

## Hoboken piers 3/15/76 8.8.

The problem of Hoboken's piers is something like the chicken or the egg, which came first? Does Hoboken try to do something about finding a maritime use for its three piers, or does it try to find another use for them?

Every once in a while, a ship puts in at Hoboken. There is word that some of them are en route and will arrive in a few weeks. As long as there is some shipping business, it is difficult to write off the piers and start to plan for housing, or warehousing or industrial use for them.

Piers A and C are in good shape, but those who work the piers say Pier B is obsolete and its loft area is falling apart. It may be useful for docking, but that is about all.

The piers are the property of the Port Authority which voluntarily makes a small annual payment to Hoboken in lieu of taxes. With Pier B in questionable shape, perhaps the city and the P.A. could get together on developing it for some useful revenue-producing project.

## Bier defends methods of obtaining bids 3/4/76 8.8.

The specifications used by Hoboken to obtain bids on various supplies needed by the city were today defended by Business Administrator Herman Bier following some criticism at a recent council meeting.

"I concede that the specifications may not be as clear as some people would like, but they protect the city's interest and that is the most important thing," he said.

"However, firms that have been in their particular line of business for awhile usually don't have any problems. If they have a question about grade or quality of an item they usually submit proposals for all grades of the item."

The specifications were questioned by Maurice DeGennaro, a local businessman, at a recent council meeting. He said the city wasn't "specific" enough on its specifications and that prevented or hindered contractors from preparing proper bids.

He cited the proposed purchase of tires in which the city advertised for prices on 12-ply tires. DeGennaro said some tires actually were 10-ply but were rated 12-ply while others were actually 12-ply. The specifications did not say whether the ply should be rated or actual.

Bier said experienced firms solved that problem by submitting proposals for both types of tires.

DeGennaro also said the city discouraged contractors from bidding by setting prices on items but making no commitment actually to buy any during the year.

According to Bier, this is a standard practice.

"If we ask for bids on 100 items it is because the city anticipates buying somewhere between one and 100 during the course of the year," said Bier.

"But should something happen to change the city's needs and that item is no longer required should the city buy them anyway? That is the position it would find itself in if it advertised to purchase a specific number of items and awarded a contract."

"I admit that this doesn't make things easy for prospective bidders, but it does protect the city's interests."

However, Bier said he would be willing to meet with DeGennaro or any other businessman and discuss the city's method of drawing up specifications and ways of altering them so that they could be more specific but the city's interests would still be protected.

## Hoboken council asks Coleman, Bado to report 3/4/76 8.8.

Michael Coleman, the recently appointed director of Hoboken's Economic Development Program, is being asked to supply the Hoboken City Council with a monthly report on his activities and the progress he has made since becoming head of the program.

City Clerk Anthony J. Amoruso has been instructed by Council President Martin J. Brennan to notify Coleman that the council wants a written report.

Coleman was hired by contract at the beginning of the year to head the economic development program. He is to put in about 16 hours a week at an annual salary of \$15,000.

According to Brennan, Coleman has been on the job for almost two months but the council has no idea of what he has been doing or what has been accomplished.

Councilman Anthony H. Romano had asked the council to have Coleman make regular monthly reports when it approved the contract hiring the former Community Development Agency (CDA) director. However, Romano didn't get much support for his idea at that time. The economic development agency is a division of the CDA.

It too is being asked to submit a report. At the request of Councilman Francis X. Leahy, CDA Director Fred Bado will be asked to report to the council on what the CDA has been able to do to help save some of the city's health program.

Leahy said that the council had asked the CDA to look into providing some funds to save the program, threatened with phase-out because of state cuts in health aid funds. He said the request was made some six weeks ago but the council hasn't received any reply.

# North Hudson, Hoboken school vote tomorrow 3/8/76 8.8.

Residents in five North Hudson communities and Hoboken go to the polls tomorrow to elect school board trustees and vote on the school budget. In Hoboken voters will also decide whether to return to an elected board.

In each community the budget figures — for current expense and capital outlay — represent only part of the total amount to be raised through taxation. Bonded indebtedness, in some cases totalling millions of dollars, is not included because it is a fixed expense.

In Hoboken seventeen candidates are vying for the three board seats, including three incumbents — John Raslowsky, Aurelio

Lugo Jr., and Clayton Anderson — in what has turned out to be one of the quietest election campaigns in the city's recent history.

Mayor Steve Cappiello has endorsed three candidates — Raslowsky, Lugo and Leo McLaughlin — but the three have never publicly stated that they are running as an official ticket.

Only one official ticket is in the offing. It consists of Leonard Luizi, John Maresca, and Mrs. Carmella Iocca.

The mayor said he also approved of the proposed budget based on an as yet unnamed promise from the board of education that should there be a reduction in state school

aid the board would cut its spending to make up the amount, rather than expect the city to make up the difference through increased taxes. It is reported.

The other candidates in the school board election include Charles Roberts, Angel Roman, Richard England, Louis Tiscornia, Eugene Drayton, Leo Genese, John Molta, Walter Dunne Sr., Kenneth Josefson, and Charles Carroll.

In West New York where residents a month ago voted a return to the appointed board system in 1977, ballots will be cast for election of three one-year trustees. Residents are also voting on a \$3,922,507 current expense budget. The total budget is \$11,253,462, of which \$5,078,389 must be raised by taxation. The figure is a drop of \$900,000 from last year.

Eight candidates are running in West New York.

In Secaucus, four candidates are running for three positions for three-year terms. Residents will vote on \$3,142,733 in current expenses and \$66,000 for capital outlay. The total amount to be raised by taxation, however, is \$4,446,833, a large part to be spent on construction bonds for the new Secaucus High School.

In North Bergen, 18 candidates are vying for three posts, each for three years. Residents will be voting on \$10,315,042 for current expenses and \$136,970 for capital outlay. The figures represent a \$2.1 million increase in the amount to be raised by taxation. The total budget is \$11.7 million.

In Union City, five candidates are running for three slots for three-year terms. Residents will vote on a \$5,835,505 current expense budget. The total budget is \$15,033,250, up \$1 million from last year. However, the amount to be raised through taxes is \$450,000 less.

In Weehawken, voters will elect three candidates from among eight to three-year terms. Residents will be voting on a \$3,381,782 current expense budget and \$74,921 in capital outlay. The \$4.1 million budget shows an increase of \$200,000 in the amount to be raised by taxation.

Cuttersburg, the only North Hudson community with an appointed school board, has already adopted a \$1,049,324 budget, of which \$140,421 must be raised through taxation. The new budget represents a \$122,830 increase over last year's figure.

## Hoboken's election 3/2/76 8.8.

(The Jersey Journal today starts a three-part series introducing the 17 candidates for three seats on the nine-member Hoboken Board of Education in the election March 9.)

Three are incumbents, but they do not all have the backing of Mayor Steve Cappiello and his political followers, as was the case with incumbent candidates the last two years.

The incumbents are John Raslowsky and Aurelio (Leo) Lugo, who have the mayor's support, and Clayton Anderson, who does not.

As the third of his choices, the mayor has endorsed Leo McLaughlin, who finished fifth in last year's school board election as an independent.

Raslowsky is currently the school board's vice president and is seeking his first elected term. He was first appointed to the board in 1972 to fill the unexpired term of Melvin Christie, who had resigned.

When that term expired in 1973 he was reappointed to a full three-year term.

Born in Bayonne, Raslowsky was educated in the Hoboken school system and has lived in the city most of his life. A successful funeral director, he is also president of the St. Ann's School Parent Teachers Association.

Raslowsky is married to the former Marge Calton. They have four sons.

McLaughlin, a superintendent for the Pittston Stevedoring Co. of New York City, says he plans to be an active school board member who will do more than just attend meetings.

He plans to include physical inspections of the schools to make sure they are kept up to standards, and upgrading the books and teaching methods to keep Hoboken children up with other schools in the state.

McLaughlin is a Hoboken native, married to the former Margaret Roessler. They have a physical education teacher in the Hoboken Schools, and Dennis, an executive with the General Foods Corp. Both have master's degrees.

McLaughlin began working on the Hoboken pier in 1934 during the Depression. He worked himself up to the position of pier superintendent from longshoreman and checker. He now works throughout the New York Port.

Lugo, a Hoboken detective, rounds out the mayor's choice of candidates. A police officer since 1971, he was appointed to the school board in 1972 to fill the unexpired term of the late Silvio J. Failla. At the time he was special assistant to former Mayor Louis DePascale on police-community relations and Spanish affairs.

Born in the Bronx, he has lived in Hoboken since he was 3. Lugo is married to the former Zelma Perez and has two children, Richard, 8, and Cynthia Rose, 3.

He has taken courses at New York University, Rutgers University, Trenton State College and Bloomfield College. He is a member of the Policemen's Benevolent Association and the state Honor Legion.

Lugo has centered most of his interest on bilingual educational programs. Last year Lugo helped avoid an embarrassing situation for the Democratic organization. He was to have run for a seat on the board then, and in fact, was on the ballot. However, this was after he had resigned from his still-unexpired term and had accepted appointment to the unexpired term of Mrs. Cadida Padin, who resigned.

The organization had been confronted with the prospect of having four candidates but only three vacant seats until Lugo agreed to the switch, which put off his candidacy until this year.

## Hoboken caucuses for observation only 3/4/76 8.8.

A formal request to the Hoboken City Council that it allow citizens to address the council during caucus meetings has been turned down.

The request was submitted at yesterday's council meeting by Maurice DeGennaro. But City Council President Martin J. Brennan said he didn't feel it would accomplish anything and declined to have it considered by the full council.

DeGennaro said that since the city directors were at the caucus meetings but not at the regular council meetings it would save time by allowing citizens to ask their questions when they were most likely to get an answer — at the caucuses.

However, it was Brennan's opinion that the purpose of the open caucus meetings was not for citizen participation but to allow the public the opportunity to see how the council operates.

"The directors, and in fact, all city agencies and personnel are available to the public to answer any questions they may have about the operation of the city," he added. "If these employees and supervisors are asked for information and don't provide it, the citizen should then advise the council and it will see that the information is made available."

DeGennaro also questioned the city's method of preparing specifications and whether or not they included enough details for businessmen to submit bids. On this matter he was more successful.

"The specifications in general do not go

into enough detail," he said. "For example, the city asks for bids on 12-ply tires but the specifications don't state whether that is the actual ply count or the assigned rating that is given to some 10-ply tires."

"Another example is that the city asks for prices on 100 items but adds that it may take only one or none during a year."

"How can any businessman submit competitive bids and hold his bid price for a year on 100 items when he has absolutely no idea of how many items, if any, are going to be ordered during the course of the year?"

Council President Brennan and several of the other councilmen agreed. The matter was referred to the council's committee on business administration, headed by Councilman Nunzio Maffetti.

Bids played an important and confusing role in yesterday's council business. Four bids for various items have been sent to the law department for an opinion on whether the city can consider them because they were submitted late or not in accordance with the council's rules.

Included were bids on selling the city two trucks from Pasquin Ford in Rutherford, street sweeper brushes from the Newark Brush Co., tires from Harry Klinger Co. of Jersey City, and plumbing supplies from Adams Sales and Service in Hoboken.

The Pasquin bid was mailed to the city clerk instead of being hand delivered during the council meeting.

The other three bids were presented to the council after it had closed the session

where they were supposed to have been presented. The error appeared to have been the council's. The company representatives had been sitting in the audience since the start of the meeting but appeared to have been waiting for the council to specifically state it was time for bids to be submitted on tires, brushes and plumbing supplies.

Instead, the council called for the submission of bids on "various supplies and materials."

Four bids were received by the council on a new truck for the city's dog warden: Center Ford of North Bergen, \$4,857; Francis Chevrolet of Irvington, \$5,096; AC Chevrolet of Jersey City, \$4,315, and the Pasquin Ford bid of \$4,682.

The council also received four bids for supplying the city with a new station wagon for the public health nurses: Center Ford, \$5,561; AC Chevrolet, \$5,236; Francis Chevrolet, \$5,653, and Pasquin Ford, \$5,800.

Two bids were submitted for a van for the Lead Based Paint Detection Program: Center Ford, \$5,984, and Francis Chevrolet, \$5,220, plus several options which would increase the price.

The council approved a variance for the owner of 65-75 Willow Ave. to allow construction of an auto body and repair shop at that site. The area is zoned for residential use but the city's board of adjustment recommended that the garage be allowed to open.

A subdivision of 701-707 Monroe St. into four lots was approved by the council as well.

The council approved the Community Development Agency application for funding for the 1976-77 program year, a resolution that was submitted at the last meeting.

As a result, Council President Brennan ordered the city clerk to again advise all city directors that if their resolutions are not turned over to the council by the law department at least 48 hours prior to the regular caucus meetings they will be tabled until the following council meeting — two weeks later.

By resolution, the council ratified labor contracts with the city's fire fighters, fire officers and policemen for 1976. Negotiations on 1976 contracts have been underway for several weeks.

An ordinance that will give property owners a five-year moratorium on assessment of property improvements was approved by the council. The ordinance gives the property owners abatements of up to \$5,000 on each rehabilitated apartment unit.

The council was questioned on a number of resolutions and pieces of business by Thomas Vezzetti and Charles DeFazio Jr. during the meeting.

## Cappiello OKs tranquilizer for dogs 3/8/76 8.8.

Mayor Steve Cappiello of Hoboken said today he has changed his mind about using a tranquilizer dart gun to round up a pack of wild dogs that has taken up residence at the Port Authority's Pier C.

The mayor said after talking with Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale and Councilman-at-large Francis X. Leahy he felt that the dart gun was the best method of successfully capturing the dogs, provided it was being handled by someone highly qualified in the use of firearms.

"It is a humane way of doing it," said the mayor. "Once hit the dog just goes to sleep as the tranquilizer takes hold. But I was also concerned that some bystander

might get hit if the gun wasn't being handled by an expert."

Vitale and Leahy, who brought the city's attention to the problem in the first place, conferred with the mayor Friday on the problem. The director advised the mayor that he had already asked Police Chief George Crimmins if the department could borrow a policeman's rifle for the detail.

The director added that a rush order for the dart gun has been placed with a local gun shop across from City Hall. He said delivery would take "a few days."

After the dogs have been captured they will be turned over to the Hudson County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

## Hoboken chorus meets 3/4/76 8.8.

The Hoboken Bicentennial Chorus will hold its first meeting tomorrow at 8 p.m. in the city's Multi-Service Center, Second and Grand streets, it was announced today by Prof. Emmanuel Leemans, director. Any persons interested in participating in the choral group are invited to attend. Prof. Leemans is director of the choir and orchestra at Our Lady of Grace Church.

## 410 new books for Hoboken Library 3/3/76 8.8.

A total of 410 new books have been purchased by the Hoboken Public Library, Lucille Cunningham, director, said today. Many of the books have been received and are available to library members.

Some of the new books include:

"Today and Tomorrow in America," by Martin Mayer; "The Concord

Conspiracy," by John Costello and Terry Hughes; "Goebbels: The Man Who Created Hitler," by Victor Reimann; "This is the House," by Deborah Hill; "The October Circle," by Robert Little; "Hells: The Real Story," James R. Hoffa as told to Oscar Freley; "The Man Who Flew Chalk," by Bruce West; "Silent Music: The Science of Music," by William Johnston; "Foreign Affairs and Other Stories," by Stoney Jackson; "The Little Victims: How America Treats Its Children," by Howard Jones; "Ending Insult to Injury: No-Fault Insurance For Products and Services," by Jeffrey O'Connor; "Decadence: Radical Nostalgia," by Jonathan Schell.

"The Boys From Brazil," by Ira Levin; "Guerrillas," by V.S. Naipaul; "Dubai," by Robin Moore; "Kyras Story: Reminiscences of a Girlish in Revolutionary Russia," by Kyra Korodis; "The Organization Guerrillas: Play," by Robert Little; "Poems," by Jerry; "The Three Short Novels and Two Stories," by William Gerhardie; "Energy and World Politics: Published Under the Auspices of the American Society of International Law," by Messer Willich with Jack Doran; "The Way We Die: An Investigation of Death and Dying in America Today," David Dempsey; "1776 and '77," by Leonard Woolsey; and "The Time of Hudson," by Jonathan Schell.

## Council Raps Hoboken CDA On Clinic Funds 3/4/76 8.8.

Hoboken's \$3.8 million Community Development Agency was reprimanded by city councilmen last night for not doing enough to save public health clinics whose funds had been frozen by the state. Councilman-at-large Francis Leahy complained that the agency "has not worked hard enough" to cut through bureaucratic red tape to secure new funding.

Rejecting CDA Director Fred Bado's contention that the agency must wait for HUD approval before it can release the \$27,000 to reopen the city's health clinics, Leahy said that Bado and CDA planners didn't do enough, didn't really "bat their heads" against the bureaucratic wall to save the clinic's approximately 1,000 patients a year.

Acting on Council President Martin Brennan's suggestion, Leahy asked the Law Department to insert the \$27,000 in this year's municipal budget which comes up for final approval within the next few weeks.

The city's dental clinic, eye screening clinic, breast cancer detection clinic, VD clinic, and tuberculosis clinic were closed in January after Gov. Brendan T. Byrne withdrew state government funding.

There is some hope that the legislature will refund the program in July, which funding would resurrect the program for at least six months.

## Hoboken council expects easy sailing for budget 3/9/76 8.8.

Members of the Hoboken City Council are expecting a relatively "easy time" tomorrow evening at Hoboken High School when they hold their annual hearing on the city's proposed budget for 1976.

One of the main reasons is that the mayor and council have managed to hold the line, at least on their end. The mayor actually has managed an overall cut of some \$200,000 in operating expenses which, on its own, would account for a reduction in the tax rate of a little over 2%.

However, that is expected to be offset by increases in the board of education's budget which residents are voting on today.

Hoboken's Public Works Director, Raphael Vitale, is getting underway with plans to make this year's Fourth of July celebration the most elaborate "our city can afford."

Vitale has requested \$2,000 from the city council to pay for fireworks and entertainment on Independence Day. And he is dispatching his crews on a bicentennial mission to paint park benches red, white and blue.

He expects the task to be complete by the middle of next month. 3/6/76

The meeting starts at 8 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

## Two Hoboken fire trucks must be sent for repairs 3/8/76 8.8.

Both of Hoboken's new hook and ladder fire trucks will have to be taken out of service and sent to Long Island for transmission repairs, Mayor Steve Cappiello, the city's public safety director, said today.

However, the mayor said the city's fire protection would not suffer as a result.

"We have a third hook and ladder truck that is operational and on standby just for situations such as this," he explained. "Granted one truck cannot replace two, but I do not plan to send both of the new trucks for repair at the same time."

"The transmission problem in one is worse than the other so that truck will be the first to be serviced. When the repairs have been completed and it has been returned to service, the other truck will be sent."

The trucks are 1973-74 models and cost the city close to \$100,000 each. A spokesman for the fire department said it was believed that the transmissions needed only a minor adjustment but there wasn't anyone in the immediate area equipped to do the work.

"We plan to take them to a firm in Queens that was recommended by the company," he said. "It does all of the repairs on the New York City fire trucks."

Cappiello said he didn't know how long it would take to make the repairs or adjustments, or how much the work would cost the city. He added that since they were emergency vehicles and could not be kept out of service too long, he didn't believe the work would have to be put out for public bid.



## Fire brass agrees Hoboken undermanned

3/9/76 9.9.  
The Hoboken Fire Officers Association today backed up Michael Bavaro, president of the city's Fire Fighters Association, and his contention that the city's fire department does not have adequate manpower.

comment on Bergin's action, Mayor Steve Cappiello already has denied Bavaro's charges and suggested he take them to the Hudson County Prosecutor for an investigation.

Bergin said he would go with the mayor to the prosecutor and substantiate part of the charges with records his association has been keeping.

Even the chief (Patrick J. Carmody) recognized the manpower problem "and tried to take some action to correct the situation," Bergin said. "The chief asked that all special assignments to non-fire fighting duties be cancelled and the men returned to regular duty. No action was taken by the mayor."

## Hoboken Workers Stand To Lose Compensation

3/13/76 2.0.

By ELIZABETH PARKS  
All is not well between Hoboken officials and members of the city's fire association. But there is one issue that everyone agrees on: workers who abuse the city's compensation policy should be stopped before they start an arrangement that benefits everybody.

Yesterday, Mayor Steve Cappiello, city directors, and representatives from the police, fire and municipal associations, met for over an hour in Cappiello's office to solve a problem threatening the city's informal compensation program.

Although those attending the meeting would not talk on the record, it was learned that one or two "spoilies" were refusing to honor a gentlemen's agreement with the city.

The terms of the verbal agreement stipulate that if a person is injured in the line of duty, particularly police and firemen who are the most vulnerable, the city will continue to pay that person's full salary plus his medical expenses for the duration of treatment and time missed.

When the injured person finally settles a case with an insurance company, the agreement stipulates that the city receives whatever was paid while the person was sick and keeps whatever is left over from the settlement for himself.

There was no such agreement, the personnel would receive a flat \$105 a week sick leave pay from the city and no medical assistance. Their incomes would drop at least \$100 each week.

There is at least one man on the police force and perhaps another in the fire department, who have refused to pay the city back the money it advanced when they were sick.

As a result the city is threatening to void its gentlemen's agreement and revoke its compensation policy.

The heads of the police and fire associations, on behalf of their memberships, are trying to avoid that eventually.

Mayor Cappiello, it was learned, has given them a week to convince their wayward members to live up to the agreement or lose the compensation privileges.

Yesterday, the token consensus of the associations was that the problem will be resolved internally before the deadline.

ATU recording secretary Patrick Tully said this is not true, however, and stated that the membership still wants the open-ended cost of living clause.

The Union is also on strike against three Hudson County bus lines that carry more than 47,000 passengers daily. No talks were scheduled for the disputes with Hudson Bus Transportation, North Boulevard Transportation, or South Boulevard Transportation.

## Council promises new budget study, but not changes

3/11/76 9.9.  
The Hoboken City Council will take another look at the municipal budget but will not promise any changes following a public hearing that drew both praise and criticism of the \$12.7 million fiscal package.

The praise came from the Hoboken-North Hudson Chamber of Commerce, whose executive vice-president, Richard Carroll, congratulated the council for lowering the budget \$1 million from last year.

The criticism came in two forms — from individuals who said it should be lowered further and from firemen who said their allotment should be raised.

This year the budget calls for the taxpayers to come up with \$5.9 million, some \$878,000 less than last year, to support the package. This would lower the tax rate \$1.98 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, according to Mayor Steve Cappiello.

But the tax rate cannot be struck until the budgets of the county and school board are completed and this will probably take another month. On Tuesday, Hoboken voters rejected the school board's \$13 million budget and that must now be turned over to the council for trimming.

The tax rate in Hoboken last year was \$108.53 per \$1,000 — the highest in the county.

At last night's hearing at Hoboken High School, Carroll said the business community pays the "lion's share" of taxes and would like to see the budget reduced further if possible. But he made no specific recommendations and told the council to "keep up the good work."

Michael Bavaro, head of the Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association, complained that the fire department has only 138 men although Chief Patrick Carmody had requested 173. He noted that the proposed budget calls for 144 men and urged the council to hire them.

"We don't have enough men, the response is slow," said Bavaro. "We don't have the arms and legs to perform the duties we were taught to do."

William Bergin, head of the fire officers' association, took a major portion of the meeting to say Hoboken's fire department was the lowest paid in the county and had the second highest work load.

Bergin got into heated disputes with several members of the council, including Councilman Robert Ranieri, whom he called a "miser" for not backing his demands for more money.

Ranieri had disputed Bergin's claim that hook and ladder trucks were sometimes sent out with only two men on board without permission of the chief.

## Expect Hottendorf Ouster

3/15/76 2.0.

By ELIZABETH PARKS  
The Hoboken Board of Education is expected to oust 70-year-old Otto Hottendorf as president and elect funeral director Jack Raslowsky president in his place tomorrow, informed sources said yesterday.

Hottendorf, who has alienated the board in recent months with his blunt conduct of board meetings and with his support of non-organization board candidates, is not expected to garner enough votes at tomorrow's reorganization meeting to be reelected president.

Instead, Raslowsky will probably be given first preference for the president's chair and if he turns it down for business reasons, the vote will go to a first term, Mrs. Mary Stack Gasper.

Mrs. Gasper, the mother of six children, has put a lot of time into the board and is expected to say "yes" to the presidency if Raslowsky declines it.

Although most board members say they have a lot of respect for Hottendorf because of the 25 years he has served as a board member and the three years he's been president, the consensus is that Hottendorf is "too set in his ways" to continue as president.

Many board members found fault with Hottendorf's handling of the recent teachers strike, saying he occasionally presided at public meetings "too arbitrarily and with too much of a dictatorial tendency."

Hottendorf has a habit of hanging down his gravel to end meetings when he's had his fill of an angry debate. It serves to end bickering but it leaves a residual of public frustration and resentment.

Recently he ignored the administration's endorsement of Aurelio Lugo, an incumbent, to campaign for Fireman Charles Roberts, a challenger.

Roberts lost by a mere 44 votes last Tuesday. Lugo and the other majority board members who supported him didn't take kindly to Hottendorf's defection.

Hottendorf also deserted incumbent Clay Anderson to campaign for Leo McLaughlin, an administrative favorite. McLaughlin won, but Anderson's friends on the board didn't think well of Hottendorf for deserting one of their own.

The winning candidates will be sworn in tomorrow at 7 p.m. at board headquarters at 10th and Clinton sts.

The reorganization meeting will take place at 8 p.m. An informal poll of the board reveals that at least six members are ready to vote against him, only McLaughlin, Hottendorf himself and perhaps independent Donald Singleton are expected to vote for him.

North Bergen voters registered the strongest opposition to school board budget proposals, rejecting the \$10.3 million current expense figure by a 2,472 to 544 vote. A \$136,970 capital outlay proposal was defeated by a similar 2,566 to 494 tally.

In Weehawken, the budgets were rejected by a near three to one margin, with voters casting 610 ballots against the \$3.3 million current expense budget and only 217 for it. The capital outlay budget in that community was rejected by a vote of 612 to 197 on the \$74,900 measure.

The voting was closer in Secaucus, with the \$3.1 million current expense budget being turned down with a 821 533 vote total. Their capital outlay proposal of \$68,000 was rejected, 807 to 495.

In Bayonne, the budget lost by a near two-to-one margin. Voters cast 2,439 ballots against the \$11.4 million measure and 1,415 in favor of it.

West New York voters turned down a \$3.9 million current expense budget that would have decreased the local property tax burden by \$900,000. The vote there was 825 to 459.

In backing the Union City bond issue, voters gave the board approval to borrow \$7.5 million for the construction of additions to the two city high schools and the purchase of property for a central high school to be built by the end of the decade.

Board president John Powers said construction of the addition to Union Hill High School could begin this spring.

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## Hoboken pier workers expecting more ships

3/13/76 9.9.

More work is on the horizon for Hoboken longshoremen and checkers but it is again of a limited amount and duration.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said today that he has been notified that some ships will be coming into Hoboken to dock and unload at the Port Authority Piers A and C sometime next month.

However, the mayor said that his sources did not know how many ships would be coming in, whether it was the start of periodic arrivals or a "one-shot deal."

The mayor said he was still checking to see what other additional information was available, but added he doubted that it would mean continuous work for local waterfront workers.

"A steady arrival of ships into Hoboken would be good news — too good to keep it a secret," he continued. "So I doubt that will be the case."

Several rumors have been circulating among the city's dock workers since a notice was put up on Pier A that several gangs of workers would be called into work in a few weeks.

Some men say that it is just another coffee ship and will provide only a few days work. But others report that Piers A and C will go into fairly regular use starting next month or May. They add that Pier B has become obsolete and is in need of repairs, but can still be used to moor incoming ships until they can be moved to Pier A or C for unloading.

## Malfetti would like CDA to employ local jobless

3/11/76 9.9.

Sixth Ward Councilman Nanzio Malfetti said today that he will seek to have the city's Community Development Agency (CDA) fill all open positions with local residents and require those already employed by the agency to become residents.

"There are approximately eight better-paid employees of the program who are not Hoboken residents," he said. "And I think they should be. All other city employees except police and firemen have to live here, why not them?"

Malfetti said he has sent a letter to City Council President Martin J. Brennan asking for a discussion on the CDA and employee residency at the next council caucus.

"I also think the CDA has not made a great enough effort to fill any of the jobs it has with local residents," he continued. "We have a great deal of unemployment in Hoboken and we should try to help our own first."

CDA officials have been criticized in the past for hiring non-residents for top positions in the agency. Their explanation has usually been that they could not find qualified persons locally.

"I don't buy that," Malfetti said. "If they tell me what qualifications they are looking for in a prospective employee I'll find someone in the city who has them and needs the job."

## Hoboken Adds Ambulance

3/10/76 2.0.

A new ambulance just purchased by the Hoboken Volunteer Ambulance Corps should be on the streets by the first of May, a corps spokesman said yesterday.

The ambulance will be a raised roof van-type vehicle, he said, specially built on a 1978 Dodge chassis by the Horton Co. of Ohio. Ambulance features will include independent heating and air conditioning in both front and rear departments and specially designed cabinets and compartments to accommodate corps equipment and medical supplies.

Funds for the ambulance, which will cost \$17,000, will come from the city's \$15,000 grant to the corps and from private donations, the spokesman said.

## Hoboken to buy two-way radios for firefighters

3/14/76 9.9.

The Hoboken fire department will be taking the air.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said today the city will start equipping its firefighters with two-way radios in order to improve communications during fire fighting operations.

"We have had two recent fires that have shown that there is a definite need for improved communications — the St. Mary Hospital fire and the fire at the Madison Hotel," said the mayor.

"Two-way radios will definitely help the men achieve more efficient fire operations and allow those in command to know immediately what is going on and where."

The mayor said the use of two-way radios in fire operations is not new. It has been tested and found to be of great assistance in many communities throughout the country.

"If men inside a building need more help they don't have to further reduce their strength by sending someone back outside to look it," he continued. "That's just one example of how it can help."

Cappiello said he has included money in his 1976 Public Safety Department budget for the radios. Spt. Thomas Donnelly, the police department's planning officer, is checking prices and units to find the one best suited for fire fighting work.

## Chamber of Commerce Moving to new quarters

3/17/76 2.0.  
As of April 1, the Hoboken-North Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce will have a new headquarters, it was announced today.

On that date the chamber's new office at 70 Hudson St., Hoboken, will officially open. The old office was at 20 Hudson Place, about a block away from the new site.

## Hoboken wants role in HUD rent suit

3/15/76 9.9.

Hoboken is checking with Jersey City and Newark to see if those municipalities are going to sue the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in an attempt to force HUD-connected housing projects to abide by locally imposed rent control ordinances.

Following a meeting of Joseph Hottendorf, chairman of the city's rent leveling board, Law Director Lawrence Florio, Third Ward Councilman Salvatore Cemelli and Carl Schaefer, a city legal

assistant, it was decided to ask the two large municipalities if they were preparing a suit and if so, whether Hoboken could be a party to it.

