

Mendham Township



Vol. XIX, No. 2

FALL 2011, OUR 262ND YEAR

Letter From the Mayor

Now that Hurricane Irene is behind us I would like to take a moment to thank some of our volunteers for a superb humanitarian effort on behalf of our residents during this difficult storm.

Thanks to Evan Thomas, our Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Coordinator who was extremely well prepared and oversaw an around the clock effort to make sure our residents were never in danger. OEM is coordinated jointly between the Township and the Borough and is a great example of how the two communities work together to manage mutual needs. To Jay Alderton, Chief of the Brookside Engine Company; Thomas Montgomery, Chief of the Ralston Fire Company; and all the volunteers of our fire companies for responding to our residents in need. Whether it was a rescue effort, or pumping out flooded basements, they worked tirelessly to help their neighbors. To Robin Johnson, Captain of our First Aid Squad; and all her fellow volunteers for responding to the many calls of our residents in tandem with our fire companies, and for manning the Emergency Management facility so residents could shower and pick-up water. Thanks to Tanya Rentsch of *Meals on Wheels* for not only making sure our seniors had food but for making sure they were safe, had water, flash lights, batteries and medications. Thanks to our Policemen and Department of Public Work's crews for helping out and working overtime to make sure that our residents were not in danger and for keeping us safe. Thanks to everyone that lent a helping hand.

These organizations and paid employees did much more than we realize or expect. Their resources are now depleted so if you are inclined, your financial support and donations would be greatly appreciated.

Now we have the task of repairing the damage and assessing our response. This effort will be the responsibility of our OEM Coordinator, Evan Thomas and Township Administrator, Steve Mountain. Hopefully FEMA will make good on its promise to reimburse the township for the damage we incurred. We will need to rebuild a section of some roads, most notably Roxiticus Road, repair the tennis courts and ball fields at Mount Pleasant Road and complete repairs to other public facilities damaged in the storm.

On a separate note our finances are proceeding in line with our budget and I expect that our third quarter report will show that we are on target for meeting our objectives.

Wishing you an enjoyable fall season,

Frank V. Cioppettini, Jr.
Mayor



Environmental Commission Obtains Grant for Natural Resource Inventory

The Township Environmental Commission is pleased to announce that it has received an Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) matching grant for the purpose of creating an Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI). The Environmental Commission has been awarded \$7,375 from ANJEC as part of their 2011 Sustainable Land Use Grant Program, and will match the grant with \$6,625 from its Conservation Fund and will also provide in-kind services.

The Environmental Commission has hired Amy S. Greene Environmental Consultants to prepare the ERI. Over the next nine months, Amy S. Greene will use existing published and non-published information to map and describe Mendham Township's natural and man-made resources. Staff will use Geographic Information Systems to prepare much of the information. Members of the Environmental Commission will work with Amy S. Greene staff and provide them with useful data, information and recommendations. The completed ERI will be added to the Township website for easy access by all residents.

An ERI is a factual document which contains information about the natural resources of a community, including but not limited to wetlands, geology, air quality, soils, history and open space. The ERI includes maps, photos, tables, graphs and documentation and serves as a guide to the governing body and community for environmentally sound planning, land use and protection. New Jersey Law has given Environmental Commissions, as advisory bodies to local government, the responsibility of conducting ERIs.

Mendham Township is home to many important natural resources including beautiful open space areas such as Buttermilk Falls Natural Area and Tempe Wick Reserve, threatened and endangered plant and animal species and freshwater streams of the highest quality, and contains the headwaters of the Passaic, Raritan and Whippany Rivers.

The Environmental Commission will hold a public meeting in the future to discuss progress, receive public comment and answer questions. For more information, please e-mail EC co-chair Ralph Rhodes at rrhodes22@aol.com.

Register for E-mail Notifications from Township Website

Residents interested in receiving email notifications when news items are added to the Township website may do so by going to www.mendhamtownship.org and clicking the link under the Transaction header (right-front page) titled Register for Email Notifications. From this link residents can also sign up for calendar updates and to receive the newsletter via email. Residents with questions about this service should call Town Hall at 973-543-455

Mendham Patriots' 5K/10K Race Big Success!

