

96-97

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# Middletown: It's all here!

Middletown, the Forest City, is a city on the move. Whether your plans are a boating excursion on the Connecticut River or a day with the family at an arts festival and dinner; whether you're looking for a place to live and raise a family or to open a business, Middletown has what you're looking for.

And there's more happening here all the time:

## **Main Street Designation**

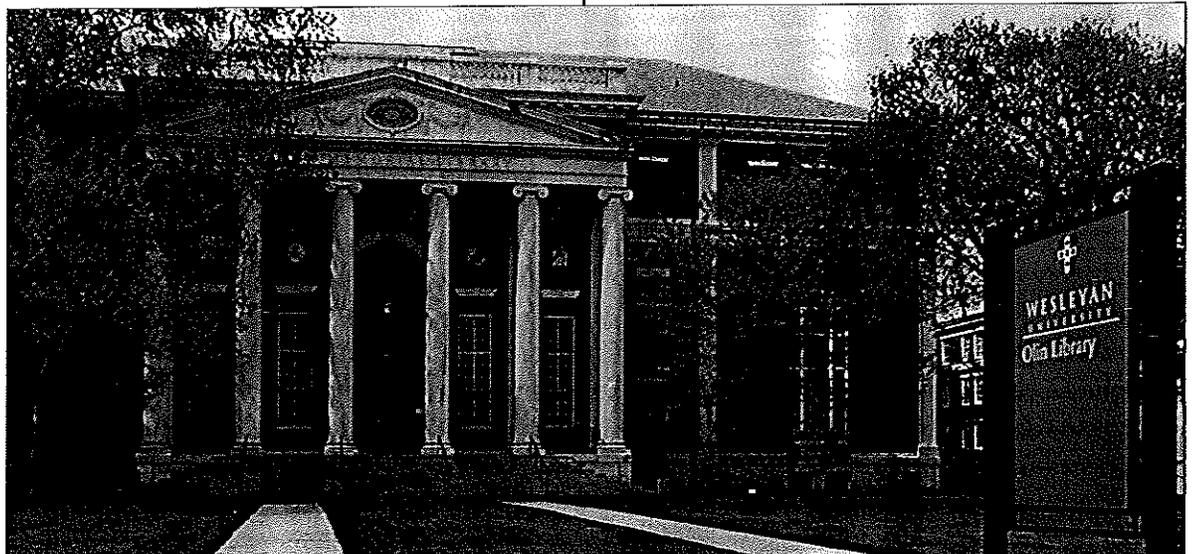
Middletown was one of three cities awarded the Main Street designation from the Connecticut Main Street program sponsored by Connecticut Light & Power and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, part of a national project to provide support to the nation's main streets. This designation will provide the technical assistance necessary to continue the resurgence of Middletown's Main Street. The effort has been aided by a public-private partnership recently formed with area businesses to fund the hiring of a Downtown Manager for the city.

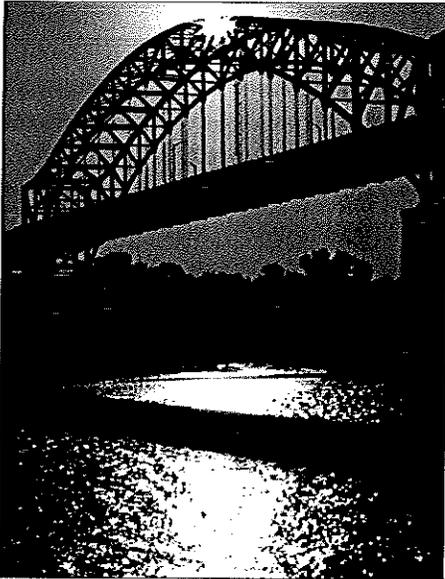
## **Police Station Project**

In November 1996, Middletown voters approved our new police station project to be constructed on the site of the former Sears store on Main Street. The project features a beautiful and distinctive new public building reminiscent of the old City Hall, and provides new retail space. The entire project will be another element of our plans to make Main Street a lively and secure place to be. Construction on the project begins in the fall of 1997 and the new police station is expected to open in the Fall of 1998.

