# KNOW YOUR TOWN PROVINCETONN

A Town Government Guide



Prepared by
The League of Women Voters
of Lower Cape Cod

situation: medical, psychological, drugs, etc.
It also provides inexpensive and occasionally
free medical services, counseling, child therapy,
legal aid referrals, transportation to medical
facilities outside of town, and blood pressure
clinics. It is financed by town, state, and
federal funds.

#### Health Associates of Provincetown, Inc.

A non-profit clinic, which expands services during the summer. Emergency calls may be made after regular hours.

#### Women's Health Care Center.

A private, non-profit clinic connected with the Health Associates of Provincetown, offers gynecological care and family planning assistance.

#### SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

#### Council on Aging.

Eight members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The Council, located at the Community
Center, has an active program for the senior
citizens of the town, under a Director paid by
the town. Hot lunches, legal aid, emergency
loans, employment assistance, recreational
and social activities, medical aid, travel, and
trips to medical facilities are all part of the
program.

#### Cape End Manor.

Cape End Manor is a nursing home for the elderly governed by a four-member board appointed by the Board of Selectmen and the Moderator. It is owned and operated by the town. A new building is currently under construction, which will house sixty residents.

#### RECREATION to al a selq mos avad

## Recreation Department.

Policy for the department is made by a Recreation Committee of five members appointed by the Town Manager. The Community Center, at 44 Bradford Street, is home base for all recreational activities of the town, plus the meeting place for more than twenty organizations. All scheduling is done through the Recreation Office.

In the fall, the department runs a soccer and football program at Motta Field, owned by the high school. The winter program includes ice hockey, boxing, karate, dance, art, music, jogging and adult basketball and volleyball programs. The Community Center has a game room equipped with a pool table, ping pong, cards, board games, etc., and a music room with stereo and a piano. The Center and its facilities are open to children Monday through Friday during the week and some evenings and Saturday afternoons. There is adult supervision of the building at all times.

Summer activities include a regular program held Monday through Friday at the Center; an athletic session every day at Motta Field; swimming instruction throughout the summer; Little League, Pony League, and girls' Minor League teams; a sailing program conducted by the West End Racing Club; and a tennis program conducted at Bissel's Tennis Club.

Two playgrounds, with basketball courts and playground equipment, are maintained by the Recreation Department at Bradford and Howlands Streets and Bradford and Nickerson Streets. The Department also maintains Evans Field on Route 6.

#### Cape Cod National Seashore.

Ocean beaches at Herring Cove and at Race Point

have complete facilities and parking lots and are open to the public for a daily fee. Seasonal passes may be obtained at ticket booths at the beaches.

There is an excellent eight-mile bicycle trail running through the Province Lands. It may be entered at Herring Cove and Race Point Beaches, at the Beach Forest Parking area off Race Road and at the Province Lands Visitors Center.

#### REGIONAL SERVICES

#### A.I.M. Medical Center.

Associated with Cape Cod Hospital, the center provides medical service twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week by phoning 349-3131. It is located on Route 6 in Wellfleet.

#### Cape Cod Blood Bank.

Through the Cape Cod Chapter of the American Red Cross, 265 South Street, Hyannis, a Cape resident may receive blood without cost or replacement required.

## Cape Cod Planning and Economic Development Commission. (CCPEDC)

The CCPEDC is situated in the First District Court in Barnstable. It is comprised of a representative and alternate from each of the fifteen Boards of Selectmen, the three County Commissioners, and representatives of minority groups, in addition to the staff. It is responsible for leadership in coping with problems that Cape towns have in common, such as transportation, control of water resources, waste disposal, economic development and land use. Its staff provides technical assistance to the towns, and furnishes information on federal programs and availability

of grants.

## Cape Cod Regional Technical Vocational High School.

Located on Pleasant Lake Avenue and Route 124 in Harwich, the vocational school serves the entire Mid and Lower Cape. Provincetown has two members on the Regional Technical High School Committee, as does each of the other ten towns in the District.

#### Public Transportation.

The Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA) is composed of one representative from each of the fifteen member towns, either the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, or his designee from the town. The Massachusetts State Legislature has given the CCRTA exclusive responsibility for the administration and coordination of all public transportation services.

