

Town of Hamden Annual Report

FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006



**Hamden Government Center
2750 Dixwell Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518
203-287-7000**

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Message from the Mayor

FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006



Craig B. Henrici

My pledge to voters during the last campaign season was to use fiscally responsible management as the bedrock of Hamden's resurgence. Toward this end we have been remarkably successful, as evidenced by the Positive Outlook issued to the Town by rating agency Standard and Poor's this past July. According to these analysts, Hamden has turned the corner based on the sound management team in place and the commitment to operating within the confines of an honest budget. Make no mistake, this Positive Outlook is good news for Hamden, and the support of the Legislative Council and the Town's residents have made it possible.

However, the agencies did identify two areas of concern with the Town's finances: the long period of inactivity on its labor contracts and the serious underfunding of the Town's pension. We have ferociously attacked the first problem: settling several contracts that had been expired for a number of years and acting quickly to pass one recently expire contract. These contracts were hanging over all of our heads, and we bargained in good faith for contracts fair to workers and taxpayers alike. The resulting contracts recognize the cost of health care is a problem growing exponentially in our community and we must work to insulate ourselves from these spiraling costs.

My administration is working hard to prepare more information for both Council members and the general public regarding the issuance of Pension Obligation Bonds as a solution to our pension issue. The decision to move forward in this process deserves the closest scrutiny, and I am glad that Council members are proceeding with the deliberate caution that such a significant issue deserves. The next challenge for all of us is to set in place a solution that makes sense and protects future taxpayers from footing the bill when the pension underfunding crisis catches up to us.

The job of the Mayor and the Town Administration is more than just fiscal responsibility. It is our duty to stand beside our residents in their fights, to commit our resources to finishing the projects we begin, to find innovative ways of doing business, and to work together to take advantage of our unique community strengths. Responsiveness to citizen needs has been, and remains, my number one priority as evidenced by the Help Desk, which centralizes accountability to citizen requests in the Mayor's Office.

I am pleased to report progress on a number of projects that had languished for years: the completion of the first phase of construction for the Whitneyville Streetscape; improvements to Borgnine Park; longstanding sidewalk repairs at locations across the town; technology improvements to all of Hamden's elementary schools; and all but the final phase of construction at the Astorino Ice Rink have moved ahead in my first year. We are also expected to close on the purchase of 466 Putnam Avenue in January of 2007, ending years of legal disputes and uncertainty surrounding that property. In addition to these high-profile projects, with the help of the School Building Committee, the Town opened the new Hamden Middle School on time and under budget.

Of all of my administration's accomplishments over the last year, I am perhaps proudest of the Town's new commitment to doing business in new ways. Financially, we must begin doing more with less. The Town cannot and should not continue "business as usual" operations, and it has been my highest priority to give Department heads the flexibility to improve operations.

Our work with developing partnerships with groups like Quinnipiac University, where we have created a cooperative, rather than confrontational environment, has yielded positive results in which residents finally feel they have a constructive voice in improving the university's development projects. The new Quinnipiac Hotline also gives residents an immediate channel to the University for daily complaints, comments and suggestions and I am happy that my administration has been able to play the role of intermediary in better integrating the University into the Town's social fabric.

It is our responsibility to plan for development that suits our needs into the future. We must proactively court and encourage the type of development that is right for Hamden as this development means lower taxes for residential property owners. My administration has been both creative and forthright in leading the charge for redevelopment of large long-vacant lots on Putnam Avenue, Skiff Street, and Dixwell Avenue. The redevelopment of these parcels will make a real difference to the Town's economy and I will continue to push for appropriate development of the Town's underperforming parcels.

In a Town that draws its strength from its diversity—a diversified pool of residents, of businesses, of institutions and of interests—we have the tools available to transform Hamden into the Town we all want it to be. This has been a year of challenges, but I am pleased to report that the hardworking men and women who work for the Town have met those challenges and created opportunities for excellence in government. With your support, Hamden has turned the corner and stands ready to meet head-on the issues awaiting us in 2007.

Craig Henrici was born on July 18, 1953. He is a lifelong resident of Hamden. He attended Hamden Public Schools, graduating from Hamden High School in 1971. While at Hamden High, Craig was an All-State Hockey player. He graduated Middlebury College in 1975 with a BA in Geography. Craig graduated cum laude from the University of Bridgeport of Law in 1981.

Craig was engaged in private practice before assuming the office of the Mayor. Craig served Hamden as an At-Large Legislative Councilman from 1983-1997 and represented Hamden as a State Representative from the 103rd Assembly District from 1997-1999. From 1987-1997, Craig served as President of Hamden's Legislative Council, where he earned a reputation for honesty, effectiveness, fairness and consensus building.

Craig serves on the Board of Trustees of the Mount Carmel Congregational Church. He is a former Rotarian and has served in numerous civic organizations including the Hamden Elks, Hamden Fathers Baseball and Hamden Youth Hockey, where he served as a coach. Craig and his wife, Lauren, raised their three children, Luke, Jillian and Timothy, on Main Street and now reside in the family homestead in Mt. Carmel.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor

Craig Henrici (D)

Legislative Council

Matthew E. Fitch (D) – First District

John P. Flanagan (D) – Second District

Berita E. Rowe-Lewis (D) – Third District

Gretchen M. Callahan (D) – Fourth District

Willie C. Mewborn, Sr. (D) – Fifth District

Curtis J. Leng (D) – Sixth District

Michael R. Colaiacovo Jr. (D) – Seventh District

Michael W. Germano Jr. (D) – Eight District

Robert Westervelt (D) – Ninth District

Al Gorman (D) – Council President

Ronald Gambardella –At Large

Carol L. Noble (D) –At Large

James J. Pascarella (D) –At Large

Kathleen M. Schomaker (D) –At Large

Elizabeth S. Wetmore (R) –At Large

Town Clerk

Vera Morrison (D)

Board of Education

Lynn Campo (R)

Austin Cesare (R)

Michael D'Agostino (D) – Chair

Michael Dolan(D)

Myron Hul (D)

John Keegan, Secretary (D)

Jennifer McGrady Heath(D)

Valarie Stone (D)

Ed Sullivan (R)

HAMDEN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mission Statement:

The Legislative Council is the Town's Fiscal and Legislative authority. This body is comprised of 15 members, 6 of whom are elected-at-large and 9 who are elected to represent each of the 9 voting districts. These Council members keep a close watch on your tax dollars and they adopt laws to improve the quality of life for all Hamden residents.

As the Fiscal authority, the Council prepares the Annual Town Budget and establishes the mil rate for the collection of taxes.

As the Legislative authority, the Council has the power to create and pass all Resolutions and Ordinances that ultimately effect the residents of Hamden. The Council also has the final approval of the Mayor's recommendations for appointments to the Town's Boards and Commissions.

There are 11 Council committees: Finance; Administration; Planning & Development; Public Safety; Recreation & Culture; Public Works & Engineering; Environment & Conservation; Education; Human Services; Labor; and Technology. These committees meet the last Monday of each month to review matters under their jurisdiction. Each committee then makes recommendations to the full Council for final formal action.

The full Council meets the first Monday of each month to take final formal action on all committee recommendations. Special sessions are called as needed and all meetings are open to the public.



Legislative Council Members

Front Row (from left) Carol Noble, At-Large, Matthew Fitch, 1st District; Al Gorman, Council President; Evelyn Parise, Council Clerk; Betty Wetmore, At-Large; Ronald Gambardella, At-Large

Back Row (from left) Curt Leng, 6th District; Robert Westervelt 9th District; Michael Germano, 8th District; Michael Colaiacovo, Jr., 7th District; Kathleen Schomaker, At-Large; Willie Mewborn, 5th District; Gretchen Callahan, 4th District; James Pascarella, At-Large; Berita Rowe-Lewis, 3rd District, John Flanagan, 2nd District

TOWN CLERK

Mission Statement:

The Town Clerk's Office is often a resident's first introduction to Hamden through the recording of a land transaction for their property, filing of vital records for their family, registering as a new voter or filing a new business trade name. The family dog is licensed in June, and DEP fishing/hunting licenses are sold here.

The Town Clerk is best described as the guardian of Hamden's past, present and future as the keeper of the Town permanent records. Duties include recording & processing of Hamden's land records, registering new Notary Publics, recording liquor permit applications, and recording veteran's military discharge papers, Hamden's meeting agendas are posted in this office per Freedom of Information guidelines, and all minutes are filed for permanent public record.

As Registrar of Vital Statistics, certified copies of birth, death and marriage certificates are issued. The Town Clerk is also a chief Elections Official, working closely with the Registrars of Voters. The office creates ballots for elections, maintains the complex absentee ballot system, and submits election totals on Election Day. Other duties include administration of oaths of office for elected officials, appointed guardian employees and appointed members of Hamden's Boards & Commission.

This elected two-year office is often cast in the role of public relations officer, helping to educate the public about the workings of Town Hall.

Major Accomplishments:

- New computerized alpha Map Index in Hamden's land records.
- Completed Phase V of a comprehensive microfilming plan of Boards & Commissions minutes, from 1975 to present.
- Initiated Phase V of computerized re-indexing of handwritten land record indexes from 1948-54 via state historic preservation grant.
- Public education initiatives continued for Hamden's school children, citizens, civic groups and Hamden veterans.
- Five weddings and a Civil Union were held at the Hamden Government Center for the 11th Annual Valentine's Day Ceremony.



FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement:

The Finance Department is responsible for the financial services of the Town. Property tax assessment, tax collection, debt management, financial accounting and reporting, payroll processing, purchasing, data processing and special financial analysis all fall under the jurisdiction of this department.

The audited financial results for previous Fiscal year 2004-2005 shows total revenues of \$143,490,347 and other financing sources of \$4,401 for a grand total of \$143,494,748. Expenditures for the year amounted to \$140,519,575 resulting in a total of \$2,996,371. During the Fiscal Year 2004-2005, \$76,169,331 of the total revenue of \$143,490,347 (excludes other financing sources) supported education. In addition, Public Safety (\$19,317,186) Public Works (\$10,361,189) and Debt Service (\$9,491,302) were the other major recipients of total revenue.

At the close of the current fiscal year, net assets exceed liabilities by \$20,776,878. The Town of Hamden's net assets are reflected in the investment in capital assets. These include land and improvements, building, machinery and equipment, infrastructure and construction in progress. Infrastructure items will be fully included in the financial reports for the year ending June 30, 2006.

Major Accomplishments:

The Town of Hamden had taken initiative to correct Prevailing Wage issues by implementing monitoring procedures for all programs that are federal funded construction contracts over \$2000.00.

The Finance Department continually makes every effort to improve. The town strives to develop and implement a plan to fund the Pension Trust Fund. Vacant positions are being filled in Finance to ensure all functions are delegated; monitored and daily activities are performed in a timely manner. This includes the reorganization of the Finance Department and its overall needs and responsibilities.

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET-GENERAL FUND
 FOR YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2004 AND JUNE 30, 2005

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$10,074,081.00	\$21,755,016.00
RECEIVABLES:		
PROPERTY TAXES (NET		
ALLOWANCE FOR COLLECTION		
OF LOSSES OF \$300,000)	\$ 2,085,553.00	\$ 1,841,185.00
SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	\$ 17,475.00	\$ 14,278.00
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	\$22,193,483.00	\$19,101,080.00
OTHER ASSETS	\$ 524,512.00	\$ 1,232,118.00
INVENTORIES		
DUE FROM OTHER FUNDS	\$18,545,266.00	\$12,709,314.00
OTHER ASSETS	\$ 341,705.00	\$ 261,693.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$53,782,075.00	\$56,914,684.00
 LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
LIABILITIES:		
ACCOUNT PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES		
INCLUDING COMPENSATED ABSENCES	\$10,510,608.00	\$12,764,944.00
DEFERRED REVENUE	\$24,345,501.00	\$20,872,156.00
DUE TO OTHER FUNDS	\$15,120,872.00	\$16,815,739.00
TEMPORARY NOTES PAYABLE		
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$49,976,981.00	\$50,452,839.00
 FUND BALANCES:		
RESERVED FOR:		
ENCUMBRANCES	\$ 460,873.00	\$ 151,263.00
INVENTORIES		
ENDOWMENTS		
UNRESERVED:		
UNDESIGNATED AND UNRESERVED	\$ 3,344,221.00	\$ 6,310,582.00
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	\$ 3,805,094.00	\$ 6,461,845.00
 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	 \$53,782,075.00	 \$56,914,684.00

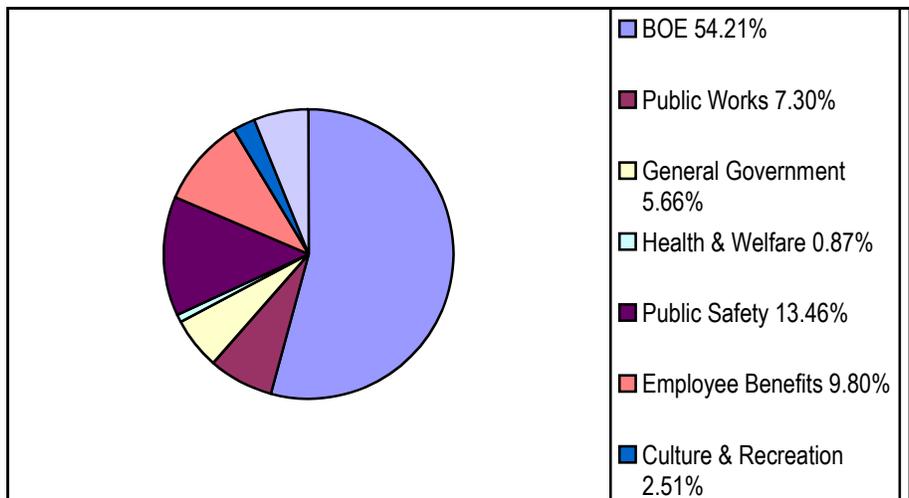
INCOME STATEMENT

Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance-Budget and Actual (Budgetary Basis)

General Fund for the Year Ended June 30, 2005

REVENUES	Budget	Actual	Variance-Favorable (Unfavorable)
Property Taxes, interest, liens	106,676,225	107,445,135	768,910
Intergovernmental	28,854,069	29,143,254	289,185
License, permits, fees	2,555,286	3,235,386	680,100
Charges for service	3,865,165	2,952,388	(912,777)
Fines, forfeits	20,000	22,100	2,100
Investment income	362,500	486,921	124,421
Miscellaneous	255,450	205,163	(50,287)
Total Revenues	\$142,588,695	\$143,490,347	\$901,652
EXPENDITURES			
<i>Current:</i>			
Education	76,169,331	76,169,331	0
General Government	8,309,934	7,959,874	350,060
Public Safety	19,317,186	18,911,522	405,664
Public Works	10,361,189	10,260,347	100,842
Health, Welfare	1,290,149	1,221,633	68,516
Culture, Recreation	3,689,720	3,528,239	161,481
Employee benefits	13,827,084	13,767,580	59,504
<i>Debt Service:</i>			
Principal retirements	5,415,584	4,956,296	459,288
Interest	4,075,718	3,744,753	330,965
Total Expenditures	\$142,455,895	\$140,519,575	\$1,936,320
Revenues over (under) expenditures	\$132,800	\$2,970,772	\$2,837,972
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES and (USES)			
Operating transfers in	0	10,023	10,023
Operating transfers out	(132,800)	(110,392)	22,408
Cancelled encumbrances from prior years	0	95,968	95,968
Total other financing sources and (uses)	(\$132,800)	(\$4,401)	\$128,399
Revenues over (under) expenditures and other financing	\$0	\$2,966,371	\$2,966,371
Fund Balance, July 1		\$3,344,211	
Fund Balance, June 30		\$6,310,582	

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HAMDEN BOARD OF EDUCATION



Left to Right: Valarie Stone, Myron W. Hul, John Keegan, Lynn Campo, Jennifer McGrady Heath, Ed Sullivan, Michael D'Agostino-Board Chair, Austin Cesare, Michael Dolan

Mission Statement:

Hamden Public Schools continued to forge ahead during the 2005-2006 school year, improving schools in all areas: course content, cultural enrichment, improved Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) scores and physical improvements to our facilities. Our mission is to “ensure that all our students learn to the best of their potential each and every day they are entrusted to our care.” The prime focus of each school is to fulfill that mission by formulating instructional programs meeting the needs of its specific student population.