On June 18, hundreds of residents gathered to celebrate the start of summer at the Third Annual Mendham Patriot's 5K/10K race and Children's Fun Run. Nearly 300 participants competed in the three events held in the Brookside section of town, and everyone rocked out to a DJ and enjoyed refreshments, a free bounce house and vendor fair.

Sponsored by the Mendham Township Recreation Commission, this community event supported recreation programs; the Mendham Junior Women's Club campaign to install AEDs in all area playing fields and the Kids4Kids Committee of Morristown Memorial Health Foundation.

Mendham youngsters ran away with many top awards! For the 5k race, top male finishers were Paul Ehman of Mendham (17:54), Stephen Matthews of Randolph (19:11) and Peter Ronco of Chester (20:34). For the women, it was Jane Albright of Basking Ridge (19:56), followed by two Mendham pre-teens: Hope Tiboni (20:02) and Elizabeth Timoney (20:24).

In the inaugural 10K event, the top male finishers were Peter Ehman of Mendham (38:38), Beau Atwater of Bernardsville (40:11) and Michael Hodgets of Long Valley (42:07). Mendham women took the top two spots, with local winner Caroline Lonergan (47:06), pictured holding her award, closely followed by Hallyn Brewster (47:14) and third place going to Mary Morgan of Skillman (48:26).

Athletes from the Mendham Magic Track & Field Club won an ice cream party at Brookside Beach for signing up the most participants of any local sports organization.

The Recreation Commission thanks major race sponsors: Morris Somerset PBA Local 139, Kids4Kids Committee, Dr. Richard Newman, Verizon, Audi of Mendham, Comcast, Salerno Pontiac and the Pastime Club.

A complete list of race results can be found at Cool Running's Website http://www.coolrunning.com/results/11/nj/June_18_Patrio_set1.shtml.



Mendham Township Library Fall Events

Hurricane Irene ushered the library's busy summer out with unprecedented activity. We were very happy to help the many residents who needed to charge devices, access computers and WiFi, and were looking for respite from the storm's aftermath. We are now gearing up for a lively fall with a variety of programs and events planned.

We are pleased to offer **Shredder Day** once again! Collect all of your sensitive papers and bring them to the library on Saturday, October 22nd between 9:00 and noon, and for a small fee per box, you can watch as your documents are shredded. This public service event also serves as a fundraiser for the library.

For more details, please visit our website at www.mendhamtownshiplibrary.com.

This fall, we are offering ongoing programs including bridge club, book club, and yoga, as well as the following special programs for adults and families which will be offered on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.:

- Revolutionary War Stories - October 13th
- All About Owls! –October 20th
- Decorate Your Holiday Mantel – November 3rd
- Know the Bear Facts! – November 17th

Also join us for fall children's ongoing programs such as Youth Book Club, Young Adult Leadership Council, and Story Hour with Liz, as well as the following special programs:

- Sing Along with Ms. Candy, October 4th and December 20th at 10:30 a.m.
- Story Time with Ms. T., Thursday, October 13th at 10:30 a.m.
- Paws for Reading, Thursday, October 13th at 4:00 p.m.
- Halloween Spooktacular, Friday, October 21st at 4:00 p.m.
- Fire Safety for Kids, Tuesday, November 15th, 10:30-11:30.
- Winter Holiday Extravaganza, Friday, December 16th, 4:00.

For complete program details, visit our website. Registration is recommended for all programs, except story hours. You can register by calling the library (973 543-4018), visiting the library, or email us at programs@mendhamtwplib.org.

***Please look for our annual appeal brochure in the mail.
Your generous support enables us to offer these valuable programs and services.***

Lifesaving Courses Available Through Mendham Township First Aid Squad

**Become certified in American Heart Association
CPR/AED life saving skills!**

The Mendham Township First Aid Squad has 6 certified AHA CPR instructors. Our instructors volunteer their time so the cost of the class is for your student materials only.

Classes are held at the Brookside Emergency Services Building. Call 973-543-1976 or email captain@mendhamtownshipfas.org today about setting up a class or finding out when the next class is being held.

All are welcome, whether you're a neighborhood group, civic group, or an individual

Take a Hike! Really!!

