Shelton Life

Biennial Report of Municipal Services of Shelton, CT 2021-2022

Table of Contents

Balanced Growth for a Balanced Community 1
Greetings from the Mayor. 2
Shelton's Government 3
Finance 4
Annual Budget 5
Governance and Administration 6
Education. 8
Shelton Schools 10
Educational Partnerships 12
Safeguarding Growth 14
Economic Development 16
A Balanced Community 18
Recreation and Culture 20
Security, Safety and Health 22
Infrastructure 24
Conservation in Shelton. 26
Canal Street Update 28
Historic Canal Street Locks 30
The Changing Face of Downtown 32
Acknowledgements 36
City Directory 37
Schedule of Meetings 37

All copy in this Biennial Report was provided by department heads and has been proofread for grammar, not content. When necessary, copy was edited and cut to fit space allotted.

SHELTON Life

Cover

Christmas tree harvest at Jones Family Farm

Photo by Shelton Land Trust

Back Cover

Trap Falls Geese

Photo by Don Coiro
Q Company Communication

Shelton
CONNECTICUT

Balanced Growth for a Balanced Community

The Shelton Life publications which include the *Shelton Life Newsletter* and the Biennial Reports have provided various articles and information regarding the City's commitment to balanced growth and development.

New development, whether it is the construction of new housing or the expansion of commercial opportunities throughout the community, continues at a fever pitch. The downtown district has now become a hotbed of opportunity as private investments topped $100 million in just the past three years. These investments not only serve to expand social and economic opportunities, but also increases the grand list which helps support the city's goal to maintain a stable tax base. Businesses in particular appreciate Shelton's stable tax structure, as they pay taxes on production, people and property. The ability for businesses to predict future taxes allows them to forecast investments which lead to further growth.

Since 1996 the City has focused on the brownfield remediation of former industrial properties along Canal Street bordering the Housatonic River in downtown Shelton. Shelton is approaching the end of this long-established program as only a few properties remain to be addressed. Over the past two and a half decades, the City has invested over $9 million, administered grants totaling $18.2 million and leveraged $76 million in private investments in an effort to revitalize this 25.6 acre project. Within this relatively small area the city has promoted a balanced growth policy with the inclusion of both residential and commercial development, along with public open space in the form of the Veterans Memorial Park, Housatonic Riverwalk and the Shelton Farm and Public Market.

To further Shelton's efforts of expanding public recreation and open space, the city is now embarking on an environmental restoration and historic preservation of the former Shelton Canal Locks located at the northern end of Canal Street. The program, which is supported by the City's Conservation Commission, the Shelton History Center and the Shelton Economic Development Corporation, identified as the Shelton Canal Locks Park and Riverwalk, will incorporate pocket parks, walking trails, a historic restoration of the Canal Locks and provide public access to the Housatonic River. Shelton has been masterful in balancing growth and development.

We welcome our entire community to join in the conversation and express their desires as we work together to ensure Shelton's legacy as a "Wonderful Place to Live".

Greetings From the Mayor

July 2021

Dear Shelton Residents and Businesses,

Welcome to the *City of Shelton's Biennial Report* for 2021 and 2022. This publication represents the fourteenth biennial report prepared by the City of Shelton since it was reinstituted in 1995 by the city's Economic Development Commission.

The Biennial Report combines a detailed departmental summary of the city with a clear vision for the future and with many examples of the successful efforts our community makes in the delivery of cost effective and responsive services. City leaders work hard to share the vision which reflects the input of our local residents and businesses – the important stakeholders who have chosen Shelton and who invest their personal and financial resources in making our city the best choice in Connecticut for their families and establishments.

Since the last publication of the city's biennial report, a global pandemic known as COVID-19 occurred in 2020. The city had to adopt a new way of conducting business to serve its citizens. All departments conformed to new public safety protocols to ensure the health and well-being of its employees and the general public.

Throughout this pandemic, however, the administration of municipal government, which has evolved into a highly-regulated and technical undertaking, addressed the needs of our community as efficiently as possible. The City of Shelton's public employees continued to provide the delivery of high-quality services which our residents depend upon. Our elected and appointed officials upheld their important roles. The community became stronger as a whole. We commend their diligent efforts and commitment during this time. Kudos to all!

While the city has seen many changes since being incorporated over 100 years ago, one constant that remains is the tireless and generous spirit of the city's volunteers. This spirit and volunteer philanthropy continues to contribute to the success of our wonderful community.

The City of Shelton works diligently to engender an environment conducive to a meaningful public/private partnership with the business community. As you know, our partnership with the Shelton Economic Development Corporation is an example of how community leadership combined with business leaders' genuine interest in community economic development fulfilled through inclusive citizen participation, encourages a promising future for years to come.

On behalf of the City of Shelton team, we thank you all for your successful efforts and investments making Shelton the community of smart growth. We wish everyone good health as we begin to see some light at the end of the tunnel.

Sincerely,

Mark. A. Lauretti
Mayor
Shelton, CT

Shelton's Government

The Elected Officials Who Operate & Administer Shelton

Shelton's local government is responsible for operating, managing and administering the business and affairs of the City. The Mayor/Aldermanic form of government operates under a City Charter revised in 2012. It consists of an executive branch, the Office of the Mayor, and a legislative branch, the Board of Aldermen. The Board of Apportionment and Taxation is also elected to help prepare the city's annual budget and to award bids.

The Board of Aldermen (left to right) Standing: Eric McPherson, Vice President; Anthony Simonetti, Bernie Simons. Seated: Joanna Carloni, Noreen McGorty, John Angalce, President; Cris Balamaci; Missing: David Gidwani

Office of the Mayor

The Mayor is the Chief Executive Officer of the City and is elected for a term of two years. The Mayor is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day administration and operation of all city departments as well as planning for Shelton's future needs.

All administrative and department heads report directly to the Mayor, who is also responsible for preparing an Annual Fiscal Report and Annual Budget.

The Board of Aldermen

The Board of Aldermen is the city's legislative branch. It consists of eight members elected for two-year terms – two from each of the city's four wards.

The Board of Aldermen governs the city on a bipartisan basis. There has been close communication, cooperation and agreement on major issues. Cooperation with the Mayor and city departments has been a cornerstone of this Board. Permanent and Ad Hoc Committees have functioned well and achieved consensus, moving the city ahead on a number of important issues. The Board has focused on land preservation, economic development (especially downtown), maintaining low and stable taxes, streets and services, public health, safety and emergency service improvements, an expansion of recreation facilities and an improved educational system. A hallmark of this Board has been its ability to study issues of primary importance and to implement those studies in a cost-effective manner.

The Board of Apportionment and Taxation

The Board of Apportionment and Taxation is an elected bipartisan board composed of six members with no more than three members from the same political party. They are responsible for establishing, reviewing and monitoring Shelton's city budget. The role of the Board of Apportionment and Taxation is crucial to maintaining effective city government.

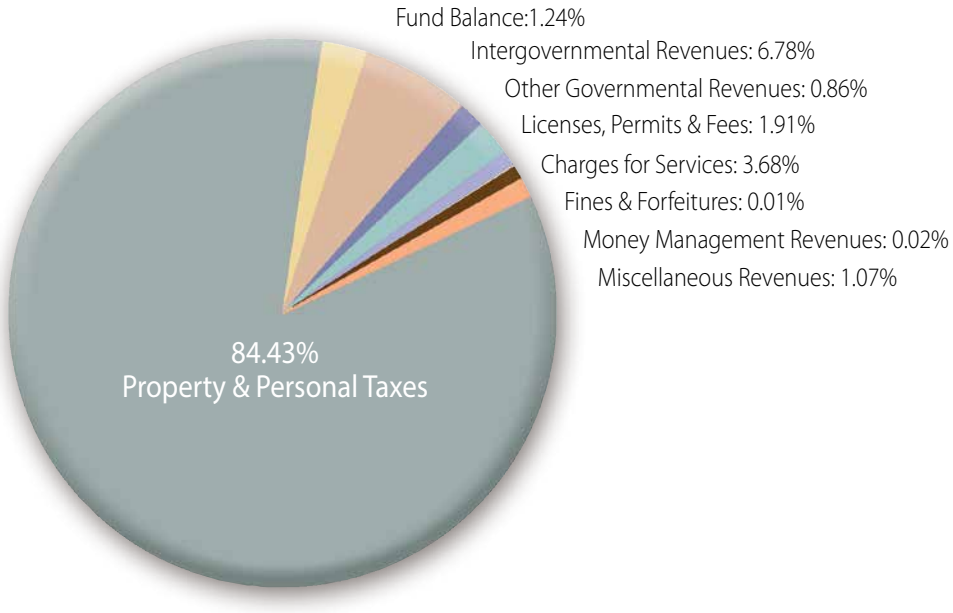
Finance

Each year the city handles a great deal of money. Determining how much money the city needs to provide residents with comprehensive services and then spending this money wisely, is a process that concerns and affects us all.

Over the years, city departments have gained a great deal of experience in the preparation of their budgets. As a result, Shelton's budget process has become highly efficient. As people hear of budget and tax battles that occur in cities and towns across the state, they come to realize the effectiveness of our system in Shelton.

Where the Money Comes From

FY 2021-22 BUDGET REVENUE



2021/2022 Income

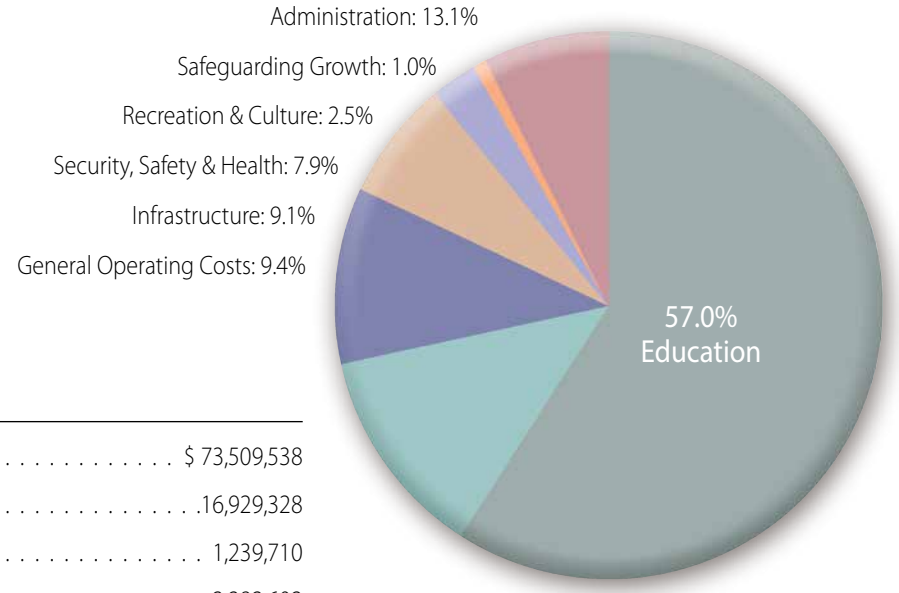
Property & Personal Taxes	$ 108,928,238
Fund Balance	1,600,000
Intergovernmental Revenues	8,751,370
Other Governmental Revenues	1,104,703
Licenses, Permits & Fees	2,457,710
Charges for Services	4,746,246,
Fines & Forfeitures	12,400
Money Management Revenues	25,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	1,386,638
	$129,012,305

Annual Budget

The city's fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th. Adopting an annual budget is a five month process that involves the Director of Finance, all city department heads, the Mayor, the Board of Aldermen, the Board of Apportionment and Taxation and the residents of Shelton.

Where the Money Goes

FY 2021-22 BUDGET EXPENDITURES



2021/2022 Expenses

Education	$ 73,509,538
Administration	16,929,328
Safeguarding Growth	1,239,710
Recreation & Culture	3,282,602
Security, Safety & Health	10,186,734
Infrastructure	11,749,657
General Operating Costs	12,114,736
	$129,012,305

General Operating Costs

General Operating Costs cover a variety of City expenses and deserve further explanation. The following is a more detailed look at the elements that make up this line item.

General Operating Costs: 9.4%

Debt Service*	$ 7,480,845
Management Information Service	500,782
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,400,806
Contributions to Outside Agencies	387,297
Public Risk Management	2,345,006
	$12,114,736

*Includes Interest and principal reduction

Governance & Administration

One of the most important functions of Shelton's administration is managing the City and its money. Since most of the City's revenues come from local taxes, residents are especially concerned that their tax dollars are being used wisely. This responsibility rests with Shelton's Finance Organization.

