

METUCHEN MESSENGER

GOVERNMENT AND DEPARTMENT NEWS-PUBLISHED BY THE BOROUGH OF METUCHEN

FALL/WINTER 2008 - 2009

ISSUE #15



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Metuchen Resident:

With the close of summer, I'd like to address some of Metuchen's summer highlights. Metuchenites were blessed with four absolutely beautiful Fridays in June to celebrate the first annual June Bug Arts Fest, a combined undertaking by the Chamber of Commerce and the Cultural Arts Commission. June Bug was a wonderful display of art and musical performances which enriched our citizens and drew people to our Main Street, including Della Crews and the Channel 12 news team covering the first night.

Metuchen also enjoyed Cruise Nights/Classic Car Show and a series of *Under the Stars* concerts provided by the Cultural Arts and Recreation Commissions. But nothing can be complete, without the annual Labor Day Concert and fireworks display which was made possible through the continuing generosity of Metuchen Savings Bank and Boro Ace Hardware.

This summer, Metuchen was fortunate enough to receive a traffic circulation grant for \$60,000 from the NJDOT to study and help improve traffic circulation in the Borough. In addition, the Borough received verbal approval for a State grant offered to study and analyze the parking in the downtown and to develop solutions to our current parking needs. These grants are the first steps on the road to resolution of the parking and traffic concerns in the Borough.

Unfortunately, our summer swimming season was interrupted when an aging pool filter caused some unscheduled closings at the Municipal Pool. A new pool filter has been designed and a bid awarded to replace the pool filter in the fall.

Through the hard work of the Pool Commission and their Council Liaison Tim Dacey, the Borough Council approved, through the capital budget, funds to provide other significant improvements to the Municipal Pool including new bath/changing room renovations and the replacement of the lifeguard stands and diving boards. Although the schedule interruptions were inconvenient to some pool members, please understand that the pool operations are overseen by the Metuchen Pool Commission, a group of citizen volunteers, and they should be applauded for their service to the community.

Another issue of concern, is the number of break-ins and burglaries of the past few months. Two, unfortunately, resulted in injuries to our residents. Our Police Department has done a wonderful job in responding to the incidents and apprehending the criminals. But we must be more proactive in supporting the Police and our neighbors. We as citizens must become additional eyes and ears to our Police Department as they work hard to protect all of us. A Crime Prevention Tip list has been compiled by Police Chief James Keane and is available on the Borough's website: www.metuchennj.org. A free safety check is offered by appointment through the Detective Bureau. Further details about the safety check and the organization of a Neighborhood Crime Watch being planned for October is in the Messenger.

Sincerely,
Tom Vahalla

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MAYOR:
Thomas Vahalla

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Peter Cammarano
Timothy Dacey
Richard Dyas
Christopher Morrison
William Waldron
Richard E. Weber

NEWS IN OUR COMMUNITY



Borough's Newly Restored Historical Committee Receives a Grant to Host a Metuchen "History Day"

During the mayor's reorganization address, Mayor Valhalla restored a Historical Committee headed by Councilmember Richard Weber. The Historical Committee has received a \$1395 grant funded through the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission. The group plans to host a Metuchen History Day in April/May 2009 that will feature famous local residents as well as significant architecture within the Borough of Metuchen. Residents are urged to look for further date and time information closer to the event.

CABLE TV ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Borough of Metuchen Deploys Revolutionary Emergency Communications Technology

WEB-EMTM Provides 4-in-1 Emergency Notification for Local Residents

As of May 12, 2008 the Borough of Metuchen, New Jersey, has started using the TelVue WEB-EMTM technology which enables Metuchen emergency managers to reach residents with local, timely, accurate, and actionable emergency information via four communication methods. The technology allows Borough officials to enter a message from any Internet connected computer to communicate emergency and other messages simultaneously through Metuchen TV (MeTV) Channel 15, the Borough website, text messages to mobile phones, and email.

This new technology will enable us to communicate with Metuchen residents via MeTV, email, text messages, and Metuchen's home page: www.metuchenni.org during local emergencies," said Mayor Tom Valhalla, "It doesn't simply raise the red flag in warning; it provides communities with the resources needed to communicate information before, during, and after an emergency such as a school closing, road repairs, or other event."

