

METUCHEN MESSENGER

GOVERNMENT AND DEPARTMENT NEWS PUBLISHED BY THE BOROUGH OF METUCHEN

FALL/WINTER 2001

ISSUE #1



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Metuchen Resident:

This is the first issue of our new community newsletter which is being published in an attempt to provide more timely information to residents about the activities of borough government than was possible with the yearly calendar.

The members of the borough council and I hope that this publication will provide residents with information that allows them to either better utilize or understand borough activities and services.

As you will see, most of the departments of borough government have contributed to this inaugural issue and they will continue to do so in future issues. With this publication we are also endeavoring to keep all residents better informed as to how municipal tax dollars are being spent.

I hope you find this newsletter useful and I welcome your comments so that we can make future issues even better.

Sincerely,

*Ed O'Brien
Mayor*

GRANTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

BOROUGH RECEIVES \$450,000 FOR PLAYING FIELDS

The Borough of Metuchen has received a \$450,000 grant from the Middlesex County Open-Space Recreational Trust Fund. These grant monies will go towards the acquisition of 5 acres of land at the previous Oakite site, located off of Hampton Street. The Borough plans to use this land for additional recreational playing fields.

WALK FOR YOUR HEALTH

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has notified the Borough that Metuchen will receive a \$20,000 grant to map-out pedestrian routes throughout the community. Residents will be able to walk out of their homes and follow routes which will indicate

mileage and explain points of interest throughout our town. This program is intended to increase health awareness and encourage safe pedestrian travel.

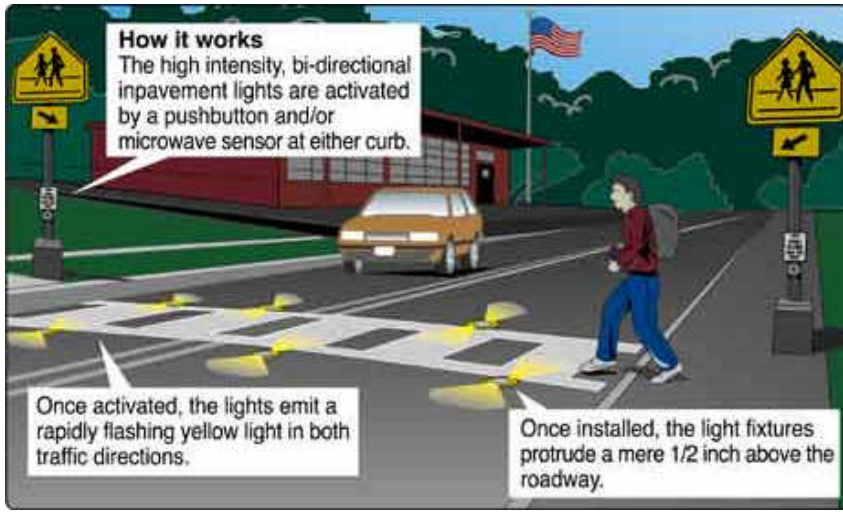
COMMUTER PATHWAY GETS FACELIFT

The pedestrian pathway that runs along the railroad right-of way between Main Street and Pearl Street will be receiving a major facelift, thanks to a \$65,000 grant from the Middlesex County Downtown and Business District Improvement Fund. Improvements will include a brick retaining wall, decorative fencing, a designated walkway and Metuchen lampposts. Special thanks to the Parking Authority for their contribution of \$4,745 towards this project, and the Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce for their support of this grant application.

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GRANTS IN OUR COMMUNITY



METUCHEN IS LIGHTING THE WAY FOR SAFER CROSSWALKS

In-pavement crosswalk lighting systems are beginning to appear around the country. The lights are activated by a pushbutton sensor located at the curbs. The in-pavement lights will then flash once a second for 30 seconds, allowing the pedestrian to cross the street. Lights will flash in two directions, illuminating the pedestrian and warning the driver. Lighting units are placed 3 - 4 feet apart and border both sides of the crosswalk.

The Borough of Metuchen has applied for grants to install systems in four different locations in the borough:

*Main St. at Pennsylvania Ave.
Main St. at Hillside Ave.
Middlesex Ave. at Pearl St.
Middlesex Ave. at Center St.*

To date, verbal approval has been received for Main Street at Pennsylvania Avenue.

