

Hoboken Plans to Hire Consultant at \$18,500

By ELIZABETH PARKS
Former Hoboken Model Cities and Community Development Director Michael Coleman is expected to be hired as an \$18,500 a year economic consultant by the city council at Wednesday's morning meeting.

A council source said yesterday that prospects that the Coleman consulting contract will be nearly unanimously approved are "favorable."

Coleman, the source said, will start work immediately on a 15-hour a week basis. He is to organize an economic development division within the community development agency which will be charged with attracting new businesses and industries to Hoboken.

In other business, the council is expected to approve the reappointment of Michael Litzas, 904 Bloomfield st., and Walter Caulfield, 10 Church Towers, to the Hoboken Board of Local Assistance.

Both interim appointees, Caulfield and Litzas will now serve three year terms on the board.

The council will also adopt specifications for a consultant to assist the city's Tax Department in computerizing tax records, assessments and listings.

Bids are to be returned at the Feb. 4 meeting.

A \$200,000 resolution approved Dec. 17 applying to the New Jersey Environmental Protection Agency for a Green Acres

grant will be revised upward by \$16,000. If the grant is approved, the money will be used to build and renovate parks and playgrounds at the city's community center, Second and Grand streets; Madison Park, Madison st. between Fifth and Sixth streets and Church Square Park at Fifth and Willow av.

The council also will act on bids for five Ford and five Chevrolets to be used as police cars. Business Administrator Herman Bier is recommending that the council buy the five Fords for a total of \$26,850 and councilman at large Robert Ranieri is recommending the purchase of the Chevys for a total \$22,400.

Bier who has always purchased city vehicles from Center Ford in North Bergen, is recommending now that the city stay with the higher bidder because "from past experience, the firm has been very cooperative and given the city the best service."

Bier called the Ford Torino "larger, safer and more comfortable" than the Chevy Novas.

Hoboken to decide on trash collector

The Hoboken City Council will hold a special meeting Tuesday night to decide what firm to hire for garbage collection.

The decision to hold the special meeting to award a contract was made last night when Mayor Steve Cappiello and Raphael

Vitale, public works director, met with members of the council.

The city has two bidders to consider, the LeFera Contracting Co. of Newark, the firm that has been collecting the city's garbage for the past 10 years, and the Ash Removal Co. of Irvington, low bidder on one, three and five-year contracts.

There also has been a suggestion that the city award a one-year contract and then prepare to collect its own garbage, a course it might follow.

At another conference at City Hall earlier in the day, Cappiello met with city assessors and tax consultants to discuss property revaluation. Although no final decision was made, the mayor said city is considering spot revaluations using its own assessors. A similar type program was carried out in Jersey City last year instead of hiring a firm to cover the entire city.

Continue the Work

Five research projects, three concerning Hoboken and the other two the North Hudson area, are under study as potential programs for 1976 by the Center for Municipal Studies and Services at Stevens Tech. All of the proposals are aimed at upgrading the communities involved.

For North Hudson the project would involve a study of the benefits of a joint purchasing system, which we have advocated for some time. It is the best way to save money; it has proven elsewhere that it works. It would be economically advantageous here.

The overall cost of the program is \$238,000, of which the government would provide \$100,000, leaving a net

\$138,000 bill for the communities involved. This is no small amount, but if it results in later savings and better municipal operations then we're for it.

The center, led by low-keyed Richard Sullivan, during the past year has made a fire-fighting consolidation report as well as a water recovery proposal particularly for the Mile Square City. Other reports are not yet finished but will be shortly.

We are encouraged by the overall concept of the center at Stevens and the expertise demonstrated by its staff. It is important that we have, here in Hudson, a unit that can address itself to the area's problems. A continuation of its work is essential.

Ranieri gives list of questions on repair of wall

Although the Hoboken City Council committee on public works is satisfied with the answers obtained from Raphael P. Vitale on why his department repaired a building wall at 117 Madison St., Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri has submitted a list of questions on the job to Council President Martin J. Brennan.

"The work was done and no one besides myself wanted to question that," said Ranieri. "However now that it has been done has the city assumed a liability for which it shouldn't have the responsibility?"

"I think we should know what responsibility the city will have should the work the public works department did become defective or cave in."

Ranieri said his main concern at this point is whether the city should have done the job itself rather than allowing its insurance company to handle it.

"Forgetting the particulars in this one case, the real question is whether or not the public works department acted properly in assuming the responsibility for making the repair on any building without first bringing in its insurance carrier."

Ranieri said that he has asked Brennan to find out the following from the public works committee: Was a departmental hearing held on the matter and what were the results? Was the accident reported to the city's and the property owner's insurance companies? Are copies of both reports available? Was the wall in question repaired on the existing foundation or was a new foundation laid? Was an extension built on the building? How many cinder blocks were laid? Who ordered and paid for the materials used in the repairs? Who authorized the work and purchase of materials? Who is responsible for the balance of the claims the property owner has submitted? Does the city have insurance coverage for this incident, and if it does why wasn't it used?

The councilman asserted that his interest is with the action of the public works department and not the owner of the property.

However, the owner, Andrew J. Amato, said he was thankful that the public works department and Vitale acted promptly.

"I've been in business a long time and dealt with a lot of insurance companies," said Amato. "I know that they can drag their feet when they want to and that kind of delay could have put me out of business."

"As it was I lost several days work because of the hole in my wall caused by a city bulldozer — and the city started making the repairs the very next day. If the city had put the entire matter into the hands of its insurance company, it might have been a week or more before any repairs were made and that would have closed me down."

PERC ruling due on 'unfair' charge by teachers union

The state Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) was due today to hear the first educational unfair labor practice charge brought in New Jersey by the Hoboken Teachers Association (HTA) against that city's board of education.

The Hoboken teachers' union contends the school board reneged on a commitment to enter into a new two-year pact for 1976-78. The board claims the teachers misread the terms of the agreement. Both parties have ratified but haven't signed the proposed contract.

PERC hearing officer Robert E. Snyder was to preside at today's session at the Workmen's Compensation Court in Newark. Emil Oxford, a Newark attorney, was to represent the teachers union. Robert Taylor, board counsel, was expected to appear for that party.

Charles Cook, a spokesman for the New Jersey Education Association which lent the Hoboken group \$45,000 to pay that amount in fines levied by the courts against the striking HEA officers last year, said the teachers would introduce as evidence a hand-written memo signed by Otto Hottendorf, board president, and Taylor, and by four members of the teachers' negotiating committee.

The memo reads: "The salary guide for 1976-77 shall be established by adding \$400 to each step of the 1975-76 salary guide and then increasing each step by 8.7 per cent."

"In addition, each teacher shall receive \$400 to be paid as part of the regular salary and paid over the 1975-76 school year."

"The salary guide for 1976-77 shall be established by increasing each step of the 1975-76 salary guide by 8 per cent," the memo concludes.

Mary Tecktonius, HTA president, accused board members last night of doing the union a "grave injustice" by telling us you had no money (for teachers' raises) in light of a recent auditor's report on the board's last fiscal year.

She said the audit disclosed a general surplus "in excess of \$450,000" and a capital outlay surplus of some \$172,000, but Taylor replied by saying he questioned those figures.

"We had a deficit — not a surplus," said Taylor, adding that auditor must have made "adjustments" in four areas, to come up with the alleged surplus.

Taylor listed the budgetary areas under scrutiny as unexpended ESEA funds, amortization of \$100,000 in notes on the Wallace School, a \$125,000 appropriation last June 27 for the mini-school and general revenues.

However, Taylor did not deny the existence of a capital outlay surplus which he said the board hopes to use to purchase lunchroom equipment for the mini-school.

Hottendorf added that the board is "contemplating changing its bookkeeping procedures" possibly by buying a computer that could be used in both "fiscal and academic matters." He said the board plans to meet with the auditor on Friday.

In other business, the board: Voted 4-to-2 to change the title of Ignatius Farinola from "supervisor" to "director" of adult education, allowing the board empy to qualify for a 1.4 per cent raise.

Voted 5-to-1, with Donald Singleton in the minority to appoint Mrs. Jeanette Costello, wife of ailing Trustee Michael Costello, as a \$5,400-a-year teacher's aide.

Heard complaints that the bell system at the three-year-old Wallace School still isn't operating. Hottendorf said the board is withholding a partial payment from the electrical contractor.

4/21/76 Hoboken

Hoboken's Uptown Recreation program will begin registering for its spring activities Feb. 24.

Administrator Charles Tortorella said the program will retain the arts and crafts classes, special activity sessions and recreation classes from the winter session and will add a music appreciation and recorder class.

The classes are held from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at 829 Washington st.

Hoboken to void sewage pact

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said today that he will recommend to the city council at its Feb. 4 meeting that it retain attorney Louis Holland to initiate suit against Union City and Weehawken and void Hoboken's contract with them for the treatment of sewage.

The mayor said that he met yesterday with Holland, City Law Director Lawrence Florio, Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale and Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, the principal proponent of the action and the general opinion was that the city has grounds for a suit.

Holland is Secaucus town attorney.

According to Ranieri, the council had

already authorized the law department to initiate suit and hire special counsel if needed to do it. However, it was the opinion of Florio that since the resolution was more than two years old it might be outdated. Holland treats about one third of the waste from Weehawken and Union City at its 16th Street plant at an annual charge of \$60,000. The fee is set by contract, which was inked by the three municipalities in the late 1950's and is for a 35-year period.

It is Hoboken's contention that it now costs the city some \$250,000 to treat the sewage from the two neighboring communities. Since Hoboken gets only \$60,000 from them, Hoboken taxpayers must

come up with the remaining \$190,000 to offset the cost.

The city wants the courts to overturn the contract and direct Union City and Weehawken to negotiate a new one.

Hoboken has been trying to get the Union City-Weehawken Trunk Sewerage Authority to negotiate a new contract for almost 10 years. Former Mayor Louis DePascale was the first to seek the negotiations but met with stiff resistance from officials of both municipalities.

They have maintained that the contract is binding and if Hoboken wants a new one it will have to go to court and have the old one overturned.

On a number of occasions in the past, Hoboken has threatened suit but it never materialized. Will this effort be the turning point?

"I know we are serious," said the mayor. "If we weren't we wouldn't be trying to hire an outside attorney who is an expert in this field to represent us. The possibilities of winning the suit have been discussed in full and we feel that they are good. So there isn't any reason to hold back any longer."

Can't see garbage recycling

The Hoboken Environment Committee has given up trying to observe a prototype of a garbage recycling plant that is being proposed for Hoboken, Mrs. Helen Manogue said today.

The prototype plant is in College Park, Md., and the committee members had tried to observe it in operation but without success.

"Apparently it operates infrequently," said Mrs. Manogue. "One of our members tried to observe the operation while on a recent four-day business trip to Washington

D.C. However, it was closed on the day he went.

"From people in the area he learned that it operated no more than one or two days a week and it is considerably smaller than the plant that they want to build in Hoboken."

A Woodbridge firm, Envirogenics Inc., has started construction of its facility on 16th Street, across from Colabella Brothers Inc. on land that it has leased from that firm.

The company plans to recycle garbage, turning it all into by-products ranging from animal feed to gas fuels. The company has

applied to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for various permits, but none have yet been granted.

Mrs. Manogue said that she has been in contact with the DEP and has been assured that no action will be taken on the permits until at least Jan. 30.

Mrs. Manogue said that the committee wasn't formally opposing the facility but neither was it endorsing it until the committee had found out exactly what the operation would entail and what impact it would have on the city.

Ranieri wants bids on water program

Although the Hoboken City Council has given Mayor Steve Cappiello, Business Administrator Herman Bier and Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale the authority to negotiate with the Davidson Laboratory at Stevens Institute of Technology on a proposed three-year recovery program, one city councilman thinks private engineering firms should also be given a crack at the job.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri said today that he has asked the city's Community Development Agency (CDA) for a copy of a proposal for a water recovery program submitted to it early last year by the engineering firm of Mayo, Lynch and Associates.

"I have also asked Mayo, Lynch to send me a copy of their proposal," the councilman added.

Ranieri said that he had not seriously thought about considering the Mayo, Lynch proposal because he had been informed by the CDA that it involved only putting the repair work out to bid.

"That would take care of the repairs but it wouldn't help make the water department and water repair division a fully operational unit capable of handling the repairs and all emergencies themselves," he continued.

"However, I have since been informed that the Mayo, Lynch proposal did take this into consideration along with the formation of a city engineering department. In view of this, I think the city should take a better look at the Mayo, Lynch proposal as well as the possibility of talking with other engineering firms that might be interested in this project."

Ranieri said that the city still has the responsibility of trying to get the very most for its money and that by excluding other firms from discussions on the project the city would never know if someone else could do it as well, or better, at a cheaper price.

The original proposal from the Davidson Laboratory would cost \$790,000 over a three-year period and is an offshoot of a study of the water system compiled by the Center for Municipal Services and Studies, commonly referred to as the Urban Observatory.

City officials decided that even though the proposal had merit, it was too costly in spite of the fact that most of the money to finance it would come from the CDA. With that in mind, the council authorized the mayor, Bier and Vitale to negotiate with the laboratory.

However, Ranieri said that, in essence, the college was "entering the private sector" and should have to show what it can do in competition with private engineering companies.

New welfare panelist wants all docked for not showing

BY PETER HALLAM

The newest member of the Hoboken Local Assistance Board wants to dock all employees of the welfare department a half-day's pay because no one showed up for work last Friday.

Walter Caulfield, who was appointed to the board on Dec. 31 with Michael Litzas by Mayor Steve Cappiello, said today that he was at the welfare office on the morning of Jan. 2 and no one, including Director Jerry Forman, showed up for work.

"To my knowledge, Friday was not a holiday nor was it observed as such by the state of federal governments," Caulfield, a former Hoboken policeman, said.

"The city treated it as a normal work

day, the various directors allowing their employees to go home after 1 p.m. However, no one was at work at the welfare offices for the entire day—even for the half-day session."

The public assistance board met last night and Caulfield said that he recommended to the other board members that all welfare employees be "docked a half-day's pay."

Caulfield, who is now a security agent for the United Nations in New York, added that to his knowledge none of the welfare staff had been excused from putting in the half-day with other city employees.

According to Caulfield, the other board members are considering his suggestion.

Hoboken unsure when new 3-day trash pickups start

Hoboken's new garbage collection system—three pickups a week instead of six—is not expected to start before next week, giving the city adequate time to alert property owners and residents to the new collection schedule, Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said today.

However, Vitale added that he won't know exactly when the new collections will get underway until he has discussed the entire contract with the contractor, the LaFera Contracting Co. of Newark.

"Actually, the start of the new collections is up to the contractor," said the director. "Once he has formally signed the contract with the city he can start immediately, but I don't think that will be the case."

"In one respect we are lucky that we have the same contractor. He's been collecting the garbage under the terms of our old expired contract since Dec. 15 on a per diem basis. A few more days isn't going to matter one way or the other."

Vitale said that he and the contractor will work out the schedule for the collection days and the areas the collections will be made in.

While Vitale and city council members feel that the city can get by with three-day-a-week collections, there is growing concern among other city officials and agencies that it is going to cause problems.

"Even with strong enforcement of our littering laws we are going to have problems," remarked one high-ranking official. "The problem is that the enforcement of the littering laws has been weak and those crackdowns from time to time haven't solved anything."

"The guy who lives next door to me never sweeps his sidewalk and I can't get the city inspectors to do anything about it. Are they going to be any tougher on garbage?"

Other officials are concerned that the city council may have been "penny wise and pound foolish" in awarding the contract to LaFera for three-day-a-week collections over three years when for \$50,000 more a year it could have gotten six-day a week collection for three years from another company.

However, most city councilmen felt that they had taken the best course, according to Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri.

He said that the city faced legal action from both of the garbage contenders if the city had awarded a three-year, six-day-a-week contract to either one. LaFera threatened suit because it claimed the other company, Ash Removal Co. of Irvington, did not meet the city's specifications. And Ash threatened suit if the contract was awarded to LaFera because Ash was the low bidder on the three-year, six-day proposal.

"The council has serious doubts about Ash's ability to perform to its satisfaction," he continued. "The only way out, without legal entanglement was the three year, three-day contract to LaFera, which was the low bidder."

"We did accomplish something, though," added Ranieri. "We did get more than one bidder on the garbage and that's something that hasn't happened for years."

Hoboken hires Coleman to head development unit

After a long debate among city council members, Hoboken has hired Michael Coleman, the former director of its Community Development Program, to oversee the formation and operation of the Office of Economic Development at \$18,500 a year.

The council approved a one-year contract with the former CDA boss at yesterday's council meeting. Coleman will be putting in a 15-hour week as a consultant working directly under Mayor Steve Cappiello and Fred Bado, the new CDA director.

Both Councilmen Francis X. Leahy and Nunzio Malfetti voted against approval of the contract, while Councilmen Robert A. Ranieri, Martin J. Brennan, Walter S. Cramer, Bernard Sciviani, Louis Francane and Salvatore Cernelli voted for it.

Ranieri had been expected to vote against the contract as well on the grounds that the position was especially created for Coleman and that no one else had even been considered for it.

"I have not changed my thinking on that," said the councilman after the meeting.

"but it all boiled down to a matter of priorities."

"Whether or not we needed Mr. Coleman was immaterial. We do need the Office of Economic Development. However, the task of hiring someone for it was the mayor's and the mayor wanted Coleman. So this left the council with the choice of rejecting Coleman and waiting for the mayor to find someone else, and probably setting back the start of the Economic Development program several months, or approving the contract with Coleman and getting the program under way."

"In my opinion, the start of the program immediately was more important."

Both Malfetti and Leahy argued against the contract, stating that in their opinion the CDA office could handle the requirements of setting up the development office with existing staff.

Charles DeFazio Jr., former city magistrate, and Thomas Vezzetti, who applied for the job but was never interviewed, both applauded Leahy and Malfetti.

In other action, the council authorized Business Administrator Herman Bier, Cappiello and Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale to enter into negotiations with the Davidson Laboratory at Stevens Tech for a water recovery program.

The laboratory has submitted a \$790,000 proposal to the city for a three-year program but most city officials feel the figure is too high. More than one-third of the money will go to pay engineers from the Davidson Laboratory to oversee the work that would be done.

By a vote of 5 to 3, the council awarded a contract to A.C. Chevrolet of Jersey City to supply the city with five new Nova police cars, a mid-size vehicle.

Voting against the purchase because they felt the cars were too light were Cramer, Malfetti and Francane.

The Novas were selected over Ford Torinos and at a price of \$22,400 as compared to \$26,600 for the Torinos.

The appointments of Walter Caulfield and Michael Litzas to full terms on the city's board of local public assistance were approved by the council, as was a six-month leave of absence for Law Director Lawrence Florio. The re-appointment of Onland Addeo to the Hoboken Housing Authority for another four-year term was approved.

Cappiello seeks student volunteers to help clear parking ticket backlog

The Hoboken Violations Bureau is close to a year behind in the processing of its tickets because of a lack of help but a solution may be in the offing, Mayor Steve Cappiello said today.

According to the mayor, he has contacted Superintendent of Schools Thomas McPeely to see if some kind of training program could be worked out using high school seniors to assist the bureau on a voluntary basis.

"We can't pay them but the experience they would get in filing, other clerical work, and dealing with the public would be worth

the few hours a day they would put in after school," he said. "I'm hoping the youngsters taking business courses will be interested in the work."

Mrs. Marion Roland, head violations clerk, said the largest portion of the backlog is in unpaid tickets for parking violations.

"Our last drive to go after these motorists was just about a year ago," she continued. "It isn't an especially difficult operation but there is a lot of paper work involved and correspondence with the state Division of Motor Vehicles—and it's time-consuming."

County CETA aides asked to join agency blood bank

The Hudson County Manpower Agency is establishing a blood bank which will be available to all staff members and participants in the CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) program.

Any CETA employee who wishes to become part of the program may do so by donating a pint of blood on Jan. 22 at the Manpower Training Center, 71 Adams St., Hoboken. Blood will be taken between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Joseph Atallo, coordinator, said the blood bank is being established through the Hudson County Chapter of the American Red Cross. No appointment is needed Jan. 22 to donate blood.

Each donation will entitle the donor and his immediate family to an unlimited quantity of blood, regardless of type, without cost, for a period of one year. If 25 per cent of the CETA employees donate blood, which is the goal, then all CETA employees will be covered by the program.



THEY'RE TOPS — Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello, left, presents leading scorer trophies to Gregory Fusilli, center, and Anthony Picinich during ceremonies over the week-end. Both played in the Hoboken Recreation Department's roller hockey league which ended last month.

Hoboken fears huge pileup of garbage

The Hoboken Retail Bureau today predicted the city would soon have a "monumental problem" with its garbage as a result of the city's decision to cut in half the number of collection days each week.

William Roth, a member of the bureau's executive board and its spokesman, said that the board believes that within a month of starting the three day a week collections, piles of garbage will dot the city because residents will continue to put their garbage out on days when it isn't scheduled for collection.

"And they will do it with full knowledge that it isn't going to be picked up that day," he continued. "They'll do it because they have no other choice."

"The lack of proper facilities in which to store garbage and garbage cans is not an isolated problem. It affects a very large section of this city's population. Many property owners do not have such facilities

See Editorial:
HOBOKEN GAMBLE
On Page 18.

and must keep their garbage cans next to their buildings."

Roth said that six day a week collections were considered by many as one of the few "visible services" they get from the city and to cut the collections to three days a week

was to give citizens even less for their tax money.

"By entering into this agreement for has again shown its muddled thinking," said three day a week collections the city council Roth. "We are preparing to enter into a contract for more than \$1.4 million for three day a week collections when for \$50,000 more a year the city could have continued six day a week pick ups."

"It is asinine to believe that we can get away with half the collections we used to have."

"Even with six collection days a week we have people who put garbage out at all times of the day and night. We have people who dump their garbage in city trash

containers. We have people who stack it up around fire hydrants in paper bags.

"Does the city council really think that the city is going to be able to stop these garbage collections because of the few failures to do any good through the years?"

Roth said the bureau is working out its own plan of action should its members have garbage collections because of the few failures to do any good through the years."

"If we have any problems we're going to take them immediately to our nearest councilman — along with the garbage," he said. "Let them worry about getting it hauled away from in front of their homes."

City Repairs Wall, Owner Sues Hoboken

By ELIZABETH PARKS

To show concern for a local business whose clothing factory was damaged when a Hoboken City laborer struck the factory at 117 Madison st. last November.

Although city workers did the work by Vital's own admission, Amato is also charging Hoboken \$528.89 for materials and labor.

And while Vital claimed that the city did not supply any materials, Councilman at Large Robert Ranieri said he has been told by people familiar with the incident that Hoboken bought 700 cinder blocks for Amato.

Amato's own claim stipulates that the \$528 is for expenses "in addition" to the materials and labor furnished by Public Works.

Ranieri is demanding that the Amato-Vital agreement be investigated. "It violates every business procedure we have for our own protection," he said.

"There was no formal estimate of damage, no insurance investigation, no insurance report, no departmental hearing," he said.

"And apparently no provision to protect the city if a defect should appear in the walls of the extension we built."

Ranieri rejected Vital's claim that he authorized the work to "eliminate an emergency of the sequence of events in-

cluding the bypassing of necessary procedural steps to protect our interests. Particularly in the light of Amato's apparent decision to milk us for as much as he can."

Mayor Steve Capiello said he will not authorize anyone to negotiate the claim for damages until "I've met with Amato, his attorney and Vital and thrashed this out."

The mayor said he's heard conflicting accounts of what actually transpired and wants to get "the facts straight."

A meeting was to be set up for next week.

45 teachers may be asked to prove they were sick

As many as 45 Hoboken school teachers may be asked to produce certificates from their doctors verifying that they were actually sick Monday and could not come to work, it was learned today from a board of education source.

According to the source, several board members were concerned by the fact that more than 60 teachers did not show up for work Monday and 47 again were absent Tuesday.

"It is the feeling of some board members that most of the teachers were not sick but just didn't feel like driving to work in the snow so they took the day off," the source said. "We know that 10 or 15 are actually sick and have been on the sick list for a while. But the rest are questionable."

The source said that under the terms of its contract with the teachers, the board has the right to ask for a doctor's certificate verifying the teacher's illness.

"Most of the time the board and the superintendent of schools (Thomas McFeely) do not exercise the right," he continued. "We assume the teachers are telling the truth when they call in sick. However, in this particular instance there were so many out that the board probably will ask for proof."

It was reported that many of the teachers who did not report for work Monday and Tuesday lived out of the city.

The source said that a number of classes in all schools had to be taken over by teacher aides because the board could not get enough substitute teachers to replace those who had called in sick.

Bier won't fight council's choice to supply cars

There won't be any fight between Hoboken Business Administrator Herman Bier and the city council over who is to get the city's contract for the purchase of five new mid-size police cars.

Bier said today that he will go along with whatever decision the council makes on the new cars, even if it goes against his recommendations.

The director was prepared to recommend to the city council at Wednesday's meeting that the contract for the new cars be awarded to Center Ford of North Bergen for five Toyotas. However, Center Ford was not the low bidder. A.C. Chevrolet of Jersey City had offered the city the cars for approximately \$800 less per vehicle.

"My recommendation isn't binding on the council," he added. "It can vote down the resolution awarding the contract to the open company and introduce a second resolution giving the contract to another if it feels like it."

"My main concern was continuity. Our police fleet consists of all Fords which makes servicing and getting parts easier since we are dealing with only one manufacturer. If we go to Chevrolets we'll be using two different makes of automobiles and make servicing and getting parts a little more difficult."

"However, this is not a major obstacle and if the council wants to switch to a different make of car it's free to do so."

Cappiello probes who let hydrants freeze over

Mayor Steve Capiello of Hoboken has launched his own investigation to find out who was responsible for allowing two fire hydrants to freeze over and become unavailable for use during a recent three-alarm fire at 1235 Park Ave.

"Somewhere along the line the routine procedure for maintaining our fire hydrants during the winter months has broken down and someone isn't doing his job," said the mayor.

According to the mayor, after a hydrant has been used, it is supposed to be pumped out and, during the winter months, a solution of anti-freeze poured inside to keep the hydrant from freezing and becoming useless.

The mayor said that he wasn't sure who was responsible for doing this but he believed it was something that was a "shared responsibility" of the water department and the fire department.

"It is bad enough to have a hydrant out of commission and know about it," continued the mayor. "It can't be used but at least the fact that it is out of commission is known and firemen arriving at the scene of a fire can immediately bypass the broken hydrant and go to another one."

"But this is a situation where we don't know the hydrant is inoperative until the fireman has wasted valuable time unscrewing the caps and turning the hydrant on."

The mayor said that he would talk with Chief Patrick J. Carmody today to find out what the fire department is doing to make sure the same situation doesn't happen again. He added that he would also discuss the matter with Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale.

Seeks to Cut Water Loss In Hoboken

To help check the loss of more than 1.5 million gallons of water a day from unsealed abandoned Hoboken service lines, Public Works Director Raphael Vitale is insisting that residents seeking to demolish property comply with stricter city regulations.

The proper sealing of the lines could save the city over \$100,000 a year, Vitale said.

In a recent report done by Stevens Tech's Davidson Laboratory investigating the source of the city's approximately six-million-gallon-a-day water loss, and recommending ways to remedy it, Davidson personnel identified active and abandoned service lines as one of the main channels through which the water has been seeping.

Vitale said he agreed with the Davidson observation. But where Davidson implied that the city was responsible for shutting down service lines that have been abandoned, Vitale said the responsibility lay with the contractors who demolish the structures into which the lines feed.

"The contractor has to trace the line back to the main water line and cut off the flow when the building is being demolished," he said. "It's not up to city workers to do that."

Will Build 2 Tennis Courts in Hoboken

Hoboken residents should begin tightening up the strings on their tennis rackets.

The Hudson County Park Commission is about to build two tennis courts with outdoor lighting on land leased from the Hoboken Board of Educa-

tion for \$1 a year.

Mayor Steve Capiello yesterday said the courts will be built by the parks commission with a \$23,000 grant from the city's community development revenue sharing funds.

The parks commission will charge 30 cents an hour for use of the courts which will be primarily for Hoboken residents.

North Hudson and Jersey City residents have similar courts in county parks located in the communities.

School Board Trustee James Farina, who recently said he is seeking \$30,000 in surplus funds from the board for an expanded recreation program, said he will ask the commission to make the courts available free to school children who join a proposed school tennis league.

Farina said he hopes to have the new league organized by February.

If bids on the courts go out immediately, work can begin, weather permitting, by early spring and could be completed within a month.

The courts will be the first in Hudson County to have night lighting.

Hoboken to use bike path funds for road work?

A \$300,000 grant Hoboken has received from the State Department of Transportation for the construction of a bicycle path may be diverted to resurface a three-block stretch of River Street, according to Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale.

Vitale said that the city applied for the funds for the bicycle path but it is already having a six-foot wide path constructed along Shore Road from Fifth to 11th streets as part of the overall rehabilitation of that street.

James Caulfield, building inspector, said that the city will ask the Department of Transportation if it can use the money to resurface River Street, from First to Fourth streets.

"I don't know how the state will react to the proposal since the money was to be used for recreational purposes," he said, "but it won't hurt to ask."

To explain pier inaction

Hoboken Law Director Lawrence Florio will tell the city council Monday why it has not instituted foreclosure proceedings on two large pieces of waterfront property although it had been instructed to by the council more than six months ago.

Council President Martin J. Brennan said today both Florio and Walter Beronio, a city legal assistant, will appear at Monday's caucus to explain why the city hasn't started to foreclose on the old Holland American Piers and the former Todd Shipyard for non-payment of taxes.

"I understand that there were some technical problems involved," said Brennan. "And because of them the proceedings could not be started."

Brennan added that Florio and Beronio also would tell the council the current status of the properties and what avenues were open to the city to resolve the situations.

The Holland American Piers, referred to as the Fifth and Sixth Street Piers, are now owned by Maryn's Midnight Waterfront Beauty Inc. No taxes have been paid on the property, with the exception of some \$20,000 that was applied to the tax lien the city has on them, since they were bought from the city in 1973. The owners are appealing the tax assessment but that matter is still pending.

The Todd Shipyard was also purchased from the city by Cosmopolitan Terminals Inc., which planned to build an oil storage and distribution facility. However, the state Department of Environmental Protection refused to give the company the necessary permits and approvals and the project died.

Hoboken tax list lacked city's name

Hoboken has finally published a list of 58 properties of which the owners are behind in their tax payments to the city but not yet subject to tax liens. However the councilman who pushed for it for more than a year still isn't satisfied.

Second Ward Councilman Walter S. Cramer said today that he was "dissatisfied with the advertisement" because it failed to state what municipality the properties were located in.

"I intend to find out exactly what happened," he continued. "Although the advertisement contained the names, addresses and the amount owed by the owners there was absolutely nothing in it that would identify the properties as being in Hoboken."

"It also failed to indicate who was responsible for the advertisement. There wasn't any mention of any official office which ordered the information published. Normally, such ads would include the name and office of some city official. This did not."

Cramer said he intended to find out who was responsible for having the ad published without all of the necessary information.

"I'm not saying that someone is trying to cover up or protect some of the property owners, but it appears that this is the case," Cramer said. "I plan to examine the text for the ad and see exactly what was ordered."

The city council authorized the action more than a year ago but getting the list actually published became bogged down over the question of who was going to pay for it. Revenue and Finance Director Frank J. Bartlett, who was ordered to publish the list, said the council didn't authorize any funds for doing so.



Hoboken's Finest

Mayor Steve Capiello of Hoboken presents trophies to the town's outstanding hockey players this season. Greg Fusilli (center) top scorer, and Ron Giovanni (right), who received the Mr. Hustle Award, relish the moment.

Hoboken Eyes Austerity on Schools

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Cutbacks in state education aid are forcing the Hoboken Board of Education to consider a variety of austerity measures. Included would be eliminating personnel and services, buying fewer text books and either reducing the board's already limited physical maintenance program severely or proposing a \$5,000,000 bond issue for completely refurbishing each of the city's schools.

Board Attorney Robert Taylor said he will ask the board to put the \$5 million referendum on the March election ballot

at the next caucus on Feb. 10.

"I realize that not many taxpayers will want to spend \$5 million to update the schools," Taylor said.

"But at the same time, most taxpayers want the leaky roofs repaired, the windows fixed, classrooms painted, bathrooms modernized, and so on, and there's presently no way the board can afford this unless we borrow."

Anticipated state aid has been reduced by more than \$1 million for next year and by \$600,000 for this year. City taxpayers face a possible \$15 tax rate increase to fill the education assistance vacuum left by

the state. Therefore, councilman-at-large Robert Ranieri and Taylor have proposed a joint conference on the problem between the council and the board.

Ranieri Hoped

Ranieri said yesterday that he's hopeful the conference can be scheduled for early next week when Mayor Steve Capiello returns from Washington.

Ranieri and board member Donald Singleton called for cutbacks in teaching and supervisory personnel so the budget could be made "manageable".

With salaries and wages approaching

\$9 million, personnel accounts for 85 to 90 per cent of the board's budget, Singleton said.

Last year's board budget was close to \$11 million. This year's budget will be presented to the public Feb. 10, but Taylor said he expects it to be close to \$13 million.

Unless there are cuts, \$1.5 million more than last year will be financed by local tax dollars.

Taylor said the problems facing the board as they confront the situation are "staggering."

Blame for frozen hydrants not yet iced

Two frozen fire hydrants that hindered recent firefighting operations at 1235 Park Ave., Hoboken, may not have been due to any neglect or oversight on the part of the city's water department, Director Raphael P. Vitale said today.

"Blaming the incident on either the fire department or the water department is an oversimplification of the situation," said the director. "There are a number of outside elements involved and some of them are beyond the control of the city and any of its agencies."

According to the director, water department records show that every working hydrant in the city was properly prepared for winter by the water department.

"Under the system we have been using for many, many years, the water department pumps out the hydrants and then fills them with anti-freeze during September, October and November," he continued.

"When a hydrant is opened and used by the fire department it is the fire department's responsibility to winterize it again after the fire has been extinguished and the hydrant no longer needed for fire fighting purposes. The fire department is supplied with anti-freeze for this operation."

"If for some reason the firemen cannot perform the winterizing the water department is supposed to be notified so that it can do it. There is no record that this was done in the case of the Park Avenue fire."

However Vitale said that because the two hydrants were "iced" and couldn't be used didn't mean that the fire department had "goofed" either.

Hoboken Getting Bike Path

Hoboken, a city with potholes so large, children on bicycles can pretend they're Evel Knievel traversing the Grand Canyon, is getting a new bike path, courtesy of the state Department of Transportation.

Building Inspector James Caulfield yesterday announced that DOT has approved a \$300,000 grant for the path and the money will become available immediately.

Caulfield said the city will ask for permission to locate the path on Shore rd., now being repaved.

The \$300,000 for repaving Shore rd., however, comes from a federal department of commerce grant, Caulfield said that if the DOC and DOT both approve the consolidation of the projects, money saved from the union could be used for repavings elsewhere.

