Dear Neighbor,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our retiring Police Chief, Tom Costanza, a happy and fulfilling retirement as he embarks on a new chapter in his life. Tom officially retires the end of the year. On behalf of the residents of Mendham Township, our staff, and his fellow officers in uniform, I want to thank Tom for a terrific job and for his dedication to our Town.

In addition, I would like to welcome our acting Police Chief Steve Crawford who will be stepping in to replace Tom. I think you will find Chief Crawford to be well qualified, personable, community minded and knowledgeable. I hope he will have your full support as he oversees our law enforcement agency.

**Pitney property is now town-owned**

We have closed on the acquisition of the Pitney Property and I would like to thank our Administrator, Steve Mountain, for his work on bringing this to fruition. I would also like to thank the Pitney family for their many, many decades of dedication to our town and for providing us with the opportunity to add this most interesting and historically significant property to our portfolio. Our task now is to make it best serve our residents now and for the future.

**Town website updated**

In an effort to keep our residents fully informed we have updated our website with more complete information about meetings, minutes, and many other activities taking place in our township. Please visit at www.mendhamtownship.org. In addition, our bi-monthly Township Committee meetings are videotaped by local volunteers and being shown on MendhamTV, which is channel 25 on Comcast and channel 22 on Verizon.

While we may not have the highest ratings, these programs should keep our residents up to date on the actions being taken by your governing body. However, we still like to see you in person to get your viewpoints on matters affecting us. If you cannot attend one of our meetings (7:30 pm, 2nd Monday, 4th Tuesday) do not hesitate to telephone, write or e-mail your elected officials.

**All properties in town to be revalued**

These are difficult economic times, on that we can agree, and one of the hardest-hit areas is property values. With that in mind, the Township Committee has approved a revaluation plan that is aimed at bringing your property assessment in line with true market value. The date of the valuation will be October 1, 2009 and the assessment values should be ready for spring 2010.

As noted in our last newsletter and reported in the press, despite a loss of state aid and amidst rising expenses we have produced a 2009 town budget with no increase in your municipal property tax. As your Mayor, I am very proud of that achievement, unique in this county, I believe, and I thank my fellow members of the Township Committee for making it possible.

I hope you will come out this fall and walk our trails, visit the Ralston Cider Mill, enjoy our parks and open space, as Mendham shows off its natural beauty and its changing colors of autumn. As always, your governing body members will work together to keep this township a great place to live.
Mendham Township Library is Buzzing!

Editor's Note: As you may have read, Mendham Borough has decided not to go forward with its participation toward a joint Borough-Township Library. Among other things, that makes your contributions to our own hometown library all the more important, and all the more valuable. Our annual paper shredding event, noted below, is one way to help; making direct financial contributions is another, and they are always welcome. Please consider supporting generously.

There is always something to do at our own Mendham Township library! (973) 543-4018

The library not only brings you current best sellers, audio books, magazines, DVDs and video games, we also serve as a hub of community activity in town. Here you can go beyond the traditional services of a library and join with your neighbors to enjoy ongoing and special programs for children, teens, and adults.

We offer many reasons for you to support our annual appeal this fall. Please do, so we can continue to bring you entertaining, educational, and enriching programs and services.

This Fall and Winter…

Paper Shredder-Fundraising Event – Our popular public service event and library fundraiser returns by popular demand on Saturday, October 17th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Right now, set aside a little time to pack up your sensitive documents or general papers taking up space in your home, and have them shredded in an instant! This is a major fundraiser for the library. For just $5.00 per box you can safely shred financial and sensitive material. No need to remove staples or paper clips. A large shredding machine will be parked outside the library. Just drive up, hand your boxes to the attendant and watch your papers disintegrate safely and securely. A great way to support your library and help with your fall clean-up!

Ongoing Programs for Adults
(* Registration Recommended)

New this Fall! Yoga Classes* – This is a weekly class led by a certified Hatha Yoga instructor, Thursdays at 9:00 - 10:00 am at the Brookside Community Church. $5 per session.

Book Club* – Last Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm. Please call the library for book selection of the month.

Bridge Club* – Meets the 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 1 pm. All players, from novice to expert, are welcome.

Knitting Circle* – under the direction of Megan Sauter of Collective Yarns, meets the last Wednesday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. For beginners to experts.

