

Defiant homeowner builds giant junkpile

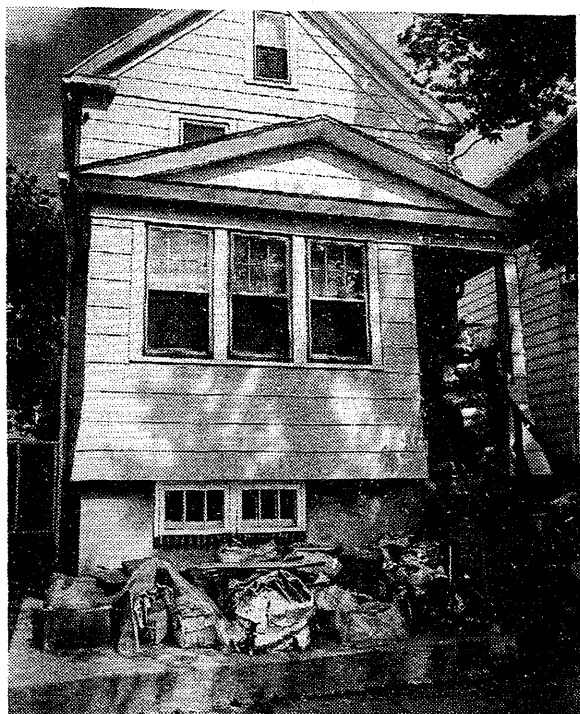


Photo by Jerry McCrea

Garbage piles up at the rear of the Walter Stryker home on S. 20th Street, Newark. Stryker has been ordered by city officials to clean up the debris.

By FREDERICK W. BYRD

There is a garbage dump that surrounds 18 S. 20th St. in Newark. In the midst of a row of well-kept, freshly painted homes stands a house surrounded by mountains of debris.

There are old chairs, boxes full of newspapers and plastic, garbage bags piled one on top of the other, mattresses and other refuse.

The material is piled so high on the porch visitors cannot get to the door. A sign on the door reads, "No Trespassing Under Penalty of the Law." A sign on the driveway gate reads, "Beware of Vicious Dog."

The owner, Walter Stryker, 60, could not be reached for comment.

But city officials have repeatedly told Stryker, a former teacher in Newark, to get the mess cleaned up.

He has been to court six times, and a seventh municipal court hearing is scheduled for July 17.

"This has been going on for two and a half years, he has been to court but everybody tells me they cannot do anything," said Lois Raney, a neighbor.

He has been arrested three times for failure to appear in court, according to Municipal Court Administrator Robert Strand.

"He is charged with failing to keep a litter-free premises and with violation of the uniformed fire code," he added.

The local West Ward Council-

man, Ronald Rice, said the situation is maddening.

"We have been taking Mr. Stryker to court for three years and nothing has happened."

"This is a good neighborhood where people care. But they have justified fears of infestation and odor, and that this trash will go up in flames and wipe off the whole block," he added.

And he said: "I cannot understand how this guy can go to court and nothing happens."

Rice has asked the city to "clean and lien" the premises. Under that procedure the city would clean the property and then place a tax lien on it for the cost of cleaning.

Edwin McLucas, director of Land Use Control in Newark, said, "We have done everything we can do legally in a situation like this."

"I would agree this is a great fire hazard and the courts must move against him," he added.

He said at one point the city had considered a "clean and lien" but it was never carried out, pending court action.

Millard Monroe, manager of inspections for Newark, agreed the situation was "a mess."

"He last came to court on May 31, and another hearing was scheduled to answer the code enforcement problems."

"Even after getting the summonses he has done nothing to correct the situation."

"This is a decent area and we hope something can be done. The neighbors are complaining," he added.

18 Essex towns share \$6.1 million in block grants

By DIANE CURCIO

Essex County officials yesterday announced the 1989 distribution of \$6.1 million in federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), which will be used for assorted public service projects in 18 towns.

County Executive Nicholas Amato said the money doled out yesterday means "expanded services, such as street improvements, counseling services, home improvement loans, and overall improving the quality of life for our residents."

