

Municipal Government Administration

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SELECTED BY THE STAFF OF THE
MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE
EDITED BY JACKIE KERSH

1973

I D E A S

F O R A B E T T E R

C I T Y / 1973

Selected by the Staff of the
Municipal Technical Advisory Service

Edited by Jackie Kersh
Consultant, Municipal Information

MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE, THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

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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 upon request, of course.

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Improved Environment



.... WOULDN'T THIS BE NICE ?

ENVIRONMENT

RIVER RECREATION . . . is available to Richmond residents for the first time with the opening of James River Park. The seven-phase development includes a two-mile-long area along the river and several islands, open now to the public, plus eventually both banks and all islands in the river within a stated area. (Virginia Town & City, September 1972)

A TRASH ARMY . . . will help St. Petersburg fight the growing war between man and his environment. The all-volunteer group is being recruited from students in the school system. The first step, teaching the teachers, was completed when more than 100 instructors gave a day of vacation to learn about the city's sanitation service area. They, in turn, will work with the student groups, using a special film showing ways young people can keep their city clean. (The Mayor, Oct. 1, 1972)

A CONCENTRATED CLEAN-UP . . . effort in specific sections of downtown Kansas City paid off in improved appearance. Merchants were advised in advance what day city crews would concentrate on their area. They were told to put all litter out in the gutter on that day for pickup. Merchants cleaned the sidewalks and the city washed streets and alleys. (Downtown Idea Exchange, July 1, 1972)

A STUDENT WORK FORCE . . . plus retired construction workers have helped Santa Cruz restore a large number of the city's "classic" residential structures. The buildings are being rented to retired people and students. (HUD Challenge, January 1973)

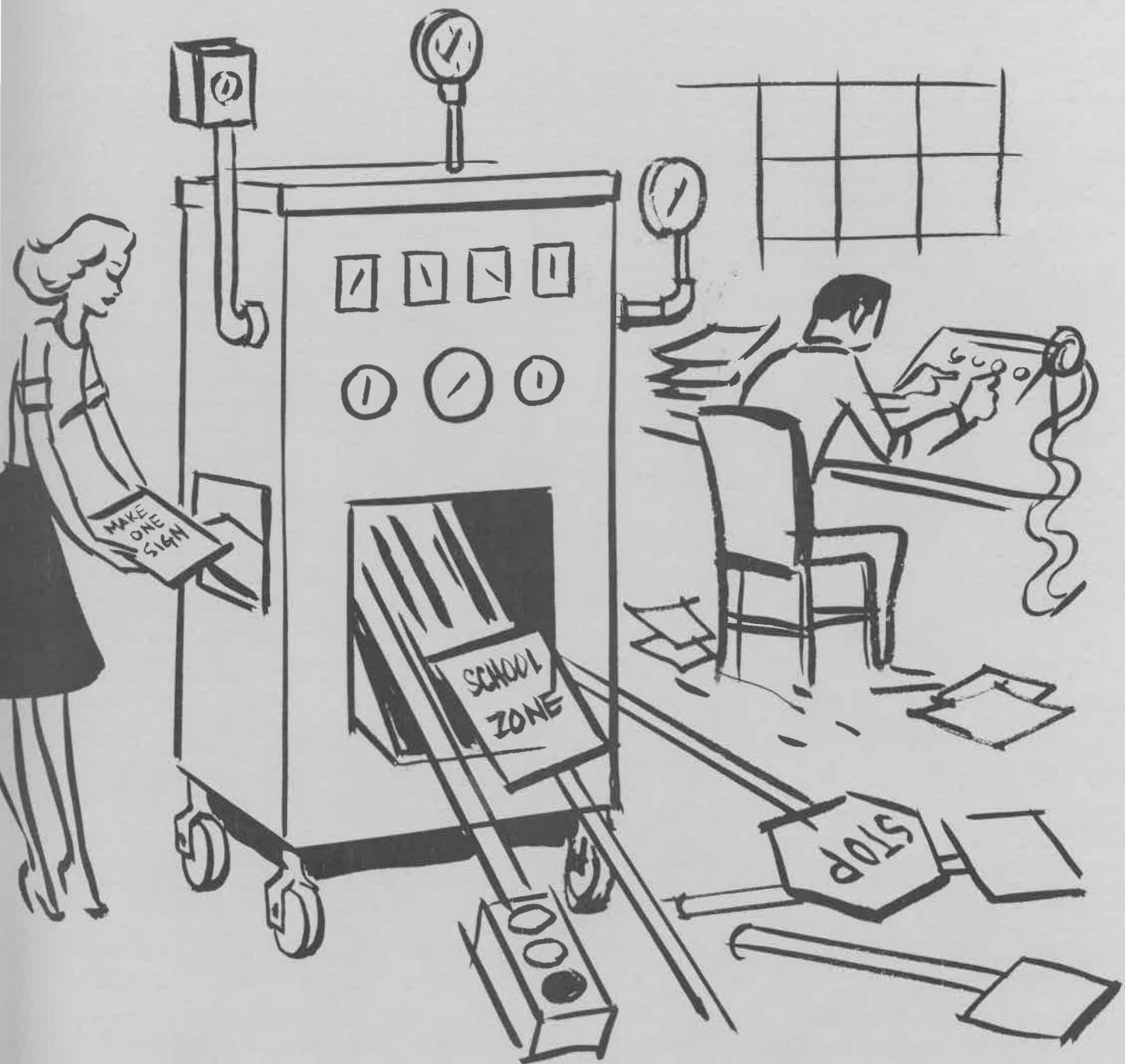
REMOVAL OF SHADE TREES . . . is controlled by ordinance in Ocean Township, N. J. Construction companies may not remove any tree with a diameter in excess of five inches without applying for a permit from the city. (New Jersey Municipalities, March 1973)

