

Billerica, MA Community Profile

Official town website: <http://www.town.billerica.ma.us/>

Wikipedia description: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billerica,_Massachusetts

Billerica Historical Society: <http://www.billericahistory.org/index.html>

Ranked the 27th safest town in America!

Sports Illustrated ranked Billerica one of the country's top 50 towns for sports and recreation

Town Information: The town of Billerica, MA (pop. est. 41,000) is located 20 miles northwest of Boston, MA in Middlesex County. The 26-square mile town takes its name from the British, Billericay, a town in Essex, England. Billerica was incorporated in 1655. The Concord and Shawsheen rivers run through Billerica and Nutting Lake provides a public beach for canoeing, sailing and swimming. Surrounding towns include: Bedford, Lexington, Concord, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Burlington, Tewksbury, Lowell and Wilmington. The town operates via a five-member board of selectmen and other town officials.

History: Billerica was dubbed the "Yankee Doodle Town" in 2016 by Governor, Charlie Baker. History tells us that, "A local farmer, Thomas Ditson was tarred and feathered at Boston Common in March 1775 by British soldiers. Then he was paraded around the streets of Boston to a derogatory version of "Yankee Doodle Dandy" as a punishment for his attempt to make an "illegal" deal to purchase a "musket" from a British soldier. Throughout the mocking parade, Ditson had to carry a piece of paper tied around his neck reading, "American Liberty (or Democracy) exemplified in a Villain who attempted to entice one of the Soldiers of his Majesty's Regiment to desert and take up Arms with Rebels, against his King & County." Back in colonial period, recipients of this "Tar and Feather" punishments lived in permanent disgrace, and one can guess, it would have been extremely difficult to remove tar from one's body after it cooled down on the victim. Therefore it must have been an utmost humiliation to the colonists. No wonder this Ditson's incident along with the Boston Massacre in 1770 and the Boston Tea Party in 1773 triggered "a shot heard around the world," in Concord in April of 1775, which was a memorable march toward colony's independence from "The Crown." However, Thomas Ditson survived after all, and joined the Minutemen to fight against the "Red Coats," and became an instant patriotic hero in his hometown, Billerica." (Courtesy of Wickedlocal.com)

As a result, Billerica celebrates annually with the Yankee Doodle Homecoming fair and parade each September.

Statistics:

Average House Hold Income: \$90,528

A.H.H. net worth: \$859,787

Average H.H. total expenditure: \$65,446

Median age: early 40's

Average family size: 3.4

87% Caucasian

MA sales tax rate 6.25%

Real Estate:

Median house sale price 2017: \$415,400.

Average rent 2-bedroom apartment: \$1,695.

Public School System: The Billerica public school system is comprised of six elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school. Additionally, Billerica houses the top rated Shawsheen Valley Technical High school.

Billerica School District: Rating #6

Shawsheen Valley Vocational Technical High School: Rating #8

Local Hospitals:

Lahey Clinic - Burlington

Emerson – Concord

Houses of Worship: Billerica is primarily Catholic with some protestant churches and a Unitarian Universalist church in the center of town.

Things to do: Billerica has a small but quaint town center that is home to an active library and senior center, both of which house many community events throughout the year. During the summer months, citizens can enjoy music on the town green and a flourishing farmer's market. Christmastime boasts a beautifully lit up town center with family activities and the annual tree lighting ceremony.

Nearby attractions include:

The historic Lexington and Concord battle greens

The Old North Bridge (Concord)

The historic Colonial Inn-1776 (Concord)

Warren Manning State Park (Billerica)

Lowell, MA State Park and summer music festival

Nearby free walking/biking trails such as Great Meadows (Concord) & Carlisle rail trail

Area boating, kayaking, canoeing and swimming

Shopping (Burlington Mall) and restaurants (Burlington)

18-hole public golf course-Billerica Country Club

Easy accessibility to Boston, Cape Cod & Maine beaches and the New Hampshire & Vermont mountains