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Methuen Leads the Way with COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics



Mayor Neil Perry and the City of Methuen continue to make battling the COVID-19 pandemic a priority in our city. To this end, the City of Methuen offered limited COVID-19 vaccine clinics for seniors over the age of 75 at the former Avenue store at The Loop, 90 Pleasant Valley Street.

The first clinics, held in February, were limited to 100 registered and confirmed Methuen seniors. The city is ready to handle more doses and schedule additional clinics as the state provides the vaccine.

Visit <https://www.cityofmethuen.net/covid19vaccination> for updates as information changes day to day.

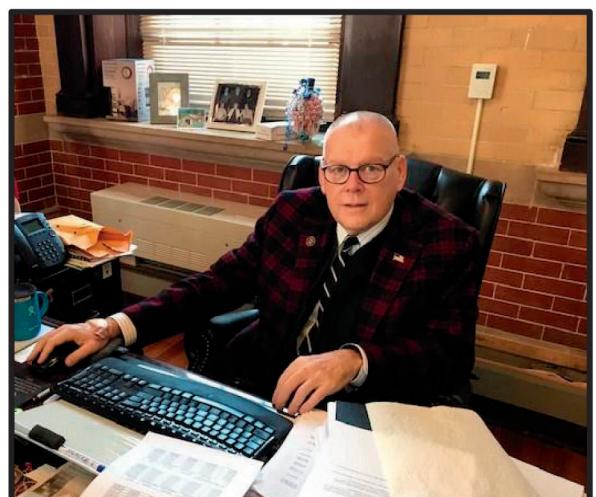
"The city is doing everything possible to eliminate the risk of COVID-19 in Methuen," says Mayor Perry. "What's important for everyone to remember, though, is that the vaccine situation in Methuen and throughout the state is evolving constantly. We urge patience on the part of all residents as we navigate this process

and work to vaccinate our most at-risk residents first with the resources we have available to us and carve a path out of this pandemic together."

While the city clinic is one potential option, residents should also be mindful of other avenues through which they can be vaccinated. More information about additional options is available at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccination-locations>.

Accomplishments & Objectives Highlight State of the City Address

On January 26, 2021, Mayor Neil Perry presented his first State of the City Address virtually. The COVID pandemic remains a key priority. Each day brings changing information and the need to share that information with our citizens. To this end, Mayor Perry created his "Mayor's Minutes" program thanks to a partnership with Methuen Community Studios. The Methuen Cares Center has helped to mobilize our community to aid those families most affected by COVID. Mayor Perry expressed his appreciation to all of the volunteers and donors to this cause. Overall, the city has worked with the School Department and all city departments in promoting safety while remaining open for business for our residents.



Highlights of Mayor Perry's address included a collaborative effort to completely reconstruct the outdoor track at Nicholson Stadium and the new state-of-the-art Dana Farber facility on Branch Street. Our city website (www.cityofmethuen.net) now offers a Financial Transparency Center which allows for a public review of revenues, expenditures, and more. In addition, we have implemented SeeClickFix, a problem reporting and tracking platform, first for COVID, and now for snow removal, trash, and other DPW issues. Working with the City Council, Mayor Perry formulated a conservative budget for FY 2021. The city has also offered housing, rental, and small business programs to offset the effects of the pandemic.

While COVID has dominated the headlines, it did not deter the city from celebrating with drive-through Methuen Day and Halloween events, our Holiday Lights Tour, and more. Balancing open space with increased business remains a priority as does energy efficiency, supporting the arts, and actively engaging in the social justice dialogue. The city has established a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Group to do just that. Mayor Perry continues to stress financial prudence, maintaining public trust, and of course, health and safety. He relates, "Your local government will continue to make decisions solely in the best interests of the City of Methuen. I pledge to work as many hours as needed to help guide us ahead. I love this city and I love working for you. So, join me in 2021. Let's work together and continue to make Methuen a better place, for all of us." State of the City Address Video: <https://methuen-ma.viebit.com/player.php?hash=sJDbzWG4KNgO>



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FREE MEALS FOR KIDS

Let us do the cooking!
We have you covered Monday - Friday
from 9am to 6pm

Grab and Go Curbside Pickup Schedule

January 6th - June 30th

	Monday - Friday
High School	9am - 10am
CGS and Tenney	9:30am - 10:30am
Marsh and Timony	9:30am - 10:30am and 3:30pm - 6pm
Methuen City Hall	Monday - Thursday 10:30am - 3:30pm Friday 10:30am - 12pm

City Hall and School Department Collaborate on Meals Program

Methuen Public Schools Nutrition Services, in a partnership with the Mayor's Office, are offering free meals now through June 30. The meals are for anyone age 18 and under and will be distributed at city hall.