Family and Adult Programs

Planning Quick and Healthy Meals* – Sue Anthony, registered dietitian and educator, will discuss how to plan quick and healthy meals. Take home easy recipes that will increase your intake of grains, fruits and vegetables. A cooking demonstration is included. Call the library for more details.

Motivation - Join Andrea Mastrobattista of Operation Inspiration for one or more of her lively and motivating workshops. On Thursday, October 15th at 7:00 pm the topic will be Face Your Fears. On Thursday, November 19th, at 7:00 pm the subject will be Move Forward.

Ichabod Crane, Washington Irving and the Legend of Sleepy Hollow – On Thursday, November 12th at 7:00 pm, the American Historical Theatre will present this highly acclaimed program. The presentation is prepared and acted by Neill Hartley, and is a one-man living history production designed to educate and entertain audiences of all ages.

Holiday Cooking Exchange – The library’s Second Annual Holiday Cooking Exchange will be held on December 9th at 7:00 pm.

Children & Youths Fall Programs

Teen Library Council (TLC)* – Bring your friends! Grades 6-12. Come for pizza and fun. Share your interests, discuss books, design new programs, and sign up for volunteer opportunities. Meets on selected Tuesdays and Thursdays each month at 6:00 - 7:30 pm. Dates: Tues. 9/22, 11/17, 12/15; Thurs. 9/10, 10/22, 11/5, 12/3. Check website for a list of upcoming events.

Tie-Dye Craze – Join the Teen Leadership Council members for a Tie-Dye Craze event. Bring a T-shirt or article of clothing that you want to dye, and your favorite CD. Have some crazy fun tie-dying and listening to your favorite tunes. Refreshments! Grades 6-12. Saturday, 9/12 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

Storyteller’s Club* – Sponsored by Mendham Township Recreation and Library. Led by Megan Sager, M.Ed, Instructor. You will listen to a variety of stories, “traditional
and homemade” and discuss the elements for telling a good tale. Together you will generate ideas, write and work towards “publishing” your own book. Grades 2-4. Six Week Program -Wednesdays 4-5:30 pm: 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/4.

Pajama Party – Back by popular demand! Come in your cozy pajamas to hear relaxing tales before bedtime with special guest puppet appearances. All ages. Meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm: 9/16, 10/21, 11/18, 12/16.

Chinese Culture & Language Program* – Listen to fascinating tales and learn about the traditions of ancient and modern China with Wen-Ling Lai through interactive stories in Chinese and English, games and crafts. All ages. Meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm: 9/17, 10/15, 11/19, 12/17. Check website for a list of events.

PAWS for Reading* – Calling all PAWS fans! Come meet and read to Coco and Bezer, our friendly, lovable therapy dogs who are eager to listen to all your stories. You can also listen to stories and make a craft. Fun for all ages. Meets on third Tuesday of each month at 4:00 pm: 9/15, 10/20, 11/17, 12/22.

Story Time with Liz – Enjoy stories and interactive fun with fingerplays, songs, dances, musical instruments and puppets. All ages. Every Tuesday at 10:30 am.

Drop In Crafts – Be Creative @ Your Library. A new craft is featured each week. You can also do puzzles, play games or read a good book! All ages. The craft table is open every day during library hours.

Ms. Candy Sing Along* – Sing your favorite songs with Ms. Candy at 10:30 am on Friday, 10/16; Saturday 11/14. Join us on Thursday 12/18 at 10:30 am for a special Holiday Party with holiday songs, crafts and refreshments. Ms. Candy will dress as Mrs. Claus. All ages.

Scary Halloween Movie & Bonfire* – Sponsored by Mendham Recreation and Library. Gather around the campfire for some spooky family fun to watch a frightful Halloween movie at Brookside Beach on Saturday, 10/24 at 7:00 pm.

Halloween Spooktacular Parties* - Dress in your favorite costume and join the ghosts, goblins and witches at the library for a haunting good time filled with surprises! There will be two parties on Friday, 10/30:
1) Children’s Party 4:00 -5:00 pm – K- Grade 5. Games, crafts, puppet show, refreshments
2) Teen Party 5:00-6:30 pm – Grades 6-12. Costume Contest, games, refreshments

Power of Brainstorming* - Do you want to discover fun ways to dream up new ideas and achieve your goals? Join inspirational speaker, Andrea Mastrobattista of Operation Inspiration in a creative workshop to explore different types of brainstorming, how to brainstorm successfully and the positive effects of brainstorming. Enjoy a brain power snack! Grades 1-6. Thursday, 11/5 at 4:00 pm.