A UNIQUE ANNOUNCEMENT . . . is sent to a property owner when he plants a new tree in Ferndale, MI. The front shows a stork delivering a tree with the wording "Congratulations on Your New Arrival. It's a _____ tree." On the opposite side are do's and don'ts for "Tender Loving Care of Trees." (Park Maintenance, March 1973)

PLAY AREAS EXPAND . . . into parking lots and access roadways during the days, when the majority of cars are away, in a housing project in New Haven, CT. Using bright colors and a knowledge of the street games city children play, designers transformed usually bleak asphalt areas into stimulating playgrounds. For instance, colorful painted paths flow together to form rings, ideal for foot or bicycle races. A checkerboard pattern with varying size squares is used for many activities. (HUD Challenge, May 1973)

DOWNTOWN ALLEYS . . . can be attractive, believes the Cedar Rapids, IO., beautification committee. Area improvement is being encouraged through a contest, among downtown blocks, for the honor of having the most presentable alley. Improvement plans may involve anyone from architects and engineers to student groups and artists. Entries must have a theme and overall design concept, and deal with color, lighting, textures, plantings and surfacing, among other things. (Downtown Idea Exchange, May 1, 1973)

Finance and Taxation



FINANCE AND TAXATION

TENANTS WILL WORK . . . for the housing authority in Memphis and Cleveland.

Federal funds are being used to train selected residents of public housing projects for employment as staff assistants. They will help in such areas as providing basic health services, Social Security counseling, and referral services. All trainees are guaranteed employment. (Journal of Housing, September 1972)

RESERVATION FEES . . . for picnic areas in the three major parks in Sheboygan, WI., are bringing in an estimated \$5,000 to \$6,000 annually. In return, residents are assured of space at a stated time. (The Wisconsin Municipality, December 1972)

ON-CALL CLERICAL WORKERS . . . are proving to be a money saving device for Scotch Plains Township, N. J. When a city agency needs temporary help, it can refer to a list of persons available for part-time assistance. These people are competent helpers who have become familiar with routine township procedures. (New Jersey Municipalities, December 1972)

ONE-DAY AUCTIONS . . . have helped raise more than \$8,000 for restoration of an historical house in Los Angeles. The sale-by-outcry not only provides funds but involves citizens as donors, buyers and spectators. (The American City, October 1972)

COMPACT CARS . . . have replaced full size sedans in the Glendale, AZ., municipal fleet, with the exception of police and fire department vehicles. The first seven months of operation reflected an average cost per mile of 3.1 cents, which also included mechanical maintenance expenses for parts and labor. This represents a significant decrease from the previous operation costs of a fleet of full size sedans. The saving has allowed the city to equip its cars with air conditioning. (ICMA Newsletter, Nov. 15, 1972)

ORGANIZE YOUR GRANT INFORMATION . . . if you don't want to be overcome by paperwork. In Newark, N. J., an effective form for summarizing grant information data has been developed. The city also uses a set of notebooks, with each book tabbed to include sections for such key areas as the application, copy of officially signed contracts, city council resolutions, program budgets, etc. (New Jersey Municipalities, June 1973)

Health, Safety and Welfare



HEALTH AND WELFARE

EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL . . . during and after development is contained in an Englewood, OH., ordinance. The object: protection of neighboring downhill and downstream properties. The ordinance requires submission of specific plans for erosion control during construction and a bond instrument by the property owner. (ICMA Nuts & Bolts, Dec. 15, 1972)

SAFE-SCHOOL-ROUTE MAPS . . . are provided for each local school child in San Jose, CA. The maps, prepared for each school area in cooperation with the school district, are part of an extensive program to reduce school child traffic fatalities. (The Mayor, Jan. 15, 1973)

SOMEONE IS WATCHING OUT . . . for elderly people in Houston, TX. A new voluntary organization, the Mayor's Telephone Reassurance Service, aids senior citizens who live alone. The program assures one telephone call a day at a specific time. Senior citizens first fill out cards with information such as family, doctors, and neighbors to call in an emergency. At an appointed time, a phone call is made. If there is no answer, a volunteer calls a second time. If the second call receives no answer, the volunteer directs someone to go to the senior citizen's home to check. (The Municipal South, January 1973)

A REGIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER . . . serves three municipalities in New Jersey. Manfield, Somerville, and Bridgewater have pooled their funds to build one facility with 10 cages, a garage, offices, and room for expansion. Each municipality served by the shelter and warden's service pays a predetermined part of the cost. The department also has a truck and a two-way radio set-up between truck and shelter. (New Jersey Municipalities, April 1973)

CURB YOUR DOG . . . is the battle cry of the Bayonne, N. J., Department of Health. The department provides poster stickers with that slogan to property owners whose sidewalks and lawns are being violated by dogs owned by others. The stickers may also be used on automobile bumpers, trees or walls of buildings. (New Jersey Municipalities, June 1973)

INCREASED FEES . . . are being used to decrease the unwanted animal population in Cottage Grove, MN. Owners whose pets have not been spayed or neutered must pay a higher fee. The ordinance applies to all animals running at large. (Minnesota Municipalities, June 1973)

LICENSES FOR SOLICITORS . . . protect citizens in Clearwater, FL. To be licensed as a taxi driver, solicitor, or employee of a business serving alcoholic beverages in the city, you must first register with the police department. There a color photograph is taken and becomes part of an identification card that also serves as a license. Citizens and business people are constantly warned to ask solicitors for their identification and report those not having cards. (The American City, February 1973)

Housing



H O U S I N G

A NEW LATEX SPRAY PAINT . . . especially formulated for indoor use enables a two-man crew to redecorate an apartment unit in two to three hours. Although developed for fast, low-cost rehabilitation work, the paint is being widely utilized on new construction jobs, also. The Dayton, TN., Housing Authority used the new paint throughout its 110-unit project for families and the elderly. (Journal of Housing, August 1972)

