



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(March 3, 2006 - Middletown) Mayor Sebastian Giuliano is quick to point out that *"the City of Middletown is working hard to serve our customers to the best of our ability, including improved technology over the Internet."*

Currently, the Department of Planning, Conservation and Development's website provides maps, plans, regulations, applications, publications, public notices, meeting agendas and other information from the department. "

William Warner, Director of Planning, Conservation and Development said *"We strive to provide all of our information on the website. We even have a discussion list and a weekly newsletter that updates all subscribers on current issues."*

Michiel Wackers the Deputy Director of the department points out that the departments web site is getting over 4,500 hits a month with people researching the full range of topics from zoning, to wetlands, to economic development and quality of life issues.

The City of Middletown is now proud to debut its Web-based Geographic Information system (GIS). This system allows for the public to pull up a wide variety of public information on properties from the comfort of their homes.

GIS has been an increasingly popular tool used by all levels of government around the country to enhance the management of municipal information.

Director of Planning, William Warner explains, *" this system will benefit the residents of Middletown by providing them with increased access to our office and the information we possess. We can better serve their needs by quickly creating customized maps for applications and projects or even help resolve a zoning complaint in Middletown."*

Middletown's GIS system allows the user to view information about any parcel of land in Middletown, such as producing a map of a homeowners property showing lot lines and near by structures.

Specific property information can be retrieved, such as; parcel number used by the City's tax assessor, deed volume and page number, recent sales information, census tract number, the year a building was built, and much more.

The system also allows one to view aerial photos, zoning maps, flood maps and wetlands maps.

Rick Kearny, Economic Development Specialist, highlighted that this "GIS [system] will aid the business community in planning and analysis for real estate development. Businesses using GIS will discover new ways to serve customers and determine locations for bringing new services to the city."

As a lawyer who has done his share of real estate work, Mayor Giuliano also recognizes the value of the system to lawyers, real estate agents, and appraisers. *"This will allow these people to do much of their work from their home computer and will allow city staff more uninterrupted time to plan our City."*

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