The construction of the new Hamden Middle School, opening in September 2006, marks the fulfillment of major physical plant expansion in five Hamden Public Schools. The result of many years of planning and hard work, the new Middle School has been designed to meet the needs of our students and to facilitate the working environment of our teaching staff. We anticipate with great pride the opening and use of this new facility by our students and indeed the entire community. In addition, we completed the Hamden High School air-conditioning and renovated bathrooms at Dunbar Hill School, as well as tile replacement at Church Street School and West Woods School.

Instructionally we continue to meet the many challenges of education today, including inadequate state education aid and new state and federal mandates such as the underfunded No Child Left Behind Act. We also continue to work toward our long-standing goal that all children, regardless of racial, ethnic, socioeconomic or linguistic subgroup will: complete third grade able to read at grade level or beyond; successfully complete Algebra and Geometry by the end of tenth grade; achieve a 94 percent attendance rate at all grade levels; have multiple opportunities to develop their talents and potential and possess the skills and knowledge to be successful adults. We will also be entering our third year of “Courageous Conversations and Courageous Leadership,” sponsored by the Connecticut State Department of Education and will continue with our second year of our instructional partnership with the National Urban Alliance (NUA).

Our final goal, yet in many ways the most important one, is to have the full participation of all parents, guardians and community members in our children’s education. We extend to all an open invitation to come work with us to accomplish the worthy goal of educating our children. Please reach out to the individual schools or contact my office at 407-2000, or visit our website www.hamdenschools.org.

Alida D. Begina, Ed.D.,
Superintendent of Schools

August 2006

HAMDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Bear Path School
Susan Smey, Principal
19 Kirk Road 06514
407-2010

Bear Path School continued to focus on its school improvement plan. Students and staff worked on fully using the technology resources available to them especially in reaching the math and reading goals established in our plan.

Students and staff worked to expand their knowledge of the school network technology to communicate, perform tasks and increase productivity. Students were able to perform research and communicate with their peers, while teachers used laptops to prepare reports, conduct their own research, execute lessons and communicate with colleagues.

The PTA worked very successfully on cultural enrichment programs that supported our goal of creating tolerance and respect for other cultures. Students also worked on creating a culture of respect and they participated in presentations that highlighted the artistry, folklore and history of various countries. The PTA also held two events for the entire school community. At the beginning of the school year, all families were invited to a “meet and greet” celebration, and at the end of the school year, families were once again brought together to commemorate a successful school year.

Church Street School
Joyce Kossman, Principal
95 Church Street 06514
407-2020

Church Street School has a diverse student population drawn from several neighborhoods, all in close proximity to the school. Our goal is to recognize and celebrate each student’s unique identity through our “Student of the Week” program. Every student receives a week of recognition through personalized grade level activities and classroom displays. This year the fifth grade celebrated family cultures with a “World’s Fair” of song, dance, food and displays.

The focus on our Family Literacy Initiative continues to be successful. This year 56 parents and 71 children participated in birth-to-five playgroups based on the national “Parents as Teachers” model. Our Family Literacy Evening Program for primary students, “Starlight Readers,” was attended by 20 families. In addition, 77 families participated in our family field trips held on Saturdays throughout the year, enjoying such diverse experiences as the Theater, Pequot Museum and New York City. Each family received a book related to the trip for their home library.

Twenty parents participated in our Adult Education classes in computer technology and English as a Second Language, while 15 three and four-year-old children participated in the pre-kindergarten readiness/childcare program offered this year. We will continue to focus on literacy with our students, acknowledging and actively encouraging each family’s participation and by celebrating and respecting the diversity of our school population.

Dunbar Hill School
Janet Brown Clayton, Principal
315 Lane Street 06514
407-2025

Dunbar Hill School values the opportunity to educationally and positively impact the lives of its students. Our focus and goal this past year was to promote and support student achievement by encouraging parental involvement in every area of school. To achieve that goal we instituted the Parental Involvement Contract whereby parents are contractually committed to dedicate time to Dunbar Hill School. In addition, in order to foster a strong home to school connection, we celebrate our similarities and our differences with both our students and their families.

Activities that assist us to achieve this goal were: monthly meetings of Dunbar Hill families, monthly PTA meetings, Cultural Enrichment Assemblies, Celebrations of Thoughtfulness, Open House Potluck Dinner, Harvest Dinner, Multi-Cultural Dessert Day and Dunbar Hill Family Picnic.

The above mentioned activities have served to foster a community of caring and educational excellence. This practice has resulted in our students becoming connected and engaged in their school.

Helen Street School
Lynette Kelleher, Principal
285 Helen Street 06514
407-2030

The Helen Street School population is diverse both ethnically and economically. As a neighborhood school where the children all walk to school, we value our community and welcome their participation in our events. Our academic focus is strong and is directed toward achievement for all students on Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMT's) in grades three through six. English as a Second Language (ESL) tutors are provided for our students whose first language is not English and translators are also available for parents. Students participate in many programs and are encouraged to follow their own interests.

The community focus of the school is highlighted by our Connections Committee, comprised of parents and teachers, who sponsor events which open our school to everyone. The Celebration of Culture highlights the food, clothing, music and games of different cultures in a highly social atmosphere. Community Day and the Week of Giving highlight the community and foster community activism by collecting goods for our troops or items for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Our PTA also enhances students' lives by providing activities such as Picture Day, the Talent Show and generously supporting field trips for students.

We have a dedicated staff to provide guidance and support to each child. Tutorial assistance was available for any student who required support. Students also participated in many programs such as Positive Behavior Support in the Student Support Center, as well as receiving tutoring from college students participating in the America Reads Program. In fact, this year all students participated in an art show as a culminating activity to showcase their favorite art work. Thirteen students had art or writing pieces showcased in our Expressions publication, while two of our students' art work was selected for inclusion in the Hamden Education Foundation Holiday Greeting Cards.

We will continue to focus on strong academic performance and the involvement of our community in our school while we celebrate and support the diversity and interests of our students.

Ridge Hill School
Karen Butler, Principal
120 Carew Road 06517
407-2035

The 2005-2006 school year saw Ridge Hill community celebrating several successful “firsts.” In November over 300 students and their families participated in our first annual Family Ziti Night Dinner. In June, at our first-ever International Day, the entire school celebrated our diverse population with art, music, story-telling and delicious food from several countries representing our population. Our new theme is: *Dream. Explore. Discover* supported by using the outdoors as a learning environment, thus revitalizing the Project Discovery program.

New student incentive programs were initiated to promote positive student behavior. The Student of the Week program added Butler Bucks and Principal Preferrals, (rewards for students who exhibit respect, responsibility and good citizenship) to encourage and motivate students. Teachers also used responsive classroom strategies to create class communities where students developed cooperation, empathy and self-discipline.

Literacy was a strong focus and several initiatives focused on establishing literacy activities for students and parents. Book Buddies paired sixth grade students with kindergarteners to help them become better readers. Our Literacy Specialist planned and held “Literacy Luncheons” teaching over 40 parents how to help improve their child’s reading comprehension. Camp Discovery, an after-school program for students in grades three through six, culminated with 40 students who participated in this reading tutorial program.

We will continue to build on our successful “firsts” next year by involving our students and their parents as we work to develop a school community that dreams, explores and discovers together.

Shepherd Glen School
Mary Levine, Principal
Skiff Street Extension 06514
407-2070

Shepherd Glen’s diverse student population draws from several neighborhoods and over 800 apartment units. Thirty-six percent of our students are African American, 14 percent are Hispanic, 19 percent are Asian and 30 percent are Caucasian. Faculty and the community recognize the strength of this diversity and celebrate it in many ways. We also continued our efforts to increase academic performance throughout the school year particularly with our after-school programs.

This year Shepherd Glen held its own Saturday Multicultural Fair. Families wore clothing from their homeland and brought in foods for everyone to sample. Each student also received their own passport so they could visit the country studied in their classroom. Approximately 300 people attended this festive event. The PTA also sponsored many other successful activities throughout the year to build a strong school community.

The after-school enrichment program enrolled 131 students this year. The Connecticut Mastery Test preparation was attended by 58 students and every classroom teacher participated in this program. Forty-eight students participated in the Math Blast program for fourth, fifth and sixth grade. Forty-six students participated in Reading Rocketeers, a reading tutorial program, offered to first, second and third grade students. We also offered Homework Club all year, twice a week, and averaged 20 students per night.

Spring Glen School
Cheryl Townsend, Principal
1908 Whitney Avenue 06517
407-2045

Highlights for School Year 2005-2006 that focused on building community and academic improvement included the National Circus Project, the ACES Mathematics Application Grant (MAP), the Chess Initiative, continued integration of technology into the curriculum, Positive Behavior Support, a State Fair and Civil War Encampment.

The National Circus project consisted of one week in which visiting artists worked with students and staff on movement, music and visual arts. The culmination of the week was Circus Night attended by students and their families. It was a festive fun event focusing on the performance of sixth graders. The MAP program, offered to grades three and four, was a year-long initiative designed to raise cultural awareness using mathematics as a bridge to bring together urban and suburban students. The eight-week Chess Initiative focused on building decision-making and problem-solving skills; students from differing socio-economic backgrounds were brought together to learn and play a game that they can all easily access.

Students in fourth grade participated in a month-long unit on states. Each student was given their own state to research and study ending with a state fair that the community attended. States were represented through song, movement and multi-media presentations by students. The Civil War Encampment was the culmination of a month-long unit on the Civil War. Students performed drills, put up facsimile tents and ate authentic food from the era. Spring Glen will continue to focus on building its sense of community through these and other types of programs. The school continues to follow the Higher Order Thinking School philosophy where we celebrate and validate students' accomplishments in a highly anticipated weekly "Town Meeting."

West Woods School
Barbara Nana, Principal
350 West Todd Street 06518
407-2050

West Woods School continued to successfully maintain the "Respect Program," allowing children, teachers, administrators and visitors to the school community to view each other as special, unique people who can live in harmony with each other. The entire school also celebrated individual learning styles through differentiated instruction. Student understanding and performance improved as they recognized the many different pathways there are to learning. This approach was a blend of entire class, small group and individualized instruction where students were assigned tasks based upon their individual readiness, learning profile and interests.

West Woods had a successful and productive year reflected in some of the following activities: "Welcome Back" family picnic, Kindergarten Ice Cream Social, Heritage Day, Guest Authors through Cultural Arts, West Woods Nature Club, Courtyard Photo Mosaic Mural, and West Woods PTA Website.

Hamden Middle School
Frank Pepe, Principal
2623 Dixwell Avenue 06518
407-3140

Hamden Middle School ended the 2005-2006 academic year on a positive note and was involved in many initiatives. Computer programs “*Read 180*” and “*Fast ForWord*” were implemented to address student reading deficits. Hamden Middle School teachers also participated in the district-wide professional development program conducted by the National Urban Alliance (NUA). NUA trained teachers in literacy and instructional strategies to apply in the classroom. NUA training will continue through next year and is expected to help increase achievement in all students.

Middle School students also gave back to the Town through a variety of community service programs: preparing food for St. Anne’s Soup Kitchen, building for Habitat for Humanity and collecting soda can tops for Ronald McDonald House. Students also sent letters to the troops, collected books for St. Raphael’s Hospital and worked in area convalescent homes. We can all be extremely proud of their civic and community activity.

Hamden Middle School staff and students are anxiously awaiting the opening of the new Middle School on September 5, 2006. The new school design is centered in middle school philosophy and features the latest advances in technology, which we were unable to experience at the old location. Every classroom is equipped with a digital marker board and each academic “house” provides a laptop computer cart for student use. The new school will also feature a ropes course from Project Adventure designed to be a team-building tool and self-confidence booster for students; it will be integrated into the physical education curriculum. The grounds will also boast three all-purpose playing fields, softball and baseball fields and tennis courts. We anticipate that the central location of the school and its layout will lead to its being highly utilized by the community for many years to come.

Hamden High School
Gary Highsmith, Principal
2040 Dixwell Avenue 06514
407-2040

The 2005-2006 academic year has seen a highly encouraging increase in the number of students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) courses. AP courses have been shown through many years of research to considerably enhance a student’s prospects for college admission. We have seen a significant increase in the total number of students enrolled in AP Biology from the previous academic year for example. The number of students enrolled in AP Physics, U.S. History and Calculus has increased significantly as well. Minority student participation in AP classes has also increased in Physics, U.S. History and American Studies. We are very encouraged by the progress shown this past year and plan to encourage a continued increase in participation for all AP courses.

Attendance also improved this past academic year with a 7.1 percent increase in the overall number of students attending school. As we all know, in order to increase student achievement, it is imperative that students attend school consistently. The increase in the number of students attending school is a successful reflection of our efforts to reach out to students and connect with them about the importance of education.

The other measure of a successful high school experience is what students do upon graduation. The numbers speak for themselves: 88% of all our graduates will go on to attend four-year colleges or universities, community colleges, trade school or prep school.

We will continue to focus on increasing enrollment in Advanced Placement courses, encouraging consistent attendance and fostering a sense of community that celebrates our diverse and talented high school population.

HAMDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement:

The Hamden Department of Police Services' mission is to protect the rights and integrity of all persons without prejudice or bias against race, religion, ethnic and national origin or sexual orientation within its jurisdiction; to safeguard the diversities of our communities and its citizens; to be free from criminal attack, threat of violence and persecution; to be secure in their possessions and vigilant that together we can enjoy peace and harmony. The Department's goal is to enforce the law in a fair and impartial manner, recognizing both the statutory and judicial limitations of police authority and the constitutional rights of all persons.

There were many personnel changes that the Department encountered during this fiscal year, including the retirement of 19 Police Officers of various ranks. These retirements included 1 Deputy Chief, 3 Captains, 1 Lieutenant, 8 Sergeants, 1 Detective and 3 Patrol Officers, as well as Police Chiefs Robert Nolan and John Kennelly. Chief Nolan retired in November 2005 and was replaced by Chief Kennelly, who served as Chief until his retirement at the end of the fiscal year.

In November 2005, Lieutenant Thomas Wydra was promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief, and assumed command of the Investigative Services Division. Also in November 2005, Lieutenant John Lujick was promoted to the rank of Captain, assuming an executive command role in the Uniform Services Division. The Department was in the process of selecting a new Police Chief and administrative Deputy Chief as the fiscal year came to a close.

Throughout the year, the Department hired 10 new Police Officers, 6 of whom were already certified with the State of Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council serving in other municipal and university agencies. These 6 certified officers were not required to attend the basic Police Academy, and were available for patrol duty almost immediately.

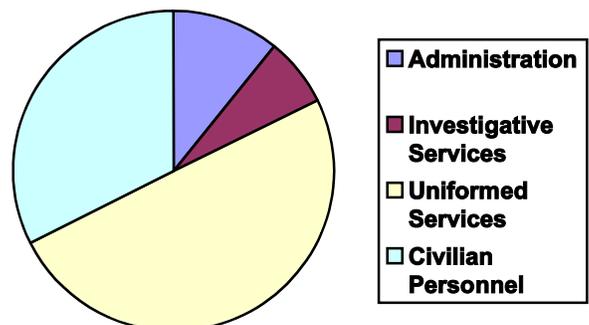
The Department's 106 sworn police officers are supported by 51 non-sworn civilian personnel, including 25 crossing guards, 16 communication technicians and 2 animal control officers.

The Department is managed by the Chief of Police and is divided into 3 major divisions, each of which is commanded by a Deputy Chief. These 3 divisions include Administrative Services, Investigative Services, and Uniform Services.