Cemelli, who asked for the meeting, said that Hoboken's main concern was the Church Towers housing development which, to date, has "ignored the terms and conditions of the rent leveling board."

"The company managing the three 10-story apartment buildings—the YAN Management Corp.—has given several rent

increases which exceed the amounts allowed by the rent control ordinance, and has ignored the order of the rent leveling board to rescind the increases," Cemelli continued.

"However, it is our belief that YAN is actually not at fault."

Cemelli said that if either municipality was going to start suit, Hoboken would like to be part of it or at least be kept up to date on how it was progressing.

Schaefer has been assigned to make the contacts with Newark and Jersey City.

## Hoboken balks at welfare patient fee

# \$50 daily rate boost!

3/11/76 9.9.  
The Hoboken Local Assistance Board will be taking a hard line with St. Mary Hospital in negotiations on a \$48 to \$50-a-day increase per patient the hospital has asked for treating welfare clients.

Walter Caulfield, a member of the board, who was appointed by the other members to negotiate with the hospital, said that this would bring the daily patient treatment charge to between \$145 and \$150.

"I don't think we should be unreasonable in the negotiations, but if the city is to spend this kind of money I think the board should know exactly what we will be getting for it," Caulfield said.

According to Caulfield, the \$98-a-day fee the city pays to the hospital for welfare clients admitted for treatment, covers the room, meals, medication and

tests, and doctors fees. The hospital, he said, claims that it lost approximately \$100,000 on welfare clients last year.

"I feel very strongly that the point should be proven in black and white," he continued. "I want to see the figures before making any recommendations."

Caulfield said that he also planned to discuss with hospital officials the possible

greater use of clinics to reduce the number of persons admitted to the hospital for treatment.

"If we have to go along with the daily charge of \$150 we will have to look for other ways of cutting corners," he said. "Perhaps greater dependency on out-patient clinics might be a solution in cases where hospitalization is marginal."



3/11/76 View from the top 9.9.  
Mayor Steve Cappiello, at left, gets a first hand look at how Hoboken's newest piece of equipment will operate. It is a "cherry picker," which will be used by members of traffic and safety division in repairing signals and wires. Thomas Vecchione, head of the division, joins the mayor on the high perch outside police headquarters.



## Malfetti says law director refused to draw ordinance

Sixth Ward Councilman Malfetti today said the Hoboken Law Department has refused to prepare a resolution which would have started legal action against the owner or lessee of a parking lot at Sixth and Hudson Streets for violating the city's zoning code.

"Law Director (Lawrence) Florio was advised of what I wanted in the resolution last week," said Malfetti. "However, he said he could not have it prepared because the matter was the responsibility of the planning board or the board of adjustment."

"I did not and do not accept that explanation and I asked him to put his explanation in writing. To date, I have not received the written explanation or the resolution I requested."

Florio refused comment on the matter.

According to Malfetti, he will advise the rest of the council of the matter at tonight's caucus and see what action, if any, should be taken.

The resolution, which Malfetti hoped to have ready for presentation to the council at Wednesday night's meeting, would have directed the law department to obtain a

court order for Stevens Institute of Technology or the Union Club Restaurant to show cause why the commercial use of the parking lot at Sixth and Hudson Streets should not be terminated.

Malfetti maintains that the use of the lot at night by the restaurant is a commercial use. The area is zoned for educational and residential purposes and Malfetti maintains that a variance of the zoning code should have been obtained by either the college or the restaurant. No variance was ever granted.

The councilman said that he personally isn't against the parking lot or its use by the restaurant. However, he said, residents of the area are, and he is representing their point of view.

"The parking lot and its use by Stevens students and faculty is legal," he continued.

"The board of adjustment allowed the lot to be built. But it never agreed to allowing a commercial enterprise to use it at night. This violation of the zoning code has been brought to the board's attention a number of times, but no action was taken. If it (the board of adjustment) isn't going to listen to the people, then the city council must."



ONE MORE TERM — Sabino Sciancalepore, right, is congratulated after being installed for another term as president of the Madonna Del Mar Society of Hoboken over the weekend. Extending their best wishes are, from left, Mayor Steve Cappiello, Assemblyman Thomas A. Gallo, and Vito Angione, the general chairman of the affair. The society is celebrating its 49th anniversary.

## Spanish Day Center In Hoboken Needs Aid

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Hoboken's first Spanish day care center is in trouble again.

Even though the center's sponsors have a \$110,000 state and federal grant to construct it in the basement of the First Spanish Baptist Church at 11th and Bloomfield sts., and another \$117,000 grant to operate it, the sponsors say there isn't enough money to accomplish the construction.

Consequently, they're asking the city of Hoboken to contribute at least another \$8,000 and the state Bureau of Day Care Services to contribute another \$24,000.

Jose Gonzales, pastor of the First Spanish Baptist Church and director of the center's board of trustees, has written Community Development Director Fred Bado asking for assistance.

In his letter, Gonzales told Bado that the center may not be built or may have to be built with important facilities deleted if Hoboken doesn't help the program.

8 Bids Received

Gonzales explained that the board has received eight bids to build the center, the highest, \$182,000; the lowest, \$119,500.

But the board of directors has allocated \$10,000 of its original \$110,000 grant for equipment, \$10,000 for architect's fees and only has \$90,000 left to spend on construction.

Bado reported that Gonzales has been trying to negotiate a better price with the low bidders, but is fearful that he may have to eliminate extra toilet facilities, a second stairway and superior floor and wall coverings.

Gonzales has also told Bado that he fears the state may not approve the construction if too many items are deleted.

Bado said the community development agency can come up with the extra money if it's proven "truly needed."

But he said that as of now, he needs more than just Gonzales's one-page letter

before he can ask the mayor and city council for another \$8,000 for the project that has been bogged down for about 18 months.

Bado said he hopes to meet with Gonzales soon to determine if compromise is possible on the bids and if the state is seriously insisting on standards that can't be met with the \$90,000 the center has. Gonzales could not be reached for comment.

## Hoboken Adds School Sports

The Hoboken Board of Education has expanded the school's recreational facilities to include tennis and a girls' swim team.

Board member James Farina, chairman of the board's subcommittee on athletics, yesterday announced that the board will be adding a series of new programs and extra coaches to try to close the gap between "what the kids need and what they're getting."

Farina is also meeting with representatives of the city's Community Development Agency to see if money is available for lights for the high school field.

The field is booked solid during the day and left idle at night when it becomes too dark to play.

"We have a popular piece of land we're only using at half its capacity," Farina said. "While kids are going out of town to play softball, that field is lying idle at night."

Farina said there is a good possibility CDA will be able to apply some of its recreational appropriations to the high school field.

Meanwhile, the board has approved the creation of a tennis team, a junior varsity baseball team, a girls' swim team, all for high school students, and are advertising for another track coach and a football coach.



In her other role — as mother — Mrs. Gaspar, president of the Hoboken Board of Education, adjusts hat of son, George Jr., 8, as he prepares for school.

## Mrs. Gaspar busy about Hoboken

BY PETER HALLAM

Improved communications between the Hoboken school board and its administrators will be one of the main objectives of Mrs. Mary Gaspar, the board's new and first woman president.

Mrs. Gaspar said today that she was "very concerned" with the fact that the board had no official notification of assaults made on two teachers by students and did not learn of the details until they were brought up at Tuesday's board meeting by Mary Tecktonius,

president of the Hoboken Teachers' Association.

"There appears to be some kind of break in communications," she continued. "And unless it is repaired the board cannot operate effectively."

Mrs. Gaspar said that the reports on the incidents should have been sent to the board by the superintendent's office. To date, they have not been sent.

"That does not mean that the superintendent or his staff were at fault," she continued. "Reports on the incidents may not have gotten that far and the break in communications could be further down the line. But there is a break and it will be corrected."

Mrs. Gaspar, 36, is a lifelong resident of Hoboken and comes from one of the city's older and better known families. Her brother, William Stack, operates the Stack and Stack Realty Agency in the city.

She has been long active in local civic affairs and political circles. She is currently the president of the Freeholder Vincent J. Fusilli Women's Organization, a member of the Hoboken Library's board of trustees, and a member of the city's Bicentennial Committee.

Her first attempt at elected office came last year when she ran for and was elected to the school board for a three-year term.

Between caring for her six children, her husband George, and her school and civic activities, Mrs. Gaspar is one of the busiest women in Hoboken.

Last week, when it was first learned by The Jersey Journal that there was going to be a challenge to the re-election of Otto Hottendorf as school board president and that Mrs. Gaspar was the choice to replace him, she said that she didn't want the job.

"I mean it when I said it," she asserted. "But there were developments since then that caused me to change my mind. One reason was that I expected to be asked to decline the position, and it would have been very easy to have agreed."

"But I wasn't asked. And the more I thought about it the more I began to believe that maybe it was time for some changes on the board."

The key to Mrs. Gaspar's selection as president was the vote of Leo McLaughlin who was only elected to the board last week and sworn in to his first three-year term a few minutes before the vote on the board's officers.

McLaughlin was one of the three candidates for the board endorsed by Mayor Steve Cappiello — and the mayor's choice for school board president was Hottendorf. It was expected that McLaughlin would vote for Hottendorf, giving him another term as president by a 5-to-3 margin over any challenger.

However, John Raslowsky abstained and McLaughlin voted for Mrs. Gaspar.

Political observers say that her victory was also a victory for Freeholder Fusilli whose relationship with the mayor is reported to be no longer as sound as it once was.

## Hoboken

Hoboken youngsters between the ages of 3 and 6 can begin to register Friday for the city's second annual King and Queen Contest to be staged Apr. 28. Sponsored by the city's Cultural Arts Division, the contest is being coordinated by Nancy Quaglieri and Maurice FitzGibbons. Judges from the world of fashion and entertainment will pick the winning contestants on the basis of poise, attractiveness and charm. Registration will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the community center, Second and Grand sts., up until Apr. 18.

## Officials move like snails on introducing time clock

Hoboken municipal employees may someday have to punch in and out on a time clock but city officials aren't in any great rush to have it installed.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said today that the real question to be resolved is whether city directors and supervisors will use the

more than a tool the city can use in keeping track of its employee's time," continued the mayor. "If we buy that tool but don't use it properly, then it is a waste of money."

"Using it properly means keeping thorough records of the times in an out of all employees, possibly docking them if they come in late or go home early, or taking other action if these are continuously recurring problems, unless everyone agrees that we are going to adopt a fair but tough policy, there isn't much point in investing in time clocks."

The mayor added that time clocks don't guarantee full production from any employee.

"All they show is that the person got to work on time, left and came back from lunch at the right time and ended the day at the right time," he asserted. "They don't guarantee that the employee is going to work at 100 per cent capacity in between. That is a supervisory problem."

Cappiello said that he favored the use of time clocks in keeping track of the time put in on the job by non-uniformed city employees. But unless all directors and supervisory personnel agreed to a firmer city policy on work time the clocks will not be ordered.

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TIME TO THINK  
On Page 22.

information a time clock can provide to take actions against employees who come in late or go home early without the approval of their supervisors.

"And a lot more discussion is going to be needed with the directors and their supervisors before this is resolved," he continued. "A lot more study of the overall problems is also required."

According to a report in another newspaper, the mayor, at the request of Fourth Ward Councilman Louis Francione, had asked Business Administrator Herman Bier to check with time clock manufacturers and get price estimates.

However, the mayor and Bier said that this is not being done.

"A time clock or series of them is no

## Bicentennial Sets Theme

"Happy Birthday America"

will be the Bicentennial theme of the 73rd annual charity ball of St. Mary Hospital in Hoboken which will be held on May 1, at the Sheraton Heights Hotel in Hasbrouck Heights.

Dr. and Mrs. George Schwab are co-chairmen of the ball which has been an annual event at the hospital since 1899. Dr. Schwab, past president of St. Mary Hospital Medical Staff, has announced that a 1976 Cadillac will be awarded at the ball.

St. Mary Hospital Women's Auxiliary will award a trip for 2 to the Caribbean in conjunction

with the event. Proceeds of the ball will benefit community oriented programs at the hospital.

James Lucey, president of the board of trustees of the hospital, is serving as chairman of the charity ball journal which will feature an historical Bicentennial theme.

The ball is sponsored and directed by the medical staff, hospital employees, and local merchants and residents who work closely throughout the year on various committees.

Members of the committee include: Hoboken High School teacher Joseph Corrado;

Joseph Tighe, Sr., a member of the board of trustees; Miss Madeline Kaufmann of Kaufmann Printing in Manhattan; Mrs. Kathy Bosworth, R.N., and Mrs. Anne Blom, president of the Women's Auxiliary. Other committee members are: Miss Patricia Barret, R.N., associate executive director of the hospital; James J. Noble, M.D., member of medical staff and board of trustees; and Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Zanetich of Hoboken. Mrs. Zanetich is an officer in the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs and her husband is an officer of the International Longshoremen's Assn.



## Happy Birthday USA

Sister Grace Frances, executive director of St. Mary Hospital in Hoboken, and James Lucey, president of the hospital board of trustees, display a cake commemorating the 200th birthday of our country at a recent planning meeting for the 73rd annual charity ball to be held on May 1 at the Sheraton Heights Hotel in Hasbrouck Heights. Looking on are Dr. and Mrs. George Schwab, co-chairmen of the event which will feature a Bicentennial theme.

## Cappiello hears ship is due in Hoboken

Hoboken dock workers will have some local work to handle this week, according to Mayor Steve Cappiello.

The mayor said today he has been informed that a ship will be docking this week at the Port Authority piers on River Street carrying a full cargo.

"I didn't ask any details so I

don't know whether it's another one-shot arrangement or the start of something permanent," he said. "Besides, anything in the way of an official announcement should come from the companies involved or the Port Authority."

"My main concern is trying to sell the virtues of Hoboken to the shipping companies and stevedoring firms, so I didn't bother asking for details."

The mayor said he did know that the stevedoring firm that will be handling the unloading of the ship handles most of the bulk cargo in the port.

According to the mayor, the switch by many shipping companies in recent years to containerized cargo rather than bulk cargo seriously hurt Hoboken's waterfront activity. The Port Authority's Piers do not have the facilities to load or unload the large containers and there is little room round the pier areas for their storage.

"Hoboken did have a good bulk operation," he asserted. "While many companies have gone to containerization, not all cargos can be containerized. Hoboken

and its waterfront workers are ready, willing and able to handle any bulk cargo coming into the port."

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## Ranieri for Continuation Of Revenue Share Plan

By ELIZABETH PARKS

A Hoboken councilman, serving in Washington as Hoboken's delegate to the National League of Cities convention, Wednesday spoke out with 1,500 other city officials urging Congress to re-enact the government's general revenue sharing program.

Councilman-at-Large Robert Ranieri called the continuation of the \$39-billion program "vital to the welfare and economic health of American cities."

Ranieri added his voice to those of his fellow delegates after listening to President Ford give the conference's keynote speech Monday.

Ford's contention that general revenue sharing strengthens local communities by locating more decision making authority at the local level, was sup-

ported by democratic Senator Hubert Humphrey in a speech he delivered Tuesday.

Humphrey's comments, Ranieri pointed out, gives the program bipartisan support and recognizes the program's significance by "lifting it out of the political arena."

The general revenue sharing program, approved by Congress in 1972, will have returned approximately \$30.2 billion in federal tax dollars to states and localities by the end of this year.

President Ford has proposed extending the revenue sharing program through 1982 with additional funding of \$39.65 billion.

Hoboken received \$979,395 in revenue sharing for 1975 and expects to realize \$1,132,405 in 1976.

## Puzzle Hobokenites Over Street Cave-In

It almost looks as if one of those flying saucers reportedly sighted in North Hudson County Park recently decided to make an emergency landing off Hoboken's Washington st.

Right off the corner of 4th and Washington sts., there's a jagged hole approximately 10 feet in diameter and five feet deep.

The hole appeared last Thursday when residents said the street seemed to just "cave in or collapse."

Public Works Director Raphael Vitale is reasonably sure little green men didn't do it, but who is responsible is a mystery not yet resolved.

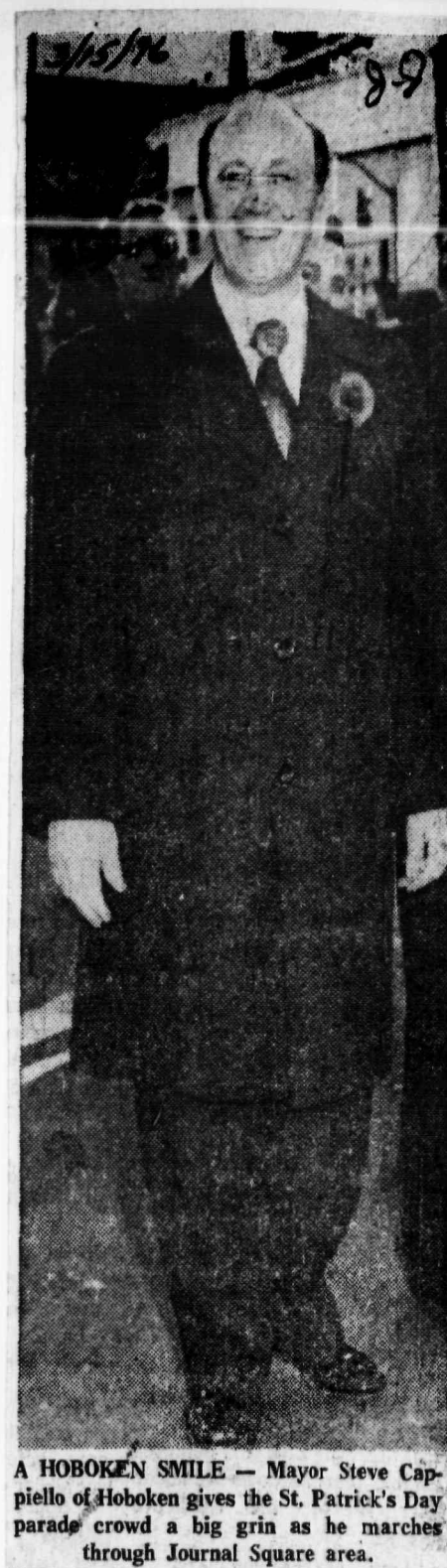
Vitale thinks Public Service, who had been digging in the area, might have caused the cave-in, but Public Service says 'no'.

Some members of the department think Spiniello Brothers, the contractors working on renovating the city's water system, may have caused the cave-in, but Spiniello has reportedly told Vitale they don't see how they could have.

The question is important because whoever caused the street to collapse is responsible for paying for its repair.

Vitale thinks it will cost a couple of thousand dollars to fill in the hole and repave the street.

Since nobody seems to know who did what, he is forwarding the problem to the city Law Department. He said the hole will probably remain where it is until he is advised how to proceed.



A HOBOKEN SMILE — Mayor Steve Cappiello of Hoboken gives the St. Patrick's Day parade a big grin as he marches through Journal Square area.

## Hoboken council to OK study on Erie terminal

The Hoboken City Council is expected to take steps tomorrow night to extend rent control for another year. The council is to act on a resolution extending the rent control ordinance through May 7, 1977.

The council also is expected to act on a resolution authorizing the Community Development Agency to engage a professional planning firm to make studies of possible conversion of the Erie Lackawanna Terminal area. An application to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs seeking a \$40,000 grant for the local development program also will be acted on.

The council will receive a communication from Mayor Steve Cappiello notifying it that he has appointed Councilman Bernard Scrivani as a member of the Hoboken planning board.

Also due for action are the purchase from Center Ford Inc. of North Bergen of a \$5,581 station wagon to be used by the Public Health Nursing Service and a \$4,657 truck to be used by the dog warden.

## Some not playing parking game

Although Hoboken's top officials have their own private parking spaces marked off along the south side of the City Hall building, not too many of them actually get to use them because the signs are being ignored.

"It just takes one person to throw everything out of whack," said Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale, who had to park his car yesterday in a space reserved for a police radio car because someone else had taken his space.

His spot was occupied by a police radio car which couldn't pull into its parking spot because Business Administrator Herman Bier had parked his car there. And Bier couldn't pull into his spot because there was someone else's car in it.

Mayor Steve Cappiello couldn't park

his car at all. He was forced to park at curbside because his spot was also taken and there were no others open when he arrived. The mayor's car blocked several of the other parked cars, including two patrol cars. A police superior parked his private car behind the mayor's, further blocking the parking area.

Chief George W. Crimmins is taking a "hands-off" attitude towards the problem mainly because there isn't anything he can do to change it.

"Director Vitale had the parking spaces made and assigned them, but there isn't any city ordinance to go with them," he said. "I can't have tickets issued without an ordinance to back them up."

Vitale said that he would take the matter up with the city's law department.



## Cappiello, council team will talk cuts with school board

If the Hoboken Board of Education agrees with the arrangements, the City Council will send a three-man team accompanied by Mayor Steve Cappiello, to talk with a board committee about trimming the proposed \$4 million-plus school budget.

Last year the entire governing body sat down with the nine-member school board and hashed out budget figures following the voters' rejection of the initial proposal.

Council President Martin J. Brennan said that "no binding action will be taken by the council committee (whose members will be Walter Cramer, Robert Ranieri and Brennan) until the committee's recommendations are presented to the entire council."

After that's done, said Brennan, there would be a follow-up meeting between the entire council and the school board as a whole.

Cramer warned Brennan during last night's council meeting to "find out whether or not the board agrees with your thinking. Under your proposal, (the board's) delegation doesn't include lawyers," I presume, (an obvious reference to board counsel Robert Taylor).

"Let's find out whom we're sitting down with first," urged Cramer, who was seconded by Councilman Bernard Scrivani.

Brennan said he'd be "happy to deal with Mr. Taylor or Mr. (Louis) DePascale (former Hoboken mayor and current labor negotiator for the school board)." Brennan conceded the possibility that the council "may have to call in our own financial experts."

Brennan said he would "insist" that the mayor be included in talks with the school board.

Asked if he'd also insist that Taylor — who, according to former board president Otto Hottendorf, prepared the budget on

behalf of the board — be present at the talks, Brennan declined comment.

Councilman Louis Francione urged his colleagues to "go to School 1 (David Rue) before sitting down and discussing the budget." Later, Francione said he was concerned about "cracks in the walls" of the school.

Brennan said the council has "about 20 days" left in which to meet with the board and cut the budget.

The council, pointed out Ranieri, may have to start thinking soon about other cuts in the municipal budget — not this year but probably next — because the federal revenue sharing funds Hoboken has become accustomed to this decade are due to be phased out.

Basing his comments on information picked up during a recent visit to Washington, D.C., Ranieri said Congress is considering implementing either a one year or three-year revenue sharing program and then terminating it.

Should Hoboken lose the money, said Ranieri, the city would be faced with raising the tax rate by \$1.35 to compensate for lost funds which now pay the salaries of 80 police and firemen. That or let the 80 go.

Before such a crisis is allowed to develop, urged Ranieri, the city should start planning now to eliminate the inclusion of revenue sharing monies as a line-item in the municipal budget, or at least divert those funds into "capital improvement" projects for Hoboken.

Ranieri said he hoped some compromise could be achieved between now and then so that all 80 uniformed employees could remain on city's public safety force. He said he hasn't discussed his ideas with the mayor yet.

## Hoboken plans crackdown on 'easy' utility excavation

Utility companies doing work below Hoboken's streets soon will find it more difficult to get permits to make their excavations and that city officials will be keeping a close watch on their work once it starts.

Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said today the new policy is being implemented in the hope of preventing Public Service Electric and Gas Co. and the New Jersey Bell Telephone Co. from further complicating the city's sewer and water line problems.

"Over the years we have found that both companies tend to take the easy way out—that is they do the job that has to be done in the easiest way possible for the

company," he said. "It is not necessarily intentional, but the practical way. But what's practical for them often causes problems for the city later on."

"More and more frequently now the city is finding that when it has to make underground repairs of sewer lines, water lines and catch basin connections, it has to contend with such problems as underground wiring run directly on top and parallel to our lines, connections that were crushed by the utility companies' workmen."

Vitale said the city had to bear part of the responsibility for not keeping abreast of the work as it was being done.

"Underground work by Public Service and Bell Telephone has been on the increase in Hoboken for years but in the last two or three years they both have been very busy," he said. "We haven't kept pace with them."

"Basically the city has, or had, two workers to keep track of what they were doing, the city engineer, which we haven't had since Pat Caulfield retired, and our plumbing inspector. Now we have only the plumbing inspector who gets some help from water department foreman, James Murnane."

"With each company working at several different locations in the city at the same time it becomes increasingly difficult for one or two men to make thorough inspections of their work on a part time basis. I say part time because my men have other duties to take care of besides these inspections."

"Under the new policy the company will not be allowed to break ground for any excavations until the plans have been thoroughly checked against the city's file to make sure that no water lines, sewer lines or catch basin connectors will be affected by the work," he said.

## \$83,000 owed Hoboken in back taxes

Hoboken will begin collecting rents on 10 pieces of property starting April 1 because the owners have failed to pay more than \$83,000 in back taxes.

Frank J. Bartlett, Hoboken Revenue and Finance director, said signs have been posted on the buildings of John Bado Jr. and his mother, Mathilda Bado, notifying the public and tenants that the city will start collecting rents.

The properties include 89, 91, 93-95, 97 and 99 Hudson St.; 42 and 44 Newark St.; 94 River St., and 41 and 43 First St., and includes the Terminal Printing Co.

Bartlett said a total of \$83,396 is owed on the 10 properties.

## Leahy still opposes terminal plan

A Hoboken councilman who called plans for the redevelopment of the Erie Lackawanna Railroad Terminal "pie in the sky" isn't changing his thoughts on the project even though the state Department of Transportation (DOT) has agreed to lease the facility to the city for \$1 a year once it has taken time to it.

Councilman-at-large Francis X. Leahy said today that he still believes the project will be of "only cosmetic value to the city at some questionable future date, while the ills

and problems of today are being ignored."

A cultural center and shopping mall are planned for the site by Hoboken's new Economic Development Agency (EDA), headed by Michael Coleman. The EDA comes under the jurisdiction of the Hoboken Community Development Agency (CDA) which Coleman formerly headed.

"I am not against economic development but I do feel it should have some realistic value for the citizens of Hoboken," the councilman said. "By that I mean economic

## Cappiello hails purchase of terminal by state

Plans to turn the old Erie Lackawanna train terminal in Hoboken into a shoppers' mall and cultural center have moved another step closer to reality.

The state Department of Transportation (DOT) announced yesterday that it has purchased the terminal and trackage at a cost of \$322,500 and is negotiating to lease the terminal to Hoboken on a long-term basis. The announcement was made by Martin Robbins, an executive assistant to Peter Stangl, assistant DOT commissioner for public transportation.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said he was "elated" by the announcement.

"The terminal project could become the showplace of Hoboken," he said. "With the state's participation we will be gaining many intangibles that will cut a lot of the red tape."

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, one of the chief supporters of the project, said that the city plans to lease the terminal

from the state, hopefully for \$1 a year. The state would benefit by having its property and building rehabilitated, redeveloped and maintained by the city. The city would benefit by renting out the stores and shops in the mall.

The project is being sponsored by the Hoboken Economic Development Agency (EDA), headed by former Community Development Agency Director Michael Coleman.

A combination of state and federal funds will be sought to do the work needed to turn the terminal into the mall and cultural center. And it is here, said the mayor, that the state's indirect participation in the project can help.

"Since the state is a party to it we're hoping that this project will be getting priorities on both the state and federal levels and help speed up the funding process," he said.

## The high school set Hoboken given bicentennial status

Debbie Clark, president of the Jerseymen Club, is proud that Hoboken High was selected as one of the 20 schools in the state which are designated bicentennial schools for 1976. Miss Clark's club members completed four projects which had the N. J. Historical Society's approval before Hoboken High was selected a Bicentennial School. The projects included surveys of the Erie-Lackawanna Station, City Hall, the Hamilton-Burr Duel Site, and a tour of three Hoboken brownstones.

With the help of Johanna Fugazzi, their moderator, Candy Garcia, Sharon Lessone, and Catherine Johnson organized and served as guides for second grade students in a walking tour of Hoboken.

ON VIDEO—Dinorah and Maria Fraga are looking forward to seeing themselves on TV in a play entitled "La Prueba" presented by the Spanish Club, Congetta (Adamo, moderator). The play is being taped by the audiovisual aid department under the direction of Larry Scialapone.

TID BITS: Cathy Moore, Peter Calandria, Cindy Lisa, Georgine Disposto and LuAnn Vlachich are busy making our 1976 yearbook a truly bicentennial one. . . . Congratulations to Todd Lewis for achieving a slot on the All-County Swim Team. . . . Former Hoboken High Graduate, Victoria Certisimo, was named Miss Hudson County in the recent county-wide beauty pageant. . . . Karen Dapas recently won the second place award in the State PTA Bicentennial Essay Contest. . . . The Humanities Club is looking forward to attending a series of special activities at Stevens honoring the bicentennial. . . . Our strutters, coached by Ann Bloomberg, will be entering competition on March 20th at Ridgewood High School. . . . Each week, one student from Virginia Meloscia's Italian III class is selected to bring in an Italian dish for a weekly gourmet day. . . . For the spring concert the chorus will have two soloists—Melody Gambel and Angelo Cerrone. . . . Our cheerleaders placed first in the County competition. Flora Cogolia, the team's captain, won first place in the Miss Vell Competition. . . . The bowling team finished their season on a winning note.

CONTEST WINNER: Ellen Smith was the winner of the Betty Crocker Search for the Leadership Family Living Contest. After Elizabeth Wallace, home economics teacher, had carefully examined the test results of the 60 students who had entered the contest, Miss Smith was chosen the recipient of a certificate. Her paper will be entered in the state contest.

(Items in this column were contributed by members of the Hoboken High School Honor Society: Doreen Bilis, Mary Calabrese, John DeBenedetto, Marita Devery, Karen Dapas, Linda Dapas, Vincent Manillo, John Paul Zanea, Anna Amato, Raymond Bermudez, Ken Borg, Kathy Peskens, Marie Salvemini, Anna Spina, Linda Suljic, Mrs. Helen Lanwehr, moderator.)

## New deadline spurring action on school budget

Members of the Hoboken City Council and the board of education will meet Monday evening in a joint effort to resolve the school board's \$4,025 million current expense budget for 1976-77.

It will be the first meeting on the school budget, which was defeated at the polls on March 9 by local voters. The council will then have only four days in which to make its changes, either reducing or increasing the amount, before the budget must be turned back to the school board.

Some council members had been under the impression that they had 30 days in which to work on and review the budget. However, according to Robert Taylor, the attorney for the board of education, the time

was reduced to 15 days this year by the state.

Taylor said the state did so because so many budgets were being defeated by the public and then going into the appeal process. He pointed out that Hoboken's budget last year was defeated in March but not finally resolved until September, six months later.

"The state is trying to speed things up and avoid these long delays," he said.

The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. at City Hall and will not be open to the public.

## Sewerage funding priorities go to Hoboken and Secaucus

The timetable is changing again on improvements mandated by the state and federal government for Hudson County sewage treatment.

