

Firemen demand Ranieri apology

The president of the Hoboken Fire Officers Association, William Bergin, today demanded an apology from Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri for calling members of the fire department "carpetbaggers."

"The councilmen forgets quickly the three men who were recently seriously injured fighting a fire on Monroe Street," said Bergin. "Yes, they live out of town, but that didn't make any difference to them when they were fighting the fire. Those men must feel very good knowing that they braved death only to be called a carpetbagger."

Bergin said that those injuries might have been avoided had the fire department been allowed to stay at full strength.

"Councilman Ranieri forgets it was our association who fought him and the mayor all the way to the state Superior Court to try to retain the manpower and fire protection the people of Hoboken deserve," he continued.

"They were willing to allow fire protection to fall to a very unsafe level — but at the same time they saw a need for political plum jobs within the city."

The fire officers have endorsed

First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano and his ticket for mayor and councilman-at-large in the city's upcoming May 10 election. Ranieri said that the endorsement was made in exchange for the promise of a "sweetheart contract" in the future if Romano is elected.

"That would make two sweetheart contracts we have gotten

in a row—at least that's what the mayor said when he met with the officers association on March 28," asserted Bergin. "The mayor told our membership that the councilman (Ranieri) would be subpoenaed to appear before a Grand Jury to explain why he gave us a sweetheart contract this year. Does the mayor have insight into the Prosecutor's office?"

Bergin said that no promises of anything had been made to the association in exchange for its endorsement.

"We are pledged to fight politicians who hide behind the mask of economy while robbing the people of their fire protection, yet who always find the money to create a political plum army within the city," he added.

Hoboken Council will meet on school budget, ballfield bids

Two special meetings of the Hoboken City Council have been called for next week to discuss the 1977-78 school budget with the Board of Education, and accepting bids on the construction of the Little League Field.

The council will meet with the school board Monday at 7 p.m. in the council chambers to go over the school budget, defeated by the voters in last week's school election.

Tuesday, a special meeting has been called by the mayor for 8 p.m. for accepting bids for the Little League field work. It also will be held in the council chambers.

Since the voters rejected the almost \$4.3 million school budget, the council has the right to make amendments and reductions. It made almost \$685,000 in reductions in the 1976-77 school budget last year, which started a lengthy battle with the school board that still hasn't been resolved fully.

If the council makes reductions in the 1977-78 budget the school board is expected to appeal immediately to

state Education Commissioner Fred Burke.

The board already has cut more than \$2 million from the budget, as ordered when the state refused to accept the original proposal because it exceeded the budgetary "cap."

The board is to meet with the Hoboken Teachers Association tonight to discuss the possible dismissal of teachers and other staff members for the 1977-78 school year.

State names Ranieri to rehab expert panel

Council-at-large Robert A. Ranieri of Hoboken has been appointed to the state Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Neighborhood Preservation. It was announced today by Patricia Sheehan, commissioner of the state Department of Community Affairs.

TAC is made up of a group of experts selected on a statewide basis from government, financial institutions and businesses whose responsibility it is to launch a state-wide neighborhood conservation and rehabilitation program.

Ranieri said that a comprehensive approach, as well as funding mechanism, will be developed by the TAC in order to preserve sound neighborhoods and restore others that have started to decline.

The program is scheduled for three years with funding of \$3 million. Hoboken's share for 1977 is \$200,000, the councilman said. The funds will be

administered by the state Division of Housing and Urban Renewal.

"TAC has a six-pronged attack plan," said Ranieri. "The establishment of a revolving fund for rehabilitation loans and grants, key public improvements and services to encourage neighborhood solidarity, housing inspection programs, improved local staff capability for preservation programming, programs designed to attack local problems such as crime, poor education and lack of recreational facilities and administrative support and assistance for neighborhood organizations."

"I consider my appointment recognition by state authorities of the progress Hoboken has already made in these six areas," the councilman continued. "Hoboken is presently considered a state leader in neighborhood preservation."

Make it safe

That \$30,000 bicycle path to be laid out on the pavement of Hoboken's River Road is due to be approved by the City Council despite the consulting engineer's warning that it is impractical because it is unsafe.

The city administration is going all out to secure enough patrons to make the project a success. Bike racks with locking facilities are being provided for commuters who would ride their bikes to Hoboken's PATH terminal and continue on to New York by PATH trains.

Similar facilities are being set up at Stevens Institute, a sort of halfway house along the bike route, with adjacent picnic facilities, to encourage local residents to take their bikes out for recreation.

But nothing has been said about any special measures to insure the safety of the cyclists on this road which is more or less a speedway.

The officials who showed commendable imagination in conceiving this project should be equally imaginative in dealing with the hazards to be faced.

High jobless rate windfall to terminal project

For once, Hoboken is getting some good out of its very high unemployment rate.

Because the city's unemployment rate is over 12 per cent, the U.S. Economic Development Agency (EDA) says that Hoboken is now eligible for up to 80 per cent funding on its \$6 million Erie Lackawanna terminal rehabilitation project instead of 60 per cent.

"Because of the added percentage we can realistically consider expanding the project and do more than we had originally planned," said Kenneth Pai, an official of the city's Community Development Agency (CDA).

Pai said that under the original proposal for the mall-recreation area, the city expected to get approximately \$3.6 million from the EDA and \$1.5 million from the Green Acres program, leaving nearly another \$1 million to be found from other state and federal agencies before the project could go ahead.

"Under the new formula of 80 per cent funding, we can anticipate \$4.8 million from the EDA," he continued. "With the \$1.5 million from Green Acres we have more than we need for the original project. This will allow us to do some extras that weren't originally planned."

Pai said that Hoboken's applications for the funds have been submitted to the EDA for consideration.

Action, not talk

The boss of Hoboken's Traffic and Signal Division has sent warnings to municipal candidates that it is illegal to put campaign posters on city sign posts and utility poles.

That is a waste of time. Take a look around Hoboken and you will find political posters more than 20 years old still defacing city signposts and utility poles.

Hoboken is one of the worst offenders among the 12 Hudson municipalities. Now is a good time for the city administration to show whether it is willing to do something or content to go through the motions.

A few years ago — in Weehawken — a candidate was summoned to the local courts for the illegal display of campaign material. He protested he was law-abiding, but that some of his "over zealous supporters" may have posted his signs.

The judge ordered him to have his supporters take the signs down. They did.

Now, let Hoboken go and do likewise.

Cappiello supporters blamed for vandalism

Two campaign coordinators for Hoboken First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano and his ticket in the May 10 election today blamed workers of Mayor Steve Cappiello for causing extensive damage to their automobiles.

Fred Mezzina and Michael Cauffield, a retired Hoboken policeman, both reported to police that an unknown substance had been poured on their parked cars causing extensive damage to the paint over the weekend.

According to police records, Mezzina's car was parked at 119 Washington St. and Cauffield's around the corner at 106 First St.

Both Mezzina and Cauffield blamed supporters of the mayor but

admitted that they had no evidence to substantiate their claim.

"We don't know who did it but it was no accident or coincidence," said Cauffield. "We believe it was someone backing the mayor who did this. Why was it that only two cars in that area, Mezzina's and mine, got the works and no others? That sounds deliberate to me."

Cappiello said he had been advised of the incident by the police department and was "shocked" to learn of it.

"I hope it was nothing more than a simple case of vandalism because I would be very troubled to learn that anyone involved in the current political campaign on either side would stoop to something that low," the mayor said.

Romano proposes dog walk

Hoboken Deputy Public Works Director Carmen Cuttito and First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano planned to look at Stevens Park, Fourth and Hudson streets, today, to see whether there is an area that can be set aside for the use of residents with dogs.

"The way the park is laid out, with areas separated with walkways, makes it ideal for setting aside a section for the use of residents with dogs," said Romano. "The trick is to find the section that is best suited for this purpose."

Romano said that he thought one of the plots along the Fourth Street side of the park, across from the John J. Grogan Marineview Plaza apartments, would be best.

"This area would be fenced in

with a gate so residents could get in and out with their pets," he continued. "The city will accept responsibility for cleaning the area. But the dog owners will have to accept the responsibility of using that area and that area alone for the purpose of walking their pets."

Romano said that the dog run would be a pilot or test program.

"If it works out, possibly the city could find other areas in the city that can be used for the same purpose," he added.

The councilman said that if he can convince Cuttito of the merits of his plan, he will propose it to the rest of the City Council.

Hoboken set for seminar

Hoboken will act as host for the regional U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) seminar on housing Wednesday through Friday, according to Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello.

The conference, which will focus on Hoboken's accomplishments in housing rehabilitation and how other cities may benefit from their experience, will be held at Stevens Institute. A tour of rehabilitated housing sites will be included.

"Selection of Hoboken as the host city is a tribute—and recognition—for our innovative approach to housing rehabilitation," said Mayor Cappiello.

Hoboken Library lists titles

A total of 449 new books were purchased by the Hoboken Public Library during March, Lucille Cunningham, director, said today. Many of the new volumes have been delivered and are now available to the public.

Some of the new books include:

Majesty: Elizabeth II and the House of Windsor by Robert Lacey; The Looking Glass: Twelve Modern Short Stories by William S. Burroughs; Dean and Mary Stork: Seek for England: An Old History of England, 1600-1675, by Melville; Selected Letters of William Faulkner, edited by Joseph Blotner; Ten-episode Alchemist by Jim Hawkins; How to Save Your Own Life: A Novel by Eric J. Falcov; A Place to Come To: A novel by Robert Penn Warren; Souleuvre: Prince of Castles: Biography by Alex de Jonge; Secrets, Spies, and Scandals: Blueprints of the Essential CIA by Roy S. Cine; The John McPhee Reader, edited by William L. Brooke; How to Cut Your Energy Costs by David Davenport; Card Nicking: Oliver's Story: A Novel by Erich Segal; Return to Thales: A novel by Allen Drury; Lancelot: A Novel by Walter Ferey; and Change by Liv Ullmann.

Also, Lords of the Land: The Triumphs and Scandals of America's Real Estate Barons from Early Times to the Present by Daniel J. Thomas; History of Western Music by Christopher Reynolds; The Secret of the Heart: A memoir by Elizabeth Borton de Trevino; The Rich Are Different: A novel by Susan Howatch; A Death in Canaan: A novel by Joan Barfield; Twilight of the City: A novel of the Near Future by Charles Platt; Wanted: The Secret for Nazis in America; Howard Blum; The Economic Cost of Alcohol Abuse by Robert E. Berry and James P. Boland; Mental Communication and Decision Making: Analysis, Assessment and Change by Edwin J. Thomas; The Coming of Post-Industrial Society: A Venture in Social Forecasting by Daniel Bell; Sociology: An Introductory Text by Robert Nisbet; The Slow Awakening: A novel by Catherine Merchant; It's Hard to Leave the Music's Playing: A novel by Irving S. Cooper; The Unkindness: Cut: Life in the Backrooms of Medicine by Melvin Milman; Rorschach Responses in Old Age by Louise Bette Ames; A Book of Common Prayer: A novel by Joan Didion; Adam's Eden: A novel by Faith Baldwin; and The Uncollected Writings of David A. Josen.

Hoboken library features puppets

The Hoboken Public Library has scheduled the following children's programs for the week starting Sunday in conjunction with the observance of National Library Week:

- Fairy tale filmstrips and stories for pre-schoolers on Monday (April 18) at 10 a.m. and American Indian storytelling at 3 p.m. at the library.
- A 3 p.m. puppet show on Tuesday.
- A 10 a.m. puppet show for pre-schoolers and European folktales at 3 p.m. on Wednesday.
- A 3 p.m. puppet show on Thursday.
- Animal filmstrips and stories for pre-schoolers at 10 a.m. and African folktales at 3 p.m. on Friday.
- A 10 a.m. story hour on Saturday.

Books from the Children's Book Council showcase will be on display during the week as well.

The library's reference department will show an exhibit, "The Pageant of a Nation," by J. L. G. Ferris, a painter of American historical scenes.

The adult department will display books, prints, posters, parchments, music and bookmarks dealing with the theme of American heritage.

Save Camp Tamaqua

Camp Tamaqua is a fine summer camp at Bear Mountain which has been enjoyed by thousands of boys and girls from Hoboken and North Hudson for almost 50 years. This summer it may not open, because the public funds appropriated for it in recent years have dried up.

The \$60,000 needed to operate Tamaqua, or at least a sum approaching that amount, must be committed or the camp will lose its lease, probably permanently.

It is true that \$60,000 is a lot of money, especially in these days when all budgets have to be slashed. But in choosing where to appropriate funds, the value of the expenditure should be the determining factor. No one questions that Camp Tamaqua has done a tremendous amount of good for many children, and that the society in which they live has benefited from this.

The school boards, the anti-poverty organizations, the state — if any of these agencies can apply some of their funds to finance Tamaqua, it will be a socially valuable use of the money.

Hoboken ballot drawing questioned

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello has the top spot on the ballot — A1 — for his re-election bid in the city's May 10 municipal election. But the mayor's main opponent, First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano who got the A3 spot, may seek to have the drawing done over again.

"There were irregularities in the cards which gave the mayor a distinct advantage," asserted Romano. "I am taking the matter up with my attorney to see what course of action is open to me for another drawing."

According to Romano, the small

typewritten cards used to select the ballot positions for mayor used the middle initials of himself and Vincent Murtha, another mayoral candidate who got the A5 spot. The period after the initial was typed heavily so that it went through the card causing a blip on the blank side of the card that was obvious to the touch. The mayor's card had no middle initial and no blip.

Romano and Cappiello examined the cards before they were placed in the drawing box by City Clerk Anthony J. Amoroso. Murtha did not examine the cards. No irregularities were found, at least not at that time.

Maxwell House cleared by EPA in sewage leak

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has decided that the Maxwell House Coffee plant in Hoboken is not violating the Federal Water Pollution Control Act in connection with a sewer line in the northern section of the city that is discharging untreated waste into the Hudson River.

Region II of the EPA, located in Manhattan, has notified the company, a Division of the General Foods Corp., and the City of Hoboken, that after reviewing all of the information concerning the discharge the EPA found that Maxwell House was discharging its sewage directly into the city's sewerage system and it was not discharging untreated waste into the Hudson.

The sewer line was discovered last June by the city and reported to

the state Department of Environmental Protection and the EPA.

Numerous tests were performed to determine the origin of the discharge but it wasn't until almost six months later that the state decided that the chemical content of the waste matched the content of waste from the coffee plant. Based on that determination the state said Maxwell House and Hoboken were violating the pollution control act.

Hoboken officials accepted full responsibility for the discharge and said their examination of the area showed that the discharge from the plant was going into the city's sewers. If there was a break in any sewerage lines from which the sewage could seep, the problem was the city's, not the coffee plant's.

But it was when the city clerk allowed the councilman-at-large candidates to examine the cards that it was noticed that the periods for the middle initials of the candidates perforated the cards. Anthony Russo, a candidate on Romano's ticket pointed it out to the clerk and new cards were hand written and placed in the box. It was then that Romano asked to see the cards that were used to draw positions for mayor and noticed that the card with Cappiello's name on it had no perforation.

Thomas Kennedy, a candidate on the mayor's ticket said that only Romano had held the cards after the positions had been drawn, implying that the councilman may have switched them. Romano denied it, saying he didn't have the opportunity with more than 50 people in the audience watching him.

Murtha, following the drawing, asked Amoroso twice to be allowed to examine the cards and twice the clerk refused him, saying that the law

ed that the candidates had the opportunity to check them "before the drawing."

The top spot for the councilman-at-large candidates went to Vito Lanzo, B1. The next position, B3, went to Thomas R. Cerbo. Romano's running-mate — Councilman-at-large Francis X. Leahy, Frank Duroy Jr. and Russo — got B5, 6 and 7, and the mayor's candidates got the bottom positions, B9, 10 and 11.

Both Bier and Vitale asserted that their firings are "Politically motivated" because they are supporting First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano and his ticket in the city's May 10 municipal election for mayor and three councilmen-at-large.

Vitale to defend his job

Hoboken Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale, whose dismissal by Mayor Steve Cappiello goes into effect next week, gets his chance to be heard before the mayor today.

Vitale was scheduled to appear with his attorney, Bernard Glick, this morning before the mayor and tell why he should remain on the job.

The director was served with notice on April 4 that his employment is being terminated because he "no longer serves at the mayor's pleasure. The city council can veto

the mayor's action.

Two thirds of the council — six members — must vote to override and to do that a special council meeting must be called. Vitale is out of a job Tuesday and the next regular council meeting is Wednesday. However, it is reported that Vitale has only five council members who would vote to override the mayor and a special council meeting is not expected to be called.

As in the previous dismissal of Business Administrator Herman

Bier, the mayor has not publicly stated any reasons for the firings. Cappiello has stated that he has "cause" for the dismissals but has to date declined to reveal what they might be.

Both Bier and Vitale asserted that their firings are "Politically motivated" because they are supporting First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano and his ticket in the city's May 10 municipal election for mayor and three councilmen-at-large.

Square dancing proposed

Thomas Kennedy, a candidate for councilman-at-large in Hoboken on Mayor Steve Cappiello's ticket, today proposed the addition of square dancing to the city's recreation and cultural arts programs.

Kennedy, a policeman and former star athlete, said the dances would be of special benefit to the city's senior

citizens by coaxing them out of the isolation of their apartments and into the community rooms for a little fun.

The candidate also proposed the installation of bocci courts in all the city's parks. "It's a game that old timers particularly love, but anyone who takes the time to learn the game enjoys it," he added.

School board, council to meet again on budget

The Hoboken City Council and school board will meet again soon — possibly today — in another attempt to reach an agreement on reducing the school budget.

Members of each body met at City Hall last night but little progress was made. Suggestions for reductions in several areas were made by the council with the recommendation that the school panel look the ideas over and give its opinion at the next meeting.

Because the voters rejected the school budget in the March 29 election, state law requires that the fiscal package be turned over to the City Council for adjustment to a figure it believes is more acceptable to the community.

Councilman Robert Ranieri

suggested that the \$4.2 million in the budget which is to be raised by local taxation, can be lowered by cutting back on administration salaries and other operational expenses.

"We on the council say there seem to be areas where a tightening up can take place," said Ranieri. "We offer these items as suggestions. We are open to discussion."

One other difference of opinion surfaced during last night's session. Council President Martin Brennan said he believed the council has 30 days after it receives the budget to make changes. This would give the panel until the end of the month.

However, school board attorney Robert Taylor said the time limit is only 15 days and said he would document the law.

Hoboken's tax rate may hit 10-year low

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello today predicted a tax rate decrease for local property owners of at least \$4 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, adding that the decrease could go as high as \$6 and put the city's tax rate at under \$100 for the first time in almost 10 years.

"The additional \$445,000 in state railroad aid assures us of a decrease of at least \$4," said the mayor. "And if we use that money wisely we may be able to stretch the reduction to \$6,

putting Hoboken's tax rate at under \$100 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation."

"I'm striving for that. I don't think there is anything I'd like to see more than a tax rate of less than \$100. We've managed to keep the tax rate, high as it is, stable for the last four years. But economics made substantial reductions in the rate impossible."

Hoboken had been scheduled to get only \$404,019 in state railroad aid for 1977. But last Thursday, the Joint Appropriations Committee in Trenton announced that it had reversed its original decision and would provide aid for fiscal 1977 in the same amount as fiscal 1976. The fiscal year starts July 1.

For Hoboken, that means an additional \$445,000.

"We fought for the extra money," said the mayor. "The reduction was based on the claim of the railroads that they weren't using a lot of area for railroad purposes. But we proved that much of the area was still being used."

The mayor credited Herbert Fine, the city's special tax attorney, and Woodrow Monte, president of the city's board of assessors, with proving to the state that the area was still being used.

Vitale Submits formal request for hearing 4/12/77

Hoboken Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale, who has been notified by Mayor Steve Cappiello that he is being fired, has formally requested an opportunity to be heard before his dismissal goes into effect, it was learned today.

Mayor Cappiello confirmed that he has received a letter from Bernard Glick, Vitale's attorney, asking for the hearing. The mayor said that he will discuss the matter with the city's Law Department before setting a time and date.

A similar letter was sent by Glick in Vitale's behalf to the city council asking for an opportunity for a hearing. However, the council does not formally hear city employees facing discharge. It might allow Glick or Vitale to address the council but it can take no action on the matter unless the council decides that it wants

to veto the mayor's dismissal. In that case, a resolution to override must be introduced and passed by at least six of the councilmen.

Glick also represents former Business Administrator Herman Bier, who was also fired by the mayor. Both claim they've been dismissed for supporting the mayor's political opponents.

Mayor Cappiello has said he has "cause" which will be disclosed at the proper time.

Let visitors see city gleam asks Cappiello 4/12/77

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello today appealed to all city residents to exert additional effort to keep the city clean the next four days during a National League of Mayors conference on housing and urban problems which Hoboken is hosting.

"There will be many officials from all over the country coming into Hoboken during the next four days," said the mayor. "We don't want to create a bad impression with a dirty city so it is imperative that every resident exert a little extra effort to keep the city clean."

"Normally, the city is passable,

not good," he continued. "That isn't going to make a good impression."

The mayor said that he has ordered the city's street cleaners to do a better than average or routine job the next few days.

"I have even instructed the supervisors to put some men on overtime so that they can keep after the problem while the conference is going on," he said. "But we need the help of our residents if the city is going to be presentable."

The conference starts tomorrow and ends Friday. It is being held at Stevens Institute of Technology. The mayor will make the opening address.

Park will get dog run 4/12/77

Hoboken dog lovers may get the first dog run for their pets a lot sooner than expected.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said today that the city is building one now in Church Square Park as part of the overall rehabilitation of the park under the Green Acres program. Councilman Anthony H. Romano had proposed such a run for Stevens Park.

"If the councilman had paid attention to his duties on the council he would be aware of this fact," said Cappiello. "The dog run was part of the original proposal for the rehabilitation of the park which the council approved almost a year ago."

Romano said he didn't remember whether the dog run was part of the Church Square Park proposal but even if it was the problem with dogs was in Stevens and Elysian Parks, not Church Square.

"I can't remember every part of every proposal that comes before the council, nor can the mayor without continuous briefings from his aides," Romano said. "My proposal for Stevens Park was in response to an immediate need expressed by residents of that area with dogs, and by the parents of youngsters who use that park—not Church Square Park."

Mayor Cappiello said that based

on how well the dog run in Church Square Park worked out, the city would decide if other runs should be established in the city's other parks.

Meanwhile, it was learned that part of the original proposal for the rehabilitation of two city parks—Church Square and the Madison Street playground—and the creation of a mini-park at the new Multi-Service Center has been scrapped.

The mayor said that the playground would not be rehabilitated because funds would not permit it. Cappiello said that the Green Acres funds received from the state would not cover all of the work that was planned.

Eye Ranieri for job 4/14/77

WASHINGTON — Hoboken City Councilman Robert Ranieri is being considered for a position with the federal Health, Education and Welfare department, the councilman has disclosed.

Ranieri said he received a letter from HEW Secretary Joseph A. Califano last February asking him to submit a resume to the department. The councilman said he does not know what post he is being considered for.

Ranieri, who is running for re-election on Mayor Steve Cappiello's ticket, said he "would be ready to leave Hoboken if there was a meaningful position of responsibility" at HEW for him.

Ranieri, who runs a furniture business in Hoboken, has visited Washington on previous occasions as Hoboken's representative to the national League of Cities.

A clean face 4/16/77

It was thoughtful of Hoboken's Mayor Steve Cappiello to request that city residents exert a special effort to keep the streets clean while the U.S. Conference of Mayors is visiting the city.

And it was considerate of the city's residents to respond so well to the mayor's request.

Wednesday, Thursday and yesterday the mayors from all over the nation traveled through clean streets to attend their business sessions at Stevens Institute.

Now that Hoboken residents showed they can keep the streets clean for visiting mayors, how about showing they can keep the streets clean for themselves?

Young Dems to fete Cappiello ticket 4/16/77

The Hoboken Young Democrats will host a hot dog and beer rally tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. for Mayor Steve Cappiello and his running mates in the upcoming May election, James Farina, president, said today.

The event will be held in the clubrooms, 600 Madison St. Jude Fitzgibbons is chairman.

Carter aide calls Hoboken 'model' in housing gains 4/14/77

By William Taft

Hoboken "has been very impressive, very much a model, in showing what can be done in housing," an official of the Carter administration told a housing seminar held by the U.S. Conference of Mayors yesterday at Stevens Institute, Hoboken.

Robert C. Embry, newly named assistant secretary for community planning and development in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), said "no city has done more for its housing stock than Hoboken in the last few years."

Embry said the Carter ad-

ministration has put before Congress a legislative package calling for \$1.5 billion in redevelopment aid to distressed cities (such as Hoboken) over three years.

This "action program," he continued, is aimed at improving not only housing but also "jobs and the tax base," which are essential, as in the case of Hoboken, with an unemployment rate, he said, of "14 to 16 per cent."

Embry's remarks were intended to brief the visiting mayors and city planners on President Carter's housing program.

Asked by a member of the audience whether the federal money would be available to keep factories from moving away from a city,

Embry said it would, provided the firm additionally put up some funds of its own toward expanding or relocating within the city.

The federal funds could be used to help commercial and industrial enterprises in cities with high unemployment, he said, but only if the city has a comprehensive planning program. The funds would not go to suburban communities to build industrial parks to attract industries, he added.

In applying for the funds for any redevelopment project, Embry said, the request must be "realistic." That is, he explained, the city should not seek, for example, \$3 million and then come back later and ask for \$3 million more because the cost was initially understated.

Embry said earlier redevelopment projects (the outstanding one in Hoboken is the Grogan Marine View Plaza), were arranged so that a city got federal money for clearing a site but no commitment for construction, with the result that cleared tracts often remained idle indefinitely because private money to build on them was not available.

That won't be repeated, he said, under the Carter plan.

Mayor Steve Cappiello, host to the conference, took Embry on a tour of Hoboken housing developments before the Stevens session, concentrating on a successful rehabilitation project completed by Applied Housing Inc. on 12th Street.

Cappiello told the gathering that Hoboken's outstanding success in its housing program was "the productive result of a public-private partnership, working for, at the service of, the people."

Joseph Barry, an officer of Applied Housing, told the audience of the successful efforts of his company to rehabilitate more than 1,000 housing units in the city.

Candidates' open house 4/16/77

An open house to give citizens a chance to meet Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello and his main opponent in the upcoming municipal election, First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano, will be held Wednesday. The open house will be hosted by Mrs. Pam Brennan of the 1100 Garden St. Block Association in her home at 1112 Garden St., starting at 8 p.m. All neighborhood residents are invited.

Hispanics back Romano 4/16/77

The Hispanic Democrats of Hudson County today endorsed Councilman Anthony Romano for mayor of Hoboken. It also approved his three council running mates, incumbent Francis Leahy, Frank Duroy and Anthony Russo. George Guzman of Hoboken, president, said Romano has already committed himself to the Hispanic community by "selecting one of our own, Duroy," to serve as a candidate on his ticket.

Vitale will not appeal to overturn his dismissal 4/15/77

Raphael P. Vitale, soon to be Hoboken's former Public Works Director, said today he will not appeal to the courts in an attempt to overturn his dismissal by Mayor Steve Cappiello.

Vitale, who was given an opportunity to appear before the mayor Wednesday and state why he shouldn't be fired, said there wasn't any purpose in taking the matter to court.

"I might be able to prove a point but the time involved might make it a short-lived victory," the director said. "It takes time for an appeal to be filed and heard. And the fact remains that should the mayor be re-elected in May he will not reappoint me Public Works Director."

Vitale explained that all of the city's directors come up for reappointment or replacement in July after the winner of the May election is sworn in.

"Even if I went to court and won I'd be out of a job in July if the mayor is re-elected," asserted Vitale.

"There is no question of the mayor's, any mayor's, right to select his own directors or get rid of one and appoint a new one."

The mayor also has fired Business Administrator Herman Bier. Bier could not be reached for comment on whether he plans to appeal. However, Vitale, who used the service of the same attorney, Bernard Glick, said he didn't think Bier would go to court for the same reasons he had stated.

Bier's employment with the city ended last week. Vitale's ends Tuesday.

Cappiello calls renewal best in U.S. 4/13/77

Hoboken has rehabilitated more than 20 per cent of its housing units, giving it "the best record of this kind in the nation."

That was the claim of Mayor Steve Cappiello in a talk prepared for delivery today at a seminar on housing held by the U.S. Conference of Mayors at Stevens Institute of Technology.

"We have vividly demonstrated the results of a productive public-private partnership, working for, and at the service of, the people, in reviving an urban area," Cappiello told the visiting mayors.

Another scheduled speaker was Robert C. Embry, newly named assistant secretary for community planning and development of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD).

Cappiello's keynote address was titled: "Housing: Putting It Up or Putting Up With It."

The selection of Hoboken as the

host city, the mayor said, "is a tribute to, and recognition of, our innovative approach to housing rehabilitation."

A highlight of the three-day conference will be a bus "Tour of Hoboken Housing Initiative" Friday from 9 to 11 a.m.

Cappiello will brief the visiting officials on apartment rehabilitation, brownstone home renovation by individual owners through the city's home improvement loan project, factory-to-apartment conversion, and tenement house rehabilitation.

"We, the mayors, are all in the same position, striving to make our cities work — work better," Cappiello commented. "In Hoboken we have made marked improvements, rehabilitating more than 20 per cent of our total housing stock."

He continued:

"It is a record which has made Hoboken and its people proud. The Hoboken experience is a model of urban rehabilitation which should be

packaged by the Federal government — and exported to other American cities.

"If it (urban rehab) can work in Hoboken, it can be made to work elsewhere."

Cappiello ascribed Hoboken's turnaround to "a public-private partnership committed to the preservation of our neighborhoods and the way of life of the people who live there."

"It's a new approach and yet it is as old as the Republic itself, government and business working together at the service of the people."

"Like so many cities we were down for the count. But we have come off the canvas, punching — and punching hard. We are America's urban contender. We are America's comeback town."

Cappiello offered the following

"visible accomplishments since 1972: 754 new units constructed."

• 1,200 apartment units completely rehabilitated and thoroughly modernized.

• An old decaying factory building is now a modern 173-unit apartment complex for low and middle income families.

• 500 homeowners have taken out special home improvement loans for improvements up to \$20,000 per building.

• A \$1.9 million multi-service center which allows centralized social services to anyone in the community who needs them.

• \$10 million is being spent to replace Hoboken's antiquated water system.

Cappiello, in asking his fellow mayors to walk Hoboken's streets, said:

"Too often in the name of public-private partnership, neighborhoods have been destroyed to put up a civic center or a 58-story hotel."

"Too often in the name of public-private partnership, neighborhoods have been blown away like the dust after the wrecking ball."

"Too often in the name of public-private partnership family roots have been torn up, losing forever the precious sense of heritage and traditions."

"This is not a program which has cleared out the working people to bring in rich sports arenas and parking lots."

"It is a program that serves the people who already live here."

First woman may be named as Hoboken cop 4/13/77

Mayor Steve Cappiello of Hoboken today announced he has asked Civil Service to certify for a city list of men eligible for appointment to the police and fire departments — and one's a woman.

"I haven't determined just how many will be appointed to either department," said the mayor, "but appointments will be made, and hopefully all will be Hoboken residents."

Under the state Civil Service regulations and laws municipalities have the right to give local residents first crack at job openings, something Cappiello has been in favor of for many years.

With the certification of persons eligible for appointment to the police department may come to name of the first woman candidate for patrolman — Pamela Roland.

Chief George W. Crimmins said

Ms. Roland was fairly close to the top of the list and her name would probably be among those certified by Civil Service.

The mayor said he would make the appointments as the names of the candidates appeared on the list. If Ms. Roland's name came up, she'd be appointed.

But Ms. Roland is doubtful she'll accept appointment if it's offered.

"I'm undecided," she said. "I think there is a place for women in police work but I don't know if I want to be the first. There are many aspects of the job that appeal to me, but wearing a uniform isn't one of them."

Ms. Roland is employed by the city's Community Development Agency. She has a degree in sociology and has worked with the police Community Relations Bureau for several years before taking her current position.

School board fears 27 teacher layoffs 4/15/77

The Hoboken City Council has pared about \$80,000 from the Board of Education's \$12.3 million budget for 1977-78, but that isn't what's worrying the school trustees.

What they're concerned about, according to board president Mary Gaspar, is whether to implement the recommendation of Thomas F. McFeely, superintendent of schools, to lay off "25 to 27" teachers and eliminate certain unspecified "programs" should the trustees fail

to get \$552,000 the state has ordered restored to the 1976-77 budget.

Mrs. Gaspar said she'll probably call a personnel meeting of the board late next week when Jack Raslowsky, finance chairman, is due back from vacation to discuss what options, if any, are open.

The board has 20 days to decide what to do about the \$59,500 cut from its budget last night at a special session of the City Council. But, the trustees are obliged to alert teachers about dismissals by April 30, Mrs. Gaspar said.

About \$400,000 of the more than half-a-million dollars originally cut from the budget was allocated for teachers' salaries, according to Mrs. Gaspar. Applying that deficit to the fact that a starting teacher earns around \$11,000 a year, as many as 36 teachers could be let go. But Mrs. Gaspar says that if programs are cut, the board could "tap" supervisors making in the \$20,000-a-year range.

"I'd be inclined to vote against that, though," she said. "It would be nice if the city gave us that \$400,000 in federal revenue sharing funds it just fell into," she added.

For Councilman-at-large Francis X. Leahy, even the mention of supervisors employed by the board bothers him. Leahy wanted more than \$25,000 removed from the salaries and wages section of the administration portion of the budget — the biggest single slice made by the council. (The next was \$15,000 in salaries taken from operations.)

"Why is there a need for 11 supervisors whose pay ranges from \$21,300 to \$25,430 (a year) for a total of about \$244,300 to cover eight schools?" Leahy wondered aloud last night.

But council president Martin J. Brennan said: "We don't have the power to cut supervisors. We can't tell the Board of Education where to assign people — we can only cut money."

That assertion was backed up by City Comptroller John Erbeck who volunteered, "You can only delete money — not personnel. That's the business of the superintendent of schools."