The Finance Organization is made up of several departments and is overseen by the Director of Finance. Its main goals are to provide a strong system of internal controls to safeguard the City's assets and to promote economy and efficiency in the administration of city funds.

Making Shelton Work for You

Treasurer

The City Treasurer acts as an agent of the City deposit fund and other City trust funds and coordinates all activities with the Director of Finance. The City Treasurer oversees the accounting functions of the city including timely and accurate reconciliations.

Director of Finance

The Director of Finance is responsible for keeping the accounts of the City which show the financial transactions for the City and its Boards and Commissions. The Director of Finance oversees the Assessor, Tax Collector, Purchasing, Information Technology, Payroll and the Accounting Departments. The Director of Finance is responsible for overseeing the investments of the City and maintaining the necessary cash flow to meet the City's financial responsibilities. The Director also works closely with the Mayor in establishing the yearly budget.

Accounting Department

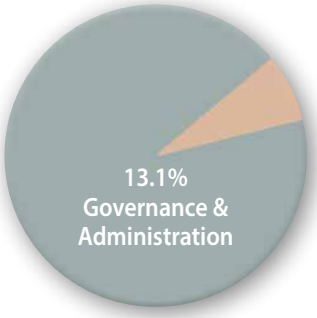
The Accounting Department oversees all of the accounts payable and accounts receivable functions for all City Funds including the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Project Fund and Trust and Agency Funds. The department maintains all of the records of the City's revenues and expenditures and provides timely reporting to departments to maintain oversight of their budgets. The Accounting Department reconciles all cash accounts of the City and works with the auditors to provide an accurate financial picture of the City's operations.

Tax Collector

The tax office collects real estate, business personal property and motor vehicle taxes along with sewer use, water and sewer assessments.

Real estate bills go out in June, and cover the full year. Real estate taxes over $100 and personal property taxes over $5,000 for the year are collected in two equal installments which come due July 1st and January 1st. The bills sent out in June have three payment stubs, one to return with the July payment, one to return with the January payment, and one for residents' records.

Motor vehicle taxes are collected in one installment. The regular motor vehicle list comes due July 1st and is based on what residents owned on the previous October 1st. There is a motor vehicle supplemental tax that comes due January 1st of each year for any vehicle that a resident may have added to their household since October 1st. The office also collects sewer use fees, water main assessments and sewer assessments. The due date for sewer use fees is July 1st of each year. The water main and sewer assessment bills vary depending on when the project was completed. Taxes can be viewed and paid online. (cityofshelton.org).



Governance & Administration: 13.1%

General Administration	$633,142
BOE-Bus Transportation	3,382,000
Transfer to Capital Projects	2,196,250
Employee Resources	7,242,290
Legislative & Ethics	162,740
Elections	163,979
Assessors Office	993,612
Probate Court	14,700
Elected/Appointed Officials	18,450
City/Town Clerk	453,541
Public Employees Appeal Board	200
Legal Service/Corp Counsel	200,971
Tax Collectors Office	337,967
Purchasing	371,986
Accounting & Fiscal Control	637,500
Board of Aldermen	120,000
	$16,929,328

Assessor

The Assessor's office for the City of Shelton discovers, lists and measures all taxable and exempt properties in the City. The Assessor conducts field inspections on building permit work, i.e., residential, commercial and industrial, additions, porches, garages, decks, etc. The Assessor files the Grand List October 1st of each year. Revaluation is the appraisal of all real property. The City is mandated by State Law to revalue property every five years to ensure that each taxpayer pays their fair share of the tax burden.

The City is currently conducting a five-year revaluation for all properties located within the City limits. The updated assessment will be mailed to every property owner at the end of November and will indicate the informal appeal dates.

The Assessor's office is now available on the City's website under "city departments-assessor" and will show the breakdown of a field card. The Assessor's office also values motor vehicles and business personal property and administers state and local programs for veterans, totally disabled, blind and elderly homeowners.

Central Purchasing Department

All City departments must purchase supplies and services through the Central Purchasing Department. The Central Purchasing Department is responsible for the process of bidding and securing quotations for the broad range of products and services used by the City and the Board of Education.

The objective of the Central Purchasing Department is to support the purchasing needs of the departments while being compliant with the guidelines of the City Charter, state and federal statutes.

While supporting the City's operations, the Central Purchasing Agent has budget responsibilities for utilities, office supplies, office equipment, mailing services, stationary printing, bid advertising, telephone and telephone maintenance. The primary purpose of the Central Purchasing Department is to do what makes economic sense for the taxpayers of the City of Shelton.

City/Town Clerk

The Office of the City/Town Clerk is the registry and repository of all land records and survey maps of properties in the City of Shelton. All land records as far back as 1940 are presently digitized and land records dating back to the late 1700's to the present are located in carefully indexed volumes. Older land records have been preserved.

Survey maps are indexed and mylar maps are numerically identified in hanging map storage cabinets located in the Town Clerk vault. All maps have been indexed and digitized. The older survey maps are preserved in large binders located in the vault.

Upon recording of deeds all state and local conveyance taxes are collected on the land transfers. Conveyance taxes collected for the State of Connecticut are sent to the Department of Revenue Services on a regular basis with transfer documentation. Local conveyance taxes collected are a valuable source of revenue to the city.

The Town Clerk's office is the custodian of all vital records (birth, marriage and death) issuing certified copies to residents upon request and with proper identification. Vital statistic records dating back as far as the mid-1700's have been preserved.

The Town Clerk's office issues hunting, fishing, archery and dog licenses. Reservoir fishing permits are issued as well as boat ramp permits.

Other functions are certifying Notary Public documentation registering liquor permits and issuing Trade Name Certificates for LLCs after approval by Planning and Zoning.

The Town Clerk's office also maintains a calendar and schedule of all city public meetings. Meeting schedules, agendas and minutes are posted on the City of Shelton website along with a list of residents serving on boards and commissions, city ordinances and appointed Justices of the Peace.

All lawsuits, loss claims and Workman's Compensation claims are processed through the Town Clerk's office and forwarded to the Corporation Counsel and Mayor's office.

In cooperation with the office of the Registrar of Voters, the Town Clerk administers election law as per the Office of the Secretary of the State and retains voting results and statistics for general and special elections. All petitions and ballots are prepared and filed by the Town Clerk's office in conjunction with the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of the State. Absentee Ballots are issued and returned to the Town Clerk's office.

Registrar of Voters

The office of the Registrar of Voters is regulated by Connecticut State Statutes and the Connecticut Secretary of the State. Their duties include maintaining voter registration records, annual canvassing of voters, compiling and retaining accurate statistical information for federal, state, and municipal government agencies, and providing and managing free and impartial primaries and elections. The office of the Registrar of Voters is also responsible for secure operations of all voting tabulators, polling place preparation, poll worker hiring and training, and other duties as required by Connecticut Election Law.

To register to vote, you must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of the town in which you wish to vote and at least 17 years of age and turning 18 on or before election day.

Registration requirements, registration and election forms, office hours, and voting locations and sample ballots for upcoming elections can be located on the City's website: cityofshelton.org. The office is located at the Belden Cultural Center.

Education

The Shelton Public Schools Board of Education administrative team and staff take the responsibility of educating and preparing students for the future as the #1 priority. As a community, all must work together to ensure that the responsibility to prepare the next generation for their future roles are met.

Preserving the Integrity and Quality of Shelton's Future

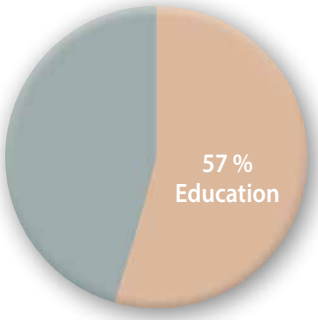
Board of Education

The Shelton Board of Education is an elected group of nine members and essentially embodies the "public" side of public education. Their responsibilities, to name a few, include the hiring and evaluation of the superintendent, setting the annual educational budget, assisting in negotiating as well as approving contracts for various groups of employees and establishing policies and procedures that support educational programs which benefit students from Pre-K through High School.

The Board elects a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary. The Chairperson assigns members to the four standing committees. Each of these committees function in their area with the uniform goal of improving student achievement, establishing governing policies and regulations as well as monitoring buildings, school grounds and transportation in the most effective and efficient way to ensure safety and compliance with state and federal laws and regulations. The four committees are:

- Teaching and Learning Committee- This committee provides monitoring and oversight of all matters pertaining to curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional learning of staff and faculty.
- Finance Committee- This committee provides monitoring and oversight to the school budget and all matters related to finance such as Board capital improvement projects, maintenance and repairs.
- Policy Committee- This committee is responsible to keep all Board of Education policies current based on education statutes, laws and new legislation. The Board of Education policy book has been updated and can be found on the district website.
- Buildings/Grounds and Transportation Committee- This committee was established to monitor the maintenance and capital projects that are scheduled or need to be scheduled. The committee monitors the transportation of students and the contract between the Board of Education and the bus vendor.

The Shelton Board of Education
(left to right) Seated: Amy Romano, Kathy Yolish, Chair; Jim Orazietti, Kate Kutash
Standing: Carl Rizzo, Diana Meyer, Patricia Noonan, Amanda Kilmartin, John Fitzgerald



Education: 57%

Total Personnel & Benefits	$60,303,418
Transportation	4,791,803
Maintenance & Utilities	2,796,030
Outgoing Tuition	3,223,861
Instructional Materials	649,727
Improvement & Development	102,840
Expenses & Equipment	1,641,860
	$73,509,538

Board of Education Budget

I. Compensation: All Departments: 82.0%

A. Teachers & Administrators: 52.5%

Teacher & Administrator Salaries	$36,364,774
Other Payments, Certified	934,663
Temporary, Certified Substitutes	916,397
Temporary, Certified Tutors	1,002,681
	$38,631,033

B. Classified Staff: 13.3%

Support Staff Salaries	$9,223,937
Other Payments, Support Staff	128,511
Support Staff, Temporary	105,000
Summer Help	53,300
Part Time Custodians	146,250
Summer School- Special Ed	133.500
	$9,790,498

C. Employee Benefits: 16.2%

Health, Dental & Other Insurance	$9,008,747
Social Security/Medicare	1,344,191
Pension, Retirement	1,166,449
Unemployment Compensation	72,500
Workers Compensation	250,000
Other Benefits	40,000
	$11,881,887

Total: Compensation & Benefits..... $60,303,418

II. Program Improvement & Staff Dev.: 0.1%

Program Improvement & Staff Dev.	$87,090
Conference & Travel	15,750
	$102,840

III. Instructional Materials: 0.9%

Wide Area Network	$114,456
Instructional Software	351,185
Instructional Supplies	135,923
Curricular Materials	35,000
Library/Media Center Materials	10,050
Testing Materials	3,112
	$649,726

IV. Outgoing Tuition: 4.4%

Outgoing Tuition, Public Schools	$1,703,868
Outgoing Tuition, Private Schools	1,363,447
Adult Education	156,546
	$3,223,861

V. Maintenance & Utilities: 3.8%

Electricity	$1,160,242
Natural Gas & Propane	601,838
Water	77,400
Heating Fuel	8,900
Equipment Repairs	99,400
Building Repair & Maintenance	300,100
Service Contracts	269,892
Equipment Rental	139,258
Gasoline	15,000
Custodial Supplies	124,000
	$2,796,030

VI. Student Transportation: 6.6%

Regular Student Transportation	$3,150,000
Special Education Transportation	1,257,756
Athletic Transportation	95,000
Student Field Trips	2,500
School Bus Fuel	286,547
	$4,791,803

VII. Expenses & Equipment: 2.2%

Telephone	$83,400
Postage	22,384
Printing	17,600
Other Services	18,413
Non-Instructional Supplies	82,292
Dues & Fees	70,481
Other Professional Services	796,815
Software Management Services	485,661
Insurance	49,414
Instructional Equipment	9,500
Non-instructional Equipment	5,900
	$1,641,860

Total: Non-Salary Expenditures: 18.0%

$13,206,121

Total BOE Budget $73,509,538

The Board of Education meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of every month and are recorded and put on YouTube the following day. The schedule of the Regular Board of Education meetings as well as the committee meeting schedule can be found on the district website www.sheltonpublicschools.org.

Photo by Ned Gerard / Hearst Connecticut Media

Superintendent of Schools Kenneth Saranich

Superintendent of Schools PTO/PTA Representative Meetings

The Superintendent of Schools meets with the PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) Alliance, consisting of members from all of the schools' PTOs. These ad hoc meetings include collaborative agenda building with the membership and cover areas such as curriculum, budget, school site needs and requests, student safety, school security, and other matters of importance. Recently these meetings have focused on resources. Concerns about the needs for School Resource Officers (SRO), additional counselors to support students, and normalized fiscal support of the schools are the main topics.

