



# "Called to Duty"

## The Official Newsletter of the Methuen Fire Department

JANUARY 2023

Volume 6, Issue 1

### MFD Links

City of Methuen  
Website

Methuen Fire  
Department Web Page

MFD Facebook

MFD Twitter

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### Regional Links

MA Dept. of Fire  
Services

MEMA

National Fire Protection  
Assoc.

Office of Emergency  
Medical Services

### Contact Us

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](#)

## Sean Wholley Named Firefighter of the Year



The Methuen Exchange Club recently held its annual Firefighter and Police Officer of the Year award ceremony. The Methuen Fire Department is proud to say that Firefighter Sean Wholley was the firefighter honoree for 2022. This past summer, while off duty, Wholley saved two people, on two different occasions within minutes of each other, from drowning against a tough current at Seabrook Beach.



Fire Chief Tim Sheehy joined Mayor Neil Perry and Police Chief Scott J. McNamara in congratulating Wholley and Methuen Police honoree Officer Matt Mueskes. Thanks to the Exchange Club for their continued service to the people of Methuen and for recognizing these first responders.

## ++ Message from the Fire Chief ++

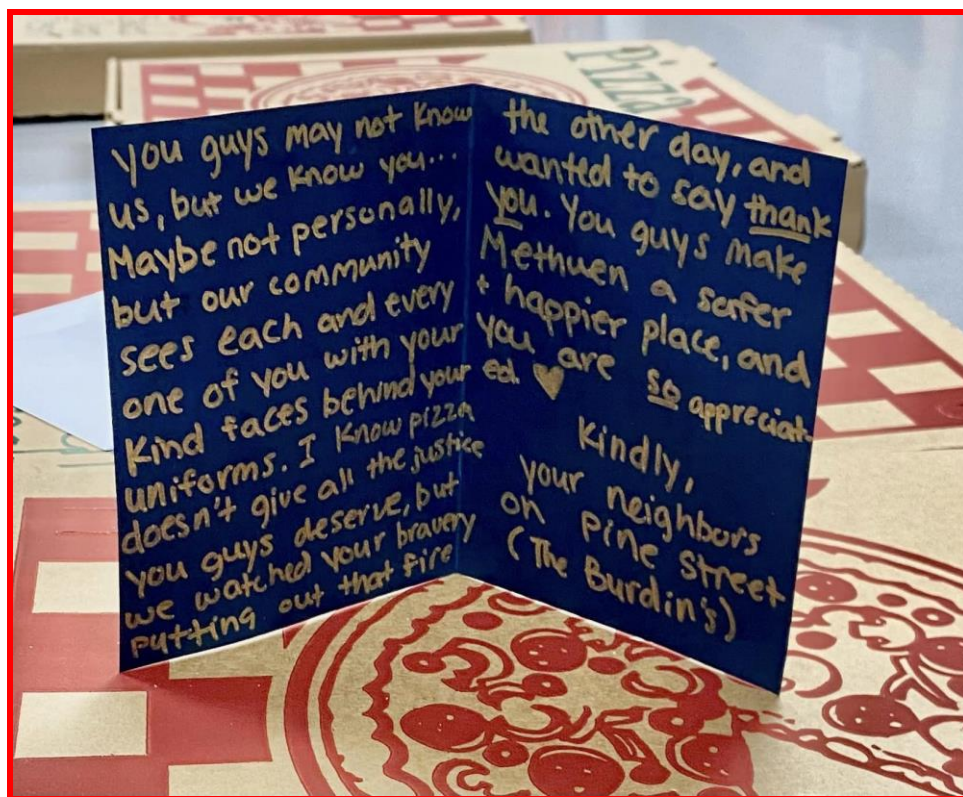


Thanks for taking the time to read this edition of "Called to Duty." We hope all of you enjoyed a happy and safe holiday season. The holidays may have passed, but winter is certainly still here. Be sure to check out our generator and heating safety tips in this issue. Our department answers numerous calls for generator/heating issues each winter so please be careful. 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*

## Burdin Family Thanks MFD



Very special thanks go out to the Burdin family, neighbors to our Central Fire Station, for sending some delicious pizza to our firefighters. The Burdin family wanted to thank all of our firefighters for their hard work in battling the recent fire at 52 Hampshire Street. We appreciate the Burdins' generosity and thank them for their friendship.

