

METUCHEN MESSENGER

GOVERNMENT AND DEPARTMENT NEWS - PUBLISHED BY THE BOROUGH OF METUCHEN

Spring/Summer 2005

Issue #8



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Metuchen Resident:

As the winter gives way to spring, the borough is about to embark on an ambitious program to increase the efficiency of our trash collection process. As you will learn more specifically in this issue of the Metuchen Messenger, the Department of Public Works will begin using an automated truck in two of our neighborhoods. This will begin a two year program of phasing this system into most of Metuchen's neighborhoods. A second truck is included in the 2005 capital budget.

Many of you may have noticed this system in operation in Edison and our system will be very similar to that program. Each resident will be given a large trash can that will be used with our program but will remain the property of the borough. Residents will be asked to place all of their household garbage, excluding recyclables, into these cans. Large bulk items such as sofas or other bulk items will be picked-up within 48 hours on a call in basis.

The borough has been considering this program for several years but we delayed adoption until we could be sure that the equipment that is in use is reliable and effective. Also, we obviously wanted to use the experience of other towns with this program to help us install it in Metuchen.

The borough is adopting this program for two reasons: First, automated trucks protect our workers from injuries that many incur as they collect garbage. Avoiding these injuries will also save tax dollars that are spent in paying compensation claims that arise from these injuries. Additionally, this truck will have one person operating the vehicle compared with our current two person process. When this system is fully implemented, this increased efficiency will allow us to allocate extra workers to other vital needs in our borough as well as save tax dollars through attrition.

Hopefully all residents will familiarize themselves with the information on this program that is contained in this issue of the Messenger so that cooperatively we may successfully implement this program in our borough.

Sincerely,
Ed O'Brien, Mayor

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MAYOR:
Ed O'Brien

COUNCIL PRESIDENT:
Tom Vahalla

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Rick Dyas
Alan Grossman
Marion Price
Cathy Totin
Richard Weber

BOROUGH OF METUCHEN AUTOMATED REFUSE PROGRAM

Department of Public Works

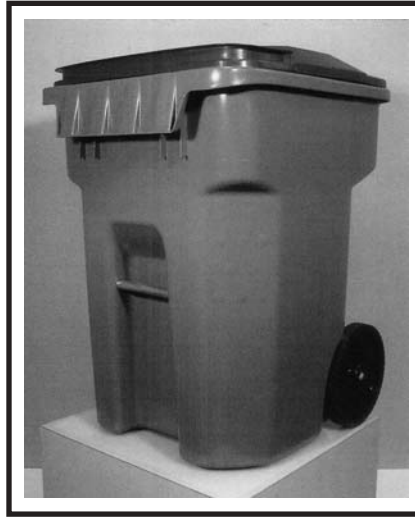
The Department of Public Works will soon be implementing the first phase of the Borough's Automated Refuse Program. As stated in the Mayor's Message, this program will be safer for our employees and more cost efficient allowing the Department to shift man power to other areas of the borough.

Residents on the following streets listed in this article will soon be receiving a new container for municipal sanitation pick-up. The containers are the property of the borough and should remain at the residence if you relocate. Each container will have a number and will be assigned to that resident. The easily handled wheeled container is specifically designed for use with this system and the Department asks that you please do not paint or mark-up the container in any manner.

The 95 gallon container will easily hold five or more trash bags and should be sufficient for the needs of your household. If after several weeks of the program, you have a definite need for a second container, they are available for purchase at the Public Works Department.

Container Usage Rules and Guidelines

1. Please continue to use plastic bags especially for food waste. This will help keep the container clean and odor free.
2. Simply roll the cart out on your collection day and place



the can at the bottom of the driveway **in the same spot your container was delivered.** Make sure the arrow points toward the street as directed on the lid.