Rosemary Senatore Ciccone, director of the county Division of Housing and Community Development, explained the national objectives of the CDBG program are to benefit low- and moderate-income people, eliminate slums and blight, and correct urgent needs.

The 1989 allocation marks the 14th consecutive year that CDBG awards were made to the consortium of 18 Essex County towns and countywide service agencies. Four municipalities—Newark, Irvington, East Orange and Bloomfield—apply directly to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the CDBG awards.

Since the CDBG program was initiated, the consortium of Essex towns has received a total of \$38.6 million. Ciccone said the 1989 distribution represents an outright grant of \$5 million and the reprogramming of \$1.1 million in unused money from previous years.

Local mayors and community development officials, who made formal application for the CDBG money in December, were invited to yesterday's ceremony in Cedar Grove for the official announcement of the awards.

A breakdown of the grants shows countywide service agencies were given a total of more than \$2 million. Among those recipients are the West Essex Rehabilitation Center in Montclair, which provides vocational training for the handicapped; the Essex Economic Development Corp., which offers consulting services to businesses, and the county's Tenant Resource Center.

The countywide allotment also includes an \$800,000 grant to establish a loan program for home improvements. The countywide distribution also sets aside \$645,000 for administration of the

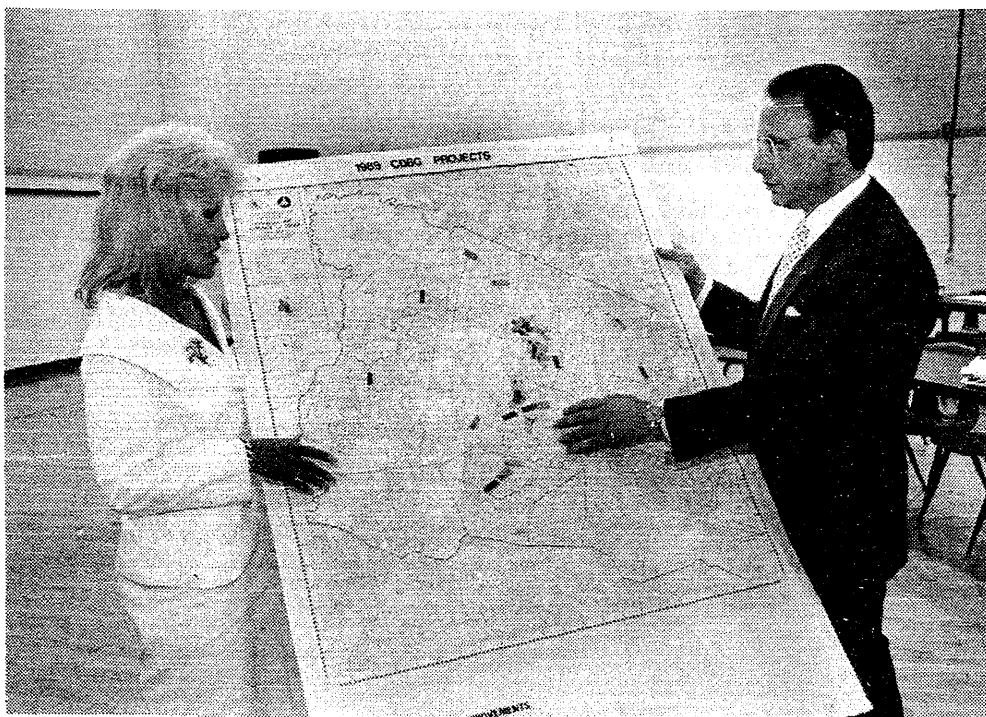


Photo by David Scull

Essex County Executive Nicholas Amato and Rosemary Senatore Ciccone, director of the county Division of Housing and Community Development, review a map charting the application of Community Development Block Grant funds.

program, and a \$100,000 contingency fund.

Montclair, Orange and Belleville were the top three towns in terms of receiving the largest awards yesterday. Montclair was given a total of \$680,500, which includes grants for reconstruction of Church Street Plaza and Harrison Avenue improvements.