He said the city would like to repave River rd. from First to Fourth streets. Caulfield said he was uncertain how much it might cost for River rd.

Work on Shore rd. began about three weeks ago but according to Community Development Director Fred Bado, it is proceeding slower than expected because of the recent inclement weather.

Bado said he will meet with contractors today to receive a report on how much has been done and what remains to be done.

He said that earlier reports indicate that curbs have been laid along most of the length of the road and fill is now being applied.

Caulfield said the road and the bike path may be finished by February.

Hoboken slates hearings on possible CDA projects

Hoboken residents will have two opportunities to voice their opinions on proposed improvements to be carried out by the city's federally funded Community Development Agency. About \$3.1 million will be available for projects this year, it was reported.

CDA officials last night outlined their proposals to Mayor Steve Capiello and members of the city council. To get the public's views, the council plans to hold two public hearings, one on Jan. 29 at the Multi Service Center, Second and Grand streets, the other on Feb. 5 at Hoboken High School.

At the conference with the council last night, the CDA, headed by Fred Bado, proposed a restoration of the city hall. There

is \$350,000 earmarked for this project but a possibility that another \$700,000 may be obtained from federal funds to make it a \$1,050,000 program.

Another proposal is to spend approximately \$30,000 to improve the entrance of the city at the Jersey City border on the southern end of the city. It is possible another \$100,000 may be available for beautification, it was reported.

Other items outlined by Bado's staff included housing and home preservation, child care, health assistance, family planning and continuation of studies to see if the area at the Erie Lackawanna ferry terminal can be converted into a type of shopping mall.

The session will start at 7 p.m. in the city clerk's office but may be moved to the council chambers if enough citizens attend, the council president added. The council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Brennan said citizens will not be allowed to participate in the caucus or address the council.

"They will be admitted as spectators only," said Brennan. "If they have any questions concerning the business discussed they can contact the city clerk the following day for additional information. The rules for the citizen participation in the regular council meetings have not been changed and residents may still address the council during these regular sessions."

'Command' performances cut

Hoboken's various department directors will no longer have to attend council meetings but they still will be expected to put in appearances before the council twice a month.

A notice has been sent out by Council President Martin J. Brennan to the directors advising them their attendance at the twice-a-month regular council meeting is no longer required. However, they will be required to attend the council's Monday night caucus sessions.

Brennan said he felt that most of the council's business with the directors would be transacted at the caucus sessions so there wasn't any need to have them at the meetings. The directors will be at tonight's caucus, the first under the new Sunshine Law.

"We're after a well-rounded program where the student can gain certain values such as poise, self-discipline, self-direction, self-realization, etc."

Ronga said he will be using techniques advocated by the Physical Fitness Council, equally applicable to girls and boys.

Youngsters can register for the program through their schools, Farina said.

Offer Kids Health Club In Hoboken

Hoboken youngsters who have a secret desire to be a Charles Atlas or Wonder Woman of the future can start flexing their muscles. The city's Board of Education is starting a special cost-free physical development program Feb. 9.

Students from grades 9 through 12 will be eligible for the program which is described as a "physical fitness and body building club."

Muscle builders will be allowed to work out on a specially designed universal weight lifting machine like those in the locker rooms at JFK stadium and Veterans Field.

Board member James Farina, who conceived the program, said four youngsters will be able to use the machine at a time, on a half hour to one hour basis depending on how busy the club is.

Although the board is sponsoring the program, it won't cost taxpayers a penny.

Football coach James J. Ronga has volunteered to tutor the kids and act as supervisor and coordinator.

Initially the club will meet every Monday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the stadium for the next two to three months.

Farina says if the program is successful and the turnout large enough, the club may be expanded to include other age groups in the city.

"It's time the children of Hoboken are made more aware of the importance of good physical health and development," Farina said.

Ronga is also arranging to bring in a series of guest lecturers who will use material from the President's Council on Physical Fitness to instill "sound habits of physical fitness."

"We'll be trying to promote Physical development and coordination, not simple weight lifting techniques," Ronga explained.

"We're after a well-rounded program where the student can gain certain values such as poise, self-discipline, self-direction, self-realization, etc."

Ronga said he will be using techniques advocated by the Physical Fitness Council, equally applicable to girls and boys.

Youngsters can register for the program through their schools, Farina said.

Large crowd due to ask why mini-school costs more

By PETER HALLAM

A large crowd is expected to be on hand for tonight's Hoboken Board of Education meeting to find out why the board needs to borrow \$80,000 to pay construction bills incurred on the new mini-school at 524 Park Ave.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri said today he planned to question the school board "at length" on the matter.

"In view of all the assurances we have received from the school board that the mini-school wasn't going to cost any more funds than what was already committed for it, I

think the city is entitled to a detailed explanation of what this \$80,000 is for," he said.

According to a school board member, Robert W. Taylor, the board's attorney, is the expert on why the money is needed and what it's to be used for. However, Taylor was not immediately available for an explanation.

Tonight's meeting will start at 7 p.m. in the board of education's conference room in the Wallace School, 11th and Clinton streets. It will be the board's first open caucus under the new state "sunshine law." The regular meeting will start at 8 p.m.

Ask water treatment plant halt

The Hoboken Law Department has reversed itself on whether a resolution approved by a 3-to-2 vote with three abstentions has passed or been rejected.

At the Jan. 7 meeting the law department and City Clerk Anthony J. Amoroso ruled that a resolution asking Jersey City to stop work on the rehabilitation of its Bontion Reservoir water treatment plant was not approved because it hadn't been passed by a simple majority of the councilmen attending the meeting. Since eight of the nine councilmen were present, Amoroso said five yes votes were needed to pass the resolution.

However, at the instance of Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, the question was researched and the law department has now ruled in Ranieri's favor. The resolution

was initiated by Ranieri. "The decision has been acknowledged by the city council (Martin J. Brennan) and a copy of the resolution will be sent to Mayor Paul Jordan and the Jersey City Council," the councilman said.

The resolution asks Jersey City to stop work on the upgrading of the water treatment plant until Jersey City has obtained state or federal

funds to pay for the \$40 million improvements instead of passing the costs directly to its water customers. Hoboken is one of those customers.

According to Ranieri, the rate increase schedule figured out by Jersey City for Hoboken would have the charges increase by more than 600 per cent over a period of a few years. The councilman claims that Hoboken would be paying close to \$10

million of the plant's construction costs because Jersey City decided to finance the project itself instead of trying to get state and federal help.

Ranieri said his victory on the resolution may be a hollow one since he understands that the city is reconsidering its position on the water distribution facility financing.

Jordan announced earlier this

week that construction on the facility may have to be stopped because Jersey City can't find any financial institutions willing to buy some \$20 million in bonds to finance the work. He has appealed to the state Department of Environmental Protection, which obtained the court order for the work to be done, to either come up with some financial help or take over the project.

Hoboken parking unit tables move to ease July 4 traffic

Faced with the possibility of an onslaught of motorists descending on the city for the July 4th weekend when an international flotilla will sail along the Hudson, the Hoboken Parking Authority is looking for ways to find enough spaces to accommodate the visitors.

One possibility broached at last night's meeting by Richard Eversen, authority chairman, was that the authority's Garage "D" — now closed — be opened temporarily for that weekend.

But Joseph Hottendorf, executive director of the authority, said the cost for personnel and utilities for the three-day period could run from \$700 to \$1,000 and would

outweigh the revenues the authority would collect.

The matter was tabled pending further review. In other business, the authority heard a request for free parking.

Kenneth Schept, a city resident and member of the Hoboken Environment Committee, appealed to the authority commissioners to provide parking at no cost to as many as 1,000 participants in the "First Annual Hoboken House Tour" scheduled for May 2.

Schept said the committee is in the process of selecting seven homes in different parts of the city which would be turned into "showrooms" for out-of-town visitors and residents alike with the idea of "promoting" a Hoboken rebirth.

Proceeds from the tour, said Schept, would be used by the Environment Committee for "beautification" projects in the city, such as landscaping the 11th Street islands or providing shrubbery for home-planting.

However, Lawrence Reisch, authority counsel, turned thumbs down on the proposal by reading an excerpt from the authority's covenant with the garage bondholders.

The agreement, said Reisch, permits only authority employees, officers or their representatives to park at no charge in the garages.

"We're in a bind and we can't do this (allow the tour participants to park for free in the authority garages)," Eversen said.

The chairman went on, however, to advise Schept to look at what he called the "reasonable rates" offered by the authority for garage parking which, he said, runs 15 cents for the first half-hour and 25 cents for the initial hour.

Tom Springsteen, manager of the authority garages, told the commissioners that both operating facilities, and Garage "G" in particular, are suffering from inadequately flowing water.

Garage "G," said Springsteen, has frozen pipe lines in the janitor's office and rest rooms where hot-water heaters are inoperable. He says the water coming into the garage freezes en route, apparently because of insufficient insulation.

Eversen speculated that the contractor who installed the piping may have "skipped" on the quality of "tracer" wiring designed to heat the water running through the pipes.

The chairman directed Milton Dugan, a consultant to the authority, to arrange for electrical and plumbing inspections of the facilities and report back at the next meeting. He said the contractor can be held responsible for maintenance.

Eversen said the authority is "looking at some offstreet empty lots around the city that might become available" to the authority for use as metered parking lots. He declined to pinpoint the locations, however.

Some of the parcels Eversen has in mind are likely city-owned, since Eversen made a point of mentioning to his fellow commissioners that the New Jersey Appellate Division recently overturned a lower court ruling that would have permitted Jersey City to place a real estate tax on certain lots it leased to the city's parking authority.

Finally, the authority is looking into the possibility of purchasing 30-second "spot" commercials on prime-time radio stations to plug garage rentals.

Hoboken to honor 31 cops, civilians for heroic deeds

Thirty-one Hoboken policemen and civilians will be getting commendations and awards from the city's police department for their actions in various incidents, it was announced today by Mayor Steve Cappiello, the city's public safety director.

The actual presentations will be made at a later date, the mayor said. Chief George W. Crimmins has been asked to contact those to be cited and work out a mutually agreeable date for an awards ceremony.

Civilian commendations or awards will be presented to Richard Hansen, his wife, Barbara, and Mrs. Jane Anderson for the capture of a woman who had just burglarized an apartment at 1203 Washington St.

The woman, Adele Landeche,

was charged with two counts of breaking, entering and larceny and one count of possession of stolen property. She has since jumped bail and an all-points bulletin has been issued for her arrest as a fugitive.

Patrolmen Ronald Clark and August Suter will be getting commendation bars for their recent capture of a man who held up the Sparrow Cigar Store on Washington Street and fired several shots at the employees. The man also fired several shots at the patrolmen while they were making the arrest.

Commendation bars will also be awarded to Patrolmen Rafael Cruz and Walter Wehrhahn for apprehending two men who were beating and attempting to rob a woman in her apartment. The two men pulled a knife and gun on the patrolmen but were

disarmed and arrested in a brief scuffle.

Letters of commendation will be issued to the following 18 policemen: Lt. Patrick Donacci, Sgt. Gabriel Ferriuolo, Detectives John Howe, Carmine LaBruno (two letters), Vincent Lombardi, Ernest Mack (three letters), Hector Montanez, Raul Torres (two letters).

Also, Patrolmen John Aiello, Walter Barrett, Karl Fause, Celestino Gasbarro, Jerry Gilyard, Antonio Julve, William Lamp, George Ware, Albert Van Nieuwenhoven, and Tactical Patrol Force (TPF) Patrolman David Matthews.

The mayor said a blanket commendation is being prepared for a number of other police department members who assisted Jersey City police in the capture of three Jersey City men who had held up a store there with automatic weapons and fled into Hoboken in their attempt to escape.

Cappiello Wrestles With Big Budget Gap

By ELIZABETH PARKS

As the deadline for a formal presentation of Mayor Steve Cappiello's budget to the Hoboken City Council steadily approaches, a series of meetings is being scheduled to try to close what's described as an "enormous gap" between decreasing revenues and increasing expenditures.

The mayor has until Feb. 10 to produce a tentative budget which he must submit to the city council for approval.

One councilman, Robert Ranieri, has urged that the mayor submit his budget by Jan. 30 so the city can cut services to offset expected increases over an 11 month period rather than the 8 to 10 month period which will be left if the city takes longer to approve the spending proposals.

Although the mayor has announced that rates have declined by approximately \$4.5 million and that the city expects its state aid and federal revenue sharing funds to be reduced, it will take at least another week before he has a definite figure on how much revenue the city will garner this year.

He is also unable to say for certain how firmly he can hold the line on upcoming expenditures. In their initial budget requests presented last November, city directors asked for approximately \$12.5 million to run their departments, some \$2.5 million over last year's appropriations.

Those requests do not include a \$1.4 million raise in the Board of Education budget, money for benefits, pensions, the city's debt service or its reserve for uncollected taxes.

There have been several council-mayor discussions on cutting the gap through job layoffs, without any definite figures being mentioned.

Ranieri as he has done for the last two years, is again proposing that the city furlough workers on a rotating one, two or three week basis rather than firing people outright and depriving families of their livelihood.

Cappiello said the idea is "being looked at."

The only other alternative is to cut services and reduce buying.

Ranieri is proposing that the city take its pruning shears directly into the heart of the other expense categories of the major departments, particularly Public Works.

At a recent council meeting, the Public Works Department submitted claims totaling \$43,500; Public Safety submitted claims for \$3,000; and Revenue and Finance claims for \$1,700.

"The heart of our problem seems to be in Public Works," Ranieri said. "All those claims that seem small and petty in isolation become economic atom bombs when they're added up. We have a clear choice, either we defuse the bomb by reducing spending or we tax people right out of the city."

Landlords to get summonses

Hoboken residents who don't remove snow and ice from their sidewalks will be getting summonses from the city, Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said today.

According to the director, he has asked the city's law department whether or not it is legal to enforce the city's ordinance requiring property owners to remove snow and ice and was told to continue the enforcement.

"The law director feels that as long as the law is on the books the city has the

A 'Plus'

Hoboken may be reeling from high taxes and other financial problems but it cannot be faulted for not trying. The other day federal and state officials came to "take a look" and were impressed; at about the same time a city development official was predicting a return to prosperity.

The federal officials and professors and researchers who looked at the city were primarily interested in its waterfront. They saw that the com-

munity was deeply concerned with proper rehabilitation north of the Port Authority piers and that the goal of such work was possible.

This was encouraging and so were the remarks by Community Development Director Fred Bado Jr., who sees the city "coming back." It is essential a positive, forward-looking stance be taken. Only in that way will Hoboken "come back." It's working on it hard; for that it deserves a "plus." It is time for the city to start moving ahead.

Hoboken Mail Gets Slogan

Hoboken's Bicentennial cancellation is now appearing on mail sent out from the Mile-Square City. It is the regular Hoboken postmark with a box and the words: Gateway to New Jersey 1776-1976.

Postmaster Nicholas J. Caruso asserted yesterday that "from the days of John Jacob Astor, Hetty Green and

Stephen Foster to the present, Hoboken has been the gateway to our state."

The Hoboken postoffice started mail service in 1818. From that date to the present 16 persons have served as postmaster with Caruso taking over in 1954. He is the "dean" of postmasters in length of service in Hudson.

Hoboken warned zoning wouldn't stop tank farm

The disused marine repair yard on the Hoboken waterfront has been sold off by the Penn Central Railroad, and there is nothing in the city's zoning code to stop the new owner from establishing a "mini oil tank farm" on it.

This was the warning given at a conference on waterfront management at Stevens Institute in Hoboken yesterday by Mrs. Helen Manogue, associate director of a fact-gathering study of the Hoboken waterfront now being conducted by the Center for Municipal Studies and Services at Stevens.

Mrs. Manogue said 37 per cent of the city's waterfront is vacant, "which confirms the need for new planning in this area." Fifteen per cent of the taxable waterfront property is tax-delinquent, she added, and tax liens have been placed on it.

Earlier in the meeting Fred Bado Jr., director of Hoboken's Community Development Agency, said Hoboken's governmental officials were reluctant to commit any waterfront sites for recreational use because of the possibility that some revenue-producing use might be found for them.

Mrs. Manogue said one of the aims of the Center for Municipal Studies and Services,

as it starts its second year, should be "to try to get the people a river park."

"Hoboken residents do not legally have the right to get to any part of the city's waterfront," she declared.

Commenting on the "spectacular and exciting" scenic views afforded by the Hoboken shore, Mrs. Manogue said "We don't need to be hamstrung by the idea that we need an industrial development."

But industrial development seems to be accepted as Hoboken's future by official agencies, she went on. The Hudson County Planning Board, she said, "has plotted Hoboken on its land use map in blue, designating it as a 'utilities, transportation and industrial area,' while the Tri-state Regional Planning Commission has Hoboken down as a 'primary urban economic cluster.'"

The former Pennsylvania Railroad marine repair yard is a site suitable for recreational use but is zoned for heavy industry, Mrs. Manogue pointed out. She said Penn Central refuses to disclose the identity of the buyer.

If the buyer proposed to put up a tank farm he would still require a permit from the state Department of Environmental Protection, which recently turned down such a project on the site of the former Todd Shipyard a third of a mile to the north.

Under a new state law, the state is planning and regulating the development of the New Jersey waterfront as far north as the north end of Barnegat Bay, it was brought out at the meeting by David N. Kinsey, deputy director of the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Mrs. Manogue said the practical effect of this was that heavy industries would be barred from the south and central portion of the Jersey shore but not from Hoboken and the rest of the northern part, "and if we don't get protection, these industries will jump in here."

A river park

At first glance, it may seem strange that Hoboken's Center for Municipal Studies and Services is considering a major effort to get the city a riverfront park.

After all, isn't Hoboken the place where health services have been cut because of budget problems?

Yes, but the riverfront park would be financed by federal funds which cannot be diverted to health services, but are available for a park. Not long ago the city briefly considered a roller-skating-ice skating rink, but decided such a project would have limited appeal.

A riverfront park certainly would revive Hoboken's shore, which was one long promenade in the 1830s and for much of the century when its sylvan walks were the place where New Yorkers took their Sunday afternoon stroll.

But sentiment or nostalgia alone are not reasons for Hoboken to reestablish a riverfront park. There is not a foot of public recreation facility on the city's waterfront. The city's residents do not have the legal right to get to any part of their shore.

Such a park could be created by condemning, with the available federal funds, the abandoned marine repair yard lying between the Stevens Institute shorefront and the Maxwell House Coffee plant—which the Penn Central Railroad recently sold to an undisclosed buyer.

Or it could be located on the city-owned property north of the Bethlehem Shipyard, on Hoboken's portion of the famous Weehawken Cove.

It is encouraging that the Center for Municipal Studies and Services has interested itself in the riverfront park project. May enough public interest be generated to bring it to life.

Need for 3 Hoboken engineers doubted

The general foreman for Hoboken's water department doesn't believe the city will need two or three full time engineers should the city enter a three-year water recovery program proposed by the Davidson Laboratory at Stevens Institute of Technology, Director Raphael P. Vitale said today.

Vitale also disclosed that a number of water leaks scheduled to be fixed during the three-year program have already been repaired.

"According to my water department foreman (James Murnane), who reviewed the proposal at my request, he could use the extra men and equipment suggested in the proposal," said the director. "But he doesn't feel that the work would require the service of a fulltime engineer much less two or three."

"Some full time service might be needed while the new men are being trained. But once they had completed their training an

engineer would be needed only when some problem out of the ordinary comes up."

Vitale also asked James Caulfield, city building inspector, for his opinion of the proposals. Caulfield is a licensed engineer but doesn't work for the city in that capacity.

The director said Caulfield has not reported back to him as yet.

As a result of the college's proposal, however, Vitale is considering some action that might help eliminate future leaks in service lines. A service line is a water line running from the city's main line to any property. Such lines are the responsibility of the property owners to maintain.

The director said that he is thinking about changing the city's specifications for the demolition of buildings so that the contractors would be required to close down the service lines to the city's satisfaction.

"This would entail making a street cut at the point where the service line joins the water main, removing the service connection and plugging it," he said. "Ratify service

lines are a problem since leaks in them are seldom noticed.

"The leaks are before the property owner's meter so he doesn't notice it. And since the city can't account for the loss of water before that point, we also fail to notice them unless a major problem develops."

Vitale said the additional work would add to the cost of demolition but in the long run it would save money.

Towers to seek rent exemption

The Church Towers Tenants Association will seek to have Hoboken's rent control ordinance amended to exclude an exemption for buildings that are controlled or owned by the federal government, Anthony Russo, president, said today.

"Since the amount of money the city collects from Church Towers is based on the amount of money collected in rents each year, exempting the complex and subjecting it to the rent control ordinance could affect the payments in lieu of tax," he said. "We expect some councilmen are going to oppose any changes in the ordinance on these grounds."

Russo also announced the association has joined the New Jersey Tenants Association which will assist the Church Towers tenants' group in its campaign to have the ordinance revised.

"Without an amendment eliminating the exemption the tenants of Church Towers will have absolutely no say on rent increases and no means of fighting them," Russo said.

Russo, who said the association now has

Cappiello defends pay boosts for some

While most Hoboken city employees are wondering if their salaries are going to get any bigger this year but doubting that they will, a few city workers have started receiving fatter paychecks.

City Clerk Anthony J. Amoroso has gotten a \$1,000 raise to \$18,000 a year and Assistant Clerk Frank Lally is getting \$600. However, city officials don't count it as a raise in pay but as an increment increase.

The increase, which was authorized by Mayor Steve Cappiello, is permissible, since Amoroso is not at the maximum salary for his post as city clerk—\$20,000. Whether or not the raise should be given is entirely up to the mayor. The council has no say.

John Erbeck, city comptroller, is getting a \$1,210 increase to \$28,380.

A few other city employees are getting smaller increases. William Van Wie, the

mayor's confidential aide, is getting a \$250 increment increase and Matthew Cannorizzi, in the comptroller's office, is also getting \$250.

According to Cappiello, who is wrestling with his proposed 1976 municipal budget that now reflects a gap of several million dollars, the raises are "automatic."

"I don't think there is anything we can do to stop them even if we wanted to," he said.

"If increments apply, the employee is entitled to get them."

The mayor said that in the cases of Amoroso and Lally the raises were justified because of the extra duties they will have to perform because of the new state Sunshine Law.

"The city clerk and his assistant were never required to attend council caucus meetings," said the mayor. "But under the new law they must be there and also alert the public to any special meetings that may be called by the council. But even if they didn't have the additional duties they were entitled to the increment increase."

Cappiello added that Erbeck was also entitled to his increment but was doing much more work for the city because of all the various state and federal programs the city was involved in.

"He is the city's main financial figure," said the mayor. "Men of his qualifications and ability are getting two-and three times as much in private industry."

The mayor said that the other small increment increases were "routine" and there probably would be more during the year for other employees as they became eligible for them.

However, Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri said he planned to look into the increases. He said the council's Revenue and Finance Committee was supposed to keep track and notify the rest of the council of all increases but had not.

Hoboken gamble

Hoboken has taken a big gamble. All these years, the city's garbage has been collected six days a week. Now the city has awarded a three-year contract with an alternate day pickup schedule.

Such a schedule has worked well elsewhere, but will it work in Hoboken? Street litter is an outstanding blemish on Hoboken's appearance. Some days refuse seems to be strewn on sidewalks and at curbs the length and breadth of the city.

Officials blame the residents for not putting the garbage out properly, although the men who collect it may be contributing to the problem.

If there is so much litter now, when the trucks come around six days, what will it be when they make the rounds every other day? If changing to three days a week was a wrong move, the city is stuck with it for three long years.

Hoboken Visitors Get Tugboat's View of City

By MARY ANN SHERMAN
The federal and state officials who came to Hoboken yesterday for a look at an "urban coastal area" left the city early in the evening saying they were very impressed that concerned residents and city officials seem to be working for the same goals for waterfront development.

Instead of just seeing rotting piers, the officials said they envisioned numerous possibilities based on the city's own enthusiasm for preserving its natural resources while developing an improved economic base.

The Hoboken visit was the brainchild of Richard Sullivan, former state Commissioner of Environmental Protection, and now director of the Center for Municipal Studies and Services at Stevens Tech.

It was attended by some 30 officials from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the federal Department of Commerce; professors and researchers from the Center for Municipal Studies at Princeton University; planners from the

state Department of Environmental Protection; and representatives of Hoboken's own Community Development Agency.

Related Story Page 12, Photo Page 2

An all-morning conference on waterfront property development was followed by a two-hour tugboat tour of the Hudson.

According to Richard Gardner NOAA's deputy assistant administrator for coastal zone management, governmental concern for coastal areas is now emanating from the tCoastal Zone Management Act of 1972, which gives state three year grants to plan programs for developing and preserving their coastal property. New Jersey has received \$475,000 of these funds.

What impressed Gardner and the others, they said, was the fact that Hoboken is undergoing a revival that is happening naturally because of enthusiastic community input.

And that, they said, will have a ripple effect leading to good land use of the city's waterfront. In addition, Gardner stressed that such local interest will not be overruled on the federal level because the Coastal Zone Management Act requires that any federal coastal plans must be consistent with the waterfront plans on the state and local level.

"This is a new concept," Gardner stressed, "and it's the first time the federal government has been so restrained."

It is far too early to say what the outcome of yesterday's conference will be for Hoboken in terms of funding or planning assistance for waterfront development.

But on several occasions during the day officials expressed the possibilities of Hoboken serving as a "microscope" or pilot for the development of urban coastal areas. Sullivan said he hoped the conference would attract more attention to urban waterfronts.

When planners and environmentalists consider coastal areas, Sullivan explained, they tend to concentrate on such locations as the Jersey Shore, lending their energies to conservation projects.

But it is urban coastal areas, like Hoboken, Sullivan said that need preservation, as well as development.

All the officials agreed that such development should be "mixed use"—commercial, residential and recreational. A few of them stressed that waterfront investment can start with recreation facilities because that would attract commerce. "Businesses want to relocate in nice places that already have such facilities," one planner from Princeton explained.

Hoboken, PBA to sign '75 pact 5 days after end

As of today, Hoboken's police and firemen are again without formal work contracts with the city. And technically for the members of the Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA) it is the start of the second year without a contract.

However, that will be rectified Tuesday night when city and PBA officials formally sign the 1975 pact—five days after it has expired. The city's firemen signed their contract for last year a few months ago.

In spite of the fact that the contracts have expired, neither the PBA nor the two fire unions, the Fire Fighters and Fire Officers Associations, are expected to begin exerting any pressure on the city for at least a few months.

The firemen will have a negotiating session with the city on Jan. 26. It is being billed as the first meeting but actually it is not. The city and firemen already have met several times and agreed to a new vacation schedule which will be part of whatever else is agreed to for this year.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, who has been doing most of the negotiating for the city, said the PBA will hold its first negotiating session on Feb. 9, provided that date is agreeable to PBA officials.



COLD TOUR OF WARM CITY—Standing at the bow of a tug, Richard Sullivan, right, director of the Center for Municipal Studies at Stevens Institute, and Richard Gardner, federal administrator for coastal management, get ready for river tour of the Hudson County waterfront. Federal and state officials said the area has many possibilities.

Return to Prosperity Predicted in Hoboken

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Hoboken, a city once felled and almost demolished by a series of body blows inflicted by poverty, is steadily making its way back to prosperity, according to the impressions of Community Development Director Fred Bado Jr.

Speaking before a small Kiwanis gathering at the Clam Broth House yesterday, Bado, an attorney who was legal counsel for the city's old Model Cities program, outlined what CDA is doing for Hoboken and how it's carrying on where Model Cities left off.

Bado defined community development as basically a "planning agency located in the office of the mayor, sustained by federal funds appropriated to help solve urban problems and better the quality of life in American cities."

"Before Model Cities was established in 1968," Bado recalled, "Hoboken had no mechanism for planning. The City lost money and programs that it was entitled to by default."

With the creation of Model Cities, Bado said a staff of "aggressive planners" began to seek out available funds and match them with projects that would benefit the city.

Programs Mesh

Slowly, the funds and the problems that needed attention began to mesh.

During its six-year life span, Model Cities concentrated on housing and social service programs. It laid the groundwork for Applied Housing, which is responsible for rehabilitating whole blocks of houses along Willow av. and Washington, Clinton and Hudson sts. uptown with state and federal Housing and Urban Development loans and grants.

The low-interest Home Improvement Loan program was started with the result that currently, more than 350 families have been able to renovate their homes with subsidized three per cent interest loans.

"One family which renovated a kitchen with a loan sparked another family which renovated a bathroom or a playroom or added an extension," Bado said.

"Soon people stopped leaving the city for sprawling ranch homes in the suburbs and began bettering their homes here," he noted.

In January of last year, Model Cities

was phased out and was replaced by a \$3.8 million community development program, which Bado now heads.

Community Development took over the conversion of the Keuffel and Esser factory into a 177-apartment complex, the first of its kind in the nation.

Hoboken way with liens said to hurt city, owners

By PETER HALLAM

Hoboken's system for handing tax liens on properties where the owners haven't paid their taxes may need an overhauling, an investigation by The Jersey Journal showed today.

In some cases the city has been collecting rents from tenants for months but has failed to apply even one cent to reduce the taxes. In others it has failed to start collecting the rents until years after the tax liens have been placed on the properties.

Hoboken PBA Unit Nixes Pact

At a caucus committee meeting of the Hoboken Patrolmen's Benevolent Assn. last night, members decided not to sign their 1975 contract with the city as scheduled for what it cited as "internal reasons."

The caucus committee of patrolmen and officers met for 30 minutes and decided to call off the signing of the contract to another time. After the caucus, PBA President Ernie Brisette said the agreed upon pay scale was accidentally omitted from the written contract, but there was no disagreement with the city over the terms of the contract.

"We should be able to sign the contract next week, no later than Tuesday," Brisette said. "There is no disagreement with no one."

Councilman-at-large Robert Ranieri, who worked out many of the details of the contract with the PBA's negotiating team, was surprised at the sudden change of events, but stressed that he and Mayor Steve Cappelletto agreed with the PBA caucus that all problems should be resolved before the contract was signed.

Ranieri had hoped the contract would be signed to clear the way for an initial negotiating session on the 1976 contract scheduled for Tuesday. That session will now be cancelled pending the signing of the 1975 contract.

Hoboken policemen have not worked under a contract for three years. In 1973 and 1974, policemen were paid under the terms of the 1972 contract. A wage settlement worked out last spring gave the policemen a new wage scale in 1975.

The 1975 contract gives patrolmen a \$750-a-year raise and outlines a differential scale for officers. It also offers one extra paid holiday.

Hoboken was able to close two sections of its 1976 contract with the firemen. The two sections, one for officers, the other for rank-and-file firefighters, divide the vacation period into quarters each 15 days long. Under the old contract, firemen took an extended 45-day vacation during the summer months.

Ranieri said the firemen agreed to the vacation period to help ease the lack of firemen during the summer.

About the night's mixed blessings, Ranieri commented, "We came here to make progress but as the old adage goes, you win a few, you lose a few."

'Exempt' Session Ends First Sunshine Council

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Hoboken City Council last night held its first open caucus under the terms of the new Open Public Meetings Act, convening 20 minutes later than scheduled and concluding with a closed sub-committee council meeting that councilmen claimed was "exempt" from the new law.

Reaction from the approximately 12 spectators to the new forum and the closed portions ranged from amusement to skepticism to boredom.

Fourth Ward Councilman Louis Francione vowed that everything that went on before the meeting convened "was on matters not related to city business."

After the meeting, Council President Martin Brennan defended a public works subcommittee meeting called to discuss a controversial decision by Public Works Director Raphael Vitale to permit civil employees to repair a factory wall damaged by a city worker, as "not subject to the regulations on the 'Sunshine Law.'"

Law Director Lawrence Florio upheld Brennan's ruling on the grounds that private meetings at which members do not vote are exempt from the "Sunshine Law."

Andrew Amato, owner of 117 Madison st., a factory damaged last November, was in the hall at the time of the subcommittee meeting and, from his conversation, apparently was prepared to attend, but Florio said he was not admitted to the meeting.

Amato is asking for \$400 in damages even though Vitale allowed city and federally funded employees to fix the wall under emergency conditions.

In the open caucus, councilmen discussed accepting a \$700,000 water recovery proposal submitted by Stevens Tech's Davidson Laboratory to restore the city's deteriorated water system, and save \$500,000 a year in water loss.

The council agreed to invite Davidson representatives to its Feb. 2 caucus when

it may then decide to put the proposal on its next agenda.

Three councilmen, Francis Leahy, Nunzio Malfetti, and Robert Ranieri, urged the council to act "immediately" to create and adopt an ordinance establishing an engineering department. Such a department the councilmen said could save taxpayers "substantial sums of money."

Community Development Director Fred Bado said he would submit a proposal from a consultant for studying the feasibility of establishing the department at the next caucus.

Leahy also asked Bado to see if he could find \$25,000 in unused funds in this year's CDA budget to transfer to five now defunct city public health clinics. The city lost the clinics last month when state funding ended.

Fusilli Acts On CETA

Special to The Dispatch

TRENTON—Freeholder Vincent J. Fusilli of Hoboken yesterday initiated action through the State Assn. of Chosen Freeholders to stop a Civil Service Commission attempt to take over administration of the Comprehensive Education and Training Act (CETA) program.

Fusilli, as vice president of the state association, introduced a resolution during the opening session of the new year for the group in which the membership went on record against any Civil Service interference in the program.

The association also voted to set up a statewide committee composed of six of its members and the mayor of the state's six largest cities in an effort to cut off action by Civil Service.

"We consider what the Civil Service Commission is attempting to do, as a first step to take over of the entire federal CETA program," Fusilli said.

Fusilli said that Congressman Dominick V. Danieli of Hudson County, an original sponsor of the CETA program, is preparing a bill which would halt Civil Service intervention. It clearly designates CETA itself as the prime sponsor, he said.

"This is a program designed to help the poor, the unemployed, and the underemployed," Fusilli said. "Civil Service is designed to deal with lasting positions while CETA is only a temporary plan," he said.

Fusilli asked what would happen if Civil Service were able to take over the administrative and other positions and the CETA program became discontinued. He said he was afraid that the commission might try to continue the positions at the taxpayers' expense when they would no longer need them.

A quick check of city tax records show that a tax lien was placed on the property at 212 Madison St. in November, 1972 for unpaid taxes dating to 1970. A total of \$9,837 is now owed on that property.

However, no effort was made to collect rents from tenants of the building and apply them to the unpaid taxes until May of last year.

Records in the office of Revenue and Finance Director Frank J. Bartletta show that the city has collected approximately \$1,200 from tenants of that building. Records in the tax collector's office show that none of the funds has been applied to the back taxes.

A similar situation occurred with the property at 108 Monroe St., city records show. The city placed a lien on that property in November, 1971 and a total of \$5,251 is still owed on it. But it could be much less had the city started collecting rents right away.

No rents were collected until February March, 1974—more than two years after the lien was placed on the property.

Why has the city waited years to start collecting rents after imposing tax liens when it could have begun almost immediately after giving the tenants proper notification?

At first Bartletta said that he thought the city had to "wait two years after the lien was on before collecting." But when informed that the city has moved much more quickly in other cases to collect rents, he changed his mind and said he "wasn't sure."

