

# METUCHEN MESSENGER

GOVERNMENT AND DEPARTMENT NEWS-PUBLISHED BY THE BOROUGH OF METUCHEN

FALL/WINTER 2007-2008

ISSUE #13



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Metuchen Resident:

As many of you may know by now, I will be leaving office at the end of this year after twelve interesting and challenging years as mayor of our great borough. However, any success that I have had as mayor is largely the result of the great people making up our community who have given of their time and skills to volunteer in numerous ways to make our borough work.

My term in office included a number of events that spanned the spectrum of issues from the revitalization of our Main Street (there were 33 vacant stores along Main Street from Middlesex Avenue to Amboy Avenue in 1995) to the dedication of our new borough hall. But the most remarkable in my mind was the response of our citizens to the horrors of September 11th. That day was emblematic of the character of the people in our town not only in their response to the immediate adversity of that day (we lost three of our residents), but also in the tremendous outpouring of support for our memorial to the victims: Freedom Plaza.

However, over the next few years our community will face different challenges on two fronts: the new state budget caps and the threat to our Main Street from commercial development in our neighboring communities. How these challenges are handled will in large measure dictate the future and direction of Metuchen as a quality community as it proceeds into the 21st century. A key first step in attacking these problems will be the redevelopment of the old Stop & Shop site. This redevelopment will address both the ratable problem, which affects the tax rate and the ability of the borough to provide quality municipal services, as well as the competitive problem our town will face when neighboring commercial space comes online. Redevelopment will add to the tax base, which will help with the tax rate but equally important it will provide growth for commercial space in the downtown that will support our Main Street, our "living room", as it enters into a highly competitive environment with our neighbors.

Metuchen has always risen to the occasion in the past and I have confidence that it will do so in the future because if "the past is prologue", then Metuchen will be in good stead.

Ed O'Brien  
Mayor

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### MAYOR:

Ed O'Brien

### COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Catherine Totin

### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Timothy Dacey  
Richard Dyas  
Alan Grossman  
Richard Weber  
Thomas Vahalla



## NEWS IN OUR COMMUNITY

### **Borough receives \$50,000 Smart Future Planning Grant.**

The Borough of Metuchen has received a \$50,000 Smart Future Planning Grant funded through the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. The Borough Planner had coordinated a Public Outreach Process to prepare a Downtown Design and Circulation Plan and Design Guidelines. A public charrette process was scheduled for September 23 through 26 to gather community input in preparing an overall Downtown Design and Circulation Plan. This plan will form a basis for Design Guidelines, prepared as a form-based code, focusing on the New Street corridor between Pearl Street and Lake Avenue within the D-1 District.

### **SPECIAL THANKS !!!!!**

Special thanks goes out to the Metuchen Edison Women's Club for their on-going effort in the planting and maintenance of flower boxes at the Metuchen train station. Every spring for the last **20 years**, the members of the Women's Club, led by their President Beverley Wilson, plant flowers in six boxes at the station. Throughout the spring and summer months, the dedicated members take turns watering, weeding and maintaining the flower boxes.

After the summer months, the boxes are filled with holiday greens and festive ribbons to brighten up the holidays and the remainder of the year.

Once again, many thanks to many dedicated members who take time out of their busy days to help beautify the streets of Metuchen.



## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The 2008 Dog and Cat Licenses will be available at Borough Hall on or about January 12th and must be purchased before February 28th. Licenses can be renewed by mail by filling out the application that will be included with the recycling schedule in December or can be purchased daily from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday at Borough Hall. If licenses are purchased after February 28th a \$5.00 late fee will be charged. Look for the 2008 Applications in the January recycling schedule which comes out in December.

2008 licenses can be issued for any pet whose rabies vaccination expires after November 30, 2008. If your pet's shot expires before November 30, 2008, the pet has to be re-vaccinated before a license can be reissued. Please check with your veterinarian to be sure it is safe to vaccinate.

A free Rabies Clinic will be held in May. Please call for the date.

Also, please contact the Metuchen Health Department if you no longer own a registered dog or cat for whatever reason.

If you have any questions regarding licensing please call the Health Department at 732-632-8503.

Please remember, no license renewal will be accepted before January 12th. Thank you.



## LIBRARY

### **Back To School**

Labor Day is over and your children should be ready for

school. In addition to buying new clothes and school supplies, make sure that they also have library cards.

