



Methuen Community CONNECTION

December 2021 - January 2022

POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Boston, MA
Permit No. 55800
ECRWSS

www.cityofmethuen.net

Methuen Tree Lighting Illuminates the Holiday Season



The Methuen Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 5 was a huge success with an estimated 2,000 people in attendance. After viewing the many submissions sent in by the community, it was decided that a 4- foot Norway Spruce donated by Raymond and Sharon Marsan, would be this year's tree. The tree was cut down by Livingston Family Tree Services, then transported to The Loop by Coady's Towing. The Methuen DPW worked tirelessly to assure the tree was well lit and decorated. The event featured train rides, story time by the Nevins Library, pony rides, sleigh rides, pictures with Santa Claus, games, hot chocolate, and performances by the Choruses from the Methuen Public Schools. Thank you to all our wonderful sponsors: Enterprise Bank, The Savings Bank, Induspad, AFC Urgent Care, Century 21, Dunkin Donuts, The Loop, Livingston Family Tree Company, Coady's Towing, Methuen DPW, Methuen Fire Department, Methuen Police Department, Methuen Public Schools, Nevins Library, Home Depot, Methuen Community Studios, and the Marsan Family.

COVID Vaccine Boosters Available at Numerous Locations

COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters Are Available



Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson boosters are safe and effective, free, and available near you.

- You don't need an ID, health insurance, or vaccine card
- Check your eligibility: mass.gov/BoosterCheck
- Use VaxFinder.mass.gov to find a location

Learn more at mass.gov/COVID19booster



@massgov



Methuen City Hall Hours of Operation:

Monday - Thursday: 8am to 4:30pm, Friday: 8am to Noon
Searles Building; Connecting All Departments: (978) 983-8500
41 Pleasant Street, Methuen, MA 01844

Trash/Recycling Calendar.....	2
Veterans News.....	3
COVID Updates.....	4
Scanning the City.....	5
News You Can Use.....	6
Conexion Comunitaria.....	7
Mayor's Message.....	8

Clip and Save: 2022 Curbside Trash/Recycling Calendar

The Methuen Department of Public Works has released the 2022 Curbside Recycling and Trash Collection Calendar. Clip and Save this page or access the Calendar online at: cityofmethuen.net/sites/g/files/vyhlif886/f/uploads/2022_recycling_calendar.pdf.

For questions and more information, call the Methuen Department of Public Works at 978-983-8545.



"WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!"



Recyclables are collected every other week on your regular trash collection day. Place bins, paper bags and/or containers marked for Recycling at curb, **separate from Trash, by 7AM**. All A-WEEKS are collected during weeks highlighted In **Blue - A- Week** and all B-WEEKS are collected during weeks highlighted in **Green- B- Week** on the calendar below.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE - PER CITY CONTRACTS

Recycling Collection (Bi-Weekly)/Trash Collection (Weekly) Follows the following Holiday Schedule:

Whenever a scheduled collection day falls on a Holiday, that day's collection and all remaining collections for the week will be delayed one day.

Example" "Friday's collection will be on Saturday" Holiday related. NO-Collection days are shaded in RED-H, Holiday.

Saturday, 1/01/22 - New Year's Day
Monday - 1/17/22 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday - 2/21/22 - Washington's Birthday (President's Day)
Monday - 4/18/22 - Patriot's Day

Monday - 5/30/22 - Memorial Day
Monday - 6/20/22 - Juneteenth
Monday - 7/4/22 - Independence Day
Monday - 9/5/22 - Labor Day

Monday - 10/10/22 - Columbus Day
Friday - 11/11/22 - Veterans Day
Thursday - 11/24/22 - Thanksgiving Day
Monday - 12/26/22 - Christmas Day celebrated

Note: Trash & Recycling **WILL BE COLLECTED**, on these specific days, Good Friday - (4/15/22) and Day after Thanksgiving - (11/25/22)

A A-Week

January						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
B						1
A	2	3	4	5	6	7
B	9	10	11	12	13	14
A	16	17	18	19	20	21
B	23	24	25	26	27	28
A	30	31				

B B-Week

February						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
B	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	13	14	15	16	17	18
B	20	21	22	23	24	25
A	27	28				

