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December 2020

www.cityofmethuen.net

Feel the Joy of the Season with the “Methuen Holiday Light Tour”

Methuen's Historical Holiday Light Tour

Join us for self-guided historical holiday light tour to celebrate the joy of the holiday season and all Methuen has to offer.

Find all the locations: viewer.mapme.com/methuen-holiday-tour



Mayor Neil Perry is pleased to announce that Methuen's Historical Holiday Light Tour is underway and will run through December. The City has created an interactive map that pinpoints the historic city buildings that have been lit up for the holidays, along with historical information for each. The map also includes the locations of wreaths and dozens of trees sponsored by local businesses and individuals through the Rotary Club, as well as information about Methuen's Festival of Trees events.

Landmarks like the Nevins Memorial Library, the Methuen Memorial Music Hall, the Searles Building, and the Central School Building have all been decked out in lights to celebrate the holiday season. Several city departments have been decorated and are included in the tour as well, such as the

Methuen Police Department, Water Department, Methuen Public Schools Central Administrative Building, and Senior Center. Visit [https://viewer.mapme.com/methuen-holiday-tour](http://viewer.mapme.com/methuen-holiday-tour) for the Interactive map.

Residents who want to visit all of the spots on the interactive map are encouraged to click each pin and then click the corresponding address, which will automatically redirect to Google Maps directions for each location. The interactive map is designed to be used easily on a smart device. Please enjoy this event safely, do not operate the interactive map while driving.

The Methuen Rotary Club and its members have donated 52 wreaths and 39 trees for the event, which have been hung and decorated throughout the City, and will be up until December 31. “This event offers our residents the opportunity to get into the holiday spirit safely during the pandemic, and to also learn about and celebrate the rich history of Methuen,” says Mayor Perry. “Thank you to everyone who helped to organize this for our community. We hope everyone has a safe, healthy and happy holiday season.” Stay safe Methuen and Happy Holidays! For more information, visit cityofmethuen.net/methuenhistoricalholidaylighttour

Massachusetts Rolls Back COVID-19 Restrictions to Phase 3, Step 1

As of Sunday, December 13, communities in Massachusetts will return to Step 1 of Phase 3, of the Commonwealth's reopening plan.

Outdoor gatherings at event venues will be limited to no more than 50 people. Hosts of outdoor gatherings of greater than 25 people will be required to provide advance notice of the gathering their local board of health.

Indoor theaters and performance venues and higher contact indoor recreation businesses will be required to close to the public. Outdoor theaters and performance venues will be limited to 25% capacity, and no more than 50 people.

In all communities, arcades/indoor and outdoor recreational businesses, driving and flight schools, gyms/health clubs, libraries, museums, retail and offices, places of worship, lodging, golf facilities, and movie theaters (max 50 people per theater) will be reduced from 50% to 40% capacity.

In restaurants, patrons must wear masks at all times except when eating and drinking. Restaurants must seat no more than six patrons per table and must impose a 90-minute time limit on tables. Musical performances at restaurants will no longer be permitted, and food court seating must be closed in malls. For complete information, visit mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-announces-statewide-rollback-to-phase-three-step-one-additional



Methuen City Hall is Currently Open by Appointment Only
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

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COVID-19 Increases the Need for Blood Donations

Recovered COVID-19 Donors Can Help Save Lives

In coordination with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Red Cross is seeking people who are fully recovered from the new coronavirus to sign up to donate plasma to help current COVID-19 patients. People who have fully recovered from COVID-19 have antibodies in their plasma that can attack the virus. This convalescent plasma is being evaluated as treatment for patients with serious or immediately life-threatening COVID-19 infections, or those judged by a healthcare provider to be at high risk of progression to severe or life-threatening condition.

Interested individuals can visit www.RedCrossBlood.org/plasma4covid to learn more. The Red Cross follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and volunteer donors are the only source of blood for those in need. To make an appointment to donate, please visit www.RedCrossBlood.org



Methuen Winter Parking Ban Runs Through April 1, 2021



The City of Methuen Winter Parking Ban runs through April 1, 2021. When the Winter Parking Ban is being enforced, no vehicles will be permitted to park on any roadway between 1am and 6am. Vehicles in violation of the ordinance will be ticketed and are subject to being towed.

The ban is enforced based on inclement weather and snow removal operations. To address concerns over the Winter Parking Ban, the Methuen Police Department has established a Winter Parking Ban Information Line. Please check it daily for updates with regard to enforcement of the Winter Parking Ban, as well as the parking instructions associated with the ban.

WINTER PARKING BAN INFO LINE: 978-983-8643
METHUEN POLICE BUSINESS PHONE: 978-983-8698

Massachusetts COVID-19 Command Center Sends Alerts to Residents

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts COVID-19 Command Center periodically sends out messages to residents via the Everbridge Resident Connection Alerts MA System. These alerts remind residents of the serious risk that COVID-19 poses to the Commonwealth. The alerts appear as a phone call or text message and reach approximately 4.5 million phone lines, including cell and landlines.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health sends these messages in English and Spanish. If you would like to stay informed about developments in the COVID-19 situation, you can receive future messages by text, email, or phone in your preferred language by opting in at mass.gov/covidalerts.



