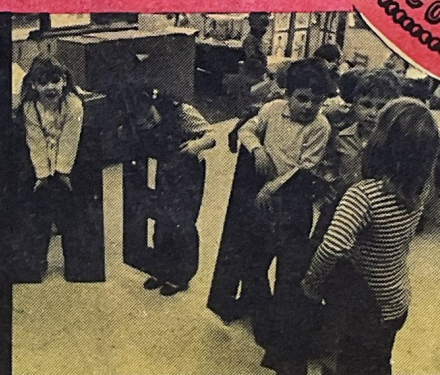
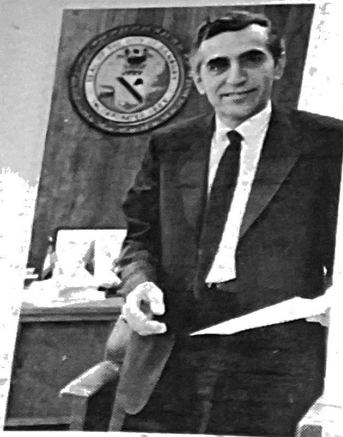


Annual Report-1970 City of Danbury

Supplement to The News-Times, April 9, 1971





Gino J. Arconti
Mayor of Danbury



CITY OF DANBURY

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
DANBURY, CONN. 06810

GINO J. ARCONTI
MAYOR

April 9, 1971

My Fellow Citizens:

The 1970 Annual Report highlights the state of our city; its past activities, its current operations and its future direction. I sincerely hope that all of our citizens will take this opportunity to familiarize themselves with the actions of their government this past fiscal year, so that each will understand the direction we are heading in the future.

Much has been said about the future of urban America, most of it negative. We are fortunate here in our city to have people who care enough about their city to volunteer many thousands of hours toward its betterment.

Our Community is developing according to our long-range plans, with well-balanced residential, industrial and commercial areas. We have made great strides, but as in everything else, much remains to be done.

A Community, like a person, must constantly re-examine its aims, its goals, its past, so that it may renew itself for the future.

We must continue our efforts to make tomorrow's city a better place for all of our people.

Respectfully,

Gino J. Arconti
Gino J. Arconti
Mayor of the City of Danbury



Charles Ducibella
City Clerk



Mary Rickert
Asst. City Clerk



Margaret Ward
Town Clerk



Richard Nahley
Corporation Counsel



Frances Abbott
Civil Service Examiner



Chris Roche
Sec. to the Mayor



William McNamara
City Treasurer



John Edwards
Comptroller



Evo Butera
Tax Assessor



Louis Charles
Tax Collector



Robert Burns
Purchasing Agent



Frank Mastriani
Data Processing Mgr.



Schools stress humanization

In our technologically advancing society, children must be taught more than just their ABCs, and must learn better and faster than ever before.

Schools exist for the future, to prepare children for tomorrow. To provide the opportunity for that preparation and to accommodate more and more children as the population of the city grows, Danbury's schools must continually expand and diversify.

During 1970, when the school-going population reached 10,407, 50 per cent more than ten years ago, the school system did just that, School Supt. Edward Sillari reports.

The construction of a new elementary school, the Pembroke School, was completed and the school was occupied in September 1970.

An addition of a library and gymnasium at Mill Ridge School was completed and plans for more classrooms at Shelter Rock School were initiated.

Construction of another elementary school off Nabby

and Stadley Rough roads was begun. That school is expected to be completed in time for classes in September 1971.

The Osborne Street gymnasium, which was rebuilt to provide a center for system-wide library and audio-visual services, was completed and occupied.

A new junior high school, to relieve the present school of its double session schedule was approved. The building is currently under construction on city-owned property in Rogers Park. It is expected to be ready for occupancy in September 1972.

In order to provide space until current construction is finished, 30 portable classrooms continued in use and an additional 10 were installed at the high school.

Some pupils were transferred between elementary schools in order to take advantage of existing space.

The school system began a diversification program in 1970, concentrating its attention on "humanizing" curriculum and instruction.

The program, designed to individualize instruction,

unify all the school system's resources, and involve the public as much as possible, was conducted in several ways.

Drug abuse, a vital issue today, was given new educational emphasis with parents, teachers and students all participating in workshops.

The Board of Education and the school system staff, spurred by the interest of a parent, began monitoring reading programs more closely in 1970. Increased teacher training efforts, introduction of new materials, changes in the testing program and suggestions by special teachers and principals have been the result.

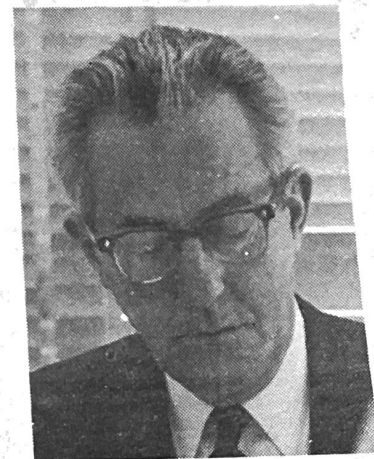
A multi-media program combining books, movies, audio tapes, mockups of objects, sculpture and pictures, in one location, the Osborne Street Center, where the materials are readily available to all schools in the city, was organized last year.