## **Long Hill Estate**

Last year voters also supported a project to restore the Long Hill Estate, an important City landmark. The estate will be completely renovated and restored to its former grandeur, serving as a tourist destination and conference center. We expect to begin renovations in the Fall of 1997 and complete the project in 1998.

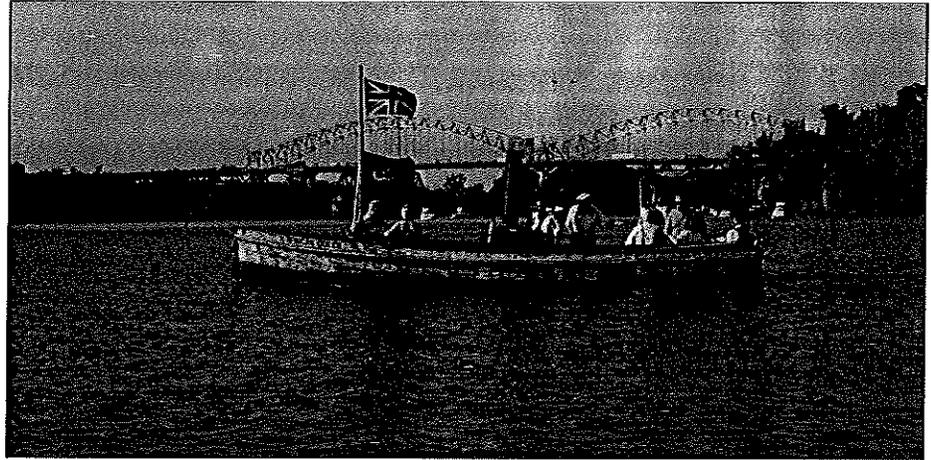




Above— The sun sets on the Arrigoni Bridge renovations

Top Right— A visit by "The African Queen"

Bottom Left— Wesleyan University's Olin Library



### Arrigoni Bridge Lighting

In January 1997, Connecticut Light & Power and the Lighting Research Center at Rochester Polytechnical Institute designed a new signature look for the Arrigoni Bridge. Outlining the bridge in lights will provide a focal point for the Connecticut River and Middlesex County. The City of Middletown and the Town of Portland will be working with private industry and the state and federal governments to bring this exciting concept to reality.

### Logo/Slogan Contest

We held a community design contest to create an upbeat logo and slogan for the downtown area. More than 600 entries were submitted from people throughout the region, ranging in ages from 6 to 60. The winning entry, submitted by Dolores Fortuna and Kelly Crouthamel of Young's Printing, includes a stylized logo of some of the town's prominent features and the slogan, "It's all here!" Banners carrying the new logo are hanging throughout downtown and are sponsored jointly by the City, Chamber of Commerce and individual merchants.

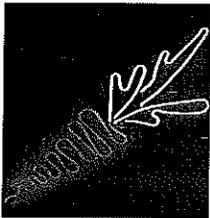
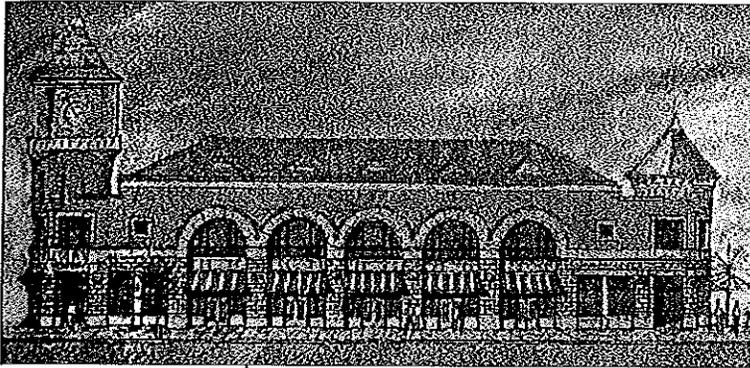
### New Business Development

The City has worked alongside the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce and other business leaders to bring new jobs and businesses to Middletown. Through these efforts, we've created over 900 new jobs and added 375,000 square feet of commercial space. We've provided nearly \$250,000 in loans to small businesses through the JOBS and REINVEST programs.