"The ironic part of the whole thing," Erbeck explained, "is that the people who pay the taxation for the schools have no say over their operation."

When Leahy continued to press for explanations of certain budget items, such as \$38,000 allotted for a teacher and coordinator for a "governor's career" program, Erbeck reminded the councilman, "The place to bring that up is at budget hearings and all you get are evasive answers."

Recounts set for elections next month 4/17/77 J.J.

Although it's a little too early to know the results of the Jersey City and Hoboken May 10 municipal elections, a court has ordered recounts.

Superior Court Judge Thomas S. O'Brien authorized recounts May 16 on the application of Joseph T. Brady, Hudson's superintendent of elections and registration commission, so the county will have enough voting machines for the June 7 primary election.

As previously predicted, Brady, on the advice of state Atty. Gen. William F. Hyland's office, made the move yesterday. In his petition to the court, Brady said the county owns 530 voting machines, at least 200 will be used in the Jersey City and Hoboken elections and at least 430 will be needed for the primary.

If he waited after the May 10 municipal elections for the usual 15-day period before clearing the machines, he would not have enough time or machines.

Investment 4/23/77

The resodding of Hoboken's Little League Field no doubt will be done properly this time because the work is to be directed by a professional horticulturist.

But the new sod can quickly be messed up again if it is not carefully guarded until the roots take hold. Even after the field is officially opened, the sod can be ruined if someone does not guard against improper use.

Considering the importance of the field, the \$20,900 allocated for the resodding should be money well spent. It will not be if city officials fail to give it close attention all year around.



Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello, left, welcomes Robert C. Embry, an official of the Carter administration, to housing seminar being conducted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors at Stevens Institute.

HUD collecting Hoboken debt

Four years, bundles of correspondence and one audit later, Hoboken is coming to terms with the federal government on a \$280,000 debt over nearly \$80,000 in "disallowed costs" related to the phased-out Code Enforcement Project (CEP).

It all boils down to allegations by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) that three CEP inspectors performed work "outside the project area" and that portions of their salaries paid by HUD should be returned.

HUD has told Hoboken that until the federal agency gets the money

back, the city won't get a final federal payment of \$280,000 on HUD's Phase I city water improvement project, already finished.

The Hoboken city council is preparing what will be, in effect, a paper transaction by resolution for tomorrow's meeting, whereby the disputed amount, \$58,133.59, will be deducted from the \$280,000 owed the city on the water line project and the city will settle for the balance.

Action by the council is being triggered now by HUD's release of a just-completed audit of the CEP program between 1971 and 1973, when, HUD alleges, discrepancies with program guidelines were noted.

Martin J. Brennan, council president, said he knew an audit of the CEP payroll was "in process" all along, but he said he never knew why it was being conducted until the audit arrived.

Letters detailing the reason have been exchanged between Mayor Steve Cappiello and HUD area officials and are available for inspection in the city clerk's office. But Brennan said he relies on the mayor to supply him with the information.

"He doesn't always tell me everything that's going on," said Brennan.

In other developments at last night's council caucus:

• Brennan urged Community Development Agency (CDA) planners to take another look at the proposed city bicycle path. He said residents of 11th Street are "scared" about bike riders pedaling down their "narrow" block. "Have (the route) cut off by Maxwell House as originally planned," he advised.

• Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri said he was concerned about the installation of 10 "Mueller" fire hydrants by the Spiniello Construction Co., the contractor hired to do Phase II of the city's water improvement project. Noting that none of the 400 hydrants around the city was of the Mueller make, Ranieri said the city doesn't have the equipment needed to repair that type of hydrant. Ranieri said Spiniello should either switch to the ones now in use or the city should "modify" its contract. Ranieri was uncertain, however, what the specifications called for. Brennan said it might be "cheaper" for the city to buy the repair equipment. "We're stuck with 10 (hydrants) now," he said.

Hoboken trying again on landlord ordinance

An ordinance which would require many Hoboken landlords to obtain certificates of occupancy before renting out vacant apartments will be introduced at tomorrow's city council meeting.

The ordinance is patterned after one that was introduced last year but withdrawn after it was questioned whether the city would be able to enforce it.

According to a spokesman for the city's law department, a number of changes have been made in the new measure which should allow proper enforcement.

"We've changed the exemptions, broadening that area," he said. "All owner-occupied buildings with four or less dwelling units are exempt. And all buildings that are financed and inspected by the U.S. Department of

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or the state Housing Finance Agency (HFA) are also exempt."

The fine for failure to get a certificate is \$50 plus \$50 a day for each day that the landlord doesn't act to obtain the document, the spokesman added. There is also a provision for fine and a jail sentence of up to 90 days at the discretion of the judge.

The purpose of the new law is to insure that dwelling units meet the city's minimum housing code before they are rented to tenants. However, it also protects the property owners by giving them a valid document proving that their apartment met the code at the time of inspection. The document can be referred to by landlords in situations dealing with destructive tenants.

'Missing' Hoboken \$8,000 may be only few hundred

Mayor Steve Cappiello's probe into \$8,000 in bills he said were missing from the Public Works Department may turn out to be much ado about nothing.

According to Milton Topel, owner of the store the city is supposed to owe the money to, the city is all paid up except for a few hundred dollars.

The mayor announced yesterday he was looking into some \$8,000 in bills the city was supposed to owe City Paint and Hardware because the bills had disappeared from the Public Works Department files.

According to the mayor, it was Topel who told him the city owed City Paint the \$8,000. Topel denies it.

The mayor was not available for comment.

Meanwhile, it was learned that the Public Safety Department, of which the mayor is director, may come in for some probing of its own.

First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano said he will take up with the state Division of Local Government the possibility that the mayor and other public safety department officials violated state law by continuing to buy supplies and materials for the department after funds budgeted for that purpose had been exhausted.

"It has been brought to my attention that funds budgeted for expenses in the public safety department ran out in July of 1976," he said. "At that time the mayor was notified that the accounts no longer had any balances and no further purchases could be made without a transfer of funds. However, transfers can't be made until November. In effect that meant that no purchases could legally be made until November. However, that was not the case and the mayor or those under him continued to purchase equipment and supplies for the department."

Romano is a candidate for mayor against Cappiello in May. When asked if his probe of the mayor's department and affairs might not be politically motivated the councilman replied, "My intentions are just as honorable as the mayor's."

First ball game was in Hoboken

The world's first organized baseball game was played on June 19, 1846 at Elysian Fields in Hoboken. The Knickerbocker Giants contested the New York team in the first match. It is generally conceded that until that time the game was not seriously regarded.

Hoboken to present school goals

Hoboken residents will have an opportunity Monday night to hear an outline of the goals proposed for the state-mandated Thorough and Efficient Education program for the city's schools and to express their views.

Thomas F. McFeely, superintendent of schools, said a public meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Hoboken High School, Ninth and Clinton streets at which the goals developed by a citywide committee over the past three months will be discussed.

The five-year plan to keep educational planning in step with the changing needs of public school students embraces all grades from kindergarten to the last year of high school.

The program outlines what students should achieve at various levels during the five years and what steps will be taken by the schools to reach the goals that are set. Each phase covers one school year for planning and implementation. At the end of the five-year period another set of goals must be drawn, according to the state mandate.

After Monday's public hearing, the views and opinions of the public will be studied and the goals eventually will be presented to the Board of Education for formal adoption. The Goal Development Committee, composed of parents, students, business leaders, church and community groups

and teachers and administrators have been meeting regularly to consider the needs of the school system and to draft the goals that should be attained.

James Lucey, of the Maxwell House Division of General Foods, has been chairman of the group and the Rev. Juniper Alwell has been co-chairman. Dominick Casulli serves as secretary. John Sepp, the school system's coordinator for T and E, has been working with the committee and with Otto Hottendorf, a board of education member who has been a consultant.

Residents serving on the committee are Frank Bucino, Dr. Thomas Glatt, Helen Manogue, Mary Lemanowicz, Margaret Flores, Alice Genese, Cecil Vincent, Alice Perez, Mary Forero, Carmen Burgos, Mary Pareta and Zolla Diaz.

Teacher representatives are Joseph Damato, Kenneth Turso, Ann Stevens, Alice Galman, Kathleen Temple, Ann Accetta, James McGavin and Edward Winslow. Three administrators, Principal Walter Fine of the high school, Principal Patrick Capone of Leikau School and Vice Principal Dorothy Ziegler of Demarest Junior High School, are also serving as are six students, Joel Jermakian, Ruth Gehler, LaDonna Miller, Joseph Haas, Virginia Casazza and Michael Cahill.

Vitale loses last chance to regain job

Former Hoboken Public Works Director Raphael Vitale has failed in a last chance bid to regain his job.

Vitale's supporters on the city council were unsuccessful in mustering a two-thirds majority vote last night to overturn his firing by Mayor Steve Cappiello.

Of the eight councilmen at the meeting, four were in favor of retaining the former director and four were against. Favoring Vitale were Francis Leahy, Anthony Romano, Louis Francione and Nunzio Malfetti, while opposing him were Council President Martin Brennan, Salvatore Cerelli, Robert Ranieri and Bernard Scrivani. Walter Cramer was absent.

Vitale was fired by Cappiello when he announced his support of Romano's bid to unseat the mayor in the May 10 election. Under the law a director serves at the pleasure of the mayor and can be terminated at any time although he is entitled to a hearing on the matter and the firing can be overturned by a two thirds vote of the city council.

Vitale sat in the first row of the crowded council chamber at city hall last night but did not speak. The firing was loudly denounced by Francione and Romano, who declared he was sorry that Vitale, rather than himself, should be hurt.

29 Hoboken teachers on McFeely firing list

The Hoboken superintendent of schools has a list of 29 teachers he's asking the Board of Education to lay off, but the school trustees first want to talk things over with the teachers union — probably tomorrow at a private meeting.

Thomas F. McFeely, the superintendent, told board members last night that he has the names of 29 instructors he's reluctantly advising be removed from the payroll because the board apparently won't have the money to pay them.

By its contract with the Hoboken Teachers Association (HTA), the board must notify any teachers of

pending dismissals by April 30. Mary Gaspar, board president, said she'll probably call a special public meeting for April 28, when the trustees will vote on layoffs.

But at least one trustee, Michael (Spike) Costello, is vehemently opposed to the move.

"I'll vote 'no' on laying off anybody," insists Costello. "Just can't see that — I can't see taking the bread and butter off peoples' tables. We have to be real desperate to do that."

"We'll just have to cut back other ways. I'm 1,000 per cent for cutting the adult education program, for example, which, I think, is budgeted for about \$180,000."

"And if we do cut that, we don't sacrifice anybody's job because the program director would get shifted back to supervisory duties, although the teachers (who have regular daytime classes) would lose the extra money they get in this program."

Another option says Costello, is persuading the HTA to accept a splitting of a one-year 8 per cent pay raise over two years.

Cappiello is offering reward to discourage political threats

Declaring that the Hoboken political campaign has become "a campaign of fear," Mayor Steve Cappiello today offered a \$500 reward for the arrest and conviction of anyone found guilty of threatening other residents if they don't remove political signs or change political sides.

"And this offer goes to anyone who is found guilty of making threats, breaking windows or making annoying telephone calls — no matter what side they're on," said the mayor.

Cappiello said he is angered by reports of campaign workers who are

being threatened that windows of their buildings will be smashed because they have displayed a political sign for the municipal election.

"I think we should put aside this type of tactic right now," said the mayor. "Rather than a campaign based on building a better city, this has turned into a campaign of fear. This must change. I am asking that common sense and dignity be restored."

"In this campaign the people of Hoboken should be the real winners."

Hoboken Day of free parking

The Hoboken Parking Authority's garages on Hudson Street will be thrown open to the public on April 30 for free parking as part of the "Hoboken Hospitality Day," a spokesman for the authority said today.

be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Special sales and promotions are being planned for the day by the local merchants. If successful, the mall concept may become a regular event in the city.

Marconi's birthday

Ceremonies marking the 103rd birthday of Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi will be held Monday at 11 a.m. in Church Square Park, Hoboken, and was announced today by Charles DeFazio Jr., coordinator of the annual event. A wreath will be placed at the foot of the Marconi monument. Marconi is the inventor of the wireless.

Cappiello may hold rail payment for next year

Hoboken residents still can expect a reduction in their tax rate this year but it might not be as large as originally anticipated by the city.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said today the city may hold as a surplus for next year a \$445,000 payment from the state in additional railroad taxes instead of applying it to the tax rate on the suggestion of Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri.

"Without the railroad money the

city still stands to have a tax rate approximately \$1 lower than last year's," said the councilman. "With that railroad money we might be able to push the rate down another \$4 or \$5. But there are other factors that the mayor and I feel should not be put aside until next year."

Ranieri explained that the city is facing the possible reinstatement of

some \$552,000 by the state for the board of education. The money was cut by the council from the board's 1976-77 school budget but reinstated by the state after a lengthy appeal by the board.

"If that amount stands when the state commissioner of education makes his final decision then the city will have to include the money in the 1978 municipal budget," Ranieri continued. "It wouldn't serve much purpose to have a big tax drop this year only to have it offset next year."

"We have strived for tax stability and this kind of fluctuation does not reflect stability or proper planning for the future. We know what we have and we know what we can expect. So it would be better to hold the \$445,000

and apply it to next year's problem. This will help maintain the stability of the tax rate."

Hoboken's tax rate for 1976 was approximately \$106 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Using the extra railroad money would allow the mayor to drop the rate possibly under the \$100 mark, one of his long-term goals.

However, whether that money can be used in the 1977 budget, which has already been adopted, remains a question that only the state Division of Local Government can decide. The city has written to the state asking for permission to include the funds. But Ranieri said that even if permission is granted the money may still be held as a surplus for next year.

Hoboken sighted by Henry Hudson

It was quite by accident that Henry Hudson bumped into the county which was to become his namesake, Hudson County. Attacked by Indians and driven off by Indians in Manhattan on his first voyage in 1609, Hudson took refuge in "Weehawken Cove." From there he spied Hoboken, which his first mate recorded was "a good piece of ground."

Cappiello sees bright future for Hoboken

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello and his running mates in the city's May 10 municipal election today predicted a "bright future for the city as the result of plans to re-energize" the city's economic planning potential.

Joined by his three team mates, Robert A. Ranieri, Bernard J. Scrivani and Thomas Kennedy, candidates for councilmen-at-large, the mayor said the soon-to-be created economic development corporation would serve a three-fold purpose.

"It will focus on the need to attract desirable rates to the city," he continued. "It will address itself to the need to retain the outstanding manufacturing and industrial firms which have called Hoboken home for many years and it will develop short and long-range goals which will bring about a more coordinated municipal program to find rates and job producing companies to serve the needs of both industry as well as our residents."

The program is being developed jointly by the city council, the mayor and the Community Development Agency (CDA).

"We must attract firms which can provide jobs for Hoboken's citizens," the mayor asserted. "Our city, which suffers from high unemployment due to the effects of the recession and the loss of business and commerce to the suburbs, has done a remarkable job in keeping the tax rate from going into orbit. By keeping present firms in the city, and by bringing others to our community, the future will be much brighter for all concerned."

Cappiello tracking unpaid bills

Mayor Steve Cappiello of Hoboken has asked his Public Works director, Raphael P. Vitale, for a complete accounting of all accounts payable after the alleged disappearance of several thousand dollars worth of unpaid bills.

According to the mayor, it has been brought to his attention that one local vendor claims the city owes him approximately \$8,000. However, none of his bills can be found.

"I asked the secretary in Public Works how much was owed and she said she believed between \$5,000 and \$6,000," the mayor continued. "However, the next day when I asked to see the bill there was none to be had. They were missing from the files."

The mayor said he had instructed Vitale to give him and the city council Revenue and Finance Committee a "complete and thorough accounting of all accounts payable for the entire department."

Cappiello said this would include all of the bills for every department that came under Vitale's Public Works Department.

Vitale said he had no knowledge of any missing unpaid bills.

Officials praise Hoboken for housing rehabilitation

By TERRY BRENNAN

National officials praised Hoboken's housing rehabilitation program yesterday by saying the city has successfully tapped its community pride and undermined further flight to the suburbs.

Barry Zigas, deputy director of the housing assistance project for the U.S. Conference of Mayors, said the city's housing program is one of the best in the country because it "didn't fear the heart and guts out of Hoboken."

He claimed housing officials "didn't disrupt

the city's great sense of community."

"The key to Hoboken's success was its emphasis on neighborhood preservation and maintaining community pride," Zigas said. "They gave people the chance to redo their home and destroyed any desire they had to leave. They were always conscious of the human element."

While former City Housing Director Bob Armstrong conceded that Hoboken hasn't solved its unemployment or park problems, he said the city "has established a

beachhead to attack those problems."

"You see kids playing on the streets because there's something like 1.9 acres of parks here," Armstrong said. "The real problem is that taxes have always been high and it's hard to justify giving up industrial development for parks."

The gist of the three-day conference was that future federal funding will be based upon both housing renovation and job-producing industry. Officials said funds will no longer be passed out solely on the basis of need.

"Hoboken will get \$3 million in Community Development funds this year and will be phased out completely under the old formula," Community Development Director Fred M. Bado said. "It's just that our record and our new programs emphasizing jobs should stand us in good stead with federal officials. We've proved it worked here."

The private developer responsible for the housing projects said they've been successful because of careful tenant screening. Walter Barry of Applied Housing claimed tenant selection and eventual monitoring means the difference between "institutional housing and local pride."

"We set up tenant groups who make sure a young girl living there can show off a fancy place to her suitors," Barry said. "We've found that the right tenants are more demanding than any landlord because they demand that fellow tenants toe the line."

Messing it up

Hoboken has not yet gotten around to enforcing proper handling of its garbage. The other day, in an announcement apparently intended for the public, the City Council threatened to penalize the garbage contractor because his men drop or spill refuse on the sidewalk and street before they get it into the truck.

The contractor probably smiled when he heard about it, because the council never follows up on these threatening messages.

Not that the contractor is the only one at fault. Many residents and storekeepers put their garbage out in paper bags or cardboard boxes. No wonder the garbage is spilled.

The public works department has issued many dire warnings, but has done nothing to follow through effectively.

The blame is clearly with the city administration in lacking the gumption to enforce the warnings.

Seek rail funds to save jobs of 29 teachers

The president of the Hoboken Board of Education has formally written to Mayor Steve Cappiello asking that the city turn over to the school board some \$445,000 it has received in additional state railroad aid so that 29 non-tenured teachers will not have to be laid off.

Mrs. Mary Stack Gaspar said "I have asked the mayor to make an immediate decision on this matter because time is pressing." The school board must notify the teachers who will not be rehired before April 30 so we must know if the city will give us the money several days before then."

According to Mrs. Gaspar, there are approximately 85 non-tenured teachers — those who have been in the school system less than three years and a day — and all will be getting lay-off notices.

"We are required to lay them all off and then rehire those that we need," she explained.

The school board is to meet Tuesday at 8 p.m. and decide the future of the non-tenured teachers.

Hoboken grants salary raises to non-uniformed

Ordinances granting eight per cent pay increases to Hoboken's non-uniformed employees and the Community Development Agency (CDA) staff have been approved by the city council and should be reflected in this week's paychecks.

But still to be resolved is retroactive pay back to Jan. 1 which city employees are entitled to but for which a payment date hasn't been set by the city.

Several citizens questioned the salary increases, asking why there appeared to be such a large difference between what uniformed employees — police and firemen — get and the wages of the non-uniformed employees.

They were told that current salaries were the product of labor negotiations with the various city unions and the agreements were not always the same.

The council also approved an ordinance realigning the planning board and board of adjustment to conform with recent state changes. The boards must now have their own attorneys and planning consultants.

Hoboken's 1977 budget was adopted by the council but resulted in some discussion with citizens because no changes had been made in it to reflect suggestions they had made during a budget discussion meeting two weeks ago.

The Grogan Marineview Plaza and why there was no explanation in the budget message from the mayor on the status of funds due the city in lieu of tax payments was one point brought up by Councilman Francis X. Leahy, who voted against adopting the budget, and Charles DeFazio Jr., a frequent council critic.

Fred Mezzina, who had made several suggestions at the budget discussion for changes, also criticized the council for approving it without change or explanation. He said he had been promised an explanation on certain items if they were not considered.

Thomas Vezzetti also criticized the council's actions calling the budget "contrived."

Council President Martin J. Brennan explained that the council did have several changes that it was going to make in the budget but it was informed by the city's auditor that there wasn't enough time if the city was to meet county and state deadlines for filing the document.

Bernard Glick, the attorney representing former city Business Administrator Herman Bier and Public Works Director Raphael P. Vitale, both fired by Mayor Steve Cappiello, appeared before the council in Bier's behalf and asked the council to consider introducing a resolution vetoing the mayor's dismissal.

Glick pointed out that Bier still had not been advised by the mayor of the reasons for his dismissal and there was a question of whether

the council had been properly notified of the mayor's action. Four council members who side with the mayor all claimed to have received letters from the city clerk on the matter. But four others who don't said they didn't get the letter.

However, City Clerk Anthony J. Amoroso did receive notification of the dismissal the day after Bier was fired — March 23 — by the mayor. The letter was dated the 23rd and time stamped March 24, the day Amoroso got it.

"You should know why Mr. Bier is being fired," asserted Glick. "You are not children. You should ask why. Assert your rights and privileges, don't be a rubber stamp."

The council did not introduce the resolution. It was pointed out that the council's rules call for a resolution to be prepared prior to the meeting, not during the meeting. However, several councilmen said they would consider the resolution for the next meeting.

Bier is to get a hearing before the mayor today. However, Glick indicated the hearing may not take place and the dismissal may find its way into the courts.

Political profile

Cappiello running on his record

By TERRY BRENNAN

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello is claiming credit for bringing the Mile Square City from the brink of disaster to the edge of fiscal salvation.

The first-term mayor, faced with a serious defection in his camp when Councilman Anthony Romano challenged his reelection, claims the city "had been out for the count but has certainly come back punching." Cappiello claims his record "proves we've started to rehabilitate and revitalize Hoboken."

"We've stabilized the tax rate and removed

the major obstacle; to keeping and attracting industry," Cappiello said. "We've attacked our housing problem and now we have to turn our attention to creating jobs."

While the tax rate was \$102.86 per \$1,000 of

This is one in a continuing series of profiles on candidates running for political office in the upcoming May elections.

assessed valuation when Cappiello took office in 1973, a spokesman for the Hudson County Board of Taxation said it jumped to \$108.69 in

1974 because past Mayor Louis DePascale utilized an accounting device keeping it down during election years. The present rate is \$106.13 and Cappiello claims "it won't be too long before we get it under \$100."

An official from the Washington, D.C.-based Community Development Directors Association called the city "the best example of successful urban rehabilitation in the county," last week. John Sasso said Hoboken had an excellent record in applying federal funds to rehabilitate about 23 per cent of its housing stock since 1972.

Cappiello, a 53-year-old former police sergeant, was first elected to public office as a Third Ward councilman in 1963. In 1973 he unseated DePascale by better than 2-1 and swept the councilmanic slate of Robert Ranieri, Francis X. Leahy and Bernard Scrivani into office.

The current split came when Romano who was first elected with DePascale backing, demanded that Cappiello run without Ranieri because the councilman had publicly criticized "gross inefficiencies" in City Hall.

Ranieri had attacked Business Administrator Herman Bier and Public Works Director Raphael Vitale for their alleged violations of purchasing laws.

Romano decided to break with Cappiello when the mayor stayed with Ranieri and fired both Bier and Vitale. The split widened when Leahy chose to run with Romano and Det. Thomas Kennedy replaced him on the mayor's ticket.

Freeholder Vincent J. Fusilli then split with the mayor because he was reportedly bitter over Cappiello's decision to run with Kennedy. The Hoboken detective had unsuccessfully challenged Fusilli in a heated campaign for the freeholder's post two years ago.

While Romano had reportedly agreed not to challenge Cappiello if the mayor dropped Ranieri, Cappiello's opposition had demanded the councilman on the mayor's slate in the May 10 municipal election. That would have given Romano a 5-4 control of the City Council and would have enabled him to stymie Cappiello's actions.

The "brink of disaster" Cappiello claims he helped avert was due to the soaring tax rate, widespread crime and the flight of industry to the suburbs. He said he's "stabilized the tax rate, subverted crime and will concentrate on industry now."

Fusilli hits service 'cuts'

Freeholder Vincent J. Fusilli of Hoboken said today the city's 1977 budget and "so-called stabilized tax rate" is a "masterpiece of camouflage and deception which could only be masterminded by the current mayor."

"Through the use of mirrors and his financial magic show, Mr. Cappiello would have the citizens of Hoboken believe that he has held the line and that everything is rosy as a result," Fusilli said. "The fact is that spending has increased sharply in many areas while services have declined steadily and miserably in others."

"Under-appropriations in all our vital services have placed them at dangerous levels. Go down the line — health, recreation, police, fire, you name it — and then you decide just what kind of bargain we got in Hoboken when Mr. Cappiello released his budget," asserted Fusilli.

Fusilli cited the city's garbage collections.

"In 1975, under Mayor Cappiello, the contract cost for six days of garbage pickups in the city was \$178,000 for the year," he continued. "Last year, the contract rose to \$483,600."

"In addition to the tripling of the rate, we had our collections cut in half — to three days a week — with our streets and sidewalks reflecting this gem of legislation."

"But in the 1977 budget Cappiello has seen fit to contract for \$528,000 for three days of garbage pickups. Something certainly smells and it isn't the garbage."

Fusilli said the salary account in the fire department was reduced from \$2,175,000 in 1975 to \$1,700,000 for this year. "This was accomplished, not through efficient government but by simply not hiring any new firemen to replace those retiring or leaving the job."

"These cuts have seriously jeopardized the life and property of the citizens of Hoboken in an already undermanned department of 'carpet-baggers' as Mr. Cappiello has seen fit to call our men in blue. The resulting skyrocketing insurance rates are driving business from the city and discouraging new business from coming in."

Romano is challenging Hoboken absentee votes

Mayoral candidate Anthony Romano is taking court action today to impound absentee ballots already cast for Hoboken's May 10 election on grounds many persons on welfare are being "intimidated," he said.

Romano said he will ask a court to set aside these ballots and order new ones issued so the "people can vote in secrecy" and turn their ballots over to representatives of the Hudson County Board of Elections supervising such voting.

Frank Duray Jr., a councilman-at-large candidate of Romano's ticket, said a sufficient number of absentee ballots are involved to justify court action. He claimed persons on welfare are "vulnerable" and have been told by some of Mayor Steve Cappiello's supporters to vote by absentee ballot rather than go to the polls.

Joseph T. Brady, Hudson County elections superintendent and registration commissioner, confirmed that the Romano group had submitted one verbal complaint and another in an affidavit. He said two of his investigators are looking into the situation. He confirmed that Romano had said he was going to court, but that certain absentee ballots, such as those used by hospital patients, residents temporarily outside the state or in schools, were not being challenged.

So far, county officials have approved 713 applications for absentee ballots for the Hoboken election. Brady said he has notified state law enforcement officials about the Hoboken complaint so they will be aware of the situation in event of court action.

Hoboken's example

Because Hoboken has become so widely known for its success in housing rehabilitation, the U.S. Conference of Mayors picked the city as the place for its three-day annual housing conference.

What a comeback for a city that was virtually written off as dead a few years ago.

Hoboken was firmly on the map in the 19th Century when it was a vacation and weekend resort for New York City. During World War I, Hoboken became known around the world when its extensive docks made it the port of embarkation for America's troops.

Even in the subsequent decline, it stayed up there in the headlines when those same docks bred the violence that brought about the memorable movie "On the Waterfront."

Now it is hailed as the leader in the difficult job of rehabilitating rundown cities. The rest of the country will try to take a leaf from Hoboken's book. Hoboken's immediate neighbors in Hudson County should reexamine their efforts to see if they, too, can learn from Hoboken.

Black leaders back Romano

First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano of Hoboken, a candidate for mayor in the city's May 10 election, and his running mates today received the endorsement of several leaders of the city's black community.

Announcing the endorsement were Cecile Vincent, a past president of the city's NAACP chapter; Clayton Anderson, a former member of the board of education; Josephine Gilliam, Willie Pittman, Eugene Drayton, David Little, John P. Warrell, and John Lovely.

Hoboken hopes to qualify first for HFA loans

Hoboken hopes to be the first community in Hudson County to get its Neighborhood Loan Program under way to take advantage of \$100 million the state Housing Finance Agency (HFA) has set aside for the program throughout the state.

City officials along with representatives of the private sector — banks, citizens groups, etc. — will be meeting in mid-May with HFA representatives to work out details of the program, Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri said today. But by that time the city plans to have most of the mechanics for applying for the seven and one-half per cent loans ready for the first applicants.

Hoboken, Bayonne, Jersey City and West New York are the only Hudson County municipalities eligible; there are 25 eligible communities statewide.

The program provides low interest mortgages through participating banks for the purchase of homes in areas where mortgages had been difficult to obtain, requiring either a very large down payment or a very short-term loan agreement.

"In Hoboken's case, that difficulty applied to approximately two-thirds of the city, mostly in the western section," Ranieri said. "We have the inside track on this program and would be foolish not to take advantage of it."

"The program was first announced by the state last November at the state League of Municipalities convention in Atlantic City," he continued. "I verbally informed Chris Kelly, the executive director of the state Mortgage Finance Agency, that Hoboken was informally submitting its application then and there. Our follow-up application cemented our relationship."

Between now and the middle of next month, Joseph Cicala, head of the Neighborhood Preservation Program for Hoboken, will be working out the details and developing the procedures for taking applications for the low interest mortgages, Ranieri said.

Cappiello says Fusilli didn't read budget

Once bosom buddies on the municipal governing body, Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello and Hudson County Freeholder Vincent J. Fusilli are now engaged in open warfare, trading personal attacks centering on the municipal budget.

Replying to Fusilli's charge he has "deceived" the public by offering a phony "bargain" budget actually reflecting less public services, Cappiello offered this rebuttal:

"Freeholder Fusilli seems to be purposely lying about the city budget or he is not fit to hold office as a freeholder in a county which spends more than \$1.5 million per week."

The mayor said Fusilli's remarks were made either "without his reading of the budget" or due to "his inability to comprehend the ap-

propriations in the city budget." "Fusilli said the salary account in the fire department was reduced from \$2,175,000 in 1975 to \$1.7 million this year," continued Cappiello. "If he simply read the 1977 city budget, he would have seen appropriations of \$2,242,891 for the fire department salary account."

"Fusilli also said the city garbage contract cost \$178,000 in 1975 for six days pickup. If Fusilli read the 1975 budget, he would have seen that the contract cost the city \$473,000. In fact, the garbage contract cost more than \$178,000 in 1972 when Fusilli was Second Ward councilman."

"Fusilli knows that in 1976, the city changed to a three-days-a-week pickup because the cost of the six-days-a-week pickup skyrocketed when the public bids were received. The city rejected bids several times before finally awarding a garbage contract for a three-days-a-week pickup."

"Fusilli charges that fire insurance rates have increased due to manpower cutbacks in the fire department. If Freeholder Fusilli checks with the insurance underwriters, he would find out that Hoboken's rating has been C-4 rated cities due to inflation and statewide property losses," concluded Cappiello.

Fusilli is backing First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano for mayor.

Romano's issue: Cappiello

By TERRY BRENNAN

Hoboken Councilman Anthony Romano claims Mayor Steve Cappiello is "riding the waves" of the previous administration, which started "every successful program in the city."

The ex-policeman, who said Cappiello has masked the true nature of Hoboken's problems "by putting a new cover on an old book," claims the mayor's lack of leadership and withdrawal from the people triggered his challenge. Romano also charges Cappiello with letting "outside" consultants run the city.

"The mayor is taking credit for programs started more than four years ago by former Mayor Louis DePascale," Romano charged. "He claims they're successful, but they're just camouflaging the real conditions here. Most

Hoboken residents are paying exorbitant rents for tumbledown shacks."

While Cappiello claims he has stabilized the tax rate at \$106, cut crime and rehabilitated almost 25 per cent of Hoboken's housing, Romano countered that municipal services have been

This is one in a continuing series of profiles on candidates running for political office in the May elections.

drastically reduced, citizens can't safely walk the streets and the housing programs are "a mere facade." Romano also charges Cappiello with undercutting police and fire protection by reducing personnel.

"The citizens of our housing projects downtown are screaming for protec-

Cappiello taps ex-foe Amato for Vitale job; 'no purge,' he vows

As of today, Andrew J. Amato is Hoboken's new Public Works Director, replacing Raphael P. Vitale who was fired by Mayor Steve Cappiello because of his allegiance to First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano in the upcoming city election.

The mayor said today he is making Amato acting public works director, and confirmed rumors about the appointment that began a few days after Cappiello had notified Vitale that he was being dismissed.

The mayor declined to say whether or not he would attempt to have the appointment made permanent by submitting Amato's name to the council for confirmation. "I will take it up with the council," he said, but did not elaborate on whether that would be just to notify it of his acting appointment or to seek a vote on confirmation.

Most of the time the mayor can count on five of the nine council members to support his actions and only a simple majority is needed to make the appointment permanent. Councilman Romano, the mayor's main opposition in the May 10 election, can muster four votes, including



Andrew J. Amato Gets public works post

his own, to block the appointment, or at least try to.

Up until this year, Amato had been a firm opponent of the mayor and had even taken out petitions to run against him in the May election. But in the process of cultivating support for his bid for re-election Cappiello won over Amato to his camp.

"I think I can contribute to making Hoboken a better place to live in," said Amato. "and the mayor is willing to give me the opportunity to participate and give counsel. That's all I really wanted—the chance to be involved in the rebuilding of the city."

Indirectly, it was Amato who led Hoboken to foreclosure on the owners of the old Fifth and Sixth street piers for non-payment of taxes. He brought to the public's attention that taxes weren't being paid on the property and that the owners were in violation of the purchase agreement they had with the city.

Amato said he still believes that the city's waterfront area has "great commercial potential" and he would push for realization of that potential as long as he was associated with the mayor and his administration.

