

As seen in the 2012 Fall edition of *There's a lot to do in Windsor*

Windsor's remedy for a healthy community



Dr. Charles J. Petrillo, Jr. – Health Director

Let's cut to the chase, because listing the duties and accomplishments of Windsor's Health Director Dr. Charles Petrillo would take up a lot of space and there are too many other un-earthed facts about this 38-year town employee that are far more interesting and should be shared.

Before coming to Windsor in 1964, Yale grad Charles Petrillo went into the United States Public Health Service and was stationed in Ohio. While there he contributed to the landmark flammable fabrics report that was eventually delivered to Congress. In addition, he formulated the idea and helped develop the consumer product safety listing which is still used nation-wide to this day.

When he began working for the Town of Windsor in 1974, Charles planned on staying five years. That plan obviously did not work out. He cites three reasons he did not leave after five years. "I really liked the people here. I have long admired the way in which Windsor town employees work together as a team and not as isolated individual departments. I have also enjoyed the variety of work and projects I have had the opportunity to take on during my career with the town."

He certainly has had his share of memorable events and firmly acknowledges that it was the entire organization, with many employees stepping out of their ordinary roles and taking on

new ones that led the community through events such as the tornado of 1979 that devastated Windsor's Poquonock neighborhood, a food outbreak at Mountain View Nursing home that resulted in five deaths and of course, the recent October snowstorm and power outage.

The post 9/11 era has seen a dramatic shift in the duties of the health department. Whereas 5% of the staff's time was typically spent on emergency management duties, that time allotment is now in the 35% range. Charles has served as the Director of MDA #31, a regional mass dispensing area that partners Windsor with South Windsor.

It's the landfill, however, that has provided Charles with his greatest sense of accomplishment and pride in the workplace. The Windsor/Bloomfield Landfill is one of only two municipal landfills in the state. Charles played an integral role in establishing the enterprise fund for the operation, making it a self sustaining operation that now has a \$30 million reserve that will pay for closing costs.

Charles Petrillo is a private person, but beams at the simple mention of his granddaughter Charlotte (pictured with Charles above). He has the greatest admiration for his wife Marcia and daughters Tracee and Lynn. Charles cares deeply for his family in a very real way. Windsor is lucky that he has cared about our community for the past 38 years in the same manner.