You do not have to be a Methuen resident, and children do not have to be present with the parent at the time of the meal pickup. Each grab and go meal bag consist of a breakfast (entree, fruit and milk) and lunch (entree, fruit, vegetable, milk) which meet the USDA guidelines.

Meals and school kitchens are nut free. The menu and allergen information can be found at <https://methuenschoolmeals.com>.

Watch and Learn at Methuen Community Studios

Name Change from MCTV Reflects New Creative Directions

MCTV, the organization which brings Methuen residents Methuen Community Television Comcast 22/FIOS 33 and Methuen Government Television Comcast 8 /FIOS 32, has changed its company name to **Methuen Community Studios**. This new name reflects the fact that the organization has added many different services and creative spaces since its inception in 1996. In keeping with history, the new logo still features a clock tower.



In other news, Methuen Community Television is now available on **HD 2133** for FIOS customers only. In 2021, the city will begin negotiations with Comcast to bring HD to Comcast customers as well. Methuen Government Television Comcast 8 /FIOS 32 carries live and repeat coverage of City Council and its committees, Community Development and Zoning Boards. These meetings can also be viewed live on methuentv.org/methuen-government-tv-live-stream/ as well as accessed on demand. Programming from the Massachusetts State House and NASA are available as well.

MCTV channel 22 and Verizon FIOS 33 (HD2133) carries Mayor Neil Perry's **LIVE** program "Mayor's Minutes" on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 5 pm as his schedule permits. Residents can ask questions via facebook.com/methuentv. The programs replay on Mondays and Fridays at noon and Sundays at 10 pm. These and other MCTV programs can be viewed **ON DEMAND** at archive.methuentv.org. If you would prefer to listen to a podcast of the "Mayor's Minutes", go to your favorite podcast site and ask for the **METHUEN NETWORK**. Most shows are available within 2 days of recording.

MCTV is the public channel for community events, Sunday services, and locally produced content. MCTV has also offered exercise classes with local fitness instructors; check out the website methuentv.org and click on "Membership" for our winter training schedule and links to register for classes, or call 978-689-8627 for more information.



City Provides Veterans & Seniors with Air Quality Improvement Systems

The City of Methuen recently delivered air purification units to the VFW and American Legion. Mayor Perry met with members of both Veterans' organizations on Veterans Day 2020 to announce the presentations.

The City of Methuen provided these groups with the air purification units for their respective facilities. This will help to mitigate COVID-19 and keep patrons safe and healthy. The systems are designed to filter pollutants or contaminants out of the air that passes thru them.

In addition, the city provided the Methuen Senior Activity Center with an air conditioning unit. "We are very grateful to the Mayor and City for providing an additional air conditioning unit for our auditorium. This room is used for many different exercise classes and other activities such as Bingo and concerts. Our guests will certainly appreciate the improved air quality very much!"

Air cleaning and filtration can help reduce airborne contaminants, including particles containing viruses. They are particularly helpful when additional ventilation with outdoor air is not possible without compromising indoor comfort (temperature or humidity), or when outdoor air pollution is high. When used properly, air purification systems can help reduce airborne contaminants including viruses in a building or small space. The City of Methuen is happy to provide these systems as part of a plan to reduce the potential for airborne transmission of COVID-19 indoors.

State Senator DiZoglio Secures Home Depot Youth Center Donation

Mayor Neil Perry and the City of Methuen would like to acknowledge the work of State Senator Diana DiZoglio in securing a donation of \$11,000 from the Home Depot Foundation for the upcoming Methuen Youth and Community Center project. Thanks to Methuen Home Depot Manager Carmen Fulchini for his commitment to Methuen.

The Home Depot Foundation works to improve the homes and lives of citizens. Since 2011, the Foundation has invested more than \$350M in causes and improved more than 48,000 homes and facilities in 4,500 cities. In 2018, the Foundation pledged an additional \$250 million to veterans' causes taking the total commitment to half a billion by 2025.

Through our Community Impact Grants, the Foundation offers grant awards up to \$5,000 to designated organizations and entities that are using the power of volunteers to improve the community. The Foundation's Veteran Housing Grants Program awards grants to nonprofit organizations for the new construction or rehabilitation of permanent supportive housing for veterans. Awards typically range from \$100,000 to \$500,000."



COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program Aids Local Economy



ATTENTION METHUEN SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS:

The City of Methuen has committed up to \$375,000.00 in one-time funds to create a Small Business Relief Fund Program. The objective of this program is to offer financial assistance to qualifying microenterprises—small businesses located in Methuen that have 5 or fewer employees, 1 or more of whom owns the enterprise—adversely impacted by COVID-19. 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. For more information, email Pat Antoon at plantoon@ci.methuen.ma.us or visit cityofmethuen.net/economic-community-development/pages/apply-for-small-business-relief-grants.

Senior Center Embraces Energy Efficiency with MethuenSaves.org

The Methuen Senior Center and Executive Director Corinne LaCharite (pictured) marked Christmas week by getting attic insulation and air sealing work done to make the popular Lowell Street center more energy efficient. The installation work, priced at \$41,400, is being done through Methuen's MassSave Municipal Partnership utility incentives at no cost to the City and will save an estimated \$1,859 on Senior Center's energy bills annually.

Mayor Perry recently announced that the partnership with MassSave will continue into the new year. You too can benefit from the energy- and cost-saving incentives available for 2021. Methuenites can sign up now and schedule energy assessments at your home or small business. Visit www.methuensaves.org

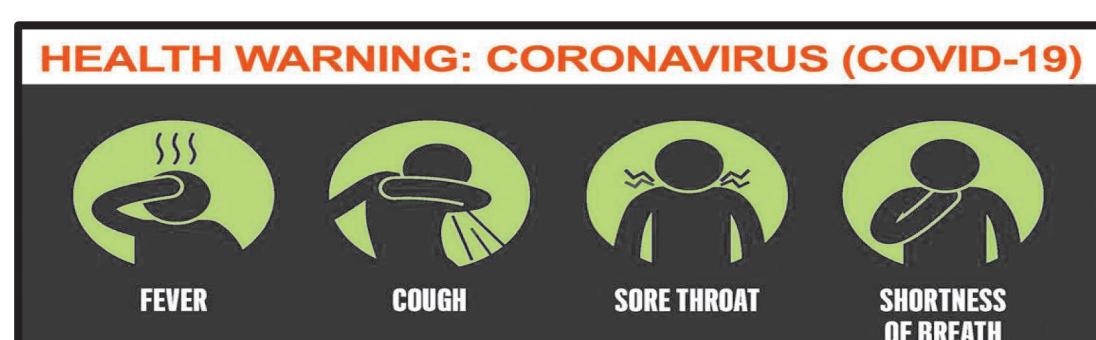


Smart911 Alerts Assist First Responders as Pandemic Continues



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 www.cityofmethuen.net. You can also download the Smart911 App available in the App Store and on Google Play.



Download the See-Click-Fix App to Report Winter Storm Issues



As we continue to monitor snowstorms this winter, Mayor Neil Perry would like to call attention to the terrific job that our DPW consistently does in keeping the roads as clear and clean as possible. DPW Director Patrick Bower and his crew work hard to stay ahead of any forecasted snowfall. We remind you that the best way to help with snow cleanup is to stay off the road as much as possible during a storm. If you do not have to go out, stay home and remain safe while the DPW crews do their job.

If you would like to report any snow-related issues or other city concerns, download the SeeClickFix app to immediately report and get timely answers. SeeClickFix is an interactive system that allows us to be more responsive and involved. Once the SeeClickFix app is installed on your phone or mobile device, it takes just a minute or two to notify the city of a concern. The SeeClickFix is also on our website at www.cityofmethuen.net. Just click on the “SeeClickFix Report an Issue” link at the top of the home page.

New Veterans Services Officer Pledges Open Door Policy



Paul Jensen

Methuen's new Veterans Services Officer (VSO) Paul Jensen is a senior executive with 30 years experience in business and 9 years as a Commissioned Officer in the US Army. He has done business in China, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, India, Ireland, the Middle East, and North America. Jensen co-founded his own company and has overseen multimillion dollar corporate endeavors.

So, why did his current position appeal to him? “When I saw it in the paper, my reaction was quite visceral,” says Jensen. “As citizens, I believe we all have an obligation to help make lives better for our residents. This was an opportunity for me to give back and to help make lives better for veterans, a group near and dear to my heart.”

