

# METUCHEN MESSENGER

GOVERNMENT AND DEPARTMENT NEWS - PUBLISHED BY THE BOROUGH OF METUCHEN

SPRING/SUMMER 2003

ISSUE #4



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

*Dear Metuchen Resident:*

*This past January Governor McGreevey came to our train station and presented the borough with a check for \$600,000 in recognition of our recent designation as a Transit Village. This grant was the largest single grant ever received from state or federal sources in the borough's history.*

*As a result of this funding, the borough will be able to complete many projects ahead of schedule. For instance, the **Central Avenue Smart Growth Corridor** that extends from the intersection of Central Avenue and Middlesex Avenue north to Plainfield Avenue will see more than \$300,000 in upgrades, including pedestrian safety and traffic calming initiatives, along with sidewalk and street scape improvements. \$140,000 of the grant will be dedicated to the construction of bikeways and amenities along Grove Avenue and Woodbridge Avenue. Also, \$60,000 has been provided to complete the long delayed pedestrian connection between the Marsh Avenue section of the borough and Myrtle Park through the construction of a pedestrian bridge over the Mill Brook. Finally, we will see the plastic bus shelters on Main Street replaced with ones that conform aesthetically to the shelter that the borough recently constructed adjacent to the Revolutionary War Cemetery. We will also construct a matching shelter next to Freedom Plaza, on the northbound side of Main Street, that compliments the one on the other side of the street.*

*These improvements in the infrastructure are consistent with the long-term public private partnership initiatives of the borough that has made our community one of the most desirable in the state. In addition, this grant is another example of the borough seeking funding for improvements that do not unfairly burden local taxpayers.*

*Finally it would be remiss of me not to mention and extend my thanks to the Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce, the Metuchen Parking Authority and the Metuchen Development Commission for the letters of support these groups wrote promoting our Transit Village designation. Also Senator Barbara Buono deserves thanks for the support she provided in Trenton that advanced this application.*

*Sincerely, Ed O'Brien, Mayor*

Mayor and Council accept \$600,000 check from Governor. Pictured from L to R :Mayor Edmund O'Brien, Alan Grossman, Catherine Totin, Marion Price, Richard Weber, Richard Dyas, Governor James McGreevey, NJ Transit Executive Director George D. Warrington (background) and Transportation Commissioner Jack Lettiere



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## Location of Temporary Municipal Offices and Police Department

**All municipal offices including the Metuchen Police Department are located at the Gulton Building at 212 Durham Avenue during the construction of Metuchen's new municipal building. Please call 732-632-8540 if you need directions or have any questions.**

## NEWS IN OUR COMMUNITY

### Grants Received for Recreation and Cultural Arts

The Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission has awarded grants for the 2003 funding cycle to the Metuchen Recreation Commission and the Metuchen Cultural Arts Commission. The Recreation Commission was awarded \$1900 which will be used to help off set the cost for the summer concert series. The Cultural Arts Commission was awarded \$1500 which will be used towards the Fall Annual Jazz Fest.

### N.J. D.O.T. Grant Pays for Resurfacing

The Borough will be receiving a \$201,000 grant from the N.J. D.O.T. Transportation Trust Fund Municipal Aid Formula Program for the resurfacing of Norris Avenue.

### Middlesex Greenway To Become A Linear Park

In December of 2002, the Middlesex County Freeholders completed acquisition of 3.5 miles of the old Lehigh Valley Railroad freight line. Its right-of-way (ROW) runs through Metuchen, Edison and into Woodbridge, and is easily accessible to all the residents. Current plans are for the County

to develop and maintain the ROW as a trail with multiple uses, such as biking, jogging, hiking and nature study. In addition, planning is underway to seek major extensions of the trail to South Plainfield and Perth Amboy.

Action to acquire the ROW was started by the Borough's Mayor and Council thirteen years ago. The Metuchen Environmental Commission aggressively pursued the goal since then, gained the interest of the other towns and helped to establish a citizens' Greenway Coalition.

Because of the Coalition's efforts, a large number of Federal, State, County, local government agencies and private volunteers, contributed to clearing legal hurdles and gaining grass roots support for the trail. The result is that we will have a linear park, instead of a freight line, through the middle of our town.

Don Kahn  
Metuchen Environmental  
Commission



## Celebrate EARTH DAY IN METUCHEN

Help Clean-up Our Community

**SATURDAY, APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup> 9am**

Metuchen Senior Citizens  
Center

**Complimentary Lunch  
Served at Noon**

## *Celebrate National Volunteers Week - Thank a Volunteer!*

*April 27<sup>th</sup> - May 3<sup>rd</sup>*

TO ALL MUNICIPAL BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND VOLUNTEER  
EMERGENCY SERVICE PERSONNEL.