DOUBLE BENEFITS . . . are claimed for a Washington, D. C., experimental program using reformatory inmates to repair vandalized public housing units. The much needed homes are put back on the market and the men have a chance to work toward their own rehabilitation. The inmates are paid the prevailing wage for their labor. (Nation's Cities, May 1971)

Parks and Recreation



R E C R E A T I O N

SALVAGED AUTO WHEELS . . . make attractive barbeque grills, Chadron, NB., has found. The wheels, collected at the city's landfill site, are converted into useful grills at the city shop during inclement weather when crews can't work outside. Total cost of labor and materials: \$6.50 (Public Works, October 1972)

REPAIRS RATE FIRST . . . with the Parks and Recreation Department of Santa Clara, CA. The first reason is safety; the second that facilities in disrepair invite vandalism. (The American City, August 1972)

SHOCK-ABSORBING PLAY AREAS . . . are possible with rubber-covered concrete tiles developed in the Netherlands. The tiles are made with beveled edges for easy installation and come in six colors. (Concrete Construction, August 1972)

AN ORGANIC PLAYGROUND . . . is a child's delight in Norfolk, VA. The playground has mountains, sandpits, a fountain, and a tree house with draped cargo nets for climbing vines. Logs, rocks, boulders, rubber tires and railroad ties are all used in interesting and functional ways. Steel pipes punctured with thousands of small holes provide a refreshing sprinkler for hot summer days. (HUD Challenge, January 1973)

A DROP-IN GYM PROGRAM . . . during the annual Christmas holidays proved very successful in Barberton, OH. Students from junior and senior high schools and colleges were invited to participate. (MTAS)

A DOWNTOWN CONCRETE SLAB . . . has been turned into a roller skating rink for youngsters in Brooklyn, N. Y. To make it even more attractive, a roller skate-hockey league has been organized. This has drawn so many youngsters that the slab has had to be lighted for night use. The juvenile crime rate has dropped since the facility went into operation. (Tallahoma News and Guardian, Jan. 3, 1973)

POINT THE WAY TO PARKS . . . through a comprehensive signing program. San Fernando, CA., has erected attractive green and white signs on light and street name posts along all major access streets to inform both residents and visitors where to find a specific park or type of recreation. (The American City, November 1972)

SIGNS REGULATE POOL USERS . . . in Pleasanton, CA. Adaptations of the international road signs system, the signs are designed to control behavior while offering informative instructions and not polluting the environment with a lot of negative commands. One set of the complete five-message sign system is mounted in each dressing room and one free-standing sign is installed in the deck area. (Park Maintenance, March 1973)

TOO LITTLE CHLORINE . . . can cause pool users to complain of burning eyes more often than too much. Burning eyes usually result when there is not enough "free" chlorine in the water. It can't combine with and destroy such contaminants as perspiration. To avoid this problem, test the water regularly with a kit which can distinguish between free and combined chlorine. If the problem occurs, super-chlorination is usually the answer. (Park Maintenance, June 1973)

