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SHELBY TOWNSHIP

Organizations seek share of township's CDBG funds

By SEAN DELANEY

sean.delaney@advisorsource.com; @sdelaney81

Nearly a dozen organizations representing various public service programs petitioned the Board of Trustees on Feb. 2 for a share of the \$173,217 in funds Shelby Township has been allocated this year via the Community Development Block Grant program.

"We can use that money for either brick and mortar projects or public service, provided they meet one of the following three objectives: 1) benefit low or moderate income residents, 2) eliminate slums or blight, or 3) address urgent community needs," said Glenn Wynn, the township's planning and zoning director.

According to Wynn, approximately \$6,250 will be deducted from original amount to support the CHORE program, which helps senior adults maintain their homes.

"We have a number of residents who participate in that program," Wynn said.

The township may also use up to \$37,054 on public service activities, Wynn said. All countywide agencies requesting CDBG funding were required to submit applications to the county in December.

"The county reviewed these applications and then provided the participating communities with a list of eligible projects and agencies," Wynn said.

This year's qualified applicants include:

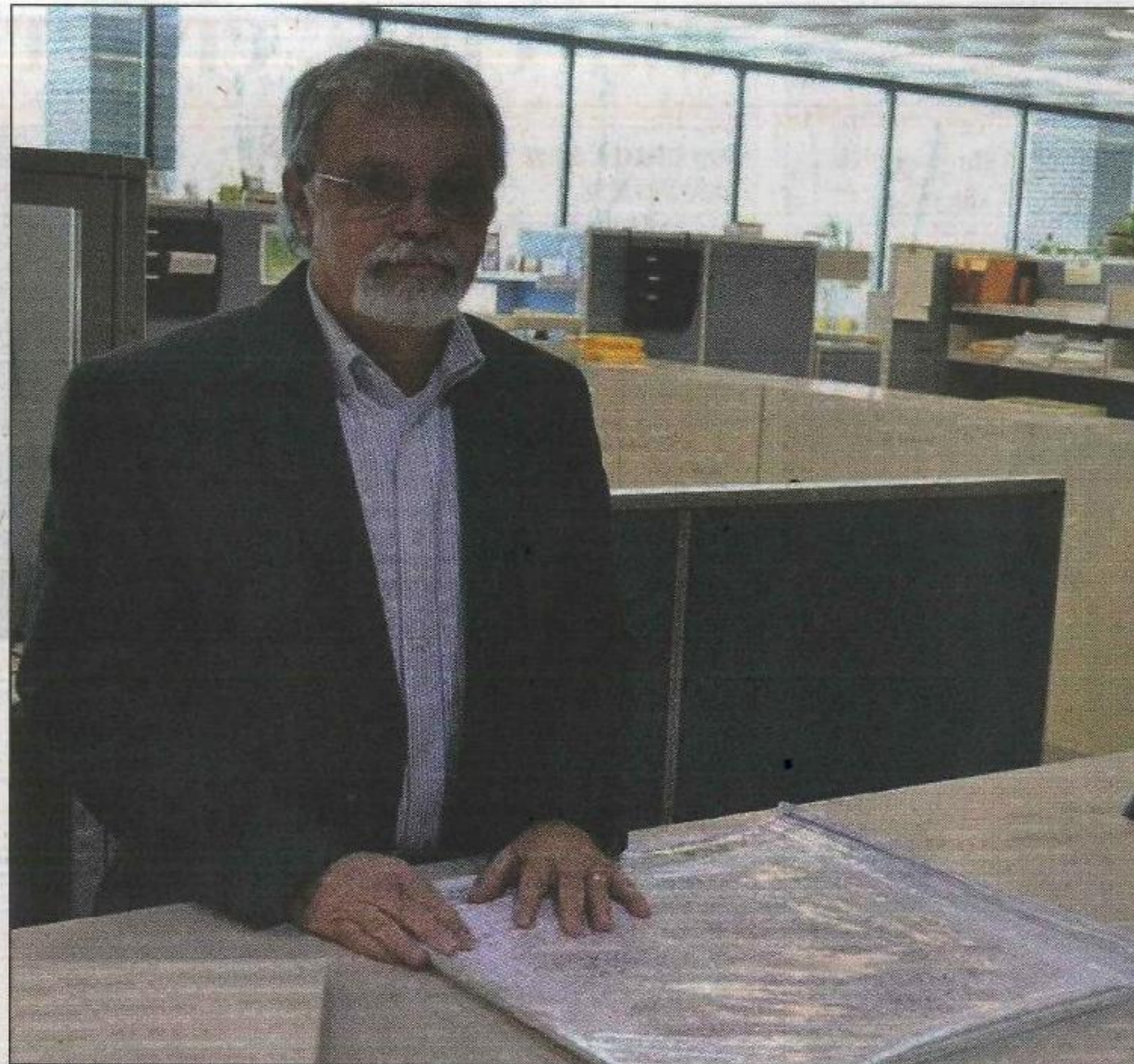
- Care House, which provides child-friendly, family-centered investigation, prosecution and treatment services to income-eligible child victims of sexual and physical abuse by coordinating an interdisciplinary team and providing crisis intervention, counseling, court advocacy, parent and child support groups, education, information and referral. Amount requested: \$6,000.

