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**METHUEN CELEBRATES
ESSEX NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA TRAILS & SAILS WEEKEND
WITH A TRIO OF FREE EVENTS**

**Vintage Baseball Tournament to Draw Crowds to Tenney Fields
on Saturday, September 27, 2008**

Cemetery Tour and Millionaires Walk Also Scheduled

September 24, 2008 (Methuen, MA) Mayor William M. Manzi will throw out the first ball when the Essex Nine vintage baseball team takes on alumni from Methuen High School at noon on Saturday, September 27th. The game will be followed by a contest between the Lynn Live Oaks and the Fitchburg Rollstones at 1:30 pm, a kids' demonstration game at 2:00 pm, and a face-off between the Essex Nine and the Fitchburgh Rollstones at 3:00 pm. Baseball lovers who want to know more about the history of the sport can attend a pre-tournament talk by vintage league organizer Brian Sheehy at the Nevins Library at 10:00 am.

Civil War and cemetery enthusiasts are invited to meet a local historian on Saturday, September 27th at 11:00 at Walnut Grove Cemetery for a Civil War Cemetery Walk. Participants will stroll through the scenic grounds and learn about the Northern defenders buried there, their war exploits, and the families they left behind.

A Millionaires Walking Tour beginning at the Nevins Library at 1:00 pm on Sunday, September 28th will follow the footsteps of David Nevins, Charles H. Tenney, and Edward F. Searles. These three native sons controlled great fortunes in the late 19th century and left an enduring mark on the City. The tour will end with an inside look at Searles' famous organ at the Methuen Music Hall.

The Methuen events are sponsored by the Methuen Historical Society, Methuen Historical Commission, and the Methuen Historic District Commission. They are among 140 organizations in Essex County participating in the 7th Annual TRAILS & SAILS 2008: *A Weekend to GO! Experience Essex Heritage* on September 26-28, 2008. This year, TRAILS & SAILS Weekend will offer more than 200 free events hosted by unique non-profit, community organizations and recreation-based businesses. Over 4,000 attendees are expected at this year's events, which will include history and art walks, farm tours, poetry readings, kayak trips, archeological digs, local music, wooded hikes, behind-the-scenes tours, and much more. Most events will accommodate between 12 and 50 participants, and all are on a first-come, first-served basis with the exception of pre-registered events (see website). The public is invited and admission is free.

For more information on TRAILS & SAILS Weekend and directions to the Methuen events, visit www.trailsandsails.org, call the Essex National Heritage Commission at (978) 740-0444, or pick up a program guide at the Customer Service office at City Hall, 41 Pleasant Street, Methuen.

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