This system fills a critical role in emergency response by complementing the national Emergency Alert System (EAS) at a county, school district, and local level. The system allows authorized Metuchen officials to add, edit, and manage municipal channel information and content from wherever Internet access is available. The result is a communication resource that is suited to the flexibility required by Metuchen's emergency managers, school officials, and residents on the move.

"This technology will enable Metuchen emergency services to better communicate with our residents. It will allow the residents to receive valuable and accurate information as it may affect them. I would encourage all residents of Metuchen to sign up for this worthwhile program," said Metuchen Police Chief James Keane.

TelVue staffs its supporting facility 24/7/365 to insure total system reliability. Metuchen is one of three towns that participated in testing this product.

MeTV station manager, Rich Desimone, brought the original idea to TelVue and has been active in the product's development. "As a participant in TelVue's WEB-EMTM beta test, we experienced first hand the value of this emergency capability for our residents and emergency managers," said Rich Desimone. "MeTV has always been a valuable source for community information and this new service extends our reach ensuring that all residents-even

those who are not cable subscribers or are not near their TV sets-have access to critical information during an emergency."

Metuchen residents can subscribe by going to www.metuchennj.org clicking on the WEB-EM link and following the directions; or by going directly to www.webem.tv. In addition to receiving emergency messages, residents can choose to receive notices from a number of different categories including all Borough departments and commissions, Metuchen schools, the senior center, the library, religious institutions, and civic organizations in the area. For more information, contact MeTV at 732-603-9750 or email metv.metuchennj@verizon.net.

The Borough's Emergency Alert AM Radio station

The Borough's 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

The 2009 Dog and Cat Licenses will be available at Borough Hall on or about January 5th 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 2009 Applications in the January recycling schedule which comes out in December.



2009 licenses can be issued for any pet whose rabies vaccination expires after November 30, 2008. If your pet's shot expires before November 30, 2009, 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 8th. Thank you.

LIBRARY



Back To School - Just a reminder - the Library card is the most important item in your child's backpack as he or she returns to school. Use the card to borrow items here or from more than 150 public libraries in central and northern NJ: Bergen, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Passaic,

Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties. You may also borrow items from the Middlesex County College Library with your Metuchen card...

Or access a number of electronic databases and the catalog from home through our website - www.metuchennj.org. Select 'the catalog,' enter the barcode number from the back of the card and your 4-digit PIN, and log-on. You will be able to search the holdings of all the libraries in our automation group, reserve print and non-print items from home, or renew an item already checked out.

The catalog is continually updated to make it easier for you to access information and 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.

Exhibits:

The following exhibits and displays have been scheduled through March:

November 15 to December 15

Paintings - Helene Den Boer
"Art From the Heart" - Examples of Crochet, Knitting, and Embroidery

January

Local History Items - Metuchen Edison Historical Society

February

Art and Poetry - Middlesex County Arts High School

March

Paintings - Metuchen Senior Center Artists

Films:

Three films will be shown as part of the Edna Newby International Film Series for Fall 2008:

"**This is England**" (British) on Monday, October 6

"**2 Days in Paris**" (French) on Monday, November 10 and

"**The Lives of Others**" (German) on Monday, December 8

All international films will be shown at 2 PM and 7:30 PM and are shown with English subtitles. Don't worry if you miss a film because of illness, vacation, or a busy schedule. The

titles in this series are owned by the Library and may be borrowed 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 meeting dates and titles for 2008-2009 are:

Luncheon at the Boating Party,

by Susan Vreeland September 9

Nine, by Jeffrey Toolin, October 14

The Worst Hard Time, by Timothy Egan, November 18

American Prometheus, by K. Bird and M. J. Sherwin, December 9

The Omnivore's Dilemma,

by Thomas Hardy, January 13

Slaughterhouse Five,

by Kurt Vonnegut, February 10

What Evolution Is, by Ernst Mayr, March 10

Old School, by Tobias Wolff, April 14

Extremely Loud, Extremely Close, by Jonathan S. Foer, May 14

Concerts/Special Events:

Friday, October 17 - Slides and Lecture by Philip Messina - "Polar Bears-Plus," 2 PM

Monday, October 27 - Lecture by Henry Morse - History of Radio, 2:00 PM

Sunday, November 2 - Marlene VerPlanck - Popular Music, 2:00 PM

Thursday & Friday, November 6 & 7 Harry Potter Films, beginning at 11 AM each day, with 3 films on Thursday and 2 more on Friday.