"I made a number of suggestions to the city several years ago concern-

ing the development of the waterfront," he continued. "Actually, it was more than a suggestion—I had people who were interested at that time. Now that I have the mayor's support maybe we can try again."

Amato is a large property owner and until a few months ago operated successful factories in Hoboken and New York City manufacturing women's and children's clothing. Both operations, he said, were closed down to allow him more time for his political activities.

Amato said he doesn't plan to start any purges in the Public Works Department, many of whose employees are still loyal to their former director.

"As long as they give me an honest day's work no one is going to have anything to fear from me," he asserted. "I know some of the employees are going to resent me because they have been friends with the former director for many years, and I respect them for it. As long as they do their jobs and keep their political activities to their own time I don't expect any problems."

Y camp for Hoboken kids needs \$25,000 more to open

The director of the YMCA-sponsored Camp Tamaqua at Bear Mountain, N.Y., which has been serving Hoboken children for many years, said today that the N.Y. State Department of Education has offered to provide the camp with \$20,000 to pay for all meals, even though all of the children using the facility are from Hoboken.

According to Leo Genese, the director, that still leaves the camp short some \$30,000 which he has been unable to raise.

"I am troubled somewhat by the fact that N.Y. state officials are willing to chip in \$20,000 for a summer camp for kids from Hoboken when our own officials don't seem to be interested," said Genese. "First it was a question of whether they could contribute city funds. Now that all legal barriers to that have been removed, there are other excuses."

Genese says approximately

\$80,000 is needed to operate the camp for the summer months. To date he has a commitment of \$10,000 from the Hoboken Community Development Agency (CDA) and the \$20,000 promised by the N.Y. Education Department for a total of \$30,000.

"If the camp is to open I need a minimum of \$25,000 more," he continued. "With that we can squeeze by."

In past years, HOPES Inc., the city's anti-poverty agency, and the board of education have made up most of the difference. But the elimination of some federal programs dried up the sources from which their funds came.

"I have tried every other possible source of funding to keep the camp going," said Genese. "Whether city officials like it or not, they are the last resort. If the money doesn't come from the city, it probably won't come at all and the camp won't open this

summer, at least not for Hoboken's children."

He explained that the camp is owned by the Palisade Interstate Park Commission, which rents it out each summer to the Y. Several other organizations have expressed interest in the camp and one of them may rent it if the Y doesn't.

Date set for decision on Forman

Hoboken has until May 16 to resolve its dismissal of former Welfare Director Jerry Forman or he will be reinstated with full pay retroactive to his suspension earlier this year.

That was part of the decision handed down by Hudson County Assignment Judge Thomas A. O'Brien this week in response to a complaint filed against the city by Forman and his attorney, Lesley Glick.

The judge has set the following time table for the city in the Forman matter: by May 21 it must file with the court an answer to the show cause order explaining why Forman shouldn't be reinstated; by May 5 the city must give Forman's attorney a full bill of particulars explaining the charges against him; and, by May 16 the city must give Forman a full departmental hearing on the charges.

Forman was suspended at the beginning of the year in connection with some questionable dentist bills. The city contends that he authorized payment of the bill but the work done on city welfare clients was never actually performed.

In February, Glick sent the city Law Department a request for a "full bill of particulars" concerning the charges. According to Glick, the city did not respond in a reasonable amount of time, forcing him to obtain the show cause order which resulted in Monday's hearing before Judge O'Brien.

Glick said he had hoped to resolve the show cause hearing then and there but the attorney representing the city was not prepared with an answer and Judge O'Brien extended the time for filing the answer to May 1.

Hoboken schools trim to save jobs

The Hoboken Board of Education has avoided laying off teachers for the 1977-78 school year by drastically slashing its budget \$371,420 in other areas and closing its buildings to after-school activities, including recreation.

"This was not money the board was hiding. This was money that was needed for supplies and services," said Mary Stack Gaspar, board president. "We worked with tears in our eyes, particularly when we had to eliminate recreation—something the youngsters of Hoboken should have and something they deserve."

It had been expected that as many as 30 non-tenured teachers might face the economy axe but Mrs. Gaspar said all nine board members were united in a decision to save the jobs.

"As much as we wanted to see things like after-school recreation continue, our educational process had to come first," she said. "We not only tightened our belts, but we'll be straining to operate next year."

She said cuts were made in nearly every budget area and the slash in after-school programs totaled more

than \$100,000. Other reductions were made in administrative expenses, breakfast programs, health and supplies.

In other business at last night's special meeting, the board voted to appeal to the State Department of Education a cut of approximately \$58,000 which the city council made in the \$12.1 million budget. The city's share of approximately \$4 million was rejected at the March 29 election.

Hoboken K of C senior project up in the air

The Hoboken Housing Authority is undecided on a proposal to build a \$7-to-\$8 million senior citizens housing project in the John J. Grogan Marine View Plaza project, a spokesman for the authority said today.

Officials of the Columbian Corp., an arm of the Hoboken Knights of Columbus Council, met with the housing authority commissioners last week to present the proposal only to be told after lengthy deliberation to return with more information on May 12.

The corporation plans to build a high-rise senior citizens project on the southern end of the block between Third and Second streets, Hudson to River streets, which is owned by the authority.

According to Housing Authority Commissioner Peter J. Fontana, the authority is neither for nor against the project at this time. "We just didn't get enough information from them to make an intelligent decision," he said.

Hispanic Dem group endorses Romano

The Hispanic Democrats of Hudson County announced today they are backing Councilman Anthony H. Romano for mayor.

"After reviewing the achievements and platforms of both candidates, we feel it would be in the best interests of the Spanish-speaking residents to work for the election of Councilman Romano," said a spokesman. "He has a deep regard for the needs of our community."

Hoboken campaign: The independents



Thomas R. Cerbo

Vito J. Lanzo

Vincent M. Murtha

'It's time for change,' they insist

By Peter Hallam

Only three independent candidates are running in Hoboken's May 10 election, the smallest field of non-organization candidates to seek elected office in the city's recent history.

Vincent J. Murtha, 49, is the candidate for mayor running against Mayor Steve Cappelletto, the incumbent, and First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano. He is a teacher at the Joseph F. Brandt School.

Vying for two councilman-at-large seats are Vito J. Lanzo, 41, a baker, and Thomas R. Cerbo, 42, an office manager. Murtha is a graduate of

Seton Hall University and holds degrees in physical education and health. He has also taken a number of graduate courses at Seton Hall. He has been in the Hoboken school system 22 years.

He has worked extensively with youngsters in Hoboken. For several years he coached basketball. Prior to his appointment as a teacher, he worked with institutionalized delinquent and emotionally disturbed boys.

Several years ago Murtha formed an educational and social organization for young people called the "Hoboken Crusaders." Its main purpose was to help get young people off the streets and give them a meaningful social, athletic and educational environment.

"I'm running for mayor out of the deep conviction that there should be an alternative to the machine politics that has long dominated Hoboken," said Murtha.

Murtha's campaign has consisted of walking tours of the city. And through those tours he has developed a 14-point platform.

Some of Murtha's proposals include the creation of mini-city halls in all six city wards; the creation of a drug and alcohol program aimed at city teenagers; encouraging small businesses to locate in the city; create commissions on youth, senior citizens and ethnic groups to advise the mayor; an intermural program in all sports; an all out effort to solve the city's parking problems; a full recreation program that can serve the whole city and all ages.

A lifelong resident of Hoboken, Vito J. Lanzo is making his first attempt at elected office because he is dissatisfied with the representation he has been getting from city officials and believes a lot of other people feel the same way.

Educated in the local schools, Lanzo is an Army veteran of the Korean conflict. He is a member of the Hoboken American Legion Post and is married to the former Carolyn Chero, a former teacher at St. Francis School.

Lanzo said his main concern is with the lack of adequate recreation in the city, or facilities for recreation.

"Hoboken has some organized activities for our youngsters, but not enough. And for those that don't want to play in organized sports, there is nothing. I would like to see the city offer our teenagers a center of their own where they can do their own thing and have someone to supervise their activities who won't just lay down the law but will work with them."

Lanzo added that he was also concerned with the condition of city streets and the lack of repairs, and the littering program which isn't being properly enforced.

Cerbo is also a product of the local school system and, like Lanzo, is making his first attempt at elected office. He, too, is an Army veteran.

"My first area of concern is the police and fire departments," said Cerbo. "In order to have a half-way decent quality of life in the city we must have good law enforcement and fire protection. Without them we have fear."

"The police department and fire department should have more men so that we have quality law enforcement and fire protection. What we get now is selective police enforcement rather than full enforcement because there are not enough men to do all the jobs that have to be done. Our firemen no longer try to save a house that is burning. Instead, they try to prevent it from spreading to other buildings. There is no substitute for adequate manpower."

Cerbo, a former professional singer and recording artist who worked under the stage name of Tommy Lee, said he has also pledged himself to working with the board of education to improve cooperation between the board and City Hall, and to improve the quality of education local youngsters are getting.

Something different during Hoboken's 'Hospitality Days'

There's something a little different about Hoboken's Washington Street today.

It's a little brighter, a little cleaner, as the city's Retail Bureau, Community Development Agency and Parking Authority prepare for Hoboken Hospitality Days — a three-day sale that will start tomorrow and end Saturday with the conversion of Washington Street into a pedestrian mall for the days.

The brightness comes from decorations that started going up today between First and Seventh streets. But that is only the beginning. Along the six-block stretch of

Washington Street involved in the sale will be displays and booths to capture the public's interest.

Tomorrow and Friday will be regular sale days for the merchants with all of the business conducted in the stores. On Saturday, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., the mall will be the thing, according to a CDA spokesman.

The street will be closed to all vehicles and a parking ban will be enforced. To counter the loss of parking spaces the city's Parking Authority and Retail Bureau are cooperating to make space available in the garages along Hudson Street. The Bureau will pick up the cost of the free shopper parking.

A spokesman for the city said cars that do not observe the parking ban Saturday will be towed away at the owner's expense. Although Washington Street will be closed to traffic, automobiles and trucks will be allowed to use the east-west streets to cross over the mall area.

"We're not just promoting a sale," said a retail bureau executive. "We're promoting Hoboken in a joint effort with the CDA, parking authority and the city's business community."

Merchants participating in the event will be giving away a new camera to some lucky person. Tickets are available in stores taking part in the promotion. No purchase is necessary.

Soccer in Hoboken

The Hoboken candidate for city council who proposed a soccer field may have won himself some votes.

There are five soccer teams in Hoboken and plenty of fans, but most of the time they have to go out of town for lack of a playing field.

The candidate suggests rehabilitating a rough field owned by the city now idle because it has been used as an unauthorized garbage dump.

Soccer does not require as smooth a surface as baseball. This field could be made fit for soccer without a big-league outlay of money.

The city's Community Development Agency had committed \$10,000 for a summer camp project which unfortunately has been abandoned.

How about using that \$10,000 for a soccer field?

Meet candidate Lanzo

A "Meet the Candidate" night honoring Vito J. Lanzo, an independent candidate for councilman-at-large in Hoboken, will be held Thursday in the American Legion Post, 1229 Willow Ave., at 7:30 p.m. The affair will start at 7:30 p.m. with Lanzo on hand to chat with visitors. All are welcome to attend.

Hoboken's probe off until election

A probe of alleged gambling payoffs in Hoboken is not likely to be resumed until after the city's May 10 election, according to informed sources.

The probe has been sidetracked by an investigation of North Bergen's municipal affairs nearly a month before the Hudson County grand jury.

The same sources say that it is considered too sensitive a matter to conduct such a probe on the eve of

Hoboken's election. State Atty. Gen. William F. Hyland has taken a dim view of holding any investigations of that type at the height of election campaigns anywhere in the state, they explain.

The same sources say that doesn't mean the probe is dead. It will be resumed once the election is finished, they claim.

Hoboken crime rate draws candidate's fire

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri and First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano today engaged in verbal fistfights concerning police protection and the safety of local citizens.

Ranieri accused Romano in a fit of campaign fever, portraying Hoboken as a city populated by citizens "screaming" for protection.

Romano countered by charging Ranieri with using "twisted statistics" to lure residents into believing that they were getting proper police protection.

Ranieri said that the city's crime rate has gone down 10 per cent since Mayor Steve Cappelletto took office and the city's rate of major crimes has decreased 45 per cent during that same period. Ranieri is seeking reelection on the mayor's ticket.

Romano, who is running for mayor against Cappelletto with his own ticket of councilmen-at-large can-

didates, said that percentages don't tell the real story, and that Ranieri should check the annual police report for 1976.

"In 1975 the city had 1,712 major crimes," said Romano. "Last year we had 1,763. That's an increase. Mr. Ranieri's percentage figures don't show. But even more disturbing to me is the fact that in 1975 our police were able to resolve 411 of those incidents while clearing only 295 incident by arrest last year."

Ranieri said that Romano "simply forgot that when Hobokenites talk about their city, they talk about a spirit of community, a sense that I'm safe no matter where I am, or how late I'm out."

Romano retorted, "Councilman Ranieri has obviously never walked alone through the city's projects at night. He won't find any people down there who feel safe no matter how late they are out."

First sparks fly in Third Ward contest

The Weehawken Third Ward Township Committee seat is proving to be one of the most contested posts in the community.

This hot spot was resigned by Republican Committeeman Carnig Nersesian last Jan. 1. The GOP lost no time in trying to appoint former committeeman and unsuccessful mayoral candidate John Federer back to the local governing body for the remaining year of Nersesian's term.

Not wishing to put up with another year of fighting over issues with Federer, the Democratic majority on the Township Committee blocked the appointment.

After a few court battles, the Democrats were able to name Warren Robinson. Robinson was seated by the courts on the fact that he claims to be a Republican; the GOP disowned Robinson however, and he voted with the Democrats on a few pieces of vital legislation.

Federer has been tabbed the standard bearer for the Republicans in the June primary and newcomer Robert Sosa has been named to run as a

Democrat. Looking ahead to the poles. November election, the two men have come out swinging.

Sosa announced the revival of the local Environmental Commission, of which he is chairman, and a crackdown on garbage dumping. His Republican counterpart charged him with using the commission as a political platform.

The former committeeman said that if Sosa were so interested in environment, then he should use his influence among the Democrats on the Township Committee to make sure the Third Ward streets are cleaned.

Sosa had indicated that he would stay out of "character assassination" politics, but now charges Federer, an ex-committeeman, did little to correct problems in the Third Ward "other than his own personal parking problems."

The Democratic candidate charged it has been six months since the Republican ran for the mayoralty, and Federer's campaign posters are still visible on a majority of Park Avenue street light and telephone

Burke calls for audit of Hoboken schools

TRENTON — State Education Commissioner Fred G. Burke approved an examiner's recommendation to restore \$322,287 in the 1976-77 Hoboken Board of Education budget but directed the State Education Department's Division of Administration and Finance to conduct an audit of the business practices of the board.

Burke also directed the Hoboken Board of Education to prepare for that audit a list giving the name of each employee, his/her position and place of employment (school, board officer, teacher, bus driver, etc.) and salary.

A copy of this list is to be mailed directly to Burke within 30 days of his decision, dated April 26, but released yesterday.

Finally, Burke directed the Hoboken board to prepare a complete record concerning the mini-school, detailing all contractual obligations, encumbrances, cash disbursements and balances, if any, since the inception of the project.

Hearing Examiner August A. Thomas recommended last March 2 that \$322,287 be restored to the board budget but not \$157,713 of the \$380,000 cut by City Council after Hoboken voters March 9 last year had rejected the proposed \$4,025,278 budget.

The City Council certified \$3,345,278 to the Hudson County Board of Taxation for current expenses.

Burke directed the \$322,287 be restored, the amount to be raised by an additional tax certification to the Hudson County Board of Education.

Burke commented he "cannot conclude that the reductions in this budget, after the recommended restorations, are so significant that the educational process will be impaired. Accordingly, no further restoration will be made at this time."

Declaring the board exceptions regarding the auditor's responsibilities erroneously cites the wrong statutes—the hearing examiner was correct—Burke directed the Hoboken board to conduct a review of the June 30, 1975, and June 30, 1976 audit reports at a public meeting specifically regarding the contested reserve balances of \$125,000 and \$222,000.

Burke said there would be no further restorations on the Hoboken board request for \$1,500,000 to meet its summer payment obligation schedule due July 15. "This latter request for funding is to replace moneys which were not properly accounted for in past years. In this regard, the commissioner will adopt the report of the hearing examiner. There will be no further restorations."

John J. Degnan, counsel to Gov. Brendan T. Byrne, said Hoboken is to escrow the May-June summer payments to determine the specific amount under the \$1.5 million it will need.

Once this amount is determined, Degnan added, the Education Department, Hoboken officials and himself will confer again on a summer payment solution.

Ranieri asks vacant lots for gardens

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri today appealed to the other members of the city council to give their full support to a proposal for the temporary use of vacant land at the Grogan Marine View Plaza project as garden sites for local residents.

According to Ranieri, no one is against the proposal but no one seems to be moving on it either.

The sites would be in two empty lots at either end of the block from Second to Third streets, Hudson to River streets. The property is owned by the Hoboken Housing Authority which has given tentative approval to the project pending the receipt of a formal written request for it from the city's Community Development Agency (CDA).

Ranieri said he was checking with the CDA director, Fred M. Bado, to find out what was holding up the letter to the housing authority.

"With the full support of the city council I think we can get this thing rolling," he said. "We began considering this proposal several weeks ago and haven't made any progress. In New York City, they (officials) got the proposal a week ago and have already started clearing vacant lots for the gardens."

According to Ranieri, the project would cost a maximum of \$5,000. The lots would be divided into plots and residents would apply for them for garden space on a first-come, first-served basis.

Council getting more pacts after the fact

Does Jersey City need an outside real estate appraiser and a computer consultant for the Health Center? Officials obviously feel there is a need.

Does it matter what the city council thinks about that?

Obviously not, since the contracts for those services are, or soon will be, completed.

"Yep, here we go again," agreed Business Administrator Joseph Contreras, when asked if the contracts weren't being presented at too late a date for the council to have much choice.

Council members repeatedly complain, to no avail, that they are asked to okay contracts well after work has been started, sometimes after it's been finished.

For example, the \$8,300 contract with appraiser John Lasser of Newark, which is up for approval at

tomorrow's meeting, is for work performed between August and December of last year.

Peter Weil, a computer consultant, has a contract for \$7,040 which the council is being asked to approve. But he's been doing the work since February, and is supposed to be finished in two weeks.

Only once has the council really put its foot down in such an instance. That involves labor negotiator Martin Pachman, who is still owed \$8,000 from last year and continues to represent the city this year, despite council rejection of his contract. He has already received \$60,000 for last year's work.

Other officials feel Pachman would get paid anyway if he takes the matter to court because he was authorized to do the work by the administration.

Hoboken wins tax suit

Dispatch, Trenton Bureau

TRENTON — A state appeals court yesterday ruled in favor of Hoboken in its \$642,700 assessment of taxable land owned by River Township, Inc. as the basis for taxes for 1973 to 1975.

Taxes due the city amount to approximately one per cent of the total revenue needs of the city, according to the city tax collector's office.

The company had asked the state appeals court to reverse the dismissal of a prior appeal to the Hudson County Board of Taxation, which affirmed the tax assessments on the property for those years.

Unpaid taxes by the firm amount to \$206,433 after allowing credit for a partial payment of \$17,635 made in 1973. River Township claimed its taxable land value should be \$197,300.

That would mean, according to its figures, it owned a total of \$63,155 for the three years in question.

Hoboken moved in January of 1976 for either payment of 75 per cent of the taxes due, or dismissal of the appeal before the courts. The State Division of Tax Appeals ordered the firm to pay the taxes within 30 days or face dismissal of its appeals. On Oct. 22, 1976 the taxes were not paid and the appeals were dismissed, after which the firm went to the appeals court.

The firm argued it was denied due process under the law.

However, the court said the state Division had express authority under New Jersey law to order the firm to pay 75 per cent of its taxes.

Romano vows to tackle parking if he's elected

Hoboken mayoralty candidate Anthony H. Romano, the city's First Ward Councilman, said today one of the first problems his administration would attack is the parking problem in the northern portion of the city.

"There is no solution to the problem that is going to be 100 per cent acceptable to everyone," said the councilman. "The ideal situation would be parking garages centrally located but that would entail the condemnation of some of the best building and homes in the city."

"However, there are alternatives which would make the parking facilities a little less convenient to residents but would give them some place to park their cars and allow those beautiful buildings to remain," he continued.

Romano said one possibility was

the construction of parking garages or lots in the city's northwest industrial section which would be connected with the residential area by a jitney or minibuss service. Another was to encourage the use of the existing Parking Authority garages, again using a small bus as a link between the garages and northern residential area.

"The best way to solve a problem is to get the people who are most concerned with it to work on the solution," he continued. "I would form a small committee of citizens to actively work with the administration to draw up possible proposals for parking. Those proposals would then be presented to the public in general. The one that gets the best reception would be pushed until it became a reality."

Bergen pupils to study urban ills in Hoboken

Old Tappan, an upper middle class municipality in Bergen County, and Hoboken, with its 14 per cent unemployment rate and run-down tenement houses, don't have much in common. But the two will meet today when a class of students from Old Tappan tours Hoboken and gets first hand insight on a city's problems, and approaches to solving them.

The youngsters are members of an urban economic class at Northern Valley Regional High School, instructed by John Billard.

According to Billard, Hoboken is an excellent microcosm of urban process and offers suburban students good insight on urban problems, and how a city has made the turnaround.

The class was due to arrive around 10 a.m. at Applied Housing Associates rehabilitated apartment houses at 13th and Washington Streets.

They were to be met by Mayor Steve Cappelletto, who planned to personally conduct them on a tour to start at 10:30 a.m.

Scheduled in the inspection of several reconditioned brownstones, a briefing on the three-percent home improvement loan program, and the chance to talk with residents living in rehabilitated housing and brownstone buildings.

Billard said the idea of going to an urban area with his senior class members originated last year with Edward Fitzsimmons, an English teacher at the school, who lives in Hoboken in a rehabilitated brownstone.

"Hoboken has gotten a lot of favorable publicity on its efforts to reverse urban blight," Billard said. "We selected it because just seeing what the problems are isn't enough. Not when we can also learn about successful methods being used to eliminate them."

Revived revival

Hoboken's upward movement should be accelerated if Uncle Sam approves an increase in the allotment for the city's projected Economic Development Agency.

The present plan calls for Hoboken to allocate \$100,000 of its Community Development Agency funds as seed money to generate up to \$10,000,000 in federal and state backing for economic development.

The city administration now wants to increase its allocation to \$200,000 or, at least, to \$150,000.

The money would create a revolving credit fund to be used to guarantee low interest loan rates for businesses that want to move into the city or those already there that want to expand.

It is hoped the program would diminish the city's 14 per cent unemployment rate.

If the city's business were stagnating, the chances of the program's success might seem dubious, but since Hoboken is experiencing an economic revival, this appears to be the time to help it along.

Block party and parade for Cappelletto

Mayor Steve Cappelletto of Hoboken and his running mates in Tuesday's election will wrap up their campaign this weekend with a parade and block party Saturday and a champagne-coffee party Sunday.

The parade will start at 11:30 a.m. at First and Washington streets and head north on Washington to 14th Street. From there it will travel west on 14th to Willow Avenue, south on Willow to Observer Highway, west on Observer Highway to Jackson Street, and north on Jackson into the city's housing project area.

Following the parade there will be a block party on Madison Street, between First and Second streets, starting at 2 p.m. The parade and party are being sponsored by Andrew J. Amato and the Fourth Ward Democratic Association.

The block party will feature free refreshments and rides for the children. Several orchestras will perform, including "Orchestra Nueva," a nine-piece combo which recently returned from a successful concert tour of Puerto Rico.

On Sunday the ladies auxiliary of the Steve Cappelletto Association will hold a coffee-champagne party in the Union Club for the candidates, according to Mrs. Florence Iapicca, club president. The open house affair will start at 6 p.m. Frances Bilis is chairman.

Public transit regulation hit by Cappelletto

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappelletto today announced his opposition to a state bill which would create a new public agency to oversee the operations of public and private bus and rail lines, including regulation of their fares, routes and other services they provide.

The bill was introduced April 21 and would consolidate in the new agency powers now held by the state Public Utilities Commission and the commuter operating agency of the Department of Transportation.

In opposing the bill, Mayor Cappelletto said that it would add additional expenses to the budgets of cities like Hoboken and counties such as Hudson, because provisions in the bill would require cities and counties to pay for the transportation services provided in their respective areas, under the state-operated subsidy program. Last year, Hudson County was billed approximately \$336,000 as its share of the state subsidy for bus and rail services in the county. It refused to pay.

Bilingual pupils' parents forming Hoboken council

Parents of children enrolled in the bilingual program in the Hoboken public schools will meet at Hoboken High School at 7 p.m. Thursday to organize a Bilingual Citywide Parents Council.

Thomas F. McFeely, school superintendent, said the council will create a closer bond between the parents of Spanish-speaking students and the program being carried out in several elementary schools.

The parents will hear a report on the program from Edwin Duroy, the coordinator and Abraham Lao, the liaison agent between the parents and the school. The expanding program is carried out with local, state and federal funds with the goal of providing a smooth transition for Spanish-speaking students to regular classroom work in English.

Hoboken Public Library adds 462 new books

A total of 462 new books were purchased by the Hoboken Public Library last month. Lucille Cunningham, director, said today. Many of the new volumes have been delivered and are now available to library members.

Some of the new books include: "The Age of Uncertainty," by John Kenneth Galbraith; "D'Alembert: When You and I Were Young," by Luigi Barzini; "Matters of Fact and of Fiction," Essays 1973-1975, by Gore Vidal; "Superwoman," by Robert Ludlum; "Quiet Life," by Robert Potter; "Pink Color Wonders," by Robert Potter; "The Virginia Exchange," by Robert Potter; "Women's Work," by Louise Kapp Howe; "Life Situations," Essays Written and Spoken, by Jean-Paul Sartre; "Gates of Eden: American Culture in the Sixties," by Morris Dickstein; "The Inquiry," by Robert M. Tucker; "The Future System: How To Unchain Congress And Make The System Work Again," by John J. Rhodes;

Latin America: A General History, by John Edwin Fogg; "The Pagan Drive: Television Children, and the Pagan Drive," by Peter Schuchman; "The Secret Lives of the Oil Sheikhs," by Linda Blomfield; "Memoirs," by Pablo Neruda; "The Chancellor Manuscript," by Robert Ludlum; "The French Connection," by Lucien Benda; "Who Is Teddy Valeriano," by Robert Potter; "The Personal Income Tax: Where It Came From How It Grew," by Gerald Carson; "Work, Aging, and Social Change: Professionals and the One Life-One Career Imperative," by Seymour S. Sarason; "Chapters in My Life: An Autobiography," by Frederick Taylor Gates; "Daughters of the Earth: The Lives and Legends of American Women," by Carolyn Niehoff; "Traveling Impressions," by Mary W. Sparrow; "Chapters in My Life: History," by A. N. S. by Elia Morante; "The Shadow Treatment," by Otto Preminger; "The Golden Age," by Robert Egan; "Row Sil," by Robert Egan; "A Consumer's Guide To Home Insurance," by Stanley L. Lasker; "The Parents Book About Divorce," by Richard A. Gardner, M.D.; "Victorian Murderesses: A True History of Victorian Murderesses," by Richard A. Gardner; "The Women Accused of Unpleasant Crimes," by Mary S. Hartman; and "The Murder Man: Robert L. Lee and His Image in American Society," by Thomas L. Connolly.

The campaign in Hoboken



Anthony H. Romano



Frank Duroy



Francis X. Leahy



Anthony Russo

Romano team has big plans

By Peter Hallem

For First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano of Hoboken and his three running mates — Francis X. Leahy, Frank Duroy and Anthony Russo — the campaign to be elected mayor and councilmen-at-large is one of ideals and images rather than accomplishments of the past or promises for the future.

"The people of Hoboken are being lulled into a false sense of security and we are trying to open their eyes to the fact that they are the subject of a large

public relations campaign to make them believe that everything is fine," said Romano.

"We have made progress in the last four years — when you are at the bottom there isn't anyway to go but up — but what kind of progress was it, and did we go as far as we should have or could have?"

"We have high-priced consultants and public relations men to tell us how great our city is, how adequate our housing is for the common people and what a model we are to the outside world. I can't swallow it and I don't think the average citizen does either."

Romano said his administration would center its activities on recreation, police and fire protection, and on normalizing relations between the city and the board of education.

"The mayor is boasting of having stabilized the tax rate for the last four years, but that is only half of the story," said Romano. "In doing so he took the easy way out—he drastically cut services to the community and in areas where we couldn't afford to skimp. It could have been an achievement if he had done so with a continuation of services at existing levels."

"It can be done through proper utilization of personnel and administrators dedicated to working towards that goal."

Born 45 years ago and raised in Hoboken, Romano is married to the former Martha Capelluto. They have three children. A former policeman, he is employed as business manager for the Hoboken school system.

Romano said one of the main reasons he was prompted to run for mayor is the lack of any meaningful plans for Hoboken's future by the mayor's administration.

"What has come to pass in the last four years — most of the things the mayor is taking credit for — originated with former Mayor Louis DePascale," he said.

"It is a matter of public record

that every one of them from Applied Housing to Clock Towers and the rest were either well on the way or on the drawing board when he left office. The mayor did pursue them but not on his own. He had help from the city council, the Community Development Agency and countless others."

"The one project that did originate under the mayor — the \$300,000 Urban Observatory at Stevens Institute — flopped miserably its first year and only now is getting itself straightened through the cooperation of the school."

"But what's next? What's on the drawing board for Hoboken? With the exception of the Erie Lackawanna Railroad Terminal and the shopper mall and recreation area proposed for it, the drawing board is blank. There is no plan, no direction and no leadership to see that there are."

Heading Romano's ticket for councilmen-at-large is Leahy, 50, an incumbent who split with the mayor two years ago claiming that the mayor had "lied" to him and he could no longer trust him.

A lifelong resident of the city, Leahy is a bachelor. He attended St. Peter and Paul's Grammar School and St. Michael's High School. He has been employed as a longshoreman for 37 years and is a former shop steward.

For Frank Duroy, 30, the second councilman-at-large candidate on the Romano ticket, unemployment in Hoboken is a major concern. He believes the city could do much more to develop an energetic program designed to attract new business and industry that would provide much needed jobs.

Born in New York, he has lived in Hoboken since childhood and attended local schools, graduating from

Hoboken High School in 1965. Duroy attended Fairleigh Dickinson University and graduated in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in biology. He completed his master at Montclair State College in 1972 in education-science and is enrolled in the doctoral program at Rutgers University.

He is a biology instructor at Essex County Community College in Newark and an adjunct lecturer at Rutgers Graduate School of Education.

Duroy is married to the former Joan Callaghan.

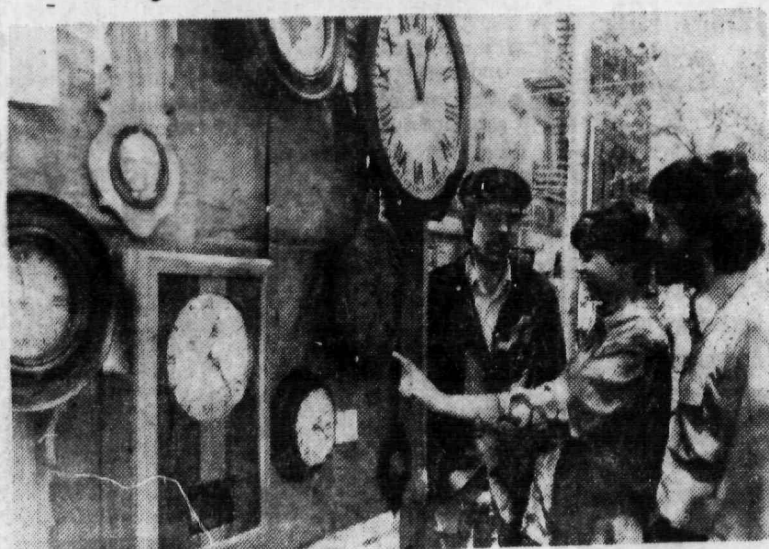
Anthony Russo, 30, completes the Romano ticket. The father of two

children, he is married to the former Michele DiStefano.

A teacher of mentally retarded children for the Hoboken school system, Russo holds a B.S. degree in business management from Murray State University, Ky., and a B.A. in special education and a masters degree in special education from Jersey City State College.

Increasing services to the public without adding to the tax rate is one of Russo's goals. He asserted that cutting the rate or keeping it stable without regard for the public's need for services was not sound management, but the "easy way out."

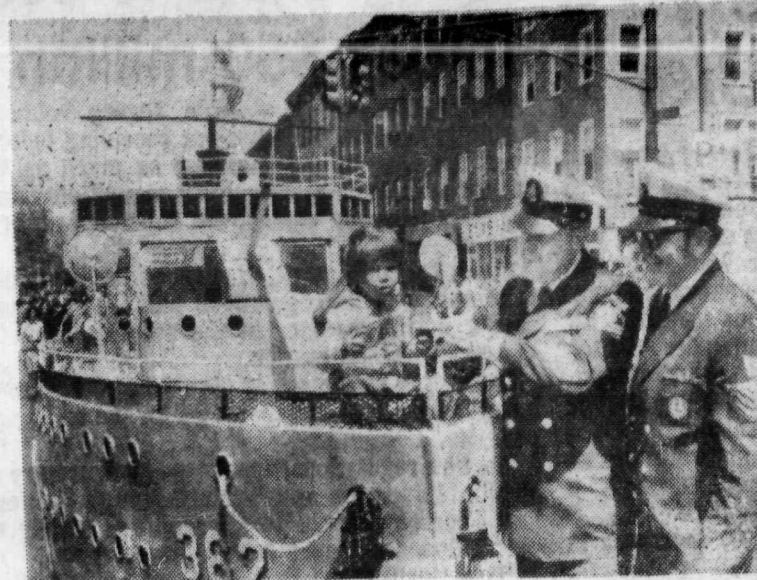
Hospitality in action



TIMELY DISPLAY — Shoppers Dinah and Ted Stevenson stop to admire clocks made by Thomas Newman, left, during Hoboken Hospitality Days held over the weekend. The event, co-sponsored by the city and Hoboken Retail Bureau, transformed lower Washington Street into a pedestrian mall where artisans hawked their wares.



