

I D E A S
F O R A B E T T E R
C I T Y / 1978

Selected by the Staff of The
Municipal Technical Advisory Service

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Published by:
MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE
of the UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
in cooperation with the
TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

December 1978

\$5.00 per copy



205 White Avenue Building
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee 37916
615/974-5301

F O R E W O R D

MTAS receives virtually all periodicals in the area of municipal government and also obtains many other publications in this field. These contain a "mass of information" (when trying to sift, classify and assimilate, we sometimes wish it were much less!). Materials are routed to staff members for their examination; they mark items that appear noteworthy; and the editor writes the summaries for this publication.

These are not necessarily "new" ideas; the term has a relative meaning. There is little, if anything, in the field that is really unique. What is new to one city may be old to another. Nevertheless, we hope that this "catalog of municipal ideas" will be useful to the officials of cities in Tennessee and elsewhere.

Additional copies are available, free upon request, to Tennessee municipal officials, and at \$5.00 each to others.

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Improved Environment



....WOULDN'T THIS BE NICE?

ELECTRICITY FROM BURNING WOOD . . . is not a smoke dream in Burlington,

VT. Using waste wood chips from state tree-harvesting projects, the city has produced the equivalent of 10 per cent of its residents' electric needs in a pilot project. Plans now call for construction of what is believed to be the nation's largest wood-burning electric generator. For the test period, the city mustered local forces to convert an old coal burner to take wood. Burning 150 tons of wood a day at \$13.50 a ton, the plant produced up to 5 million watts. The proposed 50-million-watt generator will run on wood chips and solid waste. Targeted for operation in 1982, the plant will use 1,500 tons of wood daily. Negotiations are underway with private loggers to collect waste wood and set up central shipping plants to feed the generator. (The Wall Street Journal, Nov. 15, 1977)

ELECTRIC ENERGY CONSERVATION . . . has real meaning for Chattanooga, TN, residents because of a change in their electric bill. Monthly bills now list present kilowatt-hour usage as compared to the same month the previous year. In introducing the new billing method, a large newspaper urged users to learn how to read their electric meters and keep a record of usage. (MTAS)

AN ENERGY AUDIT . . . of City Hall in Little Rock, AR, has already resulted in significant energy conservation and reduced expenses. Needed modifications revealed by the audit included the application of reflective film on windows, the exchange of room lighting fixtures, reflective paints for the roof, and changes in the operation of the heating and cooling system. The audit allowed the city to determine, in advance, if benefits would outweigh expense. (Public Management, November 1977)

BLOCK PARTIES . . . spearheaded by the League of Women Voters chapter Northfield, MN, provide information to people about residential energy management and home energy audits. (Minnesota Cities, January 1978)

AN ENERGY FAIR . . . in St. Cloud, MN, included displays of energy conservation products and workshops on insulation, ventilation, weatherstripping and caulking, woodburning, etc. (Minnesota Cities, January 1978)

A TWO-PRONG ATTACK . . . on graffiti has been launched by a citizens' group in Philadelphia. A flier suggests ways of discouraging graffiti-writers. If the tips fail, the sheet also describes how to remove the painted scrawl. Since graffiti is often an effort by youngsters to express themselves, suggested alternatives include message boards and art walls, and allowing children to paint curbs and hop scotch grids on play streets. (National Civic Review, December 1977)

"DANDY UP" DUMPSTERS . . . for beauty's sake. In a St. Petersburg, FL, trailer park an artist drew comical pictures on trash dumpsters. The designs were then painted by the park manager. (Solid Waste Management, September 1977)

A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHARGE . . . can result from parking at certain meters in Sidney, Australia. The meters have power outlets for recharging batteries of electric cars. Motorists plug in their cars to a 240-volt socket on the meter, insert 20 cents, and their batteries are recharged while they attend to business. The plug-in meter was designed to encourage the use of electric cars by overcoming a major

obstacle: their limited range. (MTAS)

A BUMPER STICKER PLEDGE . . . by residents not to drive their cars one day a week is helping Edgewater, CO, cut down on air pollution and save energy. The city distributed bumper stickers reading: "I never drive on MONDAY," "I never drive on TUESDAY," etc. The idea: It's downright embarrassing to be caught driving on Wednesday when your bumper carries the sticker, "I never drive on WEDNESDAY"!

(Colorado Municipalities, March/April 1978)

FREE PAINT TO RESIDENTS . . . along the main street is part of Asbury Park, NJ, cleanup efforts. Commercial building owners also can take advantage of substantial discounts when purchasing paint. In advance of the campaign, letters are sent to residential property owners notifying them that the Department of Community Affairs will provide free paint for house exteriors, concrete for sidewalk and curb repairs, and city labor for other exterior repairs. (New Jersey Municipalities, May 1978)

MODERNIZING OLD BUILDING EXTERIORS . . . can cut heat loss by as much as 60 per cent, a project in Cleveland has demonstrated. Designers devised a facade replacement system that combines energy efficiency, light weight, and quick assembly. Weight is particularly important since drawings detailing load-bearing capabilities of foundations often are not available for old structures. The custom-designed curtain walls system consists of light-weight steel panels faced with gypsum lath and insulation and finished outside with synthetic plaster. (Engineering News Record, June 8, 1978)

Finance and Taxation



BUY-IN WATER FEES . . . for new industrial and residential developments in San Diego, CA, help pay part of the cost of expanding the city's water system. The minimum charge is \$290 for each 500 gallons to be used by a residential unit or business. About \$2 million is raised annually. (MTAS)

BENT ROADWAY GUARDRAILS . . . are being salvaged in New York City through use of a rail straightener machine. The equipment can fix a 12 1/2 - foot section of rail for about 50 cents, at a rate of 15 sections per minute. Previously the city sold bent rails as scrap for less than a dollar per section. (The American City & County, October 1977)

NEW INVESTMENT TECHNIQUES . . . are expected to earn Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County, TN, more than \$1.5 million while helping to offset the need for a tax increase. The finance department is lengthening the life of its investments to draw higher interest rates. Instead of keeping funds in 30-90 day certificates of deposit, the department is extending these to one year, which means an increase of as much as 1 per cent in interest rates. In addition, more money is being placed in federal treasury notes which pay higher interest since they can be invested for as long as four years. (The Nashville Banner, Nov. 2, 1977)

A PORTABLE BRANCH LIBRARY . . . gives Derbyshire County, England, the advantages of the traditional bookmobile and saves the expense of constructing a new branch library. For \$19,700 the county purchased and fitted a 40-foot trailer that will carry 5,000 books. It has a separate reception area, kitchen facilities and lavatory for the staff, as well as carpeting, and a well-lighted, spacious environment.