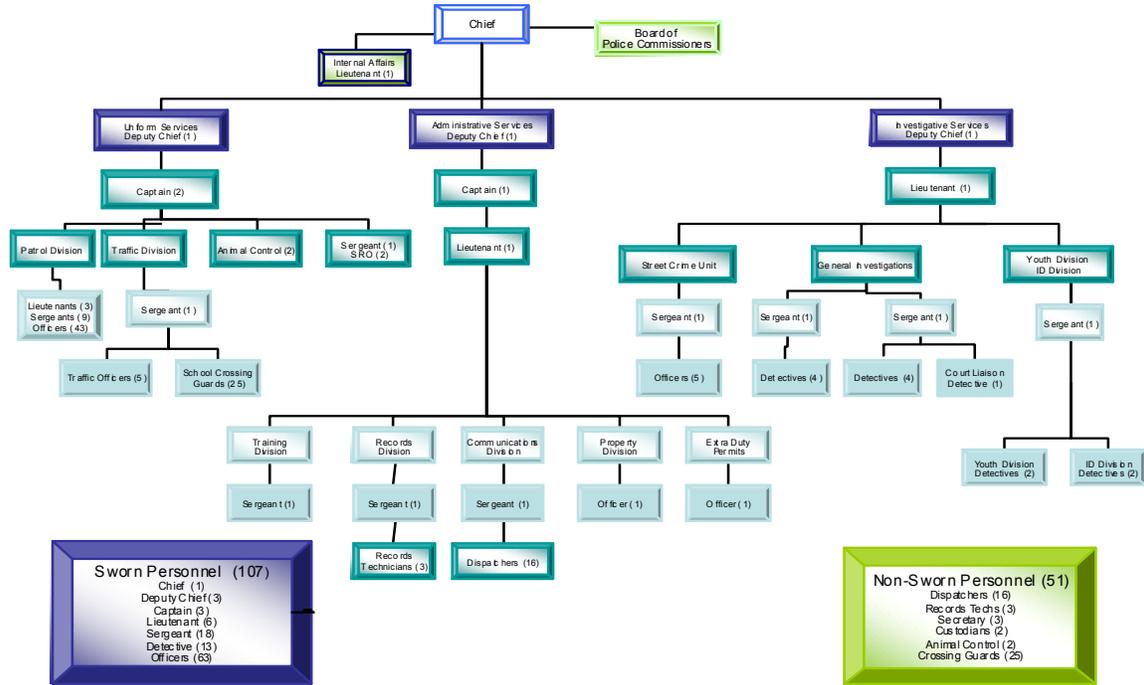
The **Administrative Services Division** is comprised of several smaller divisions, including Records/Internet Technology, Central Communications, Training, Internal Affairs, Extra duty/Permits, Property/Evidence and Budget/Grant Coordination.

Records/Internet Technology Division

The Records/Internet Technology Division continues to manage the Department's computer system, as well as all mobile data terminal computers assigned to every uniform police vehicle.

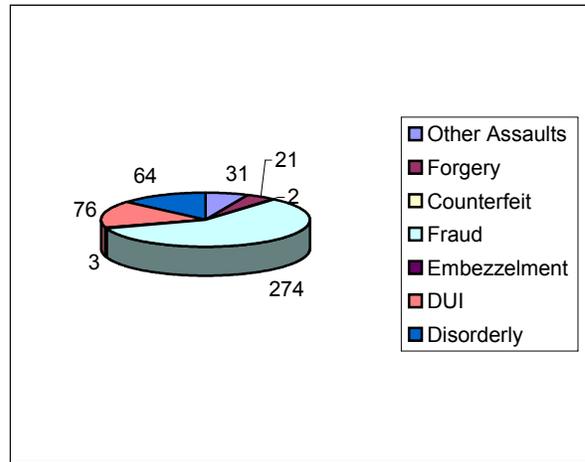
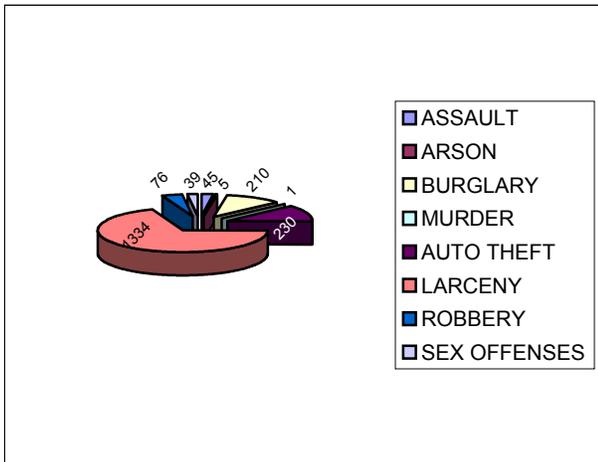


HAMDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT



PART I CRIME STATISTICS INVESTIGATED BETWEEN 7/1/2005 AND 6/30/2006

PART II CRIME STATISTICS





Hamden Police Department Central Communications

Central Communications Division

Central Communications is supervised by a Police Sergeant and staffed by 16 communication technicians. These technicians are responsible for all emergency and non-emergency calls for service requests that are received by the Department, as well as all radio dispatch communications for both Police and Fire Department personnel. All technicians are trained, in accordance with State of Connecticut guidelines, in Emergency Medical Dispatch protocols to greater enhance our ability to help persons requesting medical assistance. During the year, \$10,000.00 was allocated from the State of Connecticut E-911 fund to this Division to pay for computer and related equipment upgrades.

Budget/Grant Coordination

The management of the Department's \$9,993,797 operating budget for 2005/2006 as well as all Federal and State grant applications are performed by a Police Captain and Lieutenant working under the direction of the Administrative Services Deputy Chief and the Office of the Chief of Police. This personnel work closely with the Finance and Purchasing Departments, as well as the Mayor's Office and Legislative Council in order to coordinate the day-to-day management of the Department's finances.

The Department continues to be aggressive in the competitive field of grant application with the federal and state governments.

Uniform Services Division

The Uniform Services Division is comprised of the Patrol Division, Traffic Division, Community Police Division, Animal Control Division and K-9 Division.

Patrol Division

The Patrol Division continues to be the largest division in the Department, responding to and investigating the majority of calls for service received. This Division operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year and participates in all types of police investigations. During this fiscal year, 9 new uniform vehicles were purchased and outfitted for service with all new equipment including overhead lightbars and mobile data terminals. The Department also purchased a 2006 Ford E-350 and had it outfitted with a state-of-the-art 12-person rear-passenger compartment that can accommodate male, female, and juvenile prisoners.

The prisoner van was also outfitted with all new equipment including emergency rear lights, overhead light-bars, police radio and mobile data terminal and decals. The van was purchased with monies from seized accounts and money that had been previously targeted for a new police motorcycle.

Traffic Division

The traffic unit of the Hamden Police Department is responsible for the enforcement of motor vehicle laws and the investigation of motor vehicle accidents. There are four officers and one Sergeant assigned to this unit, who serve as the primary investigators in all potentially fatal motor vehicle accidents and fatal accidents, four of which occurred this year. The officers of this unit are trained in all aspects of accident reconstruction and speed enforcement.

Traffic officers have continued to work with the Connecticut State Police Truck Squad periodically in the enforcement of tractor-trailer violations and have continued to utilize the Speed Monitoring Awareness Radar Trailer throughout the Town, based on citizen requests. In addition, the Traffic Division continues to be responsible for the management of the fleet.

Accident Statistics 2005-06 FY

Accident with Injuries: 368	Accident without Injuries: 1,854
Hit and Run: 242	Fatalities: 4
Private Property: 348	

Community Police Division

The Community Police Division consists of the bicycle patrol, the school resource officers and the crime prevention unit. The school resource officers work in both the Hamden High and Hamden Middle Schools, and continue to be a valuable conduit between the Department, school administrators and the student population.

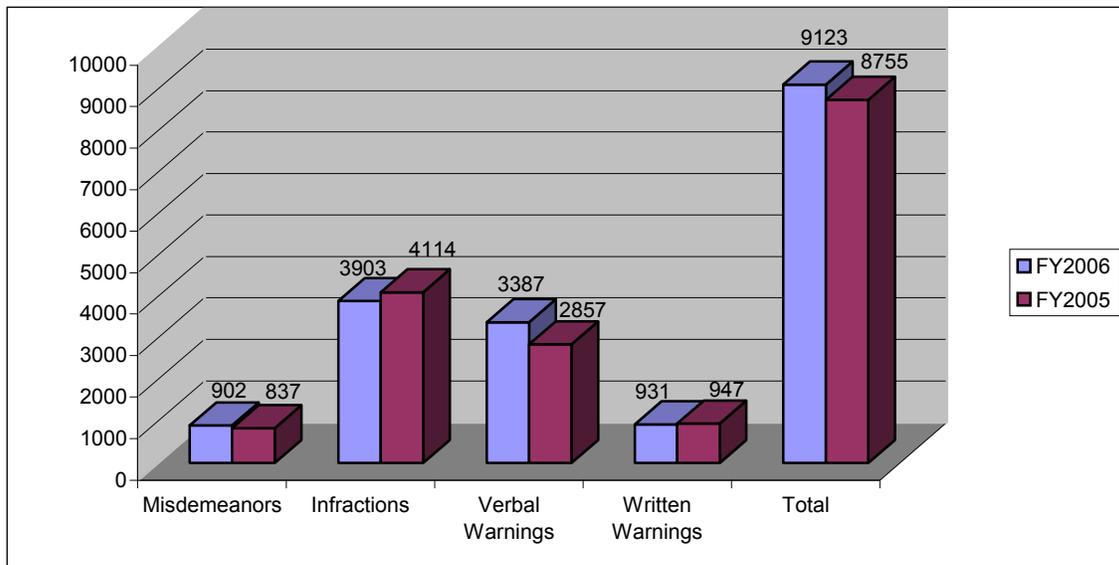
This Division continues to be successful with numerous community programs, such as the Child Identification Program, which has issued thousands of ID cards, providing valuable information about a child's identity. This Department hopes for the ability to download this information into a statewide database in the future. Other programs, such as Lunch with the Police, National Night Out, and the Town wide Halloween Party, continue to be successful events with a high level of community participation.

There are currently 14 block watch groups within the Town. Four new block watch groups formed this fiscal year, on West Helen Street, Helen Street, Bradley Avenue, and Furman Road. These groups are each led by a Captain and contain more than 1,000 residents, who participate in the Hamden Block Watch program.

Animal Control Division

The Hamden Police Department Animal Control Division consists of two officers who are presently using Veterinarian and holding facilities in North Haven. This fiscal year, the Town began the first stages of designing an animal shelter within our borders. Despite the lack of on site facilities, the Division continues to rescue and rehabilitate numerous wild and domestic animals in the Town and has been involved with programs such as adoption services and training clinics for animal owners in the Town.

Motor Vehicle Productivity:



K9 Division

The K-9 Division consists of three police dog/handler teams, all of which are certified as basic patrol dogs. The three teams are also certified in a specialty function. K-9 Titan and his handler, Officer Jason Venditto specialize in explosives detection. K-9 Cesare and his handler, Officer John Battick, specialize in narcotics detection. K-9 Hero and his handler, Lieutenant Francis McDermott had specialized in narcotic detection. K-9 Hero was retired by Lieutenant McDermott in May 2005 after nine dedicated and very successful years of service to the Department. Officer Craig Appleby was selected as a new K-9 handler in February 2006, and is anticipated to begin training with a new partner in the fall of 2006.

Each K-9 team is assigned to one of the three shifts to give 24-hour coverage to the town. The teams respond to a variety of calls including, but not limited to, lost and missing persons, fleeing criminals, burglaries, crowd control situations, suspicious packages, and narcotics calls. The teams have proven to be an invaluable asset not only in their deterrence of crime and ability to find and locate individuals that would normally escape, but also as a public relations tool. The K-9 teams performed 24 K-9 demonstrations during the fiscal year for local schools, camps and civic organizations.

K9 Assists 2005-2006FY

Hamden: 141 Out of Town: 17

Investigative Services Division

The Investigative Services Division is comprised of the Detective Division, Youth Division, Identification Division, and the Street Crime Unit.

Youth Division

The Youth Division continues to be staffed by 2 detectives who primarily investigate crimes against persons under the age of 16 and missing person complaints. These detectives shoulder a heavy workload and work closely with the Hamden School system as well as the Yale Child Behavioral Health Unit in New Haven. During the year, these detectives were placed under the supervision of the Identification Division Sergeant to better facilitate the closely related job assignments that often occur between the detectives assigned to both divisions.



This Mobile Command vehicle was received through a State of Connecticut DWI grant in the amount of \$120,000 that required the Department to appropriate \$10,000 toward its cost. North Haven and East Haven also utilize this vehicle. It's primary use is in DWI enforcement, though it may be used at crime scenes, emergency situations, community events, and other Department events.

Detective Division

Detective personnel assigned here continue to investigate all major and complex crimes reported to the Department including murders, sexual assaults, robberies, burglaries, arsons, identity theft and significant larcenies. There are two major investigations of note that were conducted this fiscal year.

In August 2005 an elderly man was murdered in his apartment at the Dunbar/Davenport apartment complex located at 125 Putnam Avenue. The entire Investigative Services Division, as well as the Patrol and Community Police Divisions worked cohesively to bring this case to a successful conclusion and within a week, secured the arrest of a local female who had been an acquaintance of the victim. In March 2006, the Division investigated burglary and vandalism complaints at four separate schools throughout Town, two of which involved arson. Hamden High School, Hamden Middle School and the ACES School on Skiff Street suffered significant non-fire damage, while the new Hamden Middle School was set on fire during nighttime hours. All school buildings in Town were watched closely during the ensuing period, while detectives were trying to link together evidence from all scenes of the serial vandalisms. All Department personnel contributed to the large-scale surveillances, and on the night of March 23, 2006, the Spring Glen Elementary School was set on fire in two different places with Department personnel in the area. The surrounding area was saturated with uniform and non-uniform personnel in search of the suspect(s). One subject was eventually located on the Farmington Canal line in close proximity to more fires to several motor vehicles in the parking lot of Sleepy's Mattress on Dixwell Avenue. The subject, as well as another individual who was later located, were arrested and linked to the other school vandalisms that totaled more than \$150,000 in damage. The arrests led to the successful conclusion of these investigations where all Department personnel involved contributed great effort and dedication.

During the fiscal year, Detective Robert D'aniello was assigned to the State Police Computer Crimes Unit in Meriden where he primarily participated in identity theft, fraud, and child pornography investigations where Internet technology played a significant role. Detective D'aniello was promoted to Sergeant in January 2006, and returned to the Department in June 2006 when he assumed a supervisory position in the Records/Internet Technology Division. The Department was able to secure forensic computer equipment as a result Sergeant D'aniello's yearlong assignment with the Computer Crimes Unit. This valuable equipment will allow the Department to analyze forensic computer evidence and take a more pro-active role in the investigation of computer crimes, specifically internet crimes against children.

Street Crime Unit

The Street Crime Unit continues to be staffed by a Sergeant and five Investigators, one of whom is assigned to the Statewide Narcotics Task Force (SNTF) out of the South Central District Office. The Unit continues to enjoy a close working relationship with the SNTF, as evidenced on five separate occasions during the year where Street Crime Unit personnel assisted in SNTF investigations that led to arrests and drug seizures. The Unit primarily investigates vice type crimes, specifically narcotics distribution and possession. The Unit also continues to target underage drinking complaints.

The Unit conducted 208 investigations during the year, affected 230 arrests, and seized 6 weapons, 10 vehicles, and \$26,516. There is 1 significant investigation that this Unit conducted during this fiscal year.

In January 2006, Investigators received information regarding a large-scale marijuana trafficking operation working in Town. Intimate details of the operation and its leader were received and corroborated. Investigators conducted surveillance on a Mill Rock Road residence, and eventually arrested a subject who was found to be in possession of almost 4 lbs. of marijuana and \$1,261 in U.S. currency. The investigation led the Investigators to 425 Mill Rock Road where a "stash house" was located, less than 100 feet from the Hamden Middle School property. Approximately 35 lbs. of marijuana was seized from the residence as well as \$9,000 in U.S. currency and numerous packaging and weighing items. The arrested individual was identified as a career criminal based on his criminal background.

The Hamden Police Department continues to strive to deliver quality and professional law enforcement services to the diverse communities in Hamden. The men and women of our Department are committed to the safety and protection of those we serve.



This investigation that culminated in the seizure of approximately 40 lbs. of marijuana being prepared for distribution near the doorsteps of the Hamden Middle School is an outstanding example of the Department and our citizens working cooperatively to rid our streets of this type of dangerous element.