Hoboken and Secaucus will get money from Washington — ahead of schedule — to upgrade local waste processing plants, and ahead of the Hudson County Sewerage Authority and West New York because the state says the latter two didn't have their project proposals ready.

Meanwhile, North Bergen has come under renewed attack by the state for failing to restore its "primitive" central disposal plant on 43rd Street to adequate service. Ironically, the township is now preparing plans to bypass sewage from its northern disposal plant to 43rd Street.

The State Environmental Protection Department yesterday reassigned Secaucus \$7,050,000, and Hoboken, \$750,000, in federal sewer grant funds.

In its revised quarterly rating list, the department shifted \$165 million in federal funds from 39 projects that were not ready for construction to 61 projected ready for work.

The total cost of upgrading the Secaucus system is \$8.4 million and the total cost of the Hoboken project is estimated at \$1 million.

Richard Jenny, executive director of the Hudson regional authority, which is supposed to develop a master plan for treating all of the county's waste, said the authority commissioners won't appeal the state's decision.

Instead, he said, the authority will start over from scratch, "reprocessing our whole application."

The State Department of Environmental Protection is

ordering North Bergen to either upgrade its 43rd Street sewage treatment plant or run its sewage into trunk lines owned by Jersey City.

The state has also ordered North Bergen to remove sludge buildups from the 43rd Street plant.

North Bergen is under order to chlorinate wastes as a primary step toward halting the flow of raw sewage into the surrounding rivers. Lynch called the present plant "primitive," adding it provides no treatment at present.

## Discipline

Mrs. Gaspar, the first woman to be elected president of the Hoboken School Board, says she is especially interested in achieving more discipline among the students.

That is laudable, but she should first concentrate on achieving more discipline among the board members.

The board was no sooner reorganized than it voted to send itself to the National School Boards Association convention in San Francisco at a cost of \$389 air travel for each member plus a daily allowance of \$79 each for three days.

Mrs. Gaspar at first abstained, but then voted approval with the understanding she wanted only one board member to attend and then report to the others. Leo McLaughlin and Donald Singleton voted against the resolution.

When it finally passed, there was no provision for only one delegate, so all board members are entitled to go. Perhaps Mrs. Gaspar would like to save the taxpayers money by amending that resolution to comply with her original intention.

## Hoboken police, firemen skeptical of city's offer

Hoboken has made its "one and only" contract offer to police and firemen but the uniformed employees seem in no hurry to accept it and are expressing serious doubt that it is the best the city can do.

While neither union nor city officials have volunteered any details of the city's proposal, it was learned the city is seeking a three-year pact that precludes any pay raises this year, but makes provisions for small percentage increases in 1977 and 1978.

Sources close to the negotiations report that the city's position is that this is the best it can do. But officials of the police and fire unions are skeptical, based on their experiences last year.

City employees last year were awarded a \$750 across the board pay increase. But only after some very tense moments prompted by police and firemen job actions in response to the city's claim that it had no money for raises at all.

Eventually the \$750 figure was accepted by the unions with the city maintaining that it was "the very best" it could do although there were still some who felt that the city might have overextended itself.

But when its books were closed out for 1975 the city had a surplus of \$890,000 with a healthy part of it coming from the fire department in salaries for vacancies that were never filled. The fact that the city had the large surplus at the end of the year and where it came from, is known to union leaders.

"The \$750 we accepted last year was nowhere near what we felt would have been a reasonable settlement," remarked one

union negotiator. "But we accepted because we believed the city was telling the truth when it said that it couldn't do any better and cried poverty."

"The city is again crying poverty with the same arguments from last year. But now we just don't know whether or not we should believe it. We've fallen behind almost every other police and fire department in the county in salary levels, and the contract the city is proposing would put us even further behind."

Making the situation even more complicated is a report that even if the police and firemen do agree to the city's proposal they may still find themselves without a contract at a future date and back in negotiations.

It is reported that the city wants a condition attached to the agreement that should any of its top industrial taxpayers move out during the life of the contract, its terms will be voided and the unions and city will have to go back to the bargaining table to renegotiate the contract and wages.

## Pie in Sky Plan OK'd By Ranieri

By ELIZABETH PARKS

The conversion of Hoboken's deteriorating Erie Lackawanna Railroad terminal into a cultural mall and shopping center is a "pie in the sky" piece of planning whose time is coming.

According to Councilman Robert Ranieri and community development lobbyist Jan Shapen, the New Jersey State Department of Transportation (DOT) recently completed negotiations to buy the terminal from the receivers of the bankrupt railroad line.

"The transaction is expected to be completed 'momentarily,'" Ranieri said, and then DOT will lease the facility back to Hoboken for a dollar a year.

Michael Coleman, the Community Development Agency's economic consultant, will then begin looking for backers to develop the site.

The announcement that DOT is moving into the picture to give Hoboken control of the badly deteriorated and partially used terminal, came just two days after two city councilmen berated Coleman for spending "thousands" of dollars on a feasibility study to determine alternative uses for the site.

Raps Coleman

At Monday's council caucus, councilmen Francis Leahy and Nunzio Maffett criticized Coleman and CDA Director Fred Bado for spending approximately \$120,000 in federal funds to do an architectural design study of the terminal instead of using the money to support free dental clinics and other services which Leahy said had an "immediate value for the people."

Both councilmen called the terminal proposal "a pie in the sky project" with virtually no chance of becoming a reality.

However, yesterday Bado said the final meetings to conclude the complex legal transactions "are now being set up" and Ranieri called the acquisition of the terminal a "definite step in the right direction."

## Not Good

The news continues to be bad from the port. In its annual report, the Waterfront Commission of New York and New Jersey asserts that pier employment in the Hudson County area has dropped 1.5 per cent. Hudson's share of the port business as of last June 30 was 11.5 per cent, also off.

This all affects merchants and other businesses in Hoboken, Jersey City,

Bayonne and Weehawken. Particularly hard hit is the Mile-Square City where the report asserted that pier activities were "desultory." Hoboken needs a better break than this these days.

Progress is the cause, led by containerization and this had been expected. In general though the port is much better off than 20 years or so ago. Fewer men are working, admittedly, but they are making more. This balances off the bad news, not totally but somewhat.



# Teaching specialists sought in Hoboken

The Hoboken Board of Education is accepting applications from persons interested in staffing an eight-week "Early Learning

Program" this summer and during after-school hours beginning in the fall. School Superintendent Thomas F. McFeely said that among the activities being planned are dance classes, music, arts and crafts, ceramics and physical development. Other courses also are being considered, he said.

Those with skills in any of those fields may apply for positions as teaching specialists at \$6 per hour or assistant to the teaching specialist at \$3.50 per hour, the superintendent said. Applications for the jobs may be obtained at the office of career education,

third floor of the administration building, 1115 Clinton St. The closing date for filing will be March 30. The board of education announced that the program will be carried out with state funds and federal aid made available through the cooperation of the Hoboken Community Development Agency.

# Hoboken Considers School Budget Cuts

By ELIZABETH PARKS

The Hoboken City Council is "shooting at" a \$1.5 million reduction in the Board of Education's proposed \$13 million budget that could result either in extensive layoffs or the voiding of the board's contract agreement with teachers. The cuts, which will be decided tomorrow night, will probably come from the board's \$10 million allocation for salaries for teachers and administrators.

A board member who called the \$1.5 million figure "ludicrous," said such an extensive cutback could make it impossible for the board to honor last year's agreement to give teachers a \$400 bonus in lieu of a salary increase for this year, or an eight per cent raise next year.

The board, the source said, may have to choose between honoring its agreement or cutting back 15 per cent of its work force, a move that Board Attorney Robert Taylor said "would devastate the system."

At a preliminary meeting on the budget Monday night, three board members and three council members sat down to discuss tentative cuts in a meeting both sides called "amicable."

## No Final Decision Made

Councilman Robert Ranieri and Board president Mary Gaspar acknowledged that the \$1.5 million figure was discussed as a "starting point" but both said no final decisions were made.

Instead, the council gave Gaspar a list of 15 questions that the committee said it needed answered so it could make a "detailed examination of the board's budget and act carefully and prudently."

The questions ranged from asking for statements of expenditures and encumbrances on all line items in the current budget up to the end of February, and all projected expenditures up to the end of June, to lists of all vacant positions included in the current budget, and lists of the duties of all administrative and supervisory personnel.

Taylor and Gaspar said yesterday the

board is working on the questions and hopes to have answers for the council by Thursday morning. The board will meet again with the council to revamp the budget at 8 p.m. Thursday in City Hall. Ranieri said the council wants to look at the board's table of organizations because it's time "for a reappraisal."

The council, he said, is looking "intensely" at the monies allocated for salaries and trying to determine "which services are necessary and which are not."

# Abandoned autos may bring back Hoboken towing

Hoboken officials are thinking about restoring the city's alternate side of the street sweeping and towing program in an effort to cope with an ever-increasing number of abandoned automobiles, it was learned today.

Mayor Steve Cappiello confirmed the report but said further discussion among city officials was necessary before any decision was made to start towing again.

"I personally am against the towing of cars that block the street machines," said the mayor. "However, the number of abandoned and derelict cars is on the increase as a result, and that's becoming a major problem."

Cappiello said he would take the matter up with the city council and Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale, and work with them to reach a decision.

The city's towing program stopped a year ago in January after the city increased the fine for blocking the street to \$10 from \$2. Motorists had been paying almost \$20 in fines and towing charges before.

Vitale, who wanted to keep the towing program, said he hasn't changed his mind about it.

"I still think towing is the best way of making sure that our streets get a thorough cleaning each week and preventing any building up of derelict cars," he said. "Maybe it isn't the fairest way of treating motorists but my main concern is with the cleaning of the streets. And in that vein, it is the best way of cleaning them."

Vitale said figures compiled over the last year show that wester motorists are moving their cars for the sweeper, even with the threat of a \$10 fine.

"I'm sure that some motorists feel that it's easier or more convenient to leave their cars where they are parked and take a \$10 ticket than to move it and look for an open parking lot somewhere else," he added. "This city has a parking problem that adds to the difficulty in finding another parking space."

"However, I feel that towing is still the best way of regularly cleaning the streets and getting rid of abandoned cars."

The mayor said he did not know if there would be any changes in the charges if towing was resumed. If the fine stays at \$10 motorists could be paying close to \$30 in fines and towing and storage costs in order to get back their vehicles. The mayor said this would be included in the discussions.

# Bring 'em back

When Hoboken stopped towing away parked cars that blocked the street sweeper, we questioned the decision.

Now, sixteen months later, city officials are going to discuss bringing the tow trucks back.

Figures prove motorists are more willing to take a chance on a \$10 fine than on having their parked cars towed away. As a result, the streets do not get swept clean because the sweeper has to detour around illegally parked cars.

Another towing program benefit was that derelict cars dumped on Hoboken streets would automatically be removed within a week. Now so many have accumulated that available curbside parking space has been seriously reduced.

The towing program worked well. No one publicly complained about it. Many of its victims were out-of-town commuters, not Hoboken residents. Hoboken has some under-used municipal parking garages eager for business.

What seems to be required is not more discussion, but action.

# What's the score?

The harm that comes from crying wolf is evident in the impasse between Hoboken and its bluecoats over salary increases.

Last year, when the budget was being prepared, the city officials insisted until the last minute that there was not a nickel available for pay increases. But at that last minute—after some "job actions," the nearest thing to a strike—the city offered \$750, with no explanation as to how it was suddenly able to come up with the money.

Now the police and firemen again are told that Hoboken just does not have any money this year. This may be a fact. Some of the bigger taxpayers have left and other revenues have diminished.

But the bluecoats remember hearing the same protestations a year ago and they are inclined to believe that what worked for them in 1975 will work again in 1976.

It would appear that last year the city officials were bluffing and their bluff was called. Still, it does not make sense for the bluecoats to blindly follow last year's script to the finish.

Why not bring in a fact finder to at least shed some light on the city's financial position?

# Hoboken PBA members to get briefing on city offer

Hoboken officials should get some idea tonight of how their proposed police and fire contracts are going to be received by the rank and file members of the Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA).

A special meeting of the PBA has been called for 7 p.m. in the municipal courtroom by Patrolman Ernest O. Brissette, PBA president, for the purpose of briefing the members on what the city is offering in the way of a contract.

Although contract talks have been going on for several weeks between the city and the PBA, Fire Fighters Association and the Fire Officers Association, the details have

been kept secret by mutual agreement and little is known about what the city is willing to give its uniformed employees.

It is known that the city is seeking a multi-year contract, reportedly for a three-year period, and that no provisions have been made for any pay raises this year. Percentage increases are included for the second and third years of the contract.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, who has been doing most of the negotiating for the city, would not predict whether or not the PBA would accept the contract. But he said he was "optimistic."

"All things considered, the city's proposal is very realistic and should be studied thoroughly before being rejected or accepted," he continued. "The negotiations were conducted in an intelligent and professional way and they produced a reasonable proposal — the best one the city can offer."

Some union members, however, are suspicious of the offer based on what happened last year. They point out that the city cried poverty during contract talks but concluded the year with a surplus of approximately \$50,000.

Ranieri said if the men will review the facts and events of the last year it should be evident that they weren't "duped."

"It is true that the city is including \$550,000 in surplus funds in the 1976 budget but that surplus was not a known item at the time of the contract talks last year," he explained. "More than \$500,000 resulted from the city's settlement with Bethlehem Steel and its payment of back taxes owed to Hoboken. That was a once-in-a-lifetime situation. It isn't going to happen this year."

"If it hadn't been for that surplus local taxpayers would now be facing a minimum tax increase of about \$8.50 for every \$1,000 of their assessed property value. That money is being used to reduce the municipal operating budget from \$6.8 million last year to \$5.9 million this year."

"So if the men who feel the city is trying to fool them and can give them more than it has offered will sit down and calmly review the facts, I think they will come to the conclusion that they have the best possible offer under the existing circumstances."

Representatives of the two fire unions have not yet set dates for presentation of the city's offer to their men.

# Cleanliness

If Hoboken is really serious about having sanitation inspectors work week-ends, the city will be the better for it.

Most of the littering of sidewalks and streets occurs over the weekend when the garbage collector does not make rounds. It is at that time that the inspectors are most needed to get after the litterers.

The inspectors may not like to work Saturday or Sunday, even if they get such an assignment every four or five weeks. But here we have the familiar question whether public services should be geared to the needs of the public or to the convenience of the public employees.

Too often, if not always, this question is decided the wrong way. For example, the postoffices are almost never open at night when people who work by day could use them.

Hoboken's weekend sanitation inspection should not be an experiment, but a permanent practice.

# Mrs. Gaspar says most schools need major repairs

Hoboken has major repair problems in the majority of its school buildings. That's the conclusion reached by Mrs. Mary Gaspar, school board president, following an extensive tour of the schools yesterday.

"With the exception of the Wallace School which is still relatively new, all of the schools are in need of some repairs," she said. "And in the case of the older schools, there are extensive repairs that are going to run into a lot of money."

"The Rue and Connors schools are probably the worst, with very serious problems, and will need the most work."

Mrs. Gaspar said that she took page after page of notes on the various conditions she saw and is now preparing a full report which will be presented to the board at its next meeting.

"It is pretty evident that we must commit ourselves to a fairly large and extensive rehabilitation program," she said. "We don't have much of a choice. It's either that or in a year or so we'll have to start shutting down some of the schools because they are no longer safe for the children or teachers."

"The only other alternative, if it can be called that, is to start building several new schools. However, I don't think the board of education or the city wants to get involved in that in these troubled financial times."

Some of the problems Mrs. Gaspar noted included faulty heating systems, windows rotting away, bathrooms that were inoperative and serious leaks in roofs.

# City council, school board to meet on budget Thursday

Following an exploratory session which both sides described as "amicable," members of the Hoboken City Council and the Board of Education today were preparing to take part in a public meeting on the school budget at City Hall at 8 p.m. Thursday.

"It was a friendly meeting and we explored a lot of areas," reported Council President Martin Brennan.

Mary Gaspar, school board president, also described it as "friendly" and said the board will try to answer all questions asked by the council.

It was the first meeting of committees from the two groups since the voters on March 9 turned down the Board of Education budget. The \$13 million budget calls for \$4,025,276 to be raised by the city. It is the 4 million figure that is under discussion.

The council has until Friday to approve the school budget or to cut it. Brennan said if any changes are made, he will call a special council meeting. If the school board feels it cannot operate with the cut in funds, it has the option of appealing to the state commissioner of education.

# Ranieri seeks end to Hoboken 'inertia'

A Hoboken councilman said today that he will push for frequent meetings between city council committees, city directors, the mayor and Community Development Agency officials in the hope of overcoming the "inertia" plaguing the city's operation.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri said that the city has "millions of dollars in plans" and almost nothing is actually moving.

"I'm becoming very disheartened by

this," he continued. "We are still a government by crisis. Nothing is getting done until we are faced with a crisis situation and there is no alternative but to act, be that act right or wrong."

"We have plans for the restoration of city hall, a water recovery program, a new purchasing system, a consolidated garage and a suit over the sewerage treatment contract with Weehawken and Union City just to name a few. But we don't have any

action or movement."

Ranieri said he didn't know who was responsible for the inertia.

"Maybe we all are," he said. "But it cannot continue. By meeting frequently and discussing our problems and the available solutions, we can reach decisions and implement action."

"I intend to push for frequent council committee meetings and pressure other city officials to do their part as well."

# Partners to have 'own' patrol cars

A cop's best friend is his partner. But Hoboken policemen will be adding a new dimension to that in a few weeks—it'll be his partner and their car.

Hoboken is expecting five new police cars and when they are delivered and prepared for service two patrolmen will be assigned to each car. The vehicle, according to Chief George W. Crimmins, will not be used by anyone else and will be the sole responsibility of the two men.

"The purpose of the new system is to eliminate repairs and prolong the life of the cars," said the chief. "We are hoping that the men will look upon the cars as their own, like their own service revolvers, and take better care of them."

The new system was originated by Capt.

Anthony Rinaldi, head of the vice squad, several months ago when he was serving as acting chief. Chief Crimmins was recovering from a mild heart attack at the time.

However, it was never fully implemented because the department had problems with keeping enough cars in service to meet the program's requirements.

Five new mid-size cars were ordered by the city several weeks ago and have been delivered to the successful bidder, a Jersey City auto dealer. The chief said the new cars are expected to be turned over to the city sometime this week, probably Wednesday or Thursday.

Det. Mario Mercado, head mechanic for the public safety department, said that the vehicles will require some additional work by his men before they can be put into service. He said he and his men will be going on a double shift to get the work done and should have the cars in service within 10 days of their delivery.

The chief said that once in service none of the new cars would be used more than eight hours each day by the two-men team assigned to it. When the men are on break—their days off—the car will be locked and remain at the garage until they come back to duty.

Mercado said that most of the men assigned to squad car patrol duty haven't been taking good care of the cars although they haven't actually abused them.

"Running any car 24 hours a day for weeks at a time takes its toll, and the men have been somewhat indifferent about the cars," he said. "By assigning two men to a car and allowing only those two to use it will hopefully instill some pride and help them keep their vehicle in top running order."



HOBOKEN FIRST—Frank Welch (seated, left), vice president of Piper Jaffray & Hopwood Inc., a \$31 million a year securities firm, yesterday signs lease that will help give birth to Hoboken's first securities exchange at Grogan Marine View Plaza. Looking on are Martin Traum (seated, right) of Sulzberger Rolfe, Inc.; Bernard Kenny, developer of a proposed commercial building at the Plaza; and Mayor Steve Cappiello. (Story Page 2) 3/25/76 24.10.

# Hoboken plans June bid on insurance coverage

Hoboken expects to be accepting bids for its insurance coverage no later than its June 2 council meeting, Councilman-at-large Robert E. Ranieri said today.

The councilman, who has been working to consolidate all of the city's insurance needs into one package, said today that Walter Hartye, the city's insurance clerk, should have all of the specifications in hand by this week, allowing the city to advertise them next month.

However, Ranieri said that there were still a few matters that had to be ironed out

before the council authorized the advertising of the specifications.

"It has been brought to my attention that some related city agencies are not taking advantage of the package offer and are going out on their own for their insurance needs," he said.

"Another matter is the possibility that some of our past insurance needs have been going through two brokers before the policy has been placed, resulting in two commissions. That also costs the city extra money."

# Mrs. Gaspar takes tour of old Hoboken schools

How bad are conditions at Hoboken's old school buildings?

Mrs. Mary Gaspar, the board of education's new president, hopes to get the answer today through a personal inspection of every school building with Louis Francone, head of the board's maintenance department.

"We already know that, generally, the schools are not in good shape," she said. "But I'm very interested in finding out exactly how badly they have deteriorated and what we are going to have to do to put them back in shape."

Meanwhile, the board and city council struggle with the school budget at tonight's 8 p.m. city hall meeting in an attempt to satisfy both the board which says it needs \$13 million included in the fiscal package, and the voters who rejected it in last month's elections.

Former board president Otto Hotendorf warned his fellow board members and the council that for every dollar cut from the city's contribution to the schools, the state will cut out \$2.

And he added that unless the two groups reach an amicable agreement the board will appeal the council's cuts to the state commissioner of education to the state, thus giving the state commissioner of education the power to make even more cuts.

The Jersey Journal learned of the school inspection when it contacted Mrs. Gaspar to inquire about reports of an extremely dangerous condition on the floor of the David E. Rue School at Third and Garden streets.

It is reported that the roof of the building is in need of repair, that there are numerous leaks and the walls are starting to crack and peel on the top floor from rain that has seeped into the building.

"From the reports I have received it might even be worse than that," said Mrs. Gaspar. "But I want to see for myself."

The inspection will start at the Connors School, then go to the Rue school, then to A.J. Demarest Junior High School. She said that these are the schools that appear to be in the worst conditions. The other school buildings will be inspected after these three.

Mrs. Gaspar said that the problems which have been

# Cleaner Monday is Hoboken's aim

Starting this weekend, Hoboken sanitation inspectors will be working a seven-day week in an attempt to get city residents and property owners to be more careful with their garbage and litter.

Public Works Directors Raphael P. Vitale said today that his chief sanitation inspector, Edward McIntyre has started assigning inspectors to weekend duty on a regular basis.

"One inspector will work four hours Saturday and four more on Sunday," said Vitale. "Each man will pull the weekend duty approximately once every four or five weeks. This is the first time that we have put inspectors on a regular weekend schedule."

Vitale said the objective in using the inspectors on weekends is a "cleaner Monday."

"The city is usually a real mess on Monday mornings," asserted Vitale. "There aren't any garbage pickups Saturday night and my men aren't out to pick up whatever debris is lying around."

"Since we have gone to the alternate-day garbage collections the problem is worse, especially in the section of the city west of Willow Avenue where there is no pickup until early Tuesday morning. Washington Street is also very messy."

The director said that the inspectors will be making spot checks of the entire city, but the primary weekend function will be checking the Washington Street area and isolated, but known, trouble spots.

He added that he expected the inspectors to do a "thorough and efficient job" and anyone not taking the duties seriously could expect to face departmental

# Central phone system sought as moneysaver

The Hoboken City Council will be asked by Mayor Steve Cappiello to authorize a survey of the city's telephone system by New Jersey Bell Co. to see if all telephone service can be consolidated into one central system.

Cappiello said today that he had a lengthy meeting with telephone company representatives yesterday to discuss the potential of such a system and whether it could save the city money.

"I feel it has some definite benefits to offer Hoboken, specifically the elimination of five to seven jobs," continued the mayor. "Basically, that's where we would save. But

there would also be increased efficiency and speedier service which results in a savings as well."

"It is called a centrex system and I'd like to see all city agencies working off it. That would include city hall, police and fire departments, the Board of Education, the Housing Authority and the Community Development Agency."

"The survey will determine what it will cost the city to switch over to the new system. But there isn't much sense to having it done unless the council is interested in the eventual changeover."



## Brokerage Firm Signs Hoboken Office Lease

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Like an eager toddler learning how to walk, Hoboken yesterday took its first tottering steps toward a prosperous future full of Wall Street dollars and jobs.

Hoboken developer Bernard Kenny signed the first of what Kenny and city officials hope will be a "succession" of leases with New York firms seeking to escape the Big Apple's crippling business taxes.

The lease commits the brokerage firm of Piper-Jaffrey Inc., which does a \$31 million a year business, to a five year tenancy in Kenny's proposed commercial-motel building in Grogan Marine View Plaza.

To Kenny the lease means he's on his way toward securing the financing to construct the Plaza offices; to Piper-Jaffrey, the lease means, according to Vice President Frank Welch, a savings of nearly \$70,000 a year in corporate taxes; to Hoboken, the lease means approximately 1,000 permanent office jobs—once the building is up, 1 million man hours of labor while the building's being constructed, \$12 million a year to be infused into Hoboken's economy when the building is fully occupied; \$250,000 a year

in added real estate taxes; a demand for new housing for the city's new executives and new training opportunities for the city's young interested in Wall Street careers.

The mood of those who attended yesterday's signing was definitely optimistic. Mayor Steve Cappiello said he was "elated".

Former Mayor Louis DePascale said Hoboken was the logical refuge of New York firms interested in economizing. If Kenny's building was up today, DePascale predicted, it would need an annex to handle the overspill of New York businesses.

While Welch said he couldn't predict if Piper-Jaffrey's move to Hoboken will start a trend, since the firm is not typical of Wall Street firms, it's New York office is merely a branch office, not the home firm, he did say that other businesses will have to decide soon if they can afford to continue to pay for the prestige and excitement New York offers.

Welch said many firms now pay \$14 a square foot to rent the same kind of office space that Kenny is renting for \$7.50 a square foot.

## Cappiello Warns City May Lose Major Ratable

By ELIZABETH PARKS

In a surprise announcement made to defend proposed cutbacks of the board of education budget, Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello last night warned that the city's third largest industry, Levolor Venetian Blinds, Inc., is seriously considering moving to West Virginia.

Cappiello dropped his bombshell announcement that could mean a loss of between \$300,000 and \$400,000 in ratables to Hoboken after the city council had finished outlining a series of cuts totaling \$680,000 in the board of education's '76-'77 budget.

The council also proposed eliminating the \$1 million-a-year school lunch program, to which Hoboken contributes \$300,000, and using the savings as a down payment on a \$4 million school repair bond issue.

After the board took a short recess, they filed back into the city council chambers and seated themselves in

various parts of the room. It was then that the mayor warned that the city faces another major industrial loss.

The mayor said he was briefing the board on the Levolor situation "in the hope that there will be some understanding of what we are trying to effect tonight."

### Work in Tandem

Cappiello said, "the city is working closely with New Jersey's Economic Development Agency" to find ways to keep Levolor from leaving Hoboken, but he warned that unless EDA comes up with a solution within the next six months the company will leave.

The company is being induced to move to West Virginia, which has promised to sell its executives land for \$1 an acre with a deferred tax break.

The mayor said the city hopes to offset this tempting offer by persuading EDA to offer tax abatements on proposed new development of the Hoboken plant.

## PBA rejects 3-year pact offered by Hoboken council

The Hoboken Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA) has rejected the city's offer for a three-year contract and will counter with a proposal of its own that the city probably will reject, forcing the issue into arbitration by the state Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC), it was learned today.

According to a PBA spokesman, the vote against accepting the city's proposal was "almost unanimous" among the patrolmen and superiors who attended the meeting Wednesday night in the city council chambers.

The city's proposal was as follows: A \$200 cash payment this year in lieu of four paid holidays the men already have; a three per cent pay increase in the second year on a patrolman's base salary of \$11,950, a four per cent increase in the third year also based on the base salary of \$11,950, and a \$100 increase in the clothing allowance, bringing it to \$300 a year.

However, the city also retained the right to void the contract, even if the policemen accepted its terms, and resume new

negotiations should any of the 10 top taxpayers move out during the three-year span, if revenue sharing is cut or the state income tax doesn't go through, the spokesman added.

"The entire package adds up to \$1,150.58 over the three years," he continued. "It is unacceptable."

Even though PERC arbitration isn't binding on the city or the PBA, the union spokesman said it could prove the PBA's point — that the city can do better than it has offered.

"We are fairly certain that the city will reject the PBA's proposal since it is just as unreasonable as the city's but only in our favor," he continued. "The city has maintained that its offer is the best it can do so there isn't much point in trying to look for common ground between what is offered and what we're asking for."

The spokesman added that the PBA has noted 23 violations of its current contract with the city concerning working conditions, promotions, and tests for promotions. However, no grievances will be filed for the time being.

## Tell more 3/24/76 9-8

Hoboken can consider it a stroke of good fortune that the state has somehow found \$322,500 to buy the Erie Lackawanna railroad terminal with the intention of turning it over to the city for \$1 a year.

There is some disagreement, however, over the city's proposal to create a shoppers' mall and cultural center on the site, while, of course, keeping the trains running.

The location is good and the prospect of a shopping mall is attractive; particularly since it would be financed with state and federal money. But opponents say Hoboken will not lure enough patrons to justify it.

The city administration is already fully committed to the mall, but have adequate studies been made to support the presumption that the mall would pay for itself? Do not the proponents owe it to the public to disclose the facts and figures—it is assumed there were such—that sold them on the idea?

The mall may be great, but why not tell more about it?

## Crimmins Juggles Ranks To Bolster Cop Shortage

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Hoboken Police Chief George Crimmins, in an attempt to cope with a manpower shortage and make the department's detective bureau more effective, is transferring two men into the Bureau to bring it up to full strength.

Crimmins said yesterday that he is transferring one man, Robert DeStefano from the vice squad and one man from the city's code enforcement bureau Thomas Kennedy.

Both men are to be used the Chief said "to boost the detective squad's day force."

With retirements over the last few months, the chief said, the squad has shrunk from 15 men to 12.

Crimmins said the positions occupied by DeStefano and Kennedy will remain open "for the time being." Although he called both jobs "extremely important to the welfare of the city" he said, at the present time "we don't have the men to replace them."

As soon as the transfers were announced, rumors began circulating in the department that they were politically inspired.

### Effectiveness Only

Crimmins, however, insisted that the only factor motivating the transfers

was the question of police effectiveness.

"The commander of the bureau has been asking me for months for more help," Crimmins said. "I literally didn't have anywhere else to turn, any other recourse. I either had to pull men out of other bureaus or pull them off the street."

A Kennedy supporter, however, charged that the move was politically inspired by Freeholder Vincent James Fusilli whom Kennedy had run against in last November's freeholder election.

The supporter, a colleague of Kennedy's asked not to be identified for political reasons. He said Fusilli resented Kennedy's open challenge and wanted to punish him.

Fusilli couldn't be reached for comment, but one of his associates denied the charge. "Jimmie beat Kennedy fair and square," he said. "He doesn't work by stabbing people in the back."

In DeStefano's case, sources said he was bumped out of his daytime position in the vice squad at the request of first ward councilman Anthony Romano.

DeStefano was said to have behaved in ways "offensive" to the first ward councilman, sometimes considered a potential rival to Mayor Steve Cappiello in the upcoming mayoral races.

