



"Called to Duty"

The Official Newsletter of the Methuen Fire Department

SEPTEMBER 2023

Volume 6, Issue 2

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Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday:
7:00 am to 4:30 pm
Friday - Sunday: Closed

Phone:
(978) 983-8940

Fax:
(978) 691-5056
Emergency: 911

Address:
24 Lowell Street
Methuen, MA 01844
See map: [Google Maps](#)

Firefighter Sunday: A Day of Remembrance and Reunion



Chief Tim Sheehy and Son Firefighter Kyle Sheehy

Beautiful weather provided the perfect backdrop to the annual Firefighter Sunday Ceremony at our Central Station. A huge crowd joined Chief Tim Sheehy and Deputy Chief Dan Donahue as they hosted the event. Highlights included a reading of the Benediction by our Chaplain, Pastor Nathaniel Burnes of First Baptist Church, the National Anthem sung by Lt. James Garrity, and the roll call of departed members of our department with Firefighter Kyle Sheehy manning the memorial bell. Lt. Sue Vallera gave the Firefighters Prayer and Firefighters Local 1691 presented their annual scholarships.

The event also recognized deceased Methuen Firefighters McGrath and Quinn with Retired Firefighter Ken Doherty providing some interesting history. This year's Patrick McKallagat Award was tinged with sadness as Chief Sheehy honored Pat's father Steve, a close friend and supporter of the Methuen Fire Department who recently passed away. As always, both the newest and recently promoted members of our department were recognized and pinned by loved ones. After Retired Deputy Chief Charles Ripley III gave the prayer before meals, those in attendance were treated to a terrific breakfast prepared by our firefighters.

++ Message from the Fire Chief ++



Thanks for taking the time to read this edition of "Called to Duty." As we prepare for a busy autumn, this issue of our newsletter looks back on a very busy spring and summer for our department and the City of Methuen. As always, If you have any questions or concerns regarding fire-related issues, please call our general business line at 978-983-8940. For all emergencies, please call 911.

Regards,

J. Tim Sheehy, Fire Chief

Luciano Family Offers Thanks to MFD



Thank you to Beverly Luciano (pictured left) and Laurie Roy for dropping off some delicious Tripoli Pizza and brownies for our firefighters. The gesture was in thanks for the tribute our department gave to their father, Mr. William Breen, who passed away on June 22 - A World War II veteran and the grandfather of the Methuen firefighters Vincent and David Luciano. Thank you so much for your generosity. Beverly and Laurie are pictured here with Lieutenant Ryan Fortune

Methuen Firefighters Join in Independence Day Celebration

The July 8 Methuen Independence Day Celebration at the Loop featured food, fun, and activities for the whole family. Great job by Mayor Neil Perry, the Methuen Recreation Department, DPW, our Fire Department, and Police.



The Pictured above are Firefighter John Bazdanes and Lieutenants Mike Ferris and Rick Talbot. Attendees were treated to great games, interactive attractions, and food trucks galore! Methuen agencies and organizations were also on hand for the event, and the night was complete with a spectacular fireworks show at 9:30pm.

Methuen Fire Department Honors Veterans at Annual Cookout



It was a fine day at the recent annual Veterans Cookout at Forest Lake.

Methuen's Veterans and their families enjoyed the natural beauty of the lake as well as a tremendous lunch prepared by members of Methuen Firefighters Local 1691.

Thanks to Methuen VSO Paul Jensen and our firefighters for spending time and paying tribute to our Veterans Pictured in the first photo are Firefighter Fred Gorham, Lt. Mike Ferris, Firefighter Eric Moreau, Lt. Franny Barry, and Firefighter Liam Sheehy.

Chief Gerald “Jerry” Godin Remembered by MFD



The men and women of the Methuen Fire Department stand in tribute to Retired Deputy Chief Gerald “Jerry” Godin who passed away on June 15 at age 76. The longtime Methuen resident served on our department for 32 years. He was a US Navy veteran and a member of the American Legion, Elks Lodge, and IAFF. Jerry enjoyed a rich and full life with family, friends, and numerous activities and pastimes. Chief Tim Sheehy and our entire department send our support and condolences to Jerry’s wife Barbara, the Godin family, and Jerry’s many friends.

Chief Tim Sheehy Co-Hosts Senior Center Vets Concert



It was a celebration of community, talent, and patriotism at the Happy Hearts Salute to Veterans Concert at Nevins Library. Hosted by Fire Chief Tim Sheehy and Police Chief Scott J. McNamara, the event was incredibly well attended and served as a melodic tribute to our nation and those who serve or served in the military. The singers from our Methuen Senior Activity Center were joined by Mayor Neil Perry and Fire Department Lieutenant James Garrity (pictured center above performing with Mayor Perry). All of the performances were outstanding. Senior Center Assistant Director Susan Riccio did an amazing job putting this all together.

MFD Gets Dunked at CGS Fun Day



Several of our firefighters took part in the annual Fun Day at the CGS in Methuen.