MADRID MAYBE? — Actually it's Hoboken along Washington Street during the Hoboken Hospitality Days held over the weekend. The roving Spanish band was part of the event which transformed the main shopping district into a pedestrian mall.



YOUNG RECRUIT — Two-year-old Scott Groosberg tests out his sea legs on a miniature ship supplied by Navy recruiters from Jersey City for Hoboken Hospitality Days during the weekend. Taking the young stowaway in tow are from left; Chief Petty Officer Allen Whitley and Rudy Sauter, an aviation maintenance officer, first class. Sponsored by the city and its retail bureau, the event turned Washington Street over to artists and craftsmen.



BEEP, BEEP — Clody Mojica toots the nose of Juan Melendez, store manager of The Other Side, who posed as a clown for the weekend's Hoboken Hospitality Days, a heyday for artists and craftsmen.



MONKEY BUSINESS — Tony Brown, who claims to be one of the last organ grinders left, watches as his monkey, Chiquita Banana, decides it wants some of Weehawken native Michael Santoro's drink. Man met monkey during the Hoboken Hospitality Days along Washington Street this weekend. The event, sponsored by the city and the Hoboken Retail Bureau, gave artists and craftsmen the chance to display their works in a mall setting.

Hoboken parking pondered

5/6/77

The Hoboken Parking Authority now has rented more than 1,000 of its 1,662 parking spaces in its two open parking garages and will have to decide soon on whether the third garage will be opened to the public, Joseph Hottendorf, executive director, said today.

According to Hottendorf, the authority has 596 monthly customers in garage "B," the largest of the three garages with 750 spaces, and 444 monthly customers in garage "G."

Garage "D," which has 456 spaces and is the same size as "G," is closed because it will cost the authority approximately \$6,000 a month to operate it once open.

"It will not be an easy decision to make," said Hottendorf. "On one hand we have been steadily increasing the number of monthly customers. But on the other, the list of customers waiting for a space has been depleted. So it will be difficult to determine or anticipate what use we can count on for the third garage."

Transient parking in the two open garages has also improved again, Hottendorf said. Garage "B" had 3,300 transients during March compared to 2,791 for February. And garage "G" had 467 compared to 358 in February. Revenues of \$5,390 was generated by the two garages through daily transient parking.

Hoboken ballot frauds charged

5/5/77

Charges and counter-charges of irregularities in handling of absentee ballots for Hoboken's municipal election Tuesday were flying today as Anthony H. Romano, a candidate for mayor, prepared for a court hearing tomorrow demanding new ballots be issued and certification of the election results be held up until they are cast.

An order for tomorrow's hearing was issued by Superior Court Judge John J. Germino on the complaint of Romano and three running mates seeking election as councilmen, Francis X. Leahy, Frank Duroy and Anthony Russo. It was filed by their lawyer, Frank W. Hogan Jr.

Their complaint alleges a "pattern of acts" by some campaign personnel working for the re-election of Mayor Steve Cappiello "clearly established fraudulent behavior insofar as concerns absentee ballots" to be cast in the election.

They also charge two Romano workers found Cappiello supporters in possession of "four to five open" absentee ballots at Cappiello headquarters, Washington Street, April 27.

Meanwhile, Rose Plombino, submitting an affidavit that she is a registered voter living at 221 Jackson St., Hoboken, has asked Joseph T. Brady, Hudson County elections superintendent and registration commissioner, to investigate her charge that she was deprived of an opportunity to vote for Mayor Cappiello by absentee ballot.

She claims that, since she has a permanent application for an absentee ballot, she received one April 28. However, she charges, a woman claiming she was a supporter of Cappiello came into her home and began assisting her in filling out the ballot. The Plombino woman claims she signed an affidavit attached to the ballot, but the other woman grabbed the ballot and left, not permitting her to vote for Cappiello.

The Romano group's complaint names as defendants Brady, County Clerk James F. Quinn, Gracia McEwen, a Hoboken welfare investigator; Phyllis Herzich, a Cappiello worker; Victor Pinto, maintenance supervisor at the Multi-Service Center, Grand Street, Hoboken, and Helen Macri, also located in that building.

"Ten to 20 open and unsealed ballots" were seen on a desk in front of Pinto, April 27, according to the complaint. Later, that day, it adds, "two to three" such ballots were seen near Helen Macri.

Graciela McEwen as taken in an auto driven by Phyllis Herzich to Cappiello headquarters the same date where the former had possession of the aforementioned "four to five open" ballots while seen by two Romano workers, according to the complaint.

The Romano workers were identified as Walter Caulfield and Frederick Mezzina.

An affidavit attached to the complaint is signed by Hoboken Fireman Frederick Meyer, who says he found a number of torn envelopes on the ground while walking his dog in front of Cappiello headquarters, Tuesday. "Upon closer examination, I saw that these were open envelopes from the County Clerk's (James F. Quinn's) office addressed to certain residents of Hoboken, which originally contained absentee ballots. The empty, open envelopes were torn in half, covered with dust, and had

Several developers may complete Grogan Plaza

5/5/77

The Hoboken Housing Authority may be able to group together several developers interested in building on vacant land in the John J. Grogan Marine View Plaza on Hudson Street, Andrew J. Scherer, chairman, said today.

A meeting is being scheduled for next week between the authority and representatives of the Frank Briscoe Co., a major builder of the Meadowlands sports complex; the Columbia Towers Corp., which wants to build a senior citizen project; and Bernard F. Kenny, who is committed to building an office building-motel on one of the parcels of land.

Scherer said that authority was interested in working out an overall plan with the three working together to complete the project.

There are three vacant parcels of land in the project. Two 25-story apartment buildings were to occupy two of them and Kenny's building would fill the third. The authority owns two of the parcels and Kenny owns the third.

Scherer and other housing authority commissioners met with representatives of the Briscoe firm this week to brief them on the development plan for the area. Scherer said a real estate investor also was present along with Joseph Hottendorf, executive director of the parking authority.

The parking authority has a stake in what is eventually built on the vacant parcels. It operates three garages in the complex, which if fully utilized at the current market rate for parking spaces, could provide the authority with enough annual income to assume payment of its \$8.5 million parking garage construction bond issue. The city has been making most of the semi-annual payments for the authority.

Scherer said all steps towards completing the project would take into account the parking authority's needs and would be "fully coordinated" with the authority.

"There is also a possibility that conventional financing may be arranged for the project rather than federal section funds," he continued. "This would result in full tax payments to the city based on the value of the property rather than in lieu of tax payments."

Scherer added that the meeting with Briscoe was arranged by Hottendorf through Mayor Steve Cappiello.

Hoboken cops ask Francone's scalp for 'shooting' story

5/5/77

A number of Hoboken policemen have gone to the Hudson County Prosecutor to complain that a member of the city council, in his campaign efforts, has been telling the public that the police needlessly shot two men in recent incidents.

And those same complaints against Fourth Ward Councilman Louis Francone were brought to the attention of the city council at yesterday's meeting by Ptl. James Behrens, president of the Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA). Francone did not attend the meeting.

As a result of the complaint the council is expected to undertake its own investigation of the charges. A resolution authorizing the probe will be introduced at the next council meeting — May 18 — although the council has no power to remove Francone from office or otherwise punish him if it finds that he did make the statements the PBA president said he did.

In a prepared statement, Behrens told the council that last week on two occasions Francone was observed in a sound car with a Hispanic male. On both occasions a speech in Spanish was being broadcast over the loudspeaker system in which residents of the area were told that the police had needlessly shot and killed two men, both Puerto Ricans. Those listening to the speech were mostly Puerto Ricans, Behrens said.

"No mention was made of the fact that in one incident three shots were fired at the police officers before they returned the fire," Behrens continued. "And no mention was made of the fact that in the other incident two police officers were stabbed by the suspect before he was shot, or that six men in all were injured during the course of the incident."

"There isn't any fun in having to shoot and kill a man," he continued. "We have to live with it for the rest of our lives. We have to explain it to our children."

"Unless there is an immediate attempt to rectify the damage that has been done Councilman Francone can count on a vigorous campaign during the next two years to remove him from office."

At that point most of the 30 or so members of the police department who were in the audience yelled, "We want his (Francone's) resignation, now."

First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano asked Behrens if anyone had actually heard Francone make the remarks himself. Behrens said no, but Francone was in the car and is believed to have prompted the man

who was speaking to make the remarks. Romano said that this was only an assumption since no one was actually in the car with the councilman and the man to hear what was said between them. However, Behrens pointed out that Francone had been working with the Spanish community for 20 years, understood Spanish, knew what the man was saying over the loud speaker, but did nothing to correct his statement.

Councilman Robert A. Ranieri said that the charges were serious enough for the council to conduct its own investigation and he would introduce a resolution calling for a council hearing on the matter at the next meeting.

Although Behrens prefaced his remarks to the council by stating that he was speaking as a member of the Hoboken Police Department, not the PBA president, and did not want to become involved in the merits of the current political campaign some signs of politics were evident.

Several of the policemen in the audience were wearing T-shirts with Mayor Steve Cappiello's name printed on them. Several others were wearing Cappiello stickers on their labels. One was wearing a Romano button. And a majority of the others have been openly campaigning for the mayor's re-election.

Francone opposes Cappiello's re-election. He is campaign manager for Councilman Romano and his ticket which is running against the mayor. However, Behrens insisted that the concern of the men was above politics.

"The police department has always been the subject of political discussion at election time, whether we're doing a good job or bad one, whether we have too many men or not enough — we've learned to live with it," he said. "But this goes beyond politics. This is a case of men risking their lives to protect the citizens of Hoboken only to be accused by a councilman of needlessly killing someone."

Hottendorf left letters unopened

5/4/77

Otto Hottendorf, at the time Hoboken Board of Education president, says he did not open several letters from striking Hoboken teachers in early September, 1975 because he considered the letters "a form of harassment."

Hottendorf testified yesterday during a hearing on an action to hold the board in contempt of a court order to negotiate.

Superior Court Judge Thomas S. O'Brien said he expects to make a ruling as soon as possible after lawyers' summations are heard by him May 19.

Hottendorf, recalling telephone calls he said he received "2, 3 and 4 a.m." during the strike, declared he did not open several communications from the Hoboken Teachers Association Sept. 4 through 6, 1975.

Enfil Oxfield, HTA counsel, in questioning Hottendorf, contended the messages requested the board to "sit down" and negotiate.

Judge O'Brien must determine whether the board violated a Sept. 4, 1975 order by Superior Court Judge Frederick C. Kentz Jr. that it should "continue to negotiate" with the teachers. The case was sent back to him by the court's appellate division for a hearing.

Hottendorf and several other witnesses for the board claimed it had initiated the court action before Judge Kentz in order to end the strike. They asserted they relied on the legal advice of the board's counsel, Robert W. Taylor, also a witness, that they should not negotiate with the teachers until they ended the strike by returning to work.

Hottendorf testified that he "glanced at the order" issued by Judge Kentz and was not initially aware that although Judge Kentz issued a restraint against the teachers continuing the strike, he had also inserted an order that the board "continue to negotiate" with the HTA.

Robert Taylor has testified he had prepared the court papers before he left for a trip to the west early Sept. 4 and after the teachers voted to strike. He recalled yesterday that former Mayor Louis De Pascale, a board negotiator, and the latter's son, Paul De Pascale, a lawyer, took the papers to Cherry Hill, where Judge Kentz issued the injunction during a judges' conference.

Carl Schaefer appeared for the board and questioned Taylor while he was on the stand. Taylor, concluding his testimony yesterday, said he had some telephone conversations with the Midwest with the elder De Pascale and others at the school board, but was assured that Judge Kentz had issued the "no strike" order. Nothing was said about the judge's insertion of the "continue-to-negotiate" phrase, declared Taylor, who previously explained he did not know of its existence until eight days after the order was issued.

Oxfield recalled, however, both he and Taylor were in Judge Kentz's chambers on Sept. 9 signing some papers. Since the previous hearing, Taylor explained, he recalled being in Kentz's chambers for a "conciliatory type of meeting."

Hottendorf recalled Louis and Paul De Pascale told the board at one point that, despite Judge Kentz' insertion of an order to negotiate, they did not have to negotiate while the teachers were on strike, while Donald Singleton, then a board member, read the order and interpreted it to mean to return to negotiations immediately.

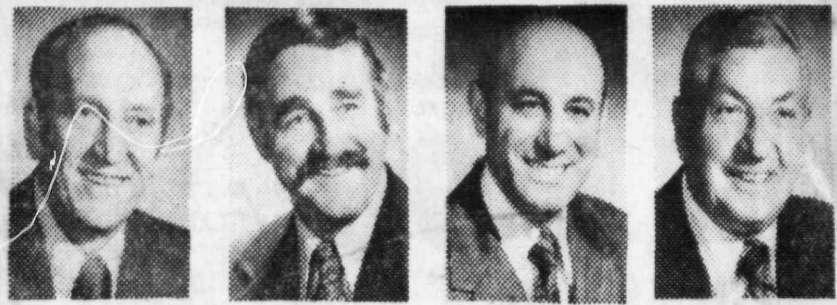
He said the board was assured by counsel that the judge had orally stated the board did not have to negotiate until the teachers went back to work. Singleton said had the question been put to a vote, it probably would have been "8 to 1" not to negotiate until the teachers ended the strike. He explained he would have been the only one voting to negotiate at that stage.

Paul De Pascale, now an assistant county prosecutor, testified that, despite the language added by Judge Kentz, he believed the board's position was valid. De Pascale, filling in during Taylor's trip, recalled he did not question the order, believing it was "an attempt" by the judge "to bring the parties together." He said he never thought the teachers would not honor the order by continuing the strike.

The HTA and its members were found guilty of being in contempt of Kentz's "no-strike" order at a hearing before Judge O'Brien shortly after the end of the 1975 strike. At that time, fines were imposed and the teachers were placed on probation.

Now, O'Brien must decide if the board was in contempt of Kentz's order to negotiate.

The campaign in Hoboken



Steve Cappiello

Thomas Kennedy

Robert A. Ranieri

Bernard Scrivani

They stress cops and housing

Mayor Steve Cappiello of Hoboken believes that the accomplishments of his administration over the last four years are the best reasons for citizens to elect him and his running mates — Robert A. Ranieri, Bernard Scrivani and Thomas Kennedy — on May 10.

"Four years ago I made a pledge to the people of Hoboken to restore foot patrolmen to the streets, improve housing, stabilize taxes and manage the city as a community business," said the mayor.

"Since then we have added more than 30 patrolmen to foot patrol, which resulted in a 10

per cent reduction in our crime rate overall, and a 45 per cent reduction in major crimes."

The mayor said he was "most proud" of the administration's accomplishment of better housing for local citizens.

"Hoboken's record of providing better housing for its residents is the best of its kind in the nation," he asserted. "More than 20 per cent of the city's housing stock has been rehabilitated since 1973. And for the future we plan to construct one and two-family homes and obtain a new residential developer for the John J. Grogan Marine View Plaza."

"These plans, together with the continuation of the Home Improvement Loan Program and Tenement Rehabilitation Program, should enable the city to rehabilitate another 20 per cent during the next four years."

While proud of the housing record, the mayor said he got the most satisfaction from being able to stabilize the city's tax rate in spite of a 10 per cent loss in ratables.

"We have been able to give city employees substantial salary increases in our present three contracts through consistently frugal and prudent fiscal policies," he continued. "And, if we continue to watch every dollar that is spent, there will be no need for a property tax increase in the near future."

Cappiello, 53, a police sergeant who has been on leave of absence for almost 15 years while serving as Third Ward councilman and now mayor, added that his plans for the future of Hoboken were numerous.

"The rehabilitation of the deteriorating Erie-Lackawanna Railroad and ferry terminal heads the list," said the mayor, "using only federal and state funds. 'Grants for small business men, known as the SHOP program, is presently under way and will make Hoboken's business areas a more attractive place to shop.'"

The mayor said that he hoped to concentrate the city's efforts during the next four years on the recreation needs of the city's youngsters and adults.

"Utilizing Community Development and Green Acres funds, the city is now constructing a new park at the Multi-Service Center, refurbishing Church Square Park, and reconstructing the Little League Field," the mayor said. "And plans are under way to refurbish Elysian Park and Stevens Park within the next two years. Redevelopment of the waterfront into a commercial and recreational area along River Road is another of our goals for the future," he said.

Born and raised in Hoboken, Cappiello is a Navy veteran. He is married to the former Dorothy Barry. They have three children.

The mayor joined the Hoboken Police Department in 1950 and in 1953 established the first municipal credit union for city workers and served as its treasurer for 20 years. In 1963, while a police sergeant, he made his first attempt at elected office and became the Third Ward councilman. He was reelected in 1967 and again in 1971.

Two of the mayor's running mates are incumbent councilmen-at-large, Ranieri and Scrivani. Councilman Scrivani, a

Republican, is also a lifelong resident of Hoboken. He is married to the former Inez Cosentino, head of the Hoboken Adult Evening School for Vocational Training.

Scrivani, 65, recently retired from S.B. Pentick and Co., a pharmaceutical firm, after 46 years. He was manager of its customer service department. He is also the city's Republican Committee chairman.

Councilman Ranieri, 47, has been the "workhorse" of the administration, dividing his time between City Hall affairs and the operation of the family-owned furniture business with his mother, Mrs. Anthony Ranieri, and his brother, Rudolph, former First Ward councilman.

Ranieri has served on the council's public works, business administration and public safety committees, and was the city's sole labor negotiator with its three unions. He serves on the National League of Cities Committee on Effective Government and was recently appointed to the Technical Assistance Committee of the State Department of Community Affairs.

Married to the former Elena Ferraro, the Ranieris have three children.

The councilman has been active with the Hoboken Union, the Red Cross and has served as chairman of the Public Health Nursing Service. He is a graduate of St. Peter's College and attended Rutgers Law School and the University of San Francisco Law School. He is an Army veteran.

A member of the Hoboken Police Department for almost 15 years, Kennedy, 42, is a former longshoreman. He attended St. Joseph's School and was graduated from St. Michael's High School, Union City, where he excelled in most sports. He also attended Clemson University in South Carolina.

Married to the former Maryann Carroll, the Kennedys have two children.

Kennedy is a Marine Corps veteran who served during the Korean conflict. In 1968 he was selected to be grand marshal of the city's annual Memorial Day Parade.

He has been active in many children-oriented activities. He is currently on the board of directors of St. Peter's Orphanage and coached Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) teams at St. Joseph's School.

Kennedy has been cited six times by the Hoboken Policeman's Benevolent Association (PBA) and the state PBA for outstanding police work.

Cappiello slate: Romano evades

By TERRY BRENNAN

Hoboken council candidates on Mayor Steve Cappiello's ticket agree that opposition "failure to discuss the issues" is the key point in the May 10 election.

The candidates, Detective

Thomas Kennedy and Councilman Robert Ranieri and Bernard Scrivani, claim the Anthony Romano team's "inability to propose anything specific" shows an insufficient grasp of Hoboken's problems. They want voters to compare

Cappiello's mayoral record with Romano's performance as business manager of the school board.

Romano's failure to propose anything concrete is an accurate indication of his ignorance of city affairs," Ranieri asserted. "He's been attacking Cappiello's record on crime, taxes and rebuilt housing. That simply shows he's unaware of what's happening in this town."

While the Cappiello team concedes it hasn't undercut Romano's widespread unpopularity, it boasts that taxes have been stabilized, violent crime is down 45 per cent and 25 per cent of the city's housing has been rehabilitated.

The trio admit that generating jobs and creating greater recreational facilities are "absolute necessities."

Claims Crime Cut

"You give the average person better housing and his self-respect automatically soars," said Scrivani. "This has cut crime and has fostered greater community pride in the

city. Housing and crime are no longer urgent issues."

Ranieri emerged as the council's watchdog during his first term, and his criticism of city purchasing practices led to firings of Business Administrator Herman Bier and DPW Director Raphael P. Vitale.

The 47-year-old father of three claims stabilization of the tax rate at \$106 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation is the major accomplishment of Cappiello's first term. He also insists the \$200,000 corporation set up to attract industry to Hoboken will "start to dent unemployment in its first year."

"The Economic Development Corporation will create low interest loans so our banks will benefit along with industry," Ranieri said. "This is a giant step toward the beginning of the end of our money drain to suburbia."

Scrivani retired recently as manager of customer service for a pharmaceutical firm. The 65-year-old third-term councilman said Cappiello's decision to let Community Develop-

ment consultants "go after funds" was a turning point in housing renovation.

"Romano has been constantly harping on the fact that outside consultants have been running our town," Scrivani said. "He should be aware now that the reason we rebuilt a quarter of Hoboken was by going out and getting federal funds."

Although Kennedy ran a heated campaign against Freeholder Vincent J. Fusilli in 1975, the 42-year-old Hoboken detective has never held public office. He charged Romano with blaming Cappiello for withdrawing from Hudson County Sewerage Authority after the mayoral candidate voted to secede.

"Romano showed he loses a grasp of the facts when he attacked the mayor for creating a separate sewerage authority," Kennedy said. "Does he expect people to elect him if he votes blindly on issues and then blames others for the decision. We don't need that kind of leadership here in Hoboken."

Camp may operate with CDA funds

Mayor Steve Cappiello of Hoboken-North Hudson YMCA that Camp Tamaqua, the facility near Bear Mountain, N.Y., be operated as a day care camp this summer using a \$10,000 appropriation from the Community Development Agency.

After conferring with Fred Bado, CDA director yesterday, the mayor said he contacted Wesley Leverich, executive director of the Y who agreed to put the idea before the board of directors.

Earlier, Councilman Anthony H. Romano said that he was planning to meet next week with Leo Genese, camp director, to see if a fund raising campaign could be set up to aid the financially troubled camp.

Cappiello said he believes that a day camp can be operated this year and eventually the city can make full use of the camp facilities.

"We feel we can keep Tamaqua alive," said the mayor.

Cappiello said the city expects two buses soon and they can be used to shuttle the youngsters to and from the camp. Employees working under the federal CETA program also can be assigned and a provision can be made for daily lunches, he said.

"We feel we can make this great day care opportunity available to our children," said the mayor.

In announcing plans for a fund drive, Romano recalled that two years ago "We were able to raise approximately \$20,000 in a few short weeks. I don't see why we can't do it again if we get support from residents, business and industries."

Romano said he, too, wanted to commit the city to financially supporting the camp.

He said he felt the CDA could "pick up the tab right now" and that he would support whatever council legislation is needed.

Y officials said the minimum needed to operate the camp on a regular basis was \$47,000 but this was before the board of trustees decided that it was unlikely that the money could be raised and they felt the camp should not open at all. They would also have to know by November how they stood on financing the operation for next summer, they said.

Romano said he had spoken with Y officials and felt the decision not to open this year might be reversed. This idea is now before the board, Cappiello said.

Romano, who is running for mayor next Tuesday, said he is committed to keeping the camp operating, regardless of the outcome. "It's one of the few good things the less fortunate kids of the city have and I don't want to see them lose it," he said.

Fire alarm boxes ready to talk

Five of the 10 fire voice call boxes that Hoboken purchased last year are now operational and two more should be in service by the end of the week. Thomas Vecchione, head of the city's Traffic and Signal Division, said today.

But Vecchione isn't taking any chances on malfunctions, and for the time being, the old fashioned pull-type fire alarm boxes will remain on the same poles as the new alarms in case the new ones don't work properly.

The city purchased and began installing the new call boxes last year in the hope of combating a wave of false alarms. The boxes were installed in areas where fire department statistics showed a high number of false alarms had originated.

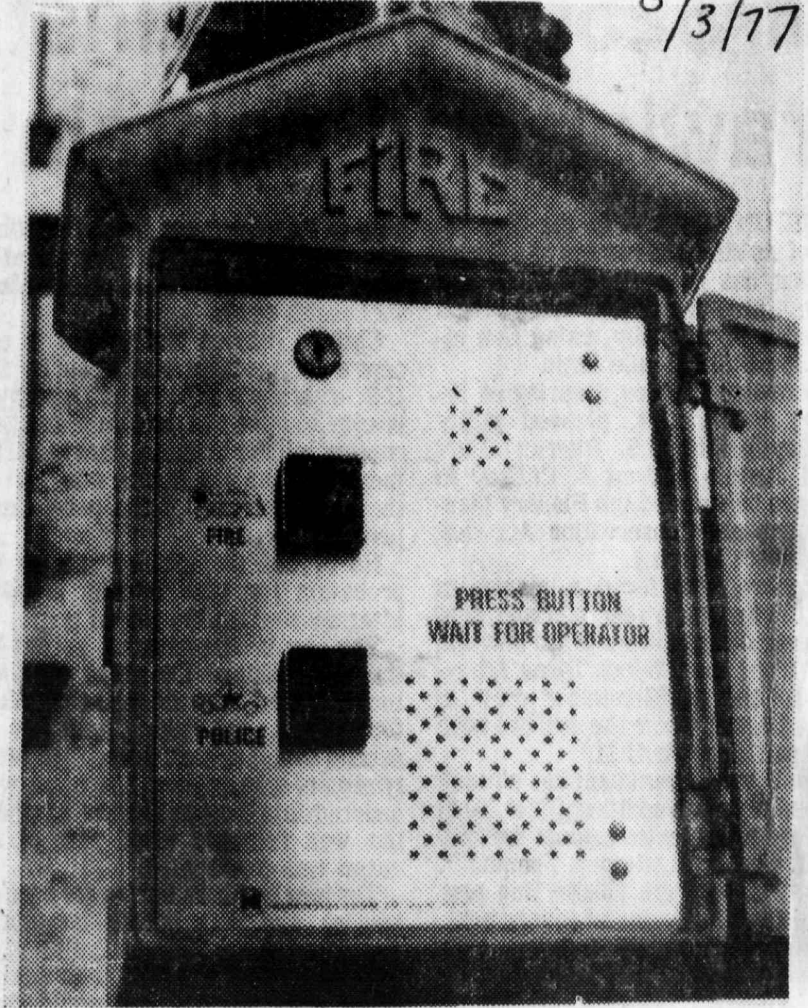
However, problems with the city's electrical wiring in the alarm system forced delays in getting the new call boxes into operation.

"The company sent in its own engineers to help solve the problems," Vecchione continued, "and things seem to be in order. But for the time being the company won't guarantee 100 percent effectiveness because they still aren't sure that all of the bugs are out. Until we do get to that stage I'm keeping the old pull boxes up as a precaution."

Vecchione said that persons wishing to report a fire on the new boxes merely push a button which puts them in voice contact with the fire dispatcher. They should then give the dispatcher the location of the fire.

"If after pushing the button a reasonable period of time goes by without the dispatcher picking up, the person should use the pull alarm box," he added.

The new call boxes are at First and Adams Street, Sixth Street and River Road, Ninth Street and Willow Avenue, Third and Adams Streets, and Third and Garden Streets. By the end of this week boxes at Third and Jefferson Streets and 11th Street and Willow Avenue should be working, he said.



This is a new type fire alarm box that has been installed at First and Adams Streets, Hoboken. It permits those seeking assistance to immediately contact both fire and police headquarters.

Hoboken passes occupancy permit law

An ordinance requiring most Hoboken landlords to obtain certificates of occupancy from the city before they can rent out vacant apartments has been approved by the city council but is expected to be tested in the courts the first time the city tries to enforce it.

Theodore Lobsenz, a Union City attorney and Hoboken property owner, made that clear when he addressed the council during the public hearing on the ordinance and urged the council to vote against passage.

Lobsenz, who said he was representing himself and other Hoboken property owners who would be affected by the new ordinance, said they were against it on "economic and legal" grounds.

"By virtue of the ordinance you are preventing the property owner from renting his apartment for at least 10 days while he waits for an inspection and his certificate," he explained. "During that time the prospective tenant could very easily find an apartment elsewhere. So it would be an economic hardship on the property owner."

"The Supreme Court has also ruled that certificates of occupancy

should be required only when there is new construction or a change in the original use of a building. The city's proposal for requirement is not proper."

Lobsenz added that he has challenged similar laws in other municipalities with success.

"I suggest that you vote against adoption of this measure," he said. "You'll only be putting dollars into the pockets of the lawyers who will be fighting this in court."

Thomas Newman, president of the First Ward Block Association, urged the council to adopt the ordinance. It was at Newman's request several months ago that the ordinance was tabled for revision. The association felt that the ordinance then was covering too much ground and could not be enforced. He suggested that certain landlords and buildings be exempted. His suggestions — owner-occupied buildings with four or less apartments and state or federally financed buildings — were adopted.

"The reasons for our objections have been removed," asserted Newman, "and we now urge the council to adopt the ordinance." The council unanimously adopted the measure.

In other business, the council accepted bids for supplying the city with trees for its tree planting program — \$20,262 by Princeton Nurseries, the only bidder — equipping the new emergency van — \$17,172 by State Line Fire and Safety Co. of Park Ridge, also the only bidder.

The council received two bids for six new walkie-talkie hand radios for the police department. The Werner Communications Co. of Upper Montclair submitted a bid of \$6,141. The Motorola Corp. of Glen Rock presented a proposal of \$6,333, and an alternate proposal of \$5,196.

A bid received from Adams Sales for fire hydrants and hydrant parts was rejected by the council and the city clerk instructed to readvertise for new bids. It is the second time the city rejected bids on the equipment.

Block association buys houses for rehabilitation

A group of Hoboken residents will be trying their hand at rehabilitating two four-family brick tenement houses on Garden Street, it was learned today.

Thomas Newman, president of the First Ward Block Association, said today the association has signed contracts to buy 208 and 210 Garden St. which it will rehabilitate with the help of the Hoboken Community Development Agency and Applied Housing Associates.

The project will cost approximately \$80,000 which will include the purchase of the buildings and their rehabilitation. Newman said \$10,000 will be raised by selling bonds, \$50,000 will be in low interest mortgage money and \$30,000 will be in grant funds from the CDA and Home Improvement Program.

"Our goal is to make this the first

of many small renovation projects in the city," he said. "We have asked the CDA if it will consider including \$75,000 in its budget for next year as seed money for a continuation of the project."

He added that after the rehabilitation had been done the association would sell the buildings with the provision that the new owner would occupy one of the apartments.

"Applied Housing is going to be supplying us with the expertise it has gained through all of the rehabilitation work it has done in the city at no charge to the association," he continued.

Newman said the buildings would be rehabilitated one at a time. When the first had been completed the former tenants would be given first crack at buying it or renting the vacant apartments.

Installer tells Hoboken he'll stop work

A contractor hired by Hoboken to install a new \$19,975 heating system in the Jefferson Street Recreation Center is threatening to stop work on the project because, he says, the city isn't living up to its end of the contract.

According to Walter F. Geiger, the contractor, the city is supposed to pay him one-third of the contract price upon delivery of the materials to the center. The materials, he said, have been delivered but Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato has refused to authorize the payment.

Amato, however, says he didn't refuse payment but did tell Geiger he wanted the law department to check on the contract and specifications before he authorized payment.

Amato said the city's plumbing inspector, Michael Martiniello, also had to check the materials on hand at the center to verify that everything listed in the specifications was indeed on the site.

"But my main concern is that I don't want the new system hooked up to pipes that are in bad condition and could break this coming winter," he continued. "I want the boiler hooked up to the main line coming into the building."

He added that Geiger's payment, even if approved now, still had to go to the city council for final approval before the check could be released. The next council meeting isn't until May 18 and the director expects to have the matter resolved by then.

Geiger said he submitted his bill for partial payment in time for this week's council meeting but it was held up by Amato.

"The director wants me to do work that wasn't included in the specifications and isn't covered in the contract," he asserted. "I don't mind doing it but not at the same price. I didn't contract to run a special water line from the boiler to the main. The specifications call for the boiler to be hooked up to the existing lines in the building."

State inspector agrees dumping area cleaned

Hoboken has avoided fines totalling more than \$200,000 by cleaning up its dumping area at 16th and Grand Streets to the satisfaction of the state Solid Waste Administration (SWA), it was learned today.

An inspector from the SWA, a division of the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), checked the dumping area yesterday and indicated to Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato that the city effected about 90 per cent compliance with the state's orders.

"That leaves about 10 per cent to do," said the director. "I know what the state wants and it will be done as their inspector directed. No time limit for doing the work was given," he added.

The dumping site, just east of the city's sewage treatment plant, was actually a staging area where rubbish collected by the public works department was dumped each day. The rubbish and litter were then put into large containers and hauled away by a contracted rubbish collector to an area dump.

However, the system didn't always work and sometimes several days would go by before the contractor was called in to haul away a filler container. As a result, rubbish started to accumulate at the site and was noticed by the state last year. After notifying the city several times to cease dumping, the SWA ordered all operation to end and the area cleaned up by Sept. 16 or it would turn the matter over to the state attorney general with the recommendation that the city be fined \$1,000 a day from that date. The deadline was ex-

tended twice, once to March 11 and again to yesterday.

According to Amato, all of the rubbish and litter have been removed or used as fill and then covered with top soil. The area has been fenced in and a large gate put up to prevent unauthorized persons from entering.

Although the city has avoided the \$1,000-a-day fine going back to Sept.

16 it still has to settle a \$1,000 fine that the state did impose. Amato said he wasn't sure what the city was doing about that.

"I believe the matter is being handled by the law department," he continued. "Notification of the fine was received before I was appointed director and turned over to the law department."

Hoboken asks funds to fix public buildings

Hoboken has applied for \$100,000 from the Hudson County Manpower program to start a year-long program designed to clean up and improve conditions in five city buildings, Mayor Steve Cappiello announced today.

The project will make use of Title Six funds from the federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) and provide full employment for eight persons currently unemployed.

"Through the program we will make cosmetic but necessary improvements to our four active fire houses and the city's health center at 916 Garden St.," said the mayor. "This will include aligning, reinforcing and winterizing windows and doorways, the replastering of walls

and ceilings and the repainting of the interiors of the building."

The mayor said that the eight new employees will be supplemented with additional men from the public works department repair crews and will help in establishing a definite maintenance schedule for all municipal buildings.