When asked why the \$1,200 collected from tenants of 212 Madison St., since last May hasn't been applied to the back taxes on that building, Bartletta said he "didn't know."

"My policy has been to apply the rents every three months," Bartletta asserted. "These are not the only properties the city collects rents on. By applying the rents to the unpaid taxes in three-month periods it helps cut down the bookkeeping."

"I don't know what happened in this case. I may have overlooked it. I really don't know."

'Ironclad' Contract Has Hoboken Against Wall

Hoboken's patience with over an "ironclad" sewerage Union City and Weehawken contract that Hoboken complains drains its taxpayers of \$240,000 a year while Union City and Weehawken prosper, is straining.

Hoboken street work State OKs paving contract

As many as 15 section of various Hoboken streets will get a facelift this spring with the approval by the State Department of Transportation (DOT) of a \$71,388 contract between Hoboken and the Turco Paving Co. of Kearny.

Hoboken was notified yesterday by the DOT that it has approved all of the specifications for the work and the selection of the Turco company to do the job. Turco was the low bidder on the proposal.

Firemen Begin Salary Talks In Hoboken

With the vacation plan agreed to, Hoboken Fire Department representatives and city officials met last night for the first round of salary talks for the 1976 fire department contract.

Both sides declined to elaborate on the meeting, saying each preferred to "explore further what the other side was proposing."

However, councilman Robert Ranieri, the council's representative labor negotiator said he has asked the Firefighters Assn. and the Fire Officers Assn. to "seriously consider" signing a two to three-year contract "adhering to the status quo."

Referring to the city's present fiscal problems, Ranieri said it would be to "both our advantages to keep the budget line where it now is."

Hoboken unable to avoid long delay in foreclosures

It will take another six months before the Hoboken Law Department can start to foreclose on two large waterfront properties. But according to Council President Martin J. Brennan that's all right with the council even though it asked that proceedings be started last summer.

Brennan said today that after talking with Law Director Lawrence Florio and Walter Seronio, a legal assistant, the council was satisfied that the law department was handling the foreclosures the only way it could.

"The problem is with the legal procedures used by the city to advertise the placement of tax liens on the properties," Brennan said. "Four advertisements were used to notify the public of the pending sale of liens. Three of them were advertised under the city law."

"That law requires the holders of tax title liens to wait a minimum of two years before foreclosing on the property. The last advertisement was advertised under a new state law which allows municipalities that hold tax title liens to foreclose after six months, not two years."

"It is the law department's opinion that in this particular case the city is bound by the old law since most of the public notices were advertised under its provisions."

The two properties are the former Todd Shipyard in the northeast section of the city and the Holland America Fifth and Sixth Street Piers. The shipyard was owned by Cosmopolitan Terminals Inc. but it has since turned it over to a group of financial backers who held the mortgage on the property.

The two piers are owned by Mervyn's Midnight Waterfront Beauty Inc. but were originally purchased from the city three years ago by River Towing Co. which still uses the facilities.

Vitale explains new garbage collection system

Due to some confusion about how Hoboken's new garbage collection system will work, Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale today issued a detailed explanation of the new procedures.

"Most of the confusion has been with the collection days and when garbage should be put out for collection," he said. "Under the new system, the city has been divided into two sections for collection purposes."

"One section encompasses everything from the west side of Willow Avenue to the westerly boundary line. The other side is from the east side of Willow to the Hudson River."

"The west area will have pickups on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The east section pickups will be made on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The actual collection of the garbage will start at 2 a.m. on these days."

"Residents are to put their garbage out after 9 p.m. the evening before the collection day. For example, if you are scheduled for a pickup on a Monday during their early morning hours you are to put your garbage out for pickup after 9 p.m. Sunday."

Vitale said that all garbage should be put out in cans or heavy duty plastic bags. Persons putting garbage out in paper bags will be given summonses. Property owners who do not provide enough garbage cans for their tenants or who allow paper bags to be used will also receive summonses.

The new system is to start Monday.

Ambulance corps had its busiest year

The Hoboken Volunteer Ambulance Corps responded to a total of 4,119 calls in 1975, the single highest yearly total since the corps first started operating in May, 1971, William Matthews, president, said today in making his annual report to the city.

Matthews said that 2,984 of the calls were emergency situations involving the treatment of sick or injured persons. In addition, the corps handled 945 requests for transportation in which it took local residents

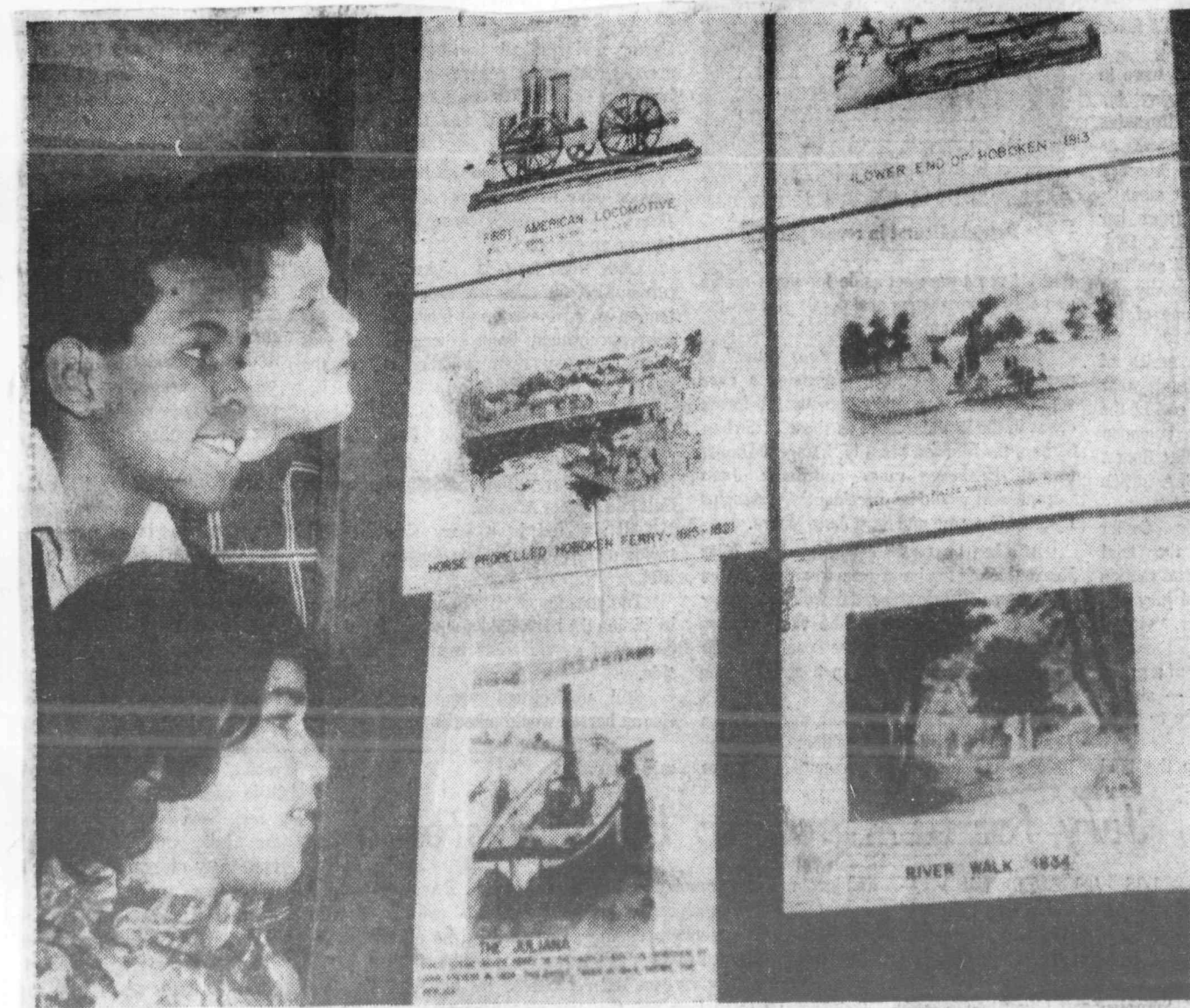
to and from hospitals in the area. The corps also responded to 163 false calls and provided assistance at 27 fires during the year.

A total of 29,100 man-hours were put in during the year by the corps' 52 members, with at least one of the three ambulances on duty at all times, Matthews said.

The corps' income for the year was \$33,831, with \$15,000 donated by the city and the rest raised through contributions from industry, business and local residents. A

total of \$33,530 was spent, covering the cost of the corps' mortgage for its headquarters at 707 Clinton St., monthly payments on its three ambulances, maintenance of the headquarters and the purchase of uniforms and medical supplies.

"The corps is one of the best bargains Hoboken has," said Matthews. "We estimate that it would cost Hoboken more than \$145,000 a year, including manpower, if the corps was a city service rather than a volunteer group."



The way it was

These old methods of transit are part of a 99-photo display being shown in all Hoboken schools as part of a program sponsored by the Hoboken school bicentennial committee.

From bottom are: Edgar Rivera, William Parker and Matthew Busanich, all of the Sadie Leinikau School, Seventh and Jefferson Streets.

Pageant in Hoboken To Be A Real Beauty

1/22/76

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Hudson County has never had a chance to send a contender to Cherry Hill to compete for the title of Miss New Jersey. There are many liberated individuals who would say that such an abstinence is more to be commended than mourned, but there are other individuals who feel that the young women of the county are being cheated of enjoyable dramatic and glamorous experience.

Well, commendable or deplorable, Hoboken is giving Hudson County women a chance to cast their own votes for beauty pageants, now known by the intellectual euphemism of scholarship pageants.

First Ward Councilman Anthony Romano yesterday announced that plans have been completed to hold the first Miss Hudson County pageant in two decades in Hoboken on Feb. 28.

As many as 15 contestants will compete in the pageant. The winner will get a \$1,000 scholarship and an opportunity to go to Cherry Hill in July to compete for Miss New Jersey honors.

The pageant is being coordinated by Suzanne Plummer, an Edgewater resident, former Miss America Pageant. At a Union Club luncheon yesterday, Ms. Plummer announced that the Miss Hudson County Pageant will be staged by Peter Gennaro, a dancer-choreographer who is currently choreographing routines for the Radio City Rockettes.

So far, 50 county girls have applied for the pageant and 13 have been selected as final contestants, five from Kearny, three from Secaucus, two from North Bergen, and one each from Guttenberg, Weehawken and West New York.

Oddly enough, there are no finalists from Hoboken, the host city, or Jersey City and Bayonne, the two biggest cities. Girls between the ages of 17 and 28 who either live, work, or go to school in the county, have a talent, and are childless and unmarried, have two more weeks in which to apply.

Applications should be sent to Ms. Plummer, PO Box 272 Edgewater.

Official Pleased
Romano, who has appointed Board of Education employees Ann Accetta and

Anthony Russo as co-chairmen of the pageant committee, said he was very pleased Ms. Plummer chose Hoboken as the site of the pageant.

"I think it's very good for the city and both exciting and educational for everyone involved," he said.

The pageant will be held in the Pierce Room of the Stevens Tech Academic Building.

The room will hold 750 people but it is not an auditorium. Concerning the

runway, lights, and restrictions in space for the dancers, Ms. Plummer conceded "there are going to be technical problems."

"I know other sites would have been physically more practical. But I chose Hoboken because the last time I was here in 1974 I sensed an atmosphere of enthusiasm and caring that's perfect."

Tickets for the 8 p.m. event can be obtained from the Anthony J. Romano Civic Assn., Hoboken.

Medicaid Refund May Restore Eight Hoboken Health Clinics

1/29/76

H.D.

Eight health clinics recently terminated in Hoboken when their state funding expired may be restored in July when the city expects to be reimbursed \$35,000 through Medicaid, Public Works Director Raphael Vitale said yesterday.

Vitale said an audit of the books of the Department of Health shows that Hoboken can expect to receive the reimbursements at least by July.

Vitale said he will ask the city council to match the \$35,000 with another \$20,000

in city funds to bring the eight clinics back.

Meanwhile, two employees let go when the clinics were shut down last month will return to their jobs in approximately two weeks with salaries paid by Comprehensive Employment Training Act funds.

The two employees, one a billing clerk and the other a Spanish-speaking bilingual nurse, were described as vitally important to the health program.

Although CETA jobs are generally intended to help the marginally employed, Vitale said he asked that the two women be hired through the program as soon as they qualified by being out of work for a month.

Hoboken also cut back its public health nursing program. Still in operation and unaffected by the cuts are the tuberculosis clinic, hypertension detection clinic, lead paint poisoning program, influenza program and the rabies program.

Hoboken Ponders Relationship Of Building Inspector, Permits

1/29/76

H.D.

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Should Hoboken's building inspector issue building permits on new construction without finding out to what use the completed building will be put?

The question, which could have serious impact on all new construction inside the city, was brought up yesterday by

representatives of the Hoboken Environmental Committee before the city's Planning Board.

If the answer is yes, it could halt construction on a proposed garbage recycling plant now being erected in the city's northwestern section at 18th and Jackson sts.

The developers, the Hoboken Resource Recycling Co., would have to apply for special use permits from the city's Planning Board and Board of Adjustment before construction could resume. The project could be aborted if the two boards find the proposed use in violation of the city's zoning regulations.

Work on the plant began several months ago after Building Inspector James Caulfield issued a building permit. The size of the plant, 24,000 square feet, qualifies it for construction under present zoning regulations.

Use May Not Conform
However, as Mrs. Helen Manogue told Planning Board members yesterday, its proposed use as a garbage recycling plant may not conform with zoning regulations.

"When a proposed building has possible liberalizing health insurance benefits for retired veterans."

Public officials' impressions of the public caucus seemed more positive in Jersey City than in Hoboken.

"It ensures that each member does his homework," said Jersey City Councilman William Massa.

"There's more participation, everyone wants to be involved," observed Councilman William Thornton. "It also showed there was no need for apprehension about having the public there."

Councilwoman Lois Shaw said the public's presence caused members to question agenda items more closely. It also contributed to a tighter meeting, she said. "It was definitely more orderly," she said. "We stuck closer to the agenda. Sometimes we get far afield."

Mrs. Shaw also noticed another change. "The language was cleaner," she said, but declined to reveal who led in the use of offense language at previous sessions. "I wouldn't do that to my colleagues," said the only distasteful member.

"We weren't restricted or restrained," insisted Councilman Morris Pesin, who rarely uses objectionable language, anyway. He said he felt "very, very comfortable" with the Sunshine Law.

Councilman Thomas Maresca thought council members showed added interest in the caucus. He noted he advocated open caucuses a decade ago.

For Hoboken Council President Brennan, however, the public proceedings were "a waste of time because we never vote on anything in caucus and most of what was discussed tonight, the public can hear at our regular meeting."

Mayor Steve Cappelletto, on hand in Hoboken last night with other department directors (the mayor handles the Administration and Public Safety Departments), predicted: "The press will cover the comments made in caucus, so you'll see fewer people coming to the caucuses."

Cappelletto added that the public can come to the regular meetings, "depending on press reports, knowing what their councilman's position is."

Asked if any matter could be placed on the council agenda between the end of the caucus and tomorrow's meeting, Cappelletto replied: "It would have to be an emergency."

A "last-minute resolution," offered by Brennan but not on the agenda, would authorize the mayor to contract with the Hoboken architectural firm, Mayo, Lynch & Associates, for \$1,800 to prepare plans to repair and paint a water tank at the city's Grand Street sewage plant.

Reaction by the public in attendance was on the darker side in Hoboken, but brightly optimistic in Jersey City.

To Babcock, the Jersey City civic leader, the first open caucus "seemed free and uninhibited" and he didn't see it would have been different in private. He also said the caucus was more interesting than most regular council meetings.

Joseph Duffy, president of the Historic Paulus Hook Association, found it "very illuminating. It gave an insight into how legislative matters are handled."

nuisance potential," Mrs. Manogue said, "it's request for permits should be reviewed through proper channels."

Mrs. Manogue reported Caulfield told her that it was not his responsibility to concern himself with use before issuing a permit.

"If that's the case," Mrs. Manogue said, "then what happens to future construction in the city when developers get permits to build structures that may wind up violating our zoning requirements and are told when their building's completed that they won't be permitted to use it for the purpose they had in mind?"

Planning Board consultant Ralph Selligman said he felt the environmental committee has a "valid point."

He said he would review the zoning ordinance and the Planning Board's 1957 master plan to determine the extent of the building inspector's responsibilities.

A report will then be issued to the city council as soon as possible and if a special use permit is needed, the present building permit will be rescinded and Planning Board and Board of Adjustment public hearings will be scheduled.

In Hoboken, Charles DeFazio Jr., a frequent public participant in city council sessions, finds the state law "deficient" because the "public is sort of mummified — they're isolated — they come in just to be present — nothing else."

A long-time Hoboken attorney, DeFazio insists the governing body must "allow people expression because anything offered (in its deliberations) as a public improvement is deserving of public attention."

DeFazio said he "expected more debate from the councilmen" on the agenda, particularly on payment of claims which totaled nearly \$100,000. It would be through such give-and-take, he said, that the public could better learn about local government spending.

The sparse turnout in Jersey City surprised some council members, who had feared the caucus would be packed with critics, even though the Sunshine Law gives the public only the right to observe, not to speak, at the caucus.

At only one point was it suggested that the public should be abridged from a portion of the meeting.

That occurred during discussion of whether a liquor license had been issued to the owner of a building on Hoboken Avenue, who was seeking council approval of a variance to build a restaurant.

Pugliese and Corporal Counsel Dennis McGill said the matter should be discussed in private at a later date, since the council had not fulfilled its legal obligation to announce its intention to discuss it privately yesterday.

They were shouted down by other council members, who saw no need for privacy on the matter.

In Hoboken, it developed that one quasi-governmental agency — a city council committee — may not come under the "rays" of the Sunshine Law, the three-member Public Works committee, chaired by Louis Francone held a closed-door "post caucus caucus" in the city clerk's office.

Councilman Walter Cramer, a committee member and a lawyer with Transport of New Jersey (TNJ), declined to say what was discussed because it concerned a "private matter not concerning the community as a whole."

All Cramer would say was that the topic discussed has been hashed out before at the behest of another councilman. Francone was unavailable for comment.

But Councilman Ranieri, a non-committee member, said "the only question that could have been discussed" was the city's repair of a factory at 117 Madison St. owned by Andrew Amato who, he said, was present at last night's caucus.

Ranieri, who has raised questions over the reported use of city and Hoboken-based federal employees "to enhance the value of a privately-owned building," says he learned that Amato and his lawyer, E. Norman Wilson Sr., former city law and public safety director, will present claims today for some \$3,500 in "manufacturing losses" he allegedly sustained.

"I feel we've gotten off to a flying start as far as our open caucus meetings are concerned," said Ranieri, "but I'd like to know if this private council committee meeting is proper under the Sunshine Law."

Sparse audiences greet Sunshine Law caucuses

1/29/76

J.J.

BY RONALD LEIR AND PETER WEISS

This is a tale of two cities — operating under the new state-wide "Sunshine Law."

The governing bodies of Jersey City and Hoboken held their first publicly-attended caucuses yesterday in accordance with the law mandating open meetings.

Each was sparsely attended, but while in Jersey City officials and public alike were beaming over the new format, in Hoboken

were freely exchanging ideas, interrupting one another and sometimes shouting to get attention.

They admitted afterwards there was nothing to fear from public presence and, if anything, open caucuses would improve their performance.

In Hoboken, a somewhat different pattern unfolded with Council President Martin J. Brennan announcing right off the bat that proper notices of the caucus were provided the public in accordance with the law and that while citizens and news media were invited to attend, they could not participate.

That appeared to anticipate the question from Thomas Vezetti, a frequent critic at the council sessions, who wondered aloud — as Brennan gavelled the caucus to order — whether the audience would be able to hear the councilmen without the aid of microphones.

"You'll be able to hear," said Brennan, who then went on to point out that Vezetti and a handful of other interested citizens would, however, be unable to speak.

Few exchanges between the councilmen and department heads and councilmen themselves took place and those that did occur were carried out pretty much on a friendly basis. In fact, the lone "debate" came almost coincidentally with the closing of the caucus as Councilmen Francis Leahy and Robert Ranieri took opposing sides on

See Editorial:
ATTENDANCE
On Page 16,
Picture on Page 4

a cloud, in the shape of a private "post-caucus" caucus dimmed the issue.

"Gentlemen, nice to have you here," said Council President Dominick Pugliese. "I don't know if you mean that," smilingly replied Edward C. Babcock of the Jersey City Chamber of Commerce.

Thus did the Sunshine Law come to Jersey City.

But by the time the city council completed its first open caucus four hours later, in preparation for today's meeting, everyone attending agreed the new law was a good thing, even though only two members of the public and two reporters showed up.

The council members, seemingly apprehensive at first at having the caucus sanctuary invaded, soon loosened up and

State auditors checking Hoboken welfare records

1/30/76

J.J.

A team of auditors from the state Division of Public Assistance has started a review of all Hoboken welfare claims and payments, it was learned today.

According to a city hall source, two auditors and a detective from the Hoboken Police Department have been going over the local welfare records for the last eight days in the City Clerk's office.

However, police officials would not make

any comments on what the investigation was about or if anything questionable had been found.

A police source told The Jersey Journal that the investigation has been ongoing since the early fall when a number of local businessmen were arrested and charged with welfare fraud.

The businessmen, one a hotel operator and the other a grocery owner, were accused of cashing welfare rent and food vouchers for cash and splitting the amount with the welfare clients. Both cases are still pending.

A source in the city clerk's office said the state welfare authorities send one auditor in to review local welfare claims and payments at regular intervals. However, two auditors were never assigned before. He added that only spot checks were made at the regular intervals but on this occasion every item is being checked.

The detective working with the two auditors is Leonard Serrano, who worked on both welfare cases. Serrano, who was observed working with the two state officials, would not comment on what was being done.

Hoboken police delay signing pact

The signing of Hoboken's police contract has been delayed while the men in blue go over the terms once more.

The contract for retroactive salary increases and other items for both the patrolmen and superior officers for 1975 was to have been signed last night at city hall but the policemen decided at the last minute to withhold their signatures while reviewing the agreement.

No date was set for the signing to take place but the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association representatives told city council members they would let them know when they are ready. 1/21/76 J.J.

The delay also means negotiations for the 1976 contract, scheduled to start next Tuesday, will also have to be put off until the 1975 pact is settled.

The council did sign one part of the 1976 fire department contract last night, as scheduled, and is set to start talks on the rest of the package on Monday.

Agreed to last night was a revised vacation schedule that will spread vacations out over a 12-month period, rather than squeezing them all into the summer months. This will eliminate the annual manpower shortage that requires overtime pay, one council member said.

New reminder on Hoboken garbage pickups

1/31/76

J.J.

Hoboken Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale today again reminded local residents that under the city's new garbage collection schedule, which starts Monday, they are to put out their garbage after 9 p.m. the evening before the scheduled pickup day.

"The city made an error in the wording of the public notice that appeared in yesterday's Jersey Journal," the director explained. "Garbage is not to be put out for pickup the day of the scheduled collection but after 9 p.m. of the evening before."

The first pickup under the new system will start at approximately 2 a.m. Monday morning," he continued. "Persons living in the Monday collection area — from the east side of Willow Avenue east — will put their garbage out after 9 p.m. tomorrow, but no later than 2 a.m. Monday."

Chief purchases fire engine he had driven in 1932

1/23/76

J.J.

Hoboken has lost \$400, maybe more, because of conditions it imposed on the sale of an old city fire engine which was auctioned off this week along with 102 abandoned cars.

The fire engine, a 1932 Ahrens-Fox, was purchased by Deputy Chief James Halloran who had driven the very same truck during his earlier years with the department. However, there were several other persons in the audience who wanted to bid but did not.

According to one, he was prepared to bid as much as \$500 for the truck, but didn't because the city, at the last minute, imposed conditions on the purchase of the truck. It had to be kept in the city, it could not be driven out of the city, and it had to be available for parades.

Another prospective bidder said he might have gone as high as \$1,000 for the old truck but didn't bid for the same reason. He

explained that he lived outside the city and if he couldn't take the engine outside of Hoboken there wasn't any reason to buy it. However, he added that he felt the city was wrong to impose the conditions and probably couldn't enforce them.

"Once I got the thing licensed and inspected I'd be entitled to drive it anywhere in the state," he said. "I think state law supercedes local restrictions."

A few spectators were annoyed by the fact that they had no previous notification that the city had placed restrictions on the sale of the fire engine. The list of vehicles to be auctioned off made no mention of the restrictions and they were not discussed until the 102 abandoned cars had been sold.

Carmine Pino of Hoboken Auto Body bought all of the cars with a bulk bid of \$1,200. Bill's Auto Wreckers of Lyndhurst also bid, but stopped at the \$1,100 mark.

The city also made \$144 on the sale of eight bicycles.

But said that if the city's coverage was being cancelled it would be the first time, and probably not the last.

"We've always managed to come up with another company to handle our coverage so I don't think there's anything to panic about at this time," he asserted. "However, if we are now considered to be in a higher risk category, then whatever insurance we do get will more than likely cost the city more money."

Hoboken Hall Called 'Dirty Lady' by Foes

1/30/76

H.D.

Hoboken City Hall last night was described as a dirty old lady on whom a new dress would be wasted, while a proposed cleanup of driftwood along the Hudson River Hoboken waterfront was quickly dismissed as low priority as city residents peppered the city council with their impressions of what should and should not be in the second year \$3.4 million CBA Community Development Agency program.

Approximately seven taxpayers who showed up at the city community center last night to offer suggestions on how the city should spend the federal government's community development block grant, made up in intensity what they lacked in numbers.

Most of the dozen or so taxpayers who spoke out attacked the priorities which the city council, Mayor Steve Cappelletto and the present CDA staff said in drawing up initial plans for the program.

Criticism was particularly directed against a proposed initial \$4,350,000 base bid for the city's nearly century old hall, a \$50,000 allocation to remove driftwood from the waterfront piers, a total \$736,000 allocation for administrative personal, and the continuation of social service programs, that some residents said failed to get "juveniles off the street and out of trouble."

Also criticized were social service programs begun last year that reportedly failed to meet the need of the poor, the black, the Spanish-speaking, and the unemployed of the community.

To a question about the true significance of the public's input raised by local architect George Gaspar, Council President Martin Brennan and CDA director Fred Bado assured the public that their input was "important and will affect the final program format."

Gaspar also attacked the practicality of spending public money to clean up properties owned by private industries.

Ken Pal, economics development director in CDA, responded that "One of the reasons we have unemployment is

that we don't have sites attractive enough to bring in the industry which would provide jobs."

The city council also assured residents who said they feared that city fathers are squeezing out blue collar workers in favor of a white collar middle class community, that they feel that Hoboken will always be a blue collar town because, "we need industries to provide the tax revenues that keep us going."

The struggle to attract new industries is described as one of the highest priorities in this year's CDA program.

The hearing will be continued at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Hoboken High School auditorium.

New call boxes aren't working on same old wiring

BY PETER HALLAM

1/21/76 J.J.

Hoboken's new voice communication call boxes to the fire and police departments aren't working as well as they should be. In fact, they aren't working at all, according to a member of the city's Traffic and Signal Division.

He said that the boxes were tested and found to be operational. However, the old overhead wiring is inadequate and should be replaced.

"The wiring is the same that was on the old pull-type fire alarms and it's seen better days," the source said. "The insulation has come off or worn off in a number of spots throughout the system and as a result it shorts out."

To solve the problem, the division is asking for an additional \$7,000 in its 1976 budget. The money will be used to buy new wire and string it throughout the system.

The 10 new voice call boxes cost the city approximately \$1,000 each and were installed a few weeks ago. It had been expected that the boxes would be put into service last week but they were not because of the wiring problem.

Meanwhile, it was learned that the wiring problem is also affecting some of the old pull-type boxes and that that alarms are not always received by some of the fire houses. However, a fire department source said that there are two backup systems used and the alarms do get through.

The source said that fire headquarters does get all of the alarms and then alerts the appropriate fire houses over a loud speaker system in the individual fire houses. So a fire house that doesn't get the box alarm directly does get voice notification within a few seconds after the alarm sounds at headquarters.

Hoboken Has Good Friend in Dallas

1/21/76

H.D.

By MARY ANN SHERMAN

There's more west of the Mississippi than the Rockies.

Now there's "Friends of Hoboken, West."

So far it's only got a founder and one member — one and the same — but he's dedicated.

When New York magazine ran a cover story a few weeks ago on "New York and the Movies" Neil Scanlan of Dallas, Texas, formerly of New Jersey jotted off a letter complaining they left out Hoboken. The letter, published in this week's issue of the magazine was signed "Friends of Hoboken."

Friends of Hoboken? In Dallas?

"Yeah, I'm a friend of Hoboken."

Scanlan said yesterday when reached by telephone. "And I thought it was a shame. Hoboken is right across the Hudson and they didn't even mention that."

"On The Waterfront" was filmed there. And besides, some of the best films and shots of the Manhattan skyline have been shot from Hoboken."

"New York should do an article on Hoboken and the movies," Scanlan suggested.

His next suggestion was to let the folks back home know that he's starting a western, and possibly the first chapter of "Friends of Hoboken."

"We're looking for members," he said.

"Wouldn't that be great?" he asked with nostalgic enthusiasm. "We can organize annual tours back to the Clam Broth House."

Where did Scanlan live in Hoboken?

Nowhere, and that's the rub, the black spot in his past. Future western Chapter members should be forewarned they are being led by a "carpetbagger."

"Actually, I grew up in Rutherford," Scanlan confessed. "But a lot of my friends from Seton Hall Prep were from Hoboken. It's where I experienced puberty. So of course, it's like my hometown."

"I did all my dating in Hoboken. After all, there's that great view. And I used to

hang out at the Clam Broth House, the park and the Blue point. Is that still there?"

"It's a great place — with good times and good people. Remember that World War I saying, 'Heaven, hell or Hoboken?' (attributed to Gen. John J. Pershing.) (Scanlan claims to remember it, even though he's only 30.)"

An adman who has been living in the West a couple of years, just one of them in Dallas, Scanlan said that if a job opened up for him in Manhattan, he'd probably move to Hoboken.

Meanwhile, he offered the following message:

"Tell everybody to just hang in there."

Cappelletto hopes to save health programs

1/21/76

J.J.

A number of health programs that Hoboken ended Jan. 2 due to cutbacks in state funds may yet get a new breath of life, Mayor Steve Cappelletto said today.

According to the mayor, he and Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale have been exploring the possibility of rehiring some of the staff through the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) with George Crimmins Jr., the head of that program.

"We haven't worked out anything

definite as yet," said the mayor, "but I'm encouraged that CETA can be used as a means to continue at least some of the six or seven programs that were discontinued."

As a result of state health funds cutbacks the city ended six health programs and reduced services in two others. Among the programs were free eye testing, a dental checking program for children, a pre-school inoculation program, a venereal disease testing clinic, a diabetic testing program and a high blood pressure testing program for the elderly.

The mayor said that the city is hoping that it can reclassify some vacant positions in the CETA program and then fill those positions with some of the eight former employees whose jobs were lost because of the state cutbacks.

"The action must be approved by the county manpower program before we can begin to move," said the mayor. "But I'm optimistic that we can do it as planned."

Cappelletto stressed that the use of the CETA program probably would not allow the

city to reinstate all of the health programs or the full operation of those that were reinstated.</

Hoboken's Ed Board Votes Mini-School Loan

Despite criticism from a city councilman warning against anticipated over-expenditures, the Hoboken Board of Education last night voted unanimously to authorize what they termed the "routine" borrowing of \$30,000 toward construction of a new mini-school.

As Councilman-at-Large Robert Ranieri asked for an accounting of exactly how much the board has spent to date on the proposed school now under construction at 524 Park av., member Donald Singleton assured Ranieri and the public that recommendations of school architects guaranteed construction costs will not exceed the \$1.8 million allocated.

The \$30,000 loan, Board Attorney

Stevens project to recover water 'up to council'

Whether Hoboken becomes involved in a \$750,000 water recovery program with Stevens Institute of Technology will be decided by the city council, Mayor Steve Cappiello said today following a meeting with college representatives.

The mayor said that the college representatives will again sit with the council and discuss the proposal and possible alternatives or modifications of the original plan.

"After the council is fully aware of what is proposed and any possible alternatives, and has notified me that it is interested in the proposal I will make my recommendation," he said. "But not before."

Also attending the meeting yesterday were Herman Bier, city business administrator; Raphael P. Vitale, public works director; Councilmen Anthony H. Romano and Robert A. Ranieri; Joel Freiser, representing the Community Development Agency, along with two representatives of the Davidson Laboratory at Stevens.

Cappiello said that one of the other matters the council will consider is whether private engineering firms should be given the opportunity to present the city with that led to the college's proposal.

Romano said he thinks the council needs some "outside expert advice" before making any commitments to Stevens and the Center for Municipal Studies and Services which conducted the survey of the water system that led to the college's proposal.

"The proposal from the college may be a contract. If the Davidson Laboratory is still low then it should get the job."

"Community Development funds are not unlimited. Whatever we might be able to save of that \$750,000 proposal from the college could be used elsewhere for some other project."

Romano said he was concerned with the fact that almost one-third of the total budget for the three-year project would be going for engineer salaries and services from the Davidson Lab.

"It seems to me that we would be paying for people and services that we might not need," he continued. "That's why I feel we should get some expert opinions before making any commitments."

good one but I, for one, have no expertise in the engineering field," the councilman said. "I think everyone concedes that our water system needs repair but neither I nor any of the other councilmen can say with any authority that this is the right or wrong way of doing it."

Romano said that he favored allowing others to submit proposals to the city so it could get some idea of whether the Davidson Laboratory plan was reasonable.

"These are engineering services and are not necessarily something that has to be put out to public bid," the councilman continued. "But there is nothing wrong with trying to get the most for the city's money."

"The funds for this project will come from the Community Development Agency and not directly out of the pockets of our taxpayers. However, I don't see anything wrong with making this a competitive bidder. If we can get some private engineering firm which is willing to do the same job as the Davidson Laboratory but for less money then that firm should get the

The Dispatch, Union City, N. J., Friday, February 6, 1978-3

Hoboken Tenants Get Break

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Affairs (HUD) has approved new levels for tenants of the Church Towers Housing and Urban Apartments.

Roger Levy, vice president of the Yan Management Corp.

which manages the three buildings at the apartment complex, said yesterday the increase adds up to \$5,700 to the incomes permitted for tenants.

Chief withdraws \$100 bid for fire engine

A 1934 Ahrens-Fox fire engine will remain the property of the City of Hoboken after the deputy fire chief who was high bidder on the vehicle at last month's auction withdrew his \$100 bid.

The Hoboken City Council was prepared to approve the sale of the truck plus more than 100 abandoned cars and eight bicycles at yesterday's council meeting. But just prior to the introduction of the resolution, City Clerk Anthony J. Amoroso told the council that Deputy Chief James Halloran had withdrawn his bid.

