

Statue stolen from library

“The Dying Roman” taken from Danforth Memorial. **B2**

Man on the run arrested

Paterson resident accused of sexually assaulting another. **B6**



A Caribbean sea of green

Jamaican callaloo is garden star

By DENISA R. SUPERVILLE
Staff Writer

PATERSON – More than 12 years ago, Luthan Lebert embarked on an experiment.

The Jamaican immigrant wanted to know whether a green, leafy vegetable that grows on his native island, would flourish in Paterson.

“I had never seen it grow over here,” said Lebert, 67. “I had heard that other people had done it, but I wanted to know how well it would do.”

He sprinkled some seeds behind a Marshall Street factory where he worked at the time. The plants grew to about 5 feet tall.

So when Lebert purchased a house in 1995, he had the perfect place to grow callaloo – or calaloo or callalou – the spelling differs from island to island in the Caribbean.

A year after moving in, Lebert spent hours turning over the soil in a small patch of land at his large corner lot on Vreeland Avenue. There, he put callaloo seeds and some corn kernels into the ground. He watered the plot for hours – callaloo requires moist soil – and watched the greens blossom.

“Every year I kept expanding a little more until I used up all of (the yard),” said Lebert.

On Thursday, he was standing in what is now a sea of green, shoulder high, planted with Scotch Bonnet peppers, kidney beans, pumpkins, corn, tomatoes and a pear tree. The majority of the soil is covered with callaloo in an area big enough to fit a second house.

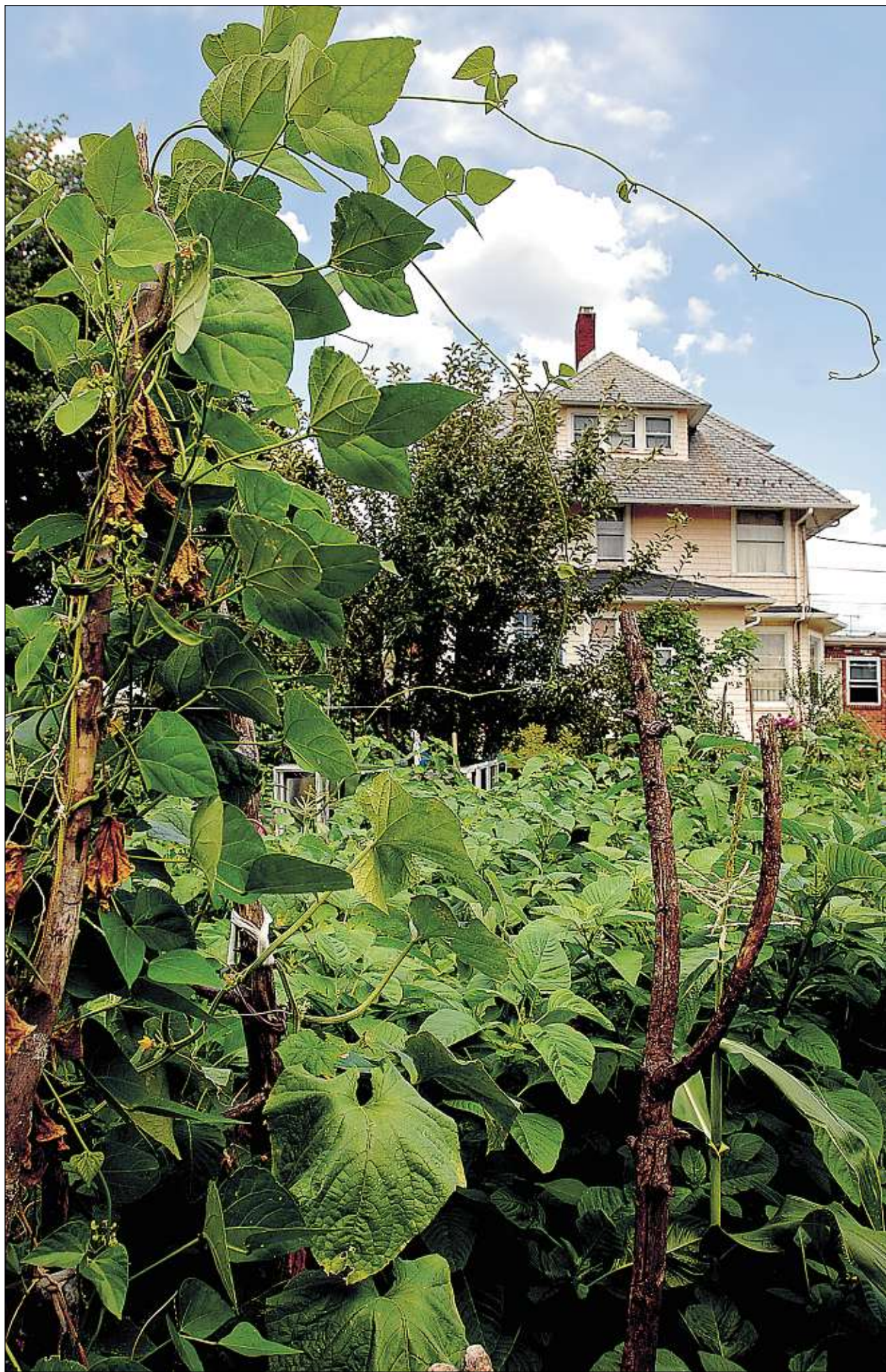
The green vegetable, which when cooked tastes slightly like collard greens, can be purchased in cans at local supermarkets, but Jamaican immigrants prefer to buy it fresh. So they have begun to buy from Lebert.