"We are hoping that the total effect of this project will give added life to our city's buildings, give our employees a cleaner and more comfortable place to work, while also providing meaningful new employment opportunities," the mayor added.

George W. Crimmins, director of the Hoboken Manpower program,

said that the city will recruit the eight new employees from among the ranks of the unemployed. However, only those who have been out of work for a minimum of 15 weeks will eligible.

"We will be working with the state's Unemployment Office on this," continued Crimmins. "Persons interested in the position should contact that office about them. Their names will be forwarded to the Manpower office."

Crimmins added that the cost of materials needed for most of the work that will be done was also included in the application and would be part of the \$100,000 if it was approved.

The program is expected to start in July.

CAMPAIGN — '77 Macchi and Cappiello outspending rivals

The Thomas F.X. Smith group has taken in \$2,000 more than the rival William A. Macchi organization in the Jersey City mayoral election while in Hoboken, Mayor Steve Cappiello and his running mates have received many more contributions than the opposition ticket headed by Councilman Anthony H. Romano.

That's how the respective camps' financial reports to the State Election Law Enforcement Commission shape up at this stage of the campaign.

The Smith forces have received a total of \$160,929 in contributions and have spent \$138,636. The Macchi group has received \$158,743 and spent \$156,822. A total of \$41,858 was received by a third ticket headed by Arthur D. Cashin Jr., that group spent \$38,664.

Some of the largest contributors to Smith were Mrs. Theodore Koszma of 147 Van Reypen Ave., Andrew Santora, 67 Clendenny Ave., Mr. and Mrs. Sol Walkes, 409 Cator Ave., \$1,000 each; Walter Shiel, campaign treasurer and Joseph Scott, 66 Fairview Ave., both \$5,000 and Walter Barrett, 285 Pearsall Ave., \$6,000.

Among large contributors to the Macchi ticket is the Police Alliance for United Leadership, whose address is a post office box. That contribution was \$6,050. Jean Macchi, of 72 Sterling Ave., gave \$5,000 and Generi Construction Co., of 2750 Kennedy Boulevard contributed \$3,000.

Most of the other candidates reported receiving and spending comparatively small amounts.

In the Hoboken election, the Cappiello ticket reported receiving \$28,050 which is \$25,000 more than the opposition Romano slate. In the spending category, the Cappiello forces shelled out approximately \$37,397 — some \$34,500 more than the Romano group. Romano filed two reports so far and the second Cappiello report is due Monday.

The initial Cappiello report showed receipts of \$6,050 but Edward Chius, campaign treasurer, estimated that the committee got \$23,000 more for a total of \$29,050. Chius estimates that disbursements of \$29,000 will be included in the second report, making a total outlay of \$37,397.

The early report does not show any large contributors but \$4,240 went to the State Wide Specialty Sales, 614 Hudson St. for signs and other campaign material.

The Romano campaign reports show a total of \$4,035 received and \$2,891 spent. Romano has contributed \$500 himself and there is a \$500 contribution from Freeholder James Fusilli. The largest amount is \$1,500 from Applied House of Hoboken, a firm active in housing rehabilitation.

The largest disbursement from the Romano war chest was \$1,350 to Nick Baffa of 14 Center St., Jersey City, for campaign material.

Vote fraud charge by Romano dismissed

Superior Court Judge John J. Geronimo dismissed a complaint by the Romano ticket in Hoboken's municipal election campaign alleging fraud in handling absentee ballots by saying there was "no clear and convincing evidence" before him.

Anthony H. Romano, candidate for mayor in Tuesday's election, joined by his councilman running mates, Francis X. Leahy, Frank Duroy and Anthony Russo, claimed there was such a "pattern of acts" by some of Mayor Steven Cappiello's workers that new absentee ballots should be issued and the election results should not be certified until they are cast.

However, yesterday's hearing, the judge declared that one witness for the plaintiffs, Thomas Frawley, originally charged he saw "10 to 20 absentee ballots" in the office of Victor Pinto, maintenance supervisor, at the federally-funded Multi-Service Center on Grand Street, but his testimony later developed and he was 10 to 20 "envelopes."

Another witness, Hoboken Fireman Frederick Meyer testified about seeing torn outer absentee ballot envelopes on the ground outside Cappiello headquarters, Tuesday, but

is "pure speculation who torn them," the court related.

He also noted there were identical affidavits submitted by Frederick Messina and Walter Caulfield, but their testimony was "confusing and vague." They had claimed they followed one defendant, Mrs. Graciela McEwen, to Cappiello headquarters, where they saw her with "four to five open absentee ballots." April 27. However, the judge noted the testimony showed this was changed to "four brown envelopes."

The judge earlier threw out all testimony by Mrs. Dolores Seriele, whose affidavit alleged she was approached by Mrs. McEwen and Mrs. Phyllis Herzlich, another defendant, and the latter took her absentee ballot away before it could be marked. Mrs. Seriele admitted during cross-examination by Victor Mullica, defense counsel.

Cappiello supporters in the court were jubilant after the court's decision.

Duroy said Romano's group would wait until after the election. If the outcome is determined by absentee ballots and they have any solid evidence of fraud, he said further legal action would then be taken.

Francone calls cops' charge 'political'

Hoboken Fourth Ward Councilman Louis Francone today denied charges by a number of city policemen that he had prompted a man making a campaign speech in Spanish to portray the police as having needlessly shot two men in recent incidents.

The charges were made at Wednesday's meeting of the Hoboken City Council by Ptl. James Behrens, president of the Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA), but, he stressed, not in his capacity as president of the organization.

Behrens said Francone had been sitting in a car from which another man was making a campaign speech in Spanish over a loudspeaker system. In the speech, he said, the police were accused of needlessly shooting two men "while the fact that they had been

attacked first and were forced to defend themselves was never mentioned." According to Behrens, the matter has been taken to the Hudson County prosecutor for possible action.

"This whole thing is politically motivated," Francone said. "I never made any speech saying anything like that and I didn't tell the man who was with me at the time to say anything like that."

Francone said he was in the car at the place and time Behrens said, but denied knowing what the man using the speaker system had said.

"I know a little Spanish, everyday words that I picked up," he said. "But when they speak Spanish fast I don't understand it. But I know the man with me wouldn't say anything like

what the police say he did."

Francone said he thought the police department did a good job and had always supported their efforts for "better pay and benefits." He added he was willing to appear before the prosecutor "or anyone else" concerning the incident.

"I don't have anything to hide," he said. "I know this is a political attack on me. How come almost all of the cops who made these charges against me are out openly campaigning for Mayor Cappiello's reelection?"

Francone split with the mayor several months ago to side with First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano, who is running a ticket against Cappiello in Tuesday's election. Francone is campaign manager for the Romano slate.

Hoboken water line repairs may reduce bill to consumers

Hoboken property owners may get between a 10 and 15 per cent reduction in their new water rates next year as a result of the water line repair and replacement program now under way in the city.

According to Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, with two-thirds of the city completed there has been a 25 to 40 per cent reduction in the city's water use.

"Two years ago, before the project started, we were using between 12 and 15 million gallons of water a day," the councilman continued. "Currently, with two-thirds of the work completed, we are down to a daily usage of between 7 and 9 million gallons a day."

"We are assuming that we have the same amount of people and industry using basically the same

amount of water now as they did two years ago, and that is a fairly safe assumption.

"In terms of dollars, it means the city is saving approximately \$2,200 a day based on the new rate we are charged by Jersey City."

Hoboken's water customers are charged \$10.50 per 1,000 feet of water, almost double what they had been paying before Jersey City raised its prices to the city.

"I'm very confident that when the repair and replacement program has been completed the city will be saving enough water to warrant a reduction in the rate we charge our customers of anywhere between 10 and 15 per cent," he continued. "What they are now paying is a rate that took into account a large and unaccounted loss of water for which the city had to pay Jersey City."

Hoboken line getting new cars

TRENTON — Gov. Brendan T. Byrne today announced that 180 of 230 new Arrow III railroad passenger cars will be assigned to ConRail's Hoboken Division, formerly the Erie Lackawanna Lines, after their acceptance in a ceremony May 19 at the local train terminal.

Another 50 Arrow cars are assigned to ConRail's North Jersey Coast Line, formerly New York and Long Branch.

The new electric, multiple unit cars are the third generation of New Jersey's Arrow series and will increase to 333 the number acquired by the state.

Eighty per cent of the \$187.7 million cost is being funded by two grants from the federal Urban Mass Transportation Administration; the matching 20 per cent, \$37.5 million, will come from the 1968 state trans-

portation bond issue. The General Electric Co. of Erie, Pa., is constructing the cars at a cost of approximately \$750,000 each.

Purchase of the high-speed, air-conditioned cars is part of the first phase of the project to improve electrified passenger service in the Hoboken Division.

Approximately 66.8 miles of electrified lines in Hudson, Essex, Union, Morris and Somerset counties all will be rehabilitated and converted from 3,000 volts direct current to 25 kilowatts alternating current. This will make the Hoboken Division system compatible with the Northeast Corridor system and will enable trains to operate into Pennsylvania, Station, New York, after a track connection can be completed under a separate contract.

Delivery of the new cars is to con-

tinue at the rate of eight a month until the order is completed by the end of 1978.

Since rehabilitation of the Hoboken Division system is not expected to be completed until the fall of 1979, the new cars will operate on ConRail's main line between Trenton and Newark until they can be transferred to the Hoboken Division.

The electrified lines of the North Jersey Coast Line will be extended approximately 17 miles from South Amboy to Red Bank.

The state Transportation Department also is rehabilitating 33 Arrow I cars purchased in 1968 to make them and the 70 Arrow II cars purchased in 1974 compatible with those of the new series. This includes changes principally to the couplings and door operating systems.

Works boss: 'Write to me'

Hoboken's Public Works Department is in for something of a shakeup, according to Director Andrew J. Amato, who isn't satisfied with the department's efficiency.

"The main problem appears to be in communications between the workers, the supervisors and the director's office," said Amato. "We're having too many breakdowns or gaps in communications. The result is that one hand doesn't know what the other is doing, or has already done."

Amato said he believed that part of the problem might rest with employees not knowing exactly what their responsibilities are or what is expected of them.

"One problem has been finding out if work assigned has been performed," he continued. "I've assigned duties to personnel but don't find out if the work was done until a day or two later."

Amato said he might have supervisors put the assignments in writing. "The supervisor writes down the crew assigned to a job and the end result," he continued. "Then that report, it really doesn't have to say much. Something like rubbish pick-up at First and Garden Streets, the crew that made the pick-up, when it was done, or the problem they encountered that prevented it from being done."

Hoboken Council Elected



Robert A. Ranieri



Bernard J. Scrivani



Thomas Kennedy

Chill nips Hoboken turnout

Cloudy skies and a slight nip in the air accounted for only a moderate early morning turnout today in Hoboken's election for mayor and three councilmen-at-large.

But a large turnout is expected before the polls close at 8 p.m. regardless of the weather in what may be one of the city's most hectic political battles in recent years.

Jersey City also is conducting a mayoral and councilmanic election today.

Hudson County Superintendent of Elections Joseph Brady is taking special precautions to make sure voting regulations are adhered to and incidents kept to a minimum. Brady said that he is assigning a special deputy from his office to every polling station in the First, Third and Fourth Wards.

"That's where we have had the most problems in past years with

challengers, irregularities and other incidents," he said. "Every effort will be made to resolve any challenges right there at the polling station."

"And there'll be no harassment by challengers," he continued. "If

The Jersey Journal Election Special will be on the street early tomorrow morning

there is, my deputies have the power to remove them then and there."

The First and Third Wards are the home territory for two of the main combatants in the election, Councilman Anthony H. Romano and Mayor Steve Cappiello, respectively.

Members of Brady's staff won't be the only outside personnel on the scene to insure the elections come off

smoothly with a minimum of confusion. Representatives of the state Attorney General's office will also be on hand, as well as the State Police, it is reported.

Brady emphasized that voters do not have to declare themselves when they vote today to clear up any confusion about making a party affiliation declaration.

Brady said his office had received numerous inquiries from persons who believed they must "declare" their political party before they will be permitted to vote. He pointed out that the party declarations apply only to the June 7 primary election and not to today's non-partisan municipal election.

The superintendent said pre-election complaints caused a delay in the delivery of election books for various Hoboken polling places until yesterday afternoon. As a result of

various complaints concerning whether certain persons were eligible to vote, some have been placed on lists barring them from casting a ballot.

However, persons barred from voting for various reasons, on the preemptory list or challenged when they try to vote today can go to court and try to get orders permitting them to vote.

Superior Court Judges Guy W. Calissi and August W. Heckman went on duty at the Hudson County Administration Building when the polls opened at 7 a.m. today, in order to handle any applications for voting or other election disputes. Two other judges will be available from 1 p.m. until the polling places close at 8 p.m.

Four deputy attorneys general, directed by Deputy Attorney General Gregory E. Nagy, who usually represents Brady's office on election matters, are also on duty at the administration building.

So far 962 absentee ballot applications have been approved for Hoboken.

Cappiello and his running mates — Bernard Scrivani, Robert A. Ranieri and Thomas Kennedy — will be taking the returns at the Lamp Post Restaurant, 11th and Madison Streets. Romano and the rest of his ticket — Francis X. Leahy, Frank Duroy Jr., and Anthony Russo — will be getting their count at the Union Club, 600 Hudson St.

The winners will be sworn in to four year terms of office on July 1 by City Clerk Anthony J. Amoroso.



Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello flashes the victory sign to an exuberant crowd of cheering supporters outside the Lamp Post after winning reelection by a 2-to-1 margin.

Give him a chance

The man who moved in as Hoboken's public works director in the heat of the city election campaign is now assured of four years in the job as a result of the election, and so the changes he has already instituted should get a fair chance.

He has put all his employees back on a Monday-to-Friday daytime schedule, he is restricting the amount of free gasoline pumped into the private cars of department employees, and he has called for written reports from supervisors on the carrying out of assignments.

The director he replaced had a thorough knowledge of the working of the department and was generally considered to be doing a good job. However, the new man has some definite ideas based on his business experience, and he ought to be allowed to try them out. Let the employees cooperate.

Water waste?

Hoboken buys its water from Jersey City. The number of gallons piped through the big intake line into Hoboken was almost twice the total that showed up on the water meters of the Hoboken consumers.

Obviously almost half the water was being lost through breaks or leaks in the Hoboken mains before it reached the consumers. And the cost of the wasted water had to be added to the consumers' bills.

Two years ago, Hoboken began replacing its old water mains. The results exceeded the city's hopes. The reduction in wasted water has been tremendous, so much so that householders and businesses will have their rates reduced next year.

Of course, this will cut into the revenue Jersey City has been getting, but Hoboken is not sorrowing about that.

Is there a lesson here for Jersey City?

Because it has its own water source, it does not have the same incentive as Hoboken to check for waste in its distribution system . . . and one may wonder just how carefully it does check.

Ranieri says rules thwart rehabilitation

New state and federal guidelines for rehabilitating tenement houses could have a drastic effect on Hoboken, which already has had approximately 20 per cent of its housing stock rehabilitated, Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri has told a state Technical Assistance Committee (TAC).

"It isn't just Hoboken that will be affected," said the councilman, "but every community that is interested in preserving its appearance through rehabilitation rather than redevelopment."

"It is a combination of rules and regulations with the outcome that future rents for the rehabilitated apartments will be too high for most of our local people unless there is a substantial amount of rent subsidies to go around — and there isn't."

The TAC is a branch of the state Department of Community Affairs. Ranieri recently was made a member of the committee.

"One method of attacking the problem is to make the cost of the rehabilitation work less," he con-

tinued. "That can be done through reduced labor costs. The average cost per workman is \$9 to \$9.50 an hour. If we can get that same labor for \$4 to \$5 an hour the total cost of the work could be reduced to a price that would make the rents reasonable for local residents without rent subsidies."

Ranieri said the problem with that has been the labor unions which have doggedly refused to agree to allow their members to work for less than the going industry rate.

"I understand their reluctance," said the councilman. "It would mean giving up wages and benefits that were hard earned. But there is one thing that keeps going through my mind. And that's whether it is better to have unemployed construction workers who would be getting their \$9 to \$9.50 an hour if they were working, or is it better to have more employment at a reduced rate?"

Ranieri said he thought the answer may lie in legislation on the state level and has recommended to the committee that this avenue be investigated thoroughly.

By Peter Hallam

For Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello, last night's election victory party at the Lamp Post Restaurant was brief but one to be savored.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands of well-wishers packed the small uptown lounge to greet the mayor and his three successful runningmates, who easily defeated the challenge of First Ward Councilman Anthony Romano.

But as quickly as he arrived, the mayor departed after delivering a brief victory and thank-you speech. "He was beat," said an aide. "I don't think I have ever seen anyone campaign as hard as he did during the last four weeks. He went all out. The victory was sweet but a little anticlimactic. He's a very, very tired man."

The mayor was gone but the party went on.

Inside the Lamp Post, there was riotous celebrating. The main hall, bar and small dining area all had wall-to-wall people. They overflowed onto Madison Street, where local police were hard pressed to control people, and cars bringing more people.

Overhead, the sky was bright with fireworks to celebrate the victory.

At Romano headquarters — the Union Club — the mood was dark with disappointment. Unsmiling Romano supporters filtered out silently.

Romano, who also left early, took his defeat relatively well.

"We gave it a good shot," he said. "We were unable to compete with the mayor in money or workers, or position. Being the mayor in itself is an advantage. I congratulate him on his victory. But I have no intention of rolling over and playing dead."

Romano said he planned to become the council "watchdog" along with Councilmen Louis Francone and Nunzio Malfetti, who supported his candidacy.

With the victory, Cappiello will have a 6-3 majority on the council as of July 1 when he and his runningmates — Bernard Scrivani, Robert A. Ranieri and Thomas Kennedy — are sworn in.

The mayor, who polled 9,119 votes to Romano's 5,198, was high on the ticket. Kennedy, making his first attempt at local elected office, came in second with 8,207, getting more votes than either of his uncounseled councilmen-at-large runningmates. Kennedy, who will be the only new face on the council, replaces Francis X. Leahy, who ran with Romano.

If there were any surprises in the outcome for the mayor's supporters, it wasn't in the victory but in the number of votes by which it was attained. The mayor's supporters estimated a few days before the election that Cappiello and his slate would win by between 2,000 and 3,000 votes. Even they didn't anticipate a 4,000 plurality.

Romano and his ticket — Leahy, Frank Duroy Jr., and Anthony Russo — had figured the election would be close with a few hundred votes deciding it either way. It wasn't to be.

The ticket lost every ward in the city on the voting machines with the exception of the Fourth. But absentee ballots wiped out a small Romano edge there to give the mayor that ward as well.

Cappiello's victory assures no drastic changes in policy or administration goals. His main problems are seen as political, and the decision to be made is whether or not the dissenters who sided with Romano should now be courted for the sake of organization unity.

In the past, Hoboken mayors have done just that. But Cappiello's resounding victory poses another question. Does he need them?

Hoboken's vote Mayor							
	1st WARD	2nd WARD	3rd WARD	4th WARD	5th WARD	6th WARD	ABSENTEE
CAPPIELLO	1203	1552	1945	1081	1700	1057	580
ROMANO	915	903	587	1144	979	425	245
MURTHA	41	89	34	27	78	38	2
Councilmen-at-large							
LANZO	130	142	166	114	154	96	17
CERBO	118	88	88	153	99	75	9
LEAHY	834	1066	634	1023	1060	528	271
DUROY	787	858	466	1021	954	356	243
RUSSO	724	818	680	964	902	369	251
SCRIVANI	970	1325	1685	891	1527	935	551
RANIERI	980	1389	1698	884	1438	946	564
KENNEDY	999	1479	1773	953	1486	941	567
TOTALS							

Behrens renominated by Hoboken PBA

James Behrens, president of the Hoboken Policemen's Benevolent Association, has been nominated for a second term.

Also nominated for additional one-year terms and unopposed are Charles Kosbab, vice president, third term; Donald Olsen, recording secretary, second term; Vincent Lombardi, treasurer, sixth term; Thomas Meehan, trustee, second term, and convention delegates Joseph Nardello and Walter Havens.

The only contests are for financial secretary, between Ronald Clark and John Carrier, and for sergeant-at-arms, between William Ghode and Robert Gallagher.

It was announced by Behrens that Sgt. Stephen Darago, a former president of the PBA, has been nominated for a gold card, the highest honor the term. The PBA is recording improvements made in the organization's labor contract with the city during its term of office.

Two-thirds of the PBA's membership must approve of the honor before it can be granted.

The election will be held June 14.

School credit union is much livelier at 40

The Hoboken School Employees Federal Credit Union, which was organized with nine members, is celebrating its 40th anniversary this month with a membership of nearly 1,000 and assets approaching the \$2 million mark.

Although it was planned that way, the Credit Union several months ago decided to modernize its operations and, as a result, is entering its 41st year with a new, computerized system.

The Credit Union idea began on May 4, 1937 when nine Hoboken teachers held a meeting and decided

Hoboken puts cap on city gas use

Hoboken municipal employees who use their own cars in the performance of their jobs and fill up at the Public Works gas pumps now have to check in with Director Andrew J. Amato before they can get another tankful.

According to the director, he has issued an order that no one gets any city gasoline until it has been cleared with him. City-owned cars and trucks are excluded from the order.

"I think we are using too much gas," said Amato, "so the order was issued to help find out what employees have been filling up at the city tanks and how much gas they have been getting. I don't think anyone has been taking gas with the idea of cheating the city."

Amato explained that the city allows certain employees to use city gas because they use their own cars in the performance of their duties. They use their own cars because city vehicles are not available for them, but vehicles are needed to insure better productivity and efficiency.

"I have no objection to allowing them to use city gas, even a little extra to make up for the wear and tear on their automobiles," he continued. "But I think it should end there. Hoboken is a small city. A tankful of gas can cover a lot of ground."

Amato said he is compiling a list of employees who use city gas in their private cars. When the list is completed each employee will be asked to supply the director with an estimate of the number of miles they drive each week on city business and the average number of miles their cars get for each gallon of gas.

"Using these figures we will determine how much gas an employee will be allowed each week plus a few gallons extra to make up for wear and tear," he said. "A list will be posted at the garage and no one will be able to exceed their allotment each week without checking with me first."

Garage to get extra guards after thefts

Around the clock guards will be keeping an eye on the Hoboken Public Works Department garage following the theft of three two-way truck radios, a microphone and antenna over the weekend.

"We're putting an end to the thefts right now," said Director Andrew J. Amato. "The radios weren't the first things to be stolen. They're part of a long list of items that have disappeared in the last three or four weeks from the garage or surrounding area."

Amato said he has put two men on the midnight to 7 a.m. shift and assigned both of them to the garage at Willow Avenue and Observer Highway.

"There will always be at least one man on duty during the early morning hours," he said. "And on some days we will have two. They will be responsible for making sure everything is secure."

Amato said the missing radio equipment was worth about \$2,000. According to the director, besides equipment that was stolen or missing other Public Works equipment was damaged by vandals or "sabotaged" by insiders.

"I suspect that some of the damages may have been caused by our own people," he continued. "I can't prove that and I'm not going to accuse anyone of doing it, but I have the suspicion that behind all this is a disgruntled employee."

Amato said he is also shifting his foremen around to get them all out into the field with their men to provide direct supervision.

"There's more to being a foreman than just giving orders," he said. "I'm putting most of mine into the field so that they can tell the men what is to be done and to show them how to do it. And when the job is finished they'll know it's been done and done right — and so will I."

Cappiello sharpening political ax

By Peter Hallam

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello, fresh from an election victory that has given him four more years in office, has apparently decided that the political forces that opposed him in Tuesday's election are not going to be allowed to come back into the fold.

According to the mayor's supporters, a number of "political funerals" are being planned and the scripts for them are already being written. The first target is reported to be Freeholder Vincent J. Fusilli who comes up for re-election next year.

Fusilli, one of the mayor's original political allies, broke with Cappiello this year to support First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano and his ticket. Fusilli will be up for re-election in November 1978.

Sources within the mayor's organization say that James Farina, a member of the Hoboken Board of Education, city recreation department employee and president of the Hoboken Young Democrats, has been given the nod by Mayor Cappiello to oppose Fusilli.

Although Romano, Fourth Ward Councilman Louis Francane and Sixth Ward Councilman Nunzio Malfetti still have two years to go on their current four-year terms, they aren't being forgotten, sources report.

In the First Ward, Justo de la Torre is reported to have the mayor's blessings to oppose Romano. Mrs. Florence Amato is said to have the go ahead to buck Francane. And in the Sixth Ward, former Councilman Edward McLaughlin is believed to be

the main contender for support by the mayor's organization as opposition for Malfetti.

Romano and Francane supporters, however, don't think the mayor will wait two years to make his moves. They expect them to materialize much sooner.

Both Francane and Romano are employed by the Board of Education; Romano as business manager and Francane as head custodian. Neither post is protected by tenure and Romano and Francane could be removed from them by action of a majority of the school board members.

While the mayor has some friends on the school board it is not known if he could convince enough of them to oust the two councilmen.

Francane has 20 years in government service and could apply for a state pension. But Romano, who has been on leave of absence from the police department since being elected to the council in 1967, doesn't have the time in for a pension. Loss of his position with the school board would force him to find another position in the private sector or to try living on the \$5,000 a year he makes as councilman.

Mayor Cappiello was not available yesterday to comment on his political plans for the future. He had taken the day off to rest following the election. But the victory speech he made election night to the massive crowd that jammed the Lamp Post Restaurant left little doubt in their minds that all was not forgiven.

Hoboken housing panel gets grant for repairs

The Hoboken Housing Authority is expected to seek bids soon for the replacement of four boilers in Andrew Jackson Gardens after receiving a verbal commitment from officials in the Department of Housing and Urban Development to deliver a \$900,000 grant for the authority's modernization program.

Joseph Caliguire, executive director of the authority, said today he has received definite confirmation from HUD officials that the money is coming, but he has no idea when. Bids for the new boilers will be sought as soon as the funds arrive, he said.

The replacement of the boilers at Andrew Jackson Gardens is part of a modernization program which includes replacing the sewer lines to the street at Andrew Jackson, replacing the water tanks there and at Harrison Gardens and Christopher Columbus Gardens and regrading many areas around the buildings at all three projects according to Caliguire.

While it can't seek bids on the work until the money is received, the authority decided this week, upon receiving word that the appropriation had been approved by HUD to proceed with the work at Andrew Jackson.

"We have to get that done before the heating season," said Caliguire. The engineering firm of Wolff and Kargan has been retained to draw up plans and specifications for the boiler job, said Caliguire.

Meanwhile, at the authority's annual reorganization meeting Thursday, Andrew Scherer was reelected chairman and Orlando Adeo vice chairman.

Scherer is beginning his sixth one-year term as chairman.

Hoboken Independent champions kids

By TERRY BRENNAN

Hoboken Independent Vincent Murtha has repeatedly lashed out at Mayor Steve Cappiello for his failure to "take our kids off the streets and give them a chance to play ball."

The mayoral candidate, who claims the city's recreational programs are "virtually nonexistent," said Cappiello "must not realize" that Hoboken would save more in crime-related costs than "the pittance it pays for recreation." He maintains

volunteers would help supervise programs if they were created.

"You can change a kid's whole life by taking him off the streets and putting him in a gym," Murtha asserted. "You can take away the impulse for mischief through sports and the saving's enormous. That's a saving in money and heartache for all involved."

Although the 49-year-old reading teacher acknowledges there's been a breakdown of dis-

cipline and authority throughout our society, he said that could be countered by more recreation and consistent administrative control in city schools. The Seton Hall graduate would also stress vocational training if elected Tuesday.

"It's definitely a mistake to push every student into academic courses when some should be trained for skills," Murtha said. "I think we are failing our students when we don't prepare them for some high-paying blue collar jobs."

Murtha wants to turn Hoboken's waterfront into a "sorely needed" recreational-cultural facility. He also said the Parking Authority must create a municipal garage to solve the "double-parking crisis."

"We have three garages in varying degrees of unused and yet everyone double-parks on Washington St.," Murtha said. "Our people are driving to suburbia to shop and our stores are being hurt by it. We need city parking to keep Hoboken money in Hoboken."

The two Independents seeking the councilman-at-large posts are baker Vito Lanzo and 42-year-old Thomas Cerbo.

Cappiello must decide on department heads by July 1

Mayor Steve Cappiello of Hoboken has until July 1 to decide who is going to head the city's various departments for the next four years, but he's already decided on one of them — Andrew J. Amato.

Amato, who was made acting public works director by the mayor several weeks before the May 10 election, will become the permanent director, according to the mayor.

Law Director Lawrence Florio and Revenue and Finance Director Frank J. Bartletta, both Cappiello appointments four years ago, are expected to be reappointed. That will leave only the position of business administrator in doubt.

Edwin Chius, head of the Safe and Clean Streets program for the city, is expected to get the nod for that job. The mayor would not say that Chius had the position but admitted that he was the prime contender for it.

Two other top jobs may be open in the administration but not until after the July reorganization. They are Public Safety Director, which the mayor holds, and personnel director, a position that the city doesn't have at this time but which will be created.

The mayor has stated on a number of occasions that he felt that he was not devoting adequate time to the public safety department because of the demands upon him as mayor, and that the department should have its own director. Cappiello still says so.

The personnel department would be a consolidation of a number of activities now handled by the business administrator's office and revenue and finance.

Since the city has no department of personnel one must be created by city ordinance and funded to cover the director's salary and the salaries of any employees that may be needed.



Steve Cappiello

Hoboken mayor wins

By J. A. CONSTANCE and TERRY BRENNAN

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello and his entire slate rolled to an almost two-to-one victory over Councilman Anthony Romano and his ticket last night.

The mayor, who attributed his convincing victory to his "record of stabilized taxes, reduced crime, and rebuilt housing," swept his council slate of Detective Thomas Kennedy and Councilmen Bernard Scrivani and Robert Ranieri into office.

Cappiello said his triumph reflected his successful record against an opposition "platform of silence."

"We showed the people what we did over the last four years and they responded," Cappiello said. "We faced the problems with specific solutions and the opposition offered nothing. They got nothing in return."

Although Romano had predicted strong showings in all six wards, the first ward councilman lost even his own ward, 1,203 to 915 votes. Romano still has two years remaining in his council term.

Kennedy led the eight councilman-at-large candidates with 7,640 votes. Scrivani and Ranieri also swept to victory on Cappiello's coattails with 7,333 and 7,325 votes, respectively. Incumbent Councilman Francis X. Leahy received 5,145 votes and Anthony Russo had 4,487 votes. Frank Duroy Jr. pulled 4,442 votes.

Cappiello told the throng of supporters who packed Norby's in Hoboken for a victory celebration that there would be a political purge in the future.

"We'll be going to a few political funerals in the next year," Cappiello promised his supporters. "Freeholder (Vincent J.) Fusilli and Romano can expect the first term of easy Steve Cappiello to be over."

The remarks were made in reference to Romano's split with Cappiello after he had said in January that he would not challenge the mayor.

Fusilli had also broken with Cappiello and backed Romano during the heated campaign.

Romano chose to split from Cappiello when the mayor decided to keep Ranieri on his ticket. Ranieri attacked Business Administrator Herman Bier and Public Works Director Raphael Vitale for alleged violations of city purchasing practices. Cappiello stayed with Ranieri and fired both Bier and Vitale.

Hoboken offers to convert park to parking lot

Hoboken is closing down a playground and park on Madison Street, between Fifth and Sixth streets, and will offer the area temporarily to neighborhood residents as an off-street parking facility, Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato said today.

According to the director, it would take a substantial amount of money to put the park and playground into good condition again and the city doesn't have the money.

"I certainly wouldn't allow the kids to use it in its current condition," Amato continued. "There are too many opportunities for them to get hurt."

The director said that all of the playground equipment is now being removed so area youngsters won't be encouraged to enter the park on their own and play. Whatever we can save will be stored for some future use," he continued. "But from what I've seen of the equipment most will be discarded."

Amato said that after the equipment has been removed a small wading pool in the playground would be filled in. Then the area would be cleaned up and the fence around it repaired.

"Once this has been done we'll offer to allow residents of the area to use the park for an off-street parking facility," he continued. "I have talked to a few of them about renting it from the city for a token payment. All they have to do is agree to keep the area clean and keep the city informed of any vandalism to the fence."

Fulltime work is demanded by Amato

Hoboken Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato may start eliminating some of his employees unless there is a drastic increase in production.

Amato said today he is working on a study of the department and all of its jobs. His preliminary findings, he said, show that some employees aren't doing their jobs or their share of the work.

"We don't have any no-shows that I can find, at least not yet," he said. "What we do have is shows who don't work, and that's about the same thing except they're on the job body."

"I said when I took this job that I intended to be fair with everyone as long as they did their jobs. Politics would not have any bearing on an employee's status as long as they were giving us a fair day's work."

"I meant that and I still mean it. I made a commitment to the mayor to get this department back on the right track, and I'm going to do just that."

Amato said he will get rid of the employees who aren't producing.

"I have talked with the mayor about the problem and he has promised me his full cooperation," Amato continued. "Any employee who isn't doing his job is going to get suspended. After the suspension if they still refuse to give the city an honest day's work they're going to be out of work."

Amato said the employees would either be fired outright or their positions eliminated, depending on the circumstances.

Hoboken parish honors priest in his 25th year

The Very Rev. Achilles Cassiere, OFM Cap., former pastor of St. Anne's Church, Hoboken will be honored by his former parishioners on May 29 to mark his 25th anniversary in the priesthood, it was announced today by Anthony DeCongelio, chairman for the event.

Father Achilles was pastor of St. Anne's from 1964 to 1973.

The day's festivities will begin at 12:15 p.m. with a special Thanksgiving Mass celebrated by Father Achilles at his old parish. A dinner will be held at 5 p.m. in the Westmont Country Club, West Paterson.

The youngest of seven children, he was born in East Harlem in 1928. His father, Joseph Sciarra, was a sea captain and his mother, Loretta, was a seamstress.

Father Achilles attended public schools until the seventh grade when

he entered St. Anne's School on 110th Street. It was there that the Filippini Sisters encouraged him to become a priest. In 1941 he entered the St. Lawrence Seminary in Beacon, N.Y.

