



Newsletter

Kirby's Mill
275 Church Road
PO Box 362
Medford, NJ 08055

Cross Keys One-Room Schoolhouse
55 Mill Street
Medford, NJ 08055

Haines-Tomlinson House
51 Union Street
Medford, NJ 08055

Mill Phone: 609-654-7767

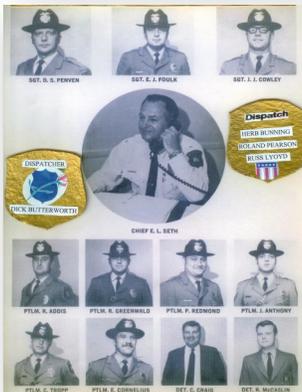
www.MedfordHistory.org

February 2026

Medford Township Police Department History

The Medford Township Police Department was formally created as a full-time, full-service law enforcement agency in 1957. Previously to this, the Department was comprised of just a few full-time officers, supplemented by Part-time Special Officers. Upon its creation, the first full-time members of our agency consisted of eight sworn officers, including a Chief of Police, a Lieutenant, two Sergeants, four Patrol Officers, and four Dispatchers. The Department was headquartered in a converted Train Station located on N. Main Street, adjacent to Kirby's Feed Store. This building served as our home from 1961 – 1993. A separate facility was constructed in the mid 1970's on Fostertown Road to house the newly formed K-9 Unit. This facility contained housing for four K-9's as well as training equipment. During the 1970's, the creation of the Detective Bureau provided round-the-clock criminal investigation services to the rapidly growing Township. The Traffic Safety Bureau was also created during the decade in response to the increase in traffic, and related motor vehicle accidents. Both of these units continue to serve our community. With the growth of the Township that occurred in the late 1970's and 1980's, the Department grew from its original complement of eight officers and four dispatchers, to twenty-seven officers and six dispatchers by the end of the 1980's. In 1982, the department began issuing badge numbers to our officers. These numbers follow an officer throughout their career, and are removed when the officer retires or separates from service. As the 1980's came to an end, the need for additional space to house the police officers, dispatchers, staff, and equipment became evident. The cramped quarters could no longer be renovated to meet the continuing needs of our growing agency. Subsequently, land was purchased at the corner of Jones Road and Union Street and a new facility known as the Public Safety Center was opened in April 1993. The new facility is home to the Police Division, the Municipal Court, and serves as the chambers for the Township Council and various other Township Boards.

The Medford Police Department in 1968



Medford Police Officers stand outside the police station on North Main Street in 1967. The building in the background was the former Philadelphia; Marlton & Medford train station located on North Main Street.



Police Chief George Smith, right, accepts the keys to the township's first police car, a 1957 Chevy, from salesmen at the Karl E. Robinson Dealership located on Route 38 in Moorestown.

Medford Historical Society Officers 2025 - 2027 Fiscal Year

President Bill Pflug 856-235-2543 plugfixes@gmail.com	Haines/Tomlinson House Michael Gallagher 856-296-4060 mgalla48@gmail.com	Kirby's Village John Hines 609-531-1825 jxhines15@gmail.com	Apple Festival Kelly Maquire 856-718-0972 maguirefamily1@verizon.net	Cross Keys School-House Pat Alvino 609-410-6950 talvino12@comcast.net	Secretary Ambriel Gerber 609-828-5163 ambriel.gerber@gmail.com	Newsletter Dennis McDonald 609-352-7502 medfordhistory@gmail.com
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TRUSTEES EXPIRES 2026 Libby Zimbleman, Michael Gallagher, Dan Gaehring, Andy Middleton, one vacancy
EXPIRES 2027 Edmund Gager, Tom Gerber, John Hines, Ambriel Gerber, Mike Yekenchik
EXPIRES 2028 Patricia Alvino, Carol Milich, Dennis McDonald, Clark Perks, one vacancy

TRUSTEE EMERITUS - Jeanne Woodford

(cover story continued)

The new Public Safety Building was equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and a full service, 24 hour a day 9-1-1 dispatch center. Other features included office space for the police administration, the detective bureau, traffic safety bureau and supervisors. The facility also included a self-contained sally port system and holding cells for suspects. In 2010, due to budgetary constraints, Police Division dispatching and 9-1-1 duties were discontinued. The Police Division is currently dispatched by Burlington County Central Communications in Westampton Township.

Throughout the 1990's and into the first decade of the new millennium, the Police Department continued to grow to meet the needs of the increasing demands of the community and reached its highest staffing level in 2009 with a full complement of 49 sworn police officers. Since that time, the Police Department has been forced to undergo significant downsizing, due to fiscal constraints, that was accomplished through attrition and lay-offs.

Currently, the Medford Township Police Department consists of 38 full time sworn officers, 3 part-time (Special Law Enforcement Officers – SLEO-III) that cover Lenape, and Shawnee High Schools and St. Mary of the Lakes School. They are supported by 4 full-time and 2 part-time clerical staff members. The Police Department serves a population of approximately 23,000 residents and is responsible for patrolling approximately 40 square miles.