General services (b bus) are available to anyone for any purpose. A three-month pass is \$14.00; for the elderly and handicapped it is \$10.00.

Special services (formerly Call-a-Ride) are free for the elderly and handicapped for health care trips.

#### CHURCHES

Church of the Redeemer
First Unitarian Universalist Church
Commercial Street, Provincetown

Provincetown United Methodist Church Shank Painter Road, Provincetown

85 St. Mary's of the Harbor Episcopal Church 2010

St. Peter, the Apostle, Roman Catholic Church Prince Street, Provincetown

Christian Union Church Route 6A, North Truro

First Congregational Church Main Street, Wellfleet

#### COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Boy Scouts of America Cape Cod Pilgrim Memorial Association Catholic Daughters of America Girl Scouts of America Highland Fish and Game Club Knights of Columbus League of Women Voters Lions Club Long Point Business and Professional Women's Assoc. Nautilus Club Portuguese-American Civic League Provincetown Art Association Province town Chamber of Commerce Provincetown Co-op Fishing Industries. Inc. Provincetown Democratic Town Committee Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center Provincetown Historical Association Provincetown Rotary Club Provincetown Tennis Club Provincetown Theatre Company Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3152 VFW Women's Auxiliary

#### PROVINCETOWN DIRECTORY

Airport,	Provincetown	487-0240
		487-0235
	mprehensive Employment Train-	1:000
	) 295 Commercial	487-0228
	of Commerce, 307 Commercial fense Committee, Town Hall	487-3424

A Dealer of Lance of Land Address of the Land Co. 1975	
Council on Aging, 44 Bradford	487-9906
Drop-in Center, 6 Gosnold	487-0387
Administration	487-3684
Employment Security Division, 293 Com.	487-1347
EUDIOAMETIC DECATION DELATION	487-0345
Fire Department, 256a Commercial Emergency	911
	SOLTIMER.
Health Associates of Provincetown,	487-9395
TH CONTOL 200	487-0666
Hell Trace Habrams 370 commercial	487-2663
Inspectors and nearon,	
minimal j, radito, by	487-0850
MACHILLAN WARLI	487-1096
	487-3516
" Provincetown Residence, 54 Com'1	487-3587
Police Department, Town Hall	487-1212
Emergency	911
Public Works Building, off Rte. 6	487-1051
Provincetown Center for Coast Studies	487-3622
Recreation Commission, 44 Bradford	487-0157
Pagena Saued 256a Commercial	487-0345
Emergency	911
School Department	
Elementary School, Prince St. 487-3	3300/3301
High School, Winslow St.	487-1177
" " Guidance, Winslow St.	487-1114
Special Services, Winslow St.	487-3211
Superintendent of Schools, Winslow	487-0560
Veterans Memorial School, Mayflower	487-0311
Selectmen, Board of, Town Hall	487-3900
Town Accountant, Town Hall	487-2661
Town Accountant, Town Hall	487-3902
Town Assessors, Town Hall	487-2662
Town Clerk, Town Hall	487-3900
Town Hall, Commercial & Ryder	487-3900
Town Manager, Town Hall	
Town Treasurer and Collector, Town Hall	487-0070
U.S. Coast Guard Station, Race Point	487-0163
U.S. Post Office, 211 Commercial	487-0075
U.S. Public Health Service, physician	
Water Department, Off State Highway	487-1051
Women's Health Clinic, 14 Center St.	487-3220

#### REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

AA Alcoholics Anonymous
AARP American Association of Retired Persons
AAUW American Association of University Women
American Cancer Society
American Heart Association
American Red Cross
APCC Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod
Audubon Association of Massachusetts
FISH
RSVP Retired Persons Volunteer Program

