



Hat City Housing Herald

Summer 2013

HACDCT.ORG

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Housing Authority, City of Danbury

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Happy, Safe Summer

Summer is a time for fun in the sun and enjoying the benefits of outdoor activities. It is also a time of caution and attention to safety rules.

Every summer some HACD tenants rush out and buy swimming pools for their children or themselves. Pools have ranged in the past from wading pools to large above ground pools installed illegally.

All pools, regardless of size, are prohibited on any Housing Authority property. This may seem a harsh restriction, but a very necessary one according to HACD safety officials.

The largest cause of child fatalities, especially children under age 5, is drowning, officials point out.

A child can drown in a very small amount of water and unattended or unsupervised

pools present this danger.

The Housing Authority also prohibits trampolines because of the extreme danger they present to cause injuries to the head and limbs.

Playground equipment must be approved by your site coordinator before installed at any site. A resilient surface must be in place under the equipment to prevent injury. **(See story page 3.)*

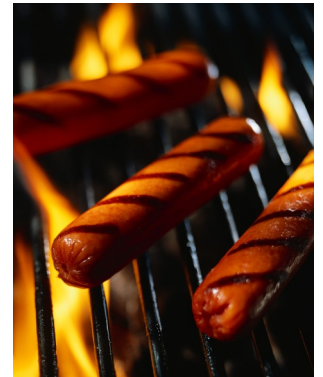
Gas and charcoal grills also present danger if operated improperly or left unattended.

Always leave the lid open for a few minutes before lighting a gas grill to allow any unburned gas to dissipate before lighting.

Never pour lighting fluid on a charcoal grill that has already been ignited. Allow the coals to heat naturally by convection.

Grills, when being used, should be at least fifteen feet away from the nearest structure and never left unattended while hot.

Hot coals should always be disposed of properly—never in a combustible container or where they may be stepped on or touched.



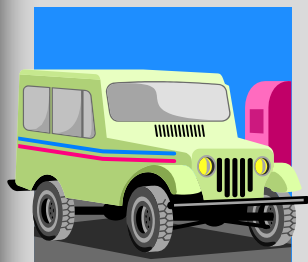
CDBG Grants Help HACD Properties

Community Development Block Grants from the City of Danbury are helping improve Housing Authority properties at Fairfield Ridge and Mill Ridge. The CDBG is HUD money sent to the City of Danbury for use in local projects.

Seven moderate rental vacant units are being completely renovated and placed back online by a \$140,000 grant in the 2012-13 budget. They will be available for occupancy this month.

Moderate rehab units at Fairfield Ridge will receive \$125,000 in the 2013-14 CDBG budget. Those funds will be used to replace 10 to 20-year-old boilers in all the rehab units. The new boilers will be more energy efficient.





Unsolicited Gifts In The Mail – U.S. Postal Service Answers

A company sends you a gift in the mail—a ball point pen, a key chain, a tie. But you didn't order it. What do you do?

If you are the type of person the company is looking for, you may feel guilty about accepting the item without paying for it. Don't feel guilty! It's yours, and you are under no legal obligation to pay anything, according to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

According to the Postal Inspection Service you may only legally be sent two types of merchandise through the mail without your consent or agree-

ment: free samples which are clearly and conspicuously marked as such and merchandise sent by a charitable organization that is soliciting contributions.

And in these two cases, you can consider the merchandise a gift if you wish, according to postal authorities. In all other situations, it is illegal to send merchandise to someone, unless that person has ordered it.

If you do not wish to pay for unsolicited merchandise or make a donation to the charity sending such item, you may do one of three things.

Return it unopened marked return to sender, throw it away, or keep it for free.

Furthermore, it is illegal for a company that sends you unordered merchandise to follow the mailing with a bill or persistent demands for payment.

If you are aware of violations of the federal law prohibiting mailing of unordered merchandise, or if you have personally had difficulty with such items—especially if you are sent statements demanding payment for the merchandise—you should contact your local postmaster or the nearest Postal Inspector.

Danbury Recycle Truck Drop-Off Change

The City of Danbury's year-round Recycling Truck program changed its Monday collection location June 3.

Monday's location has moved from the former Super Food-mart store on Main Street to the War Memorial parking lot in Roger's Park.

Danbury residents can drop off glass, plastic, cardboard and newspapers, free of

charge. The truck is on site from 9 am to 2 pm.

Other locations are:

Tuesday, Richter Park, Aunt Hack Rd.

Wednesday, P.A.L. Building, Hayestown Rd.

Thursday, King St. Volunteer firehouse, South King St.

Friday, Mill Plain Green



Eden Drive Residents Take Part In Clean Danbury Day

Eden Drive residents took part in Danbury's Clean City Day event of April 20th cleaning parts of their site.