These meetings are above and beyond each school's monthly parent meetings which involve many hours of volunteer time to ensure that the children in Shelton get the best support educationally, financially, socially, and culturally. The Superintendent/Parent meetings work to provide parents a direct and open communication with the superintendent to discuss district efforts to provide quality education for all children and youth as well as the opportunity to provide input in the decision-making process when establishing district and school policies and discussing school site or district issues and needs.

Shelton Schools

Sunnyside 3rd grade STORM

The Shelton School System is made up of individuals passionately committed to providing 4,800 students with educational programs and services that will enhance their ability to become productive, adaptable adults in the emerging, complex global society.

Shelton is home to five K-4 elementary schools, one upper elementary school for grades 5 and 6, an intermediate school for grades 7 and 8, and a high school serving 1,500 students. Shelton employs over 400 certified staff, which includes teachers and administrators, along with a support staff of more than 200 employees. Opportunities are provided to participate in professional learning activities to keep current with the changing needs of Shelton's students.

Shelton's School District Remains Strong

Elementary Education

Each of Shelton's five elementary schools provides an enriched hands-on curriculum using a balanced approach to reading and writing which stresses both skill development and the use of real literature and nonfiction text. In addition, the elementary schools offer fully integrated art, music, physical education, and technology instruction. Support services are available in reading, special education, enrichment, social services and English as a Second Language. The K-4 elementary schools include Booth Hill, Elizabeth Shelton, Long Hill, Mohegan and Sunnyside. A peer partner oriented Pre-K program also exists at Mohegan Elementary School.

Exciting and challenging new curriculum initiatives in mathematics and science have been introduced at the elementary level in an effort to make learning more meaningful and relative to real-life experiences. Language Arts instruction is delivered in 90-minute literacy blocks using the workshop model of instruction. The mathematics curriculum uses programs such as Eureka Math and Big Ideas for core instruction support. Both are aligned with the Common Core State Standards, preparing students for college and career. Engaging, cross-curricular, project-based learning tasks have been incorporated into the inquiry-based science curriculum. The use of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) allows teachers to enhance students' exposure to STEM related curricula and career opportunities.

The instructional staff serves as facilitators and motivators inspiring students to raise questions and share findings in a receptive, collaborative, nurturing learning environment.

Partnerships are continually being sought with parents and community organizations in an effort to expand the richness of varied learning experiences.

The mission is to assist every student to become a successful learner in a complex, technological information-based, rapidly changing 2lst century world.

Perry Hill School

Perry Hill School opened in September of 2010. Students have the opportunity to work with multiple teachers and gain responsibility. The students are presented with an academically rigorous curriculum; however, a caring, supportive environment is fostered that values all students based on positive relationships between students and staff. Perry Hill School is set up in dyads. This teaching model is based on teams of two teachers working with about 50 students and promotes the creation of smaller learning communities. This model supports meeting the needs of each child through the use of best practices such as differentiated instruction, response to intervention and positive behavioral support. One teacher teaches Language Arts and Social Studies, and one teacher teaches Math and Science. Perry Hill's academic support center services the needs of all students.

In addition, students are actively involved in exploring enhanced curricula in Art, Music, Physical Education, and Health. They are also exposed to units in STEM. Enrichment and club activities are also offered to round out a comprehensive approach to education of the upper elementary student.

Shelton Intermediate School

Shelton Intermediate School (SIS) located at 675 Constitution Blvd. N opened in 2001. SIS proudly provides 7th and 8th grade students a wonderful environment with numerous opportunities to learn and grow as individuals. During this unique time students experience a tremendous amount of social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth. To assist students during their years spent at SIS, a comprehensive academic program is offered. Academic programs are designed around a set of learning principles, based on the concept of "learning for understanding." Students will be constantly challenged to apply their knowledge in a variety of contexts.

The goal at SIS is to offer a varied and expanded educational program for all students. SIS is dedicated to excellence. Students receive a developmentally-appropriate academic program that also allows for exploration experiences and growth. Students are exposed to expanded programs structured to meet their academic, developmental, and pre-vocational needs.

The basic core program, Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science, is required of all students. Some students are even eligible to receive high school credits for taking courses like Algebra, Geometry, French, Spanish and Italian while still in middle school. Other elective course offerings include: Band, Jazz Choir, Robotics, Business and Communication Technology, Inventor's and Nature's Lab. Physical Education and Health are also required courses of all students in order to emphasize overall student well-being and build lifelong habits for good health.

The school continues to win a number of awards for its academic and extracurricular programs.

Shelton High School

The mission of Shelton High School is to be a learning community where students are expected to meet academic and behavioral standards while developing their full potential. The school is committed to providing a diverse student body with a safe environment characterized by respect. The staff, students, parents and community work collaboratively to encourage lifelong learning and responsible citizenship. Students learn in an educational environment which supports each individual in the achievement of his or her goals.

In recent school years, over 340 SHS students annually take rigorous exams in 17 different academic disciplines. Seventy-seven percent of those students participating in AP program exams attained a three or higher. Shelton High School has articulation agreements with the University of Connecticut, University of Bridgeport and Housatonic Community College. Students are able to earn college credits in high school in the areas of math, science, English, music, art and career and technical education.

Shelton High School offers courses to students through the Virtual High School platform that are not currently available within the SHS program of studies or will not fit into a student's schedule. Virtual High School is a non-profit accredited provider "For Credit-Net Courses."

All students are required to complete a Capstone Project upon graduating from Shelton High School. The Capstone Project is a culminating opportunity to demonstrate SHS's Core Value, Beliefs, and Learning Expectations and apply the knowledge they have gained over the course of their four years of schooling to real world experiences.

In addition to academic expectations, students attending Shelton High School are expected to contribute civically and socially as they are encouraged to be responsible to the school and community as well as to value and promote understanding of the diversity of the student and world population.

Shelton High School continues to expand its course offerings and experiences which include experiential learning, internships, UCONN economics, illustration, ukulele, aviation and health science careers.

SHS Girls Basketball Team

Educational Partnerships

Officer Christopher Brosz

The Shelton Public Schools are committed to developing and promoting a partnership-driven system of education and skill development between the Shelton Public Schools and the local business community that prepares students to be successful and productive lifelong learners and workers. Recognizing that organizational skills, decision making ability, responsibility, and interpersonal skills are essential for future personal and professional success, the district has worked with a variety of community and business partners to encourage student growth and career awareness.

Community Partnerships Encourage Student Growth

Special Education Services

The Office of Special Education is responsible for designing and implementing programming for students identified with special needs, ages 3 - 21. Students who are suspected of having a disability are evaluated and if eligible are entitled to an Individualized Education Program (IEP) which may include special education and related services. Related services include services that are intended to assist a student in better accessing one's special education needs and are secondary to special education services. Examples of related services include Speech-Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Counseling.

Each of our schools in Shelton provides a continuum of services to students with special education needs in the following settings:

- Pre-Kindergarten - The Shelton Pre-K program is a special education language-based program housed at Mohegan school.
- Life Skills - A K-12 program, Life Skills is designed for students who have global developmental delays. The K-4 Life Skills program is housed at Long Hill School, and 5-12 programs at their respective schools.
- Therapeutic Learning Center - A K-12 program, the Therapeutic Learning Center is designed for students who have significant social, emotional, and behavioral delays. The K-4 Therapeutic Learning Center program is housed at Booth Hill School, and the grade 5-12 programs at their respective schools.
- Alternative Learning Centers 1 and 2 - A K-4 program, the Alternative Learning Center is designed for students who have significant linguistic, social, behavioral, and motor delays. The Alternative Learning Centers are housed at Elizabeth Shelton School and Sunnyside School.
- Transition Program - A program designed for 18-21 year old students who require additional services in vocational, independent living, and/or post-secondary education/training. This program is housed at Shelton High School.

Junior Achievement (JA)

The Shelton Public Schools have successfully partnered with Junior Achievement of Western Connecticut to provide over 3,000 students with meaningful career development and contextual learning experiences. On a yearly basis, JA programs at each elementary school provide all students the opportunity to learn firsthand about what the world of work is really like.

Mentoring Programs

The Shelton School System is fortunate to have a group of dedicated, caring men and women throughout the greater Shelton area who volunteer weekly to meet with their mentees during the school day. The volunteers' gifts of time, self and positive influence make the difference for a child that can last a lifetime Over 100 students are given such support by these dedicated individuals who are the heart and soul of the Shelton Mentor Program. Now in its 18th year, the program continues to grow with the inclusion of teachers, administrators and support staff. Ongoing recruiting sessions are occurring at businesses and civic organizations throughout the valley, and those who have time and desire to volunteer, are encouraged to do so.

Shelton High School Robotics Program

The Shelton High School Robotics Team consists of 33 student members working with 12 engineering mentors, two teachers, parents and alumni. This team works together to provide over 2,500 volunteer hours to design, build,

program, and test an award-winning robot in a six-week timeframe. This team at the end of 2020 was ranked #31 out of 210 teams in the New England District.

Many of the 2020 competition events were cancelled due to the pandemic but there were a few at home events in 2021 where Diya Patel was a FIRST Dean's List finalist, and the team earned a semi–finalist for FIRST Innovation Challenge.

During the pandemic the Robotics Team found ways to work together by holding socially-distanced, masked in-person work sessions and remote online meetings and sub-team discussions. They initiated the STEM Challenge within the Shelton School System, they put together 3-D printed PPE for local medical facilities and donated funds raised through The GreatGive® to the food bank.

Shelton High School Robotics Team

The team enhanced their educational experience by attending machine shop training and C++ programming workshops. The team was able to visit the Ansonia Steel Fabricators to see their laser cutter. Community Outreach is an important component for the Robotics Team. They were able to host STEM demo events for Girl Scouts and FLL (First Lego League) teams. They also mentored five local FLL teams and ran FLL qualifying events. The team is hoping to continue in 2021-2022 with community events such as Shelton Day and Shelton Trick or Trunk.

Technology

Shelton Public Schools have been hard at work implementing new and engaging technologies throughout the district. The district's 1:1 student Chromebook initiative has been successfully expanded to include Shelton High School during the 2020-2021 school year. The district has also maintained support for the original 1:1 pilot programs at Perry Hill School and Shelton Intermediate School by initiating a Chromebook replacement strategy in order to provide students with new devices that will continue to meet current technological needs and standards for years to come. This makes the district fully 1:1 for students grades 5 through 12. K-4 elementary schools have also seen increased Chromebook access and utilization, and this is expected to continue.

The district was able to acquire laptops for staff which will be implemented for the 2021-2022 school year. These laptops will greatly increase collaboration, mobility, and efficiency amongst staff and students thus increasing the quality of education provided.

In addition, the district has been working diligently on securing funding for two major initiatives, one of which would upgrade the networking infrastructure for all buildings. This would allow for increased throughput, speed, and reliability related to internet and wireless access while being able to support the thousands of devices that are being added to district networks in the contemporary online world. The second will replace aging interactive displays with new reliable touch panels that will serve to facilitate more immersive and engaging educational experiences for students and staff alike.

These new technologies and initiatives all serve to increase student engagement and access to modern education while allowing for increased reliability, efficiency, and security for all constituents.

Constantly Evolving

The Shelton Public Schools continue to work as a collaborative community committed to bring passion and innovation into a comprehensive educational experience with high academic standards for all students. Together, the schools utilize the foundation of the Vision of a Graduate and continue to develop a learning environment focused on respect, responsibility and safety to align this collaborative commitment to develop responsible citizens for an ever-changing global society.

This past year, the Board of Education has made a concerted effort to improve communication and collaboration between all stakeholders, including the City of Shelton officials in an effort to build a promising future for Shelton's students. Together, the goal is to design practices that keep students' growth and well-being the primary focus and meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of all students in an effort to ensure college and career readiness and close achievement gaps. Shelton Public Schools strive to maintain a school culture that reflects a positive district environment centered on a shared vision of excellence and innovative instruction.

Safeguarding Growth

New Development at Nichols Place

The responsibility for long-term growth and sensible, orderly patterns of development lies with several city departments. They provide the necessary checks and balances needed to ensure that all factors are carefully examined before facilities or residences are constructed or altered. Additionally, they report to regional, state and federal agencies.

