

State of Connecticut Judicial Branch Community Court Session At Hartford

SUMMER 2005 News & Updates

Produced by Chris Pleasanton, Vol. 7, Issue 6



State of Connecticut Superior Court
Community Court Session in Hartford
80 Washington Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Women's Holistic Health Survivor's Stories, Public Works and
Community Court Working Together, Staff Introductions,
Statistics, and a Message From Judge Simón

IN THIS EDITION...

SUMMER 2005 NEWSLETTER

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SESSION IN HARTFORD

COMMUNITY COURT

STATE OF CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH

A MESSAGE FROM THE JUDGE

Welcome to the latest Hartford Superior Court Community Court Session newsletter. Beginning with this edition we have decided to make some changes to the format and content of our newsletter in an effort to provide our readers with a more informative and insightful look at the Community Court in Hartford and national innovations in problem solving courts.



First, we will be publishing the newsletter quarterly, rather than every month. We are also doubling the size of the newsletter from four pages to eight pages. This will allow us to provide you with more in-depth features about the Court. We will also provide you with more comprehensive statistics and descriptive reports for your review. In addition, from time to time we will feature profiles of other Community Court projects. When the Community Court in Hartford opened in 1998, it was only the third court of its kind in the United States. There are now twenty-seven community courts in operation. We hope these features will be of interest to our local readers and also inspire us with new ideas.

I would like to invite local community groups to submit meeting notices or articles on local events such as community clean-ups and revitalization efforts for possible publication in an upcoming newsletter. Likewise, others in the problem-solving court movement are invited to submit profiles of their projects or features on any special innovations. PLEASE NOTE: we cannot print articles that are political, religious, or concerning for-profit ventures.

To submit an article or notice for consideration, please contact Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton by email at Chris.Pleasanton@jud.state.ct.us or fax at 860-756-7025.

As always, we welcome your input and suggestions. Please feel free to contact us by email at Hartford.Commcourt@jud.state.ct.us or stop by the courthouse to speak with our staff.

Regards, Jorge A. Simón, Presiding Judge,
Community Court Session in Hartford

MAY 2005 STATISTICS

Total Arraignments: 576

Hours of Community Service: 2112

Social Services Referrals: 100

Referrals to Mediation: 42

Rate of Compliance: 93%

Suburban Caseload: 23%

Please feel free to email the court with questions or comments at:
Hartford.Commcourt@jud.state.ct.us
 and visit the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch website at:
www.jud.state.ct.us

COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK SITES

MAY 2005

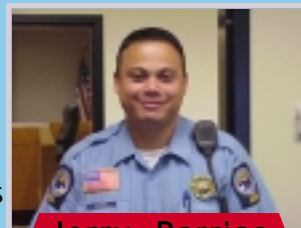
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|--------|---|--------|---|
| May 2 | Ebony Horse Barn, Mahoney Village | May 16 | Ebony Horse Barn, Park St. |
| May 3 | S. Marshal St., Forest St., Hawthorne St., Laurel St., Gillette St., Owen St., Lorraine St. | May 17 | School St., Vernon St., Allen Pl., Colonial St. |
| May 4 | Nelton Court, Sherbrooke Ave., Broadview Terrace, | May 18 | Washington St., Russ St. |
| May 5 | Main St., Woodlan St., Park St., Woodland St. | May 19 | Elliot St., Pawtucket St., Benton St., Shelton Pl., Warner St., Franklin Ave., Maple Ave. |
| May 6 | FOODSHARE | May 20 | FOODSHARE, Cedar St. |
| May 9 | Ebony Horse Barn, Kent Apt., Mahoney Village | May 23 | Newton St., Dorothy St., Capitol Ave., Heath St., Amity St., Ebony Horse Barn |
| May 10 | Evergreen St., S. Whitney St., Beacon St., Capitol Ave. | May 24 | Bonner St., Adeline St., Bond St., Redding St., Nelton Court |
| May 11 | Atwood St., Ashley St., May St., Sargeant St., Willard St., Townley St., Huntington St. | May 25 | Broad St., Allen St., Flatbush Ave. |
| May 12 | Ebony Horse Barn, Nelton Court | May 26 | Tower Ave., Barbour St., East & West Morningside Drives, Ebony Horse Barn |
| May 13 | FOODSHARE, Brook St., Bedford St. | May 27 | FOODSHARE |
| | | May 31 | Bowes Park |

Information provided by Chris Mena, Community Service Program Manager for Community Partners in Action

WELCOME JERRY BARRIOS

Joins Community Court Marshals

The Community Court in Hartford would like to welcome to its ranks Judicial Marshal Jerry Barrios. Since early 2005, Jerry has been assigned to providing courtroom security during proceedings. Previously, Jerry worked for the Department of Correction, earning the rank of Lieutenant.



Jerry Barrios

"Jerry's experience with the Department of Correction has been a tremendous asset to the Judicial Marshal service," Supervising Marshal Tom Grodecki said. "He is professional in his duties and courteous to all."

**COMMUNITY SERVICE
PROJECT HOTLINE
756-7000**

PLEASE CALL WITH YOUR PROJECT!

DPW AND COMMUNITY COURT

Working Together For A Better Hartford

As part of an effort to provide the best quality of service to the people of Hartford, the Community Court and the City of Hartford's Department of Public Works (DPW) have established a closer working relationship in which the two organizations will assist each other in specific tasks associated with litter clean-up.

In a meeting with Hartford's DPW Director Bhupen Patel, Judge Simón has agreed to have the Community Court's community service work crews remove litter in several highly traveled "hot spot" areas of Hartford's Kenney and Goodwin Parks. In return, DPW crews will assist the Community Court in removing full trash bags generated by the community service work crews during street cleaning projects.