Participants pictured here are (l. to r.) Juana Gullon, Estela Francis (property coordinator,) Juana and Dana Gullan, Pearly Danzy and Rosana Urena.

Idalia Rodriguez and Alejandro Espinal also participated.



Submitted photo

CityCenter Danbury Farmers' Market – Better Health Through Better Food

CityCenter Danbury Farmers' Market opened June 28th at Kennedy Park in downtown Danbury.

The market will be open each Friday from 11 am to 5:30 pm until October 25th.

This year the market will also feature free blood pressure checks, health and fitness activities and free bus passes for your trip home. You can now use your debit card at the event.

"Better Health Through Better Food" is the theme of the market. The Danbury Farmers' Market Community Collaborative is

a sponsor of the weekly event. DFMCC is a community-wide health and nutrition enhancement campaign, a sustainable agriculture initiative, and an economic development strategy.

DFMCC uses a market coin system to enhance the buying power of Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP) and the WIC and Senior's Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) by doubling up to \$9 of SNAP and FMNP benefits each market day. A \$20,000 grant was received from the Fairfield County Community Foundation

allowing the increase to \$9, fifty percent more than last year.

The Housing Authority will be distributing FMNP coupons to eligible residents as soon as received.



"Be smart enough to hold on, be brave enough to let go."

~ Unknown

What is a safe surface under playground equipment?

When a child falls onto a hard surface such as asphalt or concrete, the surface is unyielding. Even grass is not an acceptable surface for playground equipment over three feet tall.

If a child falls onto a resilient surface, such as sand or wood mulch, the surface deforms upon impact.

Residents MUST receive permission from their property coordinator before installing

any playground equipment at their unit. If approved, residents must also install a resilient surface under that equipment.

Some of the acceptable surface materials are:

Organic material: pine bark nuggets, pine bark mulch, shredded hardwood bark.

Wood chips from hardwood trees.

Coarse sand: coarse sand or masonry sand is required. Fine sand will pack when moist and freeze in cold weather.

Commercially prepared surfaces: these are resilient materials designed specifically for outdoor play areas. Disadvantage—materials are expensive.

(Information provided by Housing Authority Insurance Group.)

Summer Movie Nights at Candlewood Lake

The City of Danbury Recreation Department is presenting four movies under the stars at Candlewood Lake this July.

Sponsored in part by L.L. Bean and the Union Savings bank—along with eleven other business and community organizations, the series will be held at dusk on Saturdays at Danbury's city beach on Hayestown Road.

July 6th will feature **The Amazing Spiderman**. Peter Parker is an outcast high schooler who was abandoned by his parents as a boy, leaving him to be raised by his Uncle Ben and Aunt May.

July 13th will show **The Bucket List**, a story about two terminally ill men and the things they want to do before they die.

On July 20th **Wreck-It Ralph**, the story of an obsolete video game character longing to be as beloved as is the game's perfect good guy Fix-It Felix.

The last of the series, **42**, will be shown on July 27th. This is the story of Jackie Robinson's historic entry into professional baseball with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

HACD Staff

Special Events

The following staff are celebrating birthdays in July, August and September:

Kathie Alba

Anthony Cordio, Jr.

Maria Desousa

Vinaldo Green

Richard Hoffman

Gregory Holt

Cynthia Scott Mayo

Devin Luciano

Gene Pence

Kathleen Quallen

Ester Reyes

James Sabo



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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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HACD Annual Senior's Picnic

Hatter's Park Pavilion
August 27th, 11 AM—3 PM

Food Fun Friendship

\$5 per resident \$10 per guest—in advance
Contact your property coordinator

Rachel Halas, Police Officer of the Year

For the past seventeen years she has served the residents of Danbury as one of the city's finest. On April 11th Detective Rachel M. Halas was honored for her service by the Exchange Club of Danbury as Police Officer of the year 2013.

The event, held annually at Anthony's Lake Club, is sponsored by the Housing Authority of the City of Danbury in appreciation of all the work the police department does for housing residents.

Joining the department in 1969, Det. Halas first served in the department's patrol division and soon was assigned to the Community Services Division as a bicycle patrol officer.

In August 2000 she was promoted to detective and assigned to the Youth Division, now the Special Victims Unit. Frequently assigned to crimes against children, she is also a member of the Danbury Multidisciplinary Investigative Team.

She also serves on the department's Recruitment Team and the City of Danbury's Wellness Committee.

She is active locally as a volunteer with the Special Olympics Tip-A-Cop and Torch run events; Danbury P.A.L. fundraising events and the Danbury Fire Department's Annual Children's Fishing Derby.

Det. Halas was honored with other police officers at the State Exchange Club event on May 16th.



Det. Rachel Halas receives the Police Officer of the Year Award from Exchange Club president Jim Ogden. Joseph DaSilva, program chairman is at left.

(John Rooney photo)