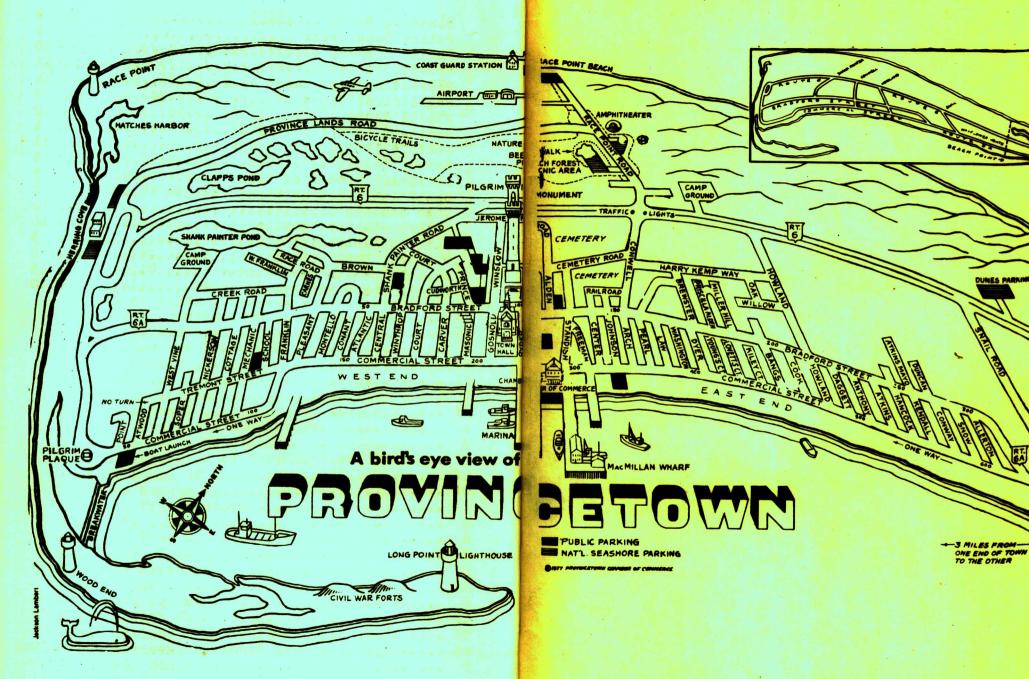
#### REGIONAL DIRECTORY

A.I.M. Medical Center, Rte. 6, Wellfleet	349-3131
Animal Rescue League of Boston, E. Brewster	
Barnstable County Extension Service	362-2511
Barnstable County Hospital, Pocasset	563-5941
Cape Cod Artificial Kidney Center, Yar-	707-794-
mouth Port	362-4535
	775-1540
Cape Cod Blood Bank, 265 South, Hyannis	777-1740
Cape Cod Community College, Rte 132,	762 2171
West Barnstable	362-2131
Cape Cod Family & Children's Services,	255 2080
81 Old Colony Way, Orelans	255-2980
Cape Cod Hospital, 27 Park, Hyannis	771-1800
Cape Cod Conservatory of Music & Art,	7/0 0000
Rte. 132, Barnstable	362-2772
Cape Cod Museum of Natural History,	206 7060
Rte. 6A, West Brewster	896-3867
Cape Cod Mental Health Ass'n., Hyannis	775-1859
Cape Cod Planning & Economic Develop-	THE STATE OF THE S
ment Commission, Barnstable	362-2511
Cape Cod Regional Technical Vocational	March 1
High School, Rte. 124, Harwich	432-4500
Court System, Barnstable County	362-2511
Elder Services of Cape Cod, Hyannis	771-4248
	-352-7141
Internal Revenue Service, 139 Falmouth	
	-892-0288
	-882-1649

Mental Health Dept., Cape &	Islands,	255-7877
Area office, Orleans Registry of Motor Vehicles,		775-0591
Social Security Administrati	on, 1819 an 188	775-7501
State Department of Public W	elfared hard bo	255-4403
Hill Top Plaza, Orleans Transportation, public (for	general 1-800-	-352-7155
and special services)	references	ra d

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This booklet is made possible through the contributions of the following in the Town of Provincetown:

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Brokers

Spencer Real Estate, Beverly Spencer, Realtor Nicholas Wells, Realtor Sidney Wordell Real Estate

Map: Provincetown Chamber

of Commerce

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This report is prepared as a public service by the League of Women Voters of Lower Cape Cod. The League is a non-partisan civic organization concerned with good government. The League of Women Voters of Lower Cape Cod is a chapter of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts and the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Members of the Lower Cape League are men and women from the eight towns in the area: Harwich, Browster, Chatham, Orleans, Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro, and Provincetown. Announcements of League meetings appear in the local press, and the public is invited; while and amin a local press. (letimed facilities de description of the second of the se

Information concerning the League may becottined by calling the toll free musics ber 1-800-882-1649. social town besting may be called by the Bo Salequeen no later than forty-five days af:

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red voters of the torn.

