
LOCAL RESOURCES

Borough of Metuchen

732-632-8540, www.metuchennj.org

Borough Improvement League

Caretakers of the ca. 1807 Old Franklin Schoolhouse

www.boroughimprovementleague.org

Criterion News Advertiser

Local Free Weekly News & Services,

www.CriterionNews.com

Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce

732-548-2964, metuchenchamberexchange.com

Metuchen-Edison Historical Society

Preserving the Past for the Future

www.metuchen-edisonhistsoc.org

Metuchen Matters

Local News Forum, MetuchenMatters.com

Metuchen Living

People, Events, & places in the Brainy Borough

metuchenviving.com

NewBrunswickNightOut.Com

Central Jersey Nightlife, Restaurants, Bars, Bands,

Entertainment, Accommodations & more.

LOCAL EVENTS LISTING

Want to know events are scheduled for today, tomorrow, or next month? Check out the on-line collaborative calendar of events! The calendar is also accessible through the BIL website (see above). Click to view, or even submit your own event!



METUCHENCALENDAR.ORG

Winter Festival and Memorial Day parades, Townwide Garage Sale, Country Fair in October, Victorian High Tea in May, Tree Lighting, Easter Egg Hunt, Pumpkin Float, Galleries of Metuchen Art Walk, New Year's Eve Fireworks, Labor Day Concert, Chili Challenge Cookoff, Zombie Hunger Walk, FUCE 5k, Jingle Bell Run, Janice Garbolino 5K, Local History Day, Holiday House Tour, Art in the Garden Tour, "Scarecrows on Main," Halloween Parade, JuneBug, outdoor movies, summer rec programs, scavenger hunts, pancake breakfasts, Classic Car nights, films & productions, Fall jazz fest, live music, author visits, art shows, and more!

HISTORY

European settlers began living in the section of Woodbridge Township that eventually became Metuchen during the late 1600s, setting up homesteads and farm lots within an area long populated by Native Americans and named for its leader; "MeTochen" is called from ye name of ye chief of this place and meanth "slowe-dog" for that chief is lame and goeth slowly." (John Ayers, 1720). Like many early New Jersey towns, it experienced some Revolutionary War activity when General George Washington marched up what is now Main Street. Evidence of our early history lays in the fact that there are still more than a dozen homes here that date back to the 18th century.

In the 1830s, the railroad came to Metuchen and development as a village began to pick up speed, hastened by the proximity to New Brunswick, Newark, and New York City. By the end of the 19th century, Metuchen had grown into a thriving residential community populated by commuters, long-time local residents, immigrant workers in the local clay mines, and a growing culture of literary and artistic notables whose influence spread far and wide. Many of our "Victorian" and Colonial & Classical Revival homes date from this period.

In 1900, residents voted to separate from the surrounding Raritan Township and officially incorporate as their own Borough, effectively making it the "hole in the donut." The new municipality vigorously began the process of establishing borough services and supporting societies & organizations, aided in their efforts by fiercely loyal and tenacious residents (traits present even today, which likely account for the fact Metuchen has preserved a great deal of its historic character).

Metuchen's downtown during the early to mid 20th century was filled with retail establishments, services, and light industrial concerns; appliance dealers, clothing retailers, an ice-cream manufacturer, banks, meat markets, and more. As the nature of commercial retail has changed, Metuchen's downtown has become home to a diverse array of restaurants and smaller, distinctive shops. But those things that have made Metuchen an ideal community remain; location & mass transit, wonderful homes and schools, vibrant community life, and a 'walkable' downtown district. We have a proud past and an exciting future ahead!

For more information about Metuchen's history, including a list of historic sites, old photographs, oral histories, and a walking tour of its residential architecture, contact the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society.



This guide was compiled by the Borough Improvement League, founded in 1901 "To arouse and to develop among the residents of the Borough of Metuchen a deeper and more active interest in the general growth and material welfare of the Borough." For more copies, or to suggest an edit or addition to future editions of the guide, contact the BIL president, Tyreen Reuter at ayersallenhouse@msn.com.

WELCOME TO

METUCHEN

'THE BRAINY BOROUGH'



Ideally located on the Northeast Corridor rail line direct to New York City and Newark International Airport, Metuchen is less than 30 miles from Manhattan, only 70 miles to Philadelphia, and within minutes of Rutgers University and major NJ highways.

From our early colonial history, to turn of the century progressive literary and artistic community, and then modern day family atmosphere, we are proud of our community and its excellent public and private schools, active Chamber of Commerce, enthusiastic community organizations and houses of worship, charming downtown district, YMCA, Senior Center & jitney, municipal pool, vibrant public library, parks & playgrounds, and the fact there is always something happening locally... Metuchen has a small town feel, but treasures its variety and diversity.