Closed circuit television was also studied and the installation of antenna and distribution systems in all

school buildings was completed.

City schools continued to conduct the Head Start and Follow Through programs, providing individualized instruction to educate a child at his own capacity, rate and speed.

The adult education program, with instruction leading to high school diplomas, included a school bus driver training program which graduated two classes last year.



Edward A. Sillari
School Superintendent



Police recover from bombing

The bombing of the Danbury Police Department headquarters, part of a plot to foil police while a bank was being robbed, made the department's performance of its duties more difficult during 1970.

Chief William Tobin reports the department is now operating from temporary quarters, until a new police building is completed, hopefully by June 1971.

The department functioned from emergency headquarters set up in the Civil Defense section of the basement of the War Memorial building for about a month after the bombings.

Tobin reports that the day of the bombing and for several weeks afterward the department was concerned whether it could supply the vital services the people of Danbury had a right to expect.

But during that month police managed to maintain not only their daily security protection of the city but conducted investigations of the bombings and robbery with other agencies as well.

The cooperation supplied by the Civil Defense agency

left little to be desired and the department was able to move into temporary headquarters in a renovated supermarket in March.

Transferring departmental records, equipment and communications was a time-consuming task during both moves, especially with a major investigation under way, but the department continued to maintain its interest in continuing education and training.

New equipment, essential to the efficiency of the department has been purchased. The department in the past year has acquired five walkie-talkie type transceivers, a video tape recorder, camera and monitor unit and a patrol car.

All these items will be used in either training or enforcement programs.

Every community, regardless of its size, has been seriously affected by the drug problem and Danbury is no exception. The special services department, trained to deal with the problem has been attacking it both before and after it strikes.

Special services members have given prevention lectures on the responsibility of parents, teachers and law enforcement, to many educational, medical and fraternal groups in the city. One member of the department performs in undercover assignments throughout the county. In exchange, other member departments are used for undercover work in Danbury, where the officer would be a stranger to those involved in local drug activities.

The traffic and maintenance division has continued its program of traffic sign replacements and new installations, particularly in the older sections of the city.

Under traffic safety, radar has been used effectively by the department to reduce speeding in many of the city's trouble spots.

Traffic safety talks have been given by a member of the department to the first grades in every elementary school in the city. Tobin reports these talks are effective in establishing

communication between the young children and the police department as a unit.

The Police Athletic League was active in 1970 in sponsoring football and baseball teams, as they have in other years.

The department now consists of 85 men, with another six positions expected to be authorized this year, and eight patrol cars which cover about 43 square miles.



William Tobin
Chief of Police



Firemen maintain B rating

Since the days of the horse-drawn fire wagon, the people of Danbury have been fascinated with the excitement and glamor of fire engines racing to a fire.

The bright red engines, their sirens blaring and lights flashing seem to conjure up romantic images of heroism in the making.

The primal, almost mystical magnetism fire has for spectators, however, often neglects consideration of the heartbreak and personal tragedy for the victim or property owner.

These are the people with whom the fire department is most concerned and for whom the department maintains a go-anywhere-anytime vigil.

Firemen don't think of themselves as heroes. They are fighters and like most fighters, train constantly and relentlessly, preparing for the time when they will be called upon to put their skills to the test.

The department was tested 1,122 times during 1970. It answered 313 calls for fires in buildings, 145 for automobiles, 300 for grass or

rubbish fires, 131 false alarms and 233 for emergencies other than fires.

Working from a modern fire station in the center of the core area of the city, firemen maintained a B rating, awarded by the Underwriters Insurance Company. Of Connecticut's 169 municipalities, only three, Hartford, West Hartford and New Haven, have a higher rating.

To maintain or to improve on such a rating when a department is faced with growth rate of a city like Danbury, re-evaluation and up-dating of services and equipment is a continuing process.

Fire chief Joseph J. Bertalovitz reports that in 1970 a training program headed by a drillmaster was instituted and that his men are constantly undergoing one type of training or another.

The drill master, trained at New Haven fire college, is bringing the benefit of his knowledge to the paid department here, as well as

to the city's twelve volunteer companies.

The State Board of Education is also conducting classes on the college level at the New Street building. Both paid and volunteer firefighters attend and the graduates will provide a pool of well-trained men from which the future officers of the department may be drawn.

From an equipment standpoint, Bertalovitz expects completion this year of a new firehouse in the Commerce Park district. The station is being built by developer Seymour Powers at no cost to the city and will be leased from Powers for one dollar per year for the next 99 years.

Bertalovitz anticipates having two more fire stations, one in the King Street area, the other near Danbury airport, to extend coverage to those rapidly developing areas.

The chief also hopes eventually to have a piece of equipment called a "snorkel", a device similar to the hydraulic bucket-lift

machines in use by power companies.

The Brewster fire department snorkel was enlisted during a second alarm fire on Library Place last fall and was used to deliver water down into the center of the fire.

The apparatus Chief Bertalovitz hopes to buy in the future would cover buildings up to seven stories high, or about 100 feet.

There are several such structures in the city.