Use the card to borrow items here or from more than 150 public libraries in an expanding area of the state: Bergen, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties. Or access a number of electronic databases and the catalog from home through our website - [www.metuchennj.org](http://www.metuchennj.org). Select 'the catalog,' enter the barcode number on the back of the card and your PIN, and log-on. You will be able to search the holdings of the libraries in our automation group, reserve print and non-print items from home, or renew an item already charged out.

The catalog has been redesigned to make it easier for you to find what you are looking for. Have questions or comments? Call the Library at 732-632-8526 or contact the Library Director at [mkokola@lmxac.org](mailto:mkokola@lmxac.org).

### **Exhibits:**

The following exhibits and displays have been scheduled through March:

**OCTOBER - DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Harvey Levine

**NOVEMBER - PHOTOGRAPHS**  
Les Johnson

**DECEMBER - STUDENT WORKS**  
Metuchen Creative Kids

**JANUARY - LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS**  
Metuchen Edison  
Historical Society

**FEBRUARY - ART AND POETRY**  
Middlesex County Arts  
High School

**MARCH - PAINTINGS**  
Metuchen Senior Center

### **Films:**

Three films will be shown as part of the Edna Newby International Film Series for Fall 2007:

**"TOGETHER"** (Chinese)  
Monday, October 15

**"FREE ZONE"** (Israeli)  
Monday, November 5

**"ELLING"** (Norwegian)  
Monday, December 3

All international films will be shown at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.. 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 directly or reserved for viewing 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 titles and discussion dates for 2007-2008 are:

**BECOMING JUSTICE BLACKMUN**  
by Linda Greenhouse  
September 11th

**WHAT IS THE WHAT**  
by Dave Eggers  
October 9th

**EINSTEIN**  
by Walter Isaacson  
November 13th

**AMERICAN THEOCRACY**  
by Kevin Phillips  
December 11th

**JUDE THE OBSCURE**  
by Thomas Hardy  
January 8th

**BORN ON A BLUE DAY**  
by Daniel Tammet  
February 19th

**HOWARD'S END**  
by Thomas Hardy  
March 11th

**A PAINTED HOUSE**  
by John Grisham  
April 8th

**MOUNTAINS BEYOND MOUNTAINS**  
by Tracey Kidder  
May 13th

**Concerts/Special Events:**  
**Sunday, October 14th, 2:00 p.m.**  
LINDA IPANEMA & THE DIXIE  
CATS - MUSIC OF THE 50S

**Friday, October 26th, 2:00 p.m.**  
SLIDES AND LECTURE BY PHILIP  
MESSINA - MALTA: THE MODERN  
MEDITERRANEAN ANTIQUITY

**Monday, October 29th, 2:00 p.m.**  
LECTURE BY HENRY MORSE -  
RADIO AND THE GREAT  
DEPRESSION

**Sunday, November 4th, 2:00 p.m.**  
MARLENE VERPLANCK - MUSIC  
OF JOHNNY MERCER

**Library Hours:**  
Winter hours at the Library are:

**Monday - Thursday**  
**10 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Friday - Saturday**  
**10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**Sunday**  
**1 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

The Library will be *open with abbreviated hours* on the following holidays:

**November 6th**  
Election Day  
**Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**November 12**  
Veterans Day  
**Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**December 24**  
Christmas Eve  
**Open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**December 31**  
New Year's Eve  
**Open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

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

**October 8th** - Columbus Day  
**November 22nd & 23rd** -  
Thanksgiving

**December 25th** - Christmas  
**January 1st** - New Year's Day  
**January 21st** - M. L. King, Jr.  
Birthday



**MUNICIPAL  
POOL**

The Metuchen Municipal Pool, with the very hot summer, had a very good year. Several very successful Family Fun Days were held along with Teen and Pre-teen dances. Membership applications for the 2008 season will be in with your recycling schedules which come out in December for the new year. Mark your calendars to send in your application by April 15. Please do not start to send in your applications until April 1, 2008.

The Pool will open for weekends starting Memorial Day weekend. Regular pool hours are 12 noon to 8 pm every day except Saturdays and holidays when the pool opens at 10 am. Special Kiddie Pool hours for parents and children under five (5) are available in July and August (opening at 10 am). The Pool is THE place to be in Metuchen during the summer. If you have any questions please call the Pool Office at 732-632-8517.



