



## CITY OF DANBURY OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE

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Livable Neighborhoods 2014  
*“Building a Better Danbury”*

**May 2014**

May 22, 2014

Honorable Mayor Boughton and City Council Members:

Below is a table highlighting UNIT activity from the time of last month’s 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.

<b>Time Period</b>	April 28 – May 22, 2014
<b>Number of Quality of Life Issues</b>	83
<b>Year to Date</b>	383

The top issues addressed by the UNIT were:

- Garbage/Debris and Blighted property (33)
- Miscellaneous (20)
- Exterior Blight Order/Notice of Violation (8)
- Illegal Apartments/Overcrowding, Unpermitted Construction (8)
- Abandoned or unregistered vehicles (3)

**Clean City Danbury Day** turned out to be a great day as many residents took advantage of free bulky waste disposal. Additionally, hundreds of volunteers cleaned up litter within their neighborhoods and city streets. What a great service!

Our department continues to be busy this Spring. With the overwhelming success of the Exterior Blight Orders (EBO) that our department utilizes for blighted properties, our department continues to look for ways to improve properties that have been blighted for a long period of time. We refer to them as **Notice of Violations (NOV)**. Typically, the EBO gives property owners thirty (30) days to remedy the violation, however some properties have issues that have been longstanding and would most likely require more than 30 days to comply. The NOV has been used as pre-cursor to the EBO and allows the property owner a reasonable deadline to meet

with Rich or myself and come up with a plan of action, along with a timeframe to resolve the issue. If the deadline passes without any action, then an EBO will be sent. Below is a list of properties and issues that the UNIT has been dealing with over the last month.

- **27 Maple Avenue**
- **31 Maple Avenue**
- **33 Maple Avenue**
- **27 Osborne Street:**

These properties have a front yard that consists mostly of dirt. Commonly, vehicles can be seen parking or driving over this area. Also, in the case of the Maple Ave addresses, dumpsters are randomly placed in this area as well. As a result, the front yards have large tire ruts, pool with muddy water during rain storms and overall, look terrible. NOV letters have been sent to all property owners with the expectation to restore the front yard to a grassy or landscaped non parking area. To date, all homeowners have responded and 3 of the properties have already started with the improvements..

- **39 Park Avenue**
- **42 Newtown Road**
- **13 Coal Pit Hill Road**

Issued NOV to these property owners for essentially the same problems. Both of these houses are vacant and in complete disrepair. Demolishment would be the best case scenario for these structures. The properties are overgrown with tree saplings, weeds and brush that have gotten out of control. While these properties are an eyesore to the area and the surrounding neighbors, there are other issues to consider as well. Considering the poor conditions of the structures and how the overgrowth conceals the property from the street, the possibility for criminal mischief presents itself. That said, property owners incur a major liability if someone were to get injured on the property. Our department is requiring significant action to be taken to improve the property. To date, we have already met with the owner of Newtown Road and Coal Pit Hill Road.

### **EXTERIOR BLIGHT CITATIONS:**

**Orders written by UNIT (YTD): 35**

Below is a review of the warnings sent this past month: (2)

- **12 Blaine Street:** Issued order for the removal of unregistered/inoperable vehicle that hasn't moved in several years.
- **14 Crestdale Drive:** This property has been neglected by the owner for years. The lawn needs to be routinely maintained, trees and overgrowth cut back. Several meetings with the homeowner have not resulted in action, thus EBO issued.

## **311 Call Center Report: May 2014**

The month of May saw the 311 Call Center receive approximately 510 calls, as once again requests for phone numbers were the most-requested item at 131 inquiries. The Spring Yard Debris Pickup Program brought 46 calls from residents inquiring as to when their debris would be removed, as well as the parameters of the program. Residents were also diligent in reporting potholes during May as over 60 potholes were reported throughout the city. Clean City Danbury Day, which took place on May 3, brought 12 calls from residents seeking last minute information or from unfortunate residents who missed this year's event. Residents seeking to dispose of household garbage placed 18 calls, while residents seeking information pertaining to the recycling truck brought 12 calls. Residents are encouraged during the summer months to report bushes or trees that are overgrown onto the road and blocking sightlines, or to report drainage issues that arise due to the frequent storms. Each call will be logged and routed to the appropriate department to ensure that the matter is evaluated for potential solutions. The late spring and early summer weeks historically bring numerous inquiries from residents seeking information on the numerous events that take place within Danbury; keeping in close contact with numerous agencies throughout Danbury ensure that appropriate information is relayed to residents.

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](http://www.ci.danbury.ct.us), and click on the City Line 311 link and register their complaint at their convenience, and now, residents can utilize the Danbury Direct app from their iPhone to submit a concern or question. 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