



Hat City Housing Herald

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Winter 2012

Housing Authority, City of Danbury

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Calls For Service At All-Time Low

Calls for service to Danbury's Public Safety Divisions from Housing Authority residents hit an all-time low in 2011.

According to records compiled on a weekly basis by HACD staff, calls last year fell to 537, down from 578 in 2010 and from 1288 in the twelve months prior to the inception of the Public Safety program at the Housing Authority in 2005.

Mill Ridge, the Authorities largest site, understandably accounted for the most calls, 120. Fairfield Ridge came in second with 73 and Laurel Gardens followed at 67. Senior housing sites recorded the least number of calls. Glen Apartments had 13 calls, Crosby Manor 14, Putnam Towers had 37 and Ives Manor 51.

The continued decrease in calls for service can be attributed to several factors, according

to HACD's Public Safety unit which tracks the activity.

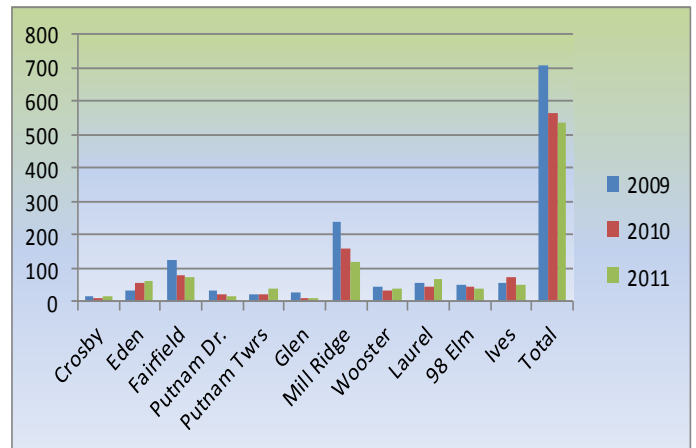
The continued attention given housing authority properties by the Danbury Police Department and, in particular the police department's Community Conditions Unit, is one factor.

The weekly tacking of events allows staff to pay attention to specific trends which could adversely impact residents.

Also contributing to the reduction is the criminal record search at application and at each annual certification.

Tenant participation by reporting suspicious and other activity to the police department and staff, also plays a big part.

"Staff-Tenant-Police is an unbeatable combination," Public Safety Director Kevin Barry said..



Safety and Security Are High Priority

The safety and security of residents at HACD locations is a matter of high priority for all agency officials.

Late last summer as Tropical Storm Irene approached, officials met with Paul Estefan, Danbury's Emergency Management Director, to plan a voluntary evacuation of the Glen Apartments.

In October when winter storm Alfred hit Danbury with a knock-out punch, Danbury Housing officials had to evacuate all tenants from Wooster Manor.

Again Estefan put a plan in place with Danbury Fire, EMS and HART Bus Company. Tenants were relocated to a shelter at the Danbury War Memorial and returned three days later when power was restored. HART Bus Co. again provided transportation.

It doesn't take a tropical storm to set things in motion, however.

The Housing Authority calls on other city agencies prior to anticipated events that can adversely effect tenants.

Whenever very hot weather is forecast, Emergency Management is also contacted to set up air conditioned HART buses to provide cooling spots for tenants. The agency also makes similar plans for cold-weather situations.

On a regular basis housing officials meet with the city's police and fire chiefs, fire marshal and members of the police department's Community Conditions Unit to address safety and security concerns.

(continued on page 3)

HACD Board Meetings 2012

The HACD Board of Commissioners will meet at 5:30 p.m. as follows:

- Jan. 19** 2 Mill Ridge
- Feb. 16** 2 Mill Ridge.
- Mar 16** Glen Apartments
- April 19** Putnam Towers
- May 17** Laurel Gardens
- June 21** Crosby Manor
- July 19** Laurel Gardens
- Aug. 16** Eden Drive.
- Sept. 20** Glen Apartments
- Oct. 18** 2 Mill Ridge
- Nov. 15** 2 Mill Ridge
- Dec. 20** 2 Mill Ridge



Tenants use traffic cones at some HACD sites to reserve parking spots.

Exchange Club and HACD Honor Firefighter

The Exchange Club of Danbury and the Danbury Housing Authority honored 2011's Firefighter of the year at a dinner October 6th at Anthony's Lake Club.