Our residents are privileged to own acres of beautiful land, clean streams, waterfalls, forests, fields, ponds, historic relics, and trails. Our town's open space lands, preserved in a natural state with over 60-miles of hiking trails and other improvements for the public to enjoy, are all literally within minutes of your home. Paper trail maps for some of the areas are available free at the Township library and in town hall, and the locations and trail maps for all the properties are available to view or print at www.HikeMendham.org It doesn't get much easier!

Getting outdoors in a park, on an open space trail, or via a similar venue has been proven to be healthy: Your pulse rate and blood pressure tend to drop, your mind clears and mental health actually improves, and you get some easy but effective exercise. Hiking is great exercise and not difficult or strenuous, but very effective for weight loss, heart health, and mental recreation. You also get to see foxes, deer (nice when where they belong!), a variety of birds, dragonflies, salamanders, and other creatures, take photos if you like, and relax. So far, no Sasquatches. If you or your kids like treasure hunts and have a GPS device, there are many geocache sites in town (*go to www.geocaching.com*).

Compared to residential development, open space helps to keep property taxes down and helps to keep property values up, a great deal for all of our residents, even if they never set foot on a trail. Natural open space also helps to protect water quality, reduce run-off and flooding, and help wildlife survive, from mosquito-eating bats to endangered salamanders. Almost all of our open space has been acquired using some Township open space trust fund money but also grants (gifts) from the State of New Jersey Green Acres, Morris County Open Space and/or Park Commission, generous property owners like Stirling Tomkins and the Merck family, and other sources, so we get to own and use beautiful land while paying only a portion of the cost.

So, with all that said, what's keeping you from taking a hike? Probably the press of daily life: The kids, the house, the job - - all the reasons you really need to get out and take a hike! Take the family or friends and take a hike! You can enter any open space property any time you wish, or take one of our monthly, guided hikes during the spring - autumn seasons. They call it "re-creation" for a reason, so enjoy it!

Township Building Department Reminds Residents To Close Out Permits

The Township Building Department kindly requests that residents who have recently completed building projects take a moment to double check that their project has been closed out by the Department. To properly close out a building project, residents should have received a final inspection, along with certification that the project is complete. Residents unsure if their project has been closed out should contact the Construction Official, Russ Heiney at 973-543-4555, ext. 116.

Mendham TV Announces New Fall Programs

In addition to being your source for Mendham Township meetings and information on what is going on around town, Mendham TV is pleased to announce an exciting line up of new shows which will air this fall.

Mendham Labor Day Parade 2011 - This year Mendham TV will be covering the parade from every angle and the program will not only highlight all of the parade festivities, but also the people and performers who make the event happen.

Education Summit – In June West Morris Mendham High School held a roundtable discussion on the development of an educational model to preserve academic excellence while balancing financial realities and Mendham TV's cameras were on hand to film.

High School Sports- Mendham TV this fall will once again be your home for Mendham High School sports. Football and Soccer will highlight the fall program schedule.

Library Speaker Series- Mendham TV was on hand to film several local programs sponsored by the local library including Cyber-bullying, The Butterfly Guy, Rizzo's Reptiles, Story Time, and Knitting with Karen.

Keep your eye out for these and many other exciting Mendham TV programs. For more information on Mendham TV, please see the Mendham TV website at Mendhamtv.org.

Township Announces Tour Dates for Pitney Farm Property

The Township will again this fall be hosting tours of the Pitney Farm property located at 1 Cold Hill Road. The property will be open for the public to tour on Sunday, October 16 and Sunday, October 23 between 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. Interested residents should pre-register through the Township Website, www.mendhamtownship.org, or by contacting Town Hall at (973) 543-4555.

The Township acquired the 12-acre Pitney property in July of 2009. The Pitney Farm property is one of Mendham Township oldest residential properties, with structures dating back to the 1700s. Purchased by the Pitney family in 1760, the farm has housed eight generations of Pitneys, many who figured prominently in local, state and national history. The farm once stretched more than 200 acres in size, on which the family grew grains, raised cattle, pigs, turkeys and sheep. The property also served as a dairy farm and its sprawling orchard produced apples and peaches as well.