But according to one council source, the city may still have some problems retaining the vehicle. He said Halloran was not the only bidder. Someone else, a young unidentified man, had bid \$1 for the truck.

"Since Halloran withdrew his bid the truck might revert to the next highest bidder, if he wants it and tells the city so," he said. "I don't think the council has to take any formal action if it doesn't want to sell the truck. If it waits 30 days without taking any action on the other bid it is automatically voided."

The fire truck was the cause of a shouting match between Halloran and Mayor Steve Cappiello at Monday night's council caucus. The mayor accused Halloran of buying the truck for a local body shop which planned to take it to South Jersey. The truck was put on the auction block on the condition that the buyer would provide for parades, if it was operating, to make it available for parades.

Halloran denied the mayor's accusation. Yesterday morning, prior to the meeting, he was seen entering the mayor's office, presumably to notify Cappiello that he was withdrawing his bid. However, the former fire marshal would not comment on why he was visiting the mayor.

Mark Cerrone suggested to the council that the city keep all bicycles it acquires in the future and lend them out for a week at a time to local youngsters. The council said it would look into his suggestion.

In other business, the council accepted bids from two

Hoboken Hall Honored; See Renovations Near

By ELIZABETH PARKS
The road to an eventual \$3 million renovation of Hoboken's 96-year-old City Hall was cleared yesterday when the hall was awarded a position on the National Register of Historic Places.

The designation officially recognizes the hall as "an historic site," entitled under the National Preservation Act of 1966 to 50 per cent matching grants-in-aid for development and rehabilitation.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said he was "very pleased" that the city will now have a chance to preserve the hall's "rich history and cultural heritage."

If the city council approves, as it is expected, the allocation of \$350,000 in this year's Community Development Agency budget for renovation of the hall's roof, exterior and fire safety system, CDA Municipal Operations Director Joel Freiser said work on the hall can begin by summer.

"With the designation as an historic site," Freiser said, "we're qualified to apply for additional funds such as economic development grants to expand the rehabilitation program and to proceed with the use of CDA funds for development."

Freiser said that the estimated \$3 to \$4 million costs of renovations can "more than likely" be absorbed entirely by state and federal grants and CDA block grants. The city will not have to spend any local tax dollars on the project.

Freiser said CDA will now reapply for a \$500,000 state economic development authority grant rejected last year because the hall did not then have the historical site designation.

Freiser predicted that the entire renovation would consume more than a three-year period. "The renovations would have to be accomplished with the

least possible disruption of normal activities," he said.

"People will have to be shifted internally so business can be conducted as usual at the hall."

Renovations under consideration include demolition of the present two-story jail and construction of a new one-story six-cell jail on the corner of Newark st.

Also proposed is a four-story Police Department extension with offices for the chief, and municipal judge, a large training room, consolidated tax and revenue offices where the old jail now stands.

Leahy asks CDA funds to restore health programs

Councilman-at-large Francis X. Leahy said today that he will ask the Hoboken City Council to back him in seeking \$27,450 from the Community Development Agency (CDA) for the financing of four health programs that were ended Jan. 2 because of cuts in state funding.

Leahy said the programs were the free dental program, the venereal disease clinic, the cancer detection clinic and the eye clinic. "We will need \$21,400 for the dental clinic, \$850 for the cancer program, \$1,300 for the VD clinic and \$3,900 for the eye clinic," he said. "That's a total of \$27,450 which, in view of the millions of dollars that is spent by the CDA, is not much to ask."

"Here is one situation in which CDA can actually do something immediately for the good of the city's less fortunate. I'm sure that it can find a small sum like \$27,450 somewhere in its budget."

Leahy had been trying to raise funds for the health programs on his own but didn't have much success.

"There were some promises but in general everyone is still feeling the financial pinch," he said. "I gave up when it became obvious that I couldn't come anywhere near the \$20,000 goal I had set."

Engineering Firm Planning Return to Hoboken for Year

By ELIZABETH PARKS
Hudson Engineering Co., a prestigious firm with Navy connections, is returning to Hoboken on a tentative one-year basis after an absence of three years, The Dispatch has learned.

Joe Weiner, president, confirmed a report that Hudson Engineering is now setting up a working office on Pier A, near the Port Authority Terminal on River st., and will begin a full-scale operation employing about 50 persons in March.

The company will retain its present main office in Elizabeth, but will expand its stay in Hoboken if work on a refined naval air system proves successful.

Hudson Engineering is a subsidiary of John J. McMullen Associates Inc., a New York-based management, consulting and engineering services firm which recently received a \$5.3 million Naval contract to "design, fabricate, assemble and test a portable aviation support facility" for reserve merchant ships.

Hudson Engineering is one of three McMullen sub-companies which will be working on the project. Tests of the newly designed air support system will be conducted in the Hudson River in the fall of this year.

Weiner said that if the work is successful and the product turns out to fill the Navy's needs, work will continue in Hoboken past the allotted year and may be expanded.

Hudson Engineering was established in Hoboken in 1922. In its heyday, it provided jobs for hundreds of workers a year. It moved to Port Newark Elizabeth in 1973 after its plant on Hoboken's Pier 6 was destroyed in a fire started by juveniles.

Weiner, who formerly lived in Hoboken, said he was glad the company was resuming operations here and hoped they would continue.

Hoboken wants a voice
Member sought on panel to save ship

Mayor Steve Cappiello has asked Gov. Brendan T. Byrne to appoint someone from Hoboken to the commission that is trying to save the Battleship New Jersey, now docked in the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

"I have written to the governor asking him to appoint someone from Hoboken to the commission which is looking for a permanent facility where the battleship can be berthed," said the mayor.

"One of my reasons for doing so is that I feel we have facilities in Hoboken that could be used and it would help to have someone from this area on the commission to speak up for Hoboken. We have the old Todd Shipyard, the Penn Central Railroad Piers, just to mention a few sites."

The mayor said that he didn't recommend anyone to be governor by name but he might in a day or two. "I've contacted officials at Stevens Institute of Technology where a number of Navy men are assigned," he said. "I'm hoping we can find one interested in serving on the commission, possibly one that served on the New Jersey during its long career."

Hoboken Due Stiffer Specs

Under attack from a Hoboken taxpayer for "consistent" vagueness in describing specifications of materials up for bid, the Hoboken City Council last night promised to try to work out a "clearer, more businesslike procedure."

Businessman Maurice DeGenaro, berated Council President Martin Brennan for the "ridiculous" inexact specifications that the city council "is constantly adopting." Brennan voiced agreement and said that he would have the council subcommittee on administration meet with Business Administrator Herman Bier to "review the specifications, isolate the kind of wording that is exactly needed, then come back with clearer specs."

As examples of poor specifications, DeGenaro quoted from specs that requested bids on tires, specifying no particular size, weight, make, etc. Also he mentioned specs for linen, particularly mentioned sheets and pillow cases, without any further explanation of size and quality.

The council also listened to an appeal from citizens to allow them to speak at the council caucus recently opened to public participation under the state's new Sunshine Law.

Table Hoboken Education Suit

Possibility that Hoboken may decide to sue the state of New Jersey to force the state legislature to create "a fairer and more equitable financing of public education" was left unresolved yesterday as city officials tabled the idea "for further review" after a high level meeting.

All of the representatives of the Hoboken Board of education who attended the two-hour session in Mayor Steve Cappiello's city hall office left refusing comment.

"Meeting? What Meeting?" Board president Otto Hottendorf said as he headed for the stairs.

Asked if Jersey City attorney Harold Ruvooldt, who attended the meeting, proposed such a

suit and offered arguments supporting it, Hottendorf said a variety of subjects was discussed, none of which could be commented on because "it would be premature."

However it was learned that City Attorney Lawrence Florio and Board Attorney Taylor were authorized to sit down with Ruvooldt and "explore all ramifications of the suit."

There was a report that some members of the city council opposed the suit on the grounds that it would be expensive and

Cappiello Foresees Passage Of Two Hoboken Bills

By ELIZABETH PARKS
Washington had good news and bad news for Hoboken this week.

Just returned from a Conference of Mayors meeting in the nation's capital yesterday, Mayor Steve Cappiello reported that Hoboken will benefit substantially by the congressional passage of two new bills: one a public works measure and one an unemployment amendment.

But at the same time, the city is losing funding that pays for about 25 community service workers in the downtown multi-service center.

Congress, Cappiello said, failed to continue a neighborhood development Department of Labor grant that pays the salaries of the workers. The jobs are expected to be phased out in the late spring but the mayor was not sure just which of several programs in operation at the center will be affected.

The mayor speculated that the jobs may be eliminated in an across-the-board fashion. Workers will be let go in projects ranging from recreation to preventing lead paint poisoning to health services to clerical assistance in administration.

Cappiello also wasn't sure how much the city will get in terms of dollars if the President signs the public works bill and the counter-cyclical amendment.

A member of the President's cabinet said he thought Ford would veto the bills, but Cappiello said both measures passed with such a strong congressional majority. "I think the President will have to reconsider and sign them."

Once signed, Hoboken would begin receiving allocations within 90 days. The money would go toward a new centralized public works garage, possible street repairs and new jobs.

On Column A will be Aldo Gennari, Frank Zura, John Burke, Frank Romano, Joseph Vanderveck and Deborah Leahy.

On Column B will be Margaret Arena, Mary Jane Sanders, Charles Carrera, Margaret Esterbrook, Carl Bartolucci and Robert Danielson.

On Column C will be Henry De Risi, Frances Davidson, Kenneth Tattersall, Geraldine Commerore, William Adamo and Peter Galbo.

On Column D will be Richard Ferrante, Gustav Faller, James Martorella, Alfred Cinotti and Robert Aurimma.

Mrs. Davidson and Aldo Gennari are incumbents.

In Weehawken, the nine candidates will be listed on row A in this order: Edward Zensinger, John McGorty, Mark Aiello, Catherine Aurimma, Gloria M. Daly, John H. Charlesworth, Stanley Iacono,

Warren F. Wilsite and Michael Tabat. McGorty, Aurimma and Zensinger are incumbents.

In the Hoboken drawing the Row A candidates will be Richard England, Leo McLaughlin, Charles Roberts, Eugene Drayton and Leonard Luizi.

On Row B will be Charles Carroll, Aurelio Lugo, Walter Dunne Sr., Edward Meekas, and John Maresca.

On Row C will be Angel Roman, Carmella Jocca, Leo Genese, Dominick Casulli and Clayton Anderson.

The Row D candidates will be John Raslowky, Louis Tiscornia, Kenneth Josefson and John Molta. Raslowky, Anderson and Lugo are incumbents.

In Bayonne the candidates for three-year terms will be on the ballot in this order: Isabella H. Lettieri, 1A; Charles F. Sharkey, 1B; William R. Carine, 1C; R. Emmett Jennings, 1D; Howard Fitch, 1E and Joseph R. Scario, 1F.

Also Paul Weinstein, 2A; Mary Hanneken, 2B; Fern A. Gordon, 2C; Raymond A. Sexton, 2D; Charles Waldron, 2E and Walter Puciel, 2F.

These are the designations for the one-year candidates: Hope Grabowski, 5A; Gerald Rossnick, 5B; Matilda Salerno 5C; Cornelius J. Regan, 5D; Paul E. Hyman, 5E and Harry A. Ziskind, 5F. Waldron, Rossnick and Puciel are incumbents.

Mayors Fear County Hike Will Affect Towns

By JACK HASBROUCK and TIM HEALY
A proposed \$8.1 million tax hike in the preliminary 1976 Hudson County budget drew reaction yesterday from several county mayors who feared it would lead to increases in their municipal tax rates.

A \$4 million decrease in the surplus account plus heavy losses in anticipated revenues led to the increase. The preliminary budget would require \$54,897,335 to be raised by taxes as compared with \$46,772,606 last year. The overall budget as introduced last year was \$80,131,948.

"Like every other mayor, I'm naturally unhappy to hear about such an increase," Union City Mayor William V. Musto said. "While I haven't seen the proposed budget I hope they can cut it down and not impose any further tax increase on the municipalities."

County Executive Edward F. Clark said he was confident that cuts and reductions could be made in the budget. "I wish to make it clear I do not regard this

budget final in any way," he said.

However, a high county official close to the budget predicted that cuts would not total more than \$1 million after the final budget is drafted.

Echoing Musto, Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said he thought the preliminary increase figures was "extremely high."

He added that he would like to know "where the increases are," and what services they involve. "They better get out the parking knife," he said.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Guttenberg Mayor Herman Klein, West New York Mayor Anthony DeFino, Bayonne Mayor Dennis Collins, Weehawken Mayor Charles Miller, and Secaucus Mayor Paul Amico.

North Bergen Mayor Peter Mocco, who is a freeloader, reserved comment "until I have the opportunity to review the budget in total."

Jersey City Mayor Paul Jordan seemed least upset by the news of the \$8.1 million proposed county tax hike. "I am confident, given the last three years of county budgets which did not negatively affect our tax rate that the \$8 million figure could be substantially lower when final figures are announced," he said.

Major factors contributing to the increase are topped by the \$4 million loss in surplus. A total of \$7.5 million was anticipated in the budget in 1975 against only \$3.5 million anticipated this year.

Under non-recurring revenues, \$345,000 is lost because the Margaret Hague Hospital was turned over to Jersey City and its final revenues were collected last year by the county.

Another \$300,000 is lost under capital surplus where excess money in bonding projects must be dispensed. Also \$531,000 is an anticipated loss in state revenues; \$184,000 lost in interest earned on federal revenue sharing; an \$870,000 increase in county vocational school costs; and \$500,000 more in welfare costs.

Maintenance of patients at out-of-town hospitals is up \$350,000, and Youth House and JINS programs up \$170,000. Pension increases amount to \$550,000 and the Public Employees Retirement System costs are up \$200,000.

The present county tax rate is \$9.73 per \$1000 plus 25 cents for the vocational school.

Contractor likes new garbage schedule

Hoboken's new garbage collection schedule may be giving residents and city officials fits but the contractor making the alternate day pickups doesn't have any complaints.

A spokesman for the company said the new system was "working out just fine from the collection end."

"Actually, we can do a better job under the new system," he continued. "We have a smaller area to pick up in on any given collection day and more men and trucks working in the area."

He said the pickups were being made much quicker than under the old six-day-a-week collection, disturbing less residents during the early morning hours.

Hoboken committee To discuss school hot lunches

Members of the Hoboken Board of Education's Food Services Committee will meet at 6 p.m. next Tuesday to discuss the possibility of introducing a hot lunch program into the schools. At the present time students are receiving a cold lunch.

Mrs. Mary Caspar, committee chairman, said the conference will take place at the administration building, 1115 Clinton St., and interested residents may attend.

A public caucus will be held by the board at 7 p.m. followed by the regular monthly meeting an hour later.

Seeks help getting P.A. to pay taxes 2/3/76 J.P.

A Hoboken councilman said today that he will ask U.S. Sen. Clifford P. Case and Harrison A. Williams and Rep. Dominic V. Denzil to see what federal action can be taken to make Port Authority property subject to local property taxes.

First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano said the P.A. was "doing less and less for the public and more and more for itself."

"The most recent example is the \$7.5 million the P.A. is spending on a semi-private supper club and restaurant in the World Trade Center," the councilman continued. "That's like throwing good money after bad. The P.A. can't rent all of the

space it has in the twin towers and is losing money on it—money that came from the tolls on the bridges and tunnels going into New York City.

"While they are pouring \$7.5 million into the restaurant, Hoboken sits with an empty waterfront facility from which it now derives nothing—no taxes, no rents and no jobs.

"The P.A. has always been a money-maker but the main reason for that is that it enjoyed a tax-exempt status. But that status also works in reverse. Because it doesn't have to pay taxes it can afford to let some things slide—like Hoboken's waterfront. There doesn't have to be any immediate and sincere effort to get someone to rent those

plants and keep them busy—the P.A. doesn't pay taxes."

The councilman said that he would like to see the P.A. placed in a position of having to account more for the money it took in and spend and either having it pay local property taxes or make payments in lieu of taxes.

"It would mean that the P.A. would have less money to squander on things like private clubs and restaurants in the future," he continued. "And would force it to use those funds for what they were intended, better service and facilities in the Metropolitan New York area."

Romano said he will ask Case, Williams and Denzil to see if this could be done by federal law.

Hoboken tax rate up by \$24? 2/6/76 J.P.

BY PETER HALLAM

Mayor Steve Cappiello of Hoboken has called a special meeting of the city council for Tuesday for presentation of his proposed 1976 budget—which may require a record 22 percent increase of \$24 in the tax rate. The current rate is \$108.33 per \$1,000 valuation.

The meeting will be held at noon in the council chambers.

However, the mayor has not yet finalized the budget and was not able to give any exact figures. He said it was almost completed and could be finished today.

"Overall we have reduced the municipal operation by \$200,000 from last year," he said. "But when compared to some of the

added expenses we face that is a very small amount."

"Two of the biggest problems we are going to be facing are the loss of some \$6 million in ratables and something like \$2 million more in funds for the board of education for the 1976-77 school year," continued the mayor.

According to Robert W. Taylor, attorney for the board of education, the board was entitled to \$7.8 million in state aid for the 1976-77 school year. However, the most recent figures from the state show that it will be getting approximately \$5.8 million.

"This is going to leave the school board with a budget gap of approximately \$2 million and the only recourse open is to ask the city for it," he said.

In order to raise that amount the city would have to increase the tax rate by \$20. To account for the \$6 million in lost ratables and the \$200,000 a year in revenues they produced, another \$6 would have to be added to the tax rate.

The \$200,000 reduction in municipal operations would take roughly \$2 off the tax rate, leaving the city facing a possible \$24 increase.

The mayor would not say the increases would be that high. He said there was still some time to cut more funds from the budget and hope the state might revise its school funding figures so that Hoboken would get more than it expects.

Vigilance 2/6/76 J.P.

Hoboken's City Council topped off its open-to-the-public caucus Monday night with a super-caucus from which public and press were barred. A businessman has asked the county prosecutor to see whether the state's new Sunshine Law was violated by holding this closed meeting.

We have learned that the subject discussed behind those closed doors did not directly bear on any business the council contemplated transacting.

During the public part of the caucus, one councilman had proposed the council probe an unusually high monthly bill submitted by one of the city departments. The private caucus-after-the-caucus was held so that the councilman could be informed privately concerning the investigation of this department which the county prosecutor already had under way.

There is no evidence available to us that the intent of the Sunshine Law was violated by having a closed session on this specific topic. Nevertheless, it was a good idea for the businessman to challenge it.

As was said long ago, eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. To avoid future misunderstanding, government groups should explain why they exclude press and public from a meeting, if such exclusion becomes necessary.



2/5/76 J.P. THE CITY'S THANKS — Mayor Steve Cappiello of Hoboken, left, expresses the city's thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hansen at city hall ceremony. They were among three persons who received police civilian awards for helping to capture a woman burglar.

Coordination Increases Employment in Hudson 2/6/76 Dispatch

With Hoboken's unemployment rate still hovering at 17 per cent and Hudson County's at 13 per cent, the comprehensive employment program sponsored by the county has provided 1,200 jobs in private industry and 1,700 in the public sector.

Speaking before a Kiwanis luncheon at the Clam Broth House in Hoboken yesterday, Edward Farrell, coordinator of Manpower Services for the Hudson County Comprehensive Employment and Training Program (CETP), traced the history of public employment programs in America over the

last 40 years. He also outlined what some of those programs have done for Hudson County and Hoboken in particular.

Since 1973 when CETP was created to centralize the operations of several programs in existence in separate divisions, the county has provided subsidized training programs for more than 3,500 residents in fields related to private industry.

Still Training Farrell said that many of that number are still receiving training, but 1,200 are now working in non-subsidized jobs in private industry.

Of a comparable number eligible for public employment with local and county government, 1,700 have been placed.

Trainees, Farrell explained, receive \$70 to \$80 a week for a 35-hour week that can consist of on-the-job training.

They are taught skills ranging from carpentry to typing to English as a second language.

In addition to a main office in the Hudson County Administration Building in Jersey City, there are outreach centers providing training and counseling in West New York, Harrison, Bayonne and Hoboken.

Hoboken has multiple ideas for using its federal funds 2/6/76 J.P.

Officials of the Hoboken Community Development Agency will confer with members of the city council next week on the city's proposal and public suggestions on how to spend this year's \$3.4 million allocation of federal funds.

The CDA heard various suggestions from residents last night at the second and final public hearing held at Hoboken High School. About 50 persons attended.

Fred A. Bado Jr., CDA director, said the meeting with the council will help to shape the final application for the program which should go into effect in June.

Bado told the meeting that one of the main thrusts of the city plan is to upgrade the housing in the city. The plan is to

undertake physical rehabilitation rather than wholesale demolition, he said.

He also reported there would be studies for improvement of the old ferry terminal area which might be beautified through a \$200,000 program linking the Erie Lackawanna terminal area with the new apartments at nearby Grogan Marine View Plaza. Another study will concentrate on future use of the old Todd Shipyard site.

At the terminal, Bado said, the study will include its conversion to commercial use, possibly with offices, a restaurant and movie theater.

Several speakers asked that the city preserve the character of some of the older buildings. Some were concerned about reports that the old Stevens Academy building was to be purchased by a bank. They felt other plans should be considered.

Several Hispanic residents told the CDA and city officials they would like to see greater participation from members of the Spanish-speaking community.

Start Hoboken Aid For Better Homes 2/5/76 N.D.

By ELIZABETH PARKS

The war on decayed tenements within Hoboken gets underway today when the owner of a 10-unit midtown tenement, gutted and vacant for the past five years, will be given the city's first subsidized mortgage renovation loan.

The \$19,000 subsidy will permit the owner of 619 Willow av., Christo Varverakis, to renovate the building with \$68,000 borrowed at six per cent interest.

The \$19,000 makes up the difference between borrowing \$68,000 at the current 10½ per cent interest rate and borrowing at the six per cent rate guaranteed by Hoboken's new Tenement Rehabilitation program, a stepchild of the city's Home Improvement Loan Program.

With the money saved on the mortgage, Varverakis can rent the converted apartments at rates described by city officials as "highly competitive."

Joseph Cicala, director of the Community Development Agency's Housing and Neighborhood Preservation Department, said that one of the conditions of the subsidized grant was that owners must rent at levels sanctioned by CDA.

Average Rentals \$160 Cicala said the average rentals for the two-bedroom railroad apartments, which will be finished in about eight months, will be \$160.

"That's very competitive when you consider it includes heat and hot water," Cicala said.

"This program is the first of its kind in America," Mayor Steve Cappiello pointed out. "If it's successful here, it will become a model for the country."

As conceived by Cicala, the program has the following objectives: to save buildings in danger of being abandoned because owners cannot afford to rehabilitate them; to upgrade the city's tax base; to improve the supply of low cost housing so people can afford to remain in Hoboken and to encourage employment by providing jobs in construction.

Cappiello and the city council have approved the allocation of \$500,000 in federal community development funds to provide for about 250 similar interest reduction grants this year.

The program is now being expanded to make all tenement owners in the city eligible whether they live in Hoboken or not.

To qualify, an owner must fulfill the requirements of the banks participating in the program, must promise to abide by rent levels set by CDA and must promise to allow CDA final approval on the construction design.

The mortgage to Varverakis is being financed through the Washington Savings Bank.

Hoboken, Jersey City weigh school aid suit 2/5/76 J.P.

While Hoboken and Jersey City school officials are deciding whether to jointly sue the state over full aid for schools, the State Education Department today warned three Hudson districts they will get no aid at all if the legislature fails to act by June 30 and the Supreme Court redistributes funds. Those districts are Kearny, North Bergen and Secaucus.

The possibility of a joint suit was discussed yesterday when Harold J. Ruvaldt Jr., special Jersey City counsel, met in Hoboken with Mayor Steve Cappiello, Robert W. Taylor, attorney for the Hoboken school board; Otto Hottendorf, its president

and Councilman Robert A. Ranieri.

It was reported that if a suit is started, it would be aimed at either forcing the state to fully fund the "Thorough and Efficient Education" bill adopted by the legislature or to allow Hoboken and other school districts to provide the level of education they can afford through local taxes.

Ranieri said the discussions were preliminary and many more discussions will be required before any concrete plan emerges.

Ruvaldt is the attorney whose case against the state resulted in the landmark

Botter decision which held that it is up to the state to provide all New Jersey children with a "thorough and efficient" education.

For cities like Hoboken with dwindling ratables and high tax rates, it meant that the state would have to provide sufficient funds to provide the same level of education a child would receive in some affluent municipality without having to further increase the burden on city taxpayers.

Even without a question of state funds, the ordinary needs of the Hoboken Board of Education will require the city to increase by more than \$1 million to amount to be raised by Hoboken taxpayers to finance the schools in the coming year, it was reported. This could mean \$11 on the city's tax rate.

Kearny, North Bergen and Secaucus were among 128 districts in the state which could lose all state aid if the legislature does not provide funding by June 30 and the Supreme Court orders redistribution of \$590,867,053 in current expense equalization and building aid.

The districts would be cut off because the guaranteed valuations in each community exceeds the \$66,000 per pupil specified in the 1975 Public School Act upheld by the court last Friday.

The current expense and building aid were singled out as priority measures by the court in the redistribution plan if the legislature fails to raise \$778 million by April 6 or by June 30. The latter deadline applies to a show cause order returnable April 15 if the legislature misses the April 6 deadline.

The complete aid wipeout in Hudson and other districts is expected to put pressure on legislators to consider either a two per cent increase in the sales tax or some form of state income tax to fund the school law. The court said the law would be constitutional only if fully funded.

The current expense and building aid would require \$616,620,653 but only \$550,867,053 is available in the governor's budget proposal. This means that school aid under the court-ordered allocation would be only 89.378 per cent of full funding. The court said, however, that distribution would be based on availability of funds by the legislature.

Here is how Hudson school districts would be affected if the legislature fails to act and if the court orders redistribution of available aid:

Bayonne's state aid would be reduced from \$2,458,963 to \$1,417,674; East Newark, from \$205,180 to \$138,217; Guttenberg, from \$235,593 to \$172,587; Harrison, from \$500,079 to \$285,816; Hoboken, from 7,786,833 to \$5,770,213; Jersey City, from \$39,863,791 to \$30,257,730; Kearny, from \$1,375,616 to nothing; North Bergen, \$1,911,335 to nothing; Secaucus, \$615,173 to nothing; Union City, from \$7,521,371 to \$5,727,729; Weehawken, from \$1,038,584 to \$739,905; West New York, from \$6,063,309 to \$4,661,761; and Hudson County Vocational School, \$554,421 to \$268,270.

In all, Hudson districts would see a drop in aid from \$70,180,268 to \$49,459,902 under court-ordered redistribution, the State Department of Education, said.

In the current fiscal year, Hudson districts receive the following aid: Bayonne, \$1,566,624; East Newark, \$114,936; Guttenberg, \$125,354; Harrison, \$333,292; Hoboken, \$6,354,118; Jersey City, \$27,405,929; Kearny, \$639,700; North Bergen, \$1,226,481; Secaucus, \$421,424; Union City, \$5,628,742; Weehawken, \$365,895; West New York, \$2,548,125; and Hudson County, \$117,236.

Still confronting school districts are another Byrnes budget proposal requiring them to pay 25 per cent of teacher pension costs—\$2,974,490 for Hudson districts.

'Things just walk away' 2/5/76 J.P.

City's inability to store goods costly

Hoboken may be paying more than it has for supplies and materials normally used during the course of a year because the city cannot store the items itself and must rely on the contractor to do so.

According to Councilman Robert A. Ranieri, the reason the city can't store the items itself is that "they have a tendency to walk away." This was concurred in by Councilman Louis Francone.

The councilman said that supplies such as paint, hardware and other things normally used by the city, were frequently stolen or have disappeared. As a result, it was cheaper for the city to advertise for contractors to bid on these items and then have the successful contractor deliver what was needed, as needed.

The matter came up during yesterday's council meeting when Maurice DeGennaro questioned the council on why it advertised for bidders in this manner.

"Wouldn't it be easier to establish a central stockroom and have one man responsible for everything in it?" asked DeGennaro. "The way things are being done now, no one can give the city an accurate bid."

Citing the specifications for paint, DeGennaro said that the contractors are

asked to submit bids on supplying up to 500 gallons but had no guarantee that the city would actually purchase that amount. And if someone is selected as low bidder he must have that 500 gallons of paint in his inventory for delivery at the city's demand.

"If he doesn't, he must buy it himself as the city needs it and deliver it," he continued. "With the way prices change these days, no one could give an accurate price estimate. They'd have to buy and keep in stock what the city said it might buy."

Councilman-at-large Bernard Scrivani agreed, adding that it was his opinion that the way the contracts and specifications were prepared the city could find itself with hundreds of gallons of paint sitting on its doorstep at the end of the contract period.

After the meeting, DeGennaro said that the specifications used by the city actually discouraged contractors from bidding—and those who did made the city pay for the storage of whatever materials and supplies it was holding for city purchase.

Although DeGennaro had some support on the council for more detailed specifications, the majority of the council members would not commit themselves to any action on his suggestion.

Hoboken Rail Terminal Purchase Decision Due 2/4/76 N.D.

By ELIZABETH PARKS

The future of the planned million dollar conversion of Hoboken's deteriorated Erie Lackawanna Railroad terminal into a cultural mall and shopping center should be decided Friday when the State Department of Transportation (DOT) is expected to let the city know if it intends to buy the terminal from the bankrupt railroad.

Sources in Mayor Steve Cappiello's office yesterday said they have been given verbal assurances that DOT is "seriously interested in acquiring the property" which then would be either leased or sold to Hoboken.

The transaction would make the terminal public property and would qualify it for huge infusions of state and federal grants that would hopefully transform it into a marketable commodity.

Hoboken could then launch a campaign to bring developers into the terminal, who would rent or buy space to build shops, restaurants, theaters, and create a new hub of commercial activity in what is now practically an empty hull.

Cappiello and the city council have already approved the allocation of \$335,000 in federal community development funds to be matched with \$215,000 in various state grants to achieve the following objectives:

Improve the terminal area to encourage private development; improve the terminal, Grogan Plaza and Washington st. boundaries to encourage feasibility of development; upgrade the

bordering Observer Hwy. gateway to enhance Hoboken's market appeal and image; and develop detailed architectural designs and marketing promotion for the area.

The city is presently reluctant to undertake any of those projects while the terminal remains the property of the Erie Lackawanna. The agency, Conrail, created to take over the operation of bankrupt Northeastern railroads might have taken some of the property, but ownership then would be mixed.

As the situation now stands, Conrail may take over some parts of the terminal and the railroad may keep some parts, DOT may take over some parts and the railroad would keep some; or DOT may take it all, including the ferry slips in the rear.

"If that last happens," a source in the community development agency said, "we'd have a green light to go in and clean up and the project would have a clear field to get off to a successful start."

Work on ship defense system to add 50 jobs 2/3/76 J.P.

A new system of modularized electronic defense equipment which can be quickly installed and removed from merchant ships will be under construction in Hoboken by next month providing jobs for some 50 technicians and skilled workers.

The work will be done by John J. McMullins Associates, an affiliate of the Hudson Engineering Co. Hudson Engineering was formerly located in Hoboken but moved its ship repair facilities to Port Elizabeth several years ago.

According to a company spokesman, the project will take approximately 18 months and will cost a little over \$5 million on a Navy contract. The project is called "Reserve Merchant Ship Defense Systems."

The company has leased Pier "A" from the Port Authority on a day-to-day basis but expects the project will take about a year and a-half to complete. Between 60 and 80 of the modular or containerized electronic

defense systems will be built.

Because much of the information concerning the project is secret, the company spokesman could not go into any details concerning the systems and their operation. However, he explained that the project was a prototype.

"The idea is to provide merchant ships with approximately the same electronic defense equipment as, say, a battleship," he continued. "The difference is that a battleship's system is pretty much locked into that ship and can't be removed without a lot of extensive and costly work."

"The containerized systems can be easily installed and then removed for installation on other ships, as needed, with a minimum of work and cost."

"According to the spokesman, the work does not mean that the company or Hudson Engineering is moving back to Hoboken permanently."

New Garbage Pickups Begin In Hoboken 2/2/76 N.D.

by ELIZABETH PARKS

Hoboken residents get their first taste of alternating garbage collections today, amid some apprehension.

Public Works Director Raphael Vitale has asked residents to familiarize themselves with the new schedule of collections, so they will put garbage cans out and take them back at the proper times.

Vitale said that residents who persist in putting out garbage loose in paper bags will be subject to a \$200 fine or 90 days in jail or both.

Some residents, particularly those in Willow ter. and Willow ct., have complained that they have no room outside to line up garbage cans.

Although Vitale suggested that residents build foyers or extended shelters to cover the cans, less optimistic members of his department say some residents may race across town each morning, carrying bags of the preceding days garbage to wherever garbage is being collected on that particular day.

Additional trouble is expected in the Spanish-speaking sections of town. Through what Vitale called an "oversight," no one bothered to print Spanish language flyers explaining the new collection procedures.

In English notices, residents were mistakenly told to put out their garbage the night "of" the collection days, instead of the night "before."

The new schedule is as follows: Garbage will be picked up on all streets west of Willow av. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and on all streets east of Willow av., on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Hoboken council met privately. Vezzetti charges 2/4/76 J.P.

A Hoboken citizen has asked the Hudson County prosecutor to rule whether Mayor Steve Cappiello and the city council violated the state's new Sunshine Law Monday night by holding a private meeting on city business following an open caucus.

Thomas Vezzetti, a local hotel owner and frequent administration critic, said today he has spoken with Prosecutor James O'Halloran about the matter and at the request, has sent a letter explaining what had happened.

Vezzetti said he asked the prosecutor for his opinion on the incident and, if it was a violation, urged him to take action on it.

Voice call boxes to be operating within 2 weeks 2/5/76 J.P.

Hoboken's 10 new emergency voice call boxes may be in service within a week or two but they won't eliminate the need to rewire the entire fire alarm system, a spokesman for the city's traffic and signal division said today.

The spokesman said that engineers from the company the city purchased the boxes from have started working on the system and believe that by increasing the power going to the boxes they can get around the poor wiring.

"They should know in a few days if it is going to work," he said, "but they are relatively sure that it will. But we're still going to need rewiring, which should be done this year."

The boxes cost the city approximately \$1,000 each. The entire project, including installation, cost \$68,000.

Garbage pickups still baffle many 2/5/76 J.P.

Only a slight improvement was seen yesterday in the response of Hoboken residents to the city's new alternate-day garbage collections, according to Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale.

Vitale said the number of households who put out their garbage for collection yesterday in the west half of the city, where no collection was made, was almost as great as the number who did the same thing in the east half the day before.

"I think there will be a gradual improvement this week as the word gets around, but there won't be any major breakthrough until next week," he said. "By then we hope to have flyers printed up in English and Spanish and distributed to residents and property owners."

"The only people who seem to be following the new guidelines are those who read the newspaper. The others don't and honestly didn't know there was a change."

"But when they see that their garbage isn't being picked up on certain days, they're asking about it and their neighbors are telling them. That's a slow process but it is movement."