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#### PROVINCE TOWN

Province town was the first landing place of the Pilgrims before they moved on to establish a colony at Plymouth. The Mayflower dropped anchor in the Bay of Cape Cod on November 11, 1620, and it was there the "Mayflower Compact" was signed before coming ashore. This document, the first written constitution of the Colonies, was the basis of the government of Plymouth Colony until it was absorbed by Massachusetts.

The Precinct of Cape Cod was established by the General Court of Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1714. It was incorporated in 1727 and the name Provincetown was chosen. Fishing was the principal occupation of the people. By mid-nineteenth century, it had the largest fleet on the Cape and was second only to New Bedford and Nantucket as a whaling port.

Today, Province town is primarily a summer resort. During the winter months the fishing industry provides a stable economic base. The year-round population of approximately 4,000 peaks at 45,000 during the summer season.

#### TOWN GOVERNMENT

#### Charter.

A Home Rule Charter was accepted by the voters in 1974. The charter is the basic law that defines the organization, powers, functions, and essential procedures of the town. It provides for an open Town Meeting-Board of Selectmen-Town Manager form of government, with legislative powers veste in the voters at town meeting.

#### Town Meeting.

The town meeting has remained the basis of town government in New England since early Colonial times. Meetings are open to all registered voters of the town. The <u>quorum</u> for the conduct of business at Provincetown annual and special town meetings is one hundred registered voters.

The charter specifies two annual town meetings, on the second Tuesdays of April and October. The spring meeting considers and acts upon all annual operating and capital improvements budgets bond issues, and other financial matters. The fall meeting considers and acts upon matters of planning, zoning, subdivision control, building codes, the adoption, amendment or repeal of bylaws, as well as other business. As the state recognizes only one annual town meeting, the fall town meeting must be treated as a special town meeting.

A special town meeting may be called by the Board of Selectmen no later than forty-five days after petition signed by at least two hundred registered voters of the town.

#### Town Warrant.

The town warrant is a legal document containing

the articles to be discussed and voted upon at town meeting. The Board of Selectmen prepares the warrant for the meeting. Articles for the warrant may be submitted by the selectmen, any board, commission, committee, the town manager, or by private citizens if supported by a petition signed by ten registered voters of the town.

#### Annual Report.

The Annual Report is available at Town Hall before the annual meeting. The report lists all elected and appointed office holders for the town. It also includes a complete financial statement, including salaries paid to every employee; the minutes of the previous year's town meetings; vital statistics of the town for the past year; and a report by every committee, department, commission and board. It is a valuable resource for citizens interested in the functioning of their local government.

#### Open Meeting Law.

The open meeting law in Massachusetts was passed in 1975. It provides that all meetings by a governmental body shall be open to the public, and mandates keeping accurate and complete reports of actions taken at the meeting. Under certain circumstances, however, an executive session may be voted by the members of the board, commission, or committee. This vote must be recorded and a record must be kept of the executive session. Executive session is usually called when the reputation or competence of an individual is involved.

#### Voter Registration.

Any qualified United States citizen, eighteen years of age by the date of the next election, who is a resident of the district, may register to vote in person with the Town Clerk in Town

Hall weekdays during office hours. Special registration sessions are held by the Board of Registrars prior to elections, as posted.

There is no length of residence requirement.

Registration must be made twenty-eight days prior to a state or federal election, twenty days prior to a town election or annual town meeting, and ten days prior to a special town meeting.

#### Jury Duty.

Jurors from Provincetown serve in Barnstable County courts. They are chosen by a drawing from a list of names of eligible registered voters.