H Holiday

April						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
A						1
B	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	10	11	12	13	14	15
B	17	18	19	20	21	22
A	24	25	26	27	28	29

May						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
B	1	2	3	4	5	6
A	8	9	10	11	12	13
B	15	16	17	18	19	20
A	22	23	24	25	26	27
B	29	30	31			

June						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
B	5	6	7	8	9	10
A	12	13	14	15	16	17
B	19	20	21	22	23	24
B	26	27	28	29	30	

July						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
B					1	2
A	3	4	5	6	7	8
B	10	11	12	13	14	15
A	17	18	19	20	21	22
B	24	25	26	27	28	29

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

September						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
A				1	2	3
B	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	11	12	13	14	15	16
B	18	19	20	21	22	23
A	25	26	27	28	29	30

October						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
A					1	
B	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	9	10	11	12	13	14
B	16	17	18	19	20	21
A	23	24	25	26	27	28

November						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
B			1	2	3	4
A	6	7	8	9	10	11
B	13	14	15	16	17	18
A	20	21	22	23	24	25
B	27	28	29	30		

Veterans Events Highlight the Season in Methuen



On November 11, Veterans Day Services were held at Walnut Grove Cemetery by the American Legion and at Elmwood Cemetery by the VFW.

Many thanks to Mayor Perry for the breakfast sandwiches at the American Legion Post and to Rick Angelo, owner of Ellie's Farmhouse, for opening his restaurant to Veterans from 2pm-4pm. Thanks also to Ron Marsan who hosted his annual Veterans Breakfast at Country Kitchen.

On November 13, Mayor Neil Perry joined the Methuen Police and Fire Departments in a birthday caravan and salute to United States Marine Veteran and Methuen Resident Tony DeFusco (pictured right).

Mr. DeFusco turned 100 and the city joined family and friends in honoring him. Mayor Perry presented him with a citation, and Methuen Firefighter and United States Marine reservist Mark Fitzgerald offered a birthday cake. Happy Birthday, Mr. DeFusco and thank you for your service!



There was a great turnout of Veterans for the Annual Methuen Santa Parade on November 20. The outpouring of support from the community was overwhelming.

Thanks to Santa Parade Organizer Jill Stackelin for positioning our Veterans up front in the marching order with the Grand Marshals John Vargas of Bada Bing and Bada Boom Pizza and Restaurant and Dom Smeriglio of Borrelli's Italian Deli.

On December 7, Pearl Harbor Day, a dignified Flag Retirement Ceremony was held at Elmwood Cemetery. Presided over by Veterans Services Officer Paul Jensen, the ceremony to retire used flags from service coincides with the anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

The ceremony included the presentation of colors by the Methuen Police Department Color Guard and the burning of unserviceable flags. Mayor Perry, Council Chairman Steve Saba, Police Chief Scott J. McNamara, Fire Chief Tim Sheehy, Methuen Veterans, and citizens joined the ceremony. Thanks to the support of DPW, the staff at Elmwood, the MPD and MFD for their support of this event and to the members of the community who came out to drop off flags and witness the event.



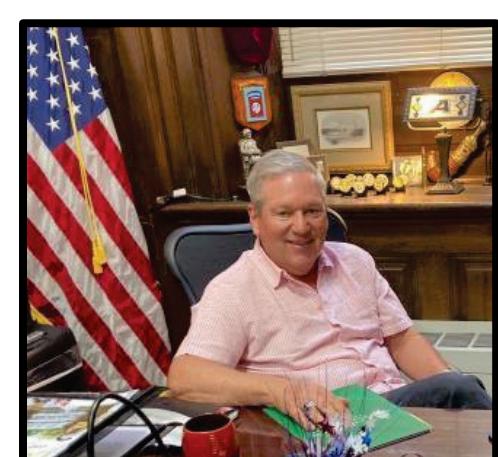
A good time was had by all as we celebrated the season with a Veterans Holiday Gathering in the Sunset Room of Merrimack Valley Golf Course.

Many thanks to the generosity of the Kattar family and Mayor Neil Perry for helping to sponsor this event. Seen in the crowd were former City of Methuen Veterans Officers Ed "Hoppy" Curran and Tom Hargreaves.