Fusilli: Kill 'unearned' income tax 2/4/76 J.P.

Freeholder Vincent J. Fusilli of Hoboken said today he will ask the taxation committee of the New Jersey State Assembly to release for a vote a bill to repeal the tax on "unearned" income.

Fusilli said he also would ask Hudson County's assemblymen to become co-sponsors of the bill, which was introduced by 13 other assemblymen.

And he said he would ask the county's state senator to become co-sponsors of a companion bill in the state Senate introduced by Sen. Russo, provided Sen. Musto of Union City does not intend to submit a bill of his own.

The freeholder said he was trying to arrange a date to hand Gov. Byrne the signatures collected in Hudson County on a petition to repeal the tax.

Hoboken trash pickups hitting snags

BY PETER HALLAM

The second day of Hoboken's new alternate-day garbage collections was a lot less successful than the first day, Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said today. But he declared that that was expected.

"We didn't reach everyone — and we really didn't expect to," said the director. "A lot of residents still don't know that the system has been changed and that's starting to show up."

Yesterday was a collection day for all residents living in the section of the city

See Editorial:
GARBAGE
On Page 28.

from the west side of Willow Avenue to the westerly boundary line. However, garbage was observed in the east side of the city, placed at the curb for pick-up.

Washington Street was extremely bad, Vitale said. The garbage collection company is making six-days-a-week pick ups along Washington Street, but only for cardboard discarded by the city's merchants. Household garbage is to be put out only on the regular collection days for the east side of the city — Monday, Wednesday and Friday — and is not to be mixed in with the cardboard, the director asserted.

"It appears that it is going to take a while for the new procedures to sink in, and the city is going to have to use a little good judgment in deciding what it is going to do about it," he continued. "I had intended to start cracking down next week but maybe it would be best to delay full enforcement a week or two further."

"However, there are certain things that I want enforced all the time — no garbage is to be put out in paper bags. That isn't a new regulation and it hasn't been changed."

"I can understand someone getting mixed up about what day their garbage is to be picked up. Even the city has its public notice worded improperly."

"But putting garbage out in paper bags has been a violation of the city's sanitation code for many years and everyone is supposed to know better by now," Vitale said.

In order to reach more people, Vitale is having notices printed in both English and Spanish explaining how the system works. On the back will be a map of the city showing the two garbage collection districts.

Many Washington Street merchants and commercial establishments did not get their cardboard and waste picked up by the contractor. However, some did. Vitale said that he would talk with the contractor to find out why some rubbish was picked up and some wasn't. The company had agreed to make six pick-ups a week in the commercial and business district.

New books purchased by library

A total of 386 new books were purchased by the Hoboken Public Library last month, Lucille Cunningham, director, said today. Many of the new volumes have been delivered and are now available.

Some of the new books are:

"The Age of Napoleon: A History of European Civilization from 1778 to 1815" by Will and Ariel Durant; "Eminent Women of the West" by Elinor Richey; "Lin Yutang: The Best of an Old Friend" by A. J. Anderson; "By Shaker Hands: The Art and World of the Shakers" by June Spriggs; "The Relaxation Response" by Dr. Herbert Benson; "Andrew Malraux: A Biography" by Jean Lacouture; "Nabokov's Dark Cinema" by Alfred Appel Jr.; "Thine is the Glory: A Novel of America's Golden Triangle" by Samuel A. Schreiner Jr.; "Also: 'Terms of Endearment' by Larry McMurtry; 'The Devil and Mary Ann' by Catherine Cookson; 'Jr.' by William Gaddis; 'Oscar Wilde' by H. Montgomery Hyde; 'The Nation with the Soul of a Church' by Sidney E. Mead; 'The European Renaissance' by Robert Heller and Norris Wille; 'My Life' by Golda Meir; 'Picked-up Pieces' by John Updike; 'Doris Day: Her Own Story' by A. E. Hotchner; 'Francis Chichester' by Anita Leslie; 'Puritan's Progress' by Monica Furlong.

And: "Witness to Power" by Marquis Childs; "The Swiss Account" by Leslie Waller; "Gates of Hell" by Harrison E. Salisbury; "The Polish Lad" by Isaac Joe Linetski; "The Mind of America, 1820-1860" by Rush Welter; "A Woman Speaks" by Anita Nin; "The Kissinger Noddies of Westward, Mr. Ho" by Max Wilk; "Steinbeck: A Life in Letters" by Elaine Steinbeck and Robert Wallsten; "The Search for Big Foot: Monster, Myth or Man?" by Peter Byrne; "A Home is Not a Home: Life Within a Nursing Home" by Janet Tulloch.

And: "The Complete Works of Saki" by H. H. Munro; "Lanny of Santa Fe" by Paul Horgan; "An American Family in Moscow" by Leona and Jerrald Schecter; "Social Security: The Fraud in Your Future" by Warren S. Hore; "Conquered City" by Victor Segre; "Caro" by Bernard Packard; "Sleeper Agent" by Ib Melchior; "Cricket Cage" by R. H. Shimer; "Revenge of Mortality" by John Gardner; "Jung and the Story of Our Time" by Laurence van der Post.



Garbage piles up uncollected along Bloomfield Street, Hoboken, on the city's east side, as residents in that section either were unaware of or ignored the fact that each half of Hoboken is getting only three pickups a week instead of six for the first time.

Hoboken May Sue N.J. On Funding for Schools

Hoboken city officials and school board authorities are meeting today in a secret caucus that could lead to a law suit against the state of New Jersey.

The suit would be aimed at either forcing the state legislature to fully fund the court-mandated Thorough and Efficient Education Bill or allow Hoboken and other local school districts to continue to provide the level of education they can afford with their local tax rate, unsatisfactory as that level may be to the state.

Attending the meeting will be Mayor Steve Cappiello, representatives of the city council, Board President Otto Hottendorf, board attorney Robert Taylor and Jersey City counsel Harold Ruvoldt Jr., the man who, along with Jersey City Mayor Paul Jordan, led the fight to lift the burden of supporting education off property owners.

A source who confirmed that the meeting will take place this morning in Cappiello's office said that the lawsuit "will be the number one topic under discussion."

Because of the state supreme court's recent ruling that a thorough and efficient education program must be enacted by the legislature this year, and because of the legislature's reluctance to provide funds for the program, Hoboken,

like other school districts in the state, is facing the prospect of having to hike property taxes to pay for the program.

In a sense, because of the legislature's failure to act, Ruvoldt's victory for property owners has turned into a bitter defeat and cities like Hoboken face the danger of raising property tax rates to the point where homeowners and businessmen are driven out of the city.

The board of education has already told the city council that it will need \$1,070,000 more this year than last to run the school system just to pay for additional costs.

Since the legislature is not prepared to give the city that much in state aid, the money will have to be raised through the municipal budget. Garnering the revenues would raise the present tax rate at least another \$10.

Today's meeting was described by one initiate as "the city's only recourse to either cutting back school personnel and services or reducing municipal services to a critical point. Aid has to come from the state, either voluntarily or through the courts."

The source said the city wants the courts to force the legislature to reapportion education costs from the richer cities to the poorer cities.

Hoboken's Tax Rate Will Decrease by \$2

By ELIZABETH PARKS

It's official. While municipal budgets in surrounding communities are going up, Hoboken's budget is going down and the tax rate, excluding board of education increases, will drop \$2.

That's the thrust of the municipal operating budget which Mayor Steve Cappiello will present to the city council at noon today.

Cappiello's budget does not make any provisions for school taxes above the \$3.8 million appropriated for education last year.

Figures on the amount of taxes the board intends to seek from the city are shifting, but its requests could range from \$800,000 to \$2 million.

Several board members recently, however, have been saying they don't want to be responsible for aid requests that will push the city's tax rate "sky high" and president Otto Hottendorf yesterday said that while the board may propose a \$1 million increase, it would not, if the budget is defeated by voters, object to "reasonable" cuts by the city council.

And: "Witness to Power" by Marquis Childs; "The Swiss Account" by Leslie Waller; "Gates of Hell" by Harrison E. Salisbury; "The Polish Lad" by Isaac Joe Linetski; "The Mind of America, 1820-1860" by Rush Welter; "A Woman Speaks" by Anita Nin; "The Kissinger Noddies of Westward, Mr. Ho" by Max Wilk; "Steinbeck: A Life in Letters" by Elaine Steinbeck and Robert Wallsten; "The Search for Big Foot: Monster, Myth or Man?" by Peter Byrne; "A Home is Not a Home: Life Within a Nursing Home" by Janet Tulloch.

And: "The Complete Works of Saki" by H. H. Munro; "Lanny of Santa Fe" by Paul Horgan; "An American Family in Moscow" by Leona and Jerrald Schecter; "Social Security: The Fraud in Your Future" by Warren S. Hore; "Conquered City" by Victor Segre; "Caro" by Bernard Packard; "Sleeper Agent" by Ib Melchior; "Cricket Cage" by R. H. Shimer; "Revenge of Mortality" by John Gardner; "Jung and the Story of Our Time" by Laurence van der Post.

Tenants object, firm gets paid again

In spite of a petition signed by 700 of its tenants expressing dissatisfaction with elevator service in the Hoboken projects, the city's housing authority has rehired the repair company that has been doing the work on the elevators.

A three-year contract has been awarded to the EM Elevator Maintenance Corp. of Kearny which was low bidder at \$64,440. The Herk Elevator Co. of the Bronx was high bidder with a price of \$209,596 for the same three-year period.

Only Commissioner Peter Fontana voted against awarding the contract to the Kearny firm. He said he did so in respect for the feelings of the 700 authority tenants who signed the petition expressing their

dissatisfaction with the company's past work.

Joseph Caliguire, executive director of the authority, said that the new contract requires the company to respond within three hours after being notified of a breakdown. If it does not, the authority will move to void the contract for non-compliance.

Caliguire added that the company's service has improved in the last six months or so.

In other business, the authority was notified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that the authority's budget, submitted to HUD last September for this year, still has not been approved.

Says center jobs safe—for now

A report that Hoboken will definitely lose 25 jobs at the new Multi-Service Center at Second and Grand streets was denied today by Fred M. Bado, director of the city's Community Development Agency (CDA).

Bado said today that the CDA has the funds to keep the center employees whose jobs are in

danger on the payroll through June or July — and by then additional funds may have been obtained from the U.S. Department of Labor for another year.

"We were originally given a grant by the Labor Department of approximately \$270,000 for positions at the center," he said. "That included an administrator, clerical help, maintenance help, guards and some recreation workers."

"That was last April or May and it was a one-year grant. However, not all 25 positions were filled and the people who were hired did not go on the payroll immediately. This happened over a period of several months."

"As a result there are some surplus funds which will allow the CDA to keep those persons on

the Multi-Service Center payroll for several months past the expiration date of the grant. "In the meantime, we are working with the U.S. Department of Labor on an application for a second year grant for the same amount, and we hope to enlist the aid of Rep. Dominick V. Daniels to champion our application when it gets to Washington."

According to the report, published in another newspaper, the city's Lead-Based Paint Detection and Prevention Program would lose some employees. Bado said this was not true. He said that program had no connection with the Multi-Service Center.

"As a result there are some surplus funds which will allow the CDA to keep those persons on



CHECK FOR TENEMENT REPAIR—Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello (right) and David White (second from right), executive vice president, Washington Savings Bank, yesterday present check for \$68,000 to repair five-story tenement at 619 Willow av. to owner Christo Varverakis (second from left). Looking on is Joseph Cicala, housing director. Varverakis received a repair mortgage at 6 per cent rate, backed by the Community Development Agency. The usual rate is 10 1/2.

Maximum income levels raised at Church Towers

BY PETER HALLAM

New maximum income levels have been approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for tenants of the Church Towers apartment complex in Hoboken, adding as much as \$5,700 to allowable income.

Roger Levy, vice president of the YAN Management Co., which manages the three apartment buildings, said that the company has been orally notified of the increases and should have formal written notification in a few weeks.

"What it means is that families whose incomes have gone up since becoming tenants and are now at a point where they may have to move out because of it, can stay, provided they do not exceed the new income levels," he said.

The maximums also affect eligibility for an apartment in the project.

Levy said that formerly one person seeking an efficiency apartment could not be making more than \$8,800. Now he can make as much as \$9,750. And once a resident, his annual income can go as high as \$10,725 without paying any additional rent.

Should he go over \$10,725 but earn less than \$11,963 he must pay additional rent—equal to 20 per cent of the monthly rent, plus the full amount of the rent—without having to vacate the apartment at the end of the lease arrangement.

Levy said a two-member family, husband and wife, can now earn \$11,800 for eligibility for a one-bedroom apartment, can

go as high as \$12,980 without a rent increase and as high as \$14,068 under the additional rent schedule.

Three-and-four-member families can earn \$15,900 for eligibility, up to \$15,290 without a rent increase and up to \$17,104 under the additional rent schedule.

Hot or cold?

Hoboken's school system is thinking of switching from cold to hot lunches.

Three quarters of the 2,500 children who partake of the free lunches are of Spanish-speaking families and are unaccustomed to the food provided, so they leave it.

There is no point in punishing them by insisting they eat food to which they are unaccustomed. The goal of the lunch program is to see to it that children of poor families get a meal at noontime.

The question then becomes: should the goal be that the youngsters get a hot meal? The school lunch coordinator says he could do a lot more with the menu if he could serve hot dishes instead of cold sandwiches.

The hot meal seems to be the better choice. It may cost the city a little more, but it would not be a frill. It would be what ought to have been done in the first place.

Hoboken police face reassignments

Within the next two weeks a number of major reassignments will be made in the Hoboken Police Department, Chief George W. Crimmins said today.

The chief said he was going on vacation for two weeks but that upon his return he would be making "many reassignments" in all areas of the department with the possible exception of the detective bureau.

The first of what the chief says will be many came yesterday when Detective Jack Howe was removed from the detective bureau and placed on "around-the-clock duty."

He was replaced in the bureau by Patrolman Thomas Golizio who was taken off the traffic detail. Golizio will not be replaced in the traffic assignment, the chief said.

Patrolman Paris Capizzi was taken off around-the-clock duty and temporarily assigned to the auto squad, a 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. assignment. He will be filling in for Sgt. Gabriel Ferriaculo who is going on vacation.

Crimmins said the reassignments were necessary because he is down to "the bare minimums" in the uniformed division.

"We have to have a minimum of 11 men on all shifts," he said. "That covers one man on the desk, one on the radio, one working the jail and the rest on rounds or squad car duty. I'm at that minimum now and in some cases below it."

Crimmins said while he is on vacation Capt. Walter Lebrink will serve as acting chief.

Hoboken P.A. may add parking lot

The Hoboken Parking Authority, which has three parking garages but no parking lots, is on the verge of obtaining a parking lot, a spokesman for the authority said today.

Joseph Hottendorf, the authority's executive director, said the authority is in the final stages of negotiations with the owner of the land either to buy or lease it.

He declined to name the owner or the location of the lot because a final agreement has not yet been reached. However, Hottendorf said the negotiations might be concluded in time to present a formal proposal to the authority members at their meeting Monday.

"The lot is one of 14 the authority has been looking at around the city for the purpose of establishing either metered or leased parking facilities," he said. "All these are privately owned and the authority would either buy them or rent them."

When asked if two of the sites might be the vacant lot at Second Street and Park Avenue, and the vacant one at 11th Street and Willow Avenue, Hottendorf said both would make "good residential parking areas."

"But the authority doesn't know the status of those properties," he continued. "The city has a claim on the 11th Street property because it paid for the demolition. But other than that, I don't know if they would be available."

According to Hottendorf, the authority plans to use some of the off-street facilities as metered parking lots. The others would be fenced in, and parking spaces would be leased by the month to residents of the area.

Hoboken's loss of ratables alone to up tax rate \$6

Hoboken taxpayers are facing a minimum tax increase of \$6 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation even if the city's 1976 budget only matches what was budgeted last year.

A review of the city's new assessment figures shows that Hoboken has lost more than \$6 million in taxable property and land since last year.

Last year the city had a total of \$115,894,800 in land and buildings that were subject to taxes. However, the 1976 figures show that the taxable total is now down to \$109,606,450—a decrease of \$6,088,350.

Based on the city's figures of a \$1 tax increase producing approximately \$100,000 in revenues, the tax rate will have to go up \$6 to produce the \$800,000 in revenues lost through the reduction in taxable properties and buildings just to stay even with 1975.

Hoboken's tax rate for 1975 was \$106.53. Mayor Steve Cappiello has previously said it could rise as much as \$18 due to the loss of ratables coupled with an increased board of education budget for the 1976-77 school year and decreases in state and federal aid.

However, the mayor was still working on the budget he will present to the city council on Feb. 10. It will then be up to the council to review the budget and make any cuts it feels are warranted.

The city's new assessment figures were made available to the public yesterday by the city assessors but few property owners showed up to see if their assessments had changed.

According to Andrew P. McGuire, one of the city's two assessors, most inquiries are received in July when the city's new tax bills come out — along with the tax increases.

McGuire said more than half of the drop in ratables could be traced to the reduction in the assessment on Bethlehem Steel's Hoboken shipyard.

The company was assessed at \$9,725,000 last year on its property along the Hoboken waterfront. But it successfully appealed that assessment and was granted a reduction of \$3,325,000 by the state.

McGuire said an additional \$1,505,000 in ratables was lost when properties such as the Keuffel and Esser rehabilitation project and Applied Housing Associates properties were removed from the ratables list and reclassified as "limited dividend property."

He explained that the city will still receive some money from these properties in-lieu-of taxes. However, since the owners do not pay full taxes on the full value of the properties, they cannot be included on the list of ratables.

The amount of land and building in the city that is tax exempt has also increased for 1976. Last year the city had \$82,201,500 in exemptions. This has increased to \$83,145,000 for this year.

Hoboken fire, train crash — now comes the 'why'



Patients are carried down Clinton Street fire escape.

BY PATRICIA DONNELLY

Investigations into two potential catastrophes in Hoboken are continuing today in the wake of a morning rush hour train crash that injured 50 yesterday at the Erie Lackawanna terminal and a general alarm fire at an hour-and-a-half later at St. Mary Hospital that required the evacuation of almost 300 patients.

Railroad supervisors are conducting a preliminary investigation, checking for mechanical malfunctions that may have caused the crash and thoroughly reviewing the course of the accident with the train's engineer.

Capt. Raymond Falco, in charge of the Hoboken Fire Prevention Bureau, has begun

See Editorial:
WELL DONE
On Page 20.

sifting through debris at the small fire-damaged section of the hospital in an attempt to learn the cause.

As of this morning, causes of the train crash and fire had not yet been determined. However, Hoboken police said that operations at St. Mary Hospital were nearly back to normal. A hospital administrator said that patients who had not returned to the hospital would be brought back today.

Efforts to extinguish the fire were hampered by the weight of the oxygen tanks worn by each firefighter and the problem locating the blaze, which was contained in a 12-by-15 foot storage room beneath the old chapel. Pneumatic drills were brought in to drill a hole in the marble floor of the chapel to reach the fire.

Though the fire was described as small, the heavy grey smoke from the chemical soaps stored there raced through the old six-story section and into the newer portion of the hospital.

The oxygen supply of the rescue teams needed almost constant replacement as the smoke continued billowing through the halls for several hours. Special fans were also brought in to draw the smoke out.

Self-contained units on the fourth and sixth floors were the last to be evacuated, while patients from all remaining floors and the emergency room, including victims of the Erie Lackawanna crash, were still under the direction of hospital personnel.

Children from the pediatric section kept warm at a sweater factory diagonally across from the hospital at Third and Clinton Streets. Other took refuge at Assumption Hall and Our Lady of Grace school.

Ambulances from Hudson, Essex and Bergen counties converged at the hospital entrances, loading as many as three patients into each one before sending them to St. Francis Hospital, Christ Hospital, the Jersey City Medical Center and North Hudson Hospital. Martland Hospital, Newark, was also on a stand-by alert to receive patients.

The rescue teams from Hillside and East Orange were put into service as taxis for the railroad crash victims from suburban Essex, who had been released by the hospital.

Six train crash victims were transported to St. Francis Hospital where their complaints of contusions and lacerations were checked in the emergency room before they were released. The Jersey City Medical Center reported three admissions of crash victims who were relayed from St. Mary Hospital. All were reported in stable condition.

A Hoboken Board of Education bus, specially equipped to accommodate handicapped students, was pressed into service to handle wheelchair cases and transport them to the Medical Center.

The streets surrounding the hospital were filled with anxious relatives, particularly at the emergency room door where bandaged train crash victims emerged. One man was met by his wife who had driven him to the station in Summit to catch the 7:02 to Hoboken earlier in the day.

An Erie Lackawanna spokesman said the train was arriving on time, making its normal approach to the station at two miles per hour when, for reasons not yet determined, it failed to stop. Instead it slammed into the bumping block, a five-foot-high concrete barrier that separates the front of the train from the platform area.

The 500 to 600 commuters aboard the 8:02 were mostly standing in the aisles and at the doors when they were thrown by the impact of the crash.

"They fell like dominoes, one on top of the other," said Vincent Horan, chief clerk to the superintendent of the Hoboken terminal. Horan also noted that the train was more crowded than usual because of the foul weather.

The engineer in the first car escaped uninjured.

While Horan said the crash was due either to mechanical failure or human error, he stressed the "remarkably clean record" of engineer R. J. Murray, who has been with the Erie Lackawanna for more than 20 years.

In addition to the company's investigation, federal law states that an investigation must also be made by the Federal Railway Administration. Reports must be filed with the Public Utilities Commission, which also has the right to initiate further study of the situation.

Service was back to normal on the Hoboken-Summit line shortly after the crash occurred and the lead train will be back in service once damage to its underside is repaired.

St. Mary Hospital expects to re-admit patients beginning today, but the critically ill will probably not be returned to the Hoboken facility for several days, a hospital spokesman said.

Hoboken firefighters charged that manpower cutbacks in the force hampered initial efforts to control the fire.

Capt. William Bergin, president of the Hoboken Fire Officers Association said that the first group to arrive at the three-alarm call consisted of 18 firefighters and five officers. Under previous city administrations, he said, "We would have had six more men and two officers."

Mayor Steve Cappiello, who earlier said, "It could have been worse except for the fine efforts of all people involved — the firemen, police, the hospital and the volunteers who worked diligently until the job was done," could not be reached for comment on Bergin's charges.

Low-interest repair loans to tenements aid revival

Hoboken has made "a major breakthrough" in its "revival program" by initiating a new type of tenement house rehabilitation plan, according to Mayor Steve Cappiello.

The mayor was commenting on the

See Editorial:
A FIRST
On Page 16.

granting of a \$68,000 home repair mortgage to the owner of a five-story tenement house at an effective prime interest rate of 6 per cent. The ordinary rate is currently 10½ per cent. The lender is the Washington Savings Bank.

The 10-family walkup is at 619 Willow Ave., owned by Christo Varverakis, a draftsman, who lives next door at 621.

It will be completely refurbished within six months, according to Joseph Cicala, housing director of the Hoboken Community Development Agency.

The building will be transformed into 10 modern, two bed-room apartments with plumbing, electrical and interior renovation.

The program is expected to fill the gap between two other Hoboken CDA projects, the Home Improvement Loan program which provides 3 per cent subsidized loans for owners of one-to-four-family homes, and Project Rehab, a \$25 million project for large scale gut rehabilitation.

The new multi-story tenement improvement program benefits the city this way, according to Cicala:

It avoids building abandonments, upgrades the tax base, and improves its low cost housing supply for residents. It also avoids the problems of administering a costly subsidy program over an extended period.

And the owner benefits by obtaining access to loan funds not otherwise available.

The program was conceived by Cicala and Martin McCarthy, the CDA's housing consultant.

Loans are made by private lending institutions to building owners at market rates, now 10½ per cent.

The city, using federal and state monies, gives a one-time interest reducing grant to lower the market rate to an effective 6 per cent.

In this case the owner borrowed \$48,000 at the prevailing market rate of 10½ per cent. The city, through the CDA, gave him \$19,000 which does not require repayment if he meets the loan conditions.

In effect, Varverakis is receiving \$68,000 at 6 per cent.

The Hoboken program, funded by CDA, the Urban Reinvestment Task Force, a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, and the state's Department of Community Affairs, has \$500,000 available in interest reduction grants to reduce home repair loan costs of multi-story tenements.

In most cases, construction will take place in occupied apartments. This will be possible due to the limited construction work. It will result in significant cost savings which will benefit tenants directly through reduced rentals.

Projected rentals will be increased from present levels of about \$80-\$100 per month for a one-bedroom unheated apartment to \$150 per month including heat after rehabilitation.

"Residents receive significant improvement to their apartments with a minor increase in rentals," Cicala said.

And the lending institution says its investment secured by a newly renovated income property with marketable, competitive rent levels.

"The lender's risk is further limited by a city-sponsored mortgaged insurance program."

The architectural firm of Bissell and Wells, New York, is developing architectural guidelines and standards. It is available to owners for consulting.

Construction work is estimated to cost between \$7,000 and \$9,000 per apartment, depending on size and condition. Most of the cost will be absorbed by replacement of mechanical systems — plumbing, electrical and new central heating.

Replacement of roof and windows has a high priority; kitchens and bathrooms will be replaced, as well as entrance doors and intercoms.

The work, in most cases, will be performed by private contractors and subcontractors selected by building owners.

Hoboken urged to undertake own water recovery

A three-year \$790,000 water recovery program sponsored for Hoboken by the Davidson Laboratory at Stevens Institute of Technology has been planned by the engineer who was asked by Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale to review the proposal.

James Caulfield, who is also Hoboken's building inspector, said today that he has advised the director that in his opinion the city should not enter into any formal agreement on the proposal and, instead, it should hire its own engineer and personnel to do the job.

Caulfield declined to say where he differed with the opinion of the Stevens engineers who prepared the proposal. However, he added that he had briefed Vitale on the matter and it was he who should comment.

Vitale was not immediately available for comment.

The city council recently authorized Mayor Steve Cappiello, Vitale and Business Administrator Herman Bier to negotiate with the college on the recovery program.

Approximately one third of the cost of the project would be paid to the college in engineers' salaries, the use of laboratory facilities, and the hiring of college students.

Most city officials balked at the proposed cost and decided that the mayor, Bier and Vitale should discuss the proposal with the college and see if a lower price could be negotiated.

Well done

First there was a railroad accident in Hoboken yesterday and then there was a smoky fire in the hospital where the accident victims awaited treatment.

There were all the ingredients for a disaster: snow-clogged streets filled with rush hour traffic, emergency vehicles flooding in from every direction, and excitement feeding upon itself as it does in emergencies.

But the Hoboken police and firemen and the officials at St. Mary Hospital deserve a special commendation for a job exceptionally well done. So do all the ambulance and emergency services which responded so well to double duty at the railroad terminal and at the hospital.

The instinctive performance of emergency procedures is the test of the competence of public safety services. The accident victims, the hospital patients, their families — and the community — should be grateful that Hoboken passed the test.

Boiler Trouble Closes Center

The Hoboken Recreation Center at 117 Jefferson st., servicing between 100 and 150 people a day, has been completely closed down because of major problems with the boiler.

Public Works Director Raphael Vitale said yesterday that he will meet with Community Center Director Peter Beronio and Community Development Director Fred Bado today to see if temporary space can be set up in the community center at Second and Grand sts. for the young and elderly who use the Jefferson st. center.

In the meantime, he has asked the council subcommittee on public works to consider making an emergency appropriation of \$14,700 to

replace the damaged boiler plus another \$3,500 to replace pipes under the gym.

Vitale, who has been having trouble with the boiler since the extremely cold night of Jan. 28, said yesterday that it would cost at least \$2,500 to buy the main replacement part, an expenditure he termed "throwing good money after bad."

The cold weather cracked the boiler and many of the steam pipes in the center and the condition has been worsening.

Recently Vitale said the boiler room flooded when more pipes burst, putting the basement two feet under water.

In a report filed with Vitale, an observer described the gym floor as "wavy to the naked eye" after steam pipes beneath it also burst.

Similar problems also cropped up yesterday in the 20-year-old boiler heating the library, leaving the building at Park and Fifth without heat for most of the day.

Vitale said he thought the library boiler repairs were relatively minor and could be completed by today. But the library is now closed until further notice.

Water Plant Fund Crisis Might Cost \$10 Million

By RICHARD DRABIK

With less than two weeks left before a decision has to be made that could cost Jersey City taxpayers \$10 million, Mayor Paul Jordan is intensifying efforts to find emergency funding for construction of the water filtration plant.

Unless Jordan can refinance the project by the end of next week, he will try to "ease out" of the city's \$30 million contract with the Schiavone Construction Co., Newark.

To "ease out" against the contractor's will could cost the city \$10 million or more. In other words, since the city agreed to pay this firm \$30 million to build the water filtration plant, it may have to pay it this money whether it has or not. Since undertaking construction 14 months ago, Schiavone has purchased the material, leased the equipment and hired the men, it needs the money to pay its bills.

Calls by the Hoboken city council, most recently on Jan. 7, to have work halted until federal and state funds for the project are available were rejected by Jordan. Hoboken, along with North Arlington, Lyndhurst and West Caldwell, buy their water from Jersey City.

Jordan said he takes seriously a 1968 Superior Court order that the plant be built to improve water quality. As mayor, he could face charges of malfeasance in office if he arbitrarily stopped work and the order was enforced.

Instead, he has been working with state Environmental Protection Commissioner David Bardin to find a solution to the funding dilemma.

The threatened halt of the project will be necessary, he explained, because funds

from the initial \$15.8 million bond sale are nearly depleted. Banks and institutions have refused to buy more bonds until the higher rates the city wants are approved by the state Board of Public Utility Commissioners (PUC). PUC action, sought by Hoboken, has been delayed indefinitely, sparking this latest crisis.

Jordan said yesterday the climate for refunding seems positive, but declined to elaborate. He is still prepared to halt the project.

Though Hoboken officials, particularly Councilman Robert Ranieri, insist state and federal funds are available, Jordan disagrees. He said he "scoured every funding source available," and with Bardin's resources, has found nothing, "so far."

He said federal aid has dried up, and state sewage funds are definitely not available for water projects. He said the water bond issue was the city's only hope. It was defeated in November.

While he works with Bardin, Jordan has assigned Finance Director Jerome Lazarus and Corporation Counsel Dennis McGill to meet "informally" with PUC hearing examiners to try to untrack the case. The quick setting of new rates could save the project.

Jordan also said, "I'm aware that the financing of the water filtration plant poses a terrible financial hardship on Hoboken. I've talked about this with Mayor Steve Cappiello and will talk with our customers again, soon. But I will not do anything that will jeopardize a chance to insure future generations of clean, high quality water."

Bids Authority abandon buying lots for parking

A Hoboken councilman today urged the city's Parking Authority to abandon plans for the purchase or lease of 14 privately owned vacant lots which would be used for off-street parking. But an authority official says its members will continue to "look" at the 14 sites.

Councilman at-large Robert A. Ranieri said he would oppose the plan because "the parking authority has more pressing problems to deal with other than buying or leasing land for parking lots."

"Until such time as the authority is getting full use from its three parking garages on Hudson Street, I don't think it should become involved in new pursuits," the councilman said.

Joseph Hottendorf, executive director of the parking authority, said he agrees that the authority "should do its best to fill the garages," but added, "It's also our job to look around town for parking because city officials and residents — mostly uptown — have called on us to do so."

"The parking authority has an \$8.5 million debt to worry about, one that the city will have to pay off if it is unable to. So it is my opinion that the authority should be doing everything possible to get maximum usage for its garages and make them a paying proposition."

Ranieri said he didn't disagree with the parking authority's plan, just its timing.

"The idea is sound, but not for this particular point in time," he continued. "Those garages have to be looked after first."

Ranieri said he would propose to the authority that if promote its garage parking and encourage residents who don't live near them to use them anyway. "One possibility would be a free bus service to and from the garages," he said. "The idea is to bring the cars to the parking

authority, not the parking authority to the cars."

Said Hottendorf: "Everybody is getting excited about something that may never materialize. All we're doing is looking at 14 lots. We didn't buy or lease anything and we'll keep the council informed if we decide to do that."

Asked to explain, Hottendorf mentioned as an example a vacant lot at Second Street and Park Avenue which, he said, First Ward Councilman Anthony Romano advised could be converted into a parking facility for perhaps as many as 20 cars.

"The city has a tax lien on the property," said Hottendorf. "After the lien runs out (a two-year process) and if the city told us it wanted to make use of the lot for parking," continued Hottendorf, "we could lease it for a nominal fee and maintain it. We could put in meters or provide for residential parking only."

Many of the other sites being considered by the authority, said Hottendorf, are in similar financial conditions.

Meanwhile, he added, the authority is concentrating on ways of further inducing residents and businesses to park in the Hudson Street garages. "We have a total of 1,600 spaces and we've already rented 28 per cent of that to 400 monthly occupants who are not Grogan Plaza residents, which means we've gone beyond what the original plaza garage contract called for."

As for Ranieri's suggestion for a free bus service, Hottendorf says the idea has merit and has been discussed by the authority but he said until the authority garages can generate adequate revenues, it would be unwise for the authority to take on such an additional burden.

Need cold cash for heating repairs

The number of Hoboken public buildings with questionable heating systems has now risen to three and city officials are unsure of where the money to make permanent repairs will come from.

Employees at the Hoboken Public Library, Fifth Street and Park Avenue, found the building without heat when they reported for work yesterday and the repairs are not expected to be completed before tomorrow.

The library joins the Downtown Recreation Center, 117 Jefferson St., and the city hall building with heating system problems.

According to Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale, functional and reliable heating systems are only part of the problem with some city buildings. Others problems include the need for roof repairs and the new windows.

"I don't know what the repairs at the library will be, but it is estimated that it will cost around \$20,000 to put the heating system at the recreation center in good order," he said. "The city hall heating needs work too but I don't have an estimate on that as yet."

Business Administrator Herman Bier said he has discussed the problem with Vitale and felt that he should take it to the mayor and city council. Vitale said that he plans to do just that and has already had some discussion with a few of the councilmen.

To Better Hoboken

Hoboken rather consistently has been in the forefront in setting up special programs that have been aimed at rehabilitating the municipality. The latest effort marks a major thrust in the direction of halting tenement decay in areas that have been on the downgrade.

Through the Community Development Agency and the Washington Savings Bank an owner of a five-story tenement on Willow av. has been granted a \$68,000 home repair mortgage at an effective prime rate of six per cent instead of at the conventional rate of 10.5 per cent.

How the program works is that a loan is made at the regular 10.5 per cent rate and then the city, using federal and state monies, gives a one-

time interest reducing grant to lower the market rate to the effective six per cent. It is financial maneuvering for the right purpose.

Hoboken has \$500,000 available in such interest-reducing grants to cut down on home repair loan costs on multi-story tenements. It's the type of program that can be of exceptional use in the Mile-Square City where there are so many dilapidated tenement structures.

If Hoboken can get its tenements upgraded and occupied then it means a "plus" for everyone concerned. In particular it means a refurbishing of a neighborhood, for if one landlord does it the others probably will follow. Hoboken certainly can use this type of a project.