**POLICE  
DEPARTMENT**

**Have you ever wondered what it is like to be a police officer?**

If you are one of the many people who are interested in learning about law enforcement, the Metuchen Police Department can be of help to you. We are offering residents an opportunity to become familiar with the day-to-day operations of their police department.

The Metuchen Police Department will be conducting an 11-week *"CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY"* program for

*Continued on page 6*

OCTOBER 2007

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			

NOVEMBER 2007

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	

DECEMBER 2007

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 Borough Council
- 2 Library Board
- 4 Planning Board
- 8 Holiday - Borough Offices Closed**
- Shade Tree Commission
- 9 Pool Commission
- Traffic and Transportation Commission
- 10 Development Commission
- Senior Citizen Commission
- 11 Zoning Board
- 15 Borough Council
- 16 Parking Authority
- 17 Environmental Commission
- 18 Planning Board
- Recreation Commission
- 22 Cultural Arts Committee
- 24 Youth Service Board
- 25 Cable TV Advisory Committee

- 1 Planning Board
- 5 Borough Council
- 6 Holiday - ELECTION DAY - Borough Offices Closed**
- 7 Library Board
- 8 Zoning Board
- 12 Holiday-Borough Offices Closed**
- Shade Tree Commission
- 13 Pool Commission
- 14 Development Commission
- 15 Planning Board
- Recreation Commission
- Board of Health
- 19 Borough Council
- 20 Parking Authority
- 21 Environmental Commission
- 22-23 Holiday-Borough Offices Closed**
- 26 Cultural Arts Committee
- 28 Youth Service Board
- 29 Cable TV Advisory Committee

- 3 Borough Council
- 4 Library Board
- 6 Planning Board
- 10 Shade Tree Commission
- Pool Commission
- 11 Traffic & Transportation Commission
- 12 Development Commission
- Senior Citizens Commission
- 13 Zoning Board
- 17 Borough Council
- 18 Parking Authority
- 19 Environmental Commission
- 20 Planning Board
- Recreation Commission
- 25 Holiday - Borough Offices Closed**
- 26 Youth Service Board
- 27 Cable TV Advisory Committee

**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	732-632-8518

Tax Office  
Evening Hours

**OPEN UNTIL  
7 P.M.**

November 1

November 8

January 31

February 7

**JANUARY 2008**

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 2008**

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	

**MARCH 2008**

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**  
Borough Council  
Reorganization
- 2 Library Board
- 3 Planning Board
- 7 Shade Tree Commission  
Pool Commission
- 8 Traffic & Transportation  
Commission
- 9 Development  
Commission
- 10 Zoning Board
- 15 Parking Authority
- 16 Environmental  
Commission
- 17 Planning Board  
Recreation Commission  
Board of Health
- 21 **Holiday-Borough Offices Closed**
- 22 Borough Council  
(Tuesday)
- 23 Youth Service Board
- 24 Cable TV Advisory  
Committee
- 28 Cultural Arts Committee

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

- 3 Borough Council
- 4 Library Board
- 6 Planning Board
- 10 Shade Tree Commission  
Pool Commission
- 11 Traffic & Transportation  
Commission
- 12 Development  
Commission
- 13 Zoning Board
- 17 Borough Council
- 18 Parking Authority
- 19 Environmental  
Commission
- 20 Planning Board  
Recreation Commission  
Board of Health
- 24 Cultural Arts Committee
- 26 Youth Service Board
- 27 Cable TV Advisory  
Committee

**METUCHEN  
EMERGENCY  
ADVISORY  
RADIO STATION**  
  
**1580 AM**  
  
**Tune to this station in  
the event of an  
emergency or for general  
community information**

**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- 4 pm  
 Tax Office open until 7pm on 11/1, 11/8, 1/31 & 2/7  
 Borough Website.....www.metuchennj.org

**Police****Continued from page 3**

Borough residents beginning March 2008 - TUESDAY evenings at 6:30pm at Borough Hall.

This interactive program is designed to educate borough residents about department procedures, guidelines, responsibilities, and demands of personnel that guide police decision-making. Some of the topics that will be covered include: An 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 the age of 18 and who successfully complete a background investigation.

If this sounds like something that might interest you please contact Captain R. Rentenberg at (732) 632-8548. Class Size is Limited.



