The last day to register to vote in the June 4 Primary Election is Tuesday, May 14. Voter registration applications are available at any Municipal Clerk's Office or other public agencies. You can also download the application from the [Morris County Board of Election Website](#).

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## Local Government Meetings

*All meetings are open to the public and held at the Municipal Building, 2 West Main St.*

- [Township Committee meetings](#): May 13 at 7:30 p.m.; May 28 at 7:30 p.m.
- [Board & Committee meetings](#)
  - [Board of Adjustment](#) - May 9
  - [Environmental Commission](#) - May 20 at 7 p.m.
  - [Board of Health](#) - May 29 at 7:30 p.m.
  - [Historic Preservation Committee](#) - May 1 at 6:45 p.m.
  - [Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee](#) - May 8 at 7:30 p.m.
  - [Planning Board](#) - May 15 at 7:30 p.m.
- [View and download agendas.](#)

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## Police Updates

There has been an increase in residential burglaries in our area, including a number in bordering communities. If you see anything suspicious, please call the [Police Department](#) IMMEDIATELY! If you have a burglar alarm system in use, please make sure it is registered with the town. Registrations are helpful in the event something happens, and the police need to get in touch with you. [Download registration forms on the Township Website.](#)

There also continue to be thefts from cars in our area. Remember, please do not leave

valuables in your vehicle unsecured, and make sure to lock your vehicles, even if they are parked in your driveway.

## Activities for Families & Kids

**Annual Fishing Derby** - On Sunday, May 5, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., children are invited to the Mendham Borough & Mendham Township PBA Annual Fishing Derby at the mud hole on Mountain Avenue. No experience or equipment are necessary! Please stop by for a fun day of casual fishing.

**A Howling Good Time!** - Don't miss a chance to meet wolves. This exciting family program is on Thursday, May 16, at 7 p.m., at the Brookside Community Club. Listen to a presentation about wolves by the experts from Howling Woods Farm. They will discuss wolves and wolf dogs; their existence, history, habitats, behavior, and temperaments. Following the program, all will have the opportunity to meet the wolves. [Please register for this program.](#)

**Second Annual Cops, Kids & Cones** - Please join your local officers from the Mendhams at Borough Park for a free scoop of ice cream on Thursday, May 23, from 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

**Get Ready for the 11th Annual Patriots' Race** - Sign up for the Patriots 5K Race & Kids' Fun Run on Saturday, June 15. [Registration is open!](#) Not a runner? Consider supporting the race by signing up as a Family Sponsor for just \$50 or as a business, starting at \$100. This annual event was a major contributor to the new Ralston Playground and has funded many college scholarships for Mendham High School graduating seniors. [Send an e-mail to Interim Recreation Director David Guida for more information on becoming a sponsor.](#)

**Summer on the Farm** - The Backer Farm is home to a summer camp. Little farmers participate in farm chores, animal care, grooming, harvesting, gardening, farm-to-table snack prep, arts and crafts and more!! Camp is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., rain or shine. Snacks are provided daily. [Registration is now open to sign up for this fun experience.](#)

### Join us for Tinkergarten!

In the spring, at the end  
of the day, you should  
smell like dirt.

-Margaret Atwood



**Tinkergarten Classes** - This program continues to engage children and families in exciting outdoor play with classes offered locally in Mendham and Chester. If you haven't tried a class yet, sign up for a free class on Sunday, May 19, from 12 p.m. - 1:15 p.m., at the Brookside Community Club. New for Summer: Tinkergarten Babies (6-18 months)! Sign up for a free trial of Tinkergarten Babies on Thursday, May 23, from 12:15 p.m. -

1:15 p.m., at Grove Street Park in Chester. [Please register in advance.](#)

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## *Teen Activities*

**Teen Movie Night & Ice Cream Bar** - Bring friends, and a blanket and pillow, if you'd like, to watch a film and enjoy dessert on Wednesday, May 22, from 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m., at the Township Library. This program is for grades 6-12. [Please register in advance.](#)

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## *Events*

**Events at Backer Farm** - Treat your mom (or wife!) to a Mother's Day Brunch at Backer Farm on Sunday, May 12, at 10:30 a.m. The delicious food continues with a Farm-to-Table Dinner on Saturday, May 18, at 6 p.m., and a Farm-to-Table Brunch on Sunday, May 19, at 10:30 a.m. [Tickets are available online.](#)

