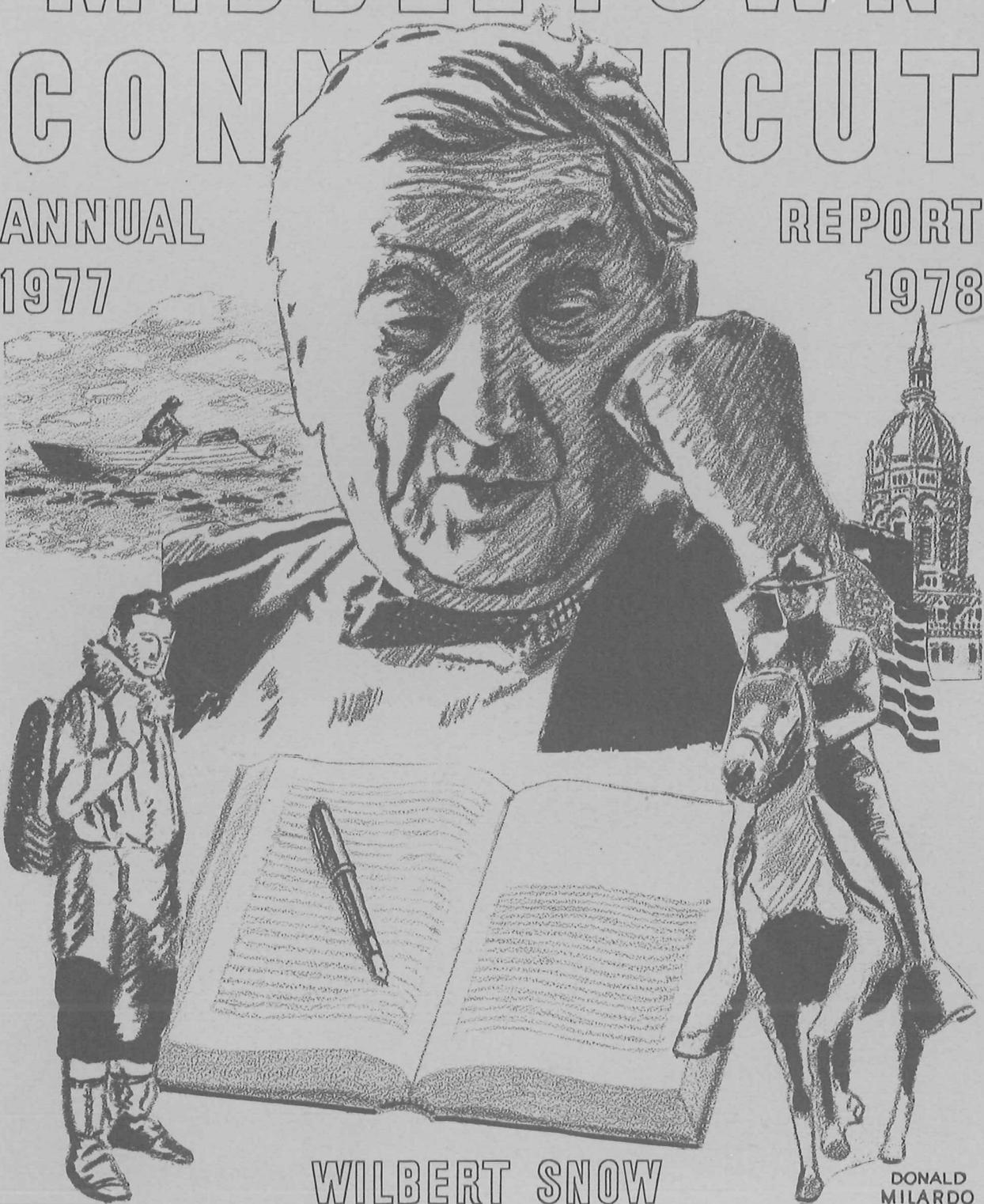


# MIDDLETOWN CONNECTICUT

ANNUAL  
1977

REPORT  
1978



WILBERT SNOW

DONALD MILARDO

## Contents

	Page
MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR .....	1
LEGISLATIVE & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	
Common Council .....	2
Contract Compliance Board .....	2
Office of City and Town Clerk .....	3
Office of City Attorney .....	3
Registrar of Voters .....	3
Personnel Board .....	4
FISCAL MANAGEMENT	
City Treasurer .....	4
Finance Department .....	4
Office of the Tax Assessor .....	5
Tax Collector .....	5
PROTECTIVE SERVICES	
Middletown Police Department .....	6
Fire Department .....	7
Middletown Fire District .....	7
Westfield Fire District .....	7
South Fire District .....	7
BOARD OF EDUCATION .....	8
WILBERT SNOW .....	9, 10, 11
PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES	
Department of Public Works .....	12
Sewer Department .....	12
Parking Authority .....	13
Middletown Transit District .....	13
HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT	
Department of Health .....	14
Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Agency	15
CULTURAL & RECREATIONAL	
Parks & Recreation Department .....	15
Commission on the Arts .....	16
The Regatta Committee .....	16
Russell Library .....	16
HUMAN RELATIONS & SERVICES	
Youth Services .....	17
Human Relations Commission .....	17
Senior Affairs Commission .....	18
Consumer Protection Weights & Measures .	18
Welfare Department .....	18
Public Service Employment	
Emergency Employment Office .....	18
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	
Redevelopment Agency .....	19
Harbor Improvement Agency .....	19
Municipal Development Committee .....	20
Zoning Board of Appeals .....	20
Planning & Zoning Commission .....	20

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Most departmental reports have been edited for space requirements. Complete reports are on file in the Municipal Building through the Mayor's Office.

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### Annual Report Credits:

*Cover Artist:* Donald T. Milardo, Middletown Police Department

*Editor:* Jane Morriss

*Photographs:* Special thanks goes to: The Middletown Press, The Snow Family, Seb J. Passanesi, Parks and Recreation Department, Snow School, Clark Corporation, and the Redevelopment Agency.

*Printer:* James D. Young Co., Inc. Middletown

### About the Cover

The 1977-78 Annual Report of the City of Middletown is dedicated to Wilbert Snow, beloved poet, teacher, statesman, scholar, husband, father, and friend to all, whose life touched many; whose vision has imparted a living legacy on his community. A brief biographical sketch and photographs can be found on Pages 9, 10 and 11 of this Report.

# Message From The Mayor

Reflecting back upon the fiscal year of 1977-1978, I am pleased to report that the City of Middletown continued to progress and enhance its standing, especially in the most important measure of a community's status which is the economic stability of the City.

November, 1977, marked the beginning of the second two-year term of this Administration. The first two years witnessed a beginning — sometimes stumbling, sometimes delayed — but I believe that real progress started taking shape and was very evident during this year, which bodes well for the bright economic future of our City.

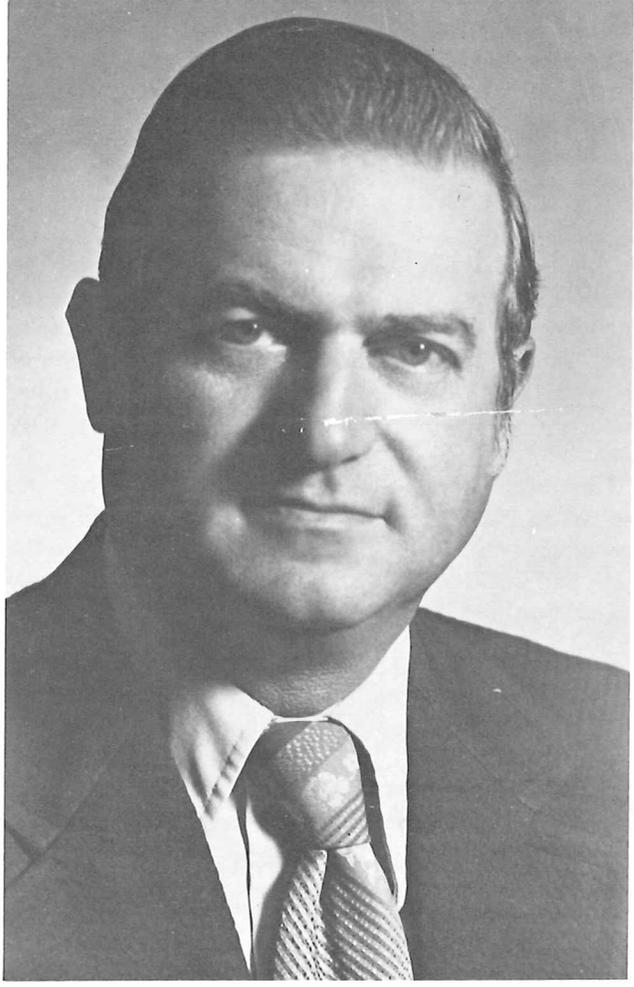
It would take too long to elaborate on all of the many projects which helped to create the optimistic aura which I feel has gripped our community. I believe that it would be beneficial to briefly identify these programs by just listing them in this report. Many are elaborated upon in the reports on the ensuing pages.

I am proud to state that the Old Middletown High School project got underway. The City Hall addition also was started. The CDBG rehabilitation proved effective. An In-House Housing Survey was undertaken to determine our housing needs. The Waterfront improvements really took shape and the indications of an excellent project surfaced. A successful Omnibus Park Conservation Project (a CETA program) was instituted. Cable TV was finally turned on in Middletown. Sewer extensions were installed and the start on the Water Filtration Plant became a reality. And finally, Block 15 in the Redevelopment area, which resisted progress for so many years, saw the first construction project get underway with the ground-breaking for Pelton's Drug Store and with its completion, a grand opening during the year.

It was not a year without losses. Snowstorm "Larry" knocked us to our knees for a few days. Middletown handled the storm well as we have demonstrated before in this and other emergencies, that we have the people and the resources to face almost any situation and usually come out on top.