Sunday, March 8 - Heather Mulvey Celtic Songs, at 2 PM

Sunday, March 29 - Linda Ipanema & the Dixie Cats - "Legends," at 2 PM

Opera 101:

Are you an opera buff, or would you like to know more about this special musical genre? Plan to attend a new evening lecture series to be held at the Library on the 3rd Monday of each month from September to May (*exceptions are noted below*) at 7:30 PM

Presented by Bernard Ackerman, the series will highlight familiar arias and ensemble pieces from well-known

OCTOBER 2008								NOVEMBER 2008								DECEMBER 2008							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1	2	3	4								1			1	2	3	4	5	6	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		2	3	4	5	6	7	8		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		9	10	11	12	13	14	15		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		16	17	18	19	20	21	22		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
26	27	28	29	30	31			23	24	25	26	27	28	29		28	29	30	31				
								30															

- 2 Planning Board
- 6 Borough Council (Monday)
- 7 Library Board
- 8 Senior Citizen Commission Development Commission
- 11 Zoning Board
- 13 Holiday - Borough Offices Closed**
Shade Tree Commission
- 14 Pool Commission
Traffic and Transportation Commission
- 15 Development Commission
Senior Citizens Commission
Environmental Commission
- 16 Planning Board
Recreation Commission
Board of Health
- 20 Borough Council (Monday)
- 21 Parking Authority
- 22 Youth Service Board
- 23 Cable TV Advisory Board
Zoning Board
- 27 Cultural Arts Commission

- 3 Borough Council (Monday)
- 4 Holiday - Election Day - Borough Offices Closed**
- 5 Library Board
- 6 Planning Board
- 10 Pool Commission
Shade Tree Commission
- 11 Holiday - Borough Offices Closed
- 12 Development Commission
- 13 Zoning Board
- 17 Borough Council (Monday)
- 18 Parking Authority
- 19 Environmental Commission
- 20 Recreation Commission
- 24 Cultural Arts Committee
- 25 Youth Service Board
- 27-28 Holiday - Borough Offices Closed**

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

Tax Office Evening Hours

OPEN UNTIL 7 PM

OCTOBER 30
NOVEMBER 6
JANUARY 29
FEBRUARY 5

**METUCHEN EMERGENCY
ADVISORY
RADIO STATION**

1580 AM

Tune to this station in the event of
an emergency or for general
community information

SENIOR CITIZENS

"Assistance with the preparation of income tax forms will be available from **February 6 - April 17**. 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 OFFICE HOURS

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

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

Library-Spring/Summer Hours.....Library News

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

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

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

Tax Office open until 7pm on...5/1, 5/8, 7/31 & 8/7

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

JANUARY 2009

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 2009

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

MARCH 2009

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				

- 5 Borough Council Reorganization
- 6 Library Board
- 8 Zoning Board
- 12 Shade Tree Commission
Pool Commission
- 13 Traffic & Transportation Commission
- 14 Development Commission
- 15 Planning Board
Recreation Commission
Board of Health
- 19 Holiday - Borough Offices Closed**
- 20 Borough Council (Tuesday)
Parking Authority
- 21 Environmental Commission
- 22 Cable TV Advisory Board
- 26 Cultural Arts Committee
- 28 Youth Service Board

- 2 Borough Council (Monday)
- 3 Library Board
- 5 Planning Board
- 9 Shade Tree Commission
Pool Commission
- 10 Traffic and Transportation Commission
- 11 Development Commission
- 12 Holiday - Borough Offices Closed**
- 16 Holiday - Borough Offices Closed**
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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