For protection at night and in transit, standard metal shutters close over the doors to make the unit virtually vandal-proof. The trailer requires only minimum maintenance and has a projected useful life of 20 years. If is left in place in various neighborhoods for periods of one to three days, then moved by a private hauling contractor.

(ICMA Nuts & Bolts, Dec. 5, 1977)

SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS . . . are being helped by the Rockwood, TN, Electric Utility Board through modification of its billing procedures. Recognizing that Social Security checks are received on one certain day each month but that electric bills come due at different times, the power board allows "some extra time" for elderly persons facing the problem of having to pay the 10 per cent late charge because they have not yet received their checks. (MTAS)

WINDOW DISPLAYS PUBLICIZE VANDALISM COSTS . . . in Sioux City, IA. A sign in the middle of the City Hall exhibit explains that this is "a piece of the city's \$5,000 rock." The sign goes on to state that "vandals placed this material in an 18-inch sanitary interceptor sewer which was discovered April 28. It took until May 10 to remove this material which was maliciously thrown into a manhole and carried downstream. Aside from the devastating damage that could have occurred to basements from this critical sewer backing up, thousands of dollars were spent to remove this material." The city urges residents to help eliminate such expense by dialing ARREST to report any vandalism they witness. (APWA Reporter, September 1977)

COOPERATIVE BUYING . . . can save money for small towns. Two years ago the cities of Clio and Flushing, MI, bid street sweepers together with the result that each saved approximately \$1,500 per unit compared with separate bid prices. The process was repeated on dump trucks with a saving of \$500 per truck. (The American City & County, December 1977)

USED COMPACT CARS . . . work just as well as new, full-sized vehicles for administrative staff use, Milwaukie, OR, has found. The city shops for the best low mileage cars available, using an informal bidding process. Potential acquisitions are checked out by city mechanics before purchase. Among other advantages, the city no longer absorbs the cost of depreciation on new cars (often 50 per cent in the first two years). Both the city manager and department heads drive used sub-compacts at substantial savings in operating costs. (ICMA Nuts & Bolts, March 27, 1978)

AUTOMATED FUELING CONTROL . . . is now possible through use of a key-activated dispensing system. Among the advantages of the system, available commercially, are 24-hour unattended service with absolute assurance of an accurate recording of every gallon dispensed; keys which cannot be reproduced; and adaptability to existing fuel pumps. Each key is registered and has its own counter, providing maximum security and reducing clerical time. (MTAS)

SHARED FINANCIAL SERVICES . . . of all sorts, from equipment to personnel, can cut the cost of local government. For example, a single city might have difficulty competing with private industry for the services

of a well-qualified finance director, but a group of municipalities might attract such an expert. Because they share people, they also can standardize accounting and other financial record-keeping systems and begin to share the cost of outside financial advisors, auditing firms, and legal counsel. Cost-saving methods employed by one municipality can be adapted readily to another's operations. The cost can either be split for purchasing or leasing equipment or one municipality can buy the equipment and lease it to the others.

(Minnesota Cities, April 1978)

A CITY HALL "SWAP MEET" . . . served a double purpose in Placentia, CA:

Departments got rid of supplies they didn't need and the city avoided buying materials already on hand. In the unusual approach to city hall house cleaning, each department was asked to sort through office supply cabinets and collect items they no longer needed. Supplies from all departments were assembled in a central area where each unit could pick up the items it wanted. The "swap meet" went over so well it is planned as an annual event. (ICMA Nuts & Bolts, April 24, 1978)

A "RETAIL-STEADING" PROGRAM . . . for public property in Jersey City, NJ, is helping revitalize a once-thriving shopping area that was deteriorating. Persons who will open a business are being sold public-held property for as little as one dollar. To qualify, merchants must have had some successful prior business experience, 10 per cent personal equity to invest in the business, be willing to rehabilitate the commercial space to code standards, and agree to retain ownership for at least five years. In conjunction with the

program, the city is renovating some facades and providing technical and management advice to business people. (New Jersey Municipalities, April 1978)

THIRTEEN IS A LUCKY NUMBER . . . for that many small communities in Michigan. They have agreed to share grants, personnel, and equipment in an effort to attain five major objectives during the next two years: Planning and developing a multi-community solid waste disposal system; developing a system for shared use of expensive public works equipment and personnel; mapping a special truck route to reduce the adverse effect of heavy traffic on local streets; creating a personnel management improvement program; and developing a recreation and cultural arts program to coordinate existing activities among communities. Each local unit retains its right to opt into or out of the various federal funding proposals. (Michigan Municipal Review, June 1978)

A "CAPITAL REWARD" PROGRAM . . . is spurring industrial development in Almond, WI. Under the program, rewards are given for information or tips resulting in the establishment of a new industry initially employing 25 or more people. (The Wisconsin Municipality, June 1978)

LEASING CUTS CAR COSTS . . . for Toledo, OH. Selected employees who need 24-hour access to a vehicle are given a choice between a city-owned car and an allowance to use their own or lease a vehicle. The new system saved the city \$3,000 the first year and is expected to result in a savings of approximately \$45,000 over five years. It also frees additional maintenance capacity and puts the responsibility for energy conservation on the driver. (ICMA Newsletter, Sept. 11, 1978)

Health, Safety and Welfare



WHITE PAINTED ALLEYS . . . are helping prevent crime in Fort Madison, IA.