Personnel



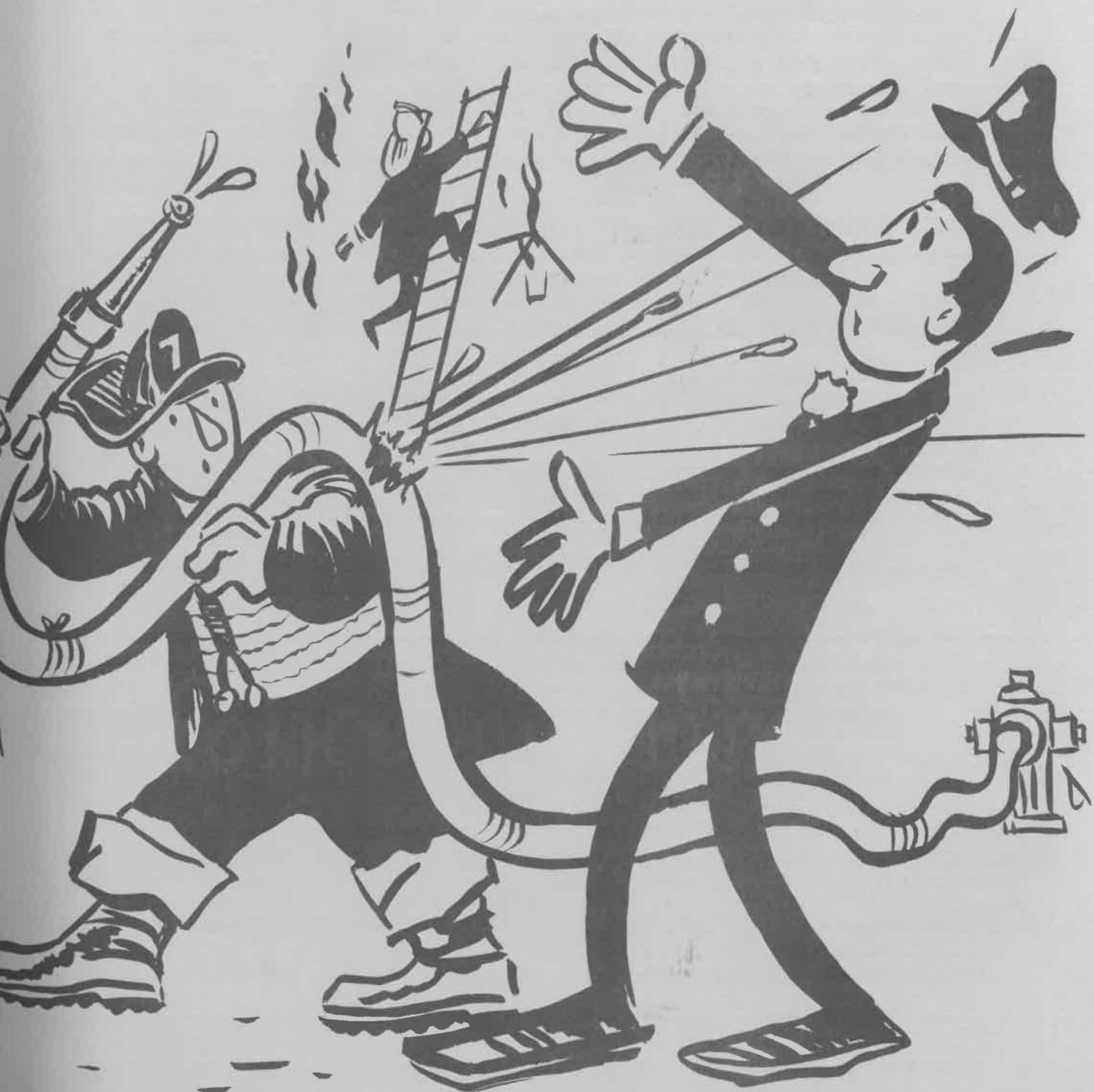
P E R S O N N E L

FRINGE BENEFIT REPORTS . . . keep Hanford, CA., employees informed. Each employee receives a personalized folder with a tabulation of earnings, holidays, vacation, sick leave, rest periods, paid leaves of absence, workmen's compensation, tuition reimbursement and all other fringe benefits received during the year. (Texas Town & City, December 1972)

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT . . . can help in resolving public labor disputes. Spokane, WA., has a local dispute board to deal with public safety and other bargaining impasses. One part of this board is composed of labor relations professionals and handles non-economic matters. Another panel, composed of lay citizens and representatives of taxpayer groups and civic organizations, considers economic questions. Each group is comprised of an uneven number of persons. The mayor makes appointments after consultation with and agreement of public, labor and management. (Western City, January 1973)

A CITY JOB LINE . . . in Lubbock, TX., keeps potential employees constantly up-to-date on available municipal employment opportunities. By calling a special number, applicants will receive a three-minute, pre-recorded message on current job vacancies. As jobs are filled during the day, the recording is updated in the personnel department. (Texas Town & City, March 1973)

Police and Fire



P O L I C E A N D F I R E

HIRING THE HANDICAPPED . . . as police and fire dispatchers is working well for El Segundo, CA. Testing and examination processes for the physically handicapped officers include IQ of above 100, clerical aptitude, emotional stability, personal acceptance of handicap, maturity and judgment, and physical ability to do the job. (Western City, October 1972)

POLICE CALLING CARDS . . . personalize contacts with citizens in Inkster, MI. Officers, who are given individualized cards, are encouraged particularly to leave a card with residents when responding to complaints and making field investigations. (ICMA Nuts & Bolts, Oct. 15, 1972)

GETTING THEM ALL TOGETHER . . . is the thrust of a novel program in Portland, ME. A neighborhood facility has been combined with a new police station to improve the image and public acceptance of the police, as well as to promote better police-community relations. The neighborhood facility shares a common entrance with the police department, and has a regulation-size gym, large multi-purpose meeting room, and small classroom. A lounge with an adjacent canteen area is available to both the public and police and helps bring the two together. (ICMA Newsletter, Nov. 15, 1972)

A YOUNG PEOPLE'S PATROL . . . each summer helps keep youth recreation and assembly areas in Rochester, N. Y., safe and orderly. Members are issued blue jackets and white T-Shirts with special emblems which identify them with the police department. Uniformed officers supervise the work of the boys and girls enrolled in the program. (FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, March, 1972)

HOMES OF INVALIDS . . . are marked with easy-to-see signs carrying a large red "I" in Walnut Ridge, AR. The markings are especially helpful in case of an emergency. (Arkansas Municipalities, October 1972)

FIREMEN PATROL . . . the streets of Irvington, N. J., during the evening and early morning hours to watch for fire, arson attempts and false alarms. The safety patrols are in constant radio contact with headquarters and anything suspicious will be passed on to the police department. The men, while on patrol, are "on ready" for all fires, meeting apparatus at the scene. (New Jersey Municipalities, March 1973)

BATTERY JUMPER CABLES . . . are standard equipment on all supervisors' cars in the Phoenix, AZ., police department. The city learned that a major cause of police vehicle breakdown is dead batteries. Estimates of savings run more than \$10,000 per year. (Western City, February 1973)

NEW RESIDENTS . . . learn early about services offered by the East Grand Rapids, MI., police department. The department is advised by the water department when a new family requests city service. Immediately a police officer makes personal contact with the family. A pamphlet, "The Citizen and the Police in Crime Prevention," is given to newcomers during the welcoming call. (Michigan Municipal Review, March 1973)

VOICE-TYPE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS . . . have reduced false fire alarms in Washington, D. C., by 83 per cent. The system uses two-way voice communication between the person reporting the alarm and fire department headquarters.

In addition, the system may also be used to summon other emergency aid. (The American City, March 1973)

BLOCK WATCHERS . . . can help hold down crime in the central business district.