But there are some losses which take more from us than we really wish to give. Such is the case in the death of our beloved C. Wilbert Snow. There is no way that we, as a community, can say that we have the resources to continue on without feeling the loss of this great man. We feel his loss greatly but he left so much with us in his poetry and his humanitarian works that we can lean on that which he gave us to continue on to make Middletown the great community that C. Wilbert Snow and we all want our City to be.

Finally, the City of Middletown continues to be the great, economically stable community which all of us desire it to be. Property revaluation, which can be, and



Mayor Anthony S. Marino

Alpha Studio

has proven to be, a most serious problem for many communities, was accomplished here with very few problems. In fact, compared to other communities, the process proved very successful. The revaluation led to a tax rate of 28.9 mills for the budget adopted by the Common Council in April of 1978, for the next fiscal year (1978-1979). This is an indication of the fiscal stability of our community.

Beyond this, the City continues to provide a high level of service to all our citizens with a progressive outlook for the future.

# Legislative & Administrative Services

## The 1977-78 Common Council

Michael J. Cubeta, Jr.  
Sebastian W. Gallitto  
Vincent J. Loffredo  
Kent M. Scully  
Francis P. Marino  
Paul P. Parisi

Christie E. McLeod  
Conrad J. Tyaack  
Arnold W. Ackerman  
Daniel Z. Shapiro  
Thomas E. Lineberry  
Carl J. Passanisi

### Members Serving Until November, 1977

Edward J. Kalita, Willard M. McRae, Donald M. Russell

The City Charter gives the Common Council the legislative power of the City, including the power, authority and duty: to make by-laws and ordinances; to regulate the borrowing of money; to adopt a budget for each fiscal year; to authorize the issuance of bonds; to appropriate funds; to fix salaries and compensation of all elected officials; to issue subpoenas; and all other such powers appropriate to the conduct of City business.

Common Council Members and the Mayor are elected in November of odd-numbered years to serve two-year terms. In 1977 Middletown voters went to the polls and voted to instate nine incumbent and three new council(wo)men to office. They returned Mayor Anthony S. Marino to a second term of office.

During the 1977-78 fiscal year, the Common Council convened for twelve regular meetings, twelve special meetings, one biennial meeting and one organizational meeting. During the year they considered 199 resolutions and 50 ordinances.

### Major Actions Taken By The Council During The 1977-78 Session

- Authorized the mayor to appoint a building committee to study the Main Street Modernization Project.
- Authorized the mayor to sign for the third-year block grants under Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) with Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- Authorized the establishment of a Womens, Infants and Childrens (WIC) program to be administered through the Middletown Board of Health.
- Instructed the mayor to appoint a building committee to study the elimination of barriers to handicapped in the Public Schools.
- Authorized the mayor to sign an option agreement with the Sawmill Brook Racing Association, Inc.
- Considered tax exemptions for solar energy systems.
- Authorized the mayor to execute an agreement with the state regarding the High Street Bridge Project.
- Approved the DeKoven Drive Extension.
- Posted a \$2,500,000. bond for construction of the Mt. Higby Filtration Plant.
- Approved the borrowing of \$350,000. to finance the construction of a one-million-gallon standpipe and water main to serve the high elevations of Westfield.

- Granted a parcel of land to the Community Action for Greater Middletown (CAGM) for the construction of a day care center.

- Approved applications to be submitted to the Economic Development Association (EDA) for the Municipal Building Expansion, Main Street Modernization and Phase II of the Water Front Improvement Project.

- Sold land to the Housing Authority for the elderly project on Randolph Road.

- Contracted for the Coginchaug River Sewer Extension.

- Sold land to Middlesex Memorial Hospital, Bronson Associates, and Pelton's Drug Store.

- Authorized the Director of Public Works to sign an agreement for Town Aid Funds with the state to help with the costs of snow removal during one of the snowiest winters in recorded history.

- Created an ad hoc Harbor Committee.

- Endorsed the Transit Development Program.

- Appropriated \$7,900 from Municipal Development Committee fund to remove barriers to handicapped people from Middletown Public Schools.

## Contract Compliance Board

Lawrence Lohneiss, *Chairman*

With the adoption of City Ordinance #28-77 (better known as the "Contract Compliance Ordinance," Sections 7-1 & 7-2 of the City Code) Common Council established guidelines affecting all contracts between the City and contractors using tradesmen or laborers. The Ordinance also created a five-member board, appointed by the Mayor with Council approval, to enforce those guidelines.

The Ordinance requires that contractors working with the City hire tradesmen and laborers who are residents of the City and that these employees be paid at a rate consistent with payment schedules published by the Connecticut Department of Labor.

To date, these requirements have affected contracts between the City and M.A.&M., Inc.; The Clark Corporation; The DeMatteo Construction Company and L. G. Defelice, Inc. for the addition to the Municipal Building; Harborpark Construction; the Main Street Modernization Project and the Coginchaug Sewer Interception Extension.

During the first year of activities, the Board was involved in numerous pre-bid and construction conferences and held several interim meetings with contractors to resolve misunderstandings and to secure pertinent information.

The Board consists of two members representing Common Council, two members representing organized labor and one member representing the private sector.

## Office of City and Town Clerk

Anthony Sbona, *City and Town Clerk*

The 1977-78 fiscal year was a very busy one, with our office showing increased activity at every level of operation. Our office space has become more and more cramped as our activities have expanded. However, with the completion of the City Hall addition, we will be moving into a larger office with enough vault space to accommodate the needs of this community for many years to come.

One of the major functions of this office is to maintain, record, index and file official State and local documents, including: all official records and acts of State and local departments and commissions; State reports and supplements; records of all property transactions; etc. Thus, our office is a depository for all official City and State documents and functions as a reference library for City citizens and employees.

We issue liquor permits; hunting and fishing licenses; dog; bee; wrecker; vendor and solicitors' licenses.

Our office sends monthly reports to the City and State; administers all City elections; inducts new voters; provides absentee ballots and counsels political candidates on recent elections and financial laws.

A summary of the year's activities are listed below and reflect a total increase of \$14,925.00 over 1976-77 fiscal year:

Recording and Filing . . . . .	6,098	\$34,148.40
Fish and Game . . . . .	2,762	11,428.50
Dog Licenses . . . . .	1,809	9,501.85
Miscellaneous . . . . .	1,130	5,566.26
I. D. Cards . . . . .	41	20.50
Conveyance Tax . . . . .		33,573.55
Primary Absentee Ballots . . . . .	239	
Election Absentee Ballots . . . . .	715	
Voters inducted in		
Town Clerk's Office . . . . .	1150	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>13,944</b>	<b>\$94,239.06</b>

## Office of the City Attorney

Francis O'Neill, *City Attorney*

The City Attorney is the director of the Legal Department and is the attorney for the City, its officers, departments, agencies, boards and commissions in all matters relating to their official duties. The City Attorney, with the Insurance and Claims Committee of the Common Council, handles claims filed by and against the City.

At the request of the Mayor, the City Attorney is to provide legal opinions. In 1977-78, a number of legal opinions were made including matters concerning Charter Revision, Zoning Board of Appeals, Inland-

Wetlands and Water Courses Agency, the Health Department and Board of Education. Various contracts and agreements were reviewed or prepared throughout the year.

Suits filed against the City involve a wide variety of matters and are brought to various tribunals. We have had litigation in the various Connecticut courts. In addition, employee and union grievances filed against the City, including the Board of Education and collective bargaining practices, have been referred to the Legal Department for litigation before the Personnel Board, State Board of Mediation and Arbitration and State Board of Labor Relations as well as the courts.



## Registrars of Voters

Peter Fitzpatrick, Thomas Hutton, *Registrars*

The Office of the Registrars of Voters is responsible for a variety of duties which include: maintaining accurate electors' lists, making all necessary preparations for referenda, primaries and elections and holding regular registration sessions.

During 1977-78 our office assisted in a referendum, democratic and republican primaries and the local election.

City Election, November 8 - Total Registered-20,011 — Voted-11,917 — Not Voting-8,094 — % Total Voting-60%.

RESULTS: (\*Successful candidates)

MAYOR \*Anthony S. Marino (D) 5797; Sebastian J. Garafalo (R) 5620;

COMMON COUNCIL, \*Arnold W. Ackerman (D), Clayton F. Hewitt (R), Jessie J. Salafia (I), \*Michael J. Cubeta (D), \*Thomas E. Lineberry (R), \*Sebastian W. Gallitto (D), Chester B. McCoid (R), \*Vincent J. Lofredo (D), \*Christie E. McLeod (R), \*Francis P. Marino (D), \*Carl J. Passanisi (R), \*Paul P. Parisi (D), Frederick A. Schmidt (R), \*Kent M. Scully (D), \*Daniel Z. Shapiro (R), \*Conrad J. Tyaack (D), Bruce B. Shubert (R).

TREASURER, \*William H. Mann (D), Joseph Rajtar (R).

BOARD OF EDUCATION, \*Joseph S. Borkowski (D), \*Betty M. Adams (R), \*Evelyn M. Burry (D), \*Robert J. Baroni (R), \*Barbara A. Davidson (D), \*Edward R. Champagne (R), \*Harry M. Peters, Jr. (D), \*Janet B. Daniels (R), \*Charles W. Snow, Jr. (D), Anton A. Petras (R).

SELECTMEN, \*Charles B. Cameron (D), Vincent Immue (R), \*Joseph S. Carta (D), \*Barbara M. Weiss (R).

BOARD OF TAX REVIEW, \*Kenneth A. Rich (D), \*Thomas A. Maltese (R), \*Stanley Stachura, Jr. (D), Sebastian L. Sbalcio (R).

CONSTABLE, \*Primo S. Calosso (D), \*Vittorio Cannamela (R), \*Gedeon LaMontagne (D), \*Carl L. McKeller (R), \*Aloysius Maszta (D), \*Paul H. Rasch, Jr. (R).

TO AMEND THE CITY CHARTER, 1,782 (yes), 650 (no). (12% of the voters voted on this issue).