#### Dog Licensing and Leash Law.

All dogs three months or older must be licensed annually by April 1. Licenses are issued by the Town Clerk. A leash law is in effect.

#### Shellfish Licenses and Regulations.

Issued by the Town Clerk, Town Hall.

#### Fresh Water and Game Licenses and Regulations.

Issued by the Town Clerk, Town Hall.

#### Sanitary Landfill.

Located at Race Point Road, the town dump is open daily from 7:30-11:45 a.m. and from 1:00-3:45 p.m., with the exception of New Year's, Thanks-giving and Christmas days. Vehicle stickers for use of the dump may be obtained from the office of the inspectors, Town Hall, by all property owners of Provincetown.

"pan Moderator has the responsibility of conduct."

#### ELECTED OFFICERS AND TOWN BOARDS

#### Board of Selectmen.

Five members, elected by popular vote for threeyear overlapping terms. The executive powers of the town are vested in the Board of Selectmen. and may be exercised by them jointly or through the town agencies and offices under their general supervision and control. The Board has the power to enact rules and regulations relating to the conduct of town elections, subject to the election laws of the Commonwealth; to appoint a commissioner of public safety, and together with such commissioner to make and declare the policy of all departments falling within the division of public safety; to make provisions for traffic regulation and control; and to perform and assume all duties and town governmental affairs not otherwise governed by statute, charter, or by-law cooses at at wal dage

The Board has the power to appoint: a town manager; commissioner of public safety, who shall be the town manager; a town counsel, board of registrars and assistants; planning board; board of zoning appeals; airport commission; personnel appeals board; licensing agent; secretary to the Board of Selectmen; and any other officers, committees, commissions or boards as provided by by-law. Vacancies in elected town boards shall be filled by the Board of Selectmen together with the remaining members of the respective board. The Board of Selectmen shall designate a qualified person within seven days of advice of a vacancy in the office of town manager caused by absence, suspension, removal, or resignation. Members of the Board of Selectmen shall be ineligible to serve in this capacity.

#### Town Moderator.

Elected by popular vote for a one year term. The Town Moderator has the responsibility of conduct-

ing all town meetings. He appoints the Finance Committee and such ad hoc committees as created by town meetings for which another appointive authority is not named.

#### School Committee.

Five members elected by popular vote for threeyear overlapping terms. The School Committee has complete autonomy, and is responsible for school financing, policy, and personnel. A public hearing is conducted by the School Committee prior to submitting a budget to the Town Manager.

#### APPOINTED OFFICERS AND TOWN BOARDS

#### Town Manager.

Appointed by the Board of Selectmen for an indefinite term. The Town Manager is directly responsible to the Board of Selectmen for the performance of his duties.

The Town Manager is the chief administrative officer of the town. He serves as Commissioner of Public Safety. He prepares and presents to the Board of Selectmen all annual operating and capital budgets of the town, except the School Committee's budget, and is responsible for the development and annual revision of a capital improvements program. He is responsible for the administrative functions of finance, public safety, public service, and public works.

The manager may, subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen, establish, reorganize, consolidate, or abolish any department, board, commission committee, office or agency under his direction, except as otherwise provided by general law. He may transfer the duties and powers, and the appropriation (with the approval and consent of the Finance Committee) of one department, commission,

board or office to another.

He has the power to appoint and, except as otherwise provided by civil service and tenure provisions, the charter, or collective bargaining agreements, may suspend or remove for cause: a police chief, a town clerk, a town accountant, town tax collector/treasurer, three assessors, and conservation commission, all with the approval of the Board of Selectmen; a board of health; a board of library trustees; wharf committee; water and sewage commission; all division and department heads, officers, and employees administering functions for which he is responsible; and members of boards, commissions, committees, and individual town offices as authorized by general law, charter, or by-law, and for whom appointment is not otherwise provided.

#### Finance Committee.

Nine members appointed by the Moderator for threeyear overlapping terms. The Committee considers and issues recommendations on all articles at town meetings involving the expenditure of funds. The Chairman, or his representative must be present at the meeting to provide verbal explanation of such recommendations, which are not binding on the voters.

The Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen jointly hold one or more hearings on the fiscal budget proposed by the Town Manager, not less than fourteen days prior to town meeting. When the budget, including the budget adopted by the School Committee, insofar as permitted by law, is before the town meeting for action, it shall first be subject to amendments proposed by the Finance Committee before any other amendments shall be proposed.

The Finance Committee is required to publish in

one or more newspapers of general circulation in the town, the general summary of the capital improvements program submitted by the Town Manager, and notice stating the times and places where copies of the program are available for inspection; and the date, time and place when the Finance Committee shall conduct a public hearing on the program.

#### Town Clerk.

Appointed by the Town Manager for an indefinite term. The Town Clerk's duties include the issuing of licenses and permits, and serving as recording officer of the town. The clerk is custodian of vital statistics and town records. All state laws governing elections are sent to the Town Clerk, who is in control of elections. The clerk is also, along with the Moderator, in control of town meetings.

#### Personnel Board.

Three members, appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The charter requires that all appointments and promotions of town officers and employees be made on the basis of merit and fitness demonstrated by an examination and/or other evidence of competence. After consultation with the Personnel Board, the Town Manager formulates rules for all town positions except those of the school department. Such rules provide for the classification of all positions, a salary and pay plan, appointment and promotion, hours of work, etc.

#### Board of Assessors.

Three members appointed by the Town Manager for staggered terms, one of whom shall serve full time and possess appropriate professional qualifications.

The "Cherry Sheet" is a notice to assessors of the towns of the amount of money each town is to re-

ceive from the state, minus the expenditures for which the town is responsible. These amounts are an important factor in determining the tax rate.

#### Board of Registrars.

A four member board of which one member is the Town Clerk. The other three members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen for staggered terms. The Board's duties include registering voters, making local listings of residents, certifying nomination papers and petitions, processing absentee voter applications and administering election recounts.

The regular election for all town offices is held on the third Tuesday in April of each year. All elections of town officers are non-partisan. Any registered voter of the town is eligible for election to any elective office or board, provided, however, that no person shall hold, concurrently, more than one elective office. A member of the Board of Selectmen shall not hold any other appointed or elected office, paid or unpaid, with the exception of those positions in the fire department not appointed by the Town Manager. Selectmen, members of the School Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Moderator shall not hold office and concurrently receive reimbursement from the town for any services other than those positions on the fire department not appointed by the Town Manager.

#### Planning Board.

Five members appointed by the Board of Selectmen for five-year overlapping terms. The Planning Board makes recommendations to the Town Manager, Board of Selectmen, and to town meeting on all matters concerning the physical, economic, and environmental development of the town. The Board is responsible for the development of periodic updating of a master or comprehensive plan.

#### Zoning Board of Appeals.

Five voting members and two alternatives, appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The Board issues permits and hears appeals from zoning by-laws.

#### Building Inspector.

Appointed by the Town Manager for an indefinite term. The Building Inspector issues permits and sees that local and state laws and regulations are met.

#### Conservation Commission.

Seven members, appointed by the Town Manager for three-year overlapping terms. The Board is concerned with the protection and preservation of open spaces and wetlands in the town.

#### Heritage Museum Board.

Seven members appointed by the Board of Selectmen for three-year staggered terms. The Heritage Museum is a National Registered Landmark. The town purchased the Center Methodist Church on Commercial Street in 1976 with the aid of matching Federal funds. In addition to town financial support, the Museum is aided by funds from the Department of the Interior, which are channeled through the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

The Museum houses antique fire equipment, marine gear, historical artifacts, environmental displays, art exhibits, and a half-scale model of the famous schooner Rose Dorothea.

#### Provincetown Public Library.

Governed by five trustees appointed by the Town Manager for three-year overlapping terms. The

Library is a member of the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library System.

#### EDUCATION

Town Schools	1978-79 Enroll
Provincetown High S	chool (9-12)
Veterans Memorial M	iddle School (5-8)
Elementary School	K-4) 4 6 1 301 1 1 8 1 9 1 60 1 5 1 8 1 9 1 60 1 5 1 8 1 8 1 9 1 60 1 5 1 8 1 8 1 8 1 8 1 8 1 8 1 8 1 8 1 8
Attending Cape Cod	Regional Techni-
cal High School	1977-78 - 18
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#### Pre-School.