### Bond Rating Upgrade

Middletown's bond rating was recently upgraded by Standard & Poors, one of two bond rating services, from AA- to AA. This move represents a substantial vote of confidence in the City's financial health and fiscal management. The upgrade results in lower cost of new City borrowing by allowing Middletown to pay lower interest rates on the bonds it sells and increasing the market for those bonds.





## Economic Development

The area of economic development in Middletown falls within the scope of a number of city agencies and the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce. The Municipal Development Office is the primary local government agency for municipal development projects, administering a variety of grant, loan and development programs from federal, state and local sources which assist in attracting and retaining business and industry, providing housing opportunities and funding additional projects which improve the socio-economic conditions of the City.

The City has worked alongside the Chamber of Commerce and business leaders to bring new jobs and businesses to Middletown. In 1996, these efforts resulted in over 400 jobs and 375,000 square feet of space added, while in 1997, over 700 jobs were added. Small business loans and incentive programs have also helped improve the business climate.

## Department of Health

Operating in two major areas, Community Health Services and Environmental Health, the department controls and prevents problems relating to public health.

The Community Health Services component of the department undertook or maintained some exciting initiatives in 1996-97. A special monthly health information radio program entitled "Healthline" airs successfully on WMRD and WIHS as part of the department's community outreach efforts. The Health Department also sponsors an ongoing risk reduction program to educate people on topics like nutrition, safety, medication safety, hypertension control and smoking cessation. Last year, two department-sponsored Teen Life Conferences were a huge success with more than 350 students from area schools attending the one-day workshops. And through the Year 2000 Project more than 335 high school freshmen, who will graduate in the year 2000, participated in the Great American Smokeout, attending lectures given by area physicians and writing essays about tobacco use.

Community Health Services also oversees such areas of health as:

- communicable disease control
- elderly health services
- emergency medical services
- family health
- mental health
- vital statistics (records and licensing)

The Environmental Health Services area of the Health Department helps to provide Middletown residents with a healthy, comfortable and safe environment. Some of its programs include:

- air quality
- city employee occupational health and safety
- food protection
- hazardous and toxic substances
- housing
- inland wetlands and watercourses
- private sewage disposal

# Demographics

Middletown was settled in 1650 and incorporated in 1651. The city covers an area of 42.9 square miles on the western bank of the Connecticut River. The State of Connecticut estimates the city's 1994 population as 43,217.

Middletown is fortunate to have a diversified tax base and one of the fastest growing populations of a community its size in Connecticut. Below is a snapshot of who the citizens and employers are.