MT. HIGBY FILTRATION PLANT REFERENDUM, June 20, 1978 — Total Registered, 19,220 - Yes, 542 - No, 297 - Total Vote, 839 - % Voting, 4%.

## Personnel Board

Carl Fortuna, *Chairman*

The Personnel Board is a tribunal which is responsible for administering the classification Plan and Personnel Rules of the City. We oversee competitive examinations; promotion and selection processes; special leaves; personnel grievances and appeals.

During the 1977-78 fiscal year, we reviewed 290 applications for employment and heard numerous employee requests and grievances.

In addition, we serve as an advisor to the Mayor and Common Council in matters pertaining to policy decisions involving personnel procedures and activities. We provide statistical data regarding applications, appointments and promotions to the Affirmative Action Administrator of the City.

The Personnel Board meets weekly, or as required, to hear special appeals and to administer examinations.



William Stekl, Middletown Press Photo  
The roof of the old Palace Theater collapsed January 23 from the weight of record snowfall, four days after the coliseum roof collapsed at the Hartford Civic Center.

# Fiscal Management

## City Treasurer

William H. Mann, *Treasurer*

The City Treasurer is responsible for the custody and disbursement of City Funds.

During the 1977-78 fiscal year, City finances prospered. City investment income totaled \$836,000.00 with \$248,000.00 coming from the General Fund.

These figures compare with a 1976-77 investment income of \$740,000.00 with General funds accounting for \$194,000.00 of the total. Rising interest rates are largely responsible for the \$96,000.00 gain over investment income of last year.

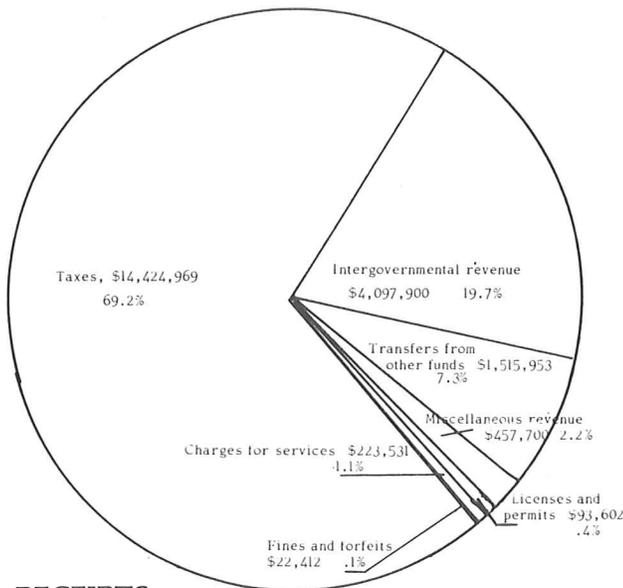
## Finance Department

James M. Reynolds, *Director*

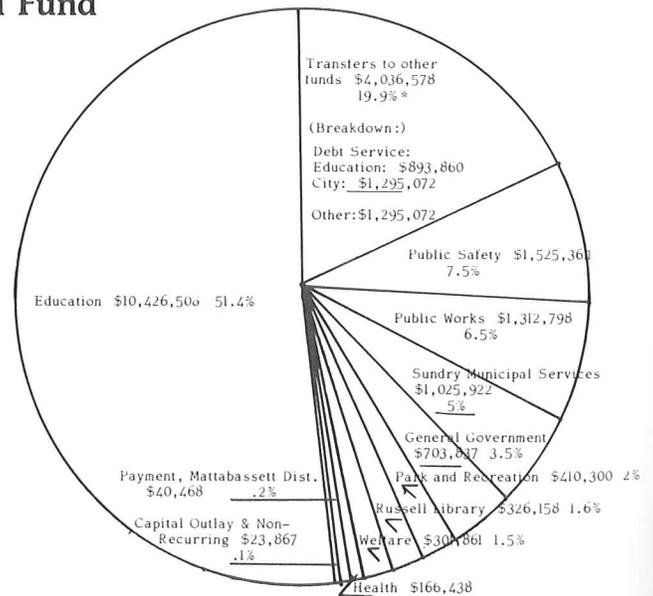
The Finance Department keeps accounts, personnel records and financial records for all City departments, committees and officers.

A complete copy of the Financial Report for the City of Middletown, including the Independent Certified Public Accountants' audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1978, is on file in the Office of Town Clerk.

### 1977-78 General Fund



**RECEIPTS**  
**\$20,836,067**



**EXPENDITURES**  
**\$20,300,096**

## Office of the Tax Assessor

Edward J. Opalacz, *Tax Assessor*

Following the 1977 City-wide revaluation, the City's taxable Grand List nearly doubled; the millage rate dropped from 55.4 mills to 28.9 mills and the assessment ratio increased from 65% to 70% of market value, bringing the City's tax rate into compliance with State statutes.

As of October 1, 1977, the Taxable Grand List for the City totaled \$527,672,267.00; an increase of \$268,084,524.00 over the grand list of the previous year.

Below, the assessed valuations are arranged into five categories:

\$377,357,330.00 (Real Estate Revenues including commercial, residential, and industrial structures)

\$126,610,790.00 (Personal Property of Manufacturers and Merchants)

\$ 28,115,120.00 (Motor vehicles)

\$ 208,820.00 (Boats and Trailers)

\$ 4,619,793.00 (Exemptions allowed for veterans, the elderly, blind and disabled)

\$527,672,269.00 TOTAL (Net Taxable Grand List)

Hartford Electric Light Company continues to be the City's largest taxpayer. The City's five largest taxpayers contribute 31% of the total Taxable Grand List, and are shown below:

Hartford Electric Light Co.	\$96,604,890.00
United Aircraft	54,847,020.00
Carabetta Enterprises	10,378,360.00
George Achenbach	10,070,540.00
Gulf and Western, Inc.	6,198,240.00

Taxpayers began receiving notifications of their reassessments during December, 1977. Informal hearings were conducted by the United Appraisal Company in January and February of 1978, followed by formal hearings by the Board of Tax Review in March, where about 300 appeals were heard. Currently, the Assessor's office has been notified that 12 appeals are now pending in court.

The department continues to get an increasing number of applications for the elderly homeowners and renters program.

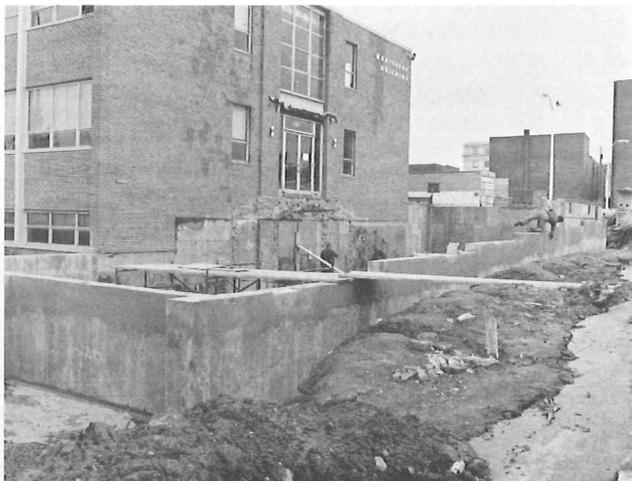
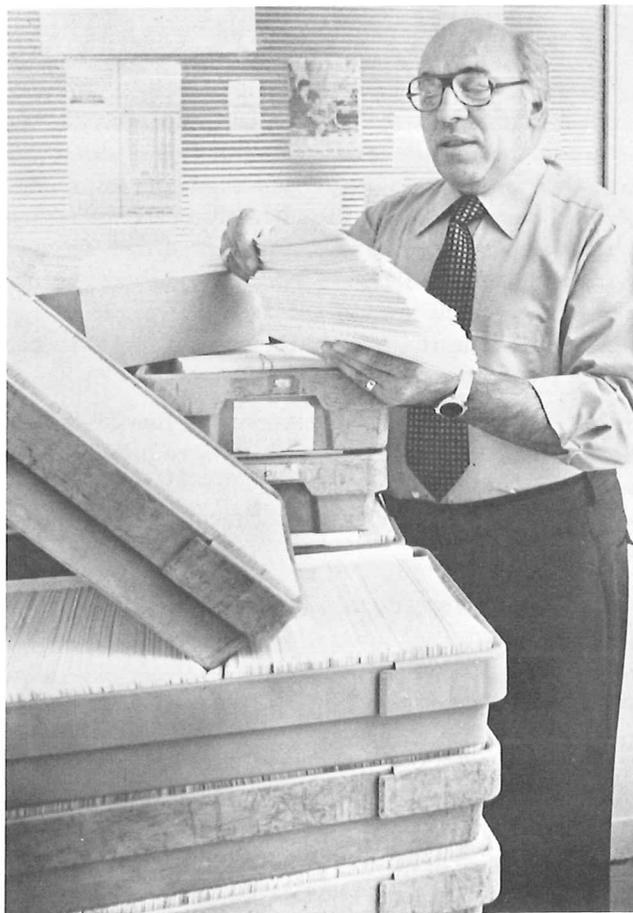


Photo courtesy of Sebastian J. Passanesi, P.C. Architect  
The Municipal Building Expansion Project gets underway.



Peter Kramer, Middletown Press Photo

City Tax Collector Joseph Colonghi looks over real estate tax forms before they go into the mail.

## Tax Collector

Joseph S. Colonghi, *Collector*

The Tax Collector's Office is more directly associated with the taxpayer than is any other branch of City government. Therefore, our office functions as an important public-relations liaison between the taxpayer and government. Together with the Office of the Assessor, we form the financial heart of local government.

The Tax Collector is appointed by the Mayor, subject to the consent of Common Council. Our office is responsible for the collection of: real estate, personal property and motor vehicle taxes; water, sewer and sanitation charges. We send out bills; place and release liens; oversee jeopardy collections; and issue demands and tax warrants.