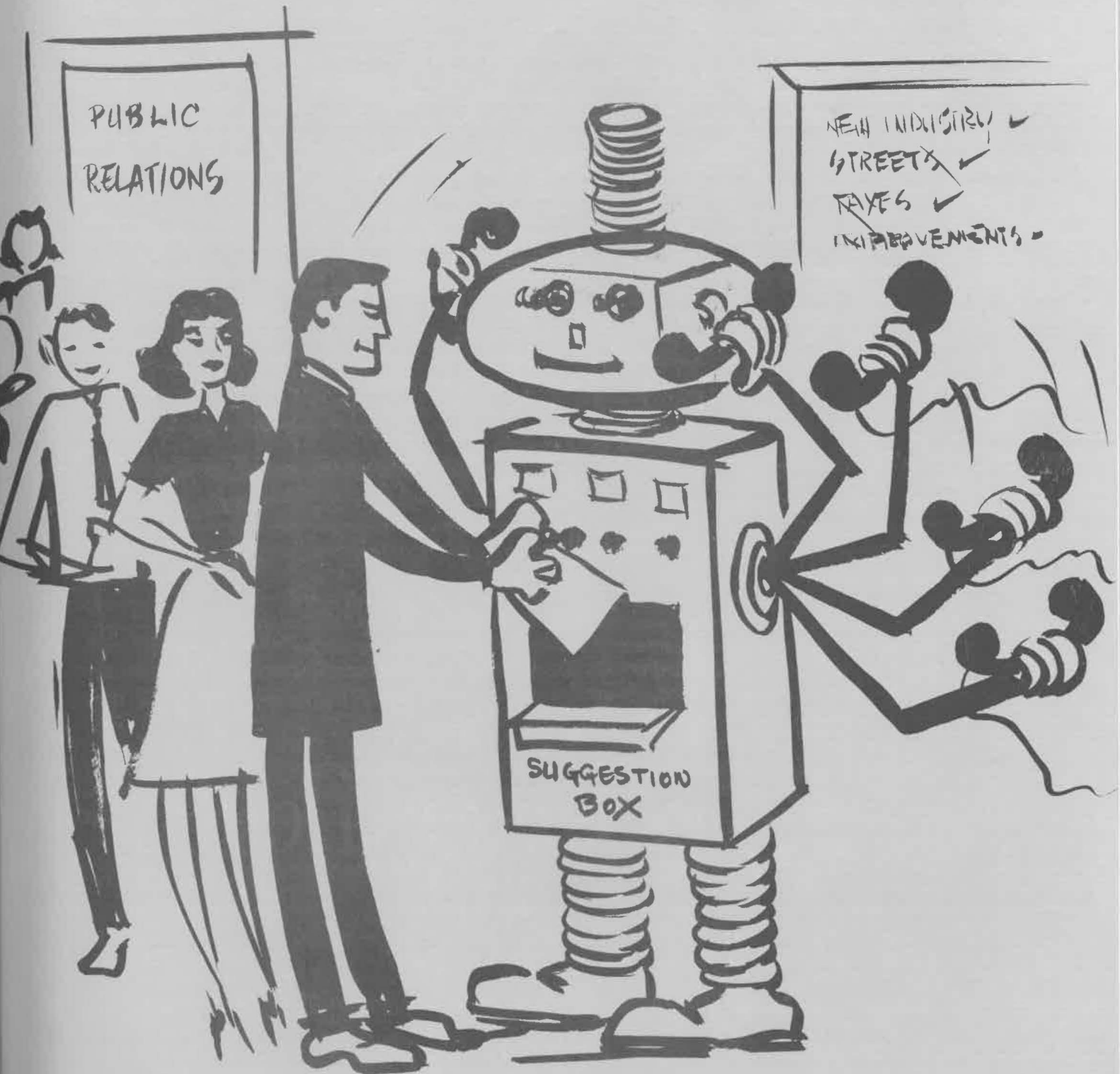
In one city businessmen, in cooperation with police, have established a crime reporting system. Building superintendents, doormen, and some inside employees are recruited as "block watchers." They get special training in what to do, what not to do and how to operate. This action is being well publicized. The block watchers supply additional sets of eyes and a fast report network tied into special police emergency numbers. (Downtown Idea Exchange, Feb. 1, 1973)

A THREE-STEP ATTACK . . . on bicycle thefts has been launched by the Clifton, AZ., police department. First a central file is used to record all bicycle licenses, thefts and recoveries. Second, the department initiated a drive to register all bicycles in the city. Finally, along with the registration program a bicycle safety course is available. It includes rider education and inspection of safety features on the bicycle itself. (Arizona Newsletter, April 1973)

BURNED OUT FAMILIES . . . are helped to find temporary shelter by the fire department in Newark, N. J. The service is part of an expanded community relations program. (New Jersey Municipalities, April 1973)

A TOUCH TOUR . . . of police facilities is conducted for blind students by the Anaheim, CA., police department. Officers from the detective bureau and the training, traffic and patrol departments talk about and demonstrate what each department does. Officers go through a mock arrest, and explain the procedures and cautions used while searching and handcuffing suspects. The youngsters are permitted to examine unloaded handguns. They also ride along as passengers in squad cars. (National Civic Review, May 1973)

Public Relations



PUBLIC RELATIONS

EDUCATE TO COMMUNICATE . . . is the idea behind a State College, PA., adult education program. An eight-week course, "Local and Regional Government in Action," has been included in the curriculum for the State College area schools. Emphasis is on the practical application of local government. (Pennsylvanian, July 1971)

YOUTH-ORIENTED PAMPHLETS . . . which explain how to make presentations to city hall, file petitions, and ask for grievance hearings before local authorities are being published by a number of cities. The League of California Cities also has put out a pamphlet outlining 16 action programs city officials can establish for youth. (Nation's Cities, December 1971)

BARBERS AND BEAUTICIANS NIGHT . . . in Placentia, CA., is a novel way of tapping one of the most active, informal information networks in a community. At the quarterly dinner, council members and department heads bring the barbers and beauticians up-to-date on city programs with the hope of getting current information out to the community. (ICMA Newsletter, September 1972)