- Hope Center in Macomb, a no-cost client choice food pantry and one-stop shop for human services available to all Macomb County residents. Funding will be used to purchase food at an average cost of 33 cents per meal. Amount requested: \$2,000.

- The Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team, which provides emergency shelter (through local churches on a rotating basis) and related services to help people step away from homelessness. Amount requested: \$7,560.

- Macomb Literacy Partners, which is a program designed to help illiterate adults learn to read through one-on-one adult tutoring to adults with basic literacy reading needs, as well as to increase the English language (reading, writing, speaking) capability of English as a second language students. Amount requested: \$3,000.

- Samaritan House, which maintains an emergency food pantry and provides utility, shelter, clothing and other basic needs



FILE PHOTO - DIGITAL FIRST MEDIA

Shelby Township Planning and Zoning Director Glenn Wynn says the township's Community Development Block Grant funds for 2016 total \$173,217. Of that, the township may use up to \$37,054 for public service activities. At a recent public hearing, nearly a dozen service organizations asked the Board of Trustees for a share of the funds.

- assistance to income-eligible individuals, families and seniors in crisis in northern Macomb County. They will use CDBG funds to provide emergency food to low- to moderate-income families at a cost of \$2 per meal, per person. Amount requested: \$5,000.

- The Shelby Township Lions Club, which will use CDBG funds to purchase food and Christmas toys for low- to moderate-income children who are residents of Shelby Township. Amount requested: \$5,000.

- Turning Point Inc.,

- which provides immediate emergency shelter, crisis intervention and supportive services for survivors of domestic abuse and their dependent children. Turning Point also provides advocacy, 24-hour crisis intervention, support groups, medical support, skills building, employment and housing searches, and children's support programs. CDBG funds would be used to pay for costs related to the shelter. Amount requested: \$3,000.

- The Macomb Homeless Coalition, which provides

- services and referrals to residents experiencing or at risk of homelessness, coordinates services for all of the county's homeless, runs the Homeless Management Information System (a database of homeless persons being served by shelters, etc.), and writes federal grants that brought in more than \$1 million to the homeless shelters and housing programs last year. Amount requested: \$9,412.

- The Macomb County Warming Center, which provides nighttime shel-

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Township Supervisor Richard Stathakis

- ter for homeless adults in the winter months and year-round case management. They are requesting funding to pay for the cost of laundering shelter blankets, as well as part of a caseworker's salary. Amount requested: \$1,500.

"Right now, we have one full-time and one part-time case worker, and that's not nearly enough," said Kathy Goodrich, executive director of the Macomb County Warming Center. "We have a waiting list of people who want to find a job, who want to find a place to live. So we appreciate any assistance (the township) can offer."

According to Wynn, the recommended allocations for CDBG funding will be presented at the Feb. 16 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

"On the one hand, it's a joy to know that these organizations exist," Township Supervisor Richard Stathakis said. "But on the other hand, it's very sad that we still need these types of services. I think it's good that these organizations let us know what their needs are. It's sort of a wake-up call for us."