Methuen Awarded Energy Technical Assistance Grant



The City of Methuen has won a \$12,500 Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) to evaluate energy storage opportunities at three City facilities. The grants are awarded to cities and towns, regional school districts, and wastewater districts to help manage sustainability projects or improve the performance of studies to support the development of clean energy projects. The META grant will allow Methuen to better evaluate the economic and resiliency benefits associated with energy storage.

"This is a great boost for the City's efforts to become better stewards of the environment and save the taxpayer money in reducing long-term energy use and costs," said Mayor Neil Perry.

Added Governor Charlie Baker, "These grants provide crucial technical assistance to allow cities and towns across the Commonwealth to develop projects that will increase energy efficiency."

The Cadmus Group will be supporting Methuen in evaluating energy storage opportunities at the Searles Building, Water Treatment Plant, and Methuen Transfer station. The Group has assisted Methuen in the past, including support in the development of the existing solar facility a decade ago at Methuen's closed landfill off Huntington Avenue.

Methuen Welcomes Experimax to The Loop



Mayor Neil Perry recently celebrated the Grand Opening of Experimax, a new business at The Loop, 90 Pleasant Valley Street. Experimax sells laptops, desktop computers, mobile devices, wearable electronics, as well as accessories.

They also buy, trade, and repair devices. Experimax also offers special Heroes pricing for military and first responders. Owner Greg Klein-Hertzel (pictured left with Mayor Perry) is excited to be in business here in Methuen, and we are thrilled to have Experimax in our city.

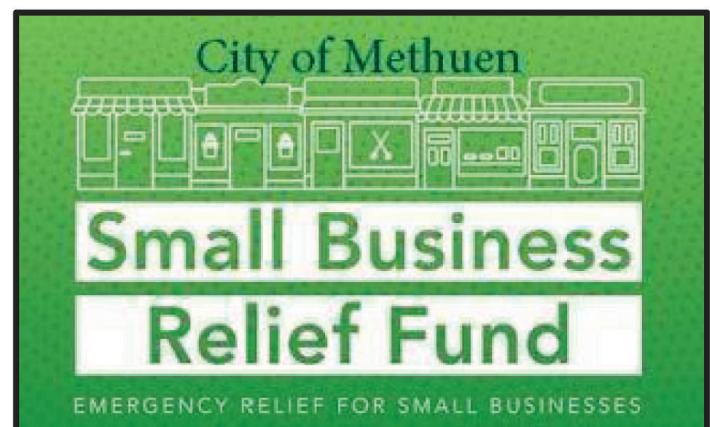


Visit experimax.com/locations/methuen-ma/

City of Methuen COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program

ATTENTION METHUEN SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS: The City of Methuen has committed up to \$375,000 in one-time funds to create a Small Business Relief Fund Program. The objective of this program is to offer immediate financial assistance to small businesses located in Methuen, with at least 1 and no more than 5 full-time employees, and who income qualify.

The grant is designed to aid in maintaining their business and workforce. This is a great opportunity to apply for funds and mitigate the economic strains caused by the COVID pandemic, so act now. For more information and to apply for a Small Business Grant, visit cityofmethuen.net/economic-community-development/pages/apply-for-small-business-relief-grants or email Pat Antoon at platoon@ci.methuen.ma.us.



What to Do While Awaiting COVID-19 Test Results

COVID-19 has brought with it a lot of health-related doubt and even fear. Once you decide to have a COVID-19 test, it is important to remain calm and adhere to the following tips. Most importantly, wait and stay home after your test to avoid spreading the virus if you are positive. You must isolate if you are symptomatic or quarantine if you were exposed to someone with COVID-19. For more information, visit Mass.gov/quarantine.

If you have a *Positive* test result, answer the call from your Local Health Department or MA COVID Team, confirm your name, address, and date of birth, provide contact information for those you have recently been in physical contact with, and follow instructions to safely isolate and quarantine.

If you have a *Negative* test result, continue your 14-day quarantine from last suspected exposure if you have been identified as a close contact. If you do not have any symptoms, you may get tested on or after day 8 of your quarantine. Stay in quarantine until you get your results. If your test comes back negative and you still do not have symptoms, you can end quarantine after day 10.

