

CITY OF METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS PROFILE

The Town of Methuen was originally organized as a town in 1725 when Lt. Stephen Barker petitioned to divide the Town of Haverhill. Governor Dummer signed the act establishing the Town of Methuen, naming the town in honor of Sir Paul Methuen, a friend of the Governor's and member of the King's Privy Council. The first Town Meeting was held March 9, 1726.

Methuen operated under the Town Meeting form of government until 1917 when the state Legislature allowed the town to organize as a city. In 1921 the Supreme Judicial Court found that the City Charter had not been appropriately adopted under the constitution of the Commonwealth. Methuen reverted to its status as a town and established a Charter setting a Selectman/Representative Town Meeting government. That Charter remained in effect until 1973 when Methuen's first Home Rule Charter became effective establishing a 21 member Town Council and Town Manager.

Methuen's second Home Rule Charter in 1978 maintained the Town Manager/Town council form of government, but reduced the number of councilors to nine and increased the powers of the Council. Another Charter change approved by Methuen voters in 1993 replaced the appointed Town Manager with an elected Mayor. When he took office in Jan. 1994, Mayor Dennis DiZoglio became Methuen's first Mayor Since 1921. Mayor DiZoglio's successor, Sharon M. Pollard took office January 3, 2000. Current Mayor William Manzi, III took office on January 2, 2006.

Industrial growth in the 1800's influenced Methuen's development. Construction of the Methuen Cotton Mills at Spicket River falls in the 1820's and the increased manufacture of hats and shoes in small factories along the Spicket spurred the centralization of Methuen's economic, residential and cultural activities within the area around Osgood, Broadway, Hampshire and Pleasant Streets.

Three wealthy and prominent families--the Nevins, the Tenneys and the Searles--played a significant role in Methuen's history and development. Thanks to these families, the town can boast of some of its finest landmarks including the Nevins Memorial Library, the Searles building, Tenney Gatehouse, Nevins Home,

Spicket Falls, and the Civil War Monument between Pleasant and Charles Streets.

GENERAL INFORMATION

County	Essex		
Location	Northeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Dracut to the west; Pelham & Salem, NH to the northwest and north; Haverhill to the north and northeast; North Andover to the southeast; and Lawrence and Andover to the south. Methuen is 27 miles north of Boston, 11 miles from Lowell and 236 miles from New York City.		
Population	1980: 36,701	1990: 39,990	2000: 43,789
Area	Land - 22.41 sq. miles	Water - 0.64 sq. miles	Total - 23.05 sq. miles
Density	1990: 1784 persons per sq. mile 2000: 1954 persons per sq. mile		
Climate	Normal January Temperature: 26 F	Normal July Temperature: 73 F	Normal annual precipitation: 40.96 in.
Elevation at Municipal Bldg.	100 feet above mean sea level.		
Topographical Characteristics	Undulating countryside with average 100 foot elevations. Soils mostly moist and of good texture with small patches of rough and stony.		
U.S.G.S. Topo Plates	Ayers Village, Lawrence, Lowell, South Groveland, Haverhill.		
Established as a Town	December 8, 1725 (Resumed as a town--1921)		
Obtained City Charter	1917, and again in 1972.		
Type of Government	Mayor / City Council		

METHUEN CITY GOVERNMENT

Methuen's Home Rule Charter, as amended in 1993, provides for a city government with the elected Mayor serving as executive and a nine-member City Council serving as legislative body. The Mayor, whose term is two years, is responsible for overseeing daily functioning of government departments. The Council, In addition to establishing city ordinances, has authority to approve such matters as contracts and appointments. The Council and seven-member School Committee are elected by city voters for two-year terms.

Appointed boards and commissions include the Community Development Board (which serves as Planning Board), the Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Board of Assessors, Historical Commission, Historic District Commission, Licensing Board, Youth Commission and Council on Aging Board.

Mayor: The Honorable William M. Manzi, III

City Council:

Jennifer Kannan	At Large
Joyce C. Campagnone	At Large
Stephen N. Zanni	At Large
Larry F. Giordano	East District
Patricia A. Uliano	East District
John A. Cronin, Jr., Chairman	Central District
Philip J. Lahey, Jr.	Central District
Jeanne Pappalardo, Vice Chairwoman	West District
James M. Hajjar	West District