Joseph J. Bertalovitz, Jr.
Fire Chief



Public Works: city's handyman

Street maintenance, though it occupies much of the time spent by Public Works personnel, is only part of that department's responsibility.

Superintendent Arthur Tartaglia reports his men care for just about everything the city owns in the way of property.

Besides maintaining more than 200 miles of city streets, the department last year installed 7,000 feet of drain pipe, relocated a stream, removed dead trees and planted new ones, repaired and remodeled school rooms, installed fences and fire alarms and repaired vandalism damage.

Under the bituminous concrete paving program the department plans to resurface all major and secondary streets, 18 of which were done last year.

Tartaglia reports the priority for resurfacing the streets will be dictated by the demands of traffic. The paving will also be used on

streets where road oils are ineffective.

The program is intended as a stop-gap measure on certain streets which will eventually have to be reconstructed.

The department also completed 41 different drainage projects, installing about 7,000 feet of drain pipe and using bituminous concrete instead of new lines on smaller projects.

The stream running through the city refuse disposal area was relocated in 1970 to comply with a state health department directive involving pollution.

A reinforced five-foot concrete culvert was installed as part of that project.

Tartaglia reports the tree department came of age in 1970. The division, while operating with a small staff, was able to keep up its program of removing dead trees and stumps.

planting program was also

accomplished and an expanded planting and pruning operation is foreseen for 1971.

The tree division consists of three full time employees and a tree warden. The division is in the process of bidding for a "workhorse" crane which can be used for swift removal of stumps and tree trunks.

The division's garage at Sleepy Hollow, Tartaglia reports, is well equipped and attractively landscaped and the tree men are welcomed in that neighborhood as "good neighbors."

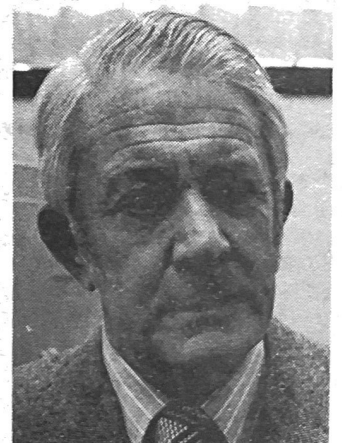
The Public Works department also has the responsibility for school buildings and grounds and besides paving and maintaining school drives and parking lots, has worked on the buildings themselves.

In 1970 fluorescent lights and new toilets were installed at South Street School, as well as chain link fences at three other schools.

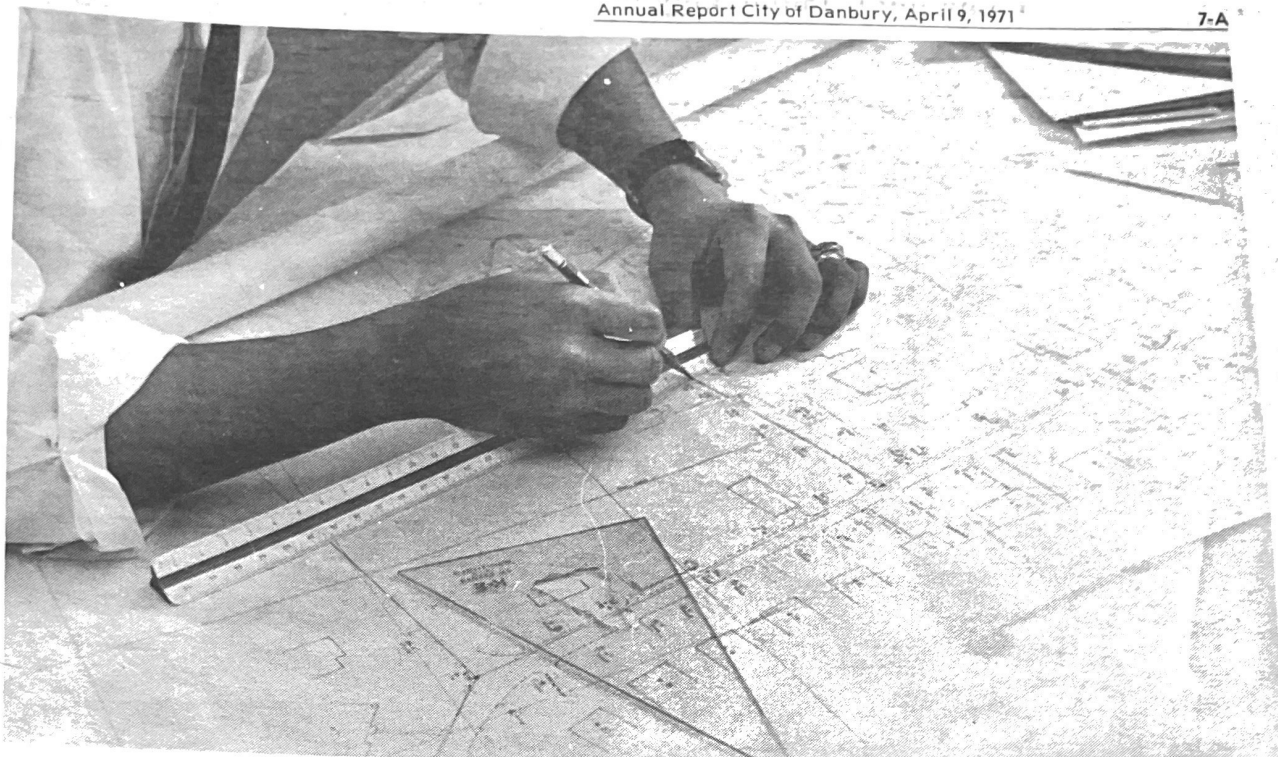
Acts of vandalism have

doubled in the past year and some \$17,000 has been spent to repair resultant damage.