Metuchen will be the first municipality in Middlesex County to install a Crosswalk Lighting System.

NEW SENIOR CITIZEN BUS ON THE WAY

The Borough of Metuchen will be going to public bid this fall for a new Senior Citizen Bus. The bus will be purchased with Community Development Block Grant Monies (CDBG). The CDBG program is federally funded and set-up to specifically benefit low-income, handicapped and senior citizens. In previous years, the Borough paid for the construction of the Metuchen Senior Citizen Center with these grant monies.

The new bus will allow the borough to continue to provide door-to-door transportation service to residents 60 years of age and over. For more information about this service please call (732) 632-8525 between 9 am and 3 pm. (24 hour reservations required)

NEW SHADE TREES FOR EDGAR FIELD

The Shade Tree Commission has secured a \$3,000 Urban Forestry Grant to be used for tree planting around Edgar Field. Thanks to Chairman

Jeff Trought and member David Wong for their work on this application.

N.J. DOT GRANT PAYS FOR RESURFACING

The Borough received \$210,000 from the N.J. DOT Transportation Trust Fund Municipal Aid Formula Program for the resurfacing of Woodside Avenue and Wakefield Drive.

NEWS ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

METUCHEN TEEN CENTER TO OPEN THIS FALL

Under the sponsorship of the YMCA and the Borough of Metuchen, the new Metuchen Teen Center will open this fall at the Masonic Hall on Rt. 27 (across from the Library and Martin Luther King Park). The Metuchen Borough government is funding the rental donation and the Youth Service Board is helping to fund activities. Operation of the center will involve community wide participation from the schools, houses of worship and volunteers. Special recognition to Mayor Ed O'Brien for his steadfast commitment towards making this event happen. For further information, contact Christine Tolley at (732) 548-2044, Metuchen YMCA.

ARCHITECTS APPROVED FOR NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Mayor and Council hired HACBM Architectural Firm to do architectural designs and renderings for a new municipal building and police station at the current site of Main Street and

Middlesex Avenue. The Borough Council also approved Gilbane Corporation as Construction Managers for the project.

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE RENAMED - "KAHN'S CROSSING"

At the Regular Meeting of the Borough Council held on May 21, 2001, it was the consensus of the Council to rename the Graham Avenue Pedestrian Bridge as "Kahn's Crossing" in honor of the dedication and years of hard work provided by Don Kahn to see that the bridge would be replaced.

N.J. DOT APPROVES NEW TRAFFIC SIGNALS

The N.J. Department of Transportation approved 2 new traffic signals in the Borough. One at Lake Avenue and New Street and one at Lake Avenue and Essex Avenue. The Lake Avenue and Essex Avenue signal will coincide with the N.J. DOT replacement of the Route 27 Bridge between Amboy and Lake Avenue.

MEtv HONORED

MEtv was the recipient of the 2001 Hometown Video Festival Award provided by the Alliance for Community Media for an Access New Jersey segment. Congratulations to the MEtv staff and volunteers.

CABLE TV ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Metuchen Cable TV Commission which meets the fourth Thursday of the month is in the midst of renegotiating the Borough's cable contract. We would welcome all input at our meetings, or call (732) 632-8540.

NEW BANNERS FOR MAIN STREET

The Metuchen Development Commission received tremendous support in their fund-raising efforts to replace street banners in our shopping districts. An extremely generous donation of \$1500 was received from the YMCA for the purchase of 20 Waving Flag patriotic banners. The Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce gave generously also with a donation of \$1200 towards 20 Seasons Greetings banners for use during the holiday season.

The Metuchen Development Commission is grateful for each generous contribution received from the Metuchen community including:

Antonio's Brick Oven Pizza, Eric Berger, Costello-Runyon Funeral Home, George's Dry Cleaning, Marianna's Gourmet Table, Metuchen Fire

Department, Metuchen Library, Metuchen Savings Bank, Metuchen PBA Local #60, Metuchen Travel, Variety Village, Ken Vercammen, Victorian Office Rentals, What's the Scoop?, Zecca Gallery and the Zuts Family.

Thanks again for your support!