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES



Mission Statement:

The mission of the Hamden Department of Fire and Emergency Services is to protect lives and property from the adverse effects of fire, medical emergencies and exposure to dangerous conditions created either by nature or man. We will respond to emergencies in a professional and courteous manner and strive to reduce the rate of emergencies through public education and code enforcement. Ethical values will remain the core of every decision made by each member of our Department

Our Philosophy

Pride

The Department's Success is reliant upon the pride of its members. Pride and Emergency Services go hand in hand. Pride is instilled in each member through training, mentoring, discipline, and the sheer love of the job. Hamden enjoys the luxury of operating a combination Fire Department. Both career and volunteer members share a common goal and are rich in history.

Tradition

Tradition in the fire service is the fabric that ties our members together. This is evident with both our career and volunteer members. We will continue to instill our traditional values to our new members while remaining cognizant of the challenges of the future.

Professionalism

Our Department's professional demeanor, appearance, and actions will remain steadfast. Members of the Department will portray themselves in a professional manner at all times both on and off duty. We will strive to treat each member of the community we serve in a professional manner. All members must be accountable for their actions and maintain their professionalism. Remaining consistent with the Department's mission statement in order to place safety of the public first is paramount.

A partial list of goals for 2006/2007 include the following:

- Implementation of a Strategic Plan
- Creation of a multi-year vehicle replacement program to minimize the financial impact to the community.
- Instituting a Paramedic Intercept billing program to provide revenue for services provided by our Department's Paramedics
- Continued efforts to secure State and Federal Grants to provide tax relief to our community.
- Planning for the implementation of a Paramedic transport service to provide an addition to the quality services already provided to the citizens of Hamden.

RESPONSE REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2005—2006

Total Residential Fires: 115

Total Structural Fires: 133

Other Fires/Incidents: (vehicles, brush/wildland, rubbish): 115

Total Fires: 363

Total Emergency Medical Calls: 8,397

Fire Department Responses for FY 2005-2006: 8,760

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mission Statement:

Hamden's fiscal year 2005-2006 produced a record number of responses for the Fire Department. As our yearly combined fire and emergency medical calls climb to nearly 9,000, we continually strive to adopt better ways to protect the lives and property of our citizens. Hamden Fire operates four fire stations, one combined career and volunteer station, (Mt. Carmel), and two volunteer stations. In our efforts to provide the best firefighting equipment for Hamden's neighborhoods, we placed in service a new class A pumper at our West Woods Station #9 located on Johnson Road. Our maintenance division, headed up by our Superintendent of Apparatus, continues to do an exemplary job keeping all of the Department's equipment on the road and ready for response. The Fire Department's fleet contains many specialized pieces of apparatus including eight class A fire pumpers, one aerial ladder, one Tower ladder, three emergency medical units and two brush trucks. In addition we operate several special hazards units targeted for specific needs. Volunteer Company #8 located on Dunbar Hall Road recently acquired a used Mack pumper to replace a 1973 model which is no longer roadworthy. This vehicle, bought with company funds and donated to the town, will enhance the fire response capability in the Dunbar Hill area.

All career and volunteer companies engage in extensive training throughout the year. In the summer of 2005 we ran a large drill on Dixwell Avenue at the site of the new Home Depot store, in which we practiced live fire exercises in a structure slated for demolition. All career firefighters attend an intense 12-week program at the Connecticut Fire Academy located in Windsor Locks. In May of 2006 we welcomed five new graduates of that program to the career ranks. These firefighters replace senior department members who have retired during the year. All new career members are required to be trained as Emergency Medical Technicians or Paramedics. No first response unit responds to any call without qualified medical staff on board. Our volunteers also engaged in extensive training. New members attend weekend programs at the New Haven Regional Fire School, which results in state firefighter certification.

Education is not limited to internal training. Our Fire Department works throughout the year on an aggressive outreach program, involving youth and the elderly. Representatives from the various fire companies conduct fire safety programs in all the town's elementary schools and pre-K facilities. This year we added "Freddy the Fire Truck" to our resources. Freddy is an interactive robot fire pumper, operated by our personnel to deliver educational messages to the younger grades. Through our budget we provide educational materials to the students townwide. We have teamed up with civic groups such as "Safepath" to provide and install smoke detectors to the elderly and disadvantaged, and continued our "Vial of Life" program, which provides residents afflicted by a medical condition with a vial to store their medical information which can be stored in a common area such as a refrigerator for easy access by fire fighters or police officers called to their homes. In addition the Fire Department conducts child car seat installation clinics.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services looks forward to providing continued quality care and service to the citizens of Hamden. Pride, tradition, and professionalism equals our commitment to you and your families.

David A. Berardesca
Fire Chief

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Mission Statement:

Hamden's Office of Emergency Management dates back to the Civil Defense organizations of World War II. During the Cold War we became Civil Preparedness and now, under direction of the State and Federal Government we have become Emergency Management. Hamden's Emergency Management teams are deployed at fires, floods, power emergencies, weather related situations, terrorist incidents and any other emergency situation declared by the Mayor, Governor or the President. We use the National Incident Management System to coordinate the Town's response to all multi-agency incidents. We work as a liaison with the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross, Quinnipiac Valley Health and other agencies to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of Hamden. Hamden OEM personnel operate the Town's Emergency Operations Center and are trained to provide emergency sheltering as needed.

Our mission and mandate is furnished by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, (FEMA) and the State Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, (DEMHS) and set forth in Federal, State and Local statute.

In 2005/06 we supervised and updated all the town's emergency operations planning to be compliant with State and Federal standards. We have worked with Town departments and outside agencies such as private schools and elderly facilities to ensure that their emergency plans are up to date and fit in with local and state mandates. Hamden OEM participated at the State level Regional Emergency Planning Team, (REPT) and is active in the Connecticut Emergency Management Association, (CEMA).

Major Accomplishments:

Fiscal Year 2005/2006 saw tremendous growth in OEM within the town. It was the first full year that our Community Emergency Response Team, (CERT) became operational and our Emergency Operations Center, located in the Memorial Town Hall, saw it's first use. By obtaining grant funds from the State we now have over 70 CERT volunteers trained in several areas of emergency response including, First Aid and CPR, Red Cross Shelter Management, Search and Rescue, EOC Operations, Crowd Control etc. Our CERT volunteers respond to all major incidents in Town and provide aid to emergency workers and victims. Teams of volunteers are on call 24 hours a day. Hamden OEM responded to 24 incidents during FY 05/06 including fires, Search and Rescue, power outages, police incidents and weather related emergencies. Our EOC was opened twice per order of the State and three times due to weather related situations. Our Mobil Command Vehicle, housed at the Ridge Road Fire Station and our mobile lighting unit saw deployment on several occasions for emergency situations. During and after Hurricane Katrina OEM along with Police and Fire representatives participated in daily conference calls with DEMHS and FEMA to assist in the state's response to the disaster.

In addition to emergency response, Hamden OEM has been active in community service. During 2005/06 we participated in operating the medical venue at the Special Olympics, operated the staging area and assisted the Marshals at both the Memorial Day and Columbus Day Parades, assisted at the Mayoral Inauguration, provided logistical support to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and handicapped assistance, lighting and other support to the Arts Commission concerts at Meadowbrook. OEM worked extensively with the volunteer firefighters at the annual fireworks display also at Meadowbrook. OEM provided rehabilitation services at Fire Department training exercises, including the all day live burn on Dixwell Avenue at the Home Depot Site. It is through these community service exercises that our volunteers become proficient in OEM policies and procedures for use in emergency response. For the next year we plan to continue our mission, concentration on increased public awareness and planning. We will continue to train and add to our volunteer force and participate in Emergency Management activities at the local, regional and state level.

Clark Hurlburt
Deputy Fire Chief

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In 2006-2007, this Department will work diligently to provide the strong leadership the Town needs to strengthen the economic future of Hamden and to improve its diverse neighborhoods.

Mission Statement:

The goal of the Economic and Community Development Department is to increase the Town's commercial and industrial tax base, create jobs while improving the quality of life in its neighborhoods. The department works under the direction of the Mayor and Hamden's Economic Development Commission. In 2005 the Department developed a comprehensive three-year plan. The plan delineates several economic development initiatives including:

The Business Incentive Program: This includes offering both the Town's incentive program and State of Connecticut Targeted Investment Community/ Urban Jobs Program and Enterprise Zone incentives to businesses that locate or expand in Town. These programs include tax abatements; grants and waiver of building permit fees.

The Micro Loan Program: Eligible costs include the purchase of equipment machinery and property improvements as well as down payment assistance for commercial properties.

Marketing Initiatives: such as an Economic Development web site that will promote the Town, and links to other departments and the Hamden Chamber of Commerce. The marketing initiatives include a new Business Yellow Pages and a Business Cluster program.

Developing and Managing the Business Assistance Center (BAC): In conjunction with Quinnipiac University, local lenders, the Hamden Chamber and Technical Assistance Providers, the BAC serves as clearing house and referral center for small growing and new businesses

Coordinating a Streetscape Improvement Programs: This program targets the Highwood and State Street neighborhoods.

Implementing the State Street Corridor Municipal Development Plan: Involving the Economic Development Commission, area residents, Neighborhood Revitalization Zone Committee members and area businesses.

Implementing a Revitalization Program: In the Highwood neighborhood that will include new commercial and mixed-use projects that benefit the neighborhood and encourage other investment. The Department will seek public and private investment to secure funds for commercial and mixed-use projects.

Develop/Redevelopment brownfield sites throughout Hamden: We will continue to work with the Hamden Chamber of Commerce and maintain an active working relationship with the Regional Growth Partnership and other organizations such as the International Council of Shopping Centers and the Connecticut Economic Development Association.

Implement a list numerous programs through the Town's community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), Housing and Commercial Rehabilitation, Public Infrastructure improvements program as well as numerous grants to Public Service Agencies in Hamden. The CDBG program is managed by the Community Development Advisory Commission.

Grants Administration: The Department has the responsibility of writing and administering most other Town grants through the Grants Administrator.



These before and after photos show the property formerly know as Juvenile Warehouse on Skiff Street in Hamden. Today it is home to the beautiful LA Fitness. The project resulted in an \$8 million investment in the Town of Hamden.

Juvenile Warehouse



LA Fitness: Opened 2006

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Community Services Department is to enhance the quality of life for Hamden residents of all ages by providing educational, recreational and social services through intensive case management at the Keefe Center. The Center is a multipurpose, intergenerational facility which provides all of the services necessary to assist our clients in one location. Each individual or family who comes to the department is thoroughly assessed to determine the full scope of their needs, and a plan is put in place to provide the necessary assistance and support so that they can function independently as productive members of the community.

The majority of the people that we assist are families who work full time, often at more than one job, raise their children, maintain their households and pay their taxes. However, these families are unable to keep up with the high cost of living because their wages do not keep pace with rising housing, fuel and other costs. Many are without medical insurance or adequate child care, and struggle to keep their families fed, clothed and sheltered. Although the living wage in the region is now around \$20.00 per hour, many of our clients feel fortunate to work for half that rate of pay, and many residents lack the necessary skills to get jobs.

Major Accomplishments:

In order to provide intensive job training, education, and placement Community Services in conjunction with the Town's Economic Development Department applied for and received a grant from the Workforce Alliance for \$101,808.00, the largest in the region. This grant funds a case manager, job developer, and allows us to contract with Hamden Adult Education to provide each individual with 150 hours of computer training in addition to the life skills instruction of the grant. We also responded to request to create a new component of the grant, which includes English as a Second Language in addition to the computer skills, and we were awarded an additional \$23,650.00 to conduct a 10 week pilot program which will provide 150 hours of English in addition to computer training. Every indication is that both of these contracts will be renewed for the next fiscal year.

As the gap between wages and expenses continues to widen, the number of new families in need of assistance has grown considerably, and the severe lack of safe and decent affordable housing continues to be a major obstacle for families trying to maintain their independence. While rents continue to rise at a faster pace than income, many Hamden residents were forced out of their homes either through eviction or relocation. The fact that some affordable housing in Hamden may be substandard, unsafe or even illegal space was confirmed in 2005-2006 when the number of individuals relocated by Community Services rose from 6 to 26 not including a church congregation. These individuals were relocated under the Uniform Relocation Assistance Act which requires the Town to shelter and permanently relocate Hamden residents who are ordered out of their homes by code enforcement activities. Community Services expended a total of \$36,000.00 to relocate these residents and has begun the process of recovering these funds from their landlords.

Through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program Community Services expended \$19,433.00 to prevent 18 evictions, provide 45 nights of shelter to homeless residents, and prevent 45 utility shutoffs. However many evictions or foreclosures could not be prevented and Community Services expended a total of \$30,373.00 to evict 37 families.

In the areas of food and fuel assistance, the numbers of families served affirm the fact that the demand to meet the basic needs of Hamden residents continued to rise. The Hamden Food Bank distributed food to 91 families, including 2,199.00 individuals totaling 19,796.00 meals and gave out Thanksgiving baskets to 120 families and sponsored 37 families. Community Services processed 137 applications for the Federal and State Fuel Assistance programs entitling clients to receive between \$200.00 and \$500.00. The Greater New Haven Fuel Bank served 15 families and the Hamden Clergy served 24 families, each with allotments of \$300.00 per family.

The Hamden Toy Drive allowed us to give four or more toys to 500 children, in addition to toys and food for adopted families. Through a partnership with Professor Sue Hudd's Social Stratification classes, Quinnipiac students adopted 10 families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The students were so moved by the stories of these families, that they were able to put together baskets and gifts especially created for each families needs with many extra personal touches, including personal notes to the family. The families were overwhelmed not only by the generosity, but also by the time and caring demonstrated on the part of the young students.

The Summer Camp Scholarship Program provided scholarship assistance to 65 children to attend the Parks and Recreation Department's Summer Camps, with eligibility based on 150% of poverty documented by Community Services. A total of \$15,000.00 was distributed with \$5,000.00 coming from a Community Development grant and the additional funding from Community Services and Parks and Recreation fundraisers and private donations. In addition a \$7,000.00 grant from Community Development allowed us to provide free daily transportation for income eligible summer campers, as well as to transport Hamden Youth Center participants to Madison Square Garden, Yankee Stadium and over 20 tournament games. A total of 280 young people were served by this grant.

As part of Community Services efforts to offer arts and leisure time activities, we continued our partnership with Young Audiences of Connecticut to present 7 live performances of theater, song and dance, and arts programs for parents and their children. The audience grew from around 40 to over 100 and we began a partnership with Eli Whitney's Culinary Institute to provide supper for the audience. The program is funded through a PACK (Parents and Communities for Kids) grant and performances ranged from the Connecticut Opera performing "Pinocchio" to a family weaving project. Family Movie Night, sponsored in conjunction with the Hamden Arts Commission also attracted over 100 parents and children for Friday night first run movies, complete with hot popcorn and beverages.

In conclusion the 2005-2006 was a year in which many Hamden residents struggled to maintain their independence as productive members of the community. The most pressing issues for Hamden's working poor are the lack of affordable housing, child care and health benefits coupled with the rising cost of living, led by the fuel and energy cost. All of this can jeopardize a family's ability to survive, as they are pushed further into crisis and unable to meet the cost of basic human needs. The Community Services Department, through expanded programs, services and activities strives to provide the necessary assistance to Hamden families and individuals which can prevent or solve the crises which they face.

YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU



Mission Statement:

The Hamden Youth Services Bureau provides a comprehensive, coordinated program of services and activities for the children, youth and families of Hamden. A wide variety of programs are offered throughout the year to Hamden residents that are both accessible and affordable. In addition, Hamden Youth Services Bureau provides referrals, acts as an advocate for Hamden children and identifies the needs of youth and gaps in services.

Collaboration with other Town departments and outside agencies to share resources and avoid duplication of services is a key component of the Bureau. Youth Services provides childcare, substance abuse awareness and prevention programming, a youth center, a boxing program and various positive youth development activities.

The Bureau operates a state licensed Preschool Childcare Program and School Age Child Care Program. The Preschool Program operates 8:45 a.m.- 2:45 p.m. daily according to the Hamden Public Schools calendar. The School Age Child Care Program operates 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on school days, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on school days off and school vacations. This past year 49 children, ages three to five, were cared for in the Preschool Program and 69 children, ages five to twelve, were cared for in the School Age Program.