St. Mary hospital staffers the heroes of fire rescue

A frail old woman clung fiercely to the shirt of the young man who carried her gently over his shoulder as he stepped through puddles of ice water, and over mounds of snow to deliver her to the relative safety and warmth of the sweater factory across the street from St. Mary Hospital, Hoboken.

Wrapped in a bright green blanket over a white hospital gown the woman was perfectly silent, letting the fear and confusion on her face speak for her.

By contrast, the hospital attendant was the picture of calm courage, an image that

was repeated hundreds of times yesterday while the staff evacuated almost 300 patients from the hospital which was filled with smoke from a storage room fire.

Throughout the rescue operation individual staff members maintained an efficient pace in moving patients and emergency equipment from the hospital.

The fire escape on Clinton Avenue was filled with patients, nurses and aides shortly after Hoboken firemen responded to the 9:45 a.m. alarm.

Nurses carried infants wrapped in cocoons of nursery blankets to a safe section of the hospital before ambulances arrived to take them with their mothers to Margaret Hague Hospital in Jersey City. One of the infants had been born during the fire.

Children from the pediatric unit found shelter in the sweater factory along with older patients, some of them accompanied by aides who carried their intravenous bottles near them.

At the north end of the hospital a male attendant calmly reassured a woman who was being sent to the Jersey City Medical Center as she waited with a line of wheelchair patients to be placed on the Hoboken Board of Education bus, which is specially equipped with a wheelchair lift.

Inside the bus another patient stared out the window, looking at no one. The tailored briefcase on his lap and the business suit he wore may have identified him as one of the injured passengers from the Erie Lackawanna crash.

A crowd of nearly 50 relatives clung to the iron gate by the emergency room door, searching inside for a glimpse of loved ones.

Student nurses in crisp uniforms seemed unaware of the freezing temperatures as they consoled groups of Spanish families through interpreters. But the information they furnished was vague at best. Their sick relatives had been transported to one of four hospitals, but no one could say which one.

The women from the hospital auxiliary appeared and prepared Our Lady of Grace school hall for patients. Cups of steaming coffee appeared from restaurants in the area, warming the frozen hands of rescue workers and onlookers, and taverns nearby reported an increase in business when the work was finished.

The rescue would have been amazing on a clear spring day, one onlooker observed, but with icy sidewalks and snowfilled streets it was incredible.

Hoboken parking agency to head neighbors' views before opening new lots

The executive director of the Hoboken Parking Authority today assured members of the city council that it will fully cooperate with the city in the authority's plan to buy or lease 14 privately owned vacant lots and convert them into off-street parking facilities.

Joseph Hottendorf, the director, said that the authority has been keeping Mayor Steve Cappiello and City Council President Martin J. Brennan up to date on the project, along with officials of the city's Community Development Agency (CDA).

Councilmen Anthony H. Romano and

Francis K. Leahy had expressed some concern about the authority's efforts because the council, as a whole, had not been advised of its plans. They questioned whether residents near the lots would be given a chance to express opinions.

"No lots will be opened unless we have the support of the residents in those areas," said Hottendorf. "The authority will pay strict attention to the public's feelings."

"The authority also will make sure that none of the lots interfere with any of the city's redevelopment plans," he added.

2/9/76 J.J. Needed Park Funds

That's good news from Trenton which asserts that Hudson County's park commission will be getting \$1.6 million in state Green Acres funds for improvement and expansion work on four county parks including James J. Braddock-North Hudson.

It is an encouraging sign and one which shows that the commission, with the cooperation of the freeholders, has indeed been working on getting funds, both state and federal. That's the only way to do it these days. You just can't let "grass grow under your feet."

Also involved in the upcoming work

will be Columbus Park in Hoboken, Lincoln Park East in Jersey City and Bayonne County Park. These are all areas that are essential to a heavily-urban section as Hudson. The people in this county need them and depend on them.

Too often the state and federal government forget the importance of parks in urban areas; they are sometimes more interested in expanding park complexes in the suburbs, with their more affluent residents. This time Hudson has gotten something. That is a definite "plus."

2/10/76 J.J. School's roof is inspected after piece falls to ground

A thorough inspection of the decorative cement work directly under the roof eaves of the A.J. Demarest Junior High School, Hoboken, is being made today after a section the size of a bowling ball fell off the building near the entrance on Fourth Street.

Edwin Stickle, principal, said that the incident occurred yesterday morning, an hour or so before students started showing up for school.

"Fortunately, no one was injured," said Stickle. "However, the entire area was closed off with barricades just in case other portions of the cement work might be loose."

He added that the incident was reported to the board of education's business

manager, Anthony H. Romano. At Romano's request, the city building inspector, James Caulfield, is making the inspection.

Romano said the examination should be completed today.

Two years ago, a similar problem developed on the Garden Street side of the building. Several large columns which held up a large stone canopy over the entrance started to lean, causing concern that the canopy might collapse.

The problem was blamed on the continued settling of the building's foundation. The board of education had the pillars and the stone canopy removed at a cost of more than \$14,000.

2/11/76 J.J. Hoboken Cautioned On Boiler Problems

The boiler problems that on Monday forced Hoboken officials to close the city's library and recreation center could be repeated in any of the city's public buildings, closing them down "at any time," Public Works Director Raphael Vitale said yesterday.

Boilers in the city's six firehouses are "antiquated" and "constantly acting up," Vitale reported. The boiler in the City Hall is over 20 years old and "ready to go at any moment," Vitale said.

The boiler in the library "works on glue and faith" and the one in the recreation center is "beyond repair," he asserted.

However, none of the boilers, with the possible exception of the recreation center boiler, are being replaced because there is no money available in Vitale's budget and no current plans to use capital improvement funds on them.

It will take approximately \$20,000, some \$15,000 for the boiler and some \$5,000 for pipes and other repairs, to put the 117 Jefferson st. Recreation Center in operation again.

But Vitale said, "It's not at all certain we'll get the money."

As the Hoboken Community Development Agency is making temporary plans to shift all city recreation programs to the community center at Second and Grand sts. starting Tuesday, planners in the agency are looking into the possibility of getting a federal grant to replace the boiler.

Vitale said that CDA social services director Peter Bernoni yesterday assured him that efforts would be made to apply for a federal recreation replacement grant as "quickly as possible."

Nevertheless, it would take months for the grant to be applied for and approved and about four weeks for the boiler to be replaced, Vitale could not foresee the opening of the recreation center before the warmer weather of spring, he said.

The Library is expected to reopen tomorrow or Friday.

2/18/76 J.J. Capiello names his 3 choices for school board

Hoboken Mayor Steve Capiello today announced his endorsement of John Raslowsky, Leo McLaughlin and Aurelio Lugo Jr. for the Hoboken Board of Education in next month's election.

"These are my personal endorsements," said the mayor, "but I am asking all organization supporters to follow suit."

Raslowsky, funeral director, and Lugo, a Hoboken police detective, are both incumbents seeking their first three-year elected term on the board. They were appointed by former Mayor Louis DePascale. McLaughlin is a former Hoboken dock boss now working as a checker in Newark. He ran for the school board last year as an independent and came in fifth.

The third incumbent also seeking re-election is Clayton Anderson, the only black on the school board. Capiello did not say why Anderson didn't get his endorsement and the backing of the organization.

The announcement of the endorsement was somewhat anticlimactic. It had been strongly rumored for several weeks that McLaughlin, Raslowsky and Lugo had been selected by the mayor for his endorsement.

Raslowsky, McLaughlin and Lugo become the second ticket to form for the election. The other ticket consists of Leonard Luizzi, treasurer of the mayor's political club; John Maresca, a teacher and the nephew of Jersey City Councilman Thomas Maresca, and Mrs. Carmelia Iocca.

Local political observers believe the mayor did not move quickly enough to endorse candidates. And the outcome of that is division among the organization's ranks as to who will support whom.

A number of organization people have already come out for Charles Roberts, a local fireman making his second effort for a school board seat. He came in sixth in last year's school board election.

Luizzi has also been getting fairly strong backing from some of the mayor's political associates and from some members of the city council, along with Roberts. Both he and Roberts were the guests of Councilman Louis Francane at a senior citizen Valentine party over the weekend.

Meanwhile, an open forum for the candidates has been scheduled for Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Hoboken High School auditorium. Robert King is coordinating the forum. The Rev. Juniper Alwell, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, will serve as program chairman and moderator.

King said the forum is non-political and non-partisan.

2/10/76 J.J. Hoboken walkaway

Hoboken buys materials and supplies under a peculiar arrangement. It advertises for bids on contracts for, say, up to 500 gallons of paint in a year, at so much a gallon, but without committing itself to buying that much.

The supplier delivers it in small amounts from time to time when the city calls him. He has to get hold of the full 500 gallons and store it, just in case. Consequently, he charges more per gallon, not only to compensate him for storing it, but for the risk he takes in stocking more than he may need.

Hoboken explains it cannot store such supplies because the stuff "just walks away." Are Hoboken's city employees really so larcenous? Other municipalities manage to store things. How is it Hoboken cannot?

2/16/76 J.J. A first

Hoboken has broken the ice in tenement house rehabilitation by implementing federal subsidies to landlords enabling them to borrow money at 6 per cent instead of the going 10 1/2 per cent. This should be applauded as an experiment. Let it not be a device to enrich slumlords. Presumably the banks have thought of that possibility and will be careful. May this venture work out right.

2/11/76 J.J. Hoboken councilmen get copies of budget today

The nine members of the Hoboken City Council should have their own personal copies of Mayor Steve Capiello's proposed 1976 budget sometime today — a day later than expected.

The mayor was to have presented the councilmen with his budget at a special meeting yesterday at noon. However, when noon rolled around there weren't any copies of the budget available for presentation to the council.

Capiello called Vincent J. Indelicato, the city's registered municipal auditor, and found that he mistakenly thought the special meeting was for last night, not yesterday at noon.

Since there weren't any copies of the budget for the council, Council President Martin J. Brennan adjourned the meeting for an hour, giving Indelicato time to get to Hoboken City Hall from his Jersey City

office and present the council with the master copy of the budget.

Brennan said this satisfied the legal requirements of making the presentation. However, after the meeting Indelicato had to take the master copy with him so that extras could be reproduced for the councilmen and other city officials and agencies. They were expected to be in the hands of most councilmen today.

The main feature of the budget as it now stands is a reduction of some \$200,000 in municipal operating expenses over last year. This could reduce the city's tax by more than \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation — if allowed to stand as is. However, it does not include the money that the city will have to provide to the board of education for running the schools.

And there's the rub. If the school board's projections hold true, it would mean, Singleton and Anderson voting yes along with Trustees Mary Stack Gaspar and James Farina — (just five board members remained at the time of the tally) — the motion carried.

Hottendorf explained later that he favors the board taking a "full-funding" position on the question of state aid.

Under the court-approved "thorough-and-efficient" plan envisioned by the state legislature, said Hottendorf, the Hoboken School district is entitled to some \$8 million in state aid for fiscal 1977.

However, he continued, the state has allotted only \$6,889,630.03 in aid for Hoboken from which, he added, must be subtracted some \$350,000 as an additional local district employees' pension contribution.

Asked what the board would do if the state doesn't come up with the full \$8 million, Hottendorf replied: "We'll take them to court for violating the law."

Teachers' raises, said Hottendorf, account for an extra \$1 million in the projected school budget, of which, he added, \$3 per cent is earmarked for instructors' salaries.

According to Otto Hottendorf, local president, \$250,000 more to be raised by local taxation this year than for the 1975-76 school year.

That, in turn, he said, would mean that city taxpayers would have to pay another \$2 on the tax rate, thus effectively nullifying the piling of projected municipal expenses.

Hottendorf based that forecast on his estimate of about \$33 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for schools.

The school board, which introduced a tentative budget last night of \$13,096,632.03, will hold a public hearing on the budget March 11 at 7 p.m. over the objections of Hottendorf who protested that Board Counsel Robert Taylor, the "preparer of the budget," could not attend at that time.

However, at the prodding of some members of the audience last night, Board Trustee Donald Singleton offered a motion to change the proposed meeting time of 10 a.m. and got a second from Trustee Clayton Anderson.

With only Hottendorf dissenting,

2/12/76 J.J. How many parades? Memorial; Bicentennial; one for both?

Will Hoboken have two parades this year, one celebrating Memorial Day and the other in observance of the nation's Bicentennial, or one combining both?

That will be decided Tuesday night when city officials, members of the Joint Memorial Committee, and the city's bicentennial committee meet to iron out the problem.

The bicentennial committee has its parade scheduled for May 16, while the veterans groups are to hold theirs on May 29. But at stake is \$2,225 which the city contributes to the cost of the Memorial Day parade and other veterans' functions. It is reported that this year the money will be going to the Bicentennial Committee.

Members of the Joint Veterans Committee met yesterday with Mayor Steve Capiello but would not say what the discussion was about. However, it was learned that it dealt with the parades.

One committee member said there "wasn't any problem" about the parade but there were still several questions that had to be resolved and probably would be Tuesday.

Although officials of the committee and the different veterans' groups in the city would not comment on it, there has been an open question from some of their members as to why the Bicentennial parade was scheduled for May instead of during early July.

The companies were to spend two or three years in the apartment buildings while

2/9/76 J.J. Jitneys?

Forty interviewers have been hired for the next four weeks to quiz those who live or work in Hoboken about their travel habits.

The purpose is to find out whether they could be transported as well in "jitneys" smaller than buses but larger than automobiles. Hoboken is concerned about the decreasing supply of fuel, the increase in auto fume pollution and the rising cost of present transit.

The inquiry has a worthy aim, but one may wonder whether it can discover anything of value not already known. When Hoboken wanted to run a smaller, less expensive cross-town bus to increase efficiency, it found it still had to comply with the state's rigid — and expensive — safety requirements.

Hoboken finally escaped the state's jurisdiction by scaling down to a ten-seat bus, in the range of a jitney. The city's experience showed the biggest expense in operating the bus is the salaries of the drivers.

Simple arithmetic shows that one driver for ten riders is not as productive as one driver for 40. Hoboken's cross-town ten-seat bus is working out, but only because the line is lightly patronized and not mobbed in rush hours.

Property owners who fail to remove snow and ice from their sidewalks will start getting summonses this week from the Hoboken Public Works Department, Director Raphael P. Vitale said today.

"The city's sanitation inspectors have been issuing warnings since last week," the director said. "Reinspections will be made this week and summonses issued to those property owners who failed to comply."

Last week, Second Ward Councilman Walter S. Cramer complained he was

2/11/76 J.J. Prospective Hoboken food vendor offers samples of school fare

Some Hoboken school board members regretted eating dinner last night. They didn't have room left for free hot lunch samples offered by the Morton Food Co., which is hoping to replace Hoboken's Union Club as the supplier of school meals.

Several trustees helped themselves to seconds and thirds, partaking of the 35 varieties of cooked dishes prepared by Morton, a subsidiary of the IIT Continental Baking Co.

"I had spaghetti and meat balls and turkey," said Trustee Donald Singleton, "and I thought it was as good as any TV dinner and cheaper besides."

Board member James Farina found the fish tasty, trustee Mary Gaspar, head of the board's food service committee, gave the Morton food service committee, "good quality" edibles high marks for their "good quality," adding that the samples were all "delicious."

"I'm having one of each," said trustee Aurelio Lugo. "They're very good."

Representatives of the Hoboken Parents

Council and Hoboken Teachers Association were quick to get in line and they, too, appeared impressed.

The most popular item on the Morton "menu" was the food company's "fruitskile," which Rod Kershenstein, system coordinator for the firm, pointed out contains fruit ingredients such as orange and pineapple. It's for dessert.

One complaint was voiced — though it wasn't about the food — by board president Otto Hottendorf, about certain "trivia" material inscribed on the individual plastic food packages.

Kershenstein had described a series of what he called "educational covers" provided by the Morton Co., including series on state capitals, birds, etc., U.S. presidential biographies and trivia such as astrological signs.

To the last category Hottendorf took heated exception, saying, "That's irrelevant. It violates the First Amendment to the Constitution. Astrologists are the devil's prophets and I would be opposed to it."

The board made no decision about contracting with Morton at a meeting following the tasting session, although Mrs. Gaspar said she'd sit down with her committee "this week or next" and discuss the

possibility. Referring to the current cold lunches provided by the Union Club, Mrs. Gaspar said, "This lunch program, at best, is not working." Speaking of facilities for serving and eating at the Brandt School, she commented, "You have to be a Houdini to eat lunch there," referring to the "balancing act" youngsters there must perform in eating off desks.

Kershenstein and Dave Siegel, the firm's regional manager, showed board members slides and briefed them on Morton's methods of preparing food. With the aid of microwave ovens hot foods in cardboard trays can be kept at a temperature of 180 degrees.

And, with special freezers, cold foods may be maintained at a temperature of 40 degrees — milk, in particular, they noted.

The maximum time it takes to shift food from the freezer to the "counter," they said, runs some 40 minutes.

The food that was eaten last night in Hoboken, they added, was fresh from the freezers of the Haledon Elementary School in Fairview, one of the firm's customers.

According to Siegel, the company would provide a one-year warranty on all parts and service, together with a five-year guarantee on "freezer units."

Property owners face snow tickets

Property owners who fail to remove snow and ice from their sidewalks will start getting summonses this week from the Hoboken Public Works Department, Director Raphael P. Vitale said today.

"The city's sanitation inspectors have been issuing warnings since last week," the director said. "Reinspections will be made this week and summonses issued to those property owners who failed to comply."

Last week, Second Ward Councilman Walter S. Cramer complained he was

dissatisfied with the city's efforts to enforce the local ordinance requiring property owners to clean snow and ice from their sidewalks. Cramer did not blame the Public Works inspectors but did ask why police no longer bothered warning property owners.

The councilman said that in past years it has always been the police department that knocked at property owners' front doors and ordered the removal of the snow.

Cramer said he was going to check with the Public Works department to find out why

nothing was being done but subsequently learned that Vitale's inspectors were issuing warnings and planned to start giving out tickets this week.

Vitale said he had been hesitant about having summonses issued since a legal question had arisen on whether or not the city could force property owners to jeopardize themselves under Civil Law.

He said that under recent court decision on civil law a property owner can't be held responsible for any injuries received from

falling on snow or ice if the property owner has not altered the natural course. However, if they remove the snow and ice and someone falls because the job wasn't complete, the property owner could be held responsible for damages.

"But the city's law department decided that as long as we have our ordinance requiring the removal of snow and ice on the books, it has to be enforced," he added. "If there is to be a challenge to the ordinance the court is the place to do it."

2/11/76 J.J. All Eyes Focus on Hoboken School Budget

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Penny pinchers in Hoboken are all keeping their eyes tightly glued on the board of education's budget.

The \$2 decrease in the city's municipal budget effected yesterday by Mayor Steve Capiello can be wiped out and the tax rate jumped \$20 to \$28 by ex-

pected increases in the board's budget which will be introduced Mar. 1.

Speaking shortly after his 1976 \$14,937,207 municipal budget was presented to the council yesterday, Capiello urged voters to keep a "close eye" on the board's budget, which will go to the

polls Mar. 9.

"In spite of our warnings, the board persists in presenting a budget that threatens our tax rate," Capiello said. "I hope taxpayers will do what they have to do to protect their interests."

Some members of the city council were optimistic that

they may be able to cut the mayor's budget even further.

"It's a good budget," Third Ward councilman Salvatore Cemelli said, "apparently very tight to the bone, but I'm hopeful we can make further reductions."

Councilmen Martin Brennan, Nunzio Malfetti, Louis Francane, Bernard Scrivanni and Francis Leahy shared Cemelli's sentiments.

Brennan set 1 p.m. Feb. 22 for an open caucus to work on the budget. The council's budget will then be given a public hearing Mar. 10 at 8 p.m. at Hoboken High School.

Capiello reduced the money to be raised by taxes from \$6.8 million to \$5.9 million, through what he called "the most stringent budget review possible."

"All appropriation requests have been reduced to the lowest level possible without effecting the quality of city services to the community," Capiello said.

The mayor conceded that "unfortunately, the proposed tax rate is subject to change by the local school district and the county budget, which has not been finalized."

County Freeholder Vincent "Jimmy" Fusilli, however, said he's "optimistic" that the county budget which is now being prepared, "won't have too much impact on Hoboken's tax rate."

Pointing out that a \$2 million increase in the county budget corresponds to an approximately \$1 tax rate increase in Hoboken, Fusilli said he doubts the county budget will go as high as the \$8 million estimated.

2/10/76 J.J. An Excellent Effort

That potential tragedy at St. Mary Hospital in Hoboken was turned into a virtual exercise in efficiency, cooperation and coordination through the swift efforts of police, fire and ambulance units working together to aid and evacuate patients during that smoky fire.

It could have well been "one disaster on top of disaster," a comment made by a top St. Mary aide, with the fire in a basement storage room coming not long after an Erie Lackawanna train had run into a bumper downtown, sending more than a score of commuters to the hospital.

With two serious incidents occurring on a single winter morning, a mish-mash of efforts could have led to disaster. But, this was not so as hospital workers followed out their emergency plans and ambulances throughout the area converged on the scene.

A hospital fire cannot be taken light-

ly. It is extremely serious, regardless of how minor. Unless immediate action is taken to fight the blaze and evacuate patients death can result, along with panic. There had been a delay as hospital employees first fought the flames, but this was overcome.

The efficiency of the evacuation operation could not have been as high if the communities involved did not keep up on their emergency drills and how to operate in a serious situation such as that in Hoboken. All had to know what to do, and when to do it.

Everyone involved is worthy of commendation, from the departmental chiefs involved to the lowest rank. Particular mention must also be made of the ambulance units; without them nothing really could have been accomplished. The whole effort was extremely encouraging. It reassures us.

2/12/76 J.J. Hoboken may lose Wall Street firms

Efforts to bring a number of Wall Street firms to Hoboken and set up temporary operations in the two apartment buildings in the John J. Grogan Marine View Plaza appear to be on shaky ground, it was learned today.

According to high City Hall sources, city officials met recently with representatives of the State Housing Finance Agency (HFA) who put up the money to build the two apartment buildings; Bernard F. Kenny, the developer of the proposed motel-commercial building, and Integrated Resources Inc., the owners of the apartment houses. The outcome of that meeting was "not encouraging," it is reported.

One source said Kenny may have to cancel out the deal to bring the Wall Street firms to Hoboken, or find suitable office space for them in buildings other than the Grogan Plaza.

The original plan was for Kenny to pay for alterations to the first two floors of the apartment houses so that the brokerage houses could be accommodated. However, it is reported that Integrated Resources wants Kenny to pay for additional work that will exceed what he had planned to spend before it will agree to the plan.

The companies were to spend two or three years in the apartment buildings while

Kenny's office building was being constructed.

Kenny was not available for comment. A member of his staff said he was out of the area.

It was also learned that officials discussed Integrated Resources' proposal to increase the life of its mortgage with the HFA so its annual payments to the state would be reduced. The company claims that because of poor response to the project it

doesn't have enough tenants to produce the revenue it needs to meet its financial commitments.

Integrated is being sued by the Hoboken Parking Authority for more than \$100,000 in parking fees that have not been paid.

By lengthening the life of the mortgage the company's payments to the state would be reduced and take some of the pressure off.

According to the city source, the state

HFA is not looking favorably on the proposal.

Mayor Steve Capiello said he attended the meeting and verified that these two matters were discussed. However, he declined to go into any details.

"I'm not very optimistic," he continued. "But the city is only a spectator and adviser in this. We have no decision making powers in this. It is strictly between the owners, the state and Kenny."

2/12/76 J.J. Essay collection on Hoboken informative

Hoboken: A Collection of Essays edited by Edward Halsey Foster and Geoffrey W. Clark (Irvington Publishers, \$8.95).

Hoboken is a durable subject for newspaper articles. Someone (a professional writer) ought to put together everything of interest about Hoboken from the beginning up to now and put it between the covers of a book. The material is worthy of such treatment.

The essays collected here were written by present or past members of the faculty of Stevens Institute. Most of them are articles on Hoboken's history, starting with the year 1784, when John Stevens bought the site at an auction after it had been confiscated because its owners were Tory sympathizers.

Most Jersey Journal readers may know that in the first half of the last century the Hoboken riverfront was the place where New Yorkers took their summer Sunday afternoon strolls. The opening articles in the present collection tell us how this came about, through the endeavors of John Stevens, who laid out the famed River Walk, with its

Sybil's Cave, and the Elysian Fields, as attractions to generate patronage on his ferry, the first steam ferry, to Manhattan.

We learn that the River Walk area was in fact landscaped, though with care to preserve the appearance of a natural state, as was fashionable on the great estates of the day. We are told of the impression the riverfront made on authors, poets, painters and notable visitors from abroad, and of the activities of inventor John Stevens and his distinguished sons in developing the Stevens estate, eventually culminating in the establishment of the present Stevens Institute, the first American college of science and engineering.

The account of the architecture of the structures erected by the Stevens family, some of which still stand, are of special interest to those who know the area.

An article interpreting the city's population trends is informative in analyzing the causes of the rise and decline of Hoboken's industrial role and in explaining the row on row of row-aging tenement

houses whose lack of plumbing and heating is a striking anachronism.

An account of the political struggles centering on the period from 1911 to 1915 leans heavily on detail which will interest students of Hoboken history if not the general reader.

Another entitled, "On the Waterfront: The Filming of Hoboken," is an over-long interpretation of the movie as a symbol of a real-life situation, and suffers from confusion now and then as to whether the writer is relating what the film portrays or actual conditions it represents.

A "Note on the Port Authority Piers in Hoboken" and an account of the founding of Stevens Institute and of the career of Henry Morton, its first president, are informative but may belong more suitably in a more comprehensive volume.

The concluding essay "Public Productivity in Hoboken: Scientific Policy or Contemporary Reaction?" is too heavy with sociological jargon, and is of the type of treatise which sociologists write (it must be) for the benefit of each other. (WHT)

Slate Hoboken Schools Plan Talk

Hoboken Board of Education will hold a special meeting Tuesday to discuss a proposed 10-year plan for repairing and replacing the city's school buildings with money borrowed through the state. The board will also have to decide if it wants to foreclose one of two resolutions passed last Tuesday setting different times for a public hearing on the board's \$13,096,652 1976-77 school budget.

Legal Ad on Specials Stirs Hoboken Dispute

By ELIZABETH PARKS
Stirred up again by a legal advertisement indicating that Hoboken officials are still petitioning the governor and state legislature for permission to make five special city policemen regulars, the Hoboken PBA intends to petition the governor to deny the request.

Dapuzzo, who is under indictment for atrocious assault and battery. Brissette said that he believes Dapuzzo or anyone is "innocent until proven guilty," but added, "It's still incredible to ask to make a man a regular member of the force at a time when he's under investigation."

Told Year Ago
According to Taylor, the state board of education, nearly a year ago informed each of its school districts to file a plan showing what the needs of their school buildings will be relative to community planning, by the end of June.

Relief board in Hoboken demands help

The chairman of Hoboken's welfare board says he will demand that the city supply funds to hire an additional four staff workers to help process welfare client claims.

John Link, chairman of the board of local assistance, said he plans to set up a meeting with Mayor Steve Cappiello and the city council's welfare committee to demand that the city appropriate some \$30,000 to hire three investigators and one caseworker.

The four positions have been vacant since January, 1975, Link said.

At last night's meeting of the welfare board, member Walter Caulfield said the board will demand that Police Chief George Crimmins assign a patrolman to the welfare office at 360 First St. at least once a month on days when recipients pick up their checks.

CAULFIELD said that as many as 500 clients wait at one time and that some have thrown chairs, verbally abused staff members or pulled knives on them. He said a letter demanding the patrolman will be sent to Crimmins.

According to Welfare Director Jerry Forman, the board now has four regular Civil Service employees, including one investigator and three clerical and case workers.

Helping with the immense load of paperwork for the city's 736 welfare cases are a handful of CETA manpower employees whose jobs end in June, Forman said.

"We have made lots of mistakes," said Mary Costello, Forman's secretary, "but there is no way we can operate the way Trenton wants us to. There is just too much paperwork."

The Hudson County prosecutor's office has recently begun an investigation of alleged overpayments to Hoboken welfare clients. The State Bureau of Quality Control has complained that welfare board vouchers and claims submitted for payment to the Department of Institutions and Agencies lacked updated information on clients.

"You are setting up an atmosphere conducive to trouble when we have one person typing forms," Mrs. Joanne Wilkenson, a board member, told Forman.

"WE, AS BOARD members," she said, "are going to look like a bunch of jerks because one day it's all going to fall right into our laps."

The state has claimed that the welfare board has not processed required case history and budget forms for 97 cases and has not filed the forms for another 100 cases. The forms detail such items as total food and rent budget, medical expenses as well as a number of persons in a client's household.

According to Forman and Mrs. Costello, there is no one to do all the required paperwork. Even though the staff volunteers its time on Saturdays, it can't keep up with the paperwork the state requires, they said.

Forman said that one caseworker is now handling 300 cases while another is responsible for 175 cases and a third is handling more than 100.

Forman also told the board that the costs of hospitalizing a client in St. Mary Hospital may rise from \$98 per day to as much as \$165 per day. He said the hospital is now negotiating for a higher per diem inpatient rate.

The welfare board's 1976 budget is \$250,000, a reduction of \$50,000 from both its proposed budget this year and its 1975 budget.

An ordinance, already enacted in several Hudson municipalities, permitting property owners to take advantage of a new state law granting the exemptions, is to be introduced for its first reading at Wednesday night's council meeting. A majority of the councilmen have indicated that they favor the ordinance.

The exemption applies to all older residential property regardless of the

School board fighting over day or night budget session

A major battle is expected Tuesday night between members of the Hoboken Board of Education over whether the March 1 public hearing on the 1976-77 school budget should be held in the morning or at night.

Secretary Thomas A. Gallo has called a special meeting of the school board for 8 p.m. Tuesday for the purpose of discussing the March 1 meeting. The caucus will start at 7 p.m.

Over the objections of school board President Otto Hottendorf, a quorum of board members voted to hold the public budget hearing at 7 p.m. on March 1. This followed an earlier resolution setting the meeting at 10 a.m. the same day.

Hottendorf said that Robert W. Taylor, the board's attorney, could not attend the night meeting so it should be held during the day. But the second resolution stood. At the time of the second vote, several board members had left the meeting.

Also on the agenda for the special meeting will be a discussion on a proposed 10-year rehabilitation plan for the city's schools.

As introduced at Tuesday night's meeting, the board's proposed 1976-77 school budget reflects an increase of more than \$2 million in what the board expects the city to pay as its share of the education costs.

If that is the case, the city this year will have to pay one-half of the amount of the local contribution of the 1975-76 school year and one-half of the amount for the 1976-77 school year, plus \$325,000 that the city school had cut out of the 1975-76 school budget which was reinstated by the state.

According to a school board source, the budget introduced this week may not be the same one discussed at the public hearing. The board has the option of making a number of reductions in spending between now and then and keeping any municipal tax increase to a minimum.

The city's budget is down some \$200,000 from last year which would result in a tax decrease of almost \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation—not counting the school budget.

Hottendorf said that the city would have to come up with only \$250,000 more for the 1976 portion of the 1976-77 budget over what was paid to the board for the 1975 portion of the 1975-76 school budget. He said that would add a little more than \$2 to the tax rate, cancelling out the city's decrease, but avoiding any major increases.

However, some other board members are talking about leaving the budget the way it is.

The budget would be presented to the public for its vote on March 9 without change. If defeated, the task of cutting the budget would then fall to the city council. The board could then appeal the council's deletions to the state commissioner of education or accept them.

One source close to the school board said that a few members were willing to accept whatever cuts the council made without appealing to the state.

Councilman Robert A. Ranieri said that the mood of the council this time is to "fight any increases in the school budget all the way."

"I'm almost positive that the majority of the councilmen will support a court battle if the state doesn't uphold any cuts we make in the school budget," he said. "I think most of them regret that we didn't do it last year when the stakes weren't quite so high."

"However, this is all in the future. We must first wait and see what the school board comes up with on March 1."

WNY candidate lauds Hoboken referendum

Ronald Scheurle, a candidate for the West New York Board of Education in the March 9 election, said today Hoboken has done what West New York should have done.

Scheurle, who had opposed West New York's special Feb. 3 approved referendum on the same question, said the question could have been decided at the regular election and saved money for the taxpayers. "Mayor Anthony DeFino didn't want an elected board because school elections cost West New York too much money. The way I add it up is that there are two elections in West New York and only one in Hoboken. So who is really saving their taxpayers more money?"

"The savings to taxpayers mandates such a course," Taylor said. "If the state floats a bond issue, their triple A credit rating would ensure interest rates of approximately 6 per cent. If a city like Hoboken, with its poor rating, floats a bond issue, the interest rate would be around 9 per cent."

"The savings to taxpayers can go as high as 50 per cent," he said.

School cornice work to be removed

The Hoboken Board of Education has been advised to immediately remove some cornice work over one of the entrances to the A. J. Demarest Junior High School after a small section fell off early Monday morning.

James Caulfield, Hoboken's building inspector, checked the cornice work and found that it was in poor condition and recommended to the board of education that it be removed as quickly as possible. The area consists of rectangular blocks directly below the decorative scroll work along the top of the building.

"I have also recommended to the board that it secure the area so that no one will be injured before the stone work is removed," Caulfield said.

Caulfield said that once the cornice over the entrance to the school on Fourth Street has been removed he will be able to make a more in-depth inspection to see if the rest of it on the entire side of the building should also be taken down.

Anthony H. Romano, school board business manager, said that he has asked the fire department to assist with the immediate work of ripping the cornice work off the building to eliminate a dangerous condition.

He said Mayor Steve Cappiello, the city's public safety director, has given his approval and the work should be done today.

According to Caulfield, the cornice is held on by metal brackets. Over the years, water has seeped behind the stonework and rusted the metal clamps, weakening them.

"The school is a good 60 years old so something like this had to happen sooner or later," he continued.

"Water apparently got behind the cornice and froze, breaking or weakening the clamp even further. Then when it warmed up, the ice turned to water, releasing the piece of the stone work which fell to the ground."

Caulfield said that once the section over the doorway is removed he will be able to give the rest a more thorough inspection and determine if it too, has to be taken off.

Want more school election publicity

The Progressive Democrats of Hoboken today urged the city's Board of Education to do more to bring next month's school board election to the public's attention.

Frank Duroy, a spokesman for the organization and an unsuccessful candidate for mayor in 1973, said that one of the reasons there have been light voter turnouts in the city's two past school board elections is that they don't get the exposure of regular elections.

"The school board does not send out sample ballots to the city's registered voters," said Duroy. "That is an optional procedure that the board could do if it wanted. Our school board has chosen not to do so which is its right."

"Hoboken has something like 18,000 registered voters. However, if they don't see a newspaper or happen to miss the one that contains the board's sample ballot they might not even realize that there is an election coming up."

Duroy said that the board of education should have copies of its sample ballot made and post them around the city in areas where they will get a lot of exposure.

