

Lynn problem property lands court, city attention

1-11-11

Terrence O'Connell last month. District Court Judge Ellen Flatley ruled on Tuesday that O'Connell "had not complied" with a Dec. 3 court order to make 26 Henry "safe and secure" and to acquire a building permit to make repairs to the property.

Ennis said the building has been home to squatters and a target for trespassers during the last year.

"This building has been a neighborhood nuisance," Ennis said.

O'Connell is under Flatley's order to stay away from the building unless accompanied by a city inspector while the city boards up the building and takes other steps to secure it.

Attempts to reach O'Connell, who lists addresses in Winthrop and Belmont on court

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and hallways to determine how much trash and other items must be removed from the 91-year-old, three-story structure.

"Our goal is to improve the quality of life for the neighbors," said inspector Roger Ennis.

Ennis and fellow inspectors filed city nuisance and municipal ordinance violation complaints against property owner

LYNN
BY THOR JOURENSEN
THE DAILY ITEM

The sign on its front porch reads, "Welcome We Care," but paperwork filed in District Court shows 26 Henry Ave. turned into a neighborhood trash and trespassing nuisance for months before city officials stepped in to clean it up.

Cleanup crews cleared snow from the sidewalk and steps in front of the former nursing home on Friday and city inspectors poked around its rooms

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records, were unsuccessful Friday. Ennis said O'Connell still owns the building and has permission from the court and city to show it to prospective buyers after it is secured.

Housing Authority officials are working with the city to ensure the building has a functioning fire alarm and security system.

Ennis said overdue property taxes and city fines owed on the property total more than \$40,000. City assessing records list it as a commercial property for nursing home use.

Court records list 16 calls or complaints to inspectors and police officers about the property between last April and September.

"Several neighbors made regular calls to the city," Ennis said.

Ward 5 City Councilor Brendan Crighton said the city's

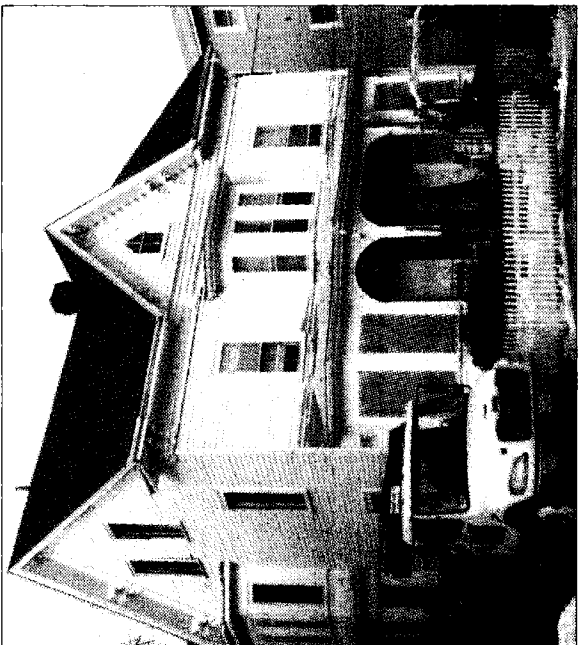
property in the city of Lynn."

A police call record for the property lists trespassing, disturbance, breaking and entering and other calls at the building between February 2010 and Sept. 23.

"The property has fallen into disrepair and it has been a constant concern for neighbors along with the police," Officer Timothy Nerich wrote in a Sept. 23, 2010 police report after he went to Henry Avenue to investigate a report of someone crawling through one of the property's windows.

Although police had been told the building was no longer being used as a nursing home, Nerich heard a television inside the building and gained access with another officer.

They arrested a woman and charged her with trespassing after contacting O'Connell, who told them the woman had been warned to stay out of the building.



ITEM PHOTO / OWEN O'ROURKE
former Lawrence Manor nursing home at 26 Henry in Lynn.