It was a great time to share in the spirit of the holidays, celebrate the service and sacrifice of our Veterans, have a few cocktails, and exchange a few tales. Thanks to all those that attended and Happy Holidays!

The Office of Veterans Services in Methuen serves nearly 5,000 Veteran residents. Veterans Services Officer Paul Jensen (pictured right) is planning a very busy year in 2022, from events and celebrations to processing information, and providing assistance to Veterans and their families.

We encourage all Veterans and their loved ones to contact the Office of Veterans Services at 978-983-8585 or email Paul at pjensen@ci.methuen.ma.us with any questions or concerns. You can keep track of all Veterans-related information at cityofmethuen.net/office-of-veterans-services, or stop by our office at the Searles Building, 41 Pleasant Street, Room 108.



Mayor Perry emphasizes Mask Order in City Buildings

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the rising number of positive cases in the City of Methuen Mayor Perry is maintaining his Executive Order requiring a mask to enter all City of Methuen buildings. This includes Methuen City Hall, Methuen Police and Fire Stations, the Nevins Library, and the Methuen Senior Center.

"The purpose of this Executive Order is to keep staff and the residents entering said buildings safe" stated Mayor Perry. "COVID-19 is not going away and there has been a steady increase in positive cases in the City of Methuen. This mask order is a precautionary step to curb that trend. The city will undertake this step to prevent the possible spreading of COVID-19 while conducting business within the city buildings listed above." This mandate will apply to those who work for the city as well as those who are looking to conduct business within any City of Methuen building. Those looking to enter the building without a mask will be asked to return to their vehicle to retrieve their mask or they will be given a new mask to wear. On December 8, 2021, Mayor Perry also issued the following memo to city employees to further ensure the health and safety of the public:

"As the numbers of COVID cases continue to increase, I would like to reiterate that if you are not feeling well, you must not come to work. If you are not so ill that you feel able to work, you have the infrastructure in place to work from home while you await test results with the approval of your department head. Additionally, I remind everyone that masks are mandatory in all city buildings. There are no exceptions to this rule, if you are not at your own desk and at least 6 feet from another employee, you must be wearing your mask. As we enjoy the holidays and time with our families, the last thing any of us would want for ourselves and for our fellow workers is to not be able to participate in these gatherings. Thank you, be safe, and take good care."



Governor Baker Provides COVID Update and Mask Recommendation



Press Release

On December 21, 2021, the Baker-Polito Administration announced additional measures to address a recent rise in COVID-19 cases and to ensure acute care hospitals have sufficient capacity to care for both COVID and non-COVID patients.

The Commonwealth's healthcare system is facing a critical staffing shortage which has contributed to the loss of approximately 500 medical/surgical and ICU hospital beds since the beginning of the year. Hospitals are also seeing a high level of patients, many due to non-COVID related reasons.

Residents are reminded that getting a vaccine and booster remain the best way to protect against serious illness or hospitalization from COVID. Massachusetts is a national leader in COVID-19 vaccinations, with over 94% of eligible residents having received at least one dose.

The MA Department of Public Health (DPH) also released an updated mask advisory, recommending that all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, wear a mask or face covering in indoor, public spaces.

DPH particularly urges this recommendation for individuals who have a weakened immune system or are at increased risk for severe disease because of age or an underlying medical condition, or if someone in their household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease, or is unvaccinated.

Mass DPH Encourages residents ages 16 & 17 to get Pfizer booster

Following newly updated recommendations and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has announced that all adolescents ages 16 and 17 are able to get their Pfizer COVID booster if they are at least 6 months post their initial Pfizer vaccination series.

Adolescents ages 16 and 17 are able to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 booster from more than 500 locations in Massachusetts including at retail pharmacies, primary care practices, regional collaboratives, local boards of health, community health centers, hospital systems, state-supported vaccination sites and mobile clinics.



Options for a COVID-19 vaccine appointment:

1. Parents who prefer to have their adolescent vaccinated by their primary care provider should call their provider's office directly.
2. Visit the VaxFinder website at vaxfinder.mass.gov for a list of available locations. Residents are able to narrow results to search for locations that are offering the Pfizer COVID booster.
3. For individuals unable to use VaxFinder, or who have difficulty accessing the internet, the COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Line (Monday to Friday from 8:30 AM to 6 PM, Saturday and Sunday 9 AM to 2 PM) is available by calling 2-1-1. The COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Line is available in English and Spanish and has translators available in approximately 100 additional languages.