## Hoboken school board to fight \$680,000 council cut in budget

Hoboken's school board and the City Council are embroiled in another fight over cuts in the school budget, this promises to be even more bitter than last year's struggle.

The battle was declared last night when the council outlined \$680,000 in cuts it is preparing to make in the school budget at today's special council meeting.

Shocked school officials said it would be "absolutely impossible" to run the schools

without the 50 to 55 teachers that would have to be fired because of the cuts. They promised to appeal to the state commissioner of education.

Council members, in turn, said they would appeal to the courts if the commissioner orders the money restored.

And Mayor Steve Cappiello used the City Hall conference last night to spread more economic bad news—the city's third largest taxpayer, Levolor Lorentzen Inc., the

venetian blind company, may move to West Virginia.

The two sides got together in open session for what was hoped would be an amicable settlement of the budget problem. Under state law City Council must reduce the \$13 million fiscal package because the voters rejected it in the March 9 school elections.

Council president Martin Brennan first sought board suggestions for cutting the

city's \$4 million contribution but when none was offered he asked Councilman Robert Ranieri to read the council's proposed cuts.

Of the total \$680,000 in cuts, Ranieri said \$550,000 should come out of teacher's salaries with the remainder spread among minor items including employee pension contributions.

When asked how the board could cut \$7,000 from the pension fund Brennan replied, "It's very simple. There will be fewer people working."

Ranieri said the council also wanted the board to abolish the school lunch program and use the \$308,000 annual cost to cover the deposit on a \$4 million bond issue to repair all the schools.

"It's a matter of priorities," he said. "Can we afford to keep giving away free food while the schools are falling apart?" Brennan added that more than half the lunch food is thrown out anyway.

Board President Mary Caspar and the other three trustees present said they "cannot accept" either the \$680,000 in cuts or the elimination of the lunch program and would appeal.

Council members said they would appeal to the courts if the commissioner ruled against them, thus trying to avoid the situation that arose last year when over \$300,000 in cuts made by the council were ordered restored to the school board.

The promised raises that ended the long teacher strike several months ago can only be granted if a large number of employees are laid off, both sides said. "When we voted for that contract we all knew it might mean fewer people getting more money," said school board member Donald Singleton.

Cappiello, who sat in on the meeting, said the city's largest employer and taxpayer, Bethlehem Steel Corp., had recently written to him expressing concern over the city's economic condition and indicating that it might move its operations elsewhere.

"In addition, Maxwell House has serious doubts about its existence here," said the mayor, noting that the company has already moved 20 per cent of its operations out of Hoboken.

But the most immediate problem was the Levolor company which has been offered a site in West Virginia for \$1 an acre and may decide to move within six months unless it can expand its operations in Hoboken at lower cost, he said.

"Together these three firms pay 35 to 40 per cent of the taxes collected in Hoboken," said Cappiello. "Unless we keep them here we may not be able to afford a board of education at all."

## 2nd firm wants to build garbage recycling plant

Another firm is interested in setting up a garbage recycling operation in Hoboken, it was learned today from Ben R. Goodman, chairman of the Hoboken Planning Board.

According to Goodman, representatives of the company are to attend Wednesday's planning board meeting in the mayor's office to discuss what the company proposes to do and what objections, if any, it can expect from local government and citizens.

Goodman was unable to name the firm, explaining that he didn't have the information with him. However, he said that he believed that it was located in the Morrisstown area.

"The company is interested in some land in the northwest section of the city," Goodman continued. "I understand it already has an option to buy the property but doesn't want to make the final purchase until it knows it can go ahead with its project with a minimum amount of trouble."

A Woodbridge company has leased land in the same general area and started construction of a garbage recycling plant. However, after the foundation was laid, construction work stopped and has not yet resumed. It is reported that the company, Envirographics Inc., is waiting for the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to approve the project and issue the necessary permits before resuming construction of the plant.

Goodman said that the other company may have already obtained state permission for its proposed plant. He said that he hadn't seen any written approval but the company representatives told him that getting state permission was "the first thing it did."

The meeting is open to the public and starts at 4 p.m. Goodman said it may have to be switched to the city council chambers if there is a large crowd attending.

## Leahy counting on health funds for Hoboken

A resolution amending Hoboken's 1976 municipal budget to include \$25,000 from the Community Development Agency (CDA) for the reopening of a health program will be presented to the city council at its April 7 meeting by Councilman-at-large Francis X. Leahy.

The councilman said he was having the resolution prepared to insure that the CDA will actually put up the funds when they become available in July.

The city had to drop a number of its health programs earlier this year because the state cut back or eliminated funding for them.

## Chemical Firm in N.Y. Eyes Move to Hoboken

A second industrial firm may be about to move out of New York and into Hoboken's huddling Wall St. Center.

Bernard Kenny, developer of a proposed commercial building-motel at Hoboken's Grogan Marine View Plaza, yesterday said he is "90 per cent certain" that the chemical firm of Devo Reynolds, a subsidiary of Celanese Inc., will sign a lease today for between 2,500 and 3,000 sq. ft. of office space at the Plaza.

Kenny said he had "binding" verbal commitments from the firm's representatives.

Devo, he said, has agreed to take 2,500 sq. ft. of temporary space in offices on the ground floor of Bldg. 2, a residential apartment house at the Plaza.

The firm will stay in the residential complex until the fall of next year when Kenny hopes to have the commercial

building erected.

On Wednesday, Kenny signed a five-year lease with Piper Jaffray, a \$31 million a year securities firm. Piper Jaffray will be moving into Hoboken early in May.

Kenny has to rent 44,000 sq. ft. approximately half the office space that will be available in the projected building, before his backers, an unidentified major insurance firm, will give him the money to float a mortgage and begin construction.

He said there are five other firms "strongly" interested in the commercial building and "engaging in intensive negotiations." He was optimistic construction on the building could begin in July and be concluded by September of 1977.

## To amend Hoboken budget

The Hoboken City Council has scheduled a special meeting for 10 a.m. Monday to amend the 1976 municipal budget, scheduled for adoption Wednesday.

The city intends to add \$10,000 to its public works budget to permit a two month extension for several public health programs eliminated earlier this year when funds ran out.

The plan is to reopen a free dental program for schoolchildren, as well as eye, TB, VD, blood pressure, and breast cancer detection clinics.

## Municipal boards wield ax on Hudson school budgets

Governing bodies in Hoboken and North Hudson municipalities have wielded the ax on school budgets, with the heaviest cuts being made in North Bergen and West New York. At least two school boards said they would appeal.

Here's what's happening in each community: HOBOKEN — \$680,000 has been slashed from a budget of \$13 million and the board president said an appeal will be taken.

NORTH BERGEN — \$750,000 has been pared from the \$10.3 million budget.

WEEHAWKEN — The board's proposed budget of \$4.15 million has been reduced by \$34,000. The board will appeal.

WEST NEW YORK — The town has sliced \$857,000 from the school's \$10 million budget.

The Hoboken Council's action in slashing

the school budget will be appealed, according to Board President Mrs. Mary Gaspar. Two other board members who attended yesterday's special council meeting where the action was taken, said they also favored an appeal. Otto Hotendorf and James Farina said they would vote for it.

The reduction, with some \$500,000 coming out of teachers' salaries, will allow the city to strike a tax rate that is, approximately \$1.98 lower than last year's figure of \$108.53 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, excluding any county tax raise.

Thomas Vezzetti, a local hotel owner and administration critic, and Mary Tecktonius, president of the Hoboken Teachers' Association, attempted to persuade the council to reconsider.

Vezzetti said the city was trying to hold the line at the expense of the school board and teachers. A \$6 million drop in ratables "isn't the teachers' fault, it's the fault of the administration for not being able to cope with the pressures of government," he said.

Mrs. Tecktonius warned the council that by cutting the school budget it was risking the possibility of having the state commissioner of education mandate that the city reinstate the \$680,000 plus additional funds to insure a "thorough and efficient" education.

"The fact is that we are not even close to providing a thorough and efficient education for our children," she said. "If the reductions you have made are appealed to the state, you are not only risking the possibility that the \$680,000 will be reinstated, but the inclusion of more money for the required and needed services under the T and E Act."

The resolution authorizing the budget reductions was approved by a 7-4-0 vote. Fourth Ward Councilman Louis Francone, who is employed by the school board, voted "present" and he was not counted in the vote tally.

The school board now has 15 days to decide whether it will accept the cuts made by the council or appeal them to the state.

Mrs. Gaspar said that she was not pleased with the way the city council handled the budget matter or the board members.

"The board was asked some 15 questions by the council and mayor and each was answered," she said. "There were some 22 pages of answers to be exact. However, no mention or reference was made to the questions or answers during the meeting Thursday night or yesterday."

"It was like the council was playing some kind of silly game just to give the board something to do, something to occupy its time. I resent that very much."

Mrs. Gaspar said she would recommend to the other board members that they appeal the city's reductions. She added that from conversations with other members she felt an appeal would be certain.

According to Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, the city is committed to fighting any reinstatement of funds by the state "all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, if needed."

## Malfetti calls terminal project poor investment

A second Hoboken councilman has come out against the proposed rehabilitation and redevelopment of the Erie Lackawanna train terminal by the city's Economic Development Agency (EDA).

Sixth Ward Councilman Nunzio Malfetti today joined Councilman-at-large Francis X. Leahy in expressing doubt that the project will be of any significant benefit or value to the citizens of Hoboken.

"I don't think anyone realizes that Hoboken, through the CDA, is going to have to put a lot of money into this project before there is even the slightest return on the investment," said Malfetti. "The minute the city or CDA signs a lease for the terminal with the state, it is responsible for it."

"That means we'll have to carry the insurance for the building, take care of any repairs that are needed, and probably get little return for whatever is spent, until the project is in its final stages of completion — if it gets that far."

"A shopping mall and cultural arts center isn't a bad idea. But I don't think it is a good idea for Hoboken at this time. We need so many other things it's more like a frill — like buying champagne when you can afford only beer."

"I would rather see the money we will have to spend on this project spent on finding ways to help revive our Washington Street shopping area and revive industry."

Malfetti said that he would join Leahy in voting against any measures dealing with the project that are presented to the city council.



3/27/76 Not blooming yet? 9-8

Nannette Deasy, 3, is just waiting for the flowers to appear after carefully planting this small plant at Elysian Park, Hoboken. Children from Stevens Cooperative Nursery School did the planting. With the city's permission they also will maintain the garden.

## Cappiello to act on woe of truckers at coffee plant

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello personally will look into reports that a number of trucking companies are refusing to make pickups at the Maxwell House Coffee plant because city cops have been issuing an excessive number of parking tickets.

The mayor said today it has been reported to him that some trucks have been given two and three tickets for double parking while waiting to get into the coffee processing facility to make their pickups. As a result some trucking companies are refusing to do business with the plant.

"I can't condone double parking," said the mayor, "but the city doesn't want to make it more difficult for Maxwell House to have a smooth operation either. Maybe there's something that the city can do to eliminate the problem, or at least reduce it somewhat."

Cappiello said he believed part of the problem was due to the closing of Shore

Road, which is being rehabilitated with federal Economic Development funds.

"I believe the trucks used to line up along Shore Road when they were waiting to get into the plant," he said. "With Shore Road closed for repairs they have started lining up along Hudson Street."

The mayor said he would take the matter up with Chief George W. Crimmins to see if some temporary system can be worked out to allow for truck parking.

## Crosstown bus' route being cut

In an economy move, Hoboken will eliminate part of its crosstown bus service route beginning Monday morning, Business Administrator Herman Bier said today.

"The northern portion of the route is being eliminated at the request of the city council because the expense of running to 12th Street isn't justified by the use the bus gets from people living in that area," Bier said.

The portion of the route to be eliminated is from Seventh Street north on Clinton Street to 12th Street, east on 12th to Willow

Avenue, South on Willow to Seventh and east on Seventh to Hudson Street.

"Instead, when the bus gets to Seventh and Clinton streets it will continue east to Willow Avenue," Bier continued. "At Willow it will turn south to Fifth Street, then east on Fifth to Hudson and then pick up the rest of the old route—south on Hudson to the PATH terminal."

Bier said that the northern portion of the run was designed to service the senior citizens living in the Fox Hill Gardens project at 12th and Willow. However, not many of them are using the bus because the

city has a free senior citizen bus that provides almost the same service.

"We've known for several months that we weren't getting much play from the seniors," the administrator said, "but the council wanted to make sure that any inconveniences caused by the rerouting of the crosstown bus was kept to a minimum, before making the change."



# Peppy Hoboken seniors perform—that's no folly

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Septuagenarian John Houston won an Academy Award for best supporting actor of 1975 and Art Carney, also in his seventies, won the award for best actor. This year on Broadway, Eva LaGallienne and Ruth Gordon, both in their indefatigable eighties, are giving stand-up performances before cheering crowds.

If there's any truth to the report that life loses its zest after 40, they haven't heard it. And neither have a group of Hoboken senior citizens who are about to present the city's first senior folies.

Not one of the 12-member Hoboken cast aspires to be Art Carney or Ruth Gordon, but it's possible Frank Sagendorf may be paying tribute to Tony Bennett, when he chooses to sing San Francisco for his theatrical debut, and it's not far fetched to speculate that Mary Forbes may have chosen to sing Good Ship Lollipop because she remembers the impression Shirley Temple made with her curls and dimples.

Whatever may have motivated the choice of acts that will be presented at 2 p.m. today and 7:30 p.m. tomorrow at the Hoboken Community Center, 2nd and Grand sts., the impulse that motivated the show is clearly articulated.

**Chance to Have Fun**  
The seniors and their director, Vincent Barbo, refer to the production as a "chance to have fun, a chance to give a good time to others and an opportunity to be with a gang of our own."

When they talk about the experience of spending weeks rehearsing for a two-hour musical, the seniors don't dwell upon the aches in their thighs from doing too many two steps. They don't talk about the inconvenience of arranging their home and social lives around the demands of a production number that has to be repeatedly polished or the exhaustion that any rigorous

physical exertion might be expected to bring about. They talk about fun, about coming out of their shell, about overcoming the fear of looking foolish, about getting to know each other "better than we ever dreamed" and about the satisfaction of hitting high notes like a professional.

There's a party flavor to their conversation and a communal atmosphere that reminds one of the close cast feeling that Busby Berkeley used to project in old Warner Brothers musicals starring Dick Powell, Jimmy Cagney and Ruby Keeler.

The seniors emphasize "good times." But Barbo talks on a different level. Barbo doesn't put down the fun, he's delighted it's there, but like Bernard Shaw with his philosophic comedies, Barbo sees that entertainment can be used for a higher purpose.

In this instance, his higher purpose is to convince the world or at least Hoboken that the popular media is superficially wrong when it paints seniors as emotional has-beens in a youth-oriented society, ships in drydock waiting to be scrapped.

After working with seniors for several years, Barbo said he has no doubts about their productivity. Houston, Carney, LaGallienne, Gordon and this year's winner George Burns in The Sunshine Boys are obvious. "I want the seniors to dispel the theory that people over 60 have fun, a chance to give a good time to others and an opportunity to be with a gang of our own."

"Television, movies and some newspapers and magazines stigmatize seniors. They create a picture of a group of people just sitting around waiting to meet their creator. Our show proves that seniors can have a good time, can enjoy themselves and can produce something that others can enjoy."

Some of the show's cast, like Ruth Canova, 62, have had

some theatrical exposure. Ruth once wrote country

western songs and she has sung professionally once or twice.

In the show, she sings two of her own creations, "Thank You

Kindly" and "I'll Settle for Love."

## School walls tell the American story

Some Americans have settled for a poster on the wall or the raising of a flag as their contribution to the nation's bicentennial observance — but not the teachers and students at the Wallace School, Hoboken.

With paintbrush in hand — and on their own time — teachers and pupils have transformed the third floor of the school at 11th Street and Willow Avenue into a colorful tableau of American history. It's a vivid, everyday reminder to the youngsters that it's America's 200th birthday.

In letters a foot and a half high, a visitor is greeted by the words "Welcome to Our America," as he steps off the third floor elevator.

To set the stage for the unique tribute, teachers and pupils transformed a yellow corridor into a blue sky for a background. Next they employed a bit of electronic magic.

With a slide projector they flashed some great moments in American history on the walls. They then traced the outline and later filled it in with brilliant colors and attractive pastels.

The result is that students and teachers now walk along a corridor with such patriotic symbols as the Liberty Bell, the Spirit of '76, Paul Revere, a map of New Jersey and the United States, an American Indian and the Liberty Bell.

Peter Vecchio, principal of the school had high praise for the spirit shown by teachers and pupils. The paintings were bought with money from the school fund and the teachers spent many hours to create the colorful symbols, Vecchio, himself, pitched in to help with some of the work.

"I can't say enough for this wonderful demonstration of cooperation and teamwork," said Vecchio. "Teachers worked on their own time to make this a great bicentennial tribute. It has made a vivid impression on our students."

He said Janet Mongiello, an art teacher, Vincent Caruso, the school's bicentennial chairman and Edward Radigan, another faculty member, helped to get the project under way.



Janet Mongiello, right, art teacher at Wallace School, Hoboken, is helped by students Thomas Oliveri and Judy Gehler as they put finishing touch to Statue of Liberty. It is one of many patriotic paintings adorning walls of corridor.

## Water recovery proposals studied

The Hoboken City Council should know in a week to 10 days what the next step will be in the city's water resource recovery program, according to Councilman Robert Ranieri.

Ranieri said the council is looking at three proposals by Stevens Institute of Technology, the Hoboken engineering firm of Mayo, Lynch & Associates, and its own Public Works Department on ways to recapture about half the water purchased by the city from Jersey City.

The water seepage, said Ranieri, has represented a loss of about \$600,000 down the drain each year. Since the completion of water improvements in the city's southern end this summer, however, said Ranieri, the city has recovered anywhere from 10 to 18 per cent of water previously lost there.

Now it remains for the city fathers to figure out the best way to continue that improvement project. Council President Martin J. Brennan, Councilman Anthony Romano, chairman of the council's water and sewerage committee, and Councilmen Francis Leahy and Nunzio Malfetti met last night with Mayor Steve Cappiello, Fred Bado, Community Development Agency (CDA) head; Raphael Vitale, public works director; and Herman Bier, city business administrator, to discuss the proposals behind closed doors.

After the meeting, Ranieri said that only Stevens has submitted a detailed plan projected over three years, with the first year's cost broken down to a city investment of some \$200,000 for equipment and manpower and \$100,000 as Stevens' share. Overall, the cost would run \$700,000, he said.

Mayo, Lynch would receive \$12,000 as payment for drawing plans during the first year, while, if the city's Public Works Department proposal were accepted, about \$20,000 would have to be figured as the city engineering costs, said Ranieri.

The Stevens plan for the first-year costs, he added, foresees the city spending about \$80,000 for equipment of which the biggest item would be a \$25,000 backhoe, used for trench-digging, and about \$110,000 for 10 additional water-crew and meter workers.

Ranieri acknowledged the possibility of the council "amalgamating" combinations of all three proposals. "We haven't closed any doors," he said.

One possibility, said Ranieri in response to a question, is that the city may decide to reorganize its own engineering department and have the city engineer draft improvement

## Essential?

In insisting that it cannot give the children the essentials of an education if it accepts the budget cuts made by the City Council, Hoboken's Board of Education would appear more convincing to the taxpayers if it had itself eliminated all expenditures which were not clearly essential.

The outcry raised last year after the board appropriated \$10,000 as expenses for board members' trips to Las Vegas and Atlantic City apparently fell on deaf ears, for the board has voted itself another big expense account for a trip to San Francisco where an educators' convention is being held.

It is argued that the board members would improve their capabilities as board members if they attend the convention. This may be true, but eliminating the convention trips will not close any classrooms.

Rather, it will tend to keep more classrooms open by keeping more money available for school work. Since something has to give, why not forgo the education of the board members until a time when there is more money available?

Other communities should look with care at the expenditure of convention expenses. The resulting discussion should give the taxpayers — and the school board members — some practical at-home education in the capabilities of board members.

## Says Hoboken firm not moving yet

The report of the imminent desertion of one of Hoboken's three major industries, Levolor, Lorenzen, to West Virginia where taxes are lower, has been slightly exaggerated, it was learned yesterday.

Levolor may leave the city eventually as Mayor Steve Cappiello reported last Thursday, but it has no immediate plans to do so now, according to its president Louis Schellor.

What Levolor does plan to do is expand and build a new plant in West Virginia where Schellor says the taxes are "substantially lower."

In announcing to the city council and board of education Thursday that Levolor was planning on moving, Cappiello failed to distinguish between the company's plan for a new plant and its plan for its 24-year-old Hoboken plant.

It is said the mayor may have been carried away in his desire to help the city council convince the board of education, parents and local teachers that a \$680,000 cutback in board funds was as he said "necessary" to allow Hoboken to stabilize its tax rate and keep its restless industries.

Or he may, as he says, have sincerely believed that if Levolor invests heavily in an expanded plant somewhere else, they will eventually follow their investment "lock, stock and barrel" out of town.

Whatever the reason for the discrepancy, Levolor, according to Schellor, is not yet ready to turn its back on Hoboken, although Schellor admits "anything is possible. We don't plan to move as of the moment, but it's hard to foresee the future."

Schellor said if Hoboken's tax picture worsens, if the current \$108.69 per \$1,000 of assessed evaluation goes higher, if other costs mount, the industry may have to leave.

But for now the company recognizes that it's physical plant represents a "major investment in Hoboken" that its work force, some 410 people, are "trained and available" and that problems of delivering to and servicing customers are handled adequately from Hoboken.

"If it was just a matter of picking up a plant and dropping it in a community with low taxes," Schellor said, "the situation would be simpler, but there is an investment here."

Schellor also said the firm's chief executives all own homes in New Jersey and it would be hard for them to pull up stakes.

"Of course," he said, "if West Virginia offers us more land for \$1 an acre, it may be too tempting to resist."

Levolor is taking 14 acres of land to build a plant to employ 200 people. The company tried first to find room to expand in Hoboken, but the city couldn't provide the needed minimum of 10 acres and the state Economic Development Agency failed to find comparable land elsewhere in New Jersey.

Cappiello called Levolor, the city's third largest industry, in company with Maxwell House and Bethlehem Steel, paying 35 per cent of all Hoboken's taxes.

Levolor's property on Monroe, Harrison and Jackson sts. is assessed at approximately \$193,000. Last year the company paid Hoboken approximately \$98,134 in taxes.

## Two Hobokens may exchange college visits

Officials of Hoboken, Belgium, are expressing renewed interest in a student exchange program with Hudson County's Hoboken but on a higher level than high school students. John Vervoorde, a Hoboken resident who has been corresponding with Belgian officials about the program, said today.

A group of six officials and professional people from Hoboken, Belgium, plan to visit Hoboken on April 7 or April 14 and 15, said Vervoorde.

"I was notified by the senator from Hoboken, Belgium, that the group was interested in visiting Stevens Institute of Technology and the Bethlehem Shipyard," he continued. "They have a very similar arrangement there — an engineering school and a large shipyard."

Vervoorde said that some interest was expressed in the possibility of a student exchange program involving the college in Belgium and Stevens.

The high school student exchange program was the subject of a great deal of discussion locally but never did materialize. Vervoorde said he never did learn why. But he suspected that it had something to do with the difference between the way the high schools were operated, and the language barrier. Most instruction at the high school level is given in Flemish, a difficult German dialect.

Vervoorde added that there was also a possibility that arrangements may be made for some local businessmen to visit Hoboken, Belgium.

## Bank may buy Stevens Academy to build branch

A former private school in Hoboken may be destined to become a branch office for a Bergen County bank and office building, it was learned today.

The Garden State National Bank has asked the Hoboken Board of Adjustment for a variance for the Stevens Academy site at the northeast corner of Fifth Street and Willow Avenue, and will make a presentation to the board at its April 6 meeting, a board spokesman said today.

According to the spokesman, the variance request was made by the real estate agency that is handling the sale of the old school, not the bank.

He explained that the area in which the school is located is zoned for residential purposes so a variance is required if the school or property is to be used for anything but a residential or school building.

The spokesman added that he did not know if the bank planned to rehabilitate and renovate the old school building converting it to a bank and offices, or tear it down and build a completely new structure.

The meeting will be held in the city council chambers and is open to the public.

## Hoboken gets more time on EPA progress report

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) — has again warned Hoboken that it has failed to file some of its reports on time. But Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale says he isn't particularly worried about the threats of fines from the EPA.

"It's become something of a routine," he said, "even for the EPA. There must be so many municipalities and agencies around the country who fail to get their reports in on time that the EPA sends out form letters when they're late."

"On the bottom of the one we recently received there's a small perforated strip that says if the report has already been mailed

out to disregard the warning notice."

Vitale said that the material the EPA wants is an interim status report on the abatement study and deals with efforts to upgrade the city's sewerage treatment plant.

The report was due Feb. 15. But the city has been granted some additional time to complete it and get it in. Vitale said that the EPA gave Hoboken 15 days from the day of the notice — March 25 — to get the report completed and filed.

## Hottendorf warns against \$4 million school bonds plan

Otto Hottendorf, a member and past president of the Hoboken Board of Education, today criticized a \$4 million school repair bond issue proposed by Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri as "not very well thought out."

"To begin with," declared Hottendorf, the school board is only \$100,000 or so away from its bonded indebtedness limit. That means we cannot borrow any more once we have reached the limit.

"However, there is an exception. The school board can ask the state for permission to surpass the limit. But if permission is granted, it sets off a series of situations that would cost the board even more money."

"Should we surpass the bonding limitations our credit rating will drop. That means that we will be paying higher interest rates on that note. We will also be faced with higher interest rates on all of our other short-term notes when they are renewed."

Ranieri suggested that the school board do away with its school lunch program, which would save the board \$308,000. This money would be set aside and used to pay the interest on the \$4 million bond issue.

"I'm afraid the councilman didn't look thoroughly into this situation before making his comments," continued Hottendorf. "The school system, because of its many children from low-income and poverty-level families, is required to have a lunch program by federal guidelines. Ending it would be illegal and cause even more problems."

Mrs. Mary Gaspar, board president, is working on a report on the conditions of the city's school following the completion of a tour of all the buildings. The report is expected to be completed in time for the meeting next Tuesday.

She also took exception to Ranieri's proposal.

"The councilman always seems to have solutions to everyone's problems but the city's," she said.

Mrs. Gaspar said the board was neither "short sighted nor derelict" for failing to consider Ranieri's proposal. "The plan got the consideration it deserved," she added.

According to Mrs. Gaspar, a \$4 million bond issue for the repairs could cost the school board — and the city — close to \$10 million before it was all paid for.

"However, we might be able to get rehabilitation funds from state and federal agencies," she continued. "As long as that is a possibility we should pursue it before burying the school board and city deeper in debt."

The school board has called a special meeting for Thursday at 8 p.m. to discuss the \$680,000 the city council removed from its 1976-77 current expenses budget of \$4,025 million. A public caucus will be held at 7:30.

An informal poll of several board members indicated that the cuts will be appealed to the state and the school panel will seek reinstatement of the full amount.

## 4th Street shut again Vitale says sinking worse than feared

A section of Fourth Street in Hoboken, between Washington and Hudson streets, has again been closed to all traffic because a large area of dirt under the asphalt has washed away.

Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said today that further test boring at the site, where the condition was discovered a few weeks ago, has revealed that the problem is even more extensive than first anticipated.

"We don't know just how bad it is until we start breaking up the asphalt and can get inside," he said. "It seems that there were two areas affected by a large water leak last summer that washed the fill away, not one."

"The first one was found a few weeks back when the city was notified that a section of the asphalt had started sinking. We closed the street while we looked to see how extensive the problem was. It appeared that it affected only the southern side of the

street so it was barricaded and traffic allowed to pass on the north side."

Vitale said that the city didn't take steps immediately to make repairs on the cave-in because it was trying to determine if someone was responsible for making repairs. He said that Public Service Electric and Gas Co., the New Jersey Bell Telephone Co. and Spiniello Construction Co. had been working in the general area over the summer months. Spiniello is the company that the city hired to replace water lines in the southern section of Hoboken.

"They've all disclaimed any responsibility for it and it doesn't look like we can prove otherwise," the director continued.

Vitale said a crew from the Department of Public Works will start tearing up the street today to see how extensive the cave-in is.

## Fire bureau to relocate in Hoboken

Pressure from Hoboken firemen demanding more men to give the city "adequate protection" is about to result in the Fire Prevention Bureau being severed from its City Hall office and relocated in what is now a closed firehouse at Fifth and Grand sts.

The switch will make the Grand st. station available in daylight hours as a "part-time fire house" to supplement the four full houses now scattered throughout the city.

It will add six more men — two officers and four firefighters — to the city's responding force, hopefully alleviating what firemen call "a severe shortage in working personnel."

It will also mean the end of the bureau's close alliance with Hoboken's code enforcement department. Code enforcement will now take on the full burden of inspecting city buildings to make sure that existing violations are corrected.

Fire prevention members will devote part of their time to being "on call" in case of a major alarm, part time to developing a refined prevention program; and additional time to giving an "in-depth refresher course" to the rest of the department.

The transfer is expected to be formally announced by Mayor Steve Cappiello this week.

Cappiello, who may be considering the political ramifications of the transfer, would only say yesterday that he is considering "a variety of measures to improve productivity."

## Recycling firm would get OK in Hoboken if...

If the firm interested in setting up a garbage recycling operation in Hoboken obtains state approval and has a "clean operation," it will probably meet with approval of the city's planning board, Ben Goodman, board chairman, said today.

"If it gets state approval and it's going to help Hoboken with taxes and employment, we're in favor of it," said Goodman, following a meeting with an engineer yesterday.

But Goodman said owners of the firm — whose name he did not identify — must still come before the board to explain the operation of the plant. "We want to know more about it," he said.

An engineer representing the firm spoke with planning board members yesterday. Goodman said he was originally told the firm had received state approval but the engineer said yesterday it had not been obtained.

Mrs. Helen Manogue of the Hoboken Environmental Committee, attended yesterday's meeting and questioned the engineer about the firm which is interested in buying land in the northwest area of the city. Goodman said he understood it is a Hoboken firm with a plant in Garfield.

A second firm, Envirogetics, Inc., began construction of a similar garbage recycling plant but work stopped, apparently to await state approval from the Department of Environmental Protection. "We'll do nothing until they get state approval," said Goodman.

## Cappiello on radio tomorrow to discuss revitalization effort

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello will be featured on "In the Public Interest," a radio program on WHM tomorrow between 9 and 11 p.m., it was announced today. The mayor will discuss Hoboken and the effort being made to reverse the city's decline.



# Hoboken to try own water recovery

BY PETER HALLAM

Hoboken officials have decided against contracting with the Davidson Laboratory at Stevens Institute of Technology for a three-year \$700,000 water recovery project and will have the city do the job itself, city officials said today.

The city will hire its own engineer, one well qualified in water and sewer work, to oversee the job. The Hoboken Community Development Agency (CDA) is now preparing a job description for the position

which will list all of the educational requirements and job experience qualifications, according to Mayor Steve Cappelletto.

