

# Volunteers wanted for Orange cleanup

By John Zucal  
Managing Editor

Residents of Orange are being urged to use several city and county programs in an effort to clear their properties and streets of trash as well as to have city officials work to improve the appearance of neighborhoods.

In a statement released Monday, Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr. said May will be "Community Beautification Month" in the city. He said activities will be centered around the idea of community involvement.

"The city's departments will be working with neighborhood groups, churches, and businesses to Adopt-A-Block and beautify our community one block at a time. The Adopt-A-Block program empowers neighbors to bring beautification and revitalization down to the smallest unit, the block," said Hawkins.

Hawkins added that city officials are seeking volunteers for cleanup and other activities and coordinators to help in beautification efforts. Potential volunteers can contact his office at 973-266-4005.

"Neighbors keep their block clean of litter

on an ongoing basis, and the city provides them with tools and resources to help in their efforts," said Hawkins. "We are enlisting residents and their children, merchants, businesses and property owners to work alongside city employees to clean and beautify Orange's neighborhoods and business districts."

As part of the cleanup campaign, Hawkins said code enforcement officers will conduct the annual exterior inspections of every property in the city. Property owners are responsible for conditions in their front yard and on the sidewalk and curb in front of their property. Under the city code, the outside of each property is to be kept neat and free of all unsanitary conditions. An example of a violations would be yard overgrowth. Graffiti must be removed.

Among other parts of the city code, sidewalks are to be kept clear of debris; trash cans should be taken out and emptied on the appropriate days; and commercial and inoperable vehicles should not be located on residential properties.

"This has been a difficult winter and extra debris is lying around that was under the

snow," said Hawkins. "I urge all property owners to make a special effort this month to clean up their yards and sidewalks."

The city's code enforcement office is available at 973-266-4098.

To assist in cleanup efforts, the city and county have events scheduled:

- Essex County Hazardous Waste Collection Day, May 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Leave hazardous waste at the county garage, 99 W. Bradford Ave., Cedar Grove.

- Orange Clean-Up and Community Beautification Day on Freeman Street, between Scotland Road and Tompkins Street, May 7 from noon to 4 p.m.

- Free paper shredding, May 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Brook Alley parking lot along Main Street near South Center Street.

- Community gardens events at the Orange Public Library, May 14 from noon to 2 p.m.

- Computer and Electronic Recycle Collection Week, May 16-21 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. Leave old computers, electronics and small appliances at Brook Alley parking lot.