Revenues from taxes and other sources collected during the 1977-78 fiscal year amounted to \$17,188,820.19; an increase of \$510,982.85 over the previous fiscal year.

Over the past several years we have been working toward automating our Collection Cycle. On July 3 we realized our goal when a CRT on-line terminal with input and output keyboard was installed.

The Office of Tax Collector is governed by Connecticut General Statutes and the Special Laws of the State applicable to the City.

# Protective Services

## Middletown Police Department

Eugene B. Rame, *Chief of Police*

The Police Department is currently operating with a total complement of 78 sworn personnel who serve in various capacities to maintain order, preserve the peace and to enforce the laws.

The divisions responsible for the operation of the Police Department are as follows:

**ADMINISTRATIVE** - The Administrative Division is headed by the Chief of Police. It is his responsibility to see that the objectives of the Police Department are achieved through proper management of the Department's resources.

**TRAINING** - The Deputy Chief of Police is responsible for the training of personnel (in-service) and the training of new recruits prior to their acceptance to the Police Academy. He is also responsible for firearms training and maintenance of the arms room.

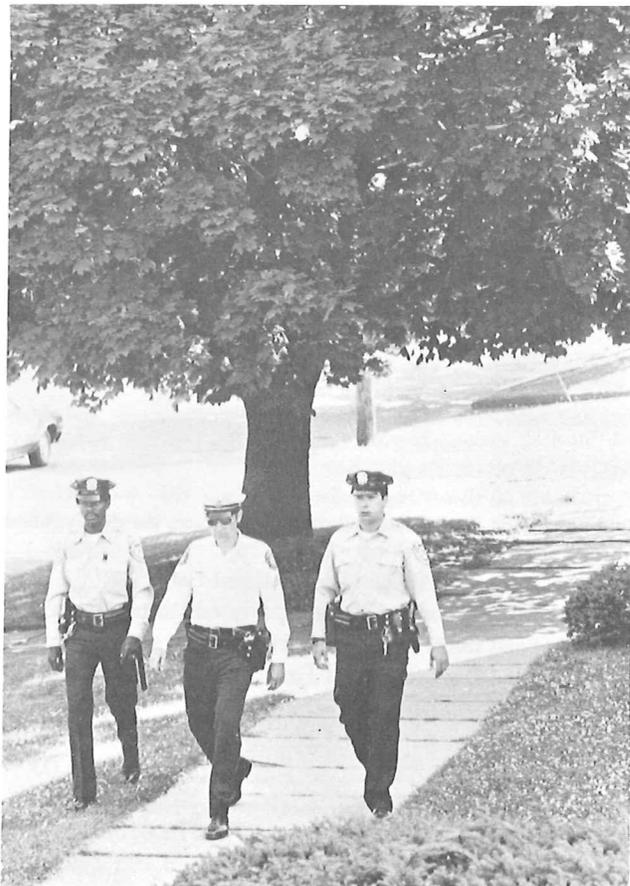
**PATROL DIVISION** - The Patrol Division is the Department's principal division. Staffed by a fluctuating number of officers and patrolmen, this division provides round-the-clock protection of the City's forty-five square mile area.

The Patrol Division makes preliminary and complete investigations of crimes. Its personnel must have first-hand knowledge of all laws and techniques of search and seizure. All officers must be proficient in investigative procedures and report writing, and must be prepared to serve as expert witnesses in court.

**DETECTIVE DIVISION** - The Detective Bureau is responsible for investigating all serious crimes, arresting violators, and recovering stolen property. It continues investigations initiated by other departments, and serves as liaison for local, state, and federal agencies. Its duties are three-fold: identification, field work, and analysis of clues and information.

Investigations are conducted by specially trained officers who, through training and experience, develop a knowledge of the "modus operandi" of certain criminals and criminal types. Detectives use interrogation, surveillance, and laboratory analysis as methods of investigation.

**YOUTH BUREAU** - The prevention of juvenile delinquency is the ultimate goal of the Youth Bureau. As one means of achieving delinquency prevention, members of the Bureau attend special sessions in local schools, setting up open lines of communications with youths. They also work in conjunction with other police divisions, especially the Patrol Division and the Detective Bureau, acting as a follow-up and information gathering agency.



Peter Kramer, Middletown Press Photo

**RECORD BUREAU** - The Record Bureau is responsible for maintaining all records of complaints, accident investigations, arrests, and other statistics related to police operations. In addition, the Bureau keeps records of and maintains a file on stolen and lost property, and on property seized for evidence. The Bureau is responsible for the return or disposition of such property in accordance with Department policies or court mandates.

**TRAFFIC DIVISION** - The personnel of the Traffic Division are specially trained in traffic and accident investigation. The Division operates electronic speed devices (speed guns, radar, Vascar) to enforce traffic laws and to promote traffic safety. Statistical files are maintained to assist the department in improving traffic control and reducing accidents.

The Traffic Division consists of a lieutenant as supervisor and four patrolmen. Sixteen school guard personnel also come under the supervision of the traffic lieutenant.



Peter Kramer, Middletown Press Photo

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Greater Middletown is divided into three fire districts: Central District for the main city; Westfield and South Fire Districts. Each operates autonomously under a fire chief, administration, and fire commission. Equipment is also on hand at Connecticut Valley Hospital. Pratt and Whitney Aircraft maintains its own basic firefighting operation.

### Middletown Fire District

John E. Riordan, *Fire Chief*

During the fiscal year 1977-78, the Department received and answered 1187 emergency calls. Of these, 274 were false alarms, 246 were transmitted by fire alarm boxes, and 27 by telephone.

The Department also issued six (6) explosion permits, made 325 inspections, investigated 396 fires, and checked out 15 complaints.

All schools in the District are inspected prior to the opening day of school. In addition, further inspections are made throughout the school year.

### Westfield Fire District

Charles McInerney, *Fire Chief*

Protecting an area of over 12 square miles (about one-third of Middletown's total area) is the responsibility of the Westfield Fire Department. Training emphasizes skills in fire fighting, operating equipment, and medical emergency techniques. Members are constantly being drilled and trained in all phases of fire fighting.

### South Fire District

William J. Gallitto, *Fire Chief*

The South Fire District is responsible for fire protection in a 25 square mile area in the south and southeast sector of Middletown. This section is protected by 40 alarm boxes located throughout the District. Of these, 16 are street boxes, and 24 are master boxes which can be operated from within a building or automatically by connecting into smoke or heat detectors or sprinklers.

During the 1977-1978 fiscal year, the Department received and answered 419 calls: 134 were fire alarms, 195 were non-fire alarms, and 90 were false alarms.

**PLANNING AND RESEARCH** - This division assists in the planning and research of police operations, the writing of State and federal grants, the evaluation and compilation of statistics, and the review of statutes and legal decisions.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE BUREAU** - The Community Service Bureau serves as a liaison between the community and the Police Department. The Bureau provides a variety of informative and educational programs to the public through the school system and the Senior Citizen Center. Safety programs aimed at elementary school children include bicycle safety, traffic safety, the dangers of drug abuse, and beware-of-strangers programs. Programs for young people and adults deal with the law, legal institutions, crimes, and crime prevention.

**CRIME PREVENTION BUREAU** - Educating the public about crime prevention is the principal function of the Crime Prevention Bureau. The Bureau provides hand-out materials, lectures to school, church, and civic groups, and assists citizens in planning security for their homes and businesses.

# Board of Education

Clement D. Shaw, *Acting Superintendent*

## Members of the 1977-78 Board of Education

Charles W. Snow, Jr., Chairman  
Barbara A. Davidson, Assistant Chairman  
Betty M. Adams, Secretary

Robert J. Baroni  
Joseph S. Borkowski  
Evelyn M. Burry  
Harry Peters, Jr.

Janet B. Daniels  
Edward Champagne  
\*Daniel Z. Shapiro (left 11/77)  
\*Anton A. Petras (left 11/77)

The 1977-78 school year was marked by several personnel changes within the administrative staff.

Superintendent C. M. Green resigned July 19, 1977 to assume the position of Associate Commissioner of Vocational Education with the State Department of Education. Alfred B. Tychsen, Ph.D. of Manchester, CT was selected to assume the superintendent's post August 1, 1978. During the interim Clement D. Shaw was Acting Superintendent of Schools.

Lyman F. Root resigned his post as Superintendent for Instruction after serving the system for 12 years and Vincent P. Malone was chosen as his successor.

Director of Reading Irving Ouellette left the system to assume the post of Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Bath, Maine.

Central School Principal Mike Buckley left to join the Regional District #13 as Principal of Cuginchaug High School in Durham.



Peter Kramer, Middletown Press Photo

Alfred B. Tychsen, Superintendent of Middletown Public Schools



Photo, Courtesy Snow School



Photo, Courtesy Snow School

Following the 1977 elections, Janet B. Daniels and Edward Champagne joined the Board. Former board member Dan Shapiro was elected to a post on the City's Common Council and Tony Petras became chairman of the Board's Ad Hoc Long Range Planning Committee which is currently evaluating our Public School Facilities in light of projected enrollment patterns.

Among other noteworthy actions:

- Negotiations with the Middletown Federation of Teachers and the Middletown School Administrator's Association ended successfully with the signing of 3-year working agreements effective until June 30, 1981. Negotiations were directed by Attorney Brian Clemow of Shipman and Goodwin of Hartford and the Board's negotiating committee comprised of Joe Borkowski (chairman), Harry Peters, Betty Adams and Barbara Davidson.

- The results of the Math Curriculum modernization study of the 1977-78 School year were implemented at all levels of instruction this year.

- A curriculum modernization study was implemented at all levels of instruction this year.

- A Curriculum Committee Recommendation to grant the highest priority to Reading, Language Arts and Math time allotments was adopted.

- The Special Education Program was reorganized to allow for more effective pupil personnel services and special education instruction.

- The new Language Arts Curriculum should be put into operation during the 1978-79 School Year.