Vaccines are widely available across the Commonwealth. Getting vaccinated remains the most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves, their families, and their community.

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe, effective, and free. Individuals do not need an ID or health insurance to access a vaccine and do not need to show a vaccine card when getting a vaccine. Visit www.mass.gov/covid19booster for more information.

Scanning the City

Methuen Welcomes New Assistant Assessor

The Assessors' department would like to welcome our new Assistant Assessor, Jennifer Poliseno (pictured left with City Assessor Suzanne Doherty). She comes to us with a wealth of real estate experience and sits on the Board of Assessors in her hometown. She will be helping the department adhere to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws working with property valuations throughout the city. We wish her a warm welcome to the team.

The Assessor's Office is committed to serving the citizens of Methuen by fairly and equitably assessing property, setting the levies based on those values, administering tax relief programs, as well as maintaining all property tax related records, and ensuring public access to those records. It is also our commitment to accomplish these mandated responsibilities in a courteous, efficient, and clear manner.



Bloody Brook Searles Pond Resilience Planning Project



Methuen and project partners City of Lawrence, Groundwork Lawrence and Merrimack River Watershed Council are undertaking community resilience corridor planning along Bloody Brook to mitigate impacts of flooding caused by extreme storms. The community-based planning is focused on environmental management and nature-based solutions to reduce flooding impacts to homes, businesses, and infrastructure along the Jackson St. corridor from Searles Pond to the brook outlet at the Spicket River.

The planning initiative is funded with grant support to Methuen from the Commonwealth's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program.

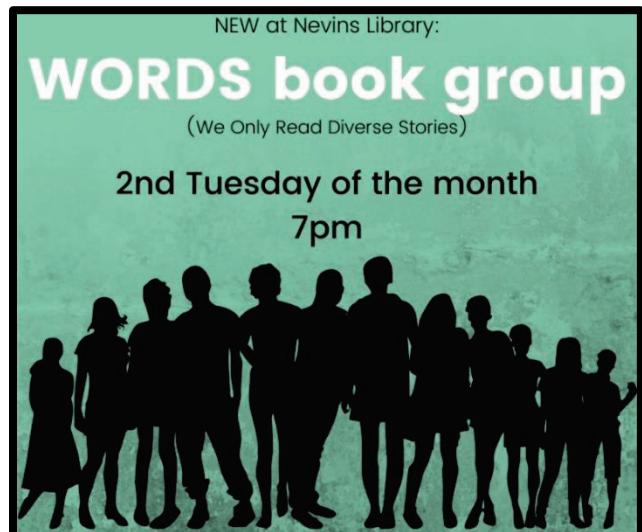
Through the project, civil engineers from Pare Corporation under contract with the City, are defining options for stormwater management and flood controls including Green Infrastructure measures using nature-based

alternatives for protecting water quality and conservation ability. Groundwork Lawrence is surveying residents along the Brook about their experiences so that this information can guide the development of hydrologic and hydraulic models, analysis, and potential solutions. Merrimack River Watershed Council is seeking volunteers to help with water sampling and monitoring.

More information is available at the planning project webpage groundworklawrence.org/BloodyBrookSearlesPond. Additional mapping and water quality information is at the Merrimack River Watershed Council website <https://merrimack.org/bloodybrook/>

For questions about the Bloody Brook Searles Pond Resilience Planning, contact Joseph Cosgrove, Environmental Planner/Energy Manager at Methuen Dept. of Economic and Community Development at jcosgrove@ci.methuen.ma.us.

A New Year and New Book Groups at the Nevins Library



Are you bored with reading the same ole same ole? We have a brand new adult book group starting on January 11th here at the Nevins Library. It is called We Only Read Diverse Stories (or WORDS for short). It will focus on authors and stories that explore diverse and underrepresented voices and experiences. And, even better news, it's year-round! The first book that we'll be reading is Of Women and Salt by Gabrielle Garcia, a sweeping book about a mother, a daughter, and a family legacy that begins in Cuba before either woman was born. It can be picked up at the main desk at any time.