CHALLENGE YOUR CITIZENS . . . to test their knowledge of city services. Send out a form for listing "10 ways your city works for you." Below the fill-out line for the 10th way, add in small type: "If you didn't make it down to here, maybe you should attend your next council meeting." (MTAS)

COMPLAINT BOOKS . . . for city councilmen are being used in Washington, MO., to help members record problems and keep track of the disposition of complaints. After a councilman is called, he records the name of the citizen making the complaint; the address and telephone number; nature of the problem and date reported; who took the complaint; and date the work is completed. The department head under whose responsibility the problem falls must sign the form. (Missouri Municipal Review, December 1971)

CITY BUDGET HEARINGS . . . are getting a wider audience by CATV. Not only can citizens see and hear the budget story, but listen to interviews with the authors of the budget and the city administrator. The same procedure is being used for public hearings on sewer district bonds in Sierra Madre, CA. (Western City, December 1971)

A SERVICE OF THE DAY . . . program can be used to inform the public and officials about specific city service areas. Council members and civic organization leaders are invited to visit the facility during the day and participate in a coffee hour in the afternoon for supervisors, workers and others. (MTAS)

A YOUTH FORUM . . . in Birmingham, AL., is helping youngsters give voice to their complaints about local government. Since the forum was first organized, the students have consulted with public officials about special pollution, education, poverty and employment problems. (National Civic Review, December 1971)

OUT IN THE OPEN . . . meetings are a way of life in Wichita, KA. The only discussions, formal or informal, which are closed are those involving litigation or possible litigation, the acquisition of real property, and personnel matters concerning individuals. (Kansas Government Journal, March 1972)

PRE-BUDGET SESSIONS . . . get citizens involved in finances on the ground floor in Fairfax, VA. Instead of first drawing up a budget and then submitting it to citizen scrutiny, residents were invited to tell officials what they would like to see in the new year's budget. Special invitations to pre-budget hearings went out with the city's monthly newsletter. Response by residents to the public hearing process was "overwhelming and enthusiastic." After the budget document was completed, citizens again had an opportunity to react before figures were finalized. (The American City, March 1972)

JUMP AT THE TUBE . . . if you get a chance is the philosophy in Clark County, NV. The public information officer has a regular late-night 90-minute show on public television that involves give and take with 50 to 60 community residents via speaker phones. So far it has attracted a number of viewers and, more important, many participants. (Trends, May 1972)

STUDENT PAGES . . . now regularly attend council meetings in Glendale, AZ. All are members of high school government classes. The program originated as part of a project to get students involved in city government. The pages pass out agendas and assist people with seating as well as provide information at the meetings. (Arizona Newsletter, February 1972)

Public Works



PUBLIC WORKS

SAND BARRELS . . . made from cartoon-decorated fuel tanks are a boon to motorists on icy streets in Woborn, MA. Each tank makes two sand containers, which are painted inside with asphalt roof coating to prevent corrosion. (The American City, August 1972)

SHARPENING MOWER BLADES . . . is an easier task for the Georgia State Highway Department. For less than \$50, two employees have built a spring-mounted grinder with a holding bar that takes the danger out of moving the blade around. The blade is fitted under clamps on the holding bar and a grinding rock, shaped to fit the notched blade, is pulled down to contact the blade. A notch is cut from the holding bar to allow free contact. (Public Works, April 1972)

NIGHT STREET REPAIRS . . . are proving most popular in New York City. Repaving crews are three times more productive at night, according to city figures. (The Mayor, Oct. 1, 1972)

SPEEDY STREET PATCHING . . . is the special job of a regular truck equipped with an infra-red heating hood that can be raised and lowered hydraulically. The asphalt-pavement repair machine holds a tank container for propane gas, a tamper-roller electrically controlled with push buttons, a refuse container, a heated and insulated hopper, and an air compressor with tank attachments. (The American City, August 1972)

TREE WELLS . . . of porous concrete cut down on cost and maintenance. Watering of the street trees can be done by abutting property owners. When this is impractical, the city installs sprinklers and assumes care of the trees. (The American City, October 1972)

A BRUSH-MOWING GRADER . . . has been made by some ingenious Kansas City, MO., employees. Mounting brackets were placed on a surplus grader to allow it to receive a robot mower. Now the old grader works year-round keeping roadside brush under control. (The American City, May 1972)

IMAGINATIVE PROJECT SIGNS . . . are making public works projects in Baltimore more lively. Geared to informing citizens of work underway without boring them to death, the signs no longer display unreadable lists of names of contractors and subcontractors. For example, on a street repair project the word resurfacing doesn't appear. Instead the sign tells about "a new smooth face." (Public Works, May 1973)

RAISED MANHOLE CASTINGS . . . can be very hazardous in street resurfacing projects. When it is necessary to raise the castings in advance of a repaving job, feather asphalt mix or mortar up to the future grade at the casting. This can be easily done and is inexpensive. (Public Works, September 1973)

Refuse



R E F U S E

GARBAGE TO FEED LAWNS . . . is the Lubbock, TX., answer to the refuse problem.