In 1944, after completing high school, he was invested with the robe of St. Francis and made his simple profession the following year. He made his solemn profession in 1948 at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Staunton, Va., after completing his college and theological studies there.

He was ordained May 14, 1952 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Richmond, Va. and celebrated his first mass two days later at his home parish, Holy Rosary in East Harlem.

His first assignment was at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Geneva, N.Y., as teacher and spiritual director. He served there for 12 years before being assigned to St.

Anne's in Hoboken as assistant in 1964.

In July 1967 Father Achilles became Pastor of St. Anne's. Although confronted with financial difficulties, he was able to have the church completely repainted and the rectory renovated.

He also started a parish youth program and became involved in many civic and political issues.

In July of 1973 Father Schilles left St. Anne's to assume the duties of mission director until 1976 when he was elected Provincial for the New Jersey Province. During his term as mission director he was responsible for helping with aid for the missions in Zambia, Africa, and twice visited missions there.

Assisting on the committee with Mr. and Mrs. DeCongelio are Mr. and



Very Rev. Achilles Cassiere
Honoree

Mrs. John Raslofsky, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Bove, Mayor Steve Cappiello, Councilman Salvatore Cemelli, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Reilly, Mr. and Mrs. Al Buda, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Melillo, Ann Musto, and Ann Accetta.

Hoboken sics computer on scofflaws

Motorists who haven't been paying their Hoboken parking tickets are about to feel the first sting of the city's new computer system, it was learned today.

Mrs. Marion Roland, head violations clerk, said that next week the city will start sending out 100 notices a day to motorists who have tickets going back to 1975.

"Actually the computer will be sending them out and it's in East Orange," she said. "Elimination of the backlog may take several months but it will be eliminated."

The new notices tell the motorists what their violations are, when they occurred, how much they owe the city, and a date for paying them before warrants are issued for their arrest.

Mrs. Roland estimated that there might be as many as 10,000 unpaid parking tickets that will have to be processed by the computer.

But before they get to the computer each ticket must be coded so that the computer operator can feed the information in. The staff of the bureau has been doing that for the last two months.

Romano blasts vote recount

Defeated Anthony Romano, candidate for mayor, and his running mates are threatening court action as a result of a recount of last Tuesday's Hoboken election upholding the victory of Mayor Steve Cappiello's slate, but showing 30 more votes were cast for mayor than the actual number of people voting.

Cappiello defeated Romano by 9,118 to 5,198, close to 4,000 votes. His running mates, Bernard Scrivani, Robert A. Ranieri and Thomas Kennedy, defeated Councilman Francis X. Leahy, Frank Duroy Jr. and Anthony Russo by margins ranging from 2,400 to 3,500 votes.

The general totals remained the same except that Thomas Cerbo, an independent candidate, picked up 10 votes during yesterday's recount to bring his total to 640.

After the recount, the Romano group told Joseph T. Brady, Hudson County's superintendent of election and registration commissioner, they intended to take court action.

Brady reported that 30 more votes were recorded for mayor than the actual number of persons voting for that office.

He said he received complaints from eight districts in Hoboken on election day that the levers on the voting machines were too tight. As a result, he said, mechanics loosened the levers, possibly too much, with the result that it became possible to

push down two levers for the mayoral candidates although the machines were originally set up so that only one candidate for that office could be voted upon.

Brady also reported the machines were set up so voters could push down the levers for three councilman-at-large candidates, but loosening of the mechanism caused votes for four such candidates to be recorded.

He said it is possible that when the voting machines were delivered to some polling places the mechanism may have been shook up by the movement to cause such conditions on election day.

In a breakdown of Hoboken election districts where more votes were cast for mayor than the actual number of persons who entered the polling places and voted, Brady said the largest number of extra votes was 15 in the First Ward, Fourth District. There 540 voted, but 555 votes were recorded.

The next largest number of additional votes, seven, was found in the Second Ward, Third District, with 664 cast, 671 recorded.

Two "overvotes" apiece were found in the Second Ward, First District, where 509 voted and 511 were recorded, and the Third Ward, First District, where 740 voted and 742 were recorded. Three extra votes were found in the Third Ward, Second District, where the figures were 599 and 602, and one in the Sixth Ward, First District, with 505 cast and 506 recorded.

property owners aren't sweeping their sidewalks. The youngsters should help with that problem, too.

The youngsters will sweep both sidewalks and the gutters, he said.

The director said he did not favor reinstituting the towing program except as a "last resort." However, he felt that the street cleaning and sweeping program left something to be desired.

"Public apathy is probably the main reason we can't keep the city clean," he continued. "We have to harp on anti-littering."

Kids to backstop sweeper in keeping Hoboken clean

Hand sweeping will be added to the daily clean up of Washington Street in Hoboken, Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato said today.

Starting in a few days, youngsters enrolled in an afternoon work program will sweep as much of Washington Street as they can during their three-hour work period — from 3 to 6 p.m.

According to the director, the city's street sweeping truck isn't getting the job done because motorists

still refuse to move their cars from its path in the morning—despite the \$10 tickets that are given out for the violation.

"We don't tow anymore and the \$10 tickets just don't phase some people," he said. "The result is that the sweeper truck has to go around the parked cars and only parts of the street get swept."

Amato added that sidewalks in the northern end of the city along Washington Street were very messy in the morning indicating that

the city's time, they are paid a day's pay and I expect a day's work from them. "If they can't live on the salary the city pays them and have to get a part-time job, fine. I don't object to that. But I do strongly object to people doing their part-time jobs on the city's time and with city equipment."

According to the director, the driver was using a city truck to make a rubbish pickup at a local factory during his regular city work hours. Industrial rubbish is not picked up by the city's contract garbage collector. The industrial firms must make their own arrangements with private carting firms for rubbish removal.

"I expect some people are going to cry politics," he asserted, "but it isn't. If that man was my own brother the outcome would have been the same, although the penalty might have been stiffer. Anyone in this

department who thinks that because they have a political tie with me, the mayor or anyone else, he is entitled to a free ride or can do what he wants to has another guess coming."

Amato said he expected some criticism of his actions in view of the politically charged atmosphere that still prevails in the city.

"I expect some people are going to cry politics," he asserted, "but it isn't. If that man was my own brother the outcome would have been the same, although the penalty might have been stiffer. Anyone in this

Teachers say board flouted court

The Hoboken Board of Education acted "above and beyond" court authority in failing to obey an order of Superior Court Judge Frederick C. Kentz Jr. to negotiate with striking teachers in the fall of 1975, argued Emil Oxford, seeking to hold the board in contempt of court.

The board acted on the advice of its counsel, argued Carl Schaefer, in defending its position before Superior Court Judge Thomas S. O'Brien, who will decide Wednesday if the board should be held in contempt of Kentz's order.

Oxford said during hearings on that issue, the board's case was marked by "confusion, conflicting testimony, and a tissue of fiction and myth."

He claimed the board and its counsel, Robert Taylor, were aware that Judge Kentz inserted into his "no-strike" order against the striking teachers, Sept. 4, 1975, a directive that the board should negotiate.

Schaefer argued that Taylor prepared a restraint order aimed at the teachers, left for a trip to Arizona while Paul DePascale, a lawyer now an assistant prosecutor, had it signed by Judge Kentz at a judicial conference in Cherry Hill, and Taylor was unaware until Sept. 12 of the order to negotiate while the strike continued.

He said that members of the board acted "in good faith" on the advice of counsel not to negotiate while the teachers remained on strike. "It was the only reasonable thing to do," he declared.

Oxford claimed, however, that Taylor, after returning from his mid-western trip, saw the order during a conference they had with Judge Kentz as early as Sept. 9. He also claimed that Otto Hottendorf, board president, testified during the trial that he ignored telegrams by the Hoboken Teachers Association requesting negotiations.

Oxford, counsel for the HTA, said

the teachers "took their medicine" in the fall of 1975 when O'Brien held them in contempt of Kentz's "no-strike" order. The board now has the "audacity" to try to avoid contempt by claiming it was not immediately aware of Kentz's negotiations order and acted on its lawyer's advice, he asserted.

Hottendorf was present in court yesterday. However, Judge O'Brien said the other eight members of the 1975 board should have been present since they are defendants.

He advised Schaefer and Taylor to make sure Hottendorf and members James Farina, Michael Costello, John Rozowski, Anthony DeBari, Leo Lugo and Mary Gaspar, and former members, Donald

Singleton and Clayton Anderson, are present when he rules on the criminal contempt question. New Members, James Plan and Leo McLaughlin, since they are not defendants, need not be present, the judge explained.

The HTA was fined some \$40,000 for contempt of Kentz's "no strike" order and individual members were fined \$100 and placed on probation to perform public service projects by O'Brien in the fall of 1975.

Since an appellate court ruled the judge must decide if the board was guilty of contempt, the present proceeding was conducted. Informed sources say the board and its members could face heavy fines with possible probation for individuals.

Hoboken group 'to fight' for USS New Jersey

Predicting that the decision permanently to berth the battleship USS New Jersey somewhere in the state "will be a political one, fought with the usual conniving and political maneuvering" . . . the chairman of the Hoboken Battleship Memorial Committee promised that his group will "fight like hell to insure our interests."

Richard T. Bozzone Sr., who founded and heads a 30-member strong citizens group, said "once the Navy releases the ship, and all concerned see this as an eventuality beyond doubt, politics, pressure, backroom bargaining will begin to raise its ugly head. We in Hoboken don't intend to sit idly by and see our chances go down the tube. Everyone better realize we are in this ballgame to win and we intend to exercise the same amount of leverage and clout to insure that we don't get shoved out the door."

The veteran battleship, a participant in World War II, Korea and

later Vietnam, is now resting in the Naval Reserve Fleet at Bremerton, Wash. Several citizens including Hoboken have made a bid to get the ship as a memorial and tourist attraction.

A former candidate for Congress in 1972, when he polled 57,000 votes but lost in the 14th Dist., Bozzone said his group city's chances must be weighed against the fact that the state battleship commission has nine members serving on it . . . but seven are from the Jersey Shore and the surrounding area.

Amato starts cracking the whip

Hoboken Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato is following through in his efforts to reorganize and tighten up the department for better efficiency and production.

A truck driver has been suspended for two weeks without pay for recklessly driving a city vehicle and using it to make a private rubbish pickup, according to the director.

"I will not tolerate the abuse of city equipment by employees," the director said. "And driving a city truck in a reckless fashion is abuse, in my opinion."

"Also, I will not tolerate the use of city equipment for private jobs or city employees doing private jobs on

the city's time, they are paid a day's pay and I expect a day's work from them. "If they can't live on the salary the city pays them and have to get a part-time job, fine. I don't object to that. But I do strongly object to people doing their part-time jobs on the city's time and with city equipment."

According to the director, the driver was using a city truck to make a rubbish pickup at a local factory during his regular city work hours. Industrial rubbish is not picked up by the city's contract garbage collector. The industrial firms must make their own arrangements with private carting firms for rubbish removal.

"I expect some people are going to cry politics," he asserted, "but it isn't. If that man was my own brother the outcome would have been the same, although the penalty might have been stiffer. Anyone in this

"Maybe some employees thought I was kidding when I said I intended to make this department a first-rate operation," continued the director. "I wasn't. And I hope this incident serves as notice on everyone that I mean business."

Amato said he expected some criticism of his actions in view of the politically charged atmosphere that still prevails in the city.

"I expect some people are going to cry politics," he asserted, "but it isn't. If that man was my own brother the outcome would have been the same, although the penalty might have been stiffer. Anyone in this

department who thinks that because they have a political tie with me, the mayor or anyone else, he is entitled to a free ride or can do what he wants to has another guess coming."

Amato said he expected some criticism of his actions in view of the politically charged atmosphere that still prevails in the city.

"I expect some people are going to cry politics," he asserted, "but it isn't. If that man was my own brother the outcome would have been the same, although the penalty might have been stiffer. Anyone in this

Hoboken seeks funds to ease street woes

The Hoboken Public Works Department will be looking for state or federal help in solving two major problems: The undermining of sections of Washington Street and the replacement of the city's old wood sewer lines, Director Andrew J. Amato said today.

"With the permission of the mayor I have asked the Community Development Agency to check all the various state and federal funding areas which might be sources of money for these projects and to prepare applications for them," said Amato.

"Of the two, I'm most concerned with the undermining of Washington Street because that problem has the potential for causing swift and serious injuries to unsuspecting pedestrians and motorists."

Amato said the area runs from Second to Fourth streets. The city has had two previous cave-ins in the area — one was a section that measured almost 30 feet square.

"Making repairs is only part of the solution," said the director. "We have more sections that are undermined but we still don't know for sure what is causing it. Until we do and take steps to eliminate the cause we'll just go on making repairs every couple of years. That's why I'm anxious to seek funds to find out the cause of the problem."

The director said that the city's old wood sewers, which date to the Civil War, also have the potential for serious problems.

"They're collapsing all over the place, especially along sections of Grand Street," he said. "Fortunately only a small percentage of our lines are wood, but they have to go."

Francone demands Ranieri apologize for his resolution

Hoboken Fourth Ward Councilman Louis Francone today demanded a public apology from Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri for introducing a resolution calling for a council probe of remarks Francone was alleged to have made against the city's police department.

But he isn't going to get it, according to Ranieri, and if he can get four other councilmen who share his viewpoint he'll have the resolution reintroduced.

The resolution, which was withdrawn at Wednesday's council meeting because its legality was questioned, called for an investigation of the incident and the impeachment or reprimand of Francone if the allegations were true.

"Councilman Ranieri has been around and knows how our government works," said Francone. "He knew that his resolution wasn't legal before it was introduced but he went ahead anyway."

"His reason was to embarrass me and butter up the police department in a real hectic political campaign. I never said those things the police claim I did. I have always stood behind them in their efforts for better pay and benefits."

A delegation of police officers told the council at the May 4 meeting that Francone was in a car equipped with a speaker system and the speech that was delivered over that system accused police of shooting two men needlessly only because they were Puerto Rican. The policemen said that no mention was made of the fact that both men were armed and one had fired several shots at them first. Or that in the other incident two patrolmen had been stabbed before they were forced to shoot. Police admitted that the speech was given by another man in the car with Francone but believe the councilman prompted him on what to say.

"I believe the council has the right to hear and look into the conduct of one of its own," said Ranieri. "And if I can find four other members of the council who share my viewpoint I will have the resolution introduced again."

"If there are any apologies due I would say they should come from the councilman and go to the police department. I understand that the delegation of policemen have gone to the Prosecutor with the matter. I hope he views this situation differently than my council colleagues."

Volunteer recreation board for Hoboken

Hoboken is creating a nine-member volunteer recreation commission which will work with the city to expand the current recreation program and develop a new one, it was learned today.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said that a resolution creating the commission is being introduced by Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri at next week's council meeting.

According to Ranieri, recreation, or the city's lack of it, was one of the main topics on which residents expressed concern during the recent election campaign in the city.

"We went into this problem many

Tavern watch mounted in Hoboken First Ward

A group of Hoboken First Ward residents will be keeping watch on taverns in their area as part of an effort to make sure that the local watering holes don't become neighborhood nuisances.

The effort is being sponsored by the First Ward Block Association according to Thomas Newman, association president. It will start tonight, said Newman.

"We are trying to make our neighborhood a good one, with good bars and taverns that can be friendly places for quiet socializing," he said. "But on the other hand, a noisy bar which serves as the center of countless incidents can help ruin a neighborhood."

Newman said the association will have volunteers manning a tavern watch center every evening. The volunteers will be taking telephone calls from citizens complaining of undesirable taverns. The watchers will forward the complaints to the police and then meet them at the establishment.

"The watchers will take the number of the police car and the badge numbers of the men who respond," he continued. "They will then go into the tavern with the police and then request that they make a report so there is a record."

"Our purpose is to handle the complaint for citizens who might be fearful of doing it themselves and to keep accurate records which will assist the local Alcoholic Beverage Control Board make decisions con-

cerning license renewals for these establishments at a latter date."

Newman said that the association has sent out letters to all of the taverns in its area explaining what it plans to do and asking for the cooperation of the owners in making their establishments community assets rather than negative factors.

North Bergen, Hoboken probes continue

A Hudson County Grand Jury probe of North Bergen municipal affairs continues today while an investigation into alleged gambling payoffs in Hoboken is expected to resume sometime next week, according to informed sources.

Eleven persons, most of them believed citizens who may have received traffic tickets in North

Bergen, appear today before the grand jury as it investigates the township's traffic violations bureau, the same sources say.

The Hoboken probe has been sidetracked a few weeks by the North Bergen investigation into alleged conflicts of interest, purchasing practices, the violations bureau and other municipal affairs.

Bypassed fire candidate to sue for Hoboken job

In a secret ceremony, Mayor Steve Cappiello of Hoboken has appointed five new firemen, skipping over a man who claims to be second on the Civil Service list for firemen.

That man, Michael DaPuzzo, 34, a former Hoboken special police officer, says he is going to take the city to court.

Cappiello said: "I didn't appoint (DaPuzzo) because he had a very heavy absentee record as a special policeman. I felt it was in the best interests of the department."

The identity of the five firemen appointed remains a mystery. The mayor said last night that he didn't know their names, Acting Fire Chief James Houn was unavailable and a top superior on duty last night reportedly found the appointments a "surprise."

The mayor, who, according to his secretary was not expected in all day yesterday, showed up shortly before 3 p.m. to officiate at the swearing in of the new firemen.

According to DaPuzzo, he was not notified that he was to be skipped over until he showed up at city hall for the ceremonies.

DaPuzzo said he'd been interviewed yesterday morning by Houn along with the other candidates and was not informed at that time that he was not going to be appointed.

DaPuzzo said when he arrived at city hall for the ceremonies, he was handed a letter by Patrolman Joseph

Nardello from the mayor, who is public safety director, advising DaPuzzo that he was not to be appointed because of his "performance and absenteeism as a special police officer."

DaPuzzo served as a special police officer for several years until last year when he quit.

"This is nothing more than a political reprisal on the mayor's part," said DaPuzzo, who actively supported First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano for mayor in the recent municipal election.

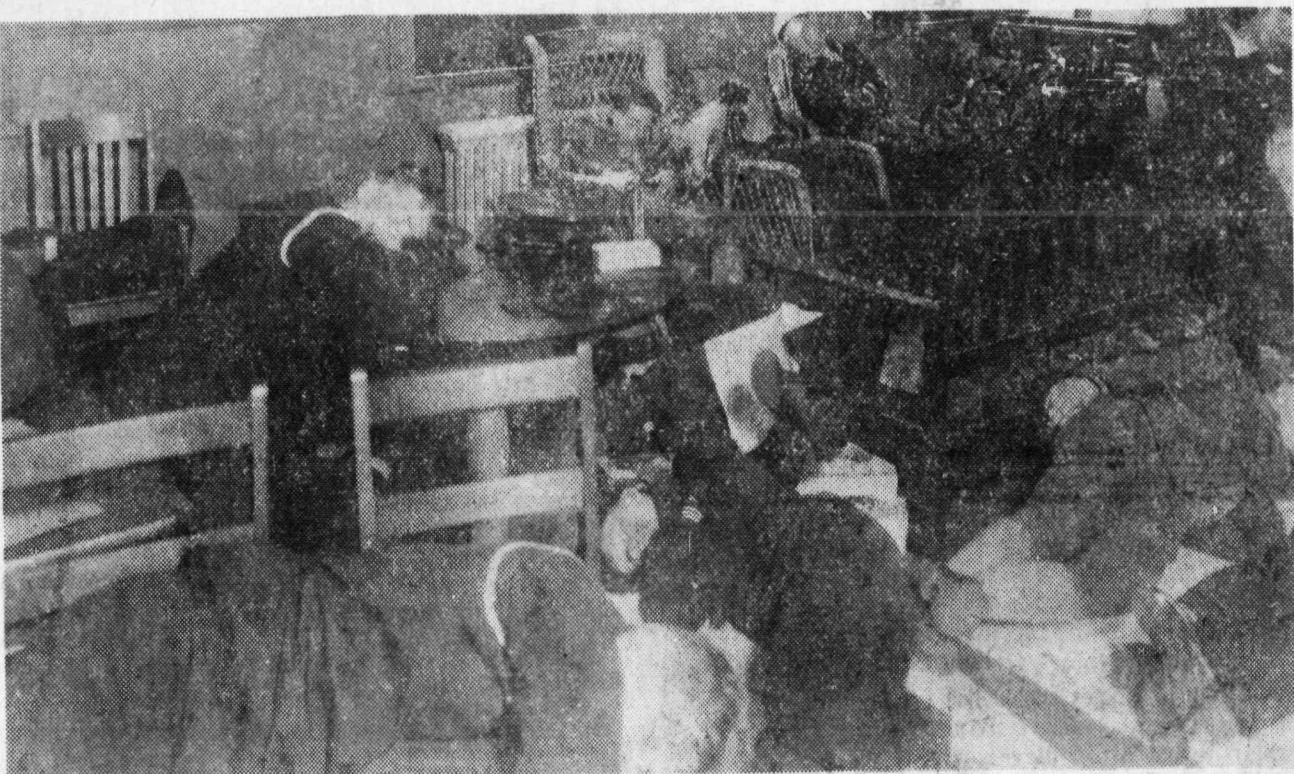
DaPuzzo added that his performance was never questioned while a special member of the force and that on the occasions he was absent, those days off were verified by a doctor or the police surgeon.

"There is an additional factor involved in this," said the disgruntled would-be fireman. "My past performance has been questioned, but not the past performance of one of the men who was appointed and has a prior record for drug arrests and for assaulting a policeman."

DaPuzzo said he has retained an attorney and will take the matter to Civil Service. If he cannot get satisfaction there, he will file suit against the mayor and city.

DaPuzzo will turn 35 in January and will no longer be eligible for appointment to either the police or fire department because of his age.

Cite Hoboken landmark



World War I soldiers waiting for their ships in Hoboken took whatever lodging were offered to them. A room in "The Hut," pictured here, housed hundreds of troops and kept them fed.

Saturday night a hundred people gathered to honor a Hoboken landmark.

More than 50 years ago when Hoboken was filled with hundreds of World War I servicemen a versatile building, known as "The Hut," served as a rooming housing and eatery for troops waiting to go overseas.

The Hut, built in 1916, was the first YMCA in Hoboken. It was originally built to accommodate merchant seamen, who frequented Hoboken's ports.

Saturday night, about 100 people commemorated The Hut at 1301 Washington st. which has served area residents and businessmen for five decades.



Serving as a substitute USO for World War II troops, Hoboken's "Hut" not only fed and sheltered hundreds of soldiers, but served as a social center as well.

4 new firemen ready to start

Hoboken has appointed four new firemen — not five as previously reported — and they will start working Thursday morning, Mayor Steve Cappiello, the city's public safety director, said today.

The new men are Richard C. Blohm, George J. Conroy, Richard Ladage and Dennis C. Rhodes, all Hoboken residents. The mayor said the men will undergo an initial training period before being assigned to regular firefighting duties.

The four men were sworn in at an unannounced ceremony Friday at City Hall. A fifth man, Michael

DaPuzzo, expected to be sworn in but was notified a few minutes before the ceremony that he was being bypassed. DaPuzzo resigned as a special police officer last year.

According to DaPuzzo, he was bypassed by the mayor because he had openly supported First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano in the city's recent mayoral election. He has retained an attorney and plans to take the matter to Civil Service.

Cappiello said his decision to skip DaPuzzo was not politically motivated but based on the man's record as a

special police officer, including absenteeism.

DaPuzzo said his record was of little concern to the mayor when, at his request, Assemblyman Thomas A. Gallo introduced special legislation to have DaPuzzo and four other special policemen made regular members of the force. The measure did not get the necessary approval in Trenton to pass.

The mayor replied that at the time the legislation was introduced more than two years ago, DaPuzzo's record was good.

Timely

Of all the proposals before the Hoboken City Council, the one that would seem to merit immediate passage is the one to open the idle land at the Grogan Marine View Plaza project for vegetable gardens.

No one has said a word against it, which is not surprising. Neighborhood residents would jump at the chance to grow vegetables in these spacious tracts, partly for the fresh food and partly for the fun of it.

If someone were to buy the land from the city, there is little chance the sale would be wrapped up and the sites required for construction before harvest time. Sales just do not move that fast.

It is to be hoped that the unexplained delay in approving the garden project is simply the preoccupation by the council members with the municipal election.

At least, Hoboken's council has a proposal before it. All Jersey City has is the statement of a council candidate that he favors a similar project on municipal land. We have proposed the neighborhood vegetable garden project in this column for years... and we will not stop until municipalities get the word.

Crime deterrent

Hoboken's new public works director has discovered that the condition of the Hoboken jail is the city's best crime deterrent, because "no one in his right mind would risk having to spend time there."

This is true only if the potential prisoner has first-hand experience of the jail, rather than just hearing about it.

There may be a way to use the director's observation as a crime deterrent everywhere. It has been said that seeing is believing. Our judges probably hand out more suspended sentences than jail terms to first offenders. The guilty first offender who is not locked up does not get even a taste of what it is like behind bars.

He simply goes free with the warning that he will be put away if he is caught at it again. Often the warning is meaningless, for he just does not comprehend what it means to be penned in a cell with all the severe discomforts.

Could there not be some in-between sentence? Instead of merely suspending a fixed term, why not additionally sentence the offender to at least visit the inside of a cell—preferably one like those in Hoboken—and let the steel door clang shut while he is there, permitting him to experience the unsavory living conditions?

Might this not have a desirable effect on many youthful first offenders who either smirk or stare sullenly at the judge's leniency, with no actual understanding of what they are in for if they show up in court again?

Ranieri pursues PBA complaint about Franccone

Hoboken Councilman-at-large Robert Ranieri hasn't given up on his efforts to get to the bottom of an incident involving Fourth Ward Councilman Louis Franccone that occurred during the city's recent municipal election.

Ranieri has introduced a resolution for Wednesday's meeting calling for a special council meeting on the validity of charges made by the Hoboken Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA) concerning the public behavior of Franccone.

According to the PBA, Franccone was responsible for remarks made by another man from a car equipped with sound equipment which alleged that the police had deliberately shot two men because they were Puerto Rican.

Franccone admits that he was in the car when the speech was made but says that he didn't know what the man was saying because it was in Spanish and didn't instruct or coach him on what was to be said.

Ranieri tried once before to bring the matter before the public by a resolution authorizing an investigation by the council and for the public impeachment of the councilman if the charges were proven true. It was defeated because the legality was questioned since the council has no authority to remove a councilman from office.

"The mayor is behind this," said Franccone, who had supported First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano against Mayor Steve Cappiello in the mayoral election.

"He's out to make me look bad at any cost," he continued. "The council isn't a judge or jury or investigator. The PBA has already gone to the prosecutor on this thing. Why can't the professionals handle it? Maybe because the mayor and Councilman Ranieri know there is nothing to these charges and the prosecutor's investigation will clear me. In the meantime, they have to keep making me look bad."

Finds Hoboken board innocent of contempt

By JIM BENSON

The Hoboken Board of Education in 1975 was innocent of criminal contempt for refusing to negotiate with striking teachers, because of a misunderstanding of the order, a judge said yesterday.

Superior Court Judge Thomas S. O'Brien blamed the misunderstanding on board attorney Robert Taylor, who left Hoboken on a business and vacation trip Sept. 4, 1975, the day after the strike began. The judge condemned

Taylor's leaving in the midst of the strike and called his actions "deplorable and outrageous... disgraceful."

O'Brien said he has not decided what measures, if any, he would take against Taylor, who advised the board not to continue negotiations even after the board was threatened with contempt for not doing so on Sept. 9.

The judge cautioned the board in future negotiations that "no one has the right to disobey an order of the court."

Superior Court Judge Frederick C. Kentz Jr. issued an order Sept. 4 which directed the teachers to return to work and, in the judge's handwriting at the end of the order, for the board to resume contract talks.

The teachers also disobeyed the order, remaining out on strike for several weeks.

They were later found in contempt and the Hoboken Teachers Association was fined \$40,000. Certain teachers were fined \$100 apiece and placed on probation. Judge O'Brien at the time he imposed the fine, ruled he did not have jurisdiction to find the board in contempt.

The rulings were appealed to the Appellate Division of

Superior Court which last Jan. 21 upheld the contempt against the teachers but ruled O'Brien did have jurisdiction over the board and remanded the matter to him for trial.

At a recent court hearing, Taylor admitted he received and signed Judge Kentz's order but thought the board was not obligated to resume negotiations until the strike ended.

When Judge Kentz issued the order, he was asked by board negotiator Louis DePascale if the board must resume talks while the teachers remained on strike. According to testimony, the judge reportedly replied, "no."

That reply was reported to the board by DePascale's son, Paul, who had accompanied his father and was retained by the board to obtain the order.

This led board members to believe they were not held by the language of the order, despite the inconsistency of the language and the judge's reply, Judge O'Brien found.

As it turned out, Kentz intended for the board to resume contract talks and issued an order Sept. 9 for the board to appear before him to explain why it should not be held in contempt.

In his courtroom yesterday, which was filled with teachers and board members, Judge O'Brien cautioned the trustees to get clarifications when they do not understand court directives.

Back him up

The new broom that sweeps clean may already be at work in Hoboken, where the public works director who got his job in a political split is cracking down on a waste paper recycling firm that was permitted to litter the area for many years with no more punishment than repeated warnings.

But since Hoboken's city administration is, in general, the same that governed the city before the election, cynics may be suspicious as to whether this director will be allowed to follow through on such eminently commendable reforms.

Since the paper mill was permitted to litter the neighborhood all these years, will the city administration back up his policy of the "clean sweep?"

It should not take long to tell.

Park official faces penalty

Hoboken's parks superintendent is facing a five-day suspension without pay or a departmental hearing and a heavier penalty for failing to follow orders, Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato said today.

According to the director, he will decide today or tomorrow what action should be taken against Angelo Micale, the parks superintendent for failing to be at Elysian Park yesterday morning as directed.

Micale is protected by Civil Service classification. Under its rules, he may be suspended up to five days at the director's discretion. However, if Amato feels that more severe punishment is necessary he must have Micale served with charges and give him a formal hearing.

"He was instructed Friday to meet me at Elysian Park Monday morning," said Amato. "I was there at 8:35 a.m. and waited until 9:15 a.m. and he did not appear. His workday starts at 8 a.m."

According to Micale, he "didn't know that it was that firm" an appointment and went about his other duties when the director was not at the park when he went to work at 8 a.m.

"I went to check the other parks to make sure the men were all in—that's part of my regular duties," he said. "When I got back I found that the director had already been there and had left."

Micale said it was a "misunderstanding" and he doesn't think he should be punished for it.

Hoboken crackdown

Hoboken's new public works director wonders whether he will be criticized as politically-motivated because he suspended a truck driver for two weeks without pay when he caught him doing a private carting job on city time in a city truck.

If there is any criticism, it should be on the ground that the punishment was too light. Apparently the culprit had been doing his private thing for some time. In fairness to the director, however, it should be noted that even a two-week suspension is unusually severe in a setup where politicians and their employees are cronies. Keep at it, director.

Hoboken seeks garden project funds

Hoboken will be seeking \$5,000 in state Green Acres funds to operate a garden project in two vacant Hudson Street lots owned by the city's Housing Authority, it was learned today.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri said today that under a new Green Acres program the state will have up to \$5,000 available for outdoor recreation programs in urban areas, and his proposed garden project meets the criteria for eligibility.

"It's a relatively new program

that was brought to my attention by Mrs. Helen Manogue of the Hoboken Environment Committee," said the councilman. "I called Trenton about it and found that they are just now finalizing the program—and Hoboken will be getting the first application for it."

According to Ranieri, an application was sent to the city Tuesday and should be received either today or tomorrow. The city's Community

Development Agency will prepare the application for the funds.

The councilman's program calls for the use of the two vacant plots of land on the block between Second and Third Streets, Hudson to River Streets, to be used by local residents to grow vegetables this summer.

The lots, after being cleaned up and some fill brought in, would be divided into plots, and the plots would be given to local residents to plant gardens. The housing authority would

still own the property and would lend it to the city for this one specific purpose.

"The Housing Authority has tentatively approved the idea and formally will do so when the city can show in writing that it will be assuming all legal responsibility and liability for the property while it is being used for the gardens," Ranieri added. "I have checked with our insurance agent and am now waiting for a letter covering this."

Clean-up draws praise by Amato

Hoboken Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato today had high praise for a number of his laborers as they finished a clean-up job at 325 Monroe St. that saved the city a \$1,400 contract.

Amato said that the city had hired a contractor to clean up the area after a two-alarm fire had gutted the building. However, he cancelled the

contract on the belief that city workers could do the job just as well as an outside contractor.

"The men didn't let me down," said the director. "In a little over two days, they cleaned up the whole thing. They should finish up the job today. I'm very proud of them."

The director added that one or two men he has had some problems

with were in on the clean up and did an exceptionally good job.

"The only cost to the city was for two larger containers that were used to hold the debris," he said. "That amounted to \$100—\$50 for each container. So our net savings on the job was \$1,300."

Amato said he believed the city should start doing more work on its

own without having to contract for outside help.

"That's going to be one of the first things I ask myself when a job comes in—can we do it ourselves?" he continued. "If we can't I want to find out why and then move to overcome those reasons so the next time we can do it with city men and equipment."

Bike path construction snagged by red tape

The wheels of government normally turn slow. It's called "red tape" or "bureaucracy" and Hoboken's long awaited bicycle path along the Hudson River appears to be one of its latest victims.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, one of the prime movers of the bike path, said today that the construction of the path along River Road probably won't start until next year and won't be ready for use before next summer.

"All of the necessary paperwork that had to be done by Hoboken has

been completed and submitted to the state Department of Transportation," he said. "It must now be approved by the DOT, then by Washington and then go out to bid."

"I asked one of my contacts in the DOT about how long it would take and I was told that the state probably wouldn't put the job out for bid until after the New Year and award the contract in time for spring construction."

However, Ranieri said that this didn't mean that bike riders couldn't

use River Road for riding their bicycles.

