



CITY OF DANBURY

OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE

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Livable Neighborhoods 2010
“Building a Better Danbury”

April 2010

April 27, 2010

Honorable Mayor Boughton and City Council Members:

Below is a table highlighting UNIT activity from the time period since the previous months City Council report. This does not include any UNIT activity regarding follow up and re-inspection work from previously noted issues. The UNIT works to ensure that each and every issue is resolved as quickly as possible.

Time Period	March 31 – April 27, 2010
Number of Quality of Life Issues	92
One Year Ago	141

The top issues addressed by the UNIT were:

- Properties with debris on it (29)
- Miscellaneous (19)
- Sidewalk parking enforcement (15)
- Front Yard parking (10)

In the past month, 29 properties were addressed by the UNIT as a result of needing to clean/remove garbage and debris from their property. The majority of miscellaneous items this month were related to nuisance issues in the neighborhood. In this case, there were a couple of calls regarding loud neighbors and several complaints of residents having chickens/roosters on their property. Fifteen Sidewalk parking tickets were issued during this time. The UNIT has already noticed a significant improvement on a few of the City streets where this problem has been common.

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

On Tuesday, April 13th, the UNIT partnered with Chris McGran of the Highway Department and cleaned a wooded area near the parking lot at the Candlewood Lake Town Park. Sadly, this area has been prone to illegal dumping in the past and before the

trees starting blooming, now was an ideal time to clean the area up. As a result of our cleanup, over 2000 lbs of debris was removed from the woods. Additionally, approximately 25 tires were also included in the clean up. (see pictures below) Illegal dumping is a continual problem in our community and Danbury is no exception. Catching the criminals in the act of dumping is an everyday challenge, but when it happens, these individuals will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. In the meantime, the UNIT and the Highway Department continue to keep Danbury clean to the best of our ability.

Candlewood Town Park Clean-up



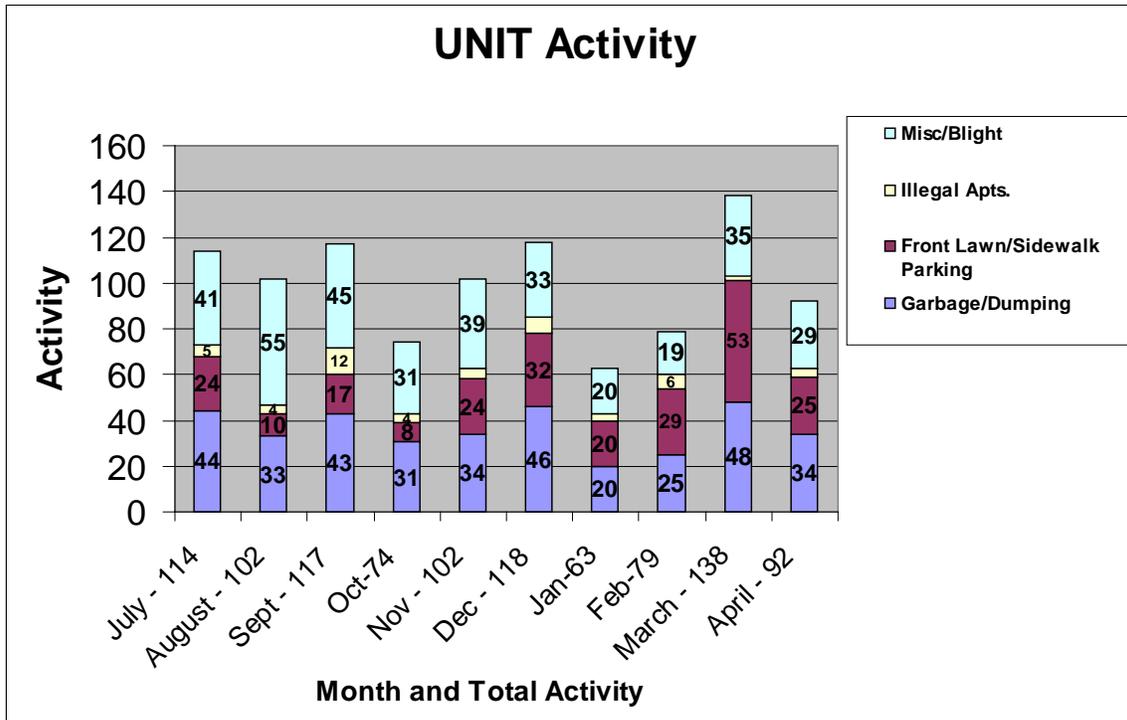
REMINDER: CLEAN CITY DANBURY, SATURDAY 5/1 FROM 8-1PM