## Methuen Firefighters Experience Pump Training



Over the past few weeks, Methuen firefighters have been participating in fire pump training. This training demonstrates the proper way to utilize the water distribution system in the city. It also shows our firefighters how to correctly deliver needed water flows when fighting a fire inside a building. The training provides the opportunity to practice important troubleshooting and emergency procedures.

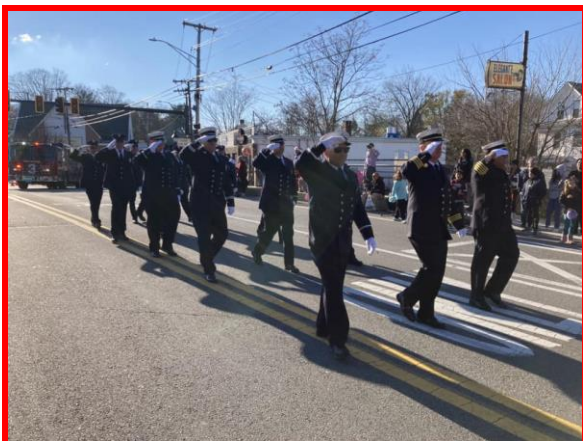
## MFD Recognizes afc Urgent Care for 10 Years of Service



Chief Tim Sheehy and the men and women of the Methuen Fire Department join Mayor Neil Perry in saluting our friends at afc urgent care, 380 Merrimack St., as they celebrate 10 years of outstanding service to our community. We thank them for their care, professionalism, and community partnership.



## Gallery: Methuen Fire Department at the Methuen Santa Parade



## Through the Fire, Through the Years

**“Through the Fire, Through the Years” looks back at Methuen Fire Department history with a memory from 77 years ago.**

Ted Williams batted .406, the last man to eclipse the .400 mark, but his Red Sox lost the World Series to the St. Louis Cardinals in 7 games. The International Children's Emergency Fund, UNICEF, was established. Tupperware, developed by Earl Tupper, was introduced to U.S. consumers.

The United Nations' held its first meeting in London, England. Assault wins Belmont, Preakness, and Kentucky Derby, and the box office was topped by films *The Best Years of Our Lives*, *Notorious*, and *Great Expectations*.



Through the Fire, Through the Years goes back to 1946 and a fire at Rag Storage Barn in Methuen.

According to the book “A History of Methuen and its Fire Department” by Retired Methuen Firefighter Kenneth H. Doherty, this particular fire, although not large in scope, tragically took the life of Methuen Deputy Fire Chief William J. Hynes. The fire started due to spontaneous ignition of the rags in the barn. Hynes succumbed due to smoke inhalation.

Doherty explains that, at that time, firefighters were not equipped with the self-contained breathing equipment that they use today. The Rag Barn fire saw thick waves of smoke rise to the second level of the structure. Thankfully, modern technology has improved safety measures for our first responders. Today, a multi-family residence now sits on Chelmsford Street where the rag barn once stood.



# Methuen Fire Department Generator & Heating Safety Tips

At this time of year, it is important to adhere to some important fire safety tips. In the following pages, our Department offers generator and heating safety tip sheets worth reading and saving.

## Generator Safety

*Prevent Fires, CO Poisoning  
and Electrocution*

Generators can be helpful when the power goes out for an extended period of time. It is important to know how to use them safely to prevent fires, carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and electrocution.



### Purchasing and Preparing to Use the Generator

- 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.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use of the generator. Be sure to read the instructions before you need to use the generator.
- Install working CO alarms on every level of the home.