Next Steps Following a COVID-19 Test

- 1. Wait and Quarantine**
You must quarantine if you are symptomatic or if you were exposed to someone with COVID-19
- 2. Receive Results**

Positive Test Result

 - Answer the call from your Local Health Department or MA COVID Team
 - » Confirm your name, address, and date of birth
 - » Provide contact information for those you have recently been in physical contact with
 - Follow instructions to safely isolate and quarantine

Negative Test Result

 - Continue to quarantine for length of time advised by your public health authority

For more information visit mass.gov/wait4results

Pasos a seguir después de la prueba de COVID-19

- 1. Espera y haz la cuarentena**
Tú debes hacer la cuarentena si tienes síntomas o si estuviste expuesto a una persona con COVID-19
- 2. Recibe los resultados**

Prueba con resultado positivo

 - Responde a la llamada de tu Departamento de Salud local o del Equipo de COVID de Massachusetts
 - » Confirma tu nombre, dirección y fecha de nacimiento
 - » Da la información de aquellos que han estado en contacto cercano contigo recientemente
 - Sigue las instrucciones para aislarte de manera segura y hacer la cuarentena

Prueba con resultado negativo

 - Haz la cuarentena durante el período de tiempo recomendado por la autoridad de salud pública que corresponda

Para ver más información visita mass.gov/wait4results

COVID-19 Increases Call to Sign Up for Smart911 Alerts



Smart911 allows residents to sign up online and provide vital information to 911 call takers during an emergency, allowing first responders to make faster and more informed responses. Residents and visitors can create a safety profile for their whole household that includes any information they might want 911 dispatchers and first responders to have in the event of an emergency, such as allergy information or pre-existing medical conditions.

With the COVID-19 pandemic ongoing, there is even more of a need for first responders to be aware of any pre-existing conditions on emergency calls. Smart911 is private and secure, is only used for emergency responses, and is only made available to the 911 system in the event of an emergency call. For more information about Smart911, visit the Smart911 link on the home page at cityofmethuen.net. You can also download the Smart911 App available in the App Store and on Google Play.

See-Click-Fix & Social Media Provide Access and Answers

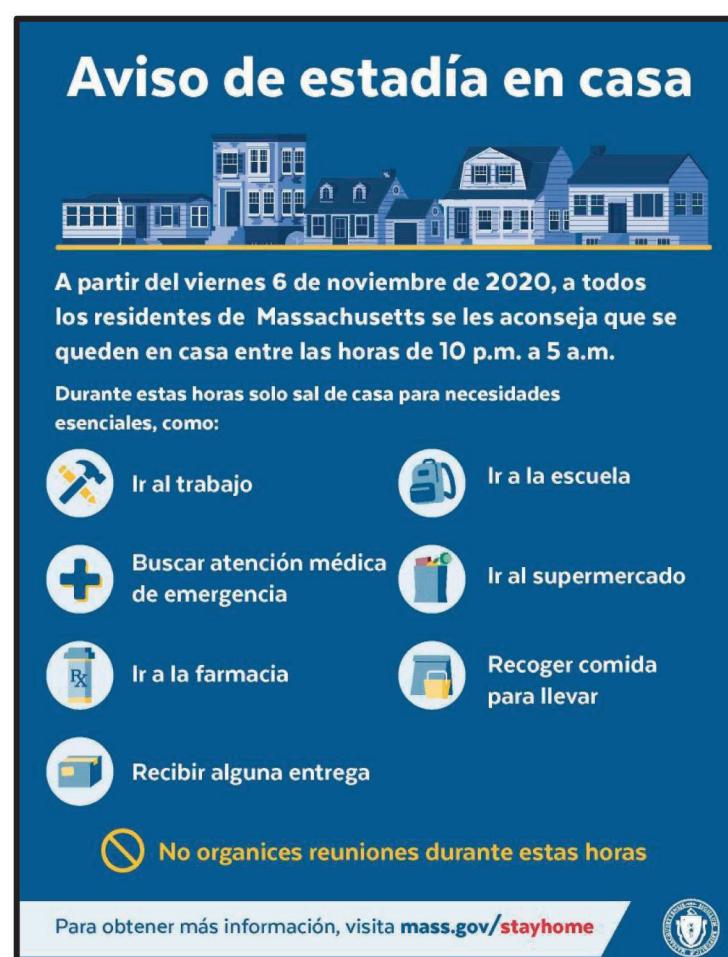
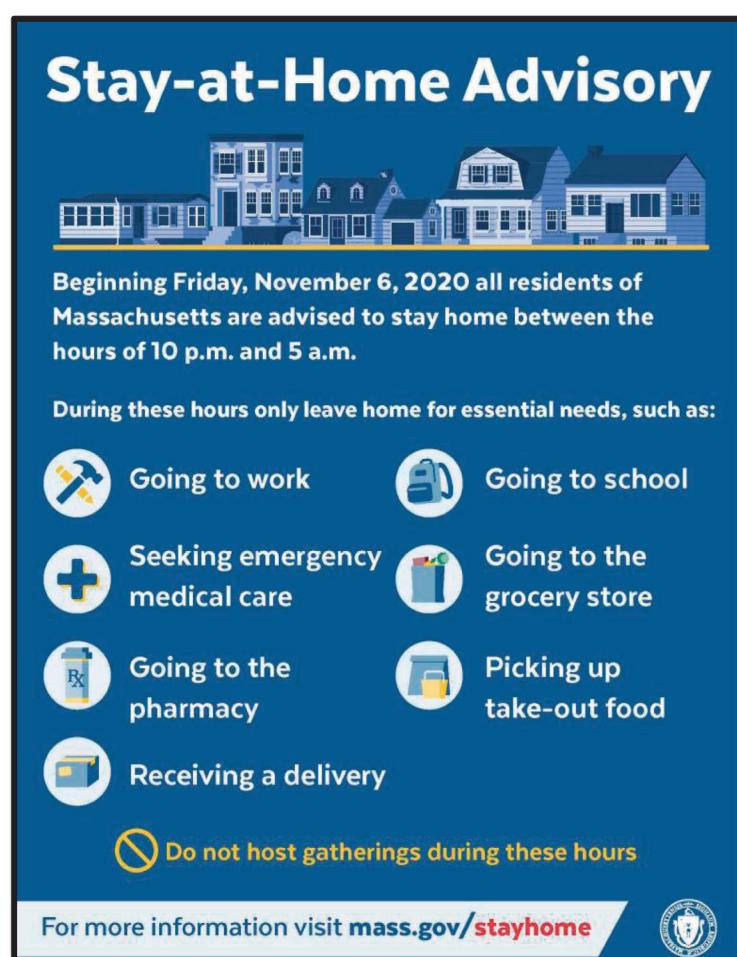