The mayor said that once the job description is finished, the city will advertise for applications for the job, adding that for once, residency would not be stressed.

"If we can find someone from Hoboken and he or she is best qualified for the job, that person is going to get it," said the mayor. "But if the best candidate for the

position comes from somewhere other than Hoboken, then we'll go for the best."

"This project is important and can save the city a great deal of money if it is done properly. That means getting the best person we can find—no matter where he or she is from."

Cappelletto said that the engineer will have full authority to do whatever has to be done to get the job done the right way the first time.

"I made this clear from the beginning," he said. "I want this handled in a professional way. That means getting a good

day's work from the men and the authority to fire them if they aren't producing."

The mayor said the hiring of a city engineer would be the prelude to the creation of a formal engineering department.

"The proposal from Davidson Laboratory was generally thought to be too expensive," Cappelletto continued. "I think the city can do the job for considerably less."

The mayor said that the city's plan is to hire approximately six more workers for the public works water repair crews, enough to form a second crew. The men would be trained in repair work by James Murnane, the Water repair foreman.

One crew would be assigned to handle all emergency work and the other would work at the systematic repair of all known leaks which have not yet reached emergency status.

Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said that he would like to have two meter readers, one man to repair the equipment and another to handle removals and installations.

Cappelletto had no exact figures on how much the city could save by doing the job itself. But he estimated that it could be somewhere around \$100,000 a year over the Davidson Laboratory proposition.

# Hoboken Library buys total of 422 new books

A total of 422 new library books were ordered by the Hoboken Public Library last month. Lucille Cunningham, director, said today. Many of the volumes have been delivered and are now available to the public.

"The Birth of the United States," by Jim Bishop; "World of Our Fathers," by Irving Howe; "Simple Justice," by Richard Kluger; "Spandau: The Secret Diaries," by Albert Speer; "A Man Called Intrepid: The Secret War," by William Stevenson; "Growing Up At 37," by Jerry Rubin; "Nancy Feeding," by Harold Acton; "Mildred: A Memoir," by Leon Uris; "Trinity: A Novel of Ireland," by John Banville; "The History of the World," by Malcolm Bradbury; "Family Feeding," by Helen Niles; "Nightmare: The Underside of the Nixon Years," by J. Anthony Lukas; "The Peter Plan: A Proposal for Survival," by Dr. Laurence J. Peter; "The Dying of the Light: A Searching Look at America Today," by Arnold A. Rogow; "Surgeon at Work," by Clarence J. Schein, M.D.; "Mao Tse-tung: The Man in the Leader," by Lucian W. Pye; "The Democrats: The Years After FDR," by Herbert S. Parmet; "The Power To Probe: A Study Of Congressional Investigations," by

James Hamilton. "Astride The Two Cultures: Arthur Koestler At 70," edited by Harold Harris; "Selected Stories," by Nadine Gordimer; "The Peacock's Ring," by Rumer Godden; "The Lynmara Legacy," by Catherine Gaskin; "Letter To My Mother," by George Simonon; "The Pocket Encyclopedia of Dogs," by Ivan Swedrup; "Small World, Long Gone: A Family Record Of An Era," by Avis Carlson; "Generations: A Memoir," by Lucille Clifton; "The New American Ideology," by George C. Lodge; "Foresights: Self-Evolution and Survival," by Gerald Sykes; "Particulars Of My Life: An Autobiography," by B. F. Skinner; "Unequal Justice: Lawyers and Social Change in Modern America," by Jerold S. Auerbach; "No Thank You, Mr. President: A New York Times White House Correspondent During The Most Dramatic Changeover," by John Herbers; "Aspects of Eve: Poems," by Linda Pastan; "The Exploding Cities," by Peter Wilsher and Rosemary Righter; "A Woman Called Moses: A Novel Based on the Life of Harriet Tubman," by Marcy Heidish; "The Temple," by Jerome Weidman; "Helping Ourselves: Families and the Human Network," by Mary C. Owell.

# Full employment plank being pushed by Fusilli

"Support the concept that all adult Americans able, willing and seeking work should be given opportunities for useful paid employment at fair wages," Hudson Freeholder Vincent J. Fusilli is urging the Democratic National Platform Committee.

Fusilli, speaking on behalf of the National Association of County Officials, also plans to ask the committee, meeting Saturday in Newport, R.I., to put three other planks in its platform.

The freeholder, who is also vice president of the State Association of Chosen Freeholders, in discussing "Full Employment and Balanced Growth in the Urban Counties," advocates:

—Renactment of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA).

—Increased funding for job training services under Title I of CETA.

—Continuation of a large public service employment program as high unemployment persists.

Pointing to the need for increased funding of employment and training programs, Fusilli will tell the committee that 41 per cent of the prime sponsors under CETA were single counties while only 14 per cent were single cities and 32 per cent were consortia, almost all of which include counties.

"Thus," Fusilli will point out "over 70 per cent of the CETA prime sponsors were counties."

## Hot lunch run?

### School board may lease city bus

The Hoboken Board of Education is having second thoughts about refusing to accept the city's old crosstown bus for \$1 a year.

Otto Hottendorf, a board member, said today that he will recommend to the rest of the board that it accept the bus at that price and use it in the board's proposed hot lunch program next year.

"Due to the layout of two of our schools, it appears that the board is going to have need for a vehicle with which to transport the hot lunches to the students," he said. "The bus would be ideal — after some alterations."

Hottendorf explained that all of the city's schools except the Brandt School and Demarest Junior High have cafeteria or lunchroom space where hot lunches can be prepared and students can eat them. In the case of these two schools, lunches will have to be heated in microwave ovens up at one of the other schools and transported to the students, who will eat in their classrooms.

He said that the lunches are packed in insulated containers and can stay hot for as long as a hour after they are heated.

"With the bus we could easily get the lunches to the children in that time period," he continued. "In fact, we might even be able to include some of the parochial schools in the program."

The city's old crosstown bus has been out of service since last year when the city purchased a new and smaller vehicle. It carried a total of 20 passengers as compared to 10 for the new one.

The board had turned down the city's offer to lease it once before, claiming that it would cost too much to put in proper condition where it would be safe for students to ride in. The board was considering using it to transport special education children and that would have required additional alterations to the vehicle.

Special ramps would have had to be constructed for children in wheelchairs and the sides inside the vehicle made wider to accommodate the wheel chairs.

Hottendorf said that turning the bus into a vehicle for transporting lunches would be relatively simple. After the bus is put back into good mechanical condition the seats could be removed and a level floor installed.

## Hoboken may tie rent increases to consumer index

Two Hoboken councilmen have agreed to sponsor an amendment to the city's rent leveling ordinance which would drop the 8 per cent a year increase landlords are now authorized to impose on their tenants in favor of increases determined by the national Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Joseph Hottendorf, chairman of the city's Rent Leveling and Stabilization Board, said today that Councilmen Robert A. Ranieri and Salvatore Cennelli will sponsor the amendment and that several other councilmen have already indicated they will vote for it.

The CPI was the original barometer for rent increases. However, it was dropped by another ordinance amendment in favor of a set 8 per cent because of the economy.

"With inflation the way it was the CPI was not a reliable method of figuring the increases," he said. "In some instances it provided for increases that were excessive and in others it was inadequate. A flat 8 per cent was deemed a more reasonable figure because it took in all operating costs."

"But inflation has slowed down and we see some stability again. So the CPI is again becoming the more appropriate means of figuring a allowable rent increases."

## Inertia

Hoboken has just announced it is contemplating having a "survey" made to see if the city government can cut its telephone bills, and a separate "study" to see if its electric bills can be trimmed.

There are also studies under way to see about restoring the aging City Hall, modernizing the purchasing system, consolidating the city's garages, and suing other towns to break a disastrous sewage treatment contract — and other assorted studies and surveys.

But one of the councilmen comments that while Hoboken has no shortage of studies and plans, it has little "action or movement" and that "nothing gets done until we are in a crisis with no alternative but to act, right or wrong."

To overcome this inertia, he wants frequent meetings between the council and all city officials.

Can he be right in thinking that more frequent meetings will result in making decisions more promptly and implementing them? Studies and survey are necessary before efficient decisions can be made. But perhaps more frequent meetings may avoid delayed studies and surveys. Why not try it and see?

## School board again rejects Singleton's resignation offer

Donald Singleton, a member of the Hoboken Board of Education, has again offered his resignation from the board, and has again been turned down by his fellow board members, it was learned today from a board member.

Singleton, it is reported, offered to resign if the board would allow him to pick his successor. According to the board member, he had recommended a woman who has a child in the city's schools.

"The board decided that it wanted to retain the right to pick a successor for Mr. Singleton, and that ended the conversation," he said.

Singleton is in the last year of a three-year elected term, which expires next March. He has indicated that he will not seek re-election. He was not available for comment on his resignation offer.



SPRUCING UP — John Comas, landscaper for Maxwell House Coffee in Hoboken, plants some small evergreens in Elysian Park, 11th and Hudson streets, at the company's expense. Comas will continue to care for the shrubs once they're growing as part of a continuing park beautification project started by the plant a few years ago.

## Singleton raps no show school board workers

Hoboken school trustee Donald Singleton last night spoke out against "no show" board of education employees, later calling on the public to "look at who's on the payroll in key positions." He named Assemblyman Thomas Gallo, board secretary, Councilman Anthony Romano, board business manager, and former Mayor Louis DePascale, board labor negotiator.

Singleton's initial comments came as he explained his abstention from the board's 5-0 vote to appeal \$600,000 in budget cutbacks decreed by the city council. He said the budget "deserves to be cut," particularly in the area of what he called "no show" jobs.

Under challenge during the meeting, Singleton backed away from his general comments, but he later elaborated and named the three officials as meriting reexamination.

Singleton also said the board's \$13 mil-

lion budget is developed "purely from a political standpoint, not an economic or rational" one.

"I know of a case in which we employ four clerks because not one can do the job of one person," he said.

Singleton said political favoritism, "was ruining the school system by inflating the payroll to cover for incompetence."

He said he hasn't raised the issue before because as "one man, I haven't the power to change anything, and what I say creates bad feelings."

The board has faced similar criticism in the past and has shrugged off the accusations.

Last night board president Mrs. Mary Stack Gaspar accused Singleton of "baying at the moon" and making "unfounded accusations."

She said she can always find Gallo at his desk any day he is not in Trenton, that Romano may be "frequently out of the building, but his job seems to get done," and that she personally knows of no example of political abuse among the clerks.

She said if Singleton had proof, he should bring it before the board and "we'll act."

## Calls waterfront 'dying frontier'

The days when Hoboken dockworkers jammed the waterfront making decent livings for their families and contributing to the growth of the city's tax base are gone and if the city today is to make productive use of its 327 acres of prime waterfront property, it must look to new developers.

In a speech before the Hoboken Kiwanis yesterday afternoon, Helen Manogue, chairman of Hoboken's Environmental Committee and Director of the Stevens Tech Waterfront Development Project, outlined the past glories of the Hoboken waterfront and projected a grim picture of its economic potential.

Mrs. Manogue described the waterfront as "Hoboken's dying frontier" and said it has been the victim of an ecological decline brought on by factors beyond the city's control.

She said the city, with only 41 per cent of its waterfront area committed to industrial use, and 37 per cent vacant, is part of a waterfront decline that is typical of the New York-New Jersey area.

But she explained that there are two

specific reasons for Hoboken's decline: Poor accessibility and total lack of storage space.

"Access to the city is very bad," she told the gathering of approximately 20 Kiwanis members. "We need a straight road without a lot of turns that doesn't threaten to become congested when trucks begin delivering to and from the piers."

"We also need adequate upland to store and manipulate the cargo that's unloaded."

Mrs. Manogue conceded that Mayor Steve Cappelletto and Port Authority of New York-New Jersey are both working "very hard" to revitalize the city's shipping industry, but she called their task an "uphill fight" whose potential for victory grows weaker as the years go by.

"Today," she said, "We need a new plan for the waterfront. It's land in transition and it's future may not be with industry or shipping, but with people who can be brought to the river's edge to enjoy parks, museums, waterfront recrea-

tion and simply the magnificent vista of the New York horizon."

## Ranieri predicts accord on cops' pay in month

Councilman Robert Ranieri predicted today that Hoboken and the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association could reach agreement on a long range labor contract within 30 days.

"We're having a very friendly relationship and we're making good progress," said Ranieri, who met earlier this week with Ernest Brissette, PBA president, and other representatives.

The councilman said both sides have tentative proposals and he wants to report back "to see if the city can absorb it financially." Brissette also wants to report to his membership and Ranieri said he hopes to arrange another negotiating session for next week.

The city's original proposal was rejected by the police and Ranieri said he did not

want to discuss figures in the new proposals until he meets with other city officials.

The original proposal was a \$200 cash payment this year in lieu of four paid holidays the men already have; a three per cent pay increase the second year on a parolman's base salary of \$11,850; a four per cent increase in the third year, also based on \$11,850 and a \$100 increase in the clothing allowance, bringing it to \$300 a year.

However, the city also retained the right to void the contract, even if the police accepted its terms, and resume new negotiations should any of the 10 top taxpayers move out during the three-year period of the agreement, if revenue sharing is cut or if the state income tax did not become law. The vote against those proposals was "nearly unanimous," according to a PBA spokesman.

## Code Bureau may go into firehouse

Hoboken's Code Enforcement Bureau may be moving into the old Grand Street firehouse sometime in the future, but Mayor Steve Cappelletto says it is only one of several possibilities being considered and no decision has been made on any of them.

The mayor said he is considering moving the Code Enforcement Bureau out of City Hall and closer to the mainstream of regular fire fighting duties. The bureau is made up of two fire captains and three firemen who perform inspections and fire prevention duties.

"I'm under a lot of pressure to

try to use these men for regular fire fighting operations in addition to their inspection duties," said the mayor. "By moving the bureau out of city hall I hope to place it closer to fire fighting situations where the men, if not out on something else, can respond to fires."

Meanwhile, it was learned that top officials of the fire department and the presidents of the two fire fighting unions — the Fire Fighters Association and the Fire Officers Association — have had several discussions with the mayor on department manpower.

The meetings were private. However, it was learned that the mayor was asked on several occasions to commit the city to hiring at least 14 replacement firemen this year. No commitment was given, it is reported, but the mayor did agree to consider the requests.

Capt. William Bergin, head of

the fire Officers Association, and Fireman Michael Bavaro, leader of the Fire Fighters, have been asking the city to increase the department's strength since last year. However, the recent meetings marked the first time that top department officials, normally considered management and followers of the administration's policies, have sided with the labor unions to increase the number of men available for fire fighting duties.

## Francone 'man of year'

Hoboken Fourth Ward Councilman Louis Francone will be honored by the Santa Febronia Society as its "Man of the Year" at the society's annual dinner-dance Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Union Club, it was announced today by Anthony Scardion, president. Teddy Abramo is general chairman. Among the honored guests will be state Sen. William V. Musto of Union City and Anthony Scardion of Lynhurst, the son of the club president and Mayor Steve Cappelletto and Assemblyman Thomas A. Gallo.



BICENTENNIAL GIFT — Freeholder Vincent Fusilli of Hoboken, left, presents gift of a bicentennial flag to Our Lady of Grace School, Hoboken. Accepting it, from left, are Sister Therese Joseph, principal; Mrs. Mary Gaspar, Board of Education president, and the Rev. Sylvester Abramowicz, the pastor.



# Hoboken to back residency law

Hoboken's elected officials will be adding their endorsements to a piece of state legislation which would give municipalities the right to impose residency requirements for police and firemen.

A resolution expressing the support of the council and Mayor Steve Cappiello for Senate Bill No. 1 is on the agenda for Wednesday's morning council meeting and is expected to get unanimous approval.

Cappiello has been a strong proponent of a residency law for bluecoats since taking office in 1973 and has continuously pushed for state legislation on the matter.

However, some veteran police and firemen say that reinstating the residency law might create as many problems as it solves. The majority of the men do live in the city, however.

"A residency requirement will definitely cut down on the number of men who are willing to accept appointment in Hoboken," said one firefighter. "If we had a low tax rate, good schools and a low crime rate we could compete with other municipalities. But we don't have any of the three."

"Candidates for policemen and firemen, at least the good stable ones who will make

good citizens as well as good public safety officers, consider things like that when they're thinking about jobs. They want a good community where they can afford to buy a home and raise their children."

A retired policeman pointed out that the city probably couldn't count on getting the replacement men it will need in future years from persons who are already residents.

"It used to be that way," he explained. "You had to be a resident before you could even take the Civil Service examination. Then Civil Service opened the test to all state residents. But in the years just before that happened, we seldom got enough local men to fill the vacancies."

"That's one of the reasons the city was always hiring temporaries for police work. There weren't enough men available who had taken and passed the Civil Service examination."

The council is also expected to accept bids on the continuation of its water line replacement program for the southern section of the city. Hoboken has almost \$900,000 in additional federal money for the second phase of the project.

Leaves of absence for six-month periods are expected to be approved for Martin Corrado, a housing inspector, and Patrolman Michael Burke.

# New sweepers start But motorists get grace period

The alternate side of the street sweeping program in Hoboken has been resumed with two new sweeper trucks recently delivered to the city. But motorists are being given two more weeks before the city will start giving them summonses again for blocking the sweepers' path.

Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said the new trucks made their "debut" Friday morning and performed well.

"We could start issuing tickets immediately but the program has been so sporadic during the last few months because the old sweepers were always breaking down that it wouldn't really be fair to the motorists," the director said. "So we're giving them a warning period."

"However, beginning April 19 we will start giving them summonses for interfering with the sweeper operation if they don't move their cars."

"This will also serve as a shake-down period for the new equipment. If there are any bugs in them they should materialize during the two-week period."

The new vehicles aren't true sweeper trucks. They use a combination of side brooms and vacuum power to clean the streets. The brooms sweep the trash and litter at curbside several inches into the street and into the path of the vacuum duct. As this is being done, several hoses wet down the dirt so it won't blow away. The dampened mass is then sucked up by the vacuum and deposited inside the truck body which looks like a large garbage can with wheels.

Each truck cost approximately \$40,000. The city paid half of the \$80,000 total. The other half was paid by the Safe and Clean Streets Program.



**SURPRISE!** — Vincent J. Barbo, right, director-coordinator of Hoboken Senior Citizen Activities, is presented with a plaque by Frank Sagendorf, left, and Bridget Romano, second from left, for his assistance in helping produce the recent senior citizen variety show at the city's Multi-Service Center. Mrs. Barbo smiles her approval.

# Eye old school site as Hoboken center

It was almost like living in somebody's dream to walk into the quiet, dim, chilly classrooms of Hoboken's historic Stevens Academy and see bare walls where children once hung plants and posters and pictures of golden maned lions alongside "A-plus" math and English papers.

But nothing purely physical accounted for the overwhelming sense of waste and desolation, of something oddly unique and beautiful, like a Dickens heroine, by-passed by time.

Those who had arranged the tour, Mayor Steve Cappiello and Community Development Social Program Director Peter Beronio, moved pensively through the intimate classrooms, the deserted gym, the mirrored auditorium, the now silent shop to access the building's potential for rehabilitation for use as a community and social center.

Dana Berry, Director of Hoboken's Day Care 100 program, fancied sand boxes filled with small children playing in the enclosed court yard. Now lodged in a deteriorated

building with a defunct boiler at 117 Jefferson st., with 85 children and 40 more expected by July, Miss Berry was obviously taken with the possibilities the Academy holds for a day care center.

A state representative from the Bureau of Day Care Services assured the mayor that if Hoboken commits itself to the Academy and to a renovation program by June 1, "adequate" state funds would be available.

Community Development Director Fred Bado said he was "almost 100 percent certain" that the federal Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) funds would be available to buy the building, priced at \$90,000.

# Help Hoboken

Hoboken's move to wrest from the State Public Utilities Commission (PUC) the power to regulate bus lines operating entirely within a municipality will probably be opposed by the PUC which, like any other bureaucracy, is loath to yield authority.

If so, it could fairly be compared to Aesop's dog in the manger, which would not eat the straw himself, but refused to let the ox have it.

The PUC has been incredibly inadequate in overseeing Hoboken's Washington Street Bus Line over the years and right up to the present day.

Hoboken wants the legislature to give the municipalities jurisdiction over intra-city buses, so Hoboken will be able to do something for those who ride them.

One of the legislators is a Hoboken man, Assemblyman Gallo. Give him the ball and let him carry it.

# Fighting crime Rewards to be offered

The Hoboken Retail Bureau will be setting up a reward fund to assist the city's recently formed Crime Prevention Bureau (CPB), a Retail Bureau spokesman said today.

William Roth, a member of the executive board, said the fund will allow the CPB to offer rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons involved in burglaries of shops and businesses operated by Retail Bureau members.

Roth added that the Retail Bureau will be working with the police department's CPB to help improve security for its members. The CPB is headed by Sgt. Frank Turso. Its job is to advise and assist local residents and businessmen make their homes and shops more secure.

# Replacing Stevens Academy with drive-in bank rapped

After hearing dozens of speakers for and against the application, the Hoboken Board of Adjustment may decide April 26 whether to recommend that a drive-in bank be built on the site of the 116-year-old Stevens Academy, Fifth Street and Willow Avenue.

The council chamber at City Hall was filled to capacity last night as the adjustment board began its hearing on an application by the Garden State National Bank. Bank representatives displayed a sketch showing a modern drive-in branch facility and maintained that it would an improvement to the area and

would afford residents needed banking services in the neighborhood.

Other speakers pointed out that the old building is in fairly good condition and would serve as an excellent city day care center and recreation site. The building already has been inspected, they said, and federal funds under the Community Development Agency might be used to convert it to day care use.

Another group said it regarded the old academy building, built before the Civil War, as an historic landmark in the city and would not want to see it torn down.

# Bus breakdowns make Leahy seek city jurisdiction

Councilman Francis X. Leahy is moving to have Hoboken obtain jurisdiction over its Washington Street bus line, following a breakdown in service Sunday.

Leahy is arranging a meeting with the other city councilmen and Mayor Steve Cappiello to seek legislation to strip the state Public Utilities Commission of power to regulate bus lines operating entirely within a municipality.

Leahy said no buses were running on

# U.S. rejects Hoboken school repair aid bid

The question of whether the federal government might grant Hoboken money to rehabilitate the city's crumbling school buildings has been answered with a flat "no."

But Mrs. Mary Stack Gaspar, president of the Hoboken Board of Education, who disclosed the negative findings, said she will press the same question with Fred Bado, director of Hoboken's Community Development Agency, which spends federal money on various municipal projects.

Mrs. Gaspar said she has no hope of getting anywhere near the \$4 million estimated to be required to put the school houses in shape, and that if the CDA does not help, the board "will have to live with the situation," finding enough money somehow to correct the worst conditions.

She said that the state Department of Education has begun a routine evaluation of the city's schools, starting with an inspection of one school last week, and that this might help Hoboken's case.

Washington Street on Sunday until 10:45 a.m., although the scheduled starting time is 7. He said many church-goers and others were inconvenienced.

Police Sgt. Gabriel Ferraiuolo, the city's transportation supervisor, said Leahy contacted him at 9:30 Sunday morning to apprise him of the situation. Ferraiuolo said he reached Joseph Sacco, president of the Maria Transportation Co., largest of the three companies that share the operation of the Washington Street line.

Sacco told him there must have been "some mix-up" in the scheduling, and Sacco then got two buses on the road at 10:45.

The supervisor said the schedule on file with the city and the PUC calls for two buses to operate from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday and one bus from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

He said that after getting Sacco to send out buses, he talked to the Agresta Transportation Co., one of the firms that shares the operation with Maria, and was told that the schedule definitely showed that Maria was to provide the service that Sunday.

The supervisor said Maria similarly failed to put buses on the road until 3 p.m. on Labor Day of 1974.

On that occasion, he recalled, the city applied to the PUC to revoke one of Maria's nine franchises (each bus is franchised separately) as punishment, but after considering the matter for four months the PUC finally denied the city's request.

Ferraiuolo said he fully agreed with Leahy's move because he claimed the PUC has a record of always siding with the bus operators in any complaint brought by the city.

If the city had jurisdiction, he added, it could fine or otherwise penalize an erring operator for a first offense, and could then revoke the franchises of a repeat offender, whereas the PUC can only revoke franchises or let the offender off scot free.

Ferraiuolo added that at 11:30 a.m. Sunday he did issue a summons to one of the bus drivers operating a Maria Transportation bus for failing to have registration in his possession.

# Kuhn accepts bid to Hoboken game

Bowie Kuhn, commissioner of baseball, has tentatively accepted Hoboken's invitation to attend the June 19 re-enactment of the first baseball game, Edwin Duroy, chairman for the event, said today.

The game, part of Hoboken's bicentennial observance, will be played at the Stevens baseball field at 5th and Hudson Streets. The first professional baseball game was played in Hoboken at Elysian Fields, at what is now 11th and Hudson Streets, on June 19, 1846.

Duroy said Mrs. Roberto Clemente, the widow of the Pittsburgh Pirates star who was killed in a plane crash while on a mercy mission to aid Nicaragua earthquake victims, has also accepted an invitation to participate in the event.

He added that the game will be dedicated to all of Hoboken's past major league ballplayers.

# Hoboken budget up \$22,000 for clinics, lawyer

Hoboken's forthcoming city budget is being increased by \$22,000 to restore some health clinics on a limited basis and to hire a lawyer for the city council to fight the city's board of education.

Two amendments to the proposed budget, providing respectively \$12,000 and \$10,000 for those purposes, were passed by the council yesterday at a special meeting. The budget as thus amended will now come up for a final vote at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Four clinics which were shut down Jan. 1 when the state ceased funding them will be partly restored by using the \$12,000 for six months. They are the dental, venereal disease, cancer detection and tuberculosis detection clinics.

Three others, the diabetes detection and

# Singleton vows to expose school 'waste, no-shows'

Hoboken School Trustee Donald Singleton said today he will call a press conference this week to publicly expose the "waste, inefficiency, incompetence and no-shows" within the Hoboken school system.

"For more than two years I have worked within the existing system to effect change that would make for a general better educational atmosphere for the children of Hoboken and got absolutely nowhere," said Singleton. "There is no other way to eliminate the waste, incompetency, inefficiency and people not doing their jobs, or in jobs not needed in the first place, than to make it public."

"I will invite Leo McLaughlin (a fellow trustee), School Board President Mrs. Mary Gaspar and Hoboken Teachers Association President Mary Tektonius, to attend, as well as anyone else. I advise them to bring their lawyers because they may need them. They may want to sue me."

Singleton said he was choosing this course of action as a result of last week's board meeting where he was challenged by McLaughlin to "name names."

"I intend to do just that — name names," said the board trustee. "I intend to expose everything I have learned in my two years on the school board."

Singleton added that he was attempting to set up the conference at the board's conference room in the Wallace School.

Brissette said that he would favor having all potential police and fire employees sign contracts with the city guaranteeing that they would work a set number of years.

Councilmen Walter S. Cramer, Nunzio Malfetti and Francis X. Leahy openly agreed with Brissette and most of the other councilmen also appeared to support his thinking.

However, Councilman Anthony R. Romano pointed out that the city in the past has granted second and third six-month leaves to others and it should not change that policy without some warning.

"In the future I think the city should limit the leaves to one if the employee is trying out a job elsewhere," Romano said. "Six months is enough time. But this man asked for a leave based on the past policy and should be entitled to what others have received."

The council approved the leave by a vote of 5-to-3 with Malfetti, Cramer and Leahy voting against it.

In other business, the council approved the recommendation of the city's board of adjustment and granted a variance to the owner of the lots at 735-737 Park Ave. to build a commercial parking lot. Leahy and Malfetti voted against the variance because they said the lot would be located close to two city schools.

The city's 1976 municipal operating budget of \$6,009,027 was unanimously approved by the council.

Thomas Vezetti, a local hotel owner, and Charles DeFazio Jr., a former city magistrate, addressed the council on several matters.

# Back residency law over objection

Over the objections of Hoboken Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA) President Ernest O. Brissette, the city council has endorsed passage of state Senate Bill No. 1 which would give municipalities the right to impose residency requirements on its police and firemen.

Brissette warned the council that by imposing a residency requirement on future police and fire department candidates the city could be limiting itself to selecting men "from the bottom of the barrel."

"The city wants the best possible candidates for the jobs, but what is it going to give these men in return?" he asked. "The city doesn't offer the best pay and then requires them to live here and observe other restrictions like short haircuts."

"The men who come out on the top of the Civil Service test are going to be looking for jobs in the cities that pay the most. Their next consideration is going to be the restrictions placed on them by their prospective employer."

Brissette said he lived in Hoboken and wished all members of the police and fire departments also resided in the city. However, he believed that many of the non-resident uniformed employees moved out because they couldn't afford to live in Hoboken on what the city paid them.

In spite of Brissette's objections, the council approved the resolution supporting the bill unanimously.

Brissette also argued against giving police and firemen more than one leave of absence and appeared to have convinced the council to vote against a resolution granting a second six-month leave to Patrolman Michael Burke. The patrolman has taken a job with the Linden Police Department and completed his first six-month leave from the Hoboken Department on March 17.

"It shouldn't take a man six months to make up his mind as to whether he wants to be a Hoboken cop or a Linden cop," he said. "Hoboken paid to train this man. That training enabled him to take the test for Linden and pass it with a reasonably high mark and he has taken the job. But his old position won't be filled in the Hoboken Department until he has made up his mind."

"That means we are short another man and others have to absorb his duties."

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# Bus route to be longer weekends

Hoboken's municipal crosstown bus is reverting to the longer route which took it to the Fox Hill Gardens senior citizen housing project — but only on Saturdays and Sundays, Mayor Cappiello announced today.

To serve the 200-apartment project, the bus makes a detour from its regular loop. This detour was discontinued a few weeks ago because the senior citizens have their own bus and it was reasoned that they did not need the municipal

crosstown bus which takes ten or more minutes to make the extra run.

However, Councilman Francis X. Leahy noted that the senior citizen bus operates only from Monday through Friday, leaving the senior citizens with no nearby bus service over weekends, and he asked to have the crosstown bus resume making the run to Fox Hill Gardens on Saturdays and Sundays.

Cappiello said the service would be provided throughout the operating hours of the bus on those days, adding: "We are committed to doing everything possible to be of help to our senior citizens."

# Hoboken to host businessmen

You're a businessman in New York and you're tired of the taxes. You'd like to open an office or a factory in Hoboken, but when you call City Hall to find out what buildings and land are available, no one can say for sure.

Do you go to Hoboken or do you go to Jersey City where they can give you immediate assistance?

"You go," says Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello. "To Jersey City or someplace else. And that's something we intend to change."

With the help of the state Economic Development Authority, and Community Development economic consultant Michael Coleman, Cappiello intends to set up a computerized catalogue of every inch of available land, office space or factory and industrial space in the city.

Cappiello thinks the program can be set up in a few months and he wants the area's business, real estate and government representatives to know about it.

So on Thursday at noon in

the Union Club, the mayor is hosting a business luncheon for business leaders and the assistant Director of Industrial Development for New Jersey, John Barr.