## Comparative Income Measures

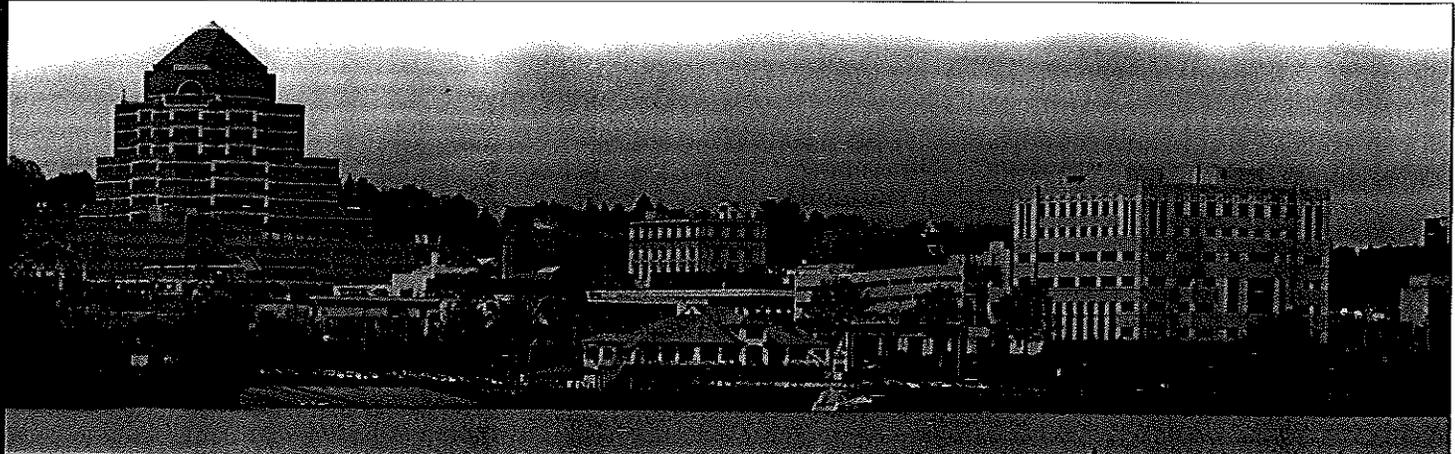
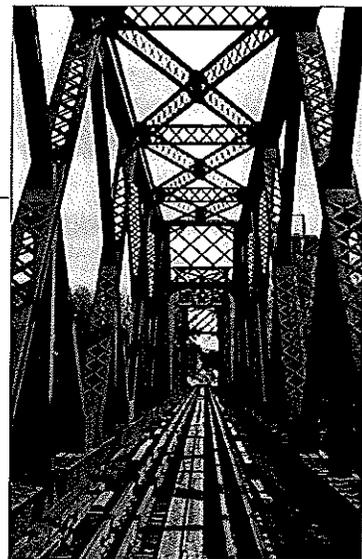
(information as of 1989)

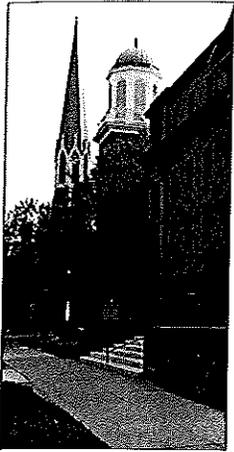
	Middletown	State of Connecticut
Per capita income	\$17,814	\$20,189
Median family income	\$44,339	\$49,199
Median household income	\$37,644	\$41,721
Percent below poverty level	7.0%	6.8%

## Age Distribution of the Population

(information from 1990 Census)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	2,858	6.7%
5 to 17 years	5,380	12.6
18 to 20 years	3,007	7.0
21 to 24 years	3,765	8.8
25 to 44 years	15,555	36.4
45 to 54 years	3,908	9.1
55 to 59 years	1,534	3.6
60 to 64 years	1,610	3.8
65 years and over	5,145	12.0





Above—  
Wesleyan campus

Center—  
Middletown/Portland  
Railroad Bridge

Bottom Left—  
Middletown Riverfront

## Number and Size of Households

(information from 1990 Census)

Household Characteristics	Number	Percent
Persons in households	38,902	
Persons per household (Average)	2.31	
Persons per family (Average)	2.93	
Family households	10,280	61.1
Non-family households	6,541	38.9
All households	16,821	100.00
Family households by type		
married couple	7,813	76.0
female householders, no spouse	2,006	19.5
other	461	4.5
Total family households	10,280	100.00
Non-family households		
householders living alone	5,211	79.7
other	1,330	20.3
Total non-family households	6,541	100.00