# C. Wilbert Snow

by Jane Morriss

*Bill Snow had a continuing love affair with the human race. His kind do not come along very often. With his passing, all of us suffer—*

U.S. Senator Abraham Ribicoff

This 1977-78 Annual Report of the City of Middletown is dedicated to the memory of C. Wilbert Snow, beloved poet, professor and politician whose vision and wit have left a living impression on his community.

During the last year of his life, Mr. Snow could still be seen walking on Main Street with only a slight hobble. He still frequented the Downey House Grill at Wesleyan, speaking his mind on the politics and issues of the day. His long, thick white head of hair still flopped when he walked, and his sharp blue eyes still looked straight at his listener.

Snow, a dedicated Red Sox fan, suffered a fatal heart attack while listening to the Boston Red Sox - Toronto Blue Jays game September 28 at his summer home in Spruce Head, Maine. He was 93.

Confiding to Courant Reporter Jack Zaiman in May, Snow said, "The worst thing about growing old is that your friends don't grow old with you. They try the other shore."

Snow was born April 6, 1884 on White Head Island in Penobscot Bay, Maine. In his autobiography, *Codline's Child*, Snow wrote:

*The contrasting aspects of that island shaped my character. The turbulent waves of the outer side symbolized my desire to take this old world by the topknot, 'Shatter it to bits—and then/Remold it nearer to the Heart's desire,' while the calm waves of the inner side symbolized my longing for quietude, peace and contemplation among birds, animals and northern green woods.*

*My parents furnished a further contrast in my heredity. My mother was a vivid, dark-eyed Irish colleen whose parents had come across the ocean in a Black Ball Liner. My father was a sober tenth-generation descendant of the Bay Colony's earliest settlers.*



Courtesy of the Snow Family



Courtesy of the Snow Family

Snow was the third son of seven children.

He attended a one-room village school and at the age of 14 he went to sea as a lobsterman and herring seiner. Three years later, he enrolled in a mainland high school and earned his diploma within two years. He then entered Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, graduating with Phi Beta Kappa honors in 1907. Two years later he earned his graduate degree from Columbia University.

Following graduation, Snow taught at New York University, Bowdoin, Williams, Reed, The University of Utah and Miami of Ohio. His outspoken political and educational opinions cost him positions at both the University of Utah and Miami of Ohio. He also went to Alaska as a teacher and a U.S. Government reindeer agent. During WWI, he served as an Army artillery officer in this country.

Snow married Jeannette Simmons February 23, 1922 in Rockland, Maine. They had 5 sons and one foster son.

Snow joined the Wesleyan faculty in 1921 and after teaching there one year, was dismissed from the faculty. Of this event, Snow recalled:

*Early in December of 1922 I received a summons to Vice-President LeRoy Howland's Office. I knew he was handling dismissals, for Olin did not wish to take any part in this unpleasant job. I was worried, not for myself for I had weathered many dismissals, but for my pregnant wife. As I approached Howland's office, I met a French professor coming out weeping . . .*

*Inside, the Vice-President laid out my case. First, I was reported swearing on the tennis courts, an offense which was especially obnoxious to Dr. Fauver, the man in charge of athletics. Secondly, I had used profanity in a debating class when the boys came unprepared and tried to bluff their way through an argument. In the third place, I was reminded that I did not have an Ph.D., a degree which Wesleyan apparently cherished.*

My lack of a doctorate was the Damoclean sword forever hanging above my head. "For these reasons," said Dr. Howland, "I am sorry to tell you that the college will not need you after the close of the next semester."

"Mr. Howland," I replied, "you need not be sorry, for I have heard this story many times before." Howland was so surprised by my cool response that he reached for a jar and offered me a cigarette. I had a smoke with him and he became my friend and supporter from then on . . .

. . . What would Jeannette say?

Reaching home, I told her of my dismissal. Her reaction was magnificent. She said, "never mind. You will find another place. let's take a walk."

Snow's first book, MAINE COAST was published that year, and partly as a result of its enthusiastic reception, he was reinstated to his post, and was a member of the Wesleyan faculty until he retired in 1952.

Among his personal friends, he counted poets Carl Sandburg, Robert Frost, Edwin Arlington Robinson, Edgar Lee Masters and Edna St. Vincent Millay. Ralph Waldo Emerson was his favorite poet.

A prolific writer, Snow published several volumes of poetry including, MAINE COAST, THE INNER HARBOR, DOWN EAST, BEFORE THE WIND, MAINE TIDES, SPRUCE HEAD, and SONNETS TO STEVE



Courtesy of the Snow Family

AND OTHER POEMS. In addition, he wrote numerous articles of literary criticism and published his autobiography, CODLINE'S CHILD in 19689.

In addition to his poetic, scholarly and teaching activities, Snow was always active in politics. Before com-



Courtesy of the Snow Family



Courtesy of the Snow Family

ing to Middletown he was actively involved in the campaign for Woodrow Wilson and for the League of Nations. After settling in Middletown, he decided to become involved in politics at the "grass roots" level, and so he became involved in the Democratic Town Committee. He wrote:

*My interest in government began at my father's table. He talked about Grover Cleveland, William McKinley and William Jennings Bryant in such a way as to give us the feeling that the government in Washington, D.C., was somehow a part of our own lives . . .*



Courtesy of the Snow Family

*The number one influence, however, came from my work in argumentation and debate. For thirty years I carried the debating courses and coached the debating teams in several colleges.*

After becoming acquainted with the local political scene, he was elected to the School Board, where he served 30 years (11 years as chairman). In 1930 he ran for the State Senate on the Democratic ticket and was defeated. In 1944 he was elected as Lieutenant Governor to Raymond E. Baldwin. When Baldwin resigned his seat two weeks before his term expired to fill a vacancy in the U.S. Senate, Snow took over as governor. His 2-week term has since been referred to as "the 13 days of the Banana Republic."

In 1946 Snow was the Democratic candidate for Governor, but was defeated by Republican James L. McConaughy. Speaking to a New York Sun reporter, Snow said, "We are in for some reaction, but it is my action and reaction that the purposes of democracy are fulfilled."

Locally, Snow was one of the guiding forces in erecting the first public housing project in Middletown. He also was one of the first to urge the establishment of a Community College. The school board was not supportive of this project, however, so Snow created an *ad hoc* committee to work on the project, including Derry D'Oench, Editor of the Middletown Press; Richard O'Brien, Manager of Radio Station WCNX; and Dr. Carl Harvey, member of the Town School Board. Seven years later, the goal was realized, and Snow served as president of the Advisory Council. Writing in his autobiography, Snow said, "Nothing I have ever done in public life ever gave me so much satisfaction as the development and growth of Middlesex Community College."

# Public Works & Utilities

## Department of Public Works

John C. O'Brien, *Director*

**HIGHWAY DIVISION** - During 1977-78 the department has made many general road improvements including the installation of storm sewers, inlets and curbing on numerous city streets. Many city streets have also been rebuilt and repaved during the year.

Routine maintenance has included: storm sewer and inlet cleaning, grading and conditioning unpaved roads, sweeping City streets, cutting brush and roadside grass, cleaning ditches, applying calcium chloride to dirt roads for dust control, picking up leaves, winter maintenance operations, including plowing and sanding. We also conducted the annual Spring Clean Up Project.

Trees were trimmed and pruned on many City streets, and 26 trees and 43 stumps were also removed. Budgetary limitations prohibited the planting of replacement trees during the year.

Twenty-one street lights were installed during the year. Currently, HELCO is systematically replacing incandescent street lights with more efficient mercury and/or sodium lights.

**ENGINEERING DIVISION** - This division consists of a Professional Engineer, an Associate Engineer, three Engineering Aides and a Draftsman who perform all Public Works Engineering duties for a population of over 40,000 persons living within 45 square miles.

The Division developed plans for all projects contracted under the Municipal Bonding Program during the past Fiscal Year. In addition, we served as an engineering consultant to other City departments, sitting in on various decision-making sessions during the year.

Drainage complaints received from the citizenry were investigated, and most were solved satisfactorily. Information regarding street and property lines was provided to the public upon request.

**SANITATION DIVISION** - The Sanitary Disposal District Commission operates through the Public Works Department and furnishes sanitation services including the collection and disposal of garbage, litter and refuse within the District. The department also operates and maintains the City's landfill area.

Although the department was occasionally able to supply fill at no cost to contractors working throughout the city, fill continued to be a substantial budgetary item. The North End Landfill Area continues to be used as a disposal site for all collected materials.

There were no petitions submitted requesting the extension of City collection services during the past fiscal year.

## Sewer Department

Frank J. Opalacz, *Director*

The following is a resume of the activities and major accomplishments of the Sewer Department during the year of 1977:

1,122,370,000 gallons of sewage was treated at the new Water Pollution Control Plant at 100 River Road and 1,133,730 lbs. of sludge was dry filtered and deposited as land cover on the solid waste disposal area.

67 emergency calls for sewer back-ups were investigated; and all but one were the responsibility of the home owner.

### Major Projects

#### Completed or in the Process of Completion

- The 19 million dollar Sewer Improvement Program is nearing completion. This includes the Water Pollution Control Plant in Newfield and Cuginchaug Interceptors and Pumping Stations. The remaining project, "The Cuginchaug Interceptor Extension," is being prepared for construction.

- Plans are being formulated for construction of sanitary sewers in Allison Street, Long Hill Road and Lorraine Terrace.

- Consultants are studying the effects of combined sewers (storm and sanitary) in the inner core City areas on the quality of water in the Connecticut River.



Peter Kramer, Middletown Press Photo



S. Weisenburger, Middletown Press Photo

## Parking Authority

J. Allen Hayes, *Director*

Receipts for the 1977-1978 fiscal year totaled \$95,018.88. This figure includes receipts from parking meters, downtown parking facilities, and violation payments.

With the assistance of the Public Works Department, the former Bunce parking lot was improved and renamed Columbus Plaza.