3. Make sure the container is clear of poles, parked cars and other obstructions.

4. Please do not place any of the following materials in the container:

No Recyclables

**No Bulk Waste
(see below for details)**

No Brush

No Household Hazardous Materials

No Flammables, Paints or Thinners

No Remodeling or Construction Debris

No hot ashes

No metal pieces or items

5. The borough and county will continue current programs for the above items.

6. Bulk Collection can be scheduled by contacting Public works at 732-632-8519.

Area 1

The following streets will be Area (1) Automated Sanitation pick-up on Monday's:

Amboy Ave., Green St., Linsley Pl., Rowland Pl., Coan St., Vail Pl., James St., Carpenter St., Ethel Pl., Goodwill Pl., Sidney Pl., McCoy Ave., Eggert Ave., Hanson Ave., Carson Ave., Peltier Ave., Kempson Pl., Voorhees Pl., Simpson St., Bounty St., Home St., Carlton Ave., Bissett Pl., Clinton Pl., Woodbridge Ave. and Grove Ave.

Area 2

The following streets will be Area (2) Automated Sanitation pick-up on Tuesday's:

Brockton Ct., Grove Ave., Woodside Ave., Wakefield Dr., Ivy Ct., Lee Ct., Beacon Hill Dr., Concord Ave., Lexington Dr., Waltham Ave., Alden Ave., Homestead Rd., Salem Ct., Lowell Pl., Jesmond Ave., Middlesex Ave., Grove Ave., E. Chestnut Ave., Mark Circle, Stoneham Pl., Hale Ct., Revere Ct., Christol Street., Reading Ct., Mason Dr., Parkman Pl., Norris Ave., Kent Pl., Buchanan Rd., Dorian Rd., Irving Ave., Wistar Ave., Bryant Ave., Aldrich Ave., Wadsworth Ave., Clive St., Hofer Ct., Colonial Ct. and Cape Ct.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact Public Works at 732-632-8519.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

NEWS IN THE COMMUNITY

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

The borough will be receiving a \$200,000 grant from the N.J. D.O.T. Transportation Trust Fund Municipal Aid Formula Program for the resurfacing of East Chestnut Avenue.

Borough Receives Grant for Street Lamps

Thanks to a \$30,000 grant from the Middlesex County Downtown and Business District Improvement Fund, South Main Street will soon see the addition of Metuchen style street lamps in various locations.

Mayor Receives Prestigious Award

Mayor Ed O'Brien was honored in December by the New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association with " the distinguished leadership award for an elected official". Congratulations Mayor O'Brien.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Free Rabies Clinic 2005

Metuchen will be conducting a Free Rabies Clinic on May 14, 2005 at Metuchen High School, 400 Grove Avenue, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Dogs and Cats that received a 3 year shot in 2002 or a one year shot in 2004 are eligible for re-vaccination in 2005. Because of the current rabies epidemic, the state specifically recommends that all animals vaccinated in 2003 also be given another shot at this time to insure no lapse in immunity for licensing purposes. Please speak to your veterinarian regarding re-vaccination.

Licenses are required for Dogs and Cats and can be paid 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 2005 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.

MUNICIPAL POOL



Metuchen Municipal Pool memberships are still available for the 2005 season. The pool will open for weekends starting

Memorial Day weekend and will open full-time Thursday, June 23rd. Regular pool hours are 12 noon to 8 p.m. everyday except Saturdays and Holidays in which 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 opening at 10 a.m.

After all the cold, icy weather, **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



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 March 2nd 2005. The 2nd class for 2005 will begin in September (Date to be announced).

Continued on page 6

Please note - the borough is no longer using a post office box for mailings. All future correspondence and mailings should be sent to:

**METUCHEN BOROUGH HALL
500 MAIN STREET
METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY 08840**

April 2005							May 2005							June 2005						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

