



CITY OF DANBURY
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

HEALTH AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT
155 DEER HILL AVENUE

(203) 797-4625
FAX (203) 796-1596

December 27, 2005

Mayor Mark D. Boughton
Common Council
155 Deer Hill Avenue
Danbury, CT 06810

Re: Department of Health & Housing Monthly Report to the Common Council

Dear Mayor Boughton and Members of the Common Council:

The November 2005 Department of Health & Housing monthly report is provided for your review. Detailed reports are attached for both the Housing & Food Service and the Environmental Health Divisions which identify specific inspections and hours provided by our staff. Should you have any questions regarding these issues, feel free to contact myself or each Division Head directly.

Main Topics

The Food Service Inspection summary scores are continuously posted for public information on the City of Danbury web site. Current inspection results are available for public review, these results area added to the web site by City staff.

A "Healthy Neighborhood is a Lead Safe Neighborhood" has coordinated with the Danbury Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) to provide free blood lead screenings for children under 6 with the Wellness on Wheels (WOW) Van. This will help provide blood lead screenings to children in Danbury and using the WOW Van services.

Additional Topics

In addition to the Department's year round workload, the seasonal issues have changed and added educational and regulatory tasks. Interview dates were scheduled with candidates for the vacant Senior Inspector position.

You are encouraged to review all the information for each Division, as it provides details concerning ongoing activities. Also, I thank you for giving the Department of Health & Housing the opportunity to serve the Citizens of Danbury and feel free to contact the Division Supervisors or myself with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott T. LeRoy", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott T. LeRoy MPH, MS
Director of Health

Cc: Dena Diorio, Director of Finance & Personnel



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HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICE REPORT

November, 2005

INSPECTIONS

	NUMBER							
	This Month	Last Month	Number Diff.	% Diff.	YTD	Last YTD	Number Diff.	% Diff.
A.	233	295	(62)	(21)	1347	1309	38	3
B.	64	90	(26)	(29)	427	301	126	42
C.	103	138	(35)	(25)	608	446	162	36
D.	59	63	(4)	(6)	293	553	(260)	(47)
E.	68	49	19	39	291	549	(258)	(47)
F.	14	22	(8)	(36)	187	112	75	67
A.	Total Housing Inspections							
B.	Total Housing Inspections Common Areas							
C.	Total Housing Inspections Dwelling Units							
D.	Total Housing Inspections Nuisance							
E.	Total Food Service Inspections							
F.	Total General Nuisance/Miscellaneous Inspections							



Paul Schierloh
Associate Director

NARRATIVE FOR MONTHLY REPORT

HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICES SECTION

Field activities for housing and food service functions conducted during the reporting period are reflected in the statistical summary attached. In addition to the normal administrative, inspection and enforcement activities associated with these functions, the section undertook the initiatives outlined below which would be deemed to be of special interest or importance.

Four members of the housing and food section continued to participate in bioterrorism and hazmat response training as part of the department's initiative to expand its capability to respond to emergency incidents. A slight decrease in inspection numbers for the housing and food sections will be more than offset by the increased flexibility offered to the department to respond to unexpected events.

Section personnel completed training in pool inspections to join Environmental Health Section personnel in implementing a comprehensive pool inspection program. Four members of the section received training this year which will provide the director additional flexibility in implementing the program next year.

Food service inspection totals for the month were lower than prior years due to the food inspector position vacancy. The new public health inspector started employment on May 23. The inspector cannot conduct food service inspections until successfully concluding field certification by the Connecticut Department of Public Health. The inspector has passed the State written exam. The inspector has undergone training in other disciplines within the department and has been conducting housing, nuisance and pool inspections. The inspector is currently on extended leave that began in mid-October. Housing inspection services have also been adversely impacted by an extended leave of the public health inspector assigned to housing inspections.

The department has completed the food service license renewal process for fiscal year 2005-06, having received required license applications and supporting documentation for all of the 550 food establishments in Danbury.

The Office of the Corporation Counsel processed twelve housing/health code referrals in November. The housing section made court appearances on two cases while several other cases were resolved prior to court appearances. Every effort is made to encourage cooperation in making needed improvements, but non-compliance leads to court action and possible penalties for contempt of court orders.

The department has discontinued nuisance sweeps in downtown neighborhoods until Spring. This effort also involves distribution of pamphlets on mosquito control and prevention of West Nile Virus. The Department continues to investigate complaints throughout the city referred through the Mayor's Blight Hotline and from other departments in addition to complaints made directly to the department. The department also participates in investigations by the Unified Neighborhood Inspection Team (UNIT). The department has also received complaints and service requests through the City's Q-Alert program and the CityScan program.

The department continued working with the LAMPP Project, the entity sub-contracted by the State to administer lead poisoning prevention and remediation funds awarded to Connecticut by the Federal government. The City has been assisting LAMPP to identify tenants and property owners who would be eligible to receive risk assessments as well as funds to abate lead hazards. This enables Danbury property owners to access funds available to abate lead paint, replace windows, doors and perform other repairs to make units lead safe. Danbury has had two projects consisting of seven total units funded through LAMPP or LAMPP partners. There are currently two additional applications under review by LAMPP, including one new application received in November.