A private company has contracted with the city to have all solid and liquid wastes delivered to its plant. There the garbage is mixed with feedlot manure and converted into compost pellets. (The Mayor, Dec. 1, 1972)

DISCARDED ITEMS . . . left behind by former residents will be picked up free by Weehawken, N. J., for a simple phone call by the new owner. The city crew will come at once rather than waiting for the regular collection day. (New Jersey Municipalities, November 1972)

FLIP-TOP GARBAGE SERVICE . . . is being tested in Perry City, GA. Containers, located near street curbs, have all but five inches buried below the ground level. The city charges \$10 each for installation of the first 100 cans. (Urban Georgia, January 1973)

HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE AND TRASH . . . are being turned into kilowatts in St. Louis, MO. The solid wastes are hauled daily to a plant and shredded, removing ferrous metals. They are then taken to an electrical power plant, mixed with soft coal, and fed into burners. Although only a tenth of the city's trash is used this way, the encouraging economic and technical results cause hope for expanding the idea. (Flower and Garden, June 1973)

Traffic and Parking



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

NON-PARKING TICKETS . . . build goodwill with out-of-state motorists in Camden, S. C. City patrolmen put a free-parking-in-Camden brochure on windshields instead of ticketing visitors. It saves administrative headaches and promotes the city through information on points of interest and a space for mail-back comments. (ICMA Newsletter, September 1972)

REMOVING TEMPORARY METER COVERS . . . is the responsibility of merchants in some cities. When police fail to remove covers, no-parking hours can be inadvertently extended. As a result, the authority to remove the meter covers at the legal hour has been given to business men. (Downtown Idea Exchange, Dec. 1, 1971)

PARK 'EM HIGH . . . may be the new trend in parking systems. At Transpo '72, a ferris-wheel-like aerial parking garage was unveiled. Each unit holds 22 autos but only occupies 500 square feet of land. (Nation's Cities, July 1972)

IMPROVING DOWNTOWN TRAFFIC FLOW . . . need not be an expensive project. Some simple things like working with major downtown firms to get truck loading and delivery set up for off-peak hours can be helpful. Another idea is to move in the direction of staggered hours for employees to knock the top off the peaks of traffic congestion. (Downtown Idea Exchange, March 1, 1973)

MORE VISABLE TRAFFIC SIGNALS . . . resulted when Nassau County, N. Y., switched the paint on signal housings from the official orange and blue or dark green to an eye-catching yellow. The bright color remains easier to see at night and in bad weather. (The American City, February 1973)

PARKING METER CONTROLS . . . have been beefed up in Newburg, OR., by using senior citizens and handicapped persons. The new workers are employed to work 20 to 24 hours a month checking meters and making collections. Regular police personnel continue to handle the associated paperwork and mail the notices of violations. (ICMA Nuts and Bolts, April 1, 1973)

TOKEN PARKING METERS . . . are being used in outlying shuttlebus lots. After the user pays his parking fee, the meter dispenses a token to be used as fare for the bus ride. (The American City, June 1973)

Transportation



TRANSPORTATION

BUSINESSES ARE ENLISTED . . . in the fight in Denver, CO., to help rid downtown of congestion and pollution. The idea is to encourage people to use mass transit. Among the suggestions given businesses in the campaign: Provide partial or full transit subsidy for employees and/or customers; include in advertising a reminder to ride the bus downtown; include in monthly billings an enclosure listing transit schedules; distribute transit maps at places of business; encourage employees to join car pools; install bike racks for employees; provide interim bicycle parking for customers; and support a city-wide network of safe, commuter bike routes. (Downtown Idea Exchange, Nov. 1, 1972)

A BUS INFORMATION PHONE . . . installed at a downtown corner in Spokane, WA., provides immediate information on bus schedules and fares. The phone operates 24 hours a day at no charge. (Downtown Idea Exchange, Oct. 15, 1972)

COLOR CODED BUSES . . . is an idea that is working well in Springfield, IL. Passengers know their line by the color of the bus as well as the route name and number. (Municipal South, December 1972).

BUS TRANSIT MANAGERS . . . prefer: A fully developed and carefully staffed telephone information service to reach the public; use of indoor and outdoor signs and displays to inform the public; steel instead of aluminum for bus stop signs and bus rider shelters; bus priority lanes as a way to improve peak hour travel time. However, they downgrade the importance of traditional cash fare substitutes such as metal tokens, strips of tickets and commuter passes. (Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Regional Report, June-July 1973)