"Residents of multi-family dwellings can also help get the

word around by posting the newspaper advertisements in the hallway for everyone to see," he continued.

"Participation is the important thing. The more voters who know about the election and what is to be decided, the more will turn out at the polls on election day."

Duroy added that the Progressive Democrats were especially concerned with the public question on whether the city should switch back to an appointed board. The organization is supporting retention of the elected school board.

Race deadline to avoid \$25,000-a-day pollution fine

Hoboken could be facing fines of up to \$25,000-a-day starting March 1 if it doesn't install vapor recovery systems on all of the gasoline tanks at the city firehouses and public works garages.

Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said today that he was taking immediate action to have the work done although he was fairly certain that he had never been notified of the necessity.

"The first inkling I got of the situation was through a notice from the company supplying the city with gasoline," he said. "It was a reminder that the deadline was approaching."

Vitale said that the work will consist of installing a second connector to the tanks,

which will allow trapped fumes from the gas to be forced back into the delivery trucks instead of being discharged into the air.

"The gas hose is hooked up to the regular connection and a second line goes to the other connection," he continued. "As the gas is pumped into the tank, the fumes are forced through the second connection back into the truck."

The director added that he does not know how much the work will cost the city but he is contacting contractors to get some idea and then discuss it with the city council and the city's business administrator.

He said the systems were required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Better answer

About 18 years ago, Hoboken signed a contract to treat the sewage of the southern portions of Weehawken and Union City. Although costs have risen astronomically, the rates have not changed in 18 years.

And the contract will not expire for another 17 years!

Hoboken has been trying to negotiate a rate increase, but Weehawken and Union City have understandably been reluctant to pay more. Hoboken is considering going to court to force a rate boost.

Now Weehawken and Union City are involved in a similar sewage treatment rate controversy with West New York. However, West New York has an advantage in that its contract for the northern parts of the two communities has run out and a new contract is being negotiated.

West New York's immediate aim, of course, is a rate schedule which will keep pace with expenses. One way or another, Hoboken also will try to work out a similar rate schedule.

Eventually, we look forward to the time when a county-wide sewage treatment system can be evolved to the mutual financial and ecological advantage of all.

Hoboken School Budget Creates Guessing Game

By ELIZABETH PARKS
The Hoboken Board of Education budget: the right guess could save taxpayers from a projected \$22 tax rate increase. The wrong one could result in massive midyear layoffs of personnel, service cutbacks, and an aborted school year.

Members of the public, taxpayers, teachers and parents will help board members weigh the choice in public hearings on the board budget now tentatively set for 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Mar. 1 at board headquarters, 10th and Clinton sts.

As the budget now stands in the form it was introduced last Tuesday night, taxpayers will have to pay \$2.2 million more toward school support than the \$3.8 million they contributed last year.

As board member Donald Singleton pointed out at last Tuesday's meeting, that \$2.2 million increase means Hoboken's \$108.69 per \$1,000 evaluation tax rate will go up \$22 to 130.69, a rate guaranteed to destroy many of the low-to-mid income families now living in the city and to drive out most of Hoboken's industries and businesses.

"The public cannot absorb such an increase," Singleton says. And no one disputes him. There is a way to avoid the increase, but as Singleton sharply points out, it has its dangers.

The board has been told it can count on at least \$5.8 million in state aid. That's minimal and definite, and also the figure reflected in the introduced budget.

Under recent court rulings, however, the board is entitled to \$7.7 million in state aid to enable it to provide the state supreme court's mandated thorough and efficient education.

Instead of anticipating the lesser

amount of state aid and forcing local taxpayers to make up the difference, the board could anticipate the higher amount on the somewhat shaky assumption that the state legislature will cooperate with the supreme court and fund the thorough and efficient program.

Board president Otto Hottendorf supports this approach, arguing that if Hoboken asks for \$5.8 million "the state will think we don't need the rest and not give it to us even if the legislature funds the project."

If Hottendorf's view prevails and most board members indicate they agree with him, the amended budget that will come out of the public hearing will shift the burden of raising the \$2.2 million from Hoboken taxpayers to the state legislature. Taxpayers will then have to raise "an additional \$250,000" — only a \$2.50 increase on the tax rate, Hottendorf said.

The danger there, as Singleton and Board Attorney Robert Taylor point out, is that the state legislature may again fail to fund the program.

If they fail, as Hoboken's school year progresses the board will find itself short by \$2.2 million. Trustees will be unable to pay salaries, to buy books or supplies, buy fuel, or school lunches, and will either have to cut every budget area drastically or end the school year prematurely.

"How do you come up with a simple answer to that one?" Taylor asks.

If the board fails to come up with an answer the public likes on March 1, then on election day, March 9, the budget will be defeated at the polls and the whole agonizing procedure will begin again — this time with the city council and Mayor Steve Cappiello faced with the tough decisions.

Vitale urges Hoboken do waterline repairs itself

A three-year, \$790,000 water recovery program proposed for Hoboken by the Davidson Laboratory at Stevens Institute of Technology suffered another setback today.

Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said today that after talking with the engineer who reviewed the proposal, he feels the city should try to do the work itself.

"My position is that the city should hire its own fulltime engineer and a draftsman to take care of the technical work," he said. "Then the water department's staff should be expanded to provide for two fully-equipped repair crews. One crew would handle all emergencies while the other worked on a systematic repair of known broken water lines."

"The emergency crew would also do repair work when it wasn't busy with emergency work."

Vitale said that the training of the new

men would be left up to existing water repair crew members and their supervisors. The engineer would supervise the entire operation.

The director added that his thinking was based to a great degree on what he was told by Building Inspector James Caulfield, a licensed engineer, and his own personal thoughts.

"I just don't see this as a full-time project for an engineer," he said. "We could go along with the college's proposal but that wouldn't solve all of the city's problems. The fact is we would still need a city engineer to protect the city's interests even though we would be paying out a considerable sum each year of the three-year project in engineering salaries."

Vitale, Mayor Steve Cappiello and Business Administrator Herman Bier have been authorized by the city council to negotiate with the college on the water recovery proposal.

According to Vitale, no negotiating sessions have been held since that authorization was given back in December. At least he hadn't been advised of any.

Ranieri wants city council to back pay-raise freeze

Hoboken's position on pay increases for its employees this year is "no raises for anyone." But the councilman who has been advancing that thinking now wants some support from the rest of the council.

Councilman Robert A. Ranieri, the city's negotiator, has submitted a resolution for Wednesday's council meeting directing that all salaries "remain static as of Jan. 31, 1976," due to the city's dire financial straits. Ranieri frankly admits he doesn't know how the resolution will be received.

"If we are to have a stabilized budget I

think the resolution should be passed," he said. "The city cannot afford pay increases this year without reflecting tax increases to pay for them; it's as simple as that."

"Approval of the resolution would be a show of council support for the stand that has been taken on pay increases."

Ranieri said that if the resolution is approved everyone would remain at the salary levels for the rest of the year. Persons entitled to increment increases because they are not at the maximum allowable salaries could still get them.

Neglect

Decades of neglect have combined with old age to bring Hoboken's public buildings to a sorry state.

The cornice around the top of Demarest Junior High School must be removed at considerable expense because over the years the joints between the blocks were not kept in repair. The building inspector says all other public buildings are also suffering from lack of maintenance.

Responsibility for the failure to maintain them goes back over many, many years.

Antedeluvian heating systems in the City Hall, the library and the recreation center are giving out. The recreation center has been shut down while the authorities decide whether it is worth the massive rehabilitation job it requires.

Engulfed in this flood of vitally needed repairs, and pinched by an undeniable lack of money, the present city administration is in no position to spend on new buildings, so it must do with what it has. Any funds it can scrape up should go to prevent further deterioration of these aging structures.

Cardboard?

The three-day-a-week garbage pickup program in Hoboken — only a few weeks old — has developed a strange quirk.

In the days of daily pickup, Washington Street stores had their trash and garbage picked up at 10 in the morning so that the streets would not be littered if the material was left out overnight.

However, with the new pickup schedule, the Washington Street merchants discover that the 10 a.m. pickup is for cardboard only. This means that food stores have a special problem of storing food scraps for two days and then leaving them out overnight for pickup.

Would it not make more sense to pick up all trash at 10 a.m. on Washington Street on an every-other-day program just as it was done on the every day program? Why make the rounds twice, once for cardboard and again for everything else?



The Hoboken Housing Authority presents the city with its annual in lieu of tax payments check. Mayor Steve Cappiello, center, receives check from Joseph Caliguire, left, executive director of the authority; and Andrew H. Scherer, authority chairman.

Hoboken firemen may end talks

2/17/76 J.B.
Negotiations between Hoboken and the city's firemen and fire officers on a new labor contract may come to an unexpected end Monday night unless city officials can get one more person to sit on its negotiating team with Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri.

Both Fireman Michael Bavaro, president of the Firefighters local, and Capt. William Bergin, president of the Fire Officers unit, said today that they will refuse to negotiate any further with just Ranieri alone.

Ranieri has been representing the city in its contract talks with the firemen and the Policemen's Benevolent Association for the last month or so. The labor relations committee did have two other members, but

both resigned, leaving Ranieri as the only member. Ranieri said he has been negotiating in good faith and would not step down as the negotiator. However, he said he would ask Mayor Steve Cappiello and any interested members of the council to attend next week's session.

"We don't know if the position the councilman is presenting at the negotiating sessions to date is the city's or his," said Bavaro. "It has been very apparent that the councilman came into the negotiations with his mind already made up."

"Now he has introduced a resolution in the middle of the negotiations which would bind the rest of the council to his way of thinking—no pay increases for this year."

"This makes a farce of the negotiations."

In fact, there isn't any reason to bother with them if the city is already committed to the councilman's way of thinking."

Bavaro said that Ranieri has made an offer to the firemen of a three-year contract but without any pay increases.

"He is trying to get the same thing that Jersey City got from its firemen," Bavaro continued. "And he can get it—provided Hoboken brings its firemen up to the same pay level as Jersey City firemen. Under those conditions, we'd accept a three-year contract."

Bergin said the city is "using" the fire department.

"Last year the city budgeted for 154 men and officers but we went through most of the year with about 130 on the job," he continued. "This resulted in a surplus of close to \$300,000 that went to bail out some other department."

"And the same thing is happening this year, although there has been a slight improvement. Now, the mayor is budgeting for 144 firemen and officers but we still have nothing from him that he is actually going to hire some new men."

Bergin said that the fire department was so short-handed that the hook and ladder trucks were going out with only two men on them—the driver and the tiller driver. He added that morale in the department was very low and that it had become "very political in the last year."

"The chief will assign a man to a detail, the man calls the mayor and in a few minutes he's reassigned back to his old assignment," Bergin said. The mayor could not be reached for comment.

According to Ranieri, he has taken a hard stand in the negotiations but neither Bavaro nor Bergin have been "pushovers."

"They are trying to get the very best contract they can with their men in mind," he continued. "And I'm trying to get the very best contract I can with the city in mind. Somewhere between what they want and what the city wants there is middle ground, and the goal of negotiations is to reach it."

Both Bergin and Bavaro said they are looking for "quick action" this year, without all the "hemming and hawing of last year."

"As far as we are concerned, the negotiations are at a standstill with Councilman Ranieri," said Bavaro. "Either they get started again, and quick, or we will take action."

Neither Bavaro nor Bergin would say what that action would be.

No parking? 2/14/76 J.B.

Some Hoboken councilmen are alarmed because the parking authority is looking at 14 sites for parking lots. They fear the ill will of people who live near the sites and who consider parking lots a nuisance. They are also worried about losing taxes.

The authority responds that none of the sites is bringing in taxes now, and that it will not create a lot where neighbors oppose it.

It will be unfortunate if the councilmen cause the authority to back off from its efforts to provide parking in sections of the city far from its parking garages, particularly in shopping areas.

Look at any rundown business section in New Jersey or elsewhere and the chances are you will not see convenient off-street parking.

In Hoboken, double-parking is a way of life, along with parking in bus stops and fire hydrants. When shoppers drift away for want of parking, stores close and tax sources dry up.



Mayor Steve Cappiello reviews his proposed city budget with City Council President Martin Brennan, second from right, Vincent Indelicato, city auditor, right, and Councilman Louis Francione.

Stevens will mark U.S. bicentennial

2/14/76 J.B.
A series of special activities, including films and exhibits, will be held at Stevens Institute of Technology to mark the nation's bicentennial. Dr. Edward Foster, chairman of the school's bicentennial committee said today.

From March 1 to March 19, the committee will join the Hoboken Bicentennial Committee in sponsoring an exhibit at the institute to document the history of Hoboken from 1776 to the present. The exhibit, which is funded by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, will include documents, photographs, engravings and slides.

The Stevens Bicentennial Committee will also sponsor an exhibit of colonial crafts, including pottery and woodworking. This exhibit will be held at the Institute from March 22-28.

In the autumn, the committee will sponsor an exhibit documenting achievements in engineering by the Stevens family and the institute's faculty and alumni.

The committee is joining the Department of Humanities in presenting a series of films dealing with bicentennial themes. "America," "The Howards of Virginia," and "Johnny Tremaine" are among the films in the series. The Humanities Department is presently offering a course in the philosophical backgrounds to the Revolutionary War era.

On May 22, the committee will join the Hoboken Bicentennial Committee in sponsoring a costume ball on the Stevens campus. The Stevens Bicentennial Committee is also represented in the local group which is arranging for New Jersey's participation in "Operation Sail" to be held July 4.

Cramer asks cops crack down on bus stop parking

2/16/76 J.B.
The Hoboken City Council will be asked to compel the police department to enforce the ban against parking at bus stops, especially in the northern portion of the city.

Second Ward Councilman Walter S. Cramer said today that he will ask the full council at tomorrow's caucus to direct the police department to begin enforcing the bus stop parking ban and issue tickets to drivers who violate it.

Cramer said that he had planned to talk with Chief George W. Crimmins himself but was unable to because of his own personal schedule and the fact that Crimmins is on vacation until next week.

However, the councilman said he is keeping track of the situation and is displeased with what he has seen.

"I frequently walk Washington Street and the problem is getting worse daily," he said. "At one time it was mostly at night and understandable. We have a parking problem. But now the problem is during the day and night."

"Recently I saw two patrolmen walking along Washington Street. At 10th and Washington Street, on the west side, there were five cars illegally parked in the bus stop. The officers ignored the violations and kept walking."

Cramer said that he did not know the patrolmen or whether they were members of the Tactical Patrol Force (TPF) or the regular uniformed division.

"Enforcement of the city's parking regulations is part of police work," the councilman continued. "Maybe not the biggest or most important part, but still a part that shouldn't be neglected."

The councilman said that he will ask the council to direct the chief to order full enforcement of the parking regulations.

Cramer added that the illegal bus stop parking created a serious safety problem along Washington Street, north of Eighth Street, because of the angle parking.

Cappiello says no money for firemen's raises

2/18/76 J.B.
Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello says there won't be any money available in this year's municipal budget to provide pay raises for city firemen.

And that proposition is likely to be reinforced at tonight's City Council meeting when Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri plans to introduce a resolution "directing that all salaries remain static as of Jan. 31 due to dire financial straits of the city."

If that's the case, says Fireman Michael Bavaro, head of the city's International Firefighters Association (IFF) chapter, the local firemen's bargaining team won't bother to show up for Monday's scheduled talks.

"It wouldn't pay to negotiate with Mr. Ranieri," said Bavaro, "since his mind is already made up." Instead, he added, the IFF would file an unfair labor practice grievance with the state Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC).

Ranieri, however, is optimistic that progress can be made. Following last night's City Council caucus, the lawmaker said he has "commitments from Mayor Cappiello and Council President (Martin J.) Brennan that they will attend Monday's meeting."

Asked what he and Frances X. Hayes, the city's labor council, will do if the firemen decline to sit down with them, Ranieri replied: "If they refuse to bargain with us, our hands are clean."

Ranieri, however, appeared to concede the mayor's assertion that the city can't afford pay boosts for firemen. "In a one-year contract picture," he said, "I think raises (contract) picture," he said, "I think raises are out of the question. But in a long-term contract, there are other areas (which he declined to identify) that can be negotiated."

Ranieri's promise that the mayor will be on hand Monday probably will not sit well with the firemen's bargaining representatives since they have accused Cappiello of interfering with squad assignments of rank-and-file firemen.

Cappiello, however, said last night of the charge: "I don't know anything about that."

Meanwhile, Ranieri is faced with opposition from within his own ranks. Two councilmen — Francis X. Leahy and Anthony Romano — questioned his proposed resolution at last night's caucus.

In fact, Leahy labeled the suggested wage freeze as "similar to union busting," adding that, "nobody has the right to take bargaining privileges away from every organization. It's our duty to sit down with the employees' representatives and show them what we've done."

Leahy said implementing Ranieri's resolution would "only hurt the little person. I won't vote for it under any circumstances."

Joining in the protest was Romano, a city policeman on leave while serving as councilman, who termed an explanation by Brennan and Ranieri that the city's need to "keep the tax rate stable" justified the freeze as "misleading. We've never had this (a wage freeze) before in all the years I've been here."

But Ranieri countered: "It's far better to tell our employees there's no money for raises. That still leaves plenty to talk about in bargaining sessions."

The City Council will conduct a special public caucus Sunday at 1:30 p.m. solely for discussion of the mayor's proposed city budget.

Hoboken Welfare Mistakes Found

2/23/76 J.B.
By ELIZABETH PARKS

A team of state auditors looking into the propriety of Hoboken welfare operation have apparently found mistakes that will possibly cost the city \$100,000 and could mean a \$10 tax rate increase.

It has been confirmed that auditors of the state Department of Welfare have uncovered a variety of "improper practices" in ledgers kept by Welfare Director Jerry Forman. Mayor Steve Cappiello yesterday conceded the point when he interrupted a public council hearing on the 1976 municipal budget to go into a private caucus on a "personnel problem of immense significance."

Under the new state Open Public Meetings Act, governing bodies must open all their meetings to the public with the exception of those dealing with real estate transactions, labor and personnel. After the private caucus, the mayor told reporters he had "bad news" for the council and admitted that the "personnel problem" involved Jerry Forman and money expended in the welfare department.

Cappiello and the council, however, refused to confirm reports circulated earlier in City Hall that the auditors, who have been going over Forman's books for about two months now, have discovered nearly \$100,000 in improper expenditures. Cappiello said he had been counseled by the county Prosecutor's Office and the state Welfare Investigative Division "not to comment on any aspect of the investigation."

It appears that Forman is accused by the auditors of acting as his own notary public and approving expenditures that otherwise were not properly documented.

He reportedly allowed members of the Welfare Department to sign medical and food vouchers that should have been signed by welfare recipient at the time of the transactions.

Subsequently the audit shows that in

many cases it becomes impossible to determine if the transactions were legitimate.

Since the state pays 75 per cent of the city's welfare costs, it is expected to demand reimbursement of its share of the mispent money.

To raise that money, the council would

either have to reduce municipal services or increase the tax rate by from \$6 to \$10.

When a reporter asked Cappiello if the above account reflects the nature of his private conversation with the council, he didn't deny it but said "at this point, I don't know and can't say what we're going to do. We have to wait until the situation is out in the open and all the facts are in."

At the open part of the public hearing, the council voiced "satisfaction" with the 1976 municipal budget submitted by Cappiello, which lowers the tax rate \$2, but expressed frustration "at the outside forces which can come in and drive the total budget and our tax rate up again."

Auditor Vincent Indelicato told the council that between the \$6-million increase in the Hudson County Board of Freeholders budget and the \$2-million increase in the Hoboken Board of Education budget, the total tax rate could go up a minimum of \$3.28 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. It is now \$108.69 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

After saying that Cappiello's budget reduces municipal services to a minimum and that it was reluctant to cut more, the council dictated letters to the county and board asking them to "sharpen their pencils and sacrifice as we did."

Shortly after that the council adjourned for its private caucus.

Hoboken PBA OKs pact without officers

2/20/76 J.B.
The Hoboken Patrolmen's Benevolent Association and the city have signed a labor contract for 1975 after ironing out a number of minor technicalities. But the police superiors are not covered by the contract and may have to negotiate with the city themselves.

According to Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, who has been handling the negotiations for the city, and Mayor Steve Cappiello, the city's public safety director, the city will honor all prior contractual agreements with the superiors under the terms of past PBA contracts under which they were included.

"However, the PBA has strongly indicated that the superiors will be on their own in future contract negotiations," said Ranieri.

Ranieri said the city agreed with the PBA since there was a question on where an employee was considered labor and where he became management. Superiors include sergeants, lieutenants, and captains.

He reportedly allowed members of the Welfare Department to sign medical and food vouchers that should have been signed by welfare recipient at the time of the transactions.

Subsequently the audit shows that in

many cases it becomes impossible to determine if the transactions were legitimate.

Since the state pays 75 per cent of the city's welfare costs, it is expected to demand reimbursement of its share of the mispent money.

To raise that money, the council would

either have to reduce municipal services or increase the tax rate by from \$6 to \$10.

When a reporter asked Cappiello if the above account reflects the nature of his private conversation with the council, he didn't deny it but said "at this point, I don't know and can't say what we're going to do. We have to wait until the situation is out in the open and all the facts are in."

At the open part of the public hearing, the council voiced "satisfaction" with the 1976 municipal budget submitted by Cappiello, which lowers the tax rate \$2, but expressed frustration "at the outside forces which can come in and drive the total budget and our tax rate up again."

Auditor Vincent Indelicato told the council that between the \$6-million increase in the Hudson County Board of Freeholders budget and the \$2-million increase in the Hoboken Board of Education budget, the total tax rate could go up a minimum of \$3.28 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. It is now \$108.69 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

After saying that Cappiello's budget reduces municipal services to a minimum and that it was reluctant to cut more, the council dictated letters to the county and board asking them to "sharpen their pencils and sacrifice as we did."

Shortly after that the council adjourned for its private caucus.

30 Boy Scouts and Cubs run Hoboken for a day

2/21/76 J.B.
Thirty Hoboken boy scouts and cub scouts took over the reins of Hoboken's municipal government yesterday as the city observed Boy Scout Week.

The scouts were personally welcomed by Mayor Steve Cappiello and William Van Wie, the mayor's confidential aide, and each was sworn in as a special deputy mayor for 1976.

At noon the boys were treated to lunch, hosted by the mayor.

The group was the largest to participate in the program, arranged by James Lucey, chairman of the Hudson-Hamilton Boy Scout Council, since it was started more than 10 years ago.

The scouts and the positions they filled are: Brian Reilly of Troop 20 at St. Ann's Church,

mayor; Raul Maricich of Troop 85, mayor's aide; Robert Mercurio, of Pack 46, Public Works director; Kirk Raslosky of Troop 20, Revenue and Finance Director; Perry Florio of Troop 66, comptroller; Ronald Taglieri of Pack 46, city clerk; Albert More of Troop 68, police chief; Ben William of Troop 20, fire chief; Robert Gallagher of Pack 20, chief housing inspector; Francesco Morales of Pack 54, chief fire inspector; Kevin Bertoli of Pack 86, municipal court judge; Joseph DeMaio of Pack 48, assistant judge; Alan Gallagher of Troop 11, law director; Frank Garrick of Pack 20, deputy public works director; Damian Uva of Pack 86, Community Development director; Michael Dimino of Pack 86, planning director; David Jermoluk of Troop 68, director of housing and neighborhood development; Dominick Tubito of Troop 68, municipal operations director; John Sevello of Troop 68, deputy fire chief; James Peck of Pack 20, police captain; Nick Altomare of Troop 86, court clerk; Paul Guider of Troop 86, identification bureau commander; John Avery of Troop 68, parking authority director; Carlos Rodriguez of Pack 48, accountant; Anthony Iapico of Pack 68, deputy city clerk; Joseph Laria of Troop 54, detective Noel Rodriguez of Troop 54, fire captain; Mario Rodriguez of Troop 54, fire inspector; and Richard O'Connor of Pack 54, fire inspector.

Brokerage firms seen wary on moving over to Hoboken

2/20/76 J.B.
A number of Wall Street firms that were considering a move to Hoboken to escape New York taxes may still be coming to New Jersey — but not Hoboken, at least not for the time being.

And this may well further delay the start of construction on the proposed office building-motel in the John J. Grogan Marine View Plaza by Bernard Kenny, the developer.

Kenny conceded today that he is trying to find office space for several firms at locations other than the Grogan Plaza apartment buildings because the owners of the two buildings, Integrated Resources, delayed in coming to terms on lease agreements.

"We can now have the agreements we want but it is too late," he said. "It will take about three months to prepare the needed floor space in the Grogan Plaza apartments for the brokerage firms. Most of them don't want to wait that long. Had the apartment house owner moved quickly at the outset, we could have had the time needed to make the alterations."

Kenny's plan was to temporarily lease space in the two apartment houses for the brokerage firms, after they had signed contracts for space in his commercial building. He said that those contracts for future office space were "important" since they showed potential financial backers that there was enough active interest in his building to make it feasible, and help him get a mortgage to build it.

"The first company was to come in next month," he said. "Even if we signed a lease agreement with Integrated, there wouldn't be enough time to do what has to be done to make the area ready for the company. So I've started looking elsewhere for office space."

Kenny had about six Wall Street firms interested in Hoboken and one of them had signed a contract with him. He said that the contract was now "shaky."

"The other firms are still interested but they aren't willing to sign any formal agreements until I can give them some kind of timetable," he continued. "And without formal commitments for office space in the office building, I can't do that."

Councilmen asked few questions on Cappiello's budget

2/23/76 J.B.
Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello's proposed municipal budget seems headed for approval by the city council, which yesterday had few questions during a special budget caucus with the mayor and directors of the city departments.

"In the main, it appears the council has accepted the budget as being just about as stringent as it could be," Cappiello said after the one-hour budget meeting. "There were not that many questions. It was a pretty smooth meeting."

Cappiello said the major question posed by the council members concerned \$6,000 listed for "miscellaneous" purposes in the budget of the public safety department, which the mayor oversees.

Cappiello said the \$6,000 is for a communication system to link fire units when they are cut fighting fires.

Yesterday's session was open to the public, although spectators were not allowed to participate or comment. A public hearing on the proposed \$15 million budget is scheduled for March 10.

Hoboken Seen Tabling Wage Freeze Action

2/18/76 J.B.
After hearing that freezing the salaries of Hoboken employees would be tantamount to "union busting," Hoboken City Council last night appeared ready to table the controversial freeze resolution at tonight's 7 o'clock council meeting.

Although Councilman Francis Leahy, strongly attacked the resolution as "unfair to the little guy and too similar to union busting for comfort," Councilman Robert Ranieri, who proposed it, defended it as "a measure necessary to stabilize the city's tax rate."

"If there's no thought of raising the tax rate, isn't it far better to say straight-forwardly there's no raises in the budget this year?" Ranieri asked.

But, when Law Director Lawrence Florio told the council that it might not be able to rescind the resolution, if the governing body passed it now and discovered money for salary increases later, there was a general consensus to table it.

After the caucus, Michael Bavaro, president of the Fire Fighters Assn., Local 1078, called it a "crying shame" that Ranieri would even propose the resolution when in private bargaining sessions, Bavaro said Ranieri has conceded that money for pay increases is available, at least in the Fire Department's budget.

Bavaro called on the city council to enlarge its committee on labor negotiations, now composed only of Ranieri, "so city employees have the benefit of a spectrum of opinions" backed by the authority to "forge agreements."

Bavaro and PBA President Ernest Brissette said that members of both associations will be at tonight's council meeting to insure that the resolution is, indeed, tabled.

Hoboken trustees to amend budget, cutting tax levy

2/19/76 J.B.
The Hoboken Board of Education, which reportedly has now decided to anticipate full state funding for its 1976-77 budget, has called a special meeting for 10 a.m. Saturday to amend the revenue section of the budget, it has introduced.

A board spokesman said amending of the revenue anticipated from the state will be the only business transacted at the meeting, which will be preceded by a public caucus at 9:30 a.m.

Like other school boards throughout the state, Hoboken has been dealing with a variation of figures on state aid from Trenton because the legislature has failed to fund the education bill.

At its Feb. 10 meeting, the school board introduced a budget totaling \$13,096,652.03, relying on a minimum state aid of \$6,809,630. However the board reportedly has decided to anticipate its full share of funding amounting to close to \$8 million, counting on the legislature to come up with a revenue producing plan. The action means that the school system will require less money from city taxpayers.

A public hearing on the budget is set for 10 a.m. on Monday, March 1.



Mayor Steve Cappiello of Hoboken gives Boy Scout Brian Reilly some advice as he plays the role of mayor in city hall. Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts familiarized themselves with various municipal jobs for the day.

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Because the mayor and the city council are trying to stabilize the city's tax rate

2/20/76

Mayor Steve Cappelletto has called a special meeting of the council for Tuesday night for the purpose of acting on the major resolutions, the wording of which will be changed to eliminate any reference to \$40,000.

2/18/76

"I don't see why these should be printed in any language other than English," said Leahy. "If a person immigrates to this country, he should learn English. The next thing you know, it's going to be Polish or Yugoslav."

2/25/74

waterline repairs

swark contractor tomorrow night for water

"All things considered, it's a minor coverage," he said. "First, it wasn't the kind of contract where the company had to do this and this and this, and that was it. There was

Younger

Hoboken
2/25/76
Cost Over

2125/71

Council President Martin Brennan explained that the council approved the extra payment "because the work was done

BOOK
21.9/71

baseball game
all Committee will meet
ken library, Fifth Street
for the re-enactment of

2/25/76

The Hoboken Bicentennial Baseball Club will play tomorrow night at 7 p.m. in the Hoboken library, Fifth Street and Park Avenue, to discuss plans for the re-enactment of the first professional baseball game, Edwin Duroy, chairman said today. The game is scheduled for June 19 at Elysian Field, now Elysian Park. The public is invited to attend. It was also announced that a bicentennial choral group is being formed by Emmanuel Leemans, choral director at Our Lady of Grace Church. Its first meeting will be held on March 5 at 7 p.m. at Grace Church. Guest artists will be the Second and Grand streets.

Mayor Steve Cappiello, left, presents Robert Chaneski, president of Local 96, Letter Carriers' Union, with ALERT stickers that will go to mail boxes of Hoboken senior citizens. Postmaster Nicholas Caruso joins them at the main post office.

4/25/76

"There is also the matter of repairing it

2126/74

"This is not the time to comment," he said. "We are in the midst of an ongoing investigation. When it has been concluded,

2/26/76

week's vacation. He's on this one.

2/20/1911

Parade chairman Matt Grimley and band chairman Jack O'Brien said that a highlight of the parade will be a

2/20/76

At last year's League of Cities conference, Ranieri proposed a resolution on "fiscal responsibility" which had an impact on the federal government's decision to rescue New York City from default.

24/10/19

The mayor told a member of the delegation that the problem was "resolved,"

2/19/76

After the meeting, in which the council withdrew a resolution to a wage freeze for this year, Cappiello denied knowing how many men were on duty and added that it was up to the discretion of Fire Chief Patrick Carmody to call men out on

1. 2

John Maresca, Leonard Luizzi and Mrs. Carmella Iocca charged that the budget was "questionable" especially in view of the fact that neither large municipalities, such as

Feature B

11

Parade chairman Matt Grimley and band chairman Jack O'Brien said that a highlight of the parade will be a

Also the Saarsfield Irish Pipes, and the brass band of Hoboken High. Parade Marshal will be Hoboken Mayor Steve Canniello.

Louis Tiscornia, another candidate, said Hoboken and all school boards should look to the federal government for the funds needed to operate the school system.

He said the governor and other state officials were using the schools and the financial plight to "force an income tax . . . on the working people who are already overtaxed."

Hoboken shifts focus from housing to jobs

2/27/76 8.9

BY STEVE CAPPIELLO
Mayor of Hoboken

Hoboken is beginning an intensive effort to attract new business and provide much-needed jobs for its residents. It is being done through the newly formed Economic Development Division of the Community Development Agency, headed by Fred M. Bado.

We have made much progress in housing, rehabilitating more

than 3,000 units. It has been done through local initiative and imaginative, innovative use of federal, state and private funds. I am referring to Project Rehab, the 3 per cent Home Improvement Loan Program and the new 6 per cent multi-family tenement loan programs, all of which have received plaudits locally and nationally.

We now are focusing our efforts in the economic area in the same manner, seeking new

breakthroughs in obtaining federal and state funds to rebuild our economic base. It is an effort that must involve the total community, including city government, local businessmen and residents. I intend to develop a blue-ribbon panel, reflecting broad-based community participation, to help promote the city.

At present, we have stimulated active interest on the federal level. The Economic

Development Administration has appropriated \$225,000 for development of Shore Road — which, when completed, will give our residents access to the waterfront.

Also, we have obtained \$135,000 in federal monies for a feasibility study of the Erie-Lackawanna Terminal, potentially a vibrant entertainment-shopping area.

One major thrust will be to help the small businessman, already in town, and others interested in coming to Hoboken. This approach is essential to preserve the neighborhood quality of our city.

There are many programs available to aid the small entrepreneur. I am alluding to low cost financing, and technical expertise as to site selection, building and refurbishing.

Again, we will examine the best ways to help these businessmen, and others, seeking to evolve a partnership on a federal, state and local level, particularly with local financial institutions.

We must have participation by local lending institutions if we are to move ahead in economic



STEVE CAPPIELLO
Notes progress

development. On the basis of our experience in the housing area, I look forward to a continuing productive partnership with the local financial community.

Of course, we are concerned with the northwest portion of the city for possible light industry. This area has potential for new

retail and jobs, both necessary to the continuing vitality of our city.

Naturally, the waterfront, perhaps our greatest physical asset, will command much attention in our planning. This is a high priority program — and we are going to make a concentrated effort to again make our waterfront a bustling showcase in the harbor.

Another important project is the building of the Ramada Inn-office complex, a vital factor in our economic turnaround. The construction of this building can serve as a catalyst in our economic recovery.

It is my feeling that most new retail and jobs will come from service-related employment — such as the arrival of Wall Street firms — which will locate in the proposed Ramada Inn-office building.

We have a strong, stable people-base, a populace proud of its home, neighborhoods and city. Our people are our greatest resource.

Also, we are a city with a declining crime rate. And we are a city with a unique location, easily accessible from both sides of the river.

For Hoboken to continue its revival, it is essential that we develop an aggressive, cohesive and meaningful economic development program.

We are effecting such a program now.

Still park cars, even ticketed, in bus stops

2/26/76 8.9

Stricter enforcement of Hoboken ordinances prohibiting the parking of cars in bus stops doesn't seem to be getting much results, according to Second Ward Councilman Walter S. Cramer.

The councilman said today that since he publicly aired his displeasure with the attention police were paying to the problems several weeks ago there has been a vast improvement. However, motorists are still parking in bus stops as much as before.

"Since then I've seen cars with two and three summonses on them," the councilman said.

But the tickets don't seem to discourage anyone from parking in them. If anything, the situation seems to bring yet another problem to the fore—the parking problem is so serious that motorists are willing to take two and three tickets a day just to have somewhere to park their vehicles.

Cramer said he felt it was time the city council "became actively involved" in the parking problem, especially in the northern portion of the city.