Preserving the Integrity and Quality of Shelton's Future

Planning and Zoning Commission

The six regular and two alternate members elected to this commission are the overseers and designers of Shelton's future development. The Commissioners ensure that all development is in the city's best interest, is consistent with the Shelton Plan of Conservation and Development, and makes the best use of previously developed and newly available land.

The commission continues to see a positive change for economic development throughout the city. The downtown area, the Bridgeport Avenue corridor, and River Road (Route 110) sustained industrial, residential, and commercial growth. Downtown development showed tremendous progress along the River Front District (RFD) and in the Central Business District (CBD) where numerous mixed-use commercial and residential developments were completed or are in progress. The Planning & Zoning Commissioners as a whole are in the process of reviewing the Zoning Regulations including Planned Development Districts (PDDs), the IA-1 and LIP zones, and CBD to determine if modifications are needed to meet the influx of activity and future growth in the city.

Recent Planning & Zoning Projects

- A two-phase development called Cedar Village at the intersection of Hill Street, Coram Avenue, and Howe Avenue with a combined 63 units and commercial space on Howe Avenue.
- A development called Bridge Street Commons II at the intersection of Canal Street W, Center Street and Howe Avenue, with 72 apartments and commercial space on Howe Avenue.
- A commercial solar panel farm on the capped area of the Shelton Land Fill on River Road.
- A new CVS building at 705 Bridgeport Avenue.
- A 10,000 square foot retail building at the corner of Todd Road and Platt Road.
- A 70,000 square foot light industrial, office, and warehouse building on Waterview Drive.
- A 34 town-house unit development on River Road
- Approval for the renovations and site plan adjustments for the commercial buildings attached to the Plaza Diner on Bridgeport Avenue.
- The reuse of 100,000 square feet of industrial space at 710 Bridgeport Avenue for a new manufacturer.
- Numerous subdivisions and DRD approvals for the development of single-family homes across town, with open space contributions, or payment in lieu of.

Planning and Zoning Office

Applications for new construction or businesses in the city whether a shed, pool, new house, office building, home office, or commercial business occupancy must be submitted to the Planning Zoning Office (P&Z). Overseen by the city's P&Z Administrator, the office examines plans and approves applications for construction that must conform to

Safeguarding Growth:1.0%

Inland Wetlands Commission	$96,208
Economic Development	157,501
Planning & Zoning	437,975
Conservation Commission	66,556
Zoning Board of Appeals	24,545
Community Development	82,025
Building Department	374,900
	$1,239,710

Shelton's zoning regulations. Another function of the P&Z Office is to ensure that zoning regulations are maintained as well as responding to complaints of zoning violations throughout the city. The office staff serves over 4,000 people on a yearly basis offering advice to homeowners, developers, and members of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

It is the objective/goal of this agency to provide for the protection, preservation, maintenance and use of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses. This includes minimizing disturbance and pollution, maintaining and improving water quality, preventing damage from erosion, turbidity or siltation, preventing loss of fish or other beneficial aquatic organisms, wildlife and vegetation and the destruction of the natural habitats thereof.

Photo by Joe Welsh, Shelton Land Trust President

During these recent times many folks are staying home and undertaking various projects. Residents are reminded that activities such as tree cutting, vegetation cutting, and filling of any material in inland wetlands or within specified distances, (the upland review area, aka buffer or wetland setback), may and often trigger formal permit processing before such activity occurs. Penalties for after-the-fact requests are significant.

Also, the agency works to deter and inhibit the danger of flooding and pollution, to protect the quality of wetlands and watercourses for public and private uses and values, and to protect the city's potable fresh water supplies from the danger of droughts, overdraft, pollution, misuse and mismanagement.

It is important to ensure while balancing the need for the economic growth of the city and the use of its land, the protection of the environment and ecology is maintained in order to forever guarantee the safety of such natural resources for the city's residents and for generations to come.

The Agency tries to accomplish this difficult balancing act by diligent review and analysis of applications and data research and field evaluations and encouraging alternative design approaches. The balancing of growth over protection and analysis of addressing cumulative impacts to the resources prove to be the most challenging aspects of the program.

Per charter, the Shelton Inland Wetlands Commission's full roster is comprised of seven regular and two alternate members that reside in town.

In spite of 2020 COVID limitations, the Inland Wetlands office saw a near 27% increase of wetland certificates processed over 2019. Present 2021 trends are consistent with 2020.

Certificates of Wetland Compliance are required for all construction activities including but not limited to additions, freestanding structures, decks, pools, grading, clearing, and tree cutting. These certificates are issued when regulatory compliance with agency standards are met. Permit actions have been lighter in recent years though are not considered a limit on Shelton's economic vigor but rather an indicator that development designs have taken a positive approach to avoid wetland activities that may relieve the need to process detailed reviews. Such proposals include, but are not limited to, residential subdivisions, retail, multi-family, industrial, commercial site plans, residential site plans and homeowner projects.

Community Development

The Community Development Office is responsible for identifying, securing, and administering funding resources to assist the City of Shelton in the provision of certain programs and services. The Community Development Director applies for funding on the City's behalf under the direction of the Mayor and often in collaboration with other city departments. The department's efforts have resulted in obtaining several successful competitive grants which include equipment and training for Police, Fire and Emergency Management, improvements to municipal parks and facilities, literacy programs, youth and parenting programs, and capital improvements.

Anti-Blight Program

The Community Development Office also oversees the city's anti-blight program. Each year, and often in conjunction with other city departments, the Community Development Office responds to several dozen complaints from concerned residents regarding neglected properties in the community. Residents concerned with properties that may be blighted, can access the city's website under community-development for a list of qualifying factors and an anti-blight complaint form.

Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program

Through the Community Development Office, the City of Shelton offers a Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program to qualified low-and moderate-income residents. The funds for this program come from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and are administered through the State of Connecticut Department of Housing (DOH). Home-

continued on page 33

Economic Development

Bright View Assisted Living

Shelton's growth and pattern of success continues and increases because of a strong citizen involvement and support in the affairs of the city. As the city moves forward, concentration on what can best be done to assure a healthy, steady growth while maintaining the quality of life is emphasized. Shelton is unique as it has over 1,000 acres of primeval forests, close to 1,500 acres of working farms, bustling commercial and industrial activity, and is home to over 40,000 residents.

For Progress and Continued Growth

Economic Development Commission

The Economic Development Commission is established in accordance with Shelton's duly adopted City Charter. The organization of the Commission includes a five-member board of Shelton electors appointed by the Mayor. The Commission's powers and authority conforms to those described by state statute. The Commission historically has taken on the responsibility for the development of advertisements and related marketing materials used to recruit new businesses. In 1992, the Mayor formally charged the Commission to develop an aggressive marketing campaign to promote Shelton's positive image and retain current businesses as well as attract new ones. The Mayor rated the Commission's performance as "solid, successful and imaginative."

The Economic Development Commission has been active in the following areas:

- *Shelton Life Community & Business News*: A communication piece for the residents of Shelton. Over 18,500 copies are mailed and distributed an average of three times a year. Thematic influence continues to relate to "Shelton Going Green".
- *Shelton Life City of Shelton Biennial Report*: A biennial report of the City of Shelton, the state of its finances, commissions that serve the city and various activities.

New Commercial Plaza at 901 Bridgeport Avenue

- Flag Day Activities: A business networking event to honor the U.S. Flag
- School Art Contest: A collaboration with the Board of Education focusing on stimulating students' artistic talents and providing recognition for top achievers.

Shelton Economic Development Corporation

Organized in 1983, the Shelton Economic Development Corporation (SEDC), is a non-profit corporation that focuses on the balanced development of Shelton. The SEDC acts as a catalyst for growth within the City by providing direct links to all local government and business leaders as well as coordinating between city and civic organizations. The SEDC has relationships with finance and development agencies, and provides a leadership role in emerging public/private and statewide partnerships.

The SEDC provides access to a professional staff with extensive experience in economic development, real estate, construction, finance and government.

The business of the SEDC is managed by a board of directors. The board which is elected at the annual meeting, consists of at least 15 and up to 60 members who represent a cross-section of the Shelton community. The board's mem-

bers are diverse and include representatives from municipal government, private lending institutions, manufacturing trade associations, retail businesses and utilities, among others.

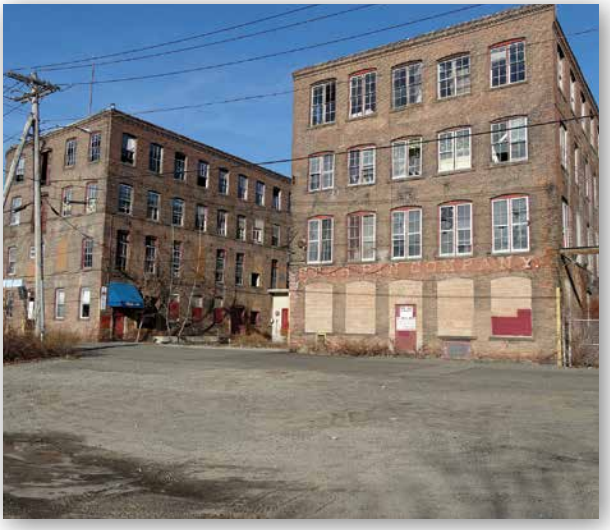
The SEDC has developed many services to facilitate Shelton's growth including:

- Technical support to businesses and industry with expansion, relocation and financing aid
- Economic, housing and community development
- Facilitators of public and private partnerships
- Site location assistance
- Brownfields Redevelopment Management
- Regional Economic Development Management, in particular, of a US EDA approved Comprehensive Development Strategy
- Real estate acquisition and development
- Planning and zoning consultation
- Liaison to city and state agencies
- Grant preparation, writing and administration
- Property management
- Business promotion & Events Management

Economic development in Shelton is a combined effort of the City government, the Shelton Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) and local business leaders, with a goal to maintain balanced growth between commercial, industrial and residential development. Shelton owes its success to the extraordinary planning efforts over the last 30 years. Shelton's leadership, which includes the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen, works closely with all city departments to ensure a balanced community.

The SEDC, working on behalf of the City of Shelton, has engaged in the systematic environmental assessments of 18 properties encompassing 25.6 acres along Canal Street bordering the Housatonic River. As of 2021 all eighteen properties have been investigated and the SEDC is currently focused on preparing the last two properties (3.27 acres) for environmental remediation. Through these efforts, the majority of properties have been put back into productive reuse. As a measure of this progress, over 8.5 acres are used for public open space, 11.25 acres are designated for housing and over five acres support new commercial space. The public investments have transformed the riverfront and has led to over $140 million in private investment throughout Shelton's downtown. .

The SEDC seeks to continue its efforts as it focuses on four properties located in the northern section of the target area and anticipates the completion of the roadway and infrastructure improvements along Canal and Wooster Streets.



The Star Pin Building: Before and After the Fire

Balanced Growth for a

Protecting the Environment w

Balanced Community
ith Responsible Development

Recreation & Culture

A large network of parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities plus a diverse offering of cultural and athletic activities, help enrich the lives of Shelton residents. There is no need to look further than the Shelton community to satisfy one's leisure time needs.

A variety of athletic programs are available for both children and adults. A modern library system offers a valuable source of information, entertainment and culture. A Senior Citizens Center provides a meeting place with special activities and events for older adult residents. In addition, many citywide events are held annually to help build a sense of pride in the community.

For a Stimulating, More Rewarding Community

Parks and Recreation Department

Shelton's Department of Parks and Recreation, overseen by a 12-member commission, fulfills recreational needs of Shelton residents with many types of athletic and cultural programs.

Overseen by the City's Parks and Recreation Director and a four person staff, the Department organizes and runs sports programs, league activities, arts and craft classes, a year-round swimming program, a summer playground program and various recreational activities throughout the year for ages infant to 90. Over 8,000 weekly participants take part in spring outdoor recreation programs, while 3,500 adults and children play weekly in fall programs. Sports such as baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, football, lacrosse, and cheerleading are available at several age levels. Winter months find over 2,000 residents participating in an indoor gym program that includes volleyball and basketball. The playground program is entering its 68th season with six locations.

A Dog Park was constructed in 2010 with a fenced in area for large dogs and another for small dogs. The Dog Park is adjacent to the 11 mile network of hiking trails, including the multi-use Shelton Lakes Recreation Path. Funds are still being raised for improvements and a "Friends of the Dog Park Committee" has been formed to help with upkeep.

Entrance to the Dog Park

The Parks and Recreation Department also sponsors a summer concert series held on the Huntington Green and downtown at the Riverwalk/Veterans Park. These well attended events are held Wednesday evenings from late June through August. Commission members are responsible for organizing this program along with the Independence Day festivities.