"METUCHEN...A SUBURB WITH A CENTER AND A SOUL."

THE NEW YORK TIMES, 2006

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015

SHOPPING



Bookstore Boutique – *books and gifts*
The Brass Lantern – *new & vintage gifts*
Boyt Drug & Gifts – *gifts for every occasion*
The Jewel Shop – *jewelry and fine gifts*
The Jewelry Doctor – *jewelry and repairs*
Lollipop Land – *custom creative candy gifts*
Marafiki Fair Trade – *Global Gifts*
Optique Unique – *Elegant Eyewear*
Pedigree Pet Salon – *pamper your pooch!*
Runner's High – *for all your running needs*
Smoker's Haven – *fine cigars*
Suite Beverly – *salon & clothing boutique*
Thrifty Thrifter – *Thrift Shop*
Two Chicks with Chocolate – *fine chocolates*
The Pyramid – *health food & more*
The Wine Chateau – *for extra holiday cheer!*
Ultimate Swim Shop – *swimwear & more*

FLORISTS & GIFTS

Creative Crafts – *flowers and balloons*
Gardenia's Floral – *arrangements & fine gifts*

FITNESS - WELLNESS

Black Belt Institute – *Martial Arts & Fitness*
Metuchen Dance Centre – *since 1982*
9 Round – *30 Minute Kickbox Fitness*
Sakula Yoga Studio – *Yoga Classes*
Plus, certificates for services from our many spas and salons make wonderful gifts.

Metuchen is an Associate Level Member of the Main Street program and efforts are underway towards a "Fair Trade Town" designation.



FAIR TRADE TOWNS USA



Main Street NEW JERSEY

DINING



Breeze's Café & Grill - *Caribbean Cuisine*
The Brown Stone Bar & Grill*
Café Paris – *European Bistro*
Café Vaaza – *Cuisine of Kashmir*
Civile e Tornato – *Classic Italian- new location!*
Empire Asian Fusion – *Chinese*
Joey D's – *Italian*
Hailey's Harp & Pub*
LaRosa's – *Italian*
Lola's Latin Bistro
Mariachi - *Mexican*
Metuchen Diner
Metuchen Inn* – *since 1843*
Mimi's - *Contemporary Asian & American*
Mr. Pi's – *Japanese*
Novita Bistro and Lounge*
Thai Garden - *Thai Cuisine*
Sushi Suzuki - *Japanese*
Tete Empanadas – *Peruvian Cuisine*
The Orchid – *Kosher & Vegetarian*
Torino II - *Authentic Italian Bistro*

PIZZA – DELI – SANDWICHES

Antonio's ~ Brewed Awakenings ~ Buttery
Bakeshop ~ LaRosa's ~ Marco's ~ Fresco's ~ Buon
Appetito ~ SubPlace Better ~ What's the Scoop

METUCHEN FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays 9-2pm, June-November, Pearl Street

MOST OF OUR RESTAURANTS ARE B.Y.O.B.

Those noted above () provide full bar service.*

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Bookstore Boutique – *Cultural Events*
Brewed Awakenings – *Open Mic Nights*
Earthsongs – *Fine Art Ceramic Studio*
Forum Theatre – *Film, Music, Theatre*
Haileys Harp & Pub – *Live Music. Karaoke*
Marafiki Fair Trade – *Featured Artist Series*
Novita Bistro & Lounge - *Comedy & Jazz*
Old Franklin Schoolhouse – *Live Music*
Paradise Custom Stained Glass - *Studio*
Raconteur Ventures – *Radio Plays & more*
The Brownstone – *Live Music, DJs*
Westerhoff School of Music & Art
What's the Scoop – *Gallery & weekly Jams*

GALLERIES OF METUCHEN

The Rotunda at Borough Hall
Transformations Gallery - *Old Franklin Schoolhouse*
Nails in the Wall – *Gallery at St. Luke's*
The Library Gallery – *new!*

GREEN & RECREATIONAL SPACE

Dismal Swamp - *Ecological Reserve*
Metuchen Sportsplex – *Indoor Leagues*
Middlesex Greenway - *Bike & Walk Path*
Woodwild Park – *3.5 acres, glacial kettle hole*

SEASONAL SERIES & FESTIVALS

JuneBug ArtsFest – *Fridays in June*
"Plays-in-the-Park" – *Summer Theatre*
Outdoor Music Series - *August*
Metuchen Country Fair - *October*
Hometown Holidays Weekend – *December*