
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 Downtown Alliance

www.downtownmetuchen.org

Metuchen-Edison Historical Society

www.metuchen-edisonhistsoc.org

Metuchen Matters

Local News Forum, MetuchenMatters.com

Metuchen Living

People, Events, & Places, metuchenviving.com

NewBrunswickNightOut.Com

*Central Jersey Nightlife, Restaurants, Bars, Bands,
Entertainment, Accommodations & more.*

LOCAL EVENTS

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!

BRIEF 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." Soon afterwards it acquired the title of "The Brainy Borough" because of the many literary, artistic, and scientific luminaries that settled here.

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 Metuchen 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 at info@boroughimprovementleague.org.

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

AUGUST 2016

SHOPPING

A&J Jewelers - *jewelry*

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*

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*

2 Chicks with Chocolate - *fine chocolates*

The Pyramid - *health food & more*

The Wine Chateau - *for extra holiday cheer!*

Ultimate Swim Shop - *swimwear & more*

What's New - *Pre-Owned Mens Clothing*

FLORISTS & GIFTS

Creative Crafts - *flowers and balloons*

Gardenia's Floral - *arrangements & fine gifts*

FITNESS & WELLNESS

Black Belt Institute - *Martial Arts & Fitness*

Bounce Back Fitness - *Personal Training*

Metuchen Dance Centre - *since 1982*

Ms. Doreen's Fabulous Feet - *Dance*

9 Round - *30 Minute Kickbox Fitness*

Sakula Yoga Studio - *Yoga Classes*

Plus, certificates for services from our many spas and salons make wonderful gifts.

DINING

Angie's Café & Bakery - *Spanish*

Breeze's Café & Grill - *Caribbean Cuisine*

The Brown Stone Bar & Grill*

Café Paris - *European Bistro*

Cai's Café - *Opening Soon!*

Changsha House - *Authentic Chinese*

Civile e Tornato - *Classic Italian, Movie Nights*

D'Novo - *Italian*

Friendly's - *Restaurant & Ice Cream*

Fusha - *Asian Fusion & Sushi*

The Greek on Main - *Mediterranean*

Hailey's Harp & Pub*

Joey D's - *Italian*

LaRosa's - *Italian*

Lola's Latin Bistro

Mariachi - *Mexican*

Metuchen Diner

Metuchen Inn* - *since 1843*

Novita Bistro and Lounge*

Phattra - *Thai Cuisine*

Salsa Latina - *Opening Soon!*

Sushi Suzuki - *Japanese*

Thai Garden - *Thai Cuisine*

The Orchid - *Kosher & Vegetarian*

Torino II - *Authentic Italian Bistro*

PIZZA - DELI - SANDWICHES

Antonio's ~ Bagels4U ~ Brewed Awakenings

Buttery Bakeshop ~ LaRosa's ~ Marco's

Mangia Toscana ~ Fresco's Italian Deli

Buon Appetito ~ SubPlace Better

What's the Scoop (ice cream, too!)

FARMERS MARKET

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

MOST RESTAURANTS ARE B.Y.O.B.

Those noted above () provide full bar service.*

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Earthsongs - *Fine Art Ceramic Studio*

Forum Theatre - *Film, Music, Theatre*

Haileys Harp & Pub - *Live Music, Karaoke*

Metuchen Arts Council www.metuchenarts.com

Novita Bistro & Lounge - *Comedy & Jazz*

Old Franklin Schoolhouse - *Live Music, Art Gallery, Theatre Performances, & more*

Paradise Custom Stained Glass - *Studio*

Raconteur Ventures - *Radio Plays & more*

The Drawing Room - *Art Classes*

The Brown Stone - *Live Music, DJs*

Westerhoff School of Music & Art

GALLERIES OF METUCHEN

The Rotunda and Annex - *Borough Hall*

Transformations Gallery - *Old Franklin Schoolhouse*

Nails in the Wall - *Gallery at St. Luke's*

The Library Gallery - *Metuchen Library*

GREEN & RECREATIONAL SPACE

Dismal Swamp - *Ecological Reserve*

Metuchen Sportsplex - *Indoor Leagues*

Middlesex Greenway - *Bike & Walk Path*

Woodwild Park - *3.5 acres, glacial kettle hole*

Victorian Rentals Park - *Main & Wernik*

SEASONAL SERIES & FESTIVALS

JuneBug ArtsFest - *Every Week in June*

"Plays-in-the-Park" - *Summer Theatre*

Metuchen Rocks! Music Series - *August*

Metuchen Country Fair - *October*

Hometown Holidays Weekend - *December*