***Metuchen
Memorial Day Parade***

Monday, May 25, 2009

**THIS EVENT IS ENTIRELY
SUPPORTED BY PRIVATE
DONATIONS**

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

*\$100 - Patron
\$50 - Donor
Up to \$25 - Patroit*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT THE:
METUCHEN AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
323B MAIN STREET
METUCHEN, NJ 08840
743-548-2964**

*Thank You for Your
Generous Support*

operas. Learn about the significance of each piece and how it relates to the story. There will be no formal homework, exams, or grades, and you may attend the entire series or the lectures which interest you the most.

The schedule will include the following composers and operas:

September 15 - Mozart (The Marriage of Figaro, Don Giovanni, and The Magic Flute)

October 20 - Bel Canto - Rossini, Donizetti, and Bellini (The Barber of Seville, Lucia, The Elixir of Love, and Norma)

November 17 - Verdi (La Traviata, A Masked Ball)

December 15 - Verdi (Rigoletto, The Force of Destiny, Otello)

***January 26** - French Opera - Bizet and Offenbach (Carmen, Tales of Hoffman)

***February 23** - Verismo - Leoncavallo and Mascagni (Pagliacci, Cavalleria Rusticana)

March 16 - Puccini (La Boheme, Tosca, Madame Butterfly)

April 20 - Strauss and Strauss (Die Fledermaus, Der Rosenkavalier)

May 18 - Wagner (Meistersinger, Tristan und Isolde)

Blood Drives:

Two blood drives will be held at the Metuchen Library this winter.

The *first*, sponsored by the Library, will be held on Monday, December 30, 2008, and blood will be drawn from 2 PM to 7:30 PM

The *second*, sponsored by Temple Emanu-El of Edison, will be held on Sunday, January 11, 2009 and blood will be drawn from 11:30 AM to 4 PM

And More...

Drop off canned or boxed food items.

Recycle household batteries, printer cartridges, and old cell phones.

Bring your children to story or craft sessions.

Select books in regular print, LARGE PRINT, on cassette or CD, or download a copy to your computer

Borrow DVDs.

Schedule the use of a 3-day pass to the American Museum of Natural History.

Read a newspaper or one of 170 magazines.

Access the Internet.

Photocopy personal documents.

Book the meeting room for your organization.

Learn something new, be entertained, have fun!

Library Hours:

Winter hours at the Library are:
Monday-Thursday 10 AM to 9 PM
Friday-Saturday 10 AM to 5 PM
Sunday 1 PM to 5 PM

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

November 4 Election Day
Open 10 AM. to 5 PM
November 11 Veterans Day
Open 10 AM to 5 PM
December 24 Christmas Eve
Open 10 AM to 1 PM
December 31 New Year's Eve
Open 10 AM to 1 PM

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

October 13 Columbus Day
November 27-28 Thanksgiving
December 25 Christmas
January 1, 2009 New Year's Day
January 19, 2009 M. L. King, Jr. Birthday

MUNICIPAL POOL

The Bid for the new Pool Filter was

awarded on Tuesday, September 2, 2008 and the new filter will be installed in October. The Pool will open for weekends starting Memorial Day weekend. Come help christen the new filter and see the other improvements by attending a Commission sponsored Family Fun Day. Regular pool hours are 12 NOON to 8 PM everyday 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). Don't forget to take advantage of the



early sign up discount by purchasing your '09 membership by April 15, 2009. If you have any questions regarding the Pool please call the Pool Office at 732 - 632-8517.

METUCHEN RECREATION & CULTURAL ARTS



The Metuchen Recreation and Cultural Arts Commission offers 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.

Check out our website for up to date information and additions to our list of activities and events.

October

Country Fair - Saturday, October 4th. *Raindates, October 11th, and 18th.* Look for the Commission's miniature golf booth.