The Fourth of July concert and fireworks display is held each year at the Riverwalk/Veterans Park and is undoubtedly the largest activity in Shelton. Over 12,000 people attend the event which can be viewed throughout the downtown area.

With over 170 acres of developed parks, the Parks and Recreation Director, along with the Parks Superintendent and a staff of six, direct the maintenance and care of all public recreation areas, including 27 athletic fields and the Board of Education properties.. An additional staff of 75 part-time employees are hired throughout the year as attendants for playgrounds, gyms and the pool.

Recreation & Culture: 2.5%

Recreation	$1,717,329
Senior Center	369,061
Library	1,196,212
	$ 3,282,602

Plumb Library reading room under renovation

In the recent past the following events were held:

- The Commodore Hull 5K road race with approximately 625 runners held Thanksgiving morning with the start and finish at the Farm & Public Market.
- The Annual Run for the Warriors 10K road race in August which starts at the Huntington Green.

The Shelton Community Center

After sitting idle for a number of years, the former Huntington Elementary School was renovated, expanded and reopened in 1991 as the Shelton Community Center.

The 60,000 sq. ft. center contains a 25 yard, eight-lane swimming pool, an indoor basketball court, two weight rooms with 35 pieces of exercise equipment, seven craft rooms, a mid-size banquet room with kitchen facilities, and a branch library. It also houses the offices of the Parks and Recreation Department, a private daycare center and a U.S. Post Office.

Many of the city's recreation programs are held at the Community Center. Exercise, craft, and swimming classes are among the offerings. Rooms are also used for a variety of meetings, seminars and get-togethers. Over 6,000 people per week visit the center for one or more of the various activities held there.

The Plumb Memorial Library and the Huntington Branch

The Shelton Library System consisting of the Plumb Memorial and Huntington Branch have a physical collection of books and media totaling 112,825 items. The library has 81,878 books, 4,271 audiobooks and music CDs, and 26,676 DVDs available for the public to check out with a valid library card.

Programs are offered at both libraries year-round. Homebound deliveries as well as an interlibrary loan service are also available to Shelton's residents.

Residents with a library card can access free eBooks, audiobooks, movies, TV shows and music from Hoopla and Overdrive databases from the library's website sheltonlibrarysystem.org. Other databases are available which include reference services, medical information, online newspapers (past and present) as well as job services.

Plumb Library's newly updated children's department

Library patrons enjoy the newly updated community room

The Plumb Memorial Library, on the National Historic Registry, is considered the jewel of Shelton and most recently has undergone a major transformation in the part of the library that was built in 1895. It has been repainted and its wooden floors and exquisite oak wood moldings have been restored. New lighting will not only illuminate more efficiently but is designed to be concordant with the rest of the building. The tiffany-style stained glass windows already in place complete the work that is being done to restore this area to its former glory.

A two-story addition was added in the mid-1970s to give the Plumb Memorial Library additional space to increase its book collection and provide a separate children's department on the lower level increasing the total footage of the library to 18,000 square feet. The children's department was renovated in 2019 and offers additional open space, new flooring, new bookshelves along with an updated break room. The community room was updated in 2018 along with the installation of an elevator shortly thereafter.

The Plumb Memorial Library continues its renovation in a collaborative effort with the City of Shelton, the Library Board of Directors and the Friends of the Libraries.

The library is overseen by a Director, a Branch Director, and a staff of 12 full-time and 13 part-time employees.

continued on page 33

Security, Safety & Health

Shelton Chief of Police Shawn Sequeira greets a veteran at the Memorial Day Parade.

The security, safety and well-being of Shelton's residents rests with several city departments. Police and fire protection, medical and health services, youth services and public assistance ensure that residents are properly cared for and protected. During 1998, the City created an Office of Public Safety and Emergency Services. One of the major initiatives of this renewed effort in public safety was to provide for the coordination of Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services, and Emergency Management. The City of Shelton has taken the forefront in providing for a coordinated effort of Public Safety agencies with an eye toward creating a more efficient and effective delivery of services.

Assuring Shelton's Well-Being

Department of Police Services

The Shelton Police Department is entrusted with the responsibility of enforcing all state and local laws within Shelton. Under the leadership of the Chief of Police, the 50 sworn police officers and 15 civilian members of the Shelton Police Department are dedicated to the mission of the Department which is to enhance the quality of life in Shelton by providing police services in a professional manner to the more than 70,000 people that live or work in the Shelton community.

The police department received Tier 1 re-accreditation from the Police Officer's Standards and Training Council. This is a highly prized recognition of law enforcement's professional excellence. The department is working on Tier-2 accreditation.

Safety in the community is always the department's utmost priority. An active police presence that maintains open communication with business owners, staff, and customers is essential in continuing Shelton's record as one of the safest cities in Connecticut.

Shelton placed fifth among Connecticut cities and towns in SafeWise's annual reporting, with a violent crime rate of 0.60 per 1,000 people and a property crime rate of 6.9 per 1,000.

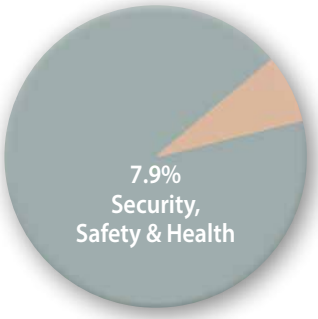
The Crime Prevention Division started a social media page 'Shelton CT Police Department Crime Prevention & Neighborhood Watch Program on Facebook®.

Fire Marshal

The Shelton Fire Marshal's Office is made up of the Fire Marshal, a Deputy Fire Marshal, three Fire Inspectors, a Fire Prevention Officer and a Secretary. The Fire Marshal and his staff are responsible for the overall fire safety within the city and enforcement of all laws, ordinances and regulations pertaining to the fire codes and applicable regulations. The Fire Marshal's Office, among other requirements, conducts inspections of all new and existing buildings and facilities except one-and two–family homes that are regulated by the state fire safety codes and applicable regulations. The office also inspects other buildings including one-and two-family homes upon receiving an authentic report that they pose a fire hazard that could endanger life. Compliance to fire safety codes and applicable regulations, plans for new buildings and structures, and plans for changes to existing buildings, are also enforced. The office issues and regulates permits for open burning, and the use, transportation and storage of fireworks and explosives along with investigating the cause, origin and circumstances of all fires that occur within the city. Fire prevention education is offered to all schools, various civic organizations and some city corporations. The Fire Marshal enforces and issues summons for parking in fire lanes, blocking fire hydrants, open burning violations and violations of the false alarm ordinance. The Fire Marshal and the Deputy Fire Marshal are certified Open Burning Officials for Shelton.

Fire Department

Shelton's Fire Department provides protection from fire, and performs rescue



Security, Safety & Health: 7.9%

Public Safety & Emergency Service	126,076
EMS Commission	102,081
Fire Marshal	322,210
Fire Department	1,041,412
Animal Control	290,486
Police Department	7,786,434
Youth Service Bureau	223,011
Public Health	295,024
	$10,186,734

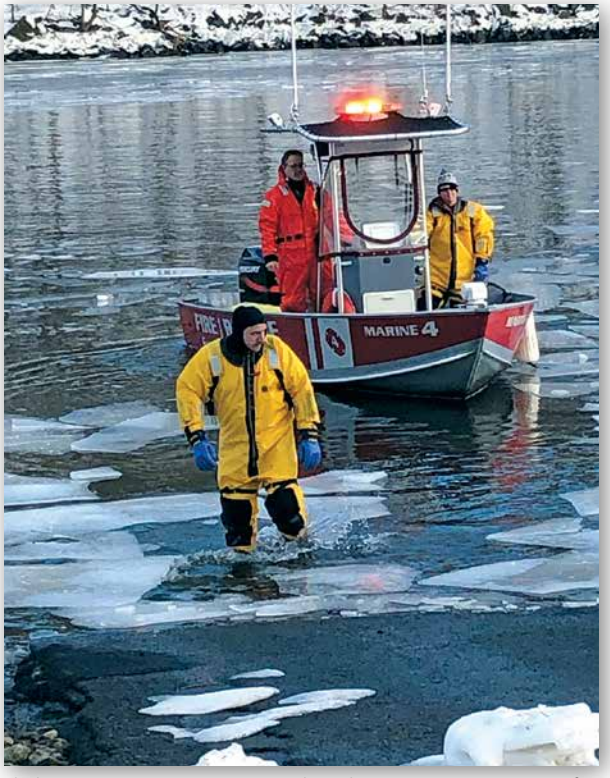
services. The department is comprised of four companies operating from four stations located throughout the community.

- Echo Hose Hook & Ladder Company #1
- Huntington Fire Company #3
- Shelton Volunteer Fire Company #4 – Pine Rock Park
- White Hills Voluntary Fire Company #5

The Shelton Fire Department responded to 1,376 calls for assistance in 2020. The department's dedicated staff of neighbors helping neighbors is well supported by the City's administration. The department is well suited to meet the needs and challenges of the community with 249 dedicated members, quality apparatus, and personal protective equipment. The department is administered by a Board of Fire Commissioners consisting of a Chairman appointed by the Mayor and four fire commissioners, each elected by their respective fire company. Supervision of the Department is entrusted to a Fire Chief, a Deputy Chief, and Assistant Chiefs from Company #1, Company #3, Company #4 and Company #5.

The Shelton Fire Department is always seeking new candidates interested in serving their community as a volunteer firefighter. The City of Shelton provides the training and equipment required as a new recruit firefighter.

The Star Pin Building on fire



Shelton FD Marine # 4 returning to launch in icy Housatonic River after responding to a distress call

The Office of Public Safety and Emergency Service Management

The City Emergency Management Agency is responsible for reducing the effects of disasters before they occur, through mitigation, planning for and coordinating the operations and response to a disaster, managing resources and coordination of recovery efforts following a disaster as well as providing information. They work with numerous local, volunteer, state and federal organizations on an ongoing basis before and after a disaster.

Emergency Management provides:

- Effective and orderly governmental control and coordination of emergency operations during emergencies;
- Development and maintenance of the City's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP);
- Coordination of emergency management activities, services and programs within the City of Shelton, including:
  - Teaching people how to prepare for a disaster
  - Helping prepare first responders
  - Request for disaster assistance available to the City, businesses and individuals following a disaster
  - Training and emergency simulations;
  - Liaison to FEMA, State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and other local emergency management agencies and organizations.

The Shelton Youth Service Bureau

The Shelton Youth Service Bureau (SYSB) was established in 1988 by the City of Shelton for the purpose of developing, planning and coordinating services for the youth of the city. It provides educational and recreational programs that encourage youth and families to make healthy choices. Located In Shelton High School,

continued on page 34

Infrastructure

Many of the services taken for granted are some of the most important the City provides. Maintaining roads and bridges, snowplowing, garbage and recycling collection, sewer construction, and wastewater treatment are just a few of these services provided. Developing and maintaining public property, facilities and resources are critical to ensuring that Shelton remains a vital community. The City's Director of Public Works supervises the departments charged with this all–important task.

Keeping Shelton's Streets and Buildings Safe and Clean

Department of Highways and Bridges

A total of 40 dedicated and skilled employees work for the City's Public Works Department providing essential services that sustain infrastructure, establish safe living and working conditions, and contribute to a high quality of life for the City's residents while keeping costs low.

The Department maintains and repairs over 216 miles of city streets which includes street sweeping, mowing, sightlines, pothole and curb repair as well as paving. They also install, clean, repair, or replace over 5,800 catch basins and 600 storm water outfalls, as well as the 100 plus miles of sanitary sewers. They oversee the preservation of roads through various methods such as milling and paving, crack sealing, micro-surfacing, chip and fog sealing. In addition, the Department installs street and traffic control signs as well as overseeing the day-to-day operation of the City's transfer station.

During the winter months the Department's main function is the plowing and snow removal from streets, parking lots, and schools. The application of Ice control and storm cleanup are all provided by this department.

The Department also employees skilled mechanics to maintain the City's 205 pieces of equipment and vehicles.

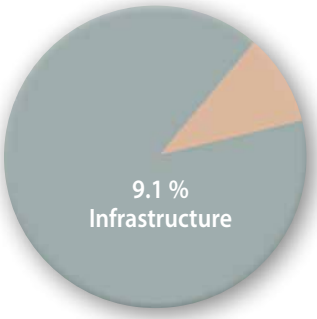
The Spring and Fall curbside pick up of biodegradable bagged leaves supports the popular composting program of the Highway Department.