Metuchen's borough government would like to recognize and thank the hundreds of volunteers who unselfishly give their time to our community. Your hard work and dedication are essential to borough government and the public safety of our community. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12 noon at Freedom Plaza, a group photo will be taken to celebrate volunteerism in the Borough of Metuchen.

The photo will be hung in Metuchen's new Borough Hall when construction is complete.

We hope everyone will be able to attend.

With deepest gratitude,  
Mayor Ed O'Brien  
Council President Rick Dyas  
Councilman Alan Grossman  
Councilwoman Marion Price  
Councilwoman Cathy Totin  
Councilman Tom Vahalla  
Councilman Richard Weber

(Photo Rain Date: May 17th -12 noon)

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Metuchen will be conducting a **Free Rabies Clinic** on May 17, 2003 at Metuchen High School on Grove Avenue from 9 am to 12 noon.

Dogs/Cats that received a 3 year shot in 2000 or a one year shot in 2002 are eligible for vaccination in 2003. Because of the current rabies epidemic, the state specifically recommends that all animals vaccinated in 2001 also be given another shot at this time to insure no lapse in

immunity for licensing purposes. Please speak to your veterinarian regarding re-vaccinating.

Licenses are required for dogs/cats and can be paid at the Clinic, but due to the computer program, licenses and tags will be mailed the following week. Only Checks will be accepted at the clinic for licenses. If residents prefer, they can bring their rabies certificate, they receive at the clinic, to the Health Department office at Borough Hall the following week and pay for their licenses in person. If your pet has a

2003 license, please bring it with you to the clinic. Proof of neutering or spaying is required if applicable. Please leash or containerize all animals. Thank you.

#### **Walk For Your Health**

The Metuchen Health and Recreation Departments in conjunction with the Middlesex County Health Department will host a "Walk For Your Health" program on Thursday, April 10, 2003, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Metuchen Senior Center on Center Street.

*Continued Page 6*

*April 2003*

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			

*May 2003*

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

*June 2003*

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					

- 1 Library Board
- 2 Development Commission
- 3 Planning Board  
Traffic and Transportation Commission
- 6-12 National Library Week**  
(See Public Library)
- 7 Borough Council
- 10 Zoning Board  
**Walk for your Health**  
(see Health Dept)
- 12 **Annual Egg Hunt 9:30 am**
- 14 Pool Commission
- 15 Parking Authority
- 16 Environmental Commission  
Senior Citizens Commission
- 17 Planning Board  
Recreation Commission  
Board of Health
- 21 Borough Council
- 23 Youth Service Board
- 24 Cable TV Advisory Commission
- 26 **EARTH DAY**  
**CELEBRATION 9 am**
- 27 National Volunteers Week Begins
- 28 Cultural Arts Commission

- 1 Traffic and Transportation Commission  
Planning Board  
Tax Office Open until 7 pm
- 5 Borough Council
- 6 Library Board
- 7 Development Commission
- 8 Zoning Board  
Tax Office Open until 7 pm
- 12 Pool Commission
- 15 Planning Board  
Recreation Commission
- 16 **Bike to Work Day**  
(see Recreation)
- 17 **FREE RABIES CLINIC-**  
**Metuchen High School**  
(See Health Dept.)
- 18 **Municipal Pool Open-House and Concert**
- 19 Borough Council
- 20 Parking Authority
- 21 Environmental Commission
- 22 Cable TV Advisory Commission
- 26 **Holiday-Borough Offices Closed**  
**Memorial Day Parade**  
**10 am**
- 27 Cultural Arts Commission
- 28 Youth Service Board

- 2 Borough Council
- 3 Library Board
- 4 Shade Tree Commission  
Development Commission
- 5 Planning Board  
Traffic and Transportation Commission
- 9 Pool Commission
- 12 Zoning Board
- 16 Borough Council
- 17 Parking Authority
- 18 Environmental Commission  
Senior Citizens Commission
- 19 Recreation Commission  
Planning Board  
Board of Health
- 20 **Municipal Pool Opens**  
Full Time
- 23 Cultural Arts Commission
- 25 Youth Service Board
- 26 Cable TV Advisory Commission

**Celebrate National  
Volunteers Week  
April 27<sup>th</sup> - May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Please call 732-632-8540 for  
Times and Locations of all  
Meetings**

