



ISSUE 47

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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

We have finally done it and converted to quarterly billing. I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding now that this has been implemented. Your first bill actually incorporated four months of the year during the highest time of water usage so you may not have noticed a big difference in your August bill. Your November bill and all future water and sewer bills will be based on a three month interval.

There were many reasons that we switched to quarterly billing. The first reason was to help our customer budget better and avoid unexpected expense due to a leak. By reading your meters more often we can find a costly leak sooner. Thereby, keeping your bills lower. This will help you save money while providing for a more stable cash flow for the department. We have also implemented an automatic meter reading system. This system will reduce the number of manhours that it takes to read your meters and to send out your bill. It will also help us to flag accounts with continuous consumption or leaks. This system is approximately 75 percent complete and we will need to install additional wireless readers throughout the City to increase our coverage.

Please note that you can pay your bill several different ways now including mailing it to our lock box or paying online to avoid having to wait in line. We are also able to accept payments by check at our headquarters at 82 Berlin Street. This will help you avoid waiting in line and will provide you with more ways to keep your account current.

If you are having difficulty paying your bills, please contact us and we can help with setting up a payment plan and don't forget that if you are at least sixty-two years old you can apply

for a senior discount on your sewer only portion of the bill. If you should have any questions please contact us and we will be happy to help.

DON'T TRASH YOUR PUMPKIN!

By Kim O'Rourke

According to the USDA, we grow more than 2 billion pounds of pumpkins every year in the U.S.! Most of those pumpkins end up in the trash at the end of the season. In CT, this contributes to our waste disposal crisis, contributes to climate change and is an incredible waste of resources. Here are some ideas of what else you can do with that fall pumpkins instead of throwing it away.

Share It!

Pumpkin flesh and seeds are a delicious and healthy snack for wildlife. Place your pumpkin in a spot where you do not mind a little wildlife activity and let the animals enjoy!

Compost It!

Pumpkins are full of nutrients, which makes them a great fertilizer. Just make sure you remove the seeds before you add them to your compost pile (unless you want baby pumpkins cropping up in your garden next year). No compost pile? No problem. Simply bury your pumpkin in your winter garden. It will decay quickly and enrich the soil. The smaller the pieces, the quicker the decomposition.

Smash It!

The Middletown Recreation Department is holding a Pumpkin Smash event on Saturday Nov. 9 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Veterans Park in Middletown. Bring your old pumpkins and smash or toss them into the compost! This is a fun activity for the whole family and will allow you to dispose of your used pumpkins in an environmentally sustainable way! Details on

the Pumpkin Smash are here:
[Middletown CT Recreation & Parks Division: Pumpkin Smash](#)

Drop it off at the Recycling Center!

If you cannot do any of the above, you can still keep your pumpkin out of a landfill by bringing it to the Middletown Recycling Center on 185 Johnson Street. The Pumpkin Drop off will be available October 29 - November 28, 2024. The pumpkins brought to the drop off will be delivered by Blue Earth Compost to the anaerobic digester and turned into clean energy and compost. Please do not bring in painted pumpkins or those with candle wax in them. Those need to go in the regular trash.

Residents need to have a Resident Pass to enter the Recycling Center. Passes can be obtained on line here: <https://www.middletownct.gov/951/Middletown-Recycling-Center> or from the Department of Public Works in City Hall. Please bring your vehicle registration to obtain the pass. Passes are free and valid through December 31, 2025.

For more information on composting or recycling in Middletown, contact the Middletown Recycling & Sustainability Coordinator at Recycling@Middletownct.Gov or 860-638-4855.

FALL PROJECTS IN THE WORKS

By Brian Robillard, Chief Engineer

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

ARPA Funding is Helping Water and Sewer Customers

The Water and Sewer Department was allocated \$2.75M of the \$21.73M of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds awarded to the City in 2022. This money has been used to install new water main, install new hydrants and valves, re-line old sewer mains, fix manholes and conduct studies of portions of our sewer collection system to identify future repairs and improvements. To date, we have used 82% of those funds to improve both the water and sewer systems in Middletown. These funds help reduce the cost of these projects for our customers.

Hydrants

Since 2019, we have been painting approximately 100 hydrants per year in our distribution system. This ongoing project helps reduce corrosion of the hydrant and makes it more visible for our crews and fire department personnel. The City owns and maintains nearly 1,300 hydrants. To date, we have painted just over 700 hydrants. There are over 300 private hydrants in the City. It is the responsibility of the owner to paint and maintain their hydrants. City hydrants are

generally painted yellow and green, while private hydrants should be painted red.

Sewer System Improvements

The City's sanitary sewer collection system is broken up into 28 different areas or basins. The Sewer Department is currently working in four of the basins to study existing conditions, inspect manholes and pipe, repair manholes, line sewer main, and other improvements to reduce future maintenance and potential backups. One of our goals is to reduce the volume of rainwater, surface water and groundwater (inflow and infiltration) entering the collection system. The water enters through footing drains, storm drains and downspouts that are directly connected to the sanitary sewer or through cracks and leaks in pipes and manholes. This extra water increases operating costs since it has to be pumped and treated as if it were sewage. This will be a continuing effort to constantly improve our system as we move from basin to basin.