"While we wait the city will continue to keep that roadway closed on Sunday's for bike riding," he continued. "It is being posted with signs advising motorists that it is closed. Signs are also going up warning motorists to be on the lookout for joggers who seem to have found a new and attractive area to keep in shape."

Hoboken was awarded approximately \$30,000 in state and federal funds for the bike path project two years ago. However, the DOT is

responsible for managing the funds and putting the project out to bid.

Ranieri said that several city agencies, including public works, the parking authority and traffic and signal division, were cooperating to get the street, which was recently rehabilitated with a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Agency, functioning properly.

They will be working together to set up parking policies, periodic cleaning, repairs, and traffic control, he said.

Hoboken may have the nation's youngest business administrator

Hoboken has a new business administrator today, Edwin Chius, who at 25, may be the youngest in the state, maybe even the country.

But the business of guiding the spending of a \$15 million municipal corporation doesn't faze Chius. If it did he wouldn't plan on continuing as coordinator of the Safe and Clean Neighborhoods program for the city.

"It is time to begin preparing the new application for the Safe and Clean Neighborhoods program," said Chius. "There isn't time to show someone else how to do it so I'll be doing it myself in addition to my duties as business administrator."

Chius replaces Herman Bier as administrator. Bier was discharged by the mayor after a political falling out between the two.

A life-long resident of Hoboken, Chius resides at 704 Washington St. and is a bachelor. He was graduated from Stevens Institute of Technology in 1973 with a bachelor of science degree in mathematics.

As business administrator he will be making approximately \$17,000 a year.

Chius said he expects to make many changes in the department and the way it operates.

"The purchasing system must be reorganized and tightened up," he said. "And the city will be seeking bids a lot more frequently than it did in the past."

"One thing I plan to work on is prompter payments for purchases," he continued. "Many companies offer

discount prices if payment is made promptly. We should take advantage of these discounts, they're savings for the city."

Chius' initial term as business ad-

ministrator will be a short one. It expires July 1 when Mayor Steve Cappiello appoints his new directors to four-year terms—that's when Chius will begin his first full four years.



Edwin Chius, second from left, takes the oath of office from Assistant City Clerk Frank Fortunato, right, to become the new Hoboken business administrator. Angelo Scatza, left, holds Bible and Mayor Steve Cappiello also joins in the city hall ceremony.



FIRST IN LINE — Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello kicks off the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars poppy drive by buying some from Poppy Girls Allison Hill, left, of the VFW, and Nicole Lanzalotto of the American Legion.

Hoboken to revive health, welfare unit

Hoboken is again going to have a Department of Health and Welfare after a lapse of more than five years.

Three ordinances, all authored by Mayor Steve Cappiello, will be introduced at Wednesday's council meeting that takes the Health and Welfare Department out of the domain of Public Works and makes it a separate agency. One of the proposed ordinances also eliminates the job of deputy Public Works director, now held by Carmen Cutillo.

Health and Welfare was a separate agency with its own director until 1971 when the city council, controlled by the mayor who was then Third Ward Councilman, combined it with Public Works as a means of blocking former Mayor Louis DePascale's attempt to make Francis Finnerty the director.

The re-creation of the department as a separate entity will give the mayor a directorship to play with for patronage purposes. Several persons are being mentioned as possible picks, including James Farina, president of the Hoboken Young Democrats.

However the mayor's ordinance will get only a lukewarm from at least one member of the city council—Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri.

"There has been no discussion with the members of the council who might want to have an input on this and I'm not at all happy about that," said the councilman.

"At the very least there should have been a discussion or briefing by the mayor explaining what impact this is going to have on our budget and the overall anticipated costs to the city. Since I haven't seen the ordinances or been briefed on them I am unable to say whether they will be good or bad for the city. But the way it is being done is not good, not good at all."

"This was the way things used to be done before the recent municipal election. But there was an excuse. That excuse has been eliminated by the victory of the mayor and his ticket so there is no reason why these ordinances, or any ordinances drastically changing the administration of the city should be introduced without first having a general discussion."

Ranieri said that the council will probably discuss the ordinances at tonight's caucus. He added that he will ask that the measures be tabled until the council has discussed them fully with the mayor.

Mayor Cappiello was not available for comment. He and his family had gone away for the long holiday weekend and had not returned to the city.

Hoboken will receive a portrait of Sinatras

A portrait of Frank Sinatra, Hoboken's gift to the world of entertainment, and his late mother, Dolly, commissioned by the Coca-Cola Co. will be presented to the city at ceremonies Wednesday, it was announced today by Richard Carroll, coordinator for the event.

The portrait will be given to Mayor Steve Cappiello at noon, after the regular meeting of the city council and will be hung in a place of honor in the city's Public Library at Fifth Street and Park Avenue.

Francone censure move withdrawn

Hoboken Councilman Louis Francone will never know how former President Richard Nixon felt when Congress was deliberating whether to impeach the chief executive.

There was a chance that the fourth ward lawmaker would face the scrutiny of his fellow elected officials on the basis of a resolution advanced by Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri.

It proposed that the council hold a "hearing" to probe allegations of certain statements attributed to Francone purporting to attack members of the city police department for allegedly shooting at persons "simply because of their ethnic origin."

But at last night's council meeting, Second Ward Councilman Walter Cramer offered a motion to withdraw the resolution because it, in his opinion as an attorney, lacked a solid legal basis.

"Since we operate under the Faulkner Act," said Cramer, "I'm of the opinion we have no authority to impeach or reprimand a fellow councilman."

City Law Director Lawrence Florio said he could "confirm" Cramer's opinion regarding impeachment, but he added that "the statutes are silent on the matter of a reprimand."

Responding to Councilman-at-large Nunzio Malfetti's complaint, "I don't know why it was brought up in the first place," council president Martin J. Brennan said: "We all agree and that's the reason we went into this soul-searching..."

"Councilman Ranieri requested the resolution, as he has every right to do, and the law department only followed through on that request," said Brennan.

Francone said: "I want to thank Walter Cramer, who is a good lawyer, and this is what we need on the council."

After the meeting, Ranieri told The Jersey Journal: "I disagree with both attorneys. I feel the council has

the inherent power to reprimand a member, but I had no support so I yielded to the members who saw things differently."

"The olive branch was extended (to Francone) and I was expended," said Ranieri.

Asked if he intends to pursue an investigation of the facts behind the allegations attributed to Francone — as called for by the local Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (PBA) executive committee — Ranieri replied: "No, that's the end of it."

Reached at home, PBA president James Behrens had this reaction to the council backing down on the resolution: "From the legal advice I sought, I understand that the Faulkner Act was written too loosely for the council to impeach one of its members so I half expected this (the council's non-action) to happen."

Will the PBA continue to press for a probe? Behrens says certain members intend to approach the Hudson County prosecutor and a grand jury in an effort to make known the facts.

In other developments, the council:

- Directed city fireman Gerald Smith to see his "department director" on his complaint that one of his colleagues "worked the polls on Election Day" and then "called in sick"

that night only to "find time to attend the victory celebration for Mayor Steve Cappiello at the Lamp Post (Lounge)." Cappiello is the man to whom Smith is being referred since the mayor doubles as public safety director.

- Received a number of bids for the restoration of City Hall. Brennan said a contract could be awarded at the June 2 council session.

- Rejected a \$20,000 bid for planting 125 trees around the city as "too high."

- Heard City Clerk Anthony Amoroso certify the results of last Tuesday's mayoral-councilman election.

Hoboken tells fire chief he has to retire

After 36 years on the job, Hoboken Fire Chief Patrick J. Carmody has been retired by the city.

Carmody, who turned 65 in April, was at retirement age. However, the city had the option to allow him to remain on the job and Carmody did request to continue, department sources reported.

Carmody, the brother of former city Business Administrator Daniel Carmody, was appointed to the fire department in 1941 while he was in the military service. He made captain in 1944, deputy chief in 1953 and chief in 1958.

The retirement was effective May 1 and Carmody had been on leave for several months.

The city council will authorize the payment of \$4,885 to Carmody at this week's meeting in lieu of vacation time he was due.

Deputy Chief James Houn will continue as acting chief until a Civil Service examination for the position is held. Six or seven other deputy chiefs are eligible to take the examination. The city has traditionally appointed the man who tops the list of eligibles.



Mayor and royalty

Mayor Steve Cappiello greeted the new King and Queen of Hoboken, Marc Daniel Taglieri

and Tara Pascale, in his office this week.

Hoboken seniors give cold shoulder to free insulation

Is there an evil connotation to the word "free?"

Vincent Barbo, coordinator-director of Hoboken's senior citizen activities, is beginning to think so and is at somewhat of a loss to explain why.

Through Mayor Steve Cappiello and the North Hudson Council of Mayors, Hoboken has arranged to participate in a program where senior citizens who own one or two-family

homes in the city can get their buildings insulated free of charge — including new storm windows — if they meet certain minimal requirements and guidelines.

"The problem is that very few seem to want to take advantage of it," said Barbo. "Maybe it is the word free. People often become suspicious when they hear they're getting something for nothing. They think there's a catch they're not going to find out about until it's too late."

"Or maybe it's the requirements of guidelines. When people, especially older people, hear there are requirements or guidelines that have to be met they often think we are going to be prying into the private lives and finances. That's not the case at all."

"There is certain information that we have to know about them but it is all routine, nothing that they wouldn't and probably haven't already told a neighbor or friend, or put down on various applications and forms."

Barbo said it is estimated that there are about 50 buildings in the city that are eligible for the program. But most of the owners contacted to date have been reluctant to take advantage of it.

"There's another advantage to the program besides having the building insulated free of charge," he continued. "There could be a considerable savings for the owner in heating and air conditioning costs."

"It would be a shame if the people who are eligible for this program don't take advantage of it, doubly so if the only reason is that they're afraid there's a catch they're not going to find out about until it's too late."

Barbo said he is available Monday through Friday at the Multi-Service Center to answer any questions concerning the program and eligibility.

Amato irked by pick-ups

The Hoboken Public Works Department has again started making rubbish pick-ups for the Board of Education but Director Andrew J. Amato is not happy about it.

Amato had stopped the pick-ups because he felt the board should reimburse the city for the cost it incurred for removing the trash, renting containers and taking it to the dumps. The board disagreed and refused to pay.

"I've authorized the pick-ups but the matter still has to be resolved," said the director. "As far as the taxpayers go, it isn't a question of saving money because they pay for it either way. But it is a question of money for the public works department and its budget."

Amato said he planned to meet with members of the school board to work out an agreement for next year in which everyone would pay their fair share of the costs.

Attack on Francone again lacks second

A resolution calling for a special open meeting of the Hoboken City Council to investigate charges that Fourth Ward Councilman Louis Francone was responsible for remarks about police shooting two men in recent incidents only because they were Puerto Ricans — failed again at yesterday's meeting to get a second, although it was on the agenda.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri, who authored the resolution, said he did not know if he would have it reintroduced at a later date.

The council was also to have accepted bids at yesterday's meeting on fire hydrant parts and trees for the city's Municipal Tree Program. No bidders were present for the meeting.

A resolution that would have paid retired Hoboken Fire Chief Patrick J. Carmody \$4,880 for vacation time due him was tabled by the council for further study. Carmody, who did not fight his required May 1 retirement as originally reported, claims the money is owed to him for vacation time he did not take but was entitled to.

The council approved a resolution authorizing the city to start foreclosure proceedings on 100 properties belonging to the family of the late John Bado Sr. for non-payment of taxes. The property is all in the block from Newark to First Street, and from Hudson to River Street. Almost \$200,000 is owed to the city in back taxes.

A five-member, non-salaried Recreation Commission was created by the council. The commission members, who will be appointed by the mayor and council, will work with the city to improve the existing recreation programs and create new ones for residents and their children.

The city's police and firemen will be several hundred dollars richer this week. The council approved their full clothing allowance for the year — a total of \$7,500.

Also approved was the Community Development Agency's proposed budget and program for fiscal 1977. The program and application amount to \$3,062,000, and will now go to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Washington for further study.

Watch this man

Will Hoboken's new public works director last in his job?

The man does not seem to be playing the game according to the rules.

His latest eccentricity is to call back the contractor who repaired a major sewer break and neglected to do a proper job in filling the excavation. Many of the potholes in the city's streets, the director says, have been caused by contractors failing to pack down the dirt before patching the pavement.

He has suspended the parks superintendent for five days for failing to follow orders... although his boss, the mayor, wanted a lighter punishment. This is really surprising for Hoboken, where harsh penalties are almost nonexistent.

Watch this director. He may not be around long... but he is making an impact while he is there.

Now is the time

Hoboken's city government is calling in the city's garbage collection contractor to tell him he is not doing all he is supposed to do for his million dollars.

That is good. At the same time, the city will never get its streets clean by going after the garbage contractor alone. The residents, too, are to blame for messy sidewalks and gutters.

Paper bags filled with garbage often fall apart while the garbage man is carrying them from the sidewalk to his truck. The refuse spills out on the pavement, and the garbage man can hardly be blamed for not stopping to pick it up.

The city ordinance is quite clear — garbage is to be put out in metal containers. Now that there will not be another municipal election for another two years, what better time to start giving out summonses.

Ranieri: Water line repairs no big saving

Hoboken's multi-million dollar water line repair and replacement program may not be saving the city as much water as first believed, according to Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri.

The councilman told the city council at yesterday's meeting that instead of a 20 per cent savings resulting from the stoppage of leaks, the savings is closer to seven percent.

"We have had a drop in usage but it appears it isn't the result of the repair and replacement program," he said. "Actually, the facts indicate that the improvement is the result of a large curtailment in the use of water at the Maxwell House Coffee plant."

Ranieri said that he has learned

that Maxwell House has ceased to make freeze-dried coffee at the Hoboken plant — a process that uses a substantial amount of water. He said that the operation was stopped last year.

The most recent estimates of savings resulting from water line work done in the three phase, \$8 million program is between 25 and 35 per cent, said Ranieri. But that was before learning of the Maxwell House curtailment.

"My seven per cent figure isn't entirely correct, either," he added. "We are losing water because of the repair program while it is underway, and that loss, encountered when the men open lines to put in new connections, isn't included."

Hoboken insurance director suspended

Hoboken's insurance coordinator, Walter Hartye, has been suspended on a charge of being a non-resident and may face other charges before a date is set for his departmental hearing.

Mayor Steve Cappiello says that Hartye is just the first of what could be many employees to face charges for non-residency. The mayor said that all non-uniformed employees were going to be checked and if it is found that they don't live in Hoboken they'll be brought up on charges.

Hartye was suspended May 10 because he allegedly lives in Jersey City. He gives his address in Hoboken as 1 Marine View Plaza. City records show that he was not suspended without pay. However, he has not been given any of his paychecks since the suspension.

"We have a city ordinance requiring all employees to live within the city," he said. "The only exceptions are police and firemen who are exempt by state law. That ordinance will be enforced."

Cappiello said that Hartye may also be charged with failing to report daily for work.

"Every time we needed him we had to call a tavern in Weehawken," said the mayor. "I believe he has or had an interest in it. But taking care of his business is not taking care of the city's, especially when his business is on city time."

The charges will be heard by Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato, although he was not the one who suspended Hartye. The suspension originated in the business administrator's office to which Hartye was assigned as the insurance coordinator.

Cappiello, Romano clash

By TERRY BRENNAN

Final rounds have been fired in Hoboken as the showdown between Mayor Steve Cappiello and Councilman Anthony Romano goes to the voters in today's city election.

The mayor, who boasts of stabilizing taxes, cutting crime and rebuilding 25 per cent of Hoboken's housing, has been charged with "cashing in" on programs originally started by

ex-Mayor Louis DePascale. Romano also contends Cappiello's "alleged tax record" has drastically reduced city services.

"The housing programs are a public relations gimmick hiding the tumble down shacks downtown," Romano said. "The mayor has been coasting on Louis's success while people in our projects are screaming for protection."

We need to beef up both our police and fire departments."

Although Cappiello concedes there's widespread unemployment and insufficient recreational facilities, he claims a \$200,000 agency created to attract industry will start generating jobs within a year. He also contends that major crime is down 45 per cent and overall crime 12 per cent in four years.

"We've removed the major obstacle to keeping and attracting industry by keeping taxes stabilized at \$106 (per \$1,000 of assessed valuation)," Cappiello said. "We've put a quarter of this town in better housing and that cuts crime and stimulates pride."

Romano has criticized Cappiello's reliance on "outside" consultants to come in and "run this city." The mayor counters their technical expertise is necessary to keep and attract federal funding.

Hoboken school board urged to reject strike pay

By Peter Hallam

Robert W. Taylor, the attorney for the Hoboken Board of Education, said today that he will recommend the board reject the decision of an arbitrator that the city's teachers are entitled to eight days' pay withheld by the board for the 1975 teachers strike.

Taylor, who did not know if the board would accept his recommendation, said that if honored, the decision would cost the school board approximately \$180,000.

"The decision is an advisory opinion and not binding on the school board," said Taylor. "We (the board) question whether or not the question of strike pay is a proper item for arbitration. Our contention is that it is not since arbitration is only for matters that are included in the contract and nowhere in the teacher's contract with the board is there mentioned strike pay."

In September 1975, the teachers walked off the job for 25 days after failing to get a contract from the board. The contract was resolved, but the board did not pay the teachers for the 25 days they were off the job. They were docked one day's pay for each

strike day, based on a pay period of 182 days—the number of days in the school year.

However the state credited the school system with eight days as being made up and the teachers then sought to be paid for them. When the board refused they took the question to arbitration.

The matter was heard Feb. 17 and the decision came down May 23. The arbitrator decided that the 350 teachers who took part in the strike were due eight days' pay and that they should have been docked on the basis of a 200-day pay period, rather than the 182 days.

Taylor said that the school board previously took the matter to the state Commissioner of Education and he decided the issue in the board's favor.

"I will notify the commissioner's office of the arbitrator decision and then wait for a reply before advising the board of any further action that could be taken," he said.

"However, I will recommend to the board at next Thursday's special meeting that it not honor the arbitrator's decision."

Department shifts due for action in Hoboken

Hoboken is re-creating one city department — Health and Welfare — and may be creating a totally new one — a Department of Water and Sewerage Utilities.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri has been given the green light by his fellow councilmen to look into and draw up an ordinance that would create the department for the city's two utilities.

The councilman made the proposal when it came time for him to vote at yesterday's council meeting on three ordinances introduced by Mayor Steve Cappiello that will make Public Works a separate department, re-create the Department of Health and Welfare which was formerly under the position of Deputy Director of Public Works.

"I am voting yes on these three measures but I don't think they ad-

dress the city's priorities," Ranieri said. "Our problems in Health and Welfare are minimal compared to the problems confronting our two utilities — water and sewerage."

"Reductions in the amount of water purchased by the city, credited to the water line repair and replacement program, appear to be resulting from reductions in usage. In view of the repair work that has been done the indications are that proper billing and collections of water bills are just as big a problem as fixing the leaks."

"We have a sewage treatment plant that is all but falling apart and mandates from state and federal environmental agencies not only to get the plant back in top condition, but to upgrade it to a secondary treatment facility. The city is now preparing to start two pilot treatment projects, one of which may be adopted for the secondary phase."

Mortgages for Hoboken

Even though no Hoboken banks are participating in the state's new \$100 million home mortgage program, Hoboken residents interested in buying their own homes are eligible for it, a spokesman for the city's Community Development Agency (CDA) said today.

The purpose of the program, being handled by the state Mortgage Finance Agency (MFA), is to open up areas for home purchases that previously were "red-lined," meaning

ing areas in which it was difficult to obtain home mortgages. The western section of Hoboken was such an area.

According to Joseph Cicala, director of the Neighborhood Preservation Program for the Hoboken CDA, the agency will be acting as a referral center for persons interested in purchasing homes in the western section.

"In addition to opening the area,

the loans will carry low interest to encourage lower income families to make purchases," he said. "The loans will carry an interest rate of approximately 7 1/2 per cent."

Recently, CDA and Hoboken officials met with state representatives for a briefing on the new program and how it will work. The CDA will serve as the coordinator between the participating banks and real estate agents who have sales in the areas.

Backyard wall becomes a bright spot in Hoboken

By Peter Hallam

Michael and Arlene Silver love their backyard at 1239 Bloomfield St., Hoboken. It's a place to enjoy with their two daughters. But there was a drawback—one large blank wall that even managed to overshadow the Silver's lush rose garden.

The Silvers have been living in Hoboken with their blank wall for a little more than three years. This year they decided to do something with the wall—paint it.

Not just paint paint. But artist paint. Hugh Kilmer, a local artist, was commissioned by the Silvers to work his magic on the blank space—after the Silvers got the permission of

their neighbors to have the wall painted.

The wall is part of an extension that was put on the house next-door and doesn't belong to the Silvers. It belongs to Detective and Mrs. Ernest Mack, and they didn't mind at all.

Last week Kilmer began his task and over a period of four days transformed the drab wall into a brightly colored, abstract mini-park scene. The mural is roughly 15 feet long and 20 feet high and is dominated by bright yellows, blues and reds.

"We're delighted with it," said Mrs. Silver, who is involved in many civic organizations in the city. "We use the backyard a lot and the mural has really brightened it up. It's so much more cheerful. I can even see it from my kitchen window."

If there is one thing wrong with the mural it is the fact that it has a limited audience to enjoy it. It can only be viewed by those whose homes are on the same block as the Silvers.

Motorcycle cop may return

Hoboken may be bringing back the motorcycle patrolman.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said today that he is seriously considering reinstating motorcycle patrols for some areas of police work, especially in traffic control.

"The motorcycle provides a flexibility that can't be obtained with a patrol car," said the mayor. "When there is a traffic tie-up and a squad car is in the middle of it—that's where it's going to stay, especially on

our narrow streets.

"With motorcycles the men can by-pass the tie-ups and get to the scene of whatever is causing the jam."

Hoboken's last motorcycle, a three-wheeler, was phased out about five years ago. Replacements for it were not purchased.

"Another benefit is the comparative low cost of motorcycles to new squad cars," continued the mayor. "The cost of new cars has continued to increase over the years.

We are now buying mid-size cars but paying more for them than we were paying for full-size cars only two or three years ago."

The mayors said he would talk over the possible purchase of motorcycles with Chief George W. Crimmins before making a decision.

Cappiello added that he was thinking of buying two or three small motorcycles, not to replace squad cars, but to act as a supplement to them.

Getting rid of junk proves difficult

There are approximately half a dozen old junk trucks and cars rusting away in Hoboken's Public Works garage on Willow Avenue that the city would like to get rid of, but doing that is turning out to be fairly difficult.

Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato decided shortly after taking office about six weeks ago that the vehicles were taking up too much space and had to go—and anyone who wanted them could have them.

Then the law department stepped in and reminded the director that they were public property and public property had to be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

Okay, said Amato, let's have a sale. But that too is easier said than done. In order to sell the vehicles the city must have titles to them which it can turn over to the new owners—even if the trucks and cars are junk and can't move under their own power. And the titles are missing.

In order to get duplicates the city had to write to the Department of Motor Vehicles in Trenton. This has been done but it is still waiting for the duplicate titles to arrive so a public auction can be held.

Amato said he found the whole thing "a little discouraging."

"The city is putting more time and effort into setting up the sale than the junk is worth," he said. "But that's the way they say it's to be done."

Hoboken to halt pay advances

Hoboken Business Administrator Edwin Chiusi is attempting to eliminate a long-standing practice of allowing city employees to pick up their pay checks one or two days before the day that is stamped on them.

"Our pay day is Thursday each week," explained Chiusi. "However, it has become a custom with some employees to pick up their checks on Tuesdays and Wednesdays."

"The banks know the checks are good and cash them as a courtesy to the city. But since they are dated a day or two in the future the banks hold them until they can clear."

"A few of the banks have asked if there is anything that can be done about this matter."

Chiusi has instructed the payroll department to turn all of them over to him and he will hold them until late Wednesday.

Hoboken business

Hoboken Mayor Cappiello's selection of his new business administrator appears to promise much for the city.

The new man proposes to reorganize the department's procedures with a view to economies in the spending of city money for purchases and services.

He is a graduate of Stevens Institute who majored in mathematics, which should be helpful.

He does not seem to be politically-minded, and if that is true he is going to make some enemies, for a business administrator is continually asked by politicians to throw business to this or that friend of whatever city administration is in power.

If this young man can and will resist all such pressure, however high the source, the city's image must improve, just as its physical appearance has been improving.

Renovations scheduled for three Hoboken parks

Problems in Hoboken's three city parks will be eliminated before the end of the summer, Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato said today.

"At the request of the mayor, a survey has been made of the three parks—Stevens, Elysian and Church Square—to find out what the major problems are," said Amato. "The problems are the same in all three—a lack of basic facilities."

"In Elysian and Church Square there are no operating rest rooms and no functional drinking fountains. In Stevens, the men's rest room is in-

operative and there are no drinking fountains. The women's rest room is functional but the door is broken and needs to be repaired."

Amato said that using city employees and equipment, the facilities would be repaired or replaced and all three parks made functional before the end of the summer.

"The parks were the victims of vandalism," he continued. "To a degree that is to be expected. But not making repairs for a year or more is inexcusable."

Amato said that the repairs would be made one park at a time.

Hoboken gets extra Safe-Clean funds

Hoboken has been awarded an extra \$30,000 in state Safe and Clean Neighborhoods funds for 1977, it was learned today from Edwin Chiusi, city business administrator and Safe and Clean Neighborhoods director.

"It's an outright grant from state discretionary funds for the program," he said, "and the city does not have to match it with an equal amount as it does with regular Safe and Clean funds."

According to Chiusi, the city already has decided what it is going to do with the money—buy three new trucks.

"We plan to purchase a new water sprinkler truck, a small utility truck and a small dump truck," he continued. "The water sprinkler truck will go for around \$22,000. The utility truck goes for about \$10,000 and the third truck sells for about \$7,000. They will be purchased through bidding."

Chiusi said that the city also will be seeking bids on a new backhoe and a payload for the public works department. They will cost approximately \$60,000 and also will be bought through the Safe and Clean Neighborhoods program.

"However, these two items are anticipated purchases that were part of the city's overall plan for the Safe and Clean Neighborhoods program for this year," he added.

Chiusi said that the specifications should go to the City Council at its next meeting. If it approves, the city clerk will be authorized to advertise for bids.

Gaynor leaving Hoboken schools with farewell party

Rounding out 44 years in the Hoboken public school system, Thomas F. Gaynor, assistant superintendent, will be honored by his fellow employees Monday at a retirement dinner to be held at the Chateau Renaissance, North Bergen.

Gaynor, who is leaving his post on June 30, will be presented a watch by his friends and will receive an engraved plaque from the Hoboken Board of Education. It will be presented by Mrs. Mary Stack

Gaspar, board president. George Maier, coordinator of federal grants, will be master of ceremonies for the program which was arranged by John Sepp and Eileen Pilgrim.

Gaynor, who is a graduate of Stevens Institute of Technology, began his career as a high school mathematics teacher. He served as vice principal of the Joseph E. Brandt School and as high school principal before being named to the post of assistant superintendent.

Clean-up spruce-up begins in Hoboken

A massive clean-up effort has been started in the northwest section of Hoboken by the Public Works Department aimed at making the area more presentable—and attractive to potential industrial developers—It was learned today.

"We've been doing a little each day for the last three or four weeks and it should take another three or four to get rid of the rubbish and litter that has been accumulating on city property in that area," said Director Andrew J. Amato.

"And the work is all being done by Public Works employees without any assistance from outside contrac-

tors. The men are doing a great job and deserve their short man-power and equipment but they're getting the job done."

According to Amato, the city owns a number of odd parcels of land in the area—bounded by the Union City and Weehawken boundary lines on the west and north sides, and 15th Street and Willow Avenue on the south and east sides, which have become

something of a public dumping ground.

He said that he and Mayor Steve Cappiello have been looking for firms and developers that might be interested in the area, but showing it to them in its rubbish-strewn condition would probably have "chased them away."

Amato added that the clean-up has caught on with a number of existing firms in the area

Ranieri fears Hoboken street cave-in

A Hoboken councilman wants water line installation work along Washington Street stopped until tests can be taken to determine if sections of the street have been undermined and present a hazard to the workmen and their equipment.

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri said today that he has asked Mayo Lynch and Associates, the engineers for the job, and Mayor Steve Cappiello to have the work stopped until tests borings along the line of work can be made.

An old six-inch water main between First and Fourth streets, which runs down the middle of Washington Street, is being replaced with a new eight-inch line. The section between First and Second streets has been completed with work now

underway on the block between Second and Third.

"That is a problem area," asserted Ranieri. "Large sections under the street have been washed away. We have had several cave-ins in the past, and one was a very large one."

According to Ranieri, the method of closing up the streets after the new pipe has been installed is also questionable.

"Washington Street has a six-inch thick concrete base which is covered with asphalt," he continued. "That base, which was once the street surface, serves as reinforcement and is probably the only thing that prevents the cave-ins from happening at frequent intervals."

"That concrete base is not being replaced at this time. I have talked with the engineers about it but they

feel that the fill that is put back into the pipe slits should be allowed to settle before more concrete is poured."

"That may be one procedure but it isn't the one used by Public Service. As soon as it is finished with a job on Washington Street it cements the cuts and then asphalts them."

Lynch was not available for comment.

Ranieri foiled in Francone attack

Hoboken Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri still wants a special council hearing to determine to what extent, if any, Fourth Ward Councilman Louis Francone should be faulted for the alleged bad-mouthing of city police.

But he's going to need a little help from his friends. He'll need at least one colleague to second a resolution he's proposing to introduce at today's council meeting that calls for the public probe.

Most of the councilmen attending last night's caucus and city Law Director Lawrence Florio tried to dissuade Ranieri from going ahead with the resolution.

Florio, who prepared the resolution at Ranieri's request, submitted with it a letter advising Ranieri:

that he felt there was "no legal substance" to the disciplinary-oriented public hearing.

Last night, Florio further advised Ranieri that if he wanted to pursue the matter, he ought to consider the formation of an "investigative committee to find the facts in the case first, rather than bringing everything out into the open in the beginning."

"Establish the validity of what you're saying and then hold a public hearing if that's what you want," Florio continued.

The law director also cautioned Ranieri that should the council pass such a resolution, the governing body would be "acting in a quasi-judicial manner" and such action, said Florio, would be highly questionable.

Defending the proposed resolution, Ranieri said it "concerns the public interest of city residents" and that the procedure is an extension of the "rights and prerogatives of the council to investigate allegations about the behavior of city employees."

But Second Ward Councilman Walter Cramer, who questioned the legality of another resolu-

tion Ranieri proposed several weeks ago for the same purpose, voiced another objection to the alternative resolution.

"No policeman made any direct charges against Councilman Francone," Cramer said. "Now they (certain members of the department) want us to conduct a hearing for them. I don't intend to do that."

Echoing that, Council President Martin J. Brennan declared: "I'm not going to vote for it as it stands now and I urge no one to vote for it. Let it die a natural death."

Councilman-at-large Nunzio Maffetti attacked the resolution and Third Ward Councilman Salvatore Cemelli told a reporter after the meeting he wouldn't second the resolution. Francone sat silently during the debate.

Absent last night were First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano and Councilman-at-large Francis X. Leahy, both aligned with Francone, and Councilman-at-large Bernard J. Scrivani, a majority bloc member, who seems to be the only one left Ranieri possibly could turn to for a second.

After the meeting, Ranieri told a reporter: "It's puzzling to me that people I talk with are overwhelmingly with me then, but when it comes time to vote, my colleagues are too timid to act."

Ranieri said he'd take under advisement Brennan's recommendation to withdraw his resolution, but added that he was still in the market for a second.

In other developments, Brennan had some other matters to get off his chest:

• A recommendation to city Public Works Director Andrew Amato that supervisory personnel in the street department responsible for sweeping the city's up-town streets be deleted from the payroll if there's no improvement by next week of filthy, dirty streets, particularly from 10th Street north.

• Criticism of a request by retiring city Fire Chief Patrick J. Carmody for \$4,885.36 "in lieu of vacation pay" as "wrong" and an "abuse of his quota (of sick leave)." Brennan said the payment, if granted, would have a "bad effect on all city employees. This is what turns me off when negotiating sick leave with the firemen. Did (Carmody) ever submit a doctor's certificate after being out one year? I'm going to vote no (on the resolution proposing payment). It's a ripoff."

Change the rules

Hoboken's city council president objects to paying the retiring fire chief \$4,885 accrued vacation pay.

Hoboken has a policy of paying city employees for unused vacation upon retirement. The amount due the fire chief, however, is so large the council president considers it excessive.

If the city's present practice is imprudent, there is an obvious remedy: Put a ceiling on accrued vacation pay. It would be unfair, and it may be illegal, to turn down the chief because the sum of money coming to him is unusually large.

The council president is also dissatisfied because the chief was paid when he was out sick "for a year" without producing a doctor's certificate. But this, too, followed the city's practice and here again the remedy would be to tighten the sick leave clause, not refuse to honor the existing arrangement.

Window boxes again available to help Hoboken to bloom

Hoboken will be blooming again this summer, thanks to the city's Environment Committee and 200 window flower boxes it is making available to the public on a first come, first served basis.

The committee has 100 24-inch and 100 30-inch window boxes, all pre-planted with petunias, zinnias, impatiens, small cushion mums, and ivy. The mixture depends on whether the box will be exposed to the sun or located in a shady spot. The boxes will cost \$3 each, a small fraction of the cost if purchased commercially.

A spokesman for the committee said that it is also replanting the red

Those interested in the window boxes are advised that the window sill must be ground-floor or parlor-floor level and be at least eight inches deep to accommodate the fiberglass boxes. All items will be delivered by the committee members.

wood planters it gave out last year and the year before. The charge for a new evergreen for the planters or tubs is \$5.

Persons interested in the window boxes or replanting of a red wood tub should write to the committee at P.O. Box M-252, Hoboken, N.J. 07030, and include the name, address, telephone number and item desired.

Work halts street tested for 'caverns'

Work has stopped on the installation of a new eight-inch water line along Washington Street in Hoboken, while tests are taken to make sure there are no large voids under the streets which might endanger the men and equipment on the project.