SeeClickFix is an interactive system that allows the City of Methuen to be more responsive and transparent. Once the SeeClickFix app is installed on your phone, it takes just a minute or two to notify the city of a concern. The city has been using SeeClickFix for COVID-19 related issues only. Visit cityofmethuen.net and click on the “Report a COVID-19 Issue” link to let us know of any COVID related problems or issues encountered. SeeClickFix is now set to be rolled out for all city departments over the coming months. In addition to SeeClickFix, the City of Methuen provides news and information to our citizens through our many social media platforms. We are accessible on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and don’t forget to visit the City of Methuen YouTube Channel (youtube.com/channel/UCQ8oa7H7AsvEpJaVKhOw2Hw) for videos of city events and happenings.

Governor Baker Issues COVID-19 Stay At Home Advisory

As of Friday, November 6, 2020, all residents of Massachusetts are advised to stay home between the hours of 10pm and 5am. COVID-19 case numbers in our state are rising and social gatherings are contributing to these increases. Left unchecked, the current COVID-19 case growth poses a risk to our healthcare system. In order to comply with this Stay At Home advisory, between the hours of 10pm and 5am, you must:

- Only leave home to go to work or school, or for essential needs such as seeking emergency medical care, going to the grocery store or pharmacy, picking up take-out food, or receiving deliveries. If you do leave home, practice social distancing by staying 6 feet away from others, wearing a face covering, and avoid touching surfaces frequently touched by others.
- Not have gatherings in your home with anybody outside of your household.
- Comply with all Governor’s Orders, including orders requiring face coverings, limiting gatherings, and mandating early closure of businesses. Use remote modes of communication instead of visiting friends or family.



Holiday Shopping Made Safer with Methuen's Internet Purchase Exchange Location

Mayor Neil Perry and Police Chief Joseph Solomon are pleased to announce that the Methuen Police Department has implemented a new program that gives community members a safe and secure meeting spot to complete online transactions. Methuen residents completing transactions initiated online can go to the police station, located at 90 Hampshire St., to meet a buyer or seller. Transactions can be completed at the designated Internet Purchase Exchange Location in the station's parking lot.

By using the police station as a meet up location between a buyer and seller, residents do not have to share their address with a stranger or meet a stranger at their home. While Methuen Police cannot guarantee the quality or authenticity of items residents purchase online, the online transaction safe zone provides residents with a secure, monitored public place to complete a sale.

"We're happy to be able to provide this service to our residents to ensure they have a safe way to buy and sell items with people they meet on various online marketplaces," Chief Solomon says. The Internet Purchase Exchange Location is under constant video surveillance.

"This is a great way for residents to have peace of mind when meeting strangers to buy or sell items online," adds Mayor Neil Perry. "I hope residents take advantage of this opportunity to ensure their transactions are as secure as possible." Methuen Police would also like to remind residents to be especially cautious when buying or selling valuable items, that it is a good idea to take a friend or family member with you to a meet-up, and that it is safest to conduct transactions during daylight hours. Residents who meet individuals in person after arranging transactions online are reminded to wear masks and practice social distancing.



Methuen Salutes its Heroes with Veterans Day Remembrance



While COVID restrictions prohibited the public from attending Methuen Veterans Day events on November 11, Mayor Neil Perry and local dignitaries still honored our Veterans on this important day. The Mayor began the day meeting with members from the Methuen American Legion and VFW.

