

Suit against Easton and police is settled; claimant gets \$19,000

By GAY ELWELL
Of The Morning Call

A lawsuit filed in Northampton County Court by an Easton man against the city and members of the police department was settled this week.

Police Chief John Border said yesterday that the city's insurer paid about \$19,000 to settle the claims of Russell Snyder Sr., who sued over his June 2, 1989, arrest outside his home in the 600 block of Ferry Street. The case was scheduled for a civil jury trial this week before Senior Judge Michael V. Franciosa.

The suit had named as defendants officers Michael Orchulli and Timothy Lambert and the city. A Northampton County jury in November 1990 acquitted Snyder of

the charges filed against him by Orchulli: aggravated assault, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct and harassment. Lambert participated in the arrest.

Last week, Northampton County President Judge Robert A. Freedberg threw out the claims of Snyder's son, Russell Jr., who had said in the suit that he lost all respect for police and suffered emotional distress, including bad dreams about the incident.

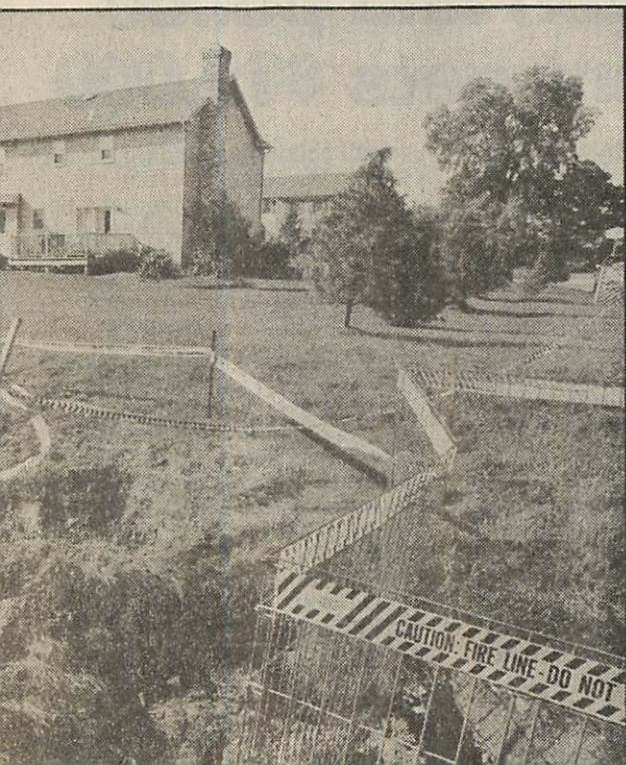
In a separate order, Freedberg had divided the issues to be tried, according to Snyder's attorney, Leonard Artigliere. That order called for the claims against the officers to be considered first and then the claims against the city.

Artigliere said yesterday that part of the reason for settling the case was the desire to avoid having

to call children, including Snyder's son, to the stand to testify. "It's tough to make them do that," he said. Artigliere also said he hoped the settlement would "put an end to the problems that have surfaced" between his client and members of the department.

Police said Snyder started the incident, but Snyder's suit claimed that Orchulli initiated contact in retaliation for Snyder's complaints about a close friend of Orchulli's, former Easton officer James Broscius. According to the suit, Orchulli ordered Snyder to approach the vehicle, told him he was under arrest for disorderly conduct and then pushed him to the ground, beating and choking him. The city and officers were represented by attorney Hugh Hutchison.

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Working with a family — Jean and her disabled son Drew — brought a clearer understanding of the scope of the disaster, he said. "It is one thing to understand a disaster. It is another to hear how people lived through it. The people whose home we worked on spent the night of the storm in their bathroom in 6 feet of water."

The local group replaced rotted cabinets and painted the exterior of the house. And, as time passed, they became friends.

► **Octoberfest Saturday:** An Octoberfest will be held Saturday on the grounds of Advent Moravian Church, 3730 Jacksonville Road, Hanover Township. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. rain or shine.

Highlighting the event will be a congregational yard sale which will offer a variety of household items, collectibles, a kids corner, sporting goods and jewelry. There will be home baked goods and games for the children. Refreshments will be available.

Proceeds will be designated for the church's building campaign. Mollie Santee and Polly Machin are co-chairwomen of the event.

► **Neighborhood Center:** The Southeast Neighborhood Center, 700 Evans St., Bethlehem, will hold its annual meeting and open house 5-6:30 p.m. tomorrow. A special feature of the brief annual meeting will be the dedication of the Rebecca W. Stewart Community Room.

Dr. Stewart resigned from the board early