The engineer for the project, Joseph Lynch, of the engineering firm of Mayo Lynch and Associates, said today that the crew has hit one minor void and there are indications that there are others in the stretch between Second and Third Streets. Voids are caverns under the cement and asphalt of the street.

According to Lynch, indications are that the voids are mostly in areas where the Public Service Electric and Gas Co. had work performed either with its own men or contractors it had hired.

"We aren't certain of that, but that is the indication," he said. "A number of test pits are going to be dug over the places where Public Service had work done in the last few years to see what we can find. Apparently they didn't do too good a job filling in when they were finished with their job."

Lynch said that he had talked with Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri about the problem and had agreed to slow down the work until the tests could be taken. Ranieri yesterday asked that be done.

However, the engineer disagreed with the councilman about how the streets should be closed up after the work has been done on the new installation. Ranieri wants the pipe cuts cemented and then asphalted. Lynch says cement shouldn't be used at all and will only create more problems.

"The reason these voids go undetected for so long is the cement base that is under the asphalt," he said. "It acts as a brace but not a very good or reliable one. Eventually it gives, but by then the void under it is large and the incident could be a serious one with injuries."

"With sand, crushed stone and an asphalt topping, the voids don't get a chance to form. If the earth under the street is being washed out or wasn't allowed to settle properly before the asphalt was put back, the street will start to dip. And that serves as a warning to the city and contractor that something is amiss."

"With a cement base there isn't any indication that there is a washout until some large truck suddenly goes through the street into the void."

Lynch said he will recommend to the mayor that the city continue with its original plan, and that does not include putting in a cement base before the asphalt is put down.



FRATERNALLY YOURS — Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello, left, signs document declaring this week "Fraternal Week" and honoring the Ukrainian National Association of Hudson County, which does charitable work throughout the county. Representing the group are Joseph LeSawyer, supreme president of the association; and Uliana M. Diachuk, supreme treasurer and a trustee of the New Jersey Fraternal Congress.

Civil Service says Forman should have job back

Jerry Forman, Hoboken's suspended welfare director, wants his old job back as a senior welfare investigator (Spanish), and Civil Service says he's entitled to it.

Forman has been suspended without pay since Jan. 12 of this year. The suspension was the result of an investigation into dental claims which police found were for alleged work on welfare clients that was never performed. Forman signed the claims authorizing the payment to the dentist.

The former director's hearing is still under way. It is being conducted behind closed doors every Tuesday night in the city council chambers by the Hoboken Local Assistance Board.

Forman advised Health and Welfare Director James Farina yesterday that a letter was sent by Civil Service to city Business Administrator Edwin Chiusi on July 15 advising him that Forman had permanent status in his former position of senior welfare investigator since Aug. 4, 1972.

The letter asked Chiusi to submit a copy of Civil Service Form 8 returning Forman to his old job as investigator, or to advise Civil Service of Forman's status in the old job. It also asked for a copy within two weeks of Form 6-31A — the final notice of disciplinary action — on the charges against Forman and the outcome of the hearing. Since the hearing is expected to continue for another two or three weeks the city isn't expected to be able to comply.

Forman said that since he still

has permanent status as an investigator, even though he didn't take a leave of absence from the job when he was appointed welfare director, he wants it back. Farina said he would take the matter up with Chiusi and Mayor Steve Cappiello.

Hoboken, Bayonne must use utility subsidies by Aug. 31

Bayonne and Hoboken anti-poverty officials have more than \$250,000 on hand to help residents pay back gas and electric bills, but it has to be used by Aug. 31 or it will be reclaimed by the state.

Residents of the two cities who fell into the debt of Public Service Electric and Gas Co. during last winter's severe cold weather can have all or part of the debt wiped out by the program being handled by

Hoboken's HOPES, Inc. and the Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation.

E. Norman Wilson Jr., executive director of HOPES, the city's anti-poverty agency, said today his agency is participating in the state's "Special Crisis Intervention Program" which can supply up to \$250 towards those unpaid gas and electric bills for the elderly and needy families.

Wilson said the bills must have

been incurred between last Oct. 1 and May 5. Applicants for the payment must verify they are in debt to Public Service and be able to show that they are unable to pay what is owed.

He added that Hoboken had approximately \$125,000 to work with from the state. Ten applications were already being processed.

Persons who think they might be eligible for the program are urged to contact either James Magliore or Mrs. Gloria Vega at 656-7137 for additional information.

Meanwhile, in Bayonne, members of the BEOF staff are reaching out for people eligible for some of the \$141,096 allocated to Bayonne.

Eyesore cleanup halted to await private firm

Following a conference with Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello, Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato has called off an effort to clean out a city-owned lot at Observer Highway and Bloomfield Streets by using city personnel and equipment, it was learned today.

The mayor said he talked with Amato about the project because he felt the city was ignoring other works while its laborers were busy at the lot removing rubble and rubbish.

"Our men are not unable to do the job," said the mayor. "But by working on that they must ignore other things that are just as important and a lot more visible to the public. I think

the director has the right idea — we should try to do more ourselves — but we just aren't ready for it at this time."

The mayor said he has asked Community Development Agency Director Fred M. Bado to draw up specifications for a contract to remove the rubbish. The contract would be awarded through competitive bidding.

Amato agreed with the mayor, but added that the department's problem was insufficient manpower and equipment, not inability to perform.

The mayor said every effort will be made to expedite the specifications and bidding on the job. In the meantime, the city will have the area baited with rat poison to cope with reported infestations in the rubble.

Hoboken teacher pay, school post on agenda

Summer teacher salary payments and the possible appointment of a new assistant superintendent of schools are on the agenda for tonight's meeting of the Hoboken Board of Education.

The state legislature yesterday cleared the way for payment of \$1.5 million in summer salaries when it approved a bill allowing the board to spread the deficit over five years.

The bill, sponsored by Hoboken Assemblyman Thomas A. Gallo, who is also secretary to the Hoboken school board, was passed by the Assembly 47-2 and by the Senate 29-0. It was signed by Gov. Brendan Byrne immediately after the session.

The special legislation was needed for the board to avoid a state edict forcing it to come up with the

money by Friday without taking it from the new budget, which went into effect July 1.

This was designed to reverse a long-standing board practice and force it to make provision for summer salaries in the prior year's budget.

Board President Mary Gaspar said she hadn't read the details of the legislative action and wasn't sure just how the payment would be worked out yet but she expected the situation to be settled at tonight's session.

Board action may also come on selection of an assistant schools superintendent to replace the retiring Thomas Gaynor.

Last night the board finished interviewing the five finalists for the position. Mrs. Gaspar said all are outstanding candidates and any of them would make a desirable administrator.

The nomination must come from Superintendent of Schools Thomas McFeeley, said Mrs. Gaspar, adding that if no action is taken tonight she will call a special session as soon as a selection can be made. Otherwise it will be necessary to delay action until the next board meeting in mid-August, only weeks before the start of the new school term.

14th St. group in Hoboken seeks patrol

Residents of Hoboken's 14th Street area today started a petition campaign calling on the city to provide them with 24-hour police protection, preferably foot patrols, to combat crime in the area, it was learned today.

The campaign is being sponsored by the 14th Street Block Association, according to its president, Manuel Perez, a candy store owner.

According to Perez, the neighborhood is plagued with frequent holdups and robberies, heavy traffic congestion and double parking — especially during the rush hours — and numerous street fights between patrons of taverns.

"Only the lawbreakers feel safe in our area," continued Perez, "since they alone are the only ones who seem to have nothing to fear. Most of the time the only police we see are those who pass by in radio cars. And that's all they do — ride by."

Perez said that patrol cars are often seen in the area during the morning and evening rush hours but the officers seldom stop to do anything about double-parked cars or congested traffic.

"On July 7 a man was stabbed and robbed at the corner of 14th and Washington streets," he said. "As far as I know, the police never showed up at the scene. The man walked home and took a taxi from there to St. Mary Hospital. The man, Enrico Crispo, is still in the hospital, where he was questioned by police."

"Our feeling is that if there were foot patrolmen in the area these incidents would be curtailed."

Mayor Steve Cappiello and Police Chief George W. Crimmins were not available for comment.

Get the school open

So Hoboken's mini school will not open in September!

This experiment with an out of the ordinary school concept has been dragging on for years. The building was finally completed six months ago, but it is no nearer opening today than it was then.

The roof leaks, apparently because it is not properly pitched. Water seeps into the basement, although the basement walls and floor were built extra thick. The steps on the stairways are already loosened, even though pupils have not been walking on them.

The contractor has thrown up his hands. The board of education is suing him, but the case will go on and on — and that is not getting the school open.

And the classes in Hoboken's other schools will be even more crowded when the fall term begins.

The board seems to be taking too complacent an attitude toward the mini school fiasco. Nobody on the board or in the school system appears to be putting up a determined fight to get the school open.

Why not?

Cappiello action asked on Fusilli

By TERRY BRENNAN

Some supporters of Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello are fuming over his seeming reluctance to force Assemblyman Thomas Gallo to drop Freeholder Vincent J. Fusilli from his payroll.

The mayor, who had promised political workers they would be going to Fusilli's "political funeral" after his convincing reelection victory, reportedly has puzzled close allies who want the \$5,000 "political plum" for someone in their camp. Fusilli bitterly attacked the mayor when he split with him and backed Councilman Anthony Romano during the heated campaign. Cappiello easily defeated Romano.

"It must make some of the workers very upset to see Gallo staying with Fusilli after the way he split with Cappiello," a local politician said. "The political pros seem to have been caught napping because that's the juiciest plum of them all. I don't see how the mayor let it happen."

Although Gallo said he wasn't sure he had the authority to drop Fusilli because "you submit names for legislative aides only at the start of each year," an administrative assistant to the Assembly said "Assemblymen can replace aides whenever they want because they serve at their pleasure." Mrs. Mary O'Brien said from Trenton Fusilli was paid \$2,500 on Jan. 1 and another \$2,500 on July 1 after the freeholder had already split with the mayor.

A Cappiello ally said he wouldn't vote for Gallo in the November election if the Assemblyman doesn't replace Fusilli during the campaign. He said the mayor's supporters had worked hard for Gallo during his primary race recently and "expect him to denounce Fusilli and hand over that patronage job."

Cappiello said it was Gallo's decision to stay with Fusilli. "We'll be going to a few political funerals in the next year," Cappiello had said following his 9-5 margin victory over Romano in the May 10 election. "Freeholder Fusilli and Romano can expect the first term of easy Steve Cappiello to be over," he reportedly said.

One Cappiello backer said he expected Councilman Thomas Kennedy to buck the Democratic organization and challenge Fusilli if the freeholder gets the party endorsement next year. Kennedy ran unsuccessfully against Fusilli in 1975 and was a major reason Fusilli split with the mayor.

There's no way I will ever back Fusilli after the way he attacked the mayor in the campaign," Kennedy said.

Hoboken school board appeals PERC order

The Hoboken Board of Education is appealing an unfair labor practices order issued by the state Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) and upheld by the Appellate Division of the state Superior Court.

Robert W. Taylor, board attorney, said today the board has filed the necessary paper work to take the matter before the state Supreme Court.

Taylor said the board is appealing the decision because it is contrary to another decision handed down by the Superior Court pertaining to a similar situation in another municipality. Taylor said that either decision might be correct but it is up to the Supreme Court to decide which one is.

The decision against the board stems from the 1975 contract negotiations between it and the Hoboken Teachers' Association (HTA).

The HTA filed the unfair labor

practices with PERC against the board after the board failed to reduce to writing the contract it had orally agreed to on Oct. 9, 1975. PERC, in turn, took the matter to court to have its decision affirmed and enforced against the school board.

According to Taylor, the board also will be in court Friday before Superior Court Judge Frederick Kentz Jr. on the matter of whether teachers should receive eight days' pay that was withheld during the strike in 1975. The teachers claim that since the state has given the school system credit for the eight days — part of 25 days the teachers were out of their classrooms in all — they should be paid for them.

A state arbitrator awarded the pay to the teachers. But Taylor says that paying them would be contrary to a decision made by the state Department of Education on the matter.

Cappiello to discuss 14th St. needs

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello will meet next Tuesday with businessmen and residents of 14th Street to discuss ways of cleaning up the area and providing more security for those living there.

The meeting was arranged yesterday during a meeting with leaders of the 14th Street Block Association, according to its president, Manuel Perez. The meeting will be held at 915 Clinton Street.

Perez said residents asked for the

meeting because they feel more attention is needed from the Sanitation Department to keep the block clean, and because they want more police patrols in the neighborhood.

Enrique Crespo, a member of the Block Association who was stabbed in the chest July 7, accompanied Perez to the Mayor's office yesterday.

Perez said he believes the Mayor wants to help, and said after the meeting yesterday that Cappiello seems "very helpful and understanding."

Voice alarm failing, Hoboken wants refund

By Peter Hallam

Hoboken is about ready to scrap a two-year-old \$68,000 voice call box fire alarm system that was supposed to curtail false alarms, it was learned today.

Mayor Steve Cappiello disclosed that the city is attempting to arrange a conference with the various contractors who participated in the installation of the 10 boxes over the last two years prior to the possible initiation of a suit to reclaim its money.

"We do not want to sue," said the mayor. "What we do want is a system that works the way it is supposed to — and that's what we don't have."

According to Thomas Vecchione, head of the public safety department's traffic and signal division, the new system has yet to be totally operational.

"The city has yet to have all 10 boxes working properly at the same time," he said. "This is not what we contracted for. The city is entitled to a system that works properly or to get its money back."

The project was financed with federal funds at a cost of \$68,000. However, the city is still holding the major portion of the funds.

"Only \$28,000 was paid out to contractors working on the project," said

Vecchione. "We are still holding approximately \$40,000."

Vecchione said the system has experienced problems with both the wiring and the boxes themselves. The companies brought in their own engineers to work on them but to no avail.

"The conference with the companies is being arranged by the law department," he continued. "The city will explain to the companies that either they come up with a plan to get the system in operation or the city will drop the project and sue for the return of whatever funds it has paid out to date."



IN APPRECIATION — Hudson County Freeholder Vincent Fusilli accepts oil painting from Vera Pascale, a member of Hoboken's multi-center nutrition program in appreciation of his efforts on behalf of senior citizens.

Hoboken ed board fills assistant slot

The Hoboken Board of Education has found one replacement for Thomas F. Gaynor, who retired as assistant superintendent of schools, and is seeking another.

The trustees created two assistant superintendent slots at a continuation meeting last night, but agreed to fill only one slot.

That post will be filled by George Maier, a 25-year administrator in the school system. Maier, who will earn \$33,555 a year — the same rate of pay he now gets as special grants manager — will be responsible for a wide range of fiscal duties.

The board rejected a recommendation by Thomas F. McFeeley, superintendent of schools, to appoint Peter Vecchio, Wallace School principal, as assistant superintendent in charge of "curriculum development, research and budget coordination."

Questioned by Thomas Vezzetti about that action, Trustee Leo McLaughlin said: "It's obvious that the board disagreed with the superintendent of schools. The board must have thought Mr. Maier was better qualified."

Also asked later about the move, Mary Stack Gaspar, board president, told a reporter: "Not to take anything away from Peter, but of them, the board felt that we needed a very, very strong individual to put in a lot of hours."

Mrs. Gaspar added that Vecchio was perhaps a "victim of budgetary circumstances" in that the board, she said, could not, at this time, afford to fill a principalship vacancy because of what she called the "economic crunch facing the board."

Because of that crunch, forcing the trustees to lay off 17 Title I teachers aides, McFeeley recommended, and the board went along, that Maier's job as special grants manager be abolished and that, as assistant superintendent, he be denied a pay increment he is entitled to pending resolution of "local budget problems."

As specified by McFeeley, Maier's new duties place him "in charge of special funding and projects which will encompass the local, state, federal, corporate and private areas of financial funds and grants (and) the area of management and laborg relations."

It could not be immediately learned how these tasks differed, if at all, from his previous assignment.

Asked who would handle the other administrative duties parceled out by the superintendent, Mrs. Gaspar said: "Mr. Maier's in charge and I think he can handle it. The board will fill the other assistant superintendent's slot if and when the need arises."

But at least two board members are convinced there is no need even now for a second assistant superintendent's position. Trustee and board president James Farina and Trustee James Giani voted against the resolution creating that job. They gave no reasons why.

McFeeley told a reporter he felt that in line with increasing demands put on school administrators by the "Thorough and Efficient" state educational guidelines and the need for what he calls "administrative team action," the board would be obliged to fill the second slot.

Maier, 57, is a Hoboken native and World War II Navy pilot who has served in the local school system in a variety of administrative rolls including vice principal, principal, special education elementary school supervisor.

He holds a law degree from Rutgers University, a bachelor's degree and M.A. in education from Seton Hall University and has earned doctorate credits in psychology and education. In all, he has 74 educational certificates and has accumulated 426 college credits during his years of schooling.

In other business, the board:

• Learned of complaints from several former school aides who've been dismissed that the state unemployment office is refusing to honor claims for "unemployment insurance until the school board can vouch for the fact that they are not to return to work. Board counsel Robert W. Taylor, saying that "termination is final," told the aides he'd send a letter to the office attesting to that fact.

• Passed a resolution agreeing to solicit bids in September on the sale of \$1,470,000 in bonds to pay back the state for that amount it borrowed to pay its teachers their summer wages for this year, which it lacked in this year's budget.

Hoboken's fix-up grants flow

By TERRY BRENNAN

A \$230,000 Hoboken renovation project got its first financial injection yesterday when two of an expected one-quarter of the city's merchants got matching grants to spruce up their storefronts.

The Shops and Houses Program, slated to pay shopkeepers up to \$2,000 in matching funds to refurbish their store exteriors, is a joint city-federal project aimed at rehabilitating some 45 building facades before October. The city hopes to enlist more than half its 200 merchants in the next two years.

"The small businessman is the heartbeat of our city and we hope to give him a well-deserved lift," said Mayor Steve

Cappiello. "We're trying to stimulate business by encouraging our merchants to literally cleanup shop. The shopkeeper is still the backbone of our economy."

While the federal funds channelled into the program only total \$80,000, the Community Development Agency (CDA) has committed another \$150,000 when its fiscal year begins Aug. 10. The CDA will offer consulting architects to design minimum design standards for every shop.

"The city has been concentrating on housing and simply wants to devote more attention to keeping and attracting business," said S. Kenneth Pai, program director and director of Economic Development and Planning. "We're getting the federal funds because of our housing record and we're doing

all we can to trigger investment."

The program is open to both merchants and property owners along the city's main thoroughfare who agree not to change the improvement within three years. All Washington street shopkeepers must get two estimates before applying for the grant.

Pai said the program is limited to exterior renovation and includes repair of doors, windows, walls, awnings and storefront signs. He said painting and cleaning of upper floor facades is also encouraged.

Cappiello presented the checks to Claire Bogdanos and Richard Creazzo of the Hoboken House Restaurant and Roy Janof of Adams Buttery.

Brennan explains how Ranieri lost

If there is a feud between Hoboken Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri and Council President Martin J. Brennan it isn't Brennan's fault. At least that's what the city council president says in response to a recent flare-up by Ranieri.

According to Ranieri, he had been

promised the presidency of the council on three different occasions by Brennan over the last four years. The most recent time, he says, was just before the July 1 reorganization meeting of the council at a caucus a short time before the meeting.

Ranieri claimed that Brennan

renewed on his promise, and that because of this he could not get enough votes to win the position. But Brennan says Ranieri isn't telling all of the details of that caucus.

If Councilman Ranieri's desire to become council president was done in, it wasn't by my hand," asserted Brennan. "In fact, I was his fifth and deciding vote — at least I was at the caucus."

Brennan said Ranieri had four votes for the job. Those of Councilmen Louis Francane, Nunzio Malfetti, Anthony H. Romano and his own. The other four councilmen were against his selection and Brennan abstained, according to the council president.

"I was the fifth and deciding vote and I told Councilman Ranieri at that time I would break the deadlock and vote for him," continued Brennan. "My vote for Councilman Ranieri was not the problem. The problem was that after this was done, three of the councilmen who were willing to vote for him in caucus — Romano, Malfetti and Francane — announced that they weren't going to attend the reorganization meeting. That's where the vote counts."

"The result was that while the councilman had five votes in caucus he would have only two at the meeting — mine and his. When he also didn't appear for the reorganization meeting there wasn't much point in putting his name in nomination."

Brennan was nominated and unanimously approved for the job by the five councilmen who did attend.

Brennan denied he had promised Ranieri the council presidency.

"I did tell him that if he could get the votes he could have the job," continued Brennan. "And I would support him for it. I wasn't reluctant to give it up. But it just didn't work out the way he wanted."

Ranieri could not be reached for comment. He was taking a few days off at his summer cottage with his family and does not have a telephone. However, he was expected to return to the city in time for tonight's council meeting.

Romano, Francane and Malfetti were also unavailable.

Hoboken out of cash to fix police cars

Hoboken police cars have broken down or been smashed up so much this year that the city already has run out of cash to fix them, so the City Council is reading an Aug. 3 public hearing on a \$20,000 emergency appropriation.

The council introduced the ordinance at last night's meeting.

Martin J. Brennan, council president, said the \$20,000 allocated to the police auto-maintenance account at the start of the year has been either spent or is "close to being spent."

Later, city business administrator Edwin Chius said there was roughly \$880 left in the account as of July 1.

Brennan said the first inkling he had that the account was running low came Monday when he received a letter dated July 14 from Mayor Steve Cappiello, also public safety director, requesting Revenue and Finance Director Frank Bartletta to do the paperwork on the proposed appropriation.

When Second Ward Councilman Walter Cramer complained that the mayor should have notified the governing body earlier about the hole in the account, Cappiello replied:

"We saw ourselves growing short early in the year. We started doing our own work on the reconstruction of (police) cars and we did get back

some money from the insurance company in certain liability claims but those revenues, rather than going back into the account, have to be put in the general treasury by law."

"The number of accidents is far ahead of previous years because of the condition of our streets," Cappiello added.

Besides the money spent on car repairs, some funds from the account went for the purchase of equipment for the city's public safety garage, the mayor said.

If the compensation from the insurance firm could be placed in the account, said Cappiello, "we wouldn't need this resolution." Chius later estimated that the city has collected about \$12,000 so far in accident claims.

Cappiello said the state Division of Local Government Services recommended that Hoboken use an emergency appropriation. Asked later if he foresaw additional emergencies arising before the year's end, Cappiello said he could not rule out the possibility.

Brennan asked the mayor to have City Comptroller John Erbeck give all city department directors a running tally of departmental accounts to keep them fully informed.

When Cramer suggested that pos-

sibly the business administrator should handle that, City Clerk Anthony Amoroso said: "That's the responsibility of the comptroller — nobody else. That's why we're paying him \$20,000 a year."

A shouting match erupted near the meeting's end between Public Works Director Andrew Amato, who arrived late, and several councilmen over a recent five-day suspension Amato handed a public works employee.

Councilman-at-large Nunzio Malfetti said he "asked nicely" about the suspension in a recent conversation with Amato, "but I never pressured anybody." First Ward Councilman Anthony H. Romano, also involved in the conversation, said he "referred the matter to the (council's) public works committee" because there was some question

about whether two men were involved in the incident triggering the suspension.

Amato, who had to be restrained by two colleagues, said that Romano and Malfetti "came in and asked me to stop the suspension." Gesturing to the First Ward representative, Amato declared: "You told me to suspend someone else." When Romano protested, Amato shouted: "Don't give me that baloney!"

Charges and counter-charges were hurled back and forth for several minutes in the humid chambers as Amato warned the two lawmakers and Fourth Ward Councilman Louis Francane, the other member of the council's minority bloc, "I told you to leave me alone when I do my job. You're not the director. It's none of your business. I'm not going to take these threats!"

Chius assures Hoboken on buying

It's getting more and more difficult for Hoboken city employees and officials to make those everyday purchases of supplies and equipment they need — items that don't have to go out to bid — but this is only temporary, according to Business Administrator Edwin Chius, who initiated the belittling.

"I am trying to set up a centralized purchasing system for the city, and that takes a little time," he said. "But the ordinance creating the procedures to be followed has been drafted and presented to the mayor, council and all directors and employees who do any buying for the city."

Chius has been insisting that all

purchases, regardless of how small, be cleared through his office before being made. This has resulted in some complaints from other departments. One has been that the time consumed in getting that approval often outweighs the cost of the item to be purchased.

According to Chius, such problems should be eliminated, once his system is operating.

"The ordinance really doesn't change anything but it does put into writing the practices for buying that state law mandates," he said. "They are not new practices, but practices that we haven't always gone by. With the ordinances it is very clear what is to be done and how it is to be done. I

intend to have strict control of every major purchase. And there also will be a format for the departments to follow for the minor purchases that do not require bids."

Chius said he was not trying to control every single purchase made by the city regardless of how small. He said the departments would still be able to make purchases of needed supplies and materials up to \$500 without first having to clear it with him. However, they may have to make those purchases from predetermined vendors.

"I am preparing a list of vendors and items which shows which vendors gives us the best price for the various items," he continued. "For instance,

if the city needs an item and that item is available from one vendor at a price less than what other vendors charge, I expect the purchase to be made from that vendor. If that vendor is out of stock I expect the purchase to be made from the next cheapest vendor and so on until the list is exhausted."

Chius said the city had suffered from some fast and loose purchasing practices in the past which, while not illegal, made it difficult to keep track of what was being spent and on what. This also resulted in delays in paying vendors.

He said tighter controls also should help speed up payment of the city's bills.

Amato to huddle on suspension

By Peter Hallam

Hoboken Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato and the city council Public Works Committee should have even more to talk about today when they meet to discuss the suspension of a city heavy equipment operator.

The meeting was to have been held at noon yesterday but was postponed until today at the request of the committee. In the meantime, Amato disclosed that additional charges will be preferred against the equipment operator — Frank Belfiore — resulting in a departmental hearing and an additional suspension, possibly his dismissal.

Amato would not disclose what the charges were the result of but did say that Belfiore "destroyed city property."

Belfiore was suspended for five days without pay last week for leaving his payload — a bulldozer on wheels rather than a belted tread — unguarded for several hours in a vacant city lot.

Several city councilmen, including Councilman Anthony H.

Romano, tried to intercede for Belfiore with Amato but to no avail. At Romano's request, the council's Public Works Committee, headed by Councilman Louis Francane, was asked to look into the matter.

According to Romano, two men were involved in the incident that resulted in the suspension but only one was being punished.

Although Amato declined to discuss the additional charges Belfiore will be facing, it was learned that they had something to do with damage to the painting of Mayor Steve Cappiello last week. The painting is located in the middle of the main hallway on the second floor of the City Hall building.

City sources report that the painting was knocked off the wall and the glass broken. The painting itself was not damaged. It was not learned whether Belfiore had anything to do with the incident.

Amato said he may ask Cappiello to be the hearing officer for Belfiore. "Since it was I who found him absent from his job I don't think it would be right for me to be the hearing officer as well as the main witness," he said.

However, the director added that if certain members of the council continue to pressure him in behalf of Belfiore he would hear the case himself.

"If the council as a body asks or directs me to do something I will do everything within my power to do it,"

he asserted. "But I'm not going to let one or two councilmen push me around and tell me what to do. Legally, I have only one boss — the mayor. If I'm not doing my job or he isn't pleased with how I'm doing it he can remove me from office. If those one or two councilmen aren't happy with the way I'm running my department I suggest they take it up with the mayor."

Suspended man broke city art, says Hoboken

A heavy equipment operator for the Hoboken Public Works Department who just came off a five-day suspension without pay has been charged with destroying city property and will be given a departmental hearing on Aug. 2.

Public Works Director Andrew J. Amato said today that Frank Belfiore is charged with knocking Mayor Steve Cappiello's picture off the wall at City Hall, breaking the glass that covered it.

"The incident occurred last week a few minutes after I had met with

Belfiore in my office on his suspension," said the director. "We have a statement from a witness concerning the incident and Belfiore's actions."

Belfiore was suspended last week for five days for leaving his payload unattended in a city lot at Observer Highway and Bloomfield Street. The suspension ended Wednesday. However, Amato said that Belfiore did not show up for work yesterday. He called in sick.

The director added that he would hear the case against the employee. The hearing is scheduled to start at 10 a.m.

Eagle-eyed Scouts find Hoboken traffic needs

More than 150 Hoboken streets need new street signs or new traffic control signs.

That is the finding of a survey made by three Hoboken Boy Scouts as their Eagle Scout project, which has now been turned over to Mayor Steve Cappiello.

The survey was conducted by Scouts Benjamin J. Williams, John Raslowsky and Joseph DelBoccio. They are members of Troop 20.

"I have turned their survey over to the city's traffic and signal division with instructions to take action on it," said the mayor. "I wish to compliment the boys for doing a very thorough and efficient job."

The mayor said the three scouts checked every street in the city to make the survey. They reported on missing street name signs, missing one-way street signs and missing traffic control signs.

"Several weeks ago I said that if Hoboken was to continue making progress towards becoming a better city it would need greater citizen participation, and that we would be placing greater stress on volunteerism."

said the mayor. "This is the type of thing I was referring to."

These young men have provided the city with some valuable information acquired on their own time. If they hadn't done the work, the city would have had to do it, and that takes the time of employees and their salaries.

"Now, instead of having to send men out to check the signs we can send them out to replace them."

Hoboken has new son in show biz

Movie buffs who enjoy watching new stars coming up should keep their eyes on a local boy coming into his own in both films and comedy.

His name is Chuck Sacci, he lives in Hoboken, and his career is taking off as he begins preparing for his second major motion picture, "After Dark," to start shooting next month. His first film, based on Joseph Wambaugh's best-selling novel, "The Choirboys," is scheduled for release in December. He plays the role of Cheech Santorini (Willie Wright in the book) in the movie directed by Robert Aldrich.

Sacci didn't start out to be in movies. He is a comedian by trade, and was discovered for "The Choirboys" during his routine at the Good Times Restaurant in Manhattan. An agent saw him doing his act, and realized he'd be perfect for the character.

He doesn't look much like your everyday matinee idol. In fact, he says, when he went to the Pierre Hotel in Manhattan to meet Aldrich, the elevator operator made him use the service elevator.

Ironically, he has been booked to play the Rainbow Grill twice, and had to cancel both engagements — to shoot the two movies.

"Friends tell me I should keep getting bookings at the Rainbow Grill so I can keep getting movies," he says with a chuckle.

He recently married a Hoboken girl, the former Connie Mongelli, twice. "We got married in a civil ceremony out in Hollywood," he says, "and then came back to Hoboken and got married again in a big formal ceremony."

He says doing the movie was like having a three-month honeymoon in



Chuck Sacci
Rising star

Hollywood. "Everybody knew I hadn't done a movie, and they all went out of their way to help me, especially Aldrich," he says. "Connie and I were able to make friends with people we had always admired, like Charles Durning and his wife."

Durning stars in "The Choirboys" along with Bert Young and Lou Gossett Jr.

He says he would like to combine his comedy career with films and television, and will stay out west for a month after he completes "After Dark." He has retained International Creative Management (ICM), a firm similar to William Morris, to handle his career.

"All in all, things couldn't be going better," he says.

Ranieri unhappy over project delay

Two of Hoboken's parks are still without operating restroom facilities although the Public Works Department submitted estimates for the necessary repair work several weeks ago to the business administrator, Edwin Chius.

Councilman Robert A. Ranieri said today that he is looking into the matter after getting a number of complaints from local residents.

"I have already checked with the Public Works Director (Andrew J. Amato) on what his department did before parks became the responsibility of our new health and welfare department," Ranieri said.

"The director said that he had an estimate of \$1,500 to repair the restrooms in Elysian Park and \$500 for Stevens Park and that the estimates were turned over to the

business administrator three or four weeks ago."

Ranieri said it would take one to two weeks to make the repairs and get the restroom facilities back in operation. In view of that, he said, it did not seem reasonable that nothing should be done on the estimates for so long.

The councilman added he had

tried to contact Chius and James Farina, the new Health and Welfare Department director, but both were unavailable.

"It appears that there could be better communications between the departments," asserted Ranieri. "Possibly the creation of the new department was responsible for the delay — but that remains to be seen."



CASH STIMULANTS — Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello, right, and Fred Bado, left, head of the city's Community Development Agency (CDA), pose with Claire and Mark Bogdanos, who operate the renovated Palm Court Restaurant at Second and Washington streets. The restaurant got one of the first "matching grants" for \$2,000 under a federal mercantile renovation program administered locally by CDA. More than 100 Hoboken storefronts are expected to benefit by the aid.

Calabro School ready, but still closed

By Peter Hallam

There's a good chance that Hoboken's public schools will have to overload classes a little more this fall while an unused new school remains closed and unusable.

The Calabro School — School 4 at 524 Park Ave. — has been completed for almost six months but problems inside prevent it from being used. And problems outside — in the courts — are compounding the matter.

According to Robert W. Taylor, attorney for the Hoboken Board of Education, the board has filed suit against the general contractors, Pisani and DeBari, but the courts have yet to hear the case. In the meantime, an arbitrator is trying to resolve the situation. However, Taylor said, progress has been slow.

The school board has refused to accept the building from the general contractor because the board's architect for the project, Joseph Lynch, says it won't pass the state inspection needed to obtain a certificate of occupancy. And without a certificate, the board can't open the school.

Taylor said the roof leaks, the basement has water seeping in, and there are problems with the stairwells. He added that there are additional defects but these are minor compared to the first three.

The \$1.3 million school has been plagued with problems almost from the first day of construction. Construction was stopped for several months when the excavation that was to be the basement of the building flooded with ground water. The water started to erode the foundations of neighboring buildings.

One building actually started to lean toward the construction site and had to be condemned by the city's building inspector. It was torn down and the owner immediately filed suit against the builder and school board for damages.

Construction again stopped on the project for several months while the contractor tried to figure out a way to construct the basement portion of the building in such a way that water would not seep in after it was finished. According to school board officials, he did not succeed.

The school was scheduled to open several times during the school year that ended in June. But each time the opening was postponed because of conditions in the building and the architect's decision that it would not pass a state inspection.

According to Taylor, the contractor has taken the position he has done all that is possible to correct the conditions and will do no more. No work has been done at the building for some time. Taylor added that the school board is holding back more than \$110,000 that is due the contractor.