Barr, the mayor said, will outline "specific industrial development projects being instituted by the state", including incentive programs and how they can be used to revitalize inner cities.

"We'll be exploring viable means to revive Hoboken's economic base," Cappiello said yesterday. "We intend to work closely with the state to develop long-range, in-depth programs to expand our economic base and extend our range of tax rates."

"We want programs that will help local businessmen and that will encourage new businesses and new industries to come to Hoboken," he said.

# Hoboken's new sweepers aren't working miracles

Two new \$40,000 street sweeping machines are now in use in Hoboken but aren't producing any dramatic results, according to Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale.

"The city isn't getting cooperation from the motorists," said the director. "If they don't move their cars we can't sweep and so far people haven't been moving since the new sweepers went on the job last week."

"Part of the problem could be that we won't be issuing tickets until April 19, so that motorists can get accustomed to the fact that we again have two sweepers in regular operation. In the meantime, we had hoped that most motorists would cooperate voluntarily. Instead, it appears that most aren't going to move until the tickets start going out."

Vitale said that sections of several streets aren't being swept because the sweepers cannot complete their routes because of the cars blocking the way.

"The driver usually stops and blows his horn a couple of times in the hope that the person whose car is blocking the way will hear him and come out to move the car," he continued. "Do that four or five times on each route and before you know it the hour allotted for sweeping has passed and half the route remains to be swept."

Vitale said he would not change the day for the start of the tickets since it might confuse the matter. However, he is thinking about having warning notices placed on cars, explaining that, even though the tickets aren't being issued, motorists should move their cars anyway. He added that he didn't think most would heed the warnings.

"I think we should resume the towing program," he said. "It was the only way that we were able to do a reasonably good job cleaning the streets. The motorists may not like it, but from the viewpoint of cleaner streets it is still the best way of doing it."

"The newer cars with transmission locks make towing more difficult but not impossible. Between the \$10 fine and the towing I believe more motorists will voluntarily move their vehicles and we'll have a cleaner Hoboken for it."

Mayor Steve Cappiello recently stated that city officials were again considering the towing program because too many derelict cars are being dumped on the city's streets. When the towing program was operating most abandoned cars were picked up and towed away within seven days. Without it, more than a month often passes before the cars are noticed and taken away.

# Decide!

Hoboken has just bought two new street sweeping trucks for \$41,000 each, but the public works director says the streets can not be made clean unless the city restores the practice of towing away autos parked in the path of the sweeper.

The city's governing officials, who abolished the towing and replaced it with a stiffer fine—which turned out to be no deterrent—are unwilling to bring back the towing because it is "hard on the public."

Does this not seem to be a weaselly way of governing? Is it not a clear case of politics versus clean streets? Why did the city blow the \$82,000 for street sweepers which could have been used for something else?

The officials should decide: Do we want the streets cleaned or not?



## Kenilworth firm bids low on water line

The Newark firm that handled Hoboken's \$1.1 million water line replacement program last summer may not get to do the second phase of the program.

Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said today that the job may have to go to a Kenilworth company because it has submitted a bid that is substantially lower than that of the company from Newark.

The specifications for the job were fairly complex, so the bids will have to be reviewed before a decision can be made," he said. "But on the surface the Ameron Corporation's Pipe Line Division's proposal of \$738,319 appears to be best."

"It's within our budget limitations for the Phase Two part of the project," Vitale said that the bids were being sent

to Mayo, Lynch and Associates for review to determine if all of the city's specifications have been met. The engineering firm will then recommend what company should get the job.

Three bids were submitted to the council at yesterday's meeting. Besides the low bidder, proposals were submitted by the Spiniello Construction Co. of Newark, the

company that worked on the city's water lines last summer, for \$912,378; and Raymond International, Inc., of Oakland, \$1,368,444.

Hoboken has approximately \$890,000 to spend on the second phase of the project, which was a subsequent grant from the federal government. The grant was awarded to help the city overcome curtailment of some sections of the project which were forced by inflation.

Originally, the city had planned to replace or repair the water lines from Sixth Street south.

The city received approximately what it asked for from the federal government. However, between the time it submitted its application and was actually granted the money the cost of the project had increased so much that it was forced to reduce the original scope.

The supplemental grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is intended to help the city reinstate some of the program that it had cut out.

Vitale said that he has asked Mayo, Lynch to review the bids as quickly as possible so that a contractor can be selected and the job started.

## Demarest school cornice removed, 3 sides roped

A portion of the dangerous cornice work around the top of the A.J. Demarest Junior High School in Hoboken has been removed by the city's fire department and an area five feet from the building around three sides will be roped off today.

Anthony J. Romano, business manager for the school system, said that the dangerous cornice work over the Fourth Street entrance to the school was taken down yesterday by firemen using one of the city's hook and ladder trucks.

"I will ask the mayor today to have the fire department also take the stone work off over the entrance on Bloomfield Street," he said. "The Garden State entrance appears to be safe."

"An area a minimum of five feet from the base of the building will be roped off to prevent anyone from getting too close and into the zone where the blocks might fall."

Romano said that he has obtained additional estimates on the cost of removing all of the stone blocks and will present them to the school board at Tuesday night's meeting. Romano, who is also First Ward

councilman, said that the job of removing the blocks from the three sides of the building would be "expensive." The back or north side of the building has no decorative work.

The blocks are hooked to steel pipes imbedded into the building. Over the years, the pipes and hooks have rusted away. However, according to Romano, some are still in fairly good condition.

Romano produced two of the pipes the firemen removed yesterday. One was substantially rusted and tissue-paper thin. But the other was sound although it did show signs of rusting.

"Our main problem is that we can't determine which ones are good and which are about to give way without taking them all down," he said.

The problem was discovered in January when one of the blocks on the Fourth Street side of the school fell. City Building Inspector James Caulfield inspected the decorative work and recommended that it all be taken down.

## Free parking?

Hoboken is considering renting spaces in the city Parking Authority's parking garages to park the cars of city employees and to set aside the rent to help meet the Authority's bond payments.

The argument is that the city already hands over more than \$300,000 a year to help meet the bond payments and the city should get something for its money. It is also said the city employees would get their cars off the street, freeing curbside spaces for transients, which is what the meters are there for.

What it boils down to is that the city funds would be used to provide free parking for the city employees. That is an interesting fringe benefit, but is it fair to taxpayers? If the city wants to spend its money in this manner, why not rent a specified number of parking spaces in the garages and make them available—free—on a first-come, first-served basis?

If that seems ridiculous, perhaps it is a measure of the value of the whole idea of free parking for anyone at city expense.

## 'Tot-Finder Program' a help in fires

The chances of a Hoboken child escaping a fire without serious injury today got a boost by the announcement by Mayor Steve Capriello that the city is participating in the national "Tot-Finder Program."

One third of the nation's fire casualties are children who tend to panic and hide in closets or under beds in fire situations," said

the mayor. "One aid that helps firemen locate apartments or homes in which there are young children and evacuate them is the tot-finder program."

The mayor explained that the program incorporates a large, oval iridescent sticker donated by the Stack and Stack Insurance Agency.

"The sticker is placed on the front window of the apartment in which a child is in residence," he continued. "Should there be a fire in the building the sticker immediately alerts firemen to the fact that there is a child living in that apartment and to start their search for residents here."

"In suburban communities where there

is an abundance of one-family homes, the stickers are placed on the window of the child's room. Since most of our residences are multi-family dwellings, placing the sticker on a window facing the street would be sufficient. If the apartment has windows which face only the rear of the building, that would suffice."

The mayor said that the stickers are available from Fireman James Monaco, head of the Fire Department's Community-Relations Bureau, at the Multi-Service Center, Second and Grand Streets, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Additional information on the program can be obtained by calling Monaco at 653-4998.

## Hoboken police superiors balk at offer

Hoboken's police superiors today declared an impasse in their contract negotiations with the city following an abortive contract session last night with Councilman Robert A. Ranieri.

Capt. Anthony Rinaldi, spokesman for the superiors, said they found the city's offer "totally unacceptable."

According to Rinaldi, the city would not

come up from its previous offers and "in fact withdrew a previous proposition."

"We will be taking the matter to the Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) for arbitration," said Rinaldi.

"This appears to be the only means left to us, even though any decision reached by PERC is not binding on the city or on the superiors."

Also taking part in the negotiating session were Lt. Patrick Totaro, representing the lieutenants, and Sgt. Frank Turso, representing the police sergeants. The superiors' association represents approximately 35 Hoboken police officers and is in its first series of negotiations ever with the city.

In previous years the superiors were represented by the Policemen's Benevolent Association. The superiors usually received a

percentage increase over and above what the patrolmen were granted by the city.

The impasse represented the first block to date for Councilman Ranieri in his negotiating efforts with the city's uniformed employees. Talks with the PBA are still underway and reported to be progressing. However, discussions with firefighters and fire officers are being stalled by the city until it has some idea of whether it can reach an agreement with the policemen.

## Ranieri challenges police superiors

Councilman Robert Ranieri said today Hoboken appears to be close to an agreement on a new contract with rank and file members of the police department. But he questions how police superiors could declare negotiations at an impasse when they have no bargaining agent.

"I know that the Hoboken Policemen's Benevolent Association isn't bargaining for the superiors," said Ranieri, who has been representing the city in the talks.

Ranieri reacted to an announcement Wednesday night by Police Capt. Anthony Rinaldi that a city offer was "unacceptable" and the superiors were appealing to the Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC).

"As far as I know, there is no superiors' association, and there is no bargaining agent for them," said the councilman.

He added that even if there was an association, captains could not be part of it. "Captains are a part of management, the same as a chief," he said. He pointed out that there are occasions when captains are called on to become the acting chief of the department.

"How can a captain receiving \$23,000 a year come to the bargaining table with an officer grossing \$13,000 and say he wants a 25 per cent pay increase in pay?" Ranieri asked.

He pointed out that the situation in the fire department is different. There the Fire Officers' Association is recognized by the city and negotiates a separate contract.

What is unique in Capt. Rinaldi's announcement, said Ranieri, is a non-recognized group of superiors wants to

appeal to PERC and the spokesman is a part of management.

In negotiations with the PBA Ranieri

said the city has made a new proposal which the men are studying. Hoboken is seeking a three-year contract.

## Bus control again asked in Hoboken

Hoboken councilman at large Francis Leahy yesterday said the city needs the authority to supervise the Washington st. independents because the state Public Utilities Commission, which now has jurisdiction, takes too long to act.

Leahy has been dissatisfied with service on the Washington st. lines for several years.

Two years ago, along with other city officials, he petitioned the PUC to revoke one of the several franchises owned by the three independent companies, Maria Transportation owned by Joseph Sacco; Hoboken Transportation owned by Paul Enrico; and Agresta Transportation owned by Joseph Agresta. PUC denied the request.

Recently Leahy said passengers on the buses have complained to him of "abusive and insulting service."

On Sunday, riders were left without service for three hours in the morning and Leahy said that on other occasions, the drivers have skipped runs or driven only half their route before "pulling off to the side to relax."

## Businessmen to hear plans for revitalization

Business leaders will attend a meeting to promote Hoboken's economic development Thursday in the Union Club.

John Barr, the state's assistant director of industrial development, will discuss "viable means to revive Hoboken's economic base," it was announced by Mayor Steve Capriello.

Barr will outline "specific industrial development projects" being instituted by the state, including incentive programs, telling how they relate to "inner cities," the mayor said.

"We intend to work closely with the state in developing long range, in-depth programs to rebuild our economic base," Capriello said.

"Our goal is to develop vehicles to help local businessmen, and encourage industry to locate in Hoboken."

"For Hoboken to make an economic recovery, we must develop a working partnership with the state and private sector."

The mayor said about 25 representatives of the area's business, real estate and government sectors are expected to attend.

Also attending will be Fred M. Bado, director of the Community Development Agency, and Michael Coleman, the city's economic development consultant.

## Are water gates under that asphalt, Hoboken wonders

Hoboken's water gates on Park Avenue, between 14th and 16th streets, which were formerly used to turn on and off the water in that area, are still there. They're just covered with several inches of asphalt, says Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale.

"It seems a couple of them got covered with asphalt a few years ago when the county had Park Avenue paved from 14th Street to the bridge into Weehawken," he explained.

"No one noticed it until one of the property owners in the area decided to install a new water service line and his plumber was unable to shut down the flow from the main."

Vitale said not all the gates were covered — which further lulled the city into believing that they were all accounted for.

"Our men tried to shut the water off, too, but couldn't," he continued. "They went to the charts and found that a couple of gates were missing. Where they were supposed to be was nothing — just asphalt."

"Now we have to go back to the charts and take down the measurements. Then we will go back to the street, measure it off and break the asphalt. Hopefully there will be gates underneath."

## 84 youngsters to get Early Learning

A \$189,000 Early Learning Program will start in Hoboken in July providing 84 youngsters with cultural enrichment, it was announced today by Fred M. Bado, director of the city's Community Development Agency (CDA).

The program, which will run for a full year, is being funded by the state Division of Day Care Services — \$140,000 — and the CDA, which is adding \$22,240 to the package.

George Maier, grants manager for the Hoboken School Board, said the program is for youngsters in the 3 to 11 age groups and will be split into two sections. One will have 60 children and the other will deal with 24 handicapped youngsters.

He said that during the summer months the children will spend eight hours a day in program activities at school sites in the city. When school resumes in the fall the program will be curtailed to three hours a day, after normal school hours.

Maier added that besides arts and crafts and other activities, the program also will feature a tutorial section to help the children with specific learning problems.

The staff for the program is now being hired and will begin a training program of their own in June in preparation for the start of the project in July.

## Hoboken garbage

The every-other-day garbage collection which replaced daily collections in Hoboken two months ago has not worked out well on the main street, Washington Street, which is even more littered than it was before.

Pickups start early in the morning on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Merchants and other commercial establishments must put their rubbish—including restaurant slop stored as long as three days — on the sidewalk at the close of business the day before pickup. Before the trucks get around to it, the stuff is strewn all over the street.

The Washington Street merchants formerly put their refuse out at 9 a.m. and the contractor made a special trip down the street an hour later every business day.

Under the new contract, the contractor has limited the 10 a.m. run to a "cardboard" pickup. And the city has been following the contractor's truck with a city truck to clean up the mess he leaves.

This multiplicity of pickups seems wasteful and inefficient. Would it not make more sense to exclude Washington Street from the early hours pickup and simply have the contractor make one run down the street at 10 a.m. every business day and pick up everything?

## Singleton to urge high-level changes after board meets

"High-level changes" in the administration of Hoboken's schools will be recommended by Donald Singleton, dissident member of the city's board of education, where he exposes "what really goes on" in the school system Tuesday night.

"But I do not expect that the other eight members of the board will implement my recommendations," Singleton said today.

"They have shown me by their actions that they are not interested in improving the school system but are interested only in improving their own political power bases and taking care of each other's friends and relatives."

Singleton said he has decided to deliver his expose publicly after the close of the regular board meeting which starts at 8 p.m. Tuesday in the board's offices, 1117 Willow Ave. He asked that all interested persons at the meeting remain in the room to hear what he has to say.

He said he will answer all questions from the public as well as from any school officials or employees.

In telling what's wrong with the school system, Singleton said, "I will be very specific in naming names."

"I will give specific cases with the names, dates and the salaries involved — and salary raises," he continued. "I won't hold anything back."

"I will tell how the system works and why it breaks down."

Singleton said he will have "facts and figures" on cases of "friends and relatives" of board members who were "taken care of."

He said that if anyone has information to give him before Tuesday's session, he can be telephoned anonymously at 653-4191.

Singleton originally planned to make his expose at a press conference sometime this week in the Wallace School, inviting the presidents of the board and the city teachers' association to attend, as well as new board member Leo McLaughlin, who had previously rebuked him for criticizing while failing to "name names."

He said he decided that by doing it immediately after the board meeting he would be giving more people an opportunity to be present.

## Play ball!

Our national pastime will focus on Hoboken on June 19 of this bicentennial year, with a reenactment of the first game of professional baseball, played there on that date 130 years ago.

The site of the first game — the Elysian Fields — is now occupied by a sewage pumping station and a coffee factory, so the game will have to take place six blocks away on the ballfield at Stevens Park on 5th Street.

This is the ballground where the official in charge of such matters has decided against planting grass or installing sod in the infield this season because the turf does not stand up, due to constant use in recreation starved Hoboken.

He is right, of course, but let us not allow the field to be a dustbowl or a sea of mud when June 19 rolls around.

It may be an exaggeration to say the eyes of the nation will be watching, but there sure will be a lot of attention on this festive occasion and it would be a shame for Hoboken to look bad.

How about bringing in some artificial sod?

## Hoboken Council to ask why trash plan isn't working

BY PETER HALLAM

The Hoboken City Council isn't pleased with the results of the city's new alternate day garbage collections and will be calling in the contractor, the city's sanitation inspectors, and public works director to find out why the new system isn't working as well as expected.

At the request of Second Ward Councilman Walter S. Cramer, letters are being sent to the LaFera Contracting Co. of Newark, the inspectors and Director Raphael P. Vitale asking them to appear before the council at its April 19 caucus and explain why there have been so many complaints about the garbage collection during the last three or four weeks, especially along Washington Street.

Cramer told the council at yesterday's meeting that he has received numerous complaints from residents of his ward. He added that he had personally checked Washington Street on several occasions and found it "disgraceful."

"The area between Eighth and Fourth streets was particularly bad," he asserted.

Councilman-at-large Francis X. Leahy agreed with Cramer and said he felt the city inspectors weren't issuing enough summonses for the violations.

"Where there are violations, tickets should be issued," said Leahy. "To date there haven't been too many tickets given out that I know of."

The new collection system started on Feb. 2, dividing the city into two sections, with pickups starting early in the morning every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Additionally, there is a morning cardboard pickup for merchants Monday through Saturday.

## Hoboken tax rate to drop \$1.76 per \$1,000

BY PETER HALLAM

Depending on the county tax figures for 1976, Hoboken property owners can expect a slight reduction in their tax rate for the year of approximately \$1.76 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, Mayor Steve Capriello said today.

"This is the approximate reduction based on last year's county tax figure and Hoboken's 1976 municipal operating budget of \$6,069,027 which is down roughly \$180,000 from last year," the mayor continued.

"This would give us a tax rate of \$106.77 or in that area, for last year's figure of \$108.53."

The mayor said that he is still greatly concerned with what will happen to the school board budget for 1978-79 when it is appealed to the state.

"Besides the approximately \$650,000 the city council cut from the board's operating expenses for the '76-'77 school year there is the matter of how much state aid we are really going to get," he said.

"The board has anticipated approximately \$2 million more than the state said it was going to give, even though the amount anticipated is in accordance with the Thorough and Efficient Education Act. What worries me is what is going to happen if we don't get the state aid we anticipated. Will the city have to make it up?"

"I'm not too concerned whether we have to make it up this year or next—either way it will be disastrous for the city."

Originally, the city's 1976 operating budget reflected a reduction of almost \$200,000 from last year. But the budget was amended to reflect an additional \$22,000 which will be spent on outside legal services and the temporary restoration of a clinic at the city's health center.

In 1973, when the mayor took office, the city's tax rate was \$102.86. Capriello's first municipal budget raised the rate to \$108.69 in 1974 and lowered it to \$108.53 last year.

## An alternate buyer for academy site

Should the deal between Stevens Academy and the Garden State National Bank for the purchase of the old academy building at Fifth Street and Willow Avenue fall through, the Hoboken Community Development Agency (CDA) would be willing to buy it at the same reported price of \$90,000, Fred M. Bado, CDA director, said today.

"We will submit an offer for that amount immediately upon learning that the variances requested from the Hoboken Board

of Adjustment by the bank have not been granted," he said. "If they are granted, the bank will have a binding contract with the school trustees and can go ahead with its plans."

The plan is to demolish the 115-year-old academy and build on the 100-by-100 foot lot a drive-in banking facility and office space valued at approximately \$250,000.

The facility would produce approximately \$3,000 a year in taxes for the city. According to Bado, the CDA was not originally interested in the academy and was

planning to rehabilitate the Jefferson Street Recreation Center, 117 Jefferson St., for the Day Care 100 program and recreation purposes.

But once we got into it we found that we were going to have to put a lot of money into the building to get it back in usable condition," he said. "On the other hand, the school is in reasonably good condition and needs few repairs. And because it was designed as a school it lends itself to use as a day care and recreation facility with little changes needed and with space left over."





**LONG MAY IT WAVE** — These girls from Hoboken's Kealey School, supervised by Louise Callahan, center, made a Betsy Ross flag quilt for a bicentennial program. From left, they are Inez Torres, Dianne Dyer, Jeanette Crandell, Magaly Figueroa, Ms. Callahan, Evelyn Roman, Eneida Correa, Carmen Arroyo and Carmen Santiago.

## Bartletta denies pledge on house

Frank J. Bartletta, Hoboken Revenue and Finance director, today denied that he or anyone in his department had promised the city's rent leveling board that they would keep vacant a tenement house at 229 Madison St. and have it demolished.

The Rent Leveling and Stabilization Board wrote to Bartletta last week asking him why the building was again fully occupied when the board was under the impression that Bartletta had agreed to keep the building vacant because of sub-standard conditions.

"I made no such pledge or promise, verbal or written, and I don't know of anyone in my department who did," said Bartletta. "And if anyone did, they didn't have the authority to do so."

According to Bartletta, the building is owned by Jerry Forman, the city's welfare

director. But the city has been collecting rents and managing the building under a tax lien for more than a year.

The director and the rent leveling board first clashed over the building last year when tenants complained of sub-standard conditions. The board ordered rent reductions because of the inferior conditions and some refunds were made by Bartletta to those tenants who were paying their rents. Several tenants hadn't paid any rents.

"Since that time the city has spent more than \$3,000 on repairs and renovations," said Bartletta.

Bartletta said that the city is collecting \$630 a month in rents from the seven families living there.

"We have a good superintendent who takes good care of the building and keeps after the tenants to keep their apartments clean and in good repair," he continued. "The city is collecting \$90 a month rent from each of the seven families and that money is being used to gradually pay off the back taxes and take care of any other repairs that come up in the meantime."

Bartletta said that had he gone along with the Rent Leveling Board's idea the city would not only be out the taxes it was owed but the cost of demolishing the five-story brick tenement house.

## State airs ideas for revitalization of Hoboken

Hoboken realtors and businessmen now have some idea how the state can help revitalize the city's sagging economy, after meeting with John C. Barr, assistant chief of the Office of Industrial Development.

However, many questions went unanswered because they hinge on a completely revised tax package which state Labor and Industry Commissioner Joseph A. Hoffman is now working on.

Barr, the main speaker at a luncheon yesterday in the Union Club hosted by Mayor Steve Cappelletto and Michael Coleman, head of the city's Economic Development Agency (EDA), explained the state's efforts in trying to attract new industry and businesses to New Jersey.

The heart of the effort is a computerized site and building referral program in which real estate brokers list with the state all of the industrial and business properties they currently have available. The information also includes all of the data on the property.

Armed with this information, the state is to answer out-of-state requests for New Jersey locations and put prospective New Jersey firms in contact with brokers who might have something that would interest them, said Barr.

Samuel Casper, the owner of a number of business and industrial properties, asked Barr how the program could be beneficial to Hoboken when its high tax rate tends to scare potential developers and industry away.

Casper said the tax exemptions or abatements would be needed, but Hoboken already had too many and the state might have to help pick up part of the cost.

"We are working on that," said Barr. "At the moment I can't explain what is being done."

"However, Commissioner Hoffman is working on a completely revised tax package that should answer many of these questions."

Cappelletto said that he was familiar with some of the proposed ideas and found that they would be beneficial not only as an aid in attracting new industry but in helping existing industry stay in the city.

What the proposals are will have to come from Hoffman, Barr added. Bernard Kenny, developer of the motel-office building that is to be built in the John J. Grogan Marine View Plaza, told the realtors and businessmen that they should be prepared to take advantage of the exodus from Wall Street of New York security firms.

He estimated that within the next three or four years there will be a demand for more than one million feet of office space outside of New York City by the security firms. He said that if his building was available now he could rent all of the existing floor space.

## Cappelletto praises Israel for its spirit and drive

"The people of Israel are to be commended," said Mayor Steve Cappelletto of Hoboken. "They took one of the most desolate areas in the world and in the short span of less than three decades turned it into a nation."

"They are a classic example of a pioneering spirit shared by a dedicated people with a common goal. I can think of no better compliment than to hope that we here in Hoboken can emulate that spirit and drive."



Mrs. Mary Stack Gaspar, president of the Hoboken Board of Education, and Joseph Buda, principal of the David E. Rue School, walk down the marble staircase at the school. It is one of the features that makes Mrs. Gaspar believe the school should be the first to get much-needed repairs.

## Hoboken balks at water bill

By ELIZABETH PARKS  
Jersey City yesterday sent Hoboken a \$2.1 million bill for a retroactive payment of a water rate increase, that an appeals court ruled was improperly stayed by the state Public Utilities Commission.

However, Hoboken officials say they intend to take the bill, addressed to the Hoboken Water Dept., stamp it "deceased" and mail it back to Jersey City.

"We have no intention of paying that bill," Mayor Steve Cappelletto said yesterday. "Until we have exhausted every avenue of appeal."

The bill is for the five-month period from April through August of 1975. In April, the PUC ruled that it had jurisdiction over rate increases proposed by Jersey City for out-of-city customers, like Hoboken, buying their water from Jersey City.

The PUC ruled that the 212 per cent increase Jersey City was seeking then was "exorbitant" and ordered the request "stayed."

Jersey City appealed the decision to the state appellate court, arguing that the PUC had overextended its jurisdiction.

Last week the appellate court ruled that the PUC lacked jurisdiction in April when it "stayed" the increase but acquired jurisdiction in August when the PUC amended its statutes. The appellate

court ordered the stay "dissolved." However Hoboken contends that the appellate court's ruling is not explicitly retroactive and, therefore, Jersey City has no legal right to put in for the \$2 million increase.

Carl Schaefer, a member of the Hoboken Law Department, is meeting Wednesday with lawyers from the other four communities affected by the increase to decide on a further course of legal action.

Schaefer said negotiations with other water companies are now under way. If Jersey City succeeds in pushing through its rate increase, it would, according to Cappelletto, mean the end of major industry for Hoboken.

Maxwell House, for instance, Hoboken's largest taxpayer, would have its \$500,000 a year water bill tripled. There have been indications the industry would leave town rather than suffer a million dollar loss.



**NO BIKE PATH YET**—Youngster looks over work being done on River rd., Hoboken, Saturday, where the roadway is completed, one side will have a special bicycle path. In foreground are the tracks of Hoboken Shore Railroad that served the piers, now being removed.

## Litter inspectors getting tougher on Washington St.

Hoboken's sanitation inspectors are getting a little tougher with Washington Street property owners and the way they handle their litter and garbage on weekends. Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said today.

According to the director, six summonses were issued last Saturday and Sunday by the sanitation inspector working weekends to property owners between Fourth and Sixth streets.

"The summonses were issued by Inspector Francis Wallington for having cartons and garbage in paper bags at curbside for collection — but the collection wasn't scheduled until Monday morning," he continued. "I am personally going to follow this situation through until they all have been resolved."

"And all of the details from start to finish will be presented to the city council which has expressed displeasure with the garbage problems along Washington Street between Fourth and Eighth streets."

The summonses were issued to the owners of 410, 412, 506, 512, 516 and 518 Washington St. and are answerable in municipal court on April 27.

Vitale said he had no idea how the cases would be decided but in the past the court has often dismissed such summonses because the inspectors could not prove who actually deposited the

## Sagner to get Hoboken bus gripe

BY PETER HALLAM

The problems Hoboken has been experiencing with its independent Washington Street bus companies will be brought to the direct attention of state Transportation Commissioner Alan Sagner by Councilmen-at-large Francis X. Leahy and Hudson County Freeholder Vincent J. Fusilli.

Fusilli and Leahy said they will go to Trenton this week to see what Sagner and the state can do to give the city more control over the Washington Street operation and

lessen the hold of the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

The meeting is being arranged by the freeholder.

"I have no faith in the PUC," said Leahy. "The problems we have now with the Washington Street bus companies are the same ones we've had for the last 10 years and the PUC hasn't been able to do anything about them."

"In my opinion the PUC has been extremely lax with the Washington Street bus companies. Violation after violation has resulted in little more than a smack on the

back of the hand. If we are to have good bus service we must be firm and impress upon the bus companies that poor service is going to result in quick and firm action—possibly a suspension of their franchises."

"However, when the city has tried to move in this direction it got no help from the PUC."

Fusilli said he was in favor of giving municipalities more authority in dealing with bus companies, especially when the companies operated entirely within the community. However, he felt the PUC should continue to have a say in some matters dealing with local service.

"Fare increases and inspections should be a PUC matter," he said. "It has the expertise and people to do this work where the municipality might not. But regarding service, who should know better than the citizens of a community are getting proper service or poor service than the community itself?"

The freeholder said most PUC decisions on service-connected complaints seemed to favor the bus companies rather than the public.

"The bus companies aren't always wrong and poor service isn't always deliberate," he continued. "They have their breakdowns and problems like any other business. But it never ceases to amaze me how in instances where a bus company has a record of repeated offenses the PUC will hand out a light fine or some other minor punishment."

Hoboken's latest problem with the bus service occurred last Sunday morning when the company that was supposed to have two buses operating on the route failed to get any vehicles on the road. A schedule mixup was blamed.



**CHEW FOR CHARITY** — Michael Curcio, past grand knight of the Hoboken Knights of Columbus council, left, and Joseph Iervolino, past grand knight and chairman of this year's candy sale campaign with proceeds to retarded children, kick off the drive today by offering candy bars to Mayor Steve Cappelletto. Current grand knight John J. Calzetta helps out.

## Hoboken to continue fight against water rate rise

Although Hoboken's water bill from Jersey City for this month is expected to be much higher than usual because of Friday's Appellate Court decision, allowing a 212 per cent rate increase, Mayor Steve Cappelletto said today that his administration is "not going to panic."

"We are prepared to go as far as we have to in order to find justice and fairness in this matter," said the mayor. "Hoboken's law department has done a good job to date and I expect it will continue to do so in this quest for what is right."

"And there is only one right answer to this matter, a fair and just water rate and that is one that is equal to what Jersey City charges its own commercial users."

"Anything more than that is discrimination against the municipal users who are willing to pay their fair share, but no more than that."

Cappelletto said that Jersey City is imposing "excessively high" rates on its municipal users to help finance its new water treatment facility at the Boonton Reservoir while its own resident customers were given relatively small rate increases in comparison.

Jersey City officials say they are willing to work out a compromise with Hoboken and the other municipal users — Lyndhurst, Montville, North Arlington and West Caldwell. Cappelletto said, however, that he hasn't heard anything from those four communities since Friday's court decision.

The court reversed last year's restraining order from the state Public Utilities Commission which prevented Jersey City from imposing its new rates. The court said the PUC did not have jurisdiction at that time. However, the PUC's regulations have been changed and it now does have jurisdiction which is why the court is allowing an April 30 PUC hearing on the increases to proceed.