The department's street lighting program is progressing and the city now has a total of 2,092 fluorescent lights in the city's core area were upgraded with the new fixtures and 137 others were added. Tartaglia expects the program to continue without interruption.



Arthur Tartaglia
Director of Public Works



Sewer expansion underway

Engineering, water and sewer departments are essentially unglamorous, but vital and interrelated functions headed by City Engineer, Sid Rapp.

An important major development in 1970 was the awarding of about \$5.5 million in contracts for the expansion and reconstruction of the city's sewage treatment plant.

The expansion of the plant will ease what is now full-capacity and sometimes over-capacity use of the facility.

Construction work is currently under way and is expected to be completed by the end of this year or the beginning of next.

The project is the result of a \$9.1 million bond issue approved by voters in 1969.

Additional trunk line sewers are part of revamping the system.

Sanitary sewers have been installed on parts of Beech,

Birch and Hickory Streets and one has been extended from the Federal Correctional Institution to Pembroke School.

This latter line totals 2,738 feet and will be used in the future to serve homes in the area.

Contracts for major trunk sewers and pumping stations are expected to be awarded this year and some collecting sewers may also be built if funds are available.

The water department, in 1970, embarked on a program to replace old concrete water mains with cast iron pipe.

Projects on Crane Street, Westville Avenue Extension, Beaver Brook Heights and Cottage Street were completed with a total of 7,429 feet of new pipe installed. Another 2,600 feet of concrete pipe was replaced on Sheridan Street.

Rapp reports that within

the next ten years more and more funds will be needed for updating the water system to provide for increased demands for both homes, industries and fire protection.

He said the city has been fortunate the last three years that its reservoirs have been filled in the springtime. He also said every indication is that the reservoirs will be full, or substantially so by this June.

The engineering department continues to provide various services for many of the city departments and agencies, such as surveys, reports, plans and specifications, and supervision of major projects which have been designed by that department.

In the past year, Palmer and Hawley Roads reconstruction was completed under supervision and specifications by the department.

Surveys and plans for future reconstruction of parts of Ridgebury, Lake and Morgan Roads are currently being made, and the department expects to do the planning for new collecting sewers.

Final plans are also being prepared in connection with the roads and Still River within the proposed Beaver Street Housing project.



Sidney A. Rapp
City Engineer

UES . . . 1970



Property Tax Revenues

73.3%



Ordinary Revenues

26.7%

100%

EXPENDITURES . . . 1970



Education and Schools

52.4%



Public Safety

12.3%



Debt Retirement

9.1%



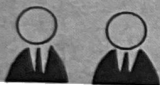
Public Works

8.8%



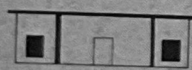
All Other Public Services

6.2%



General Government

3.4%



Capital Improvements

3.3%



Health and Welfare

2.0%



Parks and Recreation

1.4%



Library Services

1.1%

100%

Financial Health Charted

The basic financial books of the City are maintained on a double entry basis and, in general, in a satisfactory manner. Records, other than the basic financial records under the control of the city comptroller and the school department, were reviewed during our examination and found to be properly maintained.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL POSITION:

As of June 30, 1970, the City had a fund balance available for future budget operations in the amount of \$478,895.51, as indicated in the following analysis:

Cash on deposit	\$ 640,867.30
United States Treasury bills	9,859.54
Accounts receivable	893,536.88
Deferred charges	89,088.06
	<hr/>
Less liabilities	1,633,351.78
	<hr/>
Fund balance available for future budget operations	1,154,456.27
	<hr/>
	\$ 478,895.51

The general debt position of the City of Danbury (exclusive of the Water Fund) decreased during the fiscal year in the amount of \$4,919,250, including the appropriation of \$981,250 paid by the General Fund, \$7,000 paid by the Parking Authority and by payment of bond anticipation notes of \$3,930,000. However, new bond anticipation notes for school construction and general and public improvement in the amount of \$2,200,000 and bonds for \$3,910,000 were issued during the year bringing the balance at June 30, 1970 to \$15,516,750. Additional bonds for school construction (\$3,921,250) sewer improvements (\$9,120,000) and general and public improvements (\$104,650), authorized by the electors of the City in prior years, have not been issued.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS:

Appropriations for the year were approved by the Common Council meeting on May 8, 1969 in the total amount of \$15,909,489. A summary follows:

Appropriations:

City Operating Budget:	
General government	\$ 544,623
Public safety	1,952,002
Public works	1,402,348
Conservation of health	192,721
Public welfare	131,118
Libraries	172,682
Recreation and parks	219,705
Miscellaneous	938,488
Airport	47,076
	<hr/>
	5,600,763
School department	8,338,398
	<hr/>
	13,939,161
Debt service	1,446,705
Capital improvements	523,623
	<hr/>
	\$15,909,489

A summary of estimated budget revenues and allocation of fund balance to provide the necessary funds follows:

Source	Amount
Property taxes (\$11,875,538) less allowance for uncollectible taxes	\$11,654,110
Ordinary revenues	3,755,379
Portion of general fund balance	500,000
	<hr/>
	\$15,909,489

At the same Common Council meeting held on May 8, 1969, it was voted to finance the appropriations by setting the following tax rates on the grand list of October 1, 1968:

	Mills
Basic tax district	39.36
Urban tax district No. 1	5.99
Urban tax district No. 2	8.17

A summary of appropriations, expenditures and transfers for the year follows:

Original appropriations	\$15,909,489.00
Additional appropriations	270,807.00
	<hr/>
	16,180,296.00
	<hr/>
Expenditures	15,877,908.71
	<hr/>
	\$ 302,387.29

A summary of revenues — compared with budget estimates follows:

Estimated revenues based on the budget for the year ended June 30, 1970:		\$11,654,110.00
Property taxes (\$11,875,538.00) less allowance for uncollectible taxes		3,755,379.00
Ordinary revenues		<hr/>
		15,409,489.00
Actual revenues:		
Property taxes	\$11,780,695.88	
Ordinary revenues	4,167,506.16	<hr/>
		15,948,202.04
Excess of revenue over budget at June 30, 1970		<hr/>
		\$ 538,713.04

1970-Auditor's Letter and Report

ERNST & ERNST

900 CHAPEL SQUARE

NEW HAVEN, CONN. 06509

The Honorable Gino J. Arconti
Mayor of Danbury
Connecticut

We have examined the financial statements of the City of Danbury for the year ended June 30, 1970 as listed in the table of contents under the caption "Audited Financial Statements". Our examinations were made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and in conformity with the applicable requirements of the State Tax Commissioner concerning municipal audits, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

No provision has been made by the City for the reporting of city-owned land, buildings and equipment in a self-balancing group of accounts; accordingly, financial statements applicable to these assets are not included in this report.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to in the first paragraph above present fairly the financial positions, revenues and expenditures, and changes in fund balances and retained earnings of the respective funds of the City of Danbury at June 30, 1970, and for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

ERNST & ERNST
Certified Public Accountants
by F. G. Fischer, CPA
Partner

Auditor's Comments and Recommendations

The audited financial statements of the respective funds of the City of Danbury and our report thereon are presented in the preceding section of this report. The information presented hereinafter and in the following comments was either derived from the accounting records tested by us as part of the auditing procedures followed in our examination of the aforementioned financial statements or from records reviewed by us under additional procedures required by the State of Connecticut, and in our opinion it is fairly presented in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole; however, it is not necessary for a fair presentation of the financial positions, revenues and expenditures and changes in fund balances and retained earnings of the respective funds of the City.

SCOPE OF EXAMINATION:

Our audit procedures included (but were not limited to) the following:

Cash on deposit in commercial banks was reconciled with the bank statements, and passbooks were inspected for cash on deposit in savings accounts. Bank balances were confirmed by direct correspondence with depositories as of June 30, 1970.

We verified that book balances have been reconciled with bank balances monthly by employees of the City. Bank statements and canceled checks subsequent to June 30, 1970 were examined to verify items in transit and outstanding checks at June 30, 1970. Cash receipts can be traced to definite groups of deposits and were found to be properly and promptly deposited.

Working cash funds were counted during our examination and reconciled with book balances.

As required by the State Tax Commissioner, written requests for confirmation of uncollected property taxes were prepared and mailed by us (as of June 3, 1970) covering at least 10 per cent of the number and amount of delinquent taxes.

Six confirmations were returned to us by the post office, and were remailed to a better address obtained independently of the Tax Collector's office. Seven replies from our requests for confirmation were received and cleared with the tax collector's records.

Disbursements were test-checked to the extent of at least ten per cent of all items, and twenty-five per cent of dollars disbursed by examination of the documents supporting payments such as canceled checks, invoices, approved payroll records, etc. Cash discounts are taken when allowed, with a few minor exceptions.

We found no evidence of loose or improper methods in the handling of cash, except as commented upon under "Recommendations".

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The recommendations which follow are intended to indicate those areas of internal control and procedures which came to our attention either through observation or discussion with city officials, in which improvement of control or efficiency appears appropriate and desirable. Our

recommendations are not intended to be all-inclusive nor to give blanket approval to procedures and controls not specifically commented upon. Those recommendations with an asterisk are similar to those made in the prior year and are repeated because we believe they are still worthy of consideration.

1. During the course of our examination, a considerable number of adjusting journal entries were required (thirty in the General Fund, thirty-eight in the Water Fund and twenty-five in the School Construction and General and Public Improvement Funds). The year-end adjusting journal entries should be initiated by city personnel.

2. The details of amounts withheld from payrolls should be reconciled on a monthly basis to the applicable control accounts maintained in the general ledger.