Sanitation

In 2012 the City implemented Single-Stream Recycling along with the weekly trash collection. Both collections use fully automated equipment and have been extremely successful in improving the task of collection while the new city-issued carts have improved the appearance of the City on collection day.

Recycling

The City's Recycling Program offers a yearly Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day which is held at the Highways and Bridges city yard.



Infrastructure: 9.1%

Highways & Bridges	$3,686,959
Road Repairs	65,000
Public Works Director	51,811
Engineering	331,251
Tree Warden	120,058
Recycling Program	42,291
Sanitation	3,081,361
Utilities	2,716,943
Municipal Prop. Maintenance	1,653,983
	$11,749,657

Sorting materials at the recycling plant

City Engineer

The Office of the City Engineer prepares plans and specifications for infrastructure improvement projects as well as assessments for water main extensions. Under the direction of the City Engineer, the office also has the responsibility of monitoring construction for improvement projects as well as streets under construction by developers that will become city-owned and maintained streets.

The Office of the City Engineer is also responsible for issuing street opening permits and coordinates the permanent pavement restoration of the excavations made in city streets. The department issues over 300 excavation permits annually to utility companies and private contractors. Additional responsibilities include reviewing subdivision and site plans for various city commissions and boards, issuing street addresses, updating digital maps and coordinating the extension of water mains requested by residents.

The Office of the City Engineer has also been tasked with ensuring the city complies with all aspects of the MS4 program (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System), a federally mandated program to prevent harmful discharges of pollutants into waters of the United States.

Building Maintenance

The Building Maintenance Department is responsible for the repair, modification, maintenance and continued renovations of 25 city buildings. The Maintenance Department also performs work for the four firehouses in the city. Maintenance trade workers address breakdowns and perform repairs on all mechanical equipment and physical aspects of the city buildings including electrical, plumbing, carpentry and HVAC.

There is a staff of 30 full- and part-time workers consisting of a supervisor, administrative clerk, maintenance trade workers, a senior custodian and custodians. Custodial duties include cleaning and maintaining a safe environment in all buildings for the public. Some jobs include the Community Center pool area, floor upkeep and general housekeeping.

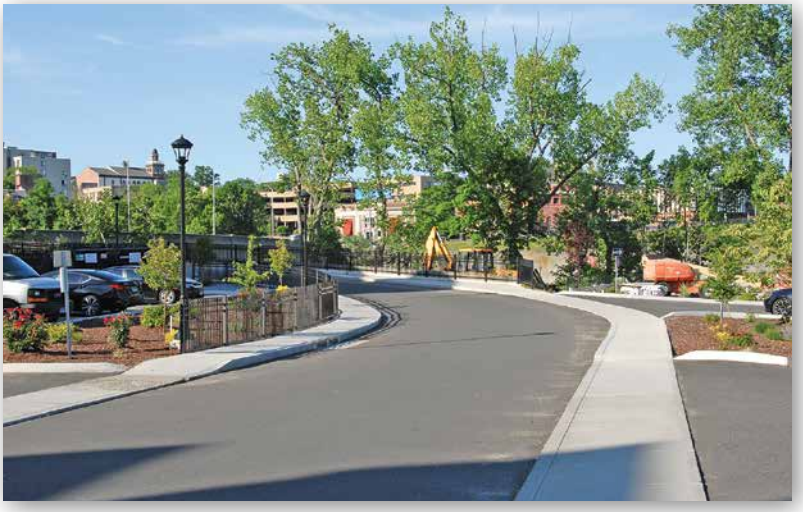
Building Department

The Building Department is a professional office committed to preserving the health, welfare and safety of Shelton residents, businesses and the general public. The department's goal is to not only assist applicants in the permit process, but also to provide thorough, consistent and efficient administration of the Connecticut State Building Code. Open communication and cooperation between all of the land use departments is sought in order to better serve the community. The department strives to provide a high quality of customer service with timely responsiveness, professionalism and continually finding ways to improve.

The primary function of the Building Department is to oversee all building construction to ensure that all new construction jobs and remodeling projects in Shelton conform to building codes as well as all laws, ordinances, rules and regulations related to construction. The Building Department is responsible for plan review, issuing permits, inspections, demolition of buildings, housing code inspections and issuing Certificates of Occupancy for all phases of building construction. In 2020, the Building Department issued 2,500 permits and 280 Certificates of Occupancy.

The Building Department staff consists of the Building Official, Office Administrator, Assistant Building Official and a Part-Time Clerk.

continued on page 35



A new road behind the Canal Street Lofts

Conservation in Shelton

Photo by Joe Welsh, Shelton Land Trust President

The Conservation Commission is an advisory board whose purpose under state statutes is "the development, conservation, supervision and regulation of natural resources." The seven members of the commission are led by a Chairman with support from the City's Natural Resources Manager.

Shelton Going Green

Preserving Shelton's Open Spaces for Future Generations

Open Space Preservation

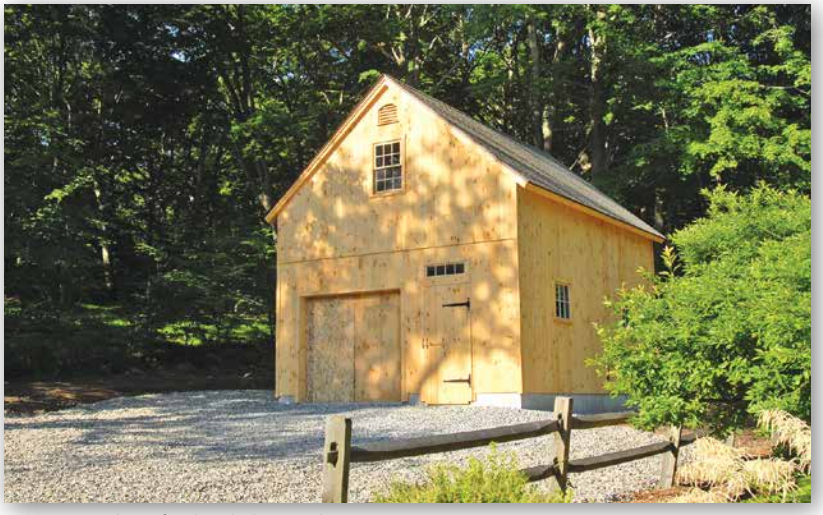
Economic development in Shelton is balanced by nearly 2,000 acres of public open space. These public lands consist mostly of natural areas crossed with hiking trails but also include ballfields, a dog park, community gardens, fishing areas, picnic areas, and public areas such as the Huntington Green and Veterans Memorial Park.

Open Space preservation plays a key role in maintaining low tax rates by reducing the need for new services that would otherwise be required if the property were subdivided for conventional housing. The taxes collected from residents of typical subdivisions do not cover the new services the residents require.

The City has preserved an additional 411 acres of private working forest and farmland through the use of land preservation agreements. These agreements help to sustain working farms and often include limited public recreation such as hiking on Stockmal Trail.

Open Space properties have been acquired strategically to create a network of greenspace corridors that extend throughout Shelton. The Shelton Lakes Greenway is the most popular of these corridors, with several miles of hiking trails, three reservoirs, a dog park, and several gardens.

The Conservation Commission's website is posted at sheltonconservation.org.



New storage barn for the Shelton Trails Committee

Trails Committee

Thirty miles of hiking trails cross Shelton, ranging in difficulty from the handicapped-accessible Shelton Lakes Recreation Path to the rugged Paugussett Trail, suitable for overnight backpacking.

The hiking trails are maintained by volunteers. Shelton's Trails Committee holds work parties twice a month to clear vegetation and fallen trees, repair treadways, and build bridges. The Committee has partnered with the Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA) to help maintain the Paugussett Trail; the Shelton Land Conservation Trust to maintain trails at Nicholdale Farm and Willis Woods; and a number of Eagle Scouts who have constructed kiosks, bridges, and other trail improvements.

The Committee also hosts several guided hikes each year, including the popular Marshmallow March, Full-Moon Hike, and Turkey Trot Trek. News, upcoming events, and trail maps are posted on the Trails Committee's blog at sheltonconservation.org/trails.

Photo by Joe Welsh, Shelton Land Trust President

Shelton's Family Owned Farms and Forests Program

Protecting Shelton's family-owned farms and forests is one of Connecticut's first municipal plans for farmland preservation. Landowners enter into a voluntary legal agreement with the City of Shelton to purchase the land's development rights. The Agricultural Conservation Easement permanently limits a property's use to farming and forestry. This plan protects the city's natural resources while keeping the green space on the tax rolls and fosters family farming enterprises.

Created in 1998 with a goal of preserving 1,500 acres of farmland, the agricultural conservation program has preserved 471 acres of farmland in White Hills, including Jones Family Farm, Shelton Family Farm and Stockmal Woods.

Lavender Fields at Beardsley Organic Farm

Shelton Land Conservation Trust

The Shelton Land Conservation Trust (SLCT) is a private, non-profit organization devoted to preserving Shelton open space in its natural state to the extent possible. Presently the SLCT owns about 370 acres of forest, meadowlands, streams and swamps. These parcels are as small as one acre and some are large enough to boast mile-long forest trails and scout camps.

The SLCT is managed by a small group of volunteers who make up the Board of Directors. In addition, there is a large active membership which provides land monitoring and other services to the trust.

Land acquisition is almost totally from property donations either directly or via wills. Some current land owners recognize the tax advantages of land donations and the trust is the obvious choice. Funds in the trust come from membership dues, donations and also from private estates. Although the trust cannot support the outright purchase of large land tracts, the SLCT has used its limited funds wisely. As an example, recently the trust donated money to the successful City purchase of development rights of a large farm; thus helping to preserve Shelton's extremely valuable rustic nature.

For more information visit sheltonlandtrust.org.

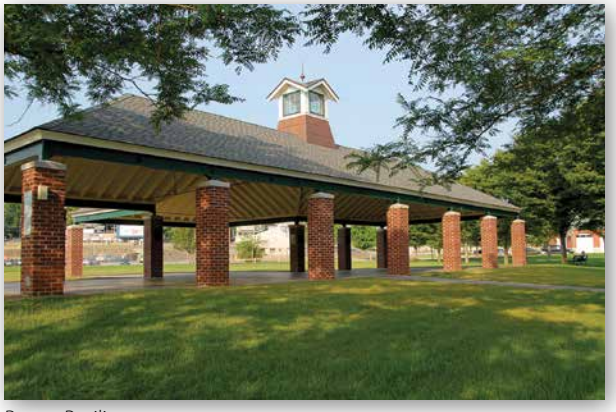
Canal Street Update

Leveraging Public and Private Money

In 1996, the City of Shelton embarked on a major brownfield remediation project at the former site of the BF Goodrich plant that was destroyed by arson in 1975. Since that time, the City of Shelton teamed up with the Shelton Economic Development Corporation to undertake a systematic brownfields remediation program that has encompassed 18 properties across 25.6 acres, from the northern end of Canal Street traveling south to the Route 8/Commodore Hull Bridge.

Farm and Public Market

Veterans Memorial Park



Rotary Pavilion

Civil War Memorial

Over this period, the City of Shelton invested over $9 million and received grants totaling $18.2 million from regional, state and federal partners to support these much-needed environmental remediation activities. The program has led to a myriad of public and private improvements and changed the face of downtown from what was a gritty industrial environment to a neighborhood-friendly destination. The soot-stained brick and steel buildings are a thing of the past and are replaced with eight acres of public open space that includes the Veterans Memorial Park and the Housatonic Riverwalk, the construction of the Shelton Farm and Public Market, the Rotary Pavilion and the War Memorials. (Read more about the City's plan to develop the Canal Lock Park and Riverwalk at the north end of Canal Street on page 30)

Veterans Memorial Park and its surrounding amenities attracts nearly 150,000 visitors each year and has become home to many community events. The increased pedestrian traffic over the years has not gone unnoticed as private developers have begun investing millions of dollars into new mixed-use buildings creating scores of new business opportunities and hundreds of new apartments. All of this has helped transform the downtown into a family-friendly and inviting place to live, shop and work.

Since 2018 there have been six development projects which have either been completed or are in progress by local developers. These private investments totaling an estimated $59.5 million have created 492 residential units along with 24 commercial units in the city's downtown. These investments alone have generated over $800,000 in real estate taxes. In addition, five privately-owned developments on Canal Street have created another 446 residential units and 13,400 square feet of commercial space. Combined these private investments total over $136 million and generate nearly $1.1 million in income per year in real estate taxes.