## Two schools need repairs now, board chief says

Mrs. Mary Stack Gaspar, president of the Hoboken Board of Education, will submit her report tonight to the other board members on the general condition of the city's schools showing that most need some repairs, but two—the Connors and Rue Schools—are the most run-down and could use immediate repairs and renovations.

## House tour slated May 2

The Hoboken Environment Committee's first annual Hoboken House Tour will be held May 2 from 1 to 5 p.m. and will feature tours of six Hoboken homes and two public buildings between Castle Point Terrace and Garden Street, it was announced today. Admission is \$3 a person and will also feature refreshments and a sale of books and boutique items. A visual presentation on the renaissance of Hoboken will give house tourers an overall picture of what has been done to revitalize the city. Details on the tour and exact locations will be announced shortly. Additional information may be obtained by calling 686-4488 or 785-3089.

## Now what?

A Hoboken city councilman has been balked in his efforts to shut down a commercial parking lot in a residential zone . . . because the city's zoning ordinance is unclear. The county prosecutor who looked into it told him the ordinance is weakly worded and a lawsuit would probably be thrown out of court.

In this particular instance, the parking lot may or may not be a good thing. Of more importance to the city is the discovery that it has a zoning ordinance which is a puzzle.

Perhaps it was not a new discovery. When St. Mary Hospital made plans for an addition a year ago, the zoning code appeared to forbid hospital buildings more than 25 feet high, so the hospital went through the troublesome procedure of getting a variance to build higher.

If the zoning code is so defective, why doesn't someone in the city government do something to correct it?

"At Rue we found that the roof leaks, water is seeping through the walls when it rains undermining the integrity of the brickwork, the windows and sills are rotting away, the window frames are separating from the sills, and in the basement we have a spring that has been running for years," she said.

Rue School, located at Third and Garden streets, was built in 1913 and is used by approximately 970 pupils in kindergarten through the sixth grade.

"The Connors School reflected the same kind of problems," continued Mrs. Gaspar. "Water is seeping through the walls when it rains, all of the windows are rotting and should be replaced, the bathrooms need extensive work, the floor should be replaced, the heating system is inadequate because it is a coal system but cheaper to operate than the other schools, even with two men on the payroll to shovel it into the furnace."

The Connors School was built in 1906. Located at Second and Madison streets, it is used by some 655 pupils.

Mrs. Gaspar said window replacement was needed in the Kealey School, Fifth and Adams streets, the Leinhardt School, Seventh and Adams streets, and at the Brandt School, Ninth and Garden streets.

"The high school and the new Wallace school are in generally good condition," she continued. "Routine repairs and maintenance will take care of any problems in them."

"In Brandt we also have need of repairs or replacement of the slate steps, banisters and modernization and expansion of the physical education facilities," she said. "The school is used by more than 1,100 pupils with limited gym space for all those children."

Mrs. Gaspar said she would recommend that the board center any repair work at the Rue School over Connors.

"It is a good building that couldn't be reproduced today," she continued. "It has character and beauty that should be saved if at all possible. The Connors School has depressed further and may not be worth saving—such an effort may not be economically feasible."

Mrs. Gaspar said the board still does not know where it will get the money from to make the repairs.

"We are looking into every possibility for outside funding," she asserted. "The only other alternative is to pay for it ourselves, and that would involve millions."

**King-Queen Pageant**  
Barry Gestelo, 5, and Edna Marilyn Cook, 3, have won the second annual Hoboken King and Queen Pageant, sponsored by the city's Multi-Service Center. There were 39 local youngsters in the contest, according to Maurice Fitzgibbons, the coordinator.



**THEY'RE HIS PALS** — Jose Manny Reyes (second left) models one of the Police Athletic League shirts that will be worn by boxers during the May 12 amateur boxing show, sponsored by the Hoboken PAL in memory of the late Marty Sinatra. Looking on from left are Hoboken PAL director Joseph Reinhard, Hudson County AAU commissioner Al Bundies and Hoboken mayor Stephen Cappelletto.



# Hoboken sets talks on firemen's contract

Hoboken will begin 1976 contract negotiations with its firemen and fire officers Tuesday night following a threat from the unions of a possible unfair labor practice charge because the city has been avoiding talks with the fire fighters.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri said today he has agreed to begin talks with the firemen and officers so that internal pressure on the union officials from their rank and file membership can be relieved.

"I was advised by Capt. (William) Bergen that the fire officers had mandated him to begin an unfair labor practice charge against the city if no date for the start of negotiations had been set by tomorrow night," the city councilman said.

"I also spoke with Firemen (Michael) Bavo and said he expected the same kind of pressure from his men when they meet tonight. I understand their position and the feelings of their memberships, but the city isn't deliberately stalling them off."

"For all intents and purposes, the city has only one negotiator, myself. Our labor attorney and adviser, Frank Hayes, has been ill and unavailable to participate in the talks. So that leaves only me. I have no objections to negotiating with all five unions at one time, but I would much rather do it one at a time for the sake of clarity and concentration."

Ranieri has been negotiating with the Hoboken Police Officers' Association since last month and has had one session with the police superior officers. However, no talks have been conducted to date with the Fire Fighters Association, the Fire Officers Association or the Municipal Employees Association which represents all non-uniformed city employees. The councilman said the PBA and the city are making progress and he expected an agreement would be reached within a very short time. PBA officials agree that they are making progress but hedge on whether a final agreement is in sight.

## Action, at last

Hoboken's decision to proceed at once with a program of detecting and correcting waste in its water distribution system should pay dividends quickly if the city pursues it in the way Mayor Cappiello says it will.

It is gratifying to see the city adopt our suggestion that the program be started at once, putting an end to the inaction occasioned by uncertainty over whether to go it alone or seek engineering consultants to contract with.

If the city will really hire only capable and willing workmen, not political supporters, there is no reason why the Water Department's competent supervisors cannot get the job done as well as outsiders would.

And the mayor need not apologize for thawing the city's job freeze to hire them, in the light of the anticipated saving to the taxpayers of more than \$1,000 a day.

# Area residents back bank's plan at academy site

A petition campaign supporting the sale of the old Stevens Academy building at Fifth Street and Willow Avenue in Hoboken to a Bergen County bank for a new drive-in facility is being undertaken by residents and property owners in the area, it was learned today from Third Ward Councilman Salvatore Cernelli.

"I was approached over the weekend by some residents of the area and advised that they have something like 400 names on a petition against the use of the school for a day care center and supporting the sale to the bank," said the Councilman.

Cernelli said that he was asked for his support of the drive and he has given it conditionally.

"If they have the petition with that many valid names on it, I will represent their opinion before the city council and the board of adjustment," he asserted.

The board of adjustment has been asked for a variance by the Garden State National Bank to build the bank in a residential area. It has a conditional agreement with the trustees of the school which hinges upon the variance. If it is granted, the contract, will be consummated. If not, the bank has the right to pull out of the agreement. The board is to make its decision later this month.

Cernelli said that he believes that most property owners in the area feel that the bank would increase the value of their properties and are supporting the plan for that reason.

He added that residents of the area are concerned with the proposal to use the building as a day care center, primarily with the outside supervision of the children.

"Right or wrong, they see the condition of the day care center at 117 Jefferson St. and the neighborhood and they worry about the deterioration of their neighborhood," he said.



IT'S HIS YEAR — Hoboken Fourth Ward Councilman Louis Francione is presented with a plaque naming him "Man of the Year" by the Santa Febronia Society of Hoboken. From left are Timmo Abramo, dinner chairman; Anthony Scardino, president; Mrs. Francione, and the councilman. The award was made at the society's annual dinner-dance held over the weekend.

# Singleton urges McFeely ouster

Complaining about "total breakdown of administration" in a school system "laced with politics," Hoboken school board trustee Donald Singleton called on his colleagues to oust Thomas McFeely, superintendent of schools, and "make a real honest search for a tough administrator."

Singleton, a minority board member, made those remarks last night at a press conference held in the board meeting room, the basement of the Wallace School, where a standing-room-only crowd turned out to hear the trustee "name names" of board employees he considers "dead-heads."

Singleton asserted that the employees aren't "no shows" but rather "no works," meaning that they showed up for work but weren't working properly.

Focusing primarily on the board's administrative staff, Singleton said the best solution to the problems he sees in the system would be for the board to "Convince Mr. McFeely to retire at full pay and then go outside the system and get a tough administrator — someone who's not afraid to fire people."

The candidate, added Singleton, has "got to be somebody who doesn't have an uncle or an aunt (or in McFeely's case, a wife) on the board payroll or who doesn't make contributions to a board member's campaign," and the board, he said, must "pay him a good salary."

Tempering his criticism of the superintendent, Singleton urged that McFeely and Thomas Gaynor, his aide and another man

on the trustee's list, be retained in other capacities by the board. "Mr. McFeely is very capable dealing with the state and federal bureaucracy and we should keep him and Mr. Gaynor in sight," he said.

Summarizing, however, Singleton conceded that implementing his recommendations was another problem because of his minority status on the board. James Farina, board vice president, said later that Singleton has brought various allegations to the board's attention but in all cases, he added, we've come up blank.

"If he has proof about anything he mentioned tonight, he should go to the (county) prosecutor, but I can't go on hearsay," said Farina.

The names listed by Singleton, besides McFeely and Gaynor, were: former Mayor Louis DePascale, board negotiator; Thomas Gallo, board secretary; Robert Taylor, board counsel; Louis Francione, maintenance supervisor; Anthony Romano, board business administrator; John Palmieri, food program coordinator; Frank Spano, Brandt School principal; Ignatius Farinola, evening school director; George Maier, grants coordinator; Mrs. Thomas McFeely, visiting teacher; Anthony Costello, music director; Anthony Andreano, substitute teacher; and Joseph Colaneri, career development director. Singleton also listed Mary Tecktonius, head of the Hoboken Teachers Association (HTA).

Working from a memo-book filled with handwritten notes, Singleton outlined his complaints which, in large part, he said, were based on "impressions" and reports from the community.

Regarding McFeely, Singleton said he was "appointed by his uncle, the mayor (Brenard McFeely). That's a basic bad starting point."

Singleton complained that McFeely recommended the hiring of Mrs. Michael (Spike) Costello, wife of the board member, as a "classroom aide" for "humanitarian" reasons rather than re-hire displaced Title I employees claiming priority on hiring.

On Gaynor, the system's only assistant schools superintendent, Singleton said he's "been in the system so long that his perspective had changed."

Over Spano's protests, Singleton said he's been told that the Brandt School official spends more afternoons upmiring high school games than overseeing the grammar school. Noting that Spano is Gallo's son-in-law, Singleton suggested it might be difficult for the board secretary to provide adequate supervision of the principal.

On DePascale, Singleton said he sees "no need for a 12-month negotiator who does part-time auditing as well."

Taylor, said Singleton, "works very hard — but not always in the right direction." Gallo, said Singleton, "has been like a father to me but I don't know if it's a good idea to have an assemblyman on the board."

Also earning accolades from Singleton were Francione and Romano, who double as city councilmen. Francione is "very hard working," said Singleton, "but is he subject to the same kind of instructions (as others) in his position as councilman?" While Romano is a "great guy," Singleton said: "I suspect that his secretaries do most of the (business administrator's) work."

Andreano, was singled out by Singleton as possibly "the only sub who reports not on a per-diem basis but on a full salary."

Farinola, said Singleton, "apparently mounted a campaign by lobbying board members to get himself appointed director of the evening school."

Music director Costello, described by Singleton as "my music teacher and I love him very much," was named to take some months after contributing to the campaign of Otto Hottendorf, later elected board president.

Singleton questioned the need of Palmieri filling a full-time role as food program chief in a program that he called "essentially self-running."

Sickel, the Demarest School principal is known as a "friend of McFeely," said Singleton. Maier was labeled "self-motivated" against whose work he had "no complaints."

HTA president, Mrs. Tecktonius, earned Singleton's wrath for continuing to appeal for teachers' raises and higher increments which, said Singleton, only means higher taxes.

# Hoboken seeks 'agreeable' Jersey City water rates

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Hoboken and Jersey City are trying to negotiate an "agreeable" increase in the rate Jersey City charges Hoboken for water.

However, a Hoboken source said that the compromise figure submitted by Jersey City attorneys to Hoboken attorneys Tuesday night was still "too high" for Hoboken, one of five municipalities purchasing water from Jersey City, to accept.

Jersey City had proposed increasing Hoboken's rates by 212 per cent. That would bring the \$240 which the city now pays for each million gallons up to about \$750.

Mayor Steve Cappiello yesterday confirmed that Jersey City had offered to lower the proposed increases from \$750 to \$508 per million gallons. That would represent 125 per cent increase.

"But that's still out of our range," Cappiello said.

Cappiello said Hoboken Law Director Lawrence Florio and Asst. Attorney Carl Schaeffer will meet with Jersey City lawyers "one more time" early next week to try to strike a compromise.

Last week, the state appellate court

ruled that the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) did not have jurisdiction over Jersey City last April when the PUC "stayed" the proposed increase.

The court, therefore, ordered the stay dissolved. Jersey City has submitted a \$2.1 million bill for retroactive payment of the increases.

Hoboken has about a week to decide if it will appeal the decision to the state supreme court, or if it will forget the appeal if Jersey City makes a reasonable offer.

## Fusilli readies bill to strip PUC of local bus role

Hudson County Freeholder Vincent J. Fusilli said today he is having special legislation prepared which would strip the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of some of its power to regulate bus operations confined solely to the boundaries of one municipality.

According to Fusilli, the legislation is being formulated especially to help Hoboken solve some of the problems it has been having with its Washington Street bus companies but it would also apply to any other municipality in the state with privately-owned bus companies operated strictly within the confines of the community.

"It could take a few months because of the research involved," the freeholder continued, "but the legislation will be introduced. The objective is to give the municipality some of the power the PUC now has to regulate the bus operations."

"However, I don't believe the PUC should be eliminated from the picture entirely. It is much better equipped to handle applications for fare increases and bus inspections than most municipalities."

"My concern is with the operation of the local companies and whether or not they are providing the service they should be giving the public. If they are not operating properly, not providing the service they should, the local governing body should have the right to take action without having to go to the PUC."

According to the freeholder, Hoboken has been having troubles with its Washington Street bus companies for close to 10 years but has yet been able to get the PUC to take any strong action against them.

"By action, I don't mean fines or taking them off their routes for a few hours while safety repairs are made," he continued. "That's nothing more than a slap on the wrist but is the most the PUC has done in the way of punishment for poor service or violations."

"Since we are still plagued with the same problems it is obvious that the PUC's actions don't deter the bus companies."

Fusilli said he and Councilman-at-large Francis X. Leahy feel that if the city had the right to revoke or suspend a company's right to operate for failing to provide proper and adequate service, the companies would try harder to give that service.

An appointment has been made for Fusilli and Leahy to meet this week with State Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Alan Sagner to discuss the Washington Street bus operations and what help, if any, the city can get from DOT to force the companies to provide good service.

Fusilli said the Washington Street operators get some DOT subsidy money for transporting senior citizens at reduced fares. This, he said, gave the department some say concerning the operations but the freeholder did not know just how much.

# Cappiello clears way for replacing water lines

Mayor Steve Cappiello has cleared the way for Hoboken's Public Works and Water departments to immediately start a systematic water line repair program which could reduce the city's annual water costs by 30-to-40 per cent.

The mayor met yesterday afternoon with Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale and Business Administrator Herman Bier on the program. He instructed Vitale to start forming a second water line repair crew and told Bier to start getting prices on the equipment the city will need to do the work.

"There isn't much point in waiting any longer," said the mayor. "We're losing something like \$1,400 a day through minor leaks around the city. The longer we wait to take action the more money is wasted."

Last year, Hoboken was unable to account for approximately half of the water it purchased from Jersey City. A water line replacement program in the southern third of the city, financed by the federal government, last summer helped cut the loss between 30 and 40 per cent in that section. The remaining two-thirds of the city, however, needs almost as much work and repair.

"An added incentive to get started right away is the fact that we are certain to have to pay Jersey City more for the water," said the mayor. "We may not have to pay the \$750 per million gallons that it is now asking but it certainly isn't going to stay at the \$240 per million we are now paying."

In order to get the program started, the mayor may have to temporarily lift the job freeze he imposed last year.

"If we can hire the half-dozen or so men we will need through one of the federal job programs, fine," he asserted, "but if not, the city will have to hire them. However, we will not just be taking anyone. We'll be needing men capable of putting in a hard day of physical work and who can learn the repair procedures."

"Once the men are broken in, the city is going to expect production and results. If any of the men on the crew can't live up to those expectations they won't last long."

The mayor said he was willing to waive the job freeze for this project because it would save the city more than \$300,000 a year under Jersey City's old water rate and as much as twice that amount if the proposed increase goes through.

"We will be spending money to save money," he continued. "And if everything goes well the savings could be reflected in the first year."

Once formed, the new repair crew will be trained for several weeks by James Mur-nane, the water department's repair foreman, giving the department two full repair crews. One will work only on the systematic repair of known water leaks while the other will divide its time between handling all emergencies and the repair program.



Hoboken crossing guard Mrs. Lena Costa tries out one of the new hats and badges distributed to the city's school guard complement. Adjusting the cap are Mayor Steve Cappiello, right, and William Van Wie, confidential aide to the mayor.

## A perfect fit

# Standard Brands shuts plant

By ELIZABETH PARKS

One of Hoboken's biggest taxpayers, Standard Brands Inc., generating \$250,000 a year in royalties, is shutting down its plant today after 50 years of operation. The company once employed approximately 1,200 people in coffee, tea and dessert production.

In announcing the shutdown last month, the company said it would be letting go approximately 200 employees engaged in the production of its Royal Line of desserts.

Last June, the company phased out its Tender Leaf Tea operation, laying off 100 employees. Last October, it abandoned the coffee operation, laying off another 85 workers.

Yesterday, plant manager Robert McSparin refused comment on a report that the company was negotiating to sell its 15th st. and riverfront plant.

However, Mayor Steve Cappiello said he fears it will be difficult to find a new tenant and taxpayer as productive as Standard Brands.

McSparin also refused to comment on the reasons for the company's move, but the official explanation that acting director of industrial relations Terrance Burke gave was that the company was "overproducing" and that the dessert business "has not been good lately."

Burke said that the Hoboken production "will be absorbed at other Standard Brand facilities."

Company officials refused to say whether Hoboken's high tax rate, \$108.69 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, contributed to the move.

Earlier this week, Alco Gravure, another major taxable, announced that it was closing its plant, firing 240 workers and moving elsewhere.

Cappiello called both losses "devastating" to Hoboken's economy.

Alco Gravure pays approximately \$146,000 a year in taxes.

# Hoboken cop candidates may have long wait ahead

Even if the May 1 Civil Service examination for Hoboken Patrolmen produces a lengthy list of candidates eligible for appointment, it could be a long time before anyone on it actually gets a job, Mayor Steve Cappiello said today.

"If we end up with a list that is too heavy with non-residents there won't be any appointments for some time," said the mayor.

"I want to appoint Hoboken people, not someone from out of town who is going to take his salary and spend it somewhere else."

"And the only way to get Hoboken people is for the city and those who live here and would prefer to work here to wait awhile."

The mayor explained that if the city and residents eligible for appointment waited several months, non-resident eligibles ahead of them on the list may take appointment in some other municipality.

"There's something like 30 or 40 municipalities participating in the upcoming written examination," he continued. "Everyone who takes it is required to specify in which municipality they are seeking

appointment. When a city gets a list of eligibles the list includes only those who have specified that city as one of their preferences."

"My hope is that if Hoboken and its residents who made the list wait awhile before making or accepting appointments, those non-residents ahead of them on the list will take jobs elsewhere,

moving the Hoboken residents closer to the top of the list and appointment in Hoboken."

The mayor said that he was aware of the fact that Hoboken residents making the list would probably be eligible for appointment to patrolman positions in other municipalities and might accept appointment before Hoboken was ready to move.

# Hoboken plants its 'liberty tree' on Saturday

Hoboken will plant its "liberty tree" at ceremonies Saturday morning at 11 in Stevens Park, Fourth and Hudson streets, it was announced today by Vincent J. Wassmann, chairman of the city's Bicentennial Committee.

The oak tree, the state's official tree, will be presented by Freeholder Vincent J. Fusilli on behalf of the county and will be accepted for the city by Mayor Steve Cappiello.

The tree will be planted in commemoration of another oak tree that was planted in the

Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1646 and which became a symbol of freedom in the colonies during the Revolutionary War. The tree was named the "Freedom Tree" by General Marquis de Lafayette, according to Mrs.

Helen Manogue and Mrs. Beth Kilmer, co-chairmen for the event.

Once planted, a committee of Hoboken school children will care for the tree. The children are Mary Alar and Donna Noble

from SS. Peter and Paul's School, Maria Sipulveda, Nancy Quinones and Howard Wheeler from A.J. Demarest Junior High School; and Robert Parry, Martin Picinic, Steven Scortino, and Ernest Quintero from Joseph F. Brandt Junior High School. All schools in Hoboken are being asked to participate in caring for the tree.

The planting ceremony is open to the public, said Wassmann.

## Job title snafu may cut jobs

As many as 28 Hoboken employees may find that their jobs are not as secure as they think because the city has them classified for positions that differ from those Civil Service has them listed under, it was learned today.

City and Civil Service officials met yesterday to discuss the problem and what course should be taken to straighten it out.

According to Business Administrator Herman Bier, the situation developed over the years. The city placed persons in various jobs and changed job titles, but without doing it by ordinance and notifying Civil Service.

"As a result, Civil Service has the employees classified as one thing and the city has them classified as something else," he said. "The obvious solution is to change by ordinance the titles so that they conform with the titles Civil Service has."

Bier said if the city doesn't do this Civil Service has two options.

"It could call examinations for the jobs," he continued. "That would mean that the employees would have to take competitive tests and could possibly lose their positions if someone placed higher on the examination than they did."

"The other alternative is to hold up the city payroll by refusing to approve it. I believe that this would apply only to the employees who aren't classified properly."



## They'll really have a ball at Hoboken bicent fete

By AUDREY HAINFELD  
Hoboken's Bicentennial Ball, to be held at Stevens Center on May 22, is a sellout, according to ticket chairman Mrs. Frances Cirielli. A descendant of George Washington will be a guest.  
Mrs. James V. Tully of Montclair, the former Emily Custis Lewis Stevens, can trace her ancestry back to Colonial times to the Washington family. She's also related to the Lees of Virginia, suh. Mrs. Tully is a great-granddaughter of Edwin Augustus Stevens, founder of Stevens Tech.  
Some 500 persons will attend the gala, which is a "Colonial Costume Ball," although dress is optional. Theme of the ball will be a "Salute to the 50 States" with each table carrying the flag of the state it represents. Gov. Brendan T. Byrne and other notables have been invited to attend by Mayor Steve Cappelletto.  
Hoboken has proclaimed the week of May 16 as Bicentennial Week. Festivities will begin at noon May 16 with a big parade and muster at noon. Matthew Grimley, parade chairman, assisted by Norma Hoeffe, indicated that the parade route will include many historical sites. Representative delegations from civic, fraternal and veterans groups of the community, along with school children, will be among the marchers. Following the parade, there will be a circus, with

proceeds going to the Children's Summer Camp Fund.  
Historian John J. Heaney is reading his history of the city, to be entitled "The Bicentennial Comes to Hoboken." The book will be in the form of a souvenir journal. Deadline for advertisements in the journal has been extended to Apr. 30, due to the Easter holiday.  
High school art students, under direction of Ignatius Spinella, have several projects underway, including a painting based on a multi-profile of the American Revolutionary War. This will be sent to Trenton for entry in the New Jersey Contest of High School Bicentennial Art Projects.

## Demarest repair work decision due

The Hoboken Board of Education is expected to decide a week from today if it can award "as an emergency expenditure" a contract to remove cornices that are threatening to fall from the upper ledge of Demarest Junior High.  
Business Administrator Anthony Romano said over the weekend that the board has received several "estimates or quotes" on what it will cost to take the cornices down before they collapse on the heads of school children or passersby.  
The estimates range from below \$25,000 to more than \$60,000.

The cornices on the third and highest level of Demarest began falling from the building last month. Romano said the iron rods that hold the cement cornices to the ledge have become corroded over the years and are "liable to snap" at any time.  
Romano has erected wooden barriers around the entire block long school to keep pedestrians out of the path of any falling cornices, and he has had the Fire Department take down all cornices above the main entrance to Demarest, but he cannot authorize the full removal of the more than 100 cornices that dot the top level of the building until the board approves the action.

The board, meanwhile, is waiting for Board Attorney Robert Taylor to find out from the state if it is legal to award a demolition contract without going out for bids.

The board contends that the work constitutes an "emergency" that has to be taken care of immediately. Bidding would prolong the process and delay action for one or two months.

The board has scheduled an adjourned session for the night of April 26 when Romano hopes they will be able to accept the lowest estimate, award a contract, and begin immediately to bring the cornices down and replace them with stucco.

## Ranieri again urges demolition of old housing

As much as one-third of next year's budget for the Hoboken Community Development Agency (CDA) may be used to demolish slum tenements if Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri has his way.  
"For the last two years I have been recommending to the CDA that it temper the city's rehabilitation and redevelopment advancements by eliminating an equal number of slum buildings with limited success," the councilman said.

"Rehabilitation and redevelopment is fine but it is only half of the answer to Hoboken's housing problems. The other half is the elimination of buildings that are too far gone to be considered for rehabilitation but are still an eyesore for the community. Boarding up these buildings, if they aren't still occupied, isn't enough."

Ranieri said that he will be pushing for the commitment of at least one-third of the CDA's budget for 1977—as much as \$1 million—to the demolition program.

"Those buildings must come down if Hoboken's progress in the field of rehabilitation housing is to continue and new housing is to be encouraged," he asserted. "The city, through the CDA, is the only one which can do it. In most cases the owners can't or won't invest the money and probably aren't even paying the taxes on it any more. If they are, the services the city provides normally exceeds the taxes paid."

"Our own figures show that slum tenement houses which were paying approximately \$3,000 a year to the city in taxes were eating up to five times that amount in city services to the tenants such as police and fire protection, garbage collections, schools and welfare."

Ranieri said that if the demolition is handled properly the city could amass parcels of property suitable for the construction of garden apartments or one-and-two-family homes.

The councilman said that the demolition of eight-and-10 family tenement houses could cost as much as \$70,000 per job, including relocation fees for tenants. However, in the long run it would be worth it, he said.

"We must prevent the city's inner core from turning into a slum, a process that has already started," he asserted. "Demolition is the most practical and available way of doing it."

## Have anti-demolition petition

The Hoboken Environment Committee will present petitions containing 1,475 signatures of persons opposing the demolition of Stevens Academy to the city's Board of Adjustment tonight at 7 at City Hall.

Claire Walter, a committee member, said the petitioners are against tearing down the "historic building" and will urge that any new tenants of the building, which is up for sale, "re-design it so that much of the original structure can be preserved."

The Garden State National Bank has applied to the city zoning board for a variance to occupy the school. The board may rule on that application tonight.

## Hoboken trustees ask state to restore cuts in budget

The Hoboken Board of Education has appealed to the state commissioner of education for the reinstatement of the \$200,000 cut from its 1976-77 budget by the Hoboken City Council a few weeks ago, it was learned today from Mrs. Mary Stack Gaspar, board president.

A formal petition of appeal was served on the city by Robert W. Taylor, the board's attorney, on Good Friday. The petition was presented to City Clerk Anthony J. Amoroso at his home, since Friday was a holiday and City Hall offices were closed.

Mrs. Gaspar said that the board is asking the state to schedule a hearing no later than May 10 so that the entire matter can be decided as quickly as possible.

The school board had presented a \$4,025 million current expenses budget to the city's voters in March. It was knocked down and was referred to the city council for consideration. The council cut \$980,000, with

\$615,000 of it coming from the board's instructional account, used to pay teacher salaries.

Although no official action has been announced, it is reported that the board may have to lay off as many as 55 teachers because of the reductions made by the city council.

While the board has asked the state commissioner for quick action, the matter could take a long time before it is finally decided.

City officials say that they will appeal any decision by the state that reinstates all or a major part of the cuts made by the council.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, who has served as the city's spokesman on the school budget issue, says the council will take the issue to the U.S. Supreme Court if needed.

## Planners to heed 'Sunshine Law'

Another Hoboken governmental agency isn't living up to the requirements of the state's new "Sunshine Law," a p.m.

Notification of the Hoboken Planning Board's office fails to contain any mention of the business to be covered, the purpose of the meeting or a copy of the board's agenda.

Ben R. Goodman, board chairman, said that it was "an oversight" and would be corrected.

Hoboken's board of education also had been forgetting to mention what business was to be covered at its meetings when the law was first implemented. However, it was brought to the attention of Thomas A. Gallo, board secretary, and since then every notification has included all the required information.

## Hoboken PBA and city are at impasse in contract talks

The Hoboken Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA) and the department's superior officers have jointly notified the state Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) that they will probably need mediation in anticipation of the collapse of their 1976 contract talks with the city, it was learned today.

According to a source close to the negotiations between the policemen and the city, the action is being taken so that PERC can act immediately upon the city's rejection of the PBA's counter proposal.

The PBA has already rejected the city's contract offer and is now preparing a counter offer—one that it doesn't expect the city to accept. The city claims that its offer is the best it can do at this time and the PBA's counter proposal is expected to call for a minimum pay increase of nine per cent this year.

"We don't want any long lapses between the breakdown of talks and the start of mediation or fact finding," the

source said. "So that's why PERC is being notified now."

He added that the PBA is also going to demand that the city "beef up" its negotiating team so that it includes all persons in authority who can determine on the spot what it can and cannot do. Since the talks started last month, Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri has been the city's sole negotiator.

The source said that although no meeting with Ranieri has been scheduled for the presentation of the PBA's counter proposal, when it did come about it was expected to be "a hot one."

"For the last four years the PBA has been going backwards in the area of pay," he continued. "Not once during this period have we matched the cost of living figures with corresponding percentage pay increases. So our standard of living has gone down. Our buying power has gone down and many of us are working at or looking for second jobs just to make ends meet."

"The figures show that even the average garbage man makes a better living than the average Hoboken patrolman. We just can't go backwards any more."

## Hoboken plans to fix own \$.5 million water leaks

Hoboken has decided that it is going to act for itself in repairing water leaks that are costing the city half a million dollars a year.

Mayor Steve Cappelletto, the city council and Public Works Director Raphael Vitale have decided to reject a \$790,000 proposal from the Stevens Tech's Davidson Laboratory to repair the city's water system over the next three years and to entrust the job to Vitale's public works department.

Vitale and Councilman Francis Leahy said the decision saves Hoboken "hundreds of thousands of dollars." Vitale said his department can do exactly what Davidson proposed "for a fraction of the cost."

He estimated that Hoboken will have to spend approximately \$100,000 to buy trucks, a compressor, high pressure pumps, a generator, a backhoe, pipe cutters and leak detecting machines and maybe between \$50,000 and \$75,000 to hire specialized labor.