Today, the property remains in excellent condition, buffered from the surrounding development by woodland. At the center of the property still sits the 200+ year old farmhouse and adjacent barns constructed over ensuing years that served the property's various operations. The grounds feature expansive gardens, including a picturesque wall garden, as well as various species of specimen trees over 200 years in age. It is truly a hidden treasure that must be experienced first-hand.

Take a step back in time. Join the Township for a tour of the Pitney Farm property. Tours lasting about 45 minutes will start every half hour from 12 p.m. through 2 p.m. All interested residents **must pre-register to attend** (No pets please!).

Township Establishes Dates for Deer Hunting in Natural Areas and Parks

The Township Wildlife Management Committee has set the dates for fall and winter deer hunting in natural areas and parks. Please see below for a listing of locations and dates:

Shotgun – From Tree Stands:

Buttermilk Falls	Meadowood Preserve
India Brook	Mosle Preserve
Burnett Brook	Dos Passos

December 5-10 and 14, 2011
January 11, 14, 18, 25, 2012
February 1 & 8, 2012

Clyde Potts Reservoir
December 6, 8, 9, 14, 2011
January 11, 14, 18, 25, 28, 2012
February 4, 2012

These areas will be closed to the public on the dates listed above

Bow and Arrow – From Tree Stands

India Brook	Dos Passos
Meadowood Preserve	Mosle Preserve
Dismal Harmony	Burnett Brook
Leddell Preserve (formerly the Bartenstein property)	

September 10- November 26, 2011 (excluding Sundays)
Dawn until 9 a.m./3 p.m. to Dusk

Cold Hill Preserve
Tempe Wick

September 10, 2011 – February 11, 2012 (excluding Sundays)
Dawn until 9 a.m./3 p.m. to Dusk

The Township Wildlife Management Committee is responsible for supervising the hunting and all hunters participating in the program will have been permitted through the Township's hunting permit program. The above schedule will be posted in all parks and in the instances where parks are to be closed signs will be posted at the park entrances advising of the closure.

Sustainable Mendham Committee Establishes Green Challenge Program

Take The Pledge! Save Energy! Conserve Natural Resources! Lower Your Energy Costs And Help Your Community Earn Grant Dollars. It is quick and easy! Just fill out the pledge form. The more pledge forms submitted, the more points the Sustainable Mendham Committee will receive towards grant dollars for our community. Residents interested in completing the pledge form can do so by going to the Township website at www.mendhamtownship.org or picking up a form at Town Hall.

Single Stream Recycling Comes to Mendham Township

The Township is pleased to announce it has entered into a contract with the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA) for single stream recycling collection. The new collection contract will now allow residents to place all recyclables for curbside collection in a single container. In addition to eliminating the requirement for the separation of recyclables, the list of acceptable items has also been expanded. The MUA now accepts cardboard beer and soda packs, aluminum pie plates, trays and foil. In addition, rigid plastics with numbers, 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 will all be accepted.

- **Material Preparation** — Please flatten all corrugated cardboard and empty and rinse all containers. Newspapers no longer need be tied, but should be secured in the recycling container to protect from being wind-blown. The single stream container should be identified with a label – Recyclables Only (especially when covered by a lid) to avoid being confused with garbage containers. All containers must have handles and should weigh no more than 50 pounds when full.
- **Recyclables must be placed at the curb the night before collection.** This is the same as in previous years, but it is listed again because it is so important. The MUA is trying to minimize the number of missed pick-ups. By placing the materials out the night before, residents ensure the materials will be at curbside when the truck arrives. The MUA's trucks leave from Dover shortly after 6:00 a.m., so the crews can be arriving in town as early as 6:10 a.m.
- **In the event of inclement weather**, for up-to-the minute information, please visit www.mcmua.com to determine if curbside collection has been canceled. If you do not have Internet access, call the town office. Please be aware that collection may begin on a particular day, but, due to safety concerns, crews may not be able to complete because weather conditions may change.
- **Residents wanting our crews to return to collect "missed" material**, must call town hall at (973) 543-4555 before 10:00 a.m. on the morning following collection day. Before a cut-off time existed, crews had been returning to towns, several times in one week for one or two calls, which was very inefficient. Residents who call after 10:00 a.m. will have their material collected on the next regularly scheduled collection day