Red Road Sewer Pump Station Replacement

This project will replace the existing Red Road Pump Station. This includes pumps, electrical components, site work and the installation of a permanent generator. The contractor, Kovacs Construction, is waiting for several key electrical components before beginning work. We anticipate that the project will be complete by the summer of next year.

Water Main Improvements

Fieldbrook Area, Court Street Area, High Street Area: Our contractor, Burns Construction, completed installing the water main hydrants and water services on Fieldbrook Road, Delwood Avenue, Glendale Avenue, Grove Hill Road and High Street this summer. They are currently installing new water main on Court Street between Main Street and Broad Street. Snyder Civil is providing engineering services, which include full-time inspection. In total, this project includes the installation of over 5,600 feet of new water main, 13 new hydrants and over 90 water service connections.

Main Street Extension: We will be installing just over 1,000 feet of new ductile iron pipe on Main Street Extension from the hospital to just south of the Route 17 ramps to Route 9. The Water Department is working with our engineer, Snyder Civil Engineering, and our contractor, Burns Construction, as well as coordinating with CT DOT to expedite this project. Our goal is to complete the water main installation before the DOT paves this part of the road.

Church Street and Cross Street: This project is currently in design and includes the replacement of cast iron pipe on Cross Street and part of Church Street. The pipe on Cross Street was originally installed

in 1897 and has experienced several main breaks. Our engineer, Cardinal Engineering, completed the field survey work in August and is working with Water and Sewer on the layout and design of the new main. Construction is tentatively scheduled for next spring and summer.

WATER SERVICE PIPE MATERIAL SURVEY UPDATE

By Theresa Spalletta, Deputy Director

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.

Service Pipe Material

- Copper _____
- Lead _____
- Galvanized Steel _____
- Other _____
- (If other specify)_____

INFLOW AND INFILTRATION

By Theresa Spalletta, Deputy Director

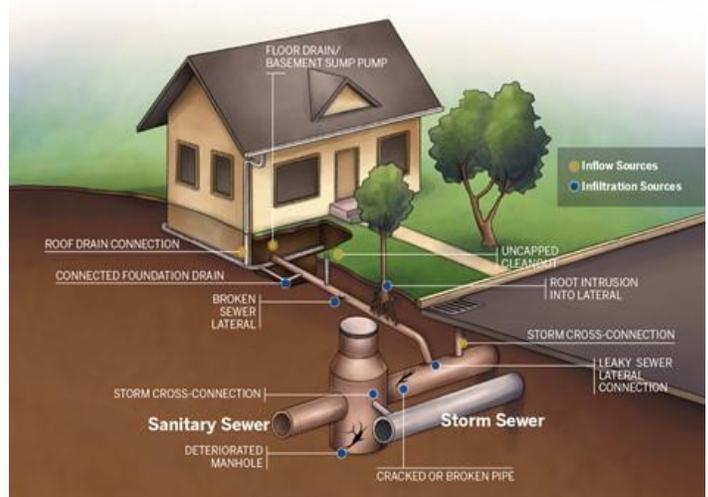
Right below our busy streets lies an intricate grid of pipes that accommodates several of our daily needs. These pipes distribute water for drinking and cleaning, they remove waste away from our homes and they insure that flooding does not occur. Although we would have a difficult time maintaining our 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.

ASSISTANCE WITH PAYING YOUR WATER BILL

By Theresa Spalletta, Deputy Director

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>

There has been talks regarding extending the program. You can also contact the Community Renewal Team at <https://www.crtct.org>

ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

By Theresa Spalletta, Deputy Director

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. Also, payments are now accepted at the Water and Sewer Department located at 82 Berlin Street, Middletown, CT.

*Checks or credit/debit card payments only

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE CREW:

By Theresa Spalletta, Deputy Director

Over the past year the City of Middletown has seen considerable changes. With heavy hearts for the City of Middletown we had to say good bye to Mr. Donald Fisco who retired after 28 years of service. We wish him well on his new journey but acknowledge the loss to the City. In place of Mr. Fisco, Theresa Spalletta has been promoted from Manager of Regulatory and Technical Affairs to Deputy Director of Water and Sewer. She brings over 30 years of experience in the field of water and sewer and will provide a new prospective to addressing issues. She is also not afraid to create both short and long term goals to meet the needs of the City.

In addition to Ms. Spalletta, James Radziewicz has been promoted to Superintendent of Water. James has started his career in the Water Department in 2006. Over the years he has been promoted to Water Treatment Plant Operator II and most recent to Superintendent of Water. He maintains an excellent working knowledge as it pertains to water treatment and a strong enthusiasm for his new position.

I am also pleased to announce the promotion of Sebastian Micciulla to Assistant Superintendent of Water. Sebastian worked for several years in the Sewer Department. In 2010, Sebastian began his career in the Water Department in which he excelled. He is a bright and motivated individual and we are looking forward to his tenure in this position.

Last but definitely not least, I would like to congratulate Daniel Barone. He has recently been promoted to Compliance Officer. Daniel has been with the City since 2007. During his time, with the City he has displayed a strong interest in learning new skills and providing support to others in the department. Daniel is motivated and enthusiastic in his new position. We welcome him to his new role in the Department.