Fire Lieutenant Mark Miguel was the honoree.

Lt. Miguel was appointed to the career division of the Fire Department on January 9, 1996. He had previously served as a Danbury Volunteer Firefighter for seven years.

Mark followed in the footsteps of his father, Larry Miguel, who served the DFD for ten years.

He was promoted to his present rank in February, 2007. He is pursuing an associates degree in Fire Administration and Technology at the present time.

A certified Fire Officer 1 and a Connecticut State Fire Service Instructor he is also an Emergency Medical Technician. He has received numerous awards and commendations.

Community service is among his core values. He coached Little League Baseball for more than eight years. He presents annual fire prevention and safety talks to students at King

St. School and regularly gives his time and expertise to many fire department projects.

He is a life-long Danbury resident and attended Danbury schools. He is a graduate of Henry Abbott Regional Technical School.

He still resides in Danbury with his wife Lynda and their three children Ryan, Karyssa and Joey.

He was also honored October 20th with twenty other firefighters from across the state at the Aqua Turf in Southington.

Renter's Insurance A Good Idea

Most people know how important it is to have auto, home owner's and other forms of insurance, but many do not consider renter's insurance.

The Housing Authority's insurance does not cover any of its tenant's personal property. In event of a fire or some other hazard, the authority's policies only cover Housing Authority property.

If a fire or other loss occurs,



tenants could be faced with replacing all the contents of their unit. Televisions, computers, furniture, clothing and all other property belonging to the renter will not be covered unless the tenant has his/her own renter's insurance.

As with any other form of

insurance, the cost depends upon the deductible and other considerations. Does the policy owner want replacement coverage or coverage for the actual cash value (their depreciated worth?) The cost of the policy is dependent on the choice.

Policies are available for less than a dollar-a-day and are available from most local insurance agents.

No Reserved Parking at HACD Sites

There seems to be a proliferation of traffic cones at several senior housing sites as some residents try to carve out their own "reserved parking" spots.

"The Housing Authority does not provide or allow private parking spots at their properties." Public Safety Director Kevin Barry says.

The situation has gotten so out of control, according to

Barry, that one resident of the Glen Apartments interrupted a planning meeting during Hurricane Irene because a housing official was in what he claimed was his parking spot.

The situation continued at Wooster Manor even after the Housing Authority enlarged its parking at the site, providing more than the necessary parking for residents and visitors.

With the arrival of winter it is even more important that the traffic cones, used by tenants to reserve a spot, are removed to allow more efficient plowing. The cones also present a "trip and fall" hazard, Barry notes.

"The only exception," according to housing managers, "is Handicapped Parking and that is not assigned to any one resident."

What's In A Name – Wooster Manor

Wooster St., West Wooster St., Wooster Square, Wooster Hose Co. (volunteer fire department,) Wooster Cemetery, Wooster Mountain and **Wooster Manor**. What do they all have in common and why is the name Wooster so prominent in the Danbury area?

All are named in honor of General David Wooster (March 13, 1711–May 2, 1777.)

David Wooster was born in Stratford in what was then the British province of Connecticut. He entered Yale in 1735, and graduated in 1738.

In 1739, with the outbreak of war between Britain and Spain,

he joined the provincial army as a lieutenant. In 1741 he was named lieutenant aboard a provincial ship in what was the coast guard which the colony had established to protect against potential attack from Spain.

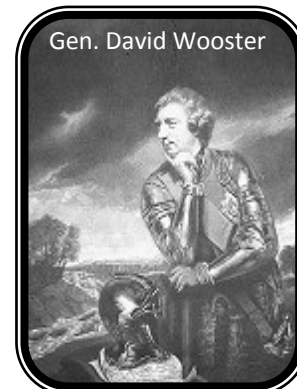
Over the next three decades he rose in rank. King George made him a captain in the British Army. He was later made a captain in the 3rd Connecticut Regiment. He was made a major general in the Revolutionary Army when the American Revolution began.

British General William Tryon launched an expedition in April 1777 to raid the then Continen-

tal Army supply depot at Danbury. On April 25, about 2,000 British troops landed near Fairfield and marched inland, reaching Danbury where they burned most of the town.

Wooster, now in charge of the Connecticut militia, attacked Tryon by surprise as he left Danbury. In a second battle, which was made as Tryon's column neared Ridgefield, Wooster was mortally wounded.