"We know what the problem is—not enough parking to go around," the councilman continued. "Finding the solution will be harder but we must start looking, now."

"Perhaps if the council and parking authority start working together on this some practical solutions can be found. The parking authority is already approaching the problem but the city council's reaction has been less than favorable, at least from some of the councilmen."

However, I don't believe that just planning the parking authority's ideas is enough. The council should get involved and actively work with the authority."

Editorial:
THE MESSAGE
On Page 18.

Friday, February 27, 1976



CITED FOR AID—Marty Friedman (right), owner of Arterraft Knitting Mill, Hoboken, is presented with plaque for opening his shop to patients evacuated in the recent St. Mary Hospital fire. Making the presentation are Fireman James Monaco and Mayor Steve Cappiello. 2/27/76 2. 10.

Hoboken's CDA proud of success

2/27/76 8.9

"We have had a good track record and our work in the future also has potential for success," says Fred Bado, head of Hoboken's Community Development Agency (CDA). Bado is proud of what the agency has accomplished in the past year and is optimistic about its plans and programs for 1976.

Two of the agency's most successful efforts have been Project Rehab and the Factory Conversion Project. Rehab was primarily involved with revitalizing living units within the city. When the program began three years ago its goal was to make 1,200 living units available. As it ends its run, 1,000 units are available. The Factory Conversion Project has created 140 apartment units from old factories.

Bado says the focus of the agency is beginning to change. The major thrust will be towards economic development but social service programs which have been successful in the past will continue.

The bicentennial year will see a continuation of such social service programs as family planning centers, senior citizen programs and various recreational projects. Bado hopes that two of the most spectacular successes of this year will be the restoration of the exterior of City Hall and the construction of a public skating rink.

The two major economic development projects are concerned with developing the old Erie Lackawanna and ferry terminals.

Bado speculates these might be converted into office space, restaurants, stores or theaters. The agency will be working on plans during the year to upgrade this section of the city and encourage private and commercial investment.

Preservation and development appear to be the guiding principles of the CDA as it moves into 1976. The neighborhood preservation project will be continued. This program was successful last year especially with the low-interest home improvement loan which allowed homeowners to borrow money at 3 per cent to make repairs or beautify their homes.

Development of Hoboken's waterfront area is also high on the list of CDA projects for 1976.

Washington St. will lose 9 parking spots

2/27/76 8.9

Hoboken's parking problem along Washington Street is going to get worse. Within a few days there will be nine fewer parking spaces on the east side of Washington Street, with the elimination of angle parking for parallel parking.

A spokesman for the parking authority said today the work should start shortly. It will consist of removing the meters and poles for the existing 20 parking spaces and repositioning them to conform with the parallel parking spaces. He said the job will take about four days to do with most of the time spent on removing the old poles, which are rusted in place.

"The parking authority is aware of the lack of adequate parking in the city, especially around the City Hall area, but this action is not of the authority's doing," he said. "The authority had to agree to the removal of the angle parking or else the state would not approve any of our ordinances."

"Without that state approval the authority couldn't operate the meters, or issue tickets for motorists who park overtime."

The spokesman said angle parking along Washington Street, from Eighth Street north to 14th, will not be affected. He explained that the authority has no meters between Eighth and 14th streets so it did not have to worry about state approval of any ordinances to set fees, make collections or issue tickets.

It was announced that the authority has set new times and dates for its regular monthly meetings. Beginning in April it will meet the second and fourth Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Stevens Center building.

The March meetings will be held on the 11th and 25th at 5 p.m. at the Stevens Center.

According to Richard Eversen, authority chairman, the schedule change was necessary because a majority of the board members are taking night college courses and their schedules conflicted with the authority's old meeting dates.

Ecology panel asks recycling plant halt

2/27/76 8.9

The Hoboken Environment Committee has asked the city's planning board to issue a stop work order on the construction of a garbage recycling plant at 16th and Madison streets, but the board will not take any immediate action on the request.

Ben Goodman, planning board chairman, said the request was made by Mrs. Helen Manogue, chairman of the environment committee, at this week's board meeting.

"The planning board has not denied the request," he said, "but we can't honor it just on the say-so of the environment committee either. A number of charges have been made concerning alleged irregularities in the procedures under the city's zoning code and the issuing of building permits for the plant."

"We must first determine if there is any substance to the committee's charges. If there is, then we must determine if it is the legal responsibility of the planning board to do something about it, and whether the board has the authority to take any action."

Goodman said that the committee's request will be turned over to either the city's law department or the board's attorney, E. Norman Wilson Sr., for a legal opinion.

The environment committee claims that city building inspector James Caulfield, in granting the building permit to Hoboken Resources Recovery Inc., did not fully follow the requirements of the city's zoning laws. The committee says that the proposal for the plant should have gone to the city's board of adjustment for its approval before the building inspector issued any permits for the construction. No proposal for the plant has been presented to the adjustment board.

Mrs. Manogue also attended a recent meeting of the board of adjustment and made the same appeal. The board not only refused to take any action, it refused to accept a prepared statement from Mrs. Manogue and the committee. She was told to mail it to the board and it would then be considered "an official communication."

The statement was mailed to the board, Mrs. Manogue said, on Feb. 6 and a return receipt has been received. However, nothing further has been heard from the board on the matter.

Mrs. Manogue said that the committee has recommended to the city that a review board be created, probably consisting of members of the planning and adjustment boards, and the building inspector, for the purpose of determining whether the size and declared purpose of a proposed building fits in with the city's zoning code and future building and development plans.

"The suggestion has received a favorable reaction from city officials," she said.

Roberts wants 2 meeting times to study Hoboken school budget

2/27/76 8.9

Charles Roberts, an independent candidate for the Hoboken Board of Education, today suggested that the board hold both a day and a night meeting on the proposed 1976-1977 school budget.

Roberts said this was the only way to assure all Hoboken residents interested in expressing their opinions on the budget an opportunity to speak.

The school board is to meet tonight and further discuss whether the March 1 public budget hearing will be held in the morning or in the evening. A resolution passed at the last board meeting tentatively set the meeting for 8 p.m.

Roberts said he also will suggest to the school board that it be more definitive in preparation of its budget. This would include detailed explanations of various line items so the public could understand them.

Parking meters will remain

2/26/76 8.9

The Hoboken Parking Authority has decided not to remove meters along Washington Street, from Seventh to Eighth streets, despite some suggestions that they be taken away.

Richard E. Eversen, authority chairman, said it was the consensus that the meters helped in turning over parking spaces on the main street.

The authority also asked its executive director, Joseph W. Hottendorf, to look into the design of a poster which the authority may consider using in PATH commuter trains, advertising the authority's garages at Grogan Marine View Plaza.

Eversen said the authority's scheduled for March will include night meetings on March 11 and 25.

Oppose Civil Service On CETA Power Grab

3/1/76 2. 10

By JACK HASBROUCK
The mayors of New Jersey's six big cities and freeholder representatives of the communities will meet in Trenton today to tackle two major issues involving civil service job jurisdiction and a call for a federal takeover of welfare.

Triggering the executive session at the Holiday Inn just down the street from the State House was Hudson Freeholder Vincent J. Fusilli, vice president of the state association of freeholders and liaison man between Hudson County and the legislature.

Concern has arisen in civil service's attempt to place management positions of the federal Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) under its jurisdiction.

To do this, Fusilli explains, would create innumerable problems in that CETA is but a temporary program to supplement jobs during the employment crisis.

For one thing, it could lead to a complete takeover of the employment process of the program, plus the fact that when it is disbanded, the job categories would remain open under civil service supervision, Fusilli said.

To head this off, the mayors and the freeholder representative are to prepare legislation for introduction to the legislature which would insure that civil service cannot in any manner be involved with the federal program.

Catching the torch thrown a few weeks back by mayor Peter Mocco of North Bergen, a freeholder colleague of Fusilli, for the county to lead the way to make welfare a federal responsibility, Fusilli has taken on the task.

Fusilli explained that welfare accounts for a \$30 million expenditure in Hudson County and 57 per cent overall of the 1976 levy is mandated by the state. The move is for an all-out federal takeover with as much of a state assumption of costs as possible.

The state vice president from Hoboken, who said he felt that such action was long overdue, added that he felt that every able-bodied person should be willing to perform some municipal services for the money they receive from welfare.

On the local level, as a starter, Fusilli said that the board of freeholders intends to do away with the autonomy of the welfare board until the federal government takeover.

Gov. Brendan T. Byrne in the past has supported the idea that able-bodied persons should be obliged to take jobs in return for welfare subsidies.

Fusilli said that a number of followup meetings will be held on the federal takeover proposal to "get the ball rolling so that New Jersey, as a whole, can take the lead in this all-important legislation which it hoped will spread nationwide."

Amato unit urges school budget nix

3/3/76 8.9

The Hoboken Outlook and Andrew J. Amato, its standard bearer, today urged city residents to vote against the board of education's proposed 1976-77 budget in Tuesday's election.

Amato said that by defeating the budget the city and the board of education could "legally stall the finalization of the budget until after they found out if the state was going to fully fund the Thorough and Efficient Education Law."

"The board of education is anticipating some \$1.4 million in state aid to support the budget but it is a figure that no one knows whether or not it will be realized as of now," Amato said. "If the budget is approved as is, but the state doesn't fully fund the city under the new law, local taxpayers are going to have to make up the difference between what was anticipated and what was received."

Amato said that there has been a \$2 million spread in the amounts of state aid authorities have told Hoboken it may be getting to support the schools. He said the board had taken the right approach by using the highest figure based on the new law.

"By defeating the proposed budget the city and school boards buy time and that's the most important thing right now," he continued. "If we get the lower figure rather than the higher one, taxpayers might have to pay an additional \$20 per \$1,000 on the tax rate."

Meanwhile, candidate Charles Carroll has taken a somewhat different approach to his campaign for the school board. He isn't making any campaign promises or criticizing the school board.

Carroll said that he knows he doesn't have all the answers and to make the public think he did wouldn't be right.

Hoboken can save \$20,000 on insurance, report says

2/24/76 8.9

Hoboken may be able to save as much as \$20,000 on the cost of its insurance premiums if it follows the recommendations contained in a survey of the city's coverage needs that was compiled by a Baltimore firm.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri said preliminary contact has been made with the city's insurance agent — the Garibaldi Agency — and it indicated that if the city followed some of the proposed changes it could save that much.

"The matter is being handled by our insurance clerk, Walter Hartley," the councilman continued. "He has asked the agency to put everything in writing for us, including the amount we could save."

Ranieri said the savings would be over a three-year period since most of the city's policies were for that duration with renewal options at the end of each year.

The councilman added that the city will be setting specifications for its insurance needs and putting them out for public bid but not for its 1975 coverage.

"We will seek bids for this year but they will be on the city's insurance needs as of Jan. 1, 1977," he continued. "It will take at least a month or two to put the recommendations of the expert the city hired into the form of specifications. And three months to advertise for bids. Then the city will need a month to examine the proposals that are submitted."

"So we are talking about a period of approximately six months before the city is in a position to award a contract. In the meantime, we still need coverage. So it is the current thinking to negotiate for our 1976 needs and then go out to bid for next year."

Hoboken to assign cop to city welfare office 3/3/76 8.9

Starting April 1, a Hoboken patrolman will be assigned to the city's welfare office at 360 First St. on the days food and rent vouchers are distributed to maintain order and keep welfare recipients from getting out of hand, it was learned today.

Police Chief George W. Crimmins said today that at the request of the Hoboken Local Assistance Board he is assigning a police officer to the welfare office on the first and second days of each month—the days the welfare vouchers are given out.

"According to the board, as many as 300 persons come in for their vouchers on those days and cause great confusion," he said. "In some cases, welfare staff members and



TO HIS CONSTITUENTS — Hudson Freeholder Vincent J. Fusilli of Hoboken presents a bicentennial flag at his own expense to the St. Peter and Paul School, Fourth and Hudson streets, Hoboken. Accepting the flag are, from left, Judy Frio and James Nobile, both 8th graders; and Sister Elizabeth Marie, O.P., teacher.

Bicentennial ball tickets ready

3/3/76 2. 10

Tickets are now available for Hoboken's Bicentennial Ball which will be held on March 22 at 8 p.m. in the Stevens Center. It was announced today by John Ciriello, ball chairman. The event will start with a cocktail hour at 7 p.m. The tickets cost \$17.76 each and are available from Ignatius Spinella, 914 Bloomfield St., and Helen Culhane, 912 Hudson St., of the reservation committee. The theme of the ball will be a salute to the 50 states.

Hoboken School Budget Okayed at \$12.8 Million

By JACK HASBROUCK
Hoboken's \$12.8 million school budget was adopted yesterday afternoon with a lone spectator in the meeting room.

Reflecting only a \$22,000 increase in the local tax levy over last year's figures, it now goes to the vote of the people Mar. 9, who will also be called on at the time to elect a new board of education and to decide if they want the elected board returned an appointed status.

The school board's session opened at 10 a.m. for a public hearing with about a dozen and a half persons in attendance. After adjourning and coming back at 1 p.m. only Richard England, a board opposition candidate, was present.

Charles DeFazio, an attorney, challenged the sharp increase in the food services "other expenses" account from \$83,600 in 1974, \$335,940 last year, and \$712,000 in estimated expenditures this year.

Board attorney Robert Taylor explained that the increase was for an expanded food program for the children which would include a hot lunch, instead of the service of a cold meal at "all schools."

He said that the cost of the lunch would go from 42 cents to 52 cents, that it would cost \$648,000 for the food program and \$62,000 for other costs involved.

The state will pick up \$568,000 with Hoboken's end being \$142,000. English

reminded the board that 57 cents was the cost to feed the children and the actual cost per pupil for the lunch was \$1.09, not 52 cents.

English also questioned if full funding was included in the state aid figure and questioned the state would pay for the extra \$400,000 the board had requested from the office of Fred Burke, state superintendent of education.

The board said it was full funded and that the request for the extra \$400,000, included in the budget, was still up in the air.

Among the participants in the meeting was Mary Teckonius, president of the Teachers Association.

The total revenue in the budget is \$12,829,731 as compared to the 1975 figure of \$10,349,854, a difference of \$2,479,877.

The actual cost to Hoboken, however, the money it must contribute under the local tax levy account, is up only \$22,000 from \$4,010,000 last year to \$4,032,000.

The bulk of the amount making up the overall budget figure of \$12.8 million is the state aid amount of \$7,614,046.

Salaries, including increases and normal increments, are up \$1.6 million from \$6.2 million to \$7.8 million.

In a special meeting held after the budget adoption, the nine member board voted to receive bids for a new fire escape at the Conner's School at Second and Monroe sts. Bids are returnable Mar. 16.

Mull Hoboken Welfare Plight in Private Session

By ELIZABETH PARKS
The Hoboken City Council last night ended another open caucus by going into a private session to discuss personnel problems related to the city's troubled welfare department.

Mayor Steve Cappelletto and the five councilmen who attended the 15-minute private caucus emerged refusing to comment on what had transpired.

Council president Martin Brennan would only say that the mayor had given the council an "update" on the state Department of Welfare's current investigation into alleged irregularities in the local welfare division.

Cappelletto said the city has still not received a formal report from state auditors scrutinizing the department's books. "We cannot discuss the situation publicly, or take any action, until that report is in our hands," the mayor said.

A few weeks ago it was learned that the auditors had discovered that the Hoboken Welfare Bureau had "improperly" mis-spent approximately \$80,000 in combined state and city welfare funds.

Three-quarters of that amount is expected to be reimbursed to the state upon request.

Brennan said that even if, as expected, the state report shows that the allegations of improper expenditures are true, the mayor and council lack legal

authority to suspend or remove welfare director Jerry Forman.

"Forman," he says, "was hired by the local board of welfare assistance. They alone have the power to remove him."

Several councilmen last night said privately that if proof of negligence and inefficiency is forthcoming, they will personally recommend that the board remove "those responsible."

During the open caucus, the council indicated that it will approve resolutions at tomorrow's 10 a.m. meeting ratifying contracts for 1975 between the city and the Hoboken Associations of Firefighters and Fire Officers and members of the Hoboken PBA.

They also indicated that Second Ward Councilman Walter Cramer will submit a resolution resigning as a member of the city's planning board, because the monthly 4 p.m. meeting conflicts with his business.

Councilman-at-large Bernard Scrivani appears likely to be appointed in his place.

Sixth Ward Councilman Nunzio Malfetti also vigorously protested the "shunting aside" of Hoboken citizens who seek jobs in the federally funded Community Development Agency.

Malfetti said he believes job applications from Hoboken residents go straight into the waste basket, while applications from out-of-towners get a quick green light.

Hoboken welfare probe nears end

An investigation by the Hudson County Prosecutor's office into alleged irregularities involving Hoboken welfare funds may be completed within a week.

So said sources on the Hoboken City Council following the governing body's second closed-door caucus in the past few weeks, the most recent coming last night.

In an unusual move, the five councilmen who showed up for yesterday's public caucus — Council President Martin J. Brennan, Sal Cemel, Robert Ranieri, Bernard Scrivani and Nunzio Malfetti — voted in favor of a resolution added to the agenda, prepared in advance of tomorrow's meeting.

The resolution, read by Brennan, authorized the council to discuss "personnel discrepancies" in secrecy the results of which, said Brennan, could be "disclosed" pending "judication by the courts."

While Brennan refused to be pinned down on specifics after emerging from the short briefing for the councilmen, he did say the subject of their discussions was the same as that brought up during a caucus on the city budget one week before Sunday.

The topic then was reported to be the probe into alleged mismanagement of Hoboken welfare monies by Jerry Forman, local welfare director.

Both Brennan and Mayor Steve Cappelletto said they were keeping hands off the matter,

leaving any action up to the Board of Local Assistance, which, they said, has the power to hire and fire and, of course the prosecutor's office.

Cappelletto said the city, which provides Forman's salary, is continuing to issue wage payments to the director. "I don't think we have a right to cut off (Forman's) salary without cause," the mayor said.

In a related development, it was noted by Ranieri that the amount of January claims put in by vendors through the Public Works Department's public assistance account for rent, food and medical bills was off December's pace by about 40 per cent.

Ranieri said the drop from around \$140,000 in December to a little more than \$87,000 for January (the council runs about one month behind on receiving the claims lists) could be due to "tighter scrutiny" by the staff as a result of the prosecutor's investigation.

In other business discussed at the public caucus, Brennan said he received a letter of resignation from Councilman Walter S. Cramer for his unsalaried one-year post on the city planning board because of his inability to adjust his work schedule to attend afternoon board meetings.

Brennan said he'd recommend Scrivani to replace Cramer as the council's

representative on the board at the "next" council meeting.

A shouting match developed between Brennan and Malfetti over hiring practices of the local Community Development Agency (CDA). Malfetti complained he learned that a security guard planned to retire so he sent an applicant to CDA only to find out that the position already had been filled.

Malfetti said CDA was long overdue on providing the council with a list of vacancies on its payroll that would allow councilmen to recommend prospective employees.

But Brennan countered that there was no precedent for any department director, such as Fred Bado, who presides over CDA in Hoboken, furnished any such list of open jobs slots to the council.

Hiring new employees, said Brennan, was in the "director's province" and an "administration" matter that, according to Brennan, the council should not become involved in.

School budget hearing draws few in Hoboken

Hoboken voters next week will be asked to approve a 1976-77 school board budget which requires the city to provide \$4,025,278 as its share of the education costs and anticipates \$7.6 million in state aid, even though the state still hasn't decided on how it is going to finance the school funding.

The Hoboken Board of Education, by a vote of 6 to 0, approved the budget at a hearing yesterday morning attended by about a dozen citizens.

Most of the questions and comments were directed at two areas, class size and proper books for pupils.

Leonard Luizzi, a candidate for the school board, and Thomas Vezetti, owner of the Madison Hotel, questioned the board on whether or not pupils were getting the books they needed.

Luizzi said he recently visited A. J. Demarest Junior High School and found that only three students in a class of 17 had all the books they needed for their various courses.

However, Mrs. Mary Teckonius, president of the Hoboken Teachers' Association, said the board might not be at fault.

She explained she had started the school year with 100 new books for her course but has only 76 left because the students have lost them. She said she has one student who is on his third book.

Thomas Gaynor, assistant superintendent of schools, said the school board orders the books it needs based on what is requested by the supervisors and administrators, and those requests are based on what the teachers ask for.

One mother asked Gaynor why eighth grade math students at the Joseph F. Brandt School didn't have mathematics books. Gaynor said he didn't know that they didn't, but he would look into it.

Mrs. Alice Genese said the budget provided some \$11,000 less for teacher supplies than the 1975-76 budget and asked why.

Gaynor replied that the figure was based on what was requested by the teachers.

Both Mrs. Genese and Mrs. Elizabeth Glatt questioned the board about class size and noted that it appeared that the ratio of students to teachers was increasing. When told the board did not plan to hire any new teachers who have left the system, they suggested that perhaps the board look into the possibility of having "working supervisors and vice principals" instead of allowing them just to perform administrative duties.

Charles DeFazio Jr., a former Hoboken municipal court judge, asked why the Hoboken school budget was almost the same size as the Bayonne Budget when Bayonne was a larger city with a larger school population.

School Board President Otto Hottendorf said the budget were similar only in the total amounts.

"Otherwise there is a big difference," he said. "The citizens of Bayonne contribute something like \$12 million towards the support of their school system while the citizens of Hoboken are being asked to put up only \$4 million. That's a big difference."

However, DeFazio said Bayonne school children were getting a better education for the money than Hoboken children and cited state testing figures which showed Hoboken students were in general below average.

Mary O'Donoghue, an elementary school supervisor, defended the school system, saying that Hoboken and other communities were the victims of an unfair system adopted by the state.

Hoboken independents run as team

Only three candidates have announced that they are running as a ticket for the three seats on the Hoboken Board of Education in the election March 9.

Running under the slogan, "YOUR" candidates, they are Leonard Luizzi, John Maresca and Mrs. Carmella Iocca.

Leo Genese is making his third attempt at a school board seat. On two previous occasions he was part of a slate of candidates filed by Citizens for Better Education (CBE) but this year he is running alone.

Another of the 17 candidates is Richard England, a member of the Hoboken Parking Authority.

The Luizzi-Maresca-Iocca ticket has caused some problems for administration supporters since Luizzi is the treasurer of Mayor Steve Cappelletto's political club and is being openly backed by some club members and officials.

Maresca, a bachelor, is a 1974 graduate of Jersey City State College with a degree in elementary education. He is now working towards his master's degree.

A product of the local school system, he is a parishioner of St. Joseph's Church and a member of the N.J. Students Education Association.

He said he believes his training as a teacher will give him an added insight into teacher-school board problems, allowing him to see "the other side of the coin" in a different light.

Mrs. Iocca, the only woman running for the board this year, has four children attending public schools.

A graduate of Hoboken High Schools, Mrs. Iocca was born and raised in the city. She is a member of the high school Parent-Teacher Association.

She attends St. Ann's Church and is employed as a secretary by Applied Housing Associates.

Luizzi rounds out the ticket. He is employed by Maunee Express Co. of Jersey City and is a shop steward there for

Local 560 of the Teamsters Union. He is a graduate of Hoboken High School and a past president of the Hoboken Jaycees.

A communicant of St. Peter and Paul's Church, he is married to the former Maria Ioffredo of Jersey City. He is a member of the Hoboken Elks Club and the Hoboken Knights of Columbus Council.

Luizzi is also third district Democratic committeeman in the Fifth Ward.

Leo Genese is hoping to better his past performances in the last two school elections. In both elections he came in fourth, just losing out.

Born and raised in Hoboken, Genese is also a teacher. He has taught in Carlstadt and is now in the Westwood School system.

Genese holds a master's degree from Jersey City State College and is certified by the state in school supervision and administration. He has been a teacher for 17 years.

Married to the former Alice Culhane, the couple have three children all attending public schools in Hoboken. He has also been the director of the Hoboken-North Hudson YMCA's Camp Tamaqua for the last 12 years.

Genese says he has two primary goals if elected to the school board — the elimination of political influence in the schools and improvement of the everyday life of Hoboken school children by every means possible.

England is making his first bid for elected office.

Also born and raised in Hoboken, he is a graduate of St. Peter's College, Jersey City, and is currently working toward his master's degree in business administration at Fordham University.

Married to the former Dolores Donofrio of Hoboken, he is employed at the Maxwell House Coffee plant in Hoboken as a



production planner. He has been with the General Foods Corp. for 13 years.

England said that his goal, if elected to the school board, School, and was graduated from St. Peter's in 1973. He expects to receive his master's degree this June.

England said that his goal, if elected to the school board, was to "not have to discuss with his wife at the end of his three-year term any alternate educational facilities with regard to the education of their son."

The Luizzi-Maresca-Iocca ticket has also pledged itself to the elimination of political influence on the school board and in the operation of the schools.

16 residents of Hoboken in asthma pilot project

Breathing — something most people take for granted — is the topic of study for 16 Hoboken residents participating in a pilot project.

The Family Health Center of St. Mary's Hospital in Hoboken and the Center for New Jersey Lung Association are sponsoring the six-part weekly seminar for the 16 adult asthma victims and parents whose children are asthma victims. It may serve as a prototype for future programs in Hoboken of the same type.

Louis D. Magarelli of Jersey City, vice president of the Lung Association, said that the purpose of the seminar is to assist the patients and parents to

increase their knowledge and understanding of asthma, its causes, treatment and psychological aspects.

The weekly sessions are conducted by physicians, nurses, respiratory and physical therapists from St. Mary's Hospital. There are non-technical discussions on the basic anatomy of the respiratory system, emotional stress of asthma on the child and the parents, asthmatic medications, nutrition and emergency treatment at home during acute attacks.

In addition, the participants are also receiving instructions on how to position the body for bronchial drainage, pursed lip and diaphragmatic breathing exercises, which help clear the air passages of the lungs.

When the asthmatic suffers an attack it causes the air passages

of the lungs to constrict, triggering shortness of breath and wheezing. These attacks may last a few minutes "or continue for days."

The causes of asthma vary from psychological and inherited factors to allergic reactions to specific substances such as pollen, spores, dust, tobacco, smoke, some types of food and pollutants in the air.

While the asthma victim has to cope with the day to day problems of his condition and avoid situations and circumstances which aggravate it, caring for an asthmatic child is, at times, a difficult task for the parents. They have to be able to recognize when an attack is developing, how to respond to the individual situation and be prepared to provide emergency care at home.

5 of 6 school budgets lose

School budgets were defeated in Hoboken and four North Hudson communities yesterday. Union City voters going against the tide to approve not only the proposed school budget but also a \$7.5 million bond issue.

Budgets in North Bergen, West New York, Weehawken and Secaucus, however, were rejected by substantial margins. In Bayonne the budget was rejected also.

In Hoboken, school election results were being interpreted today as a victory for Mayor Steve Cappelletto, who several weeks ago announced his support for the three candidates who are the winners.

In a field of 17 candidates, the voters elected John R. Raslowski, a funeral director and an incumbent, who received 1,613 votes; Leo F. McLaughlin, a waterfront worker, who polled 1,368; and Aurelio Lugo

Jr., another incumbent and a police officer, who received 1,132.

The voters, however, went against a proposal to return to an appointed school board, a question the administration had backed. The vote was 1,881 to 1,219. The school budget also was turned down by a vote of 1,710 to 1,015.

Lugo polled 44 more votes than the fourth man in the race, Charles Roberts, a city fireman, who received 1,068.

Here is how the other candidates finished:

Leonard A. Luizzi, 941; Richard F. England Jr., 918; Clayton Anderson, an incumbent, 846; Leo Genese, 796; Angel L. Roman, 529; John Maresca, 511; Eugene G. Drexton, 461; Carmella A. Iocca, 426; Charles A. Carroll, 350; Louis Tiscornia, 291; Walter F. Dunne, 254; John J. Molina, 82; and Kenneth Josephson, 44. All figures include absentee ballots.

The defeat of the budget means that it must now go to the city council for action. Last year the council cut the budget after it was defeated. However, the board appealed to the commissioner of education and the cuts were restored.

School board elections at a glance

Hoboken
Elected:
Aurelio Lugo Jr.
Leo F. McLaughlin
John R. Raslowski
Budget rejected
Elected board retained

Cramer, Brennan urge return to appointed board

Two Hoboken councilmen today urged local voters to vote for the return of the appointed school board so the city can "restore fiscal stability to the board of education and stop its runaway spending."

Council President Martin J. Brennan and Second Ward Councilman Walter S. Cramer said, "The people of Hoboken, overburdened with rising costs, desperately need someone to monitor the board of education's checkbook."

"Property owners, employers and businesses are suffering and need help where it counts—in the pocketbook. We must demand fiscal integrity. An appointed board of education will give the mayor and council the authority to end the board's reckless spending habits and fantasy-like dictates from Trenton."

Under the present law, the elected board is allowed to strike its own budget without "meaningful constraint" by the mayor and city council. The council has no binding power to determine what the Hoboken taxpayers must pay for education and its significant effect on property taxes.

Last year the council and Mayor Steve Cappelletto took \$325,000 out of the board's \$10,349,854 budget after the voters defeated it at the polls. However, the state commissioner of education reinstated the full amount "with almost no regard for the ability of Hoboken's taxpayers to come up with the money," according to Brennan and Cramer.

"We don't want any outsiders, particularly those with a Princetonian approach, telling the hardworking people of Hoboken what they can or cannot spend, especially in today's world," they said.

The two added that the appointed board strikes a budget which is passed along to the board of school estimate. The board is comprised of the mayor, two council members and two board members who vote on the budget.

Malfetti asks Stevens suit over restaurant using lot

A Hoboken councilman wants to take Stevens Institute of Technology or a local restaurant to court on the commercial enterprise's use of the college's parking lot at Sixth and Hudson streets.

Sixth Ward Councilman Nunzio Malfetti said today that he will soon introduce a resolution directing the city's Law Department to obtain a court order directing Stevens or the Union Club to show cause why the parking lot lease should not be terminated because use of the lot by the restaurant's patrons constitutes a violation of the city's zoning code.

"The area is zoned for educational-residential use, not commercial," the councilman said. "However, the college has signed a lease with the Union Club for the

restaurant to use the lot at night for customer parking.

"I am not a lawyer but that would seem to be a commercial use. Since the college does not have a variance or approval of any city agency to use the parking lot for anything but educational purposes, it seems to me that the commercial use is a violation of the zoning code."

Malfetti said that the problem is almost a year old and city agencies haven't done anything about it.

"I have brought this matter to the attention of the mayor, the council and the law department a number of times at the request of residents of the area but with no known action being taken," he said. "Since no one wants to take any action on an informal basis I have asked that a resolution be prepared so all the councilmen can vote on it and let everyone know just where they stand."

Malfetti said he wasn't sure who should be ordered to show cause, the college or the restaurant but the law department could work that out if the resolution was approved by the council.

The councilman added that he "personally" is not against the parking lot or the use of it by Union Club patrons. However, residents of the area are and it is his "duty as a councilman" to represent them.

Hoboken faces fines on fence at sewage plant

Hoboken could be facing fines of up to \$500 a day if it doesn't take immediate action to have a secure fence installed around the area at 11th Street, between Hudson and Washington streets, where a new sewage pumping station is being built, it was learned today.

Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said that a state inspector has served notice on the Public Works Department that because of the work being done in the area the fences are needed—and required by state law—in order to keep curious citizens from getting hurt.

"The order, which was written at the site, instructs the city to immediately have a secure fence installed that will keep unauthorized personnel out of the area," he added.

"I can't argue the point. Most of the work being done is underground in a large vault, the street level opening to which is highly accessible. Someone could accidentally fall in, especially children, and there are a lot of children in the neighborhood."

Vitale said that he has already advised City Council President Martin J. Brennan of the situation and has started contacting contractors for prices on the job.

The pumping station was destroyed last September by an explosion, believed to have been caused by the ignition of some volatile gases trapped within the sewer lines. Although there was an extensive investigation into the explosion, the city has never publicly blamed anyone for causing it.

State and federal agencies have come to the city's aid by providing the funds needed to build a new pumping station.

Fusilli urges amendments in unearned income tax

By Special Correspondent
TRENTON — Vincent J. Fusilli of Hoboken, vice president of the State Freeholders Association, yesterday urged amendments in the unearned income tax law to ease the impact on senior citizens whose investments have been hit by the levy enacted last August in a budget restoration compromise.

Fusilli, Hudson County freeholder, appealed to the Assembly Taxation Committee to raise the exemption level from the present \$7,500 to \$15,000 for individuals and to double the exemption for couples to \$30,000.

An alternative, Fusilli said, would be to reduce the present 4.5 per cent collected under the tax to 2.25 per cent.

Robert Rumo, former Essex County assemblyman, has sponsored legislation to meet objections of the capital gains law but Gov. Brendan T. Byrne has not indicated

whether he will sign it.

Fusilli told the committee the estimated \$65 million to be derived from the tax should not be the controlling factor in the overall tax reform picture in the state. Fusilli suggested the tax is not necessary and will drive creative talent from the state and prove hardship on senior citizens.

Although he had no specific figures, Fusilli estimated possibly 25,000 Hudson County senior citizens would be adversely affected by the capital gains levy.

The levy, he said, works special hardship on the elderly who have saved all their lives, invested in what was to be their retirement security "and now find themselves faced with having to pay a tax and having their living income diminished."

Fusilli recalled the \$7,500 exemption was half the \$15,000 originally proposed before it was amended preliminarily to final legislative approval.

Hoboken told state may pay for school hot lunch gear

The state Department of Education may be willing to pick up 75 to 100 per cent of the cost of the equipment needed if Hoboken decides to go into a hot school lunch program for the 1976-77 school year, it was learned today.

John J. Palmieri, head of the food program for the Hoboken school board, said today that he had preliminary meetings with two representatives of the school nutrition division of the state Department of Education and was told that the state could pick up from 75 to 100 per cent of the cost of the equipment.

"A formal application would have to be submitted but the chances of getting approval and some financial help from the state look good if the school board decides to go into a hot lunch program," Palmieri said.

The Hoboken school system currently has a cold lunch program but school board members recently were given a demonstration of a hot lunch program which used microwave ovens to heat the lunches. In order to go into the program, the board would have to buy enough ovens and freezers to service all of the schools.

A formal decision hasn't been made by the board on whether or not it will start a hot lunch program but it is leaning that way. Funds to finance the cost of the new equipment have been included in the proposed 1976-77 budget, according to Otto Hottendorf, board president.

Mrs. Mary Gaspar, head of the board's food service committee, and a group from the Parents Council are to meet today with Palmieri to discuss the hot lunch program.

Mrs. Gaspar said she was in favor of the program even though the cost of the individual food servings was slightly higher than what the board was paying for cold lunches.

"We can provide a better selection of lunches with the hot lunch program and there will be less waste," she said.

Mrs. Gaspar pointed out that the cold lunches had to be ordered the day before. If there were a lot of children absent on the day of the serving, those lunches couldn't be returned and had to be thrown out. But with the hot lunch program, the board would be able to determine an exact number of children who were to be served on the same day and that number of lunches could be prepared with little or no waste.