For more information on the Township Recycling program, please go to the Township website at www.mendhamtownship.org

Important Recycling Schedule Announcement

Please note that in an effort to increase efficiency and reduce service costs the Township Recycling Day will be changing to line up with the Borough collection day in January of 2012. Residents should look for a direct mailer with specific information on the change to be mailed out later in the fall. The new schedule will also be posted on the Township website and available at Town Hall in December.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works News and Notes

Brush Collection

The Fall Brush Collection scheduled date has been changed to accommodate the disposal of debris from Hurricane Irene. The new start date for the brush collection is Monday, September 12, 2011. Please place brush at the side of road by 7:00AM with the ends facing the roadway. Please tie the brush with string or twine only. Do not use wire as it can cause injury to workers and/ or damage the chipper.

Brush bundles should be less than 12 inches in diameter and less than 6 feet in length. No stumps or logs greater than 6 feet in length or over 6 inches in diameter will be accepted for collection.

The Township brush collection program is only designed to help resident's clear brush that has fallen during the course of the year.

Please do not place leaves at curbside, as **the Township does not have a leaf collection program.**

Christmas Tree Pickup will begin on Monday January 9, 2012. Please remove all ornaments and place trees at the curb for pickup.

Wood Chips

Residents interested in woodchips, call the Public Works Garage at 973-543-4509 to have your name put on a list for woodchip delivery.

Driveway Permits

The township requires a driveway permit for any driveway restoration work or construction of a new driveway.

Applications can be obtained from the Township Road Department at 40 Mount Pleasant Road, or downloaded at www.mendhamtownship.org.

Township Recycling Program for Tires, Batteries and Oil

Under the Township's recycling program, residents may drop-off their old tires, batteries and oil any time during the year at the township garage. Residents interested in recycling any of these items should contact the Public Works Garage at 973-543-4509 to schedule an appointment for drop-off.

Location: DPW Garage: 20 Mount Pleasant Road

Fee for Disposal: Tires- \$3.50, Tires with rims- \$6.00, batteries- \$1.00, oil- No Charge

Better Manage Stormwater Through Home Improvement Projects

When remodeling your home or enhancing your yard, why not make a few simple (and low cost) improvements to better manage stormwater?

- Reduce stormwater runoff by directing new downspouts into a garden or lawn area away from pavement.
- When installing/repairing a driveway or adding a patio, angle it slightly so that water runs into vegetated areas where the water can be absorbed. Also consider using porous pavement. Water soaks right through it, eliminating runoff.
- Before laying new sod or planting grass, till the soil in your yard deeply to reduce compaction and increase infiltration. Also consider replacing disturbed sections of your lawn with native plants, shrubs or trees instead of grass. They are lower maintenance, require less watering and absorb more rainwater than turf.
- Reduce erosion and drainage problems in your yard with a raingarden. They are low maintenance and help keep our streams clean.
- Lower your water bill by installing rain barrels under downspouts to capture rooftop runoff that can be used to water your yard.

Erosion and Sediment Control

If you are building a new home or undertaking a remodeling project that disturbs soil in your yard, it is your responsibility to install temporary erosion and sediment controls to ensure that dirt is not washed into storm sewers or nearby waterways.

Depending on the size of your project you may be required to submit a Soil Erosion Control plan to the Morris County Soil Conservation District. If you have any questions about local soil erosion requirements you should contact the Township Engineer, Paul Ferreiro at 908-879-6209.

Pollution Prevention

Your home construction project can create a lot of junk! Please be sure that all construction debris, yard waste and hazardous materials are disposed of properly so that they do not pollute local water resources. During construction, keep debris away from the street and under cover so it is not washed away by rain.

Concrete Wash

It is illegal to dump concrete wash into streets and ditches or to let it run into nearby water bodies. Dump concrete wash in a contained area where it can dry out or use a concrete washout service.

Household Hazardous Waste

Dispose of paints, thinners, solvents, cleaners, wood preservatives and other remodeling and repair wastes at accepted household waste collection depots such as the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority Hazardous Waste Facility located at the County Transfer Station at 168 Gold Mine Road in Mount Olive.