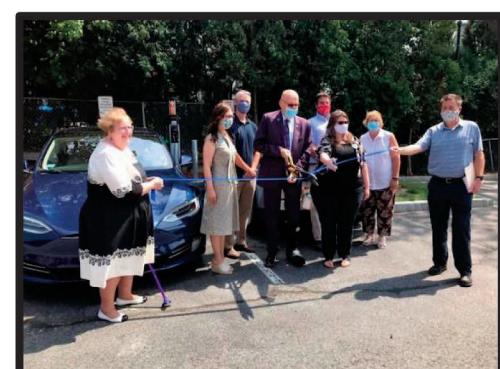
Jensen succeeds Thomas Hargreaves who retired after more than 13 years of service to the city. His goals are clear. “We have a large population of veterans dating as far back as WWII. The Veterans Office should be a place of which we all can be proud. If a veteran in Methuen is in real need, we must be able to respond quickly and efficiently. Part of that is going paperless and establishing a strong network among all providers. This will be a priority for me.

This corporate Atlas turned community advocate has this message for our Methuen Veterans. “I am 100% committed to the job, and our office is here for them at any time and for any reason. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Tom Hargreaves for his service as out-going VSO. This is not an easy job and Tom has helped literally hundreds of veterans in need. I hope that our Veterans will join the Methuen Veterans Group on Facebook. The more people we can network in, the more we can get the word out and keep veterans connected. In this day and age, no one should feel isolated.” To reach the Veterans Services Office, call 978-983-8585 or email pjensen@ci.methuen.ma.us.

Economic & Community Development Thrives Despite Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic greatly impacted our Office of Economic & Community Development, but Director William Buckley oversaw some key accomplishments amid the obstacles. The Loop saw an investment of millions of dollars in a new Starbucks, Planet Fitness, Crumbl, Hypoxi, Experimax, and One Stop Liquors.

Methuen's housing market remains strong, and 2021 continues to position Methuen as an attractive location for families and empty nesters looking for quality housing options. The last unit at Emerald Pines was sold at least a year ahead of schedule and construction at the Preserve project remains robust. The Woods at Merrimack opened in 2020 and new neighborhoods at Great Oaks, Graceland Park, Marjorie, and Maple Streets welcomed new residents to the City.



Methuen hired its first Director of Inspectional Services and now has its first Certified Building Official. We are also maintaining our Green Community status with the State, completing several energy conservation projects at municipal buildings and the first-ever electric vehicle charging station, located at Nevins Library. We have selected locations for several others coming soon in 2021.

The city has also completed historic preservation projects at the Moses Morse House on Pelham Street and on North Street in addition to a \$1.35 million MassWorks project at 5 Corners.

In conjunction with the DPW, the Office of Economic & Community Development has constructed new crosswalks and ADA ramps in the Arlington Neighborhood. Methuen has also been awarded a Housing Choice Grant for additional pedestrian safety and ADA improvements to Clocktower square with work beginning later this year. 2021 will bring more challenges for sure, but we look forward to sharing future positive developments in the coming months.



Community Continues to Support the Methuen Cares Center

The Methuen Cares Center would like to thank the students at Phillips Academy's Stem4Free organization, which continues to connect the center with available donations from local businesses. Students recently delivered a wonderful donation from Butcher Boy, including breads and baked goods that will be appreciated by Methuen families. In addition, Mayor Neil Perry would like to extend sincere thanks to Christina St. Onge (pictured right) and Enterprise Bank for their generous \$2500 donation to the Methuen Cares Center. Christina and Enterprise Bank have been tremendous community partners, and we appreciate their continued dedication to Methuen.



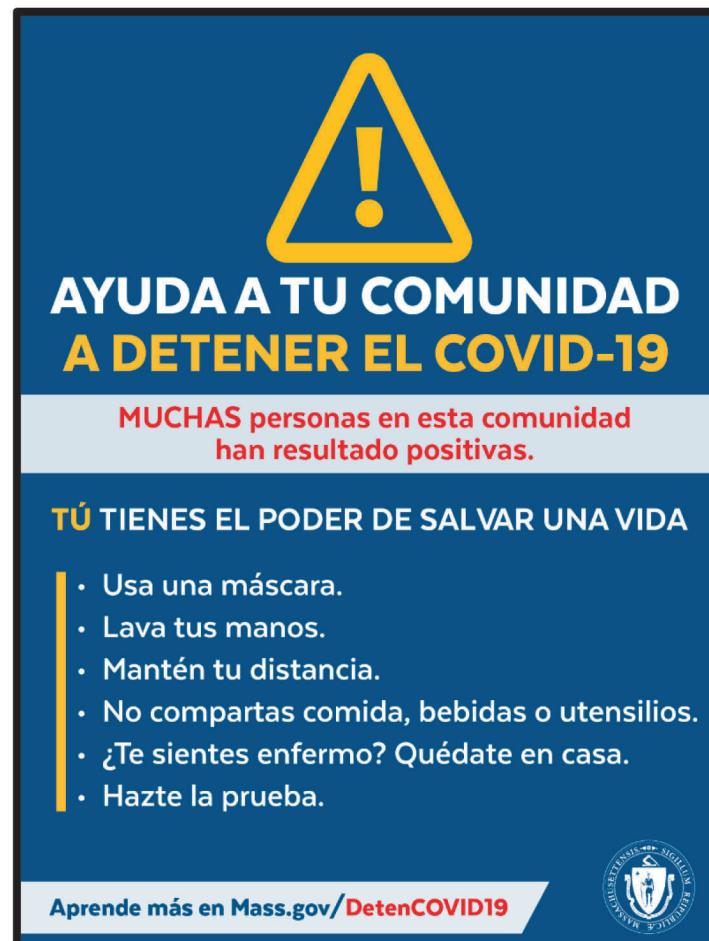
#ProjectTakeOut Puts Focus on Supporting Methuen Eateries



