



ISSUE 46  
MAY 2022 EDITION  
MAYOR BENJAMIN FLORESHEIM

## 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, Director of Water and Sewer*

It is that time of year once again when the old saying that April Showers bring May flowers and I remember that it always rained whenever Coleman Carnival was in town. This is how it has been for as long as I can recall. In the past, these showers were a good thing but not now that we are connected to the Mattabasset District and we have to pay for all this clean water to be treated at the Water Pollution Control Facility in Cromwell. Now the pressure is on to eliminate as much of the rain induced infiltration and/or the direct inflow as possible. With the approval of the American Rescue Plan that is exactly what we are trying to do. Every American Rescue Plan dollar that we can use to weed out this issue is one less dollar that we have to bond. This is a win-win for Middletown.

Finally, spring has sprung and we continue to move forward. The long journey to connect to the Mattabasset District and Regionalize is finally done. We recently had our Final Building Committee meeting and submitted our Final Report to the Common Council. I am proud to say that we have completed this decades old project under budget. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work that contributed to this project from the beginning planning phase to the pump station start up and the decommissioning of the 100 River Road Water Pollution Control Facility. The Final Project cost was \$54,398,604.70 and after deducting various grant money our share of the project adds up to approximately \$40,098,541.67 which we have started to pay back and is included in the sanitary sewer rates.

We have already started to address our Inflow and Infiltration issues with preliminary and final engineering to tighten up our sanitary sewer system, thereby, reducing the clean water contribution to the Mattabasset District's Wastewater Treatment Facility's DEEP permit. This is what we have worked for so hard all these years to accomplish. The good news is we are doing this with American Rescues Funding which does not contribute to our outstanding debt. The more we can accomplish in this way the less we will need to bond for in the future. We have already begun to do the preliminary engineering



design and project plans to go after this costly problem. With the help of our consultants we should have our first Inflow and Infiltration elimination project out to bid by the end of this year.

## SPRING PROJECTS IN THE WORKS

*By Brian Robillard, Chief Engineer*

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

### Durham Meadow Waterline

The Durham Meadows project which will connect the Town of Durham to Middletown's water system is in its final stages. This project is being funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and implemented by the Army Corps of Engineers. The contractor, Ludlow Construction, completed construction of a new water storage tank, a booster pumping station and meter building in Middletown. They are working on controls and starting up individual pieces of equipment to ensure they work properly once the system is online. Ludlow will continue with landscaping in the spring and complete the last of the water main connections in the street.

Once the equipment has been tested and run on a trial basis, the new water system will be placed into service. We anticipate that we will be selling water to Durham this summer. Additional project information can be found on EPA's website:

[www.epa.gov/superfund/durham](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/durham)

**Pameacha Avenue Reconstruction**

The City is moving forward with the reconstruction of Pameacha Avenue. This project is a joint effort between the Water and Sewer Department and the Public Works Department. Ludlow Construction will be the contractor for this project. They did a great job on the Durham project and we are looking forward to successfully completing this project with them as well. Work will likely begin in this summer and continue into 2023. The project is expected to take approximately one year to complete.

The water and sewer mains will be replaced or relocated to improve service to our customers and improve reliability of our system. The storm drain system will be improved and the roadway will be reconstructed to improve traffic flow.

**Water Supply Plan**

The Middletown Water Department submitted its latest Water Supply Plan to the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) on March 31st. Under Connecticut State Statute 25-32d, any water utility serving more than 1,000 people is required to submit a plan every five years. Our plan looks at the water supply needs of Middletown now and in the future. It is comprehensive and includes a description of our existing system, recommendations for future improvements and an emergency contingency plan.

A redacted version of the plan was also submitted to CT DPH. Under Public Act 17-211, certain critical information is protected from public release. The law protects critical information like cybersecurity, plans of our facilities and technical operating information that could be used to harm our customers if made public. At the same it ensures that

important information for water resource planning is made available to the public. The redacted water supply plan can be reviewed at our office upon request.

**WATER SERVICE PIPE MATERIAL SURVEY FOR CUSTOMERS**

*By Theresa Spalletta, Manager of Technical and Regulatory Affairs*

The City of Middletown works diligently to ensure the water provided to all their customers is safe. As part of this effort we are asking for your help to determine the type of water service line (pipe) entering your home. The Middletown Water Department's (MWD) records are incomplete prior to 1950. It is possible that some of these pre-1950 pipes were constructed out of lead or were coated with lead.

Water service pipes that contain lead materials pose known health risks. MWD is currently creating an inventory of lead service pipes in our system. This inventory will allow us to apply for state and federal funding which will reduce the cost of replacing any lead water service pipes. The removal of service pipes that contain lead will be mandated by the federal government in the next several years and it is our hope that we can address this issue prior to the requirement.

If you live in a home that was built prior to May 1950 or if you are uncertain when your home built, we are asking you to perform a simple inspection of your service pipe. Please follow the steps on the color insert to determine the material of your water service pipe. Once completed:

1. Print this page, fill out the form below and mail or drop it off the at our office located at 82 Berlin Street, or
2. Use our electronic form on our website (<https://middletownct.gov/PipeSurvey>)

Thank you for your cooperation, it is sincerely appreciated.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Year Home Was Built \_\_\_\_\_

Service Pipe Material

Copper \_\_\_\_\_

Lead \_\_\_\_\_

Gavlvanized Steel \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(If other specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## REGIONAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION AND PAPER SHRED EVENTS ANNOUNCED

By Kimberly O'Rourke, Middletown Recycling Coordinator

Do you have cleaning supplies to get rid of? Motor oil to recycle? Old pool chemicals or lawn pesticides to dispose? Don't dump them down the drain or in the trash! The City of Middletown works with the Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments to hold a series of regional Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collections and Paper Shred Events in the spring, summer and fall 2022. Middletown residents can attend any of these events at no charge. For a full list of acceptable materials go to <https://www.middletownct.gov/193/Household-Hazardous-Waste>.

All HHW Collections will be on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- May 14, East Hampton Water Pollution Control Facility, 20 Gildersleeve Drive, East Hampton
- June 18, Lyme/Old Lyme Middle School, 49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme
- July 16, Woodside Intermediate School, 30 Woodside Road, Cromwell
- August 20, Haddam Elementary School, 272 Saybrook Road, Higganum
- September 17, Middlesex Community College, 100 Training Hill Road, Middletown
- October 1, Haddam Elementary School, 272 Saybrook Road, Higganum

Paper Shred events are also held on Saturdays, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

- June 4, East Hampton Water Pollution Control Facility, 20 Gildersleeve Drive, East Hampton
- June 25, Westbrook Town Hall, 866 Boston Post Road, Westbrook
- September 24, Middlefield Community Center, 405 Main Street, Middlefield
- October 15, Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester

Want to keep up to date on Middletown's recycling information?

- Sign up to receive our Recycling Communication through the City of Middletown website. Go to <https://www.middletownct.gov/955/Notifications>
- Follow us on Facebook @MiddletownRecyclingandPublicWorks.
- Middletown Recycling information is posted on our webpage at <https://www.middletownct.gov/190/Recycling>.

Find out What's In, What's Out in the Recycling Carts  
Download the RecycleCT Wizard App to get important recycling information right onto your phone! You can input the item, and it will tell you if it is acceptable in our recycling

program. If you can't do the app, you can always go to the Recycling Wizard at [www.recyclect.com](http://www.recyclect.com) for information.

For specific Middletown recycling information, contact the Recycling Coordinator at 860-638-4855 or [Recycling@MiddletownCT.Gov](mailto:Recycling@MiddletownCT.Gov)

## INFLOW AND INFILTRATION

By Theresa Spalletta, Manager of Technical and Regulatory Affairs

Right below our busy streets lies an intricate grid of pipes that accommodates several of our daily needs.

These pipes distribute water for drinking and cleaning, they remove waste away from our homes and they insure that flooding does not occur. Although we would have a difficult time maintaining our daily routines without this important portion of infrastructure, they are commonly overlooked and unappreciated. The focus in this article looks at the removal of storm water in our sanitary sewers.

Excess water that flows into sewer pipes from groundwater and stormwater is called Infiltration and Inflow, or I/I.

Groundwater (infiltration) seeps into sewer pipes through holes, cracks, joint failures, and faulty connections. Stormwater (inflow) rapidly flows into sewers via roof drain downspouts, foundation drains, storm drain crossconnections, and through holes in manhole covers.

### Why is infiltration and inflow important?

The City of Middletown estimates that I/I makes up 70 percent of the peak flows in the sewer



system during storm events and that much of this I/I originates on private property.

