**TAC MEETING**

**August 26, 2025**

Board Member/Office Staff Attendees:

Joe D’Urso Cliff Straub Mary Cavuto

Carrie McDermott Wendy Hoch

Tenant Attendees:

Helen Haynes Virginia Dudys Pat Singley Dan Williams Jane Devlin

Cliff Staub Marcia Collins Mary Ann Litke Barbara Reiton

**LAUNDRY SERVICE**

After 2 months of our laundry service with Hickory Cleaners tenant feedback is that clothing is often returned wrinkled or inside out and larger items (comforter/throw rugs) are very expensive, and the overall quality/value just isn’t there. The program is still in place, but we will begin checking out other local facilities.

Remember to turn your receipts in to the office each time you use the service! If your participated in July, please stop by to collect your reimbursement.

**GAZEBO**

Would the gazebo get more use if we moved it? Attending tenants 100% agree that yes, it would get more use if moved over near the new garden beds. The gazebo will be smoking/non-smoking.

**OPEN HOUSE TO KICK OFF OUR FUNDRAISER**

On Saturday, September 25 from 6 – 8 pm, we will host a community open house to spread awareness about MASH. This is on the tail of our fundraiser mailing, which was sent to all Boro & Township residents on August 22. Hot dogs and ice cream will be served, and all are invited. Come out to enjoy meeting our neighbors, as well as community dignitaries.

Jim & Virginia have graciously opened their apartments for touring to show off the before and after renovations. Thank you! 😊

**RSVPs FOR EVENTS**

We have consistently had a very poor return of RSVPs for our recent events. These events take a lot of planning, coordination and money and we provide food based on the number of RSVPs that we receive. Please RSVP for events, written or verbal. In the future, we will try using a sign-up sheet in the common area instead of individual flyers. Please share your thoughts on how we can make it easier for you.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

* Saturday, September 6th at 9 am: Grace Lutheran Day of Caring followed by lunch at noon
* Saturday, September 13th, 4-7 pm: Senior Prom at the Barn hosted by Chester-Mendham Senior HS students
* Monday, September 15th at 11 am: 3rd quarter Birthday Bingo hosted by the Mendham Seniors Club.
* Thursday, September 25th, 6-8 pm: Open House at MASH
* The Pastime Club has offered a bowling afternoon/evening for MASH residents. More to come on that!

**MASH WEBSITE**

The MASH website (mashnj.org )has been revamped to include events, local senior resource, photos, donation acceptance capabilities, etc. Please let us know if you have any ideas on how we can continue to improve our content.

**PUZZLE TABLE**

Check out the new puzzle table in the community room. Stop by and get some pieces in place while you wait for laundry or pick up mail!



**SPECIAL GUEST KAREN SCALERA FROM S. BRUNSWICK SENIOR HOUSING**

Karen has 35 years of experience and manages 175 units, some USDA, some HUD (sbseniorhousing.org). They are in the process of implementing the new HOTMA (hot mess) changes that went into effect on 7/1/25. Karen will create a complete checklist of the changes affected MASH residents and share with us.

* The auto deduction for seniors of $400/month has increased to $525/month
* The USDA previously allowed 3% of medical expenses to be deducted from your annual income. This is moving to 10% during a 3-year phase in process: year one 5%, year 2 at 7.5% and year 3 at the full 10%. New move-ins go straight to 10%.

She also shared some energy assistance programs available to residents (these links are live on our website.

* Lifeline Utility Assistance: utility assistance program for older adults and people with disabilities that offers a $225 annual benefit to persons who meet the PAAD (Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled) eligibility requirements or who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
* SLMB: Specified Low-Income Medicare Benefit: Income based program that will pay your Medicare premium, enabling you to receive the full SS benefit amount.

**NEXT TAC MEETING**

Date tbd in October with special guest, board member Dr. Joseph Ryan. Dr. Ryan will discuss the pros/cons of vaccines and everything you need to know to make an informed decision.