

Official puts four-year timetable on cleanup of Fairfield waste site

By MEG NUGENT

A representative from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last night estimated it would take another four years for remediation of a 12-acre tract in Fairfield that has been designated as one of the state's hazardous waste sites.

Edward Finnerty gave the 1991 timetable under questioning by residents during an update on the cleanup planned for the site, which is located off Passaic Avenue in the eastern portion of the township and is known as the Caldwell Trucking Co. site.

Finnerty, who is project manager for the site, and other officials also presented the Fairfield council with additional plans to study the site for remediation.

The site three years ago was added to the EPA's priority list of hazardous waste sites that are eligible for cleanup under the superfund program.

For nearly 30 years, the trucking company had treated and disposed of domestic and industrial septic waste at the site, storing the waste in steel tanks after unlined lagoons that were used as storage were filled and closed down.

Two municipal wells were shut down in the early 1980s because of contamination from seepage and some 120 homes converted to municipal water use because they had potentially contaminated wells.

Finnerty said chlorinated hydrocarbons are the "major contaminant" at the site, adding the 1986 study determined the existence of the chemical in the subsurface soil and in groundwater traveling through the site.

He also said that as a result there are two "plumes," or contaminated areas in the township's groundwater. One of the plumes is traveling in the groundwater away from the

site for about 4,000 yards to the Passaic River.

Finnerty said the EPA plans to excavate and treat about 28,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil before depositing it in a landfill that will be built at the site and which will be sealed off from groundwater.

In addition, the federal agency plans to reopen one of the two wells, well No. 7, after restoring its water quality and will provide water supply to some 100 homeowners with private wells that may have been contaminated.

Noting the design for remediation under the 1986 study should be ready for bidding by December 1988, Finnerty said the EPA also plans to conduct a \$1.3 million "offsite" or "supplemental" study that is earmarked for completion by the end of next year.

Finnerty said that study will be made to investigate the nearby property of General Hose Products for the extent of groundwater contamination and to determine the method of remediation.

Finnerty said the EPA has been having difficulty in seeking permission from homeowners to install 33 monitoring wells at a dozen locations, adding the wells are needed under the new study to determine the extent of contamination in the offsite area.

Finnerty said the EPA decided it will not begin the new study until it obtains all 12 locations, noting he has six or seven sites "in my pocket."

The official said the EPA may be forced to obtain the remaining sites through the "legal route," which he said could result in a delay of one or two months before the new study can begin. He added obtaining the sites for the monitoring wells is the "last hurdle before we can start the (new) study."

'ROADHOUSE' Chunk of modular home snarls Rt. 287 exit



Photo by Kevin Murlagh

The ramp from Route 287 north onto Route 80 west in Parsippany is closed after a modular home fell from a tractor trailer.

By KEVIN COUGHLIN

Motorists on Route 287 in Parsippany-Troy Hills yesterday found an unusual obstacle blocking their entrance to Route 80—a chunk of house.

State Police said a 75-by-14-foot section of a modular home slid off a trailer on the northbound Route 287 ramp to westbound Route 80. There were no injuries in the 11 a.m. accident, but it forced closure of the ramp for nearly five hours and "totally destroyed" the \$15,000 structure, said Trooper Colin Hughes.

"I would say it's fortunate that cars weren't following it too closely," said Hughes.

Driver Kenneth Lee Brown, 33, of Maryland was issued a summons for not making sure the load was secure. Hughes said steel cables apparently snapped, allowing the 13½-foot high roofed module to slip off. It fell on a guardrail and stretched across the roadway.

The piece was the final top quarter of a home being built in Pennsylvania. It was being shipped from the North East, Md., plant of Ryland Modular

Homes to Pennsylvania by the Peninsula Trucking Co.

"Somebody's going to have three-fourths of a house," said Peninsula president Peter Wood. He noted that just two months ago, Peninsula began using Ryland trailers with the cable tie-down system. Peninsula's fleet had used fastening devices with steel tongues and teeth that clamped onto the house, he said.

Wood said it was the firm's first such highway mishap in five years of operation, and the company's insurance probably will cover the damage.

Peninsula delivers up to a dozen Ryland modular houses daily throughout the northeast, said Wood.

A spokeswoman at the Denville warehouse of Ryland Modular Homes said another module will be built and delivered in about three days. Ryland sells about 30 units a month in North Jersey, Pennsylvania, Long Island, New York state and Connecticut, she said.

Trooper Hughes said the truck was hauled off the ramp by a flatbed truck at about 3:15 p.m. The state Department of Transportation spent 45 minutes more clearing debris, he said.