Extra water in the sewer system is a problem because:

- It takes up capacity in the sewer pipes and ends up at the regional wastewater treatment plants where it must be treated like sewage, resulting in higher treatment costs and higher consumer costs.
- New and larger conveyance facilities are needed to transport larger volumes of flow, resulting in expensive capital projects. Again effecting the cost to the customer.

I/I flows contribute to sewer system overflows into local homes and the region's waterways, negatively impacting public health and the environment. Protecting the environment and decreasing wastewater treatment costs are the benefits of a regional I/I control program

**Do you have an illegal connection to the sanitary sewer systems?**

The City of Middletown has an ordinance prohibiting the discharge of any stormwater, surface water, groundwater, roof runoff, subsurface drainage, uncontaminated cooling water, or unpolluted industrial process waters to any sanitary sewer. It is important to understand that a fine can be imposed when an inspection of a neighborhood is conducted and violations are sited. The City would rather work with their constituents to eliminate the issue and not impose a fine. To find out further information if you have this issue or on how to correct any prohibited discharges, please contact our engineering division at (860) 638-3500. We are here to help.

**WATER BILL**

*By Theresa Spalletta, Manager of Technical and Regulatory Affairs*

The City of Middletown would like to bring to your attention the fact that the state is providing assistance to low income individuals and families in paying their water bill. To know if you qualify and how to apply just go to

<https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Highlights/Low-income-Household-Water-Assistance-Program-Coming-to-CT/Eligibility>

You can also contact the Community Renewal Team at <https://www.crtct.org>

**ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS**

*By Theresa Spalletta, Manager of Technical and Regulatory Affairs*

The City of Middletown has now made it easier than ever to pay your bill. You will no longer need to get in your car, drive to City Hall and wait in line to pay your bill. All you need to do is go to [www.middletownct.gov](http://www.middletownct.gov), click on "Online Bill Pay", select the department and register by entering your account number and payment information. Once that is completed you can enter anytime and make your payment. The site is secure and your information is kept confidential.

**ASSISTANCE WITH PAYING YOUR**

**WHAT'S NEW WITH THE CREW**

It is our pleasure to announce the promotion of Joseph Crescimanno to the position of Water Treatment Operator I. Joe began working for the City in January of 2018 at the Senior Recreation Center. In 2019, he began working in the Water and Sewer Department as a Utility Worker II. Over the past few years, Joe has attended classes at Gateway Community College in pursuit of a career in water treatment and is currently studying to take the state exam for his OIT Water Treatment Operator License IV.

It is with both pleasure and sadness that we are announcing the retirement of Michael Talamona. Mike has worked for the City of Middletown for over 15 years in various capacities. He attended classes in the evening and obtained his Water Treatment Operator License IV. Upon obtaining his license, he worked as a Water Treatment Operator I and shortly after was promoted to Water Treatment Operator II. Mike was very knowledgeable and always will to provide assistance whenever possible. Mike will be missed by the City but we have to wish him all the best in his retirement.

*We wish them well in their respected new positions with the department.*



## Tools needed:

- Flathead screwdriver
- Refrigerator magnet
- Coin

### Step 1

Locate the water service line entering the building. This is typically found in the basement. A valve and the water meter are installed on the pipe after the point of entry. Identify a test area on the pipe between the point where it enters the building and the valve. If the pipe is covered or wrapped, expose a small area of metal.

### Step 2

Scratch the surface of the pipe. Use the flat edge of a screwdriver to scratch through any corrosion that may have built up on the outside of the pipe.

### Step 3

Compare your pipe to the chart below. Each type of pipe will produce a different type of scratch, react differently to the magnet, and produce a unique sound when tapped with a metal coin.

## Lead Pipe

- Scratch Test – If the scraped area is shiny and silver, the pipe is lead.
- Magnet Test – A magnet will not stick to a lead pipe.
- Tapping Test – Tapping a lead pipe with a coin will produce a dull noise.



## Copper Pipe

- Scratch Test – If the scraped area is copper in color, like a penny, the pipe is copper.
- Magnet Test – A magnet will not stick to a copper pipe.
- Tapping Test – Tapping a copper pipe with a coin will produce a metallic ringing noise.



## Galvanized Pipe

- Scratch Test – If the scraped area remains a dull gray, the pipe is galvanized steel.
- Magnet Test – A magnet sticks to a galvanized pipe.
- Tapping Test – Tapping a galvanized pipe with a coin will produce a metallic ringing noise.