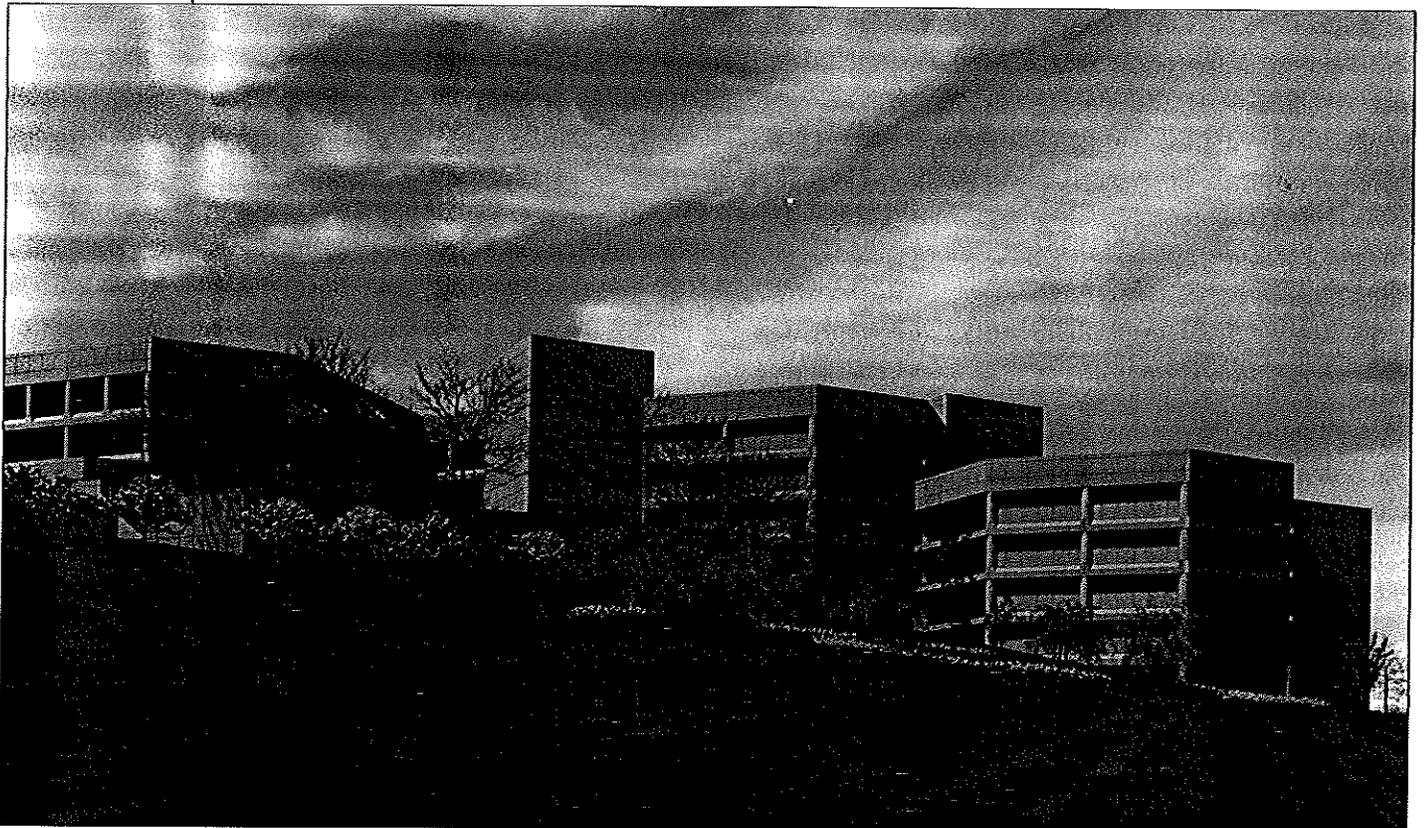
## Major Employers

Employer	Nature of Business	Approximate # of employees
Aetna Life & Casualty	Insurance	4,357
United Technologies	Aircraft engines	2,357
Connecticut Valley Hosp.	State hospital	1,200
Wesleyan University	Higher education	965
Middlesex Hospital	Private hospital	788
Raymond Engineering	Electronics system	219
Madrigal Auto Labs	Electronics system	179
Northeast Utilities	Utility	163
Middlesex Mutual Assurance Co.	Insurance	147
Middlesex Community College	Higher Education	111