The City of Methuen provided these two honorable groups with air purification units for their respective facilities. This will help to mitigate COVID and keep patrons safe and healthy. Veterans Day remembrance ceremonies were held at Walnut Grove Cemetery and Elmwood Cemetery.

Later in the day, Mayor Perry, joined by Fire Chief Tim Sheehy and Police Chief Joe Solomon along with the Methuen Fire and Police Departments, did a drive by birthday salute to Victor Andreoli of Methuen.

Mr. Andreoli, a World War II Army Veteran, celebrated his 102nd birthday on Veterans Day. He was joined at his home by his daughter and grandchildren (pictured). Visit the City of Methuen YouTube channel for video of the tribute procession. We thank Mr. Andreoli and all of our Veterans for their service in preserving our freedoms.

City Officials Urge Residents to Celebrate Safely in PSAs

Methuen City and School Officials are encouraging everyone to follow public safety guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19, especially over the holidays. Please take some time to view these video public service announcement links: <https://vimeo.com/483260033>

Celebrate Safely: Methuen Schools Reminds Students of COVID-19 Safety Guidelines. Superintendent Brandi Kwong wishes to remind all students of public health guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19 ahead of the holidays.
<https://vimeo.com/483261656>

Autoridades de Methuen instan a los residentes a mantenerse seguros durante las fiestas. El alcalde de Methuen, Neil Perry, está instando a todos a seguir las directrices de salud pública para evitar el COVID-19 durante el período de fiestas.
<https://vimeo.com/483256480>



STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES

Scanning the City

Senior Activity Center Brings Holiday Cheer and Outreach

Every December for the past 35 years, the Council on Aging has hosted a Holiday Volunteer Appreciation event to thank their small army of volunteers for all they do throughout the year to help. During the 2019/2020 fiscal year, more than 140 volunteers donated over 15,000 hours of service before having to curtail efforts due to COVID-19. Even so, many continued to work remotely making hundreds of phone calls to check on and connect with fellow seniors.

A Senior Center holiday party was not possible this year, but gratitude does not end, so on Tuesday, November 24, Executive Director Corinne LaCharite, Senior Center Staff and Mayor Neil Perry enjoyed a *Drive-Thru Volunteer Appreciation Event* in the parking lot instead! It was thrilling to see everyone, and spend a few minutes catching up with each other!



Thanks to Mayor Neil Perry and Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley & North Shore for providing funds for gift cards, and to Guy Kelley of Merrimack Valley Community Service Corps for the canvas bags to "wrap" each gift. Thanks also to our partner agencies who provide services and programs to Methuen seniors throughout the year both at the Center and in the Community: Elder Services, Family Services, Inc., Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Merrimack Valley Community Service Corps/RSVP, MVRTA, and others.

The past 9 months have certainly been a test for all of us, but we are encouraged with the news of a vaccine already being administered. More than ever, the senior center staff, Council on Aging Board and Senior Center Trustees wish all of you Happy Holidays, a very Merry Christmas, and a bright and healthy New Year!

Methuen CARES Center Continues to Provide COVID-19 Relief

The Methuen CARES Center was established when COVID-19 pandemic began back in March. Currently, the location for CARES Center is at 10 Ditson Place - School Administration Building in Methuen with hours of operation 9am to 2pm, Monday through Friday. Donations can be dropped either at the side entrance by the sign or in the lobby.

With the pandemic ongoing, we are still looking for donations of shelf sustainable dry goods, sanitizing products, and paper goods. Residents may get a facemask by calling center at 978.609.1866. With the holiday season upon us, it is a great time to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all of the generous donors who have made an impactful difference in the lives of so many.

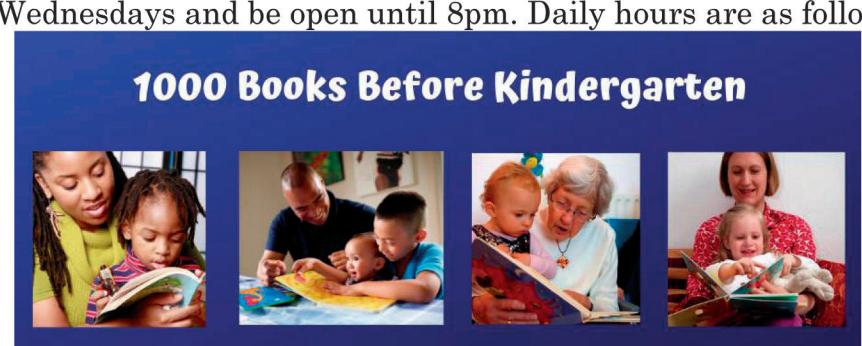
Hundreds of residents have made both monetary and food donations. Many local businesses have donated money and products since the beginning, and out of state donations have been offered as well. We received a grant from the USDA for fresh produce boxes for about six months and worked with Clear Path and Randy Carter to distribute food boxes for Veterans. Our dedicated volunteers have made hundreds of calls to elderly residents for wellness checks and to see if they needed any groceries. In addition, the CARES Center has also distributed hundreds of lightbulbs from Maxlite and does approximately 25-30 deliveries per day. With the tough long winter months ahead, the Center is still accepting donations of food, gifts cards, and money. Hundreds of families still need your help. Thanks to all who have volunteered and donated!