Beat The Breakfast Blahs* – Create a delicious breakfast you will love! Sue Anthony, registered dietician and nutrition educator will discuss benefits, portions and ingredients of a healthy breakfast in this interactive workshop. Kids will taste different foods and create their own healthy recipes. Ages 6+. Saturday, 11/7 at 10:00 -11:30 am at the Brookside Community Church.

Fire Safety Program* - Join us for this popular annual event! Members from the Brookside Engine Company #1 will read fire safety stories, discuss fire safety, and demonstrate what fire fighters wear. Children are also invited to the firehouse to see the fire trucks, and enjoy pizza! Up to age 6. Coming up in November- call the library for details.

Holiday Party* – Celebrate the holidays and share your festive spirit with your friends at the library and special guest, Ms. Candy, for holiday songs, crafts and refreshments. Ms. Candy will dress as Mrs. Claus. All ages. Thursday 12/18 at 10:30 am.

Coming in 2010

Abraham Lincoln, A man of Sorrow* – Feb. 4, 2010, at 7:00 pm Another program offering by the American Historical Theatre, and made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

Love Songs: A Sweetheart Soiree. – In February, The Mendham Voices and The Barbershop Quartet of West Morris Mendham High School will provide us with an evening of love songs in honor of Valentine’s Day.

Making Your Home Green* – In April, Susan Hayes and Tamara Hageneder, certified interior refiners from Re-Feather Your Nest, will provide us with information, practical tips and ideas on how to make homes green.

You can register for library programs by emailing programs@mendhamtwplib.org -- or call the library at (973) 543-4018. You can always find out what’s new at the library by visiting our website at www.mendhamtwplib.org -- or have our monthly newsletter emailed to you by registering at programs@mendhamtwplib.org.
Recreation
Nearly 300 Enjoy 1st Patriots’ Race/Walk

This past June was among the rainiest on record, but on Saturday, June 13th the weather was perfect for an early-morning 5k race and 3k walk to raise money for recreation and the Veronica O’Neil College Scholarship Fund. More than 200 runners competed in the first Mendham Patriots’ 5k Race/3k Walk & Children’s Fun Run. The USTAF-sanctioned course took runners from the Brookside Community Club on East Main Street, past the Township Middle School and back.

At the same time, approximately 30 folks strolled together in a 3k walk. On the Community Club field, dozens of youngsters sprinted in a one-mile “fun run” and dashes.

Afterward, runners and their families enjoyed refreshments and music from a DJ while results were compiled. A complete list of official race results can be found at www.compuscore.com.

Mendham’s Summer Hot Spot
Brookside Beach is Back!

From laser tag to pizza and movie nights to sandcastle building and even wacky, cardboard boat races, Brookside Beach was the hot spot this summer for more than 106 member families and hundreds of other guests who turned out for fun in the sun. Many new families joined this season, representing a 25 percent increase in total membership compared to the summer of 2008! They made the Beach busier than ever, as everyone enjoyed the new shade canopy, sparkling red paddleboat and other improvements.

Beach Directors Renee Arezzi, Synnove Zeepvat and 16 lifeguards made it a spectacular swim season to remember! A group of 43 children competed on the swim team under coaches Kendall Murray and Caitlyn Eskeland. With water testing provided by Garden State Laboratories weekly and Aquatic Analysis providing other water maintenance – the Beach was open every day from Noon to 8 PM. Don’t miss out on all the excitement next summer … early-bird, discount registrations begin in April!

Upcoming Programs

The Recreation Department has plenty of action planned for the Fall and Winter to keep families fit during the colder months, including the always popular Family Skate Night in January. Look for information on the Township Website or email Recreation Director Jeanne Montemarano (jmontemarano@mendhamtownship.org) or call township hall: 973-543-4555.