Firefighters Shannon Fitzgerald, Kyle Sheehy, and Binh Le braved the dunk tank to the delight of all. Thanks also to Lieutenant James Garrity and Firefighters Sheehy and Jon Blais for helping to fill the tank. It was a really fun experience and a great way to end the school year!

Memorial Day Parade Brings Methuen Together

A marvelous crowd of people, all ages, gathered in Methuen for the annual Memorial Day Parade and ceremonies at the Charles Street monuments and Walnut Grove cemetery.

It was a wonderful day of tribute, honor, and remembrance of those military veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.



CGS Students Send Thanks to MFD



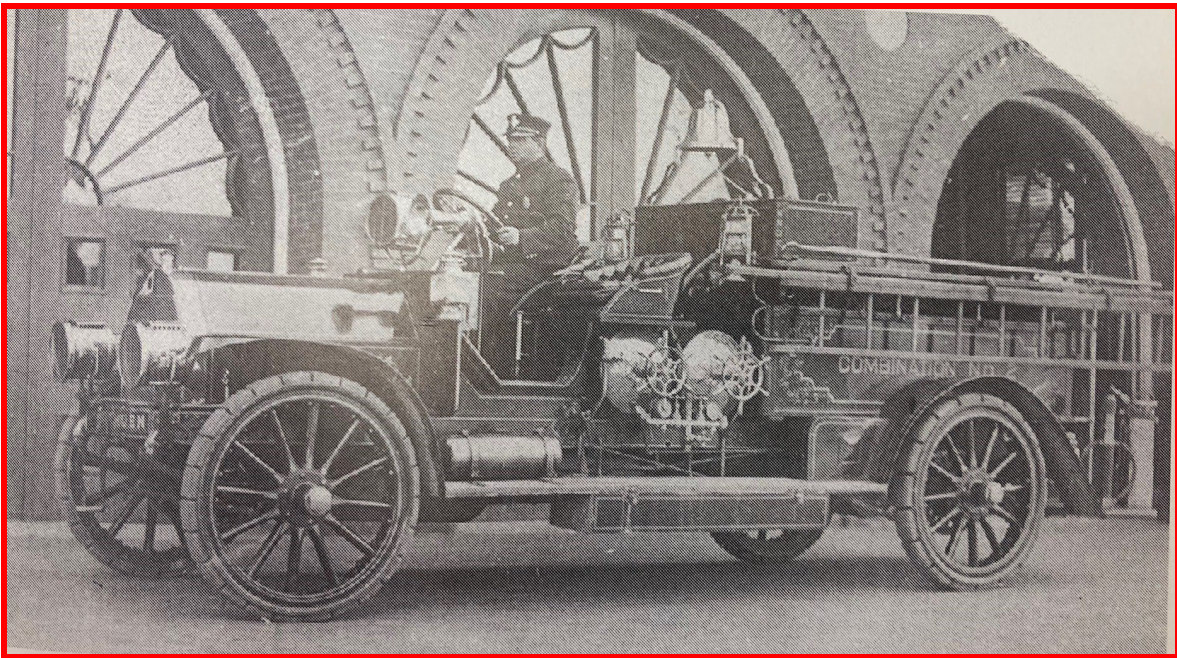
Our firefighters would like to say thanks to all of the great students at the CGS in Methuen. They created some awesome posters in appreciation for what we do in the community each day. We love the artwork, effort, and thoughtfulness that went into their creativity. Thank you so much!

Through the Fire, Through the Years

“Through the Fire, Through the Years” looks back at Methuen Fire Department history with a memory from 112 years ago.

The first use of the aircraft as an offensive weapon occurs in Turkish-Italian War. Italy defeats the Turks and annexes Libya. The Philadelphia A's defeat the New York Giants in six games to win the World Series. The first feature film is released when the two reels of D.W. Griffith's *Enoch Arden* are screened together.

Marie Curie of France wins the Noble Prize for Chemistry for the discovery of the elements radium and polonium. The Ottawa Senators win the Stanley Cup, Meridian wins the Kentucky Derby, and the NCAA football championship is shared by two undefeated teams, Princeton and Penn State.



Through the Fire, Through the Years goes back to 1911 and our department's first motorized vehicle.

According to the book "A History of Methuen and its Fire Department" by Retired Methuen Firefighter Kenneth H. Doherty, The Methuen Fire Department purchased its first motorized combination truck (pictured above) in 1911. This Knox auto combination was much faster than the previously used horse drawn apparatus. It carried hoses, ladders, and other firefighting equipment.

Doherty writes, "The driver in this photo is Albert Bean, one of Methuen's first permanent firefighters and the father of former longtime Methuen Fire Chief Benjamin Bean. Albert also served as Methuen's fire chief for a brief period from 1922 to 1924." The new motorized apparatus made it easier for firefighters to provide protection and coverage in outlying districts of Methuen and other communities. These areas were relatively far distances away with poor roads. This motorized auto combination was one of the first ways in which Methuen benefitted from the early 20th century invention of the automobile.

Methuen Seniors Mock Crash Shows Dangers of Impaired Driving

The Methuen Fire Department took part in the annual Methuen High School Mock Crash event. High School students and staff staged a mock crash to simulate a drunk driving crash after prom. Methuen School Resource Officers Farelli and McMenamon participated along with Dewhirst Boles Funeral Home.