## Middletown Transit District

Kenneth Bondurant, *Chairman*

The Middletown Transit District was created in 1976 to implement commuter-bus services to the residents of Middletown. During 1977-78 the District has worked toward developing a transit program which will provide four fixed bus loops to service the City. The Board has worked aggressively with MRPA and the consulting firm of A.M. Voorhees, Inc., to bring this plan to fruition. Currently, a grant application is being submitted to the Connecticut Department of Transportation and UMTA who will hopefully lend the necessary financial assistance to bring the proposed Transit Program into reality.

The Commuter-Bus Service linking Middletown and Hartford is one of the most successful commuter services in the state, providing five morning and evening busses servicing local commuters. During the past year, shelters have been built at the Middletown and Cromwell Parking Lots.

## Water Department

Frank J. Opalacz, *Director*

During the 1977 Calendar Year the Water Department:

- Installed the Westfield High Pressure System to provide water to residents with polluted wells. The system consisted of about 2 miles of 12 inch water mains, pumps, and a one million gallon standpipe and serves the area of high elevation in Westfield.
- Initiated a program of testing and monitoring to bring our water system into compliance with the new Federal Safe Drinking Water Act.
- Supplied the City with an average of 3.9 million gallons of water per day, or 1,401,175,000 gallons for the year. 58% of the City's water supply comes from Mt. Higby and Laurel Brook Reservoirs. The River Road Wells supply about 42% of the total supply.
- Used 135 tons of chemicals to process City water.
- Added 20,975 linear feet of pipe to the system, retired 1,064 linear feet of pipe. At the close of the year, the City was serviced by about 133 miles of pipe.
- Extended City Water Service to 209 new customers, installed 16 hydrants and 88 water meters.
- Measured 59.9 inches of total rainfall for the year, which is 12.55 inches above normal.

# Health & Environment

## Department of Health

Karen Grabill, MPH, *Director*

Local Health Departments have historically evolved from a need to control communicable disease within the community. Today, the role of the Health Department has expanded into prevention and control of all health-care problems within the Community through routine inspections, monitorings and surveillances.

These tasks are organized into two broad categories: Environmental and Community Health Services.

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Environmental Health Services include the routine inspections of: food, water and air pollution levels, swimming pool safety and sanitation and vermin infestations. We oversee: housing conservation and rehabilitation, enforcement of inland-wetlands regulations and Middletown's Housing Code. We also direct insect-control efforts.

Some noteworthy activities during 1977-78 include:

- Making substantial improvements to several multi-family dwellings in conjunction with the Greater Middletown Community Corporation Rehabilitation Program using grants and low-income loans.
- Conducting a limited Health Program for City Employees which included a pre-employment physical examination procedure, overseeing the Occupational Safety and Health Act Committee and doing sporadic blood-pressure monitoring.
- Presenting a basic life-support course in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and a basic first-aid training course within several departments.
- Cutting on-the-job accident rate to half the number of the previous year while correcting many violations of O.S.H.A.'s regulations throughout all City facilities.

One of the routine services provided by the department is conducting on-site inspections of sewage disposal systems and wells at the request of the Planning and Zoning Commission. Increasingly, land is only marginally able to accommodate private sewage disposal systems. During the year we conducted 60 initial on-site inspections and 104 follow-up inspections of new septic and well systems. We inspected repairs on 28 systems, issued 19 permits and rejected 18 applications. We also advised nine new public sewer connections.

### COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Community Health Services are the second broad category of services offered by the Department. This category includes reporting, investigating and follow up of communicable and chronic diseases. It is under this umbrella that programs aimed at preventing disease and promoting good health are administered.

During 1977-78, Streptococcal infections (107 reported cases) and Infectious Mononucleosis (34 reported cases) were the most prevalent communicable diseases recorded.

Several services were provided to Citizens through a contract with the Middlesex Community Health Services, Inc. (MCHS, Inc.). The following is a synopsis of contracted services:

- A clinic for V.D. screening and follow-up was maintained. Sixty-eight home visits and one office visit were made. Forty-one confirmed cases of gonorrhea and 21 confirmed cases of syphilis were reported.

A Tuberculosis Clinic is administered through the Family Practice Group Office. During the past year, MCHS, Inc. saw 187 patients in their office and made 135 home visits.

- An Influenza Clinic was sponsored in October, and was attended by 221 elderly and chronically ill.

### HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE CONTROL PROGRAM

(January to June, 1978)

After a 6-month loss of funds, the High Blood Pressure Control Program resumed its second year of operation in January, 1978, with Pamela Cheetham named as new program coordinator. Top priority was assigned to high blood pressure screening conducted at job-sites. 3,350 people were screened and 341 were referred to physicians or clinics for further evaluation.

### WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

#### FOOD PROGRAM

The WIC program was initiated in August, 1977 with the hiring of Julia Turner Lowe, coordinator; Andrea Lee, secretary/bookkeeper; and Sharon Mierzwa, nutritionist. By June 1978 there were about 600 participants with county-wide expansion expected within the coming year. Ms Lowe left the program in March, 1978, and was replaced by Maynard Guy.

### VITAL STATISTICS

During 1977-78 there were 431 births to Middletown residents and 288 deaths.

The crude birth rate for the year was 11.8 per thousand, down from the 1973 rate of 15.1.

The crude death rate was 7.9, down from a 1973 rate of 8.6.

The leading cause of death was heart-pulmonary disease, claiming 110 fatalities.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Chronic diseases such as heart and kidney disease, cancer and stroke, are today's number one health problem. Many of these diseases are caused or aggravated by environmental factors and habits of life style. Accordingly, the Health Department is working toward implementing more screening and educational programs aimed at preventing and identifying various conditions in the early stages. Currently, a proposal is before the Mayor to fund a health planner/educator position through CETA. If this position is funded, our department will be able to expand its efforts toward promoting health and preventing disease.

## Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Agency

Vincent J. Loffredo, *Chairman*

The Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Agency was created during the 1972 State General Assembly for the purpose of preserving and protecting the State's inland water resources.

Members are appointed by the mayor with consent of Common Council to serve 3-year terms. Members are chosen from and represent the following organizations:

- Commission on City Planning and Zoning,
- Conservation Commission,
- Public Works Commission,
- Midstate Regional Planning Agency,
- Water and Sewer Commission,
- Health Boards,
- Municipal Development Committee,
- Three citizens.

During 1977-78 the Agency held eleven regular meetings, four public hearings, inspected two sites, granted eight permits and denied two.

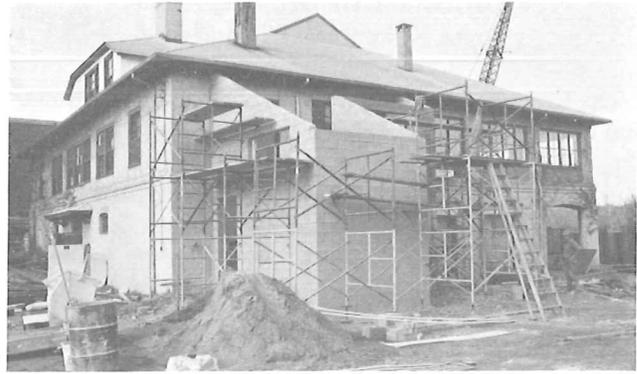


Photo courtesy Clark Corp.

### The Old Yacht Clubhouse gets a face lift.

The Compliance Officer inspected and/or surveyed 95 properties, sent out 11 notices of violations, issued six cease and desist orders and answered 13 complaints.

Among one of the most controversial matters dealt with during the year was the proposal to build a large-scale housing development in the Westfield section of the Community.

# Cultural & Recreational

## Parks and Recreation Department

Bernard F. O'Rourke, *Director*

During 1977-78 the citizens of Middletown participated in one of the most extensive and progressive recreational programs offered in New England.

The success and variety of our program is made possible by the uncommon dedication of the many talented volunteers and employees who willingly return to the department year after year to share their gifts with the community for little or no monetary reward. The department also relies heavily on community resources including school, college, university, church and civic facilities.

We maintain an "open-door" policy and attempt to offer programs that appeal to the varied interests of the citizenry we serve. Basketball and bridge, bowling and dog-obedience classes, summer concerts and fireworks, yo-yo competitions and midget football, weight-lifting and chess, tennis and soccer, poetry readings and Junior Olympics is only a sample listing of the many programs that are offered.

Responding to the increasing quest for physical fitness, we have expanded running and jogging from a summer-time to a year-around activity. Adult exercise classes now meet twice a week at Wilson High School and the swimming pools at both City High Schools are now open to the public on a year-around basis.

Women continue to take a more active part in area recreation and have swollen the numbers of participants in many sports including volley ball, soft ball, track and field, swimming, tennis, badminton, crew, etc.

Several state and national competitions were held in Middletown during the year, including Hula Hoop, Frisbee, Punt-Pass, Kick, Hit-Pitch-Run competitions. The third annual Dr. William Wrang Biathlon was advertised nationally and attracted over 300 competitors. The 7th Annual John English Marathon attracted approximately 250 runners from all over the country, with 182 finishers.

Attendance at Camp Crystal averaged 65 to 70 children per day. The cost of participating in the 5-day-a-week program was \$15.00 which included transportation.

In addition to administering the city's recreational program, the department is also responsible for maintaining city property including: cemeteries, school playgrounds, City Hall grounds and parking lot, all public parks, picnic areas and tracks. This year, CETA workers expanded the maintenance force and the grounds were kept in excellent condition during the year. Their fine snow-removal efforts helped to keep these areas "dug out" during one of the snowiest winters in recorded history.

At the close of the year, the department continues to search for a building which could serve as a program center and storage facility for recreational and maintenance equipment.

We are looking forward to the completion of the River Front Project, and anticipate expanding our activities to make use of these facilities.

## Commission on the Arts

Joyce Kirkpatrick, *Chairman*

The Commission's year was marked by the continuation of established activities such as the Cultural Calendar, the Developmental Grants Program, Art Month, Music Month, and Showcase. Increased staff made possible the establishment of a Main Street office, the expansion of services, and such additional programs as Summer's Here, the City Art Collection, and ARTSEARCH.