*July 2003*

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		

*August 2003*

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						

*September 2003*

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				

- 1 Library Board
- 3 Planning Board
- 4 **Holiday**-Borough Offices Closed
- 7 Borough Council
- 10 Zoning Board
- 14 Pool Commission
- 15 Parking Authority
- 17 Planning Board
- 21 Borough Council
- 23 Youth Service Board
- 24 Cable TV Advisory Commission
- 28 Cultural Arts Commission
- 31 Tax Office Open until 7 pm

- 4 Borough Council
- 5 Library Board
- 6 Development Commission
- 7 Planning Board  
Tax Office Open until 7 pm
- 11 Pool Commission
- 14 Zoning Board
- 18 Borough Council
- 19 Parking Authority
- 20 Environmental Commission  
Senior Citizens Commission
- 21 Recreation Commission  
Planning Board
- 25 Cultural Arts Commission
- 27 Youth Service Board
- 28 Cable TV Advisory Commission

- 1 **Holiday** - Borough Offices Closed
- 2 Borough Council  
Library Board
- 3 Development Commission  
Shade Tree Commission  
Traffic and Transportation Commission
- 8 Pool Commission
- 11 Zoning Board
- 15 Borough council
- 16 Parking Authority
- 17 Environmental Commission
- 18 Planning Board  
Board of Health
- 22 Cultural Arts Commission
- 24 Youth Service Board
- 25 Cable TV Advisory Commission

**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 (732) 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 9 am -3 pm
- Tax Office ..... (732) 632-8510
- Tree Service .....(732) 632-8540

**Borough Office Hours**

- Borough Hall.....8 am to 4 pm
- Construction Official .....Monday - Thursday 5 pm to 6 pm
- Library Spring/Summer Hours.....Please See Public Library
- Public Works.....6 am to 4 pm
- Recreation Department.....8 am to 4 pm
- Senior Citizen Center.....9 am to 4 pm
- Tax Office open until 7 pm on 5/1, 5/8, 7/31 & 8/7
- Borough Website.....www.metuchen.com

A brief discussion on the importance of physical fitness and weight management to help reduce the risks of disease will begin the evening. After the discussion, the group will walk along one of Metuchen's newly recreated walking paths and return to the Senior Center for refreshments and raffle prizes.

Blood pressure screenings will be performed upon request.

If you have any questions, please call 732-632-8503.



## MUNICIPAL POOL

A new season at the Municipal Pool will begin on Saturday, May 24, 2003.

The pool will be open for weekends starting Memorial Day weekend and will be open full time on Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. For those residents who missed early sign up, membership applications are still available. To kick off a full calendar of activities and events there will be a free concert and open house on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Entertainment will be provided by musicians from Metuchen High School and plenty of food with a special \$1.00 menu from the snack bar.

If you are new to the area and have not visited the Pool, this would be an ideal time to preview the beautiful facilities and pick up an application. Any questions, please call the Pool Office at 732-632-8517.



## PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Exhibits:

The following exhibits are scheduled through August 2003:

#### **April 2003**

U. S. Historical Documents  
National Library Week

#### **May 2003**

Works by Metuchen's Senior Artists

The Metuchen Greenway

#### **June 1 – 15, 2003**

Student Art – Provided by Creative Images

#### **June 15 – 30, 2003**

Maps of Old Metuchen

#### **July – August 2003**

Watercolors/Woodcuts – Shelia Eichenblatt

Teen Activities @ the Library

#### **September 2003**

“Gone But Not Forgotten” – Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 233 to coincide with the annual POW/MIA vigil at Metuchen Memorial Park

### Films and Concerts:

#### **April 7, 2003**

International Film Series –  
With a Friend Like Harry  
(French, 2001) 2 & 7:30 pm

#### **May 12, 2003**

International Film Series –  
The Road Home  
(Mandarin, 1999) 2 & 7:30pm

### Special Programs:

Adults throughout New Jersey will be participating in a unique program, sponsored by the Office of the Governor and the New Jersey State Library, entitled “**One Book New Jersey**” by reading the futuristic novel about book burning, Fahrenheit 451. Join

us for the film version on Monday, March 31, at 2 and 7:30 p.m., which will be following by a lecture and discussion session on Thursday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m. Others titles have been selected for teens, elementary school students, and pre-schoolers. Please call the Library at 732-632-8526 for additional information about this program.

The Metuchen Library will celebrate **National Library Week**, April 6 – 12, with a very special event on Sunday, April 6, at 2 p.m. The Metuchen-Edison Historical Society has invited **George Washington** to Metuchen, to discuss the issues of the day with our residents. If you are interested in history, politics, economics, or current events, please join us for a unique perspective on Metuchen's past; children are also welcome and the Friends of the Metuchen Public Library will provide refreshments.

