



Community Service



Community Pride



COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK SITES MARCH 2004

March 1	Main St., Capen St., Dutch Point	March 15	Scarborough St., Albany Ave., Dillon Rd., Mark Twain Dr., Olgilby Dr.
March 2	Weston St., Capitol Ave.	March 16	Pliney St.
March 3	Jefferson St., Madison Ave.	March 17-18	various snow & ice removal projects
March 4	Windsor St.	March 19	FOODSHARE - La Casa de Puerto Rico, FaithManor
March 5	FOODSHARE - La Casa de Puerto Rico, Faith Manor	March 22	Garden St.
March 8	East Morningside St., Booth Bay St.	March 23	Whitmore St., Dutch Point
March 9	Capen St.	March 24	Middlefield St., East Raymond St.
March 10	Barbour St., Capen St., East Morningside St., Tower Ave.	March 25	Capitol Ave.
March 11	Washington St.	March 26	Blue Hills Ave.
March 12	FOODSHARE - Mahoney Village, Smith Towers, Golden Age Senior Center	March 29	Russ St.
		March 30	Dutch Point
		March 31	Weston St., West Service Rd., New Rd.

COM. SERVICE PERFORMED AT MERCY HOUSING & SHELTER & EBONY HORSE WOMEN RANCH THROUGHOUT THE MONTH
INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CHRIS MENA, CPA, COMMUNITY COURT COMMUNITY SERVICE TEAM

DMHAS

RAISING ALCOHOL AWARENESS



DMHAS Counselor Chris Kochis and Karen LeBlanc of the Women's Diversion Program providing alcohol awareness to the public.

As a part of its ongoing efforts to raise public awareness of substance abuse and how it affects both individuals and the community, the State Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), staged a one day Alcohol Awareness promotion by placing an informational table in the Community Court hallway on April 7. DMHAS provided a trained substance abuse specialist and informational packages free to Community Court defendants, staff, and the public alike.

"In our estimation, at least 60% of Community Court cases are the result of some form of substance abuse, with alcohol playing a big part in that abuse" Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton said. " We are very grateful to DMHAS for their continued presence in the Community Court and their commitment to helping those in need."

Please feel free to email the court with questions or comments at:

Hartford.Courtcourt@jud.state.ct.us

and visit the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch website at:

www.jud.state.ct.us



80 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106

April 2004 News & Updates

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HPD AND THE COMMUNITY COURT

COMMITTED TO WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE OUR CITY

Working with the police officers who serve on the front lines of community policing efforts is of paramount importance to the Community Court in Hartford. By keeping open lines of communication and sharing viewpoints and information, we hope to facilitate a constructive response to the "quality of life" crimes in our neighborhoods. As such, the Community Court values few of its partnerships more so than that with the Hartford Police Department.



As part of this ongoing collaboration, the Community Court was pleased to host two recent visits by HPD representatives. First, Chief Mark Pawlina visited with Judge Jorge A. Simón to discuss the ongoing changes at the Hartford Police Department and its impact on community policing efforts.

Sgt. Emory Hightower, of the Hartford Police Academy, led the second HPD visit. This visit was special as it included several new HPD officers who recently transferred from other municipal police departments, including Springfield, MA, to serve in Hartford. The new officers met with Judge Simón, then watched a Court session to familiarize themselves with the Community Court process and the programs available to help those in need.



"The Hartford Police Department has made great strides, under Chief Pawlina's leadership, to be responsive to the public safety needs of Hartford residents," Judge Simón stated. "I am impressed with his commitment to protecting our city, and also by the willingness of the new HPD officers to learn about the Court and work with us to improve our neighborhoods."

PHOTOS AT LEFT (Top) Hartford Police Chief Mark Pawlina and Judge Simón, (bottom) Judge Simón, Sgt. Hightower, and new Hartford Police officers.

MONTHLY COMMUNITY COURT STATISTICS MARCH 2004

Hours of Community Service	936
Total Number of Cases Processed	691
Number of Human Services Referrals	98
Referrals to HAMP (Hartford Area Mediation)	49



PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE(Clockwise from right)
HAMP Program Director Barbara Sarkis and
Stephen Middlebrook, one of HAMP's
originators, Barbara Sarkis, Maureen Price,
Executive Director of CPA, with Deane
Scaringe, and Judge Simón address HAMP
volunteers and friends.



One of the most important, yet unheralded, components of the Community Court in Hartford is its mediation team. Even more unheralded are the volunteer mediators who conduct the actual mediation sessions during off-hours, away from the Court. It was with great pleasure then that the Honorable Jorge Simón and Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton joined other judicial staff and associates at a Community Partners in Action (CPA) reception to honor the volunteer mediators for their hard work and commitment to promoting greater understanding between disputing parties.

Overseen by the Hartford Area Mediation Program (HAMP), a division of CPA, the mediation team was originally founded as a pro bono service by Aetna's legal department. HAMP provides both the Community Court session and Superior Court session at GA14 with a tool to find resolution of select cases in which a dispute results in a low-level crime. In cases that qualify, disputing parties can voluntarily participate in a mediation session, conducted at a neutral site under the direction of one of HAMP's volunteer mediators. In 2003 alone, HAMP took 553 cases from the Community Court and 330 cases from GA14. The HAMP staff was able to achieve a resolution in 591 cases during the calendar year.

"Helping people develop a greater understanding of how their actions affect others gets to the heart of what we try to do at the Community Court," Judge Simón said. "We are very grateful to the HAMP organization and their volunteers who give so freely of their time and expertise to achieve this great ideal of justice."

The Community Court bids a fond farewell to Barbara Sarkis, who is stepping down as Program Manager of HAMP after nearly nine years with the program. Originally a volunteer with HAMP, Barbara is leaving to spend more time with her family and pursue other interests.

"Barbara was instrumental in bringing HAMP to the Community Court," Chris Pleasanton said. "She ran the program with a great deal of integrity and care for those involved with mediation. We will miss her both professionally and as a friend."

"Barbara is one of the most selfless individuals I have met," said Deanne Scaringe Assistant Director of CPA. "She has been a supportive role model, who nurtured both her staff and the program. Barbara leaves a strong legacy and will be truly missed."

THANKS BARBARA!