Children enrolled in the Preschool Program were engaged in a wide range of educational, social and recreational activities. A "whole child" approach to the curriculum was incorporated into the daily activities. Children learned through thematic units such as "Apples", "Snow" and "Insects". Monthly field trips included apple picking, museums, and children's theater. Community visitors such as the Police and Fire departments were also a part of the curriculum. In addition, social skills and Kindergarten readiness skills were integrated into the daily routines.

Children enrolled in the School Age Child Care Program were bused (in cooperation with the Hamden Public Schools) to the Keefe Center after school. Children engaged in homework and various recreational and enrichment activities such as karate, music lessons, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. During school vacation children participated in many field trips such as bowling, museums and the beach and special “in-house” days.



Revenue to operate the childcare programs is generated primarily through monthly tuition from families. Fees are based on a sliding scale determined by household income and household size. Depending on the hours the child attends, fees for the 2005-2006 fiscal year ranged from \$55.00 a month to \$365.00 a month. A Community Development Block Grant for \$16,500 provided additional support as well as fund raising efforts and town funding for transportation, special events, etc. Other subsidies that helped to defray the costs were Care 4' Kids (a state run child care assistance program) and CACFP (a State Department of Education grant for \$20,000 that reimburses the partial cost or full cost of meals served to the children). Over \$159,000 was collected in fees in 2005-2006.

This past year, many families of lower to moderate income were able to take advantage of Youth Services' quality preschool and after school programs that they would not have otherwise had the opportunity for. In addition to the equitable fees, Youth Services works with our childcare families on an individual basis. Assistance in applying for Care 4' Kids and referrals to outside agencies and the Community Services Department to help economically disadvantaged families with food and fuel assistance, camp scholarships and holiday gifts continue. Meals are offered to all children at no cost during the childcare hours.

The Hamden Youth Center program for children in grades six through twelve is located in the Hamden Board of Education. Youth are involved in recreational, social and educational programs throughout the year. Highlights from the past year include a Fashion Show and participation in several basketball tournaments. The Town of Hamden funds program costs for staff wages, tournament fees and transportation. In addition, the Youth Center received a Community Development Block Grant for \$5,375.00. Community Services and Parks and Recreation departments have assisted with the costs of transportation and equipment. Approximately 100 youth have been involved with the Center this past year.



The Hamden Boxing Program continues to train amateur boxers ages nine through adult. It has made a tremendous impact on the lives of many troubled youth and several boxers have successfully competed in various tournaments throughout the country. Over 30 people participated in this program. Funding is provided through a Community Development Block Grant of \$3,000, fundraising efforts and town funding.

A Summer Theatre Camp in cooperation with the Hamden Arts Commission was held at West Woods Elementary School and 34 children were enrolled.

Summer Youth Employment funds were not available from the state in 2005-2006. Youth Services continued to see this as a priority and committed \$10,000 from its town budget to employ over 10 economically disadvantaged and special needs Hamden youth in public and non-profit entities.

Substance abuse prevention continues to be a priority for the Bureau. In addition to a State Department of Education Youth Services grant received of \$37,039 which funds the Outreach Counselor's position, a grant for \$5,675.00 from the State Department of Mental Health and Addiction is used to enhance town sponsored abuse prevention programs for elementary, middle and high school youth. More than 900 elementary school students attended the "Choice for Me" drug free educational programs, approximately 3,500 students participated in a pencil slogan contest, and 75 students and parents participated in the pencil slogan awards ceremony. The "I Have Better Things To Do Than Drugs" campaign involved more than 600 students and businesses and approximately 1,500 elementary and middle school students attended a motivational media assembly.

Hamden Youth Services provided many positive youth development activities in 2005-2006. Friday Night Skating in cooperation with Parks and Recreation Department and Middle school dances were well-attended and offered alternative opportunities for young people. Babysitting Basics classes co-sponsored with the Hamden Fire Department and the Hamden Police Department were offered to Hamden elementary students. Additional assistance from the Fire Department resulted in the distribution for over 20 smoke detectors to Hamden families with newborns. Over 150 students received free school supplies through the Bureau's school supply closet.

The Youth Services teamed up with The Consultation Center to host a forum on Youth Engagement for After School Programs and a "Youth Speak Out" forum for older youth. The forum was an opportunity for youth to speak their mind and be a part of the decision making process that will directly impact their out-of-school hours – an aspect that was emphasized more in 2005-2006.

Quinnipiac University has had a very positive relationship with the Youth Services and that relationship has flourished during the 2005-2006 school year. Students and staff have worked with Youth Services staff, children and families on various programming. The student athletes and various sororities and fraternities have provided enrichment activities throughout the year. The Citizen Leaders, in collaboration with the Bureau, provided a Hamden Family Fun Day which included beautification efforts at the Keefe Center grounds, a new basketball hoop, two mural paintings and a festival. Approximately 200 children and parents participated in this event.

Goals for the Future:

The Youth Services Bureau will continue to reassess and address the needs of Hamden youth and their families.

ELDERLY SERVICES

Mission Statement:

The Elderly Services Department functions as the central resource center for information on programs, activities and services for elderly residents 60 years of age and older. The department also provides information and referral assistance to individuals and families caring for elderly relatives. The Elderly Services Department is headed by the Coordinator of Elderly Services. The department oversees the operation of the Miller Senior Center, a multi-purpose facility located at 2901 Dixwell Avenue. Elderly Services also administers the Senior Transportation Program and the Elderly Outreach Office. The department operated with a municipal budget allocation of \$372,952.00 of which \$369,929.79 was expended.

Major Accomplishments:

Programming at the Miller Senior Center focuses on educational, recreational and social offerings. Activities include computer classes, bridge classes, aerobics, line dancing, tai chi, needlework, crafts, bingo, oil painting, billiards, card playing, and a monthly movie. Speakers and entertainment are also available on a scheduled basis throughout the year. On any given day between 300 and 500 people participate in activities at the Senior Center. The Miller Senior Center is also the host site for blood pressure screenings provided by the VNA and 55 Alive Defensive Driving classes sponsored by AARP. The Miller Association of Seniors, a service and social organization, continues to be very active in its support of Elderly Services' programs and activities. A monthly newsletter, including a calendar of events, is distributed to inform residents of programs, services, activities and other pertinent information.



Hamden Elderly Services and Hamden Adult Education continue to administer the computer learning lab for senior citizens at the Miller Senior Center. Classes have been scheduled since the fall of 2000 and focus on computer basics, intermediate level courses, and the Internet. To date, 950 elderly residents have completed the basic course and 80 have completed the intermediate course. Volunteer instructors teach all classes. Elderly Services has been very fortunate to have a Presidential Fellow from Quinnipiac University staff and teach in the Computer Lab during the summer months. The student has enabled the lab to remain open during the summer months when the regular instructors take vacation time. The Town of Hamden, local businesses and civic organizations have been very generous with their donations and support of this program.

In fact, in September, 2005, thanks in large part to a grant written by a Presidential Fellow from Quinnipiac University, Hudson United Bank donated \$3,500 for the purchase of nine new computers for the Learning Lab. This very generous donation enabled Elderly Services to update the equipment in the lab and all the computers now have Windows XP as their operating system.

The Elderly Outreach Office is located in the Miller Senior Center and is staffed by three Elderly Outreach Counselors. The Outreach Office provides information, referral and social services assistance to elderly town residents. The Outreach Office has an active caseload of approximately 2,200 clients, 96% of whom are in the lower income category. During the fall and winter months, the Outreach staff completed 850 applications for

the Federal and State Fuel Assistance Programs. From May-September, 555 applications were filed for the Elderly and Totally Disabled Renters' Tax Relief Program, for a total of \$249,190.00 in grant payments to elderly and disabled renters. The Community Development Block Grant funds the Telephone Reassurance Program, in which a part-time worker calls frail, homebound elderly people on a regular basis to check on their well-being.



The Senior Transportation Program provided rides to the following number of elderly passengers: medical appointments 1,490; nutrition sites and senior centers 5,740; adult daycare centers 3,230; shopping 1,280; and errands 1,030. The transportation program operates Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Senior Transportation Program is staffed by four drivers who are required to have and maintain a Commercial Drivers License with a Passenger Endorsement. All Senior Transportation vehicles are leased from the Greater New Haven Transit District and are wheelchair lift-equipped.

The South Central Connecticut Elderly Nutrition Program provided noontime meals to two elderly nutrition sites that are sponsored by the Town: Miller Senior Center and the Putnam Avenue site located at the Davenport/Dunbar Residence. This program is funded in part with Federal Title III-C funds and money from the State of Connecticut. Participants are asked to make a \$2.00 donation per meal. The Elderly Nutrition Program served approximately 100 meals each day, Monday through Friday, at the two Hamden sites.



HAMDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Hamden Housing Authority has had another busy and productive year. The Authority manages 190 units of Elderly Housing, 30 units of Congregate Housing/Assisted Living and four units of Affordable Housing under the state programs.

Throughout the year, Housing Authority residents enjoyed special breakfasts, potluck dinners, bingo, pizza parties and guest speakers who enlightened our residents on Medicare as well as other chosen topics. Our residents are invited to participate in our hot luncheon program, prepared at our Congregate Housing facility and delivered to their door. Our hot lunch program continues to be successful, especially for residents who are returning from the hospital or during the winter when it is more difficult for residents to get around. Housing Authority residents participated in the annual Fourth of July Picnic and December Holiday party, Entertainment and prizes were the features of the July Picnic, including our Annual Good Citizenship Awards given to those residents who did something special or showed extra kindness towards a neighbor. In December, the residents were treated to a wonderful program of holiday songs performed by local nursery school children, Tony Persia on piano, a surprise visit by Santa who passed out gifts to all, and a great holiday dinner.

A new manager started at our Congregate/Assisted Living in August and it has proved to be very successful. The residents still continue to enjoy weekly and monthly entertainment which includes guest speakers, arts and crafts, bingo, monthly socials, movies, cards, high tea with poetry readings and ice cream socials to name a few. The residents also enjoy meals prepared on-site, housekeeping services and 24-hour staff coverage in addition to other services.

The Housing Authority has been busy completing many projects and upgrading our property for the betterment of the tenants as well as the Housing Authority. This year we did some large capitol improvements at the elderly developments. At Centerville Village, the remaining five buildings that needed new roofs were replaced and also the roof at E-82 at Hamden Village. In addition, the roof at Mt. Carmel South East Building was replaced. We continue to install air conditioner sleeves at all the complexes for proper fit and drainage to prevent further damage to the windowsills. The retaining wall at Congregate was torn down and rebuilt, a new heating/air conditioning system was installed at our Affordable Duplex at 253-255 Morse Street and the carpeting was replaced at the main office at Centerville Village.

We continue to rehabilitate units as they become vacant to keep our property in excellent condition. Apartments are painted, kitchen and bathroom floors are replaced with vinyl and living rooms and bedrooms are carpeted. Appliances are upgraded as well as electrical and plumbing fixtures including hot water heaters, counters and cabinets as needed and other repairs to keep our property in compliance with our goal of safe, decent, affordable housing.

In addition, under the federal programs, the Housing Authority manages 305 Housing Choice Vouchers, which is a rental assistance program to help low-income families with their rent. The Housing Authority also manages 114 vouchers for the Wallingford Housing Authority and approximately 1,200 RAP and Housing Choice Vouchers in Hamden, New haven, Wallingford, East Haven, West Haven and North Haven for the Department of Social Services. This year, HUD again recognized the Housing Authority as a High Performer for the Federal Programs we manage. The Housing Authority continues to seek ways to expand affordable housing within the Town of Hamden. Hamden Housing Authority's State and Federal audit for year-end June 30, 2005 was completed and the Authority was found to be in compliance with no findings or recommendations.

The Board of Commissioners and staff has had another great year of accomplishments under the leadership of its Chairman, William Hindinger and Commissioners Ivan Pour, Cornelia Leavitt- Scudder, Edith Sokoloss and our new Commissioner, Marvin Michalsen. The Commissioners and staff look forward to another year of providing continued exceptional service to the residents of the Town of Hamden.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Mission Statement:

The mission of Hamden Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide leadership and expertise in the development, administration and supervision of a comprehensive slate of recreational opportunities for the citizens of the town. A collaboration of staff, volunteers and agencies, both public and private, help to make this possible. The effect of these unions results in access for all citizens regardless of age, sex, ethnicity or socio-economic status. Members of the Parks and Recreation staff maintain active memberships in statewide, regional and national associations and obtain the most up to date information and strategies for the delivery of recreational services.

Major Accomplishments:

The Parks & Recreation Department completed the renovation of the kitchen at the Veterans Memorial Building at Brooksvale Park, providing added service to the residents and a shelter/cabin for overnight campers.

Renovated the basketball courts at Pine Rock Field for activities and to benefit outdoor leagues.

Bio Blitz (Brooksvale Park) is a special event with the purpose to raise public awareness of the biodiversity in the Town. It is part contest, part festival and part scientific research and an excellent opportunity for children and adults to get excited about science and nature.



The Brooksvale Fall Festival is an annual event held on the third Saturday of the month, coinciding with the peak foliage colors. Held at Brooksvale Park, it highlights aspects of the Fall season with family entertainment, food, music, horse-drawn hayrides, pony rides, and vendors.

Summer Camps such as Little Dragon Jr./Sr. Camp, Munchkins, Rascals, Green Dragons, Drifters, Extreme and Brooksvale's Nature Camp, Brooksvale Ranger and the Science Adventures Camps continues to grow and make for a fun summer for all that attend. In 2005 the Hamden Summer Day Camp program had two sessions with over 400 youngsters attending each session.



The Parks and Recreation Department in cooperation with Hamden Fathers Baseball are replacing all windows at Bassett Clubhouse at a shared cost. In FY 2005-06 Hamden Fathers Baseball (Youth) advanced to State Championship, Hamden Fathers Football (Youth) advanced to Pop Warner Super Bowl in Florida and Greater Hamden Baseball advanced to the Regional Tournament in Rhode Island.

Hamden Parks & Recreation Facilities:

Bassett Park: Corner of Ridge Rd. & Waite St. (Basketball Court, Concession Stand, Hamden Dog Park, Larry's Playground, Little League fields, Tennis Court, Parking, Restrooms)

Brooksvale Recreation Park: 524 Brooksvale Ave. (off Whitney Ave.)
(416 acre nature park & wildlife sanctuary, Archery Range, Barn, Cabin, Charcoal Grills, Domestic Animal Barnyard, Hiking Trails, Maple Sugaring Shack, Nature Wildlife Garden, Open Play Area, Overnight Shelters and Tent Camping, Picnic Pavilion, Pond for Ice Skating & Nature Study, Sledding Area, Softball Field, Parking, Restrooms)

DeNicola Park: Treadwell St. (Basketball Court, Playground)

Farmington Canal Greenway: A former canal line and railroad route converted into a paved trail for pedestrian traffic. Enjoy walking, jogging, cycling or rollerblading along 7.2 miles of scenic Hamden from Mt. Sanford Road in the north to Connolly Parkway. Parking located at Sherman Avenue, Todd Street and at Brooksvale Park.

Frank Cesare Park: Blue Hills Ave. behind Church St. School. (Baseball Field, Basketball Court, Little League Field, Playground)

Hamden Dog Park: Bassett Park – corner of Ridge Rd. & Waite St.
(1.09 acre wooded park outfitted with stone-dust walking paths, benches and picnic tables. Facility is completely fenced in, allowing pets to run off-leash. Separate entrances for small pets.)

Larry's Playground: Bassett Park – corner of Ridge Rd. & Waite St.

Legion Field: James Street (Baseball Field, Little League Field, Maintenance Workshop, Playground)

Millrock Park: Millrock Road (Basketball Court, Playground, Tennis Court)

Moretti Field: Waite St. (Soccer Field)

Pine Rock Field: Brook St. (Basketball Courts, Sledding Area, Softball Field)

Rochford Field: Newhall St. (Baseball Field, Softball Field)

St. Ann's Field: Pine Rock Avenue (Multipurpose Fields, Playground, Swings, Walking Track)

Louis Astorino Ice Arena and Tennis Courts – 595 Mix Avenue

An 85'x200' skating surface with seating for over 1000 patrons. Currently, the arena and its adjacent tennis courts are in the final phases of a multi-year renovation which will include new mechanicals and upgrades to the locker rooms, skate shop, lighting systems and concession area. The Tennis Courts feature 8 hard courts complete with windscreens, lights, and a side practice wall.

HAMDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY



Mission Statement:

The Hamden Public Library provides and promotes access to highly responsive library service, relevant library materials, information sources locally and nationwide, and offers a variety of cultural, recreational, and educational opportunities for the entire Hamden community.

Major Accomplishments:

Hamden Public Library demonstrated its ongoing commitment to excellence. The library provided programs and services through the hard work and dedication of staff, a supportive Library Board and an active Friends of the Library. Miller Memorial Central Library is the main provider of library service to the Town while the two branch libraries are popular with neighborhood residents.

A successful Sunday service from 1 – 5 p.m. continues in the fall to coincide with the school year thanks to funding by both the Mayor and the Legislative Council. Improved access to technology was accomplished through the continued growth of the computer network and the databases along with the improvements to the Horizon system. The PC network has grown to 73 work stations, including the replacement of 19 older PCs. Time / Print management software was added to the Internet computers so all users can have equal access for 1 hour sessions and print projects now have to be paid in advance to eliminate the waste of unwanted copies. The Hamden Library website www.hamdenlibrary.org continues to improve with access to the card catalog, databases, links to other web sites and program information.

Our expanding collection continues to meet the demands of the diverse Hamden community. The collection has grown to 205,833 books and magazines; non-book materials (DVDs, videos, & audio cassettes) total 21,221 items.

Staffing was impacted by four long term medical leaves, four retirements and the resignations of three Pages. Vacant positions that were eliminated two years ago have impacted the overall staffing of the central library and branches; Miller remains closed on Thursday nights. This is the third year with an acting branch manager at the Whitneyville Branch and Council restored the branch manager position this spring at the expense of another vacant position. The cumulative impact of our staffing woes means we are struggling to provide our core services and at times there may be delays in re-shelving materials, processing new materials for circulation and periodic waits at the public service desks.

The Brundage Community Branch is participating in the third year of the successful PACK grant (Parents and Communities for Kids), providing outreach to families in Highwood. The Whitneyville Branch weekly story time is popular with the community. The branches benefited from the generosity of the Friends of the Hamden Library for equipment, library materials and programming.

Council Approved budget: \$1,628,050

Library Expenditures: \$1,611,400

Savings Returned to the Town: \$16,650

We are very proud of our public service staff. Their extraordinary service at check-out desks, reference desks, children's room and the branches is often appreciated by the public. Less recognized are the support staff who make possible everything library users see and experience at Miller and the branches. Support services range from maintaining the computer system, the web site, purchasing and cataloging materials, maintaining our buildings, operating a central business office and handling thousands of other tasks. *Examples of our excellence:*

- We received 27 written comments from our "How Are We Doing?" suggestions complimenting staff and thanking them for a wonderful library experience.
- Head of Reference Doina Lucas received the Mason's Educator of the Year Award
- Head of Children' Services Nancy McLaughlin acted quickly to borrow extra copies of the Board of Education summer reading books from the State Library Service Center, saving the Town the expense of buying additional copies.
- Katrina hurricane relief efforts netted over 40 boxes of supplies donated by residents at Miller and transported to the New Haven armory in early September.
- The library staff is consistently at the top in the Town annual United Way drive in money collected and % who contribute.
- An elderly lady wanted to contact a pre-WWII childhood friend in a hospital in Munich, Germany. With the street name only, the staff found the name of the hospital and the patron was extremely grateful she was able to contact her friend before she died.
- A resident who calls the library frequently called to thank the staff for finding the editor of the Ladies Home Journal in 1929. He says he "hasn't managed to stump us yet."

The demand for service to children continues to grow at all locations. Story times, craft programs and special event programs are popular and filled to capacity.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Total number of programs: 314

Total attendance: 3,783

Summer Reading Club: 349

ADULT PROGRAMS

Total number of programs: 64

Total attendance: 2,642

LIBRARY STATISTICS

Circulation: 429,018 items

Reference: 66,296 inquires

Visits to Library: 364,209

Registered Town Borrowers: 39,640

Computer Workstations: 45,982 sessions

Website Visits: 193,773 visitors

SUNDAY USAGE

Total attendance: 13,894 entering Miller

Total borrowed: 18,154

Computer Workstations: 1,450 sessions

Goals for the Future

- Implement the five year strategic plan for the Hamden Public Library.
- Continue to maximize the full potential of the Horizon system to include implementing the self check-out station at Miller.
- Install a wireless services at Miller and the branches in conjunction with the Town Wi-Fi project.
- Reinstate the reduction in the materials budget for new books, paperbacks, and CD's.
- Complete the renovation projects at Miller and the branches.

ARTS COMMISSION

Mission Statement:

The Arts Commission was established in 1981 to promote the arts, to serve as an information and resource center for the arts, and to serve the community through cultural initiatives. The department consists of a coordinator who works with 15 very active, dedicated volunteer commissioners.

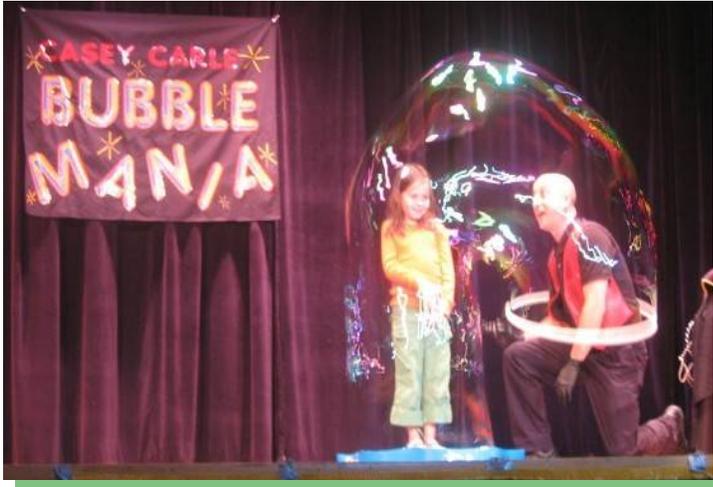


Photo by Betsy Driebeek, Hamden Daily News

In 2005-2006, the Commission presented some 50 programs. Although designed to match the interests of Hamden residents, many attracted attendees from around the state and beyond. These programs included a Saturday performance series for families with young children, a Sunday series planned with senior citizens in mind, a free family movie series (in collaboration with other town departments), and a coffeehouse series devoted to film, literature and "neglected" arts.

The Commission also cosponsored, with the Hamden Art League, art classes for adults; and cosponsored with Hamden Youth Services, a six-week summer theater camp for children. The commission's 2005 free summer concert series, held on select Friday evenings at Meadowbrook Park, featured several nationally known groups: The Duke Ellington Orchestra, Pure Prairie League, Santana's Greg Rollie and Mary Wilson of the Supremes.

Its special events included Silverbells, a winter holiday festival, and in collaboration with the Whitneyville Civic Association, a one-day Afternoon Art & Garden Fair at Eli Whitney Park, which was followed by a one month sculpture display at the same site.

Major Accomplishments:

The commission administers a semi-permanent exhibition of art by Hamden artists in the Hamden Government Center. This year, the commission collaborated with the owners of the Clarion Hotel to decorate the newly renovated hotel in a way which highlights the artistic talent in Hamden, and reflects the character of the community in its decor. Eleven works — by five artists — from the Government Center were selected and purchased. The original works now adorn the Clarion lobby and main floor spaces and reproductions of some of them decorate suites and guest rooms.

In collaboration with the Hamden Chamber of Commerce, the commission also formed a town tourism committee to explore local tourism possibilities and undertake joint marketing initiatives.

A major focus of the year involved supervision of the construction of the Hamden Rotary Pavilion, a custom-designed structure at Meadowbrook Park intended for concerts and other community uses. After being awarded a major Hamden Rotary Club grant in 2003, which was later supplemented by State of Connecticut funds, the commission and other town officials worked with Rotary Club representatives to design and build the structure. By July, 2006, the pavilion neared completion.

The Arts Commission raised close to \$80,000 in grants and sponsorships to support its programs.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mission Statement:

The Department of Public Works ensures that Town-owned buildings, grounds and roads all function and look their best. Responsibilities of Public Works include but are not limited to road maintenance and repair, snowplowing, tree removal, maintenance, town vehicle repair, Transfer Station operation, refuse and recycling and storm sewer cleaning.

The Director of Public Works manages a staff of 71 employees which are divided into five divisions: Streets & Bridges, Sanitation/Transfer Station, Parkways & Trees, Buildings & Grounds, and Fleet Maintenance.

Streets & Bridges – Hamden has over 230 miles of road, which this division maintains. This division handles paving and curb repair including: hot and cold patching of potholes, hot patch paving, driveway and apron repair, new catch basins paving and pipe installation, hand curb repair, curb replacement with curb machines and curbs back tilled. Also snowplowing and sanding, basin repairs, and drainage work including storm drain and sink hole repair, storm basin tops installation and street sweeping.

Paving Repair and Curbing:

Potholes: 830 streets repaired
Hot Patch Paving: 100 street repairs
Driveway Aprons: 32 replaced or repaired
Pave New Basins/Pipe Installs: 160 areas paved
Hand Curb Repair: 30 areas (200 ft)
Curb Replacement: 750 ft.
Curb Backfilled: 750 ft. loamed and seeded

Basin and Drainage Work:

Storm Drain and Sink Holes: 20
Storm Basins: 50 rebuilt or repaired
Storm Basin Tops: 140 new or replaced



Sanitation/Transfer Station – Responsibilities of this division include: operating the Transfer Station, maintaining and cleaning storm sewer drains, debris removal under bridges, illegal dumping, brush removal, culvert maintenance, waterways and brooks.

Fleet Maintenance – Responsibilities include the repair and maintenance of all of Town vehicles and equipment. The Town of Hamden has approximately 250 vehicles.

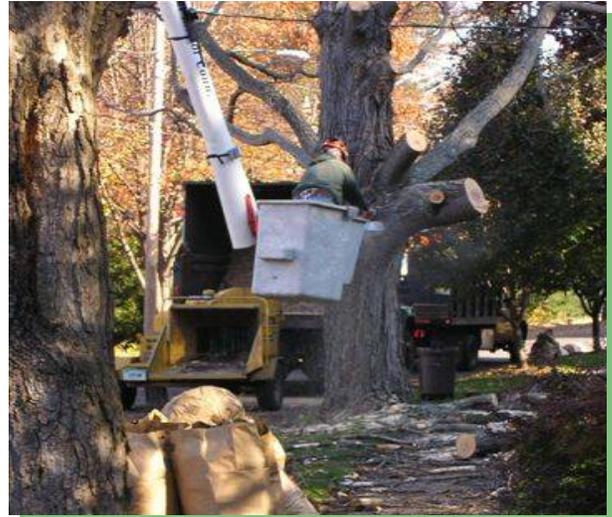
Parkways and Trees – The this division is responsibilities include removing dead trees, pruning trees, removing tree trunks, stump grinding, leaf removal, mowing grass at parks, libraries, and traffic islands, hedge trimming, lawn replacement due to plow damage, mulch spreading, installation of trash receptacles, lawn cutting on roadsides, litter removal from various locations, transporting and decorating the Town Christmas Tree, mowing flood dams and road kill removal.

Tree work

Trees removed: 137
 Trunks removed: 102
 Trees pruned: 71
 Stumps ground: 108

Grass Crew

Mowing: 90 Locations
 Lawn Replacem: 65 Locations
 Hedge trimming
 Mulch: 40 yards
 Roadside Brush: 58 roadways



Buildings and Grounds – This division is responsible for maintaining and cleaning all 21 of the Town buildings. Seven town buildings are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. These buildings are painted and updated for carpentry, electrical and plumbing on a regular basis. They must also respond to emergencies at any given moment

Town Buildings

Hamden Government Center	2750 Dixwell Avenue
Memorial Town Hall	2372 Whitney Avenue
Keefe Community Center	11 Pine Street
Newhall Community Center	496 Newhall Street
Police & Fire Training	1255 Shepard Avenue
Police Substation	Dixwell Avenue and Dudley Street
Public Works	1125 Shepard Avenue
Miller Memorial Library	2901 Dixwell Avenue
Whitneyville Branch Library	125 Carleton Avenue
Brundage Community Branch Library	91 Circular Avenue
Senior Center/Thornton Wilder Hall	2901 Dixwell Avenue
Brooksvale Park	524 Brooksvale Avenue
Transfer Station	231 Wintergreen Avenue
Louis Astorino Ice Rink	595 Mix Avenue
Police Headquarters	2900 Dixwell Avenue
Police Annex	2914 Dixwell Avenue
Fire Station 9	245 Johnson Road
Fire Station 5	2995 Whitney Avenue
Fire Station 4	2372 Whitney Avenue
Fire Station 3	441 Hartford Turnpike
Fire Station 2	71 Circular Avenue

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

Hamden residential recycling during the FY05/06 amounted to a total of 13,395 tons. This number includes over 1,135 tons of bottles, cans, milk and juice cartons; 123 tons of corrugated cardboard from the transfer station; over 2,552 tons of curbside newspaper and cardboard; over 454 tons of scrap metal; 6,575 tons of leaves; over 16 tons of waste oil, over 14 tons of residential electronics, 2,525 tons of brush yard waste as well as 6 cubic yards of sneakers!

The 13,395 tons of collected recyclables were excluded in the \$58 per ton tipping fee that the Town has to pay for trash disposal at the CRRA Trash Plant. Town recycling efforts translated into a \$776,910 savings. In addition, Recycle America in Kensington, CT reimburses our current hauler, TrashMaster, the net of Hamden recycling. During FY05/06 this net profit equaled \$60,000. The Town of Hamden then receives a reimbursement of 20% of the net profit from TrashMaster. That amount equaled \$12,000 back into the General Fund. Recycling Saves!

The Recycling Coordinator routinely spot checks residential curbside recycling bins. Educational packets are left at residential homes where needed, residents are spoken with if they are home; recycling bins are given out where needed. The Recycling Coordinator follows up on any residential complaints or reports from Trash Master. The Recycling Coordinator assists Hamden Public Schools with recycling needs and recycling education.

Major Accomplishments:

- The SW&R Commission and the Recycling Coordinator created a Recycling Float for Columbus Day Parade. Recycling brochures were handed out during parade.
- The SW&R Commission transformed the Recycling Float into two billboards for recycling education, which have been posted in the Hamden Government Center and the Miller Library.
- There were 753 Hamden households that participated in HazWaste Central during FY06. This was an increase from FY05 in which 698 households participated. Thank you to SW&R Commission members, Al Gorman and others who volunteered on Hamden Hometown Days on 9/10/05 and on 6/3/06.
- CRRA held three free residential electronics collections for Hamden, Cheshire, North Haven, Meriden and Wallingford. Collections were held: 1) In Wallingford on 10/30/05--98 Hamden residents participated of the 721 total; 2) In Wallingford on 12/3/05 = 79 Hamden residents participated of the 661 Total; 3) In Meriden on 5/6/06 --45 Hamden residents participated of the 604 Total. A total of 222 Hamden residents participated in the three collections amounting to 14.13 tons. CRRA also held a Municipal Electronics Collection for Hamden that amounted to 4.24 tons.
- Brooksvale Fall Festival: displayed the recycling float and a Recycling Display on loan from DEP, and distributed information on recycling, electronics collection, HazWaste Central, Composting, Refuse and Recycling Policies, Greenscaping your Lawn brochure, Don't Trash Grass, and the Bulk-Waste Disposal Policy.
- A Quinnipiac Intern conducted a small business recycling survey during January through March of 2006. Results indicated about half of the 50 small businesses surveyed recycled.

- Earth Day Event –4/26/06 Attended and distributed brochures (same as listed under Brooksvale), displayed recycling billboard and pictures of float from parade.