Another highlight of the month was actually the result of an inspection of a multi-family home on Grandview Avenue. A resident and her small child were living in an attic apartment and the UNIT, in conjunction with the Fire Marshal office had determined that the apartment was unsafe, and therefore uninhabitable due to proper lack of egress in the case of fire emergency. Under the direction of Kristy Gray in the Health Department, she was able to secure assistance from CACD to help find a new (and safe) place for these residents to live. Additionally, the proper owner was put on notice and alerted that the attic can never be used as an apartment unless appropriate and permitted changes were made to the living space.

During the week of April 12th, the UNIT spent nearly 6 hours with members of the Danbury Housing Authority walking through the Fairfield and Mill Rill neighborhoods. This initiative is an attempt to raise awareness among the residents in their neighborhood about the importance of keeping their properties clean and complying with the DHA and City's regulations. Several issues were noted, mostly pertaining to garbage, and the UNIT will follow up to ensure that each item has been properly resolved. Additionally, UNIT member, Larry Miguel, attended a DHA resident meeting on Wed, Apr 21st and met with over 50 residents to even further raise awareness to the responsibilities that each resident has to keep their property clean.

Also in April, the UNIT was the "guest speaker" at a recent Lions Club luncheon. It was a nice opportunity to promote our department and raise awareness of everything that the UNIT does to maintain the quality of life in Danbury. The presentation prompted several questions and overall, was a positive experience. Thank you to the Lions Club for inviting me to speak on behalf of our department!

The goal of the UNIT is to improve the quality of life in Danbury and maintain the city as a desirable place to live. The UNIT is committed to addressing and resolving these issues as quickly as possible. Below is a bar graph illustrating the monthly totals of UNIT service requests for various concerns. Front lawn parking and garbage/debris result in the majority of the daily issues faced by the UNIT. Miscellaneous may include homes in disrepair, illegal dumping, blight, etc.



311 Call Center Report: April 2010

The month of April saw the 311 Call Center receive nearly 700 calls from residents; while phone numbers was once again the most-requested item at 286, calls for information regarding Clean City Danbury Day (May 1) brought in 122 calls. Residents are also pleased to hear the beginning of the spring leaf pick-up program which saw 37 calls; while 28 calls were received from residents looking as to where they can dispose of their garbage (each resident was then informed of Clean City Danbury Day). Residents are also eagerly anticipating the next Household Hazardous Waste Day (May 22 in Newtown and September 25 in Danbury) with 14 calls received and another 10 from residents looking for information about the recycling truck. The bad weather of late winter/early spring also brought about numerous road hazards as residents reported 45 potholes during April. As trees and bushes grow with spring they can often become dangerous for motorists by sticking out into the road or by leaning onto power lines. Residents are encouraged to report such instances, as well as any other potential dangers, so they can be properly addressed before the situation worsens.

The UNIT continues to encourage the participation of Danbury's residents to report any concerns in their neighborhood by utilizing the City Line 311 system. Residents of Danbury can simply dial 311 from their home phones, or 203-744-4311 from out of town or cell phones. Additionally, residents can log on to the City's webpage, www.ci.danbury.ct.us, and click on the City Line 311 link and register their complaint at their convenience. Residents can choose to provide their contact information, so the UNIT can follow up and provide an update on the situation. By visiting the Neighborhood Assistance Department on the City's website, residents will also be able to view the UNIT's monthly activity.

If we can be of any assistance to you or residents in your ward please contact us at 796-8026 or 311.

Sincerely,
Shawn Stillman
Coordinator, Office of Neighborhood Assistance