THANKS FOR THE FLOWERS ON MAIN

Last Spring, Metuchen Development Commission members planted over 100 geraniums on the corner of Main St. and Pennsylvania Avenue. The Borough would like to thank Inspirations Florist, Boro Hardware, Old Witch Produce and Barton's Nursery for their generous floral donations. Special thanks to Vince Vaticano, owner of Vaticano Shoe Repair on Pennsylvania Ave. for watering and caring for the planting, everyday during the season.

Clean-Sweep Metuchen

National Make -A- Difference Day!

**Join the Metuchen Development Commission,
The Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce and the
Metuchen PBA Local #60 in a
one day volunteer event called:**

Operation: Clean Sweep

**Help clean-up Metuchen's Business Districts
Saturday, October 27**

Metuchen Senior Citizen Center

9 am - 12:30 pm

Complimentary Lunch

Served at 12:30 pm

For Information call: (732) 632-8540

OCTOBER 2001

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- 1 Borough Council
- 2 Library Board
- 4 Planning Board
Traffic and Transportation
Commission
Development Commission
- 6 Country Fair
Art Show - Cultural Arts
- 8 Holiday - Borough Offices
Closed
- 9 Pool Commission
- 11 Zoning Board
- 12 Fire Department Open House
7:30 pm - 9 pm
- 14 Library Concert Series, 2 pm
- 15 Borough Council
Library International Film,
"Shadow", 2 pm &
7:30 pm
- 16 Board of Education
Parking Authority
- 17 Senior Citizens Commission
Environmental Commission
- 18 Planning Board
Recreation Commission
- 21 Library Concert Series, 3 pm
- 22 Cultural Arts Commission
- 23 Board of Education Business
Meeting
- 24 Youth Services Board
- 25 Cable TV Advisory
Commission
- 27 Clean-Sweep Metuchen
Pumpkin Float, 6 pm
- 28 Library Concert Series, 2 pm

**October 7-13 is Fire
Prevention Week**

NOVEMBER 2001

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

- 1 Planning Board
Traffic and Transportation
Commission
Development Commission
Tax Office open until 7 pm
- 2 Jazz Fest - Cultural Arts
8 pm (MHS)
- 5 Borough Council
- 6 Holiday - Borough Offices
Closed - Election Day
- 8 Zoning Board
Tax Office open until 7 pm
- 11 Library, "Meet the Author"
Elizabeth Brodmax, 2 pm
- 12 Holiday - Borough Offices
Closed
- 13 Pool Commission
Library Board
- 15 Board of Health
Planning Board
Recreation Commission
- 19 Borough Council
Library International Film,
"Kadosh", 2 pm
& 7:30 pm
- 20 Board of Education
Parking Authority
- 21 Environmental
Commission
Senior Citizens
Commission
- 22-23 Holiday - Borough
Offices Closed
- 26 Cultural Arts Commission
- 27 Board of Education
Business Meeting
- 27 Youth Services Board
- 29 Cable TV Advisory
Commission

DECEMBER 2001

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- 3 Borough Council
- 4 Library Board
Nutcracker at Lincoln
Center (*See Recreation*)
- 5 Shade Tree Commission
- 6 Planning Board
Traffic and Transportation
Commission
Development Commission
- 10 Pool Commission
Library International Film,
"Bosa Nova", 2 pm
& 7:30 pm
- 11 Board of Education
Radio City Christmas Show
(*See Recreation*)
- 13 Zoning Board
- 17 Borough Council
- 18 Board of Education
Business Meeting
- 19 Senior Citizens
Commission
Environmental Commission
- 20 Planning Board
Recreation Commission
- 24 Cultural Arts Commission
- 25 Holiday - Borough Offices
Closed
- 26 Youth Services Board
- 27 Cable TV Advisory
Commission

**Reminder: Dog and Cat
Licenses expire on
January 31, 2002**

JANUARY 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

FEBRUARY 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

MARCH 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- 1 Holiday - Borough Offices Closed
- 3 Planning Board
Traffic and Transportation Commission
Development Commission
- 7 Borough Council - Annual Re-organization
- 10 Zoning Board
- 14 Pool Commission
- 15 Board of Education
Parking Authority
- 16 Environmental Commission
Senior Citizens Commission
- 17 Planning Board
Recreation Commission
Board of Health
- 21 Holiday - Borough Offices Closed
- 22 Borough Council
- 23 Board of Education
Business Meeting
Youth Services Board
- 24 Cable TV Advisory Commission
- 28 Cultural Arts Commission
- 31 Dog and Cat Licenses expire
Tax office open until 7 pm