The equipment, Vitale said, could be bid for, purchased and received within the next four months and the men hired and trained within a similar period.

Public Works would then undertake a comprehensive renovation of the city's water lines, similar to the renovations proposed by Davidson.

According to Vitale, Davidson "stole" most of the ideas featured in their proposal from his department anyway. "He said engineers from the college 'picked his brain' at recent conferences. Vitale also pointed out that public works has already repaired most of the 'major' leaks cited in the Davidson proposal.

The city has repaired the serious leak at the base of Elysian park, the leak on the premises of Maxwell House and several "large" leaks at various spots scattered throughout the city.

"Most of the leaks Davidson talked about have been known to the city for many years," Vitale said yesterday.

"In fact, we showed our records to Davidson as a courtesy and they used them as the basis for most of their report," he said.

Vitale said he was hopeful that Hoboken can begin "fixing of abandoned service lines," discovering and repairing leaks and shutting down malfunctioning water gates "before September."

## 'Save Stevens Academy' drive on in Hoboken

A counter-petition campaign will be launched today by the Hoboken Environment Committee and the city's Bicentennial historic sites subcommittee to save the 115-year-old Stevens Academy from demolition.

Mrs. Helen Manogue, chairman of the Environment Committee and a member of the Bicentennial Committee, said the petition drive is being undertaken to offset a petition campaign in favor of the demolition of the school and the eventual construction of a drive-in banking facility.

"We do not want the building torn down or the issuance of any variances that would allow this to happen," she said. "The building has historical value for Hoboken and should be saved."

The Garden State National Bank has tentatively purchased the building from the school trustees. However, the sale is conditional upon the granting of variances by the Hoboken Board of Adjustment which would permit the commercial drive-in banking facility to be built in an area zoned for residential use. The board has already held its public hearing on the bank's variance applications and is expected to announce its decision on April 29.

Should the board decide against the bank the sale of the property will be voided. However, the Hoboken Community Development Agency (CDA) plans to make the school trustees the same offer for the property that the bank did — a reported \$30,000 bid. If the offer is accepted, the CDA would rent out space in the building to other agencies, such as the Day Care 100 Program and recreation activities.

Last week it was learned from Councilman Salvatore Cemelitti that residents of the area have started a petition campaign in support of the sale to the bank with more than 400 signatures already on it.

Since the board of adjustment has already held its public hearing, it is doubtful that the board will accept or consider either petition drive. However, Mrs. Manogue said that should the board honor the petitions for the bank it would also have to honor the petitions against it.

## Melting pot bubbles benevolently in Hoboken

By ELIZABETH PARKS  
Like a fine Sangria rich with a medley of luscious fruit or an Italian smorgasbord bursting with pasta and tender meats, Hoboken, that tiny, feisty North Hudson city known best for spawning Frank Sinatra, delights, intoxicates and overwhelms the senses with its streaming diversity.  
Its streets range from the Old World charm of brownstones lining the uptown quarter of Bloomfield and Garden sts. to the stigma of grime and clutter along Jefferson and Jackson, First and Second streets, and in isolated pockets scattered throughout the First, and Fourth Wards, where poverty is blatantly visible.

This is one in a continuing series of articles examining people's attitudes towards their changing neighborhoods.

Visitors, new to the city, murmur apprehensively and occasionally glance nervously over their shoulders as they walk at night through the poorer, gaudier sections of the city that are badly lit.

But even in the worst sections such as downtown, where bars are located on every corner and men stand around with their hands jammed into their pockets, staring into emptiness, there is still a sense of comparative safety, of control, a feeling that an assault won't be precipitated without provocation.

On other blocks, in day light, veiled Indian ladies wrapped in sari's with large brown-eyed children trailing beside them, enjoy pensive walks escorted by slim hipped, exquisitely mannered Indian men.

The Grandmas Cook Pasta  
Two blocks to the east of the Indian quarter centered around Park av., two blocks north, two blocks north, Italian grandmothers, many dressed in heavy black dresses, sweep stoops and boil steaming bowls of pasta for their dark-haired street urchins, who after school, bring home friends who may be Irish, Vietnamese, Yugoslavian, Puerto Rican, Cuban or even Albanian.

The oldtime Italians and Irish who have lived in the city all their lives, having arrived, in many cases, as small children accompanying their immigrant parents searching for a better life in the new world, in some ways resent the influx of newcomers whom they blame for "ruining" the city.

They point to tenements in the Fourth Ward that are now practically slums and they blame the Hispanics and the blacks, who are now the poorest members of the community, for "living on welfare and not taking care of anything."

The black and Spanish-speaking, in turn, accuse the whites of discrimination and prejudice.

But then the Italians, the Irish and the Germans, newly sensitized to the charms of ethnic diversity by stories praising the city published in the press and broadcast on television, begin talking about the city's ethnic shopping markets, fine Italian restaurants and great blend of peoples and a curious pride in their own heterogeneity asserts itself.

On Third and Adams sts., the first factory building in America to be converted into an apartment building, the old K and E factory, is beginning to fill up with the first of its expected 173 middle-income families.

Charge Resist  
The only part of the city that seems to resist change is the Stevens Tech quarter stretched out along Hudson st. and the Stevens portion of the waterfront.

There, academicians still seem to create their own tight literate world that apparently defies penetration. This seems to alienate it from the rest of the Hoboken community who speak disparagingly of "intellectuals living in an ivory tower."



Major Change, Going On

In some sections of the city, physical alterations are laying the groundwork for major changes in life style that make it both easier and harder for the oldtime Hoboken families to think well of themselves and their city.

The highrise apartments of Grogan Marine View Plaza are attracting many New Yorkers and Bergen County defectors who give Hoboken "a certain prestige" but who also arouse the distrust and fear of oldtimers who worry that the new-comers "may be taking over."

But before the highrises, which also harbor a small colony of Vietnamese refugees, were built, Hudson st. was mostly small homes and what is described as "wall-to-wall bars."

The Keuffel and Esser section of the city was bleak, dying and virtually abandoned five years ago. Then former mayor Louis DePascale and Steve Cappelletto, the present mayor, began using Model City block grants to build a community center, help finance the K and E conversion and created the atmosphere that made the Mt. Carmel Guild of Newark decided to build its own senior citizen complex now under construction.

At the same time, Applied Housing Associates, a private firm, has remodeled scores of deteriorating tenements along Washington, Bloomfield, Hudson and Clinton sts. and Willow av., turning rundown slums into gracious apartment complexes sheltering an ethnic mix of families so diverse life there resembles and ethnic tree in full bloom.

That mixture is seen at its most charming in the city's schools. At Rue School along 3rd and Garden sts., pre-kindergarten teacher Suzie Rocco teaches 30 four-year-olds how to sing, count, spell their names and have a good time in school.

Languages Diversified

She doesn't seem at all phased by the fact that 26 of them were born outside of America had come into school speaking everything from Spanish and Italian to Vietnamese and Portuguese.

A few weeks ago, Rue Principal Frank Bada helped coordinate an international parents night for the PTA. In describing the evening, Bada used words like "beautiful and heartwarming" to relate how it feels to see Yugoslavian, Greek, Jewish, German, Italian, Irish, Cuban, Puerto Rican, Vietnamese, Indian and Armenian children link arms and stand to sing popular songs from their native lands.

Jude Fitzgibbons, half Italian-half Irish, born and raised in Hoboken and determined "to live the rest of my life here," calls the city "the true melting pot of the world."

Niranjan Pandya, of 66 10th st., an Indian native who, with his wife, Bhadra, and two small sons, has lived in Hoboken for five years now, sums up Hoboken as a "virtual United Nations," attractive because of "the friendliness of its people, its proximity to Stevens and its convenient access to New York." Niranjan and Bhadra admit, however, that they don't always take full advantage of Hoboken's cosmopolitan promise. They live close to what they call the "Indian quarter" and their off-the-job friends and acquaintances are mostly Indian.

The Pandyas explain that "language" is a problem, that even though they speak English fluently and understand it perfectly, their pronunciation differs from the pronunciation of other Hoboken cultures just enough to make communication awkward and slightly uncomfortable.

But their intelligence, their charm, their generosity, quickly communicated, qualifies them fully for inclusion in what Hobokenites persistently refer to as "their roots, their family spirit, their community."

Charlene King, 717 Willow av., who rejected "the boredom, the monotony" of the Bergen County homes of her young friends for "the excitement and the clamor" of city life, specifically in Hoboken, says she's noticed that ethnic groups in Hoboken "tend to clique."

But Charlene who grew up in the only Irish household in an all-Italian neighborhood, says that "everyone's been accepted here for years and years."

Charlene has a boyfriend, Steve Jarac. He's Yugoslavian. Steve's father came to Hoboken back in the 1900's when he was about 15. According to Steve, many Yugoslavians initially chose to settle in Hoboken because it was a port city like the island of San Sego where he says many of Hoboken's Yugoslavian families originated.

Steve boasts he can curse in five languages and learned to be tough when he grew up as the only Slav in an Irish neighborhood. Settling back in his chair next to Charlene and an Irish friend, Mickey Enright, Steve remembered how he spent his boyhood "getting holes in my head" from his Irish mates.

Cindy Breault, a barmaid, familiar with all types in Hoboken, says "everyone blends in."

However, there are some blends that go together a little easier than others.

### Census Gives Breakdown

According to the 1970 census, Hoboken's population of 49,390 is approximately 54 per cent white, 41 per cent Hispanic, three per cent black and one per cent Indian.

The majority of white families and most of the Indian families are considered relatively well off financially, but even though few people in Hoboken are really economically secure and well-to-do, the blacks and Spanish-speaking are obviously prospering less than their white companions.

There are a lot of Spanish stores uptown along Washington st. and downtown in the First and Fourth Wards, but they're mostly bars or groceries or cut rate clothing stores.

There are Spanish and Black social clubs; a well-organized black church, Mt. Olive Baptist, and the Spanish church, the First Spanish Baptist Church.

But there is no really potent political or mercantile black or Spanish force and the only black official of any significance, Clayton Anderson, was recently defeated in his bid to be re-elected to the board of education. Only board member Leo Lago stands out as significant representative of the Spanish community.

### Blessings "Mixed"

For a young ambitious member of the Spanish community like Jaime Figueroa, 528 Bloomfield st., born and raised in Hoboken and subject frequently to the backlash of ethnic diversity and discrimination, the blessings of being a Hoboken man are "mixed."

"I see beauty in it," Jaime says. "It's great to exchange thoughts and ideas with other groups, but right now the Spanish are undergoing what other groups have endured before—battling for acceptance."

"As a Puerto Rican, I see our struggle as being a long one, but I also see a sense of accomplishment, of moving up, slowly."

There are blacks who share Jaime's sentiments but 27-year-old James Clifford, of 320 Marshall dr., disagrees.

"It wasn't hard growing up here," he said. "Most of the people I grew up with were Spanish and Italian and we had a lot of good times. I never really experienced any discrimination."

James, who goes to Hoboken High and works part time at the community center to help save money for college, says he finds he doesn't always notice whether people are Italian or Irish or German or whatever.

"They just seem to me to be people, there to have a good time with. And Hoboken is really a nice town. It's not a rough place as some people think, but real easygoing. It's pleasant and it's fun."

## Council balks on community center study

The Hoboken city council isn't putting up any money to determine the cost of renovating the Stevens Academy building until it knows whether the community development agency can buy the structure.

At last night's council caucus in preparation for tomorrow's meeting, the governing body decided to table a resolution that would have earmarked \$1,500 for Mayo, Lynch and Associates to study the cost of converting the building to a community center.

The measure was dropped from the agenda after council members protested that they didn't want to spend money on the project before they even knew if the CDA would be given the opportunity to buy the building.

The board of adjustment is currently reserving decision on a bank's application to tear down place it with a drive-in bank. The 116-year-old building and red-cube has offered the same amount for the building.

Fred Bado, CDA director, was rebuffed in his argument that the agency had to know the cost of the conversion before it went through with the deal.

This proposal and several others on the agenda awarding contracts to Mayo, Lynch aroused the ire of Councilman Francis Leahy. He complained that the firm was the only one getting engineering contracts. Other council members said

they knew of no other Hoboken engineering firms except the one operated by the family of building inspector James Caulfield but that they felt it would be a conflict of interest to give that company local business. However City Attorney Lawrence Florio was asked to check the matter and he said he would have an opinion by tomorrow.

In other matters, the council received a letter from the Police Benevolent Association demanding, to know who had authority to negotiate for the city in current contract talks and complaining about delays and shifting of responsibility on the city's part.

However Councilman Robert Ranieri, who said he has the authority along with special attorney Francis X. Hayes, said there was no impediment and that the talks were friendly and "steady progress" was being made.

The council subcommittee on public works agreed to meet with garbage inspectors and Judge Rudolph Nadeau to discuss ways of improving sloppy garbage disposal and collection practices.





The south side of 11th Street, between Hudson and Washington streets, Hoboken, is noticeably sagging and the city is considering setting up barricades until it can be repaired.

## Cave-in threat may shut Hoboken street again

A section of 11th Street, between Washington and Hudson streets, in Hoboken may have to be closed again to all traffic because of another possible cave-in. Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said today.

"I have asked the city's building inspector, James Caulfield, to make a thorough inspection of

the area today," said Vitale. "If he says it should be closed to traffic it will be closed." The director said that the problem is on the south side of the street and may be the result of the explosion last September that demolished the city's pumping station a few feet from the potential cave-in site.

"Usually these cave-ins are caused by water breaks which wash out the ground under the street," he said. "This may be the case here too, but we don't know yet." Hoboken police reopened 11th Street to traffic several weeks ago. It had been closed to vehicle use since the explosion.

## Hoboken skating rink step nearer to reality

By ELIZABETH PARKS

It's been about two years now since it was promised but there is still hope that Hoboken will get an ice skating rink.

Three city councilmen announced that they would be building the million dollar rink about this time two years ago, just prior to ward council elections.

There has been a lot of talk about the project since then, but according to officials in the Hoboken Community Development Agency "bureaucratic red tape" and some scruples about the feasibility of an ice rink have kept the project from taking permanent shape.

But the doubts about how profitable the rink would be, how expensive to operate, and how useful to the community, have been basically overcome and the red tape is beginning to unwind.

According to Fred Bado, director of CDA, Hoboken will apply for a \$500,000 Green Acres grant to finance half the construction about the beginning of September.

CDA has already appropriated \$500,000

of a \$3 million federal block grant as Hoboken's matching contribution to the Green Acres grant.

According to regulations, Bado explained, a city can only apply for one Green Acres grant at a time and work on one project has to be completed before Green Acres will consider an application for another project.

The CDA choose to put in an application for park restoration monies ahead of the ice skating application. Restoring one major park and creating two new small ones was given a higher priority because the rink needed to be researched.

Last week Green Acres approved the park grant for \$212,500. Work on that project should begin in a month or two and be finished by September.

Then Bado says the city will go ahead with the Green Acres application for the ice rink. Meanwhile, CDA is still searching for a site and trying to decide if it wants a permanent all year round rink or a portable facility that can be converted to other uses.

## Plan to require landlords to provide garbage containers

The Hoboken City Council is planning action which will make property owners more responsible for providing their tenants with adequate facilities for the disposal of their garbage and help eliminate some of the problems the city has been having since February when it began alternate day collections.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri and Francis X. Leahy have gotten the approval of Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale to amend the city's sanitation code so that a landlord will be required to supply tenants with a set number of garbage cans or plastic bags for their garbage disposal.

Currently, the city's ordinance requires only "adequate" garbage cans and that has been interpreted as one per dwelling unit.

"We will discuss and set a

figure for how many cans will be needed for each family in any given building," said Ranieri. "A minimum supply of garbage will be enough to cover a two-week period for all tenants in any building."

Ranieri said that by requiring more garbage cans or bags landlords would no longer be able to go into court and blame someone else for putting out garbage in paper bags.

"If a property owner's garbage cans are overloaded then it is fairly obvious that he isn't providing adequate numbers of them for his tenants," the councilman said. "On the other hand, if there are sufficient cans, some not filled all the way, it would indicate that the owner is doing his share and the problem lies with his tenants or others in the neighborhood."

"This isn't a perfect solution.

I'm fairly sure that some situations will come up which we hadn't anticipated. But it is a very big step in the right direction — a cleaner Hoboken."

Leahy said he wanted strict enforcement of the law including summonses for all violators, no matter who.

"The sanitation inspectors will have my full backing," he said. "If there is a violation there should be a summons given out without exception. I don't want any favors or interference. If there is any I want them to bring it to my attention and I'll see to it that it ends very quickly."

Leahy has been on his own personal anti-garbage crusade for the last week. He has been telling property owners along Washington Street to take in their garbage when it has been put out on days not normally scheduled for collection.

## Fire officers' 'impasse' is puzzling to Ranieri

The Hoboken Fire Officers Association today declared negotiations for a 1976 contract at an impasse but Councilman Robert Ranieri, the city's negotiator, questioned how that decision was reached since the decision was reached only to firemen.

The officers and men called the proposal a "non offer" but Ranieri said it would raise the pay of a fireman to more than \$15,000 including longevity by Jan. 1, 1977, as part of a three-year contract.

Ranieri called it "a milestone for labor in Hoboken." "It's the first time labor has been offered such liberal financial benefits, especially from a city so hard-pressed as Hoboken," he said.

CAPT. WILLIAM BERGIN, president of the officers' group, said the organization will seek a facilitator from the state Public Employment Relations Commission.

And firemen are only one day away from following the same course, said Michael Bavaro, president of the Hoboken Firefighters Association.

Both Bergin and Bavaro called a meeting with Ranieri last night "unproductive" and said they saw little or no hope in future talks.

COMMENTED the councilman: "How can there be an impasse one half hour after an offer is

made. The logical and responsible thing for union officials to do—if I might be presumptuous—is to present the proposal to the membership for acceptance or rejection.

"If there should be a refusal, then the city invites a counter proposal from the firemen. This is logical, businesslike and part of the fair negotiating process."

BERGIN SAID the fire officers are refusing the minimal "non offer" made by Ranieri on behalf of the city. The proposal, he said, consists of no salary increase this year but a \$200 cash payment for four holidays that the firemen already have, a 4 per cent increase next year and a 4 per cent increase in the third year.

Unlike the fire officers, Bavaro has given the city until tomorrow to make another, more substantial proposal. He said he doubted if he would get one.

"There's no point in any further negotiations," said Bergin. "The councilman doesn't negotiate, he dictates."

BAVARO SAID Ranieri had "no compassion or feeling for the men of the department whose standard of living has gone down over the last four years — not up."

"I see no reason to continue talks unless the city comes up with a substantial offer that will allow the members to make an

advance on the increased cost of living and allow them to maintain the dignity they are entitled to."

RANIERI SAID that for fire officers to seek the impasse route is "totally illogical." "Half of their union is composed of deputy chiefs, all of whom gross over \$20,000 a year and must, by nature of their responsibilities, be considered a part of management. They're on our side of the negotiating table."

The councilman said he told the captains that negotiating talks must be held separately between their group and firemen, although observers have sat in.

## Hoboken's loss of water may be due to bad meters

Faulty water meters rather than leaking water mains may be responsible for Hoboken's inability to account for almost half of the water it buys each year from Jersey City.

That is now the thinking of Hoboken officials who will meet Monday afternoon and review last week's decision to start their own water line repair program, according to Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri.

"As we reviewed the city's reports on repairs some interesting things emerged," said the councilman. "First, between the lines replaced by the contractor in last year's replacement and repair program and the work done by the city itself, a substantial number of known leaks and breaks have been repaired."

"Many of the leaks and breaks pointed out in the report compiled by the Center for Municipal Services and Studies at Stevens were also repaired by the city."

"The second interesting fact is that in spite of all this work the city is still unable to account for 30 to 40 per cent of the water it buys each year."

Ranieri said the ideal situation would be 100 per cent accountability but that this would be impossible because there always would be small leaks in the overall system that would not be noticed until they became a major problem.

"The only other answer is that the loss is through the meters," he continued. "We know our water meters are old. In all probability we are getting inaccurate readings from them, favoring the water customer rather than the city."

The councilman said one of the matters that will be discussed Monday is whether the city would repair or replace all of its water meters if it is decided that the meters are the main problem.

Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale said he favored replacing the old ones with new meters, and changing the city ordinances so that it was responsible for industrial water meters rather than the companies.

"In the long run we'll be better off with new ones," he said. "What we have is old and will just get older and require more attention."

The director said he didn't know what it would cost to replace all of the residential meters in the city. He said there were a number of different types and manufacturers, and different prices.

"However, in figuring price you also have to take into account the additional revenues the city would be getting through accurate water readings," he added.

"I also think the city should become responsible for the installation and maintenance of the meters for the large scale customers. Over the years, through changes in factory use, some meters have been stacked away behind new machinery and the meter readers can't get to them to make a reading. They have to estimate instead."

Ranieri said the plan to increase the number of water line repair crews may have to be scrapped in favor of beefing up the water meter repair and reading capabilities of the city.

Scheduled to attend the meeting in the mayor's office are Mayor Steve Cappiello, Vitale, Ranieri, James Murnane, water department repair supervisor; Plumbing Inspector Michael Martinelli, Meter Department Supervisor James Burke, and Charles Florio of the Water Department.

## Tear them down!

Hoboken's Councilman Ranieri is right in seeking to allocate a third of the Hoboken Community Development Agency's 1977 budget for demolishing slum tenements.

The city has been successful in the last few years in rehabilitating many substandard buildings which were worth saving, but the number of boarded-up condemned buildings has increased.

And many of the tenement houses still occupied are actually unfit for habitation. The tax revenue they yield is pittance compared to the cost of providing them with municipal services.

Razing such eyesores will pay off, especially where there are several together. The cleared tract could be a site for garden apartments or one-and-two-family homes.

Let us start with those that are vacant. What better way to continue the momentum toward a brighter Hoboken image?

## Water sources considered

The Hoboken City Council is considering whether to compromise with Jersey City over new water rates or look around for a new supplier.

The city, which now pays Jersey City \$240 per million gallons, has been told that the rate is going to \$750 per million. However, the law department told members of the council last night that a compromise rate of between \$400 and \$440 probably can be worked out.

Members of the council's water and sewerage committee, Councilmen Anthony Romano, Robert Ranieri and Francis Leahy, are expected to make a recommendation within the next several days. Last night's conference on water was held after the public meeting.

The council also is expected to

consider a study made by the engineering firm of Mayo Lynch in cooperation with Robert Hord, of Rutgers University, an authority on water supply and distribution.

The study suggests several alternate sources of water, including the Hackensack Water Co., Passaic Valley or the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission.

Another recommendation was the drilling of wells as a supplemental supply, perhaps to help major industries which are the largest users. The fear is that any great increase in water bills might cause more industries to leave the community.

Hoboken uses about 12 million gallons of water a day.

The city also should give thought to turning over its citywide water network to Jersey

City or a new supplier, the study said. This would put the supplier in charge of maintaining it.

At the meeting last night the council endorsed an assembly bill which would apportion loss of ratables to a city whose sewage treatment plant also serves other communities — Hoboken handles sewage from Union City and Weehawken.

The council approved the hiring of the Mayo Lynch firm as consultants to the planning board at \$6,000 a year and approved an agreement between the firm and the Community Development Agency for park restoration work under the state Green Acres Program.

Another agreement between the CDA and the architectural firm of Bissell and Wells for up to \$7,000 also was approved.

## Hoboken plans garbage mess crackdown

Hoboken's garbage inspectors are getting ready to crack down on city residents who deliberately dump garbage on city streets at inappropriate times.

At last night's council caucus, Councilmen Louis Francione, Francis Leahy and Walter Cramer complained they were "sick and tired" of seeing the "flagrant abuse of the city's ordinance governing garbage disposal."

The three councilmen said that day and night they have personally seen garbage loose and scattered in paper bags throughout all sections of the city.

Leahy said it was a disgrace that residents stuck their own private garbage in public receptacles, because the garbage eventually spills over and litters the city's busiest thoroughfare, Washington St.

Garbage inspector, Edward McIntyre, asked the council to clarify its ordinance on garbage disposal so inspectors would be in a better position to issue summonses for violations.

Schedule Changed Since the city several months ago changed its garbage collection schedule from six days a week to three, residents have been violating the ordinance by putting their garbage out on days not scheduled for pickups.

Garbage inspectors claim it is difficult to issue a summons because it is hard to prove who actually left the garbage at any particular site. The garbage inspectors last night agreed to sit down with the public works subcommittee of the city council and with Municipal Judge Rudolph R. Naddo to "review the ordinance to determine whether more severe penalties should be imposed."

The ordinance currently provides for fines ranging from \$50 to \$200. The inspectors want the council to establish a higher minimum penalty.

## Hoboken K of C to sell clubhouse on Hudson St.

After two years of debate, the Hoboken Knights of Columbus Council members have voted to sell their four-story brick building clubhouse at 716 Hudson St., James Gabriele, president of the Columbus Club, said today.

According to Gabriele, the council members were notified at last night's meeting that the motion to sell the building was approved by more than a 2-to-1 margin in a mail ballot sent to all active members.

"Although we can now put the building up for sale we will not do so immediately," he continued. "The council and club are looking into the possibility of opening a state-funded day care center. If this materializes, the council would have the money needed to rehabilitate the building and make it suitable for the center and continued council use."

The cost of operating the building has continued to increase for the last four or five years, according to Gabriele, and is now at the point where the council has to dip into its surplus funds to keep it going.

Gabriele said the Columbus Club corporation members were to meet with city officials this week to get some idea of what has to be done to be sanctioned as a day care center and the prospects of getting that approval.

"If it doesn't materialize, we will have to sell the building," he continued. "We would prefer to sell only the building and property at 716 Hudson St. The council also owns two adjoining lots at 712 and 714 and would like to retain that ownership."

Gabriele said that the income from the sale would be used to purchase or build a new headquarters, one that would not be so expensive to operate. He added the Maurice DeGennaro has been placed in charge of the committee handling the matter.

## Two projects to be expanded at Stevens

Continuations of a management technique improvement program and a waterfront development project will be the main thrust of the second year activities of the Center for Municipal Studies and Services at Stevens Institute of Technology, Richard Sullivan, director, said today.

The two projects will cost a total of \$143,000. Hoboken, which is a sponsor of the Center with the college, will contribute \$36,000 and the college will kick in \$40,000 in salaries and services. The remainder will come from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Both of the projects were started in the Center's first year and are being expanded upon in the second. Initial reports on the first year findings and recommendations have been completed, Sullivan said.

He said the second year's programs will deal with the implementation of those recommendations.

"The Center has three other proposals for the second year which, at this time, it is not committed to continuing but could go into later in the year," he continued. "These are a consolidated purchasing program for Hoboken and the North Hudson municipalities; a mutual cooperation program for the public works departments of Hoboken and the North Hudson municipalities; and a study of economic trends in Hoboken."

Sullivan said these projects have not been designated for the second year because those involved — the municipality and the North Hudson Council of Mayors — have not yet indicated they want to proceed with them.

## No Bicentennial July 4 fireworks for Hoboken

For the first time in almost 20 years, Hoboken may not have a fireworks display on July 4 even though it is the Bicentennial year, according to Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale.

The director said that he and the mayor decided that since a display has been planned for the July 4 ceremonies along the Hudson River as part of "Operation Sail," the city would not need a display of its own.

"However, I've since learned that the fireworks will be shot off quite a distance north of the city and probably won't be visible to our residents," Vitale said. "In the meantime, I had cancelled the contract the city was about to sign up with the firm that was going to put on the display for us."

"Since then, the company has contracted to put on a display somewhere else on July 4 and I can't get any others who are free on that day."

The director said that it might be possible to get someone to put on a display for July 3 or 5. July 4 falls on a Sunday and the next day will probably be a holiday for most people.

"I will ask the mayor what he wants to do in the event the other fireworks display can't be seen from Hoboken," Vitale added. "Since we are having our bicentennial parade next month rather than in July, possibly we might be able to get some company to put a display on for us then."

## Public safety forces unhappy in Hoboken

By ELIZABETH PARKS

Hoboken is developing an unusual pattern in its police and fire contract negotiations that could lead to bitter labor unrest.

While the city council's labor negotiator, Robert Ranieri, contends that there is "nothing wrong" with current negotiations and that meetings with both police and firemen are "progressing nicely", the PBA and the Fire Officers Assn. have declared the negotiations "at an impasse" and have asked for a Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) mediator to intervene.

Hoboken firefighters have announced that they will call an impasse by this morning unless the city responds to their counter proposal to an "unacceptable" city offer made Tuesday night.

The PBA already declared an impasse when it too "unanimously" rejected the city's offer Tuesday.

Yet the PBA is still negotiating with

the city and yesterday presented Ranieri with a counter proposal.

However, PBA president Ernest Brissette says the answer is simple. "If I buy a ticket to fly somewhere, then I'm going to fly and I know my destination. But that doesn't mean that I'm not going to keep in touch with the airline to see if conditions change and the flight is unexpectedly cancelled."

Conditions, judging by union comments, have a long way to improve before the flight to PERC is cancelled. Michael Bavaro, president of the Hoboken firefighters association speaks scornfully of the city's "zero offer" for 1976.

Bavaro said he "resents" the four months it took from the time when the fire contract expired to when Ranieri last week made his offer to firemen.

"We waited all that time to hear him tell us we'd get nothing for this year and a raise that equals \$1.50 a week for the next three years," Bavaro said. Ranieri calls the city's position "fair"

and necessary if the budget is to be protected and the tax rate stabilized.

The city offered firemen zero for this year, but four paid holidays totaling \$200; a 4 per cent base pay increase for 1977 that would give a third-year fireman \$14,524 a year instead of \$13,429; and a four per cent increase for 1978 that would bring firemen from \$12,927 to \$15,070 including cash benefits' longevity.

According to Ranieri, firemen want a two-year contract with 15 per cent for this year and 10 per cent for next year. He dismissed that offer "as impossible," saying the public safety department

budget now totals \$3 million, 25 per cent of Hoboken's budget.

Brissette would not say what the police are asking for. But they rejected the offer of a zero increase for 1976; five per cent for 1977 that would bring three year policemen up from \$11,950 to \$12,550 and a six per cent increase for 1978 that would give them \$13,300 instead of \$12,550.

Both police and fire superiors have filed an unfair labor practice against the city for allegedly "failing to negotiate." Ranieri says he wants to conclude talks with the rank and file before negotiating with superiors.

## Anxiety in Hoboken

Hoboken's board of education has asked the state for a quick decision on its appeal of the \$680,000 reduction in its budget made by the city council.

The taxpayers should be anxious for a quick decision, too. Their taxes will go up almost \$7 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation if the state rules in favor of the appeal and can make its ruling stick.

But that is not all. The budget contains a tremendous "if". It is based on the hope the state will come across with \$2,000,000 in school aid which is not promised and which is unlikely to materialize unless the legislature passes an income tax or some other equivalent revenue measure.

Without the \$2,000,000, Hoboken's tax rate would go up still another \$20—and it is already the highest in the state.

The fate of the \$2,000,000 may not be known for weeks. To lessen the anxiety, at least the question of the \$680,000 should be settled without delay.