The department has made a total of 9 referrals to LAMPP for lead assessments/education for eligible Danbury families since LAMPP opened up the referral process. One new referral was made in November. LAMPP Program activities will be coordinated with the screening and education efforts to be undertaken under the Lead Safe Neighborhood grant secured by Director of Health Scott LeRoy. LAMPP funds will be available to pay for lead inspections and lead hazard abatement in homes of children identified through the new screening effort as having problematic lead blood levels. The lead outreach worker who will implement the new lead grant program has been hired and has undergone required training and certification during November. The department anticipates that lead screening clinics will begin in early December.

The housing section also provides staff support for the Danbury Housing Partnership and the Danbury Fair Rent Commission. The part-time fair housing officer handled one housing discrimination inquiry, received three fair rent inquiries, processed one formal complaint, conducted one site investigation and attended one formal hearing. The fair housing officer also attended a meeting of the Fair Housing Association of Connecticut and assisted with monitoring of compliance with affordable housing restrictions in connection with a density bonus project.



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December 19, 2005

TO : Danbury Common Council

FROM: Jack Kozuchowski, Coordinator of Environmental & Occupational Health Services

J.K.

RE: Monthly Status Report - Environmental Health Division
November, 2005

Key Indicators	This Month	Last Month	# Difference	% Difference	YTD
<i>Hazardous Materials Management (hours)</i>	134	155	(21)	(14)	784
<i>Wetlands / Water Resources Management (hours)</i>	115	136	(21)	(150)	513
<i>Natural Resource Management</i>	24	32	(8)	(25)	139
<i>Program Administration (hours)</i>	60	52	8	15	259
<i>Subsurface Disposal Evaluations (Septic Systems and Wells) (# of site visits)</i>	273	130	143	110	841

Current Projects

Name	Status	Next Steps	Finish date
Hazardous Materials Management..	<p>1) Bioterrorism (BT) Preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Finalized / issue "After Action exercise report on the 9/26/05 emergency response exercise for City of Danbury ➤ Conducted meeting regional "Health Emergency Planning Committee" of area health directors aimed at developing a regional response process for BT events <p>2) Brownfield Assessments:</p> <p><u><i>Barnum Court.</i></u> Reviewed analyses of soil samples collected in cottonwood tree plots in September 2005</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in regional planning for BT preparedness and response; Initiate goals for 2005-2006 contract year preparedness planning. • Continue training EHD in Bioterrorism preparedness and response. <p>Analyze all results and prepare manuscript for publication of results.</p>	<p>November, 2005</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>June, 2006</p>
Water Resource Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Recreation Department to scope out projects for weed control and "goose exclusion hedgerow" at Kenosia and Candlewood Town Parks • Screened applications for Environmental Impact Commission, prepare reports present reports at EIC meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue staff liaison work with Kenosia Commission • Continue staff liaison work with EIC 	<p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p>
Natural Resource Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted meeting of Ives Trail Task Force. (10/4) • Assist Conservation Commission in selection of model that identifies priority vacant land parcels in the City 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work toward implementation of trail design and management/maintenance structure. • Construct trail. • Continue staff liaison work with Commission 	<p>May, 2006</p> <p>On-going</p>

Future Projects

Name	Rationale	Effect
None	Complete current projects before taking on new undertakings.	No new projects to be taken on – except for emergency assignments – due to program overload

Narrative

The status of major project activities of the Environmental Health Division (EHD) for November, 2005 can be summarized as follows.

- **Hazardous Materials Management.** The EHD worked through several drafts of the “After Action Exercise Report” for the September, 2005 exercise of the City’s Community Emergency Response Plan and issued the final report in November. The EHD continued its leadership role over the regional “Public Health Emergency Plan” committee, facilitating a survey by local health departments of alternative medical care facilities in the Housatonic area municipalities.

Data from the analysis of soil samples taken in September 2005 were received and statistically analyzed by the EHD in December. Plans were made to conclude Phase I of the national phytoremediation demonstration with a collection and analysis of “rhizome contact” soil samples in December. Following the receipt of the “rhizome contact” soil data, all project results will be compiled, reviewed and incorporated into a manuscript for publication in a scientific journal.

- **Water Resource Management.** The EHD continued its management of multiple water resource projects, including Lake Kenosia, the Still River, Tarrywile Lake and Rogers Park Pond. The EHD continues its staff support of the EIC, which will continue as best as it can, until the Senior Environmental Inspector position is appointed.
- **Natural Resource Management.** Work continued on planning for the Ives Trail. At the November meeting of the Task Force, the EHD directed the initiation of trail construction teams that will clear pathways, install trail markers, construct boardwalk crossings over sensitive areas and install map shed kiosks and environmental / Charles Ives music signs at specified locations along the 14.2 mile Greenway. The EHD presented the offer from Dreamscapers to donate a rustic timber archway, which was unanimously endorsed by the Task Force, subject to approval by the Tarrywile Park Authority and the Common Council. It was decided that the archway should be installed on Mountainville Road section of the “Ives Trail connector” to the Tarrywile trails (near the pre-school). The Task Force is geared toward substantial completion of the Ives Trail by National Trails Day in June, 2006.