Nevins Library Offers New Hours and New Projects

Nevins Memorial Library, 305 Broadway, will now open at 1pm on Wednesdays and be open until 8pm. Daily hours are as follows:

Monday -- 9am - 6pm Curbside Only
 Tuesday -- 9am - 6pm Walk-In & Curbside
***Wednesday -- 1pm -8pm Walk-In & Curbside**
 Thursday -- 9am - 6pm Walk-In and Curbside
 Friday -- 9am-3pm Curbside Only
 Saturday -- 9am - 3pm Walk-In & Curbside

In the mid-1800s, "Friendship Quilts" were a popular way to commemorate events and memories, often with a large group of people creating the quilt for a particular person or family. We would like to announce our take on this idea: **The Methuen Friendship Quilt Project**. Methuen is a strong community with equally strong neighbors, and we would like to help create this quilt to show just how resilient and creative we can be. We started collecting these quilt squares at the library beginning December 1 and will continue with the collection through the end of March 2021. There is much more info on this exciting opportunity on our website, nevinslibrary.org.



From January 1st to January 31st we shall be participating in Beanstack's 4th Annual Winter Reading Challenge, "Book Like Us," sponsored by Simon and Schuster. We challenge everyone in Methuen to read at least 5 books during the month and keep track of their reading on the Beanstack App or on our Beanstack site at nevinslibrary.beanstack.org. If you haven't used it before, you can go to nevinslibrary.org/beanstack/ to get started. This year, the challenge is open to all ages! Stay tuned for more info. Happy Reading, Methuen!

Conección Comunitaria de Methuen

Massachusetts deshace las restricciones de COVID-19 a la Fase 3 Paso 1

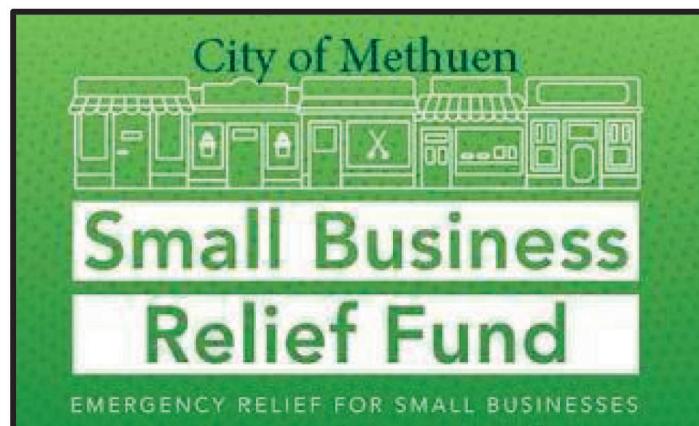
A partir del Domingo 13 de Diciembre, todas las comunidades de Massachusetts volverán al Paso 1 de la Fase 3, del plan de reapertura del Commonwealth. Las reuniones al aire libre en los lugares del evento se limitarán a no más de 50 personas. Los anfitriones de reuniones al aire libre de más de 25 personas deberán informar con anticipación de la reunión a su junta de salud local.

Se requerirá que los teatros y lugares de actuación bajo techo y las empresas de recreación bajo techo de mayor contacto cierren al público. Los teatros al aire libre y los lugares de actuación se limitarán al 25% de su capacidad y no más de 50 personas. En todas las comunidades, las salas de juegos / negocios recreativos en interiores y exteriores, escuelas de conducción y vuelo, gimnasios / clubes de salud, bibliotecas, museos, tiendas y oficinas, lugares de culto, alojamiento, instalaciones de golf y cines (máximo 50 personas en teatro) reducirse del 50% al 40% de la capacidad.

En los restaurantes, los clientes deben usar máscaras en todo momento, excepto al comer y beber. Los restaurantes no deben tener más de seis comensales por mesa y deben imponer un límite de tiempo de 90 minutos en las mesas. Ya no se permitirán representaciones musicales en los restaurantes y los asientos del patio de comidas deben estar cerrados en los centros comerciales. Para obtener información completa, visite mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-announces-statewide-rollback-to-phase-three-step-one-additional



Programa de subvenciones para pequeñas empresas COVID-19 de la Ciudad de Methuen



ATENCIÓN PROPIETARIOS DE PEQUEÑAS EMPRESAS DE METHUEN: La Ciudad de Methuen ha comprometido hasta \$ 375,000 en fondos únicos para crear un Programa de Fondos de Ayuda para Pequeñas Empresas. El objetivo de este programa es ofrecer asistencia financiera inmediata a las pequeñas empresas ubicadas en Methuen, con al menos 1 y no más de 5 empleados a tiempo completo, y cuyos ingresos califiquen.