Your Recreation Commission is always looking for volunteers! If you are interested, please contact Commission Chair, Amalia Duarte, at 973-543-7924.
On June 20, the Mendham Township and Mendham Borough Environmental Commissions and the Mendham Junior Women’s Club held their third annual Electronics Recycling Day at the Mendham Borough DPW on Ironia Road. Despite the heavy rain, it was a great success with volunteers filling two large dumpsters with old and unwanted electronics such as TVs, outdated computers and monitors, radios, scanners, and other appliances.

The groups hired Supreme Asset Management and Recovery, an electronics recycling firm in Lakewood, NJ, which enforces a “zero landfill” policy. Supreme provided the dumpsters, removed the dumpsters after the event, and safely and securely remarked or recycled all of the items collected.

Although this service was free to the community ($5 fee for air conditioners only) many thoughtful people gave donations which helped defray the cost to the Environmental Commissions and Juniors. Thanks to all helpers and volunteers and to all residents who supported the event!

Public Question on November ballot
Want to Keep New Jersey Green?

On November 3rd you will see a public question on the ballot. It asks voters to vote Yes or No on a new $400 million bond issue that will continue New Jersey’s efforts to preserve the quality of our drinking water, the health of our lakes and streams, our fish and wildlife habitat, working farmland and other natural resources.

In June the NJ Assembly and Senate, with strong bipartisan support, approved placing this question before the voters. Just in time, too, because on August 6th Governor Corzine signed legislation that appropriated the last of the 2007 voter-approved funds for the Garden State Preservation Trust. This new legislation is designed to continue the Trust and help protect New Jersey’s water and land from overdevelopment.

Supporters have calculated the cost of the bond issue to be just $10. a year per household based on a 20-year bond at 5% interest. (Of course, the interest rate will only be known when the bonds are issued and the rate could be lower than 5%)

The NJ Keep It Green Coalition, a supportive organization, believes that this public question is “a wise investment for New Jersey especially now while land prices are lower than in recent years.” The public question also provides for full public disclosure of all spending, and ensures public representation on the Garden State Preservation Trust.

For more information on this ballot question, residents are encouraged to visit njkeepitgreen.org

Paper Shredder-Fundraising Event
Saturday, October 17th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Pack up your sensitive documents or general papers taking up space in your home, and have them shredded in an instant!

$5.00 per box
A great way to support your library and help with your fall clean-up!
Report to Residents from James Button
Our Regional High School Representative

Since my election on June 17, 2008, my task, representing Mendham Township’s interests on the West Morris Regional High School District Board of Education, has been challenging. Yet opportunities abound for improving our children’s high school education, while reducing costs.

As you know, the district is comprised of five municipalities: the Mendhams (2), the Chesters (2) and Washington Township, and operates two schools, Mendham High and West Morris Central.

A minority of the district’s population, Washington Township, elects a majority of the representatives on the board -- five of nine.

These board members elect the board president who makes committee assignments and controls meeting agendas. Washington Township thereby controls the district, including Mendham High School, which no Washington Township children attend.

The consequences of Washington Township’s control over Mendham High School are troubling.

Mendham High School’s ranking relative to other NJ public high schools has steadily declined over the past seven years.

The district spends more per student at West Morris Central than at Mendham High School.

And Mendham Township’s requests for representation on the finance committee are denied. Instead the committee is stacked 75% with Washington Township representatives.

Detailed financial expenditure information provided to finance committee members is withheld from other board members.

Yet Mendham Township taxpayers pay more per student than any other municipality in the district, more than twice the amount paid by Washington Township. The high school cost per student to Mendham Township taxpayers approaches that of private school tuition.

Policies are imposed that are neither in the best interests of the students nor reflect the will of their parents. For example, the district imposes physical education requirements on athletes, two thirds of the students, which exceed those mandated by the State, resulting in less study time.

In 2010, voters may be given an opportunity by referendum to rectify this situation.

In the meantime, Mendham Township residents are encouraged to scrutinize carefully budget requests made by the district.

As Mendham Township’s elected high school board representative you can contact me at jbutton@mail.wmhsd.org

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A very great loss

**Ernest Maw, R.I.P.**

Recent residents may not have known much about Ernie Maw who passed away in early June, but everyone here should know more of him, because Ernie’s contributions to Mendham Township were enormous.

He donated so much of his time and energy that, it is fair to say, Ernie pretty much gave his life to our community. In great measure, he helped make our town the very special place it is, and, because of him, it is why many of you chose to live here.

