

Clifton, Passaic join for cleanup

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Clifton and Passaic celebrated an Urban Cleanup Team Broom Award on Friday morning by sending two street sweepers, one from each town, down a litter-strewn street that serves as a border between the two cities.

Clifton Recycling Coordinator Al DuBois said Highland Avenue, a mile-long sloping span of asphalt that stretches from Botany Village to Dutch Hill, is easily the messiest street in Clifton.

Passaic Recycling Coordinator Tony Gagliano said Highland Avenue wasn't his city's worst litter offender but, "it's one of them."

Sandra Huber, executive director of the New Jersey Clean Communities Council, awarded the golden broom to Gagliano and Clifton Mayor James Anzaldi after the streets were swept clean.

Huber said the urban cleanup program was a way for cities to take an initiative in getting litter off the streets.

Other participating cities include Irvington, East Orange and Newark. On Oct. 25, Paterson will hold its own urban cleanup program.

DuBois said that Highland Avenue had fallen into its littered state due to a combination of wind, the elevation of the street and the high population density of the area.

Also, he said, its split identity between Clifton and Passaic has led to some neglect by the two towns.

DuBois hoped that the morning sweep would help encourage residents and pedestrians of Highland Avenue to throw their trash in appropriate receptacles rather than leaving it on the road.

"You like it clean? Keep it that way," DuBois said.