Our teen groups and clubs are still going strong this winter, and open to anyone ages 13-18. From our Rainbow Club to Movie Club to Book Babble, that is reading The Crown's Game by Evelyn Skye for the January 6th meeting. No registration is required for any of them. Just stop on by, and if you have any questions feel free to e-mail Alison at acochrane@nevinslibrary.org or call 978-686-4080 ex. 35.

In the new year, the Children's Department will be teaming up with our Teen Librarian to offer a game club once a month, and we'll invite kids' input at our first meeting in January. We'll also have some brand-new programs! For our very youngest patrons we'll have a four-week infant massage class, where parents will learn how to massage, relax, and soothe their infants. (The class is strictly limited to newborns and pre-crawling infants, and participants must attend all four sessions of the training.) For older children we have three new book groups: "I Survived" for ages 7-8, "First Chapters" for ages 7-9, and "Story Crime" for ages 9-11.

Finally, the Friends' Mini-Golf Tournament is back next year! On January 16th, 2022, from 10am-4pm come enjoy a day of fun, play, and more on our 18-hole course located throughout the library. Open to ALL AGES!! Tickets will be available for purchase at the door. As always, be the first to know about all that is contained here and more by going to our website, www.nevinslibrary.org, or following us on our social media accounts. Simply search for Nevins Library or Nevins Library and the appropriate age group, adult, teens, or children, and we'll pop right up for you.

Methuen Recreation Department Launches New Website

Methuen Parks and Recreation is excited to announce the launching of new website for program information, online registrations, and community events. www.methuenrec.com is one comprehensive website that will allow residents to find any Parks and Recreation information they may need in one place. It also includes family accounts for easier registration, virtual reservations, improved email, and text communication.

We are excited to offer this new platform for our community and invite you to set up an account as soon as possible so we can let you know of all the great stuff going on in the city such as our new and exciting winter programs, as well as programs during the upcoming winter school vacation! From Sports Zone 101, Public Skating, Lego Masters, Imagination Painting, Nerf Wars to Marble Run classes, there is a little bit of everything for the kids in the community.



Methuen DPW Seeking Snow Plow Drivers

The Methuen DPW is still accepting applications from persons interested in snow plowing. Applications are available at the Highway Yard at 33 Lindberg Avenue in Methuen. Visit www.cityofmethuen.net for the City of Methuen Snow Plowing Contract.

Contracts can be dropped off Monday through Friday between 7:00 A.M. and 2:30 P.M. at the Highway Yard. If you have any questions, please email wmcevoy@ci.methuen.ma.us or call (978) 983-8865.

Health Department Offers Winter Wellness Tips

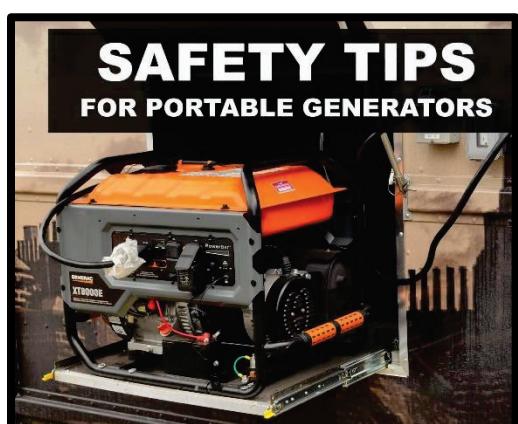
As you are all aware, we are in the midst of another COVID-19 surge. The winter weather and holidays have brought everyone indoors, which has increased the risk of spread, along with the arrival of the Delta variant, and the fast-approaching Omicron variant. The following is a reminder of how you can protect yourself and others around you:

- **Get vaccinated** for COVID-19 and get a booster as soon as you're eligible. Check out www.cityofmethuen.net and follow the City of Methuen on social media for updates on clinics, times, and dates.
- Keep physical distance of at least 6 feet from others, even if they don't appear to be sick. Avoid crowds and close contact.
- **Wear a properly fitted mask** when physical distancing is not possible and in poorly ventilated settings.
- Clean your hands frequently with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Dispose of used tissues immediately and clean hands regularly.
- If you develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19, self-isolate until you recover.