Ernie himself was born here. There are currently fewer and fewer residents who can claim that distinction. He was born on West Main Street in Brookside and lived, until his passing, not far from his birthplace. Several years ago he was named, along with Wilma Sagurton, our Town Historian. Below are two brief tributes to Ernie -- but this entire newsletter could easily be filled with stories, and recollections, and appreciations to this extraordinary man and his extraordinary life in our town.

Happily for us and our children, and because he
had the foresight to create “living memories” of many older residents on audio and videotape, and because he allowed himself to be captured on video in numerous historic settings, you still can see Ernie Maw on MendhamTV as he walks-and-talks his way through our town, relating our history, and enriching our recognition of what he left us.

— Jack Schrier

By Ray Nadaskay
Chairman, Mendham Township Historic Preservation Committee, President, Ralston Cider Mill Museum

Others can tell of his forming the Township First Aid Squad and his long service to the Brookside Engine Company – two invaluable all-volunteer services for which we remain grateful to this day. In addition, I recall being told that he helped build the first Ralston fire house with a group of fellow firefighters. Mostly, I know of Ernie as the chair of the township’s Historic Preservation Committee.

Ernie knew a lot about Mendham Township, and what he didn’t know he was sure to have his version of! He must have walked every square foot of ground in the township as a young boy – and from then on, too, because he discovered every conceivable relic, ruin and feature that our history had to provide. He shared some of these treasures and discoveries with me, including long forgotten fords, dams, mills, head and tail races, foundations, kilns and more. In the process of exploration, and in talking, which he also loved to do, he learned about our industrial, agrarian and residential history – so much so, that he was able to draft the two large maps on the wall of our Township meeting room. It is a wonderfully informative documentation of our founding.

Armed with this information, Ernie led the Historic Preservation Committee to define township areas of greatest historic importance. Having done so, he then made applications to the State to register those areas – Brookside, Washington Valley, Ralston, India Brook and Tempe Wick – as Historic Districts. They are now officially listed on the State and Federal Registers of Historic Places.

I was always interested in the stone mill in Ralston, on the south side of the road to Chester. When Ernie said he thought he could arrange a visit for me, since he knew the owners, I was happy to join him. He knew well the incredible historic value of a mill like that, that had been shut down and left undisturbed for seventy years. In 1984 he convinced the owner to repair the large hole in the roof that was causing severe deterioration. (The large painting over the reception desk in town hall shows the mill with the hole in the roof.)

When I saw the interior with all the equipment still there, I exclaimed, “This can’t be anything but what it is!”

Members of the Historic Preservation Committee worked to convince the Township to purchase the mill and enable the formation of the not-for-profit foundation that garnered funding from generous individuals and charitable sources, as well as the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund. The Foundation has now restored the mill and equipment and opened it to the public as an operational cider museum! You would be “hard pressed” to find another like it.

Thank you, Ernie.

By Brian Phelan
Former Mayor and Current Member, Mendham Township Committee  
Former Fire Chief, Mendham Township, Brookside Engine Co. No.1

Who was Ernie “Slug” Maw?
Custom home builder, fine craftsman, outstanding Boy Scout, Fire Chief, Brookside Engine Co., founder of the Township First Aid squad, and, with dear wife Jean, father of five.

A native of Brookside and a life-long resident, Ernie became well-known as the town historian as well as for his creative family Floats in our Fourth of July Parades.

He was responsible for the creation of the Historic Districts within the township, and had a wealth of historical knowledge of the community and our open space lands.

His videotaped journeys through our parklands, now shown on MendhamTV, are more than educational, they inspire and encourage us to walk the many trails in our town, and to SEE!

He served our community as a volunteer first aider in the Squad he founded, and served for almost 50 years as a volunteer fireman.

We will miss his great stories of the past, and his great compassion for helping people in need.
He will always be remembered as that ever-cheerful guy with the funniest t-shirts, serving chowder at the Brookside Family Clambake every year.

We have no one else quite like him. If you appreciate living here, you can thank Ernie Maw. I do.
Recycling is the law … and it saves you money!

Recycle Every Other Monday*

Pick up an illustrated flyer at town hall that describes all recyclable materials with information on our recycling collection procedure. It also has a calendar noting all recycling dates.