Once again, we compiled a comprehensive calendar of events in the City for publication in the Middletown Press on the first and fifteenth of each month. We also distributed the Calendar for posting at a number of public sites in the City, making the information available to all citizens. A long-range calendar, kept by the calendar coordinator, was used by the community in planning events.

As in the past, groups and individuals received assistance of up to \$250 for arts-oriented projects in Middletown. Projects funded last year, to occur during this year, included the publication of the Greater Middletown Preservation Trust's *Guide to Historic Middletown*, the founding of the Greater Middletown Chorale, a Summer Youth Carnival, the opening play in the Junior Matinees' series for children, and a crafts program at Woodrow Wilson High School. Numerous other grants were also awarded.

November was Art Month in Middletown and was marked by increased community awareness, response, and participation. Events included church fairs, school exhibitions, the Wesleyan Potters annual craft show and sale, tours of the Wesleyan Galleries, architectural walking tours, and a variety of art exhibits.

As another part of its contribution to Art Month, we initiated an art collection for Middletown. The Commission selected the works of ten Middletown artists for purchase as the nucleus of the collection. Each year this collection will be expanded to provide art for local public buildings.

March ushered in Music Month in Middletown. The thirty musical events of 1977 mushroomed into more than seventy in 1978. We sponsored two showings of "Middletown — A Singing City", which describes the lives and music of three native musicians — Henry Clay Work, Reginald DeKoven, and Allie Wrubel.

In order to better serve local artists and potential art sponsors, ARTSEARCH was developed. The program has a two-pronged approach: it maintains an ongoing inventory of people involved in the arts, and it brings together potential patrons and aspiring artists. The first ARTSEARCH Happening was held at Keigwin School in April, and resulted in a number of bookings for the artists.

The fifth annual Middletown Showcase burst forth on Sunday, June 11, with a blossoming of local talent. An eager and enthusiastic crowd (estimated at 5,000) of Middletown citizens gathered at the Wesleyan Center for the Arts for this community celebration.

## The Regatta Committee

Wallace Kelsey, *Chairman*

David G. Sparks, *Coordinator*

Mother Nature sent blustery winds and rough waters to swamp the third annual Head of the Connecticut Regatta. She succeeded and the event was postponed from Sunday to Monday. The cancellation sent half of the competitors packing. However, Monday's abbreviated Regatta provided lively competition and an exciting afternoon for participants.

The U.S. Coast Guard captured the Mayor's Trophy in the Heavy Eights and St. Catherine's Rowing Club from Canada claimed the Governor's Tray in the Women's Eights.

The course has been lengthened to three and a half miles and now begins off the shores of the Town of Cromwell.

## Russell Library

Linda Rusczek, *Acting Director*

The past year was another in a series of years of change for the library. The year began with increased local awareness of the safety problems and space limitations of the 103 year old main library building. Plans for the long-sought library rehabilitation were facilitated with the City's establishment of a Library Building Committee. The architectural firm of Hardy, Holzman, and Pfeiffer was given approval to direct master planning for the library's renovation, and work continues toward a completed master plan.

It was also a year of change in personnel and internal procedure. The recently formed Staff Association voted to affiliate with Local 466 of AFSCME, increasing the ties between the library staff and City personnel.

Circulation of materials continued to rise, and the library struggled to match the demand for materials with the rising costs of those materials. Adult and children's programming continued to be very popular with the public. The young adult book collection was moved from the Children's Department into the main building, where the collection was updated and expanded. Because of limited space, old and little-used items were withdrawn from the book collection to make space for new acquisitions.

## Circulation Statistics

Books	1976-77	1977-78	Change	% Change
Main Library ...	96,780	104,536	+7,756	+8%
Juvenile . . . . .	46,459	44,981	-1,478	-3%
Bookmobile . . . .	44,829	47,078	+2,249	+5%
TOTALS ..	188,068	196,595	+8,527	+5%
Phono. Records	7,247	7,748	+ 501	+ 7%
Ref. Questions .	7,752	9,286	+1,534	+20%
Art Prints . . . . .	197	314	+ 177	+59%

# Human Relations & Services

## Youth Services

Stanley J. Kosloski, *Director*

The Youth Services Commission was created in 1972 to respond to the special needs of City youth.

The backbone of the Youth Services Program continues to be our counseling service. Last year we provided assistance to 78 youth and families referred to us by schools, police, public agencies and the Host Home Program. Another 30 youth were involved in counseling groups which met at various schools.

Our Main Street Office has increased walk-in contact with community youth and their families.

We sponsored several programs aimed at developing self-awareness, reliance and more effective skills of interpersonal communication. Among these were:

- The Wilderness Program which involved 30 youth in an outdoor survival experience. Follow-up activities included a three-day urban-survival experience, a one-day educational trip aboard a schooner and a three-day retreat. Credit for developing the follow-up activities belongs to Coordinator Ashanti Pasha.

- The Youth Interact Program developed in response to the common refrain of "There's nothing to do in Middletown." Centered at Wilson Middle School, this program involved over 400 students in planned activities scheduled two nights a week for 22 weeks. Next year, this program is being expanded to Keigwin Middle School and it is estimated that over 600 City youth will participate.

The Commission has addressed the youth unemployment problem and has successfully provided the City youth with meaningful employment opportunities through several channels:

- The Painting Project was initiated this year for the benefit of high school drop-outs. With a \$32,000 CETA grant, seven 16-19 year-olds were put to work painting in the Long River Village Community. This program was recently re-funded to extend through April 30, 1979.

- The Job Placement Service place 362 youth in various jobs.

- The Summer Employment Project provided seventy high school and college students with positive work experience this summer.

During the past year, the Youth Services Commission sponsored numerous activities including:

- A program to identify and provide supportive services to truants and their families. This program was made possible through a special contract with the Community Mental Health Clinic. Over 60 individuals and families have been served by this program since March 1, 1978.

- A six-part "Family Services" series which was attended by over 400 parents.

- An emergency shelter and counseling service for 36 youth through the Host Home Program administered by the YMCA.

Our scope of activities continues to expand in response to the many needs of City youth. Next year, we plan to implement the following:

- A journalism program for in-school youth. Funded through CETA, the plan calls for five published issues of a school newsletter or newspaper between January and May of 1979.

- Provide stimulating leadership through the reactivated Youth Board in assessing the needs of the high school youth.

- The expansion of our staff to be consistent with our expanding roles within the community. A part-time counselor and part-time research and evaluation analyst will be joining our staff next year and the Youth Interact Program staff will be doubled.

## Human Relations Commission

William L. Sneed, Jr., *Director*

The Human Relations Commission was established in 1965 to promote mutual understanding and respect among all racial, religious, and ethnic groups within the City and to ensure equality of treatment and opportunity for all individuals.

The Human Relations Commission maintains an "open door" policy for citizens who have problems with employment, housing, police and gaining access to public services and serves as ombudsman and mediator in matters involving prejudice, intolerance, bigotry, and discrimination.

During the 1977-78 fiscal year we directed our efforts toward employment, community relations and housing. We had some success at helping people find jobs and have provided counseling to people with job-related problems. A number of the commission's activities have been geared to improving relations between the community and the police department. In matters involving the court system, appeal guidance is provided through several legal channels.

Housing requirements are most urgent for low-income, single people. When contacted, we refer people with housing needs to the agencies best able to assist them.

This year, the Human Relations Commission has distributed booklets containing information designed to acquaint the community with our services and those services offered by the City.

## Senior Affairs Commission

Grace Dunn, *Director*

The Senior Center is located at 150 William Street. It is open five days a week, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

During the 1977-1978 fiscal year, a wide variety of activities were made available through the Center. Ceramics classes, sewing, bowling, dance classes, bingo, pool, cards, cribbage, and television were offered on a daily basis. Monthly activities included dances, with music provided by Local 499, and birthday parties. The annual fair was held, and Seniors again had the opportunity to display their handicrafts. Throughout the year, the Seniors' singing group, the Goldenaires, entertained at convalescent homes, churches, and clubs. Other activities included trips and speakers who discussed topics of interest to Senior Citizens.

A number of continuing services are available at the Senior Center. A registered nurse comes to the Center twice a week to screen blood pressures, weights, and to make referrals. On alternate Tuesdays, the same services are offered at Newfield and Stonycrest Towers. Flu and pneumonia shots are given free of charge.

Weekdays at noon, the Center serves a hot meal. Stonycrest Towers is used as another site for this program.

Transportation for shopping, medical appointments, and other purposes is available.

## Consumer Protection

### Weights and Measures Department

Guy J. Tomassi, *Director*

During the fiscal year 1977-1978, the Weights and Measures Department of Consumer Protection weighed, measured, or counted 4,334 commodities.

Three hundred forty (340) items were found to be improperly marked. Sixty-one (61) items were found to be overweight; one hundred seventy-two (172) were underweight.

Three hundred twenty-seven (327) tests were made on scales, pumps, and meters. Eight (8) scales and twenty-two (22) pumps were adjusted. Three (3) gas pumps were condemned; four (4) taxi meters were repaired.

Four hundred ninety (490) consumer complaints were handled by the department, with the largest increase registered against domestic rents. Consumer complaints included:

Food .....	39	Mail Order .....	16
Clothing .....	11	Rents .....	20
Auto .....	104	Overcharging .....	22
T.V. ....	32	Store Policies .....	3
Household .....	29	Misc. ....	168
Packaging .....	48		

Other problems involved contract disputes, misleading advertisements, inquiries concerning consumer laws, and credibility of businesses.

## Welfare Department

Jennie C. DiGiandomenico, *Director*

The Department of Welfare, City of Middletown, has been affected by several significant events during the 1977-1978 fiscal year.

Commissioner Edward W. Maher (State Department of Social Services) approved implementation of the General Assistance Manual, prepared by his policy staff and the Standards Committee of the Connecticut Association of Local Administrators of General Assistance, effective July 1, 1977.