### Principal Taxpayers

Name	Nature of Business	Taxable Valuation 10/1/95	% of Net Taxable Grand List
Aetna Life & Casualty	Insurance	\$252,201,130	11.5%
United Technologies	Aircraft Engines	133,097,560	6.1
Connecticut Light & Power	Utility	101,857,140	4.6
Carabetta	Apartment Complex	25,994,400	1.2
State Street Bank & Trust Co.	Superior Court Building	17,866,690	0.8
Comdisco	Computer	14,575,520	0.7
Midd-Oxford	Manufacturing	11,643,900	0.5
Kaman Aerospace Corp (Raymond)	Manufacturing	10,695,040	0.5
Conn-Colony	Apartment	10,432,400	0.5
Middlesex Mutual Assurance Co.	Insurance	9,541,950	0.4

Below-  
Aetna's Middletown  
complex highlights  
development in the  
Westlake section of  
the City

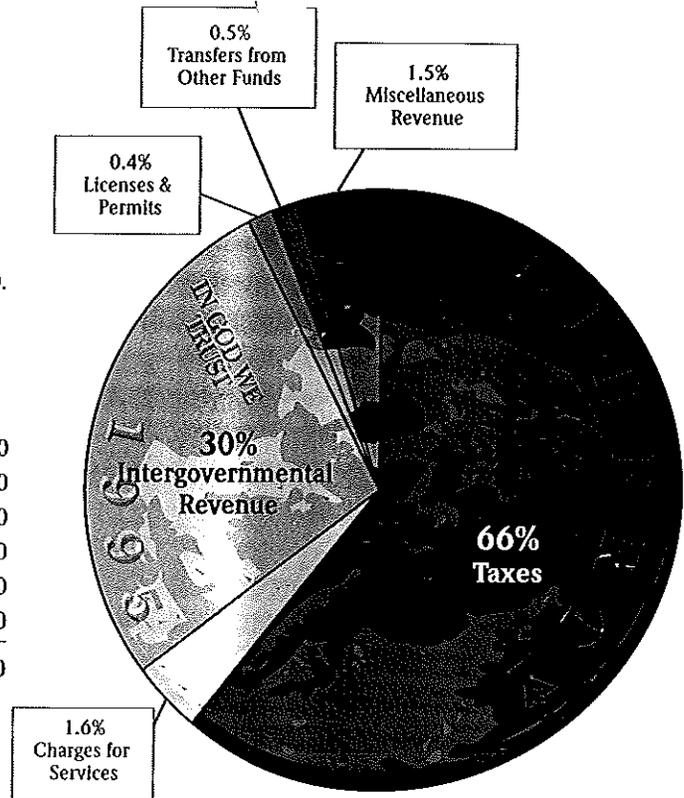


# Revenues/Expenditures

## Revenues

Total revenues in the Middletown General Fund as of June 30, 1997 were \$77,039,000. That compares with Fiscal Year 1995 revenues of \$93,475,000. A breakdown of FY 1996 revenues follows:

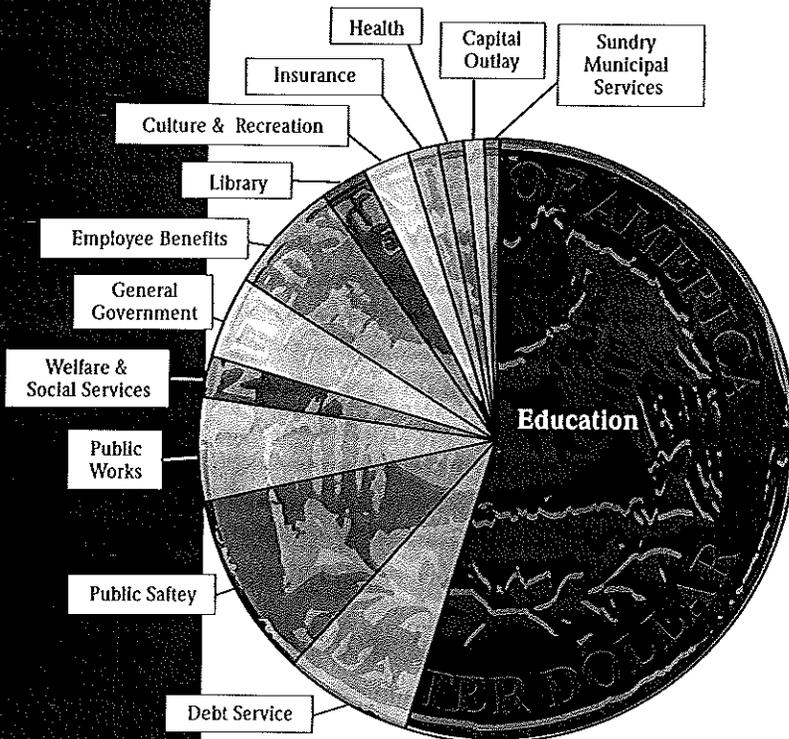
Taxes	\$50,878,000
Licenses & Permits	\$317,000
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$23,079,000
Charges for Services	\$1,227,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$1,154,000
Transfers from Other Funds	\$384,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$77,039,000</b>



## Expenditures

Total expenditures as of June 30, 1997 were \$77,179,000,412. This represents a decrease from Fiscal Year 1995, when expenditures were \$101,412,000. A breakdown for FY 1995 expenditures follows:

Education	\$42,402,000
Debt Service	\$5,376,000
Public Safety	\$7,781,000
Public Works	\$4,294,000
Welfare & Social Services	\$1,600,000
General Government	\$3,378,000
Employee Benefits	\$4,877,000
Library	\$1,894,000
Culture & Recreation	\$1,831,000
Insurance	\$1,297,000
Health	\$979,000
Capital Outlay	\$876,000
Sundry Municipal Services	\$594,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$77,179,000</b>



## **Boards and Commissions**

Affirmative Action Monitoring Committee  
 Arts and Culture  
 Board of Ethics  
 Board of Health  
 Cable Advisory Committee  
 Committee Concerning People with Disabilities  
 Conservation Commission  
 Contract Compliance Board  
 Harbor Improvement Agency  
 Housing Authority  
 Human Relations Commission  
**INFORM**  
 Inland Wetlands & Water Courses Agency  
 Middletown Preservation & Design Review Board  
 Middletown Housing Partnership  
 Middletown Housing Partnership Trust  
 Midstate Regional Planning Agency  
 Municipal Agents for the Elderly  
 Parks and Recreation Commission  
 Parking Authority  
 Parking Violation Hearing Officers  
 Personnel Appeals Board  
 Redevelopment Agency  
 Resource Recycling Advisory Council

Retirement Board  
 Russell Library Board of Trustees  
 Sanitary Disposal District Commission  
 Senior Affairs Commission  
 Shepherd Home Liaison Committee  
 Transit District  
 Urban Forestry Commission  
 Walter C. Jones Fund  
 Jones Fund Task Force  
 Water Pollution Control Authority  
 Youth Services Commission  
 Zoning Board of Appeals  
 Enterprise Zone Advisory Committee  
 Interlocal Agreement Commission  
 Jobs Loan Advisory Board  
 Long Hill Estates Committee  
 Stewardship Committee  
 Memorials Restoration Committee  
 Meriden-Middlesex Regional Workforce  
 Development Board, Inc.  
 Middletown High School Building Committee  
 Snow School Building Committee  
 Tax Abatement Incentive Committee  
 Tri-District Fire Alarm Commission  
 Wadsworth Mansion Building Committee