



CITY OF DANBURY

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Patrick Ridenhour, Chief
Department of Police
375 Main Street

David Antedomenico, Advisor
Danbury Police Cadets
(203) 796-1572

May 20th, 2026

To: Chief Ridenhour,

We ended April with a bit of spring cleaning. On Thursday, April 23rd, before our meeting, we had Cadets clean Memorial Park next to the Police Department. On Saturday, April 25th the Cadets helped with Clean City Danbury Day at Roger's Park, City Hall, and St. Gregory the Great Church.



Also on April 25th, a squad of Cadets helped keep the participants of the Puzzles 5k for Autism Awareness.





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On Sunday, May 3rd the Cadets returned to Tarrywile Park as part of their Junior Ranger Patrol. They performed a bit of spring cleaning and made a competition of who could collect the most litter on the property!



Thursday, May 7th would have been a normal Cadet Meeting night, but one of their Advisors, Ofc. Chris Rodriguez, was being honored as the Exchange Club Officer of the Year. We canceled our normal meeting allowing several Cadets and Advisors to attend and honor Ofc. Rodriguez, who is highly respected by the Cadets.





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On May 9th twenty-five Danbury Cadets attended Station's Day, the annual competition amongst the North East Regional Law Enforcement Cadet Programs. Thirty-six teams competed from New York and New England. Several Hundred Cadets and Advisors participated as role-players, observers, judges, as well as participants in each scenario. Danbury brought several new Cadets that just graduated from the recent Basic Entry Skills Training class (B.E.S.T.) and well as more seasoned Cadets. Danbury Cadets Placed 3rd in DUI (Cadet Sgt. Pesantes and Cadet Lt. Prieto) and 2nd in Search and Control (Cadet Sgt. Guaman and Cadet Sgt. Garcia).





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The weekend of May 16th and 17th was very busy for the Danbury Police Cadets. The Cadets started Saturday, May 16th by placing flags at Veteran's Graves in St. Peter's Cemetery. Another squad of Cadets went to Candlewood Town Park for the Fish and Game Fishing Derby. At 10am the Cemetery Detail returned to headquarters and split to help with the Newtown Music Festival and the City of Danbury Arts Festival (CODA). At about 6pm on Saturday, May 16th a squad of Cadets picked up the flags downtown that the Volunteer Firefighters placed on West St, White St, and Boughton St. On Sunday, May 17th Cadets placed flags at the Veteran Graves in Wooster Cemetery. Also on the 17th the Color Guard and Cadet Bike Patrol practiced for the Memorial Day Parade. One contingent of the Color Guard went to Bethel and Participated in their Memorial Day Parade.





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On April 27, 2026, former Danbury Police Cadet Christopher Alexander Gualpa Lema passed away after a motor vehicle accident. Christopher was a Cadet from April 2022 to May 2024. Although he had not been part of our program for about two years, many current Cadets knew him and his family. Some of his family and friends are still part of our program. Since the memorial service was held on Thursday, April 30th, after the start of our regular meeting the Cadets went to the service to pay their respects to the family. About sixty Cadets plus Advisors expressed their condolences and we could tell that the family was touched that we made the effort to attend. The tone of this sudden change from our weekly meetings prompted a change to our agenda and we spoke with the Cadets after returning to the Police Department about how to process loss and deal with traumatic events. It is not normal for someone so young to pass. Part of being in Law Enforcement is dealing with tragedies, unfortunately this hit close to home for some of our Cadets.

More information about our program can be found on our website, danburypolicecadets.org, our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/DanburyPoliceCadets>, Instagram: [Instagram.com/danburypolicecadets/](https://www.instagram.com/danburypolicecadets/) and Youtube Channel: [youtube.com/@DanburyPoliceCadets](https://www.youtube.com/@DanburyPoliceCadets).

Tentative upcoming events for 2026:

5/25 Memorial Day Parade
5/25
5/25 Flag Detail - Memorial Day
5/29 Mayor's Ball
5/29-31 St. Anthony's Lebanese Mahrajan Festival
6/4 Corpus Christi Procession
6/6 Flag Detail D-Day
6/7 Hat City Dash 5k
6/7 Portuguese Day Parade
6/13 Street Festival
6/14 Flag Detail - Flag Day
6/18 DHS Graduation
6/27 Candlewood Lake Fireworks
7/4 Flag Detail - Independence Day
7/12 – 18 Cadet Police Academy
8/2-8 PSC Leadership Academy

8/4 National Night Out
8/8-9 Ecuadorian Festival
8/19-23 San Gennaro
9/2 VJ Day Flag Detail
9/6 Danbury Police Cadet Car and Truck Festival
9/7 Newtown Labor Day Parade
9/11 Memorial Service
9/11 Flag Detail - 9/11 Anniversary
9/11-13 Bethlehem Fair
9/18 Flag Detail - POW/MIA Day
9/18-20 Newtown Arts Festival
10/10 Cadet Tactical Challenge
10/24 Halloween on the Green
10/31 Halloween PD - Deer Hill Ave?
11/11 Flag Detail - Veteran's Day
12/7 Flag Detail - Pearl Harbor Day
12/5 Light the Lights Winter Festival

Respectfully,
Sergeant David Antedomenico,
Advisor, Danbury Police Cadets