- 4 Borough Council
- 5 Library Board
- 6 Shade Tree Commission
- 7 Planning Board
Traffic and Transportation Commission
Development Commission
Tax Office open until 7 pm
- 8 Cultural Arts Coffeehouse Series, 8 pm (BIL)
- 11 Pool Commission
- 14 Zoning Board
- 18 Holiday - Borough offices Closed
- 19 Borough Council
Board of Education
Parking Authority
- 20 Environmental Commission
Senior Citizens Commission
- 21 Planning Board
Recreation Commission
- 25 Cultural Arts Commission
- 26 Board of Education
Business Meeting
- 27 Youth Services Board
- 28 Cable TV Advisory Commission

- 4 Borough Council
- 5 Library Board
- 7 Planning Board
Traffic and Transportation Commission
Development Commission
- 8 Cultural Arts Coffeehouse Series, 8 pm (BIL)
- 11 Pool Commission
- 14 Zoning Board
- 15 Early Pool Registrations Due
- 18 Borough Council
- 19 Board of Education
Parking Authority
- 20 Environmental Commission
Senior Citizens Commission
- 21 Planning Board
Recreation Commission
Board of Health
- 25 Cultural Arts Commission
- 26 Board of Education
Business Meeting
- 27 Youth Services Board
- 28 Cable TV Advisory Commission

Reminder: Please remember to renew Dog and Cat Licenses by 1/31

Reminder: Early Pool Registrations are due 3/15

Reminder: Early Pool Registrations are due by 3/15

BOROUGH TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- EMERGENCY** - 911
- Police** (non-emergency).....(732) 632-8500
- Fire Department** (non-emergency)....(732) 767-1147
- First Aid Squad** (non-emergency).... (732) 906-9549
- Borough Hall**(732) 632-8540
- Board of Education**(732) 321-8700
- Emergency Closing of Schools Hotline** (732) 321-8723
- Health Department**(732) 632-8503
- METv**.....(732) 603-9750 - Fax 603-9871

- Municipal Court**.....(732) 632-8505
- Municipal Pool**(732) 632-8517
- Planning and Zoning**.....(732) 632-8554
- Public Library**(732) 632-8526
- Public Works**(732) 632-8519
- Recreation**(732) 632-8502
- Senior Citizen Center**(732) 632-8524
- Senior Citizen Bus Service**24 hour Advanced Reservations (732) 632-8525 9am-3pm
- Tax Office** (732) 632-8510
- Tree Service**(732) 632-8540

BOARD OF HEALTH

All Dog and Cat licenses will expire on January 31, 2002. Applications will be mailed out in December 2001, for renewal in January.

The free Rabies Clinic is scheduled for May 11, 2002. Further information will be announced in the April newsletter.

Pigeon grating has been installed under the Grove Avenue bridge and the Main Street bridge, courtesy of Amtrak and N.J. Transit.

CULTURAL ARTS

The Cultural Arts Commission has just completed their very successful



summertime blues concert series. Please join them for their opening Art Show on Saturday, October 6th, on the Borough Hall lawn. Jazz Fest is scheduled for November 2nd, 8 pm at Metuchen High School and the Coffeehouse Series is scheduled for the 1st Friday in February and March at the Borough Improvement League at 8 pm.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

A GROWING SERVICE:

The Department of Public Works consists of a workforce of 30 people who are responsible for ensuring that the Borough is kept clean and maintained on a daily basis.

We work with all other departments in the borough to provide better service and quicker responses to our residents' needs. We are responsible for clearing snow and ice from all municipally owned roads as soon as the snow stops falling. This includes plowing and salting. If the snow is piled too high and is blocking visibility then we remove it and haul it away. As spring sets in and we are getting the various recreational fields ready, we have to take into consideration heavy rains or no rain at all. When summer arrives and we may have little or no rainfall, we water fields and some plantings to allow them to survive.

