



CITY OF DANBURY
OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE

Shawn Stillman
UNIT Coordinator
s.stillman@danbury-ct.gov

203-796-8026

Livable Neighborhoods 2015
“Building a Better Danbury”

October 2015

October 26, 2015

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	September 28 – October 26, 2015
Number of Quality of Life Issues	84
Year to Date - 2015	1005

The top issues addressed by the UNIT were:

- Garbage/Debris and Blighted property (26)
- Unregistered Vehicles (14)
- Miscellaneous (12)
- Abandoned vehicles/parking violations (10)
- Front lawn parking (8)
- Overcrowding/Illegal Apartments and Construction (7)
- Exterior Blight order/Notice of Violation (4)

The activity over the last few weeks has been steady. Overall, it has been a very busy and productive year. Currently, our department is over 200 service requests more than last year. Recently, the UNIT has had some noted success on a couple of properties around town that had been facing foreclosure, but the process hadn’t been complete yet. As a result, the neighbors were forced to have to put up with abandoned properties that were not being maintained. The UNIT continued to stay on top of the process and have now been successful in coordinating the cleanup and maintenance of these houses. Unfortunately, sometimes the process can be painstakingly long.

KENNEDY STREET CLEANUP:

UNIT came across a homeless campground in the woods along Kennedy Street. Approximately 7-8 people were living there in tents. Clothes and garbage was spread about the entire area, this being the same location that the UNIT spent over two days cleaning last year and coordinated the removal of almost a truckload of garbage. Our department communicated with each of the individuals there and required them to clean everything up, as well as providing a timeframe in which they would need to vacate the area. Approximately two weeks ago, the UNIT oversaw the moving day activities, ensuring that everything was appropriately cleaned up. Additionally, we brought a counselor from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services who was available to offer social service assistance, as well as assisting any person with their belongings to get to a shelter. Finally, once the area had been cleared out and cleaned up, the UNIT coordinated the installation of No Trespassing signs around the area. Not only will this help detract future activity in this area, but it also assists the Police Department with the enforcement of keeping the area free of unwanted activity.



Coincidentally, a week later, Eversource came by the area and cleared a large handful of trees and other overgrowth in the area that would have exposed this campground and all of the garbage for all to see, so our department's timing worked out very well.

RESIDENT COMMUNITY SERVICE: BEAVER STREET PARK

In an effort to clean a wooded hill along the Still River, behind Beaver Street Park, the UNIT took to unconventional methods and attempted to recruit people that are routinely spotted hanging out along Main Street and other areas downtown. It's their city too, and perhaps in some small way, if they were to participate in this type of cleanup, some would appreciate the need to keep our city clean and not litter. Not only was the UNIT successful, but on this morning, we had five (5) volunteers show up to clean the hill. It was not easy work, as the terrain was rough, the hill was steep and the garbage was plenty. However, this group of individuals did a great job and filled over twelve bags of garbage in just over an hour. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.



EXTERIOR AND STRUCTURAL BLIGHT CITATIONS/NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS:

Orders written by UNIT This period: 4
(YTD): 65 (Includes Notice of Violations)

2 Fern Street : In response to a neighbor complaint, an order was sent to eliminate the accumulation of rubbish/garbage around the exterior of the property, including some furniture in a small wooded area. Also, UNIT is requiring the relocation of a dumpster as it is too close to the street.

351 Main Street: Issued order for property owner of vacant building and lot where there is garbage and litter scattered around property. Property abuts train tracks and is a location known to attract the homeless population. Two small camp sites were removed by the UNIT and the property owner will: coordinate the removal of litter, cut back the overgrowth of vegetation to deter homeless/criminal mischief activity and will hang No Trespassing signs.

14 Parker Street: In a response to a neighbor complaint, UNIT sent order to property owner to remedy issues of rubbish around the exterior of the property, the removal of all commercial vehicles and equipment, as well as requiring all garbage cans to have lids. In the past, UNIT has issued an order to this property and it had been cleaned up swiftly. It is important to continue to stay on top of issues like this.

2 Benedict Avenue: In a response to neighbor complaint, UNIT sent a notice of violation for property owner to clean up and remove a large pile of branches that were cut from property owners' trees and were then placed across the street along the rail road tracks and under a bill board near Lake Avenue.

If we can be of any assistance to you or residents in your ward please contact us at 203-796-8026.

Sincerely,

Shawn Stillman
Director of Neighborhood Assistance