“When they come here, they can see it’s clean,” he said. “They watch you cut it. That’s what they want. You are more confident that it was grown properly, it was treated properly. You can see that for yourself.”

Lebert has developed quite a following of family, friends and other Jamaican expatriates. Friends from New York, North Carolina and even Florida put in orders for their bundles, he said.

“They know that it’s just for the summer, so they use as much as they can,” Lebert said. “Some people even store it in the freezers.”

City Council President Bill McKoy, who is originally from Jamaica, said that his wife, Brenda, buys her callaloo from Lebert. McKoy described callaloo as “refined collard greens.”



Lebert started his garden after successfully trying to grow callaloo, a leafy vegetable from the Caribbean that is somewhat similar to collard greens. He now has a following of expatriates who buy bundles of it.

Please see **GARDENER**, B6

Photos by David Bergeland/Herald News

ENVIRONMENT

Debris transfer stations scrutinized

Law would give states environmental oversight

By SCOTT FALLON
Staff Writer

Railway stations where trucks unload large volumes of construction debris may soon permanently be subject to New Jersey’s environmental laws.

The U.S. Senate recently passed a transportation bill with language authored by Sen. Frank Lautenberg that gives states the right to regulate safety and pollution at transfer stations.

For years, residents near several stations owned by New York Susquehanna & Western Railway Corp. in Paterson and North Bergen have complained about mounds of waste piling up before they are loaded onto train cars. State officials tried to fine the railroad when wastewater tests at three locations revealed high levels of lead, arsenic, mercury and copper.

Local officials have long said that the railroads have been able to use a loophole in the federal Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act of 1995 – which prohibits states from regulating railroads – to build such waste transfer facilities along rail lines without oversight from state and local governments.

The state had been fighting these transfer facilities since the first one opened in Newark in 2000, said Wolfgang Skacel, assistant commissioner of compliance and enforcement at the Department of Environmental Protection, in January. About a dozen such facilities operate in the state, according to the DEP.

Please see **STATIONS**, B6

HAWTHORNE

Restriction on political sign display to be lifted

Property owner felt ordinance infringed on free speech rights

By HEATHER KAYS
Staff Writer

HAWTHORNE – The Borough Council will repeal an ordinance restricting the display of political signs, and the American Civil Liberties Union says it’s a victory for freedom of speech.

The borough agreed to the repeal after the ACLU filed a lawsuit on behalf of a property owner saying the ordinance infringed on his First Amendment rights by prohibiting him from displaying political signs on his lawn after Election Day. On Wednesday, the council voted unanimously to approve a consent order to settle the lawsuit. As a part of the order, the borough will have 90 days to amend or repeal the ordinance that states you can only display political signs 32 days before or seven days after an election.

Once the ordinance is repealed, it will bring to an end months of controversy over whether or not the ordinance was unconstitutional and restricted residents’ freedom of speech.

Last month, the ACLU filed a lawsuit on behalf of Gause, a Midland Park resident and property owner here, after he was fined \$100 in February for having two Ron Paul campaign signs on his lawn. Gause initially removed the signs, then put them back out after he decided to defend his freedom of speech. The borough dropped its case against Gause, and officials said they would not enforce the ordinance, but the ACLU stepped in because the

Please see **SIGNS**, B6

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