Since 1995, we have been able to take on larger projects and add more services without having to increase our manpower. Some of these consist of the new bathroom at Oakland Park, building a bus shelter that fits in with our Borough's downtown decor and the purchase of a tree trimming truck. With our own tree trimming truck, we are better able to maintain our gorgeous tree lined streets. This saves not only dollars but also response time to complaints and low hanging tree limbs. On a regular basis we are repairing potholes and patching streets throughout the Borough. When there are heavy rains we clean storm drains to help alleviate flooding and pick up any debris that may be left behind.

For more information, please call:

Public Works (732) 632-8519
Tree Service (732) 632-8540

FIRST AID SQUAD

The Metuchen First Aid Squad has put a First Responder Vehicle on the road the end of August 2001, it will respond to medical emergencies for the residents of our community when only one Emergency Medical Technician is available. This vehicle is fully equipped with the necessary supplies to stabilize a patient until an ambulance arrives on the scene. This vehicle was donated to the Metuchen First Aid Squad by one of our town residents and it was with the help of Franco Industries and Donato Auto Repair that we were able to make it serviceable.



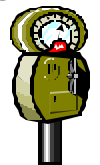
The Squad will have two tables at the Country Fair on October 6th. Both senior members and cadet members will be there to speak with the public and answer questions. Our new First Responder Vehicle will be available to be inspected.

MUNICIPAL POOL

The 2002 early sign up date for Metuchen residents will be Friday, March 15, 2002, and applications will be mailed out in December 2001.

PARKING AUTHORITY

The Commissioners of the Parking Authority are happy to announce that it will once again be able to make its annual contribution to the Borough Budget to help lower your property taxes in the amount of \$583,766.00



POLICE DEPARTMENT

PROMOTIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS:



The Metuchen Police Department has hired two new patrol officers to replace retired veterans. Steven Nowacki and Daniel Granato were sworn in as members of the force in January and February respectively. The new officers have replaced Sgts. Gary Tolley and William Johnson.

On May 21, 2001, Detective Robin Retenberg and Patrolman Robert Torrisi were promoted to the rank of Sergeant. As a result several officers have been reassigned; Officers Steven Manafro, David Irizarry and Michael Kilker were reassigned to the detective bureau on a full time basis and Officer David Liantonio has been reassigned to administrative services.

As of September 2001, the Metuchen Police Department has added a Corporal position to it's hierarchy. Assigned to this level are Officers John Franklin, Sandy Macmath, Anthony Carro and Edward Mosko.

TRAFFIC SAFETY:

The Metuchen Police continue to make use of the radar speed trailer which was purchased last year to educate motorists on speeding. The trailer is positioned on the side of the road and displays the speed of vehicles approaching it. The trailer has been very well received and is always in demand.

CHILD SAFETY SEAT INSPECTIONS:

The Metuchen Police have two

Passenger Safety Technicians. These Officers are trained to examine your child car seat (s) for proper usage, installation, defects and recalls. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that 80 - 90% of child safety seats are not used or installed properly. This educational service is provided to any Metuchen resident free of charge. Please contact either Ptl. Jeffrey Temple or Ptl. Sean O'Lone at (732) 632-8546 to find out more information.

REMINDERS AND EVENTS:

Resident Parking stickers expire this year; new stickers will be distributed starting September 1.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for a Domestic Violence Response Team, please contact Coordinator Sgt. Ted Ayotte at (732) 632-8500. Volunteers can get involved with assisting victims of domestic violence in filing complaints and getting assistance.

All house numbers on your homes and businesses should be made visible from the street to ensure that emergency vehicles can locate your address quickly.

Check upcoming announcements for the date of the Fall Police Auction. Auctions are announced at different times throughout the year when unclaimed property and Borough equipment will be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

PUBLIC LIBRARY



The Metuchen Public Library will offer a variety of programs this Fall.

months through Kindergarten will begin in October. Due to increased demand, registration will be required and a waiting list will be maintained. Persons on the waiting list will have priority for the following series.

A concert series has been scheduled for October, on three consecutive Sunday afternoons beginning October 14. Included in this series will be vocalist Phillip Mentor on October 14 at 2 pm, a piano duo on October 21 at 3 pm, and a flute and string ensemble on October 28 at 2 pm.