The lower six feet of all downtown buildings along alleyways have been painted with white semi-gloss paint. The materials and equipment were donated by local businesses. Downtown burglaries have not been eliminated, but police report that the paint definitely keeps people out of alleys. (The American City & County, October 1977)

BETTER EMERGENCY SCENE LIGHTING . . . has been obtained in Crestwood, MO, by equipping the roof of the rescue truck with a 240,000 candle power light. The light can be elevated hydraulically from within the cab, using a scissorbar frame, and can be rotated in any direction. Installation was done by emergency medical technicians between calls, so the city's only direct cost was \$1,100 for materials. A generator, usually carried by emergency vehicles, powers the unit. (ICMA Nuts & Bolts, Nov. 7, 1977)

TRAINING IN CPR . . . is required of all city employees in Hamilton Township, NJ. The cardio-pulmonary resuscitation techniques are taught by a Red Cross team to all the township's nearly 500 employees, including the mayor and council members. (New Jersey Municipalities, December 1977)

NO-CHARGE INSTALLATION . . . of early warning smoke detectors is being offered disabled, handicapped, and senior citizens in Montclair, CA. The city is using about \$30,000 of community development block grant funds for the project, which also includes furnishing fire escape ladders in two-story buildings, wheelchair ramps, and fire escape hatches in single-exit mobile homes. To be eligible, applicants must be resident homeowners, at least 60 years old or handicapped, and

meet certain maximum family income guidelines. (ICMA Nuts & Bolts, April 24, 1978)

WOOD AND COAL BURNING HEATERS . . . must be issued installation permits in Wittenberg, WI. (The Wisconsin Municipality, April 1978)

A NEW KIND OF ANIMAL SHELTER . . . in Fairfax County, VA, includes a classroom, with modern visual aid equipment. It is used extensively for humane education classes, dog training courses, and as a meeting room for humane organizations and other groups concerned about animals. Animals wardens and caretakers also receive training in the special room. (Virginia Town & City, May 1978)

HEALTH INFO BAGS . . . secured to the inside of residents' refrigerators in Roselle, NJ, save valuable time during emergency house calls. Under the unique program, residents are provided medical information forms on which they record their name, date of birth, identifying marks, doctor's name and phone number, and special medical data such as allergies, diabetes or coronary care. The completed forms are placed in a plastic storage bag and put in the refrigerator where they are readily accessible and fire proof. The Vital Information Program was developed to decrease time lost, during an emergency call, trying to determine such things as whether a patient is allergic to any type of medication. (New Jersey Municipalities, June 1978)

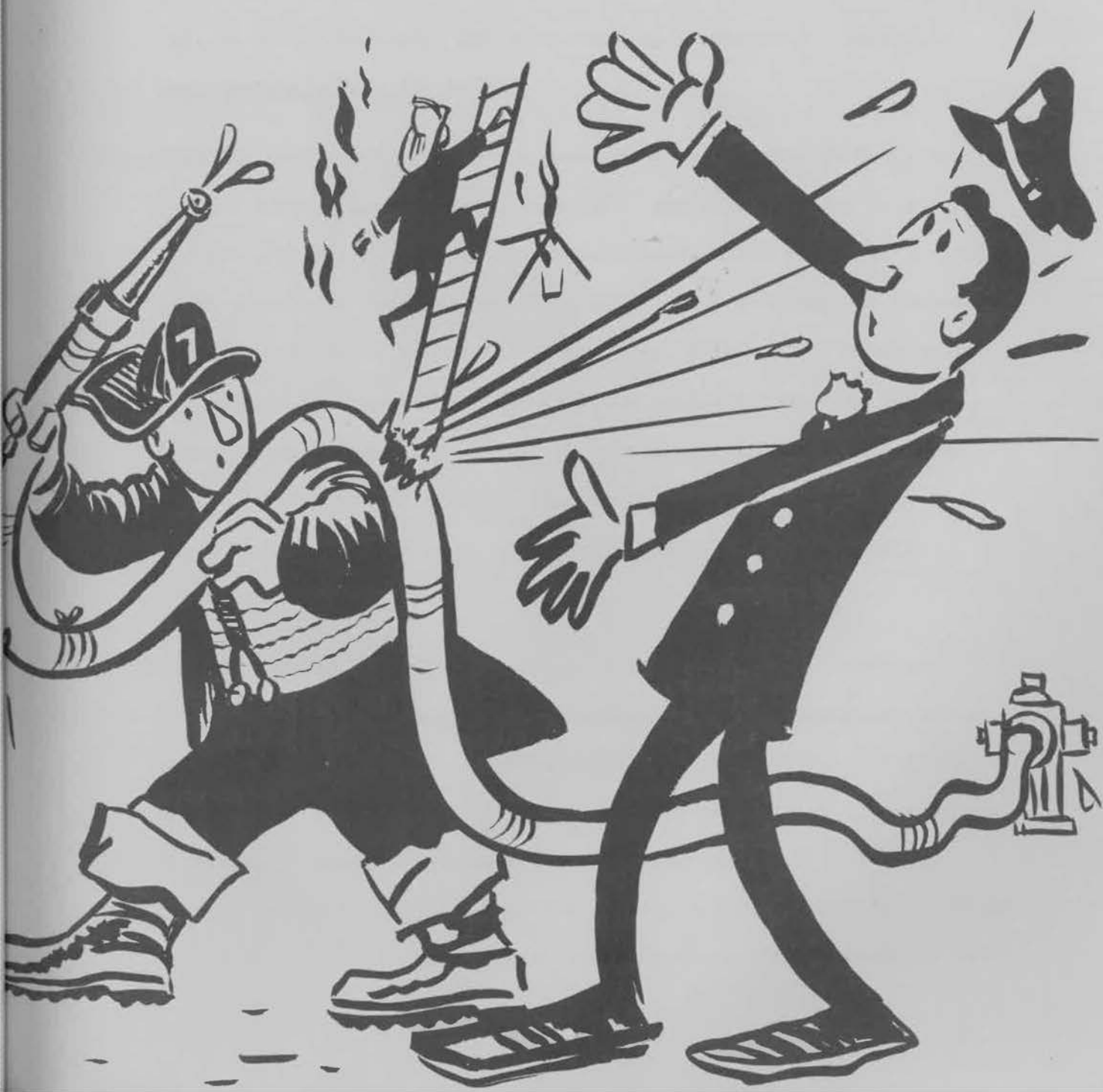
Housing



LIVABILITY ALTERATIONS . . . are permitted at existing homes in Columbia Heights, MN. An ordinance allows owners of older homes to make improvements that otherwise would be forbidden under the city's zoning and building codes. Regulations limit house expansion to 10 per cent of the existing perimeter. (Minnesota Cities, December 1977)

