

METUCHEN MESSENGER

GOVERNMENT AND DEPARTMENT NEWS-PUBLISHED BY THE BOROUGH OF METUCHEN

SPRING/SUMMER 2006

ISSUE #10



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Metuchen Resident:

As we head into the spring and summer, I want to bring to your attention some improvements to the borough's recreational services that will become operational for the use of residents in the coming months.

First, field availability will be greatly enhanced by the addition of artificial turf on Myrtle Field. This will allow both baseball and soccer teams to use that field when it would have been otherwise shut down due to weather conditions. This improvement was made possible by two grants: the first from the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders in the amount of \$500,000 from the county Open Space fund and the second, a grant from the State of New Jersey in the amount of \$128,000. The state grant was made possible through the efforts of Assemblymen Peter Barnes Jr. and Patrick Diegnan. Also, the facilities at Vidas Park will be enhanced by the construction of rest rooms adjacent to the Durham Avenue parking lot. These improvements were also made possible by a grant from the State of New Jersey that was coordinated by Assemblymen Peter Barnes Jr. and Patrick Diegnan. Lastly, Senator Barbara Buono has provided the borough with a capital grant that will make possible the replacement of the lights at the Oakland Avenue tennis courts that were damaged by high winds last year.

I would like to thank all of the members of our legislative delegation and the Board of Freeholders for their assistance to the borough over the last several months as these improvements would not have been possible at this time without their help.

Sincerely,

Ed O'Brien, Mayor

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MAYOR:
Ed O'Brien

COUNCIL PRESIDENT:
Richard Weber

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Timothy Dacey
Richard Dyas
Alan Grossman
Catherine Totin
Thomas Vahalla

NEWS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Oakland Park Tennis Court Lights

The borough will be receiving \$25,000 through a Special Purposes Grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs to obtain tennis court lights for the Oakland Park Courts.

Synthetic Field at Myrtle Park

The Myrtle Park soccer field and baseball field are currently undergoing improvements to upgrade the fields to synthetic turf. The project is scheduled for completion on June 1st and will be ready for play immediately following.

Central Avenue Improvements

The borough is scheduled to begin work on the New Jersey Department of Transportation Centers of Place project to provide traffic calming and intersection improvements to the Central Avenue corridor.

AM Radio

The borough's new Emergency Alert AM Radio station is broadcasting official community announcements, public safety and emergency information. The station will also automatically rebroadcast weather warnings and alerts from the National Weather Service and Emergency Alerts from state and federal authorities. Our police chief, fire chief and other key local officials have instant access to the station to inform and advise residents in the event of an

emergency. The station license limits us to operate a low power transmitter with an effective broadcast range of three to five miles. For technical reasons, the transmitter and antenna have been installed near the recycling center on Jersey Avenue. Any AM radio in the borough should be capable of receiving our signal, but car radios will be less subject to interference than radios in homes and businesses. We will be on the air 24 hours a day seven days a week. Our call sign is WQDA-238 and we are broadcasting on 1580 AM. Please make a note of our frequency and preset the tuner in your car and home radio. Then stay tuned for up to date borough information.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Free Rabies Clinic 2006

Metuchen will be conducting a Free Rabies Clinic on Saturday, May 13, 2006 at Metuchen High School, 400 Grove Avenue, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Dogs and cats that received a 3 year shot in 2003 or a one year shot in 2005 are eligible for re-vaccination in 2006.

Licenses are required for dogs and cats and can be paid for at the Clinic. 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 the rabies certificate they receive at the Clinic to the Health Department Office in Borough Hall the following week and pay for their license(s) in person. If your pet has a 2006 license, please bring it with you to the Clinic. Proof of neutering or

spaying is required if applicable.

PLEASE LEASH OR CONTAINERIZE ALL ANIMALS

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

Thank you.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

It is important that people think about fire safety all year long and not just during Fire Prevention Week. At times, we all need little reminders of both good and bad practices when it comes to protecting our homes and business from fires. The following are just a few of those reminders.

1. Install and maintain smoke detectors.
2. Keep a fire extinguisher within 10 feet of your kitchen.
3. Never leave your home or go to sleep with candles burning.
4. Be very cautious of where you place candles so they cannot ignite nearby curtains, papers or furnishings.
5. Never use or store gasoline near a water heater, space heater or other sources of heat or ignition.
6. Come up with and practice a home evacuation plan.
7. Do not delay call **9-1-1** in an emergency.

These are just a few quick reminders of things to think about. You can also go to the US Fire Administrations web site at:

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/safety> for more information on Home Fire Safety and how to plan for emergencies. When it comes to fire safety, a little information can go a long way!
Thanks,
Robert B. Donnan, Fire Chief.