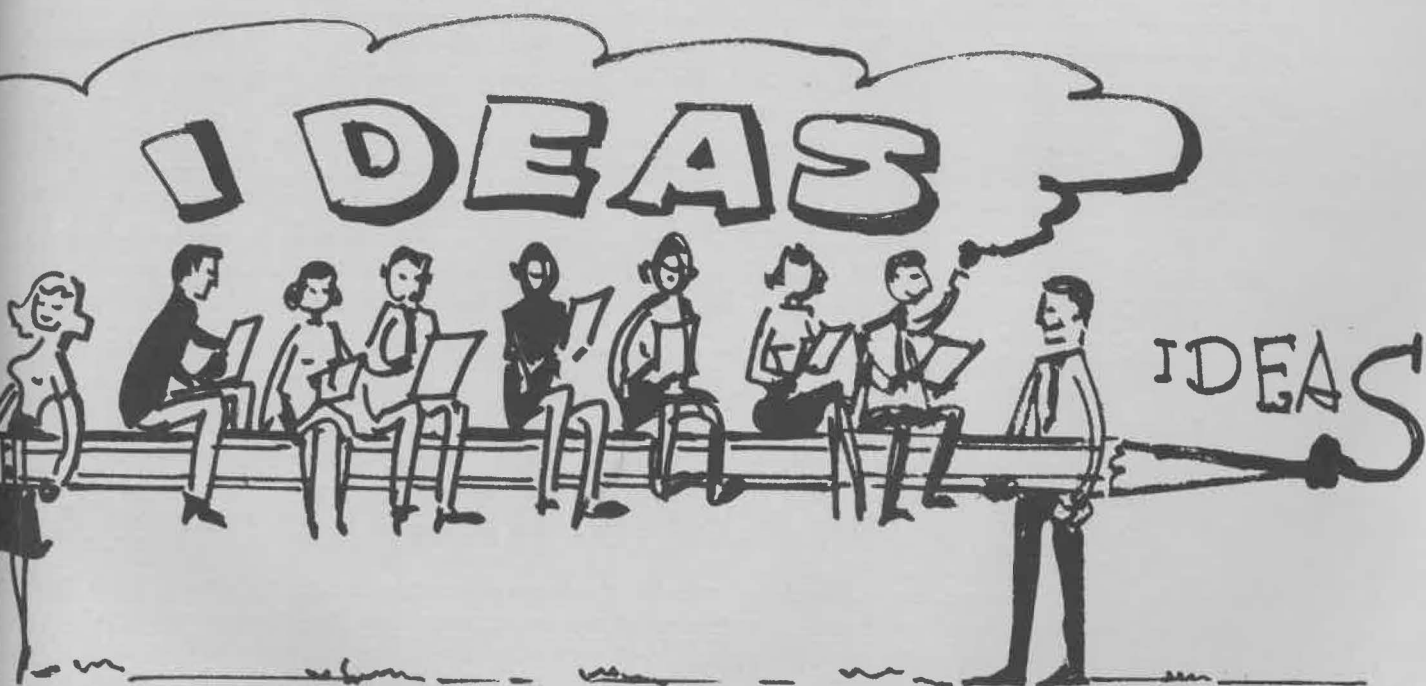
Water and Sewage



W A T E R A N D S E W A G E

- A MOBILE PUMP STATION . . . keeps sewage flowing when a break in a line occurs in New York City. Two electric submersible sewage pumps, with portable generators, are mounted on a trouble-shooting truck which is rushed to the scene when a problem crops up. (The American City, September 1972)
- FIREMEN DOUBLE AS REPAIRMEN . . . for the water department in Scottsdale, AZ. When they are not answering calls, the men repair water meters in shops set up in the firehalls. They also assemble refuse containers for the city's innovative mechanized refuse collection system. (ICMA Newsletter, Jan. 15, 1973)
- ODORS FROM LIFT STATIONS . . . can be removed by burning. Crystal, MN., has found. Difficult fumes are controlled with a small gas burner installed in the air duct on top of the lift station. A flame-safeguard shuts the gas off if the flame is extinguished. (The American City, October 1972)
- CHECK YOUR COMPLAINTS . . . over the last few years to see where water department personnel could have been a real help to customers at little cost to the utility. Then plan a program to do something about it. (The American City, October 1972)
- KEEPING WATER PLANT INTERIORS DRY . . . can be a maintenance headache. To control in-plant humidity, Atlanta, GA., has adopted a system of chemical dehumidification which dries the atmosphere in plants and keeps it dry at all times. The process is derived from the ability of a solution of lithium chloride to absorb moisture from the air at controllable rates. (The American City, January 1973)
- COMPOSTING SEWAGE SLUDGE . . . with municipal refuse is a feasible process. Dr. Clarence Golueke, University of California, says compost is superior to raw refuse because it is a "storable fuel, which can be transported and burned where suitable." He also points out that "one ton of compost would equal the energy from a third of a ton of coal, or sixty-five gallons of number two fuel, or eight thousand cubic feet of natural gas. Moreover, it would be a low-sulphur fuel." (Compost Science, July-August, 1973)

Miscellaneous



M I S C E L L A N E O U S

AN OLD BUS STATION . . . has a new use in Tupelo, MS. It has been turned into a downtown rest area with facilities and staff to keep children while parents shop. The Downtown Merchants Assn. is paying the cost of attendants. (Mississippi Municipalities, November 1972)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COURSES . . . for young people who soon will be voters have been requested by youth councils in Allentown, PA. The high schoolers, who want to know more about how school boards and county and municipal governments work, are preparing plans for civic education programs they hope school authorities will incorporate in the curriculum. (National Civic Review, February 1972)

REGULATION OF GARAGE SALES . . . is the purpose of a Bexley City, OH., ordinance. A \$1.00 permit is required before a sale can be conducted and only one such permit will be issued for the same location within a nine-month period. When applying, residents must give the site and dates of the sale, description of items to be sold and the names of the persons doing the selling. Signs advertising the sales also are regulated by the ordinance. (Ohio Cities & Villages, October 1972)

A JOINT CITY-SCHOOL LIBRARY . . . is expected to eliminate duplication of effort and cut down on operational cost in Pipestone, MN. (Minnesota Municipalities, December 1972)

COUNCIL EXCHANGE MEETINGS . . . encourage cooperation and communication between the communities of Globe and Miami, AZ. (Arizona Newsletter, December 1972)

A CITY GOVERNMENT TEXT . . . has been issued at all local high schools in Saganaw, MI. The 32-page booklet tells how the city is organized and the services it provides. (The American City, January 1973)

FREE BUS RIDES . . . for one day was Akron's way of saying thank you to its voters who approved a special levy for buses. (The Mayor, Nov. 15, 1972)

DEVELOPERS CAN FOLLOW . . . their projects through city hall in Madison, WI. The major tool is an information sheet, for each type of plan, listing the departments which must review a specific plan, the items each department will examine, and the name and phone number of the appropriate person to contact in each department. Also, a specific department and person is designated as the coordinator who will guide the proposal through review. (The Wisconsin Municipality, April 1973)

LAND BANKING . . . is being used by some communities as a means of planning and controlling development in the inner city. Milwaukee, WI., by acquiring land when it was available and holding it for future use, was able to provide in the inner city enough contiguous property for a factory that otherwise would have had to build in the suburbs. (HUD Challenge, June 1973)

OLD FASHIONED AREAS . . . of shops, restaurants, galleries, etc., are being successfully developed in downtowns to counterbalance new, modern construction. The Seattle, WA., port area and the Houston, TX., market square are good examples. (Downtown Idea Exchange, Feb. 15, 1973)

CITY AND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS . . . get together monthly in Brunswick and Glen County, GA., to attack community-wide problems. The monthly gatherings, which are public, are in addition to regular sessions each group holds. (Urban Georgia, April 1973)