After meeting at the Community Court, Mr. Patel invited Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton and Community Service Manager Chris Mena to meet with his DPW leaders to personally connect the staff's leaders and to discuss the details of their efforts.

"I am very grateful to Mr. Patel for his open approach to working with the Community Court and his dynamic ideas," Judge Simón said.

"This arrangement will be mutually beneficial for our organizations and for the people of Hartford," Judge Simón added. "With our crews cleaning some litter, the DPW crews can focus on more complicated projects and with DPW picking up some of our trash bags, we can spend more time cleaning."

WELCOME ANTHONY STRAMBLER

Joins Community Service Team

The Community Court in Hartford's Community Service Team would like to welcome Anthony Strambler as its new Crew Leader. As Crew Leader, Anthony will be responsible for organizing the field supervisors and coordinating their projects.

"Anthony has already proven himself as an asset to the community service team," CPA Project manager Chris Mena said. "As a long-time Hartford resident, he understands the neighborhoods, and knows what we need to do to be most effective for the community."



Anthony Strambler

M.A.R.G.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule Announced

The Maple Avenue Revitalization Group (MARG) has announced the remainder of its 2005 meeting schedule. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. in the St. Augustine Church Hall at 10 Campfield Avenue in Hartford.

The MARG meetings are open to everyone to discuss community matters with their neighbors and community and public safety officials.

For more information on MARG meetings, please contact Hyacinth Yennie at 860-296-5543

2005 MARG MEETING SCHEDULE

JULY 14, 2005
AUGUST-NO MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2005
OCTOBER 13, 2005
NOVEMBER 10, 2005
DECEMBER 8, 2005

RAISING PROGRAM AWARENESS

ABH & CHN Present to Community Court Staff

The Community Court in Hartford was pleased to host a presentation by two of the leading social services agencies in Connecticut; Advanced Behavioral Health, represented by John Sims, and Community Health Network of Connecticut, Inc., represented by Kevin Colvin. Mr. Sims and Mr. Colvin (pictured below - center left & right - with members of the Court's Social Services Team) met with members of the Community Court's Social Services Team and staff from Paul & Lisa, Inc. of the Women's Holistic Health Program to discuss their organizations and the wide array of programs they are connected with. Those programs, most of which are free or at very minimal cost to low-income defendants, range from substance abuse counseling to down-payment assistance for housing to dental care.

"One of our primary missions is to provide our defendants with quality opportunities to address their social needs," Court Coordinator Chris Pleasanton said. "We are very grateful to Mr. Sims and Mr. Colvin for taking the time to come to the Community Court and raise our awareness of their programs."



THE WOMEN'S HOLISTIC HEALTH PROGRAM

Designed to introduce women charged with prostitution to a way out of that lifestyle, the Community Court's Women's Holistic Health Program is a two-week program that looks at all aspects of participants' health through discussion of the women's past experiences and actions. The women reflect on their past patterns of destructive behavior and are shown positive alternatives. The first week is designed to guide clients through understanding how their past has hurt their physical, mental, and emotional health; and how they deal with stress, their lack of self esteem, and how they reach their goals. The second week develops positive behavior skills and strategies to be used in addiction recovery. The Program is conducted by staff from Paul & Lisa, Inc.

The following articles are written by Nora and Jennifer, two graduates of the Community Court's Women's Holistic Health Program. Nora's was published in Paul & Lisa's Spring 2005 newsletter and is reprinted here with the permission of the author and Paul & Lisa. Jennifer's was written just for this newsletter.

NORA: A SURVIVOR SPEAKS

My name is Nora. I am one of fourteen women who went through the Women's Holistic Health Program at the Hartford Community Court in October 2004. I feel that if it had not been for the Judge and the program staff, I would never be where I am today; clean, sober, and working on a daily basis with the twelve-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous. I've taken what I learned from the Paul & Lisa Program and built a firm foundation to begin my new journey in life. I've maintained the same job and my family is back in my life even though life throws its curves at me just like everyone else. I know that God will never give me more than I can handle. I continuously stay connected with positive people and stay away from negative people, places, and things by just living one day at a time. Because that is really all I have is today and today is better than any day when I was using. I have self-esteem, confidence, and I can stand up for me. Today, I have eight months clean and sober and I love myself. I thank all of you for giving me the strength to change.

"We call the drugs their pimp because it keeps them out there; trapped in the shame of selling their bodies for their addiction"

Diana Desnoyers, Paul & Lisa's Program Director for the Women's Holistic Health Program at the Community Court in Hartford



Diana Desnoyers

JENNIFER: A SURVIVOR SPEAKS

Hello, my name is Jennifer and I'm a part of the Holistic Health Program. This program has helped me in so many ways. I've learned how to stay clean and lead a normal life. The two women that teach this class are wonderful people. They care about you and go out of their way to help you. I just thank God and the Judge every day for giving me this chance. I'm clean today by the help of this program. I just wish I would have been in this program sooner. I know all of the tools I need to stay clean today. These ladies are truly a gift of God.

I wish everyone luck who gets the chance I got. It's possible to be happy again and live life clean. Give yourself a chance, you won't regret it. It saved my life. Thank you all so much, especially the ladies in the group who cared about me and showed me love. You too can make it!

"By the time the women get to us, they are sick and tired of being sick and tired. When they see there are people who care, then they start to care"

Denise Holloman, Paul & Lisa's Assistant Facilitator for the Women's Holistic Health Program at the Community Court in Hartford



Denise Holloman