

Raeford, Hoke County seek \$1.3 million in CD funds

May 3, 1984 THE NEWS-JOURNAL Raeford, N.C. 1A

North Carolina communities have requested \$107 million in federal Community Development Block Grant funds from the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, \$79.5 million more than the state has to allocate.

Some 180 communities, including Raeford and Hoke Counties filed requests by the April 16 deadline.

In applications received by the state Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, the 146 municipalities

and 34 counties have requested funding for community revitalization projects ranging from housing rehabilitation to street paving and development planning projects designed to identify critical community needs and formulate plans to meet those needs. The state has \$27.5 million available for funding these projects in 1984.

Raeford's request totals \$584,768 for community revitalization activities. Hoke County has requested \$726,133 for the same purpose.

Eligible applicants include the

state's 100 counties and, except for the sixteen largest cities, all municipalities.

The sixteen cities, which continue to receive Community Development Block Grant funds directly from the federal government are: Asheville, Winston-Salem, High Point, Greensboro, Burlington, Charlotte, Gastonia, Concord, Salisbury, Durham, Raleigh, Fayetteville, Jacksonville, Hickory, Wilmington and Chapel Hill.

According to NRCD Secretary

James A. Summers, the large amount of requests requires that state staff very thoroughly review each application. "Because the limited allocation will fund only one-fourth of the requests, we must very carefully review each project on the basis of the established scoring system to ensure that funds will be used in the most effective manner possible," he said.

Summers also noted that grant announcements originally were scheduled for early August, but staff reassignments due to tornado

relief efforts have necessitated a delay of 30 to 60 days in the announcement date.

Each community revitalization application will receive scores in the areas of community needs, project design, benefit to low and moderate income persons, other public and private funds to be used for project activities, and the project's consistency with state policies and programs. Development planning projects are reviewed on the basis of need, feasibility and local commitment.

Summers pointed out that the scoring system, first used in 1982, is the product of a cooperative effort between state and local officials and that participation by local governments plays a key role in the program's success.

Although there is no minimum amount established for a grant request, no community revitalization project may exceed \$750,000 and development planning projects are limited to \$10,000. Each local project must primarily benefit low and moderate income persons.