La subvención está diseñada para ayudar a mantener su negocio y su fuerza laboral. Esta es una gran oportunidad para solicitar fondos y mitigar las tensiones económicas causadas por la pandemia de COVID, así que actúe ahora.

Para obtener más información y solicitar una subvención para pequeñas empresas, visite cityofmethuen.net/economic-community-development/pages/apply-for-small-business-relief-grants o envíe un correo electrónico a Pat Antoon a platoon@ci.methuen.ma.us

Sienta la alegría de la temporada con el "Recorrido de las Luces Navideñas de Methuen"

El alcalde Neil Perry se complace en anunciar que el Tour histórico de luces navideñas de Methuen está en marcha y se extenderá durante el resto del mes. La Ciudad ha creado un mapa interactivo que señala los edificios históricos de la ciudad que se han iluminado para las fiestas, junto con información histórica de cada uno. El mapa también incluye la ubicación de coronas de flores y decenas de árboles patrocinados por empresas e individuos locales a través del Rotary Club, así como información sobre los eventos del Festival de los Árboles de Methuen.



Lugares emblemáticos como la Biblioteca Nevins Memorial, el Methuen Memorial Music Hall, el Edificio Searles y el Edificio de la Escuela Central se han engalanado con luces para celebrar la temporada navideña. Varios departamentos de la ciudad han sido decorados y también están incluidos en el recorrido, como el Departamento de Policía de Methuen, el Departamento de Agua, el Edificio Administrativo Central de las Escuelas Públicas de Methuen y el Centro para Personas de la Tercera Edad.

Visite <https://viewer.mapme.com/methuen-holiday-tour> para ver el mapa interactivo. Se anima a los residentes que deseen visitar todos los lugares en el mapa interactivo a hacer clic en cada pin y luego en la dirección correspondiente, que automáticamente redirigirá a las direcciones de Google Maps para cada ubicación. El mapa interactivo está diseñado para usarse fácilmente en un dispositivo inteligente. Disfrute de este evento de forma segura, no utilice el mapa interactivo mientras conduce.

El Rotary Club de Methuen y sus miembros han donado 52 coronas de flores y 39 árboles para el evento, que se han colgado y decorado en toda la ciudad, y estará vigente hasta el 31 de diciembre. "Este evento ofrece a nuestros residentes la oportunidad de entrar en el espíritu navideño de forma segura durante la pandemia, y también para conocer y celebrar la rica historia de Methuen", dice el alcalde Perry. "Gracias a todos los que ayudaron a organizar esto para nuestra comunidad. Esperamos que todos tengan una temporada navideña segura, saludable y feliz". ¡Mantente a salvo Methuen y felices fiestas! Para obtener más información, visite cityofmethuen.net/methuenhistoricalholidaylighttour

Message from the Mayor

Looking Back and Looking Ahead

It has been a year since I was elected your Mayor. As the end of 2020 approaches, it is a good time to take a look in the rearview mirror and a glimpse at what's next. Despite the ravages caused by the pandemic, we have set the foundation for continued improvement for the City of Methuen. This year we witnessed families across our city impacted. Lives were lost, businesses affected, and yet, we witnessed the resiliency and generosity of our entire community. COVID brought the worst, but Methuen showed its best.

I plan on issuing a State of the City in January, but here are some of the things we have been able to do - even in a pandemic: We have improved communication with daily MCTV "Mayor's Minutes" shows to directly address resident questions and concerns. I love getting your questions on the live show which now airs on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 5pm. We have issued monthly newsletters (CARES funded) to our community, and attended every City Council meeting, reporting areas of focus and concern in my Mayors Report. Immediately upon taking office, we tightened the belt and placed a hold on all but necessary procurements, resulting in FY'20 Free Cash bottom-line increase to some \$3.1M, financial rating improvement from Negative to Stable by Standard and Poor's, significant cuts to our budget to account for predicted losses in state aid, lowered tax rates, & good standing for the city when state revenues for FY'21 were announced.

We established the Methuen Cares Center in March of this year. The Center operates as a neighbors-helping-neighbors effort with an outreach checkup program, delivery to quarantined families, enhanced services for veterans, a City Hall customer service station at the ground level, overhauling the city IT infrastructure, small business grants and rental assistance, COVID testing for all our hybrid students, staff, and administration, and a revamped outdoor track facility at Nicholson Stadium.

Despite COVID limitations, we had drive-through events for Methuen Day, Halloween, and now, the Historical Holiday Lights Tour. Most significantly, we began the process of restoring accountability. We initiated an audit of the Methuen Police Department, partnered with our City Council to rescind 1945 Acts 201 which created intermittent officers, installed SeeClickFix to report COVID-19 and soon, other issues, installed the ClearGov platform to allow residents to examine financials, and began a redesign of the city website to happen early in 2021. I am doing my utmost to gain your trust, and I want to finish the job I started, including several initiatives. Among these are our COVID vaccine rollout plan, Master, Capital Improvement, and Open Space plans, a City Neighborhood Camera Program, increasing federal and state resources, combining IT programs for the city and schools, and furthering transparency in local government.