The COVID pandemic has certainly taken its toll on businesses in Methuen and beyond, especially restaurants, pubs, and eateries. In an effort to support these local businesses and encourage citizens to do the same, Mayor Perry initiated Project Take Out. The City of Methuen sponsored an extensive pull-out dining guide in the January edition of Methuen Life Magazine. Visit https://www.cityofmethuen.net/sites/g/files/vyhlif886/f/uploads/ml_guide.pdf to view the guide. In addition, the Mayor has been ordering lunch take-out at various Methuen establishments joined by city employees, board members, and others. We hope that you will join us in rallying around our many Methuen eateries and participate in #ProjectTakeOut.

Mass.gov Provides the Latest COVID-19 Response Reporting

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts provides daily and cumulative reports on Massachusetts COVID-19 cases, testing, and hospitalizations. Weekly and biweekly reports include nursing facility data, cases by city/town, residents subject to COVID-19 quarantine, and data from state facilities. To view this regularly updated data, visit www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting.



Scanning the City

Despite COVID-19, Senior Center Takes a Positive Look at 2021

Making our way into 2021, we are all hopeful for better days ahead. Even though February delivered quite a punch right at the start delivering 18" of snow and Punxsatawney Phil has predicted another 6 weeks of wintry weather, it also has brought us encouraging news of COVID-19 vaccine roll out. The pandemic has loomed over us like a dark cloud, but even the stormiest of clouds offers a silver lining. We have witnessed a community that has banded together, neighbors helping neighbors, and a resilience that proves we're getting through this together.

During these past months while the center has remained closed to guests, lots of work is still being accomplished every day. The pandemic has afforded us time to address many of the updates and improvements on our "to do" list. We cannot express our appreciation enough to Mayor Neil Perry, DPW Director Patrick Bower, Dan Tulley and the team of DPW staff, who were instrumental in the transformation of our auditorium flooring and the installation of new equipment designed to improve air quality.

Beyond that, our own Board of Trustees, through years of fundraising events, was able to expend funds to complete the transformation with freshly painted walls in a brand-new color scheme, along with new drapery still to come. We are so excited to share this updated space with all of you as soon as it is safe to do so.



Be sure to see the latest information in our monthly newsletter available on the city website at www.cityofmethuen.net. Click on departments, then senior center. The February issue offers information on virtual programming, how to access resources for food, exercise programs, vaccine scams to be aware of, and more.

Regarding COVID-19 vaccine registration, we remind everyone that state websites will NOT ask for Social Security numbers, credit card information, etc. Make sure you are on an official state site (www.mass.gov) when signing up for the vaccine. Senior Center staff is available to address your questions and concerns Monday-Thursday, 8am-4pm and Fridays 8:00am-12:30 by calling 978-983-8825.

Methuen Fire Department Stresses Portable Generator Safety



Winter weather means potential power outages and the use of portable generators. These tools can be helpful when the power goes out for an extended period of time, but it is important to know how use them safely to prevent fires, carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, and electrocution.

The Methuen Fire Department receives numerous emergency calls each year emanating from improper portable generator usage. When using a generator, remember to purchase one that has been approved by a nationally recognized testing agency such as Underwriter's Laboratory (UL).

Have a licensed electrician install a transfer switch. Never plug a generator directly into a wall outlet to avoid backfeeding which can electrocute utility workers.

Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions before you need to use the generator and install working CO alarms on every level of the home. Visit www.mass.gov/service-details/generator-safety for more portable generator safety information.

