

ABOUT THE PIPELINE

The Pipeline publications help the Department to explain to you about the work we do. If, after reading this publication, you have questions or suggestions for future feature articles that you believe other customers would be interested in, please let us know. By hearing from our customers regularly, we can complete our mission to serve you better.

UPDATES FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Joseph Fazzino

Hopefully, everyone is staying safe and healthy during this unusual time. We have had many things to think about these past several weeks and I am happy that the delivery of wholesome clean water was not one of them. I am so proud of all our employees especially those on the water supply, distribution and wastewater collection sides of the Department for their dedication to public service. Without them things would be very different in our City.

On a different note. The Mattabasset Inter-Municipal Sewer Pump Station also known as the Francis T. Patnaude Pump Station is Substantially Complete and has been fully operational since January 15, 2020. This is a major milestone that has taken many years in the planning and construction phase to implement. The final push for the completion of the project include the finish top coat of pavement, topsoil, seeding, plantings and finishing all the punch list work. This will happen this spring as we all try to get back to normal. Then comes the not so glamorous part of the project, completing the final closeout paperwork and let us not forget paying for all of this. This is the hard part as we get ready to finalize our second phase of the permanent loan agreement with DEEP. That is a major reason why our rates have been rising so much on the sewer side of the bill these last few years.

This regionalization project was a decision that the voters approved many years ago as we planned to

decommission our own waste water treatment facility and join the Mattabasset District. This was not only the less expensive option as opposed to upgrading our own waste water treatment plant, it is also paving the way for the transformation of Middletown's Riverfront. Bringing not only a better quality of life for Middletown residents but also providing for the future development along this beautiful section of the Connecticut River. This will help stimulate development along the Connecticut River and it will bring future tax revenue to all.



This year is going to be particularly difficult for our budget in that we not only have to address decreasing water demands due to conservation, but we are now sending all our wastewater to the Mattabasset District's newly upgraded treatment facility and the cost associated with that. I have been working closely with the Mayor and our Finance Director on our budget trying to keep the rates as low as possible. If you should have any questions please feel free to contact me.



SPRING PROJECTS

By Brian Robillard, Chief Engineer

Work on several significant projects for the Water and Sewer Department are underway:

Durham Meadows Waterline

The Durham Meadows project which will connect Durham to Middletown's water system started last year. This project is being funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and implemented by the Army Corps of Engineers. The contractor, Ludlow Construction, remobilized to the area on March 30th of this year after a winter shut down. Last year they installed nearly 10,000 feet of water main from Talcott Ridge south to Durham. They will continue to install water main in Durham towards Durham center.

Another crew will begin work on the construction of a new water tank in Middletown as well as a new pumping station and metering chamber. Project completion is anticipated in 2021. Additional project information can be found on EPA's website: www.epa.gov/superfund/durham

Fountain Avenue Area

The Water and Sewer Department and the Department of Public Works started a project to improve the Fountain Avenue area near Wesleyan University. Fountain Avenue, Pine Street, Warren Street and parts of Cross and Church Streets are included in this project.

Water mains, sewer mains, manholes and hydrants are slated to be replaced or rehabilitated in this area. Parts of the roadways will be paved and improved under the Public Works portion of the project. DeRita Construction is contractor for this project and started work on March 9th. The project will be completed in the summer of 2021. The total cost of construction for this project is \$3,024,005.



Columbus Avenue and Mazzotta Place Area

Another long anticipated project will begin to improve the roadways in the Columbus Avenue and Mazzotta Place area. The City has signed a contract with Ludlow Construction for this project with work beginning in the end of April.

The utility work will include replacing some of the existing water mains, lining and replacing portions of the existing sewer mains as well as some drainage improvements. Improving the roadways and sidewalks is also included under the Public Works portion of the work. This project is scheduled to be complete during the summer of 2021. The total cost of construction for this project is \$2,788,959.50.

You can call us at 860-638-3500 if you have any questions about these projects.

RECYCLE RIGHT!

By Kim O'Rourke, Recycling Coordinator

The cost of recycling has increased significantly over the past couple years. Countries overseas do not want our materials, which means more materials are vying for domestic markets, increasing prices and the demand for better quality materials.

Even though costs have risen, recycling is still important. We have a single earth, with finite resources. Recycled materials are critical to replace and augment virgin natural resources. We also have a climate crisis before us, and according to ICLEI, a leading group of local governments for sustainability, waste reduction, recycling and composting programs can be the most effective actions local governments can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Controlling our waste is more important than ever.

Export bans from China and other countries are increasing investments in the U.S. More companies are building to buy recycled materials in the U.S. It also is showing us the importance of shifting responsibility from municipalities to producers. Municipalities don't have a lot of control over what is purchased and thus what has to be disposed. Yet, municipalities are held accountable for the amount of waste and how it is discarded. Connecticut has been a leader in promoting extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs, which lead to more sustainable and financially stable recycling programs.

Middletown participates in all the State's EPR programs, mattresses and electronics recycling is free at the City's recycling center and paint can be recycled at a local Paintcare location such as Ace Hardware on South Main Street or any Sherwin Williams location. The City also participates in the Thermostat Recycling Corporation's recycling program. Old thermostats can be brought to Public Works in City Hall for proper disposal. The City of Middletown also passed its own municipal Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance to encourage residents to use reusable bags instead of using bags that almost immediately get thrown away or recycled. This not only reduces plastic bags that litter our waterways and lands, but also encourages people to think about their waste. The plastic and paper bags create waste. By customers refusing bags and bringing their own, we are saving money and reducing waste.

