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Property checks result in violations

By John Zucal
Managing Editor

Six businesses were cited for code violations following surprise inspections by a city task force.

The Quality of Life Task Force, which includes representatives from seven departments, conducted inspections Friday evening of the properties, four which serve alcohol. City officials said task force members found multiple violations at each site.

- The Castaway Lounge, 284 Watchung Ave., was cited for several property maintenance issues, including high weeds and deteriorated signage, said officials. Health concerns included kitchen area food storage, pots and boxes of spices stored on the floor, food products in the hand sink and an unkempt basement.

- Officials said Cherry's Lounge, 145 Lincoln Ave., had debris at the building's rear. They added fire personnel determined the basement stairs were dangerous, the electrical panel was not properly labeled and an extension cord was improperly used to supply an air conditioning unit.

- The Harmony Bar, 171 Central Ave., was cited for debris at the rear of the building. Officials said the bar area needed cleaning and repairs were necessary to the floor, men's bathroom doors, and ceiling in the ladies bathroom. They added the back storage room needed to be painted or tiled, the basement area cleaned and open containers of cat food removed.

- Task force members said The Caribbean Club, 10 N. Center St., had noticeable water on the floors of the lower-level bathrooms. Fire officials said their main concern was the number of people in the club when they arrived. The officials said an occupancy sign was not displayed and no one was checking the number of patrons entering or exiting.

- A complaint sent task force members to the Toast of the Town Liquor Store, 283 Scotland Rd., on a report of loiterers in front of the store and alleged drug activity at the bar. Ryan Myricks of Orange and Raheem Greene of East Orange were arrested for active warrants.

In addition to the arrests, fire officials determined there was an illegal use of extension cords for illuminating neon signs, emergency lights not functioning, a conveyor belt in use on the basement stairs causing the stairs to be unsafe, exposed refrigerator units in use on the first floor, and blockage in front of the basement entrance.

- Three Corner's Deli, 306 Washington Street, was cited for trash and debris in the rear, litter at the front of the building, missing sections of awning, and rubbish and debris in the basement. Fire officials said they found an illegal conveyor belt on the stairs to the basement, poor and failing construction of the stairs, an electrical panel not labeled for a smoke detection system, exposed electrical wires with no covers on splice wires, illegal extension cords to illuminate neon signs, and exposed wiring in plain sight and reach.