THE EMPHASIS IS ON OLD . . . in Holyoke, MA, a city which has found a way to take care of its elderly citizens. An autonomous agency, called the Geriatrics Authority, has been established with authority to float its own bonds and build its own nursing homes, clinics, and apartments. The centerpiece of its program is an 18-acre "geriatric village" which includes a new nursing home and another refurbished one. A clinic teaches disabled older people how to take care of themselves at home. Soon construction will start on apartments for the elderly. Downtown, about 30 older people get meals, baths, and companionship at the authority's adult daycare center. The goal of the project is to keep people out of nursing homes and on their own as long as they are physically and mentally able. (The Nashville Tennessean, May 14, 1978)

Police and Fire



CB OPERATORS . . . are a valuable extension of the Police Department in Fort Worth, TX. In the little over a year since the CBers became additional eyes and ears for police, five robberies have been halted in progress, innumerable highway problems have been acted upon more quickly, and traffic in general is moving more smoothly. The control center for the 24-hour monitoring service is operated by volunteers who receive 20 hours of classroom instruction and 10 hours in a police car, learning procedures and understanding guidelines. (Knoxville News-Sentinel, Nov. 20, 1977)

NEIGHBORHOOD "COOKIE MEETINGS" . . . provide an opportunity in Santa Ana, CA, for police and citizen interaction. Specially trained police service officers gather informally with individuals or groups in homes throughout the community to discuss crime problems and encourage private citizens to help solve them. These meetings, at which coffee and cookies are usually served, give the police a chance to tell citizens what's happening within the department and in other areas of the city. On-duty officers also stop in so residents can meet the police who patrol their areas. (The American City & County, November 1977)

A HAND-ME-UP PROCESS . . . for supplying staff cars for city departments is used in Mount Lebanon, PA. New police sedans are assigned to city departments before becoming patrol vehicles. They are used for six months or 6,000 miles. After that, the cars are rotated to the police department. Among the reasons the city made the switch: factory defects can be spotted and repaired without losing the car for critical police service; the car receives better break-in than is possible under

24-hour-a-day police use; and city departments have comfortable, dependable, and less-expensive-to-operate vehicles. City officials estimate that the new policy, plus some special options, have increased the salvage value of the cars from \$800 to \$2,000 per vehicle. (ICMA Nuts & Bolts, Feb. 27, 1978)

SPEED-MOVEMENT MONITORS . . . installed in the trunks of new police patrol cars are improving efficiency and decreasing police traffic accidents in Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County, TN. The devices, called tachographs, have improved the way officers patrol the streets and made them drive more carefully, police officials believe. The department is getting fewer complaints about cars being parked instead of patrolling, and reckless driving has been drastically reduced. (The Nashville Banner, Feb. 14, 1978)

COLOR CODING BUILDINGS . . . helps Daytona Beach, FL, firefighters deal with specific hazards even when they are in "foreign territory." The project, devised to provide vital information and fire ground plans for both old-timers and newcomers in a fire company, grew out of the manpower crunch that has forced many fire departments to shift firefighters from station to station to balance needs. Using building plans, color-coded zones are established so that smoke tower doors, siamese connections, and fire hydrants correspond to the pre-fire plan for each zone. By referring to the zones, the fire department can direct companies to the exact location of the fire. Specific action plans are designed for the first and second arriving companies. Additional in-coming companies receive orders from officers by walkie-talkies. A converted van serves as the mobile command post, carrying

a full set of pre-fire plans used to track fire progress and maintain records of interior conditions. (Fire Command, June 1978)

MAINTENANCE REPORTING PROCEDURES . . . have been streamlined under a new system installed by the Kansas City, MO, Fire Department. Reports of inoperable or deficient firefighting equipment are made directly to one of seven battalion chiefs within 30 minutes after equipment operators report for each shift. The chiefs in turn call in a complete list to the garage superintendent's office. Previously, inspections were performed only on the third shift and any equipment operator on any shift could report a problem to any fire department official or shop employee. This permitted repeats in reporting and a lag between reports and actual servicing. The revised daily apparatus and inspection program also eliminates all paper work except a single, three-part form completed by garage personnel, and trims at least two days from the normal servicing time. (Missouri Municipal Review, July 1978)

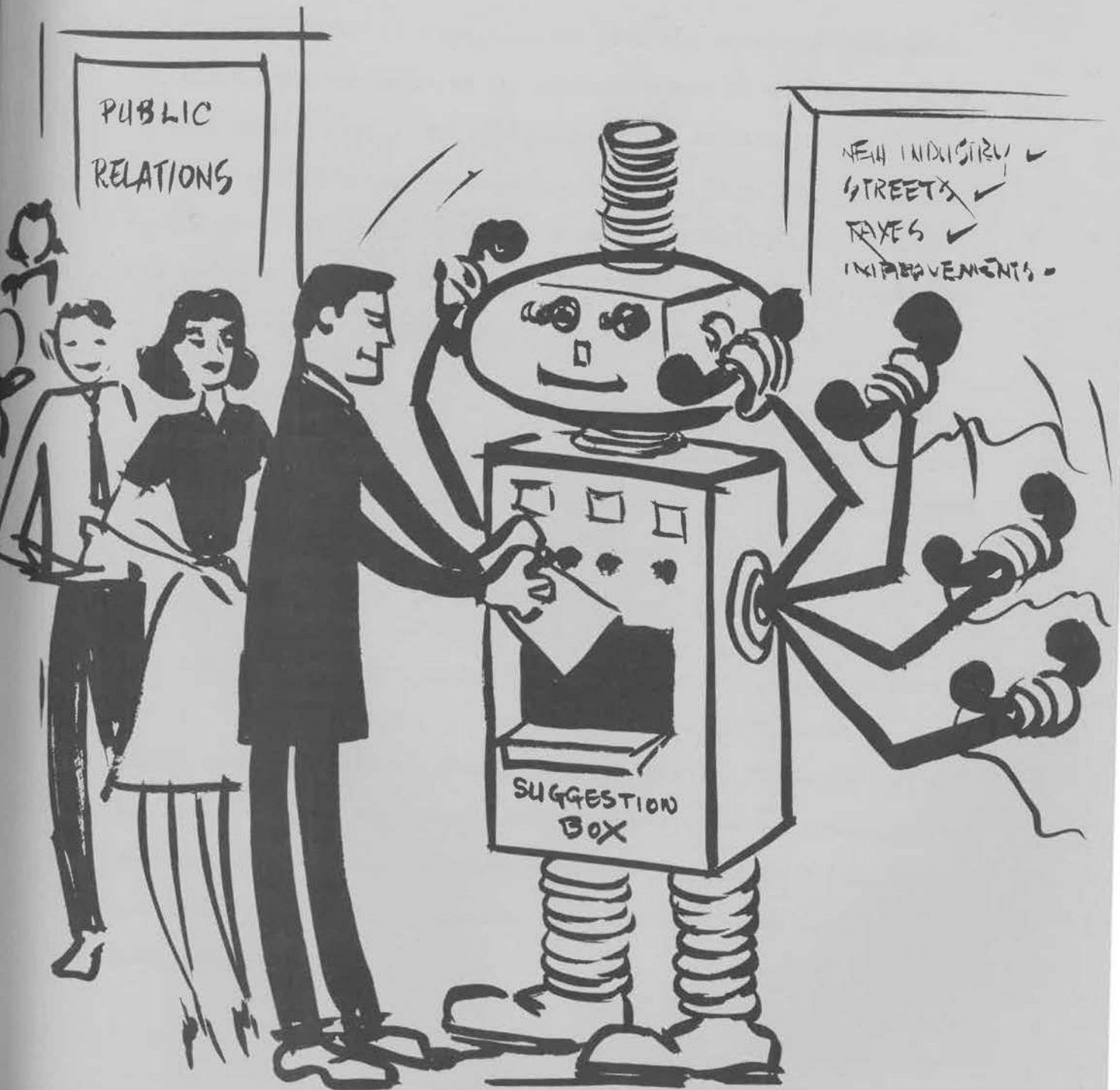
A MOTEL-TURNED-FIRE STATION . . . is working fine in Hattiesburg, MS.