Wooster was taken to the Dibble House near Stone and South Streets where he died. He is buried in Wooster Cemetery. The Dibble House was demolished in the late 1890s.



Gen. David Wooster

HACD Wins Risk Control Innovation Award

For the second year in a row, the Housing Authority of the City of Danbury has won an Honorable Mention for its submission to the HARRI Awards.

The awards, presented by the Housing Authority Insurance Group, are presented in recognition of outstanding Risk Control Innovation in Loss Prevention and Loss Control.

HACD submitted its Major

Facilities Information Guide for consideration.

This guide is a compilation of information on all of the Authority's major facilities which is distributed to local emergency response agencies twice yearly.

The guide includes information on site staff as well as the location of equipment and building infrastructure. It also includes information on individ-

ual units where residents have particular need because of medical or disability problems, such as aid in an evacuation.

The guide also lists the names and contact information for HACD vendors who provide services to each building.

Last year, HACD received a similar award for its program to combat Distracted Driving.

Safety and Security (continued from page 1)

Twice a year, the Housing Authority updates its Major Facilities Guide and distributes it to public safety officials. (see above story)

This guide includes the names and contact numbers for site personnel, locations of fire alarms, fire hydrants, Knox Boxes (where FD access keys are kept,) generators, utilities

and other information. The guide also directs responding emergency personnel to units where residents might need assistance in case of evacuation or other emergency.

Housing Authority safety and asset personnel also conduct site safety inspections and report findings to site coordinators for action if any is necessary.

The fire marshal's office conducts annual inspections and safety talks at many of our sites throughout the year. Our alarm companies also conduct inspections of detection and alerting equipment on a regular basis.

HACD site and safety personnel also respond directly to the concerns of tenants and tenant representatives.

Citywide Pubic Housing Resident Council 2012

The Resident Council will meet at 5:30 pm as follows:

January 23 Ives Manor

February 13 2 Mill Ridge

March 12 Wooster Manor

April 16 Crosby Manor

May 14 Glen Apts.

June 18 Laurel Gardens

July NO MEETING

August 13 Eden Drive

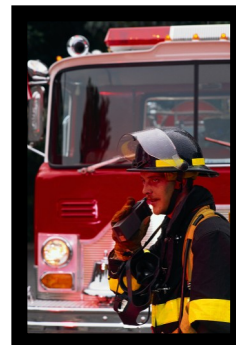
September 17 Ives Manor

October 15 Putnam Towers

November 19 Ives Manor*

December 10 workshop

* Annual Meeting 6 pm



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The Authority's mission, in support of the City of Danbury, is to provide safe, affordable and decent housing within the City of Danbury

Hat City Housing Herald
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Early arriving Winter Storm Alfred dropped 17 inches of heavy wet snow on the City of Danbury at the end of October taking down trees and knocking out power for days.

Jim Zeh photos

Crosby Manor CERT team members Rose Morrison and Brian Smith cook a hot meal for Crosby residents. An outside grill provided the needed heat source while power was out.



Cold Weather Prime Time for “Warm-up Thefts”

Washington DC – Have you heard about warm-up thefts? You can bet the average car thief has. The National Crime Prevention Council says car thieves may be on the prowl for your car during this current cold snap.

During the cold winter months, area drivers may be tempted to warm up their cars while they stay warm inside. But cars left running, unlocked, and unattended are quick and easy targets for thieves. NCPCC offers the following tips so you won't be left out in the cold:

- Never leave your car running or the keys in the ignition when you are away from it, even for “just a minute.”
- Keep valuables out of sight or in the trunk. Purses, credit cards, and cell phones in plain view only help attract thieves.
- Always roll up the windows and lock your car, even if it is in your driveway, garage, or in front of your home.
- Never leave the registration or title in your car. If stolen, it makes it easier for the thief to dispose of your vehicle. It can also make you a target for identity theft.
- Be alert when approaching your car, have a plan of action, and have your keys in your hand. Check around, under and in your vehicle for suspicious individuals. Immediately leave the scene to get help if you have any concerns for your safety.
- Only park your car in busy, well-lit areas.
- Install a mechanical locking device—commonly called clubs, collars, or j-bars—that locks to the steering wheel, column, or brake.
- If your vehicle has an alarm or other anti-theft device, use it.