- Eagle Scout Project: Tim O’Keefe and his Scout Troop built five recycling boxes large enough to accommodate two 55 gallon barrels for placement in various Hamden Parks. Brooksvale Park, Legion Field and Hamden Plains received one box each. Bassett Park received two boxes. Recycling Coordinator stenciled the recycling logo, “Bottles and Cans Only” and “HAMDEN RECYCLES” on each side of the five boxes.



- Hamden participated in the Reuse-A-Shoe program. The Connecticut Recyclers Coalition (CRC), the NIKE CORPORATION and the National Recycling Coalition sponsored the program. Old athletic shoes are recycled into a material used to produce a variety of athletic surfaces including basketball courts, running tracks and playground surfacing. Hamden residents helped to collect over 800 sneakers (about six cubic yards).
- Letter was sent to all Condominium complexes on 10/31/05 informing them that recycling is the State Law. Letter included information on how to start a recycling program, what to recycle and who to call to arrange for pickup. Several Condo Associations called for additional brochures to distribute to residents.
- A Recycling at Your Small Business flyer was distributed to members of the Hamden Chamber of Commerce in March 2006. The flyer stated how they could make a difference and quoted statistics indicating that businesses create more waste than they may think. The letter also referred to the DEP Website and the P2View Newsletter.
- Recycling bins were upgraded from 14 gallon size to 18 gallon size.
- The State of Connecticut’s Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) should be finalized in November 2006. The SWMP has four major sections: 1) In-state versus out-of-state disposal (currently CT is exported 400,000 tons / year), the SWMP is neutral in this section; 2) Public versus private ownership of disposal, DEP has taken no position on this; 3) Diversion for recycling – goal is 49% by 2024 for recycling of paper, metal, plastic and food waste; 4) Funding to accomplish goals and implement strategies.

The following Grant applications were submitted and are pending: 1) Middle School--recycling bins and education; 2) Brooksvale Park-- composting bins and education; 3) Recycling Education for small businesses.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement:

The Building Department is responsible for administrating and enforcing the State of Connecticut Building Code and all the other statutes and regulations that govern residential, commercial and industrial construction.

In addition, the Department issues building permits and performs all the inspections required by law, thus assuring that buildings are fit for occupancy. We also inspect buildings upon request of the Fire Marshal regarding fire and other damage to determine if they are habitable and structurally sound.

The Department works closely with various other Town departments, agencies and commissions, including Planning & Zoning, Engineering, Health Department, Inland Wetlands Commission and Fire Marshal's office.

The Department consists of four Inspectors and one Secretary under the direction of the Town Building Official.

The staff visits construction sites, examining the work to ensure that all structural, plumbing and electrical work is sound. The Department reviews all construction drawings and assists homeowners and contractors in meeting the State's Building Codes.

Major Accomplishments:

The staff performs in excess of 7,000 inspections a year visiting construction sites, examining the work to ensure that all structural, plumbing and electrical work is code compliant. The Department reviews all construction drawings and assists homeowners and contractors in meeting the State's Building Codes.

The Department also receives revenue from the issuance of permits. A total of 2,267 permits were issued in fiscal year 2005-2006, resulting in \$ 1,417,287 of revenue from a construction value of \$84,262,000.

ENGINEERING/TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement:

The Engineering/Traffic Department (Engineering Department) is currently staffed by ten full time and one part time employee. The Traffic section joined the department in November of 2005 following the retirement of the full time Director of Traffic and Parking. With the sale of the Town's sanitary sewer assets, the Town Engineer no longer had the responsibility for all sanitary sewer related activities, and was asked to assume the duties of the former Traffic Director. The additional responsibilities assigned to the Town Engineer have resulted in significant savings to the Town while not having a negative impact on the operation of the Traffic Section.

The Engineering Section of the Department advises the Mayor, Legislative Council, Boards, Commissions, and Town Departments on a wide range of land survey and engineering related matters. The Department reviews all maps and technical reports for the Inland Wetland and Planning and Zoning Commissions regarding proposed developments such as subdivisions, special permits, site plans, zone changes, lot line revisions, etc. During the past year the Department reviewed approximately 190 such submissions.

The Department also provides administrative, survey, design and inspection services. Other functions of the Department include maintaining and updating existing mapping, creating spreadsheets to better analyze work being performed, and the general computerization of records. In addition to these functions there are numerous daily services handled by our department. These services include telephone request, referrals from other departments, resolution of complaints and inquiries regarding sidewalk conditions, excavations, drainage, mapping, etc. Office personnel issue permits to contractors for sidewalks and street excavation, and keep contractor bonding and insurance information current.

The Department works with the emergency service Departments of the Town, which include the Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments by providing updated road maps. The Department provides inspections, pursuant to the Town's Ordinance, for snow and ice removal. The Department also serves as liaison with the Quinnipiac Valley Health District, the Council of Governments and several State agencies, including the Connecticut Department of Transportation and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Department personnel have taken an active role in DEP permitting and in administering numerous grant programs including street improvements, bridge reconstructions and drainage projects.

Major Accomplishments:

Survey Section

Field survey, mapping, record research and calculations form the foundation for various Town projects. Department personnel have an understanding of land and engineering survey standards and practices, survey and mapping standards, and their application to various state and local projects. Department State licensed surveyors are able to establish Town rights-of-way, identify encroachments, prepare accident surveys, property descriptions, "as-built" surveys, conduct construction staking and other survey and mapping activities related to land acquisition and conveyance.

Inspection Section

The primary function of the Department Inspectors is to insure that any activity being performed within the Town's Right-of-Way/Roadway system is performed or maintained in accordance with the standards set forth by Town regulations. In doing so department personnel review permits, insurance bonds, assist in bond estimates and bond reviews and perform routine inspections. These inspections insure that contractors are performing work in accordance with Town standards. Specific inspections include sidewalk

and driveway apron installation or repair; curbing; snow removal; storm water and other utility excavation; and related temporary and permanent pavement repair. Another critical service is the investigations of complaints, most of which are drainage related and which require site visits, research, assessment and prioritization. 74 complaint investigations and 50 sidewalk permit inspections were conducted in calendar year 2005. Sanitary sewer locations were marked in the field for "Call Before You Dig" up to September 1, 2005. The Town Sidewalk Repair Contract and ADA Handicapped Ramps Contract was administered and inspected by Department staff. Street utility trench inspections were conducted on an as-needed basis. Additional duties and tasks included assisting the department survey section and other Town departments. Inspectors further provide taxpayers and outside entities such as engineering firms, surveyors and consultants with engineering, survey inspection and related technical services.

During the past year fourteen (14) Projects were inspected: "Morningview"- Talmadge Rd.; Home Depot – Dixwell Ave.; "Strawberry Hills" Condominiums - State St.; "Hamden Farms" – State St.; LA Fitness - State St.; Quinnipiac Athletic Center – Sherman Ave.; "Northridge Crossing"-Shepard Ave, River Rd., Still Hill Rd.; "Melnick Acres"-Gaylord Mountain Rd.; "Trailside Village"- Todd St., Whitney Ave.; Edgehill Rd. Storm Sewer; Welton St. Sanitary Sewer Improvements, and Whitneyville Sanitary Sewer Improvements.

GIS

The Engineering Department has continued to develop a Geographic Information System (GIS), which is a powerful tool to query, analyze and improve the management of data. This allows informed decisions to be made, which benefit the use of town funds and staffing. The Department intent is to coordinate with other departments that relate with Engineering in meeting the public needs, and to establish databases that will ultimately benefit the town as it meets the challenges of the future. As part of this ongoing commitment, staff members integrate Planning & Zoning files, and continue to develop sidewalk, storm water, and bridge infrastructure data for incorporation into the GIS system. The Department provides updates for the Tax Assessor's mapping with current ownership information that is used for computer queries, and is able to print copies that are available for the public to view and/or acquire. These maps are also used with other GIS layers, such as building footprints and aerial mapping that graphically and approximately relate feature locations to property lines. It is vitally important that this base mapping be maintained and updated on no less than an annual basis. The Department is able to provide mapping information to consultants via the Internet; this eliminates the need for individuals to obtain the information in person.

The GIS is also used to provide the mapping and inventory of the entire Town storm system, which is part of the Federally mandated and unfunded Stormwater Phase II program that will ultimately improve water quality. We are continuing to develop that infrastructure database, and are monitoring selected stormwater discharges on an annual basis.

Design Section

The Design Section is responsible for all work performed in the Design Phases of a Town project. These duties include, but are not limited to: tasks coordination, preliminary and final design, plan development, technical specifications, bid proposals for submission to purchasing, and cost estimates. Specific types of projects involve streetscapes, roadway improvements, parks, and building rehabilitation, playing fields and site designs. This section is also responsible for the technical review and comments on all projects that are required to pass through the Engineering Department.

Projects for this fiscal year included the Waite St. sidewalk study, Brooksvale Park barn design, Public Works facility study, M.L.Keefe Center lobby entrance, Rotary Pavilion contract documents, Field House renovations at Legion Field, Bassett Field parking study, reconstruction of the basketball court at Pine Rock Park, Eli Whitney Basketball Courts feasibility study, investigation regarding the Welton St. sewer

construction claim, Veterans Memorial kitchen renovations, Ice Rink fire evacuation plan, Kenwood Avenue study, Ice Rink roof replacement evaluation, floor plans for the Veterans Memorial basement classrooms, Hamden Middle School fire evacuation plans, and Welton St. drainage and road improvements. The aggregate value of the above projects is in excess of \$1.3 million.

Traffic Section

The Traffic Section is responsible for the safe and efficient operation of various transportation and safety systems operating throughout the Town. This section operates and maintains 80 signalized intersections in Town, and constructs or reconstructs new signal systems as conditions warrant. The section maintains an estimated 9,000 traffic control signs, and an estimated 3,000 street identification signs. The section is responsible for overseeing the painting of approximately 80 miles of roadway centerline, 370 stop bars, 67 arrows, cross walks and parking stalls. The section is also responsible for the operation of the Marc closed loop system, which provides efficient traffic flow throughout Town. It is also responsible for the maintenance of bus shelters. Traffic personnel continue to respond to traffic signal malfunctions. They replace traffic control signs, install new traffic control signs, and replace street name signs and/or install new poles with street name signs as necessary due to vandalism, motor vehicle damage, weather related damage, and normal maintenance due to wear and tear. It is estimated that traffic personnel replaced in excess of 150 traffic control signs, and installed over 150 new traffic control signs. They also replaced over 100 street name signs and installed over 50 new poles with two street name signs on each.

As the LED traffic signal and walk light replacement program neared the end of its five-year warranty, Traffic Section personnel took the initiative to exercise the warranty and replace all failing LEDs at no cost to the Town. Not only did this insure public safety, it also resulted in a savings in excess of \$80,000.

Traffic section personnel also participate in the set-up and planning, and lend crowd and traffic control support to the Freddie Fixer and Memorial Day Parades, and the Fourth of July Fireworks Display.

Major Traffic Generators

Projects that have required significant Traffic (and Engineering) review and coordination include the Quinnipiac University (QU) polling institute at West Woods Road, the QU dormitory buildings at the main campus at Mt Carmel Ave., QU "Whitney Village" at Whitney Ave., QU radio station at Whitney Ave., QU sports complex at Sherman Ave., the QU intersection related improvements at Whitney Ave./Sherman Ave. and Sherman Ave./Sherman Lane, Home Depot at Dixwell Ave./Benham St., Walgreens at Whitney Ave./Lincoln St., LA Fitness at Skiff St., and the Hamden Middle School at Dixwell Ave.

Other Major Projects

Other significant ongoing projects that require coordination and review by the Town Engineer as they relate to Consultant Design for engineering/traffic are: traffic signal improvements along Whitney Avenue, signal/intersection improvements at Whitney Ave./Ives St./Dickerman St., roadway improvements at Whitney Ave./West Woods Rd., bridge replacement projects at River Road over Jepp Brook, Brooksvale Ave. over Jepp Brook, Johnson Rd. over Brookdale Stream, Todd St. over Eaton Brook, Hillfield Rd. over Eaton Brook, Tuttle Ave. over the Mill River, Waite St. over Lake Whitney, and Skiff St. over the Mill River.

Customer Service

With the institution of the Mayor's effective "Help Desk", the Q-Alert system is used to receive and respond to complaints and citizens' concerns, it became clear that Engineering/Traffic is responsible for responding to a significant number of such concerns. From March of 2005 to August 8, 2006, 145 complaints were directed to the Engineering Department – 78 traffic, 41 drainage/storm water and 26 sidewalks related. Approximately 90% of these items have been addressed. The Engineering Department provides unique, extensive, and cost effective professional services to the municipal, public and private sectors on behalf of the Town. With the addition of the Traffic Section the Department now plays an important and vital role in the vehicular and pedestrian safety of Town residents and visitors.

PLANNING & ZONING

Mission Statement:

The Town Planner and the Assistant Town Planner are advisors to the Mayor, Legislative Council and Town Departments. They work closely with the Engineering, Traffic, Fire, Tax, and Building Departments, as well as the Town Attorney's office. Additionally, the Department is responsible for the Town's Land Use Commissions including review of all land use applications.

The Planning Department is responsible for the enforcement of zoning regulations as well as the enforcement of the property maintenance and anti-blight ordinances.

Major Accomplishments:

- Appointment of Leslie Creane as new Town Planner
- Hiring of Dan Kops, Assistant Town Planner, Thomas Talbot, Zoning Enforcement Officer and Adam Zonas, Assistant Zoning Enforcement Officer
- Construction of the new Hamden Middle School
- Enforcement of the Inland Wetlands & Zoning Regulations at 2895 State Street, Parcel C (parcel just south of the "Tire Pond")
- Developed a Complaint Management Tracking System to track zoning complaints
- Developed a Student Housing database for more effective oversight of off-campus student housing
- Worked closely with Quinnipiac University to develop a three year plan to house most undergraduate students on-campus
- New Subdivision Regulations drafted and adopted by the Planning Commission
- New Multi-Family Housing Regulations drafted and adopted by the Planning Commission
- Approvals and development of major projects including Home Depot, Paradise Market, Walgreens, and LA Fitness
- Facilitated acquisition of Johnson's Pond as public Open Space
- Partnered with other Town Departments to institute Storm water Management System
- Initiated educational forums to discuss up-coming Zoning Regulation changes.
-

<i>Site Plan Applications:</i>	<i>IN: 16</i>	<i>ACTION TAKEN: 19</i>
<i>Inland Wetland</i>	<i>IN: 40</i>	<i>ACTION TAKEN: 43</i>
<i>Special Permit</i>	<i>IN: 36</i>	<i>ACTION TAKEN: 39</i>
<i>Zoning Board of Appeals</i>	<i>IN: 61</i>	<i>ACTION TAKEN: 59</i>
<i>Subdivision</i>	<i>IN: 5</i>	<i>ACTION TAKEN: 5</i>
<i>Complaints</i>	<i>IN: 515</i>	<i>ACTION TAKEN: 206*</i>
<i>Statute 8-24:</i>	<i>23</i>	
<i>Zoning Amendments:</i>	<i>9</i>	
<i>Zoning Permits:</i>	<i>432</i>	
<i>Total Commission Items</i>	<i>195</i>	

since 1/1/06

QUINNIPIACK VALLEY HEALTH DISTRICT

Quinnipiack Valley Health District (QVHD) is the public health department for the towns of Hamden, North Haven and Woodbridge. It is the obligation of this Department to insure that the Public Health Code, laws and ordinances established by the State Legislature and local governments are enforced. QVHD also has the responsibility to promote personal and environmental health and safety for each and every resident of this community.

The Environmental Health Section of the District insures compliance with laws, codes, and ordinances through the services it provides. Data for FY 05-06 for Hamden is as follows: 161 inspections made for sewage disposal; 29 inspections for water supply control; 416 food service inspections; all other inspections (day cares, schools, motels, public pools) equaled 78 visits; 298 complaint investigations were made; 14 lead investigations occurred; 9 planning and zoning reports were prepared. 96 legal orders were issued for correction of a problem and 3 arrest warrants issued. In addition, 409 permits or licenses were issued during this same time period.