**Schiff's Music in the Woods** - On Saturday, May 11, at 7 p.m., enjoy a wonderful evening of music, desserts and community, featuring Tom Rice and friends playing blues, rock, and soul music at the Schiff Nature Center. The evening starts with the eclectic music of the Playful Banter duo. This event is open to all ages and is BYOB. The member fee is \$12; non-members pay \$15. Space and parking are limited, so [advance registration is appreciated.](#)

**Get Ready for Corn Hole!** - The Mendham Township PBA Local 402 is hosting the Second Annual Corn Hole Tournament on Sunday, May 19, from 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., at the Brookside Community Club. Come out for an afternoon of friendly, competitive corn hole, food, drink and fun! [Get more information and register on Facebook.](#)



**2nd Annual**  
**CORNHOLE**  
**TOURNAMENT**  
Sponsored by:  
**Mendham Township**  
**PBA 402**  
**SUN.**  
**MAY 19**  
**2019**  
**1 pm - 6 pm**  
**Beer, Food & Prizes**  
All ages welcome!  
**FUN FOR ALL!**  
**\$120 per team**  
**(2 people)**  
Brookside Community  
Center  
1 East Main, Brookside  
To Register Your Team Go To:  
**Mendham Twp. Police Facebook Page**

## *Fund-Raisers*

**Shredder Day** - On Saturday, May 18, from 8:30 a.m - 12 p.m., shred to support the library. Start your Spring cleaning, and safely get rid of important papers!. The cost is \$5 per bag or \$10 for a banker's box of documents. This is a drive-thru service. Just pull into the library parking lot, and volunteers will unload for you!

**Brookside Firefighters Seeks Support** - The Brookside Engine Co. #1 is in financial need to replace its aging 2000 Ford Excursion incident command unit. This vehicle is a four-wheel drive sport utility vehicle which operates as a first-response vehicle and mobile incident command post. The vehicle is equipped with incident management and lifesaving equipment. It is assigned for use by the chiefs, enabling a response directly to the emergency scene for a fast assessment. This Ford Excursion has proven to be a valuable asset in many different emergency calls, including the nor'easters of 2018 and during fires at the Pitney Farm house and the Kings shopping center. The goal is to raise \$35,000. The fire company is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, and all donations are 100 percent tax deductible. Send donations to the Brookside Engine Co. #1, P.O. Box 196, Brookside N.J.,

07926. Please earmark checks to "New Command Vehicle Fund."

[Or, you can donate online.](#)

## Cultural & Historical Happenings

**Ralston Cider Mill Museum** - The Mill is open every Sunday in May from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Located at 336 Mendham Road West, the Ralston Cider Mill Museum illuminates the last authentic vestige of New Jersey's once thriving cider and applejack industry. The restored mill operates with its original equipment and demonstrates the process of making cider using water power and distributing power via belts and pulleys.



**Schiff Environmental Film Festival** - Save Saturday, June 1, for the 10th Annual Environmental Film Festival, a true community event that features inspiring films and meaningful discussion. This year's feature film, "Reinventing Power: America's Clean Energy Boom," takes viewers across the country to hear directly from the people making

the transition to clean energy. A short film "Climate of Trust," tells of unprecedented legal actions taking place across the United States. Check-in starts at 6:30 p.m., with s'mores by the fire pit. Films begin at 7:00 p.m., and movie snacks and beverages are available at no extra charge! A Q&A will follow the films with a representative from the New Jersey Clean Energy program. A single member adult ticket is \$15 (non-members pay \$18). Members can buy discounted family (4) tickets for \$50; non-member families pay \$55. Students tickets are \$10. [Buy tickets online.](#)

**Harmony Brookside Reception** - On Friday, May 3, from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., celebrate their one-year anniversary with a new exhibition from returning artist, Nick Kobyluch, and his series of "English Landscapes." The modern vibe of these vibrant watercolors captures the timeless colors and shapes of England's countryside. Don't miss this as well as the launch of [Harmony Brookside's](#) new venture!