Within the fiscal year, a 10% increase across the board for families and adults raised General Assistance expenditures. Requests for necessary changes in staff structure to meet the needs of the Welfare Department were acknowledged by the CETA program.

The City of Middletown again entered into contract with the Title XX program, with the State of Connecticut serving as a pass-through agency for the federal government.

The Department of Welfare implemented the total check system in administering need, eliminating much duplication and relieving the Welfare Department, as well as the Finance Department, of excessive paper work.

Increased hospital notices prompted the Association for Local Administrators to prepare a standard notice which will provide helpful information to hospitals, towns and cities throughout the State.



Photo courtesy Redevelopment Agency

## Public Service Employment Emergency Employment Office

Barbara J. Rowe, *Program Coordinator*

The CETA Public Service Employment programs for 1977-1978 employed a total of 162 participants in 121 job slots, broken down as follows:

Special Omnibus Open Space Conservation & Development Project:  
36 participants; 27 job slots.

CETA II P.S.E. '77-'78: 41 participants; 33 job slots.

CETA VI P.S.E. '77-'78: 85 participants; 61 job slots.

From October 1, 1977, through September 30, 1978, the total expenditure of federal allocations was \$916,520.17.

The CETA programs continue to be an asset to the City in servicing its residents and in providing jobs for the long term unemployed.



Photo courtesy Redevelopment Agency

John Reynolds Historic Restoration Project



Photo courtesy Redevelopment Agency

The "new" Pelton's Drug Store

# Community Development

## Redevelopment Agency

Joseph A. Haze, *Director*

1977-78 was the year that many long-term projects got off the drawing board and the City began to take on a "new look" in many areas.

- After 8 years of plans and problems, the Metro South Project is finally under construction and a demolition contract has been awarded for the removal of the Mansion Block buildings after photographic and narrative materials are recorded in the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

- Construction was completed on the following projects:

Pelton's Drug Store	Middlesex Hospital Office Facility
Taylor Rental	John Reynolds Historic Restoration Project
City Tire	DeKoven Drive Extension

- Construction has begun on 125 Elderly Housing Units in the South Green Historic Area.

- Metro South-Main Street was designated as an Historic District and the Redevelopment Agency worked with the Ad Hoc Renewal Preservation Committee to find a consultant to prepare a program of historic restoration on the West side of Main Street.

- The Agency approved plans and conveyance of land for construction of: The Y.M.C.A. Outdoor Recreational Expansion; the CAGM Day Care Facility and the Middletown Press. They also gave tentative approval for an historic and architectural restoration of the "Theatre Block."

Most of these projects should be completed within the coming year and we will be preparing applications for project completion and settlement grants with the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

## Harbor Improvement Agency

Arnold W. Ackerman, *Chairman*

After five years of studies, sketches, brainstorming and reviewing plans and specifications, construction has been completed on major portions of the waterfront renovation by the end of this fiscal year.

The Clark Corporation of Essex was contracted to build the \$1.25 million Waterfront Improvement Project, and their work has progressed rapidly following the June 1977 groundbreaking.

In September, 1977, we were notified that an additional \$300,000.00 could be used toward the project. With this news, we plunged into designing a boathouse facility that could be used for the various Middletown rowing programs. Groundbreaking ceremonies for the \$107,000.00 boathouse were held in December and the project was completed in June of 1978.

We also worked with the firm of Nathan Jacobson and Associates to engineer "Town Farms Park," in the vicinity of Town Farms Inn. The plans for this park have been accepted by us and the necessary permits have been requested from the Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

All construction projects should be completed within the next year with the monies made available for capital projects from federal, State and local sources to improve the City's waterfront areas.

1977-78 has been a very productive year for us.

## Municipal Development Committee

William M. Kuehn, Jr., *Coordinator*

The Municipal Development Committee is a standing body of the Common Council that serves as a review, evaluatory and clearinghouse committee for Common Council actions. Our Committee provides staff services to the Mayor and Municipal Development Committee and administers the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. In addition, we serve the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC), the Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Agency, the Harbor Improvement Agency, the Main Street Modernization Committee and the Regatta Committee in an advisory capacity.

Highlights of our activities during 1977-78 include:

- Making recommendations for total revisions of the fire district boundaries which were adopted by the Common Council in November, 1977.
- Making recommendations for an exclusion process for older frame buildings in fire districts, allowing for the conversion and continued economic usefulness of these structures.
- Reviewing and guiding four fire district exclusion applications through Common Council.
- Conducting a public session in January on the need for a City-wide rehabilitation Center.
- Considering the range of public construction needs and making recommendations to the Common Council for funding under the local Public Works Program Round II, funded through the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration.
- Approving applications for projects to be requested under the State's Historic Assets Program.
- Reviewing City fiscal needs and making recommendations for the Capital Improvements Program.

Attracting outside funding for the City was another major activity during the past year, and our efforts were rewarded by:

- A \$200,000.00 Discretionary Grant which was used to rehabilitate several residential buildings along Main Street, north of Washington Street.
- A \$468,200.00 grant from HUD for modernization of Long River Village.
- An invitation to submit final application for a \$600,000.00 Small Cities Discretionary Grant that will be used to upgrade the City's North End.

## Zoning Board of Appeals

Kenneth Rich, *Chairman*

The Zoning Board of Appeals held seventeen Public Hearings during the fiscal year 1977-1978.

Thirteen applications were granted, two were denied, and two were withdrawn.

The Zoning Board of Appeals consists of five regular members and three alternates. The Board meets the second Tuesday of the month.

## Planning and Zoning Commission

George A. Reif, *Director*

The fiscal year was highlighted by major research studies for long and short term planning. These studies contain significant data and analyses, and can help Middletown officials in their important decisions about the future of City development.

The **Plan of Development** is a framework for municipal policy and is continually updated by the Department. During the year, a Central Business District Study was informally integrated into the Plan. Preliminary research and a draft for a Human Services Component were completed.

The Planning Department also finished a study of Middletown's 101 existing community facilities. This comprehensive study, entitled the Inventory of Existing Community Facilities, is to be used in conjunction with the revised **Community Facilities Plan**, which supplements the **Plan of Development**.

**Zoning Department** The Zoning Code is Middletown's most important land use development tool. It is systematically revised to provide comprehensive and concise development guidelines.

Important zoning changes made during the 1977-78 year pertained to time limits for approvals, land uses in the prime residential zone, and parking requirements for industry. A significant change authorized historic preservation zones in Middletown. Because it has community-wide responsibility and is not restricted by special interests, the P & Z Commission is the agency best suited to achieve a productive balance between the historic and contemporary features of the City.

In order to comply with the Commission's **Plan of Development**, two Zoning Map changes were made.

Code enforcement became a major issue during the year. The Commission improved procedure by requiring that applications be completed and conform to Zoning Code regulations prior to their formal consideration. Other enforcement problems concerned coordination of Middletown's regulatory codes.



Photo courtesy Redevelopment Agency

Raising the Mansion Block; Main Street takes on a new look.

# Important Telephone Numbers

OFFICE	NUMBER		NUMBER
Office of Mayor and All Administrative Offices (City Hall) .....	347-4671	Highway Garage .....	347-5696
Civilian Defense Director .....	346-9351	Russell Library .....	347-2528
Dog Warden .....	346-8951	Parking Authority .....	347-4066
Human Relations .....	347-4671	Redevelopment Agency .....	347-2552
Superintendent of Education .....	347-4461	Relocation & Property Management .....	347-7201
		Sanitation Department	
		Sewer Treatment Works .....	347-5155
		Sewer Plant Field office .....	347-6387
		North End Disposal Area .....	346-8511
		Street Department	
		City Yard .....	347-5696
		Traffic & Paint Department .....	347-1570
		Water Department	
		Shop .....	346-1141
		Mt. Higby Reservoir .....	346-8326
		Water Treatment Plant .....	347-0877
		City Ambulance .....	346-9627
		INFOLINE (All purpose) .....	346-6691

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Emergency .....	347-2541
Detective Bureau .....	344-0395
Headquarters .....	347-6941

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

	To report a fire	Other Purposes
Middletown (Central District) .....	346-8621	346-8623
South Fire District .....	346-8687	347-6600
Westfield Fire District .....	346-8621	632-1200

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

### CITY OF MIDDLETOWN

Anthony S. Marino, *Mayor*

#### Common Council

Michael J. Cubeta, Jr.	Christie E. McLeod
Sebastian W. Gallitto	Conrad J. Tyaack
Vincent J. Loffredo	Arnold W. Ackerman
Kent M. Scully	Daniel Z. Shapiro
Francis P. Marino	Thomas E. Lineberry
Paul P. Parisi	Carl J. Passanisi
William H. Mann, <i>Treasurer</i>	

#### Board of Education

Charles W. Snow, Jr., <i>Chr.</i>	Joseph S. Borkowski
Evelyn M. Burry	Harry M. Peters
Barbara A. Davidson	Betty M. Adams
Janet B. Daniels	Robert J. Baroni
	Edward R. Champagne

### STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Ella Grasso, *Governor*

Robert Killian, *Lt. Governor*

Gloria Schaffer, *Secretary of State*

Henry E. Parker, *Treasurer*

J. Edward Caldwell, *Comptroller*

Carl R. Ajello, Jr. *Attorney General*

#### State Senators

Anthony Miller (13th) Betty Hudson (33rd)

#### State Representatives

Joseph S. Coatsworth (32nd)  
Raymond J. Dzialo (33rd) William A. O'Neill (34th)

#### United States Senators

Abraham A. Ribicoff Lowell P. Weicker

#### United States Representative

Christopher J. Dodd (2nd Congressional District)



*Working in the fields of art and religion and pondering them, you will always fall short of perfection. You will not make port, furl sails, and put down your anchor. You will always be out in the open sea alone with God where you belong.*

*Wilbert Snow*