Orange's allocation was \$700,000, which will enable the city to improve its water system, Metcalf Park and central playgrounds. In Belleville, the award equalled \$450,840 and will cover the cost of renovating Overlook Avenue and Wallace Street and constructing a new municipal parking lot.

Here is a partial list of the other towns sharing the balance of the grant:

- Caldwell: \$85,000 for various street improvements, water line exten-

sions and rehabilitation of municipal parking lots;

- Cedar Grove: \$233,000 to rehabilitate Yorkshire Drive;

- Glen Ridge: \$20,000 for completion of an elevator and restroom for the handicapped at the municipal complex;

- Livingston: \$39,480 to install a chairlift at a local pool and hire a coordinator for programs serving the handicapped;

- Maplewood: \$185,000 to repave streets in the Hilton neighborhood and increase services at the family youth center;

- Millburn: \$100,000 to reconstruct Blain Street;

- Nutley: \$273,000 to make improvements to Franklin Avenue and

Church Street and broaden the local crime prevention program;

- Roseland: \$60,000 to install sidewalks on Roseland and Livingston avenues;

- South Orange: \$200,000 to reconstruct Lackawanna Place Street, make facade improvements in the downtown area and provide security devices for eligible homeowners;

- Verona: \$175,000 to reconstruct Orchard and Rockland streets;

- West Caldwell: \$59,000 to install an elevator at the civic center to make it barrier free;

- West Orange: \$279,243 to reconstruct Oxford Place, install traffic lights and replace a roof at the local community house.

Cedar Grove, Verona to hold reorganizations

By MEG NUGENT

James Troiano is expected to take over as the next mayor of Cedar Grove during reorganization ceremonies tomorrow, while Verona's chief executive and deputy mayor are waging a fight over the top post in that township.

The Cedar Grove council expects to elect Deputy Mayor Troiano to the one-year mayoral term, and new Councilman Kevin O'Toole probably will be chosen to serve as deputy mayor at the noon reorganization, according to Township Manager Joseph DiGiacomo.

In Verona, Mayor Nicholas Rolli has been mounting a campaign since March to convincing his peers to vote him into a second term during the 10 a.m. council reorganization.

But Deputy Mayor Robert Pignatello also has his eye on the position, contending that Rolli already has had a turn as mayor.

Under the nonpartisan form of government maintained in both municipalities, council elections are held in the spring and council members elect a mayor from among themselves during the July 1 reorganization meetings.

The Cedar Grove council always reserves the mayoralty, which carries a one-year term, for the council member who served the previous year as deputy mayor.

The nonpartisan form is only two years old in Verona and when the council reorganized under the new government after 77 years of partisan rule, it chose Rolli as mayor based on his status as the top vote-getter in the 1987 election. Rolli has been mayor for the past two years but the mayor's term, which expires today, will be reduced to one year after the Saturday reorganization.

Rolli has been contending that the mayoralty should continue to be reserved for the top vote-getter or awarded on a merit basis.

But Pignatello argued that the position should be assumed by each council member on a rotation basis, as is done in Cedar Grove.

A majority of the council—Pignatello, Santi Condorelli and William Edge—support the rotation concept and only three votes are needed to win the spot.

Rolli, however, mounted an aggressive campaign that included statements citing his record of accomplishments since becoming mayor.

Divisiveness within the Verona council over who should fill the spot for 1989 erupted into a bitter argument between Pignatello and outgoing Councilman James Treffinger two weeks ago when the governing body met for the last time before the reorganization.

Orange tailor stabbed, robbed

A 68-year-old Orange tailor working in his Cleveland Street store was stabbed and seriously injured yesterday by an assailant who robbed him and fled on foot, Police Director Charles Cobbert said.

The 6:25 a.m. incident injured Charlabous Costa, who was reported in serious condition in University Hospital in Newark.

The suspect "came into the store and asked for some clothes to be sewn," Cobbert said. "When the tailor turned

around, the suspect picked up a pair of scissors and stabbed him in the back, chest and face.

"He then removed his wallet and took \$350. He also punched the victim in the face and head," the director added.

Cobbert described the suspect as "a black male, in his late teens, medium brown complexion, 6 feet, 2, 160 pounds and wearing blue pants and a blue jacket."

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