LIBRARY

National Library Week will be celebrated from Sunday, April 2 - Saturday, April 8, 2006. Come to the Library for the traditional open house on Sunday, April 2nd and enjoy homemade refreshments provided by the Friends of the Metuchen Library.

Register and obtain a library card for you and every member of your family over the age of 5. Just bring a form of identification showing that you live in Metuchen. Use your card to borrow items here or from most other public libraries in Middlesex, Union, Bergen, Passaic, and Morris Counties.

Your card is also the key to accessing a number of electronic databases or the catalog from home through our current website - www.metuchennj.org. Select the catalog, enter the barcode number on the back of your card and your PIN and log-on. You will be able to browse the catalog, reserve a book from home, or renew an item already charged out.

An added feature, implemented in February 2006, is the ability to download or transfer electronic versions of favorite books to your PC or personal electronic device. From the catalog, select the 'Over Drive' option, examine the list of available titles, make a selection, download the appropriate software if necessary, and then download the title. One hundred titles will be available always, or you may join the reserve list for hundreds of other titles, including titles from the New York Times Best Seller List. Listen to your selection at home on your computer, or transfer the

Selection to a CD and take it with you while traveling, or as you jog through Metuchen.

Have questions or comments? Call the Library at 732-632-8526 or contact the Library Director at mkokola@lmxac.org.

Technology Update:

Continuing our goal to provide residents access to new technologies, the Metuchen Public Library soon will be installing wireless access to the Internet. The new line and router will be provided at no cost by Cablevision, as a condition of the current contract with the Borough. Infolink, the regional library cooperative, will be providing the additional internal equipment and installation, as part of a grant from the N J State Library. Wireless access will be available throughout the building and we expect the signal to reach into the public parking lot. When completed, this project will allow you to access the Internet 24/7.

Plans are underway for our traditional Summer Reading Clubs for readers from preschool through high school. Look for more in-formation as summer approaches, but be prepared for fun, exciting programs and events, and prizes for all ages. Teen activities will be featured on our bulletin board. Please feel free to discuss these or any programs with our staff.

Exhibits:

Enjoy the following exhibits and displays, which have been scheduled through the summer:

April: Student Works - *Westerhoff School of Music and Art*

May: Student Works - *Creative Images*

June: "Safe Boating" - *Raritan Bay Power Squadron*

July: *Photographs by Tom Hodge*

August: Student Works - *Earth Songs*

Films:

The final offering in the Edna Newby International Film Series for Spring 2006 will be "**Italian for Beginner**" on **Monday April 3**.

The summer series will be held on consecutive Mondays, from July 18 through August 22, but the specific titles have not been selected yet. Contact the Library at 732-632-8526 for particulars.

All international films will be shown at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and free tickets will be distributed ½ hour in advance. Don't worry if you miss a film because of illness, vacation, or a busy schedule. The titles in this series have been purchased by the Library as DVDs and may be borrowed for 2 days and enjoyed at home.

Metuchen Book Discussion Group:

Join your neighbors for interesting conversations about books on the second Tuesday of each month, from September through May, at the Library at 7:30 p.m. The remaining titles and discussion dates for 2005-2006 are:

Dreams from My Father,
by Barack Obama
April 11

Continues on Page 6

APRIL 2006

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

MAY 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	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 2006

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	

- 2-8 NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK
- 3 Borough Council
- 4 Library Board
- 5 Development Commission
- 6 Traffic and Transportation Commission Planning Board
- 10 Pool Commission Shade Tree Commission
- 12 Senior Citizen Commission
- 13 Zoning Board
- 14 **Holiday - Borough Offices Closed**
- 17 Borough Council
- 18 Parking Authority
- 19 Environmental Commission
- 20 Recreation Commission Planning Board Board of Health
- 22 EARTH DAY
(see Recreation News)
- 23-29 NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS WEEK
- 24 Cultural Arts Commission
- 26 Youth Services Board
- 27 Cable TV Advisory Board

- 1 Borough Council
- 2 Library Board
- 3 Development Commission
- 4 Traffic and Transportation Commission Planning Board
- 8 Pool Commission Shade Tree Commission
- 11 Zoning Board
- 13 FREE RABIES CLINIC
(see Health Department News)
- 15 Borough Council
- 16 Parking Authority
- 17 Environmental Commission
- 22 Cultural Arts Commission
- 24 Youth Service Board
- 25 Cable TV Advisory
- 29 **Holiday - Borough Offices Closed**
MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

- 1 Traffic and Transportation Commission Planning Board
- 5 Borough Council
- 7 Library Board Development Commission
- 8 Zoning Board
- 12 Pool Commission Shade Tree Commission
- 14 Senior Citizens Commission
- 15 Recreation Commission Planning Board Board of Health
- 19 Borough Council
- 20 Parking Authority
- 21 Environmental Commission
- 22 Cable TV Advisory
- 23 MUNICIPAL POOL OPENS FULL TIME
- 26 Cultural Arts Commission
- 28 Youth Service Board

Does your Dog or Cat need a Rabies Vaccine?