An unused motel was converted into a modern fire station at a cost of approximately \$100,000. (Mississippi Municipalities, April 1978)

MALFUNCTIONING FIRE ALARMS . . . in two Wisconsin cities cost businesses and industries money. In Brown Deer, a service charge is billed to any firm whose mechanical police or fire alarm system causes more than three false alarms during a calendar year. Wauwatose charges \$20 for the first false alarm due to negligence or improper maintenance, and up to \$100 for each additional one. (Wisconsin Municipalities, April 1978)

HOUSE-CHECK FORMS . . . give returning vacationers in Edmond, OK, a complete report of how many times the residence was visited by the police department. The house check request form is divided into two parts. The first half lists the owner's name, address, date leaving and returning, vehicles left at the premises, persons authorized to be in the house, and other information needed by the police. The second half of the form provides space for the officers to indicate dates and times the house was checked, the condition of the house, and which officer made each check. This is the section sent to the owner upon his or her return. (Oklahoma Cities and Towns, Aug. 18, 1978)

Public Relations



A WEEKLY MAYOR'S REPORT . . . for local news media in Auburn, AL, is put together by a journalism student serving as the summer intern in city government. To gather information for the weekly column the student uses a one-page form for each department head to list events, awards, retirements, and other developments (Alabama Municipal Journal, May 1977)

FLOOD-PRONE COMMUNITIES . . . could profit from the example of Alexandria, VA, which makes available to its citizens a booklet on "What to Do If a Flood Should Occur." The publication gives detailed instructions and sources for further information on what to do at the beginning and during the flood, and on such topics as reentering buildings, water and food use, clothing and textile care, money matters, and replacement of lost documents. (ICMA Nuts and Bolts, Sept. 12, 1977)

A HIGH SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM . . . on local government in Kettering, OH, gave 30 junior and senior high school teachers valuable information in the operation of the city. During the two-week program the teachers heard presentations from the mayor, the city manager and other key officials. (ICMA Newsletter, Sept. 26, 1977)

STUDENT TOURS . . . introduce public school youngsters to local government through a series of visits to various facilities in Mecklenburg County, NC. Each agency assumes the responsibility for explaining its functions, with the tour groups going inside offices for presentations. The schools provide bus transportation. A "tour package," including 10 sites from which a classroom teacher can choose, is available. (County News, July 11, 1977)

CITY HALL WENT PUBLIC . . . in Rocky Mount, NC, as part of a "meet city hall" program at a shopping mall. The three-day program, designed as a means of taking city government out of City Hall and to the public, involved booths for the city's nine departments, along with an additional booth representing the administrative and council offices. Each department was responsible for its own booth and staff members were on hand to answer questions and take work requests from citizens. Goals included educating the public on many of the less obvious functions of city government, letting the public get to know some of the people who work for the city below the department head level, and allowing staff people, who don't normally deal with the public, the opportunity to do so. (Southern City, September 1977)

NEW OR RELOCATING BUSINESSES . . . get help in understanding the complexity of various governmental regulations in Troy, OH. The city, in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce, prepared an "information check list" which is distributed to all local area attorneys, realtors and lending institutions. In addition, the newspaper published the list as a public service announcement. The check list tells businesses whom to contact about city permits or if they have questions concerning local, state or federal taxes as well as workman's and employment compensation. (Ohio Cities & Villages, November 1977)

CITIZENS ATTENDING COUNCIL MEETINGS . . . and all new residents in Matawan, NJ, receive a brochure explaining the organization of the council; the roles of the mayor, manager, clerk, and attorney; and the different types of council action. It also tells those attending the meeting how to participate in council discussions. (New Jersey Municipalities, December 1977)

MEET YOUR CITY . . . programs could be adapted from a project now being conducted by the Toledo, OH, Blade, in cooperation with the University of Toledo's Continuing Education Division. During the 10-week course, those attending are able to meet personally with editors of the Blade, listen to them explain how the newspaper operates and is put together, and question them about policies and practices. A similar series for cities could include top administrative officials, commenting on city services, finances, and policies. Tours of certain facilities also could be planned. (MTAS)

TAKING TO THE AIR . . . allows Takoma Park, MD, an opportunity to highlight various city services. The city hosts a 15-minute biweekly radio talk show on a local radio station. Topics include code enforcement, crime prevention, public works, and community development programs. Each of the shows, sponsored by Takoma Park, introduces a "city face"--an employee who discusses his or her departmental services. Local residents may submit questions, and those of general interest are discussed on the program. (Municipal Maryland, February 1978)

A BUSINESS NEWSLETTER . . . published by the city government of Rocky Hill, CT, keeps the business community advised of actions and proposed actions that might affect them. The first issue also included a one-page directory of where/whom to call for information on a variety of topics primarily of interest to commercial and industrial managers. The newsletter is issued quarterly. (ICMA Nuts & Bolts, May 22, 1978)