3. Receipts for special police services, conveyance tax, and welfare reimbursements should be deposited at least weekly to the General Fund. Also transfers between funds should be deposited on a timely basis.

4. The City's annual report should include a list of the certificates of correction of error as required by Section 12-167 of the General Statutes.

5. The City should establish a system of departmental reports of property acquisitions, disposals, transfers, and periodic physical inventories in order to maintain the property records on a current basis.

6. In accordance with Section 12-165

of the General Statutes, the tax collector's name should appear in the rate book next to the items transferred to the suspense tax book.

7. The general ledger for the Water Fund should be maintained on a current basis with all applicable accounts (i.e. materials and supplies, utility plant, etc.) adjusted at least quarterly to properly reflect the current position of the fund. The budget accounts and applicable expenditures should be maintained separately from the general ledger on a memorandum basis.

8. Water Fund inventory stock should be located in one area and grouped by like items. The taking of the inventory should be performed by people familiar with these items, and the count should be compared to the inventory records to ascertain their accuracy.

9. In regard to the School Activity Funds:

a. All cash receipts should be deposited on a timely basis.

b. All disbursements should be supported by itemized invoices or properly approved vouchers.

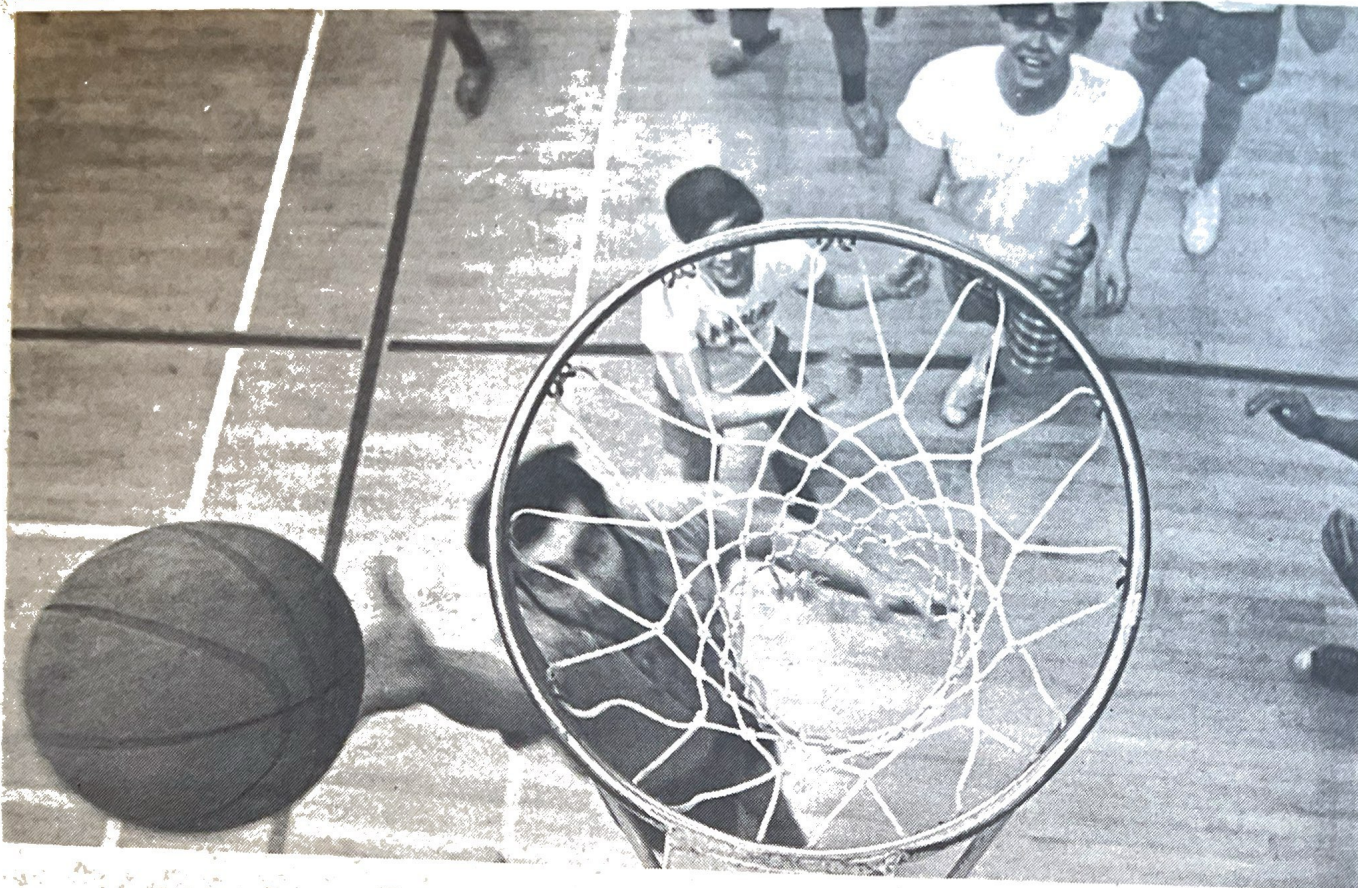
c. A ticket control ledger should be used by the High School Athletic Fund to control tickets issued for various events. The tickets issued should be reconciled to cash receipts either on a weekly basis or by event.

d. A three part receipt form should be used for the High School Activity Fund. The present two part form necessitates the preparation of another receipt form for the student custodian.