**Schiff's New Speaker Series** - On Saturday, May 11, at 3 p.m., Ashleigh Scully, an internationally acclaimed youth wildlife photographer, will share her captivating photos and her experiences documenting wildlife around the world. Photography will be on display and for sale. All funds raised by ticket sales will directly support the land stewardship activities and educational programs offered by Schiff Natural Lands Trust. Enjoy light refreshments after the presentation and an opportunity to meet the artist. Member fee is \$20;

non- members pay \$25. The student fee is \$10. [Space is limited, so please purchase advance tickets.](#)

**Boy Scouts Remember Schiff** - On Sunday, May 19, at 2:30 p.m., hear from former Scouts who participated in the Boy Scouts National Training Program when it was located at Schiff from the 1930's until the 1970's. Moderated by W. Barry Thomson and followed by a Q&A, attendees will gain a glimpse into the past of the beautiful nature preserve. Scout artifacts will be on display and light refreshments offered. Member fee is \$20; non-members pay \$25. The student fee is \$10. [Space is limited, so please purchase advance tickets.](#)

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## *Health & Wellness*

**2019 CSA Registration is Open** - Backer Farm offers Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), giving participants a chance to visit the farm and pick a bounty of naturally grown fruits and vegetables each week, from June to mid-October. Along with a share, members receive a "What's in My Share" list and accompanying recipes. [Sign up today!](#)

**Teen Suicide Prevention Workshop** - May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and a time to help those who might be struggling, especially our young people. The Mendhams Stigma-Free Task Force will host a free community workshop on Teen Suicide Prevention on Wednesday, May 15, at 7 p.m., at the Township Library. It is open to everyone and

especially geared toward adults who work with young people on a volunteer or professional basis. The focus is on understanding warning signs of depression and how to communicate with parents, if needed. This is a sensitive and challenging topic, but it is especially important for adults who interact with young people on a regular basis. [Register in advance through the Library's Website.](#)

**Mendham Area Senior Transportation** - As a service to the community, Mendham Borough and Mendham Township offer transportation to adults ages 60+ and disabled adults ages 18+ to medical appointments and grocery shopping through Mendham Area Senior Transportation (MAST). The MAST has a four-passenger van and offers transportation for medical appointments on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., and Fridays from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. MAST makes a weekly food shopping trip on Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m., to the Chester Shop-Rite and the Chester Food Pantry. **Please call 973-543-2666 for further information.**

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## *Nature & Outdoor Activities*

**Composting Workshop** - On Thursday, May 2, at Town Hall, learn about composting and how it leads to a greener life from Adrian Hyde, the executive director of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey and owner of the Dunwald Farm. The program will run from 5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. and include both indoor and outdoor presentations

(weather permitting). It is designed for all ages. The event is sponsored by the Township Environmental Commission.

**Culinary Herbs** - On Thursday, May 2, from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m., at the Township Library, learn how to grow perennial and annual herbs from seeds or plants and then how to preserve them. [Please register in advance.](#)

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## *Volunteers Needed!*

**Mill Seeks Helping Hands** - The Ralston Cider Mill is seeking additional volunteers as millers. New volunteers are trained to guide visitors through the grounds, to operate the machinery, and to share local history with the public. If interested, [send an e-mail for more information.](#)

**Volunteer Day at Schiff** - Schiff invites residents for a day of land stewardship activities at 339 Pleasant Valley Drive, on Sunday, May 19, at 9 a.m. This Volunteer Day, Schiff will train volunteers to assist in identifying Ash Trees, along borders and roads and the possible damage Emerald Ash Borer presents on the preserve. Volunteers (16 and under with a parent, please) are encouraged to dress in weather appropriate attire, wear hard toes shoes, and bring a beverage and snack. [Register in advance.](#) Walk-ins are welcome!

**Patriots' Race Help is Needed** - The Parks & Recreation Committee could use help organizing the 11th Annual Patriots' 5K Race & Kids' Fun Run. This annual event on Saturday, June 15, will support local recreation and college scholarships to graduating seniors from Mendham High School. [Send an e-mail to Interim Recreation Director David Guida to get involved.](#)

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## *School Sports Calendars*

- [Mendham Township Middle School Athletics](#)
- [West Morris Mendham High School Athletics](#)

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## *More News Sources*

For more town information, please visit the [Mendham Township Website.](#)



Check out the many events and activities offered by the [Mendham Township Library](#).

View town meetings, parades, other events and more on [Mendham TV](#).