Editor's Note: This information came from the Medford Township Police Department's website. The department is always looking for information and photographs to add to its history collection. Contact info@medfordpolice.org



Medford's first police chief Nelson Peake is photographed during a baseball game at the Medford Field Club located on North Main Street in the early 1900's.



Current Medford Police Chief William Dunleavy was promoted to that post in October, 2025.



Left to right, Assistant Chief of Police Leon Gager, F. Littell Branin, Whital E. Mingin, Isaiah Prickett, and Medford Police Chief Raymond Jones. (Branin, Mingin and Prickett were members of the Medford Township Committee.) Raymond Jones was Medford's second Chief of Police.



Medford's Police Administration/Public Safety Building located at 91 Union Street.

President's Corner

Welcome to 2026 and although you may be tired of hearing this, Happy 250th Birthday America! We are so proud to be the stewards of some of the local area's finest examples of our rich history.

We ended last year very well at the Cross Keys Schoolhouse. Santa and his helpers provided families a wonderful, heartfelt visit with the man in red. There was a crisp bite in the air to set the mood and the warm cider and cookies did not disappoint. The visits continue to grow. This year's guest book indicates our numbers reached 170. Congratulations and thank you to Pat and Tom Alvino, Leslie Jones and all the Schoolmarms for your ongoing support.

Following the Schoolhouse opening, the Haines/Tomlinson residence was available to tour for those coming and going to the Dickens Festival on Main Street. There was a steady flow through "51" with many comments on how nicely the home was festively decorated for the Holiday season. A special thanks to Kathy Mathis, John, Tom and Ambriel Gerber and Mike and Carolyn Gallagher for being a part of revitalizing this important part of Medford.

Charlie Zahm is always a holiday treat. His musical professionalism, song knowledge, and storytelling make for a special way to get in the spirit of Christmas. Charlie has a large following and it is no wonder. I hope we can build, year on year, to a full capacity crowd. Thank you to Rich Bucko for organizing this important show, and to Fred Melroy with the Friends Meeting house for the perfect venue.

We intended to deliver a fundraising package in early November 2025. This never came to fruition. We will be sending out the fundraiser in the April. Please be on the lookout for this vital donation document.

I wish to update you on our projects completed and works in progress:

The Mill Village:

John Hines has been preparing a Revolutionary War display on the mill's second floor. It will include a new map, located above and behind a refurbished display case. There are plans for increased and updated lighting in that area. Two free-standing soldier silhouettes, American and English, will showcase the appearance and differences in uniforms on each side of the lines.

The mill will see the decrepit exterior chase removed and any underlying shingles will be repaired/painted. This will clean up a maintenance headache and eyesore for us.

Dan Gaehring has agreed to manage the Blacksmith shop with Dan Massimamo, our Blacksmith. Dan G. will coordinate on what dates the forge will be operated, setting up appropriate displays, and general consolidation of tools and equipment. Thank you Dan!

There will be some movement made on the barn foundation erosion abatement this year. We anticipate our fundraising efforts can make this a reality.

Haines/Tomlinson House:

The decrepit basement door, located on the side porch, has been rebuilt and installed. The basement foundation was cleared of loose mortar, hosed and prepped for a mortar parge to maintain its integrity. There are masonry repairs still to be made to the end wall and beneath the windows that line the front porch.

There are several windows that require replacing. We are working with our contractor to get a sample made for the first one, which will give us accurate pricing before we proceed with the remaining windows. We see this as a Spring item.

Kathy Mathis and John Gerber continue their good work with furniture acquisition, wall treatment, decorating and also revamping the second floor bathroom. It is wonderful to see the great efforts of the "Friends of 51"

The springtime will provide for two portions of the Haines/Tomlinson House roof to be cleaned and coated with a roofing paint as a preamble to finalizing the remainder of the job.

(Presidents Corner Continued)

We begin the 2026 activities with the Annual Members Lasagna dinner, March 5th, held at the Friends Meeting House at 14 Union Street. Festivities start at 6 PM. Please let us know what you might offer, be it salad or dessert, to round out the lasagna main course. (We are always looking for extra hands to join in and help make this a nice evening. Please contact Rich Buckco or myself if you'd like to be involved.) Be sure to RSVP so we have a proper head count for the event.

April 2nd marks our first Speaker Series for 2026. We will be hosting Eric Orange. He is a Burlington County Division of Parks historian, specializing in New Jersey history, particularly the American Revolution and the Smithville Village complex. Eric spoke to our group last year and brings events of the Revolution home.

The Medford Historical Society, I have found, is a special group of people who do great work to maintain our land and buildings, all the while promoting the mission of the Society. If you know of individuals interested in our history or civic duty, I would encourage you to send them our way. Young people are always welcome...