Halloween Poster Painting Contest

Date to be Announced Youngsters compete in a poster contest related to Halloween. We supply the paper and paints, the youngsters supply the imagination! Open to grades K-4th

Jazz Café - Entertainment provided by Yvette Glover and Steve Kaplan, at the Metuchen High School 8:00 PM

Pumpkin Float - October 25th

Youngsters will carve pumpkins in the afternoon which are mounted on floats and launched on Tommy's Pond in the evening. All supplies will be provided. Refreshments will be served. A great family activity.

November

55th Winter Festival Parade

Sunday, November 30th. Immediately following the parade the Recreation Commission will be serving free hot chocolate and an opportunity for youngsters to meet Santa Claus.

December

Jingle Bell Walk - Thursday, December 11th Join us for the fourth annual Jingle Bell walk through the Borough on one of our walking paths. Jingle bells and refreshments will be provided.

Daddy Daughter Date Night - TBA

Mother Son Date Night - TBA

POLICE



Halloween Safety: Tips for a Safe Trick or Treat

Trick-or-treating is one of the most popular Halloween traditions: up to 90 percent of North American children dress up and trick or treat every Halloween.

Many parents are of two minds about trick-or-treating. While parents may have fond memories of their own trick or treat days, Halloween safety issues are also a concern. If you choose to let your children trick or treat, the following Halloween safety tips are recommended:

Adults should escort trick or treaters (hey, you can dress up too!)

Know the route children will take while trick-or-treating

Choose bright colored costumes so drivers can see children

No-one (adults included!) eats treats until they have been checked

Provide alternatives to trick-or-treating.

Neighborhood Crime Watch

In light of the recent home invasions, the Police Department has been asked to resurrect the NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH. The program is set to begin in October 2008 and will be overseen by Officers Ken Bauer and Nancy Phibbs. Any resident wishing to participate in the program may contact Captain R. Retenberg at 732-632-8548. In addition, the Police Department Detective Bureau is offering a free home security survey. Appointments for the security survey can be made directly with the Detective Bureau at 732-632-8549.

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 (starting the second week in February). 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 5:00 PM and are open to the public. Future meetings include: October 8, December 10 and February 11.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION



Tree Care Techniques - Mulching

Mulch is very beneficial for the health of a tree, particularly for young or newly planted trees. It helps conserve soil moisture, moderate fluctuations in soil temperature, and control weeds. Some kinds of mulch even improve soil structure and fertility. Spread around the base of trees, mulch keeps mowers and weed whackers away from the tree trunk, avoiding damage to the bark. However, when mulch is not applied properly, it can actually

cause significant harm to trees and other landscape plants.

Organics Preferred

Mulch can be made of organic or inorganic materials. Organic mulches - wood chips, shredded bark, pine needles, chopped leaves, or compost mixes - decompose over time, adding organic matter and nutrients to the soil. Inorganic mulches can include various kinds of stone, pulverized rubber, and other materials, which do not decompose. While inorganic mulches do provide some benefit, they do nothing to improve the soil or feed the tree.

“Donoughnuts” - Not “Volcanoes”

To mulch properly, spread a ring of mulch around the base of the tree, covering as wide an area as practical. The ring should resemble a doughnut rather than a volcano, and the mulch should never touch the tree trunk. The "doughnut hole" should leave open space for several inches immediately around the tree trunk. Mulch piled up against the tree trunk provides shelter for rodents that chew bark and opportunities for insect infestation. It also encourages the growth of fungi and disease.

Not to Deep!

Spread the ring of mulch just 2- to 4- inches deep. Too much mulch can cause excessive moisture retention and lead to root rot. A too-thick layer of mulch can become matted and actually create a barrier keeping water and oxygen from reaching the soil and roots.

Too frequently, we see mulch volcanoes up to a foot deep surrounding every tree on professionally landscaped commercial sites and assume that's the way it should be done. Unfortunately, many landscape maintenance companies seem to believe "more is better" - but this is certainly not the case when it comes to mulch. Resist the urge to over-mulch, and help your trees grow healthy and strong.

We hope you will stop by the Shade Tree Commission's booth at the October Country Fair - there will be a demonstration of good and bad mulching techniques, and much more information about caring for our trees. Commission members will be on hand to answer questions and hear your concerns.

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 city 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:
