



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

Hopefully, you and your family are all healthy and safe as we emerge from the pandemic. You may have noticed some discussion on the proposed referendum this November. You will see a Water and Sewer Infrastructure Bond question on the ballot to start to address our aging Water and Sewer system. This was drafted similar to Public Works Road Improvement bond. We need to closely examine the age of these system. Whereas roads may have a twenty year expected life span our water and sewer system may have 80 to 100 year life span. We have many lines out there that exceed this. In preparation for this task we have various studies to address this issue. One of them is the State of Connecticut mandated Inflow and Infiltration study. This study looks at our existing sanitary sewer system and identified areas within our existing sanitary sewer system that have excessing clean water entering our sewer system.

This is extremely important now that we have a new inter-Municipal pump station sending our wastewater to the Mattabasset Wastewater Treatment Facility. We do not want to pay for the treatment of clean storm water. Therefore, I am proposing three construction projects to start picking away at our top ten list. That is 10 out of 28 sanitary sewer basins.

In addition to this we are looking to upgrade two major sewer pump stations including North Main Street and Johnson Street. These pump stations are over forty years old in some instances without a major upgrade. Due to the extreme conditions at these station, we need to make some investments to go beyond the normal wear and tear including new electrical and mechanical systems including emergency generators.



This is just the start for the sanitary improvements. We also need to address our aging water infrastructure. As many of you may remember we had a major water main break at the intersection of Court Street and Main Street. That water main was over 100 years old and similar to the sewer study we have a Water Improvement Study that has three phases to address our aging water infrastructure based on various variables including not just age but critical infrastructure location and trouble areas. With over 300 miles of water and sewer lines buried around the City we need to plan for their replacement. This is sadly the same issue that many States and Towns need to address with the limited funds available.

That is why this Bond Referendum is so important on the November ballot as we plan to keep the City of Middletown a thriving community for many years to come. Thank you for taking the time to read our Pipeline Newsletter and if you should have any questions or would like to get involved please contact me.

FALL 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

On July 18, 2022, the Middletown Water Department began supplying water to the Town of Durham. This was the culmination of a very long process. The Durham Meadows area was initially designated a superfund site in 1989 due to groundwater contamination. The EPA decided that a new water supply was needed for this area in 2006. Several studies led to the design of a new water system interconnected with the City of Middletown. The design was completed in 2018 and in early 2019 Ludlow Construction began work building the new water system and interconnection. The project included the construction of a new 800,000 gallon storage tank, a new pump station, metering station, pressure reducing station and the extension of new water main on South Main Street from Talcott Ridge Drive to the center of Durham. This new main included the installation of hydrants to provide fire protection for the first time to some areas of Middletown and Durham.

The EPA held a ceremony on August 24, 2022 to celebrate this achievement. The event recognized the hard work of people from Ludlow Construction, AECOM (engineers), EPA, Army Corps of Engineers, City of Middletown, Town of Durham, CT DEEP and CT DPH.

Pameacha Avenue Reconstruction

The City of Middletown will begin its project to complete sewer improvements and road reconstruction work in the Pameacha Avenue area. This project will replace a 65 year old sewer main along Long Hill Brook, replace a 90 year old water main in Pameacha Avenue and make roadway improvements to Pameacha Avenue. This project is not associated with or include any work on the Pameacha Pond Dam.

The City's contractor for this project is Ludlow Construction and they began site preparation work in late September. The sewer main replacement along the brook is scheduled to begin in the fall. Utility work in the street will begin over the winter and, as work progresses, Pameacha Avenue will temporarily be closed to traffic in order to complete the road reconstruction. The project should be complete by the fall of 2023. The City's consulting engineers, Prime AE, will be providing project oversight and inspection along with City staff from the Water and Sewer Department.

WATER SERVICE PIPE MATERIAL SURVEY FOR CUSTOMERS

By Theresa Spalletta, Mgr. 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 galvanized lead coated.

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 list on our site at <https://www.middletownct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/22142/Pipe-Material-Survey-Inspection-Steps-PDF?bidId=> Once completed, enter the information in the form below and:

1. Drop off the completed form at our office located at 82 Berlin Street,
2. Drop off the completed form with your payment at City Hall, or
3. Use the form on our website: www.https://middletownct.gov/PipeSurvey.gov

Thank you for your cooperation, it is sincerely appreciated.



Name _____

Street Address _____

Phone Number _____

Year Home Was Built _____

Service Pipe Material

Copper Lead

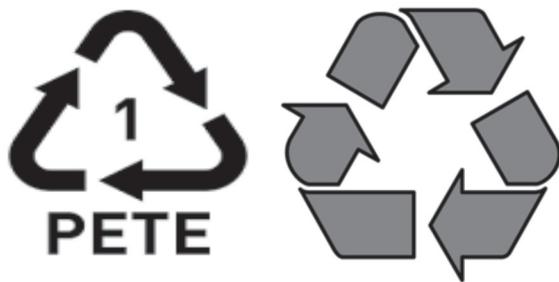
Galvanized Steel Other

(If other, please specify) _____

RECYCLING ROUND UP

By Kimberly O'Rourke, Middletown Recycling Coordinator

Our office receives a lot of questions about those chasing arrows and which numbers in the arrows are recyclable. Let's look at that familiar logo of three arrows, sometimes with a number inside, found on most plastic items and what it actually means to consumers and manufacturers. There are two different symbols. The first is the typical chasing arrows design, which most of us know as the recycling symbol. The other is that similar design, sometimes chasing arrows, sometimes just a triangle, with a number inside of it.