A quick trip to the City's Planning and Zoning Department confirms that the trend toward further development is strong, resulting in further strengthening the economy of Shelton.

Recognition of the long-term dedication to this effort must be given to the City's Administration from the Mayor's Office to the Board of Alderman, down through and including each of the City's land use boards and commissions. The partnership developed between the City of Shelton, the Shelton Economic Development Corporation, the State of Connecticut DECD and US EPA have created a legacy of positive environmental and economic change that will last for generations.

Avalon Bay Apartments

Riverview Park Royal

Chromium Process

River Breeze Apartments

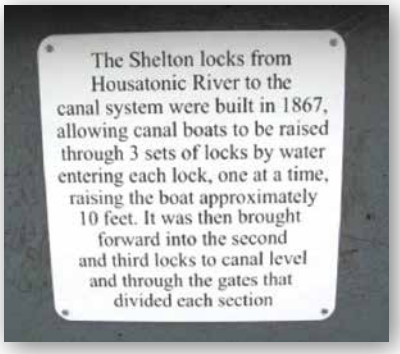
Historic Canal Street Locks

Shelton's Canal System and Historic Canal Locks Restoration Planned

The Housatonic River has played an integral role in the growth and development of the City of Shelton. Many people do not realize that Shelton and Derby were major shipbuilding and fishing ports prior to the 20th century.

After the Civil War, the Ousatonic Dam and Shelton Canal were constructed to power new factories which led to the rise of industrial Shelton. The dam is now called the Derby-Shelton Dam (Derby is on the east side of the Housatonic River, and Shelton is on the west). The introduction of the Shelton canal system and the use of water to create hydropower fueled the industrial revolution and supported Shelton's growth for more than 80 years. This area ran the length of one mile to what is now the Route 8 Commodore Hull Bridge. The river and the dam, the canal and railroad reflect the economic history of the community. The dam that originally generated hydropower now generates electricity.

The theory behind this system of power generation was genius. The Ousatonic Dam and corresponding canal system was built to an elevation higher than the river. Water was then gravity fed through a series of tunnels which passed a water wheel, powering a turbine and



creating hydropower to machinery through a series of shafts, pulleys and belts located within the various industrial buildings along Canal Street. Each factory tapped into the canal with a tunnel. The canal and dam were so important that the town took its name in 1919 after Edward Shelton, the primary mover and backer of the Oustaonic Dam Company.

As electric technology evolved, public utility companies were able to provide reliable and affordable electricity and deliver that power to local industry. Eventually, factories along Canal Street began to utilize this new source of power rendering the canal system obsolete. By 1947, many property owners began reclaiming the land dedicated to the canal by filling in

by the Housatonic River and by the Housatonic Railroad's Maybrook Line on the other allowed boats to be raised through three sets of locks by water entering each lock, one at a time, raising the boat approximately 10 feet. It was then brought forward into the second and third locks to canal level and through the gates that divided each section.

As part of preserving Shelton's past, the City along with the Shelton Economic Development Corporation, the Conservation Commission and the Shelton Historical Society, hope to address this part of history for generations to come. The plan would be to restore access to the river with a walking trail and scenic views for the public. The area holds so much promise.

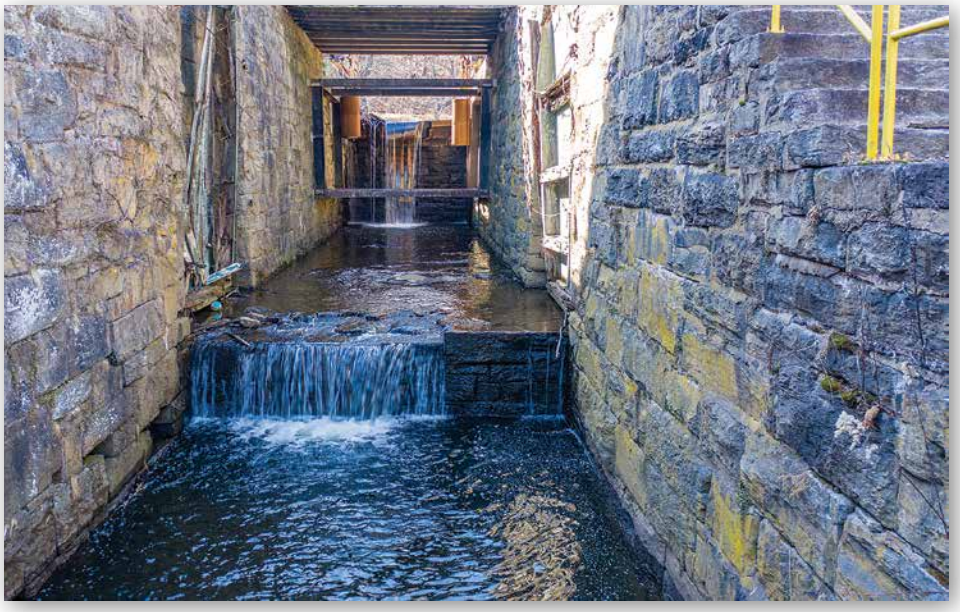
The preservation effort will make the area, and hopefully the waterfront on the river, accessible to the residents of Shelton, especially those downtown and others who could visit the area and become acquainted with the history of Shelton. The plan is to eventually tie this area into the Riverwalk along the Housatonic River.

entire canal sections and transforming the area into other uses such as parking lots. The locks provided access to the upper river from the canal.

Remnants of the canal still exist at the northern end of Canal Street. The remaining canal is 1,200 feet long and 50 feet wide, totaling approximately 1.5 acres. It rests on a six-acre piece of riverfront property owned by a hydroelectric company (McCallum Enterprises) which operates the dam and is open to the public under their federal licensing agreement. There are picnic tables, views of the Housatonic River and dam, and steps leading to the water. Public access is at the north end of Canal Street. The canal and locks were last used by boats in 1973.

By looking at the current condition of the Shelton Canal System, it is hard to imagine the impact that this historic marvel once had on the lives of everyday citizens of Shelton. Gone are the factories, gone are the days of the railroad cars unloading freight and feed, and gone are the mass of workers walking from their homes to their places of employment.

What we are left with though, are the memories, photographs and the history. The historic canal locks bordered on one side



The Changing Face of Downtown

Private Development Transforms Downtown Shelton

As many will notice, the face of downtown has taken on a new look. Buildings are being constructed in record numbers to support the growing interest in living a "downtown lifestyle" offering a lively and active atmosphere. In support of the expansion of housing alternatives, numerous commercial businesses such as salons, coffee shops, and restaurants have taken root in downtown and seem to be experiencing tremendous customer support.

Over the last few years developers have initiated multiple development projects creating private investments exceeding $46 million. If the three active projects on Canal Street are included, the total number of investment dollars exceeds over $69 million.

On the corner of Center Street and Howe Avenue, Bridge Street Commons II is in development to compliment Bridge Street Commons I on the opposite corner. These two new developments will now house over 120 apartments and provide commercial opportunities street level.

Other developers have taken notice of these opportunities and have constructed complimentary projects to support the economic growth in downtown. The development of Cedar Village at Carroll's, the site of the former Carroll's Home Improvement, supports the construction of 33 residential units and features a barbershop as its first commercial tenant. The developers have experienced such tremendous success that the second phase of work is currently underway adding an additional 30 units on the corner of Coram Avenue and Hill Street.

The former Webster Bank block has also undergone a transformation as another local developer has demolished the building located at the corner of White Street and Howe Avenue. The new building will be home to 56 apartments and two commercial units along with a Webster Bank ATM. This new development will be known as 502 on Howe.

Center Street

502 Howe Avenue, 502 on Howe

427 Howe Avenue, Bridge Street Commons II

320 Howe Avenue, Cedar Village at Carroll's

Recreation & Culture from 21

The Shelton Library Board, which consists of a six-member bipartisan elected board, along with the Friends of the Shelton Libraries, play an integral part in the success of both libraries. Through their efforts and the City and dedicated staff, the Plumb Memorial and Huntington Branch honors the city's past while providing information, entertainment and gateways to learning in the future.

Shelton Senior Center

The Shelton Senior Center is overseen by a Director and a part-time staff of five. There is also a Senior Center Committee appointed by the Mayor that meets monthly. Currently, the membership is over 2,500 with a daily attendance averaging 300-400 members.

The Center provides a wide range of social, educational, health, financial and recreational programs for residents 55 years of age and older. The Center's goal is to keep members active and involved through various programs. Day and overnight trips are offered as well. Lunch is prepared on the premises and offered daily. Transportation to the Center is provided for Shelton residents Monday, Wednesday and Friday including a free bus trip to shop local stores for members each Wednesday.

The Center also hosts and helps train students from the SHS Internship Program and CASH Program. Residents from local assisted living facilities come to the Center for a "day-out" to enjoy lunch and social programs. Local businesses sponsor various programs and events throughout the year. A monthly newspaper is published and mailed to all current members.

All Shelton residents at least 55 years old are welcome to join the senior center.

Shelton History Center

The Shelton History Center was formed in 1969. In 1971 the Shelton Historical Society purchased the Brownson family home from the Derby Savings Bank for $1.00 on the condition that it would be moved to another location. Mr. and Mrs. Wisner Wilson who owned farmland and a vegetable stand on Ripton Road were gracious enough to donate a portion of their land and barn for this purpose.

The Shelton History Center now consists of one room Trap Fall School, a carriage barn housing a collection of horse drawn vehicles, a corncrib and an outhouse, in addition to the c. 1822 Brownson House and the 19th century Wilson Barn.

The mission of the Shelton Historical Society is to preserve the elements of the community's history in order to create lasting and meaningful connections between Shelton's past, present and future generations through education, maintaining a museum with its collections, and providing a voice in the community regarding matters of historical significance.

The Shelton Historical Society is a vital community resource for all matters related to the history of Shelton. The Society serves as the depository of first choice, the chronicler of Shelton's changing landscape, and as an advocate to inspire curiosity, appreciation and respect for the city's history.

Safeguarding Growth from 15

owners qualify if they are within HUD income limits, have sufficient equity in the property, and City taxes are current.

The program is designed to eliminate housing code violations and unsafe conditions, increase energy efficiency, and improve the appearance of property. Code violations (fire codes, building codes, and unsafe conditions) are attended to first; aesthetics are attended to only if there are remaining funds.

The maximum lending amount is $25,000 per unit. The loaned funds are 0% interest loans and are "deferred" loans, meaning that homeowners are not required to pay back the loan until the following conditions occur: the homeowner no longer lives in the house, the house is sold, the title to the home is transferred, or the homeowner dies. All loans are secured with a mortgage deed, promissory note, and memorandum of agreement. All homes built before 1978 will be tested for lead-based paint. If lead-based paint is found, mitigation will be performed.

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission is an advisory board whose purpose under state statutes is "the development, conservation, supervision and regulation of natural resources." The Commission makes recommendations to the Board of Aldermen regarding open space purchases and use of those lands. The Commission also reviews proposed developments and makes recommendations to the Planning and Zoning and Inland Wetlands departments. There are seven members on the commission who are supported by the city's Natural Resources Manager.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals, acting in its quasi-judicial capacity, holds hearings to hear testimony, collect relevant evidence, and gives a chance for opposing arguments which enables the members to be fairly appraised of the facts on which the applicant is wishing to seek relief in the City of Shelton. If needed, the chairman of this board may administer oaths and compel the attendance of witnesses when deemed necessary. This is governed by Section 8 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The two areas of relief are: (1) grant variances on the City of Shelton Planning and Zoning land and use regulations, (2) to hear appeals on decisions and actions of the City of Shelton Zoning Enforcement Officer, and (3) determine if a location is suitable for motor vehicle operations. The Board holds hearings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at City Hall, at which time the applicant gives testimony as to the reason that they cannot meet the P&Z regulations or allowable use in the zone they reside in, or if they feel that the Zoning Enforcement Officer was in error of the decision that they made.

Shelton Going Green

Security from 23

the SYSB works cooperatively with city personnel, schools, police, youth, parents and other community resources to provide programs that promote positive youth development and strengthen family ties. The SYSB also provides information and referrals for parents and youth in crisis.

Under the umbrella of the SYSB, the Community Alert Program (CAP) maintains and updates resource centers with materials concerning issues of importance to youth and families. CAP is Shelton's local prevention council and sponsors many prevention and awareness programs throughout the year.

In July and August, the SYSB offers free Family Outdoor Movies at the Riverwalk on Canal Street. On Halloween, the SYSB holds its annual Trick or Trunk Night at the Shelton Intermediate School parking lot. The Tween Center programs provide fun and social activities for youth in grades 5-7 throughout the year.