Public Works



RAMPS FOR THE HANDICAPPED . . . are being constructed in the central business district of Placerville, CA, at no cost to the taxpayer except for labor. The project is being funded by the city's service clubs and community organizations. Each group contributed \$100 to provide approximately \$600 for materials and cement finishing services necessary to complete construction of the ramps. The city is embedding a marker in the concrete of each ramp with the name of the organization which made it possible. (Public Management, July 1977)

INVOLVING MINORITY BUSINESS PEOPLE . . . in public works projects is the object of a campaign in Bayonne, NJ. Rather than rely on the usual bidding notices to contractors, the engineering department holds pre-bidding conferences with interested contractors. (New Jersey Municipalities, November 1977)

A BELL BRINGS ACCESS . . . for handicapped persons to public buildings in Oxford, England. In an unusual solution to the problem of what to do when an entrance cannot be modified, for practical or esthetic purposes, to provide access for handicapped citizens, the city has placed above a bell a sign directing persons in wheelchairs to ring for assistance. City employees respond promptly to carry the chair up or down steps or otherwise help the handicapped visitor. An extension of this approach is used in downtown Oxford where directional signs indicate the most convenient route, for the wheelchair-bound, to public facilities, shops, and libraries. (Public Management, December 1977)

LOWER BUILDING LABOR COSTS . . . have resulted in Dallas from the use of a system based on prefabricated brick panels which double as form work.

Designed by a structural engineer and a masonry contractor in Dallas, the masonry bearing walls system has at its heart the panels built in a nearby plant. The panels form lintels, with finished inner and outer walls above openings. Once they are in place atop false work, joined together by high-bond mortar, grout is pumped in to make a solid beam. (Engineering News Record, Oct. 13, 1977)

YOU CAN DOUBLE MARKING PRODUCTION . . . by modifying your road striper.

Las Vegas, NV, had been striping curbs and parking areas by hand or with an applicator that operated only on the left side of the truck. To obtain greater maneuverability as well as right-side application capability, a three-wheeled scooter with a pickup-type truck bed was modified by the installation of a motor-driven compressor and small receiving tank. On the back a 10-gallon paint tank was mounted with a paint gun fixed to the side of the bed, leaving enough room for two five-gallon cans of paint. Using this machine, one man can load up in the morning, drive to the section of the city scheduled for painting, cover a total of 7,500 feet of curb and return to the yard and clean up in less than eight hours. This is more than twice the painting rate previously reported. (Rural and Urban Roads, September 1977)

INFORMED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION . . . in proposed public works projects can result in design plans which are an improvement over the original proposal. In St. Paul, MN, a street improvement plan presented by the public works staff was found unacceptable to the community at a well attended public meeting. To work out differences, a task force of six people, representing both business and residents of the community, was selected to meet and negotiate with the public works staff. After a

series of sessions between the task force, the staff, and other personnel involved in the project, both sides compromised on certain aspects of the design. A plan was developed for presentation to Council which was acceptable to both the city and the community.

(Minnesota Cities, December 1977)

A CENTRAL SERVICE CENTER . . . can improve productivity and efficiency, especially when a city operates a fleet of mass transit vehicles. La Crosse, WI, built such a facility on land formerly used for a landfill. In the equipment service area of the main building, a quick-service stall features vehicle hoists with adjustable front posts so that any type of equipment can be serviced. Vehicle storage area stalls are large enough to park trucks even with snow-plows attached. (The American City & County, September 1977)

A COMPLETE STREET INVENTORY . . . in Santa Rosa, CA, includes type, roadside, signs, storm drains, and condition of surface. The data is used to determine annual, monthly, and weekly schedules for street maintenance. (Virginia Town & City, May 1978)

INEXPENSIVE CONCRETE SURFACE PROTECTION . . . is provided by an alkali and wear-resistant waterproofing material system, according to its manufacturer. The waterproofing, which is supposed to provide a wear-resistance four to five times that of ordinary concrete, can be used for repairing, sealing, and protecting concrete bridge decks, aprons, tunnel and sewer lines, reservoirs, and other concrete, steel, and polystyrene surfaces. The material can be applied to wet surfaces, allows trapped vapors to escape, and can accommodate crack movement in underlying concrete. Tests show no significant loss of strength after

200 freeze-thaw cycles in a four per cent salt solution. (Engineering News Record, June 8, 1978)

STREETS THAT SALT THEMSELVES . . . will be more than a dream if all goes as planned in Albany, NY, this winter. Test strips of roadway have been surfaced with a European-developed asphalt mix that continuously releases calcium chloride ice retardant to its surface. Although this is the first use of the technique in this country, it has been a success in Switzerland and Austria since 1974. The method involves mixing encapsulated calcium chloride particles into the hot-mix asphalt surfacing material. The friction of passing traffic gradually releases the additive, which prevents ice formation. The material is said to last as long as the asphalt surface itself, at least 10 to 12 years. (Engineering News-Record, July 27, 1978)

TEAM A CAMERA WITH A COMPUTER . . . and the result is a photographic street survey that can help street superintendents prepare rational maintenance programs. Ann Arbor, MI, has photographed its entire roadway system, not just to record roadway conditions, but also to compile information on roadside hazards, traffic control devices, etc. Multiple field surveys are not required and the data can be reviewed as often as necessary without leaving the office. For the photologging project, the city used a van equipped with a 35-mm cine pulse camera. Each frame of the movie film contained a record of street name, mileage data, direction of travel, date and time, and whether the street belonged to the state or city government. (The American City & County, May 1978)

A NON-STOP DITCH CLEANER . . . is saving cash and time in Lewis County, WA.