**PUBLIC  
WORKS**

The Borough of Metuchen urges your voluntary compliance to assist in stabilizing sewer rates. A number of properties have illegal connections to the Borough's sanitary system, which in part, is creating an artificially high cost for sewerage treatment. Property owners can help reduce the amount of inflow and infiltration into the sanitary system by disconnecting any sump pump that may be connected to the

sanitary system. The discharge from illegal / illicit connections to the sanitary system increases the cost assessed by the Middlesex County Utilities Authority. Also, eliminating the discharge of sump pumps into the sanitary system will help to alleviate sewer backups at the time of extraordinary high rainfall, such as we recently experienced. These backups are caused by storm water entering our sanitary system, thus filling our pipes to capacity and forcing sewerage into people's homes. The Public Works Department maintains two separate sewer systems (sanitary and storm). The volume of waste water is measured by the MCUA at the Jersey Ave. pump station on a daily basis. It is the responsibility of every resident and business owner to ensure that the discharge of sump pumps are not adding to the cost of waste water entering the sanitary system.



**RECREATION  
& CULTURAL  
ARTS**

The Metuchen Recreation and Cultural Arts Commissions offer many special events and activities throughout the year. Below is a partial list of upcoming programs. Detailed activity flyers will be distributed through the schools during the course of the year as well as on the Borough website, [www.metuchennj.org](http://www.metuchennj.org).

**October 6th - Country Fair**  
Look for our miniature golf booth!

**October 26th - Jazz Fest**  
**Gradie Stone Trio** and the  
**Radam Schwartz Group**  
Moss School

**TBA - Halloween Poster Painting Contest** Youngsters compete in a poster painting contest. We will supply the paints and paper, and the youngsters supply the imagination!

**October 27th - Annual Pumpkin Float Youngsters** will carve pumpkins which are mounted on floats and launched at Tommy's Pond. All supplies are provided!

Watch for information on our Jingle Bell Walk, Santa's Calling and other exciting special events!



**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 and referrals, health screenings, counseling and income tax preparation. The Center, located at 15 Center St. in Metuchen, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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 may be made by calling 732-632-8525 between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

A monthly newsletter, including a calendar of activities, is available by request by calling 732-632-8524.

### **Senior Citizens Commission**

The Senior Citizen Commission meets every other month at the Senior Center, 15 Center St. in Metuchen. Meetings are held at 4:30 p.m. and are open to the public. Future meetings:

October 10,  
December 12  
February 13, 2008

The Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce presents

# *METUCHEN MEMORIAL DAY PARADE MONDAY, MAY 26, 2008 AT 10 AM*

*Saluting our Veterans and Honored War Dead from the Revolution through Today*

The Metuchen Memorial Day Parade, presented by the Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce, has been an annual tradition since 1927. The 2008 Parade will feature hundreds of participants, including Veterans and active duty personnel, military vehicles, marching bands, floats, flags, boy and girl scouts and civic organizations.

Grand Marshals include:

Former Metuchen Mayor and decorated Veteran of World War II and Korea, Walter Timpson  
Two Purple Heart recipients – Frank Grausso (World War II) and Ernie Stoukas (Korea)  
Veterans from Vietnam, Ed Marczak and Enduring Freedom, John Rizzuto

**This event is entirely supported by private donations.  
We need your support!**

\$100 - Patron                      Listed in the Memorial Day Ceremony program and community  
\$50 – Donor                        bulletin board at Metuchen Savings Bank, Main Street

Up to \$25 - Patriot              Listed on the community bulletin board at Metuchen Savings Bank, Main Street

*Examples:*

\$100 Patron: The Johnson Family in loving memory of Private First Class Joe Johnson, US Army, 1943 – 1962

\$50 Donor: Joseph Smith in memory of Joseph Smith, Sr., US Marine Corps

Up to \$25 Patriot: The Johnson Family

Please return your donation using the coupon below:

<p>Make checks payable and mail to: Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce  323B Main Street  Metuchen, NJ 08840  (732) 548-2964</p>	
<p>Sponsor Name: _____ E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____</p>	
<p>Check one of the following: ( ) Patron   ( ) Donor   ( ) Patriot</p>	
<p>Amount of check \$ _____</p>	<p>I do not want a dedication listed  Please list my name  Please do not list my name</p>
<p>Please print your dedication clearly:</p> <hr/> <hr/>	

*Thank you for your generous support.*

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



RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO THE: Metuchen Borough Clerk, 500 Main Street, Metuchen, NJ 08840

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_