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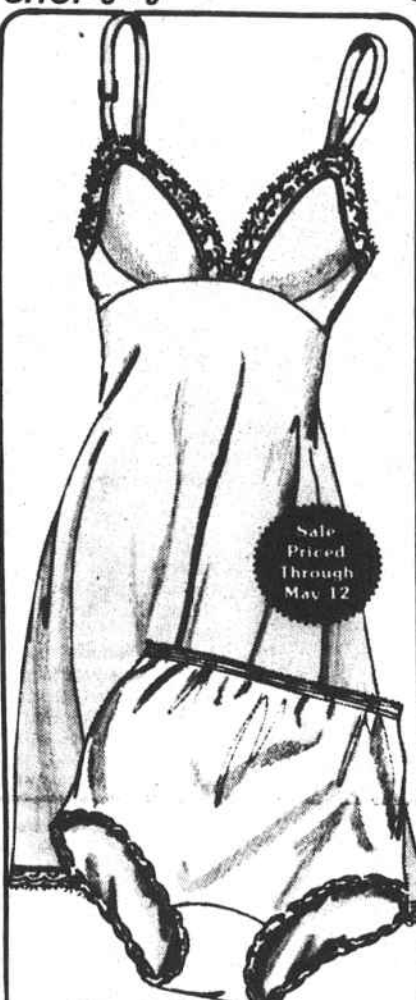
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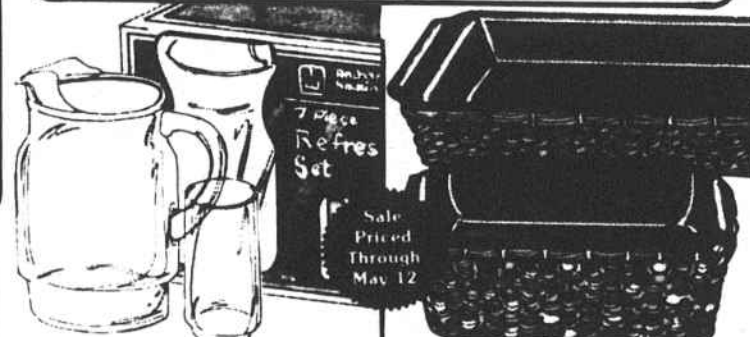
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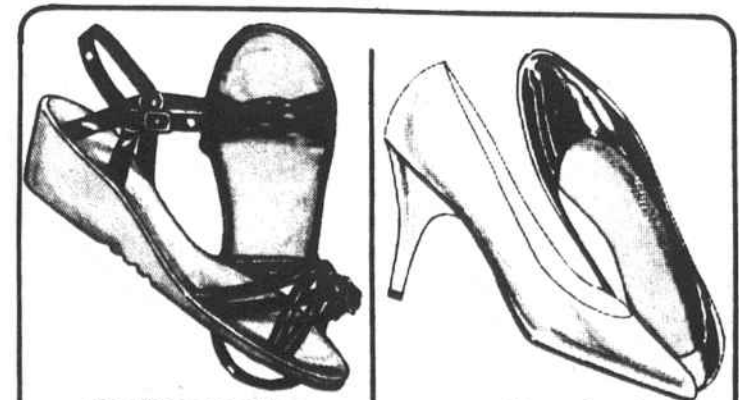
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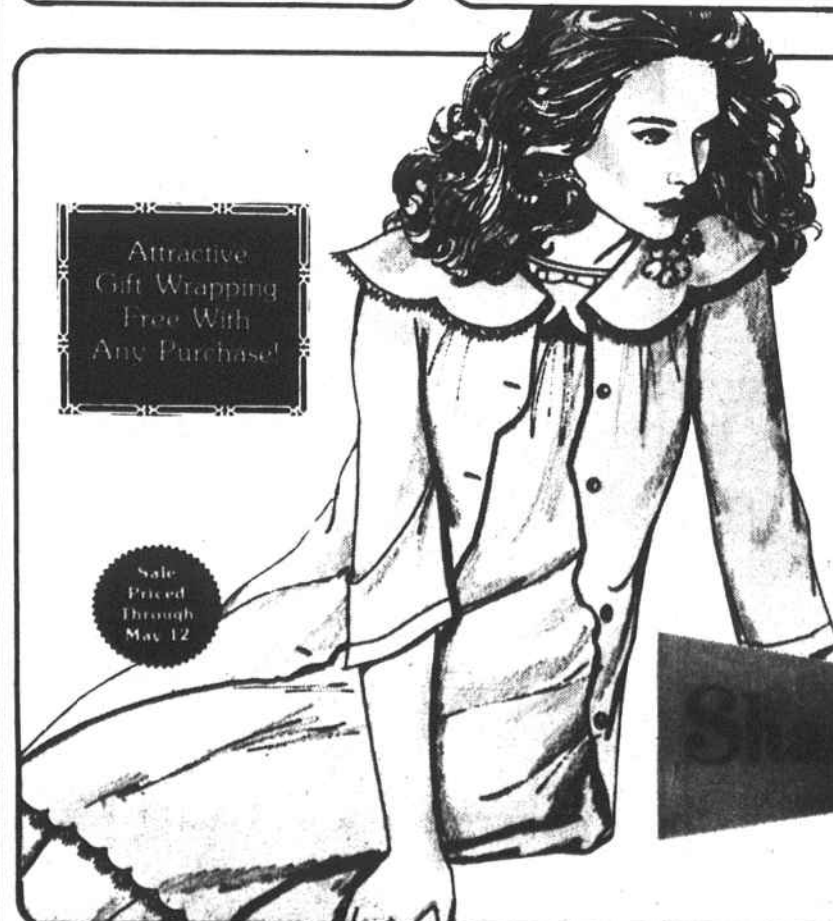
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