The City has organized educational workshops to teach

about composting and we have coordinated community sales of compost bins and rain barrels. The City is also collecting food waste from residents and small businesses at the Recycling Center for no charge. If we recycled all of our food waste, we could reduce our trash by 10% and have a significant impact on climate change. By reducing our waste and recycling properly, we can make a difference. Residents can be informed of recycling programs by signing up for public works notifications on the city website, <https://www.middletownct.gov/955/Notifications>.



Recycling is more important than ever. Knowing the recycling guidelines is critical. Please don't "wish" it to be recycled. Know what is recyclable and what is not. Recycling guidelines can be found at [www.](http://www.recycle.com)

[recycle.com](http://www.recycle.com). But just don't rely simply on recycling. We must also reduce our trash and recycling to truly have an impact on cost and our environment.

If you have questions, contact the City Recycling Coordinator at 860-638-4855 or kim.orourke@middletownct.gov.

DO YOU HAVE BILLING QUESTIONS?? *By Patty Green, Account Clerk*

DON'T WAIT!! Please contact the Water Department within 30 days of the billing date if you have a question regarding your bill. After this 30-day grace period, per state statute, interest will accumulate on unpaid balances and the account will be considered delinquent. If you wait to contact us with a billing question until after this grace period is over, even if there is a correction to the account, the applied interest will remain. Therefore, to avoid additional charges, contacting us early is always best!

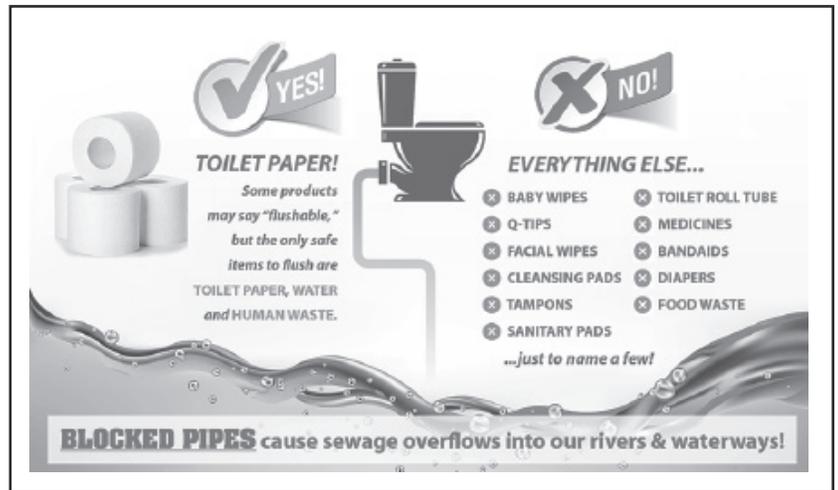
THINK BEFORE YOU FLUSH

There has been a significant increase in the use of disinfecting wipes to clean homes and work spaces in an effort to stay healthy. Please remember that wipes can NOT be flushed down the toilet, even if they are labeled as “disposable” or “flushable”.

Unlike toilet paper, which breaks down quickly in water, personal, baby and cleaning/disinfecting wipes remain intact and tangle into massive clogs that jam pumps and block pipes.

Here’s a list of a few other items that should NEVER be flushed down your toilet:

- Cloth rags or towels
- Baby wipes, Toilet wipes, Disinfecting wipes, or cloth wipes of any kind
- Diapers
- Paper Towels
- Paper (other than toilet paper/tissue)
- Medications (Prescription, or over-the-counter)
- Feminine hygiene products of any kind
- Beauty products, Q-Tips, dental floss
- Plastics of any kind
- “Disposable” contact lenses
- Grease of any kind – especially cooking grease
- Garden supplies (such as pesticides, fertilizers)
- Paint, varnish, paint remover
- Motor oil, gasoline, or any explosive material



Your help can reduce blockages in pipes which can lead to sewer backups in the environment, the streets or even your home!

WHAT’S NEW WITH THE CREW

Daniel Pitsurenko was recently hired full time as the Engineer/Information Analyst. Daniel was working as a temporary full time worker previously since December 16, 2019 reviewing maps, planning applications and site plans. Daniel was born in Russia on May 20, 1983. Daniel graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 2011. Daniel is married to Irina Pitsurenko and they have four children, three girls and one boy: Darya, Elizabeth, Elena and Tovi. He has lived in Westfield MA since 1999. He attends church regularly at the Russian Evangelical Baptist Church at 866 North Road at Westfield MA. Daniel also likes to play Soccer and Volleyball and be with his family when not working. After graduating from UMass in 2011, Daniel worked as a subcontractor for a construction company and still enjoys doing projects at home and for the rest of his family.

I am pleased to announce the newest addition to our Water and Sewer Department, Theresa Spalletta. The position that she is currently holding, is the Technical and Regulatory Affairs Manager. She comes to us from Regional Water Authority where she served as Laboratory Manager for over twenty-two years. During this period, Theresa expanded the laboratory to be one of the main providers of water testing for utilities both within and outside of the state of Connecticut. Prior to Regional Water Authority, Theresa held the position of Laboratory Manager for Bridgeport Hydraulic Company (currently known as Aquarion Water Company). Theresa holds an undergraduate degree in chemistry and mathematics from Skidmore College and a Master’s degree in chemistry from Saint Joseph’s College. In addition, she maintains her Class IV Water Treatment license and Class III Distribution license. Theresa is originally from Massachusetts. She enjoys the outdoors as well as ethnic cooking with various groups in Connecticut.