Community Health Services are provided based on State mandated services, measures of the health of community residents, the interests of community residents and current emerging health issues. During FY 05-06, Hamden residents were provided with an opportunity to participate in cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure screenings; receive adult flu immunizations; and to receive child immunizations. Hepatitis B immunizations were also provided on an on-going basis for the police and fire departments. Current information on health issues was provided through 48 health articles appearing in a local newspaper and through 2 issues of Qvhd-Tips, a Family Health Letter distributed to all elementary school students. Surveillance was provided for 548 cases of reportable disease. 23 animals were transported by QVHD for rabies testing; 6 were positive for rabies (5 raccoons, 1 skunk.) In addition, QVHD worked with the town to educate the community about West Nile Virus and to develop a plan for minimizing the health risk. Planning for any emergency event continued this year. Mom's Clinic, the school based health center at Hamden High had 651 members, with 301 students making about 1,800 visits.

The District office is located at 1151 Hartford Turnpike, North Haven, CT 06473. QVHD has a health library, brochures and other health education materials that may be borrowed. For information related to any health issue, residents should call 248-4528 or visit our website, www.qvhd.org.

ASSESSORS OFFICE

Mission Statement:

Under the direction of the Chief Assessor, a staff of seven work to compile the town's annual Grand List of taxable and exempt property. The discovery and valuation of Real Estate, Motor Vehicles and Personal Property is ongoing throughout the assessment year. The goal of this work is to ensure that all property owners within the town pay only their fair share of the tax burden. State mandated exemptions are processed, along with tax relief program applications for the elderly and disabled.

The staff is busy throughout the year recording deed transfers, updating assessment maps, auditing the personal property of local businesses, inspecting new construction, monitoring the administrative and assessment databases, defending tax appeals, etc. Additionally, there is a high volume of services to the public regarding assessment inquiries, copies of records, sales information, owners of property, copies of maps, proration of motor vehicle bills, and general information.

The office has also been involved in assisting and reviewing data with the revaluation company for the revaluation on the October 2005 Grand List. Real estate is now revalued or updated every five years.

The tax bills for the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year were based on the October 1, 2004 Grand List. The total taxable Grand List that year was \$2,623,367,508.

Any taxpayers who feel they are paying more than their fair share of taxes have the legal right to appeal the assessed value of their property to the Board of Assessment Appeals. Applications for an appeal must be filed before February 20th of each year.

2004 GRAND LIST TOTALS

Real Estate	\$ 2,237,881,824
Personal Property	\$ 108,138,044
Motor Vehicle	\$ <u>277,347,640</u>
Total	\$ 2,623,367,508

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Mission Statement:

Registrars are responsible for administering and conducting elections in accordance with Connecticut State Statutes. These mandates translate into three activities:

- To qualify electors through an annual canvass to establish residence;
- To register electors during publicized open sessions, in-house sessions at local healthcare facilities, in-school sessions at Hamden High School and Eli Whitney Regional Vocational School; and
- To certify poll locations, hire and train poll workers, certify voting machines, provide voter lists and other materials for voting to take place, and certify the results after the polls close.

Voter records are maintained and revised daily through a computer link to the central voter registry in Hartford. In the twelve months of FY2004-2005, our office removed 2,148 names from the active voting list and added the names of 5,505 new voters.

TAX COLLECTOR

Mission Statement:

The Tax Office is the major source of revenue for the town, collecting more than \$111.2 million in taxes for fiscal year 2005-2006. This represents a current grand list collection rate of 98.8%. The Tax Collector's office also collected \$1.16 million in delinquent taxes and \$778,991.63 in interest charges. One year after the fiscal year ends the collection rate rises to 99.7%.

In June of each year the Tax Collector bills approximately 73,400 accounts. Collection of these taxes takes place during the months of July and January; payments are received in person at the Tax Office, by mail and by electronic transfer from banks and escrow companies. After August 1st, the Tax Collector focuses on the collection of past due taxes in order to meet the revenue projections set by the Legislative Council.

There are several statutory methods used to collect past due taxes. Liens are placed on all past due real estate accounts, demand letters are prepared and mailed and non-responsive accounts are referred to outside attorneys for foreclosure. Liens are filed with the Secretary of State on all past due personal property accounts and warrants are issued to the State Marshal for collection. All past due motor vehicle accounts are reported to the State Department of Motor Vehicles, liens are filed on the land records and tax warrants are issued to the State Marshal for collection. In addition, past due billings are sent a minimum of four times a year. Our collection rate is increased substantially as a result of these ongoing actions.

A consistently high rate of collection is the key to fiscal stability for the town and remains the number one priority of the Tax Collector. Balancing the need to maintain a high rate of collection with the sensitivity necessary to deal with individual taxpayer issues is an integral part of the tax collection function. The Tax Collector and her staff take pride in providing taxpayers with prompt, courteous, professional service, while at the same time maintaining an extremely high rate of collection.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Mission Statement:

The Town Attorney's Office consists of the Town Attorney, two Assistant Town Attorneys and a Paralegal. All are highly trained, skilled professionals with many years of experience in their respective legal protocols.

As set forth in the Town Charter, "the Town Attorney is the legal advisor of the mayor, all departments, officers, boards, commissions, or agencies of the Town in all matters affecting the interests of the Town..." In addition to the role of advisor, "he shall appear and protect the rights of the Town in all actions, suits or proceedings brought by or against (the Town)..."

The Town Attorney's Office manages files concerning claims, appeals from administrative agencies, drafts ordinances and resolutions, defends litigation brought against the Town, reviews all contracts and renders numerous opinions each year, in its capacity as legal advisors to all Town departments. The Town Attorney's Office also handles projects where specialized areas of expertise are required.

In addition, the Town Attorney assists the Board of Education on an as-needed basis.

PURCHASING

Mission Statement:

The Purchasing Department consists of the Purchasing Agent, two staff Purchasing Technicians, and two part time mail clerks.

It is the function of Purchasing to service all Town Departments with their needs of office equipment, supplies, copies, etc. We also bid all Town Department's items over \$2,000, from schools to bridges, trash removal, right down to paper and paper clips.

Purchasing handles all Purchase Orders to procure items, telephone bills, copiers, fax machines, mileage, postage, paper, printing, office equipment, maintenance contracts, repair of mobile radio systems, and cell phones. We dispose of surplus and obsolete equipment, and procure gas and oil.

Many of our dollars are fixed costs that we cannot control. What we do is manage the costs to assure everything needed to be done to control prices, is being done.

Major Accomplishments:

We make a conscience effort to procure locally from businesses which contribute to our tax base. We have registered with the Hamden Chamber of Commerce, and have made them familiar with our procedure so that our Hamden businesses can seize all opportunities to sell to the Town. We always try to keep our business within Connecticut. Any small business owner that is unfamiliar with our policy gets "walked through" the procedure to encourage their participation in the process. We also refer businesses to our Job Resource Department for help.

We have joined in many other consortiums to put "bulk" purchase of items to good use. The more we purchase, the better the price. We consolidated all departments' purchases so we can bulk purchase items such as toner, paper, and printing into a year-long bulk item. This has saved us nearly \$16,000 alone. Purchasing has a total budget of \$768,962 for the fiscal year. We also join forces when ever possible with the Board of Education to add to the "bulk."

Our Mail Room department is a costly venture where we have to spend a very watchful eye. The postage budget alone is \$120,000. We have joined with other Towns to mix our .39-cent mail and send it out as "bulk" mail, first class, for .29.3 cents in postage, saving us .10 cents on each envelope.

Communications (telephone equipment) is one of our highest expenditures. We meet monthly with the telephone service companies to go over each invoice and be sure there is no abuse, overcharges, or expenses that we did not order. Our phone account alone is \$240,000 reduced by over \$47,000 from last year. Again, watchful eyes are the key to these reductions.

Purchasing is a department that provides zero revenue to the Town. Unfortunately, what we do best is service ourselves to keep the town operating. Because it is not an offset expense, we try to do whatever we can to reduce spending. We do not believe we need the best of everything to operate with. We believe that "middle of the line" is good, longstanding, and works well. It's taxpayer dollars that we spend, so we like to spend it as if we were running our own home. As a matter of fact, all of our full time staff lives in Town and works toward the same goal.

PERSONNEL/CIVIL SERVICE

Mission Statement:

The Personnel/Civil Service Department is responsible for the testing and recruitment for all civil service positions included in the Classified Service for both the Town of Hamden and the Board of Education. The Personnel Department is also responsible for the recruitment and filling of all non-classified positions outside of Civil Service for the Town of Hamden. The Personnel/Civil Service Department administers the Life Insurance and Health Insurance benefits for all Town employees and their covered dependents, and all retirees and their covered dependents. In addition, the Personnel Department administers the Town's 85 million dollar pension fund including calculating retirement benefits for all Town and Board of Education employees, return of pension contributions and rollover of pension funds for all eligible employees and retirees in the Plan.

The Personnel/Civil Service Department currently consists of a Personnel Director/Executive Secretary to the Civil Service Commission, an Administrative Secretary and a Benefits Technician. The Personnel Director represents the Town in all labor negotiation sessions, municipal prohibited practice complaints before the State Board of Labor Relations, grievance hearings before the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration, and unemployment hearings before the State Employment Division. The Personnel Department also works directly with the Town's Risk Manager regarding Workers' Compensation related matters including Heart & Hypertension and attends hearings before the Workers' Compensation Commission.

Major Accomplishments:

In fiscal year 2005-2006 we spent over \$25,000 advertising for employment opportunities for the Town and Board of Education. The Personnel Department conducted over thirty (30) recruitments, taking in over 300 applications for review and action by the Civil Service Commission. Twenty Eight (28) eligibility lists were established and certified by the Civil Service Commission/Personnel Department during the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

The Personnel Department received and processed fifty four (54) requests for retirement during the 2005-2006 fiscal year, which includes bringing the proper employment information before the Hamden Employees Retirement Board for their approval; conducting independent medical examinations for those employees requesting disability retirements; calculating the proper retirement benefit and forwarding it to the Plan actuary for review and approval, and finally, processing the approved benefit for payment (check or direct deposit) to the retiree with proper state and federal taxes applied.

The best example of the Personnel Department's "Excellence in Government" was a collaboration with the Hamden Board of Education in ensuring that over 3,000 retirees their spouses and dependents, both Town and Board of Education, received timely notification and information regarding Medicare Part-D options, and the timely filing with the Federal Government for the subsidy which reimburses to the Town 28% of what the Town and Board of Education pay for prescription drug coverage for retirees on Medicare. The cost savings /reimbursement amount to the Town will be approximately \$500,000 for the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

PROBATE

Mission Statement:

The Hamden Probate Court has long been dedicated to attaining two specific goals: To guide those requiring our services through the probate process in a compassionate manner, and to process each application filed with the court in an efficient and expeditious manner, in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes and the probate practice and procedures.

The Hamden Probate Court has jurisdiction over many matters including the probating of wills and the administration of decedent's estates, appointing Conservators of the Person and Estate of incapable individuals, appointing Guardians for minor children and mentally retarded citizens and overseeing testamentary and living trusts and granting adoptions and name changes.

Major Accomplishments:

During 2005, the Court of Probate received and administered over 500 new applications and held over 400 hearings on various matters. The Court is also engaged in an ongoing program to laser fiche pertinent Court documents to provide a permanent record for generations to come.

In 2004, the Hamden Probate Court and the Probate Courts of several surrounding towns worked together to create the New Haven Regional Children's Probate Court which was established to centralize all children's matter brought before the Probate Courts in our region. The Regional Children's Probate Court has been successful in providing expanded services to children-at-risk as well as to their Families and Guardians.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Arts Commission
Board of Assessment Appeals
Building Board of Appeals
Cable Advisory Council
Citizens Service Commission
Clean & Green Commission
Community Development Citizens Advisory Commission
Commission on Disabilities
Economic Development Commission
Energy Use and Climate Change Commission
Ethics Board
Farmington Canal Commission
Fire Commission
Historic Properties Commission
Housing Authority
Human Rights & Relations Commission
Human Services Commission
Inland/Wetland Commission
Library Board
Natural Resources and Open Space Commission
Parks and Recreation Commission
Personnel Appeals Board
Planning & Zoning Commission
Police Commission
Quinnipiack Valley Health District
Representatives Policy Board of So Central CT. Regional Water District
Retirement Board
Solid Waste & Recycling Commission
South Central CT EMS Council
Technology Commission
Transit District of Greater New Haven
Veterans Commission
Water Pollution Control Authority
West Rock Ridge State Park Advisory Council
Zoning Board of Appeals

Each year solicitations for appointments to Town Boards and Commissions are posted in local newspapers. Appointments are recommended by the Mayor and approved by the Legislative Council; only residents of Hamden are allowed to serve on these bodies. Residents are encouraged to submit a letter of interest along with a resume to the Town Clerk's office for consideration.

**TOWN OF HAMDEN
DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY**

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TELEPHONE NUMBER</u>
Adult & Continuing Education	2040 Dixwell Avenue	407-2028
Animal Control	245 Johnson Road	287-4080
Arts Commission	2901 Dixwell Avenue	287-2546
Assessor	2750 Dixwell Avenue	287-7128
Building	2750 Dixwell Avenue	287-7160
Community Services	11 Pine Street	562-5129
Congregate Housing	33 Woodruff Street	248-9376
Economic & Community Development	2750 Dixwell Avenue	287-7030
Elderly Outreach	2901 Dixwell Avenue	287-2692
Elderly Services	2901 Dixwell Avenue	287-2547
Engineering	2750 Dixwell Avenue	287-7040
Finance	2750 Dixwell Avenue	287-7010
Fire	2750 Dixwell Avenue	407-5880
Housing Authority	51 Worth Avenue	248-5410
Job Resource Center	2901 Dixwell Avenue	287-2647
Keefe Center	11 Pine Street	562-5129
Legislative Council	2750 Dixwell Avenue	287-2577
Library		
Louis A Brundage	91 Circular Avenue	287-2675
Miller Memorial	2901 Dixwell Avenue	287-2686
Whitneyville Branch	125 Carleton Street	287-2677
Main Switchboard	2750 Dixwell Avenue	287-7000
Mayor's Office	2750 Dixwell Avenue	287-7100
Help Desk	2750 Dixwell Avenue	287-7676
Parks and Recreation	2750 Dixwell Avenue	287-2579
Brooksvale Park	524 Brooksvale Avenue	287-2669
Louis Astorino Ice Skating Rink	595 Mix Avenue	287-2611
Personnel/Civil Service	2750 Dixwell Avenue	287-2660
Planning & Zoning	2750 Dixwell Avenue	287-7070
Police	2900 Dixwell Avenue	230-4000
Probate Court	2750 Dixwell Avenue	287-7082
Public Works	1125 Shepard Avenue	287-2600
Purchasing	2750 Dixwell Avenue	287-7110
Quinnipiac University Hotline	Mt. Carmel Avenue	582-3770
Quinnipiack Valley Health District	1151 Hartford Turnpike	287-2548
Registrars of Voters	2750 Dixwell Avenue	287-2609
Sleeping Giant Daycare	11 Pine Street	776-5026
Tax Collector	2750 Dixwell Avenue	287-2615
Town Attorney	2750 Dixwell Avenue	287-7050
Town Clerk	2750 Dixwell Avenue	287-7112
Traffic	2750 Dixwell Avenue	287-2636
Transfer Station	231 Wintergreen Avenue	387-2435
Youth Services	11 Pine Street	777-2610

HAMDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TELEPHONE NUMBER</u>
Board of Education	60 Putnam Avenue	407-2000
Bear Path School	10 Kirk Road	407-2015
Church Street School	95 Church Street	407-2020
Dunbar Hill School	315 Lane Street	407-2025
Hamden High School	2040 Dixwell Avenue	407-2040
Hamden Middle School	2623 Dixwell Avenue	407-3140
Helen Street School	285 Helen Street	407-2030
Ridge Hill School	120 Carew Road	407-2035
Shepherd Glen School	Skiff Street Extension	407-2070
Spring Glen School	1908 Whitney Avenue	407-2045
West Woods School	50 West Todd Street	407-2050
Wintergreen Inter-District Magnet	670 Wintergreen Avenue	281-9668



Town of Hamden, Connecticut Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Annual Report

Contributors: Town Department Heads, Hamden Housing Authority, Probate,
Quinnipiack Valley Health District

Design and Editing: Darlene D. Butler