While it is the law that you must recycle, in Mendham Township recycling also saves you money. You see, recycling your glass and plastic bottles and containers, your aluminum cans and junk mail and newspapers, all removes a lot of weight from what might otherwise be your trash. So you save on your per-bag trash collection cost* … while you comply with the law.

When a recycling Monday falls on a holiday, the town provides dumpsters into which we can drop off our recyclables. Dumpsters will be available from the day after the holiday through the Thursday following the holiday. You can drop off your recyclables at any time, day or night. Check the scrolling banner on MendhamTV – ch. 25 Comcast and ch. 22 Verizon.

Where: East side of town - Dept. of Public Works parking lot, 40 Mt Pleasant Road
West side of town - Old Ralston Firehouse parking lot, Mendham Rd. West.

*Note - You pay only for the weight of trash you put out for collection, 70c for one 15 lb. bag. For example, one bag of trash per week means that a full year of trash collection is a mere $36.40! Yes, for a full year! So, recycling removes weight from your trash and saves you money. Trash stickers are available at Mendham Apothecary as a convenience to our residents. To learn more about our bargain trash collection service, call town hall (973) 543-4555.

The Fall Brush Collections will begin on Monday, October 5, 2009. Please place brush at the side of the road by 7:00 AM, with the ends facing the roadway.

**TIE YOUR BRUSH WITH STRING OR TWINE ONLY – NOT WIRE!**

YOUR BRUSH BUNDLES WILL BE COLLECTED FASTER IF THEY ARE TIED.

Brush bundles should be less than 12 inches in diameter and less than 6 ft. in length. No stumps and no logs greater than 6 ft. in length or over 6 in. in diameter will be picked up. All material must fit through the chipper.
BRUSH WILL NOT BE PICKED UP if lot or wooded areas are cleared by either the homeowner and/or a contractor. Homeowners and contractors must dispose of cleared wood themselves. Brush pickup is mainly intended for the purpose of helping homeowners clear away brush which has fallen during storms.

It is crucial NOT to include in your bundles any material other than branches, scrub or brush. When wire or metal rods of any kind are tucked inside the bundles, it damages township equipment, which must then be repaired or replaced with your tax dollars! MOST IMPORTANTLY, it can easily cause serious injury to our workers as the material passes through the chipper.

DO NOT put leaves at curbside, as we DO NOT have a leaf pick up program in Mendham Township.

TIRES, BATTERIES AND OIL
The Fall Tire, Battery and Oil Collection will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2009
Location: DPW Garage, 40 Mt. Pleasant Road.
Hours: 8:00 AM until noon.
Charges are: Tires--$3.00, Tires with Rims--$5.00, Batteries--$2.00, Oil--no charge.

DRIVEWAY PERMIT
From time to time, uninvited contractors approach homeowners asking to pave or re-pave driveways. Often the pitch is, they “are working in the area” and have excess material on the truck or available elsewhere, and they can save you money. Before agreeing to undertake any such project and protect your own interest, remember...

A driveway permit is REQUIRED when replacing or putting in a new driveway.

Applications for a driveway permit can be picked up at the township DPW, 40 Mt. Pleasant Road, or downloaded from mendhamtownship.org

MAIL BOXES
Mail box posts should be checked before the winter. Posts that are rotted should be replaced. All posts should be made sturdy enough to withstand the force of the snow when it is pushed off the road by the plow. In the event that a mail box is knocked down by a Township plow, the mail box will be replaced with a standard type box.

If you have any questions call the Mendham Township Department of Public Works (DPW) at 973-543-4509.
Our Guided Hikes Really Opened Eyes

In the past, our Open Space Trust Committee has organized Family Fall Fun events, published Open Space newsletters, and created a website (www.hikemendham.org) to help residents learn about our wonderful open space properties and hiking trails and to enjoy them. This year, they organized a series of guided hikes so folks could conveniently sample some of our 55-miles of trails through forests and wetlands, right here in town.

Starting in May this year, with a hike through Burnett Brook led by Janis Slutsky from Mendham Borough, the guided hikes have had strong attendance and triggered rave reviews. Bierce Riley of our Historic Preservation Committee showed folks our heritage of iron mines and forges. Ralph Rhodes, co-Chair of the Environmental Commission, took hikers along the India Brook ravine and Buttermilk Falls, on what used to be the Seeing Eye property. Jon Wagar explained the lush field habitat at Tempe Wick Preserve, and Charlie Beck added a modern treasure hunt using GPS navigation (“geocaching”).