4 Borough Council	2 Borough Council	1 Development Commission
5 Library	3 Library Board	2 Traffic and Transportation Commission
6 Development Commission	4 Development Commission	6 Borough Council
7 Traffic and Transportation Commission	5 Traffic and Transportation Commission	7 Library Board
10-16 <u>NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK</u>	Planning Board	8 Senior Citizens Commission
11 Pool Commission	Tax Office open until 7pm	9 Zoning Board
Shade Tree Commission	9 Pool Commission	13 Pool Commission
12 Parking Authority	Shade Tree Commission	14 Parking Authority
13 Senior Citizens Commission	10 Parking Authority	15 Environmental Commission
14 Zoning Board	12 Zoning Board	16 Recreation Commission
17-23 <u>NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS WEEK</u>	14 <u>FREE RABIES CLINIC</u> (see Health Department News)	Planning Board
18 Borough Council	16 Borough Council	Board of Health
20 Environmental Commission	18 Environmental Commission	20 Borough Council
21 Recreation Commission	19 Recreation Commission	22 Youth Services Board
Planning Board	Planning Board	23 Cable TV Advisory Commission
Board of Health	23 Cultural Arts Commission	<u>MUNICIPAL POOL OPENS FULL-TIME</u>
23 <u>EARTH DAY</u> (see Recreation News)	25 Youth Services Board	27 Cultural Arts Commission
25 Cultural Arts Commission	26 Cable TV Advisory Commission	
27 Youth Services Board	30 Holiday-Borough Offices Closed	
28 Cable TV Advisory Commission	<u>MEMORIAL DAY PARADE</u>	
Tax Office Open Until 7 p.m.		

Does your Dog or Cat need a Rabies Vaccine?

Have your pet vaccinated at the Free Rabies Clinic 2005

May 14th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon
Metuchen High School

Please see **Health Department News** for more details

BOROUGH OFFICE HOURS

Borough Hall.....	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Construction Official - Tues, Wed & Thurs...	4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Library-Spring/Summer Hours.....	see Library News
Public Works.....	6 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Recreation Department.....	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Senior Citizens Center.....	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tax Office.....	open until 7 p.m. on 4/28, 5/5, 7/28 & 8/4
Borough Website.....	www.metuchen.com

July 2005							August 2005							September 2005							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2			1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		
31																					

4 Holiday-Borough Offices Closed	1 Borough Council	1 Traffic and Transportation Commission
5 Borough Council	2 Library Board	5 Holiday-Borough Offices Closed
Library Board	3 Development Commission	6 Borough Council
7 Traffic and Transportation Commission	4 Traffic and Transportation Commission	Library Board
Planning Board	5 Tax Office Open Until 7 p.m.	7 Development Commission
11 Pool Commission	6 Pool Commission	8 Zoning Board
Shade Tree Commission	Shade Tree Commission	12 Pool Commission
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14 Zoning Board	10 Senior Citizens Commission	13 Parking Authority
18 Borough Council	11 Zoning Board	14 Environmental Commission
20 Environmental Commission	15 Borough Council	15 Recreation Commission
21 Recreation Commission	17 Environmental Commission	Planning Board
Planning Board	18 Recreation Commission	Board of Health
25 Cultural Arts Commission	Planning Board	19 Borough Council
27 Youth Services Board	22 Cultural Arts Commission	22 Cable TV Advisory Commission
28 Cable TV Advisory Commission	24 Youth Service Board	26 Cultural Arts Commission
Tax Office Open Until 7p.m.	25 Cable TV Advisory Commission	28 Youth Services 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 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 Advance
	For Reservations call:732-632-8525 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Tax Office.....	732-632-8510
Tree Service.....	732-632-8540

Continued from page 3

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 who are over 18 years of age and who successfully complete a background investigation. Class size is limited.

Interested residents may contact Sgt R. Rentenberg or Officer Liantonio at 732-632-8500.

Police Auction - date to be announced - Auction for bikes and various equipment..

Bike Rodeo - September date to be announced. Bike officers instruct children on safety when cycling and will also inspect and register their bicycles

PUBLIC LIBRARY



National Library Week will be celebrated from **Sunday, April 10** through **Saturday, April 16**. Come to the Library for our traditional open house on Sunday, April 16th 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 some form of identification showing that you live in Metuchen.

Your may use your card to borrow

items here or from most other public libraries in Middlesex, Union, Bergen, Passaic, and Morris Counties. You may also access a number of electronic databases in the Library or at home through our website: www.metuchen.com/library_simply by entering the barcode number on the back of the card.

Exhibits

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

April: Westerhoff School of Music & Art presents "Student Art"

May: "Family Portraits" - Oil paintings by Liz Crelin, with Reception to meet the artist on **Saturday, May 7, 2005**, from 1- 3 p.m.