"Shadow", "Kadosh," and "Bosa Nova" are the three international films which will be shown on October 15, November 19, and December 10 respectively, at 2 pm and 7:30 pm. Although the program is free, tickets are required and will be distributed one hour in advance.

Residents should plan to come "Meet the Author" Elizabeth Brodmax, romance writer, on Sunday, November 11 at 2 pm.

The following exhibits and displays have been scheduled: October - student work from the Phoenix Art Studio, and Phillip Messina's collection of "Slide Rules", December - paintings by Bernice Komaroff.

A few of the organizations which meet regularly at the Library include the Library Board of Trustees, The Middlesex Greenway Coalition, The Daughters of the American Revolution, The Friends of the Metuchen Public Library and Alcoholics Anonymous - please call for the date and times of these meetings.

Fall and winter hours are:
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday -
 10 am to 9 pm;
 Wednesday, Friday, Saturday -
 10 am to 5 pm;
 Sunday - 1 pm to 5 pm.
 For more information, call
 (732) 632-8526 or
 fax (732) 632-8535.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Metuchen Recreation has had a busy few months beginning with our second successful season of NFL Flag Football under the direction of Dan Misdea and his volunteer staff. New this fall is the introduction of instructional Field Hockey for girls, under the guidance of Metuchen High School's Field Hockey Coach, Beth Abbott. The teams are able to use their newly acquired skills against other beginner teams in the area.



The Recreation Commission will again sponsor the very popular Pumpkin Float at Tommy's Pond on October 27th. Participants will carve pumpkins in the afternoon, which will then be attached to Styrofoam boards and floated on the pond.

The Holiday season would not be complete without a bus trip to the Nutcracker at Lincoln Center on December 4th and the Radio City Christmas Show on December 11th. Tickets are on sale while supplies last. Also look for us on Borough Hall lawn at the end of the Winter Festival Parade as we distribute hot chocolate to parade participants.

Indoor soccer for youngsters in K - 8th grade is held every winter with Ken Graf, Metuchen High School Soccer Coach as the coordinator. Registration begins late November, with all sessions filling very quickly. For information call: (732) 632-8502.

SENIOR CITIZENS

The Metuchen Senior Citizen Center is a drop-in facility for citizens aged 60 and over. A full range of services are offered, including recreation, information, referral, health screenings, counseling and income tax preparation. The Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 am - 4 pm.

Minibus transportation is available for Borough residents aged 60 and over. Door-to-door service is provided free of charge for medical appointments, shopping, nutrition services and club meetings. Reservations are required 24 hours in advance when transportation is needed. Reservations are made by calling (732) 632-8525 between 9 am - 3 pm.

A monthly newsletter, including a calendar of activities, is available upon request by

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK,
 OCT. 7-13**



LOOKING AT FIRE SAFETY:

In the event of a fire, remember time is the biggest enemy. Every second counts. Escape first, then call for help. Make a home fire escape plan and designate a meeting place outside. Make sure everyone in the family knows two ways to escape from every room. Never stand up in a fire, always crawl under the smoke. Never return to a burning building for any reason; it may cost you your life.

This fall, practice your fire escape plan. A working smoke alarm dramatically improves your chance of surviving a fire. Check the batteries in your smoke detector. If you do not already own one, consider purchasing a carbon monoxide alarm.

**Fire Department Open House,
 October 12, 7:30 pm - 9 pm**

Web Site:

[http://www.fire-ems.net/
 firedept / view /Metuchen NJ/](http://www.fire-ems.net/firedept/view/MetuchenNJ/)

BOROUGH OFFICE HOURS

Borough Hall	8am to 4pm
Construction Official	Monday - Thursday 3:30 to 4:30pm
Library Fall/Winter hours...Monday, Tuesday, Thursday	10am - 9pm
Wednesday, Friday, Saturday.....	10am - 5pm
Sunday.....	1pm - 5pm
Public Works	6am to 3:30pm
Recreation Department	8am to 4pm
Senior Citizen Center	9am to 4pm
Tax Office open until 7 pm on 11/1, 11/8, 1/31 & 2/7	
WEBSITE	www.metuchen.com