All of the students did an excellent job in showing the dangers of impaired, distracted, and drunk driving. They shared a very real life tragedy with deadly consequences. Thank You for sharing this experience with us and your classmates. Our Department is always happy to join in events and happenings that aid young people in our community



Images from the 2023 Methuen Fishing Derby



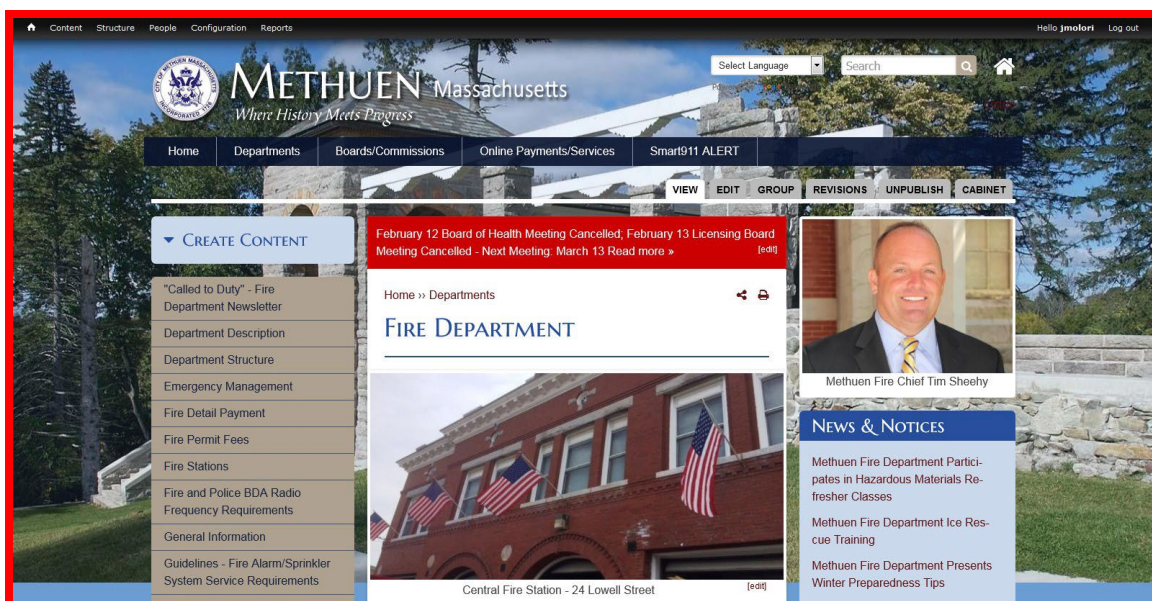
Methuen Fishing Derby

Donors Offer Thanks to MFD for Live-Saving Actions



Gratitude does not always come with a name attached. Recently, a couple came to our Central Fire Station and dropped off some food from the Chateau. They wanted to thank our first responders for saving the wife's life on an emergency call. The couple did not want to take a picture or have their name mentioned. We thank them so much for their generosity.

Methuen Fire Department on the Web & Social Media



The Methuen Fire Department Web Page features links, safety tips and news you can use.

CLICK HERE to access the Methuen Fire Department web page.

Be sure also to visit the Methuen Fire Department on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram - a terrific way to keep up with MFD news, happenings, and events.

In Memoriam



Mayor Neil Perry, Fire Chief Tim Sheehy, Police Chief Scott J. McNamara and the entire City of Methuen family mourn the loss of Alyssa Fluetsch, 21, the daughter of Methuen Fire Department Assistant Chief Mike Fluetsch and his wife Diane.

Alyssa passed away on the evening of August 14 in a tragic automobile accident. She was a graduate of Methuen High School and a student at Salem State University. Alyssa had a love of the theater, performing, and spreading her cheerful and creative personality to friends and family. This outgoing daughter of Methuen brought joy to all who crossed her path.

Chief Sheehy and the men and women of the Methuen Fire Department continue to offer support and care to the Fluetsch family. Alyssa will be sorely missed and fondly remembered by all of us. We join loving relatives and countless friends in sending prayers, condolences, and love to Mike, Diane, and their daughter Abigail. We ask that you join us in this support by respecting the family's privacy at this most difficult time.



Contact Us to Receive the MFD “Called to Duty” Newsletter



THE MISSION of the Methuen Fire Department is to protect the lives and property of the inhabitants of the City of Methuen and all those who work, visit, or pass through it. The Department provides protection from the adverse effects of fire, medical emergencies, and dangerous conditions in a professional and timely manner. Our dedicated members work to ensure the safety of the community and maintain a citywide presence to effectively respond to all emergencies and non-emergencies.

THIS NEWSLETTER is a way to keep the public informed of Methuen Fire Department news and happenings. If you have any questions or would like to be added to our Email List to receive the newsletter, call John Molori at 978-208-5112 or email jrmolori@ci.methuen.ma.us. Please include your name and email address. Thank You!