The Provincetown Pre-School is a federally funded program under the administration of the Province-town School Committee. The program is designed to provide a good early childhood experience which can serve the multiple needs of pre-school children, including areas of socialization, motor skills, language development and creative development. The program involves twenty three four year old children under the direction of two teachers and a Parent Advisory Council.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

#### Police Department.

The Police Department is composed of a Chief appointed by the Town Manager with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, and a full-time force of nineteen. In the summer an additional eighteen are added to the force. There is a year-round auxiliary force of fifteen to fill in when needed.

#### Fire Department.

The Fire Department is composed of volunteers and is directed by a seven-member Board of Fire

Engineers appointed by the Town Manager. A Chief and Deputy Chief, who serve part-time, are appointed from the Board of Fire Engineers. The Department has five pumpers.

#### Rescue Squad.

The Rescue Squad is composed of volunteers, under the direction of the Board of Fire Engineers and a Captain. The Squad has two rescue trucks, a specially trained underwater rescue team, paramedics, and trained EMT's. A "Jaws of Life" was purchased through donations from the town.

#### Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard Station at Race Point handles all rescues at sea.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

#### Board of Health.

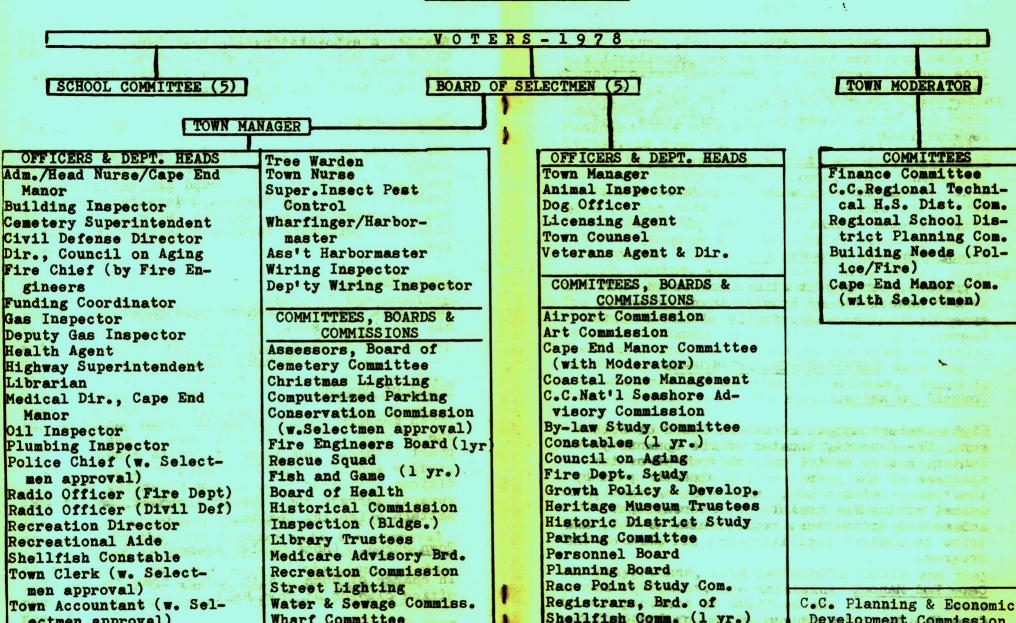
Seven members appointed by the Town Manager, one of whom shall be a professional health practitioner. The Board of Health conducts studies and investigations of town health conditions and makes regulations regarding water, sewage, garbage and rubbish disposal, and other matters affecting health.

### Town Nurse. (Home Health Agency)

In charge of home health aides, home visits and office clinics at Town Hall.

#### Drop-in Center.

A non-profit, outpatient, medical treatment center. The Center runs a twenty-four hour hot line for help in almost any kind of crisis



Wharf Committee

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ectmen approval)

Town Treas./Collector

Town Crier

Town Beautification Comm.

Development Commission

Energy Commission

building is currently under construction, which

Veterans Graves (1 yr.)

Zoning Board of Appeals