Tax Help, Social Issues, and Relay for Life at Nevins Library

As always, Nevins Memorial Library has a host of services and programs for patrons, all presented in a safe and healthy format. We currently have all tax forms that we will be getting and will gladly collect the forms so that you can pick them up via Curbside. You may, of course, still come and get them any time our building is open. Please call (978-686-4080 x12) with the Forms/Schedules that you need. We will make the curbside appointment for you at that time.

Nevins Library is proud to partner with seven local libraries to present a variety of virtual programs addressing topics related to social justice issues. These thought-provoking lectures and discussions will help Merrimack Valley residents think about and cordially address current events and troubling issues in today's society.

Patrons are welcome to sign up for any of these programs. Visit www.nevinslibrary.org for more information.

Finally, Nevins Library is proud to host "Luminarias for Life." With a suggested \$10 donation to the Nevins Relay for Life team, you can get a white paper bag (pictured) at the library's front desk and decorate it in honor of a loved one who has battled cancer or to express your support in the fight against the disease. Call us or check out our website for more information.



Conección Comunitaria de Methuen

Planes de Massachusetts para la distribución de la vacuna COVID-19

Anticipándose a la aprobación de una vacuna COVID-19 segura y eficaz, Massachusetts tiene un grupo de trabajo interinstitucional activo que desarrolla planes para garantizar una distribución gradual, equitativa y rápida a las comunidades de Massachusetts. Vea las últimas actualizaciones de vacunas en MA a continuación, incluido el plan de priorización de vacunas, preguntas frecuentes e información de los Centros para el Control de Enfermedades (CDC).

La División de Inmunización del Departamento de Salud Pública de Massachusetts (DPH) está trabajando con los Centros para el Control de Enfermedades (CDC) para garantizar que la vacuna COVID-19 esté ampliamente disponible en Massachusetts.

La Administración Baker-Polito y el Departamento de Salud Pública desarrollaron un cronograma de distribución de vacunas después de una extensa consulta con el Grupo Asesor de Vacunas de Massachusetts, compuesto por líderes de la atención médica, la comunidad religiosa, organizaciones comunitarias, el gobierno local y otros.

El cronograma refleja varias prioridades: proteger a los más vulnerables, mantener la capacidad del sistema de atención médica y abordar las desigualdades en el acceso a la atención médica y la carga de COVID-19.



La mayoría de los trabajadores sanitarios y los socorristas serán vacunados en su lugar de trabajo. Las personas que viven y trabajan en cuidados a largo plazo serán vacunadas como parte del Programa Federal de Asociación de Farmacias. La administración de esas instalaciones coordinará la vacunación de personas en otros entornos congregados (por ejemplo, hogares grupales, refugios, correccionales). Se pondrán a disposición de otras poblaciones muchos sitios de administración de vacunación adicionales. Para obtener información completa y detallada sobre la vacuna COVID-19 en Massachusetts, visite www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine-in-massachusetts.



El Ayuntamiento y el Departamento Escolar colaboran en el programa de comidas

Los Servicios de Nutrición de las Escuelas Públicas de Methuen, en asociación con la Oficina del Alcalde, están ofreciendo comidas gratis desde ahora hasta el 30 de Junio. Las comidas son para todos los menores de 18 años.

No es necesario que sea residente de Methuen y los niños no tienen que estar presentes con los padres al momento de recoger la comida.

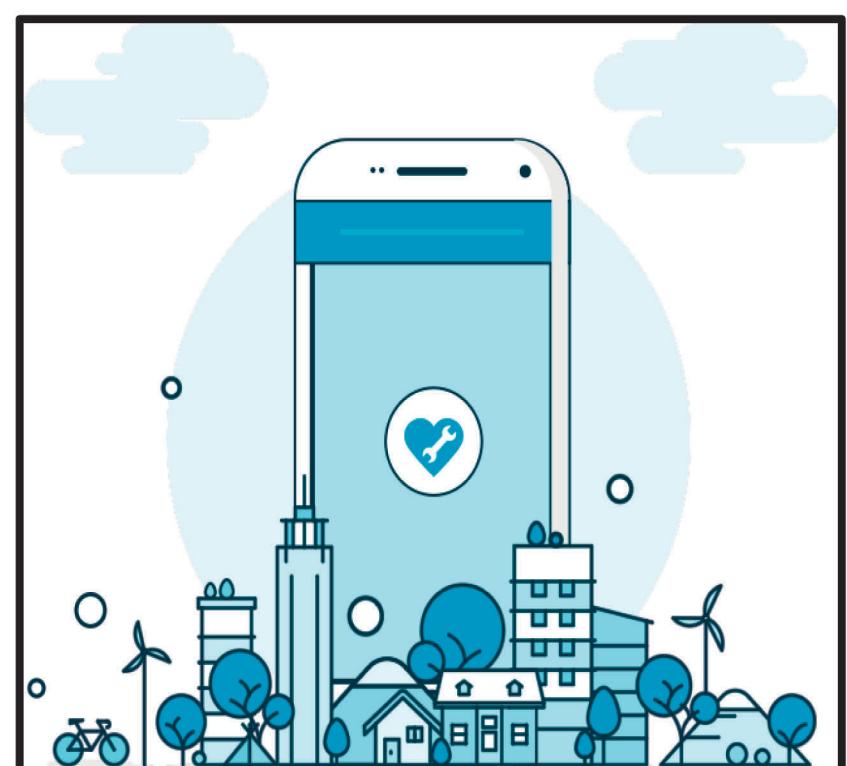
Cada bolsa de comida para llevar consta de un desayuno (entrada, fruta y leche) y almuerzo (entrada, fruta, verdura, leche) que cumplen con las pautas del USDA. Las comidas y las cocinas escolares son libres de nueces. El menú y la información sobre alérgenos se pueden encontrar en <https://methuenschoolmeals.com>.