With the winter comes snow, ice, concerns for carbon monoxide safety and space heaters. Please see the city website for safety information regarding these concerns. Visit <https://search.mass.gov/?q=winter> for advice and articles on how to stay safe this winter.

Generator Safety a Must During Winter Season



Generators can be helpful when the power goes out for an extended period of time. It is important to know how use them safely to prevent fires, carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and electrocution. The Methuen Fire Department and the Office of the State Fire Marshal offer these important directives to remember when purchasing and using your home or business generator.

First, purchase a generator that has been approved by a nationally recognized testing agency such as Underwriter's Laboratory (UL). Have a licensed electrician install a "transfer switch" and never plug a generator directly into a wall outlet to avoid "backfeeding" which can electrocute utility workers. Be sure to read the instructions before you need to use the generator and install working CO alarms on every level of the home.

Generators should be situated outdoors, 5-10 feet away from the house, facing away from doors, windows, and vents. Never use a generator inside your house, basement, crawl space, or even inside a garage with the door open. Keep the generator dry and on a dry surface under an open canopy or tent and dry your hands before touching the generator. Let the generator cool before refueling. Store gasoline for the generator in a shed or detached garage far from any fuel burning appliance and away from the house.

As always, call the Methuen Fire Department at 978-983-8940 with any questions on generator or any other fire-related safety issues.

Conexión Comunitaria de Methuen

Subvenciones de ayuda para pequeñas empresas COVID-19 disponibles

La ciudad de Methuen ha comprometido fondos únicos para crear un Programa de fondos de ayuda para pequeñas empresas. El objetivo de este programa es ofrecer asistencia financiera a las microempresas que califiquen (pequeñas empresas ubicadas en Methuen que tienen 5 empleados o menos, uno o más de los cuales son propietarios de la empresa) que se vieron afectadas negativamente por COVID-19. Subvenciones de hasta \$ 25,000.00 (efectivo el 27/4/21) a empresas calificadas para alquileres basados en inquilinos, hipotecas comerciales (solo principal e intereses) y / o costos de servicios públicos (combustibles eléctricos y de calefacción). La subvención está diseñada para ayudar a mantener su negocio y su fuerza laboral. Para obtener más información y solicitar una subvención para pequeñas empresas, visite <https://www.cityofmethuen.net/economic-community-development> o envíe un correo electrónico a Pat Antoon a plantoon@ci.methuen.ma.us.



Vacuna contra el COVID-19: Segura y Eficaz

La Vacuna contra el COVID-19 se desarrolló de forma segura.

- Para crear la vacuna contra el COVID, se siguieron las mismas medidas de seguridad que se usan para todas las otras vacunas.
- Miles de personas participaron en los ensayos clínicos para demostrar que la vacuna es segura y eficaz.

La Vacuna pudo desarrollarse rápidamente porque:

- Cuando comenzó la pandemia, los científicos ya habían estudiado otros virus similares durante más de 20 años, y eso les dio una ventaja inicial para crear esta vacuna.
- Las compañías comenzaron a producir la vacuna con anticipación para garantizar su distribución inmediata después de la aprobación.

**Cuando sea su turno,
Vacúnese**

OBTENGA MÁS INFORMACIÓN EN
mass.gov/CovidVaccine

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Trust the
FACTS
Get the
VAX

Noticias y Notas

SITIO WEB DE NUEVOS PARQUES Y RECREACIÓN: Parques y Recreación de Methuen se complace en anunciar el lanzamiento de un nuevo sitio web para información sobre programas, registros en línea y eventos comunitarios. www.methuenrec.com es un sitio web completo que permitirá a los residentes encontrar cualquier información sobre Parques y Recreación que puedan necesitar en un solo lugar. También incluye cuentas familiares para un registro más fácil, reservas virtuales, correo electrónico mejorado y comunicación de texto.

VACUNAS COVIDAS: Las vacunas Covidas están ampliamente disponibles en todo el Commonwealth. Vacunarse sigue siendo lo más importante que pueden hacer las personas para protegerse a sí mismas, a sus familias y a su comunidad. La vacuna COVID-19 es segura, eficaz y gratuita. Las personas no necesitan una identificación o seguro médico para acceder a una vacuna y no necesitan mostrar una tarjeta de vacuna cuando se vacunen. Visite mass.gov/covid19booster para obtener más información.