Black officer sworn in as sergeant

By KEVIN DILWORTH

Orange Police Officer Charles Whittle yesterday was sworn in as a permanent sergeant, ending a dispute and racial controversy of nearly a year over his promotion.

The NAACP of the Oranges and Maplewood, two black police fraternal organizations and Mayor Paul Monacelli have been supporters of Whittle's fight to get permanent status.

"Justice has been served," Monacelli said, following the swearing-in of Whittle in city hall. "Sgt. Whittle deserved to be promoted. He's been doing an outstanding job in his provisional capacity."

"I'm also glad the state Personnel Department recognized the city's right to promote him to permanent status," the mayor added. "And that is what we've done here."

Whittle, a 23-year veteran of the police force, initially was promoted last Dec. 29, the day a state Civil Service promotional exam list expired.

Shortly afterwards, John DeRosa, president of the Orange Policemen's Benevolent Association union, filed a grievance claiming Whittle's appointment was made after the Dec. 29 deadline.

Last spring, Morris J. Farinella, regional administrator for the state Personnel Department's Newark office, disapproved Whittle's appointment.

Farinella said his review of the matter showed Whittle did not begin working as a sergeant until Dec. 30, 1986.

The city, through Monacelli and acting City Attorney Raymond Codey, filed an appeal on May 12.

In mid-August, James Cosby, chapter president of the NAACP, urged the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate possible racism in the hiring and promotion policies in the Orange Police Department.

Last month, Personnel Commissioner Eugene J. McCaffrey Sr. upheld Monacelli's right to promote Whittle to permanent sergeant status.

"There is no doubt in the record as to whether Whittle started employment as a police sergeant on Dec. 29, 1986," McCaffrey wrote in his ruling.

"However," he added, "it is clear he took the oath of office for police sergeant on Dec. 29. Further, there was, at the very least, administrative error, since it was clearly the intention of the city to appoint Mr. Whittle effective Dec. 29, 1986."

"I'm glad it is over, for my sake and for my family's sake," Whittle said after the swearing-in ceremonies. "I'd just like to thank the mayor and the city attorney, Raymond Codey, for their diligence in fighting with Civil Service over this issue."

Whittle also expressed gratitude to the NAACP of the Oranges and Maplewood "for their helpful support, to the Orange Kinsmen, the black police officer's organization and its president, Charles Cobbett, and to the New Jersey National Black Police Officers Conference."

Livingston appropriates funds to build sewer tie line

The Livingston Township Council last night appropriated \$49,500 to build a sewer tie line that will permit six homes to connect to the municipal system.

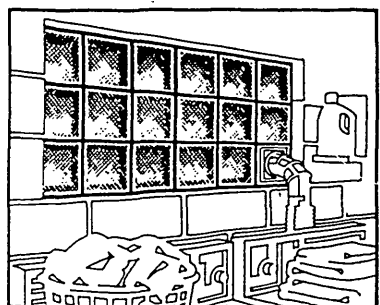
The work will connect six homes, now using septic tanks, to the town's sanitary sewer line. A sum of \$35,900

will be spent for work on Overlook Road and the other \$13,600 toward work on East Mt. Pleasant Avenue.

The council also awarded a \$113,320 contract to Clearwater Services Inc. of Lincoln Park to buy sludge-collection equipment for the sewage treatment plant.

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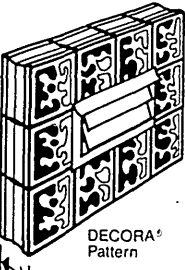
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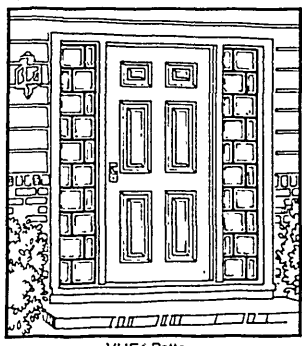
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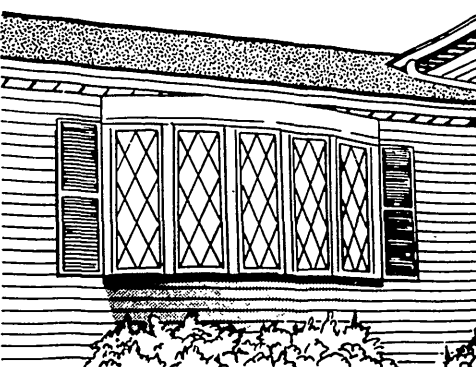
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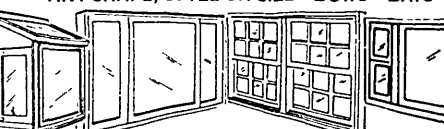
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