FREE RABIES CLINIC

May 13th from 9am to 12 noon at Metuchen High School

Please see Health Department News For more Details

BOROUGH OFFICE HOURS

Borough Hall.....8am - 4pm

Construction Official-Tues, Wed & Thurs.....4:30 - 5:30 pm

Library-Fall/Winter hours..... see Library News

Public Works.....6am - 3:30pm

Recreation Department.....8am - 4pm

Senior Citizens Center..... 9am - pm

Tax Office open until 7pm on 4/27, 5/4, 8/3 & 8/10

Borough Website.....www.metuchennj.org

JULY 2006

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 2006

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 2006

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

- 3 Borough Council
- 4 **Holiday-Borough Offices Closed**
- 6 Traffic and Transportation Commission Planning Board
- 10 Pool Commission Shade Tree Commission
- 13 Zoning Board
- 17 Borough Council
- 18 Parking Authority
- 19 Environmental Commission
- 20 Planning Board
- 24 Cultural Arts Commission
- 26 Youth Services Board
- 27 Cable TV Advisory Board

- 2 Development Commission
- 3 Traffic and Transportation Commission Planning Board
- 7 Borough Council
- 9 Senior Citizens Commission
- 10 Zoning Board
- 14 Pool Commission
- 15 Parking Authority
- 16 Environmental Commission
- 17 Recreation Commission
- 21 Borough Council
- 23 Youth Service Board
- 24 Cable TV Advisory Board
- 28 Cultural Arts Commission

- 4 **Holiday - Borough Offices Closed**
- 5 Borough Council
- 6 Library Board Development Commission
- 7 Traffic and Transportation Commission Planning Board
- 11 Pool Commission Shade Tree Commission
- 14 Zoning Board
- 18 Borough Council
- 19 Parking Authority
- 20 Environmental Commission
- 21 Recreation Commission Planning Board Board of Health
- 25 Cultural Arts Commission
- 27 Youth Service Board
- 28 Cable TV Advisory Board

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 Advance Reservations 732-632-8525 9am-3pm
Tax Office.....	732-632-8510
Tree Service.....	732-632-8540

Tax Office
Evening Hours
OPEN UNTIL 7 PM

 April 27
 May 4
 August 3
 August 10

*Library
Continued from page 3*

Dinner at the New Gene Café,
by Bill Lambrecht
May 9

This program will resume in September.

Library Hours:

Library hours of service vary during the year to accommodate community needs. The current schedule is:

Mon., Tue., and Thur..

10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Wed. and Fri.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sat.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sun. (mid-Sept. - May 21)

1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Please note: that the Library Board of Trustees has decided to extend Sunday hours into May on a trial basis. Let us know what you think of this change. The Library will be closed in order to celebrate the following holidays:

May 27-29 Memorial Day Weekend

July 4: Independence Day

September 2-4: Labor Day Weekend



**MUNICIPAL
POOL**

Metuchen Municipal Pool memberships are still available for the 2006 season. The pool will open for weekends starting Memorial Day weekend and will open full-time Friday June 23. Regular pool hours are 12 noon to 8 p.m. everyday except Saturdays and Holidays in which

case the pool will open at 10 a.m. Special Kiddie Pool hours are available for parents who have children under 5 (at the discretion of the Pool Manager) in July and August.

The Pool is the Place to

be this summer with many special events - Family Fun Days, Float Nights, Teen and Pre-Teen Dances, Story Hours, etc. Applications are available at Borough Hall or if you would like one mailed to you, please call the Pool Office at 732-632-8517.

Thank You and enjoy the summer.



**POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

The Metuchen Police Department recently hired three new officers to replace Sgt. Macmath who retired, and Sgt. Torrisi and Officer Sauvigne who have moved on to other departments.

Officer Octavio Tapia was born in Santiago, Chile and graduated from Columbia High School in Maplewood, NJ. Tapia received an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from Morris County College. He served 8 years in the US Navy and currently volunteers his time to the Summit Auxiliary Police and First Aid Squad. He graduated from the Union County Police Academy in December 2005. Tapia is the first officer of the Metuchen Police Department to be fluent in Spanish. He currently resides in Summit with his wife and son.

