



CITY OF DANBURY
OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE

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Livable Neighborhoods 2014
“Building a Better Danbury”

June 2014

June 23, 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.

Time Period	May 22 – June 23, 2014
Number of Quality of Life Issues	71
Year to Date	449

The top issues addressed by the UNIT were:

- Garbage/Debris and Blighted property (28)
- Front Lawn Parking (9)
- Illegal Apartments/Overcrowding, Unpermitted Construction (9)
- Miscellaneous (8)
- Abandoned houses/properties (6)
- Exterior Blight Order/Notice of Violation (5)

Now is the time of the year where our department receives complaints and notices properties in neglect as the grass grows excessively high. In many cases, these properties are vacant and in the process of foreclosure, however, sometimes, it is simply a result of property owners not maintaining the property in a common, routine fashion.

A significant cleanup was complete two weeks ago along the shore of the Still River off of Main Street, behind the old Humphrey Building. Thank you to Ed Sergi and the United Way Youth Volunteer Corps for doing a fantastic job of a cleanup. Couches, mattresses, litter and a significant amount of garbage was cleaned up and the UNIT coordinated it all to be taken away.

EXTERIOR BLIGHT CITATIONS:

Orders written by UNIT (YTD): 39

Below is a review of the warnings sent this past month: (4)

- **3 Concord Road:** Issued order for the remediation of several blight issues. Removal or re-registration of RV and old boats on property. Although, they may not be operable, so in order for them to remain on property, they must be operable. Back yard which has not been maintained, must be cut back and any/all rubbish to be removed. Received neighbor complaints of rats. Order also requires property owner to have home professionally exterminated. Neighbors have been complaining about various issues on this property for years
- **18 Eden Drive:** Issued order for the removal of approx 10 unregistered/inoperable vehicles. Property appears to be a dumping ground for this purpose. Additionally, there is abundance of rubbish in rear of property that needs to be cleaned up and removed.
- **41 Glen Hill Road:** Issued order for the removal/re-registration of unregistered vehicle that has sat in the driveway for several years. Tires are flat, vehicle in apparent disrepair. Several warnings have been issued in the past.
- **114 Hayestown Road:** Issued order to have the entire lawn mowed and routinely maintained. The routine care of the property has been ignored over the past few years. House may be in the direction of foreclosure.

Updates:

- **57 Deer Hill Ave:** This property has been the burden of complaints for several years and upon UNIT action, the property has been significantly improved. The house has been painted to improve its appearance, lawn has been maintained with the removal of tree/shrubbery overgrowth, etc. Furthermore, the property has now been listed on the market. Good things are happening with this property, and it is solely due to the proactive and aggressive action of the UNIT.
- **13 Coal Pit Hill Road:** This is another vacant property in disrepair. Windows were boarded up, structure decaying, and property is an eyesore in the area. UNIT action had been taken and upon meeting with the property owner and explaining everything that will need to be done to remediate the issues, the owner has decided to demolish the structure. Another example where this Exterior Blight Order works!
- **42 Newtown Road:** This property is similar to 13 Coal Pit and 57 Deer Hill, although the UNIT has never received a complaint on it, as it is not easily seen behind the overgrowth of the unattended property. However, the structure is in complete disrepair. There are holes in the roof, the structure is not secure and it is an eyesore. Upon UNIT intervention and further discussions with the property owner, the structure is scheduled to be taken down.

- **189 Stadley Rough:** Another property that had gone into disrepair over the years in a nice, quiet neighborhood, where surrounding properties are meticulously maintained. The property had passed away and the home was left in the trust of their out of state daughter that had no interest in maintaining the property. As a result of neglect, the structure deteriorated and was overrun by animals and significantly ruined by water damage. Rich Antous worked diligently with the daughter and her attorney to ensure that the property was cleaned up and routinely maintained. Currently, the house has been placed on the market and will most likely be razed upon purchase.

These are recent significant success stories of our department and it is solely through the efforts of our department that these major accomplishments are happening. Our department is very proud of these achievements.

311 Call Center Report: June 2014

The month of June saw the 311 Call Center receive approximately 526 calls, as once again requests for phone numbers were the most-requested item at 142 inquiries. The commencement of the Spring Yard Debris Pickup Program brought 20 calls from residents seeking information on the program while another 25 residents called for information on where they can dispose of household garbage. Residents also reported 43 potholes during the past month as the stable weather allowed crews to quickly fill and maintain the roadways. Residents seeking information pertaining to the recycling truck brought 16 calls and 11 residents sought information on the next Household Hazardous Waste Day, which will be September 27 in Danbury. As the summer months progress, residents are encouraged to report dangerous trees that are overgrown onto the road or high grass and bushes that block the line-of-sight for motorists. Drainage issues typically coincide with heavy thunderstorms and residents should call immediately to report a clogged catch basin or to suggest an area that may need attention. Each call will be logged and routed to the appropriate department to ensure that the matter is evaluated for potential solutions.

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, 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