A summary of property tax collections, other net credits and uncollected balances for the year ended June 30, 1970 follows:

The ratio of current tax collections to the adjusted property taxes levied for the current list is 97.71%.

Property Taxes	Uncollected Taxes July 1, 1969	Outlawed by Operation of Law	Transfer to Suspense Tax Book	Collections				Uncollected Taxes June 30, 1970
				Taxes	Interest	Liens	Total	
List of October 1:								
1954	\$ 58.12	\$ 58.12						\$ 60.28
1955	65.14	4.86						96.19
1956	281.43	42.45		\$ 142.79	\$ 101.50	\$ 7.75	\$ 252.04	240.51
1957	555.77	47.85	\$ 46.06	221.35	110.43	123.93	455.71	346.41
1958	616.89	47.85	2.23	220.40	166.27	7.75	394.42	627.06
1959	2,016.97	49.45		1,340.46	817.96	11.50	2,169.92	7.48
1959 Special	8.90	1.29		.13	.07		.20	3,599.20
1960	5,828.24	105.57	41.40	2,082.07	1,336.32	34.50	3,452.89	5,618.66
1961	7,653.22	117.05	56.62	1,860.89	710.42	52.75	2,624.06	12,674.48
1962	14,253.69	140.46	34.88	1,403.87	1,079.45	40.25	2,523.57	15,240.45
1963	16,842.07	150.12	106.29	1,345.21	490.21	34.50	1,869.92	
	<u>\$48,180.44</u>	<u>\$765.07</u>	<u>\$287.48</u>	<u>\$8,617.17</u>	<u>\$4,812.63</u>	<u>\$312.93</u>	<u>\$13,742.73</u>	<u>\$38,510.72</u>
				Suspense tax book collections (including interest of \$103.44)			363.84	
							<u>\$14,106.57</u>	



Recreation programs broaden

In an industrial society such as ours, where the emphasis is on production, physical fitness and recreation facilities are as necessary as any other service provided by a city government.

Danbury's recreation program is broad in scope and encompasses a year-round, ever-expanding repertoire of activities. It is run by Parks and Recreation Department director Edward J. Crotty.

Crotty reports last year's program was offered in six general categories: summer playgrounds, tennis courts, Camp Thunderbird, Danbury Candlewood Park, Kenosia Park and winter and spring programs.

The summer playground program was expanded to include the Shelter Rock area, using the elementary school facilities. That program brought the total number for the city to nine.

Shelter Rock had an average daily attendance of 75 bringing the total to over seven hundred for the city.

Swimming lessons were given four days a week for beginners at Balmforth, Locust, Highland Avenues

and Rogers Park pools and tests were conducted upon completion by Red Cross instructors. Forty swimmers passed the beginner's test.

Special events and inter-playdays were held weekly and a field day at Rogers Park concluded the season.

Trips were taken to the Bronx Zoo, Candlewood Theatre and Rye Beach with over one hundred children making each trip.

Crotty reports this coming summer's program will be expanded to include the Pembroke school area.

The four Rogers Park tennis courts were resurfaced and lights installed for night matches, Crotty reports, and the courts were popular with the public. Courts at Danbury High School and Western Connecticut State College were also open to the public.

Camp Thunderbird, the city's day camp for disadvantaged youngsters was reorganized to accommodate twice the number of children.

The previous two four-week periods were changed to four two-week periods to provide service for five

hundred children. The absentee rate at the camp was again high, Crotty reports, but steps are being taken to select campers in such a way that the rate will be reduced.

A registration fee will be charged this summer and will be pro-rated to include youngsters from a little higher economic bracket. No child, he said, will be excluded, however, because of his inability to pay the registration fee.

The summer at Candlewood Park, Crotty reports, was a successful one with attendance much higher than it had been in years past. Recreation revenue was increased considerably with a slight hike in individual and season tickets.

More than 700 free passes were issued to senior citizens.

The Red Cross swimming program was conducted at the park with about 900 people participating.

The new Kenosia Park was opened July 15, 1970 with 250 feet of beach. The beach will be expanded to more than 500 feet this year and will eventually reach