Recursos de COVID-19 para inquilinos, propietarios de viviendas y propietarios

El ¿Tiene problemas para pagar el alquiler o la hipoteca debido a la pandemia de COVID-19? ¿Ha perdido su trabajo o sus ingresos durante la crisis de salud de Covid-19? ¿Está en riesgo de quedarse sin hogar?

Puede ser elegible para recibir ayuda para pagar el alquiler o la hipoteca. El Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario de Massachusetts (DHCD) ofrece dos programas que pueden ayudar a los hogares de bajos ingresos.

Los programas Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) y Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance (ERMA) pueden proporcionar a los hogares con ingresos elegibles hasta \$10,000 para pagar los costos de alquiler o hipoteca vencidos o futuros. Puede postularse a ambos programas en una de las agencias regionales.



Visite www.mass.gov/info-details/emergency-housing-assistance-during-covid-19 para encontrar su agencia regional y ver los límites de ingresos para la elegibilidad en su región según el tamaño del hogar. También puede llamar al 2-1-1 para obtener más información.

Message from the Mayor

Hope and Vigilance Reign as Spring Approaches

Hope. A simple four-letter word. We now have hope. The COVID numbers have improved drastically since our holiday peaks. There are vaccines being released (more on that shortly). Spring is less than 30 days away. We truly have reason for hope as we head into the season of renewal. But I would caution you all to keep up your guard. Even if you get a vaccine, you still need to maintain physical distancing, wash your hands frequently, and wear your mask. The vaccine does not prevent you from getting the virus, it just limits the seriousness of the effects of the virus. So now is not the time to relax our vigilance, nor assume the virus has done its worst. It's time to double down on prevention.

Our city has been hit hard by the virus. Despite efforts to combat the community spread, we have seen significant impacts especially over the holiday period. That is why I'm fighting hard to get as many vaccines as possible, as quickly as possible, for you. I must admit to frustration, stemming from the lack of alignment between the local Board of Health and Commonwealth communications. Expanding vaccines to companions and then 65+ and multiple co-morbidities, all without notice to local government, are just a few examples - when we were restricted to 100 doses of the vaccine the first two weeks, and then none after that, only to have the State tell us we are one of the 20 target cities for equity in vaccinations. Look, let me be frank – I don't care who gives the vaccines as long as they come to Methuen.

We ran two clinics for our seniors over 75, staffed with volunteers who made the process simple and straightforward for our elderly. **I've never been prouder** to be mayor than during those clinics. We showed the best of Methuen. Now, I sit here, not even knowing how many doses are coming into the City via CVS or GLFHC. And I know that you want to turn to your local government for answers – as you should – but quite simply, we aren't getting those answers from the State. This isn't a crusade against CVS or GLFHC mind you, but transparency extends to more than just local governments. I call on those providers to let us know how many doses they have available for our Methuen residents – and as residents, you should be going to those sites to get vaccinated – don't wait!

My hope, also, is that you had the opportunity to see my State of the City Address. If you didn't, I ask you to visit <https://methuen-ma.viebit.com/player.php?hash=sJDbzWG4KNgO> and watch it. It likewise carries a message of hope. Despite the pandemic, we've begun the process of moving this city forward. As I prepared for the State of the City address, it caused me to pause and reflect on our many accomplishments. While the pandemic definitely impacted us, we have laid a foundation in our first year based upon transparency, trust, and accountability. There's much more to do, but we've turned the corner and we can build upon what we've started. I hope you feel that way too.