And don't forget our traditional Summer Reading Program for children 18 months through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and our Summer Teen Program. The statewide theme for the former program is “Read and Grow @ Your Library”; the latter program is still in the planning stage.

### Library Hours:

Library hours of service vary during the year to accommodate community needs.

The current schedule is:  
**Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday** 10 am to 9 pm  
**Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday** 10 am to 5 pm  
**Sunday** 1 pm to 5 pm.

(Sunday hours will cease on May 4 and resume on September 21);  
**Saturday** hours will be

shortened during the summer, 10 am to 1 pm, from June 21 to August 23.

The Library will be closed in order to observe the following holidays:

**April 18, 19, 20**

Good Friday through Easter Sunday

**May 24, 25, 26**

Memorial Day Weekend

**July 4, 5**

Independence Day

**August 30, 31,**

**September 1**

Labor Day Weekend



## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Reminders/Information

1. We would like to remind all residents who reside on blocks where there are resident parking restrictions to renew their resident parking stickers.
2. Residents are advised that they are required by Borough Ordinance {Chapter 64} to have their address number affixed in a clear and well lit area so that emergency response personnel can easily find their house. The numbers must be at least 3" in height.
3. We invite all residents to view our web site at [www.metuchenpd.org](http://www.metuchenpd.org), this site is updated with information on upcoming events and information about the Police



Department.

## RECREATION

**Annual Egg Hunt-  
Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>  
at 9:30 am**

(location to be announced).

Youngsters are invited to hunt for candy filled plastic eggs. Special prize eggs will also be hidden.

**Bike to Work Day-  
Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.**

Everyone is encouraged to either bike or walk to work/school in support of National Bike Month. Cycling and walking are simple ways to improve your health as well as helping to reduce traffic and air pollution. The first 25 people to pledge to take their car off the road and either walk or cycle on May 16<sup>th</sup> will receive a free T-shirt.

**Memorial Day Parade-  
Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 am**

Join the Recreation Commission by riding your decorated bicycle, tricycle or stroller in the annual parade. Memorial Day Service to follow the parade at Memorial Park.

**Oakland Tennis Courts Open  
Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**

Attendants will be on duty during prime time hours from Memorial Day through Labor Day to take court reservations and to sell tennis badges. Badges are required to reserve courts during prime time hours

only.

## Summer Programs

An array of programs for youngsters will be available during the summer. Programs include soccer camp, tennis lessons, wrestling camp, basketball camp, Summer Playground Program, cooking classes, drama program, golf lessons, science workshop, multi sport camp and art classes. Summer brochures will be distributed through the local schools in May.

For more information, please call the Recreation Department at 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 is offered, including recreation, information and referral, health screenings, counseling and income tax preparation. The Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 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 and can be made by calling 732-632-8525 between 9 am and 3 pm.

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



calling 732-632-8524.

## VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Election of Officers:  
On December 1, 2002 new officers were elected to the Fire Department for a term of two years. The election results are as follows:

**FIRE CHIEF -  
Howard R. Colegrove  
DEPUTY CHIEF -  
Robert B. Donnan**

### WASHINGTON HOSE COMPANY

**Captain - Timothy Getty  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant - Chris Nielsen  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant - Kevin Getty**

### EAGLE HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY

**Captain - Tyler Wilson**

**1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant - Brian Wilson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant - Michael Quinn**

#### Fire Safety:

In the event of a fire, escape first, then call 911. Make a home fire escape plan and practice it with your family. Never stand in a fire, crawl under the fire. Designate a meeting place outside. Most importantly, make sure you have working smoke detectors. Check the batteries regularly.

The fire department has free smoke detectors for senior citizens and other qualified

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## “Walk Metuchen Survey”

Please take a few minutes to complete the attached survey and return to the Metuchen Recreation Commission, P.O. Box 592, Metuchen, N.J. 08840 or fax to 732-452-1678.

All completed surveys received back by April 21, 2003, will be entered into a drawing for an electronic pedometer. Thank you in advance for your time.

**Are you familiar with the “Walk Metuchen” initiative? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_**

**Do you presently walk on a regular basis ? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_**

**If yes, how many times a week? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Do you currently use the posted walking trails throughout the borough?**

**Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_**

**Are you interested in joining a walking group in Metuchen? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_**

**If yes, what is the best time for you to walk? Mornings \_\_\_ Afternoons \_\_\_**

**Evenings \_\_\_**

**Other than walking, what type of other exercise do you do on a regular basis?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_