I love being your mayor, and I am fully committed to moving our community forward together. In difficult times such as these, you see the true character of a community. I have seen ours, and I know firsthand how great it can be. During the holidays, I once again ask you to think about how we can give something back to the less fortunate and share our gratitude, and as always, be kind to one another. To our diverse Methuen community, I say: Happy Hanukkah! Merry Christmas! Happy Kwanza! And a Happy, Healthy New Year to you and yours! God Bless.



Mayor Neil Perry

Mensaje del Alcalde

Mirando hacia atrás y mirando hacia adelante

Ha pasado un año desde que fui elegido alcalde. A medida que se acerca el final de 2020, es un buen momento para mirar por el espejo retrovisor y echar un vistazo a lo que sigue. A pesar de los estragos causados por la pandemia, hemos sentado las bases para la mejora continua de la ciudad de Methuen. Este año fuimos testigos de cómo las familias de nuestra ciudad se vieron afectadas. Se perdieron vidas, los negocios se vieron afectados y, sin embargo, fuimos testigos de la capacidad de recuperación y la generosidad de toda nuestra comunidad. COVID trajo lo peor, pero Methuen mostró lo mejor. Planeo emitir un estado de la ciudad en enero, pero estas son algunas de las cosas que hemos podido hacer, incluso en una pandemia: Hemos mejorado la comunicación con los programas diarios de MCTV "Actas del alcalde" para abordar directamente las preguntas y preocupaciones de los residentes.

Me encanta recibir sus preguntas en el programa en vivo que ahora se transmite los miércoles y jueves a las 5 pm. Hemos emitido boletines informativos mensuales (financiados por CARES) para nuestra comunidad y asistimos a todas las reuniones del Concejo Municipal, informando áreas de interés y preocupación en mi Informe de los Alcaldes. Inmediatamente después de asumir el cargo, ajustamos el cinturón y suspendimos todas las adquisiciones excepto las necesarias, lo que resultó en un aumento de la línea de fondo de efectivo libre del año fiscal 2020 a unos \$ 3.1M, una mejora de la calificación financiera de Negativo a Estable por Standard and Poor's, recortes significativos a nuestro presupuesto para tener en cuenta las pérdidas previstas en la ayuda estatal, las tasas impositivas reducidas y la buena reputación de la ciudad cuando se anunciaron los ingresos estatales para el año fiscal 21. Establecimos el Centro Methuen Cares en marzo de este año.

El Centro opera como un esfuerzo de vecinos que ayudan a los vecinos con un programa de control de alcance, entrega a familias en cuarentena, servicios mejorados para veteranos, una estación de servicio al cliente del Ayuntamiento en el nivel del suelo, reforma de la infraestructura de IT de la ciudad, subvenciones para pequeñas empresas y asistencia de alquiler. Pruebas COVID para todos nuestros estudiantes híbridos, personal y administración, y una instalación de pista al aire libre renovada en el Estadio Nicholson. A pesar de las limitaciones de COVID, tuvimos eventos de autoservicio para el Día de Methuen, Halloween y ahora, el Recorrido de Luces Navideñas Históricas. Más significativamente, comenzamos el proceso de restaurar la responsabilidad.

Iniciamos una auditoría del Departamento de Policía de Methuen, nos asociamos con nuestro Concejo Municipal para rescindir las Actas 201 de 1945 que crearon oficiales intermitentes, instalamos, SeeClickFix para informar COVID-19 y pronto, otros problemas, instalamos la plataforma ClearGov para permitir que los residentes examinen las finanzas, y comenzó un rediseño del sitio web de la ciudad a principios de 2021. Estoy haciendo todo lo posible para ganarme su confianza y quiero terminar el trabajo que comencé, incluidas varias iniciativas. Entre estos se encuentran nuestro plan de implementación de la vacuna COVID, los planes Master, Capital Improvement y Open Space, un programa City Neighborhood Camera, que aumenta los recursos federales y estatales, combina programas de IT para la ciudad y las escuelas y promueve la transparencia en el gobierno local.

Me encanta ser su alcalde y estoy totalmente comprometido a hacer avanzar juntos a nuestra comunidad. En tiempos difíciles como estos, se ve el verdadero carácter de una comunidad. He visto el nuestro y sé de primera mano lo genial que puede ser. Durante las vacaciones, les pido una vez más que piensen en cómo podemos devolver algo a los menos afortunados y compartir nuestra gratitud y, como siempre, ser amables unos con otros. A nuestra diversa comunidad de Methuen, les digo: ¡Feliz Hanukkah! ¡Feliz Navidad! ¡Feliz Kwanza! ¡Y un Feliz Año Nuevo de Salud para usted y los suyos! Dios los bendiga.