The unit, which requires only one operator, has an augering device that

cleans and loads in one operation. Scoop-type cleaning is still required for heavy work. (Rural and Urban Roads, May 1978)

A \$3 SPIGOT . . . saves \$6 in time draining the water left in the tank of a city sweeper. The device was the "better idea" of a sweeper operator in Bloomfield, NJ. With fittings available from any hardware store, the old drain plug was replaced with a 1 1/2-inch threaded reducer plug and an ordinary brass spigot. Now, to get rid of residual water, the operator needs only to open the faucet over a suitable drain area and wait two to three minutes for the water to flow out. The operation previously required a half hour. (Rural and Urban Roads, May 1978)

Parks and Recreation



SHORT ON FUNDS . . . for park personnel? VIP's (short for Volunteers in Parks) have proved to be a valuable resource for the Dayton-Montgomery County, OH, Park District. The trained citizen-volunteers are working as tour guides, leading nature walks, assisting in seminars and workshops, and even demonstrating arts and crafts. Each VIP receives a thorough orientation and training program before beginning work. Park officials point out many advantages: more staff without greatly increased cost, and greater flexibility because volunteers generally are available to work weekends and summers, periods of peak use at the parks. The program also increases the number of people with a basic understanding of the park program. (Ohio Cities and Villages, September 1977)

ADJUSTABLE POOL FLOORS . . . in West Germany make the facility usable by handicapped persons. Although weighing 80 tons, the pool floor is lifted by four hydraulic rams. It can be raised or lowered, at the touch of a button, from one to ten feet. If desired, the floor can be lifted flush with the surrounding area and used as a gymnasium. (The American City & County, November 1977)

MOBILE PLAYGROUNDS . . . serve children in high-rise developments in Cologne, Germany. Two rebuilt moving vans pulled by tractors are driven to and parked in different locations daily on a regular schedule. Swings and climbing ropes, ladders and slides are mounted on the sides of the vans and a play platform is located on the roof. There are toys and play facilities inside in case of bad weather. (The American City & County, November 1977)

DEMANDS FOR SKATEBOARD PARKS . . . have been met by two communities in Maryland by construction of hot-mix asphalt facilities. Ocean City used a corner of a city playground to build its small bowl-shaped skateboard "rink." The sloping sides run about 6 1/2 feet high. The bowl drops about 14 feet along 200 feet of runway and has high banked walls. Salisbury, using the youngsters' suggestions, built a shallow bowl at the top of a hill, a connecting downhill run, then another shallow bowl at the bottom of the run. Both facilities took about one day to construct. (The American City & County, November 1977)

SENIOR CITIZENS CAN ENJOY . . . even long nature trails and scenic walkways when proper transportation is provided. Golf carts are particularly useful. (The American City & County, November 1977)

AN OLD RAILROAD DEPOT . . . is being converted into a recreational complex in Pass Christian, MS. (Mississippi Municipalities, April 1978)

"CHILD-TESTED" DANGER SIGNS . . . are being used in areas frequented by youngsters in several Iowa cities. For example, a word/symbol "no swimming" sign was tried out on children, to make sure they understood the message, before it was erected. (Iowa Municipalities, June 1978)

Refuse



TAGS ON GARBAGE CANS . . . in Johnson City, TN, remind residents of the city's policy regarding trash and leaf pickup. Cited on the tags are city ordinances prohibiting the placing of trash, brush, or leaves in city streets. (MTAS)

SWITCHING TO CURBSIDE PICKUP . . . caused a few headaches in Macon, GA, because citizens interested in beautification were involved closely. A Beautification-Clean Community Commission coordinated all public educational efforts, working through key people in each neighborhood in which the new system was to be used. Commission members also appeared on television and radio talk shows, distributed information brochures, and showed a film on the system. (Urban Georgia, November 1977)

TAKING DUMPSTERS TO GARBAGE . . . is saving time and manpower in Crown Point, IN, parks. In the past the dumpsters were located near the maintenance area, causing problems in getting the garbage barrels to the large receptacles. Now a specially adapted one-ton dump truck is used to haul a large container throughout the park. Instead of two to three men loading barrels into the truck and one man driving, only two men handle the entire operation. One drives while the other tips barrels of garbage directly into the dumpster. The system requires 50 per cent less time and uses half the manpower. It is also much safer, since the worker handles barrels at waist level and only once instead of twice. (Park Maintenance, January 1978)

PAINT-YOUR-OWN . . . refuse trucks have boosted morale and saved money in Port Royal, SC. Instead of using professional painters, the city purchased a paint sprayer and a selection of colors. Town employees

paint their own trucks and other vehicles. The program has resulted in an estimated savings of more than \$9,500. (Virginia Town and City, March 1978)

A MECHANICAL TRASH LOADER . . . has been developed which can be operated by one man. Designed especially for parks and industrial applications, the loader can handle containers ranging in size from small wire baskets to 55-gallon drums. The operator controls all functions, including pickup, dumping, and replacement, from the tractor's seat. Trash containers are clamped by padded pressure-sensitive claws and dumped into a hopper carried on the back of the tractor. Among the advantages claimed for the equipment: a 75 per cent savings in labor, and elimination of back injuries. (MTAS)

"SILVER CAN" AWARDS FOR TOP PERFORMANCE . . . are paying big dividends in Norfolk, VA. The award, a miniature replica of a garbage can made of polished aluminum, is presented each quarter to those collection crews with "zero" points against them for unauthorized absences, disciplinary actions, preventable accidents, and justified complaints by residents. To keep the award, the winning crew must maintain the same "zero" level of performance during the next quarter or surrender it to another group. The "silver can" is kept on prominent display in the city administration building with a placard identifying the current winning crew. Among results of the program are reduced absenteeism, fewer complaints, high crew moral, and a sharp drop in accidents and injuries. (Solid Waste Systems, December 1977)

A DUMP-IT-YOURSELF . . . program is working in Webster City, IA. Three city dump trucks are parked overnight at different locations throughout the municipality to permit area residents to dispose of trash too large for regular pickups. (Iowa Municipalities, May 1978)

SPECIAL BULK PICKUP DAYS . . . have allowed Point Pleasant Beach, NJ, to increase its collections from twice a year to monthly without incurring additional costs or raising fees. A resident with a bulky item to be collected notifies the city five days prior to the special bulk pickup day and receives information regarding special handling measures which must be taken. At the same time, the city is alerted to any additional equipment that might be needed. Officials say the added cost of the extra service has been offset by the time saved during regular collections. (New Jersey Municipalities, June 1978)

CONTINUOUS PACKING PRESSURE . . . is claimed for a new refuse truck now on the market. What's different about the equipment is a tapered auger that fits in the floor of the hopper and is rotated by a hydraulically-powered gear train. When refuse is thrown into the hopper, it is torn and ground by the auger's rotation and tapered shape. The auger maintains continuous packing pressure on the load which is not released by the need for the next packing cycle. (MTAS)

Traffic and Parking



T R A F F I C & P A R K I N G

DOUBLE DUTY PARKING . . . has been achieved in Union City, NJ, by making a downtown lot open to shoppers during the day and available at night for nearby residents who want to park there on a monthly fee basis.