OFICINA DE SERVICIOS VETERANOS: La Oficina de Servicios para Veteranos en Methuen atiende a casi 5,000 residentes veteranos. El Oficial de Servicios para Veteranos Paul Jensen (en la foto de la derecha) está planeando un año muy ajetreado en 2022, desde eventos y celebraciones hasta procesar información y brindar asistencia a los Veteranos y sus familias. Alentamos a todos los Veteranos y sus seres queridos a que se comuniquen con la Oficina de Servicios para Veteranos al 978-983-8585 o envíen un correo electrónico a Paul a pjensen@ci.methuen.ma.us con cualquier pregunta o inquietud. Puede realizar un seguimiento de toda la información relacionada con los Veteranos en cityofmethuen.net/office-of-veterans-services, o pasar por nuestra oficina en el Edificio Searles, 41 Pleasant Street, Room 108.

AVISO SOBRE EL QUITADO DE NIEVE DE LA CIUDAD DE METHUEN: El DPW de Methuen (El Departamento de Obra Pública) todavía está aceptando solicitudes de personas interesadas en el quitado de nieve. Las solicitudes están disponibles en Highway Yard en 33 Lindberg Avenue. Visite el siguiente enlace para el contrato de quitanieves de la ciudad de Methuen: www.cityofmethuen.net. Los contratos se pueden entregar de lunes a viernes entre las 7:00 a.m. y 2:30 p.m. en el Highway Yard. Si tiene alguna pregunta, envíe un correo electrónico a wmcevoy@ci.methuen.ma.us o llame al (978) 983-8865.

Message from the Mayor

Past Accomplishments, Present Plans, Future Goals

As I come to the end of my first term in office, I wanted to take this moment to thank the residents and my co-workers for their response during an especially difficult period that will go down in history. Despite numerous and challenging obstacles, in the end, we began the process of moving the city forward. Though I've made a few mistakes along the way – and learned from them, our list of accomplishments is significant:

- Two consecutive years in which we established a conservative financial base with real results, achieving the highest free cash in city history.
- Ensured availability of COVID vaccines and testing to Methuen residents through establishment of local clinics and partnership with local healthcare organizations (GLFHC, ECCF)
- Negotiated and settled 7 of 8 collective bargaining agreements with municipal unions – implementing fair plans for employees and taxpayers alike
- Completed the Methuen Police Department Audit and appointed a new Methuen Police Chief
- Appointed 40 board / commission members of which 25 were first time participants in a board or commission and replaced or hired 9 new department heads



Mayor Neil Perry

There were other accomplishments and also a few things I'd do a little differently. I'd like you to join me in welcoming our two newest department heads, our new City Clerk, Anne Drouin (who was previously Assistant City Clerk) and Luis Santiago, our new Chief Information Officer. I'm excited to have them as part of the team and I know their participation will help us drive even more positive change in our City.

I'd also like to give a shout out to our DPH, Inspection, Methuen Police Department, and all others who assisted in the distribution of the COVID test kits received from the Commonwealth. We distributed tests initially to MAN, Inc., Methuen Public Schools Backpack Program, Methuen Senior Center, Methuen Cares, YMCA Methuen, Pitter Patter Academy, St. Anne's Home, and Methuen Children's Center. After all those distributions occurred, we set up 4 days of drive-through pick up of the tests at Sanborn Hall.

We have received an initial list of ARPA submitted projects back from our compliance auditors, Melanson Heath, and are preparing them for review by the City Council at the January 17th meeting. We will be messaging clearly on what projects get done and ensuring through press releases that everyone is aware – making sure these one-time infrastructure efforts get top priority.

Methuen continues to make progress, but still significantly lags the state in the % of individuals who are vaccinated against COVID. The virus is still here. The data is clear. Vaccinated individuals have fewer complications if they contract the virus, including the Omicron variant. I would not be doing my job if I didn't remind you to get the facts and trust the vax.

We still have much to do to improve service for you, our customer, and we are focused on doing better each and every day. We love hearing from you – where we are doing well, what areas we need to focus on improving. Despite the dynamic challenges and sometimes petty politics, I still love being your Mayor. I especially appreciate all your kind words, patience, and support. It's the best and hardest job I've ever had. With a new year upon us, let me remind you what we missed most during the harshest days of the pandemic; each other. So let me wish you and yours a Healthy New Year! Enjoy the company of friends and family, God Bless!