I'm inspired by the passion of our residents, the determination of our employees, and the desire of so many to do what's best for all in the City of Methuen. It's one of the main reasons I love being your mayor. Please be reminded you can always reach out to me by phone at 978-983-8505 or by emailing mayorperry@ci.methuen.ma.us with any questions or concerns. There are more good days ahead of us. So, thank you, stay strong and healthy, and be kind to one another – and Happy St. Patrick's Day to you and yours!



Mayor Neil Perry

Mensaje del Alcalde

La esperanza y la vigilancia reinan a medida que se acerca la primavera

Esperanza. Una simple palabra de cuatro letras. Ahora tenemos esperanza. Los números de COVID han mejorado drásticamente desde nuestros picos de vacaciones. Se están lanzando vacunas (más sobre eso en breve). Faltan menos de 30 días para la primavera. Realmente tenemos motivos para tener esperanza a medida que nos adentramos en la temporada de renovación. Pero les advierto a todos que mantengan la guardia. Incluso si recibe una vacuna, debe mantener la distancia física, lavarse las manos con frecuencia y usar la máscara. La vacuna no evita que usted contraiga el virus, solo limita la gravedad de los efectos del virus. Así que ahora no es el momento de relajar nuestra vigilancia, ni asumir que el virus ha hecho lo peor. Es hora de redoblar la prevención.

Nuestra ciudad se ha visto muy afectada por el virus. A pesar de los esfuerzos para combatir la propagación de la comunidad, hemos visto impactos significativos, especialmente durante el período de vacaciones. Es por eso por lo que estoy luchando duro para obtener la mayor cantidad de vacunas posible, lo más rápido posible, para usted. Debo admitir mi frustración, derivada de la falta de alineación entre la Junta de Salud local y las comunicaciones del Commonwealth. La expansión de las vacunas a compañeros y luego a mayores de 65 años y múltiples comorbilidades, todo sin previo aviso al gobierno local, son solo algunos ejemplos: cuando estábamos restringidos a 100 dosis de la vacuna las primeras dos semanas, y luego ninguna después de eso, solo para que el Estado nos diga que somos una de las 20 ciudades objetivo para la equidad en las vacunas. Mire, déjeme ser franco, no me importa quién les dé las vacunas mientras vengan a Methuen. Dirigimos dos clínicas para nuestros mayores de 75 años, con voluntarios que hicieron el proceso simple y directo para nuestros mayores. Nunca me he sentido más orgulloso de ser Alcalde que durante esas clínicas. Mostramos lo mejor de Methuen. Ahora, me siento aquí, sin ni siquiera saber cuántas dosis están llegando a la ciudad a través de CVS o GLFHC. Y sé que desea acudir a su gobierno local para obtener respuestas, como debería, pero simplemente, no estamos obteniendo esas respuestas del Estado. Esto no es una cruzada contra CVS o GLFHC, pero la transparencia se extiende a más que solo a los gobiernos locales. Hago un llamado a esos proveedores para que nos informen cuántas dosis tienen disponibles para nuestros residentes de Methuen y, como residentes, deberían ir a esos sitios para vacunarse, ¡no espere!

También espero que haya tenido la oportunidad de ver mi discurso sobre el Estado de la Ciudad. Si no lo hizo, le pido que visite <https://methuen-ma.viebit.com/player.php?hash=sJDbzWG4KNgO> y lo vea. Así mismo, lleva un mensaje de esperanza. A pesar de la pandemia, hemos comenzado el proceso de hacer avanzar esta ciudad. Mientras me preparaba para el discurso sobre el Estado de la Ciudad, me hizo detenerme y reflexionar sobre nuestros muchos logros. Si bien la pandemia definitivamente nos afectó, hemos sentado las bases en nuestro primer año sobre la base de la transparencia, la confianza y la responsabilidad. Hay mucho más por hacer, pero hemos doblado la esquina y podemos construir sobre lo que comenzamos. Espero que tú también te sientas así.

Me inspira la pasión de nuestros residentes, la determinación de nuestros empleados y el deseo de tantos de hacer lo mejor para todos en la ciudad de Methuen. Es una de las principales razones por las que me encanta ser su Alcalde. Recuerde que siempre puede comunicarse conmigo por teléfono al 978-983-8505 o enviando un correo electrónico a mayorperry@ci.methuen.ma.us con cualquier pregunta o inquietud. Nos esperan más días buenos. Entonces, gracias, manténganse fuertes y saludables, y sean amables entre sí, ¡y Feliz Día de San Patricio para usted y los suyos!