(New Jersey Municipalities, November 1977)

A FEW SIMPLE CHANGES . . . in the design of high-volume intersections can result in a remarkable drop in property damage and injury, Albany, NY, discovered. First, all parking was banned from the street. Then lanes were redesigned to provide a center turn lane; signal faces were enlarged; and the fixed-time controller was replaced with a three-dial controller, complete with a left-turn signal. (The American City & County, November 1977)

BETTER USE OF AVAILABLE PARKING . . . may be the answer to downtown parking problems, Collingswood, NJ, found. A new parking system, aimed at attracting more shoppers, calls for metered parking in the business district to discourage all-day use by business people. A free parking lot is provided for all-day parkers such as merchants and their employees. (New Jersey Municipalities, May 1978)

RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMITS . . . protect homeowner-drivers in Cambridge, MA. Although technically issued on a city-wide basis, Cambridge is divided into 13 residential parking areas for purposes of distributing the permits. Each household also is entitled to color-coded visitor parking permits which are valid only in the assigned neighborhood. Vehicles registered as commercial, or clearly marked with the name of a company, are not tagged by enforcement officers. However, if challenged, the firm must show that it is legitimately working in the area. (The American City & County, June 1978)

A COUPON PARKING SYSTEM . . . in Tel Aviv eliminates parking meters and their associated costs, assures short-term parking in congested areas, raises revenue for the city, and is self-administered by the drivers. Anyone who desires to obtain a "hunting license" for parking space may purchase a booklet of 10 detachable tags. On finding a vacant spot, the driver detaches a coupon, tears off the tab indicating arrival time, punches out the perforated date, and displays the card by rolling up the side window against the card's folded upper edge. Each card can be used only once. Revenues have more than doubled since the system was installed and the city has eliminated the expense of purchasing, maintaining, and collecting coins for meters. (The American City & County, June 1978)

Transportation



EASY TO OBTAIN ROUTE . . . information encourages bus ridership in San Diego, CA. Individual folders for all routes are displayed on rotary racks in hotels, department stores, and other public buildings frequented by residents and tourists. Each folder includes information on using the bus system plus a map of that particular route, plus transfer points for other routes. In addition, posted at each major bus stop are the numbers of the bus routes it serves and time schedules. (MTAS)

A CENTRAL TRANSIT TERMINAL . . . has been developed from an old railroad depot in Kalamazoo, MI. AMTRAK and interstate buses use the center and local taxis and buses also stop there. The latter provide connections to the airport, and a direct telephone line links passengers to a national auto rental agency. The increased passenger traffic now supports a restaurant. A travel bureau counter is in the planning stage. (Michigan Municipal Review, July 1978)

A DEPOT COULDN'T BEAT PLANES . . . so it has joined them in Princeton, ME. When the last passenger train stopped running from Princeton, the old depot was moved by truck to the airport and converted into an operations center and passenger boarding facility. It is being restored to its original railroad motif, including a wooden platform, to preserve a bit of history. (Maine Townsman, June 1978)

Water and Sewage



SLUDGE DISPOSAL PROBLEMS . . . don't exist in Largo, FL. The city dries its sludge in a first-of-a-kind process and sells it for fertilizer for between \$80 and \$160 a ton. Instead of heat drying, Largo utilizes a plant, first developed in Europe, that dries the sludge to a pellet form easily bagged and sold as a soil conditioner/fertilizer. (The American City & County, October 1977)

WATER TOWER CLIMBERS . . . can now be discouraged with a simply installed, permanent climb prevention shield. Placed a minimum of 10 feet above the ground, the shield encloses the ladder and prevents unauthorized personnel from using it. Keys give service personnel access. (MTAS)

WATER SAVING DEVICES . . . are provided free to Hamilton Township, NJ, residents as part of the community's water conservation program. The total cost of \$165,000 is expected to result in an estimated saving of \$172,000 in water. (New Jersey Municipalities, February 1978)

MEASURING WASTEWATER FLOW WITH DYE . . . is becoming an increasingly popular method for discovering infiltration and inflow in sanitary sewerage systems. The dark red dye also can be used to calibrate flow meters in place, measure pump performance, and determine the efficiency of settling basins and chlorine-contact chambers. It is also helpful in measuring the flow in open streams and canals, and for determining the degree of effluent dilution in receiving streams. The water-diluted dye can be injected by either of two commercially available constant-feed pumps. The method also requires that a sampling device be provided at an appropriate location downstream. (The American City & County, May 1978)

AN ALL-DAY INSPECTION TOUR . . .helps key administrators in Toledo, OH, get a clearer over-all view of city operations and keep track of improvements underway, planned, or needed. The annual tour, for top administrators and staff, focuses principally on the most serious problems of blight, decay, civic or citizen neglect, and environmental hazards. It starts at the Streets Division headquarters at 8:00 a.m. with coffee and 10-minute briefings by directors of departments. Aboard tour vehicles are one or two commentators who have been briefed previously by department heads. (Public Management, October 1977)

LOW COST COMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL STORAGE . . . for Pinellas County, FL, resulted from the ingenuity of a park supervisor. The uniquely-shaped structure, located in a cool portion of a park maintenance area, is actually an old, cylindrical underground steel storage tank. The tank is cradled on sturdy pipes high enough above the ground to protect it from possible water damage. Conversion work, done by park personnel, resulted in such features as a cut-out steel door, steel casement windows in front and rear, screen circulation ports, a daylight roof ventilator made from two barrel halves, three-quarter inch pipe shelf frames, concrete footing and flooring, and a concrete ramp. (Park Maintenance, April 1978)

CB'ERS POLICE EACH OTHER . . . in Carpentersville, IL, and complaints about interference with TV and radio reception are on the wane. The city accepted an offer, from a local group of licensed amateur radio operators, to form a committee to help eliminate problems, usually by adjustments or filtering at the receiver. If the fault lies

with the transmitting station, it will be identified and the operator contacted with recommendations for corrective action. (ICMA Nuts & Bolts, April 24, 1978)

NEW FOR THE HANDICAPPED . . . is a drinking fountain wheelchair height.

The automatic stream regulator is controlled by a front push button.

(MTAS)

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS . . . are ironed out in Maplewood, MN, by a council of developers which meets regularly with city officials.

(Minnesota Cities, July 1978)