Neither of these symbols indicate whether or not something belongs in the recycling. It may mean it is made out of recycled materials. It may mean it technically is recyclable somewhere, maybe here, maybe not. It may mean, we simply wish this was recyclable. There is no regulation on the use of the symbol. The triangle with the numbers in it, is actually not a recycling logo (although it sure does look like one) but it is an identification code for manufacturers to tell them what type of plastic the material is.

The recycling logo of chasing arrows (with no number inside) represents the three stages of the recycling process. The first is collection. We separate our bottles, cardboard, paper, glass, cans, cartons, and so on from regular trash, so it can be taken to a facility and sorted. The second arrow represents transforming the recycled material into many new products. To complete the cycle, the last arrow stands for using the products made of recycled material. And once we recycle those new, the routine begins again.

The second symbol that has the number inside the triangle, means very little to a consumer. To a manufacturer, each number corresponds to a specific type of plastic, depending on what resin makes up the product. For example, a 2 is HDPE (high density polyethylene). It's commonly found in milk jugs, shampoo bottles, and yogurt tubs, all of which are accepted with our recyclables. Plastic labeled with a 3 – polyvinyl chloride, or PVC – is rarely in container form, and rarely recyclable, despite having the triangle motif. Styrofoam and black plastic are also labeled with the arrows and a number, but neither is acceptable with the recycling in CT.

Here are a few other things to keep in mind before putting something in the recycling. When considering whether to recycle plastic or not, remember that in CT, we only accept plastic containers with the curbside recycling. No tubing,

no plastic film, no bags, no toys. No plastic that is not a container. Items must also be over 2 inches in diameter or else they are too small, like pill bottles or loose bottle caps. Hot coffee cups, despite being made of paper, are coated in a thin layer of which prevents them from being recyclable. All items must be cleaned of food or any other substance. As many items considered garbage can technically be recycled, but require a much more complex process, there are a multitude of specialized programs for products that do not belong in curbside recycling. Staples accepts old printer cartridges. Many grocery stores accept plastic bags and film (such as Stop & Shop, Price Chopper, and Aldi's). Curie Environmental Services takes smoke detectors. TerraCycle, a waste management company, takes oral care products, pens and highlighters, disposable plastic razors, and much more, in separate boxes. The City offers some of the Terracycle programs, or you can work directly with Terracycle. Cinder + Salt and ReBoot Eco in Middletown also offer a selection of specialty recycling programs.



STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING

By Theresa Spalletta, Manager of Technical and Regulatory Affairs

Over the past several months, the City of Middletown has been applying for funding from both the state and federal government to address several infrastructure projects that are necessary to be performed to ensure continuity in the services provided by the water and sewer department. The needs for infrastructure repair may not be visible but that does not mean that it is nonexistent; therefore, we have decided to pursue grant opportunities. This will allow us to continue meet both regulatory requirements that are being imposed and provide safe and healthy conditions to the community with minimal cost to our rate payers.

We are currently seeking funding for the construction of the Bartholomew Pump Station, the Red Road Pump Station and the replacement of service line that may contain lead. The construction of the two pump station is necessary due to the age of the current structures and the concern of their ability to function as required and their ability to handle the expansion of services that has occurred over the past thirty years.

The replacement of service lines has become necessary due to regulatory requirements that have been put in place during the past year. The City required homes built post 1950 to only use copper for their service and for older homes, we have maintained a corrosion control system to inhibit the release of lead into the water for homes prior to 1950. Both of these factors have prevented lead from entering our water; however, due to the issues that occurred in Flint, Michigan, the EPA has instituted laws that require the removal of any potential source of lead inclusive of service lines that are privately held by home owners.

ASSISTANCE WITH PAYING YOUR 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-Houshold-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, 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.

What's New with the Crew

It is my pleasure to announce a new additions to our Middletown Water and Sewer family.

Albert Plunsk has been working for the City of Middletown since 2009. He was initially employed by Public Works Department and has recently joined the Water and Sewer Department as a Utility Worker III

Al is a resident of Middletown and is married. He enjoys motor cycle riding as well as target shooting. He loves to laugh and has a great sense of humor.

In addition to our new hire we the privilege of announcing a promotion.

Damian Chuchro joined the department in August of 2021 and has been recently promoted from Water Treatment Plant Operator I to Water

Treatment Plant Operator II. We want to congratulate him and wish him a successful career with the City.

It is with both pleasure and sadness that we are announcing the retirement of Todd Waite.

Todd has been with the City of Middletown for over 32 years. In 2005 he was promoted from a Utility Worker II to a Utility Worker III.

Todd was always willing to provide assistance to everyone in the Department. He will definitely be missed but we wish him the best on his retirement.

We wish them all well