### Using the Generator Safely

- Place the generator outdoors facing away from doors, windows and vents. Never use a generator inside a house, basement or crawl space – not even inside a garage with the door open. When possible, place the generator 5-10 feet away from the house.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator or use heavy-duty, outdoor rated extension cords, not to exceed the number of outlets on the generator. Make sure cords are free of cuts and tears and have all three prongs – especially the grounding pin.
- Keep the generator dry. Operate on a dry surface under an open canopy or tent.
- Dry your hands before touching the generator.
- Let the generator cool before refueling. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.

### Safely Storing and Transporting Gasoline to Power the Generator

- Transport gasoline safely, standing upright, in an approved container in the trunk of your car or back of a pick-up truck. You can transport a maximum of 21 gallons without a permit from the fire department, provided no single container exceeds 7 gallons.
- Store gasoline in a shed or detached garage away from the house; never store gasoline inside the home or an attached garage. Secure the shed or garage if possible, and keep flammable liquids out of reach of youngsters.
- Store gasoline far from any fuel burning appliance such as a furnace, water heater or woodstove. Vapors can travel back to their ignition source and ignite.



**FireFactors**

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# Heating Safety Tips

## Think Safety First When Heating your Home this Winter



Heating caused 6,692 fires over the past five years and is the number two cause of home fires in Massachusetts. Use your home heating system and space heating appliances wisely and responsibly. That's the way to *Keep Warm and Keep Safe*.

### The ABCs of Fire Safety

- Make sure there are working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms on every level including one outside the bedrooms.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms monthly and change batteries twice a year, when you change the clocks.
- Hold home fire drills to practice the home escape plan.
- Practice home fire safety and set a good example for the children.

### Be Careful When Using Fireplaces and Solid Fuel Stoves

If you heat your home by burning *solid fuels* (coal, firewood, pellets), be careful before, during and after using these kinds of fuels.

- Have the chimney professionally cleaned every year.
- Make sure the stove is approved by a national testing agency such as Underwriter's Laboratory (UL).
- Get a building permit before installing a stove.
- Keep anything that can burn three feet away.
- Dispose of the ashes in a **metal** container, with a lid, away from the house, garage and porch.

### Space Heaters Need Space

Fires caused by space heaters are rare but often deadly. If you must use a space heater, do so safely.

- Do not use space heaters as your #1 heating source.
- Keep anything that can burn three feet away.



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- Use only heavy-duty extension cords.
- Always turn off when going to bed or leaving home.
- Portable kerosene heaters are illegal in MA for home use.

### Maintain Natural Gas Equipment

Natural gas is a safe and efficient way to cook, heat our homes and hot water.

- Have your furnace and hot water heater professionally checked every year.
- Do not use or store gasoline or painting supplies inside where they can be ignited by the pilot light.

Gas leaks can be dangerous – if you smell something like rotten eggs or you think there might be a leak,

- Move outdoors.
- Do not smoke or turn on or off electrical switches - sparks can cause an explosion.
- Dial 911 immediately.

### Maintain Oil Heating Equipment

Home heating with fuel oil is also safe and efficient.

- Have your furnace professionally cleaned and checked every year.
- Don't let the tank get completely empty.
- Call for service if the oil burner releases smoke or soot in the house.

### Carbon Monoxide: the Silent Killer

Heating equipment is the leading source of carbon monoxide (CO) in the home.

- Install carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home.
- Don't use the gas stove or oven for heat.
- Have furnaces and chimneys checked annually by a professional.
- Keep appliance vents and exhaust pipes clear of drifting snow and bushes.

### Fuel Assistance

**For information on fuel assistance, please call the HEATLINE at 1-800-632-8175 (or for Boston only 617-357-6012) or on-line at [www.mass.gov/dhcd](http://www.mass.gov/dhcd).**

For more information go to:  
[www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe](http://www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe)



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## Methuen Firefighters Local 1691 Children's Christmas Party



In December, Methuen Firefighters Local 1691 held its annual Children's Christmas party for kids, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews of firefighters. The event, held at the Methuen Senior Activity Center, is sponsored and organized by the Local 1691. Over 50 kids enjoyed pizza and made their own snow cones. And of course, Santa Claus arrived on Engine 1 and gave each child a present.