Life skills classes are offered to youth during the school day or after school along with Safe Sitter classes for youth ages 11-15.

The SYSB's Spotlight on Youth program recognizes youth between the ages of 12 and 18 who have "given back" to their school or community through volunteer hours or acts of kindness.

The Youth2Youth Peer Advocates are an energetic group of high school and middle school students who are trained to be peer educators and mentors. The Shelton Youth Service Bureau Family with Service Needs is a community-based program designed to work with the child and family to address behaviors which lead to a Youth Service Bureau referral. The Youth Service Bureau process is intended to assist the child and family to identify strengths and needs and to coordinate with community resources to assure that youth and families are provided with the necessary services and support.

The Juvenile Review Board, a volunteer board, helps to divert first-time offenders under the age of 18 from the juvenile court system.

The SYSB is staffed by a Director and three part-time employees. Also, an Advisory Board oversees the SYSB and is comprised of 22 members appointed by the Mayor.

Medical and Health Services

Echo Hose Ambulance is a not for profit, emergency ambulance provider for the City of Shelton. The organization is made up of approximately 110 Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics that respond to over 5,300 emergency incidents each year. Established in 1949, and originally part of the Shelton Fire Department, the advent of modern emergency medical service established the ambulance corps as an individual entity within the Shelton Public Safety system. As Shelton's needs have evolved, so too has the scope of Echo Hose Ambulance. Originally serving as a Basic Life Support Ambulance provider, the service is now able to provide Advanced Life Support (Paramedic) service to the City of Shelton.

The organization has the ability to staff up to seven Basic and Advanced Life Support Ambulances, two Paramedic Vehicles, and a full deployment of special operations equipment that includes a Rehab Support Vehicle, an All-Terrain Gator for remote area rescues, and four EMS bikes. With the help of over 80 volunteers, additional ambulance coverage can be added.

Echo Hose Ambulance is committed to providing exceptional patient care to all those who are sick and injured and provides many EMS training programs for First Responders and free community classes for residents each year. Community CPR, Bleeding Control, Narcan Administration, Mental Health First Aid, Emergency Preparedness Training and Drug Prevention classes are offered at no cost for residents throughout the year.

Shelton Animal Shelter

The Shelton Animal Shelter provides a friendly and safe environment for lost, displaced and mistreated animals. The Shelter and The Animal Control Staff are responsible for the enforcement of animal related laws and all matters involving dogs, cats and domestic livestock and pets.

The Shelton Animal Shelter facility serves as a model for surrounding communities. The Shelter has 30 indoor kennels, nine outdoor runs for dogs and 20 indoor cages for cats. The shelter also has an in-house grooming room, a cat exercise room and a specific room dedicated to adoptions where people can spend time and interact with animals they are considering.

The Animal Control staff includes a full-time supervisor, a full-time Animal Control officer as well as part time animal control officers, kennel workers and a administrative assistant.

At the time of publication the Shelton Animal Shelter is also entering its sixth year of providing contract Animal Control services to the City of Derby as well.

Infrastructure from 25

Sewer Department/Water Pollution Control Authority

The City of Shelton's Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) is responsible for, including but not limited to, maintaining over 120 miles of sanitary sewer lines, 3,344 sanitary sewer manholes, overseeing of sewer permits, processing of applications, compliance documents, keeping up with DEEP mandates, Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) oversight, sewer inspections, and reporting monthly on the status of operations.

The City's Mayor consistently meets with the WPCA Administrator to ensure that the City's sanitary sewer needs are being met. The Director of Public Works also provides oversight to this important department which is aggressively pursuing sanitary sewer maintenance in the form of manhole frame & covers, easement access, pipe integrity and the difficult task of locating pipe infiltration & inflow (I/I) which creates unnecessary demands on the City's plant.

The WPCA board is comprised of a chairperson and seven commissioners.

Water Pollution Control Plant

The Water Pollution Control Plant was placed online in 1966 as a primary treatment facility on the site of the old coal docks on Riverdale Avenue. It was designed to remove solids from the incoming wastewater through a settling process and chlorine disinfection was applied. It was a great step in cleaning up the Housatonic River.

In 1976 a secondary treatment was added to the process, a biological process to remove even more incoming solids through settling and aeration.

A major upgrade in 2008 introduced the Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) treatment process. This upgrade consisted of four large holding tanks, each capable of treating one million gallons of wastewater a day. These tanks handle all the steps necessary for efficient removal of solids from the wastewater delivering it to the disinfection process of the plant. This process also provides nitrogen removal from the wastewater and helps reduce algae blooms in the discharged effluent. Two state-of-the-art turbo blowers are currently installed for the SBR treatment system.

In 2012 an additional system of control was added to the process. A complex system of ORP, ammonia and nitrate metering were installed. This allows for the monitoring of the different phases of treatment so adjustments can be made. In 2013 additional aeration to the sludge holding tanks provided aerobic conditions to reduce odor and ammonia impact on the plant.

In 2017 the system control and data acquisition (SCADA) analog computer processing system was upgraded to a state-of-the-art digital processor.

In 2018 upgrades to the treatment process began. New flow meters have been installed to better optimize the blower operations allowing for the regulation as to how much air is going to each tank. Three additional high efficiency turbo blowers will be added to the process bringing the total to five. Fine bubble diffusers will be added to all SBRs allowing for a better transfer of oxygen to the treatment process along with the integration of a scum collection system. The SCADA processor will be upgraded as well. Enhancements throughout the plant are also planned.

Plant Statistics

- Plant Capacity: 4,000,000 gallons a day
- S.B.R. 4 tanks, each with a capacity of 1,000,000 gallons per day
- Air Blowers: 1,800 scfm per unit/ 2 available (3 additional on future)
- Chlorination tank: Approximately 250,000 gallons
- Septage holding: 30,000 gallons
- Emergency Generation (Kw): 1,000 V-12 Cummins Generator
- Fuel capacity: 4,000 gallons
- Pumping stations: 5 throughout the city

Monitoring

Twenty-four hour samplers and computerized alarm systems and controls allow the staff to make adjustments to the process operations as well as the five pumping stations.

Public Improvement Building Committee

The Public Improvement Building Committee (PIBC) consists of a cross-functional team with experience in building projects, fire safety, state filings, contract review, project management and operations. They are scheduled to meet every second Monday (during the school year). If necessary, special meetings are held to ensure projects are kept on track. The committee is comprised of nine members which include a Chairman and Vice Chairman. A project manager has been retained to oversee these projects.

Some projects administered by the PIBC have been:

- Elizabeth Shelton and Long Hill Elementary Schools' Roof Replacement Projects (Project Completed 12/09)
- Elementary Schools' Boiler Replacement Project (Project Completed 9/09)
- Shelton High School Chiller (Project Completed 9/13)
- Community Center Coating Project (Completed 9/13)
- Elementary School Surveillance Camera Upgrade (Completed 9/14)
- Elementary School Entrance Fortification and Door Replacement (Completed 9/16)
- Sunnyside Roof Replacement (On track for completion 8/17).

Water Pollution Control Plant (left) and Building Maintenance Garage (right)

Acknowledgements

Shelton Life, the Biennial Report of the City of Shelton, Connecticut, was produced, under the direction of the Office of the Mayor, by the Economic Development Commission of Shelton with the assistance of the Shelton Economic Development Corporation. This publication is the product of a community effort. The Commission acknowledges and thanks everyone for their input and support in this effort.

Special Thanks to All of Those Who Aided in the Production of this Publication

Mayor Mark Lauretti, for his vision and continued dedication to *Shelton Life*.

The Board of Aldermen for their support in moving this report through to completion.

All City Offices for responding to our requests for information and support.

Jane Dowty, Administrative Clerk to the Mayor, and Cyndee Burke, Executive Secretary to the Mayor for their assistance in making this report a reality.

Don Coiro of Q Company Communication of Shelton, for creative development, design, photography, copy writing, graphics and the "Shelton Life" and "Going Green" logos.

A Touch of Color Photography for the photo of the Board of Aldermen.

Lori McKeon and Kathy Yolish for their assistance with copy on the Education, Shelton Schools, and Educational Partnerships sections.

Phoenix Press, Inc. of New Haven for the printing and mailing of this report.

Shelton Economic Development Corporation's Paul Grimmer, for several contributions of important material and thanks to Aleta Miner of the SEDC for her professional assistance in expediting the gathering of facts and figures.

And especially, thanks to the members of the Economic Development Commission for the leadership, development and presentation of this report: Fred Ruggio, Chairman, Doug Dempsey, Kate Marks, Karen McGovern and Pat Carey. Special thanks to our commission's recording secretary, Aleta Miner, who is instrumental in the work of the committee.

We hope you've found this fourteenth edition of *Shelton Life* both informative and useful. As we present our new biennial report, we look forward to producing future editions. We encourage you to become involved in your community and invite you to contribute to future reports. Please send us your comments and suggestions about how to improve future reports to better serve and inform you. Send your comments to:

City of Shelton
Economic Development Commission
c/o City Hall
54 Hill Street
Shelton, Connecticut 06484

Chairman
Economic Development Commission
City of Shelton

City Directory

WEBSITE: cityofshelton.org

EMERGENCY (FIRE/POLICE/EMS) 911
Huntington Fire Company 203 929-1414
Pine Rock Park Fire Company. 203 929-1239
Echo Hose Hook & Ladder Company. 203 924-4241
Echo Hose Ambulance 203 924-9211
White Hills Fire Company 203 929-1749
Shelton Police Department. 203 924-1544

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS
City Hall (Main Number). 203 924-1555
Dial the Department you need:
Mayor's Office. 1504
Purchasing Department 1506
Tax Collector 1501
Tax Assessor. 1500
Finance Department/City Treasurer 1508
City/Town Clerk 1503
Engineering. 1509
Planning and Zoning Commission. 1510
Community Development. 1374
Sewer Department 1511
Inland/Wetlands Commission 1512
Fire Department 1515
Human Resources 1516
Building Department 1517
Economic Development 1387
Fax Number. 203 924-0185
Building Maintenance Supervisor. 203 925-8576
Animal Shelter. 203 924-2501
Highways and Bridges. 203 924-9277
Housing Authority 203 924-2736
Probate Court 203 924-8462
Public Works Director 203 924-9277
Registrar of Voters. 203 924-2533
Shelton Senior Citizens Center. 203 924-9324
Water Pollution Control 203 924-8288
Youth Service Bureau 203 924-7614

SHELTON SCHOOLS
Superintendent of Schools/Board of Education 203 924-1023
Booth Hill School 203 929-5625
Elizabeth Shelton School 203 929-1330
Perry Hill School. 203 924-4002
Long Hill School. 203 929-4077
Mohegan School 203 929-4121
Sunnyside School. 203 922-3021
Intermediate School 203 926-2000
Shelton High School 203 922-3004
Adult Education Office. 203 924-6651

RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Community Center. 203 925-8422

PLUMB MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Main Number 203 924-1580
Children's Department. 203 924-9461
Huntington Branch. 203 926-0111

Schedule of Meetings

BOARD OF ALDERMEN
Full Meeting
2nd Thursday of Month (7:00 pm)

Street Committee
1st Tuesday of Month (6:00 pm)

Public Health and Safety
1st Wednesday of Month (7:00 pm)

Finance Committee
4th Tuesday of Month (6:00 pm)

BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT AND TAXATION
2nd & 4th Thursday of Month (7:00 pm)

BOARD OF EDUCATION
at 382 Long Hill Avenue
4th Wednesday of Month (7:00 pm)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
at SEDC offices
3rd Tuesday of Month (6:00 pm)

INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
2nd Thursday of Month (7:00 pm)

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
at Community Center
3rd Thursday of Month (7:30 pm)

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
2nd Tuesday of Month (7:00 pm)

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES
4th Tuesday of Month (7:00 pm)

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
2nd Wednesday of Month (7:00 pm)

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
3rd Tuesday of Month (7:30 pm)

For additional information on other commissions and boards, please contact the Shelton City/Town Clerk's office at 203 924-1555, extension 1503. Please note that meeting dates are subject to change to accommodate holidays.

Economic Development Commission
c/o City Hall
54 Hill Street
Shelton, Connecticut 06484

Presorted
Standard Mail
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #541
NEW HAVEN, CT

Shelton
Going Green

City of Shelton, Connecticut
54 Hill Street • Shelton, Connecticut • 06484 • Telephone: 203.924.1555 • Fax: 203.924.0185
Website: cityofshelton.org