Mensaje del Alcalde

Logros pasados, planes actuales, metas futuras

Al llegar al final de mi primer mandato en el cargo, quería aprovechar este momento para agradecer a los residentes y a mis compañeros de trabajo por su respuesta durante un período especialmente difícil que pasará a la historia. A pesar de los numerosos y desafiantes obstáculos, al final, iniciamos el proceso de hacer avanzar la ciudad. Aunque cometí algunos errores en el camino y aprendí de ellos, nuestra lista de logros es significativa:

- Dos años consecutivos en los que establecimos una base financiera conservadora con resultados reales, logrando el efectivo libre más alto en la historia de la ciudad.
- Aseguré la disponibilidad de las vacunas COVID y las pruebas para los residentes de Methuen mediante el establecimiento de clínicas locales y la asociación con organizaciones de atención médica locales (GLFHC, ECCF)
- Negocié y resolví 7 de 8 convenios colectivos con sindicatos municipales, implementando planes justos para empleados y contribuyentes por igual.
- Completó la Auditoría del Departamento de Policía de Methuen y nombró un nuevo Jefe de Policía de Methuen
- Designó a 40 miembros de la junta / comisión, de los cuales 25 participaron por primera vez en una junta o comisión y reemplazó o contrató a 9 nuevos jefes de departamento.

Hubo otros logros y también algunas cosas que haría de manera un poco diferente. Me gustaría que se unieran a mí para dar la bienvenida a nuestros dos jefes de departamento más nuevos, nuestra nueva Secretaria Municipal, Anne Drouin (que anteriormente fue secretaria municipal asistente) y Luis Santiago, nuestro nuevo Director de Información. Estoy emocionado de tenerlos como parte del equipo y sé que su participación nos ayudará a impulsar un cambio aún más positivo en nuestra Ciudad.

También me gustaría agradecer a nuestro DPH, Inspección, Departamento de Policía de Methuen y todos los demás que ayudaron en la distribución de los kits de prueba de COVID recibidos del Commonwealth. Inicialmente distribuimos las pruebas a MAN, Inc., el Programa de Mochilas de las Escuelas Públicas de Methuen, el Centro para Personas Mayores de Methuen, Methuen Cares, YMCA Methuen, la Academia Pitter Patter, el Hogar de St. Anne y el Centro Infantil de Methuen. Después de que ocurrieron todas esas distribuciones, establecimos 4 días de conducción hasta la recogida de las pruebas en Sanborn Hall.

Hemos recibido una lista inicial de proyectos presentados por ARPA de nuestros auditores de cumplimiento, Melanson Heath, y los estamos preparando para su revisión por parte del Ayuntamiento en la reunión del 17 de Enero. Enviaremos mensajes claros sobre los proyectos que se realizan y nos aseguraremos a través de comunicados de prensa de que todos estén al tanto, asegurándonos de que estos esfuerzos únicos de infraestructura tengan la máxima prioridad.

Methuen continúa progresando, pero aún está significativamente por detrás del estado en el porcentaje de personas vacunadas contra COVID. El virus todavía está aquí. Los datos son claros. Las personas vacunadas tienen menos complicaciones si contraen el virus, incluida la variante Omicron. No estaría haciendo mi trabajo si no le recordara que debe conocer los hechos y confiar en el vax.

Todavía tenemos mucho por hacer para mejorar el servicio para usted, nuestro cliente, y estamos enfocados en hacerlo mejor todos los días. Nos encanta saber de usted: dónde lo estamos haciendo bien, en qué áreas debemos enfocarnos en mejorar. A pesar de los desafíos dinámicos y, a veces, de la política mezquina, todavía me encanta ser su alcalde. Agradezco especialmente todas sus amables palabras, paciencia y apoyo. Es el mejor y más difícil trabajo que he tenido. Con un nuevo año sobre nosotros, permítanme recordarles lo que más extrañamos durante los días más duros de la pandemia; El uno al otro. ¡Permítanme desearles a ustedes y a los suyos un Año Nuevo Saludable! Disfrute de la compañía de amigos y familiares, ¡Dios los bendiga!