June: Works by Metuchen's Senior Artists - coordinated by Dolores Powell

June 1-15:
Metuchen Garden Club Display

Monday, June 27, 2005:
The Library will sponsor a Blood Drive from 2 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

Give the gift of life and donate a pint of blood.

July: Works by Joan Waterson

Call 732-632-8526 to register, or come at your convenience.

Films

Two films remain in the **Edna Newby International Film Series for Spring 2005:**

Last Kiss (Italian)
Monday, April 4th

Goodbye, Lenin (German)
Monday, May 2nd

These films will be shown 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and free tickets will be distributed ½ hour in advance.

The **Summer Series** will be held on consecutive Mondays, from **July 18th** through **August 22nd**, but the specific titles have not been selected yet.

Contact the Library at 732-632-8526 for particulars.

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, or feel free to discuss summer plans with the staff in the children's department.

Metuchen Book Discussion Group

Join your neighbors for interesting discussions, once a month on **Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.**

The titles remaining on the 2004-2005 schedule include:

Tuesday, April 12th:
The Kite Runner
by Khalid Hosaini

Tuesday, May 10th:
The DaVinci Code
by Dan Brown

This program will resume in September.

Library Hours

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

The current schedule is:
Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday
10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, and Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(Between June 18 and Labor Day, Sat hours will be 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

The Library will be **closed** in order

to celebrate the following holidays:

May 28 - 30
Memorial Day Weekend

July 2 - 4
Independence Day

September 3 - 5
Labor Day Weekend

RECREATION AND CULTURAL ARTS

Earth Day



Saturday, April 23rd at 9 a.m. 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 30th at 10 a.m.- Join the Recreation Commission by riding your decorated bicycle, tri-cycle or stroller in the annual parade. A Memorial Day service will follow the parade.

Oakland Tennis Courts



Open **Tuesday, May 31st**. Attendants will be on duty during prime time hours from Memorial Day through Labor Day to take court reservations and sell badges. Badges are required to reserve

courts during prime time hours only.

Opening available for the position of Tennis Attendant. Must be able to work nights and weekends throughout the summer and must be at least 15 years of age.

Concert



Sunday, July 3rd Concert will be held in the Metuchen Senior Citizen Parking Lot beginning in the early evening featuring Brio Symphonic Band under the direction of Ed Loque, Conductor.

Summer Program

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 lessons, ponyshare, science workshop and multi sports camp. Summer brochures will be distributed through the 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 Commissions will again present a summer concert series on Thursday evenings at

8 p.m., 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 Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission/Board of Chosen Freeholders, through funding in part from the N.J. State Council on Arts/Department of the State, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts. All concerts are free of charge.

Labor Day Fireworks

(Date to be announced.)

Fireworks will be in the Pearl Street parking lot. 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 email us at: ngoldberg@metuchen.com

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 a.m. to 4 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 can be made by calling 732-632-8525 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

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

Celebrate Earth Day in Metuchen

Help Clean-up our
Community

Saturday, April 23rd at 9am

Metuchen Senior Citizens Center

Look Forward to:

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Fireworks

(Date to be Announced)

CELEBRATE NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS WEEK
APRIL 17-23, 2005

Everyday in Metuchen volunteers unselfishly give their time to our community to insure our public health and safety and assist government. The Mayor and Council would like to extend our thanks to all the borough's volunteers for their hard work and dedication to our community.

Board of Assessment
Board of Health
Cable TV Advisory Commission
Cultural Arts Commission
Development Commission
Emergency Management
Environmental Commission
Human Relations Commission
Library Board
MEtv
Parking Authority
Planning Board
Pool Commission
Recreation Commission
Senior Citizens Commission
Shade Tree Commission
Traffic and Transportation Commission
Youth Services Board
Zoning Board
Volunteer Emergency Services
Auxiliary Police, Fire Department, First Aid Squad

Sincere thanks to all the members of the above Boards, Commissions and Volunteer Emergency Services who help

MAKE METUCHEN WORK