*BUT WAIT, as they say on TV, THERE’S MORE!*

The 2009 guided hikes will continue – with one on October 17 in Dismal Harmony and another on November 7 at Meadowood Park. Information is available at www.hikemendham.org

Based on this year’s success, guided hikes will be offered again next year. But anyone can hike our trails without waiting for a guided tour, and many individuals and families do so by going to www.hikemendham.org and picking a hike nearby, and printing the map if not already familiar with the trail. Residents (you!) own these beautiful areas; make it a point to visit them and take a hike!

A Letter on Litter and Littering

As you enjoy using the Township’s 60-plus miles of trails (and we hope that you do!) have you noticed that they are remarkably free of litter? Especially considering the great number of trail users? It’s true.

A primary reason for the excellent condition of our trails is the respect that most of us have for these natural areas. We appreciate that they are special places in our special town, and that our own Open Space tax dollars helped to pay for them in most cases.

We admire those of you who not only wouldn’t even think of littering, but who care enough for the environment (and other trail users) that you actually pick up and carry out litter dropped by others. It’s “not your job” but we commend you for doing it.

The Environmental Commission also strongly encourages dog walkers to clean up after their pets and properly dispose of the resulting bags of waste. It just makes sense for aesthetic and environmental reasons. We have seen evidence of some dog walkers collecting dog waste in plastic bags then leaving both bag and waste on the trail or tossed into the bushes nearby.

By all means, get outdoors with your family and friends – and dogs – and enjoy our wonderful parks and trails. That’s what they’re for. But try to be a good neighbor as you do. You won’t hear the thanks, but they will be there.

Mr. Winston says, “There’s a chill in the air. Time for me to hibernate!”
Dispose of Your Old Meds – Properly

Our Board of Health office, under the able direction of Linda Brusco (who is also Captain of our volunteer First Aid Squad) continues to be concerned for our residents’ safety and well-being. Since most of us have some old medicines in our home, we should know the safest way to dispose of them. First of all, do not flush them down the toilet!! That is vitally important, not only for your safety and the safety of your loved ones, but for all of us because most township residents draw our water from private wells.

Guidelines for Proper Disposal of Household Medication
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Over the counter and prescription medications should not be disposed down the drain because wastewater treatment facilities are not designed to remove pharmaceutical compounds and they may end up in your local waterways, and may eventually be found in drinking water. Properly disposing of unwanted and expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medications in the trash promotes a healthy aquatic environment and prevents accidental poisoning and intentional abuse.

4 STEPS FOR PROPER DISPOSAL

1. Keep medicine in original container. Mark out personal information on prescription bottles.

2. Mix liquid medicine with undesirable substances like coffee grinds, cat litter, or dirt. Dilute pills with water, then add coffee grinds, cat litter, or dirt.

3. Place bottles in an opaque container, like a yogurt container, and secure lid; or wrap in a dark colored plastic bag.

4. Hide the container in the trash. Do NOT recycle.

Improper disposal in your trash allows others to divert the substance and consume medication that was not prescribed to them.

For More Information Contact:
DEP Solid & Hazardous Waste Program
(609) 633-1418

For proper disposal of household sharps visit:
http://www.state.nj.us/health/coh/phss/syringe.pdf

Or call 609-984-6620
The 2009 General Election is November 3, 2009. This one is more important than usual because it is a NJ Gubernatorial Election.

Please vote – and please take note of the following information:

• If you are eligible to vote but have not yet registered, your registration must be received 21 days prior to the election, which this year is Tuesday, October 13, 2009.
• Absentee Ballot applications can be obtained in town hall from the Township Clerk’s Office and then must be filed in the Morris County Clerk’s Office. An official absentee ballot will then be sent to you at the address you request, and must be completed and sent in time for your vote to count.
• More detailed voter information can be found online by going to www.morriselections.org

If you have questions, call the Mendham Township Clerk’s office at (973)543-4555, ext. 111.

⇒ ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3RD – YOUR VOTE REALLY MATTERS! ⇐

Township of Mendham
Main Street & Cherry Lane
P.O. Box 520
Brookside, NJ 07926

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Published by Your Township Committee
Printed on Recycled Paper