## Methuen Fire Department Ice Safety Notice

# ICE SAFETY

**MINIMUM ICE DEPTH:**  
WALKING/SKATING — 4 INCHES   
SNOW MOBILE — 6 INCHES   
VEHICLE — 8-12 INCHES   
HEAVY TRUCK — 12-15 INCHES   
**DON'T KNOW? DON'T GO.**

A public safety message from the International Association of Fire Fighters

## MFD Responds to Mills Falls Fire



On December 27, the Methuen Fire Department responded to a 911 call at the Mills Falls apartment complex on Osgood Street. Smoke from a kitchen mishap in a second floor apartment spread to other floors through the stairway. Engine 3, Engine 5, and Tower Ladder 1 responded.

## Delivering Meals to Seniors on Christmas Eve



On December 24, the MFD continued an important holiday tradition. Members of our department and their families spent the day delivering meals to the elderly in conjunction with the Methuen Senior Activity Center.

Methuen Firefighters Local 1691 purchased the food from Borrelli's Italian Deli and brightened the holiday for some very deserving seniors.



## Methuen Fire Department Offers Holiday Thanks



Thanks to Marie and Isa from Dunkin's on Howe Street in Methuen for donating some great food and coffee to our North Station firefighters. We also received some holiday goodies from the great people at Ozzy Properties, Inc



Sincere thanks go out to Terri Sullivan and Stephanie Hanley (left) of Methuen Village. They were kind enough to bring an impressive snack gift box to our firefighters. Thanks to everyone at Methuen Village for all you do for our seniors every day of the year. We also appreciate the basket of goodies we got from fourth grade students at Fellowship Christian Academy in Methuen (right). The students were treated to a tour of our station and vehicles from Firefighter Danielle Grenier.



## Chief Tim Sheehy Featured on “Working for You” Program



Thanks to Christine Metzemaekers (above left), CarolAnn Rousseau, and MCS for having Chief Tim Sheehy as a guest on the “Working for You” program. Christine asked the Chief some excellent questions about his background, what it’s like to be the Fire Chief in Methuen, and some memorable moments and experiences. They also discussed important winter safety tips as well as general fire-related topics. To view the program, visit [www.methuenvt.org](http://www.methuenvt.org)

## Methuen Fire Department Thanks Bree Yameen

Chief Tim Sheehy and the men and women of the Methuen Fire Department would like to send special thanks to Bree Yameen of Methuen for the photos she took of our department at the Methuen Santa Parade.

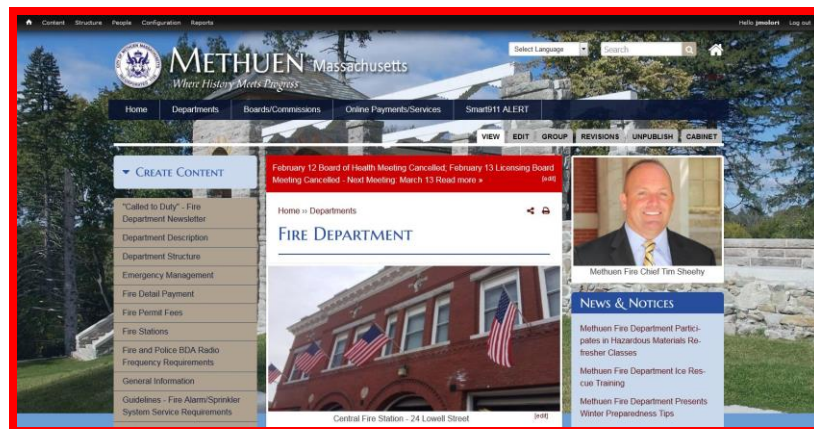


Bree, pictured above with Chief Sheehy, is 14 years old. She is an eighth grade student at the Tenney School. She is also the editor of the Tenney School Yearbook.



We appreciate her lending her talents to our department and look forward to seeing her continue to grow in her journalistic skills!

## 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.





## 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](mailto:jrmolori@ci.methuen.ma.us). Please include your name and email address. Thank You!