



CITY OF DANBURY
OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE

155 DEER HILL AVENUE
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

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Livable Neighborhoods 2009

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May 2009

“Building a Better Danbury”
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Honorable Mayor Boughton and Common Council Members:

From the time period of the previous Common Council report, April 28th, up until May 26th, the UNIT has responded to 114 issues. This does not include any follow up re-inspections from previously noted issues that the UNIT continues to follow up on.

The Office of Neighborhood Assistance and Mayor Mark Boughton hosted a neighborhood meeting on Monday, April 27th. Property owners and residents living on or around the areas of Deer Hill Ave, Southern Blvd, Mountainville Ave, West Wooster St and Garfield Ave were invited to learn how the UNIT will be conducting ACTION (Active Commitment Toward Improving Our Neighborhood) in their neighborhood. It was a great turnout as nearly 50 residents attended. The meeting allowed the residents a Q&A session and it was an excellent forum to remind Danbury’s residents to utilize City Line 311.

During the weeks following the meeting, the UNIT walked these neighborhoods, spoke with residents and looked for any quality of life issues that can be improved. As a result of ACTION, the UNIT noted at least 20 issues. Lincoln and Garfield Avenues accounted for 18 issues, mostly involving vehicles. Some were parked on the lawn or over the curb, one was a commercial truck, and a few others were inoperable cars that were an eyesore and didn’t belong on the property. The UNIT also made two referrals to the Highway Department regarding making some improvements to Lincoln Avenue. One request for fixing a large pothole near a driveway is a direct result of one of the residents seeing the team in their neighborhood and asking for assistance. Another resident noted us walking their neighborhood and talked to the team about placing a speed hump on their street. We explained that the process of installing a speed hump starts within our office and assisted the resident in getting started. It is rewarding to the UNIT when residents feel confident that they can bring their concerns to the team and know that the UNIT can assist them.

The Office of Neighborhood Assistance will be hosting another neighborhood meeting in June. The date and location of this meeting will be determined within the next few days.

A notable achievement for May include the eventual clean up and collection of \$1800 in fines from a property owner on Maple Avenue. The property had historically been over-run with construction debris, over-flowing dumpsters and inoperable vehicles. Due to the persistence of UNIT and Health Department member, Don Melillo, he was able to enforce the clean-up on the property, as well as institute a permanent injunction which requires the property owner to maintain the property or be subject to daily fines if the property is kept in poor condition.

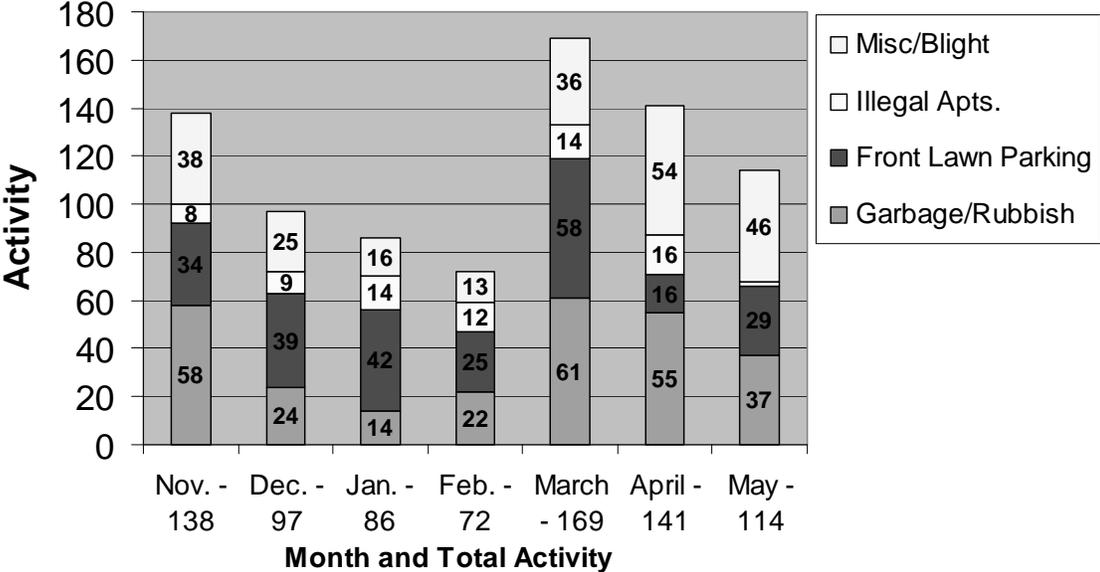
Clean City Danbury was Saturday, May 2nd and members of the UNIT volunteered to direct traffic, assist residents in their drop off and handed out City Line 311 magnets to residents. .

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.

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.

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.

UNIT Activity



311 Call Center Report: May 2009

The month of May saw the 311 Call Center receive over 750 calls from residents with the majority of calls being related to general information such as phone numbers (102), the spring yard debris pick-up (91), and Clean City Danbury Day (28 calls – all received during the first week of the month) as well as another 15 calls for wildlife concerns. Residents also called for information on the closing and repaving of Kennedy Avenue and the next scheduled Household Hazardous Materials Waste Day. As the summer months approach an increase of calls is expected relating to the fireworks (set for June 27 at the Town Park) as well as concerts and activities taking place at The Green from City Center Danbury. Residents are encouraged to call in with questions relating to admission to our parks as well as to report any issues or concerns around the City. The summer months have also proved a busy time for tree and grass maintenance and the 311 Call Center is well-prepared to handle these issues by maintaining close communications with the Department of Public Works.

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