At the Mill By John Hines

Kirby's Mill prepares for the 250th year of the American Revolution.

At Country Day at Kirby's Mill on May 3rd will be the unveiling of the new exhibit "Medford and the Revolution". The display details the local patriots who participated in the cause for independence and how Taunton Forge and Furnace contributed to the war effort.

Upstairs, a wall display will show the British Army disturbing the local countryside with their June, 1778 excavation of Philadelphia. On the first floor of the mill there will be a look back at the 1876 and 1976 celebrations.

MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, March 5 6pm Annual Members Lasagna Dinner	Sunday, June 7 10am-3pm Haines/Tomlinson Craft Show & Open House	Thursday, October 1 7pm Speaker Series
Thursday, April 2 7pm Speaker Series	Sunday, July 12 11am-2pm Milling, Museum, & Blacksmith Day	Sunday, October 4 11am-2pm Milling, Museum & Blacksmith Day
Sunday, May 3 12pm-4pm Country Day, Milling, Museum & Blacksmith Day	Sunday, July 12 11am-2pm Cross Keys Schoolhouse open	October 10 9am-4pm Apple Festival, Milling & Museum Open
Thursday, May 7 7pm Speaker Series	Sunday, August 2 11am-2pm Milling, Museum & Blacksmith Day	Sunday, November 1 11am-2pm Milling, Museum & Blacksmith Day
Sunday, May 17 11am-4pm Car/Craft Show, Milling & Museum Open	Sunday, August 2 11am-2pm Cross Keys Schoolhouse open	Thursday, November 5 7pm Speaker Series
Monday, May 25 11am-2pm Haines/Tomlinson Open House	Sunday, September 6 11am-2pm Milling, Museum Blacksmith Day	Saturday, December 5 12pm-3pm Santa at the Schoolhouse
Saturday & Sunday, June 6 & 7 10am-4pm Quilt Show	Saturday, September 12 8am-2pm Flea Market, Milling & Museum open	Saturday, December 5 4pm-9pm Haines/Tomlinson Open House
	Sunday, September 20 11am-2pm Cross Keys Schoolhouse open	December 10 7pm Charlie Zahm Concert



Announcing . . .
The Medford
Historical Society
Members Annual
Lasagna Dinner

WHERE:

Friends Meeting House, 14 Union St., Medford, NJ

WHEN:

Thursday, March 5th, 2026 6:00pm - 8:30pm

This is a great time to reconnect with fellow members.

Music will begin at 6:00pm

Dinner is buffet style, service starts at 6:30pm.

Lasagna (meat & cheese) and beverages are provided
by the Medford Historical Society.

Members please bring a side salad or dessert to share.

PLEASE RSVP

to Libby at: (609) 801-2342 or libby1555@aol.com

The best lasagna and rolls will be provided by
Roselli's Italian Market

Membership Application
Donations/Sponsor Levels to Preserve History
Of course if you have already paid, Thank you for your promptness.
Lifetime members may disregard this notice.

Name _____ Telephone _____
Email _____
Address _____

Please make checks payable to the
Medford Historical Society, PO Box 362, Medford, NJ 08055
Membership

_____ **Individual/Family Membership - \$40 per year**
Members receive a Quarterly Newsletter

Sponsor/Donor Levels

History Partner - \$100

Archival Partner - \$250

Patron - \$500

Lifetime - \$500

Benefactor - \$1000

Donation of your choice - \$ _____

Donors are supporting the mission of the Medford Historical Society to research, record, preserve, maintain and promote the general history of Medford and Medford Historical Society holdings, making them available to the community, schools, and other organizations.

These donor levels will be acknowledged on our website
Donor levels will have the option of donating anonymously

The Medford Historical Society is a non-profit corporation in the State of New Jersey and is registered as a charity SIC #5006-04935. Our Federal Tax Exempt Number is 22-1911164. We are exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code dated 12/7/71. Donors may deduct contributions to the Medford Historical Society as provided in Section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers or gifts to the Medford Historical Society are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes under Sections 2055, 2106 and 2522 of the Code.



Preserve History - Give the Gift of Membership
Time to Renew or Become a Member of the Medford Historical Society.

Your contribution helps support the mission of the Medford Historical Society: to research, record, preserve, maintain and promote the general history of Medford and Medford Historical Society holdings, making them available to the community, schools, and other organizations.

We need your help. 10% of our members renew annually but we would love to double that number. Memberships are for 1 year. We do not automatically renew memberships but will invite you to renew each February. As a member you will receive our newsletter that contains articles about Medford history, MHS news, and upcoming events. You'll also learn about volunteer opportunities and have the satisfaction of knowing that you've helped preserve Medford's history for generations to come!

Memberships for Individual/Families are \$40, or choose from one of our many membership levels.

Please visit the form on our website MedfordHistory.org or copy and paste this link in your address bar:
medfordhistory.wufoo.com/forms/qqqalje1xon9f6/