Officer Timothy Hayduk was born in Point Pleasant, NJ and graduated from Toms River East

High School. He is currently attending Thomas Edison State College working towards a degree. He served 5 years in the US Coast Guard. Hayduk graduated 1st in physical fitness upon graduating from the Ocean County Police Academy. He worked as a police officer for the Monmouth Police Department and Pt. Pleasant Police Department. Hayduk is certified as a Police Bike Officer. He currently resides in Toms River with his wife and daughter.

Officer Nancy Phibbs, was born in Addison, I.L. then moved to Edison where she graduated from J.P. Stevens High School. She received an Associates Degree form Middlesex County College in Criminal Justice. Phibbs later graduated from the Ocean County Police Academy and worked as a Raritan Borough Police Officer and Seaside Heights Police Department. She currently resides in Toms River with her three children.

Detective David Irizarry and Det. Michael Kilker have been promoted to the rank of Sergeant to replace the outgoing Sergeants. Detective Irizarry will remain in the Detective Bureau and will supervise this division. Detective Kilker will become a shift supervisor in the Patrol Division.

All of our new officers and the promoted officers will be sworn in at Borough Council on Feb. 6th.

CROSSING GUARDS Needed

Metuchen Police Department. is currently hiring School Crossing Guards for substitute positions. The rate is \$9.50 per hour. Interested parties may contact

either Capt. Rentenberg or Disp. Donato at 732-632-8500 or come into police headquarters. All potential applicants must provide their own transportation to crossing posts.

Citizens Police Academy

The Metuchen Police Department is offering residents an opportunity to become familiar with the day-to-day operations of their police department.

Metuchen Police will be conducting an 11-week "CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY" program for Borough residents beginning September 6th 2006.

This interactive program is designed to educate borough residents about department procedures, guidelines, responsibilities, and demands of personnel that guide police decision-making. Topics that will be covered include; Overview of the Department's organization and structure, recruitment and training and the roles and responsibilities of the various divisions and sections. In addition, participants will be given an opportunity to "ride along" with a patrol officer and experience a firearms training simulation.

The Citizen Police Academy is open to Borough Residents, business owners and school faculty within the Borough of Metuchen who are over 18 years of age and who successfully complete a background investigation.

Anyone interested may contact Capt. R. Rentenberg at (732) 632-8548. Class size is limited.



Earth Day - Saturday, April 22nd at 9:00am

Participants will be separated into work squads to complete various projects throughout the Borough. Breakfast and lunch will be served.

Memorial Day Parade - Monday, May 29th at 10:00am

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 Tuesday, May 30th

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. Openings available for the position of tennis attendant. Must be able to work nights and weekends throughout the summer. Must be at least 15 years of age.

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, guitar lesson, ponyshare, science workshop, and multi sports

camp. Summer brochures will be distributed through the local schools in May. Have a program idea? Want to teach a class? Call the Recreation office at 732-632-8502.

Summer Concert Series

The Metuchen Recreation and Cultural Arts Commission will again present a summer concert series on Thursday evenings at 8:00pm, throughout the month of August, featuring some of New Jersey's most talented bands. The commission is fortunate again to be the recipient of a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission/Board of Chosen Freeholders, through funding in part from the, N State Council on Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. All concerts are free of charge!

Other programs include:

Tommy's Pond Fishing Derby
National Night Out
Movie Nights

For further information call the Recreation office at 732-632-8502 or e-mail at ngoldberg@metuchen.com.



Assistance with the preparation of income tax forms will be available from **February 6 - April 13**. This service is offered from **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Monday - Friday** on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no charge, and service is not limited to senior citizens.

**BOROUGH OF METUCHEN
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO
CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**



Personal Information

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Do you reside within the borough limits? Yes No

Are you 18 or older? Yes No Are you a U.S. citizen? Yes No

Experience and Education,

Civic Activities (*include other boards/commissions*): _____

Degree and school attended: _____

Resume attached (*optional*)

Statement of Interest

For which board or commission would you like to be considered?

Please write a brief statement explaining your interest in the board or commission for which you are applying. Include any experience, training, and/or qualifications you have relating to this board or commission.

Please indicate any conflicts of interest you may have if chosen for this board or commission:

**COMPLETED APPLICATIONS CAN BE RETURNED TO THE:
Metuchen Borough Clerk
500 Main Street,
Metuchen, NJ 08840**