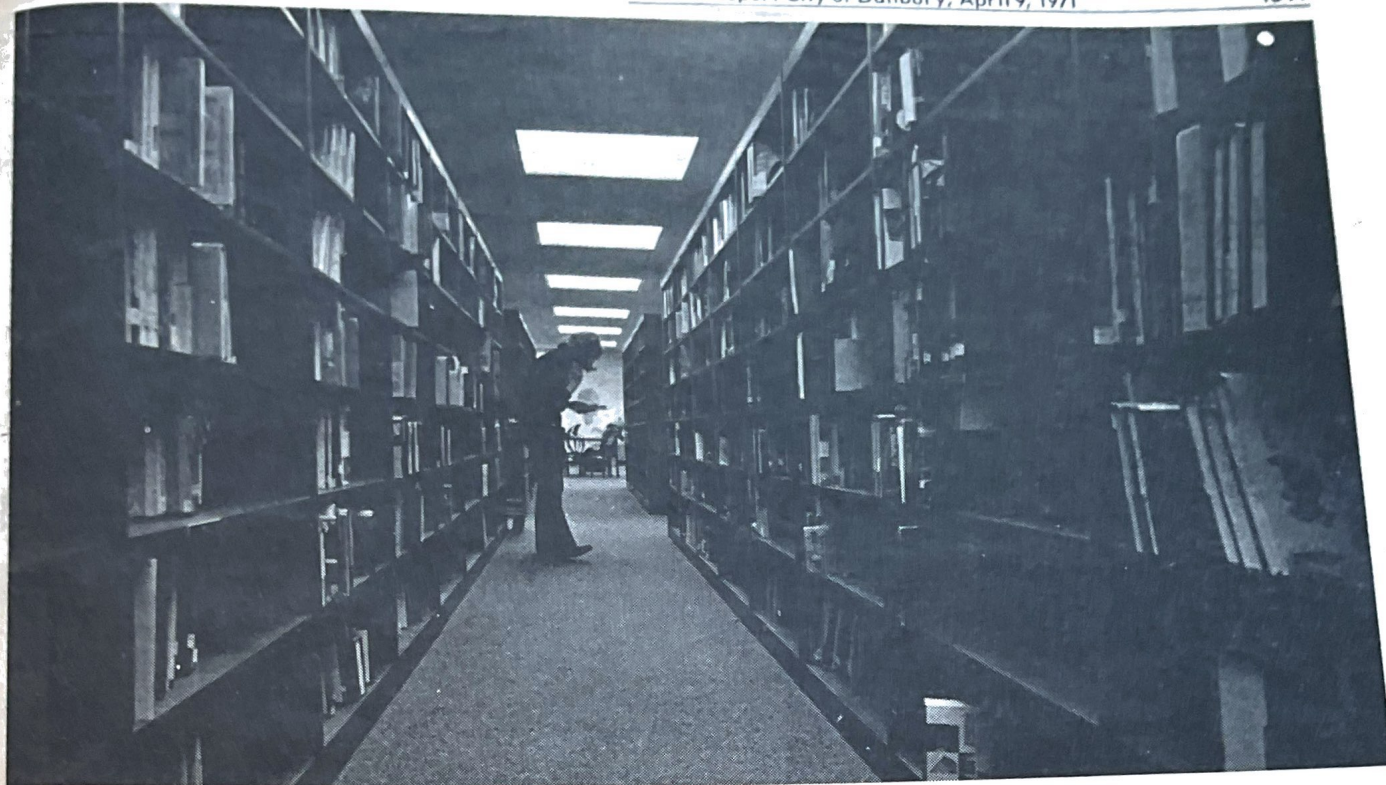
about 700 feet in length.

The elementary school basketball program was expanded to include the new Mill Ridge gymnasium, the Great Plain School and the new Pembroke school. Physical education instructors are assigned to these schools during the week to supervise and to instruct in the Saturday program.

Ten weeks of instruction are followed by a two-week double elimination tournament at the Hayestown School gym.



Edward J. Crotty
Director of Parks and Rec.



Library jumps to 20th century

The Danbury Public Library took a jump into the 20th Century in 1970 with the move from a 100-year-old building into brand new quarters.

The new library is more than just a place to house books. It is expanding into a wide variety of areas and providing related services such as phonograph records, art works, musical scores and films.

Children's department plans include regular picture-book hours for pre-schoolers, story hours, book clubs, regular class visits in cooperation with the public schools and a full range of audiovisual equipment.

With the new building and equipment new procedures have been inaugurated in 1970, chief among them the switch from hand-stamping books to a film checkout system, making it possible for the staff to check out hundreds of books in the time previously required for half as many.

The new system provides for the immediate return of books to the shelves when they are checked in, a process which formerly required hours of staff time daily.

The old library registration files were completely revised and new means and sources for ordering books were established with the move. The library now obtains a significantly higher discount rate on the purchase of books.

New job descriptions were written and new staff members recruited, hired and trained.

The actual move was accomplished by the library staff and interested volunteers in an admirable display of civic pride.

On the day of the move volunteer firemen from all twelve companies, boy scouts, Red Cross workers, post office officials, and many other organizations all contributed something to assist in the move.

Books were slid down chutes into waiting trucks and the transfer was accomplished in one day.

At the end of the fiscal year in 1970 the library's book collection totaled more than 69,000 volumes, a jump of about 9,000 over the previous year, and 15,620 people were registered as borrowers.

The library's plans in the coming years include offering free movie programs for teenagers and adults (a film is currently shown every Saturday afternoon for children), special services for shut-ins and special programs in cooperation with existing community groups. A free-circulating record library is seen in the future, as well. Discussion and lecture rooms also will be available.



Marianne Woolfe
Library Director

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

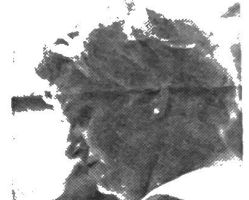
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